Comrades and Cowboys

In 1886, several prominent European socialists came through Cincinnati in search of insights into America. Their local comrades—“delightful German-American friends” took them to a local dime museum. There, a showman introduced cowboys with “stereotyped speeches about them,” as his subjects lounged about “in their picturesque garb, and looking terribly bored.” Then, one of the cowboys, “singularly handsome face and figure, with the frankest of blue eyes, rose and spoke a piece.

LAWCHA is an organization of scholars, teachers, students, labor educators and activists who seek to promote public and scholarly awareness of labor and working-class history through research, writing and organizing.