### STARVING PEOPLE



0. STARVING PEOPLE - Story Preface

1. BOXING: ITS START

2. BOXING: ITS REBIRTH

3. JIM BRADDOCK'S FIRST RISE

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6. JIM and MAE BRADDOCK

7. JOE GOULD and MAX BAER

8. BRADDOCK BECOMES CINDERELLA MAN



When hard times arrived in America, few areas in the country were spared the hardship of too little to eat and nowhere to sleep. This photo depicts a "Beggar in Hoboken," the New Jersey town where Jim Braddock worked the docks, hoping to get chosen for a day's worth of work. Image, by the Bain News Service, online via the Library of Congress.

As if the economic disaster were not enough, the American Midwest was hit with unprecedented <u>drought</u>. Food supplies were diminished as formerly fertile fields became dust bowls. In the south, once-productive cotton fields were <u>transformed</u> into eroded wastelands.

People in America were starving. Oral histories, recorded by the Library of Congress, relate tales of despondent people. Some picked <u>dandelion greens</u> to use as food. Others had to relocate, like 76-year-old <u>Perry Rupert</u> and <u>Alvin Sharpe</u> of North Carolina.

By 1936, tenant farmers and their families had become <u>homeless wanderers</u>. Farmers who had worked their own land were also forced to "<u>evacuate</u>." People moving west had <u>little</u> to go on but hope for a better future.

John Steinbeck's <u>Grapes of Wrath</u> had its <u>roots</u> in real-life America. Sometimes the <u>struggle</u> to retain one's dignity was almost more than a human being could manage.

Private parties offered cheap or free food. People stood in "<a href="https://example.com/bread/lines">bread lines</a>" that stretched many blocks, only to be disappointed by the time it was "their turn." Food, in increasingly short supplies, was already gone. These were desperate times.

Before he became President, <u>Herbert Hoover</u> was the "United States Food <u>Administrator</u>." Although he tried to distribute food throughout the country, as he <u>had provided</u> wheat to America's allies during World War I, Hoover could not do his job the way he wanted to do it. There simply wasn't enough to go around.

There also wasn't enough food for Jim Braddock and his family. Like other fathers keen to do whatever was necessary to feed his children, the once-formidable boxer (whose powerful right hand had been broken more than once) walked to the <u>Hoboken docks</u>.

Despite his hand injury, he hoped to be one of few men picked for a day's work loading whatever ships were in port.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/STARVING-PEOPLE-Cinderella-Man

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/STARVING-PEOPLE-Cinderella-Man

Media Stream



A Beggar in Hoboken
Library of Congress, Bain News Service
View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/A-Beggar-in-Hoboken



**Drought** 

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. Photo /27/8/27-0726a. View this asset at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Drought">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Drought</a>



### **Transformed Farm Land**

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. Photo 27/7/27-0666a. View this asset at:

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### Perry Rupert

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. Photo 27/8/27-0764a. View this asset at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Perry-Rupert0">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Perry-Rupert0</a>



### **Alvin Sharpe**

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### **Homeless Wanderers**

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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### **Evacuation Sale**

Image online, courtesy, U.S. National Archives.

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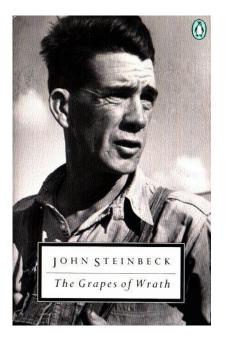


# **Very Little Possessions**

Image online, courtesy, U.S. National Archives.

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**Grapes of Wrath** 

Image online, courtesy, Amazon.com

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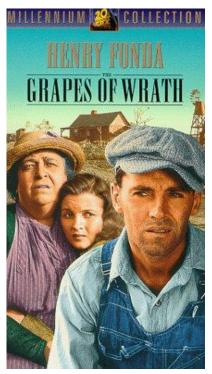
Family Traveling During the Depression

U.S. National Archive Photo.

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# The Grapes of Wrath Movie Poster

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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# **Bread Lines**

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

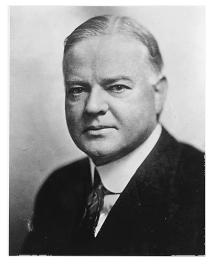
View this asset at: <a href="http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bread-Lines0">http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bread-Lines0</a>



**Desperate Times** 

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

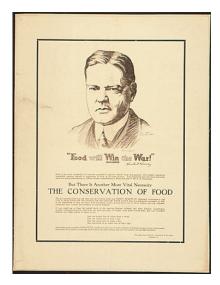
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### Herbert Hoover

U.S. National Archive Photo 40/19/40-1856a.

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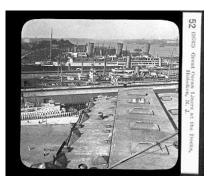


### Hoover as Food Administrator

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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# The Docks At Hoboken, New Jersey

Image online, courtesy <u>ccsu.edu</u> - the library website of Central Connecticut State University.

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