

## Some Events in the History of the Rural Sociological Society

December <b>1937</b>	The <b>Rural Sociological Society of America</b> is formed out of the American Sociological Society's Section on Rural Sociology with a provisional constitution. <b>Dwight Sanderson</b> elected first president. The journal <b>Rural Sociology</b> is made the official publication of the Society ( <i>Rural Sociology</i> established December 1935, 1 <sup>st</sup> issue published March 1936). <b>Membership = 71 members.</b>
December <b>1938</b>	Permanent constitution is voted in using the current name of the <b>Rural Sociological Society</b> . <b>Mary Eva Duthie</b> is first woman to chair a standing committee of the RSS (Committee on Extension). <b>RSS Membership = 303.</b>
<b>1942</b>	Only year <b>RSS did not hold a national conference</b> (many professional organizations cancelled conferences due to war-related restrictions).
<b>1950</b>	<b>Robert Polson</b> is the first person employed in an Extension position to be elected President of RSS (1950-1951).
<b>1955</b>	<b>Margaret Jarman Hagood</b> is the first woman elected President of RSS (1955-1956).
<b>1962</b>	RSS changes constitution and governance to the current Council and standing committees structure.
<b>1964</b>	The <b>First World Congress of Rural Sociology</b> is held, organized by <b>The Committee for International Cooperation in Rural Sociology</b> with representatives from both RSS and the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS). The International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) is formed in 1976. <b>Glenn Fuguitt</b> is first president.
<b>1964</b>	One of several informal 'research committees' within RSS, the group that becomes the <b>Natural Resource Research Group (NRRG)</b> is established and leads to forming similar groups in both the ASA and SSSP.
<b>1973</b>	First issue of <b>NEWSLINE</b> is published. It is the first formal newsletter of the Society. Don Crider is editor.
<b>1976</b>	Informal research committees within RSS are given formal recognition and a new name: <b>Research Groups.</b>
<b>1980</b>	RSS changes constitution so that committee leadership positions are titled "chair" instead of "chairman."
<b>1980</b>	<b>NEWSLINE</b> become <b>The Rural Sociologist (TRS)</b> . Will Goudy is editor.
<b>1981</b>	Decision announced to replace the <b>RSS Monograph Series</b> with the newly created <b>Rural Studies Series.</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>Rural Sociology</b> celebrates its 50 <sup>th</sup> volume.
<b>1987</b>	The RSS celebrates its <b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> in Madison Wisconsin. August 11-15, 1987.
<b>1988</b>	The National Agriculture Library includes <b>The Rural Sociologist</b> in its holdings ensuring long term public access to the publication.
<b>1989</b>	First proposal that the RSS Membership Directory include <b>email addresses</b> is made at the 1988-1989 mid-year Council meeting (called "bitnet" addresses at that time).
<b>1990</b>	The <b>RSS Taskforce on Persistent Rural Poverty</b> , chaired by Gene Summers, is announced. <i>Persistent Poverty in Rural America</i> is published in 1993.
<b>1996</b>	RSS announces its <b>first organizational website</b> . Designed by <b>Charles Tolbert</b> and <b>Len Bloomquist</b> at <b>Louisiana State University</b> , it was hosted at the LSU Population Center.
<b>1997</b>	<b>Diversity Committee</b> moved from ad hoc to a standing committee of RSS.
<b>1998</b>	First person to use the newly created membership category " <b>Lifetime Member</b> " is announced.
<b>1999</b>	<b>Ann Tickamy</b> is the first woman to serve as editor of the journal <i>Rural Sociology</i> (1999-2002).
<b>2001</b>	<b>Ken Pigg</b> appointed under new business model (professional managerial approach) to oversee the RSS.
<b>2006</b>	First issue of <b>Rural Realities</b> is published: "At the Razor's Edge: Building Hope for America's Rural Poor" written by Leif Jensen.
<b>2008</b>	Newest research/interest group is formed: <b>Rural Studies RIG</b> . Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Interest Group ( <b>SAFRIG</b> ) celebrates it's 30th anniversary.
<b>2009</b>	<b>Ralph Brown</b> appointed first RSS <b>Executive Director</b> , further moving the RSS business structure to a professional managerial model.
<b>2012</b>	<b>RSS celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.</b>