

Tom Goldscheider
“At Sword’s Point”
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The Museum of Our Industrial Heritage

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brody, David, *Workers in Industrial America*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

This is a very useful history of industrial unionism in the early part of the 20th century. Information and analysis offered here helps put what was happening in Greenfield into a national context. Coverage includes relations between the AFL and the CIO along with detailed explanations of key terms like “welfare capitalism”, “Taylorism”, and “right to manage”.

Jenkins, Paul, *The Conservative Rebel*, Greenfield, MA:Town of Greenfield, 1982.

This source proved so invaluable that I bought my own copy to refer to. It offers a highly nuanced view of Greenfield from a variety of perspectives including that of labor. The History of Greenfield Tap and Die (GTD) and the UE in Franklin County is covered and the author was able to access interviews with people involved in early organizational efforts. This book really informed my sense of Greenfield as a unique and special place as it developed across two centuries.

Keenan, Roger, *The Communist Party and the Autoworkers Union*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1980.

This is a very useful history of CPUSA in the 1930s-50s. Many of the founders of the UE had roots in Communist ideology and the union as a whole paid a heavy price for this. An understanding of Communist politics is central to understanding the UE. This is a credible source that covers a highly charged topic.

Matles, James, *Them and Us: Struggles in a Rank and File Union*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1974.

James Matles had a long leadership role at the union; this is his memoir written at the end of his career. It provides a first-hand account of the formation and running of the UE with

good detail. His voice comes through in the narrative so we get to hear the voice of the union. The tone is strident but the book has credibility if you know it for what it is. He is honest and straightforward and does not pull any punches.

Stephen-Norris, Judith/ Zeitlin, Morris, *Left out Reds and America's Industrial Unions*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

The UE was and is a left-wing union. This book describes the role of the Left in organized labor. The coverage of the McCarthy era and ways in which the UE was vulnerable as a left-wing union is very useful. This book has a pro-union tone but is a credible source of information.

Schatz, Ronald, *The Electrical Workers*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983.

This is the closest thing to a comprehensive history of the UE, in this case with an emphasis on relations with GE. In many ways GE management reflects what was happening at GTD on a larger scale. Information on UE leadership and also red baiting are very useful. The tone is dry and scholarly but highly credible and useful.

Tormey, Stephen, *A Brief History of UE Bargaining with GE: Seventy years of Struggle*, UE-GE Conference Board.

This is a clear and concise overview of the rise and fall of the United Electrical (UE) worker's union. It covers the three periods of this history: Pre-war circumstances that made the formation of the union possible; the war years when the union grew exponentially; and the post-war period characterized by the Red Scare and changing economic conditions. It is written from a union perspective but is never dogmatic and provides useful information that is credible.

Papers found at Local 274 in Greenfield, MA.

These papers form the core of this study. They include newspaper clippings from the 1940s-50s, mostly taken from the *Greenfield Recorder*; minutes of meetings and negotiations; job evaluations generated by the union; UE literature from the period; and reports of UE annual conventions. These papers are vulnerable where they are now; I hope to have them archived in the area soon.

Papers found at The Museum of Our Industrial Heritage archives in Greenfield, MA.

These papers are generally more focused on the company than on the union, but did a lot to round out the picture I was working to present. They include GTD pamphlets and

catalogues describing their product line; copies of *The Helix*, the magazine put out by GTD for its workforce in the 1920s; and other useful periodicals.