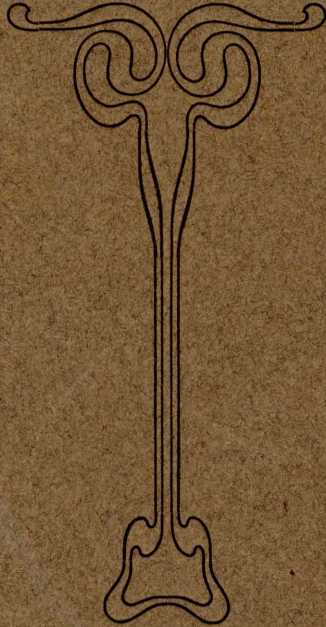

Iowa Library Association

1890--1904



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MRS. ADA NORTH
FOUNDER IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

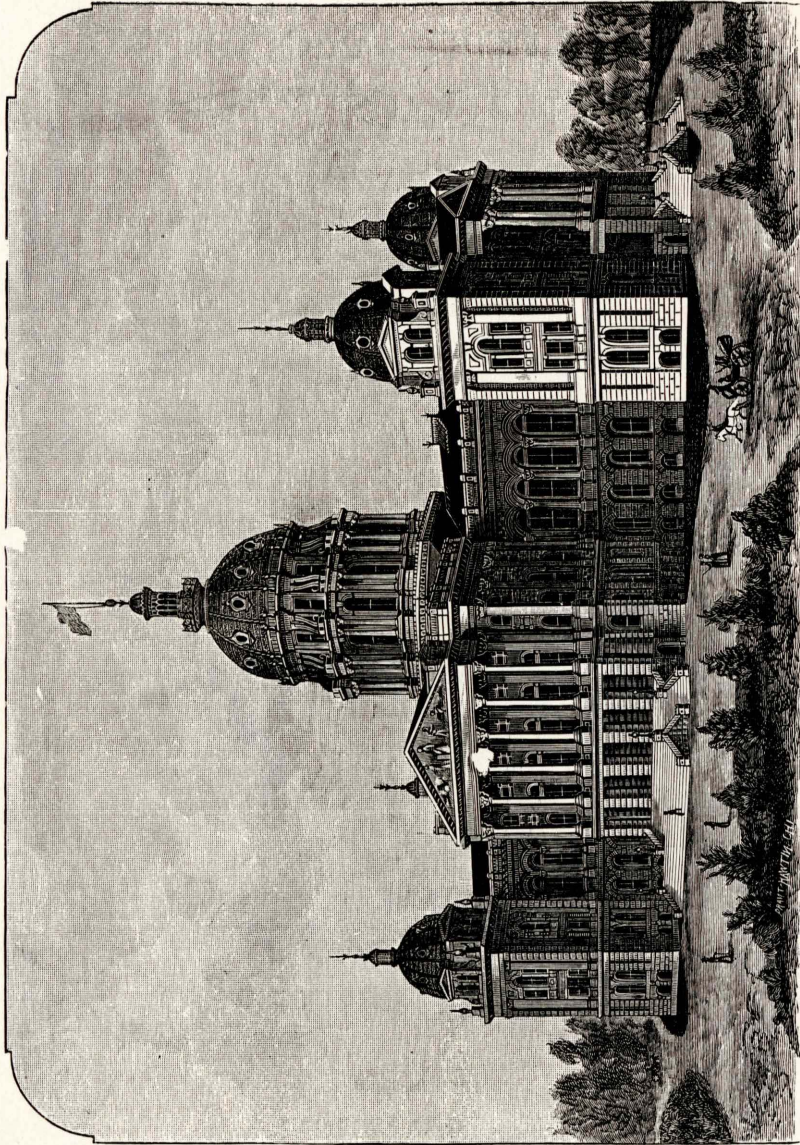
Iowa Library Association

"Littera scripta manet."

PUBLISHED BY
IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1904

STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION OF IOWA
Historical Building
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

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CAPITOL BUILDING, DES MOINES, WHERE I. L. A. MEETINGS WERE HELD FROM 1890 TO 1898

*"History makes haste to record great deeds,
but often neglects good ones."*

Note

This sketch is compiled from the records, and issued by the Association for the purpose of keeping green the memory of those who led the way in our state library work, but have passed "beyond the mists;" to show our grateful appreciation of the work of those who are with us; to inspire earnest thought in those who shall follow, and to serve as a mile stone in the fifteenth year of the organization.

*"Be sure, no earnest work
Of any honest creature, howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill-adapted, fails so much
It is not gathered, as a grain of sand,
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's end."*

PRESIDENT I. L. A.

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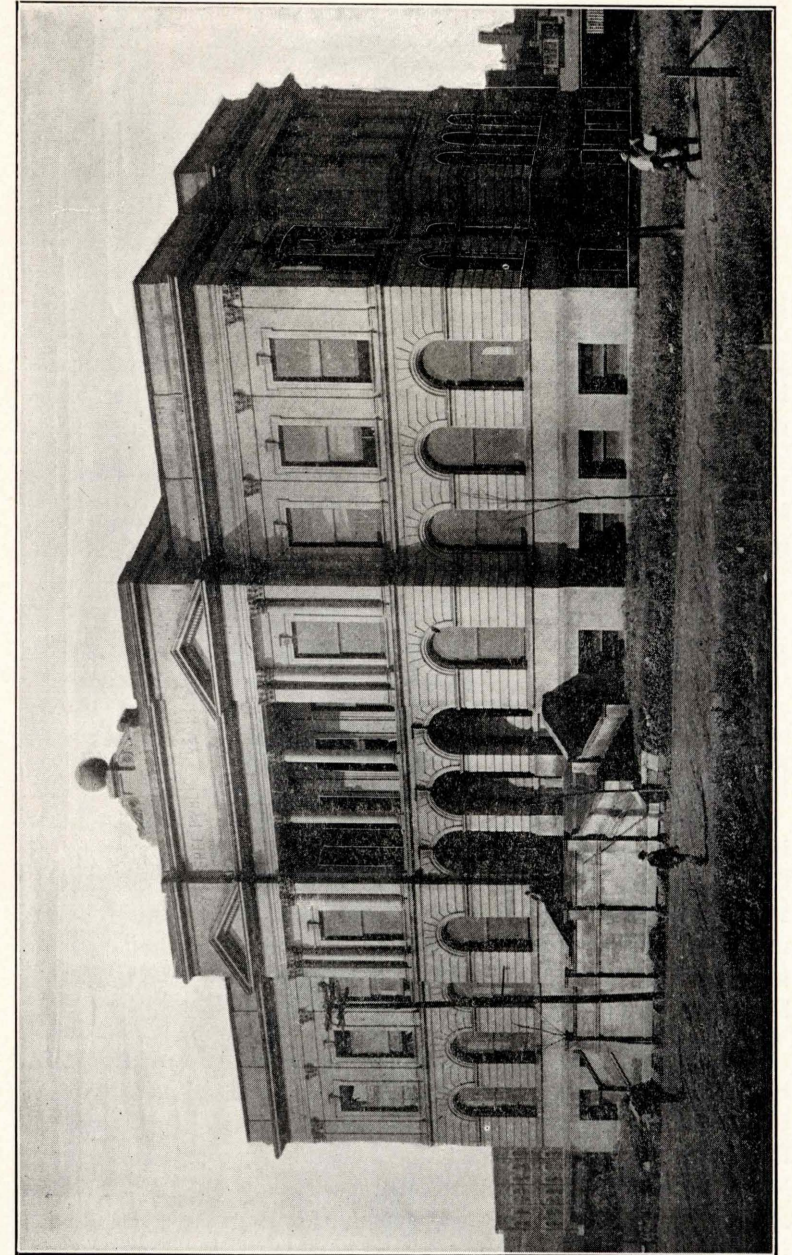
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DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Iowa Library Association

In the year 1890, Mrs. Ada North, then librarian of the State University Library at Iowa City, conceived the idea of organizing the library workers in the state into a society, and after consulting a few other librarians the following circular was sent to the libraries:

"A meeting in the interest of Iowa Libraries will be held at Des Moines, in the State Library, September 2d, at 10 o'clock a. m.

"All librarians and others specially interested in libraries are invited to be present.

ADA NORTH, University Library
 MARY H. MILLER, State Library
 T. S. PARVIN, Iowa Masonic Library
 CLARA M. SMITH, Burlington Public Library
 CLARA C. DWIGHT, Dubuque Y. M. Library"

Seventeen librarians, and several citizens of Des Moines were present.

Hon. T. S. Parvin called the meeting to order, and after a few introductory remarks, called upon Mrs. North to tell the reasons of the conference. She said, "It was the desire for better acquaintance, and for consultation upon library management; the advantages which might result from adopting some uniform system of reports, and the importance of arousing a more general interest and co-operation in library progress in the communities and schools of the state."

The motion that a state association be organized, made by Mr. H. N. Lathrop, of the State Historical Library, and seconded by Hon. Charles Aldrich, present curator of State Historical Department of Iowa, was unanimously carried, and a committee, composed of Mrs. North, Miss Smith, Mr. Lathrop, Mrs. Dwight and Mrs. Morse, then city librarian of Des Moines, was appointed to draft a plan of organization, which was adopted, as follows:

1. The association shall be called the Iowa Library Society.
2. Its object shall be to promote the library interests of the state of Iowa.
3. Any person interested in promoting the object of the association may become a member by vote of the executive board, on payment to the treasurer of a registration fee of one dollar.
4. The officers of the association shall be a president, vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall together constitute the executive board, which shall have power to act for the association in intervals between its meetings.
5. A regular meeting of the association shall be held in the Iowa State Library during the week of the annual state fair.
6. No officer, committee or member of the association shall incur any expense in its name, nor shall the treasurer make any payment unless authorized by specific vote of the executive board.
7. No member shall be liable for any dues beyond an assessment for necessary expenses, which shall not exceed one dollar per year.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Miller, state librarian; Vice Presidents, Capt. W. H. Johnston, Fort Dodge, Mrs. Dwight, of Dubuque; Secretary, Mrs. North, Iowa City; Treasurer, Miss Smith, Burlington.

Besides those whose names have been mentioned was Miss Esther Crawford, at that time connected with the Iowa State College at Ames, who aided in the pioneer work. Miss Crawford was the first Iowa librarian to receive library training, and is a native of Iowa; she has since become an authority in the library world on technical questions of cataloging and classification, and though not now a resident of the state, has been closely associated as an instructor with the successful work of the Iowa Summer Library School.

Death has claimed three of these early library workers, Mrs. North, Mr. Parvin and Mrs. Miller, but their work lives after them in the growing and stable condition of library affairs which has developed from the wise measures inaugurated by the organizers of the association.

Those in attendance at the first meeting in 1890, were—

Hon. Charles Aldrich, Webster City	Mrs. Stella B. Morse, Des Moines
Miss Nellie Ankeney, Des Moines	Mrs. Ada North, Iowa City
Miss Hannah Babb, Indianola	Mrs. M. O. Orwig, Des Moines
Mrs. Clara C. Dwight, Dubuque	Miss Shriner, Des Moines
Miss Esther Crawford, Ames	Miss Sarah A. Welch, Des Moines
Mr. F. V. Gay, Boone	Miss Ida Wetmore, Des Moines
Mrs. Frank Graves, Washington	Hon. T. S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids
Miss Lillian Johnson, Iowa City	Miss Clara M. Smith, Burlington
Capt. W. H. Johnston, Fort Dodge	Mr. E. H. Warren, Toledo
Mr. H. N. Lathrop, Iowa City	Miss Ambler, Mt. Pleasant
Mrs. M. H. Miller, Des Moines	

At the second annual meeting September 1st, 1891, the attendance increased, the program was most interesting, the old officers were re-elected, and Mrs. Miller chosen as delegate to the American Library Association.

At the third annual meeting, August 31st, 1892, twenty-six members were present filled with enthusiasm for their work. Much was said about our libraries being handicapped by untrained service, and the need of a library school in our state, such as is now conducted each summer under the joint auspices of the Iowa Library Commission and the State University at Iowa City.

It was Mrs. North who said then, "that she thought the best plan would be for some institution to take up the work and start a training class in connection with its own library."

During this meeting resolutions were adopted, recognizing the great excellence of the work Mrs. North had done for library interests in the state.

Mr. F. M. Crunden, of St. Louis, was the speaker for the evening session, and he congratulated the society upon its early organization. "More good, he believed, could be accomplished in five years with such an association, than in twenty years without one, and Iowa might consider it a plume in her cap that she was the second state to have a society of this kind," New York being the first.

In 1893 the Iowa Library Society decided that the meetings should be held at the same time as the State Teachers' Association, thinking possibly its influence thereby might be extended.

It was at this meeting also, that the first library building in Iowa, donated by the now famous Mr. Carnegie, to Fairfield, was reported.

Little could we foretell then of the chain of libraries that now link his name with futurity.

The meeting of 1894 was held as planned the previous year, with the State Teachers' Association, and a resolution adopted making the society a section of the association, and the minutes hereafter speak of it as the "Iowa Library Section." At this meeting, after the reading of a paper by Miss Crawford, a committee, consisting of Miss Crawford, J. W. Rich and Miss Ella McLoney, was appointed to make a definite recommendation as to the outline of a course of study in library economy for Iowa libraries, as proposed in the paper.

This outline was prepared by Miss Crawford, including all points on the accession, acquisition and classification of books, adopted by the society, and printed in leaflet form in 1895, as a "course of study suited to the needs of Iowa librarians." This was sent to every library in the state, and at the meeting December 31st, 1895, the secretary reported that seven librarians promised to take the full work of the course; twelve others desired to take it in part, being limited by lack of the necessary aids to advantageous study; only two reported they could not undertake any part of the course.

The secretary's report also showed that this movement to establish a course of systematic study for the librarians of Iowa had attracted attention and aroused interest among library people at many points outside the state; and gave ample evidence that the movement was considered both unique and valuable, and calculated to fill a real, practical need of western libraries in particular.

At the seventh annual meeting in 1896 the society withdrew from the Teachers' Association with the view of again having a separate organization. Articles of incorporation were adopted and the society became the Iowa Library Association, with Capt. Johnston as president; Mr. Payne, our present vice president, as vice president; Miss McLoney, of Des Moines, secretary; and Mrs. Cope, then state librarian, as treasurer. Following are the articles as adopted:

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The undersigned hereby associate themselves together as a body corporate under and by virtue of Chapter 2, Title 9, of the Code of Iowa, for other than pecuniary profit.

ARTICLE I

The name of this corporation shall be the "Iowa Library Association."

ARTICLE II

The object of the association shall be to encourage the establishment and formation of public libraries throughout the state, to devise measures and disseminate information concerning proper method of conducting the same, to encourage the efforts now being made to cultivate habits of reading the best literature among the people, and to encourage in all of our cities and towns a public opinion which will favor a general support of public libraries.

ARTICLE III

The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted by an executive committee consisting of the president, secretary and three other members to be chosen annually by the association at its annual meeting. Until the first annual meeting, which for the year 1897 shall be held at such time and place as shall be fixed by the executive committee, the following named persons shall constitute said committee: W. H. Johnston, Ella McLoney, J. W. Rich, Mary Cassidy and Jennie Carpenter. The time and place of holding the annual meetings for subsequent years shall be fixed by the association at its first annual meeting. A majority of the members of said committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of the association shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, and until the first annual election the following named persons shall act as such officers: President, W. H. Johnston; vice president, W. P. Payne; secretary, Miss Ella McLoney; treasurer, Mrs. Lana H. Cope.

ARTICLE V

These articles may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the association present at any annual meeting, and the association may at any such meeting adopt by a majority vote such by-laws as shall not be inconsistent with these Articles, and amend the same by like vote at any such meeting.

J. W. RICH	C. H. ROBINSON	HENRY SABIN
F. M. DRAKE	ELLA M. MCLONEY	J. M. CARPENTER
CHARLES ALDRICH	C. H. GATCH	SUSAN C. CARPENTER
W. H. JOHNSTON	MARY R. WHITCOMB	MARY B. WELLES
LANA H. COPE	C. S. BYRKIT	PETER M. MITCHELL
AMOS N. CURRIER	WM. H. FLEMING	BERTHA G. RIDGEWAY

It was at this meeting that Hon. C. H. Gatch, of Des Moines, reported for the legislative committee that "the matter of the appointment of a library commission had been presented to the legislature during the session of the previous winter; that it had been favorably considered, but the passage of the bill providing for such a commission had not been secured."

The library commission was not secured until 1900, but at each meeting of the association it was talked and urged, and thanks to the persevering efforts of the faithful, led by Capt. Johnston, who was president for four years, and Miss McLoney, who was secretary for eight years, we have been reaping the benefits for four years, of the state's official connection with library extension work through the library commission.

The return to a separate organization brought new life to the Association, and at the eighth annual meeting October 12th and 13th, 1897, there was a larger attendance and greater interest manifested.

The following by-laws were presented by W. P. Payne, chairman of the committee appointed for that purpose, and adopted:

ARTICLE I

Any person may become a member of the association, and be entitled to all its privileges, on the payment annually of a fee of \$1.00.

ARTICLE II

The annual meeting of the association shall be held the second Thursday and Friday in October, at such place as may be designated by the executive committee.

ARTICLE III

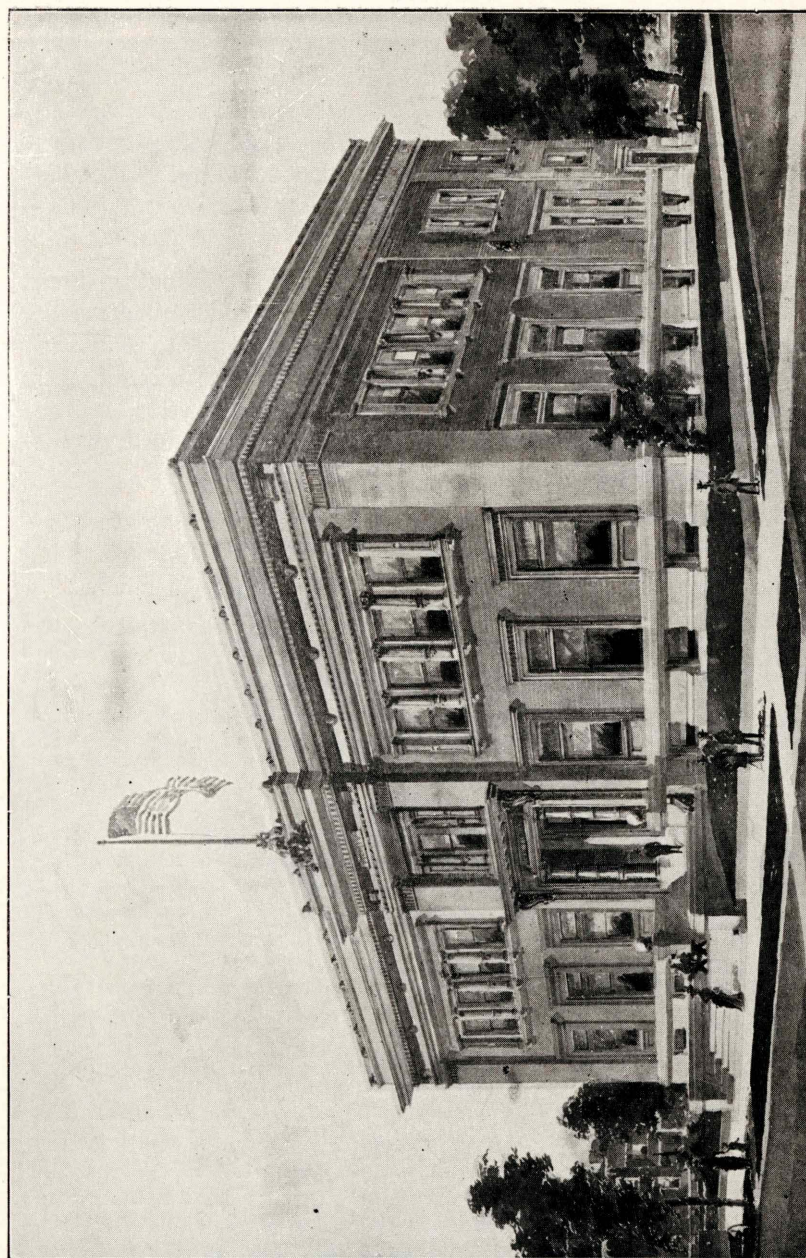
At the opening of the annual session following his election, the president of the association shall deliver an inaugural address.

ARTICLE IV

During the first day of the session the president shall appoint the following standing committees: Enrollment, Resolutions, Finance and Nominations. Special committees may be appointed in the same manner unless otherwise ordered by the association.

ARTICLE V

The secretary-treasurer shall keep a permanent roll book, receive all association moneys, keeping an accurate record thereof, pay all bills authorized by the association or its executive committee, carefully preserve all official papers and vouchers, and make an annual report of the official transactions.



CEDAR RAPIDS LIBRARY

ARTICLE VI

The adoption of the report of the nomination committee shall be considered an election.

ARTICLE VII

These by-laws may be amended at any session by a majority vote of the enrolled members present.

In addition to the speakers from our own state there were present to address the association Miss L. E. Stearns, of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, and Miss Mary E. Ahern, editor of "Public Libraries," Chicago.

In 1898 occurred the first meeting away from Des Moines, which was held in Omaha in connection with the Library Congress, which convened during the Omaha exposition.

At this meeting an invitation was extended from the trustees of the public library, at Cedar Rapids, to hold the tenth annual meeting there; it was accepted, and it proved a most delightful, interesting and profitable session, setting a standard which has since been followed. This meeting was held in the Women's Club rooms, November 8th and 9th, 1899, with a large attendance. The program was as follows:

OF THE MAKING OF BOOKS

Mrs. Allan Dawson, Des Moines

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGING

Miss Edna Bullock, Cataloger State Library, Des Moines

TRAVELING LIBRARY AND THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

Miss L. Stearns, Librarian Wisconsin Library Commission

DISCUSSION: LEADERS

Johnson Brigham, State Librarian, Des Moines

Mrs. D. W. Norris, Trustee Public Library, Grinnell

N. R. Parvin, Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids

THE SCHOOL AND LIBRARY

Miss M. E. Ahern, Editor Public Libraries, Chicago

PRACTICAL PAPER ON METHODS

Miss Harriette L. McCrory, Librarian Public Library, Cedar Rapids

Discussion led by Miss Fordyce, Trustee of Cedar Rapids Public Library

RECEPTION

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Luther A. Brewer

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Hon. J. M. Redmond, Mayor of Cedar Rapids

JOINT MEETING TRUSTEES' SECTION AND GENERAL ASSOCIATION



SIoux CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

RELATION OF TRUSTEE AND LIBRARIAN

THE TRUSTEE'S VIEW

F. F. Dawley, Cedar Rapids	A. P. Fleming, Des Moines
P. M. Crapo, Burlington	D. C. Bloomer, Council Bluffs
Mrs. H. J. Howe, Marshalltown	J. M. Brainard, Boone
Judge E. P. Seeds, Manchester	Mrs. A. M. Morse, Des Moines
Mrs. E. M. Carr, Manchester	

THE LIBRARIAN'S VIEW

Mrs. Rose Oberholtzer, Sioux City	Miss Ella M. McLoney, Des Moines
Mrs. Laura Hurd, Audubon	Miss Clara Smith, Burlington
Miss Mary E. Wheelock, Grinnell	

QUESTION BOX

Led by Miss Ahern

DRIVE

INSPECTION OF CEDAR RAPIDS LIBRARY

INSPECTION OF MASONIC LIBRARY

ADDRESS—"UNIVERSITY EXTENTION AND LIBRARIES"

George E. MacLean, President State University, Iowa City

October 18th and 19th, 1900, the eleventh annual meeting was held in Sioux City, the opening part of the program, similar to that of Cedar Rapids, consisting of the president's address and reports of officers and committees.

A symposium on Practical Work was led by Miss Harriette L. McCrory, librarian Public Library, Cedar Rapids.

Children and the Library was the subject of a paper given by Mrs. Maud M. Battis, librarian Public Library, Marshalltown.

The features of the evening session were the address of welcome, given by Judge Geo. W. Wakefield, and an address on "Library Commissions," by Miss Alice S. Tyler, secretary of the Iowa Library Commission.

It was here the dream became a reality, for the Iowa Library Commission which the association had worked so earnestly to secure, was represented at the meeting by a majority of its members, and at their meeting at this time it was decided to publish a quarterly, the first number to be issued January, 1901.

An evening address by Dr. Andrews, chancellor of the University of Nebraska, on "Books and Reading," was an important part of the program.



BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The twelfth annual meeting was held in the auditorium of the Free Public Library, Burlington, October 9th, 1901, with about seventy-five members and many visitors present.

In the absence of the president and vice president, Mrs. H. M. Towner, of Corning, was asked to preside.

Addresses were given on "Library Extension," by Mr. Brigham, Mr. J. M. Brainard and Miss Tyler, "The Child in His Kingdom, the Library," by Miss Dousman, of the Milwaukee Public Library, "Libraries and Schools," by Miss Fordyce, of Cedar Rapids, and "Machinery of the College Library," by Mrs. Ridgeway, of Iowa City.

The Round Table was led by Miss Tyler.

The Question Box was conducted by Miss M. E. Ahern, Chicago.

With the building of so many Carnegie libraries, library architecture has grown to be an important question, and was here presented by Mr. J. L. Mauran, of St. Louis, under the subject, "Housing of the Books."

The evening address on "The Book and the People," was by Mr. Herbert Putman, Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.

The social features were an outing on the river, and a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Crapo.

The thirteenth annual meeting, October 28th to 30th, 1902, at Grinnell, was called together in the Colonial Theater, Prof. L. F. Parker, trustee of the Stewart Library, presiding.

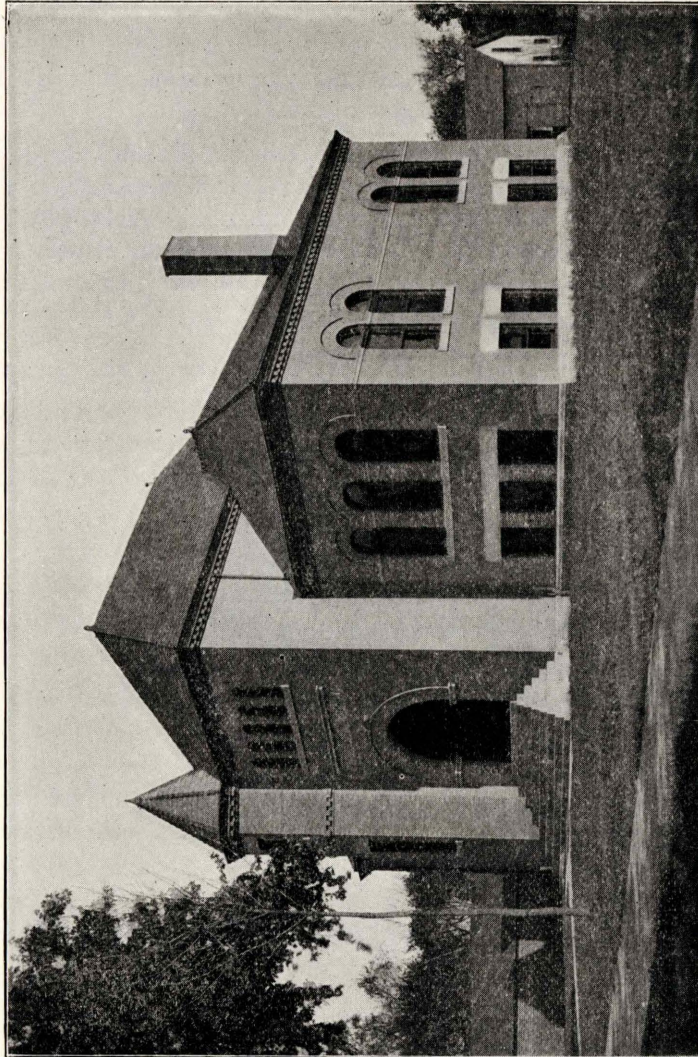
President Bradley, of Iowa College, made the address of welcome, which was followed by an address from Mr. F. F. Dawley, president of the association.

Other sessions were held in the Congregational Church, with addresses upon themes which are ever new and interesting to library workers.

The evening address on "Libraries and Education," was by Rabbi Hirsch, of Chicago.

On the second day a paper on "Library Buildings," was given by Grant C. Miller, of Chicago.

Questions of administration were discussed, and the question box



GRINNELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

conducted by the distinguished guest of the association, Mr. Melvil Dewey, director New York State Library.

The hospitality of the people was shown by taking members for a drive, and a reception was given by Iowa College and citizens of Grinnell at the Men's Gymnasium.

The fourteenth annual meeting was held October 5th to 7th, 1903, in the lecture room of the new Carnegie Library building, at Marshalltown, Mr. Johnson Brigham, state librarian, president of the association, presiding.

The program included papers by Miss Edith Tobitt, librarian Public Library, Omaha, Neb., on "Practical Administration of Libraries," Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith, librarian Public Library, Dubuque, leading in the discussion on this paper.

Capt. W. H. Johnston, Fort Dodge, on "Library Statistics."

Miss Fanny Duren, Eldora, on "Why Should a Small Library Be Organized?"

"Work of State Historical Society," by Prof. B. F. Shambaugh, State University.

"The Iowa Summer School of Library Training," Miss Mary E. Wheelock, librarian Public Library, Grinnell.

"Round Table of Practical Methods," conducted by Miss Tyler.

Mr. A. T. Cooper, of Cedar Rapids, spoke on "What Is the Free Public Library Doing to Justify Its Support by Public Tax."

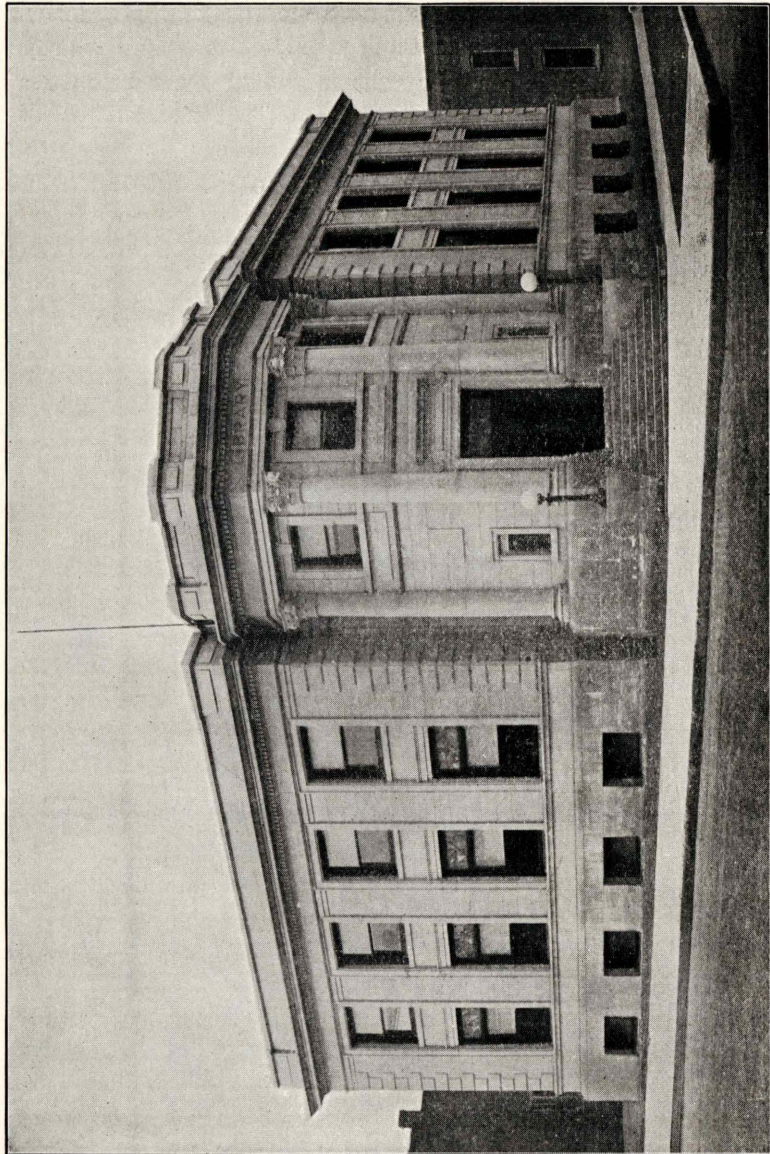
Mrs. T. J. Fletcher, president Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, on "Its Relation to Study Clubs."

Prof. W. I. Crane, superintendent of schools, Marshalltown, on "Its Relation to Schools."

Mr. John Cotton Dana, librarian Public Library, Newark, N. J., delivered the evening address.

The City Federation of Women's Clubs took the members of the association for a drive, and the Twentieth Century Club gave a reception at the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Cottle.

In the basement of the library was placed a book binding exhibit by the Marshall Printing Company, and a fine collection of bulletin boards, loaned by the Carnegie Library, at Pittsburg, Pa.



MARSHALLTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Inasmuch as Iowa is one of the Louisiana Purchase states it was thought advisable to hold the fifteenth annual meeting at St. Louis during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and at the time of the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the American Library Association. It will therefore be held October 18th, 19th and 20th, in the Iowa State building, World's Fair Grounds.

After this retrospect, do we find the Iowa Library Association has accomplished all its founders hoped for? Yea, and more.

From the small beginning which was made in 1890, a strong association has developed, numbering more than one hundred members, which is a power in the library work of the state.

In the days when library training schools were so few, the association has been like an encircling arm from which all Iowa library workers have gained wisdom, strength and courage. It has been an inspiration to librarians, leading them up to the unselfish, self-sacrificing life that marks every true librarian.

To the trustees it has been the means of an education which they could gain in no other way.

It has been the power behind the throne which has brought about most of the legislation in favor of libraries.

In all lines, organization is necessary to do effective work, and the Iowa Library Association did the pioneer work; it paved the way for the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs to do the grand work they have done, and are still doing; for the Traveling Library system and for the Library Commission. Each has its labor to perform in organizing new libraries, and in making them useful after they are organized.

"Public libraries are public blessings," and are needed by every one, by young and old, by children in school and children out of school, by women in club life and women out of club life, by teachers, ministers, writers and by laboring men and women, who cannot buy books.

Emerson says: "The world is all gates, all opportunities—strings of tension waiting to be struck."

Each new library is an open gate, and every gate thrown open reveals new opportunities and strings of tension waiting to be struck by the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, by the Iowa Library Commission, and by the Iowa Library Association.

Officers Iowa Library Association**1890 - 1904****1890-1891**

President
 Mrs. M. H. Miller, Des Moines
 Vice Presidents
 Capt. W. H. Johnston, Ft. Dodge
 Mrs. Clara C. Dwight, Dubuque
 Secretary
 Mrs. Ada North, Iowa City
 Treasurer
 Miss Clara M. Smith, Burlington

1891-1892

President
 Mrs. M. H. Miller
 Vice President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Secretary
 Mrs. Ada North
 Treasurer
 Miss Clara M. Smith

1892-1893

President
 Hon. T. S. Parvin, Cedar Rapids
 Vice President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Secretary
 Mrs. Ada North
 Treasurer
 Miss Ella M. McLoney, Des Moines

1893-1894

President
 Hon. T. S. Parvin
 Vice President
 Mrs. Ada North
 Secretary
 Mrs. Mary W. Loomis, Cherokee
 Treasurer
 Miss Ella M. McLoney

1894-1895

President
 Mr. J. W. Rich, Iowa City
 Vice President
 Mrs. Stella B. Morse, Des Moines
 Secretary
 Miss Ella M. McLoney
 Treasurer
 Miss Hannah Babb, Indianola

1895-1896

President
 Mr. J. W. Rich
 Vice President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Secretary
 Miss Ella M. McLoney
 Treasurer
 Miss Hannah Babb

1896-1897

President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Vice President
 Mr. W. P. Payne, Nevada
 Secretary
 Miss Ella M. McLoney
 Treasurer
 Mrs. Lana H. Cope, Des Moines

1897-1898-1899

President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Vice President
 Mr. W. P. Payne
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Miss Ella M. McLoney

1899-1900

President
 Capt. W. H. Johnston
 Vice President
 Mr. F. F. Dawley, Cedar Rapids
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Miss Ella M. McLoney

1900-1901

President
 Mr. A. P. Fleming, Des Moines
 Vice President
 Judge Geo. W. Wakefield, Sioux City
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Miss Harriette L. McCrory, Cedar Rapids

1901-1902

President
 Mr. F. F. Dawley
 Vice President
 Mr. P. M. Crapo, Burlington
 Secretary
 Miss Margaret W. Brown, Chariton
 Treasurer
 Mr. M. Hale Douglass, Grinnell

1902-1903

President
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 Vice President
 Mrs. C. H. McNider, Mason City
 Secretary
 Miss Clara Estabrook, Eldora
 Treasurer
 Mr. M. Hale Douglass

1903-1904

President
 Mrs. H. J. Howe, Marshalltown
 Vice President
 Mr. W. P. Payne
 Secretary
 Miss Miriam Carey, Burlington
 Treasurer
 Mr. M. Hale Douglass

In Memoriam

"Grant but memory to us, and we can lose nothing by death."—WHITTIER

MRS. ADA NORTH
 Iowa City

HON. T. S. PARVIN
 Cedar Rapids

MRS. MARY H. MILLER
 Des Moines

COL. CONDUCE H. GATCH
 Des Moines

HON. PHILIP M. CRAPO
 Burlington

MR. ELDRIDGE P. MCELROY
 Algona

Members of the Iowa Library Association

- Adams, Mrs. J. R., Vinton, 187
 *Ambler, Miss Sarah, 519 Sixth St., N. W., Washington, D. C., 131
 Amidon, Miss Mary I., Coe College, Cedar Rapids, 205
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*Also members of the American Library Association.

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