

Is This Man an Impostor?

by Lindy Davies

Controversy has been raised, in recent months, about the picture of Henry George that is used on the cover of the Madsen abridgement of *Progress and Poverty*, and (horizontally flipped) on the *Georgist Journal's* masthead and the CGO's pamphlet *An Introduction to the Georgist Philosophy and Movement*. It was claimed that the goofyness of this drawing was so extreme as to dishonor George's memory, or that the picture was not of George at all. I came across the picture – a print of a charcoal or pencil drawing, labeled “Mr. Henry George” – in the Henry George Institute's files around 1995. Tired of seeing the same old images of George again and again, I was pleased to find a high-quality, easily reproducible image, that had apparently been overlooked for some time. I used it in various projects that I was working on, including some for the Schalkenbach Foundation. I knew nothing else of the picture's history. And, while goofyness is certainly in the eye of the beholder, we can now clearly link the drawing to Henry



George, thanks to the sleuthing of Mark A. Sullivan, CGO President and Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Assistant Director. The poster of prominent members of the Knights of Labor was published in 1886, and included a drawing of George. It was reprinted in *Alternative America* by John L. Thomas, which was where Mark found it. (That book, incidentally, used a *really* goofy drawing of Henry George on *its* cover.)

The small reproduction of the drawing on the poster makes it hard to see for sure, but the two drawings don't seem to be identical. However, they are strikingly similar; one was likely a copy of the other, and both are clearly drawings of the same man: Henry George.

