* John Hope, along with his wife Lugenia, provided intellectual leadership and social activism to Atlanta’s African American community.
* Hope was born to a white father and black mother, and was so light-skinned that he could have taken the easy road and passed for a white man.
* He was proud of his African American heritage and presented himself as a black man.
* John Hope served as the first African American professor at Morehouse College and became the first black president of Atlanta University.
* He also helped improve health care, housing, and job opportunities for African Americans during this time.
* During World War I, the YMCA appointed him as special secretary to improve the welfare of African American soldiers serving in France.
* John Hope’s wife, Lugenia, was a social activist and welfare worker.
* She founded the Neighborhood Union, a black social organization in Atlanta, which included a health clinic, clubs for boys and girls, and job training classes.
* She also worked with the city to improve schools, streets, and sanitary facilities.
* Alonzo Herndon was born a slave and grew up to become a barber.
* By 1907, he owned three barber shops in Atlanta that had crystal chandeliers and gold fixtures.
* Herndon used his wealth to start the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, one of the few companies that would insure African Americans.
* Herndon gave large sums of money to many charities and became the largest donor to Atlanta University, where he served on the Board of Trustees.
* When he died in 1927, he was the wealthiest African American in Atlanta.