



University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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### Letter about Andrew Carnegie's Donation of a Library Building

University of Tennessee

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Knoxville, Tennessee,

18 February 1901.

Mr R.A.Franks,  
Carnegie Building,  
Pittsburg, Pa.

My dear sir:

Referring to our interview of February 9, relative to the donation of a library bybuilding by Mr Andrew Carnegie to the University of Tennessee, I send, attached hereto, a letter from the president of the University, a condensed historic and financial statement, as suggested by you, and letters from the presidents of the University alumni association and the Tennessee federation of women's clubs.

With these are several copies of the University publications. I invite special attention to the proposed traveling library system, which I discussed with you. By this means books may be brought to thousands of people in towns, villages and isolated mountain homes, who are now almost entirely without reading matter. No state in the union is more in need of such service.

The Tennessee legislature will only be in session for a few weeks beyond March 1, so that if there is anything to be done through it, the matter should be in hand at an early date.

Yours truly,

Cyrus A. K. Jr.



February 16, 1901.

Hon. Andrew Carnegie,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

In presenting the application of the University of Tennessee for a library building, I beg to call your earnest attention to the following facts.

As you will see from a glance at our catalogue we are endeavoring to carry on here many technical and industrial departments in addition to the ordinary literary work. The development of these industrial departments has during recent years put a tremendous strain upon our finances. In addition to erecting a woman's dormitory building, we have within the last two years completed and equipped an extensive mechanical department, with shops for manual training, wood working, pattern making, blacksmithing and foundry work, machine building and testing, hydraulic and electrical engineering; and a dairy laboratory for milk testing and the manufacture of butter and cheese. We are planning now to establish a school of mines and desire also to build a textile school. For both these last, new buildings and expensive equipment will be needed. This will tax our ability to the utmost for several years to come.

This expansion also makes it necessary to enlarge our library in all departments.

The University is already doing considerable extension work through the Alumni Association, the women's clubs, and teach-



ers' and farmers' institutes. There is a great demand for this and it must be extended. Additional resources are absolutely necessary for this purpose. It is proposed to make the library headquarters for this extension work as is done in New York.

The University of Tennessee is by law the head of the public school system and completes the work begun in the common schools and carried on through the high schools. All high schools in the state are accredited to the University and their graduates are admitted without examination and receive free tuition. Through this system of accredited schools and of extension work the University serves the entire public school system of the state and touches every community in it. In order to do this work more successfully it must have a better library building and better library organization.

We appeal to you to aid us by giving us a building to cost at least \$100,000. It is believed that the promise of such a building will enable us to raise some additional funds for library endowment. We have already a fund of \$20,000.00. But owing to the tremendous demands upon our finances for means with which to expand the industrial departments and in view of the economy of administration of the library in connection with other departments, I hope you will not expect too large an endowment.

Very respectfully yours,

President.



## LOCATION

The University of Tennessee is located in the most improved portion of the city of Knoxville and within ten minutes walk of the custom house. Its beautiful campus of 37 acres covers a high hill on the north bank of the Tennessee river.

## HISTORICAL

The foundation of this University is connected with the earliest history of Tennessee.

In 1794, by the first general assembly of the "Territory South of the Ohio", Blount College was chartered--named in honor of William Blount, the governor of the territory, and afterwards United States senator. Among the members of the first Board of Trustees were William Blount, Samuel Carrick, first president of the college; Daniel Smith, senator; David Campbell, judge of the superior court; Joseph Anderson, senator; John Sevier, congressman and governor; Willie Blount, governor; and Archibald Roane, governor. The others were men of distinction.

In 1807, under an act of congress providing for the establishment of two colleges in Tennessee, East Tennessee College was chartered, and the franchises and property of Blount College transferred to it.

In 1840, the name of East Tennessee College was changed, by act of the general assembly, to East Tennessee University.

In 1869, the general assembly gave to the University the proceeds of the sale of public lands, donated by act of congress of July 2, 1862, "to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts," and the University entered into a contract with the State to forever educate 275 state students free of tuition.

In 1879, the name of East Tennessee University was changed, by act of the legislature, to the University of Tennessee, and laws were enacted making the University the head of the state system of public education.

In 1887, the University received the appropriation of congress for an experiment station.

In 1891, it received the first annual appropriation under the "New Morrill Act", approved August 30, 1890.

## TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the University hold a charter dating from 1807, which is a renewal of the one given to Blount College in 1794. The Board consists of 30 members, chosen from the different congressional districts in the state, who serve for life. The governor, the secretary of state, and the superintendent of public instruction are members ex officio. Vacancies are filled by nomination of the remaining members and election by the general assembly. The Board is thus theoretically and practically non-political and is in position to maintain the most permanent policy. It has always been composed of the leading men of Tennessee.



## LIBRARY

Number of bound volumes January 1, 1901,

22,425

The main library is now located in four rooms on the second floor of Science Hall. The space is inadequate and is much needed for the chemical and mining departments. For the want of room portions of the library are located in several other buildings. There is great need for a building which shall permit the establishment of a librarian's training school, instruction in book binding and book making, and especially of a traveling library department, designed to furnish books to people in all parts of the state, as is now done in the State of New York. Such a building should be large enough to allow for the growth of the work of all departments of the library and its architecture should tend to inspire and educate. The University can provide a conspicuous site where the library will be convenient to the public at large as well as the students.

Knoxville is the center of the Tennessee marble district and affords admirable building materials at reasonable prices, but it will require at least \$100,000 to erect a building adequate to the needs. It will form a part of the University system of heating, lighting, water distribution, drainage, etc., and can thus be economically operated and maintained in connection with the other departments.

Donations of books for traveling libraries can be readily secured from publishers, organizations, and benevolent people in various parts of the country.



## Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the University hold a charter dating from 1807, which <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ a renewal of the one given to Blount College in 1794. The Board consists of 30 members, chosen from the different congressional districts in the state, who serve for life. The government the secretary of state, and the superintendent of public instruction are members ex officio. Vacancies are filled by nomination of the remaining members and election by the general assembly. The Board is thus theoretically and practically non-political and is in position to maintain the most permanent policy.

*[Handwritten signature]*



UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Feb. 19th 1901.

Dr Charles W. Dabney,  
President, University of Tennessee,  
C i t y.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the subject of University extension work through Alumni Teachers and Farmers Institutes, and the organization in connection therewith of a traveling library system, I write to express my deep interest in the movement. I think you may be assured of the hearty cooperation of the Alumni Association and of the friends of the University generally in carrying out these plans. The service is greatly needed in this State, and will accomplish much good. Branch Alumni Associations have been organized already in several cities, and others will doubtless be organized as soon as there is definite work to do.

Besides doing much to educate the public, this system will aid in uniting the Alumni and friends of education generally in support of the State system of public education, of which the University is the head. If the means to inaugurate these movements can be obtained, I am sure that the hearty cooperation of the Alumni Association and of individual Alumni will be secured readily.

Assuring you of my very earnest desire to assist the University in this work and speaking for the other officers of the Association, I am,

Yours very truly,

Joshua W. Caldwell,

President, Alumni Association, U.T.



C O P Y

Knoxville, Tenn.

10 February 1901.

Dr Charles W. Dabney, Pres't.,  
University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

The Federation of women's clubs will hail with delight the news that the University is endeavoring to organize a system of traveling libraries and, in connection therewith, enlarge its work of University extension throughout the state. This federation representing thirty clubs, located in various places in Tenn., is deeply interested in every movement of this kind and already has twenty-six traveling libraries located in remote parts of the state where books are scarce. The Federation will be glad to cooperate with the University library in every way in its power.

There is great opportunity in the small towns and rural districts in Tennessee for doing good, since the people in them have very few facilities for reading and education. I believe that you will greatly aid popular education in our state and you may certainly rely, in carrying out these plans, upon the earnest assistance and support of the women's clubs of Tennessee.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) Angie Warren Perkins,

President Tennessee Federation of  
Women's Clubs.