

A HISTORY  
OF THE  
HANNIBAL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by  
Roberta Roland Hagood

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## A History of the Hannibal Free Public Library

### I. THE FOUNDING OF HANNIBAL

Hannibal was founded in 1819 by Moses Bates. Its growth was exceedingly slow until the 1830's. The development of Marion City, a few miles up-River from the Hannibal site brought many people from the eastern states in the spring of 1836. When Marion City was flooded in June of that year, many of its inhabitants came to Hannibal to settle.

The city of Hannibal grew from a population of 30 in 1830 to almost 500 people in 1837. Stores, hotels, newspapers and other types of business came into being in Hannibal. In 1839, it was incorporated as a town, and in 1845, a charter was granted to the City of Hannibal.

Because of the favorable location of Hannibal on the Mississippi River, it is probable that the city was more cosmopolitan than inland towns. Steamboat traffic brought a variety of people and a miscellany of produce, building materials, tools, clothing and other items which make life more liveable and make home life more attractive. Many families from Virginia chose to settle in Hannibal, some having first lived in Tennessee or Kentucky for a generation. Many of the settlers were well educated and had a high degree of cultural interests. It is no wonder that there was an interest in books, music, drama and art in the little village.

### II THE HANNIBAL LIBRARY INSTITUTE

The first effort to establish a library for use of Hannibal citizens was in 1844. The organizers were Judge John M. Clemens, Zachariah Draper, Dr. Hugh Meredith and Sam Cross. All of these men were highly respected in the community. Judge Clemens, the father of "Mark Twain" was born in 1798 in Mason County, Virginia, and moved in early manhood to Adair

County, Kentucky. In 1835 he moved his family to Florida, Missouri, and there engaged in farming and merchandising; it was there that he was named judge of a county court. He moved to Hannibal in 1839 where he practiced law and held the office of judge until his death in 1847. Zachariah Draper was one of the organizers of the town itself and was effective in the chartering of Hannibal as a city. He was the first appointed postmaster of Hannibal and was actively interested in almost every enterprise which figured in the growth of the town, including roads, railroads and real estate. Dr. Hugh Meredith (1806-1864), native of Pennsylvania, was a physician. He was a brother-in-law of David Garth, and a proponent of the cultural life. Sam Cross was a teacher in a private school. There were no public schools at that time, in Hannibal.

The books of the Hannibal Library Institute were kept at "Wildcat Corner", the northeast corner of Main and Bird Streets, in the office of Dr. Meredith on the second floor of a building in that location. The building belonged to Mrs. Ann Rose, the mother-in-law of Dr. Meredith. On 19 March 1845, this Library was chartered by the General Assembly of Missouri. The incorporators were: Dr. Humphrey Peak, Samuel Cross, Zachariah Draper, Dr. Hugh Meredith, Joshua T. Tucker and Edward C. McDonald. These men were all prominent in civic affairs in Hannibal. Dr. Peak came to Hannibal from the state of Virginia. It is said that his family were neighbors of the family of George Washington. He came here with the family of his daughter, the wife of Edward C. McDonald, in 1838. Dr. Peak was one of the organizers of the Episcopal Church in Hannibal. Edward C. McDonald was said to have been the first lawyer in Hannibal who "hung out a shingle"; he left for California in 1849 and lived there until his death. Rev. Joshua T. Tucker was an early pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hannibal.

The services of this early library were not free to all citizens of Hannibal, users of the library paid a membership fee.

Apparently, the Hannibal Library Institute had a problem keeping alive in the fledgling town. The Hannibal Daily Journal of 29 March 1853 announced a meeting of the stockholders for Tuesday evening, April 5, "at early candle light".

The Hannibal Weekly Journal of 31 March 1853 printed a report of a committee appointed at the March 5 stockholders meeting to examine the condition of the Library Institute. This report stated that the number of stockholders, which, at one time, had reached 70, was now small; it stated that the number of books had been 425 but was now depleted due to the fact that many subscribers had failed to return books. The remaining books were, at the time of the report, in the office of Dr. D. T. Morton. The committee recommended that the books be called in, a new call for subscribers be issued, and a proper room be designated for a library. The report was signed by Zachariah G. Draper, Dr. H. Meredith and Orion Clemens. Orion had succeeded his father, Judge Clemens, as a stockholder in the Institute. In March 1853, he had started the Hannibal Daily Journal which ran only seven months. Dr. D. T. Morton, a physician, was public spirited toward causes beneficial to Hannibal. From 1843 to 1853, he served his church as a minister without any pay, regardless of his busy practice in his profession.

Another well known Hannibal citizen who took an active interest in the Institute was William L. Brown, a member of a family who came to Hannibal as early pioneers. He went west in the Gold Rush, returned to Hannibal and for a time, published the Missouri Courier, and was a state legislator. He was a native of Bedford County, Virginia. He died, age 71, in 1903 at his home near Hannibal (now known as "Stonecroft"). Mr. Brown wrote concerning the Library Institute in the Missouri Courier, Thursday, 22 June 1854, as follows:

"Some years since, this Library was established by the efforts of the Hannibal Lyceum, and between four and five hundred volumes were collected. Having no settled location, and no regular librarian, it has been overlooked and



neglected of late years, and a number of the books are missing from the shelves. There still remain many good books sufficient to form the nucleus of a valuable library. With this object in view, it has been removed to the office of Dr. Meredith over Green's store where it will have a permanent place and be under the care of Dr. Meredith as librarian. It is hoped it will again flourish and become successful.

Shares may be purchased at the rate of five dollars per share which will constitute part ownership and convey all privileges; or the use of books may be obtained by the payment of one dollar a year in advance. The funds arising from these sources will be applied continually to the purchase of books with a view of increasing rapidly. Subscription papers will be left at the library room, at the office of Dr. Morton, and other public places. We hope our citizens will not be backward in subscribing this small amount so that a large library may be collected which will be creditable to the city and entertaining to all.

Donations of books are always welcome and the public spirit of donors is appreciated. All persons having volumes belonging to the library forthwith are requested to return them. They may be known by having 'Hannibal Library Institute' written on the inside of the back or the printed rules and name pasted therein"

It was signed: W. L. Brown, H. Meredith, D. T. Morton and R. F. Richmond.

Mr. Richmond, devoted to the cause of the Institute, was a prominent lawyer whose career is related in Holcombe's History of Marion County, having served in the Legislature. He died in 1857 in a local epidemic.

According to a later newspaper, the Institute was still in existence in 1860 with David S. Eby as its secretary. Mr. Eby, having come to Hannibal in 1840, was a pioneer merchant. He was a large contributor to the program of the Arch Street Methodist Church from the 1870's until his death in 1891.

In spite of the untiring efforts of town leaders and respected citizens, by 1870, the Hannibal Library Institute had ceased to function, or at least, fallen into inadequacy.

### III MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A new attempt was made in 1870 with the formation of the Mercantile Library Association. It was promoted by

Mrs. Martha W. Greene and its headquarters were at 110 North Fourth Street over the L. B. Seaton store. This location was near the later location of the White Star Laundry. In 1871 the Mercantile Library Association was incorporated under general law with a capital stock of \$20,000 in 1000 shares of twenty dollars each. Fees for use of the library were three dollars a year or one dollar per quarter. However, anyone who purchased two or more shares was entitled to all privileges of the Library without further charge. In October 1871 it had 1500 volumes. Mr. C. O. Godfrey was the president of the Association. He was a prominent business man in Hannibal for many years, dealing in coal, which was the leading fuel of the times. He was active in civic matters until he moved to St. Louis in 1881. The Library was formally dedicated on 25 February 1871 with Martha Greene as Librarian.

The Hannibal Daily Times of 13 July 1872 carried an advertisement for subscribers for the Mercantile Library. The Hannibal City Directory of 1876 lists this Library with Mrs. N. J. Carson as Librarian.

One of the leaders in the movement to sustain this library was William C. Foreman, a distinguished lawyer. He served as Secretary to the Hannibal Board of Trade (forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce); he was also president of the school board and exerted much effort to keep public schools alive. He died in 1888.

In spite of the efforts put forth by these above civic leaders, and a man named Robert Elliott, the Mercantile Library ceased in 1878. Its books were put on sale or distributed among its members.

#### IV HANNIBAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The next venture to have a library came with the incorporation, on October 7, 1881, of the Hannibal Library Association which was organized under a decree of the Hannibal Court of Common Pleas. Its incorporators were W. C.

Foreman, Aaron R. Levering, T.S. Howell, Benton Coontz, J. T. Barber, A. W. Lamb, Jr., F. L. Dubach and Rufus E. Anderson. W.C. Foreman acted as president of the Board with George A. Mahan as secretary and A. R. Levering as treasurer.

The library rooms were in the southeast corner of the second floor of the Opera House on the southwest corner of Fifth and Center Streets. Later known as the Park Theatre, this facility is now owned by the Masonic Lodge.

The men who led this movement were all intensely interested in Hannibal and its citizens and many of them were largely responsible for its growth and refinement as a city in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth. George A. Mahan, a native of Palmyra, Missouri was admitted to the bar in 1873 and practiced law in Hannibal the remainder of his life (died 1936). He served as city counselor, county prosecuting attorney, representative to the Missouri Legislature, director in a bank and in a loan association, and was a popular public speaker. He served as president of the State Historical Society of Missouri and made notable gifts to the State in the field of history. He is best remembered for gifts, along with other members of his family, such as the Mark Twain Boyhood Home, The Pilaster House and the Tom and Huck Statue. He worked diligently in every celebration, every public cause and every movement for the good of Hannibal.

Aaron R. Levering, now best remembered for his gifts to Hannibal's Levering Hospital including the original plot on which it was built, came to Hannibal in 1841 at the age of two, was educated here, and was one of the founders of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, later assuming its presidency. He died in 1912.

Thomas S. Howell, born in Monroe County in 1852, was an attorney in Hannibal and served as probate judge for years. Benton Coontz (1838-1892) was born in Florida, Missouri and came to Hannibal in 1844. He was in business in Hannibal all of his adult life, primarily the leather and saddle business.

He served in county offices and was mayor of the city. He was the father of Admiral Robert E. Coontz.

J. T. Barber, known for his management of large lumber interests when lumbering was the chief industry of Hannibal, was also a member of the Board of Trade of the city. A. W. Lamb, Jr. was a member of a prominent early family active in railroad legalities and state politics. Rufus E. Anderson born in Palmyra in 1833 was a leading attorney in the Hannibal area. F. L. Dubach, a pioneer in the Hannibal lumbering industry and in flour milling, was also in banking. He was a native of Indiana, born in 1828 and died in Hannibal in 1908.

The person most enthusiastic about this Library Association was Robert Elliott (1845-1908). A native of England, he came to Hannibal as a young man and engaged in retail and wholesale grocery business. He purchased and lived in a home which is still a landmark in Hannibal. Built by Sumner McKnight on the hilltop location formerly occupied by the Hannibal College on Hill Street, this mansion was moved about the turn of the century and "Rockcliffe Mansion" was built on the site by Cruikshank.

#### V DILIGENT EFFORTS TO MAKE THE LIBRARY FREE

On 1 April 1885, the Missouri General Assembly passed a bill providing that any city, upon an affirmative vote of its citizenry, could set apart a one mill tax per dollar of assessed value for the endowment and support of a FREE public library (L.1885 p. 192 Mo.Law) Robert Elliott, who was then president of the Hannibal School Board led the movement to secure the first free public library in the state for Hannibal. He was encouraged by Mr. H. K. Warren, Superintendent of Schools.

Because of his devotion to the cause and the many hours of work he put into this endeavor, Robert Elliott must be considered the FOUNDER OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY in Hannibal.

For many months he talked with groups of people and with individuals, hoping to get the people interested in having

a free library, and finally wrote the following circular and had it distributed to the citizens:

"Dear Sir:

The Public Library comes to you with its second year's special appeal. Most of us are agreed that Hannibal should possess such an institution. In the absence of support by public taxation, private maintenance must be invoked to sustain the burden. Personally, you may not need access to its shelves, or you may not care to do so. Unfortunately for them, there are very many desirous of so doing whose pecuniary circumstances prevent their procuring a membership. For Hannibal and for them we now plead. We solicit from you a bonus outright, or we will furnish to you orders for memberships at one dollar each in unlimited quantities.

The expense of maintaining the library -- aside from the purchase of books -- approximates five hundred dollars per year. The main items forming this aggregate are labor, stationery, repairs, rent, fuel and light. The trustee requests your assistance in this matter with the greatest freedom because he gives his own services and fifty dollars per year and this, because he deems the object a worthy one; moreover one that Hannibal should sustain, one that reflects some slight credit upon the city now, one whose influence will be widened in proportion as means are furnished therefor. Kindly favor your own family with memberships, and the outside needy so far as your inclination may prompt. By returning the enclosed postal, properly filled out, you will be furnished the desired number of orders. Should you care to cover the amount by returning your check in the enclosed envelope, you would receive orders by return mail and save the trustee the trouble of a personal visitation.

Should the present way of sustaining the project fail to meet your approval, please to consider the propriety of our taking advantage of the state law which now permits cities to tax themselves one mill per annum on each dollar of assessed valuation for the opening and maintenance of a free public library.

To Missouri's discredit, it may be stated that there is not such an institution within her limits; to Hannibal's credit, it should be stated that she has the nearest approach to such in this great state."

Very truly yours,  
Robert Elliott, Trustee

Hannibal, Missouri  
November 7, 1887

Eventually his plea must have brought results, inasmuch as the minutes of the Hannibal City Council on 1 April, 1889, reveal the following proceedings: "The petition of Robert Elliott and others for a special election to levy a half mill tax for public library purposes was presented. McVeigh moved that former action be rescinded and the prayer of petition be granted. Carried."

The Hannibal Courier of 2 April 1889 carried an article about the upcoming election for the one-half mill tax.

The city election occurred on 7 May 1889. Hon. J. B. Brown was mayor at this time. (He was the same J. B. Brown of the well known Brown Drug Store which was maintained of more years duration than any business in Hannibal).

The new mayor, Hon. Cyrus Albertson, in his inaugural address on 3 June 1889 referred to the fact that the library matter carried by an overwhelming majority and would demand their attention at a future date.

On 1 July 1889, the mayor appointed the following directors whose appointments were approved by the city council: Stephen Thorne, Rev. M. B. Chapman, F. Dubach, H. K. Warren, J. L. RoBards, Rev. D. T. Denham, Thomas H. Bacon, Robert Elliott and Rev. John Davis.

The final step came with the passage of the following ordinance:

An Ordinance Fixing the Rate of Taxation for the Year 1889: Be it ordained by the City Council of Hannibal:

Section 1. There is hereby levied for general purposes and the payment of the current expenses of the City of Hannibal for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1890.....a general tax upon all real estate and personal property within the limits of said city; subject to taxation of fifty-two cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of which said sum five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation is set aside and appropriated to the use of the Free Public Library of Hannibal, Missouri.

Section 2.....

Section 3.....

Section 4.....

Approved August 6, 1889

C. Albertson, Mayor

(Seal)

Attest: George C. Moore, City Clerk

(Published in the Morning Journal 7 August 1889)



## VI THE HANNIBAL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

All of the above ventures to have a library for Hannibal citizens contribute to the final attainment of a library free for the use of all in Hannibal. Thus Hannibal, Missouri had the FIRST free public library in the State of Missouri.

H. K. Warren, who was Hannibal's first School Superintendent, resigned to take another position and in September 1889, Livingstone McCartney arrived to take his place. We find in the first catalog of books issued in that year the following officers: Robert Elliott, President, John L. RoBards, Vice-President, L. McCartney, Secretary, Mrs. Frances Bellard, Librarian and Miss Anna Duffield, Assistant Librarian.

The Hannibal Free Public Library opened on 11 December 1889 on the second floor of the old Park Theatre at Fifth and Center Streets. The Board of Directors in its first annual report to the City for the year ending 30 April 1889 shows \$1199.60 income from taxes and \$272.66 income from other sources. The expenditures were \$1444.77. There were 3820 books, 3181 of which were shown to have been given to the Hannibal Free Public Library by the "Public Library". These could have been from the old Hannibal Library Association. The library remained in the Park Theatre building until it moved to the church building standing on the present property.

## VII PURCHASE OF PERMANENT PROPERTY

The permanent location of the library is described as Lot 5, Block 26, the library standing on the west half of said lot.

In the interest of understanding how this Hannibal property came into its present hands, we shall digress in our narrative, to trace its history which is similar to the history of other Hannibal properties.

In 1811, the most destructive earthquake ever known on our continent occurred at New Madrid, Missouri. So great

was its force that the Mississippi River in that area flowed backward forming lakes and changing the course of the River. Many farms were inundated and destroyed. Consequently, on 17 February 1815, the U. S. Congress passed an act stating that anyone proving loss of such land could claim up to 640 acres elsewhere in the state. On 17 June, 1816, one Abraham Bird, Sr. filed claim for 640 acres of land in the vicinity which later became Hannibal. Probably he never saw this 640 acres, inasmuch as he was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when, on 19 Feb 1819, he gave power of attorney to his son Thompson Bird who followed up on the claim.

In April 1819, Thompson Bird deeded the land to Moses Bates. On 22 June 1829, Moses Bates deeded a portion of this land, including Lot 5 Block 26 of Hannibal to Stephen Glascock.

On 11 June 1839, Stephen Glascock sold all of Lot 5 Block 26 to William Walker Beatty.

On 10 June 1844, William Walker Beatty deeded all of Lot 5 to Thomas S. Miller and Charles H. Bower.

On 3 January 1846, the Millers and Bowers sold the west half of Lot 5 to the Old School Presbyterian Church trustees, namely, James Wiley, Jr., John Fry, Thomas Van Swearingen, Daniel Houck, William Stevens, Moses M. Fuqua, John Campbell, John Nelson and David Downing. The Old School Presbyterian Church built a church building on the lot.

The Morning Journal of 17 March 1901 carries the story of the building of this church on the west half of Lot 5. Work was commenced on the building in 1847, but not completed until 1848. The story relates that W. R. Pitts (who was an officer in the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1901 when the story was written) had, as a young man, hauled sand in an ox cart to be used in the building process in 1847. He was employed by a man named Captain



Franklin who had a contract for furnishing the materials to the building contractors. When the church was dedicated in 1848, Rev. J. W. Phillips was the pastor.

The Old School Presbyterians worshipped in this building until 1873, when their members reunited with the First Presbyterian Church of Hannibal.

On 9 December 1873, the Old School Presbyterian trustees, namely, Thomas Collins, Dana Breed, Henry Bellard, Alvan Shenker and William C. Foreman sold the building to Hannibal College, a private corporation. R. F. Lakenan was president of this college and Rev. Leo Baier was in charge of the school. Thomas W. Bacon held the mortgage and deed of trust on this college property.

Hannibal College flourished for a time, but finally failed. The College officials defaulted on the note, and, on 22 February 1877 the property was sold at the Court House door. The buyer was Andrew J. Settles.

On 28 February 1877, Andrew Settles and Ellen, his wife, sold the property to Daniel M. Dulany, Jesse McVeigh and Joseph L. Johnson.

On 10 December 1879, Daniel Dulany and his wife, Mary, Jesse McVeigh and his wife, Lizzie, and Joseph Johnson and his wife, Matilda, sold the property to the elders of the Christian Church: William R. Gannaway, Charles F. Clayton, Daniel Dulany and Jesse McVeigh.

The Christian Church members used it as a place of worship until their new building was completed at Broadway and Eleventh Streets in 1890.

On 26 October, 1890, church elders Daniel M. Dulany, Jesse McVeigh, Thomas M. Hixson, William C. Eustace and F. L. Schofield deeded the property to a group of selected men who represented the Hannibal Free Public Library.

Judge Thomas H. Bacon was president of the board of the Hannibal Free Public Library for many years. He was a qualified historian, writing, in 1904, the Mirror of Hannibal which to this day has been considered one of the

reliable resources for researchers of Hannibal history. Judge Bacon wrote the following account of the library's acquisition of its present location;

"The consideration for the deed recorded December 2, 1890, was \$2500.00. It was estimated that \$1000.00 was needed for repairs and to adapt the building for library purposes. As the library had no funds, the deed was personally made to some of the men who furnished the money. Spencer M. Carter, Daniel M. Dulany, Sr., George W. Dulany, John J. Cruikshank, Jr., Aaron R. Levering and Cyrus Albertson each paid \$291.66. Richard H. Stillwell paid \$150.00 and the Standard Printing Company contributed \$100.00 in cash as an absolute gift. A note for \$1625.00 was signed by W. A. Latimer, John L. Robards, W. F. Chamberlain, Robert Elliott and Milton Strong. Cornelius Voorhis for five years bore with said makers an equal share in paying interest on this note.

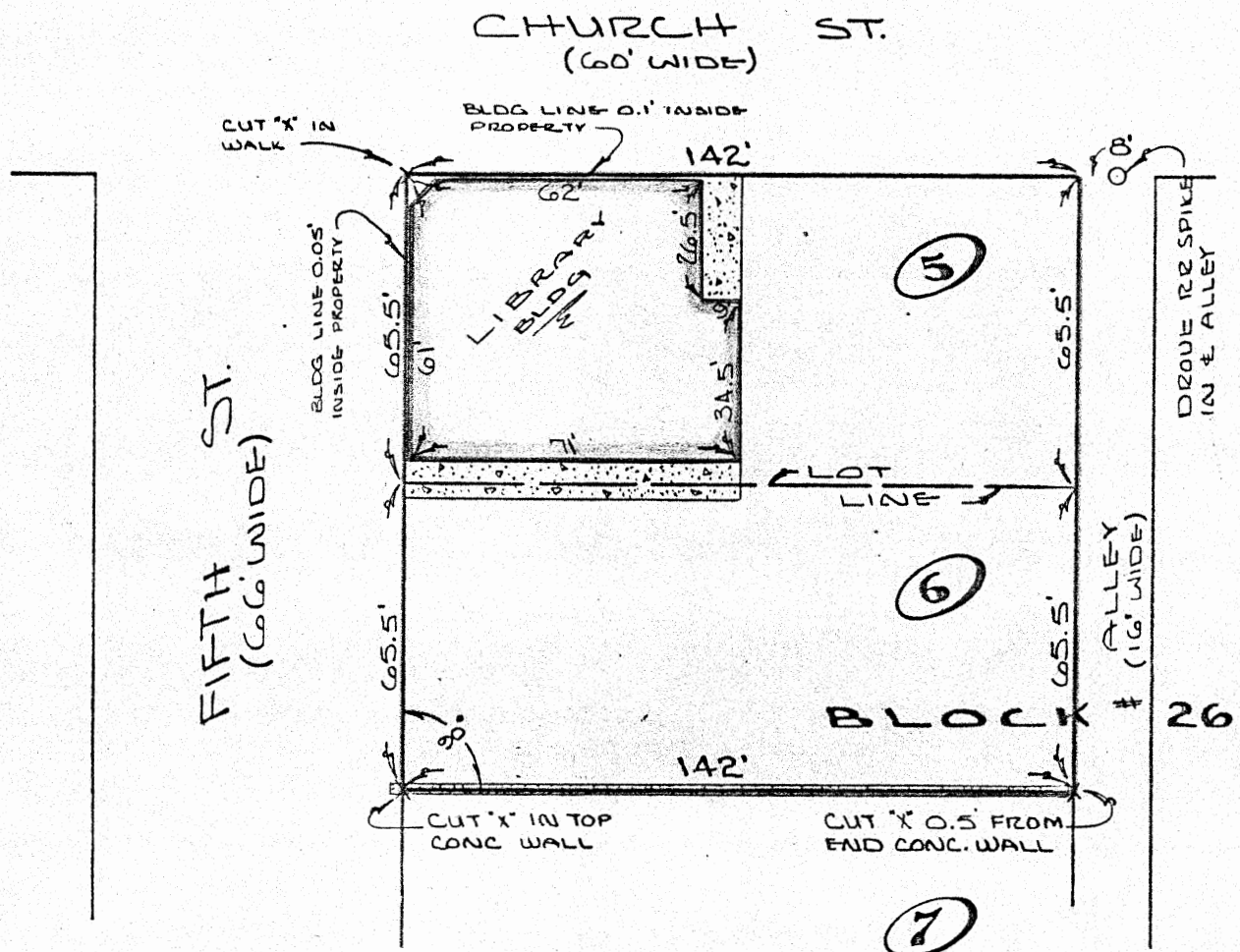
The library, having reduced the note to \$1000.00, on September 29, 1897, borrowed \$1000.00 from the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association and secured the same by a deed of trust on its interest in the property.

On March 28, 1898, Cyrus Albertson conveyed his interest to the library for \$266.67, donating the sum of \$25.00. On May 10, 1898, John L. Robards, W. T. Chamberlain, Cornelius Voorhis, W. S. Latimer and Katherine R. Elliott (who had acquired the interest of her father) conveyed their interests to the library. Richard H. Stillwell joined in the deed but made a gift of his purchase money. All parties forbode any charge of interest. George W. Dulany, John J. Cruikshank, Aaron R. Levering and the estate of Daniel M. Dulany made a clear present of their payments."

By 1900, the Library accumulated 7000 volumes. The librarian was Lizzie Lingle, assistants were Mattie Hogg and Maggie Percy.

#### VIII THE GARTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING

Early in 1901, Mrs. Helen Kercheval Garth and her daughter, Mrs. Anna H. Goodlett donated \$25,000.00 to the erection and furnishing of the present building as a memorial to their husband and father, John H. Garth.



This as a result of my survey of parts of December 1969, which I hereby certify to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Harold R. Crane  
HAROLD R. CRANE, R.L.S. #1111 MISSOURI



CRANE AND FLEMING  
ENGINEERS-SURVEYORS  
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

SCALE 1" = 40'

69-0324

The members of the library board sought a temporary location for use during the demolition of the old building and the construction of the new library. Space was secured at 302 Broadway and rental agreements made. Breeding Transfer Company was given a contract to move the books and equipment to the Broadway facility. Mr. John W. Lear purchased the old church building to raze it and to make use of such materials as were worth salvaging.

The architects who designed the new library building were Mauran, Russell and Garden of St. Louis. The following description of the building was written in 1980 by Esley Hamilton, a St Louis authority on historical architecture as a consultant for the Hannibal Arts Council:

"The building is of the Beaux Arts style, a two-story yellow brick building constructed in L-shape with a semi-circular Ionic colonnade and full entablature. Its parapet is enlivened by a rounded broken pediment, balls and urns, and a small central obelisk. The side elevations are enriched with rusticated corners, stone escutcheons, and panels inscribed with the names of classical and English authors. The lobby is circular in plan, with dark oak paneling and a mosaic floor centering on a large brass memorial roundel."

The plans of Mauran, Russell and Garden, as approved by the Library Board, called for the following: First floor: the memorial lobby, childrens' room, stack room, reading room and librarian's office; second floor: trustees' room, a museum and a club room; basement: magazine room, packing room, janitor's quarters and a toilet.

On 5 February 1901, these plans were displayed at the Union Station Hotel on South Main Street within the Union Station. This was done so that contractors could inspect them and make a bid. Out of town contractors, such as those from St. Louis, would come by train to peruse the plans and specifications and prepare their bids. In those pre-automobile days, about fifty passenger train schedules were maintained daily in Hannibal, and an out of town person could plan to conduct business in Hannibal between trains.

On 14 February 1901 the contract was awarded to Lewis and Hall at a cost of \$22,000.00. The remaining \$3000 of the Garth gift would be spent for furnishings and equipment.

The lot having been cleared of the old church building, and construction begun, plans were made for the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone. At the April 25, 1901 meeting of the Board of Directors, the day for the laying of the cornerstone was set for May 16. The Board requested that the Superintendent of Schools close the schools so that all children could attend, and this was ordered. Three committees were appointed to plan Cornerstone Day. Arrangement committee was C. J. Lewis, John L. RoBards, and Abe Harris; transportation committee was Rufus E. Anderson, C. M. Morris and O. M. Steers; entertainment committee was J. F. Davidson, David Scyoc and Adolph Landau.

Plans for the ceremony began to unfold. The Masonic Lodge was to give the dedicatory ceremony. Railroad companies agreed to run "excursions" into Hannibal for the event, so that interested citizens from other towns could come, and also, so that Masonic Lodge groups from other cities could attend and march in the procession. Ex-governor of Missouri, David Francis was invited, inasmuch as he was a friend of John Garth. A procession was planned, and all groups in Hannibal and surrounding towns were asked to participate.

The minutes of the Hannibal City Council, on file at the City Hall, show that on 7 May, 1901, the Library Board requested a police escort for the May 16 parade -- this done not only to dignify the proceedings, but to see that horses and horse-drawn carriages would be placed so that horses would not become frightened nor interfere with the procession down the main streets. The minutes of the City Council also record the following memorandum, an invitation to Councilmen from the Arrangements Committee of the Library Board:

"To Mayor, Aldermen and City Officials:  
Gentlemen: You are courteously invited to participate as a body, in the Masonic Ceremony of laying of the cornerstone of the Garth Memorial Library Building on May 16, 1901. A place will be set apart for you in the procession by the Marshall of the parade.

(signed) C. J. Lewis, Chairman



John L. RoBards took charge of the Masonic Lodge arrangements. The original copies of the letters, lists and documents pertaining to the ceremony may be read at the Manuscripts Room of the State Historical Society of Missouri at Columbia where the "papers" of the RoBards family are preserved. There, a copy is found of a letter sent to the following citizens asking them to participate in the ceremony: George A. Mahan, F. L. Schofield, George W. Dulany, John L. RoBards, F. W. O'Brian, Frederick Bouchle, Tom. G. Dulany, Archie RoBards, F. F. Couch, W. F. Drescher, A. S. Smith, C. Morris and M. Phelan.

A copper box was secured to place in the cornerstone. In the box were the following items:

1. Excerpts from the archives of St. Johns Lodge No. 28
2. Excerpts from the archives of Hannibal Lodge No. 188
3. Excerpts from the archives of Royal Arch Chapter No. 7
4. Excerpts from the archives of Hannibal Knights of Templar No. 5
5. Excerpts from the archives of Crown and Sceptre Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star
6. A history of the city of Hannibal by C. F. Shepard
7. A history of the library by Thomas W. Bacon
8. A history of the Home of the Friendless by Mrs. E. B. Fisher
9. A story of the life and career of John H. Garth by F. L. Schofield
10. A picture of John H. Garth
11. A picture of John D. Garth, deceased, the only son of John H. Garth
12. A copy of the Hannibal Courier Post
13. A copy of the Hannibal Morning Journal
14. A copy of the City Ordinances of 1899
15. Twenty-five cents deposited by Clara Bently, Worthy Matron of the Crown and Sceptre Chapter Number 1, Order of Eastern Star.

The procession and ceremony took place as planned on 16 May, 1901. The ladies of the Eastern Star Chapter No. 1 served a dinner to the participants after the ceremony.

Work on the foundations was well under way in May. The Board of Directors contracted with Lane and McNally for a steam heating plant for the building.

It was the custom of the Library, in early days, to print, periodically, a catalog of the books and magazines in the Library. During the construction days, work went on at the temporary location as usual; the 1899 catalog, which has been preserved at the Missouri State Historical Society

at Jefferson Memorial Building, St. Louis, had consisted of 115 pages, and a new catalog was being prepared. The Board of the Hannibal Free Public Library met regularly and in those days the Board members selected and voted on all acquisitions including the subscriptions to magazines of the day. Aside from regular decisions, the Board made, with Mrs. Garth's counsel, advice and consent, decisions about the new building, and about furnishings to be purchased before dedication day. Some grading and preparation of the lot was necessary and the expense of this was borne by the Board. George D. Clayton, R.B.D. Simonson, George A. Mahan, F. L. Schofield, Thomas W. Bacon, John L. Robards, J. W. Plowman, A. R. Levering and John J. Cruikshank, Jr. were on that Board. Members were attentive to the progress of construction, and Mr. Frank Hall from the contracting company personally came to oversee some of the work. They were unable to locate the proper edges of the west half of Lot 5, and City Engineer A. C. Moltz was asked to make a new survey. Old fixtures and furnishing had to be disposed of.

Luckily for that Board, Thomas W. Bacon was not only a brilliant historian, but also as a lawyer was meticulous in legal details as to the preparations of the deed, and matters pertaining to construction. In 1901 when the remaining amount due on the note made for the purchase of the site was settled by the gifts of men who held the mortgage, a new abstract was prepared and Bacon, finding some details missing from the abstract, saw that it was corrected. A copy of Judge Bacon's correspondence to during this era is on file at the Hannibal Free Public Library along with the Minutes of the Board meetings and annual reports.

Undoubtedly, Judge Thomas W. Bacon should go on record as the member of the Board who put forth most effort for the good of the Library after Robert Elliott's departure from Hannibal.

The Garth Memorial Library Building was dedicated on

15 February 1902 and was open for inspection by the public. Miss Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lingle was librarian and Miss Lizzie Hunt was her assistant. Miss Lingle received remuneration of \$25.00 per month, her assistant \$15.00 and the custodian, Mr. Stanley received \$25.00 a month.

At the official Board meeting on 24 February 1902 a resolution of appreciation was declared to Mrs. Garth and Mrs. Goodlett and this was sent to them. The original copy of this resolution may be seen with the minutes of the Board in the files of the Hannibal Free Public Library.

#### IX LIBRARY PRIVILEGES EXTENDED TO COUNTY

Citizens of the city of Hannibal recognized and used the services of the new Hannibal Free Public Library. However, George A. Mahan, for many years a member of the Board, was interested in extending to other citizens of Marion County such assistance and privileges as could be legally done. He was the proponent of the plan permitted by laws of Missouri to extend these privileges. Therefore, on 18 December 1916 there was presented to the County Court of Marion County two petitions, according to the records of the County Clerk, one signed by George D. Clayton and more than 99 other petitioners of the City of Hannibal, and the other signed by J. T. Hansbrough and more than 99 others in the County outside of Hannibal.

Thereupon, the Marion County Court decided to "appropriate from the County Revenues money to cover certain library circulation in Marion County, Missouri."

This opened services of the Hannibal Free Public Library to the County on 1 January 1917, and thenceforth its citizens have by various programs and methods used the Library, and the County Court annually reimburses the Library at whatever rate agreed upon by the Court.

Before the days of school consolidation, when rural schools were numerous, many of the county schools withdrew books in specified lots, and returned them the same way. Some of the rural communities set up specified centers with certain people responsible and withdrew books in lots for the use of their citizens. However, this practice gradually



diminished as the rural schools became part of consolidated districts and school libraries were instituted, the public library being used as a supplement. Also, with improved transportation facilities, rural patrons sometimes preferred the card privileges of the central library -- the County Court still reimbursing the Hannibal Free Public Library for the expense.

#### X A NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND A NEW STAFF

In 1908, Miss Nancy McLachlin of St. Joseph, Missouri, was hired to come to Hannibal and catalog the books of the Library by the Dewey system. This process lasted several months and before the end of that time, Miss McLachlin had accepted the position of librarian with Miss Lizzie Hunt and Miss Eva Watson to assist her.

Miss McLachlin served until her resignation in 1921; other helpers during this period were Helen Birch, Edith Wilson and Elizabeth Raymond. When Miss McLachlin resigned, Miss Birch was named acting assistant with Elizabeth Raymond, Marguerite Moore and Estella Farrell, helpers. In 1922, Miss Birch became librarian with Dorothy Atkins as her assistant.

In 1921, members of the Library Board were: George A. Mahan, Livingstone McCartney, W. S. Pettibone, F. L. Schofield, Ben Ely, Dr. H. L. Banks, O. M. Friend, W. C. Averill and W. C. Blackshaw.

#### XI EARLY GIFTS OF LASTING VALUE

A gift of lasting importance which was given to the Library early in the century was a portrait of Mark Twain painted by F. D. Millet. It was a gift of Clara Clemens Gabrilowitsch, daughter of Mark Twain to the Hannibal Free Public Library in 1911.

In November 1922, another portrait was given. It is a portrait of Paul du Chailiu, African explorer, painted by Carroll Beckwith. Carroll Beckwith was born in Hannibal in 1852 in a house at Fourth and Hill Streets. After studying

art in Chicago, New York and Paris, he became well known as a portrait artist. He painted many notables including Mark Twain and several of the presidents. Mrs. Beckwith, his widow, after his death chose this particular painting for Hannibal because the subject was a special friend of her husband and this portrait was a favorite of Beckwith.

In 1923, the Library was the recipient of the volumes in the library of the William Henry Hatch family. This gift was bequeathed to the Hannibal Free Public Library by Hatch's daughter, Sarah Rhodes Hatch. As United States Senator, William Henry Hatch made many innovative contributions to the nation and the state in the field of agriculture. He was responsible for the founding of the Department of Agriculture in the executive branch of government. It was through his influence that Hannibal was designated to house the U. S. Weather Station which operated from the upper floor and roof of the old federal building on Broadway for many years and was an important institution in Hannibal history.

In the Hatch family library, many of the books were duplicated. The Board of the Library decided to give such duplicate books to the Missouri State College at Kirksville which had lost its library through a disastrous fire.

## XII A MAJOR ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

As the use of the Library expanded, more room was needed to serve its public. In the early days of the Garth Memorial Building, the east room on the second floor was used as a museum. In it was displayed a collection of art objects and artifacts owned by W. F. Chamberlain. Occasionally, other citizens would display collections. In 1919, it was decided to make this room available for meetings of organizations and the museum display was removed.

In 1922, Mrs. Helen Garth made a gift of \$15,000 to the Hannibal Free Public Library and it was decided to use this money to enlarge the building.

On 24 April 1922, a Committee on Alterations was appointed. Five men on the Board of the library would serve, F.T. Hodgdon was appointed to represent Mrs. Garth and Morris Anderson was appointed to represent the City of Hannibal. Morris Anderson was Hannibal's mayor at that time.

Mauran, Russell and Crowell of St. Louis were engaged to draw up plans for remodelling the building to allow more room for stacks.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Garth did not live to see the completion of this project. Her death occurred on 19 September 1923. Helen Kercheval Garth was born in Hannibal on 18 July 1838 and was educated in private schools. She was a childhood friend of Mark Twain, a friendship which lasted all of his lifetime. On his visits to Hannibal he was usually entertained at the town home of the Garths at 212 South Fifth Street, or at their country home near Hannibal. Helen Kercheval married John H. Garth in 1860 and they had two children, Anna, who married R. M. Goodlett of Kansas City, and John David who died in 1895 at the age of 21.

John H. Garth, in whose memory the Library was built, was a native of Virginia, born in 1837. He came to Hannibal with his parents, John H. and Emily Houston Garth in 1844. He graduated from the University of Missouri and returned to Hannibal and engaged in the tobacco business with his father and brother, and later in banking, becoming the president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. He died in 1899.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Garth was most generous in gifts to the poor, memorial gifts to the Episcopal Church of Hannibal, and to the Hannibal Free Public Library.

In August 1925, the Library Board was informed that Mrs. Garth had left a further remembrance in her will, in the amount of \$10,000.00; this was left as a trust fund, the earnings from which could be used through the years as needed for care of the Library.

The Library Board had decided, in 1922, to adopt the

plans drawn by Mauran, Russell and Crowell, but not to proceed with alterations at that time. Construction was delayed until 1929.

In 1929, the contract for the remodelling work was given to Malcolm Martin and D.C. Trowbridge. It was necessary to make adjustments in library services during the period of major construction. The adult reading room was closed during the five months of alteration work. During the complete month of August 1929, the Library was closed to the public. The addition to the southeast corner of the building greatly enlarged the facility, giving room for new stacks on the first floor and an additional room in the basement.

The space afforded by the addition had long been a need of the Library, and the accomplishment gave great satisfaction to the librarian and the board members. Patrons accepted the improvements with enthusiasm and came in great numbers to inspect the new space at an Open House. One of the amenities was the new rounded triple desk in the memorial lobby which replaced the single receiving desk. Great possibilities for better service and more efficiency had been added and at the same time, the aesthetics of the building were enhanced.

The minutes of the board of 2 October 1931 give an itemized list of the cost of the program:

Mauran, Russell and Crowell architectural fee	\$800.00
Malcolm Martin, architectural fee	420.00
Trowbridge and Martin construction and alteration roof, walls, boiler room	8164.65
Steel Stacks	2133.00
Painting and decoration	581.25
Ventilating fans	621.89
Heating plant ( Seibel, and McNally )	629.56
Weather stripping	625.00
Water cooler	330.50
Bond -- Holme and Hickman	104.08
Frank Hodgdon for travel	25.00
Furniture	554.78
Miscellaneous	215.55
Total	\$ 15205.26

Miss Helen Birch, who was ~~librarian~~ from 1922 to 1943, had the following assistants and helpers during that period: Elizabeth Raymond, Marguerite Moore, Estella Farrell, Dorothy Atkins, Ruth Kilts, Madeline King, Frances Johnson, Dorothy Bulkley, Dorothy Medford, Naomi Newman, Bertha Hammond, Essie Hutcherson and Marion Love.

Library Board members who served at various times during the years from 1922 through 1943 were: George A. Mahan, Livingstone McCartney, W. B. Pettibone, F. L. Schofield, Ben Ely, Dr. H. L. Banks, O. M. Friend, W. C. Averill, W. C. Blackshaw, Fenton B. Morris, Dr. C. J. Armstrong, F. L. Hodgdon, Ben Ely, Jr., B. E. Bigger, Dulany Mahan and E.T. Miller.

#### XIII GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBRARY

The fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the deed to the Library property (2 December 1890) was celebrated in December 1940 with fitting festivities. An open house was held; Judge Berryman Henwood was the speaker. Judge Henwood had distinguished himself in the political and judicial fields state-wide, was a native of Hannibal and educated in the Oakwood school, graduating from Hannibal High School in 1900. Miss Birch received guests and the officers of the Board, W. H. Blackshaw, President, Rev. C. J. Armstrong, Vice-president, E. T. Miller, Secretary and Dr. H. L. Banks, Treasurer greeted the patrons and received congratulations.

#### XIV MORE PROPERTY ACQUIRED

In June 1940, a decision was made to purchase the portion of the east half of Lot 26 which bordered the Library. It was known as the Carrie Marvin property. The house and lot were bought for \$1437.00 and in 1942, the house was razed.

In 1943, the remainder of the east half of Lot 26 was offered for sale. It was known as the Stanley property. The Library Board decided to purchase it, and that house was razed. Early in the 1950's the Hannibal Garden Club planted flowers on the lot and made it into an attractive flower garden. Mrs. E. G. Menees and Mr. Fred Bryan were in charge of the gardening project.

In 1943, Miss Dorothy Atkins became librarian, and new helpers during the forties were Bertha Hammond, Thelma Hartman, Lorene Lawrence and Onez Stump. Some new Board members during the forties were Morton Weaver, Raymond Usher, Dr. Clark Buckner, Bill Partee, R.D. Mayne, A. J. Willman, G.E. Schwan, George Pace and Rev. Paul Shurtleff.

#### XV FURTHER ALTERATIONS

In the 1940's the services of the library were hampered by financial needs. The .5 mill tax was still in effect and it was inadequate to meet the needs. One year the City Council gave the Library an outright appropriation of cash to ease the situation. The Board had made repeated efforts to get an increased tax levy through the years. Finally, in 1951, the tax was increased to 1 mill.

In 1946, a gift of \$10,000.00 cash came from W.B. Pettibone. In years previous to this, in addition to Mrs. Garth's gifts three other trust funds had been bequeathed to the Library, namely, \$1000.00 from the D. M. Dulany estate, \$2500.00 from the A. R. Levering estate and \$350.00 from the Mary McCooey estate. The revenue from these trust funds had been used for general improvements as it came in.

It was the concensus of the Board that the Pettibone gift, which reflected the generosity of Mr. Pettibone, a philanthropist who gave in a quiet way such gifts to the City of Hannibal as Riverview Park, the Pettibone School building, an addition to Levering Hospital and many other gifts, should be used to make better use of the floor space of the Library. More stacks were needed to accommodate the growing number of books.

Early in 1950, a St. Louis firm, Froese, Maak and Becker was hired to measure and study the existing space and draw up plans for improvement. Following their recommendations, another alteration project was accomplished in 1954. The mezzanine floor was added, and thus a second tier of stacks. The supplying firm was Blackwell Wielandy, and the metal materials cost \$7111.00 and Martin Construction Company did the work, costing more than \$3000.00 This gave space for an estimated 7000 more volumes. Fluorescent lighting was added also at this time.

## XVI OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE 1950's

On 1 January 1956 a state law (Mo. 182.90) was enacted in regard to the personnel of Library Boards. It provided that henceforth, Board members, serving for three years each term, could serve only three consecutive terms, but could return to the Board after a two-year lapse. This meant the loss to the Board of the Hannibal Free Public Library, of two members who had served faithfully many years, Ben Ely and Judge B.E. Bigger.

Board members who served at various times during the 1950's were: B.E. Bigger, Raymond Usher, Ben Ely, Jr., Morton Weaver, Rev. G.E. Lynch, Stanley Smith, W. H. Blackshaw, E.T. Miller, George Pace, Dr. Sterling Ward, L. L. Ruffin, Vincent Burt, Dr. L. A. Foster, Mrs. T. E. Bramblett, Robert Welch and O.C. Holway.

The former home of Dr. H. L. Banks (who had been a Library board member) bordered the Library property on the south. It was purchased in 1958 from Paul Patterson for \$8,538.03. The dwelling was razed to provide a parking lot.

In 1951, several Hannibal organizations cooperated in donating some new furniture for the adult reading room. The organizations were: American Legion #55, Business and Professional Women's Club, Delta Sigma, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Lions, the Study Club and the Woman's Club.

Another gift to the Library during that period was a painting "At Sunset" by artist F.E. Church. It was given by friends of W. S. Watson in his memory.

The Kiwanis Club donated fifty record albums.

In the late 1950's two branch library stations were established for the convenience of patrons, one on Union Street, South Side and the other at Oakwood.

In cooperation with the Missouri State Library Association, in 1952, Bookmobile service was established at four stations in Marion County. The Hannibal Free Public



Library furnished four hundred books on loan for the project. The project was not successful -- lack of interest.

Staff members who served with Miss Atkins during the 1950's were: Bertha Hammond, Essie Hutcherson, Onez Stump, Lois Jean Hirner, Mary Etta Short, Jackie Marx, June Bartling, Clara Jacobi, Mary F. Masters, Ruth Ann Tipton and Patricia Ann Clifton.

#### XVII THE NINETEEN-SIXTIES

In 1961, the new parking lot adjacent to the library was "black-topped" and patrons at last had ample parking.

In June 1964, by a vote of the citizens, the library tax was increased to two mills. William E. Partee, President of the Board, put forth great effort to publicize the need for additional support and to educate the people in regard to the urgency of their voting. In a pamphlet which he wrote, he explained the tax situation and the failure of the existing tax to supply needs of the Library, such as adequate book collection, building repair and better wages for employees. Mr. Partee pointed out that the citizens of Hannibal had been fortunate that the building and its alterations had been given by generous Hanniballians; and that the grounds had been purchased from gifts with the exception of a small amount of tax money.

In 1966, Miss Atkins retired. Colleen Armentrout accepted the librarianship. In her brief tenure, her most outstanding accomplishment was the updating and replenishing of the reference section of the Library, replacing old and purchasing new reference materials in many subject areas.

In 1968, Wendt-Sonis Company was responsible for the gift of attractive chairs for use in the East room, second floor, for organizational meetings.

In 1966, the South Side library station was closed and the Oakwood station was closed two years later. Patrons evidently preferred to use the central library because of the better reference materials and more book titles.

In 1965, the Library secured the services of Carl Monroe as custodian and he is still serving. Mr. Monroe deserves special praise for his excellent care of the building and grounds



which are kept so attractively that they are a constant source of pride to Hanniballians. The historic uniqueness of the building attracts visitors who consider it one of the show places of the city.

Board members who served at various times during the 1960's were: Robert Welch, Stanley Smith, William Partee, Robert Briscoe, W. R. Usher, Mrs. T. E. Bramblett, Dr. H. H. Sweets, Jr., M. M. Henning, Zeno Klene, Dr. L. A. Foster, L. L. Ruffin, Ben Ely, Jr., Maxine Hicks, Roy Goodhart, Albert Hoffman, Lloyd Estes, Marion Pennewell and John Ward.

Staff members serving at various times during the 1960's were: Madeline Melson, Donna Swank, Rosemary Bousman, Linda Rosser, Mary Battle, Mary Lu Sanders, Mary Louise Bousman, Laura Tedrow, Corrine Hester, Mary Carolyn Clayton, Gussie Carl, Essie Hatton, Mary Frances Hehmyer, Elizabeth Baur and Marjorie Shoup. Some of these were part-time workers.

In 1968, when Miss Colleen Armentrout resigned as librarian, Rosemary Bousman was named acting librarian and served in that capacity until Elizabeth Boor accepted the librarianship in 1969.

#### XVIII A NEW ROOM AND NEW PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Previous to November 1972, the small children of the city had shared the reading room on the south side of the first floor with the teen agers. This had been a satisfactory situation in many ways, but did not satisfy the needs of the small children because of their special interests.

The new librarian, Mrs. Boor, analyzed the available space in the Library and saw a great need to make it more functional. One basement room had been used, for many years as a public document room. In earlier days the U.S. Government had designated the Hannibal Free Public Library as a depository for all government publications printed for public information. This basement room had been designated for them. As the years progressed, Hannibal citizens

rarely requested the use of such materials. The situation was, in many cases, that new and far-reaching government agencies were distributing materials to citizens -- such as agricultural, horticultural, and public health bulletins and pamphlets. Caring for these many bulletins as they arrived had become time-consuming, and they had not been consistently catalogued. It was decided that the amount of space given to them was not proportionate to their usefulness. In 1970, they were sorted and it was decided to place them in Missouri state facilities where they would be more widely used. Most of the pamphlets and bulletins were moved to the State College at Kirksville where a public document room was being established. Others were sent to the University of Missouri. Upon the advice of the State Librarian, some of the materials of real value, such as the complete set of Civil War Records, were retained in the Hannibal Free Public Library and placed in the magazine room or properly shelved in the stacks.

This step freed the basement room for a more important use, a special room for children. Mrs. Boor drew the plans for the room, and the members of the Library Board were enthusiastic about the project. She supervised the carpenter who built the shelves, chose the furnishings and carried out artistic color schemes for the decoration and carpeting of the room. At her suggestion, a librarian for the children was hired. Willa Wester was engaged and was trained on the job for the position. Year round story hours, special summer reading programs, and other innovative programs are conducted by Mrs. Wester. Audio-visual equipment was purchased and a childrens' film program initiated.

#### XIX OTHER RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

Further room changes which make the Library more functional included the redecoration of the basement work room, and re-arrangement of that facility so that not only book repair and processing are carried on in that area, but also Rosemary Bousman was given space there to do the cataloging and to carry on her other duties. For the first time, in the 1970's a full time secretary was added to the staff and her desk and materials are in that area.

Mrs. Glea Herzog accepted the secretarial position. Other staff members in the seventies and at present are Elizabeth Baur, Mary Frances Hehmyer and Susan Elliott.

The Garth Memorial Library because of the age of the building needed much renovation and redecoration in the 1970's. The building was completely re-wired. The front steps were in very bad condition due to wear. They were re-surfaced and attractive wrought iron side rails were added. The re-surfacing did not prove to be satisfactory, so that, in 1981, the steps were completely replaced. The materials and design are identical to those in the original scheme as far as possible. Special limestone was ordered and it was cut to design by St. Louis craftsmen.

Flood lights have been added to accent the beauty of the building. New formica tops have been placed on the circular receiving desk. Every room of the library has been redecorated and new draperies installed. Carpeting has been placed on the entire first and second floors. In 1973, a lounge area with kitchenette facilities was added for the comfort and use of the employees.

#### XX A MORE EFFICIENT LIBRARY

The magazine room in the basement was completely arranged in 1970. At Mrs. Boor's request, the Board voted to have the bulletins of the State Historical Society of Missouri and their indices bound for use by people wishing to do research. A microfilm reading machine was purchased for the use of people doing research. At present, film for this sort of reading is ordered from state facilities on loan for Hannibal patrons -- a great convenience for students or writers.

The pamphlet file of the library has been updated and reorganized. A Mark Twain book shelf has been prepared and is widely used, inasmuch as there is much demand for books by and concerning this famous author.

Two record players were purchased in the 1970's and the record collection has been enlarged greatly, some purchased,

and some of them donated by friends and patrons.

One of the first steps taken in 1970 to facilitate the use of the library by patrons, was to reorganize the stacks placing all fiction books on the first level and other classifications on the mezzanine. Two thousand new classical books were added; some of these were replacements of worn books and some were new titles. The three-way catalogue system was introduced enabling readers to seek books by subject as well as author or titles. Between 1970 and 1981 the number of volumes has been increased from 45,863 to 50,114.

For a time, previous to the 1970's, a few books were issued on a rental basis, but this practice was discontinued and all books are used without charge to the patron.

Steps were taken to make the book check out process more efficient. Patrons now carry their own cards, whereas heretofore the desk clerk had to search out the card. At Mrs. Boor's recommendation, the Library Board leases an automatic check out system, a great step toward giving better service. An accounting system has been established for the recording of fines and other money collected.

A section of large print books has been established for senior citizens, some purchased, some donated by lodges such as the Eagles Auxiliary, and many books given by churches and clubs as memorial gifts.

The furniture in the adult reading room had aged past the stage of attractiveness and needed replacing. A part of the old furniture was given to the Mark Twain Home for Boys, some of it was used to establish a reading center on the mezzanine and some used in the basement corridor. New Ethan Allen furniture was purchased for that reading room. The upstairs rest room has been tastefully redecorated. Additional landscaping was added to the small garden on the east half Lot 26.

## XX EMPLOYEE BENEFITS UPDATED

Early in the 1970's, the employees were given more staff benefits, such as paid legal holidays, rest breaks during the day, hospitalization and sick benefits and were given regular salary increases.

In a move unprecedented in the history of the Hannibal Free Public Library, in 1979 the non-administrative employees of the Library joined the International Union of Electrical Workers. This was a step not taken in any other public library in Missouri. Adjustments were made as to further fringe benefits and salary increases, although there was no increase in the library mill tax, and in 1980, state funding of public libraries was drastically cut in a state economy move. In other towns, some of the public libraries reduced their services to patrons after the state cut, but in the Hannibal Free Public Library, hours were not shortened and no services to patrons were altered.

## XXI RECENT GIFTS

In 1974, a \$5000.00 cash gift to the Library was bequeathed from the estate of Ann Dorsey Hodgson as a memorial to Frank T. Hodgdon, Annie Roberts Hodgdon and Frank T. Hodgdon, Jr. The principal is to be used for equipment or building needs. The Hodgson family, prominent in Hannibal, were active in civic affairs, and Mr. Hodgson served on the Library Board. He was a banking official.

In 1981, a cash gift of \$5106.36 was left to the Library by Florence Helm. Miss Helm, a native of Hannibal, was descended from an early pioneer family of that name. She graduated from Hannibal High School in 1905, continuing her education in the field of Economics, finally being awarded a doctorate at Yale University. She served on the staff of the U.S. Treasury Department under the F. D. Roosevelt



administration. In 1939, she joined the research staff of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C. and was there until her retirement.

A bust of Mark Twain made by Dr. H. H. Sweets, Jr. was given to the Library by his family.

Two paintings were given in the 1970's. One is a painting of the Garth Memorial Library by Mary Smith (Mrs. Stanley Smith); the other is a view of the Mississippi River by the late Arvids Danielson, an artist who was well-known in Hannibal. Both paintings by local artists add to the beauty of the Library

#### XXII LOCAL WRITINGS RELATED TO THE LIBRARY

In the Bicentennial year of the United States, 1976, Roberta and Hurley Hagood presented the copyright of their book, The Story of Hannibal, to the Hannibal Free Public Library, along with files of the notes documenting the book.

At the invitation of the publishers of the Americana Encyclopedia, Mrs. Elizabeth Boor authored the material regarding Hannibal which is used in each new edition of Americana.

#### XXIII ILENE WARE LEAVES LARGE BEQUEST TO LIBRARY

In the late seventies, Miss Ilene Ware, a Hannibal teacher, left to the Hannibal Free Public Library the largest gift in its history. She asked that the money be used to honor the memory of her mother, Mrs. Agnes Ware. The amount of the bequest is approximately \$250,000.00

#### XXIV THE PRESENT LIBRARY BOARD

Board members serving in the 1970's were: Maxine Hicks, John Ward, Dr. E.A. Porter, Stanley Smith, Lloyd Estes, William Partee, Roberta Hagood, Mary Smith, Joseph Welch, Robert Briscoe, Robert Walley, Marion Pennewell, William Jameson, Rev. Clarence Bridges, Dr. Willard Heimbeck, Frank Kelso and Darrell Adrian.

The present Library Board is composed of: John Ward, President; Gerald Stone, Vice-president; Roberta Hagood, Treasurer; Arnold Willms, Dirk Sauer, Joseph Welch, Mary Smith, Joseph DeLuca and Jana Suchland. Glea Herzog serves as secretary to the Board.

Mrs. Elizabeth Boor is Librarian.

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