



THE GEOGRAPHICAL BULLETIN

The Geographical Bulletin

MAY
1989

Vol. 31
No. 1

GAMMA THETA UPSILON

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1989-1990

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The Geographical Bulletin of Gamma Theta Upsilon

The Geographical Bulletin is the publication of the international professional geographical organization, Gamma Theta Upsilon. The organization was founded in 1928 as a professional geography fraternity. Since its inception in 1970 *The Geographical Bulletin* has been an outlet for student work. Indeed many who have gone on through graduate training in geography have had the opportunity to see their first professional publication appear in this periodical. In the past few years the *Bulletin* has expanded to two issues per year reflecting an increased interest and contributions of both undergraduate and graduate students.

Editorial Policy

Contributions to *The Geographical Bulletin* of Gamma Theta Upsilon should follow the general specifications noted below:

1. All manuscripts should be double spaced on 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 11" paper with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " margins on all sides. Type on one side only. Submit two copies.
2. References are to be listed on separate pages in alphabetical order by author and double spaced. References should include date, title, journal, volume number and pages. Footnotes are to be avoided.
3. All tables and figures must be typed on separate pages, double spaced and referenced by Arabic numerals. Include a list of double-spaced table and figure captions.
4. All line drawings and tables must be in finished form ready for re-
- production. Maps must have scales and patterns which will tolerate reduction. All graphics and photographs must include titles, and figure and table numbers.
5. An abstract up to 150 words double spaced followed by up to five key words must be included on a separate page.
6. It is advisable, but not required to prepare your manuscript on a word processor so that corrections can be made accurately and rapidly.
7. It is suggested that student manuscripts be reviewed by a faculty member for editorial comments prior to submission.

Send all manuscripts to:
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If you are planning to change your residence or office in the near future, please remember to inform the Editor of *The Geographical Bulletin* at the above address.

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Gamma Theta Upsilon Scholarships

Gamma Theta Upsilon is pleased to announce the availability of two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to outstanding members of Gamma Theta Upsilon. One scholarship is awarded to a college senior to apply toward graduate school expenses, and the other is awarded to a continuing graduate student in geography. Applicants should have a good record of academic achievement in geography and service to their local or alumni Gamma Theta Upsilon Chapter. Deadline for application is August 1, 1989.

Further information and application forms are available from the First Vice President: Ms. Michal L. LeVasseur, Department of Geography, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620 (813) 974-2386.

Editorial Comments

The Old Homestead

Fred B. Kniffen

Whenever the student of primitive peoples studies a new tribe, he begins by examining the manner in which they supply man's universal needs: water, food, shelter, and the like. He knows that if he studies one family thoroughly, he will have the pattern for the whole tribe. For example, form of the house, the materials used, interior arrangement will vary from tribe to tribe, but within the tribe are practically identical.

In a less restrictive sense the same is true of our modern households. All the basic needs common to man the animal must be provided for. However, our great technical advancement over primitive peoples permits a variety of ways in which we shape our shelters, prepare our foods, and supply needs we were not even aware of a century ago. We have radio, TV, and kitchen appliances to perform tasks accomplished by hand when I was a lad. Let me illustrate by example.

As a boy in the first years of the century I lived in a modest village on the Lake Erie plain of southeastern Michigan. My father was a lumberman and quite well-off. Late in the last century he built the house I first knew. It may have been a little more pretentious than the average of the village homes, but the arrangement of rooms and their designated functions were those of the norm for the town.

In form the house was square, with two full stories and a low-pitched pyramidal roof, a form called *italianate*. The interior arrangement and functions of the rooms followed the pattern common to the village, known technically as the *hall-and-parlor* plan. The front door opened into the room on the left, the sitting room. To the right was the parlor, its use somewhat restricted. I think there was a downstairs bedroom back of the parlor. Stairs led to the several bedrooms and a storage garret on the second floor. Back of the sitting room was a small space called by my father, *butt'ry*, and my mother, *pantry*, containing linens, utensils, and condiments for the dining room just beyond to the rear. Across the whole back of the house was the kitchen-bathroom-laundry, with a big wood-fired cookstove and a hand pump, the sole

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source of water in the house.

Appended to the left side of the house and extending back was a large, roughly finished room, the woodshed. It served not only to hold wood for the sitting-room and kitchen stoves, but as well for general storage. There was an inviting storage space raised up on scaffolding, alas with no means of access for a curious little boy. On the other side, back of the kitchen was a "Michigan cellar," an excavation with the area of a small room that must have extended some six or seven feet into the ground. Access was restricted to a lockable door, more to exclude small people than to secure the milk, butter, eggs, and other perishables that it contained. This was the nearest approach to refrigeration, though we did have ice.

At a distance behind the house in splendid isolation sat the privy, and beyond a big barn, bigger than normal size to accommodate several horses, ranging from colts to old broodmares, to indulge my father's great passion. There was a milk cow and chickens, feed, and a loft full of hay. Slightly to the rear of the barn and to one side was the ice house, a tallish building with a vertical series of removable panels to match the level of the sawdust-packed ice inside. I think the ice may have been restricted to special usage, as for making ice cream, that it was not sufficient for daily use in refrigeration.

Our neighbors had a windmill for drawing water. If that was regarded as a special advantage, I don't know why we didn't have one. But we did have back of the barn a big vegetable garden, the usual fruit trees, and of course a grape arbor employing the old "Kniffen" method of training the vines. All this productivity portended the bustle of drying and canning that came with the harvest season.

In modern terms we lived primitively, with no phone, no running water, no

electricity. Light was provided by kerosene lamps, heat from the wood stoves in sitting room and kitchen. The kitchen water pump, the big stove, and a wash tub were the bathing facilities. Remember that this was the home of a well-to-do and indulgent man.

It is noteworthy that the only exhaustible resource used in meeting household needs was kerosene for the lamps. It is possible that whale oil was still available for that purpose.

We left Michigan and the old family home when I was nearly seven. I have returned to the community several times, but never had an opportunity to enter the old house. However, one day when no one was there I ventured into the yard. First, I noted wires coming from the street, doubtless providing phone and electricity. The mounting block for entering the carriage was gone, as were the privy and the magnificent barn, a victim of neglect I was told by a neighbor. New to me was a single-car garage set slightly back of the house.

The ice house was still there, partially collapsed and surely not functioning. I fancied that the woodshed had an air of dejection about it, condemned as it doubtless was to providing dead storage for articles no one wanted to see again but dared not throw away, and I imagined that the Michigan cellar had met the same fate. I didn't venture far enough back to inspect the garden plot and the orchard, for I'd seen quite enough.

I invite you to visit a rural village or an old farm and subject it to the scrutiny we've given the old homestead. What elements are obsolete, what added. Keep in mind that the basic functions remain the same, that the means of satisfying them changes. And if someone asks you what a geographer is accomplishing with such a child-like pursuit, you inform him that how man lives on the land is the first concern of geography.