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Some Rural Social Agencies in Ohio

Their Nature and Extent

By

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING

FREE—Cooperative Agricultural Extension Work—Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

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I. INTRODUCTION

AIM AND SCOPE OF STUDY

Of the extent and nature of economic organizations among Ohio farmers we are fairly well informed, studies of that sort having been periodically undertaken.¹ Developing interest in the problems of rural life and rural organization has made more and more evident the need for some compilation treating of the non-economic organizations and agencies affecting community life. It is to meet that need that this study of the nature and extent of some of the most commonly established rural social agencies in Ohio is presented.

The term "social" as herein used refers to agencies the primary purposes of which are non-economic. No attempt is made to include the great variety of ephemeral social and recreational activities which are found, to some degree, in every rural community. Not that friendly visiting, parties, drives, and the like, are not important forms of association, but at present we have no means of securing state-wide information regarding such functions. This study includes only agencies which are fairly well established or institutionalized.

Nor does this study make claims of completeness. While the author believes that most of the important agencies are included, the data for none of them are claimed to be mathematically exact. Social data change so rapidly that absolute accuracy is hardly worth the effort since they are out of date almost as soon as collected. What is more important than mathematical accuracy is that sufficient data be obtained to enable one to picture the general situation and the direction in which change is taking place.

In making a study of this kind we are interested primarily in the people on the farms in Ohio. For two reasons much of the material included bears upon villages as well as open country. In the first place farmers are somewhat dependent upon the village center for their social agencies, for in some cases they use the village social agency—having none of their own—and in other cases their own agency finds its logical center in the village. The moving-picture theater will illustrate the first and the grange hall located in the village the second. In the second place in records and statistics of rural social agencies those of the village and those of the open country are not sufficiently differentiated to make possible accurate study of the agencies of farm people.

¹The most recent of these is H. E. Erdman, "Organizations Among Ohio Farmers," Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 342 (1920).

METHODS OF SECURING INFORMATION

The methods employed in securing the information in this bulletin were two in number. First, the acceptance and use of material collected by specialized agencies and organizations. Second, questionnaires sent to local people, sometimes to supplement the information of the specialized agencies and sometimes to secure data not covered by specialized agencies. Since a large number of rural social agencies fall under the head of specialized agencies organized on a state and national basis it is a comparatively simple matter to secure data relative to their rural work directly from headquarters. The merit of a bulletin of this sort is that it brings together from widely scattered sources, often unknown to country people, information relative to the aims of these agencies and their work in rural territory, and makes it available in convenient form. In addition, considerable material is included, as a result of questionnaire investigation, which has hitherto been unavailable for Ohio.

CLASSIFICATION OF MATERIAL

There are two common methods of classifying social agencies—the one according to scope, the other according to function. The former method groups them under such heads as Local, State, and National, while the latter method makes use of such functional headings as Intellectual, Religious, Recreational, and the like. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages. The former is the simpler and the more easily applied, but indicates little of the nature of the agencies classified. The latter reveals the real nature of the agency but is difficult of application because of the multiple function of most rural agencies. In this bulletin a combination of the two methods is used, the functional classification creating the major headings and the territorial method the minor headings. In addition, certain other subordinate captions are used which are calculated to reveal the nature of the groups. Organizations functionally classified are arranged according to their primary function and all secondary functions treated under that head.

WHAT IS RURAL IN OHIO

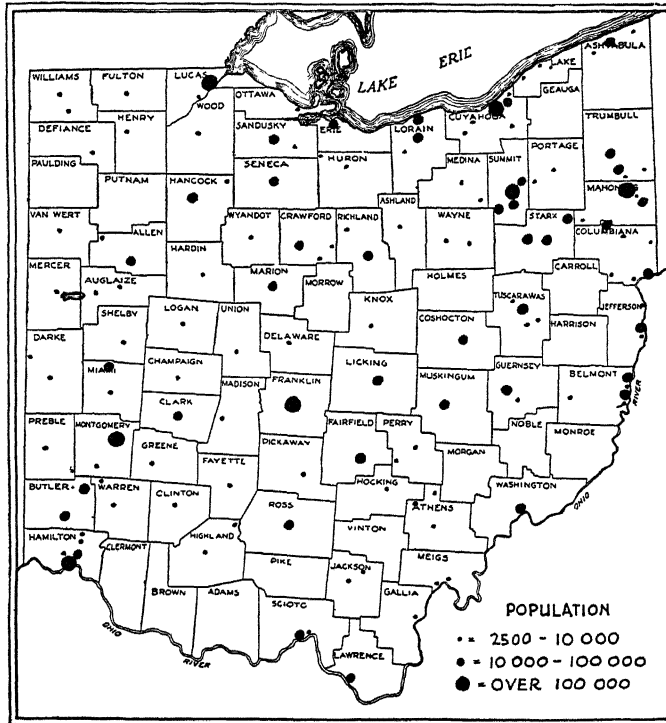
The 1920 census report on population shows the following results regarding the distribution of population in Ohio.

Table I.—Rural and Urban Population

Class of places	Number of places	Population	Percent of total population
<i>Urban</i>	148	3,677,136	63.8
100,000 and over.....	7	2,171,635	37.7
10,000 to 100,000.....	43	992,210	17.2
2,500 to 10,000.....	98	513,291	8.9
<i>Rural</i>		2,082,258	36.2
Incorporated towns and villages under 2,500.....	671	472,754	8.2
Unincorporated villages and hamlets.....	4475*	299,015	5.2
On farms.....		1,310,489	22.7
<i>Total</i>		5,759,394	100.0

* Approximately.

On the basis of classification used by the census 36.2 percent of the Ohio population are rural. However, so far as the attitudes of the people in the incorporated villages are concerned they are probably nearer to city than to country people. Many of the unincorporated villages are somewhat removed from the occupation of farming since they not uncommonly reach a population of nearly a thousand before incorporating. Many unincorporated villages are larger than others which are incorporated. Ohio villages generally become industrialized, or aim to become so, and readily lose the agricultural viewpoint. On the other hand, the village trade center renders indispensable services to



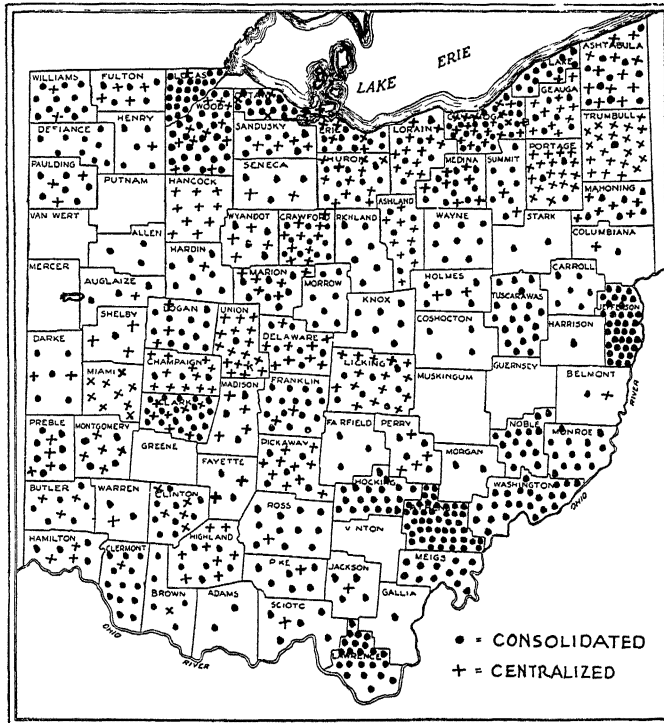
Map I.—Distribution of cities in Ohio—1920.

the farm population and many of the farmers' social organizations center there. Hence, while in this study the statistical definition of what is rural is used, the aim is to determine the facilities of farm people with regard to the social organizations studied.

Map I locates all cities of 2500 population and over. Because of the location of large cities, eight counties—Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Franklin, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, and Summit—must be classed as urban counties. At the other extreme fifteen counties—Adams, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Monroe, Morgan, Morrow, Noble, Paulding, Pike, Putnam, and Vinton—have no town of 2500 or over and should be classed as strictly rural counties.

and centralized schools, rural and village high schools, and departments of vocational agriculture and home economics.

Map II shows the distribution of one-room, one-teacher schools by counties, for January 1, 1922. On that date there were 6550 such schools in Ohio. This represented a decrease of 2924 since 1914, or a decrease of 30.8 percent. The map shows the decrease for each county. It will be noted that there was a decrease in all counties but three: Guernsey and Carroll stood still, while Sandusky had an increase of 13 percent. The areas of greatest decrease are (1) the southeast-central section (Champaign, Clark, and Madison Counties) and (2) the northeast section (Trumbull, Portage, Medina, etc.). Less progress has been made in the hill counties than in other sections of the State.



Map III.—Location of 675 consolidated and 335 centralized schools in Ohio.

The number of school buildings reported as unfit for school purposes is significant as an indication of the status of the one-room school. A total of 1832 such buildings is reported, making an average of 20 per county. The maximum reported by any county was 100 in Monroe. Four counties, Allen, Ashtabula, Trumbull, and Wood, reported none. The number of such unfit buildings is greater in the 29 hill counties of the State, the average being 26 for these counties.

The status of consolidation and centralization of schools in Ohio, January 1, 1922, is presented on Map III. At that time there were 675 consolidated and 335 centralized schools. Comparison with earlier maps of a similar nature

make it clear that southeast-central and northeastern Ohio have led in this movement since about 1905. The most prominent areas today are the belt of counties running from northeast to southwest, across the State, the Lake counties, and certain of the southeast river counties. Since the centralized type of school represents a larger unit than the consolidated type, the former has had greater development in the level areas of the State where transportation is relatively easy; the latter type is much more prevalent in the hill counties.

Consolidation or centralization is, of course, the accepted solution of the rural school problem. The one-room rural school is wholly inadequate to meet the demands made upon it by the conditions of twentieth-century civilization. The day of the tractor and automobile, radio and scientific agriculture demands a school efficient in proportion to them.

But the means of bringing about that solution are not always so clear. For successful consolidation or centralization depends upon a variety of factors, among which may be mentioned the attitude of rural people, economic conditions, and feasibility of transportation. These conditions differ widely in different sections of the State. Take, for example, Preble and Vinton Counties, the former in the level western part of the State, the latter in the hilly southeast. According to the 1920 census the value of all farm property per farm in Preble County is \$15,824, and in Vinton \$3,650. But the average farm in the former contains only 85 acres, while in the latter it contains 120 acres. Reduced to the acre basis all farm property per acre in Preble County has 6.1 times the value of an acre in Vinton County. In other words, a school district of a given property valuation must be 6.1 times as large in Vinton as in Preble County. Add to this the fact that only 73 percent of the land in Vinton is in farms, while in Preble 99 percent is in farms and the ratio is raised still higher. From the standpoint of transportation, however, the ratio should be reversed, for the almost impassable hill roads of Vinton County make it impossible to cover a district of such size during much of the school year.

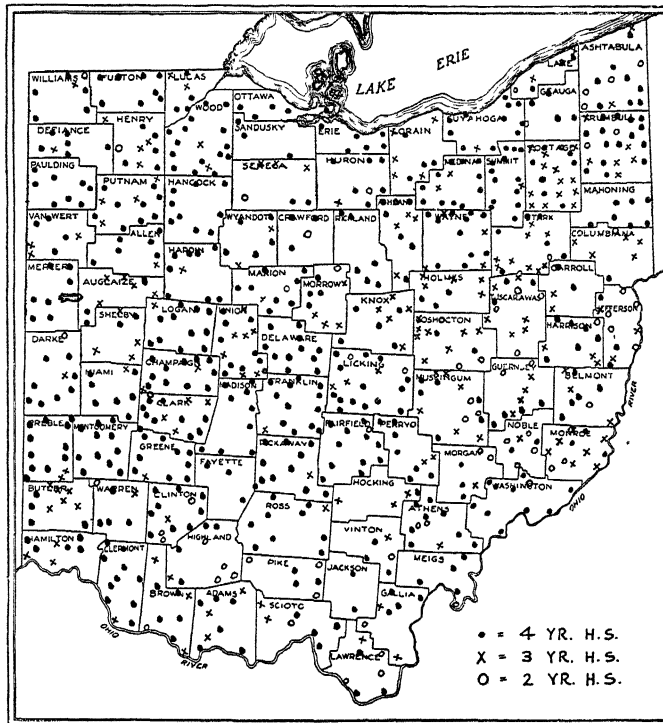
Hence, the one-room school is destined to remain in certain sections for some time. Realization of this fact, no doubt, explains why in answer to the question, "Should the State standardize the one-room school and render aid?", 68 percent of the hill counties and 11 percent of all other counties replied in the affirmative. This should not be interpreted to mean that a standardized one-room school is satisfactory. At best it is but a makeshift. The ultimate aim should be consolidation. Where that is impossible, a two or more room school should be provided. If that be impossible, a standardized one-room school should constitute the minimum acceptable.

But standardization has not yet proceeded far in Ohio. Two hundred and sixty-four one-room schools and 38 schools of two or more rooms constitute the total so far placarded. A large proportion of these are located in counties where conditions do not indicate the long survival of the one-room school.

High Schools.—The official directory of high schools compiled by the State Department of Education for 1920-1921, lists 886 rural and village high schools in places under 2500 population. Of these 426, or 48 percent, are in rural districts and 460, or 52 percent, are in village districts.

Of the 2,082,258 persons living in places under 2500 population, 472,754, or 22.6 percent, live in the 671 incorporated villages, and 1,609,504, or 77.4 percent, live in unincorporated villages and open country. Thus, roughly speaking, 22.6 percent of the rural population have 52 percent and the other 77.4 percent have 48 percent of the rural and village high schools. Of course

this must not be considered a measure of high-school opportunity for country people, for the village high school is used extensively by them. However, the break between the grades and high school due to the pupil changing from the country elementary to the village high school, the necessary adjustment to new conditions and companions, and the expense involved in going to and from or boarding in the village, create a set of circumstances which cause many country boys and girls to finish their education with the eighth grade. The percentage of pupils who enter high school is much higher when the high school and grades are continuous in the same school system.



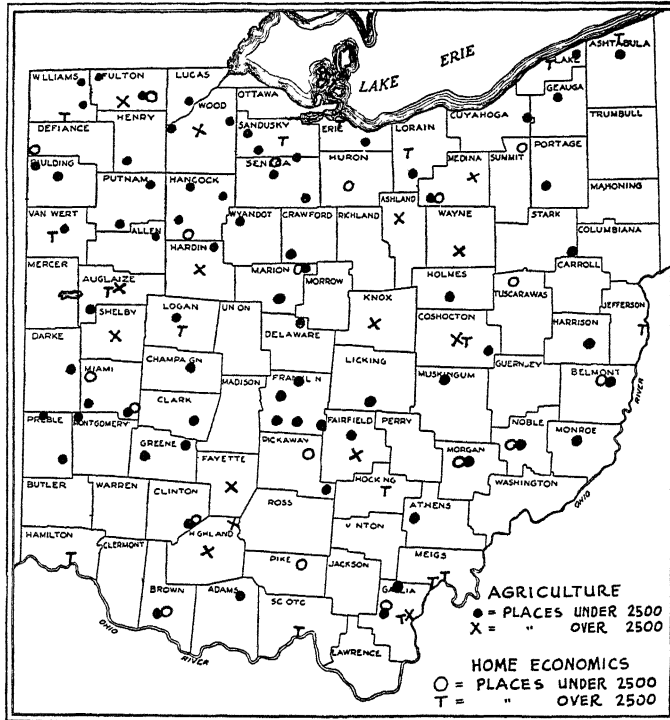
Map IV.—Eight hundred eighty-six rural and village high schools in places under 2500, divided as follows: 578 four-year, 221 three-year, and 74 two-year high schools.

Of these 886 rural and village high schools, 578 are four-year, or first-class high schools; 221 are three-year, or second class; 74 are two-year, or third class; 14 are unclassified, and one is a junior high school. Map IV locates the two-, three-, and four-year schools. It appears from a study of the distribution of these schools that there are 494 townships in Ohio which have no high school of any sort whatsoever.

Smith-Hughes Schools of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics.—On March 15, 1922, there were 85 departments of vocational agriculture operating under the Smith-Hughes law in Ohio schools. Of these 70 were in places under 2500 population and 20 were in township centralized schools. Map V locates these schools. These schools employ thruout the year a special teacher of agriculture who draws his salary in part from the local school district and

in part from the State and Nation. Courses in agriculture are offered, and the students, supervised by the teacher of agriculture, carry out projects on the home farms.

At the beginning of the school year 1922-1923 there were 36 full-time departments and two part-time departments of home economics operating under the Smith-Hughes Act. Of these, 18 of the former and both of the latter were located in cities of more than 2500 population, leaving 18 departments in rural territory. Three of these were located in rural township schools (See Map V).



Map V.—Departments of vocational agriculture and home economics.

2. LIBRARY SERVICE FOR RURAL PEOPLE

Library service for country people in Ohio is quite inadequate. Only four counties—Hamilton, Lucas, Paulding, and Van Wert—have full county systems of library service. In these counties a central library supported by the county supplies books to all parts of the county thru local sub-stations. Any county may provide such a library system for itself by authorizing it at regular election. Every county in the State needs such a system. Four other counties—Erie, Greene, Richland, and Ross—have partial county service.

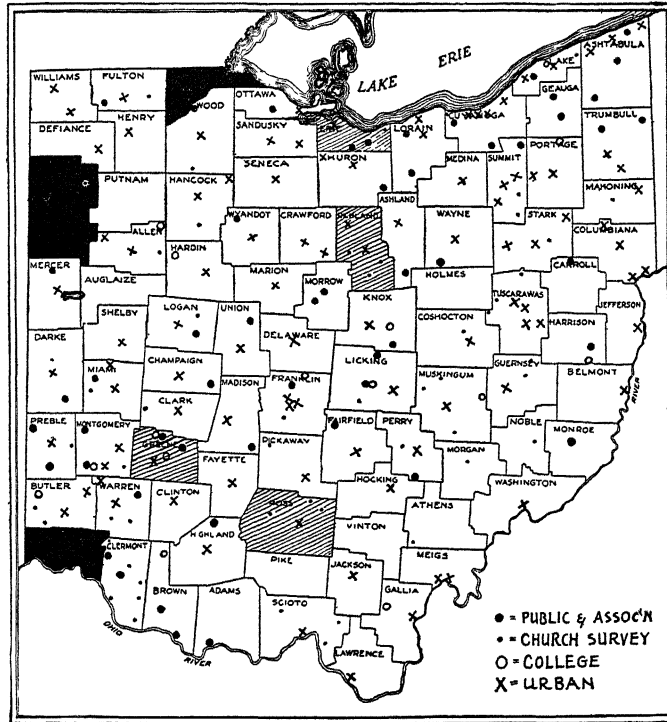
Library service in Ohio is chiefly a city matter. Of the 160 public and association libraries recognized by the State Library Association only 53 are located in places under 2500 population. The Ohio Church Federation Survey

reports 49 others, all in rural territory, and 3 circulating libraries in counties having no general service. Since these latter charge a fee to users they are evidently local charge collections.

Of the 63 college and university libraries in Ohio, 15 are located in rural territory. The extent to which farm people use them is probably negligible.

Five counties have no reported library, either urban or rural. These are Auglaize, Holmes, Pike, Putnam, and Vinton.

The church survey reports 78 school and 3 church libraries. This is evidently incomplete and probably represents the more outstanding ones. Libra-



Map VI.—Rural library facilities. Black counties have full county service; shaded counties, partial service.

ries in consolidated and centralized schools are no doubt of considerable service to country people, but little library service can be expected from the one-room type of country school. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction in a bulletin³ issued in 1920 had this to say of conditions found in 1913: "One-fourth of the one-room schools visited had no libraries. One school had a library, but the board of education discontinued it because the children were reading the books too much and the board feared that the regular work would suffer. One-fourth of the schools surveyed had no dictionary. Only 2 traveling libraries were found in the 592 township schools visited." That this condition has not been generally remedied since 1913 is indicated in a "Survey of Educational Conditions in Fairfield County, Ohio," made in 1920 and published

³ A Study of Rural School Conditions in Ohio, p. 15.

by the State Department of Education. "Of the 44 one-room schools visited, 6 were found to be without any libraries whatsoever, while 8 were found to possess only very poor ones * * *. The remaining 30 may be regarded as only barely sufficient for even the most necessary purposes, excepting two cases * * *. There is particular dearth of material, practically everywhere, relating to elementary science, agriculture, and rural life."⁴

Traveling Libraries.—The Ohio State Library maintains a traveling library department at 199 East Gay Street, Columbus. Organizations and schools



Map VII.—Traveling library service in places under 2500. Map shows location of 357 organizations receiving traveling libraries during 1921-1922.

anywhere in the State may obtain books here by signing an agreement and paying the transportation charges. Either general collections or special assortments on specified topics may be secured and kept for a period of eight months. A library ordinarily consists of 50 volumes.

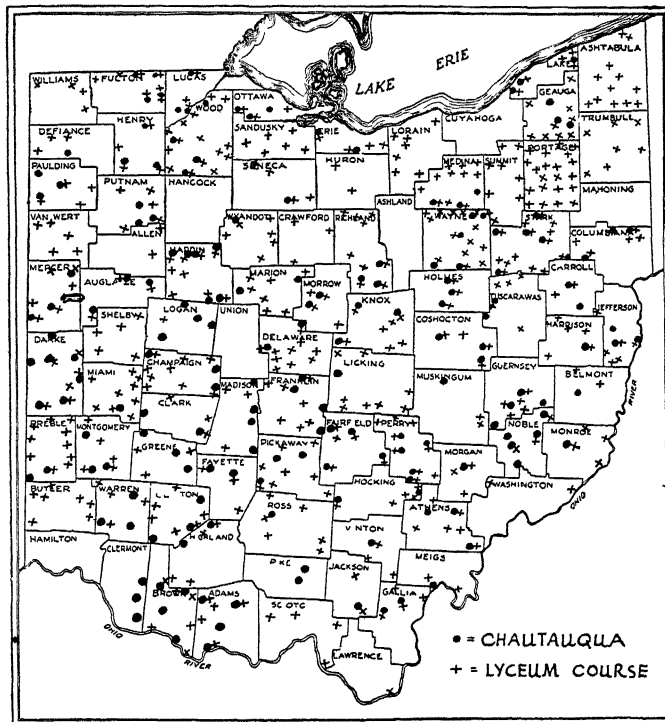
The traveling library division contains 107,249 volumes. During the year ending July 1, 1919, 1033 libraries comprising 43,707 volumes were sent out. For the succeeding year it was 1219 libraries, or 52,797 volumes, and for the year ending July 1, 1921, it was 1454 libraries comprising 56,282 volumes.

An analysis of where 53,611 volumes sent out in 1921-1922 were sent shows that they went to 341 postoffices and 480 organizations, making an average of 111 volumes per organization; 40,479 volumes went to 187 villages under 2500

⁴Survey of Educational Conditions in Fairfield County, Ohio, p. 20.

population and to 80 unincorporated places, showing that the traveling library service is used chiefly by village and country people. Schools were the most common borrowers, 213 of them borrowing 25,853 volumes. Seventeen community organizations, including community libraries, borrowed 8305 volumes; 70 clubs borrowed 4155 volumes; 30 churches and church organizations borrowed 3874 volumes, and 21 granges borrowed 1586 volumes. Map VII indicates that a large proportion were sent to places near Columbus.

It is evident from this brief summary of the library situation that the rural people of Ohio have woefully inadequate library facilities. Modern life



Map VIII.—Location of 179 annual chautauquas and 448 annual lyceum courses in places under 2500.

demands that the citizen read more and more in order to keep informed concerning the things which affect his welfare. Farmers are no exception. County library systems, school libraries, and the use of the traveling system need to be greatly extended. They are a growing necessity.

3. CHAUTAUQUAS AND LYCEUMS

Map VIII locates places under 2500 population which have chautauquas and lecture courses annually or regularly. One hundred and seventy-nine chautauquas and 448 lecture courses are so located; 120 of these places have both chautauqua and lyceum.

The map lays no claim to completeness. Effort was made to list only those places in which the chautauqua or lyceum has become something of an

institution, ignoring the great number of places which occasionally have one or the other. The returns are also vague in some cases; Montgomery County reports a lyceum in practically all of its 14 high schools, and Trumbull a lyceum in practically all of its centralized schools. The regularity of these is uncertain.

It is clear that the chautauqua, probably because of its greater cost and its tent feature, is quite characteristically a small-town institution, while the lyceum, to a very large degree, is held in the consolidated and centralized schools of the open country.

The educative value of the chautauqua and lyceum is considerable. By means of the circuit method which they employ, any rural community, however isolated, may have the best platform talent available brought into its very midst. The programs of lecture, music, drama, and art are at once instructive and entertaining. The lyceum is particularly adapted to presentation in schools, since it has splendid educative value for the pupils and helps to make the school plant something of the social center which it should be.

4. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

It is not the purpose of this bulletin to review the work of the Extension Service. The reader is referred to the annual report of the Director of Extension for complete information. The aim here is rather to indicate the place of extension work in the classification of rural social agencies. The extension work is primarily educational in character, and should be placed among the intellectual group of agencies.

While the whole of Agricultural Extension has most important social implications, we are interested here in the more strictly social phases of the work. The activity of the Department of Agricultural Education, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, County Agents, Farmers' Institutes, Home Economics, and Publications and Correspondence Courses may be mentioned in particular. During 1922 County Agents in all but six counties, Boys' and Girls' Club Leaders in 11 counties, and Home Demonstration Agents in 10 counties provided local leadership in those counties for the promotion of comprehensive educational work.

In 1921, 1202 Boys' and Girls' Clubs were organized with 11,172 members; 7505 members completed their work. The products of their labor in 12 types of project reached a value of \$357,543.82, with a profit above cost of \$135,473.75. In 1922 recreation camps were held in eight counties. These camps were attended by 760 enthusiastic club boys and girls.

In 1921-1922, 351 state-aid Farmers' Institutes held 1755 sessions with an aggregate attendance of 364,973 persons, making an average attendance of 207 persons per session. In addition, many independent Farmers' Institutes were held. Of 196 of these reporting, 155,995 persons attended the 800 sessions, making an average of 195 persons per session.

The extension work in Home Economics includes four major projects. On July 1, 1922, the clothing project had developed clothing construction in 23 counties and dress-form work in 86 counties. The Home Management project had developed fireless-cooker work in 27 counties and equipment work in seven counties. The Health project had promoted home care of sick in 13 counties, health-lecture demonstrations in 12 counties, and anti-fly campaigns in one county. The Nutrition project had promoted warm school lunches in 14 counties, canning in four counties, and food study in six counties.

Education by correspondence has also become an important function of the Extension Service. During the year 1920-1921, 11,666 correspondence lessons were mailed out and 5174 were completed and returned. During the 12 months ending July 1, 1922, 1861 persons enrolled for such correspondence courses.

As a result of the joint efforts of the Extension Service and the Farm Bureau, 999 of the 1342 Ohio townships are organized for project work with 9847 local leaders.



Map IX.—Location of 238 rural newspapers. Location and size of cities indicated by various sized dots.

B. LOCAL AGENCIES

1. COMMERCIALIZED

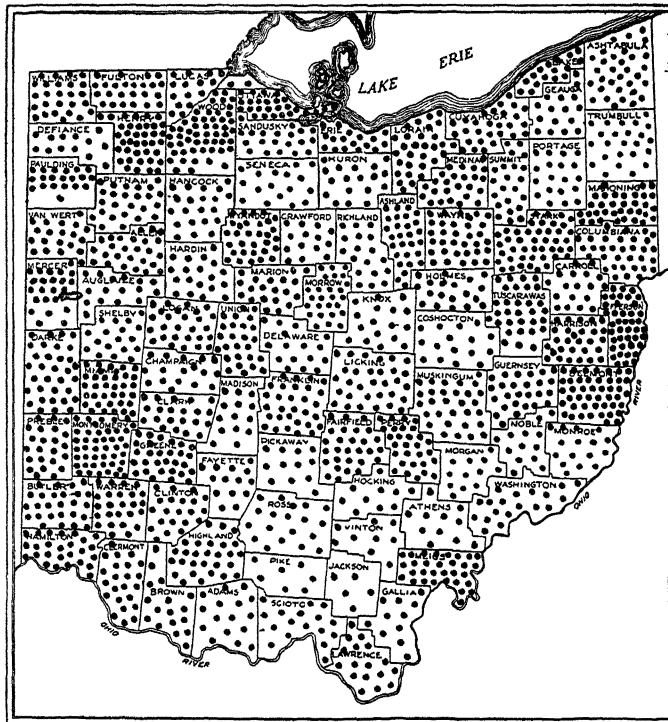
Rural Newspaper Service.—Undoubtedly the rural people of Ohio are better provided with newspaper service than with library service. Map IX shows the location of 238 newspapers in places under 2500 population. The list is probably not complete but is accurate enough to establish general results. Cities are located so as to show the location of rural newspapers with reference to areas of urban circulation.

Two hundred and thirty-five of these rural papers are weeklies, two are semiweeklies, and one is daily.

The 235 weeklies are located in 212 villages, 22 villages having two, and one village having three papers. Since there are 671 incorporated places under

2500 population in Ohio only 31 percent support a newspaper. Nine counties—all in southeastern and eastern Ohio—have no rural newspaper.

The reported circulation of these 235 weeklies is 270,303. The inadequacy of this circulation to serve rural people is seen by a little figuring. There are 2,082,258 persons living outside cities of 2500 and over (1920 census). Taking the average size rural family as four persons, that being the average for the 15 counties having no city of 2500 or over, we have 520,564 families. Assuming one paper for each family, the weekly circulation of these 235 papers will reach just 52 percent of the families. Of course some families receive more than one paper and other copies go to city people.



Map X.—Distribution by counties of 2041 rural churches with resident pastor.

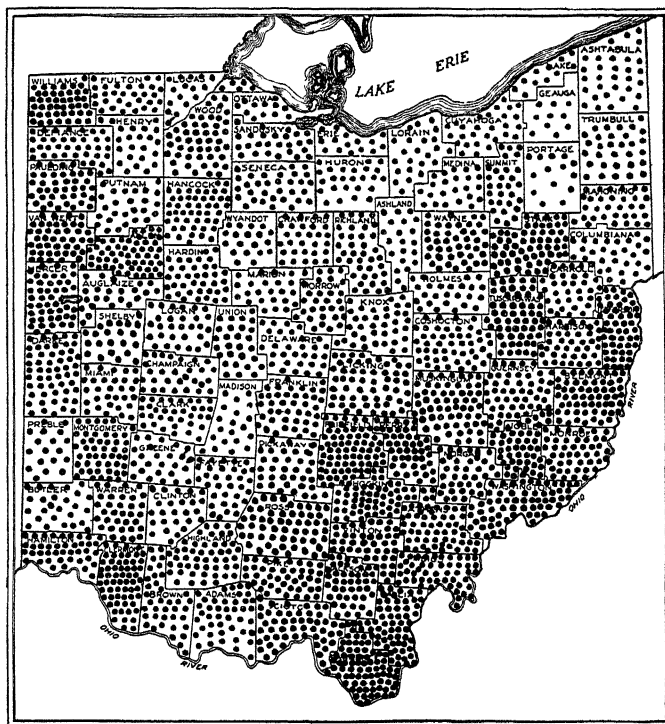
On the other hand, city newspapers serve rural people extensively. Of the 148 cities in Ohio 42 percent support weekly papers and 62 percent dailies. The reported circulation of the former is 539,386 per week and of the latter 2,004,358 per day. Thus, taking the number of urban families as 919,284, the daily urban edition will supply each urban family with two copies and have a surplus of 165,790. Or, the daily edition of the urban papers will supply each family in the State, both rural and urban, with one copy and have a surplus of 590,290 copies.

Due to its knowledge of the local situation there is a distinct service to be rendered by the local rural newspaper, which no urban paper can duplicate. In spite of the splendid service of the city newspaper in mitigating the isola-

tion and banishing the localism of rural people, it is here contended that the development of effective local agricultural journalism is very desirable.

2. VOLUNTARY

Local Study Clubs.—A few of the study clubs found in rural communities are of such nature that they may be classified as intellectual agencies. Some of these are Book Clubs, Travel Classes, Library Clubs, etc. For the most part, however, these local clubs are primarily social and recreational in nature, with some intellectual features. They are, therefore, treated under that head in Section V.



Map XI.—Distribution by counties of 3291 rural churches with non-resident pastor.

III. RELIGIOUS AGENCIES

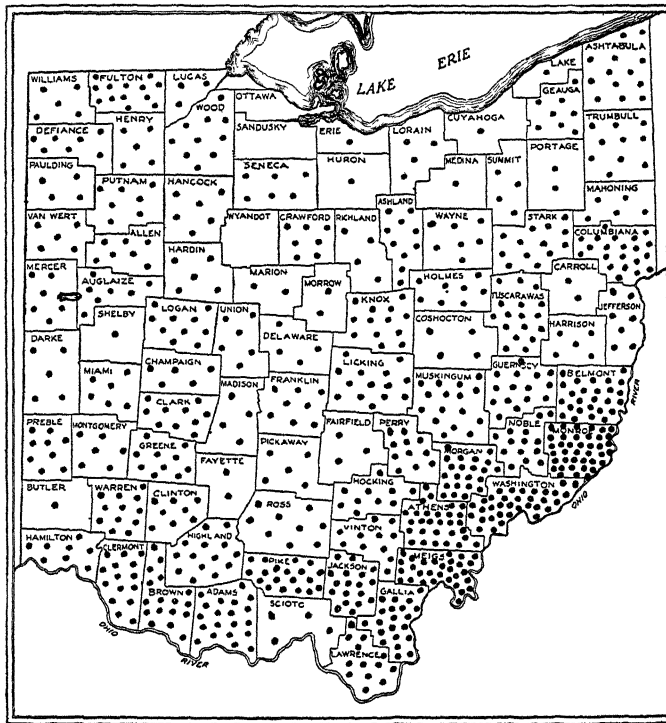
1. THE RURAL CHURCH

For years it has been known that the rural church in Ohio was rapidly falling into a deplorable condition. A number of partial and regional surveys gave sufficient hint of the bad conditions existing. Overchurching, bad distribution of churches resulting in too many in some places and none in other places, lack of a trained resident ministry—these and other demoralizing conditions were known to exist. But not until the Interchurch World Survey was completed for the entire State of Ohio by the Ohio Federation of Churches did we know accurately the situation as a whole. Churches located in the open country and in places under 5000 population numbered 6562, making an

average of one church for every 347 persons. This average varied greatly as among counties, ranging from one church to 188 persons in Gallia, a rural hill county, to one church to 1232 persons in Hamilton, an urban county.

The 6178 Evangelical churches were surveyed in detail. Printed reports for each county have been issued and may be secured from the offices of the Federation, 406 Gasco Building, Columbus. From these reports a county may learn the location of its every church and minister, and what their activities are.

From these reports of the Protestant Evangelical churches the maps here included have been constructed, showing the situation for all territory under



Map XII.—Distribution by counties of 814 rural churches having no pastor.

5000 population. Map X shows the distribution by counties of 2041 churches having resident pastors. A resident pastor is one who lives in the community which he serves. It will be noted that there are three areas where the number of resident pastors is small: the southeastern, north central, and northeastern sections.

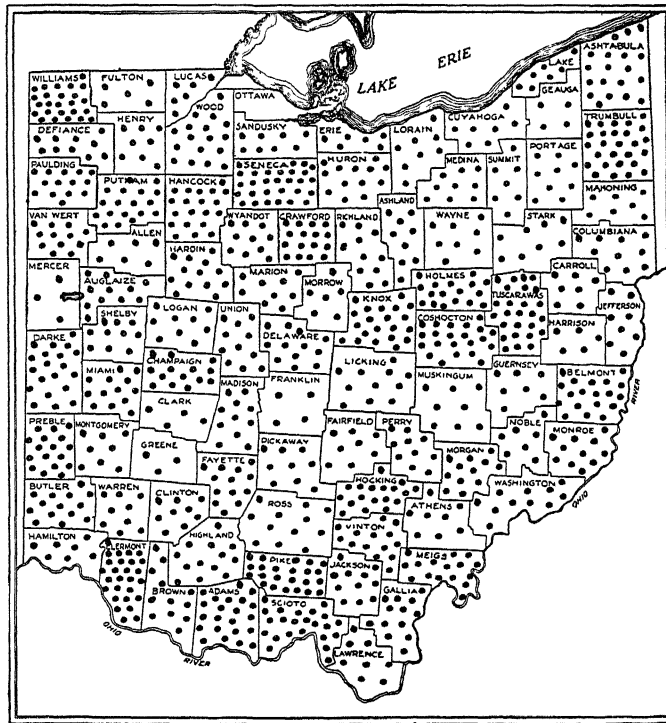
Map XI shows the distribution by counties of 3291 churches having non-resident pastors. A non-resident pastor is one who serves a church but does not live in the community. The greatest number of non-resident pastors is found in the southeastern and extreme western counties.

Map XII shows the distribution by counties of 814 churches which have no regular pastor. These churches hold lay meetings and may occasionally

secure a minister for one or two addresses, but are unable to support a regular pastor. This is the last stage before abandonment. The largest number of such churches is in southeastern and southern Ohio.

Map XIII shows the distribution by counties of 1058 abandoned churches. An abandoned church is one which has been closed for a year or more. They are rather evenly distributed over the State.

A comparison of the four maps indicates that some sections of the State have far more churches than others. In some cases this is due to a larger population, but in most cases it is due to a larger number of churches in proportion to the population. Thus Washington County has one church for



Map XIII.—Distribution by counties of 1058 abandoned rural churches.

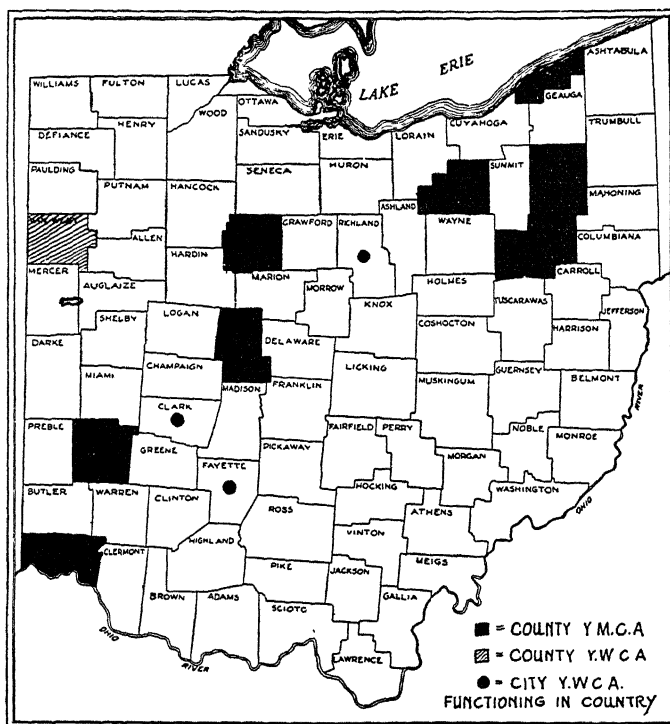
every 240 persons (approximately) and Sandusky County one for every 548 persons (approximately). Certainly the latter situation is much to be preferred.

It is also true that the rural churches are not well distributed. Some communities are overchurched and other communities have no churches, while in some localities where there is a sufficient number of churches they are reaching only a small part of the community. A better distribution of churches so that all territory is reached, a larger number of persons per church (say 500 persons), and a full-time resident pastor for each church are conditions not only highly desirable but quite essential to successful rural church development.

2. RURAL Y. M. C. A.

In a general way the work of the urban Y. M. C. A. is well known. Its rural program is of more recent development and consequently less familiar. The rural work centers about the county secretary who organizes local units in each. Eight Ohio counties: Hamilton, Lake, Medina, Montgomery, Portage, Stark, Union, and Wyandot, have such secretaries (See Map XIV). Boys' conferences and camps, Hi-Y clubs, and study groups, Father and Son banquets, co-ordination of county athletic organizations—these are some of the things which the "Y" develops.

Each of the organized counties holds a boys' conference every year and



Map XIV.—Rural Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. in Ohio.

sends boys to the State conference. All these counties except Lake held a boys' summer camp in 1921. Half of these own permanent camp sites. Every county also promotes a Father and Son Week program each year.

In the high schools groups of boys are organized into what are called "Hi-Y" clubs. These clubs stand for the ideals of the "Y," become study groups, and promote their ideals in the high school and community. Ten or 12 of these clubs exist in the organized counties.

Groups of boys not in the high-school clubs are organized for study and the development of Christian leadership. Thru self-analysis and the promotion of the "four-fold program" boys are aided in making the most of their talents. On November 1, 1921, there were from five to 20 of these groups in each

organized county, aggregating more than 1500 boys. Probably a majority of these were village boys, but many farm boys are reached also.

The Y. M. C. A. secretary does not spend all of his time with the boys, however. Monthly reports of the secretaries show addresses before Community Clubs, Churches, Parent-Teacher Associations, etc., co-ordination of community events thru the use of community calendars, and many other activities.

The recreative value of the Y. M. C. A. for those rural people who come in contact with it is considerable. The "Y" has always made a specialty of reaching boys thru their athletic interests. The county work is largely a matter of working thru and in co-operation with the schools. New games, such as volley ball and soccer, are introduced and physical education programs are outlined. Stark County has developed a football league. Portage County has formed a basketball league and has planned a self-managed movie circuit. The hikes and stunt nights are enthusiastically attended. The summer camps offer a type of outdoor life which is both pleasurable and beneficial.

3. RURAL Y. W. C. A.

Like the Y. M. C. A., the rural Y. W. C. A. uses the county as the unit of organization. Places over 8000 population are organized independently. The program consists of club work, study groups, recreational activities, etc., worked out by the project method. Health, homemaking, and Bible study are emphasized.

The only organized county in Ohio is Van Wert, and most of the activity there is in town. In three other counties the city organizations function to a certain degree in the rural parts of the county. In Clark County the Springfield City Board has a county committee and a secretary for country work. In Fayette County the Washington Court House Association holds an annual summer camp which is attended by country girls. In Richland County the Mansfield City Association in conjunction with the county Red Cross held a girls' camp in 1921 which was attended by girls from all parts of the county.

Other activities of the rural Y. W. C. A. in 1921 include games and folk dancing at the Muskingum County Fair; exhibits of shoes, camp costumes, foreign pieces, and slides; films distributed at New Concord, Wellsville, Delphos, Eaton, Medina, Hebron, Cambridge, and Wyoming; and a girls' work conference at Granville.

From the above it will be seen that, so far, the Y. W. C. A. cannot be said to have reached the country people.

IV. HEALTH AGENCIES

1. STATE SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

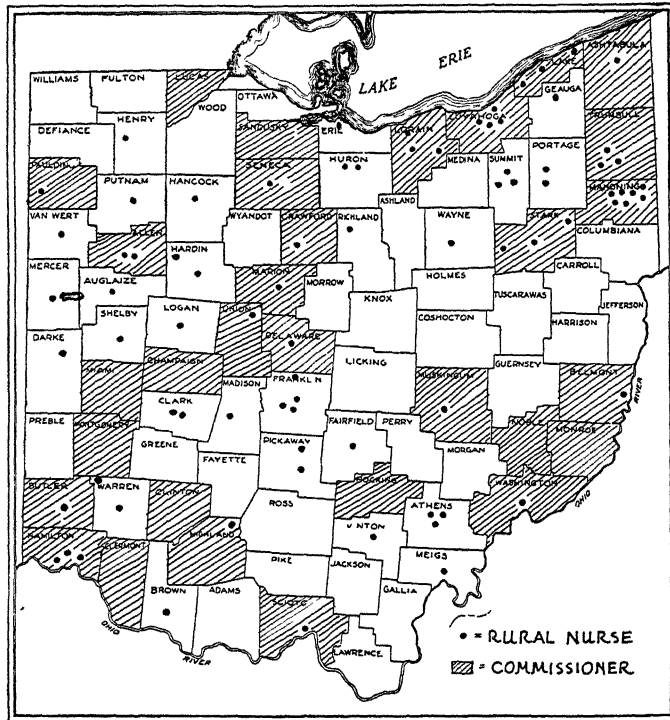
The most conspicuous agency aiming at the betterment of rural health in Ohio is, of course, the State Department of Health, heading up the state-wide system of health administration. This department has supervisory charge of the county health commissioners operating under the Hughes-Griswold health law. Each county, exclusive of its cities, must have at least a part-time health commissioner, and they may have as good health supervision as they are willing to pay for. Thirty-one counties have full-time commissioners for rural work (See Map XV).

There were on January 1, 1922, more than 600 public-health nurses in Ohio. This includes Red Cross nurses. Of these, 81, or about 14 percent, were rural nurses. These are, for the most part, employed by the county boards of health and serve under the direction of the health commissioner.

The Red Cross nurses work in co-operation with the commissioner and his nurses.

The program of the commissioner and his nurses is a varied one. Control of communicable diseases, physical examination of school children, co-operation with local agencies, particularly the schools, in developing and carrying out systematic programs of health education, holding educational conferences, etc., are some of the activities.

In addition to the above the State Department in co-operation with the county health officers hold special clinics at various times and places. Tuberculosis clinics have been held in Medina, Pickaway, Logan, Highland, Allen,



Map XV.—Full-time rural health commissioners and rural public-health nurses in Ohio (Jan. 1, 1922)

Lake, and Athens Counties, and children's diagnostic clinics have been held in Coshocton, Shelby, Portage, Putnam, Morgan, Licking, Van Wert, Athens, Meigs, Clermont, Ashtabula, Jackson, Seneca, Carroll, Belmont, Monroe, Erie, Wayne, Mercer, and Champaign Counties. These were mainly general and orthopedic clinics, with some attention given to mental diseases and eye, ear, nose, and throat troubles. A great many more are planned for the near future.

2. THE RURAL PHYSICIAN IN OHIO⁵

Country people in spite of their healthful environment are often in need of medical attention. But they are less well supplied with trained physicians

⁵ Material originally appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 79, pp. 1541-2 (Oct. 28, 1922.)

than are city people. There are fewer country doctors per unit of population than city doctors. And the former must travel farther than the latter to reach his patients. Add to this the less adequate training of the rural physician, and the inferior medical facilities of rural people are at once apparent.

Table II.—Number of Physicians in Rural and Urban Ohio in Proportion to the Population (1921)

	Number Physicians	Number persons per physician
United States.....	145,608	726
Ohio	8,092	712
Seven largest cities.....	3,819	571
Akron	274	1,362
Cincinnati.....	863	462
Cleveland	1,246	711
Columbus	546	442
Dayton	284	589
Toledo	433	668
Youngstown	173	865
Rural	1,793	1,161

It will be noted from the above table that Ohio is better supplied with physicians than the United States as a whole, having one doctor for every 712 persons. There is a great variation between the different groups within the State, however. The seven largest cities (those having more than 100,000 population) have one physician for every 571 persons, Akron being the only conspicuous variant from the average. In rural Ohio (all places under 2500 population), there is one physician for every 1161 persons. Thus, rural Ohio averages more than twice as many persons for every physician as do the seven largest cities, and more than one half as many more persons for every physician as the entire United States.

Counties vary widely in the number of rural physicians in proportion to the rural population, ranging from Clermont with 615, to Fayette, with 2711 persons for every physician. In Table III will be found these data, together with the percentage of urban population in each county. A casual comparison will indicate that there exists some relation between the percentage of urban population in the county and the number of rural persons for every rural physician. In fact, there is a .919 correlation. That is, as the proportion of urban population in the county increases, the number of rural physicians in proportion to the rural population decreases.

It will be seen from this that the shortage of rural physicians is not most acute in the strictly rural counties of Ohio. So far as numbers are concerned, two of these counties stand above the State average. The shortage is most acute in the rural regions about the cities. It is probable, however, that there is less difference in the availability of the medical service in these two general sections than the figures indicate. Reasonable proximity to the urban special-

ist favors the near-city dweller. Better roads and a greater density of population than commonly exist in the more remote rural sections enable the rural physician in the more urbanized counties to serve a somewhat larger clientele. Also the comparative training of these two groups of rural physicians probably favors the near-city man.

Table III.—Distribution of Rural Physicians in Ohio by Counties, Arranged According to Persons per Physician.

County	Number physicians	Persons per physician	Percent urban population in county	County	Number physicians	Persons per physician	Percent urban population in county
<i>Rural Ohio</i>	1793	1161	—	Huron	16	1099	45
Fayette	5	2711	37	Hancock	18	1095	48
Lucas	11	2669	89	Mercer	21	1078	15
Sandusky	8	2416	48	Erie	16	1055	57
Meigs	8	2265	30	Medina	17	1052	31
Defiance	7	2239	36	Highland	18	1050	31
Summit	17	2114	87	Van Wert	17	1031	37
Montgomery	25	2103	74	Ashland	15	1025	37
Crawford	7	1991	61	Union	17	1016	17
Guernsey	15	1965	35	Delaware	17	1015	33
Lawrence	13	1964	35	Ottawa	18	1014	17
Athens.....	18	1913	31	Vinton	12	1006	0
Jackson	8	1851	45	Greene	22	1005	29
Belmont	30	1819	41	Allen	14	988	65
Tuscarawas	17	1730	53	Franklin	48	977	83
Gallia	10	1724	26	Knox	21	968	31
Portage	13	1690	39	Williams	18	962	29
Scioto	15	1668	60	Preble	21	953	13
Mahoning	20	1666	82	Adams	24	933	0
Stark	31	1647	71	Miami	28	933	46
Hocking	11	1598	23	Washington	30	930	35
Columbiana	18	1573	66	Wyandot	17	923	19
Cuyahoga	25	1572	95	Morrow	17	915	0
Lorain	19	1505	68	Clinton	20	899	21
Noble	12	1487	0	Holmes	19	892	0
Hamilton	30	1483	91	Marion	16	882	66
Trumbull	23	1474	59	Henry	22	873	17
Jefferson	29	1371	48	Licking	34	873	47
Ross	19	1354	38	Darke	40	856	20
Perry	22	1347	17	Harrison	23	853	0
Auglaize	14	1325	37	Geauga	18	835	0
Lake	11	1320	49	Fulton	25	816	13
Richland	17	1281	60	Champaign	22	793	30
Seneca	17	1204	52	Paulding	24	780	0
Ashtabula	26	1193	52	Brown	29	780	0
Pike	12	1179	0	Madison	20	779	20
Pickaway	16	1171	27	Warren	25	770	25
Fairfield	22	1171	36	Hardin	28	767	26
Shelby	15	1155	83	Butler	31	766	72
Monroe	18	1148	0	Putnam	37	750	0
Carroll	14	1139	0	Wood	54	724	12
Muskingum	25	1136	51	Logan	29	716	31
Wayne	26	1116	29	Morgan	21	693	0
Clark	18	1105	75	Clermont	46	615	0
Coshocton	17	1103	36				

Of the 1793 rural physicians in Ohio, 1750, or 97.6 percent are graduates of a medical college, and 2.4 percent are not medical college graduates. Of those who graduated from a medical college, 440, or 24 percent, are graduates of a first class school; 153, or 8 percent, are graduates of a second-class school; and 1157, or 64 percent, are graduates of a third-class medical college, or one which is no longer in existence. Seventy-six percent of the medical college graduates are graduates of Ohio medical colleges. The others come from colleges in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, New York, etc., in the order named.

Table IV.—Comparison of Rural Physicians in the 15 Strictly Rural Counties and in the 15 Counties Having the Highest Percentages of Urban Population.

	15 Urban Counties		15 Rural Counties	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Number persons per physician...	1512	100	887	100
Graduates of first-class medical college	90	28.	63	19.8
Graduates of second-class medical college	29	9.	18	5.6
Graduates of third-class medical college or a college not now extant	223	62.4	200	70.2
Graduates of no medical college..	2	0.6	14	4.4
Members American Medical Association	150	46.7	190	59.7
Average age.....	54.8		54.1	

From the above table it will be seen that while the people of the strictly rural counties are better supplied with physicians than are the rural people of the urbanized counties, they probably receive less expert medical service. A smaller percentage of the physicians are graduates of first-class medical colleges, and a larger percentage are graduates of no medical college than is the case in the 15 urban counties.

Table V.—Comparison of Rural Physicians in Places of from 500 to 2500 Population and Places Under 500 Population.

	Places 500 to 2500 population		Places under 500 population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total physicians.....	1070	100	723	100
Graduates of first-class medical college	279	26.	161	22.
Graduates of second-class medical college	91	8.5	62	8.5
Graduates of third-class medical college or a college not now extant	682	63.9	475	66.1
Graduates of no college.....	18	1.6	25	3.4
Members American Medical Association	598	56.	383	53.
Average age	54.1		54.3	

Table V presents comparative data regarding the rural physicians located in villages of from 500 to 2500 population and those located in places under 500 population. There seem to be only slight differences between these two groups; but these differences favor those physicians located in the larger places.

The average age of the rural physicians in Ohio is 54.2 years. This is exactly 5.5 years more than the average age of the physicians in the city of Columbus. There is little difference between the average ages of the physicians in the 15 rural counties and those in the 15 most urbanized counties, altho there is considerable variation between individual counties. The average age of the rural physicians in Butler County is 49.2 years; in Vinton, 59.2 years; and in Carroll, 60.1 years. There is practically no difference in the average ages of those practicing in villages under 500 population and those located in places of from 500 to 2500 population.

The marked age differences between city and country indicate that the country places are no longer receiving their proportionate quota of young physicians. It is likely that the long period of time required for adequate medical training habituates them to the medical centers, and they tend to remain to practice in the cities where the opportunities for professional advancement and hospital practice are greatest. And with them, no doubt, remains much that is newest in medical science.

Only 4.5 percent of the rural physicians of Ohio have a specialty, and they, almost without exception, are located in places of more than 500 population. Fifty-five percent are members of the American Medical Association.

3. HOSPITALS⁶

Ohio has 278 general hospitals with a total of 15,845 beds. These are distributed over 65 counties leaving 23 counties with no hospitals. A glance at Map XVI shows that they are unevenly distributed. This is because they are almost all located in cities. Only 11 of the 278 hospitals, with a total of 129 beds, are located in places under 2500 population.

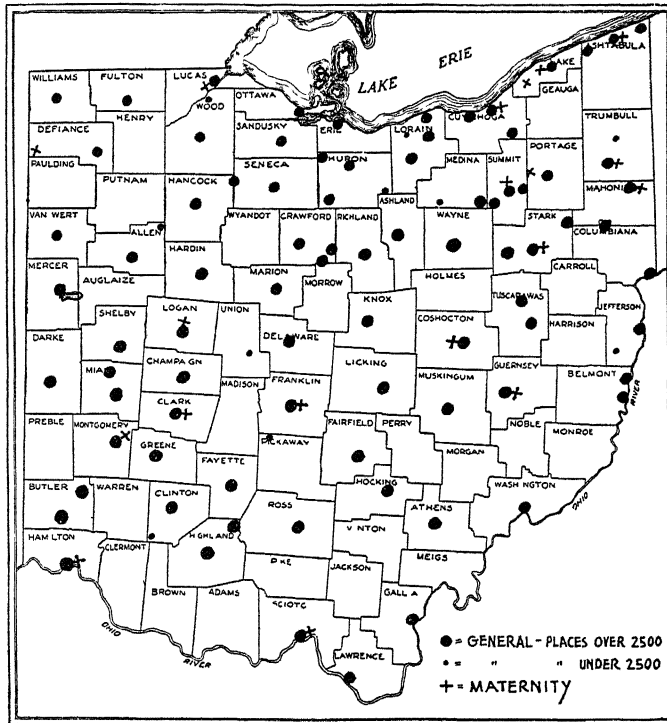
Another way of expressing the inequality of hospital facilities is as follows: Eight counties with 49 percent of the State's population have 50 percent of the hospitals and 75 percent of the hospital beds; 57 counties with 42 percent of the population have 50 percent of the hospitals and 25 percent of the hospital beds; 23 counties with 9 percent of the population have no hospitals whatever. Fourteen of the strictly rural counties fall in the third group having no hospitals. It is a simple matter to find areas in Ohio which are 20 miles from a hospital, and there are many farm people in Ohio who are living 30 miles from any hospital.

Maternity hospital service is far less well developed than general hospital service. Indeed we may say that the rural people of Ohio have no maternity hospital service, whatever; for of the 42 maternity hospitals with a total of 711 beds, only one, with seven beds, is located in a place under 2500 population. All others are located in moderate- and large-sized cities. Further, the small number of such hospital beds, and the lack of experience of country people in the use of maternity hospitals, makes it extremely doubtful if they are ever used by country people.

That such a gross inequality of hospital opportunity as the above is an undesirable condition, all will agree. In order to adequately safe-

⁶ Data secured from the State Department of Health.

guard the health of rural people they must be provided with medical and hospital facilities equal to those of city people. How to secure such equal facilities is the difficulty. Adequate public-health supervision for rural Ohio has been made possible by the present system of county-health commissioners. An adequate number of physicians and hospitals remain yet to be supplied. So far as the latter is concerned the county hospital seems to provide a satisfactory solution of the problem. With the county as the unit, hospital service adequate to care for the population of the county, exclusive of its city population, may be developed and supported by county funds in a manner similar to other county institutions, such as the county library system.



Map XVI.—Places where 278 general and 42 maternity hospitals in Ohio are located.

Such hospitals have been tried in a number of places and found successful. It is also probable that adequate county hospital service would go a long way toward securing more and better trained rural physicians.

4. RURAL WORK OF THE RED CROSS

The general activities of the Red Cross which affect rural people are such as first aid, public-health nursing, nutritional work in food selection and warm school lunches, instruction in home hygiene and care of the sick, and junior work in schools. Only a limited amount of this service, however, has reached country people. Map XVII gives the status of rural work in Ohio up to December 1, 1921. Rural chapters are chapters located in places under 2500 population. In addition to these, some city chapters are carrying on

special rural programs in the surrounding territory. The same distinction applies to nurses. The home-hygiene instructors conduct courses in home sanitation and care of the sick in the home.

In addition to the above regular work, the Red Cross has undertaken several other types of rural work in Ohio.⁷ Thru the Home-service Extension Work a certain number of workers have devoted all of their time to rural work, which may be classified as: (1) Family-case Work, (2) Recreation, (3) Co-ordination of existing social agencies, and (4) Community Organization. In Butler County, where family-case work has been promoted, the workers have also aided in the formation of an Improvement Association, have co-



Map XVII.—Rural Red Cross work in Ohio.

operated with the Y. M. C. A. in developing rural recreation, and have promoted a theatrical contest at the county fair.

At Covington, Miami County, where recreation is emphasized, a council of Red Cross workers was organized and a recreation leader employed. A community picture show was started and organized play, playgrounds, and leaders received attention.

Recreation is also the dominant note in the Richland County organization, where a recreation leader for the county was secured and a county council of

⁷ From a paper, "What the Red Cross is Doing in Rural Organization in the Lake Division," read by Wm. Carl Hunt, Lake Division, American Red Cross, before the American Sociological Society, Pittsburgh, December, 1921.

Red Cross branch chairmen organized. Play was encouraged in the public schools. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops were organized, lyceums started, community clubs organized, and a girls' summer camp conducted jointly with the Y. W. C. A.

In Muskingum County, where major emphasis has been placed upon co-ordination of the existing social agencies, a county council of rural service agencies was organized and an attempt made to develop a unified program of social betterment. Films and talks were given on local problems, social features such as a public-health center and a good literature table were added to the county fair attractions, plans for a county library were developed and community institutes on local problems were held.

Community organization has been the focus of attention in Scioto County, and here a local committee has been organized in each township. In addition, free medical and dental clinics have been obtained for a limited number of country people thru the co-operation of Portsmouth physicians and dentists, and a list of volunteer speakers and leaders secured for rural work.

Thus the Red Cross, in addition to its primary functions as a health organization, has interested itself in the more general problems of community organization and welfare.

V. SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL AGENCIES

The social and recreational agencies here included fall under two general heads: (A) State and National agencies, and (B) Local agencies. The state and national group may be further divided into (1) Secret and Fraternal organizations, and (2) Open Societies and Clubs. The local agencies may be subdivided into (1) Commercialized, and (2) Voluntary agencies.

A. STATE AND NATIONAL IN SCOPE

1. SECRET AND FRATERNAL

(1) **The Grange.**—The Ohio State Grange is undoubtedly the best known social and educational organization among Ohio farmers. It is a secret, fraternal order which emphasizes the social, educational, and spiritual forces in country life rather than the economic. It stands for community co-operation and service, education for farmers, and progressive legislation for agriculture.

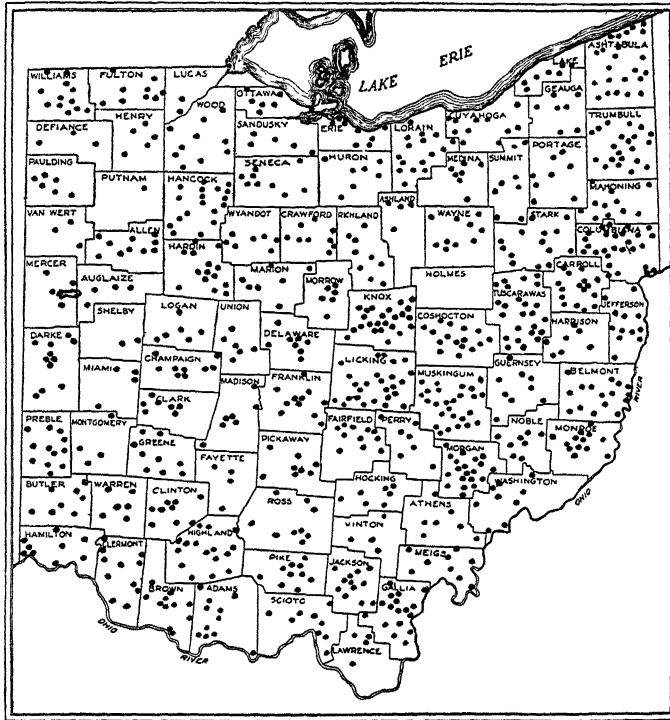
Ohio is one of the oldest and strongest of Grange states. Only one county (Holmes) is without a single grange. The 1921 roster lists 878 subordinate, 72 pomona, and 68 juvenile granges, the latter being distributed over 39 counties. The 878 subordinate granges comprise 102,159 members, or approximately one-seventh of the farm population of eligible age. The average number of members per grange is 116.

Results from 92 granges in 19 counties selected at random from the Ohio Church Federation Survey showed that 37 percent owned the hall in which they met. The average membership for 85 of these granges was 126, which is slightly above the average for the State as a whole. The average attendance of 74 of these granges was 43, or 34 percent of the membership. More than half the granges met twice per month, more than one-fourth met four times, and about one-fifth met once per month.

A questionnaire relating to the community activities of the Grange was sent to 150 subordinates in January, 1922. Returns were secured from 59 granges. Analysis of these returns showed that 27, or 45 percent, owned the hall in which they met, and 24 of these reported that their hall was used for

purposes other than grange meetings. Nine were used for community meetings, and 10 were used for any social meeting such as farmers' organization meetings, festivals, socials, and reunions.

Forty-five, or 76 percent of the granges reporting, held meetings during 1921 which were open to persons in the community who were not members of the Grange. The aggregate number of such meetings held was 128, or an average of less than three for the 45 granges giving them. The nature of these open meetings varied considerably. Fourteen involved some sort of program (lecture hour, plays, etc.) with a social hour following. Eight were



Map XVIII.—Ohio State Grange. Distribution of 878 subordinate granges in Ohio (1921 roster).

strictly social and three were money-raising socials. Eleven were meetings for the discussion of community problems, six were installation meetings, three had outside speakers which outsiders were invited to hear, two were in connection with a farmers' institute or corn show, and two were meetings in conjunction with the Farm Bureau.

Forty-eight granges, or 81 percent of those reporting, stated that they co-operated with other community organizations to secure community improvement. Two stated that they co-operated only in part, and three stated that they did not co-operate with other organizations.

In response to an inquiry as to what definite things the Grange had done to improve the community during 1921, 28 answered that they had done

something. Two of these dealt with the promotion of the Grange organization itself, and will not be further considered, leaving 26, or 43 percent of those reporting, which had done some sort of community betterment work. An analysis of these reports shows a wide variety of activity. Nine had carried out some project for community betterment, one organized and maintained a Sunday School and secured poultry-culling demonstrations, one started a co-operative company, one improved the school grounds, one sold fertilizer, one installed a township library, one helped needy families in the community, one sponsored a farmers' institute, and one was instrumental in securing better roads. Seven gave active support to worthy organizations such as farmers' institute, parent-teachers' association, lecture course, etc. Eight developed better relations and community spirit, three worked for good roads, and one contributed to a better understanding of local problems by conducting open discussions.

Within the Grange, itself, the lecture hour is the conspicuous educational feature. The variety of topics dealt with is considerable. Farm, home, and community topics are given conspicuous place, and thru papers, discussions, and debates wholesome public opinion upon local problems is developed. Thirty granges, or 51 percent of those reporting, had outside speakers during 1921. The number aggregated 93, or an average of three speakers per grange for those having speakers. Forty-nine percent had no outside speakers. Thirty-one, or 52 percent, had given 83 home-talent plays during the year, an average of a little less than three per grange. Twelve, or 20 percent, had held a community fair or corn show, and two had given pageants.

No small part of the work of the Grange aims directly to meet the social and recreational needs of country people. The social hour, suppers, socials, and entertainments go far toward providing a wholesome social life for the members. Exchange programs with other granges widens the range of direct contacts. "Open" meetings or a public lecture hour should be used to meet the needs for wholesome recreation in the community as a whole.

Of the 59 granges reporting, 32, or 55 percent, had held 46 picnics and outings during the year; 12, or 20 percent, reported the promotion of games and athletics within the grange to the extent of three times per year; but only 6, or 10 percent, reported any community singing. Three granges have community singing every meeting.

The most common social activity among the granges reporting deals with that most social of acts, eating and drinking. Forty-eight, or 81 percent, reported a total of 212 suppers and socials held during the year, an average of nearly five per grange.

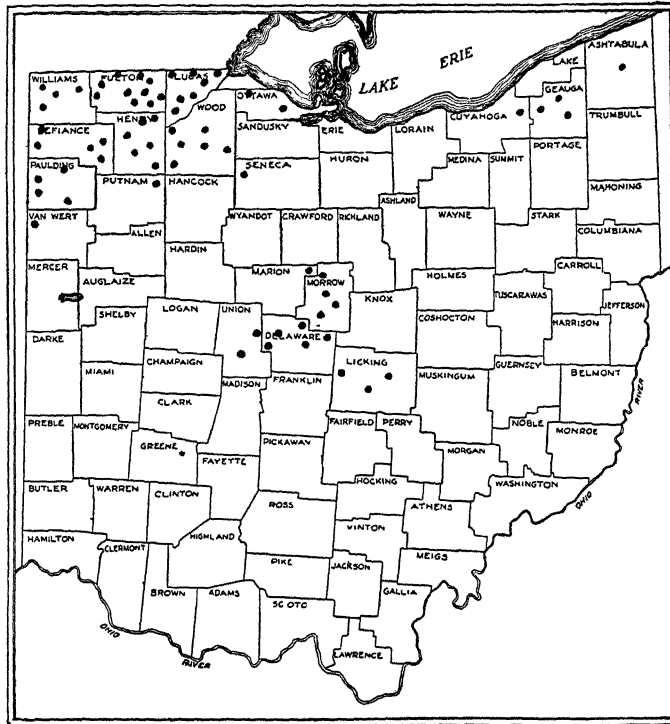
The plays and pageants given must also be listed as having much social and recreational value.

(2) **Ancient Order of Gleaners.**—This is a secret fraternity of farmers organized in 1894 in Michigan. Its development in Ohio is not yet great. On November 1, 1921, there were 85 local Gleaner Arbors in Ohio. Map XIX locates 66 of these. The aggregate membership in Ohio on the above date was about 3600, an average of 42 members per Arbor. This number is not up-to-date, since the organization is actively growing in Ohio.

While the Gleaners' main purposes are economic, being chiefly engaged in life insurance and the promotion of farmers' co-operation in buying and selling, it has important social and recreational features. Each Arbor plans to meet twice per month. A number own their own hall and aim to make it

something of a community center. Programs of social and community interest are given, thus providing freedom of contact and exchange of ideas.

(3) Lodges.—A glance at Map XX is sufficient to convince one of the immense number of secret and fraternal orders in rural Ohio. The map locates 2233 such organizations in places under 2500 population as reported by the survey conducted by the Ohio Federation of Churches. In deciding what should be included under secret and fraternal orders it is difficult to know where to draw the line, but in this study such closed organizations as the American Legion, Sons of Veterans, and Grand Army of the Republic are included as well as the strictly secret fraternities such as the Masons, Odd



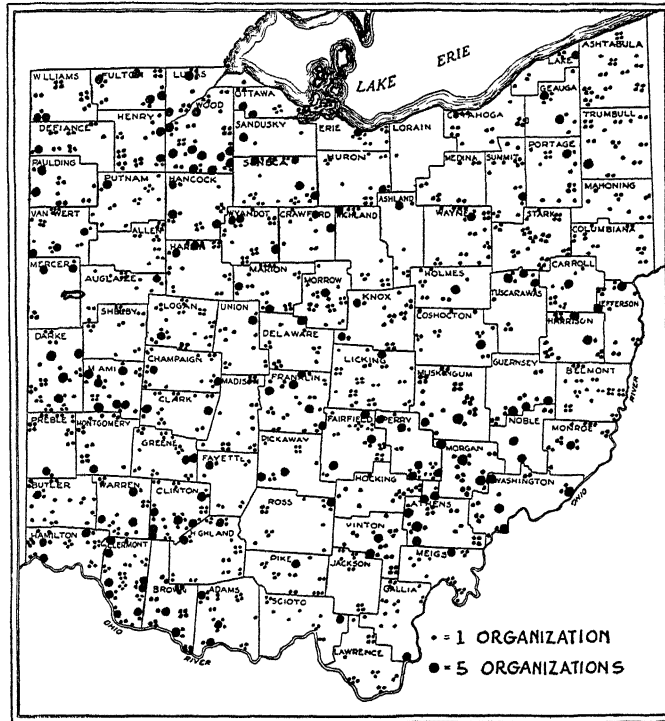
Map XIX.—Location of 66 of 85 Gleaner Arbors in Ohio.

Fellows, and the like. It is claimed that these all are included in a type of organization which is closed to the general public by secrecy or special membership qualifications, in contrast with a community club or parent-teachers' association. They possess very distinct social and recreational values for their members but little for non-members. Neither does the list make claims of completeness since it is exceedingly difficult to list every such organization in a state-wide survey; but it is quite probable that the results are sufficiently complete to convey a fairly accurate picture of the extent of this type of organization in rural Ohio.

Geographically, three areas of concentration are noticeable, namely, the southeast, southwest, and northwest sections of the State. The number of

orders represented is large. A list of those found in 24 counties, chosen at random, showed 44 different orders with a total of 688 local chapters. Of these 324, or more than 50 percent, were I. O. F., Masonic, and Knights of Pythias, in the order named. Other prominent orders were the women's auxiliaries of the above (the Rebeccas, Eastern Star, and Pythian Sisters) the Macabees, and Modern Woodmen of America.

Of 516 lodge chapters reporting this item, the aggregate membership was 49,932, or an average of 96 members per chapter. The aggregate average attendance of 440 of these was 8,392, or an average attendance of 19 members per chapter. That is, 20 percent of the membership.



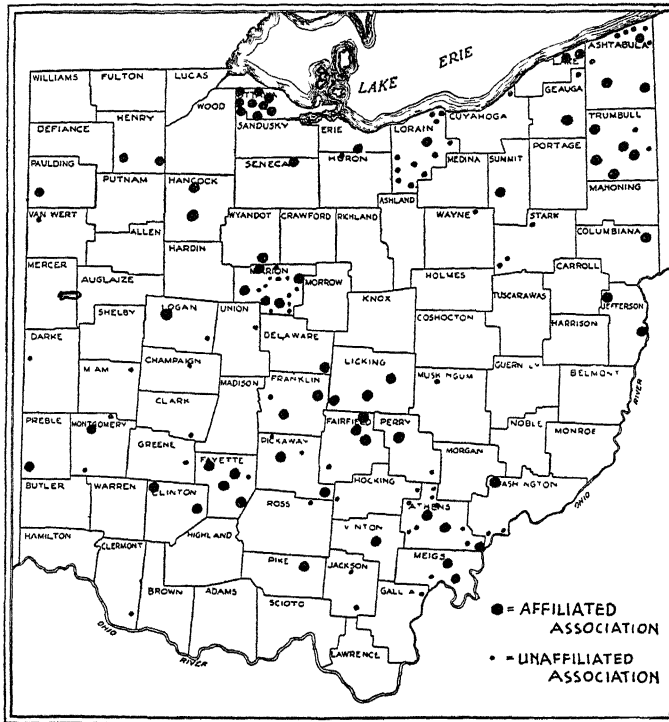
Map XX.—Location of 2233 secret and fraternal organizations in places under 2500 population.

The most common period of meeting is twice per month, with four times per month and once per month closely following in the order named. Of 613 chapters reporting on the item, 181, or 29 percent, owned their own hall. These halls are frequently used for some purpose outside the order, as dances, community gatherings, etc. The most common social activity reported by the orders consists of suppers and socials.

Ordinarily, lodges do not effectively reach and hold farmer membership. Various surveys in recent years have showed that farmers rarely comprise more than 50 percent of the total membership and that their attendance is slight, their chief interest being the insurance benefits offered them by the lodges.

2. OPEN SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

(1) Parent-Teachers' Associations.—These associations aim to promote child welfare in home and school and to “develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.” The school district is the unit of organization, the patrons forming a group which meets in the school building. Topics dealing with the relation of home and school, teacher and pupil, and child welfare are discussed, and the association co-operates with the teachers in carrying out desirable measures. A large percentage of these associations, particularly those in the cities, are affiliated with the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations which has its headquarters at 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W.,



Map XXI.—Location of 145 Parent-Teacher Associations in places under 2500 population (July 1, 1922).

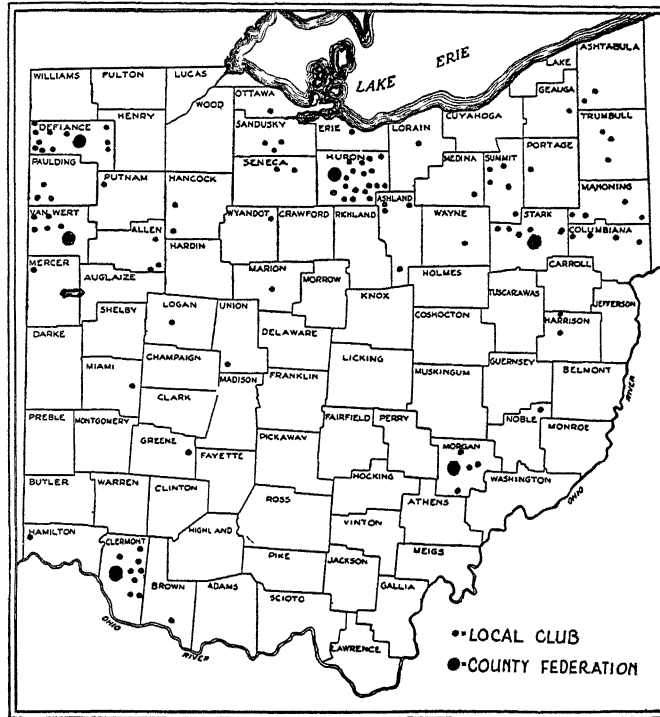
Washington, D. C. The field secretary in charge of the Ohio branch of the Congress is located at the State Department of Education, Columbus. The Congress advocates the use of the school building as a social center, the development of public playgrounds, manual training, domestic science, etc. It holds annual conventions and publishes the Child Welfare Magazine.

Map XXI locates 145 parent-teacher associations in places under 2500 population. The list is incomplete because of the rapidity with which these associations are being formed, but it includes the known organizations up to July 1, 1922. Sixty-nine of these organizations are affiliated with the National Congress and 76 are not.

Membership in these organizations varies widely since all school patrons

may belong. Sixty-one of the above associations had a membership which varied from 18 to 310. The average was about 60.

(2) **Farm Women's Clubs.**—The Ohio Farm Women's Clubs Federation is an organization "to promote co-operation of farm women in their local neighborhoods for social enlightenment and betterment of rural conditions in farm homes and communities."⁸ Map XXII locates the clubs according to the 1921 roster. There were at that time 103 clubs in 36 counties with an aggregate membership of 2409. "It is recommended that local club membership limits be restricted to local neighborhoods, to avoid spreading the membership over so much territory as to prevent easy walking distances to the



Map XXII.—Location of 103 Farm Women's Clubs in 36 counties (1921 roster).

meetings at members' homes." Hence, the local club membership remains small, the smallest having 8 members and the largest 86, with an average of 23. They meet at least once per month, usually in the afternoon.

Local clubs determine their own dues and pay 10 cents per member to the State Federation. Township and county federations may be formed. Six counties have such federations. The State Federation meets during the State Fair. The executive secretary is Harriet Mason, *The Ohio Farmer*, Cleveland, Ohio.

A calendar of topics for discussion at the club meetings is prepared and a discussion outline of each topic, with sources of information, appears in

⁸ The Constitution.

The Ohio Farmer the month previous to its occurrence on the program. The topics center chiefly about improvement of the farm and home, home economics subjects having first place. Cultural subjects and topics dealing with community, state, and national problems are also given consideration.

(3) **Boy Scouts of America.**—This is an organization for boys in their teens, and aims “to promote, thru teamwork and co-operation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others.” The boys “receive training in scout-craft, patriotism, courage, and self-reliance,” outdoor life, first aid, life-saving, and handicrafts. The local organization consists of troops of not more than 32 boys, divided into patrols of 8 boys each. The troop may be a community organization or it may be attached to a local institution, as church or school. The troop is directed by a volunteer Scout Master of approved character under the general supervision of a troop committee.

The Scouts are often active in community work, such as campaigns against flies and public nuisances, acting as guides, etc. The national headquarters is at 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Lantern slides of Scout work may be rented from Underwood & Underwood, New York City.

There were on March 1, 1922, 163 Boy Scout organizations in Ohio in places under 2500 population. These had an aggregate membership of about 3400, making an approximate average of 20 boys per organization. Map XXIII shows the distribution of these organizations.

(4) **Girl Scouts** is an organization for girls of from 10 to 18 years of age. A single girl may belong, but the usual group is a Troop of one to four Patrols of eight members each. Troops are under the direction of a Local Council and are led by a Captain who must be 21 years of age. Most rural Troops have no Local Council direction.

The organization has pledges and laws similar to those of the Boy Scouts. Their activities are divided according to the phases of women's life today: Homemaker, Producer, Consumer, Citizen, and Human Being. Thru group work and play they learn athletics, nature study, camping, home economics, and health habits. They pass tests and receive badges in home economics, first aid, child care, nursing, and health. The national headquarters is at 189 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

In Ohio there were on March 1, 1922, 49 places under 2500 population which have Girl Scout organizations. The aggregate membership of these organizations was about 950, or an average of 20 members per organization. Map XXIII locates these organizations.

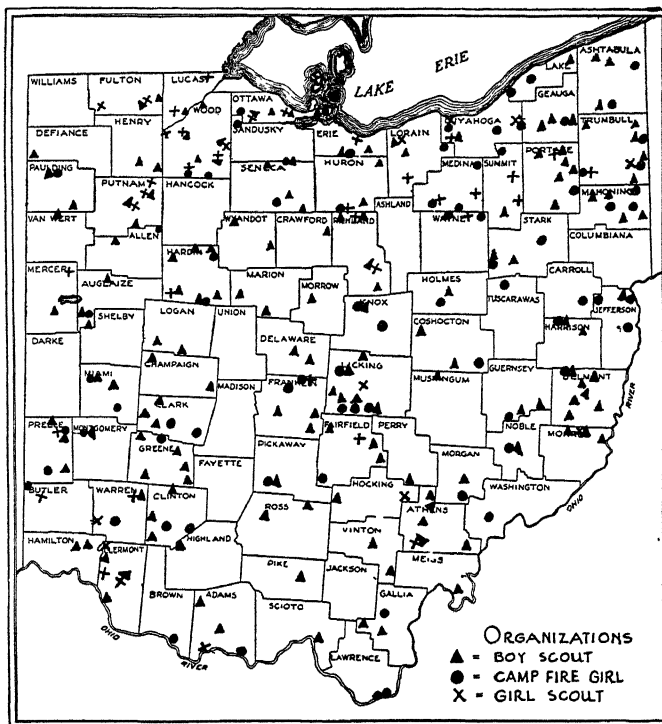
(5) **Camp Fire Girls** is an organization for girls over 12 years of age. Local groups are organized by field secretaries and are supervised by local guardians. Thru study and work the members advance in personal attainment and are granted ranks and honors as rewards in such lines as home, health, camp, hand, nature lore, business, and patriotism. The organization aims to inspire girls to find the worth-while things in life, to co-operate, and to be of service to each other and to the community. The national headquarters is at 31 East Seventeenth Street, New York City.

On March 1, 1922, there were 89 completely organized Camp Fires in Ohio, located in places under 2500 population. The aggregate membership of these organizations was 1325, or an average of nearly 15 per Camp Fire. The smallest Camp Fire had 10 members and the largest 36.

The extent to which these three organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls, actually serve farm boys and girls is questionable. The

fact that only 27 percent of the Boy Scout, 20 percent of the Girl Scout, and 20 percent of the Camp Fire organizations are located in unincorporated places indicates that they are village rather than open country organizations. Without doubt the main body of the membership comes from the village population. Probably this is true even when the local organization is found in an unincorporated village, tho presumably not to the same extent as in the case of an organization in an incorporated village of larger size.

(6) Community Service is an organization "to help people of American communities to organize for the employment of their leisure time to the best advantage for recreation and good citizenship." By application to head-



Map XXIII.—Location of 168 Boy Scout, 89 Camp Fire, and 49 Girl Scout organizations in places under 2500 population (March 1, 1922).

quarters, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, a community may secure an organizer to help develop its recreation program. Literature on recreation is also published and may be secured free or at small cost.

The active rural work of Community Service in Ohio has been limited to Warren County. Five villages, Mason, Kings Mills, Springboro, Morrow, and Waynesville, and Lebanon (which falls in the city class) have been organized units for two years. Each has its own committee and program of music, drama, recreation, and athletics. Institutes for volunteer leaders have been held. Representatives from each unit meet bimonthly for business and planning.

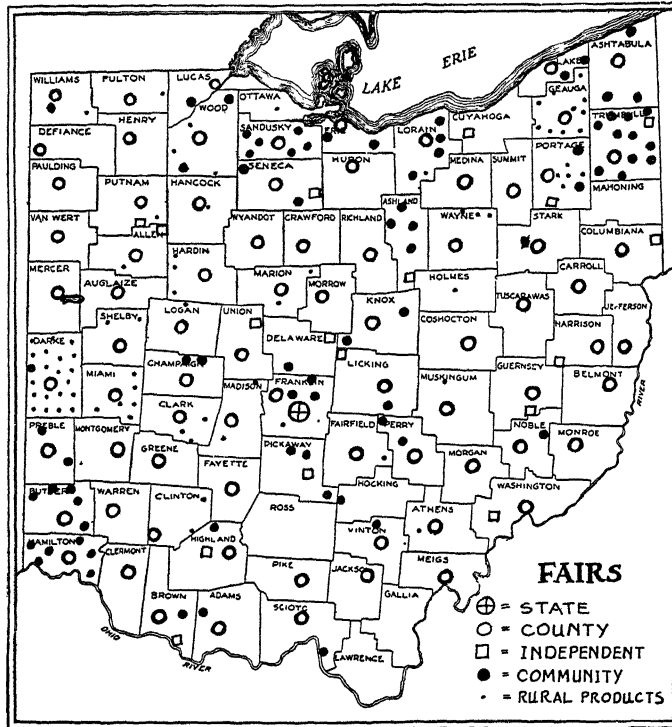
The Community Service has as yet made no direct attempt to meet the needs of farm people in Ohio.

B. LOCAL AGENCIES

1. COMMERCIALIZED

(1) **Fairs.**—Map XXIV locates 77 county, 17 independent, and 63 community fairs, and 64 rural products shows in Ohio. While the county and independent fairs are commercialized agencies, many of the community fairs are not. The farm products shows, such as corn, fruit, dairy and poultry shows, are seldom commercialized, but are here treated under the head of fairs because of their similarity in nature rather than in method of conduct.

While the educational features of the county and independent fairs are of considerable importance, yet their chief functions are undoubtedly social and



Map XXIV.—Location of 1 state, 77 county, 17 independent, and 75 community fairs, and 74 corn, fruit, and poultry shows in Ohio.

recreational. The wide opportunity for social contact, picnic dinners, races, the midway, and special attractions of an entertaining nature are among the most important features. In 1921, 68 county fairs had an aggregate attendance of 1,728,396, or an average of 25,417 per fair. Their exhibitors numbered 33,201, or an average of 488 per fair. Sixteen independent fairs had an aggregate attendance of 174,121, or an average of 10,882 per fair. Their exhibitors were 5155 in number, or an average of 303 per fair. Seventy-one percent of the county fairs and 47 percent of the independent fairs paid out more prize money for speed than for class prizes. For the county fairs the premiums offered for speed amounted to 39.7 percent of all the premiums offered, and

for the independent fairs 40.3 percent. The amounts paid out for special attractions (\$74,708 by the county and \$6,228 by the independents) were exceeded only by the sums paid for speed and for cattle. Thus it seems clear that the major emphasis is placed upon the social, recreational, and entertainment features.

Table VI.—*Entries and Premiums Offered at County and Independent Fairs In Ohio, 1921*

	County Fairs				Independent Fairs			
	Entries		Premiums Offered		Entries		Premiums Offered	
	No.	Pct.	Amount	Pct.	No.	Pct.	Amount	Pct.
Total.....	222,277	100	\$738,984	100	19,815	100	\$ 57,919	100
Speed.....	6,175	2.78	293,522	39.70	520	2.63	23,340	40.30
Cattle.....	11,489	5.17	100,515	13.60	924	4.66	6,466	11.20
Horses.....	8,554	3.85	69,589	9.40	694	3.50	5,505	9.50
Poultry and pet stock....	36,564	16.45	56,514	7.60	2,632	13.53	6,117	10.50
Swine.....	12,845	5.78	44,072	6.00	1,037	5.23	3,641	6.30
Sheep.....	10,750	4.84	35,375	4.80	1,172	5.92	3,010	5.20
Farm products.....	34,872	15.69	33,104	4.50	4,413	22.27	3,048	5.20
Boys' and girls' work....	8,793	3.96	25,095	3.40	445	2.25	1,052	1.80
School work.....	20,237	9.10	22,704	3.20	640	3.23	922	1.60
Needle work.....	33,234	14.95	16,613	2.20	2,658	13.41	1,338	2.30
Fine arts.....	15,802	7.11	12,601	1.70	1,306	6.59	789	1.40
Grange.....	204	.09	12,563	1.70	172	.87	900	1.60
Culinary.....	15,875	7.14	7,867	1.00	2,417	12.20	928	1.60
Miscellaneous.....	4,041	1.82	5,007	.67	614	3.10	617	1.06
Machinery.....	398	.18	1,288	.17	62	.31	226	.39
Dairy products.....	2,012	.90	1,016	.14	56	.28	7	.02
Manufacture.....	252	.11	944	.14				
Bee products.....	180	.08	590	.08	3	.02	13	.03

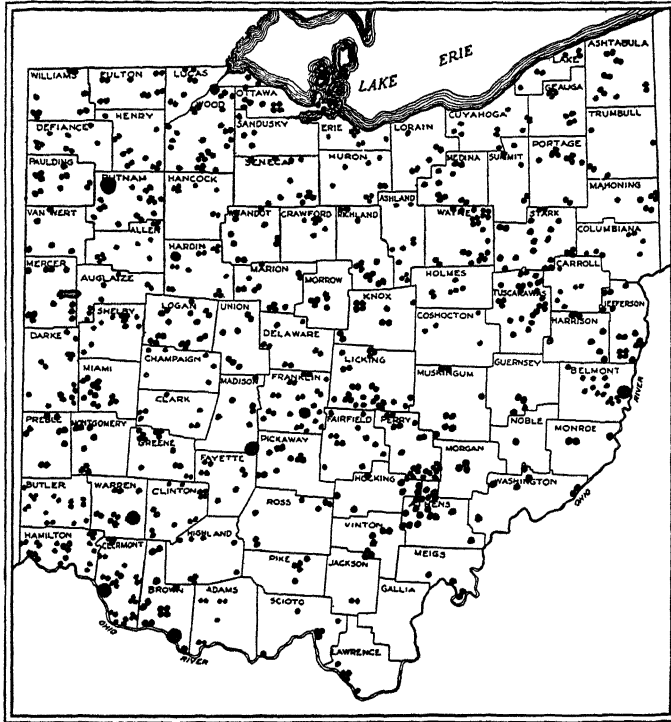
Table VI indicates the total number of entries and the total amount of premiums offered at county and independent fairs in Ohio in 1921, the same for each class of entry and the percentage of the total in each case. The comparative importance of each class and the comparative emphasis given it may be noted. It will be seen that the county fairs and the independent fairs parallel each other closely.

The data relative to community fairs and corn, fruit, dairy, and poultry shows are undoubtedly incomplete. Some statements regarding their organization and procedure may be made, however. Community fairs in Ohio are conducted under the auspices of local fair boards, agricultural societies, executive committees, community clubs, and public schools. They are held at various times of the year from fall to spring. Frequently they are held on the occasion of a homecoming; sometimes as a part of the annual school exhibit. They are usually free to all persons, tho occasionally not. Farmers are always important participators, frequently being the chief exhibitors. These fairs last from one to three days, a popular length being all day and evening. The approximate attendance varies from 200 or 300 to as many as 2500.

Rural products shows such as corn, fruit, dairy, or poultry shows, are common in Ohio. They are conducted by a variety of rural agencies of which local agricultural societies, the farm bureau, farmers' institutes, the public schools, and departments of vocational agriculture are chief. A large percentage of the farmers' institutes hold such shows. These shows are held at

various times during the fall and winter, and are usually free to both exhibitors and public, tho occasionally a small entry fee and admission is charged. Farmers and their children are the chief exhibitors. The shows last from one to three days and the exhibits are viewed by crowds varying from 100 to 600 or 700.

(2) Pool Halls.—Map XXV locates 955 pool halls in places under 2500 population. Since the pool hall is a village agency its distribution largely corresponds to the distribution of villages. There seem to be, however, certain localities of concentration. This concentration is noticeable in industrial sections and areas contiguous to large cities.



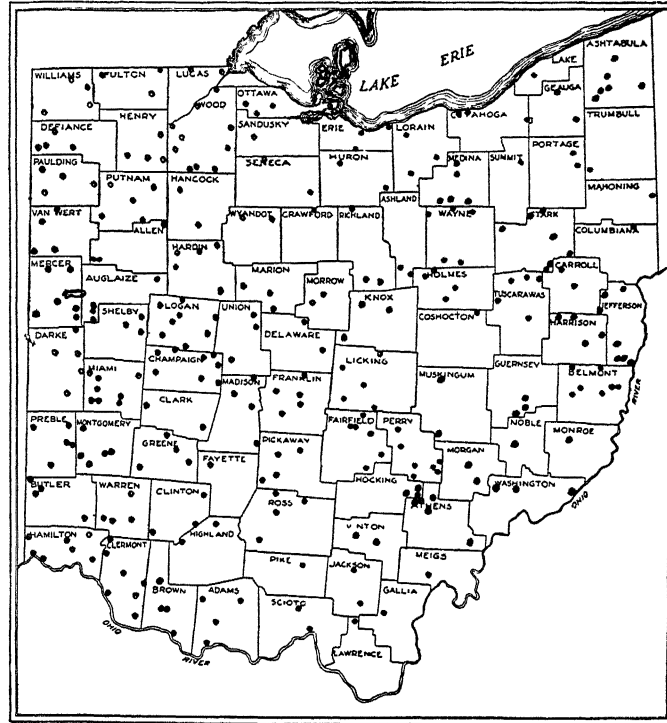
Map XXV.—Location of 955 pool halls in places under 2500 population. (Small dots indicate one, large dots five pool halls.)

The pool hall is an important factor in rural recreation. With the increasing centralization of open country interests in the villages, the pool hall at once becomes a meeting place, recreation center, and loafing place for country boys as well as for village boys. Ideas and ideals are exchanged and habits formed. With its soft-drink parlor and occasional barber shop in connection it becomes the successor of the saloon. Its frequency in rural Ohio indicates that it is a vital force in rural life.

(3) Motion-picture Theaters.—Map XXVI locates 312 motion-picture theaters in places under 2500 population. The distribution is fairly even, with a predominance in western Ohio. The motion-picture theater is yet a

village agency, and is not generally found in the smaller places. This map locates only the commercialized theater. There are in addition a number of motion-picture outfits installed in rural schools and churches. Of these there is no record.

The village motion-picture theater is extensively patronized by country people, and is an important recreational agency. Because of its large patronage and its great effectiveness as a conveyor of ideals, it is very important that the pictures presented should be of the best. Unfortunately commercialization of the motion picture, particularly in the smaller places, is generally incompatible with first-class pictures. For that reason the development of the



Map XXVI.—Location of 312 moving picture theaters in places under 2500 population.

community picture theater and the school or church picture show is much to be desired. At small cost any community can supply all of its people with wholesome entertainment of this sort.

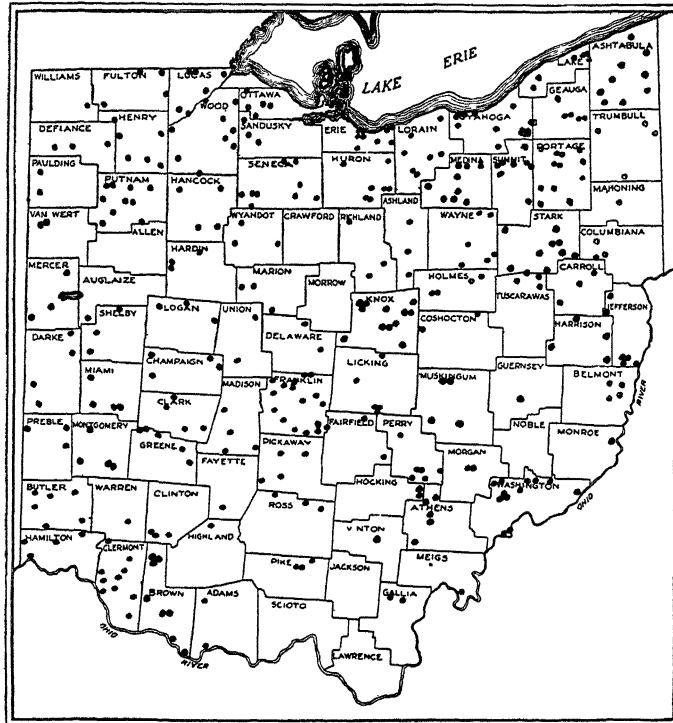
(4) **Dance Halls.**—Map XXVII locates 383 dance halls in places under 2500 population. The list is no doubt incomplete for two reasons. The survey returns were probably incomplete, and the difficulty of accurately defining a dance hall caused variation in what was reported. In general, lodge halls and the like which are used occasionally for dances are not here included.

While dancing is still generally frowned upon in the country, many young people make it a source of recreation. Wholesome dancing may not exist in

the immediate neighborhood, but the commercialized dance hall of the nearby town provides a distant center for such pleasure. Hence, the dance hall must be considered an important recreational agency for rural people. Re-establishment of the neighborhood dance under local supervision would go far toward satisfying the social desires of rural young people in an effective and wholesome manner.

2. VOLUNTARY

(1) **Farmers' Clubs and Community Clubs.**—Map XXVIII locates 94 local clubs which fall under this head, 22 of which are called community clubs and 18 farmers' clubs. The others have various names such as Rural Center Club,



Map XXVII.—Location of 383 dance halls in places under 2500 population.

Hayseed Club, Country Life Club, etc. The name "farmers' club" is more common among the older organizations—clubs which have been organized 15 years and over—while the more recent ones prefer "community club." A few of those listed are village clubs with farm members, but for the most part they are open country organizations. All the clubs are purely local except for those in Clark County which are united in a federation.

It is of extreme importance to note that the most successful clubs, in point of time organized, are relatively small in size. Of the 16 clubs which have been organized 10 years and over only three have a membership ranging from 100 to 200. The remaining 13 are farmers' clubs with a membership ranging from 12 to 25 families.

Table VII.—Age and Membership of Farmers' and Community Clubs.

Length of time organized	Number of clubs	Number of members	Number of clubs
Under 2 years.....	5	25 or less	1
2-5 years.....	10	26 to 50	7
6-10 years.....	6	51 to 75	6
11-20 years.....	4	76 to 100	1
21-30 years.....	6	101 to 150	4
31-40 years.....	3	151 to 200	3
41-50 years.....	2	Limited number of families, usually 12	9
Over 50 years.....	1	15 couples	1
		Limited	1
		Whole community or neighborhood	3

From a study of these clubs and from reports of similar clubs which have failed, certain principles seem evident: (1) The farmers' club is a neighborhood organization which should be kept small enough so that the homes of its members may serve as the meeting place for the entire club, thereby developing close personal friendship and common interest thruout the club. For when the home becomes inadequate as a meeting place only a part of the membership attend a given meeting, the face-to-face relationship and personal interest are lost and the club declines. (2) When the club becomes so large that the personal interest of the members in each other declines for lack of intimate acquaintance and association, appeal must be made to the diversified special interests of the members, and the program offerings must be strong enough to prove attractive to these special interests. (3) The larger community club should be provided with a hall ample enough to accommodate the whole of its membership at once so that a group consciousness of its own size, strength, and unity may be developed. This is not to say, of course, that a club may not succeed in violation of the above principles. Its chances for success, however, will ordinarily be greatly augmented by observing these simple rules.

Of the clubs reporting, 33 meet regularly and three do not. Thirty-one meet monthly, three bimonthly, and one at call. The most popular meeting place is at the homes of the members, 18 so reporting. Five meet at the school house, four in the town hall, three in the village, two in a club house, and one in a lodge hall.

The programs of these farmers' clubs present much variation. Those which meet at the homes usually assemble before noon, take dinner with the host, and listen to a scheduled program in the afternoon. Many clubs print complete program booklets for an entire year in advance. These also include membership roll, quotations, etc.

The scheduled program, generally speaking, is composed of music, recitations, dramatics, papers, discussions, and debates on farm and community topics, current events, and special speakers.

The social and recreational features of farmers' clubs consist of the social hour at the meetings, outings and picnics, baseball and basketball, special holiday carnivals and festivals such as community Christmas tree, amateur dramatics, card parties, and musicals. Some arrange joint meetings with

neighboring clubs. Few make no effort at recreational features. Undoubtedly the most important feature is the periodic meeting of neighbors for a dinner and program where ideas are exchanged, friendships strengthened, and inspiration received.

In Clark County a federation of community clubs was organized by the American Red Cross in 1919. These clubs attacked the problem of recreation, chiefly, and thru intercommunity leagues and contests created much interest and spirit. The chief difficulty is to make the organization permanent after the novelty has worn off.



Map XXVIII.—Location of 94 farmers' and community clubs, 22 community houses, 2 community theaters, and 1 county federation of community clubs, represented by the shaded portion.

Unlike the farmers' clubs in many states, those in Ohio are almost wholly social and educational in their purpose. Because of similarity of aims and interests they occasionally become local granges. Twenty-eight reported no buying or selling, two reported both, and three buying only. Compactly expressed, the clubs aim to promote better local spirit, friendships, social conditions, and general progress thru co-operative study of their common problems and united effort toward the solution of those problems. As the result of their efforts many definite things have been accomplished, altho several, particularly the more recently organized, have done little more than secure en-

lightened discussion of their problems. In some communities even that is no mean accomplishment. A list of the achievements of these clubs would include,

- Old school remodeled and furnished for clubhouse.
- Lecture courses.
- Corn and horse shows, and annual agricultural exhibits.
- Community hall equipped.
- Farmers' institutes conducted.
- Band organized.
- Orchestra organized.
- Cemeteries improved.
- County Y. M. C. A., club work, and farm bureau started.
- Club work scholarships and prize trophies offered.
- Tuition of a boy in college paid.
- Playground apparatus purchased.
- Library organized and supported.
- Church buildings improved.
- Donations to relief.

(2) **Community Houses.**—The rural community house has not had extensive development in Ohio. The number of such houses is increasing, however. Map XXVIII locates 22, chiefly in the northern and western parts of the State.

Every community should be provided with a meeting place which is ample to house the whole of its population on occasion. Community consciousness and co-operation may be greatly stimulated in this way. Where private enterprise has not already provided such a building, the community may often find it advantageous to build its own community house and to make of it a real social center.

(3) **Community Theaters.**—The community theater has had little development in rural Ohio. Map XVIII locates only two, one in Pike and one in Logan County. The latter, developed in connection with the public high school, is the better known. Home-talent plays are given by home people and at small expense wholesome entertainment is provided and local talent developed. There is much to be desired in this direction.

(4) **Bands, Orchestras, and Singing Societies.**—Map XXIX locates 282 bands, 250 orchestras, and 83 choruses and singing societies in places under 2500. These are mainly located in villages, but many farm people are members. It will be noticed that the singing societies have a less even distribution than the bands and orchestras, being localized chiefly in northern Ohio.

These organizations are a real asset to any community and do much toward stimulating community spirit and pride as well as providing wholesome recreation. Not only should villages organize them but open country schools, churches, and granges will find it relatively easy and highly profitable to do so.

(5) **Homecomings.**—Attempt is made here to locate only homecomings which occur annually or regularly in rural Ohio. An incomplete list of 124 is located on Map XXX. A Clermont County reunion is held at Cincinnati. Many school districts hold an annual homecoming of the neighborhood sort. Ashland, Columbiana, and Warren Counties may be especially mentioned in this connection. A few places hold a homecoming every 10 years or so. No attempt is made to locate family reunions.

These homecomings are usually held during the summer or early fall. Frequently they come on the occasion of the annual chautauqua, community fair, or the anniversary of the founding of the village. Many have specific dates for the event, such as Labor Day, first Saturday in August, etc.

About 75 percent of these homecomings are village events with usually a large farmer attendance. The remaining 25 percent are township affairs and may be called a farmers' event.

The homecomings are under the supervisory control of some local organization or committee. Most often a committee at large has charge; but the



Map XXIX.—Location of 282 bands, 250 orchestras, and 83 singing societies in places under 2500.

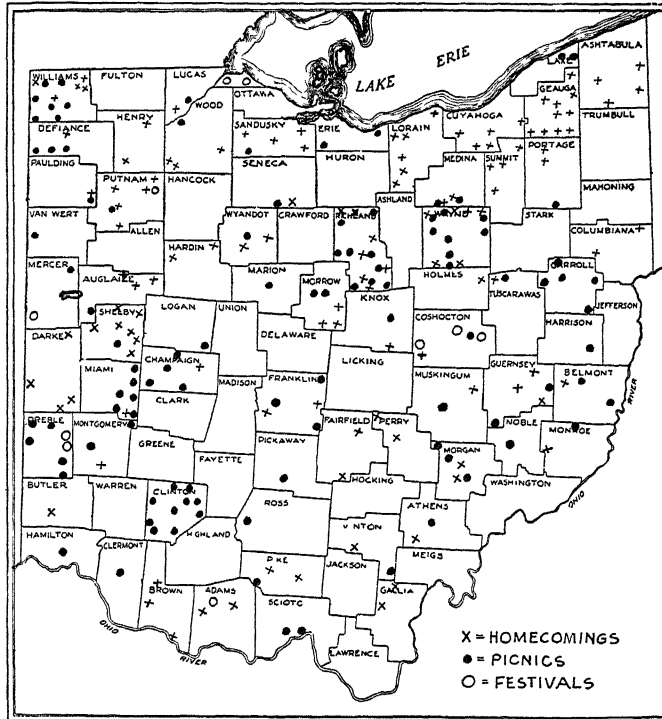
commercial club, a lodge, the school and alumni, or the local Y. M. C. A. may be the guiding factor.

The usual length of these events is one day, tho they sometimes extend over two, three, or even five days. Attendance is estimated from 200 to as high as 2500, with the most common around from 400 to 600.

(6) Picnics.—Here again the 110 regular or annual picnics in places under 2500 population is no doubt quite incomplete. It does, however, represent the larger, better known, and somewhat institutionalized events. In addition to these, some of the granges in Hancock County, a few communities in Gallia, almost every school district in Stark, and many in Columbiana, and several Sunday schools in Jefferson are reported as having annual picnics.

The farm bureau holds many, and about 50 percent of the boys' and girls' club organizations have picnics, but for the most part they are not yet institutionalized events.

These events are most commonly conducted by schools, churches, and granges, or by a general committee, in the case of an all-community affair. They are free to all, last one day, and have attendance varying from 100 to



Map XXX.—Location of 124 homecomings, 110 picnics, and 10 festivals in places under 2500 population.

1000 or more. Farmers are large participants. The time is of course summer, but the early summer—the latter part of May and June—seems to be preferred.

(7) **Open Clubs and Societies.**—Any attempt to catalog the wide variety of miscellaneous open clubs and societies in rural Ohio would be well-nigh fruitless. That there exists a large number of such organizations with varied name and function is well known to all. Any classification of rural social agencies would be incomplete without them. As purely local primary groups some of them are of distinct intellectual service, but it appears that the great majority are purely social and recreational.

The Ohio Church Federation survey reports 629 of these local clubs and societies. Of 123 located in 24 counties selected at random the most common was some form of literary or study club. Welfare Associations, Mothers' Clubs, Music Clubs, and special study groups are common. Of 105 reporting on membership the aggregate total was 6304, or an average of 60 members per club. Ninety-seven reported an average aggregate attendance of 2212, or

an average of 22 members per club, i. e., an average attendance of 36 percent. Most commonly these clubs meet once per month, tho many meet twice and a few four times per month.

Special names such as "Kill Care," and "Here Am I" are common. There are card clubs, music clubs, athletic clubs, auto clubs, and social clubs for special classes such as, business men, mothers, girls, and young married people. Organizations of this type when successful afford the most wholesome sort of recreation because of the opportunity they offer for the members to participate in activity rather than being passively entertained as in the case of commercialized agencies.

VI. SUMMARY

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF EACH AGENCY

No figures are available showing the proportion of the farm population which either belong to the preceding organizations or are touched by their influence. The dependence of farm people upon village social agencies makes it generally impossible to entirely separate the two groups. Nor have we any way of measuring the comparative effectiveness of the different types of agency, or the comparative effectiveness of the same agency in different localities. For the present we must be content with the relative distribution of each agency.

According to the survey of the Ohio Federation of Churches there are in Ohio 1272 trade area communities having trade centers of less than 2500 population. Taking 20 of the most typical and well distributed of the social agencies treated in this bulletin and computing the percent of the total rural communities in the State having each of these agencies, we get the results found in Table VIII.

Table VIII.—Percentage of Total Rural Communities in Ohio Having Certain Social Agencies.

Agency	Percent
Number Trade Area Rural Communities—1272.....	100
Grange.....	69
Lodges.....	55
Pool Halls.....	42
Annual Chautauqua or Lyceum.....	33
Open Societies.....	26
Moving Picture Theater.....	23
Band.....	22
Orchestra.....	19
Public Dance Hall.....	19
Local Newspaper.....	16
Girl Scouts or Camp Fire Girls' Troop.....	13
Boy Scout Troop.....	12
Annual Homecoming.....	10
Parent-Teacher Association.....	9
Annual Picnic or Festival.....	9
Local Library.....	7
Farmers' Club or Community Club.....	7
Annual Corn, Fruit, or Dairy Show.....	6
Chorus or Singing Society.....	6
Community Fair.....	5

ARE THERE TOO MANY RURAL SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS?

In answer to the oft-repeated statement that country life is overorganized, several points must be considered. From the standpoint of the community as a unit, every such group experiences a variety of needs which are commonly expressed as community interests. Without attempting to make an exhaustive list of these interests, normal communities are recognized to have interests in wealth, education, religion, government, health, social, and recreational affairs, etc. Communities differ widely in their expression of these interests, however. In some communities it cannot be said that there is a normal development of some of them. Anaemic social life, lack of religious enthusiasm, and slight interest in education are illustrations.

Equally important with the development of these many community interests is the existence of adequately organized avenues for their expression. The proper functioning of the health interests requires physicians, nurses, hospitals, clinics, health centers, school inspection, etc.; similar functioning of educational interests demands schools, libraries, newspapers, forums, etc., and social and recreational interests require societies, clubs, theaters, parks, playgrounds, etc. Community organizations exist for the purpose of satisfying community needs thru the proper functioning of interest groups. Sometimes, however, communities are found in which there are too many organizations attempting to serve one interest while other interests are neglected. More often, still, some community interests are adequately organized and expressed, while others are undeveloped. Lack of social organizations, library facilities, or good schools in a well-to-do community are cases in point.

In deciding whether or not there are too many organizations in country life in Ohio it will be helpful to glance over the list of 20 organized agencies in Table VIII, and note the percentage of rural communities having each organization. Do these agencies represent wholesome and legitimate community interests? Are they agencies which are necessary or desirable in any community? If certain ones are not desirable, as perhaps the pool hall, what other agency, or agencies, could more effectively meet the need which the pool hall is now serving? Would not a wider distribution of effective club life and social center activity lessen the functioning of the commercial pool hall and loafing place? Certainly it is highly desirable that the work of such agencies as bands, orchestras and singing societies, libraries, community fairs, granges, parent-teacher associations, etc., be far more widely extended.

It is also of value, from the standpoint of comparative community standards, to take a collective view of the distribution of these 20 rural agencies. Table IX groups the 1272 trade area rural communities of Ohio according to the number of these 20 rural social agencies each possesses.

From an examination of Table IX it is clear that these 20 rural agencies are not concentrated in a few communities. The large number of communities having none and the few having more than 10 or 11 are outstanding facts. The mean is less than three.

Two questions of importance arise at this point. The first is how many of these agencies should a normal community possess? A general answer to this question cannot be given. Communities differ in their particular needs and interests, and there are obviously many more ways of meeting the community needs, represented by these 20 agencies, than thru these particular forms of organization. The aim should be to meet community needs effectively, whether by means of these agencies or some others.

Table IX.—Communities Grouped According to Number of Agencies Represented

	Number	Percent
Number trade area rural communities.....	1272	100
Number reporting none of the twenty agencies.....	163	12.8
Number reporting one of the twenty agencies.....	218	17.1
Number reporting two of the twenty agencies.....	178	14
Number reporting three of the twenty agencies.....	146	11.4
Number reporting four of the twenty agencies.....	128	10.6
Number reporting five of the twenty agencies.....	95	7.5
Number reporting six of the twenty agencies.....	82	6.4
Number reporting seven of the twenty agencies.....	71	5.5
Number reporting eight of the twenty agencies.....	65	5.1
Number reporting nine of the twenty agencies.....	48	3.7
Number reporting ten of the twenty agencies.....	37	2.9
Number reporting eleven of the twenty agencies.....	15	1.1
Number reporting twelve of the twenty agencies.....	6	.04
Number reporting thirteen of the twenty agencies.....	7	.05
Number reporting fourteen of the twenty agencies.....	2	.01

The second question deals with community standards. Can we measure the standards of a community by the number of these agencies it possesses? Not entirely. Community needs may be met in some other way. A community may have only a few organized agencies which by their effectiveness are more useful than a much larger number of half-hearted agencies in another community. And yet the number of agencies has some bearing on community standards. Communities with granges, bands, and orchestras, libraries, local newspapers, parent-teacher associations, community fairs, etc., are generally more wide-awake and up-to-date than those without them. If it is true that rural communities generally need more forms of organization to promote human association and contact, we must agree that the communities which possess functioning organizations of this sort are in advance of those communities in which they are absent. Surely the social and cultural poverty of much of rural Ohio can be reduced by increasing the number of standard social agencies in those communities where so few now exist.

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