

## **The Hanover Town Library**

### **Did You Know?**

The blueprint for the Hanover Town Library was drawn by Robert Fletcher, director of the Thayer School of Engineering for 47 years and director of the Hanover Water Works Company for almost 40 years. As a member of the board of trustees during the planning phase of the building, he drew up the set of blueprints for a fee of nine dollars.

The Hanover Gazette reported the dedication of the Etna Library at the Old Home Day observance in August, 1905 with speeches by Edward P. Storrs (state legislator, town selectman and superintendent of Hanover Water Works) and Professor Herbert D. Foster, founder of Dartmouth's History Department.

The first librarian at the Hanover Town Library was Thomas W. Praddex, hired in 1902, who presided over the move into the new building and served until his death in 1910. His wife, Nettie Praddex, whose picture hangs in the library, served as librarian from 1910 until 1930.

"The librarian with the cow" displayed at the Etna Library is the fondly remembered Miss Katerina Spencer (Aunt Pat), librarian from 1935 to 1953. She started the "Cowboy Club of Etna" to encourage summertime reading.

In November 1980, a crabapple tree dedicated to the memory of James Champion was planted on the library's front lawn. The tree continues to provide beautiful pink blossoms in the springtime.

In 1996, Frank J. Barrett Jr. succeeded in placing the Hanover Town Library into the National Register of Historic Places. The slate-roofed brick building is finished on the interior with beautiful varnished hazelwood including the shelving and paneled ceiling. In 2005, Dr. Bob Keene built additional shelves that match the warm color and intricate trim of the originals.

Today, the Hanover Town Library, commonly referred to as the Etna Library, is a member of the Libraries of Hanover and all of its materials are included on KnowHowe, the online catalog of the Howe Library. The collection contains about 8,000 books, recorded books and videos. Services include downloadable audios, interlibrary loan, author programs, book groups, preschool story times, events for school-age children, summer programs, and wireless internet connection.