

Reference Code: MS 179

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta Richmond County Public Library, 823 Telfair St. Augusta, Ga. 30901

Title: Young Men's Library Association (YMLA) History

Date: 1848 – 1948

Extent: 3 boxes

Scope and Content: Covers the history of YMLA, precursor to the Augusta Public Library.

Name of Creator: Young Men's Library Association

Administrative/Biographic History: The Young Men's Library Association was established in 1848. YMLA grew out of the Augusta Library Society, incorporated in 1827. According to *199 Years of Augusta's Library* by Berry Fleming, "The Augusta Library Society appeared to have grown out of a 'Public Library' that was in existence in 1811. Prior to this, as early as 1808, "The Thespian Society and Library Company of Augusta" was active. According to Augusta lore, the *Charming Nancy* shipped a collection of 166 volumes from England, meant for Augusta's first library. The books were donated to the Trustees of Georgia in 1732 and 1733 and delivered by a Missionary in March of 1750.

Conditions governing access: Restrictions due to fragile nature of materials.

Related resources:

MS 55 Augusta Public Library History

Berry Fleming, *199 Years of Augusta's Library* (University of Georgia Press, Athens. 1949)

#### Box 1:

- **Folder 1:** Subscription receipt dated 10 September 1811 for "Public Library" membership.
- **Folder 2:** receipt issued by J. C. Carmichael (The Augusta Library Society secretary and treasurer) to Jas. Coleman for amount of \$8.00 paid toward library share. Dated 13 June 1838.
- **Folder 3:** Trust Deed of the Trustees of the Young Men's Library Association Fund, 8 April 1853.
- **Folder 4:** Letter written to the members of YMLA from Gen. Clement A. Evans, President of the Library Board, 1885-1889.
- **Folder 5:** *Rules and Regulations of the Young Men's Library Association of Augusta, Ga.* 1887. (3)
- **Folder 6:** Rules Governing Young Men's Library Association, Augusta, Georgia. 13 April 1913.
- **Folder 7:** A Brief History of Our Library and The Old Richmond Academy, Augusta, Georgia. 1928.
- **Folder 8:** A Memorandum of Agreement between the Trustees of the Academy of Richmond County and the YMLA, dated 11 July 1933, for the continuance of a lease established on 28 July 1928, granting Augusta Library's tenancy of the Old Richmond Academy building.
- **Folder 9:** YMLA Centennial Dinner program (1948); list of guests attending the dinner; *Augusta Chronicle* articles dated 1 Dec. 1948 titled, "Augusta Library Celebrates Its Hundredth Anniversary"; YMLA Centennial Dinner guest book (separate from folder, wrapped in tissue)
- Subscription receipt book for lifetime membership to YMLA, 1888-1966.

Box 2:

- Minutes from the meetings of the Trustees of the Young Men's Library Association, 6 May 1880-4 April 1889
- Young Men's Library Association Catalogue, Augusta, Ga. 1893 (Catalog of books in the library collection). Compiled by Rev. Lansing Burroughs.
- Catalogue of the Library of the Young Men's Library Association, Augusta, Ga. 1868

Box 3:

- Bible presented by the Augusta Bible Society to the Young Men's Library Association in 1848.