**American Experience** ***American Coup: Wilmington 1898***

**Primary Historical Characters**

**Charles Aycock** was a coup leader who was elected governor of North Carolina (1901-1905) after the massacre.

**Josephus Daniels**, the editor and publisher of the Raleigh *News & Observer*, waged a disinformation campaign to inflame racist rage through a mix of anti-Black articles and editorial cartoons. Daniels later served as the Secretary of the Navy (1913-1921) and as ambassador to Mexico (1933-1941). His great-grandson, Frank Arthur Daniels, III, appears in the film.

**Joshua Halsey** was shot and killed outside his home, one of dozens of Black citizens murdered by the insurrectionists. Some survivors of the Halsey family sought refuge in a cemetery, and others escaped and never returned. His great-great-granddaughter, Elaine Brown, appears in the film.

**Hugh MacRae** was a leader of the Secret Nine, a group of influential white businessmen in Wilmington, who conspired to overthrow the city’s multiracial government.

**Alex Manly**, the editor and publisher of Wilmington’s Black newspaper, *The Daily Record*, fought back against the racist claims of white newspapers. He narrowly escaped lynching, and his newspaper was burned to the ground. His great-great-grandson, Kieran Haile, appears in the film.

**William Barry McKoy**, a Princeton graduate and lawyer, was one of the heads of the White Government Unions in Wilmington. His great-granddaughter, Lucy McCauley, appears in the film.

**Isham Quick** was a coal and wood dealer and board member of the Metropolitan Trust Company in Wilmington, a Black-owned bank. His businesses and wealth were lost in the wake of the coup. His great-great-granddaughter, Inez Campbell Eason, appears in the film.

**Carrie Sadgwar Manly**, aFisk Jubilee singer and member of a prominent Wilmington family, was on tour in Europe during the coup. Her fiancé, Alex Manly, was one of the main targets of the white supremacy campaign, who escaped before the coup.

**Furnifold Simmons** was the Democratic State Party Chairman who led the plan to violently reclaim white rule in the 1898 elections. He served in the US Senate from 1901 to 1931.

**Alfred Waddell,** a former Confederate officer, was the lead orator for the white supremacists in Wilmington, whipping white crowds into a violent frenzy, famously vowing to end Negro rule even if it meant choking “the current of the Cape Fear [River] with carcasses.” He was installed as Wilmington’s mayor during the coup.