



dwellings is greater here than in Region I, a direct result of the greater productivity of its soils. However, the percentage of abandonment is also greater here than in either Region I or the county as a whole. Most of this can be explained in terms of a shifting farm economy, al-

though decreasing soil fertility is also a factor.

*Region III.* A number of soils series, the Kalmia, Cahaba, Leaf, and Flint, are represented on the terraces along the Flint River. Also included within this soil region are contiguous areas of Blan-

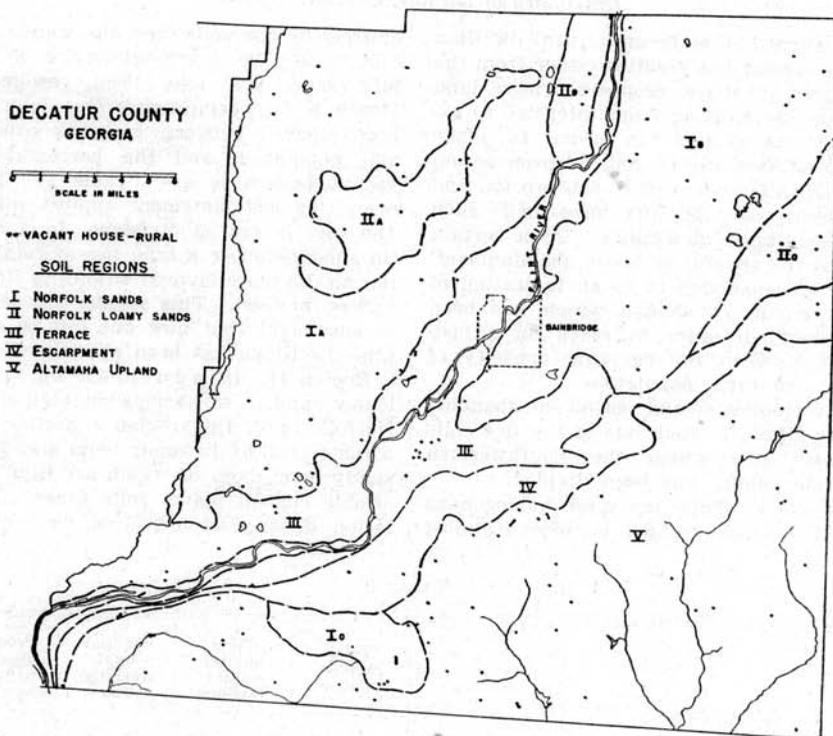


Fig. 1.

ton soils and the swamp lands of the first bottoms. Flint fine, sandy loam is by far the most extensive soils type. Most of the soils of the terrace have a profile in which sandy surface soils overlie a layer of sticky clay. Unsuitable to cotton or peanut production, these soils have been taken out of cultivation very rapidly in the last decade. Locally they are called "cowhide lands" since they are excellent pasture soils. The percentage of abandoned dwellings in this region is higher than any other soils region in the county as a result of the shift from intensive cropping to extensive grazing which is taking place.

*Region IV.* Though largely in Guin soils, small areas of other soils abound. A broken and dissected area, it has never

been extensively cultivated. Cleared lands are being eroded seriously as a result of sheet wash and gully formation. As might be expected, abandoned dwellings form a high percentage of the total dwellings in this region.

*Region V.* A great variety of soils types are represented here. Norfolk and Tifton soils are found on the flatter uplands, such red podzolic soils series as the Greenville, Magnolia, and Faceville on the upper slopes, soils of the Blanton, Cuthbert, Plummer, and Susquehanna on the lower slopes, and swamp soils in the river bottoms. The red podzolic soils are the premium soils of the region as well as the county, although such soils as Norfolk sandy loam and Tifton sandy loam do not rank far behind them. The

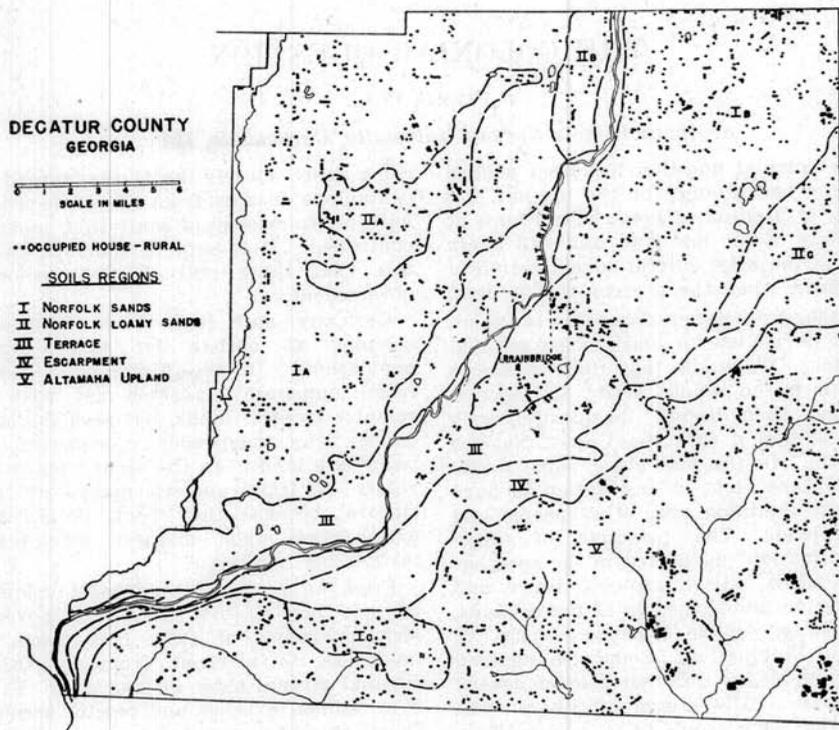


Fig. 2.

concentration of population on these upland soils can be noted in Figure 2. Intensive cultivation, particularly of shade-grown tobacco, has given this region a rather stable economy which its soils apparently are able to support. Many of the abandoned dwellings found here (Fig.

1) should be associated with the declining economy of the adjacent Norfolk sand area Ic and the Escarpment, rather than with the more or less stable economy of this region. Thus the actual amount of abandonment is negligible.