

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF
THE STATE LIBRARY OF
TENNESSEE 1911-1912**

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Biennial Report of the State Library of Tennessee 1911-1912 by Miss Mary Skeffington

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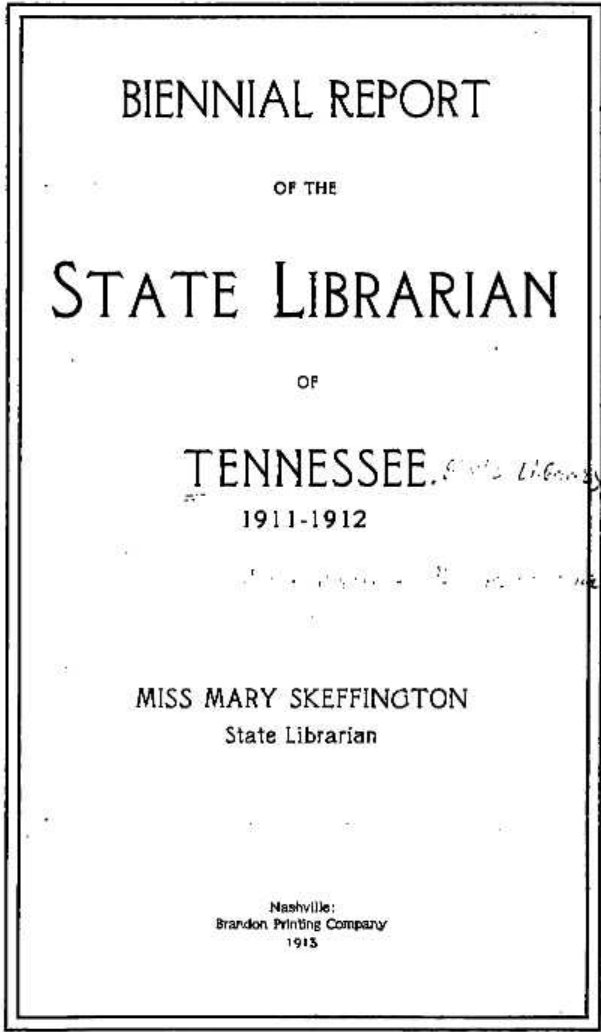
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MISS MARY SKEFFINGTON

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THE STATE LIBRARY OF
TENNESSEE 1911-1912**

92



BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE LIBRARIAN

OF

TENNESSEE. *State Librarian, Kas.*

1911-1912

MISS MARY SKEFFINGTON
State Librarian

Nashville:
Brandon Printing Company
1913



VIEW IN TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY

~~DOCUMENTS SECTION~~

*Left
In a Dist. of Court
5/2/50*

Officers of the Tennessee State Library

STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION

HONORABLE BEN W. HOOPER *Governor*
HONORABLE JOHN K. SHIELDS *Chief Justice*
HONORABLE CHAS. T. CATES, JR. *Attorney-General*

MISS MARY SKEFFINGTON *Librarian*
MISS JANE SKEFFINGTON *Assistant Librarian*

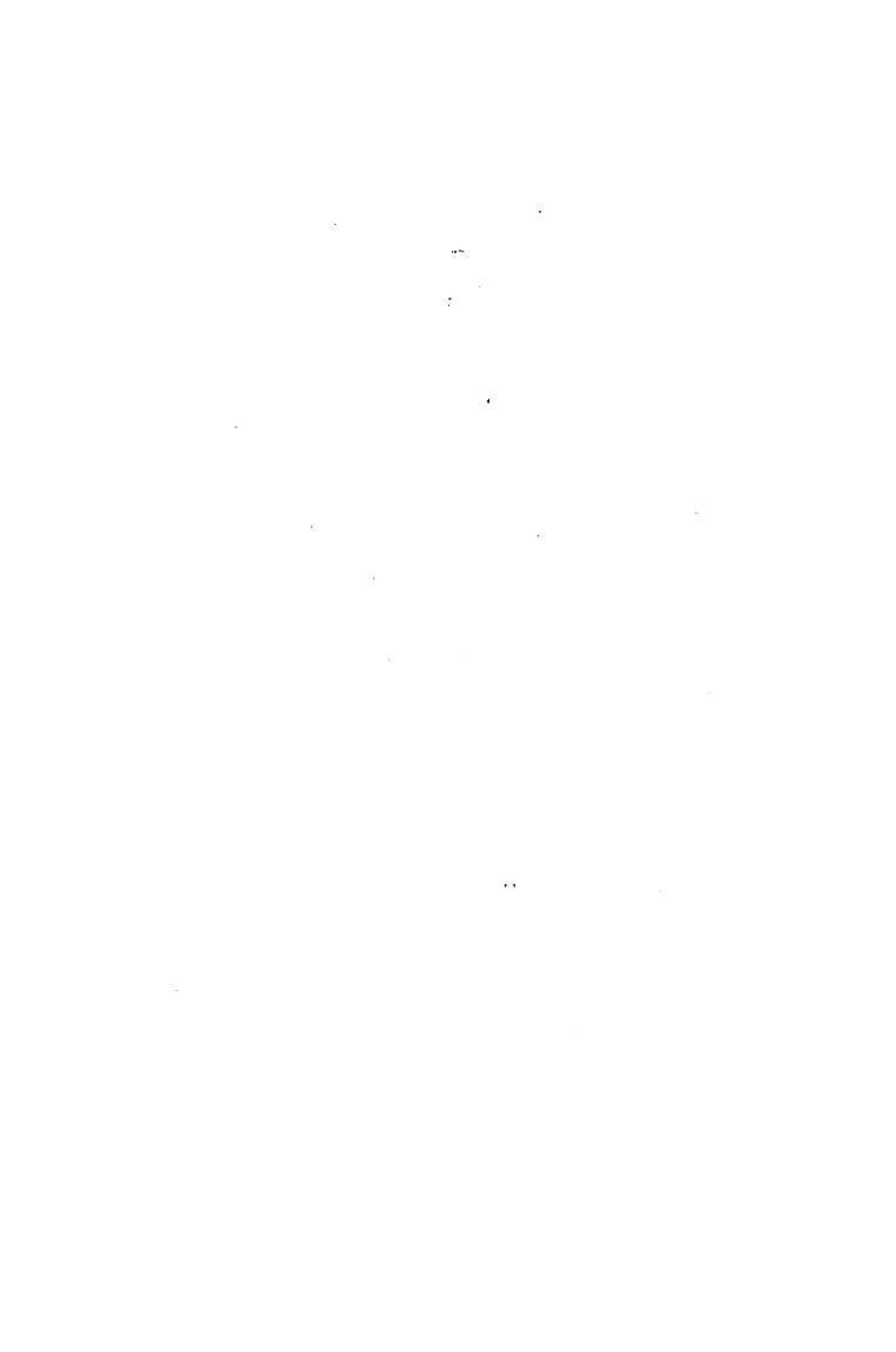
State Librarians of Tennessee

W. B. A. RAMSEY.....	1854-1855
F. N. W. BURTON.....	1855-1856
R. J. MEIGS.....	1856-1861
JOHN E. HATCHER.....	1861-
A. GATTINGER.....	1864-1869
W. H. WHARTON.....	1869-1871
MRS. PARALEE HASKELL.....	1871-1879
MRS. ROBERT HATTON.....	1879-1887
MRS. SUE P. LOWE.....	1887-1891
MRS. LINNIE WILLIAMS.....	1891-1895
MRS. IRENE INGRAM.....	1895-1897
MISS PAULINE JONES.....	1897-1899
MISS JENNIE E. LAUDERDALE.....	1899-1901
MRS. LULA BRINGHURST EPPERSON.....	1901-1903
MISS MARY SKEFFINGTON.....	1903-

1337
13

Table of Contents

	Page
REPORT OF STATE LIBRARIAN.....	7
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.....	8
REORGANIZATION AND CATALOGING.....	9
LAW DEPARTMENT.....	11
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.....	13
EXTENSION DEPARTMENT.....	14
TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN CIRCULATION.....	20
MAP SHOWING NUMBER OF TRAVELING SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN EACH COUNTY.....	26
TENNESSEANA.....	27
PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATE LIBRARY.....	27
THE STAFF OF THE LIBRARY.....	28
INTER-LIBRARY LOAN SYSTEM.....	28
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	29
CATALOGUE—TENNESSEANA.....	31



Report of the State Librarian.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 30, 1912.

*To the Honorable State Library Commission and Members of the
Fifty-eighth General Assembly:*

GENTLEMEN: A State Library is a library "By the People, For the People." The name "State Library" carries with it the direct idea of a library dedicated to the service of "The Government and the People of the State." The Tennessee State Library has existed as a separate department of State since 1854. There is no other class of libraries whose field can be so clearly defined, whose character is so unmistakably determined by the special needs of the State, and whose service to the State can be made so comprehensive and economic. The real purpose of the library of the State is (1) to preserve safely, under skilful administration, all matters of historic interest to carry on to posterity; (2) to give, in the Law Library, the books needed by the courts in dispensing justice to all; (3) to provide books needed in their work by the Legislature and various officers and departments; (4) to furnish the best reading to all citizens of the State.

The State Library is bound to be for the State what the national library should be for the nation. The State Library started, probably, in most States, with a conception of a law library for the courts; then some of them added to it historical archives, with the thought that the history of the State should be preserved. The next development was books for the State departments, and that has been slow. Many States yet have not recognized the duty of the State Library to provide the tools for every department of State with which it might do its work best; and it was a much later conception that the State Library was really the library for the whole State, encyclopædic in its character, belonging to all the citizens of the State, and bound to make its rules so that its books might be available to all parts of the State. To meet these requirements came the development of a departmental institution, including departments of Law, Legislative Reference, General Reference, and Extension.

In times past, Tennessee found that the library "By the People, For the People," did not in fact serve the people. It only served the courts, the lawyers, the citizens of Nashville,