

= Dyer Lum =

Dyer Daniel Lum ( 1839 ? April 6 , 1893 ) was a 19th @-@ century American anarchist , labor activist and poet . A leading anarcho @-@ syndicalist and a prominent left @-@ wing intellectual of the 1880s , Lum is best remembered as the lover and mentor of early anarcha @-@ feminist Voltairine de Cleyre .

Lum was a prolific writer who wrote a number of key anarchist texts , and contributed to publications including Mother Earth , Twentieth Century , Liberty ( Benjamin Tucker 's individualist anarchist journal ) , The Alarm ( the journal of the International Working People 's Association ) and The Open Court among others . Following the arrest of Albert Parsons , Lum edited The Alarm from 1892 ? 1893 .

Traditionally portrayed as a " genteel , theoretical anarchist " , Lum has recently been recast by the scholarship of Paul Avrich as an " uncompromising rebel thirsty for violence and martyrdom " in the light of his involvement in the Haymarket affair in 1886 .

= = Life = =

In disposition , Mr. Lum was most amiable ; in the character of his mind he was philosophical ; in mental capacity , he was at once keen and broad . His friends , who were many , mourn his passing away .

Lum was a descendant of the prominent New England Tappan family ; his grandfather was an American revolutionary . In hopes of bringing about the end of slavery , he volunteered to fight for the Union Army in the American Civil War . He served as an adjutant in the Fourteenth New York Cavalry , and later as a brevet captain , seeing combat in the Red River Campaign . A bookbinder by trade , Lum became active in the American labor movement in the aftermath of the war . He served as a secretary to Samuel Gompers and ran for lieutenant governor of Massachusetts on the Labor Reform ticket of abolitionist Wendell Phillips in 1870 .

He became widely known in 1877 after a period traveling across the country as secretary to a congressional committee appointed to " inquire into the depression of labor . " Between 1880 and 1892 , he was an advocate of direct action and trade unionism , and in later years was " the moving spirit of the American group " which worked for the commutation of Alexander Berkman 's sentence for the latter 's attempted assassination of Henry Clay Frick . Lum committed suicide in 1893 after suffering from severe depression , although at the time the cause of death was reported in the anarchist press as " fatty degeneration of the heart . "

= = Relationship with de Cleyre = = =

When Lum met Voltairine de Cleyre in 1888 , he was twenty @-@ seven years her elder and had lived a life rich in experience . They forged an " unshakable " friendship , and Lum had a profound influence on Voltairine de Cleyre 's political development , which evolved in an opposite direction to his ; she started out as an orthodox Tuckerite individualist , but became increasingly involved with the radical labor movement and ultimately called for a panarchist " anarchism without adjectives " movement . Their relationship ended after five years of intense involvement , leaving their planned collaborative project ? a lengthy social and philosophical anarchist novel ? ultimately unpublished .

= = = Involvement in the Haymarket Riot = = =

Lum was closely associated with , and worked alongside the martyrs of the Haymarket affair in Chicago in 1886 . In an 1891 essay , he wrote that on the afternoon of May 4 , August Spies sent word to the militants that they were not to bring arms to the Haymarket . This order was not respected , Lum noted ? " one man disobeyed that order ; always self @-@ determined , he acted upon his own responsibility , preferring to be prepared for resistance to onslaught rather than to quietly imitate the spiritual " lamb led to slaughter . " Lum asserted that the eight defendants were

initially unaware of the bomb @-@ thrower 's identity , although it became known to two of them ( " but neither Spies nor Parsons ? " ) , believed by Paul Avrich to be George Engel and Adolph Fischer .

In Lum 's account , the bomb @-@ thrower 's name " was never mentioned in the trial and is today unknown to the public . " Paul Avrich attests that Lum urged Albert Parsons to refuse clemency , and plotted to rescue the anarchists from Cook County Jail by attacking it with explosives . According to de Cleyre , he then assisted the suicide of one of the eight defendants , Louis Lingg , by smuggling into Lingg 's prison cell a dynamite cap concealed in a cigar , which Lingg subsequently lit , thereby blowing off half his face and leaving himself lingering for several hours in torturous pain before dying .

= = Thought = =

? rent , interest , profit are the triple heads of the monster against which modern civilization is waging war .

Lum 's political philosophy was a fusion of individualist anarchist economics ? " a radicalized form of laissez @-@ faire economics " inspired by the Boston anarchists ? with radical labor organization similar to that of the Chicago anarchists of the time . Lum 's ideas have variously been described as individualist anarchist , syndicalist , mutualist , and anarcho @-@ communist , as well as anarchist without adjectives . Herbert Spencer and Pierre @-@ Joseph Proudhon influenced Lum strongly in his individualist tendency . He developed a " mutualist " theory of unions and as such was active within the Knights of Labor and later promoted anti @-@ political strategies in the American Federation of Labor . Frustration with abolitionism , spiritualism , and labor reform caused Lum to embrace anarchism and radicalize workers , as he came to believe that revolution would inevitably involve a violent struggle between the working class and the employing class . Convinced of the necessity of violence to enact social change he volunteered to fight in the American Civil War , hoping thereby to bring about the end of slavery . Kevin Carson has praised Lum 's fusion of individualist laissez @-@ faire economics with radical labor activism as " creative " and described him as " more significant than any in the Boston group " .

Lum argued in *The Economics of Anarchy* that the " labor problem " was a result of intervention by the state in creating monopolies , with particular reference to the land and money monopolies . Lum advocated the destruction of the land monopoly , which he saw as a government @-@ granted monopoly , by abolishing land titles and to allow free access to land , thus making the extraction of rent impossible . Similarly , mutual banks set up to issue their own currencies would end the state monopoly and undercut the ability of banks and lenders to charge interest .

In anarchy labor and capital would be merged into one , for capital would be without prerogatives and dependent upon labor , and owned by it . The laborer would find that to produce was to enjoy and the nightmare of destitution banished . The artisan would find in co @-@ operation that nature alone remained to be exploited . The tradesman would find that production offered greater inducement than exchange , unless he accepted a position of competence and ease in the labor exchange which would supplant isolated stores . The clerk , no longer with his horizon bounded by a ribbon counter , would have full scope to display his talents in any direction . The farmer , above all , free from irksome care to meet interest , to dread foreclosure from enforced taxation , with his family growing up around him , and rendered secure by a common title and mutual inter @-@ dependence , or seeking in insurance indemnity for depredation. would find in anarchy release from useless drudgery and his labor crowned with plentiness and peace .

= = = Selected articles = = =

" Dyer D. Lum on Anarchy , " published in *The Alarm* and in *Parsons ' Anarchism : Its Philosophy and Scientific Basis* .

" *Eighteen Christian Centuries or the Evolution of the Gospel of Anarchy* " syndicated in *Liberty*

" *The Status of the Scab* , " published in *Rights of Labor* , and later heavily critiqued by Victor

Yarros in Liberty .