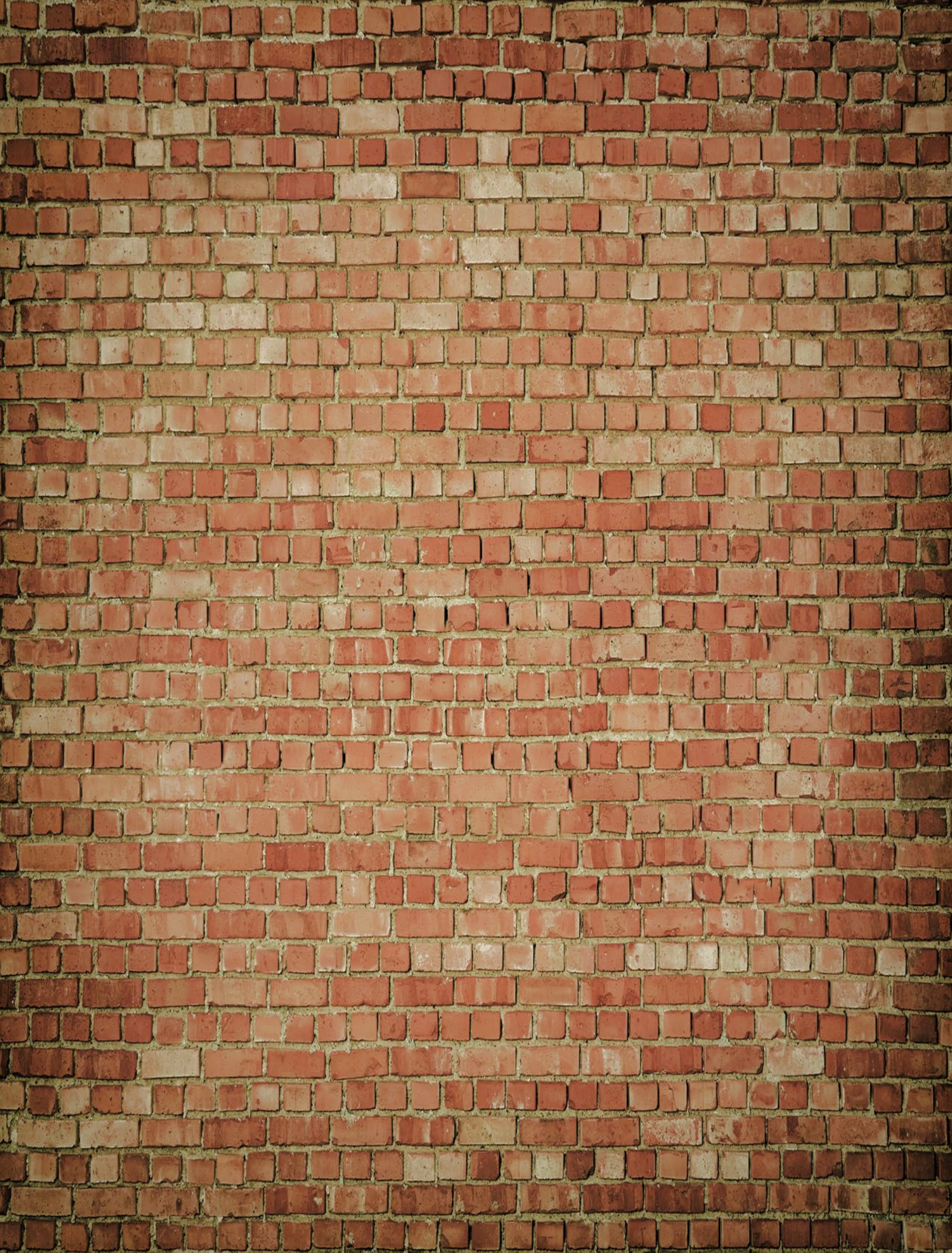
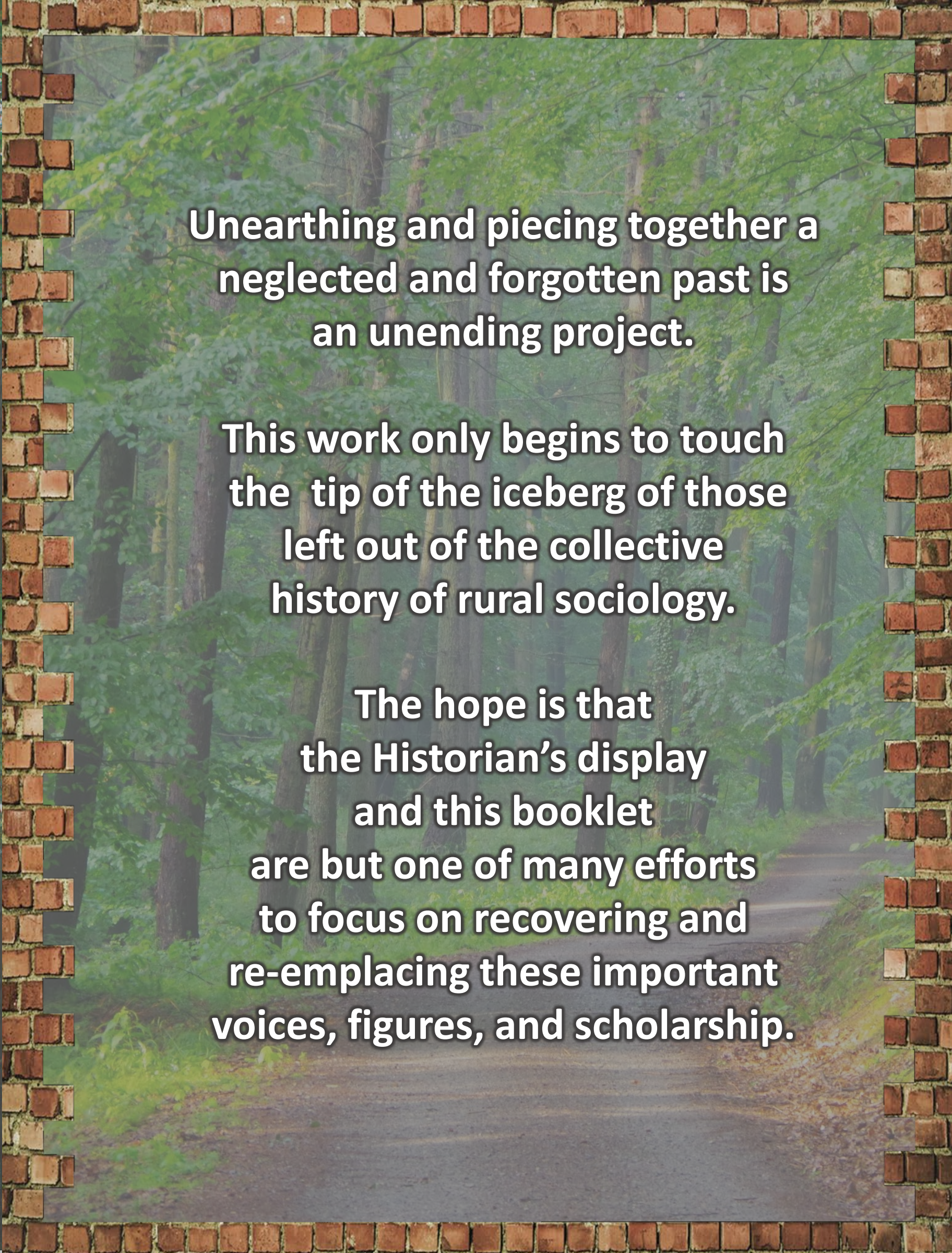


The background of the entire image is a textured red brick wall. In the center, there is a rectangular opening or window that looks out onto a lush green forest. The trees are tall and thin, with dense foliage. The ground in the forest appears to be a path or a clearing with some fallen leaves. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a daytime scene in a wooded area.

**Rural Sociology's
Hidden History
of Race, Racism
and
Social Justice**

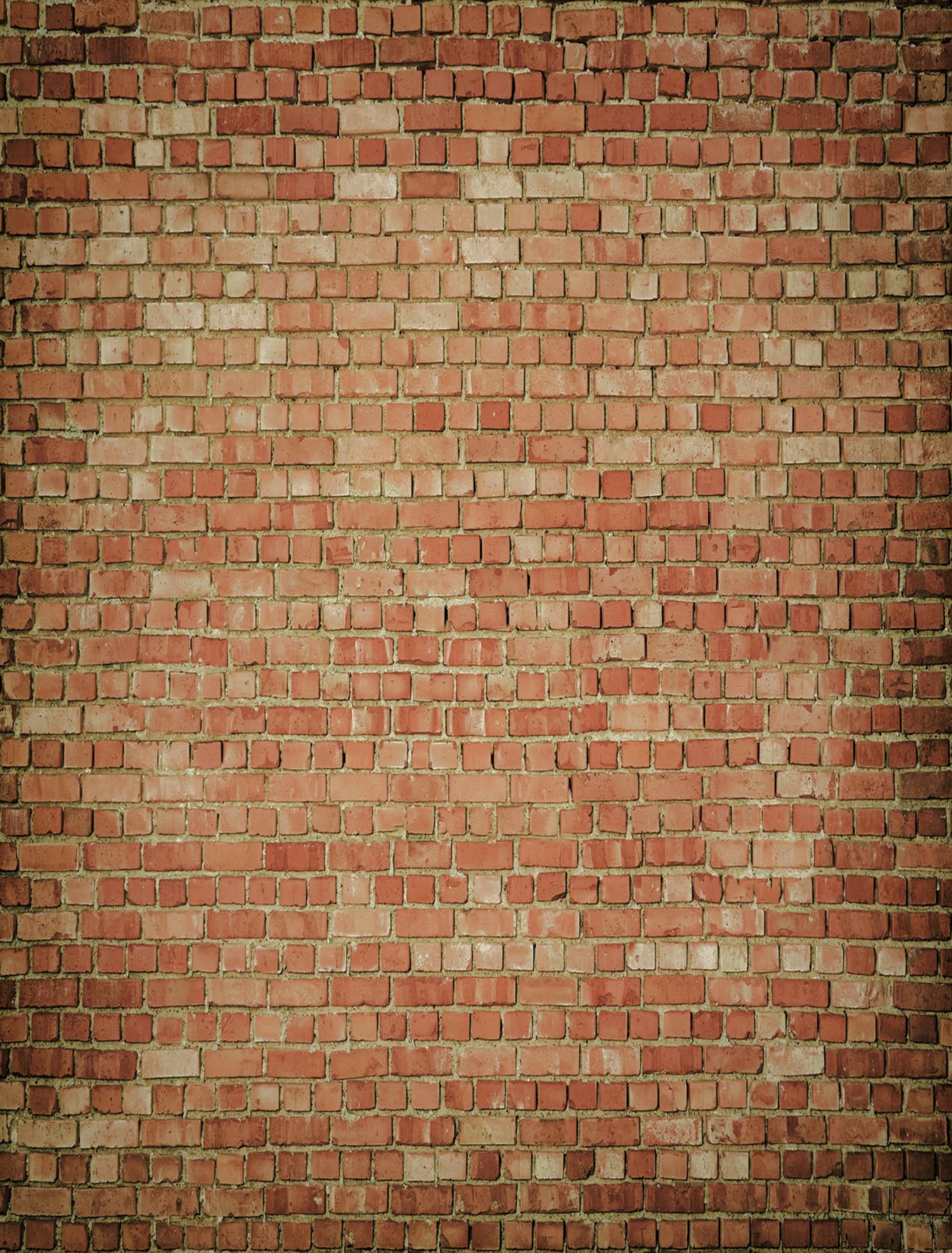


The background of the image is a misty forest path. The path is a dirt road that curves slightly to the right, leading into a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage. The atmosphere is hazy and soft, with light filtering through the canopy. The entire image is framed by a decorative border of reddish-brown bricks, arranged in a staggered pattern.

Unearthing and piecing together a neglected and forgotten past is an unending project.

This work only begins to touch the tip of the iceberg of those left out of the collective history of rural sociology.

The hope is that the Historian's display and this booklet are but one of many efforts to focus on recovering and re-emplacing these important voices, figures, and scholarship.



From the RSS Historian

Since Wil Goudy served as Historian for the Rural Sociological Society (RSS), each year the RSS Historian has created a display for the Society's annual conference featuring some aspect of the history of RSS or rural sociology. For the 2022 conference, the display took on a different meaning. While I was always sure to share the many stories that I had learned from working with Olaf Larson for nearly 3 decades, it was the Black Lives Matter protests during the summer of the COVID pandemic that helped me realize that the stories that I was privileged to learn through Olaf needed to be shared more broadly and that there needed to be more context and more research done.

As a result, I decided to embark on a research project that would help to re-embed some of rural sociology's historical engagement with race/ethnicity and racism and created a display that communicated some that history for RSS members at the 2022 conference. The display was then invited to be shared at the PAWC (Professional Agricultural Workers Conference) and the Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA) conference. By request of the current RSS President John Green (2022-2023) and the immediate past president Dreamal Worthen (2021-2022), the display was again featured at the 2023 conference. This booklet expands on the information included in the original display. While a journal manuscript is underway, since it is not possible to include the many images, visual elements, and lengthy resource list in a journal article, creating this booklet is intended to complement both the display and manuscript.

Like this booklet, the title for the original display was "Rural Sociology's Hidden History of Race, Racism and Social Justice." The display consisted of 3 posters with each one organized around a central theme. The theme for the first poster was "Forgotten Footsteps" which focused on Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Charles S. Johnson and some of their linkages to rural sociology. The organizing theme for the center poster was "Lost Literature" and provided a glimpse into a selection of individuals in rural sociology and their research and work related to race/ethnicity: Allen B. Doggett Jr., Vernon Malan, Minnie Miller Brown, William P. Kuvlesky, and Lewis Wade Jones. The third poster focused on "Missing Memories" providing stories surrounding race and racism in rural sociology and RSS's past. While there is much more to find, the final story on the third poster was intentionally chosen to reflect that there are also moments in our collective history that are revelatory for different reasons. Difficult stories such as this one need to be remembered alongside the others so that we don't forget how they became hidden from our history in the first place. *(Continued next page)*

Historian's Display 2022 & 2023 Rural Sociological Society Annual Conferences

Rural Sociology's Hidden History of Race, Racism and Social Justice

Booker T. Washington

W. E. B. Du Bois

Charles S. Johnson

Unearthing and piecing together a neglected and forgotten past is an unending project.

The First RSS Social Justice Resolution

Whereas the membership of the Society includes persons of other than the White race, be it resolved that meetings of the Society be held at places which are accessible to or which provide appropriate accommodations to other than those of the White race, and that all members be fully advised of this fact in advance of the meeting in order that none shall stay away for fear of a lack of accommodations.

Edward B. Williams

Vernon D. Malan

Lewis Wade Jones

Minnie Miller Brown

William P. Kuvlesky

11 Priorities

The Rest of the Story

From the RSS Historian

(continued)

In addition to the posters, display copies of publications by individuals featured on the posters were provided. Display publications also included related works such as the chapters on minoritized populations from two RSS decennial volumes, the articles “Emancipatory Empiricism: The Rural Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois” by Joseph Jakubek and Spencer D. Wood, “Institutions Under Influence: The Case of Knowledge Stratification Within the U.S. Land Grant System” by Rosalind Harris, “The Decline of Black Farmers and Strategies for Survival” by Robert Zabawa, Arthur Siaway and Ntam Baharanyi, and Bill Kuvlesky’s call to begin the Race and Ethnicity RIG in RSS from *The Rural Sociologist*.

Just as thought was given to which parts of our history that had been unearthed so far to include on the three posters, so too was thought given to its visual design. For both the poster and the booklet, the brick wall was chosen to represent the barrier that separates us from our forgotten discipline’s past and the figures who lived there. The nature of the barrier includes implicit and explicit racism, access to knowledge of our collective history, and how some aspects of our history get talked about yet others are not.

For the first looks beyond the barrier, I chose a forest background image for its symbolic pathway through the forest to reflect the journey of deciphering a forgotten past from the dense forest of people, events, and personalities living there.

A smaller image was used for the section title pages. For these, a brick pathway was chosen to represent breaking down the brick wall to create a pathway into the future. Finally, for the expository sections, the brick wall is dismantled to reveal a blue sky symbolizing bringing into the light what we have forgotten and need to remember.

As true now as it was then, in 1978 Thomas Durant concluded the final report for what had begun as the RSS’ Predominantly Negro Land-Grant College (PNLGC) subcommittee by asking: “Are we ready and prepared to meet the challenges of the latter half of the century? Are we satisfied with the RSS as it was, as it is, or as we sit and hope it to be? ... a new day is dawning. Let’s meet the challenges of that day” (RSS 1978b:17).¹

To help ensure more longevity than a conference display, this booklet was created for the 2023 RSS conference and copies were available for members to take home. At the end of the booklet are citations to works included in the display as well as additional resources for anyone interested in pursuing more. This is far from an exhaustive list, but it is intended to reflect some of the many works and people in rural sociology over the decades. Since no project is really ever done until it is published, a manuscript for our journal *Rural Sociology* based on the display and booklet is being prepared.

It is my sincere hope that the display, booklet, and coming journal article will be but one of many efforts to come and will help shape both our knowledge of our past as well as generate discussions about the road we want to build for our future.

Julie N. Zimmerman
RSS Historian
University of Kentucky
July 2023

¹For more, see the last story in the section “Forgotten Memories.”

A close-up photograph of a brick wall. The wall is made of reddish-brown bricks with visible mortar. In the center, there is a rectangular opening. Through this opening, a stone path leads away from the viewer, flanked by lush green foliage. The text "Forgotten Footsteps" is overlaid in white on the opening.

Forgotten Footsteps

Booker T. Washington



THE RURAL NEGRO AND THE SOUTH ¹

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

THE RURAL NEGRO COMMUNITY

By BOOKER T. WASHINGTON,
Principal, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama.

In some circles, **Booker T. Washington** is often best remembered for founding Tuskegee University, the Moveable School, or how Tuskegee played a role in creating Cooperative Extension leading to Thomas M. Campbell being the first African American Extension agent (eg. James 1971; Jones 1979, Mayberry 1991; Scott 1970). For others, Washington is best remembered in stark contrast to Du Bois with the former characterized as an accommodationist and the latter as a protest leader (e.g. Dagbovie 2007).

Yet, as the many decades of scholarship has found, Washington was more complex than either of these interpretations (e.g. Bauerlein 2004; Boston 2010; White 2018) – especially when understood in the context of the brutal racial violence in the South at the time (Norrell 2003) or, as Lasch-Quinn (1993) argued, how Washington’s focus on community change was obscured under a veil of vocational education. In 2020, Earl Wright proffered another interpretation of Washington’s work arguing for “Tuskegee’s recognition as the nation’s first program of applied rural sociology” particularly Washington’s Tuskegee Negro Conferences (2020:82).

A.M.E. Church Review. Vol: 15. April 1899

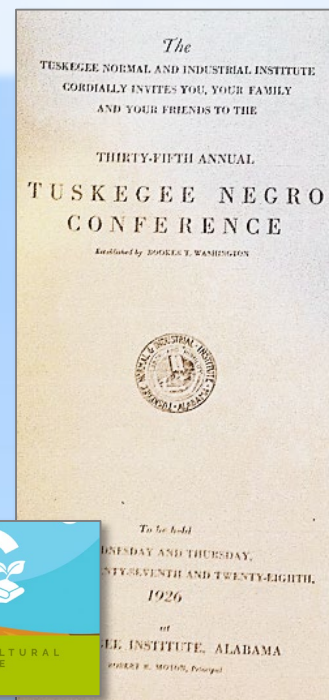
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HOW I CAME TO CALL THE FIRST NEGRO
CONFERENCE.

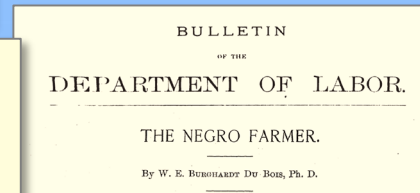
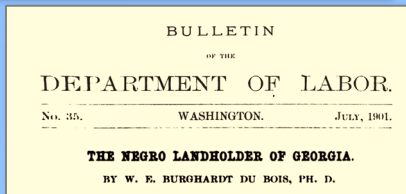
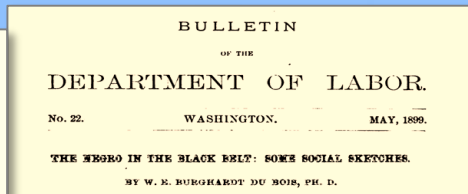
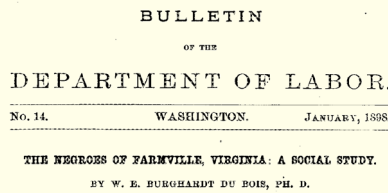
In 1892 Booker T. Washington began the Tuskegee Farmer’s Conference. Each year the conferences focused on improving not just farming but health, home and rural life as well.

What began 130 years ago continues today in both the continuing annual Farmer’s Conferences and in the annual meetings of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC).

Over the years, current and former RSS members have been active in the PAWC including Robert Zabawa and Ntam Baharanyi (Tuskegee University), Rosalind Harris (University of Kentucky), and Dreamal Worthen (Florida A & M University).

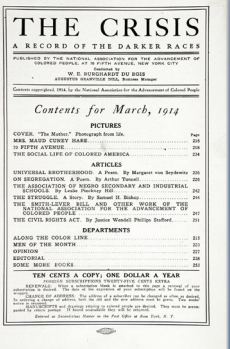
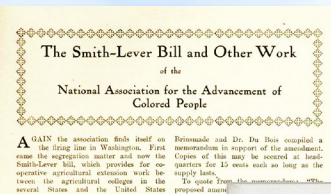


W. E. B. Du Bois



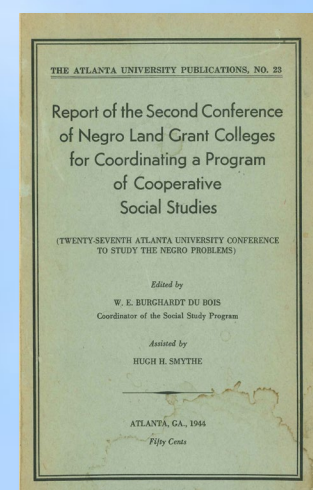
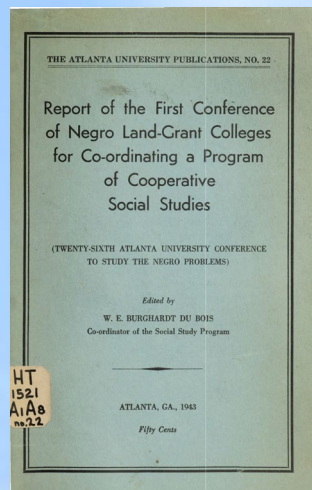
Nearly 20 years before Charles Galpin, **W.E.B. Du Bois** conducted five studies on rural life (Du Bois 1898; 1899; 1901; 1904). After approaching Carroll Wright, US Commissioner of Labor, Du Bois' research combined local community research and regional data to assess Black communities in the South.

Censored by the Department of Labor, the fifth study was never published.



In the early years of the NAACP and with Du Bois as editor of *The Crisis*, the NAACP "mounted a campaign" to affect what would be passed as the Smith-Lever bill establishing the Cooperative Extension System. Alarmed that the proposed bill did not include language specifying that funds be allocated to Black colleges, as part of the effort, Du Bois co-authored a memorandum with NAACP lawyer Chapin Brinsmade providing data for Senator Wesley Jones' amendment (NAACP 1914; Harris 2008; Seals 1991).

When Du Bois returned to Atlanta University after working at the NAACP, he sought to re-establish his earlier research program. As part of that effort, he turned to the Presidents of the 1890 Land Grants. In 1943 and 1944, Du Bois organized the First and Second Conferences of the Negro Land Grant Colleges to initiate and bring together research on African Americans conducted at the institutions (Du Bois 1943; 1944).



While Du Bois was included in the first textbook on rural sociology (Gillette 1913) and some recent rural sociologists included Du Bois's DOL research as the first comprehensive study and the first federally funded studies of rural life (eg. Buttell, Larson, and Gillespie 1990:3; Larson and Zimmerman 2003:22), it was not until 2018 that Jakubek and Wood argued that Du Bois was "one of the first American sociologists to use empirical sociological methods to observe rural people and places" (2018:14).

Charles S. Johnson



THE PLACE AND IMPORTANCE OF POPULATION STUDIES IN RELATION TO THE NEGRO POPULATION OF THE SOUTH*

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
Fisk University

Charles S. Johnson was a professor and the first African American president at Fisk University. For Johnson, he strongly held that social science research could produce facts and statistics that could be used to counter prevailing racist stereotypes. In his article "Place and Importance of Population Studies...", Johnson wrote: "Population studies and the projection of population trends cannot divorce themselves from basic economic realities and contingencies which are, in our southern economy, influenced by the historical racial division of the population" (1941:29).

Key among Johnson's research was his 1934 book *Shadow of the Plantation*. A 1938 assessment of rural sociology research conducted in collaboration with the Rural Sociological Society noted how Johnson's book was "one of the best examples" of any research examining rural culture (Rural Sociological Society (RSS) and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE) 1938:13).

SHADOW OF THE PLANTATION

By
CHARLES S. JOHNSON
Fisk University

Rural Sociology
Published Quarterly

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RURAL SOCIOLOGY
Devoted to Scientific Study of Rural Life

VOLUME 1 MARCH, 1936 NUMBER 1

Greetings to the New Quarterly . . . Charles Joseph Galpin

Statement of Policy . . . Editorial Board

National Policy and Rural Public Welfare . . . E. L. Morgan

Size of Family and Parental Traits . . . W. C. McKim and N. L. Whetten

Localization of Dependency in Rural Areas . . . J. O. Babcock

Population Mobility . . . C. E. Lively

"Lynchville" During the Depression . . . Carl C. Zimmerman, et al.

National Policies and Rural Organization . . . Lowrey Nelson

County Organization in Virginia . . . B. L. Hummel

Recent Bulletin . . . Charles P. Loomis et al.

Book Reviews

News Items and Announcements . . . Contributed

Published by the
RURAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Formed to have broad representation of those working in rural sociology, Charles S. Johnson was among the founding board of contributing editors for the newly established journal *Rural Sociology* (RSS 1936).

STATISTICAL ATLAS OF SOUTHERN COUNTIES

LISTING AND ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICES OF 1104 SOUTHERN COUNTIES

By
CHARLES S. JOHNSON

In 1941, Johnson published the *Statistical Atlas of Southern Counties*. Not just a compendium of data, in her review, Margaret Hagood pointed out that a major contribution was its classification scheme for differentiating counties in the region (1941). T. Lynn Smith wrote; "the second chapter... is one of the best available summaries and descriptions of the fundamental patterns of culture in the Southern region" (1942:270).



**Lost
Literatures**

Allen B. Doggett Jr.

THE HAMPTON BULLETIN

Vol. XIX October, 1923 No. 4

THREE NEGRO COMMUNITIES IN TIDEWATER VIRGINIA

BY ALLEN B. DOGGETT, JR.



The Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va., and the United States Department of Agriculture Co-operating

Issued in February, March, April, May, October, and December by the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va.

Entered as second-class matter May 23, 1917 at the Post Office at Hampton, Virginia, under the act of August 24, 1912

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1106, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 3, 1918

Allen B. Doggett graduated from Dartmouth in 1910. Entering the Extension Service in 1918, the next year he joined Hampton University where he taught rural sociology. Two years after his Bulletin was reviewed in the *Southern Workman*, Doggett became editor of the publication.

Doggett's research on the three African American communities was conducted through one of the many cooperative agreements devised by Charles Galpin when he was head of the USDA's Division of Farm Population and Rural Life (Larson and Zimmerman 2003). It was one of three agreements with HBCUs at that time, but the only one to produce a publication (Oliver 2003:181).

Doggett began his research in 1922. The next year, Galpin joined Doggett visiting schools and farms in Gloucester County – the initial study county (No Author 1923:584).

The Southern Workman

Published monthly by
The Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute

For the American Country Life Association, Galpin described Doggett's work this way: "The Bulletin tells the story of three groups of colored people, where leadership and hard thinking have prevailed over a period of years, won out" (Galpin 1924:219). Doggett's bulletin would be widely cited in rural sociology for decades to come.

An update in the 1924 *South Workman* reported that Doggett was conducting a second study with the Division (No Author 1924:378). This could have been one of the unpublished or ongoing research conducted through cooperative agreements with the Division. Galpin (1924b:8) lists a project on farm housing and farm conditions being conducted with William E. Garnett, Doggett, and J. B. Pierce (the second African American Extension agent in the U.S.). It is not known if the results were ever published.

Help in the preparation of the bulletin was given by the students in Mr. Doggett's course in rural sociology as a part of their training. With the guidance of selected members of the communities, every family reported on was visited, a schedule of questions was filled out, and miscellaneous impressions and facts were recorded. From the completeness and apparent accuracy of the data, the people visited had nothing but the warmest sympathy for the work and perfect willingness to co-operate. The bulletin itself stands as a good example of what a rural community survey may be, and its three chapters are unquestionably a challenge to all other rural communities to "go and do likewise."

—D. F. F.

Section of the review in *The Southern Workman* 53(2), 1924.

Minnie Miller Brown



**Minnie Miller Brown:
A Legacy of Leadership, Advocacy,
and Action**

Gladys G. Shelton and Sherman N. Shelton

NC STATE University

Celebrating the women who led NC's home demonstration movement

Minnie Brown was a pioneer in Extension, providing national leadership in creating the national EFNEP program (Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program); the first national nutrition program for low-income populations.

A Study Of North Carolina Negro Homemakers



EXTENSION EVALUATION STUDY NO. IV
Published By
THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Agricultural History, 1976, 50(1), Bicentennial Symposium:
Two Centuries of American Agriculture. pp. 202-212

BLACK WOMEN IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

MINNIE MILLER BROWN

Rural Sociology 44(1), 1979, pp. 153-175
Copyright © 1979 by the Rural Sociological Society

Successful Black Farmers: Factors in Their Achievement¹

Minnie M. Brown and Olaf F. Larson
Department of Rural Sociology, Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York²

Journal of Extension, Fall 1965 // Volume 3 // Number 3
<https://archives.joe.org/joe/1965fall/index.php>

Extension and Poverty

Many poor families are multiproblem families
but have a real desire to improve and a
willingness to make real effort

MINNIE M. BROWN
and
C. PAUL MARSH



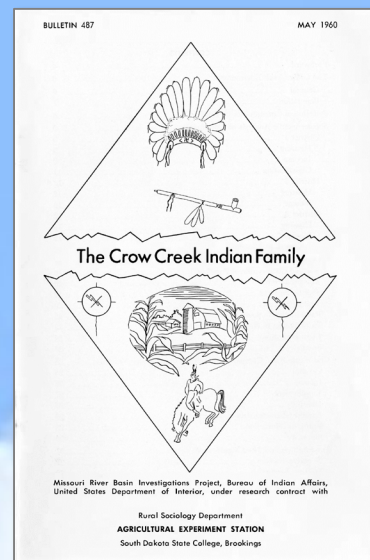
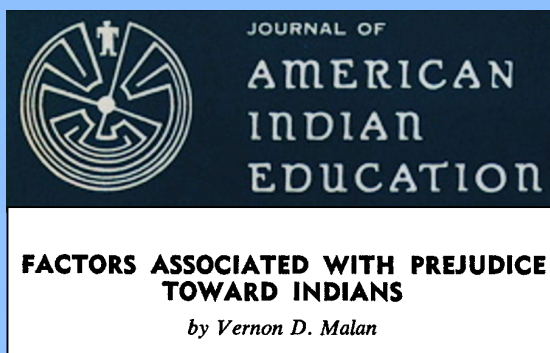
Focused on the rural poor, minorities, and women, for the first 20 years of her career, Minnie worked in a segregated system. At North Carolina A&T, she provided state-wide leadership for Negro Home Demonstration Work. After integration, she moved to North Carolina State University joining with Paul Marsh to continue their "first of its kind" research on African American homemakers. While serving four times as a visiting or adjunct professor at Cornell, she conducted research with Olaf Larson on the Black farmer. Together, they took part in the Congressional Black Caucus Workshop on Blacks in Agriculture (Zimmerman 2020).



Ways of adjusting programs to meet changing needs of rural people were discussed by Negro extension supervisors from 14 States at Dublin, Ga. regional workshop. Committee chairmen and consultants were (left to right): Mrs. Minnie M. Brown, N. C.; Ashford O. Williams, La.; R. A. Sanders, Tex.; A. S. Bacon, Ga. (now with Federal Extension Service); Mrs. Ezelle M. Hawkins, Md.; Dr. Grady W. Taylor, Ala.; and S. E. Marshall, Va.

- 1966** - USDA Award for Superior Service
- 1974** - First Black female elected president of the North Carolina Adult Education Association
- 1980** - Winthrop Rockefeller Awards for Distinguished Rural Service
- 1987** - First person of color, the first African American, and the second woman to receive the RSS award for Distinguished Service to Rural Life.
- 1989** - First African American to be awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

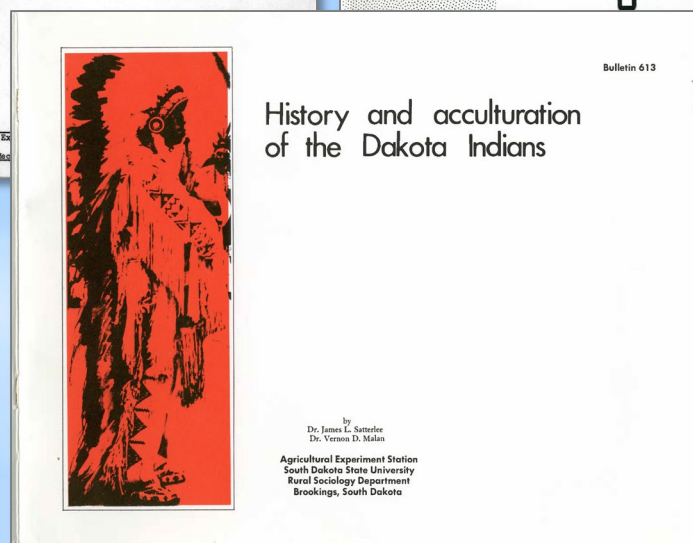
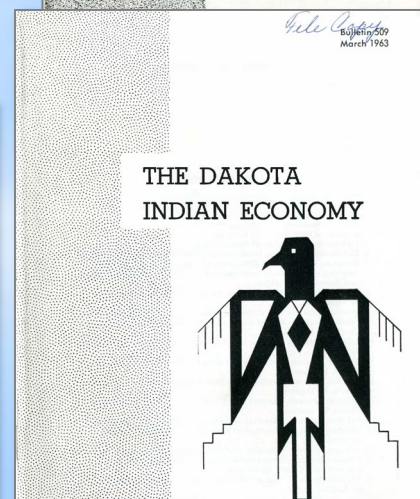
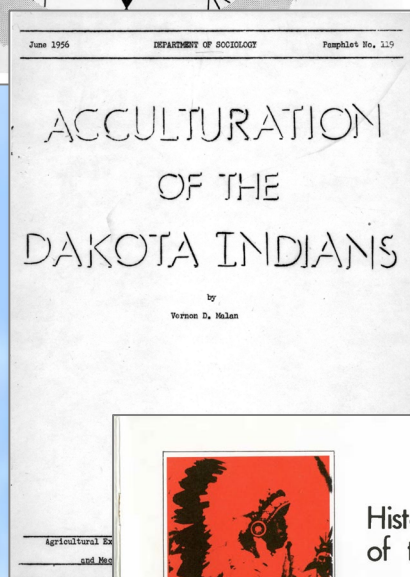
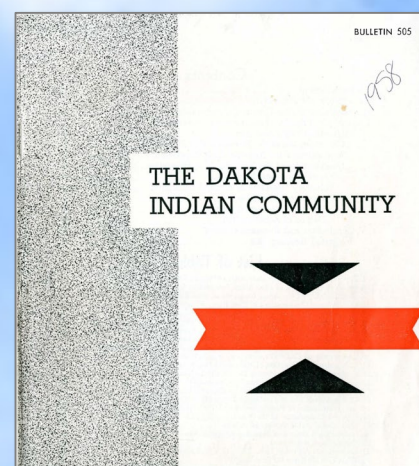
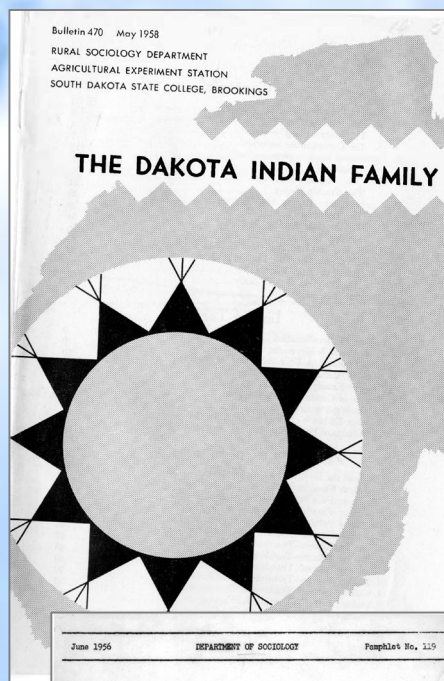
Vernon D. Malan



Vernon D. Malan was a professor in the Department of Rural Sociology at South Dakota State University from 1953-1965 and served as a member of the North Central Regional Rural Sociology committee (NCR-5).

While at South Dakota State, he published extensively on Native Americans with much of his research focused on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

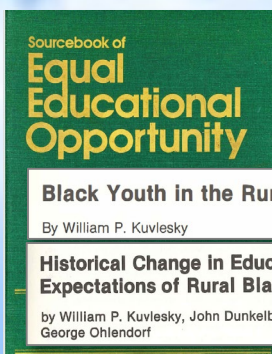
In 1965 he joined the faculty at Oregon State University. Two years later, he died in a car accident. His obituary notes that he extended "considerable energy toward effecting changes on the reservation; he sponsored Indian students at colleges, he worked for needed new legislation, and he assisted in the mobilization of resources" (Plambek and Jesser 1970:383).



William P. Kuvlesky



Bill Kuvlesky's research focused on "exploring the factors that lead to systematic disadvantage for low income and minority youth" challenging the view "that minorities were disadvantaged due to their 'pathological subculture'" (Falk et al 2008). As part of this work, he led several long-term studies for the USDA through the Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station including research examining Mexican Americans in Texas (Salinas, Bagnall and Kuvlesky 1973) and a collaborative project with Prairie View A&M (eg. Jimenez 1974). While active in rural sociology research in the South, he was also critical of those efforts for not paying attention to issues of race (Kuvlesky 1974; 1975).



David E. Wright / Esteban Salinas / William P. Kuvlesky

Opportunities for Social Mobility for Mexican-American Youth

Mexican American Youth and the American Dream

William P. Kuvlesky
Rumaldo Z. Juarez

Black Youth in the Rural South: An Overview

By William P. Kuvlesky

Historical Change in Educational Aspirations and Expectations of Rural Black Youth in the South

by William P. Kuvlesky, John Dunkelberger, V. A. Boyd, Melvin Knapp, and George Ohlendorf

PR-3194
Junc. 1973

MEXICAN AMERICANS--A SURVEY OF RESEARCH BY THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, 1964-73

Esteban Salinas, Ruth M. Bagnall and William P. Kuvlesky*

In addition to his own research, Kuvlesky was the moving force behind creating the Race and Ethnicity RIG in RSS. In his 1989 article in TRS – "Rural Sociology and Ethnic Minorities" – Kuvlesky recounted earlier work around race and ethnicity in RSS and called for interested RSS members to come together and join the newly formed RIG (1989:32; RSS Council 1990:53).



The Rural Sociologist

Summer 1989

RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

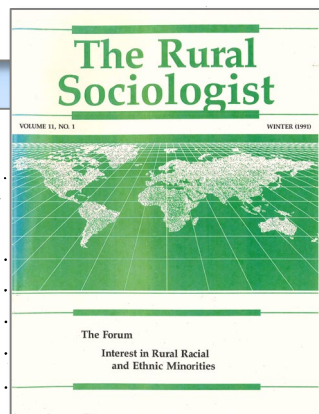
WILLIAM P. KUVLESKY*

RURAL U.S.A. PERSISTENCE AND CHANGE

9 Rural Ethnic Minorities: Adaptive Response to Inequality

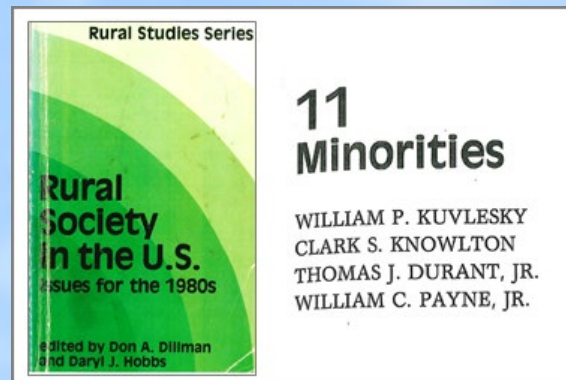
THOMAS J. DURANT, JR.
CLARK S. KNOWLTON

edited by
THOMAS R. FORD



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The Indian Wars, Again?	C. Matthew Snipp
Institutional Discrimination in Agriculture Programs	William C. Payne, Jr.
Sociological Imagination	
Federal Farm Programs and the Limited Resource Farmer: A Black Perspective	Gail L. Dishongh and Dreamal I. Worthen



11 Minorities

WILLIAM P. KUVLESKY
CLARK S. KNOWLTON
THOMAS J. DURANT, JR.
WILLIAM C. PAYNE, JR.

Kuvlesky presciently ended his call for others to join the newly established RIG by saying "In reference to rural minorities, I suspect their general interests and needs will receive little attention unless we in rural sociology focus some of our attention on them" (1989:34).

Lewis Wade Jones



Lewis Wade Jones' career spanned working with Charles S. Johnson at Fisk University, serving as Research Director at Tuskegee's Rural Life Council, and as the Director of the Tuskegee Institute Rural Development Research Center for more than a decade.

RURAL SOCIOLOGY

VOLUME 15 MARCH, 1950 NUMBER 1

The Place of the Negro Farmer in the Changing Economy of the Cotton South

By Ernest E. Neal and Lewis W. Jones†

The Changing Status of Negro Southerners

By LEWIS W. JONES
Professor of Sociology, Tuskegee Institute

NEGRO YOUTH IN THE SOUTH

by LEWIS W. JONES

By LEWIS W. JONES

Social Centers in the Rural South

THE NEGRO FARMER

LEWIS W. JONES

Director of Research, Rural Life Council, Tuskegee Institute

RURAL BLACKS - A VANISHING POPULATION

by

Lewis W. Jones, Tuskegee Institute
Everett S. Lee, University of Georgia

DEMOGRAPHY OF DISADVANTAGE IN ALABAMA

PROBLEMS AND SPECIAL NEEDS OF NEGRO YOUTH IN RURAL AREAS

by

Lewis W. Jones
Fisk University

The South's Negro Farm Agent

LEWIS W. JONES

Director of Research, Rural Life Council, Tuskegee Institute

Rural Development Research

Lewis W. Jones
Tuskegee Institute

RURAL RESEARCH NEEDS

by

Lewis W. Jones, Director
Rural Development
Research Center
Tuskegee Institute

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE
JUGUST 1973

Cold Rebellion

The South's Oligarchy in Revolt

Dr. Jones' book would earn him banning if the United States were following South Africa's way in race relations. It is, however, an indication of America's racial tensions that no American publisher would accept the book. This is a great pity, for there is valuable historical material in the volume as well as plenty of evidence of the more recent efforts of the South's oligarchy to nullify the laws of their nation and the decisions of its courts on matters of race relations.

All this and more is familiar. The unique value of this book is that it reveals a Southern Negro, a highly competent sociologist, applying the techniques of his profession to an analysis of race relations in the South. Jones' sympathies are clear but his presentation is objective, loaded with facts and illustrated with well-chosen case vignettes. It is to be hoped that some American publisher will make this volume available here.

EDMUND DE S. BRUNNER

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW

Official Journal of the American Sociological Society

VOLUME 20

FEBRUARY, 1955

NUMBER 1

THE HINTERLAND RECONSIDERED

LEWIS W. JONES

Tuskegee Institute

Jones was one of the few African American scholars who published in the *American Sociological Review* (Cunnigen 2006:106; Jones 1955). Just a few years before he passed in 1979, Jones put to paper his long-earned insights into the research needs of rural sociology (1973) and research at 1890 Land Grant institutions (1977).

A brick wall with a rectangular opening. The opening reveals a stone path leading through green foliage. The text "Missing Memories" is centered over the opening.

Missing Memories

The First RSS Social Justice Resolution

On the 29th of August 1947, RSS passed its first social justice resolution. It happened because of the **1947 conference location at Fontana Village in North Carolina**. There was a problem that attendees did not know about until after they arrived – **Fontana Village was segregated**. Enraged, a prominent RSS member spearheaded the effort for the Society to resolve not to hold its conferences at establishments that did not accept all RSS members.

It came at the end of the eight resolutions passed at the second business meeting held during the conference. Approximately 60 of the 121 conference participants attended the meeting.

As reported in the minutes, the resolutions were “discussed at some length, amended several times and adopted part by part” (Tate 1947: 457). The first two resolutions provided thanks to Fontana Village noting that the meeting had been “highly enjoyable with conditions and accommodations having been found to our satisfaction” and that “those attending this meeting go on record as favoring” meetings held during the summer that combined professional business and family recreation (Tate 1947:457).

It was the final resolution passed that read:

**“Whereas the membership of the Society includes persons of other than the White race,
Be It Resolved that meetings of the Society be held at places which are accessible to or which provide appropriate accommodations to other than those of the White race,
and that all members be fully advised of this fact in advance of the meeting in order that none shall stay away for fear of a lack of accommodations.”**

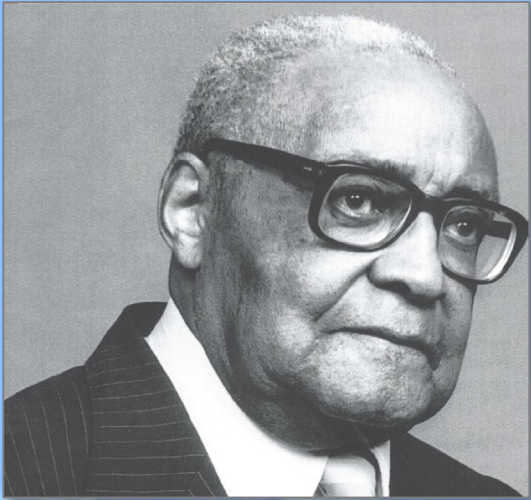


Segregation in the South
Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Collection



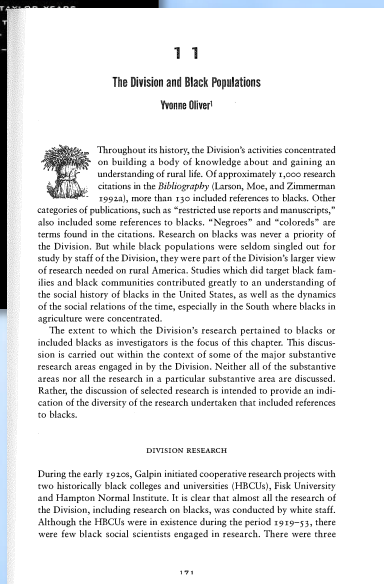
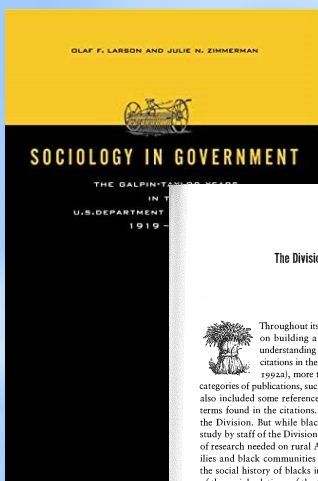
Fontana Village in the 1940s
Southern Appalachian
Digital Collections

Edward B. Williams



Edward B. Williams of Morehouse College was the **only African American employed in a professional position** (1943-44) by the USDA's Division of Farm Population and Rural Life. Located within the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAE), the Division was the first unit of the federal government devoted to sociological research. Williams came to work for the Division through Ira de A. Reid who recommended Williams for a temporary position in the Atlanta regional office. **As a social science analyst, he conducted research alongside the white staff for the reconnaissance surveys in four counties:** Coahoma and Calhoun in MS; Dallas in AL; and Union in SC.

Williams studied under Du Bois while a graduate student at Atlanta University (Yancy 1978). Receiving his PhD from Columbia University, he went on to become the second and longest serving chair of the Division of Business Administration and Economics at Morehouse College. Today, the department's highest student recognition is named in his honor ("E. B. Williams Honor Ceremony").



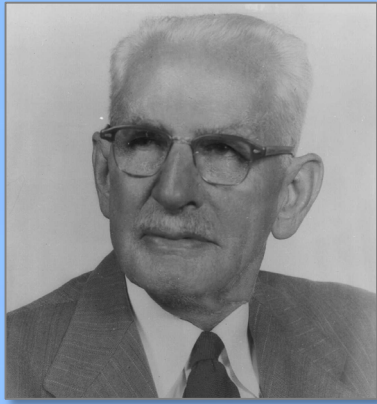
Yvonne Oliver interviewed Williams as part of her chapter on the Division's research concerning African Americans for the book *Sociology in Government* (Larson and Zimmerman 2003). Even though Williams experienced "social sanctions and norms" of the day, as she summarized: **"The BAE was probably the least racist part of the USDA, and the least racist in the federal government."**

However, as she goes on to note: "While fairly progressive, as indicated by its professed commitment to helping rural blacks, **the BAE was, nonetheless, a product of its time...**" (Oliver 2003:184).

Oliver sums up her assessment of the Division's research on Black populations this way:

"... it is apparent that if the information that was collected and if some of the lessons learned, especially from the county reconnaissance studies, had become the basis for policy decisions, some of the racial tensions of later years may have been prevented" (Oliver 2003:185).

Segregation and the USDA Cafeteria



Carl C. Taylor
RSS President 1939-1940

As Conrad Taeuber wrote in Carl Taylor's obituary:

"He saw nothing out of the ordinary in risking an established position by expressing concern for rural Blacks in the South long before the government was aware of their plight" (1975).

Olaf Larson recounted the story of working at the USDA in an interview ... "At the start of World War II, Washington was described as a sleepy southern town. It had **deeply entrenched patterns of racial segregation**. I found this to be uncomfortable and observed first-hand the **patterns of discrimination against Blacks**. At that time, these patterns carried over into federal government practice.

"In the South Agriculture Building, where my office was, all of the cleaning work was done by African-American women, the elevator was not automatic but was operated by African-Americans, usually women as I remember. **No Black could eat in the government cafeteria and dining rooms**. The only eating facility in the South Agriculture Building for them when I first went to Washington was a small stand-up food services in the basement. This got changed, however."

"One day Dr. Carl Taylor, head of the Farm Population Division, had as a visitor a distinguished Black sociologist from Fisk University [possibly Charles S. Johnson]. He took his guest to have lunch with him in the executive dining room in the South Building. They were **refused service**."

"This so incensed **Dr. Taylor** that when a new cafeteria was scheduled to be opened in the South Building, soon after that incident, he **took initiatives which resulted in a widespread understanding that when the cafeteria opened it would be on a desegregated basis**. It was without any incidents. That **started the desegregation of dining facilities in the South Building and elsewhere in government buildings**."



"A Conversation with Olaf Larson" (Part 3)

The Rural Sociologist

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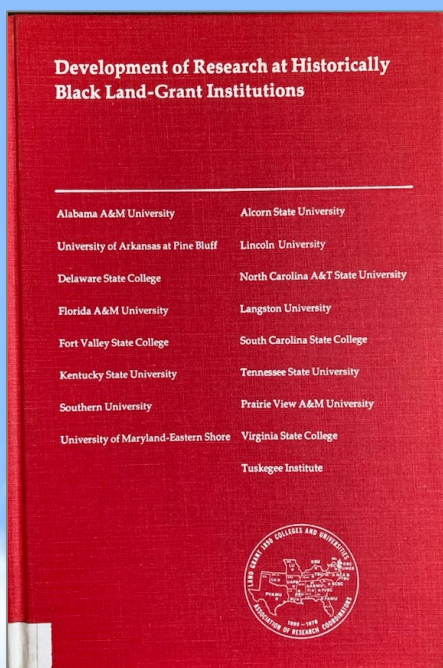
Born in 1910, Olaf Larson is the oldest living member of the Rural Sociological Society. Realizing this, Edie Pigg suggested that Olaf be interviewed for TRS. The following is the third and final installment in "A Conversation with Olaf Larson" which is based on a series of written and oral interviews conducted with Olaf during the Fall/Winter of 2005.

As a graduate student, Olaf was present at the founding meetings of our own Rural Sociological Society. Accordingly, it seemed appropriate that the majority of the questions for this series be generated by current students in rural sociology. With the assistance of graduate students at the University of Kentucky, 10 questions were selected. A complete copy of the interview will be placed in the RSS archives.



Olaf F. Larson
RSS President 1957-1958

Research Funding at 1890 Land Grant Universities



B.D. Mayberry, who was on the committee of 1890 presidents, recounts the story and the role that RSS played in his book

Development of Research at Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions.



In January 1969, **Dr. C. A. Williams** from the **Federal Extension Service** addressed the **RSS Development Committee**. In his presentation, Williams discussed the inequities in the current USDA policies of allocating funding and ways to enhance relationships between sociologists at 1890 and 1862 Land Grants. He ended by asking “**what is the role of the Development Committee and the Rural Sociological Society in motivating, establishing, and coordinating relationships between social scientists of the land-grant institutions in a State?**” ([1977]:48).

EXHIBIT 15: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREDOMINANTLY NEGRO LAND-GRANT COLLEGES

From the beginning, the philosophy of the Rural Sociological Society and this committee has been that it will respond to requests from the 1890 institutions rather than take action for, on behalf of, or directed at these institutions.

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In response to Williams’ presentation, the RSS Development Committee formed the Predominantly Negro Land-Grant College Subcommittee (PNLGC). Led by Tom Ford, the subcommittee included Morgan C. Brown from Southern University and R.D. Morrison who was president of Alabama A&M (RSS 1971). The group developed five recommendations which were presented at a plenary during the 1969 RSS conference in San Francisco and received full endorsement from the RSS. **The subcommittee also proposed that their recommendations be presented to the Secretary of Agriculture.**

George Beal, then RSS president, secured a meeting with USDA Secretary Clifford M. Hardin. Among the outcomes of the meeting, a group of presidents from several 1890 Land Grants and Tuskegee was formed to continue working on how to increase USDA support. Along with efforts by others including National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), **the funding became a reality.**

“The Rest of the Story...”

After the small but pivotal role that the RSS played in increasing research funding for the 1890 Land Grant universities, efforts to increase research and linkages with the 1890 universities continued. However, **in contrast to its previous success, this effort was met with limited support as Council challenged the committee’s work.**

In 1974, Bill Kuvlesky and Thomas Durant convened members of the former Predominantly Negro Land-Grant College (PNLGC) subcommittee to “rejuvenate the dormant... committee” (RSS 1974:33). In addition to Kuvlesky and Durant, those present included Tom Ford (RSS President 1972-1973 and chair of the PNLGC), Grady Taylor (Tuskegee University), Dempsey Seastrunk (Texas A&M), Maurice Voland (NC State), Freddie L. Richards (Kentucky State University), and James I. Kirkwood (Prairie View A&M University).

As noted in the meeting’s report, since the original committee had been established by an RSS president, **“it is left up to the Committee to define its tasks and recommend means of achieving these tasks to the RSS Council”** (RSS 1974:33). Despite this, **Council challenged the Committee’s efforts** stating that it should pursue a different focus and a different course of action than what the Committee had already developed and was working on (RSS 1976a:15).

After continued conflicting signals from Council, the **last report from the committee came only two years later** (RSS 1978b:16-17). Frustrated, **the group requested that Council clarify the Committee’s role**, provide recommendations for action, provide both moral and financial support, and that a plenary session at an upcoming conference be organized that would focus on cooperative work “between 1890 and 1862 schools in the South” (RSS 1978b:16-17).

The answer never came. Instead, the minutes reported Council’s response: **“The report was accepted as the committee’s terminal report.** The concern for the continuing needs of such a committee was returned to the Development Committee which was instructed to clarify these needs in light of the current situation” (1978a:7). There was no explanation as to what “the current situation” referred to but the next year’s Development Committee did not report working on the issue.

This was the last mention of the Committee in the Council minutes.



Thomas J. Durant, Jr. earned his PhD in rural sociology in 1973 (University of Wisconsin-Madison). When Durant began his career at LSU, he was one of only six African American professors at the university and the first African American professor had been hired just two years earlier.

Durant’s publications include the chapter on rural minorities for Tom Ford’s edited volume on rural America (1978), co-author on the chapter on minorities for the 1980’s edited volume (Kulesky, Durant and Payne 1982) and most recently the entry on “Cultural Diversity” for Gary Goreham’s *Encyclopedia of Rural America* (2008).



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and
Resources**

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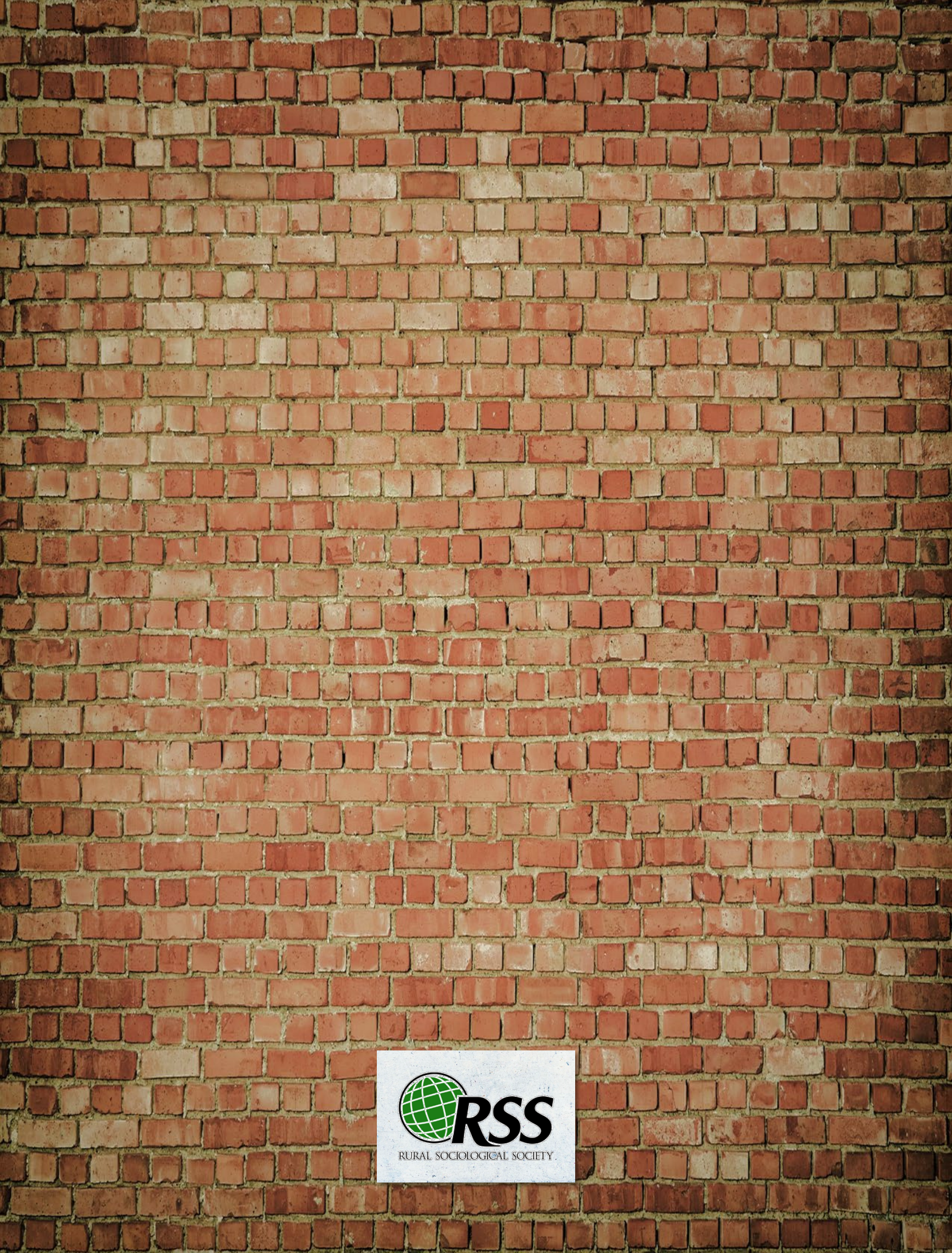
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