

“So Good and Necessary a Work”:

# The Public Library in South Carolina 1698-1980



South Carolina State Library  
Columbia, South Carolina

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**“So Good and Necessary a Work”:  
The Public Library in South Carolina  
1698-1980**

Compiled and edited  
by  
Estellene P. Walker

South Carolina State Library  
Columbia, South Carolina  
1981



THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

**1500 Senate Street  
Columbia, S. C.**

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## Foreword

There has been an interest in gathering and publishing the history of public libraries in South Carolina since 1946. In 1947 with the blessing of the South Carolina Library Association, the South Carolina State Library Board began to gather the histories of the then existing public libraries. These were carefully filed and, over the years, additional material added as it became available.

In the 1970's the South Carolina Library Association made a concerted effort to have a volume on South Carolina library history researched, written and published. Funds for the project were on hand and after careful deliberation it was decided to ask the Southern Studies Program at the University of South Carolina to carry out the project. The director of the Southern Studies Program was enthusiastic over the idea and suggested that Dr. Isaac Copeland, who had recently retired from the library at the University of North Carolina, be chosen as editor of the volume. Dr. Copeland was in South Carolina several times to discuss the history with the Executive Board of the South Carolina Library Association and the director of the Southern Studies Program. For some reason the project never got underway and after ten years of procrastination died a natural death. Under these circumstances the South Carolina State Library Board decided to have a history of the public library program in the state written and published.

In 1979 the State Library Board celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The time seemed appropriate to undertake the history project since most of the public library systems in the state had been established since 1943 and many of the people who had been active in their establishment would be able to help in compiling the history of the systems. Estellene Walker who had been Executive Secretary of the State Library Board since 1946 and State Librarian since 1969 was retiring. With her knowledge of the development of the public library program in the state and the leisure she would now have to devote to the history, the State Library Board decided to retain her as a consultant to carry out the project.

In the fall of 1979 the public libraries in the state were requested to gather and compile materials pertinent to their history and to compile a history which would be submitted to the State Library for publication. The public libraries were most cooperative and with few exceptions provided the history of public library service in their counties. Where the history was not developed locally, one was compiled from material on file at the State Library.

A file on the public library history of each county has been completed and will be turned over to the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina where it will be available to scholars.

## Introduction

Few states can boast a library history as interesting as that of South Carolina. Beginning in 1698 with the establishment in Charles Towne of the first public library in America and coming down to the present day when county and regional libraries serve all forty-six counties, libraries in the state have had an adventurous and exciting existence. Growing up with the state they have shared the vicissitudes of its changing fortunes. They have suffered the natural disasters of earthquake, hurricane and flood; they have been the object of enemy attack, have been invaded, captured and carried off into captivity. They have been supported by silver teas, waffle suppers, contributions, donations, local taxes, state and federal aid. They have fostered friendships and sometimes have contributed to romance. But always, wherever they have existed, they have been used and loved by South Carolinians.

Today South Carolina has public library service in each of its forty-six counties either as county or as regional libraries. The libraries are legally established, in charge of legally appointed boards and are largely supported from local tax funds. State and federal aid, in supplementing local funds, have done much to enrich local library programs. Wherever you are or whoever you are, you are never far from public library service in South Carolina. Service is available for the visually and physically handicapped, for the disadvantaged and for the non-English speaking. It is a total program to serve a total state and owes its success to the dedicated service of librarians, library board members and library staff throughout the state.

SO GOOD AND NECESSARY A WORK  
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1858-1959

### Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without the generous cooperation of county and regional librarians and library board members in researching and recording local library history. Special thanks go to Mrs. Elma Rogers of Colleton County for her definitive history of the library development in her county and to Miss Ellen Perry for her history of the Greenville County Library. I am grateful to Mrs. Ambrose Wylie (Ida Belle Entreken), Nancy C. Blair, Lois Barbare, and to Mrs. Margaret Davies for their help in providing information on the WPA library program in South Carolina. My sincere appreciation is expressed to Betsy Heard Wigglesworth (Mrs. T. H.) of Elberton, Georgia, for her generous help in supplying information on Sally Heard and the Seaboard Airline Railway Library System. My special gratitude to Vicki Maxheimer and her assistants who have so patiently and competently transcribed my dictation and typed this manuscript.

E. P. W.

## "SO GOOD AND NECESSARY A WORK": THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1698-1980

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The first publicly supported library in the nation was established in Charles Town (South Carolina) in 1698. This library, founded just 28 years after the first permanent settlement, owed its organization to the zeal and enthusiasm of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bray, an Episcopal clergyman of that period. The General Assembly of South Carolina confirmed the establishment of the library by official act in 1700 but even before that date had appropriated funds for the purchase of books for the new "Publick Library." The Journals of the Common House of Assembly of South Carolina for 1698 carry numerous references to the public library, among them the appropriation of fifty-three pounds to be paid in London for "Bookes Belonging to ye Library of Charles Towne in Carolina."

In November, 1698, Jonathan Amory was ordered to "lay out in Drest Skins to ye fallue of Seaventy Pounds Currant Money . . . for ye paymenty of fifty three Pounds . . . Due (on) a Publick Library" and to spend the surplus for such books for the "Publick Library" as were not already mentioned in the library catalogue.

The South Carolina Assembly expressed their gratitude for the library. A committee of the House was ordered to write a letter to the Lords Proprietors, containing among other things, the "Thankes of This House for yr Generous prsent of Soe Considerable Part of our Public Library." The General Assembly expressed their gratitude to Dr. Thomas Bray on November 25, 1698 by declaring: "We can not but now think it our Duty, to make it our Endeavours to encourage Religion and Learning amongst us, according to the best of our Ability, seeing that your self (though a Stranger) have been so kind and generous, as to set the first example towards the promotion of so Good and Necessary a Work."

From the beginning the colonial government felt an obligation to maintain and protect the library. It was placed in charge of the incumbent of the church in Charles Town and he was made accountable for the books. Seven copies of a catalog of all of the books in the library were required of him and on the 5th of November of each year an inventory had to be completed. The rules for the library were carefully worked out and they were stringent. Heavy penalties were exacted for loss or damage to the books.

Although this library did not long survive in the eighteenth century, the state may take pride in the manner in which this ambitious early library scheme was handled by the provincial government. A substantial amount of public funds was laid out to promote and foster the good work, and to assure its continuance as a provincial responsibility.

The next step in the development of library service in South Carolina was taken in 1748 when seventeen young gentlemen joined together with the objective of raising a small fund to purchase pamphlets, magazines and books. Their purpose was to keep in touch with a mature civilization, the history and progress of the world, and with new publications. This group was organized as the Charles Town Library Society, an organization which 232 years later is still a flourishing institution with one of America's fine rare book collections.

The library society or subscription library was a pattern which became popular throughout South Carolina.

Libraries of this type were organized in Beaufort, and in Georgetown by the Winyah Indigo Society. By 1860 there were "library society" libraries in operation in many of the counties of the state.

Only the libraries in Charleston and Georgetown survived the War Between the States. Beaufort's library had been confiscated and burned. The Beaufort Library was confiscated as Rebel property and sent to the Port of New York to be sold at public auction. The editors of New York newspapers protested the seizure and sale so vigorously, that Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, rescinded the order for the sale and directed that the books be stored in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington until the war was over. Unfortunately a fire broke out in January of 1865 and all of the books were destroyed. In 1950 with the aid of Senator Burnett Maybank, the South Carolina State Library Board was able to secure some restitution to Beaufort for the loss of this fine early library. In Cheraw, Sherman's troops ransacked the library before burning the building and carried away the books scattering them along their march towards Fayetteville. Although there were sporadic efforts to revive libraries in several of the counties, none were successful because of lack of money for books. It was not until the turn of the century, with the organization of women's clubs and the establishment of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs that progress was made. Establishing community libraries became a major objective of most of the women's clubs and their efforts were given strong support by the Federation. Although the libraries established were small collections of books, poorly housed and staffed by volunteers from among the club members themselves, from these small beginnings grew many of the state's fine public libraries.

One of the influential leaders in the development of public library service was Judge Charles A Woods. Through his leadership the Marion Public Library was established in 1898 and, with financial support from the Town of Marion, became the first public library in the state. Judge Woods was influential in the establishment of public libraries in many areas of the state, notably in Darlington, Florence and Greenville.

During the early 1900's the general interest in the development of public library service was evident in the number of club programs devoted to the topic and the number of projects undertaken to establish new libraries or to improve those already established. Mr. R. M. Kennedy, then librarian of the University of South Carolina, was active in promoting a public library program. In 1914, in a paper read before the Kershaw County Teachers Institute, he recommended a city/county library system and the establishment of a State Library Commission. On October 27, 1915 he and Miss Elizabeth D. English, then assistant librarian at the University, called together a group of librarians and other interested persons for a discussion of the problems of library development in the state. The group organized itself into the South Carolina Library Association, with 24 persons enrolled as charter members. This association gave active support to all measures and programs affecting the development of library service.

The present public library program in the state began in

the 1920's and is largely the result of the interest, energy and determination of Mary E. Frayser who spared no effort to establish a library program and to bring books and reading to the people of the state. Miss Frayser, a rural sociologist engaged in the agricultural extension program at Winthrop, left no stone unturned until the state had a good public library law and had authorized the establishment of a state library extension agency. Miss Frayser was ably assisted by Lucy Hampton Bostick of the Richland County Library and Charlotte Templeton of the Greenville Public Library. In 1929 legislation was enacted permitting counties, townships, and municipal corporations to establish public libraries by a majority vote and to levy a tax of up to two mills for their support. A State Library extension agency was authorized but not funded. In 1934 the public library law was extended to permit the establishment of regional library systems.

Although no funds were appropriated by the legislature to activate the State Library extension agency which it had authorized, a board was appointed which had the right to accept gifts and endowments. With a grant from the Rosenwald Foundation matched by contributions from members of the South Carolina Library Association, a fund was raised which provided \$5,000 a year for a period of three years to allow the State Library Board to employ a field agent, rent office space, and provide travel funds. The mission of the field agent was the development of public libraries in the state, and in furthering this objective, she traveled throughout the state, held conferences and institutes to discuss library topics, produced booklists to guide in book selection and supplied publicity to newspapers to create an understanding of the benefits of public library service to the general public. The first field agent was Miss Parmelee Cheves who served from 1929 to 1932. Miss Cheves kept the idea of public library service on a county-wide basis alive even though most of her work was of necessity done with municipal and township libraries.

As far back as 1698 Dr. Thomas Bray in an essay supporting a plan for the establishment of libraries in the colonies had set the pattern for the development of South Carolina's present county library program. In Dr. Bray's essay he said, "Standing libraries will signify little in the Country, where Persons must ride some miles to look into a Book; such journeys being too expensive of Time and Money, but Lending Libraries which come home to 'em without Charge, may tolerably well supply the Vacancies in their own Studies . . ."

Three important steps in the development of statewide library service took place during the 1930's. Soon after the enactment of legislation allowing the establishment of county library systems, two of South Carolina's counties, Richland and Charleston, were chosen by the Rosewald Foundation for county library demonstrations. In 1930 the Charleston County Library received \$80,000 and the Richland County Library \$75,000 for five year demonstrations of county-wide service. The success of these demonstrations emphasized the feasibility of the county as a unit of service and influenced the development of the public library program in the entire state.

On January 4-5, 1934 a landmark citizens' conference on the library needs of South Carolina was held at Clemson College. The meeting was called by the President of Clemson in cooperation with the State Library Board and the State Library Association. It brought together leaders from throughout the state to plan and adopt a program for public

library development. Serving as the basis of discussion was a bulletin which had just been published by Clemson College on the Libraries of South Carolina, by Mary E. Frayser of the Agricultural Extension Staff. Following this conference the South Carolina Citizens' Library Association was organized. In 1938 with E. R. Jeter of Rock Hill as President, the Citizens' Association was able to secure funds with which it brought into the state Dr. Helen Gordon Stewart, an internationally known authority on public library extension, to organize a campaign for State Aid and win support for an active State Library agency. Dr. Stewart began her work in 1939 and traveled throughout the state developing citizen interest in behalf of library development and State Aid. Her work came to an end when the legislature failed to provide funds for the proposed new program. In the midst of the Great Depression funds were simply not available to fund the program.

### **The Statewide WPA Library Project**

In 1935 when a statewide library project under the WPA was initiated in South Carolina, the state had no active library extension agency to plan the program and for that reason the project was planned and operated by the WPA itself with the objective of providing in each county of the state some measure of area wide public library service. When the WPA project was initiated there were only three counties in the state with county-wide library service. There were eighteen local libraries with incomes with at least \$1,000 and twelve others receiving at least "some" support from public funds. There were twenty-one counties without a tax supported library in their borders.

Mrs. Margaret D. Davies was in charge of women's programs under the WPA and her interest in libraries and in finding employment for women resulted in the state WPA library project. Mrs. Davies sought the aid of Miss Fanny Taber, then president of the South Carolina Library Association, in locating and employing a librarian who could plan, organize and get the project started. Miss Taber chose Miss Ida Bell Entreken (now Mrs. Ambrose Wiley). In six weeks Miss Entreken managed to establish an office, plan a program, make the necessary local contacts and had the show on the road by the first of January 1936. It was a phenomenal job and the excellence of the planning done then benefits the statewide library program to this day. From the beginning, the basic objective of the WPA library program was to extend library service to the entire state with the hope that this service would be continued with local support at the close of the demonstration.

The State Library Supervisor served somewhat in the capacity of a State Library extension agency in planning, supervising and stimulating library development. Carrying out the program were district and area supervisors and supervisors of individual units. It was a streamlined organization with direct channels of authority. The training program provided by the project to prepare employees for library work was successful not only in providing this training but also in instilling real pride in the work being done. This pride in the program and its achievements carried over into library development long after the WPA library program had come to an end.

The WPA library program\* in South Carolina spread the benefits of federal library aid to all the counties of the state. Bookmobiles were purchased and put into operation in twenty-three counties formerly without rural service. Libraries were established or strengthened in many of the counties in the state and public library service in some form was made available in every county. In 1943 when the WPA project closed, many of the public libraries established under the project were continued on local tax support. Of great benefit to the continuing library program in the state were library employees who had been trained under the WPA and were able to take over and operate successfully the new library programs.

In 1943 when the statewide WPA library program came to an end, the State Library Board was able to secure an appropriation of \$3,000 to establish a State Library Board office and fund a program for the last third of the fiscal year — March through June 1943. The legislature appropriated \$15,000 to fund the program for the next fiscal year, 1943-44. Nancy Blair who had been State Director of the WPA library program became the first Executive Secretary of the South Carolina State Library Board and served in that capacity until 1946. An office was established with a part-time secretary. Transportation was provided by a station wagon inherited from the WPA and converted into a bookmobile. The bookstock was composed of 25,888 books transferred from the WPA library project.

At the time of the establishment of the State Library Board's first office, there were twelve county libraries with professional librarians, fourteen county libraries and one regional library established under the WPA program. There were 879,794 people in South Carolina without public library service. The per capita ownership of books among public libraries was .3 per capita. The total expenditure for public library service was 14¢ per capita.

The State Library Board initiated its program with emphasis on State Aid to public libraries. Of its total appropriation of \$15,000, \$8,100 was expended for State Aid to county libraries in which twenty-seven counties participated. By this move on the part of the State Library Board the precedent of State Aid to libraries was firmly established in the State. Initially the requirement for participation in State Aid was that the service given by the library be county-wide. The State Aid grant was spent for books alone. In the ensuing years State Aid requirements were developed to ensure the development of sound public library service on a county-wide basis and the best use of both State Aid and local funds in accomplishing this objective. State Aid requirements rather than the funds themselves were of the greater importance in the development of a strong statewide public library program. For years State Aid remained at a minimum level, rising from \$300 per county to \$1,500 per county in ten years, then from 50¢ per capita to 75¢ per capita in 1981. The State Aid program put a premium on local initiative and responsibility and resulted in public library systems which were locally controlled and drew the major portion of their financial support from local sources. High standards of book selection resulted in collections of carefully chosen books designed to meet the reading needs of a growing reading public. The

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\*During eight years of operation (1935-1943) the WPA Library Project in South Carolina had four directors: Ida Belle Entekin - 1935-37; Agnes Crawford - 1937-1939; Roberta Benoit - 1939-1940; Nancy C. Blair - 1940-1943.

substandard, out-of-date, and worn out books were eliminated and in their place were purchased authoritative recent books. State Aid requirements the county libraries met gave the state a system of county and regional libraries legally established and in charge of legally appointed boards. The requirements ensured well selected book collections, the provision of reference service and a staff with the training and experience required to administer and provide library service of a good level.

During the first twelve years of the State Library Board's program emphasis was placed on the extension of public library service and on its legal establishment. The objective was to create a strong legal basis for public library service in the state, to emphasize local initiative and local support and to create an understanding of the benefits of public library service and an acceptance of the the cost of that service. By 1956 when the Library Services Act was passed, a sound legal basis and a strong foundation for the development of a statewide program had been achieved. County-wide library service had been established in thirty-eight counties, five of which were members of regional library systems. The total bookstock had increased from .3 per capita to .7 per capita. State Aid had increased from \$300 to \$1,500 per county and total public library income had increased from 14¢ per capita to 45¢ per capita. Most important of all, local support of library service had increased from 13¢ per capita to 40¢ per capita. The State Library Board itself was better housed than it had been in 1943 occupying space in a State office building. The staff had been increased by the addition of a Field Service Librarian and a Cataloger. The State Library Board enjoyed a good relationship with the legislature and had seen its State support increase over 500% during its twelve years of operation. It had fought and won a major battle against censorship which had gone a long way to ensure freedom to read for the people in the state.

With the enactment of the Library Services Act in 1956, the State Library Board was charged by Governor Timmerman with the responsibility of administering the program in South Carolina. In the ensuing years the State Library Board, now the South Carolina State Library, made remarkable progress in developing state-wide library service. Basic to this successful program was a master plan for library development which aided in the establishment of county and regional libraries which now serve all of the state's forty-six counties. The development of these county library systems eliminated the expensive duplication of more than one public library supported from tax funds in a single county. The present unified library systems, legally established and in the charge of legally appointed boards, by eliminating expensive overhead and duplication, sharing resources and personnel, have been able to provide a good level of service.

One of the problems which the State Library Board had to solve was that of professional staff for the public and institutional libraries of the state. In 1943 there were only twenty-six professionally trained librarians in all of the public libraries and none in institutional libraries. In 1980 there are 157 fully trained professional librarians in the state's thirty-nine public library systems and the institutional libraries are in the charge of qualified staff. This dramatic improvement is directly due to the State Library's state-wide recruiting program, library intern program, scholarship program and grants to county libraries to aid in achieving salary standards.

Library housing was another problem that had to be solved since in 1943 most public libraries were accommodated in makeshift quarters inadequate to provide anything but minimum service. In the ensuing thirty-six years every county in the state renovated or constructed new public library housing. These buildings have included headquarters buildings as well as branch buildings in major county communities. Beginning in 1968 the Library Services and Construction Act, Title II, provided funds towards construction, renovation and additions to public library buildings in the state. Twenty-one county libraries benefited directly from construction grants. South Carolina's handsome State Library building was constructed under this program.

When the State Library Board's program was initiated, per capita ownership of books in the state was very low — .3 per capita. The total bookstock in all public libraries was 620,550. Today that figure is 3,791,964 and the per capita bookstock has risen to 1.46 per capita, still far below the two per capita goal set by the State Library but an impressive gain over the .3 figure. State Aid, and since 1956 Federal Aid under the Library Services and Construction Act, has contributed largely to this increase in bookstock. Libraries participated in book collection improvement projects, periodical projects, and other book projects designed to help them build well selected collections of books and to maintain them in good condition.

In 1969 the State Library Board became the S. C. State Library. During Governor Strom Thurmond's administration, a Reorganization Commission was appointed which recommended and prepared legislation to consolidate the South Carolina State Library Board and the old State Library into a new and modern State Library agency. The legislation was ready for introduction in the 1951 session of the General Assembly but the Governor left office in January of that year and the legislation was never introduced. It was not until 1955 that another attempt to effect the reorganization was attempted. Again the effort failed but in 1969 during Robert McNair's administration legislation to establish the South Carolina State Library by consolidation of the State Library Board and the old State Library was enacted. The new South Carolina State Library was given all the powers and duties of a general state library.

Anticipating that the third attempt at the establishment of a modern state library would be successful, the State Library Board had planned the building which had been authorized for it and which was then under construction to house a state library program. Immediately upon establishment, the new South Carolina State Library occupied the handsome state library building which was dedicated on February 18, 1970.

Since its establishment the South Carolina State Library has served as the center for interlibrary loan service to the public and institutional libraries in the state. Through this service, the expensive and the highly technical book is available to the patron of even the smallest library. Financial assistance has been provided to county libraries in developing reference service through special projects in this area including the Carolina Materials Project which supplied one library in each Congressional district with either the original or reprints of 150 essential books for the study of South Carolina history. Special grants have also

been made to libraries serving a metropolitan area in order to assist them in building up a strong central reference collection for the use of the people in the service area.

With funds under the Library Services and Construction Act, it has been possible since 1966 to establish and improve libraries in State-supported institutions. Today all State institutions have well developed programs tailored to meet the needs of their particular clientele.

When the State Library Board was established there was no service for the blind and physically handicapped beyond that available from the Library of Congress in Washington. Through persistent efforts, funds were finally secured in 1961 to provide this service through a regional library with North Carolina. In 1973 South Carolina was able to establish its own central library for the blind and physically handicapped. This library now serves the entire state with nearly 7,000 registered borrowers.

Home Rule Legislation enacted in 1975 mandated the reorganization of county government. Under new Article viii of the Constitution local legislation relating to county government could no longer be enacted and since all but one of the county libraries had been established under separate local acts of the legislature, the question immediately arose as to the security of the existing county public libraries and of their continuation under the new county council form of government. To resolve this question and guarantee the continued operation of the libraries under legally appointed boards, the State Library sought the assistance of the Public Library Section of the South Carolina Library Association in drafting new legislation to replace local library laws. The new legislation was enacted in 1978 providing for the establishment by the county councils of county library systems, providing for the powers and responsibilities of county libraries and the library's governing body on a uniform basis. The establishment of county public libraries was made mandatory by this legislation.

The South Carolina State Library provides all the services of a general state library. In its fifty years of service to the State, great improvements have been made in all branches of library service. The extent of service is excellent; the great need is improvement in depth — larger book collections and more staff to serve the public.

#### **Chairmen, S. C. State Library Board, 1929 - 1969; South Carolina State Library 1969 - 1979.**

Mr. H. A. Bethea, Latta, 1929-1936  
Mr. Marion A. Wright, Conway, 1936-1943  
Miss Mary E. Frayser, Rock Hill, 1943-1950  
Mr. James A. Rogers, Florence, 1950-1956  
Mr. M. G. Patton, St. George, 1956-1960  
Mr. Hugh L. Willcox, Florence, 1960-1967  
Mr. H. Carlisle Bean, Spartanburg, 1967-1973  
Dr. Carlanna L. Hendrick, Florence, 1973-

#### **Directors:**

Nancy C. Blair, Executive Secretary, 1943-1946  
Estellene P. Walker, Executive Secretary, 1946-1968;  
State Librarian, 1968-1979  
Betty E. Callaham, State Librarian, 1979-

## REGIONAL LIBRARIES

### Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library

The Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library resulted from a successful five year demonstration program partially funded by the South Carolina State Library Board. At the close of the demonstration the contract between the two county libraries was renewed. The system consists of the two county libraries, a bookmobile and four branch libraries serving the major communities in the area. These include branches at Ninety-Six, Ware Shoals, Donalds and Calhoun Falls. The regional system employs a staff of eighteen people and offers a collection of more than 100,000 volumes.

Since its establishment the regional system has participated in both state and federal aid as administered by the South Carolina State Library. Special grant programs have allowed for the extension of service to the disadvantaged, the elderly and other groups in the community which need help in making full use of library services.

The regional library is governed by a board of seven members appointed from the membership of the two county library boards.

#### Board Chairmen

Edgar W. Davis, Jr., Greenwood, 1965-

#### Librarians

Elizabeth L. Porcher, 1965--69

Mrs. Harold McCord, 1969-

### Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library



THE DIBBLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING,  
Headquarters of the Aiken-Bamberg-  
Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library,  
Aiken, South Carolina

"Establishment of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library in 1958 (Bamberg became a member library in 1964), underscored the transition to a new phase of public library development in South Carolina. The project was initiated when a regional library demonstration program became a major part of South Carolina's state plan under the Library Services Act.

These regional libraries were planned to take advantage of the benefits of the larger organization without losing any advantages of the smaller county controlled library. A

regional board would administer service in the area, and county boards would provide a valuable liaison between the library and the local community. The new regional library would actually become a new system - not a federation of existing libraries. Priority was given to groups of counties which included one county which had not previously had county-wide library service.

The first step in establishment of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional system came early in 1958 when the Aiken and Barnwell County Library Boards at a joint meeting voted unanimously to join in a regional library. The next move was to draw in Edgefield County, Aiken's northern neighbor - a previously unserved county. This was accomplished by a whirlwind campaign conducted by local people that resulted in the passage during the final days of the General Assembly's session of the Edgefield County Library Law.

A Regional Library Board was then organized to govern the new system and contract with the State Library for a demonstration of regional library service. Each of the three participating county boards elected from its membership three representatives to the regional board.

While contracts were being drawn up, the director of the region and field workers of the State Library staff found and equipped office space for the regional headquarters, located in Aiken but housed separately from any of the already existing libraries. Personnel for the regional staff was found with less difficulty than had been anticipated. Service plans were debated, revised, and refined indefatigably. As a result of careful planning, regional service began promptly on October 1, soon after the formal signing of the contracts. In less than a year the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library was able to demonstrate to other areas of the state the advantages of the larger system in providing a better quality of service for a greater number of people."

The above information is extracted from the article in the September 1959 ALA Bulletin written by Dorothy C. Smith. Miss Smith, at that time a field consultant with the State Library was the on-the-spot representative who provided the planning assistance, and consultation services so vital to the entire program.

During its first year, the regional library was visited by numerous observers interested in similar cooperative ventures. One visitor, Dr. Robert McDonough, Director of the New Jersey State Library, inquired of library board chairman, Mrs. Ben P. Davies, Jr., what the gimmick was in obtaining this cooperation among counties and in getting the project off the ground. She replied, "No gimmick, only a matter of getting the right library-minded people behind the project."

During the two years of the demonstration, library board members remembered the dire predictions such as, "The project will work splendidly as long as demonstration funds last, but then see what will happen!" Actually, the demonstration period came to an end June 30, 1962 and in a vote of confidence the three counties appropriated funds sufficiently to continue service at the same level as that of the demonstration years. In 1964 the Bamberg County Library joined the region as the fourth member after a two year extension of the demonstration program.

The regional library headquarters now occupies the Dib-

ble Memorial Library building, which housed the Aiken County Public Library from 1950 until 1974. At that time the Aiken County Library was moved into "Banksia", former estate of Richard Howe, winter resident of Aiken during the 1930's.

Increasing use of the libraries in the regional system has been gratifying. Annual book circulation increased from 184,473 in 1958-59 to 522,219 in 1978-79, and over 5,000 new borrowers were registered during fiscal year 1979. More significant than statistics, is the place that the public library has attained in the life of the community. Through the initiative of the individual librarians and the cooperation of interested lay people, the libraries are becoming true information and cultural centers as well as resources for the recreation and academic pursuits of all age groups.

Every year libraries in the region feature local art shows, handcraft exhibits, guest speakers and musical presentations. An enthusiastic service to children is being developed with assistance from a Library Services Act grant administered by the State Library. Regular film showings are now a part of regular public library service.

In addition to the Library Development grant which made a separate children's service possible, other Library services Act funds have provided book collection improvement projects, reference grants, periodical grants, and an outreach program aimed at persons previously unreached by traditional public library service. Providing invaluable aid to patrons and a boost to public relations in general is the State Library's interlibrary loan service which is both effective and prompt.

Libraries in the region participated actively in plans for the Governor's Conference on Libraries as well as for the first White House Conference on Library and Information Science.

The Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library is an example of cooperation through many channels: local government, state government, the State Library, library trustees, local librarians - and most important, the citizens of the community who have helped demonstrate the value of lifetime learning and leisure experiences offered by the public library.

#### **Board Chairmen**

W. B. S. Winans, Aiken, 1957-61  
Mrs. Ben P. Davies, Jr., Barnwell, 1961-64  
Walter C. Plunkett, Aiken, 1964-67  
Everette E. Derrick, Johnston, 1967-71  
Mrs. Thomas R. Jackson, Williston, 1971-74  
Mrs. John F. McLaughlin, Jr., Ehrhardt, 1974-77  
Mrs. W. C. Buist, Blackville, 1977-78  
Mrs. Frankie Cubbedge, Graniteville, 1978-

#### **Librarian**

Josephine Crouch, 1958-

### **Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library**

The Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library was the result of a successful Works Progress Administration library project. During the WPA era, there were three very small libraries in this three county area of the state - Estill (book club), Fairfax, and Allendale. The Allendale Library had

been organized in 1905, long before the county was established. The Hampton Library was not organized until 1936 under the WPA.

In March, 1941, Allendale, Hampton, and Barnwell Counties formed the first multi-county regional library system in South Carolina. The WPA helped with salaries, books, operating expenses and equipment. With WPA funds, a bookmobile was purchased to serve the rural areas of the three counties in the region.

In March, 1942, the WPA project was discontinued and the library was on its own. Barnwell County withdrew from the region in May 1942, but Allendale and Hampton counties continued to struggle to keep the library in operation. A small appropriation was secured from both counties but it was so small that the work of the library was carried on by people so interested that they were willing to give their services. The chairman of the regional library board, Mrs. James M. Patterson, simply refused to let the regional library die.

In October 1947, Jasper County was invited to join the regional library to form the three county Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library system. The Jasper County Library was sponsored by the County Council of Farm Women under the direction of Mrs. Betty Berry, Home Demonstration agent.

In 1961, the South Carolina State Library Board made an effort to lay the groundwork for a regional library system to serve five counties: Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper. This would have been a region of some 112,000 people located in Coastal Carolina. Although the five county region was never established, the project did have good effects in that Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library received increases in local county appropriations and a new and very modern bookmobile. The campaign also encouraged the establishment of county library service in Beaufort County which had not previously enjoyed this service.

The regional library is governed by a board made up of members elected from the county library boards in each of the three counties. The library is supported by an appropriation from each of the counties, State Aid, and LSCA grants administered by the South Carolina State Library. It is a unified system with a single board, staff, and budget.

The success of the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library owes much to the dedication and hard work of Mrs. Louise Brunson, Librarian of the region from its establishment in 1941 until her retirement in 1971 and to her able assistant, Mrs. Lillian Howard. No road was ever too long or weather too bad to stop these two from keeping the bookmobile to its appointed schedule.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. James M. Patterson, Allendale, 1947-49; 1952-54; 1955-58  
Mrs. W. C. Mauldin, Hampton, 1949-50  
Mrs. T. F. Clements, Ridgeland, 1950-52  
Mrs. Free Lathrop, Hampton, 1954-55  
Mrs. Claude Bullard, Early Branch, 1958-61  
Mrs. T. O. Lawton, Sr., Allendale, 1961-64  
Mrs. Marvin Floyd, Tillman, 1964-66  
Mrs. Stiles Harper, Estill, 1966-67  
Mrs. Bernard Daley, Allendale, 1967-71  
A. Norris Dean, Ridgeland, 1971-75  
Mrs. Charles A. Laffitte, Jr., Hampton, 1975-77  
Mrs. E. A. Stevenson, Jr., Allendale, 1977

### **Librarians**

Mrs. Vernon Brunson, 1941-70  
Sherrill K. Miller (Mrs. Thomas Pinckney), 1970-74  
Mary Anne Martin, 1974-75  
Helen C. DeWitt, 1975-77  
Donald W. Dryden, 1977-

## **Newberry-Saluda Regional Library**

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Newberry County Library on November 6, 1947 a proposal was made that Newberry County join with one of its neighboring counties to form a regional library system. The Board saw in the idea an opportunity to improve library service in Newberry County and extend service to a county which had not yet been able to establish county-wide library service. After careful consideration it was decided to discuss the regional library system with Saluda County and contacts were immediately made with the Saluda Legislative Delegation, the Superintendent of Education, teachers, service clubs, and ministers in the churches of Saluda County.

On April 2, 1948 Mrs. Elenore Driscoll, Chairman of the Newberry Library Board, reported that Saluda County was interested in the formation of the regional library. The Newberry Legislative Delegation had met with the Saluda Legislative Delegation and had agreed on a seven man board composed of four from Newberry and three from Saluda. The new regional system eventually was legally established by act of the legislature and designated the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library.

Mrs. Driscoll, herself a fully qualified professional librarian, resigned as Chairman of the Newberry County Library Board which would dissolve upon the formation of the new regional library board and became a candidate for the position of regional librarian.

On May 4, 1948 a meeting was held of the legislative delegations from both counties and the seven members appointed to the new regional library board. The purpose of the meeting was to organize the new library system and to have it ready to go into operation by the first of July of 1948. Mr. R. C. Lake of Whitmire was elected the first chairman of the regional board and Mrs. Elenore Driscoll was appointed librarian. A contract was worked out outlining the responsibilities of the two counties in operating the regional library system and the type and extent of service to be provided. The contract was signed on May 13, 1948 clearing the way for the service to begin on the first of July.

The regional library was housed in the Newberry County Library headquarters in the old Newberry Courthouse. The Saluda County Library continued to be housed in the Town Hall. The library was supported by a millage on both counties.

One of the first actions taken by the new board was to order a modern bookmobile and to plan the extension of service into the rural areas of both counties. Two years later in 1950 the Whitmire Library building was completed as a memorial to the men of Whitmire who had lost their lives in World War I and World War II. The building housed a

branch of the regional library to serve the entire community.

Mrs. Driscoll served as regional librarian until 1949 when she retired to be succeeded by Miss Marjorie L. Chandler, later Mrs. B. A. Fretwell. Under her direction service to children was greatly expanded and improved with the establishment of story hours at the main and branch libraries. In the ensuing years the regional library had several librarians among whom were two who were graduates of the South Carolina State Library scholarship program.

Two major building projects were completed, in 1968 the headquarters building for the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library in Newberry and in 1975 the headquarters for the Saluda County Library in the Town of Saluda.

State and Federal aid have been of great significance in the development of the regional library. The greater part of the materials collection has been purchased with State Aid. Grants under the Library Services and Construction Act have enabled the library to purchase books and materials to improve the general circulation and reference collection as well as to add much essential equipment. In 1974 a film-strip, cassette and slide collection was begun and in 1979 the first microfilm was acquired. By combining two LSCA grants it was possible to employ a librarian to serve in the capacity of children's librarian and outreach librarian.

The Newberry-Saluda Regional Library has made steady progress. Its trustees have given long and dedicated service to the library. In spite of a limited budget, the staff has provided a good level of service in both counties served.

With 1980 the library has come to an end of an era and is on the verge of entering a new and exciting stage. With the momentum given the development of public library service by the 1979 White House Conference, there is no doubt that the people of Newberry and Saluda counties will demand and take advantage of the advanced library and information services which will soon be available.

### **Board Chairmen**

R. C. Lake, Whitmire, 1947-50  
Mrs. C. A. Dufford, Newberry, 1950-52  
J.W. Hipp, Whitmire, 1952-62  
Rev. G. L. Hill, Little Mt., 1962-65  
Keith Purcell, Newberry, 1965-68  
Mrs. B. A. Fretwell, Newberry, 1968-71  
Earl Bergen, Newberry, 1971-

### **Librarians**

Mrs. Elenore Driscoll, 1948-49  
Mrs. Marjorie Chandler Fretwell, 1949-50  
Mrs. Mary King Mitchell, 1950-51  
Mrs. Joella S. Neel, 1951-60  
Mrs. Lois J. Cromer, 1960-62  
Mrs. Lurlyne K. Shinn, 1962-64  
Mary Catherine Tanner, 1964-70  
Verna S. Kohn (Mrs. Martyn Cavanaugh), 1970-72  
Mrs. Lurlyne Shinn (Acting) 1972  
Catherine Slaughter, 1973-80

## COUNTY LIBRARIES

### Abbeville County Library



THE ABBEVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Abbeville, South Carolina

The Abbeville County Library was established in 1936 in the Town of Abbeville as a Works Progress Administration library project. A bookmobile was purchased with WPA funds and stocked with a collection of books many of which were donated by interested citizens, business firms or purchased with WPA funds.

In 1942 Donalds Grange sponsored the county library as a community improvement project and the library was moved to Donalds where it was housed in the Grange Hall. In 1958 a concrete block building was constructed on an adjacent lot by Grange members and other civic organizations for a county library headquarters. This library building still serves as a branch library for the Donalds community. Its name has been changed to the Walter M. Agnew Branch Library honoring a long-time member of the Abbeville County Library Board and the Donalds Grange.

The Town of Abbeville in 1948 provided a room in the Recreation Center and a small stipend for an Abbeville Public Library. The library lost its lease in 1964 and was moved into an old house on the Abbeville Square.

In 1966 the Abbeville County Library, incorporating the rural bookmobile service and the town library service, was established. The new county system immediately joined with the Greenwood City and County Library to form the Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library. To house the headquarters of the Abbeville County Library, the former Post Office building on Main Street in Abbeville was acquired and, with the aid of an LSCA grant from the South Carolina State Library and county funds, the building was remodeled and attractively furnished. The new building was opened in 1969.

The quality of public library service in Abbeville County improved dramatically as a member of the regional library system. The county library system qualified for State Aid and for various grants of federal funds administered by the State Library. Local support increased annually keeping up with the per capita support required for participation in grant programs. An able board of trustees has worked faithfully through the years to ensure library development and programs.

The Abbeville County Library, in addition to the branch in Donalds, opened a branch in 1967 in the town of Calhoun Falls. In 1979 the Calhoun Falls Library Committee secured funds for building expansion and now occupies a

building more than doubled in size with handsome brick exterior, central climate control and attractive furnishings.

With the Abbeville County Library headquarters, two branch libraries and county-wide bookmobile stops offering convenient access to public library services, it is no wonder that more than 27% of Abbeville County residents are registered library users.

#### Board Chairmen

W. M. Agnew, Donalds, 1946-64

Fletcher W. Ferguson, Abbeville, 1964-

#### Librarians

Mrs. Isabell K. Bowie, 1956-59

Mrs. F. C. Hawthorne, 1959-66

Mrs. John D. Hughes, 1966-

### Aiken County Public Library



THE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Aiken, South Carolina

Aiken County has a long library history demonstrating the active concern of Aiken citizens for libraries and good reading.

The present Aiken County Public Library resulted from the unification of the Dibble Memorial Library and the Aiken County Library to form a single system to serve the city and the county of Aiken. Aiken's library history began in 1880 with the establishment of the Aiken Library, a subscription library maintained by its members. In 1926 this library was re-established as the Dibble Memorial Library, named in honor of Mr. H. M. Dibble, who at the time of his death in 1921 was chairman of the Aiken Library Board and had left provisions in his will for a library building. A major contribution to the building fund came from a benefit performance of the great comedian Will Rogers. Arrangements for the event were made by library board members with the help of Mr. Fred Post who was a friend of the popular comedian. Reportedly, there were present on this occasion the largest number of millionaires ever assembled at one time in Aiken. In 1945, W. B. S. Winans, who later was to play an important part in the Aiken County Public Library growth and in the regional library development, became chairman of the Dibble Memorial Library Board.

Paralleling the development of library service in the town of Aiken was the development of library service for rural Aiken County. The year 1935 saw a pioneer library demon-

stration sponsored by the County Council of Farm Women. Members of Aiken County Home Demonstration clubs obtained \$300 from the County Delegation to demonstrate the use and need of a traveling library in rural Aiken County. Spearheading this project was Mrs. Vance Livingston of the Kitchings Mill community. The service was enthusiastically received throughout Aiken County and early in 1936, after a three month demonstration, the County Council of Farm Women made recommendations regarding a permanent program. The Aiken County Library Commission was created by legislative act and \$2000 appropriated by the delegation for bookmobile service. Headquarters was a room in the County Agricultural Building, which continued as the Aiken County Library until 1950.

Mrs. Leon S. Holly, who had become librarian of the Aiken Library in 1921, continued as librarian of the Dibble Memorial Library until 1935 when she resigned to organize the county library demonstration. Mrs. Holly remained librarian of the Aiken County Library until 1950 when the Aiken County Library and the Dibble Memorial Library joined forces and the Aiken County Library Commission came into being. Mr. W. B. S. Winans was named chairman of the new Commission and Miss Josephine Crouch became the first librarian of the new system. Under Miss Crouch's direction branches were established in Belvedere, Jackson, New Ellenton and Wagener. In 1960 the Nancy Carson Library, a North Augusta municipal institution, joined the Aiken County and regional system. This library serves a population comparable in size to that of Aiken.

The Aiken County Library took a major part in the establishment of a regional library demonstration program. This program was funded by the South Carolina State Library Board under the Library Services Act of 1956. The initial demonstration program included Aiken, Barnwell and Edgefield counties. A fourth county, Bamberg, joined the regional system following an extension of the demonstration program. Membership in the regional program improved library service throughout Aiken County and increased the effectiveness of both reference and interlibrary loan service.

With the growth of service it became apparent that a larger and better located headquarters library was necessary if the library was to continue to provide a high level of service to its public. Ronald D. Royal, Chairman of the Aiken County Public Library Commission, headed up the campaign to secure larger quarters. One of the most beautiful old mansions in Aiken, "Banksia" was secured from the county for conversion into the headquarters library building. The South Carolina State Library Board brought in as a consultant on the site of Banksia, an outstanding authority in the field, J. Russell Bailey, of Orange, Virginia. Mr. Bailey reviewed the site and found it to be adequate in size and most acceptable from the standpoint of accessibility. The Friends of the Aiken County Library conducted an enthusiastic fund raising campaign to assist with necessary renovation and furnishing. In 1974 Banksia became the home of the Aiken County Library. The beauty of the building and its surroundings added significant dimensions to enjoyable library use.

Effective library service in Aiken and throughout the four county region has been consistently supported and enhanced by South Carolina State Library programs. Book collection improvement projects, periodical and reference grants, and library development grants - all made possible

by the Library Services Act funds administered by the State Library - have made lasting contributions to the library.

Through the years, milestones in Aiken's library growth have represented certain citizens' concerted belief in the public library. Board members' generous contributions of time and effort, the interest and assistance of the South Carolina State Library, and the support of public spirited citizens have provided the foundation of public library service in Aiken County.

#### **Board Chairmen**

W. B. S. Winans, Aiken, 1950-62  
 Arthur A. Foreman, Jr., Aiken, 1962-67  
 Mrs. Charles R. Powell, Jackson, 1967-68  
 Douglas S. Garvin, Aiken, 1968-72  
 Ronald Royal, Aiken, 1972-76  
 Otis L. Baughman, Jr., Wagener, 1975-77  
 Mrs. G. Ashford Milner, Jr., Aiken, 1977-

#### **Librarians**

Josephine Crouch, 1951-58  
 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Moore, 1958-66  
 Mrs. Maurine Lackey, 1969-79  
 Mrs. Nellie E. Smith, 1979-

### **Allendale County Library**



THE ALLENDALE COUNTY LIBRARY,  
 Allendale, South Carolina

Public library service in Allendale County pre-dates the establishment of the county by thirteen years. In 1905 a group of interested citizens organized a library and housed it in the offices of Mr. J. M. Patterson. In 1919, when Allendale County was formed, the library became a county library - one of the first in South Carolina. When the new courthouse was built, a room was provided in it to house the public library.

In 1941, with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration, a regional library was established serving Allendale, Barnwell and Hampton counties. With WPA help a bookmobile was purchased to serve the rural areas of all three counties. When WPA assistance was withdrawn, Barnwell dropped out of the regional library but Allendale and Hampton Counties continued to maintain some service in both counties. A small appropriation was made by each county towards the support of the library.

In 1950 the Allendale War Memorial Building was completed which provided quarters for the Allendale County

Library and for the regional library headquarters. In 1947 Jasper County joined the regional library system and the library became known as the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library. Since that date the history of the individual county libraries has become the history of the regional library.

No account of either the Allendale County Library or the regional library can be complete without a tribute to Mrs. James M. Patterson, "Miss Belle", and to Mrs. T. O. Lawton, Sr., who served as library trustees both of the county and the regional library. It was their interest and determination that kept the library going even in lean years and eventually made it a valued county service.

#### Board Chairmen

Mrs. J. M. Patterson, Allendale, 1919-1959

Mrs. T. O. Lawton, Sr., Allendale, 1960-80

Mrs. Bernard Daley, Allendale, 1980-

#### Librarians

Agnes Tison, 1947-51

Mrs. Katherine B. Maner, 1952-78

### Anderson County Library



THE ANDERSON COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Anderson, South Carolina

The first effort to establish library service in Anderson was in 1888 when a group of citizens led by Reverend A. A. Marshall made an attempt to establish a public library in the city. The necessary support was lacking and the effort failed but a year later, at a meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Anderson, measures were adopted to establish public reading rooms. On January 16, 1900, the Anderson Library Association was organized with Mrs. M. L. Bonham as President. A substantial number of library patrons joined the Association with the payment of an annual subscription of \$1.00 per person.

Quarters for the new library were provided in the City Hall and in October, 1900, the City Council made an assignment of \$10.00 monthly for library support.

A major objective of the Anderson Library Association became the acquisition of an adequate library building to house service in Anderson. With this in mind the Carnegie Foundation was approached for a grant for library construction and eventually provided a grant of \$17,500 to cover the cost of construction and equipping the building.

The grant was made with the understanding that the City of Anderson would support the library each year with an appropriation equaling ten percent of the grant. At the time the grant was received from Carnegie, Colonel Joseph Newton Brown gave the Anderson Library Association a donation of \$10,000. Of this \$4,000 was used to secure the lot upon which the building was constructed, \$1,000 for equipment and \$5,000 to establish an endowment fund for the library.

The library building was completed in 1908 and on February 27 of that year dedication ceremonies were held and the building opened to the public. Initially the library owned 2,350 volumes. Mrs. Susan Whitfield Geiger was the first librarian.

In 1943 additional space for readers within the library was created with the renovation and redecoration of a large area in the basement to provide a children's room and relieve overcrowded conditions in the upstairs area. The children's room was made possible through the generosity of two Anderson women, one of whom gave \$1,000 for the renovation and the other \$5,000 for the purchase of books. While public library service was developing in the Town of Anderson, service was also being developed in the county and in the towns of Belton, Honea Path and Pendleton.

Rural library service was first established in August 1937 with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration which provided personnel, books, bookmobile and operating expenses. Miss Sally Whitaker was the first librarian and she was succeeded in the early 1940's by Mrs. Emma S. Cole who operated the bookmobile in Anderson County for nearly thirty-five years.

Library service in Belton was the result of the interest of the Belton Civic League which established a beginning library on April 7, 1914. With WPA assistance a separate library building was erected in the early months of 1939. The Civic League continued its support by donating \$1,000 towards the construction of this building. Eventually a Belton Library Association was formed and took over the operation of the library. The Belton Library became a branch of the Anderson County Library in 1958. In Honea Path public library development was due largely to the interest of Miss Jennie Erwin, a school teacher, who sought the aid of Andrew Carnegie in realizing her dream of a library. In 1907 the Honea Path Library Association received a grant of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of the Honea Path Library building. At the time of its construction Honea Path was the smallest town in the United States which could boast a Carnegie Library. The library became a branch of the Anderson County Library system in 1958.

Pendleton is the oldest and most historic town in Anderson County. The earliest record of a library in Pendleton was in the early 1800's when a circulating library was organized. Although circulating libraries were very popular at the time in the Charleston area, this was the first such library in the upper part of the state. In 1811 the library was incorporated. It continued to operate until around 1825 when it was absorbed by the Pendleton Male Academy. Library service was revived in the early 1900's through the interest of Miss Sallie Trescot who was determined that the people of Pendleton should have library service. With the cooperation of the Town council the library was established in a small brick building located in the park in the center of town. In 1921 the Town Council agreed to provide a small salary to Miss Trescot as librarian. The

library did not long survive her death in 1944, and for many years the only library service in Pendleton was provided by the Anderson County bookmobile. With the assistance of the Lions Club a new library building has been built in Pendleton which will house a branch of the Anderson County Library.

For several years interested citizens had worked for a county-wide system of library service in Anderson County. Real progress towards achieving this goal began in 1956 when a county-wide meeting was held in Anderson to discuss the possibility of establishing a unified county library system. At this meeting a fact finding committee to study the matter and to make recommendations at a future meeting was appointed by the presiding officer. After a thorough study and survey, this committee reported at a meeting on March 11, 1957 pointing out that Anderson County was served by three separate Town libraries and a rural bookmobile which resulted in much duplication in administration, book collection and staff. The report emphasized that much better service could be provided by combining the separate facilities. A request was made to the Legislative Delegation to authorize a referendum on the question of establishing a county-wide library system to be supported by 1 1/2 mill tax increase. The referendum was held on June 10, 1958 and Anderson County voters soundly approved a county-wide library system by a vote of 9,228 in favor of the system to 6,491 against it. The new Anderson County Library system officially went into operation on October 1, 1958.

With the appointment of a new seven member board which would govern the Anderson County Library, agreements were made between the Board of Trustees of the Anderson County Library and the Boards of the libraries in Belton and Honea Path whereby these libraries would become branches of the county library system. A contract was signed with the South Carolina State Library Board for a three year demonstration of county library service which would partially be funded by an LSCA grant.

An initial objective was the improvement of public library service throughout the county. Steps were immediately taken to modernize service from the branches in Honea Path and Belton. Both buildings were renovated and redecorated and their book collections reorganized and greatly augmented by additional books from the general county collection. Branches were established in Williamston and in Pelzer. A new walk-in type bookmobile brought modern library service into the rural areas of the county.

With a progressive program and heavy demands for service, the Anderson County Library soon outgrew its headquarters building. With the backing of the entire county a drive was made to secure an adequate building in a convenient location. With the assistance of the County Legislative Delegation a downtown location on the corner of McDuffie and Greenville Streets was secured and the funds appropriated for building construction. A grant of \$100,000 from LSCA funds under its administration was made to the project by the South Carolina State Library Board. The building was completed in 1971 and dedicated on January 5, 1972.

Carl Stone became Director of the Anderson County Library in August of 1974. Special emphasis was placed on developing the branch and bookmobile services. The county's legal collection was moved from the Court House to the main library for easy access by local attorneys and is maintained by the library staff. In 1979-80, a book security

system was installed in the main library to deter the theft of materials. In 1979 the library initiated Project T.O.T. (Teach Our Tots) under an Appalachian Regional Commission grant to purchase toys and other preschool learning materials and to provide training in parenting skills. The library continues to emphasize improvement of book collection and the addition of professional staff to provide better and more efficient service to Anderson County's library patrons.

#### **Board Chairmen**

J. M. Wingo, Pendleton, 1957-59  
W. A. Hunt, Anderson, 1959-61  
Arthur Klugh, Jr., Anderson, 1961-63  
Mrs. Oliver Norwood, Anderson, 1963-64  
Mrs. W. H. Sullivan, Honea Path, 1964-67  
Harold Sullivan, Anderson, 1967-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Bettie Wall Daly, 1957-60  
Mrs. Sarah C. Smith, 1960-65  
Annie Frances Blackman, 1965-69  
Cyril Russell, 1969-73  
Carl Stone, 1973-

### **Bamberg County Library**



THE BAMBERG COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Bamberg, South Carolina

The Bamberg County Library was established in 1945 by the unification of the Bamberg City Library which had been operated by the Friday Afternoon Book Club and the Bamberg County Free Library which was operated by the WPA.

The Friday Afternoon Book Club had initiated library service in Bamberg by opening a small library in 1922. The library was located on the campus of the Carlisle Military School and remained in that location until 1924 when it was moved to the second floor of the Bamberg City Hall. A paid librarian was employed until 1931 when due to the Depression funds were no longer available for a salary. At this time Mrs. G. Frank Bamberg, "Miss Nell", volunteered to assume responsibility for keeping the library open. For fourteen years from 1931 to 1945 she served as librarian without compensation. Under her direction the library grew and was used so heavily by the public that the need for a special library building to house the service became urgent. Although in the midst of the Great Depression, the

Friday Afternoon Book Club undertook a building campaign and managed to raise the money for a lot and building materials. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation supplied the labor. The entire community participated in the effort to raise the funds for the library building. The new building was completed early in the summer of 1933. In 1945 with the consolidation of the Bamberg County Free Library and the Bamberg City Library, the building became headquarters for the new Bamberg County Library system.

In spite of limited funds, the Board of the Bamberg County Library was determined to improve library service for the people of the whole county and with this in mind explored the possibility of becoming a member of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library system. In 1960 the county library entered a demonstration program of regional library service jointly funded by the South Carolina State Library Board and the participating county libraries and four years later emerged as the fourth member of the Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library.

With membership in the regional library and the additional services this made possible for the people of the county, it was soon apparent that a more adequate library building was essential if services were to continue to improve and expand. A commodious site on the corner of North Street and Railroad Avenue was secured. A grant of \$50,000 to the project was made by the State Library from LSCA funds under its administration, local matching funds were secured and a new building was completed in 1969.

As a member of a large regional library, Bamberg shares the resources, training opportunities, and the direction of an expert staff of professional librarians. Rural Bamberg County is served on a regular basis by the regional bookmobile. The Denmark Library is a member of the county library system. It has recently moved into new and commodious quarters in the community center building in Denmark.

The Bamberg County Library has become a real community center for local activities. Art shows are a regular thing and through a program funded by the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities, such outstanding South Carolina authors as William Price Fox, Ben Greer, Elizabeth Boatwright Coker and Alice Cabiness have been brought in for literary evenings at the library. The library also serves as the center for the annual flower show in Bamberg County.

The Bamberg County Library enjoys unusual community support. The county ranks second in the state in percentage of income allotted to library service and two bequests from wills of local persons interested in the library have been received.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. Harry Hiers, 1946-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Ethel M. Johnson, 1944-45

Mrs. Elizabeth F. Bellamy, 1945-46

Mrs. E. A. Hooten, 1946-61

Mrs. Herman Rice, 1961-

## **Barnwell County Library**



THE BARNWELL COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Barnwell, South Carolina

On Monday afternoon, November 30, 1953, the Barnwell County Library was officially opened by the County Delegation and the County Library Board. With the exception of a few months of county library service shared with Allendale County in the 1940's and a subscription library in Williston, this was the first public library since the county was founded in 1798. The opening of the library was a significant milestone representing a dream persistently pursued, not for months, but for years, by several determined citizens. Notable among this group was Mrs. Ben P. Davies, Jr., who had untiringly worked for county-wide library service. Tangible encouragement came early in 1953 when Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Fuller donated their home "to the town and the county of Barnwell for use as a library building." In May of 1953 a legislative act created the Barnwell County Library. In June of the same year the Barnwell County Library Board held an organizational meeting, electing Mrs. Ben P. Davies, Jr., as its first chairman and appointing Mrs. Hilda K. Stabovitz as the first librarian.

One of the first jobs of the new library board was the renovation and furnishing of the Fuller home as the headquarters of the Barnwell County Library. This was a major undertaking as the mansion had been vacant for a good many years and was in need of major repairs. Careful plans were drawn up and their execution carefully supervised by the board. The result was a handsome, modern public library headquarters. Comfortable and attractive furniture, a pleasing color scheme and an attractive floor plan contributed much to the popularity of library service in Barnwell County.

Early in 1954 bookmobile service was initiated and branch libraries opened in Blackville and Williston. In 1958, four years after its establishment, the Barnwell County Library joined Aiken and Edgefield in a three county regional library demonstration program planned by the South Carolina State Library and funded under the Library Services Act of 1956. The regional demonstration program terminated in 1962 with the establishment of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library. Bamberg County subsequently joined the region making it a four county system. The regional program, through sharing resources of all types, resulted in a better level of service in Barnwell County and in the other three county participants.

Through the professional interest and work of board members, librarians and interested citizens, the Barnwell

County Library has become a community center offering enriching experiences to suit varied tastes. State and federal aid administered by the State Library have significantly enhanced the library's services for its public.

A gift to the library from the estate of C. G. Fuller provided for the construction in 1978 of a building adjacent to the county library building. This facility houses the Barnwell County Museum and also provides the large meeting room which contributes significantly to library programs and activities.

The Barnwell County Library stands as a fine example of cooperation and active interest at many levels. Single individuals, local industry, Friends of the Library organizations, other community groups, local newspaper and radio, as well as county and state officials continue to contribute to its welfare. Much dedicated service stands back of the Barnwell County Library, and its growth and development have justified the efforts expended.

#### Board Chairmen

Mrs. Ben P. Davies, Jr., Barnwell 1952-63; 1965-72  
Mrs. W. C. Buist, Blackville, 1963-65; 1972-

#### Librarians

Mrs. Hilda Stabowitz, 1953-54  
Mrs. Fay B. McNab, 1954-67  
Mrs. W. T. Marshburn, 1967-71  
Mrs. Hopkins Weston, 1971-75  
Mrs. William Green Jenkins, 1975-

### Beaufort County Library



THE BEAUFORT COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Beaufort, South Carolina

Beaufort has a long and distinguished library history, begun when the State of South Carolina granted a charter in 1807 to the Beaufort Library Society. By 1860 there were more than 3,000 volumes on the Society's shelves, encompassing contemporary works and valuable reference books. These were housed at the old College of Beaufort Building (now part of the University of South Carolina at Beaufort).

The Union army confiscated the collection in 1862 and shipped the books to New York City to be sold at public auction as rebel property. Northern editors, aroused by this action, editorialized so fervently that Treasury Secretary Chase stopped the sale saying, "The Union does not war on libraries." He promised the return of the library at the

close of hostilities. This promise was never kept, however, because the collection was destroyed before the war ended by a fire that consumed the wing of the Smithsonian Institution where it was stored. In 1950 with the aid of Senator Burnet Maybank, the South Carolina State Library Board was able to secure from the federal government repayment to the Beaufort County Library for the book collection carried away so many years ago.

Following the ravages of war, and the misery of reconstruction, reactivation of a public library was delayed until a local women's club, the Clover Club, started a small lending library on February 4, 1902. The library grew steadily despite a fire and several moves, with Clover Club members serving as volunteer librarians.

At the time of the Clover Club's twentieth anniversary in 1911 the members realized a need for a permanent library building and undertook to raise a building fund. The City of Beaufort donated a lot on the corner of Craven and Carteret Streets. Senator Neils Christensen procured \$7,500 from the Carnegie Foundation of New York for the building, with the understanding that the library would be supported locally. The building was erected in 1918 and the Beaufort Township Library opened its doors to the public with a nucleus of 2,000 books donated by the Clover Club Library. Miss Adeline Scheper was the first librarian.

In 1931 the Berean Presbyterian Church building on Carteret Street was purchased with funds from a trust held by the Library Board "for library purposes for the colored citizens of Beaufort Township." It was renovated and opened in 1932 as the J. I. Washington Branch of the Beaufort Township Library and operated as such until 1965.

On May 25, 1961 a county-wide library system was approved. In 1962, by an Act of the General Assembly of South Carolina, the Beaufort Township Library became the Beaufort County Library, and entered into an agreement with the South Carolina State Library Board for a two year County Library Demonstration program. The library became fully integrated and a bookmobile was purchased for service to rural areas of the county. The Laura Towne Library at Penn Center on St. Helena Island, which had been a separate library operating its own bookmobile, became a branch of the county system.

In 1963 the Beaufort County Library received the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award as the nation's outstanding small library. This was a signal honor for a young library system established only two years previously. The award of \$5,000 was used to purchase books to add to the library's book collection. In the same year, 1963, the library employed its first professional librarian as director of the system.

The growth of the book collection since 1918 and expanded county library services necessitated a larger building. A trade of the old library building for property owned by the City of Beaufort was negotiated, plans were drawn, and construction begun, with 50% of the financing for the project coming from the Accelerated Public Works Program. The library moved into its new building in 1964. In December of 1966 a new bookmobile with a book capacity of 1,600 volumes was purchased.

Rapid population growth and library (bookmobile) use on Hilton Head Island brought about the establishment of a branch library there on February 12, 1969. The branch occupied a modified double wide trailer provided by a group of interested Islanders. In 1973 Beaufort County Council allocated \$265,000 in Revenue Sharing funds and the

Hilton Head Company deeded one and one-half acres of land to the Library Board of Trustees for a building site. The new branch library building was opened on February 14, 1976.

Because of dwindling circulation the Laura Towne Branch was closed in 1973, to be replaced by increased bookmobile service throughout the area it had formerly served. In the same year a new bookmobile with a capacity of 3,000 volumes was purchased to replace a 1966 model.

Due to changes in state and local governmental structure brought about by the Home Rule Act, the Beaufort County Library system was reestablished in 1979 by an ordinance of County Council to continue in its purpose of providing library service throughout Beaufort County.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Larry Rogers, Hilton Head, 1961-65

Rivers Varn, Beaufort, 1965-77

Mrs. Nancy F. Pearson, Beaufort, 1977-

#### **Librarians**

T. Ray Peppers, 1962-66

Mrs. Betty M. Ragsdale, 1966-72

Julie Zachowski, 1972-

### **Berkeley County Library**



THE BERKELEY COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Moncks Corner, South Carolina

The first mention of library service in Berkeley County was in the summer of 1934 when a reading room for the public was opened and maintained during the summer months.

In 1936 the Home Demonstration Agent, Leona Hewitt, called a meeting of representatives from various organizations and civic groups of the county to discuss the need for a public library. At the close of this meeting a steering committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of organizing a library as a community project. Soon afterwards two rooms over Barron's Store on Main Street became the first home of the Berkeley County Library with approximately 300 volumes donated by friends or purchased with money furnished by public spirited citizens. During the summer the Berkeley County Library Association was formed with Mrs. M. M. Murray as President, Mrs. W. K. Fishburn, Vice-President and Miss Marie Harvey, Secretary-Treasurer.

In June 1937 the library was moved into quarters in the Berkeley Grammar School but continued to be operated

apart from the school system as a separate library open to the general public.

As the use of books increased the Association became more and more aware of the necessity of having an adequate building to house the library. As a step toward a building program, a state charter was applied for and granted to the Berkeley County Library as an eleemosynary corporation.

The Berkeley County Library Association soon discovered that the WPA work program would provide most of the labor necessary to build a library building if a lot and materials could be secured. The County donated a lot in an excellent location and, as the Pinopolis Public School had been closed, this building was donated to furnish the material for the library building.

The new Berkeley County Library building was dedicated on November 10, 1938. The Berkeley County Library Board had worked unceasingly to obtain money with which to purchase books and to meet all obligations connected with the construction project.

In 1948 demands for service became so insistent from throughout the county that the board with the cooperation of the County Council of Farm Women and the County Delegation purchased a small bookmobile. This bookmobile provided service to the entire rural area of the county and was replaced some twelve years later with a large walk-in type vehicle.

In 1955 a branch library was opened in St. Stephen and in 1965 a branch was opened in Hanahan.

With the expansion of library service the need for larger quarters - more shelving, more room for readers and working space for staff became very apparent. The Berkeley County Library Board spearheaded a campaign to secure the funds for a new library building and was successful in securing local funds and a \$75,000 grant from LSCA Title II funds administered by the South Carolina State Library. The new building was begun in April of 1969 and completed in 1970. Handsomely furnished and equipped, the library had the added distinction of original paintings or watercolors by several South Carolina artists.

With a building providing adequate space for book collection, staff and patrons, the library's program developed rapidly. The branches were strengthened in Hanahan and in St. Stephens. A completely modern bookmobile brought library service within reach of all county residents. Special programs were established for the elderly and for children and young people. A consistent effort was made to reach Berkeley County residents who were not library users and provide them the kind of service they would use.

Receiving strong local financial support, the library supplemented local funds with State Aid and with Library Services and Construction Act grants administered by the South Carolina State Library. These funds made possible books, periodicals and services which could not have been provided with local funds alone. The library looks forward to continuing progress. Its population base is rapidly expanding and the influx of new people is bringing with it requests for new services and improvement in depth of traditional services of the library.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. Marvin Murray, Moncks Corner, 1946-63

Marie Harvey, Moncks Corner, 1963-72

J. Russell Cross, Cross, 1972-

### Librarians

Julia M. Kirk (Mrs. Joseph Heyward), 1944-55; 1956-57  
Emma Ritter, 1955-56  
Mrs. Georgia L. Adams, 1957-59  
Mrs. Marion T. Rudloff, 1959-62  
Mrs. Eloise G. Gowder, 1962-73  
Mrs. Patricia Jackson, 1973-

### Calhoun County Public Library



THE CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
St. Matthews, South Carolina

In Calhoun County public library service began in 1912 with the organization of the Calhoun County Public Library by the St. Matthews Literary Society. The library operated from 1913 to 1926 at which time it was absorbed into the library of a newly completed public school.

In 1935 the Works Progress Administration set up a library project to demonstrate over a five year period what a free public library would mean to rural communities. This project provided the opportunity that the people in Calhoun County were looking for to revive the Calhoun County Free Public Library. With the assistance of the County Superintendent of Education and other leaders of the community, the Calhoun County Public Library was reopened on June 1, 1936 with Mrs. Lillian M. Cain as librarian and supervisor of the library project. At its opening the library had about 400 volumes, a loan of books from the WPA, and a gift of over 500 books from Mrs. Julia Peterkin. Mrs. Peterkin, a renowned authoress who had won the Pulitzer Prize, was a county resident living at her plantation, Lang Syne.

To extend library service to rural communities and farm families, Miss Lula Chriesman, Home Demonstration Agent for Calhoun County, took out to her clubs for farm women boxes of books to be circulated within the community. This rural service was so popular and grew so rapidly that a bookmobile was soon secured and routes established over the entire county.

In 1942 when WPA assistance was withdrawn, Calhoun County provided an appropriation to continue county library service.

Books and reading were always popular in Calhoun County and the library flourished. The temporary quarters occupied by the library was soon outgrown and in 1954 one of the community's handsome old residences was completely rebuilt and renovated for library use and in December of that year the library occupied its new quarters. At the time of its completion a part of the building was

devoted to the collections and museum of the Calhoun County Historical Commission but in recent years a separate building has been provided for this agency and the library occupies the entire building. The library building is now on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1950 the West End Branch was established and in 1959 the County Delegation appropriated funds for the handsome building which the West End Branch now occupies.

The Calhoun County Library has participated in State Aid for public libraries since the program was established in 1943 by the State Library Board. It has also participated in all of the LSCA grant programs administered by the State Library for which it qualified.

With strong local support and grant funds, the library has been able to improve and extend its services throughout the county. Bookmobile service remains popular in the rural areas of the county and in the small county communities. With an adequate budget, an appreciative reading public and an active board, the Calhoun County Library can look forward to a successful future.

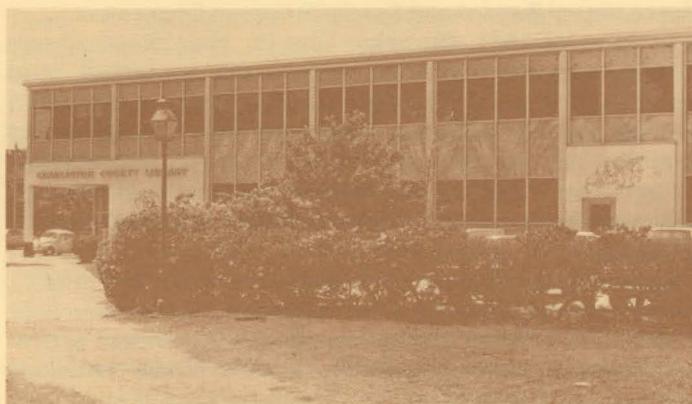
### Board Chairmen

Mrs. P. W. Fairy, St. Matthews, 1946-48  
Mrs. F. M. Wannamaker, St. Matthews, 1948-78  
Mrs. Margaret Hane, Ft. Motte, 1978-79  
Mrs. Louise B. Stone, St. Matthews, 1979-

### Librarians

Mrs. Lillian Cain, 1944-47  
Mrs. Clara T. McCabe, 1947-74  
Marian Alanna Turner (Mrs. Robert Bair) 1974-77  
Mrs. Jennie Redmond, 1977-

### Charleston County Library



On the night of February 18, 1929, a group of citizens, members of civic and fraternal organizations of Charleston met at Ashley Hall at the call of Dr. Mary Vardrine McBee, then president of the Charleston Civic Club. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint a committee to take steps toward the establishment of a free library for Charleston. The plan was enthusiastically received and work began immediately on ways and means to accomplish the desired goal.

The Julius Rosenwald Foundation made a generous offer of assistance. The fund would donate \$20,000 a year for the

first two years provided the city and county raised \$10,000. For the next two years it would match equally every dollar raised locally and for the fifth year would donate \$1.00 for every \$2.00 appropriated. The County Delegation, concerned that at the end of five years the library would be entirely dependent on the county for support, voted against the proposal giving as their reason that the burden would be too heavy for the taxpayers. In spite of this action by the delegation, the enthusiasm for the plan was not dimmed. Various organizations signified their approval and a house to house canvass was carried out by the Civic Club. The canvass was a success, the signatures of prominent educators headed the list, and after a special committee had met with the delegation in Columbia, it was voted to include \$10,000 in the supply bill, "to aid in the establishment of a free library for the use of citizens of the city and county of Charleston."

Plans went ahead rapidly. The Carnegie Corporation of New York contributed \$35,000 for the purchase of books. The library's certificate of incorporation was received on May 23, 1930.

On January 1, 1931, the Charleston Free Library of the County of Charleston was formally opened in the Charleston Museum building with Dr. Charles B. Foelsch as President of the Board of Trustees and Laura N. Bragg, Director of the Charleston Museum, as Librarian.

The library services expanded rapidly. Under terms of its agreement with the Rosenwald Foundation, the library was obligated to make every effort to make its facilities available to all residents of Charleston County. In June, the McClellanville, Mount Pleasant, St. Paul's Parish and Edisto Island Branches were opened, the individual communities furnishing housing and the library supplying the books and service. In the case of McClellanville, the library, dating back to around 1886, decided to merge into the county system. In July, 1931, the Dart Hall Branch was opened at the corner of Bogard and Kracke Streets in Charleston.

In June of 1932 Parmelee Cheves, then State Library Field Director for South Carolina, was appointed head librarian. Under her administration the library continued to expand and it was felt that a separate library building was essential. Accordingly, in 1934, the Board of Trustees purchased the Ficken residence at Montague Street and Rutledge Avenue and in 1935 the library moved to its new quarters.

Upon the resignation of Miss Cheves in 1939, Emily C. Sanders was appointed Chief Librarian. Under her able direction the library system was greatly expanded, a new headquarters building and five branch library buildings planned and constructed.

In 1954, when the headquarters library housed in a handsome old mansion at 94 Rutledge Avenue became completely inadequate, a campaign for a new headquarters building was launched under the direction of Mrs. Girdler B. Fitch, (now Mrs. James Harrison), President of the Board of Trustees. After an intensive campaign with strong media support, the Charleston County Council put before the voters of the county a bond issue to cover the cost of the

proposed new building. The bond issue passed with a large majority. The site selected for the building was on Marion Square where the west wing of the old Citadel was located. Construction began immediately and the new headquarters building was opened in November, 1960. The Charleston County Library is notable for the number of branch library buildings which have been planned and constructed since 1948. In that year a new branch building was completed in Mt. Pleasant and the Jaycees of North Charleston carried out a successful campaign to erect a library building in the North Charleston area as a memorial to World War II veterans. The Cooper River Memorial Library was opened in 1950. In April, 1964, the West Ashley Branch was opened and in 1968 a new branch building, replacing the old Dart Hall Branch, was completed. In 1977 the Edgar Allan Poe Library on Sullivan's Island, housed in a renovated old battery dating from the Spanish American War, was opened. The library's latest branch, located on James Island, was completed and opened for service in 1978.

When Emily C. Sanders retired in 1978 she was succeeded by Margaret D. Mosimann, Deputy Director of the library since 1957.

The Charleston County Library now operates four large branches and seven community libraries. Two book-mobiles provide library service to areas of the county distant from a branch. An active children's department provides special programs for children including story hours and filmstrip programs throughout the county. Among the special collections developed by the Charleston County Library are a large foreign language collection, which provides service to the entire state on interlibrary loan; an extensive collection of art reproductions and a browsing collection of books for the blind and physically handicapped.

The Charleston County Library owes much of its success to its board of trustees. This board composed of leading citizens from the city and county has provided the support required to develop a strong and progressive program of library service.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Dr. Charles B. Foelsch, 1931-35  
Dr. Mary V. McBee, Charleston, 1935-53  
Mrs. Girdler B. Fitch, Charleston, 1953-67  
Wilmer L. Thompson, Charleston, 1967-72  
Mrs. Gedney M. Howe, Jr., Charleston, 1972-74  
Mrs. Joseph W. Cabaniss, Charleston, 1974-75  
Zacharia Gellman, Charleston, 1975-78  
Dr. S. Thomas Scarborough, Charleston, 1978-79  
Mrs. J. Bradley Fowler, Sullivan's Island, 1979-

#### **Librarians**

Laura N. Bragg, 1931-32  
Parmelee Cheves, 1932-39  
Emily C. Sanders, 1939-77  
Margaret D. Mosimann, 1977-

## Cherokee County Public Library



THE CHEROKEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Gaffney, South Carolina

Public library service in Cherokee County had its origin in the organization of the Cherokee Library Association on November 7, 1902 at a meeting held in the county courthouse in Gaffney. At that meeting the City Council granted a free room in the City Hall to the library and appropriated \$500 to help get the library started. The Literary Club donated 200 volumes as a beginning book collection. The library opened on April 2, 1903 and until 1905 was operated by volunteer librarians. In that year Mrs. Pratt Pierson was elected librarian at a salary of \$10 a month. Mrs. Pierson remained as chief librarian for thirty-seven years until her retirement in 1942 when the Gaffney Public Library became the Cherokee County Circulating Library.

As the use of the library grew and the book collection increased, it became apparent that a separate library building was essential if the library's full potential of service was to be realized. An appeal was made to the Carnegie Corporation for a building grant and after two years of correspondence, the corporation agreed to finance the construction of the library building provided the local community would provide a suitable lot and meet the obligation of local financial support. The interest of the entire community was aroused and the City Council and County Commissioner agreed to provide a lot for the new structure. The donated site, however, was unsuitable for a library and did not meet with community approval. In this emergency Mrs. E. H. DeCamp and W. J. Wilkins canvased the town and in four days raised enough money to buy a lot on Limestone Street in the center of town. With this obstacle overcome, a contract for the erection of the library was let, construction begun and a new library opened in September of 1914.

Under Mrs. Pierson's leadership the library grew both in book resources and in usefulness to the community. In 1936 a new wing was added to the library building with funds raised by the Women's Club.

In 1941 an agreement was signed with the WPA establishing a WPA demonstration of county library service. Up to that time library service had been limited to the town of Gaffney. The new project enabled service to be extended to the entire county and a branch library for Blacks to be opened in Gaffney. The demonstration of county-wide library service was an immediate success. The book-mobile carried books into even the most remote rural areas and the small communities were served by branches and book deposits. The increase of the service and its popularity reinforced the move toward establishing a county-wide public library system. A Cherokee County Library Board

was organized in August of 1941 and presented to the County Delegation a bill calling for the creation of a county library system supported by a one mill tax. This bill was passed and the new library system established. Miss Mary Cox became the first county librarian.

By 1969 the library had completely outgrown the Carnegie building. It was very evident that any further progress demanded adequate housing for services, book collection and staff. The County Supervisor immediately appointed a committee to study the need for a new building and the proper location. In March of 1971 a site was purchased on the corner of East Rutledge Avenue and Johnson Street. The new library building was funded through the sale of bonds, a \$75,000 grant from the State Library Board of Federal funds under its administration and a grant of \$51,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission. A 15,000 square foot building was planned as a memorial to all Cherokee citizens who had given their lives in World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam. The building was completed in August 1972 and formally dedicated on December 3, 1972. In February 1974 the Cherokee County Public Library building was recognized for design excellence by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and was featured on the cover of the architectural issue of Library Journal.

The Blacksburg Branch of the library has kept pace with the headquarters library and has had to be enlarged repeatedly in order to accommodate expanding service. The most recent renovation was in 1973 when the branch was more than doubled in size.

The Friends of the Cherokee County Public Library organized in 1973 has played an important part in enriching and expanding the library program. At their meetings such notable authors as Ben Greer, Elizabeth Boatwright Coker and Dr. Louis B. Wright have been featured. The Friends have a special resource in their "Author's Scholarship Fund." A loan from this fund aided Dr. Helen Callison and Dr. Bobby Moss to publish "Cherokee County's First Half Century Through the Lens of June H. Carr, Photographer."

The library has planned and carried out many special programs. In cooperation with Limestone College and the Gaffney Ledger, the library sponsored the Bicentennial Series, American Issues Forum. The library also participated in the Films Plus Project, an experimental program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Cherokee County Arts Festival is conducted jointly by the library, the Cherokee Art Council and the Friends of the Library.

After seventy-eight years of service, the Cherokee County Public Library remains a valued community resource and the object of great pride to the whole county.

### Board Chairmen

Rev. C. A. Kirby, Gaffney, 1946-47  
Mrs. Claudia T. Sanders, Gaffney, 1947-50  
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Hinton, Gaffney, 1950-58; 1967-68  
John C. Fowler, Gaffney, 1958-61; 1964-67  
Mrs. J. V. Phillips, Gaffney, 1961-64  
Garrison G. Watts, Gaffney, 1968-72  
R. Dean Ross, Gaffney, 1972-76  
Mrs. Bright G. Parker, Gaffney, 1976-

### Librarians

Mrs. E. V. Hinton, 1945-46  
Nell Garrard, 1946-72  
David A. Lyon, IV, 1972-77  
David E. Eden, 1977-

## Chester County Free Public Library



THE CHESTER COUNTY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Chester, South Carolina

Library service in Chester County owes its beginning to the Palmetto Literary Club organized in 1898. Mrs. G. B. White, President of the club, was keenly interested in the establishment of a community library. When she and a group of club women from Chester returned from the organizational meeting of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, their first objective was the organization of a public library. In August of 1898 the Palmetto Club and the Up-to-Date Club organized the Chester Library Association. A year later in 1900 the library became a reality. It had a ready-made home waiting for it in a large second floor room of the City Hall overlooking the town square. When the Chester City Hall was erected in 1892, Giles J. Patterson, an attorney at law and a farsighted citizen had incorporated in the charter a provision that adequate space be designated for use as a public library for Chester. The first librarian was Mrs. Julian Sloan. She instilled into the boys and girls of that day a love for good reading and a taste for good literature.

About 1921 interest in the library lagged and it was closed for a time. The Chamber of Commerce finally came to the rescue and kept it open for a year. Then the club women under the leadership of Mrs. T. S. Leitner, took it over. Twelve clubs in Chester banded together to support the library. Mrs. S. E. (Ethel Means) McFadden was appointed librarian and continued in that position until her retirement thirty years later.

In 1929 the City Hall was destroyed by fire. Many valuable books and documents were burned. Of the library's collection only about 700 volumes which were in circulation at the time of the fire were saved. A temporary home for the library was secured in the Chester County Courthouse where it remained until new quarters in the rebuilt City Hall were ready for occupancy in 1930. To the original space allotted to the library was added a room for children's services and storage space.

In 1931 the citizens of the Chester School District, in the midst of the Great Depression, voted to tax themselves an additional one-half mill to support the library. Part of the tax went to establish and support a branch for Blacks housed in the Finley High School.

With the assistance of the WPA State-wide Library Project, a bookmobile was put on the road in Chester County in 1938. The WPA furnished assistance with personnel, equipment, supplies, and books.

In 1946 the Chester County Library was established through the unification of the Chester Free Library and the Chester County Circulating Library. In 1950, the entire first floor of the new and modern War Memorial Building was allocated to the use of the library as county library headquarters. The library's space was carefully planned and provided space for adults, a special room for children and for the library's valuable South Carolina Collection.

The Chester County Library has a large branch library in Great Falls which occupies a handsome new library building constructed in 1975-76. The building was dedicated on February 15, 1976. The Lowrys Branch was discontinued in 1954 due to dwindling circulation and the Finley Branch was closed upon the integration of library service.

Chester County Library serves as a community cultural center. It has made its facilities available for displays of art, sculpture, ceramics, flowers and handicrafts. During Army maneuvers in World War II it provided a recreational center for soldiers stationed in the area. In 1950 the library had as its guests four German librarians from the Information Center Libraries of Germany. They were brought to the United States to study the State Library Board's program of library development and Chester was chosen to study because of the fine new library building, bookmobile and its services to rural communities.

No history of library service in Chester County can be complete without an account of the Lowrys Library. In the early 1900's Dr. Delano Fitzgerald, a Baltimore physician, who for many years had spent his winters in Lowrysville, wished to contribute something to the town where he had passed so many pleasant months. He donated the library in 1904 which was the first free library in Chester County. It was named the "People's Free Library of South Carolina."

A small pretty building was built and furnished completely with book shelves, tables and chairs and supplied with a collection of 1,381 books. Subscriptions to leading magazines were made and a librarian employed. Dr. Fitzgerald bore all of the expenses of the establishment and operation.

In order to make the books more widely available, twenty-two strong cabinets were constructed which held several dozen books. These book boxes were distributed by horse and buggy once a month to homes and schools of the county. This early rural circulating system was one of the first in the country.

The Lowrys Library was closed for several years until the Chester County Library was established. At that time it became a branch of the county library system. Dwindling circulation caused the branch to be closed in 1954 and the books were transferred to the Chester County Library.

The little Lowrys Library building has been restored and is kept in good repair although it is no longer used to house library service.

### Board Chairmen

L. C. Berry, Lowrys, 1946-55  
H. Robert Woods, Jr., Chester, 1955-61  
Harry Abernathy, Great Falls, 1961-62; 1972-76  
Charles B. Abell, Lowrys, 1962-64  
Wade Revels, Great Falls, 1964-65  
John Brantley, Chester, 1965-66  
Mrs. Cortland D. Leigh, Chester, 1966-72  
Milburn Richburg, Chester, 1976-78  
Conway Carter, Chester, 1978-

### **Librarians**

Mrs. Maude Kelsey, 1947-51  
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Williams, 1951-55  
Frances Jane Porter, 1955-59  
Flint Norwood, 1959-65  
Mrs. Gladys Douglas, 1965-66  
Mrs. Elizabeth Dixon, 1966-69  
E. G. Musser, Jr., 1969-72  
William F. Kay, 1972-79  
Patricia Ryckman, 1979-

## **Chesterfield County Library**

The first library in Chesterfield County was organized around 1800 in the town of Chatham as Cheraw was known until 1821 when the town was issued a charter. There is no record of what happened to this first library but in 1855 the Cheraw Lyceum was organized and immediately began to collect books for a library. At the time of the War Between the States, the library was housed in the Lyceum building and was in a flourishing condition with 1,258 volumes in its collection. Before burning the building, Sherman's Army ransacked the library for reading material and carried away many of the books, scattering them along the road on their march towards Fayetteville. Many books were rescued and saved for the Lyceum Library when it could be resumed. The library was re-established after the war but with money for neither books nor personnel it faded away. In May of 1915 the Civic League established a library in the old Market Hall. This library was sponsored and planned by Mrs. Harriet Powe Lynch who contributed some 500 to 600 books to the collection. In 1923 with the permission of the last officers of the Cheraw Lyceum, the books from the Civic League Hall were transferred to the Lyceum building. The Lyceum building was a charming little red brick building erected between the years of 1824-34 to be used as a Court of Equity and had been turned over to the Lyceum when the courts were transferred to Chesterfield, the county seat.

The town of Chesterfield established a small public library which was housed in its own building. To this library, the library in Cheraw, and to the communities of Pageland and McBee the South Carolina State Library Board provided book deposits of up to 200 volumes which were changed quarterly.

There had always been an interest in Chesterfield County in the establishment of county-wide library service. In 1949 the Civic Club in Chesterfield called a meeting to discuss the possibility of obtaining county-wide library service either through the establishment of a county library or through participation in a regional library. The meeting was well attended but at that time the cost of either program proved to be prohibitive. Another attempt was made in 1954 to establish a county library. The Superintendent of Education, Mr. J. H. C. Dalrymple, called a county-wide meeting in Chesterfield to discuss the improvement of public library service in the county. Again the meeting was well attended and the discussion was general but still the cost of the service proved more than the county could afford at that time. In 1959 the State Library Board was able to make an offer to Chesterfield County of a County Library Demonstration program partially funded with Federal and

State Aid. Newspapers in the county gave the proposal full support and it was endorsed by every major community. Since the demonstration program required local support of 50¢ per capita the question of establishing a library was referred to the voters and was defeated by a small majority. In 1967 an act was passed by the legislature legally establishing the Chesterfield County Library with a governing board of seven trustees. This Board was finally able to secure the necessary local funds for a public library.

Colonel Ernest Bostick Stevenson was employed as librarian and charged with the task of planning and establishing library service in the county.

An attractive headquarters library was established in an old store building on the Main Street in Chesterfield. Branches were opened in Pageland and Cheraw and a contract signed with the Darlington County Library to provide bookmobile service in rural Chesterfield County.

The entire program was supported by continuous and well planned publicity. As the system grew new services were added. An extensive outreach program was initiated in 1972 using audio-visual and print materials, special story hour programs and special film programs to reach library patrons who found it impossible to visit the main library. In 1974 a program van was purchased which eventually enabled the library to reach a program audience of over 1000 a month.

In 1976 the Chesterfield County Library put its own bookmobile on the road replacing contract service with Darlington.

Colonel E. B. Stevenson who had been the first librarian retired in 1976. In his seven years as director of the county library Colonel Stevenson had built a strong county library system with service reaching most of the residents of the county.

Because of the tremendous growth of the system and the heavy use by the public of all points of service, library facilities in all three locations of the county have been completely outgrown. A headquarters building in Chesterfield, and a branch in Cheraw are badly needed. The Town of Pageland has been successful in securing the funds for a 3,600 square foot library building to house the library service in that community. The building is now under construction.

The Chesterfield County Library serves its community well. For three years in the seventies it led the state in the use of the State Library's interlibrary loan service - clear evidence that the staff of the library is willing to do that little bit extra to serve the public. In spite of space and collection limitations, the Chesterfield County Library provides good service to its patrons.

### **Board Chairmen**

Edward Sweatt, Cheraw, 1967-72  
Mrs. Thelma Belkin, Chesterfield, 1972-73  
James C. Anderson, Cheraw, 1973-75  
Mrs. Caroline Goforth, Chesterfield, 1975-77  
Mrs. Polly R. Raley, Jefferson, 1977-

### **Librarians**

Colonel E. B. Stevenson, 1969-75  
Mrs. Laura Pegues, 1975  
Norris Wootton, 1975-

## Clarendon County Public Library



THE CLARENDON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Manning, South Carolina

The Clarendon County Library is the youngest county library in the state. Organized in 1977, its beginnings go back to 1880 when the Manning Literary Society was organized with the purpose of establishing a public library. Raising the money necessary to operate a library by private subscription and by public fund raising proved too difficult for this society and for its successor, the Manning Women's Club. It was not until 1905 when a \$1,000 donation was presented for a library building by the Levi family that a library program began. The Levi contribution was matched by the City of Manning. Public subscriptions were raised and private donations made. Land for the library was purchased in 1909 and the building constructed between 1909 and 1910.

The Manning Library is architecturally significant as a local interpretation of the Classical Revival style. It is believed that the same architectural firm which built the Clarendon County Courthouse, Shand and Lafaye of Columbia, South Carolina, also constructed the Manning Library. Among the notable architectural features of the library are its pedimented Roman Doric portico, engaged pilasters, parapet and dome, and coupled I/I windows inserted into arches.

The Manning Women's Club continued sponsorship of the Manning Library. Many of the early librarians were volunteers from this group. When the Manning Civic League was formed as a successor to the Women's Club, a librarian was employed at a small salary for three afternoons a week. For some twenty years the South Carolina

State Library Board provided a book deposit in the Manning Library to enrich the book collection and to provide a greater variety of reading materials for children and adults than was possible with limited local funds.

In 1967 legislation was enacted establishing the Clarendon County Library Commission. Mrs. Sally Dow, the wife of a local industrial executive, was elected the first Chairman of the Board. She worked energetically for the establishment of public library service in Clarendon County as long as she lived in Manning. Ten years later in 1977 after careful planning the Clarendon County Library Commission under the chairmanship of Mrs. James Hugh McFaddin, Jr., realized the fulfillment of the long awaited goal when the County Council approved funding for the county's first public library. During this period, the Clarendon County Library Commission in an effort to provide some public library service to the entire county had contracted with the Sumter County Library for bookmobile service to the major communities of Clarendon County. With the establishment of the library, a large grant was secured from the South Carolina State Library to aid the library during its first three years of operation. Mrs. Alanna T. Bair was appointed librarian by the Commission and was given the responsibility of organizing the library program.

The Manning Civic League continued as a sponsor of the Manning Library until late in 1976 when it deeded the building to Clarendon County to serve as the temporary headquarters of the new Clarendon County Library. County funds were made available to renovate and furnish the building.

Established for less than three years, the Clarendon County Public Library has registered approximately thirteen percent of the county population as borrowers. The book collection has grown to 10,000 volumes and its present headquarters is completely outgrown. Further progress of the library program is hampered by lack of space for both books and people. In order to organize the overwhelming public support of the library behind the campaign for the construction of a modern library building, a Friends of the Library group was organized in 1978. A site for a new library building is under consideration. With strong community support, it seems probable that the library's main problem of housing will soon be solved. In the meantime the Manning Library will continue to house the library as it has done for the past seventy years.

The Manning Library was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and will convert to a museum archives facility when a modern library building has been constructed. Such a facility will aid in the preservation of Clarendon County's artifacts, history, and heritage.

### Board Chairmen

Kendrick R. Johnson, Manning, 1967-68; 1977-78  
Mrs. James Hugh McFaddin, Manning, 1968-77  
Mrs. Maurice Kirkpatrick, 1978-

### Librarian

Alanna T. Bair (Mrs. Robert Bair) 1977-80

## Colleton County Memorial Library



THE COLLETON COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
Walterboro, South Carolina

The Colleton County Memorial Library was established through the consolidation of two libraries, the historic Walterboro Library Society and the Colleton County Library.

Library service in Colleton County has a long and distinguished history. The Walterboro Library Society was founded in 1820 by wealthy planters who made Walterboro their home. These men sent their sons to England or to the continent to complete their education and these young men, returning, wished to see the same degree of culture maintained in their own country that they had enjoyed in Europe.

Much of Walterboro's past history has its setting in the quaint little library building, Georgian in architecture, with small-paned windows, fan-shaped transoms, and hand-hewn sills. In 1824 when the Court of Equity ordered the village of Walterboro to be laid out, the surveyor was instructed to fix the boundaries of the village as "three-fourths of a mile in every direction from the Walterboro Library." It is significant that the leaders of the community established the library before incorporating their town and that they used the library as the central point in measuring the town's perimeter.

When established, the library had a handsome book collection bound in full calf with the name "Walterboro Library Society" printed in gold letters on the binding. The size of the volume determined the length of time it could be kept out of the library. A folio could be kept out six weeks; a quarto volume four weeks; octavo, two weeks and a duo decimo only one week.

In 1836 the first library organization disbanded, turned its building over to the town and distributed its books among the members. Thirty years later when the library was reorganized, many of the original volumes were returned still in good condition.

War and reconstruction took their toll of the library and it was not until 1888 that Miss Claudia Stuart, a teacher in the Walterboro school, came to the rescue. The library was reopened, flourished for a while and then went the way of the others. In 1920, exactly one hundred years after its organization, the Walterboro Library Society again became an active organization. This time the sponsors were the ladies of the Walterboro Book Club. Miss Millie Fraser was employed as librarian and served in that capacity for many years. In 1925 the Town of Walterboro provided tax support for the library and in 1936 Colleton County began appropriating funds for its maintenance.

The Colleton County Library was established in 1935

through the combined efforts of the WPA, the guidance of Mrs. Isabel Heaton, then County Home Demonstration Agent, and the sponsorship of the County Council of Farm Women.

During a two year period, 1935-37, the Home Demonstration Agent and the County WPA supervisors took library books around the county in their own cars to various communities talking with groups and individuals to introduce the library and its services. Library books were few and these were secured through a WPA grant.

In January of 1937 Colleton and Dorchester counties combined to form a bi-county library governed by a library board of eight members - four from each county. In November of 1939 the delegations from Colleton and Dorchester counties appropriated funds to purchase a bookmobile for use in both counties.

As the WPA program was curtailed, funds decreased each year. It was at this time that Dorchester County withdrew from the bi-county arrangement. To continue library service in Colleton County, the County Delegation provided an initial \$1,000 for operating expenses and eventually in 1943 sponsored legislation establishing the Colleton County Rural Library and providing for its support through a three-quarter mill tax on county property.

In 1948 the library employed its first full-time professional librarian, Marguerite Grambling, later Mrs. Ralph Thompson. With her leadership the library program flourished and the library grew to such an extent that the need for additional space for books, staff and readers became pressing. With the backing of the Farm Women's Council, a movement began for a new library building. Although initially there was no idea of combining the Walterboro Library Society and the Colleton County Library, as time passed the people of Colleton County realized that this was the only way to go.

It was no easy matter to bring about the consolidation of the two libraries but it was accomplished. The law establishing the Colleton County Memorial Library through the consolidation of the old Library Society and the Colleton County Library was enacted in April of 1955. The library operated under this law until 1979 at which time, in compliance with new Home Rule legislation, the County Council passed an ordinance establishing the library.

A new building housing service for the entire county and providing for the safekeeping of the valuable materials from the Walterboro Library Society, was constructed and dedicated in 1957.

Under Mrs. Thompson's direction the library became a part of the life of almost everyone in Colleton County. The library and its services were publicized to all organizations in Walterboro and Colleton County. Special programs were planned for special groups and no effort was spared to develop the library's full potential of service to its community.

In November, 1963, the Colleton County Memorial Library was awarded a Dorothy Canfield Fisher Memorial Award of \$1,000. The award was made on the basis of service to the reading public and plans for the expansion of the library program.

From 1963 until the present the director of the Colleton County Library has been Mrs. Lila Ward Smoak. Under Mrs. Smoak's direction the library has grown in every direction. Its book circulation is one of the highest in the state. Bookmobile services have been continually expanded and the use of reference and research services is steadily in-

creasing. One of the new projects initiated under Mrs. Smoak's direction is an oral history collection.

In 1979 the Board of the Colleton County Library was successful in securing funds from the County Delegation to enlarge the usable space in the library by remodeling the garage for a Department of Technical Processing. The Board also was successful in organizing an active Friends of the Library group. The Board and the librarian continue to work with County Council in an effort to bring the best library service that the county can afford to all who live within the county.

No history of library service in Colleton County can be concluded without a tribute to three women whose dedication to books and reading and devotion to the people of the county helped to establish and maintain library service through all vicissitudes. Miss Amelia Fraser (Miss Millie) was appointed librarian of the Walterboro Library Society in 1920 and served in that capacity and later as reference librarian of the Colleton County Library until her retirement in 1970. Miss Millie's interest in books and in the history of Colleton County and the state was the foundation on which the library's fine South Carolina collection was built. Miss Mary D. Rich, with experience in the academic field both as professor and as college administrator, made a valuable contribution to the establishment of the Colleton County Library and to the extension of library service in rural areas of the county. Mrs. Elma S. Rogers, a professional librarian, used her energy and enthusiasm, to foster the idea of public library service throughout the county and was instrumental in the establishment of county library service. As a WPA Library Supervisor in the late 1930's, Mrs. Rogers used her car and much of her time to carry books into all parts of rural Colleton County and to introduce rural people to books. Mrs. Rogers has been on the County Library Board since its establishment. Her interest and community influence have done much to strengthen and improve the public library program both in Colleton County and in the state.

#### **Board Chairmen**

R. A. Durham, Walterboro, 1946-49  
C. Moye Padgett, Walterboro, 1949-76  
Mrs. John I. Rogers, Walterboro, 1976-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Walton B. Smith, 1944-47  
Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, 1947-61  
Mrs. G. Clinton Williams, 1969-70  
Lila W. Morley (Mrs. Wightman Smoak), 1962-69; 1970-

### **Darlington County Library**



THE DARLINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Darlington, South Carolina

Library service in Darlington can be traced to the early 1880's when the Darlington Guards Library was started by

Captain Henry Thompson for the use of guards members and their families. Later, for a small fee, any gentlemen of the community and two ladies of his choice, could borrow books.

After 1900 the Guards Library led a precarious existence. And in 1912, the library was donated to the Civic League, a public spirited group of women. The League maintained the library with a paid librarian until a grant was secured from the Carnegie Foundation to erect a permanent library building. The site for the building was donated, and a tax was levied for its support.

The Darlington Public Library was formally opened on February 21, giving service fifty hours a week. The first librarian of the new library was Miss Louise McMaster, a fully qualified professional librarian. Under her inspired leadership the Darlington Public Library developed an unusually progressive library program. Branches and substations were established, library hours extended and the doors of the library opened to all citizens of the county.

The Carnegie Library building proved to be a disappointment. By 1922 it was apparent that it was too small to adequately house Darlington's ambitious library program. Renovations and adjustments were made, but the building was still too small for the book collection and services. In 1928 plans were completed for a large addition to the building. Funds that had been raised for the construction were lost in a bank failure and twice thereafter the Darlington Library lost sizable amounts of its operating funds through bank failures. In the midst of the Depression it seemed impractical to proceed with plans for enlarging the building. But in 1933-34 with WPA help the library building was doubled in size. However, in a few years the library building had again been outgrown and space still remains the major problem in developing and expanding service.

Although all residents of Darlington County were privileged to use the Darlington Public Library, it was not until 1936 that real rural public library service was initiated. In 1934-35 the Farm Women's Council adopted the goal of purchasing a booktruck to cooperate with the City Library and to "encourage more reading in rural communities." Money was raised for books which was turned over to the Darlington Public Library. With the aid of the WPA, a bookmobile and additional books were obtained for the project and on February 20, 1936, the bookmobile made its first regular rural trip. Later in 1936, through legislative action, tax support on a county-wide basis for the county library work was obtained. The County Board of Education was made the governing body of the county library.

A third of Darlington County's citizens were served by the Hartsville Township Memorial Library. This library opened on December 15, 1936 but its history can be traced to a plan started in 1905. In 1920 the Hartsville Library Association was formed, a paid librarian employed and a small library established. Housing the library was a problem that was hard to solve. In 1935 construction began on the Hartsville Community Center building which included space for a public library.

As plans for a permanent public library matured, the Hartsville Library Association was discontinued. In March 1936, an act creating the Hartsville Memorial Library and providing taxation for its support was passed by the legislature. Continuing efforts to secure an adequate library

building, the Board of Commissioners secured the old Post Office building which was well located for public library purposes. The building was redesigned as a public library and completely renovated and decorated. It was opened to the public on June 11, 1964.

The three public libraries in Darlington County had a common objective - the provision of the best possible service to the public for the funds available. In 1968, after a protracted period of discussion and negotiation, the three libraries decided to merge into a single system to be known as the Darlington County Library. Through unification, it was possible to eliminate expensive duplication and thus provide public library service of better quality. The new system was legally established by act of the legislature and almost immediately signed a contract with the South Carolina State Library Board for a three year county library demonstration. The demonstration provided special grant funds which aided in the accomplishment of many of the library's objectives. A major accomplishment was the reorganization and expansion of bookmobile service and the strengthening of branch libraries in the county. The historic Society Hill Library (1822) was restored and refurnished and opened as a branch of the Darlington County Library system. Branch service in Lamar was significantly improved by a better location, more space, a larger book collection and longer hours. At the close of the demonstration, Darlington County had a modern and progressive public library system which served all communities and rural areas in the county. In the ensuing years the library has taken advantage of every opportunity to improve its services. It is a member of the Florence Area Reference Resource Center and through this cooperative organization shares the resources of all libraries in the Pee Dee area. The Darlington County Library has always participated in State Aid, in LSCA grants, and in the training programs administered by the South Carolina State Library.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Thornton Crouch, Hartsville, 1967-68  
Reaves McCall, Hartsville, 1968-72  
Mrs. Sidney Griffin, Lamar, 1972-74  
Mrs. Ann Dent King, Society Hill, 1974-75  
Dr. William R. Blakeney, Hartsville, 1975-78  
Mrs. David F. Manson, Lamar, 1978-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. W. A. Perkins, 1967-69  
Warren Lloyd, 1969-

### **Dillon County Library**



THE DILLON COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Latta, South Carolina

The Dillon County Library traces its beginnings to the establishment of the Latta Public Library in June 1914. In 1911 Reverend W. C. Allen, pastor of the Baptist Church in

Latta, began to agitate the matter of a public library for the town. The Town Council endorsed his efforts and a library Association was formed and duly chartered. Through the efforts of the Association a \$5,000 grant was secured from the Carnegie Foundation for a library building on condition that the town furnish a lot and provide \$500 annually for library maintenance. Mr. C. F. Bass gave a lot in the center of town easily accessible from all sections as the site of the library. The maintenance fund of \$500 was guaranteed by placing a one mill tax on all property in the Latta School District.

Mr. H. A. Bethea was elected chairman of the Latta Library Board and was later honored by being selected the first chairman of the South Carolina State Library Board.

In 1930 the Board of the Latta Library decided to undertake to provide county-wide library service. The County Legislative Delegation increased the library's support by placing a tax of 1/2 mill on all property in Dillon County to fund the expanded program.

During the Depression, the WPA library project provided valuable help to the library. Among the benefits the library received were additional personnel, binding and book repair, and a large annex added to the building in 1936.

In 1954 in addition to a modern new bookmobile, a north wing was added to the building together with a heating and air conditioning system for the entire building.

When Mrs. C. E. Bethea retired in 1972 after forty-two years as director of the library, the South Carolina State Library offered a special project to the Dillon County Library which would enable it to employ for the first time a professional librarian. The Board accepted the offer and in June the new librarian reported for duty.

The Dillon County Library, in addition to its county wide bookmobile service and headquarters library, operates two branch libraries. The Dunbar Memorial Library in the Town of Dillon was established through the generosity of Mrs. Ida Stackhouse Dunbar who left the City of Dillon a handsome mansion and a bequest of \$10,000 to initiate public library service. The library was opened in 1949. The building was extensively remodeled with new furnishings added in 1979. The Lake View Library is also a branch of the Dillon County Library. This library resulted from the efforts of the Friday Afternoon Book Club. The original building was completed in 1941 and an addition added in 1958.

The Dillon County Library has participated in State Aid since its establishment and in all LSCA grants administered by the South Carolina State Library for which it qualified. One of its special projects is that of outreach to serve the elderly and the disadvantaged. In addition to regular library services, Dillon County Library provides film programs, craft activities and special activities for children.

#### **Board Chairmen**

George E. Allen, Latta, 1946-47  
Etta Sue Sellers, Latta, 1947-50  
Howard Griffin, Latta, 1950-52  
Mrs. F. R. Ellerbe, Latta, 1952-58  
Mrs. J. A. McCreight, Latta, 1958-64  
W. C. Parham, Latta, 1964-72  
C. B. Allen, Latta, 1972-76  
Mrs. Joe L. Powell, Latta, 1967-77  
Frank Ellerbe, Jr., Latta, 1977-79  
Mrs. Robert Glenn, Hamer, 1979-

## Librarians

Mrs. C. E. Bethea, 1944-72

Janice E. Pepper, 1972-74

Marie D. White, 1974-76

Patricia A. Gray, 1977-80

## Dorchester County Library



THE DORCHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY,  
St. George, South Carolina

Public library service in Dorchester County had its origin in libraries operated by book clubs in the towns of Summerville and St. George. In October, 1897 a group of Summerville girls organized a reading club which eventually resulted in the Timrod Library. The library was supported by subscriptions, donations and money made from club projects. The library grew and in 1915 an attractive little brick building was erected. In 1927 an addition of a spacious room and kitchen was added to the building. With neither endowment nor appropriation it was a hard struggle to keep the library in operation. However, this was accomplished and the Timrod Library still operates in Summerville as a subscription library. The Thursday Afternoon Book Club of St. George was organized in 1914 and books bought with club dues exchanged among members and finally made into a collection to be loaned to the public. The library occupied makeshift quarters and moved many times. During the Depression, the WPA Library Project furnished two workers which made it possible to keep the library open every day. When WPA assistance was withdrawn the county appropriated funds to pay the librarian's salary and to keep the library open for a few hours each day. The State Library Board provided a book deposit service of 100 books exchanged every quarter to enrich the collection and to provide a variety of materials for the local reader.

It was about this time in the late 1940's that Miss Ophelia Barker, the County Home Demonstration Agent, decided to concentrate her considerable energy and interest towards the objective of establishing the Dorchester County Library. Miss Barker called on the South Carolina State Library Board for help in explaining and publicizing the need for county-wide library service in Dorchester County. She took a member of the State Library's staff with her to meet with each of her local women's groups to explain what a county library could offer the individual and the community. The County Council of Farm Women endorsed the project. With the leadership of Senator J. D. Parler funds were appropriated and a county library program established in June 1953.

To promote better library service for everyone in the county, the Thursday Afternoon Book Club of St. George which had been operating a public library for the town for many years, merged with the county library and turned over its entire book collection for use throughout the system. This generous action on the part of the club made it possible to provide a better level of library service throughout the county than would otherwise have been possible. Mrs. Mary H. Blume who had been librarian of the St. George library, joined the staff of the county library.

Although the Timrod Library in Summerville did not become a full participant in the system, the bookmobile visited Timrod once a month to exchange twenty-five of the 200 books the county library had on deposit there.

From the time the county library was established in 1953 until 1962, Senator J. D. Parler served as acting chairman of the board to be sure that the county library lived up to the expectations of the Delegation. In 1962, the Dorchester County Library Board was legally established with Admiral Ellis Reed-Hill as Chairman. More adequate quarters for the library were secured in a good location. With the legal establishment of the library and with adequate quarters, Mrs. Emily M. Reeves, the first county librarian resigned to return to the teaching profession. In her place the Board of Trustees appointed Mrs. E. O. McMahan, Jr. Under Mrs. McMahan's direction the library continued to grow and to expand its services throughout the county.

In January 1966 the library was moved to special quarters located in the Dorchester County Courthouse. The new quarters were attractively furnished and well equipped. A new bookmobile was purchased in 1967 replacing the 1953 vehicle and providing a much larger book capacity. The library remained in the Courthouse from January 1966 through June 1976. By this time, with a book collection of 26,000 volumes and a circulation of over 37,000, quarters were too crowded to allow for further growth and improvement. The Board realized that an adequate headquarters library building was the only solution and with this in mind purchased a site which would eventually accommodate the new building.

George H. Seago, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Board in 1976 and led a vigorous campaign for improving county library service. The first objective was to bring local support to \$1.30 per capita in order to qualify for LSCA grants and expand service to the lower county. At the same time plans were made for two library buildings, the headquarters library in St. George and a branch in Summerville. The County Council's budget for 1977-78 included approved funding for both.

Many changes occurred in the county library during fiscal 76-77. The headquarters library moved into the old St. George Elementary School building to wait out the construction of the new headquarters building. A branch library was opened in Summerville in temporary quarters. At this time the county library had less than one book per capita and the crying need was for books to stock the new headquarters building and the branch in Summerville. Five LSCA grants were made during 1977 and all were directed towards alleviating this book shortage.

Dorchester County was the first county in South Carolina to fund construction of two library buildings at the same time and without benefit of either federal or state funds. The Summerville Branch Library was completed in May of 1979 and the headquarters in St. George in June of the

same year. Both libraries were dedicated September 29, 1979.

Operation in the new facilities has brought renewed interest in public library service to Dorchester County citizens. Circulation has risen to over 100,000. Special programs involving films, story hours for children, special exhibits, and cultural programs are provided as well as the usual public library services. With the two handsome new library buildings, an enthusiastic public, and a rapidly expanding population, the Dorchester County Library looks forward to even greater achievements in meeting library needs in the future.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Senator J. D. Parler, St. George, 1952-60  
Senator H. H. Jessen, Summerville, 1960-61  
Admiral Ellis Reed-Hill, Summerville, 1961-74  
Mrs. J. Olin Horne, St. George, 1974-75  
George H. Seago, Jr., Summerville, 1975-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Emily Reeves, 1953-61  
Mrs. E. O. McMahan, Jr., 1961-

### **Edgefield County Library**



D. A. TOMPKINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
Headquarters of The Edgefield County Library,  
Edgefield, South Carolina

Library service in Edgefield has been continuous since the early 1800's when the Edgefield Library Society mentioned in Mills' statistics was organized. Over the years the

organization has had several names eventually becoming the D. A. Tompkins Memorial Library in recognition of the legacy received from Mr. Tompkins in 1929 for a building to house the Abney collection which had been presented to the library by the widow of John Rutledge Abney. The Abney collection contains many rare and valuable books.

At present public library service in Edgefield County is provided by the Edgefield County Library established in 1958 by act of the legislature. Immediately upon establishment, the Edgefield County Library entered into a cooperative library demonstration of regional library service with its neighbors Aiken and Barnwell Counties. South Carolina's regional library demonstration program gave priority to any regional program which included a county without previous county-wide library service. Edgefield County met this requirement and with the appointment of the new county library board, the stage was set for the establishment of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library. (Bamberg became a fourth member in 1964)

Mr. Everette Derrick was elected the first chairman of the Edgefield County Library Board and Mrs. Nancy C. Mims was appointed Edgefield County Librarian.

With the establishment of the Edgefield County Library, the main library facilities were provided rent free by the Civic League of Edgefield for the period of the demonstration in the D. A. Tompkins Memorial Library Building. The county library headquarters is still located here. In 1958 branch libraries were established in Johnston and Trenton. Quarters for the Johnston Branch were provided by Johnston Jaycees who continue to maintain the building. The Trenton Branch is housed in the Benjamin Tillman building, formerly occupied by a town library organized by the Kill Kare Club of Trenton in the early 1920's.

In compiling Edgefield's report to the Committee on Welfare of Children and Youth, practically all questions involved in public library service to children and youth could be answered affirmatively. The report was a part of a national study, preliminary to the White House Conference on Children and Youth held in 1960. Serving on this Edgefield County Committee was Mrs. M. H. Mims, County Librarian. Twenty years later the Edgefield County Library took an equally active part in the South Carolina Governor's Conference on Libraries and the first White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

Service from the county library in Edgefield, the Johnston Branch Library, Trenton Branch Library and from the ABBE Regional Library bookmobile which covers rural areas is free. Patrons are only required to apply for library membership cards which gives them the privilege of checking out books in any of the four counties included in the regional system. From its beginning, the county library, due to its excellent "downtown" location and the enthusiastic community spirit of the county librarian, has continued to serve effectively as the town's "courtesy center", daily providing local history and general information for out-of-town visitors.

#### **Board Chairman**

Everette Derrick, Johnston, 1957-76  
Mrs. B. L. Mims, Edgefield, 1976-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. M. H. Mims, 1958-

## Fairfield County Library



THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Winnsboro, South Carolina

The Fairfield County Library began as a WPA library project during the Great Depression. There had been a small public library in Winnsboro around the turn of the century organized by Mr. Frank Fouche, Superintendent of Schools at Mt. Zion Institute. This library was located in a room over the Bank of Fairfield and was later moved to a room in the Town Clock building. Its first custodian was Miss Anna McCants. The library did not long survive and Winnsboro and Fairfield County were without a public library until the Winnsboro Women's Club purchased the Old Community Building and opened a small library in one of the wings in the early 1920's. Ray Matthews was the first librarian and served in that capacity for many years.

The present Fairfield County Library system grew from two WPA projects. The first was initiated in the county schools and was designed to develop school libraries. The second project was a traveling library sponsored by the Fairfield County Council of Farm Women. The project was an immediate success. The WPA provided personnel, helped pay for a bookmobile and provided gas and oil and upkeep on the vehicle. The County Council of Farm Women raised funds to apply to the purchase of the bookmobile and the initial book collection. The entire county was solicited for gifts of books to go into the library collection. The "Little Red Bookmobile" made its first run on April 12, 1937 with Mrs. Walter Wilson of White Oak at the wheel.

As the library program developed and gained local support, the Winnsboro Women's Club offered the use of their building, the gift of their entire book collection, and the services of their librarian to provide a county library central headquarters. The County Delegation was asked for assistance in funding the library system and appropriated one percent of all school district funds towards the maintenance of the library. In 1938 this amounted to something over \$2,000. The WPA continued to supply workers as well as supplies for the bookmobile. The County Council of Farm Women turned the book truck over to the county library and Miss Alice McDonald became the bookmobile librarian, a position which she held until 1973.

The Fairfield County Library was legally established by act of the legislature and a county library commission appointed. The commission was charged with the provision

of county-wide public library service and had the authority to receive and disburse funds appropriated by the county for library service.

In 1940 the Winnsboro Women's Club procured the old Power House for a library headquarters. The Power House was remodeled and redecorated in order to adequately house the library. In later years a notable addition was made in the creation of a children's room at the rear of the building.

As the book collection grew and the service expanded it became apparent that the old Power House could no longer adequately house the county library. Severe space limitations were reducing the effectiveness of the library and preventing further progress. Mr. W. B. McDowell, Chairman of the Board, initiated a campaign to raise funds for a new headquarters library. The County Council purchased a site for the new building on the corner of Garden and Washington Streets in Winnsboro and appropriated Revenue Sharing funds for the building construction. Additional funds were secured in a \$50,000 grant from the South Carolina State Library from federal funds under its administration. The building was completed and dedicated in May of 1977. The new building is a source of pride to county residents and has become a center for many programs and activities in the county.

In addition to the headquarters library and the bookmobile, the Fairfield County Library operates two small branches located in Ridgeway and in Jenkinsville. During the week, the bookmobile makes daily trips to rural centers in the county.

Since its establishment the Fairfield County Library has participated in State Aid grants from the State Library and in Library Services and Construction Act grants under the administration of the State Library. In addition to the \$50,000 grant for building construction, the library has used its grant funds for the purchase of books, periodicals, equipment and for the provision of special services to both adults and children.

In 1977 a Friends of the Fairfield County Library group was organized by local citizens. At the end of its fourth year, the Friends have over 200 members and have contributed significantly to the library's progress through gifts of equipment and books, support of library programs, and extensive landscaping of library grounds.

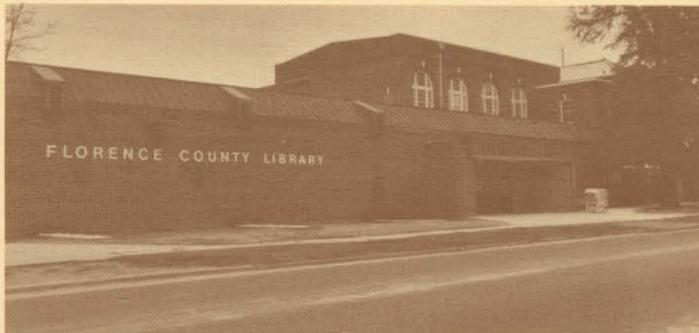
### Board Chairmen

H. C. Schatz, Parr, 1946-50  
W. B. McDowell, Shelton, 1950-72  
George Coleman, Winnsboro, 1972-74  
Robert J. Fickling, Winnsboro, 1974-80  
W. C. Hayes, Winnsboro, 1980-

### Librarians

Miss Alice McDonald, 1944-56  
Mrs. T. A. Quattlebaum, 1956-67  
Mrs. George Frye, 1967-69  
Jean Metelli, 1969-71  
Patricia Scarry, 1971-74  
Mrs. Peggy Watson, 1974-76  
Mrs. Sarah D. McMaster, 1976-

## Florence County Library



THE FLORENCE COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Florence, South Carolina

In the late 1800's there were two separate attempts to establish circulating libraries in Florence. Both failed because of lack of organization and financial support. These early libraries served the purpose of stimulating interest and of showing the need for public library service.

It was not until 1917 with the election of Henry E. Davis to the Board of School Commissioners that progress began towards achieving a public library for Florence. Mr. Davis, a lawyer, had received a large part of his legal training under Judge C. A. Woods. Judge Woods' conviction of the value of books, reading, and libraries had been instrumental in the establishment of the Marion Public Library and had influenced the establishment of other public libraries in South Carolina. He had convinced Mr. Davis of the value to any community of a properly conducted library with a well selected book collection. Mr. Davis became the advocate on the Board of School Commissioners for the establishment of public library service in Florence. At the close of World War I he advocated the building of a library as a war memorial but his suggestion was not adopted although it had the strong support of many Florence citizens. In 1920 the charter of the School District was amended to incorporate the essential provisions for a public library. At the same time a referendum was authorized on a three mill tax for public library support in School District One. With the full support of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Florence, the special library tax of three mills was carried by a substantial majority. As a result of the referendum, Florence's first public library was established. A lot was purchased on the corner of Pine and Irby Streets and on November 3, 1925 the handsome Florence Public Library building was opened to the public. The library served School District One, was governed by the School Board of Trustees of this district and was supported by a three mill tax on the District.

In April of 1961 through legislative action a Board of Trustees was appointed to govern the Florence Public Library separate and distinct from the School Board.

During the period of the Works Progress Administration, the Florence County Circulating Library was established with WPA help under the sponsorship of the County Superintendent of Education. At first one bookmobile and then two were purchased to give service to the county, especially to the schools, and to the general public of rural Florence County.

On July 1, 1964 the Florence Public Library and the Florence County Circulating Library merged to form the Florence County Library system. The merger was ac-

complished through the efforts of the County Superintendent of Education, the Florence Public Library Board, and the South Carolina State Library. The purpose of the consolidation was to provide a unified public library system in the county which would eliminate expensive duplication of administrative costs, materials, equipment and supplies. Through the elimination of duplication it would be possible to provide a better level of service to all the people of Florence County. The Florence County Council voted to support the library through a county appropriation and an additional small appropriation was received from the office of the Florence County Superintendent of Education.

Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson who had been the librarian of the Florence Public Library was appointed the director of the new county library system. With her expert leadership the new library program was a success from the start.

The new library system consisted of a headquarters library, branch libraries and bookmobiles. Johnsonville which had established a small library in 1964 joined the newly organized library system immediately. Lake City which had a long established library joined the county system before the end of 1964. The Lake City Library occupied a handsome brick building especially designed and built to house public library service.

When the Florence County Library System was established, the Board signed a contract with the South Carolina State Library for a three year demonstration of county library service. During this period financial assistance and guidance were provided in developing county library service which could serve as a pattern to other libraries in the state. In addition to the demonstration grants, the library participated in State Aid and in all Library Services and Construction Act grants for which it qualified.

During the demonstration period, the Board of the Florence County Library made a special effort to establish branch libraries in the major communities of the county. Branches were established in Pamplico in 1968 and in Timmons ville in 1971.

At the close of the demonstration it was evident that the Florence County Library System had achieved its goal of a efficiently organized library program providing a good level of service to the entire county. The only problem encountered was that the service had grown so rapidly and was so popular that it had completely outgrown the Florence Public Library building. Space was secured in a neighboring building for the extension service including the bookmobile operation. Every available space in the old building was used and used to the utmost. It was evident that if the library was to continue to progress it had to have a building which would accommodate patrons, staff and books.

The Board of the Florence County Library set as top priority securing adequate library housing for the system. An outstanding public library building consultant, J. Russell Bailey, was brought in to survey the building and to make recommendations for its expansion and improvement. The Board secured additional land adjacent to the building and eventually was able to secure from the Florence County Council funds for the construction of a new building plus a construction grant of \$100,000 from the South Carolina State Library. The building was a particularly difficult one to plan because it had to incorporate the old building with a large modern addition. The building was completed and dedicated in 1978 and has lived up to its promise of

providing the space needed for the improvement of all branches of service.

The Florence County Library has been designated by the South Carolina State library as one of the three Area Reference Centers in South Carolina and is cooperating with other county libraries in the Pee Dee area in sharing resources and in improving reference and information services.

The Florence County Library has attained stature throughout the state as a progressive library system. The aims and goals which have been set by the Florence Library system will take time to accomplish but an encouraging start has been made and with the rapid growth of Florence County and the demand from a larger and better educated public, there is every reason to expect great progress in the future.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Dr. George C. Smith, Florence, 1963-72  
Mrs. William S. Dowis, Jr., Florence, 1972-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, 1963-77  
David M. Paynter, 1977-

### **Georgetown County Memorial Library**



THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
Georgetown, South Carolina

Interest in books and reading in Georgetown County goes back to its founding fathers. The planters' interest in books was reflected in their extensive private libraries and in the collection of a valuable library by the Winyah Indigo Society which provided in its handsome building quarters for a subscription library and eventually for the Georgetown Public Library.

The subscription library was started in 1908 by Miss Susan Allston. She, with the help of Mrs. Congdon and Mrs. Weston Rosa, canvassed the entire community for book donations and secured a home for the library on the first floor of the Winyah Indigo Society building.

The library had a relatively uneventful history until 1936 when, with 3500 books most of which were in dilapidated

condition, the librarian at that time applied to the WPA for aid in repairing the books. In cooperation with the County Board of Education, a WPA library project was initiated. The City Library Board agreed to make the library free to the entire county and a traveling library with a separate collection of 900 books was started. Soon the two book collections were merged and made available to the entire community. Six years later when the WPA project ended, the City of Georgetown and the County Board of Education joined forces to maintain the public library service which had been established. The cooperative program between the city and the county lasted until 1949. After that date, the city having withdrawn its support, the library was funded by the county through an appropriation made by the County Delegation and funds from the County Board of Education. The library participated in the State Aid program provided by the South Carolina State Library Board. The library was heavily used in Georgetown County and soon outgrew the room in the Winyah Indigo Society hall. The County Delegation under the leadership of Senator James R. Morrison, appropriated \$50,000 to convert the historic old jail building at Highmarket and Screven Streets into a modern public library building. The old jail was located in one of the most historic spots in Georgetown and every effort was made to plan a library building which would fit in with the handsome colonial architecture of the neighborhood. Hopkins, Baker and Gill Architects, designed the building, removing the third story of the old jail and using the old brick to face all the new construction. The building was completed and dedicated in 1953.

Since 1953 the library system has grown steadily. The Andrews Public Library Branch was moved into a completely renovated building in 1976. The Town of Andrews furnishes the building, equipment and utilities and the county library supplies service and materials.

Service from the Georgetown County Library Headquarters in Georgetown is extended to the entire county through bi-weekly visits of a modern bookmobile. Special attention is given to children's services and to programs of special interest to Georgetown citizens. The county library has the active support of the Friends of the Georgetown County Memorial Library Association which represents the continuing growth of the community's awareness of the value of library services.

#### **Board Chairmen**

R. T. King, Georgetown, 1946-47  
Rev. H. D. Bull, Georgetown, 1947-49  
Albert Greene, Georgetown, 1949-52  
James R. Parker, Georgetown, 1952-56  
John T. Walker, Georgetown, 1956-64  
Violet St. Germaine, Georgetown, 1964-65  
Allen D. Read, Georgetown, 1965-80  
Mrs. Patricia Doyle, Georgetown, 1980-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Effie Bruns Thatcher, Mrs. Mary Bonds, 1944-53  
Genevieve Chandler, 1953-56  
Mrs. Effie C. Thatcher, 1956-60  
Mrs. Mary S. Bonds, 1960-67  
Mrs. M. T. Paris, 1967-73  
R. Michael Newman, 1973-75  
Mrs. Barbara P. Nickel, 1976-79  
Mrs. Kate W. Hood, 1979-

## Greenville County Library



THE GREENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Greenville, South Carolina

"This library from its earliest days has had high aims and requirements of service both from its board as well as its staff. We have great adventures in prospect and a past of which we need not be ashamed. We are faced not only by the need for securing much needed crude dollars, but also with developing successfully, and employing vigorously, means to popularize the abundant use of good books in this city and county.

We need a vision of the profound educational and broadening influence that an adequate free, public library, wisely conducted, can exercise in our community, and we should plan to execute a strenuous campaign to establish this institution in our midst."

This statement by Thomas F. Parker, Chairman of the Board of the Greenville County Library in July 1926, embodies the spirit and the policy under which the Greenville County Library system has developed.

The first public library in Greenville was the Neblett Free Library. This library remained in existence and continued to operate until the Greenville Public Library was established in 1921. The Greenville Public Library (now the Greenville County Library) came into being and existed for its first years, on funds donated by two farseeing and public spirited citizens: Thomas F. Parker and J. W. Norwood. With funds provided by these donors, a demonstration of public library services was funded, the success of which proved the urgent need for such services in Greenville on a tax supported basis. In 1922 a two mill tax was voted for public library service in the city of Greenville.

A few years later, after money was again donated to establish and maintain a demonstration of bookmobile service both in the Parker district and in the county, a county tax of one mill was voted to carry on the work in the Parker district and the county. These two separate services were later merged to form the county department of the Greenville Public Library.

The Greenville Public Library was opened in a small storeroom on East Coffee Street; later it moved into rented quarters in the rear of the Jervey-Jordan building on Main Street and from there to a semi-garage and storeroom on College and Laurens Street. In 1939 the library board purchased from the Greenville City Schools the Park School building on North Main Street. After extensive alterations and repairs, the library moved into its new home on February 10, 1940.

When public library service was first proposed for Greenville County all citizens were included regardless of residence or race. When the library was established a collection of books was placed in the Phyllis Wheatly building as a service to black patrons. From this small beginning a flourishing branch service developed which was eventually housed in its own branch building on East McBee Avenue. The branch was closed upon the complete integration of library service in the county.

By the early fifties it was apparent that the Greenville County Library which had been preeminent among the libraries in the state in the level and quality of service had lost that position of leadership. In the librarian's report for 1954 the following comment was made: "To sum up the matter - library development has not kept pace with the growth of the city and county. Greenville does not possess the type library needed today." The library's physical plant was inadequate and out-of-date. With a city library and a county library system, separate and controlled by dual boards, it was essential that a new plan streamlined for efficiency and economy be developed. In 1959 the State Library Board made an offer to the city and to the county library boards in Greenville for a demonstration of a good level of library service for the entire area. The basic grant offered was \$45,000 and to qualify for the grant the two library systems had to be legally consolidated into a single system providing service for the entire area. Both boards were enthusiastic over the demonstration proposal and a whirlwind campaign was staged to secure public approval for the proposed consolidation of the library and adequate tax support for the new system. All news media gave the proposal wholehearted support. The County Delegation appointed a special three member committee to make a detailed study of the library. The result was submitted by the delegation at the 1960 session of the legislature. The report began with this statement: "The Greenville Public Library is dying a slow death." The report went on to recommend consolidation on a county-wide basis with a good county-wide tax levy. During the 1961 session of the state legislature the new Greenville County Library system was established by law and a two and a quarter mill tax levied on county property for the support of the new system.

With the establishment of the system, in August of 1961 the library board signed a contract for participation in the three year demonstration of county library service sponsored by the State Library Board and supported by grants under the Library Services Act. The Greenville County Library was charged with the responsibility of providing superior library service and for the development of policies and procedures applicable to libraries throughout the state. In addition to the \$45,000 grant, the library system participated in all of the projects under the Library Services and Construction Act for which it qualified.

Of great importance in the establishment of the new system and of its eventual success was the formation in 1960 of the Friends of the Greenville County Library.

The Friends of the Library funded a survey of library building needs conducted by J. Russell Bailey, a nationally known library architect. On the basis of Mr. Bailey's recommendations a successful building campaign was undertaken. The Symmes Foundation gave the sum of \$100,00 for the purchase and development of a site for the building on the corner of Academy and College Streets. Funding for the building came from a county bond issue, grants from both the State Library Board and the Appalachian Planning and Development Committee and a magnificent gift of \$500,000 from the Symmes Foundation. The new building was planned to meet the future as well as the present needs of the rapidly growing city and county of Greenville. The building was completed and dedicated on May 25, 1970.

With the strong foundation created by the successful consolidation of the city and county libraries and the construction of the main library building, the Greenville Library was ready to develop countywide library service of true excellence.

The library's strong public support was reflected in the phenomenal increase in its funding between 1970 and 1980. The library's tax millage was increased to four mills in 1969, to six mills in 1970, to seven mills in 1972 and to seven and one-quarter mills in 1979. These increases together with increases in State Aid and LSCA grants administered by the State Library made it possible to bring the library's total budget from \$502,095 in 1970 to over \$2,400,000 in 1980.

Keeping pace with the rapid expansion of service were changes in the organizational structure of the library. The staff was expanded to include specialists in several fields.

With the completion of the new main library, development of a branch library system became a high priority with the Board of Trustees. Guided by the recommendations in the *Library Facilities Study* of the Greenville County Planning Commission, new branch libraries were established at Berea (1971), Taylors (1973), Augusta Road (1975), Easley Bridge Road (1977), and East North Street (1978). The quarters at the Travelers Rest Branch were improved. The Berea Branch was completely renovated in 1976 and the Wade Hampton-Taylors Branch moved to expanded quarters in 1978. With the opening of the Eastside Branch Library in 1978, the recommendations of the Planning Commission studies for ten branch libraries had been largely implemented.

Special children's activities for inter-city areas begun in fiscal 1971 were boosted by a Library Services and Construction Act grant from the South Carolina State Library of \$8,000 in fiscal 1972. This program was continued until 1975 when it was greatly expanded into a comprehensive outreach effort called Project WOW (Widening Our World). A \$50,000 LSCA grant from the South Carolina State Library made this demonstration possible.

The library developed an active and innovative program of services for children. One of the more successful programs was a three year project begun in 1977, called PLK (Project Little Kids) funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The project received an award of merit from the Southeastern Library Association in 1978 and a special award from the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1979.

The Greenville County Library has been active in interlibrary cooperation from the time of its establishment. A major experiment in this area was the Greenville Area Reference Resource Center administered by the Greenville County Library under contract with the South Carolina State Library. The Center served seven counties in the Appalachian area in the state. Although the project was successful in promoting reference service, when grant funds were terminated after seven years in 1979, participating libraries decided not to continue it with local funds.

In 1978 an inventory was made of the library's entire book collection and catalog information converted to machine readable form. The result was a COM (computer-output-microfilm) catalog. The Greenville catalog was the first COM catalog in South Carolina.

The Greenville County Library has won numerous awards among these five John Cotton Dana awards for various programs and public relations activities.

Few libraries in South Carolina experienced the growth and development which has taken place at the Greenville County Library since its reorganization as a unified county library system in the 1960's. To maintain this momentum will require a dedicated board, strong library leadership and continuing public support.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Romayne Barnes, Greenville, 1957-62  
T. M. Verdin, Greenville, 1962-63  
E. A. Burch, Greer, 1963-66  
H. Caldwell Harper, Greenville, 1966-68  
Frank S. Leake, Jr., Greenville, 1968-72  
Charles A. Gibson, Greenville, 1972-73  
B. O. Thomason, Jr., Greenville, 1973-74; 1977-79  
Mrs. Robert S. Galloway, Jr., Greenville, 1974-76  
Eugene Gibson, Greer, 1976-77  
Dr. John H. Crabtree, Jr., Greenville, 1979-

#### **Librarians**

Charles E. Stow, 1951-72  
Mary Cox, Acting, 1972-73  
Larry Nix, 1973-80

## **Greenwood City And County Public Library**



THE GREENWOOD CITY AND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Greenwood, South Carolina

In November 1901 a group of Greenwood women, led by Miss Mary McGee, organized a library association for the purpose of establishing a public library in Greenwood.

Membership dues, hot suppers, and ice cream festivals

provided income for this first library. The library was first housed over Bolton's store and later in a room over the fire department.

In 1905, at the suggestion of Dr. Harry A. Bagby, then pastor of the First Baptist Church, a hundred men in Greenwood each gave \$2.00 a year to help support the library. The library association, appreciating this financial aid, elected an advisory board of men to help with the library program.

In 1971 the Carnegie Foundation provided a grant of \$12,500 for the construction of a new public library building. The City of Greenwood provided a lot on Monument Street and agreed to maintain the library. The library association donated their entire collection of books to the new city library.

The first professional librarian was Miss Mary Ferguson who had received her training at Emory University. It was she who was instrumental in building up the rare book collection.

In 1928 the Kiwanis Club provided funds to establish a Children's Room in the library and to maintain it for five years. In subsequent years Kiwanians have continued their support of the public library and have provided valuable gifts.

The Greenwood County Council of Farm Women, determined to have library service in rural Greenwood County, urged the legislative delegation to provide for county library service. In 1937 a 1/2 mill tax on county property was voted to supply revenue to support the rural library service which would be provided by a county department of the Greenwood Library. It was at this time that the library became the Greenwood City and County Public Library.

In 1956 the library board purchased the lot which had been occupied by the First Baptist Church on the corner of Main Street and Bailey Circle. Two years later the Greenwood County Library building of more than 10,000 square feet was completed. By 1962 tax support had been increased to two mills.

The Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library, formed in 1966, resulted from a demonstration of regional library service partially funded by a grant from the South Carolina State Library Board. The three year demonstration was successful and in July 1971 the contract between the Abbeville County Library and the Greenwood County Library, having been in effect for the demonstration period, was renewed.

The regional library consists of two county libraries and four branches. The system includes branch libraries in Ninety-Six, Ware Shoals, Donalds and Calhoun Falls.

No history of the Abbeville-Greenwood Library can be complete without a mention of Miss Elizabeth Porcher who served first as Greenwood's head librarian and later as the regional library director. Her administration saw twenty years of great progress and growth for the public library.

During two intervals in the 1960's and 70's, the Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library provided by contract bookmobile service to neighboring McCormick County.

In 1976 additions and renovations of the Greenwood County Library were completed, almost doubling the size of the building. A challenge grant of \$25,000 given by the Self Foundation, sparked the drive for funds and a Library Services and Construction Act grant of \$121,136 provided a further boost. The project was completed at a cost of \$575,661.

In support of library services in the area, Greenwood County Council increased the public library appropriation

from two to three mills in July of 1979. Governed by able, dedicated trustees, Greenwood's public library has kept pace with the growth of the county, adding new services and reaching out to a more diverse readership. Today more than 39% of the population of Greenwood County are registered library borrowers.

#### **Board Chairmen**

J. Perrin Anderson, Greenwood, 1946-56  
W. L. Bross, Greenwood, 1956-59  
Edgar Davis, Greenwood, 1959-66  
Dr. L. A. Schneider, Ninety-Six, 1966-71  
Dr. William T. Rice, Greenwood, 1971-

#### **Librarians**

Nell Garrard, 1944-46  
Winona Walker, 1946-49  
Elizabeth L. Porcher, 1949-65  
Mrs. Harold McCord, 1965-69  
Frances McNinch, 1969-

### **Hampton County Library**

The Hampton County Library was organized in 1936 with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. The library was first housed in the Methodist Sunday School but in 1941 moved into the new county agricultural building which provided two rooms for the library.

Library service in Hampton County owes much to Miss Izora Miley who, as Hampton County Home Demonstration Agent, was largely responsible for fostering and keeping alive the idea of public library service throughout the county. For ten years before the library was established, Miss Izora carried books in her own car to isolated rural communities. Wherever she went she encouraged reading and the use of books. When the Hampton Library was organized, she became a member of the board of the library and furthered every effort to improve and extend public library service in Hampton County and in the region. In 1976 when the handsome new Hampton County Library headquarters building was dedicated, Miss Izora was the guest of honor. The building was constructed on a piece of choice property in downtown Hampton which she had donated to the county as the site of the new library building.

In 1941 with WPA assistance a regional library serving Allendale, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties was established. In 1942 Barnwell dropped out of the region and in 1947 Jasper County became a member. The history of library service in each of the three counties in the region is the history of the regional library.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. W. C. Mauldin, 1947-50  
Mrs. Free Latrop, 1955  
Mrs. Frank Rivers, 1952-53; 1956-59  
Mrs. J. H. Wood, 1960-62  
Mrs. W. L. Rhodes, 1963-64  
Mrs. E. A. Anderson, 1965-69; 1971  
Mrs. Martha Bee Anderson, 1970  
Mrs. Frank McClure, Jr., 1972  
Mrs. Hugh T. Lightsey, 1972-74  
Ellen Peters, 1975-76  
Evelyn Thomas, 1975-76  
LaClaire Laffitte, 1977-79  
Peggy Cox, 1980  
LaDoris Jenkins, 1980

### Librarians

Mrs. Bessie DeLoach, 1946-67  
Mrs. Griselda Bowden, 1968-74  
Mrs. Brenda Rhoden, 1976-78  
Mrs. Kathleen B. Moore, 1976-78

### Horry County Memorial Library



THE HORRY COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
Conway, South Carolina

Although there were some excellent private, school and church libraries in Horry County prior to 1934, there had been no public library. It was then that a movement spearheaded by Mrs. H. L. Buck, a former president of the South Carolina Library Association (1929), gained support. As the result of her efforts and those of a small group of leading citizens, a public library was opened in Conway on March 4, 1938. Supported by private funds and a town appropriation of \$25 per month, the library was housed on the second floor of the town hall. The nucleus of the book collection came from the private library of Dr. J. A. Norton and his brother, J. O. Norton.

Before the public library in Conway was opened, a WPA county-wide library project was initiated with the cooperation of the Horry County Board of Education. For the first time a bookmobile brought library service to the rural areas of the county. When WPA funds were withdrawn in 1942, the Board of Education assumed full responsibility for the service including the purchase of a book collection.

Convinced of the value of county-wide public library service, the Conway Library Committee continued to work vigorously for a county library and in so doing enlisted powerful political support. In 1944 the County Legislative Delegation appropriated the first \$15,000 towards the construction of a library building. In 1946 the Delegation sponsored the legislation which established the Horry County Memorial Library Commission, appropriated \$50,000 for a building and levied a one mill tax for support of the library. Later 20% of the county rebate of beer, wine and liquor taxes and one-half of the marriage license fees were assigned for the support of county library service.

At the time the library was established, Mary Parham, a qualified professional librarian, was appointed and during the period of building construction, she ordered the books, organized the book collection and established a public relations program essential for understanding the services the library would provide. The Horry County Memorial Library was the first public library building to be constructed in South Carolina after World War II. Beautifully

designed, handsomely furnished and with an excellent book collection, it was dedicated on July 1, 1949.

The county library immediately assumed full responsibility for rural library service, using as its first bookmobile the one transferred from the County Department of Education. Local groups in population centers throughout the county sponsored and supported branch libraries. The Loris branch was opened in 1949, Aynor in 1950 and Grand Strand (Crescent Beach later North Myrtle Beach Library) was opened in 1958. The most recent branch to be added to the system is Surfside opened in 1978. Although the Chapin Memorial Library at Myrtle Beach is not a full participant in the county-wide public library system, it is closely affiliated with the system and enjoys cooperation and mutual support.

New branch buildings have been constructed at the rate of almost one a year since 1976 with funds already appropriated for the last, Grand Strand at North Myrtle Beach. A major expansion of the headquarters library in Conway is projected for 1983 with plans already in progress.

Due to the heavy use of the Horry County Library, it has been a challenge to maintain an adequate book collection to meet the demands of the public. The book collection has been strengthened by State Aid and by federal grants under the Library Services and Construction Act. Other grant funds have enabled the library to initiate a county-wide toll free telephone reference service, to expand reference capability through periodical subscriptions and acquisition of reference material and to upgrade staff by providing opportunities for study and training. Grant funds have allowed the beginning of an outreach program to reach readers with unmet educational, informational and recreational needs. The outreach program, initially started through a LSCA grant, is now locally supported with grant funds being used primarily for materials. Outreach service is extended to isolated rural areas, nursing homes, day care facilities, feeding sites for senior citizens and for children, low income housing developments, and homebound individuals.

The library has become a focal point for a strong community interest in local history, a responsibility specifically mentioned in the library's enabling legislation. It has a strong local history collection and collaborates in the work of the Horry County Museum and the Horry County Historical Society.

### Board Chairmen

J. C. Burroughs, Conway 1946-49  
Mrs. Paul Sasser, Conway, 1949-50  
Essie Derham, Green Sea, 1950-52  
R. O. Brown, Wampee, 1952-54  
R. Grant Singleton, Conway, 1954-57  
Mrs. C. C. Cutts, Conway, 1957-59  
Mrs. Carlyle Shelley, Conway, 1959-61  
Eldridge Inman, Conway, 1961-63  
Allen L. Ray, Conway, 1963-65  
J. C. Bennett, Conway, 1965-72  
Mrs. E. Windell McCrackin, Myrtle Beach, 1972-75  
W. Burroughs Woodward, Conway, 1975-77  
F. Delano Sanders, Conway, 1977-78  
John M. Graves, Surfside, 1978-

### Librarians

Mary Parham, 1948-50  
Dorothy Smith, 1950-56  
Kathleen Gilleland, 1956-58  
Mrs. Catherine H. Lewis, 1958-

## Jasper County Library



F. R. PRATT MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
Headquarter of the Jasper County Library,  
Ridgland, South Carolina

In 1947 the Jasper County Library was invited to become a member of the Allendale-Hampton Regional Library. The establishment of the county library was sponsored by the Jasper County Council of Farm Women under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Berry, Home Demonstration Agent for the county. Where it had formerly been impossible for Jasper County to provide county-wide library service, through cooperation in the regional library system, a county library headquarters was established in Ridgeland and rural library service provided by bookmobile to the entire county. The history of library service in Jasper County is a part of the history of the regional system of which it is a member. An account of the regional program will be found under "Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library."

In the late 1960's a wealthy winter resident, Mrs. Richard K. Webel became interested in the Jasper County Library and gave the library many valuable gifts. In 1970 in memory of her former husband she provided funds to completely renovate and restore a building in the town of Ridgeland to serve as headquarters of the Jasper County Library. In addition to the work of restoration and decoration, the grounds of the library were elaborately landscaped with flowers and shrubs indigenous to the area. The building was named in honor of Mrs. Webel's former husband, the F. R. Pratt Memorial Library and dedicated in November 1971.

### Board Chairmen

Mrs. T. F. Clements, 1948-56  
Mrs. Y. C. Weathersbee, 1956-70  
Miss Leah Jones, 1970-75  
Mrs. Epps Collier, 1975-76  
Mr. Henry Simmons, 1976-80

### Librarians

Claribel Elkins, 1948-50  
Gladys Dean, 1951-59  
Lillian C. Preacher, 1960-70  
Eliza Floyd, 1970-80

## Kershaw County Library



THE KERSHAW COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Camden, South Carolina

Libraries have been an important part of life to Camden from its first establishment. In 1805 Abraham Blanding, a native of New England who had come to Camden to complete his studies of law, incorporated the "Camden Library Society." The Society was housed in the old Market opposite the old Courthouse on South Broad Street. In subsequent years it moved to many different locations. Only the most cultivated gentlemen of the community were members of the Library Society. There is no record of a woman having entered the sacred portals of the library or holding a membership in that august society.

In 1820 \$12,000 was spent to buy the library of Chancellor De Saussure. By 1851 the collection of books had suffered so many losses and were so badly damaged by careless handling that only 742 volumes remained and these were valued at only \$600. Under these discouraging circumstances, the "Camden Library Society" came to an end.

For the next fifty years no library activity is recorded. In 1900 a new organization was formed, the "Camden Library Association." The library depended on subscriptions to maintain its services but did not survive a fire in 1912 which completely destroyed building and books.

In 1915 largely through the efforts of Mrs. E. C. Von Truckow, the Carnegie Foundation gave \$5,000 for the construction of a public library building with the town of Camden guaranteeing annual support. The building was erected on Monument Square and, for the first time, women occupied positions as trustees.

In 1936 a WPA library project was established through the cooperation of the Kershaw County Board of Education and the Kershaw County Legislative Delegation. From this project grew the present Kershaw County Public Library. The first headquarters building was a small clapboard house which was moved from its original location to the corner of Church Street beside the old jail house. An important part of the WPA library project was the county bookmobile which served the entire rural area making stops in lonely, isolated and remote communities.

When WPA funds were withdrawn the first Kershaw County Library Commission was created. Between 1947 and 1951 the Camden Public Library and the Kershaw County Library operated as a single system but the merger was discontinued.

The idea of a single library system to serve the entire county had taken firm root in the minds of many of the

leaders in Kershaw County. In the 1960's a movement headed by Henry Savage and Richard Lloyd was started to merge the city and county libraries but was defeated by a referendum in 1963. In May 1970 the county library board requested a grand jury study on the question of "obtaining adequate and proper facilities with safe, efficient, and economical operation." The grand jury strongly recommended that a single unified county library system be established and adequately housed to meet the current and future needs of the citizens of Kershaw County. On August 18, 1970, the Camden City Council and the Kershaw County Council adopted a merger resolution during a joint meeting. The new Kershaw County Library was established by act of the legislature.

A site for a new county library building was selected on Broad Street in downtown Camden. The architect, Henry D. Boykin, planned the building to fit in perfectly with the colonial buildings in the neighborhood. The building was completed in 1973 and dedicated on September 9, 1973.

In addition to the headquarters library and county-wide bookmobile service, the Kershaw County Library has a flourishing branch in Bethune. The Bethune Library grew from an organization established in 1932. A handsome new library building was constructed and dedicated on November 12, 1974.

Over the years many dedicated people have given time and thought to establishing and maintaining a library to serve all Kershaw County citizens. The present excellent library system is providing to the entire county a good level of service which is heavily used by individuals, organizations and business and industry.

#### **Board Chairmen**

John W. Hash, Camden, 1968-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Marie S. Jackson, 1970-71

Mrs. Susan M. Ewald, 1971-72

Alan F. Rost, 1972-77

Mrs. Penny E. Albright, 1977-

### **Lancaster County Library**



THE LANCASTER COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Lancaster, South Carolina

The history of library service in Lancaster County goes back to 1771 when the Reverend William Richardson, first licensed pastor of Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, left 300 pounds sterling for the purchase of religious books for the use of the poor people of the settlement.

The history of the present Lancaster County Library

began in 1904 when a group of Lancaster women known as the Franklin Circle sponsored the organization of the Lancaster County Library Association. During the next twenty years the library led a precarious existence, supported by subscription and donations, moved repeatedly and occasionally closed. In 1924 the library secured quarters in the new county office building but two years later it was closed because of lack of funds. The Lancaster Literary Review Club, with the consent of the old Library Association, reopened the library on February 4, 1929. Under the auspices of the Literary Review Club, the library grew and prospered. In 1934 this club felt that the time was right to place the library in the hands of a board composed of members selected from various civic organizations in the county and this board was appointed. In 1936 with the idea of ensuring financial support and continuity, the County Legislative Delegation with the cooperation of the County Board of Education, established the library as a part of the county school system. While the public library was a part of the county school system, a fireproof library building was erected on the northeast corner of Gay and South French Streets. In February of 1937 the Literary Review Club sponsored the opening of the new building. In recognition of the two clubs which had worked so diligently for so many years to secure and maintain public library service in Lancaster, a bronze plaque bearing the names of the founders was placed in the library entrance. After the library was open, busts of Lancaster County's two most famous sons, Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, and Dr. J. Marion Sims, world famous surgeon, were placed in the library.

Shortly after the new headquarters library was opened in 1937, the Kelsey Library, on East Barr Street became a branch of the county library. The library was named for the late Harvey Kelsey, a prominent black, and a native of Chester County who had donated over 6,000 books to the branch.

In 1959 the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce set up a library subcommittee with Mrs. Ben C. Hough as its chairman and charged the committee with the duty of investigating the library situation and making recommendations for its improvement. The committee made a thorough investigation and recommended that the library be separated from the school system and, secondly, that a new library building be erected. In 1960 an act passed by the legislature legally established the Lancaster County Library as a separate county agency. A Board of nine trustees representing all sections of the county was appointed to govern the library system. The new Board adopted as its major objectives employing a graduate librarian and erecting a new library building. The first objective was realized with the employment of Miss Pat Mercer who joined the staff in 1965. It took longer to realize the second objective. The T. Y. Williams property was selected as a suitable site for the library. A building and planning committee was appointed and this committee engaged A. G. Odell and Associates of Charlotte to make a preliminary study of the site and building needs. When the study was completed a new library building containing 15,000 square feet and costing approximately \$350,000 was recommended. The City of Lancaster which owned the Williams property agreed to lease the lot at \$1.00 as long as the library would need it. The building was financed through an appropriation of \$150,000 from the county, a grant from the State Library of \$75,000 in Federal funds under its ad-

ministration, local donations of \$31,143 which were matched by the Elliot Springs Foundation on the basis of \$4.00 for each \$1.00 raised by public subscription. Construction was begun in the fall of 1969 and the building was completed and dedicated on September 13, 1970.

The new building had been opened only a few months when Perry Belle Hough (Mrs. Ben C.), member of the Board and Chairman, 1943-45, leader of the campaign for funds for the new building in 1970 and to whom the Caroliniana Room had been dedicated, died, leaving many books and materials on Lancaster County history and genealogy to the Lancaster County Library. In her memory the microfilm census records of Lancaster County and other counties in the state were donated to the library.

The new library building made it possible to extend the hours of service. Service was further improved through the purchase of a new bookmobile to serve inter-city and rural bookmobile routes. Participating in both State Aid and in Federal funds under the administration of the State Library, the library was able to add additional services and to improve existing services. An outreach program was under taken to provide service to those people who found it difficult to come to the library or make use of its services. The book collection was expanded through the addition of microfilm and audiovisual materials.

On June 26, 1979 the Lancaster County Council in compliance with the new Home Rule legislation passed Ordinance No. 44 legally establishing the Lancaster County library system.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Joe C. Plyler, Lancaster, 1946-56  
Roy Falkenberry, Heath Springs, 1956-60  
A. Z. F. Wood, Lancaster, 1960-63  
DeWitt Plyler, Lancaster, 1963-68  
Mrs. Walter Heath, Lancaster, 1968-71  
Frank S. Keene, Lancaster, 1971-73  
Robert P. Perry, Lancaster, 1973-75  
Elizabeth Wilson, Lancaster, 1975-77  
R. H. Collins, Lancaster, 1977-79  
Lafayette B. Belk, Lancaster, 1979-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. J. Randolph Kelsey, 1944-45  
Robbie Horton, 1945-60  
Mrs. Paul M. Belk, 1960-63  
Patricia Mercer, 1963-69  
Mrs. Pat Belk, 1969-70  
Melinda Brockman, 1970-76  
(Mrs. Charles Elliott Kane)  
Mrs. Ann Burton Henderson, 1976-77  
Richard Band, 1977-

### **Laurens County Library**



THE LAURENS COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Laurens, South Carolina

County-wide library service in Laurens County evolved over several decades as the result of dedicated individuals

and groups in the county realizing the necessity and importance of libraries for citizen use. Prior to 1929, the Wednesday Club, a women's literary group established in the late 1800's, operated a private library for members, later making it available to the public with a subscription fee of \$1.00 annually. In 1929, the Club offered their library collection of 2,500 books valued at \$5,000 to the County Legislative Delegation as the nucleus of a publicly supported, county library. In 1930, the General Assembly passed an act creating the Laurens County Library and appropriated \$1,200 for the library support.

The Laurens County Library, first located in the Laurens City Hall, opened its doors on March 1, 1930. Mrs. Clyde Ray was appointed Librarian, and Mrs. M. L. Copeland was elected Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees serving in this capacity until 1957.

The library extended its service into the county by sending chests of books to schools and communities in outlying sections.

In 1935, Mrs. Harriette H. Huff as Assistant Librarian, extended service to children through weekly story hours. Mrs. Huff became Head Librarian in 1938, and served in this position until her retirement in 1974.

A milestone in development of county-wide service occurred in March 1940 with the purchase of the first bookmobile. The Laurens County Farm Women helped raise money for the bookmobile, and the salaries of two staff members to operate it plus needed gas and oil were provided during the first two years of its operation by the WPA.

The year 1940 also saw the construction of a new library building on South Harper Street in Laurens. This building is still in use as the headquarters library building. The City of Laurens donated the lot and construction was financed with WPA funds, county appropriations, and private donations.

By 1960, the headquarters library had become inadequate to house the book collection and provide necessary services to patrons. Friends of the library, led by Mrs. J. B. Hart, then Chairman of the Board, worked to educate the public on the need for a larger library. Residents of the county approved a bond issue in 1962, construction of an addition to the library began in May 1963, and the enlarged and renovated Laurens County Library opened in January 1964.

The library continued to grow and expand services. A new bookmobile was purchased in 1969. By the late 1960's the momentum to have a full-service branch library in Clinton was increasing.

Library service in Clinton went back to 1872 when the Clinton Library Society was organized and operated a library for approximately ten years. Another group of citizens opened a small library in 1911. In 1918 the library was taken over by the Civic Improvement Association later known as the Clinton Women's Club. When the Women's Club could no longer support the library it was merged with the library at Presbyterian College. In 1942 the City of Clinton with WPA funds completed a library building on the PC campus to house the "Presbyterian College and Community Library." The town people were encouraged to use the library without charge. But the library building was on a college campus and far from the center of the town's ac-

tivities, and it was little used by the public. There were few books for children and library services for children were almost non-existent. Through an arrangement with the Laurens County Library a special collection for children was established in the PC Library but again location discouraged any wide use of the collection. It became apparent that the only solution to the problem of public library service in Clinton was the construction of an adequate new public library building in downtown Clinton.

The Clinton Public Library became a reality in June 1974. The building was constructed on land donated by the J. W. Leek family with funds provided by the City of Clinton, Laurens County, and an LSCA grant from the South Carolina State Library. The City of Clinton sold the library building on the college campus to the college and this money was used in the construction of the new building.

In the fall of 1974 the Laurens County Library further expanded its services through the opening of the Joanna Memorial Library in Joanna. The branch library occupied a memorial hospital building constructed after World War II by Joanna Mills and residents of the community. When the hospital closed in 1962 the Laurens County Library was approached on the possibility of establishing a branch library in the old hospital building. Eventually the hospital building was given to the county with the stipulation that its principal use be for a branch library. The Joanna Foundation provided all the funds for renovating the building and the new branch was opened in October of 1974.

The Laurens County Library continues to expand and improve service to Laurens County. In 1978, it was awarded an LSCA grant by the State Library for a demonstration program of services for Older Americans. This program has been very successful, and many senior citizens in the county are being served through it. The Laurens County Library operates an excellent children's program, with regular story hours being held in each library and in community centers throughout the county. Bookmobile service remains a vital part of the library's community outreach.

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Laurens County Library are dedicated to continued quality library service to the county. The library has made great progress during the first fifty years of its operation, and looks forward to additional improvements and expansion in the future. In March 1980, the Laurens County Library celebrated its fiftieth anniversary as a publicly-supported, county library with a month-long celebration culminating with an open house — birthday party which was attended by over 300 supporters of the library.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. M. L. Copeland, Laurens, 1946-56  
Mrs. J. B. Hart, Joanna, 1956-74  
James Von Hollen, Clinton, 1974-75  
Mrs. Georgia B. Thomason, Clinton, 1975-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Phil D. Huff, 1944-74  
William C. Cooper, 1974-

## **Lee County Public Library**



THE WOODWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY,  
Headquarters of the Lee County Public Library,  
Bishopville, South Carolina

When Lee County was established in 1902 the Bishopville Library Association was already a year old, had thirty-nine members and 772 books. The library was housed in a modest little building, "too small to be a barbershop", adjoining the old opera house in downtown Bishopville. The Lottie Green Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy took the library under its wing and bought needed furniture and equipment to make it more attractive. By 1913, however, the old Bishopville Library Association had practically ceased to exist and the remaining books were turned over to a joint committee of the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Civic League.

Another early effort to establish a public library in Bishopville was made by Grace Dell James in 1908. Miss James, a Winthrop graduate, inspired by Ida Jane Dacus, rented a small office building on Main Street from 1908 until 1910, stocked the building with books and operated a lending library. The fate of this library is unknown but it was a notable effort on the part of a young woman to start a public library for the people of her community.

Around 1935, the Lee County Board of Education entered a cooperative agreement with the WPA to provide county-wide bookmobile library service. The original books from the Bishopville Library Association, supplemented by books donated in the town, and books added by the WPA, formed the core of the book collection. For the first time the citizens and school children of the whole county enjoyed systematic organized library service. The bookmobile brought books and reading to all rural areas. In 1943 when the WPA program was discontinued, the county assumed the responsibility of providing library service, employed a librarian, and with the books remaining from the WPA library project, established the first Lee County Library. For a time the library was housed on school property but was eventually moved to a residence in Bishopville.

In 1949 an act was passed by the General Assembly creating the Lee County Public Library Commission. The act was revised in 1952 and again in 1968. In 1979 under the new home rule legislation, the Lee County Library was re-established by an ordinance of the Lee County Council.

In 1949 to house the county library, Lee County built an attractive brick library building on Dennis Avenue. Four years later in 1953, the Lee County Library moved again into the Woodward Memorial Library Building which had

been provided by the Hosea Woodward Memorial Library Foundation, a self-perpetuating board of community leaders. By 1979 the library had outgrown its quarters and was completely renovated with a large addition added.

Since its establishment the library has been an integral part of the community serving all citizens either directly through the main library or by bookmobile. The library, in addition to books and reading, provides art exhibits, crafts demonstrations and exhibits of historical relics.

From its beginning as a small library society in 1901, the library has taken its place in all county activities. The library's book collection and its budget have grown to meet the ever growing needs of the county and its citizens.

#### Board Chairmen

Mrs. J. E. McCutchen, Jr., Bishopville, 1947-49; 1956-62; 1968-72  
Mrs. D. A. Quattlebaum, Bishopville, 1949-50; 1966-68  
Mrs. R. M. Cooper, Wisacky, 1950-51  
Mrs. T. H. Clyburn, Bethune, 1951-53  
Mrs. Lucille Shaw Scott, Mayesville, 1953-55; 1964-66  
Mrs. R. S. Latimer, Bishopville, 1955-56; 1972-73; 1976-77  
Mrs. Dowling Woodham, Bishopville, 1962-63  
Mrs. Ernest L. Dickinson, Bishopville, 1963-64  
Mrs. Charles M. Mimms, Jr., Elliott, 1973-76  
Mr. Thomas H. Alexander, Bishopville, 1977-

#### Librarians

Annie Cunningham, 1944-48  
Mrs. John S. Baskin, 1948-57  
Mrs. Daphne H. Muldrow, 1957-62  
Mrs. E. H. Brown, Sr., 1962-74  
Carol Lynn Kirkley, 1974-80

### Lexington County Circulating Library



THE LEXINGTON COUNTY CIRCULATING LIBRARY,  
Batesburg, South Carolian

Lexington County's public library system began in 1912 with a collection of 325 books in a donated bookcase situated in the hallway of the Batesburg Town Hall. Today the book collection numbers more than 270,000 and the library in addition to a modern headquarters building in Batesburg, has a family of handsome branches located in all major communities of the county.

In 1912 the Batesburg Women's Club decided to start a public library. In September of that year the library was officially opened in the Town Hall. During its early years the library had five different homes. Librarians were volunteers from the club membership. Club members were constantly

engaged in fund raising activities to secure enough money to keep the library in operation. The members presented plays, had rummage sales, entered contests at the Fair, sponsored May Day ceremonies, staged a Tom Thumb Wedding, Tag Day, Benefit Bridge and bazaars. Most of the money went to buy books for the library. In 1926 the Town of Batesburg began appropriating \$25 a month to the library. This was a great boost and many new books were purchased.

During the Depression the library was aided by the Community Services Division of the WPA. When this aid was withdrawn in 1942 the Batesburg Women's Club realized that the library was a community service and that its maintenance had become too great for a single club to assume. The Club deeded the Batesburg Library to a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees charged with the responsibility of operating the library as a free public library to serve the area of Batesburg-Leesville. One of the first things the new Board of Trustees did was to elect Miss Lorena Miller as librarian.

In 1947, at the urging of the South Carolina State Library Board, a campaign was undertaken to establish a unified county library system to serve Lexington County. The Batesburg-Leesville public library joined forces with others in the county and the Lexington County Circulating Library was established in 1948 by act of the legislature. Because Batesburg had the only public library in the county, the headquarters of the county system was located in that community.

With the establishment of county-wide library service, a bookmobile was purchased in 1949 to carry library service throughout the rural areas of the county. Before the bookmobile made its first trip, its services were well publicized in every county community and it received an enthusiastic reception wherever it stopped. This bookmobile was replaced in 1955 with a large walk-in type bookmobile which had the distinction of being the first air-conditioned bookmobile in the state. Fourteen years later this vehicle was replaced with a custom-made, fully-equipped, air-conditioned bookmobile which carried 3,000 volumes on its routes throughout the county. Stops are made at nursing homes, churches, kindergartens, housing developments, general stores, and country crossroads.

With the county library headquarters located in Batesburg, an old carriage barn located almost in the center of Batesburg was renovated and completely remodeled to house library service. This project received national recognition in the publication of the American Library Association, *Buildings and Small Libraries*. Over the years as library service grew and expanded the carriage house library seemed to grow smaller and smaller. Every available space in the building was used but still it was too small to provide housing for the book collection and space for readers and staff. Realizing that further development of the system would be impossible without adequate housing, the library board established a building fund in 1964. In 1965 Mr. and Mrs. Clyde M. Barr gave property on which to erect a new library building. The library purchased adjoining property to expand the site and with local contributions and county appropriations a modern public library building was constructed and officially opened on October 29, 1967.

The Lexington County Circulating Library has an interesting family of branches. The R. H. Smith Library in Cayce, West Columbia resulted from a gift of \$20,000 from

R. H. Smith, prominent business and civic leader, and the generous contributions of other interested citizens. This building, opened on November 3, 1960, was enlarged by a new addition in 1976 with a second donation made by Mr. R. H. Smith. In April 1976 a handsome new library building was completed in Lexington to house the Lexington Branch of the system. Funds for this building were the direct result of the efforts of the people in the community. The Chapin Branch is located in an old elementary school library. It has made several moves since it was first established in the old jail building in the Town of Chapin. Swansea has the smallest branch in the system and is located in a downtown grocery store. With a location already chosen and funds available, the library system looks forward to a large new branch in Irmo to serve the rapidly expanding population in that area. The branch is expected to be completed in 1981.

The Lexington County Circulating Library has participated in State Aid since its establishment and in all Library Services and Construction Act grants administered by the State Library for which it qualified. One grant made possible the beginning of a new service to children in Lexington County. A well planned program was initiated in charge of a fully qualified childrens librarian who introduced children and young people to books and reading through films, puppet shows, story telling, and skill games. In 1978 the county library received a special grant to implement a program for retired and older residents of the community.

Today the Lexington County Circulating Library offers its patrons much more than books. Services are available to all age groups and to all sections of the county. Sound reference service is provided individuals and the business and industry in the county.

The library cooperates with many different agencies to provide a wealth of information to its patrons. It has a close relationship with the South Carolina State Library which provides special reference and interlibrary loan service. It cooperates with the South Carolina Museum Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and with the South Carolina Arts Commission. Coordinating its efforts with these various agencies, the library is able to offer valuable and enriching information for the citizens of Lexington County.

As the Lexington County Circulating Library continues to grow it looks forward to new branch libraries, an expansion of its headquarters and a much needed new bookmobile. These facilities and the staff required will extend and promote better library service to the library patrons of Lexington County.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Kate Cullum, Batesburg, 1948-71  
 C. E. Harmon, Lexington, 1971-76  
 Mrs. Colene S. Hook, Lexington, 1976-78  
 Robert H. Caughman, Leesville, 1978-

#### **Librarians**

Lorena Miller, 1948-70  
 Mrs. Jane Griffin, 1970-

## **McCormick County Library**



THE MCCORMICK COUNTY LIBRARY,  
 McCormick, South Carolina

Public library service in McCormick County owes its existence to the interest of the McCormick County Council of Farm Women. Prior to 1953 the Council had worked towards the goal of a bookmobile and library for McCormick County. Miss Matilda Bell who was then the County Home Demonstration Agent called on the South Carolina State Library Board for advice and help in solving the problem of library service for the county. After a careful review of county resources it was reluctantly concluded that a bookmobile would be prohibitive in cost. Not discouraged by this setback, the County Council of Farm Women decided to set their goal and work towards "library facilities for the county." The help of the County Delegation was enlisted and the late Senator H. L. Hester became an arch supporter of the library.

In 1953 everything was ready to start public library service except for a suitable place to house it. In this emergency the County Home Demonstration Agent offered the use of her secretary's office until more appropriate space could be found. The State Library Board made a large deposit of books to serve as a nucleus for the new library's book collection. Mrs. B. H. Langley was appointed first custodian of the library. Substantial gifts of books were received from many interested McCormick citizens.

In 1954 the library began to receive a direct appropriation in the county supply bill and each year the appropriation has been increased.

The library was housed in the county office building. In 1970 an area in the building was completely renovated and furnished as the headquarters of the McCormick County Library system.

In order to provide library service to the people in the county who could not get to the headquarters library, a contract was signed with the Abbeville-Greenwood Regional Library to provide bookmobile service to the major communities in the county. This service, which tapped the resources of a large library system for the use of the residents in rural McCormick County, was a great success and has done much to strengthen the determination of the

McCormick County Library Board to eventually provide a good level of service to the entire county.

#### Board Chairmen

Mrs. W. L. White, McCormick, 1954-55  
Mrs. C. K. Epting, McCormick, 1955-57; 1959-67  
Mrs. E. F. Gettys, McCormick, 1957-59  
W. M. Schumpert, McCormick, 1967-72  
Helen Brown, McCormick, 1972-76  
Mrs. John A. McAllister, McCormick, 1976-

#### Librarians

Mrs. D. H. Langley, 1953-56  
Mrs. J. E. Strom, 1956-63  
Mrs. Margie Richardson, 1963-64  
Mrs. W. K. Conner, 1964-67  
Marian Sturkey, 1967-69  
Mrs. George Henderson, 1969-71  
Mrs. Sara Morgan, 1971-72  
Mrs. Margie Whelchel, 1972-73  
Mrs. Gale Collier, 1973-74  
Mrs. Dianne Purdy, 1974-

### Marion County Library



THE MARION COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Marion, South Carolina

Library history in Marion County began prior to 1826 when Mills' Statistics published in that year mentions that a public library was established at the courthouse. In the early 1880's the Thompsonian Literary Society was organized and founded a library which existed for a few years until the books were finally donated to the grade school. History of public library service in Marion County really began with the establishment of the Marion Public Library, the first tax supported public library in South Carolina, in 1898.

Charles A. Woods, then a young attorney in Marion and later a judge of the Circuit Court, led the movement to establish a library. Mr. Woods as well as others in Marion knew and valued education not only for youth but for all as an aid to better living. He, ably seconded by Mr. H. C. Graham and Mr. William Murchison, called a meeting sometime prior to January 1898 of all those who were interested in the establishment and maintenance of a library. Mr. Woods and his wife, Salley Wannamaker Woods, offered an establishment grant of \$500 plus \$300 a year for five years to maintain the library. Mr. Graham and Mr. Murchison also offered generous cash contributions towards

the library's support. Following this meeting the whole community was canvassed to enroll members at \$3.00 a year and on January 13, 1898 a charter was issued by the State of South Carolina to establish the Marion Public Library.

The library was first housed in four rooms on the second floor of the Bank of Marion building. Miss Kate Lilly Blue was the first librarian.

In 1903 the Town of Marion began contributing \$250 annually towards the maintenance of the library. In the same year \$6,000 was raised as an endowment fund, the interest from which would be devoted to library maintenance.

In 1904 Miss Emma L. Salley, a professional librarian was employed as chief librarian and given the responsibility of organizing the library according to American Library Association standards. The book collection was classified according to the Dewey Decimal System, a complete card catalog made and a borrower's registration system established.

In 1904 the Carnegie Foundation was approached with a request for funds for the construction of a modern library building. In 1905 a grant of \$7,500 was made with the stipulation that the town should contribute toward the support of the library and that a suitable site be provide for the building. The site chosen was a beautiful one adjacent to the town square. The corner-stone was laid in 1905 and the building completed and dedicated in that year. In 1912 the library, by act of the legislature, became part of School District 36 and a one mill tax designated for its support.

In 1913, one of the first "bookmobiles" in South Carolina was put into service. This was a mule drawn wagon carrying boxes containing some fifty well selected books. The books were distributed to schools and communities in the county and exchanged periodically.

In 1929 a disaster hit the library in the form of a fire which completely gutted the interior of the building and destroyed the entire south wing. Books and periodicals were almost a total loss. The library was moved to temporary quarters, insurance collected, bonds issued and reconstruction begun. By July 1930 the library was again in its own home.

In cooperation with the state-wide library program of the WPA, bookmobile service to rural Marion County was established by the County Department of Education. When WPA help was withdrawn in 1942, the county provided the financial support necessary to continue the service.

The Town of Mullins had enjoyed public library service since the early 1900's when the Mullins Civic League established a small library. Over the years the library had grown with the town and in 1941, with the aid of funds from the Public Works Administration, a handsome library building was constructed. Governor Ransome Williams was inaugurated on the steps of the library January 2, 1945.

The Town of Nichols had established a small public library in 1953. Through local effort, funds were raised to build a small library building which was dedicated in 1956.

In 1970 there were three public libraries and a county circulating library in Marion County. To provide a better level of service for all citizens, library leaders and public spirited citizens of Marion, Mullins and Nichols banded together to incorporate the libraries into a single county-wide public library system. Such a unified system would eliminate expensive duplication and provide a better level of library service throughout the county. The movement was successful and the Marion County Library system established. Almost

immediately the new system entered into a contract with the South Carolina State Library for a three-year demonstration of county-wide library service.

The new library system flourished. Books, materials and equipment enriched the program of all the libraries of the system. New services were established and new programs undertaken. As a consequence of the burgeoning program, the headquarters library in Marion was completely outgrown. Space was needed if the program was to continue to develop. A campaign was undertaken to secure funds for the renovation and an addition to the Marion Library building. The campaign was successful and with local funds and a \$75,000 grant of LSCA funds from the South Carolina State Library, construction began in 1975. Since the Marion building had been designated as a site by the National Historic Trust, plans for the renovation and addition were made in keeping with the style of the existing library and its location on the Marion Town Square. The new building, more than doubled in size, was completed and dedicated April 25, 1976.

In 1973 the Mullins Library was renovated in order to provide additional space. In 1979 an addition to the library building in the town of Nichols was constructed which doubled its space.

The Marion County Library has been successful in establishing itself as a part of all community activities. A major service provided by the library is that of reference and interlibrary loan service for library patrons. The South Carolina Room contains an excellent genealogical and local history collection. The library is a member of the Area Reference Resource Center headquartered in Florence and shares resources of all the libraries in the Pee Dee area.

#### **Board Chairmen**

E. D. Lewis, Mullins, 1969-72

Dr. T. B. Clark, Jr., Marion, 1972-77

Mrs. T. B. Clark, Jr., Marion, 1977-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. John Hamil, 1969-70

Mrs. Cynthia Phelps, 1970-77

Mrs. Harriet L. Kawar, 1977-

### **Marlboro County Public Library**



THE MARLBORO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Bennettsville, South Carolina

Public library service in Marlboro County had its beginning in the establishment of a small library by the members of the Twentieth Century Club. This club was organized in

1901 and its major objective was the establishment of a library. Each club member contributed a book and a reading shelf of ten books was placed in the home of Mrs. H. L. McColl with library hours provided once a week. The reading shelf grew both in interest and in number of volumes and, to make it available to more people, was moved to a more central location on Main Street and kept open two afternoons a week. It soon outgrew this location and was moved to the second floor of the Skye Hotel which, in February 1908, burned to the ground with all of the library property. The Club had had insurance on their books and promptly collected some \$400 which was expended for new books and a new library established this time on the first floor of the Bank of Marlboro building.

In 1912 the Masons built a handsome new Masonic Temple and offered the library housing on the first floor of the new building. The library was moved there and for the first time a paid librarian was employed. The library was still a major project of the Twentieth Century Club but by this time it had outgrown the ability of the Club to maintain and support it. Club members and other interested citizens organized the Bennettsville Library Association with the purpose of establishing a public library for Bennettsville. The Twentieth Century Club donated their books to the new library association to be used as the nucleus of the public library which it hoped to establish.

Under the able management of the Bennettsville Library Association the Library grew to a collection of some 3,000 volumes. It was chiefly supported by annual membership dues and a few honorary memberships. Looking forward to the time when it would be possible to build a library building, a building lot was purchased in 1924 on Market Street and an addition to the lot donated by Mrs. H. H. Newton. Ten years after the purchase of the lot, a building committee was appointed and construction of a building undertaken. A small grant was received from FERA but progress on the project was very slow until a sizeable grant was secured from the WPA plus personal contributions from interested citizens. The building was finally completed and dedicated in 1937. When completed, the building was presented to Marlboro County by Miss Alexina Evans, the secretary and treasurer of the building committee, and was accepted by the County Delegation. The Delegation in turn legally established the library by act of the legislature and provided for its management by a board of five trustees. Miss Alexina Evans became the first chairman of the Board.

With the help of the WPA program, reading rooms were established in many rural communities in the county and a bookmobile secured to provide service throughout the county. During World War II the library made every effort to serve military personnel stationed on maneuvers in its area through providing special hours and books. After the war the library made steady but slow progress toward better service in Bennettsville and the county.

By the 1960's the old library building was completely outgrown and it was impossible to develop or extend service without additional space for books, staff and patrons. A thorough study was made of the possibility of expanding the old library building on site but this proved to be impossible, a new site had to be found or another building which would allow for expansion. The library board left no stone unturned in their search for more adequate quarters. It was not until the County Council decided to devote E.D.A. funds to the library building program that it was

possible to go ahead. A lot in a good location was secured, a registered architect was employed and plans drawn for a building. The building was completed in 1979 and dedicated on October 13 of that year.

In addition to a headquarters library in Bennettsville, the Marlboro County Library provides library service throughout the county by means of scheduled visits by a modern bookmobile. The library provides interlibrary loan service for material and information not available locally. Requests are filled promptly by means of an In-WATS line connecting the library directly to the State Library in Columbia. Special programs and services are provided for citizens living too far from the main library to make full use of its services. As a member of the Area References Resource Center in Florence, resources are shared with libraries in the area to provide a higher level of service to the citizens of Marlboro County.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Alexina W. Evans, Bennettsville, 1946-59  
Eleanor McColl, Bennettsville, 1959-74  
C. E. Berry, Bennettsville, 1974-75  
T. C. Bristow, McColl, 1975-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Blanche G. Hamer, 1944-51  
Mrs. Dorothy Morrell, 1951-61  
Mrs. Martha Myers, 1961-70  
Mrs. T. Frazier James, 1970-80

### **Newberry County Library**



THE NEWBERRY COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Newberry, South Carolina

The history of library service in Newberry County goes back to the early 1800's. The Newberry Library Society was organized prior to 1804 and was incorporated by the legislature in 1807 with the original incorporation extended for an additional fourteen years in 1820. The books in this library were selected and purchased in Boston and were housed in the Clerk of Court's Office.

It was a century later before an organized effort was made to provide public library service to the people of Newberry. The Women's Club of Newberry, organized in 1901, called a meeting in 1904 for the purpose of organizing a library. This meeting resulted in the formation

of the Newberry Library Association. The Association opened its first library in 1904 with 125 donated books. The library was first located in a room of the Mower Store but soon outgrew that location and moved into two rooms on the ground floor of the old Newberry Courthouse which then served as the Community Hall.

The next major development in the library program for the area came in the mid-1930's. The County Council of Farm Women under the leadership of Miss Ethel L. Counts, Home Demonstration Agent, became interested in the establishment of county-wide rural library service. All Home Demonstration Clubs in the county participated in the campaign. The leaders of the library project were able to get a referendum to vote a tax to support a county traveling library on November 3, 1936. The referendum failed by only 75 votes, but this did not deter the library promoters.

With the help of the WPA a major library project was initiated which included both the city and county of Newberry. The WPA furnished personnel, supplies, aided in the purchase of a bookmobile, and paid its cost of operation. County service was housed in an alcove of the city library. The bookmobile made its first trip into the county on February 10, 1938. When the WPA project ended the Newberry County Delegation appropriated funds for the continuation of the library program and continued to do so until this responsibility was taken over by the County Board of Commissioners and later by the County Council.

On November 1, 1941 the Newberry County Library and the Newberry City Library were merged into a single system serving both city and county.

In 1947 the South Carolina State Library Board proposed that the Newberry County Library consider joining with its neighbor Saluda County in the formation of a regional library to serve both counties. After conferences with community leaders in both counties the new system was established on July 1, 1948. Mrs. Elenore Driscoll, an experienced professional librarian, was appointed regional librarian.

The regional library was housed in the Newberry County Library quarters in the old courthouse. The Saluda County headquarters library continued to be housed in the Town Hall until 1963 when a small building on Main Street was rented, renovated and furnished. In 1975 a handsome headquarters building for Saluda was dedicated. The headquarters in the old courthouse in Newberry was soon outgrown and it was clear that further progress of the library program required adequate space for books, staff and library patrons. At this time the Newberry Board was able to secure the old post office building at the corner of College and Friend Streets in Newberry for use as a headquarters building. With local funds and a \$75,000 LSCA grant from the South Carolina State Library, the building was completely renovated, redecorated and furnished. Dedication services were on October 20, 1968. At the dedication a special tribute was paid to Mrs. R. D. Wright as the person most instrumental in the establishment and maintenance of library service in Newberry. Mrs. Wright was for thirty-five years president and treasurer of the Library Association organized by the Women's Club of Newberry to supervise the Newberry County Library which the club had founded in 1904.

The Whitmire Library is a branch of the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library and was built as a memorial to the

veterans of World Wars I and II. The building was dedicated in 1950. The library was completely renovated in 1976.

State and Federal aid have been of great significance in the development of library service since the 1940's. Books, materials, equipment and special programs have been made possible through State Aid and grants under the Library Services and Construction Act program administered by the South Carolina State Library. Through combining two federal grants, the library was able to employ a librarian to develop an outreach and a children's program. The library has made steady progress in raising the reading standards in its area. Its book collection is excellent and well used. The addition of audio-visual materials provides a much appreciated service for library patrons.

#### **Board Chairmen (Regional Library)**

R. C. Lake, Whitmire, 1947-50  
Mrs. C. A. Dufford, Newberry, 1950-52  
J. W. Hipp, Whitmire, 1952-62  
Rev. G. L. Hill, Little Mt., 1962-65  
Keith Prucell, Newberry, 1965-68  
Mrs. B. A. Fretwell, Newberry, 1968-71  
Earl Bergen, Newberry, 1971-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Elenore Driscoll, 1948-49  
Mrs. Marjorie Chandler Fretwell, 1949-50  
Mrs. Mary King Mitchell, 1950-51  
Mrs. Joella S. Neel, 1951-60  
Mrs. Lois J. Cromer, 1960-62  
Mrs. Lurlyne K. Shinn, 1962-64  
Mary Catherine Tanner, 1964-70  
Verna S. Kohn (Mrs. Martyn Cavanaugh), 1970-72  
Mrs. Lurlyne Shinn (Acting) 1972  
Catherine Slaughter, 1973-80

### **Oconee County Library**



THE SARAH MILLS NORTON LIBRARY,  
Headquarters of the Oconee County Library,  
Walhalla, South Carolina

Located in the most western section of South Carolina and one of the last counties to be settled, Oconee County did not establish county-wide library service until 1948. In the 1930's a referendum for tax supported library service was defeated due more to the current depression than to any lack of realization on the part of the people of the county that library services were needed. In 1946 another

citizens movement in support of library establishment was more successful and the Oconee County Library was legally established on May 3, 1948. The first library board was appointed with the Superintendent of Education and three outstanding Oconee County women serving on it. The continuing progress of library service in the county was largely due to this board and to the untiring efforts of an early chairman, Mrs. Lawrence (Sarah Mills) Norton.

The first library was opened on October 18, 1948 in the old courthouse annex in the county seat at Walhalla. At the same time the headquarters library was opened in Walhalla, a bookmobile took to the road to serve rural Oconee County. Community stops were made throughout the entire rural area, and books were made available by the bookmobile to the county schools until the State required the schools to maintain libraries of their own. The Seneca Library became a member of the new county library system and for many years was the only county branch. Within ten years of establishment the Oconee County Library had a well developed county library system providing a good level of service to the entire county. The Chicopee Manufacturing Corporation donated its own gymnasium and recreation center to the library for a headquarters building. The building, cleverly renovated and redecorated, provided a commodious and attractive center for library service in the county for many years. Branch libraries were established in Westminster in 1950 and in Salem in 1952. From 1963 to 1967 a branch library was provided the citizens of the community of Clemson located on the county line between Pickens and Oconee counties.

In 1967 the Oconee County Library Board and a committee of citizens from the town of Seneca secured local funds, a grant of \$50,000 from the South Carolina State Library Board from LSCA funds under its administration, and a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the construction of a library building to house the Seneca Branch. The building was completed and dedicated in October of 1968.

The Oconee County Library successfully carried out a major construction program during 1978-79. A new headquarters building was constructed in Walhalla, named in honor of Mrs. Sarah Mills Norton and dedicated on October 21, 1979. A new branch library building for Westminster was opened on September 7, 1979 and another branch to serve Salem will be completed in 1981. To have two new library buildings within one year is a major accomplishment.

The Oconee County Library was one of seven counties in the Appalachian area of the state to join together in a cooperative program to improve the reference service in the area. The Area Reference Resource Center was headquartered in Greenville. Through this program the resources of the participating libraries were shared, staff members enjoyed special opportunities for training and reference work, and both reference service and interlibrary loan service were considerably improved.

In 1962 the Oconee County Library was the winner of a \$1,000 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award.

One of the few county libraries in the state to have a publications program, the Oconee County Library published the "German Colony Protocol." This book is a translation of the German manuscript ledger that deals with the settlement of Walhalla covering transactions from 1848 to 1888. The maps in the publication were prepared from original sources. The library owns a complete xerox and/or

photographic collection of all known maps since 1730 relative to the Oconee County area.

Since its establishment, the Oconee County Library's art programs and special projects for children have been outstanding. With an innovative and creative program, the library has been able to reach into all areas of the county and to deliver library service wherever it was needed.

#### **Board Chairmen**

W. L. Jones, Walhalla, 1948-50  
T. V. Derrick, Walhalla, 1950-62  
Mrs. Sarah M. Norton, Walhalla, 1962-64  
Mrs. W. R. Ballenger, Seneca, 1964-68; 1971-72  
Mrs. Z. T. Abbott, Westminster, 1968-71  
Mrs. Lamar Bailes, Jr., Walhalla, 1972-74  
Mrs. Jim Spearman, Westminster, 1974-78  
Mrs. Roddey A. Stoudemire, Walhalla, 1978-

#### **Librarians**

Mary Elizabeth Bodie, 1948-49  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Greene, 1949-60  
Louise T. Stem, 1960-62  
Stewart H. Butten, 1962-63  
Mrs. Nellie H. Keys, 1963-64  
Louise Marcum, 1964-80  
Edward A. Kilroy, 1980-

### **Orangeburg County Free Library**



THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY FREE LIBRARY,  
Orangeburg, South Carolina

The Orangeburg County Free Library had its beginnings in a WPA library project. The project was proposed in 1935 and a house to house canvass throughout the entire county brought a general expression of approval for traveling library service. Gifts of books and magazines were received from many sources to add to the book collection which would serve the schools and the communities of Orangeburg County. Through June of 1936 support for the library project quickly mounted. The County Council of Farm Women threw their full support behind the project adopting a resolution to request from the County Delegation an appropriation to support a county library. A committee of interested citizens visited the delegation and requested an appropriation for the demonstration circulating library. Complying with the request the delegation appropriated \$1500 to help in the establishment of a traveling library.

In August of 1936 an advisory board for the library was appointed composed of prominent men and women from every section of the county. One of the first actions of the board was to approve the purchase of a bookmobile.

The headquarters for the county library was set up in the basement of the Orangeburg County Courthouse. Books were prepared for circulation by WPA workers under the supervision of Mrs. Georgie Adams, acting librarian. When the bookmobile made its first trip on September 28, 1936, the library had a bookstock of 425 books and 150 "story booklets" made by WPA workers. The bookmobile visited every school in Orangeburg County and all rural centers. It met with such an enthusiastic reception and was so successful that county officials in York and Lancaster counties asked that the bookmobile visit their county fairs in order to encourage people in their counties to establish traveling library service.

In 1937 the County Delegation more than doubled the previous year's appropriation for county library service and appointed a county library commission. Upon the appointment of the library commission, the old advisory board was disbanded, officers were elected and plans made for the operation of the library.

The library moved from the basement of the Courthouse to a permanent building purchased with the aid of the County Delegation with furniture constructed by the Norway NYA Workshop. Mrs. Georgie Adams became the first librarian of the system.

By 1948 the library had outgrown its quarters on Center Street and the County appropriated funds for a large addition to be built at the rear of the building. Although the new addition gave some relief from crowding, the library board realized that it was of primary importance to secure a site for a new library building in a central location and plan for the construction of an adequate new building. Every effort was made to publicize the need for a new library building and every avenue was explored for funding. It was not until 1965 that a site and funds for a library building were secured. The new building was completed in 1966. In less than ten years the library needed additional space and in 1978 the Junior Service League of Orangeburg presented a gift of \$3,000 to the library board to have preliminary plans for enlarging the main building drafted. A full study of the entire library system was made and a twenty year improvement plan for the system completed. A copy of this plan was presented to the Orangeburg County Council.

In addition to the headquarters library the library system has three branch libraries located in the major communities of the county. Both the Holly Hill and the Ellore libraries were established through the interest of book clubs in those communities. The branch in North opened in 1973 is sponsored by the North Town Council.

Since its establishment, the Orangeburg County Library has participated in the State Aid program of the South Carolina State Library. In recent years it has participated in all of the Library Services and Construction Act grants for which it qualified. These funds have been spent for books, equipment and for the expansion of library service throughout the county. Special attention has been given to the development of reference and information service for the people and the business and industry of the county.

The Orangeburg County Library system serves one of the largest counties in the state with one of the smallest budgets. An adequate headquarters library building is desperately needed. Services in the branches need to be

expanded and improved and special services to the disadvantaged and to senior citizens added to the general service pattern. Further programs will depend to a large extent on adequate local funding.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. Arnette H. Williams, Orangeburg, 1946-54  
Ellen P. Chaplin, Neeses, 1954-76  
Mrs. James H. Gressette, Orangeburg, 1976-78  
David Brown, Orangeburg, 1975-79  
Mrs. Frank Staley, Jr., 1979-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Georgie Adams, 1944-57  
Caroline Sauls, 1957-58  
Mrs. Becky Riley Ulmer, 1958-80  
Paul Deane, Jr., 1980-

### **Pickens County Library**



THE PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Easley, South Carolina

From a library with no permanent home and a small collection of books, the Pickens County Library has grown into a 68,000 volume library with four branches and bookmobile service to all areas of the county.

As early as 1929, the Easley Women's Club began efforts to provide a city library in Easley. With the assistance of three other clubs - the Easley Garden Club, the Child Study Club and the Civic League - this club sponsored and maintained Easley's first public library. At first it was only a two bookcase library housed in a store on Main Street but this small library was the nucleus of the present Pickens County Library.

In 1935 with the encouragement of the FERA office in Pickens, the Pickens County Library Association was organized. The beginning county library was supported by funds from the FERA and membership fees from residents of the community. A membership in the Association was \$1.00 but these were "Depression" years and produce such as eggs, chickens, beef, and fruit was accepted for the membership fee in lieu of cash. Library headquarters was established in Easley and an old truck purchased for \$50.00 to begin rural library service.

When the FERA became part of WPA, a budget of \$10,000 for the yearly operation of the library was set up and the county contributed \$1,000 of this amount.

For the first thirteen years of its existence, the library moved its headquarters from pillar to post. In September of 1948, however, it moved into the Easley Public Library building which had been especially designed and constructed to house service in Easley and Pickens County.

For many years Mrs. O. K. Higgins and Mrs. Bernice G. Hagood operated the library single-handed. Mrs. Higgins was the first bookmobile librarian and served in that capacity until 1969. Mrs. Hagood served as county librarian and operated the main library in Easley. In 1957 Margaret Wright was employed as the library's first professional librarian. Under her administration the library was completely reorganized and the book collection cataloged. With a professional librarian to plan and carry on a progressive library program, the Pickens County Library was able to qualify for LSCA grants administered by the South Carolina State Library. With these grants for special programs and increased local support and State Aid, county library service flourished. New branches were opened and bookmobile routes extended. Upon Miss Wright's retirement, Mary Aiken, a Pickens County native, was appointed head librarian and under her dynamic leadership service rapidly expanded. The headquarters building was soon out grown and it became the major objective of the Pickens County Library Board to secure the funds to enlarge, renovate and redecorate the Easley Library building to adequately house county library service. In 1968 the funds for a program of renovation and an addition to the library building were secured from Pickens County, local contributions, a \$75,000 grant from the South Carolina State Library and a large grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

On March 8, 1970 the Pickens County Library celebrated its thirty-fifth birthday with the opening of a distinguished new library building.

In the years since 1970 major emphasis has been put on improving branch library service. The Town of Pickens constructed a handsome library building to house the branch library in that community and other branches were greatly improved through additions to the book collections and through participation in special programs and audio-visual services. An outstanding program of publicity and public relations was planned and carried out by Jim Swan who succeeded Miss Aiken. This program won national recognition because of its exceptional success in publicizing new services of the library and in introducing county citizens to these services. In 1979 the Pickens County Library secured a grant from the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities to compile and exhibit a pictorial history of the county.

In one of the most rapidly growing areas in South Carolina, with new industry coming into the county and established industries being expanded, the Pickens County Library has an exciting future. The library's willingness to experiment and cooperate with other libraries in the area predicts a successful future in meeting the needs of the county and the area.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Mrs. W. M. Scott, Easley, 1946-48  
Mrs. Remsen Bauknight, Pickens, 1948-50  
Mrs. Agatha M. Hill, Easley, 1950-51  
Rev. T. M. Bagnal, Easley, 1951-52  
Aleen Wyatt, Easley, 1952-54  
Mrs. J. R. Jacobs, Easley, 1954-56

Mrs. Ora H. Kirkley, Easley, 1956-58  
Harold Armistead, Easley, 1958-61  
J. E. Ponder, Pickens, 1961-62  
W. R. Craig, Pickens, 1962-64  
Thad W. Herbert, Easley, 1964-67  
Thomas P. Earle, Central, 1967-69  
Dr. Henry Lefort, Clemson, 1969-

#### Librarians

Mrs. O. K. Higgins, 1944-56  
Margaret Wright, 1956-60  
Mary Aiken, 1960-70  
James Swan, 1970-77  
Mrs. Nancy J. Bettencourt, 1977-

### Richland County Public Library



THE RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Columbia, South Carolina

"The Information Center" is the appropriate name for the Richland County Public Library which is a source of information and continuing education for all county residents.

Although there were several fine private libraries in Columbia and Richland County, the first step towards general library service was made prior to 1865 when the Honorable William C. Preston gave his library to the reading room of the Columbia Athenaeum. In 1896 another move to establish a general library was made. This movement was known as the "Union for Practical Progress". Later in the same year, the Columbia Library Association was formed. The first president of the Association was Dr. James H. Woodrow whose nephew, Woodrow, became President of the United States. The first librarian was Mrs. Eugene (Martha) Cramer. The library was located on the corner of Main and Gervais Streets. At the same location was another library called the Lend-A-Hand Library but this was burned in 1899.

In 1905 the library was renamed in honor of the South Carolina poet, Henry Timrod, and from that time was known as the Timrod Library.

In 1922 Miss Annie Reese Locke became librarian. The library was supported by small subscription fees and an appropriation made by the City which supplemented rent and salaries.

Under Miss Locke's direction, the library grew. She made a special effort to reach the children and young people in the community. As a special service she developed a genealogy collection.

Sometime after 1923 the library was rechristened the Columbia Public Library. At this time the home of the

library was in the Sylvan Building on the corner of Hampton and Main Streets.

In 1926 Lucy Hampton (Mrs. Hagood Bostick) was employed as the Assistant Librarian and in 1928, upon the retirement of Miss Locke, she became Chief Librarian. The following year, in 1929, the library moved to the corner of Washington and Sumter Streets which is still its location. The library occupied the former residence of the first president of the Columbia Library Association, Dr. James Woodrow.

In 1929 the library received its first financial aid from Richland County. This financial aid was the result of an interesting situation. The State Highway Department was building a new Broad River bridge to replace an old wooden, covered bridge owned by the County. Shortly after construction began on the new bridge, the old bridge burned. The County had had insurance on the bridge, and collecting the insurance money, it was put in the bank which promptly failed. There seemed little hope that any of the money would be recovered but a promise was secured from the County Delegation that whatever money was recovered would be given to the library when the bank was liquidated. \$40,000 was realized from this source. This provided the library with a book fund which aided it in developing a well-selected and balanced book collection.

From 1930 to 1935 the library received an annual grant from the Rosenwald Foundation. The grant was contingent upon an equal appropriation of local funds and these funds were secured through county appropriations. With Rosenwald aid it was possible to extend library service into rural Richland County and to reach a portion of the population which had up to this time been unserved. The Phyllis Wheatly Branch (later the Waverly Branch) was established and small book collections placed in Five Points, Gonzales Gardens, Eastover, and Blythewood.

In 1934 the name of the library became the Richland County Public Library. The library was legally established as a county institution supported with a one mill tax. Since 1930 the library had grown tremendously and had completely outgrown its quarters in the old Woodrow home. In 1941 the County was authorized to sell bonds to build a new library but World War II intervened and the plans were set aside until the close of the war. In 1950, the work on the present building began and the new building was completed and opened to the public in 1952.

In 1968 Mrs. Hagood Bostick died as the result of a tragic automobile accident. Mrs. Bostick had made an immeasurable contribution towards the development of library service in Richland County and throughout the State of South Carolina. Her belief in the value of libraries and the wise use of books was reflected in the library service in the entire state.

In 1969 Mrs. Anna Davis King was appointed Director. During her ten years as Director, she developed and strengthened the services of the library. New branches were opened on Devine Street, Northway Plaza and Landmark Square. A special reading room was provided at Latimer Manor as a part of a project partially funded from federal funds administered by the South Carolina State Library.

In 1976 the Richland County Public Library was the first public library in South Carolina to join the Southeastern Library Network. The library also subscribes to the New York Times Information Bank which gives patrons quick access to a storehouse of information on thousands of sub-

jects. Another valuable service from the library is a federally funded Occupational Information System with a computer terminal which enables patrons to quickly find information on all types of careers, the availability of training and the location of jobs.

Upon Mrs. King's retirement, in June 1979, Mr. C. David Warren was appointed Director of the system.

For three quarters of a century the Richland County Library has been a source of information and continuing education for the citizens of the county. With the predicted growth of metropolitan Columbia expected to reach 406,000 in the 1980's, the library is preparing all its resources to meet the growing demands on its services.

#### Board Chairmen

- Clark Brockman, Columbia, 1946-56
- James F. Dreher, Columbia, 1956-67
- James H. Ellison, Columbia, 1967-68
- Dr. Daniel W. Hollis, Columbia, 1968-69
- Julian Hennig, Jr., Columbia, 1969-72
- Julian J. Nexsen, Columbia, 1972-74
- Mrs. Jean G. Bissell, Columbia, 1974-77
- Owen G. Shell, Columbia, 1977-80
- Dr. John R. Stevenson, Columbia, 1980-

#### Librarians

- Mrs. Hagood Bostick, 1944-67
- Mrs. George King, 1967-79
- David Warren, 1979-

### Saluda County Library



THE SALUDA COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Saluda, South Carolina

In the mid 1930's under the Works Progress Administration and with the guidance and cooperation of the Home Demonstration Clubs of Saluda County, library service was first started in Saluda County. Initially the library was a book collection circulated by a book truck which visited the rural areas of the county on a regular schedule. Bad weather sometimes interrupted the service because during unfavorable weather the roads were frequently impossible to travel. For several years a library consisting of several hundred books was housed in a small room in the City Hall and used by the people in the Town of Saluda.

Saluda County's first taste of full scale library service came as a member of the Newberry-Saluda Regional Library established July 1, 1948. Library service in Saluda County was an immediate success. The bookmobile provided books in all rural areas and the headquarters library in Saluda grew to such an extent that it soon was ap-

parent that a special library building was required to house the book collection, staff and library patrons.

In 1972, concerned for the growth and cultural betterment of Saluda County, many citizens recognized the need for improved library services and more adequate facilities. Appeals from numerous organizations and individuals to the Board of Commissioners resulted in new quarters for the library which was opened to the public on August 11, 1975 and officially dedicated on October 5, 1975. Under the leadership of J. J. Wheeler, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, the old county jail was renovated. The transformation from the jail to a truly handsome building and library facility attest to the cultural and educational climate in Saluda County. In addition to the reading rooms for adults and children on the main floor, there is a board room and offices on the second floor.

The new Saluda Library building has attracted new patrons from all over the county and has served as a center of cultural activity in Saluda.

The Saluda County Library was established by ordinance of the Saluda County Council in January 1979. This legal establishment was in compliance with the new Home Rule legislation.

#### Board Chairmen (Regional Library)

- R. C. Lake, Whitmire, 1947-50
- Mrs. C. A. Dufford, Newberry, 1950-52
- J. W. Hipp, Whitmire, 1952-62
- Rev. G. L. Hill, Little Mt., 1962-65
- Keith Purcell, Newberry, 1965-68
- Mrs. B. A. Fretwell, Newberry, 1968-71
- Earl Bergen, Newberry, 1971-

#### Librarians

- Mrs. Elenore Driscoll, 1948-49
- Mrs. Marjorie Chandler Fretwell, 1949-50
- Mrs. Mary King Mitchell, 1950-51
- Mrs. Joella S. Neel, 1951-60
- Mrs. Lois J. Cromer, 1960-62
- Mrs. Lurlyne K. Shinn, 1962-64
- Mrs. Catherine Tanner, 1964-70
- Verna S. Kohn (Mrs. Martyn Cavanaugh), 1970-72
- Mrs. Lurlyne Shinn (Acting), 1972
- Catherine Slaughter, 1973-80

### Spartanburg County Public Library



THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Spartanburg, South Carolina

The history of the Spartanburg County Public Library goes back to 1882 when Mrs. Helen Fayssoux Kennedy gave a lot to the city for a library building provided that the

building would be constructed within five years and called the Kennedy Library. The building was completed and opened to the public October 17, 1885. Service was supported by subscription and personal memberships.

The Ladies Library Association organized in 1884 did much to arouse interest in the library enterprise, donated both books and money, and provided special services and programs for the library. As service expanded and the book collection grew, a larger public library building became essential. The Ladies Library Association sought financial aid from the Carnegie Foundation. In 1903 a Carnegie grant of \$15,000 was made for the construction of the new building with the understanding that the city would purchase a suitable lot and guarantee not less than \$1500 annually for the support of the library. A lot on Magnolia Street was secured for the site and the new Kennedy Free Library building was completed in November of 1905. This library building was one of the few built with Carnegie funds which did not include the Carnegie name. The building was dedicated and opened to the public on January 15, 1906. The Ladies Library Association continued their support of library service in Spartanburg and it was largely through their efforts that interest in library development was kept alive. From 1906 to 1946 library support depended upon the \$1500 from the City of Spartanburg, a small county appropriation and membership fees. These were lean years and during the Depression there were times when there was no money for either books or salary.

By 1946, the Kennedy Free Library had far outgrown its quarters and its financial support. The Spartanburg County Foundation financed a survey of the library facilities of the county. The survey was conducted by Dr. W. Stanley Hoole who found library facilities and library support inadequate to provide the level of service required by a progressive modern community.

The Kennedy Library Board under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry N. Synder, the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Junior Charity League and a committee of representative citizens joined in a campaign to establish a tax supported public library system. In 1947 the South Carolina General Assembly passed legislation creating the Spartanburg Public Library and in July of that year the new system began operation under the Spartanburg County Library Board. A one mill tax was levied on all taxable property in the county to support the library. The old Kennedy Library Board leased to the Spartanburg County Library Board the library building on Magnolia Street and the book collection for a nominal annual fee.

Miss Mary Baugham who had been the chief librarian since 1906 retired and Nancy Blair was appointed the first librarian of the new Spartanburg Public Library system. Under her direction the service was completely reorganized. The entire book collection was checked, staff employed and space in the library reorganized to provide both reference and children's services.

One of Dr. Hoole's recommendations was that a study be made of the county to determine the best and most economical way to provide library service in rural areas. The Junior Charity League undertook this project, purchased a bookmobile, bought books and employed a librarian to direct the demonstration of library service. From the beginning the demonstration was a success and in

1949 all demonstration assets were turned over to the Spartanburg Public Library which then undertook to provide county-wide public library service.

Spartanburg's rapidly growing population, the growth in the use of the public library service and the bad physical condition of the old library building on Magnolia Street indicated the need for a larger headquarters building in a more accessible location. In the mid fifties a concentrated drive was started to arouse interest in this need and to find ways of financing a new and modern building. In 1956 the Junior Chamber of Commerce undertook this as their special project, one which won for them the national Jaycee's award. To finance the new library building, library bonds were sold, the old Kennedy Board sold the library lot on Magnolia Street and the proceeds went to the building fund. Donations were received from many private sources. A lot on South Pine Street was purchased for the new building, construction began in 1960 and the building was dedicated on May 13, 1961. A feature of the building was the regional museum of Spartanburg housed in the north wing of the library. In addition to the headquarters library building in Spartanburg new branch buildings were constructed in Landrum in 1969 and in Woodruff in 1974. The Landrum building was funded by county and local funds and a \$50,000 grant from the South Carolina State Library from LSCA funds under its administration. The Woodruff Library construction was funded by general revenue sharing (county), ordinary county revenue, general revenue sharing funds from the City of Woodruff, and a gift from the Timrod Library plus other donations.

Since 1947 when the Kennedy Library became a legally established library the Spartanburg Library system has received State Aid annually. Since 1956 the library system has participated in Library Services and Construction Act funds which have aided in increasing periodical holdings, improving the book collection, adding to the reference collection in main and branch libraries and adding new and needed equipment especially in the audio-visual area. In 1979 Spartanburg County Public Library became the first in the state and one of the first in the South to install an automated circulation system. The library is now engaged in an experimental program funded by the South Carolina State Library and involving cooperation with several other libraries in the Spartanburg area. Through membership in SOLINET each has access to the bibliographic data base of OCLC for purposes of cataloging.

Aware of the need of improving reference service, the Spartanburg County Public Library joined with six other county libraries in its area to form an area reference resource program. Although the cooperating libraries did not continue the program after the withdrawal of grant funds, both reference and interlibrary loan service were substantially improved through cooperative planning and sharing of resources.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Harvey W. Johnson, Spartanburg, 1947-48  
Broadus R. Littlejohn, Spartanburg, 1948-49  
T. D. Stilwell, Inman, 1949-51  
Mrs. Elford Morgan, Spartanburg, 1951-53  
Charles N. Gignilliat, Jr., Spartanburg, 1953-54  
H. Carlisle Bean, Spartanburg, 1954-61  
Mrs. John C. Bell, Inman, 1961-62  
Mrs. John D. Smith, Spartanburg, 1962-

### Librarians

Nancy C. Blair, 1946-55  
George R. Linder, 1956-64  
Frances B. Reid, 1964-74  
Dennis L. Bruce, 1975-

### Sumter County Library



THE SUMTER COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Sumter, South Carolina

Prior to 1917 library service in Sumter County was sporadic. As early as 1809, a Sumterville Circulating Library Society was founded. For many years, the Sumter Civic League provided a book lending service in the City of Sumter. The present Sumter County Library stems directly from the efforts of a group of citizens to provide a circulating library for the town of Sumter. Dr. S. H. Edmunds, a leading educator in the state was the chief founder of the present institution.

In 1915 a grant of \$10,000 was secured from the Carnegie Foundation for the construction of a public library building. The grant was made with the understanding that the City of Sumter agree to provide \$1,000 annually towards the operation of the library. In 1917 a small but handsome Carnegie building opened its doors and served the city and county well until 1968.

The early librarians lacked formal library training but made up for this with dedication and hard work. Outstanding among the early librarians was Mrs. Thomas E. Reed who served from 1924 until 1945.

The library was not legally established until 1939 when legislation was enacted establishing it as the "Carnegie Public Library of Sumter County." Just prior to this date the Sumter County Council of Farm Women with the cooperation of the County Department of Education had secured a WPA library project which resulted in the library's first bookmobile. The bookmobile on a carefully planned schedule brought books and reading into all rural areas of Sumter County.

The library secured its first fully qualified professional librarian, Jean Cochran, in 1945. The library's collection of books was cataloged, a Friends of the Library group organized and a good publicity and public relations program adopted. Until 1955 the library was served by a

series of professional librarians all of whom contributed towards the establishment of a sound public library program. In 1955 Chapman J. Milling, Jr. was appointed director. The next twenty-five years saw the steady transformation of the Sumter County Library from a small, traditional service oriented facility into a modern, adequately funded, multi-service institution.

In 1963 the library was fully integrated. Today black membership constitutes approximately forty percent of the total library membership, which is roughly the same ratio of black to white in the county population.

A major accomplishment was the planning and construction of a modern public library building in a central location to house the rapidly expanding service of the Sumter County Library. Early in the 1930's the library board recognized that the Carnegie library building was too small to allow for expansion of service. The problem became increasingly critical in the forties and fifties. In 1955 a bond issue referendum for a public library building was defeated and the building was delayed for another thirteen years. It was not until funds became available under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act as administered by the South Carolina State Library that progress was made toward securing a new public library building in Sumter. Although the federal funds contributed only about one-fourth of the cost, this grant encouraged a generous appropriation from Sumter County. In addition, the library board had funds in a long established building fund account. Through these three sources it was possible to build and equip the new headquarters building which was dedicated in February of 1968.

A characteristic peculiar to Sumter County is that there is no significant concentration of population outside the city; hence, branch libraries are not feasible. This has meant that service is concentrated in the headquarters library and emphasized through carefully planned bookmobile service to rural areas. The headquarters library is open to all comers and has a commodious parking area.

The quality of the bookmobile service from the Sumter County Library is well known and in 1968, at the request of the South Carolina State Library and the newly established Clarendon County Library Commission, Sumter's bookmobile service was extended to serve communities in Clarendon County. The service was provided under a tripartite contract through which residents in Manning, Summerton, Turbeville, Paxville and Sardinia and surrounding areas were provided minimum library service.

At the beginning of 1980, the Sumter county Library ranked third among the South Carolina public libraries in local support. The library's reference and information services have grown significantly and have become, along with the book lending service itself, a major public service in Sumter County.

On July 1, 1980 the old library enabling legislation was superseded by an ordinance of the Sumter County Council. Thus, the library derived its mandate locally. In a time of national transition and ferment, the Sumter County Library appears to enjoy a firm foundation for the future.

### Board Chairmen

H. G. Osteen, Sumter, 1946-54  
Francis M. Moise, Sumter, 1954-56  
John S. Wilson, Sumter, 1956-57  
J. T. Buxton, Sumter, 1957-61  
Ramon Schwartz, Sumter, 1961-67

George A. James, Sumter, 1967-71  
Robert O. Purdy, Sumter, 1971-

#### Librarians

Jean Cochran, 1944-48  
Mrs. Francis C. Stuart, 1948-50  
James Pickering, 1951-52  
James Watts, 1952-53  
Chapman J. Milling, Jr., 1953-

### Union Carnegie Library



THE UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY,  
Union, South Carolina

The Union Carnegie Library is housed in the very first library building in South Carolina to be given by Andrew Carnegie. The building was completed in 1905 at a cost of some \$10,000. Requirements of the grant had been that the city furnish \$1,000 a year for library support and that the building be constructed on a suitable site.

Securing the Carnegie grant, planning and supervising construction of the building, had been in the hands of a library committee which, upon the completion of the building, became the first library board of trustees. This board appointed Miss Nannie Porter as the first librarian. The book collection was largely formed by the gift of books from the Union Literary Society which dated back to 1803.

In spite of the city's obligation to provide an annual appropriation of \$1,000 for library support, there was a constant struggle to keep the library doors open. In addition to the problem of financing was one of keeping a satisfactory librarian employed. In 1915 Miss Cornelia Sartor (Miss Neely) accepted the position and continued to serve the people of Union until 1961 when she retired after forty-six years of faithful and devoted service.

The library's constant and continuing problem was one of inadequate financial support. The first increase in funds was received in 1922. With these additional funds new shelving was added for additional books and the use of the library extended to the population of the entire county. During the Depression the library lost half of its operating funds in a bank failure and had no money for either books or salary for almost half a year. Some assistance was received from the WPA in book programs and in building maintenance and repair.

In 1934 the first woman to serve on the board was elected, Mrs. Perrin Kennedy, and for the first time the County Delegation was asked for an appropriation since the entire county benefited from library service. In 1935 the Rotary Club of Union became a sponsor of the public library and provided valuable financial and moral support.

In 1936 the WPA established a county circulating library providing bookmobile service to the entire rural area of Union County. In that year the Board of the Carnegie Library considered joining the Carnegie Free Library with the county traveling library to ensure more effective library service for the people of the entire county through sufficient financial support from city, county and state. The board reacted favorably to the suggestion but it was years before unification of the library programs took place.

In 1947 there was a revival of interest in unified library service and the board began working in earnest with representatives from the South Carolina State Library Board. A Field Service Librarian was assigned to the Union Library by the State Library Board to give much needed on-the-spot assistance. The Lions Club did a study of the library building and reported inadequate heat, inadequate lights, and books stacked on the floor for want of shelving. In 1948 the city provided \$1,000 towards the badly needed improvements pointed out in the Lions Club report.

Again in 1951 unification of the city and county library programs were discussed but with no result. By 1959, board members were optimistic of the future and began visiting modern libraries in cities of comparable size. 1960 saw further steps towards merger plans as meetings were held with city and county officials, the South Carolina State Library Board and the Board of Trustees but once again everything came to a halt. In 1963 the Junior Charity League gave funds for books and furnished a comfortable reading room.

In 1966 the unification of the city and county library programs was again discussed and this time with success. The necessary legal steps for the establishment of the new system were taken by the County Delegation and the City Council. The city and county circulating libraries were consolidated into a single system — the Union Carnegie Library — serving the entire county. Legislation was enacted establishing the new system and providing for a legally appointed Board.

In 1979 in compliance with the new Home Rule legislation, the Union Carnegie Library was re-established by ordinance passed by the Union County Council.

The new unified county library system combining the old Union Carnegie Library and the county circulating library made possible improvements in library service for the entire county. With increased local support, it was possible to make needed repairs to the building and to provide for a complete renovation. In addition, thanks to State Aid and LSCA grants administered by the State Library, thousands of new books were purchased, new and modern equipment installed and new services provided. The renovated building with its greatly improved book collection led to a noticeable increase in library usage. Special programs were developed to reach the disadvantaged and to provide special services to children and senior citizens.

The Union Library still has one unsolved problem and that is for a spacious building to accommodate its services to the public and to house its book collection. The library has been successful in serving the people of the county for

many years. To continue to provide a good level of service will require adequate housing and adequate funding.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Colonel Vernon T. Anderson, Union, 1956-67  
Mrs. H. B. Richardson, Union, 1967-71  
Edward L. B. Osborne, Union, 1971  
Dr. H. L. Sutherland, Union, 1975-79  
Dr. James T. Otten, Union, 1979-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. A. T. Usher, 1965-71  
Mrs. Nina Lyon, April-August 1971  
Sally Williams, (Acting), 1971-72  
Edward Burwell, 1972-

### **Williamsburg County Library**



THE WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY LIBRARY,  
Kingstree, South Carolina

Library service in Williamsburg County owes its origin to the Kingstree Civic League which applied for and received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the construction of a public library building. Complying with Carnegie Foundation requirements, the Town of Kingstree provided a centrally located site for the building and guaranteed a small annual appropriation for its operation. The new library building was completed in the summer of 1917 and opened with a formal dedication and "shower" of books given by public spirited citizens of Kingstree and Williamsburg County. Mrs. Erban W. Kennedy (Olive Benton) was named first librarian.

Although meagerly supported, the library continued to serve the people of Kingstree and the surrounding countryside. In order to provide a greater variety of books, in 1946 the State Library Board offered the Kingstree Library a book deposit of 200 volumes to be exchanged quarterly. The offer was accepted and this service was continued without interruption for some fifteen years. At the end of that time the State Library Board was able to offer the Kingstree Library financial assistance to enable it to contract with the Florence County Library for some supervision and direction in the development of the book collection at the headquarters library.

In 1967 the Williamsburg County Library was legally established by act of the legislature and the following year,

1968, the county library was able to qualify for one of the State Library's Small Library projects which aided in the improvement of reference service and in the general circulating collection. The Small Libraries Project terminated in 1971 and at that date the county library, in order to meet the requirements for participation in the State Aid program, contracted with the Florence County Library for bookmobile service to the major communities in the county including Hemingway, Greeleyville, Cades, and Lane. The Florence County Library continued to provide this service until 1977 at that time a contract was signed with the Sumter County Library for bookmobile service to Greeleyville.

Hemingway had established a small public library and this has become a flourishing branch of the Williamsburg County system.

In July of 1979 the Williamsburg County Library entered into a three-year library demonstration program sponsored by the South Carolina State Library and partially funded from federal source. The program is designed to provide sound county-wide library service throughout Williamsburg County. The demonstration program has made possible the employment for the first time of a fully qualified professional librarian, the purchase of many additional books and of much needed equipment. One of the requirements of the program was the renovation of the headquarters library in Kingstree to adequately house public library service for the county. When the demonstration program ends three years from now it is expected that Williamsburg County, its rural areas and major communities will have access to a good level of public library service.

#### **Board Chairmen**

Claude H. Smith, Kingstree, 1946-73  
Maurice Joy, Greeleyville, 1973-

#### **Librarians**

Mrs. Shirley Street, 1970-80  
Mrs. Juleigh M. Clark, 1980-

### **York County Library**

Library history in York County goes back to June 13, 1884 when thirty-three interested citizens of Rock Hill met to organize the Rock Hill Library Association. Membership in the Association soon grew to one hundred and on July 15, 1884, the Association opened its first reading room. Captain D. D. Moore was the first librarian. Since the reading room was only a temporary arrangement, efforts continued to secure a permanent home for the library. Reverend James Spratt White agreed to rent the entire first floor of the new building he was erecting to the Association for the use of the library. The new quarters of the library were occupied in November of 1884 and the library continued to occupy the site until around 1900 when the library went out of existence.

In 1904 the Castalian Literary Club called a citizens meeting to discuss a plan for a library. At the meeting it was proposed to approach the Carnegie Foundation for funds to construct a building. No further mention of a library occurred until four years later when the club women, having secured 120 volumes, placed them in a cabinet in the W.

G. Reid Store on Main Street where they were circulated by volunteer librarians from among the club's members.

Due to the work of the Women's Club Union, in 1910 the Rock Hill Library Association was re-established. The new Association received as a gift from Mayor John T. Roddey a suitable site for a library building and again tried to secure a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for library construction. For some reason the grant was never made and the building site was returned to Mr. Roddey.

The library moved frequently and suffered many vicissitudes. On three different occasions in 1915, 1916 and again in 1917 the library collection was almost completely destroyed by fire.

In 1923 a referendum on tax support for the library, authorized in 1917, was held and a one mill tax on the Rock Hill School District voted for the support of the library. In 1934 this tax was increased to two mills. At long last the library had become a recognized part of the Rock Hill community with government support to ensure its maintenance and continuity.

A suitable building for the library continued to be a problem and in 1924 a lot on Oakland Avenue was purchased as the site for a future library building. In 1930 the old Post Office building was purchased for the sum of \$100. In July 1931 the building was moved to the library's lot and was remodeled and redecorated. The handsome building was dedicated on February 24, 1932. Miss Louise N. McMaster, a fully qualified professional librarian, was in charge of the library.

In 1939 Nan Weller, later Mrs. Paul Carson, was appointed director of the Rock Hill Library. Under her guidance the library expanded its services in many directions. An unusually strong collection in South Carolina history and genealogy was developed. An innovative program for children and young people attracted many juvenile readers. As the service grew it became apparent that additional space was needed to house the expanding program. In 1956 funds were appropriated for an addition to the library building and for its general redecoration and renovation. The new construction added a children's room, workroom, large reference area, record listening room, and a South Carolina Room. The building was one of the first libraries in the state to be completely air conditioned.

Rock Hill was not the only community in the county which was interested in and developed public library service. Library service in the Town of York began in the early 1900's and later developed into the York Township Public Library created in 1936 and legally established in 1944. The library was housed in the War Memorial Building and Mrs. Helen Ervin was its long-time librarian.

Clover's Public Library dates from 1944 when legislation was introduced establishing a library in the King's Mountain Township and appropriating \$10,000 for the construction of a building. The building was not constructed until 1949 and when completed was occupied by the York County Rural Library which provided a collection of some 10,000 volumes and the services of its librarian, Mrs. Paul Blanks. The new building was dedicated May 12, 1950. Library Service in Fort Mill had a late beginning. Since establishment in 1964 the library has been a popular community service and has outgrown every location until the present handsome library building was completed in 1972.

A "traveling" library was initiated in York County in 1937 with WPA funds and contributions from members of Coun-

ty Home Demonstration Clubs and appropriations from the County Board of Education and the Legislative Delegation. The WPA furnished staff, part of the book collection and aided in the purchase of a bookmobile. In 1938 the county traveling library was officially created by act of the legislature. Until 1950 it operated from the Rock Hill City Hall when it moved into the new Clover Public Library building which from that time served as its headquarters.

Since the 1950's there had been some discussion in Rock Hill and York County of the advantages of consolidating all library service in the county into a single library system. The advantages of the unified system were manifest in avoiding expensive duplication of staff, books and equipment and in the sharing of resources which would improve the availability of books and materials to all library patrons. In April of 1966 the library boards in York County began a serious discussion of the issue of consolidation. On May 4, 1966 all library boards in the county approved the legislation which was required to bring about the consolidation of the various libraries in the county into a single system. The bill was enacted and on August 9, 1966 the new county library board met for the first time. Norma Lightsey was elected the first librarian of the new system. The first step taken by the new board was to undertake a three year demonstration of county library service in cooperation with the State Library Board.

The new York County Library system was immediately successful in improving library service throughout the county. Under the direction of the board and librarian grants were secured from the South Carolina State Library to aid in the construction of branch library buildings in York Township and in Fort Mill. A modern walk-in type bookmobile improved library service throughout the rural areas of the county.

In compliance with the new Home Rule legislation the York County Council passed an ordinance on April 16, 1979 which re-established the York County Library system.

In 1974 the Friends of the York County Library was organized with the special mission of securing an adequate headquarters library building for the York County Library system. In 1979 a suitable site for the building was secured and in 1980 the plans for the building are being completed with construction predicted to begin in 1981.

The York County Library situated in a growing area faces an interesting future. Its new headquarters library building will make possible expansion and improvements in service and the development of new programs to meet the changing needs of a rapidly expanding area.

#### **Board Chairmen**

R. E. Barron, Jr., Rock Hill, 1965-68  
C. S. Little, Jr., Fort Mill, 1968-69  
Robert M. Ward, Rock Hill, 1969-72  
George L. McGill, Rock Hill, 1972-73  
William M. Mauldin, Jr., Rock Hill, 1973-76  
Wallace D. Vaughn, Jr., Fort Mill, 1976-78  
Gary Lawrence, Clover, 1978-

#### **Librarians**

Norma Lightsey, 1965-70  
Ann Harper, (Acting), 1970-72  
Joseph Garcia, 1972-77  
David A. Lyon, IV, 1977-

## The Seaboard Airline Railway Free Traveling Library System

From 1898 until the early 1940's Upcountry South Carolina shared with communities in five other Southeastern states the services of the Seaboard Airline Railway Library system, a unique library and one which must have developed the first regional library extension program in this country.

The library was begun at Rose Hill Plantation near Middleton, Georgia, in 1898 by Mrs. Eugene B. Heard. Sally Heard was a famous hostess and a real Georgia belle. She had married Eugene Heard who inherited a 2,000 acre plantation given to one of his ancestors, an early governor of Georgia. They had two children, a son and a daughter, but the son died soon after his twelfth birthday. He had loved books, and Sally Heard, hoping to share his books and love of books with other children, began to loan them to the children in the neighborhood. The response was far greater than she had anticipated. Children and adults were hungry for books and soon exhausted the Rose Hill collection as well as the books Sally Heard was able to gather from her friends. People still came however, and Sally Heard resolved to do all in her power to see that not only her own neighbors but rural people elsewhere had access to books and reading.

About this time Everette St. John, Vice-President of the Seaboard Airline Railway, was in Elberton near Middleton in connection with an expansion of the railway system. Mrs. Heard invited him to Rose Hill and while there he heard Sally talk about a library for everyone along the length and breadth of the Seaboard. In the children coming to Rose Hill for books, he saw the need demonstrated and before he left Rose Hill he made Sally Heard the offer of the Seaboard's services in distributing the books in all of the states in which its system operated. If she could get the books the railroad would take them, free of charge, to anyone or any community, wherever the railroad ran. This offer remained in effect from 1898 until 1955 when the library finally closed.

With a means of distribution assured, the next step was to get books and more books, and magazines and more magazines. Sally Heard visited every publishing house and editor in the East and came home with promises of free books and magazines - promises which were kept until long after her death.

With the assurance of a continuing supply of books and

magazines and with the means of distributing them, Sally Heard's next step was to arrange with communities along the Seaboard for handling circulation of the books which would be sent to them without any charge whatsoever. She rode from one end of the Seaboard to the other, through Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Florida and the Carolinas, securing the cooperation of women in the villages and hamlets in taking over the operation of the "circulating library" boxes.

By 1912, 18,000 books and 38,000 magazines were being distributed. Library "boxes" were going out to 150 schools in 35 communities located along the Seaboard in addition to the hundreds of "book bags" distributed to individuals in each of the six states.

The library grew of its own momentum. Andrew Carnegie made a grant to the program and contributions were received from many other prominent business and social leaders. In 1907 the library won a gold medal award at the Jamestown Exposition.

The library did not close until 1955. By that time its mission was being carried on by the county and regional libraries and state library programs developed in each of the six states which it had served. In the last few years of its existence service was largely limited to the Elberton neighborhood and in 1955 the remaining books were turned over to the Elberton Schools.

For fifty-eight years the Seaboard Airline Railway Free Traveling Library System operating from Rose Hill Plantation provided a vital community service to the communities along its extensive railway system. The lives of thousands of men and women, boys and girls were enriched and expanded through the books that came to them from this unique library which had been founded through the vision of a woman who believed in the value of good books. In all its years of existence no fines were ever charged for overdue books nor charges made for lost books. There were no regulations, no State aid, no Federal aid and no local funds. The librarians who donated their time for the operation of the library were neither trained nor certified but their knowledge of books, love of people and devotion to a cause, were as effective as any graduate library degree could have been. The standards of service were simple good will and a concern for others. Its history was a miracle which can be attributed to one woman's vision, the generosity of publishers, a level-headed businessman and the tracks of the Seaboard Railway System.

## Carnegie Library Buildings In South Carolina

Between 1905 and 1916 sixteen cities or towns in South Carolina applied to the Carnegie Corporation for grants to aid in the construction of public library buildings. Fourteen\* of the applicants received grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$18,700. Between 1905 and 1920 thirteen new public library buildings were designed, constructed and opened to the public. Each community receiving a grant had to agree to provide a suitable site and annual support from tax sources amounting to ten percent of the grant. All of the Carnegie public library buildings in South Carolina were built to house city or town library service. With the extension of library service to the entire county or region eight of these buildings became too small and were replaced with new buildings. Five of the buildings are still in use though they have been extensively renovated and in some cases expanded by additions. All of the buildings are still in existence.

The following table provides a brief summary of Carnegie public library buildings in South Carolina:

Community	Opening Year	Replaced by new building
Anderson (Anderson County Library)	1908	1971
Beaufort (Beaufort County Library)	1918	1964
Gaffney (Cherokee County Public Library)	1914	1972
Greenwood (City & County Library)	1917	1958; 1978
Marion (Marion County Library)	1905	1930; 1976
Spartanburg (Spartanburg County Public Library)	1905	1961
Sumter (Sumter County Library)	1917	1968
Camden (Kershaw County Library)	1916	1973

\*The Charleston Library Society (not a public library) received a grant of \$5,000 to aid in the construction of a \$75,000 building in 1914.

Carnegie library buildings still housing public library service:

	Opening Year
Darlington (Darlington County Library)	1920
Honea Path (Branch of Anderson County Library)	1908
Kingstree (Williamsburg County Library)	1917
Union (Union County Library)	1905
Latta (Dillon County Library)	1914

**PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS**

**LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS**

	1943-44	1955-56*	1979-80
No. Regional Libraries .....	1	2	4
No. Counties in Regions .....	1	5	11
No. County Libraries .....	26	34	35
No. Municipal Libraries .....	27	23	1
No. of Counties with County-wide Service	27	38	46
No. Professional Librarians .....	26	46	157

**BOOKSTOCK, CIRCULATION, POPULATION**

	1943-44	1955-56*	1979-80
Total Bookstock .....	620,550	1,473,132	4,008,849
Per Capita Bookstock .....	.3	.7	1.55
Total Circulation .....	3,726,222	5,318,682	8,200,474
Per Capita Circulation .....	1.96	2.5	3.17
Population .....	1,899,804	2,117,027	2,590,516
With Public Library Service .....	1,020,010	1,663,552	2,590,516

**PUBLIC LIBRARY INCOME**

	1943-44	1955-56*	1944-56 % of Increase	1979-80	1956-79 % of Increase
<b>Library Income:</b>					
SCSL Appropriation ... \$ 15,000		\$101,638	578%	\$2,180,794	2,045%
State Aid .....	8,100	55,395	584%	1,295,258	2,238%
Per County .....	300	1,500		50¢ per capita	
Counties Participating ..	27	38		46	
<b>Local Support:</b>					
Total .....	259,374	845,723	226%	9,797,962	1,058%
Per Capita .....	13¢	40¢	208%	3.78	845%
Federal Funds: LSCA ...	-0-	-0-		992,388	
<b>Total Public Library Income:</b>					
All Sources .....	274,374	947,361	345%	12,971,144	1,269%
Per Capita .....	14¢	45¢	221%	5.01	1,013%

\* Beginning year for Library Services Act program (federal aid to public libraries).