

Letter from Leila Keller Lasseter to Alexander Graham Bell, February 18, 1897

CIRCULAR. **To the Friends of Education and the Public Generally:**

We, the undersigned, constitute the membership of the **Helen Keller Literary and Library Association**, a chartered Institution, established in the town of Tuscumbia, Ala. October 1893; our object being to retain the delectable features of our original Literary Club, and by means of a well assorted Library, circulate in our community a wholesome literature, thereby encouraging a taste for higher intellectual improvement,—elevating the standard of Literary excellence in our midst.

Our gifted little townswoman, **Helen Keller**, espoused our cause and to the less than 200 books, which our members contributed as a nucleus for a **Public Library**, her friends in Boston and elsewhere, quickly added several hundred volumes. From time to time, by contribution and by means of our individual and united effort, additions have been made so that in February 1896, we have in circulation 1250 bound volumes, 137 paper covers, besides, receiving, constantly, periodicals contributed to and subscribed for by our Association. The increasing demand for Library tickets and the growing interest evinced for the further development of our work, together with the fact that our present quarters are fast becoming crowded, and at best our privilege of occupancy uncertain—are matters which cause us to decide upon making an effort to provide for our Library a permanent home.

Mrs. Mary Russell one of our members has deeded us a conveniently located building site; our entire membership will respond by contributing whatever is in their individual power to donate to the building fund; but this being insufficient for the demand we take this means of making our first appeal to the public, our friends and patrons, to aid us in raising the necessary means to erect a suitable **Library Building**. Any sums given for this purpose,

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of whatever denomination, will be acceptable; we hereby pledging ourselves to its most economic and judicious employment.

Pres. Mrs. Jas, Jackson. *nee* Wardlow;

Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Jno. E. Delony, *nee* King;

Mrs. G. Lueddemann, " Chisholm;

" J. N. Thompson, " Malone;

" J. E. Keenan, " Warren;

" A. H. Keller, " Adams;

" L. A. Baker, " Abernathy;

" W. F. Trump, " Snyder;

" Ed. Goodwin, " Finley;

" Geo. Fossick, " Eastlack;

" E. P. Rand, " White;

V. Pres. Mrs. Ella T. Newsum. *nee* Tompkins;

Mrs. J. N. Sampson, " Stead;

" M. J. Russell, " Ludy;

" J. A. Lasseter, " Keller;

" O. B. Merrill, " Shaw;

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“ E. B. Almon, “ Clopper;

“ J. H. Bemiss, “ Gardiner;

“ J. L. Hall, “ Mather;

“ L. T. Pride, “ Mhoon;

“ Emma Aldridge, “ Barton;

Miss Loutie D. Johnson.

By permission we take pleasure in referring you to the following distinguished gentlemen, of Tuscumbia, Ala.: Ex Gov. Rob't. B. Lindsay, Gen'l. Jno. D. Rather. Judge A. W. Ligon, Hon. A. H. Carmichael, Mayor W. M. Wiley; Of Sheffield, Ala.: Judge Thos R. Roulhac, Capt. J C Harris, Hon. Wm. Sawtelle,