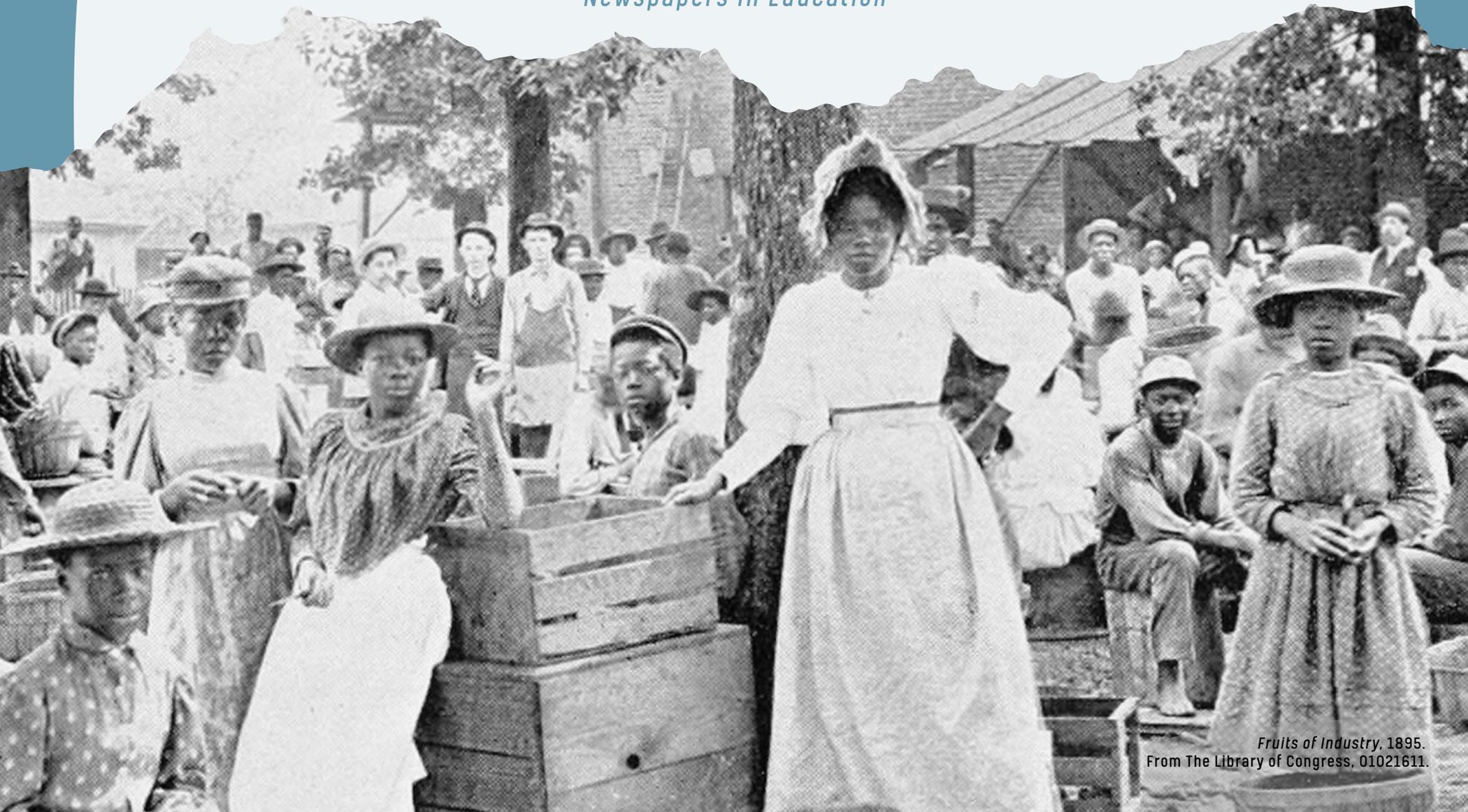


MADE IN GEORGIA

Newspapers in Education



Fruits of Industry, 1895.
From The Library of Congress, 01021611.

MADE IN GEORGIA

Newspapers in Education

A publication of

*G*EOORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Each year, the *Georgia History Festival's* education initiatives center around a figure or topic in Georgia history. Along with public programs, classroom resources, training opportunities for teachers, and in-school programming, GHS also creates digital publications that explore these themes and are made available to students and educators through the GHS website



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Made In Georgia

In keeping with the *Georgia History Festival (GHF)* theme, "The Promise of a More Perfect Union: Reconstruction and the Gilded Age," this year's Georgia Day Statewide Art Contest and Georgia Day Parade Banner Competition are designed to challenge students to explore the topic "Made in Georgia." Through creativity students illustrate how perseverance and progress during a time of great change in Georgia helped generate products, industries, and entrepreneurs during Reconstruction and the late 19th century and how they continue to impact us today.

Ways to Interpret Made in Georgia Theme

- Compare and contrast the agricultural products that groups like the Creek or Cherokee grew versus agricultural products Georgia's farmers grow today. Consider how these products are similar or different and why some have changed, and some remain the same. (SS2H2)
- Explain how goods and services are produced locally and elsewhere based on available natural resources. For example, explore how North Georgia was once a limestone seabed leading to the formation of the region's marble industry and how that marble has been used in places across the nation. (SS3E3)
- Explore technological developments of the Reconstruction era and the Gilded Age. For example, consider the impact of the steam locomotive and how it helped move people and goods from place to place supporting various industries such as agriculture and tourism in Georgia. (SS4E1)
- Explore how the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition provided opportunities for entrepreneurs to showcase their goods or services. Consider the significance of the Negro Building at the Expo and how the rise of Historically Black Colleges and Universities supported the growth of Black entrepreneurs. (SS5E3)

Georgia's industries are influenced by the availability of natural resources such as rivers serving as a power source, rich soil for planting crops, or important transportation connections such as ports along Georgia's coastline. Can you identify an industry, product, or entrepreneur significant to where you live and explain its importance?

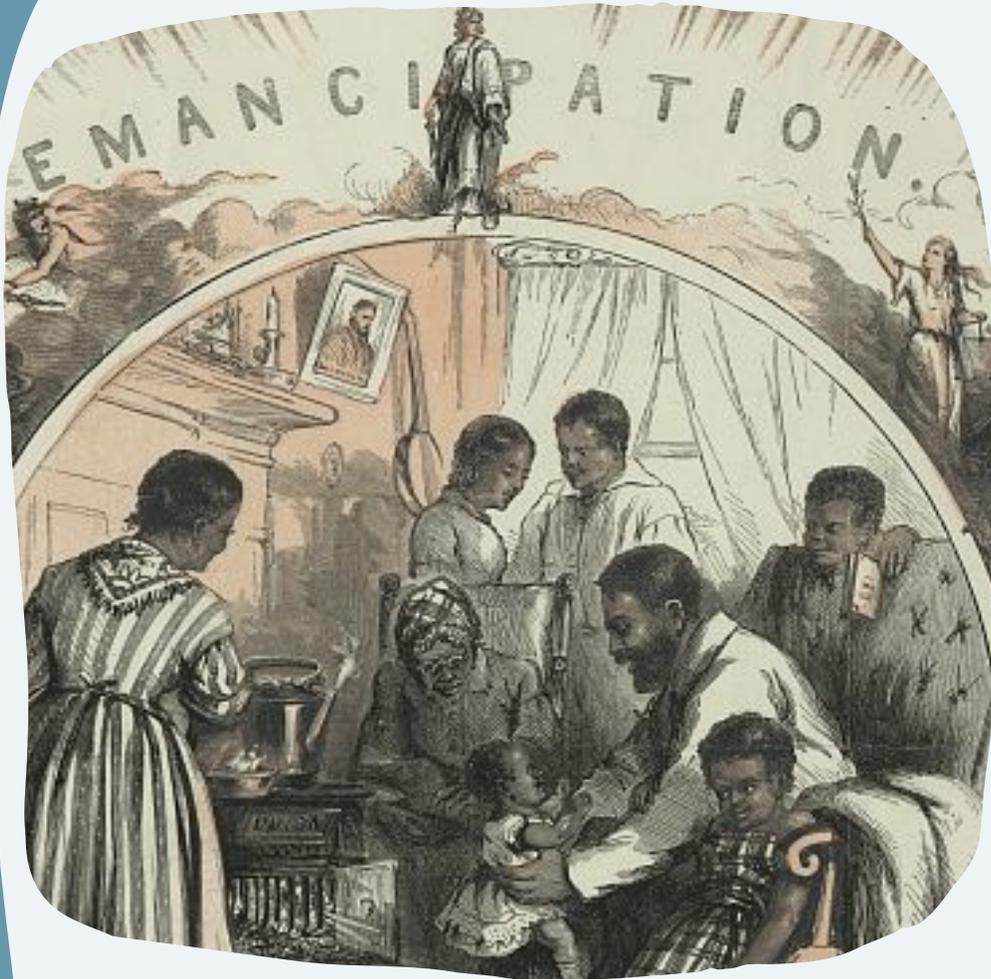
For questions on how to do research for local industries, or how to better utilize this resource in your classroom please contact
Kristin Singleton at ksingleton@georgiahistory.com

Questions to Consider

Georgia's natural resources have a long history of influencing its economy and industries. Decisions about how these industries operated would affect how Georgians lived and worked.

As you read about some of Georgia's major industries developed during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age consider the following:

- 1.) How do Georgia's natural resources influence the state's economy?
- 2.) How can Georgia's natural resources influence the lives of people who live in the state?
- 3.) How do jobs affect how and where people live?
- 4.) What major economic, political, and social changes occurred during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age in Georgia?
- 5.) What individuals or groups of people helped create Georgia's major industries during this time?
- 6.) What individuals or groups of people provided the labor force for Georgia's industries during this time?
- 7.) What goods or services are "Made in Georgia" and what do they tell you about our state and its history?



Emancipation, Thomas Nast, 1865. From the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-2573 (5-9).

and women. Unfortunately, many of these developments were overshadowed by the adoption of Black Codes or laws created by Southern legislatures that limited or stripped away the newly gained civil rights of Black Americans.

Setting the Stage: Reconstruction

The Reconstruction era was a period characterized by major change after the devastation of the American Civil War (1861-1865). Lasting from 1865-1877, the Reconstruction era made a great impact on Georgia and the United States. As a former Confederate state, Georgia was required to secure readmission to the United States and was subject to great political, social, and economic transformations during this time.

During Reconstruction, formerly enslaved people, or freedmen, experienced new freedoms established by the federal government. The expansion of civil rights under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution outlawed slavery and established rights of citizenship for all Americans and voting rights for Black men.

Due to these changes, Reconstruction began as an era of great promise. Many gained more freedoms and educational opportunities through organizations like the Freedmen's Bureau—a federal agency that provided aid to freedmen

Setting the Stage: Gilded Age

The period after Reconstruction in the late 19th century is known as the Gilded Age (1870-1900) – a time of rapid economic growth through industrialization.

In Georgia, this period is known as the “New South Era,” when political and community leaders sought to diversify Georgia’s economy and bring new technology and investments into the state.

This period is also characterized by the establishment of legalized segregation or the “separate but equal” policy adopted in the Supreme Court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).

Representing a period of conflicting values, the Reconstruction era and the Gilded Age illustrate important economic changes in Georgia, while at the same time, establishes major political and social changes for Black Americans.

Many of the economic, political, and social changes from Reconstruction and the Gilded Age can be seen by studying the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition—a major trade fair aimed at generating outside economic investment in Georgia. The 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition not only highlights the era’s changing economic opportunities for Black Georgians, it also provides a lens to understand the social and cultural order of the period as well.

As you read more about how Georgia’s history has been dramatically shaped by its natural resources and major industries featured at the 1895 Expo—including agriculture, transportation, mining, and manufacturing—make sure to consider the people who made those industries possible and how during an era of change, many faced ongoing challenges.



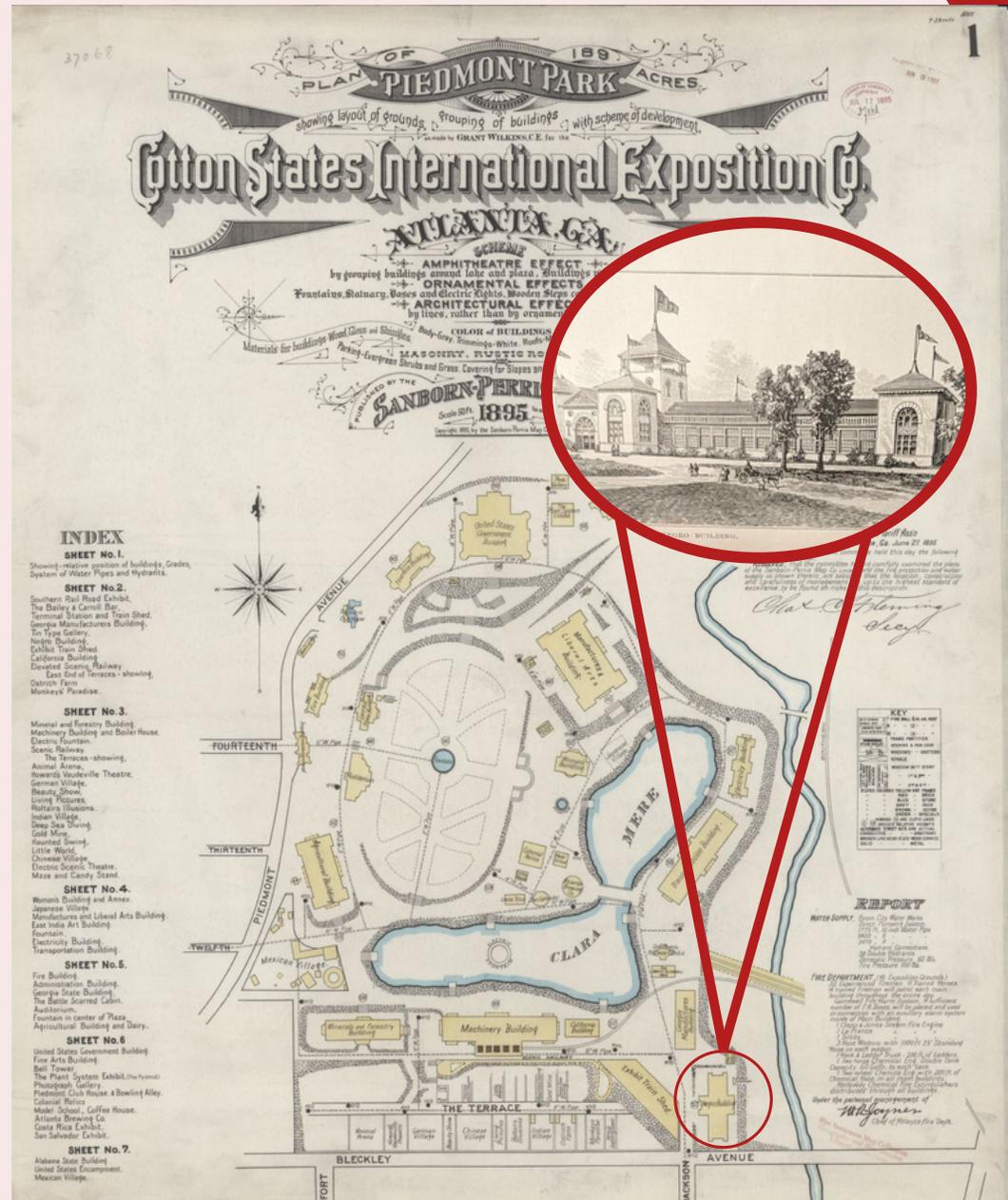
Black Sunday School Children and Teachers, 1883.
From the Georgia Historical Society. GHS 1375-PH-072.

The 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition

During the Gilded Age, world's fairs and expositions were popular ways to showcase new technologies, innovations, and ideas. Inventors, entrepreneurs, and businesses came together at large festivals to inspire economic investors and gain recognition from the public.

The largest of these events in the United States was the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, also known as the World's Columbian Exposition. While planning the Chicago World's Fair, its Board of Directors decided to restrict Black participation in the event. Black women were unable to participate entirely, and Black men were limited to roles as waiters and janitors. These restrictions brought strong criticism from Black activists including Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells, who wrote *The Reason Why the Colored American is not in the World's Columbian Exposition* in response to Black exclusion.

In 1895, when Georgia was planning the Cotton States and International Exposition, organizers attempted to learn from what happened in Chicago. To host a well-received event, Georgia needed to present itself as economically strong and racially unified. Atlanta Mayor Porter King gave a lengthy speech declaring "that [in Georgia] the so-called 'race question' does not exist."



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Cotton States International Exposition, 1895. From the Library of Congress, Sanborn01378_001.

Booker T. Washington's Speech



Booker T. Washington, 1910.
From the Library of Congress, 2013649123.

While the Mayor gave his speech and President Grover Cleveland opened the Georgia expo by pressing a button from Massachusetts, the standout moment of the opening ceremony was a speech by Booker T. Washington, a notable African-American educator.

His famous but controversial speech—"The Atlanta Compromise"—urged African Americans to focus on economic improvement rather than political and social rights to gain equality. His ideas were supported by advocates of the New South but were rejected by many African-American leaders, including W.E.B Du Bois.

Read a full transcript to [Booker T. Washington's Speech](https://www.lowaculture.gov/booker-t-washington-s-speech) at [lowaculture.gov](https://www.lowaculture.gov).

The Negro Building

At the 1895 Expo in Georgia, 30 years after emancipation, Black men showcased their accomplishments in a \$10,000 building constructed and staffed entirely by African Americans.

The 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition was segregated. African Americans had a space to present their cultural traditions, technologies, and ventures to local, national, and international groups. The Negro Building and exhibits were praised and criticized by Black and White viewers as it reinforced and contradicted Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise" speech.

The Negro Building was the beacon of what Georgia leaders claimed the New South could look like. With a rise in multiple institutions of higher learning that would come to be known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities and new economic opportunities for African Americans, the Expo witnessed the economic growth of Black entrepreneurs, scholars, and laborers in Georgia.



10687, Interior of Negro Building, Atlanta Exposition,

Interior of Negro building, Atlanta Exposition, 1896.
From the Library of Congress, 89707354.

Agriculture Industry

Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating natural resources. The state of Georgia has relied on agriculture as an industry for nearly 300 years dating back to the founding of the Georgia colony in 1733. Long before Georgia was established, the indigenous Creek and Cherokee people utilized agricultural practices to grow crops such as corn, beans, and squash.

The state's current agricultural landscape is a direct result of changes from the Reconstruction era. Today, agriculture is Georgia's oldest and largest industry. Georgia remains one of the top producers of agricultural products in the United States.



Plowing Watermelon Patch.
undated. From the Georgia Historical Society's James S. Silva Collection, GHS 2126-PH-01-04.



Cotton Pickers. undated.
From the Georgia Historical Society's J.N. Wilson Collection, GHS 1361-SG-01-01-03.

Crops Grown in Georgia

Georgia's most impactful crop is cotton. Cotton requires heat and plenty of sunshine to grow, which makes Georgia an ideal place to cultivate it. Cotton is a labor-intensive crop, meaning it requires a lot of time and effort to grow and harvest.

Prior to the Civil War, enslaved people made up most of the labor force that produced cotton in Georgia. After the war and the end of slavery with the 13th Amendment, the cotton industry faced two major problems: First, the industry no longer had access to a free labor force and, second, many former plantations were damaged after destruction and neglect during the war.

Despite these problems, cotton remained the most-produced crop in Georgia through Reconstruction and the Gilded Age. Sharecroppers became the new source of labor and many former plantation owners regained access and ownership of their land.

The cotton industry declined in 1915 after the invasion of the boll-weevil, a beetle that lays its eggs inside cotton bolls. It ended the long reign of "King Cotton" in Georgia. The boll-weevil infestation destroyed farms across the state for more than 80 years.



Crops Grown in Georgia: Continued

Peaches are Georgia's most iconic crop. Peaches originated in China and are believed to have been introduced to coastal Georgia around 1571 by Franciscan Monks. Georgia was a great place to grow peaches, but shipping them long distances was difficult since they bruised easily. In 1870, Samuel H. Rumph, a Georgian peach grower, cultivated a new type of peach, the Elberta, named after his wife. The Elberta peach was known to be "one of the most successful market varieties," according to an 1897 catalogue of fruit trees. Its "handsome" appearance and hardiness made it the most popular type of peach until 1960. The Elberta made Georgia and peaches synonymous.



Peanuts have been grown in Georgia since the 18th century and were first grown to feed livestock, such as hogs, instead of people. Peanuts needed to be harvested by hand and were difficult to make uniform in appearance, keeping them from becoming a popular food source. However, during the Civil War peanuts were used to feed soldiers because they were a good source of protein, could be transported easily, and were cheap to grow. After the war, peanuts remained an unpopular food source until the 20th century when new technologies made harvesting and cleaning peanuts easier.



Pecans were a latecomer to Georgia's agricultural industry. By 1889, Georgia had a mere 97 acres dedicated to growing pecans, all of it near Savannah. Within a decade, pecans were considered a good investment for Georgians who could afford to maintain a small grove. G. M. Bacon of DeWitt, Georgia, claimed in 1900, "That there is more money in growing Pecan trees than in peaches." Georgia's pecan orchards were primarily on private residential property, versus large commercial land, until the early 20th century.



Today, Georgia is one of the top five producers of blueberries, corn, and watermelon in the United States. Georgia also boasts a world-renowned sweet onion called the Vidalia Onion, which is grown in South Georgia near the town of Vidalia.

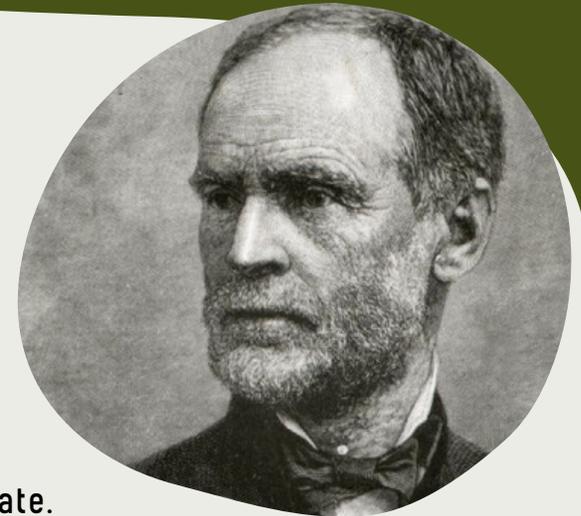


City Market, undated. From the Georgia Historical Society's James S. Silva Collection, GHS 2126-PH-01-04.

Special Field Order No. 15

On January 16, 1865, US General William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15, which reserved coastal farmland for settlement by freedmen and their families. The Freedmen's Bureau Act of March 1865 formalized government aid to formerly enslaved people.

After President Abraham Lincoln's death, President Andrew Johnson revoked Special Field Order No. 15 and returned the land to the former White plantation owners, leaving tens of thousands of African Americans with no property to cultivate. President Johnson's actions impeded opportunities for many African Americans to gain economic independence after emancipation and led many to become sharecroppers, often working for their former enslavers.



General William T. Sherman, 1820-1891.
From the Georgia Historical Society, GHS 1361-PH-25-10-487.

The Story of Sharecroppers

Sharecroppers are tenant farmers who work on farmland that they do not own and are required to give a portion of the crops they grow on that land as payment for rent. The typical sharecropper purchased seeds, clothing, and tools to raise crops on credit—or a loan that must be paid back with interest—from the landowner.

This led to sharecroppers accumulating a large debt that they were often unable to pay back under an exploitive economic system. The debt permanently tied them to the land without the ability to make a profit. It was a system that continued into the 1940s.

Working on Cotton Plantation, undated.
From the Georgia Historical Society's Collection,
GHS 1361-PH-01-01-000.



From the Archives: The Story of Cane Cook: A Georgia Sharecropper

"I worked for Robert Hodges, last year, who lives about two and-a-half miles from Andersonville, Georgia. I had my own stock, and rented land from him, agreeing to give him one-third of the corn, and one-fourth of the cotton for rent. We divided the corn by the wagon load, and had no trouble about that I made three bags of cotton, weighing 506, 511, and 479 pounds when it was packed. Mr. Hodges weighed it again, and I don't know what he has got it down, but that was the right weight; one-fourth was his, and three-fourths mine."

To read a full transcript of the [Statement of Cane Cook](#) please visit the State Historical Society of Iowa at iowaculture.gov/history.



Southern States Phosphate Co, 1943. From the Georgia Historical Society's Cordray-Foltz Collection, GHS 1360-PH-20-03-13.

Southern States Phosphate & Fertilizer Company

As sharecropping expanded across the South in the late 19th century, so did the reliance on cash crops (crops grown for profit) such as cotton and tobacco.

Continued planting of these crops exhausted the soil of nutrients that resulted over time in weaker plants and smaller harvests. To combat this, farmers used increasing amounts of fertilizers to encourage plant growth and maximize yields. One of the most common fertilizers was manure- an organic substance made of animal excrement.

In 1870, the supply of manure ran short, opening the door for chemical fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers were developed as synthetic alternatives to manure and guano and provided a more scientific approach to farming.

With the rise of chemical fertilizer companies such as Southern States Phosphate and Fertilizer Company in Savannah, the state of Georgia became a pioneer in agricultural education and regulation.

To learn more about the growth of the chemical fertilizer industry in Georgia review the Georgia Historical Society's Business History Initiative (BHI) profile and case study on the Southern States Phosphate and Fertilizer Company at georgiahistory.com/educators.

Marble Mining Industry

Marble is a metamorphic rock and is created by time, heat, and pressure. Marble begins as a limestone, which is primarily made of shells, or shell fragments called mineral calcite, and fossils.

The presence of shells, fossils, limestone, and marble is physical evidence that North Georgia was once a limestone seabed.

As the limestone seabed moves beneath the Earth's crust it heats up and comes under extreme pressure. This transforms the calcite grains in the seabed and fuses them together. In this state, the rock is warm and malleable, allowing layers of clay and sand to create the iconic color bands that run through marble.

Georgia Marble is featured in historic statues and buildings across the world, attracting international interest and investment in Georgia's mining industry during the Gilded Age.



*Lincoln statue under construction in the Lincoln Memorial, 1928.
From the Library of Congress, 90716399.*

The Early Use of Georgia Marble

As early as the 14th century, Georgia marble was used to create tools. Archaeological evidence indicates people have used marble throughout history for things such as game pieces, hunting tools, and artwork.

The Mississippian culture, ancestors of the Muscogee Creek Confederacy, were skilled craftsmen. They used Georgia marble for relics, vases, jewelry, and statues. Two large hand-carved marble effigies, sculptures of people, made by the Mississippians hundreds of years ago, survive today at Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site in Cartersville, Georgia.



Stone Effigies at the Etowah Museum, 2022.
From the Etowah Archaeological Museum.

Georgia Marble Industrialists

Georgia's marble industry began with an Irish immigrant and stonemason, Henry T. Fitzsimmons near Pickens County. Fitzsimmons bought land and opened his business, Long Swamp Marble Company. There, he carved headstones, monuments, and memorials.



Marble Quarry, Pickens County, undated.
From the Georgia Historical Society.

Fitzsimmons's use of marble helped increase its popularity throughout the 1840s. However, the success of the Long Swamp Marble Company was limited due to crude mining practices and no convenient method of transporting heavy marble.

The next marble industrialist, Samuel Tate, bought land in North Georgia containing deposits of marble, in the 1830s. In 1850, Tate partnered with a marble company and opened a quarry. Tate also had trouble transporting marble, but the introduction of the railroad to Pickens County in 1883 changed that.

Tate and his family opened the Georgia Marble Company on May 10, 1884, with the support of Northern investors highlighting a key component of Georgia's economic changes during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age. Georgia marble can be seen in buildings and memorials across the United States including in the large sculpture of Abraham Lincoln in Washington D.C. at the Lincoln Memorial.

Learn more about the Georgia Marble Company online at todayingeorgiahistory.org.

Textile Industry

Textile is any material of interlacing textile fiber, such as cotton, to make a fabric. Textiles are created by processing, weaving, or knitting textile fibers. By the mid 19th century most textiles in the United States were made in textile mills.

During the late 19th century, Georgia's agricultural industry suffered from poor, inconsistent harvests causing many small farmers to seek work elsewhere. Textile mills employed ex-farmers to manufacture cotton textile instead of planting and harvesting the crop. Textile workers became a pivotal part of Georgia's economic growth through the Gilded Age.



Topper at her machine, Walker County Hosiery Mills, undated. From the Library of Congress, 2018677553.

Textile Mills in Georgia

In the 1850s, Georgia's textile industry began to see new factories in places where railroads connected them to markets in larger cities. During the Civil War, textile mills in Georgia shifted to producing Confederate Army uniforms and supplies, which made them prime targets for the United States Army moving through the state. Production in textile mills slowed throughout the war but saw a resurgence when farms became operational during Reconstruction, mostly through the production of sharecroppers' labor.

Throughout the 1880s, textile mills experienced an economic boom. The development of more railroads in Georgia supported the growth of textile mills across the state. Large and small farms faced hardships as constant planting of cash crops exhausted the soil of nutrients that resulted over time in weaker plants and smaller harvests.

This hardship resulted in many small farmers selling their land and moving their families to areas offering factory work, such as textile mills, in hopes of a steadier income.

First Cotton Mill in Georgia Historical Marker, 1995. From the Georgia Historical Marker Program.



FIRST COTTON MILL IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA

Three Walker County businessmen, Andrew P. Allgood, Spencer S. Marsh and Col. W. K. Briers, officially organized the Trion factory Oct. 12, 1845. It has had few shut-downs since its first production in 1847. In 1858 an epidemic, in 1864 Sherman's invading Federal Army closed the mill until the end of the War Between the States, fire on April 10, 1876 only shut the mill for six months and a strike for six weeks in 1934. Three families owned and operated the mill through its first 150 years. The Allgood Family (1845 - 1912), the B. D. Riegel Family (1912-1987) and the R. B. Pamplin Family purchased the mill in 1987.

GEORGIA HISTORIC MARKER

1995

027-3

Textile Industry

While pay was stable, mill workers received little money for their labor. The pay was so meager that whole families, including children, needed to work to afford food and housing.

By 1900, approximately 92 percent of textile workers lived in a mill village. Mill villages were built close to the textile mills and usually consisted of homes for workers and their families, separate housing for supervisors, a company store, a church, and potentially a school.

For the people who lived in the villages, their lives revolved around the textile mill. Children raised by mill workers often began working by age twelve and some were as young as ten. In 1916, the United States Congress passed a law declaring the minimum age requirement of fourteen for workers in mills and factories.

Work in textile mills was divided by age, race, and gender. Textile mills excluded Black women and children from working. Black men often did the labor-intensive work of moving bales of cotton and loading and unloading heavy goods. White women often did the work of spinners and the meticulous work of weavers.

White men also performed labor-intensive jobs, but also worked as weavers, in maintenance roles, or as supervisors. White children worked the mills doing simple but dangerous jobs such as removing spools from doffers. Children also worked as sweepers, constantly brushing lint from machines and sweeping floors.

Lint floating in the air of a mill often landed on workers' heads or bodies. Lint stuck to their clothing and tangled in their hair. This is how textile mill workers got the name "lintheads." The term was used as an insult implying textile workers were failed farmers or unskilled laborers, despite their importance to Georgia's economic growth in the late 19th century.



*African-American laborers moving cotton bales along railroad, 1920s.
From the Georgia Historical Society's Cordray-Foltz Collection,
GHS 1360-PH-01-03-04.*



*All workers in Enterprise Mfg. Co. .1909
From the Library of Congress, 2018675020.*

Transportation Industry

The transportation industry is responsible for moving people and products from one place to another. During Reconstruction, transportation of goods for trade was conducted using a variety of methods including carts drawn by animals, steamboats on rivers, and most importantly, trains. The first railroad in Georgia was built in 1832. In 1833, the Central of Georgia Railway was established, connecting Savannah to the western parts of the state.

Railroads quickly became essential to Georgia's economy, linking urban areas to agricultural resources and vice versa. By the mid 19th century Georgia had more miles of railroad track than any other southern state. By the end of the 19th century, fifteen rail lines passed through the city of Atlanta, bringing over 150 trains each day.

Building the Railroad

Railroads made Atlanta the city that it is today, a central hub for transporting goods efficiently. Railroads quickly began to replace steamboats and trade by river since they offered faster, cheaper, and more direct service.

During Reconstruction, railroads in Georgia were commonly built and maintained by groups of African-American men, often called "Gandy Dancers." The term "Gandy Dancer" is a combination of the workers using "Gandy" tools, a track-lining tool from Chicago-based Gandy Manufacturing Company, and the tool being used with synchronized movements while singing railroad songs.



Construction Gang at Work, 1924.
From Georgia Historical Society's Central of Georgia
Railway Collection, GHS 1362-AN-140-01-001.

Atlanta's Start

Atlanta's first name was Terminus or, "end of the line," because it was located at a pivotal point where the Western & Atlantic railroad ended in 1837. Railroads that ran through Atlanta connected Georgia's sea ports and waterways to the United States' interior. Atlanta was one of many towns that were heavily influenced by the presence of the railroad.

Engine #495, 1900s. From the Georgia Historical Society's Central
of Georgia Railway Collection, GHS 1362-AN-160-01-06-C664.

Transporting People

Railroads initially allowed for more efficient transportation of goods, but by the 1890s they began to appeal to people as an option for travel to work or for leisure. Middle-class Georgians could move away from traveling by mules or horse-drawn stagecoaches, oxen wagons, and steamboats to railway cars.

The earliest passenger cars were stuffy, uncomfortable, and occasionally dangerous. Eventually, railroads developed into the primary form of travel for tourists as faster trains and luxury passenger cars became more readily available.

Today the Georgia Department of Transportation reports an increased use of rail travel for the same reasons it became popular in the 1890s: it is a safe dependable, and affordable form of travel.

Cities with beautiful scenic locations became popular as weekend getaways for city dwellers. Popular locations such as Tallulah Falls, or "the Niagara of the South," in Clayton, Georgia, brought great economic prosperity to its community. Railroads during the Gilded Age bolstered the tourism industry in Georgia.

In the 21st century, tourism is Georgia's second-largest industry. Tourists in the United States typically travel by car or by plane. Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is one of the busiest airports in the world.

Postcards, 1900s.
From the Georgia Historical Society Postcard Collection.

