

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-first-black-archaeologist-a-life-of-john-wesley-gilbert/>

This video discusses the life and contributions of Wesley Gilbert, who was born in 1863 and died in 1923. He was a classical scholar specializing in Greek and Latin, an educator, a Christian missionary, and a key figure in African American education after the Civil War. The author of the text, an ancient historian, shares their personal journey of uncovering Gilbert's story, which was largely unknown due to the loss of archives from Gilbert's school, Payne College, in a fire.

Throughout the research process, the author employed various techniques typical of ancient historians, such as seeking out fragmented sources and utilizing digital tools to find references to Gilbert's work. They also engaged with the local community in Augusta, Georgia, to gather materials and insights about Gilbert's impact.

Gilbert was notable for being one of the first professionally trained African American archaeologists and played a significant role in advancing African American education and the study of classical languages. He taught at Payne College and was involved in an interracial missionary effort to the Belgian Congo, which aimed to establish a Christian presence and support among African communities.

This video emphasizes Gilbert's resilience in facing the challenges of racism and segregation in a tumultuous period of American history. It captures his belief in education and cooperation across racial lines, as well as his contributions to both academia and local community life.

The author ultimately aims for readers to appreciate Gilbert's significant role in the history of African American scholarship, education, and archaeology, as well as the importance of community engagement in research.