

History 340  
Critical Periods in American History the 1890s  
Roger Williams University  
CAS 228  
M, W, F, 12:00 - 12:50  
Fall Semester, 2007

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Week of September 17, 2007

For *Monday, September 17*

**Read, in *Schlereth*:**

Chapter 2: Working, to sub-head Office Work and Service Jobs pp. 33-66

Most mobility was not related to recreational touring, however. People moved in relation to work. We begin a study of working in the 1890s by taking a closer look at the factory at the turn of the century, especially the newer heavy industries organized on mammoth scales. Factories like these gave reason for the development of trolley systems to move laborers from home to work site.

**Further Internet Investigation**

The new industrialism also meant the creation of new towns. Workers need shelter and institutions through which to raise, nurture, and educate their children. Local History of the type fostered by organizations such as the American Association for State and Local History recounts the stories of places like Farrell, Pennsylvania in minute detail. The coming of the modern industrial plant to South Sharon (later, Farrell) is recounted at <http://www.nauticom.net/www/planet/files/Archives-HistoryFarrell.htm#PartI>. Visit it, and investigate the years prior to World War I. (Farrell becomes home to one of the large steel mills which were part of the Andrew Carnegie empire. Weâ€™ll return to this part of the country when we look at labor unrest in greater detail.

For *Wednesday, September 19*

No New Readings: I'd like to have you work on your journals and experiment with some of the features available, if you're working with the Blackboard Blog feature. Give your self some time to look at some of the materials I've linked to the class website, and also to some of the materials in the online bookmark service: [http://public.murl.com/m\\_swanson/1890s](http://public.murl.com/m_swanson/1890s). I'm planning on Showing a film on Andrew Carnegie...he keeps popping up in the readings, so maybe this is a good time to explore certain aspects of his life in a little more detail.

For Friday, September 21

Read, in *Schlereth*:

Chapter 2: *Working*, from "Office Work and Service Jobs" to end. 67 - 85

in *Chambers*,

Chapter 3, *The Corporate Revolution* pp. 54 - 79

Machines revolutionized work outside of factories, as well. In the case of office work, the typewriter and telephone made the modern office possible, and offered new opportunities for women in the job market. In the home, a revolution was around the corner, but not quite there as yet. New mechanical devices (like the carpet sweeper) were making housework easier, but the electrification of housework was yet to come. This had a far different effect on opportunities for women, as appliances made it easier for persons to do their own work.

We've seen some of this from the point of view of those working as we've read *Schlereth*. Here, we'll look at the big picture, and how the modern corporation, born during this period, concentrated economic power in the hands of the new industrialist class. We'll look at the way companies on a new scale "rationalized" entire industries: Steel and Oil, to name just two. We'll also think a little about the emerging field of "scientific" management, and how the new science of business changed the relationship of employee to employer.