

Notes and Documents

199 YEARS OF AUGUSTA'S LIBRARY: A CHRONOLOGY

By BERRY FLEMING*

Any member who gets up in meeting and proposes that something or other be attended to, had better be prepared, when the smoke blows away, to find himself appointed to attend to it. That is the genesis of myself as "historian." If I had not forgotten this maxim I should never have found myself in the uncomfortable position of "getting together a little historical sketch of the Young Men's Library Association in commemoration of our hundredth anniversary" (I believe that was the wording of my motion), which we were planning to celebrate on December 3, 1948. Appropriate moment for a backward glance though it was, however, I intended it to be a glance, not a stare, and I pictured myself doing it more or less with my left eye and finishing it in about ten days.

Now, six months later, the "little historical sketch" exists only in the present uncongealed collection of dates and factual notes. Far from having even got to first base, I have hardly done more than pick up a good bat. But when I told Mrs. Owen Cheatham, able president of the Association, that that seemed to be as far as my strength was going to carry me, she suggested that the notes be printed as they stood, which I was glad enough to agree to, having run into many difficulties and seeing no happier way out of them than making sure I ran into no more.

One of my principle difficulties was in finding the *bottom* of the Augusta Library. For I had no sooner given a cursory glance behind it than I realized, what I appear not to have suspected before, that the Young Men's Library Association of Augusta did not spring into existence out of thin air that January evening in 1848 in "the Presbyterian Lecture Room." Not only did I find it to be a local manifestation of a nation-wide movement for establishing "Young Men's Library Societies" and "Institutes" and "Companies," but it seemed to be, itself, a reorganization of an earlier association called the "Augusta Library Society," incorporated by the legislature in 1827. So I thought I had better

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glance a little further behind and look at the Augusta Library Society.

The footing, however, was no firmer there. The Augusta Library Society appeared to have grown out of a "Public Library" that was in existence in 1811.

And this in turn seemed to have sprung from the "Thespian Society and Library Company of Augusta," chartered by an act of the legislature in 1808.

At that point, though, I decided I had hit bottom. None of the local histories I encountered suggested an earlier library, and in spite of the anciently celebrated advantages of our climate—"So sweet the air, so moderate the clime, None sickly lives, or dies before his time"—there seemed scant likelihood of finding anyone who knew first hand of an earlier.

Nevertheless, there was no harm in being sure, and I turned through a few old files of Augusta newspapers. There, almost at once, under the date of March 12, 1800, I found a notice of "a circulating Library in the City of Augusta." And then, what should ring out on December 12, 1789, but a familiar sounding voice calling for dues (and "in specie") from the "subscribers of the Augusta Library Society."

Though I felt that 1789 must in all reason be bed-rock at last, when I happened, soon afterward, upon a "History of the Province of Georgia," written in the 18th Century by J. G. W. DeBrahm, Surveyor General of the Southern Provinces, I glanced through it, again to be on the safe side. There I found a strange statement. Whatever may be the meaning of it, it certainly cast suspicion on my bed-rock. And it incidentally introduced me to the mystery story which I shall always think of as "The Case of the Missing Library."

DeBrahm wrote: "This Province was scarcely thirty years settled before it had three fine libraries in the City of Savannah, the fourth at Ebenezer, and a fifth $96\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the Sea upon the Stream of Savannah."

Reading these words in Savannah, with the speedometer on my car registering Augusta at some hundred and twenty miles away, I had to discard my immediate guess that he was talking about Augusta and that the bottom of our Library had been pushed down another twenty-six years; the distance to Augusta by river was considerably more, a fact certainly well known to the King's engineer, and my confusion was only increased when

I read the statement of Leonard L. Mackall, Savannah historian, that in 1918 he had "not yet succeeded in locating that fifth library."

Remembering an old map of Georgia I had seen, printed in 1807, I wondered if DeBrahm could have fixed upon his 96 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles through some early cartographical distortion. Or even if, being an engineer, he could have struck off the distance with his compasses.

On a chance, I measured the 1807 airline from "the Sea" to Augusta. It was 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The map scale was 60 miles to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches. This, as you see for yourself, puts the distance to Augusta at 96.92 miles. Which, considering that the discrepancy of .17 miles may have been easily due to taking our sight on different tides, seemed close enough, and it began to look as if Augusta might have had a "fine library" in 1763.

This, surely, was bed-rock. I began screwing the cap on my fountain pen. Taking a last glance, however, through a volume of the *Colonial Records of the State of Georgia*, I felt the rock give way again: there I found nothing less than a list of the ten titles (166 volumes) which the Trustees in London had "sent to Augusta in Georgia with the Missionary who went there by 'The Charming Nancy' in March 1750."

That is where I stop. Mrs. Cheatham has offered to rescue me and I accept. To all my intents and purposes, that is the first of Augusta's Library; that is bottom, though it might not be unreasonable to argue that, since these 166 volumes were contributed to the Georgia Board in London some eighteen years before, for the purpose of establishing a library in the colony, the Augusta Library was really founded on December 7, 1732, when "an unknown Benefactor" presented to "Captain Coram" 100 copies of "The Great Importance of a Religious Life Considered."

However, I am willing to settle for 1750 and the boxes aboard "The Charming Nancy"; 1750 is early enough, and surely it would be hard to find a happier-sounding godmother for an infant to be borne home across the sea by than charming Nancy.

My indebtedness for assistance is nearly as extensive as the Library's genealogy. Particularly I wish to thank Mrs. Cheatham for her interest and encouragement; Mr. Wymberley W. De-Renne, of the University of Georgia Libraries; Dr. E. Merton Coulter, of the University of Georgia; Mrs. Lilla M. Hawes, Director of the Georgia Historical Society; Miss Elizabeth Hodge

and her assistants in the Reference Department of the Savannah Public Library; Mr. Jouett Davenport, Director of the Augusta Museum; and, not least, the accomodating staff of the Augusta Library itself.

1732

JUNE:

Six months before General Oglethorpe sailed on his first trip to Georgia over two thousand books, reported to have been the best published at that time, were donated for a PUBLIC LIBRARY in the colony.¹

1. EDITOR'S NOTE: Persons desiring footnote citations to facts and quotations should see this article published in the form of a brochure, under the same title by the University of Georgia Press. A list of authorities used by Mr. Fleming follows:

BOOKS

- Acts . . . of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia . . .* 1808, 1827.
 Augusta Bicentennial Commission, *Pageant Book* (Augusta: Phoenix Printing Co., 1935.)
 Haygood S. Bowden, *Two Hundred Years of Education. Bicentennial, 1733-1933. Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia* (Richmond: The Dietz Printing Co., 1932.)
 Allen D. Candler, ed., *The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, III* (Atlanta: Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, 1905.)
 E. Merton Coulter, *Georgia: A Short History* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, 1947.)
 John G. W. De Brahm, *History of the Province of Georgia* (Wormsloe, Ga., 1849.)
 Federal Writers' Project, *Augusta* (Augusta: Tidwell Printing Supply Co., 1938.)
 Federal Writers' Project, *The Story of Washington-Wilkes* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1941.)
 Bertram H. Flanders, *Early Georgia Magazines. Literary Periodicals to 1865* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1944.)
 Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Manuscripts of the Earl of Egmont. Diary, 1734-1738* (Vol. II, London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1923.)
 Charles C. Jones, Jr., *The History of Georgia* (2 vols., Boston: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1883.)
 Charles C. Jones, Jr., *Memorial History of Augusta, Georgia* (Syracuse, N. Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1890.)
 Leonard L. Mackall, "The Wymberley Jones De Renne Library," in *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, II, 2 (June, 1918).
Public Libraries in the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1876.)
 Virginia Satterfield, "College Libraries in Georgia," in *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, XXV, 1 (March, 1941).
 William Bacon Stevens, *A History of Georgia . . .* (Vol. II, Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co., 1859.)
 George White, *Historical Collections of Georgia . . .* (New York: Pudney & Russell, 1854.)

MANUSCRIPTS

- Augusta City Council Minutes.
 Richmond County Official Archives.
 Young Men's Library Association Minutes and Reports.

NEWSPAPERS

- Augusta Chronicle*.
Augusta Chronicle and Gazette of the State.
Augusta Daily Chronicle and Sentinel.
Augusta Constitutionalist and Republic.
Augusta Herald.
Savannah Georgia Gazette.
Savannah Georgia Gazette or Independent Register.
Savannah Morning News.

DECEMBER 7:

"An unknown Benefactor, by the hands of Captain Coram" (one of the Trustees), donates to the Trustees of Georgia for the use of the colony 100 copies of *The Great Importance of a Religious Life Considered*.

1733

JANUARY 31:

Mr. James Leake donates for the use of the colony "1000 Spelling Books.

FEBRUARY 28:

"The Revd. Mr. Stanley Rector of Hadham in Hertfordshire by the hands of the Revd. Dr. Hales" (one of the Common Council of the Georgia Society), donates 48 copies of *Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man*.

APRIL 18:

"An unknown Benefactress by the hands of the Revd. Dr. Hales," donates 186 "Bibles, minion 12mo." and 187 "*Duty of Man*, small 12mo."

MAY 10:

"Mr. Ray, by the hands of the Revd. Mr. Smith" (one of the Trustees), donates 50 copies of *Companion for the Sick*.

MAY 30:

"An unknown Hand, by the hands of the Reverend Dr. Hales," donates 200 copies of Dr. Thomas Gouch's, *Showing How To Walk With God*, 200 copies of *Help and Guide to Christian Families*, by Mr. Burkitt, 200 *Common Prayer Books*, minion 12mo. and 100 copies of *The Young Christian Instructed*.

1735

OCTOBER 7:

Received by the Trustees for shipment to the colony, several books including "two Books of Josephus's *History*," from "Mr. Joseph Marshall for the publick Libraries in Georgia."

1736

MAY 27:

The Earl of Egmont makes up "a parcel of books for a present to the Library of Georgia, viz. 3 folios, 17 quartos, 38 8-vos and 12-mos."

JUNE:

The Marshall books are shipped to Georgia on board *The Two Brothers*. "The Rt. Hon. John Earl of Egmont sent on the same ship 'a parcel of books in divers faculties for the Library of Georgia.'"

JUNE 2:

At a meeting of some of the Trustees a "report was made of divers benefactions and of 20£ collected of Dr. Crow, rector of Bishopsgate.

Thanks were returned to the benefactors, as likewise to me for 53 books of different sizes and professions presented to the Savannah Library."

1737

NOVEMBER 23:

There is posted in Johnson Square in Savannah what Librarian Margaret Godley considers to be Georgia's "first overdue notice":

"Whereas John Wesley designs shortly to set out for England, this is to desire those who have borrowed any books of him to return them as soon as they conveniently can."

1740

A Library Society is established in Georgetown, South Carolina.

MARCH 25:

Reverend George Whitefield, laying the first brick of the great orphanage house which he called "Bethesda"—i.e., "house of mercy"—builds "a separate room on the ground floor devoted to the library."

1748

Charleston Library Society established.

1749

MARCH 15:

Dr. Hales and Mr. Smith, having been left the disposal of Dr. Crow's library, agree to give it to the colony of Georgia. "The late Dr. Crow's Library was also sent over under the care of the Minister" (Reverend Bartholomew Zouberbuhler) "to be kept for the use of the Colony and be divided in Georgia as the Trustees may see Occasion."

JULY:

"Nine cases of books containing the library of the late Dr. Crow to be added to the books in Georgia for composing a Public Library there," are sent to Savannah by the Charles Town Galley, Captain Peter Bogg. Case No. 9 "contained mostly school books."

1750

MARCH:

The following collection of 166 volumes, which may be said to comprise Augusta's First Library, was donated to the Trustees in 1732 and 1733 by various persons in England and "sent to Augusta in Georgia with the Missionary who went there by the Charming Nancy in March, 1750." (The missionary was probably the Reverend Jonathan Copp who is known to have been sent from England to Augusta at about this time by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.)

CATALOGUE OF AUGUSTA'S FIRST LIBRARY

<i>Common Prayer Books</i> , minion 12mo.	22 copies
<i>Companion of the Sick</i>	12 "
<i>Duty of Man</i> , small 12mo.	13 "
<i>Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man</i>	12 "
<i>Help and Guide to Christian Families</i> , by Mr. Burkitt	20 "
<i>Holy Bible</i> , minion 12mo.	7 "
<i>How To Walk With God</i> , by Thomas Gouch	50 "
Spelling Books	12 "
<i>The Great Importance of a Religious Life Considered</i>	6 "
<i>The Young Christian Instructed</i>	12 "

1757

JANUARY 29:

A committee of the Commons House of Assembly meeting in the Council Chambers in Savannah reports to the House that "a large number of Books, the Catalogue of which contains 56 pages, are lodged in the hands of the Reverend Bartholomew Zouberbuhler in Savannah and are a gift to this Province for composing a public library." The committee asks "if the vacant room in the Council House could be fitted up to deposit them in." (I find no evidence that this was done.)

1763

J. G. W. DeBrahm, in his *History of the Province of Georgia*, writes, "This Province was scarcely thirty years settled before it had three fine Libraries in the City of Savannah, the fourth at Ebenezer, and a fifth 96 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the Sea upon the Stream of Savannah." (Leonard L. Mackall of Savannah, writing in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* of June, 1918, declares "I have not yet succeeded in locating that fifth Library situated 96 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the Sea." But, as I have explained in my Preface, the solution of this Case of the Missing Library is, as Holmes said, "elementary.")

1764

Georgia Library Association meets.

1774

NOVEMBER 23:

"Whereas by the proposals for establishing a Library Society in Savannah (bearing date the 7th instant) it was amongst other things agreed, 'That so soon as 50 persons could be got to subscribe their names to that paper, a Library Society should be established in Savannah'; and whereas about 70 Gentlemen have already signed this subscription list; It is therefore requested that the subscribers will be pleased to meet at the Court-Room in Savannah on Thursday the first of December at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in order that the Institution

of the said Society may then take place, the subscribers pay their admission money to such person as the Society shall chuse as Treasurer and such rules be established as the members shall think proper. As several Gentlemen live in the Country, others were from home when waited on, and there may be some who have not had the subscription list offered to them through inadvertancy, it is hoped that no one will, on that account, take offence; such as chuse to become subscribers are requested to attend at the time and place above-mentioned."

1783

The Board of Commissioners of Augusta is empowered by the General Assembly "to erect on one of the lots a building commodious and proper to answer the intentions of this act, as an academy or seminary . . . and to procure and agree with proper masters and professors for the ruling the same."

1785

The *Augusta Chronicle and Gazette of the State* established.

APRIL:

The Academy of Richmond County, authorized in 1783, opens, William Rogers, of Maryland, its first master.

1789

NOVEMBER 26:

Members of the General Assembly attend Thanksgiving services at St. Paul's and listen to "the well-adapted sermon" prepared for the occasion by "the Rev, Mr. PALMER, then officiating in St. Paul's, Augusta."

DECEMBER 12:

"The subscribers to The Augusta Library Society, are requested to pay the amount of their respective subscriptions, in specie, to Mr. Amasa Jackson, who is appointed Treasurer, on or before the third Monday in January next; at which time those who shall have paid are requested to meet at the Academy, in order to proceed to business.—By direction, R. DICKINSON, Sec'y."

1790

JANUARY 9:

"NOTICE

"The Library Society have appointed me their Treasurer; I desire therefore, that the subscribers would pay their respective sums into the hands of Dr. Smelt, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Cobbison, who have undertaken to assist in collecting.—AMASA JACKSON."

1794

The *Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel* established.

1798

APRIL 21:

"THEATER, AUGUSTA

"The public of this city and its environs are most respectfully informed, agreeable to an intimation heretofore given, that a commodious Theater is fitting up adjoining to the former Treasury-office, Augusta; and, preparing with every possible accomodation the present circumstances will admit of, Messrs. Williamson & Jones, Lessees and managers of the Theater in Charleston, South Carolina, humbly presume to draw from the present Experiment, a conclusion how far the render of their best services may be made acceptable towards establishing a regular and periodical course of dramatic entertainments; it being their ambition, as they conceive it to be within their power, through their engagements for Charleston, hereafter to offer amusements in professional talent and decoration superior to most Theatrical establishments on the Continent.

"Messrs. Williamson & Jones hope whatever may be deficient in the present attempt, will, in the Liberality which distinguishes Augusta to works of public accomodation, be overlooked, until arrangements, now in contemplation, are completed, to present to the patrons of the Drama a Superb Theater."

1800

MARCH 12:

"EDITORIAL—Having resolved as much as possible to serve the public as well as themselves in their particular line of business—the Editors of the Herald beg leave to mention to their friends, that they have it in contemplation to establish a circulating library in the city of Augusta, and that they have made arrangements for opening an extensive book-store, in which undertakings they hope for general patronage and encouragement: And they trust they will have it in their power while procuring their own assortment, to furnish such books as may be desired, to compleat any private Library, and to afford a constant supply of all such books as may be ordered by any of their friends, on the most reasonable terms."

1801

Union Library Society of Greene County incorporated; it had been established for many years.

(Mr. Augustus Baldwin, having been elected Intendant by the City Council of Augusta, declines to serve and is fined.)

1802

The Academy of Richmond County moves from Bay Street into the new Academy erected this year ("said to be the most elegant building of the kind in the Southern States") on recently opened Telfair Street.

(A century and a quarter later—in 1929—the building is to become the home of the Augusta Library.)

1808

Augusta this year:

Population, about 3,000.

John Catlett, Intendant.

No business houses beyond "Bennoch's Corner" (Broad and Campbell Streets).

Stage coach to Savannah in 50 hours: leaves Augusta Saturday mornings at 7 o'clock; arrives Savannah "Monday."

MARCH 5:

AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

"Freedom of the Press and Trial by Jury
Shall Remain Inviolable."

Printed by D. Driscoll, near the Market

3 Dolls per Ann

"On Thursday evening the 25th ult. the Thespian Society performed THE HEIR AT LAW to a numerous and highly pleased audience. . . . The object of this Society is truly laudable. . . . They have it in contemplation, we understand, to establish a public library for the use of the Citizens of Augusta at the expense of a few loose Dollars, on which the Embargo has not yet been laid.

"*Note:* Thespia, one of the Muses, and from whom the Thespians derive their title, meant among the ancients, Divinatio, aut divina cognito; that is, in English, Divination or divine Knowledge."

SEPTEMBER 10:

"THESPIAN SOCIETY

"A Quarterly meeting of the Society will be held at Calffrey & Bustin's on Monday Evening the 12th inst. at half past Seven o'clock on business of importance. Punctual attendance requested.—By order of the Managers. ABRAHAM A. LEGGETT, Sec'y."

DECEMBER 17:

AN ACT to incorporate the Thespian Society and Library Company of Augusta.

"Whereas an association exists in the City of Augusta by the name of the Thespian Society, and organized for the purpose of establishing a public library,

1. Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of Georgia in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Robert M'Rae, Richard Wilde, Daniel M'Murphey, Samuel Hale, Abraham A. Leggett, Henry L. M'Rae, John U. Shinholster, Joseph W. Jarvis, James Wilde, Zachariah Rossell, Jr., Daniel Savage, Willoughby Barton, Albert Brux, Thomas J. Wray, John B. Barnes, whosoever they may afterwards admit, and

their successors, shall be and are hereby declared to be a body corporate by the name and style of the Thespian Society and Library Company of Augusta. . . ."

(WILDE, 1789-1847: born Dublin, Ireland, 1789; came to Augusta, 1802, at the age of 13; for 5 years "helped his mother in a store"; admitted to the Georgia Bar, 1809; Attorney General of Georgia, 1811; wrote "*My Life is Like the Summer Rose*" before 1815, but did not acknowledge authorship until 1834. LEGGETT: Secretary old Thespian Society.)

(The theater burned during the year and the Society rebuilt it in the same place, on Bay Street near Elbert.)

1809

The Savannah Library Society was supported at this time through a sale of stock. It had 690 volumes; the Librarian received a salary of \$250 a year plus "5% for commissions on collections." Subscribers paid an annual assessment. (Shares in 1818 valued at \$25.)

Excerpts from "Rules for the Reading Room" of the Savannah Library Society.

"Audible conversation at all times prohibited."

"All persons visiting the rooms are prohibited from cutting, mutilating, or taking away any paper or publication whatever."

"Subscribers to the Reading Room, are permitted to deposit their letters in the Letter Bag kept there, free of expense; others will be charged 6¼ cents each letter."

JANUARY 3:

Performed at the Thespian Theater:

MAHOMET

THE IMPOSTER

THE VILLAGE LAWYER

FEBRUARY 18:

Editorial Column of the *Augusta Chronicle*.—"The object of the Thespians is certainly very laudable, and as long as it goes to establish a public library, deserves the countenance and support of every friend to Literature and Science in Augusta!"

APRIL 1:

NOTICE

The members of the Nimrod Society are requested to meet on the third Saturday in April at the Golden Camp.

And'w Harrison, Sec'y

1811

AUGUST 16:

A meeting of the Citizens of Augusta, who are desirous of Establishing a public library, is requested at Mr. Bustin's Tavern This Evening at half past 3 o'clock.

SEPTEMBER 10:

Received of Mr. Rich. Tubman Ten Dollars for his subscription to the PUBLIC LIBRARY of Augusta.

THOS. P. WRAY

(Original receipt in possession of the Library.)

1818

Eatonton Academy Library Society organized; Alonzo Church, Librarian.

1820

Milledgeville Thespian Society organized for "improvement and for the correction of vice and immorality."

1821

The *Augusta Chronicle and Georgia Advertiser* established—a semi-weekly.

1823

Thespian Theater burned again.

1824

The Legislature passed an Act to allow a lottery in Augusta to raise \$20,000 for the construction of a Masonic Hall.

1826

Young Men's Institute Library organized in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Talmadge pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Augusta, 1826-35.

1827

Twenty thousand dollars raised by lottery; Masonic Hall to be built.

MARCH 31:

In an *Augusta Chronicle* advertisement headed "PUBLIC LIBRARY," the "Committee of Selection invite subscribers" to deposit some of their private books at the library; good care is guaranteed and return of the books when asked; requested to leave lists of the books at the Post Office.

Population of Augusta about 5,000.

DECEMBER 21:

"AUGUSTA LIBRARY

Subscribers to the Library are hereby informed that the Rooms will be opened for the delivery of Books on Saturday next, the 22nd, from 3 until 5 o'clock p.m.

Persons intending to place Books in the Library on deposit or as donations, are requested to send them in or give notice to the Librarian.

The Library will be opened on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 until 5 o'clock p.m.

W. VEITCH, Librarian"

DECEMBER 22:

An Act to incorporate the Augusta Library Society.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Henry H. Cumming, George W. Crawford, Thomas J. Casey, Augustine Slaughter, John P. King, James P. Waddel, James Moore, Peter Bennoch, and Robert R. Reid, the Directors, and others the stockholders of and in a certain Society in the City of Augusta, and the successors in office of the said Directors, and the future holders of the said stock, shall be and they are hereby appointed and constituted a body politic and corporate, having perpetual succession, under the name and style of The Augusta Library Society and the said body corporate is hereby empowered to ordain and frame such bye-laws as may be deemed necessary and proper, and not at variance . . . with the Constitution of the said Library Society, heretofore adopted, or as may hereafter be amended"

(Richard H. Crawford: born, 1789; studied law in Wilde's office in Augusta; appointed Attorney General of the Middle Circuit of Georgia, 1827; Governor of Georgia, 1843; Secretary of War under President Taylor, 1849, from which post he resigned on the death of the President, July 9, 1850.

Reid: born in South Carolina, 1789; lawyer, Congressman, 1818-22; Judge of the Middle Circuit of Georgia; Judge of the City Court of Richmond County; Mayor, City of Augusta, 1823.)

The "Library Rooms" were located on McIntosh Street (Seventh) behind the Georgia Railroad Bank; a small room (10x15) containing a meager collection of books donated and loaned by various citizens: William P. Beers, Librarian.

"On the shelves were found only sedate leather bound standard works: no allurements or gaudy covers and profuse illustrations that today weary the eye of the old-fashioned book lover. This embryo library boasted of only one periodical, *Blackwood's Magazine*, and one newspaper, the *Georgia Courier*, which was published twice a week.

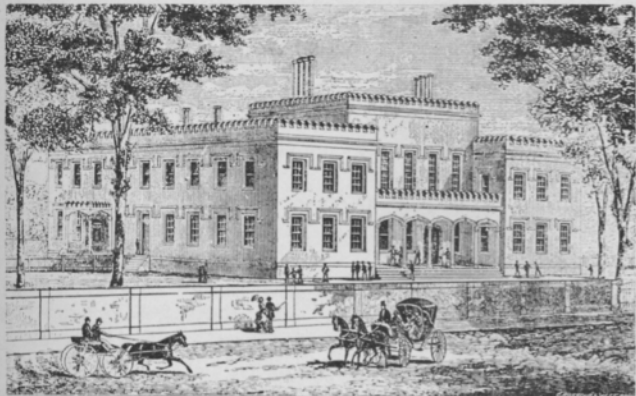
"To meet here and to read the news and discuss politics became the custom of Augusta's gentlemen There are no historic records showing that the ladies of Augusta patronized the Library"

The Newspaper Room "became a kind of club for gentlemen and was monopolized by them, but the mothers, wives and sweethearts doubtless visited the Library in quest of a book during a morning walk or an afternoon stroll."

1828

JUNE 2:

Opening of the new Masonic Hall.



THE ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY
As it appeared in the 1890's



CITY HALL, AUGUSTA
About 1829

DECEMBER 24:

Performed at the Theater:

OTHELLO

1829

APRIL 4:

TERRIBLE AND AWFUL CONFLAGRATION

Never has Augusta been visited with so dreadful a calamity. The new Theater was destroyed, together with much other valuable property.

1831

Medical College Library established. University of Georgia Library established.

1833

Young Men's Library Association established in Albany, New York: 13,000 volumes. Young Men's Library Society established in Detroit, 12,790 volumes.

1834

Young Men's Library Association, established in Buffalo, New York: 27,597 volumes.

1835

Young Men's Library Association established in Troy, New York: 21,424 volumes.

"*Georgia Scenes*," by Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, published in Augusta.

The Library moved "to the side room in the old Masonic Building on Broad Street . . . then to the basement under the Presbyterian Lecture Room." Librarians: Mr. Derry, Mr. John A. Millen, Mr. Courtney, "who repaired the books with his own hands."

1836

Emory University Library established.

1837

Mrs. Emily Tubman gave \$100 to the Library in 1837 and again in 1868.

1838

JUNE 13:

Augusta, 13 June, 1838

Mr. Jas. Coleman

To the Augusta Library Society, Dr.

To 2 years assessment on Share 148 — \$8.00

Received Payment

J. C. CARMICHAEL, Treasurer

(Original receipt in possession of the Library.)

Young Men's Library Institute established in Hartford, Connecticut: 24,000 volumes.

MAY 5:

First issue of the *Augusta Mirror*, "A semi-monthly journal. Devoted to polite literature and useful intelligence. Containing the latest popular pieces of music, arranged for the pianoforte or guitar." "The first purely literary paper known to have been published in Georgia." Editor and Publisher, William Tappan Thompson, Augusta.

1839

MAY 25:

Prospectus, *Southern Pioneer*, weekly, edited by Charles Wyatt Rice, published by Browne, Cushey, & M'Cafferty, Augusta.

Georgia Historical Society established in Savannah. Baltimore Mercantile Library established.

1840

Mercer University Library established.

1841

German Young Men's Library Association established in Buffalo, New York: 4,600 volumes.

1845

Population of Augusta: 7,502.

1847

Young Men's Library Association established in Milwaukee: 15,000 volumes.

1848

A "golden epoch" for Augusta:

Canal completed

Cornerstone laid for Signers' Monument

2,500 feet of wharfage built at cost of \$150,000

Revenue from the toll-bridge nearly \$25,000

15 warehouses capable of storing 100,000 bales of cotton

Cotton receipts for about 225,000 bales

Georgia Railroad had reached city 3 years before

JANUARY 13:

A meeting will be held This Evening at Room No. 6, in the Masonic Hall building at 7 o'clock, to organize a Reading Room and Library Association. All persons favorable to the enterprise are respectfully invited to attend.

JANUARY 17:

"NOTICE

All persons who feel an interest in the efforts which are now making in this city to form a Reading Room and Library Association, upon some efficient and popular plan, are earnestly requested to attend an adjourned meeting to be held at Room No. 6 in the Masonic Hall Building, this (Monday) Evening at 7 o'clock."

JANUARY 27:

“NOTICE

An adjourned Meeting of persons interested in the formation of a Reading Room and Library Association will be held in the Presbyterian Lecture Room, this (Thursday) Evening at 7 o'clock. Business of importance will be submitted for the action of the meeting. The friends of the enterprise and the public generally are earnestly requested to attend.”

FEBRUARY 2:

“READING ROOM AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

At a meeting held in the Presbyterian Lecture Room on Thursday Evening, the 27th., to organize a Reading Room and Library Association in this city, the following Constitution was adopted:

PREAMBLE:

We, the subscribers, being deeply impressed with the importance of moral and intellectual improvement, and desiring, as far as we can by a union of mind and effort, to encourage in this city the cultivation of Literature, Science, and the Arts, have formed ourselves into a Society for the purposes aforesaid, and do adopt the following—

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be called The Young Men's Library Association.

ARTICLE 2. A Library shall be procured for the Association in the manner hereinafter provided; which shall consist of the most approved Literary, Scientific and Miscellaneous Works.

ARTICLE 3. A Reading Room shall be attached to the Library, which shall be kept regularly supplied with one or more numbers of the most popular and useful Newspapers and Periodicals, in the manner hereinafter directed.

ARTICLE 4. Lectures appropriate to the objects stated in the Preamble to this Constitution may be delivered before the Association at such time and upon such terms as the Board of Directors may agree to; and it shall be the duty of said Board to secure such Lectures and make all necessary arrangements for their delivery.

ARTICLE 5. All persons who shall pay to the Secretary fifty dollars and subscribe their names to this Constitution, shall be Life Members, and as such shall be entitled to, and fully enjoy, all the rights and privileges of the Association; and all persons who shall pay to the Secretary annually, in advance, such sums (not exceeding four dollars) as from time to time may be provided by the By-Laws, and subscribe their names to this Constitution, shall be Regular Members, and remain such until their subscription shall be discontinued.

ARTICLE 6. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, (who shall also act as Treasurer and Librarian), and ten (10) Managers. And the President, Vice-President, and Managers, shall constitute a Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 7. The officers named in the previous article, except the Secretary, shall, after the first election, be elected annually by ballot, on the first Monday in December, and a majority of all the voters present shall be necessary to a choice.

ARTICLE 8. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the annual and called meetings of the Association, and at each meeting of the Board of Directors, to state questions for discussion and decision, give the casting vote in case of a tie, call special meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, whenever, in his discretion, he shall deem them necessary, and exercise a general superintendence over the interests and business of the Association.

ARTICLE 9. In the event of the death, resignation, or absence of the President, the Vice-President shall discharge the duties prescribed in the previous article.

ARTICLE 10. The offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian shall be united in the same person, who shall discharge such duties, receive such compensation for his services, and give such security for the faithful performance of his duties as may be prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE 11. The Board of Directors shall procure and arrange the Library and Reading Room; appoint the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian; receive donations and deposits of Books; select and purchase new books, newspapers, and periodicals; and draw upon the Treasurer, through the President or a committee of their body, for such sums as they may, from time to time, require—which shall be paid out of the funds appropriated for these purposes. They shall also manage the affairs of the Association, and direct and superintend its business generally; hold annual and quarterly meetings, at which seven (7) shall form a quorum for the transaction of business; have power to fill vacancies occurring in their body, until the next annual meeting of the Association; call meetings; meet on their own adjournments; and pass such by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, as they may deem expedient, for the regulation of the Library and Reading Room, and for the general management of the affairs of the Association.

ARTICLE 12. An annual public meeting of this Association shall be held on the first Monday in December each year, when a report upon the state and prospects of the Association shall be submitted by the Board of Directors; an appropriate Address and Poem may be delivered; and Officers shall be elected for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 13. In the event of the dissolution of this Association, or whenever, from any cause, it shall be suspended, or declared inoperative by a vote of the members, all the books and other property belonging to it shall be deposited, for safe-keeping, with the Trustees of the Richmond Academy, (and in case they decline receiving them, then the Trustees of the Medical College of Georgia,) upon the express condition, that said Trustees shall furnish the Life Members of the Association, and the Contributors of Books to the amount of Fifty Dollars, with convenient and ready access to the Library; and upon the further condition, that said Trustees shall deliver said books and other property to this or any similar Association that may be formed in this city; Provided, the new Association, which may apply for the same, shall first grant to said Life Members all the privileges to which they are now entitled.

ARTICLE 14. No part of this Constitution shall be altered or amended, except at the Annual Meeting of the Association, and by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

After the adoption of the foregoing Constitution, an election for Officers was held, which resulted as follows:

ANDREW J. MILLER, President.

JUSTUS R. BULKLEY, Vice-President.

Managers

R. H. GARDNER,

R. D. CARMICHAEL,

JAMES HOPE,

GEORGE W. WILLIAMS,

WILLIAM A. WALTON

JAMES HARPER,

IGNATIUS P. GARVIN,

GEORGE M. NEWTON,

JOHN R. DOW,

LEWIS D. FORD,

FEBRUARY 4:

"YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—All persons intending to make donations of Books to the 'Young Men's Library Association,' and all who desire to deposit Books with that Body, for safe-keeping, are requested to have a list of such books at the store of Mr. Grenville, as soon as possible. No book left on deposit can be taken from the Library."

MARCH 11:

"Young Men's Library Association and Reading Room will be open on Monday Morning, 13th inst., for the reception and accomodation of subscribers.

The citizens of Hamburg, and the public generally, are respectfully invited on that and the two following days.

WM. WALKER, Sec'y"

MARCH 21:

"YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—All persons desirous of making donations of Books to the above body, and those wishing

to leave books on deposit, are respectfully requested to send such books immediately to the Library Room, where arrangements have been made for their reception and safe keeping.

Life and Annual Members are requested to call on the Secretary and pay their subscription as soon as possible."

APRIL 13.

"The Board of Managers of the Young Men's Library Association will meet at the Reading Room, tomorrow (Friday) Afternoon, at five o'clock, to fill the vacancy in the office of Secretary-Treasurer and Librarian, occasioned by the death of Mr. Wm. Walker.

"Persons who wish to become candidates will please make application to Mr. Wm. A. Walton, from whom all necessary information, in regard to the duties and salary of the office, may be obtained."

DECEMBER 1:

YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"We understand that the celebration of the First Anniversary of the Young Men's Library Association, will take place at the Masonic Hall next Monday evening. Preparations have been made for an interesting meeting, and we hope a large assembly will be present to give countenance and support to this growing and most useful institution.

"The board of managers have made arrangements for the delivery of a course of Lectures on moral, literary and scientific subjects, by some of the most distinguished gentlemen in South Carolina and Georgia; and we hope this noble enterprise will be sustained by the community."

DECEMBER 2:

"The celebration of the First Anniversary of the Young Men's Library Association, will take place at the Masonic Hall next Monday Evening. The Annual Report will be read, and an Oration will be delivered by Dr. J. G. McWhorter. Exercises to commence at 7 o'clock. The public are respectfully invited to attend."

DECEMBER 4:

"The celebration of the First Anniversary of the Young Men's Library Association will take place at the Masonic Hall This Evening. Exercises to commence at 7 o'clock. The Annual Report will be read, and an Oration will be delivered by Dr. J. G. McWhorter.

"The public generally, and the ladies particularly are respectfully invited to attend."

DECEMBER 5:

"YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"This institution held its first annual meeting for the choice of new officers, hearing the report of the Board of Managers, and transacting other business, at the MASONIC HALL last evening. The President,

the Hon. Andrew J. Miller, was in the chair; and W. A. Walton, Esq., read the report of the Board.

"From this it appears that the finances of the Association are in a prosperous condition, being out of debt, and having cash funds of \$307 in hand. Its affairs appear to have been managed with great good sense.

"Dr. McWhorter delivered an able, instructive and highly interesting address. The ballot for the election of Officers had not all been counted when we left; but we presume that most of the old members were re-elected."

DECEMBER 19:

"LECTURES BEFORE THE YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"The Board of Managers of the Young Men's Library Association, respectfully announce to the Public that they have engaged some of the most distinguished gentlemen of South Carolina and Georgia, to deliver a course of ten lectures, in this city, during the present winter, on Moral, Literary and Scientific subjects. The first Lecture of the Course will be delivered in the Presbyterian Lecture Room, on Thursday Evening, 21st inst., by the Hon. Robert M. Charlton, of Savannah. His subject will be "The Poetry of Death."

Tickets for one person \$1 — for a Lady and Gentleman \$1.50 — for a Gentleman and two Ladies \$2.00 — Admission to a single Lecture 25c. Tickets for sale at the Reading Room."

(CHARLTON: poet, well-known in Georgia at the time; copy of the above-mentioned lecture in the Savannah Public Library; DeRenne Library, Athens, has a book of his poems.)

The "Library Rooms" at this time were at Ellis and McIntosh Streets, probably on the second floor of a building back of the Christian Church—southeast corner. The post office was on a corner opposite.

"The newspapers in the Rooms contained "Telegraphic Intelligence"; some of the gentlemen who read them (by the light of candles selling at "1 lb. for \$.38" or by alcohol lamps and warmed by fires of light-wood selling at "1 load for \$.63"), probably wore "perifocal glasses especially for night reading," and studied such advertisements as "173 Negroes Belonging to the estate of the late Joseph Pearson will be Sold," and "Runaway: My Negro man Albert was last seen . . ." and "A new Shipment of Oil Clothing and Covered Hats has been received. . . ."

1849

JANUARY 31:

"We understand that the Second Lecture before the Young Men's Library Association will be delivered next Monday Evening by Dr. L. A. Dugas, of this city."

FEBRUARY 6:

"Prof. L. A. Dugas gave an instructive and interesting Lecture before the Library Association last evening on 'The Nervous System.' We were pleased to see so large and respectable an audience in attendance."

FEBRUARY 13:

"Prof. Means will lecture before the Library Association this Evening. Subject: 'Electricity and Galvanism.'"

MARCH 26:

"Young Men's Library Association: A Lecture will be delivered before the Association this Evening by Rev. E. P. Rogers. Subject 'The Influence of a Single Idea Upon the History of the World.'"

APRIL 6:

"Young Men's Library Association: We regret to learn that there has been some falling off in subscribers to this useful institution this season, as compared with last. Doubtless a little effort on the part of its friends and patrons will correct a state of things so unpropitious, and increase its receipts and usefulness. We earnestly commend this Library and Reading Room to the favorable regards of all that desire to witness the improvement of Augusta."

1850

FEB. 8:

First issue of *Youth's Friend* published in Augusta, a monthly quarto, 8 pages, edited by Miss W. C. Tyson.

1851

Population of Augusta: 12,104.

First issue of *Georgia Home Gazette* published in Augusta, a weekly "family journal, edited and published by Messrs. Smythe and Wythe," commended in the *Southern Baptist Messenger* (Covington) and in the *Masonic Signet and Journal* (Marietta).

APRIL 10:

A Lecture was given before the Young Men's Library Association by C. G. Memminger. Subject: "Slavery."

1852

Columbia (Tennessee) Athenaeum established: 12,000 volumes.

MARCH:

Thackeray visits Charleston and Savannah on the Southern leg of his first American lecture tour.

First issue of *Southern Eclectic* published in Augusta, a monthly, edited and published by J. H. Fitten, who was later joined by James M. Smythe and Daniel K. Whitaker. "The only purely eclectic magazine in ante-bellum Georgia . . . the first number consisted of 80 pages, 'Composed chiefly,' says the outside cover, 'of Selections from the Best Journals of Europe.'" It contained a review, reprinted from the *Eclectic Review*, of Thackeray's *Henry Esmond*.

(Smythe: a native Georgian, resigned after two issues to become Postmaster at Augusta; a few years later published a novel, *Ethel Somers*. Whitaker: born in Massachusetts, 1801; moved to South Carolina after graduating at Harvard; edited *Southern Literary Journal* (Charleston, 1835-7), *Southern Quarterly Review* (New Orleans and Charleston, 1842-7), *Whitaker's Magazine* (Columbia, 1850); married Mary Scrimzeour, "already a well-known poet.")

APRIL 8:

Trust Fund Established

GEORGIA,)
 RICHMOND COUNTY)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that for the purpose of endowing permanently the Young Men's Library Association now existing in the City of Augusta, we whose names are under written have given and by these presents do give, that is to say each one hath given the sum of money or stock or bonds by her or him subscribed to William A. Walton, John Davison, Maurice Wilkinson, John R. Dow and R. H. Gardner, Jr., of said county and state as "Trustees of the Young Men's Library Association Fund" upon the conditions, limitations and trusts following, viz:

FIRST: Upon condition that there shall be subscribed to these presents within the year 1853 not less than ten thousand dollars, each subscription being payable either in money or in the stock or bonds of some monied or municipal corporation, now yielding not less than seven per centum per annum, and that the said Trustees shall obtain from the Superior or Inferior Court of said County a Charter of Incorporation by the above name and deliver to each subscriber at the time of payment a receipt for the money or other thing subscribed.

SECONDLY: In trust that the said Trustees and their successors shall invest the money received under and by virtue of this donation in stocks or bonds of the description above written and shall hold the same and the stock or bonds subscribed and given in kind as a permanent fund for the benefit of the said Young Men's Library Association so long as it shall continue in operation, but said fund shall not be subject to any debts now due or that may hereafter be created by said society, its managers, officers or agents; nor shall it be subject to their appropriation or disposition in any way or manner. But said Trustees may from time to time change the investment when rendered necessary.

THIRDLY: In trust that the said Trustees shall annually or semi annually as received pay over to the managers of the said Young Men's Library Association or such officer as they may designate the income from said fund however invested to be by them expended for the uses of said society.

FOURTHLY: In trust that if at any time the said Young Men's Library Association shall be dissolved or its operations for the space of one year, the Trustees for the time being shall distribute the trust fund or money to the undersigned contributors, their Executors, Administrators, or heirs in the ratio of their subscriptions:

EMILY H. TUBMAN	\$1,000	ROB. D. CARMICHAEL	100
CHARLES J. JENKINS	500	THOS. METCALF	\$500
B. H. WARREN	500	JOHN BONES	500
WM. CUMMING	500	JOHN DAVISON	500
ISAAC S. TUTTLE	500	J. R. BULKLEY	500
R. H. GARDNER, JR.	500	A. GOULD	500
G. B. LAMAR	500	ROBERT CAMPBELL	500
JAMES HOPE	250	GEROGE M. NEWTON	250
B. F. CHEW	250	WM. H. HARISON	250
THOS. RICHARDS	100	I. P. GARVIN	100
JAMES B. WALKER	100	EDWARD BUSTIN	100
JOSEPH A. EVE	100	DANIEL HAND	100
J. MEIGS	100	GEO. H. CRUMP	100
JOHN I. MAGUIRE	100	JAMES BROWN	100
JAMES W. DAVIES	100	P. A. SCRANTON	100
WM. M. ROWLAND	100	FOSTER BLODGET	100
CHAS. DELAIGLE	100	L. C. WARREN	100
WM. J. EVE	100	JOHN FOSTER	100
W. E. JACKSON	100	N. C. TROWBRIDGE	100
GEO. W. FERRY	100	J. S. BEAN	100
M. WILKINSON	100	J. C. FARGO	100
T. W. MILLER	100	ROB. H. MAY	100
W. C. JESSUP	100	WM. H. GOODRICH	100
MILO HATCH	100	EDW. THOMAS	100
W. P. STOVALL	100	HENRY MOORE	100
I. HENRY	100	JOHN DOW	100
L. D. LALLERSTEDT	100	H. H. CUMMING	100
JOHN MCKINNE	100	ALFRED BAKER	100
JOSIAH SIBLEY	100	A. J. MILLER	100
PAUL F. EVE	100	JOHN P. KING	100
PLEASANT STOVALL	100	ROBERT A. (?) REID	100
WM. SHEAR	100	GEORGE SCHLEY	100

Augusta, Ga., April 8, 1853. The undersigned Trustees have carefully compared the foregoing copy to the articles of subscription to the Young Men's Library Association Fund and find the same correct, and we hereby acknowledge the receipt of the original.

WM. A. WALTON
R. H. GARDNER JR.
JOHN R. DOW
M. WILKINSON

(Total of above: Contributors, 64; Fund, \$12,700.)

1855

Population of Richmond County: 16,246 (8,153 W.; 8,093 N). Thirty-eight libraries in the State: 31,788 volumes; Young Men's Library Association had 2,000 volumes.

JANUARY 4:

"Young Men's Library Association:—In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and Bye-Laws, the seventh annual meeting of the Library Association will be held at their rooms This Evening, at seven and one-half o'clock.

By order,
THOS. COURTNEY, Sec'y."

APRIL 3:

"Young Men's Library Association:—A Lecture will be delivered before the Young Men's Library Association, in the Presbyterian Lecture Room, by the Rev. Dr. Talmadge of Oglethorpe University. Subject, 'Language, its Origin and Progress with Particular Reference to the English Tongue.' Admission Free. Doors open at seven and one-half o'clock."

OCTOBER 11:

In London, Dickens presides at a farewell dinner for Thackeray, who is off to America to deliver his second series of lectures: "The Four Georges."

"Overscrupulous Britons," says the *Dictionary of National Biography*, "complained of him laying bare the weaknesses of our monarchs to Americans, who were already not predisposed in their favor."

1856

JANUARY 1:

The Annual Meeting of the Young Men's Library Association for the election of Officers, will be held at the Reading Room of the Association, on Wednesday Evening 2d inst.

THOMAS COURTNEY, Sec'y.

FEB. 10:

"The Board of Managers of the Young Men's Library Association propose a course of six lectures. The First and Second Lectures will be delivered by Mr. Wm. M. Thackeray, at the Masonic Hall, on Monday and Tuesday Evenings next, commencing at seven and one-half o'clock.

Subject of the 1st Lecture: 'GEORGE III'

Terms:

For the Course, Gentleman and Lady...\$5

" " " Single Tickets 3

It is expected that the Course will be continued by Mr. Wm. Gilmore Simms.

THOS. COURTNEY, Sec'y.

Tickets to be had at the stores of Messrs. Clark & Co., Geo. A. Oates & Bro., Thos. Richards & Son, and M. G. McKinne."

FEBRUARY 12:

Thackeray, 45 already author of *Vanity Fair* (1848), *Pendennis* (1850), *Henry Esmond* (1852), *The Newcomes* (1854), comes to Augusta from Charleston; he is "entertained by Dr. Ignatius P. Garvin," and goes on to Macon, which he describes as "a rambling, shambling village."

From the house of his friend Andrew Low, of A. Low & Co., Cotton Brokers, Savannah, he writes a few days later to Kate Perry:

"Savannah, Georgia

Feast of St. Valentine

When I had finished at Charleston I went off to a queer little rustic city called Augusta—a great broad street 2 miles long—old quaint looking shops—houses with galleries—warehouses—trees—cows and negroes strolling about the side walks—plank roads—a happy dirty tranquility generally prevalent.

"It lies 130 miles from Charleston. You take 8½ hours to get there by the railway, about the same time and distance to come here, over endless plains and swampy pinelands—a village or two here and there in a clearing. I brought away a snug little purse from snug little Augusta, though I had a rival—a wild man lecturing in the very same hall . . ."

From Savannah he wrote at about the same time to his daughters, Anne and Harriet, young ladies of seventeen or eighteen: "Since Charleston I have been to Augusta, 120 miles, 8 hours through an endless swampy flat of pine forest with a village or two in the dry sandy places—Nice quaint old town Augusta, rambling great street 2 miles long—doctors and shopkeepers the society of the place, the latter far more independent and gentlemanlike than our folks—much pleasanter to be with than the daring go ahead northern people. Slavery no where repulsive—the black faces invariably happy and plump, the white ones eager and hard; 'We never use that word which you have just employed,' says a gentleman to me at Augusta. 'Yes Sir, but a boot is a boot, and a slave is a slave, whatever else you call him.'—Then we go off into th statement that the negro is happier in his American condition than in any other state at all. . . . A company of wild men had the next room to mine at Augusta.—I brought away 60 Guineas for 2 hours talking. I hope the w.m. got well paid too. . . ."

In the first letter he speaks of his Savannah listeners as "a smug little languid audience of 3 or 400 people, far too lazy to laugh or applaud."

The *Augusta Daily Chronicle and Sentinel* also manages to keep its shirt on with a dispatch of two inches:

"MR. THACKERAY'S LECTURE

This distinguished lecturer was greeted last evening by a very large and discriminating audience, by whom his lecture was received with great favor. His second lecture will be delivered this evening, commencing at 7 o'clock."

MARCH 29:

"Young Men's Library Association—The Third Lecture of the Course will be delivered at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday Evening, 2d April by Wm. Gilmore Simms, Esq. Subject: 'Anti-Colonial [*sic*] History of the South.'"

THOS. COURTNEY, Sec'y.

Tickets for sale by Messrs. Clark & Co., M. G. McKinne, G. A. Oates & Bro., and T. Richards & Son. Single Tickets 50 cents.

APRIL 5:

"Young Men's Library Association—The Fourth Lecture of the Course will be delivered at the Masonic Hall, This (Saturday) Evening, 5th April, commencing at quarter before 8 o'clock, by William Gilmore Simms, Esq. Subject: 'Anti-Colonial History of the South.'"

APRIL 8:

"Young Men's Library Association—The Fifth and Sixth Lectures of the Course will be delivered on Wednesday and Thursday Evenings next, 9th and 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, commencing at 8 o'clock, by the Rev. W. B. Milburn.

SUBJECTS

'Manna in the Wilderness, or the Old Preachers and Their Preaching.'

'The Western Mind—Its Characteristics, Eloquence and Humor.'

APRIL 12:

"Young Men's Library Association—The Board of Managers, in accordance with the request of many citizens, beg leave to announce a Lecture this evening at the Masonic Hall, at 8 o'clock, by the Rev. W. H. Millburn [*sic*].

Subject: 'Young America.'

Admission 50 cents — at the door."

"In the 50's," says the *Constitutionalist*, "as the war clouds became ominous and politics waxed warmer, the newspaper room of the library was enlivened by discussions of state rights and secession. . . .

"The library became the headquarters for gentlemen interested in public affairs, and they met here for exchanging their views. It goes without saying that during these hours this erstwhile quiet retreat resounded with political tirades and candles flickered in windy arguments. Literary matters no doubt fell into desuetude during the war, which dire event closed this era of the library's history."

1859

MAY 28:

First issue of *Southern Field and Fireside* published in Augusta, a weekly folio of 8 pages, edited by W. W. Mann. (Later editors were John R. Thompson, James Nathan Ellis, S. A. Atkinson.) Published by James Gardner. (Later by Stockton & Co.)

"The entire first page and a part of the second of this first issue were given over to Augustus Baldwin Longstreet's 'MASTER WILLIAM MITTEN; or A Youth of Brilliant Talents, Who Was Ruined by Bad Luck,' a long tale that ran serially for twenty-six numbers" and was later printed in book form in Macon in 1864. "The second important tale of the first number was an installment of 'JACK HOPETON AND HIS FRIENDS; or, The Autobiography of a Georgian,' by William Wilberforce Turner, bachelor brother of the talented Joseph Addison Turner"; it was printed in book form by Derby & Jackson, New York, 1860.

1861

JUNE 27:

The Director of the Augusta Bible Depository, which had furnished copies of the Bible to hotels, "the steamers on the river, the jail, the poor house," etc., decide to move the 600 volumes in the Depository to the rooms of the Young Men's Library Association.

SEPTEMBER 21:

"We have frequently had occasion to test the kindness and courtesy of Mr. Robinson, the Librarian of the Young Men's Library Association. In search of an odd volume, an author's name, a quotation, or some other information from the well-stocked shelves of this useful Association, or a glance at some of the numerous files of newspapers, we have been greatly indebted to the affable attentions of this gentleman. May his shadow never be less."

1862

The collected stories of Richard Malcolm Johnston are published in Augusta.

1863

FEBRUARY 19:

The Editor of the *Augusta Daily Chronicle and Sentinel* congratulates the Association on "its continued prosperity." It is the "only Library among us"; its walls, lined with "standard and popular works", form an ideal spot to "while away an hour." The news shelves contain "the best papers of our Confederacy."

The Library was formed by "several public spirited gentlemen." The original list of subscribers "was large and for a time remunerative," but as the novelty wore off, interest declined and five years later, in