



JACOB RIIS

Journalist and Photographer

Barre, Massachusetts

Self-Taught



Previous Positions

Police Reporter

Salesman

Social Reformer

Education

Home Schooled

Trained in Carpentry

Books I've Written

How the Other Half Lives

The Making of an American

The Children of the Poor

The Battle with the Slum

Specialities

Writing

Photography

Carpentry

Summary

I am a journalist/photographer originally from Denmark. Ever since I was a kid, I have always been in love with writing. It has always been a big dream of mine to write my own book and add pictures I snapped to it, which I later accomplished.

I feel as if my work has impacted others because I communicated world issues through writing and pictures. I publicized the unsanitary living conditions in New York City by taking pictures and also writing about what I observed in my new book *How the Other Half Lives*, where I mentioned "The slum is the measure of civilization."

Thomas Nast would be a great friend of mine because we shared the same interest in exposing wrongdoings in New York politics. He elected to communicate his work through cartoons, while I chose to communicate my work through writing. Upton Sinclair was also an impactful person as he helped expose the unsanitary conditions in the meat-packing industry. I did not get to know Andrew Carnegie personally, but I love his way of thinking. He believed that wealthy people were morally obligated to give their money back to others in need.

Although I have many friends, there are some that I chose to keep my distance from. For example, William Tweed was someone I didn't really like because he knew about all of the unsanitary conditions yet did not do anything about it! George Plunkitt, who supported Tweed's ideas, would also fall into the category of those I would avoid. Cornelius Vanderbilt, who was very selfish with his money and tried to keep it all for himself, was another person I would rather choose to avoid.

I have impacted New York City in multiple ways through my photos and my writing and feel that I can impact more of the United States as well. I am a very humorous person and feel I can affect society. I stated "The more I live, the more I think that humor is the saving sense."