Bertha Hancock Ashbrook (1893-1972)

- *Hernando YWCA charter member & General Secretary*
- *First Hernando County Librarian*
- *First Hernando County Social Worker*
- *Florida Association of Social Workers President*

Much of Bertha's legacy involves education. She taught in Hernando schools as a young woman & assisted in the founding of the local YWCA, becoming its General Secretary. The YWCA & Woman's Club partnered to form the first local library & Bertha became our first librarian. She also drove the first bookmobile in Florida, transporting books around Hernando County weekly. When the Great Depression hit she was hired as the first social worker, eventually serving as President of the Florida Association of Social Workers. In retirement, she & her husband Chas moved back to the Hancock homestead which had been in her family since 1842. They named it "Ash Acres Farm" & cultivated specialty citrus fruits like tangelos, kumquats & calamondins.

Bertha Ashbrook, general secretary, reported the Triangle club was preparing Christmas stockings to be distributed to needy children in the county. She also reported on the work of the traveling library in the rural districts. Miss Marian McCool, counselor of the Girl Reserve work, reported progress in singing classes.