

THE HISTORY AND ORIGINS OF THE BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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INTRODUCTION

This paper is limited in scope to the early years of the library in an attempt to have a complete and exhaustive account of this period.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a word about my sources and their arrangement in the bibliography. For the most important part of the paper, i. e. the founding and early history of the library, relatively few sources were used. These included the Minutes of the Holmes Library Association and those of the Library Trustees, newspapers of the period, particularly 1894 for which year there were no minutes, and the letters, Constitution and Dedication program found in the Librarian's Office. In some cases, where it seemed of value to know where these early sources are located, I have done so. Those things found at the Berkeley Public Library are not filed in any particular order.

For the early history of Berkeley, there were several valuable books, in particular the ones by Mary Ruth Houston, J. Bowman and S. D. Waterman. The latter I have included as a primary source assuming that this author is the same Mr. Waterman so active on the Library Board. Although Mr. Ferrier's book is referred to a number of times in footnotes, I tried to use it primarily for incidental information which was not readily available in other sources and which broadened the picture since it was not documented in any way.

Finally, I have included a number of works under (d) which I consulted but did not use either because they had no information at all on the subject or very little, and which was easily duplicated in other sources. In the same category, are the newspaper references for later years which were read and were helpful in looking up dates in the original papers.

I. DON LUIS MARIA PERALTA

The early history of Berkeley¹ centers around a Spanish pioneer soldier named Don Luis Maria Peralta. According to Spanish custom, he was entitled to a large land grant for rendering valuable service to his country. Governor de Sala awarded him some land around Mission San Jose but Don Luis, who had been stationed at the Presidio [*sic*] in San Francisco, was more interested in the land on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay. In 1820, he petitioned the governor for a tract of four or five leagues extending from San Leandro Creek to the Hill of San Antonio. He was then awarded this property, some five leagues, which was called San Antonio Rancho. In 1842, he divided this land among his four sons and the portion which is now known as Berkeley and Albany went to Domingo Peralta.

Domingo Peralta was unfortunately land poor and pressed for cash, so in 1853, he sold all but 300 acres [*sic*] to squatters and land speculators who came into the area around 1850 as a result of the

¹Mary Ruth Houston, *The Early History of Berkeley, California: Manuscript, Typed-bound; Bancroft Library; Berkeley: 1913.*

Gold Rush and California's admittance to the Union. These squatters took what they pleased asserting that the land belonged to the U. S. Government.

II. FRANCIS KITTRIDGE[sic] SHATTUCK

The earliest American settlers upon this tract came in 1852 when Francis Kittridge [sic] Shattuck, George M. Blake, and William Hillegass acquired parts of it by purchase and commenced farming on quite an extensive scale. Mr. Shattuck purchased some 160 acres [sic] for \$5,000. This land is included in the present site of Berkeley. It might be noted here that Alameda County was organized in 1853 from parts of Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties. Six townships were established including Oakland Township in which Berkeley was located.²

An introduction to Mr. Shattuck is included at this point since he played a prominent part both in the history and development of Berkeley and in the establishment of the library. He was born in 1825 in Essex, Essex County, New York and reared on a farm. He farmed and merchandized in New York before coming to California, February 22, 1850, as part of the Gold Rush movement. He went to the mines and continued mining for several years with indifferent success.³ In January, 1852, he settled in Oakland Township and then bought the land referred to above and used it for farming, although his residence remained in Oakland. He and his partner, William Hillegass, in addition to farming on productive land which paid them well, started a livery stable at the foot of Broadway in Oakland. He was politically active at this time too having been elected to the Oakland City Council in 1856, Mayor in 1858 and elected Assemblyman to the State Legislature in 1859. He became a member of the Board of Supervisors in 1860.

In 1861, he invested in the Mount Diablo Coal Mines and formed a company of which he was president from 1863. This company was worth \$150,000 in 1876. The firm of Shattuck and Hillegass was also engaged in real estate. Both were pioneers of Berkeley. They worked for the selection of Berkeley as the site of the University of California with Dr. Henry Durant and the University is now located on lands originally held by them.⁴

Mr. Shattuck moved to Berkeley in 1871. He was the founder of many concerns both before and after this date including: the Oakland railroad[sic] Company (1864), the Amador Water Company (1866), the Home Gas Light Company (1871), and in 1870 he built a wharf and operated a railroad from Fruitvale to University Avenue. He was also founder and President of the Berkeley Bank of Savings (1883)⁵ and he organized the Berkeley Improvement Association (1884).⁶ As one biographer says, not all his enterprises were successful but "all had their bearing on the general advancement of the city's prosperity."⁷ The Berkeley Advocate in 1892 said: "Shattuck developments have always been for

² S. D. Waterman, History of the Berkeley Schools (Berkeley: The Professional Press, 1918), p. 125, 126.

³ William Halley, The Centennial Yearbook of Alameda County (Oakland: William Halley, 1876), p. 540-542.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The Bay of San Francisco. Lewis Publishing Company. Chicago. Vol. II, p. 441-445.

⁶ Joseph E. Baker, Ed., Past and Present of Alameda County, California (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914). Vol. II.

⁷ The Bay of San Francisco. Lewis Publishing Company. Chicago. Vol. II, p. 441-445.

improvement as well as profit".⁸ With Dr. Durant, he was instrumental in working for Berkeley's incorporation in 1878, with the object of improving the city by so doing – streets, sewers, lighting and the like. He was president of the Masonic Temple Association 1878-1898. He built Shattuck Block in 1891 which contained the Town Hall, the Shattuck Hotel, and later, the rooms that the library used.⁹ Of his relationship to the library, more will be said later. He was not a primary instigator but certainly his aid was indispensable to the continuation of the library. He served as President and library board member until his death in 1898.

III. OCEAN VIEW

The early history of Berkeley after the coming of these first settlers centers around the community of Ocean View or West Berkeley, which was settled in 1868. This community was located along San Pablo Road. The only way to get there from San Francisco was by the Oakland Ferry and then stage to Jacob's Sloop (landing). The early histories of this area indicate that the citizens of the time hoped to develop [sic] a port here but evidently the water was too shallow and the tidelands extended out too far to make this possible. However, because of its proximity to deep water ports in Richmond and the Encinal Terminals in Alameda, an industrial community did build up here. By 1877, there were some six large companies here including the West Berkeley Planning Company, The California Watch Company, the Standard Soap Company, the Glove Factory and Tannery, Judson and Shepherd's New Chemical Works, and the Cordage Factory. "The development and settlement of this locality would, however, have been very slow indeed if it had not been for the selection of a section of the land in the northeastern part of the old ranch by the College of California."¹⁰

IV. THE COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

In 1853, the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches decided to establish an institution for the pursuit of higher learning, and the College School was incorporated in that year. In 1855, it was incorporated again as the College of California and located in Oakland. Finally, in 1869, the University was opened in the College of California primarily through the efforts of Henry Durant and in 1873, it moved to Berkeley. This provided a strong impetus to population growth since people were anxious to be near the University as a source of education.¹¹ This is indicated by formation of the College Homestead Association (1864) which purchased land adjoining the college site and took steps to build a town there.¹²

⁸ Berkeley Advocate, Holiday Edition, December, 1892.

⁹ Mary Johnson, The City of Berkeley (typed, 1942).

¹⁰ Mary Ruth Houston, The Early History of Berkeley, California (Manuscript, Typed-bound; Bancroft Library; Berkeley: 1913).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² S. D. Waterman, History of the Berkeley Schools (Berkeley: The Professional Press, 1918). p. 125-131

V. EARLY TRANSPORTATION

The matter of transportation is of primary importance to the development of Berkeley. In 1852, there were two main roads: San Pablo Road (now San Pablo Avenue), and Telegraph Road which led over the hills to Lafayette. University Avenue was the only street running east and west.¹³ Ocean View was located between San Pablo Road and the Bay and after the Overland Railroad was built in 1869, grew quite rapidly. The Overland trains first came to San Francisco via Niles and the Livermore Valley. At the same time, the Benicia line to Sacramento was opened and West Berkeley benefitted directly in population growth. 1874 saw the coming of the Berkeley Railroad and Ferry Company which made two trips daily, taking passengers by bus to the University. By 1876, the new steam railroad made trips from the end of the Oakland wharf via West Oakland to Berkeley with six trains daily. In 1878, the Central Pacific established the Bay Shore Railroad between Oakland and Martinez. This was a prime incentive to growth in Berkeley. For local transportation, the first street car connecting the University site with Temescal came in 1872. In 1873, the San Pablo Horse Railway came as far as Emory but not to West Berkeley. In 1871, there was a street railway put in on Shattuck Avenue, but it was not until 1892 that Berkeley had its first electrically propelled street cars.¹⁴

VI. INCORPORATION OF BERKELEY

By the mid-1870s we have a divided Berkeley. West Berkeley, below San Pablo; East Berkeley, by the University, and what we might call central Berkeley around Shattuck and University where the street car line from Oakland had its Terminus. A movement for incorporation was begun in 1874, led by Mr. Shattuck and Mr. Durant, but met with little success. When incorporation finally came in 1878, the Berkeley Advocate was prominent with its editorials for incorporation.

The influence of the University was felt in the naming of Berkeley for it was Mr. Frederick Billings, one of the trustees of that institution, who suggested Berkeley after quoting the lines of Bishop Berkeley,

Westward the course of Empire takes its way,

The first four acts already passed,

The fifth shall close the drama with the day,

Time's noblest offspring is the last.¹⁵

At this time, 1878, Berkeley's population numbered between 1600 and 1800.

There had been several reasons for the delay in incorporation, including rivalry between East and West Berkeley and geographic and social disharmony. "The streets laid out by one nucleus have a

¹³ Mary Ruth Houston, The Early History of Berkeley, California.

¹⁴ Waterman, op. cit., pp. 125-131

¹⁵ Waterman, op. cit., pp. 125-131.

way of running flatly into the fences of another,” said one history of the period. In addition, there was a social line above and below the tracks.¹⁶ This disharmony continued even after incorporation but there was a gradual upswing in civic consciousness helped by the establishment of the electric streetcars on Shattuck Avenue. Other contributions to civic unity included Edison lights for the streets at night, the Bell telephone, and paved streets, all of which came about 1891. This was a year of great prosperity. The population increased 20%. There was an average of one house a day built throughout the year. South Berkeley was annexed. New reservoirs were established. The number of stores quadrupled. The Berkeley Savings Bank and the Berkeley Bank were [sic] established. University enrollment increased to 950. And in 1892, Lorin was annexed.¹⁷

VII. EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Before we have a complete background picture for the founding of the Holmes Public Library, several other significant factors need to be recognized. Educational facilities outside of the University of California developed steadily. The first schools in Alameda County were established by the Board of Supervisors in 1856. West Berkeley had its first public school in 1865 (elementary).¹⁸ In 1878, the schools were given half of a tax of \$.50.¹⁹ The high school, first called Kellogg School, was established in 1880 and was one of the first secondary schools accredited to the University. By 1891, there were four public schools in Berkeley. The school census taken that year indicates some 1,331 students. The Town Trustees called for a special bond election of \$50,000 for property and school buildings in 1891 and it carried. This evidently was not adequate, however, because in 1895, a \$120,000 bond issue for a new high school and three new grammar schools was proposed but failed of the necessary vote. The citizens persevered and in 1896 were able to pass a \$22,500 bond issue culminating in 1900 with \$100,000 for additions to the high school (a separate chemistry and physics building) and four new grammar schools. The high school which changed its name to Berkeley High School in 1894, progressed from 14 graduates in 1890 to 118 in 1904.²⁰

Possibly encouraged by the University’s presence, a number of private schools were started in Berkeley beginning in 1877 with a “Young Ladies Seminary”. Other well known private schools included the Berkeley Gymnasium (1877), Boone’s University School (1881), Harmon Seminary (1882), Bowen’s Academy (1883), Anna Head School (1887), and St. Joseph’s Presentation Convent and Academy (1878). The Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum was begun in 1867 and had become very well known by the time of the establishment of the Holmes Library.²¹

VIII. EARLY POPULATION FIGURES

¹⁶ Berkeley, The First 75 Years (Berkeley: Gillick Press, 1961). pp. 61-62.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Johnson, op. cit.

¹⁹ Baker, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 343-354.

²⁰ Johnson, op. cit.

²¹ William Warren Ferrier, Berkeley, California (Berkeley: William Ferrier, 1933). pp. 224-244

Berkeley's population growth was another background factor in the development of a public library. The first United States Census of Berkeley [sic] was taken in 1890, and the figure for that year was 5,101. Prior to that date, the school data for Oakland and Alameda County was used by one author to establish figures, assuming that similar rates existed in Berkeley. For ten year periods, the figures are as follows: 1850 – 12; 1860 – 69; 1870 – 437; 1880 – 1,985 (a U. S. Census indicates only that there were less than 4,000 population in 1880); 1890 – 5,101; 1900 – 13,214; 1905 – 21,378; 1910 – 40,434.²² A break-down of the 1860 census shows 861 whites, 82 Chinese, 4 colored, and 12 Indians. Another figure for 1878 shows 1,510 by an official canvass of votes. The figure for 1890 does not include Lorin (743) or South Berkeley (774) both of which were annexed by 1892.²³

IX. EFFECTS OF THE LIQUOR LAW

Another factor which gave impetus to the library movement was the liquor law, passed by the State Legislature in 1876, which prohibited the selling of liquor within one mile of the University campus in Berkeley. There had been two laws prior to this, dating from 1873, which had fixed the limit at two miles. Outside the mile limit, saloons flourished and licenses were even granted within the mile limit. By 1890, the Town Trustees were enforcing the law within the limit but in West Berkeley, there were twenty-eight saloons many of which had gambling. The Advocate came out staunchly against these concerns. The main consideration for not making Berkeley [sic] a "dry town" in the early and mid-nineties, was the loss of revenue from the licenses. An Anti-Saloon Ordinance was passed in 1899 but was violated by those challenging the [sic] validity of such an ordinance. This validity was affirmed by the Supreme Court in November 1900. This ordinance was never enforced and in 1900 was repealed, evidently to increase the town's revenues. There was another law passed by the State Legislature in 1906 but the effective legislation came from the Berkeley charter provision of January 30, 1909 which said that the Town Council shall have no power to license the sale of any spirituous, malt, vinous, or alcoholic [sic] liquors.²⁴ Throughout this period of some twenty-five years, there had been constant agitation for the passage of such a law and in its absence certainly the library was felt to be one way of counteracting the evil of saloons.

X. NEWSPAPERS OF THE PERIOD

As has been indicated above, the Berkeley Daily Advocate was very active in the anti-saloon movement. It was also outspoken for the library and was generous in giving space to library articles frequently. Other newspapers of the period included the Berkeley Herald (daily), two papers from the University – the Occident and the Blue and Gold, the West Berkeley News (twice-weekly) and later the Berkeley Gazette. Also the Berkeley Beacon and Standard and the Berkeley Evening Dispatch.

²² J. Bowman, The Population of Early Berkeley (typed manuscript, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, 1933) pp. 1-5

²³ Baker, op. cit., pp. 343-354, Vol II.

²⁴ Baker, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 343-354

XI. CHURCHES

Brief mention should be made here of the churches. In 1884, there existed the First Congregational, the Chinese Mission, the Episcopal, St. Mark's Episcopal, First Methodist, First Presbyterian and St. Joseph's. All of these were Protestant except for the latter.²⁵

²⁵ Johnson, *op. cit.*

PART II: EARLY LIBRARY HISTORY OF BERKELEY AND THE HOLMES PUBLIC LIBRARY 1892-1895

I. THE "FREE READING ROOM"

There were frequent references throughout the readings done for this paper to a "Free Reading Room" established in 1882. The sources indicated for these refernces [*sic*] was an unnamed newspaper of the time (of which there were two), but upon checking both of them the article could not be found. However, the files were not complete for 1882 and the references were so frequent and fairly well-detailed that it was felt a history of the library would not be complete without including the information acquired.

This reading room consisted of 54 donated books and subscriptions to a few newspapers and periodicals.¹ It was housed first in the Durgin Gompertz Furniture Company Building and then moved to the People's Water Company offices.² A newspaper article stirred the citizenry to support it on the basis of getting the young men out of the saloons or "to combat the undergraduate flight from boredom". An advertismment [*sic*] in the same paper asked for a contribution of \$400 to assure the success of establishing a reading room and circulating library. \$100 was received and used to open the Free Reading Room. There were no more funds or books received. The Reading Room was open sixteen hours a week but finally closed in September, 1882. Mr. A. H. Broad was in charge of the library.³

II. BEGINNING OF THE HOLMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

With the exception of an article in the Advocate of 1889,⁴ there was no further agitation for a library until 1892. A first preliminary meeting was held at Shattuck Hall on Saturday evening, December 3, 1892 for the purpose of organizing a Public Library and Reading Room for the Town of Berkeley. Mr. Edson Kelsey, by request, presided, and Mr. H. Sangster acted as secretary pro tem.⁵ The library was evidently one of some four topics to be discussed including fire protection, electric lights and the city's incorporation. This was to be a mass meeting but was attended only by some fifty persons.⁶ Dr. J. Edson Kelsey and Mr. William H. Waste were primarily responsible for first bringing the library to the public's attention. Dr. Kelsey and his brother owned a drugstore on Shattuck Aveunue [*sic*].

¹ The First 75 Years, op. cit., pp. 61-62

² Berkeley Gazette, Feb. 17, 1917.

³ Ferrier, op. cit., pp. 224-244.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, Dec. 3, 1882-Dec 11, 1895.

⁶ Berkeley Advocate, December 12, 1892.

At that time there were several students making their way through the University by reporting for the San Francisco newspapers. Among the young men who made our store their headquarters was William Waste. In the fall of that year (1892) there was a great sensation when it became known that a number of boys were frequenting a billiard parlor where gambling and drinking were [*sic*] indulged in. As one of the boys who worked for me frequented the place, I became much interested. A Letter was written to the Berkeley Advocate stating the facts in the case and suggesting the advisability of fixing up a room with books and games, where the boys could have the proper influence about them when away from home. Mrs. Marquand, who was the editor of the Advocate became interested, and kept the subject before the people by frequent notices.⁷

Through the newspaper, the Women of Berkeley were appealed to and we also find a comment that few towns the size of Berkeley do not have a public library where current literature is available.⁸

At this first meeting, Mr. W. H. Waste speaking as a young man for the young men, was followed by Mr. McCoy of the San Francisco YWCA. Addresses were also made by Rev. D. Ketcham, Rev. Whittemore, Mr. Layman, Mr. Bishop and Mr. Shattuck. On motion of Mr. Bishop, duly recorded by Mr. Waste, a committee of seven was appointed to provide ways and means of securing funds and to call a second meeting at an early date for further progress.⁹

The following names were appointed to meet at the home of Mr. Kelsey on Channing Way on Tuesday evening, December 6, 1892, at 8:00 p. m.: Mr. D. W. Bishop, Rev. M. Whittemore, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Layman, Mr. Hanscom, Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Waste.¹⁰

Most of the men involved in the first planning stage were prominent citizens of the community. Joseph D. Layman was assistant librarian at the University. He donated a set of the works of Oliver Wendell Holmes with the suggestion that the library be named after this prominent literary figure.¹¹

William Waste was a student at Hastings and graduated in 1894. He was interested in journalism and worked for the Oakland Tribune among others. He practiced law in Oakland and was elected to the State Assembly in 1902. He is recorded as being a man of broad views and modern ideas, interested in the development of the city and its citizens.¹²

⁷ JBerkeley[*sic*] Daily Gazette, Jan 27, 1905.

⁸ Ferrier, op. cit., 224-244

⁹ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

¹⁰ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

¹¹ Berkeley Advocate, Nov. 9, 1893.

¹² Frank Merritt, History of Alameda County, California, (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928). Vol. II, p. 449

J. Edson Kelsey was a pioneer in Berkeley. He first opened his pharmacy with his brother H. D. Kelsey, in 1876. He graduated from pharmacy school at the University of California in 1891.¹³

Rev. Everett T. Whittemore was the pastor of the First Baptist Church.¹⁴

At the December 12, meeting, the Constitution was adopted requiring that the members of the Association

“shall be citizens of Berkeley who sign this constitution and monthly pay \$1 into the treasury. They shall have all the privileges of the rooms in the library. ...Other persons who desire to borrow books or periodicals shall pay \$1 per year in advance. The use of the periodicals, books etc., at the rooms shall be absolutely free to all whether members or not. The rooms and the library shall be open every day from 2 tp [sic] 10 p. m. They shall be under direct charge of a Librarian chosen by the Board of Directors.”¹⁵

The officers to be elected consisted of a president, secretary and treasurer and (at the first meeting) nine directors; thereafter three each year (the first nine dtermining [sic] by lot the members who would serve one, two and three years. The president was to divide the directors into two committees: four members on income of which the treasurer would be the fifth, with a vote; five members on expenditure. The librarian was required to submit a written report at each monthly meeting. The election of officers followed: W. H. Waste, president of the corporation, H. Sangster, secretary, J. E. Kelsey, treasurer. Directors included J. J. Logan, S. D. Waterman, J. D. Layman, Rev. E. B. Whittemore, P. R. Boone and J. L. Banker who was replaced by Mr. Shattuck shortly afterward.¹⁶ Educators in this group included Mr. Waterman, Principal Berkeley High School, Mr. Boone, Head of Boone’s University School, and Prof. C. W. Woodworth (omitted above), professor of entymology [sic] at U. C.

In January, 1893, the first Bulletin of the Holmes Library appeared with the Constitution and an address to the public, 5,000 circulars in all. This address stated that the purposes of the library were “to found an institution through which books and periodical literature may be circulated, and also to provide a commodious and attractive resort where the youth of Berkeley may, without cost, pass many happy and profitable hours”.¹⁷

This address also indicated the foresightedness of the directors when they said that “what has taken place elsewhere in similar cases, justifies the hope that the town or city of Berkeley will be disposed to assume, in due time, the maintenance of this library”.¹⁸

¹³ Berkeley Gazette, Jan. 27, 1905.

¹⁴ Husted’s Directory of Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley, (San Francisco: F. M. Husted Company, 1892-3).

¹⁵ Holmes Library Association Bulletin #1, Constitution and address to the Public of the Directors

¹⁶ Minutes of the Holmes Library Assoviation [sic], op. cit.

¹⁷ Holmes Library Association Bulletin #1, op. cit.

¹⁸ Ibid.

And so the Holmes Public Library had its beginning. It opened on Friday night, February 10, 1893 and some 300 people attended the opening.¹⁹ Furniture was donated by the YWCTU and other citizens and new volumes were brought by a donated horse and buggy. In addition to the books donated by Mr. Layman, 250 volumes were [sic] also donated by the YWCTU and a few volumes by other citizens totaling 264 in all.²⁰ These books included such titles as *Ramona*, *Little Women* and *Ben Hur* and such standard works as Dickens, Thackeray, and Scott as well as the novels of the currently popular and eminently ethical Lew Wallace and E. P. Roe.²¹ By the end of December, they had 681 volumes.

Miss Lucy Wheeler of San Diego was appointed the first librarian. The library was located in a store in the Shattuck Block which Mr. Shattuck offered to rent to them.²² There is no record in the minutes of any payment to Mr. Shattuck for these quarters and a later newspaper article indicates that he did donate them.²³

A description of these first quarters by Mr. Kelsey is as follows:

The front room was the library with linoleum on the floor, long tables for magazines, comfortable high-backed chairs, and a desk and table for the librarian. There were also a few bookcases but a sufficient number were [sic] soon provided. The rear room, separated from the front by swing doors, had a Brussels carpet, chairs, a piano, tables etc. – and was provided with many sorts of games. Both rooms were lighted by oil lanterns.²⁴

The librarian was paid \$50 a month out of which she was to pay a janitor. The circulating library was put into operation on February 18, 1893. Borrowers were allowed to keep books two weeks with a chance of renewal. A fine of five cents a day was to be charged for overdue books. Magazines over one month old would be allowed out for one week. Only one book or magazine was to be loaned at a time.²⁵

III. THE FINANCIAL STRUGGLE

Each member of the Board had been appointed a committee of one to canvass Berkeley for subscriptions. On January 5, 1893, the Library Association had obtained \$44.50 in cash and \$243 promised. At this point, it was suggested that canvassers be allowed 7½% for cash collected and 5% for promised subscriptions and three canvassers were appointed. Within a week, cash and promises totalled \$1210.50. To help raise money and to keep the public interested and informed, a committee was appointed to see that all items of interest regarding the library be put into the papers. In addition, another committee was appointed to visit the pastors of Berkeley on behalf of the Holmes Library

¹⁹ Berkeley Advocate, August, 1893.

²⁰ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

²¹ Ferrier, op. cit., 224-244.

²² Berkeley Gazette, December 7, 1905.

²³ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

²⁴ Berkeley Gazette, Jan. 27, 1905.

²⁵ Ferrier, op. cit., 224-244.

Association and have them speak to their congregations. Subscriptions continued to come in and by February 2, \$1759.05 had been [sic] either collected or promised.²⁶

One of the first acts of the committee on expenditures was to spend \$50.00 on periodicals. Several weeks later (February 16), arrangements were made to obtain \$50.00 worth of books from the Mechanics Library (San Francisco) on time. Throughout the first few months, small expenditures were made for books, the titles of which were approved by the Board. In April, some \$75.00 was spent for binding. In May, it was moved that a financial agent be engaged to collect subscriptions at a compensation of 10% of all collected. The treasurer's report for July shows \$1.05 on hand and \$229.65 indebtedness. This was a matter for some concern and a committee appointed to "formulate a plan and suggest the necessary steps and proceedings toward a transfer of the library to the city of Berkeley made the following report":

1. A petition to the Board of Trustees of the city of Berkeley be placed in the principal public places of business for signatures and that each Director take a copy and secure all the signatures possible. Petitions to be presented at the August meeting of the Board of Trustees.
2. A committee of two be appointed to secure preparation of proper papers for adoption by the City Trustees establishing and maintaining a free public library.
3. One person be appointed to present the matter to the Board.
4. The petition be accompanied by an offer on the part of the Association to turn over the Free Public Library when established, all books and furniture now belonging to this association.²⁷

As time went by and no action was taken, it became evident that the Board of Trustees was not interested in taking over the library at this time. There seems to have been some question as to whether the town under its present charter could establish and maintain a free public library.²⁸

To alleviate the immediate financial crisis, different types of entertainment called "Book Socials" were given. The Socials required one or more books for entrance, only literature fine and wholesome being allowed.²⁹ These were held at Shattuck Hall and were of several types. Popular lectures along educational lines – photography, physical culture, electricity [sic] and astronomy, being examples – were held. A Minstrel Show was given.³⁰ At one Book Social, a representative pupil from each school in town talked about the library and what it represents [sic] to grown-ups as well as to children. Representatives from all the churches and other prominent citizens were invited to give five minute talks as an effective

²⁶ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

²⁷ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

²⁸ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

²⁹ Ferrier, op. cit.

³⁰ Berkeley Advocate, Dec. 12, 1896

way of bringing the library situation before the people.³¹ An announcement of the first of the Book Socials was in the Advocate of February 10, 1894. Attractions included the University Glee Club, the High School Orchestra, the Arion Quartet, and an elocutionist. What books to read and not to read were discussed by pastors of the churches of Berkeley. Another method of raising money was through the prize ticket contest given by the Oakland Consolidated Electric Railroad Company from which \$30.00 was won.³²

IV. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THE HOLMES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

There were many administrative and personnel changes in these first two years of the library's existence. As early as May, 1893, there was a committee of two appointed to confer with the librarian in regard to her attitude toward the Board. Miss Wheeler resigned in July of that year and D. R. Moore was appointed in her place at the same salary. At the annual meeting in December, two constitutional changes were made to make the library more available and more popular. The library was to be open every afternoon and evening with the hours to be decided by the Directors. And the membership fee was reduced to \$5.00 a year for citizens of Berkeley. The number of books allowed to borrowers was increased to two. The new officers were William Waste, president, Miss Fannie McDean, secretary, and Joseph Layman, treasurer.³³ After Mr. Moore became librarian, reports in the paper appear with more frequency. Figures for October, 1893, show the following:

circulation:	books	327
	magazines	38
		365
Attendance:	total for the month	2,610
	Increase over September	19.7%
	Average daily	84
Donations:	books	18
Borrowers New Cards		8

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In November of 1893, a regular library column was begun by Mr. Moore, a portion of which is included below by way of explaining what will be included.

A part of the minutes of each monthly meeting of the Directors will appear, a list of books already on the shelves will be printed, statements of the progress and wants of the library, notes of similar institutions and of books received. ... This new venture will attempt to bring the library

³¹ Ferrier, op. cit.

³² Berkeley Advocate, January 11, 1894.

³³ Minutes of the Holmes Library Association, op. cit.

³⁴ Berkeley Advocate, Nov. 3, 1893.

reading room and the Fireside to the notice of the entire reading public of Berkeley in more detail than before.³⁵

An editorial in the Advocate of March 17, 1894, gives a picture of how the library is regarded at this time.

The library idea now is to put into the community an institution which, however humble, shall be used and enjoyed by all, and shall serve first of all as a promoter of good cheer, next as a stimulator of interest in life, and finally in its own good time, as a positive and direct educational force.

By January of 1894, the debt of the Association stood at \$54.00. Comparative figures for the year show that in July, 1893, there were 46 visitors to the library as contrasted to 104 in December. The number of borrowers increased from 27 in February when the library opened, to 190 in December. The proposed title list of books never appeared due to lack of funds. By September, 1894, a new problem had arisen due to the increase in library attendance (134% over August, 1893; books, c144% over August, 1893), that of the seating capacity which was "usually taxed to the utmost and frequently overdrawn".³⁶ The library column which was supposed to be a regular feature, appeared regularly for the first four or five months, was discontinued for the summer, appeared in September and then was not seen again although frequent notices of the library's activities appeared.

The library had outgrown its original purpose. Its patronage had been increasing constantly for months and the patrons numbered not less than 200 daily, the greater number being from the high school and public schools.³⁷ Because of the related problems of lack of regular funds coming in and an increase in usage making the space inadequate and necessary maintenance such as binding impossible to afford, the library Directors decided again in August of 1895 to present their case to the city Trustees. By July 1895, attendance for the month was 4,153, with 509 borrowers and 107 new books. The library contained at this time 2800 bound volumes, 4,000 unbound volumes, 500 magazines.³⁸

"There is no debt against the Association and sufficient funds remain to operate the library until the first of November, when the Fall levy will have reached the town treasury." It was estimated at that time that \$2400 a year would be needed to run the library and three mils per \$100 would do it. It was further recommended that the library needed its own building for economy. a[sic] petition of 300 signatures was needed for the tax levy increase. On August 26, Town Attorney Hayes expressed the opinion that the town could not take possession of the library before the next election (in the Fall)³⁹.

V. THE CITY ACQUIRES A LIBRARY

³⁵ Berkeley Advocate, Nov. 9, 1893.

³⁶ Berkeley Advocate, Sept. 8, 1894.

³⁷ Ferrier, op. cit.

³⁸ Berkeley Advocate, Aug. 11, 1895.

³⁹ Berkeley Advocate, Aug. 11, 1895.

That the city would take over the library, there seems to be no doubt, but it did not do so until December. On December 6, 1895, a new Board of Library Trustees was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Berkeley in pursuance of Resolution No. 107a of the Resolutions of that Board.⁴⁰ These Trustees included F. K. Shattuck, A. W. Naylor, Thomas Addison, Henry W. Taylor, and H. D. Irwin. D. R. Moore was elected to remain as librarian at a salary of \$60 a month and an additional \$15 as secretary of the Board.

One of the newer and prominent library Board members was Addison Naylor. He was president of the First National Bank of Berkeley and the Berkeley Bank of Savings and Trust Company at the time of his appointment [*sic*]. He was born in Ohio in 1841 and started there in the dry goods business. In 1873, he established a private bank in Ohio and in 1878 assisted in organizing the Capital City State Bank and was its [*sic*] first president. He came to San Diego in 1888 and to Berkeley in 1891 where he organized the Berkeley Bank of Savings and succeeded Mr. Shattuck as president. He was always acting for the good of the community. He was active in church, sympathetic to the temperance movement and a Sunday school superintendent.⁴¹

Of the other new board members, H. W. Taylor is credited with being the owner of one of the oldest and largest lumber mills in West Berkeley and president of the West Berkeley Development Company (1887).⁴² H. D. Irwin was in real estate.

The Town of Berkeley [*sic*] assumed responsibility for the library "in accordance with the Act of the Legislature of the State of California, approved April 26, 1880, and entitled an Act to Establish Free Libraries and Reading Rooms". It should be noted here that the tax levied for the library was by a special fund rather than a bond issue.⁴³

When the town assumed the Holmes Public Library, the Association turned over "all the books, furniture and other belongings of the Holmes Library Association now in the Library Rooms in the Shattuck Block".⁴⁴

Larger quarters were necessary and the upper story of the building on the northwest corner of Allston and Shattuck Avenue was fitted up and was occupied as a library and reading room. Mrs. Rosa Shattuck was paid \$25.00 a month for the use of these rooms. One of the first actions of the new library Board was to look into reading rooms in Lorin and West Berkeley. On December 18, 1895, it was decided that the reading rooms in these two areas should be open several days a week from 3:00 to 9:30 except for legal holidays. Curators were to be hired at \$25.00 a month.⁴⁵

On December 23, by-laws were established which made the following changes since the rules and regulations of the Holmes Public Library continued in force until there was an order passed by the

⁴⁰ Waterman, op. cit.

⁴¹ Merritt, op. cit., Vol. II, pg. 449.

⁴² Husted's Directory, op. cit.

⁴³ Berkeley Advocate, December 7, 1895.

⁴⁴ Minutes of the Holmes [*sic*] Public Library, op. cit.

⁴⁵ Minutes of the Library Trustees of the Town of Berkeley, Dec. 11, 1895.

Board changing them. There were now to be four standing committees instead of two, appointed by the president. These would include books, administration, finance, and printing and supplies. The Book Committee was to supervise the character of books and periodicals to be purchased and purchase them. The Printing Committee would take care of library cards, applications and the like. Administration would handle the general supervision of the library and report changes in the rules and regulations. The duties of the Finance Committee would be essentially the same as before, to present and pay bills.⁴⁶

The librarian was required to make a report on attendance, circulation and such matters to the Board. The new rules and regulations allowed any resident of Berkeley over 12 years to use the library provided they would sign an application and agree to pay fines. They were also required to have a guarantee signed by another person. The guarantor must be a resident of Berkeley, must be over 21, and his name must appear on an assessment roll of the town. He was to be responsible for all fines for which he was guarantor. If an applicant had no guarantor, he could make a deposit equal to the value of the book and the deposit would then be returned less five cents for each withdrawal [sic]. Users were limited to one book or periodical at a time. There was fourteen day use for new books and they could be renewed for seven days with a five cent fine for each day overdue. Reference books were not to circulate. Anyone could use books and periodicals in the reference room as long as they were quiet and orderly. The library was to be open seven days a week from 2:00 to 6:00 and from 7:00 to 9:30 except for legal holidays.⁴⁷

On January 14, 1896, it was decided that the library hereafter be known as the Berkeley Public Library.⁴⁸

VI. THE BRANCH READING ROOMS

Because Berkeley was so spread out, the Branch Reading Rooms were a real necessity. They had their problems getting a start. The Town Council refused an appropriation for furnishings and a special committee of the Library [sic] Board was set up to procure donations. It was decided not to distribute books to the Branches [sic] for this first year. Newspapers were ordered for them and later other papers and some magazines were donated. Duplicate magazines from the Central reading room were also distributed and a set of International Encyclopedia was sent to West Berkeley.⁴⁹ A note of February, 1896 in the Advocate states that the Branch Public Library is well patronized and welcome in West Berkeley. The attendance for April, 1896 was counted at 1180 and that for Lorin at 1034.⁵⁰ The West Berkeley Reading Room was partitioned in the rear and that part was reserved for games of checkers, chess and others. Also in February, there was a letter to the editor of the Advocate complaining that there were no books and the magazines and newspapers were far too few. But it was not until August of 1897, that a system of loaning books to the Branches was commenced.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ferrier, op. cit.

The picture of the reading rooms for the period is one of general growth and greater reader patronage. In February, 1899, the lease on the Lorin Reading Room was extended for five years at \$15.00 a month. W. R. Dickieson who was curator of the West Berkeley Reading Room, was receiving \$40.00 a month by 1900, as was P. Stedtman, the curator at Lorin. In this year a petition was received from the residents of the Fourth Ward, South Berkeley, asking that a Branch Library be established. They were turned down due to a lack of funds. In 1901, South Berkeley sent another petition as did North Berkeley, but both were refused again for the same reason. Actually, Lorin and South Berkeley encompassed so nearly the same area that in 1903, the Lorin Reading Room changed its name to South Berkeley.⁵¹

In October, 1901, the Lorin Reading Room was moved from Alcatraz to Adeline Street to a building owned by the State Savings Bank Of Oakland and a lease was signed for five years at \$17.00 a month. In December, the curators [*sic*] salaries were raised to \$50.00 and shortly afterward, an allowance was made for janitorial service to clean the windows and floors. The furnishings at Lorin were insured for \$300 at this time. The Reading Rooms were to be opened Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. but exchanging or loaning of books on Sunday was to be discontinued starting in April, 1902. (This applied to the Central Reading Room too.) In 1903, the hours were changed for the Reading Rooms to be open from 2:00 to 6:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 week days except legal holidays and 2:00 to 6:00 on Sundays.⁵²

VII. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 1895-1901

The picture of the central library from the time it was taken over by the Town of Berkeley until 1901 is also one of growth. Many new books were added from various sources. Three works purchased in 1896, were Dewey's Decimal Classification, the Encyclopedia Britannica and a dictionary. A donation called the "Mills Fund" is mentioned in the Minutes as a source of book money but of course the new aid of city funds gave the greatest impetus to enlarging the book collection. In December, 1896, the American Tract Society furnished the lowest bid on a list of books of \$553.80. At the same time, the Book Committee was instructed to purchase \$500.00 worth of additional books. This committee was also to subscribe to the same magazines and periodicals for each reading room and add a few for the Branches. Type-written copies of the catalog were decided upon and three trays purchased for catalog cards. The partitions were removed from the library reading room which would seem to indicate a decline in the interest in games.

The librarian was permitted to use his discretion in loaning books to teachers in the public schools of Berkeley and in increasing the number of books to be taken out on any one card, not to exceed three. His salary was increased to \$75.00.

⁵¹ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

⁵² Ibid.

In September of 1897, some 200 volumes were rebound at \$.40 per volume. \$5.00 a month was allowed for delivery daily of books to Lorin. Book Socials continued throughout this period. In 1898, an assistant librarian, Mabel Weed, was hired at \$25.00 a month. Additional chairs and shelves were purchased for the reading room, also indicating growth.⁵³ By 1899, the librarian was allowed to call in any book for use in the Berkeley public schools with seven days notice. The levy for the library was increased by the Board of Trustees from six cents to seven cents per \$100.⁵⁴ Some figures on the borrowers cards show that in 1899 there were 2170; 1900 – 2427; 1901 – 2691.⁵⁵

A word might be said here about the duties of the librarian. The main authority for purchasing books and making rules and regulations was vested in the Library Board. However, the librarian could and did make suggestions and since he was also secretary of the Board and present at all meetings, the relationship between the two was evidently good especially considering the fact that Mr. Moore continued as librarian some seventeen years until his death. There was no biographical information available on Mr. Moore, so it is difficult to say if he were professionally trained in any way, but it seems unlikely. A general impression after reading the minutes he wrote for many years and the articles he wrote for the paper indicate an intelligent and conscientious approach and a good deal of “on the job” training.

There were a few changes on the Board from 1895 to 1900. Mr. Shattuck died in 1898 and Mr. Sylvester D. Waterman was appointed in his place. Thomas Addison resigned in 1897, and Prof. Alexis Stange, an instructor at the University was appointed to fill his unexpired term. In 1899, W. W. McLaughlin took Henry W. Taylor’s place. Also Mrs. H. N. Marquand was on the Board for a while. Mr. Lange resigned in 1900. Prof. Stange became president in 1899. Throughout the year 1900, the meetings were adjourned many times for lack of a quorum with no other accountable reason.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Letter to Andrew Carnegie from S. D. Waterman, Jan 20, 1903.

A list of the claims upon the library for January, 1901, is included here to show the extent to which it had expanded.

Chronicle	\$3.20	John M. Foy	15.00
Bulletin	5.00	R. W. Baker	1575
D. R. Moore	102.00	W. R. Dickieson	45.00
Wm. White	15.00	Mabel Weed	35.00
Rosa Shattuck	40.00	F. Stedman	36.25
Chas. E. Tallmadge	30.00	Ramos and Renas	3.35
Berk. Elec. Lighting Co.	25.00		

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The minutes do not indicate exactly who all these accounts are but the names of the librarians and curators we know. And by the amount involved, some of the items can be spotted as rental fees. Maintenance and subscriptions account for most of the other items. Quite a contrast with the typical entry of 1893 which had some three or four claims.

A general annual increase in the librarian's and curator's salaries is evident [*sic*] for these years. An expansion of services to include 4th, 5th, and 6th grade pupils of the public schools under the age of 12, on a certification from the teacher saying that the pupil is a member of said grade.⁵⁷ Books were purchased more or less continuously [*sic*] and subscriptions frequently increased for all the reading rooms. With all this, it soon became evident that the present quarters were not adequate, and so, in 1901[?] it was decided to approach Mr. Andrew Carnegie to see if he would aid the Town of Berkeley in obtaining a new library building.

⁵⁶ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

PART III. THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY 1901-1905

The first letter to Mr. Andrew Carnegie regarding the Berkeley Public Library is date [sic] March 19, 1901, and signed by Mr. Waterman, then president of the Library Board. Mr. Waterman included the following facts for this period:

Berkeley is a town of about 14,000 inhabitants. Its [sic] population in 1890 was about 6,000. Its increase in population in ten years has been 8,000 – more than 100%. Here is situated the University of the State of California, which attracts many people here as residents. .. Our town charter makes provision for the maintenance of a Free Public Library by a tax which must not exceed ten cents on each \$100. This brought the town about \$7,000.

..And this being a new town, the Board of Trustees do not see their way clear to bond the town further for the purpose of erecting a library building to conform with the other buildings of the place.¹

No response was received to this letter so, in July, another one was sent, titled: “A Statement of the Condition of the Library and Its Needs”.² Further statistics were given from the librarian’s report for the year ending June 30, 1901. Total circulation of books, 5500 monthly. 1609 volumes had been added during the year. The total number of volumes exclusive of pamphlets was 9120. The apportionment to the library from the town fund is about \$1200 being a tax of eight cents to the one hundred dollars on an assessed valuation of a little over nine million dollars.

“Rents, salaries and incidental expenses for the maintenave [sic] of the library and two Branch reading rooms is about \$4500...”³

This letter was signed by the Library Board, President of the Town Trustees, President of the Board of Education and the Librarian.

There was no response to this letter either. In the meantime, the libaray [sic] continued to function as usual. New officers for 1901 were S. D. Waterman, president, H. D. Irwin and Addison Naylor. New Directors were Charles P. Henry (candy maker),⁴ Leon J. Richardson (assistant professor at the University), and Charles Sleeper (a manager in San Francisco).⁵ A great deal of the business had to do with the growing Branches which was covered earlier. In June, 1902, the librarian was authorized to

¹ S. D. Waterman, Berkeley, Calif., to Andrew Carnegie, Esq., (New York City, N. Y.), Mar. 19, 1901, L. S., 2pp., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian’s Office.

² S. D. Waterman & Board, Berkeley, Calif., to Andrew Carnegie, (New York City, N. Y.), July 29, 1901, L. S., 2pp., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian’s Office.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Husted’s Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley City Directory, (San Francisco: F. M. Husted Company, 1904).

⁵ Ibid.

employ additional assistants for six months at \$30.00 a month. Gertrude Littlejohn was hired and elected assistant librarian in 1903 at \$40.00 a month.⁶

A year after the second letter to Mr. Carnegie, a third note was sent renewing the request since there had been no reply received.⁷ An answer was finally received dated January 12, 1903, signed by Mr. Carnegie's secretary.

Your schedule of answers received. It seems as if with such a large income, you might very soon build a library. Please give further particulars about the library and its accommodations, and send last annual report.⁸

In response to this, a copy of the last annual report as submitted by the secretary was sent (for 1902), with the statement: "We have published no catalog nor annual report as the money was needed for other things". The report included the following information:

Visitors for the year ending June 30, 1902:

Central – 82,440 So. Berkeley – 40,809 W. Berkeley – 34,276

Total 157,626, an increase of 4895 over last year.

Borrowers Cards for 1902 – 3396. Based on the last census, this is one card in force for each 4.38 of the population.

Books – 11,468. Pamphlets – 550. Periodicals – 146 total, oncluding [sic] 40 donated.

Circulation – Open shelves so does not include number of volumes used by readers in the library or for reference: 81,614 total. 67,047 – Central. 10,788 – So. Berkeley. 3780 – W. Berkeley. Fiction 75%.

Income – to balance in treasurer's last report:

	\$2913.02
apportionment (taxes)	8053.43
finer	151.90
	<hr/>
	\$11118.35

⁶ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

⁷ S. D. Waterman, Berkeley, Calif., to Andrew Carnegie, (Glasgow, Scotland), July 17, 1902, 1 p., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian's Office.

⁸ James Bertram (secretary for A. Carnegie, New York, N. Y., to S. D. Waterman (Berkeley, Calif.), Jan 12, 1903, L. S. 1 p., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian's Office.

Expenditures:

Books	\$2001.37
Periodicals	373.82
Binding	341.15
Supplies	70.65
Postage and box rent	24.45
Rents	854.00
Saleries [<i>sic</i>]	3060.00
Messenger	120.25
Janitors	192.90
Insurance	121.85
Light	330.65
Fuel	91.90
Furnishings	353.60
Misc.	34.70
	<hr/>
	7971.49

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On January 29, 1903, a letter was sent from Benjamin I. Wheeler to Mr. Carnegie on behalf of the library and suggesting that he should give Berkeley \$80,000 instead of the \$50,000 asked for.¹⁰

Finally on February 11, 1903, came the long awaited reply from Mr. Carnegie.

...the population is surprisingly small for the extent of the community, showing it to be but sparsley [*sic*] peopled. It is evident there should not be a large library building but several small ones. Mr. Carnegie asks me to say that he would be glad to give one moderate sized library building costing Forty Thousand Dollars which seems far in excess of that usually given for the population. He thinks you will find it necessary to put up branches rather than increase your central building considering the extent of your community.

This gift is conditional on a maintenance fund of Four Thousand Dollars per year and on the provision of a site.¹¹

On February 24, 1903, a special meeting was held by the Library Board to act on an offer of \$40,000 from Andrew Carnegie and on the offer of a site for the building 104ft. by 150 ft. at the southwest corner of Shattuck and Kittridge [*sic*] streets. Both of these were accepted.¹² There was a delay in getting the Resolution of Maintenance passed by the Board of Trustees but this was done on

⁹ S. D. Waterman, Berkeley, Calif., to Andrew Carnegie, Jan. 20, 1903, L. S. 2 pp., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian's Office.

¹⁰ Benjamin I. Wheeler, Berkeley, Calif., to Andrew Carnegie, L. S. 1 p., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian's Office. Jan. 29, 1903.

¹¹ James Bertram to S. D. Waterman, Feb. 11, 1903, L. S. 1 p., Berkeley Public Library, files in the Librarian's Office.

¹² Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

March 9, 1903. The guarantee was for \$4,000 per year (Resolution #988 – A) and all these were sent to Mr. Carnegie.¹³

Another letter was sent to the Home Trust Company, Hoboken, New Jersey from the Town Clerk stating that “the title to the site selected for our new Library Building has been vested in our city by deed, dated February 28, 1903, duly executed by Rosa M. Shattuck, grantor, and recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, California on the 27th day of March, 1903”.¹⁴

II. THE BUILDING OF A LIBRARY

For the next two years, the primary business of the Library Board was with the new building. John Galen Howard was appointed architect and by July, 1903, general interior plans of the building had been adopted leaving for the future style and elevations. In September, Galen presented his plans for the building and they were adopted with a few changes¹⁵ and the first installment was asked for from Mr. Carnegie’s grant.¹⁶

The architect received bids from contractors residing in Berkeley with alternate bids for pine, oak and mahogany for the woodwork of the second story to be submitted. Four bids were received, the lowest being that of Robert Greig at \$36,990. (The high bid was \$41,500.) This was to be reduced to \$35,000 and was in fact reduced to \$33,985 with changes in the specifications. Reductions or additions up to \$40,000 were left to the architect and Mr. Grieg [*sic*]. The construction of the floors and hardware were left to the architect. The contractors [*sic*] estimates had been on a building size of 74 ft. by 74 ft.¹⁷

On December 2, 1903, Mr. Waterman wrote to the Hoboken Bank sending a copy of the contract for the erection [*sic*] of the Carnegie Building. “The price named in the contract does not include the gas or electric fixtures, the furniture or the architects [*sic*] fee.” He asked that payment be made on the 15th of every month.

In April, 1904, Juliet A. Lombard was elected Children’s librarian at \$60 a month to start whenever her services were called for by the librarian.¹⁸

The Board of Town Trustees was asked to increase the tax levy to ten cents on \$100. Miss Lombard resigned and Alice G. Whitbeck was elected in her place, and allowed \$60 to \$80 for the purchase of photos including books and stereopticons.

¹³ S. D. Waterman to James Bertram, Feb. 25, 1905, L. S. 1 p., filed as above.

¹⁴ S. D. Waterman to James Bertram, Mar. 31, 1903, L. S., 2 p., containing actual [*sic*] copy of resolution. Another copy of resolution [*sic*] filed as above.

¹⁵ Minutes of the Library [*sic*] Trustees, op. cit.

¹⁶ S. D. Waterman to R. A. Franks (Pres. Home Trust Co., Hoboken, New Jersey), Aug. 11, 1903, L. S. 1 p. Filed same as above.

¹⁷ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

¹⁸ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

In October, 1904, the secretary was authorized to get bids on the furniture for the new library and also the electrical fixtures with the aid of the architect for the latter. Thomas Day received the contract for the furniture with a median bid \$1058.30.

In January, 1905, applications were received for new library staff members. Miss Bess Shaw was elected substitute at \$25.00 a month and given regular employment.

New library hours would be 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., weekdays and 2:00 to 5:00 Sundays.¹⁹

During 1904, some question arose as to the management of funds coming from the Carnegie grant. The original plan as stated by Mr. Waterman in a letter to the President of the Home Trust Company was as follows:

I have secured the services of Mr. John Galen Howard, Professor of Architecture at the University of California and the architect for the new University buildings, as our architect. ..As a Board, we are anxious, for obvious reasons, to control the expenditure of the money as a separate fund through the First National Bank here instead of through the Town Treasurer's office. .. If the plan outlined above suits you, we would be pleased to receive a check to cover the current expenses at your earliest convenience.²⁰

Another letter from Mr. Waterman to Mr. Franks elaborated on the above regarding payment of the bills. They were to be signed by the building committee and checks drawn for payment at the next full Board meeting where payment would be ratified by the Board and a record made.²¹

The president of the Trust Company wrote back to say this was satisfactory²² but in 1904, a letter from the Town Auditor advised the Library Trustees that the Carnegie funds should be covered into the Town Treasury. "The statute governing public libraries provides that all donations shall be treated in the same way as other public library monies – that is to say, should be deposited with the Town Treasurer and paid out in the same manner as other funds are paid."²³

As a result of this, monies were subsequently transferred to the Town Treasury.

The corner stone was laid April 20, 1904, without a ceremony in the interests of saving time. Book Socials continued throughout this period of planning for the new library. In May, 1904, thanks were extended to the school children of Berkeley for putting on a concert to benefit the library [*sic*]. The "Mother's Club" of West Berkeley was also thanked for a donation of books. The concert given by the school children cleared nearly \$700 and was given in the Greek Theatre at the University.²⁴

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ S. D. Waterman to R. A. Franks, July 31, 1903, L. S., 1 p., Berkeley Public Library, filed in the Librarian's Office [*sic*].

²¹ S. D. Waterman to R. A. Franks, May 3, 1903, L. S., 1 p., filed as above.

²² M. L. Hanscom (Town Auditor), to Brewton A. Hayne (Town Attorney), April 4, 1904. 2 letters sent to Mr. Waterman.

²³ S. D. Waterman to R. A. Franks, April 11, 1903, filed as above.

²⁴ Minutes of the Library Trustees, op. cit.

The most important Book Social of all was the Dedication of the Carnegie Library on January 26, 1905. An announcement appeared in the Gazette of January 14 to tell of the opening of the library on January 26 and asking that all who visit bring one or more books. The January 26th edition of this paper gives a lengthy and interesting account of the appearance of the new building. The building was 74 feet square, two stories high

..built in sandstone and brick, with a red-tiled roof of simple design. ...The basement, which is raised from the ground, contains a juvenile room which the Board has tried to equip in a manner equaling the famous department of the same sort in the Pittsburg Carnegie Library. This room is in the south side of the basement. It has a large fireplace and will be made attractive by pictures and statuary. The room will hold 10,000 volumes.

“Besides the juvenile room, the basement has a well-equipped bindery, a boxing room, a dumb waiter, a bicycle room, janitors [*sic*] room, lavatories, besides a good-sized room in the northeast corner which may be used as an additional reading room. While there will be fireplaces in all the rooms, the main heating will be done by hot-water radiators supplied from the furnace below.

“The main entrance hall and stairway, as well as the entire main floor, has been finished in golden oak, and the floors have been covered with cork. On the main floor are the periodical and newspaper reading-room, the reference library and study room and the stack room of the circulating library. The stackroom has a capacity for 40,000 volumes, the reference room for at least 8,000, and these with the capacity of the children’s room allow the building to hold comfortably 60,000 books.

“The administration desk is so arranged as to command these rooms, as well as the administration room, which is in the center, the stairway and the hall. There is also a librarian’s office and a small room for meetings of the Board in the rear of the stack room. A skylight sheds a flood of light from the roof to the main entrance on Shattuck Avenue. The windows which furnish the rest of the light, are exceptionally large and are furnished with pivoted panes of the best quality American plate glass.

The program for the evening was taken up primarily with a history of the library divided into parts, each one taken by a figure prominent in the original Holmes Library Association.²⁵ The “Beginning” was spoken on by Dr. Kelsey. Mr. Joseph Layman spoke on the phase known as “The Struggle”, 1892-1895. Judge William Waste was to have spoken on the period after 1895 but was unable to attend the dedication because the legislature was in session in Sacramento. In a letter to Mr. Waterman, he spoke of the library by saying,

I feel a confidence in stating that no institution ever started in the Town of Berkeley so speedily won and held the hearts of the entire people. We gathered together in one splendid family, so to speak, all faiths, denominations, and all shades of

²⁵ Program of the Dedication of the Carnegie Public Library.

belief. Young and old wed with each other in promoting the success of the movement, and in increasing its efficiency.²⁶

This letter was read at the Dedication.

The Dedication drew a capacity crowd and some 800 books were donated and new paintings were given as well.²⁷ Thus the Berkeley Public Library was formally launched on the third phase of its career.

The Directors for the Carnegie Library consisted of S. D. Waterman, Superintendent of Schools, Charles Sleeper, a manager in San Francisco, Leon J. Richardson, Assistant professor at the University, Charles P. Henry, Addison Wood Naylor, and D. R. Moore, secretary and Librarian.

A note looking to the future is found in a librarian's report for 1906. "How may the library hope to satisfy the rapidly increasing demands for service made upon it with a very slowli [*sic*] increasing revenue? During the past four years, the circulation of books has increased four times as rapidly as the income from taxes."

By 1906, after the earthquake, the population had grown to 35,000 which presented a challenge both to the City of Berkeley and to the Library for the years until 1931, when a new building was erected on the same site.

PART IV. CONCLUSION

To relate some of the factors discussed in the Early History of Berkeley, it would seem that economically, the library grew with the town. There was a time lag both for the city and the library from the tome[*sic*] of incorporation in 1878, to the 1890s when we see evidences [*sic*] of real growth in population, industry and general civic consciousness. Since this growth commenced with adequate transportation between the widespread areas within Berkeley and with Oakland, I think we can safely say that this lag was due primarily to geographic factors.

There were no real "hard times" during the period before 1890 and after except for 1894 which may have effected [*sic*] subscriptions [*sic*] to the library but certainly not its use.

Philanthropy did not play a large part in the establishment of the library except in so far as Mr. Shattuck's donation of the rooms rent-free was of great help from 1893-95. And we should not overlook Mrs. Shattuck's generous donation of a site for the Carnegie Library.

²⁶ Wm. Waste, Sacramento, Calif., to S. D. Waterman (Berkeley, Calif.), January, 1905, L. S., Berkeley Public Library, filed in the Librarian's Office.

²⁷ Berkeley Gazette, Jan, 27, 1905.

The population was essentially urban and certainly had a large cultural element due in a great extent to the establishment of the University of California there.

During the 1890s, there was a great interest evidenced in the public school system as indicated [sic] by the bond issues passed. The relationship of this to the founding of the library is obscure except in so far as the populace was concerned with the education of young people, this interest no doubt extended to the library as an instrument of education [sic]. In fact, there were some references in the Advocate previously mentioned indicating that this was the case.

The library was started as we know, by two concerned men and they were joined by a group of equally concerned and civic-minded individuals. Their concern was first and foremost to provide a place for the young men of the community to spend their time in a more healthful and uplifting environment than that provided by the local saloon. The Temperance Movement then played a prominent role in establishing the library along with local pride.

The Berkeley Public Library evolved directly from [sic] the Holmes Public Library Association [sic] in that it took over the same rooms, books and furnishings and many of the same directors to say nothing of the rules and regulations which were not changed greatly. Even the same librarian stayed on. The legal basis for the library was in the law of 1880, allowing the establishment [sic] of public libraries in California with a provision for the city to tax for the maintenance of same. There was no taxing for the library prior to its being taken over by the city.

The Berkeley Public Library has grown to be an important and integral part of the city's educational and cultural life. It is hoped that the above information has shed some light on this most interesting period of founding and early years.

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APPENDIX I

THE CONTITUTION [sic] OF THE HOLMES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

The Holmes Public Library Association, Berkeley, California, shall exist for the purpose of maintaining in Berkeley a Free Reading Room, a Circulating Library and "The Fireside". ("The Fireside" shall be a comfortable room where anyone may pass the time in chatting with friends, playing games, enjoying music etc., under rules prescribed by the directors.)

ARTICLE II

The members of the Association shall be citizens of Berkeley who sign this Constitution and monthly pay \$1 into the treasury. They shall have all the privileges of the rooms in the library.

ARTICLE III

The payment of \$25 in one sum shall constitute the donor an honorary member for one year, and \$100 shall secure a membership for life.

ARTICLE IV

Other persons who desire to borrow books or periodicals shall pay \$1 per year in advance. The funds accruing from this source shall always be expended for books and periodicals.

ARTICLE V

The use of periodicals, books, etc., at the rooms shall be absolutley [sic] free to all, whether members or not.

ARTICLE VI

The rooms and the library shall be open every day from 2:00 to 10:00 P.M. They shall be under the direct charge of a Librarian shosen [sic] by the Board of Directors and paid a salary by the Association.

ARTICLE VII

The regular annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the second Monday evening in December to elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer and (at the first meeting), nine directors: thereafter three each year (the first nine determining by lot the members who shall serve one, two and three years). Other business may come before this meeting. Officers and Directors enter upon their duties the first of January.

ARTICLE VIII

The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association and of the Directors. He shall be a member of each committee, but without a vote, except in the case of a tie. He shall, within a week of

election, divide the nine directors into two committees: four members on income, of which the Treasurer shall be the fifth, with a vote; five members on expenditure.

ARTICLE IX

The secretary shall act as such for the Association, the Directors, and the two committees on income and expenditure. He shall give notice of all meetings of the Association, by postal card, one week in advance.

ARTICLE X

The Treasurer shall collect, care for, and disburse the funds, under rules prescribed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI

The then elected officers and the nine elected Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors, which shall have the general management of the Association's interests. It shall appoint the Librarian and shall require of him a written report at each regular meeting of the Board. The Board shall fill vacancies.

ARTICLE XII

The President shall call a special meeting of the Association upon a written request of ten members, or of the Board of Directors when requested in writing by three Directors.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments to this Constitution may be passed at any annual meeting, if notice of the same was furnished to each member of the Association at least one month before the meeting.