

## ***From Books to Paper***

*By Tom Lacina for Fortnightly Club - 10/25/2010*

### **The Beginnings of Books in Grinnell**

"No person deserves praise for giving to the public what he cannot use himself." Those are the words from Joel Stewart when being thanked by the City Council of Grinnell for the gift of the library building, known to all of us as the Stewart Library.

The first efforts for a library in Grinnell began in 1857 when the town was only 3 years old. The idea came from the superintendent of the public schools. A cabinet maker put together a bookcase to hold the 50 or so books donated by residents. The books were in poor condition and not choice, but it was a start. The notion of a public library was relatively new, the first one occurring in the United States just the prior decade.

Two years later, Iowa College arrived and brought its small library of books. It was a semi-public library. During the coming decades, efforts continued around developing reading rooms within the community.

The Congregational Church passed a resolution on March 31, 1882, to invite general cooperation in creating a town library. The town, which suffered the tornado of 1882 on June 11, was no doubt quickly distracted from such an idea; it had other uses for its few dollars. It wasn't until ten years later that interest in a library gained traction.

On April 24, 1894, in the midst of the 1890's depression and three years after the death of J.B. Grinnell, a library committee met in the parlors of the Stone Church, the old Congregational Church, and discussed selling land belonging to the church for library purposes. Although one member was opposed to it, the Grinnell Herald reported "there was a general desire, or perhaps general willingness would be better, to contribute to the fund." Mr. Spaulding offered to donate a sight on Main Street. There was discussion of vacating the alley to the East of the Stone Church and next to the high school, which as many of you remember was located where the parking lot is on the south edge of the present Community Center. The Sutherland property (Mahler & Sutherland dry goods) on Broad Street was also considered.

Mrs. Professor Parker made a suggestion, which seemed to have been in the minds of all, that the Congregational Church donate the north 50 feet of its land to a library association. Mrs. Newman thought this would be in entire accord with the design of church work, that a great many people seem to think that the church is always receiving and never giving, and now it would be setting a most excellent example for the church to give something.

The general opinion was that the building would not exceed 30 feet in width or maybe 25 feet in width, with a reading room in front and a library at the rear. It was supposed the building would cost about \$5000 and be one story high. There was to be continued investigation of both the property north of the Church and the Sutherland location.

A second library meeting occurred May 11, 1894. It was not a mass meeting but was attended by representative citizens, most of whom wanted a library. The location north of the church was considered along with others. Some were adamant that the location should be north of the church or they would not contribute. It was reported that there was no certainty of what would be supported or whether the Congregational Church would let the lot go. The property had been intended for use as a parsonage. The Herald Register reported, "Really, it looks now as if the question would prove a bugbear, but all will hope it may not prove fatal to the enterprise. Why not let the building go a few years, anyhow, and rent a second-story room in one of the new buildings for five years, and get the books? Perhaps in five years we shall want a better building than we can put up now, and perhaps we shall be able to build it." (I suspect the "new buildings" are those built after the 1882 tornado that destroyed 150 buildings in Grinnell and much of Iowa College.)

Later that same summer of 1894, young people of the Methodist Church met to set up a reading room in the business part of town. It was agreed that "one room is to be fitted up where those who do not care to read may spend their time in games or conversation." It was also desired to fit up a gymnasium. The location would have a "first-class bath-room" with tickets sold for annual usage. Individual usage tickets would be more expensive. The concept was that the activity at the center would be broad and inviting to all boys and young men.

An additional meeting followed in August 1894, with reference to the earlier effort as to building a library, indicating that project seemed impracticable that year. The idea then became to find a different location for a library and reading room. Four different downtown locations had been identified. Much of the work of running the library would be volunteer. The costs would be about \$500 the first year and \$350 in succeeding years.

Then president of Iowa College, George Augustus Gates, favored a ground floor location, a bright, attractive place that would invite young people in. They should avoid the tendency so marked in YMCA associations to become a well-to-do young men's club. He advocated opening the rooms on Sunday. If the youth would not go to church, at least there was some place they could go to improve themselves. "Many farmers' boys come into town who had no place to go, out of the streets." President Gates continued, "Young men ought to have a place to loaf. Loafing was not all bad."

Mr William Porter advocated a bath room attached to the rooms, noting that there were many churches in Grinnell, but there was much need of places where the body could be washed clean and he would give five dollars towards this.

Miss Effa Hughes asked if it was intended to exclude young women from the room? She had heard much about the young men, as though young women did not need anything of this kind. There were as many young girls and women who walked about the streets evenings who should have some place to go as well as the young men. The article does not indicate that young girls and women would be admitted, but clearly they were. Indeed, the volunteers that came forward to take charge of the library space during those start-up days were by far young women, nearly 80%.

Even 50 years later, women dominated at the library. In about 1950, one paper was delivered by what appears to be a library staff person to what must have been a Grinnell men's organization as follows:

At the library, we do not need to worry about reaching members of the women's clubs. All women seem to belong to at least three clubs and all clubs seem to have book reviews from one to twelve times a year. . . .

But not enough men use the library either individually or as members of some the 82 clubs. And you know that is too bad for, after all, you are paying most of the bill. We would like to know why it is that the men of the town don't use the library so much. Is it because our collection of books on business and law are so pitifully few and out of date? It's a fact that they are. Aren't the chairs comfortable enough? You do know, don't you, that we got rid of the awful old light fixtures two years ago and now have modern fluorescent lights. It is now quite possible to see print after dark.

The comments go on for another page. It ends with asking for suggestions as to improving the Stewart Library for men.

Now back to the 1890's.

The small library and gathering area began in August of 1894. Later that fall, the library committee determined that the play room was seriously interfering with study and reading and should be separated. After Thanksgiving, a benefit was held that included an art exhibit and the walls were hung with a good collection of pictures.

The work on the library effort continued and the reading room was moved to a space donated by Mr. Spaulding. Books donated for what became known at the Grinnell Free Library were recorded beginning in 1894 in an accession book, although it may be that the accession book was constructed after the fact, because the book itself begins with a "19\_\_" date that was struck out in order to enter the 1894 date. The first entry in the accession book was *L'Abbe Constantin* by Ludovic Halévy and donated by the Drummond Club. It was worn out and replaced in February 1904, about the same time our Fortnightly Club came into existence.

A librarian was hired about 6 months after the library's beginning, and in 1895, there were concerts, continuing donations and a one year celebration event, with the following words provided by Mr. Gladstone:

It is a delightful thing to see how far and wide the institution of libraries is extending. The library is most valuable locally considered as an institution, and in many points of view, but I cannot but recollect that, it is a competitor with the public-house, and in the point of (new) it is most important. It is giving men a fair chance of obtaining something in the nature of recreation after their house of labour, habitually and permanently continued without exposing them to undue risk and peril. It is sometimes observed that the subscribers to these libraries have a preference for light literature. Well, gentlemen, no wonder. We must always recollect, we who have lived lives, if not of leisure in every sense of the

word, yet lives exempted from the absolute necessity of continual toil, we must remember that Nature cries out for recreation, and that cry of Nature is a legitimate cry. But what I hope is that there will always be a great desire to have good light literature. And if you ask me what I mean by good light literature I will tell you. I mean such works as the immortal works of Sir Walter Scott, whom I look upon as one of the great benefactors.

That same year of 1895 a scandal occurred. The library's treasurer suddenly left town with about \$100 of the library's funds. A mass meeting was called to consider the situation. An association was then formed to control affairs of the library, including of course, financial matters. The Grinnell Board of Trade donated funds to stabilize the library.

In 1896 there was parlor entertainment, a charity supper and a lecture about The Great Pyramid of Gizeh, Egypt. The lecture brought in \$22.05. The library published its first catalog in 1896. There were 1200 books in the library. In 1897 there was a music concert benefit. The effort at the time was to pay all debts of the library in order to donate the library to the City. This finally occurred in the spring of 1897 when the City took over the library and added a library fund to the city budget.

### **A Home for Books at the Stewart Library**

Joel Stewart was born into of family of 10 children in New York State in 1833. At the age of about 16, in 1849 or 1850, he took a boat to Colon, Panama, walked across the Isthmus of Panama and then went by boat to San Francisco on his way to the gold fields of California. He returned to New York after three years and went into the meat business and later the hotel business. He married Anna Heber at age 23. Anna was Joel's senior by 7 years, had previously been married and had three children. In 1867, when he was age 34 and she age 41, they went to Joliet, Illinois and then a year later to Grinnell, where he purchased 1600 acres of unbroken land near Newburg. They soon moved to a farm about 6 miles northeast of Grinnell where they lived from many years.

Mr. Stewart was known as a successful farmer – shrewd, careful, genial and influential. He was also involved in local banking and owned downtown business property at 911-913 Broad in Grinnell. He was a democrat of the "old school", a Jacksonian Democrat, and ran for the legislature as a fusion candidate in 1883 and was elected. He was nominated but defeated in 1885 and again nominated and elected in 1889.

Though an enthusiastic working democrat, Mr. Stewart placed what he considered national duty above party spirit and, believing as he did in a gold standard for currency, he gave his support to Palmer and Buchner, the Democratic presidential ticket, but contributed liberally to the republican campaign in 1896.

On January 4. 1901, the Mr. Stewart proposed to the annual meeting of the First Congregational Society they donate their lot to the City for the building of a public library, which he would fund.

The cornerstone was laid on May 7, 1901, and on July 23 of that same year, the First Congregational Society of Grinnell deeded Lot Number Four in Block Number Fourteen to the Village Plat of Grinnell to the City of Grinnell, with the provision that if the property ceased being used as a public library for more than 9 months in succession, it would revert back to the Society. This right of reversion was not preserved, and by operation of law, disappeared in the mid-1960s.

It is often stated that Mr. Stewart himself helped design and supervise the construction of the library building. He visited many other libraries to glean ideas, which may help explain the many similarities between Carnegie libraries and Grinnell's building, although some accounts try to distinguish Grinnell's library, both in form and in character of community support.

There is a reference in a book called *The Midwestern* which references "A Trio of Architects" Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen in Des Moines. They were organized in 1899 as successor to Foster & Liebbe, established 35 years earlier. The article indicates that these architects were responsible for libraries in Boone, Iowa City, Nevada, Fayette, Atlantic, Perry, Hampton and Grinnell. It also claims they were responsible for the Iowa Public School, McQuaid-Spaulding building and the Hotel in Grinnell.

There appears to be some pride that Grinnell's library was not a Carnegie library. At the corner stone laying event it was noted "the people of Grinnell do not have to ask Andrew Carnegie to build them a library. They have in one of their own townsmen a man who comes forward and builds the city a beautiful library, with no conditions attached that the city must raise so many hundreds or thousands of dollars each year for its running expenses." This comment is interesting on several points. Cities receiving funds for a Carnegie library had to agree to four conditions:

- demonstrate the need for a public library;
- provide the building site;
- annually provide ten percent of the cost of the library's construction to support its operation; and,
- provide free service to all.

By comparison, Mr. Stewart provided no restrictions and actually continued supporting the library building's needs for some time after it was built.

Also, Grinnell might easily have ended up with a Carnegie library but for Joel Stewart stepping in, and the library might not have been as large as what we ended up receiving. At the same time as Joel Stewart was donating for the Grinnell library, Andrew Carnegie was donating to Chariton (\$10,000), Charles City (\$12,500), Clinton (\$45,000), Council Bluffs (\$70,000), Indianola (\$10,000), Marion (\$10,000), Mount Pleasant (\$15,000), Newton (\$10,000), and Spencer (\$10,000). Mr. Carnegie donated in part based on census population. By that standard, Grinnell would have likely received about \$10,000, like Newton. In 1900 Newton had a population of 3682, just slightly below Grinnell's population of 3856. By comparison, Charles City with a population of 4227 received \$12,500. Mr. Stewart spent \$15,350 to build the Grinnell

library, and it was noted that many furnished labor and supplies at a discount so the actual cost might have been even more.

One interesting aspect of the library is what was put in the cornerstone. The contents were:

- Grinnell City Directory, 1900,
- Quinquennial Catalogue of Iowa College,
- Official Register of Iowa, 1901,
- Reports of the second and third meetings Old Settlers of Grinnell
- Course of Study Grinnell High School, 1901
- Pamphlet: A new England College in the West
- Library Cook Book
- Iowa College News Letter
- Grinnell Herald
- Grinnell Gazette
- Scarlet and Black
- The Priscilla Year Book
- Revenue Stamps and Coins, 1901
- Photographs of Hon. and Mrs. J. B. Grinnell.
- Petition to business men to close business during laying of corner stone of Stewart Library.
- Iowa College Catalogue, 1900-1901.

Mr. Stewart was involved in laying the cornerstone at the ceremony on May 7, 1901. The picture of the eventual library in the newspaper at the time of the cornerstone laying ceremony was somewhat different from the final building. Apparently, the design was still subject to some revisions.

At the end of the cornerstone laying ceremony, the speaker noted that he was "forbidden to make a remark" about one "citizen" in Grinnell. This "citizen" was obviously about Mr. Stewart. The speaker went on to relate an incident when this citizen was repeatedly pressed to make a speech. He finally said, "Gentlemen, I can't make a speech. I am no scholar. But if I should say anything it would be, whenever you make a promise look out what you say, but when you do, just keep it if it takes all the hair off from the top of your heads."

Accounts indicate that later in 1901, Mr. Stewart moved from Grinnell to Brookfield, Missouri, where he held extensive farming lands. It is stated he traveled back and forth quite a bit but that he lived in Brookfield, Missouri, for 12 years until returning to Grinnell in about 1913.

It was on April 7, 1902 that Joel Stewart sold the library building to the city of Grinnell, reserving the basement for use by the industrial school and reserving the right to say how the north end of the basement would be used. The basement was later used as a

meeting place for the Christian Science Society, but on the recommendation of Joel Stewart's second wife, in 1924, the entire building was dedicated to library usage.

It was at the time of the transfer of the building to the City that Mr. Stewart stated "No person deserves praise for giving to the public what he cannot use himself." The writings of the turn of the century are often laudatory toward someone who expresses humility, but there may have been some truth to the characterization of Mr. Stewart as earnestly avoiding congratulations. First, there is the comment by the speaker at the cornerstone laying ceremony that he was not to say Mr. Stewart's name. Second, despite the fact many dignitaries were to be present at the dedication on May 9, 1902, including the Governor of Iowa, Mr. Stewart did not attend. It was reported he was in Missouri at the time and reported elsewhere that he did not attend, "owing to dislike of the probable demonstration to be accorded him." Instead, the overflow crowd was met by Mrs. Stewart, who presented the completed structure to the City by handing the key to Mayor Spaulding.

The library was described as follows:

The building is a beautiful structure 63<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet front by 32 deep in the main, with an annex 21 x 32. It is built of Omaha gray pressed brick with stone trimmings. The basement is divided into two rooms for the industrial school. The main floor contains the general reading room on the south side, reference room and children's room on the north side, and stack room on the east. These rooms have tile floors, the inside finish is oak throughout, the whole presenting an attractive appearance. Upstairs is the trustees' and librarian's room, finished in cypress. The building cost \$14,000, and a second stack room is arranged for, to be finished when needed, which will make the total cost \$15,000. The stack room now provided will hold 10,000 volumes, and the second one will also hold 10,000.

It isn't clear to me what is meant by a "second stack room", although perhaps only part of the glass floor area was completed initially. It is interesting that the freestanding glass floor assembly, when fully installed, required some cutting of wood trim around windows.

During the years after the presentation of the building to the City, there seem to be various references to the building as the "City Library", "Free Library" and "Stewart Library", although the general custom was to refer to the building as the "Stewart Library". It was officially named the Stewart Library in 1908.

Mrs. Stewart, Anna, died in June 1908 while she and Mr. Stewart were living in Missouri. Her remains were brought back to Grinnell for burial. At the time, and for a while before, Anna's granddaughter, Miss Helen J. Patrick, from her first marriage, was living with them. Six months after Anna's death, on December 8, 1908, Mr. Stewart and Miss Patrick married. Mr. Stewart was 75 at the time, and as best I can calculate, his

new wife was probably 30 to 40 years old. To this marriage was born Joel's only child, Joel Stewart, Jr., on October 3, 1909.

Mr. Stewart moved back to Grinnell in about 1913, where he lived until his death on April 28, 1918. Blinds were drawn in every store and place of business in Grinnell during the hour of Mr. Stewart's funeral. He is buried at Hazelwood cemetery.

Mr. Stewart was known for his generosity. He made numerous gifts to Grinnell College totaling over \$60,000. He contributed his large Missouri farm to make the Grinnell Foundation. The farm was not liquidated but rather used to build up a new and substantial system of financing the college in its "Greater Grinnell" improvements. Mr. Stewart provided a signed copy of the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant, which is now kept at the Drake Community Library in Grinnell. Mr. Stewart gave to individuals in need and would often say "If we could not contribute both heart and money to make others happy, there was little here to live for."

The Stewart Library has gone through many changes over the years.

Lights have been replaced multiple times, the wedding cake style front steps were torn out and rebuilt in a different style, probably mid-century. The attic went unused for many years and required complete renovation to be utilized again in 1980. There is reference to the original book cases being wooden but in 1909 those were replaced with steel stacks. I don't think this applies to the glass floor and its bookcases, which must have been metal at the beginning. Heavy repairs occurred around 1950 with a new entrance to the children's room in the basement, a new roof (possibly replacing the original slate), fluorescent lights and redecoration. Around 1970, the deteriorating wooden entrance was replaced with aluminum and glass doors.

In 1976 the Library was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Board of Trustees embarked on a renovation plan to restore original features of the building, to make the available space more usable, and to provide handicapped access. The only addition to the building was an elevator shaft and stairwell. This eliminated several windows on the main floor. The tile was covered with carpet. For safety and convenience, the stairs to the basement were redesigned, changing the configuration of the inside entry area. The exterior entrance, however, was restored to its original appearance by rebuilding the wedding-cake style steps and replacing the aluminum and glass doors with reproductions of the original oak doors. The fireplaces, long covered by bookshelves, were restored and the oak mantels rebuilt. The top floor was totally renovated.

More work was done on the interior of the building in the late 90s to improve the children's area and accommodate added computer workstations.

In 1999, library consultant George Lawson worked with library users, the Board of Trustees, and the Library staff to prepare a needs assessment that described the kind of building Grinnell would need in order to offer good library service now and for 20



years to come. The result was the new Drake Community Library, located at 930 Park Street, opening in late 2009.

While the Drake Community Library was being planned, the question emerged as to what would happen with the Stewart Library building. My understanding is that the city created a committee and gave it the task to look at alternatives. The options considered included use of the building as a private facility, including apartments, although that might have caused some issues with the Historic Preservation Covenant put on the building in 1980.

### **From Books to (Drawing) Paper**

In January 2008 the Grinnell Area Arts Council announced a vision for the arts in Grinnell.

*We propose the following actions: (1) unite Grinnell area arts organizations and individuals; (2) create a physical center for the arts in Grinnell; (3) create an arts administration position to serve Grinnell; and (4) execute a major fund drive and then annual drives to support the above three points of action.*

The significance of this statement is probably best looked at by comparison of what the Arts Council was doing up until that point. The Arts Council was formed in 1979 and immediately gained 501(c)(3) status. Up until about 2006 or 2007, it had annual budgets, excluding its summer arts camp, under \$10,000 and virtually all income came from memberships. The Arts Council made gifts to the schools, ran a two week summer arts camp and sponsored occasional concerts.

In connection with the 2008 announcement the Arts Council began pulling together arts groups and intensifying its offerings in the arts. It is now the umbrella organization for:

- Grinnell Community Theatre
- Thursday Music in the Park
- Voertman Series
- Turlach Ur Pipe Band
- Arts Academy (academic year classes for K-8)
  - Studio 4
  - Studio 8
  - Babel Tower foreign language classes
- Classes & Workshops at the Grinnell Arts Center
  - Summer Arts Camp (k-4)
  - Summer Arts Classes
  - Parent-Child Classes
  - Ceramics, Photography, Guitar, etc.
- Grinnell Arts Center Gallery
- A statewide-recognized Grinnell Artist Residency
- Grinnell Artisan Club or Guild – just beginning

More programs are being explored—expanded community theatre (actors theater of Grinnell), Municipal Band support, high school use of the Arts Center, connections with college students (Neverland Players), connections with homebound individuals (threshold choirs), activities in neighboring small communities (Montezuma is interested).

Staff has also been expanded from none to a full time administrator and part time arts education coordinator. In addition there are a dozen or so paid instructors and many volunteers. The Arts Council received a grant of \$21,800 in 2009 to assist with staff development.

Due to the effect of the umbrella approach, heightened interest in the Arts Council programs, and aggressive grant writing and sponsorship promotion, the Arts Council has increased its annual budget to well over \$100,000 and doubled its membership income.

As part of the 2008 vision, the Stewart Library building was identified by the Arts Council as possible home. After numerous committee meetings with the City, an agreement was finally reached and a 5 year lease signed on February 16, 2009, providing the facility to the Arts Council as space for arts programming.

The library moved out by December 2009 and the Arts Council immediately took possession. The basic concept was to use the basement for arts education, the main floor for gallery and performance space, along with administration, and the top floor for meeting, rehearsal and education space.

One major question faced by the Arts Council was what to do with the glass floor. After gaining approval from the state's historic preservation agency, and after many discussions (including a facilitated workshop) with people from the community, it was decided to remove the glass floor. The reasoning was pretty simple. The glass floor was not a complete floor; it simply wrapped around the bookcases, which ran all the way from the lower floor up to the ceiling. The glass floor area had very short head room, with just seven feet of clearance, and had no programmatic value. Some of the floor had already been altered in the 1979 renovation and quite a number of the panels had cracked and been replaced. The decision went forward during late December 2009 when Grinnell high school graduates, led by Sam Newport, were home on break and excited about helping out. The floor was gone in about 7 days using volunteer labor. We saved the original glass pieces for possible future look.

The downstairs needed quick work for after school classes beginning on February 1, 2010. What was apparent was the horrible problem with moisture in the basement. Behind the book cases were deteriorating walls. This is not something new. A 1950 report stated "our children's room is now in a shocking condition of peeled paint and mustiness due to seepage of water through the walls. Correction of this condition is one of the important items on our repair program." The problem has remained. During the spring, volunteers set to work doing what they could and repainting the area. A floor of 4 by 8 sheets of masonite was placed over the carpet for protection.

On the main floor, removal of the glass floor exposed major plaster problems. Volunteers went to work on those and then repainted the inside, except for a couple areas experiencing continuing damage from rain.

Windows were in bad shape. The Arts Council received some assistance from the City, a Renaissance grant, and "window" donations of \$200 to \$300 from local supporters. Byron Worley was hired to restore the integrity of the windows.

The office area was cleaned out and the dividing wall shortened to open it up.

The hail storm of April 2010 was actually a benefit to the Arts Council's work in general. A new roof was put on the library and several problems, creating ongoing wall damage, discovered and corrected. Also, all the carpet had to come out upstairs and on the main floor. The upstairs' carpet was replaced and the area under the glass floor was also replaced, but the Arts Council decided to invest in the old tile floor in the main area rather than re-carpet it. Byron Worley was hired to restore the floor using the insurance proceeds. This Wednesday, October 27, the floor is to be cleaned and polished.

The bad aspect of the storm was that the gutter system was removed and then not fixed in connection with the roof repairs, so the rains in July and August rushed into the space and destroyed much of the volunteer painting and plaster work. Volunteer nights in September were spent correcting the damage. In total, over 1000 hours of volunteer work has gone into the space.

The lights on the main floor were all refitted with energy efficient systems and are a savings to all, City and the Arts Council.

The re-carpeted east end of the main floor will hold the gallery. Presently, there are portable walls created by Erik Sanning being used for art work, but it is hoped that before the end of the year a more polished yet removable surface can be put over the lower bank of windows to serve as a fine gallery space. This is again being handled by Byron Worley with volunteer assistance. The track lighting from the old Community Art Gallery have been brought over and installed. The goal is to have a community-wide show go up in January.

What is left to fix?

- The basement wall moisture problem is a big one. What needs to occur is a tile system around the outside of the basement taking the water away and perhaps a coating on the outside below grade.
- There is more plaster damage to repair.
- The gallery walls need to be built and assembled.
- A lighting plug-in hub for theatrical works on the main floor needs to be put in.
- Two "original fixtures" (found and donated by Rob & Nancy Clower) need to be installed in the entrance.
- The front doors need to be refinished to protect them.
- The front steps and railing need repair.

- The heaters around the main floor will be covered with oak paneling to make them appear consonant with the building.
- The boiler needs to be replaced, and the City is looking at that.
- A longer term goal is to replace the carpeted gallery floor with a floor better complimenting the tile, perhaps a cork floor, which will accommodate dance and theater in the space.

This isn't necessarily an exhaustive list, but you get the idea. Much has occurred, but much still needs to occur. In general, I think the challenge is a little bit that as we have exposed the building and featured it, the scrutiny of its condition and appearance has increased.

The Arts Council has always understood that the endeavor to restore the beauty and function of the building would take time. Because of that, there's been no hesitation as to moving forward with programming, even while repairs continue. During 2011, the Arts Council will refine and expand programs in the space:

- Gallery & Performance Space use will be defined in 2011, and should gain significant public interest with school, college and community involvement.
- Arts and foreign language education will grow dramatically in 2011, both as to enrollment and offerings.
- Community Theatre programming will find new and rediscover old points of diversity with small and large venue performances and children's theater to complement dinner theatre and theater in the park. Community theatre activity will get a boost when the old gallery is turned into a green room to serve the B.G. Voertman Theatre.
- The Voertman Performance Series will push to new levels of quality in 2010-11 and again in 2011-12
- A new artisan program will develop around pottery, jewelry and craft classes and events, including the Mid-Summer Arts Festival, a seasonal Holiday Gallery Shop, Raku Firing & Food of Grinnell Event. Funding is being sought to hire a person dedicated for one year to build this program.
- Turlach Ur, Grinnell Residency and Thursday Music in the Park will continue to develop.

All of this will be tied to marketing the efforts of the Arts Council and getting more and more people involved. It will also be tied to financial capability, which to date has been grass root in nature.

Filling the old Stewart Library building with relevant arts activities is in my view a way of giving it a new public life for the community. Interestingly, however, because so many of our programs are directed at and involve youth, the building is becoming sort of a youth center for intelligent play and enjoyment and something along the lines of what was originally discussed in the early 1890s in Grinnell. Like loafing, artistic play is a good thing, and young folks, and those of us only young at heart, ought to have a place for it.

The End – (addendum of photos & documents follow)



*Child*

Grinnell, Iowa.

Joel Stewart



Anna Stewart



Joel Stewart owned 911 - 913 Broad



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deposited to the American  
Authors and Artists.

*U. S. Grant*

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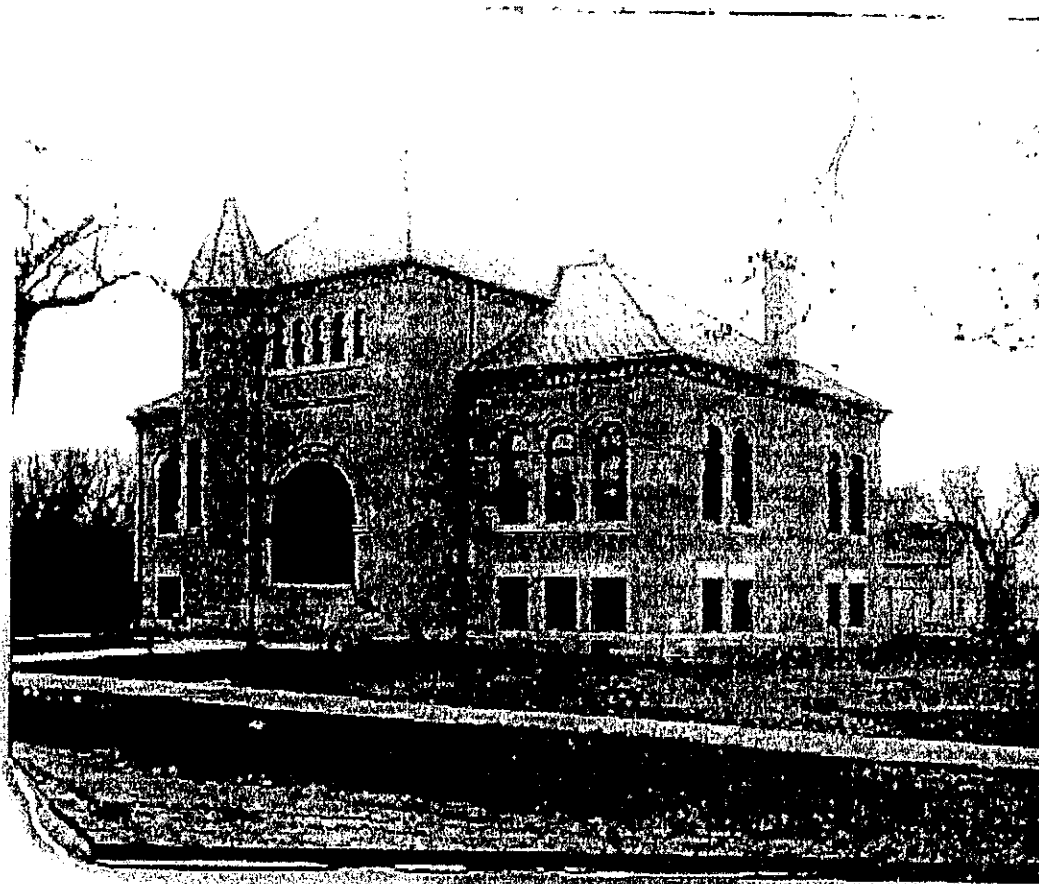
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1416 F st. N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

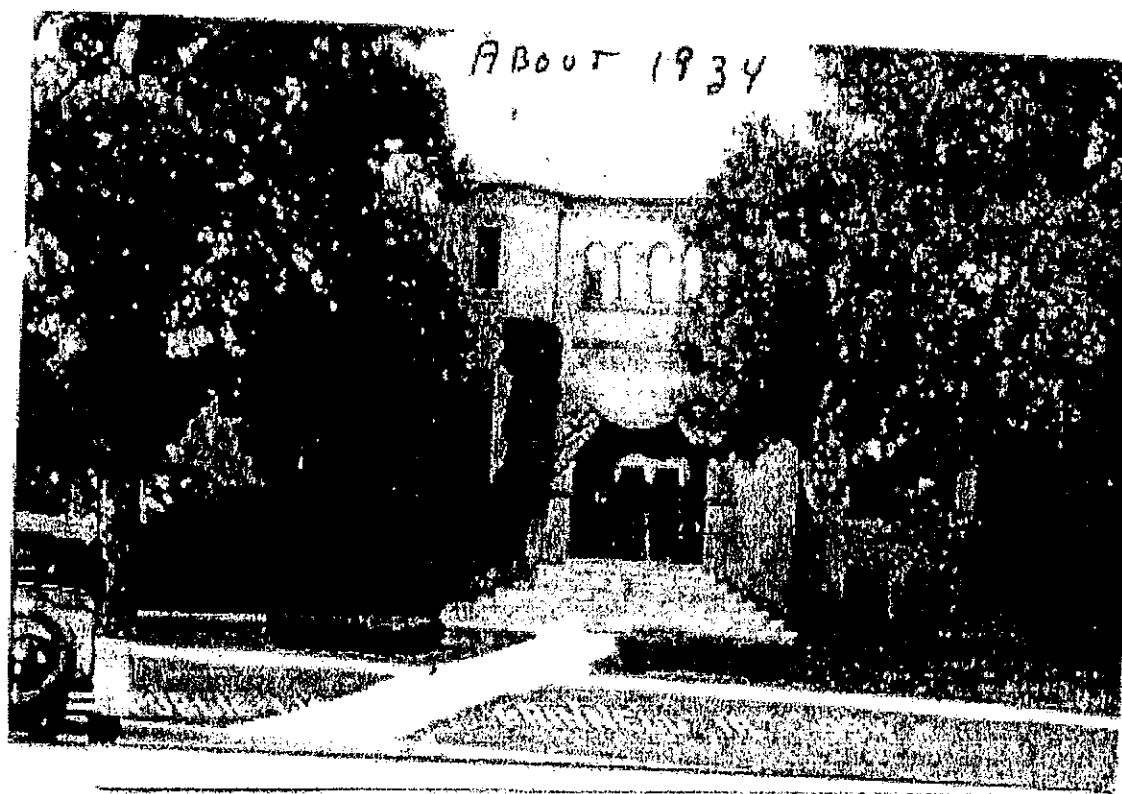
10 Bloomsbury st. W. C.  
London

49 rue Rambuteau  
Paris



Stewart Library early photo

Stewart Library about 1934



DEDICATION  
OF THE  
STEWART LIBRARY, GRINNELL, IOWA.

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MAY 9, 1902.

PROGRAM.

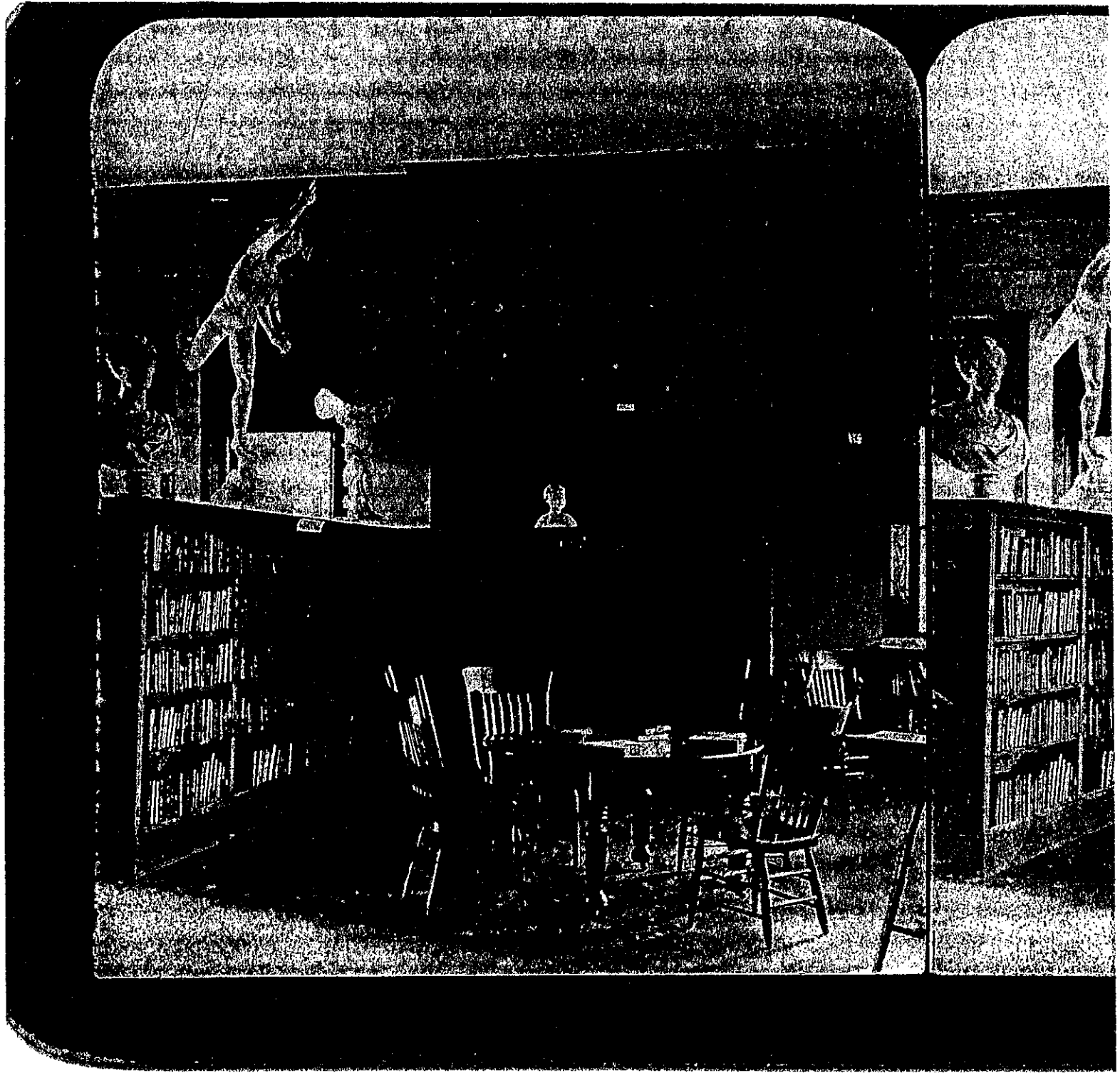
MARCH MILITAIRE, SCHUBERT, - - - AMPHION ORCHESTRA.  
INVOCATION, PRESIDENT GEORGE E. MACLEAN, STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.  
GREETING AND CONGRATULATION,  
MISS ALICE S. TYLER, SECRETARY IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSION.  
ADDRESS, - HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR A. B. CUMMINS.  
HUNGARIAN DANCE, BRAHMS. - - - - - AMPHION ORCHESTRA.  
RECEIVING OF THE KEYS AND CONSIGNING OF THEM TO THE CUSTODY  
OF THE TRUSTEES, - - - MAYOR HENRY W. SPAULDING.  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRUST,  
MR. EDMUND M. VITUM, PRESIDENT TRUSTEES GRINNELL FREE LIBRARY  
AMERICA, - - - - - SUNG BY THE AUDIENCE.

AT THE CLOSE OF THESE EXERCISES, THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION IN THE STEWART  
LIBRARY, TO WHICH ALL VISITORS AND CITIZENS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

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South Room of Stewart Library



North Room of Stewart Library



Grinnell Arts Center - North Room & South Room

