



“ My feet they are sore, and my
limbs they are weary;
Long is the way, and the moun-
tains are wild;
Soon will the twilight close moon-
less and dreary
Over the path of the poor orphan
child. ”

Georgia Museum of Agriculture
1392 Whiddon Mill Rd.
Tifton, Georgia 31793
(229)391-5200
www.abac.edu/museum

This project is supported by the Georgia Humanities Council
and the National Endowment for the Humanities and through
appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

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"Finding Eddie Lou" The Tifton Cotton Mill Mystery

**Proposed Times for
Exhibition to Open
During the Week from
September 21-October 13**

**Mondays 10am-1pm
Tuesdays 4pm - 6pm
Thursdays 1pm-4pm
Fridays by Appointment for Schools**

 Andrew College ¹⁸⁵⁴

Hosts the traveling museum exhibit
***The Cotton Mill Children:
Tifton's Impact on America***
September 20, 2022 through October 13, 2022
at the
Andrew College Maloof Event Center
72 Dawson Street, Cuthbert Georgia

<https://www.facebook.com/cuthberttravelingexhibits>



Two of the "helpers" in the Tifton Cotton Mill, Tifton, Ga. 1909. Photo by Lewis Hine.

Eddie Lou

In August of 2006, journalist Joe Manning came across the picture of two small girls working in a mill in Georgia. The picture was taken by 20th century journalist Lewis Hine.

Joe Manning was enamored by the little girl in the plaid dress in the picture, who turned out to be Eddie Lou Young. He came upon more pictures of Eddie Lou and her family in Mr. Hines archives.

Mr. Manning began researching Eddie Lou and her family and found a sad story of a widow with nine children living and working at the cotton mill. Eventually, many of the children were put up for adoption at an orphanage in Macon.

“ This is the largest proportion of youngsters I have ever seen in a cotton mill. ”

- Lewis Hine

A Young Family Tradition

Joe Manning discovered the timeless photos of some of Tifton's close-to-home history were taken by known photographer, Lewis Hine. He found that Hine had taken a total of five pictures of the Tifton Cotton mill workers, apparently all of them on January 22, 1909.

Manning tracked down descendants of the Young family, who helped him identify the children in the pictures.

“At Tifton, Georgia, there is a cotton mill employing 125 hands. I obtained several photos of the entire force at noon. This is the largest proportion of youngsters I have ever seen in a cotton mill. Everyone in the photo (except the boy with the football, who is the Supt.'s son) works or helps regularly in the mill.” -Lewis Hine, National Child Labor Committee Investigation Report 315, page 1 (1909)

Below: A family working in the Tifton (Ga.) Cotton Mill. Mrs. A.J. Young works in mill and at home. Nell (oldest girl) alternates in mill with mother. Mammy (next girl) runs 2 sides. Mary (next) runs 1 1/2 sides. Elic (oldest boy) works regularly. Eddie (next girl) helps in mill, sticks on bobbins. January 22, 1909. Location: Tifton, Georgia. Photo by Lewis Hine.



The Exhibit

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA) has constructed an exhibit showcasing the photos taken by Lewis Hine in 1909 at the Tifton Cotton Mill. Hine was hired by the federal government to take pictures of children working in factories. The exhibit will tour Tifton schools and will later be permanently installed at the GMA.



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