

# **TUCKER FREE LIBRARY**

**BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONS**



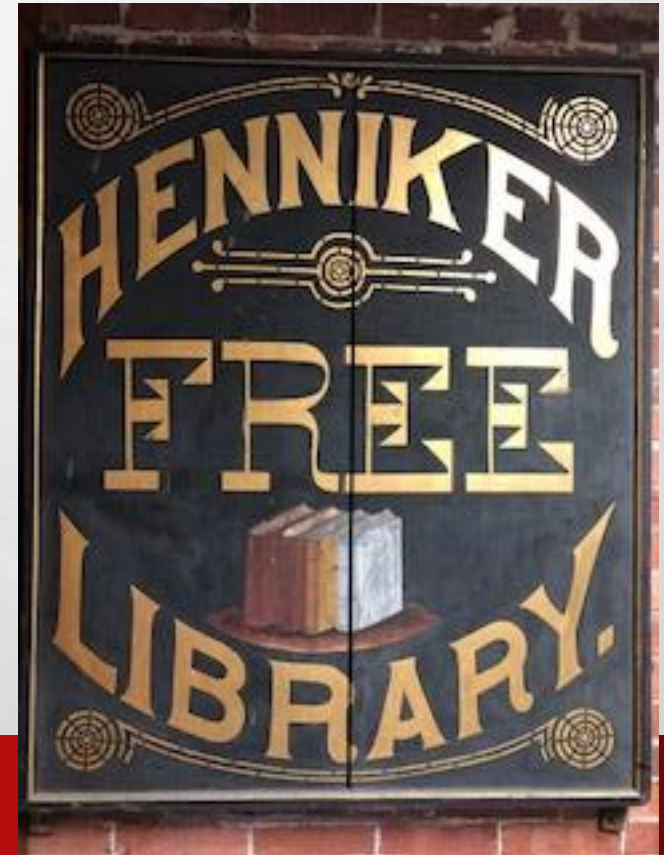
# EARLY HENNIKER LIBRARIES

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. “The Only Henniker on Earth” researched and written by the Henniker Historical Society, Henniker History Committee, 1980, pg. 102.

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.”

History of the Town of Henniker by Leander w. Cogswell, pg. 471.

**E. Maria  
Cogswell,  
Henniker  
Librarian**



# TUCKER FREE LIBRARY OUR STORY BEGINS...

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". This gift was accepted by the town at its annual meeting in 1903.



“Henniker to become possessed, in due course of time, of one of the finest library buildings in this section of New Hampshire”

“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”

“After looking about the village...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 Hram Rice.”

Excerpts from Speech of Henry Emerson at Town Meeting 1903

# KEY FIGURES IN LIBRARY STORY



**George Tucker,  
Benefactor**



**Henry Emerson, Chair of  
Library Committee.  
Purchased Land.**



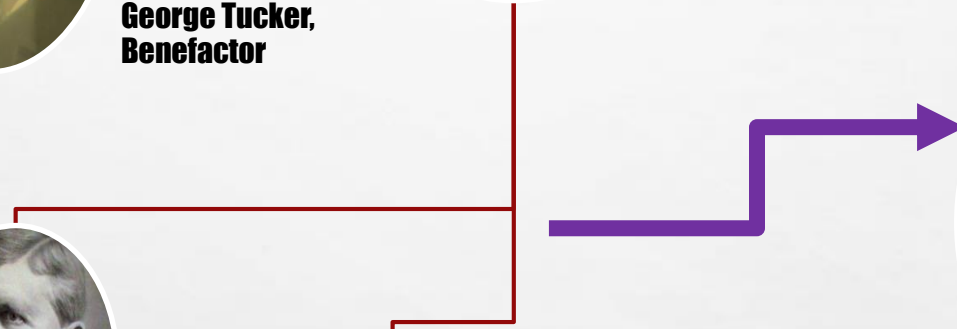
**George C. Preston,  
Building Committee**



**Edward N. Cogswell,  
Building Committee**



**Henry Martin Francis,  
Architect of TFL**



# LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING



Photo #2 Description: Town gathers to lay the corner stone and place the time capsule (see Appendix E for article describing event). Photo taken: August 17, 1903, Henniker Historical Society Archives. Digital file name: HEN0014\_02, Direction: Facing south east.

- THE CORNERSTONE OF THE BUILDING WAS LAID ON MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1903 BY THE CRESCENT LODGE, IOOF
- LARGE TURNOUT INCLUDING FROM TEN OR TWELVE DIFFERENT STATES
- COPPER BOX, 10 INCHES LONG BY 6 INCHES WIDE BY 4 INCHES DEEP CONTAINED
  - COPY OF GEORGE TUCKER'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
  - PHOTOGRAPH OF GEORGE TUCKER
  - WARRANT ARTICLES ACCEPTING BEQUEST, FORMATION OF BOARD, LETTER READ ABOUT THE LAND GIFT, LIST OF BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
  - CARDS OF NASHUA GRANTE, SETH BUNNELL, H M FRANCIS & SONS
  - COPIES OF 2/15/1903 TOWN REPORT, HENNIKER COURIER 8/18/1903, KEARSARGE INDEPENDENT AND TIMES 8/14/1903, COPY OF THE BY-LAWS & CONSTITUTION OF CRESCENT LODGE, INVITATION OF OLD HOME WEEK 1903 WITH PROGRAM
  - PAPER WEIGHT BEARING A PICTURE OF HENNIKER TOWN HALL, A UNITED STATES COIN OF 1903, AND A SHORT SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE DONOR OF THE LIBRARY FUND.



Sept. 23, 1904

THE UNION, MANCHESTER, N. H., FRIDAY

# HANDSOME GIFT WAS DEDICATED

Tucker Free Library Now in Hands of Trustees.

UP TO DATE IN EVERY WAY

Appropriate Exercises Were Held Yesterday in the Congregational Church—Full Orchestra in Attendance—Many Speakers Gave Addresses and Vocal Selections Were Rendered.

Special to The Union. MANCHESTER, Sept. 22.—Under the best of weather conditions, and with a large and representative attendance, the newly completed Tucker Free library here, was formally dedicated today, the exercises taking place in the Congregational church.

placed in the aisles and the gallery was opened to accommodate those who wished to hear the dedication exercises. The church presented an unusually gay dress, as public time and labor had been expended in the decorations. Festoons of crepe paper in white and green and white, were tastefully arranged on the candelabra and chandeliers, while on the floor



GEORGE W. TUCKER Donor of Tucker Free Library



The audience rose, at the end of Mr. Cresswell's remarks, and sang "America," which was followed by the oration of the day, which was given by A. B. Pillsbury of Boston. The address covered more than an hour, yet the speaker, set throughout the closest attention of his listeners. A selection by the orchestra.

**“HANDSOME GIFT WAS DEDICATED TUCKER FREE LIBRARY NOW IN HANDS OF TRUSTEES, UP TO DATE IN EVERY WAY.”**

The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF CEREMONY

- Formal dedication ceremony, 9/22/1904 at the Congregational Church was well attended, and by the end of the selection by the orchestra, extra seats were being placed in the aisles and the gallery was opened to accommodate the crowd.
- Speeches were touching, sentimental, filled with adoration.
- Col. L.W. Cogswell delivered an historical address in which he gave the story of the inception, founding and organization of the first Henniker free public library.
- A.E. Pillsbury of Boston made an address which covered more than an hour.
- Joseph B. Walker of Concord read several letters from out of town people who were expected but did not attend.
- "It was just an inspiration." Rev. N.F. Carter stated of his dedicatory hymn.

Excerpts from The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.

“

***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.***

”



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.

The Union, Manchester, NH Friday, September 23, 1904.

“

***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!***

”

# **RECOGNIZED AS COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

**TUCKER FREE OVER TIME**

Thus was initiated in Henniker, the use of the Tucker Free Library – a **monument, landmark, and record of freedom of thought.**

The building itself has the style of the early **twentieth century, public edifice**– solidly constructed, functional, attractive, and appropriately spacious

A **functional hall and central lobby** with displays on the right are the early historical room– **now transformed** into the children's room– and the small areas for librarian office and desk; ahead are the book stacks; to the left is the **comfortable reading** and reference room

Quickly this area with its **beautiful hearth and mantel, its wide windows** became a **second display place.**

**An open attic, still unfinished, suggests possible expansion. It is now used for storage of surplus books, collections, antiques.**



# **EXTERIOR TRANSFORMATIONS OF BUILDING**

**TUCKER FREE OVER TIME**

# THE GEM OF HENNIKER



Unknown, 1904



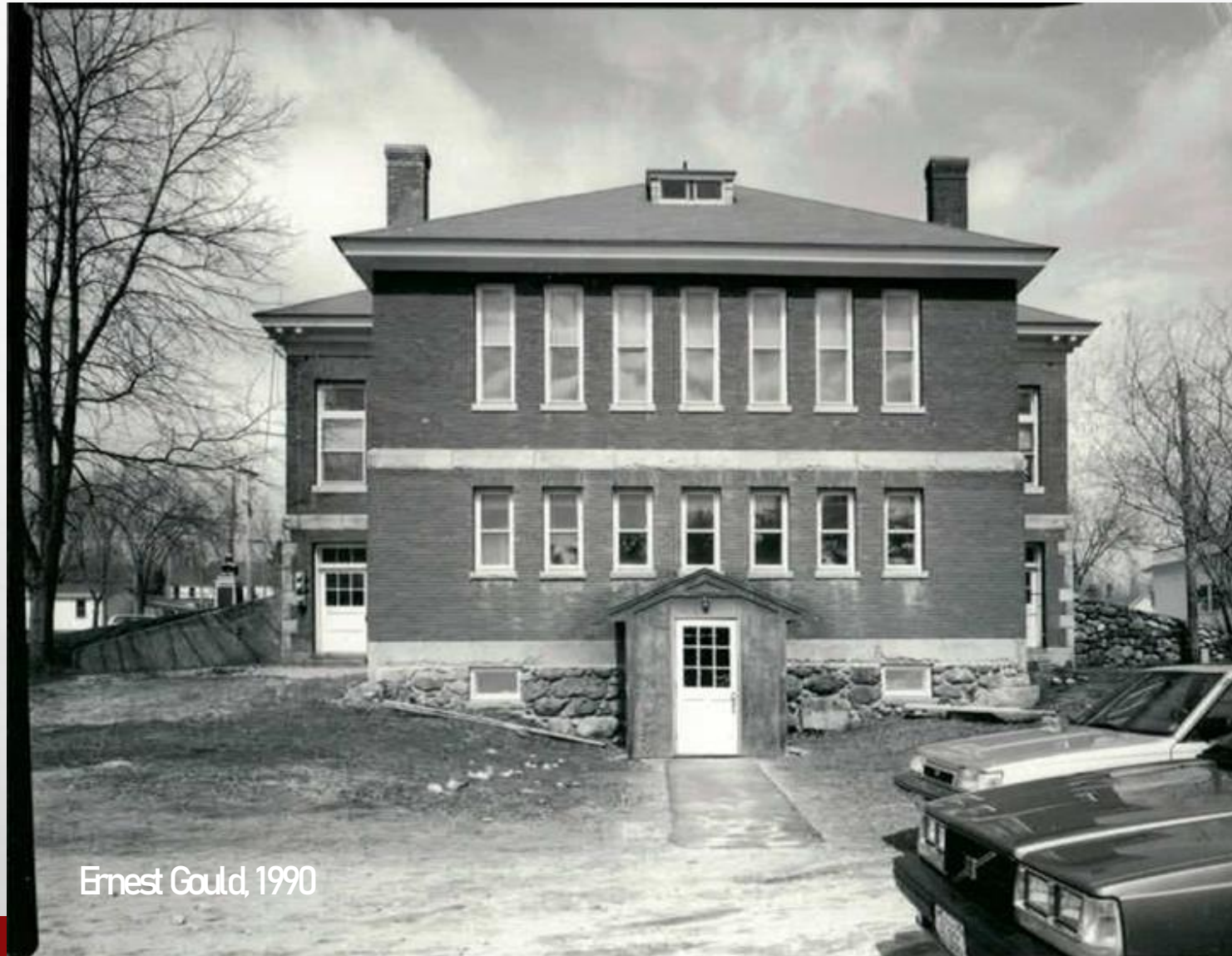
Ernest Gould, 1990



Ben Cooper, 2019



Recognized, 2015



Ernest Gould, 1990







Ernest Gould, 1990







Ernest Gould, 1990

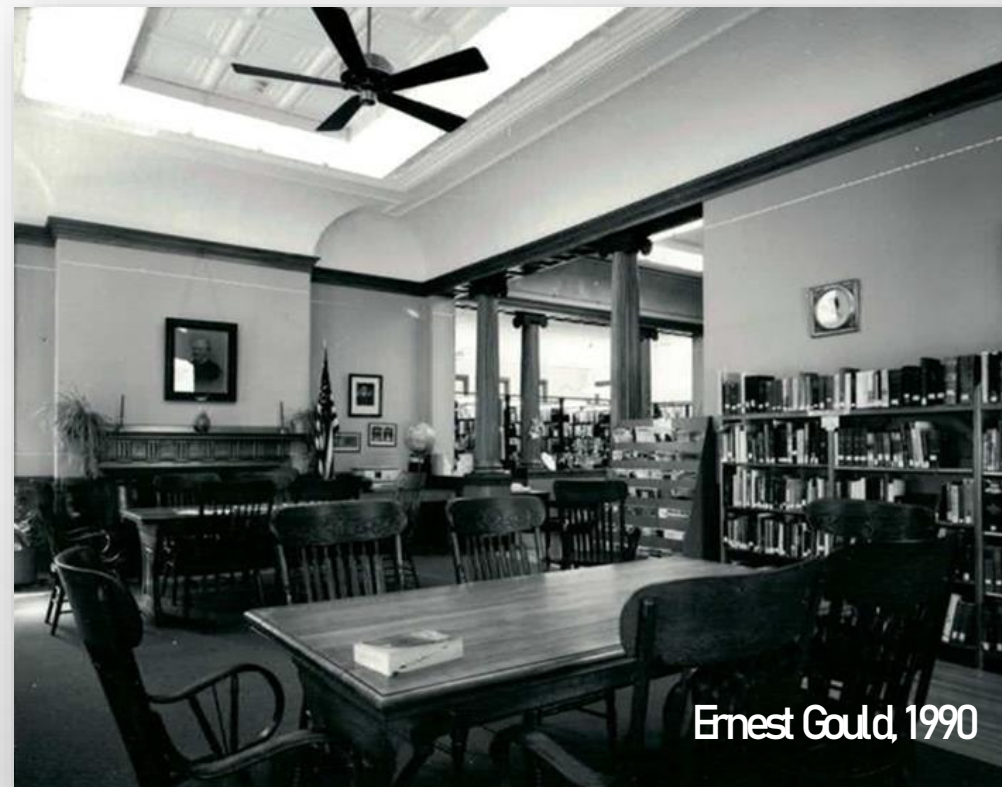
# **INTERIOR TRANSFORMATION OF BUILDING**

**TUCKER FREE OVER TIME**

7/21/27 Hen I Kerr's Paragraph... " a group of summer guests from New London motored here to see the exhibition..They were Northampton, Mass people summering..and were unreserved in their praise of building and museum"



Unknown, 1912



Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019



Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019

**“Unlike some libraries in towns of similar size, it was originally planned and built for future expansion when the need became apparent.”**

**Duane Sanborn, Concord Daily Monitor, Tuesday, January 31, 1967.**





Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019



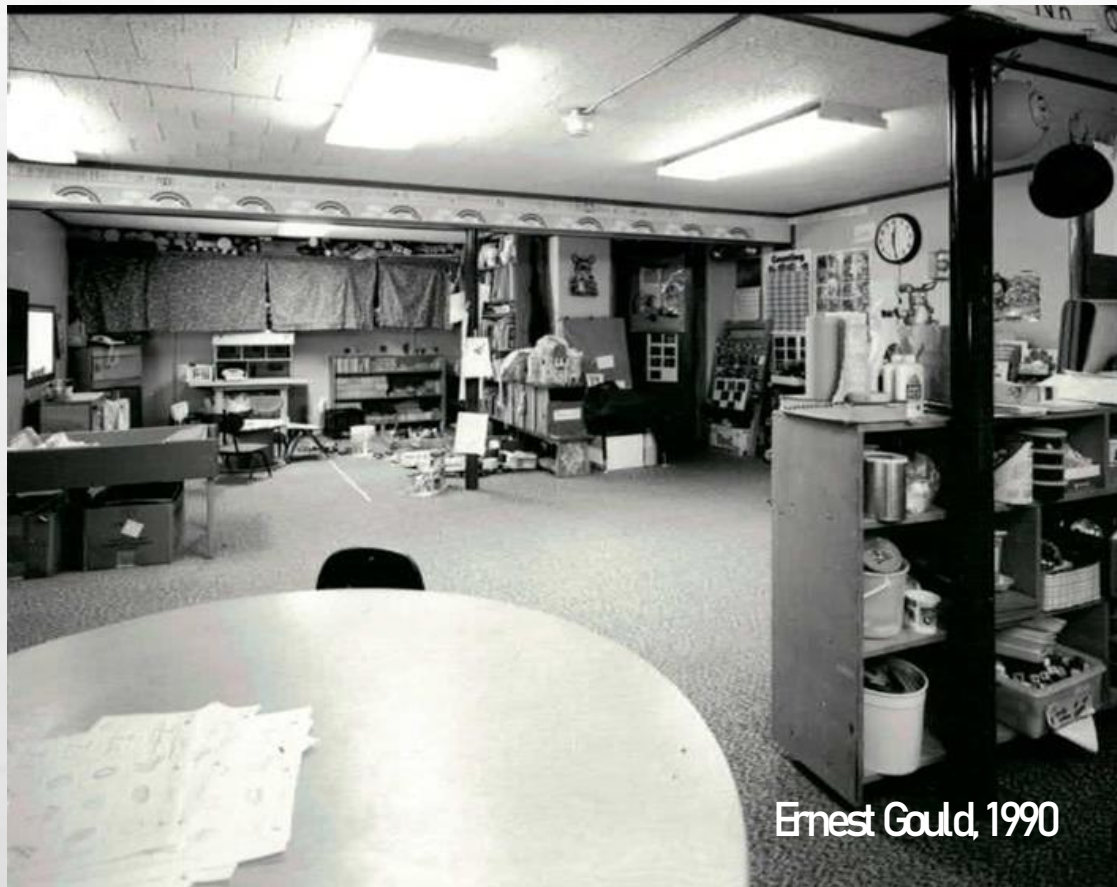
Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019



Joshua Colby, 2019



Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019



Calvin Tucker and George Sanborn help direct operations of the gigantic crane belonging to Ronald Garrison as it wrecks the 200 year old barn belonging to Merele Patenaude, beams of which will be used in the Francis Lane Childs Historical Room.



Arthur Starr and Calvin Tucker take a break to catch breath after completing the floor of the new Historical Room. Both men, residents of Henniker, worked on the new Historical Room that is planned for the Tucker Free Library in November.

#### Historical room in Library gets antique hand-hewn beams

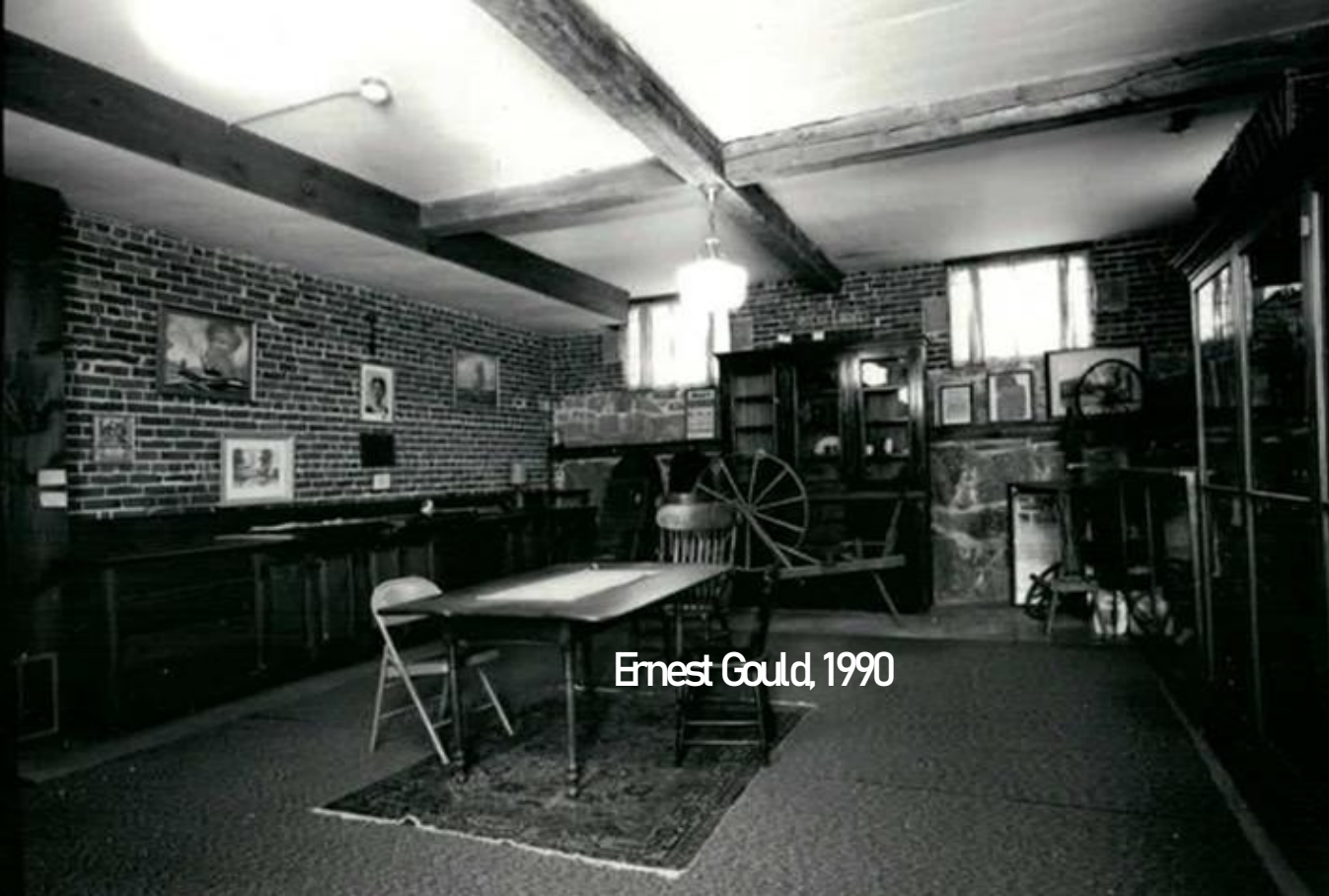
HENNIKER—The Francis Lane Childs Historical Room in the Tucker Free Library in Henniker needed antique hand-hewn beams for its ceiling, so Merle Patenaude demolished a barn to provide them. The room, which will be dedicated this November to house the Town historical collection, is

being constructed by local craftsmen, making it, as well as the artifacts in the collection, a Town memorial. The barn has been used since World War I for raising chickens, and was the original barn on the Rice homestead. Calvin Tucker and Arthur Starr will install the beam and plaster ceiling.

*June 1969*

Community members felt that the Francis Lane Childs' Room itself should be a memorial to the craftsmen, artists, and artisans of Henniker.

Examples of brickwork & masonry of the period of 1903.





Joshua Colby, 2019



Joshua Colby, 2019





THAT'S WHERE the new floor is going. Helene Dermon indicates here where the new floor will be installed in the Tucker Free Library.



Ernest Gould, 1990



Joshua Colby, 2019



Joshua Colby, 2019

# **A COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

**TUCKER FREE OVER TIME**

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

1973, Town Report





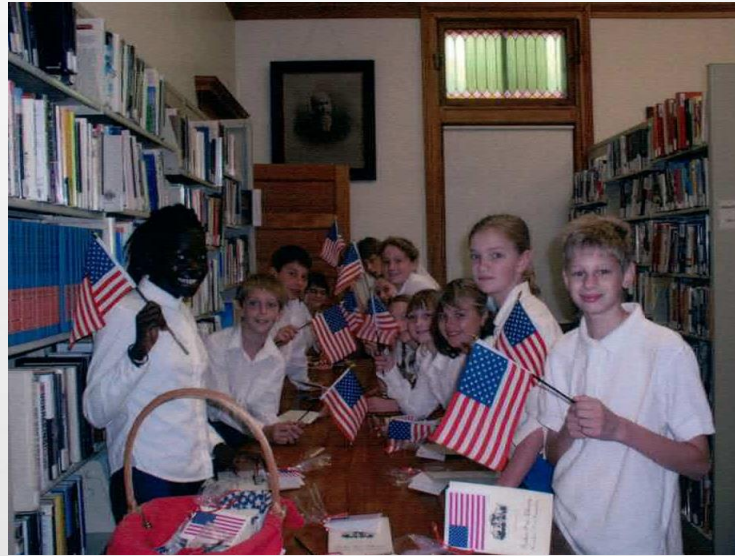
Summer Reading, 1970

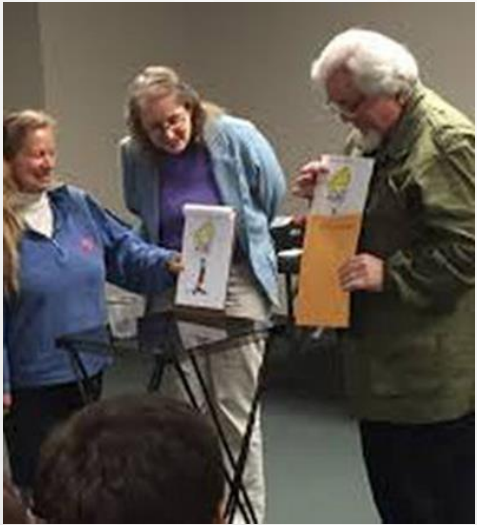


Lamppost Lighting, 2018









**From Mentalists to Magicians, Musers to Mountain Climbers, Musicians to Muppets all ages are engaged at TFL!**



**LOCAL AUTHOR VISITS, A SUNDAY STAPLE!**



Posted by Tucker Free Library  
39 Views





# **THE STEWARDS OF OUR LIBRARY**

**TUCKER FREE OVER TIME**

**It doesn't happen...**

**...without the dedication of staff, trustees, and friends.**

**...without the support of Henniker residents.**

**...without the care provided by many stewards.**



**LOVE YOUR**  
**LIBRARY**  
**BECOME A FRIEND**

The mission of the Friends is to provide a public organization for the purpose of enhancing the Tucker Free Library's goal of providing the residents of Henniker with a center for information that stimulates the knowledge, culture and pure enjoyment of reading and learning.







**Marc Aucoin, Electrician  
& knower of all the TFL  
nooks & crannies**



**Tom Gloudeman, Stained  
Glass Restoration Expert**



**Keith DeMoura, Metal Work & Lamp  
Restoration Expert**

**Jon Routon, Painting & Woodwork Expert**

**Sam Harding, HVAC & Plumbing Expert**

**Charlie MacKenzie, Woodworking Expert**



***THANK YOU!** We appreciate your help.*  
*Jodi Adams and her class from NEC. Part of the NEC Serves project week.*

And we even get a little help from our neighbors at NEC!

**JOIN US ON OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AT  
2PM TO LEARN ABOUT THE NEXT  
CHAPTER IN OUR STORY ...**

**REACHING HIGHER:  
LIBRARY SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY  
PROJECT**