



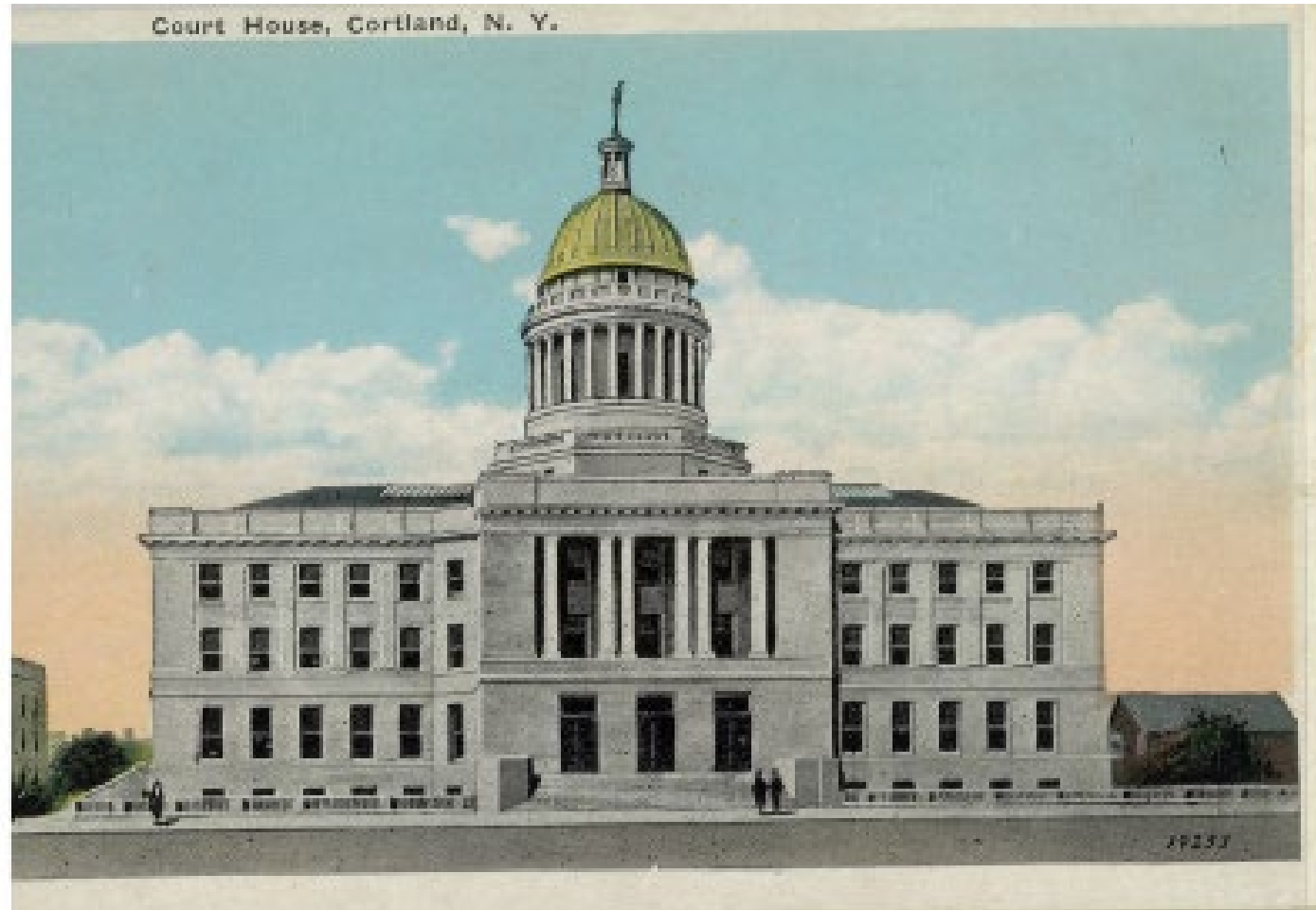
**HOW TO MAKE HISTORY  
INTERESTING FOR YOUNG  
KIDS?**

# LOCAL HISTORY

- Local history teaching provides students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience by improving awareness of history. Students having active communication with their neighborhood are given the opportunity to learn about themselves and their past, words and concepts about the past and they can make easier connection between history and other disciplines.
- Students might feel more motivated because they are more connected to the subject matter.
- Local history can be fun. Discovering new information about the places they live in can help students to see their daily world in a new way.



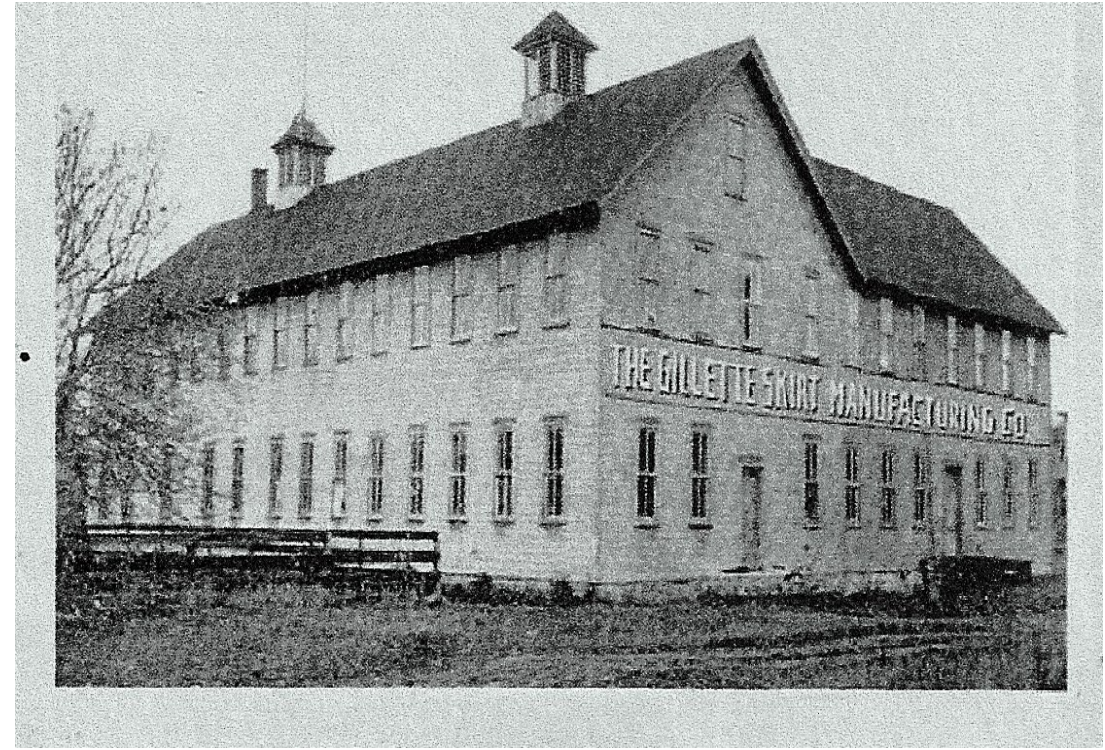
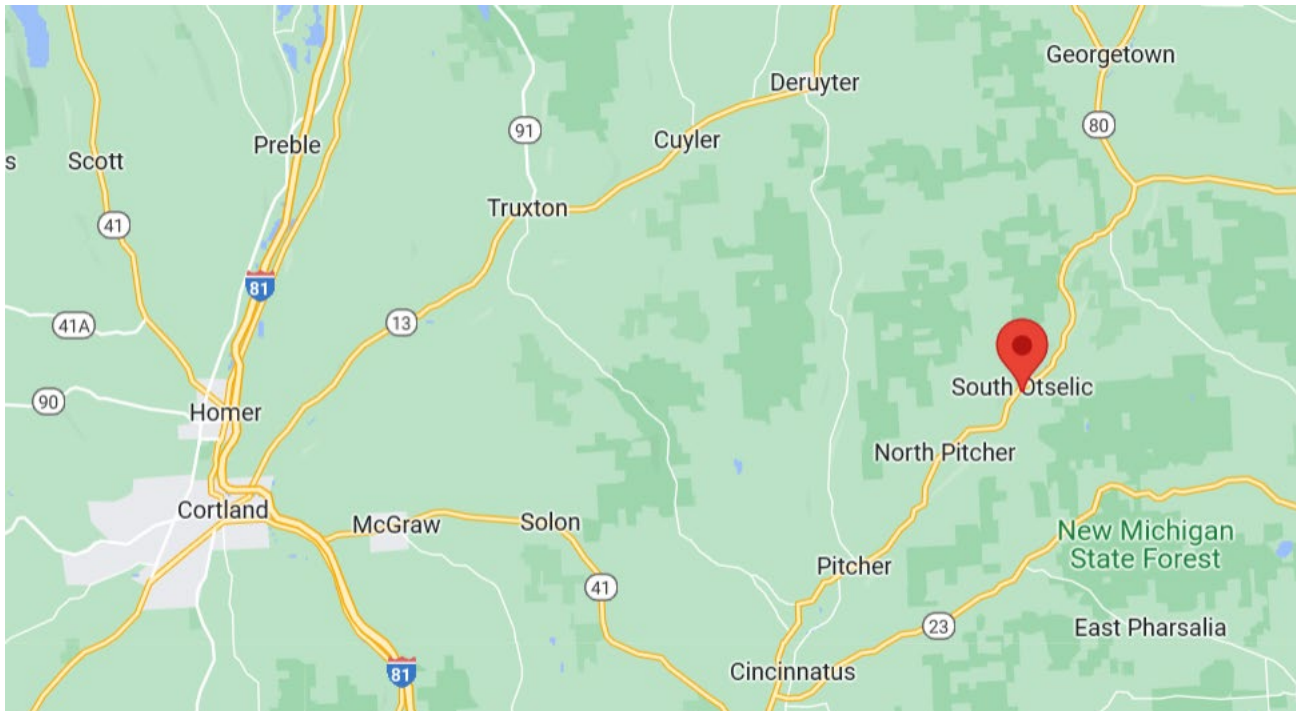
# SOME LOCAL HISTORY FROM CORTLAND



**WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS?**



- Brown grew up in South Otselic, NY.
- In 1904, when she was 18, she moved to Cortland to live with her sister and her sister's husband.
- She started working at the Gillette Skirt Factory. There she met Chester Gillette, the nephew of the owner. The two started to have a relationship.



Gillette Skirt Factory, pictured above.



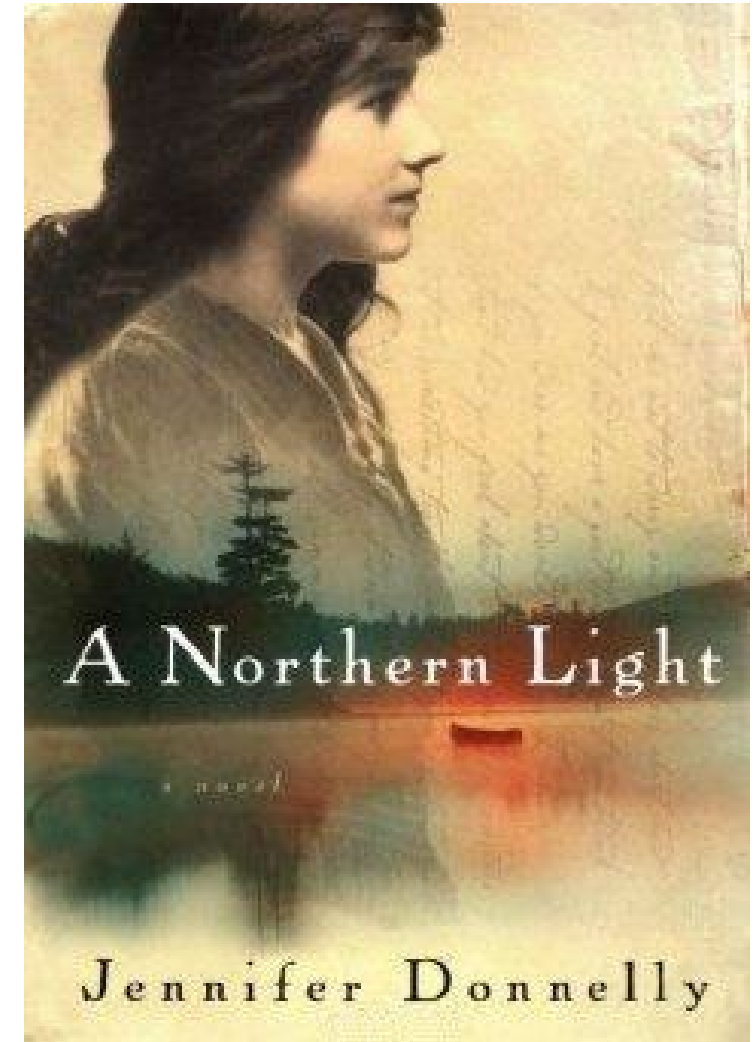


- In the Spring of 1906 Grace became pregnant. She pressured Chester for marriage but he hesitated.
- Eventually he promised to take Grace on a trip to the Adirondacks, where he would presumably propose to her.
- The two left and on the way stopped at Big Moose Lake in Herkimer County.
- On July 11, witnesses saw the two in a boat on the lake. Chester returned from the lake; Grace did not.



# AFTERMATH

- Chester was arrested and put on trial.
- The trial lasted 3 weeks and he was found guilty.
- He was executed on March 30, 1908, by electrocution.
- The tragedy has inspired movies and books, like *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly.



# INQUIRY ARC FOR GRACE MAE BROWN

<b>Dimension 1: Compelling Question</b>	<b>Dimension 2: Disciplinary Tools and Concepts</b>	<b>Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources</b>	<b>Dimension 4: Communicating Conclusions</b>
<p>Is life for young women more fair than during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?</p> <p>Supporting question 1: What opportunities were available to young women during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?</p>	<p>History</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Economics</p>	<p>First-person narratives (diaries, letters, biographies)</p>	<p>Students create a one-pager about the life of a figure from history.</p> <p>Students create a class presentation about problems affecting women in their town/state/nation</p>





# ISSUES AFFECTING THE GRACE MAE BROWN CASE

- New economic opportunities motivated young women to leave rural areas and to relocate in industrial cities.
- This was a huge shift in society and it gave these young women independence. But, they still had to face traditional power structures.
- Giving birth out-of-wedlock was a huge social taboo. If Grace had a child without being married, her life could have been ruined.
- Grace was not from a well-to-do family and marrying her would not have given Chester greater social mobility.

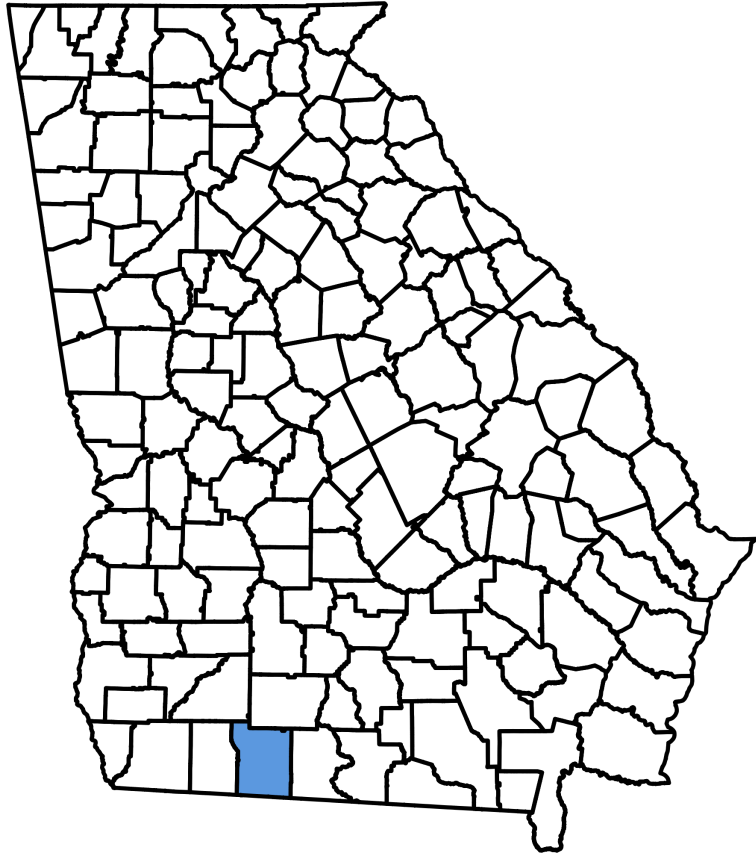


# ANOTHER REASON THIS STORY IS INTERESTING

- There is a legend that the ghost of Grace Mae Brown haunts Big Moose Lake.
- Kids (and most other people) love ghost stories. You can tie in this element to make the story more interesting.
- Other areas of Central New York are reportedly haunted. For example, the 1890 House in Cortland.



# THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA



# SOME FACTS



- Founded in 1825
- Named after Jett Thomas, a general from the War of 1812 who built the College of Arts and Sciences, the first permanent building and school at the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia.
- Population: 18,881



# OTHER FACTS



- Railroads were important for Thomasville's success. A railroad track runs directly through the city.
- This connects to the Geography theme of "Movement".



# FLOWERS BAKERY

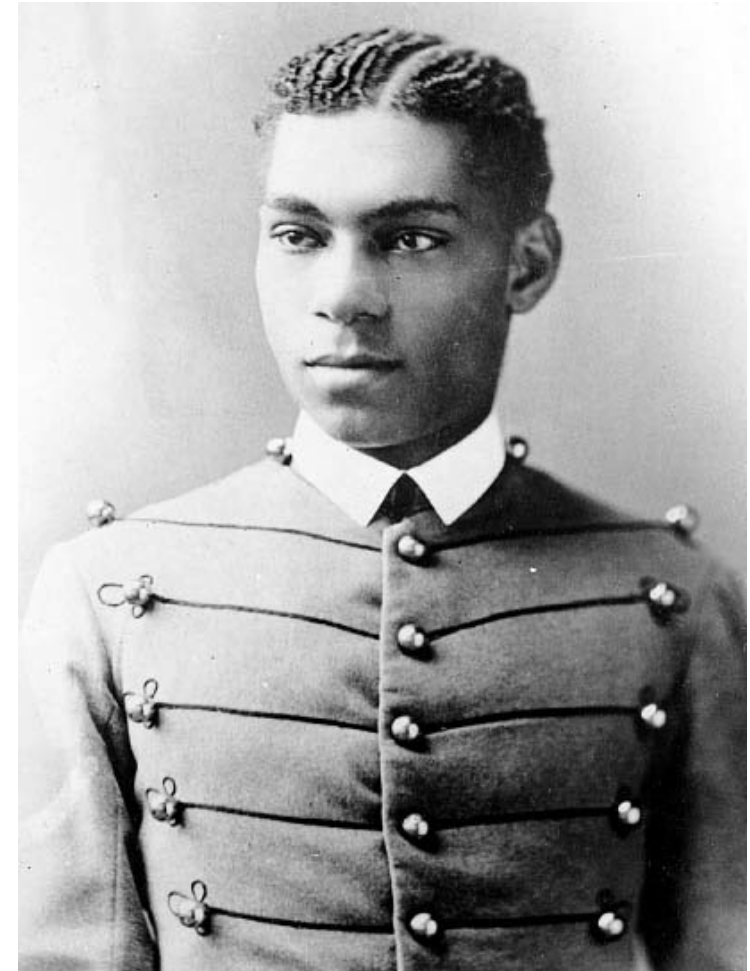
Do you recognize any brands?

- In 1919, brothers William Howard and Joseph Hampton Flowers opened Flowers Baking Company in Thomasville, Georgia.
- The company acquired different brands over the years and now owns many famous brands.



# HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER

- Flipper was born into slavery in Thomasville, Georgia.
- Flipper attended Atlanta University during Reconstruction.
- **In 1877 he became the first African-American to graduate from West Point.**
- He faced a lot of discrimination and racism in the Army.
- In December 1881, a court-martial found Flipper guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman", and sentenced to be "dismissed from the service of the United States".
- President Bill Clinton pardoned Flipper on February 19, 1999.



# HENRY O. FLIPPER INQUIRY ARC

<b>Dimension 1: Compelling Question</b>	<b>Dimension 2: Disciplinary Tools and Concepts</b>	<b>Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources</b>	<b>Dimension 4: Communicating Conclusions</b>
<p>Was the “nadir of race relations” really the worst period in US history for Black people?</p> <p>Supporting Question: What barriers to success existed for Blacks during this time period?</p>	<p>History-Post Reconstruction Period, Pre-Civil Rights Period</p> <p>Civics-Jim Crow Laws, No representation in national government.</p> <p>Economics- Poverty, Low access to good jobs.</p>	<p>State and national laws, Newspapers articles, pictures, first-person narratives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class debate between two sides.</li> <li>• Was Flipper unfairly treated by the military? Are things really better today?</li> </ul>





# LOCAL RESOURCES

- Local history is a great way to make connections to your community.
- You can find resources for lesson plans from your local library, local museums, historical societies, and schools.
- Local Historians and librarians are usually very eager to help teachers and teach about history.



# LOCAL HISTORY ACTIVITY

- Find some interesting facts about your hometown and tell the class. You can use Wikipedia, but also a local historical website from your town.
- When was your town founded?
- What was one famous person from your hometown?
- What did that person do, why are they famous?
- Did any important historical events happen in or near your hometown? Try to find at least one. Describe it.
- Name one fun thing to do in your town.

