



Name: Lewis Hine

Years: September 26, 1874- November 3, 1940

Residence: Hastings-on-Hudson

Brief Biography: Lewis Hine was born and raised in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Chicago where he met Frank Manny, a professor who had recently been appointed superintendent of the Ethical Culture School in New York. Manning invited Hine to come work for him at the school. It was here that he became introduced to photography as he began using a camera to document school events. In 1904 Hine became involved in a project to photograph immigrants arriving at Ellis Island. At the time Anti-Immigrant hostilities were common, this project became Hine's first step in using photography as social commentary to bring about reform. Hine went to work for the National Child Labor Committee in 1907 doing sociological photography. His first project for NCLC involved photographing a New York tenement, for which he is well known today. Hine was then assigned a project known as The Pittsburgh Survey in which he was to capture the essence of the city. His photographs showed the drastic differences between the lives of the city's immigrants and the middle to upper classes. Hine received his most notable assignment in 1908, a project to photograph child labor practices. The project lasted several years and encompassed everything from mining to factories to mills. It was Hine's photographs that are credited with being the driving force behind child labor laws. In 1912, Hine moved his family up to Hastings-on-Hudson. During this time he continued to travel and

work on assignments for NCLC. In 1917, Hine went to work for the Red Cross, mainly photographing refugees from European states forced to flee from World War I. Throughout his years at the NCLC Hine's photographs were used to make slides for lectures, pamphlets and sent to publications and exhibits where they would have great impact. While much of Hine's career dealt with social welfare he also undertook several more artistic projects, one of which documented the rise of the Empire State Building. Despite the success of his photographs in bringing about change, Hine had a great deal of trouble earning enough money from them. He ended up losing his Hastings home in 1940 and died a few months later.

References: <http://www.photocollect.com/bios/hine.html>,
<http://academic.uprm.edu/laviles/id194.htm>, <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/IRhine.htm>

More Information: *Lewis W. Hine Children At Work* by Vicki Goldberg.

Samples of Hine's Work:

