

## A LIBRARY OF SOME FORM IN HENNIKER, THE EARLY YEARS

On November 30, 1803 an act to incorporate the proprietors of the Social Library of Henniker was passed. Joshua Darling, Robert Wallace, Jacob Rice, and Jonas Bowman therefore became the founders of the first library in Henniker.<sup>1</sup> Comprised of the prominent men of town, it contained 170 volumes; considered a large number for those days. It was housed in the dining room and kitchen of Elias Gould behind the Congregational Church. Patrons used the library on Sundays between church services, often times coming to the library to warm up as the church was not heated. The association was disbanded in 1833 when the church burned and services were relocated a distance from the Gould house.<sup>2</sup> In 1866 another library association was formed serving the many young ladies and gentlemen of town, it was supported by donations, levees, and purchases. "Although quite prosperous for a while, it soon saw the need of a fund to assist it...for the want of which the association became extinct, and the books were scattered."<sup>3</sup>

On September 28, 1888 Miss Mary Washburn, of Pine Farm of Newton MA<sup>4</sup>, having in charge several boys of that institution placed in different families in Henniker, expressed in a letter to Mrs. E. Maria Cogswell of Henniker, a desire that a reading club be formed in Henniker. Washburn offered if suitable encouragement were given, to furnish some books, papers, and magazines, provided the people of Henniker would furnish a portion likewise. Mrs. Cogswell immediately became interested in the project.

"Through her own initiative Mrs. Cogswell in 1889 enrolled nearly two hundred citizens of Henniker in an organization for the founding of a library, solicited funds and books for the purpose, and succeeded in awakening sufficient public interest to induce the voters of the town at their annual meeting in 1889 to take over the library and appropriate money for its support. For the first nine months of its existence she kept the library in her own home; for the first four

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<sup>1</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 102.

<sup>2</sup> History of the Library, Philip Chase, 1973.

<sup>3</sup> History of the Town of Henniker by Leander w. Cogswell, pg. 471.

<sup>4</sup> The Pine School Farm was established in 1864, by the Children's Aid Society of Boston. Situated at the intersection of Chestnut and Fuller Streets in Newton, MA, the farm provided a home for wayward boys under criminal prosecution in Boston, as well as temporary housing for vagrants and destitute children. M. F. Sweetser sums up the circumstances of the school in his King's Handbook of Newton (1889).

More than 500 boys, between the ages of 8 and 13, have been rescued from the slums of the metropolis, and brought out here, where the pure air and good associations of this upland home are quick to sweeten the hard, surly, pallid expression of the city poor. Besides receiving many of the lacking elements of a common school education, the lads are trained in singing and in carpentry, and more than all else, in the practical work of farming, so that after a year and a half of discipline and instruction, they are sent out to work on farms in New England and the West. (Sweetser, Moses Foster, King's Handbook of Newton, Massachusetts (1889), Moses King Corp, Boston, MA pg. 187.)

years she served as its librarian; and from its establishment until her death in 1903 she was an active member of its board of trustees.”<sup>5</sup>

On January 25, 1889 the Henniker Free Library Association was formed as reported in the Town Report of said year. Following the formation of the Association donations of books were received from as far away as New York City, Boston, and Nashua, NH. The Association, “desiring to make this a permanent organization had an article placed in the town warrant to see what action the town would take in regard to a library.” The town, at its annual meeting in March 1889, voted to establish a public library.<sup>6</sup>

The first elected trustees of the Henniker Free Library included Henry A. Emerson, Charlotte J. Rice, E. Maria Cogswell, Walter T. Sargent, and Josiah W. Emery. The warrant article defined the roles and responsibilities of the trustees to include taking charge of all money received from any source and said money was to be expended on books and other reading matter, care of the library, appointment of a librarian who shall be compensated, fix days and hours of operation, and make rules and regulations pertaining to the use and preservation of the books. The warrant also stated that until a permanent location could be found to house the library find a location that, “the trustees shall in their judgement deem best for the interest of the public and the preservation of its contents, to the end that the patrons shall be served with utmost care, promptness, and attentions.” The trustees were also charged with reporting all activities annually in the Town Report. The sum of \$200 was appropriated for the use and benefit of the library.<sup>7</sup>

The officers of the Henniker Free Library Association, after due consultation with the members thereof, held a meeting at the house of Mrs. Cogswell, and voted unanimously to turn over the Association library to the town, through its officers, all the reading matter belonging to the Association, together with its funds, and its own good-will.”<sup>8</sup>

“The trustees having received the property of the Association, engaged a room in Mr. Emerson’s block, and Mrs. Cogswell as librarian, removed the books from Mrs. Cogswell’s to that room, she having acted as librarian up to this time, exchanging books every day in the week and at all hours of the day or evening. The trustees voted to have the library open for

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<sup>5</sup> Plaque in the Tucker Free Library below Maria Cogswell’s picture that was prepared by Professor Francis L. Childs which was framed and placed beneath her picture by Mr. W. Henry Bean in 1926. This monument was originally placed besides the picture of George Tucker. Librarian’s Report. Annual Reports of Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker New Hampshire together with reports of Town Officers for the Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 1927, pg. 54.

<sup>6</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

<sup>7</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

<sup>8</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

exchanging books every Saturday, from 2-5 and from 7-9 o'clock P.M. The library was opened for distribution of books from this room on Saturday, May 11."<sup>9</sup>

Many local residents contributed to the formation of the Henniker Free Library as a physical entity. Bookcases and furniture were received from Horace Childs and H.A. Emerson. Donations of personal libraries and cash helped build the collection, including donations from near and far. In the 1890 Town Report, the trustees reflect on the kindness and generosity of the community in support of the Henniker Free Library, expressing surprise at the interest manifested in the project of building the library and its collection.

"Believing as they do that the library as an educator is the best aid which can be given to our school system, and realizing the influence for good which is capable of exerting over the whole community, the trustees most earnestly recommend it to your fostering care, and urge that a liberal appropriation be made for its support."<sup>10</sup>

The future of library services in Henniker was further solidified during the state legislative session in January 1895. It was mandated that "support of libraries in towns of the state by authorizing and requiring each town to raise 30 cents for each dollar of its public tax." In Henniker this amounted to \$113.10 yearly, which with the \$100 added to the amount required to be raised by law amounted to \$213.10.<sup>11</sup>

#### **1904 Henniker Free Library becomes Tucker Free Library**



In 1902 George Tucker, formerly of Henniker then residing in Bradford, visited Henniker for Old Home Days. Mr. Tucker, having never married and with a high loving regard for his native town...was always present upon such community-wide occasions. He amassed quite a fortune by his strict attention to business and having only one brother, no sisters or near relatives, the people of Henniker were happily surprised to learn shortly after his death on October 21, 1902 that he donated a substantial portion of his will for the "erection of a suitable building, to cost not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$14,000, for the maintenance of a library therein, to be known as Tucker Free Library".<sup>12</sup> This gift was accepted by the town at its annual meeting in 1903.

Henniker resident and library trustee Henry A. Emerson remarked at Town Meeting on March 10, 1903 about the gift and subsequently Mr. Emerson's gift to the town as well...

"I have...observed the marked satisfaction and pleasure which the recent legacy of the late Mr. Tucker has given to the citizens of this town, by which it has become possible for Henniker to

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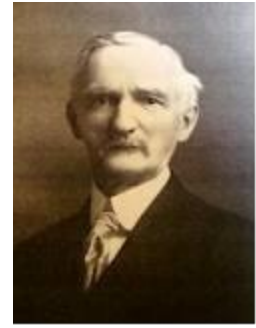
<sup>9</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

<sup>10</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

<sup>11</sup> Handwritten notes of L.W. Cogswell, Henniker Free Library.

<sup>12</sup> The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.

become possessed, in due course of time, of one of the finest library buildings in this section of New Hampshire. It is a matter, also of great satisfaction that, through the liberality and foresight of Mr. Tucker, he has established a handsome fund which insures its liberal support and growth in the future. I realize that in time this is destined to become one of the marked institutions of this section of the state, and that it will give to young people of this town, for all time to come, advantages which none of the adjoining towns now, or prospectively are liable to possess.<sup>13</sup>



While George Tucker's gift was significant, without Henry A. Emerson there would have been no money available to purchase land on which to build the library. Emerson states,



"I find, upon inquiry, that it is exceedingly doubtful whether any funds left by Mr. Tucker, under the peculiar wording of his will, can be used for the purpose of securing a lot upon which to erect the library building which he has provided for...I have lived here so long that I have come to have a deep and abiding interest in the welfare and prosperity of the town of Henniker, as well as in that of all its

citizens. For that reason I have felt that it would give me great pleasure in solving for you the problem which is here presented. After looking about the village somewhat I came to the conclusion that the only available site for the location of said library building, which should best accommodate all the people of the town and at the same time be an attractive spot, centrally located, where people passing in and through town would be sure to observe it, would be upon the land owned at the time of his decease by the late Hiram Rice.<sup>14</sup>

This property, included all land south of the highway between the engine house and the high school building, was accepted by the town with its heartfelt and sincerest thanks for his most generous gift. It was also during this same town meeting, that the residents voted to form a board of trustees of the new library, numbering six, and those members would include Henry A. Emerson, Jennie N. Dodge, George C. Preston, L.W. Cogswell, Rev. T.C.H. Bouton, and Walter A. Connor. A building committee was also elected and included Henry A. Emerson, George C. Preston, and Edward N. Cogswell. The building committee immediately applied themselves and set about to tour libraries in Randolph, VT, Jaffrey, Peterborough, and Pittsfield, NH.

Their report to Town Meeting the following year indicated that having visited the different libraries, they found that the library in Randolph, Vermont and also the library in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, which were the preferred building, were in fact designed by the same architect a Mr. Francis of Fitchburg, MA.<sup>15</sup> The firm of H.M. Francis and Sons was retained to make the

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<sup>13</sup> Signed transcript of speech given by Henry A. Emerson at Henniker Town Meeting, March 10, 1903.

<sup>14</sup> Signed transcript of speech given by Henry A. Emerson at Henniker Town Meeting, March 10, 1903.

<sup>15</sup> Annual Report of the receipts and expenditures of the Town of Henniker for the Fiscal Year ending February 15, 1904. Report of Building Committee of Tucker Free Library, Pgs. 48-49.

plans and specifications for contract. Bids were to be collected for simply building the library. The grading, heating, plumbing, and electric were not part of the original bid. When the bids were received it was found that the construction costs were too high so the project was scaled back. Original minutes of the building committee list the following changes to the design: Pressed brick was changed to common brick (\$500), not concreting basement (\$150), engraving on front porch limited (\$50), stone steps from basement to sub-basement (\$10), leaving out skylights (\$100), making brick walls of the stockroom 8" instead of 12" (\$100), and leaving out 2 iron girders in 2<sup>nd</sup> story (\$30).<sup>16</sup> These changes were submitted to the two lowest bidders, which resulted in awarding the contract to the Nashua Granite Co. of Nashua, NH.<sup>17</sup>

<b>BIDDING COMPANY<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>INITIAL BIDS</b>
Nashua Granite Co.	\$14,645.86
Head & Dowst	\$15,685.00
Hutchinson Building Co.	\$16,800.00
Maguire & Penniman	\$19,000.00
S.S. & H.N. Lawrence	\$15,337.00
C.H. Ingham	\$ 1,195.00
Wiley & Foss	\$17,277.20
J.D. Littlefield	\$14,500.00

Nashua Granite Co. final bill was for \$13,439.93. The total cost of the project, including furnishings was \$16,446.57.<sup>19</sup>

In the Manchester, NH newspaper dated September 23, 1904, the headline read "HANDSOME GIFT WAS DEDICATED TUCKER FREE LIBRARY NOW IN HANDS OF TRUSTEES, UP TO DATE IN EVERY WAY."<sup>20</sup> During the morning of September 22, 1904 the library was open for public inspection. Town residents and neighbors visited the library for the first time! Following the

<sup>16</sup> Original minutes of the Building Committee, pg. 7, July 19, 1903.

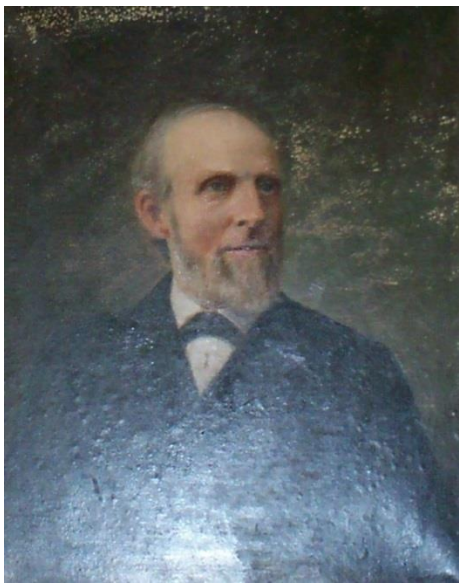
<sup>17</sup> Annual Report of the receipts and expenditures of the Town of Henniker for the Fiscal Year ending February 15, 1904. Report of Building Committee of Tucker Free Library, Pgs. 48-49.

<sup>18</sup> Report of the Building Committee of Tucker Free Library. Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker Comprising the Reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agents, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1904. pg. 48.

<sup>19</sup> Report of the Building Committee of the Tucker Free Library. Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker Comprising the Reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, Town Clerk, and Library Committee for the Financial Year Ending February 15, 1905. pg. 52.

<sup>20</sup>The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.

open house there was a grand dedication ceremony where the importance of the library to the Henniker community was expounded upon. The library building was regaled as neat on the outside and a picture of beauty on the inside that was incomparable to any other library in a rural community in our state. The importance of a library was also genuinely understood by community members, “we trust that many other valuable books and reading matter will come to it, that in time this town shall have a library that shall be patronized with such delight that this and coming generations will see to it that the present high reputation of the town as being one of the most intelligent in this Commonwealth, shall ever be fully maintained.”<sup>21</sup> The gratitude and dreams for the library to coming generations was echoed in the song of dedication which was composed by Rev. N.F. Carter, a Henniker resident who was a master carpenter, learned educator, poet and minister. This song was presented at the dedication ceremony at the Congregational Church, sang to the tune Uxbridge.



*“Great God, our Father, in whose eyes  
Our best endeavors seem so small,  
To Thee shall glad thanksgiving rise,  
In grateful answer to Thy call.*

*This temple reared by human hands  
For Wisdom’s treasures’ old and new,  
More precious far than golden sands,  
The wisdom of the good and true*

*We dedicate to Thee in love,  
By grateful speech in song and prayer,  
Accept it from Thy throne above,  
And ever have it in Thy care.  
As long as ages come and go,  
Bourne on, on Time’s untiring wing,  
May Learning’s richest blessings flow  
From this its pure, perennial spring.*

*Here gladly may the old and young  
Come, as come bees to summer hives;  
Here may the donor’s praise be sung  
In richer, nobler, grander lives!”*

In the report to Town Meeting in 1905, the building committee submitted the final accounting of the construction project. The auditors W.O. Folsom and W.A. Connor certified the accuracy of the treasurer’s report which listed the expenses incurred and contractors used in the construction of the library. (See Appendix C). The trustees also acknowledged that Mr. Emerson came to the rescue of the town once again, when the final bills (\$16,446.57) came in and the construction costs exceeded the \$14,000 limit set by the will of George Tucker, Henry A. Emerson gave \$2500 to make up the difference as well as to pay for its furnishings. “Mr. Emerson has so generously come to the rescue, and made it possible to give to the citizens of the town, not only a building, but the furnishings of which will compare favorably with that of any town in the state, even though they may be more pretentious than Henniker.”<sup>22</sup> It was

<sup>21</sup> The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.

<sup>22</sup> Annual Report of the receipts and expenditures of the Town of Henniker for the Financial Year Ending February 15, 1905. Report of Treasurer of Tucker Free Library, Pg. 54.

reported that many others gave gifts to adorn the library including a beautiful library clock from Willis Howe; of portraits of former residents and patrons of the library; of chairs from the lodge of the Rathbone Sisters, as well as many new additions to the collection. Committee members H.A. Emerson, G.C. Preston, and E.N. Cogswell, respectfully submitted the report and closed with the following sentiment:

“The building thus built, adorned and furnished by many generous friends of the town is free for the use and benefit of the people of the town of Henniker and will be free to them and their children forever. May we all live long to enjoy it together.”<sup>23</sup>

**Thus was initiated in Henniker, the Tucker Free Library – a monument, landmark, and record for the freedom of thought.**<sup>24</sup>

Since opening its doors on September 22, 1904 the Tucker Free Library has continued to receive the support of the Henniker community in many tangible ways. Whether financially, through appropriations, established trusts, general donations, or coming to the aid when a call for volunteers is made, Henniker residents have for 110 years taken their responsibility to the institution seriously.

In the 1969 Report of the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library, there is for the first time a statistical comparison of the Henniker library with those throughout the state.

“The purpose of the library is to serve the needs of the community and we judge our success on two factors – the response of the public to the facilities we offer, and the annual statistical report prepared by the New Hampshire State Library. Although lists of numbers are not particularly interesting to most people, we think you may like to know that Henniker ranked fourth in the state among towns with a population of under 2000 in the number of books read per capita in 1968, with a figure of 22.1. The total cost of our library to the town was third from the top among the four with the highest reading per capita, or \$5,108.25. The cost per person of our library was the least in this group, which ranged from \$38.26 for New Hampton to our own figure of \$4.31 per person. In other words, we feel we did an excellent job of getting a lot of books to a lot of people at a pleasantly low cost.”<sup>25</sup>

The value of the library to the Henniker community continues well into the history of the organization. In 2008, the report to the town recognizes the fiscal responsibility that trustees have for the building as well as the value to the Henniker residents:

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<sup>23</sup> Report of the Building Committee of the Tucker Free Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker, Comprising the Reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agents, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, Town Clerk, and Library Committee, for the Financial Year Ending February 15, 1905, pg. 52-53.

<sup>24</sup> History of the Tucker Free Library by Willa Brigham for the Dedication of the Francis Lane Childs Historical Room on November 8, 1969.

<sup>25</sup> Report of the Trustees of Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1969, pg. 70.

“For 105 years the trustees of the Tucker Free Library have guided the direction of growth of the Tucker Free Library. They have been deliberate stewards of an architecturally outstanding building in this town. They have, through their collective wisdom, provided this community with a cultural and educational resource that promotes ‘knowledge and learning...are essential to the preservation of a free government’. In 1905 Henniker residents came to the Tucker Free Library to read periodicals, share knowledge, and borrow books.... The Tucker Free Library of 2008 looks the same, but the service expectations of our community are so much greater...Even though the services are different, the building and what it means to this community remain the same. Not only is it a place that people come for educational purposes, it is a place that people turn to for essential services they can no longer afford. Many days find people waiting to use the Internet... it is a place they seek entertainment. It is a place where they come to be warmed or cooled. It is a place where they come to feel that they are a part of this community.”<sup>26</sup>

### **Architectural Significance**

When the residents of Henniker voted to accept the gift of George Tucker at the 1903 Town Meeting, they formed not only a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the completed library, but also a building committee to steer the planning and construction of the new facility. It has been recounted that the committee toured several different libraries in the area and all were in agreement that the preferred libraries were in Randolph, VT (Kimball Public Library) and in Jaffrey, NH (Clay Memorial Library). Upon investigation it was discovered that both libraries were in fact designed by H.M. Francis of Fitchburg, MA. The building committee then contacted Francis and later hired him to design the Tucker Free Library.

The architect, Henry Martyn Francis (1836-1908), was born in Lunenburg, MA in 1836. In 1858 he graduated from Lawrence Academy ( ). He assisted in surveying for the Croton River aqueduct which supplied water to New York City. He then studied architectural drawing and served an apprenticeship under Alexander R. Estey, a Boston architect. Later in 1862 he was employed as a carpenter in Lunenburg, Westfield, and Florence. In 1864 he worked in the architectural offices of George M. Harding of Portland, Maine and George F. Meacham of Boston. He designed buildings in Portland after the great fire of 1866. Later, in 1868, he opened his architectural firm on Main Street in Fitchburg.<sup>27</sup> Eight of his buildings appear on the U.S. Register of National Historic Places. Additionally, he is the documented architect of many residential homes and civic buildings in Fitchburg, MA.<sup>28</sup> (See Appendix D).

Francis was responsible for designing 15 libraries in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. These buildings were all variations of his 1884 Fitchburg library plan; each combined the design elements in a unique way. Like many Victorian architects, Francis was influenced by the Romanesque style of Boston giant Henry Hobson Richardson, reflected in round arches over

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<sup>26</sup>Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Town of Henniker, New Hampshire, 2009 Annual Report, pgs. 57-58.

<sup>27</sup> <http://bostongringo.com/united-states/massachusetts-fitchburg-hm-francis-architect.htm>

<sup>28</sup> H.M. Francis listing in *Leading Business Men of Fitchburg* (courtesy of the Fitchburg Historical Society)



the deeply recessed doorway and above the column-sided windows, rough-faced stone contrasting with horizontal bands of trim and horizontal groupings of windows<sup>29</sup>.

Victorian architects were more concerned with aesthetics than the needs of librarians or patrons: interior spaces were cosy but impractical and stacks inaccessible. Librarians did battle with architects to bring about a change in philosophy, which started to happen about the turn of the century. Approaching the 21st century, library functions and building needs are still changing. Two nearby New Hampshire libraries designed by H.M. Francis in Rindge (1894) and Jaffrey (1895) have built large additions. The trustees of the Tucker Free Library have considered an addition but find that the resulting square footage is limited because of the properties surrounding the library.

### **Architectural Description and Comparative Analysis**

#### Setting:

The Tucker Free Library is on the main north/south thoroughfare in the town of Henniker, in an area designated as rural village. The building sits in the center of a lot that slopes down on the south side. The area in front of the library is grass and there are symmetrical gardens on each side of the entrance gable along the foundation. These gardens were installed with small shrubs and plants in 2010 following a drainage excavation along the front of the building. A statue sits on the edge of the property line shared with the Henniker Community School (formerly the Cogswell School). This statue was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1920 as a reminder of all the men of Henniker who fought in the American wars up to that time. On top of the statue is the full-sized bust of Col. Leander W. Cogswell, considered the "Historian of Henniker." A plaque on the front side reads as follows: "This monument is erected by voluntary subscriptions in memory of Col. Leander W. Cogswell and the men of Henniker who fought in all the American Wars." There are also engraved plaques on the other three sides with the names of Henniker men who saw service in wars from the Revolution through World War I. A right of way between the library and the grange leads to a parking area shared with the school. Grass surrounds the building on the three remaining sides.

#### Exterior:

The Tucker Free Library is of symmetrical design, consisting of a three and one half story rectangular brick structure with a hipped roof and two gables; one on the north elevation of the building which is the grand main entrance, the other is on the south elevation of the building and is referred to in the architectural drawings as the stack room. This gable was modified in an addition built in 1991. The building is situated with the main entrance of the building on the north elevation, facing Western Avenue with a footprint of approximately 73 feet wide by 62 feet long. The building is clad with red common brick with pink mortar laid in plumb bond. The building is on a raised foundation of mortared rusticated granite blocks on the north, east, and

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.northfieldpubliclibrary.org/library-history>

west elevations of the structure while large rocks form the foundation on the south elevation. Along the southern elevation where the lower level meets the main level there is a hammered granite band that ties in with the rusticated granite foundation on the west, north, and east elevations.

The Ionic order entablature consists of a molded cornice with dentil band at the eaves along north, west, and east elevations, interrupted only by the projecting front entrance, which mimics the design. This dentil band ends at the southeast and southwest corners of the main building, stopping after the design is repeated two times after it turns onto the south side of the building. A smooth wood trim continues where the dentil band ends. All of the wood trim is painted white. Below the dentil there is a smooth Indiana sandstone frieze band, which frames and highlights the cornice and dentil work. Like the dentil, it ends at the southeast and southwest corners of the main building. Unlike the dentil it continues on to the corner of the wall where the southern gable meets the main structure.

The main entrance, in the center of the north elevation of the building, has a recessed, arched reveal surrounding a doorway. The arch around the entrance is constructed of the same Indiana sandstone that was used in other areas of embellishment, this time in the form of blocks. There are three bands of various motifs carved on the arch including dentil, rope, and floral. The keystone mimics the Ionic capital of the columns found above the arch as well as within the building. The intricate carvings continue on the impost. The entrance is reached via a flight of nine granite steps. A brass railing was added to the center of the stairs in 1926. The entryway consists of two original operable doors which were reversed to comply with fire safety codes in 1975. The doors consist of a tempered beveled glass pane over two horizontal raised panels, a modification of the five cross panel doors found elsewhere in the building. A leaded glass transom above the doors represents a modified *fleur de lis*. The porch is clad in Indiana sandstone blocks that reach from the floor to 68 inches up the walls. It is topped with an egg-and-dart motif carved sandstone molding which is a continuation of the design of the impost. This continues from the exterior wall of the gable's arch. The remainder of the wall surrounding the door is clad in the same red brick as the rest of the building. Four stained glass windows surround the doors, two facing out to the street and two facing each other across the porch. An old ceiling hugging light fixture was recently removed and a new energy efficient hanging fixture matching the period details was added. The original building also had two iron work post lights that were situated on both sides of the stairway. These were removed during the 1970's because of expense of replacing globes due to vandalism. Currently, attempts are being made to restore the original posts, using solar power to return them to functioning lights or as an aesthetic feature.

Above the entrance arch two Ionic columns sit in front of three recessed windows which are abutted by the same brick used for the building, while above the window is a frieze with a Greek fret. Above the fret there is an epistyle which is an engraved piece of granite that reads "19 Tucker Free Library 03." Above this, the pediment is clad in red brick and contains a round

window in the center, framed by smaller Indiana sandstone blocks. White dentil frames the pediment.

A second entrance is on the southwest corner of the building. It is covered by a small portico which is accessed via the cement steps/walkway or the handicapped ramp. This is not original to the design of the building. It was added in 1991 to improve handicapped accessibility. There is a third entrance in the center of the south side of the building that allows access to the sub-basement and has a matching portico. A fourth entrance that is original to the design of the building is located on the southeast side. Neither this entrance nor the third mentioned above are used for public access to the building. These doors are not architecturally noteworthy.

The roof is a hipped roof of asphalt shingles over a wood frame. Originally, the building was constructed with slate shingles. These were replaced with asphalt in 1987. A large gable projects at the center of the north (front) elevation, consisting of the entrance bay described above. Another large gable projects off the south side of the building. The roof line of this gable was modified when the handicapped accessible entrance and stairwell was added to the building in 1991. This was designed by the architectural firm of Ingram & Wallace of Manchester, NH. There are two additional shed dormers, one on the southwest corner of the building and a second in the center of south facing gable. These are clad with wood shingles on the sides, contain casement windows, and covered with the same shingle as the remainder of the roof. One brick chimney is located interior on the east side and the second is located interior on the west side. There are three copper acroterions on the roof, one on the east hip, one on the west hip, and the third is on the front gable. Original architectural drawings indicate that there was a fourth, but it appears to have been removed when the roof line was modified in the 1991 addition.

Fenestration on the main floor of the north, east, and west elevations of the primary building are eleven windows measuring 43" wide by 66" long. Of the eleven windows, only one is a functional double hung window. The remaining windows are large fixed picture windows. Each window is topped with a 43" wide by 27" high transom of color leaded glass, several of which open to provide ventilation. The window openings are recessed into the brick walls and have Indiana sandstone sills and perpendicular red bricks as a decorative lintel. Aluminum storm windows were installed to all sash and transom windows in 1974.

On the south elevation of the building in the gable, the space characterized as the stack room, there are nine double hung windows measuring 23" wide by 81" long on the main floor with Indiana sandstone sills and nine double hung windows measuring 23" wide by 53" long on the lower level have rusticated granite sills. While the windows on the main floor are original (storm windows were added in 1974), the windows on the lower level were replaced for energy efficiency reasons in 1988. Around the foundation there are also 13 windows measuring 48" wide by 40" long, five which open, two which have been blanked out for air quality purposes, and six are barred with iron to prevent break-ins.

## Interior:

The interior of the library retains its historic detailing and spatial arrangement. Many of the design elements and motifs present on the exterior of the building are replicated inside, including the Ionic columns, motifs, and dentil. The lower level which was originally unfinished has been modified to fit the needs of the community as planned by the original trustees and the architect. The main component of the building is 60'6" wide by 35' long. The rear gable which is characterized in the architectural drawings as the stack room is 38'6" wide by 32' long.

Reading the architectural plans of H.M. Francis, one sees that one enters from the porch into a vestibule. A high ceiling (14') creates a feeling of expansiveness and light. The vestibule walls are clad in marble and plaster while the floor is composed of a border of tiles surrounding terrazzo. Two interior doors that match the exterior doors separate the vestibule from the receiving hall. The first of five marble thresholds is crossed when you pass through the interior doors and enter the delivery hall which is now considered the circulation area.

The delivery hall which measures 18'6" wide by 17' long represents a stunning example of all of the workmanship and motifs present throughout the building. The floor is constructed of dark blue or black, red, white, and gold tiles that repeat the Greek fret frieze seen on the outside of the building on the pediment. This Greek fret borders the parameter of the room. All of the colors of the border are repeated in the terrazzo floor inside the border. The receiving room is a vast open space with large egresses between rooms. There are three dividers that define the space. These dividers are three feet high and are clad in marble. Closest to the floor is a black marble, followed by a larger area of tan marble with striations of greys and browns, and on top is a dark brown marble that serves as work surfaces and display areas.

Most stunning of all the features on the main level is the curly birch woodwork. Seth Bunnell, a Henniker resident, was responsible for fabricating the woodwork on the main level. Bunnell, builder extraordinaire, is credited for having a part in the design and/or construction of many projects in Henniker.<sup>30</sup> The receiving hall has four 11' high Ionic columns. These fluted wood columns sit on the marble dividers, two support the beam between the receiving hall and the reading room (now the NH Room), the other two divide the space between the receiving hall and the stack room. The beams are clad in cabinetry of an intricate design with inlaid panels and details that match the column. The corona above these beams and continuing on around the receiving room has four components, the lower is a Greek Revival ogee with a fillet, the second is an ovolo molding, the third is dentil with a fillet, and the fourth is a cavetto molding.

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<sup>30</sup> Aside from his work at the Tucker Free Library, Bunnell also constructed a tinshop in ten days in 1886 (pg. 11), the architect and builder of the "one of the finest business blocks in any town in the state...from an architectural standpoint it is a marvel of beauty and convenience...a handsome ornament to the town" (pg. 13). He is also credited with the construction of a large storehouse in the Noyes Block in 1893 (pg. 15), running the piping in the town shoeshop in 1895 (pg. 20), the Contoocook Valley Creamery in 1889 (pg. 25), did the oak paneling in the Congregational Church in 1909 (pg. 70), the Davis House (characterized as a Summer Resort), "a well-known resort is first class in all its appointments (pg. 7). "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980.

The entry to the “Historic Room” (later known as the Hollis Room) incorporated a large pocket door that spanned a 5’ by 7’ opening and had 15 raised panels similar to the cross panel doors throughout the interior of the building. This room was originally used to house town artifacts, a museum room so to speak. The functionality of this door was limited because of its weight. During the 2013 revitalization of the Tucker Free Library, the pocket door was removed and placed on the north wall as an architectural feature in the area now named the Ann S. Soderstrom Media Center and Reading Area. A glass door was fabricated to provide a quiet space for library patrons. Ann S. Soderstrom, a long-term patron, left the Tucker Free Library \$189,000 when she died in 2008. A portion of this donation was used to build the Soderstrom Area as well as carpeting the facility.

Finally, there is an area that functioned as the circulation desk and the librarian’s room. This space offered a windowed desk and an open desk area where the various tasks of the librarian were completed. It has built in shelves and drawers for supplies. This area operated as the main circulation desk until 1999 when a new desk was constructed to accommodate an online circulation system, moving the functions of the librarian into the center of the receiving hall.

The ceiling in the receiving hall, historic room, and the reading room is cove style. In the receiving room an ethereal skyscape is painted on the cove which is then bordered in gold leaf accented with red flower medallions. The flat portion of the ceiling is framed with a large Greek fret of dark green, gold, red and cream floor blocks and each corner is tied together with a square of the same red with a design of gold. Inside this block are two additional embellishments. The first is a brown dash and the second is a gold leaf dash with a floral embellishment with a dark green center. In the center of the room is a medallion of those same colors.

The Hollis Room – Ann S. Soderstrom Media Center and Quiet Area, which is on the northwest side of the building, measures 21’ wide by 23’6” long. It has a wood floor which was covered with carpeting in 1970. The walls of the room are plastered (a recent infrared energy audit showed a lathe system) and are wrapped in wood from the floor and up 42”. The woodwork is composed of narrow raised wood panels measuring 7 ½” wide by 18” long. At the top of the wall is the same molding as described in the receiving room. The large windows are framed in the same wood finish, while the transom is separated from the window by a horizontal recessed panel that measures 3 ½” wide by 42” long.

The ceiling in this room is clad with tin, reaching from the cove molding and covering the entire space. The tin covering the cove has a raised stripe which runs perpendicular to the cove molding with intermittent fleur de lis occurring as part of the striped pattern. This starts at the cove molding of the wall and travels through the curve of the ceiling to the chunky border comprised of sculpted molding. The border in effect creates a tray ceiling. It has four corner blocks of a floral motif and a guilloche pattern on the exterior, interior, and bottom of the molding. Within the border is the grid which creates a frame for the recessed panels. The grid

has a repeating floral design while the frame of each individual square in the grid uses an egg and dart motif. The grid of panels surrounds a center medallion. The entire grid is composed of 56 squares, the two centermost squares have been replaced by a medallion set in a square and the other is divided in half and which frames the medallion. The medallion incorporates the colors of green, brown, gold, and cream.

The south gable which is considered the stack room measures 22' wide by 38'6" long has a wood floor which was covered in 1970 with carpeting. When the handicapped addition was built in 1990 a circular staircase that was in the southwest corner of this space was removed. The flooring was not matched as the plan was to carpet the area. The walls are plaster and have a simple baseboard molding around the perimeter. The nine windows are framed in plain 1x3's with quarter round completing the trim. The flat tin ceiling is the most spectacular feature of this room. The intricate design begins with sculptured molding around the perimeter of the room. This is followed by a medallion imprint that spans the inside perimeter of the sculpted cove. Next to this is a raised molding which involves a repeating leaf on the two sides and a braided rope on the bottom of the molding. The next component is set of large squares that define yet another level of intricacy. Four shell corner blocks initiate a repeating floral pattern border. A larger floral motif is repeated within these rectangular blocks. Interestingly, the motif in the four corners is modified, is square, and creates the beginning point for the next band of the repeating floral pattern seen within. The final component of the ceiling includes 4 by 4 squares that fit within the parameters of the exterior rectangle. The squares represent a large bloom with fine details.

The reading room, referred to as the New Hampshire Room at this time, measures 21' wide by 35' long has a maintained wood floor with a large center carpet. It also has the same wood paneling and trims as found in the historical room (Hollis Room/Soderstrom Area). There is a modest fireplace surrounded in red brick, with a simple wood mantel of the same finish as the remaining wood paneling in the room. Again, the cove ceiling is representative of great detail and encompasses designs from both the historical room and the stack room. In this room the tin covering the cove is the same raised perpendicular stripe with intermittent fleur de lis occurring as part of the repeating pattern which is seen in the historical room. This ends with a simple egg and dart edging. The medallion imprint of the stack room spans the inside perimeter of the sculpted edge which is followed by a raised molding with the repeating leaf on the two sides and a braided rope on the bottom of the molding. Unlike the Historical room, the reading room has a grid comprised of a parameter of narrow rectangular blocks with larger square blocks filling in the remainder of the ceiling to the medallion in the center. Specifically, four small corner blocks initiate a parameter of 50 narrow rectangles which leads to a grid of 30 larger squares. Of those 30 squares, the six innermost squares comprise the medallion area. This medallion is turned at a 45 degree angle from the blocks around it. On each side is a complementary triangle that allows the entire design to square off and the same narrow rectangles that form the parameter of this grid.

While the lower level was not finished at the time of construction, its use and layout has evolved over time based on the needs of the community. Floors have been added where none had existed, as well as stairways, and walls. Most notably maintained during the renovations of the lower area is the exposed bricks and Roman arches which served as entryways into other areas. These entryways have been expertly modified to serve as functional doorways. Many of the renovations in the lower level were designed and implemented by Henniker residents. The area that was used by the Henniker Historical Society was designed by Adolphus "Andy" Holton. Most of the work was completed by Henniker craftsman including, a unique contribution by Merle Patenaude. Needing beams to support the ceiling in the room, Calvin Tucker, George Sanborn, and Arthur Starr removed rough-hewn beams from the barn of Merle Patenaude in 1969. The work desk that now serves as the circulation desk for the children's department was built by Forrest and Archie Morse in 1970, along with storage cabinetry in the lower level meeting room. All of the work completed in the lower level represents the excellent craftsmanship of many local residents.

### **Comparative Buildings**

In 1903 when the Tucker Free Library was constructed the only other brick clad building in town was the Methodist Church which is now the Community Center (built in 1834 as a Baptist Church)<sup>31</sup>. Many grand buildings existed and still remain. The Hotel Henniker located on the corner of Main and Rush Road now houses the administrative offices of New England College.<sup>32</sup> The Congregational Church built in 1834<sup>33</sup> and its neighbor Academy Hall which was built in 1837<sup>34</sup>. The current Town Hall on Depot Road was built in 1887 and included an upper floor that was used for community events and had such fine details as birch flooring and ash paneling, a reflective chandelier containing fifteen lamps, and a sounding board. The hall could seat four hundred for a concert or play. The first floor was modified to contain a cooking area and selectmen's offices.<sup>35</sup> In 1889 the Emerson Block was erected by W.N. Carnes and on April 4, 1889 the drug store opened... "just completed the fixtures for the drug store. For beauty of design and excellence of finish it will be difficult to find a better piece of work."<sup>36</sup> In March of 1895 it was voted that no more than \$6,000 be raised to erect a new school. This was to be built on the land purchased for \$500 from John Rice (property adjacent to what would later be the Tucker Free Library). The granite used for the foundation was from the Huntington and

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<sup>31</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 74.

<sup>32</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 115.

<sup>33</sup> <sup>33</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 69.

<sup>34</sup> <sup>34</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 96.

<sup>35</sup> <sup>35</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 39.

<sup>36</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980 pg. 15.

Peaslee quarry on Craney Hill. Enrolled were 130 pupils, including high school students from Academy Hall as well grammar students, when the institution opened its doors in January 1896.<sup>37</sup>

During the early 1900's life in Henniker could only be described as vibrant. Business around the village included the Dow Saw Mill building which also housed a steam laundry. After it was destroyed by fire, the International Leather Company of Boston bought the property in 1906 and later sold it to F.E. Norton and Sons, Fibre Board Manufacturers, Inc. There was a gristmill (Burnham) which later became the Bartemus Grain Store and later the Henniker Feed Company. On Main Street, the Childs block was known as the tinshop that also housed a plumber and a store. There was a millinery business in the Preston block. The center of town also had The Inn, and the J.E. Whitter clothing store. A restaurant, ice cream parlor, meat market and bakery, as well as a grocery store provided creature comforts for community members. A funeral home which was owned by H.L. Holmes, was in addition to his business interests in coal, ice, oil, and insurance. There was also a busy train station and a car dealership in Henniker in the early 1900's. <sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 101.

<sup>38</sup> "The Only Henniker on Earth" researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pgs. 111-133.



## LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBRARIES OF HENNIKER & TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

### DIRECTORS

E. Maria Cogswell	1889	Ethel Miller	1975
Edna Connor	1900	Helene Dermon	1977
Jennie Noyes Dodge	1900	Peggy Ward	1984
M. Marion Cole	1916	Helga Winn	2003
Lucy Wilkins	1919	Lynn M. Piotrowicz	2005
Fannie Bennett	1921		
Evelyn Hollis	1955		
Carolyn Patenaude	1973		

### The E. Maria Cogswell Years 1889-1900



Maria received a letter from Miss Mary Washburn of the Pine Farm in Newton, MA on September 28, 1888. In that letter, Pine School Farm (a program that helped indigent boys by sending them to the country for practical training) pledged support for the establishment of a reading club. Washburn offered encouragement that they would provide books, papers, and magazines if the residents of Henniker would do likewise. Along with the promised support, Maria took it upon herself to seek out community members who could aid in the creation of a library. In 1889 Mrs. Cogswell organized 200 Henniker residents (population at the time was #####) to start a reading club. Maria circulated

the books in the collection from her home for nine months, after which she succeeded in awakening sufficient public awareness. It was at the March 1889 Town Meeting that the residents voted to establish a public library in Henniker, then to be known as the Henniker Free Library. This meant that a board of trustees took over control of the library, a permanent location was rented, and hours were set. Maria remained an advocated for library services, first as librarian and then trustee until her death in 1903.

Circulation during 1899 was 6,394 with collection of 2,434 bound volumes.

## The Edna Connor Months

Edna was elected town librarian on March 15, 1900 after Maria Cogswell resigned on 2/27/1900. Connor resigned on 8/22/1900 to return to North Dakota.

## The Jennie Noyes Dodge Years 1900-1916

Jennie N. Dodge was chosen to succeed Edna Connor. She was also elected as a trustee to replace Charlotte I. Rice. During the tenure of Jennie N. Dodge many advances in library services for Henniker were noted, including public discussion of ramifications of funding, use statistics, library practices, programming, and technology.

In 1902 there was no appropriation from the town and the number of new acquisitions was reduced to 63 as opposed to 210 the previous year.

In 1903 Maria Cogswell dies. She was credited as being "the one to who's wise thought and unselfish efforts the town owes our present library."

The Town Report from 1903 recounts the George Tucker donation; a building committee is formed to find an architect to design a library in Henniker.

The last report of the Henniker Free Library states that circulation dropped to 6009 in 1904. This decrease was attributed to the closure of the library for two months to prepare to move the collection into the new building.

September 22, 1904 new building dedicated, named Tucker Free Library.

1905 – Reading Room is open for use whenever the library is open. "Card catalog system is doing good work with it." First mention of an assistant librarian – M. Marion Cole.

1906 "It is with pleasure that we record the prosperity of the library." The first mention of programming at the library is reported: Anti-Tuberculosis and Health Exhibit from the State Hospital, Brown Tail and gipsy month exhibit from NH Agricultural College. Saturday afternoon story hours, community members have given very interesting talks.

1907 Card catalog is typewritten

Report of treasurer

"You will find that nothing has been used for expenses of the library except the income from stocks and bonds... \$1356 which at present is not enough to give its patrons all of the advantages of a city library or the purchase of as many books as your trustees would be glad to furnish yet, I think it will be admitted that our town ranks with any of its size in the state, for services rendered to its patrons and at a very small cost to the town financially.

1908 Reading Room has been in constant use. In purchasing books, thought has been given to all tastes though perhaps this year a larger proportion has been bought for young readers.

1909 New typewriter provided by Henry Emerson & George Preston, we expect library catalogs will soon be ready for distribution

High school pupils make use of reading room.

Treasurer G.C. Preston writes "I would say that salary for librarians remaining the same as other years, which we consider 'very low for the amount of work required.' We also consider ourselves fortunate in being able to retain the services of so capable a janitor."

1910 Selling the town the library catalog at a 75 cent loss. These were "procured at the urgent request" of the patrons. Cost \$1.00 each but sold for 25 cents.

1911 First time since the new building opens that the books were called in and the library was closed for month of August. During that time the books were inspected, repaired, a new stack was installed and books were rearranged. The building was swept and garnished.

1914 Huntoon collection on display. Curious, relics, antiques added to the exhibition room.

1915 M. Marion Cole still listed as assistant librarian but Jennie Dodge not listed.

### The M. Marion Cole Years

Board of Trustees of Public Trust Funds elected on 3/14/1916 in accordance to chapter 162 Public Statutes... "Public Library Funds held by trustees of Tucker Free Library including all bonds, stocks, money in savings banks and money on hand, have been turned over to the Board of Trustees of Public Trust Funds." TFL turns over \$35,598.74.

1916 June 27 – Oct 1 Owing to Mr. Fisher of Boston, Mr. Walker of Lowell, and Mr. Cogswell of Manchester, the library was open to the public every afternoon and evening in the week, Sunday included.

It seemed to give our friends, especially visitors, a great deal of pleasure to use the reading room looking and taking their time looking over the relics.

M. Marion Cole – Librarian

Helen M. Cole – Assistant Librarian

1917 Library open Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday. Building repairs are made.

1918 Library closed three weeks in October due to influenza.

M. Marion Cole – Librarian

Lucy Wilkins, Assistant Librarian

### The Lucy Wilkins Years

1919 Tucker Free Library has 300 active subscribers

Lucy Wilkins, Librarian

Fannie Bennett, Assistant Librarian

1920 Librarians go to Durham for a week. Met with other librarians from state and also “gave us many new ideas.”

1921 One end of stack room devoted to children & young people, with open shelves, which seems to be much appreciated.

Books lent to Miss Jeffrey at Quaker District School for winter months.

### The Fannie Bennett Years



1921 One end of stack room devoted to children & young people, with open shelves, which seems to be much appreciated.

Books lent to Miss Jeffrey at Quaker District School for winter months.

Library open all day 5/30/21 for the dedication and unveiling of Soldier & Sailor Monument.

Fannie W. Bennett, Librarian

Carrie F. Bennett, Assistant Librarian

1923 "Circulation remains about the same as in former years; we do not feel that it is an accurate measuring stick of the library's usefulness."

FIRST TIME NOTED that the library observed CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK in November with great success. "Almost 100 children were entertained with storytelling by H.B. Preston and stories of far Japan by Harold E. Connor.

Many of the children at that time had their first introduction to the library. Several having never been inside before, and their surprise was great when told that they could take books without charge.

1924 Miss Hobart, Secretary of the State Library Commission helped classify & catalog books from the estate of Edna Dean Proctor.

Neighborhood Library Association met at Tucker Free Library on 7/10/24. The association consists of librarians and trustees of seventeen surrounding towns. About 30 assemble. Lunch was served in Azalea Park by local people. They heard Miss Pray, Librarian of the State Library, Miss Hobart, State Library Commission, and Harry Preston.

Children's Day was observed.

"We have endeavored to do our best in the selection of books with limited funds at our disposal. We FEEL SURE THAT A LITTLE SERIOUS THOUGHT ON THE PART OF THE TAX PAYERS AND VOTERS WOULD CONVINCED THEM THAT A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS OR EVEN TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS IN ADDITION TO THAT REQUIRED BY LAW WOULD BE MONEY WELL INVESTED IN THE SATISFACTION OF HAVING THE BEST BOOKS WHEN THEY ARE FIRST PUBLISHED AND NOT WAIT FOR THE RE-PRINTS TO SAVE THE FIRST PRICE."

1925 "The falling off of circulation for the year may be due partly to the fact that the library was closed during the time required for re-decorating and perhaps to the COUNTER-ATTRACTIONS OF THE RADIO, MOVIES, ETC. "

Decrease in circulation of fiction, increase in circulation of non-fiction.

\$1000 spend redecorating the library.

Usual large number of children in attendance for Children's Day in November. Stories were told by Francis Childs and H.B. Preston.

1926 New lights installed in three large rooms on Main Floor of library. Children's Day expanded to include parents and school.

Maria Colby picture was annotated by Francis Child. Placed next to George Tucker in the Reading Room.

1927 Museum cases are overflowing and one of the most pressing needs of the library today is that if an additional case. Another equally vital need is for a locked glass bookcase for preservation and display of the library's numerous collections of local publications, manuscripts, autographed books, and ancient volumes. These are much too valuable to be placed in open stacks and are now preserved in a locked chest, thus being invisible and inaccessible to the public.

Increased circulation "library is each year better fulfilling its purpose in the community, that of furnishing abundant, wholesome, helpful reading to all its citizens.

1928 Helen Sawyer takes an interest in children's programs. Miss Sawyer presented us with a fund of \$20.00 to maintain a children's story hour each Saturday.

Mr. Bean, Mr. Edward N. Cogswell (Maria's son) and George Preston died.

Leander A. Cogswell Fund created with a \$10,000 donation. Miss Helen Sawyer gave another \$20.00 for Saturday afternoon story hour. An early version of a FRIENDS Group started with the help of a \$30.00 donation from Sawyer. Mrs. Wilbur Parmenter was persuaded to take charge of the "Library Reading Club" with the advice of Sawyer "instructing members in election of officers and how to conduct their meeting according to Parliamentary rules.

1930 Francis Childs arranges an exhibit for Old Home week. The library is open all day to show off the exhibit on 8/23/30.

Story hour, financed from the fines collected for overdue books, conducted on Saturday afternoons for children 12 and under. Two small tables and eight chairs were purchased for seating.

1931 Story hour at 2:30PM on Saturday continues. "no way to suggest school work, but is a pleasant time for the children...acquainted with the library and the proper use of it and learn to enjoy coming to it."

There was a library party in Azalea Park – a guard had to be posted to prevent little ones going too near the bank.

FIRST INTERSTATE INTERLIBRARY LOAN – Borrowed nine books from Boston Public Library for L.M.A. Roy who needed books more technical than could be obtained in NH, also 31 books from NY Interbranch Loan Division were received for Mr. Roy. "It is gratifying the cordial and friendly interest shown in procuring just the books desired and willingness to loan them even to those outside of their state.

1932 "Our friends who tender a large coin in payment of a small fine refusing any change back, saying it might be used for the benefit of the children's story hour. All these kindnesses and others which may seem to be too small to be mentioned, do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated."

Librarian attended Northeastern Conference of Librarians held in Bethlehem, NH in June.

Mr. Roy continues to receive ILL's 41 from NYPL and 24 from Manchester.

1933 Library meeting of District No. 15 held in May at Tucker Free Library.

Librarian attended Library Conference held in Peterboro, NH.

Mr. Roy received 44 books from NYPL and 16 from Manchester.

1934 Merle Patenaude lighted evergreens on library lawn through week of Christmas.

Librarian attends district meeting in Candia and state meeting in Exeter.

1935 Town appropriation \$78.00

Librarian attended Northeastern Convention of Librarians in Lake George, NY.

1936 During flood in March, many pictures of different places in town were taken and were preserved for historic value. Hours changed from 2-5 & 7-9 to 3-8. Change will continue permanently if popular.

1937 Schedule change continues – “seem to be popular.” Library buys own lights for XMAS tree. Retired Merle Patenaude from the duty.

1938 Mrs. Wilbur Parmenter continues as “story-teller” and entertainer.

Eastern Library Conference attended by librarian in Manchester, VT.

Francis Child brings back pictures of Lord Henniker from his trip to Europe.

1939 No floods or hurricane – regular schedule of library work carried on

1941 Collected and sent two large boxes of books for Victory Book Campaign

STORY TIME cancelled and LIBRARY closed because of SCARLET FEVER

On January 14, 1941 it was decided to close library at 7PM instead of 8PM to conserve light and heat.

1942 Walter Connor dies. Served as original board member, as secretary, and as caretaker of the building. We have been fortunate in having so many donations for due to the smaller income from the library endowment and a large expense for repairs to the roof of the building, there has been less money available to purchase books.

1943 Permanent endowment of Huntoon Fund increased by \$1,000.00 as a memorial gift to husband Alberto Huntoon. Fund will be known as the AD Huntoon Memorial Fund. Library presented with a set of book plates to mark the volumes added from gift.

Decreasing income from trust funds.

1944 Library uses duplicate donated copies to replace worn copies on the shelves. Sent those that weren't used to the Merchant Marines.

Alva S. Bunnell of Contoocook presented the library with combination bookcase & secretary made of native hardwoods. Presented by Seth Bunnell to his bride Miss Helen Eastmen. It is appropriate that this memorial be preserved in the library as he was the contractor for the woodwork when the building was constructed in 1904.

1945 Library closed on Thursday through winter because of fuel shortage.

1946 First robbery of mention at Tucker Free Library. \$50 in gifts and fines taken from a locked drawer on 8/14.

New England College established. Tucker Free Library trustees extend facility to students and faculty.

“With the installation of OIL HEATING SYSTEM it will be possible to have the reading room and book stacks open for a longer period thus increasing the number of hours per week. “

Hope to extend hours to 8PM again.

1947 The increase in cost of books and magazines, without a corresponding increase in income and appropriations make it a difficult matter to keep up with the past record of books and magazines, however, we have not dropped any magazines from our subscription list, as we feel that the patrons much depend on them.

Grade school and high school student use the library extensively. First evidence in town reports of problematic behavioral issues.

“IN EVERY WAY WE STRIVE TO HELP THE EARNEST STUDENT, AND AT THE SAME TIME PRESERVE ORDER AND DIGNITY AND SAFE GUARD THE PROPERTY OF THE LIBRARY. IT IS NOT EASY OR PLEASANT TO TRY TO WORK IN A NOISY ATMOSPHERE, SO QUIETNESS IS REQUIRED – AND PROMPT RETURN OF BOOKS WHEN DUE, INSURES ALL WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO USE THEM.

OBEDIENCE TO THESE RULES IS NOT UNREASONABLE, BUT NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE MOST EFFICIENT OBJECT OF THE LIBRARY TO ALL.”

1948 The day in the life of the librarian

“LIBRARY WORK IS INTERESTING AND VARIED; FIRST DUTY ON OPENING IS TO CHANGE THE DATING STAMP, FAILURE TO DO THIS IS DISASTROUS AS ANY ONE EXPERIENCE IN THE WORK CAN TELL YOU. THEN THE MAGAZINES ARE PUT IN CONDITION FOR CIRCULATION WITH PROPER CARDS, ETC. NEW BOOKS ARE CLASSIFIED, FACING SLIPS & LABELS ADDED, THEN



CATALOGUED AND ACCESSIONED, THE CARDS LATER FILED IN THE PROPER FILES THEN AFTER THE LIBRARY STAMP HAS BEEN APPLIED THE BOOKS ARE READY FOR CIRCULATION. THEN LIKE THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE, THERE IS ALWAYS MENDING TO BE DONE, REPAIRING OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.”

Librarian enjoyed a two-week vacation. Library closed because library assistant became ill.

“P.S. We would like to call to the attention of the patrons, voters, and tax payers the fact that the library is in need of redecorating inside, also that another stack is needed in the stack room to hold the increasing number of books.”

1949 “We are very grateful to our friends, who contribute to the welfare of the library, and are anxious to make the library of real benefit to every resident of the town, and we welcome suggestions for doing so, also we are always glad to purchase worthwhile books upon request as far as we are able to do so.”

1950 Harry B. Preston dies on 2/9/50. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1928 to serve the unexpired term of his father, George C. Preston. Mr. Preston bequeathed his safe and \$3,000 to the library, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books.

1951 Furnace refused to “cooperate” and library forced to remain closed.

1952 On 11/1/52 library hours changed from 3-7 to 2-6 and Saturday 2-7. There are books on the floor in the reading room because of a lack of shelf space.

1953 Summer hours adopted: from 2-7 to 2-8 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

MOTTO – “The Library, is yours, use it.”

1954 Bad storms close the library.

“A mark of good citizenship and honesty as well as courtesy, for one who borrows an article is to return it in good condition, or if for any reason unable to do so, to make proper restitution. This applies to borrowers of the library as well as other articles.”

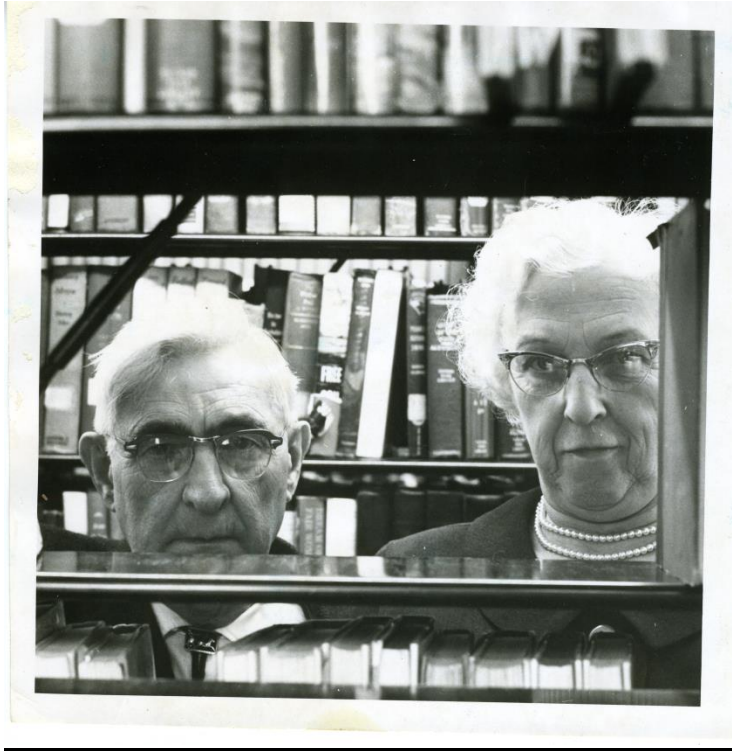
“Our Yankee ingenuity is taxed to the limit to find room for the comparatively few books added each year.”

1955 BOOKMOBILE from NH State Library comes every two months. Service is free to any library.

Fannie Bennett resigned 8/31/1955 after 26 years.

Evelyn and John Hollis appointed, librarian and assistant librarian. Attended Library School in Durham.

## The Evelyn Hollis Years



1956 Librarians go to the State Library to select non-fiction books for their library. These books were loaned for 30 days.” We, as librarians, are very glad to supply readers with as much material as possible.”

1959 In addition to the Bookmobile, TFL used projector and films offered through the State Library.

1960 Films shown. Celebrated National Library Week in April

1961 Harriett Ayer and teachers in the kindergarten and elementary school come library for story hour.

Films from State Library.

1962 Teachers from elementary school take books from the library for their rooms and children read them in their spare time.

1963 Select stock books from book mobile to supplement collection.

1965 Library joined the Cooperative Book Purchasing Program.

1966 FRIENDS OF LIBRARY FORMED.

The goal of the friends’ group was to “make library more useful to the town” through

1) better facilities for young readers

2) develop a research area

3) organize and properly display historical collection (Daniel Giffen, Director of NH Historical Society, come in to help with cleaning, repair, and organization of collection).

4) children's activities committee ran a very successful summer program. Arranged a reading area for young children in the historical room. DOLL HOUSE made by students of Miss Lena Merrick, in 1913-14 cleaned & restored.

LIBRARY USE BY YOUNGER READERS HAS INCREASED EACH YEAR AS IT HAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THAT BEING SAID,

Asked at town meeting to improve our facilities for children and to create a new historic area. "Request use of Proctor Trust to realize goals "of beauty and utility" for the use of town, we feel that the improvement of the library would be most suitable as a memorial to the memory of Miss Proctor." Mr. Giffen (NH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTOR) designed the space. The area included proper storage and a display space.

"USING PRESENT HISTORICAL ROOM FOR CHILDREN WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED OF HIRING AN ADDITIONAL LIBRARIAN WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IF SUCH A ROOM WERE PLACED ON ANOTHER FLOOR OF THE LIBRARY."

Historical room open on a regular schedule, staffed by volunteers.

1967 "the library, the land on which it stands, and much of the money which supports it were all gifts, and because of this we have asked for only \$1,000 each year from the town budget to help defray our expenses.

When the present building was erected, more than 60 years ago it was designed so that its use and program could be increased as necessary. Among potential facilities 2-story space for a stack room which has not been completed, large attic for dead storage, three large rooms in the basement (one of which will be used to display historic collection. It is hoped that this last room will have a dual purpose, offering a suitable space for various town groups to use for such interests as music, art, crafts, etc.

Library hours changed to make them more convenient for students

School library doesn't meet NHBofEducation standards so the community is "trying to work together to not duplicate services.

"Planning of the library trustees is based on total anticipated use of the entire library, and not merely with contemplated immediate plans, which means that we do not wish to do anything in undue haste. Rather than achieve instant results, we prefer to be sure that anything we do will be in keeping with the very high quality of the original plans and will not later have to be removed or changed as the library develops."

Lighting improved but inadequate in non-public areas

Heating plant much the same and books/historical objects need to be protected from proper temperature/humidity. Some items have already suffered because of inadequate storage.

1968

Library compares itself to others in state report "rank high in the number of books and magazines they read."

Special attention is given to research facilities.

Restroom was renovated.

New rug purchased for the adult reading room

New furnace installed to heat the lower level.

1969

"Our library has enjoyed another successful year, due almost entirely to the dedication and enthusiastic cooperation of everyone"

Purpose – serve needs of community	1) response to facility
	2) NH state statistics rank TFL 4 <sup>th</sup> in books read
	3) cost per/person \$4.31 compared to \$38.26

Friends of Library Direct Children's Reading Program

1970 Francis Lane Childs' Historical Room completed

Hollis Children's Room completed on Main Floor, including new carpet. Money comes from the Anna Childs Fund.

"Your library is growing all the time – expanding its capacity, enlarging the services it offers"

1971 Hope to add furniture designed especially for younger readers.

Asking for a modest increase in appropriation from \$1,000.00 (mainly because we have another and much larger income from trusts set up for our benefit, and partly because all of us work rather hard to keep expenses down.)

Insurance – property valued at \$200,000.00. Trustees feel it necessary to raise it to something nearer actual value.

HENNIKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY FORMED

"Unusually ambitious" summer reading program trip to Isles of Shoals, more expenses, more adult supervision.

1972 Archives Room created. Attractive, efficient fire resistant research area. Includes a sink with hot water.

New magazine rack

Phonograph purchased from government surplus and visitors to the library have been pleased to hear good music while they browse the shelves.

Experimented with keeping the library open more hours during the week (at the request of a number of citizens). Open at 10AM on Thursday. Library open 7-9 one evening a week.

“Since we are supported by trusts and by town meeting, and since a permanent addition to our present hours will raise our expenses, we don’t want to increase the cost to the public unless warranted.

1973 Evelyn and John Hollis retire. “based on their claim that they were old enough to retire.”  
LARGELY DUE TO THEIR EFFORTS THAT OUR SUMMER READING AND STORY HOUR PROGRAMS  
HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL.”

### The Carolyn Patenaude Years

Helene Dermon assistant

Jigsaw puzzles for kids and adults added

Floor added to the stack room; used for Friends’ Book Sale

More people borrow records

Anticipating that the energy shortage may bring more people into the library, bought more books and expanded hours

“Don’t forget to tell newcomers in town about the library & invite them to use it”

1974 Friends sponsor Tupperware Party to help finance summer projects

“a warm, open, friendly place”

Pattern exchange

New LIBRARY HOURS – 7-9 Wednesday including a group craft course

Librarians take courses

Storm windows installed hope to reduce heating bill

Theft deterrents

Landscaping

1975 Carolyn Patenaude resigns.

#### HIRING A NEW DIRECTOR

Ad placed in Hillsboro Messenger

Job Application Form modified to fit position

Each applicant sent form

Those who met basic requirements interviewed by trustees

Applicants asked whether job would meet their long term basis and the needs of town

#### The Ethel Miller Years

Ethel Miller hired “professional background, previous experience, personality, and attitude toward library work.”

Heavy iron grills installed in basement windows and tamper proof locks placed on doors.

Front doors reversed to conform with safety regulations

Instituted a biography and New Hampshire section

1976 – Budget problems

“One of our dreams at the moment to finish attic space for storage”

Started a film program

Celebrated National Library Week

Ethel attended 3/8 public library classes at Keene State

Wrote articles for taxpayers for Messenger

1977 Celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Evelyn Hollis Memorial Fund established

Purchased a new music system

Facility-wide inventory

#### HELENE DERMON NAMED ACTING LIBRARIAN

#### The Helene Dermon Years

1978 Evening hours become more popular.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Proctor Room constructed to house children's collection

Acoustical ceiling added to archives room (meeting room)

Peggy Ward named Assistant Librarian

Re-cataloged old books from the Henniker Free Library

Added a book drop and a conscience box.

Betty Holland named Children's Librarian/Proctor Room Volunteers

New Copier

New storm windows

Repainting upstairs – take it one room at a time

“Feeling the effects of inflation”

Used a bucket brigade to move the children's books downstairs

Grandfather Clock arrives, a gift of Rosie Robinson

1980

1970 BUDGET \$8,157.61 with a \$1,000 appropriation. Purchase 420 new books for \$1651.79.  
Circulation 12,796

1980 BUDGET \$21,840 with a \$3,000 appropriation. Purchase 397 new books for \$3,600.  
Circulation 16,933.

Current inflation increase costs. Trustees of Trust Fund decide to reinvest to receive higher interest rates. This resulted in a lag in payment so trustees make a “one-time” plea for more appropriation money.”

Reducing expenses is hard -- library has a record of holding expenditures to a minimum without diminishing services.

Room created in lower level for use by school. “KINDERGARTEN ROOM”

Book mobile no longer coming. Librarians must go to District Offices to be delivered by van.

The Peggy Ward Years



The Helga Winn Years



The Lynn M. Piotrowicz Years





The board of trustees of the Tucker Free Library (TFL) is extremely pleased to nominate the Tucker Free Library as the NHLTA Library of the Year. This nomination has the unanimous support of all the board members named above. We are proud to share that the TFL has made significant achievements under all of the criteria set forth by NHLTA for this award. Specific achievements are highlighted below.

The TFL has served the Town of Henniker for 114 years as a place of learning, leisure, social and intellectual interaction. Under the leadership of its current Director, Lynn Piotrowicz (M.A., M.L.S.) and a dedicated staff that has served for many years, TFL has consistently served increasing segments of the population, and is constantly exploring opportunities and challenges to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. The staff has kept pace with and promoted emerging technologies; built the capacity of individuals and institutions in Henniker; and served as a beacon of collaboration and cooperation both within our community and across the State of New Hampshire.

In these difficult and often austere economic times across the country, many public libraries are experiencing reduced funding and waning public support. They are often among the first victims of limited tax dollars and increasing competition for discretionary funding. We are proud that, based on a history of efficiency, consistent effort and success at seeking external (grant) funds, and judicious management of every penny provided by the Town of Henniker, the community this year demonstrated its overwhelming support for the TFL by passing a number of costly warrant articles in its Town Meeting that will enable maintaining, updating and exploring expansion of the TFL. Such support does not come lightly, and is a direct reflection of the very high esteem with which TFL is held by the entire town.

With its unanimous support for this nomination, the board of trustees of the TFL is pleased to present some of the major achievements made by TFL.

### **Nomination Criteria - Illustrative Achievements**

**1) Has demonstrated expansion and improvement of services and technology**



**a) TFL Staff:**

- Our staff has worked tirelessly to realize the goals of trustees, including expanding evening and weekend hours to meet the needs of the community. The commitment of the staff is reflected in their excellent attendance record (in six months only 2.5 hours of sick time were used, and that for scheduled medical appointments, not call-ins). All staff positions have been held for multiple years.
- Staff members actively participate in Continuing Education opportunities aimed at improving their individual and collective abilities to increase and improve the services offered by TFL. These include: regional conferences, special boot camps, online webinars, and professional development opportunities such as New England Library Leadership Symposium, MIT Apps Boot camp, CLNH Conference, and Storyteller Festival in Keene. Staff members are role models in their constant quest for knowledge and skills.
- The TFL staff proudly prioritizes and performs all 'patron services' tasks, regardless of the shift, to efficiently meet all the information needs of the community.
- All staff members maximize their opportunities to build reading lists and make recommendations to patrons via the TFL online catalog, the TFL website, or in-person.

**b) Technology:**

- The staff has worked to enhance the library website, adopting a user-friendly WordPress format and learning to manipulate many plug-ins, the most popular being the Events Calendar. Staff members have been called on by other libraries to provide guidance in the utilization of this plug-in, and to serve as a general resource on WordPress to the greater NH library community.
- TFL has been an early adopter of new technology. To reduce computing hardware and software expenses, the library mounted a “thin-client” system - a low-cost computing network that uses one server for all processing. The thin-client environment maximizes the potential of one computer which runs a multitude of devices through remote server software. New technology now allows for enhanced Wi-Fi service.

**c) Events/Services:**

- TFL staff has built a solid brand in “Sundays at the Library,” successfully identifying programs of interest to the community, promoting those programs, and moving a lot of furniture to meet the growing audience at those presentations.
- Many STEAM activities have been brought to our patrons through the Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces Grant. The goal of the grant was to design a space where people can engage in informal, participatory, active learning opportunities that also strengthen social connections. The Tucker Free Library was selected from over 100 applicants to receive \$5100.00 to build a community engagement space, and training support through monthly educational webinars on all facets of community engagement. The 18-month program culminated with the purchase of furnishing, equipment, and supplies to create the TFL KidSpace: A Playground for the Mind. Participating in this grant program has allowed TFL staff to connect with families in a fun, yet educational way. The TFL KidSpace ties in with the Public Library Association campaign “Every Child Ready to Read” which promotes development of literacy skills through TALKING, SINGING, READING, WRITING, & PLAYING.

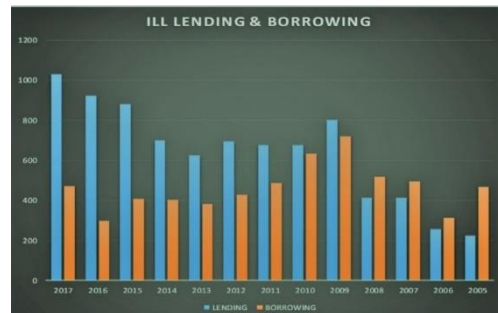
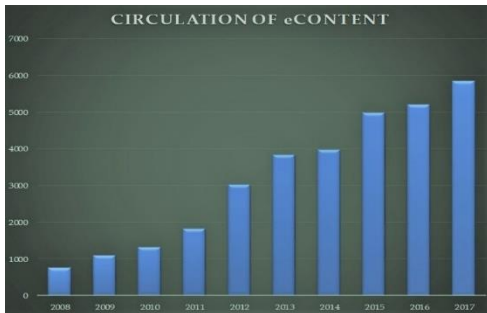
*“We are so excited that Henniker kids can push the threshold of learning, achieving developmental milestones COVERTLY when they engage with our STEAM manipulators,” states Piotrowicz, library director. “I feel that we achieved our objective magnificently, creating a family play and learning space designed to inspire and spark the intellectual, social, and creative development of our youngest minds!”*

**d) Collection:**

- The Tucker Free Library boasts a quality collection of 18,990 items, of which 10,013 (53%) have been added to the collection since January 2011. TFL was a first round

adopter of the NH Downloadable book program and has seen the circulation of these materials steadily increase from 759 in 2008 to 5,853 in 2017.

- The Tucker Free Library is an excellent resource for libraries in the state, providing 1,031 items through the interlibrary loan system in 2017 while requesting 471 items for our patrons.
- The Tucker Free Library was an early adopter of innovative marketing of materials: the staff have actively identified and labeled all series within our collection. The staff



coordinated the conversion of the collection from strictly Dewey Decimal to a Dewey-Lite System that organizes like materials in common areas. Library staff have talked at length about the benefits of this system with other librarians who traveled to Henniker to see Dewey-Lite in action, and at several regional continuing education opportunities.

## 2) Has enhanced services to a previously underserved part of the community

### a) Henniker Community at Large:

- Upon the 2013 completion of the Tucker Free Library revitalization, adults looking for a place to work, access the internet, or to sit quietly reading now have the Ann Soderstrom Media Center and Quiet Area at their disposal. The reappropriation of space was integral to the expansion of hours, the creation of the 'Sundays at the Library' brand, and development of a patron-friendly space. No longer worrying about disrupting patrons working on the Main Floor, circulation desk staff can now fully engage with patrons, meeting their needs for social interaction, information, training on NH Downloadable, and assisting with reference/reader advisory services.
- As part of the 'Sundays at the Library' brand, family oriented and general interest programs have been included. Magicians, musicians, storytellers, and puppeteers have enjoyed rousing audiences of all ages. These "Sundays at the Library" programs have enjoyed enormous success with as many as 90 people in the audience.



#### **b) Children and Youth:**

- TFL recently completed the creation of a smart space for community engagement through an 18-month grant offered by WebJunction, OCLC, IMLS, and ASRL. The objective of this area is to provide a location in the community that allows for learning through talking, reading, writing, singing, and playing! STEAM engagers were purchased that provide the opportunity for covert learning through engaged play. The TFL KidSpace has become a PLAYGROUND FOR THE MIND! It is an active learning space designed to encourage families to engage with their kids through cooperative play. The TFL KidSpace consists of building blocks of all sizes, shapes, and textures, math and science games, puzzles, art and music activities, as well as small robot/coding devices for kids, toddler thru early teens.
- Programming in the Children's' Department includes weekly story time and a summer reading program, both with ever-increasing participation. Tucker Free Library also promotes the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Initiative.



Tucker Free Library — Making a difference for Henniker Families



**Hailey**  
A reading superstar!



"I want my children to participate in the 1,000 Books program because I want to instill a love for reading at an early age. The more books we read the more we learn, the more words we are introduced to, the larger their vocabulary becomes. Each book takes us to new conversations and contributes to the way we play. An added bonus, we get to sit close, snuggle, and bond over a good book." Kristin, mom.

Tucker Free Library — Making a difference for Henniker Families



**Olivia**  
A reading superstar!



The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program (1000booksB4K) encourages parents to provide these positive, nurturing experiences regularly. Not only do the benefits of reading to pre-kindergarten children include long term educational success, but also promotes a lifelong love of books and reading! The 1000 Books Foundation is a non-profit whose mission is to encourage the parent and child bonding through reading.

Tucker Free Library — Making a difference for Henniker Families



**OLIVIA**  
Our latest scholar!



Olivia took part in the program in hopes to boost learning potential by encouraging reading with our children.

Tucker Free Library — Making a difference for Henniker Families



**LILY & HANNAH**  
Our latest scholars!



"We enjoy reading together each day and it was great to cross off the books as we read them. A wonderful activity to do together."  
Colleen Gagnon, mother

**TFL KIDSPACE: A PLAYGROUND FOR THE MIND!**





**HENNIKER KIDS ENJOYING TFL!**







### c) Seniors:

- In an effort to bring our seniors into the library more regularly, TFL partnered with Henniker's White Birch Community Center to engage in monthly programs. The two organizations have partnered for five years, offering discussions on a wide variety of TED talks. Many of the seniors in attendance have become regular library patrons and have attended other programs offered at the library. The Tucker Free Library also provides materials to support the White Birch Senior book group.



When members of the Henniker community opened the February White Birch newsletter, they were greeted by a beautiful love story. This story is especially exciting because it began at a program at the Tucker Free Library. For five years, the WB seniors and Library Director have been meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the library to discuss a wide and varied range of issues.

## A White Birch Love Story



AND SOMETIMES LOVE HAPPENS AT OUR LIBRARY!

*"We have shared some very touching stories and learned a great deal from each other. Together we have learned how important it is to have connections in life -- even when every fiber of your being wants to retreat into solitude. We have learned how resilient people are, sharing stories about their most difficult moments. We have learned that to be human means you have to be open to vulnerability to reap the rewards of an authentic life."*

*Lynn Piotrowicz, Director*

### d) Disabled:

- TFL offers 'Home Delivery' to disabled community members: we take this responsibility seriously. Even on weekends, staff drops off movies and other materials to our patrons who can't get to the library. We have also adjusted circulation policies to allow for extended check-out periods, consideration of limitations on check-outs, and flexibility when these patrons have difficulty returning materials on time.

## 3) Has developed partnerships with other libraries and/or community organizations

### a) Sharing Knowledge and Expertise:

- When time permits, the Director participates in projects to support other NH organizations. This includes serving as a grant reader.

*“It was so nice to meet you in person last year and have a personal tour of the beautiful and historic Tucker Free Library. I wanted to ask if you would be interested in being a panelist for a [NH State Council on the Arts](#) upcoming grant panel. Our [ARTS Cultural Conservation grants](#), are for the conservation of publicly owned historic artworks, and access to historic buildings that provide arts programming. As you may remember, the funds come from the sale of the NH Moose License plates. NHSCA receives a small portion of all the sales of these license plates to be used for conservation.”*

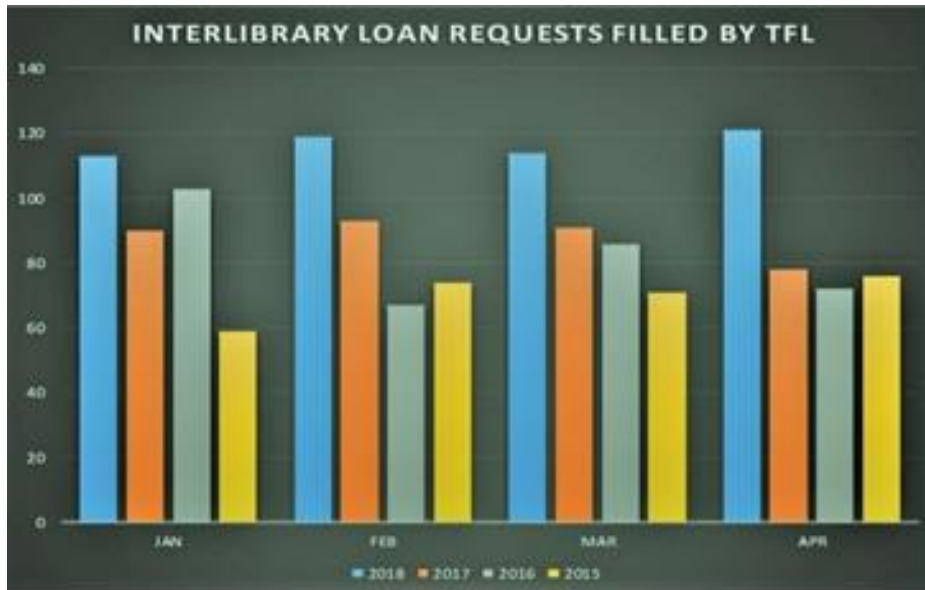
- The TFL Director has offered Continuing Education opportunities to peer groups throughout the state. These include programs on the new public library narrative, customer service, reorganizing the library collection for easier patron access, creating a patron-centric service philosophy, building projects emphasizing the creative use of space on a budget, and accentuating the rising popularity of library programs.

*“Thank you so much for preparing and presenting on customer service to our staff on Monday. I especially appreciate your willingness to share so much about yourself and your staff. The mantra of Customer Service gets beaten to death for many library workers, but you put a fresh and extremely insightful face on the concept. This was our first all day all staff meeting and we had a lot of takeaways that will change the way we do things.”*

- The staff of the Tucker Free Library has been an active member of the NH Downloadable Consortium. From serving on the acquisitions team to working on the maintenance of the collection, the staff has been actively advocating for the expansion of this service with patrons as well as throughout the state library community.

**b) Sharing Materials:**

- The staff of the Tucker Free Library has been actively cultivating material sharing partnerships (ILL relationships) since the NH State Library ILL system failed in December 2017. Along with sharing login information with neighboring libraries, the staff has been working to facilitate a lending process with fellow Apollo ILS libraries in NH. Apollo offers a package called VersaCat™. This software allows libraries to share catalog information, make requests, and receive ILL's directly through our own catalog page. TFL has relationships with 37 libraries, 14 of which are Apollo VersaCat™ partners.



#### 4) Has proven value to the community measured by relationship with and support from town officials and members of the community

##### a) Positive Feedback Examples:

- Community members, state politicians, staff, business leaders and more have consistently expressed their support for and appreciation of TFL - its services, programs, collection, facilities and most important, its commitment to the community. The excerpts from letters and notes below are just a few examples of such appreciation:
  - *“My parents would bring me to the library when I was growing up. This led me to feel like this place is more of a home to me, not just a job. I always hope to work here as long as possible even though I do have another full time job and it means working 7 day weeks.” Hugh Russell, employee since high school, five years ago.*
  - *“What strikes me most is the obvious love you, your staff, and the trustees have for the library, both as a vital town institution and a beautiful building, old though it may be.” Patron and community leader.*  
*“I’ve really appreciated how you have sent me lists of the books you’ve purchased with this fund. I think you’re making really, really excellent choices. I know my father-in-law would have been pleased. I’ve often wished I were near enough to borrow some.” Family contact for a long-standing Trust Fund.*
  - *“Be it known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations to the Tucker Free Library Henniker in Recognition of: The hard work and dedication of*



*undertaking and achieving a successful stewardship and improvements to an important community and historical building.” Senator Dan Feltes, District 15.*

- *“Can’t tell you - but will - what a fantastic library you’ve engineered. It’s just a delight and I appreciate it on so many levels!”*

#### Tucker Free Library — Making a difference for Henniker Business



“I have had the good fortune of utilizing the document delivery service at TFL. This service has helped me in obtaining important journal articles and book chapters valuable to the research projects I have had to complete in my professional work. And as with all the other useful services provided these days at TFL, the service has been delivered with efficiency and the positive spirit that pervades TFL. Thanks folks!”

Jack Bopp, MS, CRC, CLCP, Rehabilitation Services Associates, LLC

- TFL staff members have successfully competed for four state and two national grants to support enhancements of the library building, programs, and continuing education. *“Your own grant applications were very thorough and we think you would make a great panelist. We are looking for qualified panelists who have experience and an understanding of the importance for preserving historic structures, historic artworks, and providing access to historical community buildings. We would love to have you sit on the panel if you are available.” NHSCA Representative*

#### b) Town Officials and Voter Actions:

- Local tradesmen have volunteered to assist library staff achieve project objectives. This includes Jon Routon Painting, Marc Aucoin Electric, and Keith DeMoura of KND Metals & More, Inc. organize and maintain garden areas of the TFL grounds.





- At this year's Town Meeting, while desperately looking for creative ways to hold the line on spending, with the support of the Board of Selectmen, Henniker voters authorized action and approved funds to consider upgrades to the TFL facility and possible expansion/build-out of space.



## PROGRAM UPGRADES UNDER PIOTROWICZ – TIMELINE

2005 –

- Winnebago, a web-based catalog mounted. Allows real time access to library materials over the internet.
- Ice-dam damage, lightning strikes, computer crashes, and main furnace malfunctions. Library remains open and operating despite the facility challenges. Library staff “has dealt with each ordeal professionally and with confidence.

2006 –

- Library busy throughout the year, including traditionally slow months of August and December. Henniker residents flock to library to sign-up for cards, 213 new patrons registered.
- Collection maintenance continues with a goal of more useable space in all areas of the library.
- New walk-up, handicapped accessible book drop located at rear of building.
- Rear portico and entrance, handicapped railing, and lower level windows painted.
- Wireless environment created.
- Tucker Free Library was a first round adopter in the New Hampshire Downloadable Audio Book program. Funded by the Friends of the Tucker Free Library, this service made available, 1200 books that could be downloaded 24/7, 365. During the first five months of implementation, Henniker residents downloaded 125 titles.
- Story time is now run by professional staff members, relieving parents of the duty.
- Library courtesy cards for Henniker employees who are not residents implemented.

2007—

- Energy Recovery Unit and baseboard heating installed in the sub-basement level to eradicate the musty smell in building.
- Heat added to Main Floor circulation desk to eliminate the need for space heaters.
- Ductwork re-routed to interior office to cool the room housing computer equipment.
- 249 residents became members.
- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Summer Reading Program celebrated.

## Thank You, Dear Friends of the Tucker Free Library

On behalf of the trustees of the Tucker Free Library and as a Henniker mom, I want to take a moment to recognize the 40 years of service the Friends of the Tucker Free Library has given to this library and to try to let the Friends and those here know just how much their work has benefited this library and this community. First off, let me say thank you, Friends of the Tucker Free Library, for your invaluable support of this library. We are all deeply grateful for your dedicated service to Tucker Free and the citizens of Henniker over the past forty years.

This past summer Tucker Free Library celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Children's Summer Reading Program, which you have generously supported and sponsored each year. Wow, 40 years! That's about two generations of young Henniker readers who have been enriched by the stories read to them and who have been nurtured and encouraged to develop the wonderful habit of reading for pleasure and, hopefully, to begin a lifelong love affair with books.

If you will indulge me, I'm going to wax nostalgic for a moment. Recently I saw some library snapshots of dear little upturned faces listening raptly to the reader. These were wide-eyed faces I used to know so well as preschoolers and kindergartners, but who now are in middle school, high school, and beyond. So grown up! How did that happen?

But it has. And for many a summer's mornings here at the library, children of all ages have enjoyed the wonderfully simple and simply wonderful experience of sitting still (well almost sitting and almost still), listening to stories being read to them. And for a brief time, each child's imagination is transported to another world within the pages and illustrations. And each child comes to understand the powerful magic of the written word and after the story is encouraged to take out books and try the experience at home.

Then colorful charts decorated with painstakingly placed stickers keep tally of the accomplishments of not just the numbers of books kids have read, but the often outlandish travels these young readers have taken to faraway places and opportunities to meet the most interesting characters within the pages turned over the lazy days of summer.

Thank you for giving our children the gift that **READING CAN BE FUN!**

The summer reading program parties are greatly anticipated each year with great excitement. Balloons, cupcakes, punch, and prizes add to the excitement, and the entertainment is always a big hit. Whether there's a musician, puppeteer, or magician entertaining, or even wildlife encounters in these usually placid surroundings, both kids and adults... okay, nervous adults, especially when the 20' long snake was visiting – both young and older have enjoyed themselves immensely, and the giggles, singing, or squeals of delight belie the fact that the library is a very fun and happening place to be! Thank you.

And the newly instituted two-year tradition celebrating the end of school/Summer Reading Program Kickoff has taken Tucker Free's reputation, as a wild place to party, to new heights, featuring a rockin' DJ, way cool tattoos extolling the virtues of reading, and dancing librarian and staff.



The ice cream certificates you funded were another great reinforcer for kids to read in the summertime and participate in the reading program. For some families, a trip to the pharmacy soda fountain to redeem their Tucker Free Library ice cream certificates became a cherished yearly tradition, easing the painful last days of another altogether too short summer as September and school loomed large. Thank you.

You, Friends, have funded many other programs and additions to the library, including fine custom furnishings to display materials, which enhance the library's beauty, and comfortable chairs for patrons to peruse their literary finds. And in keeping Tucker Free on the "techno-cutting edge," you have purchased an annual subscription for Downloadable Audio books, which more than 525 have been downloaded so far this past year. Again, thank you so much.

And each year you undertake the hours of planning, organizing, and lugging, and lugging, and lugging of books into boxes and down stairs and outside and then inside to set up for the book sale. Not to mention Hot ATTICS! The BOOKFEST has long become a famous annual event that draws people from far and wide. . . even from Pennsylvania each year.

And each year as you host the sale and greet people, you all are always beaming and so cheerful and helpful, as if this is the one best thing to be doing on a gorgeous Saturday on Columbus weekend. (As if it were no sacrifice at all.) If only the rest of the service industry in America were so friendly and helpful!! Thank you for the countless hours of hard effort you put into the book sale to fund the many programs at Tucker Free.

Please forgive me for all the other programs and endeavors I have not mentioned here, but please know these, too, are greatly appreciated and you, Friends of Tucker Free Library, have been invaluable to making Tucker Free what it is today.

And know that I hold dear many cherished memories of events and visits and just wonderful experiences of sharing time with my kids here at Tucker Free because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Anderson

2008—

- New, more consistent hours take effect on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Switching schedule from Thursday closing to Monday closing. Added evening hours.
- Henniker Rotary Club donated \$2,540 to the Tucker Free Library to establish the Walter K. Robinson Classics Collection.
- New patron cards skyrocket as personal budgets tighten. The town library is an integral part of our community, offering free movies, books, newspapers, programs, internet service, and in some cases, a place to get warm.
- LIBRARY SERVICES VALUE CALCULATOR added to our website. For every tax dollar funded through appropriations, \$5.01 of value was realized.

## 2009—

- Ann Soderstrom leaves Tucker Free Library \$189,114. Trustees fight selectmen to place the money in a trust, not squandering this gift on operational expenses but instead using it to make a substantial improvement to the building when needed.
- Selectmen cut budget request. Trustees launch a major public relations campaign.

## 2010—

- TFL sees an increase in use over the record highs of 2009. Fueling this sustained higher use is a service philosophy that promotes the creation and offering of services that the community is looking for.
- New ILS (integrated library system) mounted. This system, Apollo by Biblionix, models the latest online innovations offering services that were not even available three years ago. The innovations include book cover art, reviews, and many customizable options for staff and patrons.
- Staff members continue to work on the reorganization of the collection of both adult and children's materials. Dewey-lite is implemented in the children's department. "When small children come to the library they want books on trucks, trains, ballerinas, animals, and dinosaurs... Connecting our collection to the specific interest of children means that our library is responding directly to the community's needs and empowering our users to explore, learn, and take full advantage of the collection."
- Additional internet computers added to all areas of the library.
- Jon Routon refurbished windows on south side of building, replacing the rope and weigh system with brass spring fixtures.
- Security system was enhanced to include panic strobes and audible signals between floors.
- Drainage issues addressed on north side of building. New trenches, drains, and pooling areas away from the building were added

## 2011—

- "The Tucker Free Library has a long history of being a critical asset to the Henniker community, serving as an outlet for lifelong learning, a conduit to the world of information through technology, and a gathering place for all."
- NH Downloadable service expands to include ebooks and formats compatible with iPods (Apple), Kindles (Amazon), and Nooks (Barnes and Noble).
- New logo designed to be used on library promotional materials, bookplates, and our website.

- Library website restructured and enhanced content made available for mobile web access.
- Collection reorganization continues and includes the elimination of fiction genres. Adult non-fiction collection was enhanced to be not only relevant but also current.
- Two doors to the meeting room were added to secure the area and create a more energy efficient space.
- Cabinet doors added for storage space on the Main Floor.
- White trim on the exterior of library painted.
- Projects on the To-Do-List included new carpeting and stained glass repairs.
- The Tucker Free Library was included in a municipal energy audit completed by the Jordan Institute. The Jordan Institute recognized library staff for their energy efficiency.

#### 2012—

- “Trustees, directors, staff, and townspeople have always answered the call, looking for ways to improve the functionality of the building. Shelving has been installed, walls have been erected, and entire collections have been developed while others have become obsolete. What remains constant has been the respect that all have had for the building, honoring the historic details that are represented so beautifully inside and out.
- Friends pay to restore/preserve most critical stained glass window. Grant prepared to restore remaining stained glass windows.
- Town asked to allow trustees to spend Ann S. Soderstrom funds on carpeting and the creation of a media center/quiet reading space.

#### 2013— REVITALIZATION

- “At no other time has there occurred such a rapid change in society as brought about by the influx of technology... Tomas Friedman wrote that technology is such a central component in everyday life that to not keep up is tantamount to a “technological hurricane,” an economic disaster of great magnitude on both the individual and societal levels.”
- Sixteen months ago, the trustees sat across from each other and grappled with terminology, specifically how to refer to the building project that we were hopeful to begin following the 2013 Town Meeting. It wasn’t until the term revitalization was brought to the table that the project coalesced. Not only has the building been revitalized; community enthusiasm for the library has been overwhelming.
- Soderstrom project complete, the following individuals and businesses become part of the institutional tapestry:
  - Granite State Glass – creation of door

- Marc and Reuven Aucoin – wiring phone and electric
- Jon Routon - painted
- Atkinson Carpet
- GraniteCor Department of Corrections for physical labor and building custom furniture
- Library Bureau Steel parts to retrofit old metal shelving
- Endicott Furniture
- Tom Baye – Removal and hanging of the pocket door
- Morgan Signs – lettering on the door
- Tom Gloudeman of Morphos Studios in Hancock, NH hired to restore and preserve stained glass transoms on Main Floor. Funded through MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT.
- Library hours expanded to offer more evening and weekend hours, including Sunday.
- Patti Osgood, receives statewide recognition as the 2013 NH Library Trustee of the Year. “Osgood embodies all the qualities of an exemplary trustee, brings extraordinary determination and dedication to the elected office.”

#### 2014—

- Another MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT received to repair stained glass. This year the large triptych above main entrance was restored and preserved.
- Change in hours seen as the cornerstone of the revitalization of our service philosophy.
- Development of the “Sundays at the Library” brand has resulted in more and varied adult programs being offered.
- TFL desktop and mobile websites increase in popularity as more community members look for ways to access materials; renewing, reserving, and checking out books online.
- Seen as a safe place to hang out after school, over 1,400 kids visited the library to use our computers, play X-Box, and to check-out books.
- Quick response to the closing of the local video store resulted in an increase in demand and resulting circulation of movies.
- TED Talks with White Birch

#### 2015—

- Previously determined eligible for the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, trustees urged to pursue final steps to become officially listed on the register. Acceptance letter dated 1/26/2015.

- “Our goal during the last year was to create enthusiasm for our library in the community. We worked to achieve that goal through increased visibility, accessibility, and excellent customer service.”
- Final three stained glass windows repaired by Tom Gloudemans through another MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT.
- Library staff mount a new website using WordPress.
- First mention of need to replace the roof. Trustees present a warrant article to create a roofing fund, asking taxpayers to appropriate \$20,000.00 to that fund.
- No public restroom on the Main Floor listed as a Safety and Security concern.

#### 2016—

- Peggy Ward dies. In memoriam her accomplishments included “excellent stewardship of the building, overseeing the construction of the rear hallway allowing for handicapped accessibility, and having the foresight to bring library automation to Henniker in the early days of computerized library service.”
- Recipient of Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces Grant. One of 15 libraries selected from across the country to participate in this national training program. The grant will help us reimagine our library.
- An additional \$20,000.00 appropriated for roof replacement project.
- Heating oil tank replaced.

#### 2017—

- New boiler installed.
- New wireless network installed for seamless use of the service throughout the building. The Ubiquiti system was designed by Dan Watts of Warner, NH. The system allows patron and staff to move throughout the building without changing networks.
- Final appropriation of \$13,000.00 for roofing project requested, thus totaling \$53,000.00 for the project in savings.
- Request for \$10,500.00 for an architectural feasibility study. Purpose of study to examine replacement of Garaventa Lift, creation of additional public restroom facilities, and provision of programming/meeting/quiet space.
- Betty Rood, employee from 1991-2009 dies. “Those who worked with Betty knew how committed she was to making a difference in each life she touched. Many of us have our favorite Betty stories. We also remember her generosity, her gigantic heart, her wit, as well as her Yankee sensibilities.”
- MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT for the return of the iron lamp posts to the front porch. Removed 35 years ago, the lamps were restored by Conant Metal in Burlington,

VT. Keith DeMoura of KND Metal spearheaded the effort to securely mount the lampposts and Marc Aucoin wired them to existing service and installed a timer to operate them.

2018—

- Roofing project completed in June/July of this year. G. Ray Colby & Sons did the job for a total of \$53,290.00. There was also a small bill from Marc Aucoin for troubleshooting work he did to restore power when roofing equipment caused a power surge and breaker issue.
- Director asked the Board of Trustees to nominate Tucker Free Library as the 2018 NH Library of the Year. Trustees and staff worked together to write the supporting documentation.

June 12. 2013 8:51PM

## **Lynn Piotrowicz wrote the book on revamping Henniker library**

By NANCY BEAN FOSTER  
Union Leader Correspondent



Though built more than 100 years ago, the Tucker Free Library in Henniker barely shows its age following a series of renovations. (Nancy Bean Foster Photo)

HENNIKER -- A little bit of money and a lot of creative thinking on the part of library director Lynn Piotrowicz have helped modernize the Tucker Free Library without compromising its historic charm.

To help other librarians do the same, Piotrowicz has co-authored a book on maintaining old buildings with limited resources.

The interior of the 105-year-old Tucker Free Library has undergone a substantial facelift, and old spaces have been given new life thanks to a trust fund established with money left by Ann S. Soderstrom, a longtime patron of the library.

According to Patti Osgood, chair of the Tucker Free Library board of trustees, the \$50,000 withdrawn from the trust was put to excellent use by Piotrowicz, who designed and managed the renovation project.

From floor to ceiling the building received a major sprucing up, with floors refinished, fresh paint on the walls, new carpeting, and careful cleaning of the mosaic tiles and woodwork that have been part of the library since it was built.

The museum room, once a space rarely used, has been transformed into the Ann S. Soderstrom Media Center and Reading Area, complete with computer workstations, comfortable chairs, and book shelves that look original but are actually brand new. To save money, Piotrowicz said she enlisted the help of the New Hampshire State Prison's GraniteCor program which puts prisoners to work building custom furniture, among other things.

"I priced out commercial furniture and it cost \$7,000 more and the quality just wasn't there," said Piotrowicz. "They were able to make everything match the original woodwork, including the tables, chairs and benches."

Piotrowicz said she approached the renovation project with the idea of creating more space for the library's patrons to read, research and relax while improving the library's atmosphere and energy efficiency. New blinds will control the amount of sun that gets in depending on the season, insulation to the attic was increased, and a new server was installed for the computers that cut the cost of running them by two-thirds, Piotrowicz said.

And though there are updated spaces throughout the library, including the childrens' and teens' areas in the basement, Piotrowicz was able to fill and organize the rooms by cutting and reusing shelving from upstairs.

"We wanted to reuse, repurpose and recycle as much as we could," she said.

To help other library directors achieve the same kind of efficiency and aesthetic improvements as she's been able to create, Piotrowicz and co-author Scott Osgood have written a book called "Building Science 101: A Primer for Librarians."

"Library school teaches you about building collections of books, but it doesn't teach you anything about maintaining the buildings," said Piotrowicz. "So we wrote a book that offers practical little hints for maintaining libraries and other old buildings."

With nearly two decades under her belt as a librarian and Osgood's expertise as a civil engineer, the book has been well-received in library circles, she said.

"We've sold around a thousand copies," said Piotrowicz.

To celebrate the completion of the renovations and to dedicate the Ann S. Soderstrom Media Center and Reading Room, the library will host a ceremony Wednesday, June 26, at 6:30 pm.

For more information, visit [www.tuckerfreelibrary.org](http://www.tuckerfreelibrary.org).  
[nfoster@newstote.com](mailto:nfoster@newstote.com)



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1898	Emerson, Henry A. Rice, Charlott I. Cogswell, Maria Connor, W.A. Cogswell, L.W.	1909	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M.	1919	Connor, W.A. Chadwick, George. E. Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A.	
1899	Emerson, Henry A. Rice, Charlott I. Cogswell, Maria Connor, W.A. Cogswell, L.W.	1910	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M.	1920	Holder, Thomas Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1900	Emerson, Henry A. Cogswell, Maria Cogswell, L.W. Connor, Walter	1911	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M.	1921	Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1901	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, Walter Cogswell, L.W. Dodge, Jennie N. Cogswell, Maria	1912	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M.	1922	Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1902	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, Walter Cogswell, L.W. Dodge, Jennie N. Cogswell, Maria	1913	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1923	Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1903	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, Walter Cogswell, L.W. Dodge, Jennie N. Cogswell, Maria	1914	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1924	Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Emerson, Henry A. Holder, Thomas	
1904	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, Walter Cogswell, L.W. Dodge, Jennie N.	1915	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1925	Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1905	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N.	1916	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Holder, Thomas Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1926	Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Peaslee, Fred A.	
1906	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N. Cole, Marian M.	1917	Emerson, Henry A. Preston, G.C. Holder, Thomas Cogswell, E.N. Chadwick, George. E.	1927	Peaslee, Fred A. Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Peaslee, Fred A.	
1907	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N. Cole, Marian M.				1928	Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1929	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B.
					1930	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B. Childs, Francis L.
					1931	Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B. Childs, Francis L. Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1932	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W.
					1933	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas
					1934	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1935	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1936	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas
					1937	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
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1905	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N.	1915	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1925	Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A.	
1906	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N. Cole, Marian M.	1916	Emerson, Henry A. Connor, W.A. Preston, G.C. Holder, Thomas Cole, Marian M. Chadwick, George. E.	1926	Falvey, John Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Peaslee, Fred A.	
1907	Emerson, Henry A. Bouton, T.C.H. Connor, Walter Preston, G.C. Dodge, Jennie N. Cole, Marian M.	1917	Emerson, Henry A. Preston, G.C. Holder, Thomas Cogswell, E.N. Chadwick, George. E.	1927	Peaslee, Fred A. Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Connor, W.A. Falvey, John Peaslee, Fred A.	
					1928	Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, G.C. Cogswell, E.N. Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1929	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B.
					1930	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B. Childs, Francis L.
					1931	Connor, W.A. Falvey, J.H. Preston, Harry B. Childs, Francis L. Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1932	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W.
					1933	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas
					1934	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1935	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.
					1936	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas
					1937	Connor, W.A. Doon, James W. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A.

1938	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Trufant, Harold C.	1948	French, Alfred L. Maxwell, Diamond Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Peaslee, Fred A.	1958	Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah	1968	Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane
1939	Holder, Thomas Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. Trufant, Harold C. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas	1949	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Peaslee, Fred A. Cogswell, Sarah J. Maxwell, Diamond	1959	Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas	1969	Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary
1940	Connor, W.A. French, Alfred L. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Kelley, Edson Peaslee, Fred A.	1950	Bracy, Stanley Peaslee, Fred A. Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J. Edmunds, Clarence	1960	Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna	1970	Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P.
1941	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Kelley, Edson Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. French, Alfred L.	1951	Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J. Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna	1961	Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah	1971	Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane
1942	Kelley, Edson Peaslee, Fred A. Connor, W.A. French, Alfred L. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas	1952	Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J.	1962	Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah Edmunds, Clarence Weeden, Benjamin	1972	Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary
1943	French, Alfred L. Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Kelley, Edson Peaslee, Fred A.	1953	Cogswell, Sarah J. Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J. Edmunds, Clarence	1963	Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah Cogswell, Sarah Edmunds, Clarence Weeden, Benjamin Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna	1973	Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P.
1944	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Kelley, Edson Peaslee, Fred A. French, Alfred L. Maxwell, Diamond	1954	Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Cogswell, Sarah J. Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley	1964	Edmunds, Clarence Weeden, Benjamin Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Chase, J.P.	1974	Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Connor, Brenda
1945	French, Alfred L. Maxwell, Diamond Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Fitch, Clarence Peaslee, Fred A.	1955	Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna	1965	Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Sanborn, Duane	1975	Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Connor, Brenda Kjellman, Mary
1946	Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas Fitch, Clarence Peaslee, Fred A. French, Alfred L. Maxwell, Diamond	1956	Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J. Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J.	1966	Maxwell, Diamond Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna	1976	Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Connor, Brenda Kjellman, Mary McKean, Carolyn Chase, J.P.
1947	Fitch, Clarence Peaslee, Fred A. French, Alfred L. Maxwell, Diamond Preston, Harry B. Rowe, Silas	1957	Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Maxwell, Diamond Cogswell, Sarah J. Edmunds, Clarence Rowe, Silas	1967	Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane Bracy, Stanley Childs, Anna Kjellman, Mary Patenaude, Kathy Chase, J.P.	1977	Connor, Brenda Kjellman, Mary McKean, Carolyn Chase, J.P. Edmunds, Clarence Sanborn, Duane

1978	McKean, Carolyn	1988	Edmunds, Clarence	2000	Simkin, Terrance ©	2012	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Chase, J.P.		Sanborn, Duane		Higginson, Janet		Turner, Scott (vice chair)
	Edmunds, Clarence		Patenaude, Carolyn		Colby, Wayne		Anderson, Christine Putnam
	Sanborn, Duane		Graffam, Jerry		Bowser, Patricia		Colby, Jean (resign 7/12)
	Connor, Brenda		Higginson, Janet		Osgood, Patti		Ramsey, Jamie
	Kjellman, Mary		McKean, Carolyn ©	2001	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily (appointed 9/12)
1979	McKean, Carolyn	1989	Patenaude, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet	2013	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Chase, J.P.		Graffam, Jerry		Colby, Wayne		Turner, Scott (vice chair)
	Edmunds, Clarence		Higginson, Janet		Bowser, Patricia		Anderson, Christine Putnam
	Sanborn, Duane		McKean, Carolyn ©		Osgood, Patti		Ramsey, Jamie
	Connor, Brenda		Konze, Robert	2002	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily
	Kjellman, Mary	1990	Higginson, Janet		Higginson, Janet	2014	Osgood, Patti (chair)
1980	Connor, Brenda		McKean, Carolyn		Colby, Wayne (T)		Ramsey, Jamie (vice chair)
	Kjellman, Mary		Konze, Robert ©		Bowser, Patricia (S)		Capuco, John (treasurer)
	McKean, Carolyn		Patenaude, Carolyn		Osgood, Patti		Kreutzer, Deb (secretary)
	Chase, J.P.		Graffam, Jerry	2003	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily (secretary)
	Edmunds, Clarence	1991	Konze, Robert ©		Higginson, Janet	2015	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Sanborn, Duane		Patenaude, Carolyn		Colby, Wayne (T)		Ramsey, Jamie (vice chair)
1981	McKean, Carolyn		Graffam, Jerry		Bowser, Patricia		Capuco, John (treasurer)
	Chase, J.P.		Higginson, Janet		Osgood, Patti		Kreutzer, Deb (secretary)
	Edmunds, Clarence		McKean, Carolyn	2004	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily (secretary)
	Sanborn, Duane	1992	Patenaude, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet	2016	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Connor, Brenda		Graffam, Jerry		Colby, Wayne (T)		Ramsey, Jamie (vice chair)
	Patenaude, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet		Osgood, Patti		Capuco, John (treasurer)
1982	Edmunds, Clarence		McKean, Carolyn ©		Anderson, Christine Putnam		Kreutzer, Deb (secretary)
	Sanborn, Duane		Rosenbleeth, Carol	2005	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily (secretary)
	Connor, Brenda	1993	Higginson, Janet		Higginson, Janet	2017	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Patenaude, Carolyn		McKean, Carolyn ©		Colby, Wayne (T)		Ramsey, Jamie (vice chair)
	McKean, Carolyn		Rosenbleeth, Carol		Osgood, Patti		Capuco, John (treasurer)
	Chase, J.P.		Gilbert, Allyn		Anderson, Christine Putnam		Kreutzer, Deb (secretary)
1983	Connor, Brenda		Patenaude, Carolyn	2006	Simkin, Terrance ©		O'Rourke, Emily (resign 6/17)
	Patenaude, Carolyn	1994	Colby, Wayne		Robinson, Walter		Ladd, Angelica (appointed 9/17)
	McKean, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet		Colby, Wayne	2018	Osgood, Patti (chair)
	Chase, J.P.		Gilbert, Allyn ©		Osgood, Patti		Ramsey, Jamie (resigned 6/18)
	Edmunds, Clarence		Connor, Doreen		Anderson, Christine Putnam		Capuco, John (treasurer)
	Sanborn, Duane		Patenaude, Carolyn	2007	Simkin, Terrance ©		Kreutzer, Deb (secretary)
1984	Connor, Brenda	1995	Patenaude, Carolyn		Colby, Jean		Ladd, Angelica (secretary)
	Patenaude, Carolyn		Gilbert, Allyn ©		Osgood, Patti		Crotti, Anne (appointed 7/18)
	McKean, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet		Anderson, Christine Putnam		
	Chase, J.P.		Connor, Doreen		Simkin, Pauline		
	Edmunds, Clarence		Colby, Wayne	2008	Simkin, Terrance ©		
	Sanborn, Duane	1996	Gilbert, Allyn ©		Colby, Jean		
1985	Edmunds, Clarence		Higginson, Janet		Osgood, Patti		
	Sanborn, Duane		Connor, Doreen		Anderson, Christine Putnam		
	Connor, Brenda		Colby, Wayne		Simkin, Pauline		
	Patenaude, Carolyn		Proctor, Patricia	2009	Osgood, Patti, c		
	Fowler, Tony	1997	Gilbert, Allyn ©		Colby, Jean		
	McKean, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet		Anderson, Christine Putnam		
1986	Burt, Karen		Connor, Doreen		Ramsey, Jamie		
	Connor, Brenda		Colby, Wayne		Simkin, Terrance resigned 11/09		
	Patenaude, Carolyn		Proctor, Patricia		Colby, Wayne, appointed 11/09		
	Fowler, Tony (resign)	1998	Gilbert, Allyn ©	2010	Osgood, Patti, c		
	McKean, Carolyn		Higginson, Janet		Anderson, Christine Putnam		
	Edmunds, Clarence		Connor, Doreen		Ramsey, Jamie		
	Sanborn, Duane		Proctor, Patricia		Colby, Jean		
1987	Burt, Karen		Colby, Wayne		Turner, Scott		
	McKean, Carolyn	1999	Gilbert, Allyn ©	2011	Osgood, Patti		
	Edmunds, Clarence		Higginson, Janet		Turner, Scott		
	Sanborn, Duane		Colby, Wayne		Colby, Jean		
	Patenaude, Carolyn		Simkin, Terrance		Anderson, Christine Putnam		
	Graffam, Jerry		Bowser, Patricia		Ramsey, Jamie		

### **Timeline of building modifications**

**1927** New lights have been installed in the three large rooms of the library, adding much to its attractiveness.<sup>39</sup>

**1946** Installation of oil heating system results in increased service hours<sup>40</sup>

**1966** In a Report of the Friends of the Library, the space issue again surfaces. "Our purposes have been to create better facilities for young readers, to develop a research area where our books of special interest which are too rare and/or valuable for loan may be studied at leisure, and to organize and properly display our historical collection." The report continues to urge support for the projects to improve the facilities and use money from the Proctor Trust. The Proctor Trust was established with the will of Edna Dean Proctor for town projects of "beauty and utility."<sup>41</sup>

**1967** Board of Trustees write that it is their job to see that the library is more useful to the town each year and describe in detail the interior use of the building and how they hope to renovate to enhance that space.

"When the present building was erected, more than sixty years ago, it was designed so that its use and program could be increased as necessary, which is most unusual for a town our size. Among other potential facilities, the library contains a two-story space for a stack room which has not been completed, a large attic which is presently used only for dead storage, and three large rooms in the basement, one of which is now planned for a historical room and study center...The planning of the library trustees is based on the total anticipated use of the entire library, and not merely with contemplated immediate plans, which means that we do not wish to do anything in undue haste. Rather than achieve instant results, we prefer to be sure that anything we do will be in keeping with the very high quality of the original plans for the library and will not later have to be removed or changed when the need for new uses develop. The present lighting of the library has been increased and improved from time to time but is not adequate in any parts of the library except those now used by the public. The present heating plant has been changed to some extent, but is basically much as it was when the library was built."<sup>42</sup>

**1968** Improvements to the library include a new rug for the Adult Reading Room and the installation of a new furnace designed to heat the parts of the library presently in use and the Francis Lane Childs Historical Room. Keeping with the direct relation that Henniker and its

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<sup>39</sup> Librarian's Report. Annual Reports of Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker New Hampshire together with reports of Town Officers for the Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 1927, pg. 54.

<sup>40</sup> Annual Report of the Tucker Free Library. Annual Report of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the year ending December 31, 1946, pg. 51.

<sup>41</sup> Report of the Friends of the Library. Annual Report of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the year ending December 31, 1966, pg. 70-71.

<sup>42</sup> Report of the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the year ending December 31, 1967, pgs. 54-56.

history are intertwined with the library, Henniker craftsmen, artisans and artists will do the work of completing the room.<sup>43</sup> The construction plan was designed by A. Holton.

**1969** Francis Lane Childs Historical room was dedicated on November 8, 1969. "At that time the room had been changed from what was essentially an unfinished, dirt-floored storage place to one with a beam and plaster ceiling, a cement floor with proper drainage facilities, and lighting installed. These major steps of construction were completed at a cost of around \$2000 of the original \$5000 given by the town to complete the room."<sup>44</sup>

**1970** Francis Lane Childs Historical Room completed, project came in under budget thanks to the many people who volunteered hours of labor. Storage rooms in basement cleared and cleaned to be used to house main historical collection. Additions and improvements also occurred in the Hollis Children's Room on the main floor. New carpet installed which makes the room much more attractive, and cuts down considerably on the noise. New book cases and other furnishings purchased with money from the Anna Childs Fund, donated in memory of this honored former trustee.<sup>45</sup>

**1972** Archives Room in the basement was rebuilt from a former rough storage space to an attractive, efficient, fire resistant research area. A sink with hot water was added.<sup>46</sup>

**1973** Floor put in the stack room.<sup>47</sup>

**1974** Installation of storm windows, which will reduce our heating bill, a project in the process of completion to make the building secure against theft, and a landscaping plan.<sup>48</sup>

**1975** Heavy iron grills were installed in basement windows, tamper-proof locks were placed in exterior doors, and the front doors of the Library were reversed to conform to safety regulations.<sup>49</sup>

**1977** Major plan will be the construction of a new floor in the present stack room which will provide space for our historical collection.<sup>50</sup>

**1978** Proctor Room now being built on the middle level of the library and which is planned for a dual purpose. Part of the space will be used for much needed stack room, and the other will be used as a center for books and reading space for the intermediate youngsters.<sup>51</sup>

**1979** Proctor Room for children in the middle age group completed. Money for the construction came to us from the Proctor Family Trust through a vote of the town. The

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<sup>43</sup> Report of the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the year ending December 31, 1968, pg. 61.

<sup>44</sup> Report of the Trustees of Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1969, pg. 70.

<sup>45</sup> Report of the Library Trustees. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1970, pgs.71-72.

<sup>46</sup> Report of Library Trustees. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1972, pg. 77.

<sup>47</sup> Report of Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1973, pg. 89.

<sup>48</sup> Report of Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1974, pg. unnumbered.

<sup>49</sup> Report of the Trustees of Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1975, pg. 66.

<sup>50</sup> Report of the Trustees Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1977, pg. 70.

<sup>51</sup> Report of the Trustees Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1978, pg. 72.

addition of the room to our facilities met a real need, as it freed the Hollis Children's Room for our younger readers and relieved a congestion of books in the stack space.<sup>52</sup>

**1987** With the \$10,000 the town appropriated for the purpose, the roof was completely re-shingled, extensive interior painting was done, broken windows were replaced, and electrical problems were resolved.<sup>53</sup>

**1988** This was the second year of the long range library capital improvement plan. With the \$10,000 which the town appropriated a plaster ceiling was repaired, old windows in the downstairs children's room were completely replaced with new, energy efficient ones, and the painting of the library interior was completed. This interior decorating included repairing and replacing the original stencilling, much of which is gold leaf. Additional electric work, new non-slip rubber stair covering, refinishing the reference room floor was also completed.<sup>54</sup>

**1989** The third and final year in the library's capital improvement plan completed. Work this year included repointing exterior brickwork and rebuilding of a chimney. The next big undertaking will be to address a space problem in regards to the reference collection, and to make the library handicapped accessible to better serve all patrons.<sup>55</sup> The architectural firm of Ingram & Wallace of Manchester, NH designed the addition.

**1990** At this point in time, the library's goal is to proceed with its project to make the building handicapped accessible. Henniker citizens generously voted, at last year's town meeting to allocate the requested partial funds. The library was successful in obtaining a Federal grant of \$40,000 and grants total \$15,000 from two private sources, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation and the Cogswell Benevolent Trust.<sup>56</sup>

**1991** Tucker Free Library has completed the building project to make the library handicapped accessible. The interior construction is now complete and the chair lift has been approved by the State Elevator Inspector. As soon as the weather permits, the work on the exterior portion, such as the pathway will be accomplished, thereby completing the first phase of the library's long range plans. Hopefully as funding becomes available in the future, Phase II will be embarked upon. This calls for relocating the children's room and finishing the spacious attic.<sup>57</sup>

**1993** We have indefinitely postponed Phase II, this will afford the town the time to formulate their plans for relocating the historical collection. This year the library will be requesting funds to replace the antiquated furnaces and to revamp the heating system. We will also ask for the establishment of a five year capital reserve fund, to allow replacement of old electrical wiring and to automate the library card catalog and circulation.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Report of the Trustees Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1979, pg. 77.

<sup>53</sup> Report of the Trustees Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1987, pg. 42.

<sup>54</sup> Report of the Trustees Tucker Free Library. Annual Reports of the Officers of the Town of Henniker, New Hampshire for the Year Ending December 31, 1988, pg. 51.

<sup>55</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Town of Henniker, New Hampshire Town Report December 31, 1989, pg. 49.

<sup>56</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Town of Henniker, New Hampshire Town Report December 31, 1990, pg. 50.

<sup>57</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. 1991 Annual Reports of the Town Officers of Henniker, New Hampshire, pg. 30.

<sup>58</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Henniker, New Hampshire 1993 Annual Report, pg. 33.

**1994** Assess space utilization and move all the children's materials downstairs thus allowing expansion of the adult collection on the main floor. Also to be addressed is the need to install a public handicapped accessible restroom.<sup>59</sup> Main floor air conditioning unit installed. Cools the director's office and Hollis Room

**1995** Historical Society relocates. Public handicapped restroom constructed. Chairlift donated by the Henniker School Board.<sup>60</sup>

**1996** Structural concerns addressed. Stack room floors were reinforced to alleviate a serious safety issue caused by the inadequate weight bearing capacity of the old floor joists.<sup>61</sup>

**2000** Main floor air conditioning expanded to cool the remaining rooms. A second much larger unit was added to cool the additional space.

**2004** Repainting the tin ceiling on the main floor, repairs to boiler and the installation of a more efficient heating system in the lower level, needs assessment completed to plan for the future expansion of the library.<sup>62</sup>

**2006** New walk-up, handicapped accessible book drop located at rear of building. Rear portico and entrance, handicapped railing, and lower level windows painted. Wireless environment created.

**2007** Energy Recovery Unit and baseboard heating installed in the sub-basement level to eradicate the musty smell in building. Heat added to Main Floor circulation desk to eliminate the need for space heaters. Ductwork re-routed to interior office to cool the room housing computer equipment.

**2008** Programmable thermostats installed. PSNH lighting retrofit. Attic insulated. Other needs expressed.<sup>63</sup>

**2010** Jon Routon refurbished windows on south side of building, replacing the rope and weigh system with brass spring fixtures. Security system was enhanced to include panic strobes and audible signals between floors. Drainage issues addressed on north side of building. New trenches, drains, and pooling areas away from the building were added.

**2011** Two doors to the meeting room were added to secure the area and create a more energy efficient space. Cabinet doors added for storage space on the Main Floor. White trim on the exterior of library painted. Projects on the To-Do-List included new carpeting and stained glass repairs. The Tucker Free Library was included in a municipal energy audit completed by the Jordan Institute. The Jordan Institute recognized library staff for their energy efficiency.

**2012** Friends pay to restore/preserve most critical stained glass window. Grant prepared to restore remaining stained glass windows. To this end Lynn M. Piotrowicz of Tucker Free Library, Henniker, NH prepared the documentation to determine eligibility for listing on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places as required by: New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM NHDHR INVENTORY # HEN0014

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<sup>59</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Henniker, New Hampshire 1994 Annual Report, pg. 55.

<sup>60</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Town of Henniker 1995 Annual Report, pg. 39.

<sup>61</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Town of Henniker 1996 Annual Report, pg. 38.

<sup>62</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Henniker, New Hampshire 2004 Annual Report, pg. 42.

<sup>63</sup> Tucker Free Library Annual Report. Henniker, New Hampshire 2008 Annual Report, pg. 52-54.

**2013** Soderstrom project complete. Tom Gloudeman of Morphos Studios in Hancock, NH hired to restore and preserve stained glass transoms on Main Floor. Funded through MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT.

**2014** Another MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT received to repair stained glass. This year the large triptych above main entrance was restored and preserved.

**2015** Previously determined eligible for the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, trustees urged to pursue final steps to become officially listed on the register. Acceptance letter dated 1/26/2015. First mention of need to replace the roof. Trustees present a warrant article to create a roofing fund, asking taxpayers to appropriate \$20,000.00 to that fund. No public restroom on the Main Floor listed as a Safety and Security concern.

**2016** An additional \$20,000.00 appropriated for roof replacement project. Heating oil tank replaced.

**2017** MOOSE PLATE PRESERVATION GRANT for the return of the iron lamp posts to the front porch. Removed 35 years ago, the lamps were restored by Conant Metal in Burlington, VT. Keith DeMoura of KND Metal spearheaded the effort to securely mount the lampposts and Marc Aucoin wired them to existing service and installed a timer to operate them. New boiler installed. New wireless network installed for seamless use of the service throughout the building. The Ubiquiti system was designed by Dan Watts of Warner, NH. The system allows patron and staff to move throughout the building without changing networks. Final appropriation of \$13,000.00 for roofing project requested, thus totaling \$53,000.00 for the project in savings. Request for \$10,500.00 for an architectural feasibility study. Purpose of study to examine replacement of Garaventa Lift, creation of additional public restroom facilities, and provision of programming/meeting/quiet space.

**2018** Roofing project completed in June/July of this year. G. Ray Colby & Sons did the job for a total of \$53,290.00. There was also a small bill from Marc Aucoin for troubleshooting work he did to restore power when roofing equipment caused a power surge and breaker issue.



**APPENDIX B -- Highlights and Statistics from Year End Henniker Free Library Annual Town Reports**

Town Report fiscal year ending Feb...	Significant Activities	Town Appropriation	Books on Shelf	Circulation Statistics
1890 <sup>64</sup>	HENNIKER FREE LIBRARY FORMED	\$200	584	NA
1891 <sup>65</sup>	<b>First program</b> "During the winter an entertainment was given for the benefit of the library (\$27.60 raised); and to all who contributed aid or material the trustees desire to return hearty thanks."	\$200	920	"largest number in one day was between ninety and one hundred; the smallest number, on a very stormy day, about thirty."
1892 <sup>66</sup>		\$200	1221	"More books have been taken from the library this year than any previous year of its existence..These facts prove conclusively that the citizens have not lost any of their interest in its welfare."
1893 <sup>67</sup>		\$200	1400	"More than 7,000 books have been taken from the library during the year, about two thirds of the families in town availing themselves of the privilege."
1894 <sup>68</sup>	Four books burned in June fire. Replaced by trustees and the person	\$200	1574	6,350 volumes borrowed by 175 different families while magazines and paperbacks in constant circulation. "very gratifying to

<sup>64</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Auditors of the Town of Henniker Together with the Report of the School Board for the Year ending March, 1890, pgs. 23-27.

<sup>65</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library. Annual Report of Selectmen, Treasurer, School Board, Trustees and Treasurer of Free Library of the Town of Henniker for the Year Ending February 28, 1891, pgs. 21-24.

<sup>66</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library. Annual Report of Selectmen, Treasurer, School Board, Trustees and Treasurer of Free Library, of the Town of Henniker, for the Year Ending February 29, 1892, pgs. 22-24.

<sup>67</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Library. Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasure, School Board, Trustees and Treasurer of Free Library of the Town of Henniker for the Year Ending February 28, 1893, pgs. XXXXXX.

<sup>68</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library. Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, School Board, Trustees and Treasurer of Free Library of the Town of Henniker for the Year Ending February 15, 1894, pgs. 23-24.

	whom the books were charged paying half the cost			know that the books reached every family in town, yet we have no doubt that the elevating influence is felt by all”
1895 <sup>69</sup>	Solicited suggestions for purchase from community	\$200	1700	“About the same number of books...and by the same families. The trustees would now urge,...every family in town to avail themselves to this educational privilege, assuring them that they will always be made welcome, and if they once claim the privilege which is freely given to them, they will never willingly relinquish it.”
1896 <sup>70</sup>	Community suggestions reported as assisting in the selection of books. FIRST reference to the library as LITERARY ENJOYMENT in addition to education.	\$200	1887	“The usual number of books have been taken out during the year, and the trustees would, as they have done heretofore, earnestly urge every family in town to avail themselves of this great privilege, for their educational as well as for their literary enjoyment, assuring them that if once they became patrons they will never wish to relinquish the benefits derived from doing so.”
1897 <sup>71</sup>		\$200	2046	“There are about 350 families in town; 178 families have patronized the library during the year...showing there is an active interest and an earnest appreciation of the benefits derived from its use.
1898 <sup>72</sup>	Books called in for inspection and some not returned. Patrons asked to examine their personal	\$213.10	2202	NA

<sup>69</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library. Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, School Board, Trustees and Treasurer of Free Library, of the Town of Henniker for the Year Ending February 15, 1895.

<sup>70</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Town Clerk, and Janitor for the Fiscal year Ending February 15, 1896, pgs. 41-43.

<sup>71</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1897, pgs. 41-43.

<sup>72</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1898, pgs. 51-52.

	bookshelves to see if there may be library books there			
1899 <sup>73</sup>	Circulation of fiction is a large proportion of checkouts. Shelving space running out. Shelf room enlarged to accommodate the crowded materials. ELECTRICITY mentioned as lighting	\$213.10	2322	5668
1900 <sup>74</sup>	Librarian E. Maria Cogswell resigns on 2/27/1899. Miss Edna L. Connor elected librarian on 3/15/ 1899. Trustee Charlotte I. Rice resigned on 7/3/1899.	\$213.10	2434	6394
1901 <sup>75</sup>	Jennie N. Dodge elected trustee 3/13/1900 and named librarian 8/22/1900. Edna L. Cooper resigned to return to North Dakota 8/22/1900.	\$213.10	2615	6680
1902 <sup>76</sup>		\$263.10	2851	8413
1903 <sup>77</sup>	No additional money	\$113.10	2918	8018

<sup>73</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1899, pgs. 50-52.

<sup>74</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1900, pgs. 54-56.

<sup>75</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1901, pgs. 51-53.

<sup>76</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1902, pgs. 49-51.

<sup>77</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1903, pgs. 47-48.

	appropriated besides that amount mandated by State. Collection development and hours impacted, reducing service from two days to one.			
1904 <sup>78</sup>	Maria Cogswell dies. Building Committee reports for first time.	\$212.20	3034	NA

**APPENDIX C: Newspaper article about H.M. Francis which lists his accomplishments.<sup>79</sup>**

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<sup>78</sup> Report of Trustees of Henniker Free Public Library, Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker comprising the reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, and Town Clerk for the Fiscal Year Ending February 15, 1904, pgs. 46-49.

<sup>79</sup> H.M. Francis listing in *Leading Business Men of Fitchburg* (courtesy of the Fitchburg Historical Society)

**H. M. Francis**, Architect, Postoffice Building, Fitchburg, Mass.—Mr. H. M. Francis has carried on business as an architect for 30 years, and has been located in Fitchburg for two-thirds of that time, having begun operations here in 1869. Among the principal buildings designed by him, and erected under his supervision, may be mentioned the Fitchburg Public Library, the City Hall, the Fitchburg Depot, the Day Street Universalist and the Rollstone Churches, also Mr. T. K. Ware's residence, the Palmer and Monson Universalist Churches, the Marlboro Baptist Church, the Lawrence Academy and High School buildings in Groton, also the Murdock High School building in Winchendon, John R. Foster's house in Clinton, and a great many other prominent buildings might be named. There are probably none of our readers but what are familiar with one or more of these buildings, and we need not therefore take up space in endeavoring to describe them, and thus indicate some of the difficulties met with and overcome in their construction. What we particularly wish to do is to call attention to the advantages gained by enlisting the services of such an architect as Mr. Francis, when it is proposed to erect an ordinary dwelling-house; or more properly, a dwelling-house of moderate cost which will *not* be "ordinary." To begin with, by so doing you get a house "designed to order." It suits you, embodies your views, has an individuality of its own, and is especially adapted to the lot on which it stands. You may not be rich enough to have everything you want, but Mr. Francis can point out where to economize to advantage — how in short to get the most you can for your money. Then again he sees that the specifications are properly drawn up, and what this means, only those who have had experience with certain builders can realize. If desired, he will oversee the work of building, that is to say, satisfy himself that the materials used are fully up to the agreed standard, and that they are properly put together. The cost of the services we have sketched is, by no means, alarming, and we have yet to learn of a man who ever repented the expense incurred by employing a really competent architect.



## APPENDIX D – COST BREAKDOWN FOR BUILDING AND FURNISHINGS<sup>80</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Henniker Comprising the Reports of Selectmen, Treasurer, Collector, Road Agent, Auditors, School Board, Board of Health, Town Clerk, and Library Committee for the Financial Year Ending February 15, 1905.

SUMMARY.

Cash and securities from J. E. French, executor of Geo. W. Tucker's estate,	\$45,671 96
Gain on securities,	422 66
Interest since October, 1904,	329 25
Received from H. A. Emerson,	2,500 00
"    "    Mrs. M. Darling,	50 00
"    "    W. A. Connor, treasurer	
Henniker library,	82 61
<b>Total receipts,</b>	<b>\$49,056 48</b>

G. C. Preston as treasurer discharges himself as follows :

Amount paid on orders from president for building, furnishings and library expenses,	\$16,811 12
Bonds on hand,	19,167 39
Stocks on hand,	8,345 50
Money deposited in savings bank,	3,396 96
Loss on bond sold,	15 00
Cash on deposit in Mechanics' Nat. bank,	1,320 51
	<b>\$49,056 48</b>

THE BUILDING, FURNISHING AND NECESSARY LIBRARY EXPENSES SUMMARIZED.

Paid Nashua Granite Co., as per building contract,	\$13,439 93
H. M. Francis & Son, architects,	750 00
Howard A. Peaslee, grading,	526 62

56

James C. Milan, engraver, (four)	\$ 4 00
Orr & Rolfe, plumbing and heating,	755 10
Preston Bros. Co., two bills for supplies,	205 46
Edward Connelly, material and labor,	15 05
E. R. Greggs, labor,	2 00
McKinney & Waterbury, electric fixtures,	171 29
D. E. Huntington, loaming grounds,	70 80
W. S. Weston, extra labor,	19 62
Art Metal Construction Co., stacks for books,	369 60
E. D. Brown, cleaning house and janitor to Oct., 1904,	16 50
C. A. Hoitt & Co., chairs,	24 19
Hillsboro Electric Light and Power Co., material and labor wiring building,	111 57
Mrs. Jennie N. Dodge and Mrs. Marion Cole, for cataloging books,	20 00
Building Committee, for cash advanced from March 1902 to date,	120 00
Sarah P. Morse, annuity,	66 67
Electric Light & Power Co., lights,	10 78
S. A. Bunnell, tables,	50 00
C. V. Paper Co., wood,	10 00
W. O. Folsom, wood,	5 00
E. D. Brown, janitor to Mar. 1, 1905,	42 00
John O. Boody, printing,	2 00
M. C. Howe, labor on wood,	3 00
<b>Total orders paid,</b>	<b>\$16,811 12</b>

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE C. PRESTON.

*Treasurer.*

FROM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PICTURES OF

EDNA CONNOR

JENNIE NOYES DODGE

M. MARION COLE

LUCY WILKINS

FANNIE BENNETT

EVELYN HOLLIS

CAROLYN PATENAUDE

ETHEL MILLER

HELENE DERMON

PEGGY WARD

HELGA WINN

CONSTRUCTION CREW

FITCHBURG – H.M. FRANCIS FILES/DESIGNS FOR LIBRARY. STAINED GLASS COMPANY?

ADDITIONAL PROJECT RESEARCH – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS/SOCIETAL ISSUES 1919 INFLUENZA, SCARLET FEVER, WAR EFFORT, NEC

MISSION STATEMENT

“Believing as they do that the library as an educator is the best aid which can be given to our school system, and realizing the influence for good which it is capable of exerting over the whole community, the trustees most earnestly recommend it to your fostering care, and urge that a liberal appropriation be made for its support.” (1890)

“Though it would be gratifying to know that the books reached every family in town, yet we have no doubt that an elevating influence is felt by all, and that the time will come when all will receive its benefit.” (1894)

“The trustees would now urge, as they have done in the past, every family in town to avail themselves of this educational privilege, assuring them that they will always be made welcome, and if they once claim the privilege which is freely given to them, they will never willingly relinquish it.” (1895)

“For their educational as well as for their literary enjoyment.” (1896)

#### EMPHERA

- Jesse Webster also presented a frame for the first catalog used by this library 1891
- 1892 At the time of the fire last June, four books were burned. They have been replaced by the trustees, the person to whom the books were charged paying ½ the cost of the new books.
- The trustees would be gratified to have every patron of the library pass in to the librarian at any time during the year, a list of such books as they would wish to have added to the library, as it would assist them in the annual selection of books and give every individual in town an opportunity to select books as they may desire. (1895)
- 1906 Town Report – First time the report is listed as LIBRARIAN and TREASURER.