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A study of the negro home demonstration program in Georgia, 1923-1955

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A STUDY OF THE NEGRO HOME DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
IN GEORGIA, 1923-1955

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

BY
LILIAN CAMILLA WEEMS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Rationale.-- The Negro Home Demonstration agent work was begun in Georgia in 1916, when the first Negro home demonstration agent was appointed to work among Negro families in Houston County, Georgia. The work grew slowly during the first years, but by 1923 there were fourteen Negro home demonstration agents employed in Georgia counties. In 1923 a person was appointed to supervise all phases of the Negro home demonstration work in Georgia and this person served continuously from 1923 to 1955.

The period from 1923-1955, saw a tremendous growth and development in the nature, scope, and approaches utilized in the work of the various extension agents and the State Supervisor. This period was also a period of considerable change in the social, economic, and political life of the people, geographically and nationally. The period extends from the years immediately following the first World War, through the prosperous years leading up to the depression, the depression itself, the recession, the second World War, and the years of the "Cold War." Tremendous scientific, social and other advances were made during this thirty-two year period of such significance that their impact has not yet been fully understood, nor appreciated by many. It is within this background of rapid accelerating change that the program of Negro home demonstration agent work should be seen in terms of the extent to which it has been responsive and receptive to the general cultural upheavals and developments occurring in all social agencies. More specifically, it would be important to know the extent to which the Negro farm families with whom the State and county agents
worked made advances during this period.

A social and educative agency such as the home demonstration extension service, should analyze and critically evaluate itself to the extent that it can identify and critically appraise its methodology, program, and general effectiveness. And from such an appraisal should emerge discernable trends, identification of needed areas of concentrated work, and a sense of the relative effectiveness, growth, and development of the work.

Statement of the Problem.— The problem of this study was to critically appraise or evaluate the program of the home demonstration work for Negroes in Georgia, during the period 1923-1955.

Purposes of the Study.— The major purpose of this study was to develop a history of the program of home demonstration work for Negroes in Georgia for the period extending from 1923-1955. The specific purposes were:

1. To indicate the major program emphases, structure, organization, educational work and agencies involved during the thirty-two year period 1923-1955.

2. To describe the various extension organizations and their role involved in the Negro home demonstration program.

3. To present data, analyze and interpret it so as to derive implications for the future of the Negro home demonstration program in Georgia.

Definition of Terms. — The following terms are defined for use in this study:

1. Agricultural Extension Service refers to the program for the

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diffusion of agricultural and related knowledge concerning rural life through demonstrations, extension lectures, directed group study and discussion, bulletins, reading courses, farmer’s institutes and short courses.

2. Agricultural Extension Agents included:

(a) **County Agent** who is an employee in a county who carries on cooperative extension work in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act (1914). He devotes his efforts principally to agricultural matters and to working with farmers and farm boys;

(b) **Home Demonstration Agent** who devotes her efforts to problem of home economics, rural family living, and community life;

(c) **State Home Demonstration Agent** is agricultural extension leader who supervises all phases of the county home demonstration agent work.

**Method of Research and Procedural Steps.**—The method of research employed was the Historical Method. The procedural steps used in carrying on the research were as follows:

1. The related literature was reviewed, summarized, and presented in the thesis.

2. The records covering the period of operation of the program in Georgia were carefully and critically examined and analyzed and such extraction made as were necessary for securing the data for the study.

3. The data were assembled, presented and interpreted in a narrative-expository form.

4. Findings were summarized, conclusion; publications, and
recommendations were drawn from the findings.

Survey of Related Literature.— The literature was reviewed and selected because of its pertinency to the study. For purposes of discussion, the literature was categorized as:

1. Literature dealing with purposes of research literature and some guides for making selections.

2. Some research literature leading up to the establishment of the home demonstration work in the United States with special emphasis on Negro home demonstration work in Georgia.

3. Some findings on 4-H club work in the United States; its development; and helpfulness to young people, and to the United States, with emphasis on Negro 4-H club work in Georgia.

Elder and Hamilton say that the primary purpose of the related literature "is to report on one's inquiry into what others have said and done in the area of the problem under consideration." These authors further say, that the related literature should be "developed to points of view of others." In planning a study there are two significant needs: "knowing a fact and making a plan for doing something about the fact." Finding out what others have done is for the purpose of getting ideas which will help to clarify one's point of view.

Some Findings Leading up to the Establishment of the Negro Home Demonstration Agent Work in Georgia.— The history of the home demonstration work in the United States as well as in Georgia began long before the

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid., p. 22.
passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. One finding shows that as early as 1785, several states had organized agricultural societies and the women had corresponding homemaking clubs or societies, ideas of which were most likely brought over from Europe by the early colonists. Caroline Couper Lovell tells in her book, The Golden Isles of Georgia, something about agricultural and other clubs that were in existence in Georgia long before the Civil War. These clubs were for the improvement of agriculture and the great plantations of the masters, as well as for social pleasures.

Landis points out that in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a Country Life Commission to go over the United States and study all phases of rural life and to make a report on problems dealing with farm business and farm living. The appointment of the commission is very widely considered as the beginning of wide spread interest in rural life problems in the United States. Landis further says that "The appointment of the Commission and the report made by the Commission in 1909, probably moved rural sociology ahead a generation." But even before 1907, there was nation-wide interest in agriculture and rural home living. Between 1883 when Minnesota established the first secondary school of agriculture, and 1907, many states had established schools of agriculture. These schools were established because the instruction given in the Land Grant

1 Walter S. Brown, A Pageant of Georgia Extension Work 1903-52 (Athens, Georgia, 1952).
2 Caroline Couper Lovell, Golden Isles of Georgia (Boston, 1932), pp. 134-36.
colleges was not meeting the needs of the ordinary farmers. The farmer requires specific preparation for his vocation. The welfare of mankind depends as much, at least, on successful agriculture as on any other one vocation. Homes are established and maintained in every corner of the land and with every type of citizen. Lee states:

> While on every member of the family some responsibility certainly falls for the maintenance of successful family life, it is undoubtedly true that, at present time, the responsibilities of the home maker herself far outweighs those of other members of the household.... The home maker is easily the great economic factor of the household. Women buy practically all of the dry goods consumed in the home, perhaps nine tenths of all raw market goods, one half of all hardware and house furnishings, and one tenth of men's clothing.

Consequently women should be trained in methods of spending the family income as well as in all other homemaking arts. Girls should also be trained in homemaking arts. The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, providing cooperative agricultural-extension work to consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstration in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in agricultural colleges.

The passage of the Purnell Act, in 1925, to aid research in agriculture and home economics gave national recognition to the need and value of instruction in home economics and furnished federal funds to states to stimulate the development of the work, by both organized and unorganized instruction as well as through research.\(^2\)

**Beginning of Home Demonstration Work in Georgia.**—Records filed in the office of the Superintendent of Documents, United States Department of Agriculture and in the Georgia State Extension Office, Athens, Georgia show that the home demonstration work for white women began in Georgia in 1912. During that year letters were sent to certain women asking them

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to take over some girls' tomato clubs. The women accepted the work and that was the beginning of the home demonstration work in Georgia.

Mary E. Creswell, supervisor of home economics and school garden work at the Normal School, Athens, Georgia, was made collaborator with the Federal Department of Agriculture in 1914, and became first woman to serve on the department staff in Washington, D. C.

Reck states that: "By this time canning club agents (for white people) had become general counselors in home economics for southern farm families." This work needed a better name than "canning clubs" and Miss Creswell suggested that "since the men's work was called farm demonstration work, that the work for the women should be called home demonstration work." That name was accepted "and from that time to now, the women extension agents have been called home demonstration agents."

Findings show that although home demonstration work for white women in Georgia began in 1912, before the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, Negro women were not included in the program until after 1914. Some rural Negro women for many years had helped their husbands with their demonstration projects which they worked under the direction of white farm agents, as has already been noted. Thus when the extension work was opened up to Negro women it was an easy matter for them to change some of their existing homemakers clubs over to the home demonstration work.

1 Walter S. Brown, op. cit.
3 Ibid.
4 Source - Interviews with many ex-slave women. Georgia and elsewhere (1935-54).

Note - Miss Mary E. Creswell while acting as State Home Demonstration Agent, employed the writer to serve as supervisor of Negro home demonstration agent work in Georgia.
Carter G. Woodson describes numerous Negroes, both freemen and slave who struggled hard, even in slavery, to learn to read and write and to uplift themselves. He further shows the Union soldiers taught many Negroes who came to the Union camps. By 1862 many northern women had come south for the purpose of teaching Negro women as well as Negro men. These northern women taught the women and girls sewing, cooking, homemaking, child care and how to read and interpret the Bible. Especially was great work done along this line during the Reconstruction days and afterwards. In fact this was the beginning of club work for Negro women. Thus they became well acquainted with organizations such as cooking clubs, sewing clubs, flower clubs and other types of clubs that are now included in the present day home demonstration program.

The state organization of "Federated Clubs for Negro women" was organized in 1902, but did not receive a charter until nearly 20 years afterwards. The main objective at that time was to build a home for delinquent girls. After the work of many years, the delinquent girls' home was built on the Jefferson Road, not far from Macon, Georgia, and is still in use. The Federated Clubs is still a very strong organization.

Landis and other rural sociologists class home demonstration work as rural community or rural society improvement work and as such it comes under the head of rural sociology, "and as such," says Landis, "has developed

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2 Source - Interviews with Mrs. Rhina Miller and other elderly people in Georgia and in other states, 1935-54.
along three lines - research, teaching, and extension work.... It was from
the beginning and remains today primarily a research movement. Extension
agents are required to do all types of rural community work.

The agricultural extension service is "the largest and best financed
division of adult education and is entirely rural in nature." Its aim is
to reach the last family in the last house at the end of the last road.

Kolb and Brunner say that:

The aim of the extension service is to educate the farmers
and their wives in all facets of their occupation. Such educa-
tion being both technical and commercial. The extension service
fulfills its aim by assimilating and disseminating the technical
data and research discoveries of the colleges of agriculture and
their experiment stations, through the state specialists who
relay it by way of the county agents to the ultimate consumers,
the farmers and their wives.

Among the results of the extension service are the facts that
between one third and one half of all farm homes are reached by
it, several million persons have been assisted in solving their
occupational and home-economic problems through information
acquired from it; changed agricultural practices have resulted
from it and the increased efficiency of American agriculture may
be partly ascribed to it; cooperative action has been stimulated,
local leadership developed, and community improvements furthered.
Of late, the extension service has attempted interesting excursions
into recreational or cultural fields, in music and art....
Nutrition work grappled with the problem of adequate diet in the
face of declining income, and this activity quickly expanded beyond
the home into the school.  

O. B. Martin has pointed out that the farmers cooperative work was begun
in 1903, and that at first all demonstration work was with white men and
women. They enrolled some Negro demonstrators who followed instructions

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1 Paul A. Landis, *op. cit.*
p. 484.
so faithfully and carefully that they were often more successful than white
farmers and homemakers. Booker T. Washington had a prominent part in
beginning Negro extension work in the south. Tuskegee, which he dounded
in Alabama, already had carried instruction to Negro farmers through the
faculty, through farmers conferences at Tuskegee and in local communities,
and through printed bulletins. He said that Dr. Washington also used a
"Jesup Wagon" provided with agricultural equipment to go out among the
farmers and demonstrate better ways of farming and homemaking.

To some extent, Negro home demonstration work was developed through
the interest and aid of white agents. Martin further says that in view of
the fact, that many Negro women and girls had always done much of the
domestic labor in the southern homes and that because Negro schools and
colleges had given courses in home economics, home demonstration work for
Negroes was started in the best possible environment and atmosphere.

Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes have been the means of building up an
extension organization in the south for Negroes. The first farmers con-
ference at Tuskegee in February, 1892, was the forerunner of farm congresses
at agricultural colleges for white people in various parts of the
country.

1 O. B. Martin, "A Decade of Negro Extension Work," United States
Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Circular No. 72 (Washington,
D. C., 1926), p. 4.
2 Ibid.
3 O. B. Martin, "A Decade of Negro Extension Work - 1914-1924," United
States Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Circular No. 70 (October,
1926), p. 3.
4 Ibid., p. 5.
The Negro Year Book states that one of the earliest contributions of the General Education Board to education in the south was the assistance given by the Board to the demonstration work that was carried on at the time by Seaman Knapp. It states:

The demonstration work was carried on among Negroes as well as among whites and this work exercised a profound influence upon southern rural life, increasing the wealth of the people and stimulating their desire for education. This work was taken over in 1916 by an act of Congress as a part of the extension service of the state agricultural and mechanical colleges.

The General Education Board however, continued its support of the Home Makers Clubs, as the organization carrying on the work among Negro women and girls was called until 1919, when it likewise was taken over by the Government as a part of the home demonstration work.2

In the previous section on home demonstration work, the findings showed the demonstration work began with adults under the directions of white agents. Additional findings point out that when Negro agents were appointed to work among farm families, "They began to enroll boys and girls in the extension work because they felt that these young folks should have influence in farming and in their communities."3

Additional findings show that as far back as 1902, some demonstration work had been going on with Negro youth under the direction of the leadership of some interested individual farmers and teachers in Georgia, who had become inspired by visiting the annual Tuskegee farmers conferences. These Georgia leaders organized corn clubs, garden clubs, canning clubs,

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2. Ibid.
and sewing clubs for the boys and girls. The Georgia leaders said that they heard farmers from some other states report at the conferences the demonstration work that they were doing with young people in their respective states. The first recorded demonstration club work with Negro youth was done by Phil Johnson, a Newton County farmer and teacher, in the Leguin community in Newton County. The results of the demonstration clubs were reported to the Newton County Superintendent of schools. Some of those early club members who are now outstanding farmers themselves, like to tell about their early demonstration work with Mr. Johnson.

In preparation for writing the 4-H Club history, Franklin M. Reck, interviewed a large number of extension workers. He said that Annie Peters Hunter of Boley, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma, was the first Negro home demonstration agent appointed in the United States of America. She was appointed January 31, 1912. Her work was to be done primarily with young people.

On May 24, 1912, Mattie Holmes was appointed in demonstration work in Hampton, Virginia, and was paid a salary of $40.00 per month by the General Education Board. After three months she resigned to be married and Lizzie Jenkins took her place and served until she retired in 1945. At the time Miss Jenkins took over the work in Virginia, she was to organize and conduct canning clubs among colored girls in thickly settled colored sections of the southeastern counties of Virginia. She was employed for

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1 Source - Mr. Phil D. Johnson, a Newton County farmer and school teacher who organized clubs for boys and girls in Newton County (1902), and Mr. Henry Mack, a Jackson County, Georgia farmer, who also started some demonstration clubs with young people in Jackson County about 1905.

1 months of the year.

Findings show that Mrs. M. E. V. Hunter, an early home demonstration agent in Texas, wrote a history of the Negro home demonstration work in Texas. Seaman It. Knapp, the founder of the extension service, worked in Texas and was of great assistance to the early Texas agents both white and colored. "Knapp received many ideas about demonstration work from Dr. Booker T. Washington."

Maud Wilson, an extension leader, prepared and sent out a bulletin on home demonstration work in 1926, in which she said that the suggestions in the bulletin were intended to supplement the program of work. This bulletin proved to be of great value to workers.

1 Franklin M. Heck, op. cit., p. 137
2 Ibid., p. 133.
CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF NEGRO HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK IN GEORGIA

The preceding chapter gave a report of some findings in the area of the subject under consideration. This chapter is devoted to presenting and interpreting data derived from literature pertaining to the history of Negro home demonstration work in Georgia; from information gained from interviews with elderly people who were involved in the beginning of the work in Georgia; and from personal experiences. The chapter contains:

(1) Data on facts leading up to the establishing of the work in Georgia, with emphasis on Negro home demonstration work.

(2) Data on facts leading up to the establishing of the 4-H Club work in Georgia, with emphasis on 4-H club work for Negro girls in Georgia.

By 1870 the idea of a simple type of club organization was well known to many Negro women in Georgia, as well as in other Southern states. Even before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, some Northern women began coming South to teach the ex-slaves. These women were educated and came from homes of culture and refinement. "These Christian workers cared not so much about proselyting them (the Negroes) as they did about educating them."¹

Mothers' Clubs Fore-runners of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs.— The mothers' clubs were fore-runners of Negro home demonstration clubs in

Georgia. The Christian women from the North, seeing the sad condition of Negro women, their families and their homes, very soon began to group their women students into mothers' clubs,\textsuperscript{1} "since the majority of the earliest female students were grown women, many of whom were even grandmothers."\textsuperscript{2} Many of the families slept, cooked, and ate in one-room cabins where there was very little privacy.\textsuperscript{3} Therefore, the missionary women teachers grouped the women students into groups which were called mothers clubs, for the purpose of teaching them some of the niceties and privacies used in American society. In addition, they were taught some of the arts of homemaking such as cooking, sewing, sanitation, personal hygiene, cleanliness, child care, and their religious duties.\textsuperscript{4}

Most of these women students lived in towns and villages where it was more convenient to come in contact with the missionary influence than did women who lived in the open country. Thus very little was done to improve country life, although the ministers did a great job in helping to carry the idea of mothers' club work to their rural church members. Therefore, by 1900, such organizations as missionary societies and mothers clubs were fairly well known in Georgia, especially among town women.\textsuperscript{5}

Limited Improvement Work for Rural Negro Women.— Prior to 1900, rural

\textsuperscript{1}Based on interviews with many ex-slave women in Georgia and elsewhere, (1934-1955).
\textsuperscript{2}Atlanta Daily World, (Atlanta, Georgia, April 10, 1956), p. 2.
\textsuperscript{3}Based on interviews with many ex-slave women in Georgia and elsewhere.
\textsuperscript{4}Notes from talks given to students by Miss Harriet E. Giles, one of the founders of Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, and from Talks given by early Spelman teachers and from interviews with ex-slave women and men, especially ministers.
\textsuperscript{5}Ibid.
community mothers clubs were found only here and there among Negro women in Georgia, due perhaps to the fact that rural women were a little less enlightened than their town sisters; rural families lived further apart than town people; had less education; and were therefore more illiterate and individualistic. But notwithstanding these many disadvantages, many rural women had by 1900 some idea of mothers clubs and desired such clubs in their communities, but had no special leaders to help and teach them. ¹

Beginning of Negro Home Demonstration Agent Work in Georgia.— In 1914, when the Smith-Lever Act was passed and Georgia Negro farmers found out that extension agents would be employed to work among Negro farm families in counties meeting the money requirement of the extension service needed to help support the work, Chatham County, Georgia, met the requirement and appears to have been the first county in Georgia to do so. In September, 1914, Eugene A. Williams, a Tuskegee Institute graduate from the agricultural department, was employed to work among the Negro farmers in Chatham County. ² In November of the same year, Otis S. O'Neal, a graduate of Fort Valley High and Industrial School, Fort Valley, Georgia, was employed to work among Negro farmers in Houston County, Georgia, and was the second Negro extension agent employed in Georgia. ³

After the employment of O. S. O'Neal, the state was divided into two parts and each of the two agents was responsible for one half of the state to work with Negro farmers. These two farm agents have been discussed here because of the very important part they played in helping to get the Negro

¹Notes from talks given to students by Miss Harriet E. Giles, et al., op. cit.
²From early Annual Reports of E. A. Williams and O. S. O'Neal, (1915). These reports are filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia.
³Ibid.
home demonstration agent work started in Georgia. There was no Negro home demonstration agent in Georgia until two years after these men began their extension work. Both of them worked with boys and girls, and with men and women.¹

First Negro Home Demonstration Club in Georgia.— As these two agents went about their work with the farmers, the farm women living in Chatham and Houston Counties were inspired to want to improve their homes just as the farmers were improving their farms. The women living in Chatham County asked E. A. Williams, the agent, to organize a club for them so that they too might learn things that would be helpful to them in improving their family life. As many of the Chatham County rural women were used to mothers clubs, it was an easy matter to organize them into a canning club, as the extension clubs for Negro women were called at that time. As a result, in June 1915, the White Bluff Mothers Club was reorganized into the White Bluff Canning Club, and was the first extension club ever organized for Negro women in Georgia.²

White Bluff Canning Club Officers.— Mrs. Rhina Miller, an outstanding Chatham County teacher, who was president of the White Bluff Mothers Club and who had taken the lead in getting the canning club organized, was elected president and became the first president of the first extension club for Negro women in Georgia. Mrs. Anna Harris, a farmer's wife, was elected vice-president; Mrs. Anna Ordson, also a farmer's wife, was made secretary. She was a good secretary and some copies of her minutes are

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
still filed in the Office of the State Supervisor in Savannah, Georgia.

The information about the White Bluff Club was obtained from her minutes and from E. A. Williams in June, 1925, at the time when this club held its tenth anniversary. Mr. Williams was the main speaker for this anniversary and explained how this first club was organized by him and said that he was glad to see it so active after ten years of service and help to Chatham County. Mrs. Lizzie George, another farmer's wife, was elected treasurer. Another outstanding member of this club was Mrs. Scipio Wilson, the wife of the most outstanding farmer in Chatham County at that time. The White Bluff home demonstration club is quite active now and has turned an abandoned public school building into a community center. ¹

Club Program for Negro Women, 1915. — Canning and gardening were the projects that Mr. Williams emphasized in his work with the women and he did an excellent job, so much so that even today Chatham County farmers and their wives daily sell great quantities of farm products on the consolidated city market. Mr. Williams encouraged the club women who knew how to sew to teach the other women how to sew; and even today many Chatham County women sew for other people for a living and many of the girls are excellent dressmakers and sew for others. ²

Negro Home Demonstration Agents in Georgia. — There were no Negro home demonstration agents in Georgia until 1916. In that year Miss Mary Searcy was appointed to serve as Negro home demonstration agent in Houston County, Georgia, that was before Peach County was cut off from Houston County. Miss Searcy was a graduate of the Fort Valley High and Industrial School.

¹Ibid.
²From Records filed in the Negro State Extension Agents' Office, Savannah, Georgia, (1915-1917).
Fort Valley, Georgia, and her headquarters were, as was the case with Mr. O'Neal, at Fort Valley. Miss Searcy was the first Negro home demonstration agent ever employed in Georgia to work among Negro farm families. She did an excellent job and many community clubs were organized by her. Some of these are still very active.¹

**County-wide Egg Show.**—Soon after beginning work in Houston County Miss Searcy saw the need of helping families to raise more poultry because she found in the county only a few mongrel chickens. In order to encourage the people to raise more and better poultry, she planned a county-wide egg show to be held at the Fort Valley school at the same time that Mr. O'Neal planned to hold a meat show. They combined the shows and called it the meat and egg show. These shows were combined into the well known Ham and Egg Show which today is held annually at Fort Valley. It will be well to remember that a Negro home demonstration agent was the originator of the Fort Valley Egg Show.²

In 1917, Miss Juanita Conyers, a Tuskegee Institute graduate, was employed to work as Negro home demonstration agent in Chatham County and became the second Negro home demonstration agent to be employed in Georgia.³ Immediately after her employment she took over the canning clubs in Chatham County. By 1917 there were several clubs in operation in the county. The majority of these clubs had been mothers' clubs which were reorganized into canning clubs to fit the extension program. Miss Conyers did one of the best jobs of home demonstration agent work that has ever been done in the state of Georgia by a Negro home demonstration agent. When she

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
³Annual Reports filed in the Office of the Negro State Extension Agents Savannah, Georgia, (1917-1923).
gave up the work in Chatham after four or five years, she had organized a club in every community that could meet the extension requirements for a club. Many of these clubs are still active. In 1921, Miss Conyers was promoted and became Negro District Agent, but soon gave up the work to be married to the State Negro Extension Agent in Alabama.¹

Negro Home Demonstration Agents Increased.— Houston and Chatham Counties were the only counties in Georgia employing Negro home demonstration agents until 1920. During that year the number was increased to twelve. Some of these agents were responsible for working in two counties and some of them organized clubs in two or three county-line communities in adjoining counties.² For many reasons, the work grew very slowly at first. The salaries were extremely low, with a few agents a total monthly salary of only $50.00; the maximum monthly salary received was $75.00. The extension work was new to the agents and newer still to the majority of farm families. When the agents visited families for the purpose of helping them, many families would not cooperate with the agents because of suspicion and distrust; no demonstration materials were given to the Negro agents and when the club women were unable to provide anything to work with, the agents had to buy or beg things needed to do their work. With such handicaps as these the home demonstration agents were not able to make their work as satisfactory and pleasing as they might have under more favorable circumstances.³

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
Extension Program of Work for Negro Women.—In 1914, after the passage of the Smith-Lever Act,1 the United States Department of Agriculture prepared a National program of work and sent copies to each State Director of Extension work in the United States; and each Director was advised to adjust the National program to fit the particular needs of both farm demonstration agents and also home demonstration agents, but even with adjustments the Negro home demonstration agents had difficulty in satisfactorily working out the state extension program of work. These agents could not very well explain the program to the farm people because of the handicaps under which they worked, so they made a program to suit themselves.2 But as the agents themselves learned more about the extension work; learned how to make their work more effective; how better approach the people; and the people better understood the agents and the meaning of the extension service; most of the families gladly accepted the extension work and as a result the Georgia extension service program is today felt in all sections of Georgia and many women often report in meetings that, "next to their religion, the home demonstration work is the greatest blessing that has ever come into their lives."3

State Supervisor.—As has been related, the Negro home demonstration work grew very slowly at first so much so that by 1923, the number of home demonstration agents had increased to only fourteen. Three of these were employed to work twelve months in the year and the other eleven were employed for nine to ten months. Only one of these agents owned an automobile

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1Carter V. Good, op. cit.
2Information from three agents who began work in 1920 and are still in the service. Two of them are working in the same counties where they began work in 1920. These agents were, Miss Ruby O’Neal, Miss Seabie Russell and Mrs. Lovie M. Lyles.
3From Annual Reports of Extension Agents (1920-1950), State Office of Negro State Extension Agents, Savannah, Georgia.
with which to travel and the rest had to travel over their counties as best they could. Hence, some agents got over their counties not more than once in one or two years. In the fall of 1923, Lillian Camilla Weems was employed to supervise all phases of the Negro home demonstration program in Georgia, that is, the program of work for both the extension club work for women and also the extension club work for Negro girls from ten to twenty years of age. This supervising agent worked in this capacity continuously from 1923-1955. She saw a tremendous growth and development in the nature, scope, accomplishments and far-reaching effects of the work all over Georgia. In 1932 the title of the supervising agent was changed to Assistant State Agent for Negro Work. Thus, this supervisor had charge not only of the women's program, but also was assistant state agent for the entire program of the Negro extension work in Georgia.

Training of Early Home Demonstration Agents.—The majority of the early Negro home demonstration agents were former Jeanes supervisors who, after the passage of the Smith-Lever Law in 1914, changed over to the Negro home demonstration work. This was true of Miss Mary Searcy who began work as home demonstration agent in Houston County in 1916, the first Negro home demonstration agent in Georgia. She was already working in Houston County as Jeanes supervisor for Negro schools in that county and was instrumental in helping to get the Negro home demonstration work started in Houston County and when that county qualified to put on an agent, she changed over to the extension service. The few agents who had

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1 From Annual Reports filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia, (1916-1923).
2 Ibid.
not been Jeanes supervisors had been school teachers who had stopped teaching to become agents. None were well trained for the extension program. None had had very much formal training in agriculture, home economics, nor rural community organization work. As they did not very well understand the extension program of work, they did what they knew to do which was largely working with schools. But soon the State and Federal extension service officials began giving these agents definite instruction as to what they were expected to do. They were expected to give all or most of their time to working in rural communities with farm families in carrying out the extension program.¹

None of the fourteen extension agents in 1923, was a college graduate. Eight were high school graduates, one had received one or two years of education above high school; six had not completed the high school program; but all were among the best young teachers in Georgia at that time.

The Negro Home Demonstration Program.— The home demonstration program for 1923, involved the following areas:

1. Food Production - Gardening, Poultry, Home Dairying
2. Sanitation and Health
3. Cooking and Food Conservation
4. Home Industry and Thrift
5. Home Beautification
6. Club Organizational Work for Women
7. Club Organizational Work for Farm Girls.

Each home demonstration agent was expected to do some work in all of

¹From Annual Reports and Records filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia, (1923).
these projects, and was required to send to her supervisor a program showing the major projects for the current year.¹

**Organized Extension Clubs in 1923.**—By 1923, except in Chatham and Houston Counties, there were very few well organized clubs, or canning club women and junior club girls. In the remaining counties having Negro home demonstration agents, the community canning clubs were very loosely organized, and some clubs had not more than three or four enrolled members who attended the meetings when they were held. At that time there were 104 such clubs with an estimated enrollment of 1,043 women members; 132 clubs for girls with an estimated enrollment of 2,316 club girls.²

**Transportation.**—Transportation for women and girls was as difficult as it was for the extension agents and was a main hold back for agents and club members alike. Hence, the Negro home demonstration agents were compelled to do largely individual work, but today conditions have vastly improved and 100 per cent of the extension agents own automobiles with which to travel over their counties to do their work, hence, they now do possibly three fourths of their extension teaching through organized clubs for women and girls.³

In 1924-1926, intensive and extensive campaigns were put on for getting bona fide extension club organizations and for increased club enrollments. All bona fide extension clubs for women were named home demonstration clubs and practically all remaining mothers' clubs were reorganized so as to become bona fide extension clubs. The club women became home demonstration

²Annual Reports filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia, (1923-1926).
³Ibid.
club members and their clubs became home demonstration clubs. By working through organized clubs, the home demonstration agents, in time, became able to reach more farm families and to do more work in one week, or at least in one month than they were able to do in one or two years when they worked mainly with individuals. Through organized club work, the agents were able to do a great deal of work in child care, health and sanitation, food production, food conservation, arts and crafts, clothing, rural home improvement work, home industry, and marketing.  

1 Many of the projects outlined in the 1914 Federal program were still in operation in 1955 under new names and in varied forms, but the program has broadened tremendously to numerous diversified projects to fit the present day needs for both women and 4-H club girls, in Georgia. Some of the modern projects in the Negro home demonstration program are identified below in terms of state goals and their results for 1953.  

1953 - Negro Home Demonstration Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals Set</th>
<th>Reported Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Home Gardens—A family sized garden for every farm home and for as many other homes as possible.</td>
<td>1. Club women and 4-H club girls reported 38,639 gardens planted and tended by them. They sold surplus garden products amounting to $37,542.02 worth of surplus garden products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Orchards and Small Fruits—Aim to encourage all extension club farm families and others who can do so to plant some fruit trees and small fruits.</td>
<td>2. 2,925 farm families reported planning or pruning fruit trees and small fruits. They sold $10,854.30 worth of surplus fruits and nuts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Georgia Home Demonstration Agents Hand Book (Athens, Georgia), State Extension Service Press, (1953).
2From Annual Reports filed in the Negro State Extention Office, Savannah, Georgia.
3Ibid., (1953).
3. Home Dairying—Aim to get every 
extension farm family to own at 
least one good milk cow and to 
use more milk in the diet.

4. Home Poultry Raising—Goal for 
1953 is 25 or more good laying 
hens for every club farm family 
and for other families who are 
in position to raise chickens.

5. Food Conservation—"Save all, 
Waste nothing"—Aim to get all 
club families and others if 
possible to conserve at least 
enough food products to supply 
each family's winter needs.

6. Swine and other Meat Animals—Aim 
to get as many farm families as 
possible to produce at home as 
much of their meat supply as 
they can.

7. Clothing and Simple Millinery—
Aim to encourage every club 
woman and 4-H club girl to learn 
how to sew and to make at least 
er her common wearing apparel and 
precise headgear, decorative cost-
tume jewelry, flowers and cov-
ered buttons.

3. Club families reported owning 
8,894 dairy cows and dairy calves 
they sold a total of $10,677.91 
worth of surplus dairy products.

4. Reports showed a total of 4,672, 
315 chickens and other poultry. 
Poultry and egg sales amounted to 
$56,553.92. Sears, Roebuck Com-
pany donated to each of fifty 
4-H club girls a total of 2,500 
Pimento Red baby chicks. 95% of 
these chicks were raised by the 
girls.

5. Club women and 4-H club girls and 
others reported conserving more 
than 3,478,630 containers of food 
Sales from surplus conserved pro-
ducts and other foods amounted 
to $3,132.69.

6. Combined reports from club women 
and club girls show a total of 
10,898 hogs, pigs and other meat 
animals belonging to them. Sales 
from surplus livestock and other 
kinds of meat of all kinds amount-
ed to $6,498.85. A large number 
of pure bred pigs were donated to 
4-H club members.

7. Combined reports showed the mak-
ing of 61,301 dresses and other 
garments for women and larger 
girls; 15,483 dresses and other 
articles of clothing for small 
girls; 2,404 pieces of baby cloth-
ing and layettes for young babies; 
13,805 miscellaneous articles of 
sewing; 195 ladies' hats; 2,908 
shirts for men and boys; 698 jac-
kets and coats for men and boys; 
8,773 discarded garments reno-
vated and put back into use. 
Women and girls made $12,525.42 
sewing for others and selling 
home-made articles.
8. House furnishings—Aim to get all club women and older 4-H club girls to make as many of their common articles of household furnishings as they can.

9. Home Marketing—Aim to encourage farm families to produce enough commodities on their farms, in gardens, orchards and in their homes to have enough home use and a surplus for sale.

10. Land Buying—Aim to encourage farm families and others to buy farms or small homes for themselves.

11. Home Demonstration Club Enrollment—Aim to make an increase of at least 500 new club women enrolled. 12,174 were enrolled in 1953.

12. Enrollment of 4-H Club Girls—Aim to enroll at least 5000 new 4-H club girls in 1954. The enrollment for 1953 was 22,185 girls in 4-H club work in Georgia.

8. Adult and 4-H club home improvement chairmen reported these totals: 778 pairs of sheets; 4,696 pairs of pillow cases; 943 pairs of curtains; 974 quilts; 40 mattresses; 125 bed spreads; 1,175 table covers and 6,862 miscellaneous articles made by club members in 1953.

9. Combined reports from club women and club girls and others, show sales from commodities produced and other articles handled by them amounting to a total of $216,162.37. In addition they raised $34,884.34 for various causes.

10. Home demonstration club women and others reported the buying of 93 farms and 123 small lots and houses.

11. Home demonstration agents reported enrolling a total of 12,724 in 1954. An increase of 550 new women enrolled in extension club.

12. Negro home demonstration agents and some county agents reported a total of 28,584 girls enrolled in 4-H club work in 1954. This was an increase of 6,399 new girls enrolled in 4-H club work.1

Georgia Home Demonstration Agents' Organizations—Throughout the years from 1924-1955, efforts were made to encourage the extension agents to raise their personal levels of education and efficiency and especially the Negro home demonstration agents were urged to design better and more

1Ibid.
understandable and workable programs in order to reach a larger number of people with their extension work and also for the purpose of encouraging a much larger number of club members to attempt and to carry to completion a larger number of the projects attempted. As a means of assisting the home demonstration agents in reaching the above goals, the following organizations were set up for them.

A. **District Councils.**—The Negro home demonstration agents in Georgia have been organized into four district council groups all of which meet for one day during the Spring and for one day during the Fall usually in April and in September and are planned as follows:

1. **The North Georgia Council:** This group usually meets in Atlanta and is for the home demonstration agents working in counties in the Atlanta area.

2. **The Middle Georgia Council:** This group usually meets in Macon or Dublin and is for the home demonstration agents working in middle Georgia.

3. **The Southwest Georgia Council:** This group meets at Albany State College, Albany, Georgia, and is for the home demonstration agents working in Southwest Georgia.

4. **The Southeast Georgia Council:** This group meets at Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia, and is for all home demonstration agents working the coastal counties and in all other counties in the Savannah, Georgia area.

Thus the State Supervisor formulated a program in which every Negro home demonstration agent in Georgia was required to attend the district council meeting held nearest to the county in which she works. The programs for these district councils were uniform and consisted of demonstrations in community organizational work for adult club women and for

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1 *Georgia Hand Book for Home Demonstration Agents.* Athens, Georgia, State Extension Service Press. Published annually since 1948.
4-H club members; how to successfully do extension teaching; how to carry out efficiently state and Federal programs; and how to treat all people with whom the agents come in contact with kindness and politeness. One or more state extension officials usually come from the Athens office to help with the district meetings for the home demonstration agents. These specialists usually introduced the new innovations that came into the extension work based on directions from Washington, D. C.¹

B. State Agents’ Annual Conference.— This state-wide extension meeting was held annually during the winter at either the Savannah State College or at the Fort Valley State College. It lasted one week and all extension agents, both men and women were required to attend it. The instructors were specialists from the Athens office and from the United States Department of Agriculture and other outstanding individuals.

C. In-Service Training Meetings.— This was not a fixed regular meeting as were the others named above. It was held for one week or less whenever several new agents were employed in the Georgia extension service. These meetings were, in most part, conducted by the State extension service officials from Athens. The new agents were given training in the essential information as to how to begin the extension work; how to do extension teaching; and other important matters. The extension program was very carefully explained to them.

D. Individual Conferences.— Personal visits were made by the state supervisor to each home demonstration agent as many times each year as possible for the purpose of giving subject matter assistance; to help the agents put over various county activities; and also for the purpose of creating favorable sentiment for the extension service work in the various counties, in most cases, for the purpose of trying to get increases in the salaries of the extension agents, and to work for good relations between the extension agents and other workers in the same county.

E. State Home Demonstration Agents' Association.— In 1943 "The Georgia Home Demonstration Agents' Association" was organized at the Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia, during the time of a state meeting of the agents. All Negro home demonstration agents automatically belong to this association when they come into the extension service. The association meetings were held one or more times annually. The home demonstration agents are the officers and leaders. They make their own programs and conduct their meetings according to their constitution and by-laws. The State Supervisor serves as consultant for the group. Mrs. Mayme Wesley, home demonstration agent in Bibb County, in 1943, was the first president and Mrs. Ruth Harvey, home demonstration agent in Laurens County, became president in 1953, which position she still holds. This association had and still has great possibilities in that it could be a means of helping to broaden the usefulness of the members in their rural work by some day becoming a member of

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Ibid.
the National Home Demonstration Council of the United States and through attendance at the national meetings, will learn what other agents are doing all over the United States. This will help to make their programs more effective.  

Advanced Study for Negro Extension Agents. Beginning in 1945, the Georgia state extension service granted, annually to five home demonstration agents and to five county agents, leaves of absence to spend three weeks attending the special course for extension agents which is given at Prairie View University, Prairie View, Texas. One home demonstration agent or one county agent, desiring to do so, was permitted to take a year's leave of absence for advanced study. Assistance was to these agents to attend any university that would accept them, provided that they did not go west of the Mississippi River.

Organizations for Home Demonstration Club Women. A. Local Community Clubs for Club Women: The local community club was the unit of operation in the Georgia extension service program. The aim of these clubs was to have an active standard home demonstration club in every local community that was eligible for a standard club. In 1915, there was in Georgia, one extension club for Negro women with an enrollment of 20 women members. In 1955, there were in Georgia approximately 500 home demonstration clubs with a total of 12,724 women members. All officers and project chairmen were elected by the members from among the members.

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2Home Demonstration Organization Records filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia.
3Ibid.
ship of the clubs. Programs were planned during the meetings which take place twice per month. One meeting was a business meeting at which time each project chairman reported the progress made in her particular project during the past month. All local clubs cooperated with the county-wide, district and state programs. In fact, the real project work was done in the local community at the homes of the club members.1

B. County-wide Home Demonstration Council: The county council was composed of the local community club officers who formed the membership in the council. The county council was organized similarly to the local club organizations with the same grouping of officers and project chairmen. The council met quarterly in the county center and served as the executive committee for the home demonstration work in the county. Reports are made at the quarterly meetings by the county project chairmen showing the progress made in the county during the past quarter by the club members, and these project chairmen reported also, other outstanding events that took place in the county during the month and had some bearing on the advancement of the farm families and others in the county. The council secretary summarized the project reports and provided the home demonstration agents with copies. The home demonstration agents in turn summarized the county council reports received from all county council meetings in their respective counties and used these summaries to help make up the county annual reports for the year.

In May, 1924, the canning club women in Chatham County, Georgia, met at the Georgia State Industrial College, Savannah, Georgia, and

1Ibid.
held their first county-wide short course. Short courses for women are now called extension schools. At this first short course the club women voted to all their clubs home demonstration clubs and to call themselves home demonstration club members, thus making their clubs bona fide extension clubs. This group also agreed to organize a county-wide home demonstration council.

This council was organized in November, 1924, during the time of the Chatham County Negro Farmers' Conference and County Fair, in the College Park Baptist Church just outside the Savannah State College campus and was the first county council organized in Georgia for Negro home demonstration club women.¹ Mrs. Amelia Sullivan, Savannah, was elected present and was thus the first Negro home demonstration council president in Georgia. Today there are approximately 40 county Negro home demonstration councils in Georgia with a total of 2,480 members who are county leaders in their respective counties.²

By the end of 1926, practically every Negro canning club in Georgia, had name itself, home demonstration club and its members, home demonstration club members. And also by 1926, approximately every Negro home demonstration agent in Georgia had organized a county-wide council in her respective county. The county councils proved to be so informative and helpful to the agents and the club members that each county council member became interested in knowing what its neighboring county was doing and as a result, the district

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¹Home Demonstration Council Records filed in the Negro State Extension Office, Savannah, Georgia.
²Ibid.
councils became organized.

C. Home Demonstration Club District Councils: For at least twenty years (1935-1955), Negro home demonstration club members have been organized into district council groups. These district council groups meet annually in practically the same centers where the home demonstration agents meet. They usually meet in September or October according to convenience as to when the women can best leave their homes. The council officers and leaders receive and combine the county reports from the different counties in the district. Great rivalry is manifested among the different counties as to which county in the district can make the best true report. These meetings last one day and it is common to see a bus load of representatives coming from a county. Each group brings lunches and all lunches are spread in a district picnic dinner. The Savannah Sugar Refinery donated enough sugar for the lemonade used at the four district meetings. In addition to report-making the program consists of group singing by counties; discussion groups; helpful demonstrations in which all delegates are invited to take part. State specialists often assist with the meetings, and many outstanding people often visit and help with the meetings.

D. Negro State Home Demonstration Club Council: The Negro home demonstration club women attending the four district council meetings held during 1936, expressed the need for a state home demonstration council for Georgia extension club members. They unanimously adopt-

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2Ibid.
ted the following objectives outlined below in preparation for organizing a state council.

1. Assist with building up a strong active home demonstration county council in every county having a Negro home demonstration agent.

2. Assist with holding a county-wide farmers conference.

3. Take an active part in National Negro Health Week campaigns.

4. Assist with holding an annual county-wide 4-H club short course in every county having a Negro home demonstration agent.

5. Assist with sending county and district 4-H club champions to State short course and other state meetings.

6. Each county council assist or rather, take the lead in holding at least, one extension school for women annually.

7. Each county council assist with holding a county fair and with sending exhibits to state fairs when called upon to do so.

8. All county councils and district councils in Georgia prepare for organizing a state home demonstration council for Negro home demonstration club women in Georgia. The state council to meet annual or whenever called upon for a necessary meeting. To begin with, the state council officers will be elected from among the district council officers and afterwards from among its own members.

9. The Georgia county home demonstration agents will serve as consultants assisted by the State Supervisor.¹

Negro State Home Demonstration Club Council Organized.-- There were some objections to the organization of a state council for Negro women in Georgia and so for three years the state council was not organized, but in August, 1939, the state council was organized at the Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia, during the time of the state 4-H club short course and also while a special short course for county council

presidents was being held. Ten county home demonstration council presidents accepted the invitation to attend this short course which was held for one week. Those attending were: Mesdames, Polly Ann Miller, Baker County; Mary Laing, Camden County; Anna Gaines, Chatham County; Estella Ashmore, Columbia County; Easter Evans, Emanuel County; Barthenia Rowland, Hancock County; Julia Bryson, Jackson County; Lottie Walden, Laurens County; Carrie Dawson, Mitchell County; and Mrs. Mozella Palmer, Washington County.

State Council Officers.—The presidents voted unanimously to organize a state council and so on Friday, the last day of the short course, the state council was organized with these officers. President, Mrs. Estella Ashmore, Columbia County; vice-president, Mrs. Carrie Dawson, Mitchell County; secretary, Mrs. Julia Bryson, Jackson County; treasurer, Mrs. Mozella Palmer, Washington County. The state council functioned well at first, but the second World War and certain factors over which no one had control, caused the council to cease activities.

E. Revived State Home Demonstration Club Council: In December, 1954, during the time the State 4-H club Congress was being held at the Dublin, Georgia State 4-H Club Camp, the State Home Demonstration Council for Negro extension club members in Georgia, was reactivated. Mrs. Lafayette Baldwin, Emanuel County, was elected state council president and Mrs. Carrie Dawson, Mitchell County, was chosen secretary. By 1955, the State Home Demonstration Council had again decided to meet at the time of other state meetings. The council sets up state goals and assists the extension agents.
Negro 4-H Club Work in Georgia, 1923-1955.--

The response of Negro boys and girls to the club program has been enthusiastic throughout the years. The club program has been an important factor in helping to increase farm income, land ownership, and improved living conditions.¹

In Georgia, not very much effort was put forth to enroll Negro girls into extension clubs until the summer of 1924.² Before that date practically three fourths of the time was spent by the extension agents in working with the club women. There was a joining fee for women of $1.50 and for the girls of $1.00. Negro farm families had very little money and it was thought best to give the joining fee money to the women and older girls and for that reason very little, if any, effort was put forth to enroll the younger girls, 10-20 years of age. Most of the girls who were club members were in clubs with their mothers and the girls seemed not to like being in the same clubs with their mothers.

The fourteen Negro home demonstration agents in 1923, had a total enrollment of 2,316 girls enrolled in 132 organized junior clubs. None of the clubs were bona fide 4-H clubs, nor were the girls bona fide 4-H club members. In fact, there were objections to the clubs being called 4-H clubs and the girls being called 4-H club members. The clubs for the girls were called junior canning clubs, junior homemakers clubs, or just girls clubs. There were also objections to the Negro girls wearing the state 4-H uniform and the Negro agents were told that their club girls were not 4-H club girls.³ Record books and other literature were not furnished by the State Extension Service to the club girls. Both the women club members

³Ibid.
and also the girls kept records on almanacs, paper bags or any kind of paper that they could get. The records were, in most cases so poor that they were not of very much value. The new State Supervisor very soon helped to overcome some of the disadvantages by designing a "4-H club work uniform" for the girls which is still being used. This supervisor also prepared a "Record Book for Negro Girls" and the State Extension Service press printed enough copies for all of the Negro club girls. These record books were supplied annually until the United States Department of Agriculture decreed that all 4-H club record books should be uniform. The matter of getting the names of the 4-H clubs and the names of the club girls changed to 4-H clubs and 4-H club girls, was a difficult task which was not accomplished until October 8, 1926, at which time the girls voted to call themselves 4-H club girls and their clubs 4-H clubs.

The First Organized Demonstration Projects for Negro Youth.— The very early and excellent club work done by Phil D. Johnson, Newton County, Georgia, should not be ignored. He was an outstanding farmer and also a school teacher. Very often he visited the farmers conference held annually at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and became so inspired at seeing the work being done on the Tuskee school farm by the school boys, that he returned to his Newton County farm and began putting into practice some of the ideas gained at Tuskegee, with the people in his community, that is, the Leguin community. The men did not like the new methods too well, but

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1 The Uniform pattern for the club girls and copies of the record books are filed in the Negro State Agents' Office, in the file for 4-H club girls work.


3 Interviews with Phil D. Johnson (1925-1930).
the boys accepted the plans and did well with their one-acre corn and cotton patches. In 1902, the first attempt at farm improvement was begun in an organized way and boys corn and cotton clubs were begun in Newton County, Georgia. The second year a few girls joined the clubs and began club work. One of Mr. Phil Johnson's nieces, Miss Seabie Russell, was greatly benefitted by Mr. Johnson's work which he continued for several years, so much so that in 1920, she became home demonstration agent in Newton County 1920 and served in that capacity until she retired in 1955. Miss Russell found it an easy matter to get the home demonstration work for the women and the 4-H club work for the girls started in Newton County. For several years she was the only extension agent in Newton County and worked with men and boys, and the women and girls.¹

**Special Organization Campaign.** During the summer of 1924, when the farm crops were "laid by", the Negro home demonstration agents put on a state-wide campaign for enrolling club girls in junior clubs. That campaign still goes on and the results have been marvelous and the accomplishments great. During the summer of 1924, each agent held a county-wide short course and invited girls from all over her county to come to a central place and spend two or three days together. Interesting program of demonstrations and recreational activities were planned and carried out. Large numbers of girls came enrolled in the various clubs. Enrollments began to go up at a rapid rate, so much so that short courses had to be held for the women also.²

**Changes and Improvements Made.** By 1926, all joining fees were abolished and each club was allowed to vote what dues each member of the club

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¹Agents' Annual Reports and Other Reports on 4-H Enrollments filed in Office of Negro State Extension Agents, Savannah, Georgia.
²Ibid.
organization as a whole would be able to pay for managerial purposes. This worked well and both sets of clubs immediately grew by leaps and bounds to the extent that clubs in counties having Negro home demonstration age became so numerous that the agents were forced to consolidate many clubs in order to be able to make regular visits to all organized clubs. As farm women gradually acquired means of transportation, clubs were located at a minimum of five miles apart in keeping with the distance between Negro rural schools. This method cut the number of clubs down to one junior club and one home demonstration club in each qualified community. Each agent was encouraged to organize the junior clubs at the schools in her respective county. This was done for two main purposes. (1) For holding meetings with the girls while they were assembled at school and (2) to try to get as many girls as possible to remain in school to complete seventh grade, at least. At that time very few boys and girls remained in the rural schools long enough to complete the seventh grade which was the highest grade in practically all Georgia rural schools. Even if some of the pupils finished the rural schools, very few of them went on to higher schools or to college. 1

4-H Clubs Helped to Increase School Enrollment and Attendance.— The plan of organizing clubs at school worked wonders. Children of school age who had stopped school returned to school in large numbers in order to join the 4-H clubs. The young people were made officers and project leaders in the clubs; the program for the club meetings were made as interesting and as enjoyable as possible; each girl was given the projects to work on at home that she like and most of the girls did well to the extent in

1 Information from Records in Office of Director of Negro Education, Capitol Building, Atlanta, Georgia, (1962).
1955, there were 28,584 Negro girls enrolled in 4-H clubs in Georgia in contrast to the 2,316 that were enrolled in 1925. Taking into consideration the work done by the schools themselves and other agencies especially the Jeanes supervisors, there are today 1000 or more Georgia Negro 4-H club girls and other rural girls enrolled in high schools and colleges and many of these girls are now annual receiving high school diplomas and some are receiving college degrees.\(^1\) Recently, a Bibb County school superintendent said, "The 4-H club work cannot be appraised too highly. It has been the means of helping to build up the very best high school and rural school system in this county that we have ever had before and I am all out for the 4-H club work one hundred per cent."

Some Outstanding 4-H Club Negro Girls. — Some of the outstanding 4-H club Negro girls who have graduated from high schools and are now honor students in Georgia colleges are: Delores Howard, Bibb County; Rossie Miller, Decatur County; Velma Fudge, Houston County; Patricia Isom, Sumter County; Frances Greene, Thomas County; and Jean Russell, Bibb County. Twenty-five or more 4-H club girls who have received their college degrees, are now or have been county home demonstration agents in Georgia counties or in other states. Many girls who have been trained in Georgia 4-H clubs are to be found in all types of occupations and are doing well.\(^2\)

The 4-H Club Program.— In addition to the basic 4-H club program containing projects of various kinds of food production, food preparation,

\(^1\)Records on 4-H Club Work for Girls, filed in office of State Negro Extension Agents, Savannah, Georgia, (1926-1955).

food conservation, clothing, home management, home improvement, home marketing, record keeping, child care, recreation and other projects too numerous to name here, there are various types of other activities in which 4-H club members compete for championship awards and high school and college scholarship awards, and trips to the Regional Camp for Negro boys and girls.¹

4-H Club Organization Divisions.— The following organizational divisions of 4-H club work are common in all states and territories under the jurisdiction of the United States. Such organizational structure is quite necessary in order to keep the work progressing effectively. They are:

1. Local Community 4-H Clubs: The membership in these clubs are both boys and girls from 10-20 years of age. Members 10-13 are called junior 4-H club members and those 14-20 are called senior 4-H club members. These local community clubs meet a minimum of twice per month and usually meet at the school building in their respective communities. In 1954 there were 780 such clubs in Georgia with an enrollment of 28,584 girls and 23,698 boys. The club members carry on 4-H projects in their home communities and the above numbers 22,823 girls, and 19,001 boys completed the 4-H projects undertaken by them in 1954.²

2. 4-H Club County Council: One county-wide council has been organized for 4-H club members in each county that has a Negro extension agent and home demonstration agent. In 1954 there were in Georgia 54 councils with a membership of 5,340 leader-girls and Leader

¹Ibid.
boys. These councils meet quarterly at which time reports are made by project chairmen in which reports are discussed the work completed by the members in each community during the quarter and each community tries hard to make a good report. The councils usually meet in March, June, September and December. The local club officers compose the council members and officers.¹

3. **District 4-H Councils:** The five district councils for 4-H club members usually meet for one week, that is, each district holds a one-week meeting at the Negro State 4-H Camp in Dublin, Georgia. There the various eliminations for state and congress awards are held, and state champions are named to compete in the 4-H projects during the State Congress.²

4. **Negro State 4-H Council:** The state council is composed of the officers of the 54 county council officers. The state council meets annually in August, and until 1953, it met at the Savannah State College for one week. Since 1953, it has met at the State 4-H camp at Dublin, Georgia.³ (The history of the state short course and state council are found further on in this study).

5. **The State Negro 4-H Congress:** The state congress for Negro 4-H club members is a recent organization, having existed for only six years. It meets three days during the first week in December and culminates the 4-H activities for the year. At the congress all awards for the year are given out. Many commercial firms and

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
³Ibid.
private individuals donate money and other gifts and scholarships to be given to club members who have done excellent work during the year. The Congress ends with a banquet, the money for which is given by the Atlanta Journal. November thirtieth is the end of the old year and December first is the beginning of the new year for extension adult club members and for 4-H club members.¹

The Southern Regional Camp for 4-H Club Negro Boys and Girls.-- This regional camp is not a state project, but is an out-of-state meeting now held annually for 4-H club Negro boys and girls living in the seventeen Southern states, and Georgia cooperate by sending her total of four boys and four girls to represent the state. With the exception of taking a 4-H team to the Negro Exposition held in Chicago in 1940, to demonstrate mattress making, the canning of peaches, and the making of peach marmalade no 4-H club girls had been taken for any out-of-state meeting from 1926 until 1948.

Since 1927, a National 4-H camp² had been held annually in Washington, D. C., for white 4-H club members, but no similar camp had been held for Negro 4-H club members. Finally so much adverse criticism came about because there was no National camp for Negro 4-H club members, that all Southern Extension Directors, some Washington, D. C., officials, and some private individuals got together and began in 1948 to provide for an annual regional camp for the Negro 4-H members. Thus, in August, 1948, the first of these camps was held at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and every

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
year since that date a regional camp has been held at some Negro college in the South, until 1955, when the camp was held at Howard University, Washington, D. C. Since 1949, the Negro State Extension Agents had asked for the camp to be held in Washington, but the Southern Directors said no. We will held it in the "deep South", and so they did until 1955, when by special invitation the regional camp was held in Washington. Each year the Atlanta Journal pays the expenses of the four boys and four girls from Georgia who attend this camp which lasts for eight days.¹

History of First State Negro Short Course.--- The first state short course ever to be held in Georgia for Negro extension club members was held in the Laura Spelman Home Economics Building at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, October 6-8, 1926. Seventeen girls from six Georgia counties and their home demonstration agents met at Spelman for the purpose of holding their state-wide contests, but after reaching Spelman the group and their State Supervisor, decided to turn the contests into a state short course. The Spelman teachers very kindly consented to take charge of the different groups such as: clothing, bread making, health work, public speaking, and other activities. The teachers conducted the classes; gave the examinations; and named the highest scorers. No boys attended this first state short course, only girls were present at this state-wide meeting and they named it the State Short Course.² Thus, the first state short course ever to be held in Georgia for Negro 4-H club members was held at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, October 6-8, 1926, in the Laura Spelman Home Economics Foods and Clothing rooms. The short

²Girls 4-H Club Records, op. cit.
course lasted three days and Spelman entertained the girls free of charge.¹

First State 4-H Club Committee (State Council) Organized.— On Friday morning, October 3, 1926, at none o'clock in the foods room of the Home Economics Building, the seventeen girls attending the state short course met and with the assistance of their State Supervisor and their home demonstration agents, Mesdames Mayme Wesley, Bibb County; Sarah Brown, Coweta County; Rosa Love, Jackson County; Lovie Lyles, Polk County; and Miss Seabie Russell, Newton County; and organized the first state 4-H organization (State Council) ever to be organized in Georgia.² This organization was named the Georgia State 4-H Committee, which name they used until August, 1928, at which time the girls voted to change the name of the state meeting to the State-4-H Council. At this first state-wide meeting held at Spelman College, Louise Benton, Newton County, was elected temporary chairman and Mamie Rozier, Coweta County, was elected temporary secretary. These were the only officers elected at that time but provision was made for the office of a treasurer and a social-athletic chairman. Louise Benton did not accept the chairmanship of the State 4-H Club Committee and Ruth Adams, Newton County, was made temporary chairman. Later Ruth was elected permanent chairman which office she filled until 1928. This State committee served an excellent purpose and was the fore-runner of the present State 4-H Council.³ Thus the seventeen girls who organized the State Committee are the charter members of the Georgia State 4-H Club Council. No boys were present at the organization of the State Committee.

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
³Ibid.
In the State Committee meeting a letter was read from Mr. T. M. Campbell, U. S. Field Agent. The letter invited all 4-H club champions to attend an interstate 4-H meeting to be held at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, December 5-7, 1926, and to take part in the various demonstration activities that would be carried on during the meeting.

The minutes of this first state-wide 4-H club meeting reveal some very important results accomplished during the meeting.¹

1. The girls voted to call their clubs 4-H clubs and themselves 4-H club members. Up to the time of this 1926 state meeting, Negro junior extension club girls in Georgia had been called junior canning club girls or junior home makers club girls. As a part of the program for this first state meeting, some literature from the National 4-H club headquarters was read and discussed. The letters addressed the girls, "Dear 4-H members." After reading and discussing the literature from the National Extension headquarters and the letter from Mr. T. M. Campbell, the girls voted to call their clubs 4-H club members and their clubs 4-H clubs.

2. The girls voted to accept to take part in the interstate contests to be held at Tuskegee in December, 1926. A large delegation of 4-H club boys and girls attended the Tuskegee meeting and took part in the various 4-H club activities. More than 286 club members from the seventeen Southern states attended this meeting.

¹Ibid.
3. The state meeting held in Atlanta brought together for the first time a group of girls from difference Georgia counties all of whom were interested in the betterment of the 4-H club work in the state.

4. The girls learned the value of voting for the things that would better their condition.

5. The clubs all became bona fide 4-H clubs and the members bona fide 4-H club members.

6. The girls learned how to organize a state organization and how to elect state officers.

7. The girls were sent invitations and free tickets to visit the Southeastern Fair which was in session at the time in Atlanta Georgia. The girls learned how to accept the Fair invitations and tickets and also how to accept the invitation to attend the Tuskegee meeting.¹

8. State 4-H champion girls named. The Spelman College teachers who judged the various state short course projects declared the following girls the Georgia state 4-H champions.

Dress making team — Louise Benton—Newton County
Bertha Williams—Newton County

Bread making team — Laura Belle Baker—Liberty County
Mary Bacon — Liberty County

Hat making team — Cornelia Harris—Coweta County
Mamie Rosier — Coweta County

¹Ibid., (1926-1955).
adjourned to be continued at the Fort Valley High and Industrial School in November, 1926, for the purpose of training all state champions who were expected to represent Georgia at the meeting to be held at Tuskegee in December, 1926. After the meeting adjourned the agents and club girls spent the afternoon visiting the Southeastern Fair at the Lakewood Fair Grounds and while there presented in the Fair Grounds auditorium a very excellently prepared program which the fair manager had invited them to present. ¹

Second Division of the State-wide 4-H Club Meeting.— There were so many district champion girls who could not attend the state meeting held at Spelman, that a second meeting was held at Fort Valley High and Industrial School in November, 1926. This meeting lasted two days and one night. Contests were held in health work, singing, bread making and public speaking. The subject of the public speaking contest was, "The Resources of Our State." At this meeting Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Laurens and Peach Counties were represented. Twenty-five girls and an equal number of boys were present. The extension agents present were; Mrs. Mayme Wesley and J. P. Powell, Bibb County; Mrs. Margaret Toomer and O. S. O'Neal, Peach-Houston County; and Mrs. Effie Lampkin, Laurens County. Mr. P. H. Stone, Negro State Agent and Miss Camilla Weems, Negro District Agent. ²

At the end of the two divisions of the first State short course and State council meetings held in 1926, the following girls made up the complete list of Georgia 4-H club champion girls for that year.

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
These ten Georgia champion club girls attended the interstate meeting held at Tuskegee Institute in December, 1926, and gave demonstrations in the 4-H contests held for Negro 4-H club members in the seventeen Southern states. All of the girls won awards in the respective contests in which they took part.1

The State 4-H Committee Becomes State 4-H Council.— In 1927, the State 4-H short course and 4-H council, held their annual meetings in November, at the Fort Valley High and Industrial School. But in August, 1928, they met at the Georgia State Industrial College in Savannah and continued to meet there annually in August, until August, 1953, at which time they began meeting at the Dublin State 4-H Club Camp.2

During the 1928 meeting of the State 4-H short course, the State 4-H club Committee met on Friday morning, at none o'clock, in Room 9, Georgia State Industrial College, and there held its annual one-day meeting. (1) The name State 4-H Committee was changed to State 4-H Club Council—Girls' Division. (2) The name Chairman of the State 4-H Committee was changed to President of the State 4-H Club Council. (3) A full slate of officers and project chairmen were elected. Curtis Clyde Miller, Peach County, the

1Ibid.
2Ibid.
State 4-H Club Champion Public speaker, was elected president and thus, became the first president of a bona fide State 4-H Club Council for Georgia club members. Later Curtis won an Elks' first prize of $1000.00 and a second Elks' prize of $250.00. With this $1250, plus money from her poultry and sweet potato projects, financed herself through four years of college at Spelman College from which college she graduated with high honors.¹

By 1928, the 4-H club boys were also holding state short courses and in 1928, they too, held their state meeting at the Georgia State College where they continued to hold their annual meetings until 1953 at which time they too began holding meetings at the Dublin State 4-H Club Camp. In 1928, during their meeting at the Georgia State Industrial College, a State Council - Boys Division, was organized for the boys. Up to that time, the girls only, had a State Council organization.

Boys and Girls 4-H Club Work Combined.— From 1926 to 1933, the girls 4-H club work continued to be separated from the boys work, as was the custom in all of the states. During these years the girls made great progress in all phases of their basic club projects, and the club work improved in every way. Both the boys and the girls usually held their annual state short course meetings during the month of August, at the present Savannah State College. Sometimes the meetings were held the same week, but always each group meeting was held independent of the other group. This separate 4-H club method was carried out through 1932.²

In 1933, an order was sent from the United States Department of Agriculture to all Directors of Extension Service, in all states, telling

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
them that from that date on there would no longer be a boys 4-H club
and a girls 4-H club, but that there would be only one 4-H club for boys
and girls. Provision was made for a boys' section and a girls' section
in order to give each group an opportunity to work out projects peculiar
to each group.

The period from 1934-1944, 4-H clubs all over the Nation were reorganized
and the general club offices were shared by both girls and boys and thus,
real adjustment took place in the work on the National, state, district and
county levels. The men and women agents planned joint meetings and worked
for the advancement of both boys and girls club work. There was for the
boys a state 4-H club leader, but none for the girls and the State Super-
visor for the home demonstration work continued to work with both the
women and the girls in Georgia.

The period from 1944-1954, state extension agents and county agents in
Georgia, both men agents and women agents, put forth all efforts to improve
the 4-H club work in every way and to train 4-H members to help with war
work and all other work of importance of that period. Intensive work was
continued to be done to improve all 4-H club organizations on all levels,
that is, improve the local community clubs, the county councils, the district
councils, and the state 4-H council; to improve all county 4-H short courses,
the state short course, the wildlife camp, and the state congress, as well
as send Georgia's quota of well trained representatives to the Regional
4-H club camp annually.¹

¹4-H Club Records, letters, Bulletins, Program and Agents Reports filed
Southern States" was held at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, during the month of August, and since that year an annual camp has been held at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, during the month of August, and since that year an annual camp has been held for Negro 4-H club members. This camp was usually held in the deep South until 1955. In that year it was held at Howard University, Washington, D. C. All Negro extension workers hoped that the camp would be permanently located in Washington, D. C.¹ The Regional Camp is not a Georgia project as such, but Georgia plays a very important part by sending each year at least two state agents to assist with the camp management and her quota of four boys and four girls to take part in the various 4-H Activities carried on at the camp. Thus the state extension agents in Georgia give a great deal of thought and time in preparing 4-H champions to represent Georgia at the camp; in helping most of the representatives to secure proper clothing and luggage; and in getting up enough money to finance the trips and camp expenses.

During this period, 1944-1955, poultry shows on the county level and one state poultry show became very popular for both white and Negro 4-H club members in Georgia. Poultry chain members owning chickens, donated by Sears and Roebuck Company, hold shows in their respective counties. These chickens are auctioned off and prizes are awarded to top exhibitors. The two top prize chickens, from each county taking part in the shows, are sent to the Macon State Fair and exhibited in the State Poultry Show. Each of the exhibitors in this show, receives an additional award.

One of the most gratifying accomplishments of this 1944-1955 period, was the renewed interest in education and thousands of young people returned

¹Ibid.
to school. Some to high school and many others to college. Annually hundreds of rural boys and girls are graduating from high schools and from colleges; many of these young people have become interested in music and art. ¹

4-H Club Work Helps in Many Ways. — By means of attempting and completing large numbers of extension projects, hundreds of Negro 4-H members have assisted their parents with buying farm land and homes and with putting into their homes modern furniture and other modern equipment necessary for better living; they are bringing beauty, culture, refinement, and a higher type of living standards into the homes. By earning and saving money made from 4-H projects, they are helping themselves to go to high school and to college; and some are starting bank accounts. ²

¹Reports from 4-H club members, from parents, extension agents, State Supervisors and from many interested People in Georgia. These reports are filed in the Office of the State Negro Agents, Savannah, Georgia.

²Ibid.
CHAPTER III
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS

The problem involved in this study was to critically appraise and to evaluate the program of the home demonstration work for Negroes in Georgia, 1923-1955.

Chapter II has presented a description of the organization, the development, and activities of the home demonstration work for Negro women and the 4-H club work for Negro girls in Georgia. An attempt has been made to give only the high points of accomplishment during the period under consideration. The details are too numerous and in some cases, too heart rending to relate in this short space.

The data in this study were obtained from documents, books, bulletins, letters, extension monthly and annual reports from county agents and from state leaders, interviews with ex-slaves and others, and from personal knowledge of much of the information related in this study.

This chapter aims to summarize the happenings in the home demonstration work from 1923 to 1955, and to evaluate the program for its worth.

This type of study is valuable at this time because of the present emphasis that is being placed upon adult education, better and happier home life, ways of increasing and properly spending the family income, ways of combatting juvenile delinquency, better child care, providing desirable recreation and supplying desirable recreational facilities, improving the home and the entire community, and in giving more thought to the "good life." All of these laudable projects and many others are included in the
The major purpose of this study was to develop a history of the program of the home demonstration work for Negroes in Georgia from 1923 to 1955.

**Major Accomplishments in Negro Home Demonstration Work in Georgia, 1924 - 1934**

The period 1924-1934 extends from the years immediately following the first World War, through the prosperous years leading up to the depression, the depression itself, and the return to prosperity.

In the Negro home demonstration work this was a period of organization and program development; of establishing correct nomenclature for extension clubs and club members; in introducing the extension program to farm families and county officials; building up good relations for the extension work in counties; getting all Negro home demonstration agents on a twelve months tenure of service and getting their salaries increased; and, in encouraging the extension agents to raise their educational levels.

All extension clubs for Negro women were named home demonstration clubs and the members home demonstration club members. The home demonstration club enrollment increased during this period from 1,276 to 5,265 members. All extension clubs for Negro girls were named 4-H clubs and the members were named 4-H club girls. The enrollment grew during this period from 2,316 girls to 11,704 girls enrolled in 4-H clubs in Georgia.

Negro home demonstration agents in Georgia increased from fourteen to twenty. Some old counties were lost and some new ones gained. In 1924 no Negro extension agent in Georgia was a college graduate. In 1934 there
were six college graduates serving as Negro Home demonstration agents in Georgia counties.\footnote{Home Demonstration Club Records, filed in the Office of the State Negro Extension Agents, Savannah, Georgia, (1924-1934).}

The first county council for Negro home demonstration club members in Georgia was organized in November, 1924, in the College Park Baptist Church, near the campus of Savannah State College. Mrs. Amelia Sullivan of Savannah, was elected president and thus became the first president of a Negro home demonstration county council in Georgia. By 1926 practically every Negro home demonstration agent in the state had organized a county council in her respective county for the extension club women. By 1934 these agents had also organized county 4-H councils for their club girls.

During the entire period, that is, from 1924-1955, a great deal of emphasis was placed upon training club officers and extension project leaders to assist the agents with carrying on the work in the state and as a result there are now 3,055 trained women leaders assisting with adult work; 4,137 trained women leaders helping with 4-H club work; and 711 trained older girls assisting with 4-H club work. Many of the older girls serve as secretaries for the home demonstration clubs.\footnote{Ibid.}

Adult Short Courses or Extension Schools.— The first county-wide short course (now called extension schools) for Negro extension club women in Georgia, was held in Hill Hall, Savannah State Industrial College, in May, 1924. Forty-five Chatham County club women attended this short course for two days. At this meeting the women voted to name all extension clubs home demonstration clubs and to name themselves home demonstration club members. In a few years all Negro extension club members were calling
themselves home demonstration club members and their clubs home demonstration clubs.\(^1\)

**First State Short Course for Negro Extension Club Members.**— The first state-wide short course for 4-H Club members in Georgia was held at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, October 6-8, 1926. Seventeen leader girls attended this short course. They were entertained by Spelman College three days and two nights free of charge. No boys attended this short course.

**First State-wide 4-H Club Committee or State 4-H Club Council.**— The first state 4-H club committee, later named 4-H club council, was organized Friday morning at eight o'clock, October 8, 1926, at Spelman College as a part of the state short course program. Seventeen girls were present. At this meeting the girls voted to call their clubs 4-H clubs and to call themselves 4-H club girls. Louise Benton, Newton County, was elected chairman of the committee but she did not accept the chairmanship and Ruth Adams, Newton County, was finally elected as chairman and was the first chairman of the state 4-H committee which changed its name in 1928 to State 4-H Club Council and the name of the chairman was changed at the same time to president of the State 4-H Council. This was the first 4-H Club Council ever organized in Georgia.

**Major Accomplishments in Negro Home Demonstration Work, 1934-1944**

The period 1934-1944 was a period of wars and rumors of wars. Germany made a second attempt to conquer the world; Pearl Harbor was attacked; the United States entered the Second World War; young Negro men were drafted

\(^1\)Ibid.
and sent to all areas of hostilities; and "fight to make the world a
better place in which to live" was the battle cry.

Home demonstration club women joined others in all types of war acti-

vities; helped to increase food production on the farms; conserved and
saved tens of thousands of containers of food stuffs; leader club women
taught mattress making; sewing; renovation of untold numbers of discard-
ed clothing and hats and put them back into use; taught women and older
girls how to properly prepare and serve nourishing meals; how to care for
young children and for sick people. They also raised thousands of dollars
for various purposes.

Many women who had never traveled before began to travel not only in
the United States, but some also went over-seas and this travel opened
their eyes to many new things and new ways about how people live in other
states and in other parts of the world. This was a great advantage to
the Negro race in general.

4-H club girls were also very active in all types of war work that
went on in Georgia in such activities as: gathering critical war materials;
assisting with food production and food conservation; leader girls also
helped to raise money for many kinds of drives and for helping to buy a
warship. And Negro 4-H club members also helped to raise money to buy a
station wagon for use in war purposes in Georgia.

During this period greater emphasis was placed upon health improvement
than ever before in the history of the United States. This great emphasis
was largely due to the fact that the armed services were turning down so
many young men because of their poor health. The rejection of so many
men by the armed services caused so much concern to the Federal Government
that it requested scientists, doctors, home economists and even farm
families and others to do something about this situation. Because so
many of those rejected were from the southern states, the United States
Department of Agriculture requested the Negro extension agents in the
seventeen southern states to make special surveys related to the food
habits of Negro farm families and so in September a special survey was
made by Negro State Extension Agents in all of the seventeen Southern
states. And in addition to the survey made in September, 1941, Georgia
made another survey in March, 1942 for the purpose of studying the food
and nutrition problems of Negro farm families in Bibb, Grady and Newton
Counties as type counties for the state. In each of these three counties,
150 farm families were surveyed and fifty from each county were selected
at random for a special study the purpose of the study was to try to see
if there is any relation between food and health.

In all things, this period of 1934-1944, was a period of hard work.
Many adjustments had to be made and all extension agents were called upon
to do much "extra work". War camps were built up in various Georgia com-
munities and forced many people to leave their homes and communities where
they had lived and their parents before them had lived. Some of the people
who had to move died from grief because they did not know where to go nor
what to do. The extension agents were called upon to help these displaced
people to find homes and jobs and to help them get adjusted in new sur-
roundings. Many days the extension agents had to work all day and all night
trying to do their regular work and the extra work forced upon them.

During this period also, money began to become more plentiful than it
had been in several years and the extension agents and others were able to
advise the people to save money and to invest it, to buy good homes and
farms as well as to send their children to school. Many people accepted
some of this advice and made the beginning towards securing the good homes owned by many farm families today.

Major Accomplishments in Negro Home Demonstration Work, 1944-1954

The second World War ended during this period; the Korean War began and ended; "The Cold War" began and the "Iron Curtain" was erected; "The Iron Curtain" was somewhat lifted; great numbers of soldiers returned to civilian life and helped to raise the levels of Negro intelligence and the standards of every day living; prosperity returned during this period and all out expansion in all areas of American life also began.

All types of extension organizations improved in the number of meetings held; in the improvement of the programs presented to the members; the attendance of members and in increased enrollments for both adults and 4-H club members. The total home demonstration club enrollment rose to 12,724 women in 1954 and the 4-H enrollment for girls rose to 28,584.

More farm families attended church and there was a great increase in the church membership all over Georgia. The G. I. Bill helped hundreds of veterans and many of their kin to return to school both day school and night school, many of whom are graduating and are entering various professional schools.

This period was also characterized by tremendous changes in political life, in scientific, economic, social and other advances. Thus the 1923-1955 period saw a tremendous growth and development in the nature, scope, and approaches utilized in the work of various home demonstration agents and their State Supervisor. In 1923 only a few Negro extension club girls attended high school and college, but by 1955 hundreds were attending and many had already received college degrees and had become a part of the world's workers, in the United States and abroad. Negro farm families lived
better than they had ever lived before. Two main causes brought this about, namely, high prices for all kinds of products and wages and because so many young men sent money back home to help their families. Already increase in college attendance has been mentioned. The enrollment in high schools and colleges became so large that there was hardly room to accommodate the students wishing to enroll and hardly enough qualified teachers to teach the students.¹

County fairs which became very few during the war years have come back again so that practically every county in Georgia and many communities held fairs in 1954. More Negro farm families than ever before are now being invited to exhibit at these fairs which serve as a great teacher to the people and all extension agents are invited to help their people select and arrange creditable exhibits. Carroll, Glynn, Emanuel and Newton and some other counties have recently built new fair buildings and have made the exhibit halls all in one, that is, instead of putting the Negro exhibits outside in tents, they have built the new exhibit halls to accommodate all exhibits and are not writing "Negro" or "colored" over the doors as was formerly done. This is a great improvement.

Never has there been such an awakening among farm families as was manifested during this period for land buying and home improvement. It is now a common thing to go in the back country and find running water, bath rooms, washing machines, radios, and nice furniture. Federal reports show that 95 per cent of even the farm families in Georgia have electric lights. There is still a need for good drinking water although this need

¹Ibid.
is gradually improving.

Home Demonstration agents each year encourage their club women and 4-H club girls to save and not waste and as a result club women and girls reported to their respective home demonstration agents the following sales for the year 1953.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts</td>
<td>$48,497.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foods cooked and conserved</td>
<td>$3,132.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat, game and fish</td>
<td>$6,498.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home poultry and eggs</td>
<td>$56,553.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home dairy products</td>
<td>$10,677.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home made articles</td>
<td>$2,755.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and house furnishings</td>
<td>$12,525.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, other products</td>
<td>$75,519.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total reported sold in 1953</strong></td>
<td><strong>$216,162.37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition club women and 4-H club girls reported that they and their families raised $34,884.34 for various purposes during 1953, such as: for church and church ground improvement; school houses and grounds improvement; community centers and school lunch rooms; and all phases of welfare work and many other purposes. These club members also reported that they bought in 1953, for themselves 93 medium size farms and 123 small houses and lots.

**Implications.**—Judging the future by the past and the present status of things, it seems that the home demonstration work in Georgia will continue for a long time to come. Further, it seems that the Negro Home Demon-
The home demonstration work should be the means of helping to teach all farm families and many others, how to produce farm products scientifically and in satisfactory quantities. The work should also teach farm families how to save surplus products and money; should show them how to keep accounts and how to pay the debts that they of necessity must make; and should show the families how to buy or build better homes and how to furnish them with modern equipment.

2. In the light of the accomplishments made by Georgia Negro farm families during the period 1923-1955, these families should in the future continue to make progressive advances and to make them at a more rapid speed.

3. Many farm families are still backward, timid, and afraid to try to make advances, but kind, sympathetic, and understanding extension agents and other leaders can and should teach them how to make advantageous forward movements, especially in seeking to secure better and more modern conveniences and living conditions.

4. A very much larger number of home demonstration club women should be willing to serve as club officers and leaders in their respective communities and counties and should aim to lift the less fortunate ones up as they themselves climb upwards.

5. Rural parents and other parents should carefully study child care and development and should work to rear children who are well educated and prepared to serve their state and Nation nobly and well.
6. Negro extension agents should give more consideration to their personal habits and should be very careful as to how they conduct themselves at all times.

7. Negro state agents seem to be losing some of the executive duties that were the responsibilities of State Negro Supervisors during the period, 1923-1955. The State Supervisors should in the future be very diligent and efficient in performing their daily duties in order that they might be reduced almost to the status of a county agent.

8. More emphasis should be placed upon the training of the "Head, Heart, Hands and Health" of the 4-H club members who always seem ready and willing to undertake any good project offered to them. More opportunities should be given to the 4-H club members for advancement in terms of the resources and potentialities available today.

9. The 4-H club program should be revised to meet the real needs of the approximately 53,000 Negro boys and girls who are members of 4-H clubs in Georgia and for many others who are not now members.

10. More democratic procedure should be used by the State 4-H leaders in their operational work with county agents and 4-H club members.

11. All extension agents, club members and all who are in any way connected with the extension service, should in the words of the 4-H club motto, work, "To make the best better."
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**Articles**


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Reports on Miscellaneous Interviews with Various Ex-Slaves and Others Relative to the Beginning of the Demonstration Work in Georgia Among Negroes, 1925-1955.
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stration Agents, Home Demonstration Club Women and 4-H Club Girls.
1923-1955.
## Table 1

GROWTH OF 4-H CLUB WORK FOR NEGRO GIRLS AND HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB NEGRO WOMEN IN GEORGIA FROM 1923 THROUGH 1954.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls Clubs Completion</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>H.D. Clubs Enrollment</th>
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<td>132</td>
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<td>2,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>3,718</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>191</td>
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<td>2,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>757</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>1,060</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>1,295</td>
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<td>295</td>
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<td>359</td>
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<td>337</td>
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4-H Clubs
Enrollment
Completions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Enrollment 4-H Club</th>
<th>Enrollment For Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1926 - 1928</td>
<td>Ruth Adams</td>
<td>Newton</td>
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<td>Curtis Miller</td>
<td>Peach</td>
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<td>8,132</td>
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<td>1933 - 1936</td>
<td>Florence Austin</td>
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<td>11,704</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934 - 1936</td>
<td>Dannie Mae Denson</td>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>11,704</td>
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<td>1936 - 1937</td>
<td>Levera Pearson</td>
<td>Laurens</td>
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<td>14,136</td>
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<td>1937 - 1939</td>
<td>Rebecca Ealy</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
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<td>1939 - 1943</td>
<td>Estella Ashmore</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
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