

# The Experiences of Mill Workers

<p><u>Problems</u></p>	<p><u>Children/Education</u></p>
<p><u>Jim Crow</u></p>	<p><u>Perks</u></p>

<p><u>Union Influences</u></p>	<p><u>Housing</u></p>
<p><u>Other Businesses</u></p>	<p><u>Wages</u></p>

## The Experiences of Mill Workers

<p><b>Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked long hours (10-12 straight)</li> <li>• Loud noises</li> <li>• Choking dust and lint</li> <li>• Overwhelming heat and humidity</li> <li>• Poor wages</li> <li>• Child labor</li> <li>• Dropping out of school to work</li> <li>• risk of being injured or killed</li> <li>• no insurance or workman's compensation</li> <li>• had to live in mill village/ small ancestry home</li> </ul>	<p><b>Children/Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother's brought nursing infants to work</li> <li>• Older children brought meals to work</li> <li>• Children dropped out of school @ 4 years</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jim Crow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Americans would work for up to 6 weeks without pay</li> <li>• African American males would perform the heaviest jobs</li> <li>• African American females were excluded from mill work</li> <li>• African American boys were doffers or sweepers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Perks</b></p> <p>Close to job, small close knit community, recreational activities, clubs, pranks</p>
<p><b>Union Influences</b></p> <p><u>National Union of Textile Workers</u> (NUTW)-1890 Not powerful enough to compel mill owners to cooperate</p>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mill workers lived on mill villages, which included supervisor's home, home for workers &amp; families; church, school, store</li> <li>• One story/four bedroom affairs</li> <li>• Water from wells/ kerosene lit</li> <li>• Close to the factory</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Businesses</b></p> <p>Mill Owners paid the salaries of: ministers, teachers, pool halls, clubs, barber shops, stores, etc...</p>	<p><b>Wages</b></p> <p>Highest: Boss Carder (\$12.00) Lowest: Doffer (\$2.40)</p>