

## Cresco Public Library Centennial 1914-2014

*The following articles were typed from the Howard County Times (the Cresco newspaper) as interest in the library centennial approaches. These do not preclude the existence of other articles that might have been missed. An attempt was made to keep the language of the article as true to the original writing as possible.*

As written the Consolidated pages of The Howard County Times and The Cresco Plain Dealer (Wednesday, June 15, 1966; Centennial Issue, p. 7) **Howard County Fair Moved To City of Cresco in 1866** The first fair in Cresco was held September 28 and 29, 1866. The Howard County Agricultural Society reorganized in January, 1866, and soon after the railroad was built, a fair was held in the new depot. In 1867 a courthouse was built in Cresco and the county fair was held in the courtroom October 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. The machinery and stock that year were exhibited on the ground north of J.F. Webster's residence, later the Park Hotel and now the corner where the library stands. At this time Elm street extended only to the courthouse square and the area north of the library was a grove of scrub oak and hazel brush...



**Abbie J. Converse**  
Cresco Public Library Director  
1912-1947

December 15, 1910  
Cresco Public Library

"The Cresco public library is distinctly a home product with a phenomenal growth. It is difficult to tell how deep its rootlets strike for the library idea was formulating before the library became a fact.

Twenty -five years ago the first effort was made. Some books were collected but their circulation ceased and in time they were turned over to the "Cresco Library Association."

In 1895-6 under the leadership of Mr. Augustus Beadle, a home entertainment lecture course was arranged. Among the speakers secured were Dr. Kessel, Dr. Buck, Mr. Ling, W. L. Converse, and Rev. Holmes. The second year an admission fee was charged and proceeds kept as a library fund.

Nov. 13, 1903, a mass meeting and book shower was called in O'Malley's hall. The Free Library Association was organized and about 100 books were received. This is the birthday of the Cresco public library. The members of the first Board of Trustees were Mrs. Mae Burgess, President; Mr. W.L. Converse, Vice President; C. W. Reed, Secretary; E. P Farnsworth, Treasurer; Mrs. O.) McHugh, Mrs. G.R. Story, Mrs. Geo. Miller, R.j. Woods and L. T. Crittenden.

The tasks confronting the first Board were many and arduous. A home for the library was found in the city hall. Shelving was made, furniture secured, committees appointed, and rules and by-laws prepared. New books were purchased and a temporary classification was made by Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. McHugh. In January 1904, Cresco was canvassed for magazines by the members of the ladies' clubs. W.L. Converse was made director of the magazine department. In those days the announcement of a store of magazines was quickly followed by the advent of the dray and a polite but emphatic invitation to deliver. The 450 bound volumes of standard magazines now in the library and the incomplete volumes ready for exchange testify to the generosity of the people and the untiring efforts of Mr. Converse and his assistants.

The room was ready at last, the books and magazines were arranged, and January 30, 1904, the library was opened to the public. Young ladies of Cresco contributed their services as librarians and a free library became an established fact.

The Board of trustees now turned its attention to raising funds. The unused proceeds from the street carnival were secured and all organizations of the city interested in behalf of the library.

The ladies' clubs have from the beginning been loyal friends and promoters. Besides canvassing for magazines, they arranged three rummage sales, which secured to the library about \$300. They also organized three lecture courses from which the library received \$400. The reference department has been greatly enriched by contributions of club books. These are unsurpassed in quality and have made this department unusually strong. A set of books on painting was acquired in this way from the "Friends in Council." Last year a set of Stoddard's lectures was obtained from the "Unity Club" which also gives ten dollars yearly toward library support.

June 23-24, 1904, a library benefit play, 'Bibi,' was given at the opera house under the direction of Miss Edith Webster. Two evening programs and a matinee were provided, which brought to the library about one hundred dollars.

On the library anniversary, Nov. 14, 1905, the men of Cresco gave a library benefit supper in the armory the like of which never was before, never has been, nor ever shall be. Many baskets of fragments were taken up and sold at auction by C. C. Burgess, D. Evens and C. W. Rood. When the air cleared no fatalities were discovered and the library was ahead by \$125. The risk was well worth taking.

The next step was taken when W. I. Converse was appointed to bring the matter of a city library before the people at the election of 1905. The vote was favorable. The "Free Public Library" was turned over to the city and the "Cresco Public Library" was organized under section 727 of the code of Iowa, the City Council allowed a tax of 12 mill which was raised to 1 mill and then reduced to 1/2 of a mill. The library was now carefully classified according to the decimal system used in all large libraries and the A. L. A. catalogue adopted as a guide for the library committee. Miss Tyler, state librarian from Des Moines, assisted the Board in this important work. In March 1905, Mrs. Edith Morton was elected regular librarian. She rendered valuable assistance in organizing the library system. In June of the following year, Miss Margaret Copeland became her successor and served the public for years faithfully and well. Miss Sarah Brown was elected librarian January, 1910.

The library was moved to its present quarters in the E. R. Thompson building in May, 1905, the men of the Board carrying books in baskets from the old to the new home. The beautiful picture on the south wall of the library room, "The Castle of the Maidens," a copy of Edwin Abbey's painting from the Holy Grail, was given to the library by the Federation of Women's Clubs, consisting of the "Tuesday Club" and the "Friends in Council."

The Cresco Public Library owes its existence to the men and women, who, without remuneration have spent time and self-sacrificing and persistent effort in its behalf. The ministers of Cresco have been quick to respond to library needs. Rev. Eakin led and inspired the movement that resulted in the organization of the library association 1903. Five members of the first Board, Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. Burgess, F. P.

Farnsworth, C.W. Reed and R.J. Woods, still serve as trustees. Mrs. McHugh has been president for four years and her services in the direction of library affairs have been invaluable.

Comparing the Cresco library with those of other towns, some surprising features are apparent. One illustration will suffice. Manchester, Iowa, is about the size of Cresco. Its library is twenty-five years old. It has about 4,300 books in a beautiful Carnegie building. It is open every day all day and every evening. The monthly circulation averages 950 books. The town gives a one mill tax for salaries and running expenses. Additions to the library are obtained by entertainments and other devices.

The Cresco library is seven years old. It has 3,500 volumes. juveniles, adult fiction, and reference books are crowded into one room. It is open three afternoons and one evening in the week. Its circulation per month is between 800 and 900 books. Cresco gives a 1.4 mill tax which, last year, amounted to \$419. The average librarian's salary is \$59 per month. Cresco gives \$10, salary and \$12 for rent and light. The balance of the tax is spent for books and periodicals. Further comparisons intensify the fact that Cresco has been wise so far in spending money and energy for books rather than for a building. The result is a surprising accumulation of books.

Since the library was turned over to the city, no special efforts in the way of benefit entertainments have been made. Its support has depended on the city tax, which is insufficient for its maintenance on a business basis and for its proper extension. Many of the books, especially in the juvenile department, are badly worn and must soon be discarded. New lists are needed if the library is not to retrograde. A new International Encyclopedia is needed for the reference department. The library should be opening more days and evenings. The time allowed for the desk work and the necessary care of the books, when the library numbered 200 volumes and the reader's card less than 100 is inadequate with the present patronage and number of books.

The library occupies an important place in the community. Its influence reaches all classes. The children whose literary tastes are being formed, the high school pupil seeking supplementary material for school work, the woman with a club paper to write or a study topic to discuss, the student of economy, the worker seeking refreshment and entertainment in the novel or current magazine, turns to the library for the satisfaction of their needs. The Cresco Public Library is an educational force whose interests should be as sharply looked after as are those of our public schools.

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1/28/1913

### **For a Library Building**

The library committee composed of Rev. D. T. Robertson, Dr. W.T. Daly and C.W. Reed, appointed by the president of the commercial club last fall, has not been asleep, but seems to have been at work in a quiet manner so as to not disturb the

asleep, but seems to have been at work in a quiet manner so as to not disturb the slumbers of the rest of us. They have been in communication with Andrew Carnegie's secretary and secured all details of the terms necessary to get a donation from him. Having done this the committee got to where it had to make a little noise. Last week Dr. Robertson circulated a petition among the business men asking the city council to increase the levy for library purposes from 1mill to 2 mills, the revenue from the 2 mill levy begin sufficient to meet the requirements of Mr. Carnegie. There were 235 signers to the petition, only six refusals. The matter will be presented to the council tonight and it is expected favorable action will be taken.

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2/4/13

### **Library Tax Increased**

The council passed an ordinance Monday night for a two mill tax levy for the support of the library. A certified copy of this ordinance has been forwarded to the secretary of the Carnegie corporation, and one more step toward the new library building had been taken.

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2/11/13

### **A Carnegie Library A Building Planned to Meet All Requirements**

Dr. Robertson hands The Times the following clipping from a Longmont, Col., paper. The description which is of a Carnegie library recently opened in that city will give the people a fair idea of what the Cresco building will be.

"The rooms are all large and commodious. In the basement is an auditorium that will seat nearly 200 people, and can be used for meetings of different nature. There are toilets for the ladies and gentlemen, a storage room for damaged books and magazines, a coal room and a furnace room, and a good sized room that is to be filled up as a living room for the janitor. The entrance to the auditorium is from Kimbark street and people can gather there without disturbing those on the upper floor.

"The floor above is divided into five compartments, all of ample size. One is the juvenile reading room, in which will be placed low chairs for the children. Another is the reference room, where different books of reference and periodicals that are not to be taken from the building are to be kept. The senior reading room is on the east. In the south-east corner is a conversation room where conversation can be carried on without disturbing any one. The librarian has a private room, conveniently fitted out and which is for her exclusive use in the discharge of her duties.

"There is a sanitary drinking fountain on this floor also.

"The finish of the walls and woodwork is very tasty, adding a homelike and restful appearance.

"The building within and without is one that we may well feel proud of and too much cannot be said of those who have has the work in charge."

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3/11/1913

### **Library Site Chosen Park Hotel Property Unanimously Decided Upon**

At a meeting in the court house Monday evening, March 10, the vote was unanimous in favor of the lots known as the Park hotel property as a site for Cresco's new Carnegie library building.

The assembly was called to order by J.J. Bobolik who acted as chairman and W. L. Barker was called to act as secretary. Dr. D.T. Robertson took the floor in behalf of the library committee composed of C. W. Reed, Dr. Daly and Dr. Robertson, and told of the correspondence with the Carnegie Board of Trustees of New York Dr. Robertson, who had charge of that branch of the work, said that the securing of the library was assured. He stated that the \$10,000 given by the Carnegie board was to be used not only for the construction of the library building, but for the occupancy. He told of the requirements necessary to obtain the library, such as the raising of the library tax from 1 mill to 2 mills. This he said purported that for \$1,000 worth of property the tax payer will pay 10 cents more. Later C.W. Reed, reporting the action taken by the city council, stated that another way of figuring this would be to say that for a man whose taxes were formerly \$8.60, under the 2 mill rate they would be \$8.70. The raising of the rate, he explained, was voted by the council after the petition in favor of it was circulated, on which 268 signatures were secured, only seven men refusing to sign.

The citizens were then asked their opinion concerning the new library, the proposed site, etc. Several responded, very interesting addresses being made in hearty support of the library and the Park hotel property as the place for the erection, by Robt. Thomson, Dr. Kessel, Rev. Gammons, E. P. Farnsworth, Dr. E. H. Allen and O.J. McHugh. Miss Abbie Converse told of the good work accomplished by the public library, stating the number of books now listed to be over 3,600, and that over 9,000 books were drawn from the library last year.

The vote was taken and proved to be unanimous for the Park hotel property. All those attending seemed very enthusiastic and the show of spirit by the crowd was good to see.

The committee, with the library board, will take up the work of preparing the plans, etc. at once, and it is expected that the erection of the new building will be started about the middle of April.

One of the subjects discussed at the meeting was Dr. Kessel's offer of the donation to the city, free of charge, of six acres of land south of the hospital for park or school purposes, provided that the city buys and pays for the library site without resorting to the subscription of funds from the businessmen for that purpose. Dr. Kessel's idea is to reimburse the city for the expense of buying the library site, giving Cresco a valuable piece of land for public use and thus do without begging. The cost of the library site would be about \$1,500 but no action on this will be taken until later, when the citizens of Cresco will be given a chance to vote on the subject. If they vote for the purchasing of this site by the city. Cresco will have a fine new park, or perhaps a place for a new school building. If the vote is against it, the money will have to be subscribed by the businessmen and Cresco will lose the park

It is now up to the voters.

4/8/1913

### **Park Hotel Buildings Sold**

Saturday afternoon Dr. D.T. Robertson assumed the role of auctioneer with authority from the library committee to knock down the buildings on the Park hotel corner to the highest bidder. The hotel building went to W.A. Smith on a bid of \$310 and John Dempewolf bid in the barn for \$200. These buildings are among the old landmarks of Cresco, of which only a few remain. In an early day the "Webster House," owned by the late Julius Webster, was one of the best known hostleries in this section. Later J.J. Mason had it for a number of years, then J. J. McGinniss. It finally became the Park hotel, and after changing hands several times it was finally abandoned for hotel purposes although it has always retained the name of Park hotel.

4/8/1913

### **Council votes Park Tax**

The city council last night voted a one mill park tax, which will make it possible to accept the very liberal offer made by Dr. Kessel some time ago donating six acres of land south of the hospital for park purposes provided the city raised the necessary funds for a Carnegie library.

4/18/1913

### **Library Lots Sold**

Last week the library committee sold to Theodore Lusson the west part of the Park hotel property which is not required for library purposes, being a piece 180 feet front and 100 feet deep. These lots front the north and are very desirable as a building location

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5/20/1913

### **Library Matters**

At a meeting of the library board Saturday evening a committee composed of Mrs. O.J. McHugh, Mrs. CC Burgess and Miss Abbie Converse was appointed to co-operate with the Commercial club committee in prosecuting the work of building. A plan of the building designed by J. H. Howe has been submitted to the Carnegie corporation and with a few slight changes adopted. There seems to be nothing to prevent the work beginning by July 1<sup>st</sup> and a completed building by the close of the year.

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6/17/1913

### **Library Progress**

#### **Work on the New Building Will Now Go Forward**

It now seems that it will be possible within a short time to begin work on the new library building. Miss Ailee Tyler, secretary of the Iowa State library commission, was in Cresco last Wednesday and attended the meeting of the building committee. The tentative plans for the library building prepared by Mr. J. H. Howe, were submitted for an opinion to Miss Tyler, and she not only approved such plans but declared them superior to other plans submitted. The building committee then adopted a motion recommending to the library board the employment of Mr. Howe as architect to perfect and complete the plans and specifications, the tentative sketch of which has already been approved by the Carnegie corporation.

A meeting of the board of library trustees was also held Wednesday in the evening, the building committee's recommendation submitted and acted upon and Mr. Howe asked to proceed with his plans.

The library board also enlarged the membership of the building committee by making Dr. George Kessel a member.

The balance of the evening was spent in a discussion of library problems and plans with Miss Tyler. Her valuable suggestions will undoubtedly bear fruit in the future work of the local board.

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8/19, 1913

### **Library Contract Not Let**

At a joint meeting of the Cresco public library board and building committee Monday evening the bids for the new Carnegie library were opened. The figures were found to be too high and the architect J. H. Howe, will make some changes in the plans and new bids made with the altered plans will be received. They will be opened at a meeting called for Friday August 22

The Sullivan Construction Co of Austin were the lowest bidders, their figures being \$10,592., Geo. L. Gill with a bid of \$11,510, and Leffler Bros. with \$11,870, were the only other bidders. These amounts do not include the cost of the plumbing, heating, electric lights, etc.

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9/2/1913

### **Library Tax Increased**

The city council has voted to increase the library tax from two to three mills, which will raise about \$1500 annually for the maintenance of the proposed Carnegie public library. This action followed the decision of the library board that the building as planned could not be built for \$10,000, the amount donated by the Carnegie corporation. By making this additional one mill tax levy for maintenance, \$5,000 more can be secured from Carnegie, which will cover the total cost of building according to the original plans, which, by the way, provide for a building that will be a credit to our city and a monument not only to Mr. Carnegie but to the group of public spirited men and women of Cresco who have given freely of their time and money to make the institution a success in the past and whose efforts are not directed to broaden its field of usefulness.

Naturally there has been opposition to the increase in taxation which the present plans entail but we believe the council has taken the larger and broader view of the matter and that time will completely vindicate its action.



11/25/1913

## **History of Our City**

(Paper read before the Twentieth Century club by one of its members)

The land upon which Cresco now stands was entered at the general land office by Horace Barber in 1856. In October, 1857, it was sold by him to M.L. Shook who in 1866 sold it to Augustus Beadle, who sold a part interest in it to W.B. Strong and B. Edgerton. The owners had it platted and laid out into town lots, the plat being placed upon record June 12, 1866.

The city at once sprang into being. Quoting from one historian, "A bald prairie which had been covered with waving grain the previous season, in June, 1866, was covered with buildings." The rapid growth of Cresco was said to be phenomenal, reaching in six months a population of 1,000 people and a rushing business doing; but when we consider the fact that she had literally swallowed the three towns of New Oregon, Vernon Springs, and Howard Center, which had been growing ten years or more, the magic is readily accounted for. Many of the business houses were moved bodily to Cresco, hardly stopping business on the way. I remember watching the buildings traveling, one by one, from Howard Center to Cresco until but a few were left. I also remember hearing the men say that had the citizens of those three little towns known of the efforts being put forth by the Cresco projectors they might have gotten the railroad through those places, but they thought the road couldn't miss them anyway, so sat idly by and let Cresco "beat them to it."

The first time I came here my father brought a crowd of youngsters to town to 'see the cars.' One lone freight car stood on the track and was duly examined and admired. The town then appeared to be mostly a grove of brush with a few houses huddled in a small clearing.

The city was incorporated in 1868 and Isaac Gregory was the first mayor. Early in 1867 the Howard County Times was established and Plain Dealer moved from New Oregon. Other newspapers have flourished from time to time but only these two survived.

In 1867 the board of supervisors was petitioned to relocate the county seat at Cresco.

As the county seat had been a matter of rivalry in the county, having been moved from Vernon Springs to Howard Center, thence to a bluff between Vernon Springs and New Oregon, there was much opposition to this plan. It was finally decided to leave the county seat at the bluff, but as a matter of convenience to have the courthouse in Cresco. In 1877 the corporation extended its limits southward to take in the bluff. In 1876 the courthouse with all its records and valuable papers was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt in 1880.

The first school was in a small farm house standing, I think, where Mrs. McGinnis now resides. In 1869 the old stone school house was erected where the present high school building now stands, for about \$8,000. This was added to from time to time as necessity demanded. Later a primary building and the South Side ward school were built. A few years ago the old building was demolished and a handsome brick building erected. The future must tell the further development of the improvements now under way.

The first church edifice was built by the Methodists in 1866. It was made a station in 1870 with Rev. J. Riddlington as pastor. In 1868 the Congregational church was moved from New Oregon to Cresco in view of the fact that most of its members had emigrated there. The building was enlarged and used by them until the erection of the present building a few years ago. The Baptist people worshipped at Vernon Springs and in Price's hall for some time; I think had no church building here until the present one built in 1881, when Rev. A.H. Carman was pastor. The Episcopal church was organized in 1867, with Rev. J. Rambo pastor in the old building which was torn down to make room for the present beautiful little brown church. There are also two Catholic and two Lutheran churches all in a flourishing condition.

The first hotel was the old Mansfield house, which was destroyed by fire, and on the site was built the Strother House, which has been described as 'a large, roomy, commodious edifice, fitted up with all the modern conveniences. This may have been true at that time and as we have nothing better should so stand in history.

The first bank was established in 1868 by Kimball & Farnsworth. Among the names connected with the business places at that time are Bones & White, J.J. Clemmer, Strother & Kirkpatrick, Price & Lowry, B. Isaacs, W.H. Alleman, B. Chapin, Mrs. Jewett, Mrs. Donahugh and Mrs. Knowles and many others which are still familiar.

So much for the early history of our city.

It seems that all the boom we ever had was at the start. For a time the town had a steady growth and good business with occasionally a prospect for a new railroad, but after the failure of the wheat crop in 1876 it was thought by many to be "dead," but it picked up again and went on as before. A few years ago we in some way seemed to become infused with new life and the growth and improvement have exceeded our hopes, notwithstanding the fact that the long looked for railroad is still looked for.

We are proud of our paved streets, our churches, school buildings, new depot, factories and fine residences and in fancy see our new library looming up, a Y.M.C.A. hall over Dr. Kessel's new office rooms, an opera house 'just around the corner,' a new hotel on the corner south of the Baptist church, while the South Side is a veritable factory town with a large canning factory in the lead. An electric road connects us with Elma and other western towns while another one coming through Protivin running north to Granger connects us with southern Minnesota traffic, which causes the C.M. & St. P. to sit up and notice us.

Before I could see more the airship in which I was sailing got out of commission, so I will leave the rest for future historians.

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5/19/14

## **Library is Assured**

### **Building Committee Calls for Bids to Be Opened June 9<sup>th</sup>**

At last the people who have labored so long and hard to secure a suitable library building for Cresco are about to have their hopes realized and it is likely that active work will begin within a month. Last week the committee received the final word from the Carnegie corporation increasing its appropriation to \$17,500, which will make it possible to complete the building on the plans as originally drawn by Mr. J.H. Howe, which, by the way, were pronounced by the Carnegie secretary to be one of the best set of plans ever submitted. A notice to bidders is published in this issue of The Times.

## **Bids Wanted**

### **Public Library Bidding at Cresco, Iowa**

Sealed bids for constructing a brick and stone library building at Cresco, Iowa, will be received by C.W. Reed, Chairman Building Committee, Cresco Public Library, up to seven o'clock p.m., June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

Plans and specifications may be obtained from J.H. Howe, architect, Cresco, Iowa. A deposit of \$5.00 to insure return of plans and specifications is required; this deposit will be returned upon surrender of plans and specifications.

A certified check for two hundred dollars, payable to "Building Committee, Cresco Public Library" must accompany each bid as a guarantee of good faith.

The right is reserved by the board of trustees to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects or 'inmalities' in any bid.

Dated, Cresco, Iowa, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

Building Committee, Cresco Public Library

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6/16/1914

## **Library Contract Let**

The board of trustees of the Cresco Public library has awarded the contract for the new building to L.F. Parkinson of Iowa City on a bid of \$12,990. Six bids were filed as follows:

L. F. Parkinson, Iowa City \$12, 990

G. L. Gill, Cresco \$13,346

Martin Johnson, Cresco \$14,100

McCabe, Cedar Rapids \$14,700

Sullivan Cons. Co., Austin \$14,900

Carl E. Axelson of Harcourt, Iowa, prepared a bid but it was not filed in time. The Parkinson concern is one of the large contracting companies of the state and is now building a \$65,000 school house in New Hampton. The library contract requires

that work must begin within ten days from the date of signing, so it is likely that this much delayed improvement will now be pushed rapidly.

### **Library Tax Increased**

The city council has voted to increase the library tax from two to three mills, which will raise about \$1500 annually for the maintenance of the proposed Carnegie public library. This action followed the decision of the library board that the building as planned could not be built for \$10,000, the amount donated by the Carnegie corporation. By making this additional one mill tax levy for maintenance, \$5,000 more can be secured from Carnegie, which will cover the total cost of building according to the original plans, which, by the way provide for a building that will be a credit to our city and a monument not only to Mr. Carnegie but to the group of public spirited men and women of Cresco who have given freely of their time and money to make the institution a success in the past and whose efforts are now directed to broaden the field of usefulness.

Naturally there has been opposition to the increase in taxation which the present plans entail but we believe the council has taken the larger and broader view of the matter and that time will completely vindicate its action.

7/14, 1914

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### **Will Lay Corner Stone of Library**

The trustees of the Cresco public library at a meeting last Wednesday night made the preliminary arrangements for appropriate exercises at the laying of the corner stone of the new building to held in about four weeks. It was decided to ask the Masonic lodge to take charge of the ceremony, that order having a special service for such occasions. The suggestion was first made by the contractor, Mr. Parkinson, who states that of the nine libraries which he has built the Mason have had charge of the corner stone laying in nearly every case.

It has been decided to invite E.G. Cooley of Chicago to deliver the address. Twenty-five years ago while Mr. Cooley was principal of the Cresco public school he established a small library in the high school. This, it is said, was the first circulating library in Cresco and some of the first books placed on the shelves, or rather shelf, of that modest little institution are now to be found in the splendid large collection in the present public library located in the Peterson building.

The library which Mr. Cooley established was for school pupils only and though the collection of books was small it served a very useful purpose.

The establishment of the public library in Cresco, however, dates back about ten years, when Rev.) A. Eakin, then pastor of the Congregational church here, arranged for a public book shower. This was a big success. Book and magazine contributions were made liberally by residents of Cresco and many were made liberally by residents of Cresco and many were received from people from a distance who formerly resided here. The rear room in the city hall was fitted up and the library at first was kept open one day a week, Mrs. R. A. Morton being the first librarian,

servicing without compensation. Other succeeding librarians were Miss Copeland, Miss Brown, and Miss Converse.

Following is a history of the library movement in Cresco, written by Miss Sarah Brown for the souvenir edition of The Times published Dec. 15, 1910, and it will no doubt be of interest to our readers at this time:

### Cresco Public Library

"The Cresco public library is distinctly a home product with a phenomenal growth. It is difficult to tell how deep its rootlets strike for the library idea was formulating before the library became a fact.

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In 1895-6 under the leadership of Mr. Augustus Beadle, a home entertainment lecture course was arranged. Among the speakers secured were Dr. Kessel. Dr. Buck. Mr. Ling, W. L. Converse, and Rev Holmes. The second year an admission fee was charged and proceeds kept as a library fund.

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The Board of trustees now turned its attention to raising funds. The unused proceeds from the street carnival were secured and all organizations of the city interested in behalf of the library.

The ladies' clubs have from the beginning been loyal friends and promoters. Besides canvassing for magazines, they arranged three rummage sales, which secured to the library about \$300. They also organized three lecture courses from which the library received \$100. The reference department has been greatly enriched by contributions of club books. These are unsurpassed in quality and have

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June 23-24, 1904, a library benefit play, 'Bibi,' was given at the opera house under the direction of Miss Edith Webster. Two evening programs and a matinee were provided, which brought to the library about one hundred dollars.

On the library anniversary, Nov. 14, 1905, the men of Cresco gave a library benefit supper in the armory the like of which never was before, never has been, nor ever shall be. Many baskets of fragments were taken up and sold at auction by C.C. Burgess, D. Evans and C. W. Reed. When the air cleared no fatalities were discovered and the library was ahead by \$125. The risk was well worth taking.

The next step was taken when W. L. Converse was appointed to bring the matter of a city library before the people at the election of 1905. The vote was favorable. The "Free Public Library" was turned over to the city and the "Cresco Public Library" was organized under section 727 of the code of Iowa, the City Council allowed a tax of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill which was raised to 1 mill and then reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mill. The library was now carefully classified according to the decimal system used in all large libraries and the A. L.A. catalogue adopted as a guide for the library committee. Miss Tyler, state librarian from Des Moines, assisted the Board in this important work. In March 1905, Mrs. Edith Morton was elected regular librarian. She rendered valuable assistance in organizing the library system. In June of the following year, Miss Margaret Copeland became her successor and served the public for years faithfully and well. Miss Sarah Brown was elected librarian January, 1910.

The library was moved to its present quarters in the E.R. Thompson building in May, 1905, the men of the Board carrying books in baskets from the old to the new home. The beautiful picture on the south wall of the library room, "The Castle of the Maidens," a copy of Edwin Abbey's painting from the Holy Grail, was given to the library by the Federation of Women's Clubs, consisting of the "Tuesday Club" and the "Friends in Council."

The Cresco Public Library owes its existence to the men and women, who, without remuneration have spent time and self-sacrificing and persistent effort in its behalf. The ministers of Cresco have been quick to respond to library needs. Rev. Eakin led and inspired the movement that resulted in the organization of the library association 1903. Five members of the first Board, Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. Burgess, E. P. Farnsworth, C.W. Reed and R.j. Woods, still serve as trustees. Mrs. McHugh has been president for four years and her services in the direction of library affairs have been invaluable.

Comparing the Cresco library with those of other towns, some surprising features are apparent. One illustration will suffice. Manchester, Iowa, is about the size of Cresco. Its library is twenty-five years old. It has about 4,500 books in a beautiful Carnegie building. It is open every day all day and every evening. The monthly circulation averages 950 books. The town gives a one mill tax for salaries and running expenses. Additions to the library are obtained by entertainments and other devices.

The Cresco library is seven years old. It has 3,500 volumes. juveniles, adult fiction, and reference books are crowded into one room. It is open three afternoons and one evening in the week. Its circulation per month is between 800 and 900 books. Cresco gives a% mill tax which, last year, amounted to \$419. The average librarian's salary is \$59 per month. Cresco gives \$10, salary and \$12 for rent and light. The balance of the tax is spent for books and periodicals. Further comparisons intensify the fact that Cresco has been wise so far in spending money and energy for books rather than for a building. The result is a surprising accumulation of books.

Since the library was turned over to the city, no special efforts in the way of benefit entertainments have been made. Its support has depended on the city tax, which is insufficient for its maintenance on a business basis and for its proper extension. Many of the books, especially in the juvenile department, are badly worn and must soon be discarded. New lists are needed if the library is not retrograde. A new International Encyclopedia is needed for the reference department. The library should be opening more days and evenings. The time allowed for the desk work and the necessary care of the books, when the library numbered 200 volumes and the reader's card less than 100 is inadequate with the present patronage and number of books.

The library occupies an important place in the community. Its influence reaches all classes. The children whose literary tastes are being formed, the high school pupil seeking supplementary material for school work, the woman with a club paper to write or a study topic to discuss, the student of economy, the worker seeking refreshment and entertainment in the novel or current magazine, turns to the library for the satisfaction of their needs. The Cresco Public Library is an educational force whose interests should be as sharply looked after as are those of our public schools.

#### **Secretary's Minutes**

Meeting of the board of trustees of the Cresco public library held at the library room, July 8, 1914, called to order by President Burgess. Present: Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. Addie, Mr. Cutting, Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. Pergler, Mr. Woods, Mr. Reed, and J. H. Howe architect.

Designs for the bronze tablet for the library building submitted and examined.

Moved by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. McHugh that design C-1 submitted by John Williams company be selected, and the architect instructed to turn this design over to the contractor to be ordered. Carried. No dissenting votes.

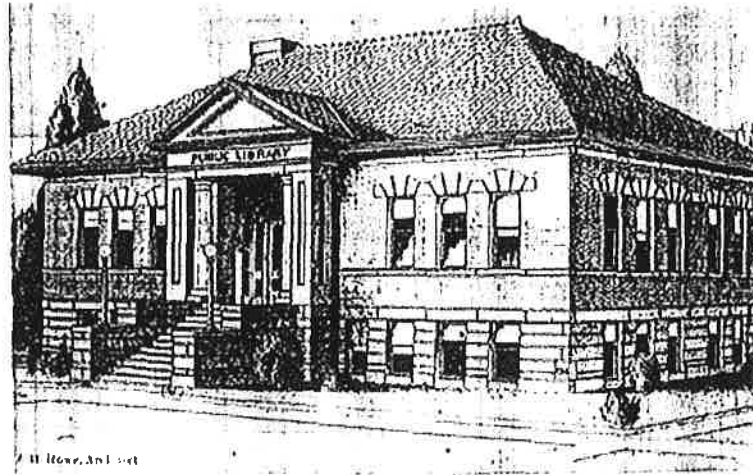
Moved by Mr. Pergler that the secretary be authorized and instructed to communicate to the Masonic fraternity a request that that body take charge of the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the library building. Seconded by Mr. Woods. Carried. No dissenting voice.

Motion carried that Mr. Howe, architect, be instructed to attend to the ordering of the cornerstone.

Moved by Mr. Pergler that the chair appoint a committee to co-operate with the Masons in arranging for the cornerstone ceremony, Seconded by Mrs. McHugh. Carried. No dissenting voice.

Chair appoints as the committee: Mr. Reed, Mrs. McHugh, Dr. Kessel.

August 25, 1914



### **Architect's Drawing of the Cresco Public Library**

The Times presents above a picture of the Cresco Public Library as it will appear when completed. This picture is a reproduction of a perspective drawing by Mr. J. H. Howe, who designed the building and prepared the plans. The cost of the building complete will be \$17,500 which sum will be donated by the Carnegie Corporation. A tax of about \$2,000 a year will be levied for maintenance. Of this amount about \$1500 will be raised in the city of Cresco by a three mill levy and the balance will be raised in the townships of Vernon Springs, Albion and Howard Center, the trustees of those townships having voted a half mill tax, which entitles residents of these districts to all the privileges of the library.

### **Building Work Delayed**

Work on the library and opera house has been delayed for some time on account of failure of material to arrive. The library job is waiting for cut stone and the opera house job for steel. The latter arrived yesterday and Contractor Martin Johnson will put his men at work on the job at once.

12/29/1914

### **Donate Set of Books**

Knights of Columbus Present Public Library With Encyclopedia



The Cresco Knights of Columbus have just presented to the public library the Catholic Encyclopedia, which, according to its own title page is "an international work of reference on the constitution, doctrine, discipline and history of the Catholic church," and of which the Review of Reviews said, when it came out in 1907, "the contributors represent Catholic scholarship in the broadest sense throughout the world." This is in fifteen volumes besides an index volume.

For general reference the book committee has purchased Nelson's loose leaf Encyclopedia. This is a twelve-volume work, and in its treatment of subjects of "brief, concise and reliable," as well as up-to-date. By means of the loose leaf feature, revised material is added twice during the year.

In addition to this, by its purchase, the library becomes a subscriber to the research bureau maintained by the publishers who will furnish without cost further material upon the following subjects: "Agriculture, astronomy, art, medicine, chemistry, electricity, engineering, economics, geography, history, civics, literature and allied subjects." So it would seem that the latest information on almost any subject is within reach of patrons of our public library even though lacking the books on hand. Let the librarian know what you are looking for and give this research bureau a trial.

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1/19,1915

### **Library Board Meets**

The board of trustees of the Cresco public library hold their first meeting in the new library building last Wednesday evening. Officers for the ensuing year were chosen and in recognition of the interest he has taken in promoting the enterprise Dr. George Kessel was chosen president, Mrs. C.C. Burgess was selected as vice-president and Miss Abbie j. Converse secretary.

A very valuable educational feature which is to be worked out under the direction of the board is a series of lectures to be given during the year in the lecture room of the new building. Some of the lectures will be by local speakers. The committee having this feature in charge believes it offers an opportunity to add materially to the popularity of the library and that it will do much to make the institution what it should be a social and intellectual center for the community.

The whole enterprise possesses great possibilities and much depends upon the board of trustees if the institution is to accomplish all that it is capable of.

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2/9/1915

### **Public Library Dedication**

The dedication of the public library building takes place Wednesday Feb. 10th, when the following program will be carried out:

Wednesday afternoon in the library building reception for the children.

Storyhour-

- 11 a.m.-Grades One and Two
  - 2 p.m. -Grades Three and Four
  - 3 p.m. -Grades Five and Six
  - 4 p.m. -Grades Seven and Eight
- 

Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in the M.E. church

- Music ..... Mixed Quartet  
Mrs. Swenson, Miss Hughes, Mr. C.C. Burgess, Mr. J. Burgess
- Invocation ..... Rev. Will Kirwin
- Presentation of Keys to City ..... Dr. Robertson
- Acceptance ..... Mayor Barker
- Congratulatory Address ..... Miss Robinson
- Solo ..... Miss Cannon
- Address ..... Dr. Kessel, President Board of Trustees
- Solo ..... Mrs. Swenson
- Benediction ..... Rev. John Murtagh

At the close of the exercises the public is cordially invited to inspect the library building.

#### Librarian's Report

- Total number of volumes in library, 4143
- Number of volumes added during the year, 380
- Number of books rebound, 64
- Newspapers and periodicals currently received, 17
- Total circulation during the year, 10,571
- Largest daily circulation, 170, smallest, 11, average, 68
- Percentage of all children's books circulated, 36
- Number of borrower's cards issued during year, 228
- Number of cards held by country borrowers, 40
- Number of borrower's cards in force (approximate) 1000
- Number of days open during the year, 155
- Hours open each week, 11
- Books just received at the library:
  - Eugenics ..... Aldrich
  - Perch of the Devis ..... Atherton
  - Essentials in Architecture ..... Belcher
  - Price of Love ..... Bennett
  - Bible ..... American standard version
  - Bible ..... Douay version
  - Lorna Dunne ..... Blackmore
  - Little Women Letters ..... Bonstelle
  - Two College Girls ..... Brown
  - South America ..... Bryce

Gideon's Hand .....	Cable
What Men Live By .....	Cabot
Astronomy from a Dipper .....	Clarke
Among Friends .....	Cruthers
Humanly Speaking .....	Crother
Diane of the Green Van .....	Dairymple
Raft .....	Dawson
Hands of Ema .....	Deland
Dr. Lavender's People .....	Deland
Baby Days .....	Dodge
ETC .....	<i>(there is a list of many more)</i>

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2/16/1915

## **Dedication of the Cresco Public Library**

Appropriate Exercises Held in the Methodist Church-Addresses by Dr. Robertson, Mayor Barker, Miss Robinson and Dr. Kessel

The dedicatory exercises of the Cresco public library were held in the Methodist church last Wednesday evening. The keen interest and pride which the public takes in this institution was manifest in the large attendance.

The program was open with music by a quartet composed of Mrs. M.O. Swenson, Miss Hughes, Mr. C.C. Burgess and Mr. j. Burgess.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Will Kirwin.

Dr. Robertson then formally presented the keys of the building to Mayor A. E. Barker. Dr. Robertson emphasized the fact that the library building is the property of the city and wholly under its control. Although the \$17,500 expended in the construction was donated by the Carnegie corporation, neither that institution nor Mr. Carnegie personally, will ever have anything to say about what books shall or shall not be admitted to its shelves.

Mayor Barker in accepting the keys stated that they would be turned over to the board of trustees who would have charge of the library. He commended the splendid public spirit of our citizens which has made this improvement possible.

Miss Robinson, secretary to the state library commission, made a short talk, reviewing the progress and development of the public library in the state of Iowa.

The principal address was by Dr. George Kessel, president of the board of trustees. A synopsis of his address is published herewith.

The exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. Father John Murtagh.

After the exercises the new library building was opened for the inspection of the public and many people took the opportunity to view and admire the interior of the structure which is well nigh perfect in its appointments. There may be larger library buildings in Iowa but none finer was the verdict of one qualified to speak

### **Synopsis of Dr. Kessel's Address**

All education should affect conduct and should affect conduct for the better. If education does not affect conduct for the better then it is no education at all. There are two periods of education in every individual's life. One begins in the cradle and ends in the grave, the other begins at the school age and ends when the boy or girl, picking up their geographies and other simple belongings, go out to face the realities of the world. The door of their lesser and more artificial education closes behind them and the door of their real and larger education opens up before them. Here for once in their lives they face a school-master they cannot defy, and whether they will or not, and whether they know it or not, they are being ground, day by day and hour by hour, between the upper and lower millstones of an educational process that continues as long as life lasts and ends only when life ends.

If the forces that educate are evil, the results are evil, and if the forces are good the results will be good. The activities, industrial, social and intellectual, are the educational forces, and these educational forces will depend upon the types of individuals of their community. In some communities, the type of individual is wholly traditional and unprogressive. In such a community the individual has poor chances of winning life's battles and the community itself falls into stagnation and decay. In such a community the social condition for the child is pathetic in the extreme for he is in constant contact with failure and decay.

The individuals of a population recognize their likes and unlikes. They take great pleasure in their like mindedness and often quarrel and make themselves wretched over their differences. In politics, for instance, men who come into agreement on any important question such as the tariff, find great enjoyment in their intellectual sympathies and constantly quarrel with those who differ from them. Men who think alike and believe alike find that they can work together for common ends, because they can agree on the best means of achieving them. Of all the resemblances, the most important are those mental and moral resemblances which make co-operation possible. The differences of race, religion and politics can be overlooked if only there is agreement in thought and feeling on those mental and moral questions which work for the common welfare of the community. To recognize resemblances and differences and to come to agreement on various subjects by acquaintance and sympathetic conversation is the chief charm of real and lasting friendship. This process of recognizing differences and coming to agreements is constantly going on in every community. The greater the degree of acquaintance and like-mindedness, the greater the possibilities of co-operation. We have had illustration of this in our community. The building of the Hospital, Library and Theater give us problems to solve, and having problems to solve we were brought together in acquaintance and sympathetic feeling. Three finer buildings both in design, and finish cannot be found anywhere. They are lasting monuments to the intelligence, skill industry and public spirit of the people of this community. These buildings add material wealth to the community, but do more than that: the brains, skill and industry that were put into those buildings enriched us mentally and morally and added to our human wealth. We moulded ourselves and our material at the same time. Our actions have spoken louder than words, that we believe in the gospel that "life is more than meat or drink."

# The Howard County Times.

Forty-Ninth Year. No. 10

Cresco, Iowa, Tuesday, March 9, 1915

L. P. Barth, Publisher.

## Interesting Letter From Kansas.

### Frank Leetzbach Relates Some Incidents of Early School Days in Howard County Iowa People Herein Prized of Land in Kansas.

Frank Leetzbach, born in 1833, near Decorah, Ia. has been a resident of this state since he came from Iowa in 1854. He has been a resident of this state since he came from Iowa in 1854. He has been a resident of this state since he came from Iowa in 1854.

All the Iowa people that I know of will not disagree with a paper in which you have said that the Iowa people here are not as well as they were when they first came to this country. I have been a resident of this country since 1854, and I have seen many changes in the land and the people. I have seen the land become more fertile and the people become more prosperous. I have seen the land become more fertile and the people become more prosperous. I have seen the land become more fertile and the people become more prosperous.

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## OFFICE CALIFORNIA.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. M. Plummer have moved from Spring Valley, Iowa, and after operating a day at the home of their son, Dr. Plummer, departed for California where they will spend the remainder of the winter. They will be accompanied by their daughter, Miss Helen Plummer, and her husband, Mr. J. H. Plummer, who are also going to California. They will be accompanied by their daughter, Miss Helen Plummer, and her husband, Mr. J. H. Plummer, who are also going to California.

## Dr. Laur Larson Dead at Decorah.

### Former President of Luther College Passed Away at the Age of 81—Was Practitioner at Decorah and Abolitionist for Forty Years.

Dr. Laur Larson, one of the foremost and best loved of the citizens of Decorah, died at the hospital in that city March 7th, after an illness of several weeks and a long period of suffering. He was 81 years of age at the time of his death. Dr. Larson was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 16, 1833. He spent his early life in Copenhagen and then came to America in 1854. He was a member of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church and was a prominent abolitionist. He was also a member of the American Abolition Society and was active in the cause of the oppressed.



Dr. Larson was a man of great character and high principles. He was a devoted member of the church and was active in the cause of the oppressed. He was also a member of the American Abolition Society and was active in the cause of the oppressed. He was a man of great character and high principles. He was a devoted member of the church and was active in the cause of the oppressed.

Notice to Times

## Convert Iowa Apples Into Vinegar.

### State Commissioner Issues Bulletin Concerning Manufacture and Sale of the Article.

Iowa farmers have made thousands of bushels each year by permitting their apples to rot on the trees. The state commissioner has issued a bulletin concerning the manufacture and sale of vinegar from apples. The bulletin states that vinegar made from apples should be sold at a price not less than the average market price of the apples from which it was made.

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## SAVES THE PROPHET.

When the prophet, who will be mentioned by many, comes to the state of Iowa, he will find that the people are more prosperous than ever before. The state of Iowa is a land of opportunity and the people are more prosperous than ever before.

## FORE DRILL SAVED CHILDREN.

The larger school in the Cresco were destroyed by fire recently and although there were no children in the building at the time, the fire was extinguished without injury to the children. The fire was caused by a candle that had been left burning in a room.

## FEDERAL COURT DECISION.

The following named persons from Cresco have been drawn to serve on the jury in the U. S. district court for the April term which convenes at Cedar Rapids, Ia. R. Alexander, Joseph Haver, A. E. Smith, Henry

## SOLD DRUGS TO MINOR.

An attempt was made recently to sell to a minor a quantity of drugs. The attempt was made by a person who was known to the authorities. The person was arrested and the drugs were seized. The person was charged with selling drugs to a minor.

## "WALL" AYERS DEATH.

It is reported that the death of "Wall" Ayers was caused by a heart attack. Ayers was a prominent citizen of Cresco and was known to many people. He was a member of the local church and was active in the community. He died on March 7th, 1915.



A. J. Ayers (Wall)

## Facts and Figures Relating to the Cresco Public Library.

The total value of the building is \$10,000. The building was built in 1910 and is a fine example of modern architecture. The building is located on the corner of Main and Second streets. The building is a fine example of modern architecture.

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## YOUR FIVE WAYS.

There are five ways in which you can improve your health. The first way is to eat a healthy diet. The second way is to exercise regularly. The third way is to get plenty of sleep. The fourth way is to avoid stress. The fifth way is to avoid smoking and drinking.

## HOUSE FOR SALE.

A fine house for sale in Cresco. The house is a two-story brick building with a large front porch. The house is in excellent condition and is ready to move into. The house is located on the corner of Main and Second streets. The house is a fine example of modern architecture.



Mrs. J. H. Ayers

## FACTS AND FIGURES RELATING TO THE CRESCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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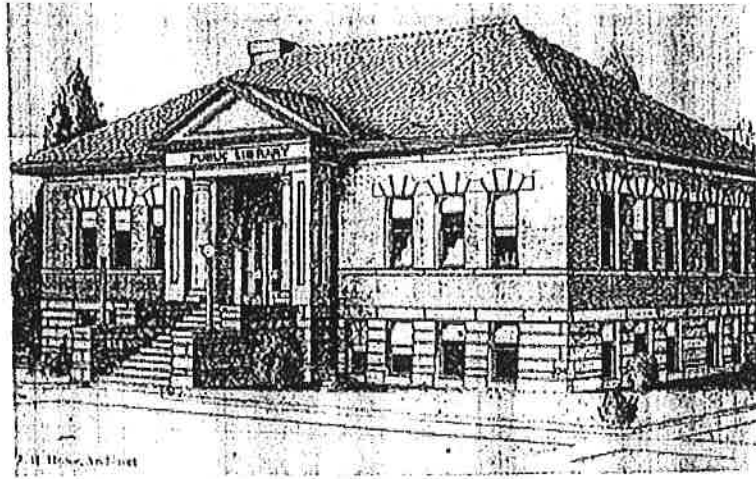
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3/9/1915

### **Facts and Figures Relating to the Cresco Public Library**

The lot on which the building stands is 100 feet long along Elm street and 70 feet along Fourth avenue.

The main portion of the building is 36 feet by 64 feet, with a projection to the rear of 27 feet by 27 feet, which contains the lecture room entrance and a portion of the stack room; a projection to the front 4 feet by 18 feet with a Grecian pediment covering a tiled entrance; a tiled porch 7 feet by 7 feet at the northwest corner covering a grade entrance to the lecture room; a stone stairway at front entrance covering the storage vaults and occupying a space 11 feet 8 inches by 15 feet and a stone stairway at southeast corner to City Clerk's office.

The total width of the building including the front stone stairway is 59 feet 3 inches and the length from out to out 69 feet.

The outer walls rest upon concrete footings 12 inches thick and 30 inches wide and these are founded upon rock or very hard clay.

The walls from concrete footings to grade line are Cresco limestone rubble. From grade line to first floor level they are of Mason City hollow block faced with 5 inches of Rustic No. 1 buff Bedford or Indiana limestone with planed face.

From first floor to cornice the walls are above-mentioned hollow block faced with Twin City "Golden Rod."

It is rough or matte surface brick served variegated and is laid in Flemish bond with half inch raked joints and reddish brown mortar.

All walls are furred out and lathed and plastered to form a dead air space.

The caps, steps, buttresses and other details of stone trim are Bedford or Indiana limestone.

The two columns at sides of front entrance are of Rockford, Minn., Granite, the shaft and all mouldings being polished and bases and capitals unpolished.

The roof is covered with medium green Ludowici Tile, German style.

The box gutters, downspouts and flashing are of copper.

The basement contains besides the necessary halls and stairways a lecture room 33 feet by 39 feet, capable of containing 200 chairs and at present equipped with 150 chairs, a double fireproof vault, each side being 4 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 3 inches. A city clerk's office 11 feet 3 inches by 18 feet, a fan room 4 feet 10 inches by 6 feet 4 inches, a packing room 5 feet 2 inches by 10 feet and a toilet room 4 feet 7 inches by 10 feet.

The basement is finished throughout in quarter sawed red gum finished natural.

The basement floors are on concrete but in lecture room, toilet room and packing room are covered with 4-inch pine flooring.

The main floor contains a vestibule 6 feet by 8 inches by 10 feet 9 inches; a general reading room 21 feet 7 inches by 26 feet; a children's reading room 22 feet by 24 feet; a delivery room 11 feet by 14 feet 6 inches; a stack room 18 feet 6 inches by 23 feet 3 inches; a reference library room 12 feet by 19 feet 8 inches and a librarian's private office 10 feet 9 inches by 13 feet 9 inches. This is provided with a built in wardrobe and with toilet arrangements.

The main floor is covered throughout with quarter-inch thick cork carpet, natural color. The vestibule floor is of white mosaic tile.

The main or library floor contains at the present time 1017lineal feet of shelving disposed around the walls and capable of holding 10,170volumes without recourse to book stacks.

The present library consists of 4,340 volumes. There are also some public documents. The inside trim of library floor is quarter sawed oak in fumed finish.

The side walls through the building are finished in light brown flat wall finish and the ceilings in cream color. This finish will stand washing with soap and water or gasoline.

The children's room contains a brick fireplace laid with golden rod brick in black mortar and with a hearth of 6-inch square red promenade tile.

At the south end of the children's room are three art glass windows representing respectively "Little Miss Muffet," "Little Bo-Peep" and "Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross."

These were contributed by the ladies interested in the library at a cost of \$350.00.

All glass doors are glazed with bevel plate.

The building is wired in metal conduits. Direct lighting fixtures are used in basement. The main floor is lighted with semi-indirect fixtures with veluria shades and cast brass metal trimmed with Adam brown.

All principal lighting on main floor is wired to a switch board located in the registration desk directly in rear of the librarian's desk and is therefore under her immediate control at all times.

The electroliers at each of main entrance were donated by the electric light company and the stone cutting necessary to set them in place was donated by Claude Weatherford.

The hardware throughout the building is finished in dull brass. All windows are provided with shades hung on "Simpoli" adjusters which permit lowering from the top.

The building is heated by a single pipe steam system, using vacuum vents on radiators and a side feed Thatcher boiler which will be thermostatically controlled. The basement radiation is colonial wall; on main floor the ordinary floor radiators.

The building is provided with a ventilating plant capable of supplying three thousand cubic feet per minute of fresh air to all parts. This air may be heated to seventy degrees Fahrenheit in any weather before entering the rooms. The ventilating is on the plenum system, the apparatus being capable of maintaining air pressure in the rooms equal to a static head of 5/8 inches of water.

M The ventilating layout is of the "draw through" type; the air first being drawn through Vento Stacks located in a housing over the boiler. These impart the necessary heat. The air then reaches the blower which is a Sirocco, multivane type, driven by a one horse power electric motor. This fan or blower forces the heated air into a plenum chamber from which various ducts of necessary sizes distribute it to every room in the building.

A corresponding system of ducts conveys the foul air off from the floor of each room and discharges it through the roof by means of a 30-inch cupola or by other special outlets, which have been provided.

A system of dampers controls the passage of air through the ducts and these are operated from a switchboard located in the librarian's private office. The motor which operates the fan may be started or stopped from the registration desk as well as from the fan chamber.

The toilet rooms are provided not only with ventilating fixtures, but are connected to the ventilating system with independent ducts.

It is believed that the headache, drowsiness and stupor frequently experienced in the reading rooms of libraries will be entirely absent from this building if the plant is properly operated.

The Women's clubs of the city are raising a fund for suitable pictures and statuary for the reading rooms.

While the building is not entirely completed it is nearly so. There remains considerable work on the walks, drives and grounds when the weather will permit.

The general contract was awarded to L.F. Parkinson & Co. of Iowa City.

The heating, plumbing and fan installations to M. O. Swenson of Cresco.

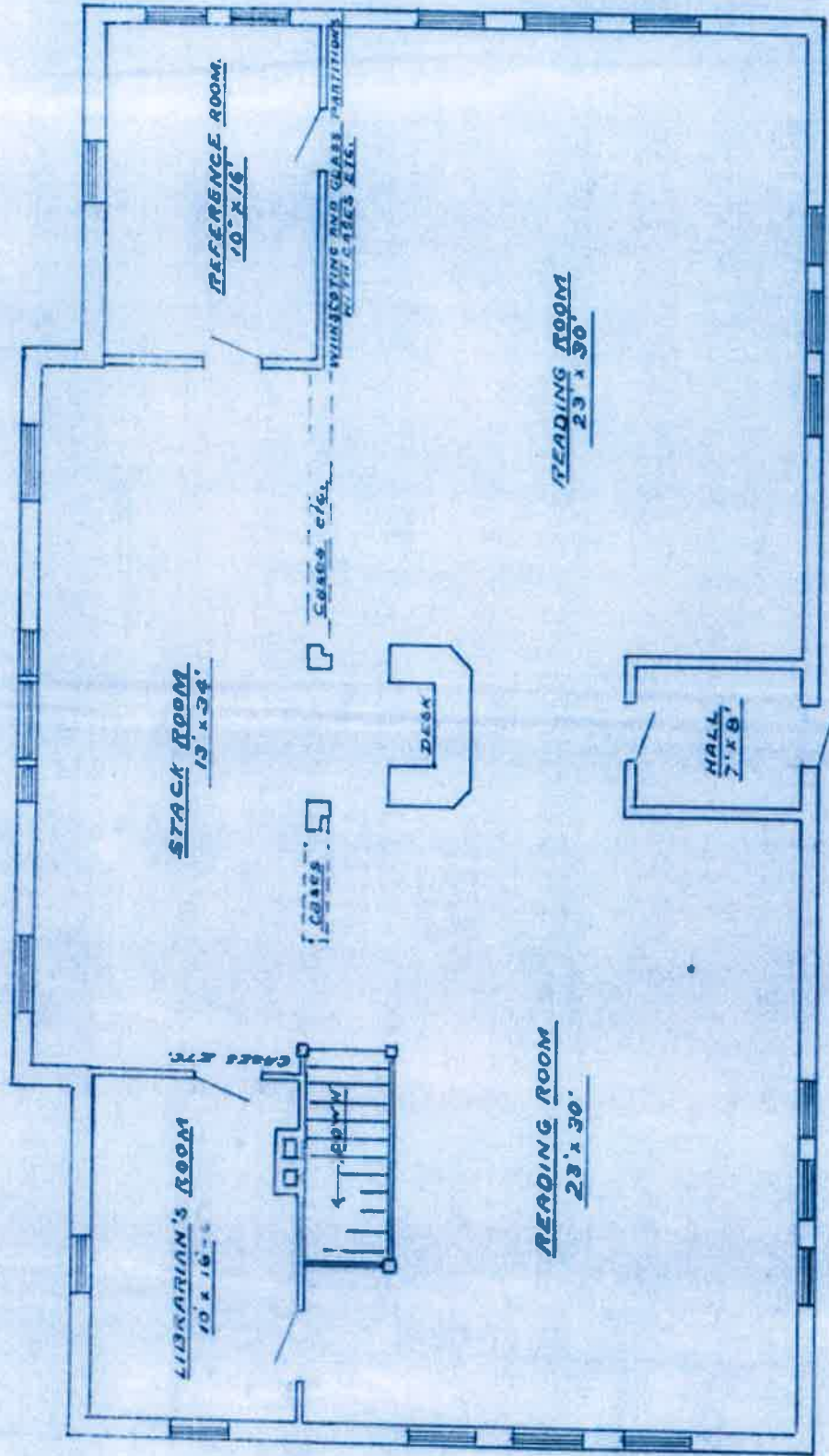
The ventilating ducts, housing, cupola, etc., to the Queen Cupola Co. of Cresco.

The furniture not covered by special drawings was furnished by local dealers, Messrs. Meverden, Fields, and Huber, while Miller Bros. furnished window shades and carpet.

The electric light fixtures are furnished by the local company.

The total cost of the building when completed will be practically \$18,000.00 of which \$17,500.00 is being furnished by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.





LIBRARIAN'S ROOM  
10 x 16

STACK ROOM  
13 x 34

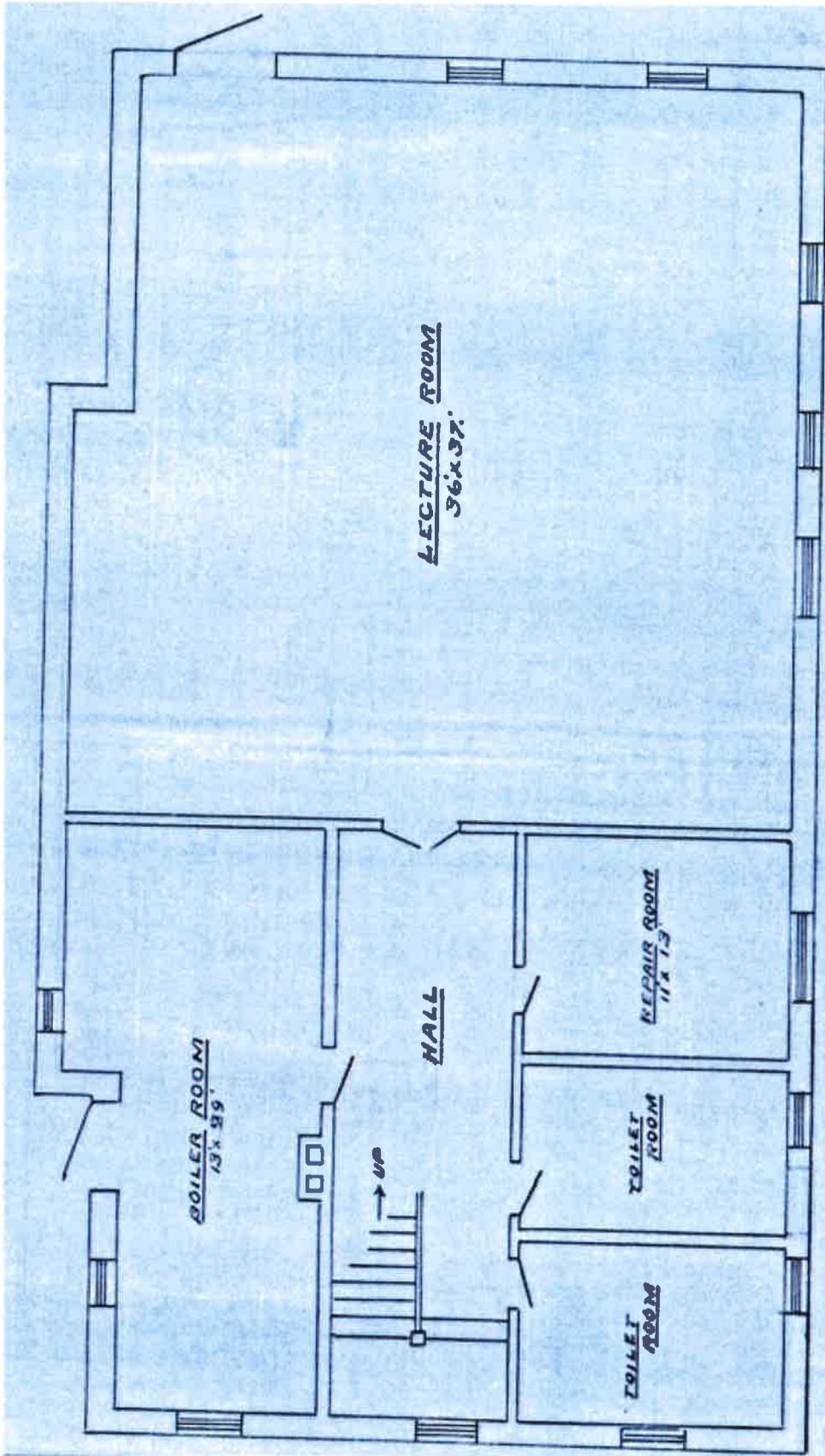
REFERENCE ROOM  
10 x 18

READING ROOM  
23 x 30

READING ROOM  
23 x 30

HALL  
7 x 8

PRELIMINARY FIRST FLOOR PLAN. GEORGE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY 36176  
CRESSO, IOWA. Scale: 1/16"  
MAP.



PRELIMINARY BASEMENT PLAN, SCHEME "D"  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, 25x70,  
CRESCO, IOWA. Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0".  
A.M.P.

## Program

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

in the  
LIBRARY BUILDING.

RECEPTION FOR THE CHILDREN.

STORY HOUR.

- 11 A. M. .... Grades One and Two
- 2 P. M. .... Grades Three and Four
- 3 P. M. .... Grades Five and Six
- 4 P. M. .... Grades Seven and Eight

## Program

Wednesday Evening at 8 o'Clock

In the M. E. Church

Music.....Mixed Quartet  
Mrs. Swenson, Miss Hughes, Mr. C. C. Burgess,  
Mr. J. Burgess.  
Invocation.....Rev. Will Kirwin  
Presentation of Keys to City.....Dr. Robertson  
Acceptance.....Mayor Barker  
Congratulatory Address.....Miss Robinson  
Solo.....Miss Cannon  
Address.....  
Dr. Kessel, President of Board of Trustees  
Solo.....Mrs. Swenson  
Benediction.....Rev. John Murtagh

At the close of the exercises the public is cordially  
invited to inspect the Library Building.