

## Excavating Atlanta, Episode 6- Immigration and Segregation

Below the producer has curated some materials that serve to supplement some of the concepts introduced in the discussion. There are time stamps to help you navigate which part of the discussion the materials pertain to.

### 2:15 Early Immigration to Atlanta

Georgia has an archive of fairly detailed [Census records](#) available online, dating all the way back to 1900.

In the below graphic from the [1910 Census](#), you can make out the racial and ethnic categories that the census bureau would track in the State of Georgia. Besides keeping up with White and "Negro" populations, the Bureau tracked what they called "Foreign-Born Whites," who were generally European. The Syrian population that Dr. Marni Davis speaks of is likely included in "Turkey in Asia."

TABLE 1.—COLOR, NATIVITY, AND PARENTAGE.

CLASS OF POPULATION.	NUMBER.			PER CENT OF TOTAL.		
	1910	1900	1890	1910	1900	1890
<b>THE STATE.</b>						
Total population....	2,600,121	2,216,331	1,837,353	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,431,802	1,181,294	978,357	54.9	53.3	53.2
Negro.....	1,170,987	1,034,813	859,815	45.1	46.7	46.7
Indian.....	95	19	68	(1)	(1)	(1)
Chinese.....	233	204	108	(1)	(1)	(1)
Japanese.....	4	1	5	(1)	(1)	(1)
Total native.....	2,503,044	2,203,028	1,823,210	96.4	99.4	99.3
Total foreign born.....	15,477	12,493	12,137	0.6	0.6	0.7
Native white, total.....	1,416,730	1,169,273	968,466	54.3	52.8	52.0
Native parentage.....	1,301,058	1,144,860	946,782	53.3	51.6	51.5
Foreign parentage.....	13,232	12,006	9,719	0.5	0.5	0.5
Mixed parentage.....	12,440	12,907	9,954	0.5	0.6	0.5
Foreign-born white.....	15,072	12,021	11,892	0.6	0.5	0.6
<b>URBAN POPULATION.</b>						
Total.....	538,650	346,382	257,472	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	313,606	185,123	133,516	58.2	53.4	51.9
Negro.....	224,826	161,061	123,802	41.7	46.5	48.1
Indian, Chinese, and Japanese.....	218	198	95	(1)	0.1	(1)
Native white, total.....	301,848	176,418	125,064	56.0	50.9	48.6
Native parentage.....	282,493	159,547	111,802	52.4	46.1	43.5
Foreign parentage.....	10,750	10,871	13,172	2.0	4.0	5.1
Mixed parentage.....	8,605	8,705	8,451	1.6	2.5	3.3
Foreign-born white.....	11,758	8,705	8,451	2.2	2.5	3.3
<b>RURAL POPULATION.</b>						
Total.....	2,070,471	1,869,949	1,579,881	100.0	100.0	100.0
White.....	1,118,196	966,171	844,842	54.0	53.3	53.5
Negro.....	952,101	873,782	734,653	46.0	46.7	46.5
Ind., Chn., and Jap.....	114	20	86	(1)	(1)	(1)
Native white, total.....	1,114,882	962,855	841,401	53.8	53.1	53.3
Native parentage.....	1,108,665	954,813	834,899	53.5	52.7	52.8
Foreign parentage.....	2,482	8,042	6,511	0.1	0.4	0.4
Mixed parentage.....	3,835	8,042	6,511	0.2	0.4	0.4
Foreign-born white.....	3,314	8,316	8,441	0.2	0.2	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.



See below how the Foreign-born white population changed between 1910 and 1940.

Table 15.—FOREIGN-BORN WHITE, 1910 TO 1940, AND TOTAL FOREIGN BORN, 1850 TO 1900, BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH, FOR THE STATE

[Figures are given for each country for all census years since 1850 for which data are available. Figures for foreign-born white population in 1930 have been revised to include Mexicans who were classified with "Other races" in the 1930 reports. Percent not shown where less than 0.1]

COUNTRY OF BIRTH	FOREIGN-BORN WHITE				TOTAL FOREIGN BORN						PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1850	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1850
All countries.....	11,316	13,943	16,106	15,078	12,403	12,137	10,564	11,127	11,671	6,498	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>NORTH WESTERN EUROPE</b>																				
England.....	1,072	1,329	1,593	1,650	1,514	1,585	1,165	1,127	1,122	679	9.0	9.5	9.2	10.9	12.2	12.1	11.0	10.1	9.6	10.5
Scotland.....	442	554	530	587	617	619	395	480	431	367	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.7
Wales.....	38	80	86	89	65	102	52	61	56	13	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2
Northern Ireland.....	72	147									0.6	1.1								
Irish Free State (Eire).....	417	546	1,112	1,623	2,293	3,374	4,148	5,093	6,506	3,302	3.5	3.9	6.9	11.0	16.5	27.8	39.3	45.6	56.4	50.9
Norway.....	86	125	132	145	155	86	20	14	13	6	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sweden.....	180	266	299	269	204	191	130	25	37	11	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Denmark.....	80	108									0.7	0.8								
Iceland.....	2		127	112	68	61	53	42	21	24			0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4
Netherlands <sup>1</sup> .....	63	67	78	51	36	29	26	42	27	11	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Belgium.....	31	45	45	27	23	21	21	21	21	21	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6
Luxemburg.....	5		7			1														
Switzerland.....	92	114	161	169	180	178	107	103	62	38	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6
France.....	244	870	376	221	240	306	295	312	222	177	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.7
<b>CENTRAL EUROPE</b>																				
Germany.....	1,424	1,682	1,936	2,264	3,407	3,679	2,956	2,761	2,444	972	12.0	12.1	12.0	12.8	15.8	27.5	30.3	24.8	23.9	15.0
Poland.....	919	1,156	917	1,418	169	30	62	68	103		7.7	8.3	5.7	2.9	1.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	
Czechoslovakia.....	49	115	123								0.4	0.5	0.5							
Austria.....	264	225	401	226	228	126	104	57	28	12	2.2	1.5	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.2
Hungary.....	109	136	246	230	166	62	55	42			1.4	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.4		
Yugoslavia.....	29	39	84								0.2	0.3	0.5							
<b>EASTERN EUROPE</b>																				
Russia (U.S.S.R.).....	2,016	2,200									16.9	15.8								
Latvia.....	68	112	3,422	2,914	1,522	262	22	32	11	8	0.5	0.5	21.3	15.0	9.9	2.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Estonia.....	9										0.1									
Lithuania.....	124	155	72								1.0	1.1	0.4							
Finland.....	71	104	42	49	10						0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1					
Romania.....	123	143	111	85	26						1.1	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.5					
Bulgaria.....	2	2	5	2								0.1								
Turkey in Europe.....	21	12	21	92	221	23	23				0.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.2					
<b>SOUTHERN EUROPE</b>																				
Greece.....	981	1,197	1,473	941	191	49	12		17	1	8.2	8.6	9.1	6.8	1.5	0.4	0.1		0.1	
Italy.....	536	712	700	544	212	123	82	50	48	33	4.5	5.1	4.3	3.6	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5
Spain.....	67	79	123	87	65	65	44	39	35	13	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Portugal.....	102	90	39	17	12	14	6	15	12	5	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>OTHER EUROPE</b>	25	46	61	479	41	94	81	22	21		0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	
<b>ASIA</b>																				
Palestine.....	23	23	16								0.3	0.2	0.1							
Syria.....	254	306	473	2976	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )			( <sup>2</sup> )	2.0	2.8	2.9	2.5						
Turkey in Asia.....	221	185	49								1.9	1.3	0.3							
Other Asia.....	79	50	42	19	290	125	26	17	11	2	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	2.3	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	
<b>AMERICA</b>																				
Canada—French.....	91	109	50	70	80	47	246	247			0.8	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	3.3	2.8	1.5	1.7
Canada—Other.....	932	965	906	711	479	562			178	108	7.8	7.1	5.5	4.7	3.3	4.6				
Newfoundland.....	24	20	22	2	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	3				0.2	0.1	0.1							
Mexico.....	44	42	52	21	14	12	9	7	7	2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cuba.....	75	70	27	57	59	33	22		78	25	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.5
Other West India.....	37	32	52	42	99	77	26				0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8			
Central America.....	21	12	1	3	16		2	5			0.2	0.1			0.1					
South America.....	62	59	42	20	37	22	15	9	3	2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1		0.1
<b>ALL OTHER</b>																				
Australia.....	40	30	26	23	16	14	11	6	3		0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Arctic.....	5	4	5						2							0.2				
Other Atlantic Islands.....	5	6	4																	
Born at sea.....	1	9	11	20	21	9	15	8				0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1		
All other and not reported.....	69	42	39	27	66	60	122	234	11	552	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.2	2.0	0.1	2.5

<sup>1</sup> Listed as Holland prior to 1910.  
<sup>2</sup> Persons reported in 1910 as of Polish mother tongue born in Austria, Germany, and Russia have been deducted from the respective countries and combined as Poland.  
<sup>3</sup> Turkey in Asia included with Turkey in Europe prior to 1910.  
<sup>4</sup> Includes 2 persons born in Serbia and 1 person born in Montenegro which became part of Yugoslavia in 1918.  
<sup>5</sup> Turkey in Asia included Armenia, Palestine, and Syria in 1910. Subsequent to 1910 Armenia included with Other Asia.  
<sup>6</sup> Newfoundland included with Canada in 1850 and 1900.



### 5:00 Decatur St. vs. Peachtree St.

These photographs show a bit of the difference between the districts that Dr. Davis is speaking about.



Above is a photo of Decatur Street ca. 1940. And below is Peachtree Street. Ca. 1920. [Source](#)



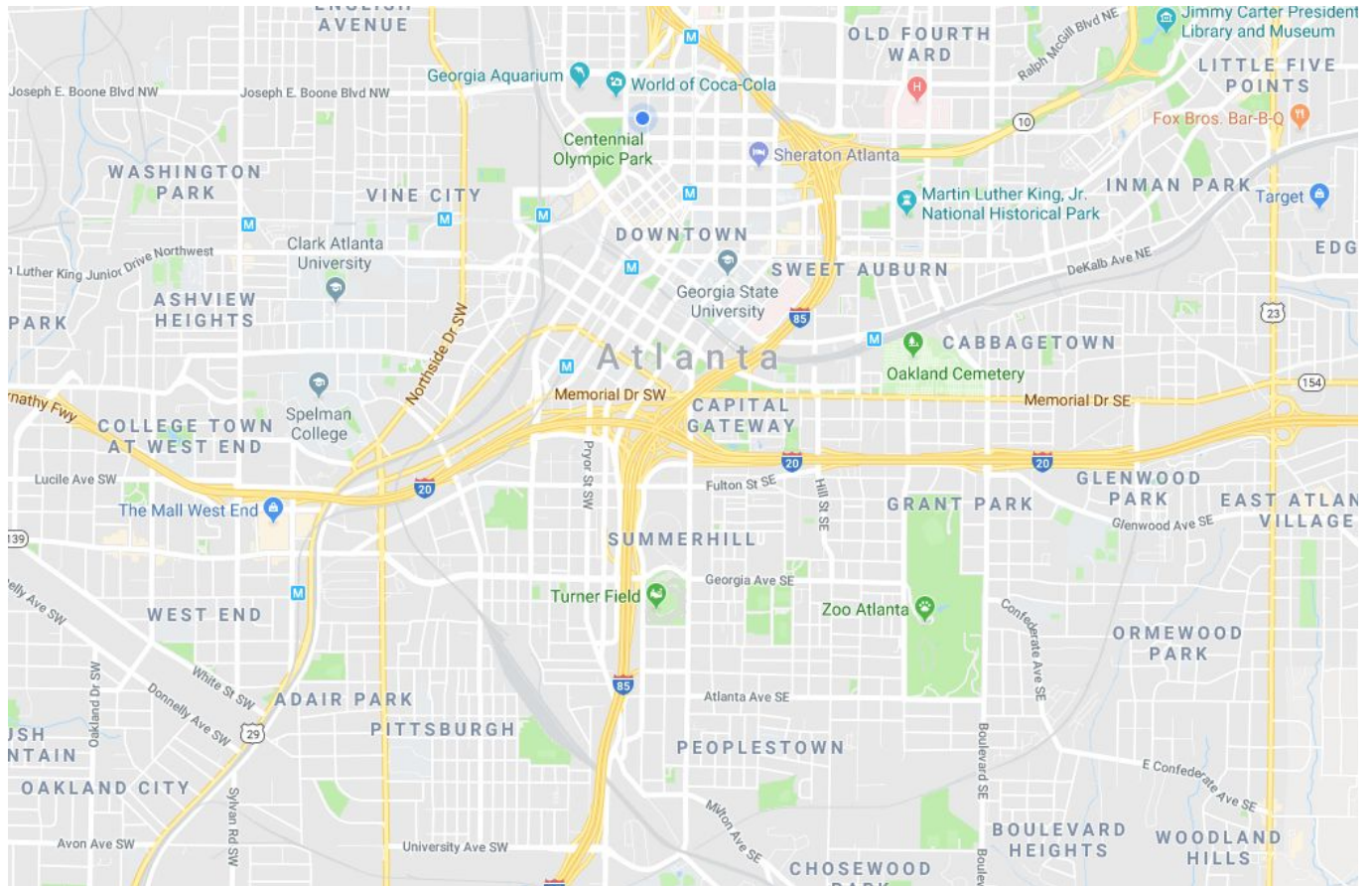
## 5:35 Summerhill

This neighborhood south of downtown Atlanta was a thriving mixed-race neighborhood, where primarily African-Americans and Jews lived. Summerhill was a neighborhood with a lot of mixed-use development--meaning that there were stores right next to homes, etc. As people moved out of Summerhill, and the overall property values declined, Summerhill lost a lot of its commerce, making the area a great target for demolition during Federal Highway construction of the 50s and 60s. You can see in the below photo how residential areas were turned into parking lots. [Source.](#)



## 11:45 South Atlanta Neighborhoods

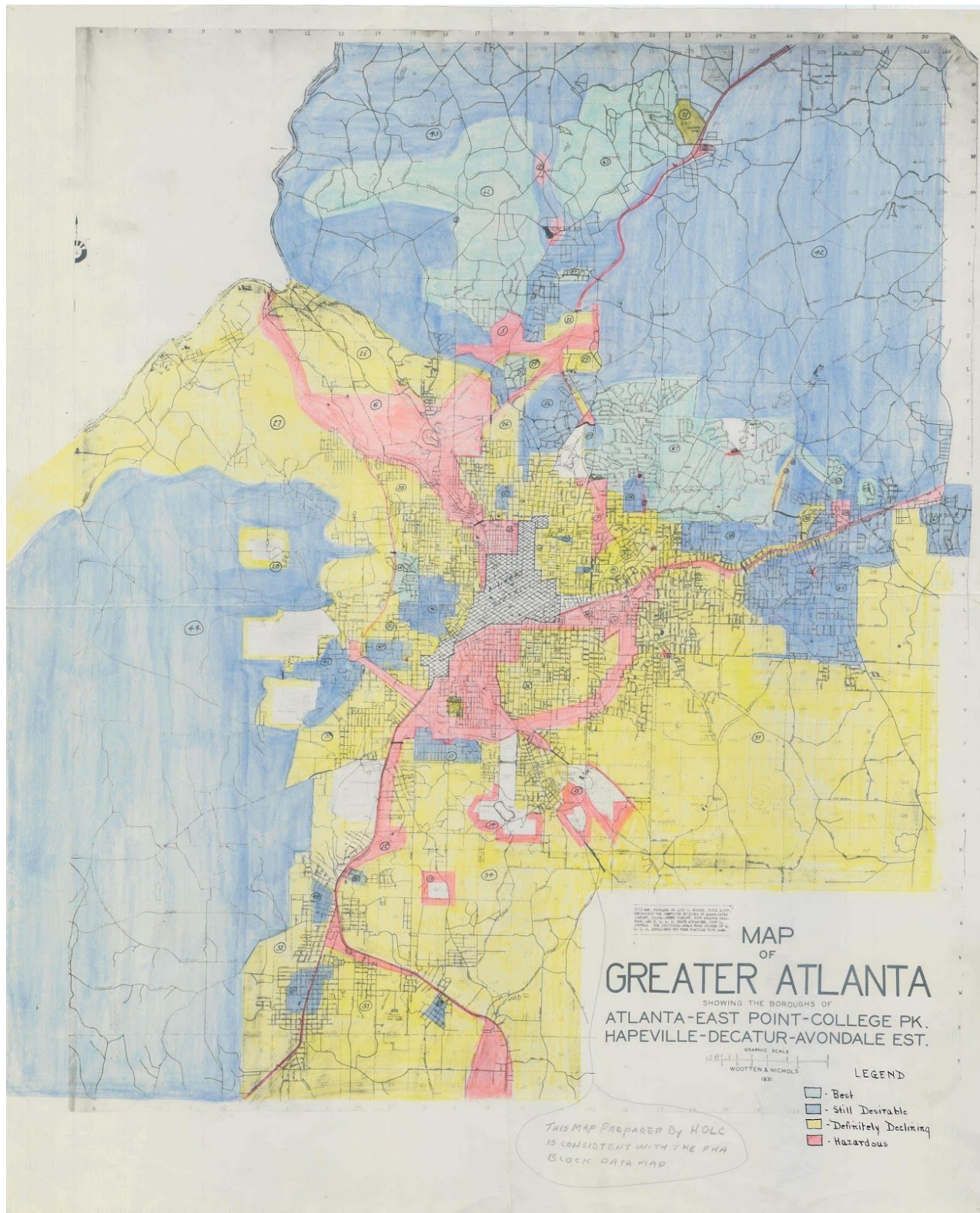
The below present-day map shows the neighborhoods on the southside of Atlanta. You can see where the highways completely severed the neighborhoods of Summerhill and Grant Park.



### 13:00 HOLC Residential Security Maps

The below map is a “Residential Security Map” used by the Federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation, available in the [National Archives](#). You’ll notice that almost the entire south downtown area is considered “hazardous.” For more on redlining and racial zoning in Atlanta, listen to the Housing episode of [Excavating Atlanta](#).





### 21:30 Leo Frank Lynching

Racial violence was simmering in Atlanta during the early 20th century. This era saw the rise of Jim Crow, the Ku Klux Klan, and a race riot in 1906. “Between 1888 and 1903, 241 blacks were lynched in Georgia, making it second only to Mississippi (294) in the number of deaths caused by mob violence.”

-Hobson, Maurice J. (2017-10-03). *The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta* (p. 17). The University of North Carolina Press. Kindle Edition.

However, African-Americans were not the only victims of violence during this period. The most notable case was the lynching of [Leo Frank](#), a Jewish Atlantan in 1915. Leo Frank was the manager of a pencil factory, who was the last person to see Mary Phagan alive before she was murdered. The Governor of Georgia believed Frank to be innocent after the courts found him guilty and commuted his sentence from death to life imprisonment. This angered residents of Phagan’s hometown, Marietta. “The Knights of Marietta” (connected to the KKK) took Frank from his prison cell in Milledgeville, drove him back to Marietta and hung him before a local crowd. Frank was posthumously pardoned in 1986.

### 25:20 Leb’s Restaurant

Leb’s Restaurant was located at 60 Luckie St.



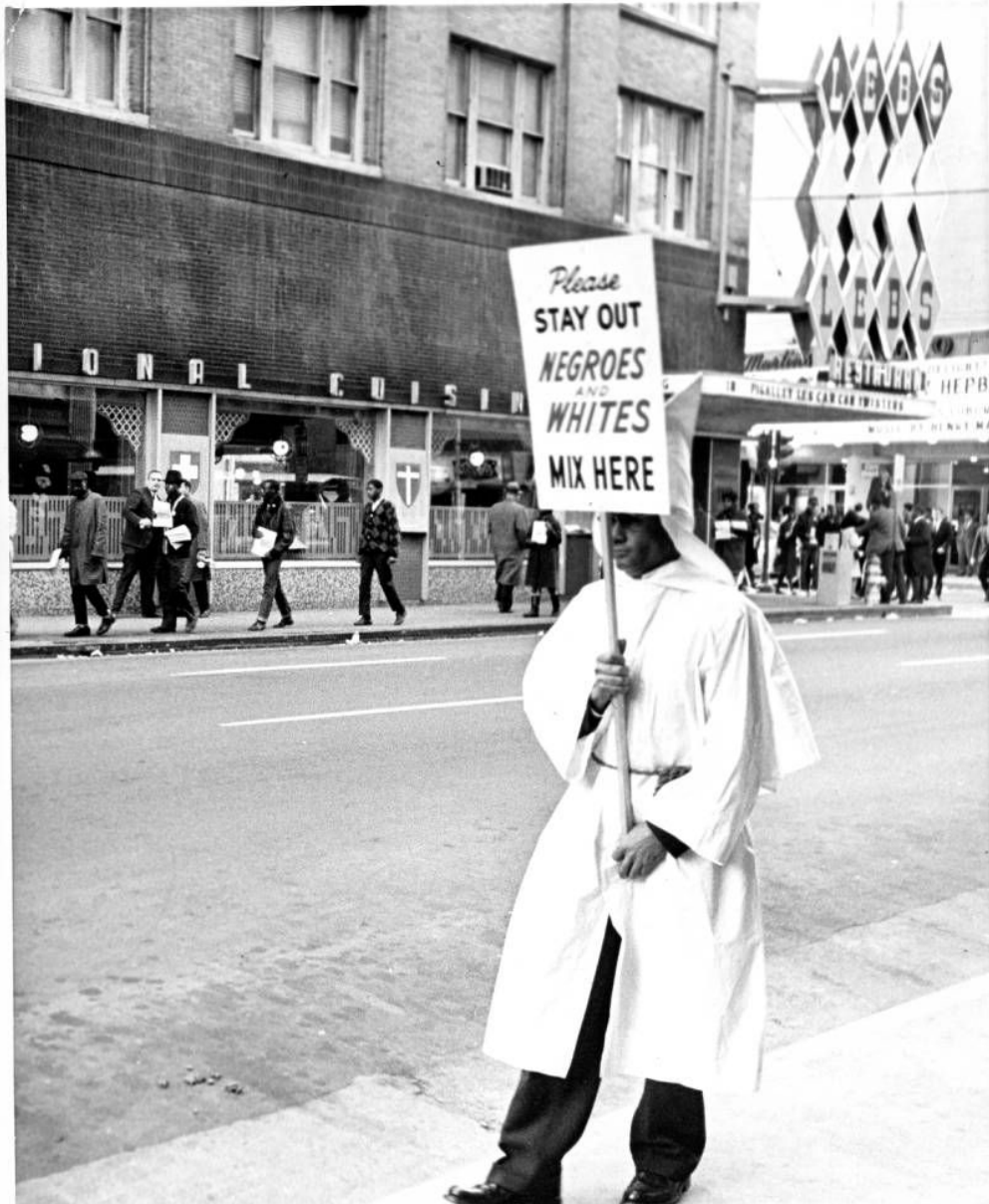




### 26:00 Student Sit-In Movement at Leb's

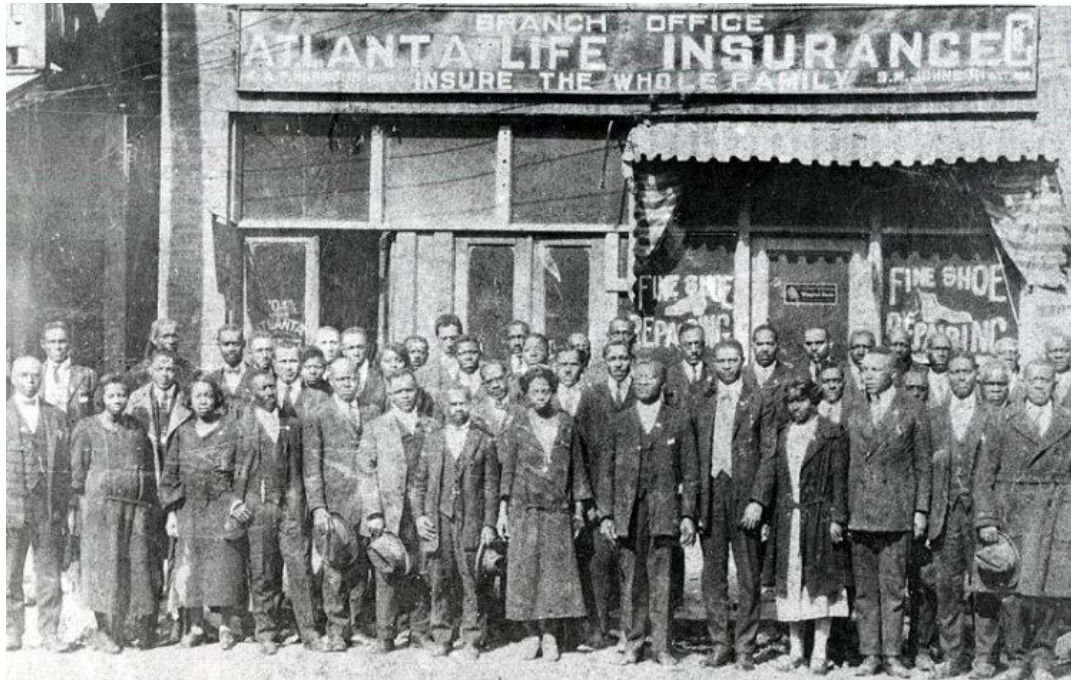
During the Civil Rights Era, Leb's was the target of a lot of controversy over integration. The restaurant was protested by both students and the KKK. You can hear a surviving [audio news clip](#) of Leb describing the student sit-in movement as he saw it at the time. The newscaster interviews Charlie Lebidin and one of his employees, and says that only the Klan can protect the white people of the police will not. (Be warned, this interview can be difficult to listen to).





### 29:00 Alonzo Herndon

Alonzo Herndon was Atlanta's first black millionaire. He owned the Crystal Palace (located at 66 Peachtree St.) barber shop and Atlanta Life Insurance Company. The below photographs document both of these successful businesses.



## The Largest and Finest Barber Shop in the World



Interior View of Shop at 7 North Broad Street



A. F. HERNDON  
Proprietor of  
HERNDON'S  
BARBER SHOPS

Interior View of Shop at 100 North Pryor Street

**25 CHAIRS  
20 BATHS**  
The Finest and Largest  
BARBER SHOP  
In the World



Interior View of Shop at 100 North Pryor Street

### HERNDON'S BARBER SHOPS

ANYONE who can "pull" a razor without cutting a person's throat can OPEN a barber shop. It is the man who "knows how" to CONDUCT a barber shop that keeps his place open. Herndon's Barber Shops in Atlanta have stood this test.

The conduct of a barber shop is a matter of cleanliness and workmanship.



### 30:30 1906 Atlanta Race Riot

The success of black businesses like Alonzo Herndon's one of the sparks that stoked the flames of the [Race Riot](#) in Atlanta in 1906. Headlines read that multiple white women were assaulted by black men, and white mobs descended upon downtown Atlanta, who then beat and randomly assaulted black men and businesses. The state militia was brought in to help quell the violence.



### 32:00 The City too Busy to Hate

Georgia State University history professor, Maurice Hobson, writes extensively in his book about how white (and black) political elites united, creating the narrative that Atlanta was "Too Busy To Hate" to attract northern business.

*"During the next three decades, Atlanta would find itself with two successive mayors who demonstrated an ability to hold the support of black political kingmakers while placating whites. Mayors William Hartsfield and Ivan Allen attributed this alleged harmonious racial spirit to "effective black leadership" combined with the white business elite's vision of a "city too busy to hate," a term coined by the Hartsfield and Allen administrations." (p. 19)*

*The fixation on class pervaded black Atlanta. Black elites formed social clubs and attended churches that catered to their specific class. Their social institutions thus cultivated and promoted an elite class identity. Declaring themselves as the real-time Talented Tenth, elite blacks expected to exercise leadership over social, economic, and political matters affecting black*

*Atlanta because it did not occur to them that the working and poor classes would be involved in advocacy or policymaking. The idea of the Talented Tenth promoted self-improvement and social climbing, which were common in the atmosphere of Atlanta's rapidly expanding economy. Fundamentally, it was the idea, shared or professed by many policymakers and public figures in the city— black and white— that Atlanta, as the quintessential New South city, was exceptional, and that its distinctiveness made it ideally suited to address the problem of race. From this perspective, Atlanta was truly "a city too busy to hate." (p. 27-28)*

Hobson, Maurice J. (2017-10-03). *The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta*. The University of North Carolina Press. Kindle Edition.

### **39:30 Dr. Davis Curriculum**

Dr. Davis does a great exercise with her students where she asks them to go in the archives and uncover the history of notable Atlanta landmarks that either still stand today, or have long been demolished.

[Check it out!](#)