

A Gift to La Crosse

A History of the La Crosse Public Library

by

Anita Taylor Doering

Bill Petersen

La Crosse Public Library

1997

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Doering, Anita Taylor

Petersen, Bill

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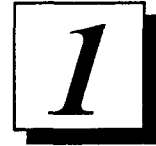
La Crosse Public Library

800 Main Street

La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-4122

CONTENTS

YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1868-1888	1
YMLA	4
La Crosse Public Library, Board of Trustees	6
CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN AND THE BEGINNING OF THE LA CROSSE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1888-1904	8
Cadwallader Colden Washburn, Founder of the La Crosse Public Library	9
Annie E. Hanscome, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1887-1904	11
GROWTH AND THE MODERN LIBRARY	15
Mary Alice Smith, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1904-1915	15
Children's Room	16
Lilly M. E. Borresen, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1915-1946	17
Muriel Fuller, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1947-1953	20
EXPANSION AND CHANGE	22
Gertrude Thurow, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1953-1975	23
Quincy H. Hale, trustee	24
Friends of the Library	26
James William White, La Crosse Public Library Director, 1976-1998	28
Granlund Art	29
Washburn Fund Board	30
Library League of La Crosse	32
Appendix A	
La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees, Historical List	33
Appendix B	
Founder's Day Award Recipients, Historical List	35
Index	37



YOUNG MEN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1868-1888

"Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations."-Henry David Thoreau.

La Crosse in the late 1860s was a small river town boasting over 7,700 residents. Almost half of the city's population at that time was foreign born. The immigrants came from European lands--Britain, Germany, and later Norway. Most of La Crosse's business and industry hugged the shoreline of the Mississippi River along Front Street and extended just a few blocks east. Steamboats carried passengers and freight up and down the river during passable seasons, and trains chugged through the wilderness moving people and materials from one depot to the next.

People formed social and civic groups in the rough and tumble town that was La Crosse. As early as 1853, when the population numbered only 543, a group called the La Crosse Library Company was formed and operated briefly with the intention of raising funds to establish a public library.¹ Several other literary and lecture clubs also began with the intention of developing a library of sorts, such as the La Crosse Athenaeum organized in 1856, the La Crosse Young Men's Association organized in 1857, and the La Crosse Literary Society reorganized in 1860.² These were all private endeavors, and the groups collected dues from members.

¹"For the La Crosse Democrat," La Crosse Democrat 26 April 1853: 2. *For a more complete history of the La Crosse Library Company, see Lilly M.E. Borreson, "Young Men's Library Association and Other Antecedents of La Crosse Public Library," La Crosse County Historical Society Sketches Series 2, 1935.*

²Hirshheimer card file, subject headings La Crosse Athaneum, La Crosse Library Co., La Crosse Literary Society and La Crosse Young Men's Association, *La Crosse Public Library Archives.*

A subscription library of any duration was not begun until the Young Men's Library Association was organized in late 1868 from the ashes of the La Crosse Literary Association. For a basic initiation fee of \$3 and an annual flat membership rate of \$2, residents could draw books from the newly organized Young Men's Library Association (YMLA) in early 1869. Members met in the society's rented rooms on the third story of Edward's Block located on the southwest corner of Main and Second streets. This group of "young men" first met on November 16, 1868, with the intention of forming "an association of some kind--literary and librarial," stated a notice in a daily newspaper.³ This society replaced the nearly defunct La Crosse Literary Society which mainly held debates and lectures.

Until a formal election of officers could take place, the club requested Mons Anderson to hold the position of chairman and John M. Holley to be secretary.⁴ During the organizational meeting, B. E. Edwards motioned to take steps towards the formation of a Young Men's Library Association. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and bylaws.

Another temporary committee was delegated during the first meeting to determine the status of the old La Crosse Literary Association. Just a month later on December 15, 1868, this committee reported to YMLA members that the La Crosse Literary Association had decided to disband and donate all property and money to the newly established YMLA.⁵ According to the treasurer's records, the cash donation equalled about \$40.⁶

The club's purpose was to provide members with a reading room and library. On December 15, 1868, the articles of incorporation of the YMLA were filed with the State of Wisconsin. The Board of Directors stated that the YMLA met "for the purpose of maintaining a Library of books, maps, pictures, papers and periodicals."⁷ The original Board consisted of Wendell A. Anderson, Walter W. Dudley, Theodore F. Rodolf, M. P. Wing, Joseph P. Scott, J. S. Medary, John M. Holley, P. S. Elwell, G. M. Woodward, Rockwell E. Osborne, Benjamin G. Reynolds, W. Wallace Jones, and B. E. Edwards.⁸ These men were all prominent in La Crosse society of the day.

Shortly after the group organized, four standing committees were established which formed the core of the organization: library and reading room, lecture, finance, and debate. The YMLA sponsored

³"Notice," Daily Democrat [La Crosse, WI] 16 Nov. 1868: 4.

⁴Young Men's Library Association [hereafter YMLA], Minutes, 16 Nov. 1868, City of La Crosse [WI], Public Library, Records, La Crosse Series 8, *La Crosse Public Library Archives*.

⁵YMLA, Minutes: 15 Dec. 1868.

⁶YMLA, Financial Report: 1869.

⁷YMLA, Articles of Incorporation: 1.

⁸YMLA, Articles of Incorporation: 1.

a series of public lectures in hopes of raising money for books and a possible library building in the future. While the association never intended for the public lectures to become a permanent activity of the organization, they played an important part throughout the life of the YMLA by providing a source of outside income. However, the main purpose of the YMLA was to provide a library and reading room for the benefit of its members. Officers of the organization included a president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer, and four elected trustees formed the Board of Directors of the YMLA. The Board met once a month to discuss the names of potential new members, amounts to be spent on book purchases, repair and rebinding concerns, rental agreements, insurance, and the like. A general meeting of the membership was also conducted once a month at which suggestions for lectures, committee reports, problems and ideas were discussed.

Initially the association met in the old literary society's rooms on the third story of Edward's Block on the southwest corner of Main and Second streets (124-130 Main Street). These rooms were rented for an annual sum of \$85. Beginning in 1870, a larger room was secured in Rodolf's Block on the southwest corner of Main and Third streets. In 1879, improvements were made by cutting a door through the wall which added another room to the library for a yearly lease of \$150. Throughout the life of the YMLA, pleas for adequate space and better physical conditions for the library were demanded in most of the club's annual reports.

The library reading room and shelving were set up by the library committee in early 1869 and John M. Holley was selected as the group's first librarian.⁹ The librarian received \$50.50 for his labor.¹⁰ As librarian, John Holley not only was present during the open hours of the reading room, but helped to organize the library materials and aided in the preparation of the first book catalog for its members. To get the library's core collection started, the club circulated a plea in December 1868 asking for donations of books from the public. As a result, over 600 books were donated that formed the core collection of the Young Men's Library Association.

The reading room hours initially were Wednesday evening 7-9 p.m. and on Saturday evening from 7-10:30 p.m. In February 1871, the Saturday hours were extended to include 3-6 p.m. In November 1875, the hours of the reading room were changed to Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9 pm, and Saturday afternoon and evening.¹¹

John Holley, Rockwell E. Osborne, Willis Osborne, and J. M. Nye served as librarians from 1869-1871. The librarian's salary remained constant at \$50 per annum, plus 10% commission on library cash receipts from dues, fines and penalties. An assistant librarian position was added which paid \$30 a year. From 1871-1874, R. D. Brown performed the duties of librarian of the YMLA collection, and

⁹History of La Crosse County, Wisconsin, Containing... (1881; Evansville, Indiana: Unigraphic, 1977) 660.

¹⁰YMLA, Annual Report: 1869.

¹¹YMLA, Minutes: 7 Oct. and 5 Nov. 1875.

Miss E. L. Redhead was chosen to be his assistant. Miss Annie Hanscome was elected librarian in June 1874 and she served in that capacity until the YMLA disbanded in 1888.

In 1885, the librarian received a total salary of \$211.96 for her services. Annie Hanscome had been a YMLA member since 1870 and a teacher in the local school system. She continued to teach school during the day until she was hired as La Crosse Public Library's first librarian. She served the La Crosse community as librarian for another 16 years after the YMLA folded.

Initial membership in the association amounted to 41 persons, including one woman, who signed the constitution on November 28, 1868.¹² The first printed catalog was also published that year which was riddled with mistakes and inaccuracies. In the YMLA annual report of 1869, the Board "suggest[ed] that the chairmanship of the next committee on catalogues be given to the member who shall report the greatest number of errors."¹³ By 1872, a second catalog of books was printed. At that time, nine life members belonged to the association and 275 memberships were by annual subscription and 5,300 books were circulated.¹⁴

Year	Members	Collection
1868	41	618
1869	89	959
1872	284	1980
1877	unknown	2661
1881	206	3320
1886	unknown	4273

Between 1873 and the dissolution of the YMLA, membership remained fairly constant and, in general, hovered at around 200 members, despite the increasing population of La Crosse in the later part of the nineteenth century. More women joined the YMLA after 1875.¹⁵ The library materials continued to increase in quantity and quality thanks to the dedication of the library committee who selected the materials. About one-third of the collection was fiction, and between \$250-300 was allotted annually for library purchases.

In 1884 the association's library was officially designated as a depository for government publications.¹⁶ Willis L. Osborne, at that time chairman of the library committee, stated that the library had received about 600 documents during the year. These were not counted in the book inventory. Osborne devised his own classification arrangement and devised a catalog to aid in locating these documents. In the annual report, Osborne also urged the YMLA to procure better

¹²YMLA, Minutes: 20 Nov. 1868.

¹³YMLA, Annual Report 1869: 4.

¹⁴YMLA, Annual Report: 1872.

¹⁵Lilly M.E. Borresen, "Young Men's Library Association and Other Antecedents of La Crosse Public Library," La Crosse County Historical Society Sketches Series 2, 1935: 46.

¹⁶YMLA, Annual Report: 1884.

physical accommodations for the library. The final count of YMLA books appears in the annual report of June 1886 which lists the total collection at 4273.

Rules were established for the use of the reading room such as no smoking or loud conversation in the library or reading room and a fine of 10 cents was collected from any person who misshelved a book. Reference materials did not circulate unless permission from the Board of Directors was given. Current magazines and periodicals were not allowed to be checked out, but were held in the club's reading room for perusal, while older issues were allowed to be taken for a week's time.

Members were allowed to bring non-members to the library. These guests would be entitled to the privileges of the library, and were allowed to borrow one book. The guest would be asked to deposit an amount of money equal to the value of the book and would be subject to the same fines and penalties of members. It is doubtful that children were allowed in the library without a parent, but there were some children's materials in the YMLA collection. In 1872, the catalog lists 77 "books for the young," and the 1877 catalog cites 170 "books for boys and girls."

The association sponsored an annual lecture series each winter much like its predecessor the La Crosse Literary Society. Speakers and various other "entertainments" such as musical ensembles were contracted to give public performances during the early years at Pomeroy's Opera House on the southwest corner of Main and 4th streets. In general the lecture series was a great success and provided a steady source of outside income. The hope was that this savings would enable the YMLA to erect a library building.

Season and individual performance tickets could be purchased for such speakers as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, John B. Gough, Wendell Phillips, T. DeWitt Talmadge, James Fields, Frederick Douglas, and the Mendelssohn Quintet of Boston. During the 1884 season the profits from the lecture fund were \$548.27 and the following January, Mark Twain and George W. Cable came to speak at the YMLA's request. That year, 1885, the lecture fund turned a profit of \$321.70.

By the time the association folded, \$2000 of this money had been saved and invested in La Crosse city bonds. Despite this financial success, the club hoped to phase out this part of their duties because of the tremendous work involved in organizing speakers and publicity. The lectures were not always successful either, as was the case with speaker Bayard Taylor. Dr. Wendell Anderson noted in his 1872 annual report, "If the public who so generously sustain us by their patronage would be a little more lenient when lectures are not fully satisfactory, it would be appreciated as a great relief to one of our hardest worked committees."¹⁷

On May 14, 1882, Cadwallader C. Washburn died in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. In his will he bequeathed \$50,000 to the City of La Crosse for the erection of a public library. Former Governor Washburn was a life member of the YMLA, and he selected as trustees of his new library fellow YMLA members who had not only served in leadership roles in the club but who were also active in

¹⁷Borresen: 48.

the community. In fact, all but one of his named trustees at one time served as mayor of the City of La Crosse.

On the evening of November 7, 1885, the first Board of Trustees meeting took place and incorporation followed on November 28. The Board was formally organized at the following meeting

on December 12, with Mayor D. Frank "White Beaver" Powell as president, Gysbert van Steenwyk as vice president, John M. Holley serving as secretary, Frederick A. Copeland as treasurer, and Joseph Clarke, Theodore Rodolf and Charles L. Colman serving as additional directors.

LA CROSSE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees was incorporated on November 28, 1885, and consisted of Mayor D. Frank Powell as president, Gysbert van Steenwyk, Sr. as vice president, John M. Holley, Sr. as secretary, Frederick A. Copeland as treasurer, and Joseph Clarke, Theodore Rodolf and Charles L. Colman as additional trustees. As specified in C. C. Washburn's will, there were six members and the mayor of La Crosse who served as chairman of the Board for the duration of his office.

On April 1, 1981, the library became a city department. As a result, two boards were formed: the La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees and the Washburn Fund Board. In compliance with Wisconsin State Statutes, the La Crosse Public Library Board grew to nine members appointed by the mayor with City Council approval. The Washburn Fund Board meets quarterly to administer the funds from the original Washburn Trust and the mayor serves as the president.

*For an historical list of the members of the
La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees,
see Appendix A.*

Washburn stipulated in his will that only \$12,500 was to be used for the site and construction of the building to be called the La Crosse Public Library. In a circular sent to YMLA members, it stated that Washburn wished to increase that sum because of the growth of population in the city of La Crosse.¹⁸ Unfortunately, death came to Washburn before he could make these amendments to his will. The trustees found it difficult to build a fitting structure within the financial limits defined in the will. It was Washburn's desire that the remaining \$20,000 principal be invested in a permanent fund.

In late 1885 the Board decided to purchase from Neuman and Cantrowitz a site at 8th and Main streets for \$6500.¹⁹ Additional property was later acquired, bringing the total spent on real estate to \$10,768.01.²⁰ Clearly, the trustees needed to try to

increase the money available in the building fund if possible to build a satisfactory structure. It was estimated that the construction costs would total \$15,000 or more.

¹⁸YMLA, Minutes: April 1886.

¹⁹La Crosse Public Library [hereafter LPL], Board, Minutes, 26 Dec. 1885, City of La Crosse [WI], Public Library, Records, La Crosse Series 8, *La Crosse Public Library Archives*.

²⁰LPL, Board, Minutes, Annual Meeting: 1888.

On February 11, 1886, Joseph Clarke, LPL trustee and former YMLA president submitted to the YMLA membership a proposition to merge the Young Men's Library Association with the La Crosse Public Library.²¹ The following April a circular letter was sent to members which in part said:

It must be clear to all that there is no demand for two libraries of general character in this city, and when the public library is established, the work of [the] Young Men's Library Association will be at an end.²²

As a result of the voting, the YMLA was able to sell to the La Crosse Public Library Board its books, shelving, etc., for \$5000. The YMLA then donated this amount to the LPL building fund.

It was still business as usual that year, with the lecture committee reporting a net profit of \$221.60. The library contained approximately 4273 volumes. New members were still being received and the book purchasing continued. Things began, however, to slow down in 1887 when the new La Crosse Public Library building was beginning to take shape on the corner of 8th and Main streets.

In September the annual membership fee dropped from \$2.00 to \$1.00 and no lecture committee was set up that year. After March 1, 1888, the library was open only for the return of books except to accommodate the Ladies Art Class which met in the library rooms.²³ The final YMLA Board meeting was held on April 19, 1888. At that time, \$2000 in city bonds were donated to LPL, making the total financial contribution of the YMLA to LPL \$7000.

The contributions of the Young Men's Library Association to the La Crosse Public Library were really quite significant. Without the financial support and expertise of the leaders of the YMLA, the La Crosse Public Library could not have started with much of a book collection, a satisfactory building, an experienced librarian, or a group of highly qualified trustees. However, C. C. Washburn's bequest of \$50,000 was the real instigator of the La Crosse Public Library. He donated the money for the project and chose a qualified group of trustees to organize a public library from the ground up. Washburn's plans and capital, combined with the Young Men's Library Association's financial resources, personnel, and library collection, made the new La Crosse Public Library a success.

²¹YMLA, Minutes: 11 Feb. 1886.

²²YMLA, Minutes: 30 March 1886.

²³YMLA, Minutes: 9 Feb. 1888.

CADWALLADER C. WASHBURN AND THE BEGINNING OF THE LA CROSSE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1888-1904

At the formal dedication ceremonies of the La Crosse Public Library building on November 20, 1888, Gysbert van Steenwyk, vice president of the Board, spoke of his close friend C. C. Washburn "as a citizen and a patriot during peace and during war; as an active and liberal promoter of education and science, and as a true, warm-hearted and practical philanthropist."²⁴ Former Governor Washburn also left funds to begin and endow an orphanage in Minneapolis in memory of his mother, and he bequeathed his Edgewood residence and grounds in Madison to be used as a Catholic institution.²⁵ He also left generous amounts of his estate to his family and heirs.

Gysbert van Steenwyk was one of the three administrators of the estate. The La Crosse Public Library Board was organized in the fall of 1885, and the finance, building and grounds committees were established. Later, in the spring of 1888, a joint library committee consisting of YMLA and La Crosse Public Library trustees was formed.

The preferred site of the building committee was the southwest corner of Main and 8th streets owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lathrop--the present site of the old Masonic Temple. Mr. Lathrop agreed to sell this parcel of land to the LPL Board for \$6000.²⁶ However, his wife was on an extended visit out east and a deed could not be obtained without her signature.

The Board decided they could no longer delay securing a site, so they chose an alternate location at the southeast corner of Main and 8th streets. On December 26th, 1885, an order for \$6500 was drafted to Neuman and Cantrowitz for two lots with frame houses on them. These two houses were

²⁴LPL, Main Building, Original Building, Proceedings of the Dedication, 1888: 27.

²⁵LPL, Origins and History, Cadwallader C. Washburn, last will and testament: 1881.

²⁶LPL, Board, Minutes: 28 Nov. 1885.

CADWALLADER COLDEN WASHBURN
FOUNDER OF THE LA CROSSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The memory of Cadwallader Colden Washburn lives on at the La Crosse Public Library. In his will he instructed his executors to build a library and to establish a permanent fund for the maintenance of that library. Today Washburn's fund still provides a small percentage of the library's budget.

Washburn was born April 22, 1818, near Livermore, Maine, to a family whose seven sons later played influential roles in the history of the United States. At the age of 21, he headed west, working and reading law in Iowa and Illinois before settling in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, in 1842. It was here in 1849 that he married Jeanette Garr, who, unfortunately, became invalid following the birth of their second daughter.

At the same time his family grew, his fortune and influence also increased. He formed a lucrative banking and law partnership with Cyrus Woodman in Mineral Point, dealing especially in timberlands and other real estate. He represented Wisconsin for three terms in Congress, joining two of his brothers who represented Maine and Illinois. Retiring from Congress in 1861 he moved his family to 612 Ferry Street, La Crosse, his official residence for the final twenty-one years of his life. At the outbreak of the Civil War he organized the 2nd Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, and by 1862 rose to the rank of major general. He fought in Texas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, serving under General Grant at the Siege of Vicksburg.

After the Civil War, Washburn returned to La Crosse to attend to his business affairs. In the following decade and a half, he built a large lumber mill in La Crosse but devoted most of his time to building three large flour mills in Minneapolis. His introduction of innovative machinery and techniques made him one of the Midwest's largest flour producers by 1878 and the founder of the predecessor of General Mills.

Although his businesses flourished under this attention, politics and public life also demanded his time. He was again elected to Congress for two terms, 1867-1871, followed by one controversial term as governor of Wisconsin. While governor he signed a law allowing cities and villages to establish and operate public libraries. He funded the Washburn Observatory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served as a life regent. His Madison home became a girl's boarding school, the forerunner of Edgewood College. His dreams to establish an orphanage in Minneapolis and a library in La Crosse became realities after his death.

In 1881 Washburn suffered a stroke and died on May 14, 1882, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where he had gone in an effort to recover his health. After an elaborate funeral in La Crosse, he was buried with full military honors in Oak Grove Cemetery. In his will he gave \$50,000 to the City of La Crosse to construct and endow a library suitable for the future growth of the city. Four years after his death, construction began on his library culminating with the dedication on November 20, 1888. In November 1988, we celebrated the centennial of the La Crosse Public Library.

moved to another part of the property to clear an area on which to build the library, but the Board maintained the houses for rental income. A 35 foot strip of property was also purchased for \$2000 from C. K. Lord in April 1887. During the dedication of the library it was noted that the cost of land and moving and repairing the moved structures amounted to \$10,700.

By charging the \$10,000 cost of land and tenant houses to the investment fund, only \$700 was left to be taken from the building fund since Washburn set a limit of \$12,500 in his will to be spent for the site and erection of a building. The donation from the YMLA was also added to the building fund, totalling \$19,500 that the trustees could spend to cover the costs of construction, furnishings, and landscaping of the library grounds.

Architects were invited to submit sketches for the library by an act of the Board on March 4, 1887.²⁷ According to the dedication proceedings, the Board was in contact with libraries around the country and that plans of many libraries were examined. During the May 17, 1887, Board meeting, four architectural sketches of library buildings were presented for perusal and discussion.

As a result, Board members asked architect George B. Spohr from Chicago to come at his own expense and present his sketch. He met with the trustees on May 24 but his plan was not satisfactory to the Board members. Architect C. C. Yost of Minneapolis was then invited to give a presentation of his design. Yost presented his proposal to the Board at the State Bank of La Crosse director's conference room. Members asked Yost for alterations to the building to keep the cost down. Yost agreed and the Board accepted his proposal on June 8.²⁸

Separate bids were taken for the construction of the building, the plumbing and gas fittings, and the heating system starting on August 30.²⁹ Contractors had to submit three different bids for the erection of the library building. The first bid was to build the structure without heating, plumbing and gas fittings. The second bid was to complete only the first floor of the library; the third bid involved using Dresbach pressed brick as the exterior building material. The lowest bidder was Davis, Sorenson & Company. The W. A. Roosevelt Company won the bid for plumbing and gas fittings at \$337. No bids for heating were received at that time. Later in September of that year, the Board awarded a \$700 bid for a heating system to Dittman & Jorstad.

Construction began almost immediately, but the contractor was not able to secure terra cotta at the promised rate. The Board decided to not substitute the building material but also wanted to have the roof on the new building by winter. The Board decided to buy terra cotta from a Chicago company at a higher cost. Davis & Sorenson, the building contractors, agreed to pay half the increase in price.³⁰

During the November 29, 1887, Board meeting, a joint library committee was formed which included members from both LPL and the YMLA: Gysbert van Steenwyk, Mayor David Austin, John Holley, Frederick Copeland, G. M. Woodward, W. L. Osborne and Professor Albert Hardy. It was their responsibility to purchase new books; employ a person to arrange and classify books; print a catalog not to exceed 2000 copies; and to discard any YMLA materials that were in bad shape or were "not

²⁷LPL, Board, Minutes: 4 Mar. 1887.

²⁸LPL, Board, Minutes: 9 June 1887.

²⁹LPL, Board, Minutes: 30 Aug. 1887.

³⁰LPL, Board, Minutes: 9 Sept. 1887.

proper for the public library."³¹ It was also decided that a memorial tablet to Washburn and the Young Men's Library Association should be created and placed in a prominent place.

In early December, the Board members decided to use colored glass in all fractional parts of the windows in the tower and in the circular window in the hallway.³² The total cost of the stained glass was approximately \$225.³³ The Edison Electric Light Company wired the building for electricity "at no expense to the Board," but the trustees also had gas lines installed if electricity wasn't feasible at a later date.³⁴

Annie E. Hanscome, former librarian of the YMLA collection, was officially hired as the first La Crosse Public Library librarian on March 24, 1888. Her salary at that time was \$720 and she was to furnish her own assistant "who should be satisfactory to the Board."³⁵ Final adjustments and a few alterations were made to the interior and exterior of the library building during the summer, and landscaping, macadamizing, and sidewalks were finished.

The formal dedication of La Crosse's first library building was well attended by the public on the evening of November 20, 1888. Mayor David Austin presided over the ceremonies and opened the program. He and the other trustees were located on a platform in "library hall" which later became the children's department.

Joseph Clarke described the financial situation of the library and the conditions of C. C. Washburn's

will. Professor Albert Hardy described the library as an educator of the people of La Crosse. Benjamin Bryant spoke about the library as a promoter of civilization and patriotism. Gysbert van Steenwyk described his late friend and philanthropist C. C. Washburn, and he presented the library to Mayor Austin on behalf of the late General Washburn and the LPL Board of Trustees. Musical arrangements during the dedication included Elsie Lincoln, Grace Medary, Mrs. S. W. Horner, and the Tippet Orchestra.

ANNIE E. HANSCOME
La Crosse Public Library Director. 1887-1904

Annie E. Hanscome was born and raised in China, Maine. Soon after her arrival to La Crosse she taught in the primary grades of La Crosse Public schools. In 1874 she became librarian for the Young Men's Library Association while teaching full time. Hanscome continued in that role until the association disbanded and donated its assets to the La Crosse Public Library. In 1888 she was the organizing librarian for the new public library. Hanscome served in the library at 800 Main Street until 1904 when she resigned to join her brother in Los Angeles. She died there in April 1918.

³¹LPL, Board, Minutes: 29 Nov. 1887.

³²LPL, Board, Minutes: 9 Dec. 1887.

³³LPL, Board, Minutes, 26 Apr. 1888.

³⁴LPL, Board, Minutes: 9 Dec. 1887.

³⁵LPL, Board, Minutes: 24 Mar. 1888.

The library was then opened November 21 to the public for the borrowing of materials. By January of the following year, the librarian was already asking for more help.³⁶ In response to this, the Board decided to close the reference room to the public, and admittance would be allowed only at the discretion of the librarian.³⁷ A year later, a rule was passed that no one was allowed to take more than two books from the library in any one week.³⁸

According to the annual meeting minutes of 1890, the total number of library cards that had been issued was 2193. The circulation figure for 1889-1890 was 49,144, and total circulation from the opening of the library was 70,263. During the 1898-1899 year, a total of 34,294 books circulated and the collection totalled 11,844 items, excluding government documents.³⁹

Because of strict directions in the Washburn will, half of the interest made on the investment fund was to be automatically re-invested for the first ten years. This left half of the investment revenue to be spent on salaries, repairs, new book and periodical purchases, and the like. For the most part, the annual appropriation from the City Council was \$1000 a year.

The La Crosse community also experienced an economic slowdown during the decline of the lumbering trade in the 1890s. Repairs and maintenance on the library building and the two tenant houses were plentiful and expensive. In October 1890, \$161 was spent to connect the library and its two rental houses to the city sewer system. A new heating system was installed 1897 when James A. Trane proposed to adapt the current hot water system for under \$1000.⁴⁰ Earlier that spring, the Board approved the installation of a telephone.

Other changes began taking place on the Board as well. Many of the original trustees resigned or died just before the turn of the century. Gysbert van Steenwyk, vice president of the Board since 1885, died at the age of 88 on April 13, 1902. L. C. Colman, son of Charles L. Colman, filled his vacancy on the Board. L. C. Colman donated \$20,000 in May 1902 to the library's endowment fund on behalf of his father who died intestate and who had long served on the Library Board.⁴¹

On January 21, 1904, G. M. Woodward announced to his fellow Board members that he had been in correspondence with the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. The next day Correlia Marrin paid

³⁶LPL, Board, Minutes: 11 Jan. 1889.

³⁷LPL, Board, Minutes: 9 Feb. 1889.

³⁸LPL, Board, Minutes, 9 Jan. 1890.

³⁹LPL, Board, Minutes: 20 Apr. 1899.

⁴⁰LPL, Board, Minutes: 13 July 1893 and 7 Aug. 1897.

⁴¹LPL, Board, Minutes: 21 May 1902.

a visit to the library to examine the work and methods of the library and to make suggestions for improvements or changes.

At that time, there was no children's room and no one under 14 was allowed to borrow books from the La Crosse Public Library. Patrons were not admitted to the book stacks and materials were dispensed by the librarian. A printed catalog was the only access to items and this was chained to the desk, although a personal copy of the library catalog could also be purchased for a modest price. The catalog contained listings by author and title only, and the library user was asked to write the call number on a small slip of paper and hand it to the librarian for retrieval.

Special permission was needed from the librarian to enter the reference room. A small reading room was available for easy public access which contained current newspapers and magazines.⁴² No outreach to students or adults of the area was pursued and no branches existed. One librarian was employed full-time and she was not professionally trained in the fairly new field of library science.

Miss Marrin's visit in the winter of 1904 changed the future of the La Crosse Public Library. Although there is no surviving record of the exact changes that were suggested by the representative of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, the library had been previously criticized in an article published in the La Crosse Morning Chronicle,⁴³ mainly for the lack of any special children's area or promotion.

As a result of these suggested changes, Annie Hanscome tendered her resignation to the Board on February 25, 1904.⁴⁴ Lilly Borresen, in her paper on the history of the library, described Miss Hanscome as feeling "unequal to this new task and resigned."⁴⁵ After some discussion, the Board accepted her resignation.⁴⁶

During Annie Hanscome's last year as librarian, she earned \$1040 in salary. She continued in this position until Mary Alice Smith, a professionally trained librarian, succeeded her on August 1, 1904. Miss Smith earned \$1150 for the first year of her services and \$1200 per year from April 1, 1905.

1904 was indeed a turning point in the history of the La Crosse Public Library. The first professionally educated librarian started work in late fall and plans were laid for drastic changes in

⁴²LPL, Origins and History, Historical & Background Information, Written Histories, Histories of LPL..., Lilly Borresen, unpublished manuscript: 2-3.

⁴³"The Washburn Library's Antiquated System Criticised." [La Crosse] Morning Chronicle, 4 Dec. 1898: 4.

⁴⁴LPL, Board, Minutes: 25 Feb. 1904.

⁴⁵LPL, Origins and History, Historical & Background Information, Written Histories, Histories of LPL..., Lilly M.E. Borresen, "La Crosse Public Library--History," ts.: 3-4.

⁴⁶LPL, Board, Minutes: 25 Feb. 1904.

modernizing the services and methods of operation of the library. Only two of the original six trustees named in Washburn's will were still living when Miss Smith began as librarian. The city's population was now 29,078 and the economic outlook in La Crosse seemed much brighter.

GROWTH AND THE MODERN LIBRARY

By 1904 the La Crosse Public Library's Board of trustees realized that the library had fallen behind the times. The Board had seen other libraries in Wisconsin and neighboring states upgrading and modernizing their services and felt that new methods were needed at La Crosse as well. Annie

Hanscome believed that a more qualified librarian would be needed to bring about these changes and resigned her position after sixteen years of loyal service to La Crosse Public Library and serving as La Crosse's only public librarian for thirty years.⁴⁷

MARY ALICE SMITH

La Crosse Public Library Director, 1904-1915

Mary Alice Smith was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and came to La Crosse from Duquesne, Pennsylvania. A graduate of New York State Library School, she became La Crosse's first trained librarian in 1904. She is credited for modernizing the public library operations and services which included the addition of a children's department, branch service, and a construction project that doubled the size of the original library building. She was also president of the Wisconsin Library Association from 1913-1914. Smith resigned her La Crosse position in 1915 to marry Charles McKenny of North St. Paul. She later worked as a librarian in Madison, Wisconsin.

In August of that year, the trustees hired Mary Alice Smith as the new head librarian. A graduate of the New York State Library School and formerly a librarian at Worcester, Massachusetts, and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Miss Smith can be credited with bringing many modern services to the La Crosse Public Library that are taken for granted today. For the first time the book shelves were open to the public. The card catalog was introduced and a cataloger was hired with her salary being paid by

one of the trustees.⁴⁸ Three other events that were initiated by Mary Alice Smith are of special note: the opening of the children's room in 1905, the establishment of a north side branch library the following year, and an addition to the main library building completed in 1909.

⁴⁷LPL, Origins and History, Written Histories, Borresen, "La Crosse Public Library--History," ts.: 3-4.

⁴⁸Lilly M.E. Borresen, "La Crosse Public Library: Its Beginning, Growth, and Present Usefulness," La Crosse Weekly Review: 13 Nov. 1919.

The children's room first opened on March 4, 1905. Prior to the opening, no one under the age of 14 was allowed in the library.⁴⁹ The new children's room was housed in a converted lecture room on the second floor. Most of the money used to renovate the room was donated by the Twentieth Century Club and Mrs. Elsie Scott. Other contributors were Mrs. James Vincent, Mrs. R.E. Osborne, the Urquhart Lee Parliamentary Club, and the La Crosse Chapter D.A.R.⁵⁰ The first children's librarian was Mary (Forbes) MacDonald. She worked in a juvenile library in Racine, Wisconsin, before coming to La Crosse.⁵¹

Mrs. MacDonald felt that interest needed to be generated for the new children's room. One week prior to the opening she visited all the schools in La Crosse and invited all children to visit the new department of the library. This promotion proved to be all too successful as about 1,000 children inundated the library for the grand opening instead of the hundred or so the library staff was expecting. As a result, all 850 books in the children's room were checked out forcing the room to close at 6 p.m., two hours earlier than scheduled.⁵²

The lack of materials plagued the children's room for some time, forcing special rules to be implemented. Each child was limited to checking out one book at a time and two per week. Children who lived close to the library were even asked to give up their books for those who had to walk further distances so they would not have to go home empty-handed.⁵³ Most of the book shortage problem was alleviated by generous gifts, such as Mrs. A.W. Pettibone's donation of \$5,000 for children's books.⁵⁴

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Until 1904, no one under 14 years of age could borrow library books. Imagine a printed list of books that the library owned, chained to a desk. Only the librarian could retrieve books and the public was not allowed to browse the closed stacks.

The Library Board, the governing body of the public library, decided to make great changes. Soon generous financial contributions from the Twentieth Century Club, Mrs. Elsie Gile Scott, Mrs. James Vincent, Mrs. R.E. Osborne, the Urquhart Lee Parliamentary Club and the La Crosse D.A.R. chapter, were given to the library to renovate a room on the second floor of the old building for the use of children.

On March 4, 1905, the Children's Room opened under the leadership of children's librarian Mary Forbes MacDonald. All the 850 books in the children's collection were checked out on the first day and the room had to close early. The collection now houses over 36,000 books, cassettes and kits.

⁴⁹Borresen, "La Crosse Public Library: It's Beginning..."

⁵⁰LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1905.

⁵¹"Children's Department At City Library First Created In 1905," La Crosse Tribune 2 May 1948.

⁵²LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1905.

⁵³LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1905.

⁵⁴LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1908.

The first branch library on the north side opened in 1905. It was housed in the Brakke Drug Store at 1353 Caledonia Street and started with a collection of 225 books.⁵⁵ Miss Smith was a strong advocate of the branch library and worked hard to obtain more funding and resources for it. In 1914, the last full year she was head librarian, the north branch had over 2,500 books and a circulation rate representing one fourth of the total library circulation.⁵⁶

In February, 1914 the library opened a special branch library on the south side. It was located at Webster School, 1402 Redfield Street because the school had no library of its own. Despite its tiny size and small collection, the branch circulated 1,101 books in the first two months it was open. The Webster deposit branch, though not the official south branch library, remained open until 1952 when the current South Community Library building was constructed.⁵⁷

Branch service was not the only part of the library that grew during Miss Smith's tenure. The main library was outgrowing its original building, and it became apparent that an addition was needed.

Thanks in part to a gift of \$5,000 each from A.W. Pettibone, L.C. Colman, J.M. Hixon, F.P. Hixon, and Mrs. C.L. Colman, the addition was completed in 1909, doubling the size of the original building.⁵⁸ Stucco was applied to the exterior to tie the building together visually.

LILLY M. E. BORRESEN
La Crosse Public Library Director, 1915-1946

Lilly Borresen was born in La Crosse in 1872. She attended La Crosse public schools and Milwaukee State Normal School. Before starting her library career she, like Hanscome, taught in La Crosse public schools. Following her graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota, she served as head librarian at Two Harbors, Minnesota, and as director of the South Dakota Library Commission.

Borresen became head librarian at La Crosse Public Library in 1915 and continued in that capacity for thirty-one years. One of the highlights of her career at LPL was the construction of the North Branch Library in 1942 at 1552 Kane Street. From 1917 to 1918, she served as president of the Wisconsin Library Association. She died in La Crosse in February 1947.

In August, 1915 Mary Alice Smith left the library to marry Charles McKenny of North St. Paul. Miss Lilly M.E. Borresen became the third head librarian. Miss Borresen completed her graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and University of Minnesota. She was the head librarian at Two Harbors, Minnesota, and director of the South Dakota Library Commission before coming to La Crosse.

One of the first things accomplished under Miss Borresen was the creation of the south branch

library. It was first located at the Bethany Center of the Congregational Church at 9th and Hood streets. During the next ten years the branch changed locations no fewer than three times. In 1917

⁵⁵LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1905.

⁵⁶LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1914.

⁵⁷"Branch Library In School Since 1914 To Be Closed," La Crosse Tribune 18 May 1952.

⁵⁸LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1910.

it was moved to Hamilton School. Three years later, the branch moved to a building at 1219 West Ave. South, and in 1924 it was relocated to a World War I barracks building on the corner of Jackson Street and West Ave. South.⁵⁹ The branch was officially named "South Branch" in 1920.⁶⁰

In early 1916 the question arose as to the legality of the City of La Crosse providing funds to support a library run by a private, non-profit organization. In April 1916, Circuit Court Judge E. C. Higbee ruled that city funds could not be used to support the public library. The library Board made plans for an immediate appeal to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. If the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled to uphold the lower court's decision, it was felt that the library would have to close or operate at a greatly reduced capacity without city funding. Fortunately, the court overturned Higbee's decision and the library was able to receive city funding.⁶¹

During her tenure, Miss Borresen also saw some of the most generous private contributions made to the library. In 1927 Mrs. Lucius Colman donated \$10,000 for an endowment as a memorial to her late husband. In 1937 Henry Gund gave \$3,000 in New York Central Railway Company bonds as an endowment to the library.⁶²

By 1933 it had become apparent that the north and south branch libraries were going to need new facilities. North Branch suffered from poor lighting and little ventilation, while the South Branch was cold in the winter and so hot in the summer that it had to be closed on some afternoons. Both branches experienced severe space problems.⁶³

While Miss Borresen helped oversee the planning of two new branch libraries, due to wartime conditions only one, the North Branch, was completed while she served as the head librarian. In fact, the entire branch planning and building process was to be plagued with several delays. Numerous requests were made by the Board asking the City to take the steps necessary to obtain state and federal funding to help finance the construction of the two branch libraries.

In 1937 the City Council asked the library to begin plans for two new branch libraries. In September 1938, the Public Works Administration approved the project and prospects looked good for the new branches. However, complications soon followed. After the Council passed a bond issue to aid in the construction of the branches, the Council was advised by the Chicago law firm of Chapman and

⁵⁹"28-Year-Old Dream Comes True for City Librarian," La Crosse Tribune 25 May 1952.

⁶⁰"Free Library Exec Delivers Address at Festivity Today," La Crosse Tribune 25 May 1952.

⁶¹"Library Appropriation is Held Legal," La Crosse Tribune 13 June 1916: 1.

⁶²LPL, Board, Annual Reports: 1927 and 1937.

⁶³"Library Trustees Ask Council For Better Branch Buildings," La Crosse Tribune 27 June 1935.

Cutler that such a bond issue was not legal according to Wisconsin Statutes unless approved by a referendum. The PWA in Chicago warned that if the referendum was held too late, it could not promise to deliver the funding. In addition, a disagreement between the Board and the City Council was developing over the proposed site of the North Branch Library that further complicated matters. As it was, the referendum was not held until November 8th. This was too late for the PWA and the funds were withdrawn even though the referendum passed by a large margin.⁶⁴

In April, 1941 the branch library question was again put to a referendum and again it won by a large margin.⁶⁵ This time funding was available and construction began, but only on the North Branch. Construction was delayed on the South Branch because of legal action involving the City's condemnation proceedings concerning the site of the new library. By the time the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in favor of the City in June of 1942, the war emergency prevented the beginning of any construction.⁶⁶

Construction of the North Branch began one month before World War II started on a site located on the corner of Kane and Gillette streets. The building was supposed to be completed by May of 1942, but war related delays meant the building was not finished until August 31st. Some of these delays included priorities on linoleum for battleships, shortages of electrical fixtures, and an exodus of manual labor from La Crosse to help build the army camp near Sparta, Wisconsin. Even the architect for the North Branch became involved with Camp McCoy and many of the final details of the North Branch building were worked out by Miss Borresen.⁶⁷

In poor health, Miss Borresen resigned her position as head librarian in 1946. For the previous two years of her tenure, she was able to work only part-time. She had served 31 years as head librarian, longer than any other in La Crosse Public Library history. Her efforts helped the library staff grow from five full-time members to eleven, and the book collection tripled from 23,982 to 71,423 during her tenure of three decades.⁶⁸

On January 1, 1947, Muriel Fuller was appointed head librarian by the Board. She had started working at the library in 1943 as an assistant librarian. A graduate of La Crosse State Teachers

⁶⁴LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1938.

⁶⁵"Returns From Precincts In County," La Crosse Tribune 2 April 1941; the margin was 5604 to 3011.

⁶⁶"Court Approves Condemnation of Site for Library," La Crosse Tribune 1 June 1942.

⁶⁷LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1942.

⁶⁸LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1946.

College and the University of Wisconsin Library School, Miss Fuller also taught high school for six years.⁶⁹

Miss Fuller was able to see to the completion of the much delayed South Branch Library. In April of 1951 the citizens of La Crosse voted in favor of a bond issue to finance a new south branch library. This was the third time citizens had voted for the bond issue. However, this time there were no major problems or delays and construction began on June 30, 1951. The new building was officially opened on May 25, 1952. Probably the happiest person to see the completion of the new branch library was Miss Nellie MacDonal, head librarian of South Branch. She had endured 28 years of serving the public from an old World War I barracks. Her description of the new building was "A dream come true."⁷⁰

In 1951 La Crosse Public Library was chosen to represent small city libraries in the American Heritage Project. This project, funded by the Ford Foundation and sponsored by the American Library Association, was designed to promote discussion and understanding of American history and heritage. The only other libraries chosen for this project were the Denver Public Library, the Los Angeles County Library, and the New York Library Commission.⁷¹

In March of 1953 Miss Fuller resigned her position as head librarian to accept a position with the Michigan State Library Commission. She was replaced by Miss Gertrude Thurow who had been with the library since 1943.⁷² Her tenure began with one of the most generous gifts ever donated to the library at that time. Mrs. Reuben Trane, as a memorial to her late husband, donated \$5,000 in each of the five years from 1954-1958 for a total

MURIEL FULLER
La Crosse Public Library Director, 1947-1953

The fourth head librarian of the La Crosse Public Library was born in 1912 near Mindoro, Wisconsin. After several years as a teacher, she graduated from the University of Wisconsin Library School and joined the La Crosse Public Library staff as an assistant librarian in June 1943. On January 1, 1947, she became head librarian, a position she held until June 1953. During her tenure, the South Branch Library was constructed in 1952 at 1307 South 16th Street.

After she left La Crosse, she held a position as library science lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Library School. She served as chairman of the University of Wisconsin extension library science department and later chairman of the extension communication arts department. In 1968 she was president of the Wisconsin Library Association, receiving its Citation of Merit.

On June 17, 1968, she was one of fifteen people killed when a dinner theater showboat capsized on Lake Pomona in Pomona, Kansas, when a tornado ripped through the area.

⁶⁹LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1943.

⁷⁰"28-Year-Old Dream..."

⁷¹LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1951.

⁷²LPL, Board, Annual Report: 1953.

of \$25,000.⁷³ It would be the coming decade, however, that would find Miss Thurow deeply involved in the library's most important event since its founding in 1888.

⁷³LPL, Board, Annual Reports: 1954-1958.

EXPANSION AND CHANGE

With the completion of the South Branch Library in 1952, both branches had finally attained the facilities that they so desperately needed. Now it was the aging main library building that became the focus of attention.

The original building was already seventy years old in 1958 when Miss Thurow mentioned some of the severe space problems associated with the building in that year's annual report. Some of these problems included staff work areas stuck in corners and in the basement, room for less than forty people in the reading and reference rooms, students forced to sit on the mezzanine steps on crowded nights, and the loss of any room for public programs.⁷⁴

In 1959 the Board made an application to the City Planning Commission for the for the construction of a new library. In 1961 this was added to the five year program for capital improvements in the city.⁷⁵ Two years later the Board hired Robert Rohlf of the Illinois Public Library Development Association as a consultant for the new building.

Remodeling the old building was considered but deemed impractical. Rohlf said a remodeling job would require refinishing the outside and inside walls, installing an entirely new heating plant, putting in a new floor and support beams, rewiring the whole building and replacing all the window frames. The cost of such a remodeling project was estimated to be only slightly less than the cost of constructing a new building. Even if these improvements were made, they would not solve the library's space shortage problems. The building of an addition was also ruled out. Rohlf stated, "To

⁷⁴La Crosse Series 8. LPL Board. Annual Report: 1958.

⁷⁵"To Consider New Library." La Crosse Tribune 9 July 1961: 11.

build a new wing and to perpetuate the present inefficient floor levels would be inexcusable, yet the present levels do not lend themselves to any logical open connection with a new ground level structure either."⁷⁶

So it was apparent, from a library function standpoint, that the La Crosse Public Library needed an

entirely new building. The City Planning Commission, however, was in no great hurry to approve a new building. So the Board, led by Board vice-president Quincy Hale, decided to take the matter directly to the people.

Since Wisconsin Statutes stated that a referendum must be passed in order for any library construction to occur, Quincy Hale, Miss Thurow, and the rest of the Board decided to try and get a library building referendum on the ballot for the upcoming 1964 fall election. In order to get the referendum on the ballot, petitions had to be circulated and a minimum of 3,000 signatures garnered to force the City Council to put the referendum on the ballot.

Miss Thurow and the Board decided to organize a volunteer force to help collect the signatures. In April 1964, a letter was drafted and sent to 200 civic-minded citizens, inviting them to form an organization called the La

Crosse Public Library Friends.⁷⁷ A meeting date was set for April 26 to see if there was any interest in such an organization. As it turned out, there was plenty of interest as over one hundred people attended the meeting.⁷⁸

⁷⁶Terence Borchert, "Need is Self-Evident, Hale Says: Library Board Hopes to Have Referendum on New Building," La Crosse Tribune 1 Dec. 1963: 6.

⁷⁷LPL, Main Building, New Building [1967], Campaign for new building, 1963-64.

⁷⁸"More than 100 Attend; Meet on New Library," La Crosse Tribune 27 April 1964: 1.

The La Crosse Public Library Friends (LPLF) was off to a good start. Officers elected to head the group were William D. Gallagher, president; Mrs. Emerson G. Wulling, vice-president; Mrs. George W. Larrabee, secretary-treasurer; Quincy Hale, library trustee; and Gertrude Thurow, head librarian. K. Jean Solberg, assistant librarian, was chosen as building campaign coordinator.⁷⁹

The petitions for the referendum had to be turned in by June 1st, and the LPLF had to work quickly. A target of 5,000 signatures was set to assure that the referendum would be put on the ballot. This goal was far surpassed when the LPLF, with the help of civic, labor, fraternal and church groups, collected over 7,000 signatures.⁸⁰ The City Council then put the bond referendum on the ballot for the November 3, 1964, election; "Be it resolved by the electors of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued the general obligation bonds of said city in the amount not exceeding \$890,000 for the purpose of purchasing a site and erecting and equipping a library thereon."

The next step for the LPLF was to help get the referendum passed. Committees were formed, posters were printed, hand-outs were distributed and a speaker's bureau formed to bring the message of the library to meetings of various clubs and organizations. Several local businesses and organizations donated materials and services to help the library cause. Even the young people of La Crosse became involved when a "youth brigade" was created to "tag" potential votes with small signs urging a yes vote on the library referendum.

QUINCY H. HALE

Quincy H. Hale, known as "Q" to his friends, served as a library trustee on the La Crosse Public Library Board from 1953-1980. Hale was born in 1893 and raised in Spring Valley, Minnesota. After graduating with a law degree from the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis in 1918, he travelled to California to complete his training in the Army Air Service to be a balloon observer at the end of World War I.

In 1919 Hale made his home in La Crosse after joining the law firm of Hartwell & Cowie. The partnership dissolved and Cowie offered Hale a partnership in the firm after only three months of employment. Things were going smoothly until 1925 when he contracted tuberculosis. He spent a year in the privately run River Pines Sanatorium in Stevens Point, fearing that he would not emerge from the local Oak Forest facility alive. Since that time, Hale became involved in civic organizations. During his lifetime he served as a director of Oak Forest Tuberculosis Sanatorium, City Plan Commission, Heileman's board, Wisconsin State Bar Association, Pettibone Park Commission, La Crosse County Historical Society and First Federal Savings & Loan. Hale was involved in the planning and completion of the La Crosse Municipal Airport in 1942 and the Mary E. Sawyer Auditorium.

Hale's legacy to the library, however, is significant. In 1966 he was commended for his "vision and foresight" and was named Wisconsin Library Trustee of the Year. He was instrumental in the establishment of the La Crosse Area Library System (now called Winding Rivers Library System), a new main library building in 1966-1967, the Friends of the La Crosse Public Library organization, and the Swarthout Museum and library addition in 1979-1980. Hale died at age 93 in 1987 in La Crosse.

⁷⁹LPL, Main Building, New Building [1967], Dedication and follow-up materials, 1967-1969, Library dedication booklet, 1967: 11.

⁸⁰"New Library Referendum Papers Filed," La Crosse Tribune 23 June 1964: 6.

With slightly more than a week to go before the election, library supporters received a boost in the form of a \$300,000 grant offer from the federal government. Under the terms of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), the library could receive this grant if the referendum was approved by the voters. The grant would be used for the creation of an area-wide library service system with the La Crosse Public Library serving as the headquarters. Two hundred thousand dollars of the grant money would go toward construction costs, while the remaining \$100,000 would establish the area library service.⁸¹

When election day arrived, the Friends were still busy, providing rides to and from the polls and even providing child care to make it easier for people with young children to get out and vote. When all the votes were finally tallied, it was obvious that all the hard work had paid off. The citizens of La Crosse had rallied to the cause of a new library building by voting four to one in favor of the referendum, an unprecedented margin in La Crosse history. The final vote count was 13,783 for and 3,059 against.⁸² To show appreciation for all the hard work done, Quincy Hale drafted a letter and sent it to all the volunteer workers on the library campaign, thanking them for a job well done.⁸³

Once the votes were in, the City Council had a number of decisions to make. The biggest one was whether or not to accept the \$300,000 in federal aid and make the new library a service center for the smaller libraries in the La Crosse area. The Council felt that the grant was a good opportunity and that there were no real strings attached. Under the provisions of the grant, if the money was accepted, the La Crosse library would be required to offer professional library services to the smaller surrounding libraries for a fee. This would require a larger library building to be built as extra space would be needed to house the facilities for this service. The added construction cost would be offset by \$200,000 of the grant money. If none of the small libraries accepted the service offered by the La Crosse Public Library, the grant money could still be kept and the library could use the extra space as it saw fit.

With this in mind, the City Council unanimously approved the application for the federal money. Earlier the Council had hired the local architectural firm of Hackner, Schroeder and Associates to draw up the preliminary plans of the new library necessary to accompany the grant application.⁸⁴ In February 1965, the Council approved the sale of \$750,000 in bonds for library construction. An additional \$140,000 in bonds was approved the following year.

It was determined that the best site for the new library would be the same location as the old one. This meant that the venerable but obsolete library building would have to be razed and a temporary

⁸¹"\$300,000 Federal Grant for Library is Approved," La Crosse Tribune 23 Oct. 1964: 1.

⁸²"Voters OK New Library by Vote Ratio of 4-1," La Crosse Tribune 4 Nov. 1964: 1.

⁸³LPL, Campaign for new building, 1963-64.

⁸⁴Donald W. Affolter, "Area Library Concept gets Unanimous OK," La Crosse Tribune 15 Jan. 1965: 1.

location be found for the library while the new building was being built. The Board reviewed eight different sites for this purpose, but only one was deemed suitable. This was a building at 712 Main Street, a former pastor's study and chapel for the since razed First Congregational Church. By coincidence, this chapel was given to the church by Annie Hanscome, La Crosse Public Library's first head librarian.⁸⁵

After some minor renovations, the library moved into its temporary site in early December of 1965. Assistance was provided in the big move by the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the Boy and Girl Scouts. Some materials were stored at the branches, but most regular library services were carried out at the temporary location until September 1967, when the new building was ready to be occupied.

In April 1966, the oldest free library building in Wisconsin was torn down. Its end was met with mixed emotions. Gertrude Thurow said she was "sad to see it go. It has such a wonderful history and has been such a cozy place for us."⁸⁶ But she also stressed that it was time to look ahead to a new facility that would provide even better service to library patrons and staff. The only thing saved from the structure of the old building was a stained glass window imported from Germany, and part of the mantel piece.

As the new library was being constructed, the La Crosse Public Library Friends, no longer needed as a library building campaign support group, decided to re-organize themselves into a permanent group called Friends of the La Crosse Public Library. The organization was modeled after the national program of Friends of Libraries. Officers elected at the first organizational meeting on September 12, 1967, were Mrs. James H. Bell, president; Myer Katz, vice-president; Julia Steinke, secretary; and William Laux, treasurer.⁸⁷ The "Friends" are still going strong today, offering their volunteer support and fund-raising campaigns for the benefit of the library.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
CHARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Friends of La Crosse Public Library formed from a group established in 1964 to promote the new library building project. In 1967 it was chartered to implement a closer relationship between the library and the community and to encourage funding for special needs.

The original officers in 1967 were:

President	Mrs. James H. Bell
Vice-President	Myer Katz
Secretary	Julia Steinke
Treasurer	William M. Laux
Directors:	Robert A. Farnham Martin W. Scullin W. Jerome Theisen Arthur M. G. Moody Mrs. Emerson (Jean) G. Wulling

⁸⁵"Public Library Makes Historic Move," La Crosse Tribune 19 Dec. 1965: 12.

⁸⁶"La Crosse Won't Quite be the Same," Milwaukee Sentinel 2 Dec. 1965.

⁸⁷LPL, Library dedication booklet, 1967: 11.

As the library neared completion in September 1967, the temporary library was closed, and all materials were moved into the new building. The McCoy Job Corpsmen from nearby Fort McCoy in Monroe County helped with the move. On October 2, 1967, one-and-half years after construction began, the new La Crosse Public Library was open for business. Total construction costs came to \$941,000, while cost of the entire library project was \$1,178,000.⁸⁸ A formal dedication and open house was held November 6, 1967. Many distinguished guests were in attendance, including Warren Loveland, mayor of La Crosse; Lyle W. Eberhart, director of the Division of Library Services for the Department of Public Instruction for the State of Wisconsin; Charlotte Jean Knight, president of the Wisconsin Library Association; Frank Hanrath, president of the Wisconsin Library Trustee Association; Elizabeth S. Bohmrich, president of Friends of Wisconsin Libraries; and Ruth Warncke, deputy director of the American Library Association. Miss Warncke delivered the dedicatory address.⁸⁹

The library building itself received two architectural awards. The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects selected the library as one of Wisconsin's six best designed buildings of 1967.⁹⁰ The other award was co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, the American Library Association and the National Book Committee. The La Crosse Public Library was one of seven libraries in the country to receive this award.⁹¹ Credit must be given to Hackner, Schroeder and Associates of La Crosse, designers of the building, and to Nels Johnson Construction Company of Winona, Minnesota, the general contractor.

Following the dedication ceremonies, a period of relative quiet descended on the library. This gave staff members as well as the public a chance to get to know and work in the new building without having to worry about bond referendums, temporary locations and moving entire collections back and forth. There were some notable events, however, as well as some staff milestones.

The La Crosse Area Library Development (LALD) project, organized in 1965 with the help of the \$300,000 federal grant received by the library operated bookmobile service in the area in 1967. LALD and the bookmobile served six different counties then: Vernon, Jackson, Trempealeau, Monroe, Juneau and La Crosse. Today the successor to LALD, the Winding Rivers Library System, serves these same counties and Buffalo County.

On April 21, 1968, as part of National Library Week, the library held "Gertrude Thurow Day" in part, to honor Miss Thurow on her 25th anniversary as a member of the La Crosse Public Library staff and

⁸⁸LPL, Library dedication booklet, 1967: 7.

⁸⁹LPL, Library dedication booklet, 1967: 2.

⁹⁰"City Library Cited for Building Design," La Crosse Tribune 17 March 1968: 1.

⁹¹"Library Receives 2nd Architectural Award," La Crosse Tribune 20 April 1968: 1.

for her election to the council of the American Library Association.⁹² On January 1, 1976, Miss Thurow reached a milestone in her life when she retired as the head librarian at La Crosse Public Library. Her career spanned four decades and included many outstanding accomplishments and

deserving awards. In 1959 she was named "Wisconsin Librarian of the Year" by the Wisconsin Library Association. She had also served as head of the Adult Services Division of the American Library Association. In 1975 she received the Special Services Awards from the Wisconsin Library Association, an award given out only seven times in the previous forty years.⁹³

JAMES WILLIAM WHITE
La Crosse Public Library Director, 1976-1998

James White was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1935. While attending college, he worked for the Cedar Rapids Library System, where he assisted a consultant with a library expansion project. After college White taught several years before enrolling in the new University of Iowa School of Library Science. He graduated in 1968 and became director of the Musser Public Library in Muscatine, Iowa. He remained there until 1975 when he became the sixth director of the La Crosse Public Library and administrator of the La Crosse Area Library System on January 1, 1976.

During White's tenure, the La Crosse Area Library System has evolved into a seven-county system and its name was changed to the Winding Rivers Library System. White has also influenced libraries outside of this area. In 1979 he led a twelve member delegation from Wisconsin to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services. White has maintained his early interest in library construction and served as consultant for numerous library building projects. At LPL, he headed the planning and implementation of both the 1980 Swarthout Memorial Addition to the library and the 1995-96 addition to the library. He is one of only a few librarians who are certified by the Administrative Management Society. White will retire in 1998 after 22 years of service.

Hired as her successor was James William White, director of the Musser Public Library in Muscatine, Iowa. White received his Master of Arts degree in library science from the University of Iowa in 1968 and shortly thereafter became director at Muscatine. He became the sixth director at La Crosse following Miss Thurow's retirement on January 1, 1976.⁹⁴

White had a strong background in engineering and library construction that was put to use almost immediately upon his arrival at La Crosse. Through a bequest of Edyth and Susan Swarthout of West Salem, money for an addition to the library was available. In their wills they stipulated that the additional space be shared by the library and the La Crosse County Historical Society, and that the addition be called the Swarthout Memorial

Addition. The money for the addition would become available when the last surviving sister passed away.⁹⁵ Susan died in February 1956, and Edyth in September 1973.

⁹²"Gertrude Thurow Day Part of Library Week," La Crosse Tribune 14 April 1968: 36.

⁹³"More Than Just Books," Milwaukee Journal 30 Nov. 1975.

⁹⁴"Experience? That's A Kick In The Head," La Crosse Tribune 11 April 1976: 9.

⁹⁵LPL, Main Buildings, Swarthout Addition, Swarthout documents, 1955; 1973-1976.

When the assets left to the library were converted to cash, the total amount came to \$550,000. By the time the City Council approved the plans for the addition in late December of 1977, the bequest had grown to over \$800,000 because of interest.⁹⁶

The planned addition, designed by Hackner, Schroeder, Roslansky and Associates (HSR), called for a combined one- and two-story addition that contained about 20,000 square feet. The two-story addition would house the La Crosse County Historical Society's museum while the library would get the one-story section. The estimated total cost of the project was \$949,000, with the City picking up the expense for property acquisition.⁹⁷

After the deadline for construction bids had passed, however, it was found that even the lowest bid was \$300,000 over budget. Inflation and a boom in the construction industry were blamed for higher construction costs. The addition had to be scaled down so the architects redesigned the addition to 14,000 square feet instead of the original 20,000. White expressed his disappointment, having hoped that the original square footage would have met the library's expansion needs for the next ten years.⁹⁸ Fortunately, some of the space was reinstated thanks to generous gifts from the Gelatt Foundation, the estates of Mrs. Reuben Trane and Gysbert van Steenwyk, and some additional interest from the Swarthout bequest.⁹⁹

The addition was completed in December 1979 and officially dedicated on January 6, 1980. The 18,000 square foot addition houses the museum for the La Crosse County Historical Society. In the library section, the Archives & Local History Room was made possible through a \$42,000 grant from the Gelatt Foundation.¹⁰⁰ Also included in the addition was the stained glass window that was saved from the original building. As part of the library's 1995-96 addition and remodeling project, this same window was relocated and incorporated into the main stairway. The honor wall, begun with the Swarthout addition, was also relocated to the new south entrance during the 1995-96 building

GRANLUND ART

Paul T. Granlund, world renown artist and sculptor-in-residence at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Smith to create a bronze sculpture to honor their parents. In November 1971, "Ascendance" was installed near the grand staircase and is the centerpiece of the library's main floor.

The second Granlund piece, "Reflections III," (1979) is located outside the main entrance and was placed in front of a small fountain in 1983. Given to the library in 1983 by the Dr. Alf H. Gundersen family as a tribute to his wife Carroll McCarty Gundersen, this female figure suggests quiet contemplation.

⁹⁶"Scaled-down Library Addition Wins Unanimous Panel Backing," La Crosse Tribune 1 Dec. 1977: 29.

⁹⁷"Committee OKs Expansion Plans for City Library," La Crosse Tribune 7 Dec. 1977: 19.

⁹⁸"Smaller Library Addition Planned," La Crosse Tribune 16 Aug. 1978: 1.

⁹⁹"Funds are Found for Additional Library Work," La Crosse Tribune 9 Dec. 1978: 7.

¹⁰⁰"Library's New Addition Will Accent Local History," La Crosse Tribune 5 Jan. 1980: 5.

project. This wall honors individuals and organizations who have given something special to the library.

In March 1981, the La Crosse Public Library became a city department after 93 years of operation

<p>WASHBURN FUND BOARD</p> <p>This Board was begun in 1981 as a result of the library's integration into the City's structure, and these directors are trustees of Washburn's endowment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mayors</u></p> <p>Patrick T. Zielke 1981-1997 *John D. Medinger 1997-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Members</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Donald Rice 1981-1981 *Philip Gelatt 1981-2. *Jean Wulling 1981-3. *Thomas Sleik 1981-4. *Albert Funk, Jr. 1981-5. Edward Carlsson 1981-1991 *James Brindley 1991-6. *Ellyn Ash 1981- <p>* denotes current members</p>
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as a private, non-profit corporation. The change was not as drastic as it sounds. The City of La Crosse was already providing the library with 98 percent of its budget, and it owned both branch libraries as well as the main building and most of the contents. Probably the biggest change was with the seven-member self-appointed Library Board. Board members were now appointed by the mayor and two new board members were added, a representative each from the school district and the City Council, bringing the total membership to nine on the board.¹⁰¹ Another board, called the Washburn Board, continues to make decisions regarding the interest on Washburn's bequest.

The La Crosse Public Library public entered the computer age on March 13, 1985, when the circulation procedures became automated.¹⁰² Since then computers have become a part of every library department, and the entire card catalog went on-line March 24, 1992.¹⁰³

In 1988 the library reached two important milestones. On November 10, the 25-millionth book was checked out. Ten days later, the library celebrated its 100th anniversary. On this occasion, the library's first Founders' Award was presented to Charles Gelatt. The award, designed to honor those showing excellence in library service, was most fitting for Gelatt. He served on the Library Board for 24 years from 1941 to 1965. He has generously donated unspecified amounts of money to the La Crosse Public Library as well as libraries in Sparta, Galesville and Waukon, Iowa.¹⁰⁴

Places Rated Almanac ranked La Crosse Public Library as the sixth busiest public library in North America in 1993, based on the reading quotient. This figure is the circulation total added to the number of volumes, then divided by the population served. To most effectively deal with increased

¹⁰¹Terry Shelton, "The Name Remains the Same: City Takes Over Public Library," La Crosse Tribune 29 March 1981: 39.

¹⁰²LPL, Photographic and Sound Images, subject heading Events--Going On-Line: March 1985.

¹⁰³Geri Parlin, "Library Unveils New Information, Catalog System," La Crosse Tribune 25 March 1992: B-1.

¹⁰⁴Jerry Kahlert, "Library Says Thanks to Industrialist," La Crosse Tribune 21 Nov. 1988: A-6.

services and use, the La Crosse Public Library embarked on a remodeling and building project in 1995. Following on the heels of an estimated \$200,000 in renovation efforts at both branches, renamed community libraries in 1991,¹⁰⁵ the Board determined a needs assessment and programming goals with the assistance of library consultant David R. Smith.¹⁰⁶ Architect Val Schute of Schute-Larson Architects was selected by the Board in 1992 for the addition and remodeling project. The proposed project was granted Common Council approval in late 1994, with an estimated \$4.2 million and 14 month construction schedule. General contractor Fowler & Hammer was awarded the contract for the project which included \$600,000 in private donations for furnishings. In the end, the entire cost came to \$4.5 million, and the library gained 15,500 square feet of space, for a total of 74,500 square feet.¹⁰⁷ The dedication ceremonies were conducted on a warm day, August 24, 1996.¹⁰⁸ Keynote speaker Mark Lee, an astronaut originally from Viroqua, and his wife Jan Davis, spoke at the gala.

As a result of this project, a new entrance from the south now leads the public directly from the parking lot into the heart of the library. Improved service points aid in locating materials more quickly and efficiently. A much expanded children's library with a steamboat theme provides increased space for a growing collection and story time population. Persons with disabilities are able to get around more easily and use the library more independently with the help of new specialized equipment, some of which is housed in a separate area. The reference and archives service areas moved up to the second floor and share a large compact storage area for closed stack collections. The non-fiction collection also relocated to the second floor. Public meeting and seating spaces were also greatly improved, as well as fire detection and suppression systems and added building security.

In 1996, the library was awarded a Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation (WATF) grant to bring Internet access and CD-ROM tower resources to library patrons at main and the community libraries. This became reality in spring 1997.¹⁰⁹

Despite technological advances and developments, it has always been people who have made a difference and set a course for growth for the La Crosse Public Library. The library has a history of strong civic support and leadership from the citizens of La Crosse and the Board of Trustees, a record of generous contributions from special patrons and organizations, and a dedicated and energetic staff ready to meet any new challenge.

¹⁰⁵Grant Blum, "\$3 Million Sought for Additions to Library," La Crosse Tribune 21 Jan. 1992: A-1.

¹⁰⁶LPL, David R. Smith. Discussion Draft: Assessment of Library Space Needs La Crosse Public Library. Hopkins, MN: 26 Nov. 1990. and La Crosse Public Library: Main Library Space Utilization, Hopkins, MN: 8 May 1991.

¹⁰⁷LPL, Library dedication booklet, 1996.

¹⁰⁸Joan Kent, "Refurbished Library Celebrates Addition," La Crosse Tribune 25 Aug. 1996: C-1.

¹⁰⁹Geri Parlin, "Library Patrons Log On, Surf 'Net,'" La Crosse Tribune 6 July 1997: A-1.

The basic purpose of the Young Men's Library Association and the early La Crosse Public Library continues to live on today, albeit modernized and greatly expanded, to provide all citizens of the La Crosse area a communal source of educational, informational and recreational materials. Over the past century, La Crosse has witnessed the growth of the library to include specialized services and staff, and an increase in the volume of materials and space. Expanded services include a children's room and children's programming, community libraries (formerly called branches), outreach to schools and adult populations, reader's services, reference service and an archives and local history collection.

LIBRARY LEAGUE OF LA CROSSE

The Library League of La Crosse began in 1990 under the direction of Mariel Carlisle, Sue Gelatt and Hayden Hauser. Each Christmas the League sponsors a walking tour of La Crosse homes as a fund-raiser for the Library. To date, over \$35,000 has been donated to the Library through the annual Dickens of a Christmas Home Tour.

As the La Crosse Public Library enters into its second century of service, many challenges lie ahead. At a time when library budgets are becoming proportionally smaller and smaller, the public use of the library is increasing steadily. La Crosse area residents are turning to the library in record numbers for their needs. Citizens deserve and expect expanded services and outreach programs to enhance the library's traditional roles. New technologies, especially computer-based information, have begun to revolutionize library service and have affected the format of many library materials. The future will undoubtedly bring more technological advances that will raise the level of library service to unprecedented levels.

LA CROSSE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Historical List

Mayors

(president of the Board as specified in C.C. Washburn's will)

D. Frank Powell	1885-1886	Ori J. Sorensen	1913-1915
David Austin	1887-1889	A.A. Bentley	1915-1923
John Dengler	1889-1891	Joseph Verchota	1923-1929
F.A. Copeland	1891-1893	John E. Langdon	1929-1931
D. Frank Powell	1893-1897	Joseph Verchota	1929-1931
James McCord	1897-1899	C. August Boerner	1935-1939
W.A. Anderson	1899-1901	Joseph Verchota	1939-1947
Joseph Boschert	1901-1903	Charles Beranek	1947-1949
William Torrence	1903-1907	Henry Ahrens	1949-1955
W.A. Anderson	1907-1909	Milo G. Knutson	1955-1965
Ori J. Sorensen	1909-1911	Warren Loveland	1965-1971
John Dengler	1911-1913	W. Peter Gilbertson	1971-1975
		Patrick T. Zielke	1975-1981

Members

(listed by seat number)

1. Charles Colman	1885-1901		
Joseph Clarke	1901-1904	2. John Holley, Sr.	1885-1914
John Brindley	1904-1926	G. van Steenwyk, Jr.	1914-1967
Philo M. Gelatt	1926-1941	Jean Wulling	1967-1984
Charles Gelatt	1941-1965	Stanley Sims	1984-1990
Kenneth Dahl	1965-1974	Charles Richardson	1990-1993
Fred Abraham, Sr.	1974-1977	*Sue Gelatt	1993-
Donald Rice	1977-1981		
Vivian Stenzel	1981-1982	3. F.A. Copeland	1885-1892
Bobette Alo	1982-1983	John Holley, Jr.	1924-1953
Ralph Clason	1983-1986	Quincy Hale	1953-1980
*John C. Ross	1986-	*Thomas Sleik	1980-

Members
(listed by seat number)

4. Theodore Rodolf	1885-1892		
E.E. Bentley	1892-1913	6. Joseph Clarke	1885-1889
George Burton	1913-1941	S.S. Burton	1889-1893
Joseph Liscovec	1941-1964	G.M. Woodward	1893-1914
Albert Funk, Jr.	1964-1996	Edward Evans	1914-1931
*Brian Carroll	1996-	vacant	1931-1932
		Albert Sanford	1933-1941
		Donald Field	1941-1974
5. G. van Steenwyk, Sr.	1885-1902	Ellyn Ash	1974-1981
L.C. Colman	1902-1926	Philip Gelatt	1981-1983
J.E. McConnell	1926-1928	Linda Heisler	1983-1991
Andrew Lees	1929-1943	*Vince Cacciapaglio	1991-
Cameron Baldwin	1943-1962		
Allan Schilling	1962-1972	7. *Frank Papenfuss	1981-
Edward Carlsson	1973-1981		
Patricia Cooke	1981-1990	8. Elmer Grassman	1981-1988
*Linda Sherwood	1990-	Thomas Brobeck	1988-1988
		Thomas Morehouse	1988-1989
		Ken Bates	1989-1991
		*Ralph Whiting	1991-
		9. *Beverly Ruston	1981-

FOUNDER'S DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS
Historical List

1. November 20, 1988
Founder's Award: Charles Gelatt
Keynote Speaker: Joel McNally
2. November 19, 1989
Founder's Award: Jean C. Wulling
Family of the Year: Bud & Barbara Hammes & Family
Philanthropy Award: Clarence B. Smith
Keynote Speaker: Raymond C. Bice
3. November 4, 1990
Founder's Award: Albert P. Funk
Family of the Year: Steven & Mary C. Skemp & Family
Keynote Speaker: William G. Asp
4. October 20, 1991
Founder's Award: Edward S. Carlsson
Family of the Year: Paul & Renata Albrecht & Family
Keynote Speaker: Leslyn M. Shires
5. November 15, 1992
Founder's Award: Joseph Addis
Family of the Year: Robert & Deborah Connery & Family
Library Staff Cooperative Service Award: Jan Ostreng, City Attorney's Office
Board of Trustee's Staff Achievement Award: Peg Zappen, Mgr., Collection Development
Library Board Service Award: Gar Amunson & Staff, Park & Recreation Department
Keynote Speaker: Raymond C. Bice
6. January 9, 1994
Founder's Award: Elisabeth Bruder [Mrs. Victor F.J.]
Family of the Year: Greg & Susan Breen & Family
Library Staff Cooperative Service Award: Randy Turtenwald & Bernard Mullenbach,
City Engineer's Office
Library Board Service Award: Virginia Thompson
Library Business Partner Award: Robert & Jean Marck, Community Camera
Keynote Speaker: William Wilson

FOUNDER'S DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS
Historical List

7. January 22, 1995

Founder's Award: Frank Papenfuss

Family of the Year: Gary & Susan Evers & Family

Library Staff Cooperative Service Award: Pat Caffrey, Department of Public Works

Library Business Partner Award: La Crosse Business Products, Paul Bogie

8. January 21, 1996

Founder's Award: Mayor Patrick T. Zielke

Family of the Year: Richard & Kathy Banasik & Family

Library Business Partner Award: Northern Micrographics, Tom Ringdahl

9. November 15, 1996

Founder's Award: Ellyn Reuter Ash

Family of the Year: Jim & Mary Beth Vach & Family

Library Staff Cooperative Service Award: Glenn Walinski, La Crosse Center

Board of Trustee's Staff Achievement Award: All LPL & WRLS Staff

Library Board Service Award: Donald "Sandy" Gordon

Library Business Partner Award: Jim Fowler, Fowler & Hammer

10. November 14, 1997

Founder's Award: Thomas S. Sleik

Family of the Year Award: Bill & Cindy Klaas & Family

Library Staff Cooperative Service Award: Sue Wieman, Finance & Purchase, City Hall

Library Business Partner Award: Edwin L. Hill, ARC, UW-La Crosse

INDEX

Abraham, Fred Sr.	33	Austin, David	10, 11, 33
Addis, Joseph	35	Baldwin, Cameron	34
Ahrens, Henry	33	Banasik Family	36
Albrecht Family	35	Bates, Ken	34
Alo, Bobette	33	Bell, Mrs. James H.	26
American Heritage Project	20	Bentley, A.A.	33
American Institute of Architects	27	Bentley, E.E.	34
American Library Association	20, 27, 28	Beranek, Charles	33
Amunson, Gar	35	Bethany Center	17
Anderson, Mons	2	Bice, Raymond C.	35
Anderson, Wendell A.	2, 5, 33	Board of Trustees	
Architects	10	Organization	6
Hackner, Schroeder and Associates	25,	Reorganization	30
.	27	Boerner, C. August	33
Hackner, Schroeder, Roslansky and		Bogie, Paul	36
Associates (HSR)	29	Bohmrich, Elizabeth S.	27
Schute, Val	31	Bookmobile	27
Schute-Larson	31	Borresen, Lilly M.E.	13, 17, 18, 19
Spohr, George B.	10	Boschert, Joseph	33
Yost, C.C.	10	Brakke Drug Store	17
Architectural award	27	Breen Family	35
Archives & Local History	29, 31, 32	Brindley, James	30
Area Research Center UW-La Crosse	36	Brindley, John	33
Ascendance sculpture	29	Brobeck, Thomas	34
Ash, Ellyn Reuter	30, 34, 36	Brown, R.D.	3
Asp, William G.	35	Bruder, Elisabeth [Mrs. Victor]	35
Athenaeum	1	Bryant, Benjamin	11

Buffalo County	27	Roosevelt, W.A., Co.	10
Burton, George	34	Trane, James A.	12
Burton, S.S.	34	Cooke, Patricia	34
Cable, George W.	5	Copeland, Frederick A.	6, 10, 33
Cacciapaglio, Vincent	34	Court case of 1916	18
Caffrey, Pat	36	D.A.R.	16
Carlisle, Mariel	32	Dahl, Kenneth	33
Carlsson, Edward	30, 34, 35	Davis, Jan	31
Carroll, Brian	34	Dengler, John	33
Catalog		Douglas, Frederick	5
Card	15, 30	Dudley, Walter W.	2
Printed	4, 10, 13, 16	Eberhart, Lyle W.	27
Centennial	30	Edgewood College	8, 9
Children's Room	15, 16, 31, 32	Edwards, B. E.	2
Christmas Home Tour	32	Elwell, P. S.	2
City Attorney's Office	35	Evans, Edward	34
City Engineer's Office	35	Evers Family	36
City Finance & Purchase	36	Farnham, Robert A.	26
Clarke, Joseph	6, 7, 11, 33, 34	Field, Donald	34
Clason, Ralph	33	Fields, James	5
Clemens, Samuel	5	First Congregational Church	17, 26
Colman, Charles L.	6, 12, 33	Ford Foundation	20
Colman, L.C.	12, 17, 34	Fort McCoy	19, 27
Colman, Mrs. Charles L.	17	Founders' Day	30
Colman, Mrs. L.C.	18	Fowler, Jim	36
Community Camera	35	Friends of Libraries	26
Community Libraries	32	Friends of the La Crosse Public Library	23, 24, 26
North	15, 17, 18, 19	Fuller, Muriel	19, 20
Remodeling	31	Funk, Albert Jr.	30, 34, 35
South	17, 18, 19, 20, 22	Gallagher, William D.	24
Webster School	17	Garr, Jeanette	9
Computer		Gelatt Foundation	29
CD-ROM tower	31	Gelatt, Charles	30, 33, 35
Circulation	30	Gelatt, Philip	30, 34
Internet	31	Gelatt, Philo M.	33
Public Access Catalog (PAC)	30	Gelatt, Sue	32, 33
Connery Family	35	Gilbertson, W. Peter	33
Contractors		Gordon, Donald "Sandy"	36
Davis, Sorenson & Co.	10	Gough, John B.	5
Dittman & Jorstad	10	Government documents	4, 12
Edison Electric Light Company	11	Granlund, Paul T.	29
Fowler & Hammer	31, 36	Grassman, Elmer	34
Johnson, Nels, Construction Co.	27		

Gund, Henry	18	Modernization	14, 15
Gundersen, Carroll McCarty	29	Rules	12, 13, 15
Gundersen, Dr. Alf H.	29	Library League	32
Hale, Quincy	23, 24, 25, 33	Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA)	25
Hammes Family	35	Library staff	36
Hanrath, Frank	27	Library System	
Hanscome, Annie E.	4, 11, 13, 15, 26	La Crosse Area Library Development	23, 25, 27
Hardy, Albert	10, 11	La Crosse Area Library System	23, 24, 28
Hauser, Hayden	32	Winding Rivers Library System	24, 27, 28
Heisler, Linda	34	Lincoln, Elsie	11
Higbee, E.C. [Judge]	18	Liscovec, Joseph	34
Hill, Edwin L.	36	Lord, C.K.	9
Hixon, Frank P.	17	Loveland, Warren	27, 33
Hixon, J.M.	17	MacDonald, Mary (Forbes)	16
Holley, John M.	2, 3, 6, 10, 33	MacDonald, Nellie	20
Holley, John M. Jr.	33	Main Building (1888)	
Home tour	32	Addition (1909)	15, 17
Horner, Mrs. S.W.	11	Construction	10
Jackson County	27	Dedication	8, 9, 11
Jones, W. Wallace	2	Razing	22, 26
Juneau County	27	Site	8
Katz, Myer	26	Main Building (1967)	
Klaas Family	36	Addition (1980)	24, 28, 29
Knight, Charlotte Jean	27	Addition (1996)	31
Knutson, Milo G.	33	Construction	23, 24, 27
La Crosse Athenaeum	1	Dedication	27
La Crosse Business Products	36	Dedication (1980)	29
La Crosse Center	36	Dedication (1996)	31
La Crosse County	27	Planning	22
La Crosse County Historical Society	28, 29	Site	25
La Crosse Library Company	1	Marck, Jean	35
La Crosse Literary Association	2	Marck, Robert	35
La Crosse Literary Society	1, 2, 3, 5	Marrin, Correlia	12, 13
La Crosse Public Library Friends	23, 24, 26	Masonic Temple	8
Ladies Art Class	7	McConnell, J.E.	34
Langdon, John E.	33	McCord, James	33
Larrabee, Mrs. George W.	24	McNally, Joel	35
Lathrop, Mr. & Mrs. W.H.	8	Medary, Grace	11
Laux, William	26	Medary, J. S.	2
Lee, Mark	31	Medinger, John D.	30
Lees, Andrew	34	Mendelssohn Quintet	5
Library			
Became city department	30		

Monroe County	27	Sixth busiest library	30
Moody, Arthur M.G.	26	Skemp Family	35
Morehouse, Thomas	34	Sleik, Thomas	30, 33, 36
Mullenbach, Bernard	35	Smith, Clarence B.	35
Museum	29	Smith, David R.	31
National Book Committee	27	Smith, Mary Alice	13, 15, 17
Neuman and Cantrowitz	6, 8	Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence B.	29
Northern Micrographics	36	Solberg, K. Jean	24
Nye, J.M.	3	Sorensen, Ori J.	33
Osborne, Mrs. Rockwell E.	16	Stained glass	11, 26, 29
Osborne, Rockwell E.	2, 3	Stanton, Elizabeth Cady	5
Osborne, Willis	3, 4, 10	Steinke, Julia	26
Ostreng, Jan	35	Stenzel, Vivian	33
Outreach	32	Swarthout bequest	28, 29
Papenfuss, Frank	34, 36	Swarthout, Edyth	28
Park & Recreation Department	35	Swarthout, Susan	28
Pettibone, A.W.	17	Talmadge, T. DeWitt	5
Pettibone, Mrs. A.W.	16	Taylor, Bayard	5
Phillips, Wendell	5	Theisen, W. Jerome	26
Places Rated Almanac	30	Thompson, Virginia	35
Powell, D. Frank	6, 33	Thurrow, Gertrude	20, 22, 23, 26, 27
Public Works Administration	18, 19	Tippett Orchestra	11
Public Works Office	36	Torrence, William	33
Reader's services	32	Trane, Mrs. Reuben	20, 29
Redhead, Miss E.L.	4	Trempealeau County	27
Reference area	31, 32	Turtenwald, Randy	35
Reflections sculpture	29	Twain, Mark	5
Reynolds, Benjamin G.	2	Twentieth Century Club	16
Rice, Donald	30, 33	Urquhart Lee Parliamentary Club	16
Richardson, Charles	33	Vach Family	36
Ringdahl, Tom	36	Van Steenwyk, Gysbert	6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 29, 34
Rodolf, Theodore F.	2, 6, 34	Van Steenwyk, Gysbert Jr.	33
Rohlf, Robert	22	Verchota, Joseph J.	33
Ross, John "Jack"	33	Vernon County	27
Ruston, Beverly	34	Vincent, Mrs. James	16
Sanford, Albert	34	Walinski, Glenn	36
Schilling, Allan	34	Warncke, Ruth	27
Scott, Joseph P.	2	Washburn bequest	5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 30
Scott, Mrs. Elsie	16	Washburn Fund	6, 12
Scullin, Martin W.	26	Washburn Fund Board	6, 30
Sherwood, Linda	34	Washburn Observatory	9
Shires, Leslyn M.	35	Washburn, Cadwallader C.	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Sims, Stanley	33		

Webster School	17
White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services	28
White, James Wm.	28, 32
Whiting, Ralph	34
Wieman, Sue	36
Wilson, William	35
Winding Rivers Library System staff ...	36
Wing, M. P.	2
Wisconsin Advanced Telecommunications Foundation (WATF)	31
Wisconsin Free Library Commission ...	12
Wisconsin Library Association ..	15, 17, 20, 23, 28
Wisconsin Supreme Court	18, 19
Woodman, Cyrus	9
Woodward, G.M.	2, 10, 12, 34
World War II	19
Wulling, Jean [Mrs. Emerson] ..	24, 26, 30, 33, 35
Young Men's Library Association	2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 32
Dissolution	5, 7
Formation	1, 3
Lecture series	5, 7
Rules	5
Zappen, Peg	35
Zielke, Patrick T.	30, 33, 36