



A New Spirit

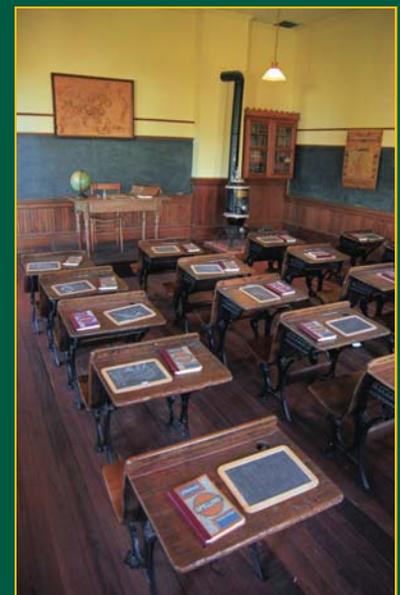
In the South, the period following the Civil War was a time for rebuilding homes, towns, businesses, farms, government, and—yes—lives and hearts. With leadership from men and women like Hoke Smith, Rebecca Felton, and Henry W. Grady, Georgia recovered physically. Rebuilding lives and hearts, however, was more difficult. While groups like the Freedman’s Bureau worked on changing lives, other people and groups, including the Bourbons, Tom Watson, and the Ku Klux Klan, worked just as hard to maintain “Old South” ways.

This was also an era of progressive ideals that demanded reform. Suffrage for women, improvements for workers, temperance, prison reform, educational reforms, equality and freedom from discrimination for African Americans were all important goals for reformers.

After the turn of the century, reform took a backseat to World War I. That was followed by the carefree ways of the “Roaring Twenties.” But the levity of the twenties disappeared in 1929 with the crash of the stock market. Suddenly, the nation and Georgia were swept into an economic depression.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his New Deal policies helped ease the pain of the depression. But it was World War II that actually set America and Georgia back on their feet. What had once been an agricultural state with little industry became a leader in business and industry. Another result of the war effort was that military bases and installations spread throughout the state.

Left: The Madison-Morgan Cultural Center is housed in a red brick building that was erected in 1895 as one of the first graded public schools in the South. **Right:** This is a restored classroom of the period in the Cultural Center.



Reconstruction and the New South



Georgians, and other southerners, had to deal with three basic questions in the aftermath of the war: (1) What would be done with 4 million newly freed slaves? (2) How could sectional differences and emotional war wounds be healed so that the nation could be reunited? (3) How could the South, which had suffered most of the war damage, resurrect itself and its economy? In addition to those questions, southerners had yet to find out what type of treatment the defeated Confederacy would receive from the victorious Union.

Chapter Preview

Georgia character word: Self-respect

Terms: freedmen, Freedmen's Bureau, Reconstruction, disfranchise, Thirteenth Amendment, nullify, provisional, discrimination, Black Code, Fourteenth Amendment, carpetbagger, scalawag, Ku Klux Klan, suffrage, Georgia Act, Fifteenth Amendment, impeach, sharecropping, credit, tenant farming, Redemption, white supremacy, Bourbon Triumvirate, ally, temperance, convict lease system, New South, normal school, segregate, Grange, Farmers' Alliance, co-op

People: John Wilkes Booth, Andrew Johnson, Charles Jenkins, Herschel Johnson, General John Pope, Rufus Bullock, Tunis G. Campbell, Henry McNeal Turner, Aaron A. Bradley, Alfred Terry, Joshua Hill, H. V. M. Miller, Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, John B. Gordon, William Felton, Rebecca Latimer Felton, Henry W. Grady, Joel Chandler Harris, Sidney Lanier, Charles Henry Smith

Places: Milledgeville, Pulaski, Tennessee

Section 1 Lincoln and Reconstruction

Section 2 Reconstruction in Georgia

Section 3 Georgia's Redemption Years

Section 4 The New South



Left: This depot, reconstructed at the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton, was originally built in Montezuma and belonged to the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad. After the Civil War, the railroads in the South had to be almost completely rebuilt. They were critical to the economic recovery of Georgia and the South.

Signs of the Times

1865-1889

Population: 1,184,109 in 1870; 1,542,180 in 1880

Life Expectancy: 44 years in 1870, but 39.4 years in 1880

Costs of Living: It varied, depending on the section of country: Rent averaged \$10-\$25 a month; food, lights, and fuel averaged \$40 a month

Wages/Salaries: In the mid-1870s, a school teacher might earn \$360 a year, a factory worker, \$500, a farm worker, \$180, a cowboy, \$480, a bank clerk \$1,800, a policeman \$600-\$900, and a reporter, \$1,040.

Art/Architecture: Artist Winslow Homer, known for his ocean scenes, painted “Prisoners for the Front,” “Fog Warning,” and “The Life Line.” Frederick Remington became famous for his paintings of the American West. The “Shingle” architectural style was introduced for houses.

Music: Showboats and vaudeville musical reviews reappeared. Popular songs of the period included “Silver Threads Among the Gold,” “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad,” “Clementine,” “My Wild Irish Rose,” and “Sweet Rosie O’Grady.” John Phillips Sousa popularized such march songs as “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and “Semper Fidelis.”

Literature: Louisa Mae Alcott published *Little Women* and *Little Men*. Mark Twain published *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Sidney Lanier published “Corn,” about farming in the old South, and “The Symphony,” about the industrial North. Joel Chandler Harris wrote *Uncle Remus: His Songs and Sayings* using black dialect.

Fads/Fashions: The popularity of bicycling enabled women to give up long-skirted, heavy Victorian attire and use long hose and balloon below-the-knee trousers. Zippers were invented by Whitcomb Judson. Louis Tiffany opened his glass factory and his incredible lamp designs became fads among the wealthy.

Religion: In 1872, Charles Russell organized Jehovah’s Witnesses. Mary Baker Eddy published *Science and Health*, the beginning of Christian Science. The American branch of the Salvation Army was founded in Philadelphia. The Knights of Columbus, a fraternal organization of Catholic men, was formed. Billy Sunday began his evangelistic career.

Transportation: Andrew Hallidie, a California engineer, invented the cable car for San Francisco. John Montgomery began air travel by launching a glider from a 300-foot hill; it flew 600 feet. Pullman Car Company constructed an electric locomotive for hauling freight.

Science/Inventions: Inventions of the period include an electric voting machine, mimeograph machine, phonograph, incandescent lamp, air brakes, typewriter, adding machine, and fountain pen. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone; his first words in the first call were “Mr. Watson, come here. I want you.” Saccharin (500 times stronger than sugar) was discovered.

Education: Howard University was founded in Washington, D.C. The first school of nursing opened in 1873 in New York at Bellevue Hospital. Booker T. Washington became president of the school that was to become Tuskegee Institute. The first state-supported women’s college was chartered—Mississippi State College for Women.

Leisure Time: Basketball and ice hockey were introduced. The first running of the Belmont Stakes and Kentucky Derby horse races took place. The first annual indoor track and field meet was held by the New York Athletic Club. The first professional baseball team was formed—the Cincinnati Red Stockings. The first intercollegiate football game was played with Rutgers beating Princeton 6 to 4.

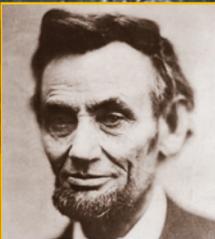
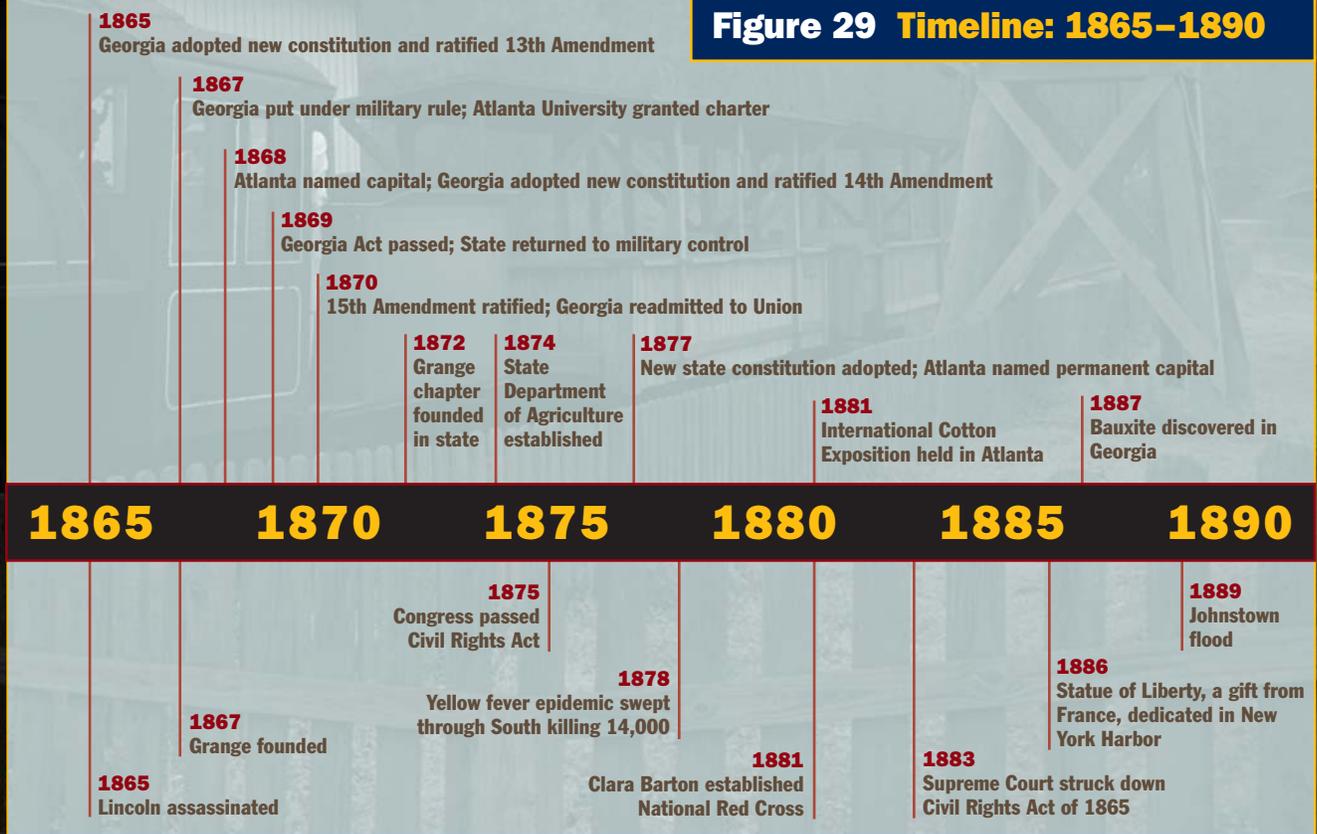


Figure 29 Timeline: 1865–1890



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the purpose of the Freedmen's Bureau,
- the presidential plans for Reconstruction, and
- **vocabulary terms:** freedmen, Freedmen's Bureau, Reconstruction, disfranchise, Thirteenth Amendment, and nullify.

Below: After the war, many northerners came South and established schools to teach the freedmen to read and write.

Section 1

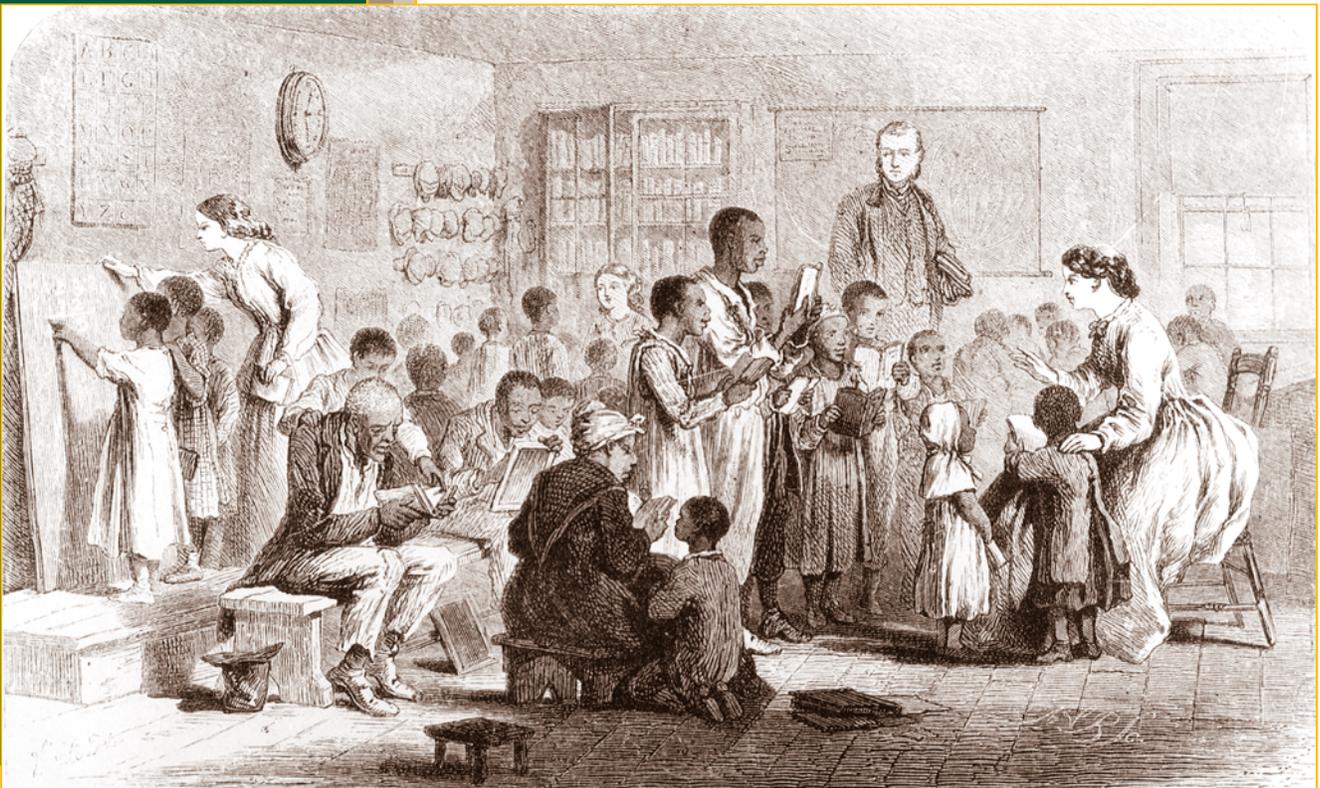
Lincoln and Reconstruction

The Georgia to which the war-weary Confederate soldiers returned was not as they had left it. Fields lay in ruins. Most houses were badly run down or had been destroyed. Railroad tracks lay twisted, bridges had been burned, cotton mills and factories were closed or burned. There was not enough food, and many people were starving. Many banks had closed their doors. The Confederacy had a war debt of over \$700 million, and Georgia faced a debt of \$20 million.

Of the 125,000 Georgians who fought in the war, 25,000 did not return home due to battle deaths and diseases. Many others could not work because of their injuries. For most white Georgians, there were new struggles each day just to eat. Life was no better for the men, women, and children freed from slavery.

The Freedmen

The thousands of **freedmen** (former slaves) faced great hardships. Homeless, uneducated, and free for first time in their lives, the freedmen had little more than the clothes on their backs. Many went from place to place looking for food, shelter, and work. Some traveled just to demonstrate that they



By the Side of the Road

Founded in 1773, Springfield Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in the United States. It was also the only Baptist Church in Augusta until 1820 and the only black church until 1840. The church building itself, built in 1801, is the oldest surviving church building in Augusta and one of the oldest in Georgia. But Springfield Baptist Church is also significant for other reasons.

On January 10, 1866, thirty-eight African Americans from eleven Georgia counties met at the church and prepared a petition to the Georgia legislature asking for inclusion on juries, civil treatment on railroads, and the right to vote. Before adjourning, the men established the Georgia Equal Rights Association, which later became the Republican party in Georgia.

In 1867, the Augusta Baptist Institute opened at the church with thirty-seven students. In 1870, the Institute moved to Atlanta and was renamed Morehouse College.



SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH BIRTHPLACE OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

This building, which was erected in 1801 by Augusta's first Methodist Society, was moved to this location in 1844 to become the home of the Springfield Baptist Church.

Organized in 1787 by Jesse Peters, the Springfield Baptist Church is the oldest independent African-American Church in the nation. This church helped bridge the transition between slavery and free citizenship and has stood as a focus for black community life.

This church building is the major landmark remaining from the early free-black community of Springfield. The original structure was moved to the rear of the lot when the new brick church was built in 1897. Springfield Church helped to establish many black institutions.

In 1867, Morehouse College, the nation's only all-male, historically black undergraduate institution, was founded in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church as Augusta Institute by William Jefferson White, as requested by Richard Coulter and Edmund Turney, while Henry Watts was serving as pastor. The school moved to Atlanta in 1879 and was renamed Morehouse College in 1913. This marker unveiled February 16, 1992, commemorates the 125th anniversary of Morehouse College's founding.

12-1-81

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1992

could. Others searched for spouses, children, other family members, or friends who had been sold away from them during slavery.

Because the Civil War destroyed the master-slave relationship, a new relationship had to be developed between the two races. That would not be easy. Former slaves feared that their old masters would try to re-enslave them. Most whites found it difficult to accept former slaves as free persons, nor would they accept them as equals.

The Freedman's Bureau

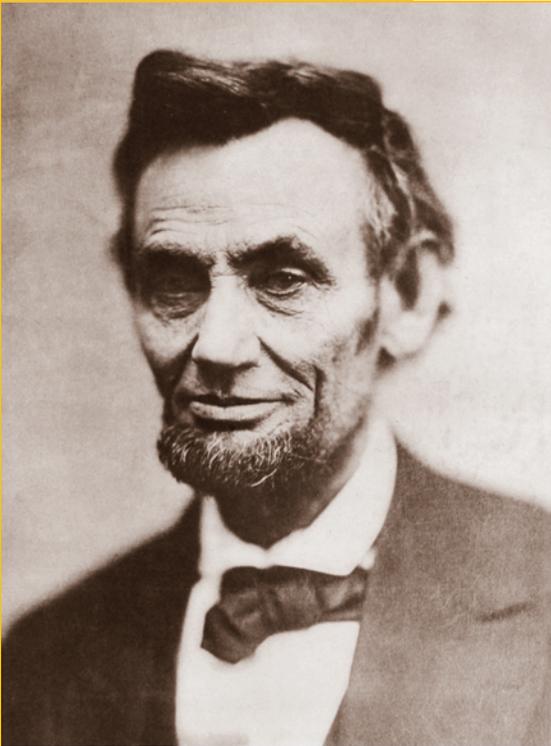
In an effort to help the struggling freedmen, the United States government established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Did You Know?

Some historians estimate that Georgia lost 75 percent of its former material wealth.

Figure 30 Typical Loyalty Oath

I, _____, of the County of _____, State of Georgia, do solemnly swear or affirm, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union faithfully of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves—So help me, God.



Above: It has been said that the presidency ages the people who hold that office. This photograph of President Abraham Lincoln was taken in 1865. Compare this photograph of Lincoln with the photograph on page 245, taken just five years earlier.

in March 1865. Its first commissioner was Union General Oliver O. Howard, who later founded Howard University in Washington, D.C. The original purpose of the agency, which soon became known as the **Freedmen's Bureau**, was to help both former slaves and poor whites cope with their everyday problems by offering them clothing, food, and other necessities.

After a while, the bureau's focus changed; it became concerned mainly with helping the freedmen adjust to their new circumstances. An important focus was education. The bureau set up over 4,000 primary schools, 64 industrial schools, and 74 teacher-training institutions for young African Americans in addition to spending over \$400,000 to help establish teacher-training centers.

Northerners and missionary societies helped by sending both money and teachers. In 1867, the American Missionary Association sponsored the chartering of Georgia's Atlanta University. The American Baptist Home Mission society organized Morehouse College in Augusta. Morehouse, which moved to Atlanta in 1870, is still in operation today. A third Georgia Reconstruction-era school was Clark College in Atlanta, which first opened as a school for children. By 1877, it had become a college.

Lincoln's Plan for Reconstruction

During the closing days of the war, President Lincoln developed a plan to rebuild the South and restore the southern states to the Union as quickly and easily as possible. The process was known as **Reconstruction**. Lincoln's plan had two simple steps: (1) All southerners, except for high-ranking Confederate civil and military leaders, would be pardoned after taking an oath of allegiance to the United States; and (2) when 10 percent of the voters in each state had taken the oath of loyalty, the state

would be permitted to form a legal government and rejoin the Union.

It soon became apparent that Congress and many northerners thought that the South should be punished. They believed that those Confederate states that seceded should be treated like a conquered country. In 1864, Congress passed the Wade-Davis Bill, which Lincoln saw as an attempt to punish the South for the actions of the seces-

Did You Know?

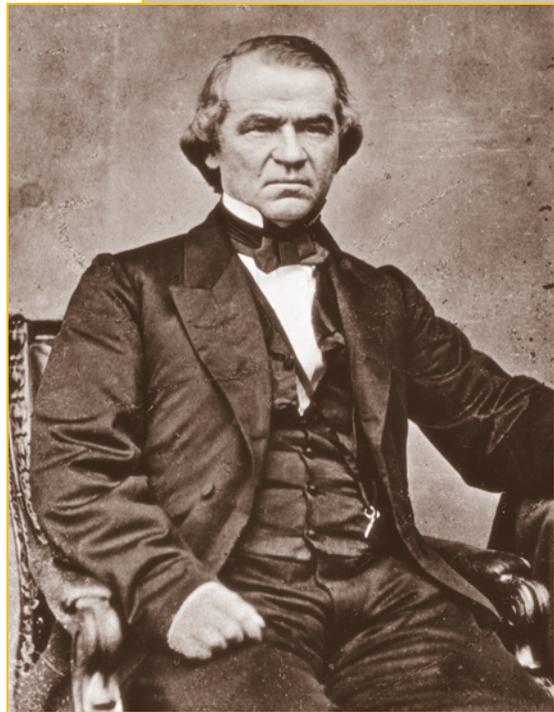
Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at **Fort Monroe**, Virginia, for two years. He refused to apply for the **federal pardon**. It was not until **1978** that Davis's citizenship was returned.

sionists. Lincoln did not sign the bill into law; he let it die quietly. This action signaled that there would be a fight over Reconstruction. Lincoln, however, was not part of that fight.

The Assassination of President Lincoln

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln and his wife accompanied friends to Ford's Theatre to see an English play, *Our American Cousin*. The play was nearly over when John Wilkes Booth, an actor who was a southern sympathizer, entered Lincoln's theater box. At 10:15 p.m., timing his action with the play's biggest laugh, Booth shot the president in the back of the head. Booth leapt from the box and slipped out of Washington without getting caught. He was cornered and shot two weeks later.

The wounded president was taken to a boarding house across the street from the theater. Lincoln died the next morning. As it turned out, Booth probably did more harm to the South than good. Lincoln was no longer around to keep the radical Republicans (those who wanted to punish the South) in check.



Above: As president, Andrew Johnson decided to carry out Lincoln's moderate plan for Reconstruction.

Johnson Tackles Reconstruction

Lincoln's assassination took place before his plan for Reconstruction went into effect. Upon Lincoln's death, Vice President Andrew Johnson, a North Carolinian, became the nation's seventeenth president. Soon after taking office, he took on the responsibility for returning the former Confederate states to the Union.

Johnson's Reconstruction plan was much like Lincoln's plan except that Johnson expanded the groups of southerners not granted a general pardon. Those who had owned property worth more than \$20,000 or those who had held high civil or military positions had to apply directly to the president for a pardon.

At first, some of the radicals were willing to work with Johnson because they approved of his plan to offer a reward for the arrest of Jefferson Davis. But after Davis was captured and imprisoned, the radicals turned their attention back to the president's plan and began to disagree with it. They were afraid that the freedmen would be **disfranchised** (have their voting rights taken away). They also thought that the South deserved a greater punishment than Johnson's plan provided.

After some pressure, President Johnson added several more requirements. First, the southern states had to approve the **Thirteenth Amendment**, which made slavery illegal. Second, the southern states had to **nullify** (declare invalid) their ordinances of secession. Third, the southern states had to promise not to repay the individuals and institutions that had helped finance the Confederacy.

Figure 31 The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

It's Your Turn

1. What was President Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction?
2. How did President Johnson's plan for Reconstruction differ from Lincoln's plan?

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the actions taken by the state to rejoin the Union,
- the impact of the Black Codes,
- the end of Reconstruction,
- the economy during Reconstruction, and
- **vocabulary terms:** provisional, discrimination, Black Code, Fourteenth Amendment, carpetbagger, scalawag, Ku Klux Klan, suffrage, Georgia Act, Fifteenth Amendment, impeach, sharecropping, credit, and tenant farming.



Above: James Johnson, a pro-Union Georgian, became provisional governor in June 1865. He served until December 1865.

Section 2

Reconstruction in Georgia

In June 1865, President Johnson appointed James Johnson, an attorney from Columbus, as **provisional** (temporary) governor of Georgia because the president remembered that Johnson had opposed secession as a state congressman. Six months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the president directed Governor Johnson to hold a constitutional convention in Milledgeville, Georgia's capital.

The Constitutional Convention of 1865

The convention repealed the ordinance of secession and voted to abolish slavery. The delegates wrote a new constitution that, although quite similar to the constitution of 1861, was acceptable to the president.

In November, the state elected Charles Jenkins as governor. Jenkins, who was the only candidate, was a Unionist judge from Augusta. In the following months, the legislature met and formally ratified the Thirteenth Amendment. In December 1865, after President Johnson removed the provisional governor, the state inaugurated Jenkins.

The Georgia General Assembly met in January 1866 and elected two U.S. senators—Alexander Stephens, former vice president of the Confederacy, and Herschel Johnson. The General Assembly also voted to extend civil rights to the freedmen. However, like other southern states, Georgia limited those rights using, in part, a system of Black Codes.

Black Codes

Although the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery, it did not abolish **discrimination** (unfair treatment of a person or group because of prejudice). By 1865, most of the southern states, including Georgia, had passed a number of laws known as **Black Codes**, which were designed to restrict the rights of the freedmen. The codes included regulations that controlled the types of

employment freedmen could have, permitted whipping as punishment, and established labor periods from sunrise to sunset, six days a week. Because these codes permitted the imprisonment of jobless blacks, freedmen were forced to take whatever jobs they could find regardless

Did You Know?

Any days that a **freedman** did not work were **charged** against the worker, with **penalties** ranging from **\$1** for an **illness** to **\$5** for **political activity**.



Above: Liberty Hall in Crawfordville, the home of Alexander Stephens, is now a state park.

of low wages or other conditions. Although the Freedmen's Bureau recommended wages of \$144 a year, plus food and shelter, most workers were paid between \$50 and \$100 per year.

Other sections of the Black Codes did not allow freedmen to vote, to serve on juries, or to testify in court against whites. The codes also declared marriage between the races illegal.

Even with the codes, Georgia had done what President Johnson's plan required, and it was ready to re-enter the Union. But President Johnson no longer had the influence he once had. The more radical groups in Congress were now in charge of Reconstruction.

Congressional Reconstruction

Reaction to the Black Codes was fairly swift. Congress, overriding a presidential veto, passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866. This law not only extended citizenship to African Americans, it also gave the federal government the right and responsibility to intervene any time civil rights were taken away from the newly freed men and women. To ensure this, Congress passed the **Fourteenth Amendment**, which granted citizenship to the freedmen and forbade any state from denying anyone the "equal protection of the law."

That same year, the radical Republicans gained control of both houses of Congress. They maintained that the southern states were not "adequately

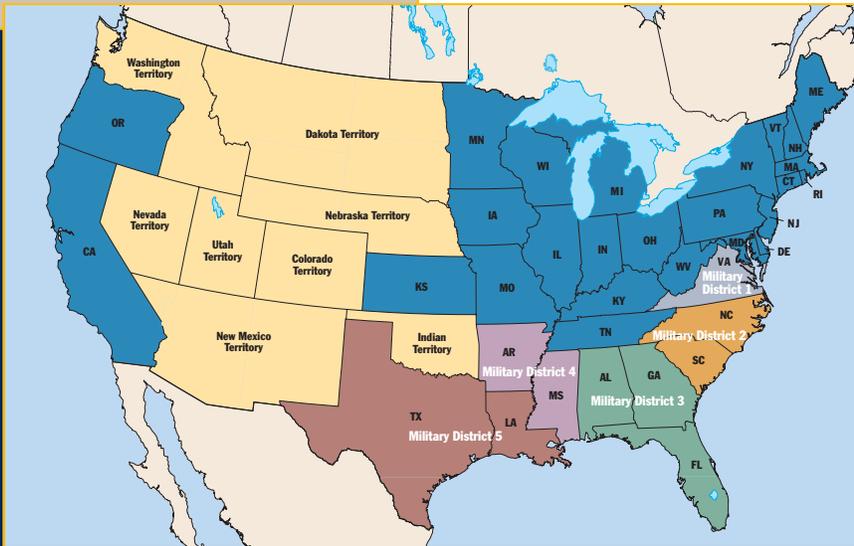
Figure 32 Excerpt from the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

reconstructed” and must ratify the Fourteenth Amendment before they could rejoin the Union. One radical, Thaddeus Stevens, wanted to punish the South even more by breaking up all of the plantations and providing every farm slave with “forty acres and a mule.” But the Republicans, who valued personal property, refused to seriously consider his plan.

When all of the southern states except Tennessee refused to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, Congress acted quickly to invalidate the state governments and re-establish military rule in March 1867. Each state was assigned to a region under the command of a federal general. Georgia, Alabama, and Florida were placed in the Third Military District, governed by General John Pope. One of Pope’s first tasks was to register all eligible male voters—black and white—who swore allegiance to the United States.

States were directed to hold constitutional conventions whose delegates were elected by adult males. Each convention was to draft a new constitution that extended the right to vote to African Americans. States were also required to have their citizens ratify the new constitutions and the Fourteenth Amendment. Until that was completed, the southern states remained under military supervision.



Map 41 Military Reconstruction Districts

Map Skill: Which two states made up the largest district?

The Constitutional Convention of 1867

During the fall of 1867, Georgians held an election to determine if there should be a constitutional convention and, if so, who should be selected as delegates. For African American males, it was the first time they were allowed to vote in Georgia. Voters agreed to hold the convention, and they elected 169 delegates. Twelve of the delegates were conservative whites, and nine were **carpetbaggers**. Carpetbaggers were northerners who moved south after the war. Southerners claimed that they came with all of their possessions in a bag made of carpet material. Thirty-six of the delegates were African Americans. Most of the delegates were **scalawags**, a term used to describe southerners who supported the Republicans.

The convention proved to be a fiery one from the outset. As delegates gathered in Milledgeville, the African American delegates were refused rooms at the local hotels. General Pope then ordered that the convention be moved from Milledgeville to Atlanta, a move that led to the city becoming the state’s permanent capital.

Despite the conflicts of the convention, much was accomplished. The delegates wrote a new constitution that gave civil rights to all of the state’s citizens, approved free public education for all children, and allowed married women to control their own property (the first state to do so).

Did You Know?

Scalawag is a term that means “scoundrel” or “worthless rascal.”

Georgia voters approved the new constitution in April 1868 and elected Republican Rufus Bullock governor. For a second time, Georgia had met the requirements for re-admission to the Union, and federal troops left the state. As you will see, however, they returned shortly.

African Americans in Politics

In 1867, African Americans voted for the first time in Georgia. In 1868, they helped elect a Republican governor. They also helped elect twenty-nine African Americans to the Georgia house of representatives and three African Americans to the Georgia senate. Some of those elected were Tunis G. Campbell, Jr., Henry McNeal Turner, and Aaron A. Bradley. However, all of these men were expelled in September 1868 on the grounds that although the constitution had given them the right to vote, it did not specifically give them the right to hold political office.

During Reconstruction, African Americans formed the largest group of southern Republicans, and thousands voted in the new elections to help keep Republicans in power. By the same token, Republican carpetbaggers, along with some agents and many volunteers of the Freedmen's Bureau, worked hard to make African Americans part of the political scene. Hiram Revels and Blanche Bruce of Mississippi were the first African Americans to serve as U.S. senators. Others served in the U.S. House of Representatives and state legislatures.

Realizing political empowerment (the ability to bring about change) for the first time, thousands joined the Union League, which had become the freedmen's political organization. From church meetings to picnics and family gatherings, politics became "the" topic of discussion and debate.

Ku Klux Klan

During this same time period, the **Ku Klux Klan** became a force in Georgia. The Klan, as it was called, was one of several secret organizations that tried to keep freedmen from exercising their new civil rights. The group began in Pulaski, Tennessee, in 1865 as a social club for returning soldiers. However, it quickly changed into a force of terror. Its members dressed in robes and hoods so no one would recognize them. They terrorized and intimidated African Americans to keep them from voting and, by doing so, to return control of the state to the Democrats. There were numerous reports of beatings, whippings, and murders.



Above: Reverend Henry McNeal Turner was one of the first African Americans elected to the Georgia General Assembly.



Above: Early members of the Ku Klux Klan used robes and hoods as disguises and to appear more frightful to those they wanted to scare.

Figure 33 Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Freedmen who were not frightened away from the polls were carefully watched. Those voting Republican lay awake at night listening for the sounds of horses indicating the Klan was nearby. All knew that the price for **suffrage** (voting rights) could be death. Hostilities between whites and African Americans increased, and there were many incidents of racial conflict.

The Georgia Act

Ku Klux Klan activities were increasing throughout the state, and there was evidence that the group had prevented many African Americans from voting in the 1868 presidential election. Governor Bullock appealed to the federal government for help. Congress responded by passing the **Georgia Act** in December 1869. This law returned Georgia to military control for the third time. General Alfred Terry became Georgia's new military commander, and Rufus Bullock became the provisional governor.

Earlier in the year, Congress had passed the **Fifteenth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution, which gave all male citizens the right to vote. In addition to returning Georgia to federal military control, the Georgia Act required that the state ratify the Fifteenth Amendment before it could return to the Union.

Reconstruction Ends in Georgia

The Georgia supreme court ruled that blacks were eligible to hold office. When the General Assembly met in January 1870, it reseated the African American representatives who had been expelled from the General Assembly in September 1868. The legislature again approved the Fourteenth Amendment and ratified the Fifteenth Amendment.

Georgia was readmitted to the Union in July 1870. Senators Joshua Hill and H. V. M. Miller, elected in 1868, were seated in Congress. For Georgia, Reconstruction was officially over.

There was one final political note to the end of Reconstruction. In the December 1870 election, the Democrats regained control of both houses of the Georgia General Assembly. Governor Bullock, a Republican, knew the General Assembly would **impeach** him (bring charges against a public official while that person is still in office) when it met in November 1871. Rather than face impeachment, Bullock resigned. Secretly,

Did You Know?

From the election of **James Smith** in December **1871** through **2002**, Georgia's **governors** have been members of the **Democratic party**. It was not until **2003** that Georgia returned a **Republican** to the statehouse.

he swore in as governor Benjamin Conley, who had been president of the senate during the last legislative session. Conley served as governor for only two months before the General Assembly ordered a special election. In December, Democrat James M. Smith, former speaker of the house of representatives and a lawyer from Columbus, ran unopposed for the office of governor. Smith was inaugurated on January 12, 1872.

Economic Reconstruction

Georgia was still an agricultural region during Reconstruction. With the end of the large plantation system came the beginning of a new way of farming.

Sharecropping and Tenant Farming

Planters and farmers needed laborers to work on their land. And there were many former slaves, as well as some landless whites, who needed jobs. Workers who had nothing but their labor to offer often resorted to **sharecropping**. Under this system, the landowners provided land, a house, farming tools and animals, seed, and fertilizer. The workers agreed to give the owner a share of the harvest. Until the workers sold their crop, the owners often let them have food, medicine, clothing, and other supplies at high prices on credit. **Credit** is the ability to buy something now and pay for it later or over a period of time.

For many, this credit was their undoing. After selling the crop and paying the bills, the typical sharecropper had little, if any, cash left. Because few sharecroppers could read or count, the planter or the store owner could easily cheat them, and many did. Year after year, sharecroppers were in debt. They had little hope they could ever save enough to buy their own land and equipment.

Tenant farming was similar to sharecropping. The main difference was that tenants usually owned some agricultural equipment and farm animals, such as mules. They also bought their own seed and fertilizer. At the end of the year, tenant farmers either paid the landowner a set amount of cash or an agreed-upon share

Below: The Georgia Agrirama in Tifton is a living history center. This man demonstrates the work a farmer of the late 1800s would do. Here he is raking burned corn stubs. What tool is he using?





Top and above: This is the farmhouse of a subsistence farmer on display at the Georgia Agrirama. In the late 1800s, the kitchen was in a separate building because of fire danger from the mud-and-stick chimneys.

of the crop. Because tenant farmers owned more than sharecroppers, they usually made a small profit. However, the lives of both groups were very hard. The tenant farming and sharecropping systems allowed landowners to keep their farms in operation without having to spend money for labor.

On the surface, it would seem that landowners who used tenants and sharecroppers made a profit while taking few risks. However, many landowners who did not have the money to buy the needed seed, fertilizer, and tools borrowed the money and used the crops to back up the loan. Interest on such loans was often more than the crops were worth. Because bankers expected farmers to grow cotton or tobacco year after year, the soil was eventually ruined. In time, many landowners in the South, like the sharecroppers and tenants who worked their land, became poorer each year.

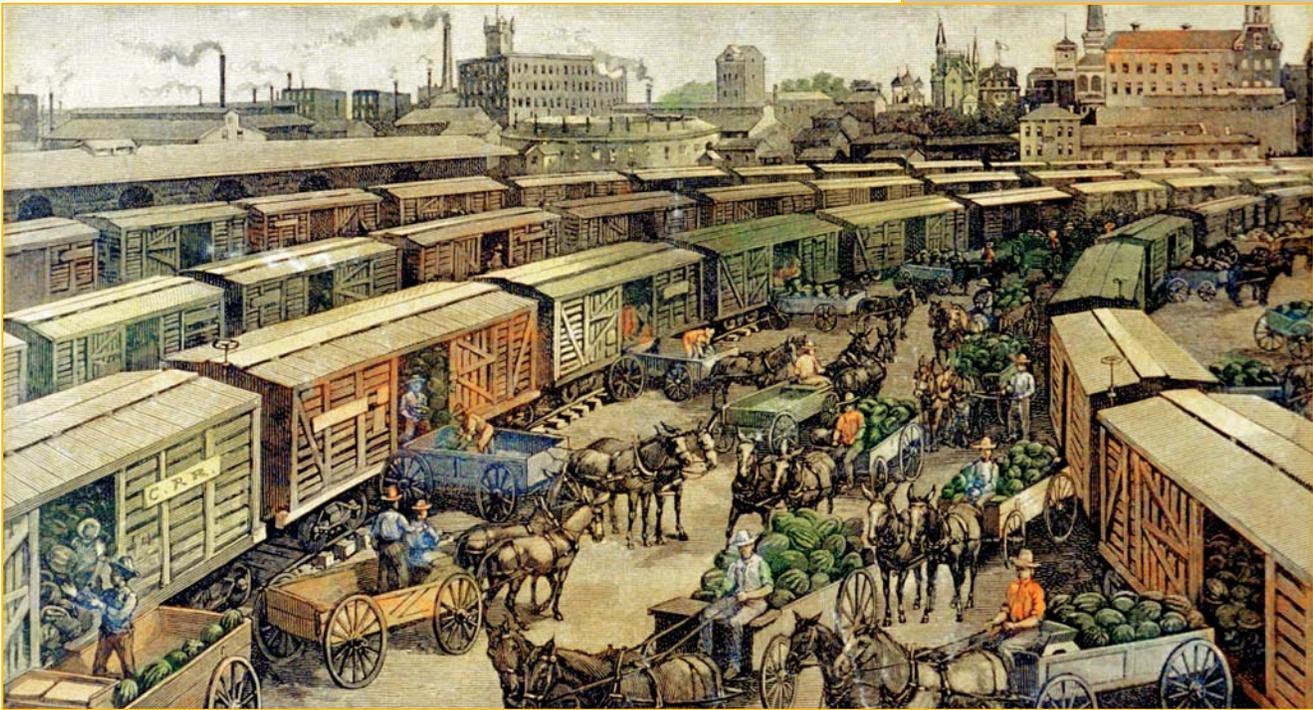
At the end of Reconstruction, cotton was again the most important crop in most of Georgia. The coastal region, however, never regained its prewar position in either cotton or rice production. Fortunately, that region turned to other natural resources to reclaim its economic power.

Business, Industry, Railroads, and Shipping

Increasing cotton production brought industry to some parts of Georgia. Northern investors put money into building textile mills. Slowly, banks began to reopen and were able to loan money to merchants and businessmen.

By the late 1860s, dry goods stores, shops, and hotels were again in business. Atlanta, almost completely destroyed during the war, rebuilt and grew rapidly after it became the state capital.

Railroads, which were necessary to the success of Georgia's economy, expanded during this time. At the end of the Civil War, only the state-owned Western and Atlantic Railroad was still in operation. Union soldiers had kept



it up to transport troops and equipment. In the eight years immediately following the war, rail companies laid 840 miles of track in Georgia. Rail lines began to compete with each other.

Shipping companies also took on new life. Savannah again became the major port for exporting cotton, and Brunswick was a close second. Even with the growth of banks, rail lines, and shipping companies, economic reconstruction was slow. There was a common saying of the period, “We’re eating the long corn now!” The saying meant that the family was financially well off. It would be another sixty-five years before many in the state could claim the long corn, but at least the seeds were planted for Georgia’s future.

Above: Railroads played an important part in Atlanta’s rebirth after the Civil War. This scene shows watermelons being loaded into boxcars for shipment north.

It's Your Turn

1. How did Black Codes restrict the freedmen?
2. Why do you think the majority of southern states refused to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
3. Do you think the constitutional convention of 1867 was a failure, a success, or both? Explain your answer.
4. If you had been a freedmen in this period, would you have gone to the polls to vote? Why or why not?
5. Was Georgia, and the rest of the South, “adequately reconstructed”? What would you have done differently if you had been in charge of Reconstruction?
6. What was the difference between a sharecropper and a tenant farmer?

Of Special Interest

A City Rises From the Ashes

At the beginning of Reconstruction, Atlanta literally had to rebuild itself from the ashes. When Sherman's troops moved out of Atlanta on their infamous March to the Sea, they left the city virtually destroyed. But the city had a proud past and the heart to rebuild for a proud future.

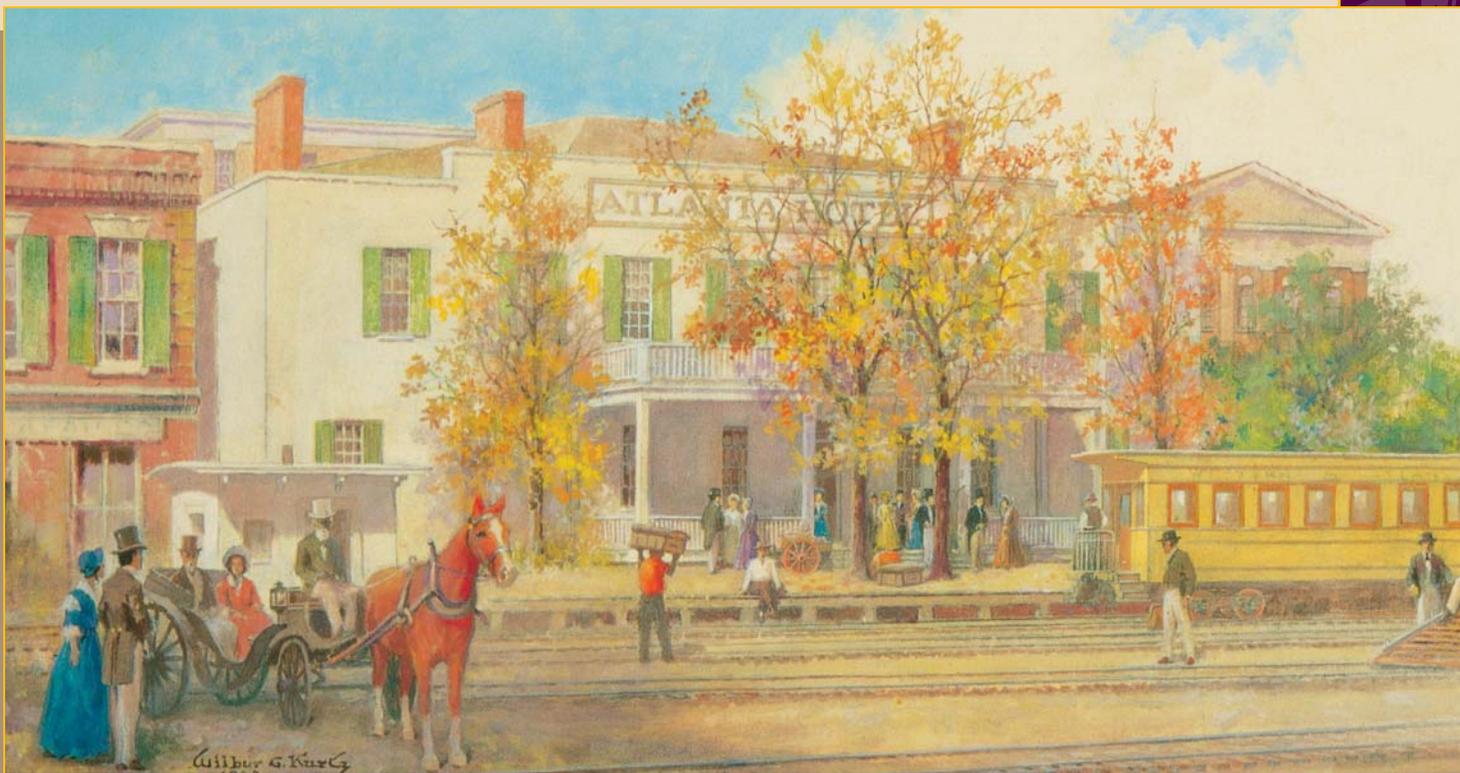
Atlanta had begun in 1837 when a railroad engineer, Stephen Long, surveyed the best route for the Georgia State Railroad. He wrote that a collection of shacks known as the terminus (end) might be "a good location for one tavern, a blacksmith shops, a grocery store and nothing else."

Below: By 1860, Atlanta had a population of 9,500 and was Georgia's fourth largest city, behind Savannah, Augusta, and Columbus. It was dubbed the "Gate City of the South" for its increasing importance as a rail center.

By 1842, the railroad lines into Terminus had grown, and it was home to almost thirty people. In that year, the community was renamed Marthasville, in honor of Governor Lumpkin's daughter.

Because freight shipped to the city was marked "Atlanta" (a feminine form of the word *Atlantic* in Atlantic and Pacific Railroad), the town was called Atlanta by railroad officials and crews. Soon the name Marthasville was discarded, and the state issued a municipal charter for the city to be named Atlanta.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Atlanta was Georgia's fourth largest city, with a population of over 9,500. Only Savannah, Augusta, and Columbus were larger. During the war, Atlanta grew even more in population and importance as the South's center for communications and supplies.



About fifty families had remained in the city after its burning. Joined by others, they worked throughout the Reconstruction period to rebuild the city. It rose out of the ashes like a *phoenix*, a mythical Arabian bird said to periodically burn itself to death and emerge from the ashes as a new phoenix. The phoenix became the center of the city's seal and depicted a spirit born out of necessity.

The city grew rapidly during Reconstruction and the New South era, both commercially and politically. When it became the capital in 1868, its continued rise was assured and its role in the New South gave it national prominence. By the dawn of the twenty-first century, Atlanta had a population of over 4 million, national recognition as a center of business and commerce, and a place among the world's great cities. Quite an accomplishment for a town that had to rebuild from ashes!



Above: This bird's-eye view of Atlanta, prepared by Albert Ruger, illustrates the rebuilding of the city following the Civil War. By 1868, Atlanta had replaced Milledgeville as the state's capital.



Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- the Bourbon Triumvirate,
- reform efforts by William and Rebecca Latimer Felton,
- the convict lease system, and
- **vocabulary terms:** Redemption, white supremacy, Bourbon Triumvirate, ally, temperance, and convict lease system.

Below: Joseph E. Brown was the only man to have been elected governor of Georgia four times.



Section 3

Georgia's Redemption Years

Georgia's **Redemption** period followed its Reconstruction period. During the Redemption period, the state struggled to overcome the hardships that Reconstruction had brought to the state and a faltering economy. The redeemers also wanted to take back the control of the state government from the Republicans.

The Bourbon Triumvirate

When Reconstruction was finally over and it was time to “redeem” the state from the hardships it had fared, the job fell primarily to three Democrats—Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, and John B. Gordon. All of these leaders wanted stronger economic ties with the industrial North in order to expand Georgia's economy. They also wanted to keep many old southern traditions including **white supremacy** (the belief that the white race is superior to any other race). Brown, Colquitt, and Gordon were active in Georgia politics from 1872 to 1890, but their influence carried over well into the twentieth century.

The three Georgia leaders were called the **Bourbon Triumvirate**. *Bourbon* was the name of a castle and territory in France, as well as a line of French kings who ruled for over two hundred years. *Triumvirate* refers to a ruling body of three. Although the background of each man was different, politics and power drew them together.

Joseph E. Brown

Joseph E. Brown, the oldest member of the triumvirate, was born in South Carolina but grew up in Union County in the North Georgia mountains. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1846, Brown opened a law office in Canton, Georgia. He was elected to the state sen-

ate in 1849 and served there until 1855, when he became a judge for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

In 1857, Brown was elected Georgia's governor. He became a popular "states' rights" governor and was re-elected to two more terms.

Governor Brown guided the state through the difficult war years and was re-elected to a fourth term. When Reconstruction began, Brown lost much of his popularity by asking Georgians to go along with radical Reconstruction policies. He believed this would shorten Reconstruction. Brown remained in office until June 1865, when federal officials took over Reconstruction. Governor Rufus Bullock appointed Brown chief justice of the Georgia supreme court. He served there two years before resigning to head a company that leased the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

In 1880, he re-entered politics. When John Gordon resigned from the U.S. Senate, Governor Colquitt appointed Brown to Gordon's Senate seat. Brown stayed in the Senate until 1891. During his retirement years, Brown continued his public service in education. He was a trustee of the University of Georgia for thirty-two years and president of the Atlanta Board of Education.

Alfred H. Colquitt

Born April 20, 1824, in Walton County, Alfred H. Colquitt was the son of U.S. Senator Walter Colquitt, for whom Colquitt County is named. After graduating from Princeton University, he fought in the Mexican War. He was twenty-five when he entered Georgia politics, joining Joseph E. Brown in the state senate in 1849. The two developed a political bond that lasted for the next forty-four years. Before the Civil War, Colquitt served in Congress and at Georgia's secession convention. During the war years, he was an able military leader and rose to the rank of major general.

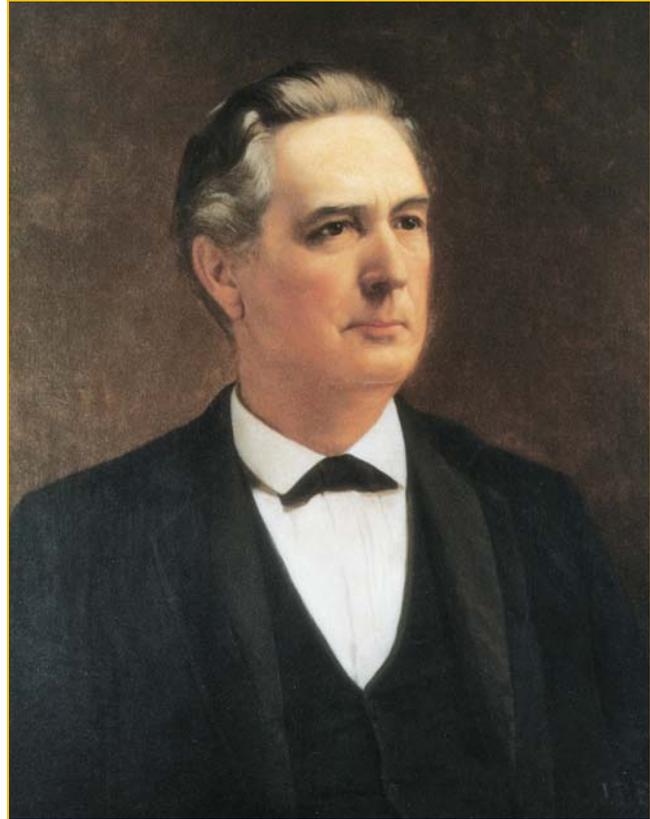
Colquitt was elected governor in 1876. Around that time, several thousand friends asked for about thirty open government jobs. Those who did not get one of the jobs tried to turn voters against Colquitt. There also were rumors that Colquitt had been involved in illegal dealings with the Northeastern Railroad. Colquitt himself called for an investigation, hoping to end the scandal.

A legislative committee found Colquitt innocent of the charges, although other members of Georgia's executive branch were found guilty. Colquitt was re-elected and served until 1882. During his administration, the state's debt was reduced and, in 1877, a new state constitution was approved. The 1877 constitution was not rewritten until 1945.

Colquitt was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1883 and 1888. He died in March 1894, three months after the death of his political ally (one who shares a common cause) Joseph E. Brown.

Did You Know?

In 1877, Georgia voters chose **Atlanta** to be the permanent **state capital**. The vote was **99,147** to **55,201**.



Above: In 1876, Alfred Holt Colquitt became governor of Georgia by the largest majority in state history up to that time.



Above: John B. Gordon served as Georgia's U.S. senator from 1873 to 1880 and from 1891 to 1897 and as governor from 1886 to 1890.

John B. Gordon

John B. Gordon, the third member of the Bourbon Triumvirate, was the son of a minister. He was born in 1832 in Upson County and attended the University of Georgia.

Gordon worked for a while as a newspaper correspondent, then as manager of a coal mine in Dade County. When the Civil War broke out, Gordon proved an able leader. He fought in many major battles and was one of three Georgia officers who reached the rank of lieutenant general. Gordon's wife often traveled with him and occasionally followed him into battle. After the war, Gordon wrote a book, titled *Reminiscences*, and became a popular speaker across the nation.

In 1872, Gordon defeated Alexander Stephens to become Georgia's U.S. senator. In 1880, he resigned from the Senate and accepted a position with one of the railroads. In 1886, he began the first of his two terms as governor of Georgia. While governor, Gordon reduced the state's debt and brought new industry into the area.

He returned to the U.S. Senate in 1891 and served until 1897. Gordon College in Barnesville is named for him.

The Decline of the Bourbon Triumvirate

Leaders such as Gordon, Colquitt, and Brown, along with men like the fiery segregationist Robert Toombs, helped carry Georgia through economic reconstruction as they lowered taxes, reduced the war debts, and expanded business and industry. However, they were criticized for accomplishing little to help the poor, improve education, reform factory working conditions, improve mental hospitals, or improve the lives of convicts. As a matter of fact, they profited personally from the use of prison labor.

By the end of Reconstruction, the influence of the Republican party had almost ended completely, and Democrats took over state politics. However, not all Georgians agreed with the beliefs or practices of the Bourbon Triumvirate or the Democrats who controlled state politics.

The Feltons Challenge the Bourbons

A new group calling themselves Independent Democrats was slowly gaining recognition. They started in the Seventh Congressional District of North Georgia in Cartersville. One of the group's leaders was William Felton, a doctor, farmer, Methodist preacher, and public speaker. His wife Rebecca worked with him to support political causes. The two used their family-owned news-

paper, *The Cartersville Courier*, to attack the Bourbons. They traveled the state arguing that the leaders of the Democratic party in Georgia were ignoring the poor and the lower middle class.

Just like her husband, Rebecca Latimer Felton was a tireless worker for fairness and justice and was deeply involved with many causes. She was a leader in the suffrage and **temperance** (antialcohol) movements. Long before the early 1900s, when women began to push for equal rights, Rebecca Latimer Felton was publicly active. Moreover, she had a platform from which to publish her views. In 1889, Hoke Smith, publisher of the *Atlanta Journal*, asked her to be a columnist. She was a popular writer, and she continued to share her ideals and influence through the newspaper for the next forty-one years.

One particular issue over which the Feltons clashed with the Bourbon Triumvirate was the convict lease system.

The Convict Lease System

One of the most serious problems facing Georgia during the Redemption era was the treatment of prisoners. Many prisons were destroyed during the Civil War. After the war, the lack of jobs led to an increase in crime. The state had to decide what to do with the added prison population, of which nearly 90 percent were blacks. One solution was the **convict lease system**. Under this plan, prisoners were leased (hired out) to people who provided them with housing and food in exchange for labor.

When the convict lease system began in 1866, the prisoners were used to complete public works projects, such as rebuilding roads destroyed during the war. But by 1879, injustices began to show in the program. Most of the prisoners were leased to one of three large companies. (Two of these companies were owned by Bourbons Joseph E. Brown and John B. Gordon.) Each of the companies agreed to pay the state \$25,000 a year, no matter how many convicts it used. The work the convicts did ranged from clearing land and farming to mining coal and building railroads.

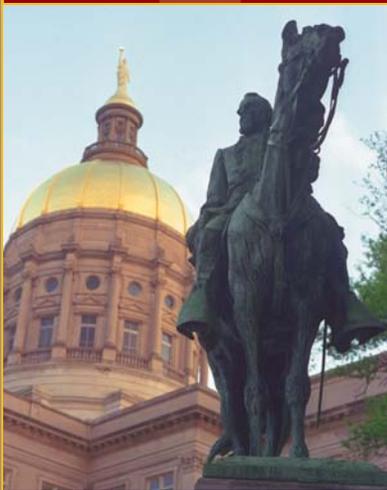
Companies who leased convicts agreed to provide medical care, to allow prisoners to rest on Sundays, and to see that the prisoners had adequate housing and clothing.



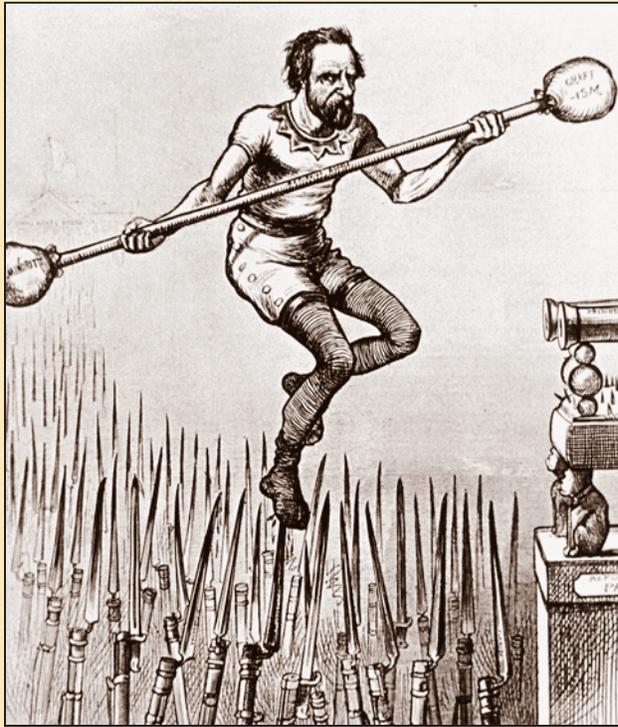
Above: Rebecca Latimer Felton and her husband William H. Felton were reformers who helped to end the influence of the Bourbon Triumvirate.

Did You Know?

The statue of **John B. Gordon** on the **State Capitol** grounds is the **only statue** there of a man on **horseback**.



The Art of Politics



This political cartoon, entitled the “Great Acrobatic Feat of Rutherford B. Hayes,” refers to the disputed 1876 presidential election. Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote. The results in three southern states, which were still under military Reconstruction, were questioned. Amidst allegations of fraud, the electoral votes of those states went to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, giving him the victory.

However, these rules were widely ignored. All too often the prisoners received no clothes, no medical care, and little food. Some companies literally worked the prisoners to death and then simply leased more.

Prisoners were not the only ones to suffer from the lease system. Paid laborers lost out on the jobs convicts did. They had to compete for a limited number of available jobs, most of which paid very low wages. This increased the large number of poor and unemployed.

In 1880, a special legislative committee was formed to look into the handling of leased prisoners, but few changes were made. Although William and Rebecca Felton continued to demand reforms, it was not until 1897 that the convict lease law was changed.

Much later, a commission appointed to study the convict lease system created state run prison farms where young male offenders and old or sick inmates, at least, were separated from other prisoners. The commission also established a separate prison farm for females.

Dr. Felton Elected to Congress

In 1874, Dr. Felton was elected to Congress and served there until 1880. In 1880, he became a member of the Georgia General Assembly. While in the legislature, Felton pushed for improvements in education, prison reform, and limits on alcohol traffic in the state. Because of the work of the Feltons, the roots of the Populist Movement were planted in the state.

Did You Know?

In 1997, **Rebecca Latimer Felton** was named as one of Georgia's **Women of Achievement**.

It's Your Turn

1. What tradition did the Bourbon Triumvirate want to keep? Why do you think they favored keeping that tradition?
2. How do the two key terms used in the chapter, *Redemption* and *Reconstruction*, differ? In what ways are the two the same?
3. In what ways do you think the convict lease program was wrong? From your observations and research, are there elements of the convict lease system still being practiced in Georgia today? Explain.

The New South

While the Bourbon Triumvirate was controlling the political arena in the state, Henry W. Grady, the leading journalist of the time and a brilliant orator, was leading another movement that would bring much change to Georgia. In 1874, Grady, writing in the *Atlanta Daily Herald*, described the need for a **New South**, a South that would become much more like the industrialized North.

The Athens native became managing editor of another Atlanta newspaper, the *Atlanta Constitution*. During his brief but brilliant career, Grady made many speeches in Georgia and across the country especially in northern states. He also published many articles that described a South that could compete economically with its northern neighbors.

Grady also wanted to improve race relations in the state and was primarily concerned with seeing what he described as “a South, the home of 50

Section Preview

As you read, look for:

- improvements to education,
- important Georgia writers,
- farmers’ organizations, and
- **vocabulary terms:** New South, normal school, segregate, Grange, Farmers’ Alliance, and co-op.

Above: This statue of Henry W. Grady is at the corner of Marietta and Forsyth streets in Atlanta. Grady coined the term “The New South.”



American Spotlight

Henry W. Grady, the South's Best Salesman

Known as the “voice of the New South,” Henry Woodfin Grady was born in 1850, the son of a prominent Athens family. He graduated from the University of Georgia and attended two years of law school at the University of Virginia. Returning to Georgia, he married his childhood sweetheart and the two settled in Rome, where Henry began working for the *Rome Courier*. His writing skills caught the attention of editors at *The New York Herald*, and he was hired as their southern correspondent headquartered in Atlanta.

In 1880, Grady became managing editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*. He quickly became known for his insightful, timely, and sometimes controversial editorials. Grady visited northern cities and spoke frequently about the “New South.” In one of his most famous speeches, he spoke about the need for industry in Georgia:

I attended a funeral in a Georgia county. It was a poor one-gallused fellow. They buried him in the midst of a marble quarry; they cut through solid marble to make his grave; yet the little tombstone they put above him was from Vermont. They buried him in the midst of a pine forest, but his pine coffin was imported from Cincinnati. They buried him within touch of an iron mine, but the nails in his coffin and the iron in the shovel that dug his grave were from Pittsburgh. They buried him near the best sheep-grazing country in the world, yet the wool in the coffin bands was brought from the North. They buried him in a New York coat, a Boston pair of shoes, a pair of breeches from Chicago, and a



Above: Henry Woodfin Grady

shirt from Cincinnati. Georgia furnished only the corpse and a hole in the ground.

In the speech, Grady also said that the southern economy was growing as agriculture was replaced by industry, particularly textile mills, coal and iron ore mining, and tobacco factories. He praised the new practices that made farming more productive. He also pointed out that race relations in the South were changing and that African Americans had become partners in developing this “New South.”

Grady’s ability to sell the concept of a “New South” helped bring jobs, recognition, and investments to the recovering Georgia economy. He consistently backed up his words with actions. He was one of the principal planners for Atlanta’s 1881 International Cotton Exposition, which was designed to show off the South’s new industries. As a creative journalist and part-owner of the newspaper, he introduced new technology, used the “interview process” in news stories, and increased circulation from 10,000 to over 140,000, making the *Atlanta Constitution* one of the most widely read newspapers in the nation.

Of more lasting importance, he worked to establish the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and he helped raise funds to develop the Young Men’s Christian Association building in Atlanta.

During a Boston speaking engagement in 1889, the 39-year-old Grady caught pneumonia and later died. Even with his numerous accomplishments, we can only wonder what else this man of journalistic influence might have done.

millions of people; her cities vast hives of industry; her countrysides the treasures from which their resources are drawn; her streams vocal with whirring spindles.”

Nor was Grady the only spokesman for this move toward change and industrialization. Antebellum politician Benjamin Hill began working to lift Georgia into new times and new thoughts. He encouraged the use of more efficient agricultural techniques and improvements in education. Hill remarked that “Times change; issues change; and we should adapt ourselves to them if we prosper.” But the hopes and dreams of both Hill and Grady would not be easy to fulfill.

Education in the New South Era

Georgia’s 1868 constitution had called for “free public education for all children of the state.” The state established a system of public instruction in 1870 but did not fund it until 1871. Over 49,000 students enrolled, and the state agreed to spend \$175,000 a year.

In 1872, Dr. Gustavus James Orr was named state school commissioner. His efforts focused on improving state funding for schools and providing equal treatment for African American students.

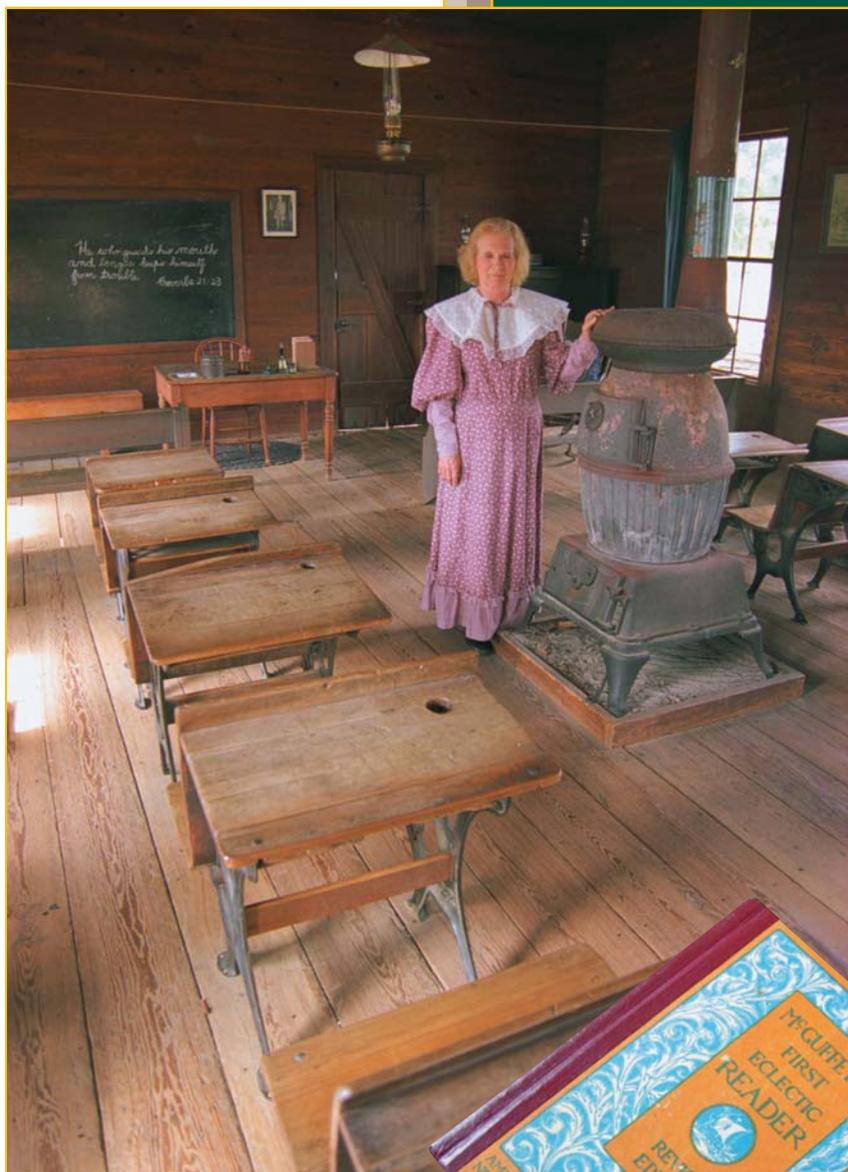
When Orr passed away in 1887, Sandersville attorney James S. Hook became state school commissioner. Tax monies for schools increased so that by 1893, almost \$700,000 was being spent on public schools. Still, teachers made little more than farm laborers.

By 1895, due largely to efforts of local newspapers such as the *Atlanta Constitution* and the *Augusta Chronicle*, \$100,000 a year was raised for school buildings. Most of the money came from local communities.

The Three-Month School Year

The three-month school year (a school term of three months) met two important needs. It enabled children to both get a public school education and work either in the factories or mills. It also offset the difference between the need for teachers and the availability of them.

Below: This costumed interpreter is a teacher in a one-room school at the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton.
Bottom: Copy of McGuffey’s *First Eclectic Reader*, which was first published in 1838.





Above: This photograph of the sixth graders at the Calhoun School in Atlanta was taken in 1896. Compare the clothing of these students with your classmates'.

The three-month school year was held at different times in different counties. Because of this, it was possible for teachers to teach in more than one county. In addition, this flexibility took into consideration the different work needs of the students.

Each local district decided where school would be held. In one rural county, the citizens used a building “good enough to winter a cow.” In another, forty or fifty children crowded into a building with sawmill slabs for seats. Restrooms were outdoors, and drinking water was in buckets. Some schools had a hand bell. In others, teachers hit the door with a stick to call children to class.

Teacher Training

In 1870, local school commissioners made up tests for people who wanted to teach. In most cases, a passing grade was 70. The tests covered such subjects as orthography (spelling), reading, writing, English grammar, and geography. Sometimes, when a county needed teachers, the tests were no more than a spur-of-the-moment, question-and-answer session between the school officials and the potential teachers. Very few teachers had been to college. Most finished common school, then took the teacher’s test.

In 1870, Georgia tried to start a **normal school** (teacher-training school). The legislature agreed to pay \$6,000 a year if Peabody Normal School would

move from Nashville to Georgia. Peabody, however, rejected the proposal.

While state school commissioner, Dr. Orr worked with Atlanta University to train black teachers; beginning in 1874, the General Assembly paid the university \$8,000 a year in return for the teacher-training program. On its part, Atlanta University agreed to admit, free of tuition, as many black students as there were members in the Georgia house of representatives.

In 1882, the legislature set aside funds to send 252 teachers (154 white and 98 black) to a one-month training institute in either Americus, Milledgeville, or Toccoa. There were 6,128 teachers instructing 243,000 Georgia school children at that time. These institutes were the state's first efforts to improve the skills of teachers.

Education Takes a Giant Step Backward

The 1877 Georgia constitution limited public education to elementary school. Again, most Georgians believed that education beyond eighth grade was not particularly useful, especially when a teenager's time could be better spent at work. They also felt that too much schooling might cause teenagers to be dissatisfied with their lot in life and, worse of all, to long for a much better one.

The constitution of 1877 also called for segregated schools. (To **segregate** is to separate by race.) From then until the 1950s, African American students were left to be schooled, for the most part, in second-rate school buildings, to be given outdated materials and equipment, and to be taught by teachers who were often underpaid.

Did You Know?

Landscaping of school grounds came about because of an **1890 law** that required students to observe **Arbor Day** on the first Friday in **December**.

Below: Needwood School, near Darien, a one-room black school used from 1907 until the 1960s.



Spotlight on the Economy

The Development of Industries in Georgia

In the late 1800s, much of Georgia was still mainly agricultural. But Henry Grady's dream of a New South based on business and industry was, in part, coming to pass. The expanding railroads were important to the development and growth of industries that used the network of railroad lines to transport their products. Among the emerging new industries were those dealing with textiles, forest products, and mining.

One of the state's first industries was **textiles** (woven materials). Textile mills used raw materials, such as cot-

ton or wool, to produce textile for clothing, bed sheets, blankets, and carpets. Once begun, Georgia's textile industry grew steadily. The main manufacturing centers were located along the Fall Line in Augusta, Columbus, and Macon. There, major rivers provided water power. There were also mills in smaller towns. By 1890, Georgia's textile industry produced over \$12.5 million worth of goods.

Below: In the late 1800s, northerners invested in southern textile mills. Women provided much of the cheap labor.





Georgia's rich acres of timberlands provided another major source of industrial growth. Trees from the forests were turned into lumber that was used to replace buildings destroyed in the war and to build new factories, mills, and housing for those who worked in them. The forests furnished the raw materials that wound up in a variety of products, from furniture to the **naval stores** (turpentine, rosin, tar, and pitch) used in shipbuilding to pulp and paper.

Georgia's forests not only provided raw materials; they also created work. Sawmills, often the center of new communities, were needed to convert the raw lumber into boards. Railroads were improved or extended to transport the materials to customers both within the state and elsewhere. Factories were built to manufacture furniture and other household items. Mills were constructed to produce paper and pulp products.

The state's mineral resources also spurred new or expanded industries. Georgia's rich stores of **kaolin** (a white clay used in the manufacture of paper and other products), gold, coal, and iron led to a growth in the mining industry. Mining for **bauxite**, a mineral used in the manufacture of



Top: This steam-powered sawmill from the 1890s still works. It can be seen at Georgia Agrirama. **Above:** Businesses grew up near the railroads, which provided transportation routes for both raw materials in and finished products out.

aluminum, increased after the development of an inexpensive method of converting bauxite into the metal.

Together, textiles, forest products, and mining led Georgia's economy out of Reconstruction and Redemption and into a new era.

Did You Know?

On February 3, 1972, the U.S. Postal Service honored Sidney Lanier by issuing an 8-cent stamp on the 130th anniversary of his birth.

Below: Joel Chandler Harris on the front porch of his home, Wren's Nest, where he did much of his writing. **Opposite page, top:** Georgia's best known poet, Sidney Lanier. **Opposite page, middle:** A postcard of Lanier's boyhood home in Macon. **Opposite page, below:** Charles Henry Smith, better known as Bill Arp.

The Arts of the New South Era

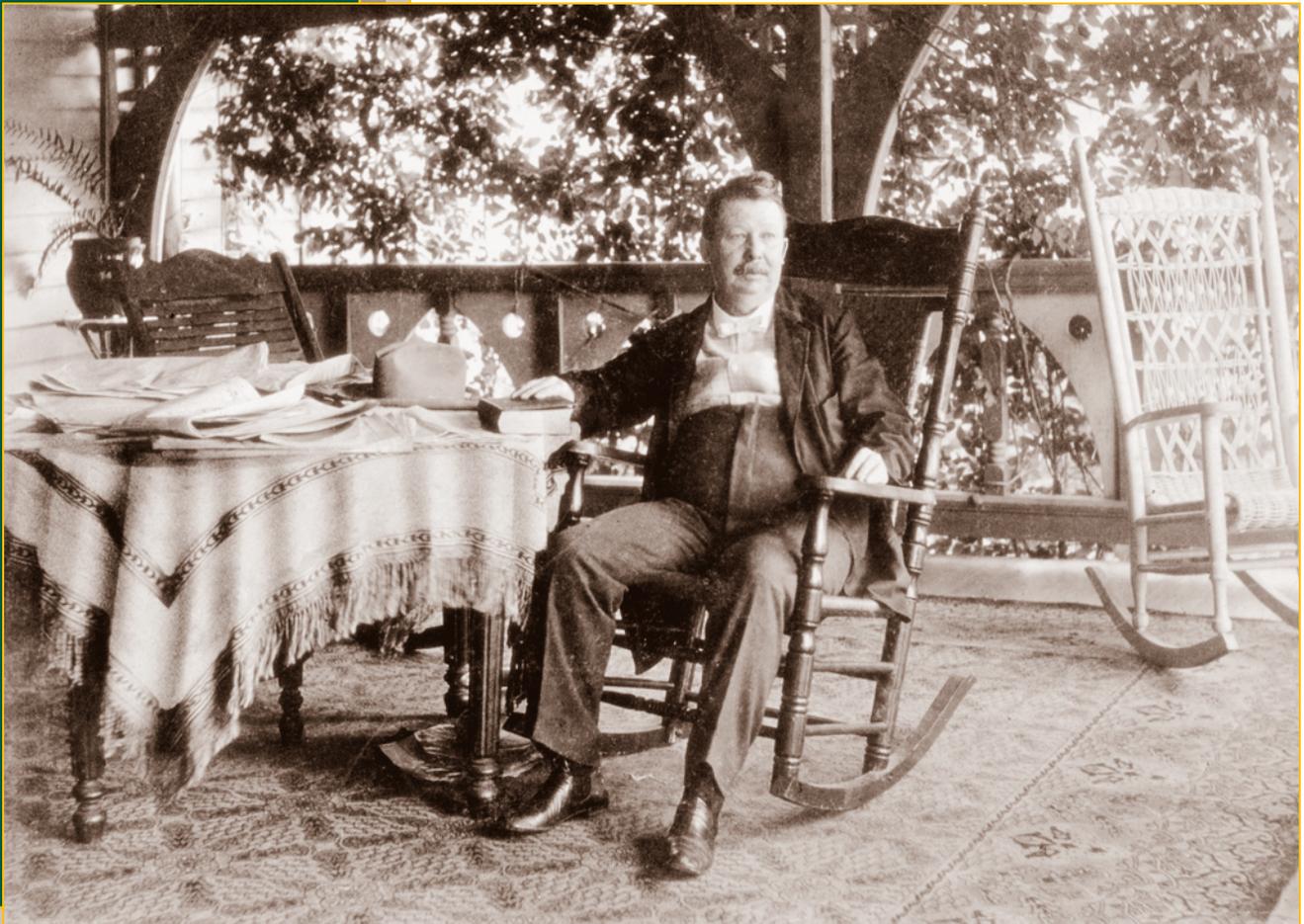
During this period of our history, young people your age were reading such favorites as *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*, *Little Women*, *Little Men*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Huckleberry Finn*. Georgia was the birthplace of several widely read authors.

Joel Chandler Harris

One of the New South's most famous authors was Georgia-born Joel Chandler Harris from Eatonton (Putnam County). Chandler was known as a humorist. He began writing stories about his southern past that came not from plantation verandas or magnolia covered lawns, but from slave cabins, cotton fields, and briar patches. His most famous book, *Uncle Remus: His Songs and Sayings*, was published in 1880 and later expanded into two volumes. Written primarily in dialect, these were fables based on African folklore. Called "trickster tales," they told stories of survival and morals using animals who tricked those around them.

He also wrote six children's books, several novels, and other major collections. In addition, over his twenty-five years with the *Atlanta Constitution*, Harris wrote many editorials dealing with southern race problems.

His death in 1908 at the age of 59 left a void in southern literature. Today, his Atlanta home, "Wren's Nest," is a museum open to the public.



Sidney Lanier

Poet Sidney Lanier was a native of Macon. Born in 1842, Lanier was a gifted musician even as a small child. He graduated from Oglethorpe University in Midway at the age of fourteen and became a tutor. With his brother, Lanier enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861. He was captured while running a blockade off the coast of Wilmington, North Carolina, and placed in an army prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. While there, he became ill with tuberculosis. He was released after only five months in prison and, with a friend, walked most of the way back to Macon.

Lanier moved frequently after the war looking for a climate that would be good for his health. In 1873, he moved to Baltimore, where he played first flute in the Peabody Symphony and became a teacher at Johns Hopkins University. It was in Baltimore that he had his first real success as a writer. Among his works are “Evening Song,” “The Song of the Chattahoochee,” “The Marshes of Glynn,” and, one of his most famous poems, “Sunrise.” His poems on the Reconstruction experiences of Georgia include “Night and Day” and “The Raven Days.”

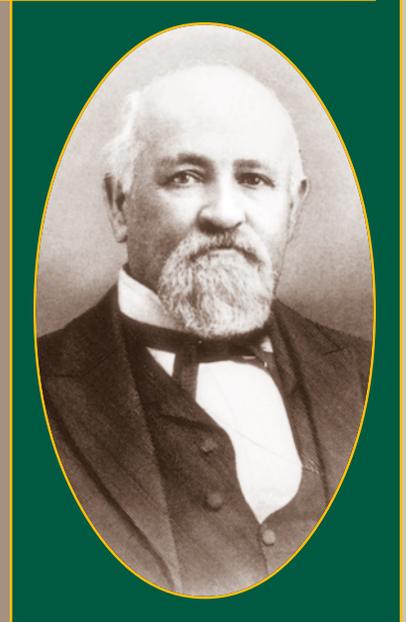
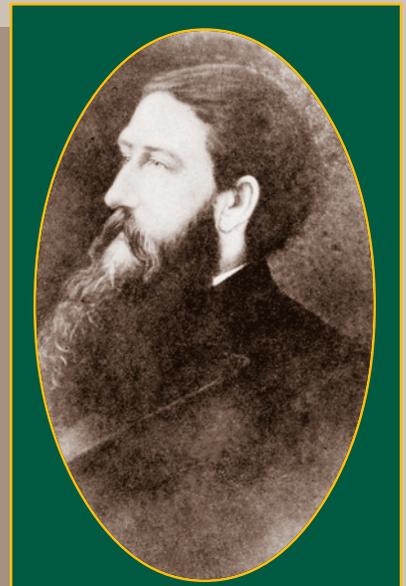
Lanier died in 1881 in Lynn, North Carolina. His vivid and realistic descriptions of the Georgia coastal area made him one of America’s most successful poets of the century.

Charles Henry Smith (Bill Arp)

Charles Henry Smith was a humorist who wrote for the *Atlanta Constitution*. A native of Lawrenceville, Smith attended Franklin College (now the University of Georgia).

He served in the Confederate Army until he was sent home on a medical discharge in 1863. In 1865, Smith was elected to the state senate. In 1867, he was elected mayor of Rome, where he and his family lived. For a while, Smith worked as a journalist for the *Rome Courier* and then for the competing newspaper, the *Rome Commercial*. In 1877, he and his wife moved to a farm near Cartersville. Smith wrote articles to the *Atlanta Constitution* to add to his farm income.

By the time of his death in 1903, Smith had written 1,250 articles for the *Constitution* and many of those had been reprinted by newspapers across the nation. The “Bill Arp Letters” were satirical letters that were supposedly written by Bill Arp, a simple Georgia cracker with little education. The early letters were written in a deep-southern backwoods dialect. Writers use satire to make fun of something or someone in order to make changes. While the issues and personalities changed over the years, Smith’s use of satire did not. Under the pen name Bill Arp, Smith continued to make fun of politics, politicians, and businessmen.



Agriculture in the New South Era

When the United States was formed, farm families made up most of the population. As the country grew, so did the need for farm products. To produce needed crops, farmers had to be willing to work hard and take risks. Weather, insects, plant diseases, bank loan interest, shipping costs, and market prices were all beyond the farmers' control.

The Grange

In 1866, a clerk in the Bureau of Agriculture toured the South and found farmers discouraged, tired, and often without enough money. The next year he formed the "Patrons of Husbandry," which soon became known as the **Grange**. *Grange* is a word that means a farm and its buildings. At first, Grange meetings were mostly social—dances, informal get-togethers, or speakers who shared the newest farming techniques and equipment improvements.

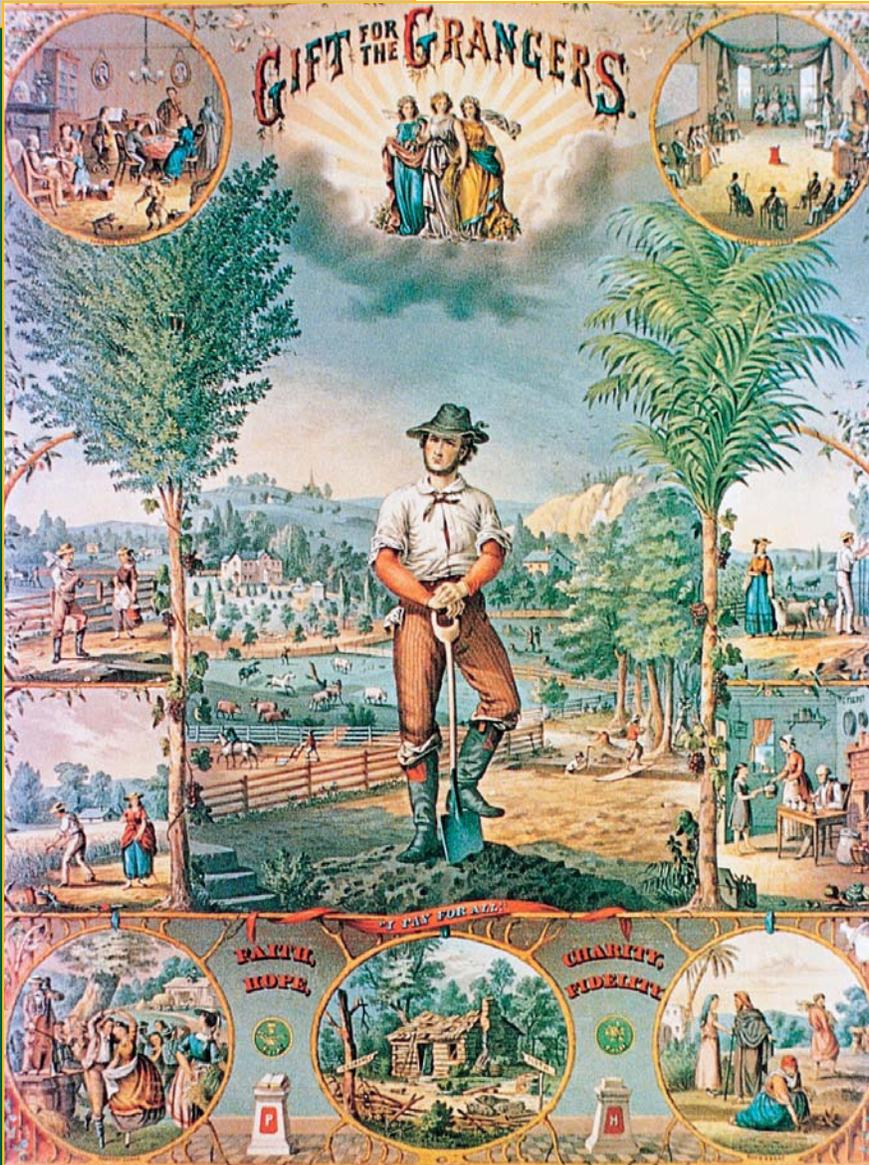
After the early 1870s, crop prices began to drop drastically. By the 1880s, after paying the landowner, a small Georgia sharecropper might not make more than \$130 for his cotton crop—a year's work. Banks loaned farmers less money, and, as a result, many farmers were forced into bankruptcy.

As economic conditions worsened, the Grange became more political. In 1872, Granges began organizing and meeting in Georgia. By 1875, there were 18,000 members of Georgia's local Grange chapters and about 750,000 members in the nation. Georgia's Grange put enough

pressure on the state legislature to force the formation of a state department of agriculture in 1874, making Georgia the first state in the nation to have a government agency concerned entirely with farming.

The Farmers' Alliance

During the late 1870s and early 1880s, the **Farmers' Alliance** was formed. There was one large group in the Northwest and another in the South. Like the Grange, the Alliance began as a social organization. However, many of the



Above: The "Gift of the Grangers" poster depicts the contributions farmers make to the nation's welfare.



Above, left, and below: One area at the Georgia Agrirama at Tifton is a “progressive” farmstead. The progressive farmhouse is larger, better furnished, and has more modern conveniences. One convenience was a stove for cooking. The girls’ bedroom was next to the kitchen because the girls were the first up to start breakfast. Having the kitchen and dining room within the main house was also a new development.

On the Road Again

The St. Simons Island Lighthouse

One of the most notable landmarks along the Georgia coast is the lighthouse at St. Simons Island. The original building was built in 1810 of tabby—a mixture of sand, oyster shells, water, and lime. During the Civil War, Confederate forces burned it to prevent the Union Army from using it as an entry point to the Georgia coast.

A new lighthouse was started in 1867. Although some of the workers, along with the well-known Georgia architect Charles Cluskey, died from malaria during the rebuilding, the grey brick lighthouse and keeper's cottage were completed in 1871. The lighthouse continues to function today, and visitors are welcome to visit and take a step back into Georgia's coastal history. Before you go, you might want to know about an incident that happened there. In 1880, the lighthouse keeper and his assistant, Frederick Osbourne, had a heated argument that resulted in Osbourne's death. According to local lore, you might just hear Osbourne's footsteps in the tower if you listen carefully.



local alliances formed cooperative buying stores, or **co-ops**. The co-ops purchased goods and equipment directly from producers, which enabled farmers to buy seed, fertilizer, and farm tools at lower prices.

Farmers' Alliance leaders worked against high railroad freight rates and high interest rates charged by banks for farm loans. The Alliance wanted to change the federal government's money policy. The government had followed a "tight" money policy since the Civil War; that is, the government limited the amount of money in circulation and measured the money against the value of gold it had. The Alliance believed this policy caused prices for crops and other goods to fall. The policy also limited the amount of credit available to farmers. The Alliance wanted the federal government to issue more paper money and to circulate silver coins.

During the coming years, this small group would grow into a political party called the Populist party and would support changes that continue to impact our lives today.

A Final Note

In a strange way, much of Reconstruction and the New South era was about gaining **self-respect**. For the newly freed men and women, it meant openly demonstrating a pride

It's Your Turn

1. When did Georgia first have state-funded schools?
2. What is a normal school?
3. When did the state constitution call for segregated schools?
4. Who was Charles H. Smith?
5. Why was the Farmers' Alliance formed?

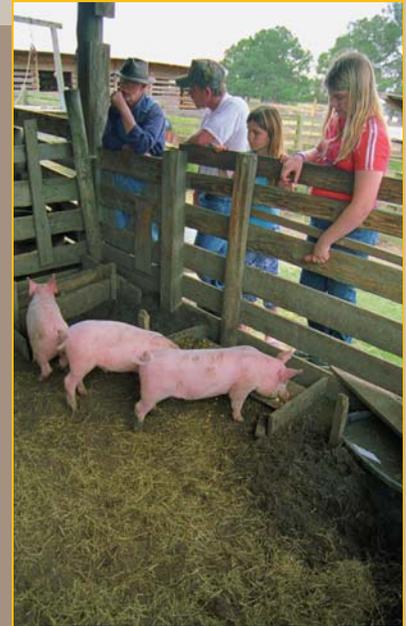
that they had always felt during slavery, but that they were forced to hide. And, for the first time, additional self-respect resulted from their newly acquired political power and influence.

For the sharecropper and tenant farmer, it meant maintaining an “inner” self-respect in the face of crushing poverty. For the “New South,” it meant trying to repair the southern economic dignity and self-sufficiency that were destroyed by the war.

As you read through the chapter, identify at least five events or individuals who demonstrated self-respect. Also describe five positive ways you can show dignified pride and self-respect as you go about your daily life.

Chapter Summary

- The period right after the Civil War was called Reconstruction, as the southern states began rebuilding and underwent the steps required to rejoin the Union.
- During Reconstruction, Congress passed and, required all of the returning Confederate states to ratify, the Thirteenth (abolishing slavery), Fourteenth (granting citizenship to the freedmen and guaranteeing equal protection under the law), and Fifteenth (guaranteeing the right to vote) amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
- During Reconstruction, most southern states enacted Black Codes, laws aimed at restricting the rights of the freedmen.
- During Reconstruction, Georgia fell under federal military rule three separate times before finally gaining readmission to the Union in 1870.
- Georgia rewrote its constitution in 1865 and in 1867.
- As agriculture struggled to recover, two new types of farming became common—tenant farming and sharecropping.
- The years immediately following the Reconstruction period are known as the Redemption years, during which the state had to recover from the hardships of Reconstruction.
- Three men, known as the Bourbon Triumvirate, led Georgia during this period—Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt, John B. Gordon. Business and industry began to grow under the Bourbon Triumvirate, and the Democratic party ruled the state.
- Challengers to the Bourbons included the Feltons, who worked for, among other things, prison reforms.
- Journalist Henry W. Grady, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, coined the phrase “New South” to describe a state striving to develop business and industry to rival the North.
- Georgia developed a state-funded public education system.
- As agricultural profits declined and rural powers lessened, farmers organized into groups such as the Grange and the Farmers’ Alliance.



Above: The farms are popular attractions at the Georgia Agrirama. Here visitors check out the new pigs.

Chapter Review

Reviewing People, Places, and Terms



Use the following terms in complete sentences that show how each term relates to this period of Georgia's history.

1. Black Codes
2. Bourbon Triumvirate
3. discrimination
14. disfranchise
5. Freedmen's Bureau
6. free public schools
7. Henry W. Grady
8. Joel Chandler Harris
9. Reconstruction
10. Redemption era
11. sharecropping

Understanding the Facts



1. What rights were provided by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution?
2. What was the difference between carpetbaggers and scalawags?
3. Why did Georgia fall under military rule three times before finally being re-admitted to the Union in 1870?
4. What were the weaknesses of the convict lease system?
5. In what year did Georgia first begin formal teacher education?

6. What was the first major industry to expand in Georgia after the war?
7. What is the "tight money policy" implemented after Reconstruction?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. In what ways do you think Lincoln's assassination impacted Reconstruction?
2. What did blacks *not* gain during Reconstruction? Explain your answer.
3. What were the major accomplishments of Reconstruction? The major failures?
4. Identify some of the reasons that made Georgia's economic recovery after the Civil War so difficult.
5. The ouster of the Republicans after Reconstruction and the dominance of the Democratic party for the next hundred years made Georgia a one-party state. What do you think are the advantages of having a two-party state government, or do you think there are advantages in retaining a single-party dominance in politics?
6. You have read about Rebecca Latimer Felton. If you had to describe her to a friend, what are three terms you would use to explain her character?

Checking It Out



1. During Reconstruction, African Americans gained a political voice in Georgia for the first

time. Tunis G. Campbell, Henry McNeal Turner, Aaron A. Bradley, and William Finch were key leaders. Choose one of these men and learn more about him. Share your findings with the class.

2. Use your research skills to learn more about sharecropping or tenant farming. How long was sharecropping used in Georgia? Try to find a copy of an agreement between a landowner and a sharecropper.



Writing Across the Curriculum

1. Pretend you are a Confederate soldier returning home in 1865 from the war after four years of being away. Write a letter to a friend in another state describing how things have changed in Georgia since you were last home.
2. Jefferson Davis's citizenship was not restored until 1978. Prepare a short report on why this was so.
3. Some historians argue that a weakness of the federal government's Reconstruction plan was that it failed to guarantee land grants to former slaves. In a short paragraph, argue either for or against land grants for former slaves as a condition of Reconstruction.
4. Re-examine the speech of Henry W. Grady on page 318. He told the story about a funeral for a Georgian. What was the point he wanted that story to reinforce? We often use stories to make points or teach lessons. Write a short story, one page in length, that teaches a lesson using an experience from your own background. Briefly identify the lesson point on the back side of the page and let your classmates guess your point from hearing the story.

Exploring Technology



1. Use your Internet research skills to read about the *Mary Celeste*, which sailed for New York but which was found, in 1872, abandoned in the Atlantic. The captain, his wife and daughter, and a crew of eight had vanished. Read at least four accounts of the mystery and prepare a hypothesis about what you think must have happened to the *Mary Celeste*.
2. One of the most influential journalists of the period was cartoonist Thomas Nast. His cartoons were so influential that he was once offered \$500,000 to leave the city of New York in order to stop his editorial cartoons about Boss Tweed. Research Thomas Nast and his career. Research Nast's drawings of the Republican and Democratic party symbols – the elephant and the donkey. Why do you think he chose those two animals as the symbols? Finally, examine two other cartoon areas which made him equally famous—Santa Claus and Uncle Sam. View each cartoon and explain why his version is still used today.



Applying Your Skills

1. Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast President Johnson's view of Reconstruction with the view of the radical Republicans.
2. Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast sharecropping and tenant farming using more detailed information than is provided in your textbook. You will have to use your research skills to obtain that information.