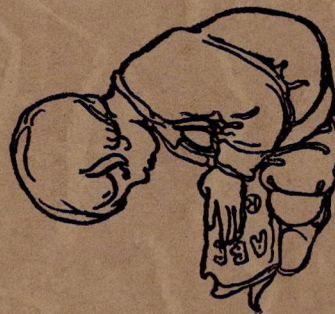


City of Saint Joseph

Founded by Joseph Robidoux	1826
First known as "Blacksnake Hills," later as "Robidoux's Landing."	
Christened by Robidoux from his patron saint, St. Joseph.	
Famous Pony Express from St. Joseph to Sacramento	1860
Incorporated as a village	1845
Incorporated as a city	1851
Population (1860)	8,932
Population (1910)	77,403
Area of city in square miles	13
Assessed valuation of property	\$38,490,590
Bonded indebtedness	\$1,220,250
Sinking fund	\$34,778
Net debt	\$1,185,472
Cash disbursements	\$539,497
Main Library (built by School District), erected	1902
Carnegie Branch (given by Andrew Carnegie), erected	1903
Washington Park Branch (given by Andrew Carnegie), erected	1910
Number of volumes in Library, May, 1911	57,309
Number of volumes lent for home use, 1910-11	230,475
Circulation of books per capita	2.97
Total number of registered borrowers	11,371
Average loan for each book	4
City appropriation for the Library, 1910-11	\$21,000

Twenty-first Annual Report of the St. Joseph Public Library St. Joseph, Missouri 1910-1911



Twenty-first Annual Report
of the
St. Joseph Public Library

For the Year Ending
April 30, 1911

St. Joseph, Missouri
June, 1911

**To the Honorable Mayor and the Common Council of the
City of St. Joseph, Missouri:**

Gentlemen: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the St. Joseph Public Library, I herewith transmit the report of the Public Library Department for the year beginning May 1, 1910, and ending April 30, 1911.

It is gratifying to report a steady growth within the institution and a corresponding increase in its usefulness to the citizens of St. Joseph. The work has been extended by means of the new Washington Park Branch and various items within this report are proof of the increased use of all three of the Libraries. There can be no estimate made of the value to this community of a good working library system, and but little idea can be expressed of the credit that is reflected upon St. Joseph throughout the country by means of the Library's excellent reputation.

Much remains to be accomplished in the way of furnishing practical books for those employed in our varied industries, in supplying the children of St. Joseph with more of the very best of juvenile reading and in equipping well our reference department to meet the increasing demands made upon it as a Bureau of Information for the entire city. Experience has shown us that we can scarcely advance with this increasing work without larger appropriation of funds and that each addition will yield returns out of all proportion to the amount appropriated.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. McCORD,
Vice-President.

June 8, 1911.



Library Staff

Charles E. Rush	Librarian
Lulu C. Senter	Assistant Librarian
Clara B. Davis	Stenographer
Eudora L. Martin	Chief, Classification Department
Lilian C. Kerr	Chief, Reference Department
Mary L. Reichert	Chief, Catalogue Department
Jessie M. Gibson	Chief, Accession Department
Bessie L. McCoy	Chief, Children's Department
Elizabeth Hull	Assistant, Children's Department
Glen Files	Page, Children's Department
Jennie K. Willson	Chief, Loan Department
Joseph Mann	Assistant, Loan Department
Emma Bock	Assistant, Loan Department
Marjorie Adriance	Assistant, Loan Department
May Guymon	Page, Loan Department
Herbert Campbell	Messenger, Loan Department
Louise Randall	Librarian, Carnegie Branch
Anise Sandford	Librarian, Washington Park Branch
Martha Brown	Assistant, Washington Park Branch
Elizabeth Eckel	Apprentice
Helen Pfeiffer	Apprentice
Mabel Hull	Apprentice
Louise Floyd	Apprentice
Rose Nash	Apprentice

Board of Library Directors

James H. McCord	Term expires 1911
Rabbi Louis Bernstein	Term expires 1911
Smith A. Penney	Term expires 1911
J. W. Atwill	Term Expires 1912
Charles A. Pfeiffer	Term Expires 1912
Rt. Rev. Maurice F. Burke	Term expires 1912
Charles P. Cargill	Term expires 1913
Henry Krug, Jr.	Term expires 1913
Rev. Henry Bullard	Term expires 1913

Officers of the Board

President	J. W. Atwill
Vice-President	James H. McCord
Secretary-Treasurer	Charles A. Pfeiffer
Assistant Secretary	Charles E. Rush

Standing Committees

Library	Messrs. McCord, Bullard, Atwill
Administration	Messrs. Cargill, Pfeiffer, Bernstein
Building and Grounds	Messrs. Penney, Burke, Krug
Finance	Messrs. Pfeiffer, Cargill, Penney
By-laws	Messrs. Bernstein, Burke, Krug

The Year's Work

The resignation of Mr. Purd B. Wright as Librarian of this Library and his acceptance of the position of Librarian of the Los Angeles, California, Public Library was by far the greatest change of the year. As one of the originators of the Public Library movement here in St. Joseph, as one of the struggling Library's first firm friends, and as its administrative head for fourteen years, Mr. Wright has accomplished a work of unique character and distinct success, bringing to him and to the Library worthy recognition from abroad.

Desiring to place on record their appreciation of Mr. Wright's services the Board of Library Directors adopted resolutions of esteem, of which the following is a part:

"Resolved, That we regret the severance of his connection with our Library after fourteen years of faithful administration of this institution, but congratulate him on his promotion to the position which gives him larger scope for his indefatigable efforts in promoting library work. His connection with our Library, practically from its inception, and his wonderful devotion to its up-building have called forth the greatest admiration and approval of our people. Each one of us feels that he has sustained a personal loss in the removal of Mr. Wright from our city, and in his new home we, individually and collectively, wish him the highest success."

It has been a rare pleasure to succeed so worthy a Librarian in a well-organized, active and practical Library. The loyal support of an interested, broad-thinking Board of Directors, the enthusiastic assistance of a hard-working staff, the thoughtfulness of Library patrons and friends, the harmonious conditions both within and without the Library, and the courtesies extended to the Library by members of the press have made these first few months pleasant ones for the present Librarian. For this splendid support no mere formal expression of appreciation can suffice.

Since the new appointment was made for July 15, 1910, and Mr. Wright's resignation took effect on the 31st of July, this report covers three months of the latter's administration.

The new Washington Park Branch was opened informally on June 27, 1910, and its marked success has far exceeded all expectations. Details of the construction and arrangement of the building

may be found in the preceding annual report. Visiting librarians have declared it to be of unusual value for the money invested. The surrounding community has responded with enthusiasm in its use of the Library. All home circulating books have been issued on an average of more than six times in the ten months, and it is interesting to note that the juvenile circulation has exceeded the adult circulation.

Important changes have been made in the rules and regulations for the loan of books in all of the Libraries. At the loan desk much red tape, so annoying to patrons, has been removed. The use of the guarantor's signature for all adult applicants has been deemed unnecessary here in St. Joseph and has been no longer required. The beneficial effects of this new rule have been greater than anticipated. No loss has been felt by the Library. The percentage of new applicants has greatly increased and the Library has gained unknown numbers of new friends and firmer old friends by the innovation. Patrons may now draw more than two books at a time, instead of being limited to the former number of two. Borrowers' cards are not subject to renewal until the expiration of four years, instead of two, as under the previous rules.

Considerable attention has been given to arousing further interest in the Library by advertising the Library's assets and its new liberal policies. The newspapers of the city have done their full share of this, and the Library has printed and distributed simple, concise statements of regulations and suggestions. The most unusual method was a series of window displays, consisting of books, posters and the various publications of the Library, in a prominent down town office building on a busy street corner. The posters called the passer-by's attention to the funds of the Library, to the source of these funds, to a comparison of the funds of other departments with those of the Library and of other cities with St. Joseph; to special collections of books on industrial subjects; to books dealing with live questions of the day, etc. This display produced probably more immediate results in increased registration than any one other method.

This year, for the first time, an apprentice class has been trained in the Library. Five girls passed the entrance examination and will finish the six months' course on the 5th day of May. The work has been under the direct supervision of Mrs. Rush, and practical instruction has been given in the different departments. Lectures by the Librarian and heads of departments were also given to the class and various members of the staff three times a week. Unusual ability has been developed during the course, and two of

Financial Statement

Receipts

City apportionment	\$ 20,037.35
Library collections	1,774.52
Special account	1,059.19
Total	\$22,871.06

Expenditures

Books	\$ 3,796.26
Periodicals	790.15
Binding	1,358.82
Salaries	10,852.93
Janitor service	1,438.78
Heat	630.61
Light	231.99
Furniture	410.15
Printing and stationery	384.80
Miscellaneous	963.86
Balance appropriated for books	2,012.71
Total	\$22,871.06

Building Fund

Washington Park Branch

Received from subscription	\$ 2,641.50
Received from Andrew Carnegie	25,000.00
Total	\$27,641.50
Expended by order of Board	27,348.43
Balance appropriated for books	\$ 293.07

These tables have been condensed from the extended reports, verified by affidavits, of the Treasurer and Librarian now on file in the office of the City Auditor.

The credit for the attractive appearance of the building from within and without, for the practical ideas in the interior arrangement and the successful operation of the Library itself is due entirely to the untiring efforts of the former Librarian.

Lest We Forget. The future is always full of anticipation and glad hope. The coming year will hardly be otherwise than one of greater growth and usefulness. However well the work of the present may be done the needs of the future cannot be overlooked. It will be a pleasure to face them immediately with the assurance that they will be successfully met with little delay.

The usual need of the Library is that of more books per inhabitant, and this will be especially felt in the next year at Washington Park Branch, but the special need at present is the strengthening of the Main Library and a concentration of the work there. The need of larger quarters for the reference department is imperative and increased seating capacity in the children's department will soon be in demand. A change from delivery stations to deposit stations will be welcomed in the future by both patrons and Librarian.

Lest we forget the greatest need of all we hasten to mention the impossibility of being the greatest benefit to this community with only the very minimum amount of money permitted by the charter that is allotted to the Library Department in the annual apportionment, and to invite a comparison of this amount with similar funds in progressive cities of the same class as St. Joseph. What other public institution in St. Joseph, or in any city, exerts greater efforts to better and enlarge its work, widen its influence and increase its value to the entire city than that of the Public Library?

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the fine spirit of co-operation and the support of all the members of the Board of Directors and the Library Staff, realizing that their never-failing interest, help and consideration has been unusual in degree and quality.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. RUSH.
Librarian.

the five will seek further library training next year in regular library schools.

Another innovation in the St. Joseph Library, new as a regular feature, was the Story Hour. The intention was to attract new patrons from the children of the city and to suggest to them better reading through the stories. Care was taken not to carry the feature too far, thereby stinting the influence of the Story Hour and robbing the Library of valuable time. At the Main Library eight stories were told in January and February, but at both of the branches the stories were continued into the month of March. For each story the invitation was limited to a certain school district for the purpose of regulating and placing a premium upon the attendance. Fairy tales and folk stories were told to children of eight years and under, while Norse myths and German legends were told to the older boys and girls. The total attendance at the stories for the three Libraries was 2,614 children.

The Library was represented by Mr. Wright at the 1910 conference of the American Library Association, held in July at Mackinac Island, Michigan, and by the present Librarian and Miss Martin at the Missouri Library Association meeting held at Springfield, Missouri, in November.

A certain wise man once stated that there were three kinds of lies, namely, lies, lies and statistics. In this report there has been an attempt to avoid an uninteresting array of these three classes of misleading statements. However, a few figures may serve to indicate the present standing of the St. Joseph Library and of its progress during the past year. Special note should be made of the increases in circulation and registration, the circulation per capita for the entire population and the work of the Washington Park Branch.

Total number of volumes, April 30, 1911.....	57,309
Number of volumes added during the year.....	5,397
Total circulation of books for home use	230,475
Increase in circulation over previous year.....	23,805
Population of St. Joseph	77,403
Circulation per capita	2.97
Percentage of fiction circulated	67
Total number of registered borrowers	11,371
Increase in number of registered borrowers	2,680
Total circulation at Carnegie Branch	23,488
Increase in circulation at Carnegie Branch	2,743
Total circulation at Washington Park Branch	28,108
Circulation per borrower at Washington Park Branch..	20.97
Average loan of each book at Washington Park Branch.	6

Office. Few changes in the staff outside of the position of Librarian were made during the year. The transfer of Miss Senter from the position of Librarian of the Carnegie Branch to the Main Library to take charge of the recataloging work was of importance. The faithfulness, enthusiasm and ability with which Miss Senter has promoted the work in Carnegie Branch since 1903 has been of an unusual order and deserving of high commendation. Miss Louise Randall, a graduate of the Wisconsin Library School, was secured in July as a special cataloguer, but in January she was promoted to the position held by Miss Senter at Carnegie Branch. The position of Branch Librarian has been made of more importance, and greater responsibility has been given to those who have been so appointed. Miss Sandford was appointed Librarian of the Washington Park Branch at its opening in June, and Miss Brown was transferred as an assistant to the same branch and given special charge of the children's work. Miss Marjorie Adriance, late of the St. Louis Public Library, was appointed a general assistant in August.

A vacation of a month, instead of two weeks, has been granted to the members of the staff, and also one day each month for sick leave. The number of hours per week has been reduced from forty-eight to forty-four hours, allowing a half day off each week without extra work.

A lunch and rest room was attractively furnished in November and has increased the general comfort of the staff.

New postal forms for notices, fine requests, etc., were drawn up and printed. Constant use has been made of the new staff bulletin board. Two new typewriters, typewriter desks and chairs and various other pieces of furniture, including two bulletin boards and a vertical file case were purchased for use at the Main Library.

Through the courtesy of Schroeder's book store artistic post cards of the Library buildings and interiors were placed on the market. At Christmas time holiday greetings from the Board of Directors, the Librarian and Staff in the form of attractively printed cards were distributed among the Library patrons.

Five original paintings, together with the books which they illustrated, were loaned to the Library in December by the Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company of Boston, Massachusetts, for an exhibition of unusual interest.

The additions of books for the year by purchase numbered 4,412, by periodicals bound 454, and by gifts 731, making a total of

books during the year. The new rules which went into effect in March account for the splendid gain over previous years. It is interesting to note, however, that the closing of the Library two evenings and one morning a week since July has not affected the circulation in the least.

The books circulating from the children's room numbered 9,864 volumes, a gain of 1,036 over last year. Special attention has been given to this work by Miss Randall with splendid success. The Story Hour has been featured for the lower grades, and the interest shown by the teachers and patrons as well as by the children themselves has been very encouraging.

There was a noticeable increase in reference work. The work of reclassifying the old books and of changing the shelf list from sheets to cards has been carried on as rapidly as the pressure of current work allowed. An attempt has been made to create greater interest in the station at the Swift plant. There were 464 books issued there during the year.

Washington Park Branch. The informal opening of the new building occurred on June 23, 1910, and four days later books were issued to 141 registered readers. Within ten months the registrations increased to 1,340, and the circulation of books for home use reached the number of 28,108, making an average use of 20.97 books for each borrower. This figure of 20.97 books per borrower and the figure of 6 loans per book make the best of evidence in statistics of the need of the branch in the community and of the success with which the need has been met. The non-fiction percentage of 30 is very gratifying for the first year.

The Branch contains now 4,474 books, of which 1,259 were added during the year. The juvenile department has been emphasized, and a large use has been made of it. With 1,206 books suitable for use of the children it is interesting to compare the juvenile circulation of 14,229 books with the adult circulation of 13,879. Special attention was given to a restricted series of stories to the children, and the total attendance of 675 indicated its popularity and value.

Excellent work was accomplished in the reference department, made possible by an unusually good collection of bound magazines and the timely purchase of needed reference books.

Catalogue Department. Library of Congress cards have been used whenever possible, except in the children's department, for which the cards have been typewritten. The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Library cards have been used as models for the latter, and many analytics have been made to facilitate the work in that Department.

All of the cards for the Washington Park Branch were written and filed before the opening day. Cards for the publications of the U. S. Geological Survey were prepared and filed. Besides the cataloging of new titles the work of recataloging certain classes of the older books has been continued with considerable progress.

Such changes as the discontinuance of the listing of all new titles for the Bulletin, the revision of the catalogue rules in dropping several non-essential points of detail, and abandoning the record of the number of written cards were made.



Carnegie Branch. Carnegie Branch closed its ninth year with an excellent report of growth in every department. During the year 507 books were added to the collection, making a total number of 7,791 volumes. The total circulation amounted to 23,488 books, an increase of 2,743 over last year. The number of borrowers now using the Library is 1,462, and with the former figures it is estimated that every borrower has taken an average of 16

5,397. A total of 779 damaged and lost books were withdrawn. The total number of 57,309 books in the Library at the close of this report does not include the 10,383 books in the School Supplementary Reading Collection furnished by the School Board. The number of volumes rebound by binderies in St. Joseph was 2,630, at a cost of \$1,358.82.

During the year several valuable donations of books were made to the Library by citizens of St. Joseph and outside friends. Among the donors of the more notable gifts were: Rev. Henry Bullard, Mr. Stoughton Walker, Mr. Francis B. Purdie, Dr. Daniel Morton, Mr. W. W. Wheeler, Mr. J. C. Wyatt, Mr. E. S. Douglas, Mrs. James N. Burnes, Miss Irma Kraft, Mr. Purd B. Wright and the St. Joseph Ad Club.



Reference Department. The report of the work of the Reference Department for the past year is most gratifying. The remarkable growth in the use of the reference books by out-of-town residents continues, students coming from Tarkio, Camden Point, Mound City, Cameron, Highland, Savannah and elsewhere, while many questions have been received and answered through the mail.

The work with the clubs, the missionary societies, debating societies, high school and grammar schools has increased. Aside from this is the constant demand upon the department by those who are looking up questions of daily occurrence.

A number of new books have been added to the collection. Among them are Nelson's Perpetual Loose-Leaf Encyclopedia, Hastings's Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, The Documentary History of American Industrial Society, Julian's Dictionary of Hymnology, Almanach de Gotha, American Yearbook, Mudge and Sear's Thackeray Dictionary, the works of Schiller, Goethe, Macaulay,

Bret Harte, and Moliere in good editions, the supplement to the Century Dictionary, The South in the Building of the Nation, Monroe's Cyclopedia of Education, Proceedings and Yearbook of the Playground Association and Moorehead's Stone Age of North America.

Many special lists of books and articles on topics of interest have been made and several have been printed for general distribution. An extended list prepared for the use of the Boy Scouts of America was especially well received, until the list was reprinted by the Minnesota Library Commission. Other lists treated of flower parades, playgrounds, southern reading, liquor problem, deep water-way to the gulf, good fiction seldom read, bedtime stories, medical inspection of schools, home building, practical books for practical boys, etc.

The St. Joseph newspapers have been clipped of items of local interest and filed by subject. Only a small use has been made of this feature.

To increase the use of the Library as a "free university" and to encourage a systematic study of special subjects, forms were printed to secure the names of those who desired to pursue courses of reading and to get an idea of the amount of reading already done. Below these items space was left for the reference librarian to recommend other books to be read in a certain prescribed order. This plan was appreciated at once, and its success was immediate.



Children's Department. The circulation of juvenile books for home reading for the past year shows a slight decrease at the Main Library, due entirely to the opening of the Washington Park Branch, which greatly relieved congested conditions at our present quarters for the children. However, in several other lines the work has met with very gratifying results.

There has been a noticeable increase in the reference work with the children of the fifth and sixth grades, and a decided increase in the circulation of non-fiction books, due to the granting

of non-fiction cards to the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. More liberal privileges were granted to the teachers, who made a far greater use of the books in their class rooms.

The school stations, four in number and two less than the previous year, have given much satisfaction. Instruction in the use of books has been given to both teachers and pupils, and plans are being made for extending this work next year.

The collection of 10,383 supplementary reading books provided by the School district and distributed by the Library reached a total circulation of 22,009. To this collection 2,148 new volumes were added since the last report.

Preceding the Christmas holidays an exhibition of attractive editions of books recommended as gifts for children was held in the main lobby. The collection was later transferred to the children's room, where it is shelved as a permanent exhibit for the use of parents and teachers. Another exhibit of unusual interest was made of Boy Scout books, bulletins and paraphernalia secured largely from Glasgow, Scotland.

The success of the Story Hour in its restricted use, as mentioned before, cannot be doubted. The average attendance at the Main Library was 103.

Loan Department. Previous note has been made of the important changes in the rules for the loan of books. New regulations were also made regarding the collection of fines, the registration signature, the reservation of non-fiction, the filing of cards and the exchange of books on the same day as borrowed.

A loose leaf binder containing a record of the new books in classified order was arranged as a good substitute for the quarterly bulletin formerly printed for distribution. The demand for the bulletin was not sufficient to warrant the expense of printing and mailing it. The heavy turnstiles at the Loan desk were removed.

Among the circulation statistics it was found that the largest monthly circulation of books occurred during the month of March, and that the number of books circulated on Sunday amounted to 9,166. In a comparison of the largest classes of books of non-fiction read at the three Libraries it is of interest to note that the Main Library led in literature, Carnegie Branch in history and Washington Park Branch in travel.