

Woods Hole Historical Collection  
P. O. Box 185  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER  
Woods Hole Library  
1873 - 2008

2 boxes

## WOODS HOLE LIBRARY

### HISTORY

In February of 1873, a group of Woods Hole citizens met at the Woods Hole School for the purpose of forming a library. Many were from families familiar to Woods Hole citizens today: Asa Shiverick, superintendent of the Pacific Guano Factory; Azariah Crowell, chief chemist at the factory; and Josephine Swift, from the Woods Hole merchant and maritime family. At this first meeting, officers were elected for the Woods Hole Social Library. The officers issued 89 shares at \$2 apiece, bought books (and contributed some of their own), and set them up in the basement of Asa Shiverick's house.

When Liberty Hall (now Community Hall) was completed in 1878, the Woods Hole Social Library became a tenant in its basement. The Social Library remained there until 1896 when it moved to larger quarters across the street in a building that was originally a Swift family house. The annual rent of \$100 was burdensome. In two years the Library was able to move to rent-free space in the Eliel T. Fish grocery store building. The Fish building was sold in 1910 and the Library was forced to move again. Fortunately, there was a vacant room in the Woods Hole School. The books were housed there for the next three years.

It was clear to the town's citizens that there was a need for a permanent home for the book collection. A group of winter and summer residents came together to incorporate as the Woods Hole Public Library and to buy the lot where the present library stands, 581 Woods Hole Road. Over the next three years building plans were drawn up, and \$5,000 was raised for constructing the building. The forty-year old Woods Hole Social Library Association was dissolved and its books were transferred to the Woods Hole Public Library. The books, which had been listed in booklets until then, were properly catalogued by the Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission and installed in the building for the January 1913 opening.

The 1913 library building has undergone 2 expansions. The first addition was completed in 1952 and the second in 1990. These additions have more than doubled the original library's floor space.

The Woods Hole Public Library's charter stated as part of its purpose the collection of historical items. In 1974, when interest in the nation's bicentennial was increasing interest in Woods Hole village history, the library formed the Woods Hole Historical Collection Committee. The committee began by cataloging items already in the library's collection, surveying the historic houses of Woods Hole, and recording oral histories. The Woods Hole Historical Collection is now housed in Bradley House, which is located next to the library.

### **SCOPE NOTE**

The Woods Hole Library Collection includes the papers of the Woods Hole Social Library. Organized in 1873, the Social Library was the first library in Woods Hole. Included in the collection are an original 1875 Social Library share, several yearly Social Library Book Catalogs, as well as newspaper articles and booklets detailing the origins of the Social Library as well as the current Woods Hole Public Library.

The Woods Hole Public Library was founded in 1910 to give a permanent home to the collection of the Social Library, which had moved four times since 1873. In addition to the histories mentioned above, papers related to the Public Library include board meeting minutes, annual meeting minutes, annual letters, by-laws, and financial records. Also of interest are the papers related to the addition to and reconstruction of the library, the formation of the Woods Hole Historical Collection Committee, fund raising efforts, and ephemera related to programs, performances and exhibits sponsored by the library.

## WOODS HOLE LIBRARY

### BOX 1

- 1-1. Franklin Lewis Gifford material, Accession No, 91-23.
  - a. Original 1875 Social Library share.
  - b. Letter acknowledging gift of 17 Franklin Lewis Gifford paintings, 1953.
- 1-2. Library History 1876-1971
  - a. Handwritten note describing 1876 Social Library location. Xerox copy.
  - b. Newsclipping. Photo and caption about the January 3, 1913 opening of the Woods Hole Public Library. Original and two xerox copies.
  - c. Newsclipping. Article announcing the election of library association officers and naming the honorary trustees, n.d.
  - d. Typed excerpt from the incorporation papers of the public library naming the incorporators and describing its purpose, August 11, 1910. Two typewritten copies.
  - e. Handwritten list of library officers for the years 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913
  - f. Amendment to Article III of the By-Laws, adopted September 11, 1918. Printed, 3 copies.
  - g. 2 original printed statements and 1 copy from the financial committee describing how the public library was started and is maintained. From *The Woods Hole Index*, August 1, 1926.
  - h. Handwritten report of the Book Committee, July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1932
  - i. Original printed copy of By-Law, Article IV – Associate Membership, n. d.
  - j. Original printed copy of a List of Sustaining Members, n.d.
  - k. Newsclipping. Article, August 21, 1942 *Falmouth Enterprise*, about the library's history and its early subscribers. Copy.
  - l. Original typed invitation and one copy of the invitation to join the membership of the library, n.d.
  - m. Original typed letter with the letterhead of Alfred C. Redfield endorsing an appeal for donations, n.d.
  - n. Booklet. "A Historical Sketch of the Libraries of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket". Published by the Cape Cod Library Club, 1952.
  - o. Original typed Report of Book Chairman, July, 1958.
  - p. Newsclipping. July 5, 1968 article reporting Dr. Ballantine's purchase of property which once housed the Social Library.
  - q. Seven original copies of a June 1971 booklet describing the library's origins, and current needs of the library. Also included is the year's financial statement.
  - r. Copy of a letter to Ms. Gaines from Agnes Burgher regarding a picture of Mrs. Burgher's mother, Agnes Dyer Warbasse, n.d.
- 1-3. Woods Hole Social Library Book Catalogs and By-Laws
  - a. (early) n.d.
  - b. 1893
  - c. 1905
- 1-4. Woods Hole Public Library Land, acquisition of
  - a. Handwritten ms. Grantor Schedule, Walter O. Luscombe, September 16, 1909 –

- 1926.
- b. Handwritten Deed. Bessie C. Howes to Walter O. Luscombe, 1909.
  - c. Handwritten Deed. Grantor deed, Walter O. Luscombe, 1913.
  - d. Typed letter. From H.E. Hunziker to A.C. Redfield re library land, 1951.  
*Note accompanying letter states that the preceding deeds were given with this letter.*
- 1-5. By-Laws of the Woods Hole Public Library, 1910, 1913, 1957, 1969, 1974, 1993.
  - 1-6. History and financial records of Prince Sears Crowell
    - a. Typed and handwritten financial records from 1918
    - b. Handwritten manuscript of library history by Prince Sears Crowell, 1958.
  - 1-7. Addition to the Library, 1950
    - a. Handwritten ms. Report of the Building Committee, October 1950.
    - b. Original General Specifications from Ernest A Sterling Architect for 1950s alterations and additions , September 7, 1950. Accession Number 88-12.
  - 1-8. Additions to and reconstruction of the library, 1950-1990
    - a. 8 printed copies of a 1950 fund raising booklet for an addition.
    - b. 1 copy of a *Standard –Times* newspaper article about the new addition to the 1913 library building, n.d.
    - c. 2 original typed copies of a description of the library rehabilitation project with an attached 1985-1986 income and expense graph.
    - d. 1 copy of an invitation to a meeting to organize a capital campaign committee to raise funds for the rehabilitation, November, 1986.
    - e. 1 copy of a Request for Proposals for architectural services, May 8, 1985
    - f. Correspondence with Tully and Ingersoll Architects.
    - g. Original copy of Reconstruction Update #2, March, 1990.
    - h. Copy of letter to the Falmouth *Enterprise* explaining why privately-incorporated libraries are entitled to town appropriations as a portion of their operating funds along with a copy of an editorial response from the *Enterprise*, n.d.
    - i. Copy of a newspaper article about a hard hat tour of the library given to WHOI representatives who brought a contribution for the renovation.
  - 1-9. Newsclipping. “Observing Library Week” “84 Years of Book Lending...”  
Falmouth *Enterprise*, April 19, 1959. Original and xerox copy.
  - 1-10. Financial Records: 1971, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982-1983, 1986-1987, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1990-1991, 1995.
  - 1-11. Annual Letters: 1974, 1975, 1976?, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1984.
  - 1-12. Board Meeting Minutes: 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987.
  - 1-13. Annual Meeting Minutes: 1986, 1989, 1990, 1994.
  - 1-14. Fund Raising: Original printed Reconstruction Fund Benefit program, April 2, 1988.
  - 1-15. Nominating Committee Report: 1990.
  - 1-16. Newsclippings.

## WOODS HOLE LIBRARY

### BOX 2

- 2-1. Newsclippings, 1930-1974.
- 2-2. Library Programs, Performances, and Exhibits 1958-1985
  - a. Printed list of patrons and patronesses for benefit, "Across Carib Isles", August 29, 1958.
  - b. Two printed lists of patrons and patronesses for benefit, Sound of Sailing, August 31, 1962.
  - c. Printed list of patrons and patronesses for benefit, "Aquila 60", August 30, 1963.
  - d. Printed explanation about the Exhibit of Rare Books at the Woods Hole Library, April 3, 1960.
  - e. Card to patrons listing library events for November - December, 1978.
  - f. Falmouth *Enterprise* article about library poetry reading, July 7, 1982.
  - g. Falmouth *Enterprise* notice of films to be shown at library, February 16, 1982.
  - h. Printed card listing July and August, 1985 library events.
- 2-3. Woods Hole Historical Collection Committee: Early conception and fund raising, 1970s.
  - a. Six original printed copies of an appeal for funds and interested parties to with the collection and cataloging of material, n.d.
  - b. Three printed copies of a memo by Paul Ferris Smith reporting on the January 14, 1974 library board meeting establishing two committees of board members and interested community representatives. The first to develop a cataloging scheme for documents and the second to search out a temporary space for material.
  - c. Two copies of a printed letter by Jalien G. Hollister to friends of the library reporting on the historical collection's successful first year and appealing for further community support, June 1975.
  - d. Annual Letter of the Woods Hole Library by Allan Gordon, President of the Board of Trustees, June, 1975.
  - e. One copy of a printed letter by Constance Kahler Martyna, Membership Chairperson, appealing for community support for the opening of the Bradley House as a museum and exhibit center.
- 2-4. Correspondence and Lists, 1970s
- 2-5. Membership Lists, 1971-1976
- 2-6. Library Trustees and Staff 1977-1994
  - a. Typed memo from the Mass. Library Trustees Ass., 1977.
  - b. Printed list of Woods Hole Library Trustees, 1981-1982.
  - c. Printed list of Woods Hole Library Trustees, 1983-1984.
  - d. Printed list of Woods Hole Library Trustees and Staff, 1993-1994.
- 2-7. Typewritten list. Articles from Tom Ratcliffe's Estate donated to Woods Hole Historical Collection. Handwritten list attached. November, 1981.
- 2-8. Library Plant Sales
  - a. Newspaper article: May 8, 1992.

- b. Post Card requesting contributions of plants for the annual sale, 1993.
- 2-9. Library Committees: Printed document describing library committees, their assignments, and members, 1993.
- 2-10. Newsletters
- 2-11. Booklet. "The Woods hole Public Library: A History" by Vicky Cullen, 2008.
- 2-12. Handwritten notes. Recollections of Ruth Schleicher, talk given 2008. (Copy).
- 2-13. Poster for Centennial Celebration, 2010
- 2-14. Museum exhibit material for Library Centennial, 2010