Chapter 2

Libraries in towns which had from one thousand to twenty-five hundred people when the library was founded
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Populations</th>
<th>Founded</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Founded</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Premises</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abingdon</td>
<td>in 1889, 1892</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1895</td>
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<td>Barry</td>
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<td>Pike</td>
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<td>Carthage</td>
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<td>DuPage</td>
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<td>Founded lost by</td>
<td>Founded gift found</td>
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Abingdon

Public Library

At Abingdon, Knox county, a Library Association, organized January 1896, established a library "to enable the public to obtain better literary advantages." The Association consisted of all who paid for a membership.

The library was not self-supporting however, and the City Council was requested to take it in hand, which it did. The library became public May, 1898.

No special work has been done with the schools; the library is very popular. The majority of the readers are pupils from the schools and old people.

There have been no gifts. The library is open afternoons and evenings.

There are 377 volumes and the circulation is given as 200 volumes, probably per month, though it is not stated.

Abingdon and Harrodsburg Colleges are located here; gloves and organs are manufactured and there are several sawmills.

The library has a two mill tax for its support.
At Barry, Pine county, the library came into being in 1879, "for the good of the people", through the efforts of Mrs. L. F. Long, as a membership library. The next year the city took charge, and the library became public.

"Auntie" Ben Brown left by will a farm worth $10,000 to $15,000, to be sold and the proceeds used to erect a new library building. This has not been done yet. Entertainments and lectures were used to arouse interest at the time of founding the library.

There were in the library last year 2,300 volumes, and 2,100 volumes were issued for home use, a gain of 460 volumes over the number issued in 1898.

The town is small, and lost 300 in population between 1880 and 1890, having then only 1,554 people. There are three flour mills and a woolen mill.
Bunker Hill

Public Library

The library founded by a stock company in 1866, was made public in January, 1896, "so that all might enjoy the advantage of its use."

During the thirty years, it was kept up by money from entertainments, usually given by the people of the town. A few gifts were received.

As regards the transfer, the librarian says:

"It took several years to do it, but by perseverance in presenting the question, by explaining the advantages that would result to the young people, by the offer free of nearly $4000 worth of books, and, lastly, by a threat to close the library if the city did not take it, the change was accomplished."

The circulation of 1500 volumes in the first three months of the library's existence as a public institution, equal to over 4000 volumes yearly, from a library of 2200 volumes, proves the wisdom of the action.

The town is small and the tax will be about $275 a year. The early settlers were from New England, but they have been replaced by Germans. There are fruit and dairy interests, a coal mine, a flour mill, and a large quantity of milk is shipped from here to St. Louis. The town is in Macoupin county.
Carthage
Free Public Library

The library of Carthage, county seat of Hancock county, was founded in 1894, by the Ladies Columbian Library Association. The following letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Pennock, the librarian, explains how it was accomplished:

"I will try to answer your questions, being always glad to give information in regard to our Public Library of which we are so proud.

In the summer of 1892, some of our ladies met together and decided to work for a public library. An organization was formed, called the Columbian Library Association. Several receptions were held during the following fall and winter, and speeches were made by prominent citizens, encouraging the enterprise.

In order to get the two mill tax provided for by a statute of the State, we were obliged to work under the supervision of a Board of Directors. This Board was created by appointment by the Mayor. One of the members of the Board, Mr. M. H. Berry, was so enthusiastic over the founding of a library that he offered to give $500 toward it if the citizens would give a like sum and make it a free public library. The citizens responded liberally to Mr. Berry's proposition, and in two days time the committee appointed for that purpose had collected $618.

The library opened March 10, 1894, in a room rented for it.
Carthage — 2

A "Book Shower", was given and many books were
given, in some cases whole sets. A purchasing committee was ap-
pointed and a librarian hired. For two years the business men
furnished the tables in the reading room with suitable periodi-
cals.

The Library Association keeps up its organization, and now
supplies the periodicals. The Association gives monthly enter-
tainments at private houses, charging ten cents admission.

In 1896 the city built a new City Hall and set aside two
commodious rooms for a permanent home for our library.

We extend our influence into the country by selling members-
ship tickets to non-residents at two dollars per year. The
library and schools cooperate.

There is work connected with an enterprise of this kind, but
when we see the good being done every day, we forget the work."

Among the gifts have been a case of curios, and a set of the
Rebellion Records.

With only 2384 volumes the circulation last year was almost
10,000 volumes.

The tax comes to from $300 to $400 a year.

There are tile-, paper-, and shoe-factories, and a creamery.

Carthage has been described as "a church, a college, and a
temperance town."
Dundee

Public Library

The library of Dundee, Kane county, was founded in 1879, "for the benefit of the public having no library", by Dr. W. F. Cleveland.

The income of the library is small; a room is furnished rent free; the librarian receives $84 a year.

There are 1700 volumes, and 4800 volumes were issued for home use last year.

The town has a creamery, a cheese-factory, and brick works. The community is not wealthy, and the library is said to be much used.
Geneva

Public Library

The Mayor of Geneva, Kane county, in 1863, suggested to the women of the Geneva Improvement Association that the city would furnish a room if a library was started. He gave valuable advice in planning and carrying on their campaign, and at the election the library carried in the township, by six votes.

By some mistake no tax was levied the first year; the women of the Association insisted on the election of Directors however, and loaned the library $350 as a permanent investment. They also drafted a letter to tax-payers, asking for contributions in lieu of the tax, and the library went on. The need of a library was urged on the people, and library lectures were given as an educational measure.

Last year the library contained 1245 volumes, while the circulation was 11327 volumes. Many of the readers are the children of foreign-born parents. The community is not wealthy; the only gifts have been a few books.

The town has a creamery, glucose works, six factories, and a foundry. The library is popular and fairly prosperous.
Minesdale
Public Library

At Minesdale, in Page county, the Library Association in 1893, being then about eight years old, turned over its books to the village, and the people voted to appropriate the tax allowed by the State law for a free library.

There was no opposition to the change, and no conditions were imposed by the Association.

The library contains 2300 volumes and over 10000 volumes were issued for home use last year. The tax amounts to $750 a year.

The town has no special industries, being a residence suburb of Chicago. There are four churches and an academy.
Hoopeton
Public Library

The library of Hoopeton, Vermilion county, was opened in November 1896. The work was accomplished as follows:

"There was no public library. The ladies belonging to the Mary Hartwell Catherwood tea club felt that a library was a much needed thing in Hoopeton, so concluded to do all they could to start one. The city and Council were not ready then.

The ladies gave entertainments, among others a 'ladies' negro minstrel'; some of the ventures were very successful; others were not; their lectures especially, left them with a difference to settle, but they were a brave band and after two years work they felt that they had a start.

When the City Hall was built in 1897, two rooms were set aside for library and reading rooms. In the early spring the ladies had the shelving put in the library, and invested $31 in periodicals; the reading room was open to the public. Then a book social was held at which about 400 books were received, mostly new and valuable, among them being Larned's History for ready reference.

Then the Mayor and Council decided that if the ladies could raise $500, the city would accept the library as a public institution and provide for its maintenance under the State law. The ladies raised the money by asking their husbands and friends to
The book social gave a beginning, and the purchases were made, using the "A. L. A." catalog as a guide for the character of books in each class. Some other volumes have been given.

The library was formally opened Wednesday evening, November 25, 1896; guarantor's blanks and applications had been advertised as early at the library a week before. An orchestra furnished music at the opening was made a social affair.

An entertainment was given in February, 1899, at 15 cents admission; $100 was cleared for the purchase of more books.

The library in January, 1899, contained 1037 volumes; the circulation, December to April, has averaged about 1000 volumes weekly.

The town is the center of a prosperous agricultural district and has two very large sweetcorn-canning factories.

Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood's home is here. Greer college is at Kepleston.
Kansas

Public Library

"At Kansas, Edgar county, the library was founded by Edward Willasey and John A. Payne, June 1897, by private gifts and collections from public readings, to aid the private school, Eton Academy, and also the town."

The library is supported by voluntary contributions and funds raised in the manner mentioned above.

Mr. Willasey, Principal of the Academy, is the librarian.

No record of circulation was given; there are about 600 volumes in the library.

The library is free; I do not know that any efforts have been made to obtain the tax.

There were two tile-factories in the town in 1866; the population is given in the Century Atlas as 1037.
Rewanee

Public Library

Before 1876, a small subscription library existed in Rewanee, Henry County. That year the public library was founded by vote of the people, under the State law for townships.

This result was attained "by agitating, talking with people on the streets, and by bringing it before the people at the annual town meeting in April, notice being given on the election call." Since then the library has been kept before the public "by personal intercourse, and notices through the local papers."

The librarian adds, "Frequent advertising is a good thing."

There are 6300 volumes in the library; 10,142 volumes were issued for home use in 1896.

As a township library the country people use it freely and are pleased with it."

The tax amounts now to $1800 a year.

The town has coal mines, boiler and tube factories; the farms near are large and fertile. The community is wealthy and growing, so that the future of the library seems safe.
Knoxville

Public Library

The library of Knoxville, Knox county, was founded about 1870, by gifts as a private enterprise. It became public fifteen or twenty years ago.

Being difficult to maintain, the trustees voluntarily offered to turn it over to the city; the city accepted the responsibility and makes an annual appropriation to support the library. As a public library it has had no gifts and its history has been uneventful.

"Somebody has always been found who has carried it on his heart and toiled to make it helpful."

The library contains 5540 volumes and the circulation is 1616 volumes; the report for 1896 gives it as over 7000, so that there seems to be a decrease for some reason in the use of the library.

The town has a small college, and a woolen mill; farming tools are made also. The appropriation has not been large.
Maywood

Public Library

The library of Maywood, Cook county, had its origin in the library founded in 1876, by an association "for the public benefit", by individual gifts and aid.

In 1888, a Library Board was elected, and the library was turned over to the village. Since then it has been public, supported by the tax authorized by the State law for village libraries.

Among the founders of the library were Gen. Wm. Geuy Smith, Hon. Hiram Barber, Hon. E. Eastman, Professor H. A. Barrett, and others.

The library contains 2000 volumes and 6000 volumes were issued for home use last year.

The town has but one manufacturing interest, that of scrapers and ditchers.

The tax has varied from $800 to $800 per annum.
Monticello

Allerton Public Library

The library of Monticello, county seat of Piatt county, was founded in 1899 by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Allerton of Chicago, "as a practical expression of the interest felt by them in our community and its advancement."

Mrs. Allerton offered to give the books, furniture, fixtures, and provide funds for the purchase of new books, if the township would furnish a building and pay the running expenses for heat, light and librarian's salary.

The library has had a few minor gifts; Mrs. Allerton expects to establish a regular endowment. The librarian says:

"Monticello is fortunate in her library, in that it is a gift and all that is asked is that the township furnish a building and the necessary running expenses. The first land interests of the Allertons were in Piatt county, and they have always taken much interest in the county and the library is the visible expression."

Mrs. Allerton expects to add about 500 volumes a year with supplies as needed. She is very kind also in sending pictures and many little extras that add much to the interest and attractiveness of the library. She is so generous in her plans no special call has been made for individual gifts.

So far the township has made an estimate each year of the running expenses and made a levy for that amount; in time I
Monticello - - S

think and hope they will arrange for the regular tax.

We try to carry out as far as possible, approved methods for creating interest in the library."

From the 3000 volumes contained in the library, 10544 volumes were issued for home use last year.

The town has a foundry, cigar, broom, fence, harness, and tile factories, and a planing-mill.
Naperville

Nichols Public Library

The library in Naperville, Du Page county, was founded by a legacy from J. S. Nichols, in 1867.

A library party and book donation, mentioned in Public Libraries, November, 1898, added about 200 volumes to the library.

There are in the library at present, about 1000 volumes, and the circulation of 50 volumes daily, equal to probably 9000 volumes in a year, is a good showing.

The library is supported by taxation.

The town has a quarry, some factories, and a small college.

The population in 1890 was 2316.
Onarga

Public Library

in 1873, the shareholders of the existing li-

trary of Onarga, Iroquois county, gave the town their library.

The library had in 1898, 4000 volumes; the circulation is
given as between 2500 and 3000; the 1896 report gives the cir-
culation as 11253 volumes.

The reading and reference room is not in use; no periodicals
are taken by the library.

The library has no endowment fund; it has received no other
gifts.

The tax amounts to about $300 a year.

The town, credited with a population of 1500 in Lippincott's
census, for 1870, had less than 1000 people in 1890 according
to the U. S. Census. There is a flour mill and a wagon-shop.
Polo

Buffalo Free Public Library

The Library of Polo, One county, is one in a
measure to Miss R. N. Barber; she had books and was asked to lend
them; she interested herself and others in the project for a
public library.

The growth of the library may be traced in the following let-
ter from Mr. R. D. Woolsey, one of the Directors, who has been an
active worker for the library:

"The fact is, we people of Polo have a way of our own
of doing anything we undertake, and we usually succeed. Away back
in 1871 some of our leading citizens took the matter in hand and
organized the Polo Library Association as a stock company. Our
stock was put at five dollars a share and none but stockholders
had any rights in regard to the control. I think we raised some
$1200, but this is only from memory. Outside of this a fund was
raised, with which a lot was purchased and a building provided.
Our people took hold with enthusiasm and everything went through
with a rush.

The library was supported by a small charge per week on each
book drawn. We also held entertainments for the benefit of the
library and it prospered. When funds would get low we would sell
more stock. Finally it began to lag, and for several years
seemed almost dead; the enthusiasm was gone and no one seemed to
care."
In 1890, if I am not mistaken, we began an agitation to convert it into a Free Public Library under the township organization by a vote of the people. A certain per cent of us petitioned the town to organize a library under the Statute, it being understood by the old organization that if the measure carried, we were to deed the building and lot to the town and give the books.

The measure carried and in 1891 we elected a Board of Directors. The old organization deeded over the building and since that time everything has prospered nicely. We have a fine selection of books, and add two or three hundred dollars worth each year. Of course it is not large.

We levy a tax each year of one mill on the dollar, raising about $500, and sometimes we get small funds from entertainments, which are thankfully received and put to good use.

Our American people are perhaps too busy to do much in this direction but they are mostly right if brought to a realizing sense of what is needed. A few energetic men and women pulling together can build a library in any town. Why do they not do it? Here is in my opinion the secret of progress. These are simply random thoughts thrown together without any effort at system, but I would gladly give special questions such attention as I could if specially desired.

Mr. Woolsey’s views on the present law for township libraries
Felt - 2

will be found in the article on Felt in the chap-
ter on township libraries.

The library has received one gift of $500 and the interest
on this with some smaller gifts of money is being put aside for
a building fund.

The circulation last year was 3882 volumes for the 2264 vol-
umes contained in the library.

Harvesting machines and other farm tools are made in the
town; a great many hogs and cattle are shipped from the place
to Chicago.

The tax last year amounted to almost $850.
Rochelle

Flagg township Public Library

The library of Rochelle, Ogle county, is the property of the township. The date of founding is given as 1891.

There are 1906 volumes; the circulation is given in the Report for 1896 as 46500, but this may be reading room circulation, as well as books issued for home use.

The income from the tax is $1300 a year; there have been no important gifts, and there is no endowment fund.

The town is the center of a prosperous agricultural and stock-raising district; there are two foundries and a flour-mill.

The reports so far as they can be obtained seem to show that the library is flourishing and appreciated.
Urbana

Free Public Library

The Library of Urbana, county seat of Champaign county had its origin in 1870-71, as a private book-club; first each member gave a book; then subscriptions were asked for and sums varying from $5 to $50 were received.

The present University of Illinois was established in 1867 in Urbana; in 1869-70 the railroad shops were located there. The citizens began to think of improving the city; the first improvement suggested was a library, and the club became interested in the project. Mr. Frank G. Jacques, one of its most earnest members took up the cause of the library; he urged the need of a free public library persistently, gave largely of time and money, and worked unceasingly for the library from its beginning till his death in 1896.

Chiefly by his efforts the Library Association in 1872 gave its books and other property except the official records to the city, on condition that the city should establish and maintain a free public library.

The library has received gifts of books from time to time, about 1000 volumes in all; most of these were gifts from Mr. Jacques, who was one of the Directors of the Library till his death.

There are in the library 9191 volumes; the circulation for 1890 was 23435 volumes. This is large when we consider that the library was only open evenings, 8-9 P. M. and from 3-5 P. M.
The library was in rented rooms until 1893-94, when it was moved to rooms in the new City Hall; the growth of the library has been such that in 1896, an addition had to be built to provide room enough for it.

The railroad shops and the University were largely instrumental in causing the founding of the library. There are manufactories of flour, tile, brick, and farming tools.
Warren

Free Public Library

The library of Warren township, Jo Daviess county, was founded in 1865, by H. C. Sans, John Bird, and C. A. Clark; it was opened in 1868.

The Warren Academy furnishes a room and a librarian, but the library is open to all residents of the township freely.

The library contains 3000 volumes and the circulation in 1897-98 was 6000 volumes.

The income of the library is given as $250, but the source is not stated. There have been no large gifts; there is no endowment fund.

The township is in a lead-mining, tobacco-growing, stock-raising and agricultural region. The population of the township was in 1860, 1887; in 1890, 1897; of the town in 1890, 1173.
Wheaton
Adams Memorial Library

The library of Wheaton, county seat of Du Page county, was founded in 1891, by Mr. John Quincy Adams, as a memorial to his wife, Mrs. Harilla Phipps Adams, and for the benefit of the citizens of the town of Wheaton.

Mr. Adams gave the land, building and furnishings, worth about $50000; he added $5000 for the purchase of books at once, and a piece of property in Chicago worth about $25000 as an endowment for the support of the library.

There are 3117 volumes in the library and the circulation in 1897-98 was 6311 volumes.

The library is free, but it receives no public money. It was opened to the readers in 1892.

The town is the center of an agricultural, dairying and stock-raising region; Wheaton College is located here.

The income of the library is $1200 a year.
Woodstock

Public Library

The library of Woodstock, McHenry county, was started fifteen or twenty years ago, as an Association library. The following letter from the librarian gives the steps in its development:

"I shall be very pleased to help you as far as possible. The library owes its existence, in the first place, to the banding together, fifteen or twenty years ago, of a number of public spirited citizens in what was called the Woodstock Literary and Library Association, an organization in which Rev. T. C. Northeast, then pastor of the Congregational church was one of the prime movers.

Literary entertainments at which an admission fee was charged, were held at stated intervals, and with the proceeds and the yearly dues of members, a circulating library of a few hundred volumes was obtained.

In 1890 the library had increased to nearly 1000 volumes, and upon the completion of the City Hall it was proposed to turn this collection over to the city, to be used as the foundation of a public library and reading room, to be located in the new building.

The library is supported by appropriations by the City Council and an annual lecture course.

The use of the library is free to any person in this vicinity.
Woodstock - 2

Upon presentation of a voucher from a property owner of Woodstock, books may be retained three weeks, with a renewal of two weeks; a fine of three cents a day is collected for any delinquencies.

In connection with the library is a large, well-lighted reading room. This is supplied with the leading magazines and county papers; it is open to the public in general, without limitation except as to behavior.

Both the library and reading room are open seven days in the week, from one until five p. m.; also every evening except Sunday from seven to nine p. m. Both are well patronized.

There are at present about 3500 volumes, mainly historical works, fiction, and juvenile literature. There are not far from 700 books loaned and nearly 5000 visitors during each month.

The growth of the library has been slow but steady. The circulation, from the figures given above, would be about 3000 volumes a year.

Woodstock is the county seat. There are pickling and canning works, several mills, and the Todd Seminary for boys.
Summary

Libraries seem to be most often begun when a town has a population of from 1000 to 2500; at least in the 60 towns whose libraries have been investigated for this paper, this has been the case, for in twenty-one of the towns the library was started when the town had reached that stage of its growth.

Six of these towns are county seats, Carthage, Geneva, Monticello, Urbana, Wheaton, and Woodstock; two, Geneva and Monticello, have libraries under the law for townships; the former was founded by tax, the latter by an individual's gift. The library of Carthage was founded by tax, those of Urbana and Woodstock are due to city library associations, and that in Wheaton is the gift of an individual.

Ten of the remaining fifteen of this group were founded by gifts; those in Kansas and Warren were established primarily to aid private schools, but are now free and public; Dundee and Naperville owe their libraries to individuals; the six remaining were founded by Associations, and then given to the public.

In Barry, Hoopes ton, Kawana, and Rochelle, the libraries were founded by tax; that of Barry is due to an association; the one in Hoopes ton owes its existence to the efforts of a club; the Rochelle Library was preceded by a small subscription library; presumably transferred to the public library, though there is no report of the transfer.

The libraries of Dundee, Geneva, Kawana, Monticello, Polo,
Chapter 3 - 2

Rochelle, and Warren are township libraries.

According to circulation, Rochelle is far ahead of the other issuing for home use in 1896 more than twenty times the number of volumes in the library; no adequate reason appears for this phenomenon. Hoopeson ranks next, estimating from the four months the library has been open, with nine times the number of volumes the library contains as the circulation for a year. Geneva follows with the same, Abingdon estimates over seven, and Naperville issued last year eight times its whole number of volumes.

All of these except Rochelle which was founded in 1801, are less than four years old so that novelty plays some part in the use of the libraries; Abingdon and Hoopeson were founded in 1880.

The libraries which issue from five to barely three times the number of volumes they possess are, in order, the highest first. Marshale, Mississi, Haywood, Monticello, Sunkerk Hill; that at Marshall, founded in 1866, is the only one more than five years old.

Circulating from two and one-half to one and one-half times their whole number of volumes are Banders, Charge, Kawana, Poto, Utica, Wheaton, Woodstock, and Knoxville, while Barry has issued less than the number of volumes in the library; Kansas keeps no record. The first three, with Utica, Knoxville and Barry were founded 1872-86, and that at Kansas in 1897; the rest, 90 l