

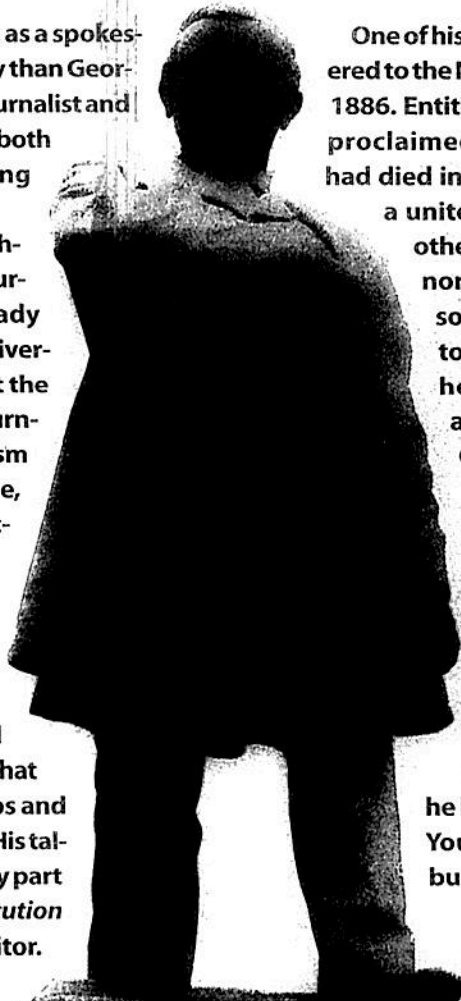
# Georgia Portraits

## Henry W. Grady, Voice of the New South

No southerner was better known as a spokesman for the New South philosophy than Georgia's Henry Woodfin Grady. As a journalist and newspaper editor, he encouraged both industrialization and diversifying agriculture.

Born in 1850 to a prominent Athens family, Grady lost his father during the Civil War. The young Grady went on to graduate from the University of Georgia. He also studied at the University of Virginia before returning to Georgia to work in journalism at the *Rome Courier*. While in Rome, he married his childhood sweetheart, Julia King.

After the *Courier* went out of business, the Gradys moved to Atlanta, where he became a partner in the *Atlanta Daily Herald*. In his writings, he encouraged more industries, especially those that involved turning the South's crops and resources into finished products. His talent as a writer led to an offer to buy part ownership of the *Atlanta Constitution* and to become its managing editor. During those years, from 1880 to 1889, Grady became known for his insightful, timely, and sometimes controversial editorials, as well as his rousing speeches.



One of his most famous speeches was delivered to the New England Society in December 1886. Entitled "The New South," the speech proclaimed that the "prejudices of war had died in the South. He saw in the future a united North and South. In this and other speeches, he tried to persuade northerners to invest money in the southern economy. Grady's ability to sell the concept of a "New South" helped bring jobs, recognition, and investments to the recovering Georgia economy.

He backed up his words with actions. Grady was a strong supporter of making Atlanta a modern New South city. He was one of the principal planners for Atlanta's 1881 International Cotton Exposition. He worked to establish the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and he helped raise funds to develop the Young Men's Christian Association building in Atlanta.

Left and opposite page: Henry Woodfin Grady, whose statue stands in downtown Atlanta, was a leading spokesman for the New South.



In 1889, Grady traveled to Boston in his continuing efforts to promote southern industry. One of his more famous quotes was in that speech:

*I attended a funeral once in Pickens county in my State. . . . They buried him in the midst of a marble quarry: they cut through solid marble to make his grave; and yet a little tombstone they put above him was from Vermont. They buried him in the heart of a pine forest, and yet the pine coffin was imported from Cincinnati. They buried him within touch of an iron mine, and yet the nails in his coffin and the iron in the shovel that dug his grave were imported from Pittsburg. They buried him by the side of the best sheep-grazing country on the earth, and yet the wool in the coffin bands and the coffin bands themselves*

*were brought from the North. The South didn't furnish a thing on earth for that funeral but the corpse and the hole in the ground. There they put him away and the clods rattled down on his coffin, and they buried him in a New York coat and a Boston pair of shoes and a pair of breeches from Chicago and a shirt from Cincinnati. . . .*

Grady became ill during his time in Boston. By the time he returned to Atlanta, he had developed pneumonia. He died on December 23, 1889, at the age of thirty-nine. Grady County and Grady Memorial Hospital both carry his name. So does the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia, one of the most highly respected journalism programs in the country.