



## Peoples Labor College Duluth MN

A Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America folk school founded, September 1903, in Minneapolis, Minnesota served as a predecessor for Work People's College. The school moved to Duluth, Minnesota a few months later and was incorporated as the Finnish People's College and Theological Seminary.

The original intent of the founders was to set up a school for training clergy while emphasizing Finnish culture and language. Money was raised by selling shares of stock. Within a few years control of the institutions shifted to individuals more focused on socialism and worker education.

By 1907, the institution was renamed Work People's College and K.L. Haataja served as director and instructor. Leo Laukki assumed leadership in 1908.

For a time, members of the Finnish Socialist Federation contributed funds to support the school. Rifts developed, however, and by 1921 Work People's College was closely identified with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).\*\*

[http://www.cityhistory.us/duluth/photos/peoples\\_college.jpg](http://www.cityhistory.us/duluth/photos/peoples_college.jpg)

\*\*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work\\_People's\\_College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work_People's_College) Feb 22, 2012 7:30 PM

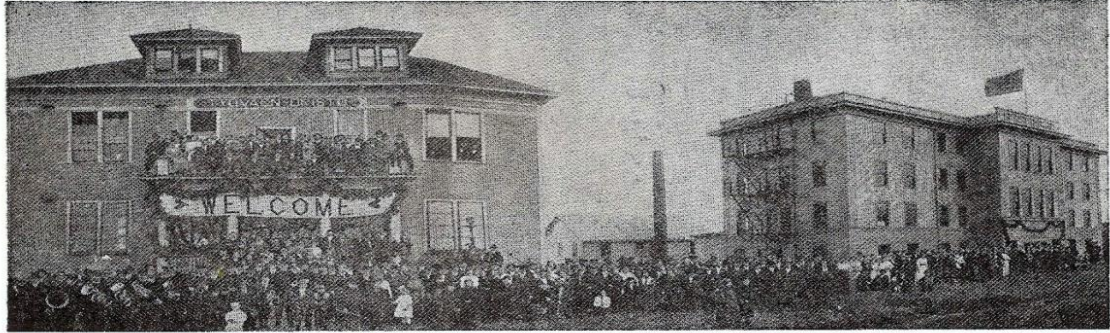


Joe Hill's ashes being spread at Työväen Opisto

Työväen Opisto (Work Peoples' College) was located in Duluth, Minnesota, and operated from 1907-mid-1930s. Classes were taught in direct action, historical materialism and class-conscious history.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tapiolahusky/3407192060/>

\*\* <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tapiolahusky/3407192060/> June 04 29, 2012 8:35 PM



**Työväen Opisto (Work People's College) — Celebrating the opening of the new building (on right) in early November, 1914. Fire destroyed this building shortly after. The old building (on left), which is still standing, has been converted to an apartment house.**

## **THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AT WORK PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, 1907-1941**

**Richard J. Altenbaugh**

Hear me, all ye Fundamentalists, ye Legions and ye Klans  
The truth shall go to Labor in defiance of your bans!  
In spite of all the Usurers, the Great Ghouls of the earth,  
In spite of all the Hirelings their gold has given birth;  
The truth shall be full spoken in Science's holy cause!  
The youth of Toil shall hear it--the Word that sets me Free  
All-conquering, invincible, through land and air and sea,  
Its message shall be cried aloud, or else in whisper blown,  
Through all the censored Continents till all the facts are known,  
Yea! till Education's halls are freed of all the myths that blight  
The flowering of the spirit and the dawning of the light,  
And till Truth shall stand triumphant on the dead Lie's shattered laws,  
The Word shall be full spoken in Science's holy cause.

"Education Shall be Free"(1)

Covington Ami



## Joe Hill

At sunrise on November 19, 1915 a firing squad took aim in the yard of the Utah State Penitentiary in Salt Lake City and put an end to the life of convicted murderer Joseph Hillstrom.

More than eight decades later, the death of the Swedish immigrant at the hands of state authorities is one of the few certainties involving one of the most controversial and fiercely debated lives in the history of American labor.

His name. . .his age. . .his importance to the movement he championed. . .his criminal guilt and even his legacy are all subject to endless argument and competing sentiment long after his death.\*\*

[http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Guardian/Pix/red/blue\\_pics/2011/09/03/joehillfuneral\\_460x276.jpg](http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Guardian/Pix/red/blue_pics/2011/09/03/joehillfuneral_460x276.jpg)

\*\*<http://www.kued.org/productions/joehill/story/index.html>

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