

OCTOBER 28, 1968CARL VITZ

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It is the prerogative of the President, to plan the program for the Anniversary Meeting. These have been most varied, but often they have been devoted to Club history. Those for tonight fall into this category. The years before and during the Civil War have had the lion's share of attention, much to the neglect of the one hundred years since then. The Papers tonight, will recall some of the many events and personalities during the four decades and a half that followed; that is 1865 - 1910.

Club programs after the Civil War underwent a decided change. In the early years, members were young, joyous and high-spirited. Debates, orations and discussions relating to the problems of the time were usual. Presiding officers were chosen on a monthly basis. After the War, the reading of papers, then called essays, became the custom. Officers were elected for a year. Papers were, at times, copied in full into the Minutes and the daily papers often gave considerable coverage. Beginning about 1883, all papers were recorded in full and later bound volumes for permanent preservation. There are now 89 volumes, shelved in our Club rooms. They constitute a wonderful monument to the erudition, versatility and literary skill of our members.

Tonight, our first paper is by our oldest member, Murray Seasongood, elected December 2, 1911, almost 57 years ago. Murray is not able to attend tonight (too much birthday perhaps) as last Friday his large staff celebrated his 90th birthday, two

days in advance, and yesterday, on October 27, the family and close friends did so on the exact date, October 27.

When, early in September, I invited Murray to prepare a short paper for this occasion, he was reluctant to accept, but finally consented, stipulating only that, in the event that he could not attend, I be the reader, - so here is his contribution.

1 The Club - From 1865 To 1880

Our budgeteer for tonight has asked me to participate, about the above period, as one of a trilogy in the Club's history. Since I was not born until October 27, 1878, I cannot very well repeat with Virgil's hero - quorum pars magna fui. Our highly competent and considerate budget editor has furnished me a mass of relevant material, and finds it interesting that the life of John W. Herron, an organizer of the Club in 1849 and an incorporator of it in 1852, and my own life span the whole history of the Club. I remember very favorably, contacts with him as a fine lawyer and man, after I was admitted to the bar in 1903; and I have had some acquaintance, directly or indirectly with a number of other distinguished members of the Club, including some whose memberships date from before 1861, who left it then, with the rest of the Club, to serve in the Civil War and returned to active membership following reorganization of the Club, February 18, 1864.

Edmund W. Kittredge was president of the Club in 1864-65. Our family and his were friends, and I knew him at the bar, where he was always considerate of me as a much younger man. He was a tall, powerful man, who wore a black patch over one eye, carried a stout cane, had a rasping voice, and no ornaments of style, but spoke with great clarity, learning and force in legal argument and was regarded as among the best at our bar. Member John W. Warrington (1910), *who had become a Federal

*(figures in parenthesis refer to date of admission as a member)

Judge by appointment of President William H. Taft (1871) deemed him the best. His partners included Joseph Wilby (1879), who helped me to establish in 1907, after a lively struggle, our local University Club with a suitable standard for eligibility; a graduate degree or two years minimum attendance at a college. A much esteemed friend of mine, George P. Stimson, father of our invaluable member (1943) was also a member of this firm.

Redoubtable Charles B. Wilby (1871), a unique and delightful person who had more than 300 contributions read to the Club, a formidable legal adversary, induced me to become a member of the National Civil Service Reform League in 1904 by payment of \$4.00 dues. My interest in it has been continuous ever since. I regard it as one of the most valuable and neglected institutions that work for the betterment of the Republic.

Dr. Phineas C. Conner (1867) lived and practiced near our family residence, then known as 126 West Eighth Street. He was a skillful, somewhat rough surgeon who had served in the Civil War and appeared to be somewhat callous about others' pain. In about 1890, I broke my right elbow, which he set so skillfully and put in a plaster of Paris cast, that I could play the violin as badly as before the accident. When my brother, Edwin, jammed his finger in an iron gate entering our front yard and nearly lost a portion of it, he prescribed, in answer to Brother's "Oh doctor, this hurts so much. What should I do?" "Whistle, my boy." I remember my brother, taking this literally, continuing to blow feebly and tearfully at whistling, but his finger was saved.

Horton C. Force, the son of General and Judge Manning F. Force (1850) was a friend and classmate of mine at the Harvard Law School. Like his father, he was a very tall, exceptionally fine looking man. As a guard on the Harvard football squad, his friends humorously referred to him as "Brute Force". Actually, he had a very gentle nature. Through him, I was privileged to speak to a group of civic reformers, which he headed in his City of Seattle.

General Force died in 1899, and for 67 years his grave in Spring Grove was curiously unmarked. No monument, not even a marker, was erected for him. But in May, 1966, our Club, with the Cincinnati Historical Society and the Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable, erected a bronze plaque, on a concrete base, to commemorate some of his multiple achievements. The plaque mentions he was born in 1824. Interestingly, his father, Peter Force, was an outstanding collector of books, pamphlets, manuscripts and newspapers which formed the foundation for the Americana Collection of the Library of Congress. James Albert Green, as Historian of the Club, read a moving paper on member Force in April, 1950.

I have noted, and should like to have descanted on, a dozen or more other members of the Club in the period to be covered by me, such as, for example only: Salmon P. Chase (1855), Thomas Buchanan Read (1852). Timothy Walker (1855), Henry F. Farny (1872), Max Lilienthal (1869), Stanley Matthews (1840), Alphonso Taft (1860). But as I wish to devote the remainder of my time to member Rutherford B. Hayes (1850), Nineteenth President of the United States, 1876-1880, I shall have to defer comment on them until I may be called on in a future budget (if not called away before), say, five years from now.

Hayes (I refer to him thus for brevity and without disrespect) shared his first law office on coming to Cincinnati in December 1849 with John W. Herron. He and Manning Force (for whom Hayes named one of his sons) had become close friends of Hayes during their study at the Harvard Law School under the great jurists Story and Greenleaf. Hayes kept a very precise and enlightening diary during his lifetime. This indicates he made his first speech at the Club in 1850 and was not at all satisfied with it. It also recounts how he was one of a committee of three in 1850 that invited Ralph Waldo Emerson to spend an evening with the Club and furnishes a very full and delightful account of the visit and of the Seer of Concord himself. The diary combines the greatest admiration for Emerson with some keen criticism of supposed

defects in the expression of his thoughts and in his manner of presenting them. It indicates that many of the great man's pronouncements seemed rather haphazard and not well put together, but on the whole very fine, wise and indeed noble.

Speeches and sometimes fervid arguments in the Club were in order during that early period. Hayes made plenty of them and was often called on to recite Daniel Webster's magnificent encomium upon the Union. There was a good deal of fun in the Club and the members not infrequently broke into the proceedings with songs. At a meeting, February 11, 1860, when a long and discursive speaker was about to read a paper entitled "A Bird's-eye View of the Politics and Social State of the World", Hayes moved that coffee and sandwiches be distributed first. The motion was unanimously adopted, and whether, or the extent to which, the speech was made thereafter is not recorded.

While Hayes was President, he invited the Club to hold a meeting at the White House and it made a pilgrimage to Washington for that purpose.

After Fort Sumter had been bombarded in 1861, practically every member of the Club, including Hayes, went into the Army. Hayes became a Colonel and Brigadier General, was wounded in action, and was elected to Congress while still in the field. He served as City Solicitor of Cincinnati and three terms as Governor of Ohio.

Hayes left Cincinnati in 1873 and moved to Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio, near Sandusky, and was made an honorary Club member in 1877. This fine estate was designated in 1964 by the National Park Service as a registered historic monument. A brochure of it contains reproduction of a portrait of Hayes and his wife which shows him to have been a handsome man with a patriarchal beard. As was the ungallant practice of photographers in that period, he is seated, leaving his wife standing and resting her hand upon his shoulder. The house is a magnificent affair and the diary, in 1881, records a menu for a dinner given in 1881 when Hayes's Vice

President, William A. Wheeler, visited them, as follows, showing there were giants in those days.

"Plain but good. (1) Tomato soup, (2) white fish, (3) oysters on toast, (4) roast beef, chicken, and vegetables with coffee, (5) blanc-mange by Adda Cook - excellent, (6) fruit, (7) cigars - and a chat for an hour and a half."

Rutherford B. Hayes may rightly be listed among the most illustrious members of our Club in its long history. As President, he was far greater than he is reported to be in history. One of the matters that endears him especially to me is his strong support of the merit system in public employment.

Hayes, in his letter accepting his nomination for President by the Republican Party, stated emphatically he would not tolerate so-called voluntary, but in fact compulsory levy, of contributions on persons holding positions in the public service, and that the spoils system dated from Jackson's time and still in full force in 1876 must be eradicated in favor of appointments according to merit determined, so far as practicable, by open competitive examinations. He felt so strongly on this, he declared, perhaps quixotically, that, as he wished to have his administration free from any demands of partisanship and appointments on political grounds, he would not, if elected, seek a second term. As always, he kept his word and refused to consider a second nomination. Throughout his administration, he adhered to this non-partisan appointment position and thus greatly speeded ultimate passage of the Pendleton Civil Service Law in 1883.

Again, in his letter of acceptance and in his actions as President, he favored strongly and caused to be put into effect, resumption of United States sound money specie payments instead of prevalent unredeemable greenback promises. He was almost prevented from getting the nomination at the convention in Cincinnati in 1876 by the

magnificent nominating speech of Robert Ingersoll in support of his rival, "the plumed knight", James G. Blaine. He was elected President by the narrowest of margins, 185 electoral votes to 184 for his Democratic opponent, Tilden, a distinguished man who had been powerful in overthrowing the vicious Tweed ring in New York. There was a great deal of resentment against the Republican Party because of the scandals incident to the presidency while General Grant held the office. There were gross frauds against the nominated Republican electors in the election in the States of Florida, South Carolina and Louisiana. Until these were set aside, Tilden appeared to be elected. In the current bitterness, and in the writings of Samuel Eliot Morison and other capable historians, there were charges that Hayes had made a deal with southern members of the electoral college whereby he agreed to give the states involved home rule in solving the Negro problem free from federal interferences. Such charges are contrary to the facts. The statements actually made by Hayes were no more than to say these states would have home rule consistent with and subject to the Constitution of the United States, and that discrimination, the carpetbagger and disgraceful appointments such as had been made, would not be tolerated.

What a man is, in history, depends a great deal, on who writes it. The actual record is disproof of any unworthy deal having been made and the high character, sense of duty, great ability and patriotism of the Nineteenth President are shown in the gift to the Club's Library made by Davis L. James (1894) of the three volume Life of Rutherford B. Hayes. This work, written in 1914, is that of a not wholly impartial author, Charles Richard Williams, the son-in-law of William H. Smith (1861) an intimate personal and political friend of President Hayes. But the book contains such copious notes, letters, facts and extracts from Hayes's elaborate and comprehensive diary, including the letter of intent of February 27, 1877, reproduced in Volume I, page 533 that it should convince even the unsatisfied of Hayes's straightforwardness, probity and unselfish patriotism.

May the knowledge that, from the inception and through the early history of the Club, there were illustrious men who loved and devotedly served it, help to carry forward our great tradition.

Murray Seasongood

2 The Literary Club Circa 1883 - 1903

President Vitz has asked me to speak briefly of the history of the Club from the eighties to 1905, the period in which the Club found its "manifest destiny". In those years, after a shaky pre-Civil War start and a groping post-war resumption, the Club found its metier, its raison d'etre and its prescription for longevity which it is still taking. Tonight I shall add oral history obtained from the members of that era to supplement our records.

When I joined 43 years ago, one contemporary had been a member since 1865 and over one-third had been elected before 1905. There were also nine living dropouts of this vintage, seven of whom were prominent doctors I knew, who had resigned after one or two desperate papers. Because of the failure of this group and the overdedication of three aged homeopaths, there was a mild anti-doctor feeling in the Club for 20 years in spite of the popularity of Drs. Carr, Buck, and Ayres.

As my allotted scene opens, the Club, after its early ambulatory years, had settled in what seemed to be permanent quarters on the third floor of a building on the north side of Fourth Street between Main and Walnut. Henry Hooper was President. A novelist and lawyer, he wrote over 75 papers, thus joining a group which included Kemper, Greve, Carr, Herron, William Venable, W.C. Cochran (125 papers,) and Charlie Wilby (over 300 papers). In Hooper's presidential year, the Club began to keep a formal record of all papers and started the custom of having food and drink after the paper. Heretofore, refreshments had been indulged in beforehand,

often heartily enough to cause heckling during the reading.

One of its members once referred to White's of London as a "jolly boozy old Club", a description which fitted our organization up to prohibition. After the reading, bottles were placed on the tables and the liquor consumed without ice and sometimes without water or soda. Though the Longworths were members and Cincinnati a wine producing center, only a few, including first generation Germans, drank wine or beer, the customary libations of the early years. There was even more conviviality on the frequent nights set aside to honor the birthdays of famous authors and on other occasions when noted guests were present.

Among the visitors during the period were Thos. Henry Aldrich, Geo. Cable, Oscar Wilde, John Fiske, Chas. Dudley Warner and Mark Twain. Also Opie Read of Arkansas Traveler fame; Walter Damrosch, who had just succeeded his father as conductor of the Metropolitan Opera; Justin McCarthy, Irish, English writer and Home Rule member of Parliament; Rufus Dawes, brother of early member Ephraim Cutler Dawes and great uncle of our late member Beman Gates Dawes, whose family founded Marietta College and Dawes Arboretum. Other famous guests were Zionist Zangwill of London; Herman Pick, world renowned German philologist and brother of member Henry Fick; Charles Cutter, famous Boston librarian, who devised a cataloging system based on letters of the alphabet instead of the Dewey Decimal numbers system. Cutters' invention modified is still used by the Library of Congress, while blue nose Dewey's system, used by Ernie Miller, is still lucrative enough to perpetuate his waspy monument, the Lake Placid Club.

Frank Duveneck and Henry Farny brought their contemporaries including Kenyon Cox, art critic and painter whose murals still adorn the Library of Congress and whose wife's decorative painting, "May Flowers", still hangs in the National Gallery of Art. Kenyon Cox was the son of General J. D. Cox, U.S. Senator from Ohio, and President* of the University of Cincinnati.

Professionals in the arts, including writers, have never numerically dominated the Club but they unselfishly have entertained us and, like Farny, left us mementos of their work. Our famous actor member, James E. Murdoch, while back in town with a road show, asked fellow member, Thomas Buchanan Read, to dash off a trifle for use between acts. Within hours, Read wrote "Sheridan's Ride" and that night Murdoch declaimed it to mountainous applause.

Old members lamented their failure to get the signatures of ALL our famous visitors in our guest books or note their presence in the minutes. One was the not yet famous Dr. W.J. Mayo, who came with Dr. Comegys after a medical meeting and another was Joe Jefferson, the greatest theatrical figure of the Century, who was escorted many times to our Fourth Street rooms after his Saturday night performances at Pike's Opera House. Mr. Wilby never tired of talking about Jefferson whom he called the most interesting man he had ever known, often holding them spellbound until 3 A.M. Possibly puritanical secretary Sykes was long gone home before the late arrivals appeared or he thought sinful actors and little known doctors deserved no notice. Possibly he gave no official recognition to late guests who hadn't suffered through the paper. Whatever the reason, I found no mention of these famous men.

Among our own influential members and best writers of the time, other than those listed elsewhere in this paper, were Alphonso Taft and sons, the Hinkles, Mallons, Mackoys, Judson Harmon, Henry Ratterman, Julius Dexter; eclectic chemist and novelist, John Uri Lloyd; Kentuckian, Geo. Nicholson, who started the Club Library in 1893; John Herron, *Lawyer* ^t ~~Mix~~ ~~carri~~ ~~.igu~~ ~~nid~~ Mil father-in-law of President Taft, Frank Hunter, our only dentist, 58 year member Herbert Jenney, and the later stalwarts, Charlie Livingood, "Louie" More, Lewis Gatch, Judge Peck, poet George Kattenhorn, and Rabbi Phillipson. The names of nearly all the leading families were on our roll, including Groesbeck, Hoadly, Foraker, the Emerys, the Coppocks, the Allens and Drs. Seely, Conner, Sattler, Ransohoff, Mussey and many others.

Among those who had three names and loved the sound of all of them, were Robert Ralston Jones and James Albert Green, our historians; John Thew Wright, donor of the Burnet Rifles banner; Judge William Howard Taft and referee in bankruptcy, Charles Theodore Greve. Mr. Greve wrote a famous paper entitled, "On the Want of Constructive Club Authorship", in which he low rated biographies, travelogues, diaries, reviews and rehashed history. "However well done such things are", he said, "they will not stop the prevalent Club habit of sleeping through the reading". Probably Mr. Greve knew that nearly all great writers are sickly or maladjusted. Even so, he did not excuse bad papers by secure, healthy activists. He could have used the term creative writing when he said, "Put something that originates from yourself in your writing. Write a thing no one else could possibly have written".

A look at the papers of this period shows the cause of Mr. Greve's concern. The hard core minority could be counted on for fine efforts and large audiences whereas the majority were boresome and few came to hear them. Also for a time the press carried an abstract of our papers causing publicity seekers to produce dull tracts on civic problems and some doctors to report dubious cures.

Business meetings drew the largest attendances especially when sticky Club problems were to be decided. Many months of hot debate preceded the installation of the new-fangled, dangerous electric lights in the Fourth Street rooms but the most acrimonious sessions, except the pre-Civil War meetings, were on buying the first property owned by the Club, the house on Eighth Street. All but a small, die-hard group agreed on the need to move. On hot nights with the windows open, the noise of the horse cars and the drays on the cobblestones had increased year by year, often drowning the voice of the reader. Yet a handful objected to any change. Mr. Sykes and Mr. Wilby proposed a cheaper house and some of the officers feared they would be responsible for the mortgage. Amortization of the \$16,500 cost was secured by long subleases to the Academy of Medicine and the Bar Association and a member loaned \$3,000 for the remodelling in

in which features of the old room were preserved and later used in our present quarters, designed both times by member Elzner. Among the casualties of this battle, there were no deaths but three suffered severe wounded pride and resigned.

Even so, arguments in the Club were relatively mild in that period of extreme individualism and the Club never feared to elect able avant garde dissenters who usually cooled it, at least on the premises. There were five proprietary medical schools in the city. Each doctor was aligned with one and to him those of the other schools were quacks. Jealousy was bitter. When Dr. Bonifield was told that a certain citizen had gone to New York for a hemorrhoid operation, he said, "So I heard. I think I'll go to Chicago next week for a hair cut!"

One night at the Academy, a surgeon reported at great length on the fine result obtained in a simple rectal operation on William Howard Taft. In the discussion one man said, "I suppose the doctor did a good operation but why does he have to keep licking the wound?"

Dr. Elkanah Williams a fine member of the Club, and progenitor of Cincinnati's leading ophthalmologists, was accused of advertising when he announced the limitation of his work to the eye.

Medical meetings often ended in near fisticuffs and Bar Association meetings were equally turbulent. Between 1885 and 1905 the majority of our members were lawyers and it was natural that legal verbiage would pop up in our business meetings. Fire eaters such as Pat Mallon, John Herron and Theophilus Kemper loved to attack a motion and often entertained the Club with witty legal hair splitting.

At a business meeting in 1891 the clerk acting for the absent secretary reported that the secretary had asked him to announce to the Club that John Woods wished to resign but refused to submit a written resignation. The secretary said he had received the verbal request through Mr. Hill, acting

for Mr. Woods. Judge Ferris objected to the illegal procedure. After much discussion, someone moved hurriedly, acceptance before the resignee could change his mind. Messrs. Yapple and Gus Wald then debated the issue, Mr. Wald winning unanimously when he said that no contribution of Mr. Woods had ever proven he could write, that it was only fair not to require a written resignation from him, and that Mr. Woods had every right to resort to the help of the Clerk as in a Kangaroo Court. A motion was passed to notify Mr. Woods verbally that his resignation had been accepted. It was then moved that the Clerk notify the secretary, who was to notify Mr. Hill, who was to inform Mr. Woods. I am sorry to report that the second motion was tabled.

In 1890 when ex-president Hayes' coming visit to the Club (his last) was announced, one man proposed a celebration in honor of the event. The majority agreed but one member, a Democrat or worse, took the floor in violent opposition, "Hayes! Hayes!", he said, "I'm tired of hearing about Hayes. Could it be that the promoter of this affair has his eye on the pending appointment to the District Court of Appeals?" The celebration was held and Hayes' remarks were unrecorded but I heard Mr. Jones say that he predicted a great future for the Club if it avoided "cliquery" and continued to elect men of the highest and varied accomplishment.

Today Hayes, our first honorary member, needs no defense. He was absolved of blame for the irregularities surrounding his election and he buried the bloody shirt. As Carl Vitz points out, he used three of our members to establish the Library of Congress, Gen. Force, John Billings and Ainsworth Spofford, its first librarian. His own personal library which ranked with Jefferson's as the best of any President, is still preserved in a memorial building at Fremont, Ohio. Hayes was an honest man but Boss Conkling could stand only so much integrity. The President's fight for the merit system ended his political career.

The Hayes argument and other disputes as well as the earlier debates proved that narrow partisanship, worldly ambitions, and do-good efforts,

however noble, were incompatibly with the health and longevity of the Club. In the last part of the Century, senatorial courtesy replaced the avenging black ball and maturity gradually set in. Through evolving tradition and without formal action, the Club made up its collective mind to be nothing more and especially nothing less than a literary oasis and thought center plus a "Newport Reading Room" for dedicated gentlemen of any background and of significant accomplishment in any field.

Dismounting from though not abandoning its Ivy League horse, the Club broadened its membership to include several German immigrant intellectuals, second generation Jewish professional men, adherents of minor political parties and prominent teachers connected with the irregular medical schools. UnAmerican tolerance and cordiality with ritualistic hand-shaking all around became the motifs and the man with a paper, king for a night.

Thus the Club settled into the mold in which I found it, one of genial Victorian-tinged formality which still exists and which, we pray, never dies.

Eslie Asbury

3

119th Anniversary

In the Club's long history, there have been many unusual, remarkable and even unbelievable "happenings", to use a word that has rushed into our vocabulary. We will cite a few. Fifty-three members served in the union Army, of whom an unbelievable number became generals; nine became State Governors, including the great Indiana War Governor, Oliver P. Morton. Public officials and judges; outstanding physicians and lawyers; educators, business men of stature and scientists including two internationally known archaeologists have been on our rolls and one who was knighted by Queen Victoria. We must not omit the two Presidents of

the United States nor, rarest of all, three Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, two serving as Chief Justice.

For my contribution, I have drawn upon the decade and a half, embracing the years 1895 - 1910. First, a little personal history is necessary. My graduate training for librarianship was completed in June of 1907 and on the following first of July, I went to the city of Washington to be Assistant Director of its Public Library. In the fall of 1908, William Howard Taft, with the blessing of Theodore Roosevelt, and after an unusually non-contentious campaign, was elected President of the United States.

Though the campaign had been peaceful enough, Inauguration Day in the following March was perhaps the stormiest in the Nation's history. Headlines in Cincinnati and New York papers fail to convey adequately the impact of the sudden and unexpected snow-fall on that Inauguration Day. We will quote some headlines:

MARCH 3 — FAIR WEATHER PREDICTED FOR
INAUGURATION BY OFFICIAL FORE-
CASTER
400,000 STRANGERS CROWD TO
WASHINGTON, AWAITING THE GREAT
INAUGURATION DISPLAY

MARCH 5 --- BLIZZARD COMPELS ABANDONMENT
OF OUTDOOR INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT.
WASHINGTON CUT OFF BY STORM.
ONLY ONE TELEGRAPH WIRE WORKING
ON THE GREAT DAY
SNOW-STORM WORST IN HISTORY.
TRAINS ALL BLOCKED.
CROWDS ANKLE DEEP IN SLUSH.
MIDSHIPMEN FROM ANNAPOLIS STALLED
20 MILES FROM WASHINGTON

On that day, I stood to watch the Inaugural Parade, on the curb, in front of the Treasury Building, where Pennsylvania Avenue turns right before turning left again to the White House.

The storm passed as quickly as it came, and by the day after, Washington's normal early Spring weather had returned. Possibly the then 10 year old Charlie Taft, and your reader tonight, are the only Cincinnatians left to recall that snowy Fourth of March in Washington.*

Mention can be made here, that Mrs. William H. Taft was the first wife to accompany the newly inaugurated President, in the parade to the White House. Of interest, also, is it, that Mrs. Taft, as a 17 year old daughter of John W. Herron, had been a house guest of President and Mrs. Hayes during their occupancy. As partly mentioned in Mr. Seasongood's paper, Herron and Hayes shared their early law office, and were life-long close friends. Herron was Preside* of the Literary Club, exactly one hundred years ago and served again in 1899 for the Club's semi-centennial. With terms slightly overlapping in the year 1912, their two memberships span the whole life of the Literary Club, - 119 years. - *Herron & Seasongood*

A more significant Washington contact with our Club's past, will conclude my paper.

Washington is a city of great libraries. The Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, each the most outstanding of its kind, head the list. Both of them owe their greatness in large part to the vision, dedication and industry of Club members, - Ainsworth Rand Spofford and John Shaw Billings. Washington has many other libraries of importance but more specialized; government departmental libraries,* in colleges and universities-*, museums,* U.S. Patent Office? the D.A.R.^ etc., with significant collections. These are primarily reference libraries, serving staff and researchers.

The Public Library in Washington offers to local residents a library service that compares with that locally given in Cincinnati. With so many libraries, there had, of course, to be an

* Note: Charles Cellarius later wrote me that he, a boy of 18 years, was also present. See letter on file with a copy of this paper in Vertical file under my name.

association of librarians. Of this, I was chosen to be Secretary for the year 1908-09. It was in August of 1908 that Spofford died, as the most distinguished member of the Washington Library Association. A full-length paper, tonight, could not do justice to him as librarian and scholar.

Briefly, Spofford in the 1840's, was a partner in a Cincinnati bookstore, which became a gathering place for young men to whom books and ideas were important. It was an even dozen, including Spofford, that on October 29, 1849 formed an association, called simply "The Literary Club".

Spofford, later on the staff of the Cincinnati Commercial, while returning through Washington from covering the Battle of Bull Run, was appointed Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress, at that time an institution of very limited value and no prestige. Two years later, he succeeded as Librarian and continued as such for 33 years and, because of increasing years, he served again as Assistant Librarian until his death in 1908. Under his direction the Library became outstandingly great as a truly national library, with a broad program of service to the Government, to scholarship and to the libraries of the Nation.

Spofford's reputation as a scholar gained for him membership in many learned societies. He was a prolific writer and compiler, highly respected and greatly beloved.

A Memorial Meeting was held, to which the many associations, of which he was a member, sent official representatives, and this is how your President of tonight, went officially as Secretary of the Washington Library Association, to represent it in the Memorial Service to Dr. Spofford. I hold here the 84 page Memorial brochure with the many tributes paid to him, of which the first is by Henry Blackwell, a fellow member of the Club's first year.

I submit, therefore, that I am tonight an authentic link, (though a slight one) with that little band of twelve founders of 119 years ago,

