

1853, sixty-four citizens contributed a fund, the interest from which has maintained the library.

The collection now numbers "3,000 volumes"; the number of volumes borrowed last year was "74,000" (*sic*). The subscription price is \$5 per year, but "clerks, apprentices and members of the family of a subscriber" have library privileges for \$1 per year.

"There certainly is no more certain index of the culture of any community that the support afforded to its literary institutions, and we cannot believe that Augusta will attain the 'bad eminence' of neglecting such an institution as it possesses in the Young Men's Library Association. It rests with the public to say whether it shall continue to grow with the population, wealth and intelligence of our favored city." (Italics, the compiler's.)

SEPTEMBER 10:

A call is issued through the newspapers for donations of old books; "the ladies particularly, want works of fiction."

DECEMBER 17:

The Board of Directors met "on Monday night last" and raised the rate of subscriptions for 1864 to \$10.

1864

JANUARY 21:

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Young Men's Library Association was held on Thursday evening at the Library Rooms. It was called to order by Vice-President W. C. Jessup. John A. Millen, "the efficient and popular Librarian" read his report: \$1,551 was received from subscriptions during 1863; "the book committee has purchased favorite authors which have run the blockade." At the end of 1862 the collection numbered 3,020 volumes; at the end of 1863, it numbered 3,104 volumes. Prose fiction was reported as "most in demand."

The Library subscribed to 15 newspapers, and the periodicals on file included the *Southern Literary Messenger*, *The Record*, *Illustrated News*, all published at Richmond, and the *Southern Field and Fireside*, and the *Cultivator*, published at Augusta.

The following officers were elected at the meeting to serve during 1864:

GEORGE ROBERTSON, President
 W. C. JESSUP, Vice-President
 A. C. IVES, Secretary and Treasurer

DECEMBER 12:

John Millen, riding in a buggy near Hamburg at night is halted by a man on the road who attempts to get in, "at which time Mr. Millen drew his revolver and told the highwayman to be off,"—which the highwayman proceeded to be.

1865

AUGUST 25:

Mr. M. Markey advertises that he has "located at the Reading Room of the Young Men's Library Association, where he designs to keep on hand an excellent stock of books, stationery, magazines, newspapers, etc.; Mr. Markey has had considerable experience in the book and periodical business."

JANUARY 1:

1866

In a letter to the paper on the letterhead of the Young Men's Library Association, George Robertson, President, states: "The Library was established by the personal efforts and pecuniary contributions of many of our most worthy citizens." A trust fund was gathered together that was "infinitely honorable to its public-spirited donors."

But due to the war and the disaster of defeat, three-fourths of this trust fund has been swept away.

"In this crisis of our fate we throw ourselves upon the liberality of our fellow citizens"; they must decide whether "the only Library open to public subscription in the State, perhaps in the South" shall cease to exist.

JANUARY 12:

"YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"The attention of the citizens of Augusta and of the late and present subscribers to the above Association is solicited to its present condition and prospects.

"Although a purely literary institution it has not escaped the ruin which has involved every interest in the South. Deprived of contact with the outside for four to five years, (the shelves need new works, replacements for old and wornout books. Receipts from our subscriptions are too limited to do the job.)

"In this crisis of our fate we throw ourselves upon the liberality of our fellow citizens, (believing that an enlightened public will not let such an institution fail).

Life subscription	\$50.00
Yearly	" 5.00
Monthly	" .50"

Says the *Constitutionalist*:

"We regret to learn that the Association is so much in need of assistance." Every merchant of the city should be glad to help because "he will place before the young men in his employ inducements to spend their evenings elsewhere than in haunts of dissipation. . . . Let every man who feels, or even pretends to feel, an interest in the advancement of literature and morals in our city" enter his name.

(Many private libraries of five to ten thousand volumes were destroyed by Sherman and others.)

Young Men's Library established in Norwalk, Ohio: 4,360 volumes.

Young Men's Library established in Dubuque, Iowa: 8,000 volumes.

1867

Young Men's Library established in Atlanta: 4,500 volumes.

1868

SEPTEMBER 16:

The Young Men's Library Association has a catalogue of its books printed "at the north." The editor of the *Daily Chronicle and Sentinel* objects strenuously to the contract having been given to an out-of-town firm.

1869

MARCH 17:

The Young Men's Library Association proposes to arrange a course of six lectures "by Professor Ford, Sr." "as soon as a sufficient number of tickets are sold to justify the enterprise."

The course is to consist of one lecture a week for six weeks; tickets for the course, "admitting a Gentleman and a Lady," to cost \$5. Subject: "Humanity—Past, Present, Future." The funds will go to the support of the library.

1870

Augusta Institute Library established.

1871

MARCH 16:

The New England Society had been founded in Augusta by Samuel Hale in 1825, for the purpose of raising money among Augustans born in New England or the descendants of New Englanders "to aid all wanderers from the land of Plymouth Rock who might be in needy circumstances." An annual dinner was held, at which New England dishes were served, prepared according to New England recipes.

On account of the war the Society had not met since 1861, but on March 15, 1871 the surviving members met in the law office of Judge William T. Gould. Present were:

EDWARD THOMAS, President

J. C. FARGO, Secretary

JOSIAH SIBLEY,

W. H. GOODRICH and 7 others.

The Secretary reported a balance on hand of \$6,000 in bonds of the City of Augusta, and other assets. The members voted to disband the Society and to distribute its assets as follows:

\$2,500 to "charitable purposes"

\$3,500 to the Young Men's Library Association

George T. Barnes, Member of Congress for the Augusta District and President of the Young Men's Library Association acknowledges receipt of 5 bonds of the City of Augusta and cash to the amount of \$3,167.03.

MARCH 19:

At a meeting of the Managers of the Young Men's Library Association, J. W. Wallace presents a resolution on the death of the Secretary-Treasurer, A. C. Ives. Charles M. Peck is elected Secretary pro tem.

APRIL 2:

President Barnes reports to the public that the library is in need of help. Since the close of the war there has been a constant struggle for existence.

We have a library of 3,600 volumes of the leading and most popular works of all kinds, history, biography, voyages, etc., with scarcely any resources." The Trust Fund of \$12,700 has been reduced to a "productive fund of about \$3,200." The donation of the New England Society has brought it to about \$6,300.

He calls for the interest of the public: "Visit our rooms. We offer no argument upon the advantages of such an institution, believing that their own judgment will sufficiently suggest reasons why it should be maintained."

1872

Robert Campbell leaves \$1,000 to the Fund; the AUGUSTA BOARD OF TRADE contributes a small amount.

Officers and Managers of the Association for this year were:

GEORGE T. BARNES, President

GEORGE ROBERTSON, Vice-President

JOS. H. DAY, Secretary-Treasurer

MANAGERS

CHAS. T. Smith, Librarian

C. M. PECK

THOS. P. BRANCH

G. M. THEW

D. B. PLUMB

J. W. WALLACE

A new charter for the Association was granted to: Wm. A. Walton, James A. Gray, G. (?) W. Wallace, D. R. (?) Plumb, Joseph S. Bean, J. H. Day, Geo. M. Thew.

The Librarian's report shows "an increase in subscribers but not sufficient to indicate a rapidly increasing interest in literary matters." Volumes in the Library: 3,150; subscribers: 450; received from subscriptions: \$600.

The income from subscriptions plus the interest from the Fund pays all expenses, supplies the table with the best magazines, newspapers from all parts of the country, and adds 75 new books to the shelves. The Fund now has a par value of \$7,500.

1873

Catholic Young Men's Society established in Augusta; Richard B. Heslin, Librarian.

NOVEMBER 14:

The Atlanta Young Men's Library Association, now 6 years old, raises money from a series of lectures by the Rev. James Dixon. Subject: "Ruth."

1874

Macon Library established.

1875

"It is to be lamented that such an institution should suffer by neglect or be permitted to fall into decay," says a letter from General Clement A. Evans, President of the Library. The managers pass a resolution to whitewash the hall, described as "a dusty, ill-arranged, unattractive and unpleasant room."

The YMCA made a donation of books during the year. Dr. Tucker of the University of Georgia gives a lecture. Prof. Rains speaks before the Association. Augusta Debating Society uses the Library rooms. Charles T. Schmidt has been Librarian since the resignation of Millen in 1868. Library said to contain 7,600 volumes, "in dimly lighted quarters."

1876

Public Libraries in the United States, published 1876, lists 4 libraries in Augusta: Medical College Library, Augusta Institute Library, Catholic Young Men's Society Library, Young Men's Library Association. The last is described as follows: 4,400 volumes, 300 yearly additions, 8,200 circulation, \$7,500 permanent fund, \$850 income, \$225 spent on books and periodicals, \$600 spent on salaries and incidentals.

Librarian: S. G. SIMMONS.

1877

Daily Chronicle and Sentinel merges with the *Constitutionalist* to become the *Augusta Chronicle and Constitutionalist*.

1878

Library at Americus, Georgia, established.

1879

Augusta City Directory lists Young Men's Library Association at "237 Broad Street."

1880

Charles E. Crocker elected Librarian over Joseph A. Hill by 8-2 vote. Crocker to get \$40 a month.

MAY 6:

Managers meet at 4 p. m. at the "Hall of the Young Men's Library Association." They acknowledge \$250 "from the Ford Benefit" at the

opera House, and allot it to Col. C. C. Jones for the purchase of new books. Receipts for the month: \$69, expenses: \$52.26, 490 subscribers, circulation: 6,083.

(John T. Ford and his dramatic company gave "two delightful entertainments for the benefit of the Library.")

1881

MAR. 3:

The Association borrows \$6,000 from the Augusta Orphan Asylum to pay off "mortgage and floating indebtedness."

MARCH 11:

"Mr. Barton Hill the actor" offers to give a performance for the benefit of the Library.

APRIL 12:

At the annual meeting of the Association President Barnes reports that "ladies are enlisting" to aid the Library and that there is a bright prospect for the future.

Librarian Crocker declares that "progress is not as marked and as great as we could wish," and calls for the purchase of new fiction. He suggests placing a blank-book in the reading room in which visitors can write suggestions for new purchases. Received from subscriptions: \$402.80, expenses: \$152.90, circulation: 6,093.

AUGUST 17:

Crocker resigns as Librarian; J. H. H. Parks elected. The Rev. M. Cheney asks for use of the Directors Room in which "to give lessons in Elocution." Request declined.

1882

Young Men's Library Association incorporated by petitioners: George T. Barnes, J. C. C. Black, Edwin G. Weed, Charles C. Jones, Jr.

JUNE 10:

The Trustees of The Young Men's Library Association Fund consider buying the Poullain Building at Broad and Jackson Streets for \$20,000. It is a three-story brick building, 208 ft on Jackson, 35 on Broad, "one of the most valuable and well-located pieces of property in the city."

They buy it, giving a note for \$5,000. (They have difficulty in raising the money to pay the note, and Mrs. Emily Tubman "comes to the rescue" and advances the \$5,000.)

The Trustees "build improvement," place \$28,000 mortgage on the property. It is considered to be worth \$40,000. A rental of \$4,000 per year would pay library expenses and retire a \$1,000 bond each year. It is to be free of city and county taxes.

The library moves into 3 rooms on the second floor, "over the office of The Excelsior Mills, Capt. J. M. Berry, Prop." The entrance leading

off Broad Street has "YMLA on the glass door in handsome gold letters." A Brussels Carpet is laid in the upstairs hall. Inside the rooms, "Apollo is on one wall, with Minerva Goddess of Wisdom opposite." The back reading room is reserved for Gentlemen and contains the newspaper files and tables for chess, backgammon and draughts.

The 3rd floor was reserved for ladies.

"The directors and trustees, throughout its history, have been ir-reproachable in character, representing the most intelligent and public-spirited citizens." Circulation: 3,997, 335 new volumes purchased, 170 subscribers (annual). "There should be 500," says Librarian Parks.

COMMITTEES: Books & Periodicals, Endowment, Finance, Library & Hall, Lectures.

1883

APRIL 10:

At the Annual Meeting the President reports that the Association "Has entered upon a new and prosperous career." Over two thousand dollars has been received as proceeds from a Fair "held under the auspices of the ladies." Pressing debts have been paid. A proposed new constitution is rejected. Charles E. Crocker is elected Librarian.

MAY:

Dr. Talmadge of Brooklyn, New York, is to lecture before the Association.

1884

AUGUST 7:

The Association, having been granted by Council the right to "erect seats at Broad and Jackson for the Fireman's Parade," turns over the "proceeds from the sale of seats on Fireman Day" to the Treasurer. The Hayne Circle, a literary society, named in honor of Paul Hamilton Hayne, is given the use of the Library rooms for its meetings.

1885

The Chronicle and Constitutionalist changes its name to the *Augusta Chronicle*.

JANUARY 31:

Major Barnes resigns as President; Gen. Clement A. Evans elected. The Managers request the Hayne Circle to give an entertainment for the benefit of the Library. The Librarian receives \$40 a month plus 20% of collections on subscriptions. \$10 a month is divided between the Assistant Librarian and the janitor. It is hard to get the Board to attend meetings.

JULY 5:

"The trouble with this venerable and valuable institution," writes a friend, "has been that it has never been invested with popular interest. It carries merit on its face and shows want in all its lineaments; of the subscribers who are listed, many are listless."

~~November 2:~~
 "The Ladies" have a "Library Festival" to raise money for the Association.

1886

APRIL 1:

A ballot box is placed in the Library Rooms for the election, by members, of a librarian. Voting takes place between "10 and 2 o'clock." It is the belief of the managers that such an election will increase membership. Miss Mary Campbell, daughter of Dr. Robert, niece of Dr. Henry, both supporters of the Library, wins the election with 134 votes.

APRIL 12:

Income for past year reported at the annual meeting:

Trust Fund	\$550.
Subscribers	908.35
Seats, Fireman's Parade	.75
Ladies Entertainment	247.90
	2.01
	<hr/>
	\$1,709.01

Officers elected: CLEMENT A. EVANS, President
 CHAS. Z. MCCORD, Vice-President
 J. H. ALEXANDER, Treasurer
 T. R. Gibson, Secretary

APRIL 13:

The Association sponsors a lecture at the Opera House by Carl Schurz, former U. S. Senator, Secretary of the Interior under Hayes, Minister to Spain in 1861, soldier, author, editorial writer for *Harper's Weekly*, Editor-in-Chief New York *Evening Post*, — at a loss of \$83.50 for the rental of the hall.

SEPTEMBER:

The newspapers report that Miss Campbell has "fitted up the front room of the Library as a Ladies Parlor. (She) has placed curtains in the alcoves as a protection for the books, and the well-lighted rooms make a pleasant stopping place until ten o'clock each evening." With bric-a-brac, curios, dainty decorations and beautiful blooming flowers, the Library has become "one of the pleasantest places in the city."

NOVEMBER 2:

The Hayne Circle, meeting at the Library, debates the question of removing the body of Richard Henry Wilde from "an unmarked and neglected grave on the Sand Hills" to a plat in the City Cemetery to be known as Poets Corner.

DECEMBER 17: Two hundred people attend a Christmas entertainment at the Library. The Rooms are "filled to overflowing" and the gathering listens to songs, recitations and a reading of "St. Nicholas."

The Montrose Dramatic Club gives a performance for the benefit of the Library.

1887

JANUARY 10:

The Ladies Library Society announces plans to join with the German Club and "open their hall for dancing upstairs and give the whole Library to promenaders, tete-a-tetes and refreshments." The dance was evidently not held until warm weather: "The ices were delicious, and the Library, with plants and variety of decoration and its myriads of lights and lanterns of all colors, presented a grand picture; with the loveliest of women in their sweet summer array" a delightful time was had by all.

Later in the year the Tubman girls give an entertainment for the benefit of the Library: tickets at 25c. The singers are "in full uniform and fine voice." The "Tambourine Drill by the Tubman High School Gypsies is a great success." Tickets are sold for a "Quotation Party" for the benefit of the Library; subject: "Woman."

1888

JANUARY 6:

The Friends of the Library are asked to come forward in its support. They come forward with a plan for holding a Kirmess. The Kirmess Committee of the Ladies Aid explains that a Kirmess is an exhibition of dances of different nations, but in spite of all explanations the ministers object and continue to object, declaring that some of the dances "are such as may not be indulged in or witnessed by the most refined people."

APRIL:

The Kirmess is abandoned in favor of an Art Loan Exhibit, and the Market Hall is engaged for the purpose. The tableaux seems to have been more popular than the "art," particularly "Romeo and Juliet," and "A Dream of Fair Women and Fine Music."

JULY 1:

A book of several hundred life-membership certificates is obtained from the Railway & Bankers Engraving & Lithographing Co, N. Y.:

No. 00

\$50.00

YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Augusta

Georgia

This Certifies that _____ by the payment of FIFTY DOLLARS has become a LIFE MEMBER OF THIS ASSOCIATION and is entitled to all the privileges of the LIBRARY, under the Rules established for the Government thereof.

WITNESS the Signatures of the President and
Treasurer, and the Seal of the Corporation at
(seal) Augusta, Ga. _____ day of _____

President

Treasurer

In top border: "No profit grows where is no pleasure taken. In brief, Sir, study what you most affect." Tam. Shrew, 1.1.

Right border: "My library was dukedom large enough." Tempest, 1.2.

Bottom border: "Where men may read strange matters to beguile the time." Macbeth, 1.5.

Left border: "Here the book I sought for so." Jul. Cea., 4.3.

Certificates issued this day to, 1. Josiah Sibley; 2. Mrs. J. B. Walker; 3. Mrs. A. W. Newberry; 4. Hon. Robert H. May; 5. Alfred Baker; 6. George T. Jackson; 7. Thomas P. Branch; 8. W. Fred Eve; 9. George P. Garvin; 10. Mrs. Susie Goodrich Walker; 11. Mrs. Margaret Gould; 12. Miss Lida C. Wadley.

OCTOBER 10:

"Some of the boys are reported as saying that the price for Friday night's benefit concert is too high. They are willing to pay 75c, but one dollar is too much. Now, boys, this kind of talk won't do. Didn't you pay one dollar to see the minstrels?"

The concert nets the library \$125. A new carpet is laid, new paper is bought for the walls; electric lights are installed. "Lace curtains, portieres, rugs . . . make the library the coziest spot in Augusta." The decision is made to keep the rooms open until 10 p. m.

The Hayne Circle meets at the library for its monthly discussion. Subject: "Twelfth Night."

Only "ladies, strangers and members" are allowed use of the rooms.

DECEMBER 15:

A "Living Chess Game" is held at the Opera House for the benefit of the Library. "Well-know Ladies and Gentlemen in costume" representing the pieces move from square to square about the stage "as automaton directs." Music.

1889

Dr. Francis T. Willis, of Washington, Wilkes, builds "Georgia's first free library" in memory of his daughter Mary. Earlier than the Mary Willis Library, a public library was established in Washington in 1877, many books were donated "and the services of an efficient librarian, Milton Arnold, were secured."

FEBRUARY 8:

Life Memberships: 13. WM. H. FLEMING.

MARCH 11:

Life Memberships: 14. MRS. MARY WADLEY

MARCH 21:

At a meeting of the Directors a motion that ladies should be made eligible as members of the Board of Directors is "unanimously tabled." President Evans declares, "The Library is an old Augusta institution which has never received the support it has merited." The size of the Board is increased to 21. Subscribers to the Library: 180

"The time will come," says an editorial in the *Chronicle*, "when the Library will build one of the finest homes in the city, and own the most elegant and popular headquarters."

APRIL 10:

At the annual meeting, no action is taken on adding ladies to the Board; the Board is reduced to 12. Elected as officers:

J. R. LAMAR, President
 J. L. MAXWELL, Vice-President
 T. R. GIBSON, Secretary
 J. H. ALEXANDER, Treasurer

JULY 5:

The *Evening News* reports, "The finances of the Library are in a precarious condition." With a deficit of \$43 in June, the Directors seriously discuss "closing the doors. . . . The people of Augusta do not support the Library. . . . The Ladies stand by the Library although the young men fail to support it. . . . The young men are shy about going to the Library." With a collection of 6,000 volumes, there are only 300 members in a city of 46,000.

AUGUST 16:

Life Memberships: 15. JOHN PENDLETON KING.

SEPTEMBER:

Of a Board of 16 Directors, the Secretary has difficulty getting 5 to meet. He brings up at last the monumental question: "Is Augusta a Literary Center?"

When the newspapers query the public, "How can we make the Young Men's Library Association more popular?" one citizen replies, "The rules are too strict"; another, "The Library needs a catalogue."

The Directors discuss, "SHALL THE LIBRARY BE CLOSED?" They decide to keep it open.

NOVEMBER 9:

Life Memberships: 16. W. A. LATIMER.

DECEMBER 7:

Life Memberships: 17. WM. MORRELL WADLEY; 18. RUFUS B. BULLOCK; 19. V. V. BULLOCK.

1890

MARCH 8:

"Who will lend a helping hand to the Young Men's Library Association?"

APRIL 9:

At the Annual Meeting, attended by 23 members, J. L. Maxwell is elected President; Miss Campbell is elected Librarian and instructed to keep the Rooms open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

MAY 8:

A "charming concert" is given for the benefit of the Library, after which "dainty refreshments are served at a small cost" — 25c.

1891

APRIL 15:

At the Annual Meeting the old officers decline re-election and a new slate is put into office:

M. P. FOSTER, President
H. B. KING, Vice-President
C. S. BOHLER, Secretary
V. J. DORR, Treasurer

MAY 8:

"The Library is on the up grade at last."

1892

MAY 3:

There is a small fire at the Library.

DECEMBER 25:

President Neely reports that the Library has never been in better condition.

1893

The Library at Marietta, Georgia, is established.

1894

FEBRUARY 3:

The Library, on the 2nd floor, is described as "a cheerful and inviting resort." "Stiff wooden chairs" stand about the "long tables of periodicals." One may "sit in front of an open grate in a comfortable rocker."

APRIL 10:

A "Sailor Tea" is held for the benefit of the Library.

1895

MAY 15:

Life Memberships: 20. HAMILTON PHINIZY. (At the Annual Meeting in April he had been elected President of the Association.)

MAY 21:

Life Memberships: 21. MISS CARRIE L. GOODRICH.

MAY 25:

Life Memberships: 22. GWINN H. NIXON

JULY 9:

Life Memberships: 23. BOWDRE PHINIZY.

1896

APRIL 6:

The Treasurer reports to the Annual Meeting a "Balance on hand of \$1.51," and a bill on hand unpaid of \$50 for electric light. Miss Campbell, Librarian, has not been paid her salary for three months; motion is made to pay her. Officers elected:

JOHN NEELY, President
 MRS. MOSES WADLEY, Vice-President
 MISS ELLA EVANS, Secretary
 MAJOR W. F. ALEXANDER, Treasurer

"Canvassers" are engaged to bring in new subscribers, and The Ideal Opera Company is thanked for the performance it gave in benefit of the Library.

SEPTEMBER 25:

Professor John Neely, head of Tubman High School and President of the Library, resigns from the presidency for lack of enough time. The Rev. Dr. Lansing Burrows is elected President. The Board considers some benefit for helping the Library, a barbecue or fair or entertainment.

1897

OCTOBER 7:

The Board instructs Secretary Evans "to ask of the Georgia Railroad Company transportation for" Miss Campbell to the State Convention of Librarians at Macon. Circulation: 3,568, subscribers: 225.

1898

Library at Rome, Georgia, established.

APRIL 12:

The following officers are elected at the annual Meeting:

JOHN NEELY, President
 MRS. MOSES WADLEY, Vice-President
 REV. HUNTER DAVIDSON, Secretary
 MAJOR W. F. ALEXANDER, Treasurer

SEPTEMBER 1:

John North makes a motion, which was carried, to destroy "the volume, 'A Tragic Idyl', by Paul Bourget, as unfit for circulation."

NOVEMBER 17:

The Hayne Circle erects a monument between Marbury and McKinne streets on Greene to Richard Henry Wilde, presents it to the city. "The Augusta Street Railroad is requested", and consents, "to have the ten o'clock car at night stop in front of the home of our Librarian."

1899

Libraries established in Brunswick and Dahlonga.

APRIL 11:

President Neely declares to the Annual Meeting that he would like

to see the Library free to the public. "Next to the institution of religion and the schools . . . a well-regulated library is the greatest public blessing." Mention is made of the attractive "gentleman's smoking room in the rear, with comfortable fires, newspapers" and tables for chess and backgammon.

"Augusta's Library — A Prosperous and Beneficent Institution."

The rear of the large room "was raised by a step or two," writes Charles G. Benson in November 1948. "The books for young folks were at the back—Jules Verne, Capt. Mayne Reid, Capt. Marryat, Maurice Thompson.

"In the back room, for games, every evening from about 5 to 7 sat Messrs. Middleton, Harry Carr, Pete Ransom and sometimes Hamilton Phinizy, playing backgammon with much spicy comment. Mr. North's special remark on making a lucky throw with the dice was 'Acumen! Acumen! is required for such a throw.' Lamar Oliver and I often played at the other table."

1900

MARCH 1:

The Directors are informed that the "Library now has more daily visitors than at any time in its history." President Neely appoints a committee to communicate with Andrew Carnegie in regard to a Carnegie Library for Augusta.

APRIL:

"The Annual Meeting is told that the year has been "one of the most successful in the history of the institution." A telephone is installed. The following officers are elected:

JOHN NEELY, President
 JOHN A. NORTH, Vice-President
 MRS. F. M. TUFTS, Secretary
 MAJOR W. F. ALEXANDER, Treasurer

AUG. 20:

Life Memberships: 24. HENRY J. AND MRS. WILLING.
 (No Life-Membership certificates issued after this date.)

OCTOBER 3:

New carpet and wall paper selected, new shelving, new grates for the fireplaces, — and a new placard for a conspicuous place:

GENTLEMEN ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR THEIR
 COATS WHILE IN LIBRARY ROOM.

1901

FEBRUARY 6:

Vice-President John North, who has been to New York at the expense of the Association to talk with Mr. Carnegie about a donation, reports that "Mr. Carnegie, through his secretary, refused to do any-

thing for the Library unless the endorsement of the Mayor and City Council should be secured."

APRIL 30:

The same officers are elected at the Annual Meeting with the exception of the Secretary: Harriet Goodrich, Secretary. The Librarian makes an "encouraging report." 9,530 volumes in the library; circulation: 6,912.

Electric fans have been installed and the rooms made attractive with "pictures in the rear room, rocking chairs, flowers, ferns, plants, and boxes of running vines at the windows."

Rev. John Chipman, of the Christ Church Episcopal Mission in the West End, formally opens the new building of the West End Free Library at the corner of Eve Street and Battle Row. The project is to be supported by voluntary subscriptions and a small appropriation from the city. The collection consists of 1,500 books.

1902

APRIL:

The following officers are elected:

JOHN A. NORTH, President
 JOHN NEELY, Vice-President
 MRS. LEE HENRY, Secretary
 MAJOR W. F. ALEXANDER, Treasurer

1903

JANUARY 28:

Carnegie offers \$50,000 for a new library building provided City Council will appropriate \$5,000 a year for maintenance. The Board is divided, the majority favoring: the minority consider that a complication might arise from the fact that the Trustees own the present Library building (30-yr. bonds had been issued to pay for it).

John W. Dickey tells Council to "accept it of course." N. L. Willet and others back him up. "Many thousands want to accept. It would be another achievement of Mayor Phinizy's: a new depot, YMCA Building, Georgia Railroad Bank, Baptist Church—and now a Public Library." "We are book hungry and want a library!" says James J. Farrell.

Hy B. King resents these suggestions that Augusta "accept a rich man's bounty! . . . The Young Men's Library Association now offers this community all the library facilities it deserves. . . . Augusta is well able to support a library if she wants one." We need no outside help.

"We will perpetuate the vanity of no man!" cries Mr. Carr, who suggests that the city issue some 3½% bonds and build a library.

"Shall we join in the scramble for the crumbs that fall from a rich

man's table!" screams another. "Let us . . . not accept a place on anybody's pension roll."

"The city can't afford \$5,000 now," says another.

"Libraries are an institution of the past," says the editor of the *Daily Tribune* on February 2. "Public Libraries are not patronized. . . . Then Mr. Carnegie, trying to dispose of surplus money in a way to immortalize his name, selected the building of 'Carnegie Libraries' as the best way to accomplish that end. So there is a temporary revival of a middle-age custom, during which a number of foolish communities load themselves with a white elephant. . . . Augusta will not be one of the foolish sisters which will so encumber herself!"

"I say reject it, for reasons born of pride in and love for my home, Augusta," says H. F. Saxon. "For the sake of the pride that should be in us, do not let us accept the crumbs from this table of Dives!"

"Andy's design upon us," cries the Editor on the 9th, a week having been insufficient to cool his indignation, "is to get our fair city in his steel grasp! . . . Let all this talk about a Carnegie Library cease. We need a city hall worse than a library."

Jacksonville had accepted a Carnegie Library, Savannah, Atlanta, Columbus, Newnan, Waynesboro: the Negro question had been handled by other Southern communities.

Charles C. Pressley suggests that Carnegie make the donation to the YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. If the Association would not turn over the library and the income from the Fund to the city, Carnegie might give the building to the Association provided the city would guarantee \$5,000 annual support.

1904

APRIL 7:

The Library is decorated for the Annual Meeting; "refreshments are served." The same officers are elected, except that Hamilton Phinizy is made Vice-President and Mrs. Charles Smith Secretary.

JUNE 9:

At an earlier meeting a special reduced membership for school children had been instituted; but since the canny old folks had seen this as an opportunity to get their reading at half price, Mr. King moves that "only juvenile books be issued on school childrens' reduced membership ticket."

OCTOBER 6:

A resolution is made and carried that "the Library be opened from 10 a.m. until 10 at night as before, and that the Librarian be paid \$50 per month—\$40 to be paid in cash and the \$10 for each month when the Directors have sufficient funds on hand for that purpose."

1905

OCTOBER 12:

A letter to the newspapers from Hugh C. Middleton declares that revenues to the city have been increased by \$15,200 from liquor licenses; he suggests that this money be used to meet the requirement for obtaining a Carnegie Library.

NOVEMBER 5:

Someone makes inquiry and finds that the Carnegie is still open. "To have a library is the crying need of the city. . . . A library is something which no up-to-date and enterprising city can afford to do without."

A citizen suggests that Council should appropriate \$10,000 if Carnegie will double his offer of \$50,000; a mill president offers to give his operatives a half holiday on Saturdays in order that they may "reap the consequent advantages of a library." Someone, perhaps a member of the Board of Trade, points out that the \$50,000 would be "spent for local material and local work."

Howard Meriwether Lewis writes to the newspapers: "And now is dawning the era of Greater Augusta, which calls for advancement in library facilities. To keep abreast of the times and preserve the high standard of the past there is demand for a commodious free library for our city. The Carnegie offer was considered a few years ago and declined, evincing the proud and independent spirit of Augustans." Let Council give the \$5,000 a year to the Young Men's Library Association. "The Library building on Broad Street is . . . better suited for business purposes than for a library. A more spacious and retired retreat is desirable," such as the Clayton House on Greene. "Such a library should be an object of unalloyed pride to Greater Augusta. Augusta is too proud and too rich to accept Mr. Carnegie's charity. Greater Augusta will endow her own free library — a glorious monument to native brains, enterprise and munificence."

DECEMBER 9:

The Directors consider ways of putting the Association on a better footing. The library is "not being supported as it deserves to be, or as it once was. The question has arisen of whether Augustans are caring less for books than heretofore." Someone suggests turning the library over to the Board of Education.

1906

Library established in Albany, Georgia

APRIL 11:

The question is raised, "Do the People of Augusta Want a Library?" President North appoints a committee to sound out the public and bring an answer: T. W. Loyless, Hamilton Phinzy, Oswald R. Eve.

The President states that expensive improvements to the building

have caused a floating debt to the Trustees, thus reducing or curtailing the income to the Library. "A great deal is expected from the efforts to build up new enterprises for the city; but this must not be done at the expense of those already established and which have been of incalculable service to the public."

Miss Campbell, Librarian, reports that the memberships are not what they should be: "The education of the feet at skating rinks and dancing halls seems to supersede . . . the acquirement of superior mental endowments." Library Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p. m. Collection: 11,834 volumes. Four tables of magazines and periodicals; "girls come here to rest or to wait for trains." The Directors decide to ask City Council for \$500 a year.

JUNE 6:

The Directors call upon the Trustees for \$1,200 a year, but the Trustees say that \$600 is a maximum, at \$50 per month. The Directors inform the Trustees that this sum is sufficient to keep the library open only to August 1st.

JULY 12:

Both the President and the Treasurer (John North and Henry M. North) are absent from the meeting but 9 Directors are present, with Hamilton Phinzy in the chair. The resignation of President North is read and accepted with regret. Hamilton Phinzy is elected President, George P. Butler, Vice-President.

Loyless reports the result of the meeting between his committee and the Trustees, and moves that the Library be closed on August 1st, that Miss Campbell be retained as custodian of the books and other property at a salary of \$50, and that the money of unexpired subscriptions be returned to the subscribers if they so wish. The motion is carried. "As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Mary R. Campbell
Sec'y pro tem."

JULY 28:

Chronicle headlines:

LIBRARY CLOSES
NEXT WEDNESDAY

Miss Campbell retained to manage properties; building to be offered for sale at \$50,000. "Frequently within the last few days representatives of different financial interests have been in the rooms of the building with tape line and note book measuring and figuring and calculating."

AUGUST 8:

There is a suggestion of friction on the Board. North has resigned; Treasurer is absent. Loyless cites Article 3, Section 7, of the Constitution that any Director absent without case for more than three consecutive meeting is automatically dropped from the Board.

"For the first time in almost a century Augusta is without a library."

Books are moved to the rear rooms; services curtailed. Miss Campbell is on hand every day, but no subscriptions are accepted, no books taken out. Board considers renting front rooms for offices.—Library is not open, not closed: ajar.

SEPTEMBER 25:

The Board, meeting in the back room of the Library, is notified by the Trustees that the monthly income is being withheld.

The Trustees are told that the Young Men's Library Association is not dissolved; "distribution of books has been only partially suspended temporarily while the Directors search for better quarters." ("The Union Finance Company," recalls Mrs. Brotherton after 41 years, in the *Chronicle* of August 8, 1947, "purchased the building shortly after this crisis and the library moved next door into a two-story wooden structure"; but no contemporary reference has been found to such a move.)

The Board appoints a committee, Loyless chairman, to "endeavor to awaken a public spirit toward the organization of a public library in our city."

DECEMBER 6:

The December meeting of the Board is held in Hamilton Phinizy's office in the Dyer Building, there having been no quorum present in November. There is no fire at the library, "a small amount of coal from last winter but no lightwood."

The librarian states that "the sun cannot penetrate and warm up the new quarters, and there is nothing with which to kindle a fire." And no janitor to kindle it. The telephone is taken out; the *Chronicle* discontinued; the insurance policy cancelled.

The Trustees declare that they are discontinuing the payment of the \$50 a month as long as the library is closed, whether temporarily or otherwise. The Board asks that they pay Miss Campbell \$200 as salary to April 1, 1907, which they agree to do. An offer is made of \$46,000 for the library building, priced at \$50,00.

1907

APRIL 9:

"A large crowd of interested people" attend the Annual Meeting, held at the YMCA. Wm. H. Fleming, N. L. Willet, Berry Benson, Gwinn H. Nixon speak in favor of accepting Carnegie's offer. Hy B. King is still opposed: "It is impossible for the money to have been obtained in legitimate channels of trade," says Mr. King.

Emory Cason suggests that the editor of the *Chronicle* ask six of the richest citizens of Augusta to donate \$5,000 each, twenty of the moderately rich to donate \$1,000 each, and a hundred others to donate \$100 each; "with the \$100,000 we will build a library of our own."

The Directors, one dissenting, vote in favor of the Carnegie plan. It is pointed out that the library would not have to be named after Carnegie; many Carnegie Libraries do not use his name.

JUNE 6:

The library is to re-open July 1, the Trustees paying \$75 a month. H. W. Carr elected Librarian at \$25 a month: rooms to be open 2 hours in the morning, 2 in the afternoon; dues 10c a month.

1908

JANUARY 1:

Subscriptions reduced from \$3 a year to \$1. 273 members. \$25 spent for new books.

JULY:

The Trustees sell the Library building "where we had been located for twenty years." A bank evidently buys the property (possibly the Union Finance Company.)

SEPTEMBER 23:

Rooms are rented in "the old Metcalf residence" on Greene Street at \$30 a month. Miss Pauline Benson "and 2 colored boys" re-shelve the 12,000 volumes after the move has been made at a cost of \$390.38. Balance on hand December 1: \$.33.

1909

APRIL:

The following officers are elected:

HAMILTON PHINIZY, President
 COLONEL D. B. DYER, Vice-President
 MRS. CHARLES SMITH, Secretary
 MRS. H. G. JACKSON, Treasurer
 H. W. CARR, Librarian

Everyone seems pleased with the new quarters, which "provide 70% more space at 8% more rent; \$300 from the Trustees pays for necessary repairs. The Directors appeal to the Trustees to increase the allotment from \$75 to \$100 a month, which they agree to do.

MAY:

The Librarian makes a personal canvass of the citizens, gets 200 new subscribers at \$1, making a total of more than 550 — the total was 53 when the library closed.

1910

DECEMBER 1:

The President appoints a Public Library Committee consisting of Benson, Eve, and Phinizy, to confer with the 1920 Club for the purpose of securing a new library.

1911

NOVEMBER:

The President gets a letter from the Board of the West End Free Library: would it embarrass the Young Men's Library Association if the WEFLL approached Mr. Carnegie on the idea of a Carnegie Library for the West End, since it seemed impossible to get a large one for the city as a whole?

Berry Benson, Chairman of the Carnegie Library Committee YMLA replies that he is assured Augusta will get a Carnegie Library and that the WEFLL request would be untimely.

1912

With Hamilton Phinizy, President; Colonel D. B. Dyer, Vice-President; Mrs. Charles Smith, Secretary; Mrs. A. G. Jackson, Treasurer; Miss Mary Campbell, Librarian; Miss Helen Verdery, Assistant; the Library is bequeathed "a stereoscope with all the views of Palestine, Egypt and Athens"; goes through its semi-annual house cleaning during "a strike" in the city; pays "\$2 a week to the old Negro janitress who has been with us 5 years"; hears a familiar-sounding report from the Librarian that "fine weather, the fair, moving pictures" are formidable competitors for the souls of Augusta, in spite of the "Mazda bulbs" in the front rooms and the "carbon bulbs in the others."

1914

MARCH 5:

Librarian Harry W. Carr recommends to the Board that the YMCA be allowed to build a tennis court between the YMCA and the Library: "The yard at present is a rendezvous for all the boys of the neighborhood, and a hiding place for them to sally forth and imitate the Judge of the Superior Court in violating the city ordinances."

Mr. Carr objects to working a twelve-hour day at \$50 a month: shorter hours or more pay. When the example of Miss Campbell is brought up he states that she "allowed herself sufficient time for relaxation and meal times," often going out and leaving the Library in charge of the Negro janitress.

MAY 15:

Some new officers elected:

T. J. HICKMAN, President
 MRS. A. G. JACKSON, Vice-President
 MRS. CHARLES SMITH, Secretary
 MRS. WARREN WALKER, Treasurer

There are 5 applicants for Librarian. Miss Pauline Benson is elected, replacing Miss Helen Verdery, who had evidently superseded Mr. Carr.

1915

JANUARY 7:

"Rental-shelf" plan is adopted. Miss Benson is taken ill and Mrs. Owens acts as Librarian.

1916

APRIL 6:

New library quarters are rented on the 5th floor of the Leonard Building at \$50 a month for 3 years. The Board has decided that the Library must move: there has been a heavy loss of subscribers "in spite of fumigating." (!)

JULY 13:

The Board again investigates the Carnegie Library plan, but they are informed that Mr. Carnegie "will not again offer his proposition unless the city has something more definite to propose."

NOVEMBER 14:

The Library, having moved to the Leonard Building on September 15, celebrates its "70th anniversary" (68th ?) with a tea.

Barrington Branch gives a piano recital for the benefit of the Library and turns over to the Association \$62, received for tickets. The Librarian is now getting \$60 a month, the Assistant, \$10.

1917

JULY 6:

The Carnegie plan having been discussed again, Mr. Eve recommends abandoning the idea. The Board considers trying to obtain money from City Council through "The White Legacy." The Trust Fund is now netting the Library \$2,100 a year.

1918

MARCH 12:

The Board considers asking Council to donate the lots behind City Hall for a Public Library and to appropriate \$150,000 for the building.

1919

JANUARY 2:

Conditions at the Library take on an unaccountable improvement: more money, more readers, more subscribers. A report from the Trustees lists their holdings:

King Mill, pfd.	225 shares
" " cm.	66 "
City of Augusta 3 ½s '28	\$1,000.

INCOME

King Mill, pfd.	\$1,728
" " cm.	396
Augusta bond	35

 \$2,216

APRIL 8:

A sign is contracted for the Library Rooms; an additional room is rented. The Board consults J. C. White on the possibility of using the "J. B. White Legacy" for building an auditorium and library. "Due consideration will be given the request," says Mr. White.

1920

MARCH 4:

Mrs. Templeton, of the State Library Board, comes to Augusta and talks to the Directors on library requirements for a city of the size of Augusta.

The Directors plan to "approach City Council for the purpose of urging them to turn over the remaining \$200,000 of the White Fund to meet our demands" for a new library.

OCTOBER 7:

Mrs. Owens resigns as Librarian and is replaced by Mrs. Johnston at \$75 a month; Assistant at \$35.

Dr. Oertel offers to sell his house on Greene Street to the Association for use as a Library. Price \$36,000.

1922

APRIL 11:

At the Annual Meeting the President and Vice-President are re-elected; Mrs. W. B. Benton is elected Secretary, Mrs. L. H. Charbonnier, Treasurer. Circulation: 26,643; Reading Room: 5,190; Subscribers: 562.

OCTOBER 5:

Council recommends that part of the "White Bequest" be expended for a combined Library-Auditorium.

1924

APRIL 8:

President Hickman makes a report to the Annual Meeting, speaking of "the well-filled rooms," and "the young men and women students." During his nearly twenty years as President he has seen the Library grow to its present importance: Circulation: 29,851; Reading Room: 5,916.

Mr. Hickman recommends that, since the City makes no financial contribution to the Library, a committee go before Council and ask for an appropriation of \$500 a year from the J. B. White Estate Funds. The Library has an income now of about \$4,500, sufficient to allow the Board to make Christmas presents as follows: Librarian: \$5 gold piece; Assistant: \$5 gold piece; Janitor: \$1; Elevator Girl: \$1.

MAY 14:

Council declines to make an appropriation for library services.

1925

APRIL 14:

The Board decides to propose to the Trustees of Richmond Academy that the Library be allowed to rent the old Academy building for 25 years at \$1 a year, if the Richmond County Memorial Association and the L. L. Battey Post of the American Legion will put the building in suitable condition for a library as a memorial for the war dead; these two organizations have indicated a willingness to do this. Circulation: 28,000; Reading Room: 6,000; Income: \$4,338.10.

A prize of "a \$5 gold piece" is offered for the best essay by a school-child on, "Why Augusta should have a bigger and better library."

NOVEMBER 15:

"Are we lacking in that quality of civic interest when we do not make a greater effort to have an up-to-date public library!"

1926

FEB. 10:

The American Legion "decides against acting with us" in improving the Academy as a memorial.

The Woman's Club recommends that "the impending bond issue include funds to build a library and auditorium, either together or separately."

NOVEMBER 10:

The Trustees of Richmond Academy announce that they will rent the old Academy building to the Young Men's Library Association for 10 years at \$300 a year. Contractors will make needed alterations in the building for \$1,510.

Mrs. Jackson becomes President when William Congdon moves that President Hickman be declared to have quitted the office by 3 unexcused absences from Board meetings. Mrs. Wallace becomes Vice-President. \$3,000 is to be raised by contributions to pay the costs of removal to the Academy.

1927

JUNE 12:

Joseph B. Cumming, Chairman of the committee to raise the \$3,000, reports that contributions have been slow to come in. Circulation: 24,483; Reading Room: 4,095; Income: \$4,749.60.

1929

JANUARY:

The Library moves to the old Academy building at a rental of \$120 a year, funds for the removal having reached the total of \$2,687.81. The Board agrees to pay the Librarian \$100 a month on account of the increased duties in the new building.

APRIL:

The Board considers the question of making the Library a Public Library if suitable appropriations can be had from Council. Several Directors oppose the idea. Mrs. Clara D. Butt makes an "indefinite loan of a portrait of the late Major Archibald Butt."

1935

APRIL 9:

The following officers and staff are elected:

JOSEPH B. CUMMING, President
S. D. COPELAND, Vice-President
J. G. WILSON, Secretary
ELLET C. WALKER, Treasurer
H. GOULD BARRETT, Curator
MRS. JOHNSTON, Librarian

Circulation: 21,582; Reading Room: 3,557; Income: \$3,486.64. The Board decides to re-establish the rental shelf.

JUNE 11:

City Council is again asked for an appropriation. Council refuses to appropriate unless the County will make an appropriation too. The County is asked; refuses.

1936

JANUARY 24:

City Council, County Commission, Board of Education make the first appropriations of public money for library services.

OCTOBER 23:

The "Hill Branch" is opened in the George Walton Apartments.

1937

APRIL 13:

The Board discusses the possibility of getting staff help through the Works Progress Administration. Such WPA help means certain "changes in the control of book purchases," means abolishing subscriptions, abolishing the rent shelf. There is disagreement between the Board and the WPA as to publicity: the Board wants "no publicity, no signs such as is customary in certain WPA projects"; the WPA wants full publicity. A compromise is achieved. Circulation: 18,584; Reading Room: 4,429; Income: \$5,069.86.

JULY:

Subscriptions are abolished and the Library becomes free to the public. A branch library is established at McBean in the depot, which the Central of Georgia Railroad permits free of charge; the Hill Branch is moved to the Partridge Inn.

John M. Walton, filling the new post of Library Administrator, urges the Junior League of Augusta to take over the operation of the Childrens Library; he recommends that Miss Wheatcroft of the State Li-

brary Board be invited to come to Augusta and give the library professional advice on administration.

SEPTEMBER 14:

Six tables, 2 cabinets are acquired when WPA regional office moves to Atlanta; the accomodating Augusta Fire Department cuts the grass.

NOVEMBER 9:

Miss Wheatcroft, after making an inspection of the Library, gives the Board a critical report of both Library and staff: "the WPA workers are not receiving the training they should be getting" in return for their salaries being paid by the Federal Government.

1939

AUGUST 28:

WPA staff workers leave; Mrs. Johnston receives leave of absence. President S. D. Copeland discusses with the Board the possibility of opening a branch in the business district on a 6-month trial basis.

1940

JANUARY 6:

President Copeland asks City Council for an appropriation of \$2,400 a year; Council agrees to appropriate \$750. A branch is opened in the Masonic Building.

MARCH 12:

The Junior League, which has taken over the operation of the Childrens Library, is asked to appoint one of its members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Library. The City appropriates \$900 for the Juvenile Department.

APRIL 9:

The project of operating a bookmobile in the county is discussed at the Annual Meeting. The following officers are elected:

S. D. COPELAND, President
 MISS ANNIE G. WRIGHT, Vice-President
 HILARY MANGUM, Secretary
 SHERMAN DRAWDY, Treasurer

City appropriation:	\$1,650
County "	375
Board of Education appropriation:	375
	<hr/>
	\$2,400

JUNE 30:

The Broad-Street branch, operating at a loss, is closed. The possibility is discussed of opening a Department of Recorded Music in the Library. President Copeland resigns; Miss Wright elected President.

DECEMBER 10:

The Treasurer points out that the Library "is running about \$400 behind." Expenses must be cut.

1942

APRIL 10:

It is announced to the Board that the Georgia State Library Association will hold its 1942 convention in Augusta, October 6-7-8.

The Board decides to keep the Library open four nights a week until 10 p.m. to accomodate the service men.

The following officers are elected:

JOHN M. WALTON, President

MRS. JOHN J. EVANS, Vice-President

HILARY MANGUM, Secretary

WALLACE INGLETT, Treasurer

SEPTEMBER 8:

A project is proposed for developing a Friends of the Library movement. President Walton resigns to enter the Army and Mrs. Evans is elected President.

1943

JANUARY 12:

Miss Elizabeth Gilchrist, a qualified librarian, is appointed Head Librarian, putting the Library on an accredited status for receiving State book funds.

MARCH 10:

The Elks Club donates \$1,200 for the purpose of founding the Elks Reference Shelf at the Library.

1944

APRIL:

The Board considers with divided opinion the proposal for having an outside agency make a survey of Augusta's library facilities for the purpose of formulating a long-range plan of improvement.

The following officers are elected:

MRS. JOHN J. EVANS, President

BERRY FLEMING, Vice-President

MRS. W. P. WATKINS, Secretary

MRS. OWEN CHEATHAM, Treasurer

AUGUST 7:

The County Commissioners designate the Library as the official County Library, enabling the Library to qualify for State funds.

1945

APRIL 10:

The Board decides to invite the Mayor, the Chairman of the County Commission, the President of the Board of Education to serve ex-officio on the Library Board.

The following officers are elected:

BERRY FLEMING, President
 MRS. COLDEN BATTEY, Vice-President
 MRS. W. P. WATKINS, Secretary
 MRS. OWEN CHEATHAM, Treasurer

OCTOBER 21:

The Directors engage the Dean of Emory University Library School, Miss Tommie Dora Barker, to make a detailed report on library conditions in Augusta and recommend a long-term plan for the growth and development of the Library.

DECEMBER 6:

Miss Barker, having made an intensive study of the Augusta situation, delivers the survey report at a cost of \$425.

1946

DECEMBER:

The resignation of 3 members of the Library staff because of more highly paid positions elsewhere, faces the Directors with the perennial query: "Shall the Library close its doors?" To remain open, more income is necessary.

1947

The Augusta Free School Society comes to the aid of the Library with a donation of \$200.

JANUARY:

A new City Council is petitioned by the Board to raise the Library appropriation from \$2,500 to \$7,500; a new County Commission to raise the County appropriation from \$1,200 to \$2,500.

MARCH 9:

The Board discusses the possibility of a new library building to be erected as a Memorial Library to the men and women of World War II, funds to be raised by individual contributions from the citizens of the city and county.

MARCH 28:

The City Council and the County Commission are asked to appoint, each, 2 members of the Young Men's Library Association, and the Association amends its Constitution and By-Laws to reduce the size of the Board of Directors from 12 to 8 members and to provide that 2 of the Board "shall be appointed by the City Council of Augusta, 2 by the Board of Commissioners of Richmond County, 4 by the Association from its regular membership." An amendment also provides that the members of the Association appointed by the City and County shall not be required to pay dues.

The City Council raises its annual appropriation, as requested, to \$7,500; the County Commission, to \$2,500.

APRIL 4:

The Library, having already been declared the official public library of Richmond County (August 7, 1944), is declared the official public library of the City of Augusta:

ORDINANCE NO. 1608

The City Council of Augusta hereby ordains:

Section 1. That the Augusta Library is hereby declared and designated as the Public Library of Augusta.

Section 2. That there shall be elected by the City Council of Augusta two persons as members of the Augusta Library for consideration by the other members thereof of their election to the Board of Directors of such Library, at least one of whom shall be a member of the City Council of Augusta. . . .

Approved this 3rd day of April, 1947.

W. D. Page, Mayor, C. A.

MAY 18:

After several months of amateur help, Mrs. Eugenia Jones, a qualified Librarian, is appointed head of the Library. The City and County governments raise the appropriation to the amounts requested. The rent shelf is abolished and all books are made free.

JUNE:

The City Bond Committee, after considering a detailed proposal submitted by the Library Board for including a Memorial Library in its recommendation for projects to be financed by a \$2,000,000 city bond issue, agrees to allot \$100,000 for the Memorial Library if the County will allot a similar amount in the County bond issue. The Directors had suggested \$250,000 as a minimum that should be spent on an adequate library for a city of the size and wealth of Augusta.

The following officers had been elected at the Annual Meeting in April:

MRS. OWEN CHEATHAM, President
 BERRY FLEMING, Vice-President
 MRS. MILDRED RIDGLEY, Secretary
 A. W. LUCKY, JR., Treasurer

OCTOBER 6:

A Bookmobile for service in the county is donated to the Library by the 6 Home Demonstration Clubs of Richmond County; dedication ceremonies are held on the Library grounds. Miss Sybil Price is appointed County Librarian. Arrangements are made to open the Library 2 hours earlier: New Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 10:

The State Department of Education praises the work of the Library in a letter to the President: "I know of no other library in the State

that has made a more intelligent approach to its problems than yours in Augusta. We realize that you have an unduly large number of problems and are faced with the necessity of deciding just which one of those problems needs to be attacked at this time. . . ."

1948

APRIL 14:

The annual report of the President shows "a remarkable progress in library affairs. The citizens of this county," comments the editor of the *Chronicle*, "have every reason to feel that this long-neglected phase of community life is at last coming into its own. Only those who have struggled for years to keep the library's head above water, when each day brought the threat of the institution having to close its doors, can really appreciate the notable progress."

The staff now numbers 5: Mrs. Eugenia Jones, Head Librarian; Mrs. Blanche Harris Dixon, Childrens Librarian; Miss Sybil Price, County Librarian; Mrs. Hinton Baker, Assistant; Miss Mary Timmerman, Clerical Assistant. The officers are re-elected. Circulation: 46,624 (33,620 in '47); Borrowers: 12,852; Total Volumes: 17,475.

OCTOBER 19:

The Memorial Library project having been placed on the City bond issue for \$150,000, one local political party publicly endorses all phases of the bond issue except the Library. "We cannot approve library funds when the schools need the money so badly. We favor a library but the schools come first."

OCTOBER 20:

Chronicle headlines:

\$2,000,000 BOND ISSUE
 OKEHED WITH EXCEPTION
 OF \$150,000 FOR LIBRARY

In a bond election, in which "fewer than 3,200 vote of 20,000 registered," the library part of the bond issue is defeated by 156 votes: 1st Ward: 152 FOR, 217 AGAINST; 2nd Ward: 73 FOR, 69 AGAINST; 3rd Ward: 106 FOR, 90 AGAINST; 4th Ward: 171 FOR, 225 AGAINST; 5th Ward: 114 FOR, 265 AGAINST; 6th Ward: 160 FOR, 323 AGAINST; 7th Ward: 690 FOR, 433 AGAINST. Total: 1466 FOR, 1622 AGAINST."

DECEMBER 3:

Members of the Association and friends of the Library meet at a banquet in the Old Medical College Building to hear an address by Dr. E. Merton Coulter of the University of Georgia and to celebrate the FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

1949

MARCH 30:

City Council, adopting the budget for 1949, increases the city appropriation for the Library from \$7,500 to \$10,000. An additional sum of \$5,000 is granted for making permanent improvements in the library building.

CONFEDERATE NECROLOGY

OBITUARY

Killed almost instantly, by the explosion of a bomb, on the 6th November, 1863, SAMUEL R. VANN, in the 21st year of his age. Robert entered the service soon after the breaking out of the war, as a member of the 6th Alabama Regiment, and was afterwards transferred to Co. A, 28th Ga. At the time of his death he was gallantly guarding Fort Sumter. He was a worthy member of the Baptist church, and beloved by all who knew him.

Central Georgian (Sandersville), December 2, 1863.

OBITUARY

Died, from wounds received at the battle of Chancellorsville, RICHARD D. VANN, on the 16th May, in the 19 year of his age. Private Vann volunteered soon after the war had begun, as a member of Capt. Fowler's company, Georgia State troops.—The term of service having expired, he again entered the service as a member of Co. A, 28th Ga. He received a severe wound at Seven Pines, from which he recovered only to offer himself a second time upon the altar of his country. He was highly esteemed by his comrades, officers and privates.—He was a dutiful son and an affectionate brother. His dying request was, "tell my brother to meet me and mother in heaven."

R. T.

Central Georgian (Sandersville), December 2, 1863.

OBITUARY

JOHN P. MASSEY, a citizen of Washington county, Ga., and a member of Co. H, 59th Regt. died in Winder Hospital, Richmond, Va., on the 21st of November, last. He died away from home and loved ones, yet it is pleasing to learn that he received every attention by the Ward Master and nurses in the Hospital, and yet more pleasing to learn that he had made his peace with God. The ward master writes that his last words were, "Tell my wife not to grieve for me, tell her to meet me in Heaven, tell my children to be good and obedient to their ma and meet me in Heaven," and then quietly fell asleep in Jesus. May the God of the bereft bless heart-stricken widow and shield the helpless orphans. May the family circle be complete in Heaven.

Central Georgian (Sandersville), December 23, 1863.