

## **HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY EXTENSION AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Decades of service to the community, support of extension programs and educational assistance to the citizens of Lee County began in 1915. Under the guidance of home demonstration agent Mrs. J. H. Henley, small groups of young ladies throughout the county began to form “tomato clubs”. The girls would plant 1/10-acre sites, grow tomatoes and then be taught to prepare the tomatoes for canning. They would get together at a home in the community and then process 100’s of cans of tomatoes for use throughout the winter. A comment about the tomato clubs by a mother of a club member provides a humorous insight into life in the early days extension service. Mrs. R. B. Coggins said “that the girls met at their house one day about 20 years ago and canned 500 cans of tomatoes under the direction of Mrs. Henley. The next day she and Mr. Coggins canned 99 cans and wanted to make it 100 cans but company came in and they had to stop”.

Soon after the formation of tomato clubs, other home demonstration agents introduced the concept of community centered home demonstration clubs for women. With the formation of the Tomato Clubs, the home agent taught how to produce and conserve tomatoes for home use and sale. The women’s programs broadened to the conservation of all foods. Food programs designed to teach good family health and weight control came next. The fireless cooker was introduced to aid in cooking and proofing yeast breads. A clothing program began with the making of uniforms for the girls in the tomato clubs. The clothing program was later expanded to teach the construction of Sunday dresses made from domestics and suits from fertilizer sacks. The clothing program further expanded to cover the gamut of care, construction, purchasing and planning for the family using material and man-made or synthetic fibers. In housekeeping programs advancements were made from laundering with wash tubs and wash pots to automatic washers and dryers. Care of floors evolved from the scrubbing of floors to the staining of floors with walnut hulls, and to the care of hardwood and composition flooring. Subjects soon expanded to broader programs in housing, management of family resources, business and legal facts and consumer education.

A refresher course in American history and technological advances can be achieved by studying the lists of activities and projects through the years.

### **1920**

Lemon Springs Home Demonstration Club, organized in 1920, is our oldest and was formed under the guidance of Lee Home Agent Miss Gertrude Little. The club disbanded for a few years then came back in 1929. A glance into the social graces of the ladies of the club is provided with the following description of one of their early presidents. Mrs. Riddle was described in the club notes in the following manner. “Mrs. Riddle was attired in a very beautiful handmade dress fashioned by her own hands, typical of the many beautiful garments she makes, for she is an artist in many fields of homemaking keeping pace with her husband who is very skilled in the art of furniture making.” The women of Lemon Springs took great

pride in carrying out many special projects for their fellow citizens. They began a long-standing tradition of support for the county agricultural fair and won many prizes when they entered their canned goods, baked goods and arts and crafts.

A wonderful description of the work of community clubs was included in an account of the Lemon Springs early history. “Throughout the years since the beginning, the clubs have always worked for the good of the club members and the entire county, always having for its aim to raise the standard of living morally, physically and spiritually”

In the mid 1920’s many rural homes received electricity. As a result, new comforts such as water and heating systems, electric stoves, freezer lockers, electric sweepers, electric refrigerators, washing machines and telephones began showing up in farm homes. The history of the educational projects of the various clubs illustrated the integration of these new electrical conveniences.

During these years, Club members also cooperated with the Lee County Health department by donating clothing and toilet articles for tuberculosis patients from Lee County at the State Sanatorium.

## 1922

Lee County’s Curb Market began around 1922 and was located at the corner of Chatham and Charlotte St. The farm women and their husbands brought their produce, eggs, butter and chickens to the market. Selling from the street proved to be unsuccessful. The market was discontinued in 1941. In August of that year the County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs, under the direction of Miss Cornelia Simpson, home agent, voted to try operating a market if a suitable building could be found. In September of that year the county commissioners granted the use of the auditorium of the courthouse annex. The sales were announced in the newspaper and the farm women wrote postcards to their town friends inviting them to shop at the market. A price committee was appointed and met with the county home agent each Saturday morning before the market opened to set prices on all items offered for sale that day. A fair price was determined by averaging current prices on similar products for sale in grocery stores and meat markets. Each Friday prices in local stores were collected by the home agent who presented them to the price committee. Prices were posted on a large blackboard and placed in the auditorium for all to see.

## 1926

Courthouse Home Demonstration Club was the second club to be organized in 1926. Although most of its members did not live on farms they still had gardens, chickens and in some cases a cow. “We wanted other things to make our homes better” one charter member said. They also wanted to help their community with projects such as visiting the sick, carrying fruits and candy to people in the county home, etc. They even held a “social” at a “farm ladies” house to have lunch and go out to chop her cotton. As with all of the clubs, they participated in the county fair.

One of their long-standing projects was to serve as hostesses at the courthouse for special events.

## 1929

From 1926-1929 Lee County was without a home agent. The newspaper reported “the people of Lee County felt the need for home demonstration work and only by repeated efforts on the part of farm women and State College workers a meeting was held before the Board of County Commissioners to ask for another home agent for the county. After much discussion, the county commissioners agreed to allow the women of the county another home agent. The board wanted to help conditions in the farm homes of Lee County since agriculture had not prospered as it was thought it should have in this section of the state.” Miss Cornelia Simpson became the Agent and served in that role until 1942. In 1929 Miss Simpson immediately supervised the formation of 8 new clubs: Broadway, Big Springs, Buffalo, Carbonton, Tramway, Oak Grove, St Andrews and Pocket. During her tenure of 13 years, 19 home demonstration clubs were formed with a membership of over 662.

The Broadway Home Demonstration Club, formed in 1929, chose as its main focus food and nutrition. Another special love of the club members was conducting programs to improve yards in the town of Broadway. They worked on many projects to educate people in planting and caring for shrubbery and growing vibrant and colorful flower gardens. For many years they sponsored the “Broadway Tour of Yards.” Like the other clubs, they participated in support of the county fair where they decorated fair booths and exhibited quilts and “fancy work”. During the 1930’s, they sent plates of food to the undernourished school children. The club was disbanded during the late thirties because of the depression but reorganized in the mid forties with a new emphasis on canning, cooking, sewing cloth and freezing.

Big Springs Home Demonstration Club organized in 1929 and was active until 1936. In 1940 the club reorganized. The focus of the club at this time was “Sons To Service”. The Big Springs Club with a membership 29 members gave 27 sons to the armed services World War II. Of this number, all returned home with the exception of two who paid the supreme sacrifice. With this number of sons from the club fighting in the war, members were very active in helping the war effort. During this time the new Home Agent, Mrs. Pearl Peebles’s husband was in the service as a pilot in England. With her zeal, the war work was carried on with vigor.

Also formed in 1929 were the Tramway Home Demonstration Club and the Pocket Home Demonstration Club. Both can trace their history back to the formation of tomato clubs by Mrs. J. H. Henley. The women of the Tramway Club placed great emphasis on competition in the county fair for prizes. They listed in their notes the many ribbons and monetary prizes they were able to win. They held “good neighboring” quilting parties for women who needed help. The Club purchased its own hospital bed and loaned it to families in the community who were in need. They volunteered many hours in assisting families in their community who were going through difficult times. They counted their personal blessings and carried out many activities to improve each day of life for their friends and their families.

The Pocket Home Demonstration Club chose during its early years to select several projects to emphasize throughout the year. Some of these were food preparation, canning and baking,

clothing and sewing, hat remodeling, kitchen sanitation and furniture refinishing. Much of the work of the Pocket club centered around supporting Pocket Presbyterian Church. Members provided hours of volunteer work to better the life of all of their neighbors.

The Oak Grove Home Demonstration Club (later the Shallow Well Home Demonstration Club, 1937) was formed in 1929. Club members had a special “knack for using sacks” and made all types of clothing such as suits for men, women and children, purses, underwear, shirts, summer coats and dresses.

The St. Andrews Home Demonstration Club formed just before the depression hit. Members of this club focused on making high-grade cotton mattresses and teaching others to use the new process of pressure canning. Members also worked to obtain electricity for their homes and community.

## 1930

In the thirties home demonstration work centered on canning schools, keeping people “food minded” and because of the recession the clubs taught courses on renovation of apparel on hand. They also gave educational presentations on the electrification of homes.

The size and scope of all of the community clubs work changed in 1930 when the first county council was formed. The council was and is now comprised of all officers of local clubs as well as the elected council officers. At the first meeting, a group of mothers, wives and homemakers met to establish the County Council, officially the Lee County Home Demonstration Clubs. They began a time-honored tradition of partnering with the county’s extension staff to help educate women throughout the county in ways to improve their family’s quality of life. In addition to education projects, the clubs began a long-standing tradition of community service projects aimed at the entire county.

During the era of the thirties, many of the clubs began collecting funds to build or renovate clubhouses in their community. The purposes of these club houses were for community meetings, social events and the home demonstration programs. Club women took great pride in collecting funds, recruiting labor and materials from community members and in furnishing and decorating the community buildings. Home Demonstration members were resourceful in obtaining club houses. School buildings, church facilities and even a donated office building were converted to community club houses. Many of these buildings still stand today.

One example was the building of the Dignus Home Demonstration Club house on property donated by a member. For the building, a log cabin style and a massive stone chimney was chosen. Members raised money from baked sales and serving meals to civic clubs. When the club house was completed there was a cash outlay of \$350. The remaining cost of the labor and materials for the structure, which was valued at \$1000, was donated by members and their families. Husbands felled pine trees and brought them to the site. Men, women and children peeled the logs and worked together in the construction.

## 1934

The Colon Home Demonstration Club was formed in 1934. Members of the community went before the Lee County Board of Education and asked for the former Colon school building. The request was granted and included the use of 5 acres. A board of trustees was appointed and the building and land was deeded to them. They were allowed to have charge and use of the building so long as it was used as a community club house. The building was in bad repair and community members worked to raise funds and renovated the building. Once renovations were completed, the ladies of the community organized the Colon Home Demonstration Club.

## 1935

White Hill Club organized in 1935. This club was known as the “baby club” due to the large number of children who attended with their young mothers.

## 1940-1950

The forties projects were centered about dealing with World War II. Under the guidance of the Home Agent, club members were taught how to make cotton mattresses. They worked on the war emergency program and the victory garden project. They discussed trying to meet for joint reasons in order to conserve gas. A united war bond drive was conducted. Some fun in a difficult period by sponsoring singing and talent shows.

Accounts from their minutes show that the members of Highway 53 Home Demonstration Club members collected magazines, music instruments and horse shoes and delivered these to the wounded soldiers at Fort Bragg. They also wound yarn into balls and gave these to the Red Cross to be used in making sweaters for the soldiers. Money was donated to help furnish a room for soldiers at Fort Bragg. In 1956 the Club established a clubhouse library dedicated in memory of deceased members or a family member. A bible in the memory of Mrs. Hattie Faulk was the first book placed in the library.

With the end of World War II, farmers and their wives were able to turn their focus to producing farm products that were in much demand by city residents. Once more the curb market was organized and home demonstration members began to earn “pin money” to support their families.

Mrs. Barbara Alphin, a second generation club member of the Pocket Club recounts her memories of helping her mother, a founding member of Pocket Home Demonstration Club, prepare and sell at the curb market:

“Not long after World War II and victory was declared, my mother decided to start selling her excess produce for a profit. After all she and my father had two daughters at the University in Chapel Hill and two high schoolers at home.

After the selling of our tobacco crop the only income we had was from the sale of “organic grown” turkeys. They roamed the farm freely and roosted outdoors on a home built roost. We would “dry pick” (feathers pulled out, no water used) and “draw” (the internal organs removed) around 50 turkeys each Thanksgiving and Christmas to sell in town to the wealthy city folks. The income from the sell went a long way toward paying for college for all four of us children.

Mother was quite an entrepreneur and a very hard worker. She churned and made butter every other day. Her buttermilk was highly sought after for making biscuits. We raised our own chickens and hogs for their eggs and meat. We had no electricity at this time, so ice was unavailable. We kept our butter in the cellar under our house to keep it cool, along with the buttermilk and eggs. We had a large vegetable garden out back which she and we children worked in most days during the summer. Miss Doyle, the County Home Agent, encouraged my mother to start selling at the Lee County Curb Market, which was open every Saturday morning at the Courthouse Annex on Steele Street in Sanford. I was in the tenth grade in high school and a member of the Pocket 4-H Club. Mother and I would load her 1940 Ford early in the morning and head out the ten miles drive into Sanford. When vegetables were in season, we would pick them the evening before and load them along with any flowers that we had blooming in the yard at that time. During the fall Mother would stuff homemade sausage in bags made of cloth and air dry it in the smoke house along with hams, shoulders and fat back or side meat. Her customers wanted her home cured meat to cook with and make ham biscuits. Prior to the Market opening, Miss Doyle would price the items for sell on a blackboard so everyone sold their wares for the same price. The same ladies would sell every Saturday morning. We enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Worthy, Mrs. Batchelor, Mrs. Pickard and other farm people when we were not selling our wares. This was my first lesson in learning to meet the public and how to sell. These lessons proved helpful my entire adult life”.

## 1950

The fifties projects began to reflect the technological advances that occurred once the war was over. Clubs took on the tasks of helping keep roadways beautiful and clean and learned how to use the new electrical sewing machines. They focused on handicrafts and began to plan field trips to places like Penn Plantation, New Bern and Jug Town.

From Virginia Ellis, Lee County ECA 50 year member, as submitted by Carol Cameron Cox, second generation member and daughter of Ruth Cameron another 50 year member:

“Virginia Ellis and Ruth Cameron both belonged to the original Pocket Home Demonstration Club. When it folded, they joined Big Springs and upon that folding they joined Dignus Home Demonstration Club. When Dignus folded, Virginia joined Pocket's second home demonstration club. When it folded, she joined Lemon Springs Club and completed her 50 years as a club member. She is still a member of this active club. Ruth Cameron was also a 50 year member. Canning, later freezing vegetables they grew, was the most useful information they received. They learned different methods of sewing and remembered making clothes from chicken feed sacks. It took 3 sacks to make a dress. The Club meetings were held in the homes

of members or the extension office which was located in the Lee County Courthouse Annex. Some of the clubs, such as Dignus, had club houses where they met. The ladies often wore hats to the meetings and even learned how to make them. Memorable trips were taken with the Home Agent as tour guide. A special memorable one was to Charleston, S C. The clubs were not only learning experiences but served as the social segment of their lives which was the work at home, very few members had jobs outside the homes”.

## **1960**

In the late sixties, schools became full integrated. An especially important project in the late sixties was to help promote the merger of all Sanford and Lee County schools.

Early 1960 newspaper articles suggested the need for a Negro Home Economics agent in Lee County. Budget restraints prevented the county from having two home agents at this time. In 1966 home economics clubs officially desegregated and the two associations were joined and renamed the North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association.

During this time Miss Mary Estelle Doyle was the Home Agent. Her work focused on housing and home furnishings. When her retirement was announced in 1973 she cited the better bedding project and educational tours as two of the projects that have markedly increased the audience and the participation in home economics activities. Home economics clubs grew from 13 to 20 and 4-H Clubs increased from 3 to 14. During her tenure the home economics program saw the addition of two fulltime nutrition program aides. This program was the pilot to the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and recognized the fact that many families were not only poor but were suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Working as a team, Miss Doyle and her staff delivered food and nutrition programs and resources to low-income families with young children.

## **1970-1980**

In the early seventies, three new Lee County Extension Homemaker clubs were formed. They were the Wards Willing Workers, Tempting, and MCC Extension Homemakers clubs. This expansion allowed the home agent to reach many black families.

Projects for the seventies reflected some societal changes. Along with educational programs on how to buy a small appliance, clubs began to promote well being of county citizens through courses on protection against rape and how to perform CPR. The tradition of educational tours and field trips continued with trips to Mordecai house, state museums, trips to the world's fair in Knoxville, Tennessee and even a trip to Jonesboro, Tennessee for the national story telling contest.

In an effort to reach out to families not enrolled in club work, the Home Economics agent utilized the skills and knowledge of present homemakers to expand the outreach of educational

programs. A Memorandum of Understanding outlined a partnership with Extension Homemakers and the Extension home economics program. The Home Economics agent began to collaborate with other county agencies in assuring the needs of families were being met.

## **1980-1990**

The first push for recycling began in the eighties and club members collected and recycled paper, glass and aluminum cans.

In 1986 Lee County Extension Homemakers worked with farm women, not enrolled in club work, to begin the tradition of the Farm City Ladies Luncheon. Held the first Wednesday in December, the luncheon is designed to bring rural and urban women, business and homemakers, together in a venue of understanding the interdependency each has on the other. This event has attracted well over 100 women each year. The program focuses on an issue currently affecting families. The Extension Homemakers along with invited individuals submit recipes for a cookbook that is compiled each year and distributed at the luncheon. Many women joke they attend the luncheon primarily for the cookbook but quickly mention they enjoy the fellowship and the program. The Ladies luncheon continues today (2010) with the committee expanded to involve other women's organizations in the county.

## **1990-2000**

The last two decades of work by the County Council and its affiliated clubs has focused on ongoing projects around specific chosen areas. They have chosen family issues, leadership development, global relief programs and environmental concerns. In addition to these main areas of emphasis they continued to support educational programs such as testing for radon in the homes, educating potential volunteers about the Guardian Ad Litem program. An ongoing project was the support of the American Red Cross Blood Drives with members giving blood, recruiting others to donate blood, donating food for the volunteers, and hosting the "Gallon Blood Donor Banquets". Extension Homemakers worked with the home economist to offer classes in trunk refinishing, stress management, nutrition, cancer awareness and crafts. County wide projects in which all clubs were involved included the sale of gift-wrap as a fund raiser for their county scholarship, assisting with health fairs, cultural arts competition, Project Graduation, Lee County Fair and educational fair booths and providing lunch for volunteers working on Habitat for Humanity homes. Each year during Relay for Life, members provide refreshments for the survivor's tent plus give donations in honor or memory of members who have battled cancer. The time honor

Since 1985 until the present, the work of the clubs has been guided by Extension Agent Susan Conclin. She working with County Council leaders has provided support, direction and educational programs to club members as well as to the entire community. In addition Susan continued the practice of organizing educational trips to such places as Washington, DC,



Kentucky, South Carolina, Ohio, Vermont and Baltimore. Extension Homemakers served as hostess during these trips which were also used to recruit new members.

In the mid to late 1990's, Extension Homemakers began to offer more community educational programs targeted to specific groups. "Are You Ready" focusing on disaster preparedness was targeted to child care providers. "You're Out of Order" designed to teach parliamentary procedures was offered to appointed city and county boards, civic club and religious leaders and youth groups.

After many years of feeling the need for a new Extension Center, members lobbied for, raised funds, and contacted community members in an effort to secure funding for a new Center. Land was donated by Mrs. Ruby McSwain, a strong supporter of agriculture. The ground breaking for the Center was held on very hot Sunday afternoon. Extension and Community Clubs provided a bountiful feast of finger foods on the lawn of the Worthy House which is adjacent to the site of construction. The Lee County Extension Homemaker Council held the first organized meeting at the new facility under the trees of the Worthy House and in the shadow of the construction of the McSwain Center. Once complete in 2000, an open house was held for the Ruby and Ernest McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center in September. Extension and Community Club members, official hostesses for the Center, again provided refreshments.

Over the years many club members have served on the state and district level and have ably represented Lee County. Among those ladies who have served are Wilma Winsted, District President and State Parliamentarian; Sylvia Churchwell, Budget Coordinator, State CVU Chair and Parliamentarian, Carol Cox, District President; Carolyn Willett, District President and Treasurer; Ann Clarke, District Cultural Arts Coordinator; Anna Simmonds, District Cultural Arts Coordinator.

## **2000-2010**

Projects during the 2000 era have included support for the BreadBasket by contributing food and cooking meals, Relay for Life through refreshments and memorial donations, relief for Hurricane Andrew victims, "Toothpaste to Armenia", purchasing food replicas for the county agent, participating in the adopt a highway clean up project and chair backpacks for elementary school classrooms to name a few.

During the last twenty-five years, the clubs of Lee County have enjoyed the gift of having Susan Condlin serve as the Family and Consumer Science Agent. Susan came to Lee County as the Home Economics Agent after teaching high school in Fayetteville. In 2001 she was promoted to County Extension Director, the first female holding this role in Lee County. To date she continues as the ECA Liaison Agent.

In an effort to deliver educational programs and information Susan utilizes mass media and computer technology. New visibility was brought to the total Family and Consumer Sciences and ECA program through a weekly news column shared by other Extension Agents, TV and

radio spots. During the past years, ECA members have moved from slide shows and flip charts to powerpoint and webinar trainings under her direction.

Susan has worn many hats. Listed among her jobs should be van driver. On a fairly recent trip to Fayetteville, NC to see the Air Force Museum, the club members gorged themselves at a well-known restaurant serving a very large buffet with all types of foods. Finishing up her meal, Susan commented that she was so full she was afraid she would go to sleep driving the van home. From the back of the room one of the club members raised her hand and volunteered to drive everyone home to Lee County. There was only one problem...this particular club member was blind!

In 2008, the state organization again changed it's name to the NC Extension and Community Association (ECA). A new structure was unveiled at the state meeting that year. Under the capable guidance of Family and Consumer Sciences Agent/County Extension Director Susan Conclin, the Lee County ECA leaders spent the better part of 2009 redefining their county organization. Using state guidelines the county team developed bylaws that streamlined the county's organization making it less demanding while remaining an effective resource of leadership development.

As reflective across the state, the number of clubs in Lee County has diminished over the past years. Many members have aged out. In contrast to former members, younger homemakers are fully employed and have limited time when balancing work and family.

Of the existing clubs in 2010, the largest is the Hearts and Hands ECA/Quilters Guild which emphasizes quilting and needlework. Not only have club members participated in numerous service projects chosen by the county council, they have devised special programs to put their outstanding quilting and craft skills to good use. Among the many donations of items they have made is the ongoing gift of homemade quilts to needy organizations. They have given quilts to organizations such as S.A.F.E. of Harnett County, American Red Cross, Pregnancy Crises Center and the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center. Every two years the club sponsors a juried quilt show and fundraiser. They continue to seek out groups and organizations to share their hard work.

The Lemon Springs ECA Club, the oldest club starting in 1920, continues to focus on assessment of community and extension leaders' needs and thereby plan specific projects to help meet these needs. For example the Lemon Springs club has chosen to provide support for Greenwood school which is located in Lemon Springs. Members are always assisting students and teachers. They read to students, assist with the health-o-rama, gather and donate materials and supplies for individual classrooms and even provide landscaping for the school. A highly successful project has been the sewing of 100's of cloth chair backpacks in which student place books and supplies. The club has also adopted beginning teachers and assisted them in building their personal supplies.

In 2010 Lee County Extension and Community Association and the Lemon Spring ECA Club established an enhancement fund with the newly organized NC ECA Foundation at NCSU. In an effort to protect and grow their funds Lee County members were the first in the state to establish this account with the Foundation. Sylvia Churchwell, member of the Lemon Springs ECA Club, was elected the first president of the NC ECA Foundation.

## County Council

An assessment of the minutes of the Lee County Council yields a long list of projects. Many are long standing and on going from the first years to the present. Over the years the Council and Clubs have been avid supporters of the Lee County Agricultural Fair, now known as the Lee Regional Fair. ECA members serve on the Fair Advisory Board, assist the judges on judging day, support the diaper derby and volunteer during the cook-off events. They continue to enter exhibits and set up educational fair booths. They have won numerous prizes for their attractive and informative entries and won a multitude of ribbons for their canned goods, garden products, baked goods, sewing, arts and crafts, etc. Other ongoing projects have been to assist with the extension's "Report to the People", 4-H Environmental Field Day, Farm-City Banquet, Relay for Life. The list of accomplishments goes on and on.

Under the guidance of 39 different County Council presidents, a wide variety of projects formulated by the club have benefited hundreds of families. At one time membership in the home demonstration program was in the high 700s. Countless hours of hard work and devotion have been volunteered by these unselfish leaders.

### LIST OF FORMER COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Mrs. I. J. McNeil (Anniebelle)	Mrs. J. C. Watson	Mrs. Thomas Haeck
Mrs. S.V. Stevens, Sr.	Mrs. K.M. Wicker	(Lianna)
Mrs. R. L. Ross	Mrs. J.H. Worthy	Mrs. Jessie Thomas
Mrs. Bailey Gross	Mrs. Clarence Cameron	(JoAnn)
Mrs. Paul E. Stone, Sr. (Laura Sue)	(Eunice)	Mrs. Wilma Winstead
Mrs. John Luck (Lona)	Mrs. Joe Tally	Cathy Thomas
Mrs. C. C. Bridges	Mrs. Thomas Elton Buchanan	Carol Cox
Mrs. Nettie Mclean	(Genevieve)	Karen Lamm
Mrs. E. B. Faulk	Mrs. Earl Ballinger, Jr. (Estelle)	Wilma Winstead
Mrs. W. H. Brooks, Sr. (Miss Nanny)	Mrs. Roy Zimmerman	Anne McKoy
Mrs. John Parrish (Charlotte)	Mrs. Ralph Hunter (Marie)	Carolyn Willett
Mrs. Lessie Woolard	Mrs. R. B. Price (Jean)	Sylvia Churchwell
Mrs. H. C. Gilliam (Florence)	Mrs. Max Matthews (Bert)	Brenda Willett
Mrs. Cecil Cameron (Faye)	Mrs. W. E. McDougald (Grace)	Ann Clarke
	Mrs. G. C. Winstead (Wilma)	
	Mrs. Bruce Taylor (Mae)	

### CLUBS

The early organization of clubs was to have small clubs formed in small communities throughout the county. With the increase of transportation alternatives, the small clubs began to combine to form larger clubs. As a result the clubs were able to expand their communication to the entire county and to undertake large countywide projects. The list of names of clubs has lessened with time but the effectiveness has greatly increased. As time has passed the clubs have changed focus to specific topics in some instances.

## LIST OF ALL CLUBS

Cumnock	White Hill - Quail	Lemon Springs
Dignus	Ridge (1935)	St. Andrews
Hunt Springs	Hunt Springs	Thorpe
Shallow Well (formerly	Poplar Springs	MCC (Cameron Gove)
OakGrove HD Club)	Big Springs	Wards Willing Workers
Swanns	Buffalo	Owls Nest
Town and Country	Carbonton	Carr Creek
Young Homemakers	Deep River	Beaver Creek
Highway 53 (1933)	Cool Springs	Clearwater (1972)
Lee's Chapel (1952)	Hearts and Hands	Jonesboro (1973)
Morris Chapel (1952)	Quilters Guild	Leader Sharing (1972)
Highland	Court House (1926)	Garden Street (1973)
Pocket(1929)	Colon (1934)	Tempting (1973)
Osgood	Broadway	Tri River (1973)
	Tramway	Home Dems (1980)

Home Demonstration County Council (1930)

Dates noted are identified when the club first appeared on the county council minutes (1972-present), from club minutes, and club history documents we have in storage.

## LEE COUNTY HOME ECONOMIC/ FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENTS

AGENT	YEARS SERVED	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Mrs. J.H. (Mittie) Henley	1915	Focused on the formation of tomato clubs in the Tramway and Pocket communities.
Miss Gertrude V. Little	1916-1926	Laid the ground work for home demonstration work.
Miss Cornelia Simpson	1929-1942	In response to demand from county women, Lee County Commissioners agreed to allow the women of the county another home agent. She focus on teaching club members to do expert work in packing canned products, hat remodeling and starting the Lee County Curb Market.
Miss Hilda Sutton Blanton	1943-1944	

Mrs. Pearl Turner Peebles	1944-1945	Many home demonstration projects focused on the war work and supporting the soldiers.
Miss Gaynelle Hogan	1946-1948	
Mrs. Julia Alexander Hoyle	1948-1955	
Miss Lela H. Mueller	1955-1956	
Miss Monica B. Patterson	1956-1959	Title changed from home demonstration agent to County Home Economics Agent. Worked closely with the Agriculture Agent in delivering programs in communities.
Miss Mary Estelle Doyle	1960-1973	Focused on handicrafts workshop for increasing family income. Started EFNEP in Lee County in 1970.
Mrs. Faye Thorpe Coats	1973-1985	Program areas focused on housing, basket weaving and crafts and educational trips.
Mrs. Susan C. Condlin	1985 - PRESENT	Program areas have focused on the NoonLiting, food preservation, food safety for restaurants, and family budgeting. Became the County Extension Director in 2001.

**As we continue....**

In the beginning, home demonstration agents such as Mrs. J. H. Henley, taught us how to can tomatoes. Additionally agents organized clubs in which members homemaking skills were enhanced. Women learned to repair and refinish furniture, decorate their homes, how to preserve food, clothing construction, repurposing material for home decorating, landscaping to beautify their homes, money management and ways to increase family income through cottage industries.

Currently families are in need of similar educational programs. Global and economic times have resulted in programs such as food safety and preservation, indoor air quality

and energy savings, health and well being, financial management, record keeping and estate planning, and basic cooking and sewing classes. In addition program efforts are focusing on the support local agriculture and the consumption of local food products.

Over the past 100 years, the programs of Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences and the Lee County Extension and Community Association have come full circle. The skills needed in the previous century have now resurfaced. In the beginning homemakers were taught the skills they needed by Extension agents. Now in an effort to reach all families, the ECA and the FCS agent work together to deliver much needed educational programs which strive to meet the needs of our families and communities.

As the state organization's name has changed from the N. C. Organization of Home Demonstration Clubs and the State Federation of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs of North Carolina to the N. C. Extension Homemakers Association, Inc. and currently the NC Extension & Community Association, Inc the devotion of local club members has not wavered. The membership rolls have also changed as generations of mothers, daughters and granddaughters have learned from each other, from their extension agent, and guest educators. They have spent many hours of social enjoyment as they have worked at hundreds of projects. They have worried about the citizens of Lee County and have looked for ways to minister to their needs.

As needs have been identified, Lee County ECA has proudly been devoted to serving our families as well as people around the world. As the club collect says, "May we strive to touch and to know the great, common human heart of us all, and oh lord God, let us forget not to be kind."

Written by Georgia Garner  
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