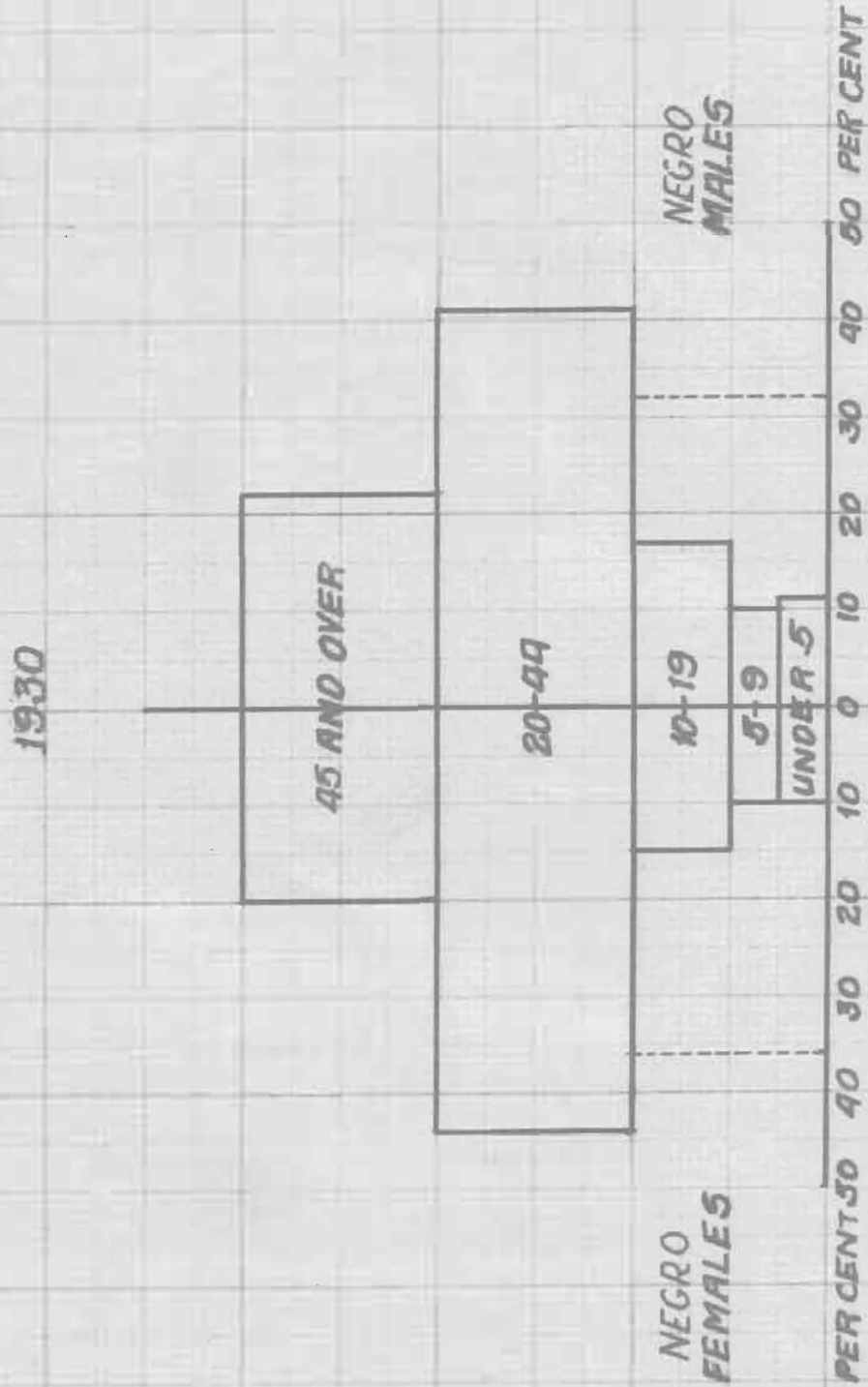


The highest frequency of per cent. in the total Negro population of Champaign-Urbana was found in 1880, followed in order of frequency by 1910. Among the combined total population of the Twin Cities, the highest in order of frequency was 1900 with next greatest advance in 1910. As a whole, the Negro population increased at a slower rate in the last decade than in other decennial periods for both the Negro population and total population, while the slowest rate of increase in the total population was found in 1880. The per cent. Negro to total population remained the same in 1860 and 1870. At these two census dates, the Negro population was only two per cent. of the total population, and increased to four per cent. for the two succeeding periods. However, in 1900 the percentage decreased to three per cent., but increased again in 1910 to four per cent. In the period between 1910 and 1920, the per cent. Negro to total population increased two per cent. beyond 1910, but remained at six per cent. for both 1920 and 1930 respectively, which was nearly two per cent. higher than the per cent. of Negroes to total population for the state in 1930. Though the per cent. growth of the Negroes for Champaign-Urbana varied somewhat, the absolute growth in numbers for the two towns showed quite a difference. However, the decade between 1880 and 1890 showed a decrease of 8 per cent. in the Negro population for Champaign, which causes a decrease of 5 per cent. in the total Negro population for the Twin Cities. In looking at Table IX in Chapter I, it is shown that the decrease is not a local condition but a state-wide condition for this decade. Champaign has attracted a much larger number of

Negroes than Urbana, due no doubt in part to the accommodations offered the Negroes in Champaign. In the sixty years between 1870 and 1930, the Negro population in Champaign increased 1199 per cent., while in Urbana the Negro population increased 885 per cent.

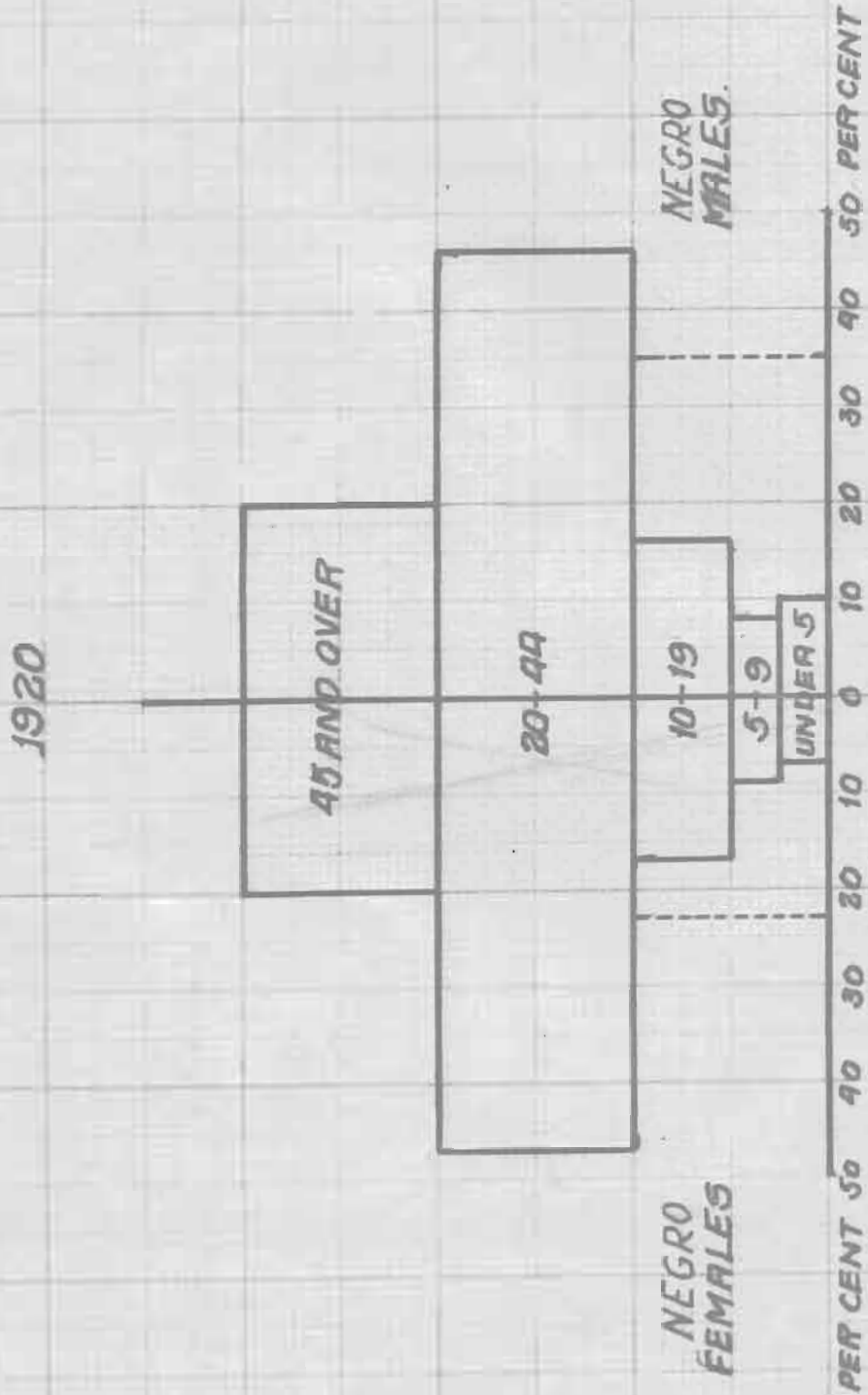
Tables XIV and XV show the distribution of age groups for the Negro population in Champaign-Urbana, while Table XVI gives the age groupings of Champaign only, as the age groups of Urbana were not listed in the 1910 census. In order to present more uniform tables, the age groups were shown in Tables XIV, XV and XVI as they were given in the 13th Census. Since the age groups 20-44 years were four times greater than the age groups up to nineteen years, the dotted lines give combined per cent. of the first nineteen years, to correspond with the 20-44 years age group. Table XVII gives the number found in each age section and a more defined age grouping than is shown in Tables XIV, XV and XVI. The total Negro population was divided into two divisions, which showed 51 per cent. females and 49 per cent. males in 1930, and 51 per cent. males and 49 per cent. females in 1920 and 1910. The age groups were figured according to the per cent. of males and females found within each separate division. The under 5 year group for males shows this group to be 11 per cent. in 1930, as against 10 per cent. in 1920 and 1910, which included Champaign only, while on the female side, the Twin Cities in 1920 had 7 per cent. in the under 5 year group, and 10 per cent. for both towns in 1930. Champaign had 9 per cent. of all females in the under 5 year group. In Champaign in 1910, the males in the 5-9 year group were 8 per cent. of the Negro male

TABLE XIV.  
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA COMBINED<sup>a</sup>  
1930



<sup>a</sup> 16<sup>TH</sup> CENSUS, TABLE 12. VOL. III. POP. P. P. 608-613

TABLE XV.  
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA COMBINED<sup>a</sup>  
1920

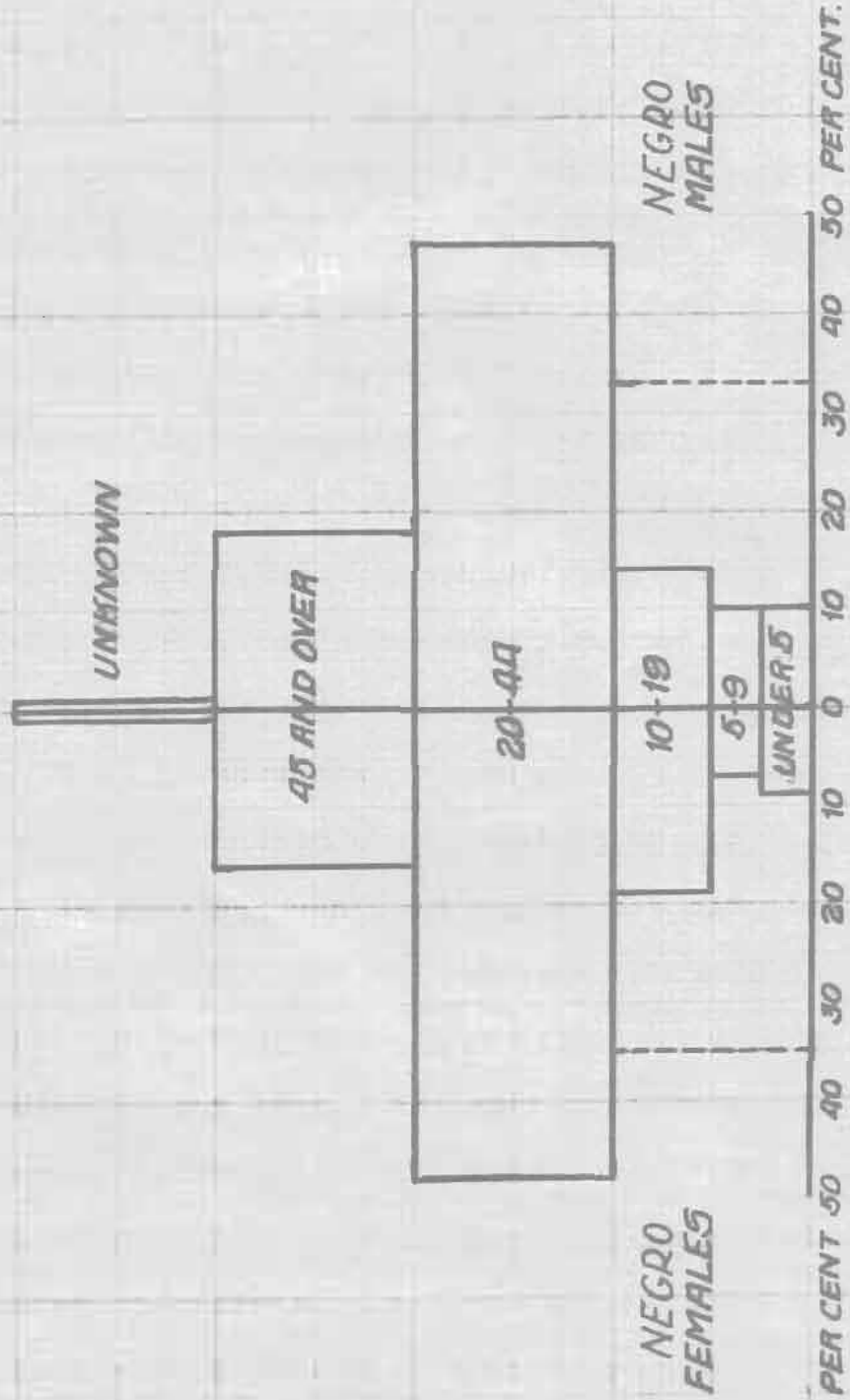


<sup>a</sup> 14<sup>TH</sup> CENSUS, TABLE 8, VOL. III. POP. P. P. 248 - 250.

TABLE XVI.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHAMPAIGN ONLY <sup>a</sup>

1910



<sup>a</sup> 13<sup>TH</sup> CENSUS, TABLE 5A, VOL. 1, P. 491.

population, and 10 per cent. of the Negro males of the Twin Cities in 1920 and 1930. On the female side for this same age group, the per cent. females decreased from 1910 to 1920, and increased again in 1930 until it was equal with the male population for 1930. The female population in 1920 for the Twin Cities was 1 per cent. larger than the male population in the 10-19 year group. This same age group for Champaign in 1910 showed 5 per cent. more females than males. In 1930, the females had decreased 1 per cent. as compared to a 1 per cent. increase for the males over the 1920 rate. The 20-44 year age group for all three tables showed the largest per cent. of any age group. The number of persons found within this group varied from 44 per cent. to 48 per cent. for the females, and between 41 per cent. and 46 per cent. for the males during this period of 30 years. The 45 years and over age group decreased nearly half in per cent. as against the preceding age period in all three tables. There were 20 per cent. in the female division, 45 years and over, for 1920 and 1930, and 16 per cent. in 1910 for Champaign. In the male division, the highest frequency in per cent. was found in 1930, with 22 per cent., followed by 1920 and 1910, each having 20 per cent. and 18 per cent. respectively. In looking at Table XIV and considering the dotted lines, the female division had the greatest number of persons in the 20-44 year group, and the males had the most in the 0-19 year and 45 and over group. The difference in per cent., however, was very minor. Less than 1 per cent. of the women were unknown as to what age group they belonged. In Table XV, the male division had 12 per cent. more persons in the



Table XVII

Age Distribution for the Negro  
Population of Champaign-Urbana<sup>a</sup>

Age Groups	1930 Twin Cities				Age Groups	1920 Twin Cities				Age Groups	1910 Champaign			
	Number		Per Cent.			Number		Per cent.			Number		Per Cent.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
All ages	966	1026	100%	100%	All ages	803	766	100%	100%	All ages	383	376	100%	100%
Under 5	102	104	11	10	Under 5	77	52	10	7	Under 5	38	32	10	9
Under 1	22	29	2.	3.	Under 1	12	18	1	2	Under 1	12	3	3	1
5-9	89	102	9.	10.	5-9	64	68	8	9	5-9	38	27	10	7
10-14	88	65	9	6	10-14	61	67	8	9	10-19	52	72	14	19
15-19	76	84	8	9	15-19	69	67	9	9	20-44	181	182	47	48
20-24	78	84	8	8	20-44	370	357	46	47	45 and over	70	59	18	16
25-29	83	84	9	8	45 and over	162	155	20	20	Unknown	4	4	1	1
30-34	76	85	8	8	Unknown	-	-	-	-					
35-44	156	186	16	18										
45-54	120	112	12	11										
55-64	55	60	6	6										
65-74	32	27	3	3										
75 and over	10	11	1	1										
Unknown	1	2	0.1	0.1										

<sup>a</sup> 15th Census, Vol. III, Population, Table 12, pp. 608-613.  
 14th Census, Vol. III, Population, Table 8, pp. 248-250.  
 13th Census, Vol. I, Population, Table 54, p. 491.

0-19 year group than the females, while the females were only 1 per cent. more than the males in the 20-44 year group. The 45 years and over group had the same per cent. for males and females and neither group had any persons in the unknown group. The table for Champaign alone showed a greater per cent. of persons in the various age groups of the female division than in the male divisions. The per cent. of persons in the 0-19 years groups for all three decennial dates were greater than the 45 years and over groups. Table XVII shows a more definite grouping for 1930 than does Table XIV. The age group between 35 and 44 years in the female division in 1930 was highest in frequency, while the combined 25-34 year group and the 15-24 year group were practically equal in per cent. In the male division, the combined 15-24 and 25-34 year groups were about equal in order of frequency with the 35-44 year group, though the 25-34 years combined group was slightly higher than the 35-44 year group. From the materials presented in Tables XIV, XV and XVI, it would appear that the Negro population of Champaign-Urbana is a relatively young group of persons.



Chapter III

The General Migratory Movements  
of 100 Informants in Illinois

Chapter I showed the movement northward of the Negroes and their distribution in the state of Illinois. It was pointed out that the Negro, if unable to go directly to the place of destination, migrated short distances until his goal was reached. It is the purpose of this chapter to show the state of birth of the 100 Negro informants, the divisions of the state in which they lived before coming to Champaign-Urbana, the length of residence in the state, in other cities and in Champaign-Urbana.

Table IV in Chapter I showed that with the exception of Illinois, Mississippi supplied the largest numbers, followed by Tennessee. Among the 100 persons interviewed, Tennessee supplied the highest in frequency (see Table XVIII) with the exception of Illinois, and was followed by Mississippi and Kentucky. The re-

Table XVIII

States and Country of Birth of  
the 100 Negro Men and Women Informants

Place of Birth	Number Reporting		Total
	Men	Women	
Illinois	10	12	22
Alabama	2		2
Mississippi	12	4	16
Tennessee	8	10	18
Kentucky	6	10	16
Pennsylvania	1		1
Indiana	2	2	4
Texas	1		1
South Carolina	2		2
North Carolina		1	1
Georgia		3	3
West Virginia	1		1
Missouri	2	6	8
Nebraska	1		1
Louisiana	2	1	3
France		1	1
Total	50	50	100

aining ten states are placed in their respective order of frequen-  
g. The country of Greece was also represented by one woman, whose  
father was a Grecian, and her mother being from an East Coast tribe  
in Africa. There were more men migrating from Mississippi than  
women, while in the women's group the greatest number were from  
Tennessee and Kentucky. Tennessee and Kentucky were second and  
third, respectively, in order of frequency in the men's group. In  
the women's group, Missouri was second in frequency, followed by  
Mississippi, Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina. Of the 78 per-  
sons born outside of the state of Illinois, 46 or 59 per cent. of  
these persons were born in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Indi-  
ana. It is evident from these statements that of the 100 inform-  
ants the largest number have come from bordering states.

Most of these 100 informants moved northward gradually from  
the southern part of the state. These moves were made possible by  
a slight accumulation of money, or an offer of a new position in  
another town. Table XIX shows the three divisions of the state of  
Illinois in which these 100 Negro men and women had lived previous  
to their arrival in the Twin Cities. These divisions were marked  
off arbitrarily by the writer. The southern division showed that  
the greatest number of persons had lived in that section at one time  
or another. In this division, there were more women who came from

Table XIX

Divisions of Illinois in  
Which 100 Informants Lived

<u>Division of State</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
North	12	11
Central	17	11
South	23	30
Champaign-Urbana	17	15
Unknown	1	1

southern Illinois than men. This was due to the fact that the women were more able to find employment than were the men, and for this reason the men moved further north. In the southern division, the greatest number of men came from Cairo, Carbondale, Centralia and Duquoin. Among the women, there were more from Cairo than any other city, followed by Metropolis, Villa Ridge, Mounds, Elizabethtown and Carbondale. In the Central division, with Champaign-Urbana excepted, there was a higher frequency among the men than the women. A number of men in this group had lived in Springfield, Decatur, and Bloomington. The greater number of women who had lived in the central division had lived in Springfield or Jacksonville. The number of men living in the Northern division was about equal with the number of women. In the women's group, the same number of men had lived in the Central and Northern divisions. In this northern division, Chicago was the attraction, especially in the men's group. Of the twelve men who had lived in the northern division, ten had lived in Chicago before coming to Champaign, while only five of the eleven women had lived there. However, the six remaining women had lived within a radius of forty miles of Chicago. In the Champaign-Urbana division, four of the men were born in the Twin Cities and had never left them. Of this group of seventeen men, thirteen came directly to Champaign-Urbana from other states. Among the women, one woman was born and had lived in the Twin Cities since birth. The remaining fourteen women came from outside states and had lived in no other towns in Illinois. These people came directly to the Twin Cities for several reasons. Among these were

Table XX  
 Length of Residence in State, Cities  
 and Champaign-Urbana

Sex	Years of Residence										Total	
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45&Over		Unknown
	<u>In the State</u>											
Men	4	2	9	4	6	8	4	3	4	6		50
Women	6	3	6	7	5	4	3	5	4	5	2	50
Total	10	5	15	11	11	12	7	8	8	11	2	100
	<u>Illinois Cities Aside from Champaign-Urbana</u>											
Men	30	7	6	3	2	1						
Women	25	11	8	4	4							
	<u>In Champaign-Urbana</u>											
Men	8	5	9	11	8	3	1		2	3		50
Women	13	5	7	14	3	2	3	1	1	1		50
Total	21	10	16	25	11	5	4	1	3	4		100

the following facts: friends or relatives were situated here; a few came with white families as domestic help; and in several cases the University had attracted persons. Among the men, the Railroad shops were a drawing factor. Excluding the thirty-two persons who have lived in the Twin Cities only, the remaining sixty-eight persons have moved from two to six times to various towns in Illinois. The average number of moves in Illinois for the 100 informants was three for both men and women. These figures are in the main reliable, but in a few cases, the informants did not list all the moves made in the state.

The material found in Table XX deals with the length of time the informants have lived in Illinois, in the various towns in Illinois, and length of time they have lived in Champaign-Urbana. In some cases, the informants gave only approximate figures for length of stay in these places. Any part of a year over six months was considered as one year.

In the first section of Table XX, length of residence in the state of Illinois, the highest frequency for the men's group, was in the 10-14 year group, while the second in order of frequency was the 25-29 year group. The average length of residence in Illinois for these fifty men was 24 years. In the women's group, the highest frequency was found in the 15-19 year group, with both the 2-4 years and 10-14 years group in second place in order of frequency. The average length of residence for the women's group was 23 years. For both the men's and women's group, the average length of residence in Illinois was 24 years. From the above data, it is



vident that the persons living in the Twin Cities migrated before the high period of migration during the World War. In the material presented for length of residence in cities in Illinois other than Champaign-Urbana, the highest frequency in both the men's and women's group was found in the 0-4 year classification, while second in order of frequency for both groups was the 5-9 year group. The average length of residence in these cities was six years for the men and seven years for the women. In this group, the persons who came directly to the Twin Cities were excepted. The third division of Table XX shows the length of residence in the Twin Cities of the 100 informants. In this section, the high rate was found in the 15-19 year group for both the men and the women. The second in order of frequency for the men's group was found in the 10-14 year classification; while the second in order of frequency for the women's group was found in the 0-4 year group. It is evident from this part of Table XX that the majority of the men and women have lived in the Twin Cities under twenty years. Excluding the men and women who were born in Champaign-Urbana, the average length of residence was fifteen years for the men, and fourteen years for the women. It would appear from the above statement that, as a whole, the Negro residents of Champaign-Urbana were fairly stable citizens.

The movements of the Negroes in Champaign-Urbana appear to be rather frequent, as is indicated by Table XXI, which gives the length of residences for 100 individuals. There were 133 moves made by the 50 men informants. The highest in order of frequency



Table XXI

Total Frequencies of Years of Residence  
by Specified Intervals of Years Among 50  
Males and 50 Females in Champaign-Urbana

<u>Years of Residence</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
0-2	44	45
3-5	34	27
6-8	13	14
9-11	16	8
12-14	8	8
15-17	3	4
18-20	1	1
21 and over	4	5
Unknown	10	14

for length of residence for the men's group was in the 0-2 year group, while second and third in order of frequency were the 3-5 years and the 9-11 years groups respectively. However, the average length of stay in one residence for each individual was approximately six years. The average number of moves for the 50 men were 2.6, for their length of residence in Champaign-Urbana. The highest frequency in length of residence for the women was also found in the 0-2 year group, followed in order of frequency by the 3-5 years, and 6-8 years groups. The average number of moves per person among the 50 Negro women informants was 2.4 in their length of residence in Champaign-Urbana, with an average of a little over five years sojourn for each move made. This average length of residence per place of abode for the women's group was less than for the men's group. In some cases, at the present time, people are moving from one house to another in even quicker succession, because they are unable to pay the rent and are evicted.

Chapter IV

Housing

The discussion in this chapter deals with the ratings of the exteriors of 403 houses in the defined Negro section; the ownership of houses among the 100 Negro informants, and the valuation placed on these houses; the number of persons renting houses and the amount of rent paid; and in conclusion, the usual procedure for the purchase of homes.

In preceding chapters, the movements of the Negroes in Champaign-Urbana were traced. Where they lived is determined by their place in the economic scale, which is usually low. Because of this, they are found, generally, in the least desirable sections of the town, where their living expenses are kept at a minimum.<sup>1</sup> The houses in the defined Negro quarter of Champaign-Urbana were given an arbitrary rating of A, B, C, D and E, as judged by a scrutiny of the exterior. Houses ranked as A were considered the best, followed in order by B, C, D and E rankings.

The grade of the dwellings varied appreciably for houses that were respectively owned or rented by the present occupants as seen by Table XXII. The statistics shown in Table XX were data compiled from the Champaign-Urbana City Directory for 1932 for the defined Negro area. This table showed only one house with a ranking in the A class, and, incidentally, this house was rented. The ratings of B and C houses for the home-owned group were higher in number and per cent. than those of the rented group, though the order was

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1. R. R. Moton, What the Negro Thinks, p. 117.

reversed in houses ranking D and E in the rented group.

Table XXII

The Ratings of the Exterior of  
403 Residences

Ratings	<u>All Houses</u>		<u>Owned by Occupants</u>		<u>Rented by Occupants</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent.</u>
A	1	0.3	0	0	1	100
B	9	2	5	55	4	45
C	83	21	47	57	36	43
D	214	53	85	40	129	60
E	96	24	89	30	67	70
Total	403		166		237	

When considering the two groups separately, houses ranking C in the home-owned group were highest in frequency of per cent. and houses ranking D were first in frequency of numbers. In the rented group, houses ranking D were the highest in frequency of number and those ranking E were first in frequency of per cent. It is thus evident that the same tendency exists here as elsewhere for the rented property to be inferior as compared to the properties owned by the occupants, and for the rented property to be allowed to depreciate in value.

Of the 403 houses in which the Negroes reside in the defined Negro quarter, 41 per cent. were owned by the occupants. Among the one hundred persons interviewed, forty-two per cent. owned or were buying their homes, which is approximately the same percentage of home-ownership found for the defined Negro section. Table XXIII indicates that the largest ratio in the list of the so-called owners are those who are buying their homes on the installment plan. Several cases were called to the writer's attention, of persons who

after gaining a clear title to their home, mortgaged it. One of these persons was unable to keep up the payments on the loan and lost his title. At the time of the interview, he was residing in the house he had once owned and was paying rent.

Table XXIII

Home Ownership Among 100 Random Informants

<u>Claiming Ownership</u>	<u>Number</u>
Full Payment	13
Doubtful of Clear Title	5
Part Payment	24
Total	42
Renters	58

The valuation of property reported by 42 residents who were interviewed differs from the estimation of values given by real estate dealers in the Twin Cities. The reason for these differences in valuation by the owners and realtors is due, no doubt, in part to the tendency for the owners to ignore the general depreciation of property in the last few years, and to quote the price which they paid for their property. Table XXIV shows the valuations of properties as given by the owners. The valuations listed include both house and grounds. Some of the persons interviewed were unable to state any exact valuation for their houses, but gave an approximate sum. In one case, no valuation was given for the house. In this instance, a valuation was assigned by the writer, which was the average for the other dwellings of the same type. Of the 42 people giving valuations of the property to which they held title or were buying, the total valuation was \$136,900, or an aver-

Table XXIV

## Values of Residences Owned by 42 Occupants

<u>Class of Ownership</u>	<u>Values</u>										<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$800-</u> <u>\$999</u>	<u>\$1000-</u> <u>\$1499</u>	<u>\$1500-</u> <u>\$1999</u>	<u>\$2000-</u> <u>\$2499</u>	<u>\$2500-</u> <u>\$2999</u>	<u>\$3000-</u> <u>\$3999</u>	<u>\$4000-</u> <u>\$4999</u>	<u>\$5000-</u> <u>\$5999</u>	<u>\$6000-</u> <u>\$9999</u>	<u>\$10000</u> <u>&amp; Over</u>	
Full Payment			1		1	4	1	3	1	2	13
Doubtful of Clear Title			2		1	1		1			5
Part Payment	2	1	5	5		9	2				24
Total	2	1	8	5	2	14	3	4	1	2	42

Table XXV

Amount of Rent Paid for Residences by  
58 Occupants

<u>Form of Occupancy</u>	<u>Amount of Rent</u>							<u>Total</u>
	<u>None</u>	<u>\$6-\$8</u>	<u>\$9-\$11</u>	<u>\$12-\$14</u>	<u>\$15-\$17</u>	<u>\$18-\$20</u>	<u>\$21 &amp; Over</u>	
Renting		6	12	1	8	2	2	31
Rooming		2	2					4
Living with Relatives	14							14
Unknown	9							9
Total	23	8	14	1	8	2	2	58



age of \$5,260. The value of these properties varied from \$800 to \$10,000. Two persons listed their residence at \$10,000, but it was doubtful whether these valuations were correct, according to the present values of real estate. Exclusive of the two houses valued at \$10,000, the average evaluation was \$2,923. The realtors quoted, as an average value, \$1000 to \$1500 for residential properties in this district.

C. S. Johnson in his book, The Negro in American Civilization, has drawn several conclusions as to the amount of rent paid by the Negroes in the United States, in general. He said that, as a rule, a larger proportion of the income of the Negroes is spent for rent than is true of any other large group of the population. In explaining this point, Johnson said that during the times when rents for the general populace are either high or low, or if the Negro moves into an area of high rents, he pays a higher rental than do the white persons for the identical property. Therefore, the extent of the excess amount paid is determined by the availability of Negro dwellings in the area in which he lives.<sup>2</sup> In Champaign-Urbana, before the economic depression, when the Negroes were receiving good wages, the owners were able to obtain a higher rent from the Negroes than from the whites for the same property. Because of this fact, many of the houses now owned or rented by Negroes, were built by whites as an investment, and for the express purpose of renting to the Negroes. At one time, most of the houses that the Negroes lived in were owned by two or three white real estate

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2. Johnson, C.S., The Negro in American Civilization, pp. 214-215.



promoters. About twelve years ago, one of these persons alone owned over one hundred houses in the Negro quarter. Today, one real estate promotor may own as many as thirty to fifty houses. Of the one hundred Negroes interviewed, 58 of these people had bought, were buying, or renting from white persons.

Due to the reduced incomes and amount of unemployment among the whites, some have invaded this district to find cheaper accommodations. Because of this, there has been a reverse succession of occupancy, for in a number of instances, white persons have moved into some of the houses once occupied by Negroes. There is a widespread feeling among many persons that the whites will take better care of rented property than will the Negroes. Because of this impression, the owners have been willing to realize less money on their properties by giving the white person the preference. This occupancy of houses by the whites has caused, to some extent, a shortage of the livable houses for the Negroes. In some cases two families were found living in one house, and 14 of the 100 persons interviewed had roomers.

Among the remaining informants who did not claim ownership, 33 were renting, 9 were rooming, 14 were living with friends, relatives, or in church parsonages, and were paying no rent, while two gave no answer. Table XXV shows that the most frequent amount of rent paid was in the \$9-\$11 group, which was about the average rental quoted by the realtors for houses in which the Negroes resided. Of the two persons purporting to be paying over \$21 rent, one probably has exaggerated the amount of rent actually paid. In

In this case, the structure was a mere shack. The house situated next to it was being bought for \$900 and appeared to be in a better condition. The second residence reporting a high rental was a building that had been rented for business use in the University district in which the occupant rented out the second floor to a Negro fraternity. Exclusive of this item, the average rental was \$12.00, or about a dollar higher than shown in the frequency table.

According to several realtors, white people who rented property in the defined Negro area paid an average rental of \$2 or \$3 less than the Negro paid for the same type of residence.

Transfers and rentals of property lead to contacts and business dealings between the whites and Negroes. In the past few years, due to the depreciation in the value of the land; the number of vacancies found in the Negro district; and the deterioration of the buildings, the white owners were willing to sell at a figure less than the original cost. But, in case of default in payments by the purchasers, the owners could regain title to these properties. The purchasers were required to supply a certain amount as a first payment, the balances to be paid as rent against the notes which were secured by mortgages on the properties. As a rule, a great deal of leeway seems to have been given to the buyer, and, obversely, the real estate dealer said that many of the Negroes buying property were more prompt in payments, and were more conscientious about meeting their obligations, than were the white installment buyers in the same area.

Chapter V  
Occupations

Included in this chapter is a brief and general discussion of the Negroes in regard to his entry into the industrial field, followed by a discussion of the occupations in which the Negro is engaged in Champaign-Urbana. In the latter, the occupational spread of the Negroes is shown for the years 1878, 1904 and 1932, as well as for the 100 informants who answered the schedules. Statistics are shown also in regard to the range of the weekly wage scale of these informants.

The materials presented in this chapter were secured through the schedules and from the Champaign-Urbana City Directories for the years 1878, 1904 and 1932, as well as literature on the occupations of the Negroes in general. As a foreword to the findings, it may be best to say that though the data were as accurate as the source of the original entries permits, there are, no doubt, various reasons why the informants might not have given reliable answers, that were recorded on the schedules and in the city directories. The schedules which number one hundred may not be statistically adequate samples for the 22 wage-earning Negroes, but the concentration of occupations in the unskilled class gave adequate indication that the sample was large enough; and the writer's knowledge of the persons in the skilled occupations was sufficient to permit the conclusion that the recorded data were sufficient to indicate the occupational spread in this population.

The development of the Negroes in various occupational pursuits

dates back to about 1900. The decade between 1900 and 1910 has been called the beginning of the Negro industrial advance in the United States. Previous to that time, the Negro had followed two fields of occupation, agriculture and domestic service. About this time, the foreign whites invaded the field of personal and domestic service and the number of Negroes in this field declined to some extent. To compensate this decrease, the Negroes began to increase in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits, and to some extent in the trade and transportation field. This change was due in part to several causes. In one instance, the Negroes were used as strike breakers in coal and iron mines and mills. Another cause was the realization that the Negroes, given a chance, could adapt themselves and do as much work as the whites. By 1920, the Negroes had reached the height of the industrial advancement with 31.2 per cent. of all Negroes gainfully employed and engaged in various industrial pursuits.<sup>1</sup>

Wesley says that the World War brought new and greater opportunities to the Negro laborer, both in skilled and unskilled occupations. Previous to the World War, the Negro had been the labor supply of the South, but with the beginning of the War, the northern states opened new fields of industry for the Negro.<sup>2</sup> Seligmann, in agreement with Wesley, states that the World War accelerated the growth of the Negro into industry by fifty years.<sup>3</sup> Although the World War aided the Negro in obtaining positions never before held,

1. Greene, L. J. and Woodson, C. G., The Negro Wage Earner, pp. 339-343.
2. Wesley, C. H., Negro Labor in the United States, p. 282.
3. Seligmann, H. J., The Negro Faces America, p. 208.



the restriction of foreign immigration was a factor in which the Negro gained entry into industrial pursuits. Dowd says that due to the stoppage of foreign labor by immigration laws, the demand was increased greatly for unskilled labor in the northern states. At the same time, some labor unions had developed more liberal policies in regard to admitting Negroes. This gave a larger field for the Negro in the skilled industries.<sup>4</sup>

Although the Negro is entering into the skilled fields throughout the United States, the same fact cannot be said of Champaign-Urbana. In this community, where there is little call for skilled workers, the number of Negroes found in this classification are in the minority. It is shown in Chapter II that there is no Negro business district in the Twin Cities. There are several grocery stores operated by Negroes, and a number of barber shops, though most of the barber shops are located in the business district of Champaign. There are two Negro hotels in Champaign, though both of these hotels may be classed as houses of prostitution. With the exception of the Negro restaurant located near the University campus, there are two small eating places located in the defined Negro section. There are, however, a few "hot dog stands" and "Southern Barbecue stands", owned by Negroes and scattered over the Twin Cities. In most cases the stores found in the Negro section are owned by white people. There are no dry good stores owned by Negroes in the Twin Cities. Dowd states that the Negro does not show an aptitude in the mercantile enterprises because a Negro merchant has

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4. Dowd, J., The Negro in American Life, p. 20.

to depend almost entirely upon his own race for patronage, while his white competitor draws his patronage from both races.<sup>5</sup> This is true of practically all types of enterprises carried on by the Negro in Champaign-Urbana, with the possible exception of undertaking establishments. The white merchant is able to undersell the Negro in nearly all trades. There are several Negro insurance companies represented in the Twin Cities, but a number of the Negroes carry policies with white insurance companies. There is only one Negro doctor in the two cities and no resident Negro dentist. Although there is a white dentist in the Negro section, many of the Negroes refuse to patronize him as they say he does not use sanitary precautions with his instruments, and his work is not satisfactory. For this reason, a Negro dentist comes every Sunday from Danville, Illinois, a city about thirty-six miles east of Champaign-Urbana, to administer to the needs of the Negro community. During the period of inflation, previous to 1929, the Negro community was able to support a dentist, but when the railroad shops reduced their forces, the people's wages were reduced or stopped, and they were unable to pay their bills.

Champaign-Urbana offers very few possibilities to the Negro residents in occupational fields, other than unskilled and domestic work. These two classes include over 50 per cent. of all persons having an occupational listing in the city directories for 1878, 1924 and 1932. The various occupations of the Negro population as listed in the directories for these periods are grouped into seven classifications, as follows:



(1) Unskilled - Any person who is doing laboring work, such as janitor, or houseman, ditch digger, farm hand, road worker, truck driver, odd jobs, and other similar work.

(2) Semi-skilled, which includes those persons who are cleaners, and pressers, mail carriers, state policemen, clerks, and Pullman Porters.

(3) Skilled group are those who are barbers, carpenters, mechanics, plasterers, butchers, hairdressers, candy makers, and tailors and seamstresses.

(4) Professional group are ministers, doctors of medicine, musicians, teachers, undertakers, and a chiropodist.

(5) Semi-professional includes all persons who are merchants, insurance and other salesmen, and junk dealers.

(6) Domestic group, though rightfully it should be classed under labor, is given a separate classification which includes only chefs and cooks in restaurants and sorority and fraternity houses on the campus.

(7) Students, which includes anyone listed as a student, whether they are attending high school, University or business college.

Table XXVI shows the present occupations of 50 Negro men as compared to the occupations held by these same men in 1928. While there is little likelihood that those who designate their occupations as unskilled have overstated their case, the same cannot, with equal confidence, be inferred concerning those who are classified as skilled. The high ratio of unskilled is therefore signifi-

Table XXVI

Change in Occupations of 50 Negro  
Men Informants Since 1928

<u>Classifications</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease Since 1928</u>	<u>Same Occupation</u>
Unskilled	16	23	-7	10
Semi-skilled	-	4	-4	-
Skilled	6	5	2	3
Professional	8	7	1	7
Semi-professional	3	2	1	2
Domestic	5	8	-3	4
Students	1	2	-1	1
Unemployed	11	-	11	-
Total	50	50		27

cant. Included in this group are several men who stated they had never worked to any great extent, but have lived a hand to mouth existence. In 1933, the second highest in frequency is the unemployment group. These men have been unemployed for periods of time ranging from one month to two years or more. Included in this group are one domestic, one skilled, two semi-skilled workers and also 7 laborers. With the exception of the student group, the semi-professional and domestic groups are the lowest in frequency, followed in order by the skilled and professional group. There is no occupational listing of the semi-skilled for 1933 among the 50 men informants.

In 1928, the unskilled group is the highest in order of frequency, followed in turn by domestics, the professional, the skilled and the semi-skilled, while the semi-professional and student groups are lowest in order of frequency, with the same number in each group. There is no unemployment among the group of men in

1928. In the past five years, the unskilled, the semi-skilled, the domestic and student groups have decreased respectively in order of frequency, while the skilled, the semi-professional and professional have increased only slightly. The greatest increase of any classification is the unemployed group. Johnson quotes Philip Klein in regard to unemployment among the Negroes. He says, "In the discharge of workers, the Negroes were the first to go. In any resumption of activities they were the last to be called back, both because of existing prejudices and because of their low standing in seniority. Not only was the ratio of unemployment among them high, but their natural resources were comparatively low." It is shown in this discussion that the first and most drastic reductions during time of business depression are in the unskilled lines of work. Because the Negroes have a larger proportion of unskilled workers than any other group, there is a higher degree of unemployment among them. Another cause for unemployment among the Negroes is the introduction of machinery for work formerly done by unskilled labor. Thus this permanent reduction of unskilled labor has affected the Negro laborer considerably.<sup>6</sup>

In a brief survey of business establishments, it is found that the tendency has been to keep the Negro worker, if possible. However, there has been an almost unconscious movement among some to replace vacancies with white people that formerly have been held by the Negroes. Previous to two years ago, the Illinois Central Station in Champaign had Negro Red Caps, who also served as porters cleaning the station. But with the great reductions in the rail-

road shops, the Negro Red Caps were dropped from the payrolls, and white men replaced them. This was explained on a basis of seniority. In a certain hotel in the Twin Cities, the bell-hops had always been Negroes. Shortly after a new manager was installed, their wages were reduced, and the Negro men struck for their original wages. Instead of paying them or coming to an agreement, white persons were hired. In another case, as workers were needed, a certain construction company tried to replace men of both races who had been in their previous employment.

A reviewing of the vocational classifications of these men during the past five years discloses that some have retained their same occupations throughout the economic depression. As might be expected, the unskilled group had the largest number, following in order by the professional, the domestic, the skilled, the semi-professional, and student groups. The professional group was second in order of frequency which is due to the fact that there is less turnover in this classification.

The occupational listings among fifty women informants have been divided into three classifications:

- (1) Skilled, which included hairdressers, barbers and seamstresses.
- (2) Professional included one music teacher and one grade school teacher.
- (3) Unskilled, or the domestic group, which pertained to any phase of domestic service, such as maid, cook or laundress.

Table XXVII shows the present occupational classification and

and the occupations that were held five years previously by the fifty Negro women informants, as well as those occupations which have been retained throughout this five-year period. Unlike the groupings for men, the classification for 1933 shows a higher fre-

Table XXVII

Occupational Spread of 50 Negro Women  
Since 1928

<u>Classifications</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1928</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease Since 1928</u>	<u>Same Occupation</u>
Skilled	3	4	-1	3
Unskilled	15	22	-7	13
Professional	-	2	-2	-
None	32	22	10	20
Total	50	50		36

quency of women without occupations, while second in order of frequency are the unskilled or domestics. Many of these women in the first classification have worked undoubtedly at some time, but in the past five years have been unemployed and gave a listing of housewife. In the period for 1928, the unskilled workers and those with no occupations were equal in number, and place of frequency. The unskilled group is larger at this time than in 1933. In comparing the two dates, it is seen that the persons listed in the professional classification in 1928 are not listed for 1933. There is also one less person in the skilled group. Thus the increase in the no occupation classification for 1933 as against 1928 is due to the decrease in the skilled, professional and unskilled groups in the past five years. The occupational listings for 1928 probably represents the more natural spread of occupations among



the women. Because most of these fifty women have been fitted only for domestic service, the unskilled group showed the greatest decrease, as the demand for domestic help has lessened since 1928.

In the number of women who have retained the same classification through this five-year period, those persons with "no occupational" listing are the highest in frequency. The unskilled group was second in order, followed by the skilled group.

Table XXVIII gives the occupational spread of the Negro residents of Champaign-Urbana for the years 1878, 1904 and 1932. The occupations falling within the classifications in this table are the same as those described for the 50 Negro men informants in the first part of this chapter. Table XXVIII includes both men and women in Champaign-Urbana. The laboring class in the Negro popula-

Table XXVIII

Occupational Spread of Negro  
Population in 1878, 1904 and 1932

Classification	Numbers			Per Cent.		
	1878	1904	1932	1878	1904	1932
Unskilled	40	116	406	55	49	41
Domestic	11	54	175	15	23	18
Professional	3	2	15	4	1	2
Semi-Professional			27	-	-	3
Skilled	17	7	65	23	3	7
Semi-Skilled		10	19	-	4	2
Student		22	100	-	9	10
Unknown	2	27	182	3	11	18

tion had the highest frequency in 1878, with a gradual reduction in percentage in 1904 and 1932. There was an eight per cent. point (in contrast to percentage) increase in the domestic service in 1904 over 1878, and a decrease again in 1932. This decrease may be attributed to the economic depression. The skilled group had the



highest frequency in 1878, with a drop of 20 per cent. points between that date and 1904. At this time, the absolute number of persons in the skilled group decreased also. Although the per cent. increase among the skilled group was raised only slightly, the numerical number increased considerably in 1932, as compared with the years 1878 and 1904. There were no semi-skilled occupations listed in 1878, and 1904 and in 1932 it was still a minority group. It was doubtful whether the reduction of the semi-skilled group in 1932 is a factor in the advance of the skilled group at this date. The reduction was due probably to slack business conditions, in which part of the persons who previously had been in the semi-skilled work went into the unskilled group. The professional group follows about the same trend as the skilled group in that the highest in frequency of per cent. was found in 1878, with a decrease in 1904, and a slight increase in 1932. This group, however, has increased numerically. There were few Negro persons of the professional class in the community with the exception of the ministers. There were no Negro doctors of medicine listed in the 1878 or 1904 city directories. The semi-professional class was the least represented in the Twin Cities among the Negroes than any other classification, as there were no persons listing occupations which were included in this group for 1878 or 1904, and the per cent. of persons in the semi-professional group was very low for 1932. There were no students listed in 1878, and between 1904 and 1932 there was only a slight increase in the per cent. of persons in this group, though the absolute numbers show a fairly large in-

crease from 1904 to 1932. The unknown group steadily increased for all three dates, until 1932, when nearly a fifth of the persons listed in the table were found in this class. In some cases this increase in the unknown group was due to unemployment, while the greatest number was due to the fact that in the previous dates of 1878, and 1904, the city directories listed only the men and women, and not other members of the family as in the 1932 city directory.

In a survey by Greene and Woodson, it was found that in the North the Negroes and whites who entered into unskilled trades received approximately the same wages. They discovered also that the Negroes who were in skilled work received about the same wages as white skilled workers, if they belonged to a union, but at the same time, there were many subterfuges and provisions to keep the Negro out of such work.<sup>7</sup> Table XXIX gives the wage scale of 100 Negro informants who have answered the schedules. Of these 100 persons questioned, eleven men and nine women gave no answers. All of the wages shown in Table XXIX were figured on a weekly basis. In some cases, persons worked nine months only, such as domestics in sororities and fraternities. In these instances, the salaries received were used as a yearly wage and divided into approximate weekly rates. Five men in the professional group said that they were unable to tell even an average salary. In several cases, these men were ministers, who depended upon the church collections for their salary, but before they received any salary they were required to pay for the coal and light bills of the church. In the women's group, all of the women who gave no answers as to wages

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7. Greene & Woodson, Op. Cit., p. 344.

Table XXIX

Weekly Wage Scale of 100 Negro Men & Women Informants

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Un-</u>	<u>0-</u>	<u>\$5.00-</u>	<u>\$10.00-</u>	<u>\$15.00-</u>	<u>\$20.00-</u>	<u>\$25.00-</u>	<u>\$30.00-</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Wages</u>	<u>known</u>	<u>\$4.99</u>	<u>\$9.99</u>	<u>\$14.99</u>	<u>\$19.99</u>	<u>\$24.99</u>	<u>\$29.99</u>	<u>\$34.99</u>	<u>\$39.99</u>	<u>&amp; Over</u>	

Wage Scale of Fifty Men Informants in 1933

Unskilled	2	1	1	4	4	3		1				16
Skilled	2	1	1	1		1						6
Professional	5					1			1		1	8
Semi-Professional	1						1				1	3
Domestic	1			1	3							5
No Classifi- cation	12											12
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>

Wage Scale of Eleven Men Informants in 1928

Unskilled				2		1		1				4
Skilled				2	1			2				5
Domestic										2		2
<b>Total</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>11</b>

Wage Scale of Fifty Women Informants in 1933

Domestic		9		4		2						15
Skilled			3									3
No Classifi- cation	32											32
	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>

received were found in the domestic group. In this instance, as well as in the men's professional group, these women were unable to give any wage evaluation, as they worked only from day to day. In looking at the distribution of wages among the unskilled laborers for the fifty men, the wages found in the \$10.00 to \$14.99 and the \$15.00 to \$19.99 groups were equal. The average wage paid was \$13.60. Three of the men who gave their wages at \$15.00 a week were holding only temporary positions in the Civil Works Administration. One man in the \$5.00 to \$9.99 group was working under the Work Relief Commission in which he worked forty hours a month at fifty cents an hour. Most of the men found in the skilled classification were barbers or persons working for themselves, such as a painter, and plasterers. The average salary received in this group was \$10.00 weekly. In the professional group, only three persons gave the amount of salary received, which gave an average of \$32.00 weekly. This figure would no doubt be smaller, if more men had answered the question. In the semi-professional group, two of the three men gave answers. The average in this case was \$40.00 weekly, which is somewhat higher than the approximate salary received. The number highest in frequency in the men's domestic classification was found in the \$15.00 to \$19.99 group. The average salary for this group was \$16.50. The average weekly wage found among the eleven men informants for 1928 was \$15.00 for the unskilled, \$23.00 for the skilled, and \$36.00 for the domestic. The two men in the domestic classification were hotel chefs in 1928. Thus the average weekly wage for the skilled workers decreased about 57 per cent. and only slightly in the unskilled group. Although there has been a great

decrease in the wages in the domestic group, the differences in positions held would account for this difference in salary.

Only 6 of the 15 women listed under domestic classification gave answers for wages received. The highest frequency was found in the \$5.00 to \$9.99 group, with an average of \$9.25 for these six women. This group included women who were engaged as cooks in sororities and others who were engaged in private houses. Due to the fact that the cooks in sororities received a salary that was approximately between \$18.00 and \$25.00 per week, the average for those in the domestic class was raised, as those persons engaged in domestic service in private houses receive, as a rule, a weekly wage between \$5.00 and \$7.00.



## Chapter VI

### Social and Cultural Participation

The present chapter deals with the social and cultural contacts among the Negro people of the defined community. Included in this chapter is a discussion of neighborhood and community visits, places visited, the monthly attendance to the motion pictures, and the preference of the theaters attended. The second division of the chapter is cultural contacts, which includes types and preferences of magazines, books, and newspapers read, and a discussion of the illiteracy found in the Twin Cities among the Negroes, and total population, as compared to the rate of illiteracy in the state for Negroes and total population.

The social contacts found among the Negroes are similar to those of the whites, and include visiting one another, their churches and clubs and attendance at motion pictures. Table XXX gives the frequency of families visited within a radius of three blocks, namely the one on which the individual lives, the block directly across the street, and the block to the rear of the individual's abode.

Table XXX

#### Frequency of Families Visited in the Neighborhood

Number of Families Visited	Number Reporting:		Total
	Women	Men	
1-5	7	9	16
6-10	17	8	25
11-15	5	3	8
"Some"	7	6	13
"All"	5	4	9
"None"	9	20	29
Total	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>

The highest frequency of families visited by the women is found in

the group of 6-10 families, while in the men's group, the highest frequency is no families visited. Second in order of frequency is no families visited for the women, and 1-5 families for the men. Because many of the women are unable to obtain work, there is undoubtedly more neighborhood visiting among them than among the men. In a number of instances in the men's group the men seek their friends among the persons with whom they work, rather than among the people living in the neighborhood. This causes a high frequency in "no" families visited.

A few of the informants are unable to leave the house due to prolonged illnesses, or old age. This also causes the "no" families visited group to be higher than it would otherwise be. A distinction is made between friends and acquaintances living in the neighborhood. Table XXXI shows the frequency of friends living in the neighborhood. In the women's group, thirty-four have friends

Table XXXI

Frequency of Friends Living in  
Neighborhood and Visited

<u>Number of Friends in Neighborhood</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	
"All"	34	20	54
"Few"	8	17	25
None	8	13	21
Total	50	50	100

living in the neighborhood, while in the men's group, only twenty have friends living near them. Eight women have a few friends and eight also have no friends in the neighborhood. In the men's division, seventeen have some friends in the neighborhood, and thirteen

have no friends living within three blocks of them. These questions were slightly confusing to some of the informants, and in some instances they may not be correct.

Table XXXII gives the frequency of distance by the number of blocks in which the informants visit. The highest frequency among the women is found in the 1-3 block grouping, followed in order by 4-6 blocks, 7-9 blocks, 10-12 blocks, 13-15 blocks and 19 or more blocks.

Table XXXII

Frequency of Distances Visited  
by 100 Negro Informants

<u>Distance by Blocks</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	
1-3	18	8	26
4-6	16	8	24
7-9	5	9	14
10-12	4	10	14
13-15	2	3	5
16-18		4	4
19 and over	1	8	9
none	4		4
Total	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>

In the men's group, the highest frequency in distances visited is found in the 10-12 block. Second in order of frequency is in the 7-9 blocks. In the women's division, more than half of the women visit within a radius of six blocks, while the greater number of men visit persons living at a distance of seven blocks or more. Social contacts are made in general through visits to friends' homes or church and club functions. There is little social life among the Negroes that necessitates the use of money, due to the lack of funds among the majority of them, and for this reason most of the Negroes attend only the social affairs that require but a little

outlay, if any. Table XXXIII gives the frequency of visits to

Table XXXIII

Frequency and Occasion of Visits  
and Attendance by 100 Informants

<u>Visits and Attendance</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>	
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
Friends	24	24
Clubs	16	15
Church	30	24
None	19	12

friends' houses, churches and clubs. In the women's group, the highest frequency is found in the church grouping, while in the men's division, the first in order of frequency is the church and friends' homes, each having an equal number. Social affairs at friends' homes are second in order in the women's section, followed by those who attend no social functions. Attendance at clubs is last in order of frequency. However, in the men's group, attendance at club affairs are second in order of frequency, while no attendance to social affairs are last in order. From the above table, it is evident that the social contacts of the informants in the majority of cases are primary contacts, and ones that either do not require payment or those requiring only a small sum. The church attracts the greatest number of persons.

The motion pictures as a form of amusement attracts fewer of the informants than the other types of social contact. Only a minority of the men and women attend the motion pictures regularly. Table XXXIV shows the frequency of monthly attendance at the theaters. In the women's group, only eight definitely attend the movies, and in the men's group twelve attend. The first in order

Table XXXIV

Frequency of Monthly Attendance at  
the Motion Pictures Among the 100 Negro Informants

<u>Number of Monthly Attendances</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>		
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
1-3	4	6	10
4-6		3	3
7-9	3	1	4
10-12	1	2	3
Seldom	12	6	18
None	30	32	62
Total	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>100</u>

of frequency is in the 1-3 times monthly, followed by the 7-9 times and 10-12 times monthly, respectively. The highest frequency shown in the men's group is in the 1-3 times monthly, while second in order of frequency is the 4-6 times monthly. The 10-12 times and 7-9 times monthly are third and fourth in order, respectively. There are thirty women and thirty-two men who do not attend the motion pictures, while twelve women and six men informants seldom attend the theaters. In the latter group, the attendance varies from once to three or four times yearly. Various reasons for non-attendance were given by the men and women. In the majority of cases, segregation was the reason assigned; in others the teachings of the church and lack of the admittance price were given. All of the theaters in the Twin Cities have designated places for Negroes to sit. The reason for this segregation as given by the theater managers, is that their audiences are largely made up of the students of the University, and that they will lose the patronage of these students if they allow the Negroes to sit wherever they wish. This feeling of prejudice is evident also in restaurants and retail establishments. The types



of pictures which the informants prefer vary from Wild West pictures to mysteries and love stories. They are often highly incensed at portrayals of Negroes and Negro life, however. Table XXXV shows the frequency of preference of the several theaters. Among seven women and six men there is no preference, while highest in frequen-

Table XXXV

Frequency of Preference of Theaters  
in the Twin Cities by the 100 Negro Informants

<u>Names of Motion Picture Theaters</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	
Virginia	4	2	6
Orpheum	6	7	13
Park	1	3	4
Rialto	2		2
Princess			
Varsity			
None	7	6	13
Total	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>38</u>

cy in both the men's and women's group is the Orpheum Theater.

This preference may be due to several factors: first, the Orpheum is closer to the defined Negro quarter than are the other theaters; secondly, the price of admission is low; thirdly, more satisfactory seating arrangements exist there. Due to the fact that the Princess Theater is located in Urbana and necessitates the use of the bus for most of the Negro people, few attend this theater. The Varsity Theater is an old theater, and shows third run pictures.

There are but few Negro supported agencies for cultural improvement. Occasionally a speaker is obtained to lecture in one of the churches or clubs; but with these exceptions, there are few general educational efforts, other than reading. The African Methodist

Episcopal Church has a Forum meeting once a month, with lectures and book reports and sometimes short plays are presented. This forum organization is composed primarily of a group of University students who are also the officers and few town people attend. In the past two years the University has given Negro plays enacted by Negro students, but the audience is composed largely from persons connected with the University.

The expression of preference in books, newspapers and magazines was secured from the 100 informants. Table XXXVI gives the frequency of books read. In most cases types, rather than the exact titles of books read were given. The men reported more books

Table XXXVI

Frequency of Books Read by  
the 100 Negro Informants

<u>Names or Types of Books</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Race	22	15
Mystery	4	3
History	1	2
Bible	16	21
Poetry		1
Love Stories	2	15
Biography	1	1
Essays	1	
Law	1	
Culinary	1	
Wild West	1	
Psychology	2	
Sociology	1	
Sex	1	
Chiropody	1	
Dr. Elliot's Classics	1	
Scientific	1	
Science & Religion	1	
Astronomy	1	
Biology	1	
Theology	2	
Embalming	1	
Encyclopedia	1	
# Reporting Not Reading any books	14	9

read than did the women. The highest frequency in the women's group is the Bible, while second in order of frequency are Race Books and Love Stories, with an equal number for each group. Persons reading no books at all are third in order. In the men's group, the highest in frequency are Race Books, followed next in order by the Bible. Those reading no books are also third in order in the men's group. The remaining books in this section of the table are in the minority. Thus, the Bible, Race, and Love Stories are the most read by this group of 100 Negro Informants.

The newspapers read, as shown in Table XXXVII, may be divided into two groups, the Racial newspapers and Metropolitan newspapers.

Table XXXVII

Frequency of Newspapers Read  
by 100 Negro Informants

<u>Newspapers Read</u>	<u>Number Reporting</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Chicago Defender	30	29
St. Louis Argus	7	7
Champaign Gazette	29	33
Chicago Tribune	17	9
Pittsburg Courier	-	1
Herald Examiner	6	2
Urbana Courier	1	4
Atlantic World	-	1
The Gritt	-	1
Illini	1	1
# Reporting Not Reading any Newspapers	9	4

In the first group are the Chicago Defender, the St. Louis Argus, the Pittsburg Courier, the Atlantic World, and the Gritt. There are more women reading the Champaign Gazette than other newspapers, followed next in order by the Chicago Defender. Third in order in

the women's group is the Chicago Tribune. There are thirty-nine women reading Negro publications. The Chicago Defender is the highest in frequency among the men, while second in order is the Champaign News Gazette. The Chicago Tribune is third in frequency in the men's group also. There are thirty-seven men reading race newspapers in this group of fifty men informants. Though there is much criticism against the Chicago Defender as being too sensational and too militant, it ranks higher in both the men's and women's groups than the St. Louis Argus, which is reputed to be a much better paper. The Argus ranks fourth in order of frequency in both the men's and women's groups.

In the magazine list, shown in Table XXXVIII there are four

Table XXXVIII

Frequency of Magazines Read  
by the 100 Negro Informants

Magazines Read	Number Reporting		Magazines Read	Number Reporting	
	Men	Women		Men	Women
The Crisis	9	4	Atlantic	-	1
The Bronzeman	16	19	American Legion	1	1
Abbott's Monthly	7	7	Nautilus	-	1
Opportunity	2	3	Etude	-	2
Good Housekeeping	1	4	McCalls	1	2
Art Craft	-	1	Ladies Home Journal	2	3
Good English	-	1	Liberty	4	1
Screen	2	1	Colliers	2	1
Household Digest	-	1	Gentle Woman	-	1
Saturday Evening Post	7	2	Nation	3	-
Cosmopolitan	6	2	Argosy	1	-
Forum	-	1	Religious Quarterlies	3	1
Literary Digest	10	2	Western Stories	1	-
True Story	6	8	Fortune	1	-
Women's Home Com- panion	-	7	Time	3	-
American	-	3	New Century	1	-
Unity	-	2	Survey	1	-
Better Home & Garden	-	2	Standard	1	-
Red Book	2	2	National Geographic	1	-
			Delineator	1	6
			# Reporting as not Reading any Magazines	13	13

Negro publications listed. They are the Crisis, The Bronzeman, Abbott's Monthly, and Opportunity. In this list, the Bronzeman ranks highest in frequency in both divisions. Second in order of frequency in the women's section is True Story, and in the men's division the Literary Digest. Abbott's Monthly and Women's Home Companion are third in order in the women's reading habits, while the Crisis is third in frequency in the men's group. The Delineator is fourth in the women's group, and the Saturday Evening Post and Abbott's Monthly among the men. Three of the four Negro publications here listed are in the three highest ratings of frequency. From this discussion, it is fairly evident that the Negroes in the Twin Cities are greatly interested in literature pertaining to their own race.

There is a general opinion among many white people that the majority of the Negro people are illiterate. Table XXXIX gives statistics on the illiteracy of the Negro population in Champaign-Urbana, the total population of the Twin Cities and the statistics for the Negro and total population of the state for 1920 and 1930. For both the Twin Cities and the state, the Negroes had a higher per cent. of illiteracy than the total population for both 1920 and 1930. The illiteracy of the Negro population of Champaign-Urbana in 1930 was double the percentage rate of Negroes in the entire state, and the per cent. of illiterates in 1920 was equal to the state rate. However, in comparing the two decennial periods of 1920 and 1930 for the Twin Cities, there was 1 per cent. more illiteracy in 1930 than in the previous decade, while the state rate was reduced almost half. The rate for the total population of



Table XXXIX

Illiteracy of the Negro and Total Population  
for Champaign-Urbana and the State<sup>2</sup>

	Champaign-Urbana				The State			
	1930		1920		1930		1920	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Negroes 10 yrs. and over	1,595	100	1,308	100	277,834	100	157,205	100
Illiterate Males 21 and over	Not Listed		45	3	Not Listed		4,917	3
Illiterate Females 21 and over	Not Listed		50	4	Not Listed		5,229	3
Illiterate Total Population	123	8	97	7	10,044	-4	10,476	-7
Illiterate	28,329	100	21,907	100	6,333,046	100	5,184,943	100
Illiterate Males 21 and over	254	-1	278	1	153,507	2.4	173,987	3.4
Illiterate Females 21 and over	Not Listed		134	-1	Not Listed		84,059	2
Illiterate Total Population	Not Listed		179	-1	Not Listed		85,068	2

<sup>1</sup> 15th Census, Vol. III, Part I, Population, Table 13, p. 600, Table 15, p. 628.

<sup>2</sup> 14th Census, Vol. III, Population, Table 9, p. 251, Table 10, pp. 260-264.

The Twin Cities was less than the rate for the state for both periods. In both Champaign-Urbana, and the state, the amount of illiteracy decreased in 1930 over the rate of per cent. in 1920. In 1920, in Champaign-Urbana, the per cent. of illiterate Negro males over 21 years of age was equal to the rate for the state, while the females of the same age showed a higher rate than did the total population. For the total population the illiteracy rate in Champaign-Urbana was below that of the entire state. Many of the older Negroes were not educated, and the increase in the per cent. illiterate from 1920 to 1930 was not due to the lack of educational facilities among the younger Negroes, but to the immigration of illiterate persons from the southern states.

## Chapter VII

### Social Organizations

The discussion of this chapter deals with the cultural contacts, which includes a description of the churches and organizations in which the 100 informants hold membership. Although the physical properties and the material aspect of the community here reviewed present a rather meager appearance, the social life is nevertheless varied and rich in content. This is especially true in regard to the religious and the fraternal and mutual aid societies now to be considered. These organizations are for the most part similar to the corresponding organizations among the general population. Nevertheless they assume a local tone and genius.

In this community, there are six denominations of churches supported by the Negro population. These are the African Methodist Episcopal, the Colored Methodist Episcopal, the Baptists, the Sanctified or Church of God in Christ, the Seventh Day Adventists, or the Church of God and Saints of Christ, and the Spiritual Church. These churches vary in emotional display by the ministers and the congregation.

The African Methodist Episcopal and Salem Baptist are the oldest Negro churches in the Twin Cities, and have the largest congregations. These churches were organized by white ministers, and the first structures of both churches were built by private subscription of white persons in the Twin Cities between 1870 and 1880. In these two churches, one finds most of the representative Negroes of the community. Though there are three other Baptist churches in

the Twin Cities, beside Salem Baptist, two of these churches are off-shoots of Salem Baptist. One of the reasons one finds so many Baptist churches in Negro communities is due to the fact that the congregations split. If a number of persons become dissatisfied with conditions in the church, they leave, and one of their number often becomes the minister. Before he can become the minister, however, he must study the Bible, which he does usually in his spare time. When he finishes this study, he goes before an examining board of the other Negro ministers of the town or section. If he successfully passes the examination, he is eligible to preach. This causes many mushroom growths of Baptist churches of the "store-front" variety throughout the United States. These congregations may again split, until there are any number of churches which have branched away from the mother church. Many of the ministers found in Negro Baptist churches, particularly in towns the size of Champaign-Urbana, have been in the laboring class or domestic class of workers before they became ministers. Three of the Baptist ministers in the Twin Cities were previously in the laboring class, one having been a janitor, one a miner and the other a valet. Due to the lack of education, the ministers are necessarily very circumscribed in presenting their sermons. This type of minister does not appeal to the better educated Negro, and the congregations, as a rule, are small and not self-sustaining, particularly during this period of economic depression. In some instances, the ministers are forced to resume their former occupations in order to supplement their budget for living expenses. This type of minister is found also in the Sanctified churches and the Church of God