

A TOWN REPORTS CHRONOLOGY OF JACKSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Eastman sold land to the church between his farm and the Wildcat Brook for \$5.00; the church was built there in 1847. Apparently no deed exists, but when in 1983 they wanted a septic design, Russell Lanoie researched and there is now an affidavit giving boundaries.

Since 1897 the town has supported a Library, starting with about \$30.00 a year and in 1901, on a bit of Town land next to the river a new Library building was opened. As early as 1905, Alice Trickey was the Librarian. Gifts were given by residents, including Frank Shapleigh for periodic repairs, new shelves. The Library received "a very fine portrait" of Reverend Samuel Appleton from Philadelphia, a 33-year-guest of Jackson. The "silk service flag" was given by the Junior Red Cross on January 25, 1918. And in 1920, portraits of General Wentworth and a portrait of CH Hurlin, who was one of the first trustees were given. In 1922 the service flag was framed. Audubon bird charts were given by a Mrs. Toppan in 1924 (probably she was a resident) and in 1925, Audubon bird chart #4.

By 1931, the state has decided to straighten the road from the church to the school (more or less) and build the stone bridge. The town voted on Article 8 and Article 11 for new bridge across Wildcat River in village and to move present (iron) bridge to edge of Bordet estate... (Valley Cross Road). This required moving the Library (and Wentworth Hall's "Wildwood") out of the way. The Town Reports start listing the Library and lot value as \$2000 in 1933; then in 1934 were added an iron fence, cement curbing, cement walk and awning.

In 1936 there are miscellaneous payments to Protestant Chapel Association of \$260 which include \$10 a year rent. By 1937, appropriation to the Library have reached \$100 and the Town is paying for care of the lawn. In 1938 Bookmobile service exists and there is a Dundee District Library. In 1940 Adelbert Fernald who summers on Thorn Hill Road gives a framed picture and in 1942 the Panorama which still hangs on the wall.

By 1943 the Town appropriation reaches \$200 and the land rent is \$20.00!!! But, it drops back to \$10 in 1944. (Probably due to war.) In 1947 \$50.50 insurance is paid for fire damage (wood heat) and in 1948 a book titled "Early Historical Facts of Jackson, NH and its Centennial" July 4th, 1878 is created and given by Adelbert Fernald. Only one copy is in existence and composed of typewritten script and innumerable pasted photographs holds considerable interest to townspeople. "By request of Dr. Fernald the volume is to remain in the Library at all times". A relative of Dr. Fernald visited after he died and offered to make a better copy than the photocopy that stays in the Library. Unfortunately, The original has not been returned.

In 1953, two new gas heaters were installed in the Library. Partly due to pleas from the Librarian, H. Francis Manchester ("Fle"), the appropriation is increased to \$300 a year in 1954 and to \$510 in 1955. In 1961, Fle himself is paid by town for yard work. Fle died 4/14/1964, age 66 in the "County Home" in Ossipee.

By 1963, the value of the building increased to \$625 in the Town Report and in 1967 regular trustee meetings were mandated 4 times per year.

The 1972 Report mentions \$100 for outside maintenance and fires, plus \$100 custodial, but not until 1974 does the Library get a telephone installed. The attic was cleaned in 1976 and then in 1978 it was insulated by a Col. Nelson; the wiring updated and the storm door painted.

In 1980, Rachel Doucette resigned after 25 years as trustee and a party was given in her honor. By 1983, the appropriation exceeded \$5000 a year and the next year bookcases were built by an unnamed cabinet maker and the Garden Club did some plantings between the building and river. Up until 1985 “Jackson Public Library” was officially “Adams Social Library Society”, so this was changed.

In 1991 new youth shelving and the wood ramp were built by town employees and in 1992 it got a “coat of paint”.

In 1996, the term “re-carpet” entire Library is used. Previously, there were “scatter rugs” or remnants. With sticky tape to hold them in place. At this time, they recovered the window seat cushions.

In 2010, the Library moves out and a committee is formed to gather ideas and suggestions for the future of the building.

A new group, the Old Library Management Committee was formed to oversee the use of the building. This committee has been hard at work. Lilacs and Azaleas have been pruned back away from the structure and two huge Yews were removed to show off the front of the building. The plants in front are being well cared for until exterior changes are made.

Inside, the carpeting is gone, all shelves from the large “Reading Room” have been removed; plaster walls were patched and painted and the shellacked paneling has been rubbed down to fill blemishes. Using donations of money, 22 comfortable folding chairs are now being used and window seat cushions are being remade.

\$5000 (in 2012) and \$10,000 (in 2013) have been appropriated by the Town to research water and septic and to continue restoration work.