LIBRARIES

The first library in Cass County was of course the private library of the individual. There were a number of these and some quite extensive. Judge Dan. Pratt Baldwin and Judge Horace P. Biddle are examples of those with extensive libraries.

The first public library was the Cass County Library with Jacob Bowman as Pres.. Rev. Martin Maxm. Post, Jas. McClung, Henry Garrett, Geo. T. Bostwick, Atty. Jos. Sellers, Sr., Judge John W. Wright and Robt. P. Edwards were trustees. Bowman was also. Judge Wright was Librarian. Assoc. Judge John P. Edwards was Treas.. Sellers was clerk.

Election was held the first Mon. in Sept. of each year. Cost of membership was 12½¢ a month or $1, payable in advance, for the year. Larger volumes were loaned for four weeks and smaller ones for two weeks. It was financed by a levy of 10% of the sale of in-lots by the County Commissioners.

The first Mon. of Sept., 1838, they met at Old Seminary, NE 4th and Mkt. Sts., to elect seven trustees. May 5, of that same year, Edwin B. Strong had a Book store and a Circulating Library located in the Post Office, #24 Commercial Row or 224 E. Mkt..

March 6, 1841, local citizens met at the Court House to establish a Public Library.

Sat., Jan. 29, 1848, the ladies were invited to meet at 2 PM to consider a Public Library. They organized the Sigourney Library Association. They met in the home of Mrs. Col. Jordan Vigus, probably at NE Sixth St. and Broadway. They met again Thursday, Feb. 3, 1848. A constitution was read twice and adopted.

OFFICERS

Pres.	Mrs. Wealthy A. Vigus(Col. Jordan)
Sec.	Mrs. S. C. Thompson
Treas.	Mrs. J. A. Rice(Elihu S.)
1st Dir.	Mrs. E. A. Post(Rev. Martin Maxm.)
2nd Dir.	Mrs. Nancy Polke Lasselle(Judge Hyacinth)
3rd Dir.	Mrs. Rhoda Carter(Chauncy)
4th Dir.	Mrs. John Green
5th Dir.	Mrs. Margaret Ann Barker(Harry)

A committee was appointed to solicit and address for Feb. 11. Miss E. A. Thompson, Miss Elizabeth Purviance and Miss Julie F. Lassell were the committee.

They planned a public supper at the Court House. Tickets were on sale at the principal stores and public places.

Gentlemen, desiring to become honorary members, could do so by paying $1, for a year, in advance. Books and donations(funds) were thankfully received.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. N. C. Culbertson(Dr. Wm.)
Mrs. E. Inslee(Jas.)
Mrs. A. Dunkle(Peter)
Mrs. A. E. Dunn(Atty. Jas.)
Mrs. J. Potter
Mrs. E. Routh(Wm.)
Mrs. E. Chappelow(Jas.)
Mrs. E. S. O'Daniels
Mrs. John O. Skelton
Mrs. E. Patterson
Mrs. M. Jennings(Saul W.)
Miss Maria Louise Lasselle
Miss M. Turner
Miss Mary Ann Duret
Miss Eliz. Westlake
Miss H. Knowlton
Miss H. Higgins
Miss M. Kinner
Miss E. M. Dunn
Miss Rebecca S. Bemisdarfer
Mrs. Harriet Purviance(Saml.)
Mrs. N. M. Kilgore(Jesse)
Mrs. E. B. Fuller(John W.)
Mrs. Mirands P. Hall(Saml. A.)
Mrs. Eliz. Pollard(Col. Philip)
Mrs. M. Cummings(Thos. J.)
Mrs. M. Coughey
Mrs. Harriet V. Fitch(Dr. Fred.)
Mrs. A. D. Young
Mrs. M. Wright
Mrs. Chaplin
Miss Caroline Lasselle
Miss J. Dexter
Miss A. Williams
Miss Charlotte Walker
Miss M. E. Ward
Miss A. Thompson
Miss Reifsnyder
Miss M. J. Clem

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Col. Jordan Vigus
Atty. Jas. W. Dunn
M. Farquhar
Gilbert J. Rice
Martin Post
Geo. Cecil
Thos. J. Cummings
Atty. WmSon. Wright
Atty. Geo. W. Blakemore
Harvey A. Smead
Judge Horace P. Biddle
Elihu S. Rice
Jay Mix
Dr. Reuel Faber
Chauncy Carter
Col. Philip Pollard
David M. Dunn
Rev. Martin Mazm. Post
A. J. Conrad
Dr. Wm. Culbertson
J. Burns
Atty. Dan. D. Pratt
Jesse Kilgore
Judge Wm. Z. Stuart
J. Johnson
Peter B. Johnson
David C. Buchanan
Addison H. Cooke

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Wm. H. Johnson
John P. Baker

Ira S. Miller
Jos. Culbertson

May, 1848, the books arrived and were available on Saturdays, from 2 to 4 PM.

March, 1848, Richard Pryor was Librarian of the Mechanics Institute. Books of the Cass County Library were to be left with him.

June 19, 1848, the County Commissioners made an order that the books of the County Library were to be turned over to the Trustees of the Signoury Library Soc.. They were to be retained at the pleasure of their Board. The books were given to Mrs. N. C. Culbertson.

Aug. 15, they met at the home of Judge Hyacinth Lasselle at 4 PM.

Sept. 30, they met at the Ct. House to establish a public reading room. Mrs. A. E. Dunn was then Sec..

They held a supper on Tues., 1-16-1849. Judge Wm. Z. Stuart was guest speaker. Mrs. Rhoda Carter, Miss Charlotte Walker and Miss Eliz. Westlake asked him for his notes and they were published.

The membership met in the library room on Sat., 8-18-1849 at 4 PM. Planned another supper.

They held the supper at the Ct. House on Fri., 11-9. The Logan Brass Band played, under John Wachter the director. The charge was $1 for a lady and gentleman. Geo. E. Adams, a local painter and paint store owner, made a sign for the reading room.

They called a meeting in the library on Tues., 2-12-1850 at 2 PM. Mrs. A. E. Dunn was still Sec.. They had 720 volumes.

Tues., 11-17-1850, they held a fair and supper at the Ct. House. Admission was 50¢ or $1 a couple. They held another supper on Fri., 12-3-1852 and it was 50¢.

They elected officers on Tues., 2-14-1853 at the library. Mrs. Janette Faber(Dr. Reuel) was now Sec..

Rev. Martin Maxm. Post was librarian of the Eel Township Library. They had 215 volumes. They were for the use of families, adults and children. They were loaned free, except a regulation for preservation and proper use.

The Signoury Library Assn. met Tues., 4-10-1855 at the library. Mrs. Janette S. Faber was still Sec..

May, 1855, it was announced,that with the last one-third of the township libraries, there was in progress a program of distribution, being sent to the counties and from them to the townships, a copy of the State Board of Agriculture's report, Barnard's School Architecture and, to the County Aud., 50 copies of the Third Annual Report of the Supt. of Schools. This was for general distribution after the Board of Trustees got one.

The Signoury Library Assn. had a bequest from the McClure estate. They had to have 100 volumes and a reading room and this would entitle them to $500 worth of books from the estate. (Sigourney Library Assn.)

Mrs. Lydia H. Signoury was a poetess. She wrote a poem, "Enduring Beauty," which was printed in the Logansport Journal 9-15-1855. She wrote another poem, "The Mother," which was printed in the paper 9-17-1859. She was the author of an essay on "Female Patriotism" and this is whom the Library Assn. was named after. All person's interested in forming the McClure Workingmen's Library were to order books from W. H. Derby of Cinn., O.. (Mrs. Lydia Huntley Sigourney was the poetess.)

Members of the Workingmen's Institute met at Tipton Fire Co. on Wed., 1-30-1856, at 7 PM. Saml. A. Hall was Sec..

The Signoury Library Assn. met on Tues., 9-9, at the library room. Their next meeting was their annual meeting on Tues., 2-10-1857. They met again on Sat., 3-21-1857. The library room was over the drugs store.

The McClure Assn. met on Fri., 2-12-1857 for the election of officers. They were to use Tipton Hall, as it was offered for 3 years without charge and they would furnish lights two nights of each week. The books, $500 worth, were received under a will of a person in the southern parts of Ind..

The week of 3-6-1858, the Signoury Library Assn. donated their books to New Seminary and the money applied to improvements on the grounds. They had a large and valuable collection.

The McClure Library was open every Sat. evening, 7 to 9 PM, at Tipton Engine House. All with books out were asked to return them before they moved to the new quarters at the Engine House. Isaac Bartlett was librarian. His office was on 4th and so was the Engine House.

The McClure Library or Workingmen's Institute met 1-8-1859. Geo. E. Adams was Pres. and Saml. B. Richardson was Sec.. Robt. R. Reed was elected as the new Pres., Geo. Bevan as Vp., Michael Gargan as Treas. and John Giffin as Librarian.

The McClure Library, at Auroa, Ind., was sold by the Sheriff, to the IOOF, for $25. Logan escaped a similiar fate just a month before this.

Schuyler Colfax donated 40 volumes of the Annuals of Congress. He was US Repr.. The library day was changed to Wednesdays.

They held their meeting of 7-28-1860 at Summit Hall, at 8 PM. Dues were reduced to 50¢ a year. Geo. Bevan was new Pres., Robt. R. Reed was Treas. and Geo. W. Coe was Sec..