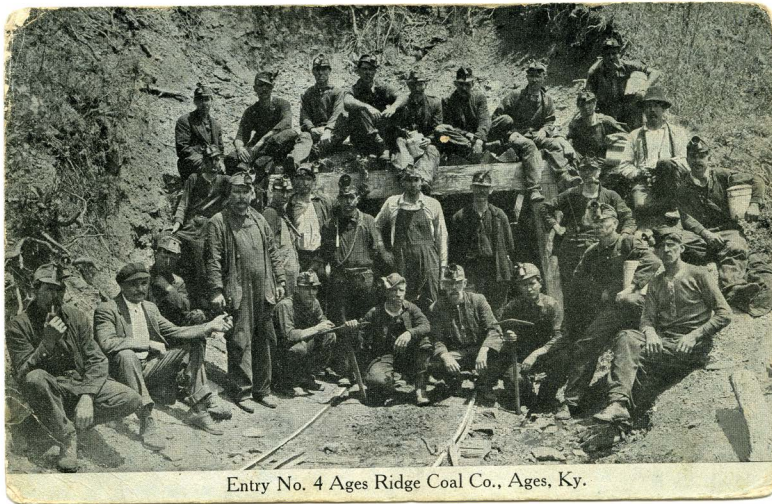


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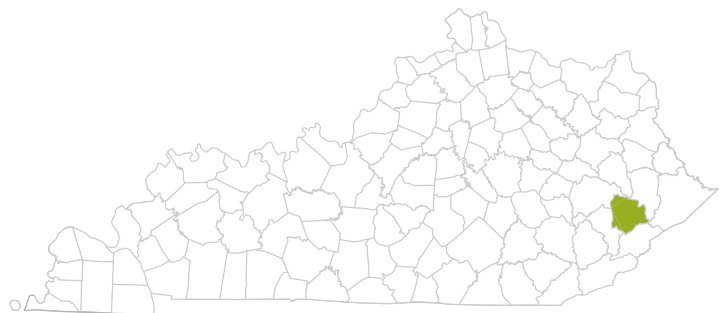
LEADERSHIP & LEGACY IN KENTUCKY HISTORY

CARL DEWEY PERKINS, 1912-1984



Coal mine safety was among the issues important to Carl Dewey Perkins. This 1920 postcard shows miners at the Ages Ridge Coal Co., in Harlan County. (Graphic5_Box19_172 Ronald Morgan Kentucky Postcard Collection, Kentucky Historical Society)

SOCIAL LEGISLATION – Carl Dewey Perkins may be best known today for the federal loan to college students that bears his name. Perkins' legacy, however, is far more extensive. As a congressman from 1949 to his death in 1984, Perkins used his connections and dogged personality to find federal money that funded projects in his district – one of the poorest in the nation. He worked tirelessly with Democrats and Republicans alike to pass legislation that gave federal aid to schools, nutrition for children through school lunches and, among other reforms, increased coal mine safety. His efforts prompted the New York Times to claim he was “the driving force behind much of the nation’s social legislation.”



Knott County

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