



Supporting Question and Formative Performance Task I:

The New South Era: Redefining Women's Roles

The New South Era: Redefining Women's Roles

SQ/FPT 1: Assessing the roles and expectations of women during the New South Era.

Supporting Question 1: What were the new roles for women during the New South era?

Formative Performance Task 1: Describe at least one way in which women's roles changed during the New South era. Cite at least one piece of evidence from the primary sources to support your description.

Identify Similarities

Read the "Main Ideas" from each biography and identify new roles women were taking on during the New South era. Underline or write them down. Roles can include differing jobs, organizations, volunteer work, and education level of each of the three women.

- Consider how these roles are similar but also different for the differing women.
- Consider how the roles these women filled may have been different than their mothers' or grandmothers' roles during the Civil War or Reconstruction era.

Assessment: Respond to the supporting question. Describe at least one way in which women's roles changed during the New South era. Your descriptions should include evidence from at least one source.

The New South Era: Redefining Women's Roles

STELLA AKIN

STELLA AKIN was born in Savannah, Georgia, on December 25, 1897, the daughter of Anne Ross and Joseph Marion Akin. She is a niece of the late State Senator L. R. Akin, of Brunswick, Georgia, who was one of the most influential and constructive citizens of the southeastern portion of the state.

Miss Akin was admitted to the practice of law in Georgia in 1917—the first woman to be admitted in Savannah and the second in the state. She also was the first woman to be admitted in the Southern Division of the United States District Court of Georgia. At present she is actively and most successfully engaged in the practice of her profession in Savannah, as an associate member of the firm of Hitch, Denmark & Lovett.

Miss Akin has demonstrated clearly, even thus early in life, that women may achieve distinct and gratifying success at the bar.

Miss Akin is deeply interested in the civic clubs of Savannah and Chatham County. She was the first secretary of the Georgia League of Women Voters, and is an ex-president of the Georgia Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; she is an ex-vice-president of the National Federation and an honorary president of the Savannah Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

As a vice-president of the National Democratic Victory Club in the presidential campaign of 1924, Miss Akin rendered splendid service to the National Democratic Committee, for which she was thanked. She is a member of the Savannah Federation of Women's Clubs and the Huntington Club.

In 1923, Miss Akin was made an honorary member of the Henderson, Kentucky, bar; in 1918, she was admitted to membership in the Georgia Bar Association, thus taking her place as the first woman in the history of Georgia to write her name upon the Association's roll of membership. She delivered an address before that body in 1923, on "Woman's Participation in Public Life."

During the World War, Miss Akin served on the legal advisory board of Chatham County, and was an active four-minute speaker for the Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives. Her home is in Savannah.

[Page 9]

Source: "Stella Akin." In *Prominent Women in Georgia*, from the papers of Lallie Dozier Benkoski (b.1926), MS 1691 (1905-2003), Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

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Main ideas from “Stella Akin” in the book *Prominent Women in Georgia*

Miss Akin was admitted to practice law in Georgia in 1917—the first woman to be admitted in Savannah and the second in the state.

She was the first secretary of the Georgia League of Women Voters.

She served as the vice-president of the National Democratic Victory Club in Savannah during the presidential campaign of 1924.

In 1918 she was admitted to the Georgia Bar Association, thus taking her place as the first woman in the history of Georgia to become a member.

During the World War, Miss Akin served on the legal advisory board of Chatham County, and was an active speaker for the Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives.



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Lugenia Burns Hope, *Black Southern Reformer*

schoolgirls in Atlanta, yet she and her cohorts were informed that the decision to create a Black branch in Atlanta was not to be left to Black women, nor would Hope and her associates be allowed to choose a site for any Black branch that was permitted.¹

Outraged, Hope's network of women became determined to put Blacks on an equal footing with whites in the YWCA. Demanding more sensitivity to local needs, they clarified for all concerned the principles on which work in their communities should be based. They insisted that Black delegates at the 1915 meeting had not approved of a policy that limited a Black branch's progress to the determination of the local white women. These educated, elite, middle-class Black women scoffed at the inference that they were incapable of choosing or serving as leaders. They decried the idea of southern white women directing Black community work. Hope challenged the competence of the field supervisor and charged her with excessive arrogance.² Hope and her associates petitioned to have southern colored work directed from national headquarters, to get Black representation on local committees and the National Board, and to acquire for Blacks the right of self-determination over their branches. Hope asserted that Black women should demand outright independent branches, responsible only to the National Board. She threatened that southern Black women would return to their churches and independent organizations before they consented to have southern white women, who knew absolutely nothing about them, controlling Black branches. Obstinate in its drive for self-determination, this group of southern Blacks continued for years to confront the Jim Crow policies of the YWCA.³

Lugenia Burns Hope began early on the career of community activism that would eventually distinguish her as a Black reformer. During her adolescent years in Chicago she worked with several charitable agencies, including Jane Addams's Hull House. She carried this involvement to Nashville, Tennessee, when as a new

• 2 •

The Southern Network

bride she accompanied her husband—leading Black intellectual and eventual college president John Hope—to Roger Williams University, where he was then an instructor. There she conducted classes in arts and crafts and in physical education for the female students. Within a year the Hopes moved again, this time to Atlanta. Soon after arriving, she became a member of the group of women who were working to provide day-care centers for the children of the West Fair community. This core group later became the founders of the Neighborhood Union, the first female social welfare agency for Blacks in Atlanta. For twenty-five years she led this agency in providing medical, recreational, educational, and civic services in Atlanta's Black communities. By 1930 the structure and policies of Hope's Neighborhood Union had been adopted by Haiti and Cape Verde in their efforts at community building.

During World War I, Hope, like other southern Black women as a group, responded wholeheartedly to the war effort. She and the Neighborhood Union conducted the YWCA's Atlanta War Work Council for Black soldiers. They petitioned for better police protection, access to public facilities, and the creation of more recreational centers. Hope's success at directing the Atlanta work led to her promotion to the position of national supervisor of the YWCA's Black hostess-house program, which provided recreational facilities for soldiers and centers for their families.

As a "race woman"⁴ Hope worked to bring equality for all Americans through the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), the YWCA, the Urban League, and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation (later the Southern Regional Council); in conjunction with Jessie Daniel Ames, she also worked with the all-white Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching (ASWPL). She was, additionally, a member and/or official of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the National Association of Colored Graduate

• 3 •

Source: *Lugenia Burns Hope: Black Southern Reformer* by Jacqueline Anne Rouse. Athens, Georgia: UGA Press, 2004.

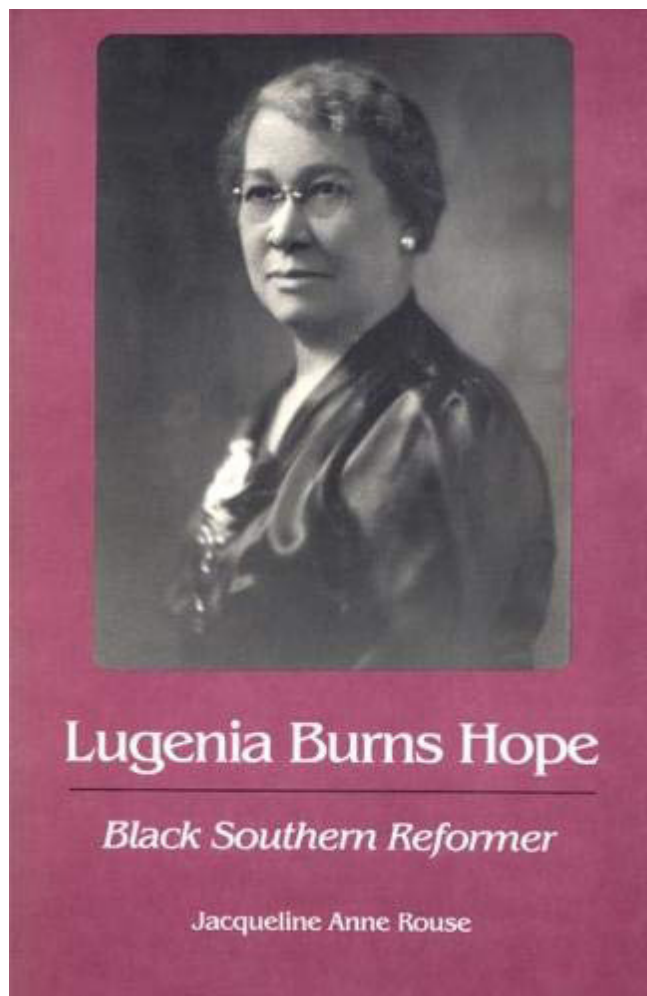
The New South Era: Redefining Women's Roles

Main ideas from *Lugenia Burns Hope: Black Southern Reformer* by Jacqueline Anne Rouse

Lugenia Burns Hope (1871-1947) began her career of community activism early and would eventually distinguish herself as a Black reformer. During her adolescent years in Chicago she worked with several charitable agencies.

Soon after arriving [to Atlanta], she became a member of the group of women who were working to provide day-care centers for the children of her community. This group later became the founders of the Neighborhood Union [1908], the first female social welfare agency for Blacks in Atlanta. For 25 years she led this agency in providing medical, recreational, educational, and civic services in Atlanta's Black communities.

During World War I, Hope like other southern Black women, responded wholeheartedly to the war effort. She and the Neighborhood Union conducted the YWCA's Atlanta War Work Council for Black soldiers. They petitioned for better police protection, access to public facilities, and the creation of more recreational centers.



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NOTE. This brief personal sketch will appear under your name in the next edition of WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA. If any important fact (conformable to the plan of the book) has been omitted it is because the information has not been furnished to the editor, and it should be supplied herewith. All blank spaces should be properly filled in. Please be sure to see that the name is given in full and correctly spelled. Kindly revise and return at once.

Return to A. N. MARQUIS & COMPANY, 440-2 Dearborn St. South, Chicago, Ill.

LONGSTREET, Helen Dortch (Mrs. James Longstreet), author; b. Franklin Co., Ga.; d. James Speed and Mary (Pulliam) Dortch; ed. Brenau Coll., Gainesville, Ga.; m. in Executive Mansion, Atlanta, Ga., Gen. James Longstreet, of the Confederate Army, Sept. 8th, 1897 (died 1904). Editor weekly and early polit. newspapers in Ga.; asst. state librarian of Ga., by appmt. of Gov. William Y. Atkinson, 1894-7 (1st woman in Ga. to hold office under State Govt.); apptd. postmaster of Gainesville, Ga., by Pres. Roosevelt, 1904, reapptd. by him, 1908, and confirmed by U.S. Senate without reference to com., serving until 1913; had supervision of erection of post-office bldg. at Gainesville, and was apptd. disbursing agt. by Sec. of Treasury, for constrn. of the bldg. Leader in fight for recovery by State of Tallulah Falls, Ga., which had been appropriated by a water-power co.; pres. Tallulah Falls Conservation and Parking Assn. Progressive. Roman Catholic. Author: Lee and Longstreet at High Tide, 1904; Following Bugles of the War over America's Battlefields, 1915; Anahuac, Land of Wrecked Dreams, 1915. Home: Bradley Beach, N. J.

Source: Biographical sketch for *Who's Who America* 1915, from the papers of Helen Dortch Longstreet (b. 1863), MS 1341(1904-1941), Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

The New South Era: Redefining Women's Roles

Main ideas from a biographical sketch of Helen Dortch Longstreet for *Who's Who America* in 1915 published by A. N. Marquis & Company

Educated (ed.) Brenau Coll., Gainesville, Ga.

Editor of weekly and early political newspapers in Ga.

Asst. State Librarian of Ga., by appointment of Gov. William Y. Atkinson, 1894-1897 (1st woman in Ga. to hold office under State Govt.)

Apptd. Postmaster of Gainesville, Ga. by Pres. Roosevelt, 1904-1913.

Leader of the fight for recovery by State of Tallulah Falls, Ga., which had been appropriated by a water-power co. [Georgia Power].

Author: *Lee and Longstreet at High Tide*, 1904

