

### **Jane Addams (1860- 1935)**

- 1860: Born in Cederville to Sarah Weber Addams and John Addams
  - John Addams was a successful businessman who served with Lincoln in the Illinois State Senate. Jane Addams later wrote that her father's stories about Lincoln taught her the importance of principled compromise
- 1862: Sarah Addams dies of complications from tuberculosis
- 1876 – 1881: Attends Rockford Female Seminary
- 1881 – 88: Grief stricken after father's sudden death, Addams abandons medical school to travel around Europe and care for her step-mother
- 1889: Jane Addams and school-friend Ellen Gates Starr found Hull House on Halsted Street in Chicago
  - Hull House was part of the Settlement Movement, which sought to bring members of the middle classes to urban neighborhoods where they would participate in efforts to alleviate poverty
  - Addams envisioned Hull House as a cooperative enterprise, insisting that major decisions be made by residents collectively. It took longer for Addams to insist upon the importance of cooperation between middle-class residents and their urban neighbors
  - Hull House remained Addams's home until her death in 1935, one year after that of her companion and Hull House benefactor Mary Rozet Smith
- 1894: Pullman Strike
- 1896: Travels to Russia to meet Tolstoy
- 1902: *Democracy and Social Ethics* published
  - Addams argues that democratic societies require a "social" approach to ethics that emphasizes the importance of civic cooperation and "sympathetic interpretation" of other's ideas
  - "We are under a moral obligation in choosing our experiences, since the result of those experiences will determine our understanding of life...if we grow contemptuous of our fellows, and consciously limit our intercourse to certain kinds of people whom we have previously decided to respect, we not only tremendously circumscribe our range of life, but limit the scope of our ethics"
- 1907: *Newer Ideals of Peace* published
- 1910: Autobiographical *Twenty Years at Hull House* published
- 1912: Nominates Theodore Roosevelt at the Progressive Party Convention
- 1916-1919: Opposes World War I
- 1931: Wins Nobel Peace Prize

## Sources/ Further Reading

- ❖ Addams, *Democracy and Social Ethics* (Urbana: University of Illinois)
- ❖ Brown, Victoria Bissel, *The Education of Jane Addams* (UPenn, 2004)
- ❖ Jolson, Katherine, *Jane Addams: A Writer's Life* (Urbana: University of Illinois)