

*Special Collections/Archives Department
John B. Coleman Library
Prairie View A&M University*

UA 0020

Iola Rowan Papers

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Collection Overview**Creator:** *Prairie View A&M University***Title of Collection:** Iola Rowan Papers**Dates:** 1932-1946**Abstract:** Iola Winn Rowan was one of the first professional home demonstration workers in Texas. She was the Dallas County home demonstration agent from 1927 to 1930. The Iola Winn Rowan Papers contain correspondence documenting her activities as a home demonstration agent in Texas from 1932 to 1946.**Extent:** 0.5 linear feet**Access Restrictions:** Collection is open for research**Identification:** UA 0020**Use Restrictions:** Written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from any materials in this collection.**Language:** English**Repository:** Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University**Biographical Note:**

Iola Winn Rowan was one of the first professional home demonstration workers in Texas. She was the Dallas County home demonstration agent from 1927 to 1930; state supervisor of home demonstration agents from 1931 to 1946; and superintendent of the Brady State School for Delinquent Girls from 1946 to 1948. Along the way she found time to be president of the Texas Association of Colored Women's Clubs (1947-51), and in 1957 was elected vice president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Born on October 20, 1896, to H.D. Winn and Ida M. Routt in Chappell Hill, Texas, Iola Winn Rowan graduated from high school at the Mary Allen Seminary. In 1931, she earned a Bachelor of Science in home economics from Prairie View College, which offered several programs for home demonstration agents, such as gardening, cooking, sanitation, disease prevention, care of livestock and poultry, and mattress making. Upon graduation, Rowan became the state's second superintendent for Black home demonstration agents, succeeding Mary Evelyn Hunter, and she organized dozens of home demonstration clubs.

In 1933, Black home economics delegates from Texas HBCUs decided to hold a convention at Dallas's Adolphus Hotel. Due to racial segregation, they were ushered through the basement to the freight elevator. Rowan and her peers refused to accept such treatment and left the premises immediately. The delegates instead convened at the home of Mrs. H. D. Winn, Iola Rowan's mother. . Even though the management of the Adolphus asked them to return to the hotel, the group decided to go home instead. This was but one of the incidents that inspired Rowan to play an active role in the NAACP, the Texas Social Welfare Association, and the Dallas United Nations Association.

Under her leadership, more than 15,000 Dallas women had participated in home demonstration sessions by 1937. Rowan also completed the requirements for a Master of Science degree in rural sociology, but she did not write a thesis. Moreover, she went onto study at Wilberforce University and the Wiley Extension School. Her tenure at the extension service ended in 1946, but she still had much work left to do.

On October 1, 1946, Rowan became the first superintendent of the Brady State School for Delinquent Girls, and students were first admitted the following February. Even though the school had been established in 1927 by act of the 40th Texas Legislature, the necessary appropriations were not made until 1945. The 49th Legislature provided for the operation of the school, which opened in a former prisoner-of-war camp about two miles east of Brady, in McCullough County. It opened with a staff consisting of superintendent Rowan, a secretary, three housemothers, a graduate nurse, and an assistant. Rowan stepped down as superintendent in June 1948. Rowan died on April 23, 1968, and she was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Dallas, Texas.

Scope & Contents: The Iola Winn Rowan Papers contain correspondence documenting her activities as a home demonstration agent in Texas from 1932 to 1946. It also includes some letters related to women's clubs and agricultural extension services.

Arrangement: We arranged the collection in two series by function, format, and chronologically by date.

Series 1	Correspondence, 1932-1946
Series 2	Booklets

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Iola Rowan Papers, UA0020, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Subject Terms:

Agricultural extension work--Texas
 Texas Federation of Colored Women's Clubs
 Prairie View University. Agricultural Extension Service
 Negro Extension Work
 Texas Better Homes in America Committee
 Giddings (Tex.)
 Rowan, Iola Winn (1896-1968)
 African American women—Texas

Inventory

Series 1 Correspondence

Contains typed and handwritten correspondence related documenting the daily work activities of home demonstration agents in Texas, agricultural extension services including the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs and the Better homes program.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence, December 1932
1	2	Correspondence, January–May 1933
1	3	Correspondence, June–December 1933
1	4	Correspondence, January 1934
	5	Correspondence, February 1934
	6	Correspondence, March 1934
	7	Correspondence, April 1934
	8	Correspondence, May 1934
	9	Correspondence, June 1934
	10	Correspondence, July 1934
	11	Correspondence, August 1934
	12	Correspondence, September 1934
	13	Correspondence, October 1934
	14	Correspondence, November 1934
	15	Correspondence, December 1934
	16	Correspondence, November 1935
	17	Correspondence, April 1937
	18	Correspondence, June 1938
	19	Correspondence, January 1939
	20	Correspondence, May 30, 1940
	21	Correspondence, 1941
	22	Correspondence, 1942
	23	Correspondence, February–March 1943
	24	Correspondence, May 10, 1943
	25	Correspondence, June–July 1943
	26	Correspondence, August 1943
	27	Correspondence, October 1943
	28	Correspondence, November 1943
	29	Correspondence, December 1943
	30	Correspondence, January–February 1944
	31	Correspondence, March 1944
	32	Correspondence, April 1944
	33	Correspondence, April 1943
	34	Correspondence, May 1944
	35	Correspondence, June 1944
	36	Correspondence, July 1944
	37	Correspondence, August 1944
	38	Correspondence, September 1944
	39	Correspondence, October 1944
	40	Correspondence, November 1944
	41	Correspondence, December 1944

- 42 Correspondence, January-February 1945
- 43 Correspondence, March 1945
- 44 Correspondence, April 1945
- 45 Correspondence, June 1945
- 46 Correspondence, September-November 1945
- 47 Correspondence, December 1945
- 48 Correspondence, March 1945
- 49 Correspondence, April-July 1946
- 50 Correspondence, September-November 1946

Series 2 Booklet

- 1 51 Bedding Manual for Professionals, May 4, 1941