

An (Un)Civil Action

Violent Conflict during the Bread and Roses Strike

Saturday, February 27, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Lawrence State Heritage Park
One Jackson Street, Lawrence

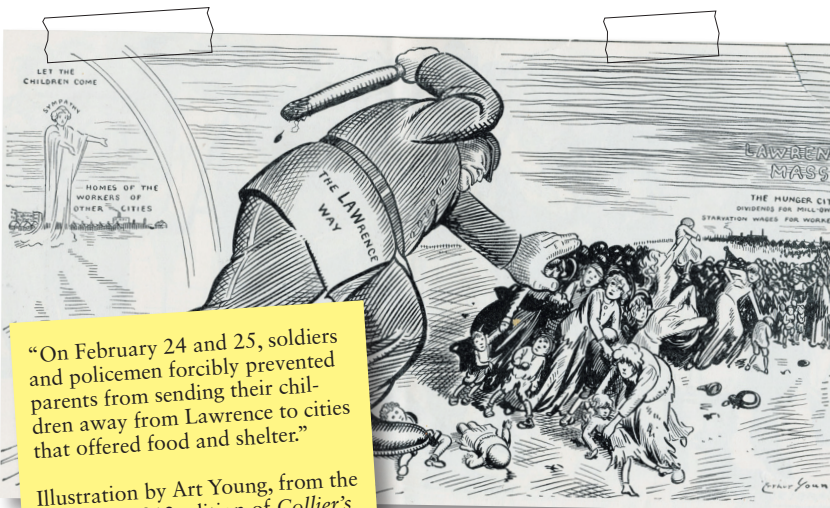
Join historians Robert Forrant and Jim Beauchesne for an introduction to the Great Strike of 1912 and a tour of selected locations. Then, view excerpts from the documentary film, *John Brown's Holy War*, followed by a discussion of Brown's choice for armed conflict. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. For more information, visit masshumanities.org.



Photos from January 1912

Above: State militia block strikers on Canal Street

Below: Pacific Mills watchmen turn fire hoses on strikers trying to cross Lower Pacific Bridge



“On February 24 and 25, soldiers and policemen forcibly prevented parents from sending their children away from Lawrence to cities that offered food and shelter.”

Illustration by Art Young, from the March 9, 1912 edition of *Collier's*

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Women initiated the Bread and Roses Strike, and many turned militant as hunger and cold took their toll during the harsh first three months of 1912. They were seen as “radicals of the worst sort.” But when more than 200 militia prevented strikers from sending children to sympathetic families in other cities on February 24, the ensuing melee turned public opinion. Clashes continued until the strike was won in March.

Where does keeping law and order shade into state suppression? How culpable are we when we do nothing while violence happens in our name?

