

Research Summary

Due to the generous support of the ARC Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), located on the main campus of University of Wisconsin—Madison. There, I had access to the John Samuel Papers, the Richard Ely Papers, the Edward Bemis Papers, as well as original documents belonging to the Knights of Labor.

Of particular value, WHS has in its possession three boxes of John Samuel's press clippings on the topic of cooperation and dating from the 1880s. The majority of these articles originally appeared in the *Journal of United Labor* and *Co-operative News*. The clippings provide richly detailed information on American worker-controlled companies and start-ups. For example, many of the clippings describe individual businesses, providing company name, place of business, date of formation, industry or sector, as well as ownership/control structure. This is precisely the type of data required for my original study on late-nineteenth-century experiments in workers' control within the United States. Interestingly, the above archival sources also contain many contemporary opinion pieces on the relationship between cooperation and socialism—and thus provide crucial data for a separate piece on the intellectual history of American cooperation as it relates to socialism.

Although I was able to capture over 500 images of press clippings, personal writings, as well as business advertisements—and locate microfilm content available for duplication and shipping by WHS—I intend to return to Madison at a later date to continue research. At the same time, this latest research will temporarily complete the data collection portion of my project—and allow me to begin writing.

In addition to visiting UW-Madison, I also obtained corporate records for 72 cooperative businesses in Ohio, including images of original articles of incorporation and amendments. Further study will be required to determine which of these businesses were attempts to establish workers' control.

Again, this archival research would not have been possible without the support of the ARC Knickerbocker Award. I am confident that the final written product will reflect—and be enriched by—the archival materials made available courtesy of the ARC Knickerbocker Award.