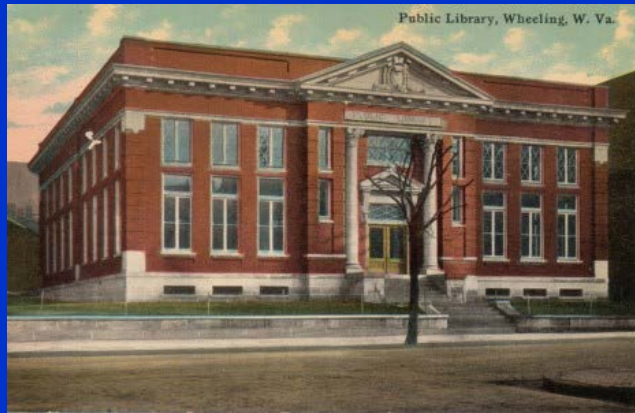


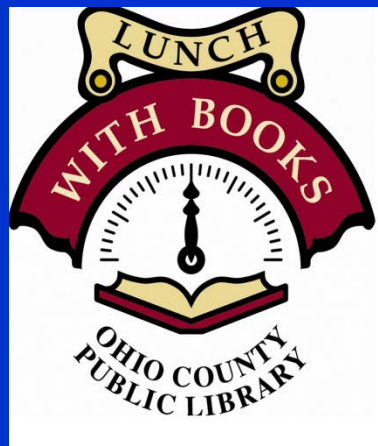
# History of the Ohio County Public Library



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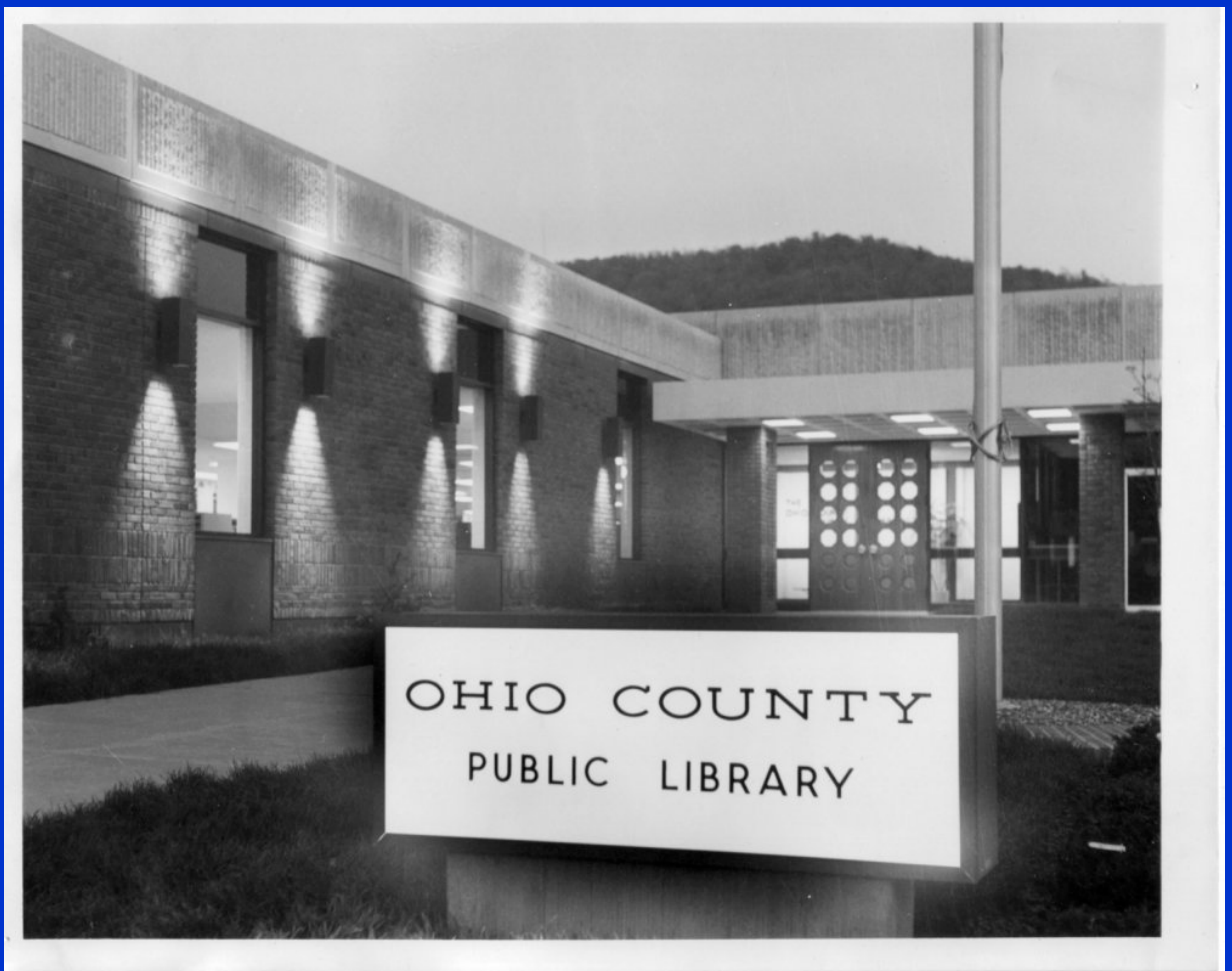
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**Dr. Charles A. Julian, PhD**  
**April 16, 2013**



# Today's Topics

- **Library Development in West Virginia**
- **History of the Ohio County Public Library**



# Library Development in West Virginia



# The Early Years

**1807-1813**

Beginning of library companies in West Virginia

**January 1819**

Romney Literary Society developed

**1820's-1840's**

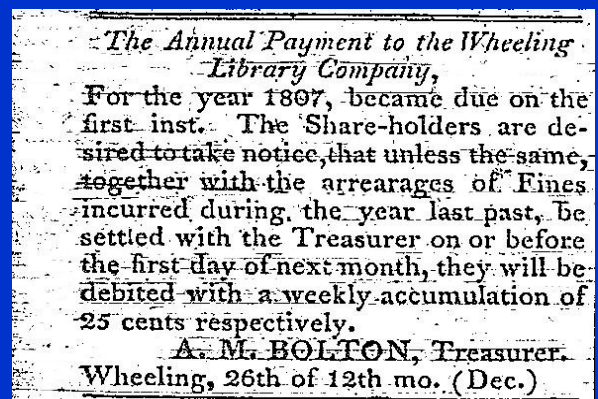
Various literary societies flourished

**1830's-1840's**

Lyceums, athenaeums, and literary institutions developed

**Mid 1800's**

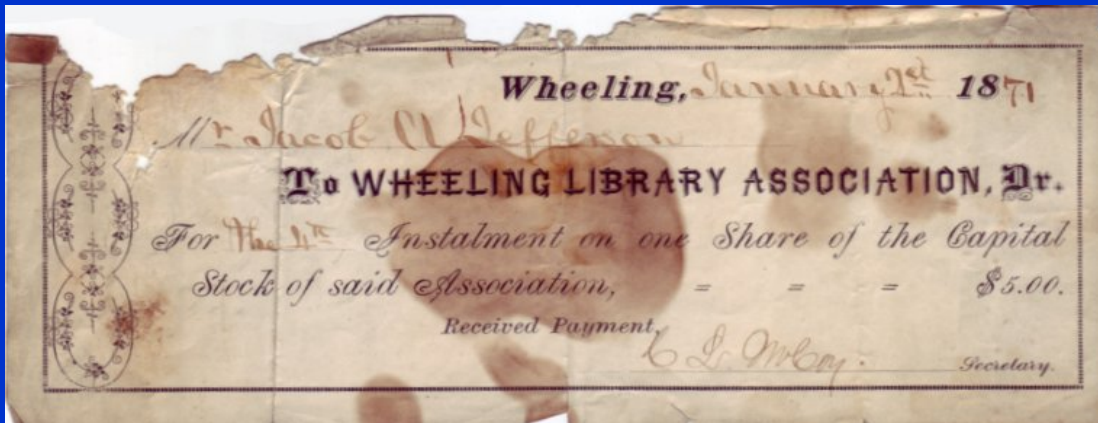
– Advent of education institutions



# The 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**May 18, 1859**

**Wheeling Library Association  
chartered by the Circuit Court  
of Ohio County**



**October 12, 1882**

**Wheeling Library Association  
becomes Wheeling Public  
Library**

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**1900**

- 1 public library
- 1 state law library
- 1 historical library, partially supported by the state
- Several college and university libraries
- Most literary societies or library company collections had been dissolved or merged with school libraries



**1901**

- Governor requests legislation for public library system

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**1914**

12 cities and towns had public libraries

**September 15, 1923**

Louis Bennett Public Library founded, the first *county* library in the state (Lewis County)

**June 8, 1929**

West Virginia Library Commission established by law



**1929**

Only 23 public libraries exist

**November 1932**

– Tax Limitation Amendment to State Constitution

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**May 31, 1933**

Legislature creates  
the Ohio County  
Public Library



**1938**

WV Federation of Women's Clubs funded  
a statewide library survey, which found  
that 88% of the state lacked library  
services

**1941**

West Virginia Library Commission is  
finally funded

**June 19, 1956**

Eisenhower signs the Library Services Bill  
into law

**April 2, 1979**

Gilmer Public Library – all counties now  
have at least one public library



# History of the Wheeling and Ohio County Public Library



# The Early Years

## Wheeling Library Company

[Subscription Library]

– 1807

First reference to the company appeared in the *Wheeling Repository*, announcing officer elections for the next year

– 1811

- *Pittsburgh Navigator*, mentions the existence of a printing office, a book store, and a library
- “The first two quit town for want of public patronage; the last is still upheld by citizens.”

– 1833

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia passed an act incorporating the Library Company in the Town of Wheeling

# The Early Years

## Wheeling Lyceum

Incorporated in 1834 by Virginia General Assembly

## Wheeling Library Association

[Subscription Library]

- The Mercantile Library Association was founded in 1859 and was chartered later that year as the Wheeling Library Association
- Absorbed the Wheeling Lyceum collection and provided the earliest foundation for the current library system

# "Our City Library Association" Wheeling Daily Intelligencer from November 1, 1865

## Our City Library Association.

We understand that Hon. Schuyler Colfax, member of Congress from Indiana, and late speaker of the United States House of Representatives, will deliver a lecture, under the auspices of the Library Association, at Washington Hall, on Wednesday evening, November 16th. The title of his lecture is, "Across the Continent," being the recollections of his recent extensive-our across the plains, through the mountains and mines of Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Washington territories, and the states of Oregon and California. He speaks at Pittsburgh the evening before. Mr. Colfax is a man of National reputation, one of the most popular and able speakers ever presiding over the House of Representatives, and was, besides, the great friend and ally of West Virginia at the time of her admission. Our people are especially indebted to him. Washington Hall should be filled to overflowing to hear him.

In this connection we are happy to speak of the prospects of our City Library Association, an institution of which we should all be proud, and in which every man, woman and child in the city has a deep personal interest. During the last month the list of annual subscribers increased beyond any previous month in its history, and within a few days past a cargo of new and popular books has been received. Every citizen for the sake of his family, if not for himself, should be an annual subscriber. The price of subscription is the merest trifle, only five dollars, and where is the man who loves to read, or who desires to cultivate a taste for reading in his family, who cannot pay that small sum? Some of our people who are able to pay more are yet to have realized what a desirable institution the city library is. They should visit it, either in day time or at night, and see what an inviting work we have. They will find how much they have been missing all along, and how much they will miss in future in case they do not avail themselves of its pleasant advantages.

All the late leading daily papers of the country are on file, easily accessible to every visitor, and, in addition, the principal monthly magazines and most popular weeklies are on the table, while the shelves are laden with almost any work of fact or fancy that any one could desire to read. An attentive and gentlemanly librarian is always in attendance, ready to answer any question or to furnish any book from any nook or corner of the shelves. The hall itself is spacious, comfortable and heartsome—in fact is one of the most attractive and profitable places to spend a leisure hour anywhere to be found in the city. Our young ladies and young misses should avail themselves of its advantages more than they do, although it is but just to say that they have rather set an example in patronizing the hall. It is an excellent place to stop in during an afternoon walk, and if the ladies generally get in the habit of making it a sort of calling-place, there will be no difficulty about plenty of patronage from gentlemen. But, seriously, we desire to see everybody in the city interest themselves in the library. It is the only institution of the kind we have. It is something that we can all disconnect from our prejudices, and that every one having the slightest intellectual taste can resort to for both pleasure and profit.

Therefore, we say, fellow citizens do not hoard up dollars for your children to the exclusion of advantages far more beneficial to them than dollars. Give them the benefits of an excellent institution like the library, by giving it your aid. Your children will remember you gratefully for it on many occasions through life. It is a duty every man owes to his family to afford them these advantages. We hope to be able to announce other lectures before the association during the season. Several distinguished speakers have been written to.

...we are happy to speak of the prospects of our City Library Association, an institution of which we should all be proud and in which every man, woman and child in the city has a deep personal interest.

Every citizen for the sake of his family, if not for himself, should be an annual subscriber. The price of subscription is the merest trifle, only five dollars, and where is the man who loves to read, or who desires to cultivate a taste for reading in his family, who cannot pay that small sum?

...fellow citizens do not hoard up dollars for your children to the exclusion of advantages far more beneficial to them than dollars. Give them the benefits of an excellent institution like the library, by giving it your aid.

# The Early Years

## Wheeling Library Association

### [Subscription Library]

- As early as 1877, there was public discussion about the possibility of the city financing a public library
- While the early years of the Association were difficult, mainly due to the Civil War and lack of funding, the Association flourished until 1881 when it was disbanded

# The Early Years

## Public Library of the City of Wheeling

- In 1882, one year after the close of the Wheeling Library Association, the Wheeling Board of Education began discussing the advantages of a public library
- The Board of Education created a library committee
- Later in 1882, state legislation was passed officially chartering the Public Library of the City of Wheeling and permitting the levying of taxes to support the library
- With agreement from the Association Board of Trustees, the Public Library absorbed the Wheeling Library Association collection

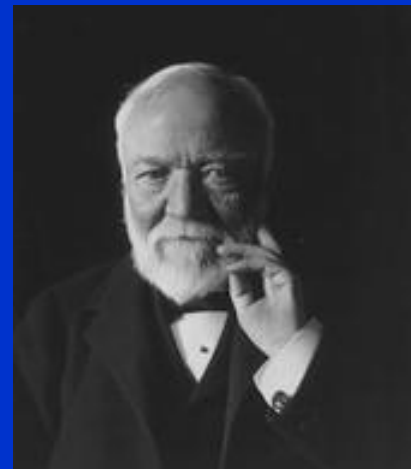
# Andrew Carnegie's Philanthropy

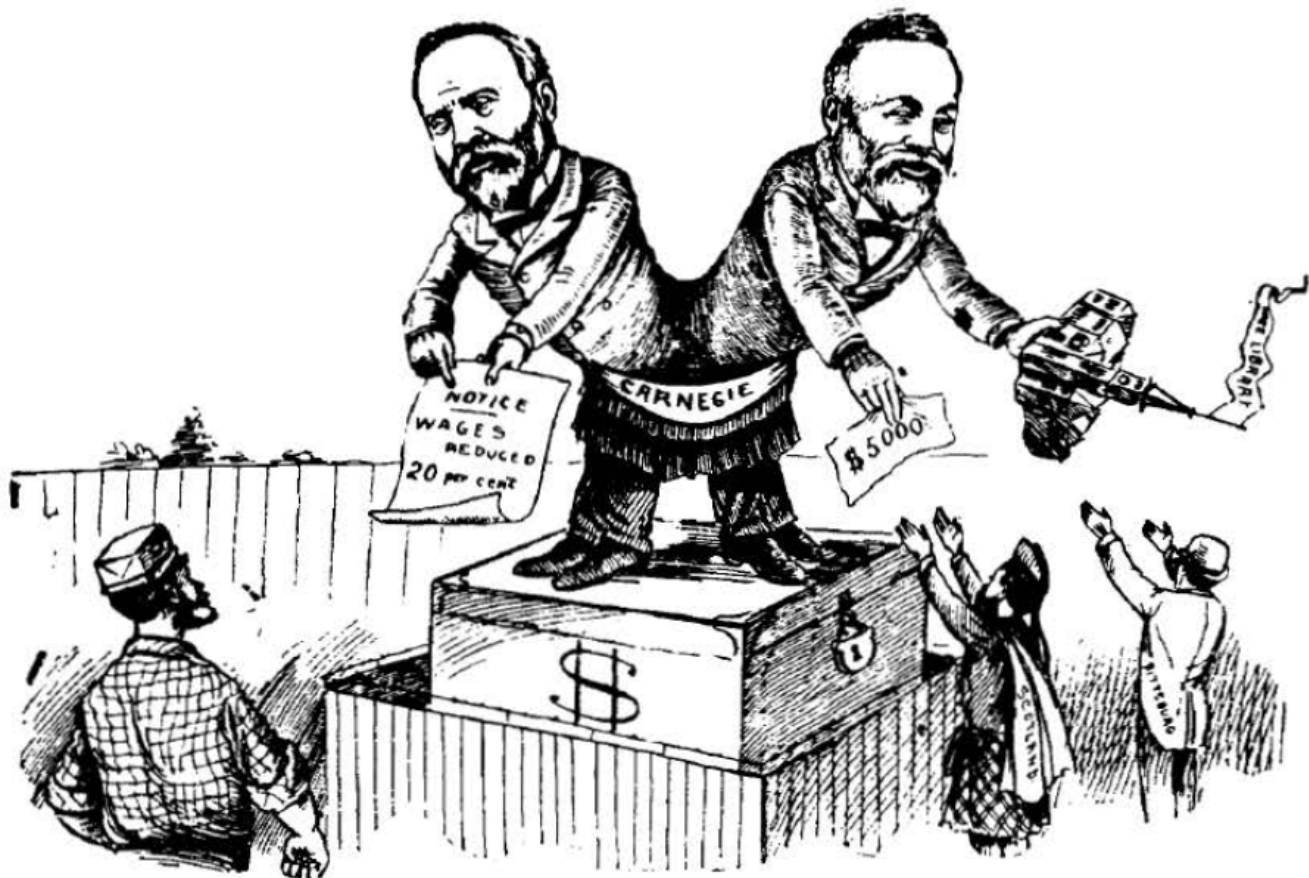
## Library Construction Grants:

|      |                 |          |
|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1899 | Wheeling        | \$75,000 |
| 1901 | Huntington      | \$35,000 |
| 1903 | Parkersburg     | \$34,000 |
| 1905 | Bethany College | \$20,000 |
| 1907 | Hinton          | \$12,500 |
| 1911 | Bluefield       | \$10,000 |
| 1913 | Williamson      | \$10,000 |
| 1913 | Charleston      | \$45,000 |

**Total - \$241,000**

\$101,500 used of requests = 42.1%





**FORTY-MILLIONAIRE CARNEGIE IN HIS GREAT DOUBLE ROLE.**

**AS THE TIGHT-FISTED EMPLOYER HE REDUCES WAGES THAT HE MAY PLAY PHILANTHROPIST AND GIVE AWAY LIBRARIES, ETC.**

*Utica Saturday Globe, July 9, 1892*





THE LIBRARY COM'N—"SURELY YOU OUGHT TO BE WILLING TO ADD THESE TO YOUR BURDEN, TO HELP ANY BUILD ONE OF HIS MONUMENTS."

*Detroit Journal, Dec. 16, 1902*

Those obligatory community maintenance pledges

# Board of Education Votes to Open Correspondence with Andrew Carnegie – October 19, 1899



## AFTER LIBRARY BUILDING.

### Board of Education Will Open Correspondence With Andrew Carnegie.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING UPON WHAT TERMS AN APPROPRIATION MAY BE SECURED FOR THE PURPOSE. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE BOARD. OTHER ROUTINE BUSINESS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education was held last night, with a fair attendance of members. After the reading and approval of the minutes, favorable action was taken upon bills submitted by committees with favorable recommendation, as follows: Public library, \$258.53; buildings and grounds, \$210; accounts, \$346.59. The amount of \$45.75 was appropriated for replacing wornout books in the library.

The buildings and grounds committee recommended awarding the contract for furnishing coal for the schools during the ensuing year to the lowest bidders, J. J. Koehuline & Son, at \$6.49 per hundred bushels for clean; \$4 per hundred bushels for slack. Approved.

Following is an abstract of the report of Supt. W. H. Anderson for the month of September: Total enrollment, 4,717; average daily attendance, 4,197; percentage of attendance, 95, High School 98, Washington 95, Madison 96, Clay 95, Union 95, Centre 95, Webster 95, Ritchie 95, Lincoln 94; tardiness, teachers 13, pupils 330; perfect in attendance 2,046; paid for instruction, \$6,330.50. In the German department the enrollment was 528; classes, 64; pupils of German parentage, 273; other than German parentage, 255; paid for instruction, 5 teachers, \$206.

The report of Librarian Wilson showed a total circulation for September of 5,246; average daily circulation, 1,234; received from fines, \$15.

The committee on teachers and schools reported adversely on the petition of residents of Union district, desiring their children to attend Clay school, and the Board concurred. The recommendation for an increase from \$30 to \$40 of salary of High School janitor was referred to the committee on salaries. The recommendation for the purchase of twelve Cram's reversible maps, was referred to committee on text books.

The commissioners of Madison district reported the appointment of Miss Lenora Krauter in C grade; Miss Rose Hunter as substitute; Miss Virginia Norton promoted from A grade to Grammar, and Miss Estella Underwood from C to A.

The resignation of Parke Collier as substitute teacher in the High School, was accepted.

Webster commissioners reported the resignation of Anna V. Kennedy as teacher in C grade, and asked confirmation of Margaret M. Dudley in C grade, and Temperance Garden in D grade. The report was confirmed.

W. A. Milligan tendered his resignation as member of the Board, on account of his removal from Centre to Clay district. Upon motion of Judge Cranmer, the resignation was laid on the table.

Mr. Maxwell inquired by whose authority the number and time of sessions at the High School had been changed, in the face of a direct order of the Board. Col. Miller thought the single session is injurious to pupils, and he said that some persons are of opinion that it was a change solely in the interest of the teachers. Dr. Braey made a plea for two daily sessions on the ground that it would be doing the greatest good to the greatest number. No action was taken.

Miss Lida Wells was appointed as a new teacher in Centre school, and Miss Lou Hastings substitute.

Judge Cranmer offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three to open a correspondence with Andrew Carnegie, for the purpose of ascertaining if an appropriation can be secured for a public library building in Wheeling, with the understanding that the Board of Education will annually appropriate a sum of money sufficient for the proper maintenance and conduct of the library. Col. Miller wanted the amount which the Board would appropriate inserted in the resolution, and this point was debated. He wanted to insert \$5,000, and Mr. Milligan amended to provide for an appropriation not to exceed three cents on the \$100 valuation. The amended resolution was adopted.

The committee on buildings and grounds was instructed to investigate the condition of the bridge at Lincoln school, and ascertain whether the city or the Board should repair it.

Adjourned.

Board of Education Library Committee member  
Nelson C. Hubbard writes to  
Andrew Carnegie – July 28/August 12, 1899

W. HUBBARD. N. C. HUBBARD.  
LAW OFFICES  
HUBBARD & HUBBARD.  
WHEELING, W. VA.  
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE 925.

July 28, 1899  
*Aug. 12*

Dear Sir,

We are naturally much gratified by the suggestion in your letter that in case this city were to give a site and make provision for the support of a library, you might be disposed to aid our efforts. We hope to earn your assistance. Certainly I had never thought of any possible arrangement for a library which would not include a subscription by the city--as large a provision as the authorities could be induced to consider reasonable. There is a site which is being held as an investment and can perhaps be obtained: it would be exceptionally suitable, but expensive. We shall try to have private subscriptions provide the site, if possible, and thus be able to devote the entire appropriation which may be granted by the city council, to maintenance and support and possible increase of facilities.

*b.*  
Wheeling's wealth is so small, compared to that of Pittsburgh, and so much of it is locked up in the hands of those who are not ready yet to appreciate our need of a good library, that I am at a loss to know what you would consider a fair comparison with Pittsburg's appropriation and a suitable provision to be made by this city. It may be that you would care to express your views as to this, and as to the value of the site which should be provided, as well as perhaps the extent of the assistance which you might be willing to grant in case satisfactory conditions should be assured.

A small group of citizens here are impressed with the city's backwardness and with the serious need for such improvement as a good library guarantees. They are willing to give energy as well as time to the gradual building up of the community; and whether or not you may finally consider it wise to give financial help, they would receive with pleasure any suggestions coming from you as to municipal improvement.

*Yours truly,  
Nelson C. Hubbard,*

# Wheeling Library and Andrew Carnegie

**Carnegie offers \$75,000 to  
erect a library building in  
1899**

**Original caveat: the local  
community must make an  
annual contribution of  
\$5,000**

**In 1909, maintenance of  
effort becomes a 10%  
contribution (\$7,500)**

# Wheeling Library and Andrew Carnegie

- In 1901, the West Virginia Legislature passed a law empowering Wheeling authorities to procure a library site and to levy a tax sufficient to pay for it and maintain the library property
- This funding required a bond issue
- Negotiations continued with Carnegie over the next three years

# The Carnegie Controversy

- In 1903, Carnegie's secretary indicates offer still stands
- The Board of Education reacted favorably to the offer but refused to incur any financial responsibility
- The City Council passed a resolution to support the project with one member introducing an opposing resolution



## John J. Connelly's Opposing Resolution

“Whereas, Andrew Carnegie, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Scotland, has offered a donation of \$50,000 to the city of Wheeling for the purpose of erecting a library, with conditions attached whereby he hopes to perpetuate the name of Andrew Carnegie at the expense of the taxpayers of the city of Wheeling.

And, whereas, the citizens of Wheeling are willing and able to provide for their educational wants; therefore, be it:

Resolved, that the city of Wheeling do hereby reject the offer of Andrew Carnegie to donate \$50,000 for the purpose of erecting a library, and we recommend to Mr. Carnegie that he give his proposed \$50,000 to the widows and orphans created by him on the banks of Monongahela on the morning of July 6, 1892.”

John J. Connelly  
December 22, 1903

MANSFIELD, O., THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1892.

NO. 27

## STRIKERS' BLOOD

Shed as a Result of the Iron Workers' Strike

At the Carnegie Steel Works at Homestead, Pa.

Workmen Shot Down by Paid Pinkerton Men

WHO ATTEMPT TO MAKE A LANDING AT THE WORKS,

ONLY TO BE REPULSED BY THE DETERMINED STRIKERS.

The Sight of Blood Arouses Suppressed Rage of the Thousands of Locked-Out Workmen and a Battle Results in Which Each Side Lose a Number of Killed and Wounded—The Situation Serious and More Fighting is Looked For—The Excited Men Refuse to Listen to Those Who Advised Them to Think Well Before They Took the Rash Step.

HOMESTEAD, Pa., July 6.—Three hundred Pinkerton detectives attempted to land at the Carnegie steel works at 3:45 Wednesday morning. They fired on the guard. About one hundred shots were exchanged. Two strikers were shot. The Pinkertons were repulsed at the first attack.

For two hours before the boats arrived 5,000 or 6,000 persons awaited their

The burgess issued a proclamation calling on all citizens to remain indoors and ordering all saloons closed.

The main fight at that time was being made near a huge oil tank on the river front one mile from Homestead. Here the reporter saw one of the workers breath his last. The man was standing near the Baltimore and Ohio tracks, firing a twenty-pound cannon, trying to sink the barges on which were the Pinkertons. His shots went wide of the mark. A moment later the mill-worker's head was almost severed from his body by a shot from a Winchester in the hands of a Pinkerton.

### The Locked-Out Men Victorious.

At 10:10 a. m., near the lavatory, one man aimed his rifle and the next instant a shout went up and a Pinkerton detective who had been standing on the barge fell. The bullet had passed through his head and he dropped in the river never to rise. The locked-out men had gained entire possession of the company's lavatory and in this their ammunition is stored. The workmen have at least 500 rifles in their possession.

At 11 o'clock the men reported that they were out of ammunition and the committee was immediately sent after more.

Hugh O'Donnell, one of the most conservative men here, was seen by your reporter. When depicting the early morning scenes he wept as numbers of men gathered around to hear the story. It certainly was a sight as the cannons and guns pealed forth their thunder. O'Donnell, summing up sufficient courage, said:

"At the first shrill of the water works whistle a messenger rushed to my house and dragged me out of bed. In a half-dressed condition I rushed to the scene, and on the way met Captain O. C. Coon, of the Eighteenth regiment, and John Flinn. With these men we went right to the front, standing on the river bank with 2,000 men, who were shouting and



# Carnegie Controversy

**The Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly voiced strong opposition to Carnegie's offer**

**“We don't want a monument to Carnegie...a man who has driven down women and children to the workshop.”**

**“God forbid that one of my children should ever bring home a book from a Carnegie Library.”**

**Both sides launched campaigns, with the Board of Education and important figures in the community voicing their support**

# Carnegie Controversy

- **Citizens voted on library levy in an election held on January 16, 1904**
- **Even as a huge flood covered the city, voters turned out at the polls**
- **Levy did not receive the necessary majority and was defeated, making Wheeling the only city in West Virginia to defeat (by vote) a library levy to get Carnegie dollars**
- **The issue won in all districts except the working class sections of the city, especially wards where iron and steel workers lived**

# Wheeling Daily Intelligencer

January 27, 1904

Wednesday, January 27, 1904.

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## DEFEAT OF LIBRARY PROJECT.

Owing to the activity of the element opposed to the new library project, and the indifference of some of its friends, the bond proposition of the board of education failed to receive the required three-fifths of all the votes cast. If any comfort is to be gained from this miserable failure on the part of the friends of progress to have voted, it lies in the fact that the proposition obtained a majority of 429. The 201 votes lacking the three-fifths requirement were not cast because they were housed up through the flood, or through the usual antipathy to sacrificing a few moments from business or other cares.

But, after all, speculation is useless in the light of definite defeat. By the result of yesterday's election Wheeling is counted among the cities that set their faces against progress. It also submits to the domination of a class that has retarded its growth in the past, whose methods are unreasonable and prejudicial to the common welfare of all, with small chance of emancipation in the future. Like Prometheus it is bound to this rock of opposition and is having its liver picked out by the vulture of organized hatred of one man.

## REMOVAL OF LIBRARY ADVOCATED BY BOARD

Present Quarters Alleged to Be Incon-  
venient and Will Be De-  
sired for Another.

The insurance was ordered distributed  
as follows:—Chris Vewig, \$6,500, and the  
following companies: W. J. Higgins,  
Trotter & Thomas, J. A. Wolcher, Theo.

### Library Quarters.

The Masonic Association notified the board of the expiration of their library lease on April 30th, and that they would be pleased to renew the lease at \$1,200 a year, an increase of \$200.

Mr. Rogers objected to this, as the library quarters were inconvenient and favored other quarters even did the board have to pay \$1,500 a year. "I don't favor staying in that coop. Let us be progressive and have a place to put our books and have a library in place as well as in name." The matter went to the committee on libraries to look for other quarters.

On motion of Mr. Williams, the expenditure of \$400 for improvements to the library was ordered held till it was determined whether the present room would be retained or not.

Mr. White here took the floor and stated that everything pointed to the building of a new library and that it was time something was done.

Library Report.

# Carnegie Controversy

- **In 1909, the Board of Education again contacts Carnegie:**
  - Maxwell properties purchased by Board for high school and library
  - No bond levy required
- **Asking for grant between \$75,000 to \$100,000**
- **In March of 1909, Carnegie's secretary indicates that the promise of \$75,000 is still in force**
- **Unions once again object to acceptance of Carnegie grant**
- **In 1910, Carnegie issue again arose with the Board of Education voting to terminate contact with Carnegie and to erect a building with their own funds**

# Construction of New Public Library Building

- On March 3, 1910, the Board of Education accepts Charles W. Bates' plans for a new public library
- Library opened on  
January 9, 1911



# The New Public Library Building - 1911

**“The library was a two-story, red-brick building; the doorway was framed by marble Corinthian columns and a classic pediment. A decorative cornice encircled the building above the first story.”**



WHEELING PUBLIC LIBRARY.

# The New Public Library Building - 1911

**“One enters the building through two glass doors which open on the stone steps and then one goes into the vestibule which widens out into a sort of lobby, in which is the desk and in back of that, the stack room.”**



**“To the right is a room intended for a juvenile reading room, although it is not yet equipped.”**



# The New Public Library Building - 1911

“To the left is the general reading room, in which are tables and chairs necessary for the comfort of the patrons. In this room are found the newspaper and magazine racks supplied with the best current literature of the day.”



In 1919, the collection is changed from a closed stack to an open stack system.

# The Bennett Museum

**In 1920, Sallie Maxwell Bennett presented a collection of curios and collectibles from her travels around the world to the library.**



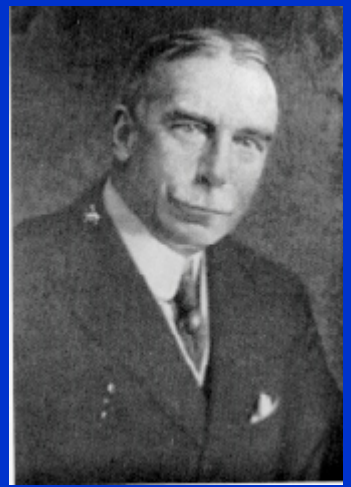
# The Bennett Museum

**“Mrs. Bennett stated that she wanted this collection to be in memoriam of her father, a prominent member of Wheeling society and one of the Board of Education before his death.”**



**Eventually, the artifacts from the museum were removed from the library and distributed to the Bennett family home, Willow Glen; the New York City Art Gallery; and Oglebay Institute.**

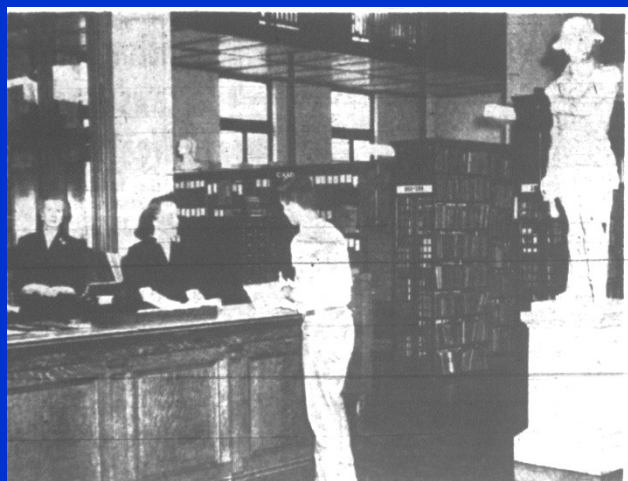
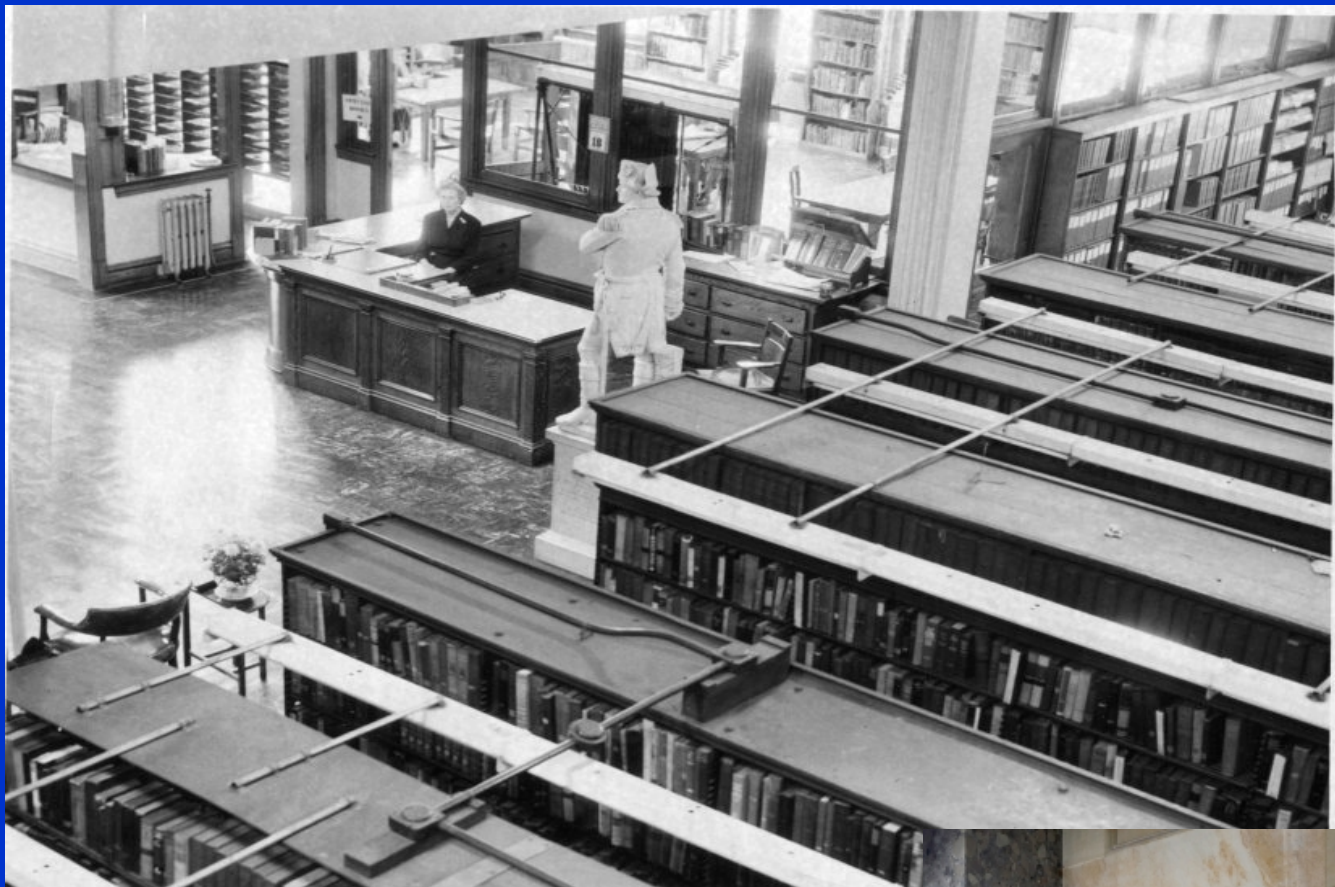
# The Statue of Ethan Allen



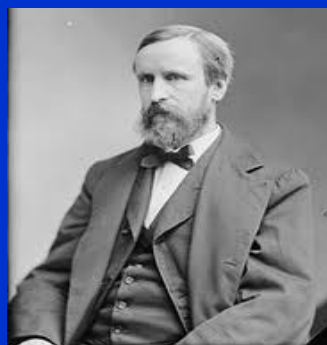
**Donated by**

**B. Walker Peterson, prominent local resident and president of the Dollar Savings and Trust Company in Wheeling.**

- **Replica of sculptor L.G. Mead's statue (Statuary Hall)**
- **"This ideal of one of the heroes of the War for Independence is given to the Wheeling Public Library in memory of Dr. Daniel Peterson, Surgeon's Mate, Colonel Stark's Regiment, Colonial Forces, and his son, W.F. Peterson, Sr., who came to this community in 1824."**



1950's



Larkin G. Mead



Statuary Hall

# **Tax Payer Limitation Amendment**

- **Dire economic conditions precipitated by the Great Depression results in the passage of a 1932 state law that:**
  - **places limits on personal property taxation**
  - **reduces local control of taxation**
- **Prevents the use of Board of Education money for public libraries**

# **OCPL Board of Trustees Minutes**

**October 4, 1933**

**“The present tax tangle leaving us with no income except gradually diminishing fine and rental collections it has become necessary to cut expenditures to the lowest possible figure.”**

# OCPL Board of Trustees Minutes

November 1, 1933

“Bills against the Ohio County Public Library were presented. Their number and size were not excessive but they smote with dismay an impecunious though honest Board.



Mr. Archie Paull offered the loan of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) until such time as the Board shall be able to pay it back.”



# Special Law

- **Local leaders petitioned the state legislature for a solution to the library funding crisis**
- **The legislature responded with a special law that allowed public funding of the library**
- **Money was carved out of Board of Education funds and later property tax collections**
- **OCPL is one of 11 WV libraries funded through special library laws**

# 1950's Teens



# Locations

## Wheeling Library Association

Odd Fellows Hall

The Armory in the Capitol  
Building

## Public Library of the City of Wheeling

- Above R.J. Smyth(e)'s  
grocery at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup>  
and Market Streets
- The Masonic Temple – 1407  
Market Street
- Schmulbach Building
- Delaplaine Building – 1305  
Main Street

# Locations

## Ohio County Public Library

– 21<sup>st</sup> and Market Streets  
(January 9, 1911- May 18,  
1973)



## 1926 – Third Floor Addition Completed



**Wheeling High – Commercial Department  
September 7, 1926**



# Warwood Branch



Opened April 6, 1942

Cooperative Venture With Woman's Club of Warwood



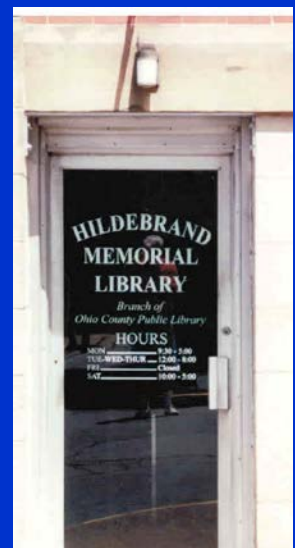
Second Floor – Warwood Bank building  
Women's Club rooms adjacent

After bequest from Howard T. and Frances P. Hildebrand - renamed Hildebrand Memorial Library on July 25, 1986

Moved to southwest corner of building

Miss Florence Musgrave – first branch manager

Closed January 31, 2003  
(low patron use)



# Elm Grove Branch



Opened November 11, 1951 – 1,500 books

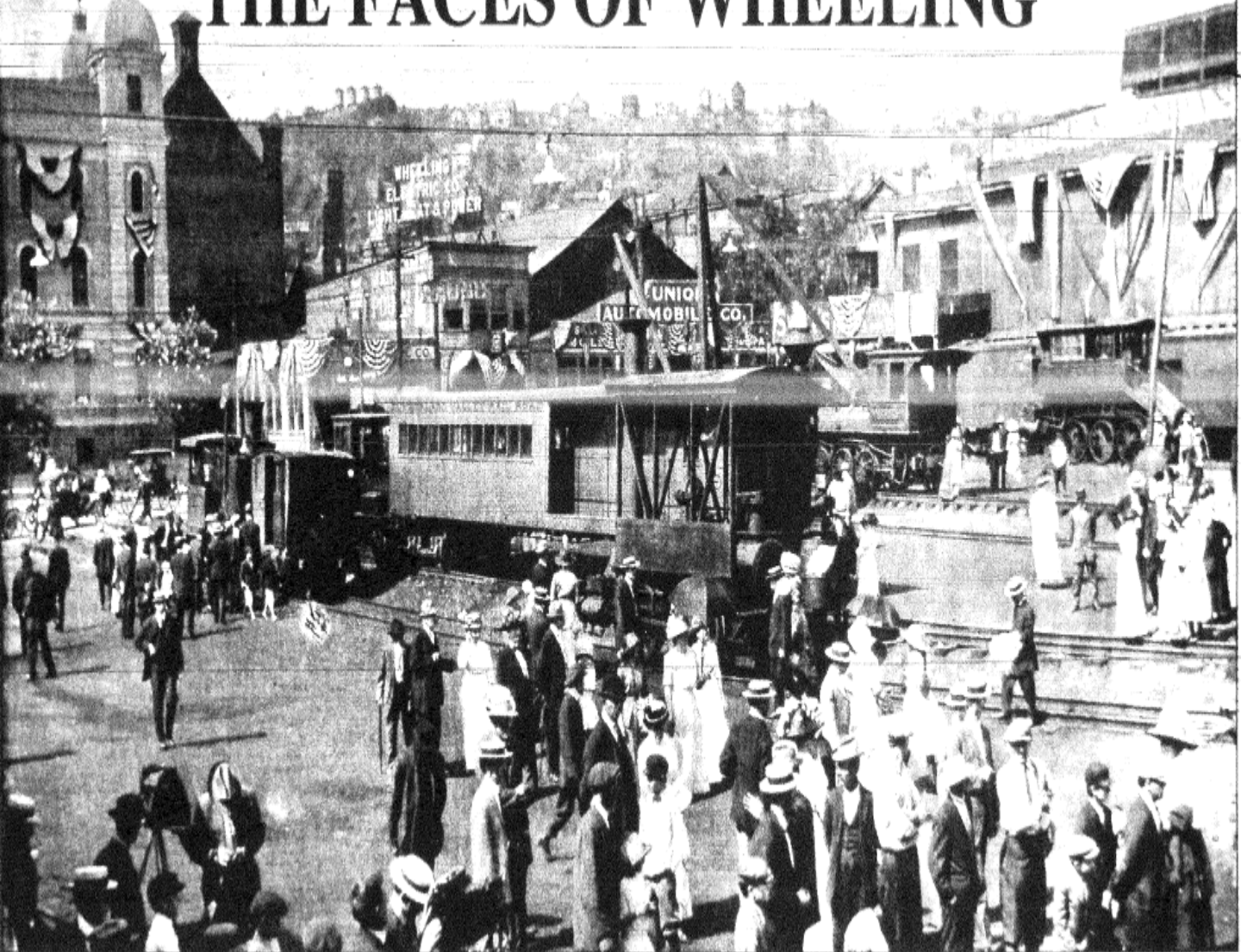
Cooperative Venture With Elm Grove Civics Association

Located Hoge-Davis Building – Second Floor

Later - 2214 National Road

Closed in 1973 (low patron usage)

# THE FACES OF WHEELING



Hempfield Yards – Wheeling – 1920s



# 16<sup>th</sup> Street (May 19, 1973 – Present)



# Yet Another Controversy....



**Vermont, Gov. Moore Interested**

# Court Enjoins Allen Statue Sale

By Herb Little

The Associated Press

The West Virginia Supreme Court granted a reprieve Thursday to Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen—well, at least a statue of Allen.

A temporary injunction granted by the court bars a public auction which had been scheduled Saturday for sale of assorted contents of the old Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling.

The life-size, marble statue of Allen, who led the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont in the Revolution, is perhaps the prime item in contention. It has stood on a pedestal in the foyer of the old library on Market Street since it was built in 1910.

In dispute in a pending suit in Ohio County Circuit Court is ownership of the real estate as well as miscellaneous contents left behind when the library

moved into a new building earlier this year. The disputants are the Ohio County Board of Education and the Ohio County Public Library board of Trustees.

A third floor was added to the library building in 1926 and was connected by a bridge across an alley to Wheeling

High School. Since then the third floor has been used for Wheeling High classes.

Although the suit over ownership has not been decided, the library trustees scheduled the sale Saturday to auction personal property in the building. These include the statue, left behind when the books were moved out because Ethan and his pedestal won't fit under the new library ceilings.

The board of education petitioned Ohio County Circuit Court for a temporary injunction to prohibit the auction and "preserve the status quo" of articles in the building until the ownership suit is settled.

The circuit court denied the injunction last week. However, attorney Jeremy C. McCamic presented the same request to the Supreme Court Thursday on behalf of the board of education, and the high court granted the temporary injunction.

Of the Ethan Allen statue, McCamic said: "We feel it is beyond value."

He said the state of Vermont wants it and West Virginia Gov. Moore also is interested in it as a possible acquisition for the state museum in Charleston.

Board of Education Sues For Ownership of:

- Contents of the Building
- Real Property

Library prevails on both suits – settles with BOE on August 19, 1976 for \$61,055.97 [BOE gets old library building]

Ethan Allen statue is purchased by Fort Ticonderoga in NY

# Ohio County Public Library Firsts

**1912**

Children's services

**1932**

Special law funding

**1938**

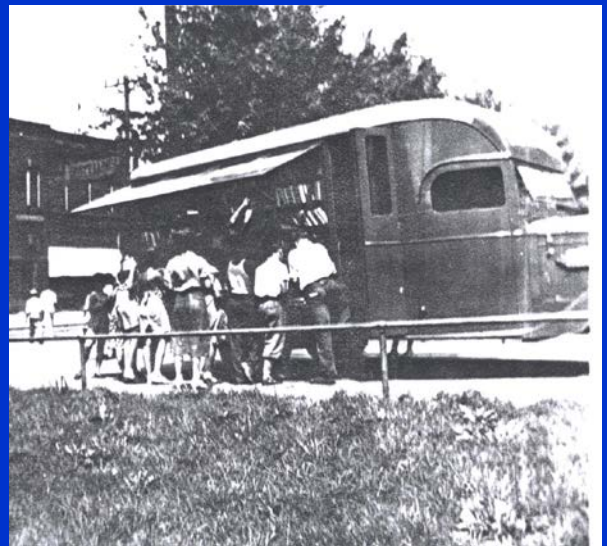
Music room

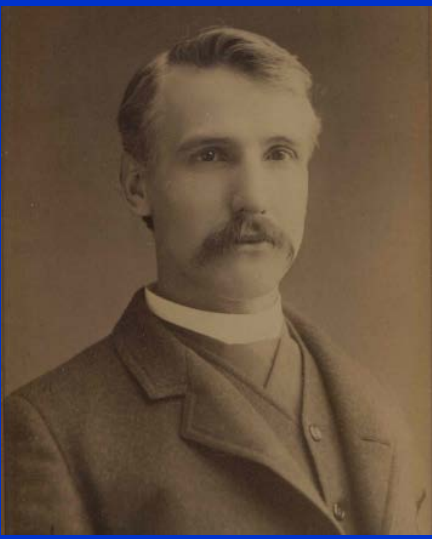
**1939**

Bookmobile

**1952**

Teen Corner





Henry H. Pendleton



Etta M. Roberts



Eleanor Hamilton



Virginia Ebeling



Jeannine Kreyenbuhl



Elizabeth Fair



Bruce Farrar



Ernest R. Kallay, Jr.



Harve  
Tannenbaum



Dottie Thomas

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