



*Celebrating  
150 Years of Service*



**Concord Public Library  
(1855 – 2005)**

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By

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Concord, New Hampshire  
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## PREFACE

This history of the Concord Public Library was begun in anticipation of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordinance creating a city library, which occurred on August 25, 2005. As I searched through the old town and city reports and the vertical file information in the Concord Room, it became apparent that there were at least six distinct sections to the library's history – the creation up to 1857, the early years to 1895 (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment), the forty years of 1895-1935 during which Grace Blanchard was the city librarian, a new era beginning in 1935 when the current library building was conceived and built, the computer age starting in 1980, and, of course, entering the twenty-first century.

Although the only primary documents left from the early times are the town and city annual reports, it seemed that no one had thoroughly researched this early history of the library. My mission became trying to determine exactly when the library opened for business and what efforts and events led up to the opening of the library. I attempted to fully document the sources for this information.

Once I determined that the library officially opened for business in March 1857, I turned my attention to how the library grew in collection size and usage, what support it was receiving from the community via funding and bequests, sample staff salaries, and how it relocated twice over the next three decades. Often I came across information about the library processes or policies that had some connection to the way we were doing things in 2005. I put these explanatory notes and author asides in the footnotes on the individual pages. Quotations, if not noted in the text, came from the annual city reports.

The year 1895 seemed to be a natural turning point for the next segment of the library's history, as Grace Blanchard became city librarian, a position she held for forty years. Miss Blanchard seems to have been quite a force. Her annual reports contained very interesting comments on the culture and issues of the times and I quote from them frequently. She also had the foresight, in 1911, to speculate on how perfect it would be to have the city library located on "Green Street at the head of Park Street" to complete the handsome civic square. The New Hampshire Historical Society building opened in 1911 (following the New Hampshire State Library, the Federal Post Office, and City Hall) and this may have been the impetus for her comments. This location, of course, is exactly where the new library building finally opened thirty years later.

Because it's hard for us now to understand what life was like in these past times, I noted some regional and national events that occurred during the early years to try to put it all in perspective. This information appears in the Historical Context boxes at the end of the first three sections of this history.

The construction and opening of the library at 45 Green Street in 1940 brought the library to a new era, times which are still in the memories of our older citizens. The end of World War II marked the beginning of the technology movement with the purchase of a

movie projector in 1948 and a book trailer (precursor to the bookmobile) in 1949 and continued to the 1980s when the library entered the computer age. I decided to mark the events and actions by decade so they're easier to follow. Because there are many documents recording the events of these more recent times, there are more events to report. Within the most recent decades I grouped events by broad categories such as physical changes and technology changes rather than year by year.

I also felt that a list of the directors' names really didn't say much about who these people were, so I attempted to gather a little more information about the background of each and what happened to them after they left the service of the city. This list is included as an Appendix.

## Establishment of the Library (1849-1857)

Although the ordinance or legal authority for establishment of a public library in the City of Concord was passed by the City Council on August 25, 1855, the first impetus for its creation was the general law passed by the State Legislature in 1849 which authorized towns and cities to establish and maintain public libraries. That same year, on July 6, the New Hampshire Legislature granted a city charter for Concord. As a result, during the early 1850s forces were at work attempting to establish a public library while the Town of Concord was also struggling to become a city. More than likely this delayed when the library was actually established.

In 1850, at the annual town meeting, Article X appeared on the warrant:

To see what action the town will take in relation to the establishment and perpetual maintenance of a public library for the use of all the inhabitants thereof, and what sum of money, if any, they will raise and appropriate for that purpose.<sup>1</sup>

The town voted that the issue be referred to a committee of five – Sylvester Dana, Asa Fowler\*, Jacob A. Potter, Moses Shute, and Abel Baker – to report at the next town meeting. There was no committee report in the town report for the following year, but in 1852 the committee reported on the expediency of the immediate establishment of a library and submitted a resolution for raising and appropriating \$1,000 for furnishing suitable quarters. The town voted to accept the report and adopt the accompanying resolutions, but no immediate action followed. Within a year the town had become a city. Incomplete town resolutions now needed to be presented to the City Council for action.

At the beginning of the city's third year in March 1855, Mayor Rufus Clement "earnestly renewed the recommendation of his predecessor† and a few days later presented a letter from John L. Emmons of Boston pledging from himself and John C. Abbott \$1,000 to aid in the establishment of a public library." A committee consisting of William Prescott, Nathan Farley, and Rufus Merrill was established, and on July 28, 1855 they submitted a report presenting strong considerations in favor of immediately establishing the library.<sup>2</sup>

Ordinance No. 57 "for the establishment and perpetual maintenance of a public library" passed on August 25, 1855.‡ The first trustees – Abiel Rolfe, Cyrus Robinson, Simeon Abbott, William Prescott, Henry A. Bellows, Lyman D. Stevens, and Josiah Stevens –

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\* In whose memory the Fowler Library Building was dedicated in 1888.

† Gen. Joseph Low

‡ At the same meeting a resolution for numbering houses in compact parts of the city was also passed.

were elected, one from each ward. The city appropriated \$1,500 for “establishing, commencing and accommodating a public library.” Of that appropriation, \$300 was allowed for “procuring furniture, fixtures, and other articles” necessary for fitting up the library for the next year. The remaining \$1,200 was to be used for “books, maps, charts and other publications.”<sup>3</sup>

The library trustees’ report in the 1856 annual report indicated that \$1,300 had been pledged by three gentlemen from Boston who were natives of Concord – John L. Emmons Esq. \$500, John C. Abbott Esq. \$500, and Octavius Rogers \$300. “The Trustees consider it highly important that the Public Library become *the cherished institution* of the City; of all the *people* of the City; as its benefits are equally *accessible to all* it is *hoped that none* will feel indifferent to its progress and usefulness.” As of this report, none of the city appropriation had yet been spent because a room for the library was not yet available. In fact, a new City Hall was being constructed at the site of the present Merrimack County Court House on Court Street. In the autumn of 1856, Secretary Artemas Muzzey and Amos Hadley were authorized by the library trustees to use \$1,000 from the 1855 appropriation to select and purchase books. About 1400 books were obtained for general circulation and reading. “Nearly six hundred volumes had been early donated, but were mostly unadapted to circulation. On January 3, 1857, Andrew Capen, a bookseller and publisher, was chosen as the librarian at a salary of \$50.”<sup>4</sup>

On January 21, 1857, in remarks at the first public occupancy of the new City Hall on Court House Hill, former mayor Gen. Low “suggested that, under the control and guidance of ladies of Concord, of all denominations, a Great Levee be soon projected and consummated; the proceeds to be appropriated to the enlargement of the public Library.”<sup>5</sup>



New City Hall

The Library Levee was held at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of February 24, 1857. “The Court House and City Hall Building was all ablaze on Tuesday night. A low and aloft it was effulgent with burning gas.” This means the building was furnished with gas lighting. It was one of the first in Concord. The streets were very muddy, making for difficult travel. By 9:00 p.m. the hall and surrounding rooms were filled with people. The Concord Brass Band voluntarily performed numerous pieces. The net proceeds were \$381.66 and were immediately presented to the library trustees for purchases such as books.<sup>6</sup>

The January 31, 1857 issue of the *New Hampshire Statesman* contained a lengthy article regarding the subject of the preparation of a catalogue for the new library. The article was not signed, so it's hard to know on what authority they wrote this discourse.

On Wednesday, March 18, 1857, the following notice appeared in the *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette* on page 3:

The subscriber will be at the Library Room, on TUESDAY, and all of the following days this week, from 9 to 11 A. M., from 2 to 4 P. M., and from 7 to 9 o'clock, evening, to enter the names, places of residence, and references of those who wish to take Books from the Library. All minors, male or female, must bring a written certificate from their Parents or Guardians that they will be responsible for the good use and prompt return of all Books taken by them from the Library, according to its rules and regulations.

Terms for the first year, 37 cents – 25 for use of Library and 12 for Catalogue, payable in advance.

N.B. The Library will be open for the delivery of Books next week.

A. CAPEN, Librarian

March 16, 1857\*

Based on this notice it appears the library opened the week of March 23, 1857. The library was on the second floor, directly above the City Clerk's Office and the rooms of the City Council. The "Report of the Trustees of the Public Library" dated March 16, 1857 appears on pages 88-90 of the *Municipal Register of the City of Concord 1857*. It indicated that about \$200 of the \$300 appropriated was spent for fitting up the library room and \$1,050 of the \$1,200 appropriated for books was spent. The number of volumes in the library was 1,921. Monetary donations of \$10 from Levi Bartlett, Esq. and \$20 from Arthur L. Rogers, Esq., both of Boston, were received. In urging the City Council to make a liberal annual appropriation, the trustees closed by saying, "With proper liberality on the part of the city government, and with the aid of promised contributions from other sources, it is not too much to hope that Concord will ere long have a Public Library, which shall rank among the best of such institutions in New-England."

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\* Although the library no longer charges residents for a card (dropped in 1888) and the catalog is now available online, the rules regarding minors have not changed much.

### Historical Context

Concord's estimated population in 1853 was 9,800 (more than a 150 percent increase from the 1830 population of 3,702). This was the decade leading up to the Civil War. California had become a state in 1850. The *House of the Seven Gables* and *Moby Dick* were published in 1851 and the *New York Daily Times* was first published. Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in 1852 and at the end of this year native son Daniel Webster died. New Hampshire's own Franklin Pierce served as President from 1853-1857. In 1854 the Boston Public Library opened to the public and its building was dedicated on September 17, 1855. Violence began in the Kansas Territory in 1855. This was also the year *Leaves of Grass* by Whitman, *Song of Hiawatha* by Longfellow, and Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations* were first published. President Buchanan was sworn into office in March of 1857 and shortly thereafter the Dred Scott decision was handed down by the Supreme Court. Minnesota became a state and the Lincoln-Douglas debates occurred in 1858. In 1859 Oregon became a state and John Brown raided Harper's Ferry.

## Early Years (1857-1895)

In November of 1857, Concord Public Library's first librarian, Mr. Capen, resigned. Mr. Frederick S. Crawford, a bookseller and bookbinder, was hired as librarian to replace him. In 1859, two years after the library's opening, the library trustees reported that the library had 2,778 volumes of which 2,162 were for general reading and 616 for reference. This represented an increase of 50 percent from the opening day. A total of \$228.16 was spent on books that year. Payment of the librarian's salary and rebinding of books came from the subscription funds and fines. The expected gifts of money amounting to \$1,300 had not been made. The Trustees received a \$50 appropriation from the City Treasury. The Trustees stated that "an appropriation of at least \$300 must be made if the Library is to be properly sustained."

The next year the trustees reported that \$200 was received from the City Treasury, so their request of the year before was heard but not completely fulfilled. According to Lyford, another levee was held in the summer that netted \$162 for the library. According to the 1860 *City Directory*, the library was open Monday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m. By February 1, 1865, the library reported having 4,000 volumes and 723 subscribers, and having invested \$175 in catalogues that remained unsold.\*

In the 1866 annual report, the trustees reported that the "Library was temporarily removed to less advantageous quarters to accommodate State Offices pending completion of the remodeled State House." In fact, the May 8, 1865 *Concord Monitor* reports that the library was "to be removed to the Police Court Room ... the Library Room will be occupied by the Governor and Council." In addition, they indicated "the late Gardner Parker Lyon bequeathed to the City the sum of \$1,000, the interest of which is to be annually applied to the purchase of books for the public library." This appears to have been the first bequest to the library. The library was still receiving \$300 from the City, but the trustees reported it hadn't been enough to support the library for the previous two years. In 1867, the trustees' report said, "Every year adds favorable estimation in which it is held by the community, but its capacity for good is much crippled by its lack of financial means."

In the 1871 annual report, the trustees advised the city that interest from the \$1,000 legacy of the Hon. Franklin Pierce will be received in the coming year. This was the second bequest the library received.

According to the annual report, as of February 1, 1876, twenty years after the library was authorized, the library owned 6,512 volumes and there were 831 cards in use. The 1870

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\* This would be a book catalogue that would list all the books owned by the library. Subscribers could purchase a book catalogue so that they could have it at home and know what books the library owned. Now anyone can find out what materials the library owns by checking our catalog on the Internet.

census lists the population of Concord at 12,241. Mayor George A. Pillsbury's inaugural address of March 21, 1876 indicated the library had recently moved into new quarters. Although not identified in the trustees' report, this is the new Board of Trade building that was built in 1873 at 4 School Street on the corner of Main and School Streets.\* "The librarian has created a book-mark, to be inserted and kept in every volume, on which is printed the regulations governing the taking and use of books. The Trustees deemed it desirable that the Library be centrally situated...for greater general convenience to all the inhabitants of the city who would like its privileges. Provision is also needed whereby it can be kept open day and evening for public use." The trustees felt the library needed more financial support since support for the schools in 1875 was \$39,000 while the appropriation for the library was \$500. That \$500 paid the librarian's salary of \$75 quarterly and other incidental expenses so that little was left to spend on new books. "An annual appropriation of not less than \$1,000 is needed to increase the usefulness of the library to what it should be, as an educational power in the present and coming years." The 1876-77 *City Directory* lists the library as open "every Monday, Thursday and Saturday in the afternoon, from two to four o'clock; and in the evening from seven to nine," the same as in 1860.



Following the move to this more central location, the trustees, as of February 1, 1877, reported 24,916 volumes were borrowed from the library and that 1,241 persons were registered which represents an increase of 410 over the previous year. They had also opened the library every afternoon and evening, Sundays excepted, and "voted to extend the privileges of the library to persons of the surrounding towns upon the payment annually of one dollar each."†

On January 31, 1878, the trustees and librarian F. S. Crawford reported that circulation had increased to about 35,000 items. "Adjoining and connected with the library rooms is

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\* The bell outside Eagle Square once hung in the tower of this building.

† This is the first time non-resident library users were allowed to borrow materials. As of July 1, 2004 the annual fee for a non-resident card had risen to \$90.

the reading-room of the Young Men's Christian Association. To promote quiet the library floors have been covered with straw matting.\* The rules to regulate the use of the books have generally been well observed by the subscribers, with the exception of the rule that relates to writing in the books. This rule is constantly broken by the readers; and, although it gives the librarian full power, it is almost impossible to check this abuse. If some means could be devised by the trustees by which this evil might be done away, it would be of great service to the librarian in the performance of his duties."

In May of 1880, a reading room furnished with papers, magazines and reviews was opened. A 25 cent fee was charged to use the room. By the end of the year, only 56 had paid. This was below what the trustees had expected. "The reduction of the fine for non-return for annual examination, from \$1 to 25 cents, has operated favorably. The books have never been returned so promptly." In 1881, the city annual report was tied to the calendar year for the first time. The librarian reported that a superior globe was added to the library.

Frederick S. Crawford resigned his position effective January 31, 1882, having served almost 25 years. Daniel F. Secomb, organ maker and librarian, was chosen to fill the vacancy effective February 1. The trustees also voted to classify, rearrange and re-catalogue the library. In this report the trustees also began lobbying for a separate library building. So far only two bequests – the Lyons and Pierce funds mentioned earlier – had been made. "Mr. Pierce's bequest would have been \$5,000 had the city possessed a suitable and conveniently located building in which to deposit, with reasonable safety, the volumes the income of his donation would annually buy. A Memorial Library Building is sought, suitable for the reception of all books for a century, with accommodations for portraits, statuary, or other methods of commemorating the services of her distinguished soldiers and citizens." The librarian reports the falling off of the number of people using the library due to the "flood of cheap literature which has deluged the country." By 1882, the patronage of the new reading room had not increased, so the trustees decided to discontinue all newspapers except the *New York Herald* and the *Boston Journal*. The 1882 annual report lists all the book titles added to the collection since the catalog supplement of 1880.†

In 1883, the trustees reported that "a full file of the city, financial, and school reports since adoption of the city charter in 1853 has been secured and bound for use in the library."‡ New cases to provide shelf room for 2,500 volumes and a cardcase for a card catalog were acquired. The library received \$1,600 from the city. The trustees paid \$400 for rent of their space in the Board of Trade building and \$600 for the librarian's salary.

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\* This would be the first library carpet!

† This was before the Dewey Decimal classification system was used, so the titles were listed alphabetically with a bookcase number and item number given for each book.

‡ This material would later form a core part of the current Concord Room.

Other unavoidable expenses of supporting the library, e.g. gas, fuel, and insurance, left little funds for books. The library was still charging a subscription of 25 cents per person per year and \$1 per annum to citizens of adjoining towns, but this only yielded about \$250 annually. The librarian reported that the library was open 292 days per year and averaged about 95 items checked out per day.\* The 1885 *City Directory* reports that Miss Mary G. Secomb, Daniel's daughter, was the assistant librarian. The library was "open every afternoon 2 to 6 o'clock, 7 to 9 o'clock in the evening and Saturday from 10-12 A. M. [sic]"

In the early 1880s, a movement was made in regard to the erection of a building for the state and city libraries. As a result of a citizens' meeting, the mayor appointed a committee of 18; no practical result followed. The residence of Mr. Lorenzo D. Brown at the corner of State and School Streets was later identified as a good location for the city library and it was thought it could be fitted up for less than \$20,000. On June 6, 1887, Lorenzo's widow, Lurana C. Brown, conveyed the deed for these premises to William P. and Clara M. Fowler.

In 1887, the trustees reported that a man and his sister were about to provide to the city a building for a modern library in memory of their parents Mary C. K. Fowler and Asa Fowler. As reported earlier, Asa Fowler served on the first town committee in 1850 to advise the voters about creating a library. He also ran for election as the first mayor of Concord, but was defeated. For the year 1887, the city appropriated \$2,000 for the library and 42,341 items were borrowed from the library. On March 16, 1888, the annual fee of 25 cents for a library card was abandoned "since which time the library has been, as required by law of the state, free for the use of all inhabitants of the city." Books were now loaned for a one month

period of time. The trustees reported that a box of books was sent to Penacook twice a week during the summer season. The Library Building at 36 School Street was dedicated October 18, 1888. A physical description of the building is provided in *Exercises of the Dedication of the Fowler Library Building*. The move to the Fowler Library Building on the corner of School and



Fowler Library Building

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\* In 2004 the library was open 335 days and averaged 920 items checked out per day.

State Streets commenced on October 22 and rooms in the Board of Trade building were given up on November 1. The library received \$3,000 from the city in 1888. By the end of 1889 the librarian, Daniel F. Secomb, was paid \$800, the city appropriated \$5,000 for the library, the library was open 313 days and averaged 9.75 hours per day. Circulation was reported to be 95,059, or 303 books per day. The Reading Room was open weekdays during the library hours and “on Sunday from one to five o’clock, p.m.”\*

In 1890, Mr. Secomb’s salary increased to \$1,000 and he had two assistants, Clara Brown and Adah Colby, who were each paid \$400 annually. The Reference Room was “open every weekday from 2-6 P. M. for the use of teachers and scholars in city schools and others who wish to consult the books.” According to the 1889-90 *City Directory* the library was open “every day, from 10 A. M. to 8 P. M., Saturday 10 A. M. to 9 P. M.” The eighth supplement to the 1884 general catalogue was soon to be published. A room in the basement was being prepared for reception and storage of government documents. Professionally, Mr. Secomb served as the first treasurer of the New Hampshire Library Association this year.

#### Historical Context

The 1870s were marked by celebrations and some firsts. In 1873, the water supply at Long Pond came into use for the city. The city celebrated its third semicentennial in 1875 and then the national centennial in 1876. President Hayes and some of his cabinet visited Concord in August of 1877. Concord’s first home for the elderly, the New Hampshire Centennial Home for the Aged, was incorporated and then opened in January of 1879. Locally born religious leader Mary Baker Eddy secured the charter for her new Church of Christ, Scientist in 1879 in Boston. She would later reside in Concord at Pleasant View from 1892-1908.

The Concord horse railroad began operation in 1881. Around 1885, Mrs. Armenia White gave White Park to the city and the electric generating plant was started. In 1890, the American Library Association annual convention, with Melvil Dewey as speaker, was held in the White Mountains. It would return to New Hampshire again in 1909. The electric street railway was established in 1891. In 1892, the library received portraits of Mary and Asa Fowler from their children.

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\* These could be the first Sunday hours – 116 years ago.



## The Grace Blanchard Years (1895-1935)

One week after the new New Hampshire State Library building was dedicated on January 8, 1895, Daniel Secomb, the third director of the Concord Public Library, passed away. This was almost 13 years from the day he was hired. On January 26, Grace Blanchard was chosen to fill this vacancy at \$800 per year. She had three assistants who were each paid \$450 per year. This year also marked the fortieth anniversary of the authorization of the library and the beginning of 40 years of service by Grace Blanchard. The trustees reported in the annual report that, over those first 40 years, monetary donations had been received from President Franklin Pierce (\$1,000), book dealer Gardner B. Lyon (\$1,000), Rev. Mr. Thomas G. Valpey of St. Paul's School (\$500) and ex-Mayor Parsons B. Cogswell (an early trustee) who gave \$5,000, "the income of which is to purchase books of biography, history and scientific nature." On April 1, a permanent slip system of charging books was adopted. This would show the demand for certain works.\* On July 1, the first card catalogue of the entire library was begun under the supervision of George W. C. Stockwell of the State Library School of Albany. Over 8,000 of the 87,122 items circulated that year were sent to Penacook. The library received \$6,000 from the city.

In 1896, Grace Blanchard reported that the card catalogue was completed on July 1. Now all the books needed to be classified using the Dewey Decimal system, the old label removed, a new label placed on spine, and a pocket and book slip placed in the book. In 1897, she reported that 85 percent of the circulation was fiction, five percent magazines, two percent literature, and three percent history and biography. She planned to "strive to bring about a close union between the schools and library by allowing teachers to take several books on science, history, etc. to their classrooms." The Fowler Library Building received a new coat of paint on the outside. A list of new book purchases was published in the "Monitor" and "Patriot." Mrs. Armenia White gave the twelve-volume work, *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, to the library.†

Professionally, Miss Blanchard was appointed to the Executive Committee of the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) in 1896, was elected secretary in 1897, and four years later she became the first woman president of the NHLA.

In the 1902 annual report, the city authorized the purchase of three lots of land on Green and Prince streets and Ford's Avenue for the future new city hall. Regarding the disposition of fines, Grace Blanchard wrote:

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\* Although not specified, it sounds as though each book was given a slip on which was recorded the name of the borrower so the staff could see how often the book was borrowed. Book cards were abandoned in the early 1990s once the first automated library system was fully functional.

† This set which now numbers 76 volumes can be found in the current Reference Room.

There is a little financial matter to which I should like to call your attention. We receive between \$175 and \$200 annually from fines and the sale of catalogues, and this money is not made part of the library's revenue, but goes into the city treasury for general outlay. In other cities the fine money is spent by the libraries and our borrowers suppose that such is the case in Concord; hundreds have cheerfully remarked as they handed over their pennies, "Well, I'm glad to help the library." They seem disappointed at learning that their payments do not buy new books or otherwise make the library directly more acceptable to themselves. If it would be satisfactory to yourselves and to the city government to have it enacted that beginning with this year the money accruing from fines and catalogues should be credited to the library's account, I am sure that such an arrangement would be pleasing to the general public. The fact that this extra sum would be a much-needed help in the yearly running of the library should also have weight.

She also alluded to how crowded the building was and the need for more room.\*

A resolution was passed on November 9, 1903 to use \$200 to procure plans and secure services of an architect for the purpose of devising larger and more convenient accommodations for the library. A rendering of the proposed new structure was published in the February 17, 1904 edition of the *Concord Monitor*. In the February 19 edition, there was also a report of a Commercial Club meeting with discussion about the library's need for space, whether Mr. Andrew Carnegie should be approached for a gift of money for a building or a site, and how the Fowler heirs would feel about the library moving. On February 26, it was reported that the Fowler heirs would not allow the lot to be used as a site for a Carnegie library and the club then voted that the library trustees ascertain the cost of an addition to the present building.†

August 25, 1905, marked the semicentennial of the library's establishment. Grace Blanchard said:

I thought it should be observed and undertook a celebration, the chief features of which you will recall were as follows: The staff wore the dress of 1855. The books displayed on the open shelf were the favorites of fifty years ago. The writings of Concord authors were shown by themselves. An art exhibit consisted of the original sketches from which were made the illustrations for the recent two-volume History of Concord; there was

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\* This would be a recurring theme during the rest of her tenure.

† Perhaps as a result of this effort, you will see that a gallery was constructed in 1911.

also a large exhibit of pictures of old-time furniture. An interesting souvenir bookmark was given each caller. Instead of closing at six, as usual in August, we kept open till nine o'clock, and hundreds of our best citizens honored us by dropping in. Mr. L. D. Stevens and Mr. Amos Hadley of the first board of trustees were two of our visitors. We of the staff enjoyed the occasion greatly, and as Old Home Day was omitted in Concord this year, people were pleased to say that our anniversary celebration, being of a reminiscent nature, came at just the right time.



Library staff in dress of 1855

In that same year, Miss Blanchard received an annual salary increase to \$1,000, but her three assistants were still receiving \$450 per year. Only four books were reported lost out of 80,369 that circulated. The cost of maintenance of the library was \$5,423. Grace Blanchard compared this to Manchester which circulated 67,670 items and spent \$7,000 on its library; Portland, Maine which circulated 94,912 items and spent \$12,000; and Lawrence, Massachusetts which circulated 102,000 items and spent \$17,120. The library instituted a postal card reserve system where the person would leave a penny for notification when the desired book came in. Fresh lots of books were sent monthly to Mrs. Sarah Quimby in West Concord, Mrs. Grace Farnum in East Concord, and to Penacook. "A deposit station quietly advertises the library ... such deliveries are the only way to bring the benefits of the library to the outlying wards." Lots of books were also sent to the Odd Fellows Home and the Home for the Aged and supplementary readings to schoolrooms in Penacook and East and West Concord.

In the 1906 annual report, Grace Blanchard mentioned the free Walker Lecture Series which still continues today at the City Auditorium. She noted that, over the previous four years, the summer branch had moved from West Concord to East Concord to Fosterville to Penacook and each arrangement had resolved itself into a permanent delivery station. The Penacook Branch was now at George Whitman's store. She also justified the need

for more space – “bookcases have been made for every place there was room to put one and all are occupied. A modern librarian, steadied by a professional reading, comparisons and experience, takes her stand not upon the plea that her library shall be ahead of the times, but that it shall not be behind the times.” Electric lights and a telephone were installed in the library in 1907. That same year the library hosted the New Hampshire Library Association conference.



Miss Blanchard at a summer branch

In 1910, Grace Blanchard reported that there were 30,847 volumes on shelves intended for 20,000. “A decade ago every book had to be renewed fortnightly,” but now “one charge of a book frequently gives it for months to a student or person away on vacation.” She also made some interesting comments on the times – other activities vying for reading time included the “automobile, aeroplane, touring car, golf tournament and whist.” While for children, there previously were “no school athletics, no public playgrounds, no holiday sale of twenty-five cent books, and no five cent tickets for a show or trolley trip.” The library proctored a Wisconsin state library examination for a New Hampshire candidate.\* There was a rash of burglaries in New Hampshire libraries this year: Concord, Manchester, Dover, Nashua and several smaller towns. She also indicated a need for a police officer to control the conduct of boys. Grace Blanchard attended the International Conference of Archivists and Librarians in Brussels, Belgium in August.

In 1911, the library was still receiving \$5,300 from the city even though 14 years earlier, in 1897, the library received \$5,500. A gallery was constructed around the catalogue room to provide more shelving space. Grace Blanchard, articulating a vision for the future, said, “Picture to yourselves how a suitable public library, situated on Green Street at the head of Park, would complete our handsome square and make the capital more

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\* The reference staff still proctors exams for students.

noteworthy for its group of public buildings.”\* She also noted from a writer of our national psychology: “The American people wants literature reduced to snappy paragraphs – culture in the form of capsules.”†

In 1915, Grace Blanchard reported the library received \$3,312.60 to be known as the Joseph H. Hazeltine Fund from which income would be used to purchase “high class literature.” At the end of the year, the library had 29,378 volumes and subscribed to 13 newspapers, 55 monthly magazines, and 16 weekly periodicals. She said they could use the “support of a man on Sunday afternoons in the Reading Room due to mischief of groups of youth. In Pittsburgh the Boy Scout movement has improved the hoodlum element; perhaps it will be of similar benefit here.” The library was still receiving \$5,300 from the city. The building, used as a library for 28 years, was too small – the shelves were full and “60 children who came to the last story-hour had to sit packed closely together on the floor of the reference room.”‡ Apparently the city was seeing lots of immigrants at this time as Grace Blanchard said, “I wish that for the good of our borrowers, especially of the many young foreigners we are enrolling, we had a hall and lantern slides.”§

In 1919, Grace Blanchard wrote, “the Americanization movement has resulted in increased attendance at the evening school, ... one of the devoted teachers brought in her class of foreigners for the purpose of making them better acquainted with the library which kept open after time in order that these guests might wander freely about. The twenty-five men seemed interested, but did not accept our offer to let them then and there take out books...” The library received the Samuel C. Eastman bequest of \$1,250 for foreign language publications and \$15,500 “for the use of the city library.” The trustees wanted to use this latter amount for a building fund. “Sunday afternoons through the winter, besides the regular custodian, we are obliged to have a policeman present to quiet the thoughtlessly noisy children and vicious group of boys.”#

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\* What foresight – that is exactly where the current building was built in 1939, 28 years later, after she had retired.

† That sentiment is still expressed today.

‡ This was similar to 2003 when the Children’s Room was not available due to construction of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system and story hour was held in the Northeast Room.

§ Once again history repeats itself, as we now are seeing many immigrants and refugees who are borrowing materials to learn English or improve their English.

# We still have the Sunday hours through the winter, but there is no custodian or police officer on the premises.

In 1920, 25 years after she was hired, Grace Blanchard's annual salary had increased 50 percent to \$1,200 while her three assistants' salaries increased about 75 percent to \$800 each. A fourth assistant was added, so the staff numbered five. The library received \$7,000 from the city, an increase of 16.6 percent from when Grace Blanchard started. The number of items circulated was 84,619, down slightly from the 87,122 in 1895. "Behavior of young folks, especially on Sunday afternoons in the library, has never been better than during the last year."

In 1921, there was mention of income from the Benjamin Kimball Fund. Grace Blanchard talked about the "circulation of inter-loan requests" and said the library is "sending a good number of volumes to smaller libraries and asking for a few from Manchester and Boston for our own borrowers."\* In July and August they tried a Vacation Reading Club for boys and girls from 8-14 years and this closed with a party.†

In the 1925 annual report, marking Miss Blanchard's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the trustees discussed the state of the library in relation to other libraries in the city. The population in the city, since 1900, had increased 22 percent; the number of books in the Concord Public Library had increased 55 percent; the hours in the three libraries (N. H. State Library, N. H. Historical Society and Concord Public Library) had increased 151 percent; the tax valuation had increased 153 percent; the appropriation for the library had increased 40 percent; and the appropriation plus income from trust funds for the library had increased 126 percent. The Concord Public Library had 36,383 volumes, the N. H. Historical Society had 38,702 volumes, and the N. H. State Library had 176,276 volumes. Miss Blanchard mentioned in her report that, in her 30 years, the cost of a novel increased from \$1.50 to \$2.50 and coal from \$6 to over \$16 per ton. In regards to the need for more space, the trustees said:

The Fowler Library Building was opened for use in November, 1888, with 14,000 bound volumes. The stackroom was planned for 23,000 volumes. The trustees stated, in their report for 1902, that more room was needed. Rooms and shelves were provided in the basement and shelves have been placed along the walls of the stack room and all other available walls, so that the limit is reached for the present structure.

The two outstanding needs ... are a suitable room for children and more and better stack room accommodations. The live books we now have should be more accessible, and provision should be made for at least 1,000 new books each year.

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\* This is what we refer to today as Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Most recently we loaned 1,603 items to other libraries and borrowed 1,926 items from other libraries as far away as California.

† This may have been the first Summer Reading Program.

It is believed that conditions may be satisfactory for a generation or so, by a suitable addition to the east side of the present building and at a moderate cost so that it will not seriously interfere with the construction of a building on a much larger scale when sufficient funds become available.

Five years later, in 1930, the trustees reported, "The library building is in good repair, but is utterly inadequate to the increasing demand of suitable service." Grace Blanchard's annual salary was now \$1,500, an increase of \$700 from when she was hired in 1895. The circulation increase to 98,216 was due largely to branch rooms in West Concord and Penacook. On March 30, with the Penacook Women's Club, "we started a modest deposit and delivery station in the rear of Stuart G. Fifield's store, open twice a week, 2:30-5:30, managed on Friday by two of the Club women and on Tuesday by library staff. Three hundred persons have registered as borrowers."

In 1934, it was noted that Grace Blanchard's resignation was to be effective February 1, 1935. After starting at \$800, she was now earning \$1,800 at the end of 40 years of service. The library circulated 136,854 items and expended \$13,421.29 of which \$7,500 was appropriated by the city.

To meet the need for suitable space for children as mentioned in the 1925 annual report, the Boys and Girls House opened October 1, 1934. It was located next door to the Fowler Library Building, in the Armenia and Nathaniel White residence facing School Street. Mrs. Agnes D. Clement was engaged as the part-time assistant to take care of this new space for children in the first through sixth grades. The first floor was furnished with appropriate furniture and books and the second floor space was available for story hours and mothers' meetings.



The Boys and Girls House opened in 1934

At Miss Blanchard's last trustee meeting on January 18, 1935, she read from her *Random Reflections*. The following are some of her comments:

1895 – A card index was such a novelty in Concord that we had to insinuate the use of ours gradually and for a few years continued the issuing of a printed catalog.\*

Up to 1914 every member of the staff worked every evening, and for the first thirteen years I tended every Sunday afternoon.

The war came; and for months, though it seems hardly credible now, we had a night watchman guard this old building from mischief which might be done by Germans going through in the night to Montreal.

1918 – Mayor French ordered the library closed during October because of a contagious and deadly run of influenza. Only one other closing has occurred and that was during forenoons for three months, at the height of the coal shortage.

To my knowledge, the library, never asking for extra money wherewith to pay for printed catalogs, repairs, carpentry or painting, has only once made a request for a sum unexpectedly needed – namely, \$400 for a new boiler.

For 480 consecutive months I have selected, ordered, classified, catalogued and listed for the Monitor's publication, between forty and sixty new publications as additions to our shelves.

It seems to me there has never been elsewhere such a kind public, trusting where it did not understand; never such assistants, capable, loyal, considerate, resourceful, patient; never such Trustees, upholding the librarian's hands and putting no stone in the path of progress.

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\* This was the same in 1988 when the computer catalog came into use – the staff maintained the card catalog for three more years and it was four more years before the card catalog disappeared altogether!

### Historical Context

In 1895, Utah became the 45<sup>th</sup> state. The Spanish-American War took place in 1898. Secretary of State John Hay helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris. In 1901, President McKinley was assassinated and Teddy Roosevelt became president. The first Ford automobiles were sold and the Wright brothers had their first successful flight in 1903.

In Concord, 1903 marked the semicentennial of the city form of government. This was also the year a garbage collection precinct was established. The present City Hall and Auditorium opened in 1904 as part of the Civic Square area which was comprised of the State House, the Post Office Building (1892), the New Hampshire State Library (1895) and would later include the New Hampshire Historical Society (1911) and the Concord Public Library (1940). At this point the city population was about 20,000.

In 1906, the San Francisco earthquake occurred. Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole in 1911. The Great War (later known as World War I) was fought from 1914-1918. Warren G. Harding was elected president in 1920. The Scopes “monkey trial” took place in 1925. Mickey Mouse was born in 1928. The first Academy Awards were presented and the Wall Street stock market crash occurred in 1929. Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933.



## A New Era (1935-1978)

Effective February 1, 1935, Walt W. Constantine was hired to replace Grace Blanchard at a salary of \$1,200. According to newspaper reports in November of 1936, Mr. Constantine was arrested at the Harvard Square subway station on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was subsequently suspended by the board, found guilty by Judge Arthur Stone, and resigned his post. Assistant Librarian Marion F. Holt succeeded Mr. Constantine as City Librarian at the same salary. That same year there was a fire at the Boys and Girls House and the library was “grateful to the firemen for checking the fire so quickly and keeping water from damaging the books.”

The year 1938 is most remembered for the devastating hurricane and subsequent floods, but this was also the year steps were taken that resulted in a new library building being built.

Although an urgent need for expanded library facilities had been felt for some time, the matter did not come to a head until the State of New Hampshire started condemnation proceedings to acquire the library property to make way for the State House Annex. Fortunately, sufficient funds were made available from the condemnation award, various library construction trusts and a federal PWA grant to finance at no direct cost to the city the acquisition of a new site, the construction of the library and the purchase of necessary library equipment.

Due to the construction of the State House Annex, the library needed to vacate the Fowler Library Building. The library moved to a temporary location at 42 Pleasant Street in the St. John’s Parish Club House until a new library building could be built. The move commenced in April 1938 and the temporary quarters opened on May 5. Approximately 40,000 books were moved and the library was closed only two working days.



St. John’s Parish Club House

In keeping with the development of the Civic Square, the city government approved the selection of a site for the new library adjacent to City Hall on Green Street. Ground was broken in August of 1938, and January 29, 1940 was set as the date for the opening of

library service in the new building. In December 1939, an electric charging machine for giving out books was installed and it was reported that it was the first to be used in New Hampshire.



Looking south toward City Hall, the first girders go up.



Looking toward Prince and Green Street

## 1940s

The new library building opened in January 1940. It cost approximately \$250,000 to build, had open stacks (45,452 books with 10,000 in the open stacks), a room for high school students, and three study rooms on the second floor that were well-ventilated and soundproof. The cost of operation for the new building was \$32,359 of which \$20,000 was received from the city. There were four branches serving “residents of the outlying sections.” That was the year in which circulation passed 200,000 for the first time. The population of Concord was 27,171 and “54 percent of the population holds a library card.” It was reported that the Concord Historical Society was instrumental in gathering local material to insure a permanent collection for the City of Concord. The 1941 annual

report stated that in April a staff member was placed in charge of the Concord Room on a part-time basis and the work of arranging and cataloging was progressing rapidly.\*

In the 1944 annual report, two large bequests were noted: \$21,334.57 from the estate of Charles R. Corey to establish a fund for library use to be known as the Alice Chandler Corey Trust and \$15,000 from the trustees under the will of Charles Corning, former mayor, for the purpose of establishing the Charles R. Corning Public Library Building Trust. The collection totaled 50,875 and circulation was 162,443 – quite a bit less than the first year the library opened, but this was also the fourth year of World War II. The library had a sizable collection of pictures† and their circulation doubled. The library continued to provide book service for patients at New Hampshire Memorial Hospital and maintained book collections at the hospital dormitories for student nurses. The trustees were “giving serious consideration to acquisition of a bookmobile when this type of equipment becomes available after the war.”

The Seventh War Bond Committee sponsored a book and author rally in Concord in June of 1945. Four authors – Colonel Henriques, Louis Bromfield, Fannie Hurst and Ogden Nash – met with attendees. As a result of this rally the library received the original manuscript of *Pleasant Valley* by Louis Bromfield‡, a lithograph from the book *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey, and water colors from the book *Dorcus Porkus* by Tasha Tudor.§

According to the annual report of 1946 “for disciplining reasons, older students using the library during evening hours were restricted to the young people’s and reference rooms. This procedure permitted undisturbed use of the reading room by adults.”

A revised ordinance governing the operation of the library passed in 1946. This resulted in two major changes: 1) eliminated the requirement that board members must be chosen on a one-from-each-ward basis, and 2) abolished the system under which the entire board was appointed simultaneously for a two-year period in favor of a rotating pattern where three of the nine are appointed annually for three year terms. “In addition to handling routine matters, the library was called on repeatedly to assist returning servicemen in securing information on the G.I. Bill of Rights, colleges, and vocations.” It was announced that remodeling of the Penacook Police Station for a branch library would commence in 1947. That was also the year the library staff joined the city employees’ retirement plan, and two members retired as of January 1, 1947. Library Director Marion

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\* This formed the basis for the Concord Room collection we have today.

† Art prints would be added to the collection in 1962.

‡ This has since been transferred to the Ohio Historical Society.

§ The McCloskey and Tudor works are currently hanging in the Children’s Room.

Holt resigned on February 1, and R. Keith Doms replaced her. The municipal ordinance on attendance and leave was adopted so that employees received 15 days annual leave and 15 days of sick leave each year without loss of pay. In October, two men were hired as monitors of the library for Monday through Thursday evenings.

“After more than 80 years in temporary quarters, the Penacook branch library opened the doors of its permanent home November 8, 1947.”\* Remodeling the Penacook police station cost about \$12,900, with all the money coming from trust funds available for that purpose.

A “fine-less” book week, believed to be the first of its kind in New Hampshire, was sponsored by the library during Christmas week 1947. Many long overdue books were returned. A generous loan of a record player made it possible to experiment with recording stories from Saturday morning story hours. It was reported that 20 percent of reference service was transacted via the telephone and through the mail.

Trust fund money was used to purchase a movie projector to enhance well-attended Saturday morning story hours in 1948. Films were shown once or twice a month to two different age groups. A survey of the geographical distribution of library users was made. Of 11,989 registered borrowers, nearly 79 percent lived within one mile of the library. This was used to justify the need for a mobile book unit to reach outlying potential users.



The new book trailer in 1949

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\* Books had been sent to Penacook as early as 1888 and a deposit and delivery station was established in the rear of Stuart G. Fifield’s store on March 30, 1930.

In 1949, the library set a new record for items circulated (219,773) surpassing the old record of 1940 when the new building opened. A 25-foot book trailer, the “traveling branch,” was purchased for \$3,300 and began neighborhood service on September 12, 1949. There was a Sunday film program for children that drew more than 100 children each Sunday and there were two “Great Books” discussion groups. In the summer, permission was granted by the Police Commission to establish a 15-minute parking zone in front of the library.\* It was reported that there was a “little heralded but widely used collection of current college bulletins and catalogs” in the library.†

## 1950s

In 1950, the library staff consisted of 11 full-time and 12 part-time employees, five of whom were professional librarians. The library circulated 231,170 items of which 20 percent were borrowed from a branch – Penacook, the station in West Concord, two hospital units or the book trailer. In addition to publicity via a weekly radio program, a weekly book review was published in the *Concord Monitor*. Another change at the helm of the library occurred in 1951 when Mr. Doms resigned and Miss Siri Andrews was promoted from Assistant Director to replace him. The loan policy for all materials except new books was changed in 1953 from two weeks to four weeks.‡ Also, for the first time since the new building was opened, the roof was repaired, the walls were weatherproofed, and the interior was painted. By 1954, staff had increased to 24 of whom 14 were employed full-time. The following year Mrs. Eugene Mageneau was elected the first female chair of the Board of Trustees.

The year 1956 marked the completion of 100 years of library service. “A large meeting room, created out of three small study rooms was completed and dedicated in April. It is known as the Grace Blanchard Room, honoring Miss Blanchard who served the city as librarian for 40 years. The room has seating capacity for 70 persons.”§ According to the trustees’ minutes there were several plans to recognize the centennial of the library, but none seems to have actually occurred.

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\* Still in existence in 2005 as a 20 minute zone.

† This collection continues today even though the Internet has made it possible to access this information online.

‡ Except for most of the audio-visual materials, this still holds true today.

§ In 2005, this is the office for the reference staff.



Display created recognizing the library's centennial

The opening of the South End Branch in the new Rundlett Junior High School occurred in October of 1957. One facility served students during school hours and was open to the public during other hours – Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon. The book trailer stop in the South End was replaced with a stop at Rumford School. This was in addition to the regular stops at Concord Heights, Walker School, Millville School, East Concord, and West Concord. An analysis of items circulated showed that 27 percent were adult non-fiction, 41 percent were adult fiction, and 32 percent were children's books.

At the October 1958 board meeting, discipline problems with the young people were discussed.\* It was suggested the librarian speak with the Chief of Police. At the next meeting it was reported that youngsters in grades 7 and 8 were not admitted to the library after 6 p.m. and discipline had improved. At this time the library was designated a Civil Defense Shelter. A new bookmobile arrived in December of 1958 and two new stops were quickly added at the Garrison School in West Concord and the Eastman School in East Concord. The library board proposed increasing the out-of-town user fee from \$2 to \$5. The 8 mm and 16 mm film collection numbered 100 in 1959. Library hours were 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday for a total of 66 hours.†

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\* A recurring theme over the years.

† In 2005, total hours are 60.5 in the summer and 65 in the winter.



View of main area of library in the late 1950s

## 1960s

This decade began with Siri Andrews announcing her retirement effective February 1 or as soon as a successor was found. Mrs. Lois Markey, former Assistant Library Director, returned to Concord from Connecticut on June 1, 1960, to become the new director. A Friends of the Library group was established on June 15, 1960. Mrs. Markey reported in 1961 that 75 percent of the population held a library card and that 302,500 items circulated. The exterior granite walls were waterproofed again\*, new lighting in the circulation area and a new telephone and intercom system were installed, and one area of the library was soundproofed. The film collection had grown to 250. Concord Public Library activities were extensively filmed for a New England film called "The Day the Books Went Blank."

A new office and book area for the Extension Services staff opened in the main library and Processing and Mending moved to the basement.†

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\* Most recently done in 2001.

† Processing and Mending is now referred to as Technical Services. Although Technical Services moved out of the basement with the addition to the library in 1966, they returned to the basement in 1982.

In April 1962 the first written Book Selection Policy statement was approved by the library board. The establishment of a foundation for the library was approved by the Board of Alderman on September 24, 1962. The first money it received came from the Bertha M. Chase bequest. New shelving for 4,000 books was installed in the adult area. The Ruth May Listening Room was established in the former office of the librarian.\* The Concord Music Club also purchased tables, chairs, and drapes as well as two headphone sets and one loudspeaker set of stereo equipment. The library began loaning a collection of framed art prints that were a gift of the Friends of the Library. The initial collection was made up of 18 reproduction works.†

A folding screen of pegboard was added to separate the public lounge area from the office beyond and serve as a display space for a “few attractive books and pictures.”‡ A new circulation area was built into the area originally intended for a cloakroom.§ In the children’s area, the children’s librarian’s office was converted to a reference room, the window seats were replaced with book shelves and a new checkout desk was installed. Obviously the library was feeling a space crunch. The Friends group ordered more prints because many were reserved for up to two years ahead. A new book plate was designed by local artist Mel Bolden.

The first report of taped recordings available in the library was in 1964 when 29 taped recordings of book discussions were added to the collection. All of the woodwork was waxed. The Penacook Branch received all new lighting, a new charge desk and new floor covering. In anticipation of the proposed addition, architect Guy C. Wilson was hired. For interlibrary loans, the library loaned out 447 items and borrowed only 69.#

Concord celebrated its bicentennial in 1965, and the library broke ground in October for a new addition, a short 25 years after the building first opened. Six new bookmobile stops were added to the route as well. There were 1,619 recordings\*\* that included music, poetry, and instruction in such things as foreign languages and typing.

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\* Currently the Circulation Supervisor’s office.

† Around the year 2000, the library stopped loaning the framed prints.

‡ This pegboard is still in use in 2005 as a display area near the Circulation Desk.

§ Now the Pages’ Room.

# In 2004, we loaned 1,603 items to other libraries and borrowed 1,926 items from other libraries as far away as California – quite an increase from 40 years ago.

\*\* Assumed to be mostly phonograph records.



View of Ruth May Listening Room

The new addition was completed in 1966 and officially opened in January of 1967. It added over 10,000 square feet of space including the auditorium with seating for 100, a new room for the Ruth May Listening Room, and housing for the bookmobile. The library had 94 framed prints available for loan and added two new tapes to the collection of tape recordings of book discussions. The Friends of the Library sponsored four foreign film showings and a book fair in October that raised \$2,600. During the Summer Reading Program, 380 children read five or more books. The Friends of

the Library purchased a large original oil painting for the new Art and Music Room in the addition.\* The Friends of the Library and the Concord Music Club purchased an oil painting for the Ruth May Listening Room. The Friends of the Library shared the cost of landscaping the front and side of the main building with the Chamber of Commerce and the garden club. The trustees hosted a Christmas party for the staff.

The number of library staff increased over the years to 18 full-time and 20 part-time people in 1968, with 125,000 volumes, circulation of 264,057, and 29,482 borrowers.†

## 1970s

This was a fairly quiet decade in the history of the library, although in 1972 the library did receive national publicity regarding its collection of stuffed birds and small mammals that was available for loan. This collection had been bequeathed to the library by Charles F. Goodhue. Eleven years later, the library negotiated an agreement with the Squam Lakes Science Center for loan and preservation of the Goodhue Collection of animals and artifacts. Upon the approval of the Probate Court on March 3, 2005, "full ownership of the Charles F. Goodhue Collection is transferred to the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center which shall hold the collection subject to the terms of the original bequest."

In 1970, the Concord Public Library chose not to participate in the State of New Hampshire common card system. As a result, some state funding was lost. It was proposed to raise the nonresident card fee from \$5 to \$8 to offset those lost funds.

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\* This may be the large painting now hanging in the Reference Room.

† Thirty-five years later, there were still 38 full and part-time staff, the collection size had grown very little to 126,507 books, but the circulation had increased 28 percent to 336,836.

A new bookmobile arrived in 1973, only the third in 24 years of service. Previous versions were purchased in 1949 and 1958. In honor of the U.S. Bicentennial an American Revolution bibliography was created, a bicentennial bookshelf established, and a reorganization of the Concord History collection was made to facilitate its use.

In the area of the arts, the statue *Standing Woman* by Winslow Eaves was purchased in 1972 with donations as a memorial to Nyleen Morrison, former trustee and member of the library foundation.\* That same year the Friends of the Library purchased reproduction sculpture to add to the circulating art collection. It was first exhibited during National Library Week.

In July and August of 1977, the library hosted a Da Vinci exhibit on loan from IBM that included models built from Da Vinci's scientific and technical drawings. The library continued to show films for children and adults, hosted a foreign film series, and, in 1978, co-sponsored with the Recreation Department the showing of four films in the parks.

The decade drew to a close with Mrs. Markey retiring in August 1978, and the hiring of Louis Ungarelli to succeed her in the spring of 1979.

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\* A grant was received in 2004 to refurbish this statue.

## The Computer Age (1979-1999)

During Mr. Ungarelli's first year, the library acquired a microfilm reader/printer\*, participated in Old Fashioned Bargain Days†, and made available a typewriter for public use.

### 1980s

Many changes occurred in this decade due to technological advances. Physical changes occurred in the building for comfort, for usability, and to accommodate the addition of computers into the daily life of the staff and patrons. In 1980, a new circulation desk was installed on the main floor. In 1981, reorganization of the main floor began on Saturday August 1. The library was closed for the following week while 26,700 items were relocated. Fiction was moved to the south side and non-fiction was consolidated on the north side and shelved in numerical sequence.‡ Staff members also prepared the books for the new theft detection system. The shelves and floors were cleaned. On April 9, 1983, for the second time in three weeks, the library was broken into and robbed. On September 25, 1983 there was a bomb scare.

In 1986, Technical Services moved to the basement and the vacated Technical Services space was renovated into a public service area containing the local history collection. A clay tile mural over the entrance was installed, new red carpeting was installed, and new furniture was purchased for the Periodical Room.§ In 1988, the main floor central area received a new coat of paint. In 1989, the Circulation and Reference Desks were relocated on the main floor. The Circulation Desk moved from just to the right as you enter the library (desk faced west) to its current location on the left facing the entrance. The Reference Desk moved to Circulation's vacated location.\*\* This move of the Reference Desk was funded by a Library Services and Construction Act grant. The library closed one day to accomplish this move.

In the area of service to the disabled, several improvements were made. In 1982, automatic sliding doors were added to the street entrance at the front; in 1985, a telecommunication device for the deaf was obtained and a ramp was installed at the

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\* A grant was received in 2004 and two new state-of-the-art machines were purchased to replace the old machines.

† Now called Downtown Market Days during which the library holds a used book sale.

‡ This is still the current arrangement.

§ Eighteen years later it is still in use.

\*\* The DVDs are currently shelved here.

Penacook Branch. In 1987, with funding from a Community Development Block Grant, a wheelchair lift was installed to provide access to the auditorium.

Library cards were offered to businesses located in Concord for the first time in 1985 as another service enhancement.

In 1980, the library hosted a display of young artist Sheri Vincent's work in the Art & Music Room.\* In 1981, the library received a John Cotton Dana award from the American Library Association for an outstanding public relations program. In 1983, 8mm films were removed from the collection and 16mm films were withdrawn in 1988. Channel 37 was inaugurated in 1985 as the community information TV channel. Municipal and non-profit schedules and events were posted via an alpha numeric system installed at the Concord Public Library. In 1986, approval was given to move the Ruth May Listening Room to a new location just off the Reference Room, and to put the record collection and books into the circulating collection. The first audio compact discs (CDs) and CD player were purchased in 1987 and a compact disc collection was initiated in 1988. In 1989 a puppet show, "Princess and the Frog," was performed on Main Street in the new puppet theater.

In 1988, adult fines increased from five cents to ten cents, fines for children's materials increased from two cents to five cents, and the fee for a nonresident card rose from \$35 to \$45. The Penacook Branch hours increased from 12.5 hours per week (Monday and Friday, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) to 21.5 hours (added Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.). Due to budget cuts, the bookmobile stopped running in January 1989. As a result, the bookmobile collections were merged into the main library and the library implemented a volunteer outreach program to nursing homes.

The first automation effort involved a new circulation system with a theft detection system that became operational in January 1982. In 1984, to meet the goal of improving recordkeeping, staff began shifting manual files to the library's first microcomputer. In March, they began preparing to automate the catalog. As part of that preparation, in 1985 they completed the first inventory since 1958, and 10,000 items were declared lost. The LS-2000 automated library system became operational in the fall of 1985.

Automated database searching via the commercial online service DIALOG was added to the reference service in 1986. It was reported in 1987 that CPL was the first public library in the state to offer computer access to its catalog of holdings. By June 1988, ten terminals for public access to the catalog had been installed in the building. In 1988,

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\* In 2002 Sheri Vincent-Crisp was commissioned to paint a mural to recognize the donors for the Children's Room renovation project and in August 2005 she completed a new mural in the Children's Room.

staff stopped filing new records in the card catalog, three years after the automated catalog became available.\* The first computerized reference tool – the Magazine Index (Infotrac) – was acquired on CD-ROM. In 1989, the Penacook Branch received a computer and modem so it could be connected to the online catalog at the main library. A second microcomputer was installed at the Circulation Desk to be used as a back-up when the main computer was down. Access to a microcomputer and educational software was added to children’s services that year as well.



The computers and card catalog coexist

In 1982, the library started to design and implement a community survey to study the effectiveness of current library programs. As a result of this survey, a strategic planning document for 1988-1993 was completed in 1987. In 1984 a pilot project of having the main library open on Sundays was begun.† In 1987, evening hours were restored to the Children’s Room (Tuesday through Thursday evenings) and Penacook hours were expanded to include Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. In 1989, the services of a collection agency were retained to aid in recovering restitution for items never returned to the library.

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\* The first cardcase for a card catalog was purchased in 1883, the first card catalogue of all holdings was completed in 1896 and in 1992 the catalog cards were permanently removed from the library.

† With the exception of the years from 1998-2003 when Sunday hours were from 1-8:30 p.m., Sunday hours have been from 1-5:30 p.m. This wasn’t the first time there were Sunday hours. The Reading Room only was open Sundays from 1 to 5 in 1888 after the library moved to the Fowler Library Building. According to Grace Blanchard, she worked every Sunday afternoon for her first 13 years (1895-1908) and her reports indicate Sunday hours from 1915-1920.

## 1990s

In January 1990, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Green Street building was celebrated. The Friends published a calendar with historical photos for the year 1991. Utilizing the vacated bookmobile garage, the current Concord Room was created and the expansion of the Reference Room was completed in early 1991. This expansion was funded by a \$22,000 Library Services and Construction Act grant, \$5,000 from the Concord Public Library Foundation, and \$17,500 from city funds. A house on Prince Street was demolished for a parking lot expansion behind the library. In 1991, trust fund money was used to revitalize the landscaping in front of the building and the book bins were opened for returns 24 hours per day 7 days a week.\* Audio-visual materials were rearranged on the main floor in 1992. Around 1999, the library stopped loaning out the framed art prints, a service started in 1962.

One of the key things that drove some changes at the library in the early 1990s was a budget reduction of 5.9 percent from 1991 to 1992. As a result, the open positions of Assistant Library Director and Circulation Supervisor were not filled and the Assistant Library Director position was eventually eliminated. There was reduced custodial service, hours of service were reduced by seven hours per week, and the book budget was reduced. In 1993, due to the reduction in staff and no budget increases, the adult and children's circulation functions were combined on the main floor†, the circulation desk was renovated, and circulating videos were placed in public areas for better access.

The off-setting good financial news during these times of reduced budgets was the \$1.6 million bequest from the James W. Nelson estate. After some legal clarifications as to how the money could be utilized, the trust was used to fund improvements to the building which had been identified during an assessment for a new long-range plan.

With the help of Tappé Associates, Inc., the Library Architectural Survey and Planning Study was completed in 1995. Recommended actions for the 10-year plan included replacement of the roof, waterproofing and repair of the granite walls, complete replacement of the windows, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to bathrooms, and a completely new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system. Lack of a fire protection system was also noted. All of these were addressed in the ensuing years with funding from the Nelson Trust. For 2005-2015, the Survey recommended that the library size be increased by 60 percent.

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\* The library was providing 24/7 service before other organizations used the term in the late 1990s.

† They were once again split in the next decade with the completion of the Children's Room renovation project.



Reception Desk and ramp to the Reference room

With funding from the Nelson Trust, a new elevator was installed near the Reference Room in 1994. In 1996, the Reference Desk was moved up the ramp into the Reference Room and a Reception Desk was established at the bottom of the ramp. Funds from the Nelson Trust were used in 1998 to replace the roof and install a fire protection system throughout the building. That same year three new freestanding shelf units for new books were purchased with money

from the Friends of the Concord Public Library. The following year the main floor bathrooms were completely relocated to be ADA compliant. That too was funded by the Nelson Trust.

Once again technology changes and upgrades occurred throughout the decade. In 1990, with a Library Services and Construction Act grant of \$2,000 matched by the Concord Public Library Foundation, many local history materials were microfilmed. The microfilmed originals were placed on permanent loan at the New Hampshire Historical Society. In 1991, the library received funds from the Friends of the Concord Public Library and the Rotary Club of Concord to purchase a word processor for public use. A cash register was purchased for the Circulation Desk. The library also received its first desktop publishing software – Publish It! In 1994, with funds from the Heath Trust, the *Concord Monitor* editions covering the period from 1864 to 1962 were purchased on microfilm.

In April of 1994, a new state of the art computer system (Gaylord's GALAXY) was purchased, replacing the first system (LS-2000) originally installed in 1985. It became operational one year later. With this system, patrons could view the catalog from their home personal computer via modem for direct dial-in access. In 1996, the first public computer workstations, two for Internet access and one for word processing, were installed. This year also saw the completion of the re-barcoding project begun with the installation of the Galaxy system. Over 131,500 items were re-barcoded thanks to volunteers giving over 1,000 hours of their time. In 1999, two more Internet workstations were added and a self-check unit was purchased with a grant from the Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust. This self-check unit allowed patrons to check out their print materials or videos on their own rather than go to the Circulation Desk.

Another significant collection enhancement occurred in 1998 when the library was selected to house the N. H. Charitable Foundation Resource Collection. The following year the library received a grant from the N. H. Charitable Foundation to maintain the Resource Collection and purchase a personal computer to provide access to *FC Search*, the national Foundation Center's database on CD-ROM. The grant continues to renew annually.



Foundation Resources print collection

In the fall of 1998, Sunday hours were increased. Since 1984 the library had been open on Sundays during the winter from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., but the hours were now extended to 8:30 p.m. This stayed in effect until the fall of 2003 when the hours were shortened to 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.

In late October 1998, the library was in the news. On the evening of October 27, the fire department was called to the library to extinguish a small fire due to an undetonated pipe bomb found on its shelves. Another pipe bomb was discovered on the steps of the New Hampshire State Library later the same evening. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in the incident investigation and the library was closed for a total of four days, but authorities never discovered who was responsible for the bombs. After this event, the decade ended quietly.

## A New Century

As a sign of the times, the twenty-first century started off with some safety improvements. In 2000, panic alarm buttons and portable radios were placed at the public service desks to assist staff in summoning assistance in the case of an emergency. Additional security mirrors were also installed to improve visual surveillance of public service areas. In 2001, a video surveillance system was installed at the front door to create a record of individuals leaving the building. This would assist police investigations should the need arise in the future.

Also in 2001, most of the exterior windows in the building were replaced, funded by the Nelson Trust. Because of the historic nature of the building, the new windows were designed to be visually the same as the old ones. The windows were a significant improvement with their double-pane construction and thermal properties. Functionally, the windows were different as well – the lower section of the windows no longer opened inwardly. New window shades were also installed at this time.

In 1999, the board of the Concord Public Library Foundation was separated from the Library Board of Trustees. Directors of the Foundation were no longer the same individuals as the Trustees of the Library Board. The new Foundation Board began a fundraising campaign to renovate the Children's Room in 2000. Approximately \$250,000 was raised for the renovation of the Children's Room, with \$25,000 coming from the City of Concord and the rest from other sources.



Children's Room in 2002 after renovation

The renovation included a new circulation desk, a new reference desk, renovation of the built-in shelving, painting of the walls, new carpeting, new freestanding shelving, new tables and chairs, and new upholstered seating. A self-check unit was also installed. The project was completed in 2002.

That year Sheri L. Vincent-Crisp was commissioned to paint a mural recognizing the donors for the renovation project. She completed another mural in the Children's Room in 2005.\*



Mural in the Children's Room completed August 2005

After the renovation of the Children's Room, the very next year marked the start of the installation of a new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system that was completed in 2004. This project caused the Children's Room to temporarily relocate in the lower level outside the Auditorium.



New ductwork above the main floor circulation area in 2004

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\* Her artwork had been first displayed in the library in 1982.



New bushes and paving at the corner of Prince and Green Streets

Once all the construction on the building was complete, new landscaping was installed in the summer of 2004.

Other changes in 2003 included the reorganization of reference and circulation staff members so that they were aligned under one supervisor. The following year, the Reference Desk returned to the main floor so that, as one entered the building, the first two things a patron would see were the Circulation Desk on the left and the Reference Desk on the right.

A community survey regarding services and service delivery was completed in 2000. In 2002, a timeline for the Five-Year Plan was developed. A new program “Concord Reads,” based on the “One City, One Book” effort that originated at the Washington Center for the Book, began in 2002. The first year activities centered around the book *Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder, the second year it was *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo, and in 2004 it focused on poet, essayist, children’s author, and former New Hampshire Poet Laureate Donald Hall and his works. *Water Witches* by Vermont author Chris Bohjalian was chosen for 2005.

Technology continued to change and grow. In 2001, online catalog access via the library’s web page was made available in addition to the dial-up access. The Penacook Branch received its first Internet computer for public use. In 2002, two more Internet computers were added to the existing five at the main library. With the completion of the Children’s Room renovation, eight personal computers were installed there for the children’s use.

In July 2002, after 23 years of service, Louis Ungarelli resigned to become Director of the Nantucket Atheneum. Adult Services Supervisor/Automation Coordinator Patricia Immen was named Acting Director and in December was appointed as the eleventh Director of the library in its 147-year history.

In 2004, the library began preparing for conversion to a new integrated library system to replace Gaylord's GALAXY system. The new system, Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III) Millennium, went live to the public in January 2004, nine years after the Galaxy system was installed. Public Internet computers for adult cardholders increased to ten, and one computer was designated for word processing only. One additional computer was installed for noncardholder use only. Time management software and a pre-pay printing system were installed on all adult public computers. A grant was also received to purchase two new microfilm reader/printers. They arrived at the end of 2004.

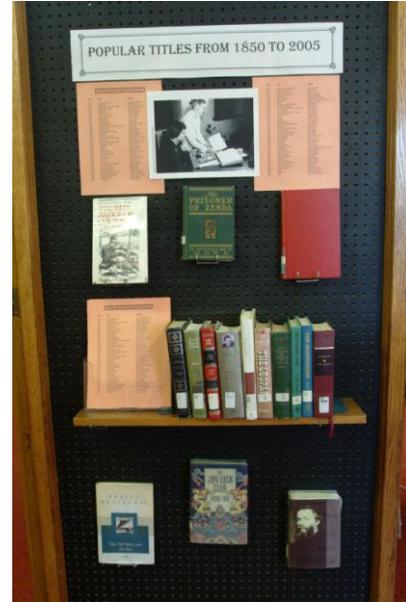
As of July 1, 2004, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation merged to become one volunteer and fundraising organization. In preparation for a planned needs assessment in 2006, the Library Foundation, trustees, and staff met in October 2004 with an architect to begin thinking about what Concord Public Library should be like in the future. Continued population growth in the community seems to indicate a need for more space. Should and would there be an addition to the library, additional parking space, a new branch, a new building? Only time will tell.

## The Celebration - August 2005

During the month of August the library celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordinance establishing the library. The lobby display case highlighted the eleven directors of the library, one bulletin board showcased the various outreach services provided by the library over the years, and the second bulletin board highlighted popular reading titles throughout the library's history. A special photographic display of the history of the library was available for viewing in the Reference Room.



Outreach...over the decades



Popular titles from 1850 to 2005



Director Patricia Immen and Councilor Elizabeth Blanchard  
examine the photographic history of the library

On Wednesday, August 24, a celebration for the public was held at the Penacook Branch with birthday cake and refreshments. On August 25, the main library staff gathered for a group photo in front of the library and then attended a staff brunch and meeting. Later that day an open house was held for the public. This included cake and refreshments as well as entertainment for the children (and adults) by Mr. Phil of In-Tents Magic.



Main Library staff at the front doors



Patricia Immen cutting the cake

To record this momentous event, a time capsule was created. Included in the time capsule was a scrapbook recording in pictures the library and its staff in August 2005. Also included was a draft of this history, anniversary publicity, examples of contemporary culture, sample marketing materials, Children's Room resources, and library information such as the mission statement, forms, and policies and procedures. This time capsule is an acid-free box kept in the Concord Room. It is meant to be opened on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library on August 25, 2055.



## APPENDIX

### Librarians Serving Concord

#### 1857

**Andrew Capen** – A bookseller and publisher, he served as City Librarian from January of 1857 until his resignation in November 1857. He seems to have been a longtime resident of Concord. In Amsden’s manuscript *A Capital for New Hampshire*, (Ch. 33, p. 22) she writes “also in Farley’s Building nearly opposite the State House, A. Capen at No. 3, sold European and American goods, while at No. 2.....” In the first *City Directory* (1830) two circulating libraries were listed including Marsh, Capen & Lyon (a bookstore) with 500 volumes. In 1834 Andrew Capen was listed as selling English Goods, 2 doors north of the Phenix Hotel, and that he boarded at Miss Ware’s. In the 1844 *City Directory*, Andrew Capen was a bookseller at 136 Main Street and he boarded at W. Gault (68 Main Street). In 1850, he was still listed as a bookseller at 136 Main Street, but he boarded at H. Fessenden (88 Main Street). He is not listed in the 1860 *City Directory*, so he had either died or moved from Concord. There is no death certificate on record for him, so he may have moved out of state.

#### 1857-1882

**Frederick S. Crawford** – He was born in Yonkers, N.Y. on November 11, 1822. After serving a seven-year apprenticeship, he moved to Concord in 1847. According to the city directories, in 1853 he lived at 31 School St. and worked for Norton & Co. In 1856, his business was Crawford & Chick Booksellers at 160 Main St. and he lived at 29 School St. In late 1857 or early 1858, he became City Librarian. By 1870, his occupation was bookbinder in the Statesman Building and he was a general agent for the Craftsman Life Insurance Co. of N.Y. He resigned as librarian on January 31, 1882. In 1883, his business address was at 18 N. Main St. and he lived at 57 School St. Mr. Crawford died January 11, 1895, and was survived by his second wife.



#### 1882-1895



**Daniel F. Secomb** – Born in Amherst, N. H. on January 17, 1820, he taught school, learned the carpenter’s trade, was employed in the manufacture of parlor organs and pianos, and was a librarian at the New Hampshire Historical Society for several years before becoming City Librarian on February 1, 1882. He wrote a history of Amherst and many other historical papers. He moved to Concord in 1848. In the 1853 *City Directory*, his home was at the corner of Washington and State Streets. In 1856, he lived at 1 Rumford St. In 1870, his business was Parker & Secomb, a melodeon and organ manufacturer in

the Union Steam Mill, and he lived at 4 Liberty St. near Pleasant. In 1883, his job was librarian at the public library, and he lived at 6 Liberty St. He also served as deacon of the Unitarian Church for many years before his unexpected death on January 14, 1895. Mr. Secomb was predeceased by two wives and was survived by a daughter and step-daughter.

### 1895-1935

**Grace E. Blanchard** – Her parents (George A. and Frances) were from Concord, but she was born in Dunleith, Ill. (near Dubuque, Ia.) on February 20, 1859. She had one sister. The family relocated to Concord when she was a child. She graduated from Concord High School in 1876 and Smith College in 1882. She was employed as a governess in Lowell, Mass. She received her library experience in the city library of Gloucester, Mass. and was employed with Woodworth Co., wholesalers before being named librarian on January 26, 1895. She wrote two children's books – *Phil's Happy Girlhood* and *Phillida's Glad Year* as well as a book on New England travel, *The Island Cure*.



She lived at the family home at 64 School St. until she retired (February 1, 1935). After three years of hospitalization, she died on January 9, 1944. She left the residual of her estate (just over \$41,000) to the library for a trust fund with no restrictions. [One of her pet peeves was bequests the library received that had restrictions on their use.] Her obituary noted that she had traveled to Europe several times as well as to South America, Mexico and the West Indies.

### 1935-1936



**Walt W. Constantine** – He was born in Henniker on May 10, 1894. As a student at Middlebury College, he was a librarian there and completely cataloged their library. Prior to being named City Librarian at the age of 40, he spent six years in charge of the circulating library at E. C. Eastman Co. on North Main Street. He resigned his post as librarian in November of 1936 under a cloud, due to an arrest in Boston. He then farmed in the Concord area. He died as a result of injuries from an automobile accident on April 11, 1939. He was survived by his wife.

### 1937-1947

**Marion F. Holt** – She began at the library in 1930 working with children and the Vacation Reading Club. She was a Concord girl, studied at the University of New Hampshire and Simmons College School of Library Science, and worked in a branch of the Boston Public Library. She took over as City Librarian in 1937 after Mr.



Constantine's resignation and led the library through the construction of the new building. On January 13, 1947 the trustees voted to terminate Miss Holt's employment effective February 28 on grounds of lack of administrative ability. Miss Holt resigned from the library on February 1. According to the 1950 *City Directory* she had found employment as a librarian in Providence, R.I.

### 1947-1951



**R. Keith Doms** – A native of Wisconsin and Minnesota, he was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Library School. He served with the Army in World War II. In the July 1950 issue of the *News Letter* of the N. H. Library Association, it was reported that he had "the somewhat unique distinction of being the only male actively engaged in public library work in the Granite State." He resigned effective March 15, 1951. After leaving Concord, he went on to serve as director of the Midland, Michigan library (1951-1956), assistant director (1956-1964) and director (1964-1969) of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and director of the Free Library of Philadelphia (1969-1987).

### 1951-1960

**Siri Andrews** – She started in Concord as the young people's librarian in 1948. Before coming to New Hampshire, she was Children's Book Editor for Henry Holt Co. in New York, wrote for Horn Book magazine, and had translated some children's books from Swedish and Norwegian. A native of Escanaba, Michigan, she was a graduate of the Wisconsin Library School. She had also been an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington School of Librarianship in Seattle (children's author Beverly Cleary was one of her students). She had library experience in Cleveland, Brooklyn, two Wisconsin libraries and Stockholm, Sweden. She retired on June 1, 1960 and passed away in Concord on December 9, 1973.



### 1960-1978

**Lois R. Markey** – Mrs. Markey was born in Beverly, Mass. and was a graduate of the Simmons College School of Library Science. She worked as a librarian in Brooklyn, N.Y. and Willington, Ohio. Mrs. Markey was a widow when she joined the staff in 1951 as Supervisor of the Children's and Youth Department. She also served as Assistant Librarian from 1955-1957. She then spent three years as a public library consultant with the Connecticut Education Department, Bureau of Library Services before being named City Librarian as of June 1, 1960. She retired in August of 1978. She passed away in Newton, Mass. on December 25, 1997 at the age of 83. She was survived by her children, Peter and Nancy.



### 1979-2002



**Louis D. Ungarelli** – He came to the library on April 30, 1979, having previously served libraries in Nebraska and New York State. During his 23 years, the library joined the computer age – two different library automation systems were installed in 1985 and 1994 and Internet access was added as a service. In addition the physical building underwent many renovations and upgrades to keep it structurally sound. He resigned in July 2002 to take a position as Director of the Nantucket Atheneum and returned to New Hampshire as Library Director of the Lebanon Public Library in 2005.

### 2002-

**Patricia A. Immen** - Originally from Rhode Island and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, she joined the library in 1974 as a bookmobile assistant. She completed her MLS degree at Simmons College and rose through the ranks, holding positions of Circulation Supervisor, Reference Librarian and Acting Children's Librarian. As Adult Services Supervisor/Automation Coordinator, Mrs. Immen was named Acting Library Director at Mr. Ungarelli's departure and was appointed Library Director in December 2002.



## NOTES

1. 1850 town report, p. 15.
2. *New Hampshire Statesman*, Sept. 15, 1855, p. 2.
3. Lyford, p. 446.
4. Lyford, p. 447.
5. *New Hampshire Statesman*, Jan. 24, 1857, p. 2.
6. *New Hampshire Statesman*, Feb. 28, 1857, p. 3.
7. Lyford, p. 570-71.

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