

# Primary Sources

## Newspapers

“7 Thais Enter Guilty Pleas for Detention in Sweatshops.” The New York Times 11 Feb. 1996 pg. 39. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.proquest.com/>>

This article was another example showing the conditions that immigrants in sweatshops today suffer. It is also demonstrates the changing faces of immigrants in modern sweatshops, from the Jews and Italians of my story to the Asian and Hispanic workers of today.

“100 Colleges and Universities Take a Stand Against Sweatshops.” U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Public Affairs Press Release. 22 June 1999. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/archive/opa99176.htm>>

This article helped me understand how public pressure is being used to stop sweatshops. I learned that there are currently colleges and universities that are making sure the clothes they are selling are not sweatshop-produced.

“141 Men and Girls Die in Waist Factory Fire; Trapped High Up In Washington Place Building; Street Strewn with Bodies; Piles of Dead Inside.” New York Times. 26 Mar. 1911, sec. 1: 1+.

This is the initial in-depth coverage of the fire, in the Sunday edition newspaper. The headlines were helpful images to include in my presentation, and gave more detailed information about the circumstances of the fire.

“Battle Against Sweatshops to Get ‘The Old College Try’; ‘No Sweat University’ to Be Held in Washington on October 6.” U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Public Affairs Press Release. 28 September 1998. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/archive/opa98402.htm>>

This was another example of how colleges and universities are becoming part of the public pressure to stop sweatshops in America. Colleges are trying to help stop sweatshops by not selling any school clothes if they think that they are sweatshop-made.

Greenhouse, Steven. “A Hip-Hop Star’s Fashion Line is Tagged with a Sweatshop Label.” The New York Times. 28 October 2003. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.proquest.com/>>

This was an interesting article because it showed me that some people can have a clothing line made and not know it’s being made in a sweatshop. It also emphasizes the conditions in some of these modern day sweatshops.

## Newspapers, continued

“Labor Department Traces Illegally Made Goods to Sears, Macy’s West, Hub, and Guess.” U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Public Affairs Press Release. 4 October 1996. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/archive/opa96420.htm>>

This was about a Los Angeles sweatshop under investigation by the Department of Labor. The goods they produced were traced up the supply chain directly to major retailers, including one that had pledged to eradicate sweatshop products from their line. It is often unclear whether the retailers are aware that their contractors are sweating their workers.

“Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich Unveils Public Service Announcements to Raise Awareness of Plight of U.S. Sweatshop Workers.” U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Public Affairs Press Release. 25 March 1996. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/opa/archive/opa96116.htm>>

On the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Triangle Fire, a Department of Labor initiative was launched to increase awareness about sweatshops in America again. It included a “Clues for Consumers” ad that was meant to teach people where their clothes may have come from, as well as tips about how to prevent yourself from buying sweatshop-made clothes.

“Partners’ Account of the Disaster.” New York Times. 26 Mar. 1911, sec. 1: 4.

Max Blanck and Isaac Harris escaped out onto the roof of the building, and this is the story of their survival. While it was interesting, it didn’t really figure into the scope of my presentation.

“Police Numbering the Bodies in the Street.” New York Times. 26 Mar. 1911: 5.

This article helped me realize how terrible the event was, and it really emphasized what people were seeing on the street below.

“Regrets Voting for Triangle Acquittal.” New York Times. 29 Dec. 1911: 8

This showed that public opinion was that the building owners were responsible for the deaths and conditions that these women worked in. The people felt the acquittal was unfair and unjust.

“Tammany to Pass Building Code To-Day.” New York Times. 29 December 1911: 10

This article was about some building code legislation sponsored by Tammany Hall. Some people objected to the wording of the code, which is criticized in the article. I thought it was an appropriate headline to illustrate my story.

## Newspapers, continued

“Triangle Fire Case to the Jury To-Day.” New York Times. 27 Dec. 1911.

This article was about the trial of the Triangle owners, Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, which centered on whether or not the Triangle doors were locked. Max Blanck said that he used the Washington Place door (supposedly the locked one) every day and it was never locked. Harris maintained the same, though he was shown to be overly concerned about theft in the factory.

“Triangle Owners Acquitted by Jury.” New York Times. 28 Dec. 1911: 1

This article is about the end of the trial of Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, and they were found not guilty because there was reasonable doubt that they had awareness of the locked doors that trapped the people inside.

## Magazines

“Echoes From the Triangle Fire.” The Ladies Garment Worker. 2.9 (1911): 6-7

This is an article about the womens’ struggle to get Max Blanck and Isaac Harris tried for the crimes of the fire.

“How the Waist Maker’s Strike was Settled: Conferees’ Report and Recommendations” The Ladies Garment Worker. 4.2 (1913): 5-8.

This is an article from a journal written by garment workers and representatives of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union. This article gave me basic ideas of what sorts of laws were passed, agreements that were settled between the contractors and workers, and how successful the unions were after the fire. After the fire, they started to drive home the idea that the treatment of the garment workers should be changed. It gave me an idea of what sorts things to look for in legislation.

Price, George M. “Two Years Work of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control.” The Ladies’ Garment Worker. 3.11 (1912): 7-8

This article is about how people were going around to the sweatshops to check up on the improvements in safety and working conditions. There are some interesting figures about tuberculosis and other illnesses spread in the cramped conditions.

## Magazines, continued

“When You Go Out Shopping Remember the Shirt-Waist Girl.” The Ladies’ Garment Worker. 1.4 1 (1910).

This article talks about the conditions of the shirt waist workers and tries to inform people that when they buy their clothes, they should think about the workers and how hard they were working to produce clothes for people. I thought it was interesting because it showed people were recognizing that conditions weren’t good for the workers, but were not really paying any attention.

## Sound Recordings

Perkins, Frances, George E. Sokolsky. “America’s Town Meeting of the Air: Should We Plan for Social Security?” Social Security Administration. 19 December 1935. 2 May 2007. <<http://www.ssa.gov/history/1935radiodebate.html>.>

Even though this radio program was about Social Security, it really helped me understand how Frances Perkins could keep a conversation going without tension. While I was listening, I heard her use some good methods to keep the interview light, such as telling a joke when there was conflict.

## Books

Carey, Mathew. “An Appeal to the Wealthy of the Land.” Stein 6-7.

This is an article questioning whether the wealthy should be treating the working people so poorly, written by a social commentator of the time.

Edelman, Bernard. Centenarians: The Story of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by the Americans Who Lived It. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1999.

This book was a collection of interviews with people who were over 100 years old. They told the stories of their lives within various themes. One of these was Rose Freedman. She spoke about how she came to be working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, and the information was different from that given in the movie, *Three Miracles*. There were a few other interviews of other people about the immigrant experience.

The Gibson Girl and Her America: The Best Drawings of Charles Dana Gibson. Ed. Edmund Vincent Gillon, Jr. New York: Dover, 1969.

These are really up-front pictures that illustrate the fashion of the time, particularly the shirt waist. These were really helpful to include in my presentation.

## **Books, continued**

Riis, Jacob A. "Busy Season." 23-24.

This is an essay by a policeman and social reformer about cloak makers in the busy season. I thought it was interesting because it gave how much a cloak maker was paid, vs. how much their work was sold for, and where the profit went between the two.

Sikes, Wert. "Among the Poor Girls." Stein 12-15.

This is a first-hand account about a young girl whose life was taken by her job. It demonstrated how the difficulty of the conditions and hours led to the gradual death of some women in the industry.

Stein, Leon, ed. Out of the Sweatshop: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy. New York: Quadrangle, 1977.

This is a collection of primary and secondary essays and stories by a variety of people of the time. Some were immigrant women who actually lived through these sweatshops, while others were social reformers and philanthropists.

## **Internet**

Roh, Minnie. "Piece Work: Inside the Modern Day Sweatshops." 2 May 2007.  
<<http://www.soc.duke.edu/courses/soc142/shop1.html>.>

This was a diary written by a reporter who was working undercover in modern-day sweatshops. It was amazing to read because she described in such great detail the cruelty of the foreman. She explained the pain that she began to feel as the hours she was working piled up, just as the finished sweatshirts piled up to her right.

## **Film**

Three Miracles. Dir. Steven Latham and Christopher Carson. Barwood Films. 2000.

This was an interview with the last living survivor of the Triangle fire, Rose Freedman. It was helpful because it was a first-hand description of what the fire was like from inside the building, from a person who was there. Rose died at 107 years old, and was 106 when this interview was conducted. She was a feisty lady who lived an amazing life beyond the Triangle tragedy.

# Secondary Sources

## Books

Abbott, Edith. Women in Industry: A Study in American Economic History. New York: Arno Press, 1969.

This book detailed the history of women in a variety of industrial jobs. It was a helpful source because it gave detailed information about the fashion industry and the changes from custom-made clothes to ready-to-wear clothing. There was helpful information about the wages and conditions in sweatshops.

Baker, Ray Stannard. "Plight of the Tailors." Stein 22-23.

This is an editorial about how it came to be that the sweatshops were largely populated with immigrant workers. It was the first source I read that talked about how the immigrants' skills got them into sweatshops.

Campbell, Helen. "Shop Girls and Piece Workers." Early American Women: A Documentary History, 1600-1900. Ed. Nancy Woloch. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1992.

This article is about the life of an average sweatshop worker. I liked it because it described the feeling of wishing to have the fine clothes that the wealthy women had, but at the same time, hating the wealthy women because they drove the sweatshop industry with their demand for the clothing.

"Fashion for Women." American Decades: 1910-1919. Ed. Karen L. Rood. Vol. 2. Detroit: Gale Research, 1996.

This was an overview of the fashion of the time, with descriptions of what the fashions looked like. It was helpful because it helped me understand why the Gibson Girl shirtwaist was so popular.

Gourley, Catherine. Good Girl Work: Factories, Sweatshops, and How Women Changed Their Role in the American Workplace. Brookfield: Millford Press, 1999.

This book painted a broader, simpler picture that helped me to understand how the coming of machines drove American women into the sweatshop, even before the immigration. In the beginning, many immigrants were replacing the American women that were getting married and having children. There was also information about similar conditions in other industries prone to sweatshop labor, such as cotton mills, vegetable packing plants, and nut packing plants. There were also some good editorial cartoons about the Fire that I had not seen. They were from other papers around the country.

## **Books, continued**

Levine, Louis. The Women's Garment Workers: A History of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. New York: BW Huebsch, 1924.

This is a book about the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which was one of the largest labor organizations of the time. It documents the struggle to reform the garment industry and create safer and more sanitary conditions for their fellow workers. I found it helpful because it talked about some of the laws and reforms after the fire.

Lieuerance, Suzanne. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and Sweatshop Reform in American History. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2003.

This book is about the fire and what happens afterwards, in simple and understandable terms. It was the first book I read, and it had a good bibliography that led me to other sources for my research. I liked it because it had a lot of pictures to illustrate the story, and it was very basic and easy to understand.

Pasachoff, Naomi. Frances Perkins; Champion of the New Deal. Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.

This book was really helpful in teaching me about the life of Frances Perkins. It went into great detail about where she worked, how she worked, and some hurdles that she jumped during her lifetime. It was very interesting to read about how she kept her cool in dangerous or difficult situations.

Stein, Leon. The Triangle Fire. New York: Carol and Graf, 1962.

This was a greatly detailed accounting of the events leading up to, including, and following the Triangle Fire. I liked it because it was published at a time when there were still living survivors of the fire, so there were some primary accounts that I had not seen before. He also had a floor plan of the loft, which gave me a much clearer picture of how cramped and dangerous the conditions were in the rooms.

Stein, Leon, ed. Out of the Sweatshop. New York: Quadrangle, 1977.

This is a collection of primary and secondary essays and stories by a variety of people of the time. Some were immigrant women who actually lived through these sweatshops, while others were social reformers and philanthropists.

## Books, continued

Von Drehle, David. Triangle: The Fire That Changed America. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1993.

This is the most recent book written about the Triangle tragedy. It covers all of the aspects of the story in greater detail than Mr. Stein's book. I liked it because it had the first complete compiled list of the dead from the fire, along with their ages, causes of death, and details about how they were identified and by whom. I could tell from the list that there were whole families that died in the fire. It also had very good reconstruction illustrations of the floor plans and their various dangers. There are also background stories about the people involved, which brought them to life. His solid research dispelled some of the myths about the Triangle Fire. For instance, I have read that some women were killed so quickly that they were still sitting at their machines, but the fire chief's report refuted this.

## Magazines

Babcock, H. "The 'Thread' Question." The Ladies' Garment Worker. 3.5 (1912):

This is a poem about a garment worker. I thought it was helpful because it gave me an idea of what the public felt about the garment workers at the time.

## Film

American Experience: 1898-1918 – The Power and the People. Dir. Ric Burns. Steeplechase Films. 1999.

This is a documentary film about New York City at the time of the Triangle Fire. It did not have much about the fire itself, but it gave a great picture of what New York was like at the time.

## Internet

Linder, Douglas. "Famous Trials: The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Trial, 1911." University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. 2002. 2 May 2007.

<<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/triangle/trianglefire.html>>

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