

HISTORY

of

Securing the Lots on which the Salida Public Library is Built.

Prepared by

Mrs. Ruth Hinshaw Spray, who was President of the Tuesday Evening Club and Salida Library Association, during the time of the transaction.

Having frequently been asked to write the following historical statement, which is in many respects a compilation, I now proceed to do so; but not without a true consciousness of its lack of literary merit.

The Tuesday Evening Club, which was also the Salida Library Association, in ~~May~~ 1905, set aside all the ^{net} proceeds of the winter's Entertainment Course, which was \$54.00, as a nest egg for funds toward buying a site for a Public Library. Enough, we, who worked to get it set aside, thought, to satisfy Mr. Carnegie that we had abeginning when we could be ready to ask him in earnest for help. As another history filed in the Library shows, we asked for this help in the following July, by a letter written to Mr. Carnegie.

A suitable site was what we wanted. There were vacant lots near the business districts, but the owners placed prices far ^{above} hope. For years some of us had looked longingly on the vacant place by Alpine Park, corner of E and 4th streets, as the only site that was perfect for our Library. Whenever we would speak of that

2

location we were met on all sides with, "But you cannot get hold of those lots. People have tried in vain to reach the owner of them". But who was he? No one seemed to know. I believed there was a way to find out.

In the fall, before going into the expense of searching "Records," I mentioned the keen desire I had in the matter, to the Mayor of Salida, Mr. Louis Wenz, who was, I knew, an old timer in Salida. He gave me the name of the original owner of the lots, "Mr. Stein," but he never lived in Colorado and was now dead. ~~Mr. Wenz~~ Mr Wenz could not give me anything of the whereabouts of his heirs; "but," said he, "Mr. w. w. Roller may be able to tell you something. Mrs. Spray, the matter is worth looking in to". I asked him if he thought it at all likely that we could secure those lots for a library site. He replied "Nothing like trying".

I called on Mr. Roller with my burden. His face lighted up at once. He said, "No one has been able to reach that matter, but may be you can do it for a library site. If I were you I would try it." And he knew the name of a son of the original owner, "S. G. Stein of muscatine, Iowa." He did not know his exact address, but he was the wealthiest man there and the president of the "Friends' Oats Company, and of course, could be reached by letter. That was enough. I left Mr. Roller's office with a high hope and confidence which nothing afterwards could daunt.

About the first of November I wrote Mr. Stein. I did not keep a copy of my letter, but, as I remember it, I had argued

3

to myself that if he is a millionair he may not care about being bothered at all about so small a matter, and, may be, he would just as soon give us the lots as to get a few hundred for them. At any rate I did ask him to donate the lots! No reply came. Then in December I wrote again. No reply came; but interesting things had happended and I believed a third letter would bring an answer.

In July before this, I had written to Mr. Carnegie setting the situation before him and asking his help. The Library association waited patiently ^{for} an answer which did not come before the last week in november, and it consisted in the formal catechism that ~~that~~ could be answered by no one except the City Council, who, in order to help us, was compelled, not only to comply with Mr. Carnegie's requirements, but to act within the Library laws of Colorado. The Council had in July given its sanction to the letter asking for Mr. Carnegie's help. With no halt whatever, the very next day after the Council meeting, we mailed the filled-out catechism to Mr. Carnegie, and sooner than we expected came the answer from his secretary, that Mr. Carnegie, on receiving the evidence that we had secured a suitable site for a Library Building, would be pleased to give us \$9000. for the building.

A Building and Site Committee was appointed from the Club (Library Assn.) and we learned that the Mayor had, at the last meeting in the year, appointed a committee to confer with the Club.

4

As President of the Club and Library Association, I had appointed to act with myself, the Vice President, Mrs. Finla McClure; the Chairman of the Literature Department, Mrs. Rose Ridgway; the Chairman of the Home and Current Events Department, Mrs. J. W. Deen; and Mrs. D. P. Cook. The Mayor had appointed Messrs. J. U. Mock, V. C. Davenport, T. C. Bode and F. D. Granger.

On the 3rd of Jan. of the New Year, I again wrote to Mr. Stein the supposed owner of desired lots. On the morning of the 13th the following letter came:

Muscatine, Ia, Jan 10, 1906.

Mrs Ruth H. Spray,

Salida, Colo.,

Dear Madame,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 3rd inst and must also apologize to you for my tardy acknowledgment of your earlier letter of Dec 21st, but illness in my family during the Holidays, must be my excuse.

I have read both of your letters with considerable interest, and think your Library association and Club are particularly fortunate in their selection of a presiding officer. Our association had a weary time of it, until a building was given to us, by a citizen of this city.

It would give me a great deal of pleasure to donate a site, but my calls at home are numerous and pressing, and I do not feel that I can be of any assistance to you in this matter.

Yours Truly,

G. Stein

5

It is clear that he does not even mention my first letter written in November. He may not have received the letter, but from *my* after experience in correspondence with Mr. Stein and from knowledge gained through his agent, Mr. Eaton (noted farther on), I am inclined to think he cast that first letter aside and for the time forgot it.

Soon after receiving the above letter from Mr. Stein, I called the joint committee together at my home. Mr. Mock was made temporary chairman, and soon explained that the Mayor's object in appointing a committee to meet with the committee from the Club, was for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of having City Council Head-quarters in the Library Building. After a short discussion the subject was dropped with the consent of all present. But the joint committee soon resolved itself into an enthusiastic meeting for securing a building site for a library. I read the above letter from Mr. Stein, and when I called their attention to the fact that I had written three letters before I received a reply, the whole company laughed heartily. Two of the gentlemen said they had, sometime ago, written the owners of those lots to set a price on them, and they knew of other business and real estate men who had done the same, but nobody had been able to get a reply. The whole committee agreed that there was no other location so suitable as the beautiful vacant lots over by Alpine Park; but it was useless to depend upon getting them, they being owned by two millionaires—one in Chicago, the other in Muscatine, Iowa, who had silently refused to sell or set a price.

Various locations were mentioned but none met with favor from all the company. I remarked, "I intend to write to Mr. Stein

6

again, And -I believe- we will get those lots." Some of the company smiled good-naturedly, others did not seem to hear what I said. Just as we were adjourning, I said to the men, "Now gentlemen, if we can get Mr. Stein to hear us, what do you think we ought to pay for those lots?" The whole company laughed and I laughed with them, though I felt terribly in earnest about the matter. I think out of courtesy to me, they stopped their preparations to go, and two of them expressed themselves as believing we could not expect to get the lots for less than \$1500.00. I thanked them.

At the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Tuesday Evening Club, I read Mr. Stein's letter and told them of the number of letters I had written before hearing from him, and of my conviction that we must have those lots to build on, and at a reasonable price; that I believed they had been left providentially over there for us. They shared my enthusiasm.

We talked with some of the best business men in town as to the advisability of trying to get an option on the lots and at what price. All who expressed themselves at all, or were willing to encourage us, said \$1500.00.

In the previous summer and early autumn, my mind had, time and again, reverted to the Ridgway family as people who might help us in some way or another, and Mrs. Rose W Ridgway had been thinking the same. She gave me great encouragement to ask such a favor of them. Mrs. A. C. Ridgway was the first president of the Tuesday Evening Club, when it was organized in 1894, and continued her interest after Mr. Ridgway's promotion in R. R. management and the family had moved ~~to St. Denver~~ to Denver.

After my writing to Mr. Carnegie in the summer, Mrs. Rose Ridgway and I wrote to Mrs. A. C. Ridgway to ask that she through

7

~~and I wrote to Mrs. Mary Ridgway to ask that she through~~ her husband, or directly, try to influence Helen Gould in our favor. Nothing she could do brought any results, as Miss Gould was directing her efforts to the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. work.

We of the Tuesday Evening Club were carrying on, in that winter of 1905-06 a heavier Entertainment Course than ever before with a view to increasing our fund for a Library site, and we all talked Library in season and out of season. The last of Jan. we held a reception in the City Hall in the interest of the Library Association, to which as usual, we invited Mrs. Mary Ridgway and other old out-of-town members. In conversation with Mrs. R. Ridgway I asked her to come to see me in my home next day before she returned to Denver. I then laid the matter of funds for a library site before her and found her very thoughtful, earnest and sympathetic. She expressed a great desire to help. to my question as to whether she had any objections to my writing her husband later on about the matter, she answered, "Of course not." After talking the matter over with my husband and some other business men as to possibilities, I wrote the following letter to Mr. Stein:

Salida, Colorado,

Feb. 4, 1906

Mr. S. G. Stein, Muscatine, Iowa,

Dear Sir:

I thank you for replying to my former letters. I write now to ask you for an option on those lots under question. Will you give us an option for sixty days on those lots of yours, altogether, at corner of E and 4th streets, Salida, Colorado, at the

price of fifteen-hundred dollars ?

In view of the fact that there are no other vacant lots so universally wanted by the people interested in the Library movement, is the reason that I am able to offer you so high a price as \$1500. This, I think, is at the rate of \$500. per lot.

Our Library movement is at a standstill until we hear from you. Please take time enough, however, to consider how greatly you will be helping us by giving us this option.

For the benefit of our town I now submit this appeal, hoping that I have not been a rude intruder. Thanking you in advance for your trouble and time in reading this and hoping for an early reply, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Ruth H. Spray, Pres. Salida Library Assn.

In five days the following telegram came:-

POSTAL TELEGRAPH  **COMMERCIAL CABLES**
TELEGRAM 14

REGISTERED TRADE-MARK. DESIGN PATENT NO. 26369.

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at

SALIDA, COLO.

(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

D 6 Sn Fn 4 7
Muscatine Iowa Feb 9
Mrs Ruth H Spray,

957 A.M.

Salida Colo.

It is the desire of Mr Barnhart and myself owners of lots five, six, seven, twenty four, twenty five, and twenty six in block fifty eight that they be sold together if disposed to wire best price on all of the above lots you may do so.

S G Stein

9

Here was a complication indeed! Other lots to be disposed of if we get what we want. Those were situated on D street, not in connection with the corner we wanted. We realized fully that the owners of those lots were independent. Reading between the lines, it mattered not to them whether or not the lots were sold, and that in making a deal they would require to get rid of the whole business of lots in Salida, or let the matter go. I consulted the men of the City Council and others, and called a meeting of the Board of Directors of our Club to see what could be done. My own idea was to make another trial and offer them \$1200.00 for the three lots on the corner only, saying nothing about the others. To this all agreed, and the Club voted that I send a telegram at once to that effect. But I did not keep a copy of that telegram, not realizing that it would ever be needed as history. I now had something tangible to present ~~to~~ in a letter to A. C. Ridgway and I immediately wrote him, laying the matter before him and asking him, with a feeling of confidence, to give us \$1200.00 with which to buy those beautiful lots for a Library site. I asked him to give himself plenty of time to think it over. This letter also I failed to keep a copy of.

Nine days passed and no answer had come to my telegram sent to Mr. Stein. It was Saturday morning, the day of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Club, and I had nothing to report. But I was not discouraged.

About 10 a. m. a stranger came to my door, introduced himself as Mr. Eaton, from Muscatine, Iowa, "an employee in the works of Mr. Stein, who, as you know, is part owner of those lots under consideration for a Library site". He told me that Mr. Stein

10

called him into his office three days before, handed out to him a pile of letters from Salida, Colorado. "Here," he said, "take these letters, read them all and take the train out to Salida, Colorado and see what those women want out there!" Mr. Eaton said that in looking over the letters, he found a number from Real Estate men and other citizens of Salida, some of which had never been opened before. Letters from the president of Club and Library association were amongst them and had been opened and, evidently, read. Mr. Eaton had been in town a few hours, had examined the price of Real Estate, and had acquainted himself with the situation and value of said lots. We had an hour's talk together. He said he must start on return trip, taking next train. When he arose to go, he said, "My dear Mrs. Spray, your Association should have those lots and at a reasonable figure, I promise you to do all I can for you." As I had had nothing until now, at all definite, to write Mr. Carnegie, since sending him the report from the City Council, I sent him the following letter:

Salida, Colorado,

Feb. 12, 1906,

Honorable Andrew Carnegie, 2 East 91st street, New York
City,

Dear Sir,

The letter of Dec. 23, by your Secretary, Jas. Bertram, was duly and most thankfully received. I have delayed a reply thinking each week it would develop that I could report that we have a site for a library building. However, I fear the securing of our ground will yet be delayed a few weeks.

11

We are working quite hard to get all the conditions fulfilled for accepting your generous gift. As soon as I can I shall write you the happy result. Thanking you for our Library Association and, in fact, for our whole town, I am

Most sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth H. Spray,

Pres. Salida Library Association.

We expected to hear from Mr. Stein quite promptly on the return of his man, Mr. Eaton, to Muscatine; but nine days passed and I sent the following letter, which I shall venture to put down without copying in type.

Salida, Colorado,
Feb. 28, 1906.

Mr. S. G. Stein, Muscatine, Iowa,
Dear Sir, -

I hope you will not be surprised when I tell you that we of the Library Association are getting quite anxious since the return of your agent, Mr. Eaton, to Muscatine one week ago last Saturday. If you can ~~let~~ sell us the lots will you please, on receipt of this letter, send me a telegram to that effect?

Very sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) Ruth H. Spray,
Pres. Salida Library Ass'n.

12

In answer came the following telegram:

POSTAL TELEGRAPH  COMMERCIAL CABLES
TELEGRAM

REGISTERED TRADE-MARK. DESIGN PATENT No. 36369.
 The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at

(Time)
'01

D 1 SN FN 33

1122 A.M.

SALIDA, Colo.
(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

Muscatine Iowa March 2 1906

Mrs Ruth Spray

Salida Colo.

Will accept twelve hundred dollars for three plaza lots
 and five hundred dollars three back lots as offered by Gloyd subject
 to Barnhardts approval and sale of all the lots answer if satisfactory
 S G Stein.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY

After getting this message of mmarch 2nd, we worked on the plan it it involved .We thought up ways of raising the 500 dollars. This month closed our entertainment course and we had cleared \$64.00, making with previous sum, over 100 dollars to apply on lots if necessary. I some^{how} had full faith that the Ridgway s would stand back of us for the \$1200.00, though no answer to my letter had come. At any rate I believed there were men in our town who would help us to borrow the money if there was no other way. Hence, I at once wrote the owners to put the deeds ~~or~~ in escro at the First National B Bank in Salida. Then came the following letter from Mr. Stein:

S. G. Stein
MUSCATINE, IOWA

Muscatine, Iowa, Mar 6. 1906.

Mrs Ruth H. Spray,
Salida, Colo.,

Dear Madame,

Two of the deeds have been sent to Mr Barnhart, in Chicago, and the other two go to The First National Bank Salida in escrow, by tomorrow's mail. I have been waiting to hear from Mr Barnhart, and do not expect any hitch in the matter.

I am at work on the abstract, which is a little long, but it will go forward within a day or two.

I am very glad you got these lots, after so much uncertainty, due in large part to the fact that the parties at this end of the line, do not live in the same place.

Yours Truly,

S. G. Stein

14A

I at once communicated with Mrs. Rose Ridgway and asked her if she could help me to get into touch with her brother-in-law, Mr. A. C. Ridgway. She found that he was on the road with his special car. Then came a message to her that he would be in Salida at a certain time next morning, but could not stop off; but for her and me to come to the station. We took this to mean that he would see us on the subject of our "heart's desire". We went to the depot promptly at the time specified, and after waiting a few minutes, Ridgway's Special moved up. Mr. Ridgway came leisurely down to the place where we were standing near the track. He shook hands with each of us without even a smile. Mrs. Rose Ridgway said, "Well Caryll, we understand that the deeds we want for a Library site have been sent to be placed in escrow at the First National Bank. What about it?" He turned and looked me straight in the eye and said, in a very distinct but low tone, "When you want to pay for those lots, go to the First National Bank and draw on me, and it will be all right." From that moment I never doubted that A. C. Ridgway would give us the \$1200.00 for the lots, and that thought gave me unbounded courage to go right ahead with the tremendous undertaking of the Tuesday Evening Club's building a Public Library for Salida.

The deeds did not come as soon as expected, and there had been in the meantime, a terrible R. R. wreck east of Salida; hence, I wrote making inquiry. and the following letter came in reply:

Mrs Ruth H. Spray,
Salida, Colo,

Bear Madame,

Yours of the 17th inst to hand, and will say that I hope the papers escaped the wreck. They were sent to The First National Bank of Salida, last week some time, and should be there by this time.

If this is not the case please let me hear from you.

Yours Truly,

J. H. Stein

In a few days after receiving the above letter the deeds came, but they were quit-claim deeds. Of course we wanted warranty deeds, and wrote to Mr. Stein, telling him so. But he and partner positively declined giving us a different deed. In the meantime, I had placed the matter in the hands of Attorney George D. Williams, who looked into the County Records in the case.

I next received the following letter from Mr. Stein:

S. G. Stein
MUSCATINE, IOWA

Muscataine, Iowa, Apr 10 1906.

Mrs Ruth M. Spray,
Salida, Colo,

Dear Madam,

Yours of the 6th inst to hand, and matter left with Car skaddan, Burk, and Pepper, of this city.

They have written out ~~for~~ to your lawyers, inquiring as to what papers are wanted. We will hurry the thing along.

Yours Truly,

S. G. Stein

16

After that letter I heard nothing about the matter for three weeks, and becoming uneasy, called up Mr. Williams' office, but could learn nothing. I then wrote to Mr. Stein, who answered with the following letter:

S. G. Stein
MUSCATINE, IOWA

Muscataine, Iowa, May 8 1906.

Mrs Ruth H. Spray,
Salida, Colo.,

Dear Madame,

Yours of the 2d inst received.

Our lawyer, Mr Carskaddan, sent the required papers to the Salida firm some time ago, and has had no reply.

Upon receiving your letter, ~~the~~ it was turned over to him, and he at once took up the matter, with the Salida lawyers.

I can understand your haste, and hope the matter will be adjusted very soon.

Yours Truly,

S. G. Stein

17
I found delay had been caused by the illness of Mr. Williams and that he was confined to his home. His partner took no interest in our case, and of necessity, and at Mr. Williams' wish, I took up the thread of correspondence. I now found that the "Will" of the original owner of the property, Mr. Stein sr., had never been in Colorado. Though still too ill to go to his office, Mr. Williams helped me to further investigation which showed that deeds from other parties must be secured in order to make our ownership at all secure.

I endeavored to keep up our end of the line, with bothering Mr. Williams as little as possible, in order not to let the matter fall out of our hands. So I went on with the work of securing a deed from a Salt Lake party, which helped greatly to clear up matters; then went after another deed held by a party in Chicago. The following letters will show something of the complication; although my having failed to keep copies of my own letters was a mistake which cannot now be remedied.

The following letter came on a postal card:

Muscatine, Iowa,

5, 25, 1906,

Mrs. Ruth H. Spray, Salida, Colorado.

Dear Madam:

The address wanted is , 'A.M. Barnhart, 185 Monroe St. Chicago, Ills.'" There have been unexpected complications which are being rapidly provided for. Papers have gone forward, and we hope you will have the deed soon.

Yours truly,

S. G. Stein.

18

Des Moines Ia
6/27/06

Mrs Ruth N. Spray }
Salida Cole }

Dear Madam

Your letter
was forwarded to me, and
no one regrets the delay more
than myself.

I believe, however that the
matter is being pushed as
fast as we can.
we should get results very
soon now.

yours truly
G. Steiner

Barnhart Bros. & Spindler
Type-Founders

183 to 187 Monroe Street

TELEPHONES } MAIN 242
 } AUTOMATIC 1470
CABLE ADDRESS "BARNHART"

CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

Chicago, June 28, 1906.

Mrs. Ruth H. Spray,
c/o The Salida Library Ass'n.,
Salida, Colorado.

Dear Madam:-

Your letter to Mr. A.M. Barnhart was opened by me in his absence. He is in the East and liable to be there several weeks. I have written him giving him the contents of your letter. I have not followed the matter closely but from what I noticed, I supposed that everything was fixed up. I know that Mr. Barnhart was asked for some proof of the death of his first wife and some other matters to make the title good and I am sure that he sent these proofs on.

I have written Mr. Stein telling him of your letter and I will probably hear from him in a few days. I can give no information in regard to the matter as I do not even know whether a warranty deed or a quit-claim deed was to be given. I am sure, however, that Mr. Barnhart is as anxious to get the deal closed up as any one, so as to get it off his hands.

Yours very truly,

MW Barnhart

Mr. Williams recovered in June enough to go to work in his office, but the July term of Court was upon him to prepare for, and, as his services were rendered free to us, we could not interfere with his more profitable and necessary work; so allowed our work to be suspended, except that which I could do myself.

Very much of my time was spent during July and to the middle of August, trying to find a buyer for the three lots on D street. In this, Mrs. Garretson, a member of the Club and now custodian of our Library in City Hall, helped me greatly. She referred me to the party that finally bought the lots.

I had found that to have the original "Will" probated in Colorado, and thus render it possible to get a warranty deed, would cost us not less than \$250.00. Our lawyer told us that for our own purposes of ground for a City Public Library, a quit-claim deed was all that was necessary. The question was to find a buyer for those other lots. A number of parties were considering it. About the middle of August, great consternation almost overcame me one morning when I learned that the First National Bank had, some days before, on demand of the owners, returned the deeds that were in escrow. I called up some of my committee and rushed to Mr. Williams' office. He immediately wired the attorneys in Muscatine, Iowa, to send the deeds back at once—that we were very sure of buying the lots, were only waiting to clear up some points. At the same time I wired Mr. Stein to return the deeds. The deeds were returned in a few days. But our efforts to sell the odd lots continued. We were asked why we did not put them into the hands of a Real Estate man. But on looking into that matter, we were confronted with a dilemma of two horns. If a Real Estate man should make the deal, he would have to place the price above the \$500.00 now asked for them, or, we would have to pay his

commission. The following brief letter will give a little insight in-
to some side issues:

S. G. Stein
MUSCATINE, IOWA

Muscatine, Iowa, Oct 6 1906.

Mrs Ruth H. Spray,
Salida, Colo,

Dear Madam,

The enclosed letter from Mrs J. Hazelhurst, your
city, is sent to you for answer.

Yours Truly
S. G. Stein

22

But before this ,I had gone to all the Real Estate men who had expressed any interest in the sale of those lots, and asked them to relinquish all intentions of handling them. One of them was willing to write and sign a statement of that kind. Others made verbal promises. Early in October, I called a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Library Association(T. E. C.)to consider what we could give towards making it possible to sell those three lots, and to decide as to the payment of the 1905 taxes, which the owners had absolutely refused to pay. The Board decided to put \$100.00 of the money we had previously appropriated for the purpose, into the buying of those lots, and the president and Secretary were directed to write to the County Commissioners and ask them to remit the taxes of 1905, in case we should complete the buying of the Library site. It is needless to add that the Commissioners promptly granted our request.

Our party who had been considering buying would now take the D St. lots at \$400.00, provided the Club would pay the back taxes, which amounted to \$25.00. This the Club decided to do in order to get the matter closed. In the course of a few weeks, the party informed us that he "had the money in the Bank for paying for the lots," altho he wished us to understand(which we already did)that it would cost him nearly three hundred dollars more to get a warrantty deed, without which he never could make the property vauable to himself.

We must now get into touch with Mr. A. C. Ridgway. I called Mrs. Rose Ridgway into consultation, and, in communicating with his wife, we found that A. C. Ridgway was out west and the date of his return was not certain. About this time the lawyers, at the other end of the line, manifested impatience. Something must be done quickly. We must close the deal for the six lots.

Such perfect confidence did I feel that Mr. Ridgway would give us the money as soon as we could find him, that I went to the First Na-

tional Bank and asked Messrs Craig and Preston if they would loan us \$1200.00 for a few days on gilt-edged security. They said "Yes, if the note was signed by the President of the Library Association, the Treasurer, and two thoroughly reliable business men of Salida". I said "Please prepare a note for us to sign." I first affixed my own name, then took the note to Mrs. J. B. Stevens, our treasurer, who, after my explanation, willingly signed it. I went to Mr. T. C. Bode and laid the matter before him, telling him that I had made up my mind to ask himself and V. C. Davenport to sign the note, saying that I was confident it would be but for a few days, or only until we could communicate with Mr. A. C. Ridgway. Mr. Bode said he would sign it if Mr. Davenport would first put his own name to it. I went to Mr. Davenport. After he heard my story, without a question or word, he took his pen and wrote his name. Handing the note back, he said, "There, take it to Mr. Bode." It gave me great pleasure to take the note back to the Bank inside of an hour with the necessary signatures.

The very next day we found that Mr. Ridgway had returned to Colorado, ~~and~~ the next ~~day~~ Mr. Craig called me to the Bank to sign a certificate. He told me that, in arranging the matter over the phone, he asked Mr. Ridgway if he wanted a note for the money. Mr. Ridgway answered quickly and very firmly, "No!" I remarked, "Doesn't that look like a gift?" Mr. Craig smiled and said, "I know very well that Caryll Ridgway does not loan money that way." That generous gift, not to the Salida Library Association and Club, but to the whole town, was afterwards commemorated, by the Club, in a beautiful bronze tablet placed conspicuously in the Library building.

The next day I wrote the following letter to Mr. Ridgway:

Mr. A. C. Ridgway, 1640 Grant Ave. Denver, Colorado;

Dear Sir:

to sign: Yesterday, I was called into the First National Bank

24
to sign a certificate ,for the Salida Library Association,of a deposit of \$1200.00 you had made there for the Library Association.

It is impossible for me to express for the Library Association,which is also the Tuesday Evening Club,the sense of gratitude we feel for this generous act of yours. To say,"We thank you," is indeed weak. We now expect to hear very soon from Mr. Carnegie, and, in the mean time, we are busy with plans for our longed-for, beautiful Library Building,which we already see in vision over on that commanding platt of ground at the corner of E and 4th Streets, looking out over pretty little Alpine Park.

Please remember mwe to Mrs. Ridgway, and I should like to ask her if she has any plans or suggestions, and to send such to me as soon as convenient.

Again thanking you pI am

Most sincerely yours,

Ruth H. Spray, Pres.Salida Library Ass'n.

Mrs. Ridgway responded in a most lovely note.

On the same day I sent the following letter to Mr. Stein:

Mr. S. G. Stein, Muscatine, Iowa,

Dear Sir,

By this time your attorneys have doubtles received the seventeen hundred dollars for the six lots,from the First National Bank of Salida,Colorado.

We are thankful the deal is closed, but I want to tell you that we found it impossible to sell those lots,5, 6, & 7,on a quit-claim deed, at the price you asked. Hence, our Library Association furnished from our earnings, \$100.00 of the \$500.00 required. The buyer of the lots refused to pay the back taxes. Rather than delay the business any

longer, by working up another buyer, we paid the taxes. It has been a hard piece of work, on account of that quit-claim deed business, but I am thankful it is done, and that we shall now, just as soon as soon as we can hear from Mr. Carnegie, make our plans for building. It is late in the year now, and we shall no doubt have to wait until Spring to lay the foundation, being put back a year. But, "All things come to those who wait," they say ("and work" we say); and about a year from this time, or possibly next August, you should make a trip to our mountain town and see our beautiful little Library, which will be looking out on a pretty little park of trees and grass and flowers.

Most sincerely yours,

(Mrs. S. J.) Ruth H. Spray,

President of the Salida Library Association, Salida, Colorado.

The letter which follows, ends the matter completely.

S. G. Stein

MUSCATINE, IOWA

11/10/1906.

11/10/1906.

Mrs. S. J. Spray,
Salida, Col.

I am glad you obtained the lots. I am laid up in bed and cannot answer your letter myself.

Yours respectfully,

R. Z.

