



published, before Chicago police raided the IWPA headquarters and confiscated the rest of them. Lucy Parsons kept the memory of the Haymarket Massacre alive throughout her long life; authoring her husband's biography and staying on a regular schedule of speaking engagements; which more often than not landed her in a city jail.

She collaborated on various revolutionary projects with such names in American anarchism as Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, and had dialogues with European anarchists such as Italian-born Erico Malatesta and Russian theorist Peter Kropotkin (founder of "anarchist-communism"). She wrote for the anarchist newspapers "Freedom" (1891-92)) and "The Liberator" (1905-06), as well as writing articles for a host of anarchist, socialist and communist newspapers. She was a member of Social Democracy in 1897 and was a co-founder of the IWW in 1905. Even from ideological opponents she earned both respect and admiration for her uncompromising views and willingness to totally committing herself to the liberation of the poorest of the poor.

During a 1915 Hunger Strike in which she was arrested, several Christian and liberal activists came to her aid, offering bail money and legal defence.

Well into old age, Lucy Parsons continued her legacy of agitation and organising, claiming once that "Every jal on the Pacific coast knows me!" Her last speech was delivered on May 1, 1941 as she rode on the float built by the workers of the McCormick Reaper Works in Chicago. She denounced the brutality of the police and hired Mafia thugs brought in to break the strike. By that time she was legally blind and had to use a walker to get around.

On March 7, 1942 the wood stove used for cooking and heating in her home caught fire. She was unable to get out before the flames consumed her. Her close friend George Markstall, came home from grocery shopping to see the house fully engulfed in flames. Rushing in to save her, he was quickly overcome by smoke and died the next day at a local hospital. Prior to her death, she had willed all of her property to the Pioneer Aid and Support association, including a library of her late husband's rare and our of print books. Before the ashes of what had once been her home had cooled, FBI agents ran in and confiscated what was left of her belongings, including the remaining salvageable books.

Lucy Parsons spent 75 of her 98 years fighting for the rights of working class people of all races. She is yet one more example of an individual who dove in head first to struggle for what we all deserve as human beings... freedom and real justice; by any means necessary!

