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ON THE HISTORY OF THE OHIO VALLEY SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Author(s): Dennis Terzola

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## ON THE HISTORY OF THE OHIO VALLEY SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DENNIS TERZOLA  
*Notre Dame University*

Professors E. E. Eubank of Cincinnati, C. C. North of Ohio State, and F. G. Detweiler of Denison, feeling the need of bringing sociologists of Ohio together for mutual encouragement and good fellowship suggested a breakfast to be held during the meeting of The American Sociological Society in Chicago, December, 1924. This breakfast was attended by sociologists from several Ohio colleges and universities. . .

This notation, from the records of the Secretaryship of Frederick G. Detweiler (1925-1928), reveals the first informal organizational meeting of the founders of The Ohio Sociological Society, predecessor of The Ohio Valley Sociological Society, Inc. A committee established at the above mentioned winter breakfast arranged for a general meeting of Ohio Sociologists to be held at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, the following year. As a result of the committee's action The Ohio Sociological Society was founded on April 4, 1925, at the society's first annual meeting. The gathering which inaugurated the society (hereinafter referred to as the O.S.S.) enabled those attending to partake in informal discussions as well as formal sessions following reports of research problems under investigation by various individuals. Because of the enthusiasm and enjoyment evidenced by those attending, it was decided to hold annual meetings thereafter, with the responsibility for arranging the following year's meeting delegated to the first and newly elected officers of the O.S.S., Newell L. Sims (Oberlin), President; Cecil C. North (Ohio State), Vice-President; and Frederick G. Detweiler (Denison), Secretary.

At the third annual meeting of the O.S.S. (1927), the society accepted the offer of the Ohio State University representatives to publish a mimeographed bulletin as the official organ of the O.S.S. The first issue was published May, 1927, under the title of *The*

*Ohio Sociologist* (1927-1938), predecessor of *The Ohio Valley Sociologist* (1938-1967) and *Sociological Focus* (1967-). In conjunction with this effort a new office was created, that of editor, with Herbert A. Miller (Ohio State) being elected to the post. In addition, the president, vice-president and incumbent of the newly created office of secretary-treasurer were appointed as an editorial board to cooperate with the editor in the management of the *Sociologist*.

During May, 1928, the Executive Committee met and defined the territorial limits and nature of the membership of the O.S.S. as Ohio colleges, normals and secondary schools. They also considered it advisable to include student members on an associate membership basis. Membership status was further defined by the first O.S.S. Constitution adopted on April 5, 1930. Therein, membership was categorized as: Regular, comprised of either the faculty of any institution in Ohio offering a degree equivalent to a Bachelor's degree, or, a regular member of the staff of a recognized research institution in the state of Ohio spending at least one-half of his research time in the field of Human Relations, or, any resident of the state holding a graduate degree in sociology; Associate, consisting of anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the society; Student, involving students of Ohio institutions as invitees of Regular members of at least Assistant Professorial standing.

For nearly a decade the society functioned as a small, relatively primary-like group of Ohio enthusiasts, retaining its local character and informal structure. At the 1935 O.S.S. winter breakfast meeting, however, the suggestion was made to expand the territorial limits of the society by including members from surrounding states. No conclusions were reached at that time and the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further evaluation. The suggestion was not met with universal approval, however, since "The caution was sounded against making the society so large that the delightful fellowship and personal contact which has characterized the Ohio meetings for a dozen years should be lost." (Minutes of the Annual Winter Breakfast of the Ohio Sociological Society, New York City, December 28, 1935). Despite the reluctance of some members, a committee was appointed the following year to investigate the probable response of other states to the suggestion of O.S.S. membership. Likewise, it was

agreed that current members might invite their friends in neighboring states to the next annual meeting (1937) as guests.

Paralleling the membership action was a proposal that the O.S.S. become a formal affiliate of The American Sociological Society. Since its inception the O.S.S. had conducted itself in cordial, but informal affiliation with the national group. Now, however, growing sentiment favored the need to establish the society as a formal, regional affiliate of the larger organization. Together, the organizational and membership proposals placed some degree of strain on the society as an informal group and precipitated much discussion among the members. Despite an air of reluctance by the membership, during 1937 the special committee appointed the preceding year recommended that:

In view of the strong tendency toward the organization of regional Sociological Societies in the U.S. and;

In view of the strength which would be derived from closer fellowship and professional contact with the Sociologists of neighboring states; and

In view of the interest in such an arrangement which has been expressed by a number of the leading Sociologists from those states;

*This committee recommends:* That the Ohio Sociological Society extend to the College and University Sociologists of Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania, an invitation to affiliate with us in a regional Sociological Society approximately corresponding to the area of the Ohio Valley. (Letter dated April 24, 1937, Records of the Secretaryship of Samuel C. Newman 1933-1937).

At the 1938 annual O.S.S. meeting the above cited recommendation was approved and carried. In addition, the name of the society was changed and thereafter officially entitled The Ohio Valley Sociological Society. After this action the society decided to make formal application to The American Sociological Society in re regional affiliation. As a result of the latter move, the O.V.S.S. was recognized as Chapter No. 3 of The American Sociological Society on June 16, 1938, and in 1941 gained representation on the Executive Committee of the national group.

The expansion of the O.S.S. into a regional society had all of the earmarks of a beneficial endeavor in terms of both quantity and quality of organizational development. The newly defined jurisdiction of the society promised the likelihood of an increasing

roll of active members and a more engaging level of professional discourse and interaction. Temporally, however, the society's reorganizational advancements were stifled almost from the beginning by the chaos emanating from the global confrontation of World War II.

Where earlier O.V.S.S. enthusiasts worked to build the society into a viable organization, the dedicated membership "on the home front" during W.W. II fought to sustain the society as a viable organization disrupted by the demands of the war effort. A major encumbrance imposed upon the society was the loss of members caused by both civilian and military manpower needs. As the war effort grew, an increasing number of O.V.S.S. members were either called into service or served in a civilian capacity in one of the numerous federal defense agencies. In addition, war needs placed great strain on public transportation and accommodation facilities. In light of this and in conjunction with the Office of Defense Transportation's restriction of non-vital conventions and conferences, the O.V.S.S. annual meetings were cancelled during 1943 and 1945 although a meeting was held during 1944.

The enthusiasm which had so characterized the society for nearly a score of years was maintained, however, despite these difficulties. One vital link that helped to hold the society together rested in the publication of *The Ohio Valley Sociologist*. Indeed, this was apparent even then:

The Editor of The OHIO VALLEY SOCIOLOGIST and the President had a conference recently on the affairs of the Society. We felt that the job of the officers under present circumstances is to maintain morale—a sense of "belonging" among our scattered members. It seems that the SOCIOLOGIST is the chief agency by means of which this can be done. (*The Ohio Valley Sociologist*, Vol. xv, No. 4, February, 1943, p.2).

After the war the society emerged as a healthy body thanks to the tireless efforts of those who remained behind and the extended arm of *The Ohio Valley Sociologist*. Continuing as a mimeographed bulletin, the *Sociologist* served as the principal means of communication by which the O.V.S.S. gradually recruited new members and returned to its rolls those members displaced during the war.

For nearly thirty years the *Sociologist* had preserved its informal format and style of presentation, when, in 1965 the O.V.S.S. established a Publication's Committee, and the *Sociologist*

published its first type-set, printed issue. At this time much emphasis was placed upon improving the quality of papers and articles presented, so that a scholarly journal might be offered some day rivaling those of other regional societies. Moving away from the strictly "News and Notes" informality of previous years, *The Ohio Valley Sociologist* sought to implement new features which might enhance the O.V.S.S. image in all areas of academic endeavor. In this respect, the June, 1966, edition (Vol. 31, No. 4) carried the winning graduate student seminar paper so adjudged by The Publication's Committee among those offered in competition. Then, in 1967, it was decided to expand the function of the Sociologist so that as much space as possible might be devoted to the publication of scholarly papers. Once again a change of format followed as well as a change of name of the *Sociologist* to *Sociological Focus*. Kent Schwirian (Ohio State University) served as editor for the transition. Whereas the *Sociological Focus* is now published as a scholarly journal, the O.V.S.S. still maintains the traditional information service in the form of a newsletter entitled *The Ohio Valley Sociologist* under the editorship of Dr. Shailer Thomas (Ohio State University).

As the characteristic enthusiasm of the society spread outward from the center to the periphery of the Ohio Valley region, an increasing number and degree of professional interests came to rest under the aegis of the O.V.S.S. During the late 1950's attention was drawn to a situation prevailing in several of the states which did or would require sociologically trained social psychologists to be certified in conformity with state legislation regulating the certification of psychologists. In response to this controversy, the O.V.S.S. Executive Committee promptly appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate and report on the situation as well as to indicate the best avenues available by which to approach the subject. As a result of this committee's action and in conjunction with the efforts of the A.S.A., A.P.A. and state organizations, the O.V.S.S. initiated a lobby to act on its behalf in the Michigan State Legislature, thereby attempting to gain an exemption provision for sociologically trained social psychologists from standing legislation dealing with the certification problem. During the spring session of the 1967 Michigan State Legislature such an exemption provision was passed and it is hoped that the implementation of

such will serve as a model and guide for future action in this regard throughout the nation.

Besides substantive action carried on by the society, the perennial question and excitement of organizational development still pervades O.V.S.S. thought. Recent years witnessed suggestions relating to the possibility of O.V.S.S. incorporation in the hope of fostering the society as a legal entity able to qualify for the benefits of research grants. After reviewing the entire question of corporate status in terms of the benefits that it would provide to the O.V.S.S. constituency, a special committee recommended positive action to be taken which resulted in the incorporation of the society on April 3, 1968.

In addition to intraorganizational activity and growth, the O.V.S.S. maintains a keen devotion to a strong and meaningful relationship with the A.S.A. During the years of debate and work which culminated in the reorganization of the A.S.A. and the adoption of a new constitution by the national group during 1967, the O.V.S.S. played a responsible role in encouraging and advising measures which would promote wide and equitable participation in the affairs of the A.S.A.

Lastly, after several years of discussion, the 1969 annual meeting marked the first joint meeting with the Midwest Sociological Society. This event, marking the forty-fourth anniversary of the O.V.S.S. in its role of active sociological leadership, promises to provide a significant contribution to the profession and members alike.

**OFFICERS OF  
THE OHIO SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND  
THE OHIO VALLEY SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Officers are designated numerically as follows: (1) President; (2) Vice-President; (3) Secretary-Treasurer; in those years when secretary and treasurer are exclusive offices (\*-so designating), (3) Secretary; (4) Treasurer; (5) Editor of the official publication of the O.S.S. and O.V.S.S. known successively as *The Ohio Sociologist*, *The Ohio Valley Sociologist*, and *Sociological Focus*.

*The Ohio Sociological Society*

- 1925-1926: (1) Newell L. Sims, Oberlin College  
(2) Cecil C. North, Ohio State University  
(3) Frederick G. Detweiler, Denison University
- 1926-1927: (1) Earle E. Eubank, University of Cincinnati  
(2) J.E. Smith, Hiram College  
(3) Frederick G. Detweiler, Denison University
- 1927-1928: (1) Charles J. Bushnell, University of Toledo  
(2) James A. Quinn, Denison University  
(3) Frederick G. Detweiler, Denison University  
(5) Herbert A. Miller, Ohio State University
- 1928-1929: (1) Frederick G. Detweiler, Denison University  
(2) Issac E. Ash, Ohio University  
(3) James A. Quinn, University of Cincinnati  
(5) Herbert A. Miller, Ohio State University
- 1929-1930: (1) Issac E. Ash, Ohio University  
(2) M.N. Chatterjee, Antioch College  
(3) James A. Quinn, University of Cincinnati  
(5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1930-1931: (1) Cecil C. North, Ohio State University  
(2) Charles W. Coulter, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(3) Simeon H. Bing, Ohio University  
(5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University



- 1931-1932: (1) Charles W. Coulter, Ohio Wesleyan University  
 (2) Morris G. Caldwell, Ashland College  
 (3) Simeon H. Bing, Ohio University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1932-1933: (1) Herbert A. Miller, Ohio State University  
 (2) C. E. Gehlke, Western Reserve University  
 (3) Issac E. Ash, Ohio University  
 Archibald A. Johnston, Wooster College  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1933-1934: (1) Read Bain, Miami University  
 (2) Morris G. Caldwell, Ashland College  
 (3) Archibald A. Johnston, Wooster College  
 Samuel C. Newman, Oberlin College  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1934-1935: (1) J.E. Hagerty, Ohio State University  
 (2) C.W. Hertzler, Baldwin-Wallace College  
 (3) Samuel C. Newman, Oberlin College  
 and Ohio State University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1935-1936: (1) James A. Quinn, University of Cincinnati  
 (2) C. B. Gohdes, Capital University  
 (3) Samuel C. Newman, Ohio State University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1936-1937: (1) Archibald A. Johnston, Wooster College  
 (2) E.M. Hursh, Otterbein College  
 (3) Samuel C. Newman, Ohio State University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1937-1938: (1) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University  
 (2) Henry J. Jeddloh, Ohio University  
 (3) Frederick M. Zorbaugh, Ohio Wesleyan University  
 (5) Samuel C. Newman, Ohio State University
- The Ohio Valley Sociological Society
- 1938-1939: (1) J.E. Culter, Western Reserve University  
 (2) M.C. Elmer, University of Pittsburgh  
 (3) Guy W. Sarvis, Ohio Wesleyan University  
 (5) Samuel C. Newman, Ohio State University

- 1939-1940: (1) M.C. Elmer, University of Pittsburgh  
 (2) L. Guy Brown, Oberlin College  
 (3) Samuel C. Newman, Louisville  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1940-1941: (1) Charles R. Hoffer, Michigan State  
 (2) August B. Hollingshead, Indiana University  
 (3) John F. Cuber, Kent State University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1941-1942: (1) E. H. Sutherland, Indiana University  
 (2) Frederick M. Zorbaugh, Oberlin College  
 (3) John F. Cuber, Kent State University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1942-1944: (1) Guy W. Sarvis, Ohio Wesleyan University  
 (2) T.L. Harris, University of West Virginia  
 (3) I.V. Shannon, Ohio University  
 (5) Frederick E. Lumley, Ohio State University
- 1944-1946: (1) Lloyd A. Cook, Ohio State University  
 (2) W.F. Cottrell, Miami University  
 (3) J.M. Yinger, Ohio Wesleyan University  
 (5) P.P. Denune, Ohio State University
- 1946-1947: (1) James T. Laing, Kent State University  
 (2) Warren Dunham, Wayne State University  
 (3) Paul K. Hatt, Ohio State University  
 (5) Perry P. Denune, Ohio State University
- 1947-1948: (1) Perry P. Denune, Ohio State University  
 (2) Harry Best, University of Kentucky  
 (3) William F. Cottrell, Miami University  
 (5) John F. Cuber, Ohio State University
- 1948-1949: (1) William F. Cottrell, Miami University  
 (2) A.R. Lindesmith, University of Indiana  
 (3) H.O. DeGraff, University of Akron  
 (5) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University
- 1949-1950: (1) H. Warren Dunham, Wayne State University  
 (2) M.L. Jordan, Fenn College  
 (3) Harold M. Hayward, Marshall College  
 (5) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University

- 1950-1951: (1) Milton Yinger, Oberlin College  
(2) Roy J. Leevy, Purdue University  
(3) William H. Form, Michigan State University  
(5) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University
- 1951-1952: (1) William H. Form, Michigan State University  
(2) Clifford Kirkpatrick, Indiana University  
(3) Stuart N. Adams, Wooster College  
(5) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University
- 1952-1953: (1) Raymond F. Sletto, Ohio State University  
(2) S.H. Lowrie, Bowling Green University  
(3) Harold L. Sheppard, Wayne State University  
(5) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University
- 1953-1954: (1) Harold T. Christensen, Purdue University  
(2) Leonard C. Kercher, Western Reserve University  
(3) Harold A. Gibbard, West Virginia University  
(5) Christen T. Jonassen, Ohio State University
- 1954-1955: (1) Brewton Berry, Ohio State University  
(2) Wilbur B. Brookover, Michigan State University  
(3) J. Howard Rowland, University of Pittsburgh  
(5) Christen T. Jonassen, Ohio State University
- 1955-1956: (1) M.C. Elmer, University of Pittsburgh  
(2) Frank E. Hartung, Wayne State University  
(3) Gerard R. Leslie, Purdue University  
(5) Christen T. Jonassen, Ohio State University
- 1956-1957: (1) Edgar A. Schular, Wayne State University  
(2) Harold A. Gibbard, West Virginia University  
(3) Frank R. Weslie, Indiana University  
(5) Robert P. Bullock, Ohio State University
- 1957-1958: (1) J.E. Fleming, Kent State University  
(2) James McKee, University of Toledo  
(3) Marvin Sussman, Western Reserve University  
(5) Robert P. Bullock, Ohio State University
- 1958-1959: (1) Clifford Kirkpatrick, Indiana University  
(2) Howard Rowland, University of Pittsburgh  
(3) Marvin B. Sussman, Western Reserve University  
(5) Robert P. Bullock, Ohio State University

- 1959-1960: (1) Louis Schneider, Purdue University  
(2) Robert P. Bullock, Ohio State University  
(3) Butler Jones, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(5) Russell Dynes, Ohio State University
- 1960-1961: (1) Harold A. Gibbard, West Virginia University  
(2) Marvin B. Sussman, Western Reserve University  
(3) Butler A. Jones, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(5) Frank R. Westie, Indiana University
- 1961-1962: (1) Wilbur B. Brookover, Michigan State University  
(2) Frank Hartung, Wayne State University  
(3) Butler A. Jones, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(5) Russell Dynes, Ohio State University
- 1962-1963: (1) Marvin B. Sussman, Western Reserve University  
(2) Butler A. Jones, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(3) David T. Lewis, Miami University  
(5) Russell R. Dynes, Ohio State University
- 1963-1964: (1) Butler A. Jones, Ohio Wesleyan University  
(2) Roscoe Hinkle, Ohio State University  
(3) David T. Lewis, Miami University  
(5) Eleanor K. Caplan, Western Reserve University
- 1964-1965: (1) Karl Schuessler, Indiana University  
(2) Sidney Kaplan, University of Toledo  
(3) David T. Lewis, Miami University  
(5) Eleanor K. Caplan, Western Reserve University
- 1965-1966: (1) Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Michigan State University  
(2) David T. Lewis, Miami University  
(3) Ann G. Olmsted, Michigan State University  
(4) Melvin L. Defleur, University of Kentucky  
(5) J. Eugene Haas, Ohio State University
- 1966-1967: (1) James B. McKee, Michigan State University  
(2) William V. D'Antonio, University of Notre Dame  
(3) Ann G. Olmsted, Michigan State University  
(4) Melvin L. Defleur, University of Kentucky  
(5) Kent P. Schwirian, Ohio State University

- 1967-1968: (1) Delbert Miller, Indiana University  
(2) Dwight G. Dean, Denison University  
(3) Ann G. Olmsted, Michigan State University  
(4) Harwin Voss, University of Kentucky  
(5) Kent P. Schwirian, Ohio State University
- 1968-1969: (1) William V. D'Antonio, University of Notre Dame  
(2) Simon Dinitz, Ohio State University  
(3) Shailer Thomas, Ohio State University  
(4) Charles Westie, Central Michigan University  
(5) Kent P. Schwirian, Ohio State University
- 1969-1970: (1) Dwight G. Dean, Iowa State University  
(2) Frank Westie, Indiana University  
(3) Shailer Thomas, Illinois State University  
(4) Charles Westie, Central Michigan University  
(5) John Lindquist, University of Akron

**ANNUAL MEETINGS  
OF  
THE OHIO SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND  
THE OHIO VALLEY SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*The Ohio Sociological Society*

- ( 1) 1925-April 3, 4, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 2) 1926-April 2, 3, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 3) 1927-April 8, 9, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 4) 1928-April 6, 7, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 5) 1929-April 5, 6, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 6) 1930-April 4, 5, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 7) 1931-April 3, 4, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 8) 1932-April 8, 9, Delaware, Ohio  
(Ohio Wesleyan)
- ( 9) 1933-April 7, 8, Granville, Ohio  
(Denison University)
- (10) 1934-April 6, 7, Columbus, Ohio
- (11) 1935-April 5, 6, Columbus, Ohio
- (12) 1936-April 24, 25, Columbus, Ohio
- (13) 1937-April 23, 24, Columbus, Ohio
- (14) 1938-April 29, 30, Columbus, Ohio

*The Ohio Valley Sociological Society*

- ( 1) 1939-April 28, 29, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 2) 1940-April 26, 27, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 3) 1941-April 25, 26, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 4) 1942-April 24, 25, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 5) 1943-Annual meeting not held
- ( 6) 1944-April 28, 29, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 7) 1945-Annual meeting not held
- ( 8) 1946-April 26, 27, Columbus, Ohio
- ( 9) 1947-April 25, 26, Columbus, Ohio
- (10) 1948-April 23, 24, Columbus, Ohio

- (11) 1949-April 29, 30, Detroit, Michigan  
(Wayne State University)
- (12) 1950-April 28, 29, Columbus, Ohio
- (13) 1951-April 27, 28, Bloomington, Indiana  
(Indiana University)
- (14) 1952-April 25, 26, East Lansing, Michigan  
(Michigan State College)
- (15) 1953-April 24, 25, Columbus, Ohio
- (16) 1954-March 19, 20, Lafayette, Indiana  
(Purdue University)
- (17) 1955-April 29, 30, Cleveland, Ohio
- (18) 1956-May 4, 5, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- (19) 1957-April 26, 27, Columbus, Ohio
- (20) 1958-May 2, 3, Cincinnati, Ohio
- (21) 1959-April 17, 18, Columbus, Ohio
- (22) 1960-April 22, 23, Bloomington, Indiana  
(Indiana University)
- (23) 1961-April 21, 22, Cleveland, Ohio
- (24) 1962-May 4, 5, East Lansing, Michigan  
(Michigan State University)
- (25) 1963-May 3, 4, Toledo, Ohio
- (26) 1964-April 30-May 2, Columbus, Ohio
- (27) 1965-May 6, 7, 8, Lexington, Kentucky  
(University of Kentucky)
- (28) 1966-April 28-30, Dayton, Ohio  
(University of Dayton and Miami University)
- (29) 1967-April 27-29, South Bend, Indiana  
(University of Notre Dame)
- (30) 1968-May 2, 4, Detroit, Michigan
- (31) 1969-May 1-3, Indianapolis, Indiana