

Sargentville Library Association

PO Box 233, Sedgwick ME 04673

Newsletter Winter 2011-12



Winter greetings to friends of the Sargentville Library.

To welcome in the New Year of 2012 we want to share with you some historical "tidbits" concerning our historic building, review the activities of the past summer, and share our plans and hopes for the year ahead.

Historical perspective.

On March 28, 1874 a small group met at the #8 schoolhouse (now Mary and Phil Schirmer's home) and initiated the process of forming the "Ladies Sewing Circle and Library Association." After many years of weekly meetings and raising funds for books, in 1904 they made plans to build a library. They purchased a lot from Hiram Harding and the present building was completed in 1905.

The document shown on the reverse reveals the financial origins of the Library building. In an Aug. 8, 1904 letter to Association Secretary Dora Currier (great grandmother of Pam, David, Sharon and Warren Simmons), Lida Harkness (Annie Conaway's great Aunt) says she will be unable to attend the next meeting and encloses a letter to the Association. In that letter, which Lida requests be acted on at the meeting, she says that "eighty dollars...has been promised me by several of our summer friends for a Library Building...that such building should be erected within a reasonable length of time." Surely, that commitment provided the impetus for constructing the library within the following year.

Activities during the summer of 2011.

In addition to being open twice a week from June through August and once a week in September, we implemented some new policies and programs. The biggest development for our small library was the addition of WIFI through a very reasonable financial arrangement with Premium Choice. The system was hooked up in May and continued to be available throughout the summer until the end of October. The front dooryard of the library was quite busy with cars and trucks popping in and out at all hours of the day. Sometimes the WIFI user stayed in the vehicle. At other times they used the white lawn chairs (loaned by Don and Mary Rae Means). The migration of the chairs around the yard and porch told the story of WIFI users' search for shade.

For the second year Cathy Marshall, Librarian, organized a monthly book club. This past summer we read and discussed *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

We also offered a social hour on Saturdays from 10 to 11 A.M. to coincide with the children's story hour. The refreshments were simple: coffee, soda, cookies, crackers and brownies. Sometimes the attendance was small, but on four or five notable Saturdays we had a total of twelve to eighteen people stopping by for refreshments, books, and conversation.

During the summer we determined that, after 25 years, our building needs a new roof. The job will be completed by sometime next Spring.

Plans for 2012.

Based on our success last summer we plan again to provide WIFI from May through October. We will also run the book club and would love to recruit more participants. Perhaps publicizing the book selections in the spring will entice more readers. We would like to try the social hour again during July and August, but we are in need of more volunteers who are willing to provide refreshments at least once.

For your information here is the list of Library Association officials:

President	Diana Marston Wood
Vice President	Robert Starkey
Secretary & Treasurer	David Anderson
Trustees	Jan Anderson Nancy Hitchcock Cathy Marshall Rada Starkey
Librarian	Cathy Marshall

If you have suggestions or reactions to this newsletter, feel free to contact Diana (dmwood@pitt.edu) or Cathy (cathy@steelydev.com).

The Sargentville Library Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, incorporated in Maine June 21, 1905

To the members of the Library Association
Lagunville, Maine,

Ladies of the Association:

As I shall not
be able to attend the August meeting of
the Association, I wish to make the
following statement, and trust you will
give it your earnest consideration.

The sum of eighty dollars (\$80.00) has been
promised me by several of our summer
friends for a Library Building, with the
tacit understanding that such building
should be erected within a reasonable
length of time. No definite time limit
has been mentioned, but I should not feel
it right to accept this gift, unless we
saw our way clear to make a beginning
within the present year. If the Association
can raise sufficient funds to start
the building this fall, I shall be glad
to collect a fund over this amount -
but if it seems wiser to wait a

few years, till more money is in
our hands, then I should consider it
more fair to return such funds as I
now hold to the donors, & not collect any
more from the summer friends but
we can reserve them that we are able
to put through the enterprise.

Trusting this may also be your view
of the matter & that I may hear from you
to that effect, I remain,
Very sincerely -

Lida Starkness.

Lagunville, Maine,
August 8, 1904.