

# THE 1877 RAILROAD STRIKE IN BALTIMORE

When more than 100,000 railroad workers carried out the first national strike in the United States, it started in Baltimore at Camden Yards on July 16, 1877 as workers resisted a second round of pay cuts on the B& O Railroad.

The new book, titled *The 1877 Railroad Strike in Baltimore*, by Bill Barry focuses in detail on the weeks of the strike both in Baltimore, where two other strikes in the city were also in progress and 10 innocent bystanders were murdered by the Maryland militia near Baltimore City Hall, and on related strikes across the country. The book emphasizes that the strike became an epic moment not just in labor history but in US history, as it provoked critical issues, like the role of the federal government, the need for standing armies and the role of workers in an industrial society. The book also considers the political controversies of the time and the Red Scare that accompanied the strikes.



*The 1877 Railroad Strike in Baltimore* covers the development of railroads as a national industry, and particularly the history of the B & O, early labor disputes and unionism on the railroads, the immigrant and working-class communities of Baltimore, and community support for the strikers. It uses original research from newspapers and committee hearings, minutes from the Hayes administration, as well as documents from the archives of the B & O Museum—including the notorious Gatling Letter—and even a section of poems about the strike, created by students in Baltimore. There are numerous period graphics and color photographs to illustrate the history.

- Chapter 1—Introduction
- Chapter 2—the B & O in Baltimore
- Chapter 3—The Workers in Baltimore
- Chapter 4—The B & O Strike
- Chapter 5--Reflections and Recollections
- Chapter 6—Poems
- Chapter 7—Afterword
- Appendix—The Gatling Letter

Bill Barry is the retired Director of Labor Studies at The Community College of Baltimore County/Dundalk and was the sponsor of a historical marker, commemorating the 1877 strike, erected at Camden Yards in March, 2013.

Printed at a union shop, the book is \$ 22.00—cash or check. Sorry no credit cards. \$2.00 postage or one beer for pickup.

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