

Americans. This provides a strong foundation for each chapter, if sometimes presented subtly. Additional strengths are his familiarity with the literature on each of the areas and eras being discussed, and his extensive use of diaries, letters, and newspapers. Of note is his inclusion of poetry and songs written by miners. These are not unique to the Irish, but they are strong elements in Irish culture that were part of the cultural baggage that miners brought with them to their new homes and which became a central part of the Irish-American culture that developed. While each chapter addresses the central question Noonan has posed about the Irish in western mines, each is focused on the details of an individual community or mining area. In each chapter he raises topics for further research and investigation.

Mining Irish-American Lives will repay reading by scholars with a wide range of interests, with a great deal to offer both mining historians and scholars of Irish America.

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Leigh Campbell-Hale. *Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine: The 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike*. (Mining the American West.) Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2023; 332 pp., 36 b&w illus., notes, bib., ind., cloth, \$47 (e-book, \$38). ISBN: 9781646423019.

Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine is a title that does not roll off the tongue easily. However, author Leigh Campbell-Hale's presentation of twentieth century labor history is written in a thoughtful, thorough manner drawing the reader in to what could be a dry topic. *Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine* examines the Columbine Massacre, an incident during a 1927-1928 coal strike in northern Colorado that the author asserts had more influence on subsequent labor laws than did the better-known 1914 Ludlow Massacre in southern Colorado.

As Campbell-Hale compares the two

strikes she examines the causes, context, and legacies of the strikes in relation to labor organizing and coal mining in Colorado and the United States. Campbell-Hale successfully argues that previous examinations of the Ludlow Massacre and subsequent labor laws attribute more weight to this earlier strike than to the Columbine strike that resulted in much 1930s-era labor legislation.

The story begins with a brief description of the events at the Columbine coal mine northwest of Denver. On 21 November 1927, strikers approached Serene, the company town of Josephine Roche's Rocky Mountain Fuel Company (RMFC), and the company's newest and most valuable property, the Columbine coal mine. A month earlier, the majority of Colorado's miners had voted to go on strike, closing most of the state's coal mines. The only mine still operating was the Columbine. Each day strikers marched through town singing and protesting the strike-breakers. On November 21, the gates to the town were closed to the strikers and police denied them entrance. Arguments ensued resulting in violence, with police killing six striking coal miners and injuring sixty.

The book is divided into three sections. Chapters one through three introduce the reader to three principal actors closely associated with the Columbine strike: Josephine Roche, owner of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company in northern Colorado; Powers Hapgood, labor organizer and an employee of Roche after she signed the 1928 contract with the United Mine Workers of America; and A. S. Embree, Industrial Workers of the World organizer and strike leader of the 1927-1928 walkout. Campbell-Hale's book presents comparative biographies of these three key players before, during, and after the strike. She also introduces the theme of industrial democracy, a common discourse presented from the Progressive Era through the end of World War II and into the cold war.

Chapters four through six describe the events beginning on 8 August 1927 leading to the 1927-

1928 strike, the months through the strike, and its aftermath following its official ending in February 1928. Campbell-Hale follows the chronological development of the strike and the external influences of local, state, and national social and political pressures. It is an informative exploration of both state and labor history.

Chapters seven through ten examine the legacies of the strike, including how Roche rewrote the narrative of her role and that of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company in 1927's disastrous event. The Great Depression and its impacts pushed the progressive Roche, Hapgood, and Embree into engaging with United Mine Workers' leader John L. Lewis and the Congress of Industrial Organizations in organizing contracts between the industry and workers. This section also explores how the Columbine confrontation propelled Roche, Hapgood, and Embree from state into national politics.

In addition, Campbell-Hale conducts a historiographical examination of contemporary and modern research and texts on labor and strike his-

tory. She uncovers oral history collections, weaving these first-hand accounts into her historical analysis. The cold war, deindustrialization, and competing legacies changed organized labor constructs, resulting in a decline in unions, another trend explored in *Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine*.

Leigh Campbell-Hale presents her arguments in the introduction to her labor history case examination of the Columbine mine strike, and she thoughtfully comes full circle in the final chapter to discuss historical narratives over-reliant upon false narratives found in period newspapers or "histories" written by principal players who had a stake in "cleansing" their dubious actions (or inaction) during a turbulent period of strikes and the formation of various unions. Audiences interested in Colorado history, labor history, mining history, gender studies, and historiography will find Campbell-Hale's writing style clear, concise, and thought provoking.

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