
William Maclure: Patron Saint of Indiana Libraries

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According to the terms of his final will drawn up on January 29, 1839, William Maclure bequeathed the bulk of his estate to the establishment of workingmen's libraries. Because of a lengthy lawsuit, distribution of the money remained incomplete until 1857. What transpired during the seventeen years following Maclure's death on March 23, 1840, is the subject of this discussion.

In examining the acts that instigated the lawsuit, investigators find it clear that the persons who precipitated these events were members of Maclure's family, people whom he disliked and mistrusted with good reason.¹ In a letter to Reuben Haines, Maclure stated that originally his family had consisted of twelve children, six of whom reached adulthood. He said, "I am the only one who has been able to do anything for themselves, so I have the care of a family without the pleasure of getting them."² Maclure's understanding of his family's dependency caused him to place his New Harmony finances and holdings in the hands of a representative and agent, Marie Duclos Fretageot.

Alexander (1765?–1850?) acquired his naturalization certificate in September, 1797, after living in the United States for two years, first in Philadelphia and then in Norfolk, Virginia.³ He appears to have conducted businesses poorly in both places, causing William

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¹Information presented in this paper on the Maclure family was gathered from various sources that are neither numerous nor extensive. Most useful is the Maclure-Fretageot Correspondence in the New Harmony Correspondence, Series IM, New Harmony Workingmen's Institute, New Harmony, Indiana. This correspondence also appears in Josephine Mirabella Elliott, ed., *Partnership for Posterity: The Correspondence of William Maclure and Marie Duclos Fretageot, 1821–1833* (Indianapolis, 1994). This source contains accounts of the family's activities: William's relationship with his siblings and Marie Duclos Fretageot's association with them from 1828 to 1831. Maclure's prolific correspondence with his friends and associates, as well as his writings, offers information, as does the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute Local History File.

²William Maclure to Reuben Haines, February 9, 1831, II-19-254, Wyck Papers (Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia).

³Alexander Maclure Naturalization Certificate, Series IV.M., Maclure Family Papers (New Harmony Workingmen's Institute, New Harmony, Indiana).

financial losses. To Fretageot and other friends William complained about Alexander, speaking of him as obstinate, prejudiced, and vain, and as an individual who considered himself far superior to William and his associates.⁴

Once William arrived in New Harmony in 1826, both Alexander and John joined him soon after. In 1828, following the financial losses incurred by his participation in Robert Owen's communitarian experiment, Maclure bade his two sisters who lived handsomely in Scotland to come to New Harmony in order to decrease expenses.

After William died in Mexico, Alexander lived comfortably, enjoying the company of like-minded persons and disregarding the provisions of Maclure's will. He made several trips to the East, particularly Philadelphia, where the Academy of Natural Sciences made him a member.

Like Alexander, Anna (1766–1844) disliked Maclure's philanthropic deeds, his New Harmony activities, and especially his agent. To Anna and Alexander, Fretageot represented their brother's unorthodox views and actions and the offense of his placing authority over his financial affairs in the care of anyone but themselves. Anna and her friends acted against Fretageot in devious ways, even conniving with the postmaster to mishandle her mail. Anna's financial dependence on William did not prevent her from being very liberal to her own charities both at home and abroad, thus creating a following among the religious inhabitants of New Harmony.

Margaret (1768–1839), who was younger than Anna and less emotionally and mentally stable, did not get along well with her own family, and she intermittently found other people with whom to board in New Harmony, where she lived more tranquilly than she did under her sister's control.

John (1771?–1834?), according to an account written by Alexander, also had a history of mental instability caused by his imprisonment by the French during Robespierre's Reign of Terror. On his arrival in the United States he lived in and around Philadelphia, but his behavior caused his elder brother much concern. He grew worse in New Harmony, and when he became unmanageable, he was sent to an asylum in Lexington, Kentucky, where he died some time in 1834.⁵

Thus life in the Maclure household was far from tranquil, with or without William's presence. Alexander and William were unfriendly and cool; Anna and Margaret fought over Anna's insistence on assuming the superior role; John's unsoundness of mind created turmoil. Since the four siblings were subject to their brother's generos-

⁴Elliott, *Partnership for Posterity*, 486, 671, 695.

⁵Alexander Maclure to Dr. Charles Short, New Harmony, October 8, 1834, MSS A.S559, 89, Charles Short Papers (Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky).

ity, however, they could ill afford to display their disregard and hostility too openly.

Obviously Maclure realized that he could not rely on his brothers and sisters to understand his motives or have confidence that their presumed interest would make his ideas a reality. Therefore, so long as Fretageot acted as his agent in New Harmony, she was a buffer between him and his family. Her 1831 departure and her death in August, 1833, followed the next year by Thomas Say's demise, put Maclure at the mercy of his relatives. Maclure's resulting alienation took its form in the terms of his will.

Actually, Maclure made many wills at various times in his much-traveled life. They set forth his philosophical interests and named those in whom he placed his trust. They expressed his thoughts and desires, his self-acknowledged failures, and his continuing strong philanthropic sentiments toward his fellowmen.

Maclure's last will evolved through three stages. It was first written January 29, 1839. The following September 23 he added a codicil; two months before his death (January 24, 1840) a second codicil that introduced a sweeping change of administrators was inserted. This will brought on the lawsuit that had to be waged and won before William Maclure's wishes for the workingmen's libraries could be fulfilled.⁶

A brief examination of the wills reveals at once Maclure's final intentions. The main bequest to his family from the first writing was "the use and revenue of all my property real and personal in and about New Harmony, in the County of Posey and State of Indiana during their Life times . . . after the decease of any one of them, or of the whole . . . the share that each shall leave in said property, to be applied for the Diffusion of useful knowledge" They were each granted annuities of \$600 annually.

In the first codicil (September 23, 1839) Maclure appointed Alexander and Anna as executors and described specifically how the institutes for the diffusion of knowledge were to be organized: any institute, club, or society of laborers who worked with their hands and that established anywhere in the United States a reading and lecture room with a library of at least 100 volumes was to be assisted by a gift of \$500.

By January, 1840, Maclure had radically changed his mind and added a second codicil. In a final act of disillusionment he dismissed all three of his trustees saying, "but on reconsidering the melancholy state of morality which prevents dead men's wills from being ful-

⁶William Maclure, *Wills and Related Papers*, Series IV.M. Maclure Family Papers (New Harmony Workingmen's Institute). All discussions and quotations that follow are referenced from this source.

⁷Posey County Will Book A and B, 1816-1852, p. 20, Posey County Courthouse, Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

filled or executed when they give any property for the use and benefit of the poor and working classes—but on the contrary the monied aristocracy find means to purloin the said property for the use, support, and maintenance of their privileged classes—for the above reasons and many more that might be advanced—I do hereby abrogate, revoke, and annul said Trust—and dyscharge the said George W. Erving, John Wilbanks and John Speakman”⁸ One of the “many more” reasons for Maclure’s statement may have been the inability of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and Maclure to agree on the terms of his proposed bequest.

During the mid- and late 1830s Maclure had planned an educational trust under which the academy would receive and administer his estate, the chief stipulation being that all books and collections would be open to the general public. Despite Maclure’s generous donations, which were given regularly, the academy authorities chose to institute high entrance fees and annual dues. So Maclure rescinded his bequest.⁹

For some general idea of Maclure’s exact worth one has to examine his 1827 will for an itemized account of his assets, which listed property and investments from the United States, England, France, and Spain.¹⁰ Maclure owned half of the town of New Harmony and its environs as well as farmlands in Illinois; a coal mine in Pike County, Indiana; a plantation at Big Lick in Virginia; investments in Pennsylvania; property in England and France; a house and farm at Alicante, Spain, four large estates covering thousands of acres; and a million “reals” in Spanish securities. He possessed an extensive library that contained some of the most beautiful books ever printed, a vast assortment of minerals from all over Europe and the United States, and a large assemblage of prints and copperplates.

Because of the complex nature of Maclure’s estate (and the vicissitudes it underwent in Spain), no attempt has been made to establish the extent of his wealth. Considering only the real and personal property at New Harmony and environs and in the surrounding counties of Posey, Pike, and White (Illinois), the listings in this will would render a figure of \$44,662 for the real property, plus \$30,000 for the library, and about \$36,638 for the personal property. This is the wealth from which money for the libraries would have to come.

Following Fretageot’s death in August, 1833, Maclure seemed to turn against the town where so much of his effort and money had been dissipated. But by early spring of 1838 his interest revived. Despite financial failures, disappointments, and personal losses, his optimistic temperament led him to try again.

⁸*Ibid.*, 28-29.

⁹J. Percy Moore, “William Maclure—Scientist and Humanitarian,” *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, XCI (August, 1947), 234-49.

¹⁰William Maclure, Will 1827, Box 1, Fretageot Collection (New Harmony Workmen’s Institute).

In an April 20, 1838, letter Maclure explained to his sister Anna the reasons for the failure of the New Harmony schools. He told her that his only salvation for retrieving anything valuable from his investments was to endow workingmen's institutes for the diffusion of knowledge, and specifically to endow the New Harmony organization.¹¹ There had already been a period of exchange of correspondence between Maclure and the members of the Workingmen's Institute that had culminated in its formal incorporation on April 2, 1838, as the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute for Mutual Instruction.¹² A few months later he offered the group the use of his library and of one of his houses "as near the center of town as may be. . . ."¹³

In December the men replied that they were presently meeting in a room at the west end of the Hall (the former Harmonist brick church that Maclure owned) with his permission, but they found it small, inconvenient, and unsuited for a permanent home. By the following summer, however, they informed Maclure that the organization was occupying a room above the stairs in the opposite or east wing of the Hall. They quoted a passage from one of his earlier letters back to him, "I am determined before I die to form as many of these clubs or institutes and endow them with the necessary property that may enable them to go on and increase in utility."¹⁴ Unfortunately, by then the letters were either crossing, not arriving in Mexico, or not being answered because Maclure's health deteriorated.

Maclure's untimely death in 1840 left the institute's members without a guarantee of their own quarters. They addressed Alexander Maclure as his brother's executor for permission to continue using the east wing of the Hall and to be granted a lease or deed. Since Anna also was an executor, the men likewise approached her. She wanted them to allow church services to be held in their quarters. The minutes of November 14, 1841, record their terse reply, "Use of the lecture room for preaching was refused."¹⁵

A discussion of land ownership and disposition, particularly as it refers to three portions of William's New Harmony estate, serves as a telling example of the Maclures' stewardship. These properties were the Harmonist brick church or Hall, the German Grave Yard, and the Rope Walk.

As executors (not administrators), Alexander and Anna were not allowed to sell or dispose of any part of William's estate. The

¹¹William Maclure to Anna Maclure, Mexico, April 20, 1838, Series I, New Harmony Correspondence (New Harmony Workingmen's Institute).

¹²Thomas James De la Hunt, ed., *History of the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute, New Harmony, Indiana* (Evansville, Ind., 1927), 1-7.

¹³*Ibid.*, 12.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, 20, 30, 32.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, 43.

REGULATIONS
ADOPTED FOR THE PRESERVATION AND
USEFULNESS OF THE LIBRARY OF THE
MACLURE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE
OF
CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA.
No. 26

Each member shall be entitled to the use of one Volume at a time.

No Volume must be retained by the same member for a longer period than four weeks.

Members retaining a Book for a longer period than four weeks shall pay a fine of twenty cents.

Any member suffering a Book to be lost, damaged or destroyed, will be charged by the Librarian such sum as he may deem just and reasonable.

W. ROBERTSON, Librarian.

Attest: T. D. BROWN, Sec'y.

February 26. 1857.

This bookplate of the library of the Working Men's Institute at
Crawfordsville set out regulations governing borrowing of books.

REGULATIONS OF THE MACLURE WORKINGMEN'S
INSTITUTE, CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

Reproduced from Ronald E. Banta, "Indiana's First
Libraries," *Indianapolis Star*, March 16, 1958.

brother and sister were well provided for during their lifetimes but could not resist attempting to acquire more. They consulted lawyers who cooperated in getting a judgment, claiming that since there were no libraries yet in existence the money intended for them could not be claimed.

Both Maclures began leading a more opulent life. Accompanied by friends, Alexander made several trips to the east, where he enjoyed a social success and was made a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Anna continued to send charitable contributions to friends in Scotland and, relieved of Margaret's difficult presence in 1839, passed the last few years of her life pleasantly.

Determined to have a church in New Harmony, the two Maclures offered the Harmonist Grave Yard to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in April, 1842, as a church cemetery and possible church site. Since this site held deceased members of the millennialist, communitarian Harmonists who settled the town in 1814 and held claim on the property until 1845, the offer depended on the agreement of George Rapp and the Harmony Society.

When the Harmonists refused to relinquish their claim, Anna and Alexander persisted.¹⁶ By June, 1843, a deed was drawn by which the Maclures conveyed to St. Stephen's Vestry for one dollar all the land and the Hall itself up to the wall dividing off the eastern wing (occupied by the Workingmen's Institute according to William's orders), the Harmonist (German) Grave Yard, and the strip of land used as the Rope Walk. This property was to serve as a church or school despite the well-known fact that neither Owen nor Maclure would allow a church to be established in the town.¹⁷

By this one action, to be repeated many times over, Alexander and Anna Maclure broke their brother's will by selling the property. They disregarded the Harmony Society's claim to their graveyard, a claim still valid for another two years. Their actions substantiated posthumously Maclure's distrust of his own family.

Misuse of these properties continued, and three years later an offer of \$600 by the Harmony Society in Pennsylvania to purchase the Grave Yard "donated to the parish by Mr. Alexander Maclure" was accepted by St. Stephen's. The Harmonists had to buy the land a second time.

By April, 1850, after Alexander's death, St. Stephen's Vestry determined to sell their portion of the Hall, probably because the parish had just built a new church and needed the money. Various proposals were made, and in a few months they accepted a \$1,000 offer. Many problems, however, held up the conclusion of business including the California gold rush, but it was finalized five years later in January, 1855.¹⁸

In April, 1855, Alvin J. Hovey sued the three owners for either the return or repurchase of the property.¹⁹ For a few years following William's death in 1840, his brother and sister reported on the estate to the proper authorities. For example, on August 10, 1844, the income was reported as \$88,725.37 and the outgo \$26,354.76. The latter figure displays a scandalous misuse of funds. By 1848 the state authorities realized they were receiving no inventories or reports, nor indeed any information regarding the settlement of the estate. The sheriff was ordered on several occasions to bring Alexander in for explanations. Investigation of his squandering of the estate led to the appointment of an administrator, Alvin P. Hovey, at the March, 1849, term of the Posey County Circuit Court.²⁰

¹⁶St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, *Minutes of the Vestry, 1841-1939*, pp. 3, 4, New Harmony.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, 5; Deed Records L, June 1, 1843, pp. 534-36, Posey County Courthouse, Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

¹⁸St. Stephen's Vestry Minutes, 20, 23, 50; Deed Records L, January 24, 1855, pp. 191-92, Posey County Courthouse.

¹⁹Circuit Court Civil Order Book, 1840-1859, pp. 248-49, microfilm, New Harmony Workingmen's Institute.

²⁰*Ibid.*, 17, 72-73.

The Maclure lawsuit and the establishment of workingmen's libraries that followed are abundantly documented in the Civil Order Book of the Posey County Circuit Court, 1840–1859. All phases of the lawsuit are described: the actions of the two Maclures, court judgments, inventory of personal effects, petitions for removal to another venue (since sitting judge John Pitcher was not a disinterested presider),²¹ the hiring of appraisers, lists of land and town lots “sold or given away,” resale of these properties by Hovey, lists of property sold and prices received. Several pages mainly concern the libraries established: their constitutions, membership lists with occupations, and titles of books they possessed.

Alvin P. Hovey (1821–1891) of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, was the man who undertook to restore the Maclure will and saved Maclure's munificent bequest for its intended recipients. Hovey had begun the study of law in the office of Judge John Pitcher and by age twenty-two was admitted to the bar. He served as a delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention (1850), judge of the circuit court (1851–1854), judge of the state supreme court the following year, and United States district attorney (1856–1860). He fought in the Civil War with distinction and attained the rank of major general. Following the war he served five years as United States minister to Peru (1865–1870). He was elected to Congress in 1886 and governor of Indiana in 1888. After serving three years, he died in office.

Hovey's interest in the matter of Maclure's will began when he was a student in Judge Pitcher's office. Anna and Alexander, though cared for generously in their brother's will, wanted more. They had sought legal opinion regarding the provisions for libraries from judges John Pitcher of Mt. Vernon, Horace Binney of Philadelphia, and Samuel Judah of Vincennes, all of whom assured them that the bequest was invalid because the libraries for which it was created were not yet in existence. In studying the will and the opinions Hovey became convinced that the bequest to the workingmen's institutes was valid, and that Maclure's relatives, who were blithely consuming the substance of the estate, had no legal right to do so.

Finally, the situation became so egregious that the court intervened and appointed Hovey as administrator in 1849. Alexander Maclure died some months later, and James Sampson, who had been his agent and administrator of his estate, was handed a defeat by

²¹John Pitcher (c. 1794–1892), lawyer and judge, was born in Watertown, Connecticut, and studied law in Litchfield. He set up his law practice in Rockport, Indiana, in 1816 and moved to Mt. Vernon by 1825 or 1830. Pitcher served as circuit court judge for Posey, Gibson, and Vanderburgh counties and was judge of the Posey County Common Pleas Court from 1852 to 1866. According to tradition, he lent law books to Abraham Lincoln, who was living at Rockport during Pitcher's residency. This friendship is described by Rev. John E. Cox in the Mt. Vernon *Democrat*, August 5, 1892, clipping in Local History File—Pitcher (Alexandrian Public Library, Mt. Vernon, Indiana).

the Indiana supreme court, which declared all sales of property made by Alexander null and void.

Hovey proceeded to carry Maclure's will into effect, the first order of business being repossession of the land sold by the self-appointed heirs. By instituting over sixty lawsuits Hovey managed to recover the properties for resale. It must be admitted that having to buy one's property twice caused considerable hardship to some persons who had originally dealt with Alexander in good faith.²² The court records, however, included new, lower appraisals that took into account the improvements made by the former owners.²³ As nearly as can be judged, Hovey realized \$75,619.99 from the sales of the land, an amount from which he could begin allotting the gifts of money to aspiring libraries.²⁴

The Maclure case provided Hovey with a good start on his financial career. By winning the supreme court appeal, he gained a statewide reputation and was launched on his political career.²⁵ Quoted in a 1949 clipping, Indiana Justice Frank E. Wilkinson, speaking in Mt. Vernon at a salute to Hovey, stated that from this lawsuit came "an opinion and judgment that have become the foundation of such bequests."²⁶

As Hovey accumulated cash from the sale of the Maclure estate, library petitions began appearing. By the time the money was distributed, 144 libraries in Indiana (eighty-nine of the ninety-two counties applied) and 16 in Illinois were organized. They received their \$500 and began operation.²⁷

²²Among the many people so vexed were two Owen family members. From Germany Jane Owen Fauntleroy wrote to her brother back home of her irritation with the matter, which she considered trivial. Her agent, Horatio Cooper, reported that she had no need to trouble herself since the title had come directly from William himself. See the Caroline D. B. Allen Papers (New Harmony Workingmen's Institute). David Dale Owen's concerns involved the possible added expenses for the granary that he had acquired from Anna Maclure. The considerable money he had spent repairing the structure saved him from paying a large sum for remuneration. Compensation amounted to \$3,592.50 for the granary, the Maclure House his family occupied, and the land they were on. See Walter B. Hendrickson, *David Dale Owen: Pioneer Geologist of the Middle West* (Indiana Historical Collections, Vol. XXVII; Indianapolis, 1943), 123.

²³Posey County Circuit Court Civil Order Book, pp. 104-107, 110, 113-16, 123-26, 133-35.

²⁴*Ibid.*, 159.

²⁵Elfrieda Lang, "Documentary Autobiography of Alvin P. Hovey's Early Life," *Indiana Magazine of History*, XLVIII (March, 1952), 72-84; Wilbur D. Peat, *Portrait Painters of the Governors of Indiana, 1800-1978* (Indianapolis, 1978), 54; Local History File (Alexandrian Public Library); Mt. Vernon *Democrat*, June 14-November 14, 1888, microfilm L-208; Mt. Vernon *Western Star*, October and November, 1888, microfilm; Indianapolis *Sentinel*, October 4, 1888.

²⁶Untitled paper in Local History File—Hovey, May 18, 1949 (Alexandrian Public Library).

²⁷Two excellent sources of information on the Maclure libraries are the Civil Order Book (see footnote 19) and Frances H. McBride, "Maclure Libraries in Indiana and Illinois," a paper written as requirement for Library Science 594, July, 1967, at

It has been incorrectly stated, by persons usually quoting each other, that the books purchased with the Maclure funds were largely works of a scientific or technical nature having little interest for the class—workingmen—for whom the donor had intended them. Quite the contrary. Even a brief reading of the above-mentioned sources proves the opposite: there were novels, biographies and history, travel, science, government documents, agriculture. Here are a few examples: Washington Irving and Sir Walter Scott novels, William H. Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico*, Thomas Babbington Macauley's and Edward Gibbons's histories, William Shakespeare's works, cyclopedias, *Rural Architecture*, *The Hog: Breeds, Management, Feeding*. . . .

Some groups did organize with the desire of acquiring the \$500 gift but lacked all requisites for a functioning library: no trained librarian and no quarters for the books. Many societies used the homes of members or their places of business, as did the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute and the New Harmony Maclurian Institute, and the members served as librarians. Current works and popular classics were "read to pieces," according to contemporary accounts. Scientific or technical works were reserved for reference.

The Civil War was crucial to the survival of these libraries. The men went to war and the women to nursing. Reading interests focused on matters concerning the war. Many libraries at this time were no longer viable even though the books themselves did not vanish.

In 1876 the United States Bureau of Education published a report entitled *Public Libraries in the United States*. Only eighteen of the original libraries went on record as still surviving. These reported combined holdings of 11,845 volumes and a circulation of 9,810 books.²⁸

At century's end only the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute continued to exist. By then few people remembered or had even heard of libraries for laborers. Nevertheless, the very fact of their former existence played a significant role in developing the mental faculties and increasing the knowledge of Indiana's and Illinois's population. The books of these pioneer libraries were not all lost: they formed the basis of the future school, society, public, and township libraries. These latter libraries were proposed and introduced by Robert Dale Owen in an 1854 measure, thereby continuing to implant and cultivate the idea of a free public library system in Indiana.²⁹ Ultimately, the books that constituted the holdings of the Maclure libra-

Indiana University, Bloomington. McBride sent 130 inquiries with only 8 failing to be returned, and the resulting compiled material includes founding dates, constitutions and by-laws, rules for use, identities of users, and titles still in existence as of 1967. Full permission has been given the writer to use this material.

²⁸See Appendix IV.

²⁹McBride, "Maclure Libraries in Indiana and Illinois," 19-20.

ries were disposed of in one of several ways. They were divided up among the membership; they became part of a local school library; they were merged with books from a reading association; they were combined with a township library; or they were incorporated into a slowly evolving public library.³⁰

The flavor of the Maclure libraries is best experienced by reading accounts narrated by contemporaries or persons who enjoyed reading from the book collections when those collections were in the latter stages of their existence. Among the descriptions is one that depicts the Maclurian Institute or Association in New Harmony, organized in 1856, a companion to the older Workingmen's Institute. It was written in a joint journal kept by Alexander and his younger brother Achilles Henry, grandsons of Marie Duclos Fretageot.

Achilles Henry described working with the books and his duties as a member:

10 July 1862—This evening we had a meeting of the Maclurian Institute, I am the Secy—We concluded to expend from \$40, to \$60 for Books. Mr. Cox [E. T.] Nelson Felch and myself were appointed to Select the Books—I feel flattered at being put on such a com^e [committee].

1 Feb 1863—Pa and I have been at the store almost all day, Reading and studying I got the whole place full of books and shapes, etc. we are quite a library people in this town four libraries etc.³¹

The tale of the "McClure" Institute of Carmi, Illinois is probably typical of the rise and demise of these institutions.

The terms of the will were such that the executors of the estate allowed that the bequest was available in Illinois. Accordingly, a few philanthropic citizens of Carmi fulfilled the required conditions, drew the money and in 1860 founded the "MaClure Institute." A society was organized with the usual constitution and officers, books purchased, and a circulating library established. This library was kept in stores and other places until 1880, when it was placed in charge of the Southern Illinois Normal School, in a business block adjoining Stewart's. Jan 2, 1881, this block was burned down, and every volume, including the records of the institute, was consumed, since which time nothing has been done to revive the noble enterprise.³²

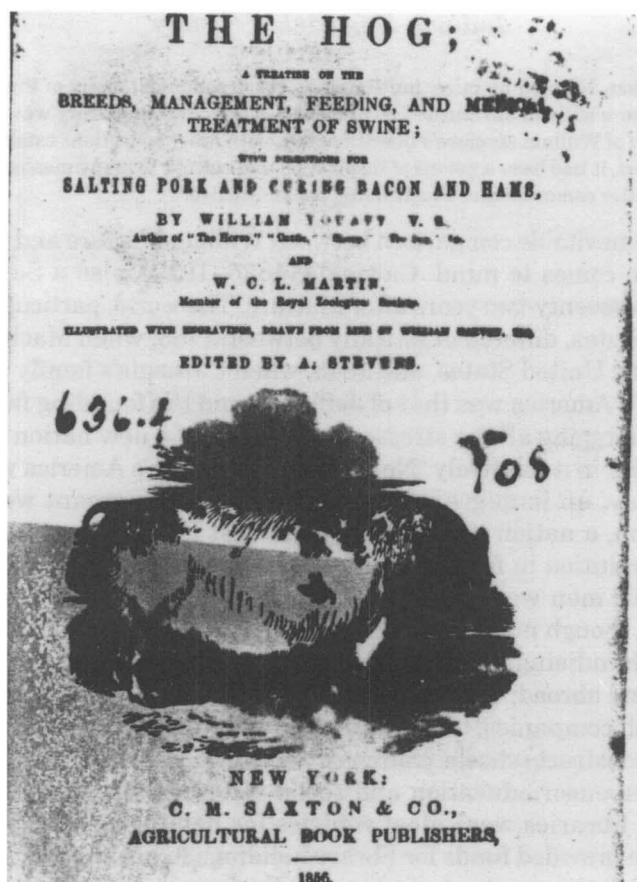
An unsigned New Harmony *Times* clipping of January 17, 1913, gives an appealing picture of the attractions offered children of another time in the libraries.

The libraries were given at a time when books were scarce and high priced and much of the reading of the early days was obtained from the William Maclure libraries. One of these libraries furnished the writer his sole store of reading almost thirty-five years ago in the little inland town where he was raised and until we reached our fourteenth year our mind feasted on the conquests of Alexander and Xerxes and the misfortunes of Darius. Spark's biographies filled several shelves and there were a few works of

³⁰See Appendix V.

³¹Joint Journal, September 13, 1860–April 3, 1863, pp. 160, 202-203, 266, Fretageot Collection.

³²*History of White County, Illinois* (Chicago, 1883), 562-63.



VOLUME IN THE MACLURE WORKINGMEN'S INSTITUTE,
GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Courtesy of the Greenfield Public Library,
Greenfield, Indiana.

fiction. The Swiss Family Robinson claimed our attention at least six times and when nothing else appealed, the life of Alexander the Great was worth re-reading. The library was presided over by an old English shoe maker named Knibs and as long as he lived it was carefully tended. Later it fell into uninterested hands and has no doubt long since disappeared from view.³⁸

Also, Julia Henderson Levering presents a narrative of her father, brother, and herself happily perusing the classic juveniles in a dusty, neglected book collection, and tells what their availability had meant to the earlier generations.

Memories of a dusty, musty attic, festooned with cobwebs and located over the dingy shop and office of the township trustee, caused a grateful sentiment in the heart of the writer toward that Maclure benefaction to Indiana. With her brother, in earliest childhood, the children, guided by a student father, found the forgotten heaps of books, and read with eager interest the classic juveniles and standard works included in that

³⁸New Harmony Times, January 17, 1913.

old collection. Nibbled by mice, mutilated by careless hands, many of the volumes lost, and more of them unreturned by previous readers, the old library was but a tattered ghost of William Maclure's intention; but, with other collections established by that bequest, it had been a means of inspiration and culture to many men and women in the frontier communities, who thirsted for knowledge.³⁴

An inevitable comparison between William Maclure and Andrew Carnegie comes to mind. Carnegie (1835–1919), also a Scotsman, was born seventy-two years after Maclure. The world, particularly the United States, differed drastically between 1783, when Maclure first visited the United States, and 1848, when Carnegie's family arrived. Maclure's America was that of Jefferson and the founding fathers, a land undergoing all the stresses and strains of a new nation seeking its identity in a relatively "New World." Carnegie's America was well on its way, an immigrant mecca experiencing rampant westward expansion, a nation propelled by "Manifest Destiny" and an Industrial Revolution in full bloom.

Both men were businessmen and philanthropists; each was wealthy, though not in the same proportion. Maclure made his money in merchandising, farmlands, and town properties in the United States and abroad; Carnegie accumulated his wealth from railroads, telegraph companies, oil lands, bridge building, and steel. Carnegie gave to construct schools, churches, and cultural institutions; Maclure gave to sponsor education and social reform. Both men, however, thought libraries were ideal vehicles for helping their fellowmen. Carnegie provided funds for library buildings in his lifetime; Maclure provided for library books in his will. Each gave money to those who would match the gifts with their own planning and generosity.

One of Carnegie's goals in life was to avoid the sin of dying a millionaire. Maclure's main concerns were for the men who worked with their hands—women, orphans, and slaves. Carnegie, the less altruistic, is yet admired today. Maclure, except for the scientific world, is scarcely known.

³⁴Julia Henderson Levering, *Historic Indiana* . . . (New York, 1910), 262.

APPENDIX I

MACLURE LIBRARIES IN INDIANA

County	Community		
ADAMS	Decatur	MORGAN	Martinsville,
ALLEN	Fort Wayne	NOBLE	Mooreville
BARTHOLOMEW	Columbus	OHIO	Albion
BENTON	Oxford	ORANGE	Rising Sun
BLACKFORD	Hartford City	OWEN	Lost River, Paoli
BOONE	Lebanon, Thorntown	PARKE	Gosport, Spencer
BROWN	Nashville		Annapolis,
CARROLL	Delphi		Bloomington,
CASS	Logansport	PERRY	Rockville
CLARK	Charlestown,	PIKE	Cannelton
	Jeffersonville		Petersburg,
CLAY	Bowling Green, Brazil	PORTER	Clay Township
CLINTON	Frankfort	POSEY	Valparaiso
CRAWFORD	Alton, Leavenworth		Cynthiana,
DAVIESS	Washington		Farmersville,
DEARBORN	Aurora, Lawrenceburg		Mt. Vernon,
DECATUR	Greensburg		New Harmony,
DE KALB	Auburn, Vienna		Poseyville,
DELAWARE	Muncie		Smith Township,
ELKHART	Elkhart, Goshen		Stewartsville,
FAYETTE	Connersville, Waterloo		Wadesville,
FLOYD	New Albany	PULASKI	Springfield
FOUNTAIN	Attica, Covington	PUTNAM	Winamac
FRANKLIN	Brookville, Springfield		Bainbridge,
FULTON	Rochester		Greencastle,
GIBSON	Barren, Black River,		Portland Mills
	Marsh Creek, Patoka,	RANDOLPH	Winchester
	Princeton, Snake Run	RIPLEY	Versailles
GRANT	Marion	RUSH	Rushville
GREENE	Bloomfield, Linton,	ST. JOSEPH	Mishawaka,
	Worthington		South Bend
HAMILTON	Noblesville,	SCOTT	Lexington
	Westfield	SHELBY	Shelbyville
HANCOCK	Greenfield	SPENCER	Liberty, Rockport
HARRISON	Corydon	STARKE	Knox
HENDRICKS	Danville	STEUBEN	Angola
HENRY	Knightstown,	SULLIVAN	Carlisle, New Lebanon,
	New Castle		Sullivan, Merom
HOWARD	Kokomo, Polar Grove	SWITZERLAND	Vevay
HUNTINGTON	Huntington	TIPPECANOE	Farmers, Lafayette
JACKSON	Seymour,	TIPTON	Tipton
	Uniontown, Marling	UNION	Cottage Grove,
JASPER	Rensselaer		Liberty
JAY	Portland	VANDERBURGH	Evansville
JEFFERSON	North Madison,	VERMILLION	Clinton, Eugene,
	South Hanover		Newport
JENNINGS	Vernon	VIGO	Terre Haute
JOHNSON	Edinburgh,	WABASH	Wabash
	Franklin, Greenwood	WARREN	Williamsport
KNOX	Vincennes	WARRICK	Boonville
KOSCIUSKO	Warsaw	WASHINGTON	Salem
LA GRANGE	La Grange, Lima	WAYNE	Cambridge City,
LAKE	Crown Point		Centerville, Richmond,
LA PORTE	La Porte, Michigan City		Dublin
LAWRENCE	Bedford	WELLS	Bluffton
MADISON	Anderson	WHITE	Monticello
MARSHALL	Plymouth	WHITNEY	Columbia City
MARTIN	Dover Hill,		
	Mt. Pleasant		
MIAMI	Peru		
MONROE	Bloomington		
MONTGOMERY	Crawfordsville,		
	Waveland		

Source: Frances McBride, "Maclure Libraries of Indiana and Illinois," 25, as taken from Jacob P. Dunn, *The Libraries of Indiana*, (Indianapolis, 1893), 13-15.

APPENDIX II
MACLURE LIBRARIES IN ILLINOIS

County	Community
FRANKLIN	Workingmen's Institute of Franklin County
WAYNE	Fairfield
WHITE	Carmi
	Grayville

Jacob P. Dunn stated in *The Libraries of Indiana* that there were sixteen Maclure Libraries in Illinois, but he failed to name them.

Sources: Frances McBride, "Maclure Libraries in Indiana and Illinois," 26, as taken from *History of White County, Illinois* (1883), 562-63; and letter from Josephine M. Elliott, New Harmony, Indiana, October 24, 1966.

APPENDIX III BOOK TITLES AND TYPES

This is a listing of some actual titles making up the original one hundred volumes required to gain a Maclure bequest: the types of materials or the titles which were still held by libraries in 1967. Starred (*) titles indicate the latter category.

County	Community	Materials
Allen	Fort Wayne	Waverly novels, history, biography, travel, agriculture, mechanical arts
Benton	Oxford	Standard works, history, biography
Cass	Logansport	Standard works, congressional documents
Dearborn	Lawrenceburg	<i>Chamber's Miscellany of Useful Knowledge</i>
Delaware	Muncie	Congressional documents
Greene	Worthington	Irving, W. <i>Bracebridge Hall</i> (No. 352 of collection)*
Hancock	Greenfield	Martin, W. C. L. <i>The Hog</i> *
Hendricks	Danville	Congressional documents
Knox	Vincennes	Allen, J. F. <i>A Practical Treatise on the Culture and Treatment of the Grape Vine</i> *
(Books were added on June 14, 1905; it is not known if this was the date they were given or the date they were accessioned.)		Dodd, G. H. <i>The American Cattle Doctor</i> *
		Elliott, F. R. <i>American Fruit Grower's Guide</i> *
		Irving, W. <i>The Sketch Book</i> *
		Johnson, Louisa <i>Every Lady Her Own Gardener</i> *
		Niles, Wm. <i>The Horse's Foot</i> *
		Prescott <i>Conquest of Mexico</i> *
		Sparks, Jared <i>American Biography</i> *
		Washington, H. A. <i>Writings of Thomas Jefferson</i> *
		Works by Plutarch, Edmund Burke, Leigh Hunt, Charles Lamb, Francis Bacon, and Ovid*
Lake	Crown Point	Barnes, pub. <i>The Constitutions of the Several States of the Union & the U. S.</i> *
		DeTocqueville <i>Democracy in America</i>
		Wirt, Wm. <i>Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry</i> *

La Porte La Porte

(Starred volumes were
existent in 1923, and
some were still in col-
lection as of 1967.)

Morgan Mooresville

(For a complete listing
of books and donors, see
the minutes of this soci-
ety held by the Indiana
Divison, Indiana State
Library.)

Parke Annapolis

Scott Lexington

Sullivan Carlisle

Switzerland Vevay

Congressional documents

Fox *Book of Martyrs**

Gibbon *Decline and Fall
of the Roman Empire**

Macaulay *History of England**

Niles *Weekly Register**

Rollin *Ancient History**

Works by Burns, Shakespeare,
Shelley, Milton, Moore, Pope,
Byron, Darwin*

Allen *Rural Architecture*

American Slave Code

*Chamber's Miscellany of Knowledge
Eminent Dead*

Life and Speeches of Henry Clay

Memoirs of the Duke of Wellington

Rollin *Ancient History*

Shakespeare *Poems*

Universal Traveller

History, biography, science, poetry,
little fiction

History, travel, some fiction,
congressional documents, revised
state statutes

A volume of ancient history,
application card signed by Jonathan
Williams. These were destroyed in
a fire which occurred in March, 1965.

Irving, W. *Life of Columbus**

Laubertine *The Girondists**

*Life of Oliver Goldsmith**

Mares, Edmund *Universal
History**

*Memoirs of Celebrated Characters**

Morris, B. F. *Memorial Record of
the Nation's Tribute to Abraham
Lincoln**

Parkyns *Life in Abyssina**

Universal Geography, 1829*

White, James *The Eighteen
Christian Centuries**

Wilkerson *Ancient Egyptians*,
Vol. I and II*

Wabash	Wabash	Congressional documents
Washington	Salem	Titles not given, but some books still existent*
Wayne	Richmond (Morrison-Reeves Library)	One book, title not given

Source: Frances McBride, "Maclure Libraries in Indiana and Illinois," 36-38.

APPENDIX IV
DISPOSITION OF 37 MACLURE LIBRARIES

Literary Society	County Library	Township Library	High School Library	Public Library
Lexington	Bloomfield Bloomington	Brookville Decatur Frankfort Logansport New Albany Springfield Rensselaer	Albion Attica Bloomington Bluffton Crown Point Decatur Fort Wayne Huntington Union (Clay Twp.) Williamsport	Crown Point Decatur Fort Wayne Huntington LaPorte Mooresville Muncie New Albany New Harmony Petersburg Princeton Richmond Salem South Bend Terre Haute Vevay Warsaw

McBride, "MacLure Libraries in Indiana and Illinois," 39, explains that these are from notes on individual libraries. All other collections were divided among members, lost, or destroyed in fires.