



The Industrial Revolution Comes Home

Textile Mills and Your Ancestors

Anne Gillespie Mitchell – T204

T204 NGS 2017, Syllabus Page 119



Ruth Rouse

She said she was 11 years old, but others there said she was not 10. She has a regular job, and several sisters are working.

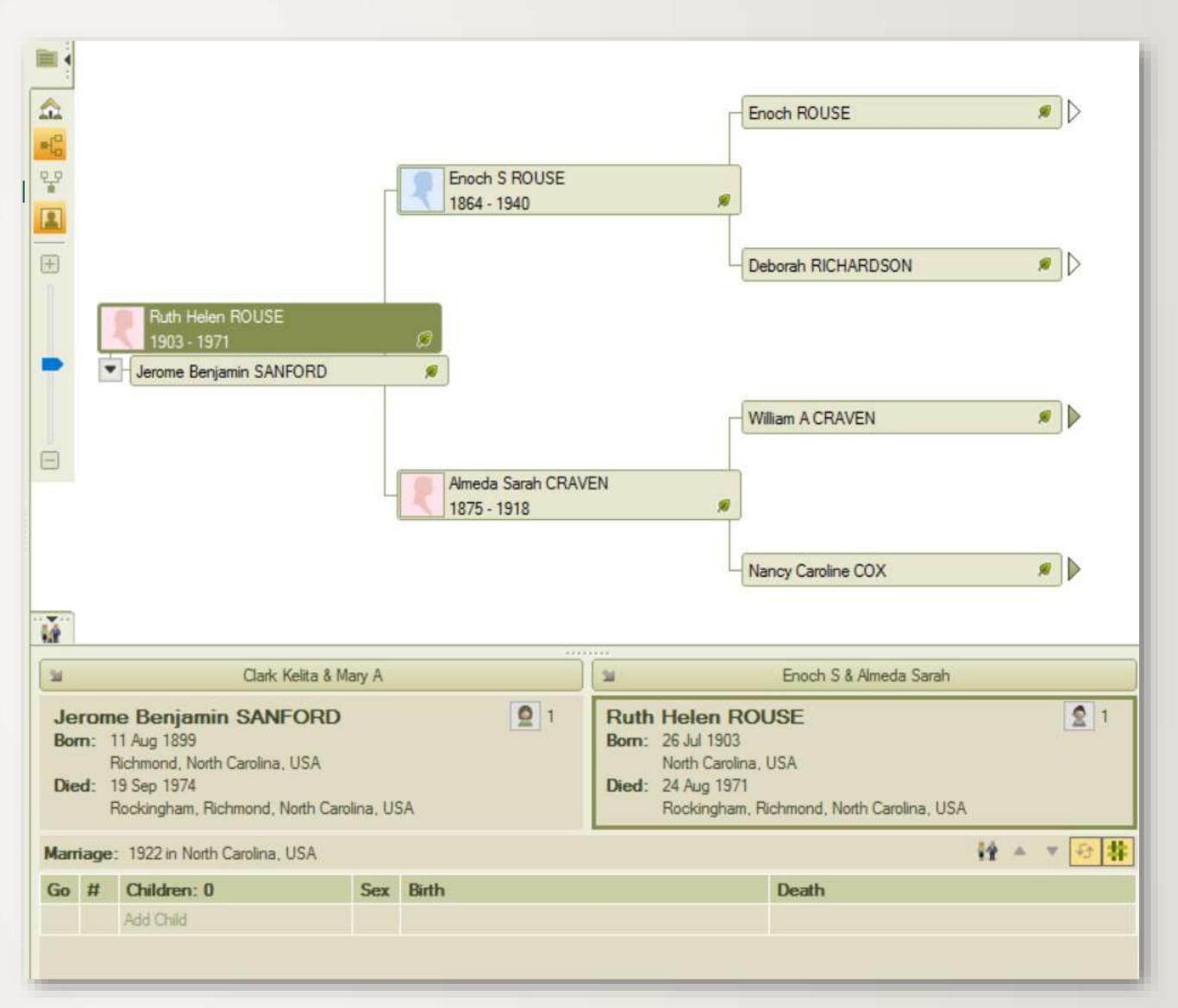
Deep River Cotton Mills.

Location: Randleman, North Carolina.

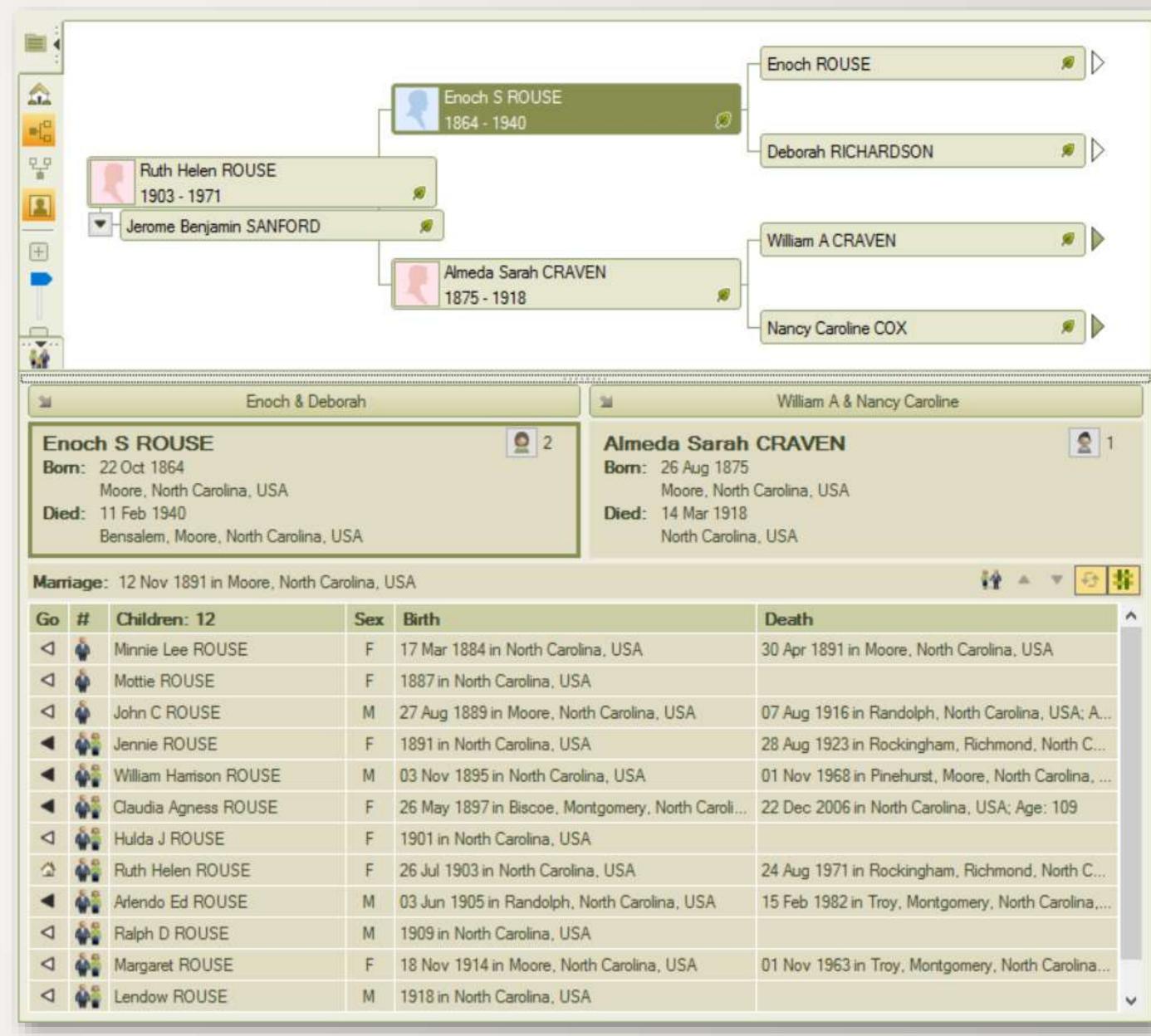
Photo by Lewis Wickes Hines, May 1913

Who was Ruth Rouse? And why do we care?









How do we understand the life of Ruth?

Enoch ROUSE

- b: 1833 in Moore, North Carolina, USA
- m: 1858
- d 1905 in Moore, North Carolina, USA

Deborah RICHARD SON

 Dec 1840 in Eagle Springs, Moore, North Carolina, USA

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Ruth Heien ROUSE

- b: 26 Jul 1903 in North Carolina, USA
- m: 1922 in North Carolina, USA
- d: 24 Aug 1971 in Rockingham, Richmond, North Carolina, USA; Age: 68

Almeda Sarah CRAVEN

Enoch & ROUSE

Carolina, USA

m: 12 Nov 1891 in Moore,

North Carolina, USA d: 11 Feb 1940 in Bensalem,

Moore, North Carolina, USA:

Age: 75; died of pneumonia and

b: 22 Oct 1864 in Moore, North

- b: 26 Aug 1875 in Moore, North Carolina, USA
- d: 14 Mar 1918 in North Carolina, USA

William A CRAVEN

- 07 Oct 1847 in Randolph, North Carolina, USA
- m: 22 Nov 1866 in Randolph, North Carolina, USA
- d: 10 Mar 1918 in Sheffelds, Moore, North Carolina, USA; Age: 70

Nancy Caroline COX

- b: 26 Jun 1845 In Randolph North Carolina, USA
- d: 13 May 1915 In Moore, North Carolina, USA

Ancestors

We have tools for finding and documenting ancestors.

We document when and where they were born, married and died.

Family Group Sheet for Enoch S ROUSE

Husband:		Enoch S ROUSE
18	Birth:	22 Oct 1864 in Moore, North Carolina, USA
	Marriage:	12 Nov 1891 in Moore, North Carolina, USA
	Death:	11 Feb 1940 in Bensalem, Moore, North Carolina, USA; Age: 75; died of pneumonia and influenza
	Burial:	12 Feb 1940 in Eagle Springs, Moore, North Carolina, USA
	Father:	Enoch ROUSE
	Mother:	Deborah RICHARDSON
Wife:		Almeda Sarah CRAVEN
Šī.	Birth:	26 Aug 1875 in Moore, North Carolina, USA
	Death:	14 Mar 1918 in North Carolina, USA
	Burial:	Eagle Springs, Moore County, North Carolina, USA
	Father:	William A CRAVEN
	Mother:	Nancy Caroline COX
Children:		
1	Name:	Jennie ROUSE
F	Birth:	1891 in North Carolina, USA
	Marriage:	07 Aug 1914 in Richmond, North Carolina, USA
	Death:	28 Aug 1923 in Rockingham, Richmond, North Carolina, USA; Age: 32; cause: acute nephritis as result of pregnancy
	Spouse:	Clyde SANFORD
2	Name:	William Harrison ROUSE
M	Birth:	03 Nov 1895 in North Carolina, USA
	Marriage:	03 Dec 1921 in Montgomery, North Carolina, USA; Pearl was Pearl McKenzie, previously married, i assume
	Death:	01 Nov 1968 in Pinehurst, Moore, North Carolina, USA; Age: 72;

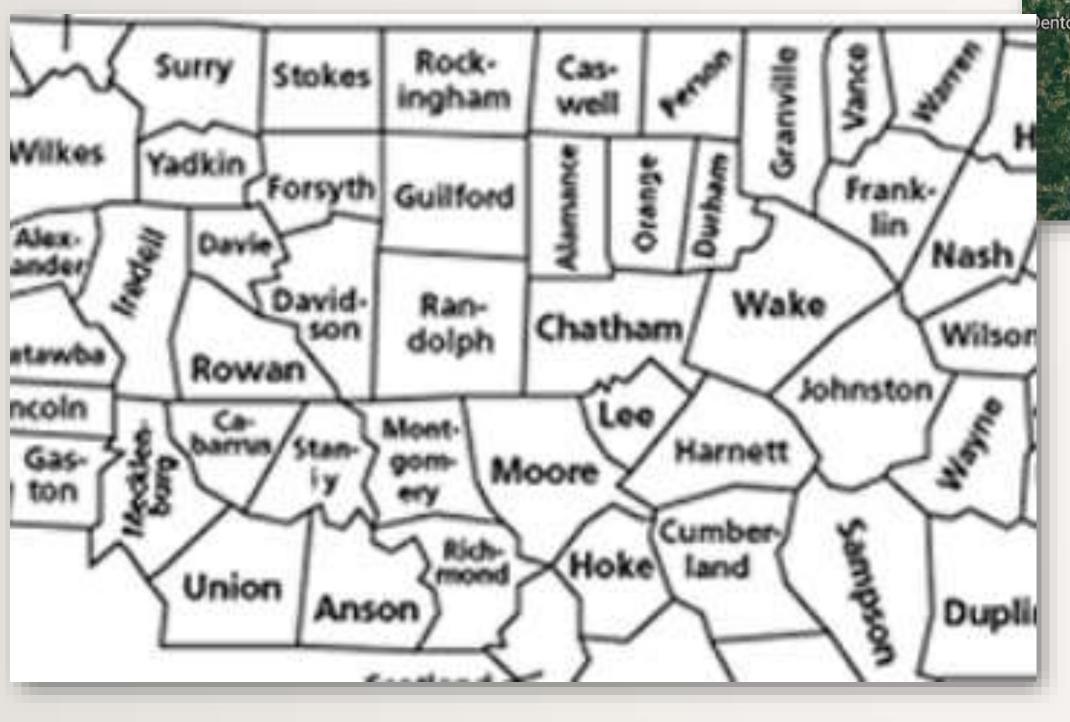
Family

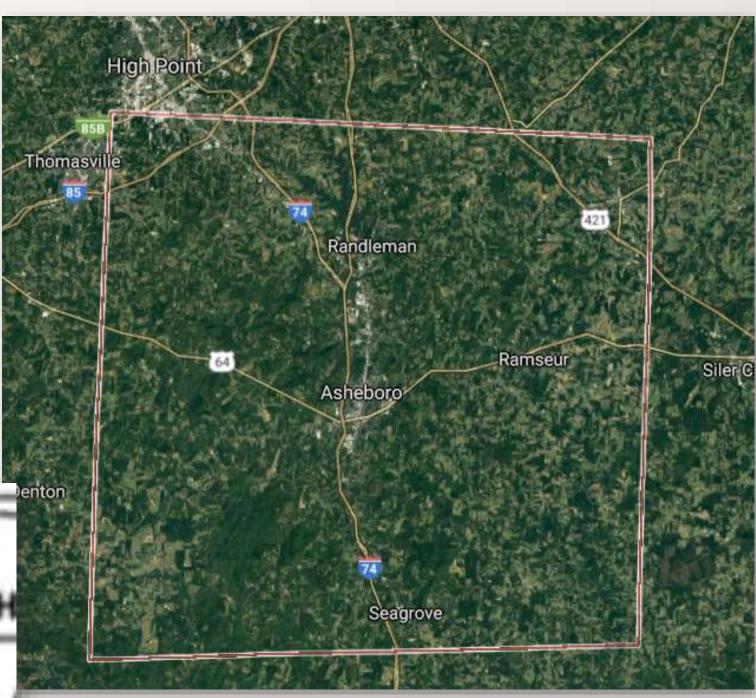
We have tools for finding and documenting family.

We document when and where they were born, married and died.

Tools for Context

Community where a person lived

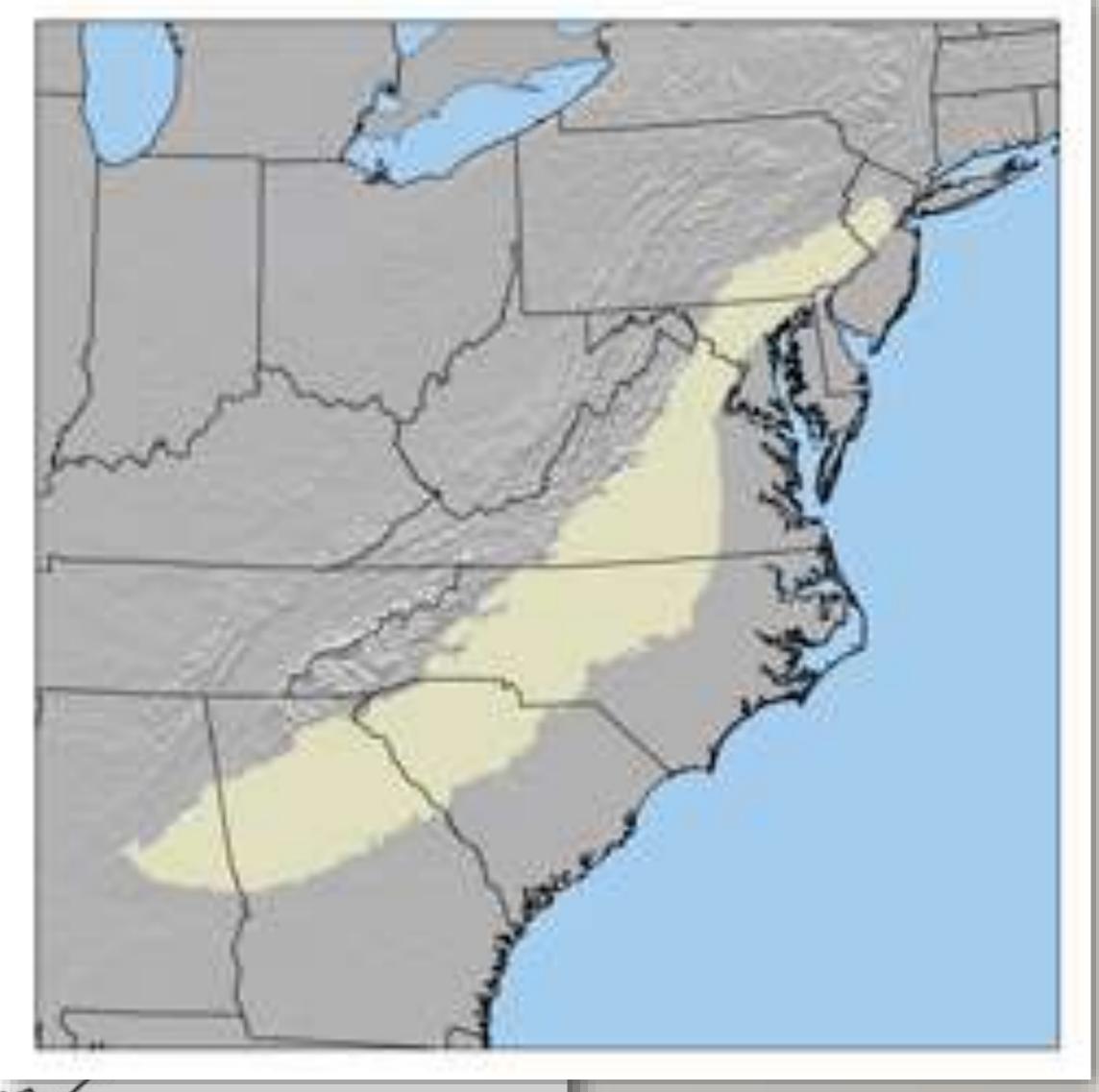




Tools for Context

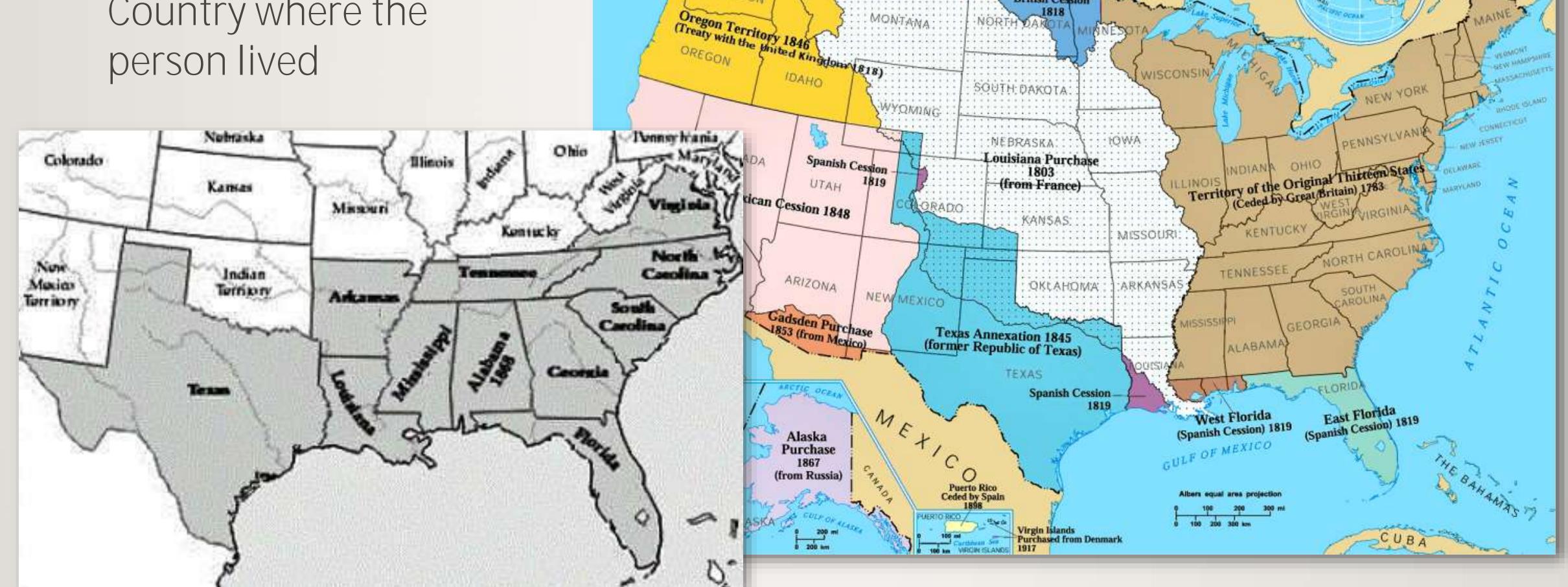
State and geographic area the person lived in





Tools for Context

Country where the person lived



WASHINGTON

U.S. TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS

Ceded to the United Kingdom 1818

British Cession

CANADA

What do the documents say?

She was the daughter of Enoch S Rouse and Almeda Sarah Craven.

She appears to have been the 8th of 12 children of Enoch and the daughter of his 2nd wife.



Bensalem, Moore County, NC

Ruth's father, Enoch, was born 22 Oct 1864

Ten months after his father deserted the 48th NC Infantry, after about a 1½ of service.

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Bensalem, Moore County, NC

The Rouse family owned no land, and most of them could not read or write

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Grant, Randolph County, NC

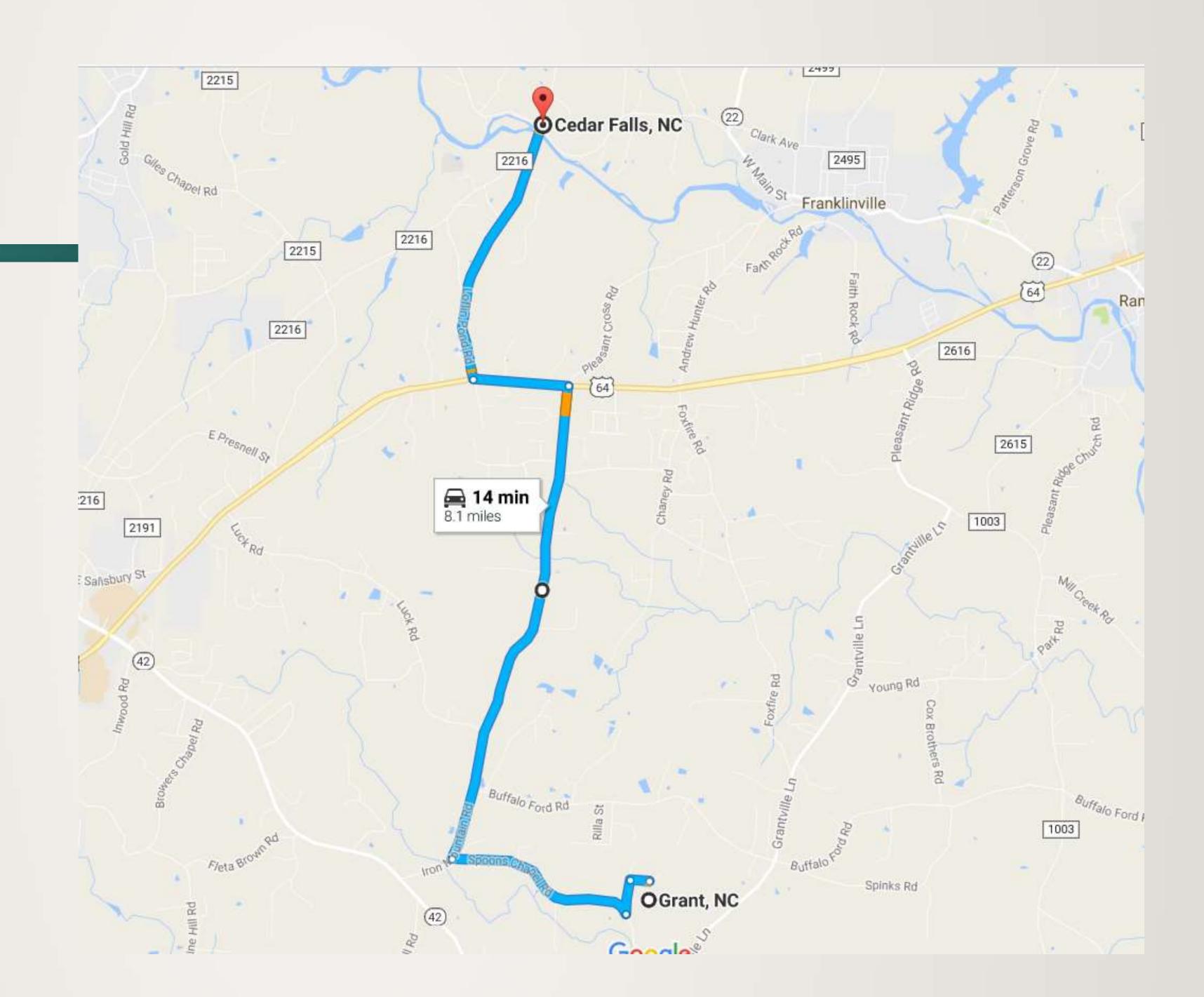
Ruth's mother, Sarah Almeda, was the daughter of William Craven and Nancy Cox.

They maybe had a little more money; some property, some education

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Proximity

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Bensalem, Moore County, NC

Enoch married Almeda November 9th, 1891 in Moore County.

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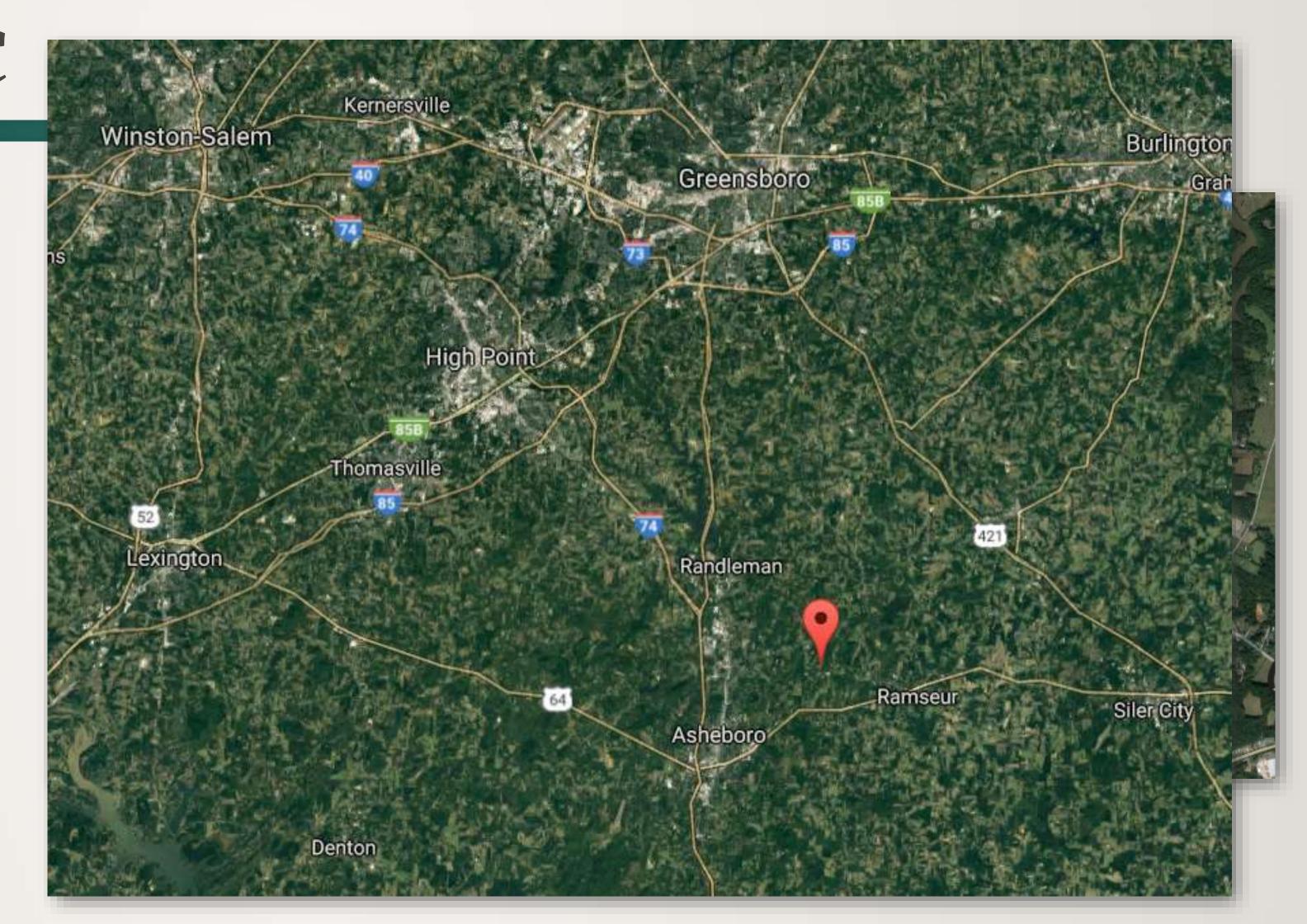
1910, Cedar Falls, Randolph County, NC

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Cedar Falls, NC

Unincorporated town, outside of Franklinville, on the Deep River

- Water = power
 supply
- 2. Outside city limits= less taxes andrules



Enoch Rouse, 1920, Randleman, Randolph, NC

In 1918, Almeda Craven Rouse dies, leaving Enoch with multiple children left to take care of.

Lendo and Ralph attended school; Ruth and Lendo could read and write

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Jennie Rouse Sanford, 1920, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

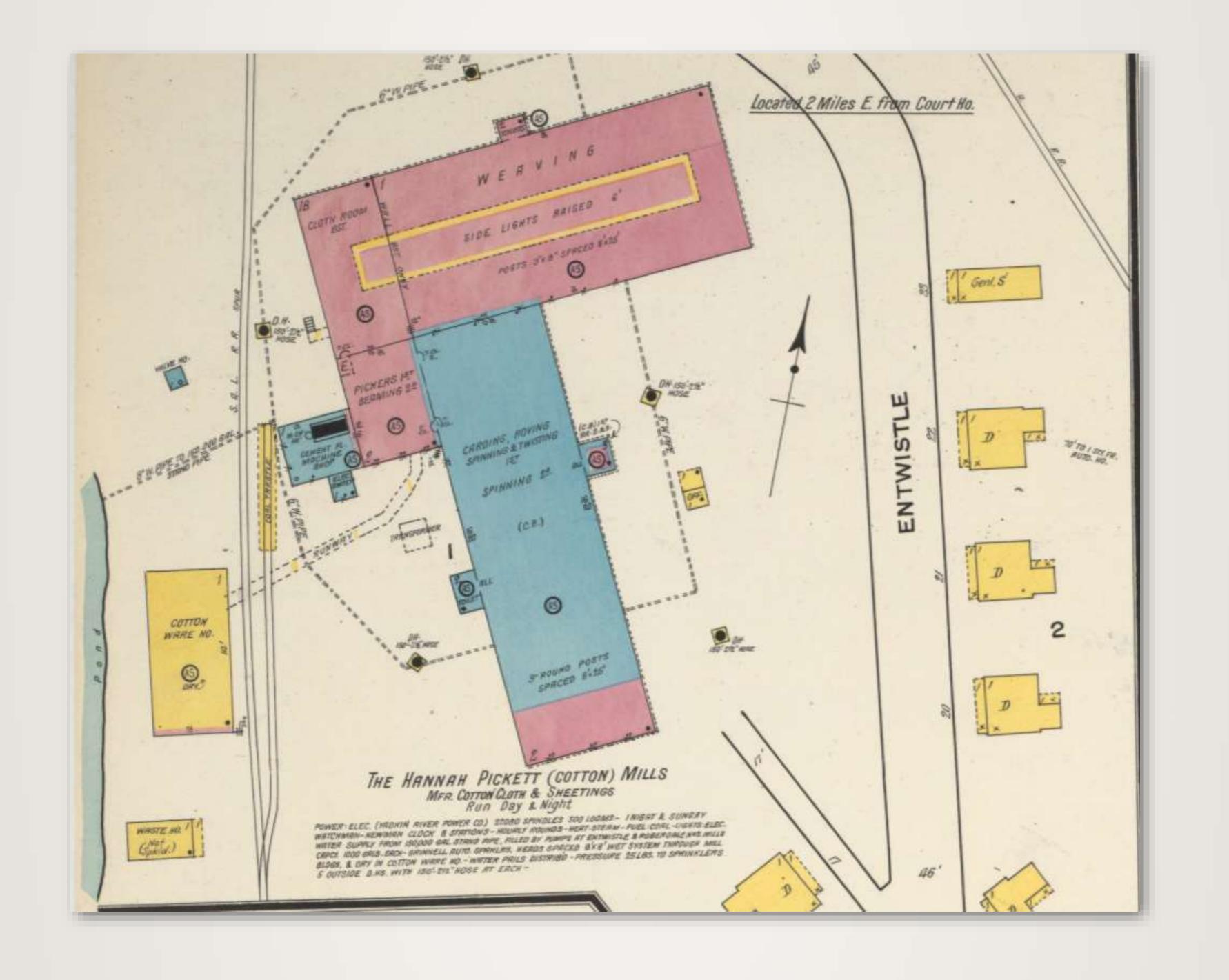
Jennie was Ruth's older sister.

Jennie married Clyde Sanford in Richmond County in 1914.

In 1920, Clyde, Jennie, their two children and Jennie's sister Huldah are living in Rockingham in the Roberdel Township.

All of the adults can read and write. Clyde is a Weaver, Huldah a Spinner.





Ruth Rouse Sanford, 1930, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

In 1922, Ruth marries Jerome Benjamin Sanford, brother of Clyde.

Sometime in the 1920's she moves to Richmond County in the Roberdel

area.

Jennie dies in 1923 due to complications with a pregnancy.

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Ruth Rouse Sanford, 1930, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

Jerome and Ruth live with Jerome's brother Asa and next door to Jerome's brother Frank.

Jerome's brother James and brother Clyde live a few houses away. All the men work at the cotton mill, the women don't and the children are too young.

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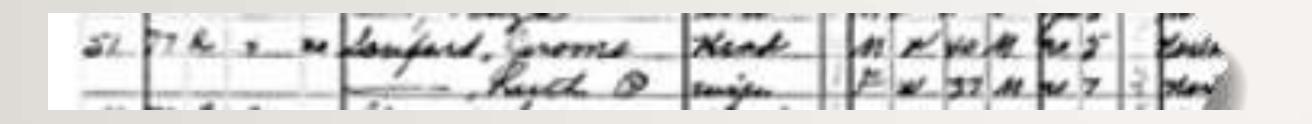
Ruth Rouse Sanford, 1940, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

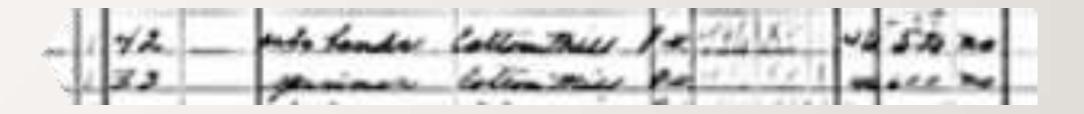
Jerome and Ruth are still living in Roberdel. Both work at a Cotton Mill.

Ruther is a spinner. Both worked 46 weeks over the past year. Jerome earned \$528, or \$11.50 per week. Ruther earned \$600 or \$13 per week.

They paid \$4 per month rent.

Jerome had 5 years of schooling; Ruth had 7.





Jerome Sanford, 1942, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

In 1942, Jerome was working for the Entwistle Mfg Co in Roberdel.

He was 5 foot 10 inches tall and weigh 225 lbs.

And blind in the left eye.

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Jerome and Ruth Sanford, 1957, 1959, Rockingham, Richmond, NC

In the 1950's

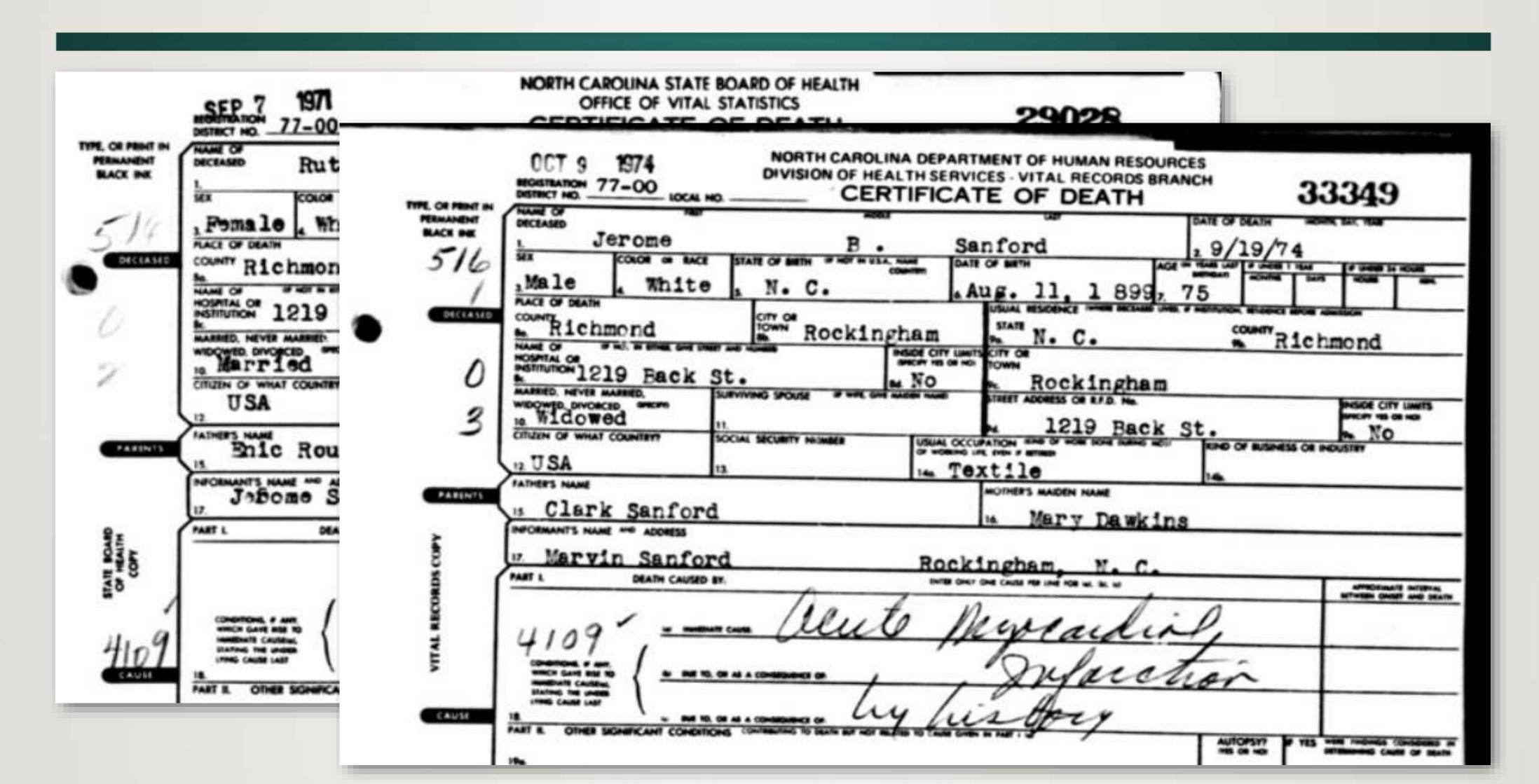
Jerome appears to be still working in textile.



Ruth died in 1971 and Jerome in 1975

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Ruth died in 1971 and Jerome in 1975





Putting Ruth into context

Changes in the south after the war

- Southern economy was wrecked by the Civil War
- Changes in family structure
- Changes in farming
- African American labor force changed from being slaves to needing jobs

Cotton Mill Campaign

- Shipping raw materials up north was expensive
- Cheaper labor in the south

The Southern cotton mill campaign has just begun.

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, North Carolina) 20 Jan 1882, Fri, page 4, col 5

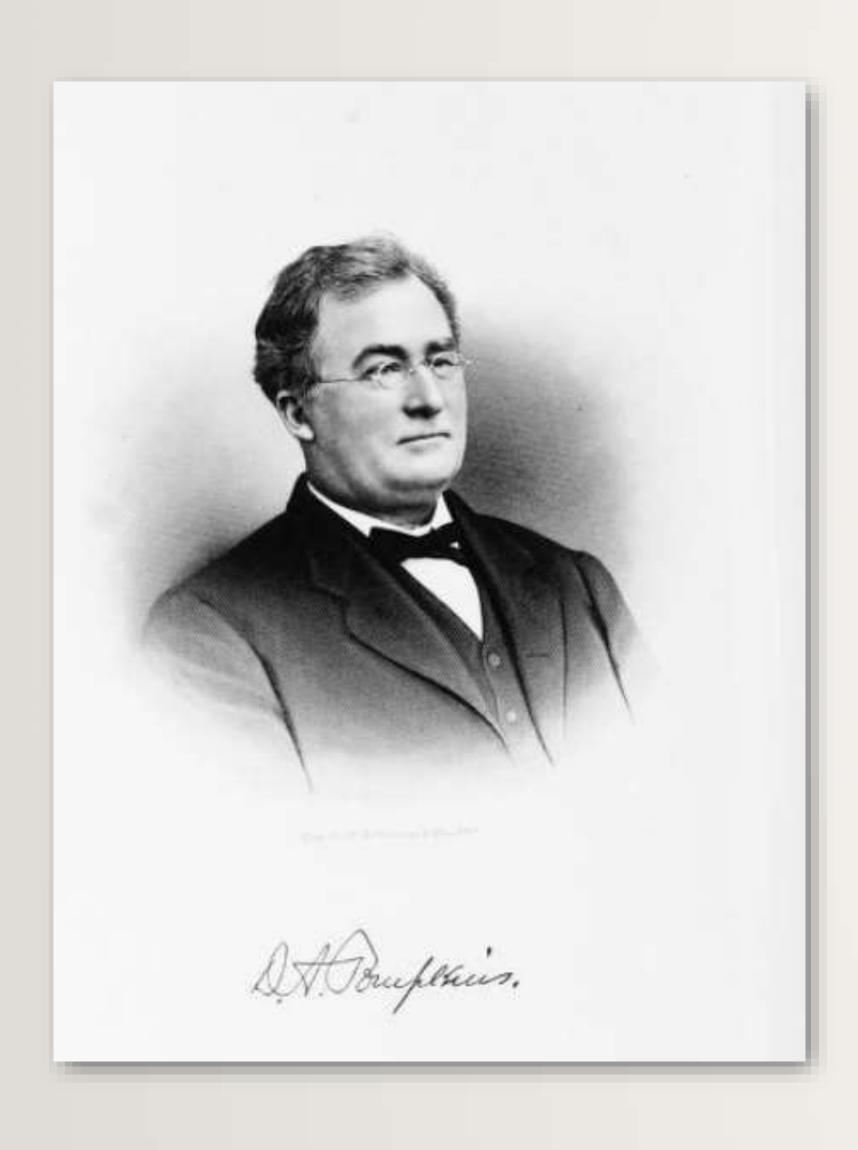
The South's Advantage.

Wilmington Star.

More and more it is being realized in the North that in the matter of cotton milling the South has all the advantage over that great manufacturing section. The Rochester (N. Y.) Herald says:

"It is stated that the cost of placing a year's cotton crop in the New England market is \$108,600,000, of which over \$30,000,000 is paid for freight and insurance. Is it any wonder that Southern cotton factories are prosperous, when by working up the product of their fields at even less cost than it can be done in Massachusetts or Rhode Island, and selling their cloth at their doors, they can save more than one-half of the total expense mentioned above, or say \$15,000,000."

A Southern mill has the advantage in raw material alone of more than one cent a pound. It is in fact nearly two cents. In a bale of 500 pounds a South, ern mill starts with at least \$8 the advantage. Labor is cheaper than at the North. Why then shall not Southern cotton manufacturing flourish? It does flourish, and every few weeks a new mill begins operations. The Southern cotton mill campaign has just begun.

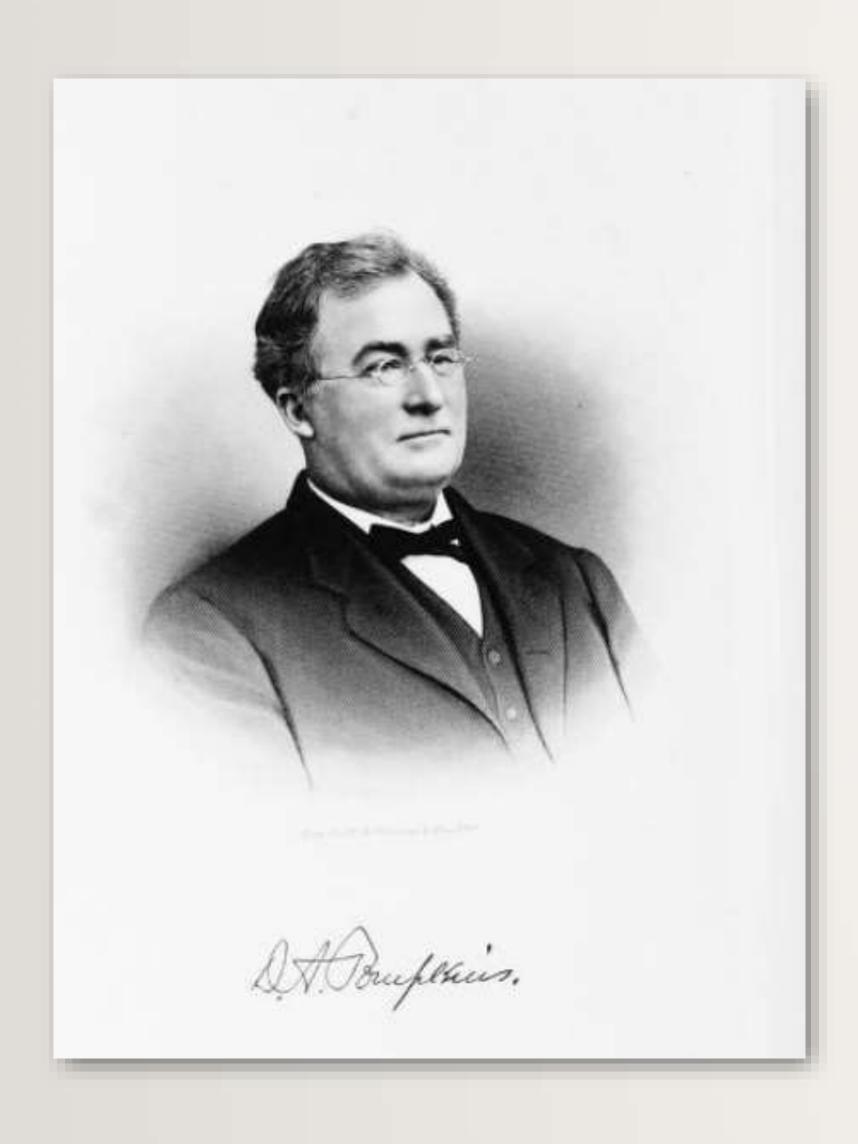


Enter Daniel Tompkins

Born in 1851 in Edgefield, SC, son of Dewitt Clinton Tompkins and Hannah Virginia Smyly

Father was a Physician and for a few months a Captain for the 14th SC Infantry

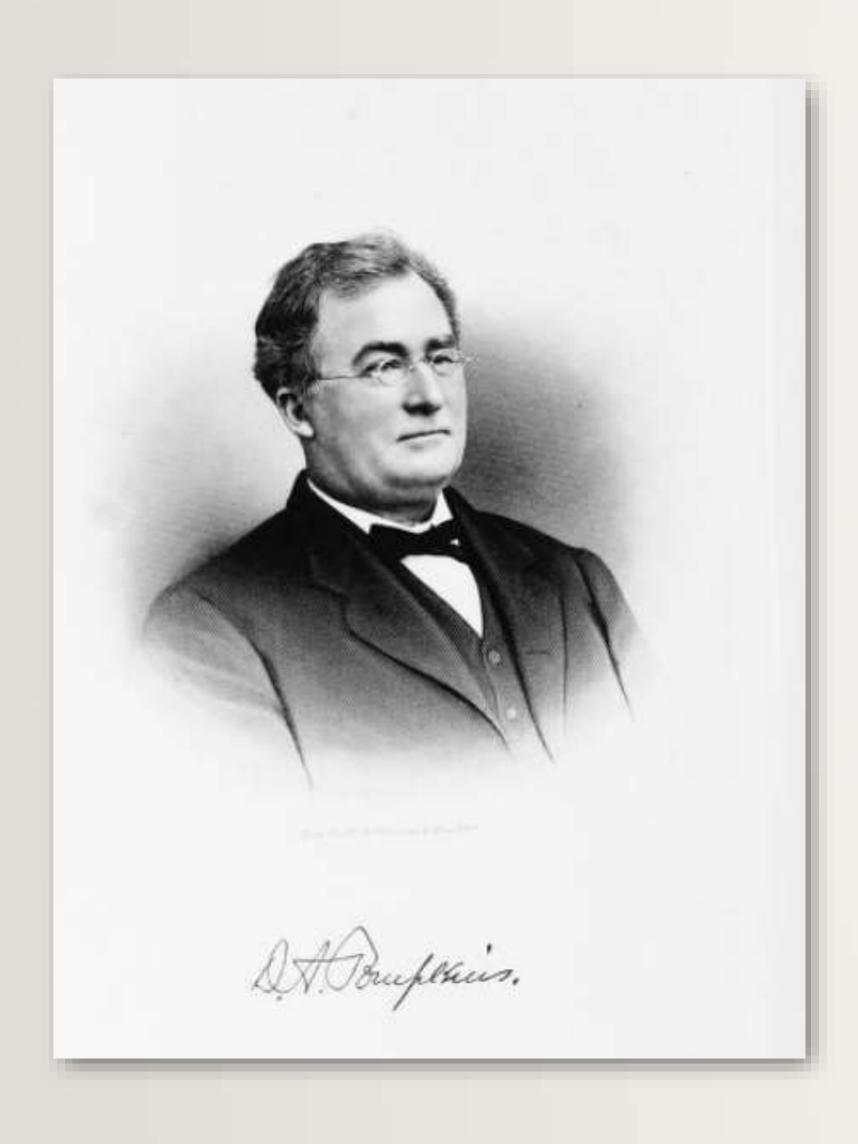
Family owned real estate and slaves before the Civil War and retained a good deal of their wealth after.



Enter Daniel Tompkins

Daniel went north to study at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in NY and earned a Civil Engineering degree

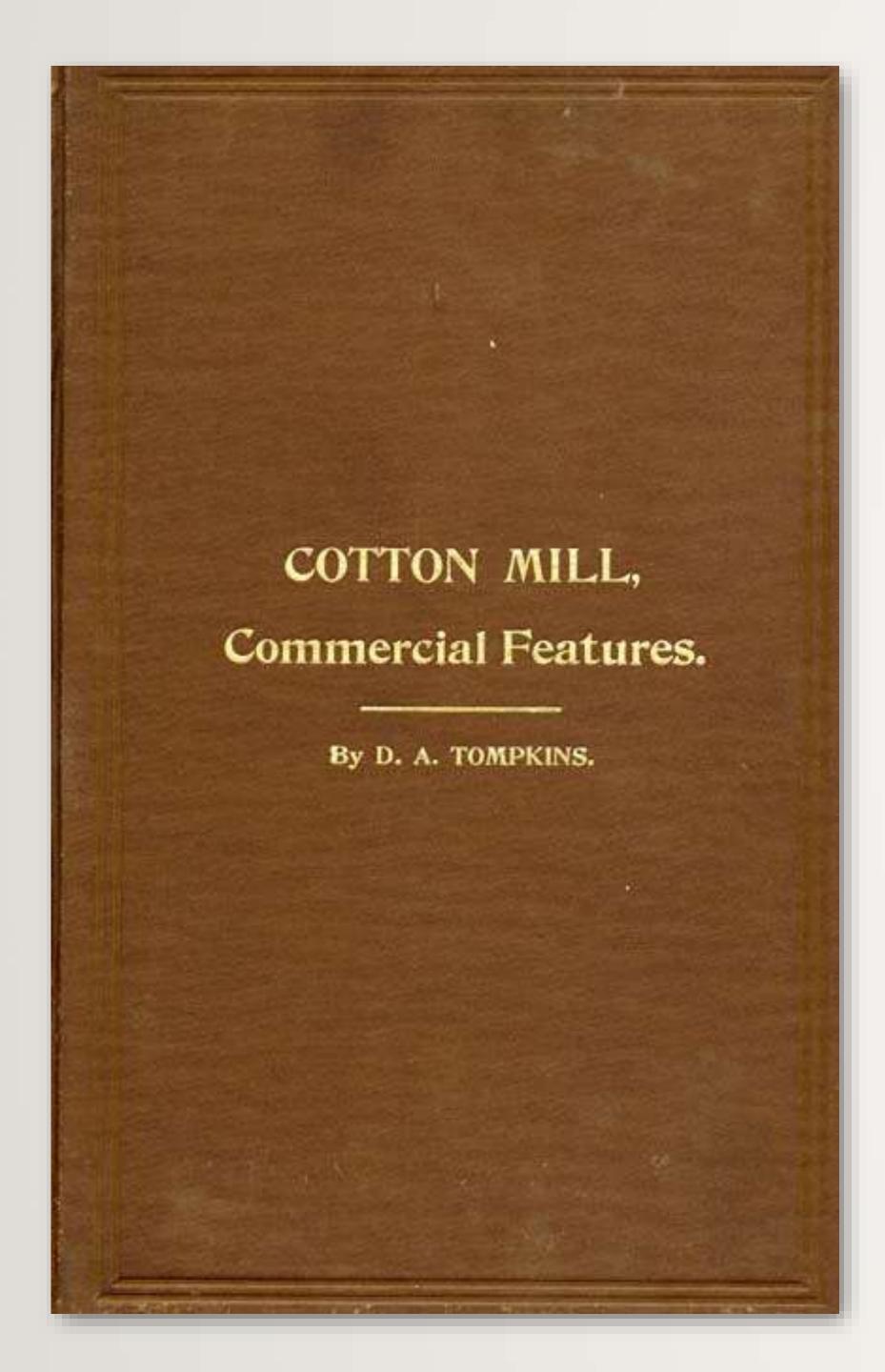
Worked at Bethlehem Iron Works in PA and then at Crystal Plate Glass Company in MO



Enter Daniel Tompkins

In 1883 he came back south and settled in Charlotte where he set up the D A Tompkins Company.

By 1910, he had helped build 250 cotton oil mills, 150 electric plants and 100 cotton mills.



He Wrote The Book

He owned 3 newspapers and a publishing house and he published many pamphlets and books promoting the cotton mills in the south.

He literally wrote the book for cotton mills in the south.

Cotton Mill, Commercial Features. A Text-Book for the Use of Textile Schools and Investors. With Tables Showing Cost of Machinery and Equipments for Mills Making Cotton Yarns and Plain Cotton Cloths.

http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/tompkins/menu.html



Workers removed ties and bagging from bales of raw cotton.

Because there was a lot of dirt and dust, fires were highly likely.

This work was often done in a separate building.



By Michael Bass-Deschenes (Commons User bassdeschenes) (Cotton husk) via Wikimedia Commons



Photo from SMU Central University Libraries, via Wikimedia Commons

Cotton to Cloth

Then a machine tore apart compressed cotton, removing dirt and short fibers.

Then picker or lappers continued organizing and cleaning cotton into even sheets.



By Clem Rutter, Rochester, Kent. \via Wikimedia Commons

By Clem Rutter, Rochester, Kent, via Wikimedia Commons

Carders fed these sheets into carding machines which tore the cotton apart with sharp metal teeth removing twigs and dirt and creating a loosely compacted rope that was coiled into cans.

Multiple strings were fed through a series of rollers and combined into a single strand, continuously working the strand to make it thinner.



Young boy on warping machine Elk Cotton Mills. Location: Fayetteville, Tennessee. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, Nov 1910. Courtesy Library of Congress

Young doffers in Elk Cotton Mills. Location: Fayetteville, Tennessee. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, Nov 1910. Courtesy Library of Congress

These threads were collected on bobbins.

As bobbins were filled "doffers" replaced them with empty ones.

Spinners moved quickly up and down a row of machines repairing breaks and snags.

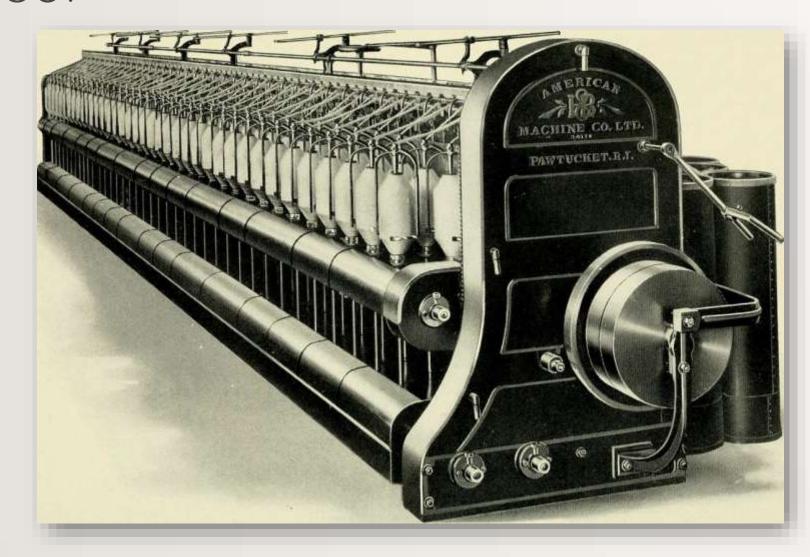


Two young spinners in Catawba Cotton Mills. Location: Newton, North Carolina. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, Dec 1908. Courtesy Library of Congress

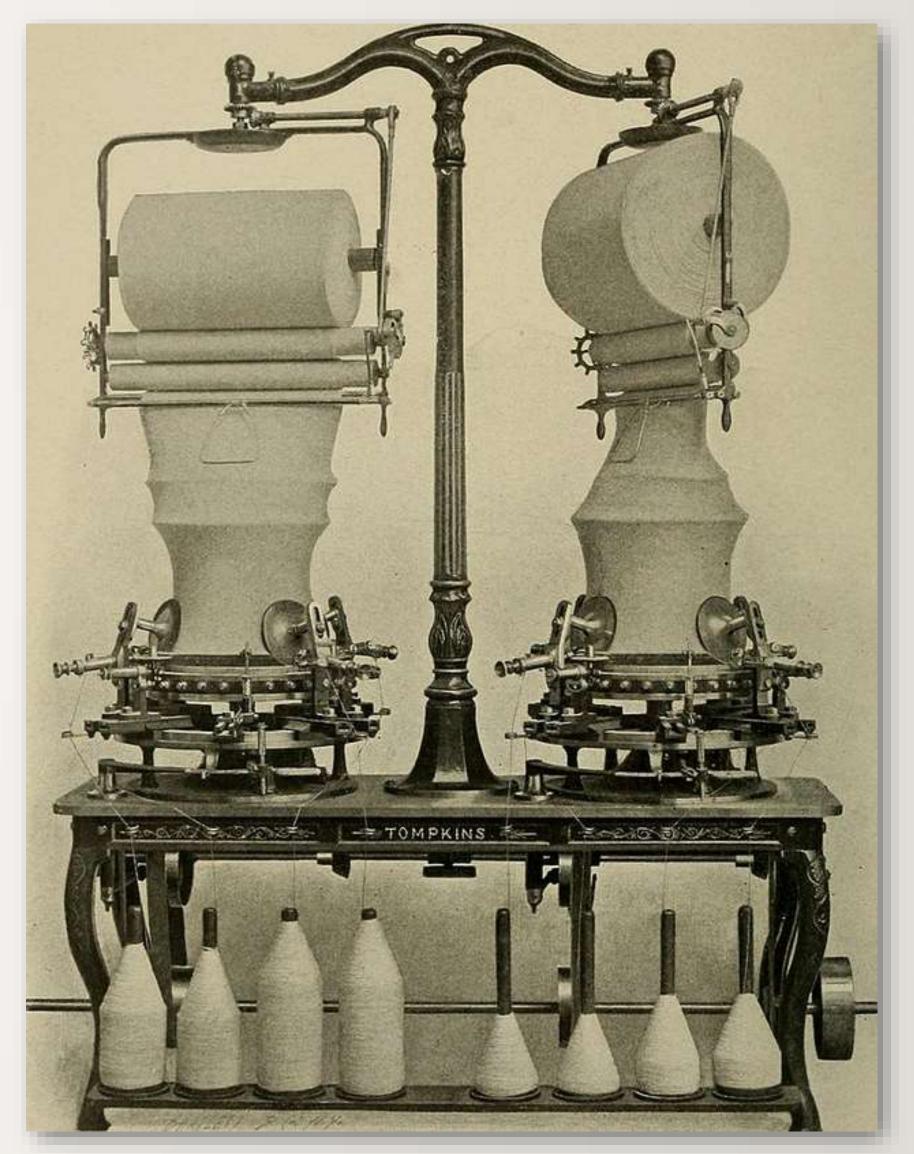
Operator of thread-making machine. Laurel cotton mill, Laurel, Mississippi. Photo by Russell Lee, Jan 1939. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Spoolers ran the machines that combined the thread from 10 to 15 bobbins. They could be wound into stronger multi-ply yarn.

Yarn could be wound into balls for sale, put into cops to use in shuttles for the loom or put onto the cones or other places for later use.



By Internet Archive Book Images via Wikimedia Commons



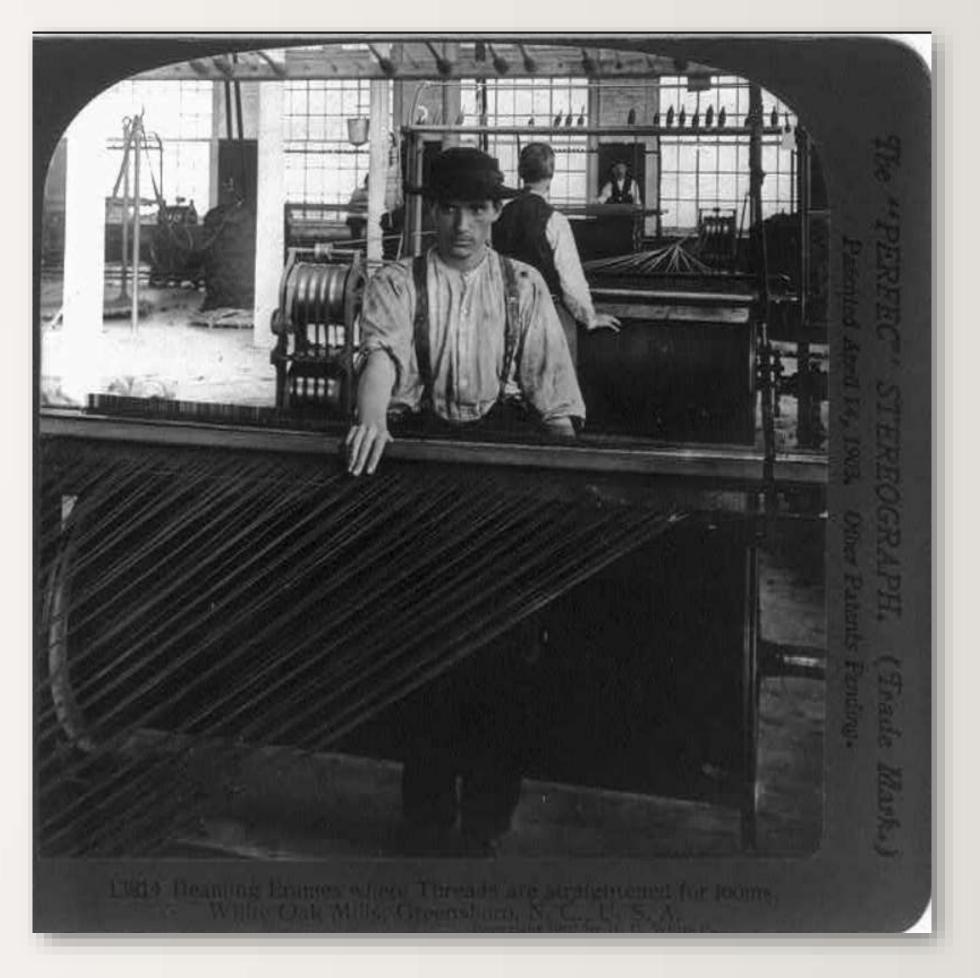
By Internet Archive Book Images via Wikimedia Commons

By Photograph by Clem Rutter, Rochester, Kent. (www.clemrutter.net). (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

Yarn that ran lengthwise, called warp, was interlaced with yarn running crosswise, called filling or weft.

Workers mounted yarn from the winder onto a frame called a creel.

Warpers directed the threads from each cone onto a beam, dipped in starch and oil, dried and wound onto a giant spool called a loom beam.



Beaming frames, where threads are straightened for looms, White Oak Mills, Greensboro, N.C. Photo by unknown, c 1907. Courtesy of Library of Congress



Weaving room, cotton mill, Augusta, Ga., U.S.A. Published by J F Jarvis, Jan 1892. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

From there, the weavers placed the beam on a loom and separated the threads to allow for introduction of the weft.

From there, the weft thread was brought in. The amount of effort and complexity of the cloth desired was dependent on the machine.



Weaving cotton cloth, Dallas Cotton Mills, Dallas, Texas. Published by Keystone View Company, c 1905. Courtesy Library of Congress

Interior of Magnolia (Miss) Cotton Mills spinning room. See the little ones scattered through the mill. All work. See also other Magnolia photos and labels. Location: Magnolia, Mississippi. Photo by Lewis Hickes Hine, Mar 1911. Photo Courtesy of Library of Congress

Working Conditions

The air in the mill had to be hot and humid to prevent the thread from breaking

The temperature was usually between 65° to 80° and 85% humidity was normal.

The air in was thick with cotton dust, which could cause lung disease, skin infections, eye infections, bronchitis and tuberculosis.

Interior of Magnolia (Miss) Cotton Mills spinning room. See the little ones scattered through the mill. All work. See also other Magnolia photos and labels. Location: Magnolia, Mississippi. Photo by Lewis Hickes Hine, Mar 1911. Photo Courtesy of Library of Congress

Working Conditions

The noise levels in a weaving shop was literally deafening.

Shuttles in looms were thumped 200 times a minute. Most who worked there had some level of deafness.

The lubrication was carcinogenic and led to cancers.



1903 Child Labor Laws

In 1900, North Carolina had the highest number of children between 10 and 15 working in mills.

About half were illiterate.

In 1903, NC passed a law stating that no child under 12 could work in a mill and children under 18 had to work < 66 hours a week.

Charley Humble. Said he was 10 years old. Has a regular job. Been helping his sister for some months in the Deep River Mills. Mother and sister work. Father deserted. Location: Randleman, NC. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, 1913. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

% of children ages 10-15 at work in selected states								
	1899			1909				
	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All		
North Carolina	55.1	23.5	29.5	57.5	34.1	45.9		
South Carolina	53.8	38.3	45.8	58.2	45.4	51.9		
United States	26.1	10.2	18.2	24.8	11.9	18.4		

% of children ages 10-15 at work in selected states									
	1899			1909					
	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All			
North Carolina	55.1	23.5	29.5	57.5	34.1	45.9			
South Carolina	53.8	38.3	45.8	58.2	45.4	51.9			
United States	26.1	10.2	18.2	24.8	11.9	18.4			

Holleran, Philip M. "Family Income and Child Labor in Carolina Cotton Mills." *Social Science History* 21, no. 3 (1997): 297-320. doi:10.2307/1171617.

Child Wages

In a representative South Carolina cotton mill, doffer aged:

- 12 years were paid \$3.54 per week
- 13 years were paid 3.92 per week
- 14 years were paid 5.04 per week
- 15 years were paid 4.75 per week

http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/mckelway/mckelway.html



Young doffers in Mollahan Mills, Newberry, S.C. Dec. 3/08. Witness, Sara R. Hine. Location: Newberry, South Carolina / Photo by Lewis W. Hine.



Why was Lewis Wickes Hine taking pictures of North Carolina mill children?





Born in Oshkosh, WI

Heice Douglas of n m 50

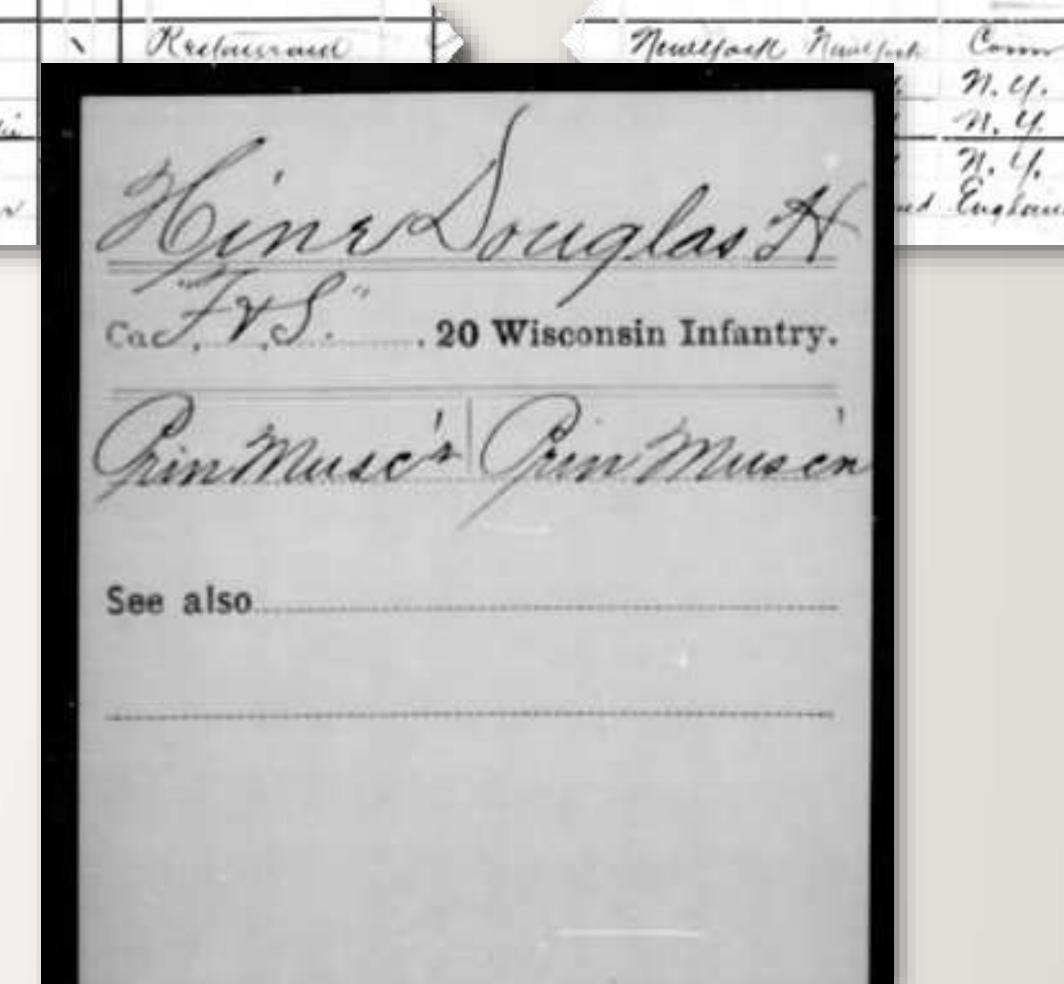
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Bush Thomas of n m 31 boarder

Son of Douglas and Sarah Hine

Douglas was a Principle Musician for the 20th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War.



He studied sociology at the University of Chicago.

He went on to teach photography at the Ethical Culture School and sociology at Ellis Island.

He took over 200 photographs of immigrants at Ellis Island and realized that photography could be used for social change.



Climbing into the Promised Land Ellis Island. Photo by Lewis Hine, c 1908, via Wikimedia Commons

Adolescent Girl, Spinner, in a Carolina Cotton Mill. Photo by Lewis W. Hine, American, 1874–1940 (Princeton University Art Museum), via Wikimedia Commons

In 1908 he became the photographer for the National Child Labor Committee focusing on the use of child labor in the Carolina Piedmont.

While documenting the mills he was threatened and harassed. He often posed as a fire inspector or some other profession to get into the mills.

Children of night superintendent, in Dickson Mill, Laurinburg, N.C.

Bessie Moore - runs 4 sides. Has worked two years nights.

Frank (smallest). Doffs. Has worked 2 yrs. nights.

George (largest). Looked 12 years old. Doffs3 years of night work, was proud of the fact that he could write his name.

Mother said they rather work nights because they had to put in fewer hours then.



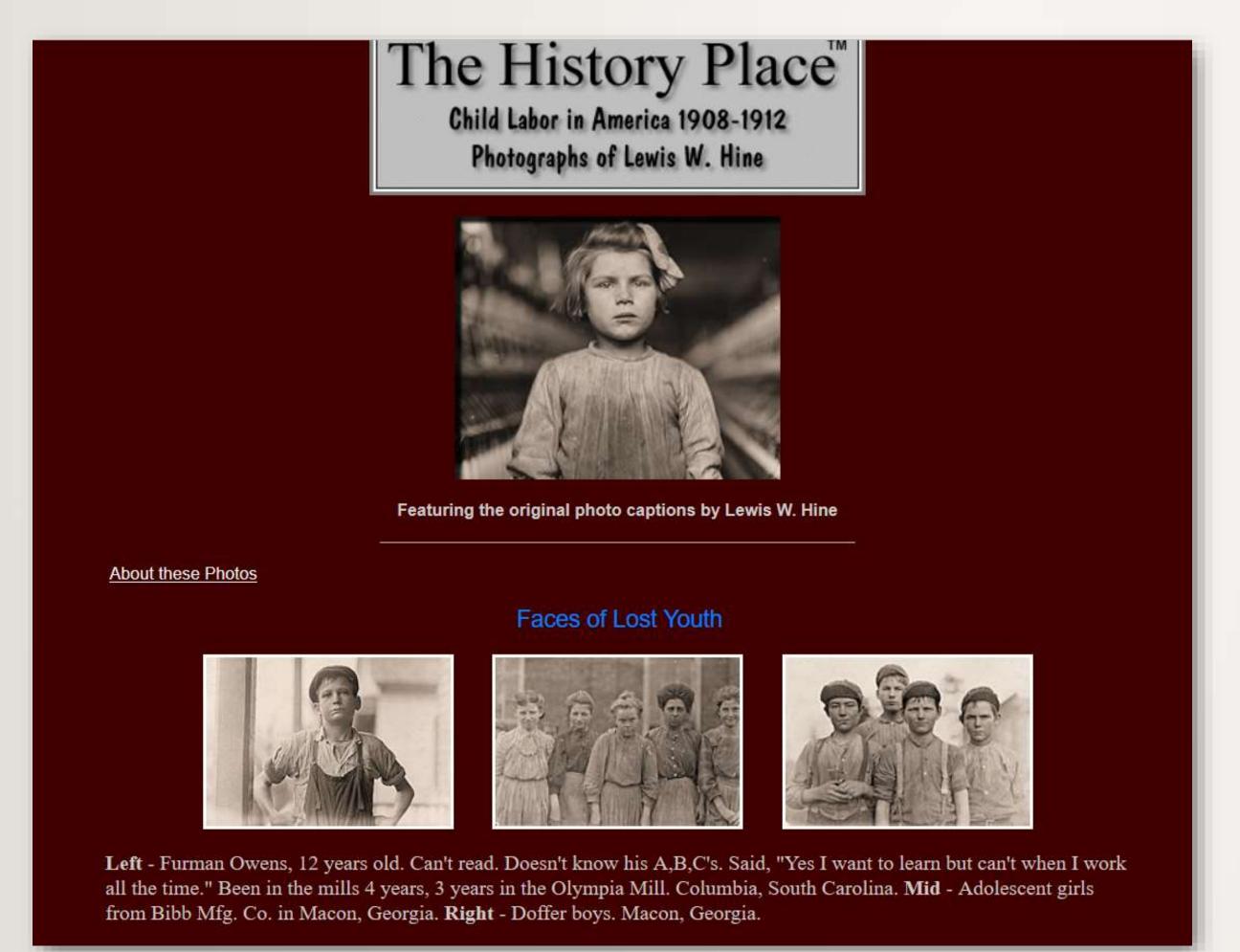
Photo by Lewis W. Hine, 6 Dec 1908. Courtesy of Library of Congress. Witness, Sara R. Hine. Location: Laurinburg, North Carolina

In 1936 he worked as the photographer for the WPA's National Research Project.

Near the end of his life he struggled financially as he lost government and corporate patronage.



The History Place: Child Labor in America 1908-1912



http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/



Life in the Mill Villages

Life in the Mills

Mills were often built outside of city limits and near water supplies.

Being outside the city limits the mills built churches, schools, other necessary buildings for the workers to use.

The built homes for the workers to rent.



The morning attendance at the mill school. Location: Huntsville, Alabama. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, Dec 1913. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

High Shoals (N.C.) School. This is average attendance. Enrollment is 80. Only one other school in town and about 15 attend that. Population of town is about 1000. Where are the rest of the children? This school is supported principally by the Mill Co. (Partly by County). Betterment work is being started. Mill superintendent is very suspicious of Photographers. Couldn't get any of mill children. Location: High Shoals, North Carolina. Photo by Lewis W. Hine, 9 Nov 1908. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Daniel Tompkins thoughts...

It should never be forgotten that the moral shortcomings of working people, and of employers alike, are more properly reached by the preacher and the teacher than by law. Many who discuss this subject of improving the condition of working people seem to fall into the error of thinking that labor laws can be made to reform a drunkard or cure laziness.

Schools in the Mill Village

Dotheboys Hall in session tucked away upstairs over the store. Equipped with antique, dilapidated benches and chairs.

Lessons begin at 6 A.M. and last for six hours, and these children who attend in the morning go into the mill in the afternoon and vice versa for the required eight weeks, which the law specifies.

Taking everything into consideration it shows what travesty vocational guidance may become, and is in itself the best example of Dotheboys Hall I have ever seen.

-- notes from Lewis Wickes Hine

Location: Huntsville, Alabama. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, Dec 1913. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Contract from Pelzer Mill, SC

First clause required school attendance....

....That all children, members of my family, between the ages of five and twelve years, shall enter the school maintained by said company at Plezer, and shall attend every school day during the school session, unless prevented by sickness or unavoidable causes....

Second clause required children older than 12 had to work in the mill. Employees who did not meet these rules, could be fired from the mill and evicted from the village.

In 1880, 75% of the adult Pelzer mill population were illiterate. By 1902, only 20% were.

Mill Housing

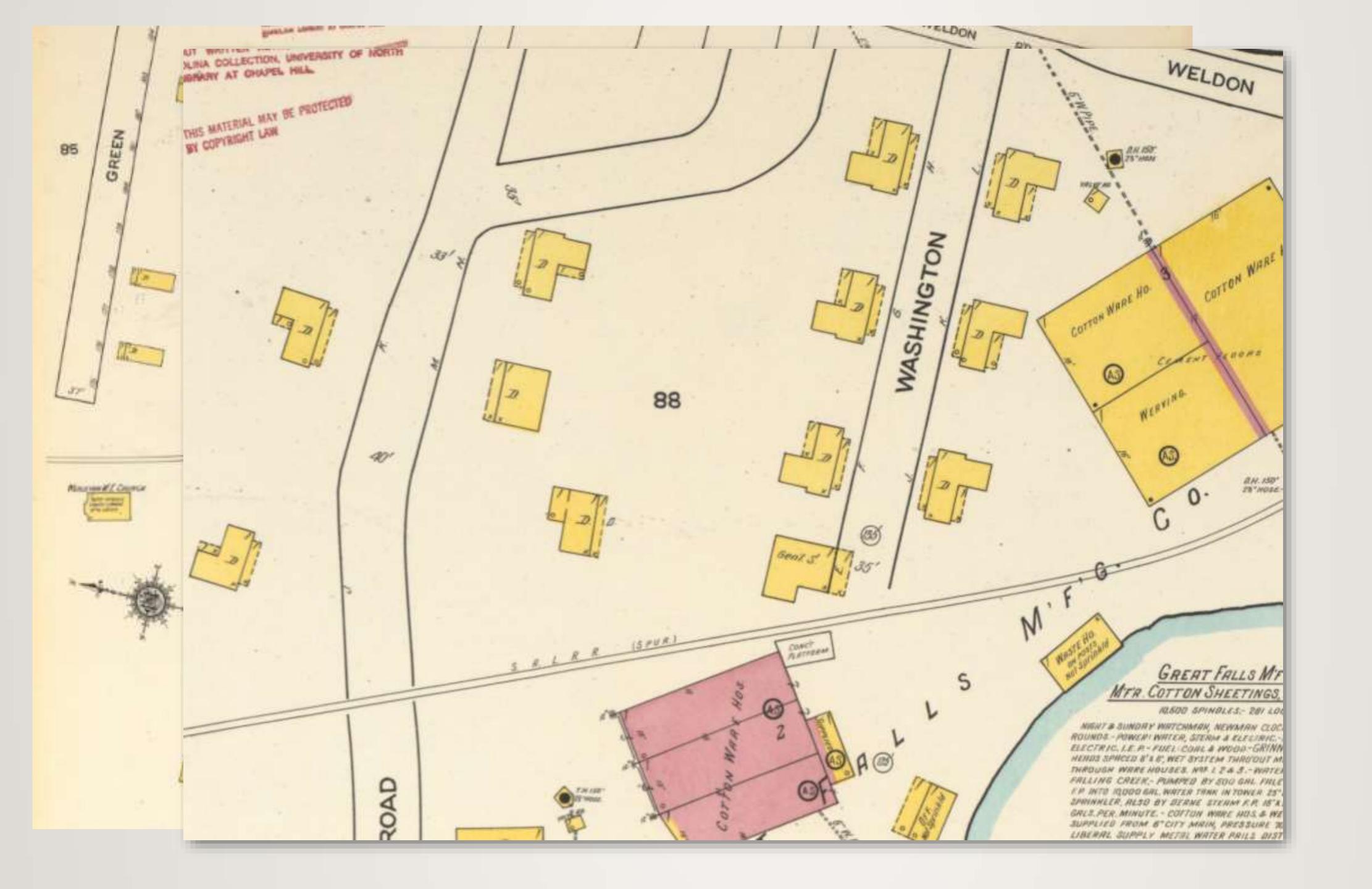


A row of houses of the cotton mill people. Lydia Mills, Clinton, S.C. Witness, Sara R. Hine. Location: Clinton, South Carolina. Photo by Lewis Wickes Hine, 2 Dec 1908. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Mill Villages often supplied housing for their workers.

Tompkins suggested:

There is a rough rule that the house ought to furnish one operative for each room in the house. Thus a factory with 300 employees, would require 100 houses having an average of 3 rooms each.



Mill Housing

The general estimate was one room per employee.

Mills would charge anywhere from 20 cents to a dollar a room per month.

Usually there was no running water or sewage.

Often there was land set aside for farming or gardening.

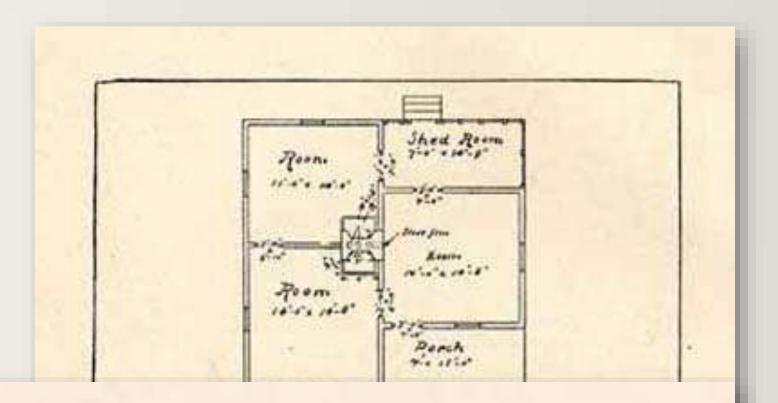




Fig. 33. Three-Room Gable House. Cost \$325

Images from Cotton Mill, Commercial Features. A Text-Book for the Use of Textile Schools and Investors. With Tables Showing Cost of Machinery and Equipments for Mills Making Cotton Yarns and Plain Cotton Cloths. Documenting the American South. (http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/tompkins/tompkins.html)

Working day

The work days were long.

In the Pelzer Mill, the factory whistle blew at 4:15 and workers reported for work at 6:00am working 12 hours.

Many worked half a day on Saturday and no work on Sundays.

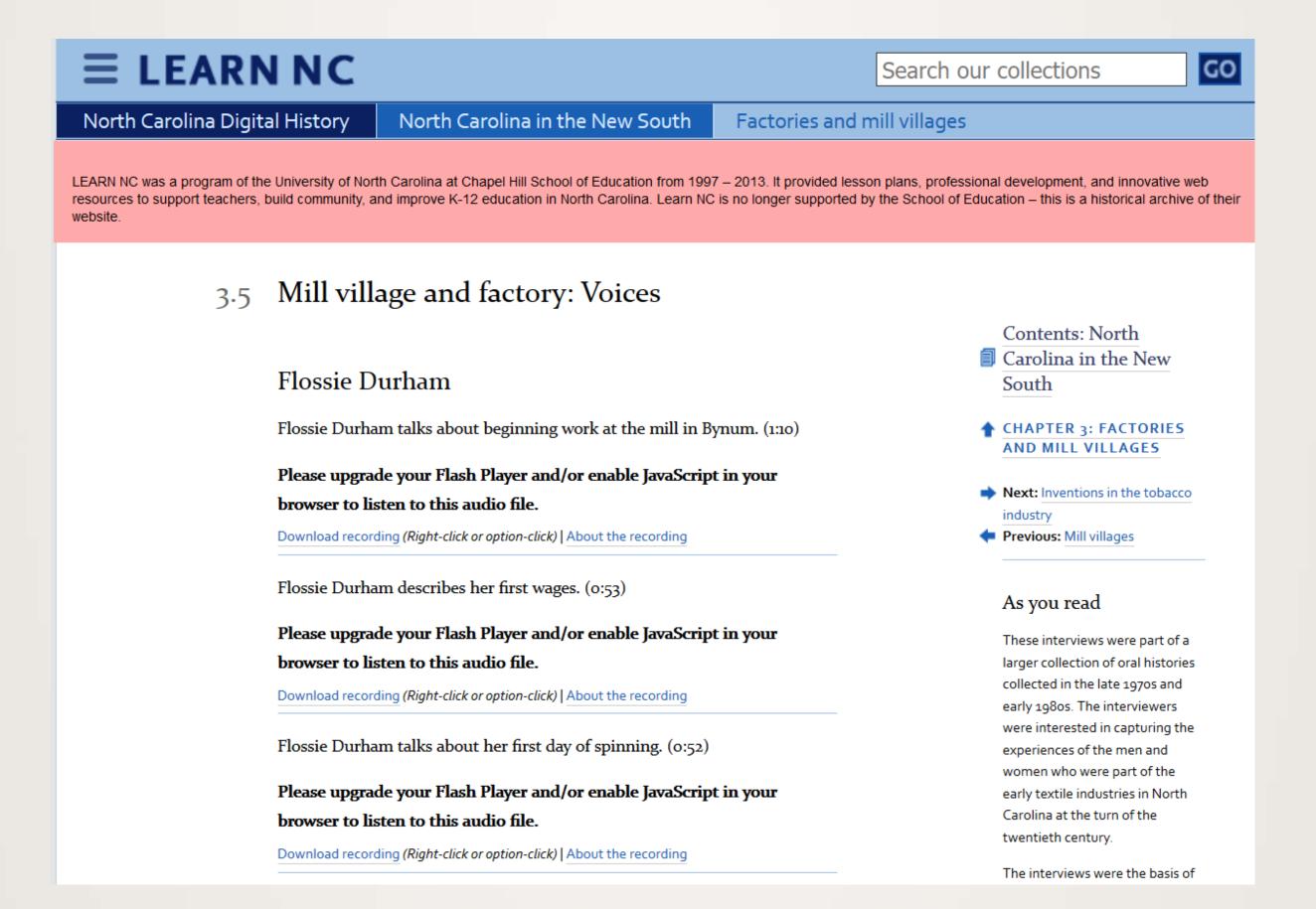
Which is a 66 hour work week.



Ozark Mill, Gastonia, N.C. Work 12 hours at a stretch. No special time off to eat. "Eat a-workin'." 9:00 P.M. Friday, Nov. 6, 1908. Mill was running. Location: Gastonia, North Carolina. Photo by Lewis W. Hine. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Recordings of Former Mill Workers

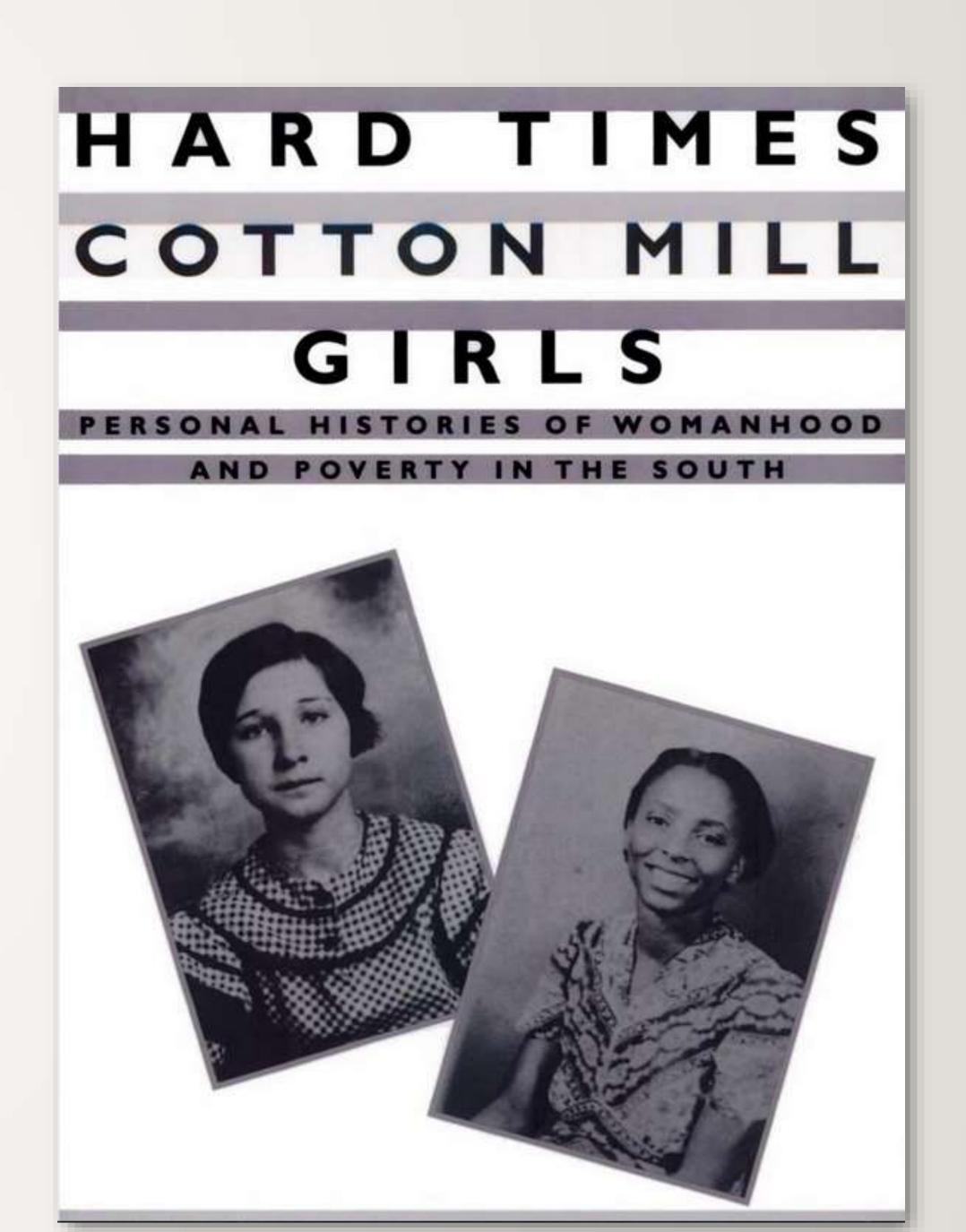
http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newsouth/5494

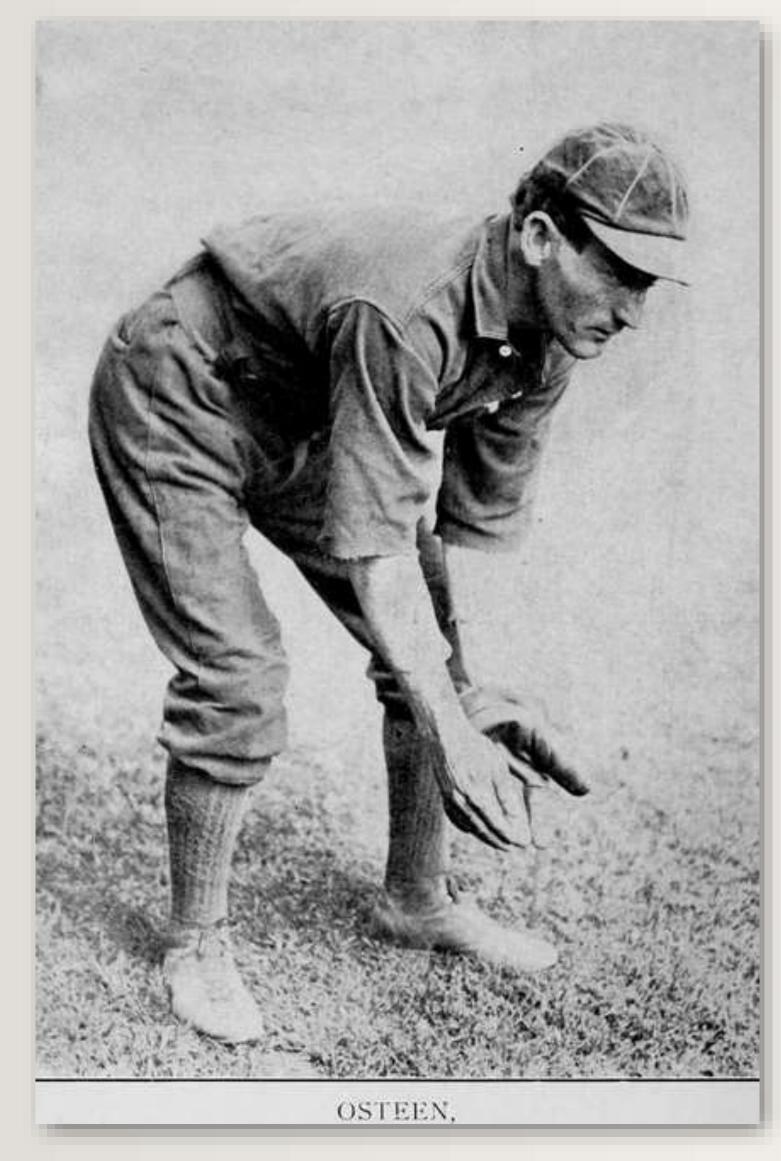


More Stories

Hard Times Cotton Mill Girls: Personal Histories of Womanhood and Poverty in the South

By Victoria Morris Byerly





Major League Player Champ Osteen via Wikimedia Commons

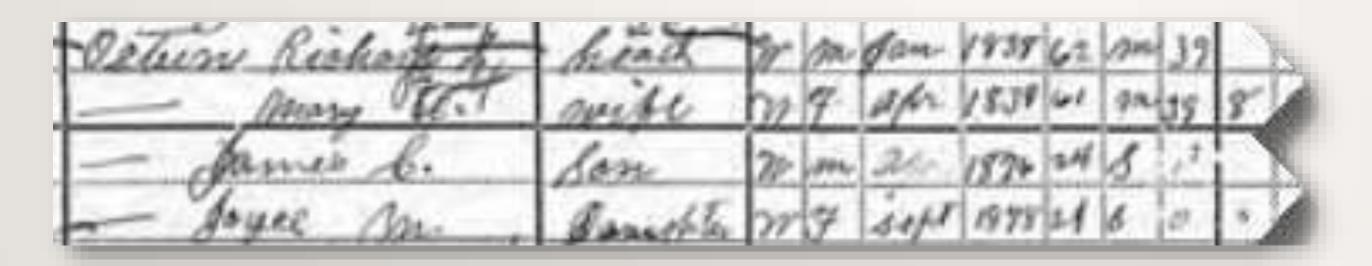
Baseball

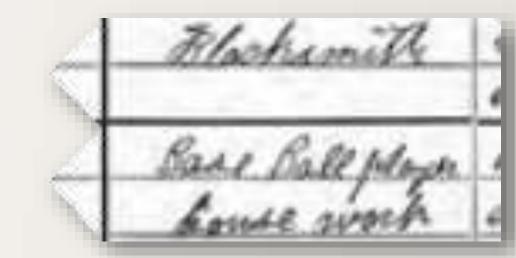
- Baseball (or base ball as it was spelled around 1920) became entertainment in the south.
- Mills supported their own teams separate from town teams.
- "Lintheads" and "townies" kept themselves separate.
- Players could earn \$40 a month plus room and board

James "Champ" Osteen

He first started playing for the Piedmont Mill team when he was 15 and remained with the team until 1900.

He helped them win the Textile League Championship in 1899 on a team that included Davy Crockett and Rome Chambers.





1910 Census, Williamston, Anderson County, SC. James Osteen is a Base Ball player and lives with his parents.

James "Champ" Osteen

But a baseball career wasn't enough. He followed his father into blacksmithing and his children worked in the mills.



James Osteen

It was hard for families to escape mill life.

It was not uncommon to find generations working in the mills

Wherein Champ Osteen Speaks A Piece Of Mind On War, Baseball

THAMP OSTEEN, who played with four different major league clubs and made just about all the minor teams in

his time and closed out his own family team o that sports should be the works of war.

Thoughts of war a the one-time famous b yesterday on a blacks stockade where he is e assistant jailer. He was en to Uncle Sam's arm



The Greenville News(Greenville, South Carolina)31 Mar 1943, p 11

James Osteen, 86, Dies At Home Of Son Friday the r

former blacksmith and welder Daisy O. Stribling of Greenville, who was Greenville's first base- Mrs. Mary O. Harris, Mrs. Janie ball player to break into the O. Stone, and Mrs. Carl Hughey major leagues, died yesterday at of Piedmont, and Mrs. Varnell the age of 86.

Mr. Osteen, who had been ill for several years and partially blind most of the time, died at the home of his son, Harry Osteen of Old Grove Road, Rt. 2, Piedmont, at 12:15 p.m.

VIEWED PARADE

He continued active as long as his health would permit and two years ago he was one of the thousands who viewed the Santa Claus parade in the vicinity of The Greenville News building, where he was a frequent visitor with old friends.

He preceded an old friend, the late Shoeless Joe Jackson, into the big leagues. Jackson died several years ago.

"Champ," as Mr. Osteen was

By JAMES W. THOMPSON | Mrs. Elsie O. Holcombe, Mrs. wher James C. (Champ) Osteen, a Elvie O. Lancaster, and Mrs. Dowis of Ninety Six; three sons, Ministration





Where were the African Americans?

Race and the Mills

Cotton and other textile mills were highly segregated.

Black men might be hired but mostly to do menial and labor intensive work.

Black women and children weren't hired at all.



African Americans around small building and wagons loaded with cotton. Photographer unknown, c 1922.



Five African American girls baking in kitchen. Photographer unknown. Btw 1925-1930. Courtesy Library of Congress

Domestic Work

Black women and girls were often hired to work as domestic help.

Days were long, pay was poor and no one was home taking care of their children.

Warren Clay Coleman

Warren was born in 1849, a slave.

He was the son of Roxanna Coleman, a slave owned by Daniel Coleman, and Rufus Clay Barringer, a Confederate General.

After the Civil War he was bound to William M Coleman who educated and trained Warren.



From the exhibit titled the "Negro Exhibit," put together by W. E. B. Du Bois, at the Paris Exposition of 1900, in Paris, France, via Wikimedia Commons

Howard University. Building and courtyard at Howard University. Photo by Theodor Horydczak, btw 1920-1950. Courtesy Library of Congress

Warren Clay Coleman

Warren was released in 1870 and after a short stay in Alabama began a business in Concord, North Carolina.

He became one of the town's richest merchants.

He also attended Howard University.

Coleman Manufacturing Co.

Warren lined up financing for a cotton mill that would employee black people.

He announced the project in Feb 1897 and the mill began production in Jun 1901.



Coleman Manufacturing Co., a Negro operated cotton mill, Concord, N.C. Photographer unknown, c 1899

The Coleman Mill.

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The Charlotte correspondent of the Atlanta Journal sends the following in regard to the Coleman cotton mill here, under date of April 6:

"The Coleman mill contains 5,200 spindles, 140 looms and 22 cards, besides other necessary machinery. The power is furnished by a 250 horse power engine and two 100 horse power boilers. The building is three stories, the first floor containing the

looms, the second the cards and

Coleman Mill for Sale.

Concord, May 26 -The Coleman Mill is advertised for sale under execution, at Greenst other negret the sale to be made upon the care of J. not come f E. Stag, trustee. There is a considerable debt hanging over the property, and the future of the mill is very uncertain. This is the mill that was orthere for c ganized and controlled and worked by receive for colored people, and has been watched said recen with a good deal of interest. As to its that the n ever being able to pay anything on its money, it investment, experience so far indicates ference to that it cannot.

> The Greensboro Patriot (Greensboro, North Carolina) 1 Jun 1904, p 10

Warren Clay Coleman

In 1902, when the textile industry suffered an economic downturn, he struggled to keep the mill running.

Warren resigned as president in Dec 1903 and the mill was sold to Cannon mills in 1904, The building later became Cannon Plant #9.

point, and that later there would be a uniform rate of wages among the negroes. "To avoid any race conflicts the mill employing negro labor has been located outside of town and some distance from the other Concord mills."

The Concord Times (Concord, North Carolina) Apr 12, 1900, p. 3

Stewart Goes to Gastonia, N. C., to Get Story of Stifteen Strikers Fighting Threat of Death Chair

(The first of a series of articles written from the scene of action to the Gastonia textile workers' mut-

By CHARLES P. STRWART

Central Press Staff Witter CASTONIA, N. G., July 20. --While here digging up what information I can concerning the testtille teitil improbles which just now are arriving at a limax in the prosecution-with the electric chair as its object-of to labor organizers acoused of responsibility for the recent liffling of Gastonia's chief of police,

O. F. Adirbult -- Bight while I was pushing this tittle imprity of my own two menttodicted, under elepteratures that seemed to me highly signifficant in connection with the Aderheit tra-

gody, hast. The indicaments were not recorned at Oasterns, but at the neighboring county sent of Cher-

Charlotte is in Mecklenburg county; Gasteria in Oaster.

The Catawha street, which marks the boundary between the two counties, in spanned by various

As the grand jury at Charlette heard the clary from several wilaesses, Palloemen Arthur J. Roach and W. Tom Gilbert of Gustonia created won of these bridges to "a state of drungenness and disorder on the afternoon of June 1, feil foul



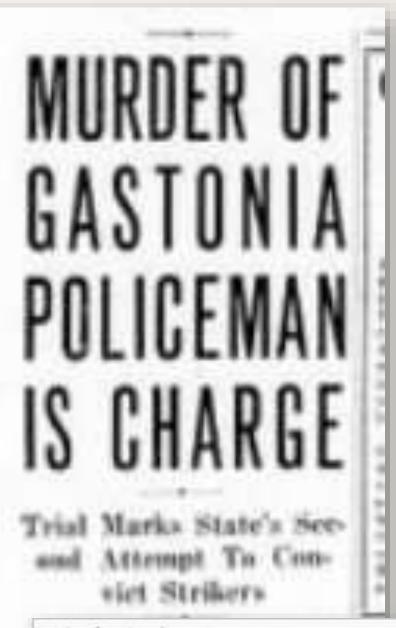
Civil Unrest

Loray Mill Strike

Ella May Wiggins

and

Orville Frank Aderholt



Witness Says Man in Mob Following Truck Said "Let's Get Them Out of Here or Kill Byeryone of Them."

semer City textile worker, was killed, testified in court that he heard threats against the visiting textile workers.

"Let's get them out of here or kill everyone of them," an unidentified

trial.

Ella May Wiggins was killed while she and 22 other national textile union workers were being chased out of Gastonia on the afternoon of Saturday, September 14. The communists had started from Bessemer City in George Lingerfelt's truck for an activatived communist speaking in south Vertised communist speaking in south Gastonia. When they reached Airline avenue near the Loray mill the truck stopped and the communists were told not to go to the speaking ground. Charlotte, Feb. 26.—T. F. Wilson, told not to go to the speaking ground. of York, S. C., who was in Gastonia The truck was turned around and The truck was turned Bessemer City. started back toward Bessemer City. It was held up at a signal light and men in cars, witnesses testified, surrounded the truck. When the light changed, the truck started out of Gastonia and was followed, some witnessman who was in the mob following cs said, by 50 or 75 automobiles filled

Gastoria, N. C., Loray Cotton Mill (67,000 Spindles)

Frost Torrence & Co., Druggists, Gastonia, N.C., via Wikimedia Commons

Loray Mill

Loray Mill was one of the largest mills in the state.

In the 1920s, to increase profits management introduced the "stretchout" system, which increased work and reduced pay.

This idea was not popular.



Orville was the son of William Marcus Aderholt and Eliza C

Born 1874 in Lincoln County.

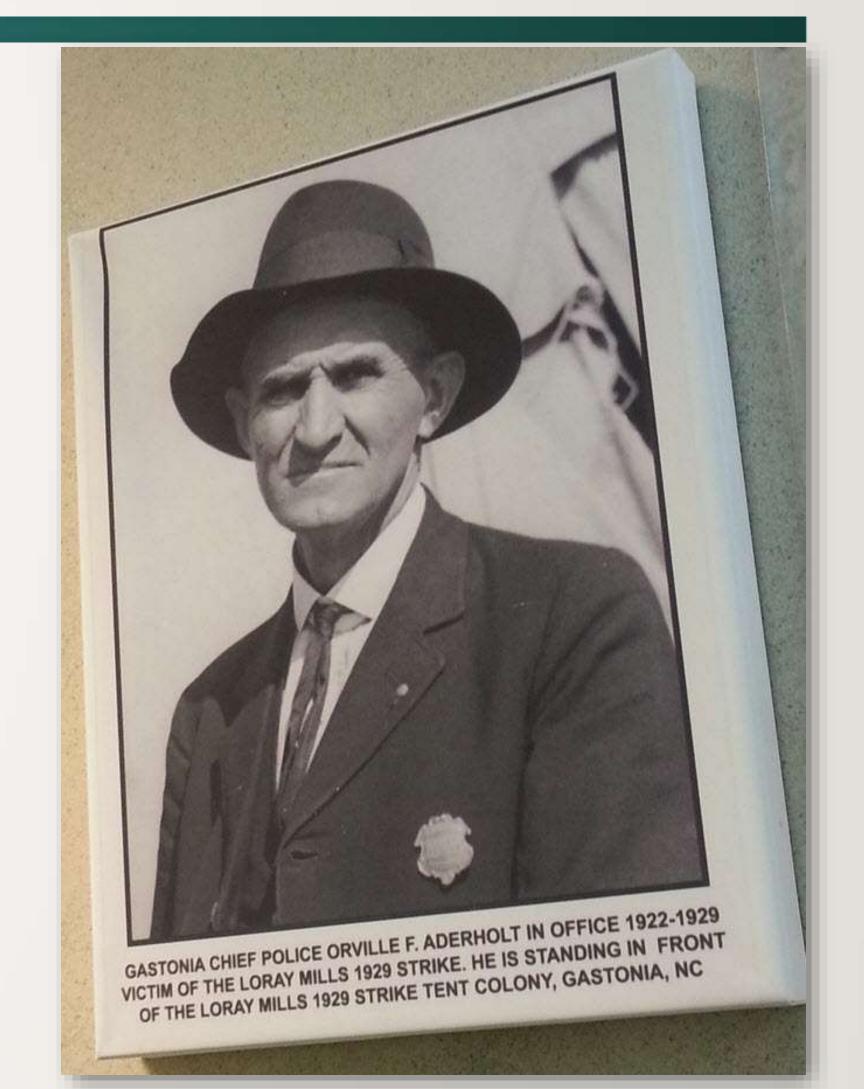
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In (County.	8	L	i i	1						1	1		
or of violation.	The Name of each Person whose place of abode, on lot day of Jane, 1880, was in this family.	F; Nalstin, Na.		to June L. 1888.	a year, give the m	Relationship of each person to the head of this family— whether wife, see, daughter, servant, hearder, or other.	(3)	Profession, Occupation each person, male or			1	1	Ser Common years,	P
translated to cod		Mrs, W., Black,	b, M., French, F	at Nothing pales	eithin the Crass		, Mineral			/	1	1	17	/ 'di
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Maimed, Crippled, Bedridde

Orville Frank Aderholt (1874-1929)

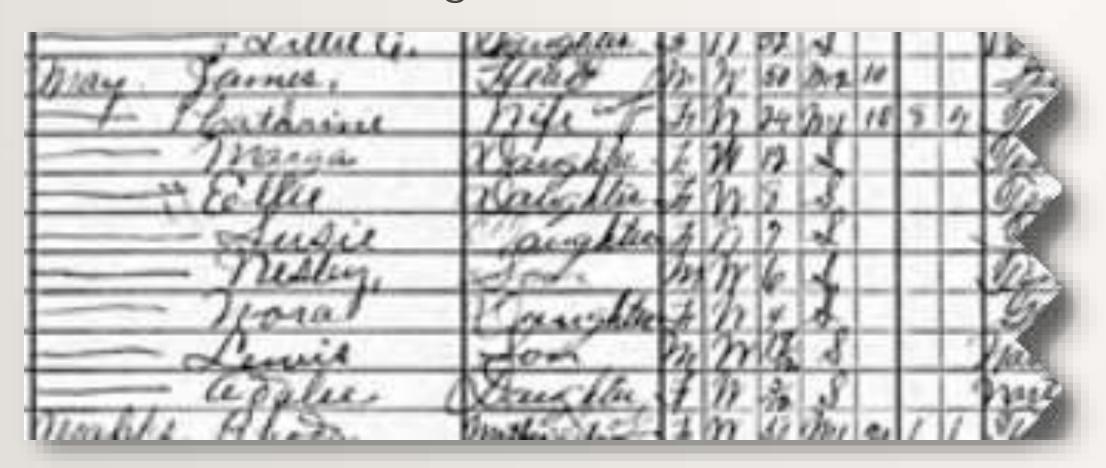
He married Nannie L Turbyfill in 1899 and they had 7 children.

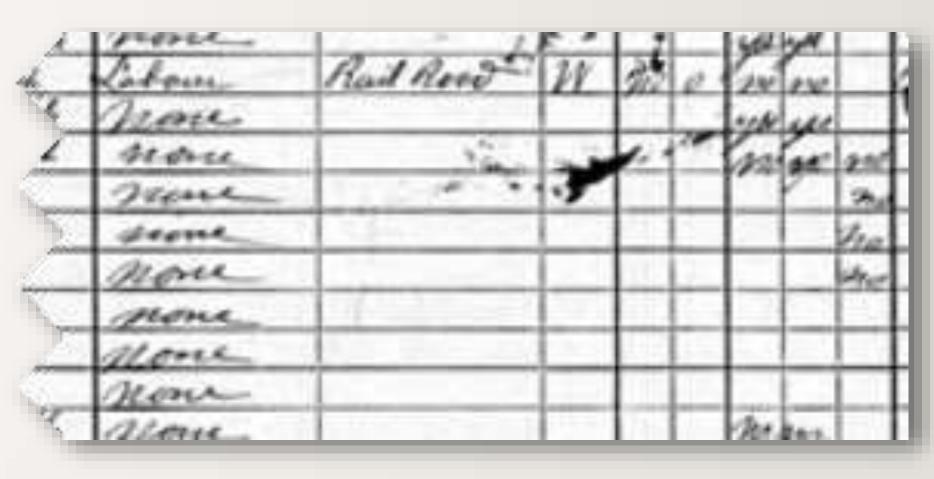
He worked first as a lumber dealer and finally as a Police Chief for the City of Gastonia.



Ella May was the daughter of James Emanual May and Lucretia Catherine Maples

She was born in Tennessee in 1900 and moved with her family to North Carolina looking for work in the mills.

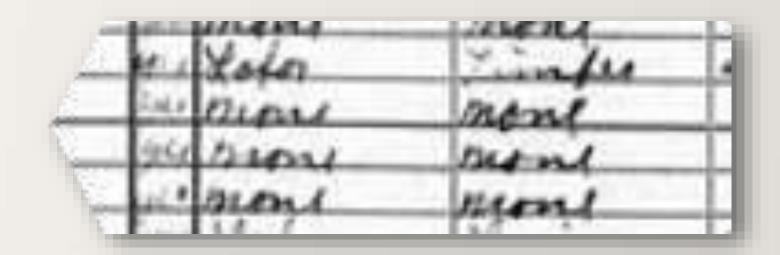




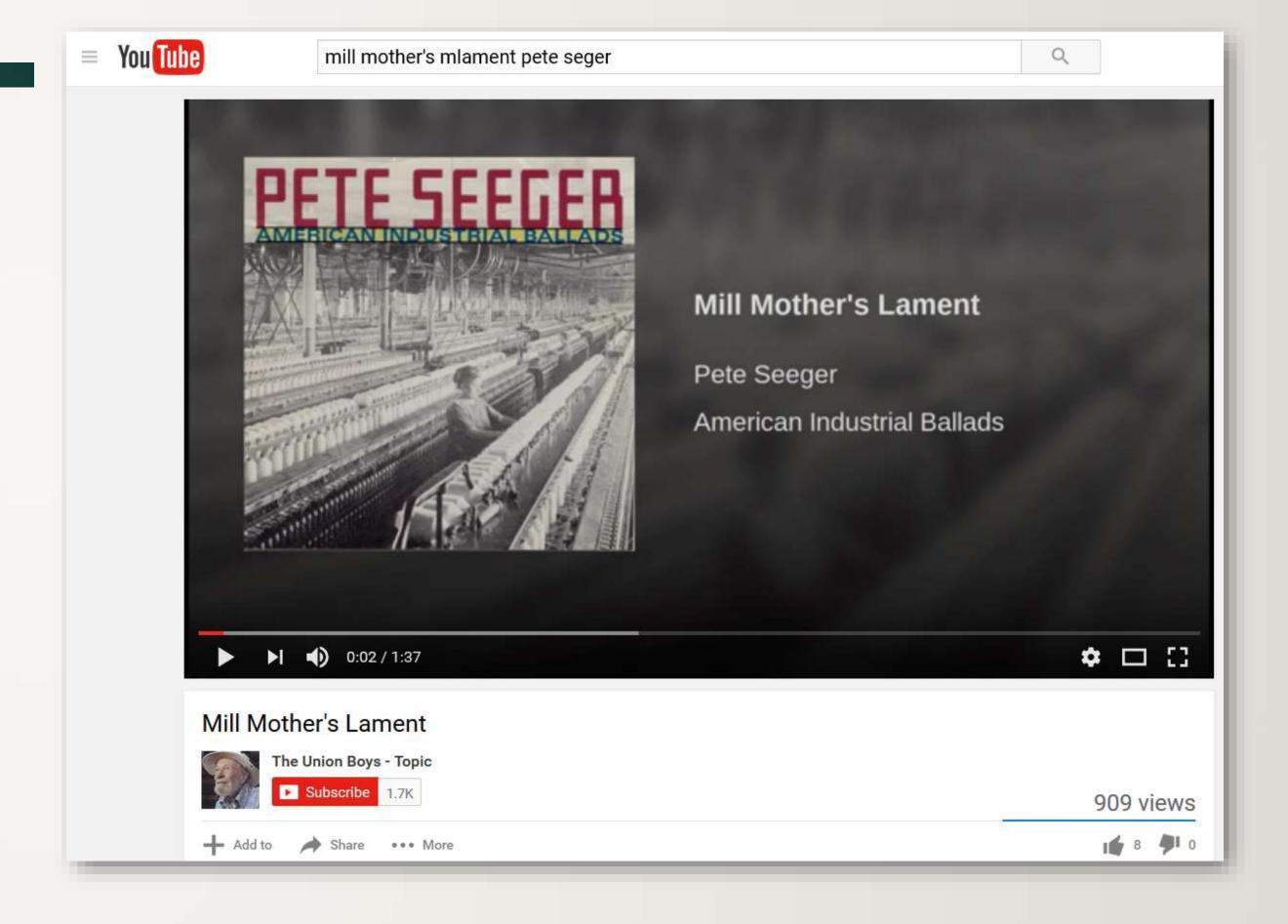
She married John Wiggins in 1898 and they had 10 children, four who died young of whooping cough.

John deserted the family before 1920 leaving Ella to care for the children and earn a living.





She joined the Labor movement and began writing protest songs and poems.



She joined the Labor movement and began writing protest songs and poems.

Song: Mill Mother's Lament Lyrics: Ella May Wiggins⁽¹⁾

Music: Year: 1929 Genre:

Country: USA

We leave our home in the morning, We kiss our children good-bye, While we slave for the bosses, Our children scream and cry.

And when we draw our money,
Our grocery bills to pay,
Not a cent to spend for clothing,
Not a cent to lay away.

And on that very evening, Our little son will say, "I need some shoes, dear mother, And so does sister May."

How it grieves the heart of a mother, You every one must know, But we can't buy for our children, Our wages are too low.

Now listen to me, workers, Both women and men, We are sure to win our union, If all would enter in. I hope this will be a warning, I hope you will understand, And help us win our victory, And lend to us a hand.

It is for our little children,
That seem to us so dear,
But for us nor them, dear workers,
The bosses do not care.

Q

But understand, all workers, Our union they do fear, Let's stand together, workers, And have a union here.

Fred Beal & the NTWU

Fred Beal one of the leaders of the National Textile Workers Union, a communist labor union, decided Loray would be a great place to stage a strike and gain a foothold in the in the textile mills down south.

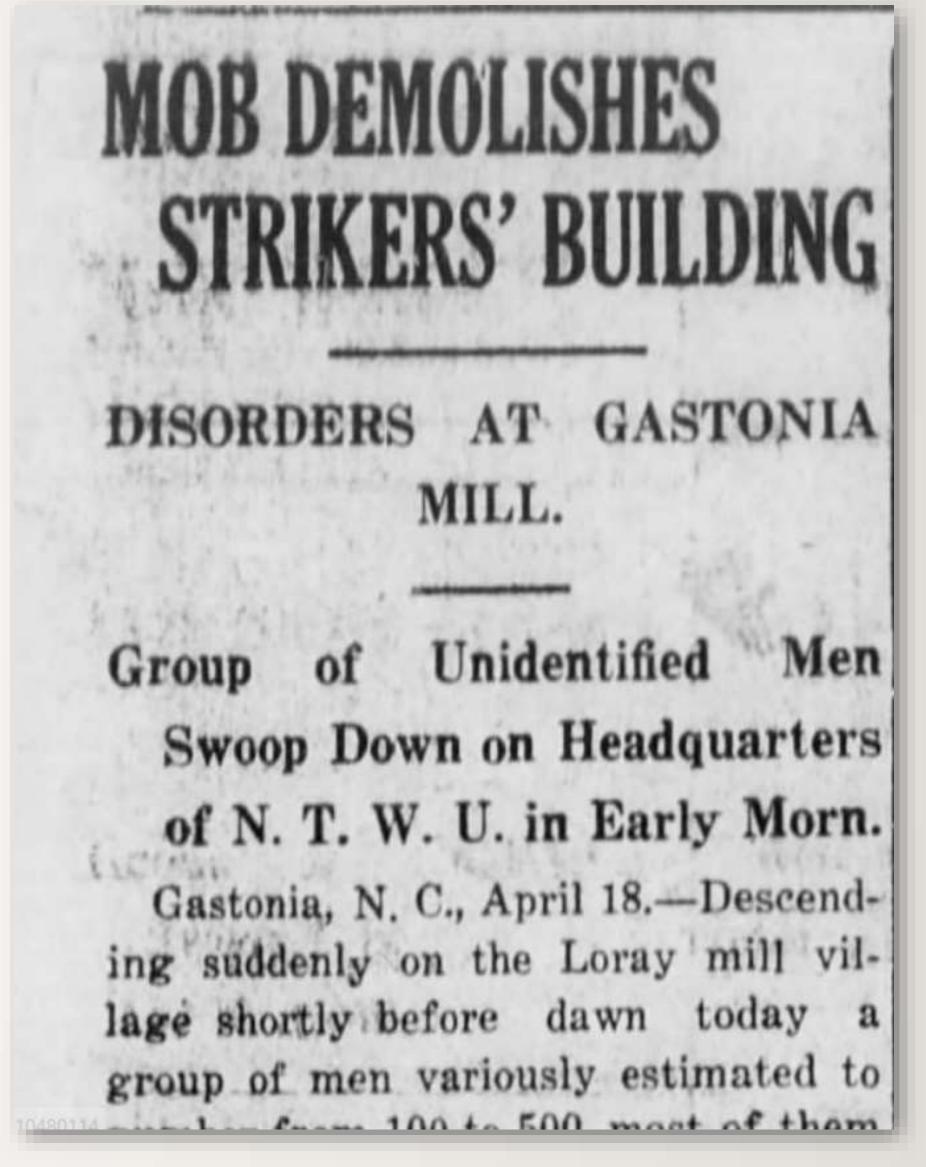
The NTWU began organizing and the strike began March 30, 1929



Strike Continues

The strike went on for many weeks.

Tensions increased.



The Gaffney Ledger (Gaffney, South Carolina) 20 Apr 1929, p 6

7 Jun 1929: OF Aderholdt is shot



O F Aderholt

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rly class	7 Age years Months Days If LESS than	and that death occurred, on the date stated a
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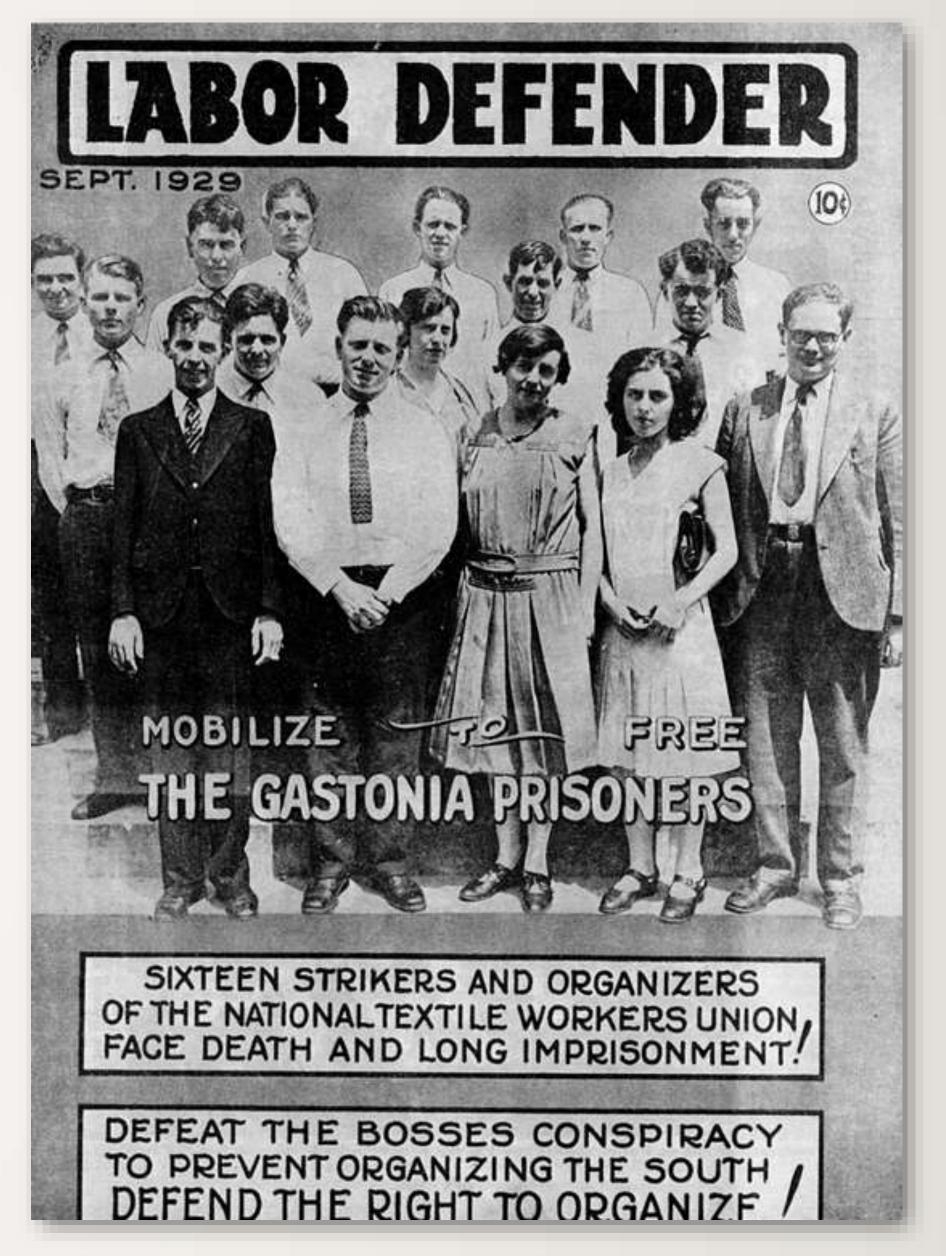
Dies on June 8th, 1929

Trial and Aftermath

16 people were indicted for the murder of Aderholt.

A juror went insane at the trial and a mistrial was declared.

In September, mobs of men tried to drive the strikers out of the county.



By State Archives of North Carolina Raleigh, NC, via Wikimedia Commons

The abrupt ending of the trial was followed by a flare-up of mob violence in Gastonia during which the mob raided Communist and union headquarters in Gastonia and Charlotte and a section of the mob kidnaped Ben Wells, British textile worker. C. M. Lell, and C. D. Saylors, and to Cabarrus where Wells was flogged. Out of this incident grew an investigation Judge Thomas J. Shaw resulting in seven men, employes of cotton mills, being held to the Cabarrus and Gaston superior courts on charges of kidnaping and assault. The mob violence continued sporadically for two weeks and on Sept. 14 Mrs. Ella May Wiggins, a striker from Bessemer City was shot and Seven men are held in connection with this incident. A few days later Cleo Tesenair, a union organizer, was kidnaped at Kings Mountain and carried to South Carolina and flogged. Since the Tesenair flogging there has been no further trouble.

Murder of Ella May Wiggins

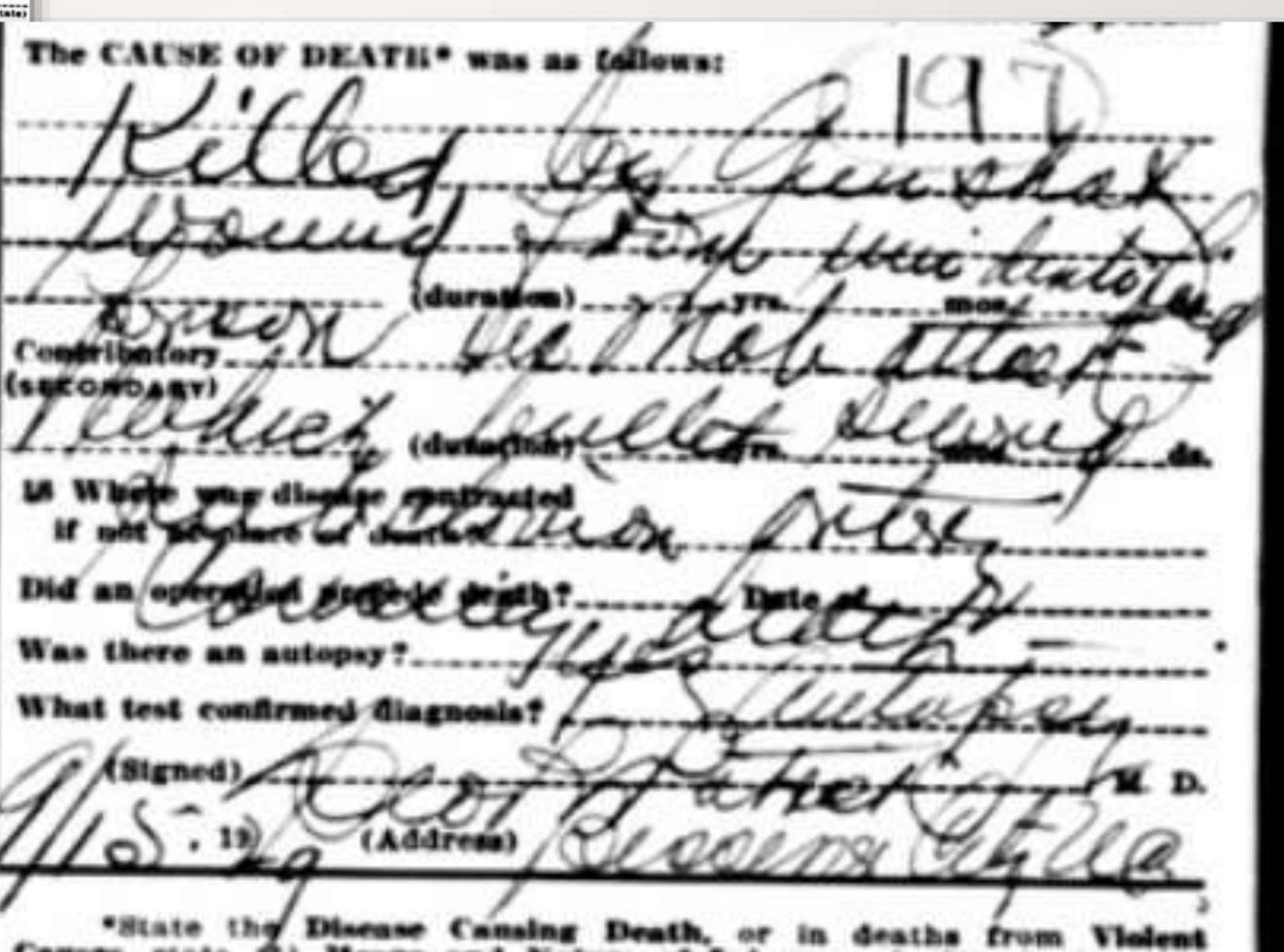
In September Ella and others went to Washington DC to talk to senators about conditions in the mills.

She returned to Gastonia, and on September 14 she was riding in the back of a pickup truck with her brothers and was shot and killed.

The strike ended soon after that.

https://www.ourstate.com/loray-mill-strike/

(a) Receivence. No. (Count place of abode) Length of residence in thy or toon where death occurred pr. PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS 2 Sex 4 Color or Race or Divorced (write the word) Sa If married, widowed, or divorced (a) Wife of 4 Date of Birth (month, day, and year) T Age years Months So Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of word (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in whice employer (c) Name of employer (c) Name of employer (c) Name of employer (Eliza or country) Did an operated give city or town) (State or country) 11 Mirthplace (city or town) (State or country) (State or country) Washington (Address) (Address) (Address) (Address) (Address) (Address) (Address) (Address)	Township County	No	State // C / Begiste
2 Sex 4 Color or Race or Diverced (write the word) 2 Martin Widowed, or diverced Husband of (or) Wife of Way, and year) 3 Date of Birth (month day, and year) 4 Date of Birth (month day, and year) 5 Date of Birth (month day, and year) 5 Date of Birth (month day, and year) 7 Age years Months and I day, here or min. 8 Occupation of deceased (a) Trade, Profession, or particular kind of work which and that death occurred, on the date stated about the care of the care	(Usual place of abode)	may wigge	Ward. (If nonresident give city or
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The children of Ella May Wiggins



The family of Orville Aderholt

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Death of Nancy Turbyfill Aderholt

		NOV 7 1958 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	26380
	3680	TOWN MORGANTON Is Place of Death Within City OR OR TOWN GASTONIA TES SO SO	PON see of Residence On a Farm?
ľ	314	* FULL NAME OF (If not in bospital or institution, give street address or location) HOSPITAL OR STATE HOSPITAL AT MORGANTON **INSTITUTION STATE HOSPITAL	26- 1958 I TEAN OF CHINEN 24 HIS. Pays Hours Min.
5	All items must be complete and accurate.	10s. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) HOUSEWORK 12. FATHER'S NAME 14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME 16. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY 11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) 12. CITIZE Lincoln County, N.C. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WI	
ON STATE BOARD OF HE	The undertaker, or person acting as such, is responsible for fling the completed certificate with regultrar of the district where death occurred.	Frank Wilburn Turbyfill 15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (You, so, or unknown) (If you, give war or dates of service) NO 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 17. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS (You, so, or unknown) (If you, give war or dates of service) 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 17. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS State Hospital Records 18. CAUSE OF DEATH—ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b) and (c). PART 1. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) NEPHROSCLEROSIS, WITH UREMIA ANTECEDENT CAUSES—Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last.	INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
THIS COPY	The physician last in alternance is required to state the cause of death and sign the med- cal certification.	DUE TO (b) GENERALIZED ARTERIOSCIEROSIS. ** (See on back) PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO MATERIAL BUT NOT RELATED TO TERMINAL DIMEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a) CHRONIC BRAIN SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH CEREBRAL ARTERIOSCIEROSIS, WITH PSYCHOSIS. 20. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE 200. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18)	Indefinite 19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED! 19. 22

Putting your ancestors into context

- Trace them through the census
- Look for maps, especially Sanborn maps of the area for mills
- Search local newspapers for articles about the mills
- Google the mill name
- Search Google Books
- Search Loc.gov "Lewis Wickes Hine", counties of interest and mill names

References Links

Slides and Presentations:

https://finding-forgotten-stories.com/

Textile Mills

https://finding-forgotten-stories.com/textile-mills-supporting-documents/