

The Tragedy of the Triangle Factory Fire and the Triumph of American Worker Safety

Maegan Taralyn Smarkusky

Junior Individual Website

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When I first heard the theme for NHD, I was quite clueless as to what event my project should have been about. I knew I wanted something that really made an impact on society, something that formed modern-day America. I was very confused and worried, until I remembered reading a story about great fires in America. The Triangle Factory fire always stood out to me. It was not only a massive tragedy; this fire's aftermath had a certain spirit of justice that is very rare.

I knew exactly where I wanted to start my research, the trial. I went to several legal websites and studied professor's and historian's views on the case. I followed that up by going to the national archives, where I found several images and songs. I then discovered Cornell's extensive research on the topic and studied what they found to better understand how the fire occurred. After this, I looked for witness reports and documents that could relate it to the past. The majority of my time devoted to this project involved research.

I chose to make a website because I wanted to make something interactive. I wanted to make content that could be explored. I believe multimedia is one of the most efficient ways to educate. Multimedia learning is stimulating, and if done correctly, very educational. It teaches in more ways than one.

I believe this topic fits, and in some ways defines, the theme triumph and tragedy. I can't think of anything more tragic than wrongful deaths, nor can I imagine anything more infuriating than those deaths being caused by incompetence. The Triangle Factory fire aftermath made this tragedy a triumph in public awareness and in law. Without the fire, 36 laws would have been delayed and the public wouldn't have become aware of the horrible conditions. Though it was horrific, the Triangle Factory fire changed America for the better.