Jimmie Rodgers
“The Father of Country Music”

“A Drunkard’s Child”
(1929)

“In the Jailhouse Now”
(1928)

“Frankie And Johnnie”
(1929)

“Blue Yodel No. 9”
(1930)

“TB Blues”
(1931)
“TB Blues”

My good gal’s trying to make a fool oughta me
Lord, my gal’s trying to make a fool oughta me
Tryin’ to make me believe I ain’t got that ol’ TB
I’ve got the TB blues

When it rained down sorrow, it rained all over me
When it rained down sorrow, it rained all over me
’Cause my body rattles like a train on that ol’ SP
I’ve got the TB Blues

I’ve got that ol’ TB, I can’t eat a bite
Got that ol’ TB, I can’t eat a bite
Got me worried so I can’t even sleep at night
I’ve got the TB Blues

I’ve been fighting like a lion, look’s like I’m going to lose
I’m fighting like a lion, look’s like I’m going to lose
’Cause ain’t nobody ever whipped the TB Blues
I’ve got the TB Blues

Gee, but the graveyard is a lonesome place
Lord, that ol’ graveyard is a lonesome place
They put you on your back, throw that mud down in your face
I’ve got the TB Blues.
“When people marry there are certain things that the individual as well as the race should demand. The most important of these is freedom from germ diseases which might be handed down to the offspring. Tuberculosis, that dread white plague which is still responsible for almost one seventh of all deaths, epilepsy, and feeble-mindedness are handicaps which it is not only unfair but criminal to hand down to posterity. The science of being well born is called eugenics.”

George Hunter
Civic Biology (1914)
“Hereditary Susceptibility” to Disease
from The Science of Human Improvement by Better Breeding (1910), by Charles Davenport
Eugenics is the self direction of human evolution.

Like a tree, eugenics draws its materials from many sources and organizes them into an harmonious entity.
Alternative Visions to Eugenics in the Nineteenth Century

Samuel Smiles  Thomas Huxley  Herbert Spencer
“The fact that ‘saviors of society’ take to that trade is evidence enough that they have [no intelligence] to spare. And such as they possess is generally sold to the capitalists of physical force on whose resources they depend.”
“You would be amused to hear how general is now the use of your word *Eugenics*! I hear most respectable middle-class matrons saying if children are weakly, ‘Ah, that was not a eugenic marriage!’

Karl Pearson to Francis Galton, 1907
Karl Pearson
(1857-1936)

Free-thinker, Feminist, Socialist and Eugenicist
“The children people bring into the world can be no more their private concern entirely, than the disease germs they disseminate or the noises a man makes in a thin-floored flat.”
Karl Pearson
First Galton Professor of Eugenics
(1911-33)
University College London
improved the various types of horses familiar to us as draft horses, coach horses, hackneys, and the trotters.

It is needless to say that all the various domesticated animals have been tremendously changed in a similar manner since civilized man has come to live on the earth. When we realize the very great amount of money invested in domesticated animals; that there are over 60,000,000 each of sheep, cattle, and swine and over 20,000,000 horses owned in this country, then we may see how very important a part the domestic animals play in our lives.

Improvement of Man. — If the stock of domesticated animals can be improved, it is not unfair to ask if the health and vigor of the future generations of men and women on the earth might not be improved by applying to them the laws of selection. This improvement of the future race has a number of factors in which we as individuals may play a part. These are personal hygiene, selection of healthy mates, and the betterment of the environment.

Personal Hygiene. — In the first place, good health is the one greatest asset in life. We may be born with a poor bodily machine, but if we learn to recognize its defects and care for it properly, we may make it do its required work effectively. If certain muscles are poorly developed, then by proper exercise we may make them stronger. If our eyes have some defect, we can have it remedied by wearing glasses. If certain drugs or alcohol lower the efficiency of the machine, we can avoid their use. With proper care a poorly developed body may be improved and do effective work.

Eugenics. — When people marry there are certain things that the individual as well as the race should demand. The most important of these is freedom from germ diseases which might be handed down to the offspring. Tuberculosis, that dread white plague which is still responsible for almost one seventh of all deaths, epilepsy, and feeble-mindedness are handicaps which it is not only unfair but criminal to hand down to posterity. The science of being well born is called eugenics.

The Jukes. — Studies have been made on a number of different families in this country, in which mental and moral defects were present in one or both of the original parents. The “Jukes” family is a notorious example. The first mother is known as
Eugenics in the American College Classroom

“the eugenic aspects of various reform movements, such as, prohibition, women’s rights, socialism, immigration, rehabilitation, vocational guidance, mother’s pensions, etc.”

Courses in eugenics offered at the University of Pittsburgh in 1918
“Fitter Families for Future Firesides”

Founded by Mary T. Watts (right) and her colleague Florence Brown Sherbon. The first contest was held at the Kansas State Free Fair in 1920.
“Sheep on a Well-Ordered Moor”

“The time may hereafter arrive, in far distant years, when the population of the earth shall be kept as strictly within the bounds of numbers and suitability of race, as the sheep on a well-ordered moor or plants in an orchard-house; in the meantime, let us do what we can to encourage the multiplication of the races best fitted to invent and conform to a high and generous civilisation, and not, out of a mistaken instinct of giving support to the weak, prevent the incoming of strong and hearty individuals.”

Francis Galton
*Hereditary Genius* (1869)
Mary T. Watts: “While the stock judges are testing the Holsteins, Jerseys, and whitefaces in the stock pavilion, we are judging the Joneses, Smiths, and Johns.”
Fitter Families exhibit and examination building, Kansas State Free Fair, 1920
4-H Girls who were winners in preliminary contest of eugenic fitness
Anderson County, Iowa, *circa* 1925
“Large Family” Winner, Fitter Family Context, Texas State Fair, 1925
# Judging Human Livestock: The Individual Evaluation

## A-

### Social and Other History

- **Name:** [Family Name]
- **Age:** [Age]
- **Birthplace:** [Birthplace]
- **Education:** Common Sc.
- **Profession:** [Profession]
- **Self-Employed:** [Self-Employed]

### Physical Examination

- **Nutrition:** Good, fair, poor, obese
- **Skin:** Color
- **Hair:** Length
- **Eyes:** Normal
- **Throat:** No infection
- **Teeth:** Alignment
- **Senses:** Eye vision, hearing
- **Ear:** Drum
- **Nose:** Smell
- **Throat:** Tonsils

### Medical History

- **Conditions:** [Conditions]

### Psychometric

- **Chronological age:** [Age]
- **Mental age:** [Age]
- **Performance score:** [Score]

### Examination

- **Medical:** Complete
- **Psychiatric:** Normal
- **Other:** [Other]

### Laboratory

- **Hemoglobin:** [Level]
- **Urine:** [Results]

### Health Habits

- **Food:** Appetite
- **Sleep:** Hours
- **Exercise:** Regular
- **Dental hygiene:** Good

### Summary and Advice

- **Evenings:** [Evenings]
- **Advice:** [Advice]
Judging Human Livestock: The Individual Evaluation

The evaluation of the next eldest
Judging Human Livestock:
The Family Evaluation: A

Fit to swim in the gene pool
Abridged Record of Family Traits

Name of person responsible for filling out this schedule.

Date: 10/8/25
Permanent Address: Chamber of Commerce
Town and State: , Texas

INSTRUCTIONS.
1. In filling out this schedule inside first on your own place in the pedigree—father, mother, child, or the like, depending upon which place will give you the greatest number of connections. Make entry for yourself and then assign the other members of the family to their appropriate places.
2. The data contained in these schedules will be held confidential. The facts are required primarily as evidence for over empirical status. The fuller and more thorough the more valuable it will be for this purpose.

Davenport
“Inventory of the Blood of the Community”: the Archives of the Eugenic Records Office
“Yea, I have Goodly Heritage”

Fitter Family Contest medal given to families scoring B+ or better
“School Principal and Family Take Top Honors”

The Savannah Press
6 November 1924

“I believe in practicing what I preach and I am preaching the doctrine of keeping fit. The contest gave me an opportunity to invoice the physical and mental condition of my entire family. We expect to look for the weak points and build up.”

Winning Father
James E. Kelley