

9-3-2013

Lyda Judson Hanifan

Roger A. Lohmann

West Virginia University, roger.lohmann@mail.wvu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty_publications

 Part of the [Appalachian Studies Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#), and the [Social History Commons](#)

Digital Commons Citation

Lohmann, Roger A., "Lyda Judson Hanifan" (2013). *Faculty Scholarship*. 778.
https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/faculty_publications/778

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Research Repository @ WVU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of The Research Repository @ WVU. For more information, please contact ian.harmon@mail.wvu.edu.

L. J. Hanifan/Citable Version

From Citizendium, the Citizens' Compendium

< L. J. Hanifan



L. J. (Lyda Judson) Hanifan (b. February 12, 1879; d. Dec. 11, 1932) is credited with introducing the concept of social capital. Robert Putnam in his book, *Bowling Alone* (2000) credits a 1916 paper by Hanifan as the first recorded instance of the term.^[1] Hanifan also authored a book published in 1920 that contains a chapter entitled "Social Capital".^[2]

Hanifan was born February 12, 1879, in the timbering camp of Cubana, West Virginia and went on to higher education at West Virginia Wesleyan College. He graduated from West Virginia University with an A.B. degree on October 21, 1907, with no major listed.^[3] In the years following, he attended the University of Chicago and received an A.M. degree from Harvard University in 1909.^[4] He returned to West Virginia where he served school systems in Elkins, Belington, Charleston and Welch, and for nearly 10 years was state supervisor of rural schools. Hanifan authored two books and a number of pamphlets on rural education. A list of his known publications is included on the Works subpage of this entry.

According to Robert Putnam, "the first known use of the concept (of social capital) was not by some cloistered theoretician, but by a practical reformer of the Progressive Era—L. J. Hanifan, state supervisor of rural schools in West Virginia. Writing in 1916 to urge the importance of community involvement for successful schools, Hanifan invoked the idea of 'social capital' to explain why."^[5] "Hanifan's account of social capital," Putnam continues, "anticipated virtually all of the crucial elements in later interpretations, but his conceptual invention apparently attracted no notice from other social commentators and disappeared without a trace" for the next 84 years. Hanifan defined social capital as:

The tangible substances [that] count for most in the daily lives of people: namely good will, fellowship, sympathy, and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit. . . . The individual is helpless socially, if left to himself. If he comes into contact with his neighbor, and they with other neighbors, there will be an accumulation of social capital, which may immediately satisfy his social needs and which may bear a social potentiality sufficient to the substantial improvement of living conditions in the whole community. The community as a whole will benefit by the cooperation of all its parts, while the individual will find in his associations the advantages of the help, the sympathy, and the fellowship of his neighbors.^[6]



© Photo: West Virginia State Archives, used by permission

Lyda Judson Hanifan

In December of 1917, State Superintendent of Free Schools H. P. Shawkey appointed Hanifan as secretary to the New School Code Commission. The commission developed key provisions of the public education system in West Virginia. The Commission report presented to the West Virginia Legislature in January, 1919, resulted in legislation adopted in February, 1920, establishing the state board of education, creating the 10-month school term, raising teacher's salaries, mandating compulsory attendance for pupils age 6-16, authorizing junior high schools, and among other provisions.^[7]

Hanifan married Mary Pearl Agee (b. Oct 14, 1891; d. Nov 28, 1948) on March 26, 1913, and they had one child, Mary Elkin Hanifan. It also appears that his father was John Hanifan, married three times, and his mother was Sara Taylor. Lyda had two full brothers, Lorenzo and Stark. After serving as Superintendent of Schools in Welch, WV, Hanifan moved to Paducah, KY, where he served as Superintendent of Schools until his death.^[8]

References

- ↑ L. J. Hanifan, "The Rural School Community Center," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 67 (1916), 130-138.
- ↑ L. J. Hanifan, *The Community Center* (Boston: Silver, Burdett & Company, 1920).
- ↑ Dr. Rudolph Almasy, Interim Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, to Roger A. Lohman, personal email communication, January 29, 2010.
- ↑ "L. Judson Hanifan", *Progressive West Virginians* (Wheeling WV: The Wheeling Intelligencer, 1923), 197.
- ↑ Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), 19.
- ↑ Quoted from Putnam, 2000, 19
- ↑ John T. Harris, *WV Legislative Handbook, 1920* (Charleston, WV: Tribune Printing Company, 1920), 353.
- ↑ Michael C. Johanek, University of Pennsylvania, to Roger A. Lohman, personal email communication, January 30, and February 18, 2009; and Dia Mitchell Canter, Hanifan's only grandchild, to Roger A. Lohman, personal email communication, on September 7, 2009 and September 15, 2009.)

Retrieved from "http://en.citizendium.org/wiki?title=L._J._Hanifan/Citable_Version&oldid=100824400"

Categories: Subpages | Sociology Extra Subpages | Politics Extra Subpages | History Extra Subpages | Social Policy Subgroup Citable Versions | Sociology Approved Extra Subpages | Politics Approved Extra Subpages | History Approved Extra Subpages | Citable versions of articles | Sociology Citable Version Subpages | Politics Citable Version Subpages | History Citable Version Subpages | All Content | Sociology Content | Politics Content | History Content | Social Policy tag

- This page was last modified 10:17, 3 September 2013.
- *CZ is free*. All written content is available under the Creative Commons-Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported license or any later. Written content that originated in part from Wikipedia is also available under GNU Free Documentation

License 1.2.

Dedicated server hosting generously provided by Steadfast Networks

[Help](#) • [Financial Report](#) • [Statistics](#)

[Follow Citizendium on Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [Google+](#)