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The Founding of Social and Public Libraries In Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Through 1850

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When any library is founded, its establishment can usually be traced to the thoughts and actions of a few people. But behind and around these people must be an environment which encourages--or at least permits--the existence of libraries. The present study is concerned with some social, economic, and political conditions of the early Middle West and their relationship to the founding of social and public libraries.

In this study the procedure has been: 1.) to establish the time and place of founding of as many as possible of the social and public libraries which existed in the area through the year 1850; 2.) to name several conditions or situations which might have affected the time-and-place pattern of library founding; and 3.) to compare the time-and-place pattern which each condition might have produced with the pattern which actually existed.

The conditions which will be examined will be social, economic, and political ones--for example, the presence or absence of a frontier as measured by the density of population--rather than intellectual or emotional conditions. Historians have made some provocative generalizations about the movement of ideas into the early Middle West,¹ but these statements cannot easily be compared with the kinds of data on which the present study is based.

Before any conditions are examined, a few definitions are needed and something must be said about the sources of information about early Middle Western libraries.

The term "social and public libraries" is used in this study to include all libraries which were operated by a voluntary association or a unit of govern-

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ment for the use of adults or adults and children and which contained books on a variety of subjects. Few if any of the libraries established in Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois before 1851 should be considered "Public" in the strictest sense. The county libraries established in Indiana as a result of its Constitution of 1816 could have been public libraries. However, details are known about the management of only a few of them, and these few supplemented their meager income from public funds by charging fees for their use. One, at least, derived most of its income from interest on loans which it made to local citizens.²

This definition of "social and public" libraries is meant to include mechanics' and mercantile libraries because they usually had collections of a fairly general nature. It is considered as excluding the collections owned by medical, legal, and historical societies which were more often specialized in content.

The term "founding" should be defined because it may be used for any of three kinds of events: 1.) the meeting at which a group of people decides to form a library and elects officers; 2.) the incorporation of the group (in other words, the granting of a charter); and 3.) the opening of the library for use. These three events ordinarily come within a year or two of each other. In the present study, if a choice is to be made, the date of the organizational meeting is used. This choice is based on the assumption that meeting together is the act which most clearly expresses an intent to form a library. If the study were concerned with the effects of the presence of libraries, the date of opening would be more appropriate.

The emphasis on founding date should be explained. Why not consider some other part of the career of each library? Or the entire life of each library? The use of the founding date seems justified because, for almost all of these early libraries, it is the only date which can be related to an interest in library affairs. The date when a library ceased to exist is much less significant because many libraries were moribund for several years before their contents were sold, or were distributed among the members, or were turned over to some new group which wished to start a library.

The year 1850 is used in this study as a terminal date because the decade of the 1850's saw several new developments in the social and educational life of the three states and saw the widespread establishment of working men's libraries, township libraries, and similar institutions which were rare before 1850. Furthermore, a large number of the libraries founded in the 1850's came into being through the efforts of a small group of idealists. No one person had nearly as much influence on the founding of libraries before 1850 as did the philanthropist William Maclure or the educational reformer Caleb Mills on the founding of libraries between 1850 and 1860.

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For information about the founding of social and public libraries in these three states before 1851, the most useful sources are printed and manuscript studies of the library history or the educational history of individual states and communities.³⁻⁹ The present study is based on them together with some information supplied by about seventy librarians through correspondence. The three finest national lists for the period¹⁰⁻¹² were of little use. Out of the total of 293 libraries included in the study, they supplied data on only seven which were not mentioned in state or local sources. United States Census material on American libraries before 1880 is incomplete, misleading in its terminology, and far too generalized to be of any use in the present study. County histories, for the most part, either fail to mention libraries or give information that is easily obtainable elsewhere.

By means of the information obtained from printed and manuscript sources, the exact year of founding has been established for 293 libraries. Other libraries are known to have existed but correspondence with librarians in their towns has failed to produce a founding date.

Social, Economic, and Political Conditions

There were at least eight social, economic, or political conditions which may have been related to the founding of social and public libraries in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois before 1851.

1. The change from frontier to settled areas. This change may have operated in any one of at least three ways: (a) There may have been a fairly low density of population at which conditions were right for the establishment of libraries and few libraries may have been established in areas which had passed this optimum density point. This pattern would be found if the farmers and townsmen who bought land from the restless back-woodsmen also brought with them the idea of libraries. The libraries which they established soon after their arrival may have been able to serve the area with greater efficiency as increasing density of population brought improved transportation facilities. If this was so, there was little or no need for new libraries in areas where population had become dense. (b) On the other hand, libraries are most often found in towns and cities. Towns were few and widely scattered on the frontier, so libraries may not have appeared until population became relatively dense. (c) If both of the forces mentioned above were at work or if there was little direct relationship between population density and library founding, then we may find that libraries were being founded at all times in areas that were sparsely populated as well as in those that were of medium density and in ones that were densely populated.

2. Speed of population growth. Perhaps the faster-growing communities started libraries as an expression of their progressiveness. Or was it mainly in the slowly developing areas that people had the time and inclination to form

library societies? Or was the speed of population growth unrelated to the frequency of library founding?

3. The origin of immigration. Settlers from the New England states had the reputation of being more interested in educational and cultural affairs than did the people coming from southern states, while settlers from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania seem to have been somewhere between the extremes in amount of interest. And some parts of New England were more densely covered with social libraries than were any other sections of the United States. Did this mean that where New Englanders settled, libraries sprang up quickly and that areas of southern settlement had fewer libraries? What about immigrants from foreign countries? Did the sociable, musical, intellectually inclined Germans quickly establish libraries in their settlements along the Ohio River?

4. Business cycles. In New England, it is quite clear that many social libraries were formed when business was prospering and that few were formed during periods of lower prices and less business activity.¹³ Did the same thing happen in the Middle West or did its distance from commercial centers and its agricultural economy tend to reduce or negate the effects of business cycles?

5. The increase in per capita income. As the general level of comfort rose, did people establish more and more libraries? Or did the early libraries take care of all library needs in later years by enlarging their collections and thus make new libraries unnecessary?

6. Legislation. The governments in all three states set up requirements for the incorporation of social libraries and as we have seen, Indiana's first constitution provided for county libraries. Did the legal requirements for incorporation encourage or discourage establishment? Did the early presence of public libraries in Indiana make the pattern for that state different from the patterns for the other two? Did laws which encouraged the establishment of school district libraries tend to cause people to lose interest in social and public libraries?

7. The presence of colleges. At least thirty-seven towns in these three states had colleges before 1851. Were libraries and colleges likely to be located in the same towns? If so, which of the two institutions came first?

8. The presence of lyceums. Did the lyceum movement which began in the late 1820's tend to stimulate the establishment of libraries? Or did lyceums with their live lecturers tend to replace libraries with their inanimate offerings?

The Change From Frontier to Settled Areas

In order to find out whether social and public libraries were established mainly on the frontier or mainly in densely populated areas, it is first necessary

to discover the density of population in the area where each library was founded. The decennial population density maps issued by the U. S. Census Bureau and published in revised form in Paullin's Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States¹⁴ provide the most satisfactory data on the density of population at any time during the period studied. Paullin's maps are shaded to show these six density classes: under 2 inhabitants per square mile; 2 to 6 inhabitants per square mile; 6 to 18; 18 to 45; 45 to 90; and 90 and over. These classes would be more respectable from a statistician's viewpoint if they were all mutually exclusive, reading, for example, "2 to 5; 6 to 17; 18 to 45" and so on. For the present study, however, their slight ambiguity is not a serious drawback.

The significance of these classes is clearer if we think of some states having average densities which fall within each of the classes at the present time. Only one state, Nevada, had fewer than two inhabitants per square mile in 1950. Wyoming was one of the three western states which fell within the 2 to 6 density class; the Dakotas were in the 6 to 18 class; Kansas and Vermont were in the 18 to 45 class; Georgia and most other southern states were in the 45 to 90 class; and twelve states, including the three in the present study, had passed the 90 mark.

The density maps in Paullin's Atlas show the density class only for every tenth year, so a problem arises if a library was founded in some non-decennial year in an area that fell within one density class at the beginning of the decade and within a higher class at the end. For example, the Galena (Illinois) Library Association was organized in 1835. Its area had from two to six inhabitants per square mile in 1830 and from six to eighteen in 1840. How should it be counted? The only safe way is to make one set of calculations based on the assumption that the population density in each library's area was that of the beginning of the decade when the library was founded and then to make another set of calculations based on the assumption that the population density was that of the area at the end of the founding decade. If the two sets of calculations give results which are in substantial agreement, it is safe to draw conclusions based on them.

In studying the relationship of population density to the founding of libraries, one of the 293 libraries has been omitted. The Belpré Library (or "Putnam family library") was founded in 1796, and was the only recorded social library in the region before the nineteenth century. In this part of the study, comparison will be made between the groups of libraries founded in each decade, and the single library in this early decade obviously cannot qualify as a "group."

In the present study, when the density of population immediately before and after the founding of each library had been found, the next step was to count

the number of libraries in each density class. One count was based on the population density at the time of the census before the date of founding and a second count was based on the density at the time of the census which followed the founding. The results of both counts are shown in Table I.

The first line in Table I is to be read this way: when the population density map for the census year before the founding of each library is used, eighteen libraries may be considered as having been founded in areas where the population was under two inhabitants per square mile. When the density map for the census year after the founding of each library is used, no library may be considered as having been founded in an area where the density of population was under two inhabitants per square mile.

Both columns in Table I show that few libraries were founded in areas which were very thinly settled or in areas that were very densely populated. But the second column shows a tendency towards concentration in the higher densities. For example, it shows a larger number of libraries in the 45 to 90 density class than in any other class whereas the first column shows a larger number in the 18 to 45 class. This tendency is to be expected in areas of rapid growth. As we shall see later, many libraries were founded in areas which moved from one density class to the next higher class during the census decades in which they were established.

Table I

Population Density at Time of Founding of Social and Public Libraries
in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, 1801-1850

Inhabitants per square mile	Number of libraries, based on census map	
	For census year before date of founding	For census year after date of founding
Under 2	17
2-6	35	10
6-18	73	34
18-45	91	101
45-90	63	125
90 and over	13	22
TOTAL	292	292

Table I shows that there was no low density of population where conditions brought about the establishment of libraries as suggested earlier in this paper in condition number 1a. The libraries established on the frontier were not suf-

ficient when areas became more densely settled. But Table I does not show whether condition 1b or 1c predominated. Is it possible that the concentration of libraries in areas of medium density existed simply because there were more areas of medium density than of other densities?

An estimate of the portion of the three state area within each of the six population density classes was obtained for the present study by projecting transparent slides of Paullin's density maps on to squared paper. The points of intersection of the vertical and horizontal lines on the paper produced an evenly distributed group of check points on the projected maps. The density of population at each of these check points was then recorded. The density at approximately eighty-five points on each map was noted, making a total for the six maps (1800 through 1850) of more than five hundred points. It was found that almost exactly two-fifths of the points were in areas of less than two inhabitants per square mile.

Since Table I shows that very few libraries were established in areas with fewer than two inhabitants per square mile, and since the remaining question involves mainly the medium and higher densities, Table II includes only the population density points and the libraries for areas of two or more inhabitants per square mile. The first column in the table shows the distribution among the five density classes of approximately three hundred evenly distributed points on the maps. The second and third columns are based on the corresponding numbers in the two columns of Table I.

Table II

Population Density in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, 1800-1850
Compared with Density in Areas Where Social
and Public Libraries Were Being Founded

Inhabitants per Square mile	Entire Region	Places where libraries were being founded, based on census map	
		For census year before date of founding	For census year after date of founding
	%	%	%
2-6	23.2	12.7	3.4
6-18	31.3	26.6	11.7
18-45	31.6	33.1	34.6
45-90	13.2	22.9	42.8
90 and over	.7	4.7	7.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table II shows that the tendency for libraries to be founded in areas of medium density corresponds to the relatively larger areas of medium density. However, for the two lowest density classes, the percentages in the column for the entire area are noticeably higher than the percentages in either of the columns for library areas. And for the two highest density classes, exactly the reverse is true; both of the columns for library areas show percentages which are higher than the percentages in the column for the entire area. These differences in percentages show that if an area of high population density is compared with an equal area where density is lower, the chances are that libraries are being founded more rapidly in the area where the density is greater.

Speed of Population Growth

Was the speed of growth of settlement related to the founding of libraries? The rate of growth of population in library-founding areas can be measured in a rough way by counting the number of libraries which were founded in areas that stayed in the same density class during the decade in which they were founded, then counting the libraries founded in areas that moved from one density class to the next higher density class, then counting the ones in areas that jumped up two classes during the decade, and so on. The class "90 and over" is not completely comparable to the other five classes because it is the highest class and therefore any areas that enter it will never move to a higher class even though their density increases greatly. Therefore, the class "90 and over" was largely eliminated from consideration by studying the speed of population growth for only the 216 libraries, founded from 1800 through 1850, whose areas, at the beginning of the decades when they were founded, had not already gone beyond the "18 to 45" population density class.

Considering only these 216 libraries, there were 40, or 18.5 per cent which were in areas staying in the same density class during the decade in which they were founded. There were 146, or 67.6 per cent, of the libraries which were founded in areas which moved during the decade from one population class to the next higher, and 27, or 12.5 per cent, in areas which moved into the second class above within the decade. Three libraries, or 1.4 per cent, all in Chicago, were founded during decades when their area moved up more than two classes. Clearly, libraries were seldom founded in areas of unusually slow growth or unusually rapid growth and were often founded in areas where the population was increasing at an average rate.

But could the pattern for the speed of growth of the population have been the same in all areas as it was in areas where libraries were being founded? The only available figures which indicate the speed of growth for the entire region are the census figures for the mean density of population in

each state at each decennial year. Within the years between 1800 and 1850 these census figures provide the basis for fourteen instances in which a state could have stayed in the same population density class or could have moved to some higher one. In five of these instances, or thirty-six per cent, the density of population remained within a single class. In the other nine instances, or sixty-four per cent, the state moved from one density class to the next higher class. No state jumped from one density class to the second class above during any decade.

The speed of population growth in the library-founding areas can be roughly compared with the speed of growth in the entire region by saying that in both the library-founding areas and in the region as a whole, the speed was such that in about two-thirds of the instances, an area or state moved from one population class to the next higher class. Beyond that point the statistics will not take us. If density figures for the entire region were separately available for individual small areas, counties for example, some of these small areas would undoubtedly be seen to have jumped from one density class to the second higher above within a decade. Then the figures for the speed of population growth for the entire region might be quite similar to the figures for areas where libraries were being founded. At any rate it is safe to say that the areas where libraries were being founded were, on the average, growing as rapidly as the entire region. And there was no tendency for libraries to be more frequently founded in areas of unusually slow or unusually rapid growth.

Origin of Immigration

New Englanders, generally speaking settled a strip across the northern edge of all three states in addition to other scattered areas. Southerners came up into much of Ohio, most of Indiana, and approximately the southern two-thirds of Illinois. People from the Middle Atlantic states were more numerous than New Englanders in Ohio; fewer of them went on to Indiana and Illinois. Of course many communities had representatives from all three groups of states; the mixing of population increased toward the end of the period.

The areas settled by New Englanders are shown on maps, one for each decade in L. K. Mathews' book, The Expansion of New England.¹⁷ The present writer does not know of any series of maps that distinguish between Southern and Middle Atlantic settlements. This latter distinction is relatively less important than the distinction between New Englanders and non-New Englanders because many southerners came to the region from small farms in Virginia and Kentucky where conditions were somewhat like those in New York and Pennsylvania.

In the present study, the significance of a New England background for the founding of social and public libraries was tested by preparing a series of maps of the three-state area, one map for each decade, with each map containing a dot for every library founded during its decade. A comparison of this series

of maps with Mathews' maps showed that although New Englanders settled less than a third of the entire area, well over half of the libraries were founded in regions settled by them.

The maps provide further evidence of the importance of a New England origin. The heaviest concentration of library dots appears in the years between 1825 and the early 1840's (see Figure 1.) and during these years dots were much the thickest in the Western Reserve area of northern Ohio where Yankee settlements were unusually thick.

People who came directly to these three states from Europe seem to have been responsible for the founding of very few of the social and public libraries in the first half of the nineteenth century. The largest national group was the German-speaking one. A famous library was organized by German immigrants in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois, in 1836, but during the whole period only five other libraries can be identified as ones that were intended for German-speaking people. After the unsuccessful revolutions of 1848, German immigration increased and several libraries were to be founded in the 1850's. No other foreign language social libraries have been identified in the present study.

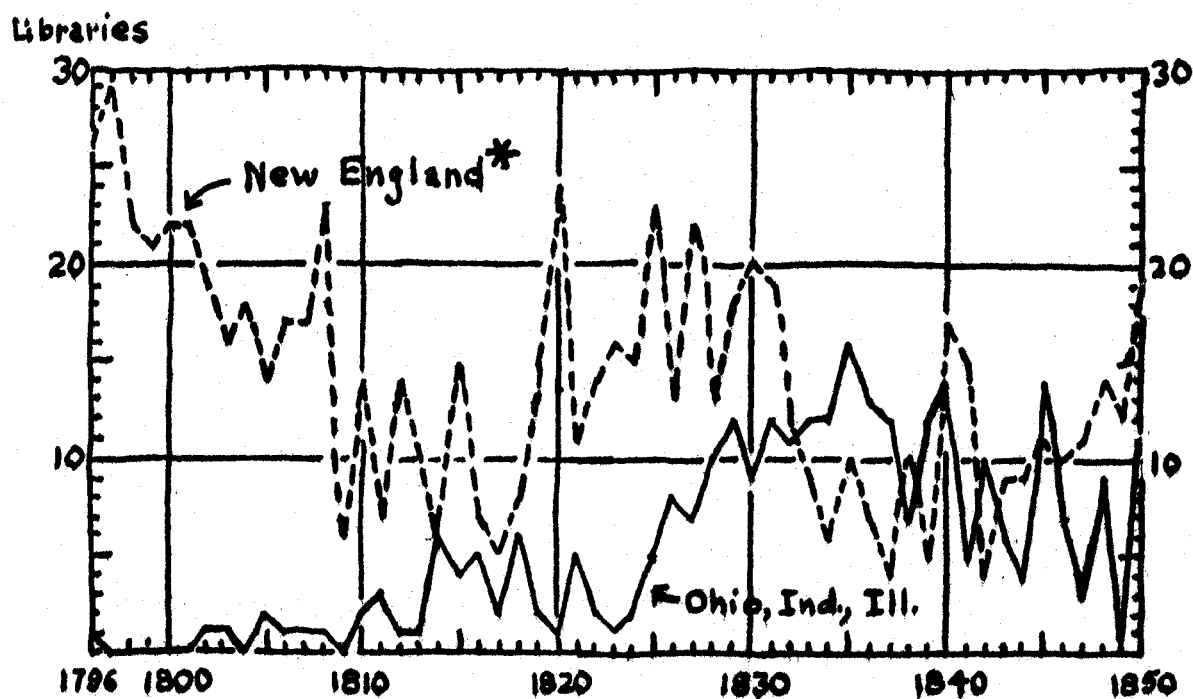
Business Cycles

There were so few libraries in the Middle West before the War of 1812 that the pre-war economic life of the region is of no significance for the present study.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ During that war there was some inflation but the banks were conservatively managed until 1815. This western region enjoyed a boom period between 1815 and 1819, and then was hit hard by the Panic of 1819, partly because too many people were buying land on credit. The full effect of the depression was felt in 1820, although there was little severe suffering. The early 1820's were years of hard times, but prosperity was on its way back by about 1825 and the early thirties were unusually brisk years for land sales, commodity prices, and business in general. The climax came in 1837, when a full-scale nationwide panic led to a long depression. Conditions improved in the last half of the 1840's but there was little prosperity before 1850. Over most of the period, business conditions in the three states were quite sensitive to economic trends in the rest of the country, but severe suffering in depressions was prevented by the ability of agriculture to feed the population.

In Figure 1, the curve of library foundings for the three Middle Western states fits the ups and downs of the business cycles well if we disregard the roughness of the library curve in the 1840's. The New England curve, although it is based on data which Jesse H. Shera has kindly lent to the writer, does not completely agree with figures in Plate IV in Shera's book, Foundations of the Public Library. The discrepancy is caused by differences in the two studies as to definitions and methods of counting founding dates. The disparity between

the New England and Middle Western curves from 1820 to the Panic of 1837 can be partly explained by the fact that the early West recovered from the effects of the Panic of 1819 more slowly than did the East and that inflationary tendencies during the early 1830's were more noticeable in the West than in the East. The library curves both remain fairly low in the 1840's; and, if the chart were extended, they would both be seen to rise in the 1850's as economic conditions improved. Clearly, people founded more libraries during times of prosperity and founded fewer during hard times.

Fig. 1. Distribution of Social and Public Libraries in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the New England States by Date of Founding, 1796-1850.



* Based on information supplied by J. H. Shera.

Increase in Per Capita Income

Little is known about changes in per capita income in the United States before the middle of the nineteenth century, and the few available figures make no distinction between different areas of the country. The existing estimates have been severely criticized by economists who admit that they cannot replace them with figures that are exact. 19, 20

The most detailed statistics are the ones published by the National Industrial Conference Board giving national per capita income in terms of dollars with 1926 purchasing power for decennial years from 1799 to 1849. 21

They show a drop from a per capita figure of \$216 in 1799 to a low point of \$164 in 1829 followed by a rise to a high point of \$235 in 1849 (all figures adjusted for changes in the cost of living). However, later studies of per capita wealth show a great increase during the period and imply that per capita income also increased noticeably during the period. On one scale, the "reproducible per capita wealth" (that is, wealth which was capable of producing income) in 1805 was \$166 and had risen to \$441 by 1850.²²

Whatever the national economic situation may have been, it is quite certain from what is known of the social history of the period that the level of comfort rose in the three states in question as frontier conditions disappeared and such factors as improved transportation and the beginning of local manufacturing brought new and more varied products into the Middle West. The curve for the founding of libraries in Figure 1 does not show the increase in later years that would have been present if the founding of libraries kept pace with the increase in per capita income which probably took place in this particular region. We must, therefore, conclude that there is no evidence of a close relationship between long-term changes in the economic well-being of individuals and the founding of social and public libraries in these three states. The business cycle, with its short-term ups and downs was clearly the dominating economic force.

Legislation

When the social and public libraries in this Middle Western region are arranged according to state, a startling contrast becomes evident. Of the 293 libraries in the study, 231 were in Ohio, 41 were in Indiana, and 21 were in Illinois. Of course, Ohio was settled before the other two states and had the largest population at every census during the period. But its number of libraries is far beyond the number that could be expected on the basis of population. Ohio, by 1850, had almost two million inhabitants, Indiana had almost a million, and Illinois, 850,000. Even if we compare Ohio in 1830, when its population was about the same as Indiana's in 1850, there is a discrepancy because eighty-three libraries had been founded in Ohio by 1830 in contrast to Indiana's 1850 total of forty-one.

Nor can the large number of Ohio libraries be accounted for on the basis of the nature of legislation about social libraries. In all three states, the legislatures early provided rules for the incorporation of social libraries and sometimes granted special charters to individual libraries. But in all three states, libraries were sometimes established without the formality of incorporation. None of this legislation is unusual in form or content, and there is no conclusive evidence that legislation concerning social libraries either encouraged or discouraged their establishment.

The only unusual legal enactments of the period were the provisions in the Indiana Constitution of 1816 and in subsequent legislation for the establishment of county libraries. However, these libraries make up only a small fraction in the present study. Sixty-seven of them were authorized by law,²³ and the present writer has found references stating or implying that at least twenty-three actually existed, but founding dates can be established with certainty for only ten.

Did the early interest in school district libraries affect the founding of social and public libraries in any way in these three states before 1851? Many of these school district libraries contained books of interest to adults, and adults were often permitted to use them, so it is possible that they could have taken the place of social libraries.^{24, 25} Indiana in 1837 was the first of the three states to pass a law permitting the formation of school libraries²⁶ but few if any libraries were established under this act. In Ohio, a similar act was passed in 1846²⁷ but there were few school district libraries there before the 1850's. In Illinois, there was not even a law by 1850. Even though effective legislation was to come later, it is of course possible that in the 1840's the intellectual leaders of the area were deeply engrossed in the struggle for educational reforms of all kinds, and had no time for social libraries.

There is, then, no evidence that legislation had a significant relationship to the founding of social and public libraries in these three states before 1851. It seems quite likely that the great difference between Ohio and the other two states in the number of libraries was due to differences in the origins of settlers and to differences in the economic and cultural condition of the country at the time of settlement.

The Presence of Colleges

Colleges, like social libraries, were among the agencies which brought a measure of culture to the frontier. Were the founding patterns of these two types of agencies alike or not?

If the colleges and libraries are grouped by state, the totals for the three states show some similarity. A study by D. G. Tewksbury is the most thorough study of the founding of colleges during these years,²⁸ but it gives the dates and towns for only those colleges which were still in existence in the 1920's. Tewksbury lists twenty-eight colleges established in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois before 1851. Lists of early libraries and other sources of information provide the names of more colleges with shorter life-spans and there were others for which dates and places cannot easily be found. Of the thirty-seven college towns, twenty were in Ohio, eleven in Indiana, and six in Illinois. During the same period, as we have seen, the recorded social and public libraries in Ohio came to 231, Indiana had 41, and Illinois had 21.

Why was Ohio's lead so much greater in respect to libraries than to colleges? The answer is possibly to be found in the geographical origins of the settlers for the different states. As we have seen, Ohio had many New Englanders who brought library habits with them. Colleges were founded mainly as religious enterprises; and of the denominations which founded the most colleges in the early Middle West, most were groups that were strong in the Middle Atlantic and Southern states rather than New England. Tewksbury credits the Presbyterians, who had few members in New England, with partial or complete responsibility for the establishment of seven permanent colleges in the three states through 1850. Congregationalists, a New England denomination, were second in number with six colleges. The Methodists, with membership scattered from New England to the South, founded five. The Baptists, also with scattered membership, founded three, and no other denomination founded more than two colleges.

When a town had both a social library and a college, which of the two was established first? Of the thirty-seven towns which had colleges, sixteen had social libraries. In each of the two towns where colleges were established very early (Athens, Ohio, with Ohio University founded as American Western University in 1802 and Oxford, Ohio, with Miami University founded in 1809), the college seems to have preceded any social library. In the other fourteen towns, a social library was established before the college was founded. In this respect, at least, the social library was more of a pioneering agency than was the college.

The Presence of Lyceums

The lyceum movement, which began to spread through the United States in the latter part of the 1820's, had many of the same cultural aims as did the library movement. Basically, the lyceums were associations formed for the purpose of holding discussions and hearing lectures. But many of the lyceums established libraries as one of their activities, and some of the social library associations began to conduct lecture series in order to make money for the purchase of books. Therefore, it is sometimes difficult to know whether an organization was primarily a library or a lyceum.

There is not enough information available about lyceums to form the basis for a statistical comparison of the two types of enterprises. However, some excellent historical studies contain useful generalizations about the pattern of founding of lyceums in these three states before 1851.^{29, 30}

Lyceums appeared in larger towns in Ohio almost as soon as in the East; Indiana and Illinois were not much slower, but had fewer of them. The movement started in New England in 1826; Boston's first lyceum was founded in 1828; and a famous one in Concord, Massachusetts, was established in 1829. In the West, Cincinnati's first one was founded in 1831; Indianapolis started one in 1832; and Springfield, Illinois, started one the next year. By 1845, sixty-one lyceums or similar organizations had been chartered in Ohio.

There is nothing in the available data about the founding of lyceums and libraries to show that the two were antagonistic. In Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, both agencies seem to have been manifestations of the same general movement toward cultural improvement. Their compatibility is indicated by these three situations: 1.) As the founding of lyceums got under way in the Middle West in the 1830's, there is no indication (in Fig. 1) that the founding of libraries declined. 2.) Of the three states, Ohio was most hospitable to both libraries and lyceums. 3.) Areas settled by northerners were fertile ground for both lyceums and libraries; neither type of institution prospered as well in regions settled by southerners.

Summary of Findings

During the first half of the nineteenth century, more social and public libraries in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois were founded in areas of medium population density than were founded in thinly settled areas or areas of unusually dense population. However, if we take into account the fact that much of the region was of medium population density, we see a tendency for libraries to have been founded somewhat more frequently in areas of high density than in areas of medium density. The areas where libraries were being founded were, on the average, growing as rapidly as was the entire region.

The origin of immigration was related to the founding of libraries in these three states. Areas of New England settlement covered less than a third of the region but contained more than half of the social and public libraries. Business cycles also affected the establishment of libraries. Libraries were frequently founded in times of prosperity and infrequently founded in times of depression, but there was no general long-term increase in the frequency of founding of libraries to accompany the increase in the material comfort of the people of the region. Legislation seems to have had little or no effect on the pattern of founding.

The difference between the pattern of founding for social libraries and the pattern for colleges seems to have been related to differences in the purposes of the founders. The colleges, founded for religious purposes, mainly by denominations with strength in the Middle Atlantic or Southern states, were not concentrated in areas of New England settlement. Lyceums, on the other hand, with origins and purposes similar to those of libraries, exhibit a pattern which, so far as it has been traced, is similar to the pattern for libraries.

FOOTNOTES

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