Library History Chronologies, Ephemera, and Notes

Re-collected
April 24, 2017
These include chronologies, ephemera, and notes on the history of the Lakewood Public Library, all of which were housed in the Library Archives. Some are dated 1941, author unknown, and others 1951, presumably prepared by Miss Mary Prescott Parsons for Mrs. Margaret Butler.

The original order in which these papers were found is maintained here.
As one of the four independent libraries of the Cleveland Metropolitan area the Lakewood Public Library was organized prior to the enactment of the first County Library law in Ohio. Its beginnings go back to the school year 1913-14 when the Lakewood Board of Education through one of its committees began to explore the possibility of securing a grant from the Carnegie Corporation for a Library building. Mrs. C. Lee Graber and Mrs. A. B. Pyke, members of the Board, were active in the movement.

When the news was announced in the community that the trustees of The Carnegie Corporation had authorized a grant of $40,000 for a new building, great rivalry sprang up between the property owners on Manor Park and Arthur Avenues. Each group seeking to persuade the Board of Education to locate the building on its corner of Detroit Avenue. When the Arthur Avenue committee tendered the Board several thousand dollars toward the purchase of their site, a decision was easily reached and the land now occupied by the main library building was purchased for $9,725.00.

The building was started in the spring of 1915. It consisted of two floors and partial basement with a frontage of 85 ft on Detroit Ave and 40 ft wide. The plans were drawn by the architect for the Board of Education, Mr. Chas. W. Hopkinson, and approved by the Carnegie Corporation architect. The cost of the building together with the furnishings was considerably in excess of the Carnegie gift.

Early in 1915 Miss Roena A. Ingham was appointed Librarian. She had previously been the head librarian at Carnegie West in Cleveland. She spent the first year of her long period of service working in a nearly empty store building, on Detroit Avenue, selecting, purchasing, and cataloging the original book collection so it would be ready for the opening of the new building.

With a special ceremony and many beautiful floral decorations, the building was opened to the public on May 19, 1916. The book collection consisted of 10,000 volumes for which approximately $10,000.00 had been expended. During the remainder of this first year, the number of registered borrowers grew to 5,340 and 93,824 books were circulated.

During the first five years of its existence the Library was governed by the Board of Education, acting principally through its Library Committee. It was supported out of school tax income and school officials kept the books, paid the bills and salaries and provided some of the maintenance of the building.
In 1920 the General Assembly of the State of Ohio enacted a law which made it advantageous for Boards of Education to divest themselves of Library administration. The Lakewood board was one of the earliest in the state to act under this law and during the early months of 1921 it appointed seven outstanding citizens of the community to serve terms of from one to seven years each as members of the Board of Library Trustees. This form of organization still continues with the Board of Education appointing new, or what is more usual, reappointing old trustees as their terms expire.

When the library building was erected a Trustees’ room was provided and equipped. On September 13, 1921 the original board met and organized for business. Seated around the table were Mrs. Howard A. Byrns, Mrs. L. A. Corlett, Mrs. A. N. Dawson, Mr. Charles C. Dibble, Mr. H. E. Hackenberg, Mr. David G. Jaeger, and Judge Willis Vickery. Mr. Dibble was elected president, Mrs. Dawson vice president, and George W. Grill who as clerk-treasurer of the Board of Education had been carrying on the business activities of the Library, was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Byrns was the only member original of the Board to complete a quarter century of service. She declined to be reappointed after her twenty-fifth year. During all of her period of service she served as chairman of the Personnel committee and during much of the time she was the vice president.

Throughout the years the high calibre of the Board of Trustees has been maintained as vacancies on the board have been filled. During all the years of its existence the Board has had but two presidents. When Mr. Dibble retired from the presidency and the board, his mantle fell on Mr. I. S. Metcalfe who continues to guide the boards deliberations with suavity and impartiality. Mr. John S. Crider has long served as the Chairman of the Committee on finance and of the Committee on business management, Mr. Anthony Poss for many years has guided the committee on upkeep and repair of building. Mrs. Chas. B. Delano succeeded to the chairmanship of the Personnel committee when Mrs. Byrns retired. Mrs. H. H. Bosworth heads the committee on books and magazines, and Dr. Peter Warren on library extension. Mrs. E. S. Jenkins, the newest Trustee, was appointed to the committee on Gifts and Endowment.

The tradition of long periods of service applies to employees as well as Trustees. Miss Ingham remained as librarian until her death in 1958.
would be ready for the opening of the Library, remained as librarian until her death in 1936. Her gracious personality made her a well loved figure in the community and under the stimulus of her untiring efforts the Library advanced far toward its present size and diversity of function. One of the three largest gifts ever made to the library is the Roena A. Ingham Garden Collection presented by Miss Ingham's friends and associates in her memory. A second large gift was the Lynch Collection of books on religious education presented by the Lakewood Teachers' Association and the Lakewood Methodist Church in memory of Charles Lynch who had been Superintendent of Schools and Superintendent of the Lakewood Methodist Sunday School. A third large gift was the presentation in 1947 by the South Lakewood Women's Club of two ceiling projectors and filmed books for the use of bed-ridden people in Lakewood Hospital or in their own homes.

On August 1, 1948 Dr. Mary P. Parsons became librarian succeeding Miss Ingham. She held that position until September 1943 when she obtained a leave of absence to take a position with the Office of War Information, resigning a year later to continue her O.W.I. Library in Wellington, New Zealand. During Miss Parsons' time as librarian partitions were erected on the first floor to provide additional shelving, and make an adult reading room. The catalog department was moved from the basement to the second floor, book stacks put in the basement and the auditorium, the work of the more definitely departmentalized and photographic charging instituted at Main Library.

In 1945 Dr. George Grill who had been secretary-treasurer of the Board of Library Trustees for twenty-five years returned from military service and became librarian. When he resigned in April 1948 because of poor health, Mrs. Mary Beeman Bloom, who had come to the library as order librarian in 1940, later becoming Assistant Librarian, was appointed librarian, Mrs. Ruth Malling Angell taking Mr. Grill's place as Secretary-treasurer of the Library Board.
In building and equipment the Lakewood Library has endeavored, but has never completely succeeded in to match the rapid growth of the community. Madison branch was first opened in a rented second floor dance hall at the corner of Madison & Newman Avenues in south-east Lakewood in 1921. Miss Florence Gottrell has been the librarian of this branch since its establishment. The activity was soon moved to a ground floor location, and in 1929 it moved to its own permanent location in Madison Park on a site purchased from the City of Lakewood for one dollar. The building cost approximately $41,000.00 and is one of the few public buildings in the county to be built without a bond issue. Mr. A. K. Murway of the architectural firm of Walker & Weeks was the supervising architect.

By 1923 the main library building had become hopelessly inadequate. By a large majority the voters approved the issuance of bonds aggregating $150,000 for the purpose of enlarging adding to its facilities. Construction began in May 1923, and on June 3, 1924, the greatly enlarged library was formally opened. The building had been increased to twice its size with the addition of the second floor reference room and auditorium, the extension of the Boy's and Girl's Room and the Adult Department on the first floor, and the addition of work and storage rooms in the basement.

By this time, in addition to the Main Library and Madison Branch, there were branches operating in Lakewood High School (later separated from the Public Library) in Emerson and Horace Mann Junior Schools, and stations in several elementary schools, both public and parochial, in the telephone exchange, and at Harrison Night School where many residents of foreign birth were learning English. Within a few years the branch at Harding Junior High School and the station at Lakewood Hospital were established. In 1936 and 1937 special service for young people and a shut-in service were started. School library service was later extended to nine public elementary schools with trained personnel in charge.

In 1934 the Ohio Legislature changed the source of support for libraries from the tax on real estate to the tax on intangibles. Since that time the library has been supported entirely by appropriations made by the County Budget Commission from the proceeds of the Classified Tax Fund, that is, the tax on intangibles.
Over the years the Lakewood Public Library has held an important place in the community. At the end of 1947 the book collection stood at 108,004 volumes. 405,828 were circulated in 1947 to 20,946 registered borrowers. To supplement this circulation service a well-equipped reference room answers thousands of questions a year, service is maintained at Madison Branch, at Lakewood Hospital, in three junior high schools, with visits and delivery to several parochial schools, and regular delivery to shut-ins. Reading guidance is stressed especially in the schools and in the children's departments at both Main Library and Madison Branch where carefully planned summer reading programs stimulate the reading of more and better books by scores of boys and girls each summer.

The Library has played a part in community life through the many groups that have met there. Before the auditorium had to be filled with book stacks, many clubs met there regularly. In the early twenties the Women's Civic League sponsored classes in citizenship under the direction of Mrs. Maude C. Waitt, which met at the library and received help from the library. This organization grew into the Lakewood Women's Club. The Borrowed Time Club held its first meeting at the library. In more recent years the Great Books Discussion groups, sponsored by the library, have met there. Summer forums for young people have been held for years. Many women's clubs come to the library for help in their program planning.

The Lakewood Garden Club has held its annual flower show at the library last three years. In 1948 the Garden Club held its first spring flower show there.

The library has participated in many nationwide activities such as surveys and has been represented on state and national committees. Miss Ingham was president of the Ohio Library Association in 1934. Its pioneering in photographic charging has brought many inquiries from all over the country.

In 1948 the Lakewood Library stands with shelves crowded, books on top of shelves, the basement and auditorium full of book stacks. Service to the varied group life of the community is severely restricted by lack of meeting rooms. A new building
modern reading rooms, an auditorium and space for more books will enable the library to carry on its fine tradition and grow in service.
TENTATIVE HISTORY

The Lakewood Public Library was formally opened on May 19, 1916, with a collection of 10,069 books for which $3,600 had been spent. For several years the Lakewood Board of Education had been setting aside money from tax funds for a library. (Mrs. C. Lee Graber and Mrs. Arthur Pyke the moving spirits?) The site at the corner of Detroit and Arthur Avenues was purchased by the city at a cost of $9,728, about two-thirds of this money coming from tax funds and the remainder contributed by citizens and residents of the neighborhood. A grant of approximately $45,000 for the erection of the building was made by the Carnegie Corporation. Chas. W. Hopkins was the architect. Miss Roena Ingham was appointed librarian in 1915.

During this first year, from May 19, 1916 through December, 5340 people registered for cards and 93,824 books were loaned.

With the growth of the city increased facilities were needed very soon. Madison Branch was first opened in a rented second floor dance hall at the corner of Madison and Newman Avenues in south-east Lakewood in October 1921. Miss Florence Cottrell was appointed librarian of this branch and still holds that position in 1948.

In 1922 a bond issue of $150,000, later increased to $180,000, to enlarge the main building was approved by the voters. Construction began in May 1923, and on June 3, 1924, the greatly enlarged library was formally opened. The building had been increased to twice its size with the addition of the second floor reference room and auditorium, the extension of the Boy’s and Girl’s Room and the Adult Department on the first floor, and the addition of work and storage rooms in the basement.

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years the branch at Harding Junior High School and the station at Lakewood Hospital were established. In 1936 and 1937 special service for young people and a shut-in service were started. School library service was later extended to nine public elementary schools with trained personnel in charge.

In 1929 a new building to house Madison Branch was completed, in Madison Park at the corner of Clarence and Madison Avenues, on a site purchased from the city for one dollar. A. K. Murway was the architect of this building which cost approximately $47,000.

In 1934 the Ohio Legislature changed the source of support for libraries from the tax on real estate to the tax on intangibles. Since that time the library has been supported entirely by appropriations made by the County Budget Commission from the proceeds of the Classified Tax Fund, that is, the tax on intangibles.

The library had been under the direction of the Board of Education from its beginning until the fall of 1921. Then in accordance with the law providing for school district libraries in Ohio, a Board of Library Trustees was appointed by the Board of Education. The Board consists of seven members each of whom serves for seven years. The first Board of Library Trustees was:

Mr. C. C. Bibble, President
Mrs. A. M. Dawson, Vice-President
Mrs. H. A. Byrns
Mrs. L. A. Corlett
Mr. D. S. Jaeger
Mr. H. H. Forbes (as was at Mr. Hackenburg)
Judge Willis Vickery
Mr. Geo. W. Gill, Secretary-Treasurer

The present Board members are: (shall we use?)

Miss Naoma A. Ingham, Lakewood's first librarian, who had been appointed in 1915 before the erection of the building and who had worked in a nearby empty store building selecting, purchasing, and cataloging the original book collection so it
would be ready for the opening of the Library, remained as librarian until her death in 1938. Her gracious personality had made her a well loved figure in the community and under the stimulus of her untiring efforts the library had advanced far toward its present size and diversity of function. One of the three largest gifts ever made to the library is the Hoena A. Ingham Garden Collection presented by Miss Ingham's friends and associates in her memory. A second large gift was the Lynch Collection of books on religious education presented by the Lakewood Teachers' Association and the Lakewood Methodist Church in memory of Charles Lynch who had been Superintendent of Schools and Superintendent of the Lakewood Methodist Sunday School. A third large gift was the presentation in 1947 by the South Lakewood Woman's Club of two ceiling projectors and filmed books for the use of bedridden people in Lakewood Hospital or in their own homes.

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the community is severely restricted by lack of meeting rooms. A new building will
be in the basement and auditorium full of book stacks. Services to the varied group life of
the community has been represented on state and national committees.

The Lakewood Library stands out in many nationwide activities such as surveys and
promotions in the library. The Lakewood Garden Club has held its annual flower show at the library the last
two years. In 1946 the Garden Club held its annual flower show at the library. Many women's clubs have met there. The Lakewood Garden Club has had its annual flower show at the library for many years.

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of boys and girls each summer. The library has played a part in community life through the many groups who have
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Over the years the Lakewood Public Library has held an important place in the
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books circulated in 1947 to 215,966 registered borrowers. To supplement this circu-
lion service a well-equipped reference room answers thousands of questions a year,

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children's departments at both Main Library and Lakewood Branch where carefully
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to carry on its fine tradition and grow in service.
Young People's Division

September 1936  Young People's worker added to the staff.
January 1937  A small permanent collection was started.
1938  Madison Branch started a small collection for young people.

Young People's Collection

| January 1937 | 901 |
| January 1938 | 1196 |
| January 1939 | 1410 |
| January 1940 | 1583 |
| January 1941 | 1708 |

Budget

There was no budget specified for this collection until August 1938 when an amount of $125.00 was estimated for the balance of the year.

| 1939   | $375.00 |
| 1940   | $500.00 |
| 1941   | $250.00 |

Miss Persons: I'm afraid that figures do not indicate the progress that we have made with our young people. There are several reasons for this, and the main one is the value or progress made in giving attention to the group, and the books and reference material that they need. In other words, a library may have the resources but it is making use of them for a special group that counts.
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History Dates
1910 Negotiations made by Board of Education with Mr. Andrew Carnegie — Gift about $5,000
1914 Cost
1915 Lot purchased above cost
1915 Arthur Ave. & Detroit
1915 Spring building started, E. W. Fillon architect
1915 Supervising Charles W. Hopkinson
1915 Librarian appointed
1915 Librarian began work full-time
1916 - Feb. Purchase and preparation of books started
1916 - May 19. Opening May 19
1916 - May 19. Staff Jane Brown
1918 Sept. Library at Lakewood High with Bd of Ed
1918 Sept. Agreement of Co-operation in regard to Library at High School
1921 Oct. Madison Branch opened, 2nd floor
1922 Spring Emerson School Branch opened
1922 Sept. Horace Mann Branch opened
1921 Board of Library Trustees appointed by this Board
1922 - Nov. Vote for bond issue for enlarged building 150,000
1923 May Building started Chas W. Hopkins architect
1923 Nov. Second bond issue $30,000
1924 June New library opened Madison Branch moved Madison Cor Claree
1924 June
Jan 1926 Hospital Service Fresbel to Oct 1928
1916 Opening of Lawrence Public Library
Reference
Circulation
Story hours
Club use of library rooms.

1918 Development of
Cooperation with schools
Service to clubs

1919 High School Library opened
3 Library stations opened

1921 Appointment of Board of Library Trustees
Madison Branch opened
Station discontinued

1922 Three Junior High School Libraries started
Programs gradually started
Station opened
Bonds for building issued
Classroom libraries in elementary schools

1923 kitten high school station
Apprentice course in library

1924 New building opened
Increasing use of club rooms

1925 Third Junior High School Library started

1926 Branch opened with Hayes Elementary School

1931 Elementary School Library service at McKinley
1932 Stations discontinued
1933 McKinley Elementary School library discontinued by school.

1935 Lynch Memorial Library given station at telephone exchange.
Elementary school library service at Fairfield.

1936 Young people's librarian appointed.
Madam Roosevelt.
High School Library turned over to
P.S. (3) Education.

1937 Young people's alcove started.
Travel collection started.
Book in readers served by individual
staff members.

1938 Russian and Technology
Information Service started.

1939 Reference collection surveyed and
increased.
Reference service in department and
by telephone 12 hours daily.

Exhibit of hickorywood historical source materials
held during hickorywood semi centennial celebration.
2 stations opened for
children.

Harding Branch.
Library opened
in adult education center.
Young people's work begun at Madison Branch.
Library service system began
Shunt in service organized
Bookship system simplified
Library participated, with 36 other libraries
throughout the country in cost accounting study.

1942
Addition to building, cornerstone 3 Oct. 42.

Station opened at Lakewood Women's Club
Open house

National defense civilian morale
Glass part train

Order from
Central dept reorganized
1941. Contract with Mr. & Mrs. Schall for remodeling of main and first floor.

1953 - 1954. Dedication of main library as enlarged.

1958 - 1959. School library contract revised to include $10,000 state grant. $15,000 cost paid by E. and $1,500 from "in memory of the tax" may paid used for school libraries.
1916  Lakewood Public Library opened.
   Story hour for children
   Clubs meet in library

1918  Books circulated at
   Harrison School
   St Mary's School
   Story hour in each school in Lakewood.
   Story hours in 5 churches
   Lectures to children on use of library
   Reference room
   Talks with 6 Lakewood clubs
   Books sent to camp libraries

1919  High School library opened
   3 stations
   2 schools = homework center
   First children's book section
   Reading club for boys

1921  1 station (elementary) closed
   Males on branch opened
   Talk at Harrison & St Mary's discontinued
   Library instruction in 7th & 8th grades
   Appointment of a library board
   Head of a building

1922  2. Telephone exchange station
   Queens
   Nominees: Mann & I Lins

3. Both tables at library for adults
   Classroom use at Roosevelt
   Bond issue $50,000 issued.
1923  Harrison night school
  - Play plans
  - Apprentice course

1924  new YWCA opened June 3,
  exhibit by local artists
  increased community use of club rooms
  new auditorium

1925  Harding
  medical books (i.e. medical sox) shelved in YWCA

1926  
  Hayden opened I day a week
  Hospital
  YWCA camp

1927  
  87 lakes in a classroom case
  Hayden new library room

1930  
  15 clubs served
  increasing no of the tables
  adult programs

1931  
  W. S. C. A. Service
  McKimsey 1 day a week

1932  
  Telephone station discontinued
  YWCA
  8th street
  phone new
  3 assistants full time

Rental lift started Dec. 1932
1933  N.S. Girls club  miscellaneous

1934

citizenship classes (1st yr?)

need for Y.P.

1935

Telephone

Arfield

Lynch memorial library green May 29, 1935

1936

Madison Sch.

Roosevelt

D.A.R. history

N.S. discontinued by library

Y/Assistant approved

1937

Y/Palace, 10 W. 37th St. 9th grade again  Nov. 2nd Club

Travel club

1938

Miss Mary Prescott Parsons
1939
St. Luke's Hospital
Discontinued 1943

2) Garfield Summer Vacation Library
3) YP Building
4) Harding Recreation Library
5) Local hist coll started as Association of early settlers,
   present opened Detroit grace for museum
   expansion of street and service

CPL new bldg room

Bonding system simplified
"Policies liberalized"

Air conditioned

Cost accounting study

4 offices built

1940
1) Women's Club Station
2) Roosevelt Station

Lakewood, Ohio
1415 Northland Avenue
Miss Mary Prescott Parsons