Defining Moments: Review of the History of Extension and the Land-Grant University System

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FACILITATION GUIDE

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Introduction

This review highlights significant historical events in the Cooperative Extension System (Extension) and the land-grant university system of which Extension is an essential part. The focus is on Southern Extension history and, more specifically, Tennessee Extension history. These highlights include both Extension programming and legislation that influences Extension even today. This booklet is for Extension professionals and Extension volunteers in advisory roles. I hope this historical perspective will spur your thinking about creating your own defining moment. What will you contribute to the people of Tennessee, the history of Extension and the land-grant university system?

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You're in the Right Place!

If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, then this is the right publication for you!

- Are you a new Extension employee or volunteer in an advisory role?
- Do you need a review of Extension and land-grant university history?
- Do you want to help yourself and others be more effective in serving Extension audiences?
- Are you interested in the land-grant university system in Tennessee?

Timeline of Major Events

1794	University of Tennessee is founded.
1862	President Lincoln signs bill creating a Department of Agriculture.
1862	Morrill Act establishes one land-grant university in every state.
1867	Congress passes special act to allow Tennessee to benefit from 1862 Morrill Act.
1890	Second Morrill Act establishes land-grant universities for African-Americans in 17 states.
1887	Hatch Act establishes Agricultural Experiment Stations at land-grant institutions.
Late 1800s	Margaret Washington, Tuskegee University, involves 600 women in the Mothers' Meetings to share research-based information in family and consumer sciences.
1906	First Extension Agents: W.C. Stallings (Smith County, TX) and T.M. Campbell (Macon County, AL)
1910	First agents appointed in Tennessee.
1912	Tennessee State University is founded.
1914	Smith-Lever Act establishes the Cooperative Extension System.
1917-1919	World War IExtension works to increase food and supplies for the war effort.
1924	Clark-McNairy Act expands all previous agriculture legislation to include forestry.
1941-1945	 World War II Extension works to increase food and supplies for the war effort. Tennessee 4-H members invest \$300,000 (their personal savings) for war bonds. In 1944, U.S. Maritime Commission grants Tennessee 4-H members the honor of naming a ship, <i>Liberty Ship S.S. Charles A Keffer</i>, a salute to Tennessee's first director of Extension.
1955	 Tennessee Agricultural Extension Act Requires all counties to elect a seven-member committee for Extension. Completes formal ties among federal, state and county governments for Extension funding.
1960-1961	 UT changes course on civil rights. In 1960, Theotis Robinson was denied entry to UT. In 1961, the UT Board of Trustees changed its admissions policy to admit Robinson.
1964	Civil Rights Act becomes law.
1968	Rita Sanders Geier files suit against state of Tennessee due to racial discrimination and disparities in <i>Geier v. University of Tennessee</i> .
1969	Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program begins in 10 Tennessee counties.
1977	National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act provides funding for 1890 universities, including federal funds directly to Tennessee State University for Extension.

1979	University of Tennessee Nashville merged into Tennessee State University due to court mandate.
1986	UT receives state funding for financial and family counseling to create the MANAGE program to combat the state's farm crisis.
1988	USDA hosts conference in Nashville with all 1890 deans and presidents to strengthen the federal relationship with 1890 institutions.
2001-2006	 In 2001, the Geier Consent Decree settles 1968 lawsuit with \$77 million for recruiting, retention, scholarships, new facilities and endowments for all state colleges and universities. In 2006, after five years of monitoring, federal judge ruled the case was closed as the state had met all requirements. In 2006, Theotis Robinson (now UT's vice president) escorts Rita Sanders Geier on UT's campus as she delivers UT's commencement address.
2004	UT Agricultural Extension Service formally became UT Extension, reflecting the broad mission across all program areas.
2009	Extension provides education for a biofuels initiative.
2010	UT Extension commemorates its 100 th year with statewide proclamations, events and celebrations.
2014	Agricultural Act of 2014 adds Central State University in Ohio as an 1890 land-grant institution.

Test Your Knowledge Roots of the Land-Grant System

Choose the best answer for each question.

The President Addresses Congress

- 1. Which of the following presidents proposed in his first message to Congress a national agricultural agency to diffuse information to farmers?
 - A. Abraham Lincoln
 - B. Andrew Jackson
 - C. Franklin Pierce
 - D. George Washington

The Ag Society Movement

- 2. Which of the following is our nation's oldest and most historically significant agricultural society?
 - A. Chicago Agriculture Club
 - B. Massachusetts Agriculture Club
 - C. Michigan Society for Promoting Agriculture
 - D. Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture

Smith-Lever Act of 1914

Program Areas

- 3. The Smith-Lever Act specifies that Extension is to disseminate "useful and practical information on subjects related to agriculture" and which of the following subjects?
 - A. Family and Consumer Sciences and Nursing
 - B. Family and Consumer Sciences and Solar Energy
 - C. Military Sciences and Chemical Engineering
 - D. Military Sciences and Natural Resources
- 4. On an annual basis, the Smith-Lever Act provides more funds to states with a higher percentage of ______?
 - A. Rural population and farm population
 - B. Rural poverty and food processors
 - C. Urban population and food production
 - D. Urban poverty and farm bankruptcies

Early Days of Extension

Father of Extension

- 5. Who described the land-grant mission as, "to solve the problems of poverty, to increase measures of happiness, to add to the universal love of country....and to harness the forces of all learning to the useful and the needful in human society?"
 - A. Andrew Jackson
 - B. Jonathan Baldwin Turner
 - C. Justin Morrill
 - D. Seaman Knapp

Tennessee County Connections

- 6. Which Tennessee county was the first to match federal funds to employ Extension agents?
 - A. Madison County
 - B. Overton County
 - C. Sevier County
 - D. Union County

Our University Pride

TSU Tigers

- 7. For which of the following presidents did TSU's Aristocrat of Bands become the first HBCU band to march in a presidential inaugural parade?
 - A. Jimmy Carter (Jan. 20, 1977)
 - B. Herbert Hoover (March 4, 1929)
 - C. John Fitzgerald Kennedy (Jan. 20, 1961)
 - D. Barrack H. Obama (Jan. 20, 2009)
- 8. Which of the following are Tennessee State University's most famous alumni?
 - A. Justin Timberlake and Glenda Glover
 - B. Moses Gunn and Jimmy Carter
 - C. Oprah Winfrey and Wilma Rudolph
 - D. Richard Dent and David Muir

UT Volunteers

- 9. Which of the following are the University of Tennessee's most famous alumni?
 - A. Beyonce Knowles (UTK, UTC) and Van Jones (UTM)
 - B. Bill Haslam (UTM) and Dixie Carter (UTK)
 - C. David Keith (UTK) and Steven Spielberg (UTM)
 - D. Peyton Manning (UTK) and Pat Summitt (UTM, UTK)
- 10. Which of the following is a major attribute of the University of Tennessee's Pride of the Southland Marching Band?
 - A. Performance of bells
 - B. Performance of circle drill
 - C. Performance of script Tennessee
 - D. Performance of xylophones

Our Leaders, Our Heritage

- 11. Who designed a "Jessup Wagon" (named after the New Yorker Morris Ketchum Jessup who provided financing) as a mobile classroom to reach farmers with education?
 - A. Abigail Adams
 - B. George Washington Carver
 - C. Grover Cleveland
 - D. Hoke Smith
- 12. Who is the founder of Family and Consumer Sciences?
 - A. Booker T. Washington
 - B. Eleanor Roosevelt
 - C. Ellen Swallow Richards
 - D. Benjamin Spock
- 13. Asbury Francis Lever, coauthor of the Smith-Lever Act, is buried on which university campus?
 - A. Clemson University
 - B. Louisiana State University
 - C. Prairie View A&M University
 - D. University of Georgia

- 14. Gertrude Warren is known as the "mother of 4-H." Which of the following occurred under her leadership as USDA national program leader?
 - A. 4-H membership increased by 1.6 million.
 - B. 4-H membership increased by 500,000.
 - C. 4-H STEM programs were first established.
 - D. 4-H food preservation clubs were first established.

Tennessee Public Law on Extension

- 15. Which of the following does Tennessee state law require regarding Extension work?
 - A. Must be provided to boys, girls, men and women.
 - B. Must be provided to the state's citizens living elsewhere.
 - C. Must be partially funded (40 percent of Extension budget) by user fees.
 - D. Must be funded by a single annual payment of state funds.
- 16. Which of the following does Tennessee state law consider a crime for an Extension agent in the county of their employment?
 - A. Builds a treehouse or other recreational structure.
 - B. Consumes Kentucky agricultural products.
 - C. Participates in adult league sports with persons in the county.
 - D. Sells farm machinery or fertilizer to persons in the county.
- 17. As early as 1915, which requirement was part of Tennessee state law?
 - A. Extension is a separate line item in all county budgets.
 - B. Extension is a separate line item in the state budget.
 - C. Extension logos are subject to approval by the General Assembly.
 - D. Extension logos are subject to approval by the governor.

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Notes

Notes

Answer Key

Question	Answer
 Which of the following presidents proposed in his first message to Congress a national agricultural agency to diffuse information to farmers? A. Abraham Lincoln B. Andrew Jackson C. Franklin Pierce D. George Washington 	If you have toured Mount Vernon, then you have witnessed how <i>George Washington</i> devoted much of his life to agriculture. Initially, he grew tobacco, but he switched to wheat. Many historians have noted that Washington considered himself a farmer first. For more information: mountvernon.org/george-washington/farming
 2. Which of the following is our nation's oldest and most historically significant agricultural society? A. Chicago Agriculture Club B. Massachusetts Agriculture Club C. Michigan Society for Promoting Agriculture D. Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture 	The <i>Philadelphia Society for Promoting</i> <i>Agriculture</i> was organized in 1785. The society was founded by business leaders and landowners; four signed the Declaration of Independence. Charter members included Benjamin Rush, a surgeon general in the Continental Army, and Benjamin Franklin, who had the idea for the society. The Society members were the early supporters of Pennsylvania State University, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. For more information: pspaonline.com
 3. The Smith-Lever Act specifies that Extension is to disseminate "useful and practical information on subjects related to agriculture" and which of the following subjects? A. Family and Consumer Sciences and Nursing <i>B. Family and Consumer Sciences and Solar Energy</i> C. Military Sciences and Chemical Engineering D. Military Sciences and Natural Resources 	The original Smith-Lever Act included <i>family and consumer sciences</i> . In fact, Smith-Lever has been referred to as the first piece of federal legislation that had a direct benefit to women. The Homestead Act of 1862 was fully available to women, but many men directly benefitted from the Homestead Act. In 1980, the Smith-Lever Act was amended to include a reference to "rural energy," so <i>solar energy</i> is the best answer. The reference to solar energy was added in 1977 by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.
 4. On an annual basis, the Smith-Lever Act provides more funds to states with a higher percentage of? A. Rural population and farm population B. Rural poverty and food processors C. Urban population and food production D. Urban poverty and farm bankruptcies 	 By law, Smith-Lever funds are allocated: 4 percent for USDA administration 20 percent shared by all states in equal proportion 40 percent shared in proportion to the state's <i>rural population</i> to total rural population 40 percent shared in proportion to the state's <i>farm population</i> to the total farm population The population counts must come from the United States Census.

 5. Who described the land-grant mission as, "to solve the problems of poverty, to increase measures of happiness, to add to the universal love of country and to harness the forces of all learning to the useful and the needful in human society?" A. Andrew Jackson B. Jonathan Baldwin Turner C. Justin Morrill D. Seaman Knapp 	<i>Seaman Knapp</i> (1833-1911) was the second president of Iowa State University, known as Iowa Agricultural College at that time. He developed the farm demonstration method after he went to Louisiana to develop the state's agricultural resources in the Western part of the state. In 1902, he was employed by USDA to promote better agricultural practices in the South. The bridge in Washington, DC, is named in honor of Knapp. It links the USDA buildings on both sides of Independence Avenue.
 6. What was Tennessee's first county to match federal funds to employ Extension agents? <i>A. Madison County</i> B. Overton County C. Sevier County D. Union County 	Madison County
 7. For which of the following presidents did the TSU <i>Aristocrat of Bands</i> become the first HBCU band to march in a presidential inaugural parade? A. Jimmy Carter (Jan. 20, 1977) B. Herbert Hoover (March 4, 1929) C. John Fitzgerald Kennedy (Jan. 20, 1961) D. Barrack H. Obama (Jan. 20, 2009) 	The TSU <i>Aristocrat of Bands</i> was the first HBCU to march in a presidential inauguration. They were the only HBCU invited to march in <i>John Fitzgerald</i> <i>Kennedy's</i> inauguration (Jan. 20, 1961). They also marched in 1992 for President Clinton's inauguration.
 8. Which of the following are Tennessee State University's most famous alumni? A. Justin Timberlake and Glenda Glover B. Moses Gunn and Jimmy Carter C. Oprah Winfrey and Wilma Rudolph D. Richard Dent and David Muir 	 <i>Oprah Winfrey</i> and <i>Wilma Rudolf</i> are both TSU graduates. Rudolf was the first American woman to win three gold medals in the Olympics while competing at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Other notable alumni: Glenda Glover, TSU President Richard Dent, MVP of SUPER Bowl XX, NFL Hall of Fame Moses Gunn, famous actor who was nominated for an Emmy for his role in <i>Roots</i> For more information: tnstate.edu/alumni/distinguishedtigers.aspx
 9. Which of the following are the University of Tennessee's most famous alumni? A. Beyonce Knowles (UTK, UTC) and Van Jones (UTM) B. Bill Haslam (UTM) and Dixie Carter (UTK) C. David Keith (UTK) and Steven Spielberg (UTM) D. Peyton Manning (UTK) and Pat Summitt (UTM, UTK) 	 <i>Peyton Manning</i> and <i>Pat Summitt</i> are both UT graduates. Manning graduated in communications and Summitt was in physical education. Others: Van Jones, author, commentator, activist Dixie Carter, actor David Keith, actor For more information: tnstate.edu/alumni/distinguishedtigers.aspx

 10. Which of the following is a major attribute of the University of Tennessee's Pride of the Southland Marching Band? A. Performance of Bells B. Performance of Circle Drill C. Performance of Script Tennessee D. Performance of Xylophones 	The Pride of the Southland Marching Band is known and respected for its <i>Circle Drill</i> .
 11. Who designed a "Jessup Wagon" (named after the New Yorker Morris Ketchum Jessup who provided financing) as a mobile classroom to reach farmers with education? A. Abigail Adams B. George Washington Carver C. Grover Cleveland D. Hoke Smith 	<i>George Washington Carver</i> started the "Jessup Wagons" as a way to extend the knowledge of the Tuskegee Institute to farmers of Alabama.
 12. Who is the founder of Family and Consumer Sciences? A. Booker T. Washington B. Eleanor Roosevelt C. Ellen Swallow Richards D. Benjamin Spock 	 <i>Ellen Swallow Richards</i> was the first female graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Some of her quotes that demonstrate her wisdom: "If it is a relief to take your clothes off at night, be sure that something is wrong. Clothes should not be a burden. They should be a comfort and a protection." "We never can tell how our lives may work to the account of the general good, and we are not wise enough to know if we have fulfilled our mission or not."
 13. Asbury Francis Lever, coauthor of the Smith-Lever Act, is buried on which university campus? <i>A. Clemson University</i> B. Louisiana State University C. Prairie View A&M University D. University of Georgia 	Asbury Francis Lever's interment was on the campus of <i>Clemson University</i> as he was a United States senator from South Carolina.
 14. Gertrude Warren is known as the "mother of 4-H" and under her leadership as USDA national program leader, which of the following occurred? <i>A. 4-H membership increased by 1.6 million.</i> B. 4-H membership increased by 500,000. C. 4-H STEM programs were first established. D. 4-H food preservation clubs were first established. 	Gertrude Warren was teaching family and consumer sciences at Columbia University when USDA hired her. She was born on a farm in New York, and had a deep appreciation for agriculture. During her tenure, <i>4-H membership increased by 1.6 million</i> in the United States.

 15. Which of the following does Tennessee state law require regarding Extension work? <i>A. Must be provided to boys, girls, men and women</i> B. Must be provided to the state's citizens living elsewhere C. Must be partially funded (40 percent of Extension budget) by user fees D. Must be funded by a single annual payment of state funds 	State law is very clear on this. Extension is to be provided to <i>boys, girls, men and women</i> .
 16. Which of the following does Tennessee state law consider a crime for an Extension agent in the county of their employment? A. Builds a treehouse or other recreational structure B. Consumes Kentucky agricultural products C. Participates in adult league sports with persons in the county D. Sells farm machinery or fertilizer to persons in the county 	State law considers it a conflict of interest if an Extension agent <i>sells farm machinery or fertilizer to persons in the county</i> of their employment.
 17. As early as 1915, which requirement was part of Tennessee state law? A. Extension is a separate line item in all county budgets. B. Extension is a separate line item in the state budget. C. Extension logos are subject to approval by the General Assembly. D. Extension logos are subject to approval by the governor. 	The General Assembly set a precedence for separate accounting of Extension funds. The very first time that Tennessee received federal appropriations for Extension, the General Assembly set Extension as <i>a separate line item in the state budget</i> .

"It is our providence as a nation and as individuals to do well, whatever we undertake.....The nation which tills the soil as to leave it worse than they found it is doomed to decay and degradation....shall we not have schools to teach men the way to feed, clothe, and enlighten the brotherhood of man?"

Justin Smith Morrill

"We never can tell how our lives may work to the account of the general good, and we are not wise enough to know if we have fulfilled our mission or not."

Ellen Swallow Richards

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed."

Booker T. Washington



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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.