

LIBRARY SERIES

-Al Sisson

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Central Library of Rochester and
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Local History & Genealogy Division
115 South Avenue
Rochester, New York 14604



STACKS

Monroe County LIBRARY SERIES

as told by

Al Sisson...

"MAIN STREET LINE of the AIR"

April 14 - June 30
1949

Courtesy: *Lincoln Rochester*
TRUST COMPANY

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

LINCOLN ROCHESTER
TRUST COMPANY

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

MAIN OFFICE

August 18, 1950

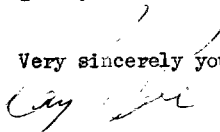
Mr. John Adams Lowe, Director,
Rochester Public Library,
Rochester, New York.

Dear John:

We have sponsored a radio program each morning over WHAM at seven-thirty for the past five or six years. Al Sisson who conducts this program is a fulltime employee of the bank in connection with our Customer Relations Department. He is a fine human being and is always boosting worthwhile community enterprises. He did a series of broadcasts on public libraries in towns adjacent to Rochester and I thought you might find interest in a copy of this series of broadcasts, therefore one is enclosed.

With warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cary", is written over the typed name "Cary".

LINCOLN ROCHESTER TRUST COMPANY

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
April 14, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Riga Free Library-

..... "I armed her against the censures of the world; showed her that books were sweet unrepublishing companions to the miserable, and that if they could not bring us to enjoy life, they would at least teach us to endure it." --- Those words of Goldsmith may well be the theme of today's story from along the way for it is my privilege to bring you the first in a weekly series of stories concerning the history and progress of the Community Libraries of Monroe County ... And the first story concerns the Riga Free Library ...

The first record of any kind with reference to the establishment of a library within the Town of Riga is under the date of July 27, 1920, nearly twenty-nine years ago ... The record states that on that date a meeting was held in the Grange Hall, in Churchville, for the purpose, as the record reads, "of securing a library and a rest room" ... Invitations for the meeting back there in 1920, were extended to each of the Churches in the Town, to the WCTU, the Grange, the Home Bureau and the Order of Eastern Star, to send representatives to the meeting - most of these responded ... That July meeting was called to order by Mrs. John Newman, the mother of Floyd Newman, recent donor of a building for Nuclear Physics to Cornell University ... Mr. John Malloch was chosen Chairman of the meeting ... The same John Malloch, who today is one of Riga's most distinguished citizens and school superintendent ... Mr. Harry Handy, Pastor of the Congregational Church of Churchville, offered a resolution to set up a Library Association ... His motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson,

Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the motion was carried ... That simple American way of doing things, was the birth of the Riga Free Library ... It is not possible in this narrative to name all of those whose interest in this project was vital, but to show the interest and approval of the clergy, the names of Father Golding of St. Vincent dePaul's Church, and Mr. Cutten of the Baptist Church, appeared in the records among the founders ... Following that first meeting in July 1920, the Riga Free Library Association functioned very well pending a granting of a charter by the Board of Regents ... This Charter was granted September 22, 1921 ... The Trustees named in that charter were, Ellen Tubridy, Sarah Hughes, George S. Murray, Ethel MacIntosh and John C. Malloch ... Mrs. MacIntosh became the first President of the Board of Trustees ... This Community minded Citizen, more than any one person, brought The Riga Free Library into being, and as long as she lived in the town, worked tirelessly in its behalf ... Until the Library found full support from the Town of Riga and the Village of Churchville, various means of support made up the difference ... The folks out Riga way held card parties, they presented amateur plays, sponsored Community Suppers and then there were contributions from the Riga War Chest, a fund set up in 1917 for the Red Cross, and various other war agencies - believed to be one of the first chests in operation - The Parent-Teachers Association, the Congregational Church and other organizations as well as many personal contributions, kept the Library functioning in those early days of its existence ... As John Malloch, who still serves on the Board, so well put it, "There is something in this form of support that cannot be measured in dollars." ---- As time went on The Riga Free Library grew in service, conducted stay-home periods for small children in the summer vacation period, and made every effort to provide well balanced reading for different age groups ... In successive years Sarah Hughes and John Malloch

served as President ... Helen Randall is now President with Bessie Snyder as Vice-President; Burton Hughes, Treasurer and Ruth Ratigan, Secretary ... Today The Riga Free Library is quartered in the Village Building at Churchville ... Up until the past year the Library was housed in what had originally been the north part of the Masonic Block, now owned by Ray Brown ... Careful consideration is being given for a new home, but that is as yet in the embryo stage ... Those who came as children back there in 1920, to secure books for their enjoyment and enlightenment, now have children of their own who do the same ... After all the story of The Riga Free Library, is in many respects the story of the Community it serves, and the aspects of Community life which is the real life of America ... By the way, the rest room which Mrs. MacIntosh envisioned as a reading room where folks could relax, read and visit, is yet to be realized ... And there, in brief is the story of the Riga Free Library, one of many libraries serving the Communities of Monroe County ... A story of Volunteer Enterprise in order that those who live in the Communities may have good reading, good information and good opportunities ... I'm grateful to Mrs. Randall and John Malloch for telling me the story of their Library and the Library of Everyone in the Town of Riga ... Next Saturday morning I'm going to visit the number One Branch of the Irondequoit Library and on Thursday next let you hear from Monroe County's youngest Library Association

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

-Irondequoit Public Library-

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
April 21, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

..... I'd like to tell you a story of a Library I'm sure you know about and many others have heard about because I've sort of followed the growth of this new Community project down in the Town of Irondequoit ... Last Monday evening, at the invitation of Pauline Evans, a tireless worker for a new library in her Town, I visited the Irondequoit Office of The Lincoln Rochester Trust Company ... But this time it was after banking hours and the Office had been changed into a sort of Community Hall for a very special occasion ... Below stairs the visitor today finds the Titus-Cooper Branch of the Irondequoit Free Library, born, and established by what is now a very vital and growing Community organization, The Irondequoit Library Association ... The special occasion was Charter Night ... Herb Ryan, the host of the meeting, was there to greet the many folks who came out to see their Library get the official stamp of approval from The State of New York ... To present the Charter, which at present is provisional, was Mrs. Frank Gannett, a member of the New York State Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York ... Mrs. Gannett was most gracious in her presentation and I liked her tribute to the "people" the men and women who have worked long hours, voluntarily, to make a success of their own Library ... She termed the occasion an outstanding event in the history of the Town ... Mrs. Gannett presented the Charter to George F. Helberg, President of the Association ... Dr. Halford Clark, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave the First Annual Report on the progress

of this Community endeavor ... He told the story of how it was desired to locate the central unit of the library system somewhere near the Cooper-Titus intersection as being at present more or less the center of population of the town ... However, prolonged search failed to turn up any building which could be obtained for the purpose ... The committee's thoughts then turned to the possibility of obtaining a basement in the area ... It was then, through the efforts of one of the Trustees, Herb Ryan, that the use of the basement of the Lincoln Rochester Trust Company, Irondequoit Office right along Titus Avenue near Cooper Road, was secured ... Lincoln Rochester also donated the heat and light free and equipped the Library completely with shelves with room for some 5,000 books ... A committee of members went to work under the guidance of their President, George Helberg, and painted the shelves, walls and ceilings. The Library began to function in a big way ... Then through the efforts of another Volunteer worker, Mrs. Norman Graham, a vacant office in the building owned by the Sea Breeze and Vicinity Water Commission was obtained, also heat and water free from the Water Commission and a branch Library was opened at 4461 Culver Road ... Lumber was obtained, shelves and counters erected with Mr. Lamb and Mr. Christy leading the way ... The Sea Breeze Branch is in operation with some 2000 books along the shelves ... Then came a membership drive which has brought in over 7000 members to date ... Mrs. Marsden Tuttle took over the task of recruiting volunteers to man the two libraries ... To date some 85 volunteers are active in operating the Library at both -branches, six afternoons a week, five evenings and one morning with one or two volunteers on duty at all times ... Those 85 folks have given well over 800 hours to the operation of their Library ... Over 3000 books have been donated by those who have heard or read of the project, 1000 more books have been secured on loan from the State and every day volunteers are busy classi-

-Irondequoit Public Library- -6

fying more books for the shelves ... It is a free library for anyone in the Town of Irondequoit ... To make the Charter Night one to be remembered, Mr. Ray Williams, President of The New York State Library Association and Director of the Elmira Library, came by to speak to those gathered ... Mr. Williams complimented those who have started and are maintaining this Community Library and called it, "the most important Library in New York State - right now" ... He challenged both volunteer and those who will be using the library to remember that the entire Community has an interest in every book along the shelves ... There must be and will be, books for all ... And so on this Thursday when the attention is turned Along the Main Street Line of the Air to Books and Libraries, Lincoln Rochester Trust is happy to salute those who have worked so hard to make The Irondequoit Library Association and its Branch Libraries a real operating concern and the Banking Neighbors down Irondequoit way are happy to have had a part in this fine Community enterprise

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
April 28, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-East Rochester Public Library-

..... The Village of East Rochester has been named, the only commercial village in Monroe County ... Although not adjoining the City of Rochester, it lies close to the city on the southeast, and a large number of its folks commute ... The Village was originally called "Dispatch" because of the Merchants Dispatch Transportation Corporation, which has its home plant and yards in East Rochester. Among other large industrial concerns, are the Aeolian American Piano Corp., The Lawless Brothers Paper Mills, the Ontario Tool Company, the Crosman Seed Company, and the Mack Tool Company ... Along with the many Industrial organizations in East Rochester there are many fine homes, excellent schools and well attended churches ... One of the Community Centers of the Village is the East Rochester Public Library ... When this Home for Books and good reading opened in 1922 it was the successful outcome of a project started by the women of the Welfare League, an organization of about 500 members which flourished in East Rochester in the 1920's ... Money to finance the opening of the Library had been raised by library card parties, with one of the members of the League entertaining a dozen others ... They played bridge, drank coffee and paid twenty-five cents each at those parties and agreed that each one would likewise entertain twelve others ... Entertainments were given. A house to house canvas for books and money was made ... Many of the women of the Village served on these committees and then worked as volunteers in the Library. They also did a great deal in furnishing and equipping the Library for use ...

After the hard work of getting the East Rochester Public Library started, and on application to the state, an organizer was sent to East Rochester and the working plan was set up for the continued operation of the Library ... In cataloguing the books the library put on the shelves many of the Alger and Henty books, and girls' series, such as the Motor Girls, Campfire Girls and others that were stories of romance and adventure of the youngsters a quarter of a century and better ago ... But as this type of book was not acceptable to the State they were afterward replaced by a better selection of books and authors ... And the Rover Boys and the Motor Girls faded into the distant past, to be replaced by more modern stories, I presume ... The East Rochester Public Library was opened, formally in May 1922, in a second floor room of the Theatre Building ... Fifteen dollars a month for rent and one dollar for janitor service per week was paid to keep the library in its cubicle space ... A year later the library was moved from its one-flight up home to an Election Booth on West Commercial Street ... This cut down on the overhead as there was no rent to pay, just a ten dollar a month fireman-janitor fee ... The Election Booth was far from satisfactory and in 1924 the library again picked up its books and found a place to put them down at what was known as the M-D Reading-room, then located on East Rochester's Main Street adjacent to the Methodist Church. This one story building was the only one in the Village of great historical significance ... It was built in 1897 as an office for the Vanderbilt Improvement Company ... This company developed the old farm land into building lots and homes and brought new industries to a new Village along the way ... It was in that same building where Sunday services were held at the beginning of East Rochester ... And social parties during the week took place there ... A Community church service with ministers from neighboring villages assisting was held on Sundays ... The social affairs, such as entertainments, dances,

-East Rochester
Public Library-

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card parties all took place in the one story building that housed the East Rochester Library in 1924 ... On Wednesday evenings those early settlers held their mid-week prayer meeting in the same place ... It was not until 1901 when the first church building, the Methodist Church of East Rochester, was dedicated. When the Library settled in their new home in '24, the Trustees and many members of the Community were hopeful of having that historical office building remodeled as a permanent Library Home ... Money was raised and architects plans were drawn ... Then, on careful inspection by the Village Board, it was decided that the building was not worth the alterations as the foundations - girders had rotted and thus weakened the structure ... In 1927, with the Library still being used more and more, the Town Hall was reconstructed into the present Municipal Building and then a light, airy room, on the second floor was provided and the East Rochester Library settled there in September 1929 ... And today, that is where young and old, in search of books for relaxation or knowledge find their way ... The use of that second story room in the Municipal Building is furnished with heat, light and janitor service by the Village ... It is truly a Village project today ... Back there in 1922 the first Trustees appointed to the East Rochester Public Library, on the recommendation of the Welfare League, were Mrs. L.B. Tuttle, Mrs. Thomas Brokenshire, Mrs. Nelson Willoughby, Mrs. Harold Brainers and Mrs. D. E. Nixon ... Mrs. M. G. Whittleton was the first Librarian and has continued in that wonderful work and today she holds a limited certificate as a librarian, based on her many years of faithful service ... Mrs. Tuttle, a member of that original board, still serves as one of the Trustees, and the late Mrs. Brokenshire, who was President of the Board, served all during the years since the Library opened its doors in 1922 ... In 1926, Mrs. B.J. Fryatt was appointed to the Board on resignation of Mrs. Harold Brainers and has since acted as Secretary and Treasurer ... The East Rochester

-East Rochester

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Public Library-

Public Library operates on a provisional charter from the state and receives one-hundred-dollars annually from the state ... When the library first opened its doors, East Rochester was a young, fast growing Commercial Village with a population of nearly 6,000 ... On the shelves of that first upstairs room were a little over a thousand books and during the first three months two thousand borrowers treked up those stairs to get some of those books to take out ... At the last census in 1940 the Villagers of East Rochester numbered over 7000, and along the shelves of the Second Floor Library in the Municipal Building there are 9000 books and some 2000 folks took time to stop and take out a book or two ... Last year the Village of East Rochester allotted the Library 1500 dollars ... The doors are open 26 hours every week, Monday through Saturday, two to five, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, 7 - 9 ... And still, after twenty-six years of service, it is still the hope of the Trustees that some day the East Rochester Public Library may have a first floor location with more room available for a childrens' department ... Today, in addition to the Board members mentioned there are Mrs. William Clay and Mr. Roland McDonald ... A tribute today to all those who have done so much to keep the East Rochester Public Library going and growing in their Community

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

- Webster Public Library-

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
May 5, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

..... Emblazoned over the door of the Webster Central School is the statement made by Daniel Webster, "The intelligence of the people is the security of the nation". Mr. R.L. Thomas, principal of the school, Mr. George Dunn, interested in young people, and Mr. Charles Hadden, who had had library board experience in Marion from whence he came, felt their responsibilities as citizens and desired that the people of Webster should have opportunity for intellectual development. To this end, a petition was made and a special election held which empowered the Town Board to appoint five members to act as a Public Library Board and to raise up to a thousand dollars of public tax for library purposes. The Regents granted a temporary charter. The Town Board appointed Mr. Charles Hadden, Mr. George Dunn, Mr. Sidney Backus, Mrs. Orton Shult, and Mrs. Rubie Morrison as charter board members. The board met and made out a contract which was in turn accepted by the School Board of the Webster High School. The articles of this contract stipulated that two-thirds of the money raised by tax should be spent for books, one-third for salary and supplies. The school librarian, Winifred C. Genung, was appointed to serve both libraries, and the new Webster Public Library opened its door formally April 1, 1929. From the beginning, the business end of the two libraries were separate, the books and service one. The development of the library has been a steady growth. A later special election has widened the power of the Town Board for allocating public funds for library purposes so increased facilities have been

added to the library resources. The community has been served ... Some of the policies as worked out by the Public Library Board included free service, whether members belonged to the township which is the tax unit or to the out-lying territory. Books should be bought with community interest in mind, for recreation, research and self-education. The librarian was advised to work through groups, for example, churches, Eastern Star, Grange, etc., as well as through individuals to extend the use of the library. During its history, the library has sponsored a stamp club, a photography club, work with pre-school children, a great-books group, and a library club. It has been the annual custom of the Webster Literary Club to present to the Library a beautiful book that will fit in the Fine Arts division. Many people in the community have made memorial gifts to keep alive the spirit of those who have lived in Webster. At the present time, the library serves the entire Central School area. Story hours and library instruction are given to all children from pre-school through the ninth year each week. Special reading helps and research training are given to members from the tenth through the twelfth years. The many Mothers' Clubs look to the library for aid in program planning and for material to carry out their programs. The hours of opening of the Webster Public Library are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days, 1:30 - 5:30 and 7:00 - 9:00 on Saturday. During school vacation periods, the library is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday only ... Members of the Webster community are invited to join the great-books group led by Mr. McAdam and Mrs. Lois Welkley on alternate Mondays. If your child plans to attend kindergarten next year, bring him to the pre-school group 10:45 to 11:45 on either Wednesday or Thursday. He will enjoy the pictures, blocks, stories told on records and the library teacher's story as well as games and play with others of his age. If you want a book on gardening or some other hobby, if you want an answer to a reference problem or if you want a good book, come to Webster Public Library or call 248 R.

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
May 12, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Brockport-

..... Thursday along this way means another visit about Books and Libraries in Monroe County and today the spotlight turns to Brockport, New York and singles out The Seymour Library in that thriving Community along the way ... It was in June, the eight day to be exact in 1936 when the Seymour Library of Brockport first opened its doors to the folks who wished to stop by ... A charter to open had been granted on May 15th the same year, just about 13 years ago ...

The building which housed the then new Library was left to the Village of Brockport by the late James H. Seymour, in memory of his father, William H. Seymour, in whose iron works the first 100 successful reapers were made for Cyrus McCormick away back in 1846 ... The building, the Seymour Family home, located at 49 State Street in Brockport, was left to the Village to be used for Library purposes only ... An additional sum of 15 thousand dollars went with the generous bequest ... In the original organization The Board of Directors was made up of Mrs. J.T. Cusick as President. Mrs. Cusick since has moved to Hammondsport, New York ... Harold A. Richards was the first VP ... Kendrick Smith, now of Newark, was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Brockport Seymour Library and Mrs. F. Craig Branley, now of Morton, New York and Joseph K. Ryan, completed the Board ... Mrs. Arthur Collier was the Librarian when open house was held on June 8, 1936 ... At that time Brockport boasted some 3500 souls, 860 of them registered as patrons of the Library and at the end of 1936 Seymour Library had on its homey shelves over 1200 volumes ..

-Brockport-

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And the folks really did some reading for Mrs. George Bott, now President of the Board, tells me that nearly nine thousand books were circulated ... The basic book stock came from what had been the Brockport Library, a rental library --- In 1946 there were two milestone celebrations in Brockport -- The Seymour Library was ten years of age and a mighty healthy youngster, and the centennial of the successful manufacture of the reaper in Seymour and Morgan Iron Works took place on June 13, 1946, with the presentation of an outdoor flagpole by the Harsch-Crisp-Seaman, American Legion Post ... A book plate designed for use in gift books was reproduced with the emblem of that first reaper appropriately suggesting that the history of the library is linked with this invention, and that from books readers may reap pleasure and profit . Today, besides Mrs. Bott, the Board is made up of Mrs. Harold J. Collins, VP; Edgar Benedict has taken Ken Smith's place as Secretary-Treasurer and Joe Ryan and Harold Richards are still active ... Miss Monica Toole, BA, Nazareth College, Rochester and BS in Library Science, Albany State Teachers College, is now the Librarian at Seymour ... Brockport has grown a bit in numbers of folks living along its shaded streets ... The Library patronage has more than doubled, the volumes now number over 76 hundred and the books circulated last year well over 26 thousand ... In the long list of gifts of equipment, besides the Legion, such Community minded organizations as the Catholic Daughters of America, the DAR, the Fire Department; Kiwanis Club, Quaker-Maid Company; WCTU have been of great help ... Townspeople have contributed many books ... The Redman Memorial Fund established in memory of Richard Redman, who lost his life in the service of his country, provides free reading material for the children of pre-school age of Clarkson ... Each Christmas, under the slogan, "Give the whole Town a Christmas Gift", many books are given the Library and a card bearing the book title and the donor's name is hung on the Christmas

Tree at Seymour Library ... This haven for books and good reading in the Village of Brockport is supported by the taxpayers, plus the income from the Seymour endowment fund ... It is patronized by residents and non-residents ... The latter pay a nominal fee of one dollar per year and come from the towns of Sweden, Hamlin, Parma, Ogden, Murray, Kendall and Albion ... Special reading clubs for youngsters of grammar school age are a part of the summer schedule at Seymour ... Assistance in program planning for groups, such as History, Church and Parents Clubs, is given generously ... Seymour Library of Brockport gladly extends the courtesy of its services to all State Teachers College Students and Miss Toole has always been of great assistance in aiding these students in research ... The same fine assistance is given all school students. Future plans for this most effective Library includes the expansion of the physical plant ... Seymour Library of Brockport, New York is doing a good job for its folks and those same folks surely must appreciate what an opportunity has been given them and how they are helping to carry on the operation of their own Library, a vital part of any Community

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
May 19, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Penfield-

..... And Thursday morning means another story of Books and Libraries, and the men and women and communities which make them possible ... Just a few miles from where I am sitting, as the crow flies, is the Village of Penfield. Named after Daniel Penfield, who bought the land out that way in 1810, today's visitor finds a charming Hamlet along the way and many families who live within its limits commute daily to their business or profession in Rochester ... One of the newer enterprises in Penfield is the Library which has been in operation since 1942 ... About 7,000 books are borrowed at the Library each year from the building situated on Penfield Road, just beyond the traffic light at the four corners ... The Penfield Library is operated entirely with volunteer help and during the seven years of its existence there hasn't been a paid worker ... The folks in Penfield who wanted so much to have a Library in their Community, gathered in contributions of money and books to get a start ... Today the Penfield Community Chest helps some in maintaining the Library ... Through the efforts of the Volunteer workers, who have done so much for so many Communities, the Library is growing at a rapid pace ... Those volunteers have done about everything to keep the Penfield Library a growing success ... They have gone all out for Community support, they have stood by long hours as Volunteer Librarians, they have painted the shelves and magazine racks, they have purchased and catalogued books, making the Penfield Library an attractive and comfortable place to stop ... The folks of Penfield may well

-Penfield-

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be proud of the volunteer librarians of their Community ... Mrs. Fred Wilbur as head librarian at Penfield deserves a great deal of credit for the progress of the Library ... She has generously given many, many hours of her time in promoting interest, taking care of details and helping the Library work go smoothly ... Others have given as generously of their time acting on the Library Board for terms of two years or more ... There is Robert Thompson, William Foster, Mrs. Vernon Clark, Mrs. Richard Wilson, Mrs. Edwin Fisher, Mrs. John Hall, Mrs. Schuyler Baldwin, Mrs. Arthur Harris, Warren Cannon, Mrs. Robert Thompson, Claude Lewis and Mrs. Christine Punnett ... Besides these Board members there are 35 volunteer librarians who work two or more hours each month ... As a reference Library - Penfield's Book Headquarters is steadily growing ... Encyclopedias, dictionaries, bound National Geographics with Guides are available. The Rochester Historical Publications are constantly on file plus other fine volumes on History and Literature ... The children's books are among the finest collections in any Library and are in daily use ... For adult reading, Penfield Library offers a fine selection of the newest books, fiction and non-fiction, handicrafts, art, nature and even aid for the decorating of the homes along the way ... It was just last year that Penfield Library brought attention to itself and its Community by sponsoring an Art Exhibition in which Penfield Artists were given a chance to exhibit their work and that exhibit proved such a success that the affair will become annual and will include handicrafts as well ... Praise goes to Claude Lewis for the idea of the Arts Exhibit and the supervision of the event ... With the rapid growth of Penfield, the Library will expand accordingly and it is the hope of Penfield book-lovers that in the near future there will be a new Library Building with all facilities to fit the book needs of the Community ... And that's part of the story of another Library in Monroe County, where hard work and faithful

-Penfield-

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service to a volunteer cause has given the Community of Penfield, just down the road a piece, an added gathering place of which each resident can well be proud ... And I'm grateful to Muriel Anderson, Secretary of the Library Board in Penfield, for sending my way the story of the Penfield Library ... !.. ... Next week the Library spotlight will fall on "The Farmer's Library Company of the Town of Ogden"

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ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
May 26, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Ogden Library-

..... First item today i... The story of "The Farmers' Library Company of the Town of Ogden, Monroe County, USA And this story, sent my way by Ada M. Cosgrove of Spencerport, is one of the most fascinating tales of books and libraries I have ever read ---- And it may well start, --"Once upon a time ... For shortly after the turn of the 19th Century"

The Farmers' Library Company of the
Town of Ogden

Shortly after the Turn of the 19th Century, people began to settle in what is now the town of Ogden. Many came from New England, among them the Willeys, the Websters, the Freemans, the Gridleys, the Colbys, the Browns, the Flaggs, the Spencers, the Brighams, to mention a few families whose many descendants still reside in the town. They established the first school in 1807, the first church, the Presbyterian Church at Ogden Centre, in 1811, and in 1815 before Monroe was a county, before Rochester was a village, before the present town of Ogden had been formed from the south part of the town of Parma, some of these men established the Farmers' Library Company.

The library has no records prior to 1901 but in one of the books from the old library is written the following:

No. 1 Property of the Farmers' Library Company. Original value
of each share \$2.00

No. 2 Regulations: a) Annual election of Trustees - first Tuesday in

-Ogden Library-

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February. b) Quarterly meetings of Trustees and General Return Days, first Tuesday in February, May, August and November.

c) No book to be kept out of the library longer than the General Returning Days, 12 o'clock noon of each day, and may be returned or drawn on any day, (Sunday excepted) between the General Return Days. -- dated, February 1808, Parma

John T. Trowbridge who was born on what is now called the Nichols Road, south of Spencerport, said in a letter written in 1902 for the Ogden Centennial -"My father was one of the stockholders in the library company. I remember with special satisfaction and with life long gratitude, the circulating library kept in a store at Ogden Centre It must have been a very small library, but for me it held infinite richness history, poetry, romance, the wonder realm of thought to at least one boy of twelve or fourteen! I dare not now attempt to say how much I owe to that small but well chosen collection of books"

The library flourished. In 1833 James Wadsworth of Geneseo deeded two acres of land on the west side of Union Street near Ogden Centre to the Trustees of the Farmers' Library Company. The President of the Board at that time was William B. Brown then County Judge. The library has a copy of that deed.

The library must have declined after that, perhaps because the Erie Canal had drawn population and business from the Centre to Spencerport, but the organization was kept alive. In 1902 Ogden celebrated its Centennial, and this event together with the J.T. Trowbridge letter quoted above, revived interest in the re-organization of the library. Chauncey Brainard, then school commissioner of Monroe County, E.E. Austin, F.N. Webster, H.D. Burritt, J.C. Pierce and F.W. Spencer were leaders in this effort. When the present

Village Building was erected in 1907-1908 a petition was presented to the Village Board asking that room be provided for the library, and this petition was granted. A temporary charter was obtained from the State Education Department and this was made permanent in 1910. Funds were obtained in various ways. A record of April, 1908, states that "Mr. C. Brainard and Mr. F.A. Freeman be a committee to solicit members and funds to maintain the library". The record of March, 1909, mentions the "receipt of \$65.50 from an entertaining and instructive lecture by Professor R. Clark". Many books as well as pieces of furniture were donated by residents and former residents of the town and by organizations. The record of November 21, 1908 expresses the thanks of the library trustees for seventy volumes sent by Mr. James Dill, the great corporation lawyer of New York City, whose boyhood had been spent in Spencerport, where his father was pastor of the Congregational church for many years. Mr. Henry Martyn Brigham, also a former resident, contributed a complete set of Dickens. Mr. H. Alden Nichols, Election Commissioner, gave sixty volumes of the "World's Greatest Literature." The first committee to purchase books consisted of Professor Ernest Clark, Judge George A. Benton, Mr. R.A. Kneeland, Miss Harriet Moore, and the first librarian, Mrs. Louise Wilcox.

The first president of the Board of Trustees after reorganization was Chauncey Brainard who served until 1913. He was succeeded by State Supreme Court Justice George A. Benton who held that office until his death in 1921. In 1915 the library celebrated its Centennial. A dinner was served to nearly four hundred people. Judge Benton introduced the speakers, William Yust, librarian of the Rochester Public Library, Judge John D. Lynn, and Professor Slater of the University of Rochester. (The tickets for this banquet were thirty-five cents for one, or three for one dollar!) --

Mrs. Louise Wilcox, the first librarian was followed by Miss Carolyn Bush,

and Miss Harriet Moore succeeded her. In 1916, Mrs. Mina Lapp became librarian and continued in that capacity until compelled to resign because of ill health in 1946, a record of thirty years of loyal, competent service. The present librarian is Miss Marion Carpenter.

The library has been closed since the fire which damaged the Village Building in December, 1948. No books were burned but the heat, water and chemicals have damaged the books so they can no longer be circulated. Repairs on the Village Building are being completed, and the trustees hope that soon the residents of the Town of Ogden may again enjoy the services of their library

And that's the story of The Farmers' Library Company of the Town of Ogden, Monroe County, USA ... Next week the Main Street Spotlight will fall on the Fairport Public Library

LINCOLN ROCHESTER
TRUST COMPANY

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
June 2, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Fairport Public Library-

..... And today thanks to Mrs. Mason C. Gaffney, there is a story to tell of
The Public Library at Fairport, New York -----

"This is not so much a dated record of the life of a library as it is a simple setting forth of the surroundings and atmospheres of a collection of books which grew along the walls of the upper hall of what was first a Tavern standing on the banks of the Erie Canal at Fullam's Basin, as it was called in the 1820's ... These same few books travelled along with the Tavern when it was moved some ten blocks east to become the home of the Dickinson family, as well as the home of the embryo library. From that time -early in the 19th century- until March 5, 1938, when the books became permanently housed in the present building at 18 Perrin Street, the life of the library was turbulent -- many moves, arguments as to its final location, and even one year without a librarian ... A provisional charter which was issued from the University of the State of New York in June 1896, makes the Fairport Public Library one of the oldest in the State, as well as one of the three or possibly four remaining School District Libraries. Ten years later, in 1906, the permanent charter was issued -one of the approving State examiners being Mr. William Yust who afterwards became the librarian of the Rochester Public Library ... Due to the generous gift of Mr. Robert Douglas, of 500 shares of General Foods stock, along with \$8057.00, the funds in the treasury of the Perinton Patriotic League (War Chest - World War I), the present library building was

built and ready for occupancy on March 5, 1938 ... The plans for the building were drawn by Mr. Henry Martin, architect, of Fairport and approved by the government as a W.P.A. project. The design of the building is suggested by the southern colonial development - with white columned portico, leaded glass fanlight in the recessed doorway, and the soft tones of Virginia brick made from the same clay as was used in the University of Virginia and the historic city of Williamsburg ... The interior arrangement consists of two parts: the meeting room and attendant conveniences in the basement, which is reached from a separate doorway in the vestibule, and the library proper on the main floor. The entrances to both are from an oak-panelled vestibule on one side of which is inscribed, in gold letters, the following dedication: "This building is dedicated to those of this community who served in the World War, 1917-1918. This tribute was made possible by the cooperation of the Perinton Patriotic League and the generosity of Robert Douglas". ... At the left inside the entrance, stairs lead down to a meeting room, capable of seating 150 people, with removable stage at one end and a space for a motion picture screen, and an adjoining small compact kitchen. This room is used for many civic activities such as hobby shows; scout activities; historical club meetings; art classes and displays; lectures and teas ... On the main floor of the library proper is the librarian's desk in the front center, with children's room on the south side and the adult reading room on the north. Directly behind the librarian's desk is the reference room, lighted by a wide bay window overlooking the school campus and panelled in the natural finish of American cherry, with davenport and chairs upholstered in red and blue leather ... Above the entrance to the reference room and directly opposite the front door is a mural painting done by the well known Fairport artist Carl Peters. It is designed for Fairport, indicating as it does

something of the early settlement, and tying this to the present by the identification of industries and objects which are familiar to us. It shows a sturdy people busy on the gently rolling countryside indicative of this section, in the distance the building of the Great Embankment over the valley to the west of Fairport, the canal at the Main Street crossing and some of the old buildings which are still standing at that point ... From a beginning with one bookcase of books and an appropriation of \$50.00, the library now houses 13,500 books and has an appropriation of \$3800.00 which is augmented by gifts such as; \$5000.00 and his personal collection of books willed by the late Fred Potter; \$1000.00 by the late Mrs. Eva Jewell; the Fairport Historical Club for the past 65 years has made an annual donation of \$100.00. The circulation for 1948 shows a total of 32,000...In 1938 a group of Fairport citizens undertook a library drive in order to replace many of the shabby and out-dated books of the old collection so that the shelves could be well equipped when the new building was opened. Under the capable leadership of Mr. E.R. Fisk a committee was formed and a book fund of over \$3,000.00 was collected ... The "Memorial Book Shelf" idea was introduced by the librarian when a fund of \$230.00 was contributed by the friends and associates of the late G.P. Moody, to create a memorial consisting of books whose subject matter had been of interest to Mr. Moody. Since that time the book shelf has been enriched by many volumes given in memory of civic minded Fairporters. Such titles as - History of American Biography, Medical Dictionary, Encyclopedia Britannica, are in this collection ... The library is open every day except Sundays and Holidays and is supervised by a trained librarian, Mrs. Mason Gaffney, an assistant, Mrs. Tom Pierce, and a High School student as "page" ... Miss Helen DeLand, who served as librarian for many years had a great influence on the intellectual life of the village. Her devotion was untiring

as was that of Mrs. George Price who acted as chairman of the Board for many years. The present trustees are; E.R. Fisk, Chairman, Miss Charlotte Clapp, Mrs. Carlton Maurhofer; Mr. Stanley DuBurck and Mr. Eric Hall

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MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
June 9, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Rush Library-

..... Thursday means another visit to one of Monroe County's Libraries, those delightful places where folks meet to browse in search of good books for entertainment, education and recreation ... Today it is the Rush Library ... But first, a bit of background of this pleasant Hamlet along the way ... The township of Rush lies in the Honeoye Creek Valley, an area of fertile fields where crop failures are almost unknown ... Rush has within its boundries the settlements of Rush, West Rush and Five Points ... The region is rich in Indian lore, and many artifacts, some antedating the Ironquoian occupancy, have been excavated. The drumlins of this area were cultivated by the Indians centuries before the coming of the white man
... .. Two stories are told about the naming of the town of Rush. Some people like this story best: The Town of Rush, according to an item from the Honeoye Falls Times in 1926, was so named from the great growth of Rushes along the Genesee River and the Honeoye Creek. Others believed it to have been named for Dr. Benjamin Rush. At any rate, the Town of Rush has been more than generously endowed with rich rolling farmlands. From many places views of the Bristol-Hills and the winding Honeoye Creek makes the change of seasons a constant delight ... The library in Rush is an attractive room in the Rush Town Hall. The town hall, like the song from Oklahoma is "busting out all over" with the many town activities. However, unlike the song, which speaks only of spring - the town hall is busting out all over from year's

beginning until year's end. While the library today is a collection of 7,000 or so books and three dozen weekly and monthly magazines, in 1913 there was no public library in Rush ... An enterprising group, known then as now as the Ingleside Club called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a library. Miss Caroline Webster, library organizer from Albany, presided, Out of that meeting came the Rush Free Library Association. A board of trustees was elected and a constitution drawn up and adopted. An auspicious beginning, but much hard work and planning lay ahead before the opening day, February 12, 1914. The library was opened with about 600 volumes on the shelves. They had been acquired by gift, by purchase and many were given by the state. The shelves for the new library were made by T.W. Hallock, and a hanging lamp was given by Wayland Keyes. Entertainments were presented in the early years of the library under the careful tutelage of Miss Bessie Hallock, for the purpose of raising money for library maintenance. When the library was located on the second floor of the Shermon Block, now owned by Ray Bock, Mrs. Longfellow tells us of the effort involved, in winter especially, of getting the library ready for the patrons. She tells of the climb up the long dark stairs, lighted by that sturdy predecessor of the flashlight, the lantern; then the chore of building the fire and getting, with great difficulty, one's hands clean without water on the premises. We all accept the volunteer efforts of our fellow citizens automatically, but the long period of service that Mrs. Jennie Longfellow has given the library in Rush deserves particular attention. She was elected a trustee and vice-president in 1915. In 1920 she was elected President and served in that capacity through 1947. Now Vice-President again, she lends her wise support to all the trustees. The quality of such loyal and conscientious service is difficult to estimate in the every day world of dollars and cents. The other library trustees are Mrs. Schuyler White, Treasurer; Mrs. Wm. Fyle,

Secretary and Mrs. Thomas Quinn and Mrs. James R. Sebaste. The Chairman of the Book Selection Committee is Mrs. William Lambert. Mrs. Byron Williams along with two of the trustees, Mrs. Fyle and Mrs. Sebaste make up the book committee. Our pleasant librarian, one of several who has served down through the years, is Miss Dora Lonthair. Some of the names instrumental in getting the library off to a good start are names long familiar to the people of Rush, - Sherman, Hallock, Martin, Hayes, Keyes, Leary, Graves, Wiles, Brooks, Krenzer, Markham, Puffer, Dryer, as well as others who have served the library in some capacity. There is always a fine selection of current books at hand and a variety of magazines from Harpers Monthly to Seventeen. On the limited budget of two hundred dollars yearly the Book Committee must attempt to please many people. From the little pre-primary readers who come in with their parents, as well as their older brothers and sisters, all must be considered carefully. Not only must the age and the sex of the readers be factors in book selection but the varied interests and preferences of all must be taken into consideration. In addition to the books purchased there are occasional gifts of books. Fifty books are borrowed from the state library for three month periods. This, of course, greatly adds to the list of current books available to the readers, of course all library trustees are indebted to the state field librarians to whom local libraries may turn for help and advice ... The Rush Library serves as a meeting place for other Rush organizations as the Garden Club and Health Committee and the 4-H Club. This room of book-filled shelves and warm colored draperies makes a delightful place to meet ... With the cooperation of the Rush Town Board, from whom we receive seven hundred and fifty dollars annually to maintain the library and with the work of the library trustees, the Rush Free Library has become attractive in appearance and has shelves filled with books both entertaining and informative ... The trustees of the library are

looking forward to an ever expanding program of service to the town. We hope that some listeners will wish to offer their volunteer services to the library because help is always needed and appreciated

The Rush Library is pleased to have this opportunity and privilege first, to pay tribute to the many fine people who have given their time, effort, and money for the development and maintenance of the library, and secondly for the opportunity to call attention to the people of Rush, especially newcomers to Rush, that the Rush Library stands ready to serve all of its people throughout the year

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MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
June 16, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

- Scottsville Free Library-

..... First today, listen with me for a moment to the recorded chimes of
"America, the Beautiful" -----

----- At seven o'clock each week day evening the Hamlet of Scottsville echoes to the music of Carillon Chimes ... Sometimes a patriotic air - often a well known Hymn, or perhaps a simple early American tune, floats out over the Town .. And as the folks sit and listen, they know that the chime music is coming from the Scottsville Free Library and were given to them as part of a Memorial to the men of Scottsville who served their country in time of war, and particularly to those who gave their lives ... It is a time of remembrance as the sounds of the Village activities are hushed - and the way of life in this country is appreciated anew ... Hope is revived and the urge for redoubled effort for lasting peace to keep faith with the men whom the chimes honor ... As the sound of the Chimes from the Amplifiers on the roof of the Library fade away one might enter the building and be delighted with the dignity and friendly simplicity of the large high vaulted library room, the converted auditorium, where in former years, before the advent of cars, the people of the Community were want to gather for entertainment ... This feeling of Community interest still remains ... Here may be found United Nations Bulletins, and inspirational material to help individuals in their effort to perpetuate the democratic way of life ... The walls within the Library are lined with books to satisfy the tastes of both the casual and discriminating reader ... All this made possible

by the vision and generous support of the founder of the Reading Room for Children, 37 years ago - Mrs. Etta Fraser Miller ... The first library west of the Genesee River was the old, Wheatland Farmers' Library, founded in 1805 and located in Scottsville until 1810 ... Some books which were part of the Wheatland Farmers' Library were acquired by the Rush Rhees Library of the University of Rochester, from the John Z. Garbutt family of Wheatland and from Frank Garbutt ... A pioneer member of the Garbutt Family is said to have brought to Wheatland, on foot, a collection of these books from Canandaigua ... Following that early beginning, for more than a hundred years, the Village possessed no public reading center, until the summer of 1912, when a privately supported Free Reading Room was opened under the auspices of the Village Improvement Society with Miss Sophia Miller as chairman of the Reading Room Committee ... Miss Ida Chambers was in charge of that reading room and was assisted by Miss Agnes Kelly ... Miss Chambers served as Librarian from 1912 until 1943 and her kindly spirit endeared her to all ... Many in Scottsville today owe to her their interest in good books ... Back around 1915-16 the Annual report showed that over 4,000 folks had stopped by the reading room to browse through the some 500 books ... The quarters were small, only one room in the beginning, which was rented for a dollar a week ... Current periodicals, for both adults and children were offered at first, with the room open each week-day afternoon and evening ... The response of the undertaking was such that in a few months a shelf of current books was added and the Library was on its way ... Four years later the State Library granted a charter and in 1916 the Scottsville Free Library came into its own ... The first Trustees were:- Miss Miller, President aided by Mrs. W.H. Garbutt and Miss Ruth Hanford ... By 1918 the Library had outgrown its one room and again the Village Improvement Society came to the rescue with three additional rooms, which were fitted up to

-Scottsville Free Library- -33

resemble an inviting home library, rather than a conventional public library ... For nearly twenty years these rooms served the Community ... Then, as always happens with successful projects, the Library became so over crowded with books, the readers could no longer be properly served ... In 1935 the Village Improvement Society, having become inactive, deeded its building to the Library and shortly afterward the Village of Scottsville, The School District voted to tax themselves for a share in the Library's support ... Up to this time the entire expense, except for the rooms, had been met by R.T. Miller, Jr ... With the building at its disposal, the Trustees began planning to convert the big downstairs auditorium to library uses, which was finally accomplished in 1937 ... Though funds were limited, it was possible, with the help of comfortable easy chairs, tables, lamps. pictures and other homey furnishings, against the background of booklined walls, to create in the big room a definitely inviting, homelike center which would serve the whole Township for years to come ... Gifts from many friends have greatly added to the Library's attractiveness ... These include a beautiful painting by Mr. James Timmins of the "Old Garbutt Mill" long an historical landmark, out Scottsville way ... Just two years ago the Library was given its Memorial Chimes by Mr. Miller ... Inside, today, besides the comfortable atmosphere for easy reading, the North wall of the big, comfortable room is panelled in light oak and as part of the Memorial, every name, that could possibly be obtained, is inscribed thereon, from the five who served in the Revolution, the 70 in the war of 1812, down to the 231 who left Scottsville in World War Two ... 543 names in all ... On either side of the Memorial Panels are two silk Flags, standing in silent tribute to those who went out from their home town

Not only does the Scottsville Free Library serve its own, but it takes its mission to neighboring communities ... Mumford, just down the road a piece, has

a flourishing branch where Mrs. Ruth Weigel is the librarian and a devoted one. Mumford's branch is located in the Town Hall, and although only four hours are scheduled a week, Mrs. Weigel, with her devotion to Library work, on her own time, opens the library whenever she can to allow readers to have access to the books and magazines ... Other communities, near-by Scottsville stop by to borrow books, and that service is, and always has been, free to any and all who like to read ... Truly the Scottsville Free Library is the Community Center of the Village ... Every effort is made to make it attractive to children and adults ... Story hours attract the very young, and the early evening hours bring groups of older boys and girls to sit about the large inviting magazine table where their favorite periodical can be found ... Each year there is an open house for the High School folks, with the Faculty as special guests ... Close cooperation between the School and the Library is maintained ... Through the years the young people of the Village have gathered around the Christmas Tree in the Library's front yard to sing their Carols ... Last Christmas the Girl Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. Carey Brown, erected a tree in front of the Library Building, which was lighted each evening, and which was the focal point for all to come and sing the songs of the season ... Down through the years, many have aided the cause of this, another home of books in Monroe County ... Time does not permit me to name them all - but all have done their bit, to aid the building, of not a building, but a Community Center, where good books are featured ... Today's Trustees are Mrs. Melvin Coon, Mrs. Romeyn Dunn, Mrs. Ernest Riemer, Mrs. Deloss Boutwell, Mrs. Eugene Brown; President, Mrs. John Esterheld, Treasurer; and Mrs. Dewey Sawyer, Secretary ... Understanding assistance is always available at the Scottsville Free Library, by either of today's Librarians, Mrs. Elizabeth Boutwell and Mrs. Mary Baillie ... All who enter the Scottsville Library sense the feeling of friendliness and at eventide,

-Scottsville Free Library- -35

"In Memoriam" The Chimes ring out over the Village ---

----Chimes in background----

I'm grateful to Miss Miller and to Mrs. R.W. Brown, for the story of another Library along the way --- Next week, I'll stop and chat with you awhile about The Pittsford Library

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MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
June 23, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Pittsford Community Library-

..... It was on October 7, 1939 when the Village of Pittsford celebrated its sesqui-centennial and the attractive booklet telling the story of 150 years of progress, carried on its front page a picture of a small frame building with caption, -"The First Library in Monroe County, Pittsford-Mendon Center Road, Pittsford, New York ... And so it seems appropriate that the final story in the Main Street Line of the Air series of County Libraries for this season, should be the oldest Library in the County ... That sesqui-centennial at Pittsford ten years ago was dedicated to Simon and Israel Stone and all those hardy souls who with them settled, "Township Twelve Range Five" -- Mrs. Frank W. Puglsey wrote a toast to the founders of Pittsford, which went like this:- "Let us offer a toast to the Pioneers, who founded this town for us. We owe them much, for they blazed the trail into the Wilderness ... Through the forest of maple, beech and elm, wherein were trails that the Redmen knew, steadily they hewed their way, and built for the future, strong and true ... Shaping their homes from the woodland trees, wresting their bread from the virgil soil, in this beautiful Pittsford we know today we see the fruit of their patient toil ... Now civilization keeps her onward march, and much we have of which they had no ken, God grant that with it all we keep alive the spirit of these dauntless women and men" ----- The historical story of Pittsford shows that the First Library in the Country was established back in 1803, in the home of Ezra Patterson who acted as Librarian -- There were forty subscribers, dues -

were one dollar a year ... The old Patterson House is still standing at the foot of Tobey Hill along the Mendon Center Road with a state marker calling attention to its significance ... That first Home of Books established in a family home was called the Northfield Library Company and existed as such until 1809 ... That was really before Pittsford was known as such, but Northfield ... From 1809 to 1834 there is no record concerning library activities in Pittsford ... Then the Monroe County Clerk's Office recorded the incorporation of the Pittsford Social Library ... Again the records are obscure until about 1852 when an account book of the Village entitled, "School District Number Six, December 11, 1852, Thomas Gillam, Librarian", which indicates that books were loaned from the school library to at least 120 people and Librarian Gillam carefully listed each name who had an account with the book "home" ... The Pittsford Book Club was organized in 1890, but was sort of an exclusive affair being limited to 20 members, each of whom was pledged to buy two new books annually and to pay annual dues of one dollar ... The books, for a time, were passed from member to member with great regularity ... Then in 1920 The Pittsford Community Library came into being and things looked up for book lovers in Pittsford ... Mrs. Joseph R. Malone and Miss Una Hutchinson started the present Library at that time by borrowing some 50 books from the Library Extension Division of New York State ... First the quarters were located in the grocery store of George Thomas, but the growth of the Library was so great that it interfered with the grocery business and other quarters had to be found ... And so it went until 1924 when The Pittsford Community Library moved into a small house on Main Street to remain comfortably situated for fourteen years ... A charter was forthcoming from the State ... That 14 year home was rented to the Library by Mrs. Harriette Carpenter, whose father, William Acer, was one of the original of the Northfield Library ... In 1929 Mrs. Margaret Lusk took up

the task of Librarian and has worked faithfully at her duties ever since ... The record of its Community Library enterprise is one of which Pittsford may well be proud ... From 50 volumes in 1920 in one small room, to modern, efficient management and a paid Librarian with many books along its shelves by 1937 ... However, there was more work ahead for the Pittsford Community Library ... On a Thursday, the 13th of December in 1937 a very significant event took place in Pittsford ... The invitation read, -"To attend the dedication of The Charles Hastings Wiltsie Memorial Building, the new home of the Pittsford Library"... This great step in Pittsford was made possible by Mrs. Harold L. Field ... The Memorial Building was the home of her father, Charles Hastings Wiltsie, the man in whose honor the building was named, and its dedication for library use by his daughter was particularly fitting in view of Mr. Wiltsie's lifelong interest in letters, and the fact that he was a charter member of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Public Library and, for the last fifteen years of his life, its President ... Today the visitor to the Pittsford Community Library will see the beautiful Memorial Room, known as the Assembly Hall ... The Reading Room has been done over to blend with the atmosphere of a place for homelike reading ... There is a room for Board meetings, or other Community gatherings ... Truly, here is a Community Library indeed, a Library built from its beginning to last -- A Library which began before the Village and through the far-sightedness of many and the generosity of its citizens, presents to the Pittsford home-maker and to those who visit the Village along the canal, a satisfying conclusion of individual and community enterprise ... It is indeed fitting that the memory of one of its most distinguished citizens, Charles Hastings Wiltsie, shall always be preserved in the Community he served so well ... To complete this story of another Library along the way, I'd like to leave with you, what to me also sort of sums up the stories of the past

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three months, to leave with you the verse, inscribed on a plaque hanging in the Children's Room, a verse taken from Mr. Wiltsie's papers which I'm sure reflects his oft-expressed interest in making boys and girls acquainted with GOOD BOOKS ... "Books are keys to wisdom's treasure, books are gates to lands of pleasure, books are paths that upward lead, books are friends, come, let us read"

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MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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FROM--

Al Sisson's "MAIN STREET" Broadcast
June 30, 1949 7:30 a.m. WHAM

-Advantages of a County
Library System-

..... It was last April 14, a Thursday morning, when I began a series of stories about libraries in Monroe County ... Eleven such stories completed the series ... And today I'd like to sort of sum up an idea that came my way when I started this series, and one that has been developed in other counties throughout New York State ... and Ohio Today's story concerning books and libraries comes from out Ohio way and gives us The Advantages of a County Library System

"Excerpt from Proposed Statement of Policy Governing the Administration of
The Cuyahoga County Public Library"

"Advantages of a County Library System"

"The advantages are those that result from greatly increased resources, coordination and cooperation. Just as a consolidated school is stronger than a number of separate, small schools, so is a county library stronger than a number of separate, small libraries.

"First and foremost comes the advantage of pooled book resources, the county library developing a large reservoir of books from which all community branch and school libraries may borrow. There are tens of thousands of books which are wanted only occasionally in any community. Under the county library system they can be borrowed when they are asked for by a reader. Duplication of titles is minimized, with consequent savings in book funds and in storage space. From the central book reservoir, also, large groups of books may be borrowed constantly by each component library and returned with the library wishes. This makes it possible to have considerable variety in the various smaller libraries, for fresh stock can be added as frequently as wanted. Also from this central book reservoir the requests for information can be met. The person who wants to know how to make something or how to do something, or who needs information for a speech or a club paper, or who wants information for any reason can secure it from the central library when the community branches or school libraries do not have sufficient information. The book pool, then,

-Advantages of a County
Library System-

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is a major advantage of a county library system.

"The advantages of quantity purchasing also prevail. By pooling book orders so that many copies of a book are ordered at one time, the best discounts are secured. This means economy.

"Centralized cataloging of books is another important advantage. Cataloging consists essentially of preparing cards to represent each book in the card catalog or card file which serves as an index to the books in a library. Independent libraries have to prepare cards for their catalogs, involving many hours of concentrated technical work and typing every week. A county library can do this work centrally, utilizing a multigraph machine to duplicate sets of cards electrically at little extra cost per set after the first set has been worked out. Having the cataloging done centrally frees local community and school libraries of endless routine work and frees the librarians for direct service to the public. Similar advantages accrue from central processing of books, which covers steps involved in preparing new books for circulation: pasting pockets in the backs of books, preparing charging cards, stamping in each book the name of the library that owns each book, and gilding the proper number on the outside cover of each volume. After all this detail work is done centrally, new books reach local libraries ready for the shelves.

"Another very great advantage of a county library is the provision of specialists in various types of library work. A central book repair department, for instance, can employ workers whose specialty is repairing books. All branch and school libraries can send books to Headquarters for expert repair at any time. This prolongs the life of books and makes for more inviting libraries because the books are in good repair.

"A specialist in children's work is available to help plan for building local collections of the most worth-while children's books and to help organize library activities for children, in school as well as in community libraries.

"Similarly, a specialist in adult education can lead the way to adult discussion groups and film forums, and aid branch libraries in sponsoring Great Books groups and guided reading. A publicity director can prepare book lists and newspaper and radio material to keep the public informed about what the libraries have to offer. Only rarely can smaller, independent libraries have the aid of specialists.

"Also available centrally for member libraries is an expert reference librarian to find the information wanted from the central book collection, and library administrators with broad backgrounds of experience to counsel local librarians on library problems with which they become concerned.

"Besides books, mounted pictures (much borrowed by schools), and a wide selection of pamphlets are available centrally. Audio-visual equipment (moving picture projector, film strip projector, and phonograph) is available for loan by the libraries for story hours, discussion groups, or other programs.

"Supplies, both library and maintenance, are furnished centrally at lowest cost. Business and personnel records are also kept centrally, and centralized purchasing secures the best possible prices on equipment.

-Advantages of a County
Library System-

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"Delivery service of books and other materials to all member libraries is provided centrally, so there is regular weekly delivery and pick-up service to every school and community branch.

"The advantages of a county library system, then, are the greatly increased book resources, the savings of time and money that result from central ordering, and cataloging, and repairing of books, central purchasing and business records, pick-up and delivery service, and the help of specialists in various fields of modern library practice. This means more books for each community, economy in personnel, and more freedom from routine for community and school librarians with a consequent increase in time available to help the readers themselves. "Going it alone" as a smaller library inevitably limits needlessly the resources and activities their publics could be enjoying when such libraries could be part of a stronger county library system, just as small schools cannot provide for their students the variety and quality of education that a larger, consolidated school can."

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Al Sisson--



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