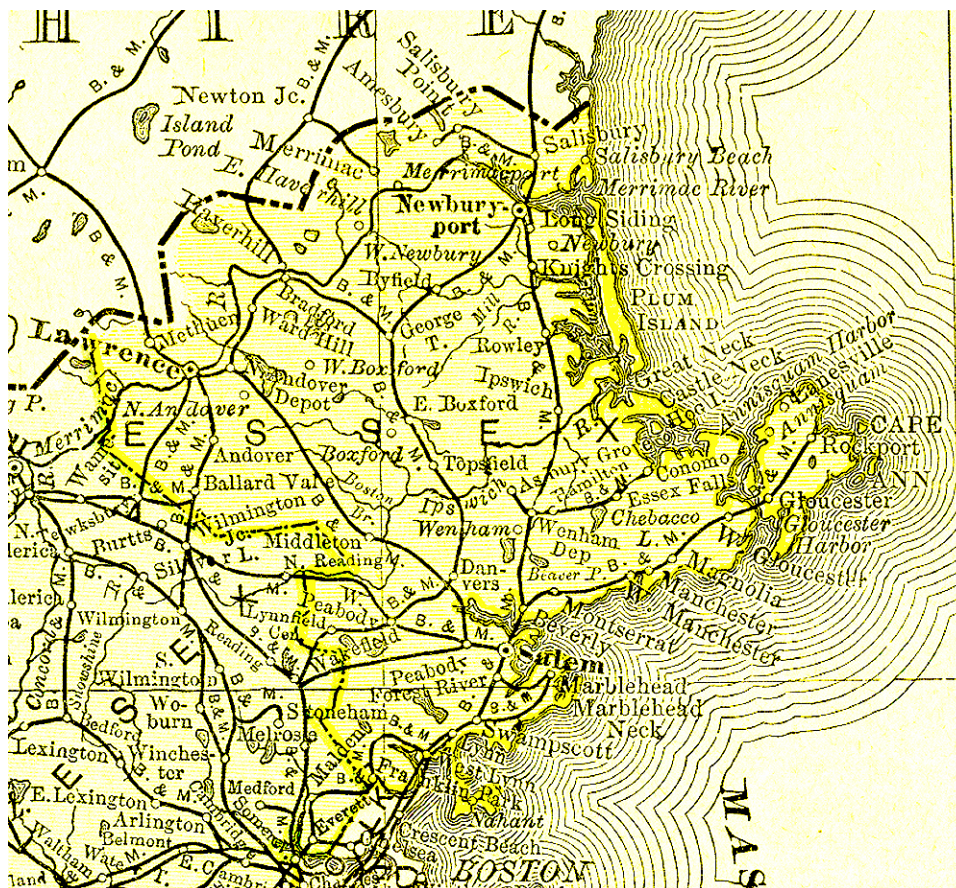


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Massachusetts

What follows is some information on the communities the families lived in and other information of interest.



1895 Map of Essex County Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>

Separate pages show the complete 1895 Map of Massachusetts (same source) & a modern County Map<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Livingston County Michigan Genealogical Web site, accessed 25 June 2001

<sup>2</sup> accessed 19 June 2002, Everton References, <http://www.everton.com/reference/usa/MAMap.gif>

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## **PEABODY**

Settled as early as 1626, the area today known as Peabody was originally part of Salem called Brooksby Village. Early residents were farmers, but the abundant streams of Brooksby made it a logical location for industries requiring water power. By 1668 the tanning business had become well established, hence the nickname "Tanner City." Brooksby separated from Salem in 1752 to form the township of Danvers. In the years following the Revolutionary War, the township flourished and in 1855 the southern part was incorporated into the separate Town of South Danvers. Confusion resulted from the similarly named towns, and it was decided in 1868 to rename South Danvers after George Peabody, the international financier and philanthropist born in 1795 at 205 Washington Street, South Danvers. The population of the town grew steadily until the town meeting form of government grew too cumbersome. In 1916 the citizens of Peabody voted to become the thirty-seventh city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts<sup>3</sup>.

Peabody itself changed its name to be called after one of its greatest sons and benefactors, George Peabody, who actually made most his wealth in the UK as a cofounder of JP Morgan. George Peabody is credited as the founder of American philanthropy. His Trust still provides a lot of help and housing in London and there is a web site related to this work. He was born in 1795 and his father was a tanner.

Tanning began in Peabody in 1660 and had become the dominant industry by the 1840's. It was at this time that the US Railways began and this was a big help to the industry. The records indicate that in 1825 Peabody had 3500 tanning vats. There were seven streams running through the town although today they are all buried underground and these supplied the needed water supply, and local bark was used for tanning. "By 1855 there were 27 tanneries, 24 currying shops, 13 Moroccan (goat skin) and lining shops and one patent leather shop. The industry was helped by demand at the time of the American Civil War, but suffered from changes in fashion and technology in the 1870s and 80s. In 1886 the workers went on strike for better pay and shorter hours.

AC Lawrence was founded in 1894 and the employees from the early days noted that this was seasonal work with white leather made for four months for summer shoes and darker leather made for winter footwear, again with a four month working period. So the workers had to budget for two two-month lay-offs. However, by 1914 Peabody and Philadelphia were classed as the largest leather producers on the East Coast of the US. In 1933 the workers went on strike again in order to obtain Union recognition.

But since then it has all been difficult. Many people remember 100 tanneries in Peabody yet in 2000 only three plants remain, all based on finishing only."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Official City of Peabody web sit, accessed 25 June 2001, [www.ci.peabody.ma.us](http://www.ci.peabody.ma.us)

<sup>4</sup> mikeredwood.com, accessed 26 June 2001, "Great Places for Tanning"

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See Appendix A for some additional insight into Leather Workers and Peabody and Appendix B discusses The Birth of the CIO and the Revival of the AFL with reference to a leather workers strike.



1877 Map of Peabody<sup>5</sup>

### SALEM

"During the winter of 1623-1624, a fishing settlement was established on Cape Ann by England's Dorchester Company. After three years of struggle on rocky, stormy Cape Ann, a group of the settlers, led by Roger Conant, set out to establish a more permanent settlement. They found sheltered, fertile land at the mouth of the Naumkeag River.

The new settlement, called Naumkeag, or comfort haven by the Native Americans, thrived on farming and fishing. In 1629 the settlement was renamed Salem for Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace.

...

In January of 1692, the daughter and niece of Reverend Samuel Parris of Salem Village became ill. William Griggs, the village doctor, was called in when they failed to improve. His diagnosis of bewitchment

<sup>5</sup> View of Peabody, Mass. 1877. Drawn & published by Messrs. O. H. Bailey & J. C. Hazen. Lith. & Print. by J. Knauber & Co., obtained 25 June 2001 via <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>, American Memory – Historical Collections for the National Digital Library (Library of Congress)



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*put into motion the forces that would ultimately result in the hanging deaths of nineteen men and women. In addition, one man was crushed to death; several others died in prison, and the lives of many were irrevocably changed.*

*To understand the events of the Salem witch trials, it is necessary to examine the times in which accusations of witchcraft occurred. There were the ordinary stresses of 17th-century life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. A strong belief in the devil, factions among Salem Village families and rivalry with nearby Salem Town combined with a recent small pox epidemic and the threat of attack by warring tribes created a fertile ground for fear and suspicion. Soon, prisons were filled with more than 150 men and women from towns surrounding Salem; their names had been "cried out" by tormented young girls as the cause of their pain. All would await trial for a crime punishable by death in 17th-century New England - the practice of witchcraft.*

*In June of 1692, the special Court of Oyer (to hear) and Terminer (to decide) sat in Salem to hear the cases of witchcraft. Presided over by Chief Justice William Stoughton, the court was made up of magistrates and jurors. The first to be tried was Bridget Bishop of Salem who was found guilty and was hanged on June 10. Thirteen women and five men from all stations of life followed her to the gallows on three successive hanging days before the court was disbanded by Governor William Phipps in October of that year. The Superior Court of Judicature, formed to replace the "witchcraft" court, did not allow spectral evidence. This belief in the power of the accused to use their invisible shapes or spectres to torture their victims had sealed the fates of those tried by the Court of Oyer and Terminer. The new court released those awaiting trial and pardoned those awaiting execution. In effect, the Salem witch trials were over.*

*...*

*In the eighteenth century, Salem developed into a major fishing, shipbuilding and maritime trade center. Thanks to its burgeoning codfish trade with the West Indies and Europe, the town grew and prospered. As Salem grew, so too did the power struggle between the colonies and England. In 1774, a Provincial Congress was organized in Salem and the political revolution began. Two months before the battles in Lexington and Concord, skirmishes broke out in Salem. Salem's fleet contributed mightily to the war effort, capturing or sinking 455 British vessels.*

*By 1790, Salem was the sixth largest city in the country, and the richest per capita. International trade with Europe, the West Indies, China, Africa and Russia produced great wealth and prosperity in Salem. Entrepreneurial spirit and unflappable courage among Salem's sea captains enhanced Salem's success as a dominant seaport. Salem merchants built magnificent homes, established museums and other cultural institutions.*

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Salem architect and wood carver Samuel McIntire (1757-1811) was employed by many of the sea captains and is responsible for stunning Federal-style architecture and ornamental carving throughout Salem. McIntire's peak years as an artist coincided with Salem's peak years as a successful shipping port. This combination has left Salem with one of the grandest collections of Federal style architecture in the world.

...

American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne was born on July 4th, 1804, at the peak of Salem's prosperity. The son of a sea captain, Hawthorne watched the decline of Salem's involvement with lucrative foreign trade and the rise of industry in Salem. While working in the Custom House, which is open to the public, Hawthorne wrote his novel *The Scarlet Letter*. Rumor has it that Hawthorne discovered the red "A" in the attic of the custom house where he worked. Another Hawthorne novel, *The House of the Seven Gables* made famous the home of his cousin, Susannah Ingersoll. Today the House of the Seven Gables Settlement site includes the famous mansion and Hawthorne's birthplace and is open to the public.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Salem evolved into an important manufacturing and retail center. Irish and French Canadian immigrants poured into Salem to work on its new leather and shoe factories or at the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company, Italian and Eastern European immigrants began arriving in the early 1900s to take advantage of Salem's prosperity. By 1914, the population of Salem had swelled to 40,000.

In 1914 a fire swept through Salem, destroying more than 400 buildings. The Great Salem Fire left 3,500 families homeless."<sup>6</sup>

### SALEM FIRE, 1914



SALEM HOSPITAL  
Photograph by M. E. Robb, Salem

#### "THE CONFLAGRATION

Following a long dry spell, at 1.37 P. M. on June 25th, 1914, box 48, in the leather district, was pulled for a fire in the Korn leather factory, numbering 57 Boston street, followed at 1.41 P. M. by a general alarm from the same box. At the start there were a series of explosions. Subsequent investigation seems to show that these were caused by

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<sup>6</sup>accessed 27 January 2002, [www.salem.org](http://www.salem.org)

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*a mixture of acetone, amalacitate and alcohol, also that large quantities of celluloid were stored here.*

...

*The conflagration burned 253 acres, 1,376 buildings, the territory covered being about 1 1/2 miles long by 1/2 mile wide, the entire loss probably being much in excess of \$15,000,000.00, the insurance loss paid, \$11,744,000.00, people homeless, almost 20,000 and out of work, about 10,000."*<sup>7</sup>



NO. 6 WEAVERIES AT THE NAUMKEAG MILLS  
BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE  
*Photographs by M. E. Robb, Salem*



THE FIRE FROM GALLOW'S HILL  
*Photograph by M. E. Robb, Salem*

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RUINS AT THE NAUMKEAG MILLS  
*Photograph by M. E. Robb, Salem*

“By 1914, the population of Salem had swelled to 40,000. In 1914 a fire swept through Salem, destroying more than 400 buildings. The Great Salem Fire left 3,500 families homeless.<sup>8</sup>”



George T. Murray of the Boston Journal photographed Salem, Massachusetts on June 26, 1914, following a disastrous fire. The photograph was enlarged to cover the entire front page of the Journal. This is the first known use of aerial photography for journalism<sup>9</sup>

## Somerset

The Town of Somerset<sup>10</sup> is a suburban community in Bristol County, on the west side of the Taunton River. This area was originally known as the Shawamat Lands and was incorporated as a town in 1790. Although there was a significant Indian population when colonists arrived, by the end of King Philip's war in 1677 English settlers dominated the Pocassetts, members of the Wampanoag tribe. The earliest colonists farmed and fished, both in the river and off-shore but the town developed shipyards, mercantile and shipping businesses early in its history. The first documented local shipyard was established between 1707 and 1712 on the Lee River by Samuel Lee. The dominant religious group in early Somerset were the Quakers, who established a meeting house about 1701, one of the few and earliest Quaker churches in southeastern Massachusetts. After the War of 1812, Somerset became one of the chief distribution points in New England for foreign goods with trade to China, the West Indies, Europe and the Atlantic coast. By 1847, 138 vessels were built and registered in the town with many engaged in the coastal trade. The most

<sup>7</sup> Internet version of book "THE SALEM FIRE, BY ARTHUR B. JONES, Formerly Assistant Chief, now a member of Hose Company, Number 2 of Salem, illustrated with Photographs, Copyright 1914 ", accessed 27 January 2002, <http://www.usgenmet.org/usa/ma/county/essex/books/fire/set1/chap2.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Salem Office of Tourism & Cultural Affairs web – site, [www.salem.org](http://www.salem.org), accessed 22 June 2001

<sup>9</sup> National Air and Space Museum web-site, accessed 21 June 2001 --. (64k jpg), *Courtesy of Defense Visual Information Center.*

<sup>10</sup> Accessed 28 January 2002, <http://docs.wih.edu/MA/somr43se.jpg>, Historic USGS Maps of New England, Somerset MA Quadrangle, 1943, SE Quadrant

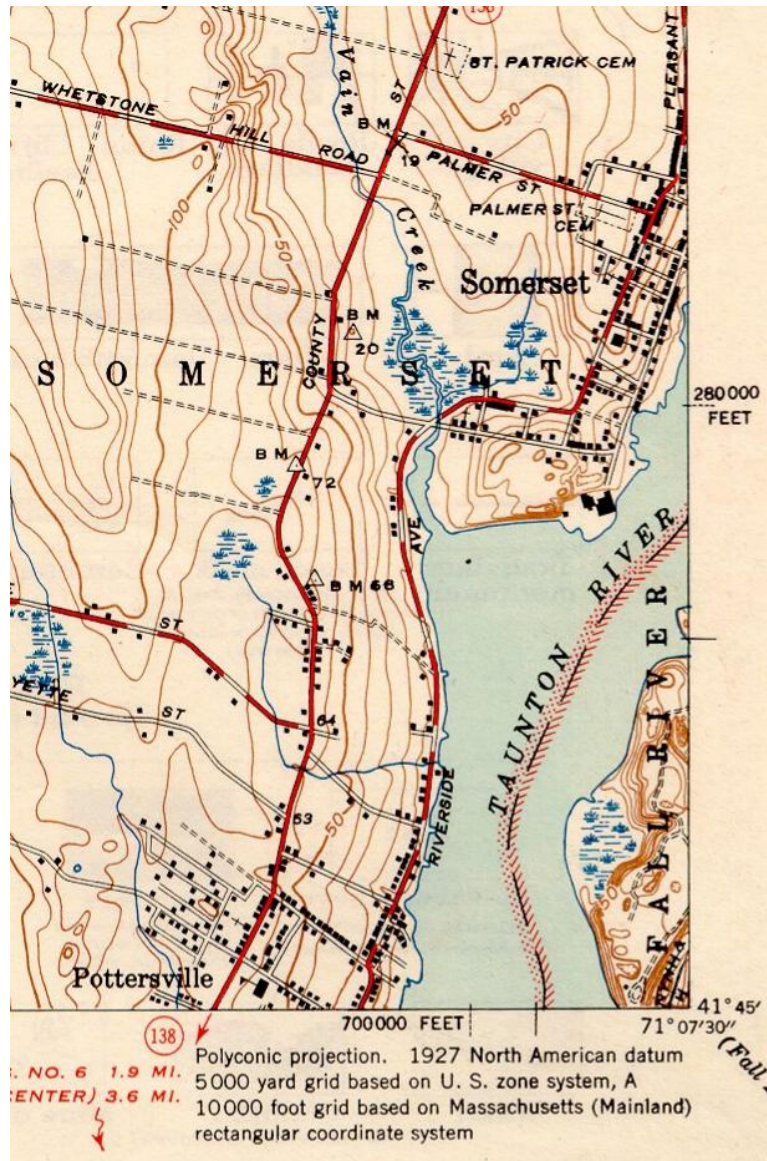


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important shipyard was that of James M. Hood, whose yard launched several important clipper ships. This industry boomed after the Mexican War and the California Gold Rush, and spawned shipping related activities such as a ropewalk and the Somerset Iron Works, which made anchors. Aside from shipping related businesses, the largest early industry in Somerset was the making of stoneware.

When steam began destroying shipbuilding, the anchor works was taken over by Job Leonard who proceeded to develop a nail works which, by 1865, was the largest single industry in town. Through all of this industrial growth, south Somerset remained largely agricultural. The opening of the Somerset and Dighton Railroad led to the establishment in the town of the Old Colony's major coal port in 1872, while an enterprising former potter created a cannery operation in the early part of the 20th century.

However, as the industrial development of Fall River absorbed



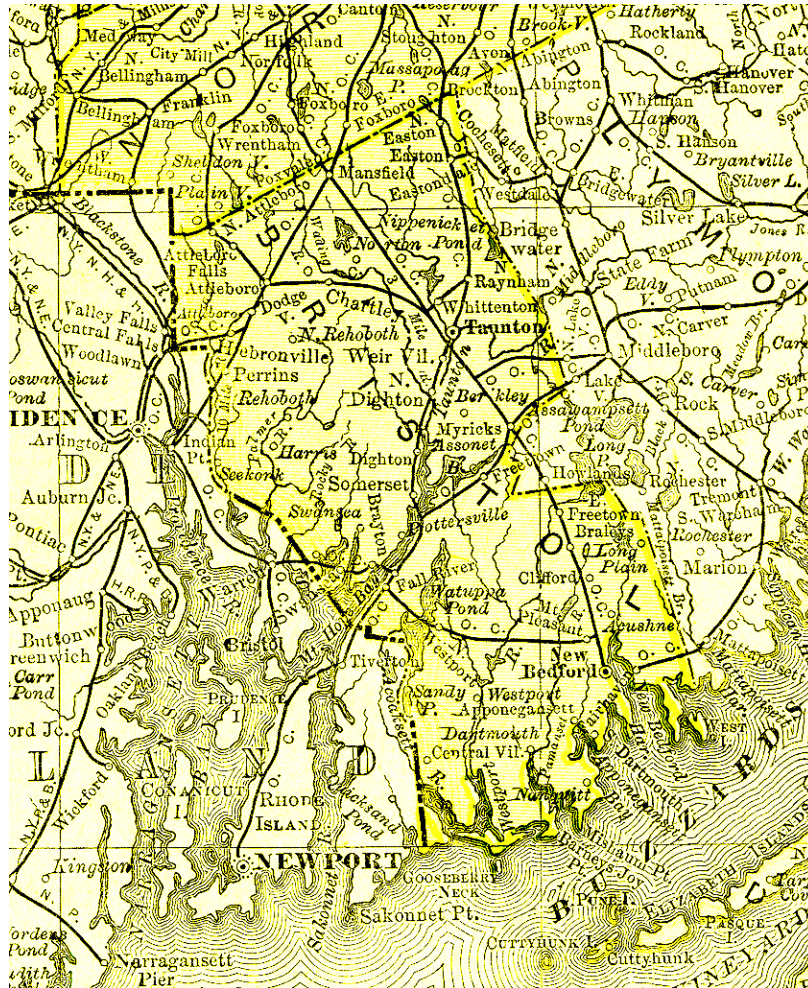
Somerset's industry, the community turned increasingly from shipping and iron manufacturing to suburban services. The dominant industry in Somerset since the First World War has been power generation with the erection of the Montauk Electric Company plant in 1923 and Bryant Point in 1963. The dominant character of Somerset has been residential since the bankruptcy of Fall River in the Depression brought a flood of middle-class residents into the town. Unlike most communities in the area, Somerset increased its population by 74% during the Depression. The town is now a suburban community with some small scale resort and second home development and its 15 miles of waterfront are primarily used for recreation rather



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than industry.<sup>11</sup>



1895 Bristol County Massachusetts Map<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> accessed 27 January 2002, <http://www.usgenet.org/usa/ma/county/bristol/fallriver/somerset.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Livingston County Michigan Genealogical Web site, accessed 25 June 2001

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Appendix A

*Recent Look at Peabody and it's Leather Heritage*<sup>13</sup>

... the documentary "Leather Soul: Working for a Life in a Factory Town," an intimate, and even romantic portrait of an industry, which was both loved and loathed, and the people who both thrived and were hurt by it. Narrated by Studs Terkel and written by Peabody native son John Stanton this chronicle of Peabody aired on more than 30 PBS stations across the country as part of the PBS series, "We Do The Work."

Cultrera, who directed *Leather Soul*, and Quinn, who produced it, say they felt driven to record the stories of the men and women who labored in the leather industry before it was too late, especially since it was a story they knew firsthand. They saw in the saga of the leather industry a mirror of the industrial revolution that boosted and then busted so many communities in New England and across the country.

In 1916, when Peabody incorporated under its present charter, it was the Leather Capital of the World, the largest producer of leather products on the globe. About 100 leather factories employed 8,000 men then in a city that claimed 16,000 residents. Many of the workers were immigrants from Armenia, Turkey, Greece, Russia, Poland and Italy who were at least assured of a job, and frequently a decent salary, as well. Now, not a single tannery exists in Peabody that fully processes the leather.



The smell of hides doused in chrome, the heat of the ovens that baked animal skins, the rhythmic banging of the staking machine that pulled the skins along a belt are the visceral images of a tanning industry that is nearly gone from the home where it reigned for a century and they are also the sounds and sights captured in *Leather Soul*. Rather than the observations of academics or historians, *Leather Soul* relies on oral histories and features the stories of those who knew the work best -- the shop foremen, the owners, the union leaders, as well as the many workers whose hands trimmed, shaved, dyed and dried the leather. The fathers of Cultrera and Quinn, and several relatives of Stanton are among those interviewed in the film. ..

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.pixbiz.com/leatherinfo.html>, accessed 27 January 2002

Appendix B

*The Birth of the CIO and the Revival of the AFL* <sup>14</sup>

WITH THE ELECTION OF FRANKLIN D. Roosevelt, the federal government became a source of aid to distressed working people. Taking office in March 1933, during the darkest days of the Depression, Roosevelt abandoned the halting and ineffectual policies of his Republican predecessor and launched a broad-ranging reform effort called the New Deal. Federal relief initiatives, such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), provided many thousands with welcomed jobs. Poor administration and political favoritism marred the operation of some projects. But such problems fade into insignificance when compared to what was accomplished. The WPA's substantive achievements include the construction of parks, water systems, airports, and a wide assortment of public buildings. Many can still be seen in cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

Roosevelt's New Deal not only made bold experiments in national economic and social planning, it also convinced workers they had a friend in the White House. The president appointed Frances Perkins as Secretary of Labor to symbolize a new approach. Born in Boston, raised in Worcester, and educated at Mount Holyoke, Perkins shared the social progressivism of the educated women who had helped form the Womens Trade Union League in 1903. Like the president, she took a positive view of government's role in a democratic society. Breaking with the past, President Roosevelt declared: "Better the occasional faults of government that lives in a spirit of charity than the constant omission of a government frozen on the ice of its own indifference."

The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 created a federal agency, the National Recovery Administration (NRA), and, among other provisions, set minimum wages and a limit on working hours. It also established, for the first time in U.S. history, the legal right for workers to organize into unions. As a result, unorganized workers across the Commonwealth rushed to join AFL locals. FDR publicly announced that if he worked in a factory, he would join a union, which encouraged organizing further. Workers adopted the strike weapon, which had fallen into disuse during the Depression. The number of industrial disputes in Massachusetts shot up from 76 in 1932 to 157 in 1933. In the most important strike of that turbulent year, five thousand leather workers walked out in Lynn, Peabody, and other towns. The tannery owners imported strikebreakers but local residents, especially ethnic organizations, supported the leather workers in their successful strike which paved the way for a national union. Even cranberry pickers struck the bogs around Wareham. Fifteen hundred field hands, mostly Cape Verdeans, struck for union recognition to raise pathetic wages and curb the harsh rule of field bosses. Although this first

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<sup>14</sup> Massachusetts AFL-CIO website, [www.massafcio.org](http://www.massafcio.org), accessed 26 June 2001



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*agricultural strike in the states history failed, many others would succeed in the intoxicating New Deal atmosphere.*

*Across Massachusetts industrial workers considered unorganizable by craft unions demonstrated their militancy and solidarity. With even the limited encouragement of federal law, an explosion of militancy and organizing followed.*

*At General Electrics massive Lynn River works, Scottish craftsman Albert Coulthard revived the pattern-makers' union and soon sought support from less skilled workers. At Market Forge in Chelsea, a diverse work force of Polish and Italian workers formed an independent union after their employer reduced the workweek in accordance with NRA codes but also reduced wages by 20 percent. Led by Jewish socialists, the union struck and forced the company to sign an agreement on August 15, 1933.*

*In the spring of 1935, Congress passed the Social Security Act and a sweeping new federal labor law. Sponsored by Senator Robert Wagner and Lynns pro-union Congressman William Connery, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) created the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), with real power to enforce workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively. The Wagner-Connery Act also banned company unions and prohibited "unfair labor practices" by employers. Workers' militant response to the 1933 National Recovery Act pushed Congress and the president into enacting the most sweeping social reform in the twentieth century. The Wagner Act allowed the labor movement to democratize the American workplace to a degree employers found quite horrifying. As a result of the NLRA, labor organizing surged forward again, especially after President Roosevelt won a smashing reelection campaign in the fall of 1936. Massachusetts union membership rose from only 155,342 in 1932 to 224,000 in 1936 and a labor militancy gripped the state as days lost in strikes skyrocketed.*

*The new industrial unions that broke from the AFL as part of the Committee on Industrial Organizing (CIO) surged forward in 1936 and 1937 when forty thousand workers joined labor organizations in the Commonwealth. Labor disputes leapt by 153 percent in Boston. CIO unions in the clothing industry fought pitched battles in the streets. Others joined the new CIO organizing committees for textile workers and steelworkers. Gas and coke workers affiliated directly with John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers District 50, so that all levels of workers could join the same organization regardless of craft. Others took their independent unions into the new CIO organization.*

*The pattern makers at General Electric in Lynn joined the new United Electrical and Radio Workers (UE) in 1936, as did Westinghouse and American Bosch workers in Springfield. The Market Forge workers in Chelsea affiliated with the new Steel Workers Organizing Committee. The rubber workers of East Cambridge and Chicopee went CIO, as did the packinghouse workers of Boston and Somerville.*

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*The CIO unions made good use of the recently formed National Labor Relations Board to challenge employers' anti-union practices. Although the NLRB had come under employer attack, its constitutionality was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1937. A year later, the Court ruled against an important vestige of anti-unionism, the company union, when the employee-representation plan imposed by Bethlehem Steel in Fore River shipyards was declared illegal. Membership in the CIO's Marine and Shipbuilding Union surged at the Quincy yards and a collective bargaining agreement soon followed. At Boston Edison, where a company union prevailed, workers formed an independent union. The new brotherhood later affiliated with the CIO's Utility Workers Union of America through Local 369 for maintenance and production workers and Local 387 for clerical workers.*

*The eruption of a socially conscious and broadly inclusive CIO movement attracted a whole new generation of union activists, including Poles, Russians, Lithuanians, Italians, Greeks, and Portuguese workers who had not found a home in AFL craft unions. Important leaders emerged from this CIO generation-people such as Joseph Salerno of the Clothing Workers, Salvatore Camelio of the Rubber Workers, Phil Kramer of the Garment Workers, and J. William Belanger of the Textile Workers. The Textile Workers also recruited James Boutselis from Lowell, Johnny Chupka from East Douglas, and, from Fall River, Michael Botelho and the Azorean soccer hero, Mariano Bishop. After leading the massive 1934 textile strike that swept Fall River and then building the CIO's Textile Workers Union, Bishop became an international vice president of his union.*

...