

## CHAPTER XII

### *The Law Library: Books, Serials, and Manuscripts*

#### XII: I. THE FLETCHER GIFT: 1866

At a meeting of the Board of Regents, March 27, 1866

Regent Knight presented a communication from the Law Faculty stating that Hon. Richard Fletcher, of Boston, had presented about eight hundred volumes of books to the Law Library; which was referred to the Committee on the Law Department.<sup>1</sup>

During the afternoon meeting of the Regents on the same day, Regent Knight "submitted a Report, which was laid on the table."<sup>2</sup>

On March 29, 1866, the report of the Committee was "taken from the table and unanimously adopted. . . ."<sup>3</sup> The text follows:

The Committee on the Law Department of the University of Michigan, to whom was referred the communication of Professor Charles I. Walker, announcing the donation to the University, by the Hon. Richard Fletcher, of Boston, of his very choice and valuable Law Library, take great pleasure in recommending the adoption of the resolution herewith presented. Your Committee hail this beginning of liberal things toward this growing seminary of learning. The wise foresight which laid the foundations of a University in the wilderness has already deserved and will receive the applause of the world; but we yet need the contributions of private munificence, in order to secure and perfect the glorious work so well begun. We would manifest our appreciation of Judge Fletcher's donation, and perpetuate his memory by engraving it upon the history of the University of Michigan.

*Resolved*—That this Board of Regents accept, with profound thanks, the liberal donation of his private Law Library, made by the Hon. Richard Fletcher, of Boston, to the University of Michigan, for the use of the Law Department.

*Resolved*—That a copy of the resolution, and of the report of the Committee on the Law Department, duly certified by the President and Secretary, and attested by the Corporate Seal of the University, be transmitted to the Hon. Richard Fletcher.<sup>4</sup>

In acknowledgment of Fletcher's gift, the Regents established The Fletcher Professorship of Law at their meeting on June 28, 1866.<sup>5</sup>

On July 16, 1866, Fletcher acknowledged receipt of this copy, in a letter which was incorporated in the minutes of the meeting of the Regents for September 25, 1866. It stated in part:

. . . The kind and courteous manner in which the donation of my Law Library has been accepted, is certainly highly gratifying to me. It affords me pleasure to know that the books, which I collected in the course of a long professional life, will not be scattered, but will remain together for the use of students in the Law Department of the great University of the Northwest.

The Board of Regents, in giving my name to a Professorship

of Law, have conferred an honor on me which I desire most gratefully to acknowledge.<sup>6</sup>

Richard Fletcher, 1788-1869, Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court from 1848 to 1853, never married. His niece, Ella Fletcher, was the second wife of Charles Irish Walker, one of the three original members of the Law Faculty. According to the *Fletcher Genealogy: An Account of the Descendants of Robert Fletcher of Concord, Mass.* (Boston, 1871) pp. 167-68, 172-75, Richard Fletcher never married and was very much attached to his nephews and nieces to whom he gave many gifts.<sup>7</sup> The initial communication to the Board of Regents, announcing the Fletcher gift, was made by Walker,<sup>8</sup> and it seems reasonably possible to advance the hypothesis that the fact Fletcher's niece was Walker's wife was responsible for Fletcher's willingness to send his law library to the newly established Law Department at Michigan.

<sup>1</sup> Regents' Proceedings, 1864-1870, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, p. 132.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, p. 139.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, p. 154.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, p. 162.

<sup>7</sup> Information supplied by the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan.

<sup>8</sup> Regents' Proceedings, 1864-1870, p. 129.

## XII: 2. LAW LIBRARY STATISTICS: 1859-1959

### SOURCES:

1859-1860—1919-1920: *Calendar of the University of Michigan Proceedings of the Board of Regents*

1920-1921—1930-1931: *President's Report to the Board of Regents*

1931-1932—1957-1958: Law Library Records

Year	Total Volumes	Periodicals Received	Bound Volumes Added	Serials Received
1859-1860	350 c. <sup>1</sup>			
1860-1861				
1861-1862				
1862-1863				
1863-1864	1,600 c. <sup>2</sup>			
1864-1865				
1865-1866			800 c. <sup>3</sup>	
1866-1867				
1867-1868	3,000 c.			
1868-1869	3,000 c.			
1869-1870	3,000 c.			
1870-1871	3,000 c.			
1871-1872	3,000 c.			

Year	Total Volumes	Periodicals Received	Bound Volumes Added	Serials Received
1872-1873	3,000 c.			
1873-1874	3,000 c.			
1874-1875	3,300 c.			
1875-1876	3,500 c.			
1876-1877	3,500 c.			
1877-1878	3,500 c.			
1878-1879	3,500 c.			
1879-1880	3,500 c.			
1880-1881	4,100 c.		63	
1881-1882	4,100 c.			
1882-1883	4,120 c.			
1883-1884	4,500	8	235	
1884-1885	9,055 <sup>4</sup>		4,000 c.	
1885-1886	9,250	10	195	
1886-1887	9,565		315	
1887-1888	9,783	7	218	
1888-1889	9,953	7	170	
1889-1890	10,208	7	265	
1890-1891	10,390	7	172	
1891-1892	10,744	7	354	
1892-1893	11,111	7	367	
1893-1894	11,465	7	354	
1894-1895	11,805	7	340	
1895-1896	12,064	12	259	
1896-1897	13,849	12	1,785	
1897-1898	14,609	12	760	
1898-1899	16,334	18	1,725	
1899-1900	18,000 c.	16	1,666	
1900-1901	18,827	18	827	
1901-1902	19,827	20	800	
1902-1903	20,170	20	543	
1903-1904	21,480	20	1,310	
1904-1905	22,495	21	1,013	
1905-1906	23,494	21	999	
1906-1907	24,425	24		
1907-1908	25,470	25		
1908-1909	27,804	25		
1909-1910	28,841	21		
1910-1911	30,321	23		
1911-1912	31,291	24		
1912-1913	31,726	30		
1913-1914	33,737	30		
1914-1915	35,102	30		
1915-1916	36,307	30		
1916-1917	37,621	30		

Year	Total Volumes	Periodicals Received	Bound Volumes Added	Serials Received
1917-1918	38,583	30		
1918-1919	40,090	55		
1919-1920	41,882	55		
1920-1921	43,935	55		
1921-1922	56,754	70		
1922-1923	59,977	70		
1923-1924	64,000			
1924-1925	66,500			
1925-1926	68,000			
1926-1927	70,000		2,546	
1927-1928	72,000		3,943	
1928-1929	80,000		8,000	
1929-1930	82,308		6,601	
1930-1931	90,000 c.			
1931-1932	95,458		14,658	
1932-1933	104,273		9,993	
1933-1934	112,086		7,909	
1934-1935	117,745	606	5,743	
1935-1936	123,989	650	6,473	
1936-1937	130,409	699	6,438	
1937-1938	137,537	856	7,471	
1938-1939	145,261	935	7,827	
1939-1940	151,269	945	6,177	
1940-1941	158,663	968	7,498	
1941-1942	166,003	956	7,507	
1942-1943	170,879	1,050	4,951	
1943-1944	177,447	1,078	6,810	
1944-1945	182,171		4,814	2,029
1945-1946	188,339		6,262	2,463
1946-1947	195,548		7,302	2,463
1947-1948	202,451		7,003	2,463
1948-1949	209,810		7,466	2,519
1949-1950	215,438		5,698	2,576
1950-1951	223,144		7,822	2,697
1951-1952	230,573		7,605	2,796
1952-1953	241,027		10,638	2,940
1953-1954	250,037		9,191	3,157
1954-1955	259,214		9,454	3,434
1955-1956	268,391		9,421	3,553
1956-1957	276,468		8,262	3,738
1957-1958	283,775		7,307	3,848
1958-1959	290,435		6,660	3,897

<sup>1</sup> Bradley M. Thompson, "The First Law Class," 4 Michigan Alumnus 298 at 300 (1898).

<sup>2</sup> Regents' Proceedings, 1837-1864, p. 1116.

<sup>3</sup> The Fletcher gift.

<sup>4</sup> The Buhl gift was responsible for this increase.

## XII: 3. THE BUHL GIFT: 1885

SOURCE: *Regents' Proceedings*, 1881-1886, pp. 539-43

Regent Blair, chairman of the Law Committee, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board of Regents are hereby tendered to Mr. C. H. Buhl, of Detroit, for his generous gift of a law library of five thousand volumes to the University; and

*Resolved, further*, That for the purpose of more perfectly preserving the record of the transactions connected with this act, the correspondence between Mr. Buhl, the President of the University, the Law Faculty, and the students of the Law Department, be published at length in the Journal of this Board.

The following is the correspondence referred to in the resolution of Regent Blair:

## MR. BUHL'S OFFER OF THE LIBRARY.

DETROIT, February 9th, 1885.

HON. JAMES B. ANGELL, President of the University of Michigan:

DEAR SIR,—I learn from Mr. Jas. F. Joy that the Law Library of the University is somewhat incomplete, and that additions thereto, especially in the way of Reports, are desirable and necessary.

I have a Law Library of about five thousand volumes, principally Reports, which I propose to give to the University if it will be of use. Should it be thought best to accept these books, delivery can be made at once.

Very respectfully,  
C. H. BUHL

## PRESIDENT ANGELL'S REPLY.

ANN ARBOR, February 10, 1885.

C. H. BUHL, Esq., Detroit:

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you announce your readiness to present to the University your Law Library of five thousand volumes, if it will be of use to us.

Allow me to thank you most heartily for your generous offer of by far the largest gift which our Law Library has ever received. We accept it with the sincerest gratitude.

To show you that it will be of great use to us, I may say that it will fill many sad gaps in our Law Library. How serious these gaps are I almost hesitate to say. But the truth is that although we have law students from all over the Union, there are thirty States and Territories which are absolutely unrepresented by a single volume of Reports. The Canadian Reports and the Irish Reports are wanting, and our English Reports and U. S. Circuit Court Reports are very defective. More text-books are also needed. Many other serious wants might be specified.

We have only 4,400 volumes in all. The Harvard Law Library numbers 25,000 volumes. The students in the law schools in Boston, New York,

Albany, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis have access to the large collections in those cities.

The only considerable donation the Law Library ever received was that of the late Judge Fletcher, which numbered about 700 volumes, and it has been possible for the Regents with the funds at their disposal to increase the Library only at a very slow rate. It is obvious that our collection has been altogether inadequate to the real and pressing needs of a Law School, which usually has from 300 to 400 students, which is in fact one of the most important in the country, and which gathers its students from all parts of the United States and from the British Provinces.

You may, then, be assured that your gift, which at once more than doubles the size of our Law Library, and furnishes the kind of works we especially need, is most welcome to us. Your timely liberality will be fruitful of great good, and will be most heartily and gratefully appreciated by our students, our Faculties, the Regents, and indeed by all friends of the University.

Yours very gratefully and respectfully,  
JAMES B. ANGELL.

THE LAW FACULTY TO MR. BUHL.

ANN ARBOR, February 14, 1885.

C. H. BUHL, Esq., Detroit, Mich.:

DEAR SIR,—The undersigned, members of the Law Faculty of the University of Michigan, desire to express their grateful sense of your munificence in giving your valuable law library for the use of the Law Department. It is not only the largest acquisition ever made in our Department, but is intrinsically of great value in supplying a pressing want never yet met by the University appropriations. We have worked under great disadvantages in being confined for the students' means of reference to a comparatively small collection of works of prime necessity. We have never had the facilities needful for the extended study of jurisprudence in the Library. Our own work has had to be done by the aid of other libraries, and members of our classes who wished to follow out and verify doctrines fully, have had to do much of that work elsewhere. Your handsome donation is very encouraging, both as showing an interest in the welfare of the University and as a recognition of the importance to the community of full and liberal culture in the science which deals most directly with the peace and good order of society. Whether your good example is or is not a harbinger of further benefits from generous men, it will secure you a lasting and honored remembrance among those who best appreciate by what means the interests of communities are elevated and most surely established. Wishing you every good thing that may add to the comfort of a life well spent, we are your obliged friends and servants.

JAMES V. CAMPBELL,  
WILLIAM P. WELLS,  
CHARLES A. KENT,  
HENRY WADE ROGERS,  
HARRY B. HUTCHINS.

## THE LAW STUDENTS TO MR. BUHL.

At a very enthusiastic meeting of the Law students the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The Law Department of the University of Michigan has been made the recipient of a gift of 5,000 volumes of valuable law books from C. H. Buhl, Esq., of Detroit; therefore be it

*Resolved*, By the students of the Law Department, that a committee be appointed to express our deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Buhl for his beneficent donation and our keen appreciation of the generous motives that prompted it. Be it

*Resolved, further*, That we take steps to secure a portrait of Mr. Buhl to be placed in the lecture room as a permanent memento of his munificence.

The letter which was sent to Mr. Buhl, in accordance with the above resolutions, is as follows:

C. H. BUHL, Esq., Detroit, Michigan:

DEAR SIR.—We, the students of the Law Department of the University of Michigan, have been apprised of your magnificent donation to the library of this department, and wish to express to you our appreciation of your kind remembrance and our gratitude for your generosity.

Your gift is the most liberal in the history of this department, and adds exceedingly to the efficiency of the school in affording students a much wider field for independent investigation.

We regard this gift as a gratifying indication that the work done in this department is appreciated by our public spirited citizens and by the friends of the University.

Your worthy example is especially valuable for the inspiration it will give to our citizens at large in inducing them to make sacrifices, if need be, in support of our admirable educational system that has caused Michigan in general intelligence and culture to take such high rank among her sister States, and has rendered our community more attractive and our property more secure and valuable.

Michigan University need have no fear for the future so long as able and liberal friends like yourself are ever keeping a watchful eye on her needs.

We wish once more to express our profound sense of gratitude, and to assure you that we shall do our utmost to deserve the confidence in us which you have thus manifested.

Very respectfully yours,

D. J. HAFF,  
L. M. ACKLEY,  
I. N. HUNTSBERGER,  
JAMES L. HAMILL,  
Committee.

XII: 4. SENIOR LAW LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS: 1859-1959

NOTE: Prior to the appointment of Joseph H. Vance as Assistant Librarian in 1883, the work of the Law Library had been handled by students, whose work appears to have been

primarily custodial. These students were referred to as "Law Librarian," but they were never appointed as such. Isaac Marston did this work between 1861 and 1863 and Levi L. Barbour between 1865 and 1867.

#### DIRECTOR OF THE LAW LIBRARY

1944— Hobart R. Coffey

#### LAW LIBRARIAN

1884-1899 Joseph H. Vance

1899-1926 Victor H. Lane

1926-1944 Hobart R. Coffey

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE LAW LIBRARY

1957— Esther Betz

#### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

1883-1884 Joseph H. Vance

#### ASSISTANT LAW LIBRARIAN

1899-1900 Joseph H. Vance

1901-1915 Gertrude E. Woodard

1915-1918 Elizabeth B. Steere

1920-1924 Blanche E. Harroun

1924-1927 H. Rebecca Wilson

1925-1926 Hobart R. Coffey

1928-1957 Esther Betz

#### CHIEF REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

1929— Bessie Margaret Johnson

#### CHIEF ORDER LIBRARIAN

1931— H. Rebecca Wilson

#### CHIEF CATALOGUE LIBRARIAN

1924-1957 Catherine M. Campbell

1957— George K. Boyce

#### BIBLIOGRAPHER

1945— Lilly M. Roberts



XII: 5. ARCHIVES COLLECTION, LAW LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN :  
1959

NOTE: In 1959, this Collection consisted primarily of original court records pertaining to the Michigan territorial or early statehood periods, deposited in the Law Library by the Michigan State Historical Commission. The original records were supplemented by photoduplicated copies of such court records as were considered necessary to round out the collection. In addition to the records themselves, selected illustrative material had been photoduplicated and was available, together with the extensive notes and indices to the records prepared by William Wirt Blume or under his direction in connection with his studies of the transactions of territorial courts.

RECORDS OF COURTS OF THE NORTHWEST AND INDIANA TERRITORIES

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AT DETROIT

Files of papers (1796-1805) (1115 cases)

COURT OF GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS AT DETROIT

Files of papers (1797-1804) (15 cases)

PROBATE COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

\*Files of papers (1796-1805)

RECORDS OF COURTS OF THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN

SUPREME COURT OF THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN

Journal 2 (1814-1819)

Journal 3 (1819-1824)

Journal 4 (1825-1832)

Journal 5 (1833-1836)

Chancery Journal (1819-1825)

Journal—United States Cases (1815-1837)

Short Journal (1821-1825)

Office Docket (1814-1820)

Calendar 2 (1821)

Calendar 3 (1822-1823)

Calendar 4 (1824-1836)

Judgment Records A (1821-1822)

Judgment Records B (1822-1824)

Judgment Records C (1824-1831)

Digest of Court Rules (1821)

Files of papers (1805-1837) (1978 cases)

COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN  
SITTING AT MICHILIMACKINAC

Docket Book: (1828-1836)

Judgment Record: Criminal (1831, 1823-1835)

\* Photoduplicated copies of original records.

Judgment Record: Civil (1823-1836)  
Files of Papers (1829, 1832) (2 cases)

SITTING AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN AND MINERAL POINT

\*Journal (1834-1836)  
\*Judgment Record (1824-1830)  
\*Judgment Record (1830-1831)  
\*Files of Papers (1825-1836)

SITTING AT GREEN BAY

\*Judgment Record: Criminal (1824-1836)  
\*Judgment Record: Civil (1824-1836)  
\*Files of Papers (1824-1836)

COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HURON AND DETROIT

Docket (1805)  
Docket (1807-1810)  
Files of papers (1805-1810) (591 cases)

COUNTY COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

\*Criminal Docket (1822-1830)  
\*Journal (1820-1821)  
Files of papers (1815-1830) (623 cases)

CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

\*Circuit Court Calendar A (Cases 1-514)  
\*Circuit Court Calendar B (Cases 515-950)  
\*Circuit Court Journal A (1825-18 )  
\*Circuit Court Journal B (18 -1836)  
\*Files of papers (1826-1836) (Case A-1 et seq.)  
Files of papers (1826-1836) (85 cases)

PROBATE COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

\*Files of papers (1805-1817)

COUNTY COURT FOR MONROE COUNTY

Files of papers (1818-1829) (74 cases)

CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONROE COUNTY

Files of papers (1828-1836) (18 cases)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR MONROE COUNTY

Files of papers (1820-1836) (109 cases)

\* Photoduplicated copies of original records.

## RECORDS OF COURTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

## FIRST CIRCUIT

- Calendar I (1836-1851)
- Calendar II (1851-1857)
- Chancery Calendar (1837-1857)
- Records [Journal] (1837-1847)
- Records [Journal] (1848-1857)
- Short Journal (1837-1851)
- Files of papers (1836-1856)
- Chancery files of papers (1836-1857)

## SECOND CIRCUIT

- Judgment Records (1837-1839)

## THIRD CIRCUIT

- Calendar (1836-1857)
- Common Rule Book (1849-1855)
- Journal (1837-1857)
- Special Motion Book (1843-1857)
- Files of papers (1836-1857)

## FOURTH CIRCUIT

- Calendar (1839-1857)
- Journal (1839-1857)
- Special Motion Book (1844-1857)
- Files of papers (1839-1857)

## CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

- Files of papers (1836-1860) (91 cases)

## DISTRICT COURT FOR WAYNE COUNTY

- Files of papers (1840-1842) (8 cases)