

Aug 5, 1921

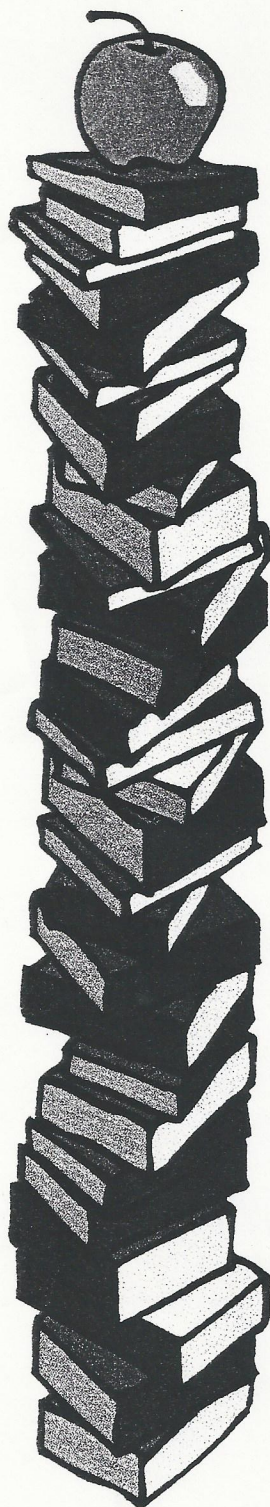
Aug 4, 1996

# OXFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Oxford, New Jersey

### 75th Anniversary

50th ANNIVERSARY



The nucleus of the Oxford Public Library started at a meeting held at Shippen Manor on September 23, 1919, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Valentine. Mrs. Valentine was First President of the library. Mr. Valentine was Superintendent of the Empire Iron & Steel Co., who gave the ground for use of a library and built the library building on Washington Ave. The articles for Incorporation were signed and filed in Belvidere Court House on July 29, 1921, a copy of which is now on file in the library. The library was opened with a tea and open house on August 5, 1921. According to the history of Warren County, the Oxford Public Library is the first public library in the county.

At the beginning, Oxford Library was operated by volunteer service and with donations of money and books by interested persons. It is still run by volunteers with the exception of the librarian. In 1927, the local high school girls organized a fund drive for financial support and new members. In later years it has been funded by donations from local people, the Washington Area Jaycees and a yearly donation from the Oxford P.T.A. For the past few years we have received state aid which in 1972 will be terminated by new state laws. The main financial support through the years has been a yearly allocation from the Township of Oxford. The present allocation is \$1000.

Aside from the monetary donations, the following are a few of the many gifts given to the library: A marble plaque given to the town honoring the fallen heroes of World War I which still holds a place of honor over the front door; chairs donated in 1923 by Mrs. E. G. Lukens, which are still in use; a handmade outdoor sign with the name PUBLIC LIBRARY inscribed, donated by the Boy Scouts in 1947 which is still used to identify our library building. Over the past years we have received donations of books from the Hackettstown and Washington Libraries and interested individuals including the library of the late Mr. & Mrs. David Pressman. The library has also received two original oil paintings by Mr. Lee Cressman depicting two historical landmarks - The Oxford Furnace and The Old Railroad Station.

The Oxford Library has also performed many services and activities. The following is a list of a few; have exhibited various collections loaned by local persons; donated books to the Victory Campaign during World War II and recently made donations of duplicate books to Veterans Hospitals; gave an annual English award at graduation exercises at the Oxford Central School until all awards were terminated by the school board; used the library as a class trip for lower grades; both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have performed services for the library in order to earn badges and credits; poster contests, book mark and cover contests for Book Week have been organized. A story hour has been held at different times through the years. Most recently it has been instituted as a summer program for younger children.

The Oxford Library periodically is loaned all types of books from Warren County Library for use by its members. It also works in conjunction with the Warren County Library to provide the high school students with special request books needed for term papers and special reports. It also stocks many of the books required by the Warren Hills Regional High School summer reading program.

The anniversary has been celebrated every ten years with a public function at the library. This year the 50th anniversary will be observed August 5, 1971 with open house and refreshments at the library building from 2 to 4 P.M. and 6 to 8 P.M.

The present officers and members of the Board are: Mrs. Jerome Rowe, Jr., President; Mrs. Harry White, Vice President; Mrs. Raymond Mantoni, Secretary; Mrs. Walter J. Bibinger, Treasurer; Mrs. Leland Bayliss, Mrs. Wayne Hissim, Mrs. John Kreger, Mrs. Lee Docker, Mr. Patrick J. O'Malley, Principal of Oxford Central School and Mr. Carl Kauffman, Mayor. Mrs. Leland Bayliss who was President of the Library Board for 25 years is now the librarian.

The library is open all year on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 7 P.M.

#### THE NEXT 25 YEARS

#### 75th ANNIVERSARY

There hasn't been a lot of changes in the past 25 years. A third original oil painting by Lee Cressman was donated to the library. This painting is of historical Shippen Manor. The library still receives many excellent books from the residents of Oxford. Through the years the Oxford Lioness Club has donated the large print edition of the Reader's Digest. The estate of Christine Oram donated her library and Rose Ann Colavito has donated a large number of books. The Oxford Quarry donated a Monroe copier to the library. Donation of \$1000.00 was given by Hazel Rush's Estate. Mrs. Hazel Riddle Rush was the first secretary of the Library Association from September 23, 1919 to December 9, 1924.

The main financial support through all the years has been the Township of Oxford with the annual appropriation to the library.

The library participated in the celebration of Oxfords Bi Centennial and the 250th anniversary of The Furnace. The library donated duplicate books and an over flow of paper back books to Warren Haven. The church bulletins of Rev. Yount were donated to Warren County Cultural & Heritage Commission for use at Shippen Manor.

The library building has been maintained, repaired, painted and is in excellent condition.

The 75 years has seen only five Presidents of the Library Board and seven Librarians:

#### Presidents

Mrs. Adele Valentine	Dec. 8, 1919 to Feb. 16, 1923
Mrs. Florence Docker	May 8, 1923 to March 26, 1931
Mrs. Mabel Dawe	March 26, 1931 to April 14, 1947
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss	April 14, 1947 to March 11, 1970
Mrs. Joan Rowe	March 11, 1970 to

#### Librarians

Miss Grace Hoagland	Aug. 5, 1921 to Nov. 31, 1935
Miss Eva Tunison	Dec. 1, 1935 to April 8, 1940
Miss Frances Pittenger	April 8, 1940 to April 29, 1968
Miss Mildred Laune	April 29, 1968 to April 4, 1970
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss	April 4, 1970 to Oct. 2, 1984
Mrs. Jean Docker	Oct. 2, 1984 to Dec. 13, 1988
Mrs. Helen Lynch	Dec. 13, 1988 to

It is with sadness that our treasurer for over 29 years, Virginia Bibinger will not be at the celebration of our 75th anniversary. Mrs. Bibinger joined the board April 16, 1956 and became treasurer March 15, 1967 to June 1, 1996.

The present officers and members of the Board are:

Joan Rowe, President; Martin Becker, Vice President; Gail Rosenberg, Secretary; Helen Lynch, Librarian; Jean Docker, Gladys Donnelly, Philip Rosenberg, Mayor and Dennis Wolf, Principal of Oxford Central School; Dorothy Bayliss, Honorary member.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE, in celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Library Board voted to purchase some videos to start a video library.

In honor of its 75th anniversary, a donation has been made for the start of an audio book library.

The library is still open all year on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 7 P.M.