

SS8H7a

Georgia's History:

1877 to 1918



Standards

SS8H7 The student will evaluate key political, social, and economic changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 and 1918.

a. Evaluate the impact the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, International Cotton Exposition, Tom Watson and the Populists, Rebecca Latimer Felton, the 1906 Atlanta Riot, the Leo Frank Case, and the county unit system had on Georgia during this period.

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Georgia's History:

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Bourbon Triumvirate

- After Reconstruction, Democrats known as “Bourbons” rose to power in the South.
- Bourbons believed that the South should rely less on agriculture and more on industry.
- In Georgia, three Bourbon leaders dominated the state’s politics from 1872 to 1890: Joseph E. Brown, John B. Gordon, and Alfred H. Colquitt.

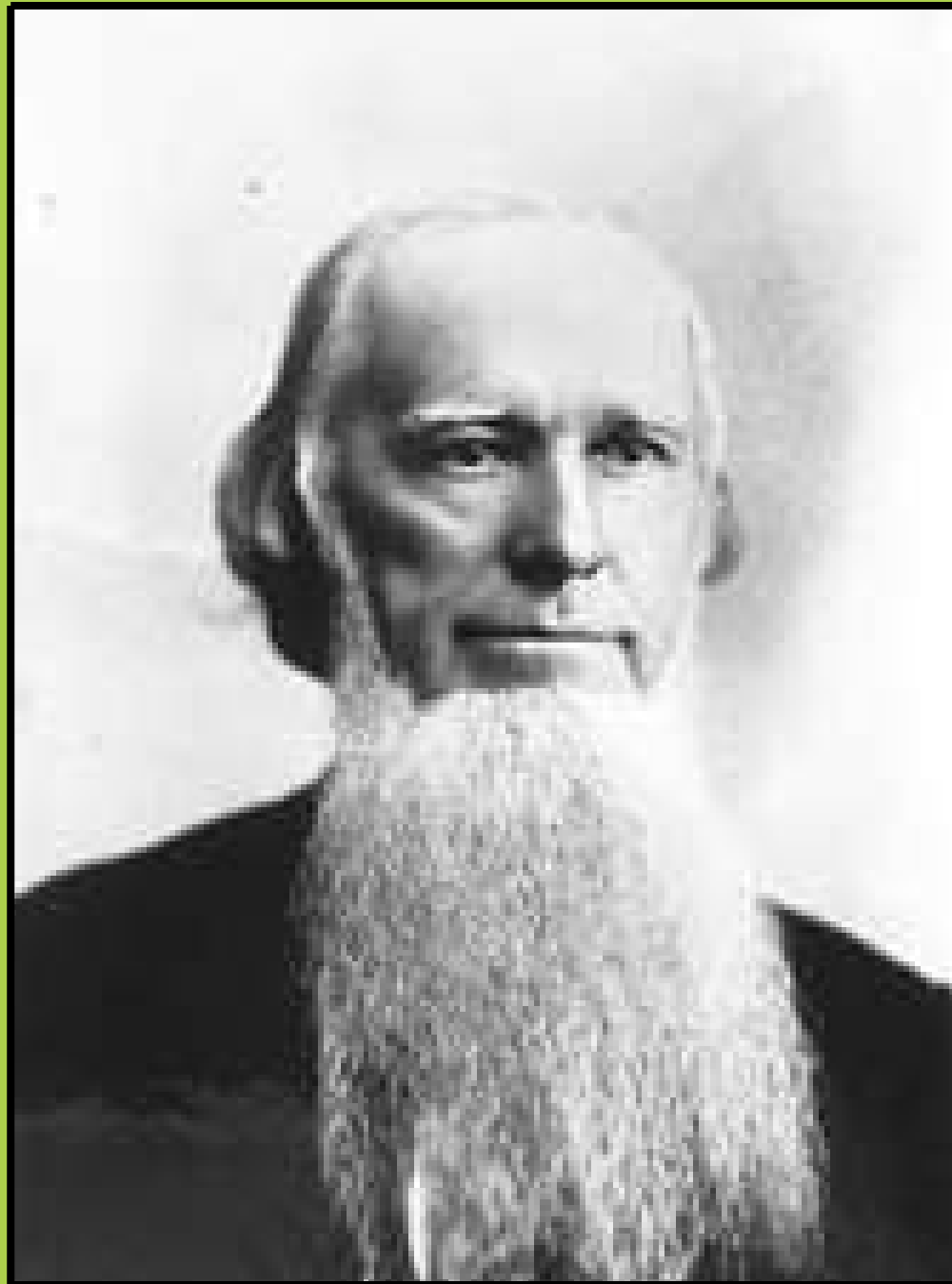
Bourbon Triumvirate

- The Bourbon Triumvirate supported policies that replaced Georgia's former large plantation-owning class with a new middle and business class.
- They also expanded railroads and increased industrialization, and gained wealth as railroads, cities, and factories flourished in Georgia.
- They promoted "white supremacy" in order to keep the political support of white racists.

Joseph E. Brown

- Joseph Brown was a secessionist who was Georgia's governor during the Civil War.
- He served four terms as the state's governor until he was named chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.
- Brown eventually served Georgia as a US Senator from 1880-1891.
- He became one of the state's wealthiest men.

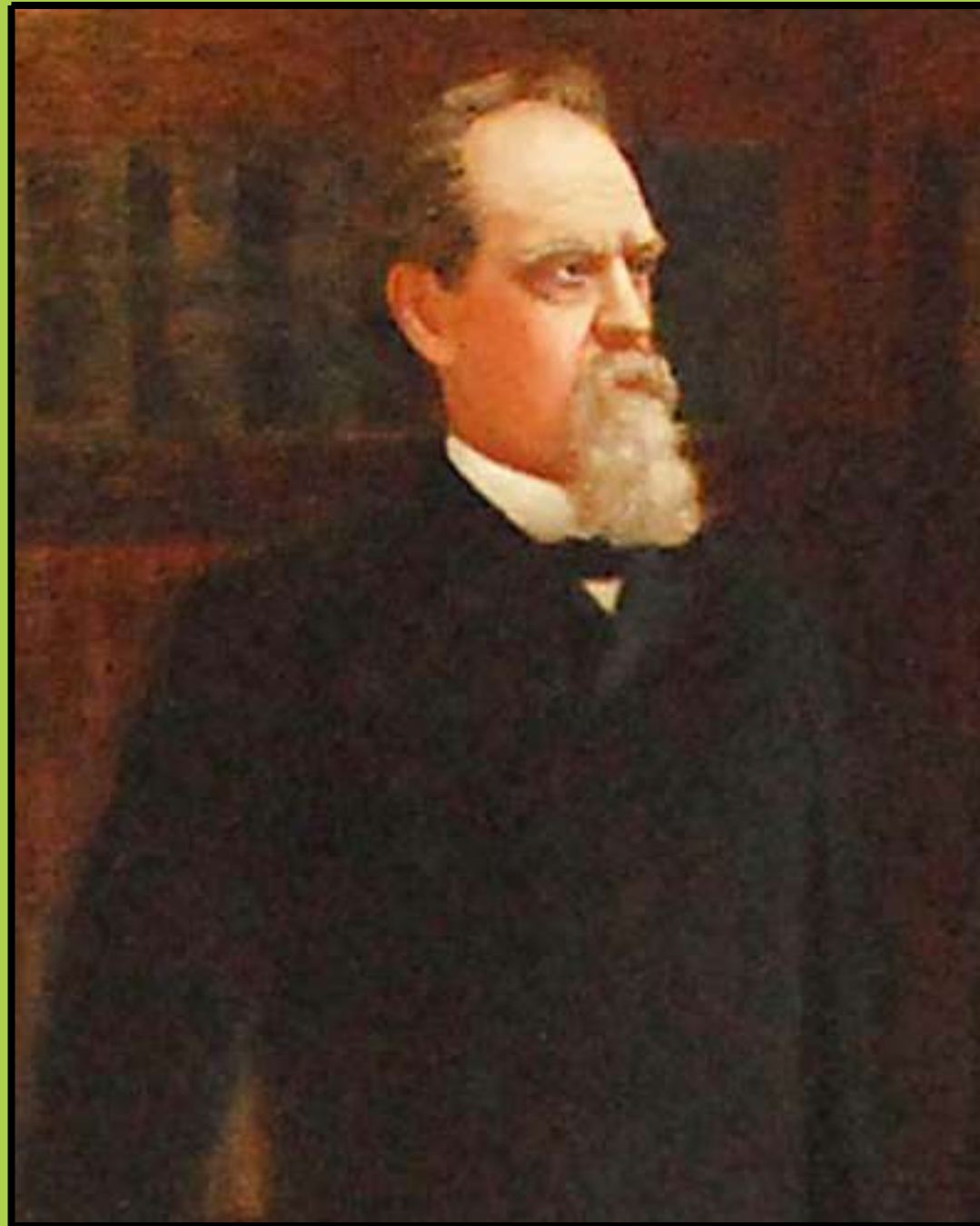
Joseph E. Brown



John B. Gordon

- John B. Gordon was a Civil War general who later became the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia.
- He became a US Senator in 1872 and resigned in 1880.
- In 1886, Gordon became Georgia's governor for two terms.
- He returned to the Senate for one more term before leaving politics.

John B. Gordon



Alfred H. Colquitt

- Alfred H. Colquitt was educated at Princeton University.
- He owned slaves before the Civil War and served in the Confederate army.
- Colquitt was a Methodist Minister and often taught Sunday school in black churches.
- Colquitt served as the state's first democratic governor after Reconstruction from 1877 to 1882.



Alfred H. Colquitt

Henry Grady

- Henry Grady was editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* from 1880 to 1889, and used his newspaper to promote what he labeled the “New South”.
- Grady believed the South needed to stop relying on farming and become more like the North economically.
- He tried to get northern businesses to invest in the South, and convinced many northerners to invest in Atlanta.

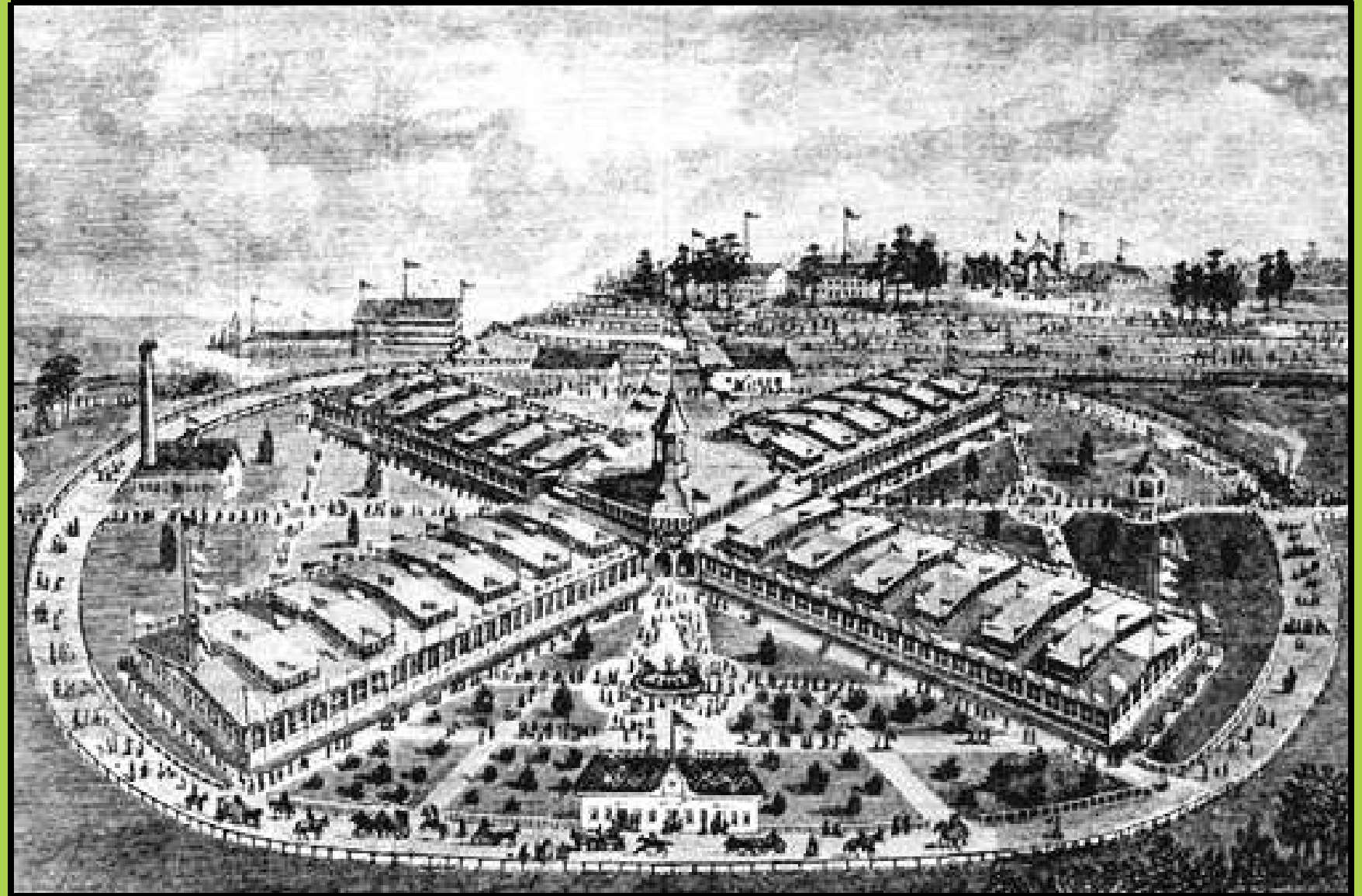
Henry Grady



Cotton Expo

- In 1881, Henry Grady promoted Georgia's first International Cotton Exposition, an industrial fair that spotlighted attention on the state's cotton textile industry.
- The exposition attracted 200,000 paid visitors and showed the country that Georgia was ready for more industry.
- Georgia went on to host more expositions, attracting people from 33 states and 7 countries.

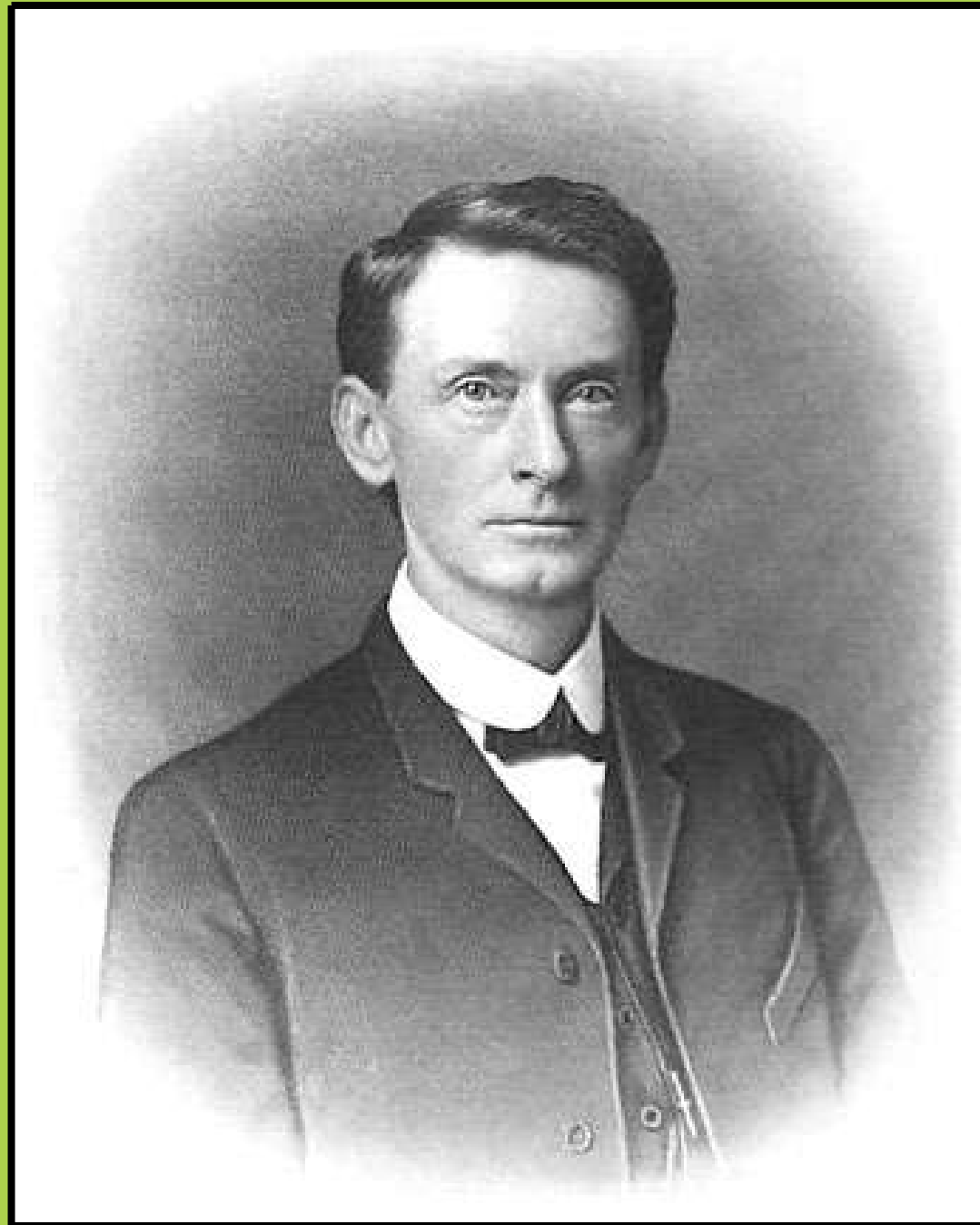
1881 Atlanta International Cotton Expo



Tom Watson

- During the 1880s, most farmers were suffering economically and falling further and further into debt.
- Cotton prices had dropped dramatically and labor was hard to find after slaves were freed.
- Georgia lawyer Tom Watson criticized Grady's New South because he claimed it hurt small farmers.
- In 1890, Watson won a seat in Congress and argued for farmers' issues in Washington.

Tom Watson



Populists

- In 1891, the People's Party (commonly known as Populist Party) was organized by farmers and Tom Watson became the party's leader in Georgia.
- Watson's greatest reform was the Rural Free Delivery Bill which provided free mail delivery to rural farmers.
- Populists fought to help farmers and urged farmers to work together for their cause.
- The Populists challenged the dominate Democratic Party in Georgia by threatening to split the white vote and to bring in black Republicans.

People's Party

VOTE UNDER THE LIBERTY BELL



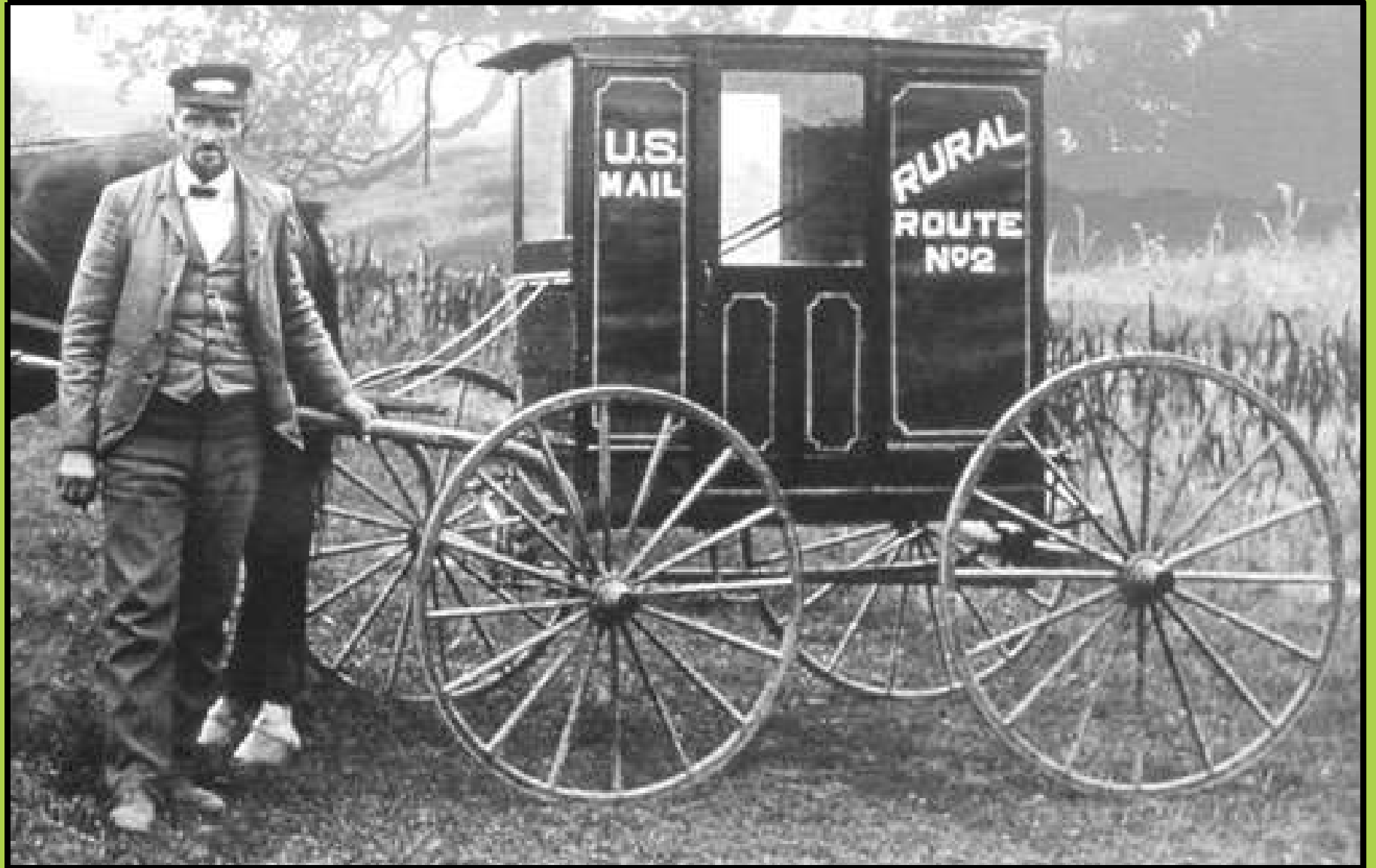
FOR PRESIDENT

Thomas E. Watson

OF GEORGIA



Rural Free Delivery Service



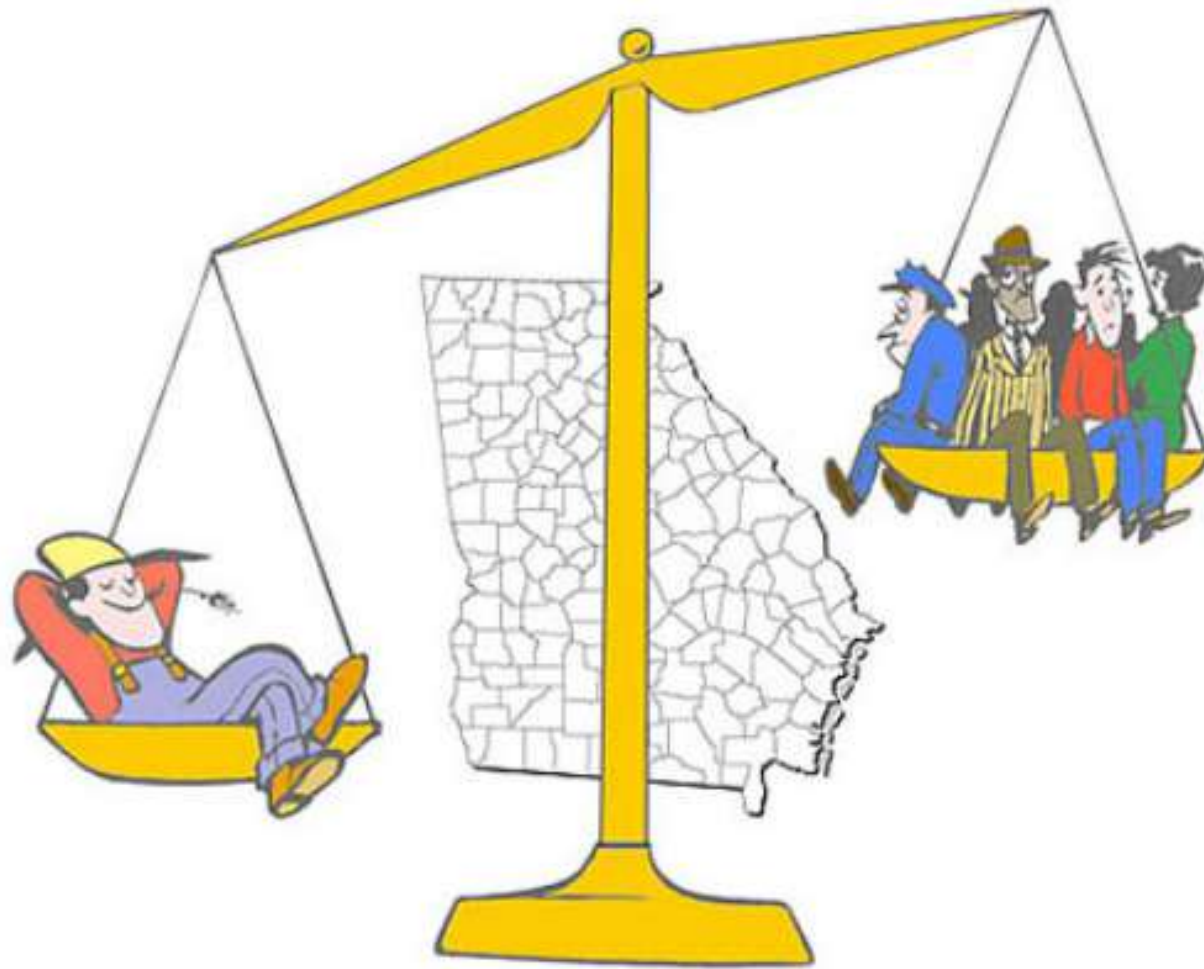
County Unit System

- Many rural Georgians became to fear that they were being pushed out of the political process.
- In response, the state adopted the county unit system in 1917 for its political primaries.
- Under the unit system, the candidate that won the most unit votes won the election.
- The eight most populous counties received 6 votes, with each of the remaining counties receiving less.

County Unit System

- Whoever won the most votes in the county, got all of the county's unit votes.
- The effect was that small, rural counties ended up having more say over who won than heavily populated counties.
- Even though most of the population lived in a handful of counties, the rest of the counties had enough unit votes to determine the winner all by themselves.

COUNTY UNIT SYSTEM



County Unit System

- Many saw the county unit system as unfair because it meant that certain candidates could win even if the majority of the people in the state voted for someone else.
- The system did not represent the population fairly and in 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the county unit system.

Rebecca Felton

- Rebecca Latimer Felton was the wife of progressive congressman William H. Felton, who opposed the Bourbon Democrats.
- Felton was active in politics and was the South's best-known campaigner for women's suffrage.
- Although Georgia disappointed her by rejecting the 19th Amendment, enough states eventually ratified it and women won their right to vote in 1920.



Rebecca Latimer Felton

Rebecca Felton

- Two years later, 87-year-old Felton served as one of Georgia's US Senators when the governor appointed her to fill the seat of deceased Tom Watson until a special election could be held.
- Although she served for only two days, Felton made history as the first woman to sit in the US Senate.

1906 Atlanta Riot

- The period from 1890 to 1930 was the bloodiest period of racial violence in Georgia's history.
- In September 1906, growing racial tensions resulted in the three-day Atlanta Race Riot.
- A white mob started the riot, in part due to unproven reports that black men had assaulted several white women.



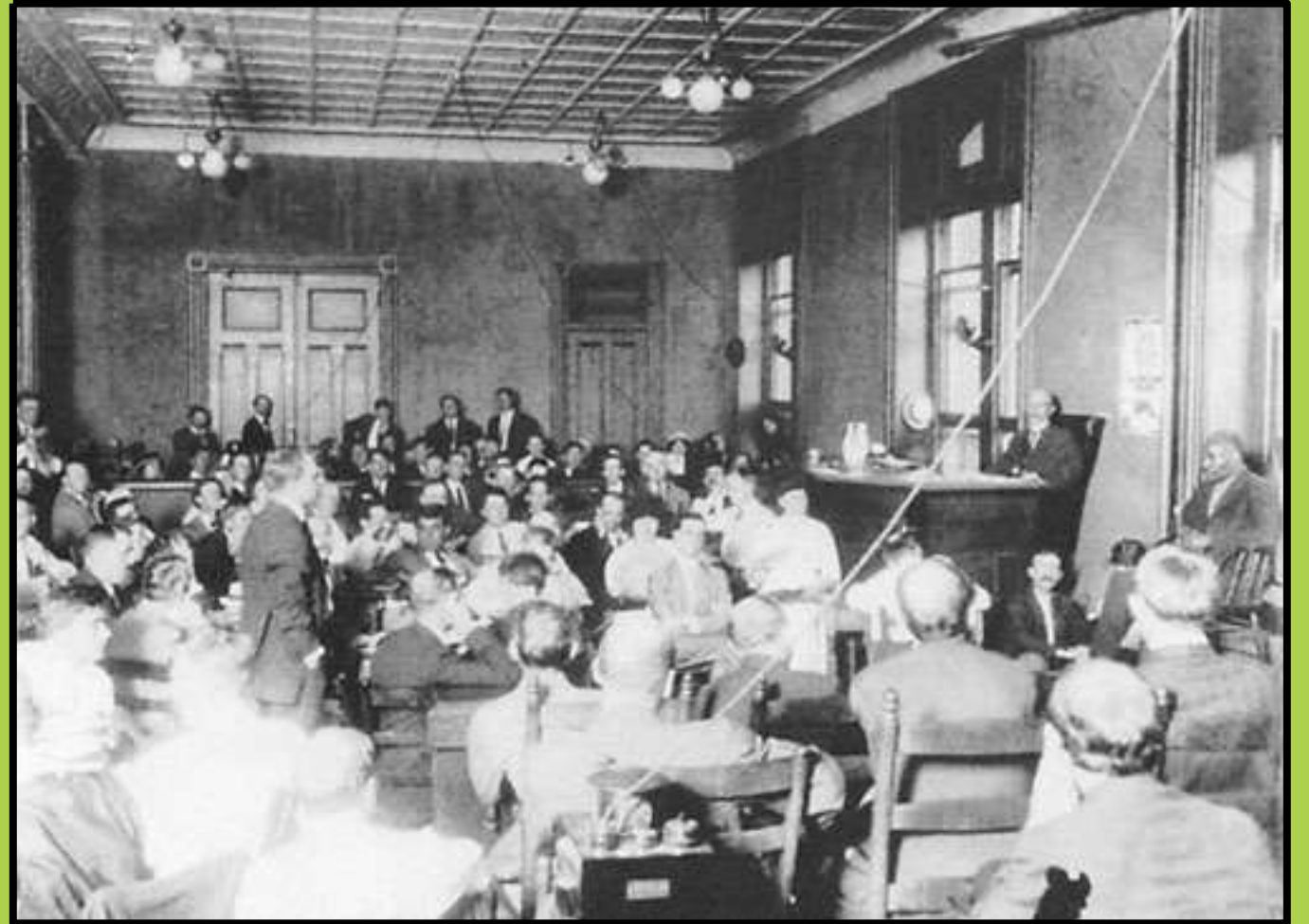
1906 Atlanta Riot

- Hoke Smith was running for governor and contributed to the racial tension with his appeals to white racism in an attempt to win votes.
- The mob attacked black-owned businesses and killed several business owners.
- At least 12 people died during the violence.

Leo Frank Case

- African-Americans were not the only targets of ethnic violence during the early 1900s.
- Leo Frank was a Jewish factory superintendent in Atlanta.
- In 1913, he was convicted of murdering Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old female worker.
- The trial was filled with conflicting testimony and unanswered questions.

Leo Frank Trial



Leo Frank Case

- Frank was sentenced to life in prison, but two years later, citizens from Mary's hometown in Marietta kidnapped him and hanged him from an oak tree.
- Decades later, new evidence revealed that the murder was most likely committed by someone else.
- The state pardoned Frank 71 years after his lynching, but the case symbolized Southerners' strong anti-Semitic feelings at the time.



LEO M. FRANK DRAGGED FROM PRISON CELL AND LYNCHED BY GEORGIA MOB

GALVESTON STRUCK BY FURIOUS STORM

FLOOD AND FIRES DESTROY
LIVES AND PROPERTY
IN TEXAS

WATER TEN FEET IN STREETS

Practically All Homes Are Evacuated
and People Gather in Hotels—
City Left in Darkness Because
of Damaged Wires

New Orleans, La., Aug. 15.—Galveston, Tex., is safe, and the water in the streets is two feet deep. It is a wonder because of the heavy rain. The damage estimated the city has done to the land is more than \$1,000,000. The damage to the city is two days' work and the city is now in the hands of the fire department. The damaged transport vessel had been reported to have been destroyed.

A party of religious people were from Galveston, Texas, made the trip to an automobile. Members of the party will be the water covered the streets when they left, but that the flood was not too deep to wade. The water velocity they said was less than thirty miles an hour. The religious people reported numerous wells were destroyed in Galveston harbor, and that many of the larger ships were sunk.

Ship With 500 Men

Galveston, Tex., Aug. 15.—Eleven days have been following since the city first knew from Galveston. No definite news of the city has been received, but the department officials in this city are anxious to hear from Galveston.

LEO M. FRANK



Leo M. Frank, who was lynched within sight of the home of Mary Phagan, the little factory girl he was found guilty of murdering.

HANGED IN SIGHT OF PHAGAN HOME

STATE'S PRISONER DRAGGED
FROM CELL AND HANGED
BY MOB

HUNDREDS VIEW REMAINS

Women and Children Mingle With
Crowd—No Effort Made to Get
Down Body—Many Urge Ma-
jority of Cases

Marietta, Ga., Aug. 15.—Leo M. Frank was lynched two miles out side of Marietta, within sight of the home of Mary Phagan, the little factory hand Frank was found guilty of murdering.

Chastised by the law and a governor with a conscience of his prey, the mob spirit of the Middle Ages triumphed against justice by executing a spineless bunch of prison guards, who permitted the night riders to enter the state prison, seize the scrawny pale and injured man and drag him off to his Cavalry without firing a shot.

Dragged from Prison

A mob dragged him from the cell in the state prison, and hanged him just before midnight. All the crowd gathered on the scene, and saw a band of men.

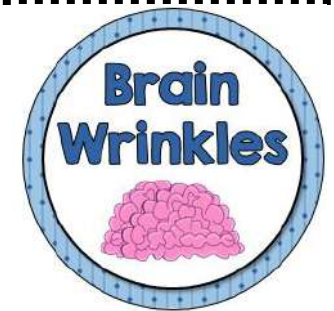
By midnight the mob forced their way into the spot where they had chosen to hang him.

Of his last hours none but those who hanged him have anything to say. He was hung, and was seen by the mob. He was hung by the mob. He was hung by the mob. He was hung by the mob.

British Transport Torpedoed in the Aegean; 1,000 Die

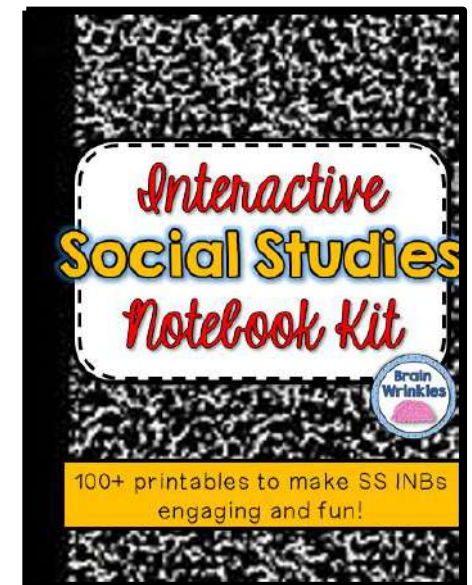
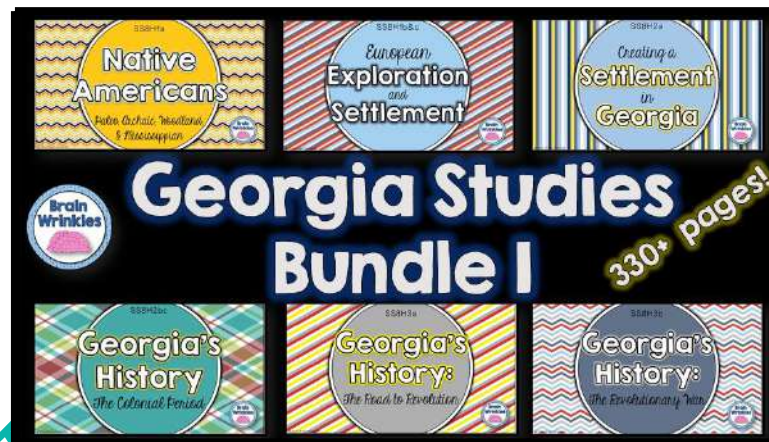
LONDON, Aug. 15.—About 1,000 lives are believed to have been lost by the sinking of the British transport, Dorset, en route to the Dardanelles, by a German submarine. The

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Best of luck to you this school year,

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