

REPORTS

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE

STATE LIBRARY

AND THE

STATE LIBRARIAN

FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 1, 1904
AND ENDING MAY 31, 1906

VOLUME VIII — PART VI.

STATE LIBRARY
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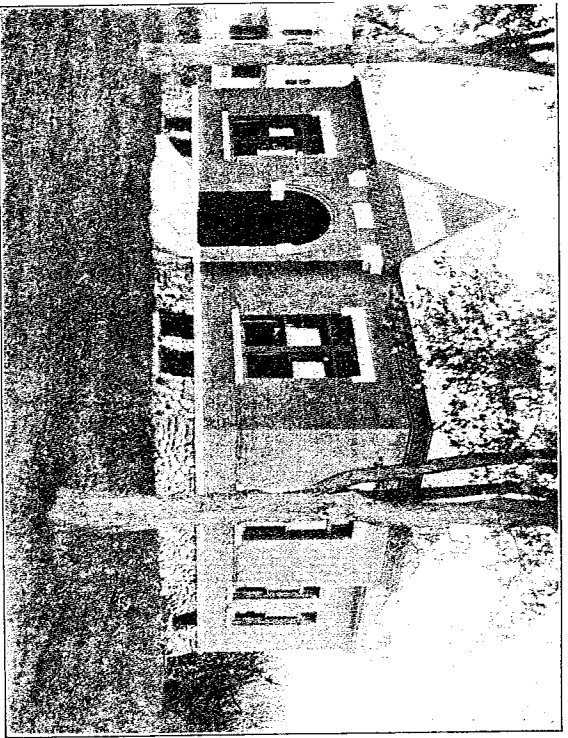
HISTORIES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

SILSBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACWORTH.

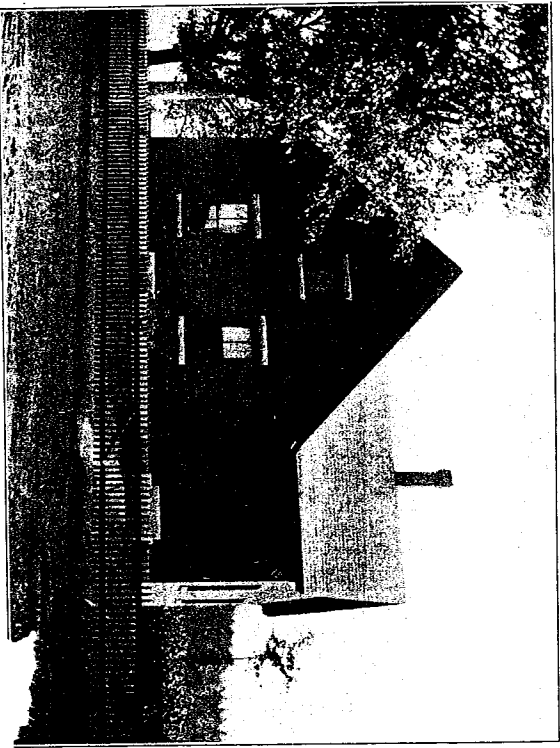
Through the efforts of Rev. Phineas Cooke a library was started in 1815 and continued until 1824, when the books were divided among the subscribers. About 1825 another library was organized by the young men of the town, each member contributing three dollars for the purpose. In 1840 Dr. Milton Parker succeeded in adding one hundred and forty-six volumes to the stock of books, and the library continued to do good work for forty years. About 1880 a circulating library was established and continued until 1892. The Farmers' Club maintained a library at South Acworth for several years. Upon the establishment of the Silsby Free Library the books from the several libraries were turned over to the town.

In the year 1891 Acworth received for library purposes \$7,380.82 from the estate of Ithiel H. Silsby, who was a native of the town. The library was established as a free library in 1892 and aid was received from the state. The library building was commenced in September of the same year and completed in July, 1892. It is constructed of brick with a base of some cobblestones and a sub-base thoroughly cemented, making it as enduring as our granite hills. The front is 40 by 18 feet, with a wing or book room 24 feet square in the rear. Above the entrance is chiseled in granite the words, "Silsby Free Public Library." On the right as you enter is the reading room, and on the left a room, where the eye at once rests on a collection of mounted birds, numbering some four hundred, the handiwork and skill of the late G. G. Dickey. Both of these rooms are finished in ash, and the book room just back is finished in white wood with a shelf capacity for eight hundred volumes.

About thirty life-size portraits of former residents of the



SILSBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACWORTH



ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

town adorn the interior of the structure. The whole, both interior and exterior, is considered a model of beauty and elegance, and was designed and constructed by H. A. Beckwith of Charanont, N. H. The total cost of the same, attorney's fees, committee's charges, and furniture, was \$5,660, leaving a balance of \$1,720 for the purchase of books.

In 1897 the library received a legacy from the estate of J. H. Dickey amounting to \$500, which has been used for the binding and purchasing of books.

The present number of books, labeled and numbered, is 2,410. The library is opened from 1 to 5 o'clock P. M. on Saturday of each week.

HAYNES FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ALEXANDRIA.

Haynes Free Public Library was established in 1887 and owes its origin and maintenance to the gifts and bequests of three men who were native of the town. Dr. Timothy Haynes of Concord made the original bequest of \$1,000 to establish a free library, provided the town would raise an equal amount. The town did so, and in consequence of his thoughtful and philanthropic act the library was named in memory of him. He died in 1885. Clark Haynes, the younger brother of the foregoing, was the next liberal minded man who also donated \$1,000. He died in 1894 in Tilton, N. H. The last benefactor was Elias A. Perkins of Quincy, Mass., who gave \$2,000. He died in 1903 and willed the library an additional \$1,000.

E. B. Cheney was the first librarian, followed by E. B. Roby. At the end of the first year Clara Gale Bullock was chosen librarian, and has since served in that capacity.

The library has a separate building, which was erected in 1894. It is of brick 24 x 30 feet, with an annex 10 x 18 feet, and cost \$1,600. The number of volumes at present therein is 1,371. It did not receive aid from the state, but is nevertheless classed as a free public library within the meaning of the statute.

ALLENSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY, ALLENSTOWN.

The Allenstown Public Library was established in 1893. The town having voted at its annual meeting to accept aid from the state, under the provisions of the law of 1891, chapter 62. Frank E. Blodgett, John H. Sullivan, and John D. Sweatt were elected trustees, to carry into effect the vote of the town, provide a suitable place for the library, and select a librarian. At this time the trustees received from the state one hundred volumes, which were placed under the care of Mrs. J. D. Sweatt as librarian in her home. The town appropriated \$25 in 1892, also the same amount in 1893. These sums were increased by generous gifts of \$25 from Miss E. Parker, and \$37 from Miss Hannah Haseltine, residents of the town.

The money thus obtained was so carefully expended by the trustees that at the end of the first year there were in the library 239 volumes, including the 100 volumes presented by the state. This was the beginning of the Allenstown Library. Its growth has been slow, as the amount raised by taxation under the law is small, varying from \$73 to \$83 yearly.

In 1896 Mrs. Sweatt resigned, and the library was removed to the residence of John H. Sullivan, and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan appointed librarian, which office she still holds.

In 1897 the trustees decided to open a branch library at East Allenstown under the charge of Miss Mary F. Kenison. Accordingly forty to fifty volumes have been sent to her every three months for distribution. In this way many at a distance have been enabled to avail themselves of the privileges of the library.

In 1899 the trustees subscribed for some of our popular magazines as an experiment. This was so highly appreciated by the patrons of the library that others were added to the list. The popular interest in the library, now numbering 1,440 volumes, continues unabated. As yet there has been no demand for a library building, but when a change becomes necessary the people will awaken to its importance.

TOWN LIBRARY, ALSTEAD.

Something over thirty years ago, several women living in Alstead village organized a reading club. A panny collection was taken at each meeting, and the money so obtained expended in the purchase of books. Books were loaned to persons not members at a stated fee. After several years had elapsed, the collection having steadily increased in size, while the club membership had decreased, a meeting was called and a vote taken to transfer the books to the town as a nucleus for a town library, on the condition that an appropriation of fifty dollars be made, the amount to be expended in the purchase of books. The gift was accepted with the conditions imposed, and the books were turned over to the town November 5, 1878. The library was located in the drug-store of Cyrus K. Vilas before the transfer to the town, and was continued in the same place until 1885, when a vote was taken to remove the library to East Alstead temporarily, where the books were kept in a private house. After about two years, the books were moved back to the drugstore where the library was formerly located. It was allowed to remain in this store until two or three years ago, when it was removed to its present quarters in the town hall building. The library now contains twelve hundred volumes and is in a prosperous condition.

ALTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ALTON.

On March 18, 1892, the town voted to accept the gift of the state of one hundred dollars' worth of books, and voted to raise the sum of fifty dollars in order to do so. They elected George H. Demeritt, John F. Currier, and Waldo G. Vanney trustees. The library was opened to the public on December 31, 1892, in temporary quarters over Laban G. Welch's drugstore, with one hundred volumes, the gift of the state. In March, 1893, the town voted to raise one hundred dollars.

In March, 1894, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars was raised by the town. On June 9, 1894, the Alton Free Public Library was moved into the library and reading rooms of the new town hall, where it is at present located.

The library was partially furnished by the Alton Dramatic Club, who purchased a large mantle with plate glass, brass furniture and rail for fireplace, and brass guard rails in front of bookcases. Many gifts of pictures and books have been presented since. The town annually appropriates about one hundred dollars. We receive the interest from a five hundred dollar fund left by Mrs. Palmer to the library, allowing us about two hundred dollars each year for books, magazines, bookcases, and other necessities. We have now 2,700 books and loaned last year 7,845. We have a choice list of fourteen magazines and weekly publications on our reading tables. The library room was newly frescoed last year and many new bookcases added. The furniture is new and in good condition, and the room well heated by furnace during the winter. The library is open from 2 to 4 p. m., 7 to 9 p. m., Wednesdays and Saturdays. The town pays the librarian fifty dollars per year. Mrs. Sadie Currier is the present librarian; Alonzo S. French, Oliver J. M. Gilman, and Anna M. Wright, trustees.

TOWN LIBRARY, AMHERST.

This had its beginnings in 1859, when a few persons in the village met and organized as the Amherst Library Association "for the establishment of a library of useful and miscellaneous books." The effort was private and supported by volunteer subscriptions. At first the books were kept in private houses, later in public halls, until 1879, when the town accepted the library and its charge, containing about six hundred books. They were placed in the town hall, and the selectmen appointed six trustees. The increase of books necessitated more room, resulting in an effort to secure a separate building. Through personal efforts of citizens, with

generous aid from outside friends, \$3,229 was raised for the present library building, including some \$300 for furniture. Much of the present furniture has been donated since completion of present edifice. The building is of New Hampshire granite, one story high, with tin roof. The foundations were laid in 1890; it was completed in 1891 and dedicated in 1892, and is a monument to the late Rev. J. G. Davis, D. D., through whose persevering interest the library in all its stages was made a success. It now holds 4,159 volumes, and is crowded, liberal donations having been received in recent years. The town grants annual appropriations for its support, the usual sum being two hundred dollars.

TOWN LIBRARY, ANDOVER.

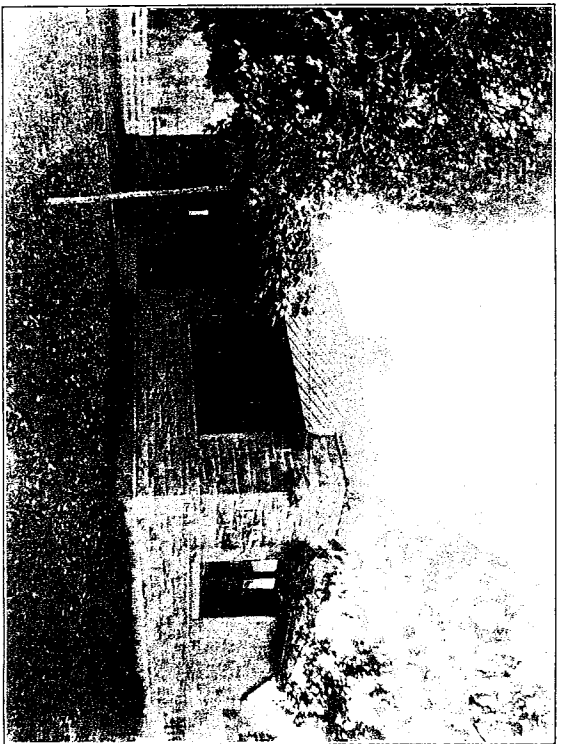
The Andover Public Library was established in the year 1892. The offer of the state of New Hampshire to give one hundred books to any town assuming certain conditions was accepted. In addition to what the town has been obliged to give yearly, an additional appropriation has been made annually. The circulation has increased annually, and a commendable amount of interest has been exhibited by the citizens.

In 1901 the building in which the library was placed was burned, and a large part of the books destroyed. But the people took hold bravely and friends from outside aided us so that the loss was soon made good, and now the town of Andover takes pride in an exceptionally good class of books, appreciated by the whole community. There are at present 1,857 volumes.

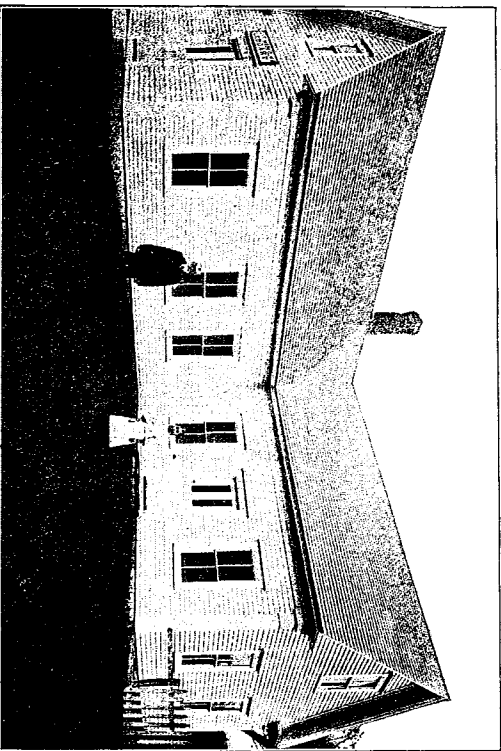
The library is catalogued according to the Cutter Expansive System.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ANTRIM.

The library was established in 1892 under the library law and received one hundred dollars' worth of books from the state.



AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY



GRIFFIN LIBRARY, AUBURN

It has been liberally supported in the town, its last appropriation being one hundred dollars.

Thus far it has been located in the town hall, but during the past year the town has been left by the will of James A. Tuttle a sum estimated at twenty thousand dollars for the erection and maintenance of a library building. This gift has been accepted and a committee for erection appointed. The name Tuttle Memorial Library will be adopted.

Three persons have served as librarians, Mrs. Emma Mordo, Miss Blanche N. Woodbury, and Miss Sarah M. Adams.

The library at present contains 2,061 volumes, and its circulation averages one hundred volumes a week.

TOWN LIBRARY, ASHLAND.

In 1871, through the work of Mr. Thomas P. Cheney, the citizens of the town at the March meeting were induced to raise the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars with which to purchase five hundred books to start the first library Ashland ever had. Mr. Cheney gave the use of his home for the use of the citizens in starting this library, and his wife was made the first librarian. Not only did Colonel Cheney do this, but he sent out circular letters to persons who formerly lived here or who were interested in the welfare of the town, asking them for support along the line of purchasing new books. These letters were responded to by a large number of people, who sent different books to the library, and each one of these was given credit for their gift by a slip in the first page of the book, giving the name of the donor, his residence, and other matters of interest concerning the giver of the book.

Thus the first town library was founded and has been steadily growing since then. At the next meeting of the citizens in March, Colonel Cheney again used his influence in trying to induce the people to raise money with which to purchase new books. At that time reading was not as popular as it is now, and the colonel nearly failed in his attempt,

but he succeeded in raising fifty dollars with which to purchase new books for the library. Nearly every year after this the town would vote to raise this amount, but some years the citizens would get obstinate and refuse to raise any money at all. At the present time one hundred dollars is raised each year for the purchasing of books for the library, and there is never any dissenting vote for this money.

After having the library at the home of Colonel Cheney for the first year, it was removed to the house of Miss Sarah Jane Brown, and she was made the librarian. The next year it was moved into the Cheney house on Main street into what was formerly the local postoffice. This building is now occupied by Frank Peaslee as a dwelling-house. While at this place, for the next year, Bailey Worthen was made the librarian. The next year the library was moved into the R. R. D. Dearborn building, and Mr. Dearborn was made librarian. The library work was done by Mrs. Dearborn, her husband having no connection with the working of the library. As long as she did the work, the citizens decided to elect her as librarian, and from that time, with the exception of one year, when Thomas Baker was librarian, Mrs. Dearborn has had the office.

From the Dearborn property the library was again moved to the Commercial building, and was open to the public in the room over what is now the store of Stevens & Gannons. From this place it was again moved into the Scribner block, in the room now occupied by Mr. Brown as a shoeshop. This was the last place the library was moved to until the present town building was built in 1895 and ample accommodations were made for the library, and now Ashland has an excellent library for a town of its size.

The one hundred dollars, which is raised each year, is given into the hands of Mrs. Dearborn, who selects her new books in Boston. She has done this every year, with the exception of one, when a committee was chosen to do the work, and her choice has always been highly spoken of. From the first

start of five hundred books at the house of Colonel Cheney, the library has now grown until there are 3,664 books, 500 public documents, which have been sent from Washington, D. C., and in the past year 6,427 books have been given out to the public.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ATKINSON.

The Atkinson Library was founded by the state of New Hampshire in July, 1894. It was first located in the house of Charles L. Noyes, and Mrs. Lydia R. Noyes was appointed librarian. It remained there for two years, and was then removed to the house of George E. Gilbert, and Mrs. Alice R. Gilbert was made librarian.

Three trustees were elected by the town, the first ones being Eugene E. Sawyer, Herman Noyes, and Gilman Greenough. One new one is elected each year. Those who have served in that capacity are George H. Scott, Jay M. Goodrich, George P. Dow, Elmer E. Conley, and George E. Gilbert. The library at first contained but one hundred books given by the state. It now contains one thousand five hundred and forty-eight. Books and magazines have been donated by the Atkinson Reading Club, also by private individuals. The library also received a gift of fifty dollars from the late Hon. William C. Todd of Atkinson for the purchase of books. The town also gives a certain amount each year for the same purpose.

GRIFFIN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, AUBURN.

In 1885 S. S. Griffin erected a building to be used as a library and museum, and having previously spent much time in collecting Indian relics and many articles which related to the early history of the town, he had brought together a collection that is very valuable. Mr. Griffin opened the library and museum July 4, 1885, and charged an annual fee of one dollar for the privileges of the library and museum. All money received was expended by him in the purchase of

books, as he assumed the care of the library without charge. At the annual town meeting, 1892, Mr. Griffin offered to donate his books to the town, provided it would accept the provisions of the library law. The vote of the town was favorable and the books were turned over to the trustees July 4, seven years from the date when the library was first opened.

Previous to the annual town meeting, 1893, Mr. Griffin stated to the selectmen that he would donate to the town his library and the museum building, with the lot of land, provided the town made an addition of two rooms and certain conditions be maintained. An article inserted in the town warrant to secure the gift was promptly acted upon. The conditions required that one room be fitted up as an old-fashioned kitchen, the donor furnishing it complete; the second room to contain the museum, and the original building to be devoted to the library. Six hundred dollars was expended on the building and grounds. Mr. Griffin specified that the museum be free to the citizens of Auburn, but visitors pay a small entrance fee. It had been a long cherished wish of Mr. Griffin that the crude articles of every day use of the early settlers should be preserved, and he worked that they might be as well as for the interest and welfare of his people. His action was generous, and he has furnished us with an example of public spirit rarely met with. Mr. Griffin died in December, 1899.

When the library came in possession of the town it contained about 500 volumes; at present it contains 1,419. Many articles have been added to the museum. The library has three trustees, Willard H. Griffin, Daniel H. Webster, elected 1893, and Wells C. Underhill, 1892, who was succeeded by Alfred D. Emery in 1896, who is on the board at the present time.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BARNSTEAD.

Barnstead Free Public Library was established twelve years ago, with John D. Nutter as first librarian, which position

he held for three years with public approval. His successor was John George, who served as librarian satisfactorily for nine years. He was followed by the present librarian, Myra A. Jenkins, April 1, 1906.

Very soon after the establishing of the library it was thought advisable to divide it, and have the books kept in different parts of the town. A portion was taken to South Barnstead, North Barnstead, and the Parade, and placed in the care of sub-librarians, the balance remaining in the library at the Centre. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory, caused the loss of many books, and much inconvenience to the readers of the library. Therefore the books were returned to the library, and have been kept together since that time.

It is impossible to give the number of books it contained at the beginning, but it now contains 2,116 volumes, and they are in fair condition considering the amount they have been used. This number does not include public documents of any kind. The library has received a number of books which have been very much appreciated.

The town appropriates a little more than one hundred dollars yearly for the purchase of books and incidental expenses. We are compelled in our selection of books to look for quality rather than quantity, and for this reason we have a very good assortment of reading matter.

The library is opened for exchange of books Tuesday and Saturday afternoons of each week, from two until five o'clock. The library occupies one large room in a dwelling-house, but we hope soon to have a library building.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BARTLETT.

Established in 1894 under the state laws and received books from state. It has no separate building, the books being kept in the basement of the church of the Union Congregational Society.

There are at present five hundred and seventy-nine volumes upon the shelves.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BATH.

Since the foundation of Bath Public Library in 1893, when the initial collection amounted to one hundred volumes, it has grown to a total of 3,003 volumes. Mr. R. E. Foster was the chairman of the first board of trustees, and took an unusual interest in its welfare, and published its first catalogue.

Additions have been made from time to time, both from individual donations and one very important gift of the entire collection of the Unitarian church.

The main street quarters, near the postoffice, are very convenient and satisfactory. The patronage of the institution has grown healthily and steadily, and it adds a great deal to the pleasure of the people, especially in winter. Our summer visitors are also good patrons, and one of them during the summer complimented the management very highly on the excellent literary taste displayed in selection of books. The collection is well supplied with historical and standard works, but is especially strong in recent fiction by the standard authors.

The town has been particularly liberal in its annual appropriation, and there appears to be no disposition in opposition to its continuance.

Branches have from time to time been established in the more remote sections of the town, and there is one at present on the shores of the Connecticut river maintained by Mrs. Austin Franklin, whose services are given.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Bedford possessed what was probably the first social library in New Hampshire. It was formed in May, 1789, by certain citizen subscribers, among them as first officers of the Library Association Zachariah Chandler, Esq., moderator, David Patten Clark, John Orr, and Isaac Riddle.

No distinctive record of this association is to be found. It became obsolete about 1850. A second subscription library was started in 1873. It continued effective for some years.

The subscribers, when the public library statute was enacted in 1891, voted to consolidate with the present library formed under that act. New books are being added as fast as the resources, the annual town appropriation and the Chandler fund, become available.

Donations of books are received from time to time from Mrs. Fannie Woodbury and Miss Mattie Woodbury. A number of books have recently been sent us by Mrs. Mary Chandler Burpee of Philadelphia, Pa. There are at present 1,479 volumes on the shelves.

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The people of Belmont are largely indebted to Amory A. Lawrence of Boston for their public library. Mr. Lawrence made the offer to give five hundred dollars' worth of books, providing the town would make the necessary maintenance of a public library. The voters readily availed themselves of Mr. Lawrence's offer, and made a first appropriation of two hundred dollars.

Mr. Lawrence has remembered the library by other smaller gifts, and his generosity and interest in the town should be met with hearty appreciation from those who have thus been given the advantages of a free public library.

The library was established in 1893 and availed itself of state aid. It contains 1,416 volumes, and has a circulation of 1,600 volumes a year. It is located in the town hall.

BENNINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Bennington Public Library began as a private institution, founded by the ladies in 1860. Some fifty shares at one dollar each were taken. A small charge was made for each book taken out.

In the days of the Civil War the membership fell from thirty to forty to five.

At first the members served in turn as librarians without salary, but later the office became a paid one.

In 1879 there was talk of disbanding the society and dividing their books, but on Mrs. John C. Dodge's proposing to give her books to the town, as a basis of a free public library, the other ladies gladly decided to follow the same course. Accordingly the two hundred and thirty-five books were offered, under certain conditions, to the town, which, on March 9, 1880, accepted the responsibility, and has ever since maintained the library.

Under the public management several ladies have had charge of the library, some of them without salary. The present librarian is Mrs. Fred Bartlett.

In 1905 a card catalogue of titles was made.

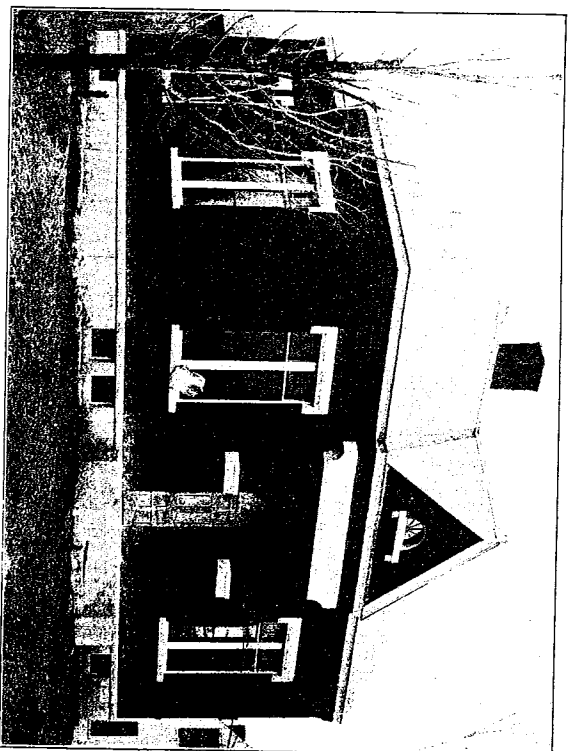
A printed catalogue, the copy of which is now in the printer's hand, is soon to be issued.

The library has been housed in a single room in the Town Hall, which furnishes cramped quarters for the two thousand volumes, which it now contains, but at the present writing (May 3, 1906) there is a prospect that before many weeks it will be removed to the new G. E. P. Dodge Library, a six thousand dollar building of brick and stone, which has been erected with funds left by the will of the late G. E. P. Dodge of Chicago, a native of Bennington. The new building has adjustable iron book shelves, with space in the book room for about eight thousand volumes, and is equipped with two reading rooms.

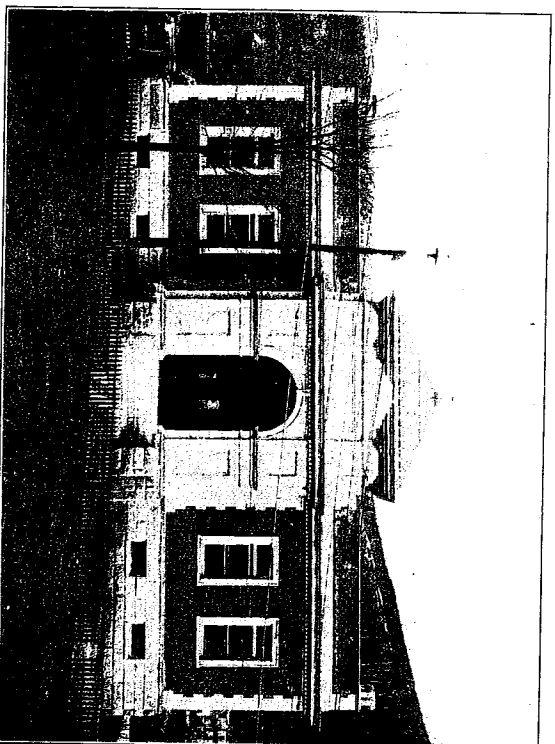
BENTON TOWN LIBRARY.

The Benton Town Library was established in 1894 with aid from the state. The books were arranged by P. M. Howe and F. Moulton. Mr. Moulton was chosen for the first librarian. There was at that time quite a large number of young people, as well as older, who enjoyed the books.

A small number of books are added each year, and some have been presented by authors. The library is situated in the same building as the postoffice, near the center of the town. There are now one hundred and ninety volumes.



G. E. P. DODGE LIBRARY, BENNINGTON



BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The free public library of Berlin was founded in 1893, receiving one hundred dollars' worth of books from the state, under law of 1891. From this small beginning the library has steadily grown from year to year, with a good healthy growth, until at the present time it numbers nearly fifty-five hundred working volumes, with no dead timber to speak of. The library occupied three rooms in the Clement Block until 1904, when it was moved into a new building of its own. This was a gift to the city from Mr. Carnegie. In this building a general reading room is provided, a children's room, stack and delivery room, all finished in quartered oak and supplied with the most up-to-date library Bureau furnishings.

In July, 1905, Mr. William W. Brown, of Portland, gave a magnificent gift, covering the walls with engravings from the old masters, and filling all available places with busts or reliefs.

The public is proud of its library, and shows its interest in various ways. The librarian tries to foster this interest by reporting in the public papers any items of interest, or by holding receptions for the various literary clubs. The children's room is fulfilling its mission nobly. A story hour is held every Saturday afternoon, and much is accomplished by this means. A picture collection for the use of schools and clubs is growing. The library and schools co-operate well, but not nearly as much as they should. The police station, fire station, and one rural district are kept supplied with books regularly.

Much is being done, but so much more might and should be done that what is being done seems little.

BOSCAWEN TOWN LIBRARY.

The historic town of Boscawen, far famed for its noble sons and daughters, early grasped the opportunity to secure a town library under the provision of the state law of 1891.

In 1892 twenty-five dollars was the required appropriation, which, with that of 1893, making one hundred and twenty-

five dollars, wherewith 126 books were purchased, and, with the 108 books received from the state, there were 238 books for a nucleus of the library.

Prominently associated with the work from its beginning are the names of Dr. E. E. Graves and Mr. G. I. Pillsbury, who for the thirteen years of its existence have faithfully endeavored to select and secure such books as would not only be of interest but of profit and value for the whole community. Also among other names who have quietly but faithfully helped in building up the library so that it may have only the best literature on its shelves are those of Mrs. Graves and Mrs. D. D. Webster. There have been several contributors, the late S. B. G. Corser generously bequeathing three hundred select volumes, among which are many valuable works of reference and also fiction and poetry.

At the present time, 1906, there are 1,864 books, which are available to all readers of the town.

During the past year there were loaned 5,390 books, the largest circulation at any time being 565. The system of cataloguing now being used, arranging the author's name alphabetically, could be improved upon, but our greatest need is a more commodious building for the books, which are the pride and one of the most potent influences of the town.

BRADFORD FREE LIBRARY.

This library was established at the town meeting in March, 1893, and three trustees were elected at that time. The state furnished the library with books to the value of one hundred dollars, under the statute of 1891. There had previously been an association library in the town, and they generously donated their books to the town. These books, about two hundred volumes, many of them standard works, were of great value to us. About five years ago the library was moved into a small building, formerly a millinery store owned by Mrs. Almira Hall, who has since performed the duties of librarian.

Our library, some years ago, received a bequest of one hundred dollars from the late Mrs. Susanna Holmes of this town. It has received from time to time donations of books from various persons. The town raises the money required by law, \$72.30, annually, and this is mostly used for the purchase of books. We have considerably over one thousand volumes. The town also pays the rent and the librarian's salary.

We have upon our shelves a fair amount of history, science, art, and general literature, but fiction largely predominates.

It is hoped that the board of trustees will improve the library the present year. It is much in need of a new catalogue and other improvements. Its circulation is quite large, and especially in the remote parts of the town.

BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The first suggestion that the town of Brentwood should have a public library was made in a fringe meeting by one of the Patrons early in the year 1893.

It was suggested that our town accept the offer of the state to present the town with one hundred dollars' worth of books, if the town would establish a free library and appropriate money yearly for the same.

This idea was so greatly favored that it was voted upon in the March town meeting, and soon after that the private association library, which already existed, decided to disband and present their collection of books to the town.

This was done May 1, 1893, and on July 1 of the same year the town received the gift of books from the state. Since then the library has steadily grown, the town often appropriating more than the amount called for, and quite a good many volumes have been presented to the library.

Mr. Samuel Taylor, a resident of the town, has given the library his private collection of over a hundred volumes.

In the year 1902 the ladies of Brentwood held a fair and presented the town with nearly a hundred volumes.

At present our library has nearly fifteen hundred volumes. It has always been kept in a private house, one room in the librarian's home being devoted to its use.

BRIDGEWATER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

For several years after the law requiring an annual library tax to be raised, the voters of the town failed to establish a library, because the town was divided into three sections and so located that it was difficult to distribute books. At last it was suggested that we establish a library and elect one trustee from each section of the town. This suggestion was adopted and each trustee was given a third of the books to be kept in his house and distributed in his section of the town. After they had been read in one section they were changed with the other.

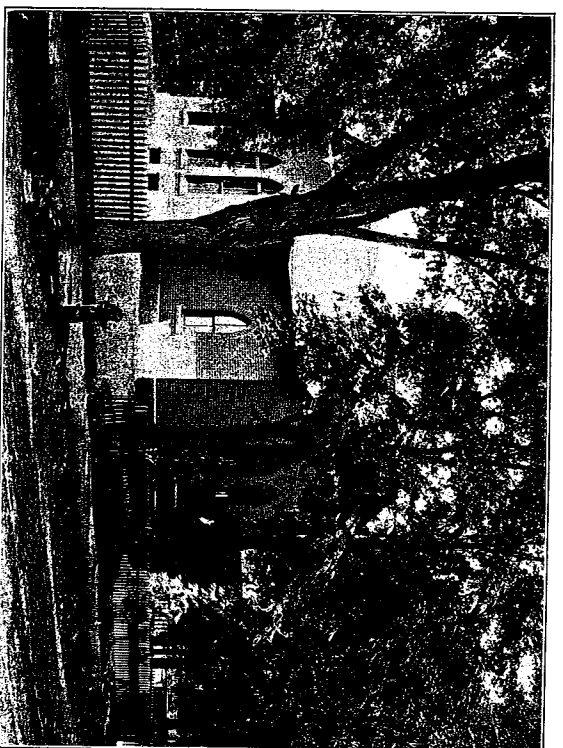
The trustees have acted as above stated without pay for the last five years. We now have four hundred volumes and about ninety-five dollars in Plymouth Savings Bank for the purchase of more books as they are needed. We have received by gift books from Rev. Austin S. Graves of Worcester, Mass., also from Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Denton of Massachusetts.

MINOT-SLEEPER LIBRARY, BRISTOL.

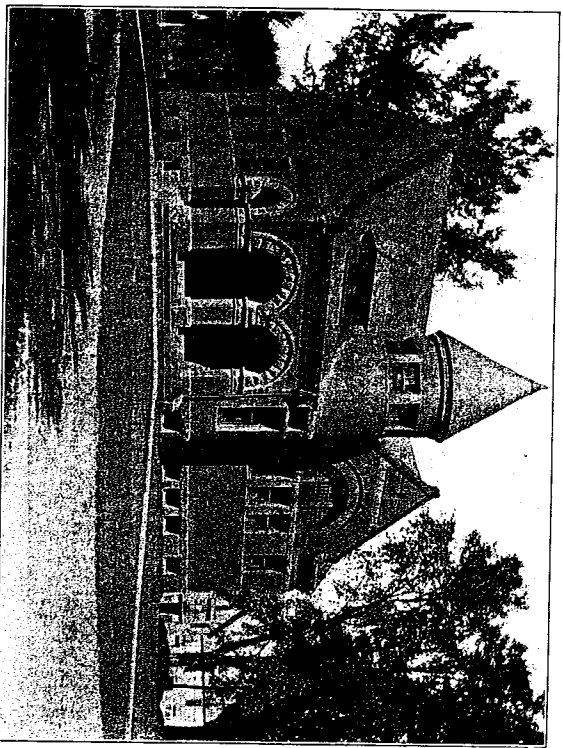
The following resolutions, unanimously adopted at a town meeting holden January 16, 1884, are self explanatory:

WHEREAS, Hon. Josiah Minot, of Concord, N. H., and Hon. S. S. Sleeper, of Cambridge, Mass., former residents of Bristol, have generously offered to donate to the town a library building and grounds, provided the town will accept the same and provide for the maintenance thereof, therefore be it

Resolved, By the inhabitants of Bristol, qualified to vote in town affairs, in town meeting assembled, on the 16th day of January, 1884, that the town thanks the donors for their interest in the welfare of Bristol, and for their muni-



MINOT SLEEPER LIBRARY, BRISTOL



SILSBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHARLESTOWN

fience and public-spiritedness; that it will accept said gift of said library building and grounds, and hereby agrees to provide for its maintenance and management thereof.

As the result of the action so taken a library building was erected during the year and conveyed to the town. The donors contributed an additional sum of one thousand dollars to be expended in the purchase of books. Money was also obtained for the same purpose by popular subscription. The library was opened to the public February 28, 1885.

State aid was not furnished to it. It now contains 5,150 volumes, and its general circulation is 7,786 volumes per year.

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In December, 1893, this library was established with state aid. Its shelves at present contain 760 volumes. It has at present no library building.

BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Brookline Public Library originated in the Young Men's Library Association, which was founded March 4, 1861, through the instigation of Mr. David Hobart. In 1877 the organization developed into the Brookline Public Library and occupied limited quarters in the rear of C. P. Hall's store. Through the liberality of our citizens, generous appropriations, made yearly, the use of a larger room became necessary. This was the home of the Brookline Public Library for twenty-one years, and it was indeed fitting that on that anniversary year our citizens should vote to give it more commodious quarters in the grammar school building. It was removed to the new quarters May 14, 1898, which had been thoroughly renovated and fitted up in a neat and substantial manner, making a library room that is a credit to the town.

Nearly two thousand volumes are to be found upon its shelves, besides many pamphlets.

The aim of the trustees has been to give to the public good, wholesome reading matter which will develop the mind and elevate the moral standard of the community.

CAMPTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the biennial town meeting, November, 1892, it was voted to establish and maintain a free public library under the regulations of the Public Statutes of 1891, and the town received from the state one hundred dollars' worth of books. This was the beginning of the Campton Free Public Library. The gift from the state was one hundred and eight volumes. It consisted of histories, biography, travels, political works, books on farming and gardening, and fiction. The same year there were added about forty volumes from the Campton Library Association, an organization formed some time in the forties, and was in its day a valuable library, but most of the members had died or moved from town, and the books were scattered. Those that were secured were histories, both ancient and modern, biographies, travels, and some theological works. Mention might here be made of the first library established in Campton by the Campton Library Association. Rev. Selden Church was an important agent in its formation. Mr. Church was the first settled minister of the town.

The library contained at times three hundred volumes and embraced few besides substantial works, valuable histories, biographies, travels, and among the works might be mentioned Rollins' Ancient History and Plutarch's Lives. It was also well supplied with New England theology and some of the best foreign works. Many of the young people prided themselves in having read through the whole library.

The books were divided among the proprietors and many of their descendants have moved from the town. Only three volumes have been secured for the present library and these are quite a curiosity. They are dated 1793, which is the time they were purchased. It is thought the library was established many years before this time. I have mentioned

these facts, as it is thought to have been one of the first libraries in this part of the state, if not the first.

The present library is not in a separate building, but in one of the rooms of the town house,—a room about ten feet square and wholly unfit for such a purpose; one window lights the room. At every annual town meeting an article is inserted in the warrant for a suitable room and reading room, but it is always voted down. The better class of voters are in favor of the project, but they are in the minority. Unless some outside influence can be brought to bear on the people the future prospects of the library are very unpromising. There is quite a sum of money in the hands of the town officers for the purchase of books, but if many more are added new cases must be provided, and this is the problem somebody must face.

CANAAN TOWN LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains at present 1,359 volumes, and its circulation in 1905 was 1,735 volumes. It is located in the old Canaan Union Academy building.

SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, CANDIA.

The beginnings of library work in Candia date back to 1791, when fourteen citizens of the town established the "Candia Social Library," and purchased an excellent collection of books, which was kept at the house of Walter Clay.

Rev. Jesse Remington, who was a man of fine literary tastes, was greatly interested in the library, which was well sustained until 1810, when it was discontinued. The books were divided among the members of the association.

In 1795 there was started the "Female Library." This was a woman's movement and the books of a religious character. It flourished some years. In 1824 a number of prominent citizens of the town formed an association for the founding of a new library. Among the books which were first pur-

chased were: Rollins' Ancient History, Plutarch's Lives, The Spectator, Walter Scott's Waverley, History of the French Revolution, Marshall's Life of Washington and Irving's Life of Columbus. This met the fate of former libraries, and in 1850, as interest diminished, the association voted to close the library and distribute the books, but in 1858 interest was aroused again and a stock company formed.

The library this time was called "The Farmers and Mechanics Library," and it prospered until many of the members left town, and it was not possible to keep up the library to a proper standard of usefulness.

In 1888, Ex-Governor Frederick Smyth of Manchester, and a native of Candia, founded a public library in the town, naming it the Smyth Public Library. The books were first placed at the residence of the librarian, Mr. J. E. Page, where seventy years before the Candia Literary Society kept their library.

During the lifetime of Ex-Governor Smyth he supported it liberally and kept an active interest in its welfare. At his death he left a legacy of five thousand dollars, the interest to be used for the purchase of books. Since his death the library has been moved to rooms in the Fitts Museum Building, which is owned by the town.

The old Farmers and Mechanics Library donated their books to the Smyth Library, which is now a collection of twenty-eight hundred well-selected books.

Some ancient books from the early libraries of the town are now deposited in the Fitts Museum of Candia.

The Smyth Library is well appreciated by the majority of the townspeople. The greatest need is a new building, as in a few years it will have outgrown its present quarters.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The town of Canterbury, taking advantage of the state's gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books, established October 23, 1893, a library under the name of the Canterbury

Public Library. Several years later two libraries, one of them the first organized in this place, were merged in this, hence a history of the Canterbury Library, to be complete, must include these. A bill to incorporate the Canterbury Library was passed by the legislature, and approved by the governor, John T. Gilman, December 12, 1797. Two years previous, the library movement was inaugurated and an elaborate constitution in seven chapters framed. Shares were purchased at two dollars and the holder was entitled to one vote on each share and the use of the library. The population of the town at this time was between ten and eleven hundred. Forty-one names appear on the first list of subscribers, making one in every twenty-five a share owner. A large proportion of the books are volumes of sermons or upon religious themes. Quite a proportion are histories and books of travel. The following are a few of the books with the purchase price: Edwards on Redemption, \$1.50; Milton's Paradise Lost, \$1.00; Dodridge's Rise and Progress, \$1.00; Morse's Geography, \$3.85; Josephus, \$6. Addison's Spectator, \$5.44; Rollins' Ancient History, \$9. Most of the books are bound in leather and are reasonably well preserved. In 1862 a Library Association was formed. The interest in this organization was general and an excellent library resulted. It comprised several hundred of the best books that were at that time popular with the public. Some accessions to the public library have been made by gifts, and at present there are twelve hundred volumes. About sixteen hundred were given out last year. The books are housed in the Town Hall, a room having been fitted up for the purpose. About seventy dollars is expended yearly for books.

TWIN MOUNTAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, CARROLL.

The Twin Mountain Public Library was established by the town of Carroll in 1893 by state aid, with a catalogue of eighty-five books, valued at one hundred dollars.

The trustees were Julius F. Teavitt, H. F. Jenness, and

Mrs. C. S. Miles; the first librarian, Mrs. George W. Lane. The books were kept in a small closet in Mrs. Lane's residence.

From the establishment of the library until 1904 the town annually appropriated fifty dollars for its maintenance. In 1905 the amount was raised to one hundred dollars.

Several donations have been made, the most valuable of which were one hundred volumes by Oscar Barron, of Fabryan House, N. H., one hundred volumes by Fred E. Whittemore of Nashua, and an elegantly bound edition of Shakespeare by Miss Maud Barron of Fabryan House.

In 1898 Mrs. George W. Lane tendered her resignation and Mrs. Hattie M. Howe received the appointment. The library was removed to a room in the Twin Mountain House Cottage, where accommodations were made for the new books that were added to the list.

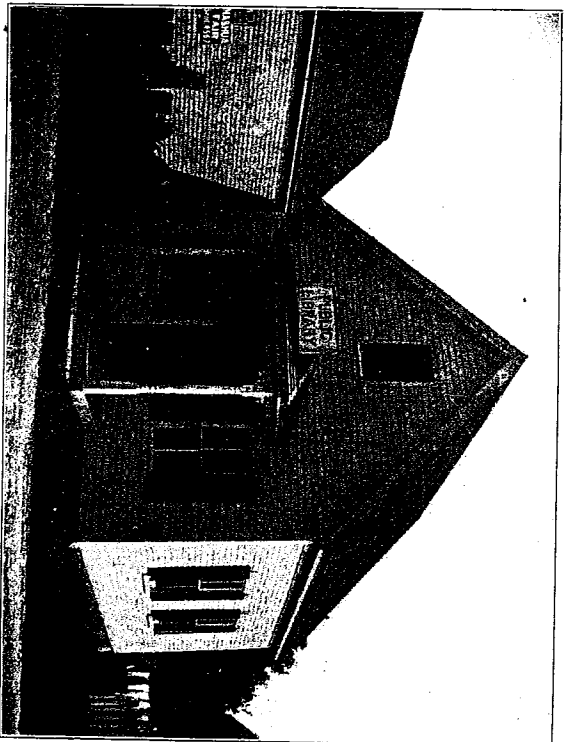
In February, 1906, the library was again removed to the new town building, in which a room was furnished for its specific use.

The present number of books is eight hundred, and an expenditure of two hundred dollars will soon be made for new books.

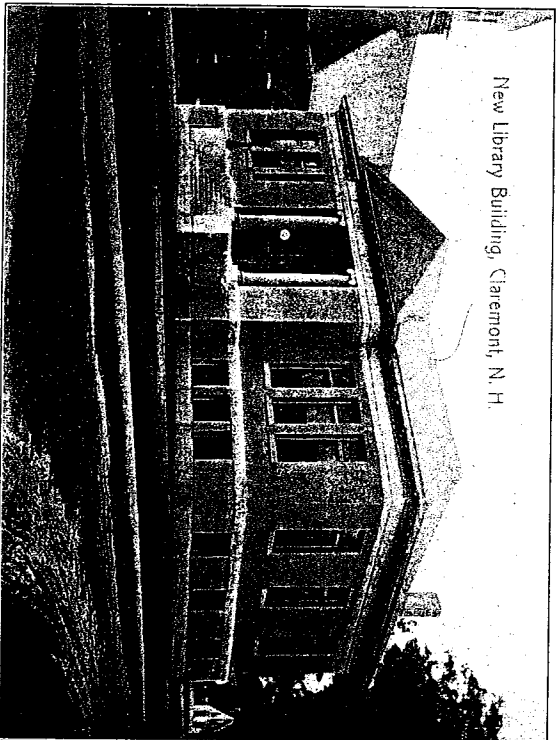
SISBY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHARLESTOWN.

The origin of the present public library in Charlestown dates back one hundred years. Early in the nineteenth century there were two libraries founded in the village, one of them in the office of William Briggs, the other in charge of Obadiah Wells, and afterwards carried on by Joseph Heaton.

The latter was transferred to the office of Dr. Samuel Weber about 1835 or 1836, and, on the death of Mr. Briggs, about 1840, the two libraries were consolidated and remained in the care of Dr. Weber until his death in 1880. His daughter, Miss Eliza Weber, then took the place of librarian. The Briggs library was small, consisting mainly of historical and political books. The Heaton library was more



CHESTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



New Library Building, Claremont, N. H.

FISKE FREE LIBRARY, CLAREMONT

miscellaneous, and at the time of consolidation contained some three or four hundred volumes.

Under the care of Dr. Webber, great attention was paid to historical and biographical literature, as well as voyage and travels, with a fair share of the best fiction of the day, and at the time of his death contained over fifteen hundred volumes.

With the death of nearly all the old proprietors, the three survivors, Mrs. Elizabeth West, Miss Eliza A. Webber, and Mr. George Oleott, presented the old library as a nucleus to the new public library, founded by the bequest of the late Ethiel H. Slsby.

Col. Ethiel Homer Slsby, donor of the Slsby Free Public Library, was born in Acworth, N. H. He was the son of Ethiel and Hannah (Gregg) Slsby. He obtained his education in the schools of the town, taught several terms in this village (Charlestown), and was at one time clerk in the Eagle Hotel, and later engaged in the hotel business in Saratoga and Boston.

In 1843 he married Miss Eleanor H. Merrill of Acworth. He died in Newton in 1874.

This gift of the library was in gratitude to the people who received him, a poor boy, in kindness and treated him with consideration and hospitality.

CHESTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Chester Free Public Library was founded in 1894, by a gift from the state of one hundred dollars' worth of books, to which was added another hundred by town appropriation. The following year a separate building was purchased and remodeled for the purpose of containing the books, which were then housed in a grocery store. When completed, the Ladies' Social Library Association of Chester turned over to the town nine hundred volumes, and closed their circulating library. About one hundred books are added each year through gift or purchase, and the number, exclusive of state

and government pamphlets, has reached about twenty-two hundred volumes.

The townspeople have always shown a lively interest in the library, and the circulation has exceeded per capita the oft-quoted estimate of the famous and popular librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) city library.

CHESTERFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established by state aid March 24, 1894. The present number of books is 1,762, and the circulation in 1905 was 2,667 volumes. The library serves the villages of Spofford, Chesterfield, and West Chesterfield. It is located in a private house.

CHICHESTER TOWN LIBRARY.

This library was organized in 1899 under the library law. The town contributes from fifty to sixty dollars a year to its support. It contains 708 volumes. It is housed in the Town Hall.

FISKE FREE LIBRARY, CLAREMONT.

In the year 1873, Samuel Phillips Fiske, a native and lifelong resident of Claremont, gave two thousand volumes of books, on condition that the town should accept the same and furnish a suitable building, room or rooms in which to put them; that the town should defray the expense of insuring them against loss of fire; keep them in a good state of repair, and replace with books of equivalent value any that might be worn out or destroyed; and it should be called the Fiske Free Library.

The books were accepted on these terms and placed in the upper story of the Stevens High School Building. This location was away from the center of business and was found to be inconvenient, but they remained there until 1878, when the town purchased a block in the business square, and the library was removed to rooms in that building fitted up for it on the second floor.

Mr. Fiske died in February, 1879, and by his will the town received nine thousand dollars,—five thousand to be expended in books as they should be needed, and the balance to remain as a fund, the interest only to be used in the purchase of books.

At the death of Mrs. Fiske she added another thousand, making the fund five thousand dollars.

In 1903 it became evident that the books were outgrowing their surroundings. Cases had been added from time to time until all the available space had been utilized. Mr. Andrew Carnegie responded to the appeal made to him for fifteen thousand dollars, with the usual conditions.

A building was completed and the library removed November, 1904. It is centrally located, situated between the Episcopal and Universalist churches, facing the Broad-street park. There is a spacious reading room and a children's room.

CLARKSVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Established by state aid in 1896. Number of volumes, 571; located in private house.

COLUMBIA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Columbia Public Library was established in 1896, the state furnishing one hundred dollars' worth of books. The town of Columbia raises by ballot each year thirty dollars to purchase books. The library occupies a room in the dwelling-house of E. D. Lucy at Columbia Valley. There are between eight and nine hundred books of different classes, such as history, travels, poems, and fiction. There are three trustees, one elected each year. The town pays twelve dollars per year for the use of library room, and the librarian has fifteen dollars per year for taking charge of the library, selecting the books, and keeping them covered. People taking books from the library who are not residents of the town pay five cents for each book taken out. The card system is used for charging books and the letter system for classifying. A

fine of two cents each day is charged for books kept out over three weeks. The library is open every day except Sundays, to accommodate those living at a distance, who cannot always get their books at stated days. It contains 901 volumes.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

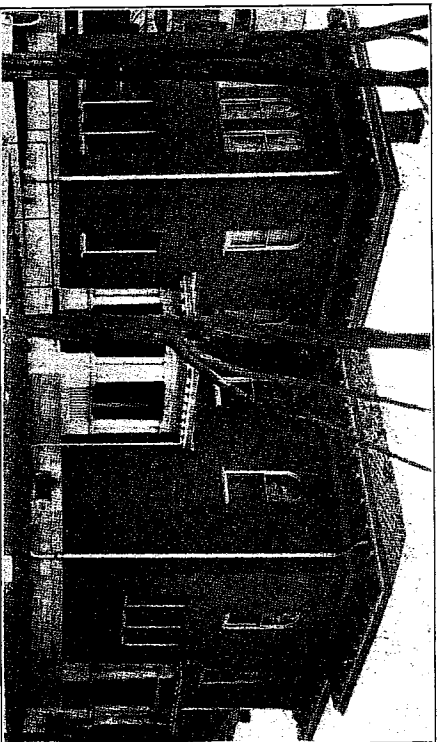
In 1825, two years after Concord became a city, an ordinance was passed on August 25, Rufus Clement being mayor, "for the establishment and perpetual maintenance of a public library, to promote intelligence among all classes of the community."²²

From the first the trustees were unsalaried and were elected as they are now, by the city council, and consisted of "one competent citizen" from each ward. There were four wards then, at present there are nine. The trustees' first meetings were held in the police courtroom. Their first report, in 1856, announces thirteen hundred dollars pledged by three Boston gentlemen, natives of Concord; but nothing was realized from this source, and the trustees begged a yearly appropriation of two hundred dollars.

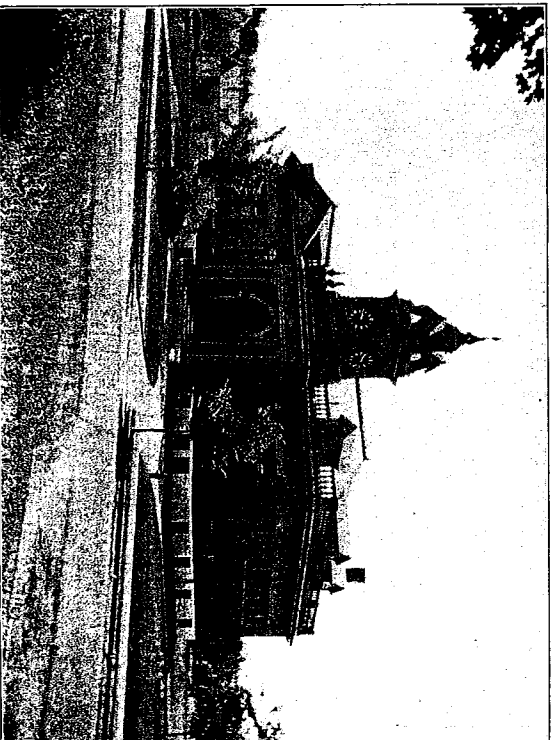
At first each borrower was to pay twenty-five cents for the use of the circulating books and seventy-five cents additional for the use of the reading room. These uncertain subscriptions were to make the librarian's salary and cover incidental expenses.

In 1858 the ladies of all religious societies united in giving a levee in the City Hall, which netted three hundred and eighty-one dollars for the public library. The institution has received in the fifty years of its existence five bequests ranging from one thousand to twenty-three hundred dollars,—from a United States president (Pierce), a local publisher (Lyons), a St. Paul schoolmaster (Valpey), a mayor (Cogswell), and a man of business (Jones).

The position of librarian has been filled as follows: Andrew Capen, 1857; Frederick S. Crawford, 1858-1882; Daniel F. Secomb, 1882-1895; Grace Blanchard, 1895 to date.



FOWLER CITY LIBRARY, CONCORD



CONWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Resolved [1856], "That the library be located for the present in the room designed for it in the City Hall, now in process of erection."

In 1876 it was removed to rooms in the Board of Trade Building. In 1888 it became housed in its present quarters, given by William P. and Clara M. Fowler, now of Boston, in memory of their parents, Judge and Mrs. Asa Fowler.

The public library was given the Dewey classification in 1895, and modern features were then introduced; others are added whenever permitted by the crowded condition of the building. Over 28,000 volumes are shelved in the space intended for 20,000. The desk circulation is 90,000.

Delivery stations are in operation in East Concord, West Concord, Penacook, and St. Paul's School. A summer branch is run during the long vacation in first one and then another of the outlying districts.

CONWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

After the organization of the Conway Woman's Club in 1894, feeling need of books to aid in study, the club members spoke of having a library for their own use. The interest soon extended to the village people, and, through the efforts of the few most interested, the Conway Village Library Association was incorporated, Hon. A. C. Kennett, at that time in the state senate, obtaining the charter, March 20, 1895. Mrs. S. E. Hamblen was chosen president, Rev. F. A. Keep vice-president, Dr. S. A. Evans secretary, H. B. Fifield treasurer, L. C. Quint, J. C. L. Wood, and J. M. Fifield trustees. The first large donation of books was received in November, 1895, from Mr. Carl De Laittre and Mrs. Caroline Eastman of Minneapolis, Minn. Later Mrs. B. F. Shurtivant and her daughter of Jamaica Plain, Mass., gave one hundred dollars, and from time to time other friends gave assistance, especially the Conway Woman's Club.

This association rendered valuable service in providing good reading matter to the people in the village, until the

Jenks Memorial Building was dedicated on June 13, 1901. Soon after this date, the association gave to the town of Conway all of its property, including about one thousand volumes, thus laying the foundation of the Conway Public Library.

The Jenks Memorial Building was given to the town in memory of Dr. Thomas L. Jenks of Boston, Mass., by his widow and daughter, Mrs. Lydia Jenks and Miss Sarah E. Jenks.

Dr. Jenks's birthplace was near Conway Village. The building is a fine brick structure, with brown sandstone trimmings, clock tower and clock. It is finished inside with quartered oak and frescoed walls. It contains a large reading room, curio room, main hall, and stack room, with modern improvements and lighted by electricity.

The reading room is well supplied with current magazines and papers, and contains reference books,—government and state reports,—besides several valuable paintings and pictures and a large bronze tablet to the memory of Dr. Jenks. The curio room contains many interesting curios, which would be hard to duplicate, also portraits of Judge Chase and Mr. W. K. Eastman, early residents of the village. There is a portrait of the architect of the building, T. W. Sillaway, of Boston; a fine bust of Molière, the gift of Mrs. Ira Atkinson of Wakefield, Mass., and many pictures and souvenirs of Conway, Wales.

The largest gift received from any one person was fifteen hundred dollars from the late W. W. Eastman of Minneapolis, Minn. The interest in the library and its works is strong. It is much appreciated—both building and books—by the people, as statistics will show.

We trust the interest will continue even stronger than in the past.

CORNISH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established by state aid in 1894. It contains 1,017 volumes, and its circulation in the past two years has been 3,241 volumes. It is located in two private houses in different parts of the town.

CROYDEN TOWN LIBRARY.

The Town Library of Croyden was established in 1894, with one hundred and seventy-five volumes. The town had no library building, but a room was set apart in the store of D. W. Barton, and he was chosen librarian. The library continued there until 1898, when the store was closed, and some of the books were put in the Town Hall and some in private houses. In 1899 the store was reopened by S. W. Gilman, and the same room that had been used for the library was offered and accepted by the town. The books were gathered together again and were found to number 399,—this included those furnished by the state, those purchased by the town, and those given by other libraries and private individuals. At the time of the second opening there was about fifty dollars in the town treasury belonging to the library fund. This sum was expended for books by Mr. Gilman, who had been chosen librarian. This swelled the number to 714, including private gifts and eighty volumes given by the library trustees at Springfield, Mass. Books have been purchased every year since.

At the beginning of this year we had 1,019 catalogued, and there will be more purchased this fall. The library has a good class of novels, which are appreciated by the residents, especially the young people, and also the city boarders, for the past two or three years.

The general need of the town is a good library building, and then the purchase or gifts of some books that will be a benefit to the students of our schools.

DAILTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In January, 1891, the legislature passed a law that any town giving one hundred dollars for books and providing a place for a library the state would furnish one hundred dollars' worth of books. The town voted to accept this offer, and a library was started the following spring.

Twenty-five dollars' worth of books was given by Riverside Frange, No. 137, and several books were donated by different individuals.

One small room in the Town Hall was set aside for the library. Rev. J. R. Meader was chosen Librarian and served until the year 1901. He moved away that year, and Mrs. Blanche Emerson was chosen at the library trustees to fill the vacancy, and is serving at the present time.

The library now consists of about six hundred volumes, and they are in fairly good condition. But few books have been added to our list during the last year or two, because there is no annual appropriation made at the annual town meeting for the benefit of the library.

As the Librarian receives only twenty-one dollars yearly for his or her services, it would leave the salary very small to spend any of that amount for books, although since I have been Librarian I have purchased seven good books, among them the "Life of William McKinley."

When schools are in session the library is open each day, except Saturdays, to accommodate the scholars. At other times it is open Saturday afternoons.

GEORGE GAMBLE LIBRARY, DANBURY.

This library was established in 1888. It did not receive state aid under the library law, but nevertheless is a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains 831 volumes, and its circulation the past two years has been 1,063 volumes. It is located in the Town Hall.

DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, DANVILLE.

The Danville Public Library was started in 1892 with 130 books on its shelves, 102 being the gift of the state.

A few books have been added nearly every year until at the present time there are 1,152 volumes.

The library occupies a room in the Town Hall, and is open one evening each week.

To accommodate North Danville, three miles away, arrangements have been in force for several years. Cards are left and books sent to the postoffice in that village so that the different parts of the town have easy access to the benefits of the library.

PHILBRICK-JAMES LIBRARY, DEERFIELD.

This library was established December 18, 1880. It is a free public library, although it did not receive state aid. It has a permanent fund of about fifteen hundred dollars. There are thirty-five hundred volumes upon the shelves. It is located in the Town House.

DEERING FREE TOWN LIBRARY.

This library was opened to the public February 1, 1902. The first books were purchased by funds of the town raised by taxation. The state gave us one hundred dollars' worth of books. The town not having a suitable room in which to place the books, rented a room from Mrs. A. J. Locke, who was at that time appointed Librarian, and still holds the office. It was thought best to make it a circulating library for the accommodation of the reading public in the town, so books have been taken to the east and west part, and it has given satisfaction so far. We now have some over five hundred volumes in the library. It is hoped before many years some way may be found so that the town will be able to own a library building, to keep their books in a more systematic manner. We have twice a year added more books. We have also received donations from our friends in interest of the welfare of the town.

TAYLOR LIBRARY, DERRY.

The Taylor Library was founded by Miss Harriet Taylor, a native and lifelong resident of Derry. One thousand volumes were purchased and placed in a room fitted up in the Town Hall at East Derry. The library was dedicated on

February 22, 1878, when a large and enthusiastic audience greeted a former pastor of the old First Church, Rev. Joshua Wellman of Malden, who delivered the address. On the following day the library was opened for the delivery of books, and trustees and librarian were kept very busy for four hours filling the orders of the delighted people.

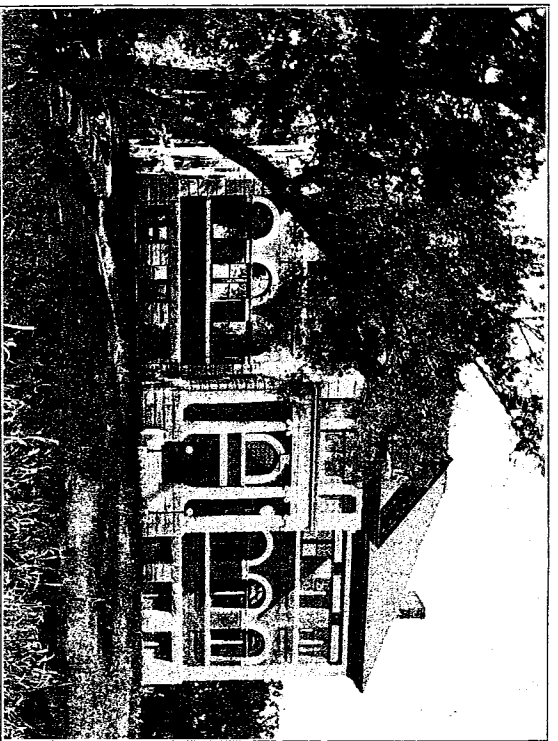
Each year additions have been made from money raised by the town and from the fund of three thousand dollars left by a sister and brother of the founder, namely, Miss Emma L. Taylor and Mr. James C. Taylor, until at present there are five thousand six hundred and twenty-five volumes. There have been four librarians: the first, Miss Kate W. Eastman for three years, Miss Elizabeth F. Billings for five years, Miss Florence E. Boyd for four years, and the present librarian, Adaline A. Reynolds, for the past sixteen years.

DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

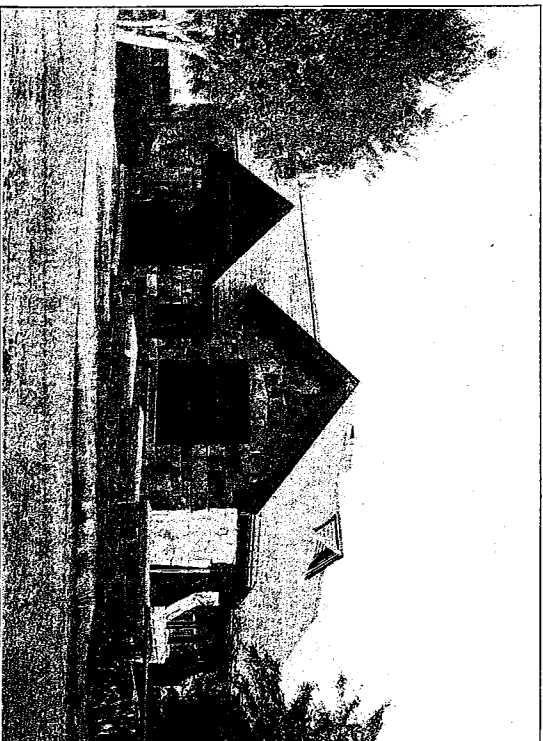
The earliest library in Dover of which there is now any record was the Dover Social Library, in existence in 1776 and incorporated in 1792. A few of its books and catalogues are now preserved in the Dover Public Library.

The Dover library, free to stockholders and open to others by payment of an annual fee, was incorporated November 14, 1850, and in 1883 transferred by vote of the stockholders (its property consisting of several thousand well-selected books in good condition and twenty-four hundred dollars in cash) to the ownership of the city, to be used as a nucleus for a free public library. To this the city added two thousand dollars' worth of new books, and on January 14, 1884, with forty-six hundred volumes ready for use, the Dover Public Library was opened free to all inhabitants of the city.

The circulation the first year was 50,224. The highest circulation was reached in 1897, when 73,588 volumes were issued. Few books have been lost in circulation, the largest number in any one year being four. The proportion of fiction has steadily decreased until last year it formed but forty-



DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



DUBLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

nine per cent of the entire use. The total number of persons registering as borrowers of books from January, 1884, to June, 1906, is 11,700. In the beginning the library was open from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 daily. After a few years it was kept open from 2 to 9, and is now open from 10 A. M. to 9 P. M. week days, and on Sundays the reading room is open from 2 to 6 P. M.

The city of Dover has been very generous to its library, steadily advancing its annual appropriation from twenty-five hundred dollars in the beginning to fifty-five hundred dollars for the current year. The library itself has tried to keep abreast as far as possible of the forward movement in library work, and early began the work of co-operation with schools, issuing special teachers' cards since 1891, special students' cards since 1892, and abolishing the age limit for children in 1893. Teachers' receptions have been held, and children's receptions, and a boys' club formed for the study of outdoor subjects. Exhibitions of pictures began in 1896, and the circulation of mounted pictures followed a year or two later. General access to the shelves has been granted for about two years. In 1896 a beginning was made toward gathering local history material, and the collection has now grown to proportions which make necessary a special room and attendant.

A general catalogue was printed in 1884, and another in 1891. Annual supplements followed till 1900, when the publication of the quarterly bulletin was begun. The card catalogue is kept up to date and much subject and analytic work is done.

The library has been moved three times. First from the two rooms of its opening in Cocheo Block to the Odd Fellows' Building, in 1891, and in 1905 to its own building. This building was erected with the thirty thousand dollars given for the purpose by Andrew Carnegie, was fitted up by the city at an expense of about twelve thousand dollars, and stands on the large, fine, tree-bordered site presented by the trustees of the Franklin Academy. It contains, in the base-

ment, government document reference rooms, unpacking and janitor's rooms; on the first floor, the delivery, fine arts, reading and reference, librarian's, work, and children's rooms; on the second floor, lecture, historical, science, and trustees' rooms. The stack is of steel construction with glass floor, with two stories used at present and space for a third. The whole building is as near fireproof as possible.

Two legacies have been received by the library: one in 1888 of one thousand dollars from the late Dr. T. J. W. Pray, and one in 1896 of two thousand dollars from the late Mrs. Elizabeth Hale Jaques. Other notable gifts have been the law library from the estate of the late Frank Hobbs, a large part of the music library of Mr. John W. Tufts of Boston, and the local history collection made by Dr. John R. Ham and purchased and presented by Mr. E. R. Brown; and to the new library has been given a large and valuable collection of paintings selected in Europe about fifty years ago by the late Benjamin T. Tredick and presented to the library by Miss Elizabeth C. Frost of Newburyport, Mass.

DUBLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1793 the Dublin Social Library was established (incorporated in 1797) by the purchase of books to the amount of \$56.60. Five years after the number of books was 93. In 1825 the Dublin Literary Society purchased 70 volumes, a bookcase, and a terrestrial globe. In 1835 the two libraries were united under the name of Dublin Union Library, which in 1851 contained 438 volumes. In 1799 the ladies' library was founded, and in 1851 consisted of 161 volumes. In 1822 the juvenile library was instituted, since which date it has been open and the use of its books free to all persons in town. It was supported by voluntary contributions in the various school districts, a subscription paper being annually circulated in each district.

Be it said, to the credit of the people, that there has never been occasion for a compulsory public tax for the mainte-

nance of this institution. It was incorporated in 1825, but its support and use were left unchanged by this act. In 1855 it consisted of 1,990 volumes. In 1876 all other libraries were united with this under the name of the Juvenile and Social Library. In 1890 this library voted to place its books and other property in the care of the Dublin Public Library, which was established by a vote of the town in March, 1884. The Dublin Public Library was installed in a room of the Town House, where it remained until 1901, when it was then placed in a building presented to the town by Mrs. H. P. Farnham of New York.

DUNBARTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Little is known about the early history of the library, that was handed down for over one hundred years, to help form in 1893 the present library. Some of the books bear the library date as early as 1790 and 1791. This library, we are told, was owned by private individuals who purchased it by subscription. Said library was kept at various places. Back in 1840 it was in the house of Captain Benjamin Whipple, where it remained for many years. Later it was moved to the Baptist parsonage, where it remained until some time in 1890. It was then moved to the present library room.

Some time in 1870 the Dunbarton Library Association purchased quite a lot of books of a book agent as a nucleus, to which the Starks added, and more were added year by year by subscription.

This library was kept for many years at the house of Mr. O. P. Wilson, after which it was removed to the residence of Mrs. Orme, where her niece looked after its interests.

At the annual town meeting in 1893 a vote was carried to accept the one hundred books and form a free library. This was not carried into effect until October, 1893, when the library was established, with ninety-nine books given by the state. Two hundred and fifty volumes were soon presented by Miss Etta Peck, and three hundred and forty loaned by the Li-

brary Association above mentioned. A list of the books was printed and the books circulated. Books were added from year to year and much interest was taken by the townspeople until 1900, when it was found by the trustees that the library was growing faster than its management. During that year the library was put in better shape by adopting the Dewey classification, and a complete catalogue was made on cards arranged alphabetically. In 1901 a complete list of all the books was made and published and each family furnished with a copy. Since 1901 a list of all new books has been published in the town report.

In 1905 the Brown charging system was introduced, and now we feel that after one hundred years of struggling we indeed have a library of upwards of twelve hundred volumes, carried on under the best and most modern ways.

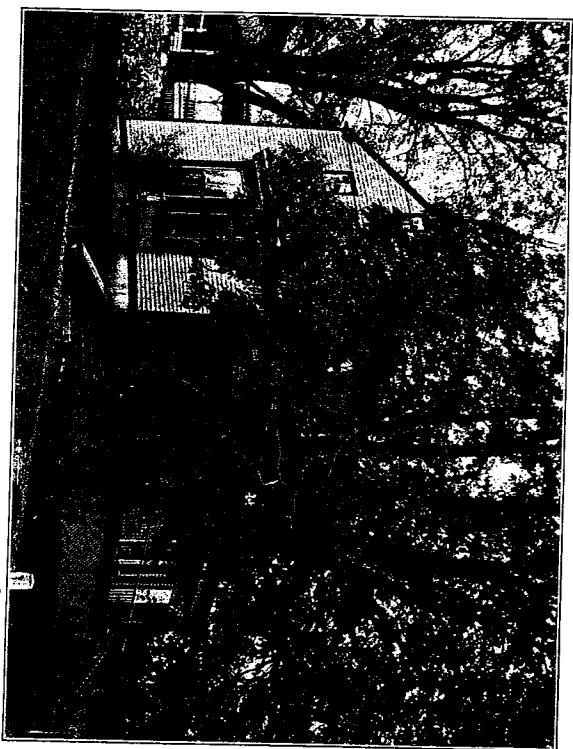
We should mention that the town in 1893 provided a pleasant room in its large and commodious Town House for the use of the library, and has since kept it in repair.

At present the library has quite a large fund of its own, and in the near future hopes to have a separate building of its own.

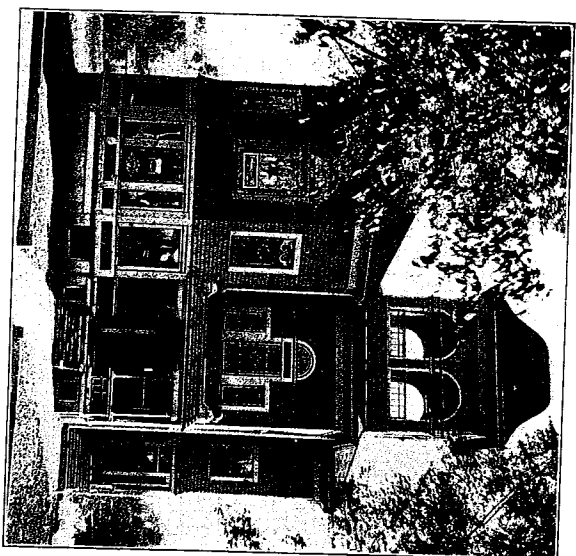
DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Durham Public Library is a consolidation of the following libraries:

1. Durham Social Library, incorporated 1815 by legislative act.
2. Durham Agricultural Association, organized February 3, 1862.
3. Durham Social Library, which was organized March 9, 1881 (with the books of the old libraries added), and five hundred dollars raised with shares at five dollars each; incorporated March 8, 1883, as the Durham Library Association.
4. Durham Public Library, organized in accordance with the vote of the town, passed March 8, 1892, receiving one hundred dollars from the state.



DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



ENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Durham Public Library and the library of the Durham Library Association were consolidated by contract signed March 18, 1893, and have since been operated as one library free to all citizens of the town, the annual expenses paid by the town for books and expenses being about five hundred dollars.

The Durham Library Association has a legacy of about ten thousand dollars, received from the estate of the late Lydia Simpson of Durham, which was turned over to the association in 1901, and it has also about two thousand dollars of other investments, the income of which is used for books for the consolidated library. A contract was signed January 13, 1906, by the following parties: The Durham Library Association, the directors, the same being and acting as trustees of said association, the town of Durham, N. H., the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and Henry Cleveland Perkins, executor, trustees and legatee under the will of Hamilton Smith of said Durham.

Under this contract, a new library building will be built this year, Mr. Andrew Carnegie donating twenty thousand dollars, and the estate of Hamilton Smith ten thousand toward the new library building. The libraries of the town of Durham, the Durham Library Association, and the New Hampshire College will be consolidated as one library when the new building is completed, and the New Hampshire College will pay all the expenses except twenty-five dollars per year, which the town of Durham will pay. The library will be free to all citizens of Durham and all students, faculty, and employees of the Durham College, and the new library building will have over twenty thousand volumes upon its shelves when opened to the public.

No town or city in the state will have so good library privileges, considering the population, and at so low a cost, as Durham.

EAST KINGSTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established July 11, 1894, under the library law. It contains 1,034 volumes, and its circulation the past two years has been 3,110 volumes. It is located in the Town Hall.

EASTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The town of Easton accepted the offer of the state to give one hundred dollars' worth of books to any town, on condition that the town would pledge itself to make an annual appropriation in proportion to its state tax to maintain the library.

The vote to accept was passed at the annual town meeting in March, 1892, and in December of that year our library was in working order and has been in constant use ever since.

For the first two years Mrs. Rufus W. Young was librarian and kept the books at her house. At the end of that time she decided that it was too much work, and after trying at several other central places for a home for the books the board of library trustees appointed Mrs. Willis Bowles librarian, and she has held the office since. The books are kept at her home and are given out any day of the week and any hour of the day as is most convenient for the people.

At first they were mostly adult readers, but the children have been encouraged to take out books, and now there are a good many who do.

We buy new books every year, so that our library is steadily growing in size as well as interest. The present number of volumes is four hundred and forty.

EATON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Eaton Free Public Library was founded in 1893. At the annual town meeting held in March of that year, the town adopted the provisions and requirements of an act of legislation passed in the year 1891, and raised and appropriated the amount of money required by this act for the

maintenance of a free public library, and thereby received from the state one hundred dollars' worth of books.

Trustees were chosen and a librarian appointed. The librarian, N. G. Palmer, offered a room in his dwelling-house at Eaton Centre for keeping the books, and they remained there as long as he held the position, nearly six years.

There has been but one change in librarians in the thirteen years of the library's history. In 1899, a new librarian, Clark Stanley, was chosen to fill the place left vacant by the death of N. G. Palmer, and the books were removed to his residence at Snowville, where they are at the present time.

No salaries have been paid to the librarians or trustees except during the last two years the librarian has been paid a small sum for the care of the books. New books have been purchased, and those that were worn or destroyed replaced from time to time as seemed best, with the annual appropriation of the town.

There are at present in the library, per accession book, three hundred and fifty-seven books. These books are in excellent condition and are well cared for. They comprise not only fiction, but biography, history, and works of art, science, natural history, and miscellaneous books, all of good moral character.

EFFINGHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Through the efforts of a few public-spirited citizens a vote was taken to accept the offer of the state to assist the establishment of a library that should be free to all residents of the town, and a room in the Town Hall was fitted for the joint use of the library and the officers of the town. The library was open to the town in 1893, Josephus L. Drake, Alonzo Keniston, and Francesco W. Barker, trustees. Dr. Albert N. Gould was chosen librarian. Afterwards the number of trustees was increased to twelve, namely, John L. Demeritt, R. M. Fulton, John M. Drake, Dr. James M. Leavitt, John P. Glidden, James M. Champion, J. N. Mars-

ton, O. J. Avery, Josephus L. Drake, Cyrus P. Keay, Charles S. Miles, and Frank W. Barker. A library association was formed and continued active for a few years. Literary entertainments, etc., were held at stated intervals, and from the funds thus obtained the number of volumes on the shelves rapidly increased until over one thousand books in desirable shape were listed.

The library is free to all residents and there is no age limit. The patrons, if they desire, are allowed to go to the shelves, examine the books, and make selections themselves, and teachers of the public schools have free access to such literature as they may wish. Open Saturday from 1 to 5 P. M.

ENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Enfield Library was organized March 1, 1893, receiving state aid, also one thousand volumes from the Enfield Association Library. It had no permanent home until April, 1901, when the Library and Memorial Building was finished with a room for the library, for which Mr. Henry Cummings gave twelve hundred dollars.

At the time of its organization Hon. John W. Dodge gave the income of one thousand dollars for ten years, requiring the town to raise yearly one hundred dollars for the maintenance of the library. The requirement was met, and at the end of ten years the town continued to raise the same sum over and above taxation.

The library contains three thousand one hundred and ninety-three volumes at the present time.

EPING PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the March town election in the year 1892 the town of Epping voted to accept the provisions of the library act passed at the previous session of the legislature, and a board of trustees consisting of Caleb T. Edgerly, Albert C. Bushwell, M. D., and George N. Shepard was chosen. This body organized by electing George N. Shepard as chairman.

Steps were at once taken to secure the privileges of the library act, and in January and February, 1893, 109 volumes from the State Library Commission were placed in the hands of the librarian, Mrs. I. H. Buswell, who held the position until December 1, 1893. George G. Prescott was appointed to fill the vacancy. During the years ending March 1, 1894, there were 1,972 books loaned. This is an average of 1.2 for each person, counting the numbers of persons in round numbers, 1,700. Only one ninth of the people availed themselves of this privilege in that year, there being but 204 cards issued.

The library has grown slowly and steadily in fourteen years from 109 volumes to over 1,452 at the present time, while the circulation attained an average of a little more than 3,000 volumes per year. Counting the reading population at two thirds of the census, it would seem that at present more than three fourths of the readers patronize the library, there being nearly 800 cards out for 1,000 people.

EPSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 by state aid. The present number of volumes, 1,224. The circulation for the past two years was 3,109. It occupies a separate building, located at the village of Gossville.

ERROL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Errol Free Public Library was established by a vote of the town March 8, 1892, and chose George C. Demeritt trustee for one year, A. L. Davis two years, Norton N. Ferrin three years. Each succeeding year one trustee has been elected for the term of three years. Following are the names of the trustees and dates of their election:

1893, Allen A. Tisey; 1894, A. L. Davis; 1895, Norton N. Ferrin; 1896, Stephen R. Hanscom; 1897, A. L. Davis; 1898, Winfield H. West; 1899, Cyrus H. West; 1900, Stephen R. Hanscom; 1901, Jacob F. Corbett; 1902, William D. Thurn-

ton; 1903, Stephen R. Hanscom; 1904, Jacob P. Corbett; 1905, William J. Thurston; 1906, Stephen P. Hanscom.

When this library was established the state gave one hundred dollars' worth of books, the city of Berlin gave nearly one hundred volumes of second-hand books in the year 1896, and the town has added to these by purchase until at the present time the library contains 433 volumes exclusive of reports.

EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

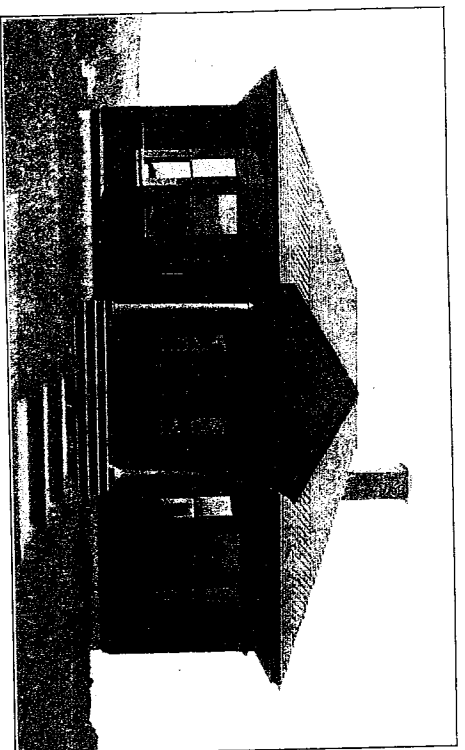
At the annual town meeting held in Exeter on Tuesday, March 14, 1853, the following resolutions were offered and passed:

Resolved, That the sum of \$300 be raised for the purchase of books for a town library.

Resolved, That a committee of three persons be chosen at this meeting to expend said funds for books to establish regulation for said library until others be adopted by the town.

Resolved, That said committee be authorized to employ a librarian to be paid by the town at an expense not exceeding fifty dollars for the year ensuing.

On March 28 the Town Library Committee announced the gift of one hundred dollars from the trustees of the Phillips Exeter Academy, in aid of the library; also the gift of several valuable books from citizens of the town, and more books soon followed. On June 20 the Town Library was opened to the citizens for the first time, when about 135 books were taken out. The whole number of volumes in the library was 500. It was located in an upstairs room, over a store, on the business street. From here the library was moved to a large room in the old Town Hall, where it remained for nearly forty years, until the completion of the new library building in September, 1894. On the 24th of the month the new library building was opened to the public, and the institution entered upon a new stage of existence. At this time there were 9,000 volumes in the library which had been classified by the Dewey system before removal. The library



EPSOM PUBLIC LIBRARY



EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY

was opened every day for the first time. The reading and reference rooms were new features, there being no accommodations for these in the old building. A description of the building at this time would necessarily take up too much space in this brief account. Today, April, 1906, there are 13,900 books on the shelves, and during the past eleven years the people of Exeter have fully manifested their interest and appreciation of the public library.

FARMINGTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was begun by a score of enterprising residents of the town during the fall of 1890 as the Farmington Public Library. It was then supported by the efforts of the Library Association. The membership dues were one dollar a year. The balance of the expense was supplied by popular subscriptions and entertainments.

The first purchase of books was made about the middle of January, 1891. Six hundred and fifty dollars were expended, of which three hundred and fifty were devoted to the purchase of fiction. The library is kept open Saturday afternoons and each week-day evening.

In March, 1896, the Library Association made a contract with the town to furnish its free public library. This was done under a special act of the legislature, enabling the town of Farmington to secure this library in consideration of the required appropriation for the support of a free public library. The town has always made annually an additional voluntary appropriation of one hundred dollars or more. Since this arrangement was entered into no dues have been collected from members of the association. The officers, with the exception of the librarian, have always given both time and services. There has been a constant, steady increase in the value of the library. The additions have come largely from bequests and donations from natives and residents. During "Old Home Week" former residents, after visiting and becoming interested in the work being done in the library, have made generous donations.

The management of the library has continued wholly in the hands of the officers of the original Library Association. The chairman of the board of selectmen of the town acts with the seven directors elected by the association.

The number of volumes is 2,700, and the circulation 10,864 for two years.

FITZWILLIAM TOWN LIBRARY.

In 1797 a social library was incorporated which was prosperous for twenty or thirty years, then it was disbanded, and the books (over 250 volumes) were sold at auction. In 1851 a new association was organized, the members consisting of representatives of shares in the property, each share being valued at \$2.50 actually paid in. The officers consisted of seven supervisors, secretary and treasurer, and librarian. In 1872 the number of books in the library was 488. For a number of years the library remained about the same. In 1879 nonshareholders were allowed to borrow books by paying an annual fee of fifty cents, which was afterwards reduced to twenty-five cents. In 1870 the library was moved to a room in the Town Hall, and the next year the shareholders voted to donate it to the town at the town meeting of that year. This arrangement increased the interest in the library: entertainments were given for purchasing books, and the number of readers increased. In 1877 the Sunday school library of the Unitarian Society, containing over four hundred volumes, was loaned to the town library, where it still remains with an addition of fifty books purchased a few years ago. These are not included in the number of books given as belonging to the library. At the town meeting in 1883 it was voted to make the library free to all citizens of the town. There are at present on the shelves 5,891 volumes, and the biennial circulation is 5,516.

FRANCESTOWN TOWN LIBRARY.

The original library or nucleus, which later assumed goodly proportions, had its inception in the strong and intelligent

interest of a few right-minded individuals in a rising generation.

The very beginning was made by Miss Mary C. Willard about the year 1816, through whose efforts a small literary club, later known as The Home Circle, was organized. The original members of this club were Miss Mary C. Willard, Mrs. Samuel R. Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Bixby, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McVaine, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Bixby. At this time the cabinet shop of Mr. Willard, father of Mary C. Willard, stood where the library is now. In this shop was the postoffice, Miss Willard being postmistress, and in this shop the first case of books purchased with the proceeds of the entertainments conducted by the club and with the liberal contributions of the members, were placed, and the small circulating library of which Miss Willard was librarian was established.

In 1868 the present library building was entered, and five years later, 1873, the library then having over one thousand volumes, became the town's property. It now contains 3,150 volumes.

FRANCONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Franconia Public Library was established in 1892 through the efforts of the Rev. A. J. Eastman, Henry H. Clark and Wilbur F. Parker, who were appointed its trustees. The town took advantage of the law passed by the state in 1891, giving one hundred dollars' worth of books to each town appropriating the same amount.

To these two hundred new books were added about 244 volumes which had belonged to an old Franconia Village Library, making in all 444 volumes.

Upon the removal from town of the Rev. Mr. Eastman in 1894, the Rev. Mr. Wormwood was appointed in his place, and served until 1903, when Dr. H. L. Johnson was elected to the position.

The library is situated in a building which was formerly a schoolhouse. As it was found to have outgrown the room it

occupied, a larger one in the same building was very nicely fitted up at considerable expense, and the books were removed to this in May, 1901. The building is also occupied at present by the postoffice and a barber shop.

The town has appointed from one to two hundred dollars for books each year since its establishment, and at the last annual meeting it was voted to have a catalogue printed. The library has had several donations, the largest of which were 67 volumes from Mrs. Annie Trumbull Stosson and 66 volumes from Mrs. C. H. Greenleaf.

The yearly circulation averages about 2,774 volumes. Free use of the books is given to residents of the town, and enough money is received from transients and fines to pay the running expenses.

FREDDOM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established under the library law in 1892. It has 1,300 volumes upon its shelves and a circulation of 2,500 volumes a year. It is located in the Town Hall.

FREMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

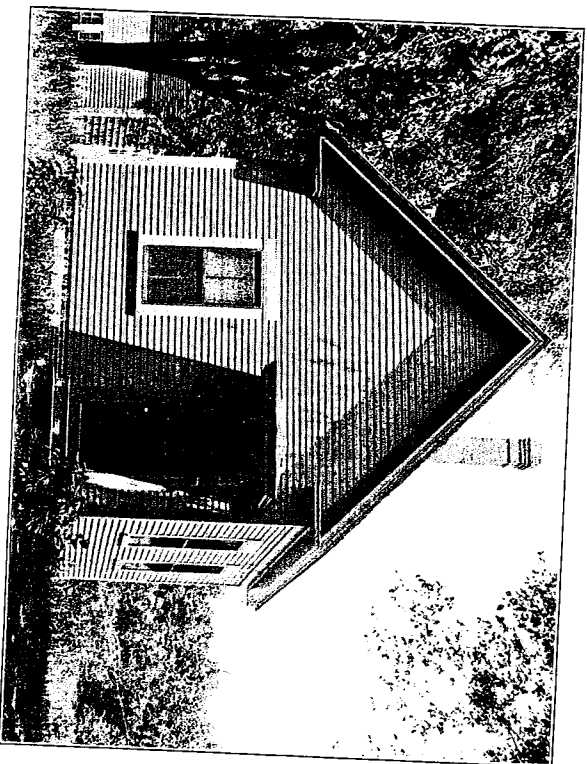
Pleasantly situated at the very centre of our little village stands Fremont Public Library. A building not large, but neat and tidy in appearance and easy of access, at the same time large enough to contain upon its shelves the twelve hundred or more volumes to the town's credit.

It was built by the town in 1894, making available the state aid under laws of 1891. The site was given by Warren True, who was a member of the library trustees at the time of his death, April 15 last.

The library was opened with seven hundred and forty-one volumes or more owned by the Fremont Library Association, an association formed here in 1866. This association generously turned over their books, which materially helped to make the library a success from the start, both in the number and selection of its volumes. About fifty volumes have been added each year.



FRANCESTOWN TOWN LIBRARY



FREMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Among those who have served as library trustees are George F. Beede, Cyrus A. Gove, Eugene D. Sanborn, and William H. Mould, all of whom have taken much interest in the work. The present trustees are Charles E. Beede and Wilcomb H. Benfield. One new trustee is elected each year to serve three years.

The present librarian, Mrs. Cora B. Frost, has held the position for several years, and is most efficient and courteous in the performance of her work.

The library is opened to the public Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5, and on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9. It is well patronized, the whole number of borrower's cards out being 421, which is a little more than half the town's population.

We make it a point to keep the books in the best possible condition. About fifty dollars is raised each year for new books.

Although we subscribe for no magazines, many are sent in from residents or former residents, and there is usually a good supply to select from.

Most of the government and state reports and state papers of recent dates may be found on shelves.

The circulation the past two years for all classes was twenty-five hundred.

GILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By an act of the legislature in 1893, setting off that part of Gilford which is now Ward 6, city of Laconia, the town of Gilford lost its public library, which was located in the territory thus set off. Our people, feeling the need of and knowing the benefits derived from a public library, promptly took action at the first annual meeting held after the above act, April 18, 1893, and appropriated twenty-five dollars for the establishment of a free public library under the provisions of chapter 8 of the Public Statutes, and chose Thomas E. Hunt, John R. Merrill, and Austin H. Bennett as the first

board of trustees. Nothing was done to establish the library until after the next annual meeting, when twenty-five dollars more was appropriated. With the appropriation of fifty dollars, and one hundred dollars' worth of books furnished by the state, and forty volumes donated by citizens, the library was established and first opened to the public on November 21, 1894, and contained two hundred and thirty-two volumes. The town at its next annual meeting appropriated one hundred dollars for the support of the library, and has continued to appropriate the sum yearly. The first home of the library was at the dwelling-house of Deacon Herman Hunter, and Mrs. Carrie Gill was appointed librarian. Here the library remained until the spring of 1897, when a room was furnished on the ground floor of the Town House, for the reception of the same. The first catalogue of books was issued in the spring of 1896. Soon after the removal of the library to the Town House Mrs. Gill resigned the position of librarian and Mr. Arthur G. Brown was appointed. Mr. Brown served for a short time, when he was succeeded by Miss Nellie M. Leavitt, who served one and one half years. In April, 1899, Mrs. Gill was reappointed, and is still serving in that capacity. In the spring of 1902 it was found that the library had outgrown its quarters and was sadly in need of a room. Another and much larger room was then furnished in the same building, up one flight of stairs. This is the present home of the library, and is quite well adapted for the purpose. The library now contains 1,659 volumes, which comprise not only works of fiction but many books belonging to other classes. Quite a number of the books and many of the furnishings used in the library room were donated by loyal citizens, who take a just pride in their library.

GILMANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1897 under the library law. The number of volumes is eleven hundred. It is located in a private house.

GILSUM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Gilsum Public Library was established in 1891 by the vote of the town and three hundred and fifty dollars was raised for the purchase of books. It was also voted to accept the provisions of the library law of 1891, so as to become entitled to one hundred dollars' worth of books, which were duly received.

At this time there was a circulating library in the west part of the town containing over one hundred books, and these were donated to the town. The fire engine company of the town also had a nucleus of a library, and these books, ninety-two in number, were added to the town library. Thus at the close of the first year the library contained eight hundred and fifty volumes.

There being no building available in which to keep the library, it was located in a private house, centrally located, where it has since remained.

The management and control of the library is in the hands of a board of trustees, nine in number, the term of office being so arranged that there are three retiring members each year, requiring the election of three members each year for a term of three years.

The library is fairly well patronized, especially by the young people, and for the past few years it has been the aim of the trustees to devote a considerable part of the funds to the purchasing of books suitable for the young.

The town has made annual appropriations for the support of the library. Various donations of books have been received from time to time, and the largest of these was given by the late L. W. F. Mark, sixty volumes. The library now contains 1,271 volumes, exclusive of pamphlets and reports, and is outgrowing its present accommodations. It is hoped that the time may come when it will have a library building of its own.

ROGERS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, GORHAMSTOWN.

The Rogers Free Public Library of Gorhamtown owes its inception to the efforts of Miss Lucy S. Rogers of Boston, Mass., now deceased. A summer visitor at first, pleased with the town, she remained a year, identifying herself with its interests and needs. The library was opened to the public in the spring of 1888 in the selectmen's room of the Town House, with a nucleus of a little more than seven hundred volumes, mostly contributed by Miss Rogers and family friends. The room proving inconvenient and unsuitable for library needs, the Town House was remodeled in 1889 to provide more commodious quarters. Since the date mentioned, the library has been in the alcove especially constructed for it in the Town House. The privileges of the library are for all residents of the town above the age of twelve years. The library is open Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p. m., Saturdays from 3 to 8 p. m. There are at the present writing about thirty-four hundred volumes of well-chosen books. There is a circulation of rising seven thousand volumes a year. Generally located, people come from all parts of the town to avail themselves of its privileges. The library has no fund, but depends for its support and the purchase of new books upon the amount required by law to be raised by the town, which is usually augmented each year by a vote granting from one to one hundred and fifty dollars more. The control of the library is vested in a board of five trustees, one appointed by the selectmen each year to serve five years. The officers are a chairman, secretary, and treasurer. The librarian has served since the library was opened. It is hoped and expected that there will be a card catalogue within a year, valuable books having been added since the catalogues were printed.

GORHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1895 and received state aid. There are 2,097 volumes now upon the shelves, and the annual circulation is about four thousand volumes. It is located in a business block.

OLIVE G. PETTIS LIBRARY, GOSHEN.

The library was established in January, 1890. It has not received state aid, but comes within the term "free public library." It contains 590 books. It is located in a private house.

GRAFTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In the year 1880 a few of the public-spirited men and women of the town met at the residence of Dr. A. B. Hoyt to organize a library association and expend the sum of one hundred dollars for books. The records do not state how many members they had at the time of organization, or the number of the books purchased, but in 1886 they had eleven members, and records for each successive year show less, in 1891 giving but four.

Soon after the above date the town voted to accept the aid offered by the state and established a free library. The old Library Association gave some two hundred volumes to the town, and if there were any given by the state we fail to find such record. At the present time we have in the library one thousand volumes.

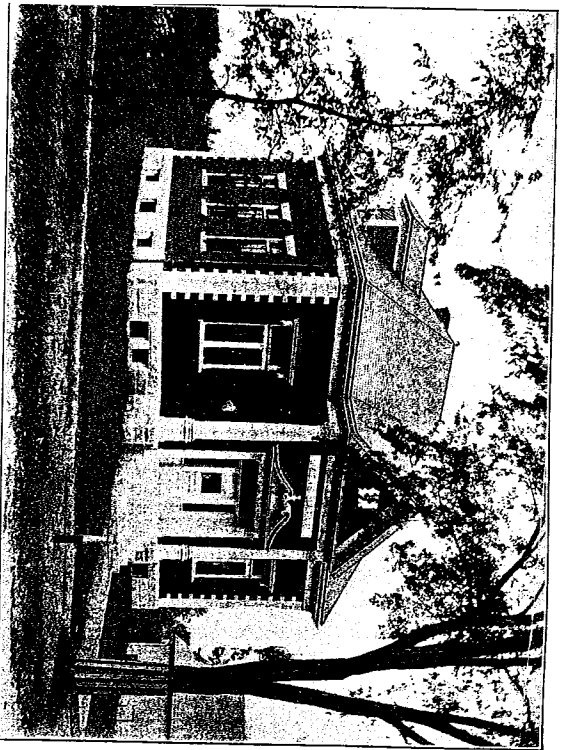
GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1894 with state aid. It contains about eleven hundred volumes. It is located in a school building.

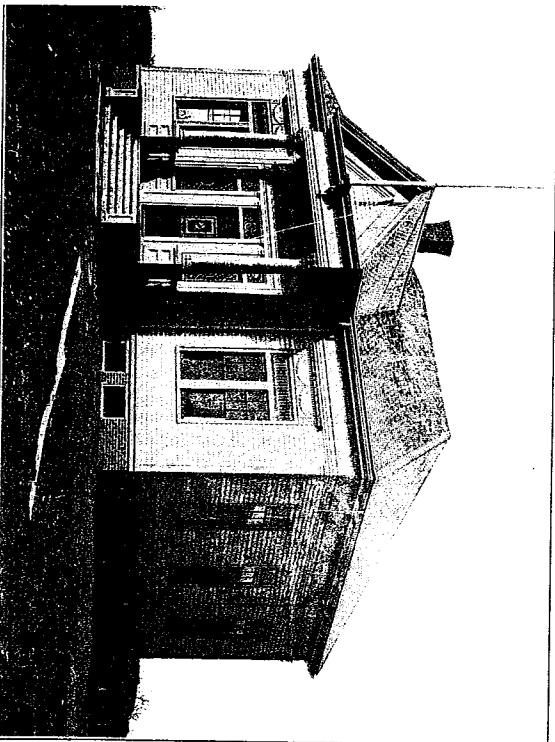
WEEKS PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENLAND.

The first steps toward establishing a library in the town of Greenland were taken in 1893, when the vote passed appropriating the sum of not less than twenty-five dollars annually for that purpose.

But no active steps were taken until 1896, when arrangements were made for a library and the state sent the town one hundred dollars' worth of books. But before the appropriations were complete for opening the library Miss Caroline



WEEKS PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENLAND



HAMPSTEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY

A. Weeks placed funds in the hands of Charles H. Hazlett of Portsmouth for a library building in her native town. In March, 1897, the town appropriated one hundred dollars, and during that year the library building was erected.

The structure is forty feet front by thirty feet deep, of the colonial style of architecture, with pilasters of Corinthian order. It is constructed of pressed bricks, with marble trimmings and granite underpinning, with slated roof. Over the entrance door appear the words "Weeks Library" in marble. In the vestibule, at the left of the entrance, is a bronze tablet bearing the following: "This building erected as a memorial to George Weeks, Mary S. Weeks, and J. Clement Weeks by Caroline A. Weeks. mdcxcviii."

The walls are adorned with life-sized portraits of those whose memory the building is to perpetuate as well as one of the donor. Recently a portrait of the late Hon. J. S. W. Frink was added, given by the people of the town.

At the town meeting in March, 1898, it was unanimously voted "that the town gratefully accepts the very handsome gift of the Weeks Library building, and hereby expresses the thanks of the inhabitants of the town to Miss Caroline A. Weeks for the same. That the town annually raise the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars in addition to that required by law for the maintenance and support of the library and the purchase of books."

The building was dedicated May 19, 1898, with appropriate ceremonies. The library now contains four thousand and fifty volumes.

CHAMBERLIN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENVILLE.

This library was established in 1877. Although not receiving state aid, it is classed as a free library. There are upon its shelves 3,200 volumes and its circulation is 4,468 volumes. It does not have a separate building.

GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established March, 1893, under the library law. There are 713 volumes upon its shelves. It has no library building.

HAMPSTEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1888. It did not receive state aid, but is, nevertheless, a free public library. It contains about four thousand volumes. It has a permanent fund of thirty-five hundred dollars. It has a separate building.

HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

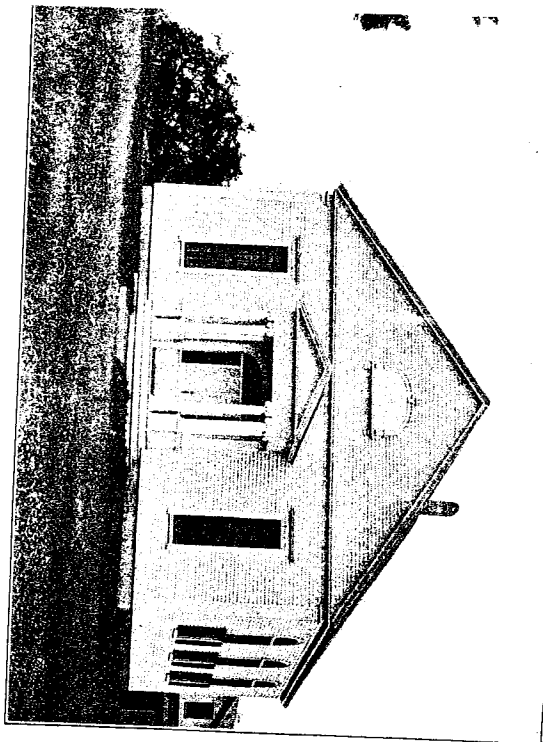
Established in 1865. No state aid. Number of volumes 2,669. No library building.

HAMPTON FALLS FREE LIBRARY.

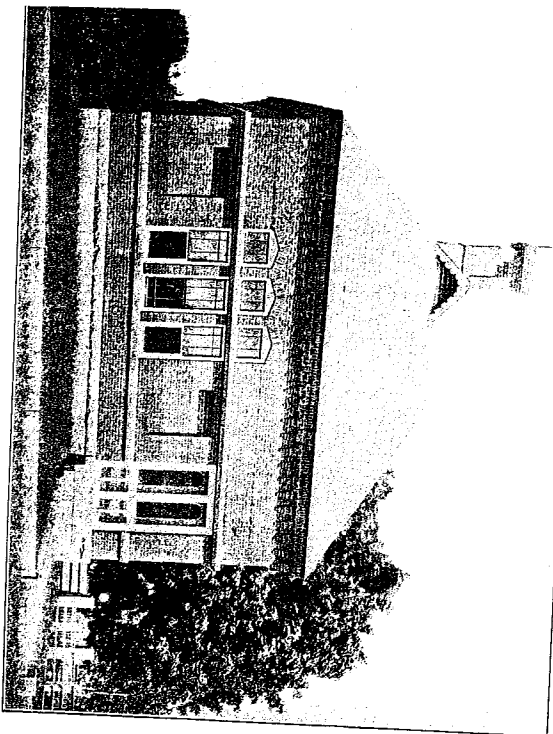
It was established in 1893 with state aid. The building given in 1901 was the Freewill Baptist church. Mr. John T. Brown of Newburyport bought the building of the few remaining members, remodeled it, then gave it to the town of Hampton Falls. Mr. Brown's father was a native of the town and a member of the Freewill Baptist church. The library was given in his father's memory. From 1893 to 1901 the library was in the Town Hall. Mr. E. B. Towle was first librarian; served until 1898. The library has always been well patronized. New books are bought in June and November. There are at present 3,706 volumes on the shelves.

HANCOCK TOWN LIBRARY.

In the early part of the year 1858 money was raised at a levee for the purpose of establishing a public library. This money was given and accepted by the town. The selection were directed to appoint a committee of three to take charge of the library. The town also voted to add fifty dollars to this sum for the purchasing of books. Mr. A. D. Tuttle acted



HAMPTON FALLS TOWN LIBRARY



HANCOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

as librarian for twenty-two years, and the books were kept in his store. In 1880 Mr. A. C. Whitcomb presented the town with a brick building, and later left in trust ten thousand dollars for a permanent fund. Ebenezer Hubbard and Abijah Hadley each gave a legacy of one thousand dollars for the support and benefit of the Hancock Town Library. It contains at present 4,882 volumes.

HANOVER TOWN LIBRARY.

At the annual town meeting, March, 1898, the town of Hanover voted to accept the gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books from the state, and established a public library according to the provisions of the library law, with the name of the Hanover Town Library, located at Etna, a small village near the center of the town of Hanover.

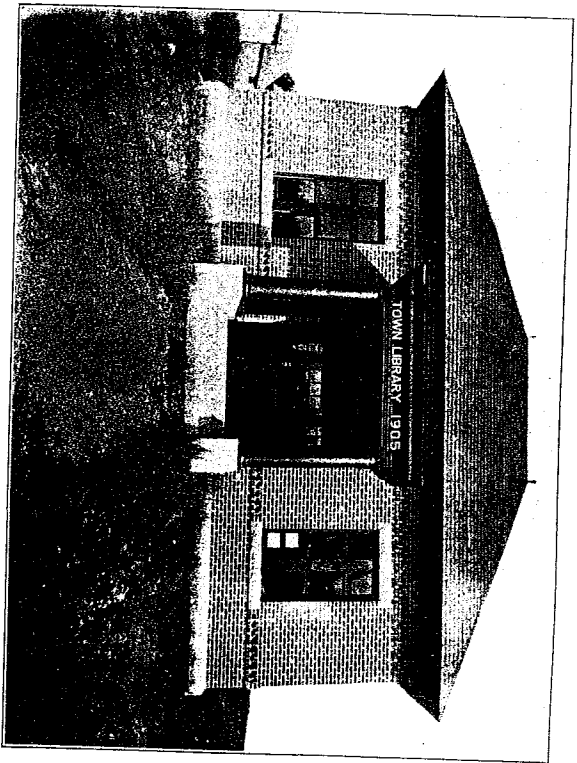
The first trustees elected were Prof. Charles F. Richardson, Hanover, for one year; Asa W. Fellows, Hanover Center, for two years, and Horace F. Hoyt, Etna, for three years; treasurer, Horace F. Hoyt. Thomas W. Pradex was chosen librarian, Etna.

The Etna Debating Club gave their little library, containing 224 volumes, and with other small gifts and the state books, the library commenced loaning books in Hayes' Hall, February 4, 1899.

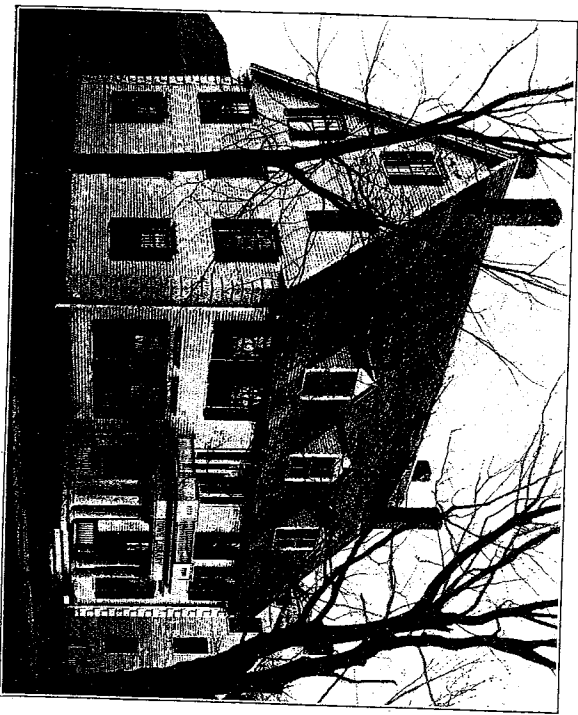
The town voted in 1903 and 1905 an appropriation of twenty-six hundred dollars, of which twenty-one hundred was to be used for building a library, and five hundred dollars a permanent fund, the income to be used for the support of the library. The town appropriation for 1905 was \$164.40. The present number of volumes is 1,375.

The library building being nearly completed, the books were moved from Hayes Hall to the new library building March 10, 1906.

The interior is 25 feet by 33 feet, in one room, finished in hazelwood throughout and varnished. This includes the window casings, the vestibule and door, the shelving, which ex-



HANOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



HOWE LIBRARY, HANOVER

tents entirely around the room, and a paneled ceiling overhead. The brick walls are double, eight inches and four inches, with a two-inch air space, fourteen inches total. There is also the air space behind the plastering, so that the building is exceptionally dry and easily warmed. This end is further secured by having the floor of the cellar covered with a thick coat of cement-mortar, and the cellar walls well pointed. The fine cut granite steps and the portico were made possible by the gift of Mr. Henry C. Whipple, in memory of the late Mr. John W. Dodge of this town.

The cost of the building and the furnishing has been three thousand dollars, which amount, above the twenty-one hundred appropriated by the town, has been donated by friends who believe in education and a good public free library.

Trustees at the present time: Horace J. Hoyt, Esq.; Prof. Robert Fletcher, Hanover; Chandler P. Smith, Hanover, librarian.

HOWE LIBRARY, HANOVER.

The Howe Library came into existence through a special charter granted by the legislature in 1899. The library was a gift to the town of Hanover by Mrs. Emily Howe Hitchcock in memory of her parents and brother. It was built in 1773 for the residence of Eleazer Wheelock, founder and first president of Dartmouth College. Previous to its conversion into a library it had been the home of the Howe family for fifty years. The building was dedicated as a library on February 29, 1900.

On April 7, 1900, the library was opened for circulation of books with about twelve hundred volumes, these having been contributed by Mrs. Hitchcock, Hon. Hiram Hitchcock, Admiral Belknap, and the Harriet Abbot fund. Through the same sources and other friends of the library the number has now been increased to about three thousand. An interesting feature of the library is the collection of old books comprising several volumes used by President Wheelock and found by workmen in the partitions of the building when

making repairs, all printed before the Revolutionary War. Beside these are some rare books contributed by Hon. Hiram Hitchcock, including one printed in 1472, sixteen years after the invention of printing, and said to be the first book printed in Roman types, also Bibles and missals of the famous Aldine type print.

At present about eighty persons avail themselves of the privileges of the library each week, the books drawn averaging from one hundred to one hundred and thirty in number.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE LIBRARY, HANOVER.

The Dartmouth College Library represents the accumulations of a century and a quarter. It originated in valuable gifts of books to the first president, Eleazer Wheelock, from various individuals, and from English and Scotch societies, the purposes of which were to promote religious knowledge. Similar gifts have followed. The latest acquisition is the valuable library of romance philology of eighteen hundred volumes, collected by the late Professor Koschwitz of the University of Königsberg, Germany, and presented to the college by Mr. Edward Truck.

For many years separate libraries were maintained by the public literary societies of the students, the Social Friends, organized in 1783, and the United Fraternity, organized three years later. The Philotechnic Society, an organization of students in the Chandler School, also had a valuable library. In 1874, these three libraries, together with the college library, were consolidated and placed under the control of the college.

The library contains 110,000 volumes, 20,000 pamphlets, and a large collection of valuable manuscripts, which are mainly located in a fireproof stack in Wilson Hall, which was built in 1885 for library purposes alone. There are departmental libraries in the Medical School, Truck School, Thayer School, Observatory, and in connection with the various laboratories. About four thousand dollars a year is expended

for books, for periodicals, and for binding. The additions to the library are from 1,500 to 3,000 volumes a year.

The general and departmental reference library, containing 10,000 volumes, occupies two rooms on the upper floor of Wilson Hall, and is open throughout the day and evening. The works of literature, including fiction, poetry, essays, drama, and works of statesmen, are in a separate room, where there is free access to the shelves. A standard library of the "books of power" by great authors is being installed in this room. This collection will be known as the Kennerson Memorial Standard Library. In another room may be found books by the faculty and alumni, as well as current files and bound volumes of leading newspapers and periodicals. Wilson Hall also contains over one hundred portraits in oil, and a collection of photographs for the illustration of art and archaeology. To maintain such a library a large force is necessary. Besides the librarian there are thirteen assistants, most of whom are undergraduate students working two hours or more per day.

HARRISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Harrisville Public Library, located at the village, was established by a vote of the town about 1877. The sum of two hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated for the purchase of books; this, with two hundred dollars donated by individuals, was taken by the committee chosen by the town, consisting of Aaron Smith, Cyrus Haywood, and Edwin P. Hunt, and 445 volumes were purchased. Since the town has annually appropriated one hundred dollars, this, with the individual donations, has enabled the committee to add to the library new books each year until the number at present is 1,056. For the first three years a room in the house of John T. Farwell was occupied as a library with Mrs. Farwell acting as librarian. In 1888 Henry Colony, Esq., of Keene, a former resident of the town, gave a piece of land in the most central part of the village on which to erect a library build-

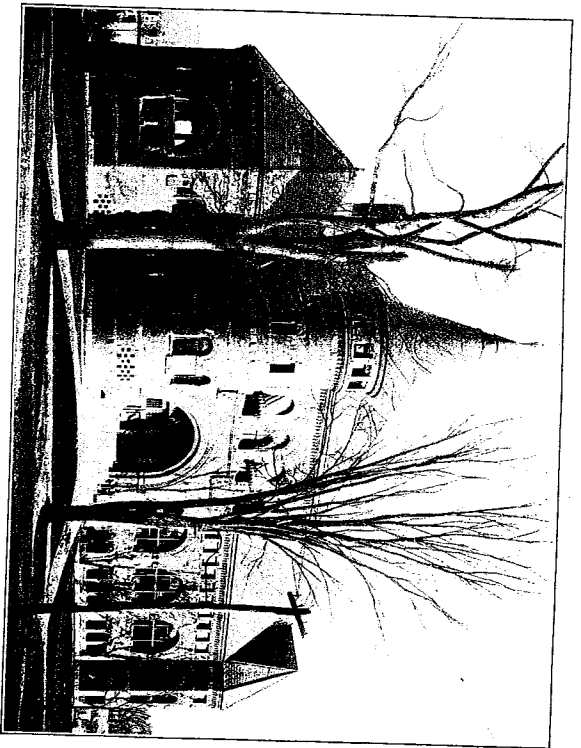
ing. Soon after a building owned by the town in a remote part of the village was moved to this lot and fitted up. The library is open to all citizens of the town on every Saturday afternoon and evening, and is patronized by nearly every citizen in the town.

HAVERHILL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

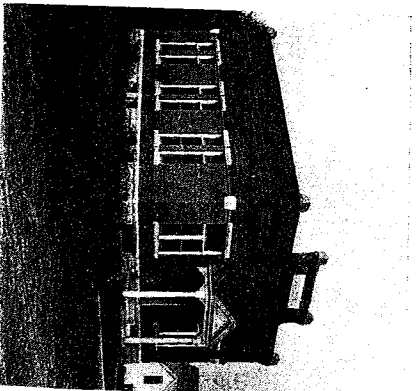
In September, 1880, through the efforts of Mrs. Laura C. Whitney, a meeting was called for those who were interested in a library. Officers were elected and a committee appointed to form a constitution and by-laws, also to select and purchase books. It was decided that the payment of one dollar and an annual assessment of fifty cents thereafter should constitute a membership. In two months, members, funds, and books were obtained. Mr. S. Redding gave the use of a room in a brick block, and the twentieth of November, 1880, with a list of ninety volumes, the library was opened for the distribution of books. In a year and one half it was removed into another room in the same building, where it remained seven years, Mr. S. T. Page giving the rent of the room. The number of volumes had increased to 740. For a few years they occupied different rooms, paying rent at twenty and twenty-five dollars a year. Entertainments were occasionally given for the benefit of the library and money raised by subscription, also substantial gifts of money from friends.

The librarians served without compensation. The library was open Saturday afternoons.

In 1897 Mr. J. H. Pearson of Chicago, a former resident of Haverhill, repaired the old academy building, finishing one room upstairs for a library room. The building is called Pearson Hall. Portraits have been given of many former residents of the town. Miss M. E. Flanders, the present librarian, served several years without compensation, but has been paid twenty-five dollars yearly since it became a free library in 1901. There are now 2,800 volumes.



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE LIBRARY, HANOVER



WOODSVILLE LIBRARY, HAVERHILL

The town appropriation is two hundred dollars, the library receiving one third of the amount.

Legacies received: July, 1901, from the estate of Mrs. I. D. Cummings, \$100; October, 1902, from the estate of Amos Tarleton, \$315; October, 1904, from the estate of Sarah A. Carleton, \$2,500.

WOODSVILLE FREE LIBRARY, HAVERHILL.

The Woodsville Free Library was opened in May, 1894. The building was erected by the late Ira Witcher of Woodsville at a cost of six thousand five hundred and fifty-two dollars, aside from the land, and presented to the people of Woodsville for the use of a free public library. With the building Mr. Witcher also presented books to the amount of one thousand dollars, to which were added books to the like amount purchased with funds contributed by the people of Woodsville. The building and property was deeded by Mr. Witcher to a board of nine trustees, with the power to elect their successors with the exception of two, one being the clerk of Grafton County Court, *ex officio*, and another to be elected annually by the voters of the Woodsville Union School District. Mr. Witcher subsequently gave the library the sum of five hundred dollars for a permanent book fund. The income of the library aside from the income from this fund is one third of the amount raised annually by taxation by the town of Haverhill, and the sum of two hundred dollars annually appropriated by the Woodsville Union High School District for library purposes. The number of volumes in the library is now upwards of forty-two hundred. The trustees are Charles R. Gibson, S. M. Chamberlin, W. F. Witcher, George E. Cummings, Mrs. Scott Sloan, Mrs. A. E. Davis, Mrs. F. P. Pray, Norman J. Page, elected by the district, and Dexter D. Dow, clerk of the superior court, *ex officio*.

HEBRON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In the early forties there was a library started in the town of Hebron and named the Rich Man's Library. The shares

were five dollars each. Some of the citizens, feeling they could not afford so expensive a luxury, organized another in 1846 called the Poor Man's Library, which was opened to the public at one dollar per share. There were twenty-six holders of shares. Both of these libraries were well patronized by the public. The Hebron Academy, which was in a flourishing condition at this time, received much valuable information from these libraries.

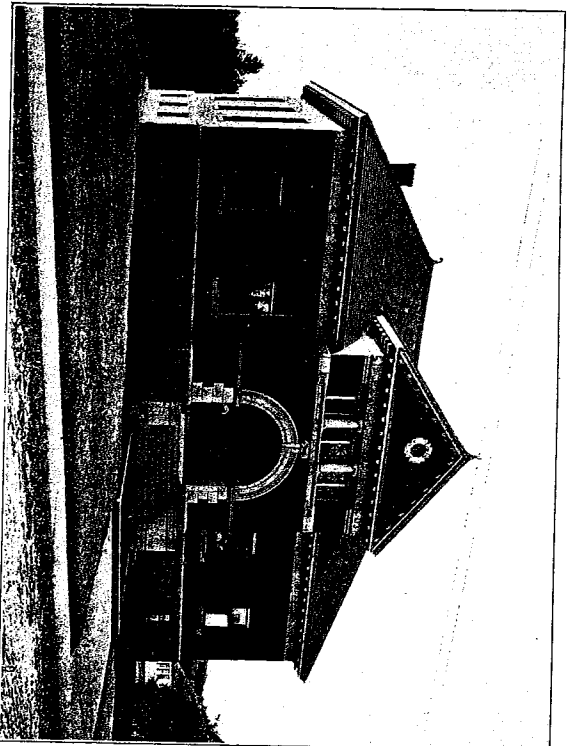
Several years afterwards the ladies organized what is now known as the Hebron Social Circle. They had a nice little library to which they kept adding.

In 1897 the Hebron Town Library was organized, and the second floor in the village schoolhouse was fitted up for a library.

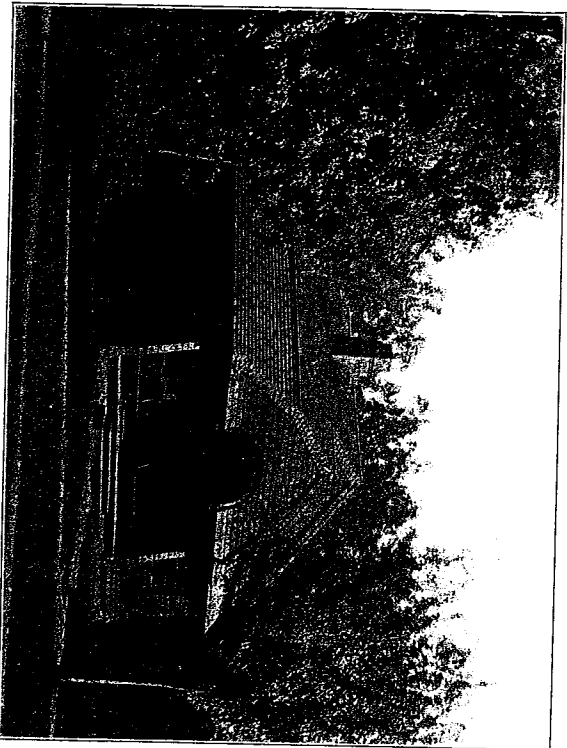
The Social Circle gave their books, which at this time numbered between five hundred and six hundred. In a short time all the shareholders in the Rich Man's and Poor Man's libraries called a meeting and voted to give their books to the Town Library. These books have been a source of interest to book lovers as curiosities, and some interesting stories are found in them. The first communion set used in the town is on exhibition in the library, and ex-Governor N. S. Berry's picture hangs on the wall. At the time of his election he was a resident of this town. The library at present has 1,415 volumes and is in a prosperous condition.

TUCKER FREE LIBRARY, HENNIKER.

In September, 1888, Mrs. E. Maria Cogswell became interested in the matter of forming a reading club in Henniker, and, through her influence and earnest efforts, an organization was formed, under the name of Henniker Free Library Association. The town of Henniker at its annual meeting, held in March, 1889, voted to establish a public library and voted money for its maintenance. The officers of the association turned over to the town all the reading matter and funds belonging to them. The management of the town



TUCKER FREE LIBRARY, HENNIKER.



JACKSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

was vested in five trustees, two of whom were women, to be chosen by ballot at the town meeting. Mrs. Cogswell was the first librarian and a trustee during her lifetime. The home of the library was in Emerson's block. The growth of the library was slow but sure, and in 1902 there were 2,851 bound volumes.

In October, 1902, George W. Tucker, who was born in Henniker July 21, 1836, died in Bradford, leaving the larger part of his property to the town of Henniker for the erection of a suitable building, the cost not to exceed fourteen thousand dollars, and the maintenance of the library therein, to be known as the Tucker Free Library. This was accepted by the town at the next annual meeting in 1903. The building site was presented by Mr. Henry A. Emerson, which, with another generous gift of twenty-five hundred dollars for furnishing and fitting up the library, was gladly accepted. The library was furnished and dedicated September 22, 1904, and by vote of the town all books of the Henniker Free Library (about three thousand) were transferred to the Tucker Free Library. The library is managed by a board of six trustees, of which Mr. Emerson is president. Two members of the trustees are elected each year. The present board of trustees are Henry E. Emerson, Rev. T. H. Bouton, Hon. G. C. Preston, Mrs. Jennie N. Dodge, Mrs. M. Marion Cole, Walter A. Connor.

HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Our town was, I think, among the first to take advantage of state aid in establishing a library. At that time we were entitled to twenty-five dollars from the town, and, with the one hundred dollars' worth of books from the state, we opened the library January 1, 1893. We also circulated a paper and received eighty dollars more, which with the other, gave us quite a start. The next year we received fifty dollars from the town, and a like amount the two succeeding years. Since then, with the exception of last year, we have received seventy-five dollars. We have increased this sum with en-

entertainments, and received a generous gift of books from Mr. Levi P. Wadleigh of Havenhill, Mass. They embraced two sets of encyclopedias, and histories by Prescott, Guizot, Macaulay, and Carlyle. We have been given nicely bound volumes of *Century*, *Harpers*, and other magazines.

We have the standard works of fiction, like Scott and Dickens, and endeavor to have the best of new fiction as it is published. Then each year we add such books as Stoddard's Lectures, John Fiske's histories, Van Dyke's books, or something of that stamp.

For the children we try to get the best, and among them are a good many nature books. They are used in the schools in such a way that the children become interested and call for them to read themselves.

We really need one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year. The sum we have is too small to buy all the books needed, gives each class a limited stock of reading for the year, and makes it impossible to purchase books of science, as we would like to keep pace with the progress of the times.

If there is anything new on such subjects people inquire and feel that their librarian should have them, and it is a real regret to the librarian to feel she is not able to get them.

We have no library building, but occupy a small room in the schoolhouse. We need, and are hoping for, a new schoolhouse, and that would mean a more commodious place for a library and probably a reading room.

FULLER PUBLIC LIBRARY, HILLSBOROUGH.

The library was established in 1879. It has not received state aid, but is a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains 4,912 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 24,616 volumes. It has a trust fund of three thousand dollars. It has no library building.

HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Hinsdale Public Library occupies attractive and commodious rooms in the new town hall built in 1903. These

rooms are unusually well equipped for so small a town (two thousand inhabitants). Strangers frequently comment upon their excellent equipment and well-selected library.

The nucleus of the present library was first instituted in 1867 by an association of citizens who subscribed shares at three dollars each.

In 1876, however, by mutual agreement between the town and association, the town assumed the custody of all the books, then numbering about one thousand volumes, agreeing to appropriate three hundred dollars annually for the improvement of the library. At that time its quarters were in a small building owned by Dr. Frederick Boyden. This becoming too small, the books were in 1880 moved to suitable rooms in the Town Hall. In 1900 that building was destroyed by fire, but with prompt assistance nearly all the books were saved and moved to vacant rooms in Fisk's block nearby until the Town Hall should be rebuilt. While there the books were catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal System.

The library at present numbers between six and seven thousand volumes. Its careful selection is mainly due to the efficient services of the late Dr. W. S. Leonard, who served gratuitously many years on the library committee, and whose love for and firm belief in the library as a means of public improvement did much to foster in the town its present interest in the library.

In its early days the library was only open on Saturdays; later on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, while at the present time it is open every evening and two afternoons a week. Seven hundred dollars has been the annual appropriation from the town for library support for several years. Outside this it has never received financial aid. Very handsome pictures and statuary have been given to the town to adorn the walls of the library, and a few books at various times have been received.

It is hoped that some of our public-spirited citizens or

former residents will give us the means to make the library a still greater means of usefulness than at present.

HOLDERNESS FREE LIBRARY.

The library was established by state aid in 1893. It contains at present 1,847 volumes. Its circulation is about 1,114 volumes per year. It has no library building.

HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1879 by the Social Library Association. It has not received state aid, but has become a free public library, and two of the five directors are appointed by the town. It has about five thousand volumes upon its shelves, and loaned out 13,654 volumes during the last biennial period. It does not have a separate building.

HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Hooksett Public Library was opened in December, 1893, in a little room in the Town Hall. The state gave us 101 books. Since then kind friends have remembered us with 185 books, and 480 magazines and pamphlets. We have purchased with the town appropriation 1,478 books, making a total of 1,764 books at the present time. The library has been well patronized, especially by the young people. They have become interested in history, biography, and science. We have purchased a number of books which have proved very helpful in their school work. We are indebted to Miss Mabel Winchell, librarian of Manchester City Library, for the loan of a large number of beautiful pictures, which have been on exhibition in our library and thus added to the pleasure and profit of the patrons. We are very much in need of a new building. We have not room enough for our books. We hope sometime to be able to report a neat and commodious building, which would greatly increase the usefulness of the library.

HOPKINTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It is made up of two branches, one at Hopkinton village and the other at Contoocook. The Hopkinton village branch contains 2,640 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 4,231 volumes. The Contoocook branch contains 2,670 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 4,927 volumes. The Hopkinton village branch is located in the William H. Long Memorial Building, while the Contoocook branch is in a business block.

GREELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, HUDSON.

At the annual meeting, March 14, 1893, a vote was passed by the town to accept the provisions of the law of 1891, in relation to free public libraries in towns, and appropriated one hundred dollars for that purpose; but no trustees were elected at that meeting to carry the provisions of the law into effect. Subsequently a board of trustees was appointed by the selectmen.

Before any substantial progress had been made by the trustees, they received notice that by the provisions of the will of the late Doctor A. J. Greeley, the town was bequeathed five hundred books to be selected from his private library of nearly three thousand volumes.

Doctor Greeley was born in Hudson, September 10, 1818, and died in Olneyville, R. I., in 1893. By the courtesy and generosity of the heirs of Doctor Greeley, the town was given their several shares of his library, from which the trustees selected 1,889 volumes, and one hundred books were received from the state.

The library was named in honor of the donor, The Greeley Public Library of Hudson, and was opened to the citizens of the town June 20, 1894.

A catalogue was prepared and published in January, 1895, at which time the library contained 2,024 books.

The number of books has been increased from year to year by appropriation by the town and by gifts from citizens and

other friends, until there are upon its shelves, February 15, 1906, 3,207 volumes.

The ordinary annual appropriation for the support of the library by the town is one hundred and fifty dollars.

The circulation of 2,722 books of the library for the last year, among a population of thirteen hundred, shows an average fraction more than two books for each inhabitant of the town.

JACKSON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was founded by Mr. John R. Porter of Boston, Mass. Mr. Porter was an enthusiastic lover of mountain scenery, and especially so of the many picturesque views to be seen from Jackson, where he sojourned many summers. Mr. Porter being a gentleman of culture and refinement and a lover of books, conceived the plan of founding a public library and presenting it to the town. During the month of August, 1879, he solicited funds and donations of books from his many friends. He soon had a collection of some two hundred books, and then, having formulated rules and regulations for the future use of his infant library, he presented it to the town as a "Free Public Library of Jackson." To this gift of Mr. Porter's has been added many other donations of money and books by people from all civilized countries, who sojourn here during the summer season. Gifts have also been made by residents of the town. At the present time the library has on its shelves some three thousand choice books, and on its reading table are to be found the leading magazines of the day, literary, scientific, and musical. At first these books were housed in the Town Hall, but now they are covered by a beautiful little library, located on the west bank of the musical Wild Cat river, just below where its foaming waters come tumbling down in a long cascade, to flow peacefully through the flowery meadows, where Alnobas worshipped Kahi Newaskin in the days that are no more.

JAFFREY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the November meeting, in 1883, the town voted one thousand dollars for the purchase of books, to be known as the Jaffrey Public Library.

A single room over a store was used until 1896, when the Clay Library Building was completed and the library was moved into its new, spacious home.

This building, the gift of Miss Susan Clay, for many years a resident of Jaffrey, is a large two-story structure containing an attractive reading room, an art or relic room, and the book room, on the first floor. The second story contains a room used by the town officers, one used by the trustees, and a small hall. The executors of Miss Clay's will, Hon. Peter Upton and Mr. Alfred Sawyer, had charge of the erection of the building. It was dedicated July 4, 1906. Prof. Charles F. Richardson of Dartmouth College gave the address.

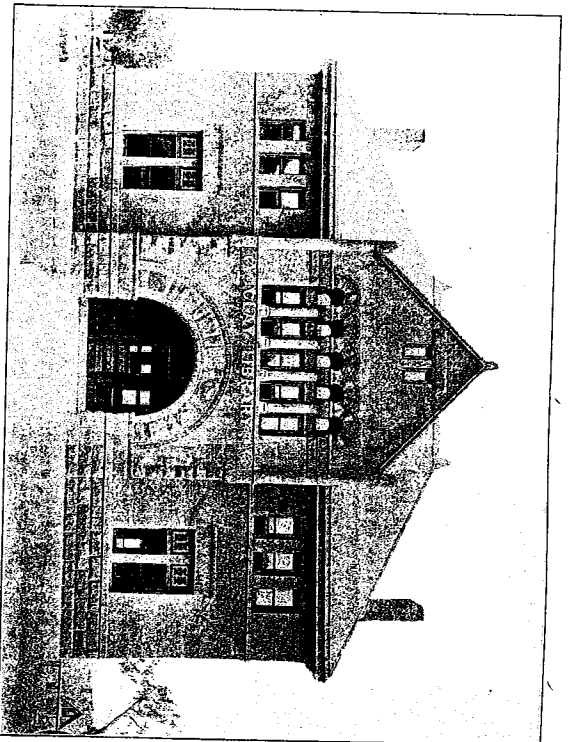
There have been three librarians, Jesse B. Triss, Mrs. Sophia U. Sason, and Lucia B. Cutter.

Five trustees, appointed by the selectmen, one to represent each church society of the town, have charge of the library.

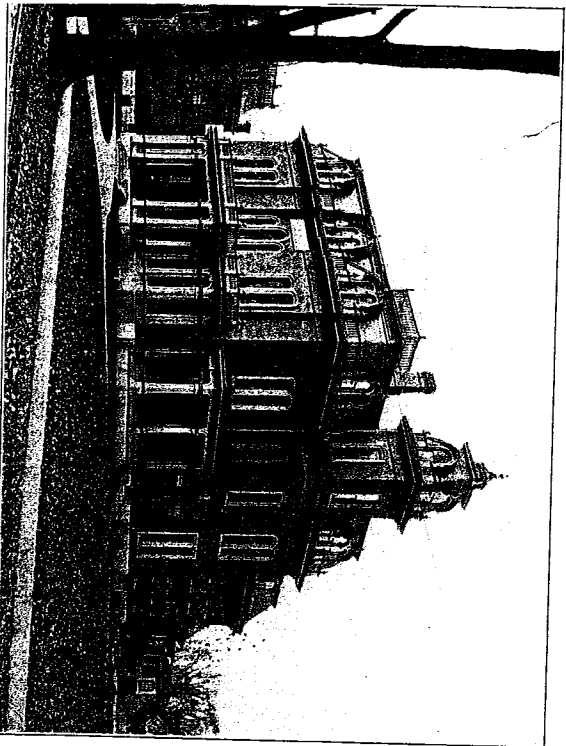
In 1903 the library received five thousand dollars from the Joel Parker estate, which is the only fund. The town appropriates each year different sums for its support. For several years it has been three hundred and fifty dollars.

Some valuable gifts of books have been received. Among them one hundred and eighty-eight volumes from Joseph E. Gay of New York, containing some very old and rare books. There are a number of shelves set apart for the Christmild Robinson Memorial collection, mostly choice children's books, given by Mrs. B. L. Robinson, Cambridge, Mass.

The library is growing, numbering now 4,699 volumes. The circulation is good, and the townspeople seem to appreciate the privileges the library affords.



CLAY LIBRARY. JAFFREY



KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JEFFERSON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in July, 1894, with state aid. It contains nineteen hundred volumes, and its circulation averages fifteen hundred volumes annually. It has a separate building.

KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1859 a circulating library called Keene Public Library was started by several interested citizens, a sum of one hundred dollars having been raised for the purpose. It was opened to the public with 2,644 volumes on the shelves, consisting of public documents, bound newspapers, and about one thousand of standard works and reference books.

In 1874 the Keene Library Association voted to surrender to the city of Keene all property belonging to the association on the condition that the city provide a suitable place for the same and appropriate a sum not less than three hundred dollars annually for the first five years, and thereafter a sum not less than five hundred dollars per annum, until the library should have an income of one thousand dollars from other sources to keep the books in proper condition and add to the supply. An appropriation of five hundred dollars was made April 1, 1875, and a book committee was appointed to purchase books.

The library found its home in Colony's block, during the first year, and for the several succeeding years in Warren's block. The first delivery of books began July 10, 1875, with 3,221 volumes on the shelves, and the statistics show a circulation of 26,650 the first year.

In 1898 a large building beautifully situated on West street, not far from Central Square, was presented to the city by Mr. Edward C. Thayer of Keene, and in 1899 the library was again opened to the public with Myra E. Southworth as librarian, which office she filled for the five succeeding years. The interior of the building is beautifully finished, having two reading rooms, a reference room, delivery room, and stack

room on the first floor. The two reading rooms are spacious and pleasant, but the stack and reference rooms have proved inadequate for the library's rapid growth. On the second floor are two art rooms, a magazine room and the trustees' room. The third floor contains an assembly hall, and several smaller rooms, where pamphlets and the government publications are kept.

In 1904-05 the library was reclassified according to the Dewey and Cutter system, and catalogued by the present librarian. One of the great needs felt at present is that of a children's room, and the trustees and librarian are looking forward to speedy realization.

KENSINGTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1893 the town of Kensington voted, at their annual meeting in March, the sum of twenty-five dollars to establish a free public library, thus availing themselves of the generous gift of the state. John A. Blake, Josiah D. Prescott, and Sarah A. Green were chosen as the first trustees.

In September, 1893, the one hundred books given by the state were catalogued and placed on the shelves of a bookcase purchased by the committee. The library was opened to the public on Saturdays from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p. m., at the home of Mrs. A. Maria Hillard, who was librarian. Many availed themselves of the opportunity of free books who had not previously enjoyed the subscription library of the town.

The next year the library was opened to the public two days in the week, Wednesday and Saturday, during the same hours.

The Kensington Social Library, which had been built in 1895 by the munificence of Joseph Hillard, as a gift to the people of his native town, was opened to the public. As the trustees of that institution offered to the public library trustees the free use of that building the free public library was then moved to the new building.

Each year the town has purchased from forty to fifty books until the number now exceeds nine hundred. This includes

the library of the late Langley Boardman Brown, who willed his books to the library, with a bookcase for the same.

While the two libraries are separate, they are essentially the same. They occupy the same building, have the same librarian, and issue the same number of books in a family, with the same rules and regulations in all essential things.

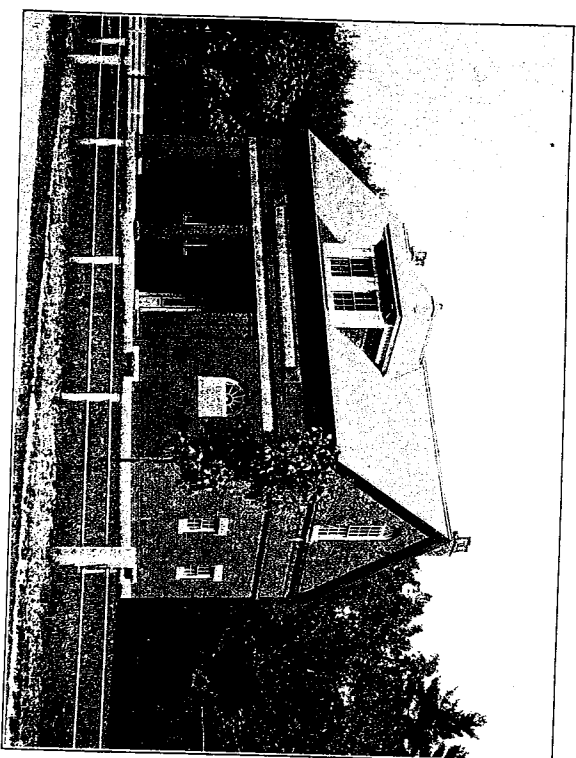
KENSINGTON SOCIAL LIBRARY.

Kensington was one of the first towns in the state to establish a library. In the year 1798, by grant of the legislature of the state of New Hampshire, the Kensington Social Library was incorporated. Jeremiah Fogg and Ebenezer Potter, two prominent men in the town, were authorized to call the first meeting.

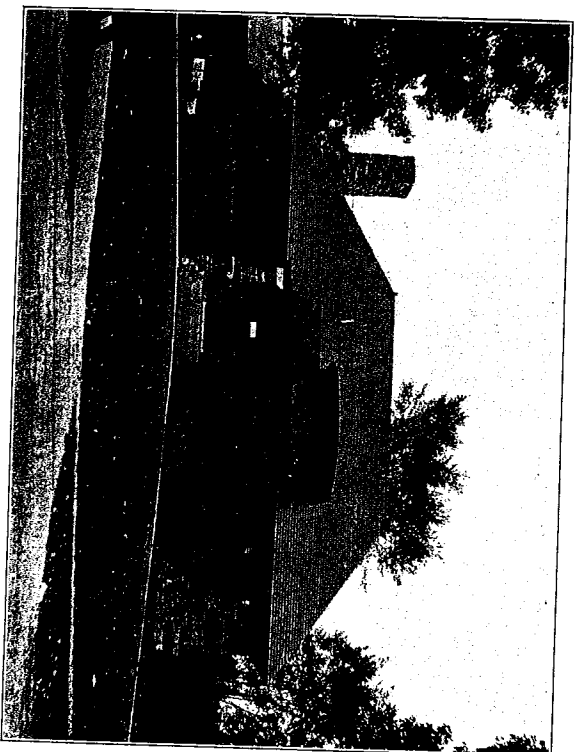
The first regular meeting was called June 30, 1800, when the constitution was adopted. The society existed for almost sixty years and its books had a large circulation throughout the town. The books were loaned for sixty days, with a fine of one cent per day for all time over that. It was always in good condition and in good hands. During the many years of its usefulness some of the volumes disappeared, remaining in the hands of the people who had borrowed them and forgotten to return the same.

The old library is now in the hall of the new Kensington Social Library in the old bookcase, with the constitution (rather worn eaten and faded with age) on one door and a list of books on the other. Heading this list are Addison's Evidences, Belknap's New Hampshire, Don Quixote, and many others published in the 1790s. Among the oldest of these books is Letters to a Young Lady by Rev. John Bennett, published in 1716.

In 1849 some ladies of the town joined together and formed the Ladies' Sewing Circle. This circle began a subscription library, known as the Ladies' Sewing Circle Library. The members met once in two weeks at the home of some one of the members. At these meetings it was customary to bind



KENSINGTON SOCIAL LIBRARY



NICHOLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, KINGSTON

shoes, every member having the privilege of carrying her own work by paying a fine of four cents. One of the members read aloud while the others worked, and refreshments were served, which consisted of bread and butter and one kind of plain cake. At first the subscription fee was twenty-five cents, which was increased to fifty cents.

In 1895 Joseph Chase Hillard, a well-known insurance adjuster and a native of Kensington, erected a substantial brick building on commodious grounds. Taking the name from the first library in Kensington, Mr. Hillard called this the Kensington Social Library. At this time the Ladies' Sewing Circle Library transferred their books to the Social Library trustees, to be held by them for the free use of the town forever. The Ladies' Library was removed to the new building in 1895, where it occupied a well-lighted and well-lighted room.

Here there is a reading room generously supplied with the late magazines. The people have had the privilege of taking these magazines home for one week after they have been on the tables for one month. Fully as many have enjoyed this opportunity as have taken advantage of the reading room.

In 1896 the circulation was 1,096 volumes, the circulation being kept up by the frequent additions of new books obtained from the proceeds of entertainments. The magazines have for the most part been gifts from various people, the donations of Joseph C. Hillard exceeding all others.

Joseph C. Hillard left at his decease, two years since, a permanent fund for the maintenance of the Kensington Social Library, the income of which is just beginning to accrue. It is hoped, by the judicious use of this money, to put the Kensington Social Library on a substantial running basis, with an increase in circulation and usefulness.

NICHOLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, KINGSTON.

In the year 1892 the town voted to establish a public library, and chose three trustees, who were to ask the aid of the state under the act passed at the preceding session of the

legislature. In 1894 the library was opened in the selectmen's room of the Town Hall building, and was well patronized from the first.

We had at opening about 420 books, of which 104 were given by the state, 99 by the Kingston Book Club, and 148 were purchased by the trustees. The balance were received from private individuals or from the town clerk.

For the next few years the library grew steadily, somewhat over one hundred volumes being added yearly, and it became evident that we must soon find new quarters. In 1898 the present beautiful and commodious building was erected by Mr. J. Howard Nichols in memory of his parents, Nichols and Mary Barstow Nichols, and on June 8 was presented to the town and accepted and dedicated with appropriate exercises.

The trustees of Sanborn Seminary and the trustees of the library made an arrangement for their mutual benefit whereby the library of the seminary, consisting of some fifteen hundred volumes, was placed in the new building, and the Kingston Public Library and that of Sanborn Seminary were practically combined in the Nichols Memorial Library. The school has the use of the books that are needed during term time, the teachers and the scholars free use of the library, and the trustees of the school appropriate yearly an amount equal to that of the town, the seminary appropriation being expended under the direction of the principal, who, however, is always one of the library trustees.

This place has many advantages. The library has steadily grown since 1898, having now some forty-five hundred volumes, with this year's appropriation unexpended. Quite a number of volumes have been given by individuals: from the library of the late William O. Patten of Kingston some fifty volumes, and smaller numbers from various sources.

LACONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the March meeting in 1878, it was voted to raise fifteen hundred dollars for the purchase of a library. The first

board of trustees was composed of six members, James H. Tilton, Winfield S. Thomas, Daniel S. Dinsmore, John T. Busiel, Erasmus F. Jewell, and Charles F. Pitman, of whom the last three are members of the present board. The library was in Folsom block eleven years, in the First National Bank block twelve years, and in the basement of the Unitarian church two years before its removal to the Gale Memorial Library.

The will of Napoleon B. Gale provided for a library, a memorial hall and a public park. The city appropriated ten thousand dollars in addition to the five thousand dollars provided for a park, and the Moulton estate, opposite the passenger station, was purchased for a park and a building site for the combined library and memorial hall. Later the lot occupied by the Congregational church was bought for sixty-five hundred dollars and added to the park. The building committee consisted of John T. Busiel, Charles F. Pitman, and Edwin F. Burleigh. The building cost a little more than sixty thousand dollars. About eight thousand dollars was spent in furnishing and fitting up the building. The park with improvements has cost about twenty-eight thousand dollars. There remains in the hands of the trustees of the Gale estate about ninety-two thousand dollars. One fourth of the income must be used for maintaining and beautifying the park. The remainder is turned over to the library from time to time and provides an income of about twenty-six hundred dollars for the library. The library has a fund of one thousand dollars bequeathed by Helen A. Avery, and five hundred dollars, a bequest of Julia A. Ladd. The income of these funds must be used for the purchase of books.

The Gale Memorial Library was dedicated on the ninth of June, 1903, and immediately thereafter the books of the Laconia public library and of the Lakeport public library were moved into it. The reading room has been open regularly since the 22d of July, 1903. A new registration of borrowers was begun and books were loaned on the third of August. For a time the library was open from 10 to 12,

from 2 to 6, and from 7 to 9 every day, except Sundays and holidays. It is now open from 10 A. M. to 9 P. M. Beginning on the first of October, 1905, the reading room has been open on Sundays from 2 to 6 P. M.

Books are sent to Lakeport every day except Saturdays and Sundays. They are also sent to The Weirs five times a week while the schools are in session, and on Tuesdays and Fridays during the vacations. Any child able to write his name may register and draw books. Teachers may draw as many books as they need and keep them until the close of the term. Special students may obtain as many books as they require and keep them as long as they please by having them renewed every two weeks. Any resident may have two books at a time. There are more than one hundred periodicals on file in the reading room, and over four hundred volumes on open shelves in the study room.

The librarians in succession have been Winfield S. Thomas, John W. Ashman, Miss Nellie Whitcher, Edgar F. Reeves, Miss Julia S. Busiel, and Olin S. Davis.

LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1884. It is a free public library, although not receiving state aid. It contains 7,453 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 18,514 volumes. A separate building is in course of construction.

LANDAFF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Established in 1891 with state aid. It contains 525 volumes. Circulation one thousand volumes. Located in a dwelling-house.

LANGDON TOWN LIBRARY.

The Langdon Town Library was first started as a neighborhood library by a few ladies who desired more extensive reading and of a character above the newspapers. This by contributions was added to year by year. At the decease of

some of its promoters it was thought best that its circulation should be extended and instead of its being moved from house to house have a permanent home. After due deliberation it was given to the town. At the March meeting in 1897 the first board of trustees was chosen and the town voted to continue the library as the Langdon Town Library.

The trustees catalogued the library, and adopted rules and regulations for its conduct, and placed the library in the store and postoffice building. Cases were then purchased for the better care of books, and as the number has increased, cases have been added.

Some years the town has raised a sum above the amount required by law and the librarian has been paid by the town.

The reading has been selected in order to interest the young people in something of an elevating character as well as historical and descriptive. Writings of some of the latest novelists are circulated and the public take quite an interest.

There is a feeling now that a library building should be erected that could give better conveniences and less liability from fire.

WEST LEBANON PUBLIC LIBRARY, LEBANON.

The beginning of the West Lebanon Public Library was in the early sixties, when a few women met and planned to raise money to buy books for a library. The first books were bought by Col. Jewett D. Hosley, and they were housed for a long time in the residence of Mr. William P. Burton. For many years each one who used the library paid a fee of one dollar per year, but in 1900 this was changed and the library became a free one.

In 1893 a catalogue of the books was printed. During the last five years a determined effort has been made to raise money for a library building. Lecture courses and concerts were held; a series of food sales, in which the village women all took part, and various other entertainments were given. One or two generous citizens added to the sum and it is now almost twelve hundred dollars.

In the spring of 1906 the Boston & Maine Railroad leased a lot for the nominal rent of one dollar per year to the library association. The location of the lot is all that could be desired, and it is hoped that within a year or two the fund will be sufficient to warrant a building.

LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains 1,329 volumes. It is located in the Town Hall.

LISBON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The first library of a public character in which the citizens of Lisbon were interested was called the Lisbon Village Moral Society, and came into existence more than fifty years ago. Most if not all of the books belonging to the library or society are still on the shelves of the public library, though for reasons—cheap paper and small type—they are not in circulation. The collection consists of histories, biographies, essays, and a few poems. Not one volume of fiction is among them. The library was kept in a cupboard in the old Railroad depot, under the charge of Mr. Pearson.

In 1864 the Lisbon Village Library Association was organized through the efforts of Augustus A. Woolson, Hon. and Mrs. E. D. Rand, Dr. Charles H. Boynton, Miss Rebecca Hollister, H. B. Savage, George Brunner, William M. Kelsea, and other interested citizens.

Membership was obtained by the payment of one dollar, with a fee of fifty cents per year.

The selection of the books was entrusted to a book committee of seven persons, generally people of literary tastes, who, with the president, Hon. E. D. Rand, endeavored to establish a library of the best reading matter. The first librarian was Miss Rebecca Hollister, a lady of culture and fine literary tastes. She continued to act as librarian twenty-five years, when Miss Alice M. Boynton, now Mrs. W. W. Oliver, was elected to serve. She was succeeded by Miss Nettie L.

Kelsea, who, with the exception of two years, has served since 1887. After the death of Mr. Rand, the Hon. A. A. Woolson was made president of the association and holds the office at the present time. William M. Kelsea served as secretary for nearly a quarter of a century. The Lisbon Village Library Association was an organization very dear to the hearts of its founders and members, and accessions on its shelves were watched carefully that no harmful or worthless books should be placed before the public. Mr. Rand often said, "Give them nothing but the best, then the public will read the best books."

In 1899 the Lisbon Public Library was formed, the town taking advantage of the state's offer of one hundred dollars' worth of books to any town establishing a free library.

The association already owned one third of a building erected in 1882, and it offered the town the use of its rooms, the books upon its shelves, furniture, etc., provided the town would agree to refit the rooms, raise the necessary funds to maintain the public library, and allow the book committee of the association a voice in the selection of the books. This the town consented to do, and for more than six years the two organizations have worked harmoniously together. The town officers consist of a board of six trustees, of whom the Hon. A. A. Woolson is chairman, and the association continues to elect its book committee annually, who, with the trustees, select the books for the library. The library is pleasantly situated on Main street in two attractively furnished rooms, and is liberally patronized by the residents of Lisbon. Three thousand three hundred and twenty-four books are upon its shelves, and the reading table is well supplied with periodicals.

The same high standard of literature instituted by the founders of the association has been maintained, and Lisbon justly is proud of her Free Public Library.

LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

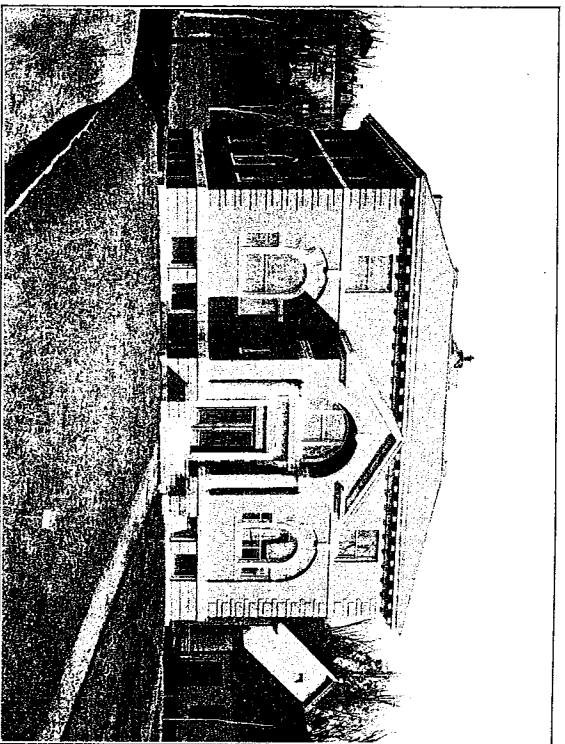
Lincoln is a lumber manufacturing village of about six hundred inhabitants, many of them Canadian French, situated in the Penigewasset Valley, and has been in existence only fourteen years. It is peopled entirely by the employees of the J. E. Henry & Sons Company.

The public library was voted into existence at the annual town meeting in March, 1902. Previous to this time several small appropriations had been made at various times with this end in view, but no organization had been made and no active steps taken in the matter. At this meeting, however, a board of three trustees was elected, an appropriation of forty dollars made for books, and it was voted to apply to the state, under the statute, for aid in establishing the library. A small building of two rooms, which had been used for a barber shop, was offered to the library, rent free, by the Henry Company, and extensive repairs and improvements were made by them to fit it for the purpose, including the installation of electric lights. Modern library appliances were purchased at the Library Bureau in Boston, and the books classified and catalogued according to the system in use in the Boston Public Library, a librarian was appointed, and on May 2, 1905, the library was opened to the public, complete in all its details, and with two hundred and sixteen books upon its shelves, including fifty volumes of the best French fiction. Besides the circulating department there is also a small reading room, where may be found a number of the current periodicals.

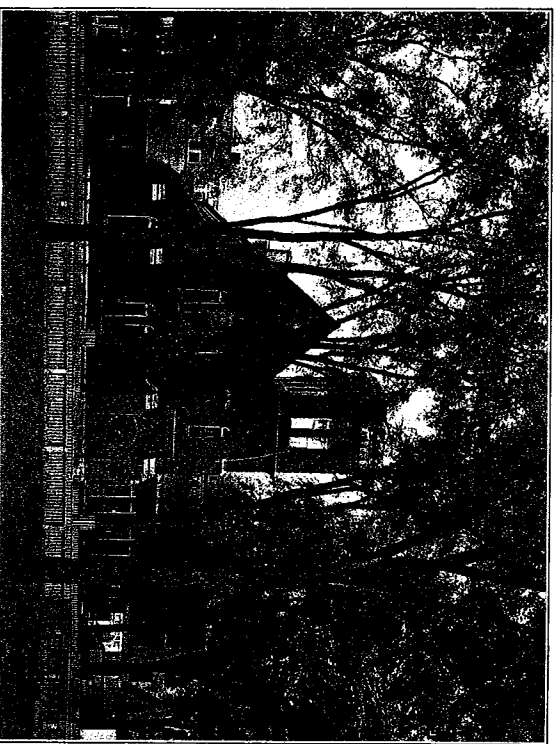
The library is open twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, and is well patronized by the people. Its establishment has proved to be a decided benefit to the town, and it is hoped to increase its usefulness in the near future, especially in connection with the public schools.

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,192 volumes and its circulation is about 1,100 volumes annually. It is located in a dwelling-house.



LITTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY



MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

LITTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Littleton Public Library was established in 1889, the town appropriating five hundred dollars a year for maintenance, providing citizens raised one thousand dollars.

The library also received books belonging to a defunct village library, and when, in January, 1890, the library was opened it contained twenty-seven hundred volumes. It now numbers sixty-eight hundred volumes.

From the first the circulation has been large, averaging fifteen thousand, with eighty-three per cent fiction. One reason for this seemingly large proportion of fiction is the constant use of reference books, of which no record can be kept. With such works the library is very well supplied.

The library is carefully classified according to the decimal classification. At first one card was given each borrower, but now a nonfiction card is also allowed, teachers having special privileges.

The use of the library by schools and clubs has increased steadily; this year traveling libraries have been sent to district schools for the first time.

In 1892 the library received its first large gift—six hundred volumes—from Charles Sinclair. By the will of Harry Bingham it received one thousand dollars. It has also many smaller gifts of books, of pictures and furnishings, notably a portrait of Harry Bingham.

The first home of the library was entirely inadequate to its needs, and in 1892 it was moved into commodious quarters in the new town building, and a reading room started, the town appropriation being increased to nine hundred dollars. The present year has seen its removal to a new library costing twenty-two thousand dollars; of this sum fifteen thousand dollars was the gift of Andrew Carnegie.

Starting with one room in 1889, it now has in addition to delivery and stack rooms, a reading room and two reference rooms, with a children's room in prospect; and hopes for an increased usefulness in its new quarters.

LEACH LIBRARY, LONDONDERRY.

David Rollins Leach, who died in Manchester, April 1, 1878, left by his last will and testament three thousand dollars to found and perpetuate a public library in Londonderry. The town at the annual meeting in March, 1879, voted to accept the bequests, chose a board of trustees, and authorized the selectmen to build an addition to the Town Hall, in which should be fitted a room for library purposes. The selectmen attended to the duty assigned them, and a room was in readiness January 1, 1880. The trustees took steps at once to select a library in accordance with the will of Mr. Leach. After careful examination of the catalogues of many libraries and consultation with librarians and the citizens of the town, a list of books was prepared and a committee of the trustees gave personal attention to their purchase. Nine hundred and fifty-four volumes were purchased at the aggregate cost of nine hundred and sixty-nine dollars. Another installment of five hundred volumes was soon after added, and up to the present time new books have been added from year to year—which gives us at the present time 2,618 circulating books on our shelves and about five hundred books of other classes. We also have the new revised Encyclopedic Dictionary and the American Cyclopaedia.

LYMAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1894 with state aid. It contains 562 volumes. It is located in a private dwelling-house.

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Our library was opened September 25, 1893, at the residence of John H. Burke, one of the trustees chosen the March previous. We commenced with the books given us by the state under the laws of 1891, chapter 62.

An interest was at once manifested and the growth though not rapid has been steady.

We have especially aimed to interest our youthful readers, believing in the old adage "as the twig is bent, the tree is inclined," and we allow the children the use of the library as soon as the parent will be responsible for the books. We have one little girl four years of age, and we have no one more enthusiastic.

The books remained at Mrs. Burke's (Mrs. Burke serving us as librarian) until moved to Mr. Lary's the following March. Mr. Lary was librarian until July, 1898, when the size of the library and Mrs. Lary's health rendered a change necessary. It was accordingly taken to the postoffice building, then owned by I. R. Ambrose, postmaster, and was cared for by him for a small compensation until he resigned his office.

He was succeeded by J. H. Burke April, 1901. Mr. Burke, who had taken an active interest in the library from its commencement, allowed the books to remain. Mrs. Burke serving as librarian. December, 1903, Mrs. Burke's health compelled her to resign, but we have still had the use of the building free.

Our library is now so large that we very much need a building. There is quite an interest among the citizens and friends, which we hope will result in obtaining one soon.

Our income is very small, but the interest has been such that our expenses have been trifling and we have been able to add a few volumes each year by purchase until we now have 838 volumes.

We also have received a great many presents from citizens and friends. Our summer guests have been liberal patrons.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY.

In 1844 the Manchester Athenaeum was established "with the design of founding a library, reading room, and museum." After ten years of successful growth this organization turned over to the city its library of 2,953 volumes to found a free public library. One of the conditions of this transfer was that the city should appropriate annually a sum not less than one thousand dollars to be expended in the purchase and

binding of books and periodicals—a munificent sum for those days.

In November, 1854, this free city library was opened to the public. The first report says, "The majority of books called for are of a character calculated to improve the intellect and heart, and many of the more abstruse, intellectual, and scientific treatises are every day called for." Within a year the library moved into larger quarters in one of the business blocks, where, in February, 1856, it was almost totally destroyed by fire. With good courage another start was made, and after successively occupying rooms in the Merchants' Exchange and Patton's Block, the library was removed, August, 1871, to a new building of its own on Franklin street, where it still remains. The lot for this building was donated by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. In 1882 a large addition was made to the building, and ten years later a part of the basement was finished off to provide a room for newspapers and government documents.

Three collections of books amounting to 2,487 volumes have been presented to the library and are known as the Brewer, Currier, and Reynolds donations. The library has also benefited by three bequests as follows: \$5,000, given in 1872 by Oliver Dean, used for scientific and technical books; \$2,000, given in 1885 by Mary J. Elliot, for medical works; \$2,887, given in 1892 by Eliza A. Eaton, "for the benefit of the library."

The services of nine librarians have covered the fifty-two years of the library's history. During this time two printed catalogues, various supplements, and three finding lists have been issued. The library now has a good card catalogue, also a separate card catalogue of the juvenile books, and is classified by the Cutter classification. It contains about fifty thousand volumes, and is open daily from 10 A. M. to 8 P. M., Saturdays until 9 P. M., and on Sundays from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M.

FROST FREE LIBRARY, MARLBOROUGH.

Frost Free Library was presented to Marlborough August 26, 1867, by one of her sons, Hon. Rufus S. Frost, of Chelsea, Mass. The site, a substantial granite building, suitable furnishings, and a collection of two thousand books, were included in the gift, and the sum of five thousand dollars was placed in trust, the interest to be paid annually for the support of the library. Mr. Frost was elected president, and continued to serve in that capacity until his death in 1894. He was succeeded by his son, Albert P. Frost, who served until his death in 1897, when his sister, Mrs. Emma Frost Hale, was elected president. She resigned in 1902, and Lowell P. Frost of Buffalo, N. Y., grandson of the donor, was chosen. Mr. Frost has shown his interest in the work by the many generous gifts and much valuable assistance.

Several valuable collections of shells, geological specimens, and curiosities have been presented to the library by the Frost family, Rev. S. H. McClester and others. In 1898 the library received a gift of one thousand dollars by the will of the late Albert P. Frost, the income to be used for the support of the library.

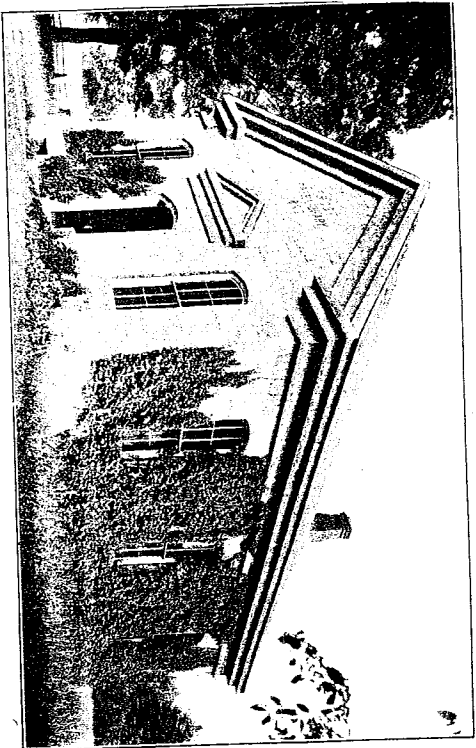
In 1902 the library was thoroughly reorganized and the card catalogue was introduced with most satisfactory results.

Previous to September 1, 1903, the library had been opened to the public only on Saturday afternoons and evenings, but at that time it was thought advisable to open it also on Wednesdays. The library now contains over six thousand volumes—and the average distribution for a week during the past three months has been one hundred and seventy-five books, not including the magazines, of which there are twelve for general circulation.

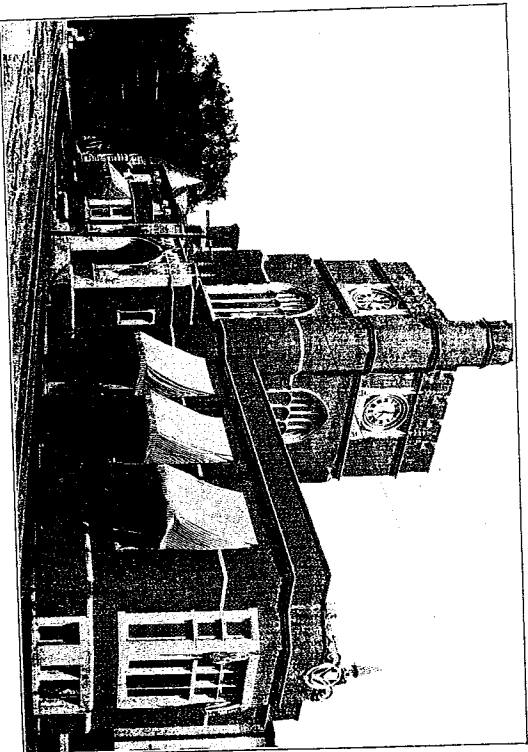
Eight of the townspeople have served as librarian since its founding, each one doing this work in a painstaking manner.

MASON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In the fall of 1892, the town took advantage of the offer made by the state, and established a free library. A number



FROST FREE LIBRARY, MARLBOROUGH



NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

of years before a library was formed and owned by individuals. Some of the books were left after it was discontinued and these were given to the new library, which added quite a little to its numbers. The library was first located in a little room over the store; it was then changed to the postoffice. It soon outgrew the limited space, and a room was fitted up in the schoolhouse, the town not being able to build a library building. The room is small, and the addition of more books will necessitate another room. Each year between thirty and forty books are added, the committee always trying to procure the highest class of books. Fiction is called for more than history or travel.

The teachers have the privilege of taking books for the benefit of their children.

The books are divided into four classes by way of classification, fiction, history, biography, and travel.

MEREDITH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in March, 1882. It did not receive state aid, but is, nevertheless, a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains 4,149 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 17,708 volumes. The town contributes five hundred dollars a year to its support. It has a separate building, presented by Benjamin M. Smith of Beverly, Mass.

MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In March, 1892, the town of Merrimack voted to accept the provisions of the state law passed in 1891, "relating to new public libraries in towns."

The sum of three hundred dollars was voted for the establishment of a public library, and with one hundred and one volumes received from the state, fifty-two donated by friends of the movement, and forty-nine purchased by the town, the library was opened to the public January 1, 1893, in the office of Dr. W. W. Pillsbury, through whose active influence its establishment was effected.

The following summer Dr. Pillsbury went to Newburyport, Mass., and the library, then numbering three hundred and seventy-three volumes, was moved into the house of the present librarian, where it still is located.

From its start the library maintained a steady and healthy growth, and the citizens of the town have shown their appreciation of its benefits through their liberal patronage and annual appropriations for its support.

Through the generosity of James B. and Dr. George C. Holt eight-eight volumes of the "Charles V. Cotton Library" were donated, and one hundred and ten volumes have been received from other friends; these, with government and state publications, constitute all the books in the library not purchased by the town.

The library now contains 2,950 volumes, about half of which are fiction, but in the other classes are many excellent works of travel, history, and biography.

The children's department is well supplied with the best literature for young people, and many of the school children are among the most constant and appreciative patrons of the library.

The town purchased a building lot two years ago, but no definite action has yet been taken towards the erection of a building. The library is doing good work, but it has reached the limit of its capacity for growth, until more room can be provided for its accommodation.

MIDDLETON TOWN LIBRARY.

The Middleton Town Library was established in 1892 through the efforts of several prominent gentlemen. The town at its annual election voted to have a free library and to accept the offer of the state. We received one hundred dollars' worth of books from the state, and these, with what the town purchased, formed the nucleus of our town library. It was located in a private house, where the postoffice was, and Mrs. George D. Drawbridge took charge of it for several years,

free of charge. In 1900 a convenient room was fitted up in the Town Hall and the library was removed there, where it is at the present time. The room is open every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 p. m. and is well patronized. The library is a proof that "great things from small beginnings grow," as we now have over a thousand volumes on the shelves, divided into travels, history, poetry, fiction, and juveniles. Since the first year, these have all been bought, with the exception of a number of volumes given by Mr. Charles Roberts of Concord, N. H.

MILAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1896 with state aid. It contains about one thousand volumes and its circulation is fifty-two hundred volumes yearly. The town appropriates one hundred dollars annually for its support. It is located in the Town House.

MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the annual town meeting in March, 1868, the following resolution was passed with hardly a dissenting vote, its passage having been urged by Thomas J. Livermore and others:

Resolved, That a free library be hereby established within and for the town of Milford, that the sum of five hundred dollars be raised by the town, and paid into the hands of the trustees hereinafter provided for, with which they shall, as soon as possible, purchase books and other necessary articles, provide a room, and do all necessary things for the establishment and continuance of the library herein provided for.

The sum of five hundred dollars was to be invested as the foundation of the town free library. It had been open to the public about eight months when these items were obtained. The library consisted of two hundred and eighty-three volumes, and during the eight months the circulation was twenty-three hundred volumes.

In 1890 a bequest of five thousand dollars from the late

Ezra M. Gay, was paid to the town in trust for the Milford Free Library, the income arising from it to be devoted to the purchase of books only and cannot be used for the ordinary expense of the library.

In March, 1891, the increase of the library was such that an appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars was made for the erecting of a new building. At this time there were forty-five hundred bound volumes.

In June, 1892, the library was moved to the present quarters, a reading room was opened with a large number of periodicals. In this year a bequest of one hundred dollars was received in trust by the town, the income to be expended annually for library purposes.

The library was classified according to the Dewey system. At the present time there are ninety-one hundred volumes, with a circulation of twenty thousand. Arrangements are being made for a children's department, also a reference room.

MILTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Under the law of 1891 for the establishment of free public libraries, the town of Milton at its annual meeting in March, 1892, adopted the provisions of the act, passed the necessary votes for the founding and maintenance of the Milton Free Public Library, located it at Milton Mills, and chose three trustees for its care and management. The trustees chosen were Charles C. Hayes, Elbridge W. Fox, and John W. Simes. Following the action of the town, the state, through its Board of Library Commissioners, donated books to the town to the value of one hundred dollars as nucleus for the library.

Mr. Henry E. Wentworth was engaged as librarian, the library being kept in his store, which was centrally situated in the village.

At his retirement from trade the library was removed to its present location, a building formerly used as a store by John W. Simes, and for a number of years Mr. Simes has served as librarian.

Mr. Hayes, trustee, dying soon after the establishment of the library, Mr. Joseph Plummer was appointed to fill the vacancy, and he, with the other two members originally chosen, has continued to serve until the present time. The members are chosen each year by the town for three years, one being chosen each year. Their expenses are paid from the funds of the library; their services are gratis.

The library was opened in January, 1893. The town raises annually the amount required by law for its support. The last appropriation was \$107.40. There are now 1,019 volumes in the library, classified as follows: arts, biography, drama and poetry, fiction, history, juvenile fiction, theological, reference, science, natural history, periodicals, travel, farm and household, and miscellaneous.

Books have been donated to the library by the Universalist Publishing House, State Library, Hon. J. H. Gallinger, James H. Bridge, Albert E. Pillsbury, T. H. Montague, Mrs. Charles J. Berry, Milton Mills, N. H.; Mrs. Harriet W. Noyes, Barnstead, N. H.; Mrs. Augustus Barnard, Boston, Mass.; Prof. Arthur T. Smith, and John U. Simes.

The library is highly prized by the citizens of the village, the books being very eagerly sought for by both old and young. It is free to all residents in the town. There is another library at Milton village and also one at West Milton, so that all sections of the town are well provided for.

NUTE LIBRARY, MILTON.

The library was established in 1891, without state aid. It is a free public library. It contains 2,994 volumes, and its circulation is six thousand volumes annually. It has no building.

MUNROE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1895 with state aid. It contains 450 volumes and has a circulation of 962 volumes. It does not have a separate building.

MONT VERNON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains 1,150 volumes. The town appropriates one hundred dollars annually for its support. It is located in a school building.

MOULTONBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1896 with state aid. It contains 1,423 volumes, and its circulation is twenty-five hundred volumes annually. The town appropriates one hundred dollars for its support. It has no separate building.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Nashua Public Library had its inception and was really founded by the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, when that society at the close of the Civil War voted to apply a fund remaining in their treasury to the starting of a free public library.

Encouraged by the citizens interested, and the Hon. O. C. Moore, editor of the *Nashua Telegraph*, a fair was held in the City Hall and a good sum realized. Contributions of books desirable for a library were also made by the citizens, and to all these were added the Athenaeum library, and the whole then offered as a gift to the city, upon condition that one thousand dollars be provided annually for its support and development. The gift, with its conditions, was accepted, and seven trustees appointed to care for the same, and the library was soon opened to the public in the south room of the County Record Building. There it remained until 1892, and then having grown to a library of 11,260 volumes, it was removed to Odd Fellows' building on Temple street.

About that time the city government, recognizing the influence of the library as a factor in the educational growth of Nashua, and that unaided by legacies it must depend entirely upon the city for support and growth, increased their appropriation to two thousand dollars, and this has been in-

creased from time to time, until this year fifty-five hundred dollars was appropriated.

In 1892 Mrs. Mary A. Hunt and her daughter, Miss Mary E. Hunt, gave to the city the munificent gift of fifty thousand dollars for a library building. The gift was accepted, and after the usual delays, on September 28, 1903, the library then numbering twenty-three thousand volumes, was opened to the public in its new home, and the Hunt Memorial Library became a reality. The building is built in accordance with the most approved modern ideas, for a library, with appropriate and convenient fittings, a handsome reading and reference room, children's library and reading room, newspaper and weekly periodical room, with light and fireproof stack,—in all respects an up-to-date building, and here it is today in the care of a librarian and her two assistants, and a children's librarian.

NELSON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the annual town meeting in 1881 it was suggested by one of the visitors that they do something to benefit the old town, and a library was suggested. A meeting was called, and a committee was chosen to make plans to solicit contributions. There is no record of this meeting. The first annual meeting was held August 23, 1882, when a report of the doings of the committee was made. A constitution and by-laws were presented and accepted, and an association formed, to be known as "The Nelson Free Library Association." Any person could become a member by signing the constitution and the annual payment of a dollar. The payment at any one time of twenty-five dollars constituted a life membership. The names of two life members are recorded, Col. F. W. Parker of Quincy, Mass., and of J. M. Robbins of Cambridgeport, Mass. It was also reported that three hundred and sixteen volumes had already been purchased or been contributed, and the library had been located in the store of G. C. Atwood, and Mr. Atwood had been appointed its first librarian. After

Mr. Atwood's death in 1884 Mrs. L. J. Atwood was chosen as his successor.

In 1886 it was voted to offer the library to the town if they would agree to accept and maintain it, which the town finally did and also took advantage of the offer of the state aid in establishing free libraries, so in 1892 the Nelson Free Library was formed, and has since been supported by an annual gift from the town.

Some years later the store was sold to Mr. J. M. Robbins, and Mr. H. F. Priest was chosen librarian.

In February, 1894, the store was entirely destroyed by fire, but by hard work the library was saved all but about twenty volumes. It was then removed to a room in the Town Hall, where it is at the present time. The number of volumes has increased to 1,430.

WHIPPLE FREE LIBRARY, NEW BOSTON.

The library was established in 1888 by J. R. Whipple. It did not receive state aid but is nevertheless a free public library. It contains 2,257 volumes. It has no separate building.

NEWBURY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 916 volumes and its circulation is 1,500 annually. It has received contributions from the late John Hay and others. It is located in the railroad station.

NEW CASTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

On October 19, 1900, at the suggestion of Mrs. Frank Hackett of Washington, then a summer resident of New Castle, the Daily Circle of King's Daughters met and organized the New Castle Library Association. Mrs. Hackett's contribution and that of her friends amounted to seventy dollars, and with that the library was opened, the association having been able to secure a suitable room rent free for one year.

On July 20, 1901, the town accepted the library, and chose Henry Becker, Jr., S. H. Harding, and Willard Jenness as trustees, the same board serving at the present time.

At that time there were three hundred and thirty books and four monthly magazines. One hundred and thirty-seven cards had been issued at that date. Soon after this the state gave one hundred dollars' worth of books, and many generous gifts were received from friends.

After the town accepted the library the association reorganized and is now the Library Aid Association, and selects the books.

The town raised the present year one hundred and forty-nine dollars for the maintenance of the library, the librarian receiving eighty-four dollars for her services, fifty dollars for rent, and the remainder for fuel. We are dependent upon donations of money and the small amount which we can raise by having sales and entertainments to buy books.

At present there are 1,034 books, 11 monthly magazines, 900 cards have been issued, and there is an average of 150 books given out each week.

The library is opened to the public Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings from three to five and seven to nine o'clock.

The cards are sold for one cent each, and a fine of one cent a day is imposed on each person keeping a book over fourteen days. This money pays incidental expenses.

NEW DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1894 with state aid. It contains 326 volumes. It is kept in a private house.

NEWFIELDS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established September 23, 1893, with state aid. It contains 2,155 volumes. It has a permanent fund of ten thousand dollars. It is located in a dwelling-house.

GORDAN-NASH LIBRARY, NEW HAMPTON.

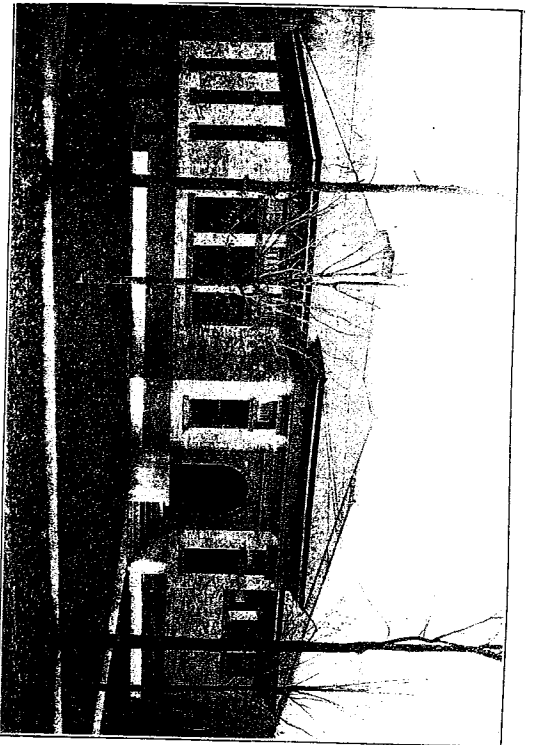
Like several other New Hampshire towns in the early years of the last century New Hampton possessed a small library of standard books. It probably never contained more than one hundred volumes, and was housed and cared for by private parties until worn out and scattered.

Some years later the literary societies connected with the New Hampton Institution established and for years maintained libraries and reading rooms. Beginning in rather a feeble way the libraries had a slow but healthy growth until they numbered more than twenty-five hundred volumes, which were freely loaned to all who applied for them.

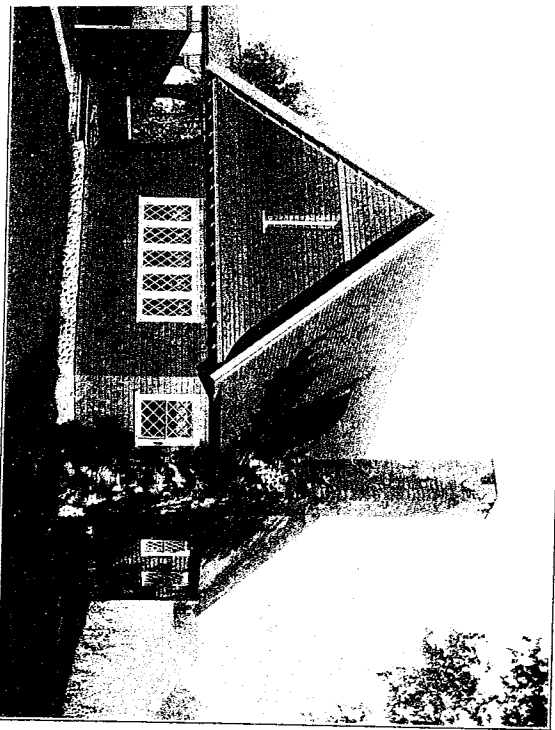
In 1887, Judge Stephen G. Nash of Boston and a native of New Hampton was granted a charter for the Gordon-Nash Library, and named as incorporators himself, his wife, his executors, S. G. Davis of Boston, his old schoolmate, Hon. H. P. Rolfe of Concord, and E. G. Lewis of Laconia. To this corporation Judge Nash bequeathed his large private library, with generous provisions for a building and ample funds for the maintenance of the same. A portion of the funds became available at Judge Nash's death, and the building was erected in 1895, the bulk of the bequest following the death of Mrs. Nash in 1901.

Judge Nash purchased the lot on which the library stands, and the building was erected under the direction of the original corporation, so that the New Hampton people have had only to receive, care for and use this magnificent gift. The management is now entirely in the hands of local incorporators, who take an honest pride in the beautiful building and the notable privileges they enjoy in connection with it.

The building, including the lot and equipment, was erected at an expense of sixteen thousand dollars. It is of Perth Amboy brick and red sandstone, finished in quartered oak, beautifully frescoed, and supported by a fund of thirty-five thousand dollars. By the terms of the bequest the library is for "the free use of the people of the town whether residents students or sojourners."



GORDON-NASH LIBRARY, NEW HAMPTON



NEW IPSWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Including the societies' libraries there are now nearly thirteen thousand volumes on the shelves, and the number is steadily growing.

With its singular freedom from conditions or obligations of any kind and with its lavish endowment, the Gordon-Nash library stands unique and unrivalled.

LANGDON PUBLIC LIBRARY, NEWINGTON.

In the year 1891, Woodbury Langdon of New York, a summer resident of the town of Newington, offered to donate two thousand volumes to the town as a nucleus for a free library, on condition that suitable provision be made for the care and circulation of the books.

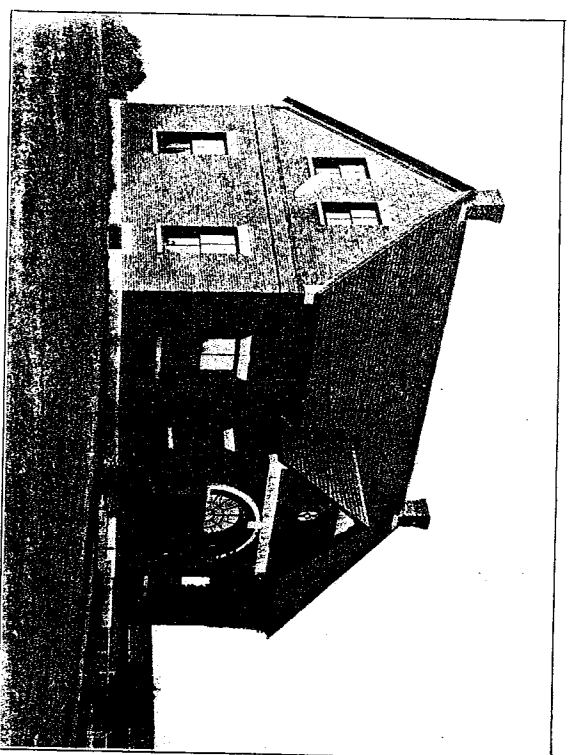
The town accepted the offer, and the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars was appropriated for the erection of a library building. The cost of erecting the brick structure which we now occupy exceeded the appropriation by one thousand dollars, which sum was placed in the custody of the town by Mr. Langdon. The town then paid annually to the trustees an amount equal to the interest of that sum at six per cent, thus providing for the perpetual maintenance of the library.

In 1892 Valentine M. Coleman, Frederick Pickering, and Eldna Pickering were elected trustees.

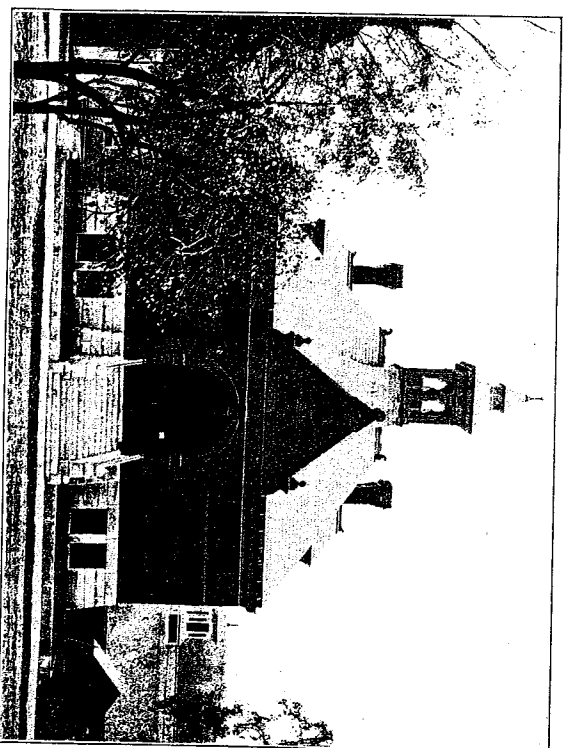
The formal opening with ceremonies of dedication occurred on September 20, 1892. Ceremonies of dedication were held in the Congregational church, which were preceded by an informal reception at the library.

The books given by Mr. Langdon covering a wide range of subjects, ninety-nine volumes given by the state of New Hampshire, and the books, which had hitherto been in custody of the town clerk, mostly books of reference, together with the periodicals supplied for the reading table, were the books found in our library when dedicated.

During the past twelve years, through the generosity of Mr. Langdon, our townspeople, absent sons and daughters,



LANGDON LIBRARY, NEWINGTON



RICHARDS FREE LIBRARY, NEWPORT

and friends, our library has grown until we have thirty-five hundred volumes.

NEW IPSWICH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1866, under the leadership of a few energetic women, a library building was erected and a library established. The library was incorporated in 1887. It has not received state aid. Until ten years ago it was supported entirely by gifts and entertainments. The town now pays two hundred and fifty dollars annually towards its support. It has a permanent fund of \$3,000. It contains 3,941 volumes, and its circulation from the last biennial period was 8,445.

NEW LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1897 with state aid. It contains 1,797 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 4,724 volumes. It is located in Grange Hall.

NEWMARKET TOWN LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1884. It has not received state aid, but is a free public library within the statute. It contains 3,650 volumes. The town annually appropriates three hundred dollars for its support. It has a separate building.

RICHARDS FREE LIBRARY, NEWPORT.

The Richards Free Library of Newport, now one of the most prominent and noble institutions in western New Hampshire, was founded in 1888 by Hon. Dexter Richards, a native and lifelong citizen of that town. The building was eligibly located on the west side of Main street, opposite the south end of the village park, and for its beauty of situation is marked and prominent among the public buildings of the town. The architect and builder was Mr. Urran R. Beckwith of Claremont, N. H.

The edifice is of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Its dimensions on the ground are forty-eight feet front, with a depth of sixty-five feet. The base is of Senapee granite, and the superstructure of Massachusetts pressed brick, trimmed and ornamented with Connecticut brownstone and terra cotta. The roof is covered with slate from Monson, Me. Its interior is finished in oak, maple and birch of New Hampshire growth, ornamented with a variety of other woods from various states of the Union.

The front basement rooms are prepared for the reception of antiquarian articles and curiosities of interest and value that may at any time be contributed to the institution.

The two spacious front rooms, on either side of the main entrance, (twenty-five feet by seventeen feet each,) are designed for ladies' and gentlemen's reading rooms. The main library and reception rooms cover a space of fifty-three feet by thirty feet, with alcoves, each one lighted by a window extending from floor to ceiling.

The rear room of the basement is occupied by the heating apparatus and for storage and business purposes.

The library now contains 7,341 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 26,264 volumes. It has a permanent fund of fifteen thousand dollars.

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,200 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 6,508 volumes. It has a permanent fund of one hundred dollars. It has a separate building.

NORTH HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,400 volumes, and its annual circulation is 2,500 volumes. The town appropriates annually one hundred and fifty dollars for its support. It is located in the Town Hall.

GROVETON PUBLIC LIBRARY, NORTHUMBERLAND.

In the year 1891, at the March meeting, the town appropriated a small sum of money and chose three trustees to purchase books, hire a librarian, and find a suitable room in which to start a library. These trustees attended to the work at once, and the few books they purchased formed the nucleus of our present library. The place chosen for the books was in a small fancy grocery store, and the proprietor was paid a small sum for attending to the loan of books, the rent being included.

Each year since a small sum has been raised and one member of the trustees chosen at the March meeting. The books were kept in the same store until it changed hands, then the new proprietor assumed charge of the books and continued to do so until the summer of 1903, when the Village Improvement Society, under its efficient president, Mrs. Hattie O'Brien, decided to build a library. Small and unpretentious it might be, but the books which had been accumulating now numbered nearly one thousand, and the room in the store was not sufficient. So the library was built, and the books moved in August, 1903. It is finished in hardwood, and furnished with tables and chairs, a clock, pictures on the wall, and is very pleasant and much enjoyed by the patrons, of which there are about one hundred and fifty. When completed the library was presented to the town and is kept in repair by the same. Books are purchased four or five times a year by the trustees, all of whom are ladies, and have been ever since the library was built, the town no doubt thinking if the ladies could furnish the building they were the ones to run it.

Beside the best fiction there are books on history, biography, travel, and nature studies, now numbering 1,578 volumes, all of which have been well chosen and are much read.

NORTHWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,248 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 4,400

volumes. The town annually appropriates one hundred and twenty dollars for its support. It is located in a dwelling-house.

ALBION KNOWLTON LIBRARY, NORTHWOOD.

The library was established in 1899 without state aid. It serves parts of Nottingham and Barrington as well as Northwood. It contains 2,200 volumes. It receives no appropriation from the town. It has no separate building.

NOTTINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains 571 volumes. The town appropriates one hundred dollars annually for its support. It does not have a separate building.

ORANGE TOWN LIBRARY.

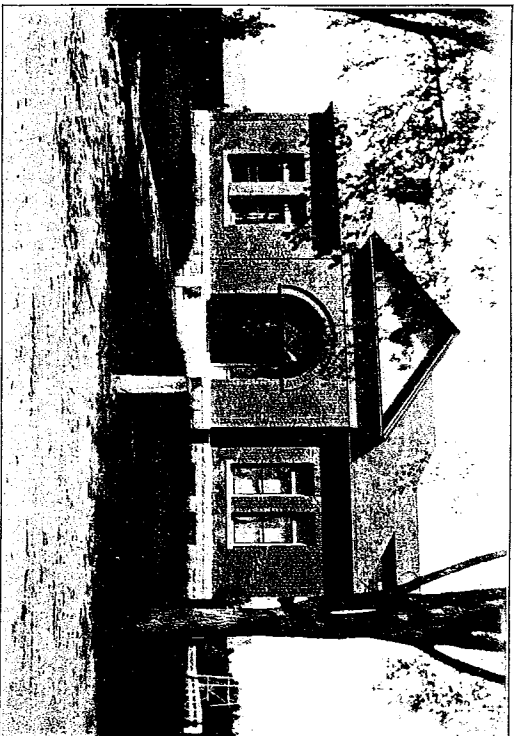
The library was established in 1895 with state aid. It contains 588 volumes, and its annual circulation is 300 volumes. It is kept in a dwelling-house.

ORFORD FREE LIBRARY.

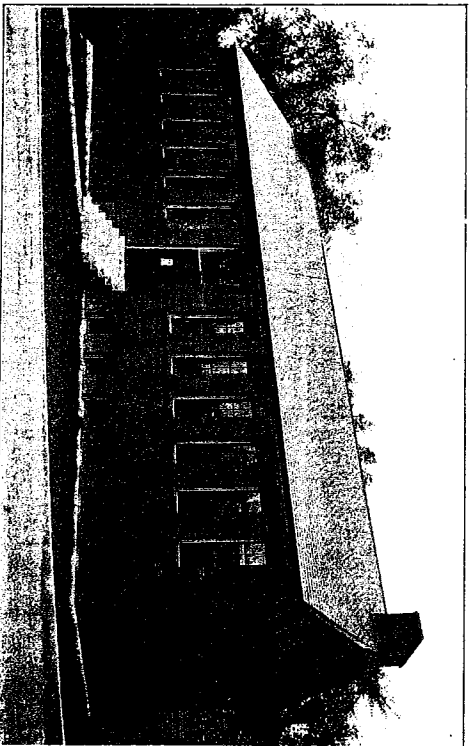
The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains 586 volumes. Town appropriation is \$44.40 annually. It is located in a dwelling-house.

PELHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Pelham, N. H., was one of the many towns that accepted the offer of aid from the state for the establishment of a library under the laws of 1891. To the books received from the state were added many contributed by interested friends, and January 21, 1893, the library was opened to the public. It was first situated in the Town Hall, but soon outgrew its accommodations. In 1896 a new brick building was erected by the town, which it has since occupied. This library is wholly supported by the town, though gifts of books and money from friends have been frequent. The building con-



PELHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



PETERBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

tains a fine reading room well supplied with current literature, the latest edition of Encyclopaedia Britannica for reference, and about sixty-five mounted specimens of our native New England birds.

The stack room contains 2,714 volumes. The circulation of books averages about three thousand per year.

The library is entirely free to all townspeople; teachers residing in the town and visitors can obtain permission to use it from the trustees. There is no age limit; the young as well as the old are encouraged to seek rest and refreshment from its shelves.

PEMBROKE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1897 with state aid. It contains about 1,400 volumes and its circulation for the biennial period is about 10,000 volumes. It has no separate building.

PETERBOROUGH TOWN LIBRARY.

The Peterborough Town Library was formed April 9, 1833, the town then appropriating money for its support, as it has continued to do up to the present time. Upon this fact is based its claim to the oldest free library supported by taxation in the English-speaking world. At the time of its inauguration a committee was appointed who reported the following year that they had spent sixty-seven dollars for the town in the purchase of books. Gifts in books and money were added, and the new institution thus equipped was housed in a store, and later for many years in the postoffice, wherever that happened to be. On Sunday books were exchanged at the noon hour when people came for their mail, and not until 1854 were the offices of librarian and postmaster divided. In 1873 the library was moved into a room in the town building, but rapidly outgrew what seemed at first to be ample quarters, and the question of a new building was agitated with more or less interest for a number of years. In 1892 the building now occupied by the library was erected, a gift from

Mrs. Nancy Smith Foster of Chicago, Mr. William H. Smith of Alton, Ill., and Mr. George S. Morison of Peleeborough. Mrs. Foster and Mr. Smith were natives of the town. In the town meeting, held in March, 1893, a vote was passed authorizing the removal of the library to the new building, and the books were first delivered from it April 22, 1893. The building though plain is a well-built structure, well lighted, and practically fireproof. It contains a reading room, office, vaults for the storing of town records, and three-story stack for books with a capacity for forty thousand volumes. The furniture for the reading room and office of handsome quartered oak was donated by Miss Jennie Scott. The town appropriates six hundred and fifty dollars annually towards its support, and there are several funds amounting in all to about twenty thousand dollars. One of these funds (\$25,000) was given by Mr. Carnegie with no restrictions whatever, in recognition of its claim to being the oldest free town library. It is open every day in the week, holidays excepted. There is no age limit. Its hospitality is extended to our summer visitors; club women rely upon its aid, and it is used to a gratifying extent by the teachers and pupils to supplement school work. In 1893 a card catalogue was made for the five thousand books then in the library, and it has been continued up to date. The number of volumes now reaches 12,350 books. Since April, 1902, a classed bulletin of recent additions has been issued quarterly.

PIERMONT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in March, 1893, with state aid. It contains 650 volumes, and its annual circulation is 675 volumes. It is located in the Town House.

PITTSBURY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains eight hundred volumes. It has no separate building.

PITTSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Pittsfield Public Library was established in 1895 by a vote of the town to adopt the provisions of the statutes relating to town libraries. Edgar E. Carr, Henry L. Robinson, and Frank P. Randall were chosen as trustees to establish and direct the affairs of such an institution.

Prompt action was taken by them, and the nucleus of the present library was formed by the purchase of books of two old private circulating libraries, comprising a total of some hundred volumes. New books were added by purchase of books from town appropriation and by a gift of two hundred volumes from the state. The library formed was established in the drug store of G. H. Colbath, and the proprietor officiated as librarian.

The growth and development of the institution was steady from the date of its establishment. It finally reached a point where it was plainly apparent that larger and more commodious quarters were necessary for its successful management.

The problem of providing such accommodations was solved during the year 1901 by the gift to the town of a handsome, substantial, and well-appointed building from Hon. Josiah Carpenter of Manchester, N. H., a former resident of the town.

The building is fifty-six feet by thirty-one feet, with a single high story above the basement. Its outside is of pressed brick, with trimmings and pilasters of Indiana sandstone. The covering of the building is of the best black slate, with ridges of rolled copper and the windows of plate glass.

The vestibule is of tile, and all other floors are of hardwood. The interior arrangements include a stack room nineteen feet and seven inches by thirty feet, and will shelve twelve hundred volumes. There is a general library twenty-six feet by thirty feet. In each front corner is an alcove around which are seats trimmed with red plush. The building throughout is lighted with gas.

The stack room and reading room are separated by automatic fireproof doors. There is a basement, with concrete floor under the entire building. In this is a hot air heating apparatus. Over the front entrance, to which leads a flight of stairs of Concord granite, is the inscription, "Josiah Carpenter Library."

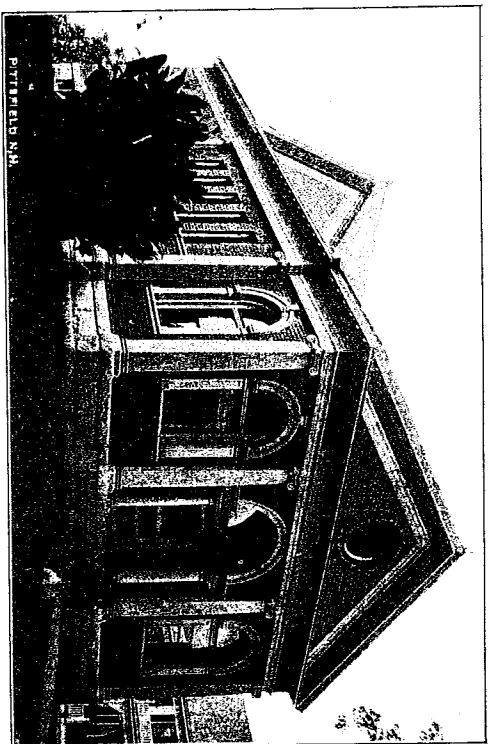
The new building was completed and its dedication made a distinctive feature of the Old Home Week observances here in August, 1901.

The new institution was opened for the circulation of books on October 12, 1901, and since that date has been opened Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday of each week from two to six o'clock in the afternoon and from seven to nine o'clock in the evening.

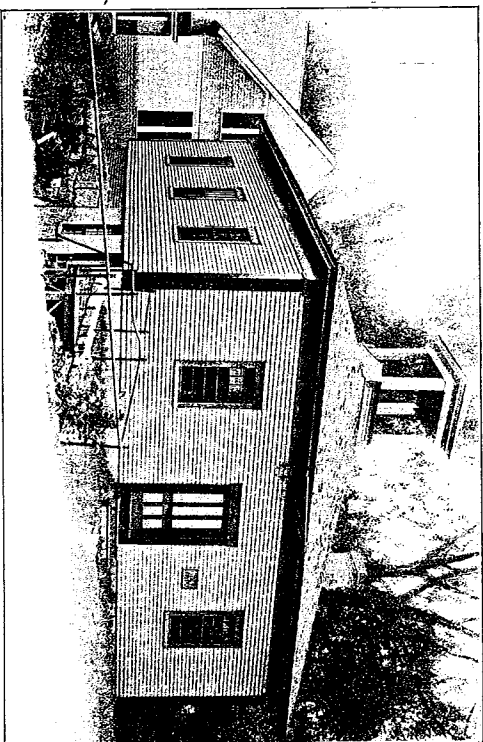
PLAINFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Plainfield Public Library was established in 1892 at the annual March meeting of this year, the town voting to raise fifty dollars and accept the state aid, which was one hundred dollars.

Something like four hundred and fifty books were at first placed in the two libraries, the books being divided between Plainfield Plain and Meriden Parish,—a part of these books were once in the old Plainfield library. The books for the Plains were placed in the dwelling-house of B. F. Ward, Mrs. Ward serving as librarian for about five years. At this time the number of books made it necessary for larger and more commodious quarters, and a room was fitted up for a library on the second floor of the Town Hall. At this time Mrs. Clara J. Westgate took charge and held the office of librarian for five years. Since that date and at present Mrs. I. S. Kenyon has filled the office. At Meriden the books were in the Town Hall and Mrs. Elsie Chellis had charge. Shortly after this the Town Hall was burned and the books kept in the reading room of K. U. A. until the new hall was completed, when a room was fitted up for library use on the second floor, with Mrs. Hannah Bridgman as librarian for



PITTSFIELD TOWN LIBRARY



PLYMOUTH TOWN LIBRARY

several years; for the past four years and at present time, Mrs. Marion Eastman serves in that capacity. Gifts to the library have not been very many but always appreciated. The rooms occupied at the present time will need to be enlarged in a few years, as the shelf room will be insufficient.

The trustees at the present time feel that the library is supplied with a good variety of books from standard authors (about 1,450 in all) and well up to date, histories, biographies, travels, books of reference, etc. As books of fiction are the only class much read, we endeavor to obtain the best works of this kind. The library does not receive the patronage it should, but it is increasing.

PLAISTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1896 the new Town Hall at Plaistow was completed, and in that building were three rooms set aside for the use of the library, a book room, delivery room and reading room. With the money given by the state a nucleus was formed for a library. It was opened December, 1896. The following year Mrs. Albert Titcomb of Newburyport, who was Miss Hetta Clement, furnished the reading room very handsomely in memory of her father, Amos G. Clement, who was a prominent citizen, and at the same time hung a fine portrait of Mr. Clement on the wall. At various times others were presented. Arthur G. Pollard of Lowell, who was a native of Plaistow, has been a constant benefactor of the library since its organization. He has given several hundred books, a fine oak desk for the use of the librarian, and we are just now in receipt of five hundred complete and attractive catalogues as a gift from him.

Last year he hung a beautiful painting of his father, Col. Joseph Pollard, who was a native of Plaistow, in the reading room. Each year since the opening of the library the town has appropriated one hundred dollars towards the support. We are frequently remembered with some gift of one or more books, which have helped to swell the number until we now

have two thousand volumes. Our little library is a source of pleasure to the citizens of Plaistow, who are proud of it.

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

To the young women of Plymouth the town is indebted for the establishment of its library. In the summer of 1873 a number of young women, who were associated in social life, discussed the project of founding a circulating library, hoping that a free public library would eventually succeed a modest but substantial beginning. Encouraged by the advice and support of Senator Blair and other good citizens of Plymouth, their plans were enlarged and matured, and September 2, 1873, the Young Ladies' Library Association was organized. The original membership was fourteen, but is now limited to thirty. They had no books or money with which to purchase them, but by conducting fairs and entertainments a generous sum of money was raised, books were purchased, and early in 1874 the library was opened. Those who enjoyed the benefit of the library paid one dollar annually, and to enlarge the sum for the purchase of books the young ladies, with much tact and success, made many appeals to the public.

In 1875, Capt. John Bertram of Salem, Mass., while sojourning at the Penningwasset House, became interested in their work and expressed his approbation in a donation of five hundred dollars. A portrait of the donor is hung in the library. In 1876 Senator Blair purchased the first court house in Plymouth, in which Daniel Webster made his first plea, which was later used as a wheelwright shop, and gave it to the association to be used for a library.

In 1896 the town made a contract with the association, agreeing to pay a certain sum of money annually with an additional appropriation for new books, in order to establish it upon the basis of a free public library.

Thus the association has the general management of the library, subject to the approval of the trustees chosen by the town.

The library contains about 3,800 volumes and its circulation for the last biennial period was 18,023 volumes.

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1881. It has not received state aid but is a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains 20,402 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 85,569 volumes. It has a permanent fund of twenty thousand dollars. The city appropriates twenty-three hundred dollars annually for its support. It has its own building.

RANDOLPH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains about five hundred volumes, and its circulation is 350 volumes. It has no separate building.

RAYMOND FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains about 1,100 volumes, and its circulation is 1,730 volumes biennially. It is located in a dwelling-house.

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the annual meeting in March, 1892, the town voted to accept the offer of one hundred dollars by the state to establish a free public library in this town. They proceeded to elect three library trustees, i. e., Almon Twitcheil, Asa H. Bullock, and Sylvester A. Daniels. The books were received from the state in December following, consisting of ninety-five volumes. In January, 1893, the library was opened to the public in the Town Hall, where it is still kept. The day and the hour of opening is Saturday, from one to six o'clock. In October, 1895, the books of the North Richmond Social Library, consisting of about four hundred volumes, were added. We have received some money from entertainments, and, with what the town has appropriated, have added a few

books each year, and now have 1,052 volumes exclusive of reports. Essie M. Whipple was chosen librarian by the trustees, serving two months, since which time Sarah H. Twitchell has been the librarian. There have been a few books donated by a former resident of the town and some by residents. The present trustees are Asa H. Bullock, Leason Martin, Almon Twitchell.

INGALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, RINDGE.

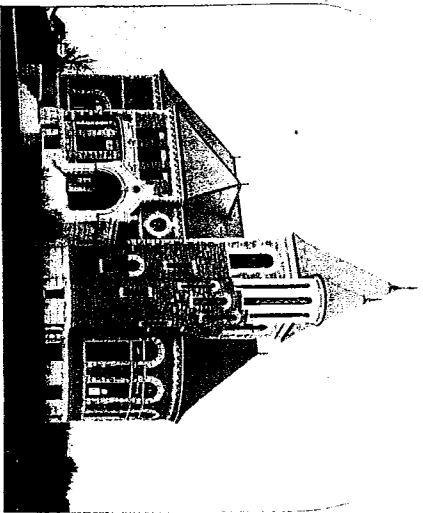
The town of Rindge voted at its March meeting, 1893, to accept offered state aid, and received one hundred dollars' worth of books for the founding of a free public library. Additions were made by purchase and by gifts until the number of books was about three hundred.

In June, 1894, the town voted to accept a proposal from Hon. Rodney Wallace of Fitchburg, Mass., to present a library building worth at least five thousand dollars to the town, if the town would raise a fund of one thousand dollars for its support and raise five hundred dollars for the purchase of books. Accordingly the building was erected at a cost that far exceeded the promised five thousand dollars, and on June 13, 1895, presented to the town and dedicated with appropriate exercises. Mr. Wallace also presented the town with one thousand dollars, the income to be used in caring for the library and grounds, and five hundred dollars for the purchase of books.

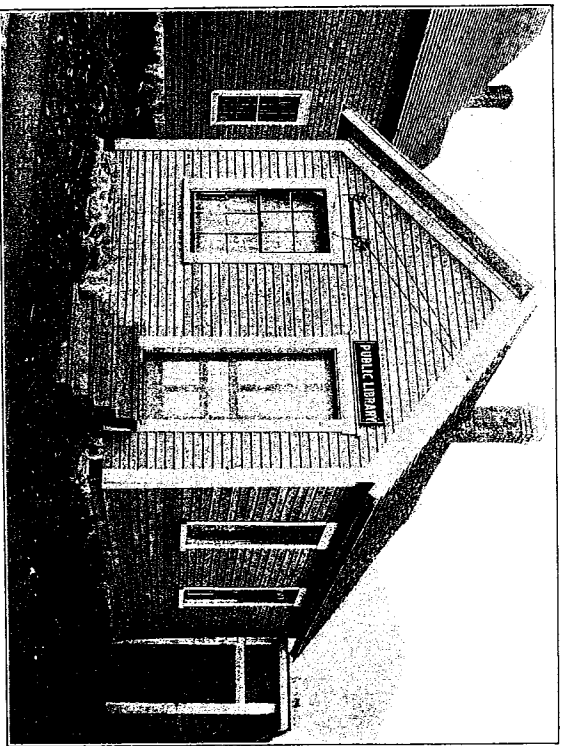
The library is in the modern Romanesque style, forty by forty-seven feet, of brick and sandstone, set upon a granite foundation. It is named the Ingalls Memorial Library in memory of Thomas Ingalls, one of the foremost citizens of Rindge, whose daughter married the generous donor.

"It stands on historic ground. Here lived Col. Nathan Hale, here was sheltered the first Rindge Library, and here Thomas Ingalls lived and died."

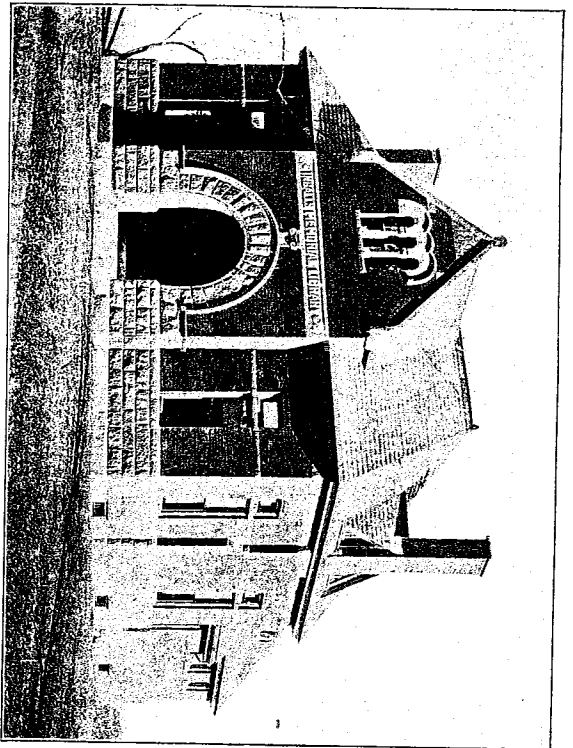
It contains a reading room, well supplied with standard magazines, and an art room, where hang fine portraits in oil of Thomas Ingalls and Rodney Wallace.



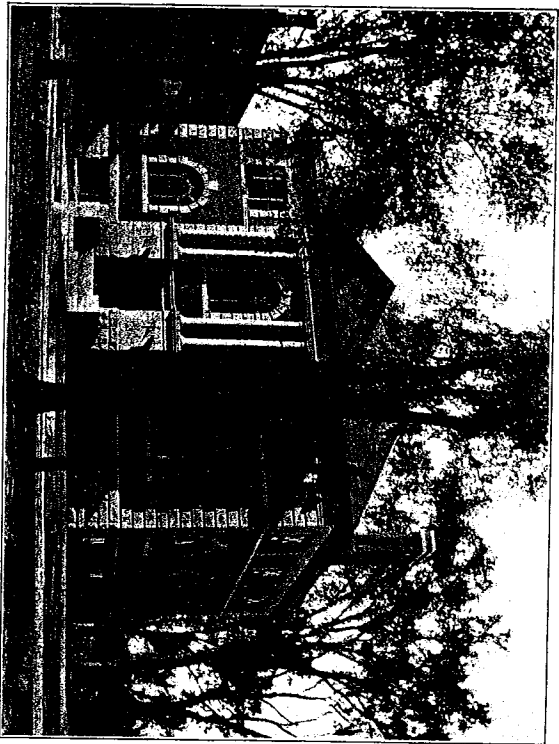
LACONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY



LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY



INGALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, RINDGE



ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The second story contains a large, well-lighted room, which is used for a museum of natural history, articles of historic interest and curiosities.

The book room is equipped with bookcases capable of accommodating some forty-five hundred books.

The town raises annually a sum of money for the library, and from time to time valuable gifts of money and books are received from the trustees, old residents of the town, and others.

The library is free to all inhabitants of the town and to visitors; and all patrons have free access to the shelves. It is open on Wednesdays and Saturday afternoons and evenings.

Teachers and students are allowed special privileges, and care is taken to provide books suited to school use.

A catalogue according to the decimal system was printed in 1896, and supplements are issued every year if possible.

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Rochester Public Library first opened its doors to the public January 22, 1894. On its shelves were 2,429 volumes, the gift of the Rochester Social Library Association, an organization which had been in existence since early in 1792.

Months had been spent in looking up methods and in preparation, that the library might have the best arrangement and equipment possible. The Dewey decimal classification, with a few modifications, was adopted, a card catalogue begun, and the card pocket system used for charging books. In fact, all of the most approved methods and conveniences were adopted as far as practicable.

The editor of one of our local papers has said: "It is doubtful if there is another Carnegie library in the United States that is the equal of this one in proportion to its cost." The new building was opened without form or ceremony, and work resumed October 2, 1905, the library hours being from 2 to 9 P. M.

The growth of the library, dependent as it has been upon city appropriations, which have never exceeded two thousand dollars per year, has been of necessity somewhat slow. It numbers today 10,108 volumes.

It has been the aim of the librarian and trustees to make the library a live factor in the educational interests of the city as well as a source of recreation and amusement.

BYRON G. MERRILL LIBRARY, RUMNEY.

The library was established in 1877. It received state aid under the laws of 1891 and became a free public library.

The library building was presented to the town by Miss Adelaide J. Merrill of Concord, N. H., in memory of her father, Byron G. Merrill, who was born in this town, and where he spent his boyhood days. The building was dedicated October 17, 1904. On the ground floor are two reading rooms, reference room, stack room and delivery room. The reading rooms are supplied with thirty-eight magazines and papers, monthly, semi-monthly, weekly and daily. These are subscribed for by Miss Merrill. The magazines are allowed to be circulated, a privilege many of the people enjoy. In the basement is a lecture room and vault for the town books.

The library is open a part of every day but Sunday: four evenings, two afternoons and one forenoon.

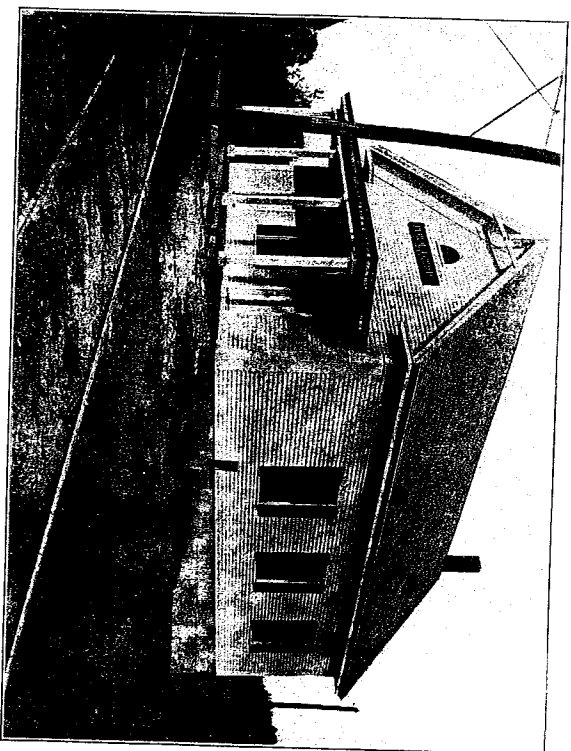
The library contains 2,526 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 7,197 volumes. It has a permanent fund of \$1,511.04.

SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

With a small appropriation by the town and the gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books by the state, the generosity of citizens and former residents of the town, the Salem public library was established with nearly six hundred volumes, February 17, 1894, in a small room in the Town House, which had been fitted up for the purpose. As the library was steadily growing this room soon became too small, and



BYRON G. MERRILL LIBRARY, RUMNEY



SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

when the new school building was ready for occupancy, which was in the autumn of 1895, the old schoolhouse building was repaired and the books removed there. This is its present home. Mr. William Crowell was the chief worker in founding the library, and Ernest L. Silver the first librarian, who resigned after filling the office a little more than a year, when the present librarian, Susan A. Gulf, assumed the duties.

The library now contains 1,986 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 10,025 volumes. It has a permanent fund of four hundred and sixty dollars.

SALISBURY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1897 with state aid. It contains 650 volumes. It is located in a dwelling-house.

SANBORNTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Since the time when special action was taken by the state in the interest of "free public libraries for towns," and up to 1903, a familiar article appeared annually in the town meeting warrant, viz., "To see if the town will vote to establish a town library, etc.," and as often it was voted, "inexpedient to establish."

The reasons given were, that the town was divided into several small hamlets, and that the people were too scattered and too far from the center, and, furthermore, that their business was more with surrounding towns, even than in their own. This in some respects might be true; but in the 1903 meeting it was argumentatively considered that Sanbornton was one of the very, very few towns in the state without a public library. A quick sentiment with unpremeditated design possessed the voters, and with a good majority the town voted for a library. The selectmen made the appropriation required by law; the trustees regularly chosen came into line receiving the nucleus of their library,—the free gift of books from the state. The library was opened at Sanbornton Square, the old town center, with Dr. George C. Ward appointed librarian. Everything was properly arranged for

business in his office, Mr. Ward also being town clerk at that time. Most of the books were bought, a few given and added to the state gift, and, though now in its infancy, an increasing interest is manifested, and when this library shall have attained age with others we think it will compare well with the country towns.

The collection of books is small, but they are all being well read by many citizens throughout the whole town. Mr. Ward leaving Sanbornton for quite a time last year, a new librarian, Winnie M. Payne, was chosen, and upon receipt of Mr. Ward's resignation, the library was moved to the house of her father, William F. Payne, where it is now located and is still at Sanbornton Square. The present board of trustees are as follows: Frank H. Hunkins, Myrtle A. Hill, Edwin W. Lane.

The financial report of the library, published February 15, 1906, showed a cash balance of \$75.99, and adding the present assessment, \$62.10, we have the total means of \$138.09.

SANDOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

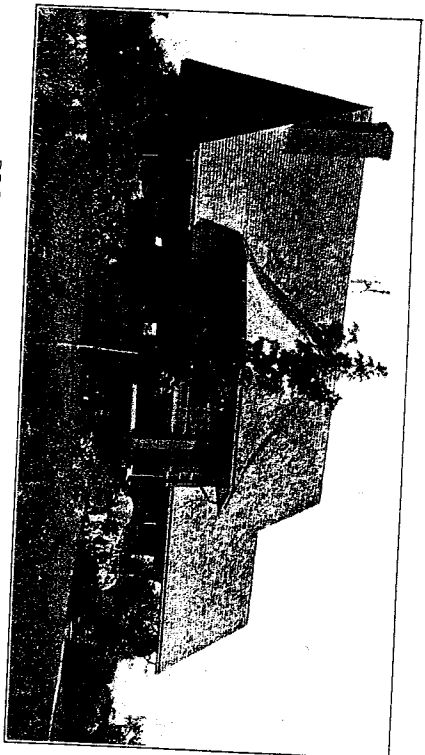
The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains 549 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 1,800 volumes. It has a separate building.

SANDWICH FREE LIBRARY.

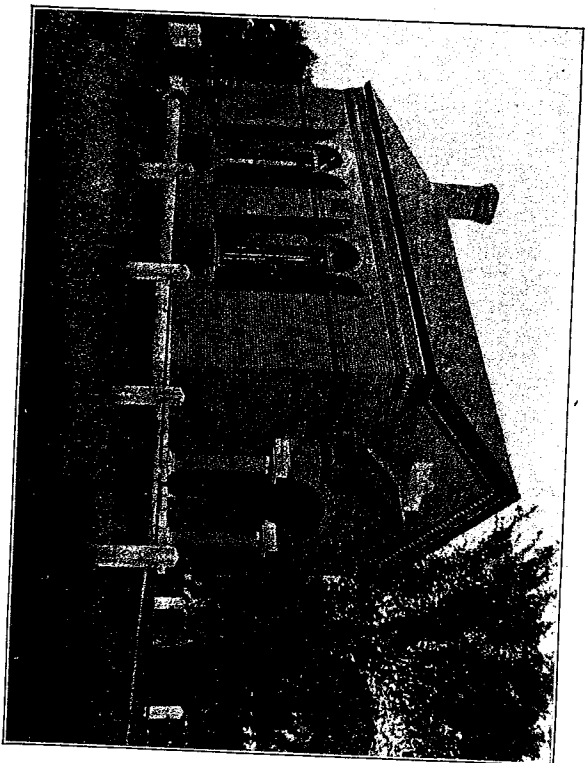
The library was established in 1899 with state aid. It contains 2,597 volumes, 1,400 volumes of which were placed in its custody by the Sandwich Library Association at the time of its establishment. The association was established in 1884. Its biennial circulation is 9,652 volumes. It has a separate building.

BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, SEABROOK.

In November, 1890, Mrs. C. P. Jackson, assisted by several other women of Seabrook, inaugurated a public reading room at her residence, and gave the use of her library. Brown Memorial Library is the outgrowth of that movement. A



BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY, SEABROOK



STRATTON FREE LIBRARY, SWANZEY

society composed wholly of women, known as the Reading Room Circle, was formed and seventy-five volumes were collected, when Mr. Sewall Brown of Salem, Mass., a native of Seabrook, generously donated one hundred and seventy-five volumes and one hundred dollars toward a building fund.

In January, 1892, Mr. Brown suddenly died, and his cousin, Mr. David Pingree of Salem, wishing to perpetuate the memory of the deceased, proposed to erect a suitable building, which was accordingly built and gratefully accepted. The building was pleasantly situated on the main street. It is a one-story structure of wood, twenty-five by forty-two feet, with a bay window seven and one half by thirty feet, and a porch eleven by twelve feet. It contains a waiting room and one large room fitted up for a reading room and stack room, the two separated by a low balustrade. The cornerstone was laid in September, 1892, and the building finished in September, 1893. Meanwhile the Reading Room Circle had become incorporated as the Brown Library Association. The building was formally dedicated September 12, 1893, as the Brown Memorial Library, and passed into the possession of the Brown Library Association. The library then numbered four hundred volumes. Mr. Pingree has since given a total of about 1,625 volumes, selected with great discrimination, which have been card-catalogued by an expert.

The library has received many other substantial proofs that his interest has never waned. In January, 1896, Mr. Pingree and his two sisters gave one thousand five hundred and seventy dollars as a permanent fund, the same being their mother's share in the estate of Augustus S. Brown.

Other donations of books have been received, and the library now contains 2,116 volumes, exclusive of government and state reports. The library is free and has received no aid from the state or town.

SHARON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains about five hundred volumes. It has no separate building.

SOMERSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Sixty-five years ago the citizens of Somersworth established a public circulating library under the name of Manufacturers' and Village Library. Eight years later, in 1849, an association was organized under the statutes, and became a kind of corporation.

In August, 1888, Isaac Chandler, one of the original incorporators, gave to the library a lease for ninety-nine years of the second story of a new business block on Orange street, to be used as a library. Through the munificence of Henry J. Furber, Esq., of Chicago, a former resident of Somersworth, these rooms were furnished in a way to afford excellent accommodations for the library, which at that time contained over eight thousand volumes. On payment of one dollar per year any person had the privilege of reading these books.

In 1899 the Manufacturers' and Village Library was decided to the city and became a free public library. This gave the people a new interest in it, and it has continued to grow in popularity and usefulness. It contains at present 10,856 volumes, and its annual circulation is 20,000 volumes.

SPRINGFIELD TOWN LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid. It contains about three hundred volumes. It does not have a separate building.

STARK FREE LIBRARY.

The library was established nearly forty years ago as a subscription library, but a few years later it was turned over to the town as a free public library upon condition that the town raise fifty dollars per year for its support. It did not receive state aid. It contains 1,797 volumes. It is located in the Town Hall.

STEWARTSTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1898 with state aid. It contains about eight hundred volumes. It has no separate building.

STODDARD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At the annual meeting March, 1892, the town voted to accept state aid under the laws of 1891 in relation to public libraries, and raised a small sum to provide library cases suitable for a beginning, and also voted to use the selectmen's room in the Town Hall as a library. A board of library trustees was elected at the same time, one for two years, one for one year.

About the first of December following, one hundred and three volumes were received from the state; sixty volumes were presented to the library that had been previously bought by subscription with the intention of forming a library association, conditioned on payment of fees by all borrowers. The volumes were selected from the town clerk's supply, and one volume presented as a Christmas present made the start.

With the 175 volumes on the shelves the library was opened to the public on the thirty-first day of December, 1892. March, 1899, the town voted to finish a section of the Town Hall for a library room, making a separate and more commodious room which will be suitable for several years.

The library now contains 810 volumes.

STRAFFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1894 with state aid. It contains 1,027 volumes, and has a biennial circulation of 4,323 volumes. It is located in a dwelling-house.

STRATHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was an outgrowth of a subscription library which came into the possession of the town in 1891. In 1896 it received aid from the state. It contains 2,054 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 3,500 volumes. It occupies a room in the Town Hall.

SULLIVAN PUBLIC FREE LIBRARY.

This library was established in December, 1893. The Town Hall not being considered by the trustees a suitable

place, it was located in the dwelling-house of Mason A. Nims, where a suitable room was devoted to its occupancy, in which it still remains. In accordance with the provisions of chapter 8, sections 21-26, of the Public Statutes, the state aided by the gift of one hundred dollars' worth of books, 103 volumes, to which were added at various times 232 more, making a total of 335 volumes upon our shelves at present. The trustees appointed Mrs. Ann S. Nims librarian, and she still holds the office.

The library is free to all residents of the town signing an agreement to conform to its rules and regulations. The town annually appropriates at its town meeting money for its maintenance and enlargement, usually more than required by law.

SUNAPEE TOWN LIBRARY.

This library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,208 volumes, and its circulation for the last biennial period was 5,337 volumes. It is in the room back of the postoffice. It has a reading room connected, which is well supplied with the best periodicals of the day.

REED FREE LIBRARY, SURRY.

The sum of ninety-five hundred dollars was given to the town of Surry, N. H., in the year 1880, forty-five hundred dollars of which was for the purpose of paying the debt accrued during the Civil War, and five thousand dollars for the establishment of a free public library. The donors were Charles and Gideon Reed, who generously paid the debt, and presented the library as a memorial to their father, the late David Reed. This library fund was vested in the hands of the trustees appointed by the donors.

About one half of the lower floor of the Town Hall building was fitted up for the library at the expense of two hundred dollars, eight hundred volumes were purchased at an expense of a little over one dollar per volume, and the library

was opened to the public January 1, 1881, to be known as the Reed Free Library.

Mary E. Wilcox was the first librarian, who later married F. F. Field. She died in July, 1899, and her husband, who still holds the office, was chosen as her successor.

At the time of the opening of the library in 1881 the town had a population of three hundred and twenty-six; at present there are about two hundred. Notwithstanding this decrease there has been a gradual increase in the circulation of books. This circulation has for the last few years averaged seventy-five, or more than one book for every three people, and in character over one half were works other than fiction.

The fund of four thousand dollars, aside from one thousand dollars spent in books and necessary repairs, was placed in the two savings banks in the adjoining city of Keene. These banks failed in 1893, paying in irregular dividends up to the present time about seventy-five per cent of the original fund, with no interest upon the same.

The low rate per cent leaves, after paying the annual insurance fee of twenty-two dollars, but little over sixty dollars for the yearly purchase of books.

The library now contains about 3,100 volumes.

SUTTON FREE LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1868. It did not receive state aid, but is nevertheless a free public library. It contains 811 volumes. It is located in a dwelling-house.

STRATTON FREE LIBRARY, WEST SWANZEY.

The first idea of the establishment of this institution occurred to Mr. Stratton, as near as he can remember, about twenty-five years ago, when, although leading a professional life, he was still a diligent student. The much hard studying he was obliged to do after he was twenty years of age, which ought to have been done between ten and fifteen, led him to declare that sometime he would establish a free public library in his native village, with plenty of good books, so if some

young boy of talent and energy had the same strong desire as himself for obtaining information, he should not go through the suffering because there were no books nor people to give him assistance.

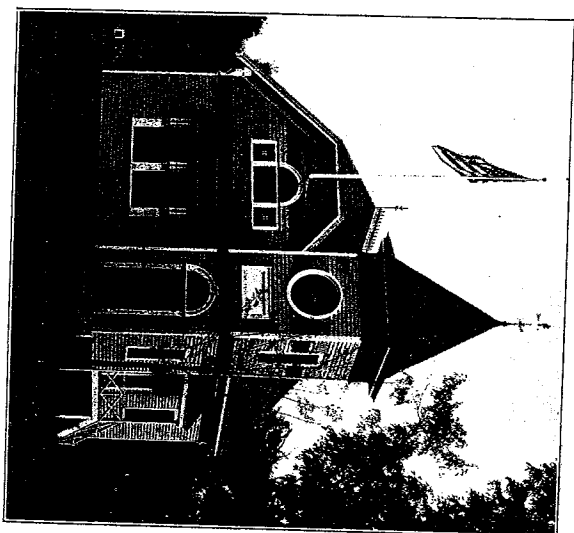
In July, 1884, upon Mr. Stratton's arrival from Europe, after a stay of some over two years, he brought with him complete drawings of the building, which he had made the previous year, copying his plans from different public buildings examined by him in Italy and Germany, and decided that the structure should go up at once.

The plans of the building, Roman architecture, which he had drawn, were carried out in all their details. Mr. W. J. Wentworth, architect, of Boston, was engaged to superintend its construction, and from the rough pencil drawings of Mr. Stratton, the plans were enlarged and drawn in a professional manner, from which the work could progress.

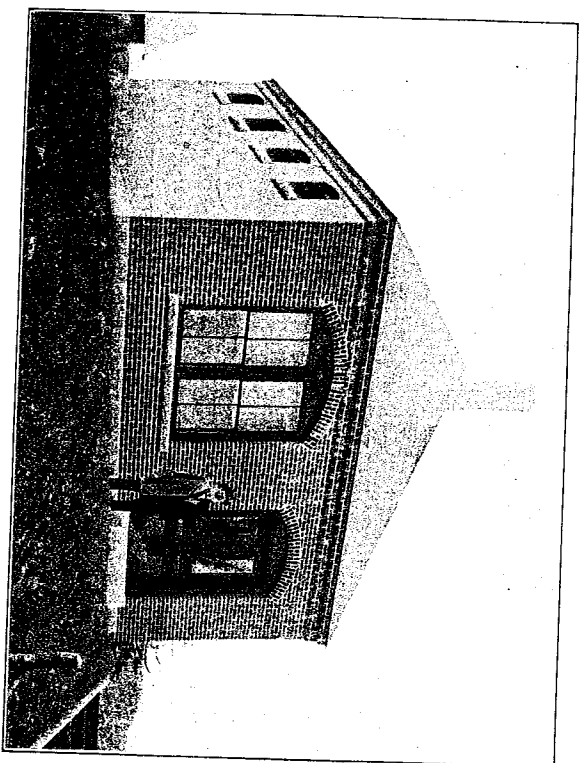
The building is forty feet long, twenty-five feet wide, walls eighteen feet high, with arched ceilings twenty-two feet high. The walls are eighteen inches thick, and of the best brick work. The floor is of large slabs of marble, four feet long, three feet wide, and three inches thick, resting on piers which are sunk as low as the foundation, so it can never get out of level. The roof is of slate, and the window shutters of solid iron. The walls are plastered on to the solid brick work. It will be readily seen that only the slightest amount of wood-work is used in the construction of the building, and it can be safely said that it is fireproof. The two pillars of the portico, of red granite, polished as glass, were made to order in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The land for the building was purchased by the residents of the village, and presented to Mr. Stratton, who fully appreciated and recognized their kindness and generosity. It is situated in the very best part of the village, and on an elevation.

Regarding the cost of the building and its contents, the exact amount can never be known on account of the unusual manner in which the pictures were produced and collected.



COOK LIBRARY, TAMWORTH



MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY, TEMPLE

It may be safely stated, however, from what is known, that when the cost of everything is reckoned, the amount will be fully ten thousand dollars.

The dedication took place on Tuesday, September 15, at eleven o'clock. It was arranged that the exercises in the building at this hour should be of the simplest nature, and brief, on account of the laborious musical performance, under the direction of the donor, which was to follow.

Rev. S. G. Abbott was invited to preside, and remarks were made by him, Mr. G. W. Stratton, Dr. G. I. Cutler, Hon. Isaac Stratton, and Mr. A. S. Kimball, closing with prayer and benediction.

The musical exercises connected with the dedication were given at City Hall in Keene in the evening, when Mr. Stratton's second opera, "Genevieve," was produced under his direction, with the Germania Orchestra and several solo singers from Boston.

The library contains 2,732 volumes and a valuable collection of music and pictures.

TAMWORTH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was established February 1, 1893, receiving aid for its establishment from the state under the laws of 1891, chapter 8, and John D. Boyden, Edward S. Pollard, and Horace A. Page were elected trustees. The sum of fifty dollars was voted for expenses for the following year.

Mr. Page, the third man on the board of trustees, acted as librarian until April 1 of the same year, when Mrs. Lucy A. Cook was chosen and appointed as librarian, and has held the office until the present time.

At first a small room in the Town Hall was fitted up at a trifling expense as a library, and was used for that purpose until the spring of 1895. Then the library was presented with a new building by Mrs. Susan B. Cook, widow of Tom. Charles B. Cook, who was for many years identified with the business interests of the town, having been many times on

the board of selection and had represented the town in the state legislature.

The building was given as a memorial to her late husband and is known as the Cook Library. The reading room is one of the prettiest in the state, being finished in southern pine overhead and is wainscoted three feet from the floor with the same.

The furniture for this room was given by summer guests, who held a fair, and with the funds purchased it.

There are some twenty-five volumes in this library that were originally property of the so called "Social Library," established in Tamworth in 1796.

This town has the honor to be the third town in the state to have a public library. We have never asked our summer guests to pay for the use of books taken from our library, as is the custom in so many of the surrounding towns, and we think it pays to be generous in this respect, as people are very generous with us.

One of our summer residents, Dr. William Rollins of Boston, has donated over one hundred and thirty volumes to this library during the last year.

From a library of 212 books at its establishment in 1893 it has increased to 1,543 volumes, and has upon its reading room table the *Outlook*, *Scribners*, the *Atlantic*, *Success*, and the *Cosmopolitan*, and has good prospect of still greater prosperity in the years to come.

MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY, TEMPLE.

Somewhere from 1790 to 1800 the Columbar Library was founded and the members were assessed a dollar a share annually for the benefit of the library. This arrangement continued until the death of Rev. Mr. Miles, the pastor of the town, in 1832. The library gradually fell into "innocuous desuetude," and about 1842 it was sold. At a later period, David Franklin Felt, a native of Temple, presented to the town a set of Appleton's Cyclopaedia as the nucleus of a library. Other books were presented by individuals, or by

the state or the United States government. These books were stored at the residence of the minister. At the March meeting in 1889, the matter of resurrecting the library was laid before the town, and a vote was passed appropriating fifty dollars for that purpose, the books on hand were removed to the town hall, bookcases provided, and a librarian appointed. During the year books were added by purchase or gifts. At the annual meeting in March, 1890, another equal appropriation was made for the same purpose as before. Early in the year Solon Mansfield, Esq., a resident citizen, offered to give one thousand dollars for the erection of a fireproof library building; provided that the town would lay the foundation. The offer was accepted and a commodious and substantial structure was erected.

The building was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1890. A circular letter of appeal was sent to various persons, natives and former residents of Temple, soliciting donations of money and books for the benefit of the library. In response to this request several gifts of more or less value were presented by various persons during the year following the opening of the new building.

Our library received state aid (under the laws of 1891), and we have had generous donations since; also the town has appropriated nearly every year fifty dollars, and we now have 3,240 volumes.

TILTON AND NORTFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In 1885 ten thousand dollars was presented to the towns of Tilton and Northfield by Mrs. Mary Hall Cummings of Woburn, Mass., to establish the Hall Memorial Library in memory of her late husband, Adino Brackett Hall, M. D., of Boston, a native of Northfield. The only condition of the gift was that the towns should furnish a suitable site for the building.

The lot selected was situated in Northfield, and was the property of Mrs. Charles E. Tilton, who not only gave the land, but had it graded and trees set out upon it.

On its completion, the library was decided to trust to Hon. C. E. Tilton, A. S. Ballantyne, and Mrs. Eliza Coffin, as a free public library for the two towns. An association was formed, by-laws adopted, and an agreement made between the trustees and association as to the use and care of the building. Fifteen hundred dollars was contributed for books by citizens of the two towns, and nearly one thousand books were presented by Mrs. Cummings.

The building was formally opened October 26, 1887. Since that time the library has been liberally patronized by residents of both towns, and an annual appropriation has been made for its support.

In 1903 the books were classified according to the Dewey system and recatalogued, the card catalogue being used.

The library now contains 5,472 volumes, and its annual circulation is 14,600 volumes.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 1,337 volumes. It has no separate building.

TUFTONBOROUGH FREE LIBRARY.

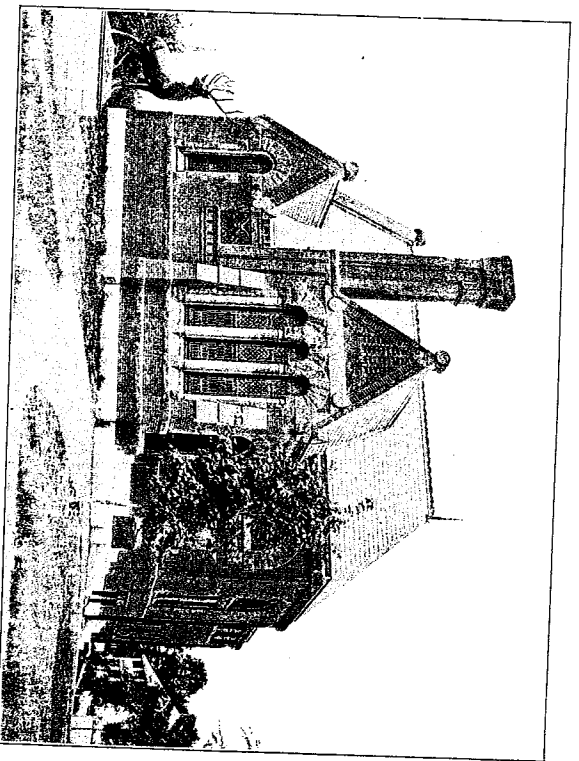
The library was established in 1898 with state aid. It contains 1,100 volumes. It has no separate building.

UNITY FREE LIBRARY.

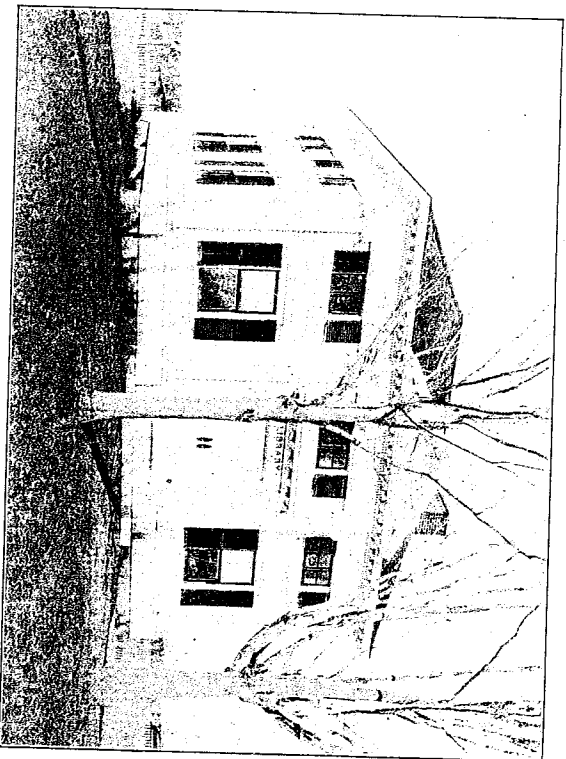
The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 557 volumes, and its annual circulation is 700 volumes. It is divided and located in the postoffice buildings in three villages in the town.

WAKEFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1894 without state aid. It is a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains 3,536 volumes. Its building was erected by the Hon. Seth Low. It has a permanent income of two hundred dollars.



TILTON-NORTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY



WAKEFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

WALPOLE TOWN LIBRARY.

The Walpole Town Library dates its beginning from a vote of the town meeting in March, 1854, accepting the offer of the Walpole Library Association to present their library of between five hundred or six hundred volumes of well selected books to the town on condition that the town should raise two hundred dollars in two years to be expended in books for the use of the town. The library association was incorporated by act of legislature in 1823 and had been in active operation for thirty years. Many of the prominent citizens of the town were members. The town library thus formed has been maintained by the town to the present time by annual appropriation, which, however, was suspended for a few years during the War of the Rebellion, although the running expenses were paid by the town even at that time. Hon. Frederick Yose, Thomas G. Wells, and Thomas Bellows were the first committee. Thomas B. Hultram was the first librarian, and the books were kept in his store until the building was destroyed by fire in February, 1859, with the loss of a large number of volumes which were made good by insurance. Succeeding librarians have been George Aldrich, Artemas R. Johnson, Miss Fannia M. Ball, 1866-1870; Miss Louise A. Pierce, 1870-1873; Ransom L. Ball, 1873-1883; Miss Flora M. Crowell, 1883-1885; Ransom L. Ball, 1885-1890; Miss Louise B. Hayward, 1890-1891; Miss Annette Brown, 1891-1895; Miss Louise B. Hayward, 1895-1897; Miss Frances M. Sabin, 1897 to the present time. In 1891 Hudson Elliot Bridge erected the Bridge Memorial Library and presented it to the town in memory of his father, Hudson E. Bridge of St. Louis, a native of Walpole. The library was opened in the new building October 3, 1891, with 4,691 volumes. The reading room was supplied with a good assortment of periodicals from a fund raised by subscription. This fund has been kept up to the present time. The number of volumes has been increased by gift and purchase 8,786, in March, 1906. In 1897 a card catalogue was completed and

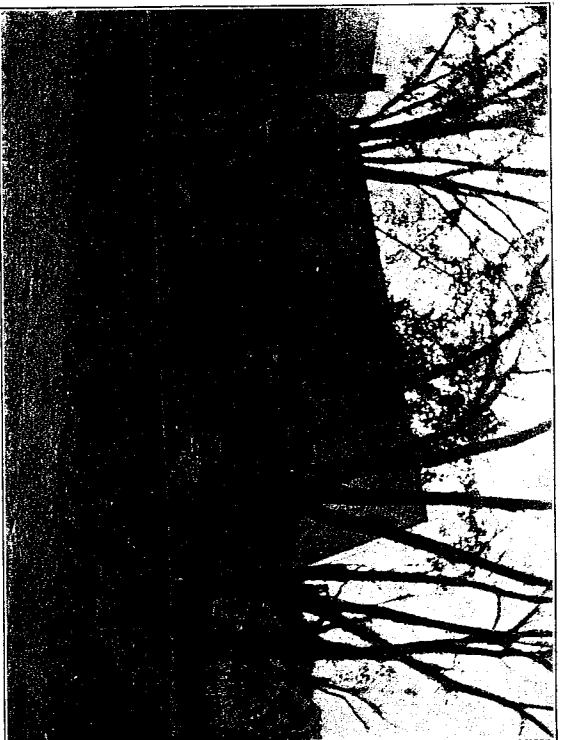
the card system is the one now in use. In 1899 a branch library was established in North Walpole and a smaller branch is maintained in Drewsville. In 1904 the building was wired for electric lights by the liberality of Mr. Bridge. In 1903 the town received a legacy of five hundred dollars, bequeathed by Mrs. Frances A. Carpenter, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books. In 1904 Josiah W. Stearns bequeathed to the town thirty-five hundred dollars, the income of which is to be used for the benefit of the library, but will not be available during the lifetime of Mr. Stearns' former housekeeper. The use of books has increased steadily since the erection of the library building. The number of volumes taken out in 1905, in the main library, North Walpole and Drewsville, was 10,290. The annual appropriation has increased from three hundred and fifty dollars in 1892 to five hundred dollars in 1906.

An interesting feature of the library is the cabinet containing a collection of about fifty volumes printed and published in Walpole from 1794 to 1815. As far as known this is the largest collection of Walpole books in existence, and probably could not be duplicated, certainly not without great trouble and expense.

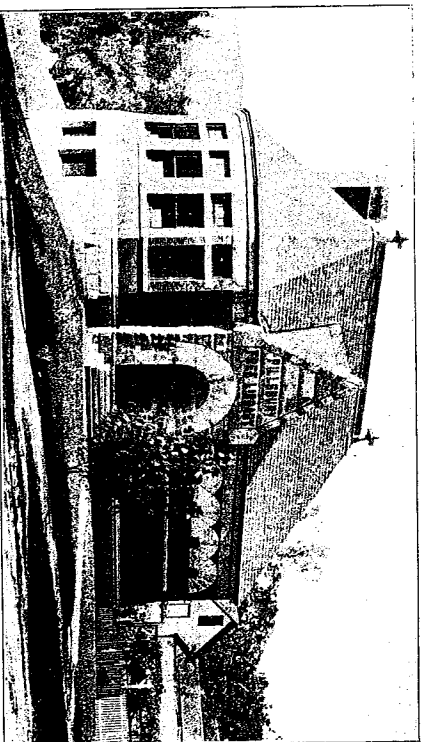
PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY, WARNER.

The Pillsbury Free Library of Warner, N. H., was founded in 1891, by Hon. George A. Pillsbury and family. Mr. Pillsbury was born in Sutton, N. H., in 1816, and became a resident of Warner in 1840. He was engaged in the mercantile business in this town until 1852, when he removed to Concord, N. H. He was a resident of the latter place until 1878, since which time he has resided in Minneapolis, Minn., where he has large business interests.

The building is beautifully located in Warner Village at the corner of Main and Depot streets. The site was given by Hon. N. G. Ordway, a native and resident of Warner. The architect was Harry W. Jones of Minneapolis, Minn.



BRIDGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WALPOLE



PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY, WARNER

The building is of Romanesque Gothic style of architecture. It is built of red pressed brick and granite, with a slate roof and copper trimmings. The construction is fireproof; the floor beams are of iron with brick arches between. In the basement are two rooms separated by a brick wall, the boiler room and a larger room assigned for the reception of anti-quarian articles and other matters of value and interest that may from time to time be donated to the institution. In the upper story are the stack room, the delivery room, and the reading room. Sliding doors separate the stack room from the more public portion of the building. Both the main rooms are arched by barrel vault ceiling, twenty feet in height from the floor, which at the same time forms a truss for the roof. The interior finish is of oak, with a wainscoting around the reading room to the height of eight feet above the floor. The lower story is reached by an iron staircase.

A large fireplace, with granite trimmings, welcomes the visitor upon entering the building; a paneled mantel over the fireplace extending to the height of thirteen feet from the floor. Broad settees are provided on either side of the reading room for lounging and reading. The windows have stained glass transoms, and the front door is ornamented with a rich light of opalescent mosaic glass.

The stack room is arranged with alcoves, with a window in each which affords excellent light for the interior. Abundant shelving is provided in the reading room for reference books.

This free library is well selected, consisting of more than four thousand volumes, the voluntary gift of Mr. Pillsbury and family.

The library at present contains 9,236 volumes, and has a biennial circulation of 16,871 volumes. It has a permanent fund of three thousand dollars.

WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Under the date of February 7, 1798, twenty-nine citizens of the town of Warren, N. H., signed the following:

We, the undersigned, being desirous of having a social library formed in this town, hereby engage to pay Joshua (opp), Esq., the sum of five dollars each, to be by him laid out in the purchase of books, to be kept by one of the subscribers (who shall be chosen librarian), for the use of the subscribers, and will meet at some convenient time and place and form some rules and regulations for the governing said library."

The following year the "Warren and Wentworth Social Library" was incorporated, and the members were called the proprietors of the Warren and Wentworth Social Library. One hundred and fifty-three books were purchased by them. In June, 1844, the books were divided among the proprietors. A few of these books have been given to the present Warren Public Library.

In 1852 or 1853 the Ladies' Library Association was founded, but when the town at its annual meeting, held March 8, 1892, accepted the provisions of the "Act for the establishment and efficiency of Free Public Libraries," the books belonging to the Ladies' Social Library Association (373 in all), were given to the town.

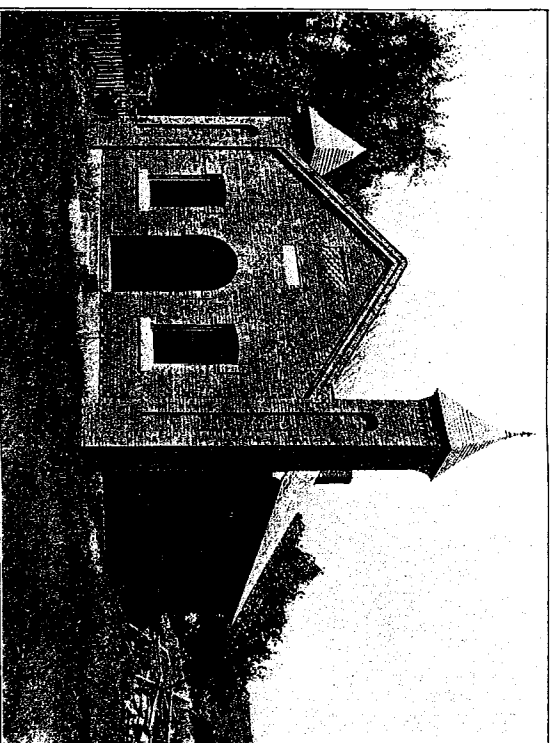
The present library contains 1,345 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 5,769 volumes. It is located in a dwelling-house.

SHEDD FREE LIBRARY, WASHINGTON.

Miss Sarah Shedd donated to her native town, Washington, N. H., the sum of twenty-five dollars to establish a public library, which was called the Shedd Free Library. It was opened to the public October 30, 1869, in a room in a building owned by S. W. Hurd, and contained 292 volumes. The first librarian was Mr. John Weston. In 1881, Mr. L. T. Jette, a native of Washington and a resident of Hudson, Mass., erected a very handsome and substantial brick and stone building which he presented to the town of Washington to be used as a library. The interest of the fund is annually expended to purchase books. At present the whole number



SHEDD FREE LIBRARY, WASHINGTON.



WESTMORELAND FREE LIBRARY

of volumes is 3,649. The library is opened Saturday morning, afternoons and evenings of each week. The present librarian is Mr. A. T. Wright. The library is well patronized by the people, and the benefit received from reading the books cannot be estimated. It not only benefits the young, but also reaches the class of older people who do not have access to schools as a means of improvement, and it is highly appreciated by all classes.

The kindness of Miss Sarah Shedd and Mr. T. T. Telfs in giving to the residents of Washington this means of enjoyment and improvement will always be gratefully remembered. Mrs. Clara M. Hurd was the efficient librarian for twenty years previous to Mr. Wright's incumbency.

WATERVILLE TOWN LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1894 with state aid. It contains four hundred volumes. It is located in Elliott's Hotel.

WEARE FREE LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 2,200 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 4,662 volumes. It has a separate building.

WEBSTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1893 with state aid, and it contains 905 volumes. It has no separate building.

WENTWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

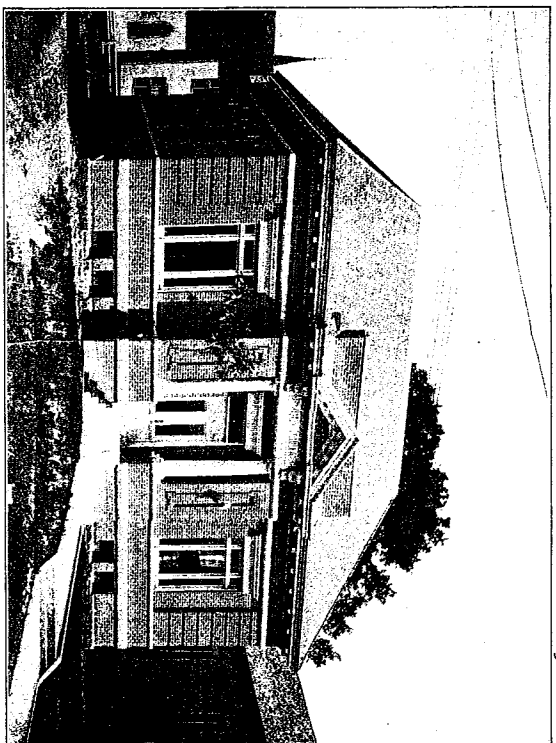
The library was established in 1892 with state aid. It contains 997 volumes, and its biennial circulation is 2,034 volumes. It has a separate building.

MARTHA WOOD BURR PUBLIC LIBRARY, WEST-MORELAND.

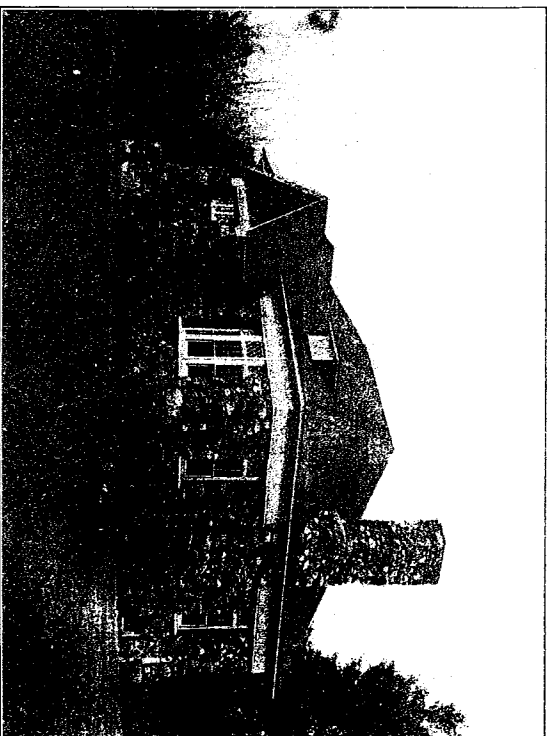
In 1876, Rev. Charles N. Flanders and Willard Bill, Jr., first made a move for a free library in Westmoreland. They devised a plan for raising necessary money for a beginning, by

having a course of twelve lectures; the income therefrom was \$116.21. Mr. Flanders, closing his pastorate in 1878, removed from the town. The money was deposited in the Keene Five Cents Savings Bank by Mr. Bill, as it was deemed inadequate for a beginning for the desired object, where it remained until January 1, 1888, when it amounted to \$148.73. With this sum on hand, an association was formed at this time, and a small fee was charged for the use of the books in order to be able to purchase new books and defray the expenses of the librarian service. At the first meeting of the association held in December, 1887, it was unanimously voted to present the library to the town upon the condition that it should be maintained as a free town library. At the annual town meeting in March, 1888, it was voted to accept the library upon the conditions stated. At this time it was of small extent, and its riches consisted largely of future possibilities. Soon after the Park Hill Library, in keeping of William J. Reed, and the South Library, in keeping of John Cowdery, both of which had been dormant, were turned over to the town library, and a few volumes have been presented by individuals. Previous to 1895, when a law was enacted requiring of towns having libraries to raise thirty dollars on each dollar of its apportionment of public tax for their maintenance, this town generally raised or appropriated annually one hundred dollars therefor. It is now \$62.10. So far this library has virtually been open every day in the week. It has been deemed expedient to make a change in this respect, as may be seen in the new rules and regulations. The library has always been fortunate in having faithful and efficient librarians, to whom much credit is due for its success. Misses Mary and Carrie Warren served as librarians from its inception to 1890. For the three years following, Mrs. Millie E. Shelly served, and from 1893 Mrs. Carrie E. Bryant to the present time.

Thus it will be seen that this library has grown to its present respectable proportions (1,800 volumes) without devise or donation other than named. The labor developed in the



WHITEFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY



NESMITH LIBRARY, WINDHAM

building of the library under the existing circumstances has been considerable, but cheerfully rendered, without other recompense than the purest desire to promote the public good.

WHITEFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Whitefield Public Library was established by vote of the town on March 14, 1893. It received state aid and the gift of about one thousand volumes, which had formed a circulating library owned and managed by the ladies of the town. The library was opened to the public on April, 1893, with about 1,028 books on its shelves. About 5,800 volumes have since been added. The library was classified (Dewey system) in 1897, a comprehensive card catalogue made, and a model catalogue (class and author list) was published. In January, 1898, the publication of an annotated quarterly bulletin was commenced, the first periodical of its kind in the state.

The town voted in 1903 to accept a gift from Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a suitable building for the collection of books, binding itself annually to appropriate seven hundred and fifty dollars for the support of the institution. A modest structure of brick and stone, well adapted to the purpose, is the result. The building is forty-eight feet long by thirty feet. To the left of a delivery room is a well-lighted reading room; to the right is the stack room capable of shelving eighteen thousand books. The stacks are of steel and the room is practically fireproof. A large basement is underneath. By use of the basement the shelving capacity of the library can be nearly doubled.

The library has, from the first, been managed by a board of trustees of the state library, and now a member of the United States Board of Pension Appeals at Washington has been president of the board of trustees since the organization of the library.

WILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

During the years 1871-'72 a fund of two thousand and fifty-nine dollars was collected for the purpose of establishing a public library in Wilton. The same year the town voted to appropriate five hundred dollars annually for its use. About two thousand volumes were collected and catalogues printed.

In 1874 a fire destroyed property belonging to the library amounting to one thousand two hundred and seventy-one dollars, of which about two thirds was made good by insurance. From that time to 1877 the library was not aided by the town, and borrowers were charged a fee of one dollar for its use. In 1877 the town appropriated three hundred dollars, and again the library was made free. In January, 1881, a fire destroyed the library entirely with the exception of a few volumes. The books had been called in for the annual examination, and the few not returned were all that were saved. The loss was over four thousand dollars, and the insurance had just expired.

The funds remaining were then placed in the hands of five trustees appointed by the townspeople, who were interested in collecting the original fund.

In March, 1890, Mr. George A. Newell of Boston, a native and former resident of Wilton, donated one thousand volumes. Mrs. Francis Green of Lowell gave two hundred and fifty dollars. The Ladies' Reading Club gave three hundred volumes, and in April, 1890, the present library was opened with 636 volumes. The town made an appropriation of three hundred dollars, which they have continued up to the present time.

To the efforts of the Ladies' Reading Club, with Miss Martha A. Putnam at its head, the library is largely indebted.

Miss Putnam was the librarian for eight years, and was tireless in her efforts in its behalf. The excellence of the reference department is in a large part due to her good judgment. There are at present 6,719 volumes. Twenty magazines and other periodicals are on the tables. There is no age

limit for the children, who much enjoy the privileges. Special liberties are given teachers and students.

The library is opened on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. A fine commodious building is about to be erected, the gift of Mr. D. A. Gregg of Nashua, a former resident of Wilton. When this is completed it is hoped many improvements will follow.

WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was established in 1813. It has not received state aid, but is a free public library within the meaning of the statute. It contains over six thousand volumes. The annual town appropriation is six hundred and fifty dollars. It has a separate building.

NESMITH LIBRARY, WINDHAM.

In 1871 Colonel Thomas Nesmith of Lowell bequeathed the sum of three thousand dollars to found and perpetuate a free public library in Windham, his native town. The library was to be called the Nesmith Library. A town meeting was called, and the town voted to accept the bequest. Two thousand dollars was immediately expended for books, and the town has the use of the other thousand, paying sixty dollars interest annually, which is used for the purchase of new books according to the provisions of the will. The library was dedicated June 21, 1871, and opened to the free use of all residents of the town June 24, 1871. At that time it contained seven hundred and forty-one volumes. During the fall of 1872 the number was increased to 1,600. At present there are 3,628 volumes, not including government publications and reports.

The first printed catalogue was prepared in March, 1872, by Hiram S. Reynolds and Leonard A. Morrison, two of the trustees. A short time after Mr. Morrison prepared the first supplementary catalogue. The second supplement was compiled in August, 1872, by Cassius S. Campbell; the third by

Mr. Morrison in 1879, and the fourth in 1882. In 1892 the library was entirely recatalogued by Miss Alice L. Anderson and John E. Cochran, two former librarians.

The library occupied a part of the Town Hall in 1899. In 1898 George W. Armstrong of Brookline, Mass., another native of Windham, presented the town with a building for the library. The Armstrong Memorial Building, as it is called, was dedicated January 3, 1899.

BREWSTER LIBRARY, WOLFEBOROUGH.

In March, 1890, Brewster Library was first opened to the public. By a provision of the will of the late John Brewster of Cambridge, Mass., the library was left in trust for the town. It is located in the easterly wing of the Town Hall, and consists of a reading room and a large room lined with alcoves for the books. Both are well lighted and well ventilated.

Fifteen hundred books were on the shelves when the library was opened, and the magazines in the reading room numbered ten. From the first the library has been opened every week day for a few hours, and one or two evenings a week.

As there has been no income from Mr. Brewster's estate for the purchase of books, the number of volumes has remained constant, the gifts having made good the wear and tear.

In March, 1890, the Wolfborough Town Library was established, and since July of that year the efficiency of Brewster Library has been increased by supplementary work done by the town library. The two are run in conjunction.

WOLFEBOROUGH TOWN LIBRARY.

By reason of the fact that the library already existing in Wolfborough had no funds for books, it was thought advisable to establish a town library in accordance with the New Hampshire library law. By a vote of the town at its annual meeting in March of 1900, the New Hampshire law was accepted, and three library trustees were appointed.

By an agreement with the Brewster Library, the new Town Library was placed in the same room with the Brewster Library, thereby saving the expense of equipment, and the two worked in conjunction, each supplementing the other, and one library acting for both.

The plan has worked admirably, and now Wolfborough has in reality one well-equipped library. Even though the annual income is small, the library is growing and is extending its work constantly.