A History of public library service to negroes in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1927-1951

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A HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TO NEGROES
IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, 1927-1951

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

BY
BENNIE LEE MOORE

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AUGUST, 1961
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INTRODUCTION

In order to operate libraries adequately at the present time and in the future, a knowledge of how libraries were operated in the past is essential. When one reads of the struggles and triumphs encountered in the past, added strength and determination is gained to master future situations.

If we think of the library as a machine to be operated, we will find records which tell how other librarians have solved problems like ours. If we think in terms of biography, we can find the records of the lives and accomplishments of our professional ancestors. And if we step aside to take a broad sociological view of libraries, we still find history that is written to suit us.¹

It is hoped that through this study, some librarians will benefit by learning of the experiences and problems of the George Moses Horton Branch of the Carnegie Public Library of Winston-Salem, North Carolina from 1927 through 1951.

Purpose, Scope and Methodology

This study is intended to give the historical development of public library service for Negroes in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from the beginning of library service for Negroes in 1927 through 1951. In presenting the progress and development of library services for Negroes, the following problems will be treated:

1. Factors which contributed to the inception of the library movement.

2. An evaluation of the materials collection and of the use made of the library facilities during the period of the study.

3. The development of all services of the library from 1927 - 1951.

The data for this historical study were secured by checking back issues of the *Winston-Salem Journal* and the *Twin City Sentinel* newspapers, city laws and charters, annual reports and records of the Library, North Carolina Library Laws, personal interviews with former Branch staff members, reports of the North Carolina Library Commission, and surveys of general, social, cultural and economic conditions of the time to ascertain their bearing upon the library movement.

Winston-Salem does not have a newspaper operated by Negroes, so the newspapers checked for this study are the two daily papers which serve the city and vicinity. Since the editorial staffs are acquainted with the reading needs of the community, and are in a position to advertise the library deficiencies, it is possible that a true picture of the situation has been given by them.

**Significance of Study**

This historical study is one of a series on the historical development of public library service to Negroes in Southern cities being done as master's theses at the Atlanta University School of Library Service. The first in this series is one made by Miss Barbara M. Adkins on the history of public library service to
Negroes in Atlanta, Georgia.\textsuperscript{1} Mrs. Rosebud Tillman made a similar study on Little Rock, Arkansas.\textsuperscript{2} Studies of other cities are contemplated. The series, when completed, will serve to point out the patterns of the origin and development of public library service to Negroes in urban communities throughout the South. Organizations, pressure techniques and personalities involved in the struggle for public library service for Negroes will be described in these studies. If more studies of this sort are made, they will serve as measuring rods for the progress made in library service to Negroes in the South as a whole and the progress can be contrasted with that recorded in Dr. Eliza Atkins Gleason's book, \textit{The Southern Negro and the Public Library}.\textsuperscript{3} In order to present the present status of library service to Negroes in the South, more comprehensive historical studies of this sort are essential.

\begin{center}
\textbf{Economic and Cultural Backgrounds of the Community}
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\textbf{Geographic features.--}Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the county seat of Forsyth County, is located on the Piedmont Plateau in northwest North Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.\textsuperscript{4} The city has two separate beginnings three quarters
\end{center}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{1}Barbara M. Adkins, "A History of Public Library Service to Negroes in Atlanta, Georgia" (unpublished Master's thesis, School of Library Service, Atlanta University, 1951).
\item \textsuperscript{2}Rosebud Tillman, "A History of Public Library Service to Negroes in Little Rock, Arkansas" (unpublished Master's thesis, School of Library Service, Atlanta University, 1953).
\item \textsuperscript{3}Eliza Atkins Gleason, \textit{The Southern Negro and the Public Library} (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1941).
\item \textsuperscript{4}Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, \textit{Winston-Salem, North Carolina} (Fall, 1951).
\end{itemize}
of a century apart. Salem was started as a village project in 1766 after a long search for an ideal location by the Moravian Church, a Protestant denomination of Bohemian origin. Winston was originated, named and incorporated as the seat of Forsyth County by the State Legislature in 1849. Less than a mile separated the courthouses of these two communities. These two neighboring communities consolidated into Winston-Salem in 1913.

Main industries.—Winston-Salem is a world center for the manufacture of tobacco products. It is the leading manufacturing city of the two Carolinas and ranks high among the top manufacturing cities of the nation. The principal products manufactured here are cigarettes and other forms of tobacco, hosiery, underwear, furniture, blankets, air conditioning machines, nicotine sulphate, tin foil, textile products, narrow fabric and boxes.

Population.—According to the 1950 United States Census the population of Winston-Salem is 87,811. It is chiefly composed of the white and Negro races. The white population is 51,051 or 58.13 percent and the Negro population is 36,732 or 41.83 percent of the total population. There are 28 foreign born residents in the city or .04 percent of the total population. Forsyth County has a population of 146,135.

Education.—There are seven public elementary schools in the city for Negroes, one high school and one college. In the

1 Ibid.

2 The population figures cited for the city and county are early reports from the U. S. Census for 1950 furnished by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce.
county, there is one primary school for Negroes and one consolidated elementary and high school. Most of the Negro children of the county attend the consolidated elementary and high school. There is a fairly good library in the consolidated school with a full-time trained librarian. In the primary school, there is a library corner in each classroom. Each Negro school in the city has a library and a trained librarian.

For whites in the city, there are three high schools and 11 elementary schools; and in the county there are 15 elementary schools and four high schools. All of the high schools have libraries with trained librarians and the majority of the elementary schools also have libraries and trained librarians. There is a girls' college in the city for whites.

**Occupations.**—Nearly 86 percent of the population is engaged in industry, business and the professions. According to a survey conducted by the Chamber of Commerce in 1947, it was found that over half of the population was engaged in the manufacturing industry. The survey showed the percentages according to the type of work as being: 58 percent working in manufacturing, 23 percent working in retailing and wholesaling, 14 percent working in various trades and services and five percent doing governmental or other professional work.

Because of the large number of factories and business concerns in the city, a large majority of people live outside

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the city limits in the county and make their living by working in these industries in the city. Due to the nature of the industries, a large proportion of the Negroes in the city and county earn their livelihood by working there and most of them are classified in the laboring group.

The tobacco industry offers to the unskilled Negro the most attractive of jobs; consequently Forsyth County has a great number of unskilled Negro laborers. It is estimated that 32.5 percent of our population are Negroes, while in 1920 we had 34.2 percent, and in 1930 33.3 percent.\(^1\)

The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is the largest employer of Negroes in the city and most of the jobs held by Negroes are in the unskilled or semi-skilled category. The present employment patterns limit their chances for jobs. Quite a few of the Negroes are qualified to do the skilled jobs, but the unfair employment practices keep them from entering that type of work.

**Standard of living.**—Because of the unequal opportunities for the Negro in education and jobs, the living standards of the Negro in Winston-Salem are very low. Since the Negro automatically falls in the low salary group, he is forced to live in the low-rent sections of the city. In the northern and eastern sections of the city there are clustered together many unpainted shacks which house much of the Negro population. Mingled in between, and mostly in east Winston, the more prosperous Negro families live.

\(^1\)Ibid., p. 192.
According to the 1940 Census there were 15,922 residential structures in the city, comprising 21,275 family units. By 1946 the family units had increased to 22,044. "Over one-half of the city population lives in substandard dwellings involving 4,154 white families and 7,990 colored families." Most of the dwellings surrounding the George Moses Horton Branch Library fall into this general category. The situation for the white population as a whole is much better, but some of the houses for white tenants are also substandard. Plans are under way for slum clearance and low rent housing for both races.

When the city planning program, now being inaugurated, becomes an actuality, and if it adopts an obsolescence rate as outlined by the Public Works Department, many blocks of blighted and deteriorated properties occupied by Negroes will become involved. It has been estimated that 1,672 houses are now subject to demolition and that 12,144 dwelling units are considered substandard, of which 7,990 or 65.7 percent are occupied by colored families. The rehabilitation program will require not only extensive repair and alteration, but in many hundreds of instances it will be necessary to demolish structures that can under no circumstances be placed in habitable condition. Without a housing construction and repair program on a basis far exceeding that which has been conducted during the past twenty-one years, it will not be possible to relocate many of those families and thus rehabilitate many of the blighted areas of the city.\(^1\)

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Recreation and Group Work Programs for Negroes in Winston-Salem

At the time of the opening of the George Moses Horton Branch of the Carnegie Public Library in 1927 there were very few

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\(^2\)Ibid., p. 10.
recreational activities for Negroes in the city. Several of the churches sponsored summer activities for the children and the branches of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. had recreational programs. It was because these children were lacking in adequate reading materials that an Episcopalian minister, "Y" workers and other interested individuals made an appeal for library facilities for Negroes.

Since 1927 playgrounds at the different schools and recreational centers in different parts of the city have been developed for Negroes and the library has cooperated with these various groups in supplying them with the best literature it has for their recreation and education.

Legal Basis for the Existence of the Public Library

The federal government is not directly concerned with public library organization and administration.¹ The form of public library government is to be found in the structure of the individual library and in its relations with the state and local governments. Since the American city is the creature of the state, it is governed by the state constitution and by state legislation. Since libraries are governed locally, the constitution of the United States has nothing in it in regard to the operation of public libraries by cities or other local agencies.

Federal laws which affect public library interests are concerned with such matters as the free importation of books, the distribution of various kinds of government documents, free transportation of books for the blind and reduced postal rates for books loaned by libraries.\(^1\)

The federal government, through the Library of Congress in Washington, is doing many things which are of specific importance to libraries. A few of the services are free distribution of materials, printed catalog cards, bibliographic services and interlibrary loan services.

Although the Constitution of the United States does not mention libraries, yet it does put some limitations upon the extent to which the Negro may be denied the benefits of privileges created and supported by governmental units within a state. The legal rights of the Negro, in this instance, arise under the clause of the Fourteenth Amendment which prohibits the states from denying to citizens the "equal protection of the laws," and this prohibition runs not only against state legislatures but also against every other governmental agency within the state.\(^2\)

The legal basis for the library in general in North Carolina is brought out in a citation from the library laws of North Carolina which follows:

The governing body of any incorporated city or county, upon petition of fifteen per cent (15%) of the registered voters in said city or county who voted in the last election for governor, may submit the question of the establishment and support of a free public library to the voters at a special election for that purpose.... For the government of such library there shall be a board of six trustees appointed by the governing body of the city or town or county, chosen from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office; and not more than one member of the board of aldermen or


\(^2\)Gleason, op. cit., p. 52.
town commissioners shall be at any one time a member of said board.... The boards of commissioners of the several counties have the power to make appropriations for libraries. Together with the county board of education of any county in which there is a public library, in their discretion, to cooperate with the trustees of said library in extending the services of such library to the rural communities of the county, and to appropriate out of the funds under their control an amount sufficient to pay the expense of such library extension service.1

As a matter of policy, the state of North Carolina has separation of races in public institutions of the state. Since this is true, one would not be surprised to see the following statement in the library laws of North Carolina.

The state librarian is directed to fit up and maintain a separate place for the use of the colored people who may come to the library for the purpose of reading books and periodicals.2

To get around the federal government's mention above of the "equal protection of the laws", North Carolina has a clause which says "separate but equal". If a reading room in a library is separate, there is a question as to its equality. The only way a collection of books can be equal is for each collection to be identically the same. When two institutions are referred to as "separate but equal" in North Carolina, they are not meant to be identical. The ones for the Negro in most cases are inferior to the "equal" facility for the whites.

Before the combination of the two cities of Winston and

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2Ibid., p. 4.
Salem, a city ordinance of Winston in 1910\(^1\) established a library committee which at first was made up of two members of the Board of Aldermen, and three residents of the City of Winston, not members of the Board of Aldermen. This committee had general supervision of the library and made requisitions upon the Board of Aldermen for sufficient funds for the maintenance of the library. The amount of money expended by this committee could not exceed fifteen hundred dollars per year. Later, by an amended ordinance,\(^2\) the committee was increased to seventeen members, having three members of the Board of Aldermen, one county commissioner, ten residents of the city of Winston-Salem and three residents of the county. The committee was later known as the Library Commission.

At present, the Commission is supposed to discuss and act on certain library matters, but the final authority is exercised by the Board of Aldermen and the city manager.

In 1947 a Negro Advisory Committee was organized by the Negro Branch Librarian and interested Negro citizens who were anxious to see public library service extended to Negro citizens on a more democratic basis. Immediately after organization, this Committee of the Branch Library sent to the acting Chairman of the Library Commission a letter requesting Negro representation on the Library Commission. After discussing the matter in subsequent meetings, the

\(^1\)Ordinances of the City of Winston, 1910. (Section 31).

\(^2\)The Charter and the General Ordinances of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Adopted by the Board of Aldermen March 6, 1942. (Section 2259 adopted February 2, 1951).
request was carried out through appointment by the Mayor of Reverend Kenneth R. Williams, the only Negro on the Board of Aldermen, to the Library Board.\(^1\) However, that same year another Negro, Mr. T. H. Hooper, a local funeral director was appointed to the Commission. At the present time, Mr. Hooper is the only Negro member on the Commission. Mr. Williams' term as a member of the Board of Aldermen expired in 1951. Another Negro was elected from the same ward but when he was approached concerning serving on the Library Commission, it is alleged that he refused to serve. He thought he could represent his people best by serving on the Board of Education.

**Summary**

In order to clearly evaluate the progress of library service to Negroes in the South, more comprehensive studies of this sort are needed.

Public library service for Negroes in Winston-Salem, North Carolina grew out of the realization of a few citizens that they were being left out in a lot of ways by their fellow Americans, and an important factor which was a detriment to them was, they did not have access to adequate reading materials. These citizens realized that a lot of the Negroes did not have the opportunity for formal education enjoyed by most Negroes today. The library movement was

\(^1\)Interview with Mrs. Nell B. Wright, Librarian of the Horton Branch Library, December 27, 1951.
intended to enable these people to further educate themselves through reading, so they would be able to take their places beside other citizens in all walks of life.

The inferior economic conditions of the Negroes of Winston-Salem, along with sub-standard living conditions, make the library and its facilities one of the most important institutions in the city, affording knowledge and recreation to those who cannot find it elsewhere.
CHAPTER II

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Adequate library service can be measured to a great extent through the soundness of its establishment and control, together with the effectiveness of its organization. Both organization and administration are significant factors in determining the quality of service the library can offer.

Organization of the Main Library

In 1903 a movement for a public library for the city of Winston was initiated.1 Andrew Carnegie agreed to donate to the city of Winston $25,000.00 for the erection of a building, providing the city would furnish a lot and appropriate annually not less than $2,500.00 for the maintenance of the library. Mr. J. C. Buxton, who was chairman of the City School Board at that time, was the leader of the movement. He discussed the proposal repeatedly with the Aldermen and the citizenry of Winston and also the Commissioners of Salem.

In October 1903 at the Board of Aldermen's meeting a special committee was appointed to meet with the Commissioners of the town of Salem to make plans for the establishment of a public library.

1Fries, op. cit., p. 106.
As a result of an appeal by Mr. Buxton, on December 21, 1903, the Winston Board of Aldermen adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to the City of Winston-Salem, N. C. the sum of $25,000 to build a Public Library for the use and benefit of said Cities,

And whereas the joint committee appointed by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Winston and the Commissioners of the Town of Salem has reported to their respective Boards that it is not convenient at this time to accept said gift on the terms proposed by Mr. Carnegie and whereas Mr. Carnegie is willing to give the City of Winston the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars, provided the City of Winston will appropriate $1,500 per year for the maintenance and support of the library and provide a suitable site for said Building, that the offer is hereby accepted on the part of the City of Winston and this Board hereby authorizes the said Library Building to be erected on the east corner of the West End Graded School lot fronting on Fourth Street, belonging to the City of Winston, and the clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and instructed to certify this resolution to Mr. Andrew Carnegie and to express to him the thanks of the City of Winston for his liberal donation:

Resolved, that an annual appropriation of $1,500 is hereby made for the purpose of maintaining and supporting the said library; the sum to be available when the library building is completed and turned over to the City.

Resolved, that Mr. J. C. Buxton, the Mayor of the City, and James K. Norfleet be and are hereby appointed as the building committee who shall have the whole matter in charge. W. E. Franklin, Secretary and Treasurer.

O. E. Eaton. 1

It was decided by the Building Committee that the West End School property was not a suitable place for the public library. The committee felt that it was not easily accessible to the citizens living in far distant sections of the city. A site easily accessible by streetcar or by foot in the center of town, on the corner of

1Ibid., p. 108.
Cherry and Third Streets was authorized for purchase by the Board of Aldermen at the price of $2,000 for the erection of the public library.

Upon completion of the building, the Building Committee was appointed by the Board of Aldermen to continue as the Library Committee for one year with the power to elect a librarian and make plans for the opening of the library. On February 14, 1906, the Carnegie Library was opened on the corner of Cherry and Third Streets with Mrs. Mary Prather as its first librarian. The books from the West End School library were transferred to the new Carnegie Library building and served as its first book collection.

**Organization of the Negro Branch Library**

Prior to February 15, 1927, the Negroes in Winston-Salem did not have public library facilities. It was on this date that the George Moses Horton Branch of the Carnegie Public Library was opened. A few months before the opening of the branch library, Father McDuffie, a Negro Episcopalian minister, went to the chairman of the Library Board and requested library facilities for the Negroes. Meade H. Willis, chairman of the Library Board at that time, felt that there was no present need for library facilities for Negroes. However, after Father McDuffie and a few other interested Negroes had several conferences with the chairman of the Board and Miss Janet Berkeley, the city librarian at that time, it was decided that services for Negroes would be tried on an experimental basis.

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1Interview with Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, First Librarian of the Negro branch library, December 26, 1951.
Since the city budget had been made for the fiscal year without thought of library services for Negroes, the question arose as to the operating expenses for the branch library. Mr. Willis thought that the staffing of the branch could be worked out by means of volunteer workers. He asked the officials of the branch Y.W.C.A. to help find volunteer workers for the library.

Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, who was doing volunteer work for the Y.W.C.A. at that time, along with Mrs. Maud Ray and Mrs. Alvan Jones Martin, decided to volunteer their services to the city and each lady took training in library techniques at the main library from October 1926 until the opening of the branch library on February 15, 1927. These ladies worked without pay until June 1927. Each lady worked two afternoons each week. The library was open from 4 to 8 P.M. Mondays through Saturdays.

These volunteer workers wanted to name the branch after a North Carolina Negro. For this honor, they chose George Moses Horton, a poet and former slave who had also worked as a janitor at the University of North Carolina.

George Moses Horton was born in Northampton County, North Carolina, the slave of the Horton family, George Moses was passed from member to member of that family until he obtained his freedom in 1865. His master allowed him to hire himself out at Chapel Hill, and it was while working there in the home of the president of the University that he learned to read and write. Horton was for many years a campus "character" at Chapel Hill. He wrote love poems for the students at twenty-five or fifty cents a-piece, according to the degree of ador desired.... In 1828, his first volume, The Hope of Liberty, was published in Raleigh. The poet hoped to gain enough from the sale of this work to buy his liberty, but he was disappointed. The same work was reissued in Philadelphia in 1837 as Poems
by a Slave. When the Northern troops occupied Raleigh in 1865, Horton escaped to their lines and became a free man, and in the same year his second work, Naked Genius, appeared. Not much is known concerning Horton's life after this period. He presumably lived in Philadelphia until his death, which occurred probably in 1883.1

Building

The George Moses Horton Branch Library was opened in a room loaned by the Chestnut Street Branch of the Y.W.C.A. in its building at 619 North Chestnut Street. Heat and light were furnished free by the Y.W.C.A. The city fitted the room with shelves and furnished a card catalog. A discarded desk, a reading table, and three chairs from the old city hall furniture completed the furnishings. The only new equipment was the card catalog. With the exception of a few books by and about Negroes, the books were purchased from the Carnegie Library Book fund.

In the interest of the library for colored people, The Winston-Salem Journal-Star sponsored a Negro spiritual concert at the Auditorium and the money secured in this was turned over to the librarian to be used to the best advantage for the new library. It was decided to use this fund for the purchase of books about Negroes and by Negro authors, and in this way the Horton Branch was able to open with a good beginning of such a collection on its shelves.2

By 1929 it was found expedient to enlarge the quarters of the library. This was done by removing the partition between the one room occupied by the library and the adjoining room, making the

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space twice as large. This added space still did not suffice and in 1931, larger quarters, a vacant store-room was secured in the Bruce Building at 216 East Sixth Street as the new one-room location for the library. Still feeling the need for additional space, the librarian named a Negro Affairs Committee¹ to talk over the situation with the city officials. The committee was composed of Dr. W. H. Bruce, Sr., a local physician as chairman; Mr. Aldine Robinson, a local funeral director; Mr. John Herring, a chauffeur; Mr. Norman Williams, a tobacco worker; Mrs. Madge Neely, a matron at Winston-Salem Teachers College and Mrs. Irma Neal Henry, a housewife.

During 1937, at the close of the library's tenth year, the adjoining store room was made available by the city, thus making it possible to have a reading room for the children and one for adults. The library then served the public from 2 to 8 P.M. daily, except Sundays.

When the partition between the two store rooms was removed, the library, with limited funds, was faced with the problem of equipping the added room. It was at this time that the Negro citizens of Winston-Salem under the sponsorship of Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority came to its rescue by contacting various Negro civic, social and fraternal groups for donations. The city furnished the room with shelving. The various Negro civic and social clubs, fraternities and sororities, the Safe Bus Company, the

¹Interview with Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, First Librarian of the Negro branch library, December 26, 1951.
North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Winston-Mutual Life Insurance Company rallied to the cause, each giving from one to 75 dollars. Contributions from these organizations and individuals totaled $289.50.\textsuperscript{1} From this fund the following items were purchased: chairs, a globe, a dictionary stand, a display case, a filing cabinet, shelf markers, pictures of outstanding Negroes, a circulation desk and a few books.

Since that time, gifts of books have been received continuously from interested individuals and groups. Two of the larger gifts to be noted are the donation for children's books by the Winston-Mutual Life Insurance Company for the 1941 Spring Book Festival and the donation given by the Twin City Medical Auxiliary to increase the collection of Negro literature.

In September 1943, in an effort to increase public service, the library began to operate on a new schedule of longer hours and served the public Mondays through Fridays from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. and on Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. In 1949, the hour of opening was changed to 9 A.M. The closing hours remained the same and are in effect at the present time.

**Personnel**

After having served without pay from the opening of the library on February 15, 1927 through May 1927, Mrs. Mary M. Hairston was employed June 1, 1927 as the first paid branch librarian. Mrs. O. P. Mitchell and Mrs. Lillie P. Turner served for a short time as

\textsuperscript{1}Vertical file. George Moses Horton Branch Library.
her assistants. Each of these workers was trained by the city librarian before joining the staff of the branch library. Mrs. Hairston was graduated from West Virginia State College with a teacher's certificate. She also studied two additional years at the Winston-Salem Teachers College. In the summer of 1930 she attended a six-week workshop at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. This workshop was sponsored by the Rosenwald Foundation for untrained Negro librarians who actually had jobs as librarians. In the summer of 1940, Mrs. Hairston resigned as branch librarian and accepted a position in the library of Winston-Salem Teachers College. In spite of the inadequate equipment, meager book collection, and poor financial support, the Branch Library made great strides of progress under her administration.

For some months after the resignation of Mrs. Hairston, the Branch Library operated with substitute help. In February 1941, Mrs. Nell Brooks Wright was appointed branch librarian. She came to the Library from the Greensboro public school system where she had been a member of the faculty of the J. C. Price Elementary School as librarian and teacher of social studies and adviser to the Girls Reserve. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and the Master of Arts degree in education from Columbia University in New York City. Since that time she has taken further work at Columbia University in guidance.

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1Interview with Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, First Librarian of the Negro branch library, December 26, 1951.

2Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel, September 19, 1943.
and has completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science at the School of Library Service of Columbia University. Mrs. Wright has served continuously as branch librarian from 1941 to the present time. Under her direction the library has continued to go forward, and with its educational and recreational facilities is exerting a wholesome influence upon the community.

Miss Ruth Pitts was appointed as Mrs. Wright's assistant in September of 1943. Her work was concentrated largely in the Children's Department. Miss Pitts was graduated from Winston-Salem Teachers College and was active in religious and community activities. She was a help to the librarian in arranging public programs and conducting the children's story hour. She left the library in January 1946 and accepted a Civil Service position in Washington, D.C.

On September 1, 1947 Mrs. Martha E. Young joined the staff as assistant librarian. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina and the Bachelor of Science in Library Science degree from the School of Library Service of North Carolina College at Durham. She came to this position directly from the library school, but before going to library school she had had quite a bit of experience with children as a teacher in the public schools of Sumter, South Carolina.

In the spring of 1949 Mrs. Emmalene H. Goodwin joined the staff as children's librarian. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Kent University in Kent, Ohio. Along with her regular studies, she took courses in library science. Before accepting this position, Mrs. Goodwin had taught in the city school
system of Cleveland, Ohio, and had done a considerable amount of work with children in church organizations, in the Y.W.C.A. and in other community organizations. She is also proficient in art which is quite helpful in designing colorful bulletin boards for the children's room of the library.

On June 1, 1949 Bennie L. Moore joined the staff as extension librarian. He received the Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree from North Carolina College at Durham and the Bachelor of Science degree in Library Science from the School of Library Service at the same school. While the extension librarian was on leave to study in 1951-1952, Mrs. Mary Turner Henry joined the staff. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Stowe Teachers College in St. Louis, Missouri and the Bachelor of Science in Library Science degree from the School of Library Service of Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. She has done graduate study in library service at the University of Michigan. Since being with the library, most of her work has been done with the teen-agers and young adults. A club for each group was organized under her supervision. Before coming to the Horton Branch library Mrs. Henry worked at the Richard B. Harrison Public Library in Raleigh, North Carolina, and at the Bennett College Library in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her personality and ability to work with children and young adults has done much in getting the teen-agers and young adults to read and take an interest in the materials of the library.
The library budget allocation is from two sources, city revenue and an annual appropriation from the county. The library serves both city and county residents but the county appropriation for library service is small as compared with other neighboring counties of the state.

According to statistics compiled by the North Carolina Library Commission, all of the six counties with populations over 75,000 appropriated more for library services than did Forsyth County in 1915. In comparison with Forsyth's appropriation of $2,400, Durham County appropriated $13,200; Wake appropriated $10,500; Gaston $9,300; Guilford, $8,000; and Buncombe, $5,000. With the exception of Mecklenburg, all of these counties have smaller populations and less taxable capacity than Forsyth.1

It was not until 1947 that the Horton Branch Library had a separate budget. There was a general budget for the entire library system.

In 1947 a newly activated Negro Advisory Committee sent to the mayor and the acting head of the Library Commission a letter requesting definite information on the operational budget of the Branch.2

As a result of the action by the Committee, the Branch Library started operating on a budget July 1, 1947 (see Table 1). An increase of $5,776.00 was a 77.3 per cent increase in the budget more than it was in 1948-1949. This was made in anticipation of adding bookmobile service in the city and county. Duplicate copies


of juvenile and adult books were added so that one copy could be used on the bookmobile. About half of this increase went for the salary of the new Extension Librarian. The increase of $6,361.00 or 40.9 per cent was given in 1950-1951 over the 1949-1950 budget because the Young Adults Department was being added to the branch library. Duplicate copies of young adult books were purchased and about half of the increase went for the salary of the Young Adult Librarian.

**Summary**

The main library of Winston-Salem was organized in 1903 through the effort of Mr. J. C. Buxon, who was chairman of the City School Board at that time. Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave $15,000
for the building and the city bought a lot for $2,000.00 and appropriated $1,500.00 per year for maintenance of the library. The books from the West End School Library were transferred to the new library on the corner of Third and Cherry Streets and served as the library's first book collection.

In 1926 Father McDuffie, a Negro Episcopalian minister first requested library facilities for Negroes from the Chairman of the Library Board. After a few conferences between the Library Board, Father McDuffie and a few interested Negroes, the George Moses Horton Branch library was opened February 15, 1927 on an experimental basis. Three volunteers worked without pay until June 1927.

The Chestnut Street Branch of the Y.W.C.A. loaned a room in its building for the branch library. The city furnished the shelves and a new card catalog. An old desk, a table and three chairs from city hall completed the furnishings for the branch library.

By 1931 the branch library had outgrown its quarters at the Y.W.C.A. and an old storeroom was rented in the Bruce Building at 216 East Sixth Street. After using this one-room facility for six years, an adjoining room was rented and the branch library then had space for a separate children's room. The local chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was chairman of a drive to contact other Negro groups for contributions in order to buy furniture, library supplies and books for the branch library.
Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, the first paid librarian of the branch library resigned in 1940. Mrs. Nell B. Wright became librarian in 1941. Under Mrs. Wright's supervision, the branch library has added an assistant librarian, a children's librarian, an extension librarian and a young adults librarian.

Both the city and county allocate money for the maintenance of the library. In 1947 the branch library started operating on a separate budget from the main library. Generous increases in the branch library's budget have made it possible to add two new departments and a staff member to head each department.
CHAPTER III

THE MATERIALS COLLECTION

Books

The book collection in any library is an important factor in the overall picture of the library because it furnishes the tools through which the staff achieves the library's objectives. The adequacy of the book collection will depend upon the amount of money allocated for books and periodicals and the competency of the persons making the selection.

The main and branch library of Winston-Salem, North Carolina have suffered from their beginnings because the budget has been too small to purchase books and periodicals needed to keep the book collection up to date. The inadequate budget has been due largely to the lack of interest exhibited by the Library Board members. This fact is further emphasised in a report written by the Branch Librarian in 1943.

No one of the Library Board seems particularly interested in the library. The meetings are not held often and they let the library sort of run itself as best it can. The Chairman has held his position on the Board for a number of years and his decisions or opinions are usually final. If he doesn't approve, important issues or matters concerning finance never reach the appropriating body. He is quite an influential citizen and being an older man is not opposed by the younger members of the Board.

This attitude of the Board is also due to a great extent to the attitude of the staff of the library.
The staff has remained the same for a long time. They are mostly home people, not interested in leaving the city, with no chances for advancement in the library.... The Head Librarian who has held her position for eighteen years, is timid about asking the Board for necessary items which involve the spending of much money.¹

Because of the small budget, it has been imperative for a number of years for the main library to use a plan of renting best sellers of fiction to patrons until the books pay for themselves.² Four or five copies of fiction titles in demand have been bought through funds raised from this plan. In the early years of the Horton Branch Library, many of its books of fiction were sent from the main library as used copies taken from the rental collection after they had been there long enough to pay for themselves.³ Many of such books are still a part of the collection of the branch library. So the figures in Table 2 under Books Added Annually, as small as they are, do not necessarily mean that these books were new books. Some were gifts of new and used books; some were transferrals of used books from the main library and some were new books selected by the branch librarian. However, as late as 1943 books were bought only for the branch when there was a bargain announced.⁴


³Interview with Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, First Librarian of the Negro branch library, December 26, 1951.

⁴Interview with Mrs. Nell B. Wright, Librarian, Horton Branch Library, December 27, 1951.
## TABLE 2
THE BOOK COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Books Added Annually</th>
<th>Total In Collection</th>
<th>Percent of Increase</th>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>398</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>462</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930</td>
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<td>427</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>2,544</td>
<td>+ 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>+ 6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>299</td>
<td>2,971</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>374</td>
<td>3,269</td>
<td>+10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>292</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5,909</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>488</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>6,514</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>6,938</td>
<td>+ 6.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>611</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1,008</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>9,514</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>10,314</td>
<td>+ 8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This was the period in the history of the library when the city librarian would develop premeditated headaches when approached by the branch librarian for new books and other library supplies, and would be forced to leave the company of the branch librarian. However, the conversations did not end at this point. The branch librarian would write a letter to the city librarian, expressing the needs of the branch library. After receiving the letter, the city librarian would consent to have a conference with the branch librarian.

From the beginning of the branch library in 1927, despite the small book allotment, and small donations, some of the best books suitable for the type of clientele in this community were selected by competent librarians from current book selection aids and added annually. When Mrs. Wright was appointed branch librarian, she used the current issue of the Standard Catalog for Public Libraries and added as many of the books recommended for first purchase for small public libraries marked with a star and those especially recommended for first purchase marked by a double star, as the budget would allow.

In the early days of the Horton Branch Library, a large amount of light fiction, mysteries and adventure stories were read. Most of the gifts and transfers from the main library were books of this type.

The Horton Branch Library got its first new set of

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1Interview with Mrs. Mary M. Hairston, First Librarian of the Negro branch library, December 26, 1951.
Before this time, the branch library got the old set which was discarded when the main library got a new one. It was not until 1947, when the Horton Branch Library got a separate budget, that the branch librarian was able to add suitable reference books to the collection. Mrs. Wright used the Basic Reference Books by Louis Shores and the Guide to Reference Books by I. G. Mudge as book selection aids to build up the reference collection with new books.

Much care was used in choosing reference books so that there would not be too much duplication between the main and branch libraries. Negroes doing extensive research, were encouraged to use the main library’s reference materials, if what they wanted could not be found at the Horton Branch Library.

Duplicate copies of most children’s books and a large majority of books for adults were bought to be used on the book-mobile and at the hospital.

Use of Book Collection

The George Moses Horton Branch Library circulated more books in 1949 than any other Negro library in the state. With a book collection of less than 9,000 volumes, the total circulation was 46,163. This means that there was an average turnover of more than five times for each book in the library during the year. At the end of the year, there were 3,793 registered borrowers or more than one person for every three books.

1Interview with Mrs. Nell B. Wright, Librarian, Horton Branch Library, December 27, 1951.
Durham and Raleigh, North Carolina were other areas in the state with large Negro populations where the circulation figures exceeded the total Negro populations. Durham's 28,527 citizens borrowed 41,276 volumes from the Stanford L. Warren Public Library while Raleigh's 36,809 Negroes borrowed 41,369 volumes from the Richard B. Harrison Library.\(^1\)

The actual book total in the Horton Branch Library is about one third the total collection of the Stanford L. Warren Library and about one half the number in the Richard B. Harrison Library. The Stanford L. Warren Library has one book for each Negro but the Horton Branch Library has one book to each five Negro citizens.

**Magazines and Newspapers**

The Horton Branch Library has an excellent file of periodicals which makes available the most recent material covering a variety of subjects. This is of value to the public because much of the information found in these periodicals is more recent than that found in books. The library subscribes to 87 magazines and 12 newspapers.

For the ten-year period, 1928-1937, 3,618 books were added (see Table 2). The branch library averaged approximately 354 books each year; about one book a day. The branch library

circulated 96,182 books during this same ten-year period, 1928-1937 (see Table 3). This means that each book was circulated an average of eight times during the year. The library circulated 138,093 volumes. Each book was circulated an average of six times during the year. For another ten-year period, 1938-1947, the library added 5,337 volumes or an average of 533 books each year.

The number of registered borrowers added annually was sporadic (see Table 4). The total number increased from 1927 to 1930 and then there was a decrease of approximately 25 per cent. This was partially due to the fact that the stock market crashed during this period and many people were on relief. Jobs were scarce and people did not care too much for reading. In 1932 when they were recovering from their lack of work, money and food, they began very slowly to use the library again.

From 1948-1951 the branch library added 6,112 volumes or an average of 1,582 volumes each year. The branch library circulated 170,912 books during this period.

Circulation figures at the branch library have also been sporadic. The largest increase noted is for the year 1928 when the increase went to 336.0 per cent over the previous year. However, during the first year, 1927, the library was open only a few hours a day and most of the year, volunteer workers operated the library. Another year where there is a large increase in circulation is 1948 when the increase over the previous year went to 115.0 per cent. This was due largely to more concentration of services outside the library. This was the year when the branch
TABLE 3
CIRCULATION STATISTICS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Juvenile</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent of Increase</th>
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</thead>
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<td>...</td>
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*Circulation statistics not available separately for adults and juveniles in 1927.*
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Adult</th>
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<th>Percent of Increase</th>
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library started serving patients at the Kate Biting Reynolds Memorial Hospital. Service to county schools, nurseries and recreational centers in the city also accounted for this large increase in circulation.

Although books added annually did not increase each year, the total in the collection increased each year. The years that show large increases in books added were the years that the main library transferred large numbers of used and discarded books to the branch library. The total in the collection increased because books were not discarded too often. In 1947 when the branch library started operating on a separate budget, the per cent of total books decreased 14.0 per cent from the previous year because a lot of the old books were discarded to make space for additional books. The largest increase in the book collection is noted in 1949 when the per cent of increase jumped from 3.0 per cent for 1948 to 28.0 per cent. This was due to the addition of a Young Adults Department to the branch library and bookmobile service to the city and county. Books were bought to stock these additional departments.

The number of registered borrowers at the branch library increased moderately until 1931 when they decreased 81.0 per cent from the previous year. A goodly number of the first registered borrowers were beginning to expire at this time. That was the year when the branch moved from the Y.W.C.A. to a new location on Sixth Street. The first year in its new location in 1932, the
increase jumped 182.0 per cent over the previous year. People actually learned about the library when it began operating in a separate building. It was not until 1946 that another big increase was noticed when the per cent of increase jumped 40.0 per cent over the previous year. Most of this increase was among the juvenile borrowers. The story hour started in 1944 was just beginning to pay off. In 1949 when the bookmobile started operating in the city and county and the addition of the Young Adults Department, registered borrowers again jumped 15.0 per cent over the previous year.

Summary

The Winston-Salem libraries have suffered from their beginning because of a meager budget and the lack of Library Board members who could convince the Board of Aldermen of the library's need. Because of this, the materials collection of the George Moses Horton Branch Library has suffered. Many of the books added annually to the branch library were used or discarded copies from the main library.

Despite all this, the library has made progress. At the end of 1927 there was a total of 1,254 books in the collection, by 1951 there was a total of 10,314 books in the collection. The branch library circulated 2,201 books in 1927 and in 1951 it circulated 45,415. At the end of 1927 it had 1,005 registered borrowers and in 1951 it had 1,388.

In 1947 when the branch library got a separate budget, it
was able to add the type books and materials suitable for a branch library. Much care has been used since to make the best selections.
CHAPTER IV

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Because of the two locations which the George Moses Horton Branch Library has had in the past twenty-five years, it was necessary for the personnel of the library to carry its services to the people. Although quite a bit of activity was carried on within the library, a large percentage of the work was done with children, young people and adults outside the library both in the city and county.

Work With Children and Young People Within the Library

Story hour.—Although considerable work has been done to gain the interest of the children in the library through story hours, it was not until Miss Ruth Pitts was hired in 1944 that the branch library had a member of the staff available to work directly with children.

At the beginning of the branch library in 1927, Miss Louel Collins, children's librarian at the main library told stories to children at the branch once a month. At some of these sessions there were between two and three hundred children attending. During the periods when the story hour was conducted, adults could not use

1Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel, June 11, 1927.
the library because there was not enough space to accommodate them.

After Miss Ruth Pitts resigned, Mrs. Wright used her part-time help and pages to advantage to carry on the services to the children and adults of the community. When Mrs. Martha Young joined the staff in 1947, she worked with the children in the library and told stories to the children in the schools and at the Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital until Mrs. Emmalene Goodwin joined the staff as Children's Librarian in the spring of 1949. Mrs. Goodwin organized a Vacation Reading Club for the summer and started in the fall visiting school libraries, telling stories and inviting classes to the library and in this way, she and the school librarians and teachers worked closely together so that the children were exposed to good reading through good books and stories told by the children's librarian and teachers without duplication.

Young Adults Club.—On Thursday, November 15, 1951, as a part of the observance of National Book Week, a Young Adults club was organized at the Horton Branch Library. Mrs. Mary T. Henry was Young People's Librarian at that time and the organizer of the club. This club sponsored a series of young people's discussions on careers and vocations. Successful citizens in various professions and vocations assisted the Young People's Librarian in giving these teenagers first hand information by serving as discussion leaders. Talks on various careers by these men and women of the community who were engaged in these different careers and vocations were given bi-monthly at the Young Adults Club meetings at the library.
Books, pamphlets and magazines on the subjects and careers discussed were displayed and used by these young people for more detailed studies of the careers of their interest. Many of these young people became interested in careers that they had previously thought little about. These young people publicized their discussion group meetings over the public address systems of their schools as well as through the newspapers. As a result, youth of the community were well aware of the library's program for young adults.

**Older Boys and Girls Club.** The Older Boys and Girls Club was organized to serve boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14. It was believed that these children had outgrown the story hour but were not old enough for the Young Adults Club. Because of their age and temperament, hobby groups and the use of "how-to-do-it" books were publicized. This group was given opportunities to work on their hobbies in the library and from time to time individuals who had similar hobbies of some member of the group were invited to come in and speak about their hobbies to the group. The club met at the library every other Wednesday afternoon. Books and materials on children's hobbies that were in the library's collection were displayed at club meetings and many took the books home to complete their hobbies or to learn more about their friends' hobbies.

In the spring this club conducted a hobby show at the library and invited their parents and friends in to see what they had been doing throughout the year. Due to their interest, the library has constantly added books on hobbies to its collection.
that it had not had before. This was an attempt to meet the needs of a community with the wide variety of interests that existed among the young people. This group's interest in audiovisual materials, such as filmstrips, movies and records, was equal to that of the very young and many of their friends came to the library because of their invitations.

Work With Children and Young People Outside the Library

Cooperation with schools.—The George Moses Horton Branch librarians and the school librarians worked together to provide coordinated library service to school children without unnecessary duplication. The Children's Librarian at the Branch Library made frequent visits to the schools and told stories to the children. The teachers from the schools made visits to the library with classes and presented plays and skits at story hours. All of the teachers requested their students to become members of the branch library and to use its facilities. Often when teachers were discussing a particular unit for a period of time, they would come to the library and get a large number of books pertaining to that particular unit for display purposes in their classrooms.

Before the consolidation of the county schools in 1950, the bookmobile made monthly stops at all of the county schools and circulated books directly to the school children. Most of these schools had library corners in the classrooms but there were not enough books to adequately serve the students. Many of the teachers borrowed books from the bookmobile to help with units discussed in their classes.
The Duke and Duchess Club.—On Saturday June 26, 1948, the Duke and Duchess Club was organized at the Happy Hill Recreation Center.¹ This club was a project of the George Moses Horton Branch Library for the purpose of offering to children, between the ages of two and 13 years, opportunities for improvement culturally, spiritually and socially. Parents played a major role in the activities of the club in that each monthly meeting was under the direction of special parent groups. The library hoped, through the activities of the club, to improve its reader circulation, to interest more children in good books and to cause more children to become patrons of the library.

The purpose of the first meeting was to acquaint the parents with the aims and ideas of the organization and to allow the children to become acquainted with each other. This club did not bring patrons into the library and it did not cause children to read more, so, it later became a social club with no ties with the library. Later the Older Boys and Girls Club was organized and it did the things the Duke and Duchess Club was organized to do.

Extension Work

Hospital service.—In November 1947 the George Moses Horton Branch Library started giving service to the patients, staff and personnel of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital.²

²Ibid., November 16, 1947, p.10C.
The hospital was served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Mrs. Nell Wright served the adults on Mondays and Fridays. Mrs. Martha Young told stories and circulated books to the children each Wednesday.

This extension service was made possible through the cooperation of several groups with the branch library and Mr. E. H. Bradley, administrator of the hospital. Books, magazines and newspapers were circulated to convalescent patients of the hospital.

The library of the Winston-Salem Teachers College loaned the book truck to bring the books, magazines and newspapers to the bedside of the patients so that they could make their own selections. The Women's Auxiliary to the Twin City Medical Society ordered a regular hospital book truck for this purpose and it was put into use early in 1948.

The business office of the hospital under the direction of Miss Mary Caldwell and Mrs. Jerrlyn Smith took care of receiving books from patients when they left the hospital on the days that the librarians were not at the hospital. The book truck stayed in the business office of the hospital for the convenience of the staff and personnel. Mrs. Smith or Miss Caldwell checked out the books to the staff and personnel during the absence of the librarians.

E. H. Bradley, administrator of the hospital, and Mrs. Mildred Thomas, director of nurses of the hospital, cooperated with the library staff in making this library extension service possible.

Bookmobile service.—Winston-Salem and Forsyth County were given their first opportunity to try bookmobile service when the
Works Progress Administration represented by Mrs. Olivia Anderson demonstrated one of its trucks during the months of April, May and June in 1940.\footnote{Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel, July 17, 1941.} This demonstration was such a success that in July 1941, Mr. Meade H. Willis, Chairman of the Library Commission, invited Miss Marjorie Beal, Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission to meet with the members of the Winston-Salem Library Commission and representatives from Forsyth County to discuss the possibilities of a bookmobile for Forsyth County.

Miss Beal brought some suggestions which were received and intended to be carried out immediately by the committee. However, a few months after this meeting, this country was engaged in World War II and the idea of bookmobile service for Forsyth County was held in abeyance.

It was not until 1949 that a bookmobile was purchased to serve Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. One bookmobile served the entire county. Horton Branch Library used it two weeks out of the month and the main library used it two weeks out of the month. When there was a fifth week in the month, the bookmobile was idle unless the main or branch libraries used it for some reason other than making scheduled stops in that county.

Approximately one-fourth the total library circulation represented books borrowed by residents in the county. The bookmobile schedules for the Horton Branch Library were publicized over four radio stations and the week's schedules were on a feature page of the Sunday Edition of the local newspaper.
Service to county schools.—By using a hired car once a week, every Tuesday, the Horton Branch Library started serving the county schools in 1947. The county schools were used as deposit stations and the collections were changed once a month. Because of the limited book collection of the branch library, the deposit collections at the ten county schools were not adequate for the communities served. At that time, there were not too many duplicate copies of books in the collection and often city patrons would request the one copy of books tied up at deposit stations in the county schools. However, when the bookmobile was purchased in 1949, most of the children's books and many of the adult books were bought in duplicate so that the second copy could be used in the extension department.

Service to nurseries and recreational centers in the city.—
In October 1947 the George Moses Horton Branch Library started giving service to the adults and children at the Kimberly Park Recreation Center and the Happy Hill Recreation Center. The Kimberly Park Recreation Center located in the northern section of the city and the Happy Hill Recreation Center located in the southern section of the city were situated in the two largest Negro areas of the city. A library room was set up in each of these centers and books for children and adults were put on the shelves. Old issues of magazines that were given to the library were left in each reading room for patrons to read. A member of the library staff went to these centers one evening a week from five until eight o'clock. Both sections were quite a distance
from the branch library so the service proved to be a success for those patrons who found it inconvenient to come to the branch library.

In January 1948 the branch library started leaving a small collection of easy reading and picture books for children at the Mount Zion Kindergarten and the Bethlehem Center Nursery School. The Mount Zion Kindergarten was sponsored by the Mount Zion Baptist Church; the Bethlehem Center Nursery School was sponsored by the local white Presbyterian churches for the care of pre-school Negro children. These collections were changed monthly.

Work With Adults

Service to shut-ins.—In 1948 a committee of the Friends of the Library started contacting shut-ins with non-communicable diseases who desired books to read. This committee would check out books from the library and take them to these patrons who were unable to come to the library and get reading materials and would bring the books back to the library on or before the due date. Free materials were given on the initial visits by the committee and requests were taken for subsequent reading.

The planning committee compiled a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the persons volunteering for this service. They also acquired magazines in Braille for the blind. The interest of the committee survived as long as there was a need but the interest of the shut-ins' in reading did not last.

Parents' Club.—As a part of the Children's Book Week
observance in November 1951, a Parents' Club was organized at the George Moses Horton Branch Library. Invitations to the first meeting of this club were given to the children who used the library, for their parents. Two films on civilian defense were shown at the first meeting. This club met twice a month on Wednesday mornings. It was composed mostly of unemployed housewives. Specialists in such subjects as photography, flower arrangements, gardening, sewing, cooking and decorating were invited to talk and give demonstrations to this group at their meetings.

Friends of the Library.—A movement to organize a Friends of the Library group at the George Moses Horton Library was started in November 1947. The group included men and women who were interested in bringing the library and the community closer together. This group rendered invaluable service in focusing public attention on the library. The officers of the first Friends of the Library were: Mrs. Mary McCurry, teacher, President; Mrs. Viola McLean, Housewife, Vice President; Miss Mildred Dulle, a student at the Winston-Salem Teachers College, Secretary; Miss Louise Smith, teacher, Assistant Secretary. Two members were elected from the membership-at-large to work with the officers as an Executive Committee. Mrs. Kelly O. P. Goodwin of the ministers' Wives Alliance and Mrs. Mary Jones of the Unique Industrial Club of the Young Women's Christian Association were chosen for this committee. The Friends of the Library group decided to meet the second Thursday of each month at the library at which time there would be business and some type of presentation
of community interest open to all citizens.

The Friends of the Library sponsored an essay contest through the library each year. This contest was open to students at all of the schools and colleges in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. This group was also responsible for bringing such artists as Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps to the library during National Children's Book Week.

**Summary**

From its beginning in 1927, the branch library has not had the type locations that would be conducive to good library service. Because of this, the personnel of the library has engaged in quite a bit of activity outside of the library. A story hour for small children has been maintained at the branch library since 1944 when Miss Ruth Pitts was hired to work with children. A Young Adults Club was started in 1951. The Children's Librarian at the branch library made frequent visits to the schools to tell stories to the children and invited the teachers to bring their classes to the library.

In 1948 a Duke and Duchess Club was organized at the Happy Hill Recreation Center. This club was organized for children between the ages of two and 13 years. The library hoped through the activities of this club, to improve its reader circulation, to interest more children in good books and to cause more children to become patrons of the library.

In 1949, the branch library received an appropriation through the budget for a bookmobile librarian and a bookmobile
was bought for the system to be shared equally by the branch library and the main library. The branch library circulation increased 25 per cent after the beginning of this new facility. The branch library had already started leaving deposits of books at the Kimberly Park Recreation Center and the Happy Hill Recreation Center, but after the bookmobile was secured, better service was rendered. A library room was set up in each of these centers and books for children and adults were put on the shelves. These books were changed from the bookmobile collection once each month.
Summary

Public library service for Negroes in Winston-Salem grew out of the realization of a few Negro citizens that they did not have access to reading materials. They knew that they did not have the educational advantages some of the other citizens enjoyed and the library movement was intended to enable their people to further educate themselves through reading.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave the money for a building for the main library for whites and the city furnished the money for the job and maintenance of the building which was erected in 1903.

Father McDuffie and a few other interested Negroes had conferences with the Library Board in 1926 and in 1927 the George Moses Horton Branch was opened on a trial basis to serve the Negro citizens. The branch library first opened with volunteer help in the Chestnut Street Branch of the Y.W.C.A. In 1931 a separate building in an old one-room store was rented for the branch.

Mrs. Mary M. Hairston was the first paid librarian. She stayed with the library until 1940. Mrs. Nell B. Wright became the branch librarian in 1941. Since 1941, an assistant librarian, a children's librarian, an extension librarian and a young adults librarian have been added to the branch library.
Because of the location of the branch library, special effort was made to attract the people to the library. In many instances the services had to be carried to the people. In 1944 Miss Ruth Pitts was hired to work directly with children. Before this time, the children's librarian from the main library came to the branch and told stories to the children one evening a week. Miss Pitts resigned in 1946 and in 1947 Mrs. Martha Young was hired. She worked with the children in the library and told stories to the children in the schools and at the Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital until Mrs. Emmalene Goodwin was hired as the Children's Librarian in 1949.

In 1951 a Young Adults Club was organized at the branch library. This club met one evening a week and citizens from the community were invited weekly to discuss various professions and vocations with the young people.

To bridge the gap between the story hour and the Young Adults group, the Older Boys and Girls Club was organized. This club served boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14.

In 1947 the branch library started giving service to the patients and staff personnel at the Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital. This service was given each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning.

In 1949 one bookmobile was bought to serve the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Public Library system. The main library used it two weeks and the branch library used it two weeks. From 1947 until 1949, deposit stations were set up in the 10 county
schools by the branch library. Deposit stations were also maintained at the Kimberly Park Recreation Center and the Happy Hill Recreation Center.

**Recommendations**

This study of public library service to Negroes in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County leaves much to be desired. Since Winston-Salem is an industrial town and most of its Negro citizens of working age, secure their livelihood from the industries, most of them work in the laboring groups. They have not had the opportunities of education as some of the other citizens enjoy. A large percentage of these industrial workers live in the housing projects. Branch libraries should be set up in each of these housing projects, the Happy Hill Gardens Housing Project located in the southern section of the city and the Kimberly Park Terrace Housing Project located in the northern section of the city, where library materials could be easily accessible to these workers and their families who live a considerable distance from the one branch library serving Negroes.

The physical facilities at the branch library should be expanded in order to serve more people. Most of the people using the branch library are students preparing assignments. More services should be added to attract adults. There should be Readers' Advisory Services. The classification and pay scale of library employees should be upgraded for staff members as they gain profitable experience and more education in order to attract qualified trained people.
Although a few Negroes do use the main library, the book collection at the George Moses Horton Branch Library is the main source of books for the Negroes. A closer cooperation between the branch librarian and the librarian at the Winston-Salem Teachers College should be worked out. The total book resources of the Negro could be increased by agreements and consultation between the two institutions regarding the purchase of titles where one copy or set would answer the needs of the whole community. The budget should be increased to staff these new facilities and supply them with books, materials and other supplies so that every citizen in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County would become a library patron.
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