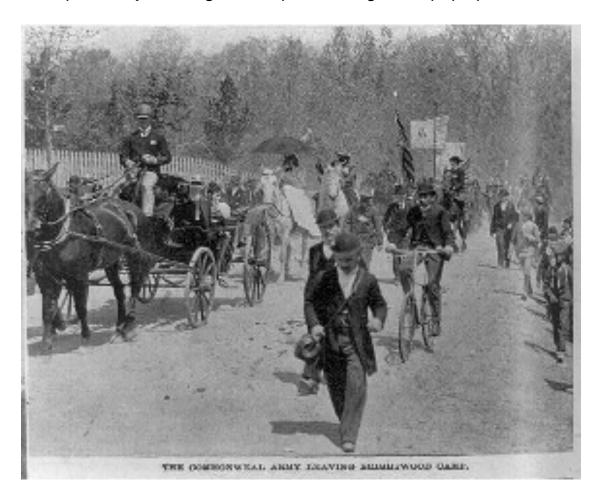
Unknown Photographer. (1894). *Coxey at the Capitol. The Commonweal Army leaving Brightwood Camp.* Library of Congress. <u>http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b42632</u>



The people in this photo are members of Coxey's Army, so-named for its organizer: wealthy Ohio businessman, Jacob Coxey... They are not a "real" army of soldiers—although they did wake each morning with a reveille, wash, and receive daily rations—but rather, they are ordinary, private citizens who are marching-in-protest to the nation's Capitol¹... Notice the date, 1894, which places this photo during the Panic of 1893, the worst economic depression up to that point in American history²... Coxey led a march to Washington D.C. to demand "help, or else we and our loved ones will perish³"... the help they demanded was for the federal government to create public works and infrastructure-building jobs (constructing bridges, dams; paving roads; etc.) to help the poor and the homeless survive the depression. Notice the different backgrounds and life-experiences of those marching; notice, too, the various transportation modes… the only action President Cleveland and the Republican Congress (economic conservatives) took was to disperse the "Army" and arrest Coxey for trespassing; they refused to answer Coxey's Army's "petition…with boots on⁴."

CITATIONS

1. Kusme, K.L. (2003). *Down and Out, On the Road: Homeless in American History*. Oxford University Press: NY. 2. Schwantes, C.A. (1985). *Coxey's Army: An American Odyssey*. University of Idaho Press: ID. 3. Coxey, J. (May 9, 1894). Congressional Record, 53rd Congress, 2nd session 4512 in The Populist Spirit, ed. George Tindall: Harper and Row, 1966, p. 160-163. 4. Brinkley, A. (2008) *American History: A Survey* (13th edition). McGraw-Hill: NY.