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### A Study of The Direct Welfare Relief Cases of Graham County, Kansas, 1933-1939

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A STUDY OF THE DIRECT WELFARE RELIEF CASES OF  
GRAHAM COUNTY KANSAS  
1933--1939

BEING

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY  
OF THE FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER  
OF SCIENCE

BY

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	
History.....	1
Relief.....	4
Cost of Relief.....	7
Industry.....	8
Population.....	9
Procedure.....	11
II. ANALYSIS OF CASES STUDIED	
Residence.....	13
Permanence of Residence.....	14
Reasons for Moving.....	16
Nationality.....	16
Years on Relief.....	17
Property.....	18
MEN	
Nationality.....	19
Occupations.....	20
Work Record.....	20
World Owes Them A Living.....	22
Marital Status.....	26
Health.....	28
Diseases.....	28
Education.....	29
Religion.....	30
Age Variations.....	31
Social Handicaps.....	32
WOMEN	
Nationality.....	34
Occupations.....	35
Marital Status.....	35
Health.....	38
Diseases.....	38
Education.....	39



## CHAPTER

## PAGE

Age Variations.....	40
Religion.....	40
Children Per Mother.....	41

## CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

Health.....	43
Diseases.....	43
Delinquency.....	44
Education.....	44

## CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

Education.....	45
Disorganization.....	46
Marital Status.....	46
Children Over Sixteen at Home.....	47
Others in Home.....	47

## III. ANALYSIS OF NEGRO CASES STUDIED

Years on Relief.....	50
Residence.....	50
Permanence of Residence.....	51
Reasons for Moving.....	51

## MEN AND WOMEN

Occupations.....	52
Work Records.....	52
Marital Status.....	53
Health.....	54
Diseases.....	54
Education.....	55
Religion.....	56
Age Variations.....	56
Social Handicaps.....	57
Children Per Mother.....	57

## CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

Health.....	58
Education.....	59

## CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

Education.....	59
Health.....	60

Others in the Home.....	60
Summary.....	61

#### IV. COMPARISON OF RELIEF CASES IN KINGMAN AND GRAHAM COUNTIES

Permanence of Residence.....	62
Reasons for Moving.....	63
Nationality.....	63
Occupations.....	64
Work Records.....	64
Marital Status.....	65
Health.....	66
Diseases.....	66
Education.....	67
Religion.....	68
Age Variations.....	68
Social Handicaps.....	69
Children Per Mother.....	70

#### CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

Health.....	70
Delinquency.....	71

#### CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

Education.....	71
Marital Status.....	71
Others in the Home.....	72
Summary.....	72

#### V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions.....	75
Negro Cases.....	78
Kingman County.....	79
Recommendations.....	80

APPENDIX.....	84
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BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	153
-------------------	-----

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
I. Wheat Production in Graham County.....	5
II. Cost of Relief in Graham County.....	8
III. Rainfall of Graham County.....	9
IV. Population of Graham County.....	10
V. Children Per Mother.....	58

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
I. Permanent and Transient Residence.....	126
II. Reasons for Families Moving.....	127
III. Nationality.....	128
IV. Number of Years Families on Relief.....	129
V. Foreign and Slavery-Born Persons.....	130
VI. Occupations of the Men.....	131
VII. Work Record of Men.....	132
VIII. Marital Status.....	133
IX. Health.....	134
X. Diseases of Clients.....	135
XI. Education.....	136
XII. Religion.....	137
XIII. Age Variations.....	138
XIV. Social Handicaps of Men.....	139
XV. Occupations of the Women.....	140
XVI. Children Per Mother.....	141
XVII. Health of Children Under Sixteen.....	142
XVIII. Diseases of Children Under Sixteen.....	143
XIX. Education of Children Under Sixteen By Families.....	144
XX. Education of Children Over Sixteen By Families.....	145
XXI. Disorganization of Children by Families.....	146
XXII. Marital Status of Married Children.....	147
XXIII. Children Over Sixteen at home by Families.....	148
XXIV. Others in the Home.....	149

XXV.	Reasons for Being in the Home.....	150
XXVI.	Number of Times Family has Moved.....	151
XXVII.	Length of Residence.....	152
	Map of Graham County.....	153

The following thesis is based upon a survey of 120 direct writers called families of Graham county, Kansas. Before giving the new information and the conclusions reached the author has furnished the reader with a brief history of the county and then grouped for a fuller appreciation of the composite situation.

### HISTORY

Graham county is like any ordinary county in western Kansas. It has its good years and its bad years. It has enjoyed prosperity and has suffered drought and discouragement. The county was one of the thirty-four counties organized by the legislature of 1862, which divided the territory all of the organized portion of the western part of Kansas into twenty-six. It was named in honor of Captain John L. Graham, Company D, Eighth Kansas Infantry, who



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The following thesis is based upon a study of 120 direct welfare relief families of Graham county, Kansas. Before giving the case information and the conclusions reached the author has furnished the reader with a brief history of the county as a background for a fuller appreciation of the composite situation.

### HISTORY

Graham county is like any ordinary county in western Kansas. It has its good years and its bad years. It has enjoyed prosperity and has suffered drouth and discouragement. The county was one of the thirty-four counties created by the legislature of 1867, which divided into counties all of the organized portion of the state east of range line twenty-six. It was named in honor of Captain John L. Graham, Company D, Eighth Kansas Infantry, who

was killed in action at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863. The area comprising Graham county was originally occupied by the Comanche tribe of Indians. It is located in the second tier of counties from the Nebraska line and the fourth tier from the Colorado<sup>1</sup> line. It occupies a space of thirty square miles.

The first white occupants of Graham county arrived in 1872 and 1874 and were herdsmen from Rooks and Norton counties. The earliest homesteaders arrived about 1877 and settled along Bow creek in<sup>2</sup> the northeastern corner of the county. In 1877 a colony of negroes from Kentucky, under the direction of W. R. Hill, who was a real estate man interested in the settling of Graham county, settled in the<sup>3</sup> eastern part of the county. This settlement was named Nicodemus after the negro slave, Nicodemus, who gained fame through the buying of his personal freedom. In the next few years this settlement grew and by 1880 had a population of over 500 persons. In 1888, with the coming of the Union Pacific railroad several miles to the south, the town began to

- 
1. U. S. Historical Records Survey, Graham County History, Manuscript Copy, page 28.
  2. Map of Location, Appendix, page 153.
  3. Ibid., Appendix, page 153.



decrease in size and today it has fewer than 100<sup>4</sup> inhabitants.

On April 1, 1880, a proclamation of organization was issued by Governor John P. Saint John, who had received a petition for organization signed by 250 residents stating that there were 1,500 inhabitants in the county and that they wished to become<sup>5</sup> an organized county.

The first election of county officers called for the purpose of locating a permanent county seat was held June 1, 1880, and Millbrook was selected<sup>6</sup> as the temporary county seat.

For the next five years we find a dispute over the location of the county seat. On August 4, 1887, a cyclone partly destroyed the town of Millbrook leaving only a few buildings standing. The following January a petition asking that the county seat be relocated at Hill City was presented to the county commissioners. On March 6, 1888, an election was held to determine the location and the results declared<sup>7</sup> Hill City to be the new county seat.

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4. U. S. Historical Records Survey, Graham County History, Manuscript Copy, page 28.

5. Ibid., page 28.

6. Ibid., page 28.

7. Ibid., page 28.

In the southwestern corner of the county is Saint Peter. This settlement started with the opening of the present century and is made up of the German-Russian people, who formerly settled in Ellis<sup>8</sup> county and then moved to Graham county.

#### RELIEF

Some fifty years ago the care of the poor was handled by the county. Now that it has become such a general responsibility it has been changed to state and federal government control. In extractions taken from the Commissioners Journal for the year of May 8, 1889, the first county poor farm was established when a lease for one year was drawn up between Tillie Corbet and the county commissioners.<sup>9</sup> March 14, 1891, the following statement is given: "The proposition to furnish seed grain for the destitute farmers of Graham county by the state was carried, and blanks were filled out as follows---1000 bushels of corn,<sup>10</sup> fifty bushels of wheat, 3000 bushels of millet.

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8. Map of Location, Appendix, page 153.

9. Graham County Commissioners, Journal, 1889, page 253.

10. Ibid., 1891, page 1.

From 1893 to 1936, a period of forty-four years, Graham county produced an average of 8.97 bushels of wheat per acre.<sup>11</sup> According to the Fort Hays Branch Experimental Station if less than six bushels of wheat per acre is produced it is considered a crop failure.<sup>12</sup>

Considering a yield of six bushels or less per acre as a crop failure the county during a forty-four year period has had twelve years of crop failures. The following table shows the production of wheat in Graham county for the years of 1893 to 1936.

TABLE I  
WHEAT PRODUCTION IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Year	Bu.	Year	Bu.	Year	Bu.
1893	0	1908	10	1923	5
1894	1	1909	10	1924	13
1895	3	1910	11	1925	4
1896	8	1911	2	1926	2
1897	13	1912	7	1927	4
1898	14	1913	4	1928	15
1899	8	1914	19	1929	10
1900	8	1915	12	1930	15
1901	12	1916	18	1931	16
1902	10	1917	3	1932	10
1903	22	1918	3	1933	6
1904	7	1919	10	1934	3
1905	14	1920	22	1935	0
1906	7	1921	10	1936	9
1907	8	1922	8		13

11. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Biennial Report 1893-1936.
12. Fort Hays Branch Experimental Station, June 17, 1939. Taken for a normal year--price factor important also.
13. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Biennial Report, 1893-1936.



Years of crop failures in an agricultural section inevitably create many social problems. People always turn to the government for an answer to their circumstances at such times. Relief is not new. We have always had with us the poor, the ignorant, the shiftless, and the socially unadjusted. And it is probably safe to believe that we will always have them with us in some fair measure. It is true that during these drouth years many hard-working, honest men have been stripped of their self-respect as well as their property. And it may be just as strongly verified that in Graham county and other counties, many lazy, carefree negroes and ignorant whites have enjoyed better care and provisions than they earned for themselves during productive years.

When observing the cases in this study the reader will note the lack of ambition and the concern about only present conditions on the part of many of the relief families. They apparently do not worry about the future welfare of their many offspring. Neither do they give much attention to environmental or personal cleanliness. They do not foresee the benefits of education and offer quite inadequate

excuses when their children drop out of school. Many of the individuals are prone to elaborate and increase their destitute circumstances in order to have more free aid. This tendency to be untruthful about conditions as they actually exist is the cause of welfare workers having to question and investigate further through acquaintances, friends, and relatives.

#### Cost of Relief

Graham county is noted for its large number of persons on relief. Statistics of May 26, 1939, show that 190 homes have been abandoned in the county, the actual time of vacancy not being determined. At present sixty-five per cent of the taxes are delinquent. Of the families of the county, 986, which is sixty-four per cent of the population, receive some<sup>14</sup> type of governmental assistance.

Not until August 1937 did Graham county receive federal aid for the care of the poor. The following table shows the amount expended for relief welfare

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14. Graham County Welfare Office, Financial Record,  
Hill City, Kansas, June 10, 1939.

cases since 1937.

TABLE II

COST OF RELIEF IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Year	County	Federal and State Aid	Total
1937	\$21,878.51	\$4,083.44	\$25,961.95
1938	26,953.22	23,261.03	50,214.25
1939*	11,521.20	9,320.32	20,841.52

15

The amount expended for relief is increasing each year as is evident from the above figures. For 1940 Graham county has a proposed budget of \$65,000 for relief.

INDUSTRY

The chief industry in the county is farming, but on account of the drouth there has been very little crop production during the past six or seven years. The periods of drouth and the dust storms are vital topics of discussion among the inhabitants of Graham county. The average rainfall of the

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15. Graham County Welfare Office, Financial Record, Hill City, Kansas, June 10, 1939. \*January, February, March, and April.



county is 19.43 inches. The following table which gives the annual amount of rainfall in Graham county is proof of the drouth which the farmers are experiencing.

TABLE III

RAINFALL OF GRAHAM COUNTY

Year	Amount in Inches	Year	Amount in Inches
1907	15.50	1924	12.21
1908	28.60	1925	15.37
1909	24.12	1926	11.51
1910	9.65	1927	25.10
1911	14.00	1928	27.31
1912	20.95	1929	20.66
1913	17.11	1930	25.80
1914	21.69	1931	24.24
1915	36.04	1932	18.19
1916	14.63	1933	13.38
1917	12.34	1934	13.45
1918	21.28	1935	21.24
1919	29.93	1936	14.64
1920	17.91	1937	13.52
1921	16.05	1938	16.94
1922	16.31	1939*	8.74
1923	32.32		16

POPULATION

There are three incorporated towns in the county, namely Hill City, Morland, and Bogue, the population being 1103, 428, and 141 respectively. <sup>17</sup> Penokee,

16. U. S. Weather Bureau, Official Weather Report of Graham County, June 10, 1939.

17. Graham County Clerk, 1939 Census. \*To June 10, 1939.

Saint Peter, and Nicodemus are small unincorporated towns with a total population of approximately 200.<sup>18</sup> The present total population of the county is 6,345 persons.<sup>19</sup> The year of 1910 saw the greatest population, which was 8,155, since the organization of the county. The following table gives the population every fifth year since its organization.

TABLE IV  
POPULATION OF GRAHAM COUNTY

Year	Number
1880	4,258
1885	2,889
1890	4,799
1895	3,825
1900	4,804
1905	6,410
1910	8,155
1915	7,466
1920	7,488
1925	7,992
1930	7,690
1935	7,535
1939*	6,345

20

- 
18. Author's Estimate of Population.  
 19. Graham County Clerk, 1939 Census.  
 20. Kansas Department of Agriculture, Biennial Report, 1880-1935.  
 \* Graham County Clerk, Census, May 26, 1939.

## PROCEDURE

Thus we see that the major factors involved in the welfare situation of Graham county may be labeled as: crop failures due to the prolonged drouth, over-speculation during prosperous years, fall in prices of farm products, and the existence of the negro and the foreign-born persons. The cases recorded herein are as accurate as was possible to obtain from the county records. It must be remembered that a constant change takes place in each case. No case remains the same from even one month to the next.

In order to make the case selection as unbiased as possible, the author simply drew the case numbers by lot. The numbers of all the cases were listed and every seventh number was drawn, thus making a random selection which should be more truly representative than if the cases had been chosen by name. The case histories were obtained from county welfare office records and the information disclosed in this thesis.

Chapter three gives a comparison of negro and white cases within the county. In chapter four a comparison of relief cases in Kingman and Graham counties is given.

## CHAPTER II

### ANALYSIS OF CASES STUDIED

There is much controversy today concerning the actual importance of the family as a necessary group in present society. The family is one of our oldest institutions and does serve as a moral guide, a social center, and a character-training factor, whether its influence be good or bad. New realms of opportunity have opened for the women of our country. Ease of transportation and communication, mass production through the use of machinery, increasing individualism, and development of many other groups and institutions have tended to take the place of the family. Many homes have experienced drastic changes during the drouth and depression. Some have been completely disintegrated after financial failures while others have encountered a social and moral change.

We have always had broken homes, juvenile delinquency, drouths, taxes, mortgages, and crop failures. Society has long had her morally sick



and her mentally and physically diseased. After making a summary of one county's relief cases it seems evident to the author that government welfare is really just another name for the care and maintenance of the mentally, morally, and physically unadjusted members of our society. It is true that a few clients were once well-to-do persons capable of earning more than a sufficient income, but such cases are not of the usual type.

## ANALYSIS OF FAMILIES

### Residence

When governmental aid was first started many people were just drifting from one place to another. It is now required that clients must establish a residence before they can obtain aid. The case of Mr. V. as given in No. 164<sup>1</sup> is an example of one who practiced such transiency. Mr. V., a negro, was born in New York City and lived there until he was thirty-five years of age. He has had only two

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1. Case History, Appendix, page 87.

jobs in his life and the work of the two jobs total less than three years. He is now sixty-nine years of age. After leaving New York City he spent the remainder of years in roaming from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts begging for his food. He found that housewives would give food to a begging negro; so he has kept his pennies in his pockets and taken advantage of his color. He will give no information concerning his relatives or his past employers. Life's pleasures for him consist of food, a place to rest his weary bones, and someone to listen to his tales of adventure.

Mr. V. is the only purely transient case in this study while two others have some earmarks of transiency. His is the very unusual case as clients run in Graham county and is in no way representative of the county's relief cases. Of the clients studied only three per cent are transient.

#### Permanence of Residence

A very large percentage of the clients have been permanent residents of the county and have not been



drifters. Before giving facts concerning the permanence of residence of the clients it seems wise that a case exemplifying the very usual case should be given. Case No. 138<sup>3</sup> may well serve as just such an example. Mr. C. has lived in Graham county since 1899. He and his wife have common school educations. They have four children who are in good health. By 1927 Mr. C. had been forced to mortgage everything he owned except eighty acres of land. Crop failures and heavy interest caused him to become discouraged and he was finally forced to seek aid from some other source. The C's maintain a low standard of living. They are of average intelligence and according to reports are strictly honest and ambitious. They express gratitude and appreciation for the aid given them and seem eager to cooperate.

Fifty-one per cent of the families have never changed their residence. Twenty-six per cent have moved only once. Twenty-three per cent have moved more than one time. Thus showing that the typical

- 
2. Permanence of Residence, Figure I, Appendix, page 126.
  3. Case History, Appendix, page 92.

relief client of Graham county is not of a transient nature, ninety-seven per cent of them being permanent residents.<sup>4</sup>

### Reasons for Moving

Of those who moved thirty per cent failed to pay their rent and were forced to look for other living quarters. Seventeen per cent moved from their homes in the country into town in order to get on relief. Thirteen per cent gave employment-seeking as their reason for moving. Eleven per cent lost their homes and had to move and eleven per cent bought new land and moved on it. Nine per cent moved to more desirable homes. Five per cent moved from the home of one or both parents to homes of their own. Less than three per cent moved out of the state and less than one per cent moved because county officials gave orders to that effect.<sup>5</sup>

### Nationality

Of the families studied those of American

4. Number of Times Family Moved, Figure XXVI, Appendix, page 151.
5. Reasons for Moving, Figure II, Appendix, page 127.

nationality are largely predominant; negroes rate second place with the German-Russian families third in number. Sixty-five per cent of the families are American. Twenty-one per cent are negroes. Ten per cent are German-Russian. Less than one per cent of the families are Polish and less than one per cent are French and English.<sup>6</sup>

### Years On Relief

It will be observed that sixty-eight per cent of the 120 cases studied have been on relief for five or more years. This indicates that they are not emergency situations but are of long-standing poor economic conditions. They do not seek jobs on their own nor do they take much pride in their independence.<sup>7</sup>

Case No. 646<sup>8</sup> is typical of the long-standing cases. Mr. and Mrs. L. have been on relief since 1934 and were receiving county aid before that time. They have six children and live in an old improvised

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6. Nationality, Figure III, Appendix, page 128.

7. Years On Relief, Figure IV, Appendix, page 129.

8. Case History, Appendix, page 93.

box car. The home is filthy and the children suffer much ill health. Mr. L. is ruptured and claims that his nerves are bad. Mrs. L. is ruptured, hard of hearing, and has infected tonsils and adenoids.

Both Mr. and Mrs. L. have completed only a sixth-grade education. They attended the Church of God several years ago but have been to no services in recent years.

The L's have the bad habit of always pretending they are ill. If a case worker happens to call they run and jump into bed and feign sickness.

Mr. L. can do farm work, road or bridge work, truck driving, or any kind of common labor. He and Mrs. L. were raised on farms. Mr. L. is one of fifteen children and most of his relatives are on relief in some part of the United States.

### Property

Most of the clients have never owned any property and many of those who have owned it do not know its value. They cannot give even approximate estimates on the amounts of their debts nor do they know the value of maintaining the privilege of receiv-



ing credit. Their credit expired before they went on relief. Those owning homes have such heavy mortgages that residence is merely a matter of length of tenure before being asked to move.

Doctor's bills constitute the largest item of debts. Confinement cases are most often given as the major health expense and debt. Results show that sixty-six per cent of the clients studied have never owned any real estate and have always rented. Twenty-three per cent own some kind of mortgaged property. Ten per cent owned property which was mortgaged and have now lost the property. Less than one per cent own property which is clear of any mortgage.

#### ANALYSIS OF MEN

##### Nationality

Sixty-five per cent of the men are Americans. Twenty-one per cent are negroes of African descent. Eleven per cent are German-Russian. Two per cent are French and one per cent are Polish. It is

found that six of the men were foreign-born and one  
10  
man was born in slavery.

### Occupations

As has already been stated, farming is the leading occupation of Graham county. Since it must be conceded that drouth and depression are the causes of much relief it is reasonable to expect the farmers to be the first to need aid. Seventy-four per cent were listed as farmers and sixteen per cent as common laborers. Less than two per cent were ministers and one case each of the following occupations was listed: blacksmith, well-driller, porter, saloon operator, teacher, railroad worker, mechanic, and a mail carrier. The mail carrier worked on a star route for which service one does not receive a pension.  
11

### Work Record

There were no men in some of the families but of

- 
10. Foreign and Slavery-Born Persons, Figure V, Appendix, page 130.
  11. Occupations, Figure VI, Appendix, page 131.



those men clients recorded fifty-five per cent were reported as good workers. Thirty-one per cent were classed as poor workers and seven per cent as fair workers. Less than one per cent would not work and one man was too old to work.<sup>12</sup>

The foregoing paragraph indicated that a large percentage of the men are on relief not because they are poor workers but because their own occupation has failed to produce a means of livelihood. Case No. 173<sup>13</sup> is an instance of such circumstances. Mr. G. owns 160 acres of land which is mortgaged. He has a car, farm tools, cattle, and a moderately well-furnished house. He built his house after a year of good crops and has been unable to pay for it during the crop failure years. Mr. G. has done no work except farming and seems to be interested and capable in this occupation. He is pleasant and willing to cooperate with the welfare office but is slowly losing all his belongings on account of his inability to make payments on them. Mrs. G. and the two children have good health and Mr. G's

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12. Work Record, Figure VII, Appendix, page 132.

13. Case History, Appendix, page 95.

only health problem is his teeth.

### World Owes Them A Living

We must not overlook that thirty-one per cent who do not exert themselves to earn what aid they do receive. They think the "world owes them a living." Cases Nos. 1008<sup>14</sup>, 1009<sup>15</sup>, 1033<sup>16</sup>, and 132<sup>17</sup>, are good examples of such an attitude. In the first given case Mr. M. is a twice-married man who raves profanely at his family. He tries to be sick so he will not have to work; although he is constantly seeking a doctor's examination no ailment has yet been found.

Mr. M. ran away from home when he was seventeen years of age and in the fifth grade. He married his first wife when he was seventeen years old and he lived with her only fourteen months. He married his present wife some four years later and they have two children, ages fifteen and six years. The oldest

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14. Case History, Appendix, page 97.

15. Ibid., Appendix, page 99.

16. Ibid., Appendix, page 101.

17. Ibid., Appendix, page 103.

boy was before a Juvenile court at the age of six years, and in 1934 he was sentenced to a reform school for throwing rocks, breaking windows, and general bad conduct. He was paroled.

The youngest son of Mrs. M. was still nursing at the age of two years, and had not learned the proper habits of bladder control at the age of three years.

Mr. M. says that his children have no more right to an education than he has; so he does not send them to school. "It is the duty of the county to keep us," says Mr. M.

In Case 1009, Mr. H. is a man who is inclined to criticize his wife, his friends, and those who help him. He and his wife live in a one-room house, meagerly furnished. Mrs. H. talks of nothing but present conditions---the future can take care of itself! Her home is dirty and flies find a realm of contentment there.

When asked about debts, Mr. and Mrs. H. said that they owed forty dollars for the expenses of their first child. They did not know the amount

owed for the birth of their second child but just supposed that the county had paid for it.

A letter which the man of Case No. 1033 wrote to the State Board of Social Welfare Of Kansas is quite explanatory of the case. Mr. G. has always lived on his father's land and has permitted his father to practically keep him and his family of three members. Here is the letter:

Dear sirs:

Some time ago I was rejected from the W.P.A. on account of disability. Being unable to find employment elsewhere I applied to Mrs. H. at the welfare office for some assistance and so far have been unable to get any satisfaction. I will give you my record as brief as possible. I was born and always lived in and around Hill City. I am 47 years old, have a wife and two children, farmed until the last few years. Worked on W.P.A. last two years. For several years I have been unable to do a hard day's work. My most painful ailments are varicose veins in the textiles. I have stiff knees from an old case of rheumatism which makes it hard for me to walk. I have one heel that has hurt continually



for six or seven years from running a nail in it. I have broken arches I suppose due to overweight. I have a tumor on my left arm, I have inside rupture caused from heavy lifting but I am still able to get around and do light work but I can't stay on my feet all day. Do you think I am entitled to some assistance? I am a respectable citizen and my word is undisputed. Signed by Mr. G.

Case No. 132 is that of Mr. and Mrs. B. Her parents came from Russia. Mrs. B. completed an eighth-grade education and Mr. B. left school at the age of sixteen while he was in the sixth grade.

Mr. B. lived with his father until a few years ago but he does not want to do his own farming. It is much easier to sponge off his elders. The welfare workers asked Mr. B's father to help but the father said he would not help his son unless the son worked for him on his farm. The elder man also said that he would help his son if it were not for relief, but since the government was helping others it could take care of his son, too. He seemed to think that he was spiting his neighbors by obtaining relief for his son and family.

## Marital Status

Seventy-nine per cent of the men were reported as being in good standing, and only three per cent were listed as poor husbands. There were two cases of divorce and five cases of husband and wife being separated. Seven of the men had been married twice and two had been married three times. Four cases were listed as immoral marriages on account of the circumstances of the marriage and the attitude of the men toward their wives. One man was a bachelor. <sup>18</sup>

<sup>19</sup>  
Case No. 1021 is the relation of a man who comes home and stays only until his wife is well along in pregnancy; then he leaves until she is through her confinement.

<sup>20</sup>  
Case No. 1032 was reported as an example of an unmarried mother and this fact probably accounts for his attitude toward the opposite sex. He was in a CCC camp and reported that the boys did not always stay in camp. He married a girl just two months before she gave birth to a baby. When the

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18. Marital Status, Figure VIII, Appendix, page 133.

19. Case History, Appendix, page 105.

20. Ibid., Appendix, page 106.

case worker questioned Mr. G. about the delay in marriage he said that the girl had not told him about her condition until she was several months pregnant. He said that he had been quite intimate in his relationship with the girl and did not doubt that the child was his. Mr. G. just shrugged his shoulders and nonchalantly stated that he had gone with the girl for five years and it was only natural that nature should take its course.

Mr. and Mrs. G. are negroes. Their first baby died four days after birth. Mrs. G. is pregnant again.

21

Case No. 118 is that of a negro who has been married three times. Mr. M. went to school only two days in his entire life. His father hired him out and then collected the boy's wages. Mr. M. was first married in 1882. His wife lived three years after the marriage, and he had no children by his first marriage. His second marriage took place in 1888. This wife was a widow with one son. She lived ten years, and there were no children by this union. Then in 1911 he took his third wife and they

have had ten children, eight of whom are living. At present there are fourteen in Mr. M's family, himself and his wife; his daughter E. and her illegitimate child; his daughter F., who is not living with her husband and has three children; and six other children of Mr. M.

The M's try to live by means of a fifty-dollar pension which Mr. M. receives and the few dollars which various members of the family can earn. The entire case is very interesting but quite gloomy.

### Health

Fifty-one per cent of the men show poor health. Forty-five per cent show good health and four per cent show fair health.

22

### Disease

Six of the men were afflicted with rheumatism. Five were ruptured and five had tuberculosis. Three had kidney trouble; two suffered heart trouble, and

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22. Health, Figure IX, Appendix. These health reports are given by the case worker, page 134.



two had venereal disease. One case each of the following diseases was reported: tumor, pyorrhea, gall stones, insanity, blindness, and paralysis.<sup>23</sup>

Case No. 169<sup>24</sup> is the story of a man who has venereal disease but as he did not recognize the symptoms he went from one quack doctor to another seeking a cure. After an examination at Halstead, Kansas, he was told of his actual affliction and that he could be helped but not cured. The man, Mr. D., and his wife were both born in Russia but are now naturalized American citizens. They have had twelve children and all are living at present. One child was born deaf and dumb and is a graduate of the School for Deaf at Olathe, Kansas. One of the children is feeble-minded and has never attended school. Seven of the children have completed grade school but have not entered high school.

### Education

Eighty-seven per cent of the men have educations which range somewhere between grades one to

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23. Diseases, Figure X, Appendix, page 135.

24. Case History, Appendix, page 111.

eight. This means that the major portion of relief cases are those with minimum formal schooling. Two men had completed one year of high school; two had gone through two years of high school; and four of the men were high school graduates. One man had one year of business college, but there was not a single case where the man of the family had even entered a college. Two are illiterate<sup>25</sup> and three are able to write only their own names. Of course educational opportunities were not great for some of the older clients, but evidently, they have not encouraged their children's schooling. Lack of<sup>26</sup> education is very evident in the cases studied.

### Religion

There is a lack of religious and worshipful convictions among the men. Sixty-two per cent claim no religion whatsoever. Sixteen per cent are Catholic; nine per cent Baptist; four per cent

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25. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Edition, Definition of illiteracy: Inability to read or write.

26. Education, Figure XI, Appendix, page 136.

are of the Penecostal Church. Three per cent belonged to the Church of God and one per cent each to United Brethren, Lutheran, and Christian churches. Most of the older clients gave a religion but the younger ones seemingly had failed to follow their parents' religion. The fact that church-going is rather inconvenient for the farmers may account for the high percentage having no religious convictions.<sup>27</sup>

### Age Variations

In general the men of this study are older than the women. Sixteen per cent of the men are between the ages of thirty-six and forty. Fifty-four per cent are between the ages of twenty-one and fifty. Seven per cent are between the ages of seventy-six and ninety. There are no men, who are heads of families, on relief who are under twenty-one years of age. It is quite probably that the clients over fifty will continue to be on relief unless some form of old age assistance is given.<sup>28</sup>

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27. Religion, Figure XII, Appendix, page 137.

28. Age Variations, Figure XIII, Appendix, page 138.

## Social Handicaps

Sixty-four per cent of the men show no social handicaps. Eight per cent are in the range of years termed "old age," but only one per cent are totally unable to work. Six per cent are alcoholic; seven per cent are mentally low; four per cent crippled; and three men are blind. There are two cases of venereal disease. One man is insane and has a decided speech defect. Two of the men have lost one eye each and two men have only one arm each.<sup>29</sup> There are two illiterates. The use of tobacco is quite common among the men clients.

Social handicaps naturally interfere with the making of a living and are therefore quite numerous among those for which society must care. Alcohol does not stand as a major cause of relief; only seven cases out of the 120 cases were reported as users of alcohol. But, knowing these cases, it is the opinion of the author that many more of the men are chronic users of alcohol than are reported.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>31</sup>  
Case No. 547 tells the story of an alcoholic

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29. Definition, page 30.

30. Social Handicaps, Figure XIV, Appendix, page 139.

31. Case History, Appendix, page 113.



user. Mr. J. did not like to go to school. He spent his time fishing and hunting, and did not advance any farther than the fourth grade. He and his wife have had nine children, seven of whom are married. One married son is a graduate of a college in Michigan and is a successful business man. Another married son lives in Graham county and is a prosperous bootlegger. The unmarried son was committed to the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson, Kansas, at the age of fourteen and was paroled after two years. Again he robbed a store and ran away to Colorado, where he was caught. He served a few more months in the same corrective institution. In 1933 he was caught stealing wheat and was returned to the reformatory for the third time. At present he is loafing around his home-town. He has a sixth-grade education.

The unmarried daughter graduated from high school and then completed requirements for a teacher's certificate at Colorado State College, Greeley, Colorado. After she had done this she obtained a position as a teacher but when she went to her job in the fall there had been another teacher hired.

She was humiliated and when she learned also that her boy-friend was already married she seemed to lose her mind. In 1931 she was sent to the Larned Hospital, Larned, Kansas. She is still there and her condition is reported as unimproved.

Mr. J. has been a habitual user of alcohol all his life and has deprived his wife and family of food and clothing in order to have his liquor. He owns nothing except a small, badly dilapidated old house and the taxes have not been paid on it for many years. His wife is a member of the Methodist church and attends whenever she is able to walk to the services. Mr. J. has ruined his health and hurt his family in many ways by his habitual use of alcohol.

## ANALYSIS OF WOMEN

### Nationality

As is to be expected, the nationalities of the women are almost the same as those of the men. There are sixty-eight per cent American nationalities

among the women as compared with sixty-five per cent of the men. Seventeen per cent of the women are negroes. The percentage of German-Russian is the same as that of the men, which was eleven per cent. Three per cent of the women are French against two per cent of the men.<sup>32</sup> There was one woman who was born in England.

### Occupation

Since house-keeping is not listed as an occupation one would not anticipate the finding of a large number of occupations among the women. Of those not engaged in the home three were working in the sewing room; one runs a cabin camp; one manages a farm; and one is a street peddler. Two of the women clients do housework in the homes of others. Most of the women do not have adequate educations to enable them to hold<sup>33</sup> any other positions than those of housework or sewing.

### Marital Status

The women clients in general are not of a more

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32. Nationality, Figure III, Appendix, page 128.  
33. Occupations, Figure XV, Appendix, page 140.

immoral attitude in marriage than are the men. Seventy-nine per cent of the women are reported as being in good marital standing, the same percentage as the men. The results do show that only two men were divorced while five women were divorced; one being twice divorced. But there were seven cases of men who had been married twice and only four such cases among the women. There were six cases of separation among the women as compared with five cases among the men. Five immoral marriages among the women and four among the men were reported. Two cases of poor marital standing were reported among the women while three men were in poor marital status. There was only one maiden lady among the women clients,  
34  
and only one bachelor man client.

35  
Case No. 943 is an example of a woman in an immoral status of marriage. She lives with her husband; otherwise prostitution would be listed as her occupation. Mrs. H. is quite unkempt in appearance and does not spend much time in keeping her home and children in a neat condition. Mr. and Mrs. H. have two children and are expecting another. Mrs. H. said

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34. Marital Status of Women, Figure VIII, Appendix, page 133.

35. Case History, Appendix, page 116.



that confinement would be sometime between November and February; she was not certain of the month.

Mrs. H. continued to run around with other men even after her marriage and was so filthy in her habits that the people of her town began to complain about her. She was put in the county jail for a time but continued to declare that she thought it perfectly all right for her to have relations with other men. She is thought to be rehabilitating herself at present. She was sentenced to serve a six-month term in the Women's Industrial Farm at Lansing, Kansas, but was put on a good-behavior parole.

Case No. 1029<sup>36</sup> is also a case of an immoral marriage. Mrs. J. was married in 1927 and has had two children. She did not like the responsibility of caring for the children, and wanted to spend her time at dances and other places of amusement. Her husband thought that she was trying to get rid of him and as he was already weak-minded his worry caused him to become more violent and Mrs. J. asked that he be sent away. At present he is in the Larned State Hospital, Larned, Kansas. Now Mrs. J. lets her children live on the street; she works at the

county sewing room and has a good time during her spare time.

### Health

The health of the women is not as good as that of the men. In most cases they do not receive the necessary medical care during pregnancy or after confinement. Fifty-one per cent of the men have poor health and fifty-five per cent of the women are in poor health. Forty-two per cent of the women are in good health as compared to forty-five per cent of the men. Three per cent of the women were reported in fair health.

37

### Diseases

Seventy per cent of the women have no known disease while eighty-three per cent of the men are recorded as free from disease. There are five cases of heart trouble in women and two cases among the men. Four of the women and six of the men had rheuma-

tism. There were three cases in each sex of kidney trouble. Three women suffered from varicose veins, and two each from gall bladder trouble, venereal disease, stomach ulcers, female trouble, and ruptures. There was one case each among the women of bad hearing, paralysis, asthma, senility, and arthritis. It is noticed that tuberculosis and rupture are higher  
38  
among the men clients.

### Education

Seventy-eight per cent of the women have an education of eighth grade or less. This shows that nine per cent of the women studied have better educations than the men. There were ten women and only four men who were high-school graduates. Three women had one year of high school; four had two years; two had three years; and only one woman had one year of college. Four women could write only their names,  
39  
and there was one case of illiteracy among the  
40  
women.

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38. Diseases of Women, Figure X, Appendix, page 135.

39. Definition of illiteracy, page 30.

40. Education, Figure XI, Appendix, page 136.

## Age Variations

Fifty-four per cent of the men and seventy-six per cent of the women are between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years. This means that the women of the cases are younger than the men. Fifteen per cent of the women are between the ages of thirty-one and thirty-five. Thirteen per cent are between thirty-six and forty years of age. Less than three per cent are between the ages of seventy-six and ninety, while seven per cent of the men are in that same range of years. Twenty-four per cent of the women are between the  
41  
ages of fifty-one to ninety years.

## Religion

The results of this study show that sixty-two per cent of the men and fifty-five per cent of the women claim no religion. Fifteen per cent of the women are Catholic; twelve per cent, Baptist; five per cent, Methodist; and three per cent each, Church of God, Penecostal, and Christian churches. There was one case each of Lutheran, Latter Day Saints, United  
42  
Brethren, and Presbyterian.

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41. Age Variations, Figure XIII, Appendix, page 138.

42. Religion, Figure XII, Appendix, page 137.



## Children Per Mother

Of the mothers studied fifty-two per cent were under the age of forty-five years and therefore should be potential mothers since there were no cases of sterility reported. Many of the cases give gloomy accounts of physical suffering of the women. They have not had proper medical care nor have they, in many cases, even practiced good sanitation habits. Their families have been burdens instead of joys in many instances. The average American family is given<sup>43</sup> as having two children and the women in this study have an average of four and two tenths children per<sup>44</sup> mother.

Case No. 744<sup>45</sup> is an example of the suffering of a wife and mother. Mrs. K. was born and raised on a well-improved farm in Graham county. She graduated from high school and taught two terms of school. She met a young man who had just been discharged from the army and after a short acquaintance they were married. Mr. K. was a rover and in a short period of years he and his family had made several

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43. U. S. Department of Commerce, Statistical Abstract of U. S., 1938, page 48.

44. Age Variations, Figure XIII, Appendix, page 138.

45. Case History, Appendix, page 119.

trips from Kansas to California and back to Kansas. By 1931 they had had six children, and while in California Mr. K. deserted his wife. Mrs. K. brought her children back to live with her parents in Graham county.

During her married life Mrs. K. contracted syphilis from her husband. She is now suffering from insanity. Her children have been placed in various homes in the city and are being cared for. Last year one of the girls was run over by an automobile and was killed. Another daughter died after an illness, and Mrs. K. thinks that society is trying to kill off her family in order to be rid of them. Mrs. K's letter to Frances Perkins as recorded in Case No. 744 is quite explanatory of her present condition.

As has been previously stated the average family in these cases is four and two-tenths children. Seven of the mothers had no children; seventeen per cent had two; seventeen per cent had three; twelve per cent had one; eleven per cent four; seven per cent five; five per cent seven; and four per cent had ten children. Two mothers had nine children each and two had thir-

teen. One mother had eleven children. Fifteen children is the largest number recorded in any welfare<sup>46</sup> case.

## ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

### Health

The health of the children under sixteen is quite good. Sixty-nine per cent of the children under sixteen years of age have good health. Nine per cent have fair health and twenty-two per cent<sup>47</sup> have poor health.

### Disease

Bad eyes and teeth number highest in the<sup>48</sup> diseases of the children under sixteen. There is probably more sickness among the children than is recorded because, in many cases, the health of

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46. Children Per Mother, Figure XVI, Appendix, page 141.

47. Health of Children, Figure XVII, Appendix, page 142.

48. Diseases of Children, Figure XVIII, Appendix, page 143.

the children is not available nor do the parents know the truth concerning their children's health.

### Delinquency

Of the cases studied there was but one case of juvenile delinquency of children yet in the home. This was the case of a boy fifteen years of age who had first been before Juvenile court at the age of six years. Case No. 1008<sup>49</sup> gives his story. In 1934 he was sentenced to the reformatory for throwing rocks and breaking windows. He was paroled to his parents and since that time has somewhat improved.

### Education

It was found that forty-eight of the families had children in grade school and thirteen families had children in high school. In some of the cases the children do not attend regularly but the parents do not report such practices to the case workers.<sup>50</sup>

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49. Case History, Appendix, page 97.

50. Education, Figure XIX, Appendix, page 144.



## ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

### Education

The educational attainment of the children is surprisingly low like that of the parents. Fifty-two per cent of the children over sixteen years of age have completed the eighth grade or less. Two per cent have had one year of high school; four per cent have two years of high school; two per cent three years; and twenty-four per cent have graduated from high school. Nine per cent have had one year of college; two per cent completed three years, and five per cent are college graduates.

51

Case No. 131<sup>52</sup> shows a situation in which a child was not even encouraged to remain in school after he had attended some high school. Mr. and Mrs. B. completed eighth-grade educations and five of their six children have done the same and were not urged to attend a high school. The sixth child, a boy, decided to go on to high school. But after

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51. Education, Figure XX, Appendix, page 145.

52. Case History, Appendix, page 124.

attending a year and one-half he decided to stop because he had to walk four miles and it required the exertion of too much energy. The parents said it was all right with them; they could use him on the farm.

### Disorganization

In all the families whether on relief or not we find a certain amount of disorganization among the children. In the relief families illegitimate children rank highest as a factor of disorganization.

### Marital Status

Of the children married we find that their marital status is as good as that of their parents. Among the married children ninety per cent are in good marital standing; five per cent are divorced; and five per cent are living in the homes of either  
54  
the wife or husband's parents.

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53. Disorganization, Figure XXI, Appendix, page 146.  
54. Marital Status, Figure XXII, Appendix, page 147.

### Children Over Sixteen At Home

Only eleven families reported children over sixteen years of age who were living at home. The other families reported that their children were engaged in outside activities and lived away from home.<sup>55</sup>

### Others In Home

In Graham county there were very few relief families who stated that some other person outside the immediate family was in the home.<sup>56</sup>

The reasons given for the presence of others in the homes were: three of the people had no work; four had no other home; two were too old to care for themselves; and one cared for the children. There was one case in which the landlord lived with the family.<sup>57</sup> All were reported as working in the home but only three gave any financial aid.

In brief we may give the following summary of this chapter: the clients are long-time residents

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55. Children Over Sixteen At Home, Figure XXIII, Appendix, page 148.  
56. Others In Home, Figure XXIV, Appendix, page 149.  
57. Reasons For Being In Home, Figure XXV, Appendix, page 150.

of the county; over half of them have been on relief over five years; the largest percentage of them are of American nationality; the occupation of the greatest number is farming; their health is poor; they are not religiously inclined; and they are poorly educated. The children of these families are comparable to their parents.

On May 11, 1934, there were 495 men called

into the county and fifty-eight of them were under 21. Of the 120 men called,

twenty-five of them, or twenty per cent, were married families, there being a ratio of one to sixteen of

the county and white population of the county, and a

1. U. S. Census 1930, Vol. 2, Part 1, page 634.
2. Ibid., page 674.
3. U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Warfare, 1930-32, page 700.
4. Graham County Welfare Office, Financial Report, 1933-34, Kansas, June 30, 1934.



## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS OF NEGRO CASES STUDIED

In 1930 the total population of Kansas was 1,880,999, and the total negro population of Kansas was 66,340.<sup>1</sup> The same year the population of Graham county was 7,772 and 429<sup>2</sup> were negroes, which was five and five-tenths per cent of the entire county's population. As was previously stated, the influx of negroes into the county began in 1877. By the year 1930 Graham county ranked second in the state in the number of farms being operated by negroes,<sup>3</sup> which number was seventy-seven.

On May 31, 1939, there were 492 open relief cases in Graham county and fifty-eight of them were negro cases.<sup>4</sup> Of the 120 cases studied, twenty-five of them, or twenty per cent, were negro families, there being a ratio of one to seventeen of the negro and white population of the county, and a

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1. U. S. Census 1930, Vol. 3, Part I, page 874.

2. Ibid., page 874.

3. U. S. Department of Commerce, Negroes in the U.S., 1920-32, page 730.

4. Graham County Welfare Office, Financial Record, Hill City, Kansas, June 10, 1939.

one to five ratio of the negro and white on relief.

## ANALYSIS OF FAMILIES

### Years On Relief

Results show that eighty per cent of the negro cases have been depending upon relief for five or more years as compared to sixty-nine per cent of the white families who have been on relief for that length of time. Twenty per cent of the negro families and thirty-one per cent of the white families studied have been on relief from one to four years, thus showing that the negro cases are of long-standing.

### Residence

Fifty-two per cent of the negro cases and seventy per cent of the white cases have been residents of Graham county from five to twenty-four years. Forty-four per cent of the negro families studied have been residents of the county from twenty-five to forty-five years as compared to thirty per cent of the white

families who have been residents for the same length  
of years.<sup>5</sup> Four per cent of the negro cases are  
transient. The case of Mr. V., No. 164<sup>6</sup>, has been  
previously related as an example of transiency.

### Permanence of Residence

Forty-eight per cent of the negro cases and fifty-two per cent of the white clients have never moved. Forty per cent of the negro and twenty-three per cent of the white families had moved only once. Eight per cent of the negro families had moved twice, and four per cent had moved five times. Twenty-five per cent of the white cases had moved two or more times.

### Reasons For Moving

Of the number of negro families moving, thirty-three per cent had moved from farms to town to obtain relief. Thirteen per cent bought farms; twenty-six

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5. Length of Residence, Figure XXVII, Appendix, page 152.  
6. Case History, Appendix, page 87.

per cent were poor renters; and thirteen per cent gave employment-seeking as their reason for moving.

## ANALYSIS OF MEN AND WOMEN

### Occupations of Men

The occupations were quite similar to those of the white clients. Sixty-six per cent of the negro men were farmers; seventy-eight per cent of the white men were farmers. Eighteen per cent of the negro and fifteen per cent of the white men were common laborers. Among the negro men there were one porter, one teacher, and one man who would not work.

### Work Record

Forty-eight per cent of the negro and only thirty per cent of the white men were reported as poor workers. Thirty-eight per cent of the negro and sixty-two per cent of the white men were good workers. Nine per cent of the negro and seven per cent of the white men were listed as fair workers. Five per cent of the negro and only one per cent of the white men were either not able



to work or would not work. The foregoing statements seem to indicate that the white men are better workers than the negro men.

### Marital Status

Only fifty-two per cent of the negro men and eighty-four per cent of the white men were reported as being in good marital standing. Among the negro men there were seven per cent who were in poor marital standing. Two negro men had been married three times, and two had been married two times. Two had been separated, one divorced once, and one was a bachelor.

For the negro women, fifty-nine per cent were reported in good marital standing. This shows that their marital status is much lower than that of the white women, which shows eighty-eight per cent in good standing. Twelve per cent of the negro women were in poor standing and twelve per cent were listed as in immoral marital status. One negro woman had been divorced twice; and two had been married twice. Conduct is considered when marriage is listed immoral.

## Health

Thirty-eight per cent of the negro men and forty-five per cent of the white men were in good health. Fifty-seven per cent of the negro men were in poor health as compared to fifty per cent of the white men in poor health. Both negro and white men showed five per cent in fair health.

Sixty-six per cent of the negro women and only forty-three per cent of the white women were reported as being in good health. Thirty-four per cent of the negro and fifty-four per cent of the white women were in poor health. No per cent of the negro and three per cent of the white women were in fair health.

## Diseases

Fifty-seven per cent of the negro men have no disease while seventy-seven per cent of the white men have no disease. Among the negro men there were four cases of rheumatism, and one case each of heart trouble, insanity, venereal disease, blindness, and pyorrhea.

Sixty-six per cent of the negro women had no

disease as compared with seventy-three per cent of the white women having no disease. Among the negro women there were two cases each of heart trouble and rheumatism; and one case each of female trouble and paralysis. The health record of the negro women is surprisingly good.

### Education

Only seventy-six per cent of the negro men and ninety per cent of the white men had educations of the eighth grade level or less. Among the negro men there was one case of illiteracy,<sup>7</sup> one man who attended two years of high school, and one graduate of high school. Two negro men were able to write only their own names.

The author was quite interested in the similarity of educational attainments reached by the negro and the white women. Both races showed that seventy-seven per cent of the women have educations falling from grades one to eight. One negro woman can write only her own name; one had two years of high school; and one woman had three years of high school.

## Religion

Forty-one per cent of the negro and sixty-five per cent of the white men had no religion. There were no Baptists among the white men, but forty-seven per cent of the negro men gave their religion as that of Baptists. There were two negro Methodists and three white Methodists. Eighteen per cent of the white men were Catholics, but only one such religion was given among the negroes.

The Baptist religion is most outstanding in its number of members among the negro women. Forty-four per cent of the negro women are Baptists. Twelve per cent are Methodists; and no per cent were Catholic as compared to sixteen per cent among the white women. The white women proved more deficient in religious convictions than did the negro women. Forty-four per cent of the negro and fifty-six per cent of the white women had no religion.

## Age Variations

Fourteen per cent of the negro men are between the ages of thirty-five and thirty-nine years. Forty-



three per cent are between the ages of twenty and forty-nine years. Fifty-eight per cent of the negro men are between the ages of fifty-eight and eighty-four years, while fifty-four per cent of the white men are between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years, thus showing that the negro client is older than the white.

The age variations of the negro and the white women are practically the same. Sixty-one per cent of the negro and sixty-nine per cent of the white women are between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years. Thirty-nine per cent of the negro and thirty-one per cent of the white women are between the ages of fifty-one and eighty-one years.

### Social Handicaps

In the study of social handicaps among the negro men there was one case each of low mentality, old age, venereal disease, blindness, alcoholism, and loss of one arm.

### Children Per Mother

Results show that the negro mothers have an

average family of five and one-tenths children, while the white mothers have an average of four and two-tenths children per family. The following table shows the comparison between the negro and the white mothers and the number of children.

TABLE V  
CHILDREN PER MOTHER

Number of Children	White Mothers	Negro Mothers
0	7	0
1	13	1
2	16	3
3	15	4
4	12	0
5	6	2
6	9	3
7	5	1
8	3	0
9	0	2
10	3	2
11	1	0
12	1	0
13	2	0
14	1	0
15	1	0

#### CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

#### Health

Of the white families having children over six-

teen years of age, seventy-six per cent of them reported the children in good health. Twenty-one per cent were in poor health, and three per cent had fair health. In the negro families having children over sixteen years of age, seventy per cent of the children had good health and thirty per cent were in poor health. No diseases were recorded among this group which fact seems rather unusual.

#### Education

Of the negro families having children over sixteen years of age, sixty-three per cent of the children have educations of eighth grade or less. Two families reported children over sixteen having one year of college, and one family had a child who had graduated from high school.

#### CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

#### Education

Of the white families it was found that forty-

eight of them had children in grade school and thirteen families had children in high school.

Of the negro families ten reported children in the grades and five families reported children in high school.

### Health

Sixty-nine per cent of the white children under sixteen years of age have good health. Sixty-four per cent of the negro children have good health. While twenty-two per cent of the white and thirty-four per cent of the negro children have poor health.

### OTHERS IN THE HOME

Of the twenty-five negro families only three reported the presence of outside members in the home. There was one case each of grandparents, a grandson, and one mother-in-law. Two of them said that they had no other home to which they could go, and one works and cares for the children of the family.



## SUMMARY

After making a study of both the negro and the white relief cases in Graham county, the author finds the differences between the two to be very small with the exception of a few of the characteristics. In general, the negro cases have been on file for a longer period of years than have the white cases. The negro men are reported as much poorer workers than are the white men. The marital status of the negro is lower than that of the white men. The results show that the white men enjoy better health than the negro men, but that may be due to the fact that the white clients are much younger than are the negro men.

The negro women and the white women rank about the same on all points except on their religions and on the number of children per mother. Negro women seem to be stronger in their religious convictions than are the white women. The negro women had one child more per mother than the white women.

## CHAPTER IV

### COMPARISON OF RELIEF CASES IN KINGMAN AND GRAHAM COUNTIES

In 1936 Mr. Jasper Witter wrote a thesis which was "A Study of One-Hundred Relief Welfare Cases in Kingman County." It is the author's purpose to make a comparison of the results reached concerning the relief cases of Kingman and Graham counties. The author also wished to determine whether or not the relief cases of one county of Kansas are typical of relief clients anywhere in the state. The figures used in the comparisons will be given on a percentage basis because the present thesis involves a larger number of cases than does that of the Kingman county study.

#### THE ADULTS

##### Permanence of Residence

Results show that Graham county ranks higher

in the number of families who have never moved. Fifty-one per cent of the Graham county families and only twenty-three per cent of the Kingman county families have never moved. Forty-nine per cent of the Graham county families and sixty-nine per cent of the Kingman families have moved one or more times.

### Reasons For Moving

The families who did move in both counties were forced to do so because they were poor renters; thirty-one per cent of Graham and sixteen per cent of the Kingman families moved for that reason. Seventeen per cent of Kingman and thirteen per cent of Graham county families who moved gave employment-seeking as their reason for change of residence. Eight per cent in Kingman and eleven per cent in Graham county moved because they lost their homes.

### Nationality

Both counties show that the largest percentage of relief clients are of American nationality. In Kingman eighty per cent are American and in Graham county seventy-five per cent. Ten per cent of the

Graham county clients and only two per cent of the Kingman county clients are negroes. Kingman and Graham counties have six per cent and ten per cent respectively which are of German-Russian nationality.

### Occupations

In the study of the occupations followed by the men clients it was found that forty per cent of the Kingman men and only sixteen per cent of the Graham county men were common laborers. Seventy-four per cent of the Graham men were farmers as compared to twenty-seven per cent in Kingman county.

### Work Records

Graham county men were reported better workers than those of Kingman. Thirty-four per cent of Kingman and fifty-five per cent of Graham were reported as good workers. Twenty per cent of Kingman and thirty-one per cent of Graham were reported poor workers. In Kingman county sixteen per cent refused



to work while only one such case was found in the Graham study.

### Marital Status

The marital status of the Graham men clients was reported higher than that of the Kingman county men. Sixty-three per cent of Kingman and seventy-nine per cent of the Graham men were reported as good husbands. Eighteen per cent of Kingman and three per cent of Graham men were poor husbands. Seven per cent of Kingman and two per cent of Graham men were divorced. Separations ranked six per cent in Kingman and four per cent in Graham.

The marital status of the women compared shows that fifty-eight per cent of the women of Kingman and seventy-nine per cent of the Graham women are in good marital standing. Divorces among women clients ranked eleven per cent and four per cent in Kingman and Graham respectively. Seven per cent of the women in Kingman and four per cent in Graham county were listed as immoral.

## Health

In Kingman county thirty-two per cent reported good health while in Graham county forty-five per cent reported good health. Poor health claimed forty-three per cent in Kingman and fifty-one per cent in Graham.

The women in Graham county are in better health than those of Kingman; only sixteen per cent in Kingman and forty-two per cent in Graham are in good health. Sixty-nine per cent in Kingman and fifty-one per cent in Graham county are in poor health.

## Diseases

The greatest difference in men's diseases lies in the percentages of cancer and crippled cases. Kingman has five per cent cancer and crippled bodies while Graham county reported no such cases. Both counties reported five per cent rheumatism. For the ruptured clients Kingman has five per cent and Graham county four per cent. Kingman reported no cases of tuberculosis while Graham county reported four per cent.

Comparisons of disease among women of the two counties show that five per cent of Kingman and two per cent of Graham have female trouble. Eleven per cent of the Kingman women were affected with insanity while no such cases were reported in Graham.

### Education

Education of the clients is deficient in both counties. Neither county reports a man or woman who was a college graduate. Eighty per cent of the Kingman men and eighty-five per cent of the Graham men had an education of the eighth grade or less. Three per cent of the men in both counties have graduated from high school.

Among the women eighty per cent of Kingman and seventy-eight per cent of Graham had an education of the eighth grade or less. Six per cent of Kingman and nine per cent of Graham women were high-school graduates. Three per cent of the Kingman women had two years of college. One per cent of Graham women had one year of college.

## Religion

Both counties ranked high in the number of men and women clients who claimed no religion. The men clients of Kingman reported forty-eight per cent with no religion while Graham reported sixty-two per cent. Ten per cent in Kingman and nine per cent in Graham were Baptists. The Methodist church had thirteen per cent in Kingman and only four per cent in Graham county. Three per cent in Kingman and sixteen per cent in Graham were Catholics.

The women of the two counties rank slightly higher in religion than do the men. In Kingman forty-eight per cent reported no religion and in Graham county fifty-five per cent. Thirteen per cent in Kingman and five per cent in Graham are Methodists. There were eleven per cent Baptist in Kingman and twelve per cent in Graham. The Catholic religion had four per cent in Kingman and fifteen per cent in Graham county.

## Age Variations

In Kingman county thirteen per cent of the men



were between the ages of thirty-six and forty while in Graham county sixteen per cent fall in that range of years. Sixty-nine per cent of the Kingman men were between the ages of twenty-one and fifty years; while in Graham county fifty-four per cent of the men were in this group. Between the ages of fifty-one and ninety years Kingman has twenty-three per cent while Graham has forty-six per cent.

Twelve per cent of the women in Kingman are between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five. Fifteen per cent of the women clients of Graham county are between the ages of thirty-one and thirty-five. In Kingman we find that sixty-five per cent of the women are from twenty-one to fifty years of age and in Graham county seventy-six per cent are in that range of years. Twenty-two per cent of the Kingman women and twenty-four per cent of Graham are between the ages of fifty-one and ninety years.

### Social Handicaps

A larger percentage of social handicaps among the men were reported in Kingman than in Graham county. Thirty per cent of the cases of Kingman and

and fifty-four per cent of Graham had no social handicaps. Low mentality was recorded in nine per cent of the Kingman cases and seven per cent of Graham. Four per cent and six per cent of Kingman and Graham counties respectively were reported as alcoholic.

### Children Per Mother

The average family among relief families in Kingman county is three and nine-tenths children per mother, while in Graham county the average family is four and two-tenths children per mother.

### CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN

### Health

Kingman county reported that thirty-two per cent of the families having children under sixteen years of age listed the children's health in fair condition and eighteen per cent in good condition. Graham county families reported sixty-nine per cent of the children in good health and nine per cent in poor health.

## Delinquency

Kingman county did not report any cases of juvenile delinquency; Graham county reported one such case.

## CHILDREN OVER SIXTEEN

## Education

It is true in Kingman as in Graham county that the children of these relief clients have attained about the same educational level as that of their parents. In Kingman fourteen per cent and in Graham twenty-six per cent have an education of the eighth grade or less. Two per cent in each county have two years of high school. Two per cent in Kingman and twelve per cent in Graham are high-school graduates. One per cent in Kingman and five per cent in Graham have attended college. Graham county has two per cent college graduates while Kingman county has none.

## Marital Status

The marital status of these children is quite

similar to that of the parents. Both counties reported fifteen per cent in good standing; while two per cent in Kingman and one per cent in Graham county are divorced.

#### OTHERS IN THE HOME

Eighty-two per cent of the families of Kingman and ninety-one per cent of the Graham families reported no others in the home.

#### SUMMARY

From the comparison of the two counties it is evident that the relief clients of Graham county are more permanent in residence than are those of Kingman. The relief clients of Graham are poorer renters than are the Kingman clients. Clients of American nationality rank highest in both counties. The occupations of the men differ in the number of farmers and common laborers. Most of the Graham men are farmers while common laborers rank highest



in Kingman. The clients of Graham county have a much better work record. The marital status of the men of Graham county is better than that of the Kingman men but the women of Kingman have a higher rating in marital status. There is very little difference in the health of the men but the women of Graham are in better health than are the women of Kingman. The education achievements of the men and women of both counties are very much the same. Both counties have a large number of clients who do not claim any religion. In general, the men of Graham are older than the Kingman men. There is no recognizable difference in the ages of the women of the two counties. Graham mothers have larger families than the Kingman mothers. The children of these families are quite comparable in all respects to their parents. Briefly, we may say that there are no great differences in the results shown in the two studies. Both counties give evidence of poor educations, reluctance to work, lack of religion, and large-sized families.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Society consists of individuals and changes as the individual changes. The present thesis is a study of that section of society which is unable to independently care for itself. As preceding chapters stated, relief clients were cared for by the county until the problem became so paramount that the state and federal governments began giving aid. The past ten years have witnessed a great change in relief methods. When, on January 9, 1939, President Roosevelt transmitted to Congress a nine-billion dollar budget, for 1940, thirty-seven per cent of the total budget was for social welfare.<sup>1</sup>

The nation must recognize the fact that we have this problem before us. Relief welfare work is changing and it is not a matter of completely eliminating it but rather the adoption of more efficient and effective methods of handling it.

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1. Kansas City Star, January 9, 1939, page 9.

This study deals with one county of western Kansas; so the reader must not lose sight of the fact that the conclusions reached are not typical of the problem of relief in the United States but merely of one section of the country, and particularly of the state of Kansas.

### CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions pertaining to the results found in this compilation of relief cases will follow:

1. The larger percentage of the families have been permanent residents of the county.
2. The largest percentage of the families have been in the county over fifteen years.
3. The greatest percentage of the families have not moved since being on relief, while the next greatest percentage have moved only once.
4. The families who did move were those who were poor renters. The next highest number of those having moved were those who moved from the country into town in order to obtain relief.

5. The largest percentage of the families have never owned real estate of their own. Of those who had owned property the largest percentage had lost it.
6. The majority of clients have been on relief for five or more years.
7. The largest percentage of the families claim no religion.
8. The greatest number of these people have an education not exceeding the eighth grade.
9. There are a number of old people on relief but most of the clients are of the age that should enable them to be self-supporting. The women clients are younger than the men.
10. Three-fourths of the men are farmers by occupation. The next largest percentage have no occupation, which shows that the lack of a vocation is a vital factor to be considered when advising a remedy. But it is also evident that those of the farming occupation are the greatest sufferers.
11. The nationality of the families is predomin-



antly American, while the negro American race ranks secondly.

12. There are a few who are socially handicapped but these cases are not numerous or outstanding.
13. Over one-half of the clients have a good work record. There are very few cases where the man refused to work.
14. The largest percentage of the group are in good marital status, but there is no doubt that there is room for much improvement.
15. More than one-half of the men and the women are in poor health. The largest percentage of the clients do not suffer with any specific disease but are in general poor health.
16. The average sized family for these relief cases is six members which is well over the average sized American family of four members.
17. The problem of others being present in the homes is practically nil.
18. The health of children both over and under the age of sixteen years is good and their

educational attainment was comparable to that of their parents.

### Negro Cases

1. A greater percentage of the negroes than white have been on relief over five years.
2. The negroes are more religious than the whites.
3. The negroes in the cases are poorer workers than the whites.
4. The average sized family among the negro cases is seven members, while the white families average six members.
5. The negroes have more social disorganization than the whites.
6. The health of the negro is much poorer than the health of the white persons.
7. There is little difference between the education of the white and negro women but the white men are better educated than the negro men.
8. The negro families on relief are older in age

than the white families.

9. The children of the negro families both over and under sixteen have not attained as high educationally as the white children. The white children are in better health than the negro.

#### Kingman Comparison

1. The residents of Graham county are more permanent than those of Kingman county.
2. The largest percentage of relief clients in both counties were of the American nationality.
3. The leading occupation of the Graham county relief clients is farming while in Kingman the greatest percentage have no occupation other than that of common labor.
4. The men of Graham county were better workers than the Kingman men.
5. The marital status of Graham county relief clients is the better of the two counties.
6. The clients of Graham county are reported to be in better health than are those of

Kingman county.

7. There is very little difference between the two counties in educational attainment.
8. Both counties rank high in the number of clients having no religion.
9. The men of Kingman are younger than the men of Graham county while there is very little difference between the ages of the women of the two counties.
10. The average sized family of Graham is larger than that of Kingman county.
11. The children of Graham county are in better health than the children of Kingman.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations relating to this thesis are as follows:

1. A program of religious training should be put in the school system. The training should not be based upon any definite religion but more on the ethics of right living. The rural schools should be used more as



centers of religious worship for the farmers.

2. The school system should be made more attractive to these people. On account of the lack of ambition of so many of the clients it would be necessary to have a new compulsory school-attendance law. This law should require each person to attend school until he or she reached the age of nineteen or completed satisfactorily four years beyond the eighth grade. One must keep in mind that the largest percentage of these people are of average or border-line intelligence, thus requiring more emphasis upon vocational training in the schools. In this system there should be such courses as mechanics, farming, plumbing, carpentry, and cement work for the men. For the women secretarial work, cooking, sewing, child-care, and other phases of home-making.
3. The author recommends that farming be made a year-round occupation instead of the seasonal occupation which it now is. Farming should be supplemented with stock-raising and feed-growing and not purely wheat raising. Classes of

instruction by the county farm agent and instructors from our experimental stations in Kansas should give further aid.

4. Health is the predominant factor in the living of any individual and it is found that the health of the clients is poor. A system of public health instruction, financed and under complete control of the state, should be carried out. This health service should be free to each client.
5. Methods of birth control should be given to the clients and for those insane, feeble-minded, epileptic, and other incompetent persons, sterilization should be compulsory.
6. An intensive study should be made of the negro situation for the purpose of helping the negro adjust himself to present conditions. He should be made to feel that he is an asset to the community and not a liability.
7. The author would recommend that the position of the county director and case workers be put under Civil Service and the merit system instead of the present system of political appointment. In this

way the workers and the director would feel  
more secure in their positions and would give  
more efficient service.



## OUTLINE

The following outline was used in compiling the material in this thesis:

### Name

1. Number of years on relief
2. Number of years a resident of Alaska
  - a. Owner **APPENDIX**
  - b. Renter of property
3. Number of times family has moved, including establishing residence in Alaska
  - a. Reasons for moving
4. Religion
  - a. Men
  - b. Women
5. Educational attainment
  - a. Men
  - b. Women
6. Age variations
  - a. Men
  - b. Women
7. Nationality
  - a. Men
  - b. Women
8. Occupations
  - a. Men
  - b. Women
9. Social position
  - a. Men



## OUTLINE

The following outline was used in obtaining the material in this thesis:

### Name

1. Number of years on relief
2. Number of years a resident of county
  - a. Owner of property
  - b. Renter of property
3. Number of times family has moved since establishing residence in county
  - a. Reasons for moving
4. Religion
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
5. Educational attainment
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
6. Age variations
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
7. Nationality
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
8. Occupations
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
9. Social handicaps
  - a. Man

10. Work record of man
11. Marital status
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
12. Disease
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
13. Health
  - a. Man
  - b. Woman
14. Number of children per mother
15. Children under sixteen
  - a. Number
  - b. Health
  - c. Diseases
  - d. School-standing
  - e. Delinquency
16. Children over sixteen
  - a. Number
  - b. Health
  - c. Diseases
  - d. Education
  - e. Disorganization
  - f. Marital status
  - g. Living at home
17. Others in the home
  - a. Number
  - b. Reason for being there
  - c. Aid they give

Cases to which special references are made in this thesis.

Case No. 164

Mr. V., a negro, was born in 1873, in New York City. He is of a rather short stocky build, has a full beard, dark brown eyes and wears tortoise-rimmed spectacles. He generally wears an old skull cap made from an old brown stocking tied in a knot. Over his overalls and shirt he wears a blue serge vest and suspenders fastened with safety pins at the shoulders. His work shoes had been patched but seemed to be in fair condition. He talked quite intelligently concerning the geography of the United States from New York to California. It may be said that Mr. V. is an interesting conversationalist, even though there is a feeling that his stories are not altogether authentic. He thinks it is much easier to beg for food than to go in debt for it. He also stated that women would give food to begging negroes, but would refuse to feed white beggars.

Mr. V. had been gone from New York City for so long that he couldn't remember his home address. He attended "St. Francis Xavia" which was a parochial school. His education included a bachelor's degree but when ques-

tioned as to whether the degree was in science, engineering, or art; he stated that he could "mix medicine". Mr. V. claimed that he had made a study of the Bible and was prepared for the ministry but people did not believe him when he preached. He has never married, but has been roaming over the United States since the death of his parents some twenty-five years ago.

While in New York, Mr. V. made a living by cleaning carpets at fifty cents a carpet. He worked in a foundry for the Illinois Crucible Steel Company in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, but became tired of the job and moved on. After his two years in Pennsylvania he moved to Chicago and secured a job with the Armour Packing Company. These two jobs are the only steady employment he has ever had. While in California he panned gold in the Yosemite Valley for one summer. He mentioned having lived in Santa Barbara, Stockton, and San Francisco. He stated that he moved from place to place by means of a box car on a freight train. When asked why he finally came to Graham county he said that the negro settlement interested him and he thought the people of this county would be accustomed to negroes and would provide for him.



Mr. V. is a Catholic by religion and seems to have a strong feeling of discrimination against his own race. He keeps his rosary in an old dirty money bag, and he claims that one of the pendants was given him by Knute Rockne. Mr. V. supposedly had brushed Mr. Rockne's clothes and had been rewarded by the medal. Mr. V. was baptized and confirmed at St. Benedict's Moir in New York City, and had attended services and was blessed by the Jesuit fathers in Spokane. He feels that the Catholic church is more willing to take care of their people regardless of race or position than is the Protestant church. The other negroes of the county do not like Mr. V. and they try to get him sent to the Catholic settlement for help so he won't be near them.

Mr. V. has no ailments except his complaints of rheumatism in the lower extremities of his legs, and when he rolled his sock down to show his condition the skin appeared to be glazed and swollen. On account of this ailment he must use a cane or walking stick, but otherwise he is in good health. He would like to get a job herding cattle for a white family but as yet he has not obtained such a position.

When inquiry was made concerning his cash on hand or previous savings accounts, Mr. V. stated that he had not "trusted" the banks and had had no dealings with them. If he were to deposit \$300 or \$400 he would be fearful that the banker would call a detective and he would be taken by the police. Whenever he has money he puts it in a belt around his waist or digs a hole in the ground and buries it. The case worker suggested that he might forget where he dug the hole, to which Mr. V. answered that as long as he did not need it it would be better off in a hole than in a bank, and if he died he would not need the money as he had no dependents. The largest wages that he ever earned were thirty-five cents per hour while working at Armour's in Chicago. This was for eight hours a day, six days in the week. He thought this was about 1924 or 1925.

It was impossible to get any information concerning his relatives. He refused to give any names and when questioned about any of his former employers he always said, "He's dead now, you can't find out anything from him."

Mr. V. has a rather unique idea of credit. He

says that as long as a man has a dollar in his hand he can get credit or he can get more money. During the last two years he has not had more than twenty-five cents at one time; so he has not asked for credit. He would rather beg for food than to ask for credit. "No one wants to see a man go hungry," says Mr. V.

Several attempts have been made to place Mr. V. in a home with other negro men or in a negro home as a worker but he never lasts long. The families soon complain about him and say he "doesn't belong with us." A lawyer of Graham county says that Mr. V. is "Bound for nowhere--and he came from nowhere."

Case No. 138

Mr. C. was born in 1899 on a farm. He completed the eighth grade but did not attend high school because his eyes were weak. In 1923 he married a girl who was also only a common-school graduate. They moved to a small house beside that of Mr. C's father and the two men farmed together.

In 1927 Mr. C's father became afflicted with dropsy and died after enduring much suffering and expense. Mr. C. and his father had been forced to mortgage everything they owned except eighty acres of land in order to meet the expenses of the father's illness. Many years of crop failures followed and Mr. C. was unable to pay interest on his mortgages. He saw no chance of emerging from his burdensome debt.

Mr. and Mrs. C. maintain a low standard of living and do not try to live beyond their means. They are of average intelligence and are strictly honest and ambitious. They enjoy good health. Mr. C. has glasses and can see quite well with them now.

This family seems quite enthusiastic in spite of gloomy circumstances and express appreciation for the help given them.



Case No. 646

Mr. and Mrs. L. and their six children live in an old box car. The place is very dirty and uncared for.

The education of both is very limited. Mr. and Mrs. L. both have sixth-grade educations.

In 1922, the year Mr. and Mrs. L. were married, they lived with Mr. L's parents. In 1923 they went to Colorado where he found employment. Until 1928 they moved about the western part of the United States trying first one job and then another. They moved to Graham county in 1928 and have had county aid since that time. In 1934 they were put on the relief roll of the county.

The L's seem to have a great deal of sickness, probably due to their filth and improper living. Mr. L. says his nerves are bad and he is ruptured. Mrs. L. is ruptured, has infected tonsils and adenoids, and at present is being treated for trench mouth. She has very bad hearing.

They do not attend any church at present. They did attend the Church of God but have stopped now.

The children are all of school-age except the

baby. The L. family seem to have a child about every year.

Mr. L. says he can do farm work, road and bridge work, truck driving and any kind of common labor. He and his wife were both reared on farms. Nearly all of the L's relatives are on relief some place in the United States.

Case No. 173

Mr. G. was born in Graham county just one and one-half miles from where he now lives. He is the youngest of seven children. He completed the eighth grade at the age of sixteen but did not attend high school.

Until 1925 he farmed at home with his father and brothers, and after that time he has farmed one-hundred fifty acres for himself. After his marriage in 1926 he and his wife lived on her parent's farm for a time. He built a fairly nice house on his farm and has tried to improve his farm in other ways. He has some stock and has a partnership in a garden which was irrigated until weather conditions became too unfavorable.

Mr. and Mrs. G. own a car valued at \$250; farm tools valued at \$200; and cattle, land, and property. They have not had a crop since they built their house and have not been able to make payments on any of their property.

Mrs. G. completed a high school education and did substitute teaching for a short time before her marriage. She has good health but should wear glasses.

Mr. G. has good health except that his teeth are in need of repair. He is having some of them extracted.

Case No. 1000

Mr. and Mrs. G. are very pleasant and have never failed to cooperate with the relief office. They are the type of people who do not ask for help unless forced to such measures.

His father and mother were both born in

Mr. G. was born in 1875 and lives with his wife for twenty years. His wife was born with other son.

Some four years after his first marriage, Mr. G. married his present wife and son, and they have a very pleasant home of eight in the city. Mr. G. is a very good father and is very kind and is very kind to his children and is very kind to his wife.

The G's have two children, aged fifteen and six years. The oldest son was born before a terrible storm at the age of six. He was educated in the city and was a very good student and was a very good student and was a very good student.

Mr. G. has been in the city for many years and is a very good citizen and is a very good citizen and is a very good citizen.



Case No. 1008

Mr. M. is very unkempt in appearance. He cuts his own hair. He moved from one place to another with his father during his boyhood. When he was seventeen and in the fifth grade of school, he became angry at his father and ran away from home.

Mr. M. was first married in 1915 and lived with his wife for fourteen months. His wife ran around with other men.

Some four years after his first marriage, Mr. M. married his present wife who was, at the time, only seventeen years of age and in the fifth grade. Her father objected to the marriage and has refused to help them in any way.

The M's have two children, aged fifteen and six years. The oldest son had been before a Juvenile court at the age of six. He was sentenced to the reformatory in 1934 for throwing rocks and breaking windows, cursing, and causing general trouble. He was paroled.

Mr. M. does not like to work and is always trying to get money for a doctor's examination. He thinks he has a bad lung, but the doctors have found nothing wrong with him except laziness.

The M's home is very unattractive and dirty. They maintain a very low standard of living. They have no life insurance. They do not belong to any church.

When the youngest son was three years of age, he had not learned the proper habits of bladder control. He was still nursing at the age of two years.

The oldest son does not like to go to school and says school makes him nervous. Mr. M. does not encourage his boys to attend school because he sees no need of his boys having any more education than he had.

Mr. M. thinks that since he is not physically strong the county should provide for him and his family. "It is the duty of the county to keep us," says Mr. M.

Case No. 1009

The H's live in a one-room house, meagerly furnished. The place is dirty and flies are numerous. The furniture consisted of one chair, table, oil stove, and a bed.

Mr. H. was inclined to criticize his wife and others who were around him. He has not had employment since their marriage, but has permitted his family to live with Mrs. H's mother.

Mr. H. was born on a farm and has an eighth-grade education. He has no ambition and is quite willing for the government to keep him.

Mrs. H. is of the fat, flabby type of woman, who cares little about personal appearance or the neatness of her living quarters. She did not seem any more worried about their circumstances than did her husband. She was born on a Graham county farm, and completed an eighth-grade education at the age of sixteen.

They have no life insurance, and have never owned any property. They were not certain about the amount of their debts.

Mr. and Mrs. H. are in fair health, but their

three children have many and varied illnesses.

They owe a doctor bill for forty dollars for attendance at the birth of their first child. They did not know the amount owed for the birth of the second baby, but just supposed that the county had paid for it.



Case No. 1033

Mr. G. was born and reared in Graham county. He was a member of a large family and did not go beyond the eighth grade in his education. He never cared for books or school. He is not in good health and does not try to do much work.

Mrs. G. at one time was thought to be on the verge of tuberculosis, but since the birth of her two children seems to be much improved.

Mr. G's father had provided for the family until his resources were exhausted. He does, however, furnish his son with a farm and pays the taxes. The farm is small and the house and other buildings are quite shabby.

At one time Mr. G. was put off the work program and he wrote the following letter to the Kansas State Welfare Board, Topeka, Kansas:

Dear sirs:

Some time ago I was rejected from the W.P.A. on account of disability. Being unable to find employment elsewhere I applied to Mrs. H. at the welfare office for some assistance and so far have been unable to get any satisfaction. I will give

you my record as brief as possible. I was born and always lived in and around Hill City. I am 47 years old, have a wife and two children, farmed until the last few years. Worked on W.P.A. last two years. For several years I have been unable to do a hard day's work. My most painful ailments are varicose veins in the textiles. I have stiff knees from an old case of rheumatism which makes it hard for me to walk. I have one heel that has hurt continually for six or seven years from running a nail in it. I have broken arches I suppose due to overweight. I have a tumor on my left arm, I have inside rupture caused from heavy lifting but I am still able to get around and do light work but I can't stay on my feet all day. Do you think I am entitled to some assistance? I am a respectable citizen and my word is undisputed.

Signed by Mr. G.

Case No. 132

Mr. B. was born in Graham county and has lived there all his life. He is now thirty-seven years of age.

Mrs. B. was born near Victoria, Kansas. Both of her parents were born in Russia. She attended school until she completed the eighth grade at the age of sixteen years. Mr. B. quit school at the age of sixteen while he was in the eighth grade.

Both Mr. and Mrs. B. are Catholics. They were married in St. Peter in 1925. For seven years after their marriage they lived with Mr. B's parents. In 1932 they moved to a farm of their own and have been unable to provide enough for even the essentials of life. Mr. B. had always worked as a farm hand for his father and did not know how to manage a farm of his own.

The B's have three children, two of them being of school age. The children enjoy good health, but Mrs. B. has never fully recovered from an operation which she had in 1931. She is unable to do heavy work and is very much underweight. Mr. B. owns a few household articles, a car, two dozen chickens,

two cows, and two mules. The farm which he rents belongs to his father.

When Mr. B. found he had to ask for help he turned to his father but even a plea from the case workers brought no aid. Mr. B's father said the only way in which he would help his son was for him to help him on his farm. He also said that he would help his son if it were not for relief. He believed that the county should look after his son and family and seemed to take pride in the fact that he could get his son on the relief rolls. He bragged to his neighbors and told them that he was getting something out of the government.



Case No. 1021

Mr. P. is a negro, born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His mother died when he was three or four years old at which time he was taken to Topeka to live with his grandmother. He completed commonschool.

Mrs. P. completed three years of high school, then quit to get married because she was tired of going to school. She is bothered with chronic appendicitis, sick headaches, and needs glasses. A county doctor said that Mrs. P. had had several babies which died in infancy and that she had always worked out the bill but she was getting so run down that she was not able to do it anymore. She is expecting to be in confinement again soon.

Mr. and Mrs. P. do not live together half the time. After Mrs. P. was to be confined the third time she went home to her mother and did not hear from Mr. P. for six months. She says that she knows nothing about Mr. P's business or his money.

It was discovered that Mr. P. was needing and using his money to buy medicine for treatment of himself for venereal disease. He is thirty-one years of age.

Case No. 1032

Mr. G. was born in 1908 in Graham county, the son of an unmarried mother. He lived with his grand-parents until his mother's death in 1926. Since that time he has been self-supporting. Mr. G. is a negro.

Mr. G. has good health and has completed the seventh grade. He was not married until 1936. His wife had a baby two months after the marriage. It did not seem to embarrass Mr. G. to tell the case worker these facts. He said that he had been in a CCC camp for the past few years and that the boys did not stay in camp all of the time. He said the same situation which had occurred in camp could just as well have happened at Leavenworth.

When questioned further about his hasty marriage Mr. G. said that his relationship had been intimate with E. so he did not doubt that she was truthful when she said the child was his. He said that he had been seeing E. for five years and it was only natural that nature should take its course. When asked why he waited so long to marry E. he said that she had not told him of her condition until

she was several months pregnant.

Mrs. G. is a common school graduate and is a member of the Baptist church. She has now had two children and is pregnant again. Her first baby died four days after birth.

Case No. 118

Mr. M. was born in Cecilton, Maryland. He is a negro and has attended only two days of school. His father hired him out as a boy and then collected his wages. At the age of twenty-one years he left home and entered the army, where he stayed for five years, having fought in the Indian war during that time. After being discharged in 1885 he obtained a job as cook in a hotel in Buffalo, Wyoming. He next worked in a wire factory and in 1902 came to Graham county, where he has remained. He worked as a section hand for fifteen years and is now unable to work; he receives a fifty-dollar pension each month.

Mr. M. has been married three times, his first wife dying after three years. The second wife was a widow with one son. She lived with Mr. M. for ten years and became ill and died. Mrs. M., the third wife, was born in Graham county. She is still living and has borne ten children, eight of whom are living. She quit school at the age of fifteen after missing some days during a case of small-pox.

Mrs. M. is a large woman of the African negro



type and is some thirty years younger than Mr. M., who is in his seventies. She is abrupt in her speech and speaks her mind readily and in loud tones. When the case aide called Mrs. M. ran into another room and hid because her clothing was too inadequate and shabby, but when the conversation centered around the matter of her caring for her daughter's children she immediately came forth and voiced her disapproval.

The M. family live in the negro section of town; the premises are badly kept and are typical of the poor negro class. The yard and door steps are cluttered with junk; the house consists of four shabby rooms with worn floors and furniture. The house is so shed-like that it seems certain the family could not spend a winter in it and not freeze. They have no electricity or running water.

At present there are fourteen members living in the house: two daughters, E. and her illegitimate child, and F. and her three children; Mr. and Mrs. M. and their six children.

One daughter quit school while in the eighth grade because she was pregnant. She was not married and has not married since that time either. Another daughter

became pregnant while in the eighth grade and quit school to be married. These two daughters live at home and try to work to help earn their keep. They are having some trouble working at present because one has an infant to nurse and the other is so offensive in body odor that others refuse to work with her.

Mr. M. is old and quite pathetic in his attempt to provide for his large family. He depends upon his pension and the few dollars which his children earn and the amount given him by the county.

Case No. 169

Mr. D. was born in Russia, May 1885. He was the youngest of seven children. He completed common school in Russia, and after quitting school helped his father with the farm work. He took out naturalization papers during the World War. He is a follower of the Catholic religion.

Mrs. D. was also born in Russia. She was the third child of a family of ten. She came to America with her parents in 1892 and settled in Ellis county. She completed the common school education in America.

Mr. and Mrs. D. have lived in Graham county since their marriage in 1904. They have twelve children, all of whom are living and single. Ten of the children are yet at home. Seven of them have completed the eighth grade; three are now in grade school; one did not attend school because she is feeble-minded; and one who was born deaf and dumb is a graduate of the School for Deaf at Olathe, Kansas.

Mr. D. has been in ill health since an operation which he received some twenty-five years ago. He has

sores on his body and at present has blood poisoning in one hand and is being treated by the county doctor. He is unable to do much work but helps with the chores during warm weather. Some few years ago he went to Oklahoma to receive treatment from a quack doctor who had given out glowing accounts of his curative ability. Mr. D. said that the quack doctor put something on his abdomen which nearly ate the skin off his body, and his health has been worse since that treatment. Mr. D. recently had an examination at the Halstead hospital, Halstead, Kansas, and was told that he could be helped but not cured.



Case No. 547

The J. family have been living in Graham county since 1905. They have had a family of nine children, four boys and five girls. All of the children are married but two, one son and one daughter.

Mr. J. is a large man who has the habit of using alcohol and has often deprived his family of necessities in order that he might have money for drink. His education is limited because as a boy he did not like to go to school and spent his time fishing and hunting. He dropped out of school after completing the fourth grade.

Mrs. J. is a short, fat lady, who before her ill health and old age, attended Methodist Church services. She is a member of the Methodist Church and attends whenever she is able to walk to the church. She has an eighth-grade education.

The unmarried son, as a small child, lived on the streets and has had no care. At the age of fourteen he was committed to the reformatory for robbing a store. After two years he was paroled. Upon returning to his home, he again broke into a store, ran away to Colorado, where he was caught and returned to the reformatory. After being incarcerated a few months

1

he was again paroled. In 1933 he was caught stealing wheat and was sentenced to the reformatory. At present he is loafing around his home town. He has only a sixth-grade education.

The unmarried daughter graduated from high school and then completed the requirements for a teacher's certificate at Colorado State College. After she had done this she obtained a position as a teacher. When she went to her school in the fall there had been some mistake and another teacher had been hired. She returned home very humiliated. A few months later she heard that the young man with whom she had been keeping company had married some other woman. This completely broke her and in July 1931 she was sent to the Hospital for Insane at Larned. At present she is reported as improved and there seems no near possibility of her leaving the hospital.

One of the married sons lives in his home town and according to reports is a very prosperous bootlegger.

The remainder of the family is doing quite well. There is one son who is a graduate of a college in Michigan and is a successful business man in Connecticut.



Case No. 943

The H's live in a dilapidated old house, which is even worse looking inside than it appears on the outside. The kitchen is a large room in which there is a range stove. Behind the range were tin cans, ashes, papers, and sacks. When the case worker called, the breakfast table was covered with dirty dishes, dishes containing spoiled food, and flies in abundance.

Mr. H. was born in Graham county and completed the fifth grade of school. In 1928 he married Mrs. H., who had completed the seventh grade of school. For a time after his marriage he was able to secure work as a farm hand, but soon despaired and has depended upon relief for the past several years.

More discouraging than unemployment, have been the actions of his wife. She ran around with men before her marriage and sees no reason why she should not continue doing so. Mrs. H. earns some extra cash by selling herself to men about the town.

Mr. and Mrs. H. have two children and are expecting another. Mrs. H. did not know the confinement date, but thought it would be somewhere between November and February.



Mrs. H. was so dirty in her habits that the towns-people complained and she was committed to the county jail for a time. When questioned she said that she had always run around with men and could see no harm in it. Mr. H's parents are keeping the two children.

The H's carry no insurance and own no property. They belong to the German Lutheran church.

Case No. 1029

Mr. and Mrs. J. were married in 1927 and have two children, aged seven and eight years.

Mr. J. came to Graham county in 1916 and has been there since that time. He has an eighth-grade education.

Mrs. J. is the daughter of a drunkard and has had one year of high school. Both Mr. and Mrs. J's parents are on relief.

Mr. J. has always had a violent temper and is of a jealous and suspicious nature. He thought his wife would rather run around with other men and have a good time than to stay at home with him, which seemed to be actually true. Then he became obsessed with the idea that she was trying to dispose of him and his mind became affected. He gradually became worse and was committed to the Home for Insane at Larned, where he is at present.

Mrs. J. now earns her living by working at the county sewing room, and permits her children to live on the streets. Her youngest child, a boy, is extremely malnourished, nervous, and cannot master his school work.

Case No. 744

Mrs. K. was born and raised on a well-improved farm in Graham county. She was next to the youngest of twelve children and the only one in the family to obtain a high-school education. After graduation she taught for two years and then married a young veteran recently discharged from the army. Her husband was a good worker but a rover and her marriage became a disappointment.

Mr. and Mrs. K. have six children. In 1931 while in California Mrs. K. was deserted by her husband. She and her children came back to Graham county and her parents cared for the children. Mrs. K. made demands on the local, state, and federal officers in a plea for better living conditions but was ignored because she had become irresponsible and psychotic. She seemed to be carried away in a world of fantasy and developed a serious mental illness. (A letter which Mrs. K. wrote to Frances Perkins is quite typical of her condition, and is placed at the close of this history.)

After Mrs. K. had destroyed public records in an attempt to regain her former home, the peace-

officers who cared for insane cases committed her to the State Hospital for Insane, Larned, Kansas. The scene of the six children clinging to their arrested mother was pathetic as recorded by the case worker.

The children were placed in different homes. Three years ago one of the girls was run over by a car driven by a high school boy and was killed. The following year another girl died from some illness. The remaining four children are being cared for and are in school; one is completing high school as valedictorian.

Mrs. K. was taken from the Larned Hospital and placed in an asylum in California. She contracted syphilis from her husband and her mental condition seems to be the result.

Very little is known concerning Mr. K., but those who know him are doubtful of his veracity. He owes bills and is prone to misrepresent facts. He claimed that he had two years of college but it was evidenced that he had only a fourth-grade education.

The following letter was written to Miss Frances Perkins by Mrs. K:



Dear Madam:

Having seen your pictures in the newspapers and read considerably about your fine work as Secretary of Labor I decided to write you for information and assistance through the government. I have been thinking of a plan for my 6 children and I and because my husband who has been an ex-service man of the World War has deserted us and he has not been with us since 2 years next month July is my main reason for consulting you dear Miss Perkins, and I am wondering if you could take this letter to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency relief administrator. I would also like to have written President and Mrs. Roosevelt a letter but truthfully I positively haven't the extra postage stamp money or writing material either at present. If you cannot help us alone I thought perhaps Mr. Hopking administrator, could assist, too.

We have been aided \$15.00 per month by the county commissioners since I year ago last December also Red Cross has helped us with clothing  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton coal and Federal flour. Because of all this charity I am thankful for, yet ashamed, too but I have been very ill, but am commencing to improve recently since undergoing an abdominal operation at Wakeeney, Kansas.

Now I need treatments for ulcers and colitic and a hemroid operation. I would like to go to a doctor at Gypsum, Kansas, because he tole me it was my physical condition which causes my mind to be the way it is. This was 1 year ago last November. At that time 3 Hill City doctors denied there was anything wrong with me, but Dr. I. insisted there was not only diseased colon but female trouble also. I decided on the female trouble operation first and am glad now I did because I have improved so much and if I had not redovered I felt so much money would not have been wasted. The county commissioners at that time advanced \$50 to Dr. O. at Wakeeney, Kansas, for my operation. I signed a note to pay it back a year later.

Now if I could go on with the rest of the medical attention I feel positive I will be well as ever but most of the time I have an internal soreness as if it were in the intestines.

There is our present position. We are living in Hill City and now the county attorney and Poor Commis-

sioners and others try to insist on us moving to the county poor farm over 14 miles southwest of Hill City. I am on the road to recovery if only you dear Miss Perkins, will write Mr. Will Moore of Hill City, who is Poor Commissioner, to see that I get these treatments and hemroid operations. I am partial to the Gysum, Kansas doctor because he told me the truth when the other doctors deceived me and I was helpless mentally with 6 children to see after besides, but now I am lots better but not well yet.

There is no future for my children and I know if we are compelled to move out to the Poor farm, besides I have one other plan and that is for my 6 children and I to move to the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas. Is it possible at all for the government to help us wives of ex-service men who have children to locate at some good place in the Ozark Mountains, where we could have log houses, plenty of fuel, wild and tame life, huts, plenty of fish and good schools for our children 9 months term. My 4 oldest children and I could certainly earn money picking fruit. I work in the canneries or evaporated and this is prolect. In the mountains could pine needles be used to fill cloth pin cushiona and make moth bags with? What about pincushions for a project for those young women in camp. The money obtained from them could go to the government. This may be foolish of me to mention that idea but I know lots of pin cushions filled with sawdust, cotton and what have you, are sold in stores. I have made a few with pine needle stuffing and the odor is wonderful. Besides they are the best pindushions we ever used.

Two things I wish for, 1, is to get completely well which would take about \$100 yet. The other is to move with my 6 children to the Ozarks in Arkansas where all of us could have access to the wild fruits, nuts, sassafrass for tea, fish, etc., and have a log cabin to live in with a fire place and plenty of fuel we could get ourselves. If only we can be where there are good schools as my oldest daughter will be in the 8th grade this year. She is 12 years old. I have relatives at Springdale, Arkansas.

If you or Mr. Hopkins can possibly rescue us 7 out of the hands of these peoples ideas here please do so will you?



I was in Springdale and there when I was about 17 years old, 19 years ago and I feel confident that my children and I could make our way there far better than here. I think we would like California very much but there is irrigation expense so the Ozarks country seems to be the best place I can think of now. Does the government have land for claims in the Ozarks? "here?"

In 1917 I was graduated from high school and taught two years in rural school, then had some sales training in Denver, Colorado in the large department stores. I want to make use of what little training I have had and receive more training especially for private secretary and detective work later if it is possible, besides I certainly want my 6 children to advance in life and we can and will if we can have a chance. Can you please have some literature sent me about the Ozarks, dear Miss Perkins, and how much it will cost my 6 children and what household furnishings we have to go to Rogers and Springdale, Arkansas? All advice and information and help will be truly appreciated. Thanking you and hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Signed by Mrs. V.

P.S. My name when an infant was Caroline, my folks and most everyone else have called me Carrie but I prefer the name Caroline.

Case No. 131

Mrs. B. was born on a Graham county farm. She was the oldest of nine children. She completed an eighth-grade education but quit school at the age of fourteen and worked until she was married. Her health had been good until last winter when she had a bad case of flu and pneumonia. Her kidneys were weakened and her feet and legs swell since that illness.

Mr. B. was born in the county and is a farmer. He married Mrs. B. in 1907 and they have six children, three of whom are married and three of whom are single. Mr. and Mrs. B. have lived on several different farms since their marriage. He has tried to buy a farm once or twice but crop failures always caused him to lose the property.

No member of the family can do any kind of work except as farm hands and common laborers. One son remarked that he had expected to be fired the winter before when he worked on the highway because he did not know how to do anything but had managed to get by.

The children have never been encouraged to educate themselves. Five of them have completed the eighth grade and have made no effort to attend high school.

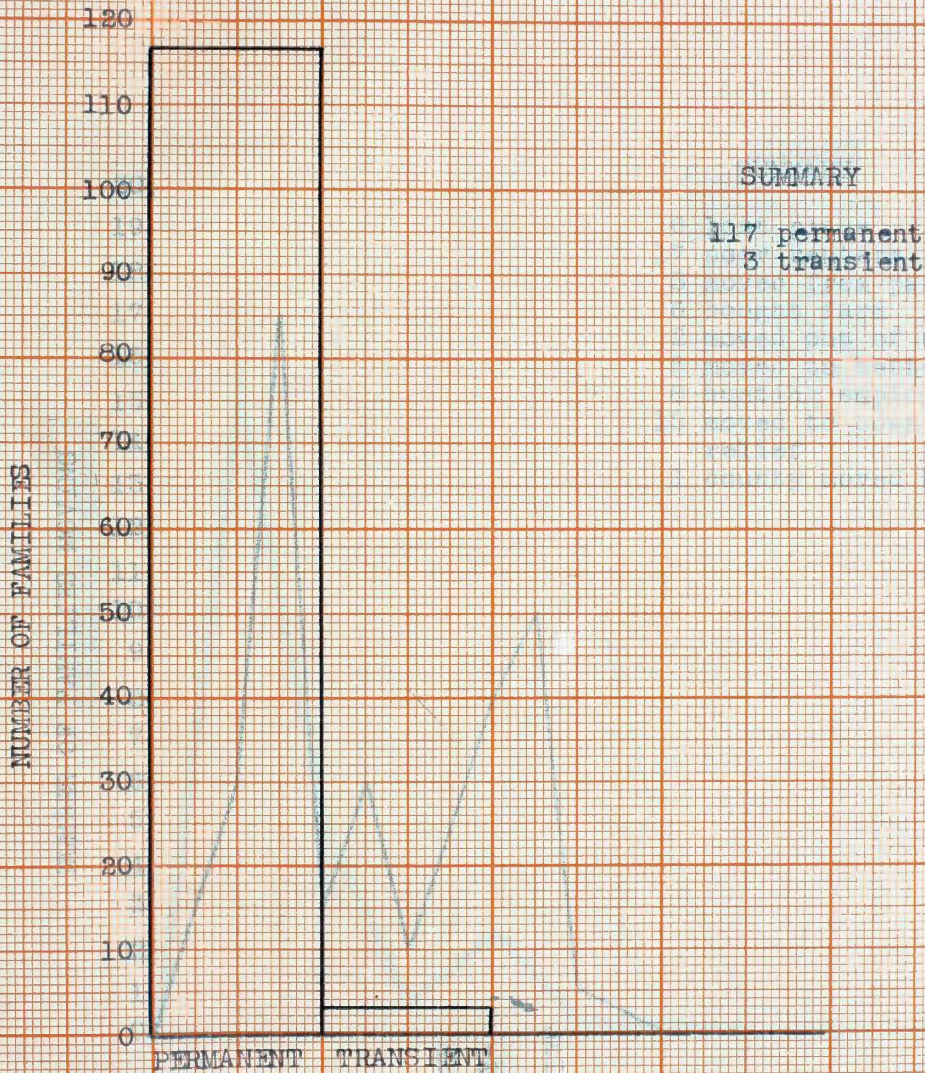


One son went to high school for one and one-half years and then quit because he had to walk four miles. He said he was tired and his parents seemed to think it was best for him to stay home and work anyhow.

The two married daughters live in the county and their husbands are on relief.



FIGURE I  
PERMANENT AND TRANSIENT  
RESIDENCE



SUMMARY

117 permanent  
3 transient

SCALE  
EACH SMALL  
SQUARE ---- 1



FIGURE III

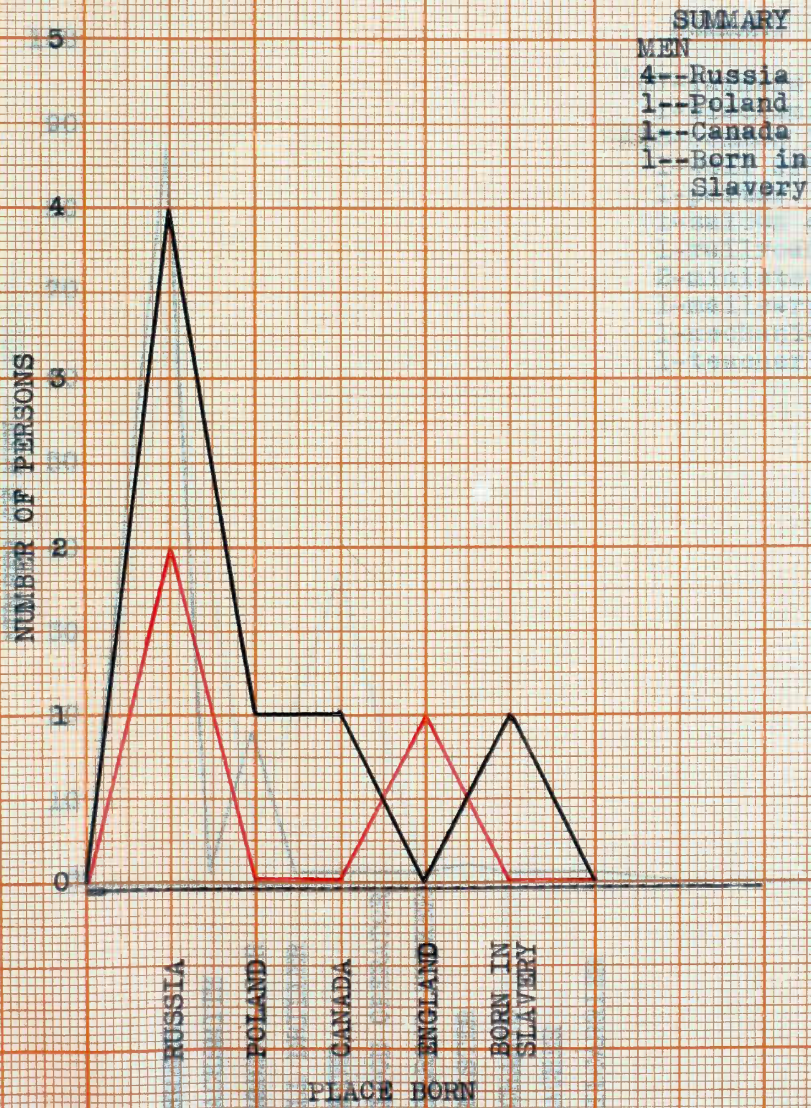
NATIONALITY

FAMILIES---GREEN  
MEN-----BLACK  
WOMEN-----RED





FIGURE V  
FOREIGN AND SLAVERY  
BORN INDIVIDUALS  
MEN-----BLACK  
WOMEN-----RED



SUMMARY  
MEN  
4--Russia  
1--Poland  
1--Canada  
1--Born in Slavery  
WOMEN  
2--Russia  
1--England

SCALE  
TWENTY SMALL  
SQUARES -----1



FIGURE VI  
OCCUPATIONS OF THE MEN

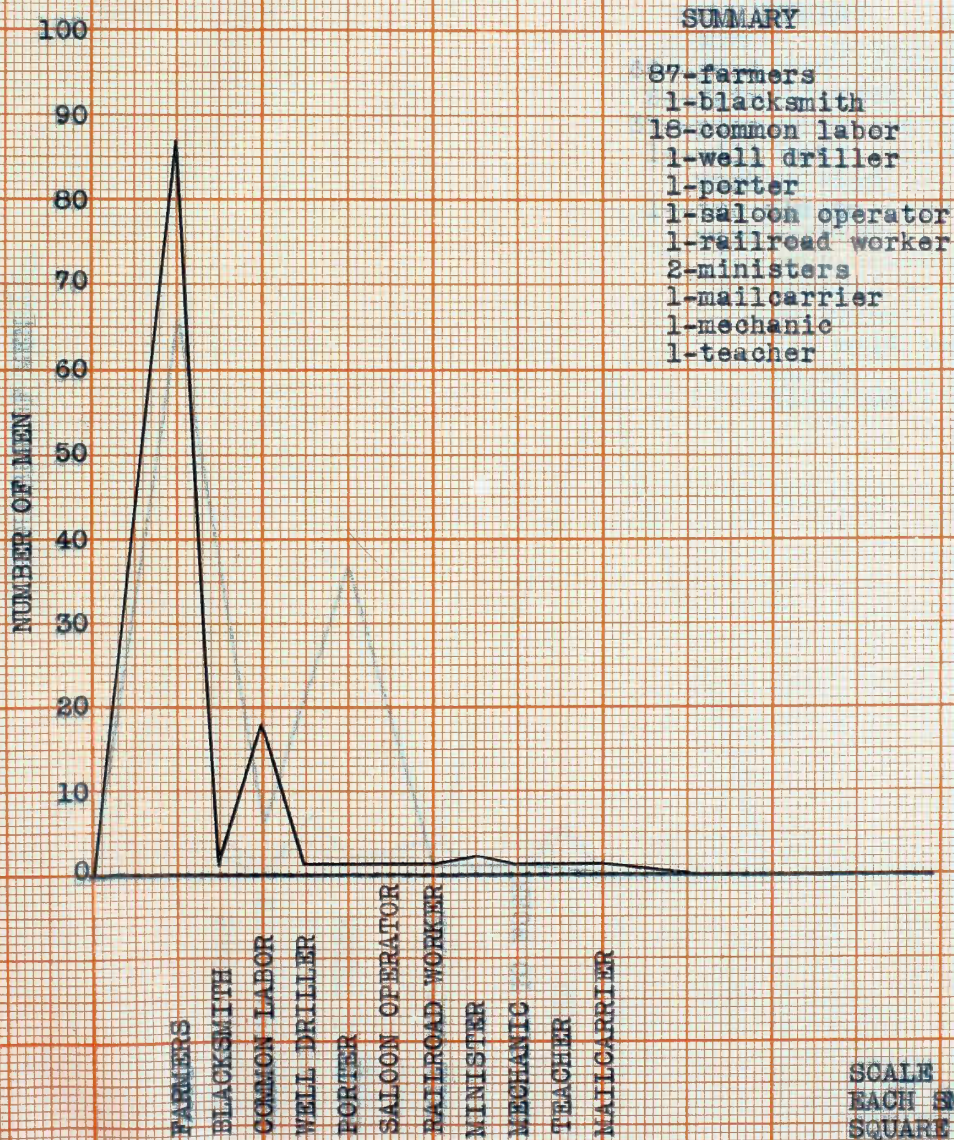
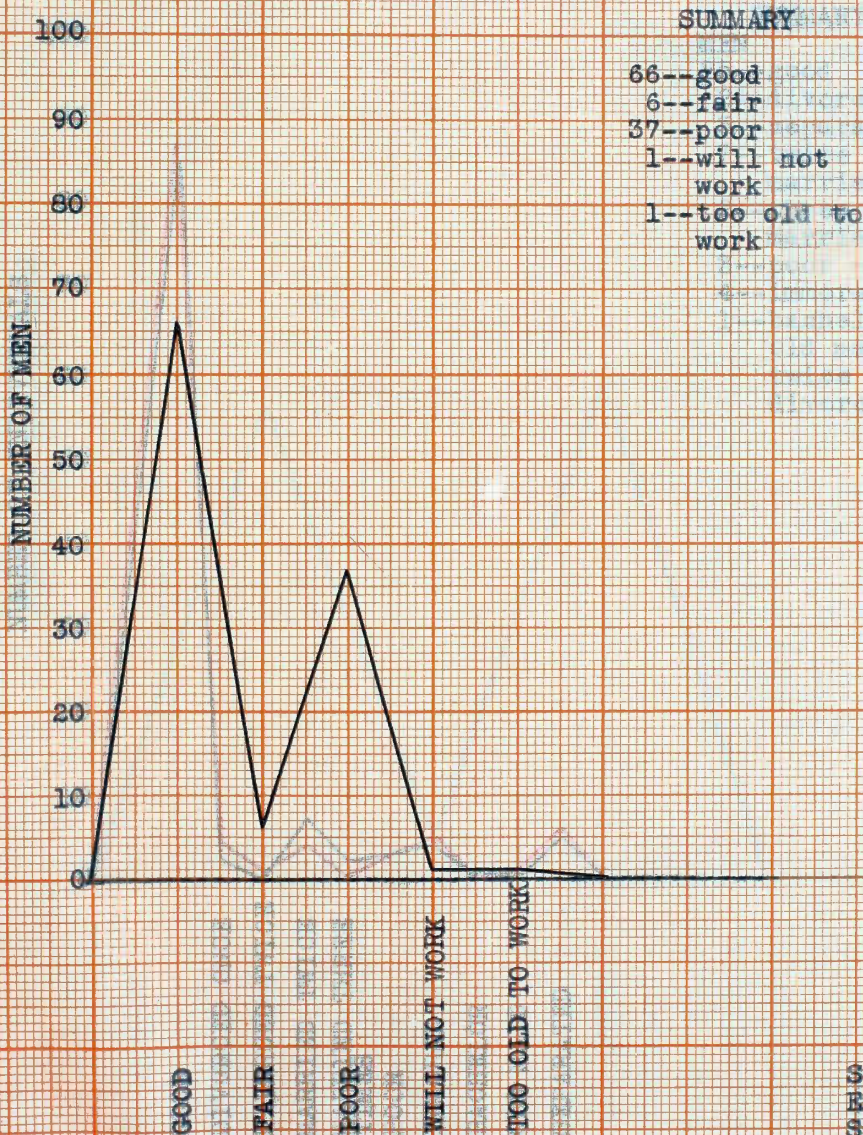




FIGURE VII  
WORK RECORD OF MEN



SUMMARY

66--good  
6--fair  
37--poor  
1--will not  
work  
1--too old to  
work

SCALE  
EACH SMALL  
SQUARE ----- 1



FIGURE VIII

MARITAL STATUS

MEN-----BLACK

WOMEN-----RED

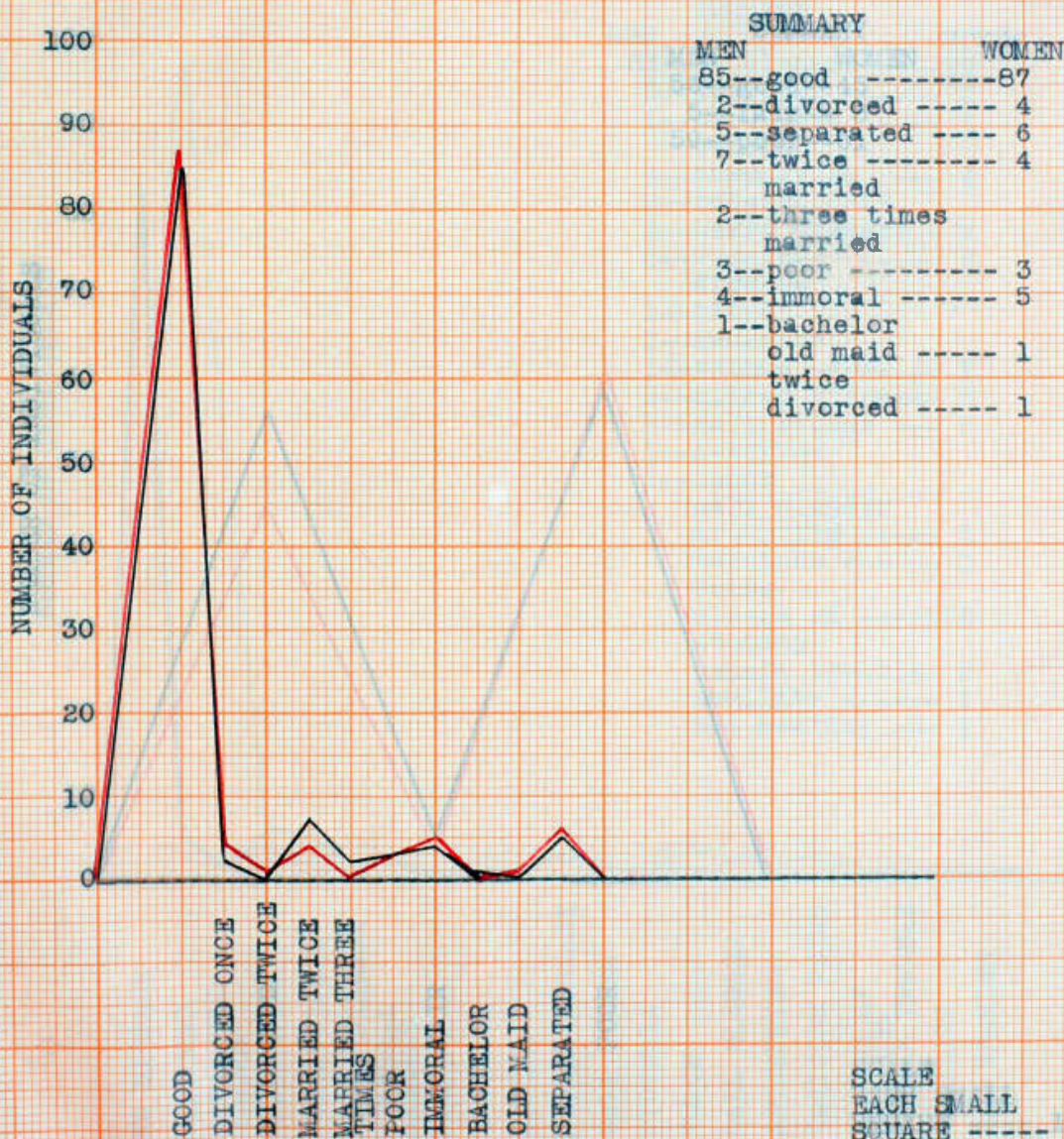




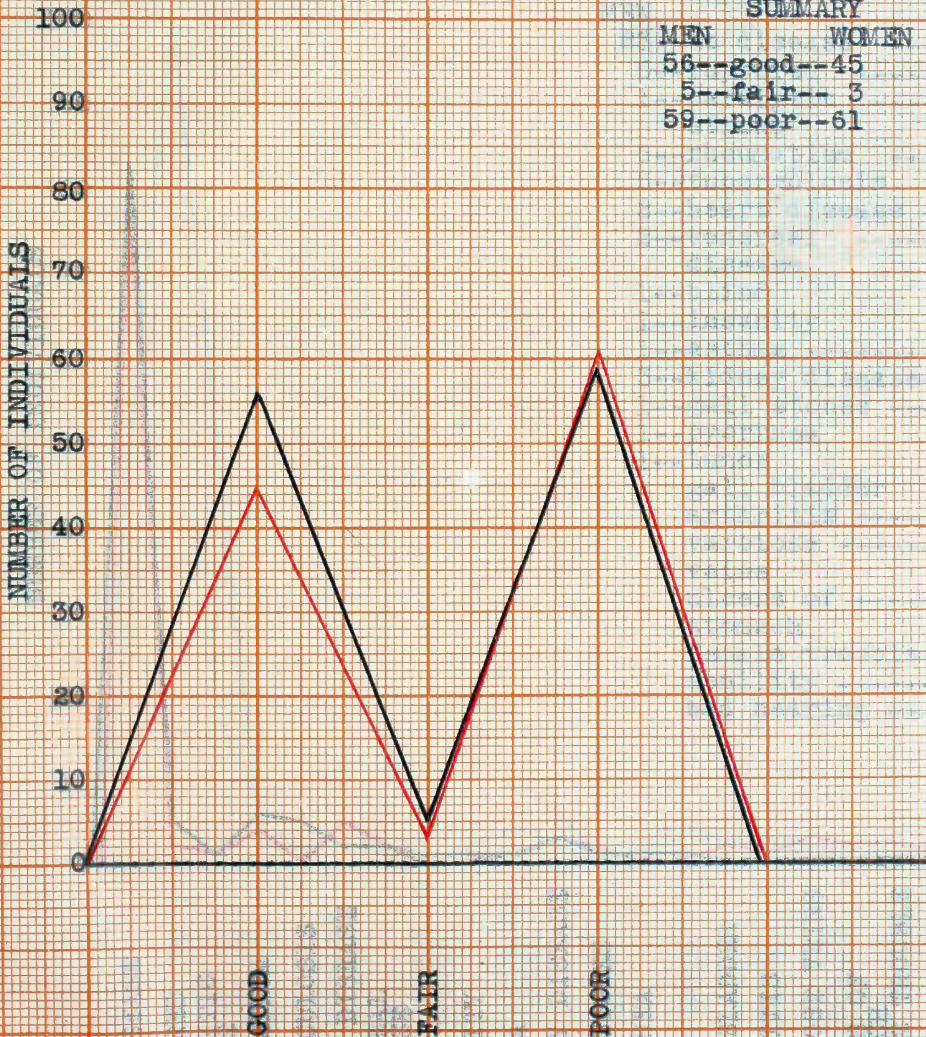
FIGURE IX

HEALTH

MEN-----BLACK  
WOMEN-----RED

SUMMARY

MEN	WOMEN
56--good--45	
5--fair--3	
59--poor--61	



SCALE  
EACH SMALL  
SQUARE ---- 1



FIGURE X  
DISEASES OF CLIENTS

MEN-----BLACK  
WOMEN-----RED

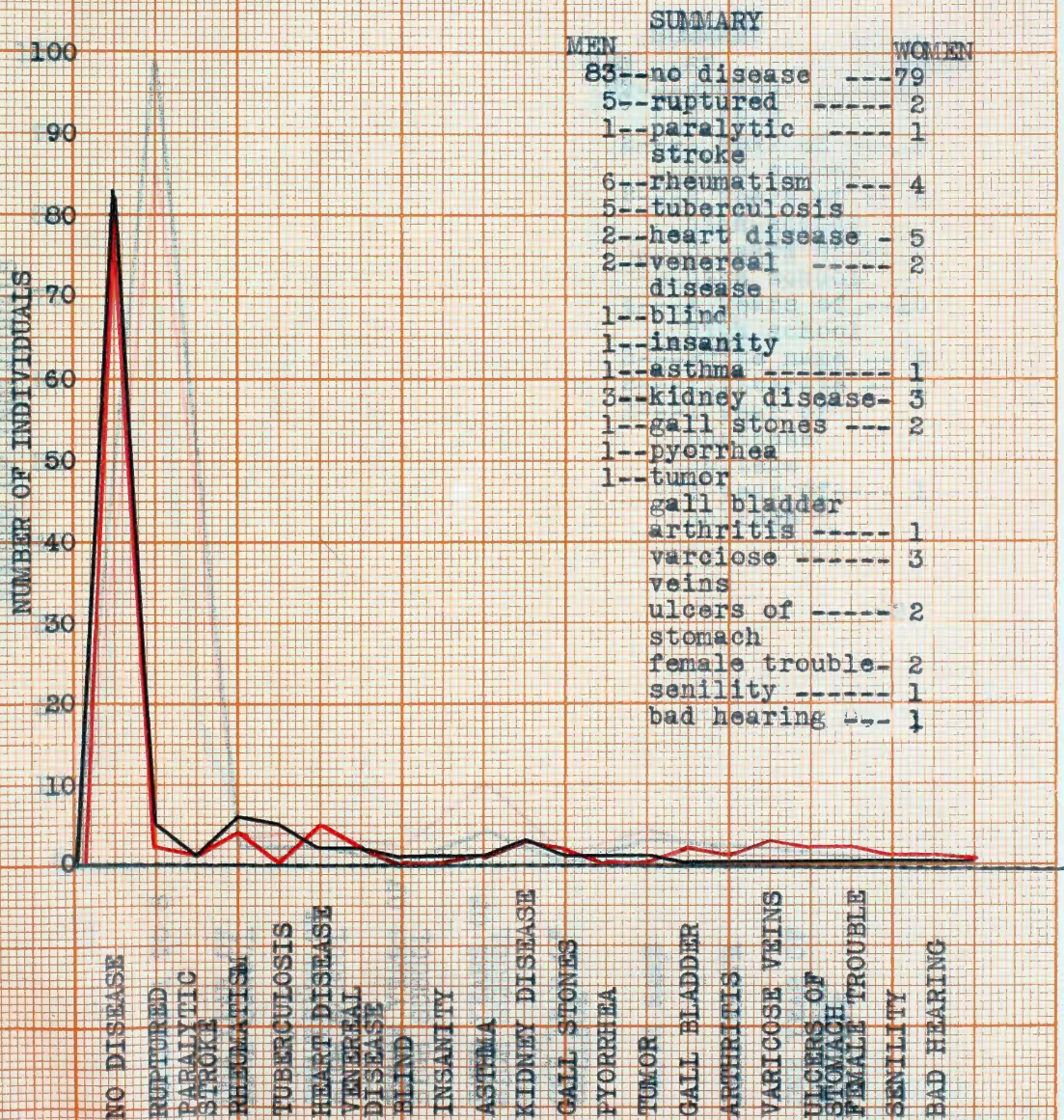




FIGURE XI

EDUCATION

MEN-----BLACK  
WOMEN-----RED

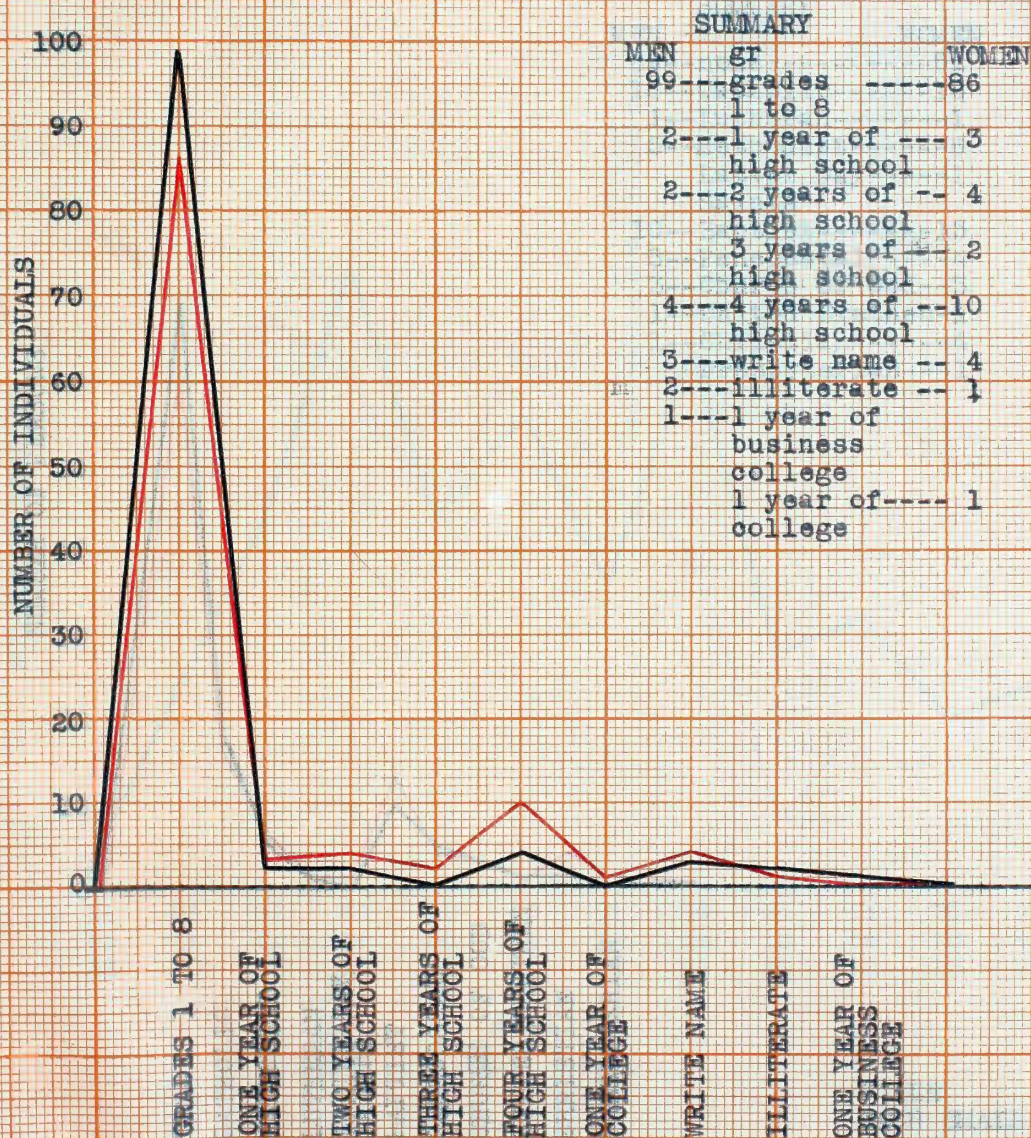




FIGURE XII

RELIGION

MEN-----BLACK

WOMEN-----RED

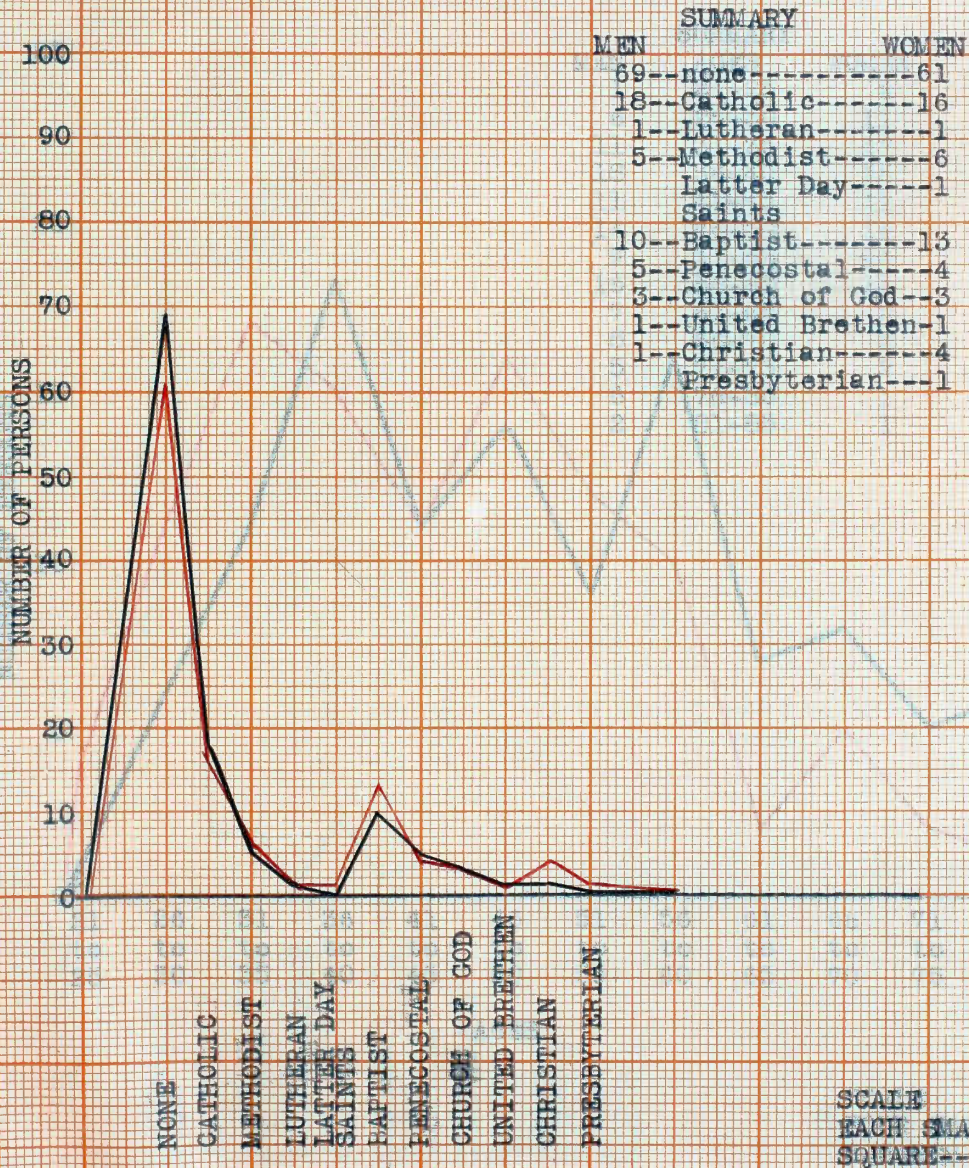




FIGURE XIV  
SOCIAL HANDICAPS OF MEN

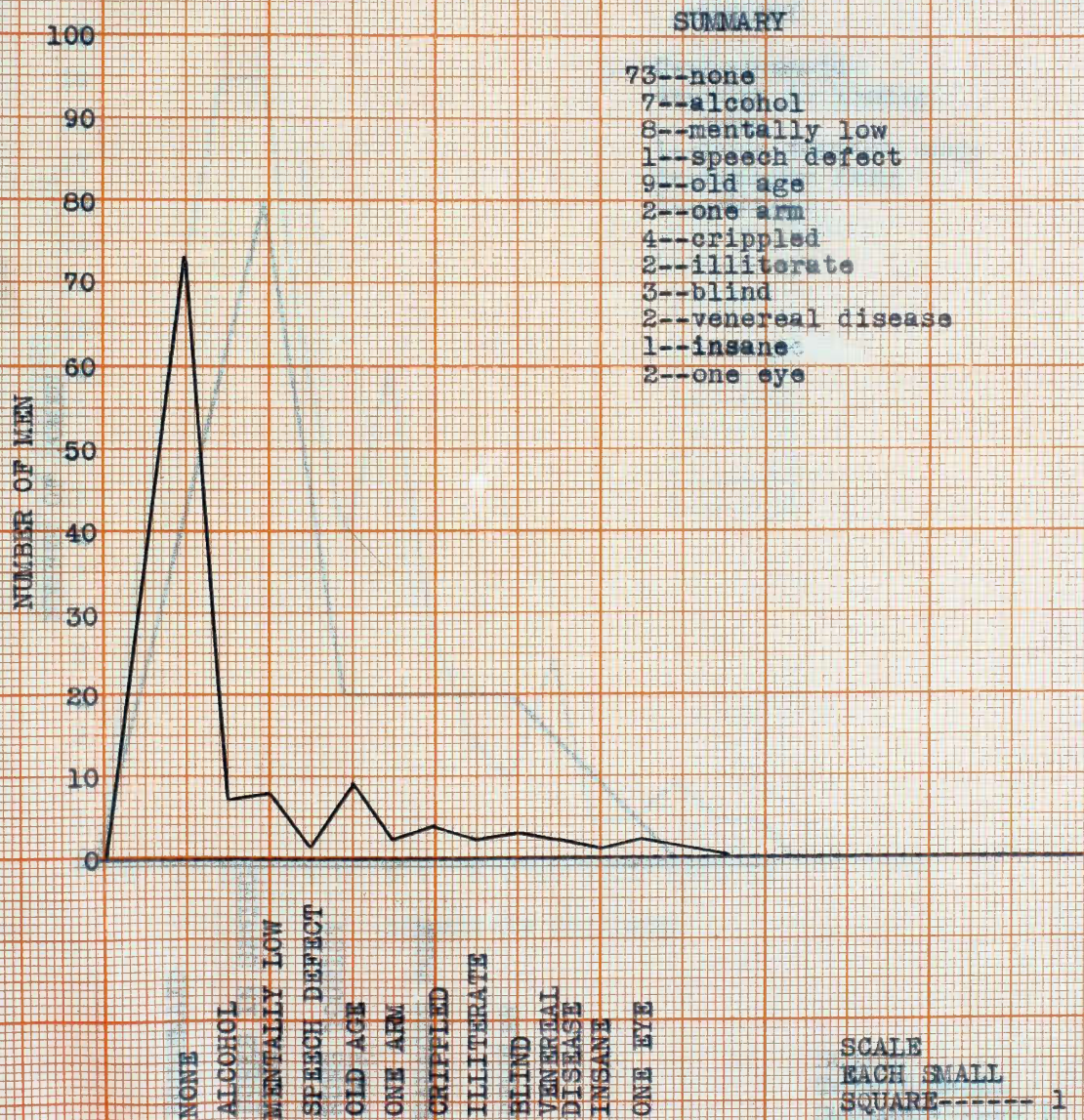
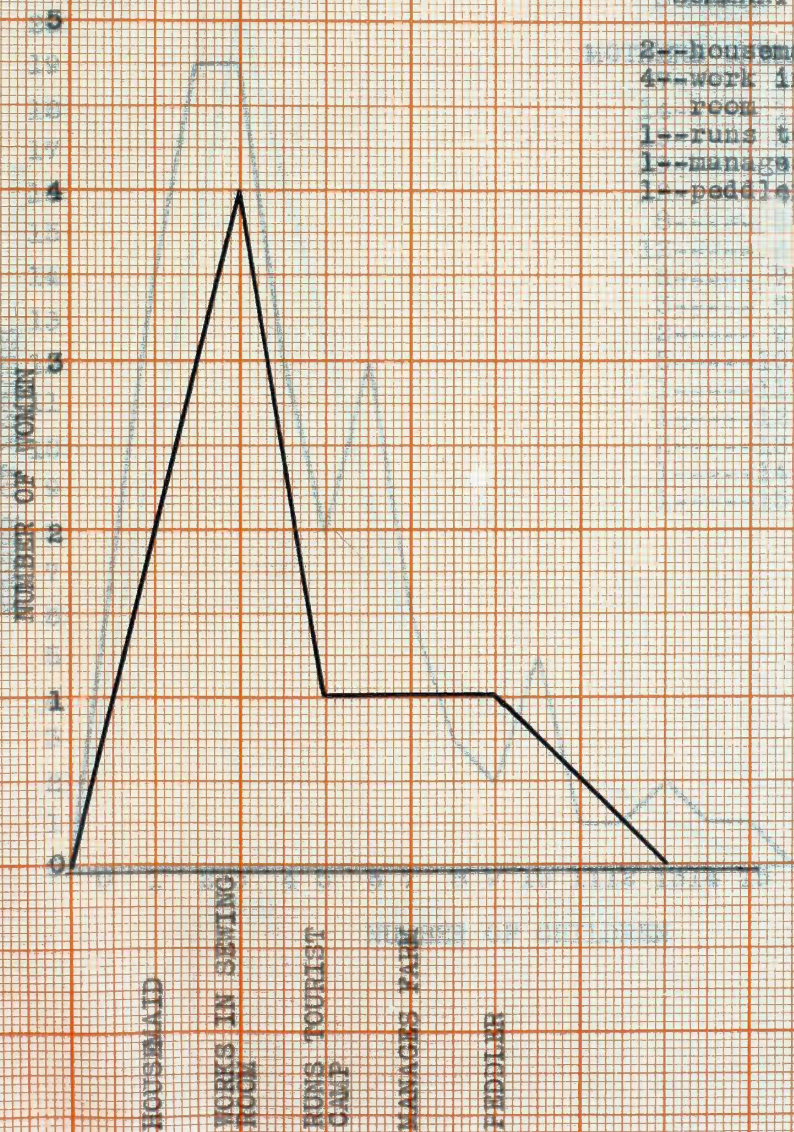




FIGURE XV  
OCCUPATIONS OF THE WOMEN



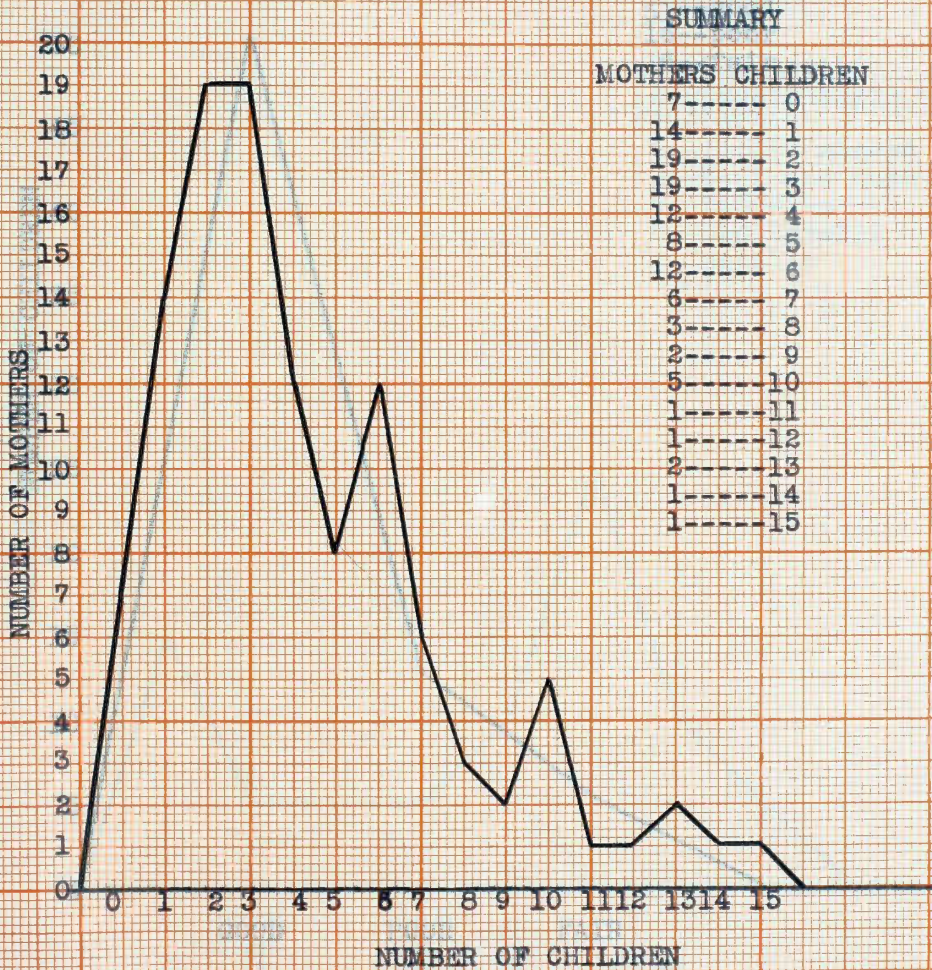
SUMMARY

2--housemaid  
4--work in sewing room  
1--runs tourist camp  
1--manages farm  
1--peddler

SCALE  
TWENTY SMALL  
SQUARES----- 1



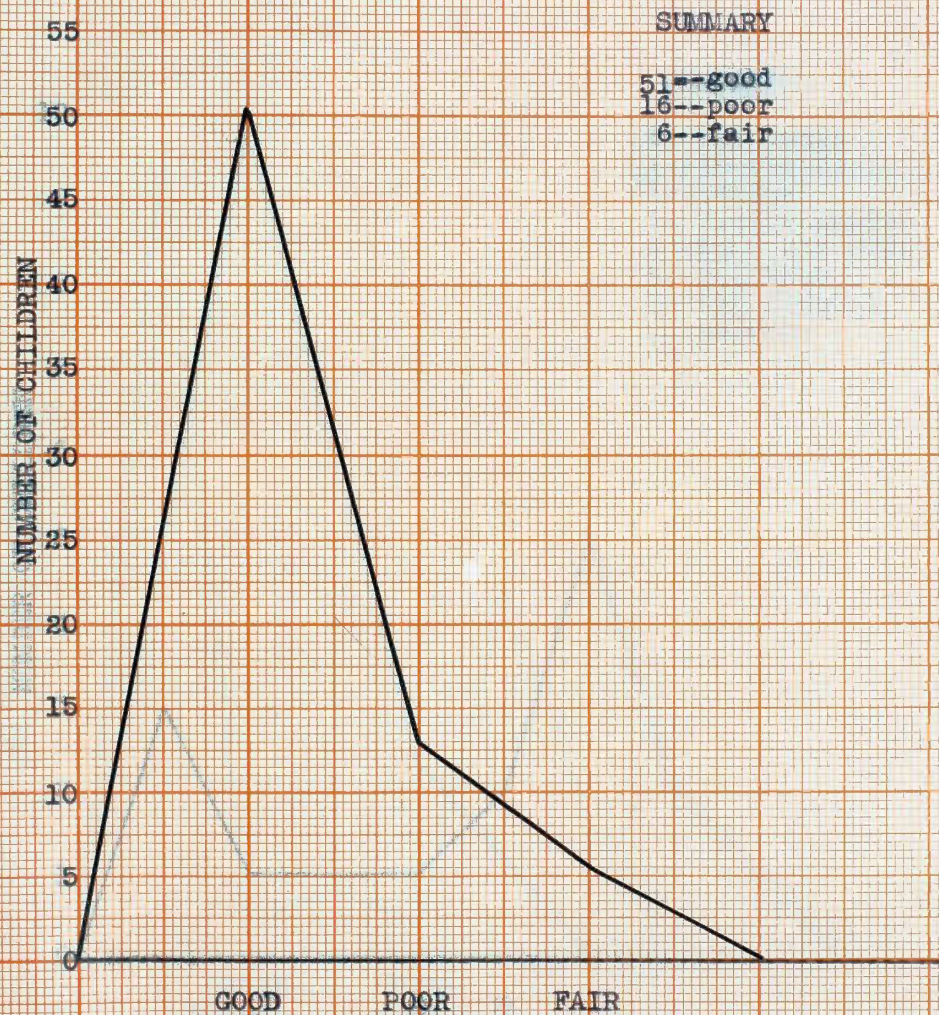
FIGURE XVI  
CHILDREN PER MOTHER



SCALE  
FIVE SMALL  
SQUARES ---- 1



FIGURE XVII  
HEALTH OF CHILDREN

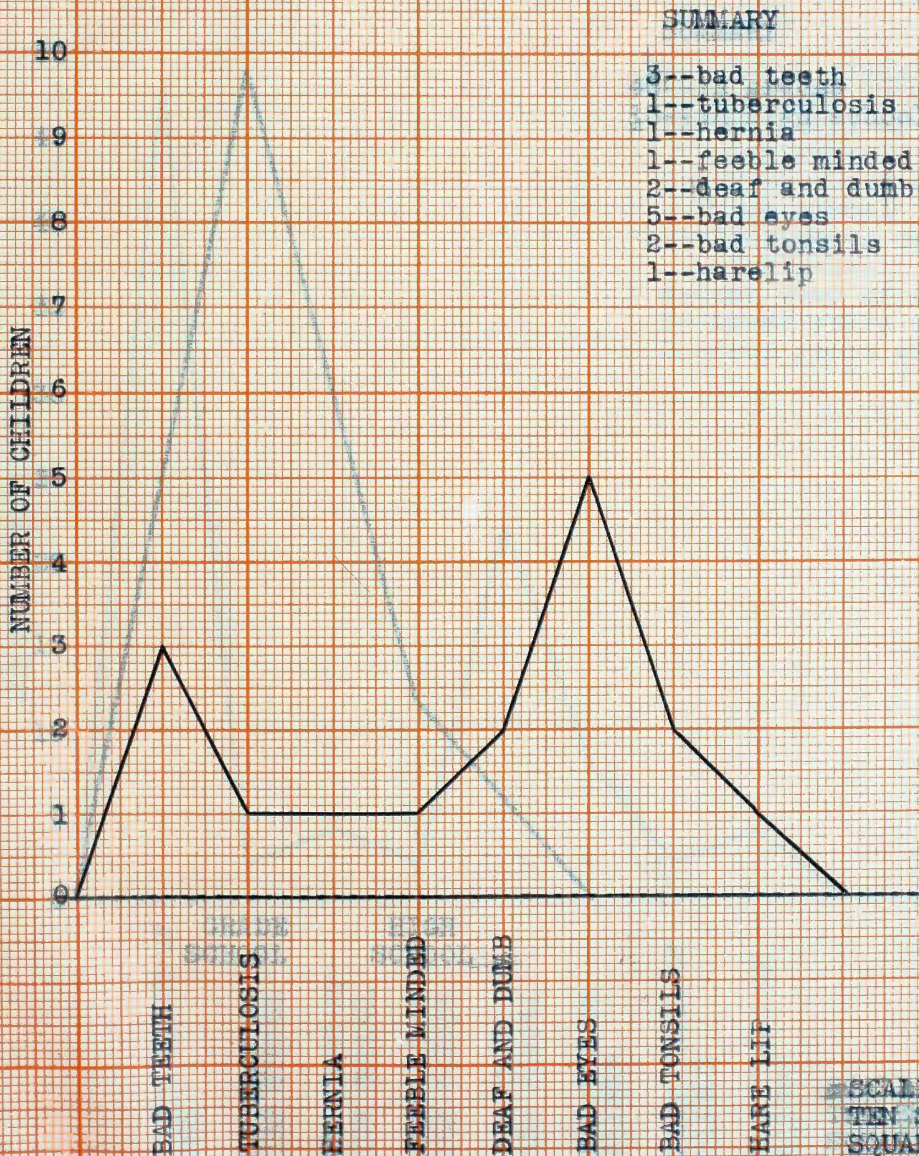


SCALE  
TWO SMALL  
SQUARES ---- 1



# FIGURE XVIII

## DISEASES OF CHILDREN





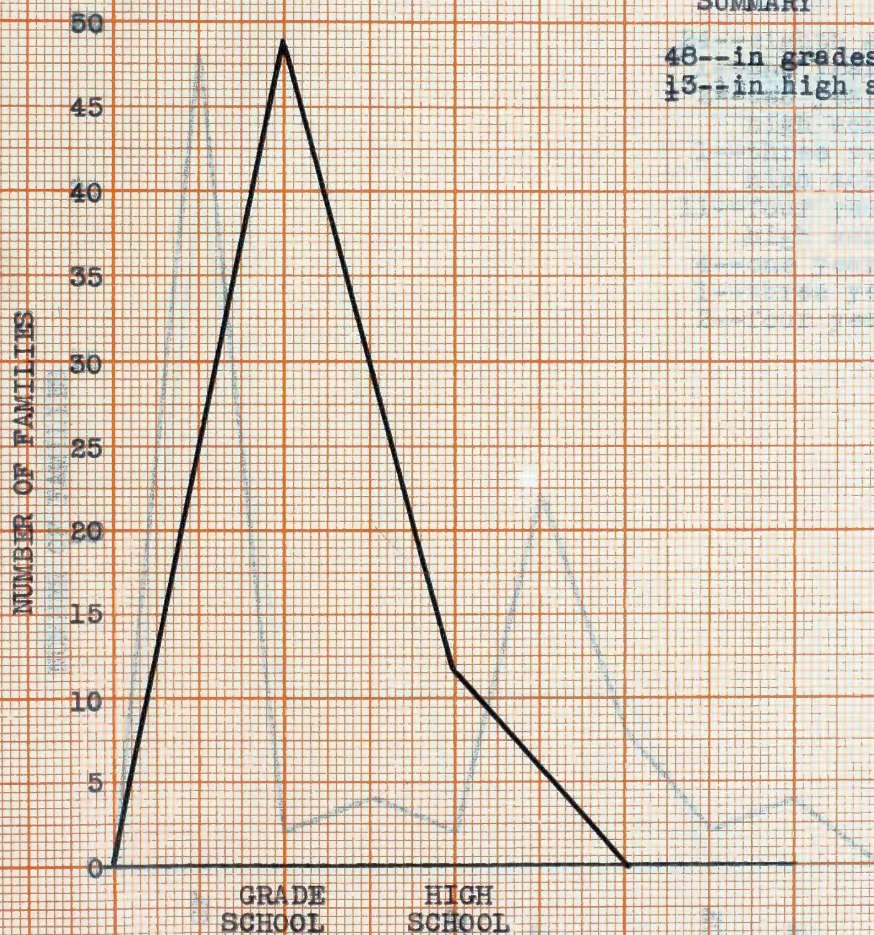
# FIGURE XIX

## EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

### UNDER SIXTEEN BY FAMILIES

#### SUMMARY

48--in grades  
13--in high school



SCALE  
TWO SMALL  
SQUARES ---- 1



FIGURE XX  
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN  
OVER SIXTEEN BY FAMILIES

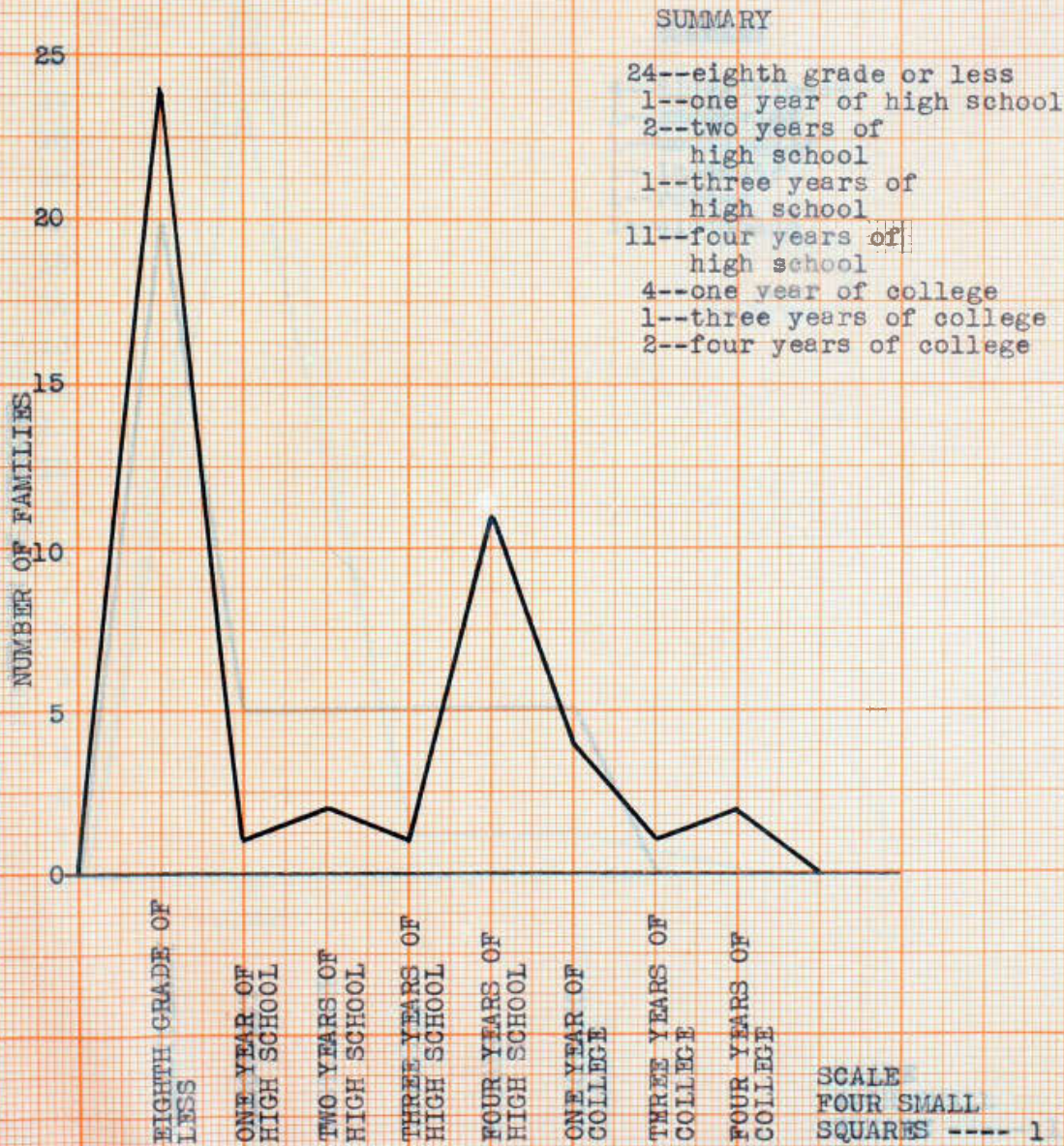
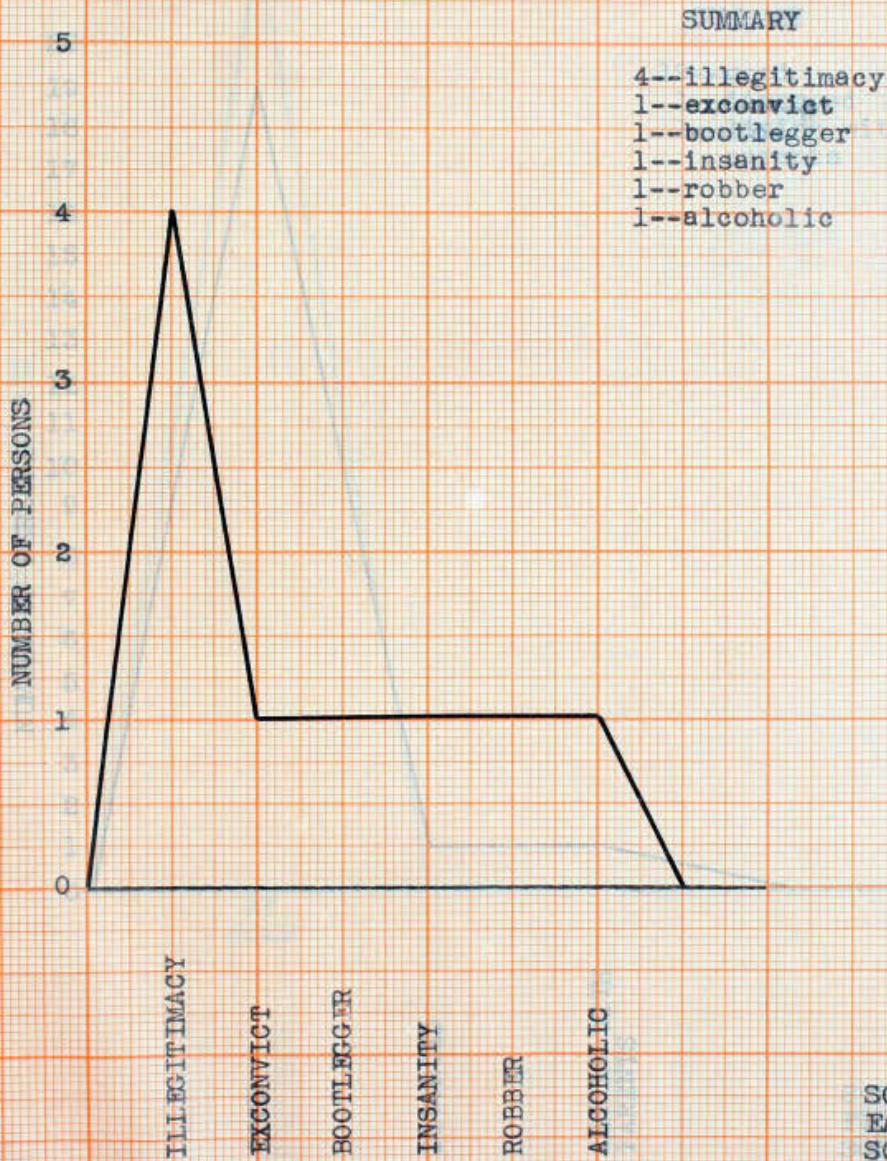




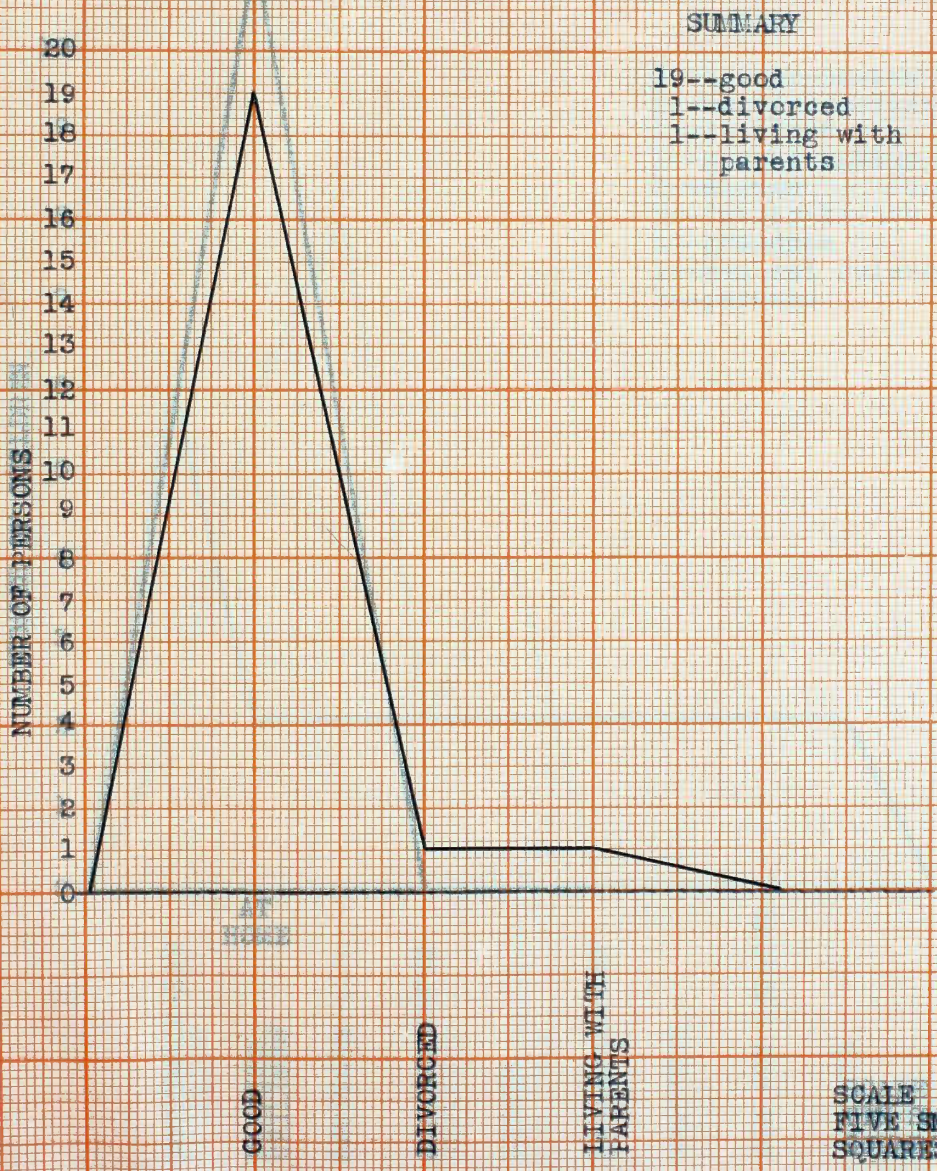
FIGURE XXI  
DISORGANIZATION OF  
CHILDREN BY FAMILIES



SCALE  
EACH SMALL  
SQUARE ----- 1



FIGURE XXII  
MARITAL STATUS OF  
MARRIED CHILDREN



SUMMARY

19--good  
1--divorced  
1--living with  
parents

SCALE  
FIVE SMALL  
SQUARES ---- 1



FIGURE XXIV  
OTHERS IN THE HOME

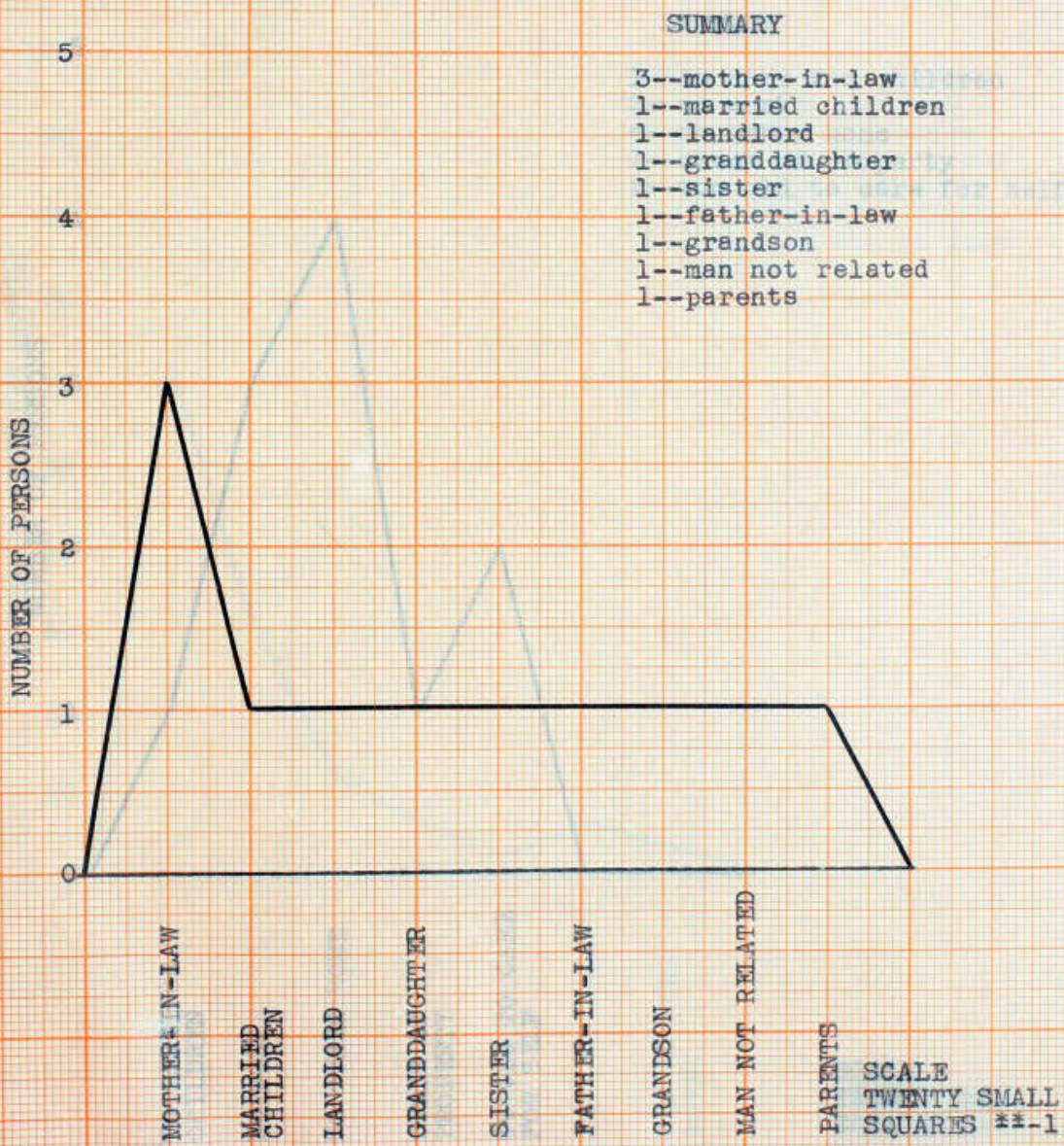




FIGURE XXV

REASONS FOR BEING IN

THE HOME

SUMMARY  
 1--to care for children  
 3--no work  
 4--no other home  
 1--owner of property  
 2--too old to care for self

5

4

NUMBER OF PERSONS

3

2

1

0

TO CARE FOR  
CHILDREN

NO WORK

NO OTHER HOME

OWNER OF  
PROPERTY

TO OLD TO CARE  
FOR SELF

SCALE  
 TWENTY SMALL  
 SQUARES ---- 1



FIGURE XXVI  
NUMBER OF TIMES FAMILY  
HAS MOVED

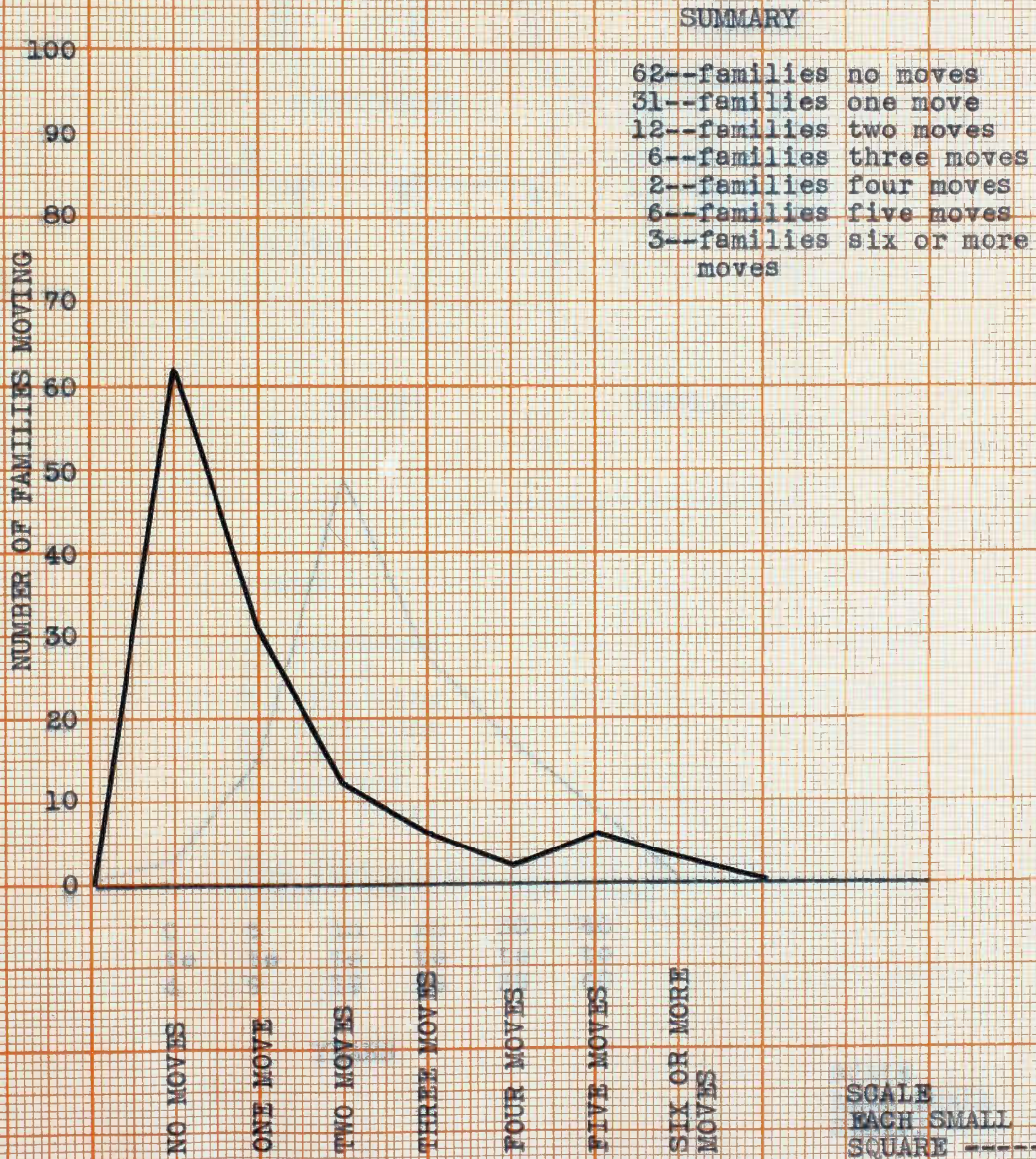
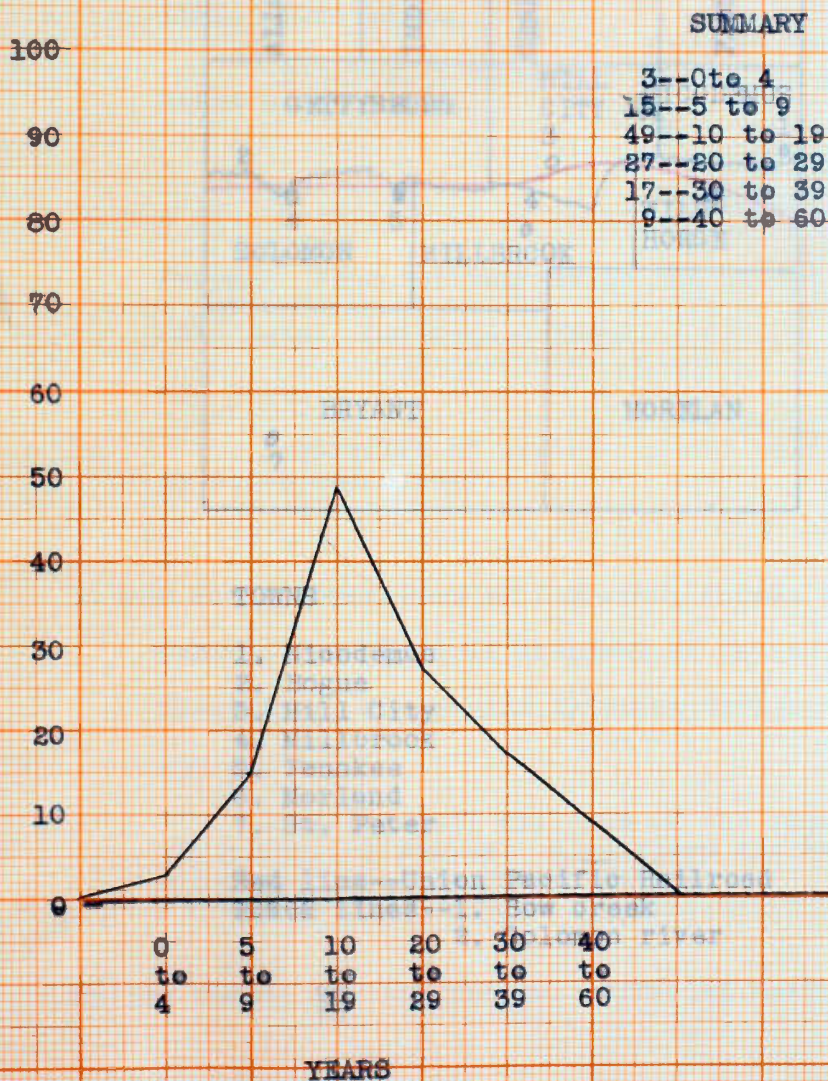


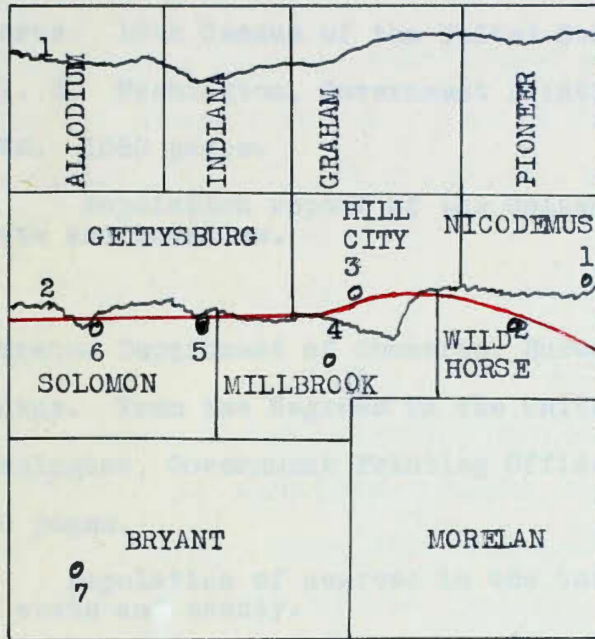


FIGURE XXVII  
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE



SCALE  
EACH SMALL  
SQUARE ----- 1

# MAP OF GRAHAM COUNTY



## TOWNS

1. Nicodemus
2. Bogue
3. Hill City
4. Millbrook
5. Penokee
6. Morland
7. St. Peter

Red line--Union Pacific Railroad  
 Black lines--1. Bow creek  
                   2. Solomon river



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