

DISCOVERY AFTER DIGITIZATION: ENCOURAGING RESEARCH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Deborah Cooper
Digital & Special Collections Librarian
Mann Library
Cornell University

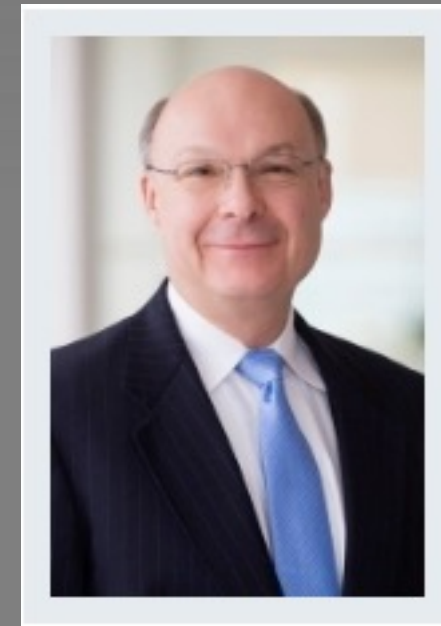
Selena Bryant
Teaching & Learning Librarian
Mann Library
Cornell University

Presentation
ACRL Digital Scholarship Section
May 28, 2021

Collection History and “Rediscovery” of *The Modern Farmer*



Thane Scott,
great-grandson of
James P. Davis



James P. Davis (right), Editor,
The Modern Farmer

THE MODERN FARMER

Vol. VIII.

NASHVILLE, TENN., MAY 15, 1935

No. 4

Talks To Colored Farmers About "Supporting The A A A"

SEC. LEON HARRIS GIVES INFORMATION

**Editor Modern Farmer
And Federation Official
Presents Unanswerable Facts**

BROTHER FARMERS:—Got a letter from a Texas farmer the other day and he asked me a direct, clear question. His question was, "Should colored farmers support the policies of the AAA?" (Agricultural Adjustment Administration). Said he wanted to know because a lot of Texas leaders, colored and white, were cussing the AAA, especially the cotton plan, going and coming, and they had him thinking hard but all mixed up.

I gave him a plain answer. I told him "Yes, support the AAA,—keep on supporting its policies,—and tell your brother farmers in Texas to do the same." I am certain the good brother will do this if he keeps on "thinking hard" as he says he's doing.

When President Roosevelt started the AAA to look after his No

RAW VEGETABLE DAY

It is the Fibrous Structure You Soften

Why do we cook vegetables? Some people say we shouldn't, and it is true that cooking takes away some food values. For this reason it is advisable to eat at least one raw vegetable or fruit each day, to get food values you might lose in cooking.

With most vegetables, it is the fibrous structure you soften when you cook them. The fibrous structure is the invisible framework that gives shape and form, and holds together the other substances of the vegetable. In scientific cookery, this material is called cellulose. It is what we commonly call "roughage." It cannot be digested in the human body and is useful for that very reason. Its job is to furnish bulk of a kind that helps to eliminate the waste products of digestion.

Cooking for Flavor

You cook vegetables to soften the cellulose just enough to make it an agreeable carrier or container of the

LEARN NEW PROFESSION

Students Given Course In Soil Erosion Control

Progress of the soil erosion control work now under way in Iowa and Missouri and slated for expansion soon is handicapped to some extent by the lack of trained personnel for this specialized type of work, sponsors of federal projects say.

"Trainees"

As soon as the college year closes next June the number of "trainees" will be increased to from 65 to 75. Most of these recruits are being drawn from the ranks of the colleges of agriculture at Columbia, Mo., and Ames, Ia.

It is probable that these men as soon as their training course is completed will be assigned to various areas in the two states where definite projects have been established with farmers agreeing to co-operate in controlling erosion and adopting a system of farming that will shift some of their farm land from cultivated crops to grass.

It Pays To Own Your Own Home

PROPOSED FARM TENANTS

Home Crop Is Given Endorsement by Jordan

Editor Constitution: I read with deep interest and approval the statement published in The Constitution relative to a proposed bill by Senator John H. Bankhead, of Alabama, to create and finance a Farm Tenants' Home Corporation operative by the federal government.

No greater service could be rendered to the south and nation than the establishment of a federal system by which efficient and capable tenant farmers could be encouraged and aided to become prosperous and independent small landowners.

Approximately 75 per cent of the farmers in Georgia and the other cotton states are either tenants or sharecroppers. This unfortunate system has developed a distressing condition

NATIONAL BETTER HOUSING PROGRAM WILL HELP FARMERS

Here's How You Benefit

Your Home—Repairs, alterations, and home improvements result in healthier surroundings, a lightening of every-day tasks, and a more livable environment for the entire family. New equipment and home improvements, new paint, additional plumbing and heating conveniences attract the young people in a family and give them pride and satisfaction in the farm home.

Your Farmstead—Well-maintained farm buildings permit efficiency in farming operations, more orderly marketing of products, and decreased fire hazards and insurance. Satisfactory, improved buildings, well equipped and in proper condition, provide better protection for farm machinery, equipment, supplies, livestock.

1929-1949

SAVE MORE! EARN MORE! HAVE MORE! BE MORE!

Every Colored Farmer

SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE

The National Federation of Colored Farmers

ORGANIZED, JUNE 5, 1922
PROGRESSIVE, Not Radical!

INCORPORATED, NOVEMBER 19, 1930
SANE, NOT VISIONARY!

**IF A FARM OWNER, TENANT, SHARECROPPER OR
FARM HAND, YOU SHOULD JOIN THIS ORGANIZATION**

It is the only national organization of colored farmers in America.
Its growth has been steady and substantial.
Its officers and leaders are men of experience and foresight.
It is non-partisan and non-secret.
Its actions speak louder than its words.
Its policies are sane, sound and progressive.

It teaches co-operative buying, production and marketing.
It is a builder of Negro farm communities.
It promotes the general interest of all its members.
It studies and investigates all agricultural problems.
It fosters the improvement of rural homes, and rural life.
Its members work together to accomplish what cannot be done individually.
It makes farm business more profitable.



Delegates to 1932 Annual Convention, N. F. C. F. Memphis, Tennessee.

The following are excerpts from letters on file in the national office:

"Through the N.F.C.F. we have been able to grow crops in Wisconsin that none thought could be grown here. We are planning for

"Since joining the N.F.C.F. we have saved in our community from 25 to 40 per cent on the purchase price of farm and home supplies."

farms and handle them in a workmanlike manner."

W. B. Clark, Land Dept.

"The National Federation of Colored Farmers believes that the Colored Farmers of America should own and control their own co-operative associations--*Cooperation with All--Affiliation with None.*"

Background and life during *The Modern Farmer*



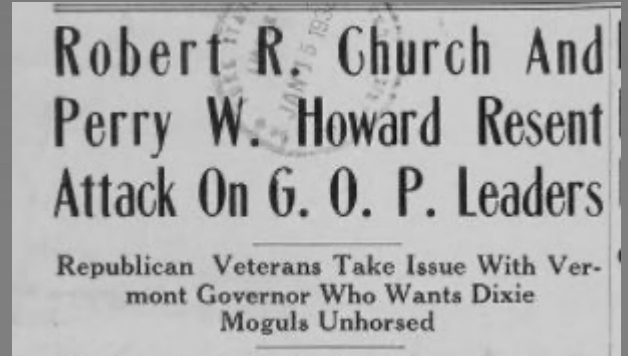
Lange, 1937, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>



Lange, 1937, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>

Found in *The Modern Farmer*

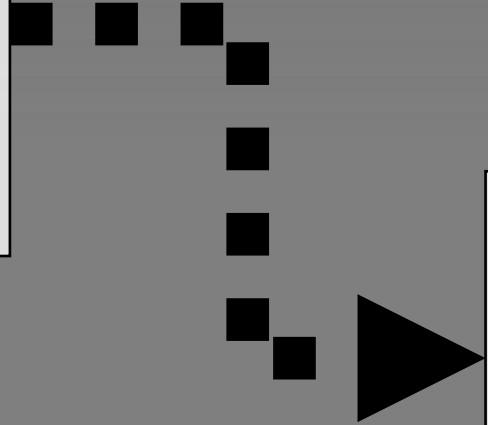
- Agricultural Information
- Politics
- Women's section
- Christian Faith



Determining our outreach strategy

STARTING POINT:

- Printed volumes had little usage
- Full run digitized and accessible via the Internet Archive
- Page views 2017-2019, under 300 per volume
- Some occasional outreach via social media, internal stakeholders



GOALS:

- Go big and broad!
- Reach as many people as possible
- Don't limit ourselves to faculty
- Tell the story with digital tools.
- Convey a lot of info, accessibly
- Provide context



Visit the main page

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main page
- Contents
- Current events
- Random article
- About Wikipedia
- Contact us
- Donate

- Contribute
- Help
- Learn to edit
- Community portal
- Recent changes
- Upload file

Tools

Article **Talk** Read Edit Edit source View history More

Search Wikipedia

The Modern Farmer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Modern Farmer was a national monthly **African American** publication published in Chicago, Illinois, and Nashville, Tennessee, by the **National Federation of Colored Farmers** (NFCF). It was published between 1929 and 1949 for African American farmers. The editors were Leon Ray Harris and James P. Davis, the president of the NFCF, Head Field Officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and a member of President Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet."^{[1][2]}

Contents

- 1 History
 - 1.1 The National Federation of Colored Farmers (NFCF)
 - 1.2 *The Modern Farmer* newspaper
- 2 Editorial Perspective and Breadth
- 3 References

History



Black in S.T.E.M. Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Thursday, Feb. 25
4:00-6:00 pm

- Open to everyone, no prior Wikipedia experience necessary.
- Optional training during the first hour.
- Join and leave when you want!

Register at:

bit.ly/black-in-stem-wikipedia2021

Co-sponsored by Mann Library & MANRRS-Cornell





The Modern Farmer: Home

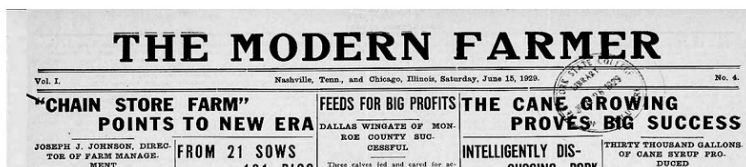
Search this Guide Search

This guide covers The Modern Farmer, a serial publication from 1929-1949 published by the National Federation of Colored Farmers (NFCF) and the history of Black Americans in agriculture.

URL: <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/modernfarmer>

- Home
- History of the Modern Farmer
- Instruction
- Related Sources
- Contact Us
- Black in STEM Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Excerpt from The Modern Farmer



Purpose of This Guide

This Guide focuses on the historical periodical *The Modern Farmer*, covering the history of the publication and related topics; the history of African Americans in Agriculture and the history of African Americans in the Labor Movement.

Mann Library holds the only known surviving print copies, and the complete run is fully digitized. Like any newspaper or serial published at that time, it was originally received at Cornell by postal subscription before Mann Library even existed. Then when Mann was established as the agricultural library in 1952, The Modern Farmer became part of our historical holdings.

Learn how you can use *The Modern Farmer* for instruction and research.

The Modern Farmer Periodical

The Modern Farmer was one of the only serial publications published in the Depression-era United States that was aimed at African-American farmers. It was published between 1929-1949 by the National Federation of



The Modern Farmer: Black in STEM Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Search this Guide Search

This guide covers The Modern Farmer, a serial publication from 1929-1949 published by the National Federation of Colored Farmers (NFCF) and the history of Black Americans in agriculture.

URL: <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/modernfarmer>

- Home
- History of the Modern Farmer
- Instruction
- Related Sources
- Contact Us
- Black in STEM Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Wikipedia Event

Black in S.T.E.M. Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Join us at this edit-a-thon to honor and highlight under-recognized contributions in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (S.T.E.M.), by people in the African diaspora! Open to anyone interested in making Wikipedia a more inclusive space.

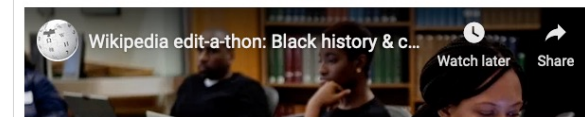
No prior Wikipedia editing experience is necessary; there is optional training during the first hour. If you know how to edit Wikipedia drop in at any time! Stay as long as you want. There will be editing suggestions depending on whether you have 30 min, 60 min or the whole 2 hours!

[Register for the event here](#) to get the Zoom link.

You can edit through the [outreach dashboard](#) the day of and several days after!

Check out the Outreach dashboard above for a list of suggested articles to edit.

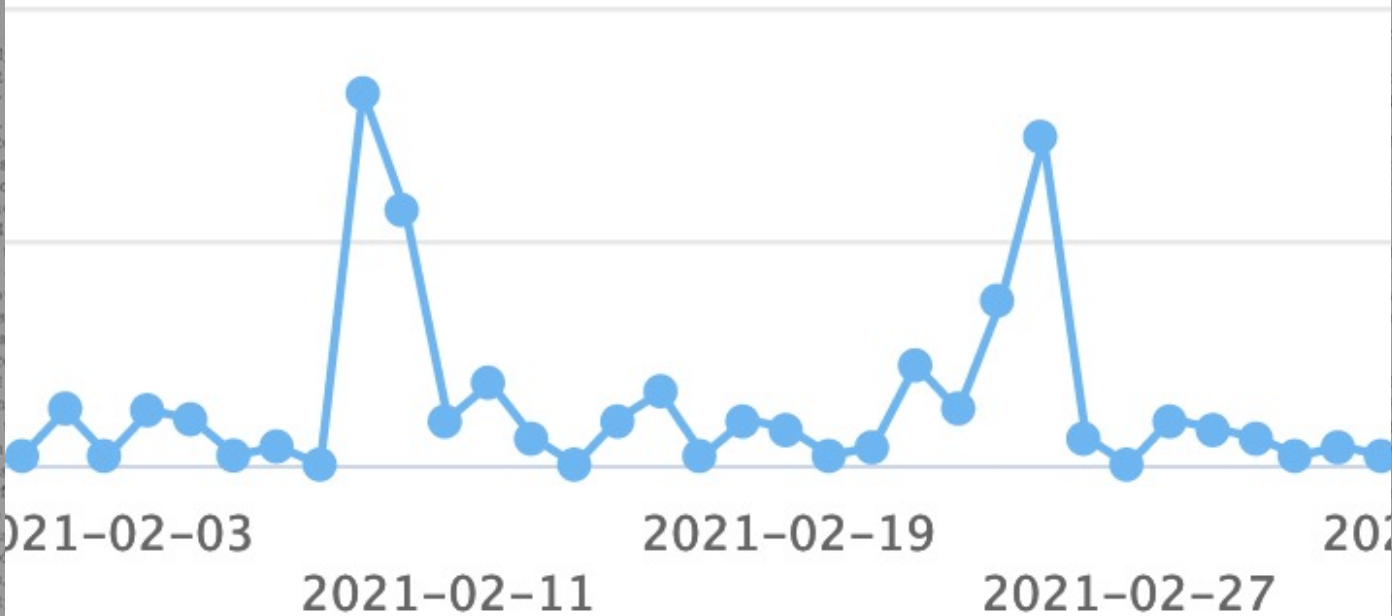
Learn more about editing Wikipedia in this [Libguide](#).



LibGuide

<https://guides.library.cornell.edu/modernfarmer>

RESULTS: LibGuide



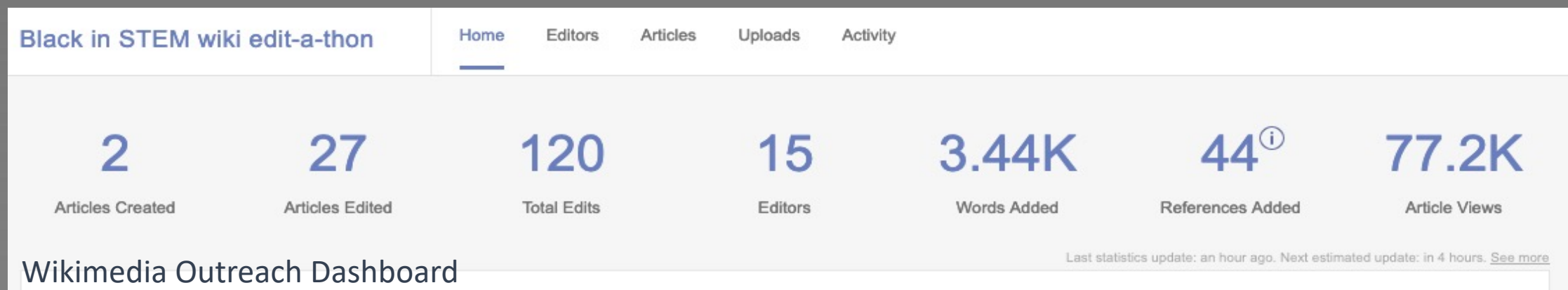
RESULTS: Wikipedia Page

References [[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

1. [^] Cornell University Libraries (February 27, 2020). "Modern Farmer" [↗](#). *Mann Library Tumblr*.
2. [^] ^{***a***} ^{***b***} "The Modern Farmer" [↗](#).
3. [^] "Illustrated Feature Section" [↗](#). *Richmond Planet*. May 24, 1930.
4. [^] ^{***a***} ^{***b***} *The world of Jim Crow America : a daily life encyclopedia* [↗](#). Reich, Steven A. (Steven Andrew), 1965-. Santa Barbara, California. 24 June 2019. ISBN 978-1-4408-5081-3. OCLC 1081339954 [↗](#).
5. [^] Gordon Nembhard, Jessica (March 2018). "African American Cooperatives and Sabotage: The Case for Reparations" [↗](#). *The Journal of African American History*. **103** (1–2): 65–90. doi:10.1086/696361 [↗](#). ISSN 1548-1867 [↗](#). S2CID 224828547 [↗](#).
6. [^] ^{***a***} ^{***b***} Roll, Jarod (2012-06-10), Reid, Debra; Bennett, Evan (eds.), "The Lazarus of American Farmers": The Politics of Black Agrarianism in the Jim Crow South, 1921–1938" [↗](#), *Beyond Forty Acres and a Mule*, University Press of Florida, pp. 132–149, doi:10.5744/florida/9780813039862.003.0007 [↗](#), ISBN 978-0-8130-3986-2, retrieved 2020-10-19
7. [^] *The world of Jim Crow America : a daily life encyclopedia* [↗](#). Steven A. Reich. Santa Barbara, California. 2019. ISBN 978-1-4408-5081-3. OCLC 1081339954 [↗](#).
8. [^] "Tell of Methods to get Farm Loans". *The Chicago Defender*. January 24, 1931.
9. [^] Jones, Lu Ann (Spring 1998). "In Search of Jennie Booth Moton, Field Agent, AAA" [↗](#). *Agricultural History*. 72, No 2. (2): 446–458. JSTOR 3744392 [↗](#) – via JSTOR.
10. [^] The Chicago Defender (October 29, 1938). "10 GOVERNORS ENDORSE FARM GROUP CONFAB: 4 NAME REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND MEETING AT FORSYTH, GA". *Chicago Defender*.
11. [^] "The Farmers' Column". *The Chicago Defender*. September 19, 1931.
12. [^] National Federation of Colored Farmers (Feb 15, 1933). *The Modern farmer* [↗](#). Cornell University Library. Nashville, Tenn., and Chicago, Ill., National federation of colored farmers, inc. p. 1.
13. [^] National Federation of Colored Farmers (June 15, 1933). *The Modern farmer* [↗](#). Cornell University Library. Nashville, Tenn., and Chicago, Ill., National federation of colored farmers, inc. p. 3.
14. [^] Franklin, John Hope (1940). "Rochdale Cooperation among Negroes" [↗](#). *Phylon*. **1** (1): 39–52. doi:10.2307/271171 [↗](#). JSTOR 271171 [↗](#).
15. [^] ^{***a***} ^{***b***} National Federation of Colored Farmers (May 16, 1932). *The Modern farmer* [↗](#). Cornell University Library. Nashville, Tenn., and Chicago, Ill., National Federation of Colored Farmers, inc. pp. 4–5.

Categories: [African-American newspapers](#) | [History of agriculture in the United States](#)

RESULTS: Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon Event



“Learning a lot about the National Federation of Colored Farmers and their newspaper The Modern Farmer. Will continue! Thanks.” Eliza B.

“Thank you. I learned a bunch!”
Carmen G.



Mann Library's digital collection:

The Core Historical Literature of Agriculture

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/chla>

Enter "The Modern Farmer" in the search box



Deborah Cooper

Digital & Special Collections Librarian

Email: dsc255@cornell.edu



Selena Bryant

Teaching and Learning Librarian

Email: sdb243@cornell.edu

REFERENCES

- “Black History Matters, So Why Is Wikipedia Missing So Much Of It?,” Change Generation, Fast Company, last modified January 29, 2015, <https://www.fastcompany.com/3041572/black-history-matters-so-why-is-wikipedia-missing-so-much-of-it>.
- Browning, Pamela et al, “The Decline of Black Farming in America,” (Washington D.C.: Commission on Civil Rights, February 1982), 8-9, <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED222604>.
- “Destiny of Farmers depends on ‘Co-Ops’, English Union Hears,” *The Modern Farmer*, March 1, 1929, 1, <https://archive.org/details/modernfarmer1nati/page/n3/mode/2up>.
- "Dust Bowl 1931-1939," *Historic Events for Students: The Great Depression*, Encyclopedia.com, accessed March 8, 2021, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/education/news-and-education-magazines/dust-bowl-1931-1939>.
- Harris, Leon, “A Message To A Million,” *The Modern Farmer*, March 1, 1929, 2, <https://archive.org/details/modernfarmer1nati/page/n3/mode/2up>.
- Holley, Donald, "The Negro in the New Deal Resettlement Program," *Agricultural History*, 45, no. 3 (1971): 180, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3741977>.
- Hope II, John, "Rochdale Cooperation among Negroes," *Phylon (1940-1956)* 1, no. 1 (1st Qtr. 1940): 48-49, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/271171>.
- “Most popular websites worldwide based on the number of unique visitors via organic search visits in May 2020,” Statista, last modified August 2020, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/270830/most-popular-websites-worldwide/>.
- Reid, Debra “Truck Farming,” in *The World of Jim Crow America: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, ed. Steven A. Reich (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2019), 326 - 327.
- Roll, Jarod, ““The Lazarus of American Farmers’: The Politics of Black Agrarianism in the Jim Crow South, 1921–1938,” in *Beyond Forty Acres and a Mule*, eds. Debra Reid and Evan Bennett (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012), 139, <https://doi.org/10.5744/florida/9780813039862.003.0007>.
- Romer, C.D. and Richard H. Pells, "Great Depression," in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, September 10, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Depression>.
- “The Colored Farmers’ Vote,” *The Modern Farmer*, May 16, 1932, 4, <https://archive.org/details/modernfarmer1nati/page/n275/mode/2up>.