

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY IN ATLANTA

By Alma Hill Jamison

The first library in English North America, according to the minutes of the Virginia company of November 15, 1620, was begun in the following way:

"After the Acts of the former Courts were read, a strainger stept in, presenting a Mapp of Sir Walter Rawlighs contayninge a Descripcion of Guiana, and with the same, fower great books as the Guifte of one unto the Company that desyred his name not to be made knowne whereof one book was a treatise of St. Augustine of the City of God, translated into English, the other three greate Volumes were the works of Mr. Perkins' newlie corrected and amended, which books the donor desyred they might be sent to the college in Virginia there to remayne in safttie to the use of the collegiates thereafter; and not suffered at any time to be send abroade or used in the meanwhile. For which so worthy a gift my Lord of Southampton desyred the p'tie that presented them to returne deserved thanks for himsele and the rest of the Company to him that had so kindly bestowed them."<sup>1</sup>

Research has never brought to light the name of this provider of a nucleus for the library of the proposed Henrico University, a project which was abandoned after the Indian massacre of 1628. The colonizing agencies were early aware of the value of books as a means of escape from the hardships and uncertainties of colonial life, and the hardy adventurers who set forth to undergo the perils of the new country carried books along with their powder and shot. We find one of them, George Sandys, by name, spending the intervals between his expeditions under Captain John Smith against the Indians in translating Ovid's *Metamorphoses* into unusually creditable English.

Nor was the idea of a free lending public library unknown in the colonizing age, for that zealous promoter of Christian knowledge at home and abroad, Rev. Thomas Bray with his plan for a free lending library in every parish, domestic and colonial, anticipated Mr. Andrew Carnegie by some two hundred years. Although Dr. Bray died in 1730, just prior to Oglethorpe's settlement of Georgia, two of Dr. Bray's societies, merged under his will, furnished the institutional basis for the Georgia Trust. The Reverend Stephen Hales,

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1. *South in the Building of the Nation* 7, 484.

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one of the Georgia trustees, was indefatigable in collecting books, chiefly religious, it is true, to send to Georgia, and every shipload of colonists brought books as a part of its cargo of necessities.<sup>2</sup> By 1751, libraries were so much a part of the Georgia social and educational pattern that we have the statement of John William DeBrahm in his *Province of Georgia* that every colonist who could afford one collected a library.

"There is scarcely a house in the cities, towns and plantations but what have some choice authors, if not libraries, of religious, philosophical and political writers. Booksellers endeavour to import the newest editions and take care to commission the best, well knowing they will not encumber their shops long, but soon find admirers and purchasers besides that many of their books they write for are commissioned for by the inhabitants. This province was scarce thirty years settled before it had three fine libraries in the City of Savannah; the 4th at Ebenezer and a 5th, 96 and 3/4 miles from the sea upon the stream of Savannah. In these libraries could be had books wrote in the Caldaic, Hebrew, Arabec, Seriac, Coptic, Malabar, Greek, Latin, French, German, Dutch and Spanish besides the English 13 languages."<sup>3</sup>

The manorial economy which subsequently developed in the southern states tended to discourage the growth of many large communities and to expand the family as a social unit. Education by tutors and governesses became the accepted mode and the development of private libraries was a necessary complement. Dr. Bray's plan for a free lending library in every parish did not long survive its originator, but subscription libraries supplementing such private collections as were available sprang up in the larger communities benefiting great numbers of readers who never before had access to books.

It is not known who had the first private library in Atlanta, but there were booksellers here long before the civil war, and Mr. McPherson, the first bookseller in Atlanta, as early as 1845 was known to permit favored customers to read his books.<sup>4</sup> Nor is it known just when these booksellers

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2. L. F. Church's *Oglethorpe*, 235-6.

3. J. G. DeBrahm's *Province of Georgia*, 24. 1849.

4. *Atlanta Historical Bulletin* 10, 42. 1937.

began the practice of renting books to their patrons. We have the authority of Mrs. Aurelia Roach McMillan for believing that Mr. Richards was the only one to follow this practice during the war. Mrs. McMillan's mother, Ellen Mitchell, daughter of Alexander Weldon Mitchell, and later Mrs. E. J. Roach, told her daughter of renting *Our Mutual Friend* in installments from Mr. Richards' store, at ten cents per installment.<sup>5</sup> The blockade of the southern ports delayed some of the installments interminably, and the occasional capture of a blockade-runner carrying books left hiatuses in her knowledge of the Dickens classic which were not bridged until years later.

Whatever private libraries or booksellers' stock there may have been in Atlanta prior to September 14, 1864, there were none after that date, and the returning citizens who set to work so heroically to rebuild their city from its ashes soon began to seek some means for establishing a library in their midst. The *Atlanta Daily New Era* for December 28, 1866 carried the following letter:

"Mr. Editor: We wish to call the attention of young men and of our citizens generally to a new project that is being started, and which we think will be a very desirable one, should it succeed. It has been suggested that a reading-room for the young men would be that which is absolutely needed for many of them who feel the want of something pleasant for these long winter evenings, and at the same time be a benefit to them. Other cities have their reading-rooms and libraries. The former at least is within our reach, and soon we may have a library. Will you, both young men and others, think of this matter, and help us all you can by the aid of your subscriptions as well as by your influence?

(Signed) Many Young Men."

*The New Era* of December 29th, conferred its blessing on the enterprise and promised more information later. True to its promise, the paper on January 3, 1867 carried a long editorial telling of reading rooms successfully operated in older cities and producing benignant results in giving the youth more intelligent and exalted views of life and its responsibilities, duties and noble ends . . . "Such an enterprise elevated society and works a benefit to every member there-

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5. Statement of Mrs. McMillan to writer.

of and should therefore receive generous encouragement and assistance from all our citizens.”<sup>6</sup>

From many sources we learn that Darwin Jones, a teller of the Georgia National Bank was the originator of the idea of a subscription library for young men. Mr. Jones had come to Atlanta immediately after the civil war from Milwaukee where such a library had been successfully operated for a number of years. Notwithstanding the sympathetic encouragement of the press, it was July before a meeting was held. Mr. Jones enlisted the aid of E. Y. Clarke and Henry Jackson and a meeting was called for the night of July 30, 1867 in the office of Mr. Parkins, an architect, in the Georgia National Bank Building. There were present at the first meeting: Albert Hape, J. R. Barrick, Darwin Jones, C. P. Freeman, E. Y. Clarke, A. R. Watson, John R. Kendrick, W. H. Parkins, Henry Jackson, Ed. H. Jones, W. D. Luckie and C. H. Davidge.<sup>7</sup> It was unanimously voted to form a library association and Henry Jackson and E. Y. Clarke were appointed as a committee to draft a constitution. They made a study of the constitutions of libraries successfully operated elsewhere, taking the Mercantile Library of New York, the Young Men's Library Associations of Milwaukee and Cleveland as models.<sup>8</sup> At the third meeting held on Monday night, August 12, the constitution was submitted and adopted. The preamble declared that the purpose of the organization was facilitation of mutual intercourse, extension of information, the promotion of a spirit of useful inquiry and the qualification of its members for proper discharge of their duties and the furtherance of every means of mutual improvement. The name adopted was the Young Men's Library Association of the City of Atlanta. Membership was open to any young man in any honorable pursuit who might be approved by the Board of Directors. There were

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6. *New Era* Jan. 3, 1867.

7. E. Y. Clarke's *Illustrated History of Atlanta*, 71. 1877.

8. L. A. Field's "History of the Library" in *Scrapbook* 1869-99 at Carnegie.

9. "Constitution and by-laws of the Y. M. L. A." 1870 in Carnegie Library *Scrapbook* 1.

three classes of members, active, life and honorary. The active members paid semi-annual dues of \$2 in advance, and could vote and hold office. The life members were made such by the payment of \$25. Honorary members were persons of distinction who might be elected by the board. Active members were also given the privilege of commuting their dues for life by paying \$50. There was to be a librarian, bonded for \$2,000 in favor of the association.

At the next meeting, 47 members signed the constitution and the following officers were elected for the first year: President, Henry Jackson; Vice-President, Darwin Jones; Secretary, C. P. Freeman; Treasurer, W. D. Luckie; Directors: E. Y. Clarke, A. R. Watson, H. T. Phillips, E. B. Pond, Albert Hape, F. O. Rudy, W. M. Williams, J. R. Barrick and L. H. Orme. The board held its first meeting on August 20th and appointed the necessary committees. A reading-room was rented for \$3 per month in a building on Alabama Street between what is now the Connally and Title Trust buildings. Fifteen dollars was expended for shelving, the reading-room opened and gifts of every type invited. The first gift was the American Cyclopaedia, made by Colonel L. P. Grant. A concert to raise money for books was next undertaken, with Mrs. P. H. Snook and Mrs. Lewis Clarke as singers. Several hundred dollars were raised by this means and the board was encouraged to undertake a series of lectures. Admiral Semmes, General D. H. Hill, Rev. H. S. Lamar, Governor Zebulon Vance of North Carolina, and Bret Harte were among the celebrities brought to the city in the first few years.<sup>11</sup> Although the struggle to carry on was difficult, the association grew in numbers and in books. By May 1868, there were a hundred and fifty members, and seven hundred and sixty volumes, and by May 1869, these had grown to two hundred and fifty members and eleven hundred and fifty volumes.<sup>12</sup> This growth necessitated more space, and an additional room was rented. Colonel L. P. Grant, elected the

10. E. Y. Clarke's *Illustrated History of Atlanta*, 72. 1877.

11. L. A. Field's "History of Library," clipping in *Scrapbook* 10, 1 at Carnegie—undated but circa 1889-90.

12. *Ibid.*

first honorary member, aided the association further by a gift of \$300 which was immediately spent for books. Although the membership was at first open only to young men, by 1873, young women were admitted as members. Miss Emma Abbott was the first young woman to apply for commutation of dues for life, and W. A. Hemphill, the first young man. The financial problem was always an acute one, and many were the solutions offered by various members. It is interesting to note that as early as May 9, 1870, W. G. Newman offered a resolution that the mayor and council be requested to make an appropriation from public monies for the association which would in return admit young men, appointed from each ward by the aldermen, to membership at reduced fees for one year.<sup>13</sup> This resolution was adopted by the association, but the mayor and general council proved indifferent to such an opportunity for the young men in their wards. Additional funds were raised by fairs, bazaars, concerts, lectures and spelling matches. The centennial of the Declaration of Independence was observed by a tea party with the proper money-raising accompaniments.<sup>14</sup> The chief event of this occasion was a vote for the most popular conductor on the railroads running through Atlanta. Fred Bush, the winner, was toasted in champagne, and presented several weeks later with a gold ticket-punch costing \$40.50.<sup>15</sup> The working gear of this instrument was of silver appropriately chased. The figure cut by the punch was a capital B, while his initials in German script appeared on the handle. A blue silk cover, a velvet lined Russian leather case, an enthusiastic letter of thanks completed the transaction.

One of the most interesting affairs given by the association was the Art Loan Exhibit beginning October 23, 1883 and ending November 10, 1883. Paintings, etchings, laces, embroideries, were borrowed from other cities, and attracted

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13. *New Era* May 10, 1870.

14. *Scrapbook* 1 at Carnegie Library Association—clipping undated but circa Mar. 9, 1876.

15. Bill in *Scrapbook* 1. . . . dated Feb. 28, 1876.

a throng of visitors. One of the chief attractions was the burlesque art gallery. Diversions where every taste was represented, including, for the socially-minded, Germans, led by Charles Crankshaw, Frank Holland and Thomas Paine, were nightly events. The children had their share in the celebration when a series of tableaux of Shakespearean characters in costume were arranged. Another major attraction was a chess game played by members of the Atlanta Chess club with living chessmen.<sup>16</sup> A spelling-match conducted by Henry Peeples was largely attended. The attendance at this exhibit was great enough to maintain a restaurant during the entire period. The profit of \$800 which was realized from this affair enabled the directors to engage a Miss Bean from Brookline, Massachusetts, to classify and catalog the book collection, and to appoint Fanny Wallace as assistant to Miss Bean.<sup>17</sup>

By this time, the library had become firmly established as an integral part of the social and cultural life of the city. Membership in the association was both honor and asset. Even board meetings took on a social atmosphere when concluded with oyster suppers at Pease's Bar at 145 Decatur Street. May was the month of greatest activity as the election of officers took place then. Feeling at these elections sometimes became so intense that hundreds of new members often joined just prior to an election to vote for their favorite candidate. Anniversary exercises, held annually, were major social events.<sup>18</sup> Every director appeared in full dress for the occasion, and all friends of the library turned out to do it honor. The book collection grew, necessitating several changes of location.

The first reading room of the association was on the second floor of a building on Alabama between the Connally and Title Trust building, rented for \$3 per month. After a short stay at this location, the need for larger quarters

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16. *The Atlanta Journal* Oct. 24, 1883.

17. History by L. A. Field in *Scrapbook* 1 at library.

18. *Ibid.*

brought a removal to the second floor of the building at the northwest corner of Broad and the Viaduct. In 1874, the library moved to still larger quarters in the building on the southeast corner of Marietta and Forsyth, later known as the Ivan Allen-Marshall building, where it remained until 1881 when it was installed in its own building, made possible by a loan from Senator Brown, on the south side of Decatur Street between Pryor and Central Avenue. The letters Y.M.L.A. may yet be seen on top of this building which is still standing.

In May 1893, the Decatur Street property was sold for \$81,000 and the Old Markham House on the site of the present 101 Marietta Street Building was bought for \$40,000. After all outstanding obligations were met, a considerable balance still remained to be invested for the benefit of the association. The library remained in this Marietta Street building until it moved into its present quarters on the corner of Forsyth and Carnegie Way.

The problem of finances was always acute, limiting the expansion of the library. Many of the progressive members realized that the day of the subscription library was over, that the library as an educational and social force was closed to many worthy citizens who could not pay the membership fees. The inadequate book fund sharply narrowed the book selection. Reading rooms of the association had always been open to the public, but the privilege of borrowing books for home use was restricted to members. The working man and woman who had no time to read or study during library hours were thus denied access to books and reading became a luxury of the rich and well-to-do. Frequent discussions of the situation had led many members to believe that it was just as imperative for the city to provide free libraries for its citizens as to provide free schools. It was not until Walter M. Kelley, southern representative of the Carnegie steel interests, came to Atlanta in 1892 that the possibility of a free public library began to take form. Mr. Eugene M. Mitchell, at that time president of the Y.M.L.A.,



had seen in the newspapers accounts of Mr. Carnegie's gifts of library buildings to other cities and began to turn over in mind the possibility of securing such a gift for Atlanta.<sup>19</sup> As Mr. Carnegie's gifts of library buildings were made contingent on provision of a site and an annual appropriation from each city for support of the library, such an offer to Atlanta would force the issue of a free public library immediately to the front. Mr. Kelley was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Y.M.L.A. and, after a suitable interval, approached by Mr. Mitchell and other directors in regard to using his influence with Mr. Carnegie to obtain a library for Atlanta.<sup>20</sup> Mr. Kelley immediately began an effort to obtain such a gift for Atlanta, and in February 1899, received the following letter from Mr. Carnegie:<sup>21</sup>

Feb. 2, 1899.

W. M. Kelley  
Equitable Bldg.  
Atlanta, Ga.

My dear Mr. Kelley:

In reply to yours just received, it will give me great pleasure to present Atlanta with \$100,000 to build a free public library, provided the city finds a site and agrees to maintain it at a cost of not less than \$5,000 per year.

I leave the subject with you and will provide the money as you spend it, but everything must be attended to by the authorities of Atlanta. I can do nothing but provide the money and look to you to give proper attention to the matter.

I have especial pleasure in doing something for the south, a portion of the country to which I have always been much attached and in whose problems I am deeply interested.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Andrew Carnegie.

At this time, Mr. Carnegie had given libraries to eight American and two foreign cities, the Atlanta gift making the eleventh. Mr. Carnegie's interest in public libraries is traced to his experience as a poor boy who was among those fortunate enough to be admitted every Saturday night to the private library of Colonel James Anderson.

19. Statement of Eugene Mitchell to writer.

20. Statement of Mr. Mitchell to writer.

21. *Constitution* Feb. 8, 1899.

Although Mr. Carnegie's offer was not made public until February 8, 1899, negotiations begun by Mr. Eugene Mitchell, Mr. J. R. Nutting, and others of the officers of the association, through Mr. Kelley, had been under way several months. Every effort to make the venture a success was put forth by the officers. At Mr. Mitchell's request, Mayor J. G. Woodward had included in his inaugural address in January 1899, a recognition of the need of a public library as one of the pressing issues to be considered by the city. Immediately after publication of Mr. Carnegie's offer, the local newspapers began a campaign in favor of its acceptance. The offer was submitted to the Finance Committee of Council, and the good offices of Mr. Eugene Mitchell, Mr. J. R. Nutting, Mr. F. J. Paxon and Mr. Kelley, were again effective in convincing the Committee that the city could afford an annual appropriation of \$5,000; that it was not a socialistic venture, and that, although there was at that time no provision in the city charter for diverting public funds to maintain a library, it was not necessarily unconstitutional to do so. The offer was accepted by the city on March 2, 1899.

Although the situation has been frequently discussed in meetings of the Y.M.L.A., it required an unanimous vote to merge their interests with those of the new free library. The liberals urged that it was best to give all their assets to the Carnegie institution. At the meeting called to decide the issue, Captain J. C. Haskell urged that the merger be rejected. He was supported in this by Mr. Hooper Alexander, Mr. Charles Read, Mr. George DeSaussure, while Mr. Mitchell, Mr. W. M. Slaton, Mr. T. H. Martin and Mr. Nutting spoke in favor of the resolution to consolidate their assets with the new library. Opposition was finally crushed by the heckling and applause of 36 new members who had joined at this meeting. These had been brought in by Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Paxon, Mr. Nutting, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Martin and Mr. A. A. Meyer, each of whom had paid the membership fees for six of the new members who had pledged them-

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selves previously to vote as their sponsors requested.<sup>22</sup> When the vote was finally taken, only 11 were cast against the resolution. Mr. Hooper Alexander then made a motion that the vote be made unanimous and this was done. The city received, by this action, a deed dated May 9, 1899, to the Marietta Street property of the association, its entire book collection, and its funds, including \$11,500 invested by the association. It was stipulated by the directors that the first board of trustees of the new library should be composed of six members from the association and six from the city. The trustees recommended by the board were: Eugene Mitchell, James R. Nutting, W. M. Kelley, F. J. Paxon, T. H. Martin, and A. A. Meyer; from the city, Julian Harris, T. J. Day, W. J. Northen, Darwin Jones, W. M. Slaton, Dr. W. S. Elkin, and H. H. Cabaniss. At the same meeting called to elect trustees for the new board, Mr. Carnegie was elected an honorary member of the association. It was also decided to keep the organization intact as many members felt that the city might not continue its contract for more than a year or two, and in case such a contingency should arise, the library association should be in a position to demand the assets it had turned over to the city.

When council met to confirm the trustees nominated by the Young Men's Library Association, every name was approved until T. H. Martin's was brought up. W. S. Thomson, councilman from the 6th ward, attempted to block Mr. Martin's confirmation. Asserting that he had no objection whatever to Mr. Martin's character and had no intention of impugning his honesty, Mr. Thomson felt that so persistent an office-seeker should have no place on the new board. In support of his contention, he read a letter from a member of the Y.M.L.A., Charles A. Read,<sup>23</sup> one of the die-hards who had opposed the merger, attacking Mr. Martin's record and policies as a member of the association. Mr. Martin's friends immediately made such a warm defense that Mr. Thomson withdrew his motion and the entire slate was confirmed.

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22. Statement of Mr. Mitchell to the writer.

23. *Constitution* Oct. 17, 1899.

On September 6, 1899,<sup>24</sup> the lot on Marietta Street was sold at auction to J. Carroll Payne for \$22,500, and on September 24th, the trustees announced that a site on the corner of Forsyth and Church Streets had been chosen for the new building. The two lots necessary for the building were held by the Church of Our Father and by J. B. Frost for \$35,000. As the money in the treasury and the sum received from the sale of the old property amounted to only \$34,000, and as the owners of the new site refused to reduce their price, a deadlock was created, broken only by the generous gift of \$1,000 raised by the people who owned property nearby the new site.<sup>25</sup>

A free public library was now assured for the citizens of Atlanta, yet it was not until 1902 that they were admitted to full membership. The small quarters of the old Young Men's Library Association made its directors realize the impossibility of serving the entire city in the inadequate space at their disposal. The reading rooms were, as always, open to the public, but the small book collection did not permit borrowing privileges to be extended to any but members. In October 1899, the trustees of the new institution advertised a contest for plans for the new building. All Atlanta architects and ten outside the city were invited to submit designs. Prizes were offered for the second and third best designs. Before the award was made, the trustees received a telegram from Miss Wallace, librarian of both libraries, stating that Mr. Carnegie had added \$25,000 to his original offer of \$100,000.<sup>26</sup> Miss Wallace had applied for a leave of absence to study libraries in the east, and, while in New York, had gone to call on Mr. Carnegie to thank him in person for his generosity. Her name, with its familiar and patriotic associations for a Scotsman, brought her an immediate audience which resulted in the additional gift.

On December 23, 1899, the Atlanta newspapers announced that Ackerman and Ross of New York City had been award-

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24. *Constitution* Sept. 7, 1899.

25. *Ibid.*, Sept. 25, 1899.

26. *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, 1899.

ed the contract for the new library building. W. F. Denny won second place and \$500, while W. T. Downing, also of Atlanta, won third place and \$300 for his design. Work on the new building was begun in May 1900, the cornerstone laid September 9th and the building opened March 3, 1902 after many disheartening delays and much unfavorable criticism. The cost had been greater than anticipated, and the city had a beautiful new building with no furniture and no money to furnish it. The persuasive Miss Wallace was again dispatched to New York to see Mr. Carnegie and succeeded in obtaining \$20,000 to furnish and equip the building.<sup>27</sup> After the announcement of this gift, Atlanta City Council changed the name of Church Street to Carnegie Place.<sup>28</sup> It has since become Carnegie Way.

The building was finally opened to the public with suitable exercises at 3 P. M. March 3, 1902, in the basement as the upper floors were still unfinished. The first book issued, to Mrs. W. B. Green of 139 East Baker Street, was a copy of *Alice of Old Vincennes*. New members thronged the halls, keeping the staff busy registering them and issuing membership cards. Congratulations on the new building were quickly tainted by envious criticism of neighbouring cities who had not received Carnegie gifts. A rumour discrediting the ethical tone of Atlantans' taste appeared in the *Rome Tribune*, was copied by other cities and spread far and wide until the librarian was compelled to write editors of all the papers which had printed the story that it was entirely false. Before this could be done, however, the *Rome Tribune* printed a second editorial as follows:

"No denial has been made by the Atlanta newspapers of the statement published in the *Tribune* that the *Decameron* stood second in the list of books called for during the month of May. It will be remembered that the *Tribune* severely criticised the low and vitiated taste of the Atlantans who patronised the library. The *Tribune's* editorial has been widely commented upon . . . ."<sup>29</sup>

27. *Constitution* March 13, 1901.

28. *Ibid*, April 2, 1901.

29. *Scrapbook* at C. L. A. 1899-1908.

This brought the Atlanta papers to the defense of their citizens in an editorial entitled "Call off the dogs,"<sup>30</sup> which gave a complete refutation, and all was well.

In examining the history and growth of any institution, it is inevitable that we look also at the individuals whose shadows lengthened into concrete form. Atlanta owes an inestimable debt of gratitude to the Young Men's Library Association for its carrying on for more than thirty years, against such heavy odds, for its generous and unselfish gift of all its accumulated holdings as a foundation for the new institution achieved by its efforts. With the opening of the new library, the old Association did not go out of existence, but continued to function for a number of years until the permanency of the new library caused a gradual cessation of its activities. It was officially pronounced extinct at the silver anniversary celebration of the Carnegie Library in 1924 when Mr. Eugene Mitchell presented to the trustees of Carnegie all the records of the association which had not been given up in 1899.<sup>31</sup>

So familiar is the sight of young women librarians that it may be a surprise to those unacquainted with the history of the local library to learn that there were no women librarians prior to 1882. The first librarian of the Y.M.L.A. was Augustus L. Grant, appointed in 1867. He served only a few months, resigning to supervise the removal of the remains of Confederate soldiers buried all over the country to the section in Oakland Cemetery set aside for them. John W. Pearce followed for a brief term, succeeded by Charles Herbst, an ex-Confederate soldier who had come to Atlanta from his native Covington, Kentucky. Mr. Herbst also lent a hand in the removal and identification of Confederate bodies<sup>32</sup> during his seven-year term which ended in 1876 when he was removed by the directors because of his indiscreet annotations on the library books in regard to the

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30. *Ibid.*

31. Statement of Mr. Mitchell to the author.

32. Lewis Collins' *Collins' Historical Sketches of Kentucky*, 1, 246d.



financial standing of members and because of his slipshod bookkeeping. E. B. Chamberlain held the post from 1876-79, followed by Charles Harmon from 1879-81, and Allie Billups from 1881-82. Mr. Billups was succeeded in 1882 by Lida A. Field, a native of Dahlonega and author of a school history of the United States, published in 1885 during her incumbency as librarian. Miss Field resigned to teach in the Agnes Scott Institute and was succeeded by Fanny Wallace. Anne Wallace followed her sister in 1898 and became the first librarian of the new Carnegie Library of Atlanta. Miss Wallace was outstanding for her vision of the possibilities of the library as a social agency, for her grasp of the practical details necessary to make that vision an enduring reality, and for the pleasing personality which enabled her to build a well-integrated organization. She was also the responsible factor in establishment of the first school for professional training of librarians in the south, and for her organization of the professional association in Georgia for librarians which corresponds to the Georgia Bar Association and the Georgia Medical Association for lawyers and physicians.

The Georgia Library Commission, organized and supported by the state to give library service to rural areas by means of travelling book-collections, is another of Miss Wallace's achievements. The work she had undertaken was carried on efficiently and successfully by Miss Julia Rankin after Miss Wallace's marriage in 1908. Miss Rankin was married in 1911 to Mr. Frank O. Foster, and Miss Katharine Wootten became librarian from 1911-14. Mrs. Percival Sneed served from the late fall of 1914 until June 1915 when she was followed by Miss Tommie Dora Barker who served until she became regional field agent of the American Library Association in 1930. During Miss Barker's administration, five branch libraries were opened in the remoter parts of the city. Two of these branches were opened in buildings paid for by the Carnegie Corporation. There was also an expansion along every phase of library activity, including a phenomenal growth of work with schools and

with children. Miss Barker was followed in 1930 by Miss Jessie Hopkins, the present incumbent. During Miss Hopkins' administration Fulton County has made an annual grant of \$5,000 to provide membership privileges in the Carnegie library for all county residents. Two county branches have already been opened, and a third city branch will be opened this fall in the S. M. Inman school.

The growth of the library in membership, book collection and circulation of books for home reading has been phenomenal. The total contribution from the Carnegie corporation and Mr. Carnegie is \$202,000. When the library celebrated its silver anniversary in 1924, there were eight branches in addition to the main library. Only four of these are in library buildings, the others functioning in rented store-buildings. A ninth branch will be opened this fall. On July 1, 1936 Fulton County made a contract with the city to appropriate \$5,000 annually to give county residents the privilege of membership in the library. Two county branches, one at Fairburn and one at Adams Park, have been added. The number of county members is ten per cent of all the members of the library and Miss Hopkins is now working on a project to give county service by means of a book-truck. This is contingent on a larger appropriation from the county, however. In addition to its branches, the library maintains 123 deposits of books in classrooms in 18 different schools, two permanent school deposits and five permanent school libraries. Its book collection has grown from 12,500 in 1900 to 209,538 in 1938, and its appropriation from \$5,000 to \$111,694.09, including the county gift. As an educational and social agency, its possibilities have barely been touched, and its opportunities for service will be limited only by inadequate support from its patrons.