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# Some Rural Social Agencies In Missouri

## Their Nature and Extent

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### I. INTRODUCTION

**Purpose:**—This bulletin presents the objectives, functions, and recent accomplishments, as well as the membership and geographic distribution of several of the most widely established social organizations and institutions serving rural Missouri. In this day of rapid social change, considerable interest is being taken in the problems of rural life and rural organization, and increasing emphasis placed upon the social programs designed to solve these problems. Since frequent use is being made of the established institutions and organizations within the rural community in planning, organizing, and carrying out these social programs, some knowledge of the nature and extent of the various social agencies serving rural people seems well nigh essential. Yet, as far as Missouri is concerned, little is known of the geographic distribution, size, and function of rural agencies as a whole. This bulletin is designed to meet the need for such information.

**Scope and Method:**—Since it was not feasible to include all social organizations serving the rural people of Missouri, only those agencies primarily non-economic in character and organized on either a state or national basis were investigated, while all local and purely economic groups were excluded from consideration. If, upon investigation, organizations and agencies were discovered to be distributed in urban areas as well as rural, only the rural distributions were analyzed in any great detail. Each organization was investigated to determine: (1) its general nature and purpose; (2) its structure, including method of financial support; (3) its program of work or method of functioning; (4) the geographic distribution of its activities; and (5) its general accomplishments. Of course, the variation in organizations made it necessary to modify this general method to suit each case.

All data used were obtained from the organizations concerned or from persons associated with them in an official capacity.

**Classification of Organizations and Agencies:**—For purposes of this bulletin, the various social organizations and agencies are classified according to the nature of their function rather than according to size or distribution. This method of classification reveals the real aim and purpose of the organization, but is difficult to apply because of the multiple functioning of most rural agencies. All organizations and agencies are classified as to primary function and grouped in the following manner: Educational Agencies, Religious Agencies, Health Agencies, Welfare Agencies, Socio-economic Betterment Agencies, and Social and Recreational Agencies.

As the term suggests, organizations in the class of Educational Agencies have as their chief function the dissemination of information and the education of people. Under the head of Religious Agencies are included all church groups and other agencies primarily concerned with the practice and maintenance of religious, ethical, and moral codes. Health Agencies are concerned with the prevention of disease and the promotion of health programs. Welfare Agencies include all organizations aiding the dependent and under-privileged members of the population. Socio-economic Betterment Agencies seek to improve social and economic conditions and standards, while the primary function of Social and Recreational Agencies is to provide opportunities for social meetings and recreational activities.

It should be remembered that an organization or agency seldom has but one function, and consequently many groups could be fitted into several of the above classes. However, multiple classification is not used in this report.

**Population Backgrounds:**—According to the Census, there were 3,629,367 persons living in Missouri in 1930. Of this number, 51.2 per cent were urban residents, and 48.8 per cent rural residents, while 30.6 per cent lived on farms.<sup>1</sup> Thus, from the point of view of numbers, Missouri is an urban state since a majority of the population lived in urban areas in 1930. But the State may be regarded as rural in many respects. In the first place, all of the urban population was concentrated in 72 cities located in 53 counties.<sup>2</sup> Second, 62 counties may be classified as strictly rural, since they contained no urban places in 1930. Third, in most of the counties having cities, the larger proportion of the population was rural. Finally, over 85 per cent of the urban population was concentrated in 16 cities having 10,000 or more inhabitants. These were located in 13 counties and accounted for approximately 44 per cent of the total population of the State.

<sup>1</sup>"Rural" territory includes all places of less than 2500 population. "Farm population" includes all persons living on farms regardless of occupation.

<sup>2</sup>Counting St. Louis City as one county, the total number is 115.

## II. EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

### Schools

From the standpoint of the number of operating units, money spent, and number of persons participating in the program, the public school is the most important educational agency in Missouri. Indeed, judged upon this basis, it is probably the largest social agency in the State. The objectives of the public school are too well known to be elaborated upon here, for this institution has been and remains one of the chief means for transmitting certain phases of the cultural heritage from one generation to the next.

In 1938, Missouri had over 950,000 children eligible to attend the schools maintained by the 8,957 school districts of the State.<sup>3</sup> A large majority of the districts employed but one teacher, and only a few as many as four or more. Of the 8,957 districts, 6,888 or more than three-fourths of the total hired one teacher each, and only 824 or less than one-tenth hired 4 or more teachers. In Adair, Bates, Benton, Dent, Mercer, and Vernon counties, at least nine of every ten districts employed only one teacher. On the other hand, in Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Mississippi, and Dunklin counties, one-teacher schools were maintained by less—much less—than one-half of the districts. It is significant to note that all the counties in this latter group are located in the southeastern part of the State.

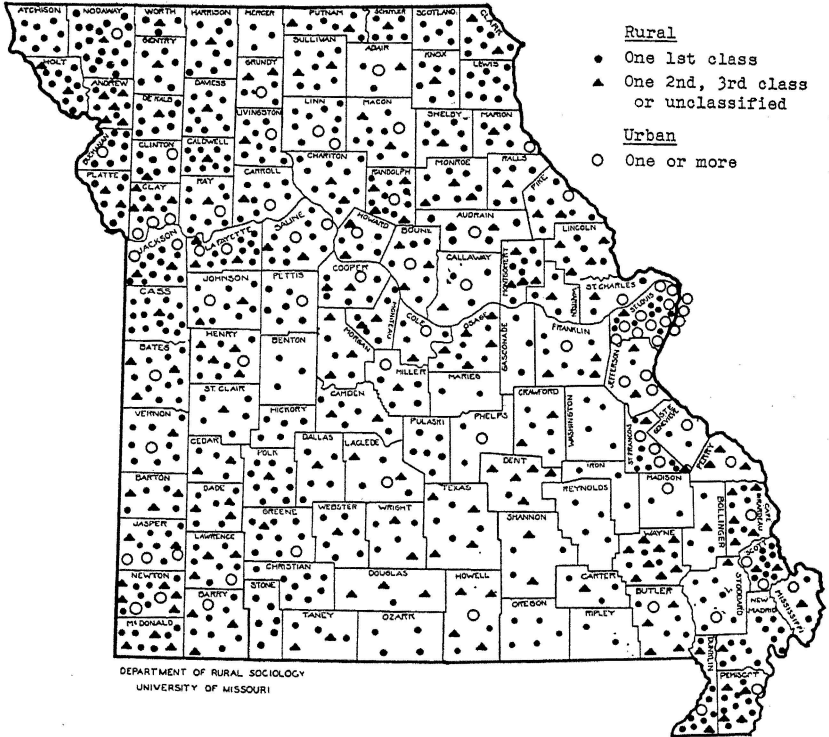
Many districts operate schools even though the number of pupils enrolled is very small. During the school year 1936-37, there were more than 3,700 school districts in Missouri, maintaining schools in which the average daily attendance was less than 15 pupils.<sup>4</sup> This was more than 40 per cent of the total number of districts reported for that year. Considerable variation was found among the counties in regard to this matter. In 42 counties, one-half or more of the school districts had less than 15 pupils in average daily attendance, while in eight counties—Carroll, Clark, Daviess, Grundy, Lewis, Montgomery, Schuyler, and Scotland—this situation occurred in as many as 70 per cent of the districts. On the other hand, in 28 counties less than one-fourth of the districts had fewer than 15 pupils in average daily attendance. Most of this latter group of counties were located in the Ozark Mountain region and the southeastern section of Missouri.

During the school year 1937-38, there were 960 high schools in operation, 823, or 86 per cent, in rural areas, and 137, or 14 per cent, in cities. (See Map 1.) These high schools were grouped into four major

<sup>3</sup>The state school law provides free instruction in public schools for all children aged 6-19 years inclusive.

<sup>4</sup>Data from a special report of the State Department of Education.

classes: first-class, second-class, third-class, and unclassified. Of the 960 high schools, 737 were first-class, 42 second-class, 147 third-class, and 34 unclassified. In rural areas there were 624 first-class high schools, 39 second-class, 136 third-class, and 24 unclassified schools; in cities, 113 first-class, 3 second-class, 11 third-class, and 10 unclassified. All counties had at least one first-class high school, and all counties—with the exception of Perry—had one or more first-class high schools located in rural territory.



Map 1.—Location by counties of 960 first-class, second-class, third-class, and unclassified high schools, 1937-38.

For the school year 1936-37, the assessed property valuation for school purposes in Missouri was more than \$3,500,000,000, or approximately \$3,670 per enumerated person of school age. Receipts for school purposes amounted to over \$67,500,000, of which more than \$12,500,000, was from State Aid funds.<sup>5</sup> The total receipts averaged slightly more than \$66 per enumerated person, and State Aid more than \$13. Expenditures for school purposes for the year amounted to approximately \$50,600,000, or \$53 per enumerated person. Ex-

<sup>5</sup>State Aid includes all funds received from the State for school purposes.

penditure for school purposes averaged more than \$60 per enumerated person in Buchanan, Clay, Clinton, Holt, Jackson, Nodaway, Platte, and St. Louis counties, while in Wright, Taney, Shannon, Reynolds, Perry, Henry, and Butler, the average was less than \$20.

In the rural school districts alone, in 1937, there lived some 282,400 children of school age. More than 195,000 of these, or 70 per cent of the total enumeration, were enrolled in schools. The percentage of the school population enrolled in schools varied considerably from county to county. In Gasconade, Perry, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Scott counties this ratio was less than 50 per cent, while in Benton, Dallas, Dunklin, Laclede, Mississippi, Morgan, New Madrid, Osage, Pemiscot, Ripley and Webster counties more than 85 per cent were enrolled. This variation among counties may be partially attributed to variation in accessibility of elementary schools and high schools and to differences in attitudes toward school attendance. The rural school districts graduated 12,000 pupils from the eighth grade in the spring of 1937, and of this number 7,500, or 63.1 per cent, entered a high school the following fall. In 14 counties more than four-fifths of the eighth grade graduates continued on to high school.

The rural school districts employed 8,519 teachers—1,892 men and 6,627 women. For approximately one-fifth of these teachers, the school year of 1936-37 provided their first teaching experience, and for almost another one-fifth it meant the completion of 10 years of service as a teacher. Evidently, rural school teachers move frequently, since over 42 per cent had completed but one year in their present position and only 3 per cent had served 10 years or more in the districts in which they were teaching in 1936-37. Most of the teachers had attended college or normal school, but few had completed enough work to receive a degree. One-tenth had no college hours to their credit, and only 5.8 per cent had credit for 120 or more college hours.<sup>6</sup>

White male teachers received an average annual salary of \$546, and white female teachers \$510.<sup>7</sup> Since most of the rural schools operate for eight months, male teachers were paid approximately \$68 per month, and female teachers \$65. Considerable difference existed in many counties between the salaries paid to men and salaries paid to women. The average annual salary for male teachers was \$600 or more in 25 counties, but in only 10 counties were women teachers receiving that amount.

The valuation of taxable property for school purposes in rural school districts amounted to approximately \$840,000,000 in 1937.<sup>8</sup> This was

<sup>6</sup>Generally speaking, colleges require 120 credit hours (semester) for a Bachelor's degree.

<sup>7</sup>Salaries of Negro teachers averaged considerably lower.

<sup>8</sup>School year 1936-37.

practically \$3,000 per enumerated person of school age residing in the districts. As is generally known, these property values varied a great deal in different sections of Missouri. Many counties in the southern and southeastern areas had valuations of less than \$1,000 per person, while in many northern counties the values ranged upward to more than \$6,000 per enumerated person. In 1937, the average tax levy for all rural districts in Missouri was 42.4 cents on each \$100 of assessed property value. Twenty-eight counties levied taxes averaging 50 cents or more, and in Carter, Dunklin, Ozark, Reynolds, and St. Francois counties the average levy was more than \$1.00. At the other end of the scale, 33 counties had average tax rates for school purposes ranging between 20 and 30 cents. The value of school property<sup>9</sup> owned by rural school districts amounted to \$15,400,000, or approximately \$55 per enumerated person in these districts. On the whole, the school property values were higher in the northern areas than in the southern areas of the State.

**Vocational Agriculture:**—Federal financing of vocational training in agriculture was established by the Smith-Hughes Act passed by Congress in 1916. The primary objective of this training is to enable present and prospective farmers to secure the information and techniques necessary for proficiency in farming. To do this, training begins at the ninth grade level and consists of both all-day instruction for high school students and part-time and evening instruction for persons not in school, including adults.

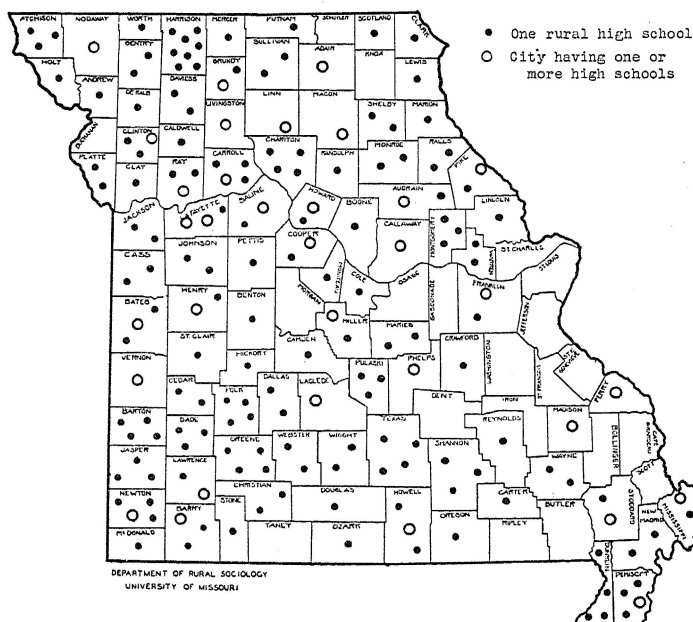
Missouri had 183<sup>10</sup> high schools offering courses in vocational agriculture during the school year 1938-39. Thirty-three of the schools were located in cities, 150 in rural areas, and 82 in places having less than 1,000 population (See Map 2.) Courses in vocational agriculture were taught in one or more high schools located in 94 counties distributed in all sections of the State. During 1938-39 there were over 8,000 students enrolled in these courses. Almost 6,400, or 80 per cent, were enrolled in courses taught in rural high schools, approximately 1,600 in courses in city schools, and more than 3,300 in courses in schools located in places of less than 1,000 persons.

In addition to these all-day instruction classes, part-time courses in vocational agriculture were offered in 38 schools in Missouri, and evening courses in 96 schools. The enrollment in the part-time courses was 834, with an average attendance of 552. The evening school enrollment was 4,215 and the average attendance was 2,259.

One of the more important activities of departments of vocational agriculture in high schools is the sponsoring of the Future Farmers of

<sup>9</sup>School property includes buildings, sites, and equipment.

<sup>10</sup>180 white high schools; 3 colored high schools.



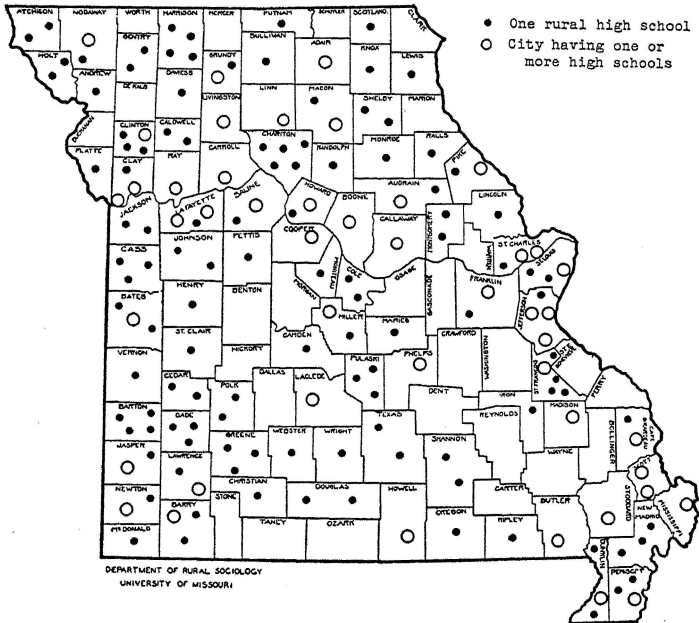
Map 2.—Location by counties of 188 high schools offering courses in vocational agriculture, 1938-39.

America. Organized on a national scale in 1928, the Future Farmers of America now has approximately 3,500 local chapters with 82,000 members in 47 states and in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The chief aims of this organization are: (1) to develop agricultural leadership; (2) to strengthen the confidence of farm boys in themselves and their work; (3) to make occupational selection more intelligent; (4) to improve the rural home and its surroundings; (5) to encourage cooperative effort; (6) to improve scholarship; (7) to encourage organized recreation; and (8) to create a love of country life. Active membership is open to any male student enrolled in all-day, day-unit, or part-time classes in vocational agriculture. In December, 1937, there were 104 chapters of the Future Farmers of America in Missouri, having a total membership of 3,567.<sup>11</sup> Eighty-five chapters with some 2,800 members were located in rural places, and 19 chapters with 760 members in cities.

**Vocational Home Economics:**—The primary aim of instruction in vocational home economics is "the improvement of home and family life through the training of youth and adults for home living in a changing social and economic order." There were 172 high schools in Missouri offering courses in vocational home economics

<sup>11</sup>Data from "Missouri Future Farmer", December, 1937.

during the school year 1938-39. Of this number 56 were located in cities and 116 rural areas. (See Map 3.) Over 9,000 students were enrolled in these home economic classes: 3,964 in classes in city high schools, and 5,172 in classes in rural high schools. In addition, adult home education programs were offered by many schools. The vocational home economics departments also sponsor the Future Homemaker Associations in Missouri. Established in 1933, the purpose of this organization is to assist in the development of personality and ability of the individual members.



Map 3.—Location by counties of 172 high schools offering courses in vocational home economics, 1938-39.

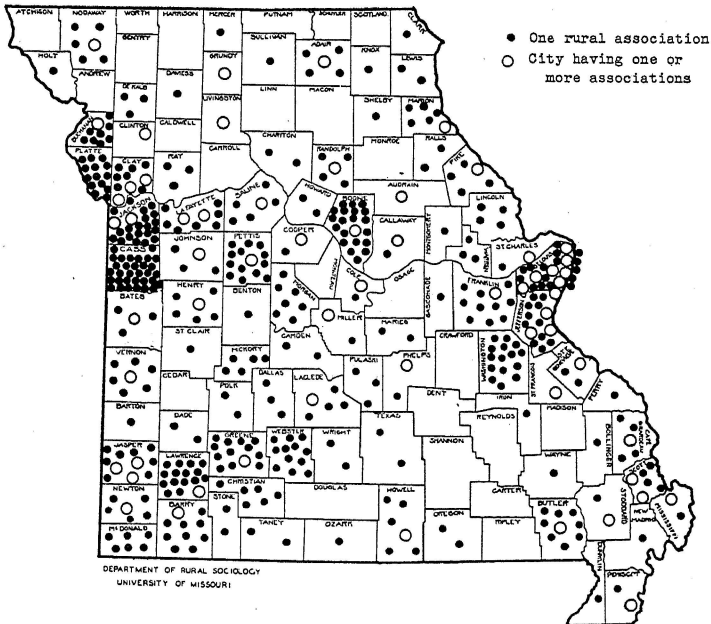
### Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers was organized in Washington, D. C., in 1897. At the present time there are approximately 27,000 local units with a membership of over 2,200,000 in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii. The objectives of the organization are: to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, and community; to secure a closer cooperation between teachers and parents in the intelligent training of the child; to integrate more closely the home and the school; and to secure more adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. Membership is open



to all interested persons, although parents of children in school and school teachers usually predominate.

Organized in 1912, the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers had, in the spring of 1939, almost 1,000 local associations located in 91 counties and the City of St. Louis.<sup>12</sup> (See Map 4.) The counties having associations were situated in all parts of the State, with the exception of the north central section and the southeastern Ozark area.



Map 4.—Location by counties of 998 Parent-Teacher Associations, 1939.

Of the 998 local units in Missouri, 596, or 60 per cent, were located in cities, and 402, or 40 per cent, in rural areas. There were 301 associations in villages having less than 1,000 population. The membership of the organization was approximately 70,000 with 80 per cent of the members belonging to urban chapters and 20 per cent to chapters in rural territory. Most of the rural members belonged to associations in the smaller villages.<sup>13</sup>

The program of the Missouri Congress centers around the home, family life, cooperation of home and school, and community development. Each local association maintains various committees which take the lead in sponsoring the many activities of the units. Some of the more important aspects of the P.T.A. program are: character

<sup>12</sup>Data from State Office of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers.

<sup>13</sup>Places having fewer than 1,000 inhabitants.

education, parent education, recreation, student aid, and child hygiene. In recent years the Missouri Congress has indorsed legislation for the protection of women and children, the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, and a state teacher retirement enabling act. Health campaigns and conferences have been held to demonstrate how children might be free from remedial defects upon entering school. In 1930, a state conference on child development and parent education was sponsored, and more recently courses relating to parent-teacher work have been offered in each of the five teachers colleges in Missouri. In 1935, a "Parent-Teacher Week" was observed in the State for the first time by a Governor's proclamation.

In the local communities the rural Parent Teacher Association functions as a community organization. As such, it participates in the promotion of activities or programs for the benefit of the entire community. For the schools, it raises money for additional equipment, small remodeling jobs, and the purchase of books. Frequently it sponsors parties or social gatherings for children, teachers, and parents, which usually result in a better understanding and closer cooperation among all groups. In addition, the association provides opportunities for adult education, promotes cooperation between home and school, and encourages the utilization of local resources and experiences in meeting the needs of the community.

### **The Agricultural Extension Service**

The purpose of the Agricultural Extension Service is to aid in diffusing among rural people useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics and to encourage the application of this information on the farm and in the home. Improvement of rural standards of living is stressed, as well as methods of more efficient production and distribution. Established by the passage by Congress of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, Agricultural Extension Services have been developed in all states and in many of the territorial possessions.

Agricultural extension work had been started in Missouri prior to the passage of the Smith-Lever Act. Cape Girardeau county began such a program in 1912, and Pettis, Buchanan, Johnson, Dade, Audrain, Jackson, Marion, Scott, and Cooper counties in 1913. Extension activities in these counties were under the supervision of "farm advisors" and were financed by local, county, and private funds.

Cooperative agricultural extension work was initiated in Missouri in 1914. One month after the Smith-Lever Bill became a law, the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri established the Missouri Agricultural Extension Service as an administrative organization with-

in the College. From the first Federal allotment of funds, \$10,000 was made available to Missouri. In addition, the Missouri State Legislature made an appropriation of \$25,000 for extension purposes. These were small sums, indeed, as compared to more than \$786,000 available for Agricultural Extension in Missouri during the fiscal year July 1, 1936, to June 30, 1937.

Supported by national, state, county, and private funds, the Agricultural Extension Service of Missouri operates through a system of county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, supervisors, and subject-matter specialists. The county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents are located in the respective counties and are responsible for administering the extension program in the counties, while the supervisors and subject-matter specialists are attached to the College of Agriculture. The Agricultural Extension Service reaches all areas of Missouri. In 1937, there were 149 county and assistant county agricultural agents serving all counties, and 59 home demonstration and assistant home demonstration agents operating in 65 counties. It is the practice of the Agricultural Extension Service to cooperate with local organizations, both public and private, whenever possible. The facilities and personnel of other agencies are often used in carrying out the Extension program. The Grange, the public schools, the Farm Bureau Federation, the Missouri Farmers' Association, the State Department of Health, the various breed associations, the Farmers' Union, and numerous Federal agencies are but a few of the agencies cooperating with the Agricultural Extension Service in Missouri at both the state and local levels.

The means used by county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents to place the Extension program and its benefits before the people are many and varied. Demonstration meetings are held, farms and homes visited, office calls received, news stories published, circular letters and bulletins issued, achievement days held, tours conducted, radio talks made, and encampments held. Of the various methods of reaching the people, the demonstration meeting is regarded as being the most effective. In 1937, 21,500 meetings were held with over 687,000 persons in attendance; 50,000 farm and home visits were made by county agricultural and home demonstration agents to more than 25,000 different farms and homes; more than a million office and telephone calls were received; 25,200 news articles and stories were published; and approximately 6,140,000 copies of 13,400 different circular letters were mailed.

The work of the county extension and home demonstration agents covers a wide range of activities. Assistance is given rural families in meeting many problems of the farm, home, and community. In-

cluded among these problems are those of (1) growth and improvement of crops; (2) soil conservation; (3) land use planning; (4) control of insect pests; (5) livestock breeding; (6) home management; (7) foods and nutrition; (8) home health and sanitation; (9) clothing; (10) child development and parent education; (11) the development of community centers; and (12) the utilization of community resources.

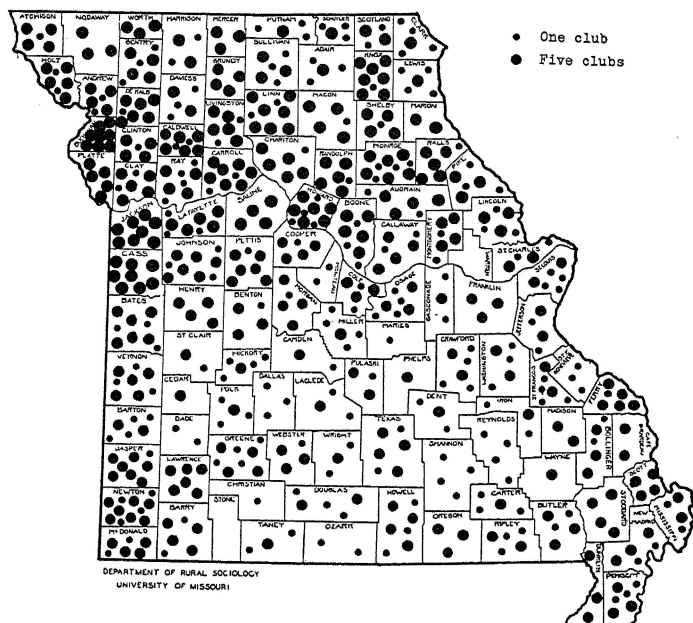
As would be expected, county agricultural agents give most of their time to farm problems, while home demonstration agents deal mostly with the economic problems of the home. This is clearly reflected in the fact that in 1937 less than 1 per cent of the total time of county and home demonstration agents combined was given over to child development and parent education activities, and of the 21,500 demonstration meetings held during that year, less than 1,000 were related to child development and parent education.

Approximately one-fourth of the time of the agents was spent in activities related to Extension organization and community development. Much was accomplished by way of promoting interest in the social problems of the community and in demonstrating how the resources of the community might be utilized in solving these problems. To provide experienced supervision in this type of activity, the Agricultural Extension Service employs a specialist in community organization and related social problems. Under his supervision local leaders are trained in group discussion methods, discussion groups organized, and community problems analyzed.

**Home Economics Extension Clubs:**—In 1938, Missouri had 1,988 Home Economic Extension Clubs with a membership of 38,157.<sup>14</sup> Clubs were located in all counties of the State with the exception of Stone and Warren. (See Map 5.) The objectives of these clubs may be stated as follows: “(1) to teach skills and the most approved practices in home making; (2) to furnish a means of personal development through continued adult education; and (3) to give training and experience in leadership in local community organization.” The program of these clubs includes project work in clothing and textiles, foods and nutrition, home management, child development, health, gardening, poultry, handicrafts, and music appreciation.

In 1937, the Home Economics Extension Clubs in Missouri sponsored many 4-H Clubs and supplied the majority of the leaders of these youth groups. Achievement days for women were held in 83 counties with a total attendance of 44,000 persons, and more than 12,000 local

<sup>14</sup>Data from office of State Home Demonstration Agent.

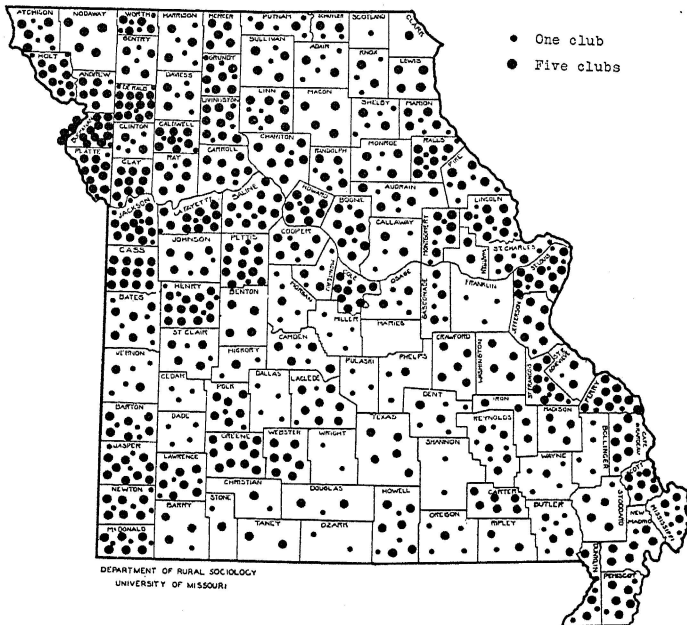


Map 5.—Location by counties of 1,988 Home Economics Extension clubs, 1938.

leaders were trained who, in turn, brought suggestions on some desirable phase of home making to 164,000 additional women. In addition to the hundreds of improvements members of these clubs made in their own homes, many of their activities were on a community-wide scale. School houses were cleaned, cemeteries cleaned and fenced, church grounds improved, parsonages repaired and painted, and community houses for group meetings were provided.

**4-H Clubs:**—The chief purpose of 4-H Clubs is to provide training for head, heart, hands, and health of boys and girls to the end that they may become better farmers, home makers, and citizens of the community. Sponsored by a local community organization or committee, a group of five or more boys and girls, 10-21 years of age, may form a 4-H Club. Under supervision of sponsors, local leaders, and county extension and home demonstration agents, the clubs select their own projects and plan their own program. In so far as possible, actual life situations on the farm, in the home, school or community of which the club members are a definite part, are used to make the projects real and valuable experiences. In addition to working on projects, 4-H Club members may attend camps, make educational tours, participate in community activities, and take part in achievement club programs.

In 1938, Missouri had 25,673 4-H Club members: 15,925 girls and 10,648 boys.<sup>15</sup> These boys and girls were enrolled in 2,899 standard 4-H Clubs located in all counties of the State with the exception of Maries. (See Map 6.) Ten counties had 50 or more clubs, while 20 had more than 40. The leadership and supervision of these clubs were in the hands of 4,636 voluntary leaders and assistant leaders.



Map 6.—Location by counties of 2,899 4-H Clubs, 1938.

The program of the 4-H Clubs in Missouri includes a wide range of activities and experiences. During 1938, there were projects in cereals, gardening, cotton, marketing, animal husbandry, home economics, health, forestry, soil conservation, and many others. Projects dealing with health, clothing, forestry, and food preparation had the largest enrollments. Approximately three-fourths of the boys and girls engaged in projects during the year completed their work. In addition to these various projects, there were 33 4-H Club camps operated in Missouri which were attended by more than 3,200 boys and girls. These camps, usually lasting about three days, were both educational and recreational in purpose.

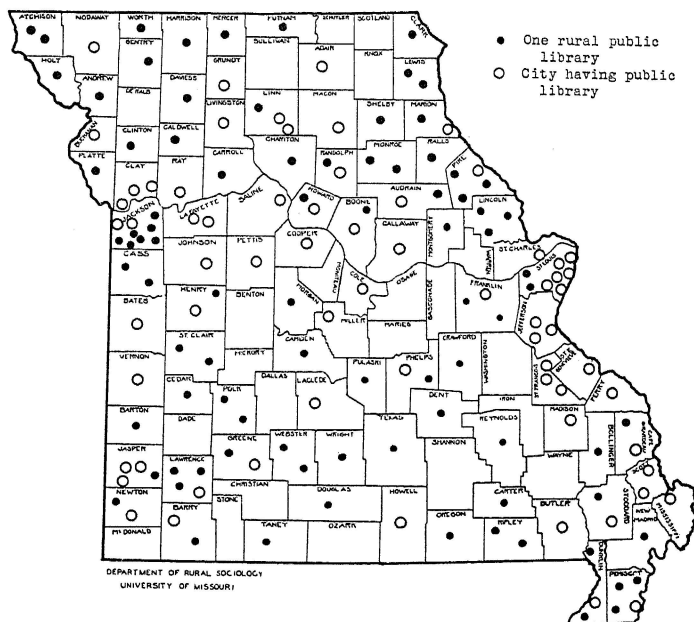
### Public Libraries

In 1937, there were 155 public libraries in Missouri.<sup>16</sup> Sixty-seven of these libraries were tax-supported, and 88 were privately endowed

<sup>15</sup>Not including 462 members of Negro clubs. Data from 1938 4-H Club Report.

<sup>16</sup>Data from 1937 report of the Missouri State Library Commission.

or otherwise supported by private groups. Public libraries were found in 93 counties,<sup>17</sup> but only 51 counties had tax-supported libraries. Most of the counties lacking public libraries were situated in the southern and extreme north central parts of the State. Sixty-seven or 43.2 per cent of the libraries were located in cities, and 88 or 56.8 per cent in rural areas. (See Map 7.) Although there were fewer libraries in cities than in rural areas, the number of borrowers from



Map 7.—Location by counties of 155 public libraries, 1937.

urban libraries was much larger than the number of borrowers from rural libraries. More than 543,000 persons used the public libraries of Missouri in 1937, and of this number, 519,000 borrowed from city libraries, and only 24,000 from rural libraries. The total number of volumes possessed by the public libraries was approximately 2,329,000. Over 2,146,000 of these volumes were owned by the libraries located in cities and 183,000 were the property of rural libraries. City libraries owned an average of approximately 32,000 books per library, while rural libraries owned an average of 2,100 books per library. In terms of books owned per person using libraries, city libraries had 4.1 books per person, and rural libraries 7.7 books per person. Thus, from the standpoint of capacity, city libraries were used to a greater extent than rural libraries.

<sup>17</sup>This figure counts the City of St. Louis as a county.

Approximately 8,500,000 books were loaned by these libraries in 1937; 8,100,000 by libraries located in cities, and over 400,000 by libraries in rural areas. The number of books loaned per borrower averaged higher for rural libraries than for city libraries. Rural libraries loaned an average of 17 books to each borrower, while city libraries loaned an average of 15.5 books. Expenditures by public libraries in Missouri in 1937 amounted to approximately \$975,000. This was an average expenditure of \$1.79 per person using public libraries, and 11½ cents for each book loaned.

The number of public libraries has increased during the past few years. In 1934, Morgan and Sneed<sup>18</sup> reported 135 libraries of this type operating in Missouri. At that time, 52 libraries in 44 counties were tax-supported, as compared with 67 in 51 counties in 1937. In 1934, 28 counties were without public library facilities, but by 1937 the number had decreased to 22. From 1934 to 1937, the number of volumes owned by public libraries increased almost 135,000. This increase, however, was due more to growth in the number of libraries than to an increase in the number of volumes per library.

In 1934 it was estimated that 1,741,000 people in the State were not being served by any public library. While the increase in libraries since that time has probably reduced the number, a large percentage of the population is still without public library service, particularly in the rural districts. The 22 counties having no public library in 1937 had a combined population of approximately 240,000 in 1930. In addition, few public libraries served persons residing outside the cities or villages in which the libraries were located.

The Missouri State Library Commission operates a state library in Jefferson City. This library loans books and periodicals to communities, public libraries, school libraries, study clubs, schools, and responsible individuals. During 1937 some 54,000 volumes were loaned in fulfilling approximately 8,800 requests for books and magazines.

### **Newspapers and Farm Magazines**

It is generally recognized that the newspaper is one of the most important agencies engaged in the dissemination of information. Yet it would be next to an impossible task to determine the exact extent to which the newspaper influences the habits and thinking of its readers.

In 1938, Missouri had 61 daily,<sup>19</sup> 483 weekly, 13 semi-weekly, two tri-weekly, and one semi-monthly newspapers.<sup>20</sup> (See Map 8.) In addition, there were 192 periodicals of various sorts published in the

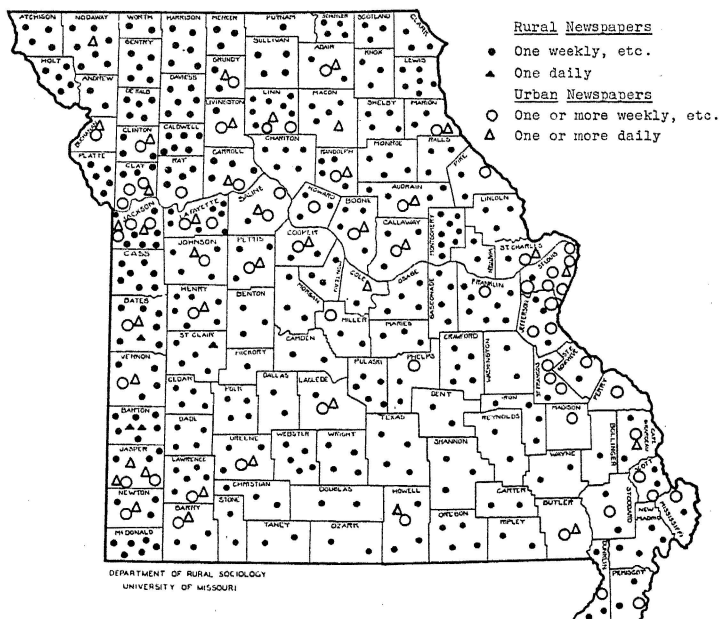
<sup>18</sup>Morgan, E. L., and Sneed, Melvin W., *The Libraries of Missouri: A Survey of Facilities*. Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Research Bulletin 236, 1936.

<sup>19</sup>Includes one foreign daily.

<sup>20</sup>Data from N. W. Ayer and Son's *Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, 1938.



State. Newspapers were well distributed over all areas, since at least one was published in each county. In seven counties there were 10 or more papers published and in 24 counties, seven or more. All counties had one or more weeklies published within their territory, but only 37 counties and St. Louis City had daily papers. Of the 60 dailies,<sup>21</sup> 10 were morning papers and 50 evening, while only three were published in places having less than 2,500 population. Two of the three rural dailies were published in Barton county and the other in St. Clair county. In contrast, more than three-fourths of the weeklies were published in rural places.



Map 8.—Location by counties of 560 newspapers, 1938. (Includes 499 weekly, semi-weekly, or tri-weekly, and 61 daily newspapers.)

To determine the geographical area covered by the circulation of any one newspaper, daily or weekly, is extremely difficult. However, certain situations may be taken for granted. Most of the circulation of a weekly newspaper published in a village is within the village and the territory surrounding this village. To be sure, some copies are sent a great distance, perhaps to other sections of the nation or even to foreign countries, but most of the copies go to a local constituency—to people who are familiar with the advertising and news items contained in the local paper.<sup>22</sup> The circulation of city dailies covers a

<sup>21</sup>Excluding one foreign daily.

<sup>22</sup>A notable exception to this assumption is the Kansas City Weekly Star which "covers" not only Missouri, but surrounding states as well.

much wider geographical area than weeklies. Particularly is this true of dailies published in metropolitan centers. In many cases the area covered extends outward from the publishing center until it meets an area served by another metropolitan paper; and, with the establishment of rural routes, the completeness of coverage within the surrounding territory has been greatly increased.

Accurate circulation figures<sup>23</sup> were available for 124 representative weeklies in 1938.<sup>24</sup> These weeklies had a combined circulation of approximately 211,000 copies, or an average of more than 1,700 copies per paper. If this same average held for all weekly newspapers published in Missouri, the combined circulation was close to 635,000 copies. The total average circulation of dailies in Missouri was approximately 1,560,000 copies,<sup>25</sup> most of which belonged to dailies published in the metropolitan centers, that is, St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph.

Magazines provide another important source of information for people, both urban and rural. Magazine circulations are not available by place of residence of subscribers, yet it is generally known that farm journals have a wider circulation in rural areas than magazines of other types, and that the large majority of the subscribers to farm journals are residents of rural areas and farms. To have some idea of the "coverage" of farm magazines in Missouri, the circulations of nine representative farm and farm home magazines were obtained. These journals were: *The Farmer's Wife*,<sup>26</sup> *The Missouri Ruralist*, *Capper's Farmer*, *Capper's Weekly*, *Country Gentleman*, *The Country Home Magazine*, *Successful Farming*, *Breeder's Gazette*, and *the Farm Journal*. In all cases, the most recent circulation data available for each magazine were used.<sup>27</sup>

The combined circulation of these magazines for one issue numbered 625,000 copies. This was an average of 2.3 copies for each rural farm family in Missouri, and 1.4 copies for each rural family. Although the circulations of the various magazines varied from county to county, in the main, the largest circulations were to be found in the better socio-economic areas of the State.

<sup>23</sup>Sworn circulation.

<sup>24</sup>Does not include *Kansas City Weekly Star*.

<sup>25</sup>Does not include Sunday edition circulation.

<sup>26</sup>*The Farmer's Wife* merged with the *Farm Journal* in April, 1939.

<sup>27</sup>The dates of issues for published circulation figures of the magazines are as follows: *The Farmer's Wife*, December, 1938; *The Missouri Ruralist*, average for year 1937; *Capper's Farmer*, May, 1938; *Capper's Weekly*, June 29, 1938; *Country Gentleman*, March, 1938; *The Country Home Magazine*, April, 1937; *Successful Farming*, June, 1938; *Breeder's Gazette*, average for year 1937; *Farm Journal*, December, 1937.

### III. RELIGIOUS AGENCIES

#### Rural Churches

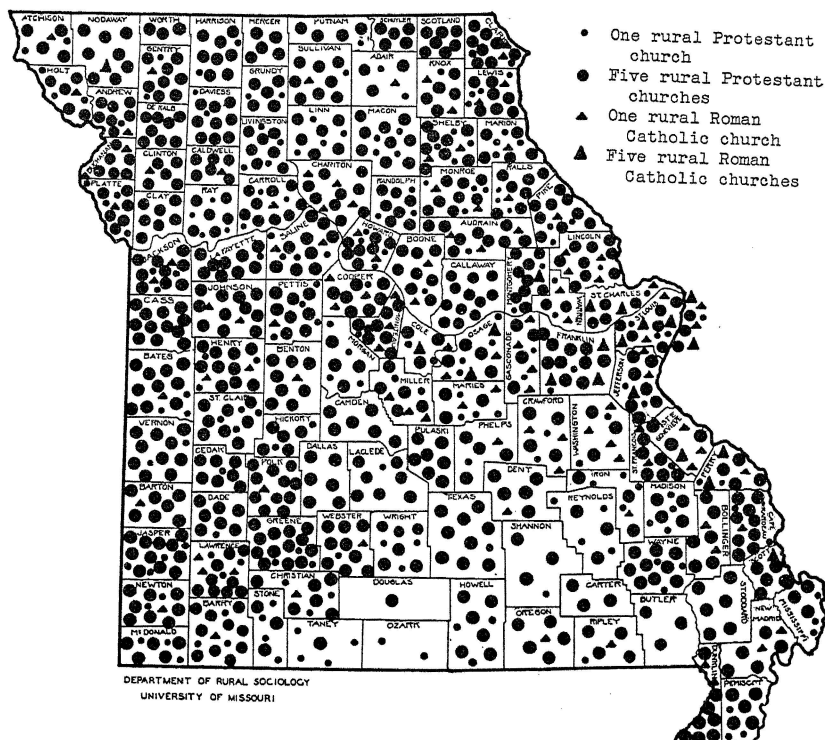
Churches are among the more important social agencies serving rural people. "In terms of the number of units, of the total amount of current income and capital invested, of the number of people employed, population enlisted, the rural church outranks all other types of rural social organizations combined, with the single exception of the public school." The church absorbs much of the time of rural people and frequently it plays a significant part in the social changes taking place in rural life.

Most churches are constituents parts of a larger denominational organization, although some have no affiliation with any other church or religious group. Since it was not feasible to include all of the numerous denominational and independent churches located in the rural areas of Missouri, the distribution and membership of the rural churches were obtained for only the larger denominations operating in the rural districts of the State. From a list of the location, denominational affiliation, and membership of churches in 100 counties scattered over the State, the number of rural churches and their memberships were tabulated by denominational affiliation. From this, it was discovered that 82 per cent of the rural churches and 88 per cent of the rural church membership were affiliated with the following six denominations: Methodist,<sup>28</sup> Presbyterian,<sup>29</sup> Missionary Baptist, Roman Catholic, Disciples of Christ, and Evangelical Lutheran. For these denominations, 1938 data as to location and membership of rural churches were obtained. Location and membership data were available for all of the Protestant denominations in this group, and location data only for the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1938, there were approximately 4,100 rural churches affiliated with these six denominations. (See Map 9.) Approximately 3,900 were Protestant churches and slightly more than 200 Roman Catholic. The Protestant churches reported a combined membership of more than 400,000. This was an average of 109 members per church. Generally speaking, the average membership per Protestant church was lowest in the Ozark counties and highest in counties north of the Missouri River. Churches of the five Protestant denominations were found in the rural districts of all counties of the State, while Roman Catholic churches were located in the rural areas of 67 counties.

<sup>28</sup>Included in this group were the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, and Methodist Protestant denominations. These denominations have since been merged into the Methodist Church.

<sup>29</sup>Included in this group were the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and Presbyterian Church, U. S.



Map. 9.—Location by counties of 4,108 rural churches, 1938.

Extreme caution should be used in interpreting the map showing the location of rural churches in Missouri. Since only six denominations were included, the counties having a large proportion of the churches not affiliated with these denominations appear to be areas with few rural churches. Actually, these areas may be well supplied with churches.

In 1934-35, Sneed and Ensminger made a survey of the membership, church services, ministerial services, church property, church expense and income, and the recent trends of rural churches in Missouri.<sup>30</sup> Of these rural churches, 2,590 reported an aggregate membership of 275,840 persons, an average of 107 per church. The smallest average membership was found in churches located in the open country and in villages of less than 200 people, and the largest in villages having a population of 1,500—2,499 persons. Less than 70 members per church were reported by 54.5 per cent of the open country churches, and 350 or more members by only 1.1 per cent. On the other hand, in the larger villages, 19.2 per cent of the churches had 350 or more members, and 23.7 per cent less than 70. Approximately one-sixth of the total

<sup>30</sup>Sneed, Melvin W., and Ensminger, Douglas, *The Rural Church in Missouri*. Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Research Bulletin 225, 1935.

number of churches reporting had less than 35 persons on their membership rolls. As a rule, more women than men were members of rural churches; 43 per cent of the total membership was male and 57 per cent female. In regard to age composition, nine of every ten members were 13 years of age or over. From 1929 to 1934, the membership increased in more than one-half of the churches, and decreased in 36 per cent of the churches.<sup>31</sup> Generally speaking, churches of the larger communities gained in membership during this period, while churches in the smaller communities declined.

On the whole, members did not live far from the church they attended. Slightly more than one-third of the churches reported that their members lived an average of one to two miles from church, and 30.9 per cent reported the average distance as less than one mile. As would be expected, average distances varied according to size of village in which the church was located. Members of open-country churches travelled, on the average, about one mile farther to attend church than did members of churches in the larger villages.

As a rule, rural churches lacked both full-time preaching services and a resident minister. In 1934-35, one-fifth of the churches maintained full-time services, and 36.9 per cent resident ministers. On the other hand, 14.4 per cent of the rural churches had no pastor, and more than one-half had preaching services one-fourth or less of the time. A much smaller proportion of the open-country churches had a resident minister and full-time preaching services as compared with village churches. In the open country, less than one-fifth of the churches had both these services, while in the larger villages, seven out of ten churches were served by full-time resident pastors. Most of the rural pastors served more than one church. Slightly more than one-fifth of the ministers served but one church; and of those serving more than one church, 43.5 per cent served two, 33.3 per cent served three, 18.8 per cent served four, and 4.5 per cent served five or more.

Actual attendance at church depended upon a multitude of factors; season of the year, condition of the roads, weather, special observances, and a host of personal factors. In general, however, it may be said that the average attendance at preaching services "tended to increase as membership increased, but that the average attendance was never as large as the average membership."

The revival may be regarded as a characteristic feature of the rural church of Missouri. Three-fourths of the rural churches reported that they conducted such a service annually. Although most of these revival services usually continued for a period of two weeks, some lasted but one week, while others lasted four weeks or more. Revivals were

<sup>31</sup>The number of churches reporting varied from item to item. In all cases, the percentages and proportions are based upon number of churches reporting on the item in question.

conducted either by the local minister or by an evangelist. The local preacher was in charge in 41.9 per cent of the churches holding revivals, while evangelists were hired to lead this type of service in 30.7 per cent of the cases.

It is significant to note the small percentage of church buildings used by other groups. Of 2,427 churches reporting, only 281, or 11.6 per cent, indicated that their facilities were used by other organizations of the community.

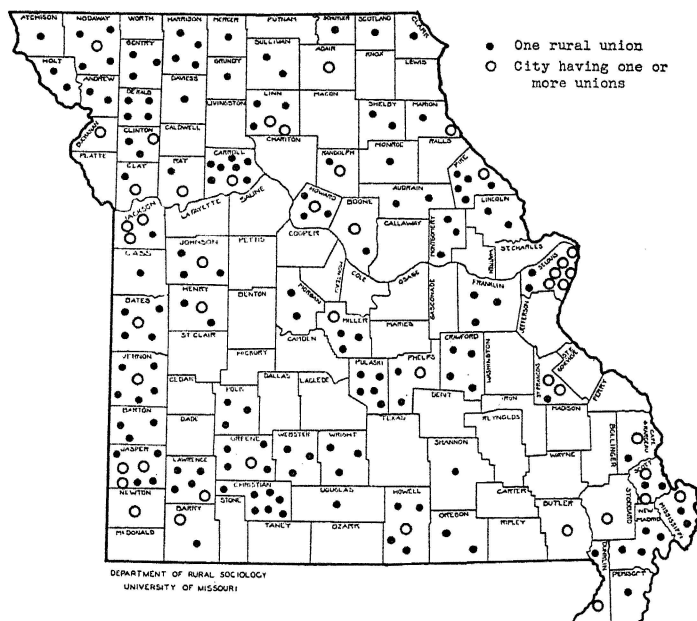
Generally, rural churches are not strong financially, for few, if any have escaped having "money troubles" at some point in their history. Too frequently this situation is to be found:—a small and inadequate salary paid to the minister, valuation of church property low and indebtedness high, small expenditures and still smaller receipts. The salaries of ministers are paid in one of several ways: in cash alone; in cash and house rent; or in cash, rent, and foodstuffs combined; etc. In 1934-35, the average cash salary of full-time ministers was slightly more than \$968. This did not take into consideration the free use of a home or any other manner of special provision for maintenance of the pastor. The amount of cash salary received varied according to size of community, with full-time pastors serving open-country churches receiving less than those serving village churches. More than three-fourths of the open-country churches paid less than \$1,000 for full-time services, while only one-fifth of the churches in the larger villages reported paying less than \$1,000 for services of this type. Finally, average cash salaries were lower for ministers serving several parishes than for ministers having but one church.

The average valuation of church buildings and equipment was slightly less than \$5,000, and the average value of church sites \$350. The value of church property decreased as the size of community decreased. Per member valuation of buildings and equipment decreased from \$71 for churches in villages having 1,500—2,499 people to \$29 for churches in the open country. The amount of church indebtedness depended to a great extent upon the number of different buildings owned by the church and the size of community in which the church was located. The average indebtedness for churches having one building was \$765, and for those having more than one building, \$1,800. Rural church expenditures usually fell under four major heads: salary, running expenses, building and construction, and benevolences. In most cases the chief item of expenditure was that of the pastor's salary, and in many cases the only item of expense. Since receipts barely covered the expenditures, rural churches rarely had a surplus and indebtedness was difficult to pay off.

In connection with this description of the rural church situation in the State, the work of the Missouri Church and Sunday School Council should be mentioned. Organized in 1864, county councils were operating in 66 counties of Missouri in 1939. These counties were located in all parts of the State, with the exception of the southeastern section. The objectives of the Council are: (1) to create proper appreciation of Christian education, (2) to train Sunday school workers to do their work according to the best educational methods, and (3) to develop fellowship and brotherhood among all churches and all races and to unite all groups for community betterment. Conferences, camps, training schools, institutes, posters, letters, and cooperative meetings with other character-building agencies are but a few of the means utilized to accomplish these ends. During the past few years the Council has stressed a program of community interest in young people. Projects of this nature are in successful operation in six cities and towns at the present time, and it is the plan of the Council to start these projects in rural areas as soon as possible.<sup>32</sup>

### Woman's Christian Temperance Union

First organized in 1874, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union now has 56 state and territorial branches, some 10,000 local unions,



Map 10.—Location by counties of 230 Woman's Christian Temperance Unions, 1938.

<sup>32</sup>Towns and cities having these projects are Springfield, Maryville, Stanberry, Edina, Kirkwood, and Lebanon.

and approximately 600,000 members. The objective of the organization is to promote programs for the protection of the home and abolition of the sale and use of alcoholic liquors. To accomplish these aims, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has established the following divisions: alcohol education, Christian citizenship, child welfare, character education, health, and radio.

In 1938, there were 230 local unions in Missouri having a reported paid-up membership of more than 4,100.<sup>33</sup> Of these 230 unions, 78 or 33.9 per cent were located in cities, and 152 or 66.1 per cent in rural areas. (See Map 10.) There was no particular concentration of W.C.T.U. units in any section, since the 67 counties having unions were distributed rather uniformly over the state.

The activities of the Missouri Woman's Christian Temperance Union are designed to carry out the purposes and aims of the organization. Support is given to programs of education of the evils of alcohol and narcotics, to legislation for control of liquors and drugs, to movements for the curbing of gambling, and to efforts for securing uniform marriage and divorce laws.

#### IV. HEALTH AGENCIES

##### State Health Department

The Missouri State Health Department is comprised of the following Divisions: Local Health Administration, Child Hygiene, Public Health Nursing, Public Health Engineering and Sanitation, Laboratories, Public Health Education, Medical Licensure, Vital Statistics, Food and Drugs, Cosmetology and Hairdressing, and Business Administration.<sup>34</sup>

The Division of Local Health Administration, formed on January 1, 1937, through the merging of the Division of Rural Health Work, the Division of Communicable Disease Control, and the Division of Venereal Disease Control, administers the local public health services within the district and county health units. In 1939 there were seven county units and 10 district units in operation.<sup>35</sup> (See Map 11.) County units were located in Buchanan, Cass, Jackson, Greene, Marion, St. Louis, and Miller counties,<sup>36</sup> while the district units covered the remainder of the state. The usual district or county set-up included the following personnel: health officer, engineer, one or more nurses, and in the case of the county units, one or more sanitary inspectors.

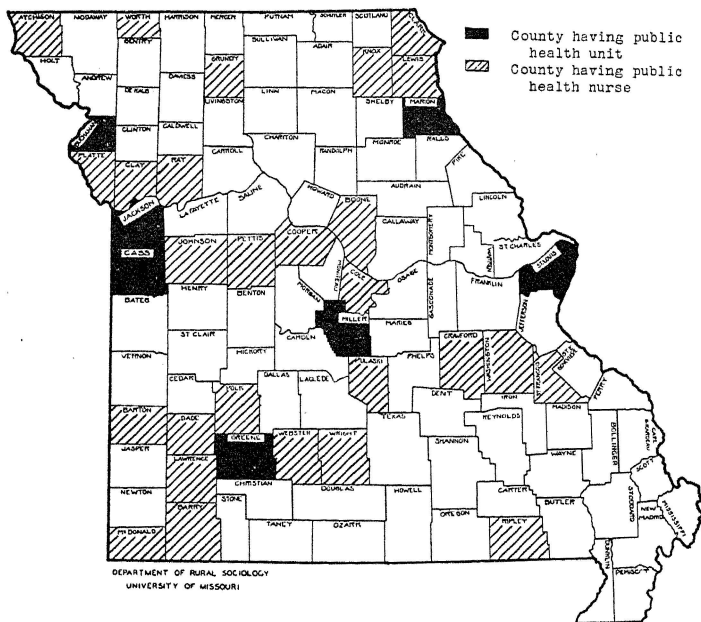
<sup>33</sup>Data from the Report of the 56th Annual Convention, Missouri Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1938.

<sup>34</sup>Data from Annual Report of the Missouri State Health Department, 1937.

<sup>35</sup>Data supplied by Missouri State Health Department.

<sup>36</sup>All county health units with the exception of that in Buchanan county were subsidized by state funds.





Map 11.—Location of counties having public health units and public health nursing services, October 1, 1939.

In addition, several counties in the various districts were served by county health nurses as well as by the district nurses.<sup>37</sup>

The Division of Child Hygiene provides funds and supervises those public health activities which affect children and mothers. Vaccines are provided for indigent children, literature on child and maternal care is distributed, infant and pre-school conferences are sponsored, and assistance is given in financing public health nursing services. The Division of Public Health Education was created in July, 1937. Its program includes the training of teachers in school health measures, enlisting the assistance of teachers in carrying out these measures, and the promotion of publicity necessary for the dissemination of public health methods. The Division of Public Health Nursing supervises the public health nurses in the State. The functions of these public health nurses may be stated as follows: (1) to help secure early medical diagnosis and treatment of the sick; (2) to secure or render adequate nursing care for the sick; (3) to assist the family in carrying out measures for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health; (4) to help the community develop public health facilities; and (5) to aid in the adjustment of social conditions affecting health.

<sup>37</sup>All county nursing services with the exception of those in Boone and St. Francois counties were subsidized by state funds.

The function of the Division of Vital Statistics is to collect birth, death, and stillbirth certificates, to keep them on permanent file, and to tabulate the necessary data. A provisional report is made each month, and a larger summary report compiled annually. Regulatory powers are possessed by the Division to compel physicians, midwives, and undertakers to report births, deaths, and stillbirths. The Division of Public Health Engineering and Sanitation supervises public water supplies, public sewerage systems, municipal milk sanitation, industrial hygiene, community sanitation, camps, resorts, highway sanitation, malaria control, and rural school sanitation.

The functions of the other divisions of the State Health Department may be stated briefly. The Division of Laboratories tests specimens, makes vaccines, and serves the other divisions in any way possible. The Division of Food and Drugs is responsible for the inspection of public eating places, meat markets, grocery stores, lodging houses, and tourist camps. The objective of this inspection is to provide clean food and living quarters and to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious disease. The Division of Medical Licensure supervises the examination and licensing of the medical profession of the State, while the Division of Cosmetology and Hairdressing supervises schools teaching cosmetology and hairdressing, examines and grants licenses to operators, and inspects shops and equipment.

Generally speaking, the program of the State Department of Health provides for the control of communicable disease, venereal disease and tuberculosis; it also provides for maternity service, infant hygiene, pre-school hygiene, school hygiene, adult hygiene, morbidity service, general sanitation, protection of food and milk, and laboratory tests. Through these public health facilities, thousands of people in the State have received clinical treatment, consultations with physicians, field visits, and nursing visits, while even more have been benefited indirectly through the inspection, testing, and licensing power of the several divisions.

In connection with the control of venereal disease, two special control districts have been set up in Missouri: one in the southeastern part and one in the southwestern. A full-time control officer, nurse, and travelling record clerk hold clinics weekly in the larger towns of these areas. Many other towns throughout the State have venereal disease clinics operated by the district or county health officer.

From July 1, 1938, to April 1, 1939, the Child Hygiene Division spent more than \$7,000 for immunization purposes, thereby providing for the distribution of thousands of doses of diphtheria, smallpox, and typhoid vaccines for treatment of indigent children. This Division, in 1938, subsidized infant and pre-school conferences in five counties.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>88</sup>Conferences were held in New Madrid, Wright, Lawrence, Ray, and Pulaski counties.

Operating under the supervision of local public health nursing services and with the aid of local physicians, these conferences gave demonstrations and information relative to infant, child, and maternal care. As an educational function of the Division, more than 200,000 pieces of literature were distributed to individuals, home demonstration agents, doctors, health officers, and educational institutions. Dealing primarily with infant and child care, most of this literature went into rural districts. In order to discover the conditions of child birth existing in various areas, particularly the rural areas, a survey of the midwives practicing in the State has been undertaken by this Division. Among other things, this survey seeks to determine why midwives rather than physicians are employed in maternity cases.

Under the auspices of the Division of Public Health Education, school health demonstrations were given in 22 counties during the early months of 1939 in cooperation with county school superintendents and the public health nurses. Some 2,400 teachers attended these demonstration meetings to receive training in eight fundamentals: morning health inspection, vision testing, hearing testing, washing of hands, preparation of hot lunches, weighing and measuring, birth registration, and methods of first aid.

One other important activity of the State Department of Health should be mentioned, particularly in view of the possible effects it may have on the future public health program of Missouri. The ensuing rapid expansion of the public health program after the passage of the Social Security Act providing for additional financial aid made the securing of trained workers increasingly difficult. To meet this situation, funds were allotted for the training of personnel at various universities and health centers. Many doctors, nurses, and engineers have been granted scholarships for training in public health at these places. In this manner it has been possible to place trained people in the responsible positions of the organization.

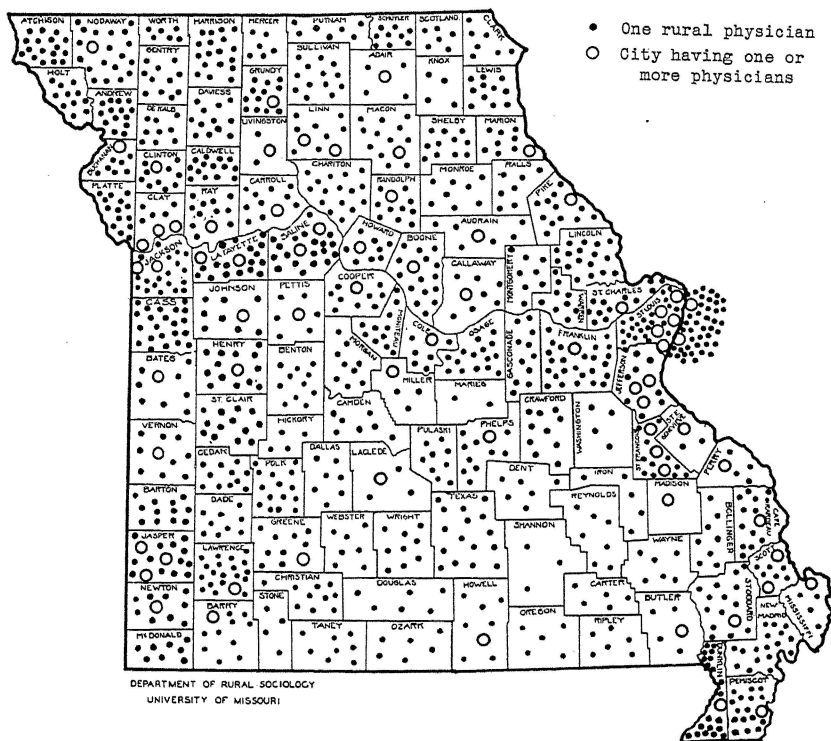
In concluding this description of the organization and activities of the Missouri State Department of Health, the value of birth registration should be indicated. Such registration is of considerable importance not only to the Division of Vital Statistics, but to laymen as well. Many organizations and agencies, both public and private, require official records of birth registrations in determining the eligibility of persons to participate in their programs.

### Physicians

According to the Directory of the American Medical Association,<sup>39</sup> there were nearly 5,400 physicians in Missouri in 1938. (See Map 12.)

<sup>39</sup>Fifteenth Edition, 1938.

More than one-half were located in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Springfield, and less than one-fourth (21.5 per cent) were in rural areas. For the entire State, there was an average of 676 persons per physician, but for rural areas alone, the average was 1,533 rural persons per rural physician.<sup>40</sup> The ratio of rural persons to rural physicians varied somewhat in the various areas of the State. In most counties the number ranged from 1,000-2,000 persons per physician, yet in several it was much higher, and in a few counties, considerably



Map 12.—Location by counties of 5,370 physicians, 1938.

lower. Butler, Clay, Laclede, Madison, Maries, Miller, Mississippi, Ste. Genevieve, Shannon, and Washington counties all had more than 3,000 rural persons for each rural physician, while in Andrew, Atchison, Caldwell, Cass, Franklin, Grundy, Harrison, Lincoln, Osage, Platte, Schuyler, and Warren counties the number was less than 1,000.<sup>41</sup>

Since this bulletin deals primarily with organizations and agencies serving rural people, all physicians in St. Louis, Kansas City, St.

<sup>40</sup>Based upon the population of 1930.

<sup>41</sup>Since urban physicians often serve rural people, it is not claimed that variation in this ratio is a measure of variation in the availability of rural medical service.

Joseph, and Springfield were excluded from a more detailed analysis of the data relating to physicians. Excluding all those in the cities mentioned above, there were 2,069 physicians in Missouri in 1938—1,155 in rural areas and 914 in cities. Of the 1,155 rural physicians, 734 or 63.5 per cent were located in places having less than 1,000 population.

Not all physicians were engaged in actual practice. Of the 2,069 included in this analysis, 1,931 were actually practicing, with the proportion practicing being slightly higher for city physicians than for rural physicians. The great majority of physicians may be termed general practitioners, since less than three in ten reported having a specialty of any kind.<sup>42</sup> As might be expected, the general practitioner was more prevalent in rural areas than in urban. More than one-third of the city physicians reported a specialty, as compared with 12 per cent of those practicing in rural areas and 9.5 per cent in places having less than 1,000 people.

The ages of physicians in Missouri in 1938 ranged from 24 years to 97 years. The average age of all was 57 years. Generally speaking, the smaller the community, the older the average age. For those located in cities, the average was 54 years and in rural areas 60 years, while in places under 1,000 population the average age of physicians was 62 years.

### Hospitals

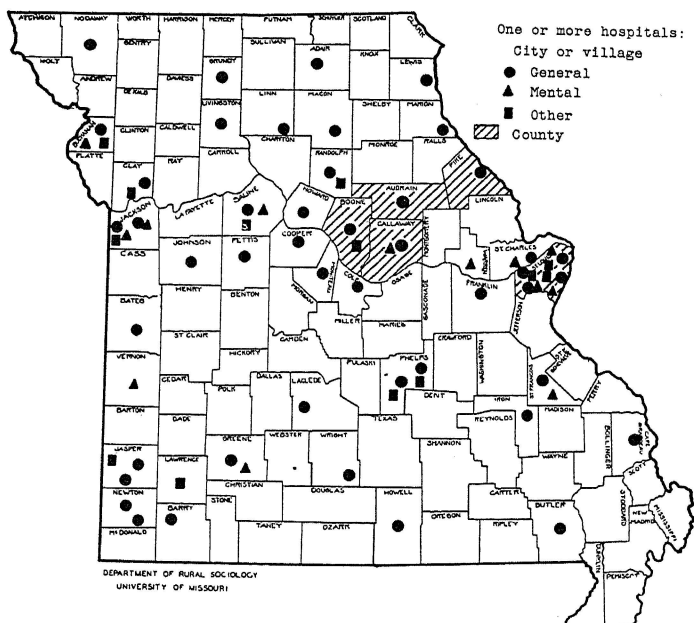
As far as could be determined, the total number of hospitals operating in Missouri is not known. Map 13 shows 147 hospitals of known location, as listed in the American Medical Directory for 1938 and the Official Manual of the State of Missouri for 1937-38. Of the 147 hospitals, 96 were general hospitals, 18 were mental hospitals<sup>43</sup> and 33 were hospitals of other types.<sup>44</sup> Of the 96 general hospitals, 23 were located in St. Louis, and 11 in Kansas City; 4 were operated by the federal government for special groups; and 1 was in the state penitentiary at Jefferson City. The remaining 57 were located in 39 counties. Five counties—Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Pike, and St. Louis—operated general hospitals on public funds. Only six counties had general hospitals in places with less than 2,500 population—Moniteau, Lewis, Iron, Newton, Wright, and Phelps.

<sup>42</sup>As listed in the American Medical Directory.

<sup>43</sup>Includes private as well as state and Federal supported hospitals.

<sup>44</sup>Included in this classification of "other" hospitals and the number of each were: Home for Aged, 2; Tuberculosis, 8; Trachoma, 1; School Infirmary, 1; Industrial, 3; Convalescent and Rest, 2; Orthopedic, 2; Children, 2; Maternity, 8; Drug and Alcohol, 1; Surgical, 1; Skin and Cancer, 1; Crippled Children, 1.

Excluding the four general hospitals operated by the federal government, the one at the state penitentiary, and all those located in St. Louis or Kansas City, the capacity of the remainder was 2938 beds. Assuming that the facilities of all of these hospitals were available to the entire population of the county in which they were located, there was one bed for each 448 persons.



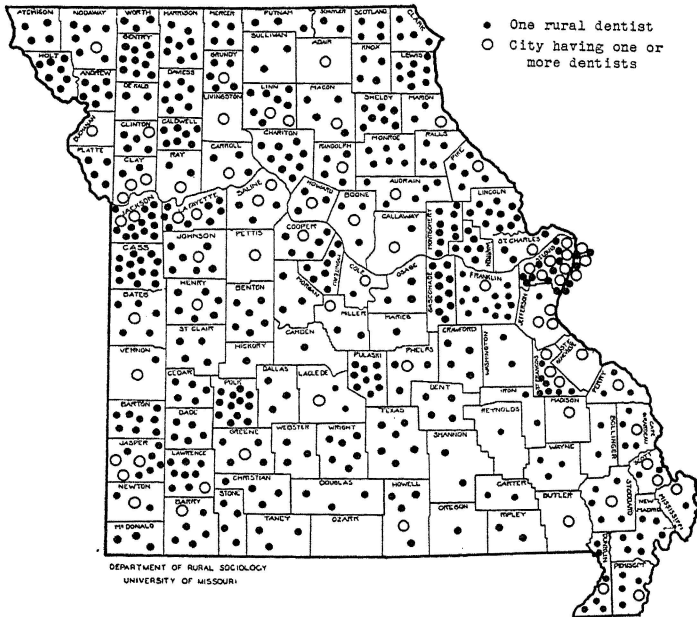
Map 13.—Location of 147 hospitals and sanatoriums, 1938. (Includes 96 general hospitals, 18 mental, and 33 of other types. Five counties support general hospitals.)

Most of the hospitals in Missouri, as reported in the American Medical Directory and the Official State Manual, are privately owned and operated. In 1938, there were 22 publicly owned and controlled general hospitals in the State, as compared with 74 privately owned. Of the 22 public hospitals, five were owned and operated by counties, 11 by cities, two by the State, and four by the Federal government. Ten of the 18 mental hospitals were privately operated, while five were operated by the State, two by cities, and one by the Federal government. Of the eight tuberculosis hospitals, one was owned by a county (Jasper), four by cities, one by the State, and two were private hospitals. All of the maternity hospitals were located in either Kansas City or St. Louis, and all were privately owned.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup>Five were located in Kansas City and three in St. Louis.

## Dentists

In 1937, there were 2,700 dentists licensed by the Missouri State Dental Board to practice dentistry in Missouri.<sup>46</sup> (See Map 14.) Three-fifths of the dentists had offices in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph, or Springfield, and two-fifths practiced in places outside these cities. Of the 1,035 practicing outside these cities, 535 or 51.7 per cent were located in urban areas and 500 or 48.3 per cent were in rural areas. There were 222 dentists practicing in places of less than 1,000 population.



Map 14.—Location by counties of 2,700 dentists, 1937.

Although dentistry was practiced by licensed dentists in all counties with the exception of Ozark, many counties had but one or two dentists located within their boundaries. Camden, Hickory, Maries, Oregon, and Reynolds counties had but one dentist each, while Washington, Shannon, Schuyler, Ripley, Madison, Iron, Carter, and Bollinger had two each. In many counties either all or most of the dentists practiced in cities. There were no licensed dental practitioners in the rural areas of Adair, Buchanan, Butler, Livingston, Madison, Ozark,<sup>47</sup> Pettis, and Ste. Genevieve counties, and only one in the rural territory of Vernon, Reynolds, Oregon, Maries, Mississippi, Jefferson, Hickory, Cole, Camden, and Callaway counties.

<sup>46</sup>Data from Journal of the Missouri State Dental Association, Vol. 18, No. 1, January, 1938.

<sup>47</sup>As pointed out above, there were no licensed dentists in Ozark county in November, 1937.

There were 1,344 persons for every licensed dentist in Missouri in 1937. The number of rural persons per dentist practicing in rural places was much higher than in the urban districts. In rural areas there were 3,540 people to every dentist as compared with 845 in urban areas. The ratio also varied greatly from county to county. Forty-six counties had from 1,000-2,000 persons per dentist; 11 counties<sup>48</sup> had more than 5,000; and in only one county, Jackson were there fewer than 1,000 persons for each licensed dentist.

## V. WELFARE AGENCIES

### State Social Security Commission

The State Social Security Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor, who also appoints the state administrator. The functional activities of the Commission are performed by four major divisions: Division of Public Assistance, Division of Research and Statistics, Division of Finance, and Division of Child Welfare. The Commission maintains county and district offices as well as a state office.

The Division of Public Assistance is charged with: (1) the administration of general relief, aid to dependent children, and old age assistance; (2) the selection and certification of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees; and (3) in service training for the field staff. The Division of Research and Statistics is responsible for: (1) the collection, compilation, and presentation of statistical and other data regarding programs administered by the Commission; (2) the conduct of research studies regarding administrative and other problems; (3) current statistical reporting to the Federal Social Security Board; and (4) the preparation of published reports. The Division of Finance administers: (1) the accounting and disbursing of funds for old age assistance and aid to dependent children, and (2) the disbursing of the general relief allotment. This Division also prepares the financial statements and reports of the Commission. The Division of Child Welfare has charge of: (1) child welfare services; (2) the state receiving home at Carrollton; (3) the foster care for state wards; (4) the licensing and inspection of other child-caring agencies and institutions; and (5) the supervision of juvenile probation.

The programs covering old age assistance and aid to dependent children are both Federally aided, while general relief is a program of general assistance financed by state and local funds. Eligibility to participate in these three programs is determined by the county social security office, subject to the approval of the district supervisor.

The number of persons receiving assistance under programs administered by the State Social Security Commission varies from month

<sup>48</sup>Excluding Ozark county.



to month and from county to county. For example, the number of recipients of old age assistance in Adair county ranged from a high of 601 in January to 539 in June and July during 1938.

In December, 1938, there were 215,419 persons receiving assistance from the Social Security Commission.<sup>49</sup> Of this number, 74,434 were recipients of old age assistance, 34,690 were receiving aid for dependent children,<sup>50</sup> and 106,295 received general relief. In addition, commodities were distributed to most of the persons receiving general relief and to many receiving old age assistance. During the two-year period from January, 1937, to December, 1938, more than \$42,000,000 was spent in meeting the obligations incurred for assistance by the Commission. This was divided approximately as follows: \$23,400,000 to old age assistance, \$1,475,000 for aid to dependent children, \$10,650,000 to general relief, and \$6,600,000 for commodity distribution. In June, 1938, grants for old age assistance averaged \$16.49 per case; for aid to dependent children, \$37.71; and for general relief, \$8.67 per case.

During 1937, the Division of Child Welfare licensed 29 institutions and agencies for child care, 12 child placing agencies, 11 maternity hospitals, and 5 private boarding homes. In 1938, 34 such licenses were issued. The child welfare service department of the Child Welfare Division had established local units in 19 counties by the end of 1938. Under this program inaugurated in April, 1936, and financed by federal, state, and local funds, the number of children receiving services ranged from 1443 to 1820 per month during 1938. In addition, there were 518 children under the guardianship of the Division of Child Welfare as State wards at the end of the year, 1938. Since the appointment of a state supervisor of Juvenile Probation in 1937, a uniform system of reporting has been adopted and some 150 conferences held with probation officers, judges, prosecuting attorneys, and other officials and agencies concerning the ways and means of making the work of the juvenile court and of probation officers more effective.

### Farm Security Administration

The Farm Security Administration was established in September, 1937. As part of the United States Department of Agriculture, this agency is charged with the responsibilities of administering the rural rehabilitation and rural resettlement programs formerly carried on by the Resettlement Administration, as well as the provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. To perform these functions, three

<sup>49</sup>Data taken from First Biennial Report of the State Social Security Commission of Missouri, January, 1939.

<sup>50</sup>This number includes both the number of cases and the number of children receiving aid. Since mothers usually share in Aid to Dependent Children benefits they are included in the total. The number of cases is assumed to represent the number of mothers benefited.

main divisions have been set up within the administration: The Rural Rehabilitation Division, the Rural Resettlement Division, and the Tenant Purchase Division.

The chief purpose of the Rehabilitation Division is to assist farmers in reestablishing themselves in the farming business by making loans, adjusting private debts, and assisting in the development of a suitable farm and home plan. Only those farmers unable to secure credit on reasonable terms from private sources or to qualify for credit from other governmental sources are eligible for help. Working in cooperation with a local rural rehabilitation committee, the rehabilitation supervisors recommend loans and direct the establishment of a farm and home plan "designed to aid the borrower in improving the economic status of himself and family." The interest rates on loans are low and all loans are expected to be repaid. In addition to loans, attempts are made to adjust the private debts of the client in order that payments on these debts may be resumed or continued and private credit reestablished.

Rural rehabilitation may be looked upon as a large scale enterprise, since almost \$13,000,000 has been loaned to clients in Missouri.<sup>51</sup> From the beginning of the program to the end of March, 1939, more than 18,000 farmers had received Rehabilitation loans and were operating under farm and home plans.<sup>52</sup> This number does not include the persons who have been given emergency loans and out-right grants. In addition to the loans, private debts were adjusted in 4,161 cases. For these cases, the total indebtedness was scaled down from more than \$9,000,000 to slightly more than \$7,000,000—a decrease of 24 per cent.

The objective of the Rural Resettlement Division is to establish projects for securing and developing productive farm land on which families may be moved from land being acquired by the government for other purposes. Other families located on poor farms or dispossessed of their farms may also be moved to these resettlement projects. Two of these projects are operating in Missouri at the present time: one in Pettis county and one in New Madrid county. The project in Pettis county consists of 5,280 acres and has been developed to accommodate approximately 70 families, while the New Madrid county project contains 6,700 acres and maintains 100 families.

The Tenant Purchase Division makes loans to "tenants, farm laborers, share-croppers, and others who obtain or have recently obtained the major portion of their income from farming operations, for

<sup>51</sup>Data from State Farm Security Office. Cumulative total as of May 31, 1939.

<sup>52</sup>Included clients of the Rehabilitation Corporation as well as Farm Security Administration. The Rehabilitation Corporation was in operation prior to the establishment of the Farm Security Administration.

the purpose of acquiring farms." Operating thus far in 19 counties,<sup>53</sup> this Division has made 187 loans totalling more than \$1,200,000 up to June 30, 1939. Loans for purchasing farms have averaged \$6,311, while the farms purchased have averaged approximately 138 acres in size.

### **Works Progress Administration**

The Works Progress Administration was established in 1935 in order to provide "useful work for the destitute unemployed." These work projects, usually planned and sponsored by state and local public agencies, are set up in local communities and carried out under the supervision of the State Works Progress Administration. Typical projects are the construction and repair of: roads, recreational facilities, swimming pools, water mains, and storm sewers. In addition, books are renovated, sewing articles made, school lunches served, historical records compiled, art and theatre projects undertaken, and cooperative research pursued along many lines. This list of activities could be expanded to great length.

Most of the above types of projects have been or are being undertaken by the Missouri Works Progress Administration. For some time, from 100,000 to 110,000 persons have been employed by W.P.A. in the State. This number fluctuates from week to week or month to month, depending upon the number of projects in actual operation, money available, employment eligibility, etc. For the week ending March 25, 1939, 101,106 persons were employed by the W.P.A. in Missouri. From the beginning of the program up to the end of March, 1939, almost \$200,000,000 had been spent in the State by this agency.

### **National Youth Administration**

The National Youth Administration operates within the framework of the Works Progress Administration and aims to provide economic assistance for worthy young people—particularly those who are students in high schools, colleges, and universities. To accomplish these aims and purposes, three separate programs have been set up within the Administration: the student aid program; the part-time employment program; and the guidance and placement program.

The student aid program provides part-time work for needy students aged 16 to 24 inclusive, who are regular attendants of secondary schools, colleges, and universities. The part-time employment program gives work on public projects for a definite wage to out-of-school youth 18 to 24 years of age. Such youth must be from families certified in need of public assistance. The guidance and placement program provides counselling and placement services for unemployed youth.

<sup>53</sup>Farm Tenant Purchase loans have been made in Audrain, Bates, Crawford, Daviess, DeKalb, Howard, Howell, Johnson, Linn, Miller, Monroe, Newton, Nodaway, Pemiscot, Polk, St. Charles, Shelby, Stoddard, and Texas counties.

During the year, 1938, a total of 19,000 young men and women in Missouri, aged 16 to 24, received assistance from the National Youth Administration, and more than \$190,000 per month was spent in direct wage benefits.<sup>54</sup> The student aid program included some 11,200 students—8,200 in high schools and 3,000 in colleges. This program cost about \$65,000 per month—\$30,000 going to high school pupils and \$35,000 to college and university students. The part-time employment program gave jobs to 7,800 youth who earned over \$125,000 a month working on socially constructive projects. They were employed in shop work and sewing, the construction of recreational facilities and public buildings, the improvement of public parks, and many types of clerical and research work in public offices, hospitals, and libraries. And, in addition, some 5,000 young men and women received occupational guidance and job training in a wide variety of fields such as auto mechanics, cafeteria operation, commercial art, livestock production, and public speaking.

The N.Y.A. program operated in 950 high schools and 60 colleges and universities in 1938, and established 300 work projects in 250 towns and cities in 113 counties of Missouri.

### Civilian Conservation Corps

The objective of the Civilian Conservation Corps is to provide employment and vocational training for unemployed, unmarried boys between the ages of 17 and 23. In addition, a limited number of war veterans and Indians may also be employed. All enrollees must be physically fit and are required to sign for a term of six months. For all, excepting war veterans and Indians, the total amount of time which may be served in the C.C.C. is limited to two years. Enrollees receive a cash allowance of \$30 per month in addition to clothing, subsistence, housing, medical care, education, recreation, and transportation. All "junior enrollees"<sup>55</sup> must send a substantial part of this cash allowance to their dependents, or place it on deposit.

First established in 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps now maintains camps in all of the 48 states. The program of the agency emphasizes the development and conservation of the nation's natural resources, and includes "forest culture and forest protection, forest conservation, development of wildlife, establishment of refuges for game and birds, development of national and state parks, reclamation, drainage, and many other related activities."

In June, 1939, there were 41 camps operated by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Missouri, including three camps for colored boys and four camps for war veterans. Twenty-nine of the camps were

<sup>54</sup>Data from State National Youth Administration offices.

<sup>55</sup>Boys between the ages of 17 and 23 are classed as "junior enrollees."

located in the southern part of the State, and 12 in counties situated north of the Missouri River. There were two camps each in Barry, Oregon, Reynolds, Washington, Franklin, and St. Louis counties.

In 1937, there were 11,214 Missouri boys, aged 17 to 23 years, enrolled in C.C.C. camps; in 1938, there were 7,328; and during the first four months 1939, 5,462. More than \$2,915,000 was paid to dependents of the enrollees in 1937; \$2,973,000 in 1938; and \$576,000 from January to April, inclusive, in 1939. And, in addition, during these same periods of time, over \$120,000 was deposited to the accounts of the enrollees. Since the beginning of the C.C.C. project, approximately \$6,600,000 has been paid directly and indirectly to residents of the State.

### **American Red Cross**

Incorporated in 1881 as the American National Red Cross, this organization is one of a confederation of national Red Cross societies in existence throughout the world. At the present time there are some 3,700 Red Cross chapters in the United States with more than 5,500,000 adult and 9,000,000 junior members.

The purpose of the organization is to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war; to carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace; to mitigate sufferings caused by pestilence, fire, floods, famine, and other calamities; and to undertake measures to prevent the recurrence of such calamities. To care for these various types of emergencies, the following divisions have been set up within the agency: Civilian Relief, Disaster Relief, First Aid and Life Saving, Home and Farm Accident Prevention, Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, Junior Red Cross, Nursing, Nutrition, Public Health Nursing, Volunteer, and War. The operations and activities of the Red Cross are supported by membership enrollments and contributions received during the annual Roll Call. One dollar is the minimum membership fee, but special contributions are occasionally solicited for disaster relief.

In 1938, Missouri had 118 Red Cross Chapters with a membership of 142,000 adults and 105,000 juniors. There was one chapter in each of 112 counties, two in Chariton county, three in Jasper county, and one in the City of St. Louis. Generally speaking, the Chapter headquarters were located at the county seat, with branches in the other cities and villages of the county.

The program of the Missouri Red Cross has included many activities during recent years. In 1938, the Red Cross contributed some \$30,000 for flood and tornado relief in 15 counties, providing aid for more than 300 families in these areas. During the fiscal year 1937-38, first aid training was given to 8,565 persons in the State, thus equipping

them to handle emergency accident situations. Since 1910, more than 33,600 persons in Missouri have been given this type of training. In 1938, there were 185 Red Cross Highway Emergency First Aid Stations in operation, or in the process of early completion, on Missouri highways. Located in stores, filling stations, or other roadside places, these stations were equipped by the local Red Cross chapters and were operated by people trained in first aid methods.

Accident Prevention Committees were maintained by 93 chapters to carry on a year-round campaign to educate communities in safety practices. As a part of this campaign, school children, during the week of October 24, 1938, were given more than 120,000 self-check lists to take home. These lists were designed to help families discover for themselves what accident hazards existed on their property. Where hazards existed, the families were urged to correct them before an accident occurred.

Red Cross nurses in Missouri chapters made some 3,300 visits during 1938 to sick patients who otherwise would not have had nursing care, and conducted health inspections of more than 5,400 school and pre-school children. Home hygiene and care of the sick were taught to more than 1,200 women and older girls, training them in the latest methods of home sanitation and nursing care. In addition, the Red Cross handled approximately 1,200 civilian social service cases; families in need but not eligible for public relief.

Finally, 4,300 volunteers spent more than 112,000 hours producing garments for the needy, canning fruits and vegetables, filling Christmas bags for soldiers and sailors stationed in foreign ports, and transcribing reading material into the Braille for the blind to read.

## VI. SOCIO-ECONOMIC BETTERMENT AGENCIES

### Farm Bureau Federation

Organized in March, 1915, the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation is the oldest state Farm Bureau in the United States. In 1938, there were 47 county Farm Bureaus affiliated with the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, while in 1937, 46 reported a total paid-up membership of 9,439.<sup>56</sup> (See Map 15.) Most of the Farm Bureaus were in counties located along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, although there were a few in the extreme western counties of the State. Only 10 county Farm Bureaus had less than 100 members, while 12 had more than 300.

Any county Farm Bureau having 10 or more members with regularly elected officers and paying annual dues may be affiliated with the State Farm Bureau Federation. The usual county dues are five dollars

<sup>56</sup>A membership in the Farm Bureau includes husband, wife, and all minor children living in the household. Hence, there were 9,439 paid-up member families reported in 1937.



would otherwise be unable to obtain. All departments stress service rather than profit as their major policy.

In recent years, both the state and county Farm Bureaus in Missouri have undertaken rather extensive programs. County Farm Bureaus have been active in organizing and administering the county Extension programs of the Missouri College of Agriculture and in securing the local funds necessary for financing such work. In 1937, 28 county Farm Bureaus contributed approximately \$16,000 for Extension services in their respective counties.<sup>58</sup> Another of the more important activities of the county Bureaus has been their aid in organizing and administering Soil Conservation and Agricultural Adjustment programs in the various counties. Farm Bureaus have also sponsored community meetings to discuss important farm problems, and have provided the means of disseminating information of interest not only to their members, but to farm people in general. In addition, leaders, have been trained for 4-H Club work and, in many counties, local recreational programs, community fairs, and product shows have been sponsored. Some of the more technical aspects of the county Farm Bureau program have included the organization of areas against insect infestation and for the eradication of noxious weeds.

The Missouri Farm Bureau Federation has aided in securing many other benefits, not only for its members, but for the farm group in general. Reduction of the property tax, amendments to the sales tax law exempting sale of feed to farmers, amendments to bus and truck laws to permit farmers to transport livestock to market without being subject to Public Service regulation, the rural electrification development, and the enactment of legislation legalizing cooperative economic enterprises are but a few of the many activities which the State Farm Bureau has sponsored, aided, or organized. Recently the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation has undertaken to establish a group hospitalization project. According to a plan worked out with Group Hospital Service, Inc., hospital services are made available to Farm Bureaus members and their families upon payment of a yearly rate which varies with the size of the family. The use of all normal hospital services are included in the plan.<sup>59</sup>

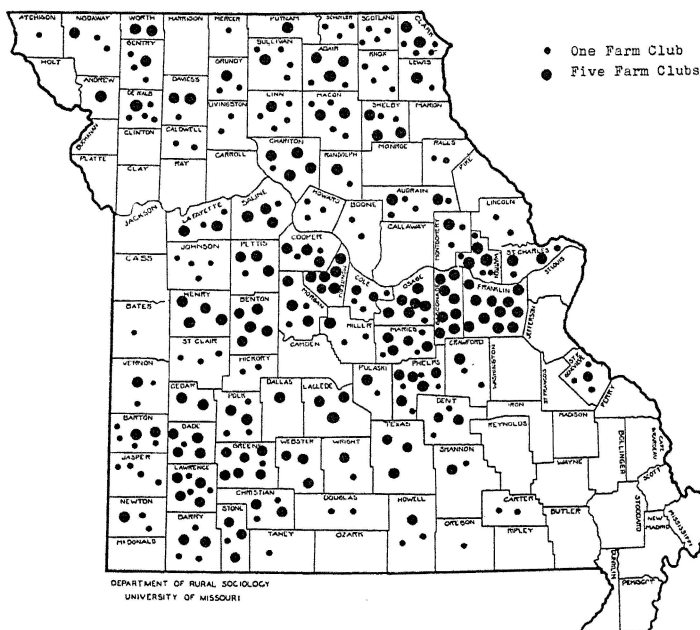
### Missouri Farmers' Association

The Missouri Farmers' Association was organized on August 29, 1917. This act brought together into one organization many of the local M.F.A. Farm Clubs and county Farmers' Associations operating in Missouri at that time. Predominately a cooperative buying and selling agency, the objectives of the organization are: (1) to promote,

<sup>58</sup>Data from the Annual Supplementary Reports of County Agricultural Extension Agents, 1937.

<sup>59</sup>Medical services are not included in the hospitalization plan.





Map 16.—Location by counties of 893 Farm Clubs of the Missouri Farmers' Association, October, 1939.

foster, encourage, and develop the agricultural industry among its members; (2) to provide ways, means, and facilities for marketing the agricultural products of its members in the most economical and profitable manner; (3) to erect or lease and to operate creameries, cold storage plants, warehouses, livestock sales departments, and other sales agencies in marketing centers throughout the United States; (4) to loan funds to members; and (5) to provide information for its members that will assist them in the orderly and profitable conduct of their business.<sup>60</sup> Thus, through cooperative selling, the Missouri Farmers' Association seeks to secure higher prices for the products which members have to sell than would otherwise be received by selling individually; and through cooperative buying, to secure lower prices on merchandise and products which members wish to buy. In addition, the organization seeks to secure legislative benefits not only for its own members but for the entire agricultural population and other citizens of the state.

The nucleus of the Missouri Farmers' Association are the local Farm Clubs. The first M.F.A. Farm Club was organized in Chariton county in 1914, and since that time the movement has grown until in October,

<sup>60</sup>Adapted from Article II, By-Laws of the Missouri Farmers' Association, Inc. As revised by Annual Convention, August 30, 1938.

1939, there were 893 clubs located in 78 counties of the State. (See Map 16.) Membership in the Missouri Farmers' Association and its Farm Clubs is open to any producer of agricultural products paying a \$1.00 per year membership fee. The purpose of the Farm Clubs is to inform their members of the work of the Missouri Farmers' Association and to discuss the general problems of agriculture as it affects them. To accomplish this end, the programs include discussions of economic, legislative, social, and educational problems, and the cooperative movement as well as entertainment. Frequently community gatherings such as oyster suppers and local entertainments are sponsored as a means of promoting good will in the community. In addition to these Farm Clubs, two other social groups are sponsored by the M.F.A.: the Women's Progressive Farmers' Association and the Junior Farmers' Association. Both the Women's Progressive Farmers' Association and the Junior Farmers' Association have their own clubs.

The local business unit of the Missouri Farmers' Association is the Farmers' Exchange. Organized on cooperative bases, there were, in October, 1939, 253 exchanges located in 76 counties of Missouri. Non-members as well as members of the Missouri Farmers' Association may patronize these exchanges. The state organization functions as the central clearing house for these local exchanges. The state organization also initiates policies of the local Farm Clubs and county Associations, as well as legislation which is sponsored from time to time by the M.F.A. membership. The official organ of the Missouri Farmers' Association is the "Missouri Farmer" which is distributed to all members.



Recently a new fair association was formed, known as the Missouri Association of Fairs and Agricultural Expositions. Representing both local and county fairs, the objectives of this organization are: (1) to coordinate fair programs; (2) to assist in the development of the policies of fairs; and (3) to create a new interest in fairs and agricultural expositions. This association has been active in backing all efforts to secure state aid for county fairs in the State.

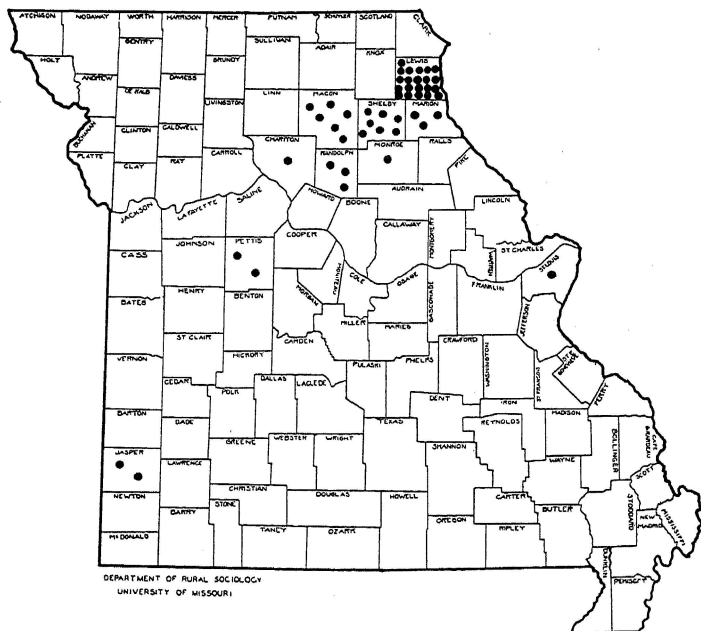
Two fairs in Missouri merit special mention: the State Fair held annually at Sedalia, and the American Royal Livestock and Horseshow at Kansas City. The State Fair was 38 years old in 1938. Lasting eight days, this exposition offers a premium list of more than \$50,000 annually and maintains a varied program designed to appeal to the educational, agricultural, and recreational interests of the fair visitors.

The basic purpose of the American Royal Livestock and Horseshow is to encourage the improvement of livestock breeding through exhibitions, contests, and prizes. Sponsored by the Kansas City Stockyards Company and the various National Breed Associations, this exposition has grown from a Hereford Show, held for the first time in 1899 in a tent erected at the stockyards, to a show held in its own building, drawing exhibitors from all parts of the world and attracting approximately 160,000 visitors annually. Youth plays an important part in the American Royal. The national conference of the Future Farmers of America is held annually at the exposition, while students of Vocational Agriculture and 4-H Club members participate in many activities organized especially for them. More than 10,000 members of these three groups meet at the American Royal annually.

### The Grange

The Grange, officially known as the Patrons of Husbandry, is a secret fraternal order made up of local or subordinate Granges, county or Pomona Granges, state Granges, and the National Grange. Membership is open to any person 14 years of age or over actively engaged in agriculture or interested in agriculture. Dues in the subordinate Grange are 10 cents per month for both men and women, one-half of this amount going to the State Grange. The state organization pays one cent per month per member to the National Grange. Subordinate Granges usually meet twice per month, although they may meet less frequently, especially during the harvest seasons, or more often if there should be special need.

The program of the Patrons of Husbandry aims to provide fraternal, educational, social, legislative, and economic benefits for its members. Of the various phases of the program, the fraternal work is a relatively constant element, since any change taking place along this line con-



Map 18.—Location by counties of 47 subordinate Granges, 1938.

sists mainly of improving the technique of ritualistic procedure. Four degrees are granted by the subordinate Grange, and one each by the Pomona, State, and National Granges. A part of each meeting is given over to the lecture hour, during which time some topic of interest to the members is discussed, either by a Grange member or by an outside person. Usually these topics deal with timely agricultural, educational, or economic problems. Frequently Grange meetings are open to the general public. Recreation comes in for its share of time, as dancing, dinners, picnics, dramatics, music, and exchange programs form an important part of the Grange program. In the legislative field, the Grange takes an active part in discussing and promoting any program deemed desirable by the organization. A business department is also maintained to carry on cooperative purchasing and selling and to provide insurance for members.

The Missouri State Grange was first organized in 1871, and since that date a sufficient number of subordinate Granges have been in existence to maintain a State Grange.<sup>62</sup> In 1938, there were 47 active subordinate Granges, three Pomona, and one State Grange in Missouri.<sup>63</sup> (See Map 18.) The total membership in subordinate Granges was

<sup>62</sup>Fifteen subordinate Granges are necessary to organize and maintain a State Grange.

<sup>63</sup>Shelby and Marion counties have a joint Pomona Grange. The other Pomona Granges are in Lewis and Macon counties. In the early part of 1939, two subordinate Granges were established in Audrain county.

slightly more than 2,200. Both the number of local Granges and their membership have shown a marked increase during the past few years. In 1930, there were 26 subordinate Granges with 1,775 members.

The Grange was concentrated in 10 counties, most of which were located in one section of the State. Of the 10 counties having Granges, 7 were situated in the northeastern section of Missouri, 1 in the central section, 1 in the extreme east central section, and 1 in the northwestern section. Approximately 90 per cent of the local Granges and their membership were found in the northeastern area, while all of the Pomona Granges were located in this section. About one-half of the subordinate Granges and one-half of the membership were located in Lewis county. In 1938, there were 21 local Granges in this county with a membership of 1,121, and in addition, a Pomona Grange having a membership of approximately 1,000. If Macon and Shelby counties are included with Lewis, this area contained approximately three-fourths of the Granges and four-fifths of the membership. Most of the Granges in Missouri meet in buildings located in the open country, and either in buildings owned by the Granges or in schoolhouses.

The Missouri State Grange has been active in many fields, striving to secure benefits not only for its members, but for the whole of the agricultural population as well. It has supported the Soil Conservation Program and advocated increasing cooperation among farmers to make the program more effective. The Grange has also advocated that the Federal government acquire marginal and submarginal land for use in growing forests and increasing wildlife. In the field of education, the Patrons of Husbandry have backed state aid for rural schools, better trained teachers, and the improvement of schools, while instruction and training in the techniques of better living have been important features of many local Grange programs.

### **Boy Scouts of America**

The Boy Scouts of America was organized in 1910 and chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1916. The purpose of the Boy Scouts is to "promote, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others." In the program of this organization, character building and citizenship training are stressed, and the achievements of boys recognized by granting awards in the form of a series of merit badges or ranks. Membership is open to boys 12 years of age or over, regardless of race, creed, or color. Younger boys, 9-12 years, may become members of a junior organization of the Boy Scouts. The members of this junior organization are called Cubs.

In 1938, there were 23,435 Scouts and 5,174 Cubs in Missouri.<sup>64</sup> Some 4,200 Scouts, representing about one-fifth of the total membership, were members of 235 rural troops distributed in 97 counties of the State.<sup>65</sup> (See Map 19.) St. Francois, Franklin, Washington, St. Louis, Cass, DeKalb, Holt, New Madrid, and Atchison counties each had five or more rural scout troops. The 17 counties not having Boy Scout troops in rural areas were scattered fairly well over the State.

Four types of membership are open to rural boys. First, the boy may join a regular Scout troop. A troop consists of eight or more boys operating under the supervision of an adult leader called the Scoutmaster, and a committee of three other men serving as counsellors. Second, he may join a Farm or Home Patrol composed of three to eight boys working under adult supervision. If these Farm or Home Patrols are not scattered over too wide a geographical area, several may combine to form a troop. Third, if a boy lives a considerable distance from a troop or Farm Patrol, he may be a Lone Scout. As such, he receives his training through publications, leaders, farm journals, cooperating newspapers, and through contact with interested adults. Fourth, he may be a member of a Sea Scout Ship. A Ship is made up of farm boys living near bodies of water and is open to older boys only. The number of Lone Scouts and Sea Scout Ship members in Missouri is relatively small.

Scouts engage in many activities in carrying out their program of character building and citizenship training. Emphasis is placed on constructive work and leisure-time activities through vocational guidance training, development of hobbies, camping, trail building, tree planting, conservation of wildlife, swimming, health and safety, first aid, reading, and community service in time of emergencies.

### Girl Scouts

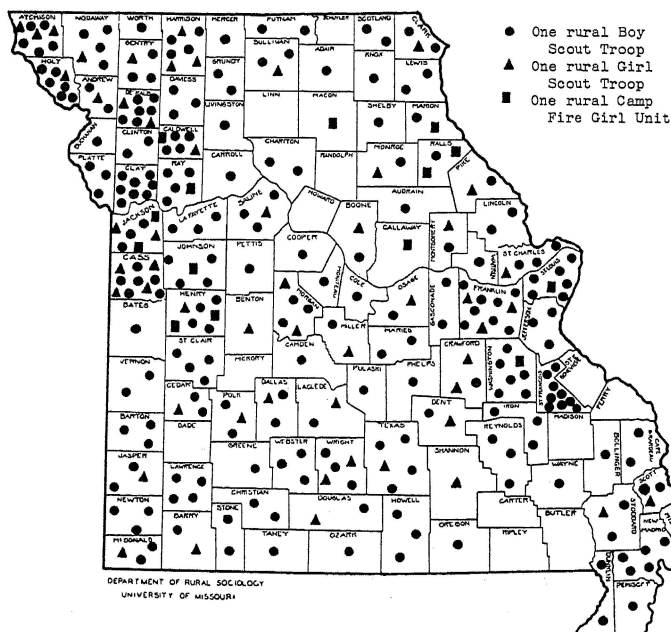
The Girl Scouts was founded in 1912 and incorporated as a national organization in 1915. The objectives of the organization are to provide members with opportunities to participate in wholesome recreation, to discover hobbies, and to develop qualities of good citizenship and the desire to be of service to others. Membership is open to any girl, 7 to 18 years of age, expressing the desire to join and who voluntarily accepts the obligations and laws of the organization.

The Girl Scouts is primarily an urban organization. Of the 12,000 Girl Scouts in Missouri in 1938, less than 1,000 were members of the 53 rural troops operating in the State.<sup>66</sup> (See Map 19.) Further evidence of the predominant urban concentration of this organization is

<sup>64</sup>As of October 31, 1938. Data from Regional Office.

<sup>65</sup>Does not include Lone Scouts or Cubs. Membership for 12 troops was not reported.

<sup>66</sup>Data from Regional Office of the Girl Scouts.



Map 19.—Location by counties of 235 rural Boy Scout troops, 53 rural Girl Scout troops, and 14 rural Camp Fire Girl units, 1938.

indicated by the fact that only 40 counties had troops in rural areas, and that the 53 rural troops represented less than 10 per cent of the total number of troops in the State.

The Girl Scout program covers a wide range of activities. In it are included training and experience in the fields of camping and out-of-doors, homemaking, citizenship and community service, health and safety, dramatics, music, arts and crafts, and sports. In participating in any of these activities, the girl attains different ranks and rewards as she becomes more proficient and experienced.

### Camp Fire Girls

The organization of Camp Fire Girls aims to provide a program of education for its members, emphasizing the development of emotional control, self-reliance, and resourcefulness. Established in 1911, the activities of this organization include camping, study of nature lore, sports, handicraft, dramatics, and music.

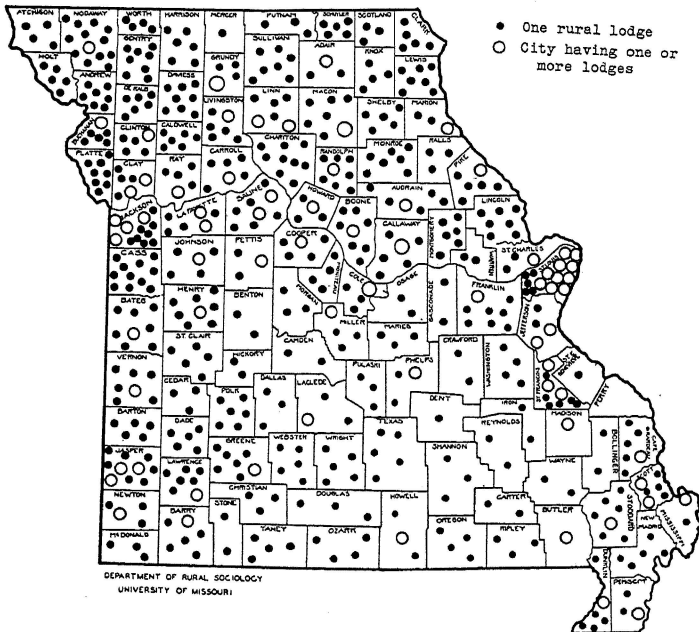
Although the Camp Fire group has a history of notable achievements in its work with girls, it has few organizations in the rural areas of Missouri. In 1938, there were only 14 local units with less than 200 members in villages of less than 2,500 population, and no



county had more than two units in communities of this size. (See Map 19.) In cities, however, stronger and larger groups were to be found.

**Masonic Order**

The Masonic Order is one of the largest and most widely established secret fraternal societies in Missouri. There are lodges in all sections of the State, as well as in all sizes of communities. In 1938, Missouri had 631 Masonic lodges, with a membership of approximately 89,000.<sup>67</sup> (See Map 20.) One or more of these lodges were located in each county with the exception of Perry. On the whole, the counties north of the Missouri river and along the western boundary of the State had the greatest number of lodges per county and the largest average membership per lodge,<sup>68</sup> while the central Ozark area had the smallest number of lodges and the smallest average membership.



Map 20.—Location by counties of 631 Masonic lodges, 1938.

Most of the local Masonic chapters were located in places under 2,500 population. Of the 631 lodges, 484 or 77 per cent were in rural areas, and 372 or 59 per cent in places of less than 1,000 population. Masonic lodges were located in the rural areas of all counties in the

<sup>67</sup>Data taken from Official Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri at its 118th Annual Communication, 1938.

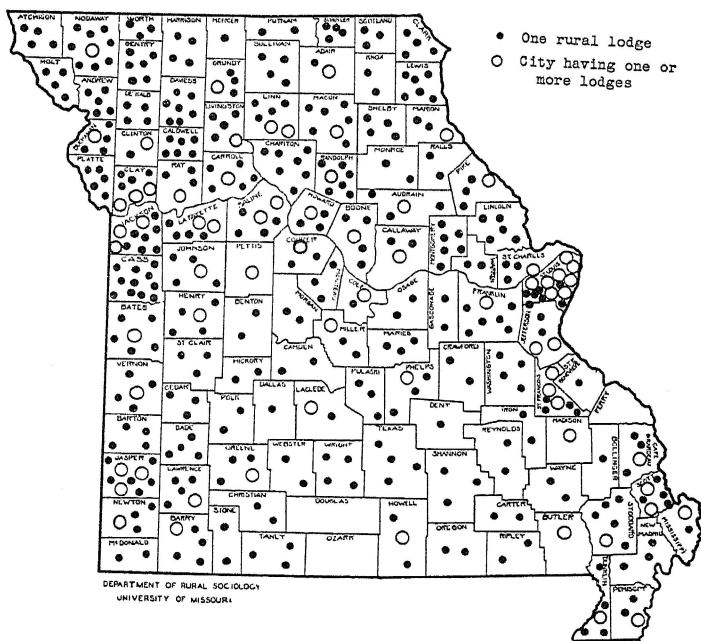
<sup>68</sup>Excluding Kansas City and St. Louis.

State, with the exception of Madison, Butler, and Perry, while 105 counties had lodges in places with less than 1,000 population. On the other hand, the largest percentage of members belonged to lodges in the cities. The 484 Masonic lodges in rural areas had a membership of 31,000, as compared with the 58,000<sup>69</sup> members of the 147 lodges in places of 2,500 or over.

The Masons, in cooperation with the Eastern Star Lodge, maintain a Masonic Home in St. Louis for the needy members of these organizations and their children. On September 1, 1938, there were 361 people in this home—257 adults and 104 children.

### Eastern Star

The Eastern Star lodge may be regarded as a companion organization of the Masonic Order. Membership is limited to women who are either wives, sisters, daughters, widows, or mothers of members of the Masonic lodge, and to men who are Masons. This organization had over



Map 21.—Location by counties of 521 Eastern Star lodges, 1938.

60,000 members in 521 local lodges in Missouri in 1938.<sup>70</sup> (See Map 21.) Although Eastern Star lodges were found in all counties except Douglas, Ozark, and Perry, the greatest number of chapters per county and the largest average membership per lodge were in the areas north

<sup>69</sup>More than 36,000 of this number were members of lodges in Kansas City and St. Louis.  
<sup>70</sup>Data taken from Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Missouri, Sixty-fourth Annual Session, 1938.

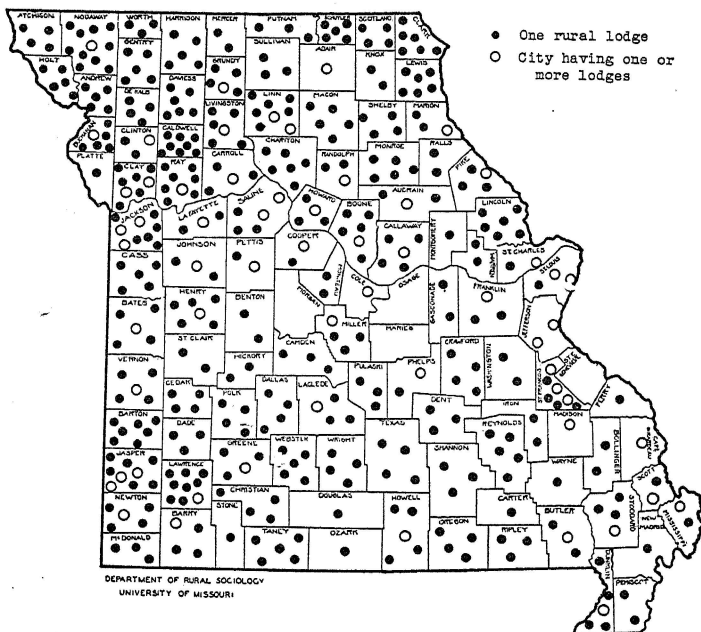
of the Missouri River and in Jackson, St. Louis, Jasper, and Cass counties.<sup>71</sup> As with the Masonic Order, most of the local units were located in places under 2,500 population. Of the 521 lodges, 367 were in rural areas, and 259 in places of less than 1,000 population. Six counties did not have a lodge located in rural territory, while 15 lacked lodges in villages of less than 1,000.

A majority of the members of the Eastern Star were members of lodges established in cities. Approximately 60 per cent of the 60,000 members in 1938 were affiliated with city lodges, and 40 per cent with rural lodges. The percentage of members of lodges in places of less than 1,000 population was 24.4.

As mentioned above, the Eastern Star cooperates with the Masonic lodge in maintaining the Masonic Home in St. Louis.

### Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows may be looked upon as a rural organization as far as Missouri is concerned. Four out of every five local chapters in the State were located in rural areas, while more



Map 22.—Location by counties of 448 lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 1937.

than 60 per cent of the lodges were in villages having less than 1,000 persons. Over one-half of the members were affiliated with rural

<sup>71</sup>Excluding Kansas City and St. Louis.

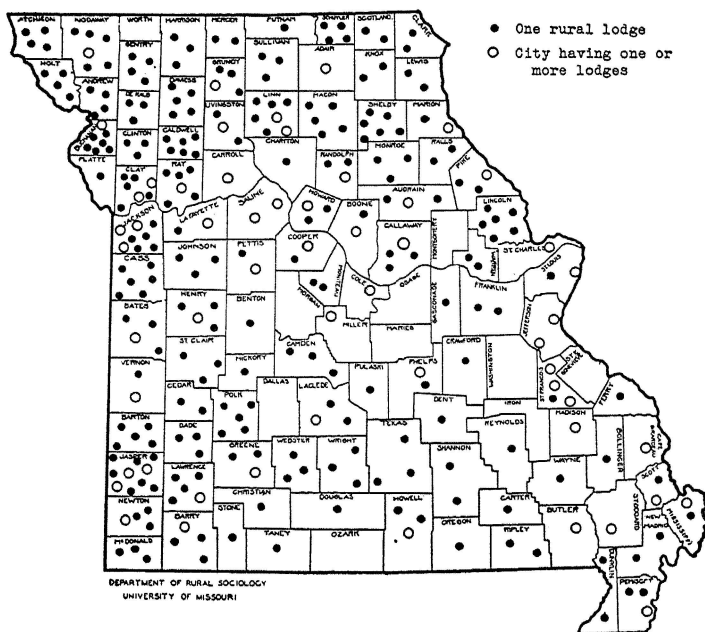
lodges. At the end of 1937, there were 448 lodges with a membership of 22,388 in Missouri.<sup>72</sup> (See Map 22.) Of these 448 lodges, 364 were in rural places, and 281 in places under 1,000. The rural lodges had a total membership of 13,379, and the lodges in villages under 1,000, 8267 members.

Local chapters were scattered throughout the State—Morgan, Maries, and Osage counties being the only areas not having one or more chapters—and were concentrated, in the main, in the northern and western parts of Missouri. In these sections were found the largest numbers of lodges and the most members. On the other hand, the south, central, and southeastern areas of the State were the least organized.

A home for the aged members and children of members is maintained and operated by the I.O.O.F. lodge in cooperation with the Rebekah Assembly.

### Rebekah Assembly

As the Eastern Star may be regarded as the companion lodge of the Masonic Order, the Rebekah Assembly may be regarded as a companion



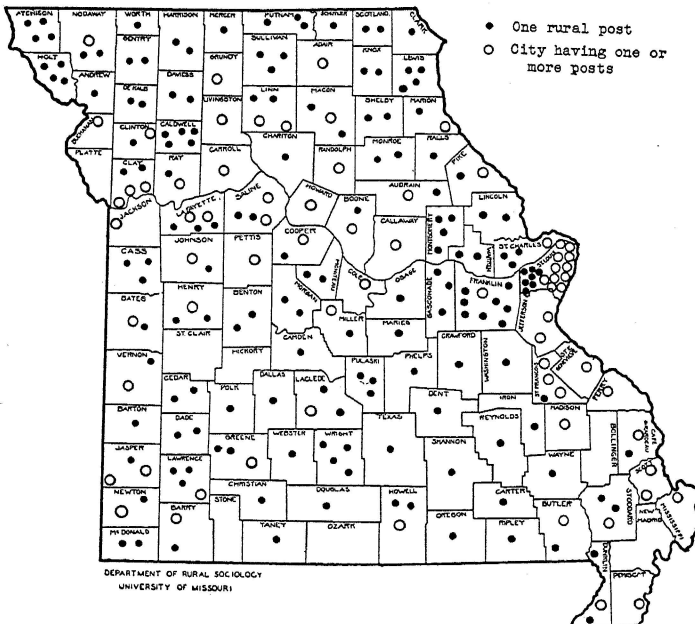
Map 23.—Location by counties of 321 Rebekah Assembly lodges, 1937.

<sup>72</sup>Journal of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 1938.

lodge of the I.O.O.F. And like the Odd Fellows, the Rebekah Assembly is a predominately rural organization. At the end of 1937, there were 321 lodges with 16,224 members<sup>73</sup> in 104 counties of the State.<sup>74</sup> (See Map 23.) Seventy-five per cent of these lodges were located in rural areas and approximately 50 per cent were in places having less than 1,000 population. Of the members, 8,611, or 53 per cent, were affiliated with rural lodges, while over 4,500 were members of lodges in villages with less than 1,000 persons. Most of the lodges and members were concentrated in the western section of the State, as compared with the south central and southeastern counties where there were few lodges and a small number of members.

### American Legion

Chartered by Congress in 1919, the American Legion is an organization of Veterans of the World War who served honorably on active duty with the armed forces of the United States. The purpose of the Legion is to serve the local community, the State, and the Nation, and to provide for its members certain social and economic benefits.



Map 24.—Location by counties of 320 American Legion posts, 1938.

<sup>73</sup>Journal of Proceedings of the Rebekah Assembly, I. O. O. F. of the State of Missouri, Fifty-fourth Annual Session, 1938.

<sup>74</sup>The following counties had no Rebekah lodges situated within their boundaries: Dallas, Iron, Mariés, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage, Ozark, Ste. Genevieve, Washington, and Worth.

Of the 320 Legion posts in Missouri in 1938, 164 or 51.3 per cent were located in rural areas, and 87 or 27.2 per cent were in places of less than 1,000 population.<sup>75</sup> (See Map 24.) Legion posts were located in 107 counties, in the rural territory of 89 counties, and in the villages of less than 1,000 population in 56 of the counties of the State. These 320 posts had a membership of a little more than 25,000. Less than one-fourth of this number belonged to rural posts, and less than one-tenth to posts in small villages of less than 1,000 persons.

In carrying out the aim of service to the community, State, and Nation, the members of the Legion participate in many activities. Boy Scout troops are sponsored, rewards for achievements in school provided, junior baseball leagues established, emergency relief corps organized, etc. The work of the Child Welfare Division of the Legion should be mentioned specifically. This division performs three functions: (1) to inform the members of the Legion and its auxiliary organization of the conditions and needs of children in the community; (2) to secure the enactment of legislation to bring improved care and protection to all children; and (3) to provide assistance to any child of a Veteran of the World War when local resources are not available or are inadequate. Working in close cooperation with existing child welfare agencies in the community, the division emphasizes the care of children in their own homes with their parents.

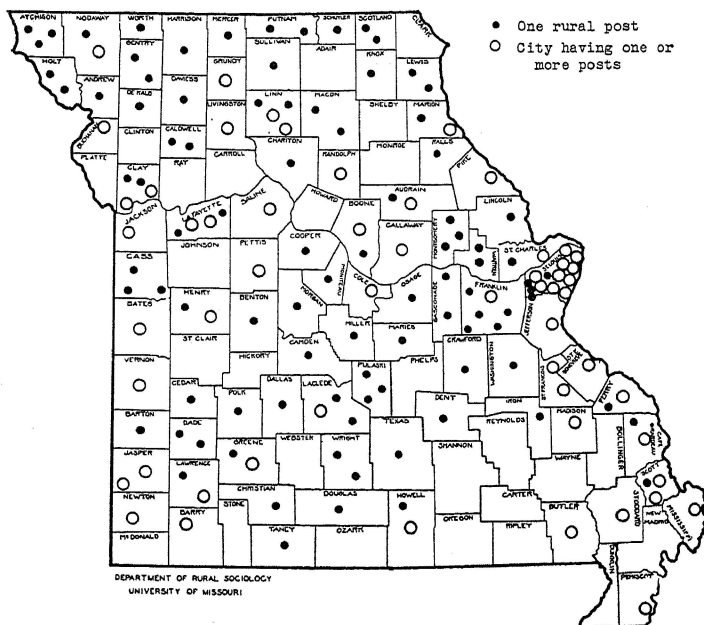
### American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary is an organization open to women directly related to members of the American Legion.<sup>76</sup> In 1938, there were 213 Auxiliary posts in Missouri, 95 of which were located in rural territory, and 48 in places with fewer than 1,000 persons.<sup>77</sup> (See Map 25.) At that time the number of members in the Auxiliary had reached almost 9,000. Over two-thirds of the membership was affiliated with posts located in cities, and less than one-third with posts in rural areas.

<sup>75</sup>Membership as of September, 1938.

<sup>76</sup>Wife, daughter, mother, widow, or sister.

<sup>77</sup>Data from Historical Record of American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, Eighteenth Annual Department Convention, 1938.



Map 25.—Location by counties of 213 American Legion Auxiliary posts, 1938.

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

Honorable service in the armed forces of the United States during a time of war for which the government authorizes the issuance of a campaign medal, constitutes the basis of eligibility to membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Established first in Ohio in 1899, this organization became national in character in 1913, and at the present time has more than 4,000 posts scattered throughout the nation. For women who are directly related to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a companion organization exists called the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

The purpose of these organizations is to provide services for their members and for the community as a whole, emphasizing those activities concerned with economic security and the care of the sick, dependent, and aged.

In 1938, there were 8,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and 2,500 members of the Auxiliary. Of the 107 posts maintained by the men's organization and 68 by the women's, the highest percentage of both were located in cities. The same situation was true for membership, since most of the members of both organizations were affiliated with urban posts.

In achieving their aims, these organizations do a variety of things. They promote legislation for the benefit of veterans, campaign for funds for the disabled and sick soldiers, grant burial benefits, provide for widows and orphans of veterans, and give emergency financial aid to their members.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution**

The purposes of the Daughters of the American Revolution are social, historical, patriotic, and educational. This organization seeks to preserve the records of the political and social development of this country, to instill within members and others devotion to the ideals and traditions of the nation, and to promote educational programs showing the value of these ideals and traditions.

In 1938, there were 86 chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Missouri.<sup>78</sup> Fifty of these chapters were located in places having 2,500 or more people, and 36 were in places of less than 2,500. In 1937, 76 chapters reported a membership of approximately 4,000, over 75 per cent of whom were members of city chapters.

The Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution operates a historical museum at Arrow Rock, preserving a building, equipment, and the records of the slave days of the State. In addition, members engage in a wide variety of activities in carrying out the aims of their organization. Awards are given for achievements in schools—particularly in history and civics; historical papers are secured and turned over to the libraries; and contributions of money are made to worthy community projects.

### **United Daughters of the Confederacy**

The objectives of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are historical, benevolent, educational, and social. Membership is open to all women over 18 years of age who are lineal descendants of those who served honorably in the Confederate Army, and to any wife of a Confederate soldier.

In 1937, there were over 1,200 members affiliated with the 39 chapters of this organization in Missouri.<sup>79</sup> Thirty-three of the chapters, with a membership of approximately 1,000, were located in cities, and only six chapters were located in the rural areas.

The program of the Missouri United Daughters of the Confederacy consists of honoring the memory of those who served in the service of the Confederate states, in collecting and preserving historical records, providing financial assistance to needy survivors, and in helping educate worthy descendants.

<sup>78</sup>Data from Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution Year Book, 1938.

<sup>79</sup>Data from Minutes of the 40th Annual Convention, Missouri Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1937.