



THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

a-z
GLOSSARY

CHAPTER

PREVIEW

PEOPLE: James Buchanan Duke, Robert M. La Follette, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Duncan Clinch Heyward, Martin F. Ansel, Coleman Blease, Richard I. Manning, Julius Rosenwald, Virginia Durant Young, Susan Pringle Frost, Anita Pollitzer, Eulalie Chafee Salley, Freddie Stowers, Bernard Baruch

PLACES: Newberry, Sumter, Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach, North Augusta, Sandy Springs

Americans born in 1865 would have observed some amazing and revolutionary changes in their lifetime. Soon after their birth, the typewriter was invented and writing became a lot easier—and easier to read. At about the same time, the transcontinental railroad, binding America's east coast with the new golden promise of the west coast, was completed. Then the telephone was invented and soon a voice could be heard through wires across the continent.

Electricity had been known in the form of lightning from the beginning of humankind. But learning to generate electricity and harness it to create light and run machinery happened in the early 1880s. Soon cities and towns were brightly lit at night. By 1893, Columbia, South Carolina, had the world's first all-electric cotton mill. Soon after that, all kinds of factories were powered by electricity. Humans had learned how to expand their capacity to do work far beyond what human and animal power could ever do.

By the time those Americans reached age thirty, they had news that several different inventors were attempting to put gasoline-powered motors on buggies. The automobile revolutionized transportation in the twentieth century. If the gasoline engine could power a car, why not add wings and fly? Before they were forty, they could read about airplanes in newspapers, even if



Chapter 12
Activity Sheets



Chapter 12 PowerPoint



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Chapter 12 Section 1
Audiobook

they didn't actually fly in them. Another invention of the 1890s that people could read or hear about was the moving picture. *Still* photographs had advanced to *moving* pictures and recorded music in a hurry.

If they had surgery, anesthesia was available to soothe their pain. If they lived to the ripe old age of fifty, the radio was sending voice messages through the air—no wires. Who knew there were radio waves in the air all around? Americans born in 1865 were too old to fight in World War I, but they heard about the use of airplanes, submarines, tanks, and poison gas. They could only view with awe the new world they were living in.



TERMS: Rural Free Delivery (RFD), hydroelectric, streetcar, trolley, pandemic, pellagra, Progressive Era, direct primary, referendum, recall, trust, Federal Reserve System, women's suffrage, trench warfare, League of Nations, isolationists

Opposite page: Columbia Mills now houses the South Carolina State Museum, where these looms are on display. **Above:** This view of King Street in Charleston shows two important developments of the Progressive Era, the automobile and electric street lamps. **Left:** This monument to South Carolina soldiers who died in World War I is in Newberry.



SIGNS of the TIMES

EXPANSION OF THE U.S.

Between 1907 and 1912, the last three “lower forty-eight” states were added to the Union: Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona.

EXPLORATION

In 1909, a team led by Americans Robert Peary and Matthew Henson became the first explorers to reach the North Pole. In 1911, Norwegian Roald Amundsen’s team was the first to reach the South Pole.

ENTERTAINMENT

In 1910, director D. W. Griffith’s movie *In Old California* was the first one filmed in the little town of Hollywood, near Los Angeles. In 1915, he directed *The Birth of a Nation*, which glorified the KKK in South Carolina during Reconstruction. The first football bowl game, the Tournament of Roses, was played in 1902, and the first World Series was played in 1903.

LITERATURE

In 1900, L. Frank Baum published *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the first of thirteen Oz books. Jack London was a popular writer of outdoor adventure novels. In England, Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

became the rage. Edgar Rice Burroughs published the first of many *Tarzan* books in 1914. Carl Sandburg began publishing poetry.

MUSIC

African American ragtime composer Scott Joplin wrote “The Entertainer” in 1902, later used as the theme song of the popular 1970s movie, *The Sting*. W. C. Handy contributed to the blues with *Memphis Blues*. Arnold Schoenberg and Igor Stravinsky were composing experimental modern music.

SCIENCE & INVENTIONS

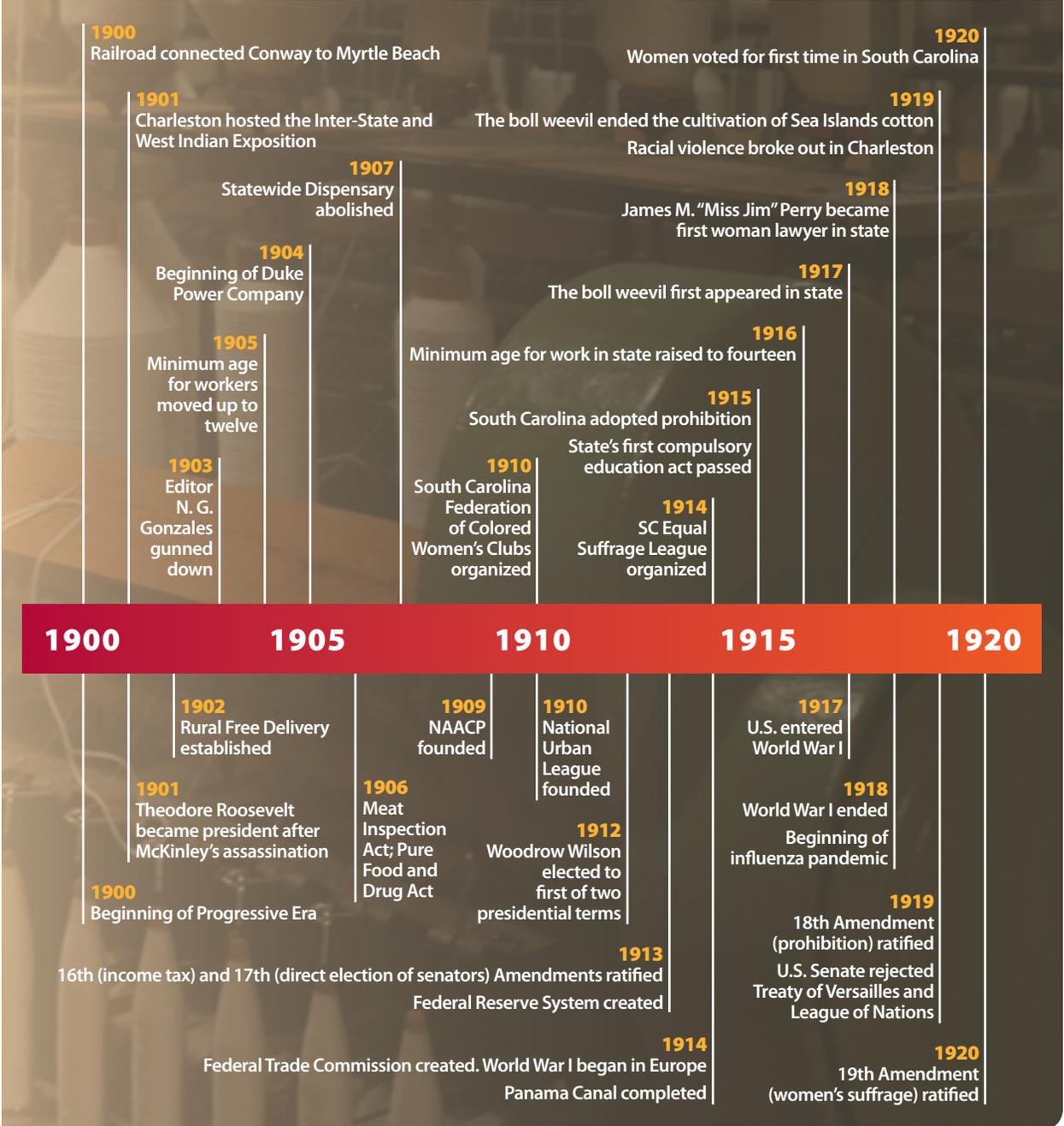
Albert Einstein shocked the scientific world with his theory of relativity. Dr. Walter Reed discovered that yellow fever was caused by a virus spread by mosquitoes. Willis Carrier invented the air conditioner. King C. Gillette manufactured the safety razor with disposable blades. Electric washing machines were introduced and zippers became popular.

TRANSPORTATION

In 1903, the Wright Brothers made their first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Henry Ford incorporated the Ford Motor Company in 1903. Ocean liners were popular as new floating hotels, but the *Titanic* sank in 1912.

FIGURE 17

Timeline: 1900 to 1920





Life at the Turn of the Century

Opposite page, above: Ambivalence to immigrants is demonstrated in this cartoon titled “The Immigrant. Is he an acquisition or a detriment?” This immigrant is welcomed by a politician who says “He makes votes for me,” and a contractor who says “He gives me cheap labor.” But the workman says “He cheapens my labor,” and an immigration officer says “He brings disease.” **Below:** This famous 1907 photograph of immigrants aboard ship by Alfred Stieglitz is titled “The Steerage.”

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR

- how the new wave of immigrants reshaped America but led to a backlash against them;
- the pleasures and problems of rural life in South Carolina;
- reasons for the growing prosperity of farmers in our state;
- technological advances that improved life in towns and cities;
- the effects of disease and violence on South Carolinians;
- terms: **Rural Free Delivery (RFD), hydroelectric, streetcar, trolley, pandemic, pellagra.**



Life in America and in South Carolina around the turn of the century was affected by great technological changes. But life was also still affected by age-old factors that had shaped American life for centuries. One of these factors was the interaction of European culture with black culture and American Indian culture. That interaction created a unique civilization that was neither European nor African nor Native American. South Carolina and other Deep South states experienced the greatest influence from African cultures simply because the huge numbers of Africans who had been imported as slaves were able to pass on more of their culture.

Another factor is related to the first: America continued to be influenced by waves of immigrants adding their flavors to American life. In the years from 1880 to 1920, millions of foreigners poured into the country. Most of the new immigrants did not come to South Carolina. They were not attracted to the state’s

struggling agriculture or its new mills. More people were moving out of South Carolina than were moving in. Of the 1.4 million people in South Carolina in 1900, only 5,528 were foreign-born. Some of those, however, made significant contributions to the state, such as the Gonzales family from Cuba. N. G., Ambrose, and William Gonzales were journalists who established *The State* newspaper in 1891.



1918 Flu Pandemic - Part 1



1918 Flu Pandemic - Part 2

Resistance to Immigration

Not all Americans welcomed the “new immigrants” who arrived after 1880. Instead of appreciating the immigrants’ economic muscle and cultural contributions, many resented the foreigners’ acceptance of lower wages. Resentment first hit the Chinese, who had been brought into the West to work on railroads and in mines. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first effort to totally shut America’s doors to any foreign group. The next immigrants to suffer discrimination were from Eastern and Southern Europe.

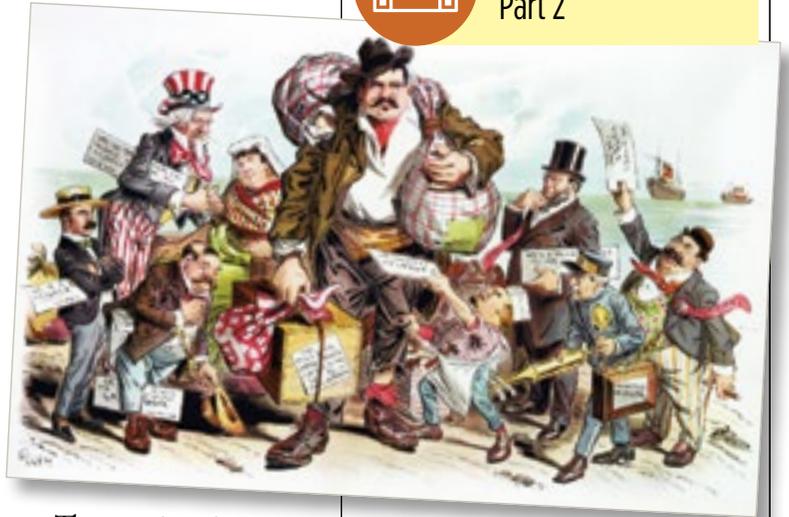
Soon after World War I, this *nativist* (favoring native inhabitants over immigrants) sentiment resulted in passage of the most restrictive immigration legislation in our history. Those laws of the 1920s placed limits on the number of immigrants who could settle in America each year. Only 150,000 were allowed in any year, compared to the previous average of 1 million per year. Most of the new immigrants had to come from Western Europe; very few from Eastern Europe, and none from Asia. These restrictions lasted until the 1960s.

Rural Life in South Carolina

Immigration seldom bothered South Carolina. Most Carolinians lived in small houses scattered along dirt roads with few close neighbors. Some families owned land, but most were tenants or sharecroppers. Almost all were poor.

Diversions

Life was tough, but not without pleasure. There were families to raise and joy to be found in happy children’s faces. The women had quilting bees with their neighbors and baked pies to take to the annual county fair. Men enjoyed hunting coons and rabbits, racing horses and mules, watching cockfights, and



Below: The majority of South Carolinians at the turn of the century lived in the country, along dirt roads, in small frame houses like this one near Goose Creek.





Above: Photos like this one of a baptism were often sold as post-cards depicting life in the South.

DID YOU KNOW?

Several black communities on St. Helena Island built “praise houses,” small satellite churches for holding Sunday night and midweek services. The praise service was usually informal, with songs, testimony, and prayer, climaxing with a call and response from a leader and the audience—called a “shout.” Praise houses were also used for community informational meetings.

drinking whiskey, perhaps distilled from their own corn. They enjoyed sitting with their friends, talking, and chewing tobacco. Both men and women enjoyed church on Sundays and the occasional church picnics.

Churches continued to be “southern,” separate from northern churches, and separated by race. Churches were growing and active during the 1880 to 1920 period. Despite few resources, they sent missionaries and created orphanages. They preached passionately against drinking, and they promoted prohibition of alcoholic beverages by state action. Camp meetings focused on individual sin and salvation. The preachers, especially in white churches, tended to neglect social sins such as child labor, the convict lease system, racism, and extreme poverty.

The Country Store

Before the automobile and good roads, the country store was an important institution. Located at a crossroads or in a village or small town, it was usually a large two-story building. The store sold food, work clothes, kerosene, candles, tools, and farm tools. It sold the ever-present *patent medicines* (medicines not prescribed by a doctor) that were supposed to cure everything from stomachache to ingrown toenails. Most of them were useless, but they were popular. Many contained a high alcoholic content, which might explain their popularity. At least one patent medicine available by the end of the century was worth its cost—*aspirin*, truly a pain reliever.

The country store often served as a post office and meeting place for such white organizations as the Grange, the Farmers’ Alliance, Tillman’s Farmers’ Association, the local Democratic Party, or the Masonic Lodge. At election

time, the store might serve as a polling place, but more often it was an informal social gathering place. Men liked to meet their friends by the potbellied stove in winter or on the shady porch in summer and talk about the news of the day.

The store owner functioned as a banker as well as a merchant, extending credit to farmers. Sometimes the farmers fell into such heavy debt that they had to turn over their farms to the merchant and become renters or sharecroppers. This happened many times in the 1880s and 1890s, but better times were coming.

Farm Life Improves

Agriculture in South Carolina was generally prosperous, and farm life improved in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Tobacco cultivation soared in the Pee Dee area, which proved to be the only region of the state that was perfect for growing bright leaf tobacco for cigarettes. In 1890, the Pee Dee produced 220,000 pounds of tobacco. Ten years later, the area produced 20 million pounds. Farmers growing tobacco could make at least three times as much profit per acre as those growing cotton.

Cotton crops increased during the first decade, peaking at an all-time high of 1.6 million bales in 1911. Surprisingly, the price the farmers received also went up a bit. In 1914, cotton was bringing thirteen cents per pound, a decent price. World War I began that year in Europe and spurred demand for cotton products, such as uniforms and tents. Cotton prices went up sharply. Encouraged by new demand, farmers bought more land and equipment, on credit. The price of cotton went to forty cents per pound in 1920. Most farmers were feeling pretty good.



Above: Country stores sometimes hosted meetings of local organizations like the Grange, a fraternal organization of farmers that promoted their interests.

Below: Although cotton was still by far the dominant crop in South Carolina, there was more diversification. This is a field of Irish potatoes near Charleston.





Above: Rural Free Delivery was one of the main objectives of the Grange, whose full name was the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. It is the nation's oldest farmer's organization. Experimental Rural Free Delivery began in three South Carolina communities in 1899—Cope, Orangeburg, and St. George.

Rural Free Delivery

An important innovation by the federal government improved life for all rural residents. Beginning in 1902, the government gradually established **Rural Free Delivery (RFD)** nationally, delivering mail directly to rural areas. In 1913, package delivery began. Mail-order stores, such as Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward, now mailed thick catalogues to farm families. The families could order things they never knew they needed. And all could be brought to them by RFD.

Farmers did not just buy fanciful items from the catalogues. They could buy tools and plows, windmills and weathervanes, lanterns and lightning rods. One could even purchase a house in a kit, which would be shipped by RFD. The mail-order companies cut into the profits of country stores, very much as Internet stores in the twenty-first century are challenging local merchants. But competition brought more choices and better prices.

Villages and Towns

Small towns and villages were a part of the rural scene. All had hitching rails, watering troughs, and livery stables for horses and mules. All the roads were dirt. Most towns had a little hotel with a place to eat, though local people seldom ate out. The towns had stores, cotton gins, churches, a doctor or two, and often a railroad. Saturday was come-to-town day for farmers.



The townspeople enjoyed the same leisure-time activities as farmers, but more organized activities were possible. Baseball had become popular since Union troops brought the sport south. By the turn of the century, every town, mill village, and college had to have a baseball team, and fans were truly fanatical. A city like Charleston had a professional team; smaller towns had semipro and amateur teams. The most intense competition was among the mill villages of the Upcountry. Mill owners recruited the best players to work and play on their teams.

Towns provided parks, bandstands, spelling bees, horse races, cockfights, and parades for special holidays. (That holiday would not be the Fourth of July. Former Confederates were not yet ready to celebrate American independence.) A few towns built “opera houses” or civic buildings where traveling actors and musicians performed. Opera was not the usual fare. Some of these beautiful structures have been refurbished recently. They are, again, providing a cultural boost to their communities, notably in Newberry, Abbeville, Sumter, and Marion.

Advances in Technology: The Telephone and Electricity

Life for many was transformed by technological changes. The telephone was invented in 1876, and by the end of the century, many townspeople were

Above: The Newberry Opera House was completed in 1881. The opera hall is on the second floor. The first floor was reserved for municipal offices and a jail! The opera house hosted all forms of entertainment, including silent movies. The building was completely renovated in the 1990s.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the earliest intercollegiate baseball games was in 1875 between USC and Claflin University. Both teams were all black. USC won the game, 41–10.



hearing a woman ask: “Number, please?” A new job opportunity for women was born—telephone operator. Electricity was not far behind. In the 1880s, the user of electrical power had to be located very close to the generating plant, as was the case in Columbia’s first all-electric cotton mill in 1893. The mill was only six hundred feet from the **hydroelectric** (producing electricity by waterpower) plant on the Columbia Canal. When electricity could travel by wire for long distances, the use of electric power increased. South Carolina figured large in that development. The first significant distant transmission in the South came when the Portman Shoals hydroelectric plant on the Seneca River sent current ten miles to Anderson. The lights came on and the mill machinery whirred in 1898. Anderson acquired the nickname, the “Electric City,” which it has kept to the present.

Soon, North Carolina tobacco tycoon, James Buchanan Duke, began building a series of hydroelectric plants on the Catawba-Watauga River system. Duke Power Company was born. Other companies began damming other rivers and producing electricity. Most cities and larger towns in the state converted from gas to electric streetlights in the 1880s and 1890s. Not many houses were connected to electricity until about 1900. Rural residents had to wait several more decades for the electrical revolution to reach them.



Several cities provided public transportation on **streetcars** (passenger vehicles that ran on rails and were pulled by mules). By the end of the century, Charleston, Columbia, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Greenville had replaced them with **trolleys** (streetcars that ran on power from overhead wires). These cities could expand in size, link up with mill villages on the outskirts, and connect new suburbs with the downtown jobs and shopping. Early in the twentieth century, railroads were still the most convenient form of land transportation, both within cities and between towns. Twenty-eight passenger trains and thirty-eight freight trains served Columbia every day. But cars were coming on strong.

The Automobile

When cars were invented in the 1890s, they were only for the wealthy, costing nearly \$1,000. (Those who wanted a windshield paid extra!) By 1904, Columbia had about fifty autos, or “horseless carriages.” Many city streets and almost all rural roads were unpaved, muddy messes, almost impassable for cars. Local, state, and federal governments would later take up the burden of building better roads. Horses and carriages were to be around for several decades, despite horses being terrified by the noisy cars whipping by at eight or ten miles per hour.

In 1917, when the United States entered World War I, South Carolina had 40,000 cars and terrible road conditions. Few bridges had been built

Above: King Street in Charleston dazzles at night with its new electric streetlights. Opposite page, above: The first electricity generated in Columbia was provided by this hydroelectric power plant on the Columbia Canal. The electricity powered Columbia Mills (the building on the right behind the power plant), one of the first all-electric mills in the country. It now houses the South Carolina State Museum. The power plant is still operating. Opposite page, below: The invention of the telephone revolutionized communications and provided many new jobs for women.



HAVE YOU SEEN...

one of the few remaining Anderson cars? It is on display in Columbia's South Carolina State Museum.

over major rivers, so ferryboats had to haul cars across. Look at a map and estimate how many rivers you would have to ferry while driving from Charleston to Beaufort.

Most American cars were manufactured in Detroit, Michigan, but South Carolina had one early venture in making automobiles. John Gary Anderson, a buggy manufacturer in Rock Hill, converted his plant in 1916 to produce cars. Over the next ten years, the company made 6,300 cars, mostly of the luxury variety, but it went bankrupt in 1926. Ford, not Anderson, became the household name because Henry Ford developed the efficient assembly line that enabled him to produce a basic car to sell for about \$400. The Anderson, a bigger car, cost four to six times as much.

Tourism

As more and more wealthy northerners “discovered” South Carolina as an attractive place to spend their winters, the trains brought them in, not cars. Many of the tourists came to enjoy sports associated with horses. Aiken and Camden, in particular, developed brisk tourist businesses, with luxury hotels and expensive “second homes.” There were harness races with trotting horses pulling small buggies, and steeplechases for high-jumping thoroughbreds. Polo and foxhunting were also popular.

The beach was not yet well developed as a tourist destination. In 1900, a railroad was built from Conway to the beach, where there was a farm and a cotton gin. In a naming contest, Myrtle Beach was selected because of the numerous wax myrtle shrubs near the beach. In 1901, the first hotel was built there. The price was right: \$2 per night included three meals, but no electricity or running water. There is little wonder that northern tourists did not yet flock to South Carolina's Grand Strand.

Health

South Carolina was not the healthiest place to live in 1900. One-third of the state's young men volunteering for the Spanish-American War in 1898 were not accepted into the army because of health problems. Killer diseases such as smallpox, malaria, and typhoid still took their toll. Vaccination for smallpox had been available for over a century, but resistance was considerable, especially in the mill villages. Mill workers did not want government or health officials telling them to get shots. But state government did make vaccinations compulsory, and by 1930, smallpox had been eliminated.

The most dramatic health problem, not just in South Carolina but around the world, was the influenza (flu) epidemic of 1918-1919. This outbreak was a **pandemic** (a worldwide epidemic) in which 26 million people died. In South Carolina, about 10 percent of the population got the flu, resulting in over 14,000 deaths from the flu or pneumonia.

Below: The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed many more people than had died in World War I. It has been theorized that the pandemic started at an army base in Kansas and was spread to Europe by American troops. From there it spread around the world, killing millions of people. This photograph shows a demonstration at the Red Cross Emergency Ambulance Station in Washington, DC, during the pandemic.





Above: Newspaperman N. G. Gonzales, who cofounded *The State* newspaper with his brother Ambrose, was brutally murdered in broad daylight by South Carolina Lieutenant Governor James Tillman. Tillman blamed Gonzales, with justification, for his defeat in the governor's race.

A less deadly but more lasting problem in South Carolina was pellagra. First diagnosed in the mid-eighteenth century, **pellagra** was a disease that caused diarrhea, mental depression, and skin disorders that left permanent bleached-out blotches on the skin. Mill villages had the highest rate of pellagra. Studies in Spartanburg County mills supported the idea that poverty and poor diet caused the disease. Poorer workers were twelve times more likely to get pellagra than the higher-paid workers who could afford a better diet. Mill hands tended to eat a steady diet of corn meal, salt pork, and molasses. Add green vegetables, milk, eggs, and fresh meat, and the disease did not occur.

When World War I brought higher wages, pellagra nearly ended. When economic hard times returned in the 1920s, the disease came roaring back. Finally, in the late 1930s, researchers found the exact problem—the lack of *niacin* (a form of B-vitamin) in the diet. With this knowledge, the disease has ceased to occur in most of the world.

Violence and Murder

One of the unhealthiest and ugliest aspects of South Carolina in the turn-of-the-century era was the rate of violence and murder. America had always been a violent country, perhaps because of its frontier beginnings. On the frontier, personal disputes were often settled quickly and with violence rather than an appeal to law. The South had traditionally been violent. Then, Civil War and Reconstruction unleashed a rebellion against the established order, showing approval of the illegal use of violence. A South Carolina newspaper blamed the bloodshed on liquor and guns, but they were only part of the story.

Another part of the story was the acceptance of murder by so many South Carolinians. During the 1890s, South Carolina had seven members in the U.S. House of Representatives. Four of the seven had killed a man! In 1903, N. G. Gonzales, editor of *The State* newspaper, was gunned down on the sidewalk across from the State House in Columbia, in broad daylight before several witnesses. His attacker was Jim Tillman, lieutenant governor and nephew of Senator Ben Tillman. A jury found Jim Tillman not guilty of murder.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Define in sentence form: Rural Free Delivery (RFD), hydroelectric, pandemic.
2. What were some of the functions of the country store and the store owner?
3. What were some of the sports associated with horses that tourists to South Carolina enjoyed?



South Carolina Mill Villages in the Early Twentieth Century By Dr. Tom Terrill

Rosa Kanipe was eighteen years old when a man came riding up to “our gate in a rubber-tire buggy. . . . He was hirin’ hands for the mill.” Soon Rosa and the rest of her family became “hands” in a cotton mill. They were among the many South Carolinians who moved after 1880 to mills from farms, where most had struggled to get enough to live on. By 1905, more than 37,000 South Carolinians worked as mill hands. Nearly 9,000 had not yet reached their sixteenth birthday. Few black South Carolinians joined this large migration. White worker hostility and, later, state law excluded blacks from most if not all but the most menial jobs in the mills.

Almost all the white mill hands and their families lived in mill village houses that cotton mill companies built, owned, and rented. There weren’t enough privately owned houses available, and mill workers needed to live close to the mills so they could walk to work. Mills and mill villages were located in rural areas and near small towns from the Midlands to the Piedmont. They were especially numerous in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Columbia.

Mill housing was usually better than the homes cotton mill families like Rosa’s had as farmers. Most were small four-room wood structures arranged in rows along unpaved streets. More than eight people, family members and sometimes people who boarded with them, lived in houses that had only a little space—about a thousand square feet. Plant officials lived in larger, nicer homes in separate rows. Most mill villagers relied on outhouses

and hand-pumped water that served a group of houses. Both were improvements over what they had on the farm. So was the electricity that was increasingly available as more mills after 1900 used electric power. Most houses had unscreened windows. Mill villages often had reminders of their occupants’ farm past: cows, pigs, chickens, and vegetable and flower gardens.

However, everyday meals for most families consisted of corn bread, pork, and coffee.

Some children attended schools provided by mill companies; others went to public schools if they were located nearby. In 1905, most children went to school only through the fourth grade. More than 20 percent of those younger than sixteen years old worked in the mill. Working

children usually gave their earnings to their parents. The “family wage” system was a necessity for most families.

By the eve of American entry into World War I (1917), mill villages had become far more than simply housing for workers and their families. In addition to schools, there were churches—usually Baptist or Methodist. Neighborhoods had developed, often reinforced by relationships of kinship and marriage. Companies improved houses, paved roads, and offered some social services, like hiring nurses and social workers. Work by children less than twelve years of age had ended, and more children went beyond grammar school. Two other big changes lay just ahead: cars and radios. Mill villages, once the home of many South Carolinians, still exist in various forms.





Politics in the Progressive Era

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR

- how the negative aspects of rapid industrialization led to the progressive movement;
- the reforms carried out by progressives in cities, states, and the nation;
- accomplishments and failures of Progressive Era presidents and governors;
- the temperance movement and struggles for educational reform and women's suffrage;
- terms: **Progressive Era, direct primary, referendum, recall, trust, Federal Reserve System, women's suffrage.**



Above: Workers' rights were an important issue for progressives. Child labor, in particular, continued to be a problem even after laws were passed raising the working age. Lewis Hine, a crusading photographer, traveled around the country documenting the employment of underage children.

The era in the American story from about 1900 to 1917 is called the **Progressive Era** (a time when people concerned about economic and social problems turned to the government for solutions). With rapid industrialization, social and economic problems began to increase. Workers from rural areas and foreign countries flocked to urban areas to fill the factory jobs. Low wages meant cheap, crowded, unsanitary housing conditions. Many factories were crowded firetraps. Machines were dangerous and cut off many a finger or hand. Profit-seeking factory owners often sacrificed safety.

Child labor and lack of worker security were problems. If a worker got sick or lost a hand to a machine, others were hired. The disabled worker received no compensation. Sometimes temporary help with the groceries and rent came from the city's political "boss," who expected political support in return. Corruption was widespread. Businessmen often bribed city officials to get contracts for roads, rail, water, sewer, and electrical systems. The corruption greatly offended the progressive reformers.

Another problem was the huge gap between the few wealthy owners of factories, mines, and railroads, and the masses of poverty-stricken workers. Inequalities in income and wealth were not new, but by 1900, the contrasts were more dramatic.

The Progressive Response

Progressives argued that humans are thinking beings who can plan their own progress. Humans are not subject to a blind, wasteful, natural evolution of their society. They can educate the masses; build safer, more beautiful cities; clean up corruption in politics and business; make factories healthier; and prevent labor abuses.

How would progressives perform these wonders? They thought democratic government, controlled in the people's interest, was the perfect instrument for changing society for the good. In the first two decades of the new century, progressives were successful in using local, state, and federal governments to make changes in American society.

Progressivism in Action in the Cities

The most severe problems of industrialization were in the cities; thus middle-class city dwellers led the reforms. They demanded better public schools with required attendance, health services for the poor, compulsory immunization against contagious diseases, and better care for pregnant women and new mothers to cut the high infant mortality rate. In addition to replacing the dirty fire-prone slums with safer apartments, they promoted urban beauty with parks, open spaces, and fresh air. Subways and trolley systems were built. Many progressives wanted prohibition, believing that alcoholic beverages were the affliction of the poor.

Below: Hampton Park in Charleston was created in 1907 and named for Wade Hampton III. It occupied land that had been, at various times, a plantation, a horse race course, a Civil War prisoner-of-war camp, and the site of the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian Exposition.



Opposite page, above: President Theodore Roosevelt (right) made a trip in 1902 to attend the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition in Charleston. As part of his visit, he was taken on a cruise around Charleston harbor, and posed for this photograph with Governor Miles McSweeney.



Above: Wisconsin governor, and later U.S. senator, Robert M. La Follette was the face of progressivism in the first decades of the twentieth century. He ran for president in 1924 on the Progressive Party ticket, winning 17 percent of the vote, a very strong showing for a third-party candidate.

Progressive reformers preferred a government run by experts rather than the corrupt *cronyism* (giving jobs and other favors to “cronies,” or friends) of the city bosses. A new development, adopted by many cities in South Carolina and the nation, was the *commission* form of city government. Elected officials would appoint expert commissioners to run the police, water and sewer, and other departments. An alternative was the *city manager* form of government. The elected mayor and city council would hire an expert to manage the city’s affairs. This was the progressives’ way of blending democracy with expert management.

Progressivism at the State Level

States have often been considered the base of democracy in America—a place to test ideas before trying them at the national level. A famous example was the state of Wisconsin under Governor Robert M. La Follette, elected in 1900. “Battling Bob” La Follette, a Republican, took on the big businesses of his state, lowered railroad rates, required more taxes from corporations, regulated safety and sanitation in factories, and regulated public utilities (electricity, gas, and telephone). He emphasized education as the way to develop good citizens and train the experts needed to cope with problems in the industrialized society.

Several states experimented with ideas to make politics more democratic. Many states adopted the **direct primary** (an election that allows party members to choose candidates, instead of selecting them in small conventions of political operators). South Carolina had adopted the direct primary under Ben Tillman. The party primary became the only *real* election in this state because it had become a one-party state, the Democratic Party. The Democratic primary was the citizens’ only chance to have a voice. The ballot of the general election listed only one candidate for each office, the Democratic nominee.

During the Progressive Era, all states adopted the secret ballot, so a person could vote in private. Several states adopted the referendum and the recall. The **referendum** adopted by South Carolina allowed the people to vote on issues put to them by the legislature. The **recall** is a means to remove an official from office before his term has expired. South Carolina did not adopt the recall.

Progressivism at the National Level

Theodore Roosevelt became president upon the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901. In contrast to the conservative Republican McKinley, Roosevelt was a progressive Republican and an active president, willing to use the federal government as an instrument for making moral changes in society. He was concerned about the rise of business mo-

nopolies, which were called trusts, or near monopolies. A **trust** is a combination of corporations that reduces or may reduce competition.

For example, if most Americans could only buy their kerosene, oil, and gasoline from John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, then Standard Oil could charge high prices for its products and make outrageous profits. Without competition, the "free" was taken out of the free enterprise system. He believed these men he called "*malefactors* (wrong-doers) of great wealth" should act in the best interests of the whole society, not just their own selfish interests. To Roosevelt, it was a moral issue.

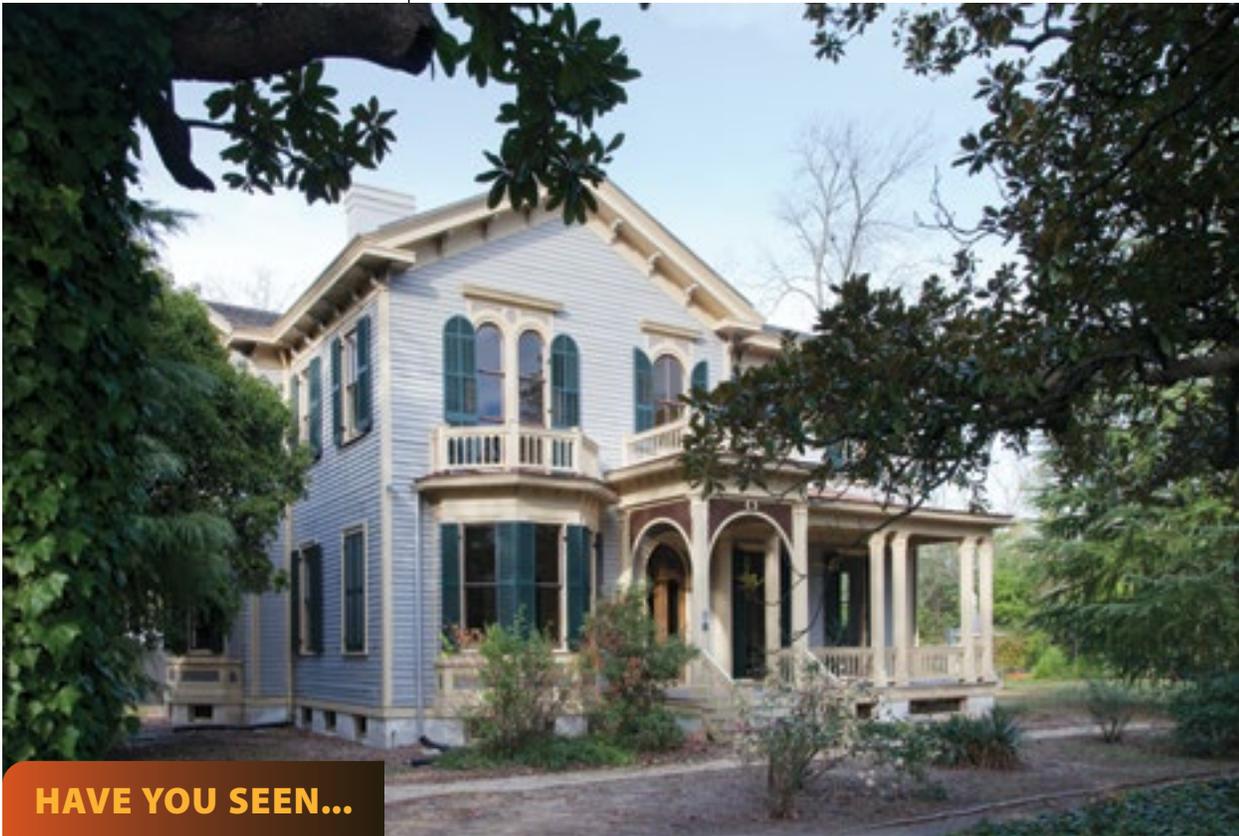
Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to take advantage of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. He used the act in 1902 to break up a gigantic trust in the railroad industry. In 1906, Congress gave the Interstate Commerce Commission authority to set reasonable and fair railroad rates. When coal miners went on strike for better wages and shorter hours, the coal companies refused their demands, and coal production halted. Roosevelt called the two sides to the White House to hammer out a deal. Once the president threatened to use the army to take away the mines, the companies agreed to a 10 percent wage increase and shorter hours.

"Muckrakers" (crusading newspaper reporters and authors) often influenced public opinion and prodded the government into action. A book by muckraker Upton Sinclair called *The Jungle* resulted in important legislation. This book described the unsanitary conditions in Chicago's meatpacking industry. Progressives demanded regulations. Congress passed two acts in 1906 that are still central to the federal government's efforts to regulate the nation's food and drug supply. These were the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act. For progressives, action was necessary to preserve free enterprise and to protect the American people.

Roosevelt's handpicked successor in the election of 1908 was William Howard Taft, a more conservative Republican. He actually broke up more trusts than Roosevelt had, but this record was not enough for Roosevelt. In the election of 1912, Roosevelt formed a new party, the Progressive or Bull Moose Party. The new party split the Republican vote and gave Woodrow



Above: William Howard Taft is the only president to have also served as chief justice of the United States. He was appointed to the post in 1921.



HAVE YOU SEEN...

the Woodrow Wilson
Boyhood Home?
Woodrow Wilson (below)
He and his family lived in
this house on Hampton
Street in Columbia during
his teen years.



Wilson, a progressive Democrat, a chance to win. A fourth candidate was Eugene Debs, the Socialist Party nominee. The race, therefore, included a moderate conservative, two progressives, and one candidate who wanted more radical reforms. It appeared America was about to undergo major changes.

Wilson, who had lived during his teen years in Columbia, was elected. He pushed through the Democratic Congress progressive measures that are still part of our political and economic systems. One far-reaching change was the **Federal Reserve System** (an independent government agency designed to regulate the banking and money system). Look at a dollar bill and you will see that it is a Federal Reserve Note. Free of political interference, somewhat like the Supreme Court, its experts have vast powers to regulate the nation's economy.

The Congress strengthened antitrust laws and set up the Federal Trade Commission to force corporations to treat the public fairly. The Sixteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave the government authority to place a tax on incomes. The income tax was to be graduated (or progressive), so that people who made the most money paid a higher percentage in taxes than low-income taxpayers. This tax started out very low, but has grown to become the main source of revenue for the federal government.

The progressive Democratic Congress and President Wilson aided agriculture by setting up county agents to advise farmers, and home dem-

onstration agents to help farmers' wives. These experts were associated with land-grant colleges such as Clemson and South Carolina State. They informed farm families about the latest techniques of farming, pest control, and food preservation and preparation. They still provide these kinds of services: giving advice on radio or television and analyzing farmers' and gardeners' soil samples to see what fertilizers are needed. The government supported vocational and agricultural training in high schools. It began a modest program to provide loans to farmers, helping save farmers from high-interest loans from banks and country stores.

Women were the driving force behind many progressive causes. Many women learned the techniques of political activism through their involvement with the temperance movement, which worked for the prohibition of alcoholic beverages. In organizations like the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), middle-class women across the nation provided much of the "manpower" necessary to enact progressive reforms. Despite their usefulness on other issues, women had great difficulties gaining male progressives' support for **women's suffrage** (the right of women to vote). The suffrage movement was building nationally, and women finally won the right to vote with ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, but the road was not easy.

Politics in South Carolina: Progressive and Regressive

South Carolina was more cautious about progressive reforms than many other states. Many white Carolinians opposed almost any type of reform, fearing it might bring changes in race relations. But progressives did push some reforms through the legislature. Governor Duncan Clinch Heyward, a rice planter and political newcomer elected in 1902, advocated a fairly progressive program in his two terms. He began improvements in education, but could not get compulsory school attendance. He managed to abolish child labor in factories for children under ten. The minimum age for work moved up to twelve by 1905. The maximum hours of work for mill hands was lowered to sixty hours per week.

Heyward tried to strictly enforce the law, including the Dispensary law, but was unable to overcome the corruption in the liquor distribution system. His successor, Martin F. Ansel, was a prohibitionist who abolished the statewide Dispensary in 1907. Counties were allowed to continue the Dispensary within their boundaries, and a few did. But in 1915, the whole state adopted prohibition and the state went dry, except for the "moonshiners" and "bootleggers" (illegal alcohol producers and dealers), who were nearly impossible to control. The nation adopted prohibition with the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1919.

Progressivism took a recess during the two terms of Governor Coleman L. Bleese, 1911-1915. A lawyer from Newberry, Bleese called himself the



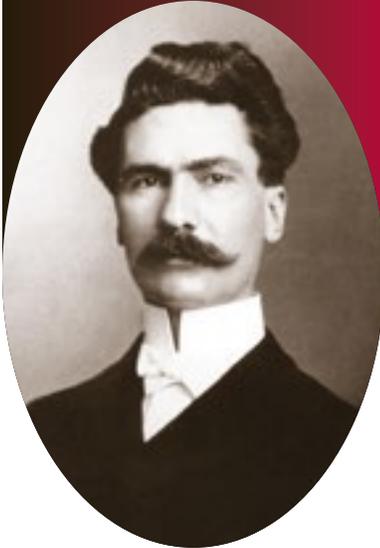
Above: Duncan Clinch Heyward was a political newcomer when he ran for governor in 1902. He won the backing of Benjamin Tillman because of his support for the Dispensary, and was re-elected to a second term in 1904.



Duncan Clinch
Heyward

DID YOU KNOW?

Governor Cole Blease promised to pardon any man who shot a doctor for examining his children without his permission.



Above: The administration of Governor Richard I. Manning was progressive on labor law, and established the State Tax Commission and the Highway Commission.

champion of the mill workers and the poorest white sharecroppers. Yet he consistently blocked progressives' efforts to improve workers' conditions. He vetoed state inspections of factories to improve sanitation and safety. He opposed regulating hours of labor. (Workers should be able to decide such matters for themselves, he said.) Blease also opposed laws regulating child labor, requiring school attendance, or allowing physical examinations of school children.

Two very positive developments came out of Blease's two terms. The state created a tuberculosis sanatorium and accepted the South Carolina Medical College as a state-supported institution. This colorful political figure ran for governor eight times and was elected twice. He ran for the U.S. Senate five times and won once (in 1924). His death in 1942 removed an interesting, if not very constructive, figure from Palmetto politics.

The Progressive Administrations of Richard I. Manning

Richard I. Manning, governor from 1915 to 1919, was a Sumter County planter, lawyer, and banker who was a genuine progressive. Governor Manning and the General Assembly passed several laws to help working-class Carolinians. These included laws to

- prevent employers from cheating employees,
- provide insurance compensation to workers laid off from their jobs,
- raise the minimum child labor age to fourteen, and
- establish a board to help settle labor disputes between employers and employees.

The progressive governor and legislature brought the State Hospital (for the mentally ill) up to modern standards. They introduced the secret ballot. They established the State Tax Commission to equalize tax assessments and regularize tax collections. Progressives considered road building an essential function of local, state, and federal governments. The number of cars in the state had grown to forty thousand. Car owners were calling out strongly for more and better roads. South Carolina established the State Highway Commission in 1917 to take advantage of federal money under the Federal Road Act. The Highway Commission is now called the Department of Transportation, one of the largest and most powerful state agencies.

The Progressives and Education

Progressives placed much faith in education as the best way to advance economic development and to build better and safer communities. Progressives wanted more schools and better-trained teachers. Their efforts were sorely needed. In 1900, nearly one-half of South Carolina citizens over age ten were illiterate. Only one-third of children were in school, and they only attended an average of four months or less per year.

The progressives more than doubled the funding for education during Manning's two terms as governor, and passed a law allowing counties to adopt compulsory school attendance. Special schools were created, one for the mentally handicapped and another for delinquent girls. The state established certification requirements for teachers and raised their salaries by 20 percent.

By 1920, educational improvements had been made, but they were uneven across the state—depending largely on individual counties and school districts. Spartanburg County was the best funded, and the county boasted seven accredited high schools. Columbia built several new schools, including two new high schools. Calhoun County had the longest school year, 180 days; Cherokee County had the shortest, 90 days. In 1920, per-pupil expenditures in South Carolina were the lowest in the country and the state's illiteracy rate was the highest.

South Carolina progressives also cooperated with the great philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co. of Chicago, to build schools for rural black children. From 1913 through the 1930s, the Rosenwald Fund contributed to building 450 rural schools in South Carolina. The Fund built about 5,000 across the South.

South Carolina and Women's Suffrage

Virginia Durant Young of Fairfax was a pioneer organizer for women's rights and suffrage. She organized the South Carolina Equal Rights Association (SCERA) in 1890. The three dynamic leaders in the last years of the struggle for women's suffrage were Susan Pringle Frost and Anita Pollitzer of Charleston, and Eulalie Chafee Salley of Aiken.

Frost demonstrated against President Wilson (who was at first a foe of women's suffrage) in Washington. Salley raised money for women's suffrage by dropping leaflets from an airplane over Aiken and even participating in a boxing match. After the women's suffrage amendment passed the Congress in 1919 (without votes from South Carolina), the suffragists tried unsuccessfully to get the South Carolina General Assembly to ratify the amendment.



Top: These children attended a one-room schoolhouse in Summerville. **Above:** Anita Pollitzer of Charleston was a leader of the women's suffrage movement.

FIGURE 18

Progressive Era Amendments

Sixteenth Amendment

Adopted by Congress: 1909 • Ratified by 3/4 of States: 1913 • Ratified in South Carolina: 1910

Purpose: Established Congress's right to impose a federal income tax.

Seventeenth Amendment

Adopted by Congress: 1912 • Ratified by 3/4 of States: 1913 • Ratified in South Carolina: Never

Purpose: Allowed voters to cast direct votes for U.S. senators (rather than state legislatures choosing senators).

Eighteenth Amendment

Adopted by Congress: 1917 • Ratified by 3/4 of States: 1919 • Ratified in South Carolina: 1918

Purpose: Banned manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. (Repealed by 21st Amendment in 1933.)

Nineteenth Amendment

Adopted by Congress: 1919 • Ratified by 3/4 of States: 1920 • Ratified in South Carolina: 1969

Purpose: Granted women the right to vote.

DID YOU KNOW?

The South Carolina General Assembly finally ratified the Nineteenth Amendment in 1969, fifty years later, soon after finally allowing women to serve on juries.



An Act to Require School Attendance in SC, 20 Feb 1915

The House voted against ratification 93 to 21; the Senate by a vote of 32 to 3. The Nineteenth Amendment was ratified nationally and went into effect in all the states in 1920. South Carolina had to allow women to vote, but didn't allow women to serve on juries.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Define in sentence form: Progressive Era, direct primary, Federal Reserve System.
2. What did progressives think was the perfect instrument for changing society for the good?
3. In what year and by which amendment were women allowed to vote?



Dr. Matilda A. Evans

Of SPECIAL INTEREST

Dr. Matilda A. Evans

By Meribeth Walton Moore

Would it surprise you to learn that there were no female doctors in Columbia until 1897 and that the first female physician in the city was an African American? She was Dr. Matilda A. Evans, who was born in Aiken County.

At age twelve, Matilda was picking cotton and studying hard, hoping to be admitted to Aiken's Schofield High School, one of the nation's first high schools for black children. Her parents, who had been born into slavery, knew that education was the key to escaping a lifetime of sharecropping. Matilda got into the school but had to continue to work in the cotton fields and study really hard.

Martha Schofield, a teacher from Philadelphia, had founded the Aiken school in 1868, with financial help from northerners. Matilda Evans later wrote in her biography of Ms. Schofield that she "had the heroic courage to risk her life in the unselfish and holy cause of implanting in the Negro mind and soul that which is beautiful, noble and sentimental."

Matilda did very well at Schofield and was admitted to Oberlin College in Ohio. After college, she returned to Aiken with the strong desire to become a doctor. She enrolled in the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, and was the only African American in her class. After receiving her medical degree in 1897, Dr. Matilda Evans again came home to South Carolina, settling in Columbia. She was determined to improve health care for blacks in her home state. At the time, there

were not even many male African American doctors.

Dr. Evans specialized in gynecology, obstetrics, and surgery. She treated black and white patients in her home and also traveled by bicycle or horse and buggy to visit patients in their homes. Because black citizens were denied access to Columbia's hospital, in 1901 Dr. Evans began the Taylor Lane Hospital, the first Columbia hospital for black patients. People came from other southern states for care that they could not receive at home. Running the hospital



and its nursing school was expensive. The nurses received free training and housing in exchange for their unpaid nursing services. White physicians volunteered in the hospital in exchange for clinical experience. Because of these free services, she was able to offer hospital care without charge. Dr. Evans was well respected in both the black and white communities.

Dr. Evans published a weekly newspaper, *The Negro Health Journal of South Carolina*. She went into the schools in Co-

lumbia and examined the children. As a result of Dr. Evans's efforts, the school district started a permanent physical exam program in each school. In 1930, with financial help from the Richland County Health Department, she established a free clinic for black children and pregnant women. "Our children will not be deprived of the advantages which a first class, most modern clinic can give."

While working at her medical practice, Dr. Evans raised eleven children who were without a home plus five of her deceased sister's children. Each child had the opportunity to go to college. Dr. Matilda Evans died in 1935. She received numerous awards during her lifetime. Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia established an award in Dr. Evans's name to honor her dedication to the medical profession.



America and South Carolina at War

Below: Following the sinking of U.S. merchant ships by German submarines, and other violations of American neutrality, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress on April 2, 1917, to ask for a declaration of war against Germany.

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR

- the events leading up to America's entry into World War I;
- ways in which South Carolinians supported the war;
- the effects of war on the state's economy;
- opposition to President Wilson's League of Nations by a rising group of isolationists;
- terms: **trench warfare**, **League of Nations**, **isolationists**.



In 1917, America entered World War I, and the attention of Governor Manning and President Wilson turned from progressive reforms to the war effort. Since 1914, when European countries went to war, most Americans had hoped to stay out of the conflict. In his 1916 reelection campaign, President Wilson had pledged to keep the nation out of the war. However, German submarines began sinking American ships that were bringing vital supplies to the British and French. Americans were unwilling to accept

this interference with freedom of the seas. Reluctantly, President Wilson asked the Congress to declare war on Germany and her allies: Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey), and, later, Bulgaria. They were called the Central Powers. The United States fought on the side of the Allied Powers: Great Britain, France, Russia, and many other smaller allies.

America Goes to War

The Wilson administration mobilized the whole nation for the war effort. Wilson effectively “sold” the war to the American people as a “war to make

the world safe for democracy” and a “war to end all wars.” He created an agency to propagandize for citizens’ support of the war. The government passed tough laws to prevent people from expressing opposition to the war or criticizing government policies and leaders. Literature and mail that criticized the war were confiscated, and a few citizens were imprisoned for speaking out against the war.

The United States mobilized the military and drafted men into an army of 2.8 million men, 2 million of whom went to Europe. The first units landed in Europe in June 1917 and began to make a difference. American military muscle, supplies, and enthusiasm helped turn the nasty, bloody trench warfare into victory over the Central Powers. In **trench warfare**, opposing forces attack and counterattack from a relatively permanent system of protected trenches (ditches). Though the war was mostly fought in the trenches of France and Belgium, many new and dramatic tools of war were employed: submarines, tanks, airplanes, machine guns, and poison gas.

South Carolina in the War

Governor Manning and most Carolinians were very supportive of the war effort. Cole Blease strongly denounced the war at first, but this time the mill workers would not follow him. Manning established a State Council of Defense to generate support for the war. Two hundred respected leaders were enlisted to speak at patriotic rallies. The enthusiasm was such that, for the first time since the Civil War, white Carolinians began celebrating the Fourth of July again. Patriotism also included strong anti-German attitudes that had some interesting results. The town with the offensive German name of Hamburg became North Augusta. In Charleston, the German-language newspaper would no longer be tolerated.

South Carolinians’ Contributions

Over 65,000 South Carolinians were in uniform during the war. Of those, 2,085 were killed, including 1 of the 6 sons of Governor Manning who fought in the war. Another killed was Freddie Stowers of Sandy Springs in Anderson County, the only black man to win the Medal of Honor in World War I. Whites and blacks served in segregated units.

Carolinians also supported the war effort by buying government bonds to help pay for it. They helped deal with food shortages by observing meatless and wheatless days, as the federal government recommended, and tended “liberty gardens” to grow more of their own food. Women played the major role in these efforts. Women also filled vital jobs in factories and offices when men were drafted into the army. South Carolina ranked high among other states in its support of the war.

Many workers, especially African Americans, migrated to northern cities to take jobs in war industries. Blacks migrating north had begun as a trickle in the 1890s, but greatly accelerated during the war. In the 1920s,

DID YOU KNOW?

Bernard Baruch (below) purchased several old rice plantations on Waccamaw Neck in Georgetown County in the early 1900s and combined them into the 17,000-acre Hobcaw Barony. It became a hunting preserve and place of relaxation for the rich and powerful of the first half of the twentieth century. Among Baruch’s guests were Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.



South Carolina in
World War I



Above: Members of the National Guard practice scaling a wall as part of their training for combat in World War I at Camp Wadsworth, near Spartanburg.

that migration became a flood as blacks were repelled by their treatment in the South and were attracted by better-paying jobs in the North.

One of the major players in the national war effort was Bernard Baruch, who was born in Camden and lived there until his family moved to New York when he was eleven. This extremely successful investor on Wall Street became an adviser to every president from Woodrow Wilson to Dwight D. Eisenhower. He was a good friend of President Wilson and served as chairman of the War Industries Board. This agency organized the American economy to fight the war effectively. After the war, Baruch advised Wilson at the Peace Conference at Versailles in France.

War's Effect on the Economy

The war had a positive effect on South Carolina's economy. Military installations brought huge increases in employment. Camp Wadsworth at Spartanburg, Camp Sevier at Greenville, and Camp Jackson at Columbia trained infantrymen. The Marine Base at Parris Island near Beaufort and the Charleston Navy Yard expanded.

The war stimulated agricultural and industrial production. The price of cotton increased, tripling farm income between 1916 and 1918. The demand for textiles caused the value of the state's manufactured goods to double in that two-year period. Temporarily, the state's economy was better than it had been any time since 1861.

Disappointments at War's End

The fighting in World War I ended in November 1918, and the struggle for peace began. Wilson's slogan, "a war to end all wars," seemed hollow



within two years. The United States emerged from the war the most powerful nation on earth. Wilson had an idealistic vision of a world of peace, order, and fairness among nations. He urged the major countries to join a **League of Nations** (an organization that would try to solve international disputes the way we settle disputes within a nation—by laws and courts, not by violence and war).

The League of Nations was established, with halfhearted European support and too little American support. Wilson's vision was unacceptable to the Republican Party's **isolationists** (those who wanted the United States to isolate herself from the age-old struggles of Europe and just tend to our own business). Isolationists in the Senate voted down the League of Nations and rejected the Treaty of Versailles. A sad Woodrow Wilson predicted another great world war within a generation. (World War II started twenty years later.)



Top: The 115th Field Artillery poses for a regimental portrait at Camp Sevier near Greenville.

Above: Camp Wadsworth was one of the locations of the Army School of Nursing, which trained nurses for service in World War I.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Define in sentence form: trench warfare, League of Nations, isolationists.
2. Who were the Central Powers in World War I, and who were the Allied Powers?
3. In what ways did World War I have a positive effect on our state's economy?



Chapter Summary

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many changes occurred in the United States. It was a time of progressive thought, which brought some much-needed reforms to the nation as a whole and to South Carolina. New laws protecting laborers were passed as were laws protecting children who had to work. There were political reforms aimed at ending corruption in voting procedures and in government in general. Social reforms brought about more educational opportunities for black Americans and improved treatment for the mentally ill.

The United States concentrated on itself during the Progressive Era but that would change when war broke out in Europe in 1914. The United States stayed out of Europe's war until 1917, when events finally brought about a declaration of war against Germany and the Central Powers. South Carolina, along with all the other states, contributed money and manpower to the war effort. President Woodrow Wilson hoped this would be the "war to end all wars." When President Wilson's plan for the establishment of a League of Nations failed to gain American support, he realized that his hope for no more wars was a dream rather than a reality.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things

Fill in each blank with the correct person or term.

Nativism

Referendum

Recall

Trust

Women's suffrage

Theodore Roosevelt

Duncan Clinch Heyward

Richard I. Manning

Woodrow Wilson

Matilda A. Evans

- _____ allows voters to vote on issues that the legislature puts before them.
- _____ was the first female physician in Columbia, South Carolina, and she just happened to be African American.
- _____ is a combination of businesses or corporations that may reduce competition.
- _____ was a progressive governor of South Carolina who, along with the state legislature, brought the State Hospital up to modern standards and introduced the secret ballot to South Carolina.
- _____ became president of the United States after the assassination of President McKinley; he was a progressive Republican.
- _____ was a progressive governor of South Carolina who fought for improvements in education and for better working conditions in factories.
- _____ was elected president of the United States in 1912 and 1916 and asked for Congress to declare war on Germany in 1917.
- _____ is a method of removing an official from office before his/her term expires.
- _____ is a policy of favoring original inhabitants over immigrants.
- _____ refers to the right of females to vote.

Understanding the Facts

1. What happened to spur the need for more cotton in the early twentieth century, and how did this help South Carolina farmers?
2. What health problems existed in South Carolina during the first quarter of the twentieth century?
3. Give evidence to support the statement that violence and murder were not considered so bad by many South Carolinians.
4. Why was there more action by progressives in urban (city) areas than in rural areas?
5. What democratic policies were adopted by some states or, in some cases, all of the states during the Progressive Era?
6. What helped Woodrow Wilson, a progressive Democrat, win the presidential election of 1912?
7. How did “muckrakers” prod the U.S. government into action?
8. What did the Sixteenth Amendment do?
9. What did progressives do to improve education in South Carolina?
10. What did Julius Rosenwald and South Carolina progressives do for rural black children?

Developing Critical Thinking Skills

1. President Theodore Roosevelt saw trusts as entities that hurt most citizens and believed that men who created trusts were trying to become richer at the rest of society’s expense. What is your opinion about the president’s assessment?
2. What similarities and differences do you see between the way immigrants were viewed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the way immigrants are seen today?

Writing across the Curriculum

Pretend you are a muckraking journalist at the turn of the twentieth century. Write an exposé on the dangers of having children work in textile factories.

Exploring Technology

1. Using information you find online, write a one-page report about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that occurred in New York City in 1911.
2. Go to this website (https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3147) to see what life was like for Chinese laborers who helped build the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s.

Applying Your Skills

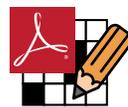
Make a timeline showing at least five acts that were passed or events that occurred between 1901 and 1909 showing President Roosevelt’s support of conservation and railroad regulation.

Building Skills: Examining All Sides of an Issue

This skill is especially important in this day of instant access to all kinds of information. It is very easy for information to be posted on the Internet and quite easy to manipulate information to suit people’s needs. To make an informed decision about an issue, you need to know something about the person who has written or made a verbal comment on that issue. Facts are facts, but issues can be given all kinds of slants. Look for differing views on an issue so you can weigh the positives and negatives that people give it. Also, look for a view that is totally neutral. This skill demands a lot of thought.

Try This!

Pretend you are the owner of a meatpacking plant in 1902 in Chicago. Weigh the pros and cons of hiring American workers who belong to unions or immigrants who are new to Chicago. Which type of worker do you eventually decide to hire and why?



Self Check Quiz