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Pacific Northwest Libraries

History of their Early Development in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia

Papers Prepared for the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, 1926, Contributing to the

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FOUNDING OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

(Reprinted from the Washington Historical Quarterly for October, 1926)

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LIBRARIES OF THE NORTHWEST

Everyone who is interested in the history of the Pacific Northwest is aware of the unselfish work and the indispensable cooperation of the librarians. In these swift years of our complex civilization, the people in general have learned to lean with child-like confidence upon the public libraries and their trained staffs. Even a more intensive form of dependence has evolved among students and writers of history, especially in the American area known as the Pacific Northwest.

This condition as a whole has been quickened and, perhaps, completely developed within the half-century of life of the American Library Association. There were great public libraries, of course, before that Association was called into being at the American Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, 1876, and there were also many significant private libraries. Some of the most important changes wrought since the organization of the Association are rather easily discerned. In the first place, the librarians themselves awakened to the fact that their work was worthy of being classed as a profession. Training schools were established and, although they probably do not yet realize it, they became one of the first American groups to lend a glory to the slogan of "service" now so dominant in business and professional circles. Many improvements were also devised for the better classification, shelving and cataloguing of books, pamphlets and manuscripts. Precious time was saved for helper and user. People who could benefit by books and reading, it was thought, should not be handicapped by reasons of residence. Smaller communities were aided in organizing libraries and finally rural districts were served. The wholesomeness of the growth has been admirable from whatever angle it be viewed. Who would dare to complain about the consistent modesty of the profession! What group can match its alertness to help or its watchfulness to eliminate waste in time, money or materials! It ought not to surprise us to observe the streams of public funds and the millions of surplus wealth attracted to this constructive element of American life.

While the Pacific Northwest was one of the latest portions of North America to be populated and developed, it passed through the same experiences of log-cabin, rude trail and savage conflict. The greatest difference from experiences on the Atlantic shores

is the rapidity with which obstacles were overcome. A great momentum of progress had been acquired. That momentum was revealed by the far-western pioneer in his every act, in the implements he brought or soon acquired, in his quick efforts for ships, wagon roads and railroads, in his immediate ambition for towns, newspapers, schools, churches and libraries.

The pioneer efforts to secure libraries and reading rooms comprise one of the fascinating chapters of Pacific Northwestern history. Its compilation has remained for the professional librarians. Following the fine spirit of their colleagues in other regions of North America, they have been maintaining the Pacific Northwest Library Association. This organization held its Seventeenth Annual Conference at Big Four, near Everett, Washington, on June 14-17, 1926. At that meeting three historical papers were read as follows: "Early Library Development in Washington," by Charles W. Smith, Associate Librarian of the University of Washington; "Some Early Libraries of Oregon," by Mirpah G. Blair, of the Oregon State Library, Salem, Oregon; "The Library Movement in British Columbia," by J. Forsyth, Librarian and Archivist of the Provincial Library, Victoria, British Columbia. It is a privilege to publish in full these three papers in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* as a symposium on an important phase of Pacific Northwestern history.

Readers of these papers will be pleased with the aggregate of public spirit shown by the pioneers in their struggling villages and towns.

This brief tribute to the librarians of the Pacific Northwest should be prolonged sufficiently to justify a statement in the opening paragraph. In the early days, before the arrival of the professional librarians, students and writers of local history had to depend upon the memories of surviving pioneers and upon the private libraries of books, newspapers, manuscripts and diaries. Many of the pioneers have passed away and the private libraries have likewise almost entirely ceased to exist. These numerous collections have been merged, by gift or purchase, into the public or institutional libraries where they are scrupulously cared for and scientifically managed by the professional librarians. The change from the older condition was pointedly manifested by the publication of a remarkable working-tool for the Northwestern historian. Reference is here made to a check-list called *Pacific Northwest Americana,* published (as a second and enlarged edition) in New

York by The H. W. Wilson Company in 1921. The work was sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association. Fifteen of the most important libraries participated and three others also furnished some of the items. Four thousand, five hundred and one items are listed with full bibliographical information and giving the location of each item. In this undertaking the Pacific Northwest is interpreted as all of that area north of California and between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. These libraries cooperate with each other. In this way the students and historians of the Pacific Northwest are served with books and documents more adequately than is probably the case in any other portion of North America. One of the historians desires here to lift his voice in praise of the devoted service of those unselfish librarians.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

EARLY LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN WASHINGTON

Fifty years ago at the Philadelphia Centennial, the American Library Association was founded. In that year the United States Bureau of Education published a most important report upon the *Public Libraries in the United States, Their History, Condition and Management.* This report gave statistics of all public libraries having three hundred volumes and over. According to this report the Pacific Coast had 103 libraries located as follows: California 86, Oregon 14, Washington 2, Alaska 1.

In the fifty years that have elapsed since 1876, great progress in Washington has been inevitable. That progress has been almost wholly confined, however, to the period since Statehood. The first law making possible the levying of a tax for the support of public libraries was not passed until 1890, the year after Washington became a State. Since that time there has been a development of libraries within the State keeping a fair pace with its growth in population and wealth.

The notes prepared for this paper have been purposely confined to the Territorial period, 1853-1889. In 1853, when the territory north of the Columbia was cut off from Oregon the white population of the entire Territory was but 3,965 white people, or about one-half of the present yearly attendance of the University of Washington. The growth in numbers moreover was very slow until the coming of the railroads beginning with the later 80's. It is small wonder that a survey of Territorial libraries reveals the number to be few and the size to be small.

Washington Territorial Library

The first library to be established in Washington Territory was the Territorial Library. The Organic Act of March 2, 1853, appropriated $5,000 for the purchase of books and this money was expended by Isaac I. Stevens before he left the East to take up his post as first Governor. In Governor Stevens' first Message to the Legislature, he reported that 1,850 volumes had already arrived and that the remainder on the way would bring the number to about 2,000 volumes. These books were carefully chosen and made an excellent beginning to what became the most important library during the entire Territorial period. In passing it may be noted that Congress had made similar appropriations for other

Territories. Wisconsin was given $5,000 in 1836 "for the use of the legislature and the Supreme Court". An equal sum was granted to Oregon in 1848 and to New Mexico in 1850.

An excellent short account of the history of the State Library has been compiled by Mr. J. M. Hitt, the present State Librarian, and is available in printed form in the *Report on a Survey of State Supported Library Activities* (Olympia, 1917) pages 43-45. There is also much documentary material relating to the history of this Library in the Legislative Journals and official reports of the State. In October, 1889, the number of volumes had grown to 10,448 and the Library was in charge of Eleanor Sharp Stevenson.

Steilacoom Library Association

The next library established was that of the Steilacoom Library Association. This was incorporated on February 3, 1858, and is in many ways the most interesting of the subscription libraries of the Territory. A *Constitution and By-Laws* (Steilacoom, *Puget Sound Herald* Office, 1860,) was printed in a 12-page pamphlet. The duties of the officers were here set forth in detail. Dues were 25 cents per month and admission was $5.00. The purpose of the Association is thus stated: "The object of the Association shall be the diffusion of useful knowledge and sound morality: First, by establishing a library; Secondly, a Reading Room; Thirdly, by procuring Public Lectures, Essays, and establishing Debates".

This Library flourished successfully for several years. At the end of the first nine months $300.00 had already been expended for books and an equal amount of money was in the hands of the treasurer. Money was raised by balls and other entertainments. Many public lectures and debates were given.

As the importance of Steilacoom dwindled, interest in the Library waned. An effort was made in 1895 to revive the Association and a new constitution and by-laws was framed. Papers were prepared placing the books in the custody of the Principal of the Steilacoom Academy.

A permanent revival of the Association failed and in February 1908, the property of the Association was deeded to Thomas W. Prosch, of Seattle, in accordance with a bill of sale now in possession of the University of Washington Library. This instrument recites that:

"We Chas. Prosch, of Seattle, and Ezra Meeker, also of Se-

attle, the only members of the Steilacoom Library Association, organized in March, 1858, in accordance with an Act of the Territorial Legislature of February 3, 1858, as the parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar lawful money of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by Thomas W. Prosch of Seattle, and for other considerations of a proper character, he being the party of the second part . . . do by these presents grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the party of the second part . . . all of the books, papers, pamphlets, case, furniture, records, and other things pertaining to the Steilacoom Library and the Steilacoom Library Association, now stored in the town of Steilacoom, unused by the public they were intended to serve and consequently of lessened and constantly lessening value . . . to have and to hold the same to the party of the second part his executors, administrators and assigns forever.

"Signed,

Charles Prosch
Ezra Meeker"

Affidavit attested by C. B. Bagley, Notary Public, on Feb. 24, 1908.

The document just cited was turned over to the University of Washington Library in a collection of manuscripts donated by Edith Prosch after the death of her father, Thomas W. Prosch. I have been unable to learn what volumes formerly belonging to the Steilacoom Library Association were acquired by Mr. Prosch, or where any of them may be at this time.

Next in chronological order comes the shadowy beginning of the University of Washington Library.

University of Washington Library

The history of the University of Washington Library dates from November 11, 1862. On that date the first regular meeting of the first Board of Regents was held and Samuel F. Coombs of Seatle was elected Librarian.[1]

As the first Librarian of the University of Washington, a few words regarding Mr. Coombs may not be out of place. He came to Puget Sound in 1859 and taught school at Port Madison, having among his pupils Cornelius and Clarence Hanford. The next year, 1860, he came to Seattle where for many years he was

1 *Journal of the House of Representatives* 10th *Session*, (Olympia, 1863.) Appendix, p. v.

chiefly employed as a clerk in Yesler's store. At the time of his appointment as librarian, Mr. Coombs was Postmaster of Seattle, having been appointed March 25, 1862, and holding the office until relieved by Gardner Kellogg, in the following year. In 1863, Mr. Coombs became Secretary of the King County Agricultural Society. In 1864, he was awarded a prize at the King County Fair for beer and porter which he exhibited. In 1865, Seattle got its first charter and Mr. Coombs was made Committing Magistrate. For several years during the sixties he ran the New Terminus Hotel. In 1873, he was one of the incorporators of the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad and Transportation Company, and, from 1884-1888, he was Warden of the United States Penitentiary at McNeil's Island. He was a good penman and proved a handy man in many clerical capacities. He was justice of the peace and a student of Indian languages and customs. He compiled the *Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon* issued by Lowman and Hanford in 1891, and furnished the information regarding Chief Seattle which appears in Costello's *The Siwash.* His term of office as Librarian of the University was for one year only, but I have been unable to gather any information in regard to his services in that capacity.

The first record I have been able to find in regard to books appears in the *House Journal* for 1865 where a Committee appointed to investigate the University has this to say: "The library is very small and of little value; but on account of the low state of funds of the University and the high price of books at present, we are of the opinion the interest of the University would not be advanced by a further expenditure for books."[2]

Two years later, on April 1, 1867, Mr. Whitworth as President of the University, presented a list of University property; also a report in relation to the library, cook stove, etc. He also made a statement of crockery taken away from the University boarding house.

"On motion it was ordered that the President cause the books in the library to be properly marked and numbered, and to allow no books to be taken out hereafter, except by the students or teachers in actual attendance, and that the President take such steps as he may deem necessary to recover all the books which are now missing, and to charge all books hereafter to the parties who may take them." Evidence that the President made an effort

2 *Washington House Journal,* 1865, p. 151.

to secure the return of books is shown by the approval by the Board at the meeting of October 12, 1867, of a bill of $3.00 to cover an advertisement in the Seattle *Gazette* asking for the return of "books missing from the Library".[3]

The first mention that I have discovered of the actual number of volumes is that to be found in the *Report of the Board of Regents for 1871* in which President Hall estimates the number at about three hundred and fifty volumes.[4] The University grew but slowly. It was not until 1876, fifteen years after founding, that the first graduate received her diploma.

The library likewise grew slowly. President Anderson in 1881 reported to his Board: "In September, 1877, when the writer took charge, the library consisted of 162 bound volumes and no pamphlets; but now contains 436 bound volumes and 308 pamphlets. The increase has arisen from the following sources: Lost books found, books donated by friends, books purchased with money arising from a small library fee and fines, books published by the general government and obtained through Delegates Jacobs and Brents, and also reference books purchased with money appropriated by the Legislature in 1879. In addition to the University Library, students have access to some 1350 bound volumes and 500 pamphlets, placed in the keeping of the authorities of the University by the Seattle Library Association."[5]

The catalogue of the University for 1880 states that "Since the issue of the last *Catalogue,* there have been added to the Library one hundred and fifty volumes, including fifty valuable reference books." A sidelight to the character of the University and its standard of teaching may be seen in the following paragraph drawn from the same *Catalogue* (1880, p. 16) "The Institution aims to be parental in government, to insist upon a high standard of character and scholarship, and to teach simply the true and the right without bias for sect, party or infidel."

In the next year's Catalogue[6] published in 1881, the following statement is made: "Until early in the last college year, one room sufficed to hold both Library and Cabinet. Now two rooms are necessary. Including the Seattle City Library, which has been given in charge to the University, students have access to 1800 bound volumes and 800 pamphlets. The Librarian, Mr. L. F. An-

3 *Washington House Journal,* 1867, pp. 104, 107.

4 *Washington House Journal,* 1871, p .188.

5 *Report of the Board of Regents of the Territorial University of the Territory of Washington,* (Olympia: Bagley, 1881,) p. 11.

6 The Register for 1880-1881.

derson, will always be ready to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of any good book or pamphlet donated to the University Library." (Page 13) It is indicated in the same catalogue that a library fee of 25 cents per term was being charged.

Two years later, it is stated that "The shelving capacity of the Library has been largely increased during the present year and the books classified and systematically arranged. Several volumes have been added, so that now the students have access to about 2,000 volumes and 800 pamphlets and periodicals."[7]

The catalogue for 1885 gives the number of volumes as 2,500 and states that $140 had been raised for the Library during the past year by means of a lecture course given in the University chapel. "Hereafter students and teachers will have access to the Library free of charge."[8]

The *Report of the Board of Regents* for 1887 gives the size of the library as 2500 bound volumes and 800 pamphlets and its value as $3,200. The librarian was Emma Clark, and her annual salary was $300.

In 1889, at the end of the territorial period, the size of the Library had grown to about 3,000 bound volumes and 1,000 pamphlets. We find that the Library had been receiving for several years an annual appropriation from the State of $150.00. The Librarian in that year was Miss Claire Gatch, also a teacher of art. The salary of the office was $100.00 per year.

Vancouver Catholic Library Association

The Report upon *Public Libraries in the United States* issued by the United States Bureau of Education in 1876 records but two libraries in Washington Territory having upwards of 300 volumes. The first of these was the Washington Territorial Library. The other library mentioned was that of the Holy Angels College which was established in 1865 by the Vancouver Catholic Library Association. Mrs. Marion M. Pirkey, Librarian of the Vancouver Public Library, has secured from Mr. James P. Clancy the following historical sketch. Mr. Clancy, who is still a resident of Vancouver, was the acting Librarian of Holy Angels College Library at the time of its closing in 1886. His account follows:

"With the passing of the grim recorder Time, and taking along most of those who may have had a hand in any of the activities

7 *Catalogue,* 1882-1883, p. 9.
8. *Catalogue,* 1884-1885, p. 18.

connected therewith, it is difficult for one of the present day to give exact data in regard to the organization and works of the above mentioned Library Association.

"With the starting of the Catholic Missionaries in their work in the early Northwest from the Hudson Bay days of 1825, came the call for education and literature, and activities were taken up by such historic characters as Bishop F. N. Blanchet, Rev. Fathers Manns, Brouillet, G. F. Fierens, and later Bishop E. Junger, Fathers L. DG. Schram, P. Poaps, F. Flohar and others, and the Association was duly organized, recognition of the same being officially made by the National Librarian at Washington, D. C., at that time, about the year 1865. Among the citizens assisting in the organization at the time may be found such pioneer business men and parishioners as Dr. D. Wall, P. O'Keane, Jno. O'Keane, P. Buckley, N. Du Puis, Jos. Brant, L. Burgey, M. O'Connell, J. D. Geoghegan, Jno. Walsh, Jos. Healey, Judge J. M. Denny, John McMullen, Jos. Petrain and many others.

"From the remnants of the old books now on hand and scant records left for investigation it appears that the library was a going concern and active about the years 1870 to its close in 1886, containing over 1000 volumes of current literature of the time, with a trend of course to religious writers and historical matters as well. The library was housed in a large two-room building immediately in the rear of the Bishop's residence on the grounds of the St. James Mission property, (the site today being on East 5th Street as it passes through the Post, Vancouver Barracks, about two blocks from Reserve Street, in Vancouver, Washington).

"Librarians in charge during the early years were chosen from among the school teachers and educators of the time; Rev. Father P. Poaps as instructor at the Holy Angels Academy College about 1875, and later the names of Benj. Wall and Jas. P. Clancy appear as acting librarians, up to the time of the closing of the library in 1886.

"Today there are about 350 volumes of the early library still intact and in good state of preservation stored away at the St. James Parish residence at Vancouver, Washington. These books are all properly labeled and numbered, and from lists of names found in records in some of them, show that the library had a good sized patronage among the citizens, who took much pride in the upkeep and interest in the Association. An inspection of the old volumes by authorities on the subject of libraries will, no

doubt, prove interesting and much historical data might prove available."

Walla Walla Library

Library service in Walla Walla began with the incorporation of the Walla Walla Library Association, which was organized in the same year as the Vancouver Association. The following statement is drawn from Frank T. Gilbert's Historic Sketches of Walla Walla:

"In 1865 the Walla Walla Library Association was incorporated, for the purpose of maintaining a library in this city; $250 were subscribed for such purpose by those interested in the matter, and the membership fee was fixed at $5.00. The officers were A. J. Thibodo, J. D. Cook, R. Jacobs, J. H. Lasater, L. J. Rector, and W. W. Johnson. They started in with 150 volumes, and held together for some time, but finally interest in the matter died out. It was revived in April, 1874, by organization of the Walla Walla Lyceum and Library Association, and a library was maintained for use of members of the society for several years. In December, 1877, a society was formed for the purpose of establishing a free reading room and library, an institution that had long been needed in the city. An exhibition of works of art, curios, and relics of interest kindly furnished by citizens was opened. In this way, and by means of sociables and various entertainments, considerable money was procured, and the library fully established. The ladies deserve special credit for their generous efforts in this work. The old association donated its books for a nucleus, to which many additions have from time to time been made. The library and reading room are open to the free use of the public."[9]

Seattle Library Association

In August of 1868, the Seattle Library Association was formed with Mr. James McNaught as President, Mr. L. S. Smith, Secretary and Mrs. H. L. Yesler, Librarian. This organization, like the ones at Steilacoom and Walla Walla, assumed an important place in the social and intellectual life of the community. Meetings were held frequently, many important lectures were given and literary entertainments were common. "Adult education" seems to have been the unwritten motto of this organization. Newspaper publicity was given in generous fashion. Fourteen news

9 Gilbert's *Historic Sketches of Walla Walla* (Portland: Walling, 1882,) page 340.

items regarding the work of the Association appear in the Seattle *Intelligencer* between the dates of August 10, 1868, and December 21, 1869.

In 1873, Dexter Horton gave $500 conditional upon the securing of $1000 in addition. The total income for that year thus amounted to over $1800. There were 169 members, 278 volumes in the library and at one time $1,515 cash on hand. A reading room was maintained well supplied with the magazines and newspapers of the time. Interest finally flagged, the membership ran down and in 1881 the Association suspended. The books were at that time "given to the University."[10]

In 1888, a newly organized Ladies Library Assoication was formed due to the backing of Leigh S. J. Hunt, then owner and editor of the *Post-Intelligencer*. Mr. Hunt subscribed $1,000 and the ladies set to work with enthusiasm to raise funds. Mr. H. L. Yesler presented instead of a subscription a lot at third and Jefferson. This was deeded with the stipulation that the Association be known as the Yesler Public Library. Eight hundred dollars was raised by a ball, $300 by a baseball game, and another large amount by an excursion to Victoria. The Library was established, though not upon the Yesler Triangle, and the way was thus paved for the tax supported public library made possible by the state law of 1890 and suitable provisions in the freeholders Charter of 1890. The later history of the Seattle Public Library is to be found in the *Annual Report of the Seattle Public Library* for 1915, pp. 6-10. Excellent accounts of the two Library Associations are to be found in an eight-page manuscript account written by Mr. M. J. Carkeek and deposited in the Seattle Public Library and the University of Washington Library, and in the unpublished history of Seattle by Thomas W. Prosch to be consulted in typewritten form in the libraries just mentioned.

An account of the development of library service in Seattle is not complete without reference to the

Reading Room of Mrs. Maynard

Mr. Thomas W. Prosch in his biography of Dr. and Mrs. Maynard[11] gives this record: "The home of the Maynards was in

10 Mr. Thomas W. Prosch in his Chronological History of Seattle, Part 1, page 190, says they were "given outright to the University". From such evidence as is available at this time, it would appear however that the books were turned over as a deposit with some thought of recalling them at a latter date. Mrs. Carkeek states that when the newly organized Ladies Library Association visited the University in 1888, few traces of them could be found.

11 T. W. Prosch's *David S. Maynard and Catherine T. Maynard* (Seattle, 1906), page 78.

the middle of the block on the east side of First Avenue South between Main and Jackson streets. There they lived until his death in 1873, and there she lived a number of years longer. The last thing she did there was to start a free reading room. In a large, light apartment, opening on the street, she placed tables and chairs, procured books, magazines and newspapers, and invited the public to use them. For a year or more, in 1875-6, Mrs. Maynard kept the place open, clean, warm and pleasant. Her example had effect with others, the result being the establishment of the Young Men's Christian Association by Dexter Horton and associates, who took from Mrs. Maynard the burden she had carried so long. The magnificent tree and fine fruit that have come from the seed thus planted by this poor woman are known to all. 'The widow's mite' was greater for good than the proud wealth of many of her townsmen."

The first public meeting which led to the establishment of the Y.M.C.A. was held at Mrs. Maynard's home on June 28, 1876. Several conferences were later held and on August 7, 1876, the Y.M.C.A. of Seattle was organized with Dexter Horton as its first President. At the end of the year new quarters were occupied but from the first a reading room and library has been one of its departments.

"The Tacoma Library" of Olympia

Another Association Library antedating 1876 was the "Tacoma Library" of Olympia. This was a library and reading room of very considerable importance in its day but I have little data regarding it. The following news item in regard to its first opening is quoted from the Olympia *Standard* in the Seattle *Intelligencer* of August 2, 1869:

"The New Library rooms were formally dedicated last Saturday evening. The library is open to the public every evening and Sundays. Visitors in town will find this an agreeable place to while away an hour".

The Dayton Library

One of the earliest libraries in Eastern Washington was located at Dayton. Mr. J. Orin Oliphant of Cheney, Washington, has supplied the following data in regard to this library:

"Another educational advantage here of which the people were justly proud was the free library and reading room, estab-

lished in the winter of 1876-7 by the Rev. E. A. McAllister and a few other liberal minded citizens. This little institution did not endure, though, and a more permanent one was founded in 1882 by the A.O.U.W. and the Ladies Educational Aid Society and several other organizations. Monthly dues of 50 cents were charged and the library flourished for years. Dr. S. B. L. Penrose of Whitman College, one of the early pastors of the Congregational Church here, chose many of the books and the remnants of this little library now preserved on the shelves of the reading room at the Dayton Commercial club show the distinctive taste used in the selection of those volumes."[12]

"Having no further use for the money, the balance of Dayton's smallpox fund, amounting to $150.00, has been donated to the library of that place."[13]

The Spokane Public Library

Like other cities of Territorial days, Spokane made an early start toward an association library. The population of the town was but 350 in 1880, yet we find in the *Spokan Times* for January 1 of that year the following news note: "The Necktie Sociable given tonight, in Glover's Hall, promises to be a remarkably pleasant affair . . . The object of the entertainment is to make a beginning, with the funds raised, of a public library, a thing much needed in our midst. It would be a place where the young men and older ones about town could spend a pleasant evening, as often as they might choose, improving themselves. It is decidedly a praiseworthy object."

Progress is shown by the following news items, all taken from the *Spokan Times*:[14]

May 22, 1880: "An amateur entertainment will be given June 1, at Cornelius & Davis' Hall, for the benefit of the Spokan Libraray."

Nov. 27, 1880: "We are informed by Mr. Rima, secretary of the association, that at the last meeting Mr. and Mrs. Cook, of the Times office, were elected honorary members; also, that a committee was appointed to make necessary arrangements to give an entertainment on New Year's Eve, for the benefit of the school

12 From an article on pioneer days at Dayton, written by Ernestine Peabody, and published in the Spokane *Spokesman-Review* of November 20, 1921.

13 From the *Palouse Gazette* of November 24, 1882.

14 As referred to under the Dayton Library, assistance has been rendered by Mr. Oliphant in this case also by searching the rare files of this earliest newspaper of Spokane.

fund. Miss Muzzy was elected librarian. About fifty dollars worth of new books have been ordered for the association."

March 3, 1881: "The Spokan Library has just received forty volumes of new books. Thirty additional volumes have been sent for."

The subsequent history of this library is to be found in outline form in the *Annual Report of the Spokane Public Library* for the year 1913, p. 23-24.

Colfax Academy Library Association

An example of cooperation between school and library is shown in the history of the Colfax Academy Library Association. Colfax Academy was established in 1878 and had an important influence in Eastern Washington as one of the first high schools north of the Snake River. In 1882, the school and the community united in establishing public library service. Again Mr. Oliphant's assistance is acknowledged as having supplied the following records of the time:

"Pursuant to a call issued by the principal of Colfax Academy, a goodly number of our citizens met in the Baptist Church on Monday evening last to perfect the organization of a library association. Mr. E. N. Beach was unanimously chosen President of the meeting, and W. J. Davenport Secretary, after which the body proceeded to adopt a suitable constitution and rules of order. Officers were elected as follows for the ensuing year: President, Dr. W. W. Beach; Vice President, Miss L. L. West; Secretary, W. J. Davenport; Treasurer, J. A. Perkins, Librarian, Miss L. L. West; Executive Committee of Three, W. A. Inman and F. W. Bunnell, the third supplied by the academy board of trustees, Rev. Geo. Campbell. Arrangements are being made to present a lecture and other varied exercises on the occasion of opening the library. Everything is propitious for a successful termination of the project thus started, and out of the $312, previously subscribed for the purchase of books, $112 was collected at this meeting. The object of this association is to furnish to those desiring good books to read an opportunity to secure them at a trifling cost. Any person may become a life member by paying into the treasury the sum of $5, and an annual membership costs but $2, thus enabling all to avail themselves of advantages to be had in no other way. The sum of $300 has already been expended for books, and as soon as possible a public reading room will be

opened in connection with the library. The name of this body is the "Colfax Academy Library Association," and we say success to the undertaking, for it supplies a want long felt in this community. Everyone should lend a hand in forwarding this enterprise. Membership fees, either subscribed or otherwise, will be received by J. A. Perkins, treasurer."[15]

"The public library will be opened this afternoon for the first time. Hours from three until six o'clock. There are over three hundred volumes in the library."[16]

The Tacoma Public Library

The Tacoma Public Library dates its history from 1886. From a "Historical Statement," to be found in the official reports,[17] the following information is gleaned:

"In the summer of 1886, Mrs. Grace R. Moore established in her home a subscription circulating library, the first public circulating library on Puget Sound, though the Steilacoom Library Association, organized in March 1858, had provided library facilities almost as public. It met a very definite need, even though Tacoma was in those days—to use her own words—"little more than a frontier town, with ungraded streets, uncleared lots and a small business district."

This library soon outgrew its original home, and by 1889 had won public favor to the point of warranting incorporation and a change of title from the "Mercantile Library of Tacoma" to "The Public Library." Partial public support was also then received. It occupied successively quarters in the Wilkeson, Gross and Uhlman buildings, Ball Block, and in 1893, the City Hall. In December of that year its trustees voted to present the library to the City of Tacoma, formal transfer being made in January, 1894."

CHARLES W. SMITH.

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15 *Palouse Gazette* of December 1, 1882.
16 *Palouse Gazette* of February 16, 1883.
17 Tacoma Public Library *Annual Reports*, 1919, 1920, page 4.

SOME EARLY LIBRARIES OF OREGON

The Oregon State Library has in its possession the original schedules of the federal census for 1850, 1860 and 1870 which give most valuable and interesting information concerning early libraries in Oregon. In 1850, Clackamas County reported two libraries, the Territorial Library with 1,500 volumes, and the Multnoma (Multnomah Circulating Library) number of volumes not given; Clatsop County reported one Presbyterian Sunday School library of 200 volumes, and Clark and Lewis Counties reported that there were no libraries within their boundaries. In 1860, Clackamas County had none to report; Clatsop had two church libraries, a Presbyterian and a Methodist; Jackson had one of 100 volumes belonging to a Methodist Sunday School and a Masonic library of 100 volumes; Linn reported three private libraries, of 200, 350 and 1,000 volumes; Multnomah had three Sunday school libraries, the Episcopal and Congregational with 300 volumes each, the Methodist with 1,200 volumes, and also had 250 volumes belonging to a Female Seminary; Washington County reported one college library (Pacific University) with 1,500 volumes. The enumerator for Columbia County wrote "There are no public or private libraries in this county".

By 1870, libraries of all kinds had increased very materially. Nearly all counties had Sunday School and Church or Pastor's libraries. Grant and Marion counties reported Odd Fellows libraries, the former having 178 volumes, the latter, 800. Clatsop had a Masonic library with 118 volumes. There were College libraries in Benton County (Corvallis College) with 300 volumes; Clackamas County (probably Oregon City University), 100 volumes; Linn County (Albany College) with 1,000 volumes; and Washington County (Pacific University), 3,000. There were circulating libraries in Benton County, which had two subscription libraries with a total of 550 books; Clackamas, one subscription, with 50 books; Clatsop, one city library, with 1,161; Coos, 1 subscription, with 50; Multnomah, two subscription, with a total of 6,000 volumes, and Yam Hill with a subscription library of 400 volumes.

When the United States Bureau of Education published its *Public Libraries in the United States of America* in 1876, it gave the following for Oregon:

"Albany, Albany Collegiate Institute, 1,250 volumes and Young Ladies' and Gentlemen's Society, 300 volumes; Astoria, Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon, founded 1871, 600 volumes; Corvallis, Library Association, founded 1873, 350 volumes; Forest Grove, Pacific University and Tualatin Academy, founded 1853, 5,500 volumes; Portland, Bishop Scott Grammar and Divinity School, founded 1870, 3,500 volumes, Library Association, founded 1864, 7,785 volumes, St. Helen's Hall, founded 1869, 400 volumes; Salem, Oregon Natural History and Library Association, founded 1874, 400 volumes, State Library, founded 1850, 5,257 volumes, State Prison, 600 volumes, Willamette University, founded 1844, 2,000 volumes, and Willamette University Society libraries, 500 volumes."

There were many private libraries and the size of these was surprisingly large; Benton had 400, with a total of 50,000 volumes; Douglas, 12 and 3,000 volumes; Linn 60 and 8,000 volumes; Marion 60 and 10,000 volumes; Multnomah 1200 and 150,000 volumes; Polk, 19 and 10,000 Umatilla 12 and 4,000 volumes; Wasco, 8 and 2,505 volumes; Washington 16 and 7,400 volumes; Yam Hill, 300 and 15,000 volumes.

But there were libraries in Oregon before the census of 1850 and they were circulating libraries too, for the use of the community.

Hudson's Bay Company Library

The first circulating library on the Pacific coast was that of the Hudson's Bay Company officers at Vancouver. Dr. Tolmie, in a letter published in *Oregon Pioneer Association Transactions* for 1884, says: "By 1836, a circulating library of papers, magazines, and some books, set on foot by the officers, was in 'full blast'." He also says that books were bought from the Boston merchant captains who were buying furs on the coast.

Mention of this library is also made by T. C. Elliott in his "Peter Skene Ogden, Fur Trader" which appeared in the *Oregon Historical Society Quarterly,* September, 1910:

"One further item regarding the three and one-half years on the coast is worth mentioning. It was then that the first circulating library of the Pacific coast was started. The record is that the Gentlemen of the coasting trade contributed to a fund and had brought from England the later books and magazines and circulated them from one post to another. In his journal Dr. Tolmie

speaks of receiving from Mr. Ogden the Life of Edmund Burke and Franklin's First Journey to the North."

Multnomah Circulating Library

The organization, about 1840, of the Multnomah Circulating Library at Willamette Falls (Oregon City) was an important event. Gray, in his *History of Oregon,* says of this:

"A consultation was held at the house of Gray to consider the expediency of organizing a provisional government. In it the whole condition of the settlement, the missions, and Hudson's Bay Company, were carefully looked at, and all the influences combined against the organization of a settler's government were fully canvassed. The conclusion was that no direct effort could succeed, as it had already been tried and failed . . . Two plans were suggested . . . The first was to get up a circulating library, and by that means draw attention and discussion to subjects of interest to the settlement and secure the influence of the Methodist Mission, as education was a subject they had commenced. We found no difficulty in the library movement from them, only they seemed anxious to keep from the library a certain class of light reading, which they appeared tenacious about. This was not the vital point with the original movers, so they yielded it. The library prospered finely; one hundred shares were taken at five dollars a share; three hundred volumes of old books collected and placed in this institution which was called the Multnomah Circulating Library; one hundred dollars were sent to New York for new books which arrived the following year."

The Multnomah Circulating Library, "a very good circulating library" as J. W. Nesmith called it in one of his letters, was incorporated by Act of the House of Representatives of the Provisional government, August 19, 1845, being the second corporation authorized in Oregon.

Senator Nesmith in an address before the Oregon Pioneer Association in 1875 gives the following interesting anecdote:

"In the small collection of books at the Falls known as the Multnomah Library, I found what I had never heard of before, a copy of *Jefferson's Manual,* and after giving it an evening's perusal by the light of an armful of pitch knots, I found that there was such a thing in parliamentary usage as 'the previous question.'

"I had a bill then pending to cut off the southern end of Yamhill, and to establish the county of Polk, which measure had vio-

lent opposition in the body. One morning while most of the opponents of my bill were amusing themselves at 'horse billiards' in Lee's ten-pin alley, I called up my bill, and, after making the best argument I could, I concluded with: 'And now, Mr. Speaker, upon this bill I move the previous question.' Newell looked confused, and I was satisfied that he had no conception of what I meant; but he rallied, and, looking wise and severe (I have since seen presiding officers in Washington do the same thing) said: 'Sit down, sir! Resume your seat! Do you intend to trifle with the Chair! When you know that we passed the previous question two weeks ago? It was the first thing we done!' I got a vote, however, before the return of the 'horse billiard' players, and Polk County has a legal existence today, notwithstanding the adverse ruling upon a question of parliamentary usage."

This probably was the library mentioned by Thornton in *Oregon and California in 1848* when he gave as one of the attractions of Oregon City "a public library containing three hundred well-selected volumes."

The Pioneer Lyceum and Literary Club formed in the winter of 1842-3 at Willamette Falls gave opportunity for its members to meet for discussion of topics of general interest.

Sunday School Libraries

The early missionaries soon developed a system of Sunday School libraries which helped in a way to meet the constant demand for books. Walling's *Illustrated History of Lane County* says of the First Baptist Church of Eugene:

"On April 16, 1864, we have the first mention of a Sabbath School when a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the purpose of forming a library."

The "Letters of the Reverend William M. Roberts, Third Superintendent of the Oregon Missions" frequently mention this subject. March 18, 1848, he wrote from Oregon City to the Rev. D. P. Kidder, Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as follows:

"At this time there are but two Sabbath schools really organised in this country under the care of our Church. One at this city with one Sup. 8 Teach. 48 Scholars & 150 volumes in the Library . . . There were a few vol. of Books in the Library when we arrived in the country but those reported above are the set furnished by the kindness of the board in the autumn of 1846. The

other school is at Salem and is held in the Oregon Institute. It has 2 Superintendents, 10 Teach., 40 Scholars, and upwards of 159 volumes in the Library . . . The donation of Books which we brought to this country were I think judicially selected and will be of great advantage . . . The 10 sets of Library Books placed in my hands I have disposed of as follows, Sabbath School at San Francisco uper [sic] California, 1 Set of 150 vols. another at this place in the School and another at the school at Salem. It is possible that we may break one or two of the sets for the sake of getting Books to place in the hands of Children in various parts of the country where as yet we can have no school. The rest will be reserved for new schools as they may be formed in various parts of the country."

A year later, February 14, 1849, he again wrote to the Corresponding Secretary:

"Many persons enquire of us for books. They hear of the libraries of the A. T. Soc. [American Tract Society] and of the Harper & C and they wish to send money by us to buy some of these Libraries. Now we tell them we have libraries and books of the very best kind, and cheap too and moreover that we will have some brought out to this country as soon as possible."

Library Association of Portland

The Library Association of Portland was organized, in 1864, largely through the efforts of L. H. Wakefield. Seeing the need of such an organization, Mr. Wakefield began a canvass for subscriptions, and having secured $2,500.00 in a few days, a call was issued for a meeting of the subscribers. This meeting was held in the U. S. District Courtroom January 12, 1864, and Honorable Matthew P. Deady was made president of the temporary organization. It was decided to call the organization the Mercantile Library Association; but this was later changed to the Library Association of Portland. On February 20, another meeting was held, and directors chosen, who at a meeting on March 3 elected W. S. Ladd, president, and William Strong vice-president. Dues were placed at $3.00 a quarter and there was an initiation fee of $5.00 which was reduced to $2.00 in 1867 and abolished in 1869.

Having secured rooms on the second floor of the Stark building and having money available for equipment, the officers ordered a long list of periodicals and forwarded $2,000.00 to Judge Nelson and J. A. Hatt of New York City for the purchase of books.

They selected 1400 volumes and forwarded them by way of the Isthmus. They arrived in November and were placed on the shelves by Harvey W. Scott, the first librarian, who served until the following May when he resigned to begin his connection of many years with the *Oregonian.*

In 1869, through the generosity of Mr. Ladd and Mr. Tilton the association was able to occupy rooms over the bank at the Southwest corner of First and Stark streets, and through renewals of the offer continued to occupy the same quarters, free of rent, until June 1893, a gift of great importance to a struggling institution.

Judge Deady early suggested a plan for the sale of forty or more perpetual memberships to be sold at $250.00 apiece and succeeded in procuring signatures of 101 subscribers and in raising a fund of $25,250.00.

The early history of the Association was filled with financial difficulties. At the end of the first year, it owed for current expenses $684.25, but through special effort most of this was raised between the end of the year and the first of March. The membership increased gradually but it was not unusual for members to give their names but never pay any money.

By 1867, the Association owned about 2,000 volumes, many of them public documents, the gifts of Oregon's representatives in Congress. An inventory taken February 22, 1867, showed sixty or seventy volumes missing, probably stolen.

The report for 1869 stated that through an arrangement with the Council, the librarian was about to assume the duties of meteorological observer for the city, for which he was to receive $15.00 a month. The reports of the librarian for 1870 and 1874 also contain his report as meteorological observer and give the readings of the barometer, and the records of snow, rain and temperature for the year. Judge Deady thought it extremely important to keep and publish an authentic weather record of our "wholesome, temperate, and agreeable climate".

Pacific University, Forest Grove

One of the most interesting of the early libraries is that of Pacific University at Forest Grove. In 1852, when Sidney Harper Marsh was offered the presidency of the new institution, he was given a year in which to make special preparation for his work and gather books for the library. The library had been

started before his arrival in Oregon, and when the charter was granted giving full collegiate privileges to "Tualatin Academy and Pacific University", one thousand volumes were in the library, the result of the efforts of Dr. Atkinson, who had been sent out by the Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Church. The first book, a *History of Harvard College,* was given in 1859 by Rev. C. S. Damon, seaman's chaplain at Hawaii.

The *Souvenir Bulletin, Articles Exhibited by Pacific University at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 1909* has this to say of their valuable collection:

"Many authors gave of their works, Longfellow, Rufus Choate, Edward Everett Hale. The most interesting collection came from the family of Rev. Jedidiah Morse, for thirty years a leader in geographical knowledge, who gave his extensive collection of works of geography and travels. From this family came Ptolemy's *Universal Geography* printed in 1542, and for the physical laboratory the sounder, receiver and key used by S. F. B. Morse in developing the electric telegraph."

This library also contained important works from the printing press of the Oregon Mission, and some of the choice works of the early printers—Aldus, Elzevir, and Plantin.

Albany College

The Library of Albany College was founded at the annual meeting held on January 24, 1868. Books belonging to the Albany Library and Literary Institute were donated, and a room in the College building chosen as a library, which was to be free to all the donors, members of the Institute. By the time the decennial census was taken in 1870, Albany was able to report 1,000 volumes in its college library.

Corvallis

Articles of incorporation for the Corvallis Library Association were filed in the office of the County Clerk, December 24, 1872. The articles state the Association "shall endure fifty years" and that its purpose and object "is to purchase and possess a library of a miscellaneous character for general reading on all subjects of a literary, scientific and entertaining description, to have and possess a room suitable for the same." The capital stock was five thousand dollars gold coin and the shares were "fifty dollars gold coin." How long this Association lasted is not known—the

Articles of Incorporation gave fifty years as the duration of the corporation but some time before 1880, probably in the late 1870's the books were given to the Adelphian Literary Society of Corvallis College, which in 1885 became the Oregon Agricultural College.

The present Corvallis Public Library is an outgrowth of the work of the "Coffee-Club" which was started some years later.

University of Oregon

When the University of Oregon opened in 1876, it was entirely without library facilities, but during the second year students of the institution through their two literary societies purchased a collection of about 500 volumes from the Eugene Library Association, and arranged to care for them. The Eugene Library Association had been formed on February 7, 1874, and opened its doors to the public April 23 of the same year. While it had an auspicious start, it lasted only a short time.

The University collection increased very slowly and was inadequate to meet the needs of the school. Finally Henry Villard came to the rescue and his offer of help is given in a letter to the Board of Regents, dated October 25, 1881, and printed in Walling's *Illustrated History of Lane County* in which Mr. Villard states:

"2nd. That I will give one thousand dollars for the foundation of a Library for the University. I will personally undertake to have the most suitable works of references selected by competent eperts."

In 1883, Mr. Villard gave property valued at $50,000 to constitute a perpetual endowment fund for the University and stipulated that from the annual income not less than four hundred dollars was to be expended regularly for building up the library. For eighteen years this four hundred dollars was the main source of funds as the State made no appropriation.

Territorial Library

Oregonians early realized the importance of a collection of books for official use. The minutes of the public meeting of the inhabitants of Oregon Territory held on July 5th, 1843, printed in the *Oregon Archives,* contains the following, "Moved and carried, to purchase several law books, of Jas. O'Neill, to be the property of this community" but the amount paid and the titles of the books are not given.

In the enabling act of August 14, 1848, Congress appropriated $5,000 for a library to be maintained at the seat of government. J. Quinn Thornton in his memorial to Congress, writes:

"Your memorialist prays that the sum of ten thousand dollars may be appropriated, to be expended in the purchase of a library, to be kept at the seat of government for the use of the governor, secretary, legislature, judges, marshal, district attorney, and such other persons, and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. The fact that the inhabitable part of the Territory is so remote from the seat of the national government, and that access cannot be had to any books or libraries, is a circumstance rendering it expedient to make this appropriation much larger than might, under other circumstances, be necessary. The necessary books of reports in the departments of law alone would cost a large sum, to say nothing of books upon the science of government, general politics, history, education, agriculture, horticulture, &c."

Samuel Royal Thurston, first delegate to Congress from Oregon Territory, was much interested in the library and in the diary kept while in Washington frequently mentions the documents which he has secured for the Territorial Library—charts of the battlefields in Mexico, patent reports, publications of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition, narrative and scientific works of the Coast Survey being among the publications. His diary for June 24, 1850, has the following item: "Also wrote a letter to J. McBride suggesting to him the idea of circulating libraries in Oregon. Wrote to Linn City on the same subject."

F. G. Young in his "Financial History of Oregon" which appeared in the *Oregon Historical Society Quarterly,* 1907, gives the following account of the money appropriated:

"The five-thousand dollar appropriation for a territorial library incorporated in the act organizing the Territory was quite naturally placed at the command of the newly appointed governors as soon as they qualified, and while yet in the East, so that they could more conveniently make suitable purchases of books. The record of the disbursement of this library fund is found in communications by Governors Lane and Gaines, respectively, in response to resolutions by the Territorial House of Representatives enquiring as to what disposition had been made of this money.

"On July 26, 1849, Governor Lane, in reply to the request made on the fifth day of the first session of the first House, said, 'that books to the amount of two thousand dollars have been purchased in New York, and shipped for Oregon last winter, and

that the balance of the appropriation will be applied, as provided by law of Congress.' On December 8, 1852, Governor Gaines had a similar inquiry made of him to which he responded as follows:

" 'I received from the treasury of the United States $3,000.00, which was [in]vested in books and maps, and placed in a room fitted up for the purpose in Oregon City, and delivered nearly two years since to Mr. J. Turner, the librarian elected by the Legislative Assembly, together with a catalogue of the entire purchase, since which time, I have exercised no control whatever over the library.' A voucher from the comptroller of the Treasury accompanied this statement.

"In the quarrel between Gov. Gaines and the territorial legislature over the validity of the act of the latter locating the seat of government, the penitentiary, and the territorial university, the retention of the library at Oregon City—the original seat of government—it made a subject of complaint by the legislature in its memorial to Congress in December 1851. In this memorial the legislature asked for permission for themselves to elect their Governor, Secretary and judges."

The *Biennial Report of the Oregon State Library for* 1880 contains a brief history of the library and its librarians, who usually were students using this means of paying their expenses while studying law. Several of these later became prominent in the State. The first Librarian was Aaron E. Wait, afterwards Chief Justice of Oregon, who served two years. Others who held the position for terms, usually brief, were James D. Turner, Ludlow Rector, Chester N. Terry, Milton Shannon, F. S. Hoyt and B. F. Bonham during territorial times, and J. C. Peebles, Geo. J. Ryan, and S. C. Simpson, brother of Sam Simpson, during the early days of statehood.

The Territorial Library originally was located at Oregon City, then the seat of government, but the Legislative Assembly of 1851-52 ordered the librarian to move the library from Oregon City to Salem, on or before January 1, 1852. That this was not done before this date is shown in the report of the librarian for 1852, which contains a letter from Adams & Co., dated September 27, 1852, stating that they had been holding in their office for two months a shipment of books for the Territorial Library which had been delivered to the librarian at Oregon City who refused to pay the freight charges amounting to $39.00.

The *Report of the Librarian for* 1854 shows "1,735 volumes of miscellaneous and law books in the library." In 1855, between

Christmas and New Year, the capitol building was burned and most of the library destroyed, the only books saved being the few in circulation. The Legislature which convened in the fall of 1856 passed a joint memorial asking Congress for an appropriation of $20,000 but Congress granted only $500.

After the first the small collection of books which grew very slowly was moved from one place to another, occupying in turn the Old Court House, the Rector House, the Opera House and the Grover Building, until in 1878 it was removed to the new capital building.

During Territorial days Congress had complete control of the library. A salary of $250.00 a year was paid until 1855, when it was raised to $500.00 but when Oregon had been admitted to statehood and the State Legislature assumed control, the salary was fixed at $150.00 a year. From the fire in 1855 until 1880, only $4,100 had been appropriated for the purchase of books, but the librarian in 1880 reported 9,283 volumes in the library, mostly law books and public documents, with the *American Encyclopedia, Zells Encyclopedia* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica.* By 1878 it had assumed such importance that there were twenty-two applicants for the position of librarian.

The "Report of the Librarian and a Catalogue of the Territorial Library" are published as appendices to the *Journals of the Legislature* in 1852-54. It is interesting to note the character of the books, and to see that from the beginning it was thought necessary to have in the State a good collection of books of various subjects. Some of the titles contained in the catalogue for 1852 in addition to the law texts and reports, are Goldsmith's *Works, U.S. Dispensatory, Vicar of Wakefield, Gulliver's Travels, Schiller's Thirty Year's War,* Darwin's *Voyages, American Ornithology, Geography of the Heavens* and *American Architect.* The catalogue for 1854 contains several books on medicine, several astronomies, the *American Rifle,* by Chapman, *Manual of Practical Assaying, Angler's Guide, Angler Complete,* by Walton, *Bible* and *Gipsies in Spain,* by Barrow [Borrow], *Birds of America* (105 pamphlets), *Encyclopedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture,* many books of poems, the works of Scott and Cooper, and some other fiction—on the whole a well selected general library.

During the early days of Statehood, the librarians usually emphasized the need of larger and more regular appropriations to fill the many gaps in the collection. In 1872, the Librarian S. C. Simpson, in closing his report says:

"In conclusion, permit me to suggest that the State Library is deserving of more attention at the hands of the Legislature than it has yet received. The foundation of a good Library ought to be one of the first concerns of a young state. . . . But Oregon hasn't even the nucleus of such a Library. This is, in fact, one of the most constantly and consistently neglected institutions of the State. . . . It is inferior to the library of many a respectable village in the Eastern States. . . . There is no reason in the world why Oregon should occupy the bad eminence of having the poorest Library of any State in the Union. The Library has no value at all except as a Law Library. Yet even that department is scantily furnished. . . . There are only three full sets of Reports in it—those of New York, Mass. & Ky." Mr. Simpson then suggested that regular biennial appropriations be made and after the Law Library had been adequately equipped that "the appropriation might then be continued and applied to the purchase of books for a miscellaneous department."

In reviewing this history of the early State and Territorial Libraries, it is most interesting to note the emphasis that, from the start, has been placed on the desirability of a circulating library for the people of the State: in 1843, through the purchase of books from Jas. O'Neill; in 1848, by Thornton in his memorial to Congress; in 1850, by Thurston in his letter to J. McBride; by those who selected the books for the Territorial Library, and by the librarians who heard the call from the people and did their best to bring it to the attention of the Legislature.

MIRPAH G. BLAIR.

THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN BRITISH COLUBIA

In reviewing the earliest library movement in British Columbia one must cast his mind back to the days when the western portion of British North America was little more than a huge fur reserve, and the only contact with civilization was through the fur trading posts scattered at great distances throughout this vast territory.

The fur trading companies realised, just as we do today, that the supply of reading matter was an essential part of the equipment of these small communities.

The Hudson's Bay Company had so-called libraries at all their district offices, the size of the library depending largely on the situation of the district office. For instance, York Factory, Norway House, Fort Vancouver and Victoria had quite large libraries because each ship carrying settlers or servants was suplied with a library and was instructed to turn the library over to the fur trade on arrival at its destination. After these books had all been read they were passed on to other districts; for instance, those coming on ships to York Factory went to Norway House, Winnipeg, thence up the big Saskatchewan and down the McKenzie River. Those landed from ships arriving at this coast, after being read at Victoria, went on to Port Simpson and Fort St. James, after which they were distributed to smaller posts, a few here and a few there.

The classes of books suplied covered all branches of knowledge, the largest percentage being fiction. In addition to books the Hudson's Bay Company sent out the London *Times* and other leading journals for circulation among its servants, but as can be readily understood, owing to the limited means of communication, these papers were often a year old before they were received at some of the distant posts.

According to W. F. Tolmie the first circulating library on the Pacific Slope had its inception at Fort Vancouver in 1833. The idea of establishing a circulating library among the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company having been conceived by Mr. Anderson and Chief-trader Donald Manson, the suggestion was readily approved by Dr. McLaughlin and James Douglas. A subscription library was formed and successfully operated for ten years or until the year of founding Fort Victoria in 1843, the field of operations of the Hudson's Bay Company having been removed owing to the uncertainty of the outcome of the Oregon boundary dispute.

The British Government made a grant of exclusive privilege on Vancouver Island upon condition that settlement would be encouraged, but although the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island was created in 1849, there were very few inhabitants until 1858 when gold was discovered on the Fraser River, bringing about a great influx of miners and others. With this sudden rush of population and for the purpose of maintaining law and order a separate Colony was formed on the mainland. The two Colonies united under the name of Colony of British Columbia in 1866.

During all this time, or until 1860, the inhabitants of the Colony were very little better off for library facilities, than the fur traders; in fact, the first newspaper in British Columbia was not published until June 1858.

As in most places the Mechanics or Literary Institutes became the forerunner of the Public Library movement. In Victoria a Mechanics Literary Institute was opened on December 15, 1864, with about 250 volumes, the subscription being $1 per month, $10 per annum and $50 life membership. As indicating the benefits to be derived from this Institute the following is quoted from an advertisement in a local paper:—

> "An Institution tending to the advantage both of the individual and of the community at large to diminish crime and to diffuse a healthy moral tone among those who are the bone and muscle, the sinew and fibre of the infant Colony."

It may be mentioned that one of the first visitors to the Institute was Charles Kean, the noted English actor, who happpened to be playing in Victoria at the time.

The collection was removed to the City Hall about 1880 where it remained until the new Carnegie Library was opened in 1904.

Another Literary Institute on Vancouver Island was one located at Nanaimo, the center of the coal mining industry. It was founded in 1862 in connection with St. Paul's Church and was commonly known as "St. Paul's Literary Institute," and the constitution called for its supervision by its officiating minister. The members considered this too denominational, and had it moved to Messrs. Gordon and Blessing's Building on Commercial Street, the name being changed to the Nanaimo Literary Institute. In November 1864, Governor Kennedy laid the foundation stone of a new building. It was a two-storied structure and was erected by money raised at concerts, lectures, etc., and by voluntary contributions of the inhabitants. It contained Reading and Committee Rooms, Public Hall for concerts, etc. Mr. Mark Bate, an early pioneer

of the district, and to whom I am indebted for much of this information, served as President for a lengthy period. Samuel Gough, late City Clerk of Nanaimo was Secretary for nearly twenty years. The Institute Building was acquired by the Corporation for Muncipal purposes in 1886 and with the addition of about 20 feet to its length the building still serves as the City Hall.

In regard to the Mainland of British Columbia, the New Westminster Library has an interesting history insofar that what formed the nucleus of that library was brought out by the main body of the Royal Engineers who sailed from England on the *Thames City* in 1858. The books were selected by Sir E.Bulwer Lytton and purchased by the officers and men. Several books were donated by Queen Victoria, Lady Franklin and the Duke of Westminster. The Queen gave a handsome volume of the speeches of the Prince Consort. Lord Lytton gave a cash contribution. The collection which was valued at £500 was housed at the Club of the Royal Engineers Camp, and when this famous corps was disbanded in November, 1863, the library was handed over to the citizens of New Westminster and transferred to the old Mint Building where a Mechanics Institute was established. About 1890, the books were removed to enable the wooden building to be torn down and replaced by a brick one, where the City Hall now stands. The building had several stores on the ground floor and the library upstairs. The library continued its usefulness until the great fire of September 10, 1898, swept this building and library out of existance. Only the books in the hands of readers whose homes escaped the flames and the "Queen's Book" which Alderman Johnston rescued at some personal risk were saved. In 1899, a library committee was formed and an appeal made to start a new library. Provision was made for this when the new City Hall was built and here it was housed until the new Carnegie Building was erected.

The mining activities in the Cariboo district in the sixties attracted quite a large number of miners and others and in the natural trend of development the want of a library was soon felt. In June, 1865, a reading room and circulating library was established at Camerontown, one of the three camps on Williams Creek in the Cariboo Mining district. John Bowron was Librarian. Apparently with the intention of distinguishing this learned institution from the establishment carried on by Ben Lichtenstein who not only ran a circulating library but made public the fact that he was also the vendor of choice Havanna cigars, pen knives, per-

fumery and wax matches at 75 cents per dozen, the circulating library changed its name to Cariboo Literary Institute. At the first of October, 1866, the Library contained 437 volumes and numbered 104 subscribers. The average circulation being 60 volumes per week. The reading room was supplied with 14 weekly and 2 semi-weekly newspapers, also the following magazines: and reviews:— *Blackwoods, Harpers, London Quarterly, North British, Westminster* and *Edinburgh Review.* The Government presented Black's *Atlas of the World,* Lewis' *American Sportsman and* Burton's *Cyclopaedia of Wit and Humor.* (Probably the latter volume inspired Sawney to write his Cariboo rhymes).

We are informed that the Library consisted of works on Religion, Science, History, Poetry in addition to fiction and the reference section contained Worcester's *Large Pictorial Dictionary,* Ure's *Dictionary of the Arts, Manufactures and Mines,* Lippincott's *Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World* and Homan's *Cyclopaedia of Commerce.* The terms of subscription were $2 per month or $5 per quarter. Single volumes were loaned at 50 cents per volume with $1 deposit. Persons not subscribers who visited the reading room and made use of books or papers were charged 25 cents for each visit. The Institute was open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

In order to give some idea of the district and condition of the Community served by this mental outfit it may be mentioned that Williams Creek is two miles long with a population in 1865 of 2,000 men, divided into three camps, Richfield, Barkerville and Camerontown. The population was housed in stately dwellings ranging in size from seven feet by nine feet to eight feet by ten feet, and from eight to ten feet high, in many of which half a dozen of hardy, honest miners were domiciled. Camerontown where the Institute was located obtained its name from the well known miner "Cariboo" Cameron, who struck it rich at this point in 1862, the mine yielding $1,000 to the foot.

In regard to the establishment of Public Libraries in Vancouver, I cannot do better than quote the account as given by Mr. Harry Cotton, who says:

"Credit for the establishment of a public library in Vancouver is mainly due to the late Father Clinton, for many years the devoted rector of St. James Church. Realizing that the young men, who, in the early days, constituted the greater portion of Vancouver's inhabitants, had no place in which to spend their leisure time, outside the numerous saloons, Father Clinton, in 1887, conceived the

idea of starting a public readingroom and library. He broached the subject to some of the leading citizens of the time, all of whom promised the movement hearty support.

"Quarters were secured on the upper floor of a two story brick building, known as 136 Cordova street west, which was then in the centre of the business section. This building, erected soon after the Great Fire of '86, was demolished last year.

"It was proposed that the library should be supported by public donations and a monthly subscription of 50 cents. At the start the institution was fortunate in securing some 400 or 500 books from the Hastings Literary Institute, whose origin dated from the early days when the only settlements on Burrard Inlet were around the old Moodyville and Hastings mills. For the benefit of the employees, each of these mills provided a reading-room.

"With the springing up of Vancouver many employees left the vicinity of the mill and usefulness of the reading-room became a thing of the past. It was accordingly agreed that the library should be donated to the new Vancouver institution.

"The opening of the library and reading-room took place early in December, 1887, and at a meeting held in that month the following officers were appointed: President, Rev. H.G.F. Clinton; Treasurer, E.V. Bodwell; Secretary, Dr. Bodington; Librarian, George Pollay; Executive Committee, J.C. Keith, M. H. Hirschberg, J. Calister, H. P. McCarney, Father Fay and Ainslie J. Mouat; Trustees H. Abbott, R.H. Alexander and F.C. Cotton.

"After a year's trial it was found that owing to the small fee the library was not patronized by those for whom it was founded. So in April, 1889, application was made to the Council for a grant and $250 was donated, this being the first civic appropriation for library purposes.

"In 1890, Mr. George Pollay, who had gratuitously acted as Librarian from the start, resigned that position owing to business engagements, although he continued to take a deep interest in the Library and was for many years a member of the Board. Mr. Pollay died at Discovery, Atlin, in 1912. His widow is still a resident of Vancouver, and lives at 743 Eighteenth avenue east.

"The Council of this period was induced to assist the Library more liberally and an annual grant of $2,000 was authorized. It was decided to engage a regular Librarian and the choice fortunately fell on the late Mr. Edwin Machin, an English lawyer, who had just arrived in the city with his wife and daughter, the latter being now the wife of Mr. Herbert Beeman, Assistant Secretary

of the Board of Trade. The Council also from this date appointed a library committee from citizens interested in its work.

"Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. and Mrs. Machin for their work in the early and struggling days of the library. Although the salary for several years was only a miserable pittance of $65 per month, the Library was kept open morning, noon and night, Mr. Machin being relieved by his wife and daughter. When they assumed charge the Library shelves were almost bare and the civic appropriation was too small to permit of any extensive purchases. But by begging books from friends in this country and in England, Mr. and Mrs. Machin obtained sufficient to make the institution something more than just a library in name.

"In 1893 the City Council appointed two Aldermen to the Board, Aldermen Salsbury and Towler, which probably accounted for the increased appropration of $3,600. The library quarters had for some time been too small, so in June, 1893, a move was made to 169 Hastings Street west. This building is now occupied by a beer parlor and the Astor Hotel, but was originally intended for a very different purpose, having been erected by the Y.M.C.A. which, however, lost it a short time later.

"The purchase of a central site and erection of a modern library were frequently discussed. For some years the late Andrew Carnegie had been building libraries in the United States and had included a few Canadian cities in his list. A suggestion was made that Vancouver should approach the wealthy iron-master and in 1901 this was done.

"Who first made the suggestion was never really settled despite a somewhat heated newspaper controversy, but the general opinion was that Mr. A. Allayne Jones, who is still a resident here, deserved the credit. Anyway a formal request for a grant was addressed to Mr. Carnegie on February 28, 1901, to which he replied on March 6, as follows: If the city of Vancouver will furnish a suitable site and agree to spend $5,000 a year to maintain a library, I shall be glad to give $50,000 towards the erection of a building.

"The offer having been accepted, the next move was to secure a site and on this point a wide diversity of opinion existed. Many today, especiallly residents of the West End and Kitsilano, complain that the site is not central, but the matter was settled by the vote of the citizens. Two sites were voted on, the present location and lots 11, 12 and 13, blocks 26 of 541. The latter lots are at the southwest corner of Pender and Hamilton Streets and are now

occupied by the I.O.O.F. Hall and Board of Trade rooms. On election day, August 5, 1901, the East End and Mount Pleasant voters turned out in force and piled up 746 votes for the present site, while only 407 votes were mustered for the Pender street location. The plans of G.W. Grant, a well-known architect, whose death was recently recorded, were accepted and the foundation stone laid under Masonic auspices. But as everything had to be submitted to Mr. Carnegie, progress was slow and it was not until late in 1903 that the building was opened.

"Mr. Machin continued to act as Librarian until January 5, 1910, when illness resulting from a fall from a street car caused his resignation, which was received with the greatest regret. Mrs. Machin continued to hold office as Assistant Librarian for some years until ill-health compelled her to give up a task in which she had taken such a great interest. Mr. Machin was succeeded as librarian by A. E. Goodman, who held the position for a few months and he in turn by R.W. Douglas, who resigned about eighteen months ago, at which time Mr. E.S. Robinson the present librarian was appointed."

While I am only dealing with the older libraries of the Province, mention might be made of the finely equipped library housed at the University of British Columbia, and under the energetic supervision of its Librarian, Mr. John Ridington, it is destined to become a large factor in library service in the Province.

To return to the capital city, Victoria, we have the Provincial Library which really antedates all other libraries in the Province of British Columbia. We find that as far back as 1863 the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island voted $1,000 for the formation of a Parliamentary Library. But as early as 1849 the first Governor of the Colony, Mr. Richard Blanshard, had brought a small library out with him from England, and the records show that it cost £51.8.6.

At first there was no regular Librarian for the Legislative Library. The books were kept in a small room adjoining the Assembly Hall and Members of the Legislature helped themselves. Such a system of course could only result in confusion and the loss of many volumes.

From 1886-1888, Mr. Wm. Atkins had charge of the Library during the Session, and from thence till 1893 Mr. Joseph Bridgman held the position. The first permanent appointment was made in 1893 when Mr. R. E. Gosnell became Provincial Librarian. The Library at this time only contained about three thousand volumes, and

these were principally Parlimentary papers. Mr. Gosnell extended the scope of the Library very much, paying particular attention to the collection of material relating to the history of the Province, and thus laying the foundation of what was destined to become later a very important department of the Government.

Mr. E.O.S. Scholefield was appointed assistant to Mr. Gosnell in 1894, and in 1898 to the chief position, which he held until his death in 1919, and was succeeeded by J. Forsyth. During Mr. Scholefield's tenure of office the votes by the Legislature were larger than the early days, and he was able to add over 50,000 volumes. Like his predecessor, he also specialized in books and other material bearing on the early history of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, and it has been asserted by experts that this great mass of materials is perhaps the finest collection extant insofar as this region is concerned.

The Library is primarily a reference institution for the use and benefit of the Legislative Assembly and Government Departments, but during recess it is thrown open to the public from 9 till 5, with the exception of Saturday, when it is closed at 1 o'clock.

The resources of the Library cover a wide range of subjects embracing over 177,000 volumes covering all departments of knowledge. In addition to books there are several thousands of pamphlets and unbound material. Of book rarities mention might be made of the Shakespeariana collection, which includes a copy of the rare original second Folio of Shakespeare, but as already stated it is in books and pamphlets relating to the history of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest that we have specialized.

So heavy have been the demands for information on points of legislative interest that it has been found necessary to appoint a special assistant in order to facilitate the gathering together and digesting of documents, papers and other materials dealings with the experiences of other governments and states with regard to legislation already in force or about to be introduced.

For several years there has been a steady increase in the number of people making use of the Library. The total number of books issued at the enquiry desk during the past year was 48,343 volumes, as compared with 44, 181 in the previous year, an increase of 4,162 volumes. These figures of course do not take into account the extensive use made of the open shelf collection.

The first Libraries Act in British Columbia was passed in 1891. It was entitled "The Free Libraries Act" and made provision for the establishment of a library in any incorporated municipality

upon petition of 100 city electors and the passing of a By-law with the assent of the electors.

The control of the library was vested in a Board of Management consisting of the Mayor or Reeve, three city councillors and three appointed by the School Board or Board of Education. The rate not to exceed one half of a mill in the dollar upon assessed value of all rateable real property.

The foregoing act as will be noted made no provision for starting libraries in the smaller districts because of the want of an organization to aid those willing and anxious to undertake such work, no library commission or organiser.

This defect was remedied by the passing of the Public Libraries Act in 1919 which provided for the appointment by the Government of a Public Libraries Commission consisting of three persons in addition to the Secretary or Organiser, who would co-operate with Library Associations and Library Boards on matters of administration of Public Libraries and operate a system of Travelling Libraries for unorganized and sparsely populated districts.

Ten or more persons in any locality in the Province may form a Public Library Association for the purpose of maintaining a Public Library in that locality. The municipal By-law can be passed upon petition of 100 electors for population over 5,000, the Board to consist of the Mayor and two, four or six other persons elected and appointed by the Municipal Council and the rate to be levied to be left to the Council.

From 1898 until the passing of the 1919 Act, the Travelling Libraries formed a department of the Provincial Library. An amendment in 1920 to the Provincial or as it was called the "Legislative Library and Bureau of Statistics Act, 1894", power was given to the Public Libraries Commission to borrow books from the Provincial Library in order to supplement their service.

A few years ago regret might have been expressed that the library movement had not been general throughout the Province but with the pasing of the latest Act rapid progress has been made in establishing libraries in the smaller towns and the general improvement may be credited in a large degreee to the activities of the British Columbia Library Association.

J. FORSYTH

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