

**FREE TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN
WISCONSIN: THE STORY OF THEIR
GROWTH, PURPOSES, AND
DEVELOPMENT; WITH ACCOUNTS
OF A FEW KINDRED MOVEMENTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649308347

Free Traveling Libraries in Wisconsin: The Story of Their Growth, Purposes, and Development;
with accounts of a few kindred movements by Wisconsin Free Library Commission

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WISCONSIN FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION

**FREE TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN
WISCONSIN: THE STORY OF THEIR
GROWTH, PURPOSES, AND
DEVELOPMENT; WITH ACCOUNTS
OF A FEW KINDRED MOVEMENTS**

GENERAL LIBRARY,
UNIV. OF MICH.
2 DEC 1897

1897.



FREE
TRAVELING LIBRARIES
IN
WISCONSIN

IT IS AFTER ALL, NOT
THE FEW GREAT
LIBRARIES, BUT THE
THOUSAND SMALL
ONES, THAT MAY DO
MOST FOR THE PEOPLE



From
WISCONSIN
FREE
LIBRARY
COMMISSION
MADISON · WIS ·



A STOUT FREE TRAVELING LIBRARY STATION.

Showing a farm house in Pleasant Valley, near Downing, Dana County, in which a library is kept. See p. 19.

Free Traveling Libraries in Wisconsin

Y:1425

THE STORY OF THEIR GROWTH, PURPOSES, AND DEVELOPMENT; WITH ACCOUNTS OF A FEW KINDRED MOVEMENTS

ISSUED BY THE WISCONSIN. FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION

MADISON:
DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTER
1897

Contents.

	PAGE
Free Traveling Libraries in Wisconsin — <i>Frank A. Hutchins</i>	5
The Maxson Book Mark.....	29
Children's Home Libraries — <i>L. E. Stearns</i>	30
Railroad Traveling Libraries — <i>L. E. Stearns</i>	33
Traveling Libraries, and Women's Clubs — <i>Mrs. Charles S. Morris</i>	35
Traveling Pictures — <i>Mary E. Tanner</i>	38

ILLUSTRATIONS.

A Stout Free Traveling Library Station.....	FRONTISPIECE
Group of Stout libraries, and a Station.....	facing 6
Views in Weston.....	facing 10
Views in Arpin.....	facing 12
Eagleton Free Library; two views.....	facing 16
Stout Traveling Library Stations.....	facing 20
Witter Traveling Library Station.....	facing 22
Witter Library Station and Library.....	facing 30
"After the Saw Mill Goes".....	facing 36

Foreword.

The widespread interest in the free traveling libraries of Senator Stout and Mr. Witter, brings to the Wisconsin Free Library Commission so many requests for detailed information, that this pamphlet was planned partly in self defense. These requests have come from England as well as from all parts of the United States.

When it was decided to publish the pamphlet, it was expected to include a brief article describing the recent rapid growth and development of traveling libraries in other states and countries; but certain information that was desired was not received in time. While there are many systems of such libraries, scarcely any two are exactly alike. The Wisconsin systems appear to be unique, in that, while working almost entirely for people of isolated communities, they have both local and state supervision. Their librarians are therefore in touch with their comrades in neighboring libraries, and with the great outside library world, and get inspiration from both sources. The most important of these systems have also the benefit of the experience, the counsel, and the rare business sagacity of their founders—neighbors and citizens whom the patrons of the libraries delight to honor and to please.

The Wisconsin Commission takes this opportunity to thank Mr. Melvil Dewey, of Albany, N. Y., and his co-workers, Mr. W. R. Eastman and Miss Myrtilla Avery, for constant aid in its work of helping traveling libraries. The great systems of traveling libraries which the state of New York maintains at Mr. Dewey's instance and under his guidance, show the wonderful possibilities of this new method of extending the education of the people.

The Commission is also indebted to Rev. J. W. White, of Menomonie, who spent a number of days with a camera, among the hills of Dunn county, searching for and taking a number of excellent photographs of the traveling library stations in that county—and all as "a labor of love."

NOVEMBER, 1897.

Wisconsin Free Library Commission.

OFFICE: MADISON, WISCONSIN.

EX-OFFICIO:

CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS,
President University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

JOHN Q. EMERY,
State Superintendent, Madison, Wis.

REUBEN GOLD TRWAITE,
Secretary State Historical Society, Madison, Wis.

APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

JAMES H. STOUT, Menomonie, Wis.

MRS. CHARLES S. MORRIS, Berlin, Wis.

OFFICERS:

J. H. STOUT, *Chairman*, Menomonie, Wis.

F. A. HUTCHINS, *Secretary*, Madison, Wis.

MISS L. E. STEARNS, *Librarian*, Milwaukee, Wis.

FREE TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN WISCONSIN.

FRANK A. HUTCHINS

Secretary Wisconsin Free Library Commission.

No recent movement for the public weal in Wisconsin has won such quick and ready sympathy as the effort to put the best of books and current literature where country people may read them freely. The cities and larger villages have been rapidly establishing free public libraries, but most former efforts to supply farmers and people of small hamlets with free reading have failed. Public libraries must have fresh books occasionally to hold their clientele and these books must be wisely selected. Small country libraries usually get fresh books rarely and generally get uninteresting volumes. Less than five per cent. of the public libraries started in small communities have proved permanently successful. A few years ago Captain Andrew Tainter and wife, of Menomonie, Wisconsin, made an effort to provide books for the farmers of Dunn county. They founded a beautiful library in Menomonie in memory of a deceased daughter and made it free to all the residents of the county. Their library was well managed, but Hon. J. H. Stout, who was one of the trustees, found that a country population of 16,000 people drew less than 3,000 volumes a year. After an investigation he concluded that the failure to get books in larger numbers was due to the difficulty of getting and returning them and not to a lack of appreciation of their value. In casting about for a remedy, he finally decided to adapt the system of traveling libraries to suit the needs of Dunn county. He first secured the co-operation of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission in perfecting his plans, selecting and buying the books and interesting the people.

The writer, as the representative of the commission, had the pleasure of being closely identified with the new movement during its early history and has studied it carefully on the field. Mr. Stout's first move was to purchase a library which included 500 of the most wholesome popular books,—the good books which the experience of all public libraries prove are the most enjoyed by the masses of the people. There were the great standard and contemporary novels, the most entertaining books of travel and biography, of history and science. There were books for children, for