

## **Life in the Gilded Age** <sup>[1]</sup>

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"Gilded" means "covered with gold," and for some, the late nineteenth century truly was a gilded age. Industrialists accumulated wealth at an incredible rate and often spent it in elaborate ways. The growing urban middle class also had money to spend, on new consumer items, new forms of entertainment, and travel. In this chapter we'll explore some of the ways North Carolinians participated in the changing culture of the Gilded Age.

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### **Section Contents**

- [Biltmore Estate](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [The Bouquet](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [Southern Women and the Bicycle](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [Bicycles: Scourge of the Streets?](#) <sup>[5]</sup>
- [The Roller Skate Craze](#) <sup>[6]</sup>
- [Advertising New Products](#) <sup>[7]</sup>
- [Cities and Public Architecture](#) <sup>[8]</sup>
- [Sanitariums](#) <sup>[9]</sup>
- [The Growth of Tourism: Warm Springs](#) <sup>[10]</sup>
- [The Growth of Tourism: Southern Pines](#) <sup>[11]</sup>
- [Domestic Work in the Nineteenth Century](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

#### **User Tags:**

[Biltmore Estate](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Chapter Cover](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

[domestic life](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

[Gilded Age](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

[history](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

[nineteenth century](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

[North Carolina](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

[North Carolina History](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

[Students](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

[Teachers](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

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#### **Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/life-gilded-age>

[2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/biltmore-estate>

[3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/bouquet>

[4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/southern-women-and-bicycle>

[5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/bicycles-scourge-streets>

[6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/roller-skate-craze>

[7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/advertising-new-products>

[8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/cities-and-public>

[9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/sanitariums>

[10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/growth-tourism-warm-springs>

[11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/growth-tourism-southern>

[12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/domestic-work-nineteenth>

[13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/biltmore-estate>

[14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/chapter-cover>

[15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/domestic-life>

[16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/gilded-age>

[17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/history>

[18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/nineteenth-century>

[19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-5>

- [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6>
- [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students>
- [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers>
- [23] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/creative-commons>
- [24] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/learn-nc>