ASSIGNMENT 9: THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF A MODERNIZING SOUTH

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. The current plan is that we shall meet as a class on April 10 and April 24 and not on April 17 or May 1. During the weeks that we do not have a formal class, you should speak to me at some point about the progress of your work and you may certainly do so at other times as well.

REQUIRED READING
Handed out in class:
   Introduction to The New South Comes to Wiregrass Georgia, 1860-1910 by Mark V. Wetherington
   Essay recommended by Ben Maynard: “The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Mythmaking” by Paul M. Gaston
Available on online reserve:
   Chapter recommended by Catherine Hendricks: “We Learned from Our Mothers’ Knees: Families, Churches, and Communities” by Ann Short Chirhart

OPTIONAL READING (really and truly optional)
Handed out in class:
   “Beyond Planters and Industrialists: A New Perspective on the New South” by James C. Cobb (This is a classic, even if not up-to-date, historiographic essay about a basic debate in southern history about economic and social change. Even if you do not choose to read it now, it is a useful essay to have available.)

WEEKLY REPORT SHEET
1. Any thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions inspired by the last class and/or your meeting(s) with me.
2. For each assigned reading, after including the basic bibliographic information (for your future use), summarize BRIEFLY in your own words the main points and thesis, as well as your evaluation of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the essay. For the combined readings, indicate any thoughts and/or questions you have, including any terms you want us to discuss and any ideas they inspired about how to do your own research and analysis for this class.
3. Are there any aspects of any of these essays that help you rethink any aspect of your own work?
4. What are your thoughts about how social historians should define “modern” and “modernization” and how we should research, describe, and analyze the interactions between change and persistence?
5. Any new thoughts you have about your final paper and any reading or other work you did in connection to it.
6. Anything else you think I should know.