
Library History Chronologies, Ephemera, and Notes

Re-collected
April 24, 2017



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lakewoodpubliclibrary.org

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.

Sent to Mrs. Margaret Butler for her Lakewood story

1951

THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 ~~Carnegie Corporation~~ trustees of The Carnegie Corporation had authorized a grant of \$45,000 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 \$9,728.00.

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 ~~was~~ ^{a width of} 45 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. ~~FF~~ Mrs. Byrns was the only member of the ^{original} 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. Metcalf who continues to guide the boards deliberations with suavity and impartiality. Mr. John S. Crider has long served as the Chairman of the ^{finance and} Committee on business management, Mr. Anthony Poss for many years has guided 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} ~~supplies~~, and Dr. Peter Warren ~~heads~~ the committee on library extension. Mrs. H. 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 1938

~~would be ready for the opening of the Library, remained as librarian until her death~~
~~in 1938.~~ ^{no #} Her gracious personality ~~was~~ made her a well loved figure in the community
 and under the stimulus of her untiring efforts the library ~~has~~ 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 ^{Memorial} Collection
 of books on religious education presented by the Lakewood Teachers' Association and
 the Lakewood Methodist Church ^{and many friends or} in memory of ^{for many years} Charles P. 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 Womans' Club of two
 ceiling projectors and filmed books for the use of bed-ridden people in Lakewood
 Hospital or in their own homes. ^{The projectors are delivered and}
^{demonstrated by members of the}
^{Lakewood Lions Club.}

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 Parson's 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
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 the ^{more} definitely departmentalized and photographic charging instituted at Main
 Library.

In 1945 Dr. George ^{W.} 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 ^{illness} ~~poor health~~ Miss Mary Beeman Bloom, who
 had come to the library as order librarian in 1940, later becoming Assistant Librarian,
^{was appointed}
~~became~~ librarian, Mrs. Ruth Malling Angell ^{succeeded} taking Mr. Grill's ~~place~~ as Secretary-
 treasurer of the Library Board.

Several Lakewood Catholics have bought the American Heritage and other current unit books or money.

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 Cottrell has been the ~~librarian~~ 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 ~~XX~~ \$47,000.00 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 \$180,000 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 ^{more than original} 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 ^{Property} 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. ^{Books to the number of} 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 ^{continues to play} ~~has played~~ a part in community life through the many groups ^{which use it.} ~~who have~~ ^{to handle the growing book collection} ~~facilities~~ ^{met there.} Before the auditorium had to be filled with book stacks, many clubs met there regularly. In the early twenties The Woman'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 Woman'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, ^{are meeting} ~~have met~~ there. Summer forums for young people ^{are one of many group activities.} ~~have been held three 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 the 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 ^{with} ~~unit~~

#- 6

modern reading rooms, an auditorium and space for more books will enable the library to carry on its fine tradition and grow in service.

150
13
450
150
1950

TENTATIVE HISTORY

The Lakewood Public Library was formally opened on May 19, 1916, with a collection of 10,069 books for which ~~\$10,000~~^{12,000} 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^{on} was the architect. Miss Roena ^AIngham 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. Dibble, President
Mrs. A. M. Dawson, Vice-President
Mrs. H. A. Byrns
Mrs. L. A. Corlett
Mr. D. S. Jaeger
~~Mr. W. H. Forbes (or was it Mr. Hackenburt)~~
Judge Willis Vickery
Mr. Geo W Grill, secretary-treasurer

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

OK

Miss Roena A. Ingham, Lakewood's first librarian, who had been appointed in 1915 before the erection of the building and who had worked in a nearly 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 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^P 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 Womans' Club of two ceiling projectors and filmed books for the use of bed-ridden people in Lakewood Hospital or in their own homes.

Main Catholic Women's

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 Parson's 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 *Library* 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 ~~Miss~~ Mary Beeman Bloom, who had come to the library as order librarian in 1940, later becoming Assistant Librarian, became librarian, Mrs. Ruth Malling Angell taking Mr. Grill's place as Secretary-treasurer of the Library Board.

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 books 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, *and to nine public elementary schools* and regular 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 who have met there. Before the auditorium had to be filled with book stacks many clubs met there regularly. In the early twenties The Woman'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 Woman'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 three years. Many women's clubs come to the library for help in their program planning.

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modern reading rooms, an auditorium and space for more books will enable the library to carry on its fine tradition and grow in service.

L P L
10-31-41

~~Miss Parsons~~

Memorandum
To Miss Parsons
From Miss Grim
Young People's Collection

~~Lakewood Public Library~~

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 Parsons: 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.

Frances Grim

Spent for books
Dollars cents

Year	Dollars	Cents
1922	9408	74
1923	6372	21
1924	7244	82
1925	9022	10
1926	8617	82
1927	8902	89
1928	9793	82
1929	12202	00
1930	11373	26
1931	10957	07
1932	2460	76
1933	2056	73
1934	5451	41
1935	5873	28
1936	9523	63
1937	9930	07
1938	9755	90
1939	11348	96
1940	9786	28

History Dates

- 1910 - negotiations made by Board of Education with Mr Andrew Carnegie - Gift about 45,000
- 1914 - Lot purchased size raised by residents in vicinity of Arthur Ave + Detroit
- 1915 - Spring building started E. W. Filtons architect supervising Charles W Hopkenson
- 1915 - Sept Librarian appointed
- 1915 - Nov. Librarian began work full time - purchase + preparation of books started - in store Room on Detroit ave
- 1916 - Feb. Staff in library -
- 1916 - May 19 - Opening 10,000 Book on hand Staff Jane Brown Josephine McConnell
- 1918 - Sept. Library at Lakewood High with Bd of Ed Agreement of Co-operation in regard to library at High School.
- 1921 - Oct. Madison Branch opened 2nd floor Madison cor. Newman
- 1922 - Spring Emerson School Branch opened
- 1922 - Sept Horace Mann Branch opened
- 1921 - Board of Library Trustees appointed by the Board

- (1)
- 1916 Opening of Lakewood Public Library
Reference
Circulation
Study 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
1 station discontinued
- 1922 Two junior high school libraries started
Programs for adults started
1 station opened
Bonds for building issued
~~Classroom libraries at elementary school~~
- 1923 Harrison night 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 at Hayes Elementary School
- 1931 Elementary School library service
at McKinley

1922 Stations discontinued

1933 McKinley elementary school library discontinued
by schools.

1935 Lynch memorial library given
station at telephone exchange
Elementary school library service at Fairfield

1936 young people's librarian appointed
" " " " Madison
" " " " Roosevelt
High School library turned over to
Bd. of Education.

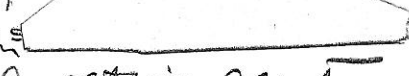
1937 young people's alcove started
Travel collection started
shift in readers served by individual
staff members.

1938 Business and Technology
Information service started.

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

Exhibit of Lakewood historical source materials
held during Lakewood Semi Centennial celebration

2 stations opened for children

Harding Recreation  library opened
in adult education center

Young People's work begun at Madison Branch

Inter-library loan system begins
Shut in Service organized
Lending system simplified

Library participated, with 36 other libraries
throughout the country in ~~first~~ cost accounting
study.

1940⁰ Addition to building ^{completed} housing 3 offices.

~~1940~~ Station opened at Lakewood Women's club

Open house

National defense civilian morale

glass partition

Order Division

Catal dept reorganized

1942. Contract with ^{operating} ~~school~~ ^{land} #3 school
1953. Bond issue for 700,000
for expansion and
remodeling Main
+ Madison.

1956. - Jan 15, Dedication
Main library as enlarged.
Oct. Dedication and
open house for remodelled
branch.

1959 - School library contract
revised in accordance
with ruling of Ohio
State Court - entire
cost paid by Board of
Ed since "in tangible
tax" may not be used
for school libraries.

1916 Lakewood Public library opened.
Story hours for children
Clubs meet in library

1918 Books circulated at
Harrison School
St Cyril's School
to story hour in each church in Lakewood.
Story hours in 5 churches
lectures to children on use of library
Reference work
Work with 8 Lakewood clubs
Books sent to camp libraries

1919 High School library opened
3 stations
~~2 schools & classroom collections~~
First children's book week
Reading club for boys

1921 1 station (Columbo) closed
Madison branch opened
Circ at Harrison & St Cyril's discontinued
Library instruction in 7th & 8th Grades
Appointment of a library board
head for a building

1922 1. Telephone exchange station
Quinn
Horace Mann I I HS Libs
3 Book tables at library for adults
classroom lib. at Roosevelt
Bond issue \$50 bonded.

1923 Harrison night school

• Play plans
• Apprentices course

1924 new bldg opened June 3.

Art exhibit by haweswood artists

Increased community use of club rooms &
new auditorium.

1925 Harding

medical books (h. medical Soc) shelved in r/room

1926

Hazes opened 1 day a wk.

Hospital
Ywca camp

1927

St Lukes inc classroom vols.

Hazes new library room.

1930

15 clubs served.

Increasing no of th talks.

Adult programs

1931

U. Sch. Civ. Service

McKinley 1 day a wk

1932

Teleph. station discontinued

Ywca

St Lukes

Roosevelt

31 assistants full time

Rental lib started Dec. 1932

MISS MARY PRESCOTT PARSONS
1418 NORTHLAND AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO

1933 H.S. girls club Miss Calverton

18 clubs served

Inkinder not reopened in sept.
U.Sch. girls position discontinued
by Bd of Ed.

1934

citizenship classes (1st yr?)

head for YP

1935

Telephone

Spiffed

Lynch memorial library given May 29, 1935

1936

Mullison Sch.

Roosevelt

D.A.R. history

H.S. discontinued by library

YP Assistant appointed ~~at once~~

1937 YP alcove, begun Jan 2 1937
St. Lukes again Act. Bk club.

Travel call.

Shut ins. by members of staff

1938

Bus. & Tech. Inf. Service

MISS MARY PRESCOTT PARSONS
1418 NORTHLAND AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO

started

1939 ✓ St Lukes station Discontinued (1944)

→ Gas field summer vacation library

✓ YP begun at Madison

✓ Harding Recreation library

✓ L. hist exhibit in conn W. L. Semi-Centennial
150,000 ref. questions
Cost

~~37 station at h. Women's club~~

L. local hist coll started as
Association of early settlers.
Land offered Detroit Grace for a museum
expansion of shut in service
~~150~~

C P L. new bk room.

Lending system simplified
" Policies liberalized

Air conditioning ref.

Cost accounting study
Interlibrary loan

3 Offices built.

1940 h. Women's Club station

Roosevelt station