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ABSTRACT

In 1903, Andrew Carnegie provided the community of Lincoln, Illinois, with a \$25,000 grant to build a public library. The purpose of this study was to determine if the Lincoln Public Library conforms to the general characteristics of Carnegie public librarie as defined by George S. Bobinski, a leading researcher in the area of Carnegie public libraries. This comprehensive history of the library include: (1) a study of the existing library service in the community at the time of the awarding of the grant; (2) information regarding the architecture of the building, including the selection of a building site, original building plans, and later additions and renovations made to the building; (3) the community's method for raising the money for the annual maintenance pledge for the library; and (4) a study of the current use of the library building. Data for the study were compiled from primary and secondary data sources, including the Carnegie Library Correspondence microfilm, interviews with past and present librarians, and original library records and building documents. An examination of this information shows that the Lincoln Library does conform to the general characteristics of Carnegie Libraries. Three appendices provide a chronology of key events in the history of the Lincoln Library; copies of stock, a list of original shareholders, and the articles of incorporation for the Lincoln Library Association; and a pictorial history of the library. (Contains 57 references.) (KRN)



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The Lincoln Public Library: A Historical Study of a Carnegie Public Library

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the Kent State University School of Library Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Susanne R. Burritt

November, 1991

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ABSTRACT

In 1903, Andrew Carnegie provided the community of Lincoln, Illinois with a \$25,000 grant to build a public library. purpose of this study is to determine if the Lincoln Public Library conforms to the general characteristics of Carnegie public libraries as defined by George S. Bobinski, a leading researcher in the area of Carnegie public libraries. This comprehensive history of the library will include a study of the existing library service in the community at the time of the awarding of the grant, information regarding the architecture of the building, including the selection of a building site, original building plans, and later additions and renovations made to the building, the community's method for raising the money for the annual maintenance pledge for the library, and a study of the current use of the library building. Data for the study will be compiled from primary and secondary data sources, including the Carnegie Library Correspondence microfilm, interviews with past and present librarians, and original library records and building documents.



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INTRODUCTION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Andrew Carnegie, "the patron saint of libraries" or "Saint Andrew" as Mark Twain referred to him, played one of the most prominent roles in the development of free public libraries in the United States. Between 1886 and 1917, Carnegie contributed more than \$40 million in grants for the construction of 1,629 public libraries in the United States. In Illinois alone, the benevolent builder contributed \$1,661,200 for the construction of 105 public libraries in 105 communities. Illinois ranks third among all states in the number of grants received and sixth in the amount of money contributed to a state by Carnegie. 1

It has been written that Carnegie's contributions to the free public library movement through his philanthropic efforts was one of the most important movements in mass culture and education since the founding of public schools.² As the number of Carnegie library buildings still in use dwindles, it becomes increasingly important for librarians and historians to research the history of the existing buildings. Preliminary findings of a study conducted by George Bobinski showed that only 744 of the 1,679 original Carnegie public library buildings were still in use in 1990 as library buildings.³

Since the last Carnegie public libraries were constructed in the mid 1920s, it will become increasingly difficult to research their history. Many of the people who played such a prominent role in the development of the free public library movement will no longer be available to give their first hand accounts of events surrounding the planning and construction of the Carnegie



buildings.

The Lincoln Public Library in Lincoln, Illinois was constructed from a \$25,000 Carnegie grant in 1901. The commitment of the community towards the library resulted in the library being placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Little historical research has been done on public libraries in Illinois, and no official research has been completed for the Lincoln Public Library. In 1968 and 1969, Illinois Libraries published histories of public libraries in Illinois, some Carnegie libraries, but the history of the Lincoln Public Library was not included. A very brief study of Carnegie libraries in the Lincoln Trail Libraries System in Illinois was reported in Illinois Libraries in 1987. The Lincoln Public Library is not part of this library system.

This research study explores the history of the Lincoln Public Library, and attempts to accomplish two main objectives. The first goal of the study is to help fill the gap in completed historical research of Illinois Carnegie public library buildings. Second, this study can serve as a basis for further research in the area of Illinois Carnegie library building histories by other librarians and historians.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Joseph Wall's biography of Andrew Carnegie provided a complete study on Carnegie's personal life, business interests, and philanthropical efforts. It detailed some of the requirements that communities had to meet in order to receive a Carnegie public library grant. Mention was made of an



inscription that Carnegie wished to have placed over the entrance of the library. It also discussed Carnegie's personal involvement in the correspondence with communities requesting grants and his involvement in the dedication ceremonies of the completed libraries.⁷

With the financial assistance of the H.W. Wilson Foundation, George Bobinski conducted a survey of the status of public library buildings that were built with Carnegie grants. The survey results provided current figures for the number of Carnegie library buildings that have been demolished, the number of Carnegie library buildings that have been converted to other uses, and the number of Carnegie library buildings that are still in use as libraries. Bobinski also provided examples of architectural features common to Carnegie library buildings. 8

In 1968 and 1969, <u>Illinois Libraries</u> published histories of Illinois public libraries. Some of the histories were for Carnegie libraries and some were not. The history of the Lincoln Public Library wasn't included. The libraries selected from these articles for analysis for this literature review were Carnegie libraries that received at least a \$20,000 grant. The libraries included in the 1968 issue of <u>Illinois Libraries</u> that met this requirement were the Belleville Public Library, the Springfield Lincoln Library, the Rockford Public Library, and the Waukegan Public Library. One library in the 1969 issue of <u>Illinois Libraries</u>, the Evanston Public Library, met this requirement. To Four of the histories were compiled by the librarians or former librarians of the libraries and one was



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compiled by a high school teacher in the community.

The methods of data collection for these studies were mainly historical records, including membership records, circulation records, library charters, annual reports, library building plans, dedication ceremony records, correspondence with the Carnegie Foundation, state and local legislative records, census records, newspaper and journal articles, and library financial records. These histories also revealed that valuable data for future studies may be collected from interviews with current and past librarians, local historians, and relatives and friends of citizens who played an active role in the planning and construction of the library.

In 1987, Joe Natale compiled a historical study of the Springfield, Illinois Lincoln Library Building . In 1899, Springfield Mayor Loren W. Wheeler and a Baptist minister, Rev. E.S. Walker, wrote individual letters to Andrew Carnegie requesting funds for a library building. Up to this time, the Springfield library had been housed in the YMCA building and was then moved to city hall. Springfield received a grant of \$75,000 from Carnegie and built a new building designed to hold 40,000 At that time, Springfield's library collection was volumes. 34,159 volumes. The building was a mixture of at least sixteen styles of architecture and was best characterized as unadaptable. As the size of the collection grew, two additional floors were added to the building and three building expansions were done. Finally, in 1974, the library building was torn down and an entirely new library building was constructed.



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Natale's article presented several data collection techniques relevant to the study to be done on the Lincoln Public Library. First, library records should be examined to determine the previous locations that the library had been housed in. Second, letters of correspondence between the community of Lincoln, Illinois and the Carnegie Foundation should be sought. Third, the original architectural plans should be studied, along with all building documents that discuss renovations or additions that were made to the library. 11

The article authored by Janice Petterchak of the Historical Preservation Agency in Springfield, Illinois used original black and white photographs of Carnegie library buildings in Illinois to show the various architectural styles represented by the Carnegie buildings. Two of the featured library buildings have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lincoln Public Library is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The article includes a list of Illinois communities that received Carnegie library grants, the amount of the grant, and the date that the grant was awarded. 12

Between 1896 and 1917, Andrew Carnegie gave \$1,661,200 to 105 communities in Illinois for the construction of 106 public libraries. Illinois ranks third among all states in the number of grants received and sixth in total grant dollars awarded. Fifteen of the library building grants went towards the construction of fourteen public libraries and one special library in fifteen communities in the nine-county Lincoln Trail Libraries System service area.



These libraries were studied by Brenda McElroy Pacey, a library development consultant with the Lincoln Trail Libraries System, to see if each conformed to the general characteristics of Carnegie library grant benefactors that are presented in George S. Bobinski's history of the Carnegie program. 13 trends that were researched in this study are: (1) the majority of public libraries receiving building grants had previously established library service, (2) Carnegie very seldom gave money to communities serving under one thousand people, (3) a building site for the library had to be acquired by the community, (4) the local government had to pledge a minimum annual maintenance income of at least ten percent of the amount of the grant, (5) the vast majority of grants were awarded in amounts of \$10,000 or many of the architectural plans for the library lesc, (6) buildings did not come from the Carnegie Foundation, (7) nationwide, an average of 70-80 percent of original Carnegie library buildings are still in use, (8) many libraries exhibit the portrait of Andrew Carnegie in the library, and (9) Carnegie libraries have celebrated 'or will soon reach their 75th anniversary dates of local community service.

Pacey did not directly discuss the methods of data collection used in the study. Mention was made of the use of library and community records to gather data for the study. Librarians for the individual Carnegie libraries also provided data. Information for the Paxton, Illinois Carnegie library was gathered from a history previously compiled for the library's seventy fifth anniversary brochure in 1978-79. This history was



constructed from old correspondence between the community and the Carnegie foundation and the library's official records. 14

George S. Bobinski conducted a comprehensive study of public libraries that received Carnegie grants in the United States as his doctoral dissertation requirement for his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 1966. His findings were published in 1969 by the American Library Association. Bobinski explains that the most important source for the information in the book was the Carnegie Library Correspondence which is located at the Carnegie Foundation in New York city. In the late 1940's, the Carnegie Foundation had all of the correspondence that took place between the communities receiving Carnegie grants and the foundation They then destroyed all of the original microfilmed. correspondence. These forty reels of 16mm microfilm contain all of the correspondence for each of the 1,412 communities in the United States that received a Carnegie grant, and the microfilm also contains the correspondence for the communities who began negotiations with the Carnegie Foundation but never received a This microfilm contains letters, completed applications and questionnaires, newspaper clippings, pictures and drawings of libraries, building dedication programs, copies of annual reports, and other forms of correspondence.

Bobinski's research outlined the general process that communities went through to receive a Carnegie library grant. His work detailed the process of requesting a grant from the foundation, the requirements of the community that had to be met in order to be considered for a grant, the requirements set by



the foundation for selecting a site for the library, the requirements for the annual maintenance pledge, and the criteria for the amount of money donated. He also explained requirements that the foundation set for the architectural building plans of library, library additions, and branch the Specifically, the requirements set by the Carnegie Foundation for communities requesting a library grant were: (1) the community requesting the building grant should have previously established library service, (2) the community's library would serve over one thousand people, (3) a building site had to be acquired by the community, (4) the local government had to pledge a minimum annual maintenance income of at least ten percent of the amount of the grant, and (5) after 1911, all building plans had to meet the specifications set forth in the Carnegie Foundation's Notes on Library Buildings and the building plans had to be approved by the Carnegie Foundation. 15

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of this research study was to compile a historical study of the Lincoln Public Library in Lincoln, Illinois to determine if the library conformed to the general characteristics of Carnegie library grants that were presented in George S. Bobinski's history of the Carnegie program. The research questions that were investigated in the study were: (1) Did the community of Lincoln, Illinois have an established library service prior to receiving the Carnegie building grant and what is the history of this library service?, (2) How was a building site for the library acquired by the community?, (3)



Was the community's annual maintenance pledge at least ten percent of the amount of the grant and how was the pledge financed?, and (4) What were the building plans of the library and how were the architectural plans developed and implemented?.

Research done on all Carnegie libraries is important because of the role that Andrew Carnegie and his libraries played in the establishment of the free library movement. Very little historical research has been conducted on Carnegie public libraries in Illinois, which ranked third in the number of total Carnegie grants received. This historical study of the Lincoln Public Library will served as a starting point for further research on Carnegie libraries in Illinois.

METHODOLOGY

Introductory Statement

A historical research study of the Lincoln Public Library in Lincoln, Illinois was conducted to determine if the library conformed to the general characteristics of Carnegie library grant recipients.

Data Collection Instruments

Both primary and secondary data sources were used to collect data for the research study. Primary data sources used were copies of Carnegie Library Correspondence microfilm containing all correspondence that took place between Lincoln, Illinois and the Carnegie Foundation, library records of correspondence with the Carnegie foundation, original blueprints of the library building, building documents showing renovations or additions made to the library, original copies of minutes of the library



meetings, annual reports, the library charter, dedication ceremony records, library circulation, membership, and financial records, census records, state and local legislative records, and interviews with past and present Lincoln Public Library librarians, local historians, and relatives and friends of people who were involved with the construction of the library.

Secondary data sources used in the study were documents that were compiled and submitted when the library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, local newspaper articles, and local histories of Lincoln, Illinois and Logan County, the county where Lincoln is located. A visual inspection of the library was made to study architectural features.

Procedures and design

In order to collect primary data for this study, visits were made to the Lincoln Public Library to locate and photocopy library records, meeting minutes, correspondence with the Carnegie foundation, original building blueprints and other building documents, annual reports. Other primary and secondary data sources such as annual reports, the library charter, documents submitted to the National Register of Historic Places, records of the dedication ceremony, census records, local histories, and newspaper articles were also photocopied at this time. Copies of the Carnegie Library Correspondence microfilm was obtained through interlibrary loan from the Carnegie Foundation in New York City. Informal interviews were held with the current head librarian, Richard Sumrall.

A preliminary phone call was made to the Lincoln Public



Library secretary, Mrs. Leslie, to verify that the primary data collection sources previously mentioned were available. The availability of the sources strengthens the study's design. Problems could have been encountered in the study if the Carnegie Foundation would not have released copies of the microfilm, and if the clarity of library records and documents had been poor. Misinformation gathered from secondary sources was controlled by comparing this data with the information gathered from primary sources.

Due to the nature of the study, interviewees were not subjected to any risks and patron confidentiality was not threatened in any way. The informal interviews were used to gather general information and direct quotes from the interviewees were not used. Therefore, it was not necessary for the interviewees to sign release forms.

Data Analysis

The data collected in the research study was analyzed to answer each of the research questions posed in the study and to determine if the Lincoln Public Library conformed to Bobinski's definition of characteristics of Carnegie library grant recipients. A timechart was constructed which shows the evolution of the library from its conception to its present day state. A pictorial history of the library was also included. Descriptive statistics were not utilized in this study.



THE LINCOLN LITERARY COTERIE

The first record of organized library service in Lincoln, Illinois dates back to October 24, 1871 when an informal meeting was held at the residence of Mr. John Lutz for the purpose of organizing a literary coterie. A coterie is a small intimate, somewhat select group of people associated for social reasons. On November 30, 1871, the twenty original members of the Lincoln Literary Coterie adopted a Constitution and By-laws. The Constitution stated that the object of the Coterie was "to promote useful knowledge and common taste among its members, and to devise plans for the good of society." The Coterie originally set its membership limit at 30 for its semi-weekly meetings. Later, the membership limit was raised and the Coterie began meeting every week.

At the first meeting, the members of the Lincoln Literary Coterie elected Prof. Wilkinsen as President, Mrs. C.M. Miller as Vice-President, Stephen. A. Foley as Secretary, Mrs. L.M. Hoblit as Treasurer, and Mrs. Caroline M. Lutz as Librarian.

The order of exercises at each meeting consisted of free conversation, selected readings, discussions, and essays. Leaders in discussions were allowed ten minutes each in the opening of a subject, after which any member was allowed ten minutes in the further discussion of the theme. After the discussion was completed, the leading disputants were allowed five minutes each in closing the debate.

It was during a meeting of the Coterie on February 8, 1872 that the first discussion of a public library for the town of



Lincoln, Illinois took place. The Coterie appointed a committee of Dr. A.J. McGlumphy, Mrs. Foley, and Prof. Wilkinsen to enquire into the formation of public libraries and to ascertain the prospects for founding a public library in Lincoln. It would be another two years before a public library would become a reality. 18 THE LINCOLN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

On April 18, 1874, a meeting of the citizens of Lincoln, Illinois was held at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the purpose of organizing a public library and reading room. days later, the Constitution for the Lincoln Library Association was adopted. One of the original members of the association, Mrs. Caroline M. Lutz, stated that the association was formed for the following reason, "when the Temperance Reform movement of 1874 developed that radical and aggressive feature called the Woman's Crusade, however diverse may have been the opinions as to the wisdom of its methods, it unquestionably deepened in every of her most sacred woman's consciousness the sense responsibilities, and it was distinctly and avowedly in the hope of averting and counteracting the evils of intemperance in our own community that the Lincoln Library Association was conceived and projected."19 It is not known if the feelings she expressed were shared by all of the other members.

Application for Articles of Incorporation for the Lincoln Library Association were filed May 18, 1874 with the Secretary of State, and the articles were issued by the state on the same day. The original incorporators were Col. Robert B. Latham, Stephen A. Foley, David M. Harris, William M. Dustin, Mark W. Barrett,

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Benjamin H. Brainerd, Frank Fisk, Katherine H. Pegram, Hattie B. Harris, Michael Henrichsen and Porter P. Murray.

On May 4, 1874, the members of the newly formed Lincoln Library Association elected officers. Col. Robert B. Latham was elected as the first President of the Lincoln Library Association, Mike Henrichsen as Vice-President, David M. Harris as Corresponding Secretary, Porter P. Murray as Recording Secretary, William M. Dustin as Treasurer, and Stephen A. Foley, Benjamin H. Brainerd, Mark W. Barrett, Frank Fisk, Mrs. Katherine H. Pegram, and Hattie B. Harris as Directors.

A committee of fourteen women was appointed to solicit subscriptions to the capital stock of the association. The Constitution of the Lincoln Library Association set the capital stock of the association at five thousand dollars, divided into five hundred shares of ten dollars each. The committee sold one Any person could become a hundred forty-four shares of stock. stockholder in the association by purchasing stock and signing his or her name to the Constitution. A lifetime membership in the association could be purchased for fifty dollars. stockholder was entitled to as many votes as he or she held Each stockholder was assessed a two dollar annual tax on each share of stock owned to help finance the association. Lifetime members were exempt from paying this tax. If a person wished to use the library and reading room, but did not wish to purchase stock in the association, he or she could do so by paying three dollars annually or one dollar quarterly. entitled the person to use the library or reading room, but the



person wasn't allowed to vote or hold office in the assocation.

Albert Jones was elected the first librarian of the Lincoln Library Association and a committee of five was selected by the directors to purchase books for the library. The library opened for circulation on August 29, 1874. The library was housed in a room on Kickapoo Street that was given to the association by Col. Robert B. Latham. The hours were 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Subscribers were allowed to borrow books from the library anytime when the room was open. Magazines that were over one month old could also be borrowed.²⁰ When the original room opened on August 29, the purchasing committee had bought 800 volumes of well selected books and a variety of periodicals and daily newspapers.²¹

The Lincoln Library Association occupied the room on Kickapoo Street until 1879. In March, 1879, the association moved the library and reading room to the Universalist Church where it remained for another five years. ²² At this time, there were 1,600 volumes of choice literature with the most popular monthly periodicals. ²³ In 1884 the association moved again to rooms on the Dehner block.

For the first ten years, the annual tax of \$2 on each share of stock in use was sufficient for meeting the expenses of the association. It then became increasingly difficult to meet expenses because original shareholders moved away from town and people weren't paying their taxes. On May 15, 1885, the stockholders of the Lincoln Library Association authorized the Board of Directors to present the City of Lincoln with all of the



¹⁵ 20

books, furniture, fixtures, and other property owned by the association. At this time, the association owned approximately $3,000 \text{ volumes.}^{24}$

THE LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

On January 21, 1895, the City Council passed an ordinance providing for the establishment of a free public library and reading room in the City of Lincoln, Illinois. The city designated a room in the city hall building that was about to be erected and it appropriated \$500 as the "Library Fund" for the Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room. The library remained in city hall until it moved to its present location in 1903. 26

The ordinance stated that the public library and reading room was to be governed by a board of nine directors appointed by the mayor with the approval of the City Council. The directors would hold office, one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years from the first of July following their appointment. Annually, the mayor would appoint three directors to take the place of the retiring directors. All new directors would serve three year terms.

The 1895 ordinance set down regulations and fines regarding the use of library materials and property. A person was to be fined no less than three nor more than fifty dollars for tearing, marking, writing on, defacing or injuring any book, periodical, newspaper, picture, engraving or statue belonging to the public library and reading room. A person was to be fined no less than three nor more than one hundred dollars for committing any injury to the grounds, buildings, furniture, fixtures, or other property



of the library. A person was to be fined no less than three nor more than fifty dollars for failing to return any book or property belonging to the library.²⁷

The foundation of the present library building in Lincoln, Illinois took hold on June 22, 1897 when the Lincoln City Council passed an ordinance approving the action of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room to initiate a fund for the purpose of erecting a new building solely for the library. The city council felt that sufficient funds could be raised within the next ten years to build a library building whose cost would not exceed \$10,000.

The city's commitment to a public library was best expressed in the text of this ordinance reading "the establishment of the public library has been of great benefit to the inhabitants of this city, insomuch that the present library room now is, or soon will be inadequate to accommodate the public, and the constant demand for literature has necessitated the addition of a large number of books, which continuing, will soon exhaust the present shelf room and cause this most valuable etalishment to retrograde in benefits to our people instead of advancing as it should."²⁸

THE LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING

In February of 1901, the Hon. Stephen A. Foley had learned that Andrew Carnegie was providing grants for the construction of public library buildings and he decided to present an application for a grant from Mr. Carnegie. He prepared the papers and reviewed them with Mayor Jones. Foley asked for Mayor Jones to call a special meeting of the city council which was done. Foley



₁₇ 22

presented the subject and the city council passed the resolutions and ordinances appropriating the money for the support and maintenance of a free public library in case the grant was received.

The council unanimously supported the resolutions and agreed to request \$25,000 for the new building. Mayor Jones was selected to go to New York to present the application to Mr. Carnegie. Andrew Carnegie received the application from Mayor Jones in person, which was rare. He approved the request for \$25,000 for the construction of a new public library building under the condition that the City of Lincoln would allocate \$2,500 a year for the maintenance of the library. The City of Lincoln was also responsible for acquiring a suitable building site for the new library. ²⁹

On March 18, 1901, the City Council of Lincoln, Illinois passed an ordinance providing for an annual appropriation for paying the salaries of the librarian and the assistant librarian and for supporting and maintaining the public library. The money would be collected through a tax of two mills on each dollar annually on all the taxable property in the City of Lincoln. If the sum of money collected from the library tax did not amount to \$2,500, the city would make up the difference. The money collected was designated as the Library Fund and was to be used to met the maintenance pledge that Mr. Carnegie required for receiving the grant.

The next step involved acquiring a building site for the new library building. On April 2, 1901 the City Council passed an



¹⁸ 23

ordinance accepting Lots 1,2,3, and 4 in Block 9 of the original town of Lincoln, Illinois for public library purposes. 30 When Isabel Nash died in 1897, she left her real estate, consisting of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 9 of the City of Lincoln to the city. Her will stated that the real estate was to be used exclusively for public library purposes. The gift of land was made conditional upon the construction of a library building within twenty-seven years from the date of her death. The estate inventory shows that except for a bank account of \$161 and a note for \$100, these two lots constitute the entire estate of Isabel Nash. 31

In addition to the Nash property, the City of Lincoln purchased the George W. Reed property for \$5,000 on March 25, 1901.³² The total dimensions for the building site were 160 feet wide by 150 feet deep.

on October 7, 1901, the City Council passed an ordinance accepting the legacy of Mrs. Louise C. Scully. 33 Mrs. Scully's will gave the library the sum of \$2,000 of which the interest was to be used for the purchase of books. The library had been receiving the interest from this bequest since Mrs. Scully's death in 1899. Mrs. Caroline M. Lutz made the statement that "the inspiration for the Scully Endowment doubtless dated back to the year 1874, when her mother, Mrs. Mary Ann Chamberlain, urged the formation of a public library as a counter attraction for the young people of Lincoln against the temptations of the saloon." In every book purchased from the Scully legacy, the book plate shows the aged mother knitting by the fireside and on the mantel is inscribed the daughter's chosen family motto: 'Concordia,



Industria, Integritis., 34

On April 5, 1901, the Library Commission held its first meeting. The duty of the Library Commission was to represent the city in the matter of the erection of the new Carnegie Library Building. The commission was to have complete control in the erection, completion, furnishing and dedication of the new building. The commission was made up of three members of the City Council and three citizens of Lincoln. The city council members were Aldermen George Corwine, William Schultz, and A. Rimmerman. Appointed by the City Council to represent the citizens were Stephen A. Foley, Mayor William O. Jones, and Mrs. Caroline M. Lutz.

Mayor Jones was elected chairman of the committee. Mrs. Lutz was chosen secretary. It was agreed that the Dodge Library of Dixon, Illinois came nearest to the requirements of Lincoln, and Mrs. Lutz was requested to write the architect of this building, William A. Otis, asking for information necessary to make a beginning in the choice of plans.

The Library Commission agreed to advertise for sketches in the American Contractor, fixing the date at May 20, 1901 for closing the competition. On May 21, 1901, William A. Otis was chosen architect for the new Carnegie Library Building. The commission chose the classic design for the new building. The goal of the commission was to "secure a building adapted to our needs, one in which the library could grow; one that would stand as an object lesson for beauty, harmony and permanence within and without; one that insured the greatest economy in administration;



one that would command the just pride of every man, woman and child in the city." 36

The commission selected William A. Corwine as the superintendent of construction for the new building. His salary was set at the rate of \$5.00 per day or \$.50 per hour. The Lake View Building Company was chosen to construct the building. Due to an increase in building materials, the cost of constructing the new building was set at \$30,000. Stephen A. Foley contributed \$5,000 of his own money to make up the difference between the cost of the building and Andrew Carnegie's gift. This made it possible to retain the original plans for the building.

In recognition of Foley's gift, the commission decided that Foley's name should be connected with Andrew Carnegie's in tablet form in the new library building. The following inscription was decided upon, "Erected through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie and Stephen A. Foley." 37

Upon the suggestion of the Library Commission, William Otis consulted Edwin H. Anderson, Head Librarian of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, on the design of the building. The Library Commission and Mr. Otis made the decision to allow patrons free access to the book stacks in the stack room. Mr. Anderson strongly disagreed with this decision. In a letter to Mr. Otis, Mr. Anderson stated "You can hardly expect me to approve plans which are drawn in accordance with ideas of which I do not approve. I should not myself think for a moment of putting in parallel stacks in a stack room to which the public was to be freely admitted. I have built five (free public libraries) and



²¹ 26

administered seven and my experience teaches me that free access without complete supervision is not a success. $^{\rm 138}$

Work began on the new library on April 10, 1902. 39 On April 29, 1903, the Dedication and Transfer to the City of Lincoln of the Carnegie Public Library building was held at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A historical address was given by Mrs. Caroline M. Lutz and Rev. J.L. Goodknight, Dean of Lincoln College, gave an address on the evolution of American libraries. Stephen A. Foley, acting president of the Library Commission and president of the library board, gave the introductory address and performed the transfer of the Carnegie Library Building to the City of Lincoln. At the end of his address, Stephen Foley turned over the keys of the library to In his acceptance speech, Mayor Miller Mayor J. Ed. Miller. stated "In receiving these keys, I accept them, not as keys to a common building, but as keys to an institution of education, an institution wherein we are given an insight into a higher and better life; an institution by which we are made better and happier."40

On May 11, 1903, the officers of the Lincoln Public Library met for the first time in the new library building. 41

At the time of the dedication there were over 10,000 volumes and seven steel stacks. Behind these, there could be seven more stacks which would hold over 20,000 volumes total. When they were full, the ceiling in the stack room could be taken out and fourteen more stacks placed on top of the existing stacks, accomodating 40,000 volumes. The juvenile books and reference



books were kept separate. The library would accommodate 50,000 volumes and was expected to be of sufficient size for the next 75 years. 42

In the first report of the librarian to the board of directors in the new library building, Ida Webster reported,

Aside from its dignity and beauty, the harmony of colors, good light, comfortable chairs, and sense of fitness, never ceases to be a delight to us and our patrons express themselves in the same way. The attic is a most valuable storeroom. At present about 500 books, unbound magazines and pamphlets find a home there. interruption of visitors, who wished to see the building made it impossible to accomplish anything the first This has continued in more or less degree throughout the year. The unfamiliar locations and lack of time to place sufficient marking on shelves, the eagerness of the patrons to understand the arrangement of the books and the relation between card catalogue and shelves, the extra demand for reference work, the increased use of the library by the children and schools, have all made the work much heavier. But the joy of being able to give better service and the possibilities before us for better work, when all things shall have adjusted themselves, have been inspiring enough to help us to forget our limitations.

The following are statistics for the first year (June 1, 1903 to June 1, 1904) of the Lincoln Public Library. These statistics show how the library grew from modest beginnings as a Literary Coterie in 1871 to a free public library in 1904. 43

Collection size

General library	5,218
Young persons department	1,044
Public documents	1,398
Pamphlets	2,500
Loan collection	79
Unbound magazines, reference	185
Duplicated magazines, unbound	40
Duplicated public documents	169
Duplicated books	37
Total	10,670



Total number of books circulated

1902-1903 25,664 1903-1904 32,845

Monthly average of books drawn

1902-1903,	general delivery	1,630
1902-1903,	young persons department	702
	general delivery	1,775
1903-1904,	young persons department	1,154

General circulation by class and department

1902-1903,	general	10,912
1902-1903,	young persons department	5,978
1903-1904,		12,380
1903-1904,	young persons department	8,955

Whole number of volumes added, June 1, 1903 to June 1, 1904

Вŷ	purchase gift bindery	220 102 57
To	tal	379

Number of library visitors from June 1, 1903 to June 1, 1904

Daily average 170
Monthly average 4,466
Total for the year 45,130

On April 9, 1918, Stephen A. Foley passed away. A fitting eulogy was expressed in the minutes in the Lincoln Public Library. 44

Whereas, Death has terminated the earthly career of Judge Stephen A. Foley, who, for a period of more than twenty-five years, has served as President of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Public Library...by his unflagging interest, his constant thought and loyal service, his sound advice, his powerful influence, his efficient and sagacious management, and his public spirited generosity, has brought the library from very modest beginnings to a pre-eminent place in the educational and cultural life of this city and county. Resolved, That in the death of Judge Foley, the Lincoln Public Library and the City of



Lincoln have sustained an irreparable loss; that his splendid record of loyal, efficient, generous public service, as exemplified in his successful management of the library will long endure as a monument to his great abilities, his sterling character and high standard of citizenship. That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this Board and that copies be sent to the press and to the family of the deceased.

LIBRARIANS

Lincoln Library Association

The following members of the Lincoln Library Association served, respectively, as the librarian for the association from 1874 until 1894: Albert G. Jones, W.C. McMasters, Robert Humphrey, S.C. Nash, Isabel Nash, Alma Braucher. 45

Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room

Ida Webster was the only librarian for the Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room.

Lincoln Public Library

Ida Webster was the first librarian at the Lincoln Public Library. She served as librarian from 1894 to 1949, and continued as librarian emeritus until her death in 1952. According to a play written at the time of the library's centennial celebration in 1974, "It was Miss Webster who brought the true meaning of the library to patrons. For 55 years she catalogued wisdom and knowledge." 46

Mrs. Florence B. Thorne succeeded Ida Webster as librarian in 1949. Mrs. Thorne came to the Lincoln Public Library in October, 1948. She had a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois and thirty years of experience in library work. 47

When Florence B. Thorne resigned in 1950, Claire (Wurdell)



Kresse was hired as librarian. She served until 1972. 48 Mrs. Kresse was a native of St. Paul, Minnesota. She attended Macalester College for her undergraduate studies, received her Masters degree in Library Science from University of Illinois, and also did graduate work at the University of Chicago. For sixteen years, Mrs. Kresse was head librarian at Gilman, Illinois. She then served two years as head librarian at Lombard, Illinois. For two years then she was children's librarian at Jacksonville, Illinois. She then served three years as cataloguer in Decatur, Illinois. For the three years prior to coming to the Lincoln Public Library, she worked as a reference librarian in St. Louis, Missouri. 49

Mrs. Christine M. Gilson became head librarian on October 2, 1972. Her husband was the new librarian at Lincoln College and her mother, Mrs. Edwin J. Westermann of Kansas City, Missouri, was a former public librarian there. Mrs. Gilson received her Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in history, from Grinnell College in Iowa. She received her Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois. She was a member of Beta Phi Mu, an honorary fraternity for library science students. 50

Christine Gilson's resignation. He served in this position from May 1, 1989 to September 21, 1990. Prior to coming to the Lincoln Public Library, he had served as a graduate library assistant at the University of Alabama, a library media intern at the Mississippi University for Women, a media specialist at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park, a media librarian



at the Northwestern University Medical School Library, and a media/collection development librarian at Cayuga Community College. Mr. Scott received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Alabama. 51

Richard Sumrall has held the position of head librarian at the Lincoln Public Library since March 13, 1991. Before coming to this position, he worked for fifteen years at the Mobile Public Library and Mobile Municipal Archives in Mobile, Alabama. He received a Bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Alabama and a Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. 52

THE ARCHITECT

The architect for the Carnegie Library Building, William Augustus Otis, was born in Almond, New York, and received his architectural training at the University of Michigan (1874-1877) and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris (1877-1881). Returning to the United States in 1882, Otis joined the famous Chicago School architect William Le Baron Jenney, eventually becoming a partner in 1887. This partnership lasted two years. Subsequently, Otis designed on his own. His partnership with Edwin H. Clark began in 1914 and lasted about a decade. Toward the end of his career, he moved to Winnetka, Illinois, where he designed many public buildings. 53

THE ARCHITECTUF !

The architecture of the Lincoln Public Library is of historic significance since many Carnegie libraries are being replaced with more contemporary structures. This significance



was recognized when the Lincoln Public Library was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on September 12, 1980. The National Register is the federal government's list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. 54 The following description of the original building is taken from the nomination form prepared for the National Register by Patrick J. Glithero, former Director of the Logan County Regional Planning Commission and from a description of the original building given during the dedication ceremony of the library in 1903.

The Library Commission chose a classic design. It is an example of public construction in the Neo-Classical Revival period, with some variations. At the time of the construction of the building, the City of Lincoln was given free reign of the design of the building. In later years, Andrew Carnegie would develop his Notes of Library Buildings, which is a set of building specifications set forth by Andrew Carnegie.

The building is centered on four lots and faces Pekin Street and Latham Park. The west half of the ground was the gift of Isabel Nash. The east half of the ground was purchased by the City of Lincoln from George Reed. On the west side, the grounds join those of the Christian Church. The east boundary is McLean Street.

The layout was rectangular and symmetrical. The main floor was raised one-half story from grade. This is called temple fashion. In the front was a tetrastyle portico. The building was red mottle brick with stone ornament trim and a light red tile



roof. The Library Commission decided not to use buff or gray brick because they didn't think that a light wall would darken uniformly with the stone and red roof.

Only copper was used in the building, not tin or galvanized iron. More than three carloads of steel and iron were used and more than three carloads of oak were used on the inside of the building.

There were broad stone steps leading up to the main entrance. At the top was a small portico, supported by massive stone columns. To enter the building, one would go through heavy swinging oak and cut glass doors. Through these doors, there was a vestibule and then smaller and lighter doors. Immediately opposite these doors was the book delivery station.

To the right (west) of the delivery desk wer the children's reading rooms. There were large oak tables and chairs. During the day, lighting was provided through the windows. At night, electric lamps softened by green shades were used. At the rear of the west reading room was the librarian's room.

To the left (east) of the delivery desk was a larger reading room. The arrangements and furnishings were similar. Behind the delivery desk were the book stacks, which at the time of the dedication in 1903 contained 10,000 volumes. Above the stack room was a false ceiling that could be removed to erect a second tier of stacks.

In the front part of the building on the second floor, there was a meeting room for the directors. In the basement, there were two storage rooms, a heating plant with large coal bins, and



a large assembly room.

The floor of the main floor was covered with cork matting to quiet the sounds of shoes and walking. The woodwork on the first floor was oak. Above the wainscoting, the walls were covered with green. In the center of the room, above the area directly in front of the delivery desk, was a light well made of fine stained-glass. Above the book delivery station was a panel inscribed in mosaic that read "Erected through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie and Stephen Foley." 55

The only significant change other than maintenance and alterations not affecting the structure's character has been the remodeling and opening of the basement during 1972-1974. The basement now houses the children's room and a community room. Adjustable metal shelving was erected in what was the original children's room, but the original steel stacks are still in place behind the delivery desk. In addition, the main floor and basement have been carpeted, central air conditioning has been installed, and the main floor walls have been painted yellow. So According to Patrick Glithero,

The architectural significance of the Lincoln Public First, the cultural importance of Library is twofold. ideals of classical culture and architecture to this Such ideals led to the frequent period is well known. use of classical styles and elements in many public buildings. The Lincoln Public Library is a typical example of the use of these classical elements, aligning the ideals of ancient culture and the free public library In addition, the citizens of Lincoln still movement. felt sufficiently unconstrained to design into the structure practical considerations. This adaptability must be recognized as a significant factor in the long used classical styles. Architectural historians have noted that the Neo-Classical revival was an American



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phenomenon. Americans participating in the revival did not always adhere to the rigid rules of style as long as the intent of the style was retained. Likewise, the citizens of Lincoln chose a classic design with contemporary needs in mind.

Some of the variations from the classic style were that the ceiling of the stack area could be raised for more space, with a non-classical rear facade. Brick, which was a locally significant building material, was chosen for use rather than stone. This initiative was representative of the early period in the free library movement which combined non-governmental national wealth, grass roots initiative and cultural ideals to promote the conept of an American and educated society. 57

CONCLUSION

The primary objective of this research study was to compile a historical study of library service in the city of Lincoln, Illinois which would determine if the Lincoln Public Library conformed to the general characteristics of Carnegie library grants that were presented in George S. Bobinski's history of the It can be concluded that the Lincoln Public Carnegie program. Library conformed to the characteristics that were set forth in the research objectives for this study. First, the Lincoln Literary Coterie, Lincoln Library Association, and Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room were formed prior to the city receiving the Carnegie grant. The founders of these groups played a prominent role in the establishment of the new library. land for the building site was acquired from two sources. The largest section of land was given to the City of Lincoln by Isabel Nash when she died. The other section of land was



purchased from George W. Reed by the city. Third, the City of Lincoln passed an ordinance calling for a tax of two mills on each dollar annually on all taxable property in the city in order to raise the necessary funds for the maintenance pledge. If the sum of money collected from the library tax did not amount to \$2,500, the city would make up the difference. Fourth, the architectural plans for the new library building were developed by an independent architect, William Otis. Andrew Carnegie did not specify any requirements for the library.

In retrospect, the main primary data sources used for this study were the minutes of the Lincoln Literary Coterie, Lincoln Library Association, Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room, Lincoln Public Library, the minutes of the Lincoln Library Commission, city ordinances, dedication ceremony records, the Carnegie Library Correspondence microfilm, the library charter, wills, deeds, and photographs. Secondary data sources used were local newspaper articles, the library's application form for the National Register of Historic Places, and local histories of Lincoln, Illinois and Logan County. It was not necessary to conduct interviews as originally intended. Informal exchanges of information took place throughout the study with Marilyn Fox, president of the Lincoln Public Library Board of Directors, and Richard Sumrall, current library director at the Lincoln Public Library.

Little research has been done on the role that Andrew Carnegie played in the establishment of libraries in Illinois and no comprehensive research has been compiled on the history of the



Lincoln Public Library.

Andrew Carnegie played a vital role in the evolution of the free public library movement in the United States. His contribution to the City of Lincoln will long be remembered by the citizens of this town and his legacy will remain for many years to come in the form of the Lincoln Public Library. The building stands as a testament to the driving will of the the citizens of Lincoln to better themselves and their community and to preserve the heritage of their ancestors.



APPENDIX A - HISTORY OF THE LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY

History of the Lincoln Public Library

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October 24, 1871	First informal meeting of the Lincoln Literary Coterie.
November 30, 1871	Constitution and By-laws of the Lincoln Literary Coterie adopted.
April 18, 1874	First meeting of the Lincoln Library Association.
May 18, 1874	Articles of Incorporation for the Lincoln Library Association issued by the Secretary of State.
May 4, 1874	Committee of 14 women appointed to solicit subscriptions to capital stock of the Lincoln Library Association. 144 shares sold at \$10 per share.
August 29, 1874	Lincoln Library Association's library and reading room opens. Albert Jones is elected librarian.
May 15, 1885	The Lincoln Library Association presents the City of Lincoln with all books, furniture, fixtures, and other property owned by the association.
1894 - 1949	Ida Webster serves as librarian for the Lincoln Library Association, Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room, and Lincoln Public Library.
January 21, 1895	Lincoln City Council passes an ordinance providing for the establishment of the free Lincoln Public Library and Reading Room. The library moves to a room in city hall.
March 9, 1987	Isabel Nash dies leaving her real estate to the City of Lincoln to be used exclusively for public library purposes.
May 29, 1899	Louise C. Scully dies leaving the library \$2,000 of which the interest is to be used for the purchase of books.
February, 1901	The City of Lincoln requests a grant from Andrew Carnegie for the construction of a new library building. The grant is approved.



March 18, 1901	The Lincoln City Council passes an ordinance to provide for an annual appropriation to pay for the librarian's salary and to maintain the new building. The new library will be called the Lincoln Public Library.
April 5, 1901	First meeting of the Library Commission.
May 21, 1901	William A. Otis is chosen architect for the new Carnegie Library Building.
April 10, 1902	Work begins on the new library building.
April 29, 1903	The dedication and transfer to the City of Lincoln of the Carnegie Public Library building is held at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
April 19, 1918	Stephen A. Foley dies after 47 years of library service in Lincoln, Illinois.
1949 - 1950	Florence B. Thorne serves as librarian for the Lincoln Public Library.
1950 - 1972	Claire (Wurdell) Kresse serves as librarian for the Lincoln Public Library.
1972 - 1989	Christine Gilson serves as librarian for the Lincoln Public Library.
1989 - 1990	Clifford Scott serves as librarian for the Lincoln Public Library.
1991 - present	Richard Sumrall serves as librarian for the Lincoln Public Library.



APPENDIX B - COPIES OF STOCK, LIST OF SHAREHOLDERS, AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE LINCOLN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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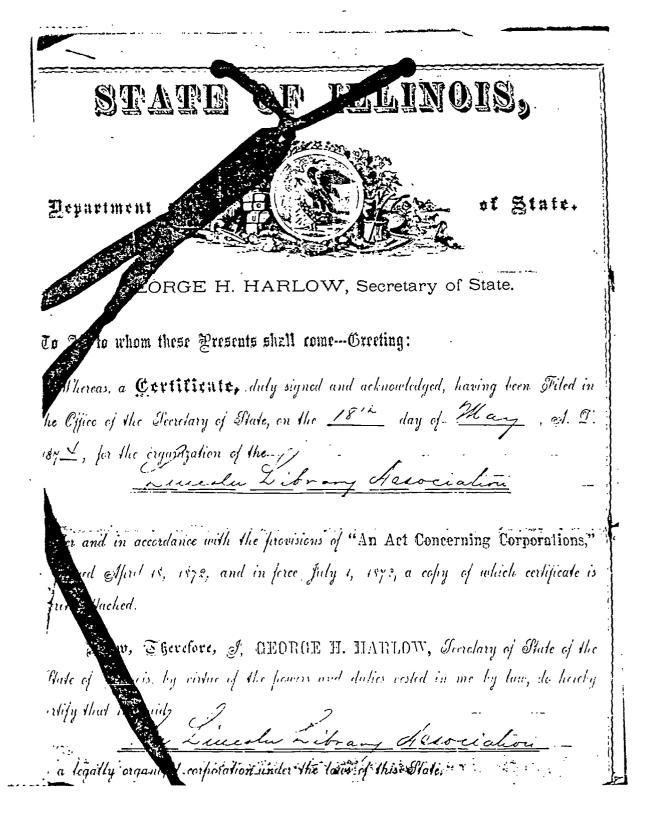
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APPENDIX C - PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY





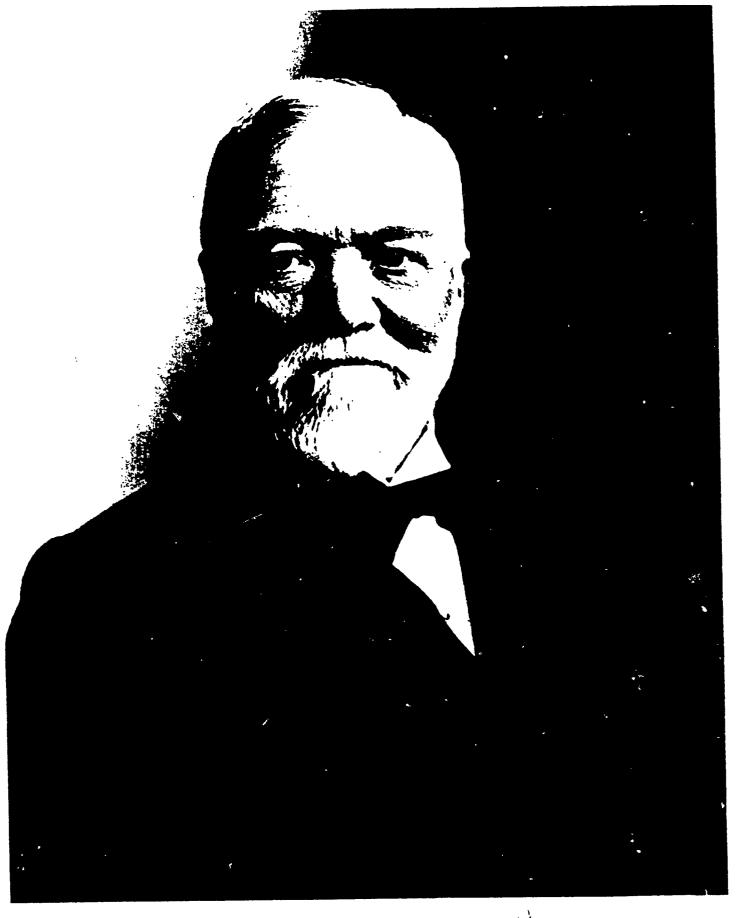
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Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, Ill.



Interior Lincoln Public Library





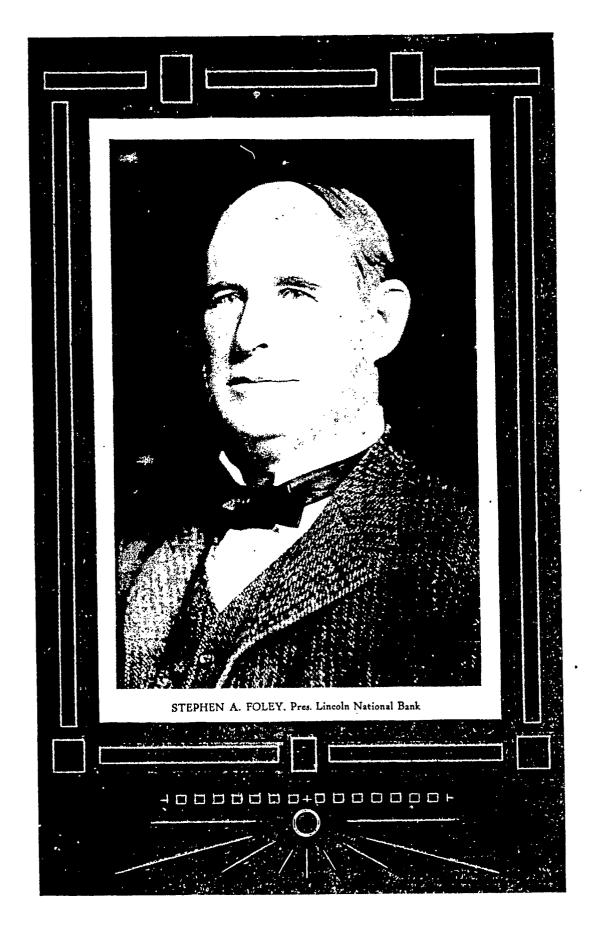
Andrew Carnegie

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Ida M. Webster Librarian 1894 - 1949

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