
"A Viable Service"

A Centennial History of the
James E. Nichols Memorial Library
Center Harbor, New Hampshire
1910-2010

By Jon Kinnaman

James E. Nichols Memorial Library Board of Trustees
Center Harbor, New Hampshire, 2010

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Forward

This volume was authorized by the Trustees of the James E. Nichols Memorial Library to commemorate the centennial of the library's dedication. The project was funded by the Trustees and the Town of Center Harbor. It is offered as a tribute to the men and women who built and sustained the library through the years. The Trustees are pleased to make this history available to scholars, librarians, students, public officials and others interested in public libraries, their history and their architecture.

The author would like to acknowledge the following persons for their contributions in bringing this project to realization. The members of the Board of Trustees of the Nichols Memorial Library authorized this project, shepherded it to completion and have provided general mentoring over five productive years. The Selectmen of Center Harbor provided funding for the publication of this document. Their generous support of the library's needs over the years is much appreciated.

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This volume is dedicated to the community of Center Harbor and its library patrons, and to my predecessors, the former librarians, trustees and members of the Library Association, who made a dream into a reality and kept it going for the past one hundred years.

Chapter One

"An Important Factor in the Life of the Community", 1889-1909

At the meeting of the Sons of Temperance in Center Harbor on May 15, 1889, members voted to establish a new organization, to be called the Center Harbor Library Association. They proposed that "Granite Division no. 12, S of T, donate all rights they have in their library of about 60 volumes to the proposed Association."¹ The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 3. Mr. Lewis A. Sibley wrote a set of by-laws, using those of the library in neighboring Sandwich as a template. Fred Goodrich was elected president pro-term and Dr. W. A. Page was named librarian. Official papers of incorporation were filed with the State. Later that year, a slate of officers was chosen, with Mr. Sibley as president and Mrs. F. H. (Henrietta) Morse as librarian. In so doing, they laid the foundation for what would become the Nichols Memorial Library.

The town library is almost as common a feature of the New England landscape as its white Congregational churches. Libraries followed the line of settlement, springing up as communities took root. In 1780, there were 51 libraries in the New England colonies. By 1815, that number had grown to 178. By 1850, there 1,064 libraries in the region; 266 in New Hampshire alone.² Center Harbor had been one of the first communities in the Lakes Region to establish a social Library. In 1829, Joseph Sturtevant, John Thompson and Joshua Norris filed papers with the state of New Hampshire to incorporate a social library in west Center Harbor. It was a brief flourishing that ceased to exist before the end of the 1830s. By the time the Center Harbor Library Association was incorporated, seven other lakes region communities had established a Library. Ashland (1870) was first, followed by Laconia (1878) and, in the 1880s, Meredith, Bristol, Danbury New Hampton, Northfield and Sandwich.³

For New Englanders, libraries met both moral and practical needs. The staunchly Calvinist settlers of the region firmly believed that the ability to read scripture was a necessary condition for salvation to take root. Although the zeal of the founding generation waned, literacy still held value for their descendents. It was seen as a key to self improvement, a source of uplift and as a check on vice, as well as an aid to prosperity and commerce. And, in an emerging republic, literacy was deemed essential for the promotion of civic virtue. Later in the century, the looming presence of urban squalor, uneducated immigrant populations and unionism drove home the need for civilizing institutions. This dedication to the values of education and literacy gave birth to such institutions as the lyceum, Chautauquas, public schools and, of course, libraries.⁴

A similar confluence of moral and civic zeal inspired the Center Harbor Library Association's parent body, the Sons of Temperance. Temperance reformers saw sobriety not only as a matter of personal rectitude but a boon to prosperity and progress, and as a check on democratic excess. The Sons of Temperance was formed in New York in 1842, at the height of the reform zeal of the 1840s. The New Hampshire chapter of the Sons, the Granite Division, was established in Portsmouth in 1846; the Center Harbor chapter, the Division's 12th branch, had been established by 1848.⁵ Prospective members needed to be sponsored by a member; once in, they paid annual dues. Members of the Sons of Temperance in Center Harbor were associated with the Congregational Church and included some of the older families in the village, among them the Coes, Sturtevants and Morses, as well as leading citizens such as Mr. Sibley and Dr. Page.

An incident which speaks to the relations between the temperance men and the rest of the Center Harbor community took place at the time of the raising of the Congregational Church

in 1837. As Association Secretary Elizabeth Jackson tells the story,

"John Coe, a strong temperance man, was determined the house of God would be raised without the aid of intoxicating drink, which flowed freely on all such occasions. [When the word spread] that no rum would be furnished [the working men] decided that they ..would strike. It lacked but five minutes of the appointed hour when a team of [temperance] men was seen coming down the Old Meredith Road. Elder Hiram Stevens was called upon to offer a prayer and, in a tone of no uncertain sound, began 'God nerve the arms of the Cold Water Men.' The opponents, finding themselves defeated, concluded that they might as well assist."⁶

Those "Cold Water Men," if at times at odds with other residents, were nevertheless possessed of a zeal for the common good, as they saw it. It was from that same earnest spirit that the Center Harbor Library Association arose.

Like most of the libraries that sprang up during early to mid-19th century, the Center Harbor Library Association was an independent, or, social library, not a public one. Social libraries were reading rooms or lending collections created by private means and supported by membership dues or the purchase of shares. Some were general browsing collections, others were special collections devoted to theology, the classics, the natural sciences or popular mechanics. They served the needs of the well-to-do, shop owners, merchants and apprentice workers.⁷

The collection the CHLA received from the Granite Division, was a general one. Of the sixty titles, 45 were fiction. The 15 non-fiction titles were mostly history and biography, with a few titles on religion, travel and belles lettres. Selections for the Library Association would follow a similar pattern. The Association charged prospective members \$1.00 to join the association and assessed dues of \$.25 semi-annually, a schedule similar to that practiced by the Sons of Temperance.⁸

Social libraries had a high rate of failure, dependent as they were on uncertain funding. Fortunately for Center Harbor, the newly founded Library Association encountered no such obstacles. Center Harbor, in fact, proved to be an apt site for a library establishment. The village, which had been incorporated in 1790 after breaking away from New Hampton, occupied a fortuitous location. Situated at the intersection of the Meredith and Plymouth Roads, it was a halfway station for the Concord to Fryeburg stagecoach. The addition of a mile of lake frontage put the village in line for a stop on the Winnepesaukee steamer routes, which began to run in the 1840s. The rural hamlet thus became an important transfer point for disembarking travelers. Between the 1840s and the end of World War One, Center Harbor enjoyed a long period of prosperity. Hotels such as the Moulton Hotel, Senter House and Garnet Inn were built to accommodate travelers. Summer houses and cottages soon followed. Center Harbor became the site of the First Harvard-Yale crew race, a stopover for Presidential visitors, and a popular

summer camp for the well-to-do. Most of the buildings in Center Harbor's historic district --and its library-- date from this period.⁹

The Association's collection grew quickly, as funds from dues and donations became available. In February, 1890 "a committee consisting of Dr. Page, Mrs. Sibley, & Mrs. A. G. (Lizzie) Webster was formed to select books."¹⁰ Fifteen titles were soon added. In July, it was agreed that a gift from Mrs. J. A. Grant be used for additional purchases. Mrs. H.G. Sturtevant helped with the selection of 22 new titles. Shortly after this, "our first printed catalog of 145 volumes was issued."¹¹

The greatest challenge facing the group in its first years was in finding a settled home for its collection. At the first annual meeting, Mr. J. A. Grant pledged "a liberal sum" toward the erection of a library building to house the collection. Work and lumber was promised by other members, but in the end, it was voted to "not undertake at the present so startling an enterprise" and to return Mr. Grant's gift.¹² The next month, the availability of a "probable" gift of land led to the formation of a building committee that included Mr. Grant, William Butterfield, A. P. Leighton, A. M. McDonald and Mrs. Sibley, but, in the end, nothing came of it.¹³ Meanwhile, the collection was in the home of librarian Henrietta Morse until 1892. Mrs. Stanley then agreed to host the collection until a permanent location was found. The following year, Mrs. Lewis Sibley agreed to be librarian, while the Library moved to the home of Ms. Virginia Ladd. In 1894, a long term answer was found when Mr. Daniel Coe and his wife agreed to host the Library in the Coe House, near the center of the village district, an arrangement which would last for the next 14 years.¹⁴ That same year, Mrs. N. C. (Lizzie) Webster was named librarian, a post she would hold for years to come.

Association members enjoyed various activities in addition to the privileges of the reading room, among them "social evenings" and a "readers circle." After one such evening, members voted that "the thanks of the Association be extended to Miss [Elizabeth] Benson for the able manner in which she has discharged her duties as editor of "The Experiment."¹⁵ New materials continued to be added. In 1891, The book selection committee reported that another 28 books had been added to the collection. At the next annual meeting, the sixteen members present voted to expend another \$30 for books. Forty-seven titles were duly added, chosen by Mrs. Webster, Sturtevant and Sibley. In 1894, the reading room's hours were extended with the addition of Wednesday afternoon from 2-5 pm and evening from 7-9 pm. In 1896, it was agreed to insure the collection.¹⁶

Unlike earlier social libraries, which had focused on theology, the classics or technical subjects, fiction was the leading interest of the Center Harbor Library Association members. In 1899, the first year such numbers were recorded, Mrs. Webster reported that "1,969 volumes have been loaned, 1,828 of which are books of fiction." Three years later, the library circulated 2,239 volumes, "2,224 of these being fiction."¹⁷ Although some of the early advocates of libraries were suspicious of popular fiction, finding it morally questionable, librarians in the late 19th century, showed a more flexible sense of social purpose, one more inclined to help readers choose well than to control content.¹⁸

Significant gifts and endowments continued to come in. Mrs. George W. Armstrong of Boston, whose family owned the Gilnockie summer residence on the Old Meredith Road, made frequent donations. In 1896, an even more generous donation was received from James Edwin

Nichols, who offered \$100 to be spent on books unless it could be used "to greater advantage." Mr. Nichols, who had been born in Meredith and raised in Center Harbor, was a managing partner of J. Austin Nichols in New York. The board voted "to return hearty thanks to Mr. Nichols for his liberal remembrance of the library and of his native place." Some thought was given to saving his gift, either to a building fund or for some other large expense, but it was finally voted to use the gift to acquire more books and to print an updated catalog. At the next annual meeting, Mr. Nichols and Mrs. Armstrong were made honorary members of the Association.¹⁹

As the library became more visible in the community, it began to attract the interest of non-members. In 1898, it was found necessary to restrict lending to family members. "No person," stated the amended by-laws, "shall lend a book belonging to the library to anyone outside his own household." In 1904, the Association voted to allow the Center Harbor Women's Club "free use of the Library in preparing for club work." And in 1895, "a proposition was laid before the Association from the members of the workers library to unite the two libraries." After due consideration, Association members voted against the merger, in no small part due to the condition that workers members be admitted to the Association as life members. The Association did offer to purchase the collection, an offer which was declined.²⁰ Little else is known about this other library in Center Harbor, but its mere existence speaks to the importance which the community placed in libraries.

On its tenth anniversary in 1899, the Association's collection had grown to 955 volumes. The Librarian reported that 1,969 loans had been made during the year and 83 titles had been added to the collection. Business was conducted by the same core of dedicated persons, notably Mrs. Morse, Dr. Page, Miss E. R. Bennett, Susan Locke and their hosts, the Coes. Mr Sibley stepped down as president after 10 years. He was succeeded by Dr. Page and then, Lizzie Webster. Mrs. E. S. (Edna) Stanley took over as president in 1905, a position she would hold for more than twenty years. In 1906, Mrs. W. L. (Elizabeth) Jackson was appointed secretary, a post she held until 1916. The Coes, who continued to host the Library, were exempted from dues and, in 1905, were granted funds to help offset increases in their house insurance.²¹

Lizzie Webster continued on as librarian, despite several leaves of absence for reasons of health, first in 1898 and again in 1904. Hattie Blake, Bertha Smith and Mrs. E. S. (Abbie) Towle provided assistance in her absence. Meanwhile, the by-laws were updated in 1897 and \$15 was appropriated to the Librarian for her services.²² By 1909, their collection had grown from 60 to 2,047 volumes, with an annual circulation of 2,544 titles.

Although the Center Harbor Library Association emerged out of a confluence of place, time and social circumstances, it bore the personal stamp of its founders. As Deborah Stone has observed, "public programs do not arise without individual commitments and activities."²³ Center Harbor in 1889 was blessed with a number of such persons. Mr. Sibley and Dr. Page had the vision of a library and provided leadership in its early years. Long serving officers Emma Stanley and Henretta Morse provided continuity. The Coe's gave the use of their residence and librarian Lizzie Webster provided many years of "faithful and unstinting labor." The honor role of donors who had "favored" the library included George W. Armstrong, Mr. Herbert Dumaresq, and Mr. James E. Nichols. They had come together, for "the establishment of a library and the promotion of education, the arts and the sciences." In so doing, they had become "an important factor in the life of the community."²⁴

Chapter Two

"An Ornament to Your Village for Years to Come", 1909-1910

In 1891, one year after the Library Association tabled plans on a library building, New Hampshire passed an ambitious bill aimed to foster the growth of libraries. The act "for the establishment, maintenance and supervision of public libraries" promised \$100 in matching funds for communities choosing to establish a library. The law was revised in 1895, mandating each town establish a library fund, based on an assessment of 15 cents per each thousand dollars of the community's evaluated worth. Towns were then required to vote at town meetings on whether to establish a public library or, finding it "inexpedient," to maintain the assessment in a library fund.²⁵

New Hampshire had long been in the forefront of the emerging public, or free, library movement. Peterborough established the first free public library in the Nation in 1833 . The New Hampshire legislature passed an act in 1849 authorizing the use of tax revenues to fund libraries, the first such law in the country.²⁶ Other New England states soon followed suit. Advocates of public schools such as Horace Mann and Francis Wayland also championed the public library. Attendees at the first national library conference in 1853 dedicated themselves to "advancing the prosperity and usefulness of public libraries."²⁷ As the century entered its last quarter, Mayor Frederik P. Mayer of Boston declared that the free public library "has become so fixed in the affections of the people that it may now safely defy all opposition."²⁸

The 1895 New Hampshire bill had its desired effect. Many small towns took the opportunity to open a library. In the Lakes Region, Alton, Barnstead, Freedom, and Gilmanston established libraries in 1892. In 1893, Belmont, Effingham, Holderness, and Madison made foundings. These were shortly followed by Moultonborough in 1896, and Tuftonboro and Franklin in 1899. Also that year, the independent library in Sandwich re-constituted itself as a free library.²⁹ Of the remaining towns, twelve voted it inexpedient to establish a library; sixty-five already had a library independent of local government.

Center Harbor, already possessing an independent library, voted it inexpedient to establish a public library. The town duly entered its assessment of \$82.55 in a "literary fund."³⁰ No further action was taken, nor is there record of any discussion regarding the incorporation of the Association's collection as a town library, as other communities had done. Certainly, the costs of maintaining a library collection, let alone funding a building to house it, would have strained the resources of a rural village of some 450 persons, no matter how prominently situated. The village's most pressing needs were to maintain its roads and schools. The year that the library law was passed, Center Harbor spent \$1,373 on roads and bridges and \$1,052.94 on schools.³¹ The community at large would, for the time being, have to do without a library for all its residents.

Things continued in this manner until 1906, when Daniel Coe, in whose home the Association's collection was kept, passed away. While Mrs. Coe graciously allowed the library to continue to have the use of her premises, some thought had to be given to the future of the

library. With a collection nearing 2,000 items, it was surely straining the available space.³² Membership dues and "liberal donations" assured the growth of the collection, but the absence of a dedicated facility certainly left some question for its future.

At this critical juncture, the availability of a "suitable piece of land" spurred the effort to find a donor for a library building.³³ The site of the Senter House on the corner of Plymouth Street and Main was about to go on the market. The house which occupied the site, a long two-story structure built by Moses Senter, had been destroyed by fire, but the barn was being used as a furniture store by J. Macksey and Co. Its present owner, a Mr. MacLean, indicated that he might be willing to sell the property at a favorable price if it "would be improved for the benefit of the town."³⁴ The site certainly was ideal for a civic building of this nature. It lay in the heart of the village district at the intersection of the Old Meredith Road and Plymouth Street. Neither the Association nor the Town, however, were in a position to purchase the property outright, let alone undertake a construction project of this magnitude. To realize the project, a donor would need to be found.

As it turned out, they found two. The first offer to be presented came from Benjamin S. Smith, who had perviously paid for the construction of the public library in nearby Meredith. Mr. Smith had been born on November 1, 1833, in West Center Harbor. He left the Lakes Region for Boston, where he met business success in the retail trade, selling yarns and hosiery along the Massachusetts North Shore. By the 1880s, the "The Yarn Man" had retired and had come to maintain a summer home in Meredith. An independent library had been in existence in Meredith since 1882, but it lacked a "permanent and convenient home."³⁵ Mr. Smith offered to pay for the construction of a library building in Meredith, provided that the town purchase the property and prepare the lot by removing the existing structures. It was so agreed and the Benjamin S. Smith Library duly opened its doors in 1901. He dedicated the structure to the memory of his parents, John and Mary Mudgett Smith.

Now finding Center Harbor in a similar predicament, Mr. Smith was again willing to lend a hand. In the spring of 1909, a warrant article appeared before the town to decide whether to "accept a proposal by Benjamin S. Smith in regard to a free public library" and whether to purchase the Senter property for said edifice.³⁶ A committee was formed to review the proposal, consisting of George Simpson, F. H. Morse, and A. A. Bennett (the latter two were members of the Library Association). Interested parties lobbied in favor of the warrant. A letter in the *Laconia Democrat* on February 26th urged a vote of yes, noting that a library would "increase property value and benefit your posterity."³⁷

Meanwhile, Mr. Smith F. Emery, "a leading citizen" of Center Harbor, went to New York City to meet with Mr. James E. Nichols.³⁸ Mr. Nichols had previously donated \$100 to the Library Association. Might he be willing to do more? Mr. Nichols found himself willing. The idea took shape in his mind of a gift to his native place and a memorial to his parents, who had farmed in Center Harbor for many years. Mr. Nichols composed a letter to the selectmen, stating that he had been informed that the Senter property could be acquired "free of all buildings, for \$3,000" and if it "can be delivered to me with a perfect title...I would purchase."³⁹ Further, he stated that "I propose to erect on this lot a suitable library building...to be known as 'The Nichols Library' and to "endow this property with sufficient funds" for its maintenance. Finally, he authorized Mr. Smith Emery to secure the deed for the amount of \$3,000. Mr. Emery conveyed Nichol's offer to the Town, where it was unanimously accepted at the March meeting in 1909. The Town appropriated \$500 toward the purchase of the old Senter property and another \$400 to

see to its clearance in preparation for building. Benjamin Smith's offer was declined with a "vote of thanks."⁴⁰

Nichols letter implies that the Association had already conveyed its intention to will its collection to the proposed town library. This is indicated in a discussion of property stamps for the books. He proposed that all new books "bear the mark of the Nichols Library" while "all the present books owned by your Library Assn. [are] to remain as they are now."⁴¹ At their annual meeting in October, Association members ratified that decision after a "spirited discussion" and drew up "a deed of gift of all the library property to the town of Center Harbor."⁴² A year later, at the semi annual business meeting, the Association voted to withdraw its funds from the Amoskeog Bank and merged them with the Nichols Trust. In the resulting arrangement, the Town would own the building while the Association would see to the management of the Library and its endowment. A mixed Board of Trustees, containing representatives of the Town and the Association, would provide oversight. In light of these arrangements, and, at the at the behest of Mr. Nichols, the Association changed its name to the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association.

James Edwin Nichols was the proverbial local boy who made good. He was born in Meredith on April 26th, 1845, the son of Robert and Huldah Nichols. In 1864, he left for Boston, where he became involved in the cloth trade, first as a clerk for Jordan Marsh, then as a traveling sales agent for F. A. & J. Sawyer and the Franklin Woolen Mills. His travels took him to New York City, where in 1879, spice and coffee trader Robert Austin of Fitts and Austin was anxious to reincorporate and expand into the wholesale grocery trade. The realization of his plans would require a fresh infusion of capital. Mr. Nichols, though new to the grocery trade, brought the needed financing. He thus became a partner in the newly incorporated Austin-Nichols. When Robert Austin died in 1885, Mr. Nichols became the chief executive officer of the firm.⁴³

"The reign of Mr. Nichols might be called the 'golden age' of Austin Nichols." This was "the beginning of the era of packaged groceries." Austin-Nichols "was among the first grocery houses to... have them packaged ..under their own brands."⁴⁴ Canned good issues began in 1880. Sunbeam (1890) and Ocean Gem (salt fish) were two of their more noted brands. The firm quickly "established its name from Maine to Florida, Texas and the Rockies." By the turn of the century "1/5 of all the olives from Spain were imported by Austin Nichols." Under Nichols "able management," the firm "passed through critical periods of national financial depression and emerged without suffering any material losses."⁴⁵

In 1909, when Mr. Emery came to call, Mr Nichols had entered into partial retirement. Having secured wealth and success, he had begun looking to posterity. For such a man, the donation of a library building had become a "characteristic form of philanthropy at the turn of the century."⁴⁶ The philanthropic impulse having been decisively awakened, Center Harbor was to have its library.

With funding settled and the property secure, work began on drawing up plans for the library. The man selected for the task was Charles Brigham of Watertown, Massachusetts. Mr Brigham came well recommended. Of an old Watertown family, he formed a partnership with John Hubbard Sturgis. Together, they designed the Museum of Fine Arts and the Church of the Advent in Boston. After Sturgis's death, Brigham went on to design the annex to the

Massachusetts State House, the Fairhaven Town Hall and Library, the Christian Science church in Boston and many of the fine mansions in the Back Bay. By the end of the 19th century, his fame was such that he had been called to design residences in New York, California, and as far away as Chile.⁴⁷ For the design of the Nichols Library, Brigham drew on classical concepts. The allusion to the past, typical of the period, evoked a certain grandeur. He created a secular temple, fitting for its purposes as a memorial to family and a storehouse of knowledge.⁴⁸

Mr. Nichols visited Center Harbor in June 1909 to review the plans with Mr. Brigham and visit the site. Work on the library began with the clearing of the property, which was done in mid-July. Mr. John Edwards purchased the barn and had it moved to his own land, where it was used as a livery stable. Work on the foundation began in August. Guay Construction was contracted for the erection of the building.⁴⁹ The cornerstone was laid with due ceremony on September 29th, 1909. Smith F. Emery presided at the event, with Mr. Brigham in attendance. Remarks were given by Rev. Joseph Hammond and Prof. James Chapman of the New Hampton Institute. The cornerstone contained a history of the Center Harbor Library Association, written by secretary Elizabeth Jackson, Town Reports and records of the Center Harbor Women's Club. The ceremony concluded with the singing of America by the school children in attendance.⁵⁰ Construction continued apace through the fall. Mr. Nichols came to visit and review progress in November. By January 1910, work was moving forward on the interior. By March, the exterior was nearly ready for outside finishing. As the time of the scheduled dedication approached in June, furnishings were still being installed.⁵¹

The Nichols Memorial Library has been judged "one of the finest classical library buildings in the state."⁵² Writing in 1986, James Rollins pronounced the structure "strikingly well preserved, having seen almost no significant architectural changes since its construction."⁵³ The basic design features a rectangular main block facing Plymouth street, which holds the main reading room. A rounded rear projection holds the book stacks. The exterior walls are of sand-color brick, resting on a granite foundation topped by a molded limestone sill. A slate roof with twin chimneys caps the structure. The central entry way is framed by two Tuscan columns, which support a stone entablature and pediment. The wooden double panel doors are set in a recessed entry, topped by an ornate transom window.

Visitors coming into the library enter through a vestibule into a large double reading room. This area was originally furnished with large oak reading tables and upholstered settees. The settees and one of the tables have since been removed. In their place are wooden book shelves lining the outer walls and work tables for computer users. Each wing contains a red-brick fireplace with ornate oak mantels. The entry and reading room features paneled wainscoting beneath finished plaster walls. Moulded entablatures frame the doors and windows. Installed on the walls are the trophy heads of five "monarchs of the forest" which had been taken by Mr Nichols on hunting expeditions in upper New England, the Tetons, and the Canadian Rockies, ventures which testified to his "life of spirit and adventure."⁵⁴

The librarian's desk is centrally placed, separating the stack area from the main room. The stacks area, which extends back to form a curved rear wall, has simpler plaster walls and a moulded baseboard. The ceiling arches over the area in a high barrel vault. This elegant vaulted ceiling is a crowning touch and attests to Mr. Nichols willingness to allow architect Brigham license to put style ahead of utilitarian considerations. Symmetrical corner offices, one for the Librarian and one intended for the Selectmen, flank the stack area. The Selectman's Room

contains a Mosler walk-in safe, which provided storage for town papers. The safe's sixty deposit boxes were available to rent by private parties. The pendulum wall clock, which hangs above the librarian's desk, was a Seth Thomas, a noted American manufacturer. The library is said to be the first building in town whose lighting was electric rather than kerosene.⁵⁵

Of particular note were the tile decorations on the reading room fireplaces. The fireplace on the lake side features "The Pines," an eight-tile frieze (ca 1906) designed by Addison Le Boutellier for the Grueby Faience Company of Boston. The combination of Gruby's matte glazes and Le Boutelliers two dimensional design was "innovative" and can be considered a fine representation of the arts and crafts movement that prevailed in America from 1870 to 1920.⁵⁶ The whimsical Mother Goose tiles on the right-hand fireplace used a transfer printing technique. They were produced by the American Encaustic Company of Zanesville, Ohio.⁵⁷ The tile sets attest to the designer's attention to detail and also demonstrates the willingness of Mr. Nichols to "donate princely sums"⁵⁸ in consideration of artistic as well utilitarian needs in furnishing the library.

The dedication of the Library was held "with appropriate ceremonies" on Saturday, June 18, 1910.⁵⁹ The day was rainy, so the exercises were held in Lamprey Hall, across Plymouth Street from the library. The hall "was packed to the doors."⁶⁰ Others gathered outside to listen.

Following a hymn, the Rev. Joseph Hammond gave the invocation, expressing gratitude to God that Mr. Nichols had found it in his heart to "erect this noble edifice which we now dedicate".⁶¹ State Senator Harry T. Lord spoke next, asking "what better gift can a man bestow on a community" than a library.⁶² The Rev. Merritt Gregg of Laconia hailed libraries as "citadels of wisdom" and "a bulwark against evil."⁶³ Two business associates of Mr. Nichols gave extemporaneous remarks.⁶⁴

Then the time came for Mr. Nichols to address the assembly. He expressed his affection for the village, remarking that "there is something in the scenes and surroundings of boyhood life that lingers long in memory, after other events have passed and been forgotten, and I have always hoped that some day I could return and show my appreciation of my early life in this village in some...substantial manner."⁶⁵ He hoped that the library would "long remain an ornament to your village for years to come." The property was "deeded direct to the town for the following purposes,"⁶⁶ one, to provide an "office or board room for the selectmen," and the rest, "for the exclusive use of the Library Association." He had also created an endowment, "income of which will be sufficient to pay all expenses," so that "there shall be no expense to the town and no one can be taxed for the support of the property." To the Library Association, he desired that they would make the library "free to all" and make the people of "the surrounding towns" and "summer cottagers...equally welcome."⁶⁷ Finally to "the good librarian," he said that "I can only hope she will find her new library home adequate to her wants."⁶⁸

With that, Mr. Nichols signed the deed, rendering the library building to Center Harbor. Accepting the deed, selectman Orville Smith stated that "words fail to express our gratitude."⁶⁹ Mina Towle and Lavinia Lovet, representing the schools, presented Mr. Nichols with a bouquet and a framed picture of the Town's schoolchildren.⁷⁰ A resolution was presented, to "accept this gift as our sacred trust" so that "in this community it may be an influence for good" for now and for "succeeding generations."⁷¹ All then rose and sang America, after which a benediction was offered by Rev. Gregg, thus ending Center Harbor's "proudest day."⁷²

Chapter Three

""To Carry on the Library Service", 1911-1960"

The new library proved immediately popular with the residents of Center Harbor. Librarian Lizzie Webster reported in 1911 that patrons had borrowed 5,277 from the collection.⁷³ This was a jump of nearly 3,000 from the 2,733 items circulated in 1909, and indicates that residents and summer guests had embraced the library as their own. The library had issued 106 borrowing cards by the end of 1911. Guest borrowers paid a deposit for borrowing privileges. Some left their deposit at the end of the season as a gift to the library. A total of \$7.08 in fines was assessed for late books. Thirteen of the deposit boxes in the Mosler safe were rented to private parties.

Readers mostly sought fiction (3,367 items) and material for children (1,296). Only 614 non-fiction titles were loaned. The 1911 Catalog shows 24 pages devoted to fiction. There was, however, a wider selection of non-fiction (10 pages) and books for young folk (5 pages) than had been available in the CHLA catalogs.⁷⁴ In 1915, the library's fifth anniversary, interest was still strong, with 5,181 loans recorded, 3,399 being fiction and 1,312 being books for children.⁷⁵

The library opened its doors to the public three days a week. On Monday and Saturday, service hours began in the afternoon, between 3 and 5pm. After a dinner break, services would resume from 7-9pm. On Wednesdays, only afternoon hours were held. On February 19th, 1914, a "severe storm" caused the library to be closed, the first time weather conditions had forced a closing. Again, the Association welcomed the Center Harbor Women's Club to make use of the facility. A piano was added in 1916.⁷⁷

The new library was the recipient of several sizable gifts. In 1911, the Irving National Exchange Bank of New York gave the library a "munificent gift" of 278 volumes, given "as a tribute of esteem and affection for James E. Nichols."⁷⁸ Valued at \$312, the collection included the complete works of Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott, as well as works by Kipling and Dickens, and Histories of England and the United States. The collection was accompanied by a printed booklet of the Library's dedication exercises. Mrs. Everett Fuller gave a 10 volume set of Presidential Papers (1798-1902). Rep. Harry Lord contributed a nine volume History of New Hampshire. The Secretary of State's office sent eleven volumes of New Hampshire State Papers ca. 1909-10 and numerous others added works of fiction and titles for little folks.⁷⁹ New materials were also being purchased for the collection, paid for out of the Nichols Trusts and the town's library fund.

In 1914, the library received a gift of 415 books from Mrs. George Armstrong, "the largest number of books ever given to the library by one person."⁸⁰ Another 188 new items were purchased that year. The journals list included the *London Illustrated News*, *Country Gentleman*, *Field and Stream*, and the *Women's Journal*, "a paper devoted to the interest of women's suffrage." The library subscribed to *New England Magazine*, *Current Literature*, and *The American Union Leader*. That year, the Library Association approved funding for a printed catalog of the collection.⁸¹

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In Elizabeth Flood Webster, the library was fortunate to have an able and enthusiastic first librarian. She was a farm laborer's wife but had received a high school education.⁸² Although she did not have formal training as a librarian, she made a point of learning and applying professional standards to the management of the library. In her first year, she adopted the Cutter-Sanborn table as the new standard for classifying materials, "a system highly recommend by the Boston Library Bureau." In her 1911 report she stated that the "new catalogues were compiled and all the books in the library renumbered."⁸³ The new printed catalog was paid for by Mrs. Stanley, who also assisted with the cataloging. In 1914, Mrs. Webster reported that "the system of charging has been changed from a ledger to that of a card system, a change which "appears to be for the better."⁸⁴ She also attended meetings of library organizations in New Hampshire. Regarding the New Hampshire Library Association meeting of 1915, she noted that "the number in attendance was small but was filled with enthusiasm for library work. A very pleasant and, we trust, a not unprofitable day was passed."⁸⁵ Mrs. Webster was assisted in her efforts by Mary Blake, who helped out during the summer season, Eliza Towle, who filled the office of assistant librarian one day a week and by Mrs. Emma Stanley, who assisted with the reclassification of materials.⁸⁶

Mrs. Webster's reports show not only her energy and professionalism, but a relish for her work and a personal touch. During warm weather, she kept the tables in the library supplied with fresh flowers (an exception was a dry spell in August of 1911). She proudly reported on Mr. Nichol's satisfaction with the Library on his annual visits. And in 1915, as the First World War drew to the end of its second year, Mrs Webster reflected on the role of libraries in a troubled world:

"amidst the world's turmoil and unrest, in this quiet corner, the members of the Library Association have worked faithfully and harmoniously to carry out. the common purpose of making our beloved library a power for good throughout the whole community."⁸⁷

In May of 1914, Mr. Nichols made a visit to the Library. Mrs. Webster reported "the genuine pleasure freely expressed by him at the management and condition of the Library."⁸⁸ Traveling in Europe six weeks later, Mr Nichols suffered a fatal stroke in Marienbad, Austria. Association members, as all who were near to him, were shocked by the news, as there had been no previous indication of ill health. A resolution was passed to the the memory of "our benefactor and our friend", stating that "while his work here is ended" the deeds he left behind "will live to bless his memory."⁸⁹ In her report that year, Mrs. Webster stated that "we can take comfort in the thought that

"ever near us, though unseen
the dear immortal spirits tread
for all the boundless universe
is life, there is no dead."

Mr. Nichol's death presented more pragmatic concerns to Association officers. They had to present an affidavit to the Probate Court of New York detailing the terms of the Nichols grant of

trust, so that the endowment "be exempted from the inheritance tax" in that State.⁹⁰ That matter resolved, the Library continued about its mundane business.

That calm was broken again in 1917, when the United States entered into the First World War in alliance with Britain and France against Germany. The decision by President Wilson and Congress to enter the war was generally greeted with patriotic fervor and the hope that it would make the world "safe for Democracy." The Association appropriated \$21 to the war fund and another \$25 to the American Red Cross. In 1918, the Association appropriated \$500 for the purchase of a Liberty Bond, which would help support the war effort.⁹¹ Elsewhere, the New Hampshire Library Association scheduled a special meeting in Manchester on Thursday, June 28th to discuss ways of supporting the war and appropriated a fund for the Red Cross. The 1918 meeting of the NHLA "had a decided war flavor."⁹² Nathaniel Goodrich of the Dartmouth College Library was appointed as State Director of War Library Service, which sponsored a drive to collect books for the troops. With 131 of the State's 240 towns responding, 24,500 volumes were gathered. Eleven Center Harbor residents served in the Armed Forces. At the annual meeting in 1919, the Association sanctioned the placement of a memorial tablet on the Library grounds to honor Center Harbor's veterans who had served in the war.⁹³

With the end of the war, the United States could "return to normalcy." In Center Harbor, the Library quietly went about its business. No significant initiatives were offered in the early 1920s. Elizabeth B. Jackson, secretary from 1905-1916, passed away in 1923; the Association sent a floral memorial.⁹⁴ Lizzie Webster continued as librarian until 1924. After having successfully shepherded the library from its founding through its first two decades, she stepped down in mid-term that year. Mrs. J. Irving (Abby) Towle, who had served off and on as Lizzie Webster's assistant, was appointed acting Librarian and presented the Librarian's report in 1925.⁹⁵ She was voted librarian for the coming year, but in 1926, Mrs. Towle resigned.⁹⁶ Her reports as librarian have not survived the years. Mrs. L. J. (Sophia) Edwards "who had held the office of Librarian by appointment" was chosen to be the new Librarian.⁹⁷ She would serve until 1952.

Sophia Edward's appointment was significant in that she was the first appointee who was not from the original inner circle of the old Center Harbor Library Association. By the end of the 1920s, other founding members were stepping down. Emma Stanley, who had served as President of the Association since 1905, retired after "faithful service for a long term of years."⁹⁸ She would pass away in the early 1930s. Henrietta Morse also stepped down as Treasurer. The new generation of leaders included Association President Ethel Bennet, Treasurer Raymond A. Kelly, his wife Carrie Kelly (Association Vice President and, later Librarian), and Trustees W. Irving Brown (1930-33), Alice Sargent (1933-1944), Albert Bennett (1933-53) and Frank Chase (1937-56).⁹⁹ Along with Mrs. Edwards, they would maintain the character of the library as established by its founders through to mid-century.

In Sophia Edward's 1933 report to the Library Association, she stated that the collection had grown to 6,443 items. She was able to add 316 new items that year, 252 by purchase. Significant donations of materials that year included 33 titles from J. T. Addison of Cambridge, 15 from Mrs. Stewart Hartshorn of Short Hills, New Jersey, and 23 from a Mrs. Alexander of Center Harbor.¹⁰⁰ The purchase of 252 new books in 1933 was not insignificant, given that the country was then in the depths of the Great Depression. The income from the Library's

endowment, however, remained secure. Moreover, additional gifts and bequests continued to come in. Emma Stanley left the library a fund of \$3,000, the income from which was dedicated for books.¹⁰¹ The Trustees also reported in 1933 that they had received an added income of \$1,300 "for use in upkeep." Meanwhile, the town continued to provide its annual support of \$46 for the book fund ("it is our policy to always lay out for new books"). In short, the Library had "ample funds to carry on the library service" on "up to date liberal lines."¹⁰²

The Nichols Library was fortunate indeed to find its funding secure. As states and municipalities looked for ways to cut expenses, some libraries faced the threat of defunding. The Executive Board of the American Library Association was sufficiently alarmed to provide libraries with advocacy materials aimed at demonstrating the value of libraries to their communities. The New Hampshire Library Association offered conferences on funding and "making do." They also encouraged the State Library to develop regional library services program to assist rural and small-town libraries. Bookmobiles, which supplemented the offerings of local libraries, and catalog cards, which freed locals from the task of original cataloging were two of the services offered. The NHLA also sponsored a book drive for Civilian Conservation Corps camps.¹⁰³

The librarian and trustees were intent on providing the community with needed services to see them through the hard times. The trustees gave Mrs. Edwards latitude to "use her judgment" in "remitting fines for short times."¹⁰⁴ It was voted to allow schoolchildren to borrow books for longer periods, if needed. The Library was open six afternoons and three evenings each week during July and August, and every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during the remainder of the year. Journals on hand included *The Saturday Evening Post*, *the Christian Herald*, *Colliers*, *Outlook*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Country Home*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and *Popular Mechanics*. The collection was well-used that year, with 7,552 copies being loaned.¹⁰⁵

Funds were also found to make some badly needed repairs to the library building. Melting snow and ice had created leaks, necessitating "extensive repairs" to the roof and eaves.¹⁰⁶ A six foot copper rim was added to the edge of the roof by C.R. Whicher of Manchester, at a cost of \$1,854.27.¹⁰⁷ Three additional units of shelves were ordered at this time.¹⁰⁸ The Association was able to arrange for these repairs and improvements without seeking additional funds from the town. Looking back in satisfaction, the Trustees reported that, despite the hard times, "the library managed to live within its means. We were given the income of \$2,000 which we have enjoyed about 20 years, yielding \$1,000 each year for expenses of all kinds. We have by strict economy not only done these things but have installed a heating apparatus."¹⁰⁹ The Library Association was sufficiently satisfied to grant librarian Edwards \$50 "in appreciation of her hard work in the interests of the Association" and "the efficient manner in which she conducts the Library."¹⁰⁹

A report sent to the Department of the Interior in 1938 provides an interesting snapshot of the Library during the 1930s.¹⁰⁹ It states that the income from the Library's endowment came to \$1,771.46. The Library received \$359 from other gifts and \$42.60 from the town. Significant expenditures included \$302.79 for books and periodicals, \$371.84 for heat, light and water, and \$758.60 for staff and janitorial services. It did, however, have an unpaid balance from 1937 of \$796.76. This is the first deficit reported in the existing records. The report went on to state that the library had loaned 7,522 materials that year, including 5,588 fiction titles, 353 nonfiction and 1,581 youth books. The patron base was listed as 187 patrons with borrowing cards, with an additional 67 guests having made deposits for borrowing privileges. The Library collected \$6.62 for fines. Use of the library's safe had fallen off, with only 6 deposit boxes in use. Year round

hours were listed as Wednesday and Saturday, from 2-5pm and 7-9pm. During July and August, the Library added additional afternoon hours on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.¹¹⁰ By all indications, the Library proved to be a popular and well-used community resource during the hard times.

The next decade was a quiet one for the Library, with no notable initiatives being brought before the Library Association, It was a tumultuous one for the nation, however, one marked by wars (World War II, Korea) and rumors of war (the Cold War, McCarthyism). The period would also have a lasting impact on the role of public libraries. The rise of dictatorships bent on conquest and the spectacle of public book burnings gave rise to grave concerns within the library profession regarding the future of democracy and the freedom of information and expression. In 1939, the America Library Association established a Committee on Intellectual Freedom and issued a Library Bill of Rights. The latter affirmed the freedom to read for all citizens. The ALA's actions marked the beginning of a "steady shift" toward a new concept of the library's mission as a watchdog of civil liberties. The old conception of moral custodianship ("a bulwark against evil") would fade as the new conception, a guardian of the right to know, would come to the fore.¹¹⁰ The red-hunts, text-book purges and loyalty oath crusades of the post-war years would give impetus to this shift.

These developments can be seen at work in the actions of the New Hampshire Library Association. In 1930, the NHLA declined to take action on a challenge to a Eugene O'Neill play, regarding it as outside their scope. In the 1940s, however, they formed their own Intellectual Freedom Committee and endorsed the proposed United Nations. They also sought books for youth readers that helped "explain the war catastrophe" and compared the "conflicting ideologies." In 1954, the NHLA adapted the ALA's Freedom To Read Statement as their own standard and, at its annual meeting, hosted a program on "Censorship and the Public Library."¹¹¹

None of these concerns found their way into the reports of the Library Association, so it is not possible to gauge the extent to which these concerns were felt in Center Harbor or in the life of the library. The war years were certainly hard ones for the community. The town sent 39 men to serve in the armed forces during World War II. Another 4 served during the Korean conflict.¹¹² As in the first world war, were state-wide book drives to participate in and programs on the war effort to attend.¹¹³ And the Nichols Library would eventually come to make the Library Bill of Rights part of its own collection development policy.

Article 19 in the 1952 Town Warrant for Center Harbor proposed a startling increase in the budget line for the Nichols Library.¹¹⁴ If passed, the \$500 sum would have been the town's first significant expenditure for the Library since clearing the property for construction in 1909. Some communities might have balked at the at the expense, and the implicit impact on tax rates, but the Selectmen John MacAllister, Maurice Chase and George Haines included the request in the budget and it passed town meeting.

Its is not certain why Trustees Albert Bennett, Frances Chase and Everett Heath went to the Town with their budget request. Neither the Library Association or town reports state a reason for the increase. Rather than any particular need or concern, it just may have been that the Library's endowment was no longer sufficient to cover its expenses. Costs for everything, from heating oil to books to salaries, continued to go up, while the income from the Trust remained

static. It may also have been that gifts, which in previous years had helped supplant the Nichols Trust, had also fallen off. The ability to operate within the confines of the endowment, which the Library had done through the 1930s, was becoming no longer possible. The fact that the town's budget line for the library stayed at the \$500 figure in ensuing years points toward this conclusion.

Also in 1952, Librarian Sophia Edwards resigned after "serving so faithfully for 25 years." Her resignation was to take effect on October 1st of the year. The Secretary of the Association was instructed to write Mrs. Edwards a letter telling her "how much she was missed. At the 1957 meeting of the Association, she was made a life member.¹¹⁵ Etta Bickford was chosen as the new librarian.¹¹⁵

In 1960, the Nichols Memorial Library celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A newspaper article reported that 100 people attended an open house in celebration of the event. Present were trustee Albert Bennett, and his wife, who had been President of the Library Association since 1927, and trustee Raymond Kelly. Former librarian Sophia Edwards "served cupcakes and punch." Mrs. Carole Sharpe provided organ music. Flowers were provided and arranged by Carrie Kelley, Vice President of the Library Association, "from her own garden."¹¹⁶

Happy though the occasion was, the Nichols Library was not quite the vibrant institution of its early years, or even the late 1930s. As noted previously, the library was no longer able to sustain itself on the income from its endowment. Also, circulation had fallen off during the 1950s. The librarian's report, given in 1957, notes that circulation had fallen to 2,975 items, a significant falling off from the 7,522 figure of 1938. Yet this number was an increase of 514 from 1956. Loans went up in 1959 (3,840), but sagged back again in 1960 (2,854).¹¹⁷ The decline in circulation may have reflected, to some extent, a decline in the population of the village. In 1930, its population was given as 382, the first time it had fallen below 400 since 1830. In 1940, population was at 355; in 1956, it was 356.¹¹⁸ The general state of the economy was also weak at that time. It was still recovering from the recession of 1953-1954 and did not really begin to boom until the 1960s.¹¹⁹

Collection growth appears to have slowed as well. Only 112 titles had been added in 1957; 25 were discarded as "beyond repair." In comparison, 168 items had been added in 1937, despite the fact that the economy was still in recession. Only 80 new books were added in 1959; another 111 in 1960 and 114 in 1961.¹²⁰ Service hours had also been cut back.

Librarian Etta Bickford made earnest efforts to provide services within the resources available to the library. She supplemented new book purchases with gifts from patrons, although, outside of 31 titles from a Mrs. Proctor and 32 titles from Mrs. Stanley Heath, none were major gifts. The magazine selection reflected current interests and tastes. On hand were three news and feature magazines (*Life*, *Look*, *Saturday Evening Post*), popular ladies journals (*Better Homes and Gardens*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook*, *Holiday*), and special interest serials (*Antiques*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Natural History*, *Photoplay*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Afield*, and *Reader's Digest*). For children there were *Boy's Life*, *Playmate* and *Jack and Jill*. The library also received *The Meredith News*, *Manchester Union*, and, during the summer months, *The Boston Herald*.¹²¹

Mrs. Bickford also made use of the State Library's bookmobile to provide additional materials to readers. She borrowed 140 items from this service in 1957, 193 in 1959 and 162 in 1960.¹²² She brought in traveling exhibits offered through the State Library, among them

programs on child care, baby care, and health in the home. In 1960, "National Library Week was observed by inviting the village school children to the Library." Carrie Kelly read to the younger children while "cataloging and filing were explained to the older group."¹²³

On September 1, 1961, Mrs. Bickford announced her resignation to the Board of Trustees. The Association accepted it with "sincere regret," and expressed their gratitude for the "wonderful work done by her in the Library and for the courtesies extended to the patrons."¹²⁴ The quiet little library, beloved of the Association, had served its community well for 50 years. Center Harbor, however, was changing. Its population, which had fallen in the 1930's and 1940s, was starting to grow. In 1960, the Library's fiftieth year, it was back up to 511; within five years, it would be up to 910.¹²⁵ New residents were arriving who had not grown up in the area. The Nichols Library was going to need to re-invent itself to keep pace with its changing community.

Chapter Four

"One Should Expect Some Changes," 1962-1982

Assistant librarian Carrie Kelley was the choice of the Trustees to be the new librarian. Her first annual report was the first to be written on a typewriter.¹²⁶ It lacked the stately elegance of the script that recorded the actions of earlier librarians, but it was concise and businesslike. It foreshadowed many changes that were to follow. The timing of her appointment coincided with a burst of growth in Center Harbor's population. The village, having fallen to 352 residents in the 1940s, rose to 511 in 1960, boomed to 910 in 1965 and settled at 885 by the end of the decade.¹²⁷ This spurt of growth came at the tail end of the post-war baby boom. It would help transform Center Harbor from a quiet rural village into a small town with new needs and aspirations.

Mrs. Kelley brought a needed infusion of new materials into the library's collection, adding 152 new books and accepting 80 gifts, including 23 from Mr. Alfred Jules and another 17 from Stanley Heath. She added the magazine *Seventeen* to the youth collection. She expanded use of the state bookmobile, borrowing 456 items in 1962, as well as another 70 titles from the State Library in Concord.¹²⁸ Despite the new purchases and donations, the actual size of the collection went down, from 6,239 to 5,687. Mrs. Kelley removed 552 worn and dated titles, with the help of William Hopkins and Paul Goode of the New Hampshire State Library.¹²⁹ In 1963, Mrs. Kelley reported that "Mr. Myers of the state library spent several hours assisting me in discarding obsolete history and biography books."¹³⁰ By the end of the year, the collection was at 5,695 volumes. Mrs. Kelley also asked the Trustees for permission to open the library on Monday evenings "for reference work," which was done, starting in May. The schedule became Monday, 7-9, and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, from 2-5pm and 7-9pm. Mrs. Kelley was assisted in day to day operations for two hours a week by Gertrude Martin.¹³¹

Library patrons responded enthusiastically to the changes, borrowing 5,135 items in 1962. Circulation rose to 6,152 items in 1963, an increase of 1,017. Circulation in July and August totaled 2,500. Good use was again made of the bookmobile, with 914 items borrowed. Donated materials continued to come in, with 202 being added to the collection.¹³² The turnaround would continue through the decade. In 1970, circulation had risen to 10,978 items; 4,152 items went out during the busy summer months.¹³³ The Collection had grown to 6,644 items; another 1,028 titles were brought by the bookmobile. Carrie Kelley noted that the Library received many compliments over the years from new members, many who were quite "surprised that we had such a nice library and such a nice selection of books."¹³⁴

Other signs of re-organization and development were taking place behind the scenes. The library's policies were revised in 1968. The Trustees also developed a mission statement. They declared it the library's objective to "assemble preserve and administer ... books and related educational material ... to promote ... the communication of ideas, an enlightened citizenship and enriched personal lives."¹³⁵ The policies detailed hours of operation (12 hours a week), circulation and fines (summer guests still paid a deposit), collection development, and the Librarian's responsibilities. The document was signed by Trustees Raymond E. Kelly, W. Irving Brown, and Sylvester Rand. In 1973, the Trustees adopted a new set of by-laws. Both the policies and the by-laws were filed with the State Library in Concord.¹³⁶

The library's finances were audited in 1965 by Midland of Maine Trust Company and found "correctly cast and properly vouchered."¹³⁷ Receipts were given as \$2,849 plus another \$1,351 in account. Operating expenses were given as \$4,201. The balance carried forward was \$778.10, indicating that the library was continuing to operate close to the bone. The Treasurer's Report issued in 1968 showed a expenditures of \$3,423. The Treasurer paid out \$1,299 for fuel and furnace maintenance, \$869 for books, \$1,436 for salary and \$535 for janitorial services.¹³⁸ Receipts from the town and trust funds came to \$4,201.58, for a balance forward of \$778.10. The town's share in the library's expenses rose again by the end of the decade, to \$800 in 1967 and, again, to \$1,000 in 1969.¹³⁹ Neither increase was the subject of a special warrant, but accepted as part of the library's annual budget.

As the size of the collection grew and use of the library increased, the demands on the available space became more pressing. By the beginning of the 1970s, the shelves in the stacks area were becoming filled. Additional shelving would be needed so that the Library could continue to add new materials without making wholesale cuts in the collection. In 1972, Mrs. Kelley suggested that shelves be built into the closet in the Selectman's room, to be used for magazine storage.¹⁴⁰ She suggested adding bookcases in the front reading room. She also decided to separate out a young adult section from the "lil' folks" section. The change, she said, "makes it more convenient for our junior patrons to find books suitable to their age."¹⁴¹ In 1972, the piano, which had been in the library since 1916, was let go, as "it is no longer used and the space is needed for other purposes."¹⁴² Mrs. Kelley suggested that shelves be built for the space under the window where the piano had been. In the next year, she noted that "I am very happy with the bookcase built by Harold Davenport", indicating that at least some of the requests for shelving were being met.¹⁴³

Work space for the staff was also needed. In 1970, the Trustees asked the Women's Club, which had shared the Librarians Office for years, to "move their equipment to the former selectman's room by the end of November ... as our Librarian needs this room for her work very badly."¹⁴⁴ The equipment mentioned included a cook stove, which must have made the little office very cramped indeed. Although, the Women's Club voted to accede to the Trustee's request,¹⁴ it was not universally approved. "I am very upset that the Club has been put out of the Library" one stated. The "eviction" was unnecessary.¹⁴⁶ Another asked why the the women were now considered "a general nuisance," and if the Trustees were "not aware that the Center Harbor Women's Club was given permission to use the facilities of the library as long as it wished to?"¹⁴⁷ Trustee Sylvester Rand, writing on December 12th, explained that "our library has been rapidly expanding during the past five years" and now "has reached a point where our Librarian needs the full use of the small office ... to carry out her duties effectively."¹⁴⁸ He hastened to assure them that "we in no way wished to deny the Women's Club the use of the library to hold their meetings" and ended with the hope that "they would most certainly understand the need for the action."

Reaching an arrangement with the Center Harbor Historical Society over use of library space went more smoothly. In an agreement reached on October 27th, 1971, the Trustees granted the Historical Society use of the former selectman's room and the safe in the Library basement for the "collection and presentation of objects and facts of historical interest" to the town "until such time as .. the space is necessary for library use."¹⁴⁹

In 1973, Carrie Kelley reported that "we are not as busy. Our little school on the hill has been closed and our children transported to Inter-Lakes School."¹⁵⁰ The new school, which served Center Harbor, Meredith, and Sandwich, was located in Meredith. After school, students were dispersed to their homes by bus. The library, once a convenient stop on their walk home from school, was visited less frequently. Heavy rains that year deterred summer visitors. Circulation for the year fell to 9,299 from 10,069 in 1972.¹⁵¹

The next year, Mrs. Kelly reported more of the same. Gas shortages, a consequence of the OPEC oil embargo, had a dampening effect on summer travel and would impact heating fuel prices in the winter. The shortages also affected State Library activities. Fewer meetings were held, due to cuts in the State Library budget, although Mrs. Kelley was able to attend "a very nice meeting" of the Bearcamp Library Association in Sandwich.¹⁵² None of these factors slowed the growth of the collection. Carrie Kelley reported that "we have had many new mystery books given to our library by Mary Fisher."¹⁵⁰ Memorials were given in memory of Joseph Coughlin and Lester Swinerton, and income from a used book sale "far exceeded my expectations."¹⁵¹ The library began adding LP records to the collection (100 in past 3 years). But although 343 new materials were added to the collection, circulation slipped again, to 8,414 for the year.¹⁵²

The concern with rising fuel costs prompted the Trustees to address needed repairs and consider energy saving improvements to the building. In 1974, aluminum storm windows were ordered for the library. By the end of the year, the bay window area in the stacks had been converted and "the balance of our windows will be installed shortly."¹⁵³ Also that year, a new water heater was installed and the roof inspected. In 1975, the library's ceilings were insulated with fiberglass "as a further step in our campaign to reduce heating costs."¹⁵⁴ They also changed fuel oil suppliers at this time. A power failure that winter briefly left the library without heat and light, but "Mr. Beede was very cooperative in working after dark to give us temporary power to...prevent the pipes from freezing."¹⁵⁵ This issue remained a concern through the decade. In her 1977 report, Mrs. Kelley expressed concern over the "high cost of gas" and "heavy snow" and, a year later, the Trustees considered shortening the library's schedule in order to save on fuel.¹⁵⁶

Other repair needs also commanded attention. In 1974, the front walk was re-paved and the settees and chairs in the reading room re-upholstered. The basement received a "badly needed cleaning."¹⁵⁷ Paving of the sidewalks around the library was completed in 1976. Also that year, an outdoor sign listing the Library's hours was installed.¹⁵⁸ Funding these required increases in town's share of the library's operating expenses. The library budget line doubled in the early 1970s, from \$1,000 in 1969 to \$2,000 in 1974. In 1975, an additional \$1,250 was allotted by the town to help defray expenses.¹⁵⁹

In 1976, the library was visited by a consultant from the State Library. Carrie Kelley reported that "we discussed personnel policies, salaries, [and] educational requirements for our staff."¹⁶⁰ The attention given to personnel matters was not incidental, as Mrs. Kelley was considering retirement. Her health was not the best,¹⁶¹ but the Board was anxious for her to continue. She agreed to stay on through 1978, but, looking to the future, told the trustees that

"whoever is selected to take my place must take courses in library techniques."¹⁶² Early in 1977, she suffered a "serious heart attack"¹⁶³ and was out for three months. Also that year, she lost her husband and long-time Association officer, Raymond. At the annual meeting, the Association honored him and Sylvester Rand, who had also passed away, as "both of these men have done a great deal for our library over the years."¹⁶⁴ Mrs. Kelley did return to work and reluctantly agreed to continue until the spring of 1978, but it was clear that the Trustees would need to begin a search for a new Librarian.

When Carrie Kelley decided to resign, the trustees "drew up a job description for the librarian in order to formalize some of the requirements that were not previously clear "and decided to" advertise the position widely. "¹⁶⁵ A number of applications were received and after interviewing several applicants, the trustees offered the position to Louise Hewins.

In January, Hewins presented an ambitious plan of suggested improvements to the trustees. Her "most important" priority was a thorough updating of the library's catalog. Many of the catalog cards were incomplete, containing only an author or title entry. Without a shelf number or a subject card, browsers would have a difficult time looking for book in the stacks, or even finding out if the library had a particular book on a subject.¹⁶⁶ This would be a huge project but one much in need of doing. Hewins also proposed a subscription to the *Reader's Guide to Periodicals*. This journal indexed magazine articles by topic, making it easier for students to find back articles on a particular subjects. Desiring the library to be "an information center" for the community, she also suggested setting up a bulletin board that would list new books, community events, and state-wide activities. Finally, she wanted to turn the former Selectman's room into a reference area, which would also house historical materials relating to the town.

To make the library "inviting to all and especially to children,"¹⁶⁷ Hewins recommended a major rearrangement of the library's reading rooms. She hoped to create special areas for both children and young adults on the east wing of the reading room. While this involved "no permanent alteration," it would necessitate the removal of the large oak table and benches on that side. To make the stacks more "usable" and create space for additional shelving, she suggested removing the central librarian's desk.

The Trustees were generally supportive of her proposals. The cataloging project got off to a big start in June. The library was closed for a week while a team of twelve volunteers, assisted by Moultonborough librarian Adele Taylor, labored away inside. The Library Board allowed Mrs. Hewins to work extra hours "to speed up the work of reorganization and cataloging."¹⁶⁸ Plans for the rearrangement of the interior also moved forward. At the March meeting, Trustee Annette Lep's husband "presented a rough sketch of a possible re-arrangement as discussed at the previous meeting,"¹⁶⁹ but it was agreed that a more detailed drawing was needed and that a chance should be given to members of the Association and the community at large to "express their views on these changes." A public meeting to discuss the proposed changes was scheduled for July. Sue Palmatier of the State Library, would be in attendance to help explain the rationale for the changes.

Held on July 11th, the meeting revealed substantial opposition to the proposed changes. Attendees objected to the idea of changing "an example of a classic Carnegie [sic] library." It was felt that the benches "should not be disposed of" and that the librarian's desk should be left intact. Some asked whether the use by the library by young people justified the changes. With the front room given over to youth and the Selectmen's room to reference, one wondered "where will the adults go?" Still others asked for a more thorough cost study before making substantial

changes. Association President Barbara Benoit asked those in attendance if they would endorse the proposal, but "agreement was not wholeheartedly given."¹⁷⁰

Meanwhile, complaints were being registered about smaller changes which Mrs. Hewins had already enacted. She displayed books by setting them out on the window sills and settees. This was unwanted clutter in the eyes of some. The moving of the children's area to the east, or lakeside, end of the reading room was disorienting to some and seemed to serve no particular purpose. The reading tables had been shifted along a north-south axis, which, it was opined, made them less well lit. They complained that the community bulletin board was ugly, took up needed space, and blocked off light. It was also felt by some that the library was no longer "restful;" it had lost "the quiet attitude."¹⁷¹ Others felt it was no longer a friendly place. Mrs. Hewins had taken to locking the rear door to her office, so that ladies working in the basement rummage sale had to go around to the front entry of the building to reach the facilities. This gave rise to a rumor that they had been denied their use.¹⁷² Carrie Kelley remarked that "one should expect some changes with a new librarian," but it was clear that a vocal group was adamantly opposed to the flavor that Mrs. Hewins was bringing to their library.

The rift between Mrs. Hewins and the community was not to be bridged. In October, she tendered her resignation, stating that the "circumstances currently surrounding the Nichols Library are not conducive to the goal of excellence."¹⁷³ Annette Lep resigned as a Trustee, stating that "the goals I have for the Library are not shared by the Library Association."¹⁷⁴ Bill Taylor resigned in 1980. The new Trustee Board consisted of Dorothy Simmonds, John Desmond, Merrill Beem, Marion Frank and Richard Cabell. At the January meeting of the Association, Gladys Bickford asked assistant Gertrude Martin if she would agree to serve as Librarian. This proved to be a more comfortable arrangement for all concerned.¹⁷⁵

There is an irony to Gertrude Martin's appointment, in that she and the Trustees saw through to completion a number of the changes initiated by Mrs. Hewins. In 1982, three new bookcases were purchased for the children's side of the library. "These proved to be so satisfactory that your Trustees decided to buy and install a similar set of three on the adult side of the library." One of the oak tables and two oak benches, "which had become surplus to the library's needs," were sold to defray the costs of this unbudgeted expense.¹⁷⁶

Other changes in long standing policies were taking place. The private use of the deposit boxes in the Mosler safe was discontinued. Summer guests were no longer charged a deposit for borrowing privileges.¹⁷⁷ Patrons were issued borrowing cards--another first.¹⁷⁸ Previously, they had signed their names on circulation cards. The new card system was in keeping with the idea of protecting reader confidentiality. Some did not welcome the change, as they used the sign-out card to keep track of what they read. They were advised to write their card numbers on date due slips. Mrs. Martin took courses in library cataloging and classification methods.

The catalog project begun under Mrs. Hewins was completed in 1985. Mrs. Martin reported that new materials were arriving cataloged from the publisher, with a complete set of catalog cards, eliminating the need for further processing from the librarian and her assistants. With this chore taken care of, the staff had been able to concentrate its energies on the classification of the existing materials, so that Gertrude Martin could "announce that the library has all books catalogued in the Dewey Decimal System."¹⁷⁹ This was a significant accomplishment. In six years, the small staff and their volunteer help had created a catalog that was organized in a

contemporarily acceptable fashion, making the collection fully accessible to local patrons and the statewide library community.

Another change was the appearance of materials in non-print formats in the collection. In the 1970s, Mrs. Kelley had introduced a small collection of LP records. In 1984, Mrs. Martin reported that she was adding recorded books to the collection. The audio books proved to be popular with people who were making long commutes and trips, working out or doing repetitive work. The tapes were also of benefit to the visually impaired, as were the large print books which Mrs. Martin began to acquire at that time. By the end of the decade, feature films on videocassette would become part of the collection. The librarian also attended a meeting regarding the development of statewide automated services. Proposals were discussed for a database that would combine the library holdings for the entire state. The next year, she attended meetings of the Five Rivers Automated Library Network, which continued the discussion of the statewide system.¹⁸⁰

In an effort to improve services and better connect with young people, the library added a 2-5pm slot to its schedule on Monday afternoons on the advice of Gertrude Martin, "who felt school students would benefit from this change."¹⁸¹ The library had been on a two days per week schedule since 1979, as part of its energy conservation program. The Trustees had judged that this would cause "little inconvenience."¹⁸² With the increase of two income families and working women, however, some patrons were finding it harder to schedule a library visit. The addition on Monday afternoons only raised the service hours from twelve to 15 hours a week. Circulation at the end of the decade would be half that of 1970. Publicity Chair Merrill Beem hosted programs and other activities to stimulate interest in the library.

While Mrs. Martin saw to the care of the collection, the Trustees were hard at work looking after the the maintenance of the building. The library's roof required close attention. Pinhole leaks in the copper gutters had, over the years, allowed moisture to penetrate the building's walls. Repairs were effected to seal these in 1977-1978.¹⁸³ In 1980, the Trustees directed their attention to the water damage to the building's interior. They proposed that damaged walls be re-plastered and the interior walls and ceiling be re-painted. A warrant article was put before the next town meeting to appropriate the funds needed to cover the expense, quoted at \$2,600.¹⁸⁴ In 1983, the back hall and stairwell were re-plastered and painted.¹⁸⁵ In 1988, further leaking would require that work be done to repair damage to the roof's slate tiles and copper flashing. The two chimneys were also repointed.¹⁸⁶

Safety and security needs were also addressed. In 1980, the Trustees found that the library was "dangerously under-insured."¹⁸⁷ The combined building and collection was rated only at \$80,000; the Bertram Blaisdell Agency recommended that it should be at \$150,000. The library later incorporated the building's insurance into the town's coverage.¹⁸⁸ As a precautionary measure, the Library's "ancient" wiring system was inspected in 1980. Other than the replacement of a fuse box with a circuit breaker, no significant work was required.¹⁸⁹ In 1984, Selectman Bob Beem and Fire Chief Lew Woodaman proposed a fire alarm system for the library, which was approved. Tom Mango Associates of Franklin was secured to do the work.¹⁹⁰ The installation of a hand rail on the front steps was considered, but was tabled, as the project that proved "much more expensive than anticipated."¹⁹¹ In the continuing effort to save on heating costs, "a preheating device was installed on our boiler .. it is expected to decrease heating costs by up to 20%."¹⁹²

Work was also done to improve the library's grounds. In 1985, an "attractive new sign" was installed on the lawn which listed the library's hours. In 1988, two overgrown spruce trees in front of the library were removed by the Town's road agent. The next spring, "new trees and shrubs were planted."¹⁹⁴

These projects required additional infusions of town monies. A warrant article seeking \$2,600 for roof repairs was passed in 1979.¹⁹⁵ In 1981, the library's budget line was upped to \$8,000 and passed by another warrant article.¹⁹⁶ After that, the library was funded at \$5,000 for the next several years. Another warrant was passed in 1988, authorizing \$14,666 to cover the costs of roof repairs and landscaping work.¹⁹⁷ The town and taxpayers did not begrudge the expense. Indeed, they gave every indication of valuing their library.

By the end of the decade, the Librarian, Trustees and the Library Association could take satisfaction in making substantial improvements in library services while doing their best to keep the facility in good maintenance. Many helpful changes were made, all testifying to a "commitment to excellence" that was firm indeed.

Chapter Five

"Services People Demand Will Shape the Library", 1985-2005

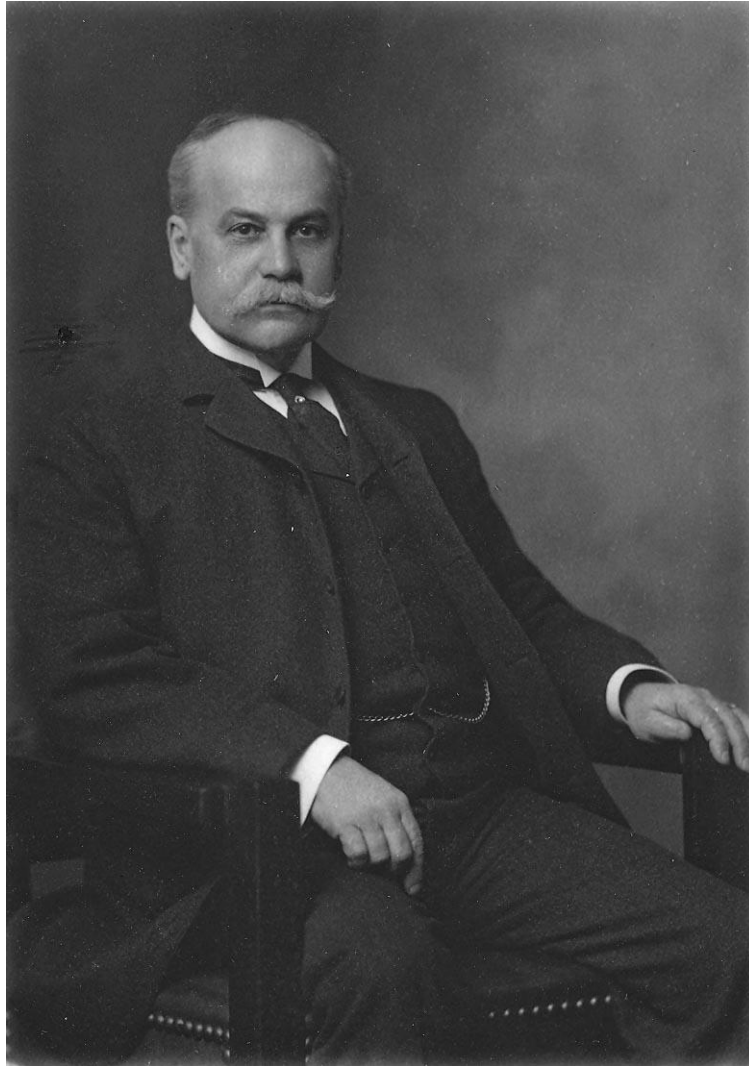
In 1983, the Nichols Library was added to the National Preservation List of Historical Sites, with its inclusion in the "Centre Harbor Village Historic District" established that year.¹⁹⁸ Structures nominated to the list are required to meet standards for their age, integrity and cultural significance. The Nichols Library clearly qualified. To commemorate the recognition, the Trustees proposed the purchase of a bronze plaque to be displayed on the front of the building. Members agreed to the purchase "with enthusiasm."¹⁹⁹ The plaque was unveiled in a ceremony held on June 25th, 1989. In attendance were Librarian Gertrude Martin, the Trustees, and State Representative Steve Mavillio. The Women's Club decorated the fireplace mantels for the event.²⁰⁰

The occasion was the highpoint in what was otherwise a difficult year for the library. While the library's collection was growing and changing, it was not being taken advantage of by the community. Library use, which had started to slip at the beginning of the decade had taken a slide. Circulation, which had been as high as 10,000 copies a year in the 1970, had slipped to 5,258 in 1982, rallied to 6,531 in 1984, and sagged to 4,202 at the end of the decade.²⁰¹ The story hour had been dropped for "lack of interest."²⁰²

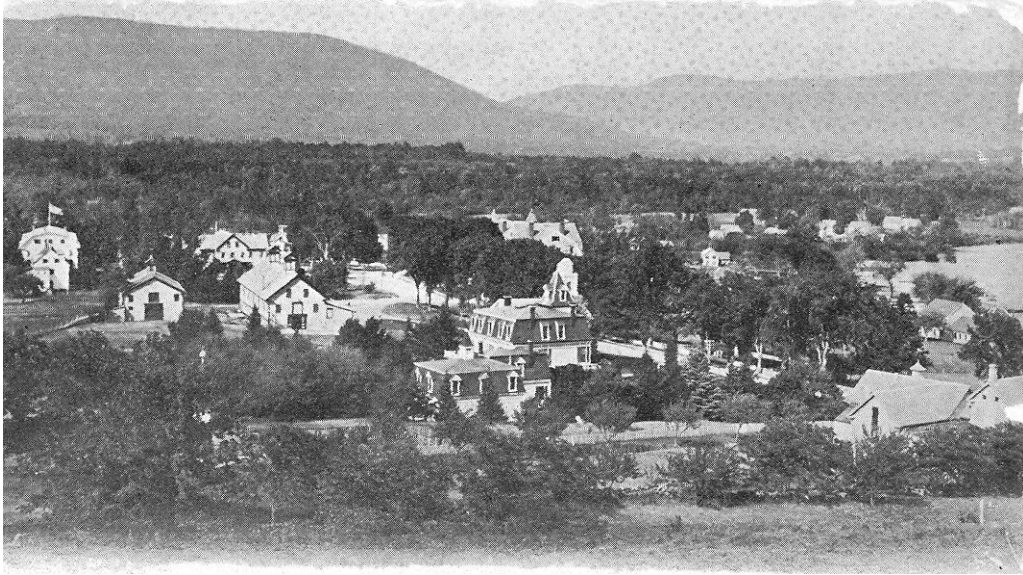
The slippage could not have been for a want of materials, as Mrs. Martin had steadily added to the collection. In 1982, she had bought 260 new titles, added 160 gifts, and reported the collection at 9,298 items. In 1989, she had added 385 titles and reported that the collection had grown to 12,350 materials.²⁰³ Indeed, the growth may have been too much of a good thing. There is no indication in the librarian's reports that significant removals of dated materials was taking place. Sadly, a collection of worn, faded and dated materials has seldom proven attractive to readers.

At the annual meeting of the Library Association, then, "some serious negative issues were addressed."²⁰⁴ Concern was expressed over the decrease in patronage and circulation of books. Gertrude Martin noted that "many of the Center Harbor residents who will read this report have not seen the inside of our library."²⁰⁵ Concern was also expressed over the state of the library Association, as "there has been a decline in membership." "There is an immediate need," members agreed, "to increase the library's visibility."²⁰⁶ A telephone canvass or a survey of patrons was proposed, to sample their needs and desires for the library. It was agreed to contact the State Library "for the purpose of enlisting their expertise on ways to improve the library's services."²⁰⁷

In the ensuing year, Judith Kimball of the State Library met with the Librarian and Trustees and looked at ways of improving services. She discussed re-arranging the books to give the library "a new look," developing activities for children, and hosting programs for adults. She asked if the patrons were more interested in books or programs, and if different hours might make the library more attractive. She expressed puzzlement over the Association's role in managing the library, as, at this point, the town was its primary source of funds and the Trustees saw to ongoing oversight.²⁰⁸ A survey was distributed to residents at the town meeting. Sadly, "only five residents responded favorably."²⁰⁹ One concern for patrons may have been the hours of operation. During the summer the library was not open on Saturdays, making it unavailable for weekend visitors. From September through June, it was closed on Fridays.²¹⁰ The 3-8pm



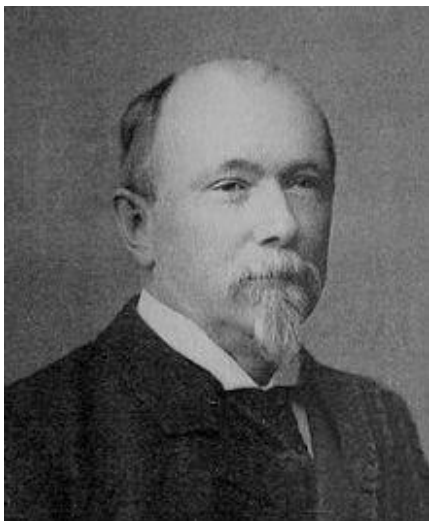
James Edwin Nichols, managing partner of Austin Nichols
and donor of the Nichols Library building.



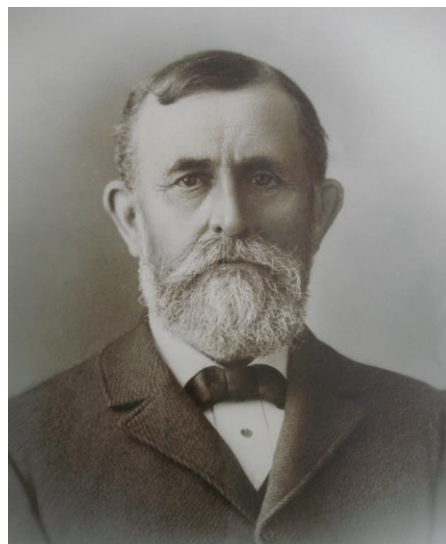
Center Harbor in 1905, looking north on Main Street toward the village square.



The Center Harbor village square, looking west up Plymouth Street.
The Nichols Library would be built on the corner to the left.



Architect Charles Brigham, designer of the Nichols Library.



F. Smith Emery, the emissary between Mr. Nichols and Center Harbor.



The Nichols Library in 1915. The Moulton House hotel is to the right, The Congregational Church is in the background to the left.



The barrel vault over the stacks.



Mother Goose tile detail, American Encaustic Company.



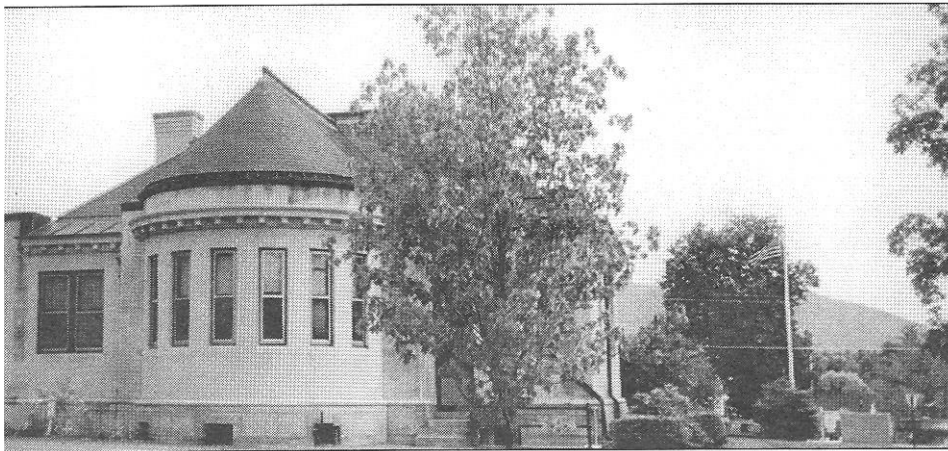
Fireplace mantel with "The Pines".



"The Pines" by Addison Le Boutillier, Grueby Faience Company.



The reading room of the library at mid-century. Note the oak reading tables and absence of bookshelves and children's area.



A rear view of the library, showing the rounded extension which contains the stacks.



Librarian Sophia Edwards, 1942.



Librarian-to-be Carrie Kelley at a gathering of the Center Harbor Women's Club, 1960.



Historic Site Dedication, 1989. Front, l to r: Librarian Gertrude Martin, Gladys Bickford and Trustee Chair Chip Sorlien. Back (R), Selectman Lew Woodeman.



Librarian Michael Sullivan, 1991.



Librarian Sandra Pickel flanked by Trustees Kate Vachon, Helen Heiner, Bess Hanson Joan Mayerson at a library Christmas social.



Trustees enjoying benches given by the Meredith Rotary Club, 2009.
 Front row (l to r), Jo Morse, Bess Hanson.
 Back row (l to r) Sarah Heath,
 Chuck Dicecca and Helen Heiner.



Benoit family group at the dedication of the Barbara Benoit Memorial in 2008.



Front reading room, 2010. Note addition of book shelves and computer workstation.



Chimney repair, 1990s.



The James E. Nichols Memorial Library

afternoon schedule, geared to a turn of the century farm schedule, was perhaps less appealing to a growing population of retirees, who tended to be out earlier in the day.

In her reports, Mrs. Martin urged townsfolk to "please come into the library." She noted that it "is stocked with recent fiction novels as well as a large supply of non-fiction and ..excellent classical records" and closed with a hopeful "see you at the library."²¹¹ In September 1990, however, Mrs. Martin decided to announce her retirement. "Much care and thought," said Trustee Chair Babara Benoit, "went into the hiring of a suitable replacement."²¹² The process, she reported, was "expedited by the advice of the State Library consultant for our area." The choice of Michael Sullivan as the new librarian was unanimous. "His background and enthusiasm for establishing goals for our library will help us as we we grow with our town."

Introducing himself to Center Harbor, Michael Sullivan promised continuity while hinting at changes to come. The library was "still filling the role of intellectual focal point for Center Harbor, a job we take very seriously (most of the time)." He pledged to "keep intact the continuity that makes the Nichols Library special" but also promised to be responsive to the needs of patrons, noting that "the services people demand will shape the library."²¹³

From the start, Mr. Sullivan made a concerted effort to attract young people back into the library. He offered gaming days, often leaving a chess board set up on one of the reading tables. He restored the pre-school story hour, participated in the statewide summer reading program, and ordered contemporary books aimed to appeal to boys as well as girls. "That the library has become a center of activity can be seen during after school hours when young people enjoy a quiet game of chess or the use of a donated computer."²¹⁴ The library sponsored four programs for children involving arts and crafts projects. Bart and Eloise Coudert assisted with these events, which often featured her guitar and singing.²¹⁵ Another project involved a make-over of the old Selectman's Room. It was opened as a reference room and was also used to house the library's New Hampshire collection and a recently-donated photocopier.

Sullivan also reported that "we are continuing to open the resources of the State Library system in new ways."²¹⁶ "No library," said Sullivan, "can hold all that its patrons require. The answer is cooperation."²¹⁷ This meant sharing resources, both print and electronic. To do this required an investment--for instance, in a computer to process inter-library loans-- but also had a payoff-- cutting delivery time for inter-library loans from weeks to days.²¹⁸ The effect of this "multiplication of services," said Sullivan was to make a "bigger bargain" for all involved.

Another way of reaching out, said Sullivan, involved "adjusting to the varied schedules present in the modern world." This meant adapting the library's hours of operation to people's "inhumanely tight" schedules. Reporting to the Library Association that fall, Sullivan presented the Trustees with an "in-depth and very detailed report as to why the library should be open additional hours to provide a more acceptable service to the people of the community."²¹⁹ He proposed that the present 15 hours per week be increased to 25 hours, with full days of operation on Monday and Friday. The members present expressed "overwhelming support" for the plan and agreed to adopt his proposed schedule for 1992-93.

The expansion proved to be a tremendous success. At the end of the year, Sullivan was able to announce that circulation had increased by 40% and that the issuing of new library cards had

doubled.²²⁰ "Our best estimate," said Sullivan "is that nearly five thousand people walked through the doors of the library in 1992."²²¹ Those people borrowed 5,900 materials that year. Better still, he said, "all the evidence points toward a big jump in the number of young people using the library." At least twice as many youth books had been checked out and "the presence of young people in the library is visible day in and day out." The Trustees were "particularly happy with the increased number of young readers."²²² Adults were also enjoying the new services. Sullivan added 742 books to the collection (up from 385 in 1989). Having inter-library loan delivery time cut from weeks to days, demand jumped from nine to over 57 requests. In return, the library loaned 29 books to other libraries around the state.

At the end of 1992, Michael Sullivan announced that he would be moving on to a new position. The Trustees stated frankly that "saying goodbye to Michael Sullivan will not be easy. His hours of dedicated work for the advance of the library have been gratefully appreciated."²²³ New librarian Sandra Pickel continued the project of "providing a more viable service" to Center Harbor." In 1993, she added 280 new books and many gift books. Circulation rose to 6,193.²²⁴ She added a Sponsor-a-Book program, "which made it possible to add a wider selection of current titles" and hosted a scrabble tournament. Nancy Chapman led Read-to-Me program, a children's read-aloud program. Eloise Coudert "made the library a lively place for children on Saturday mornings" with crafts, nature activities and sing-alongs. Kate Vachon wrote a library column for the Meredith News. The library provided passes to area parks and museums, notably the MacAullife Space Center in Concord and the Squam Lakes Science Center in Holderness. That program has since expanded to include passes to the Courier Museum of Art in Manchester, Shaker Village in Canterbury and the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro.²²⁵

The combination of programs and increased hours of access continued to have a positive impact on circulation. It rose in 1994 to 6,595 loans and again in 1995 to 7,861.²²⁶ The quality of the collection was improved with significant gifts to the library: \$3,000 from the estate of Mary Bergstrom for children's books, 100 books on tape from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fritz.²²⁷ Interest in the library story times was on the rise. In 1996, Mrs. Pickel reported that "circulation of library materials passed the 10,000 mark."²²⁸ The increase represented a significant recovery for the library from the doldrums of the late 1980s. The final tally of 10,133 items circulated was a thirty percent increase over the previous year.

Building on its success, the library began a newsletter to keep patrons up to date on programs and events. A survey was mailed taxpayers and library users. The responses suggested four areas of focus for the near future. Patrons wanted longer summer hours, an increase in the number of programs, "especially for children," more audio books and videos to choose from, and, last the computerization of library holdings.²²⁹

In 1997, a technology committee composed of Jon Pounds, Art Cowdry and Gary Cosine began researching the purchase of a computer for the library. The donated computer which the library had been using since 1991, was no longer sufficient to keep pace with current applications.²³⁰ By the mid-90s, computers had become essential tools in the workplace. Libraries used them to circulate materials, catalog books, and process inter-library loans. The emergence of high-speed computer networks and the world wide web allowed reference to go online as well. What had been pioneering efforts a mere fifteen years ago had become essential services.²³¹

The new computer was installed on Wednesday, June 17, 1998. A grant from the Meredith Village Savings Bank and funds raised by the Library Association helped offset the expense. In addition to providing web access, the computer contained software for patron use, including the

Microsoft Word and an encyclopedia suite.²³² Said Jon Pounds, "this system will help the library evolve from a 'books only' library to an 'information library'."²³³

Bolstered by the support for computer resources in the community, the Trustees elected to take the further step of computerizing the library's catalog and circulation system. The consensus was that this step was "necessary to better provide the services patrons needed." This sizable task would require, in addition to the necessary computers, the purchase of software to run the system and the conversion of the existing catalog records to a digital format. The Technology Committee secured a \$10,000 grant from the Meredith Rotary Club, \$2,000 from the Sidore Foundation and raised \$500 from individual donors to fund the project.²³⁴

Work on the automation project began in the fall of 1999. Winnebago Spectrum 5.0, a product of the Sagebrush Corporation, was the catalog system chosen for the library. AdelXT of Dover was chosen to install the system and provide technical support. A team of volunteers began work on bar coding the books and the creation of a shelf list. As part of the process, according to Sandra Pickel, "we did a thorough weeding. Books were withdrawn that contained obsolete information," as was "fiction which had not circulated in many years."²³⁵ The completed shelf was sent to Sagebrush in November, 2000. Pickel reported that the process had provided a more accurate assessment of the size of the collection. "We found," she said "we only have 10,985 books and not the 14,000 we were estimating before."²³⁶

In April, 2001, Steve Jussif of AdelXT installed five new computers, one for general staff use, one for circulation, one for the public catalog, and two for public access. New barcoded library cards were issued to cardholders. Mrs. Pickel reported that the transition was «relatively smooth.» Jane Varley, a retired librarian, helped ease the transition by providing computer use instruction. About that time, the library changed Internet service providers, choosing Metrocast, and replaced its dial-up connection with cable access, which resulted in «much faster service.» The service was a popular one, with 518 uses by patrons in its first year of operation.²³⁷

Work was also going forward on the issues facing the library building. In 1990, a bid was accepted from Ira Weeks for the painting of the interior.²³⁸ In 1993, "a three-year search for a mason to rebuild the library chimneys" came to a happy conclusion with the contracting of David Cutter to do the work.²³⁹ A warrant was passed for the removal of asbestos from the heating system.²⁴⁰ That year, the Women's Club donated funds to install an outdoor water faucet, a welcome addition for maintaining the library's gardens. Kate Vachon, meanwhile, "efficiently addressed the need for an entrance railing for the library," an essential need given New Hampshire's icy winters and the library's patron base of retirees. An historian at the State Library gave advice on period-correct materials for the job and D&L Fabrications did the work. The project was funded by a gift from Susan Moore, made in memory of her mother. A plaque honoring Mary Foster was placed in the vestibule.²⁴¹

The troublesome issue of handicap access to the Library, as required under the ADA act, needed to be faced. James Garvin, State Architectural Historian at the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources, was consulted about what could be done without alterations that "could

seriously damage the sensitive original design."²⁴² Garvin noted that the "rules are softened for a historic building like the Nichols Library" and that "certain minimum standards may constitute compliance."²⁴³ His report also addressed the water damage issues facing the library and stated that this issue was a far more urgent concern to be addressed. As an alternative to direct access, the Trustees offered to provide book delivery or memberships in accessible libraries to chair-bound patrons.²⁴⁴

Inside the library, there were a number of new appointments. The children's area was refurbished with a platform rocker and a bookcases made by the New Hampshire State Prison shop. Audio and video displays were added to house these growing collections. To make room for these, the last of the oak benches was relocated to the lobby of the town offices.²⁴⁵ In 1998, Keith Trevor of Crown Appliances donated two window air conditioners, one for the staff office and one for the reference room. Besides making the building more comfortable for staff and patrons, they provided a drier environment for the materials in the collection. Also that year, Kent Warner built some needed shelving for the Librarian's office.²⁴⁶

In 1999, a Long Range Planning Committee was established to plan for future needs of the library. Its members, which included representatives of the community as well as the Library Association, met monthly through the year.²⁴⁷ Chair Keith Trevor delivered their report at the Trustees' December 2000 meeting.²⁴⁸ Several major renovations were recommended for the building. For the electrical system, "arguably the oldest in the area," they suggested a modernization plan that included some some wiring replacement and the installation of outside area lighting.²⁴⁸ They deemed the oil boiler to be "past its design lifetime" and recommended either a new steam boiler or its completed replacement with a hot air furnace. They also raised the the possibility of renovating the lower level for library use, but noted it would first be necessary to "solve the long standing water problem." Regarding patron services, they recommended a further increase in library open hours, additional holdings in newspapers, magazines, audio books, videotapes, and large print books, continued development of digital resources and improved collaboration with area libraries, schools and historical societies. In light of the needed renovations, the Trustees proposed a capital improvement campaign.²⁵⁰

The Trustees wasted little time in acting on the recommendations of the committee. They elected to retain the existing steam radiator system and added a new boiler. Quotes were sought and, in 2003, Stafford Oil was contracted to install a new furnace.²⁵¹ Frase Electric was contracted to do the needed repairs to the electrical wiring. Fortunately, the wire in the conduits was "old but not as brittle as one might expect."²⁵² As a first step to a possible renovation of the library's lower level, a feasibility study was commissioned. The ensuing report noted that moving forward was contingent upon solving the water infiltration problem.²⁵³ Lacking a clear consensus regarding the use of the space and needing to allocate funds for the new furnace, the Board put the renovation on hold. When it was learned that a costly furnace firewall would be needed for the area to meet code standards for public use, the project was put to rest for good.²⁵⁴

In 2001, the library extended Wednesday hours during the summer, adding 10am-2pm to the schedule. Summer circulation increased by 1,400 items, indicating that the change was "welcomed by our patrons."²⁵⁵ The next year, the extended hours were carried into September.²⁵⁶ The library kept pace with the growing trend of providing online reference resources, connecting patrons to the Ancestry plus genealogy database and twelve reference databases, programs

licensed by the New Hampshire State Library from the database vendor EBSCO.²⁵⁷ In 2003, Sandy Pickel began acquiring audio books in CD format and DVDs.²⁵⁸

The Nichols Library had thus made the leap from the library as a room with books to a library as an information center and access point. Sandy Pickel helped make sure that "our transition was relatively smooth" and was grateful that "our patrons were patient as we mastered the techniques of the new system."²⁵⁹ She was ably assisted over the years by assistants Judy Hodges, Lois Brady, Jackie Kelly, Gail Lacasse, and Linda Belisle. Additional help was provided by volunteers. Carole Scalzo managed the library's book sale, Jane Varley taught computer classes and Jo Morse and Ginny Ferrlazzo helped out as needed. And patrons kept coming. Circulation rose to 13,518 in 2002 and to 15,330 in 2003.²⁶⁰ Sandra Pickel decided, however, that ten years was enough and announced her intention to retire at the end of 2004.²⁶¹

Changes were also on hand for the Library Association. For a number of years, its role had been changing. Given the complex issues facing the library, it was natural that the management shifted to the hands of the Trustees, whose meetings allowed more continuity in dealing with ongoing concerns. The Nichols Trust had also become a negligible factor in the Library's budget. In 1989, the annual income of the trust was still 26% of the library's operating revenue.²⁶² In the next 15 years, income from the trust declined, down to \$2,450.65 in 2004. Meanwhile, with computers and repairs, and rising book costs and salaries, the town's share had grown to \$68,970.²⁶³ The trust's contribution to expenses was barely three percent.

Jon Pounds suggested that the Association had "effectively redefined itself and its role, becoming more similar to a friends group than one concerned with the day to day running of the library."²⁶⁴ A membership flyer distributed at that time defined the "Associates" as "an organization that works to provide enhanced services to NML users."²⁶⁵ Questions lingered, however, as to whether the benefits of maintaining the Association out-weighed the awkwardness of having two governing bodies. At the 2004 meeting, the Association reviewed that matter. After some discussion, it "was passed that the Association should be dissolved as of December 31, 2005."²⁶⁶ In the ensuing year, arrangements were made to create legal instruments that would transfer the Association's assets to the Town, including those of the Nichols Trust, to place the library staff on the Town payroll, and re-write relevant policies. At the Association's annual meeting in 2005, with all the preparations in place, the Association voted to dissolve after 115 years of service. Responsibility for the library was transferred to the Trustees and the Town of Center Harbor to carry forward.

In the five years since the dissolution of the Association, the library has continued to build on the changes introduced by Michael Sullivan, Sandra Pickel, Richard Harlow, Chip Sorlien, Jon Pounds, and Helen Heiner. Librarian Jon Kinnaman and assistants Linda Belisle, Kathy Wieliczko and Kim Anderson still "carry on the library service." As the Nichols Library approaches its Centennial, it continues to evolve in its efforts to best serve the needs of "Center Harbor, the surrounding communities and the summer cottagers".²⁶⁶

The library continued to expand its service hours in response to patron demands. Thursday mornings were offered in 2007. This proved such a success that Tuesdays mornings were added in 2008. The popularity of the full week schedule led the Trustees to extend these hours for the whole year in 2009.²⁶⁷ Patron's took advantage of the year round schedule through the fall of 2009 and into the winter of 2010. Summer visits fell during 2006-2007, in part due to high gas prices and an uncertain economy, but circulation was back up in 2008-2009.²⁶⁸

In 2006, the Trustees voted for a major upgrade of the library's computer system. A dedicated server and five new desktop workstations replaced the existing units. A wireless router provided another point of access for patrons with wifi ready laptops and notebook computers. Also at this time, the library upgraded its catalog/circulation software, selecting the new InfoCentre system offered by Sagebrush Corporation. Librarian Kinnaman met with Sagebrush sales representatives to preview the system. Unlike the current Winnebago system, online access was built into the InfoCentre system. It would allow patrons to browse for books at home, renew their loans, and put holds on new titles.²⁶⁹ He endorsed the new system and the Trustees approved the purchase. Kinnaman also improved the library's website, first established by Jo Morse, adding links to the statewide library catalog, NHewlink reference databases and special services ranging from downloadable audio books to online language study. In 2009, he developed a Wordpress site, which allows blog posts, RSS feeds and patron feedback.²⁷⁰

For all the attention to digital technology, the print collection was not neglected. The library still provides a strong collection of popular fiction, current materials for young persons, and a lively potpourri of non-fiction. Borrowers still go to the fiction shelves first. Of the 15,162 titles circulated in 2009, 5,390 were fiction. In comparison, patrons borrowed 1,396 non-fiction books and 1,447 titles for young people. The audio CD and DVD collections were also popular, with 5,571 copies loaned. Over the year, the library added 715 new titles. By years end, the library held a collection of 14,926 volumes.²⁷²

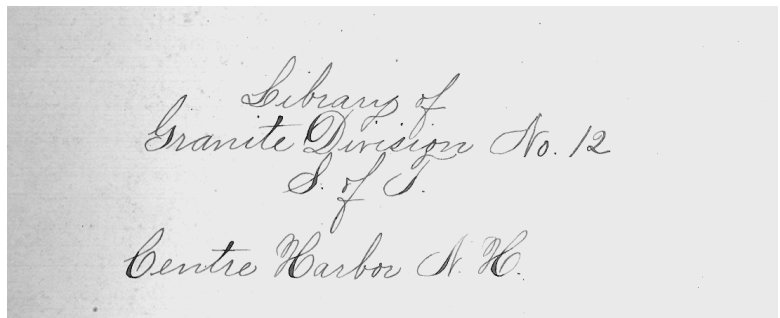
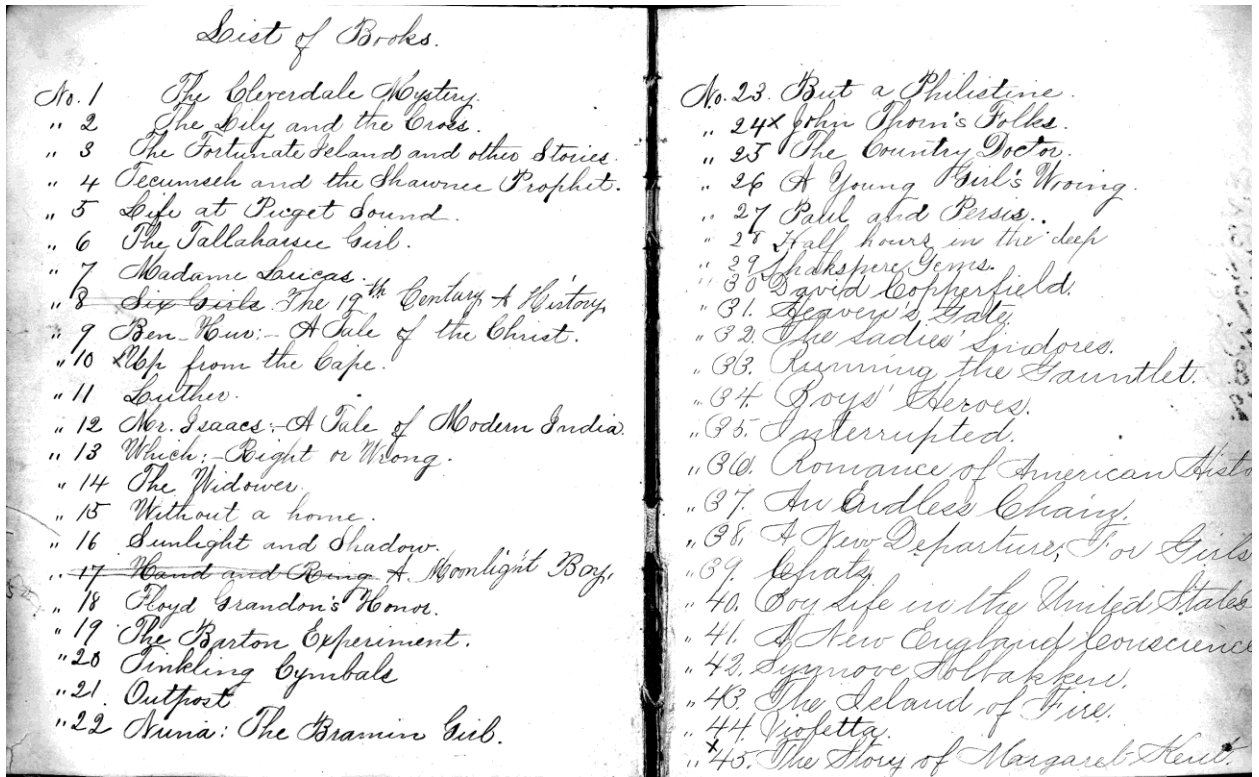
Improvements continue to be made to the buildings and grounds. Among the most significant were the replacement of the boiler and installation of new windows with energy saving glass. A ductless air conditioning unit was installed in 2007, providing efficient cooling and better preservation environment for the collection for the often-humid summer season. The center rail on the front steps was replaced with new side rails in 2006. New outdoor light fixtures were installed in 2008. Treasurer Sarah Heath was instrumental in shepherding these projects to completion. Other improvements included a renovation of the library's gardens, supported by a special projects grant from the Meredith Rotary Club. Trustee Chair Helen Heiner took charge of the grant application process. In 2009, the Town approved funding for much needed cleaning and maintenance of the building's exterior. Trustee Jo Morse's researches helped secure a suitable contractor and funding.²⁷³

Former trustee Chair and Association President Barbara Benoit passed away in 2006. A new outdoor sign listing the Library's hours was dedicated to her memory.²⁷⁴ Helen Heiner, Sarah Heath, Bess Hanson and Jo Morse continue to provide continuity and leadership, while new Trustees Chuck DiCecca and Karin Karagozian offer a fresh point of view.

So, what does the future hold in store for the Nichols Library? No one can say with any certainty. So far, the paperless society has yet to arrive. For all the advantages of the digital age, readers still enjoy sitting down with a good book. As we have seen over the last 100 years, much depends on the needs and desires of the Center Harbor library community. What Michael Sullivan had to say in 1991 sums it up:

"With eighty-two years of tradition under our belts, many things have shown amazing stayingpower. The animal heads still hang on the wall. We still don't put people on hold and we retain an excellent collection of popular adult fiction. [Our] direction will depend a great deal...on the people of Center Harbor. The services the people demand will shape that library. The traditions they support will keep intact the continuity that makes the Nichols Library special. Couldn't the suspense just drive you crazy?"²⁷⁵

Appendix 1. Catalog of the Sons of Temperance, ca. 1889.



The sixty-some books in the "Library of Granite Division No.12, S of T" became the core collection of the Center Harbor Library Association and the foundation of the future Nichols Memorial Library.

Appendix 2. Incorporation Document of Center Harbor Social Library,
1829. Law of the State of New Hampshire, Vol 10, 1829-1835

LAWS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAPTER 7.

*State of
New Hampshire.*

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE, PROPRIETORS CENTRE HARBOUR SOCIAL
LIBRARY.

[Approved Junc 22, 1829. Aet.s, vol. 27, p. S. I

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of
Representatives in General Court convened, That
Joshua Norris, John Thompson and Joseph Sturtevant
and their associates bc, and hereby are made a
corporation, by the name of the Proprietors of Centre
Harbour Social Library, to be established and kept in
the Town of Centre Harbour, with all the powers and
privileges incident to Corporations of a similar nature.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That Joshua
Norris, John Thompson and Joseph Sturtevant or any
two of them, may call th?. first meeting of said
Corporation, by advertisement, to be posted up at two
or more publick places in said Centre Harbour,
fourteen days before the day of such meeting—And
the said Corporation may elect such officers and make
and establish such by laws and regulations, not
repugnant to the laws of this State, as by them shall be
deemed expedient and necessary for the government
of said Corporation.

Appendix 3. Endowment Papers and Deed of gift



FIDELITY TRUST COMPANY

CORNER OF CHAMBERS STREET & WEST BROADWAY.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,500,000.00

SAMUEL S. CONOVER, PRESIDENT.
WM. H. BARNARD, VICE PRESIDENT.
JOHN W. NIX, VICE PRESIDENT.
ANDREW H. MARS, SECRETARY.
STEPHEN L. VIELE, ASST. SECRETARY.
ARTHUR W. HULLICK, TRUST OFFICER.

NEW YORK June 13, 1910

James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association,
Center Harbor, N. H.

Dear Sirs:-

We have this day received from James E. Nichols, New York City in trust, an endowment fund of ten one thousand dollar first mortgage six percent. coupon bonds of the Merchants Refrigerating Company of New York, numbers 390-399 both inclusive, interest payable February first and August 1st, principal August 1st, 1923, with instructions when collected to be passed to the credit of the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association of Center Harbor, N. H., said fund to be perpetual, and income from same to be credited semi-annually to said Library Association as long as they exist and continue in charge of the Nichols Library building and property at Center Harbor, N. H.

Upon satisfactory evidence being furnished to us that the said James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association has dissolved and ceased to exist, and the Nichols Library Building and property has passed to the care and management of the town of Center Harbor, then and in that case, we are instructed to pay the income from said trust endowment fund direct to the said town of Center Harbor, N. H. for the maintenance of the Nichols Memorial Library building and property.

Upon the maturity and payment of the principal of said bonds we are instructed to re-invest moneys so received as we may be directed by said James E. Nichols if living at that time; if deceased, as in our judgment, may seem for the best interest of the recipients of said income.

Yours very truly,


President

Issued in triplicate.

P. S. Coupons due August 1, 1910 and February 1st next detached by order of Mr. Nichols, and \$375. in cash has been deposited for your credit in place of same.



1. Letter establishing the endowment of the Nichols Library, 1910.

Appendix 3, Endowment and Deed, continued

Deed of Gift

of the James E. Nichols Memorial Library
to the Town of Center Harbor, N. H.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS :

THAT I, James Edwin Nichols, of New York, in the County of New York, and State of New York, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar and other valuable consideration to me in hand before the delivery hereof, well and truly paid by the town of Center Harbor, a municipal corporation duly existing by law, in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have given, granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, convey and confirm unto the said grantee and its successors forever a certain piece or parcel of land, with the Library building thereon, and the furniture and furnishings therein contained, except the animal heads, which are merely loaned, situated in Center Harbor, in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of land of Smith F. Emery; thence southeasterly on the highway leading from Center Harbor to Plymouth, N. H., one hundred and fifty-five feet three inches; thence southwest on the highway leading from Center Harbor to Meredith, N. H., one hundred and forty-three feet; thence north 40 degrees west one hundred and ninety-four feet to land of Smith F. Emery; thence north 51 degrees east one hundred and fifty-nine feet on land of Smith F. Emery to the point of beginning.

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Said grantee is further to permit all the rest of said building to be used for public library purposes for the benefit of the citizens of said town of Center Harbor, Moultonboro, Meredith and other adjoining territory.

In case of loss or damage by fire the building is to be promptly repaired or rebuilt by the grantee herein named with the insurance money received from said policies and the property restored to its former usefulness, the premiums on said insurance to be paid by the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association.

And it is hereby specially provided that should the said James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association, from any cause whatever, fail to act in the premises, or cease to exist, then the herein named grantee shall thereafter have and exercise in connection with the powers given it by this deed, all the powers conceded to the said James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association, as hereinbefore set forth in this deed.

And it is hereby further specially provided that if at any time the trustee to whom this conveyance is made shall refuse to execute the terms thereof, or shall violate any of the provisions herein contained, then it shall be lawful for the said grantor or his legal representatives to enter upon the herein described premises and property, and the same to occupy and repossess as though this demise had not been made.

AND I, Lizzie G. Nichols, wife of the said James Edwin Nichols, in consideration hereof, do hereby relinquish my right of dower in the before mentioned premises.

And we, and each of us, do hereby release, discharge and waive all such rights of exemption from attachment and levy or sale on execution and such other rights whatsoever in said premises, and in each and

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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging, to the said grantee and its successors, to it and their only proper use and benefit forever. And I, the said grantor, and my heirs, executors and administrators do hereby covenant, grant and agree to and with the said grantee and its successors that until the delivery hereof I am the lawful owner of said premises and am seized and possessed thereof in my own right in fee simple; and have full power and lawful authority, to grant and convey the same in manner aforesaid; that the said premises are free and clear from all and every incumbrance whatsoever, and that I and my heirs, executors and administrators shall warrant and defend the same to the said grantee and its successors against the lawful claims and demands of any person or persons whomsoever.

This conveyance, however, is intended as a trust, and is made for and upon the following trusts, terms and conditions, to wit:

Said property, since it is to be devoted to public uses, is to remain free and exempt from taxation by said grantee so long as it is so used.

Said grantee is to provide a room on the ground floor and the vault in the basement of said building for the accommodation of the Town Officers of said Town of Center Harbor, and also a place in the vault on the street floor for the reception of the active books of said Town.

Said grantee is also to provide in said building a permanent home for the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association so long as the same may exist, which association is to take charge of said building and pay all the expenses for the maintenance of said building and the public library to be located therein.

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every part thereof, as our Family Homestead, as are reserved or secured to us, or either of us, by the General Laws of the State of New Hampshire, or any act in amendment thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this _____ day of June, in the year of our Lord 1910.

.....(S).

.....(S).

Signed, sealed and delivered
in presence of us,

.....
.....

STATE OF NEW YORK
New York, SS.

A. D. 1910

Personally appeared the above named James Edwin Nichols and Lizzie G. Nichols, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their voluntary act and deed. Before me,

.....
Justice of the Peace.

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2. Deed of Gift from Mr. Nichols to the town of Center Harbor, from the dedication book

Appendix 4. Incorporation Papers for the Center Harbor Library Association and Nichols Library Association.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR A VOLUNTARY CORPORATION.

We, the undersigned, persons of lawful age, residents of Center Harbor in the County of Belknap, and of Houltonboro in the County of Carroll, in the State of New Hampshire, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a voluntary corporation under Chapter 147 of the Public Statutes

Article I.
The name of this corporation shall be the Center Harbor Library Association.

Article II.
The purpose of this corporation shall be the establishment of a library and the promotion of education, the arts and sciences.

Article III.
The principal business of said corporation shall be carried on in the town of Center Harbor in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire.


Article IV.
The first meeting of the corporation shall be called by a written agreement of the incorporators, at which meeting, by-laws may be adopted, all necessary officers chosen, and such other business transacted as will best promote the success of the corporation.

Louis A. Sibley *L. Annie Graves*
Frank H. Morse *Emma J. Stanley*
Wm. A. Page *Lucas M. Leitch*
James L. Houghton *Elizabeth G. Jackson*
Daniel W. Coe *Reatha E. Smith*

P.O. address of each is Center Harbor N.H.

State of New Hampshire

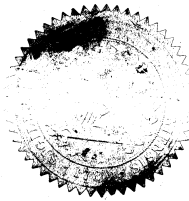
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE



I, EDWARD N. PEARSON, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the following and hereto attached vote, changing the name of the Center Harbor Library Association to


The James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association

has ~~have~~ been recorded in "Records of Voluntary Corporations," Volume 15, page 56, at Concord, this 19th day of January, A. D. 1910.



In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Seal of the State, at Concord, this 19th day of January A. D. 1910.

Edward N. Pearson
Secretary of State.



State of New Hampshire
Office of Secretary of State
Concord, Feb. 4, 1898

Received and recorded in records
of Voluntary Corporations Vol. 9
page 8787

Saml. H. Stearns
Secy of State

2. James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association, 1910

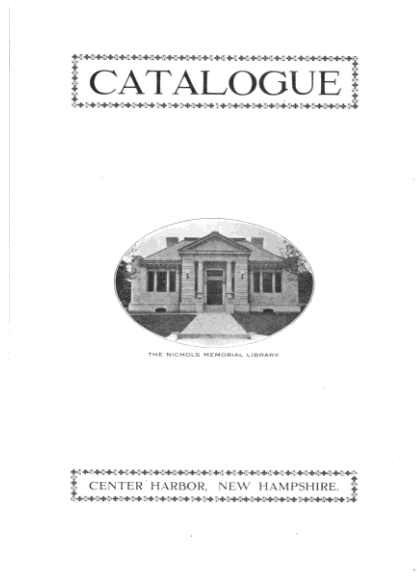
1. Center Harbor Library Association, 1889

Appendix 5. Printed Catalogs of the Library Collections

CATALOGUE		
OF THE		
Centre Harbor Library Association,		
OF		
CENTRE HARBOR, N. H.		
1896.		
ABBOTT, C. C.	Days Out of Doors,	228
	A Colonial Wooing,	608
ABBOTT, JACOB.	Rollo on The Atlantic,	24
ABBOTT, JOHN S. C.	History of the Civil War, vol. 1,	198
	" " " " " 2,	199
ADELER, MAX.	The Fortunate Island and Other Tales,	3
AGASSIZ, LOUIS.	Natural History,	84
AGASSIZ, MRS. LOUIS.	A Journey in Brazil,	178
ALCOTT, LOUISA M.	An Old Fashioned Girl,	230
	Under the Lilacs,	378
	Moods,	379
ALDRICH, THOS. BAILEY.	Prudence Palfrey,	462
ALEXANDER, MRS.	Forging the Fetters,	549
ALGER, JR. HORATIO.	Try and Trust,	122
	Ragged Dick,	609
	Fame and Fortune,	610
	Mark the Match Boy,	611
	Rough and Ready,	612
	Ben the Luggage Boy,	613
	Rufus and Rose,	614
ALLEN, JAMES L.	A Kentucky Cardinal,	615
	Aftermath,	616

1. Center Harbor Library Association, 1896. Note that J. S. C. Abbott's two volume *History of the Civil War in America*, also appears in the Nichols Library Catalog on the next page.

Appendix 5. Catalogs, continued



Catalogue Nichols Memorial Library.

HISTORY.

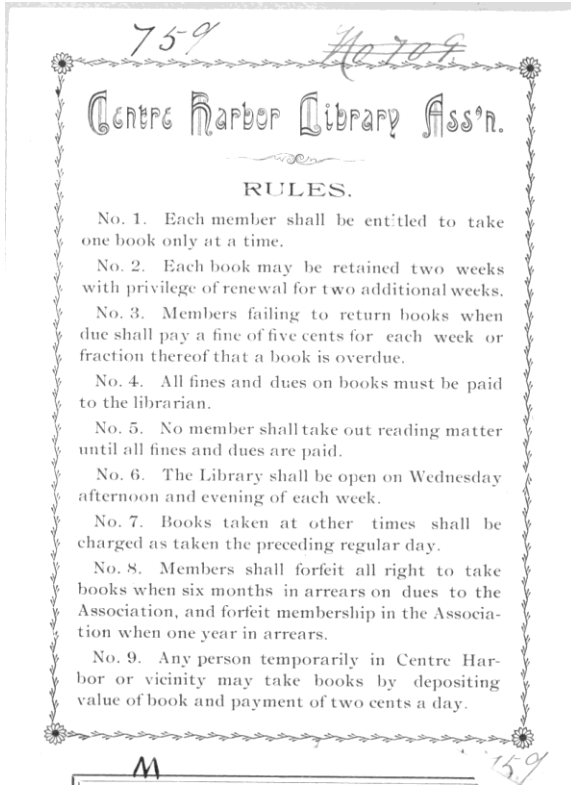
Abbott, J. S. C. History of the Civil War in America, 2 vols,	A132
Armstrong, Leroy. Pictorial History of the Spanish- American War,	A736
Arnold, Thomas. History of Rome,	A759
Bancroft, George. History of the United States of America, 6 vols.,	B213
Barnwell, R. G. Russo-Turkish War,	B2632
Belknap, Jeremy. History of New Hampshire,	B432
Bell, Charles H. History of Town of Exeter,	B433
Besant, Walter. London,	B554
Brinkley, Capt. F. Oriental Series—Japan, Its His- tory, Arts, and Literature, 2 vols.,	B858
Brown, Abram E. Beneath Old Rooftrees,	B877
Brown, Wm. H. Glory Seekers, The	B881
Clement, Ernest W. Handbook of Modern Japan,	C626
Coffin, C. C. Building the Nation,	C675
Cooley, T. M. (Introduction by) American Railway, The	C774
Custer, Elizabeth B. Boots and Saddles,	C987
Following the Guidon,	C987FG
Tenting on the Plains,	C987TP
DeVere, M. Schele. Romance of American History,	D491
Dexter, Henry M. England and Holland of the Pil- grims,	D527
Dixon, Wm. H. Her Majesty's Tower,	D621
Durland, Kellogg. Red Reign, (Year in Russia)	D9623
Eggleston, Edward. Tecumseh and the Shawnee Prophet,	E29
Emerson, Edwin. History of the Nineteenth Cen- tury, Year by Year, 3 vols.,	E53
Evans, G. G. (Edited by) History of U. S. Mint,	E92
Fiske, John. Discovery and Colonization of North America.	F541
How the United States Became a Nation,	F541US
Flint, Grover. Marching with Gomez,	F624

5

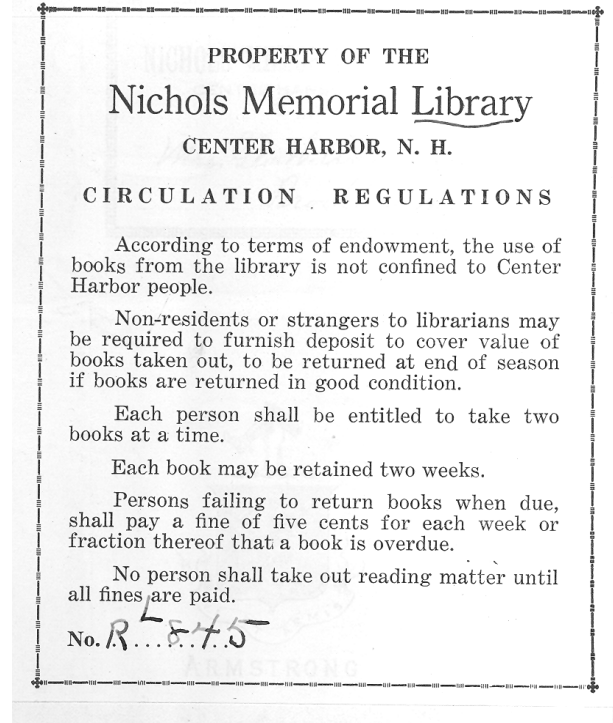
2. Nichols Memorial Library, 1911.

Appendix 6. Bookplates

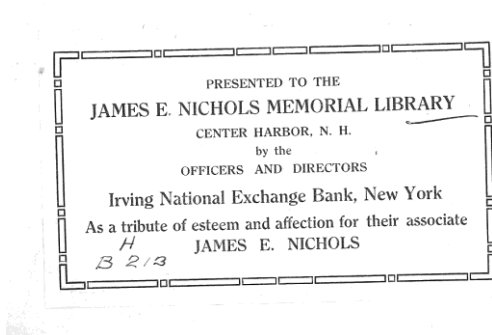
The following are examples of bookplates used to identify holdings of the Center Harbor Libraries.



1. Center Harbor Library Association, ca. 1896, in *Granite Monthly*, v. 3, 1880.



2. Nichols Memorial Library, ca. 1911, in Roth, *Christus Judex*, 1892.



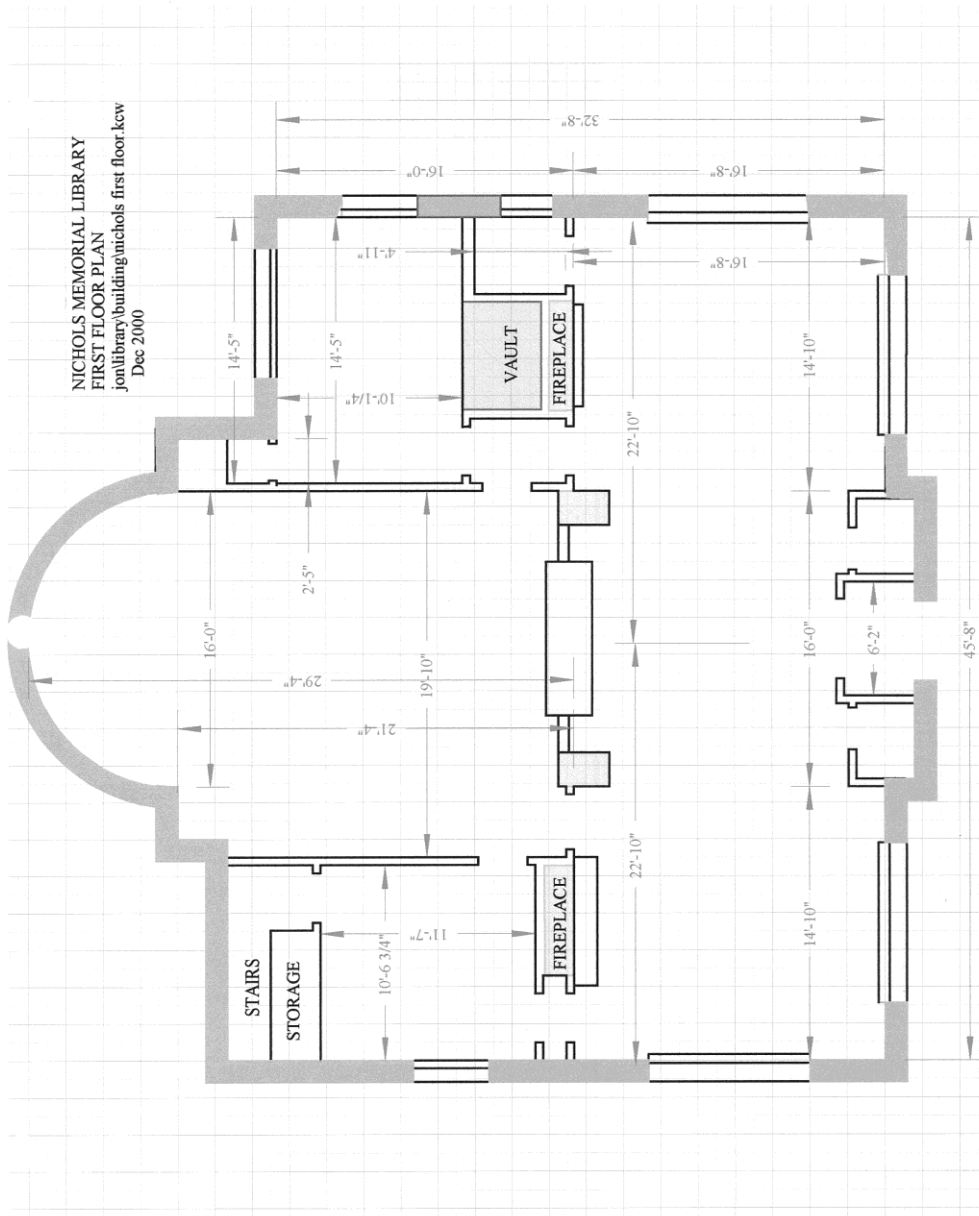
Nichols Memorial Library Center Harbor, NH 03226

1. Books may be kept two weeks and may be renewed once for the same period, except 7 day books and magazines.
2. A fine is charged for each day a book is not returned according to the above rule. No book will be issued to any person incurring such a fine until it has been paid.
3. All injuries to books beyond reasonable wear and all losses shall be made good to the satisfaction of the Librarian.
4. Each borrower is held responsible for all books charged on his card and for all fines accruing on the same.

3. Gift, Irving National Exchange Bank, ca. 1911, in Brancroft, *History of the U.S.*, 1907.

4. Circulation pocket, ca 1970s
In Benet, *Western Star*, 1943.

Appendix 7. Interior Plan of the Nichols Memorial Library



Interior Plan, rendered December 2000 for the Long Range Planning Committee.

Appendix 3. Officers of the Library

1. Center Harbor Library Association

Librarians of the CHLA

Henrietta Morse, 1889-1890
Emma Stanley, 1891-1892
Mrs. L. A. Sibley, 1893
Lizzie Webster, 1894-1897; 1899-1904; 1907-1909
Hattie Blake, 1898
Bertha Smith, 1905

Presidents of the CHLA

Lewis A. Sibley, 1889-1900
Elizabeth Webster, 1901-02
Dr. William A. Page, 1903-4
F.H. Morse, 1905
Emma Stanley, 1906-1909

2. The James E. Nichols Memorial Library

Librarians

Lizzie Webster, 1910-1924
Abbie Towles, 1924-1925
Sophia Edwards, 1926-1952
Etta Bickford, 1953-1961
Carrie Kelley, 1962-1978
Louise Hewins, 1978-1979
Gertrude Martin, 1979-1991
Michael Sullivan, 1991-1993
Sandra Pickel, 1993-2004
A.J. Kinnaman, 2005-

Presidents, Nichols Library Association

Emma Stanley, 1910-1926
Ethel Bennett, 1927-1962
Ruth Brown, 1963-1966
Athalie Rand, 1967-1969
Avis Woodworth, 1970-1972

Barbara Benoit, 1973-1980
Dorothy Simonds, 1981-82
Katherine Campbell, 1983-85
Douglas Anderson, 1986-198
Richard Harlow, 1989-1994
Linda Columbine, 1995-2000
Nancy Chapman, 2001
Church DiCecca, 2002-2005

Treasurers, Nichols Library Association

Henrietta Morse, 1910-1927
Raymond Kelley, 1927-1968
W. Irving Brown, 1969-1971
Robert Benoit-1972-1975
Douglas Wary, 1976-78, 1982
Minnie Nichols, 1979-1981
Gergory Garrick, 1983
Richard Cabell, 1984-1985

Walter Kneeland, 1986-1994

Sarah Heath, 1995-2005

Appendix 3. Officers, continued

Trustees of the Nichols Memorial Library

AA Bennett (A), 1910-1926

Frank Morse (A), 1910-1932*

L.A. Sibley (A), 1910-31*

C.C. Cook, 1913-14; 1917

S. F. Emery, 1913-16; 1917

Albert Hutchins, 1918-28

Fred Webster, 1918-27

A. Russell Lunt, 1926-52

Edgar Smith, 1928-29

Raymond Kelly, 1929-1972

W. Irving Brown, 1930-1971

Alice Sargent, 1931; 1937-44

Albert Bennett, 1933-1962

Frank Chase, 1937-1956

Everett Heath, 1951-1968

Lucille Mathesson, 1959-1978

Beatice Obert, 1964-1975

Sylvester Rand, 1965-1977

Gertrude Martin, 1972-1974

Jack Edwards, 1975-1982

Herbert Martin, 1975-1977

Annett Lep, 1975-79

Gay Wadsworth, 1976-1979

Athalie Rand, 1977

William Taylor, 1977-1979

Dorothy Simonds, 1978-1988

Marion Frank, 1978-1981

John Desmond, 1979-1984

Merrill Beem, 1980-1985

Richard Cabell, 1979-82; 1985-86

Erin Wary, 1980-82

Amna Stabler, 1981-1984

Kathleen Campbell, 1983-86

Roger Moulton, 1983-84

Priscila "Chip" Sorlien, 1984-2000

Walter Kneeland, 1984-1988

Pam Coe, 1985-1986

Cathryn Harlow, 1988-1992

Robert Furey, 1986-1987

Barbara Benoit, 1986-2006

Bess Hanson, 1988-

Vachon, Kate, 1990-1998

Joan Mayerson, 1996-1998

Jon Pounds, 1998-2003

Helen Heiner, 1992-2018

Jean Whatley, 2000-2007

Jo Morse, 2004-2018

Sarah Heath, 2005-

Chuck Dicecca, 2005-2010

Karin Karagozian, 2007-

Kevin Desmond, 2013-

Jesse Foley, 2017

Lynn Allen, 2018

Shannon Whalen, 2018-

Susan Gurney, 2019

Annette Nichols, 2019-

Bibliography

The archives of the Nichols Memorial Library contain a valuable record of the Center Harbor Library Association and the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association. Two bound ledgers cover the Library Association from its founding in 1889 through its reorganization as the Nichols Memorial Library Association in 1910 on up to 1985. From 1962 to the present, ample documentation is available, including annual reports of the Librarian, Trustees, the Library Association and the Town of Center Harbor. Occasional correspondence and documents pertaining to library business is listed under the file in which it has been stored

Primary Sources.

BOT. Board of Trustees, Nichols Memorial Library. Files contain reports, minutes, documents and correspondence. Six boxes, 1960-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1995, 1990-1996, 2000-2005, 2006-present.

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CHHF. Center Harbor History Files. One box containing articles, press clippings and documents pertaining to Center Harbor, Kona Fountain and the Center Harbor Women's Club.

CHLA. Records of the Meetings Held by the Center Harbor Library Association, Center Harbor, NH. Bound ledger, 1889-1934, in CHLA box. Includes Records of the Meetings of the James E. Nichols Memorial Library Association, 1911-1934. In NMLA, box one.

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NLHF. Nichols Library History Files. Box 1 contains historic documents related to the library. Box 2 contains articles, press clippings and photographs.

NMLA. Records of the Meetings Held by the James E. Nichols Library Association (NMLA), Center Harbor, NH. Bound Ledger, 1935-1985, in NMLA box (reports for 1910-1935 are in the CHLA volume). In NMLA, box two.

NMLA General Records. File of reports, policies, by-laws, correspondence and related documents. Four boxes: 1889-1909 (Center Harbor Library Association), 1935-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-2005.

NMLA Financial Reports. Box contains invoices and other records pertaining to upkeep of the library, ca. 1930-1985.

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Notes

Chapter One. "An Important Factor in the Life of the Community," 1889-1909

1. CHLA, 5/29/89; 6/6/89; CHLA, "late in the year." Articles of Incorporation in NHLF.
2. Shera, 55; 69-70.
3. Laws of New Hampshire (Evans: Concord, 1922), vol. 10, p.11 Ruell & Kimon, vi-vii.
4. Shera, 2-3; 23; 52, 58-59, 65, 102-106; Ditzion 80-84 & 88-89, 102-106.
5. Ellis, 186-188. "Founding in the US," <http://www.sonsoftemperance>. 3/18/2010
6. Jackson, "Raising of the Church," in *Center Harbor*, 32.
7. Shera, 58; 60-62.
8. Catalogue, 1901. By-laws, article III, CHLA. See Ellis re S of T membership.
9. *Center Harbor*, 4, 10, 25; Ruell and Kimon, 213.
10. CHLA, "after February; 7/9/90.
11. CHLA, 7/23/09.
12. CHLA,10/22/90; 10/29/90.
13. CHLA, 12/17/90.
14. CHLA, 11/9/92; 11/29/93; 5/23/94.
15. CHLA, 12/31/90.
16. CHLA, 10/28/91; 11/9/92, 2/17/92, 11/3/94, & 10/21/96.
17. CHLA, 10/25/1899; 10/15/1903.
18. Garrison, 127-130.
20. CHLA, 11/6/98; 10/16/04; 10/16/95).
21. CHLA, 10/19/98; 10/14/99; 10/18/05;10/21/03; and 10/25/05.
22. CHLA, 10/15/01, 11/08/05; 10/19/98; 10/14/99; 10/20/97; 10/16/01.
23. Stone, 173.
24. CHLA, 9/29/2009.

Chapter Two. "An Ornament to Your Village for Year to Come," 1909-1910

25. Ditzion, 118; Rollins, vii.
26. Abromovich, ix; Rollins, vi; Ditzion, 30.
27. Ditzion, 166-167
28. Ditzion, 37; Rollins vi.
29. Abromovich, 21; Rollins, vii.
30. CHTR, 1895, 12.
31. CHTR, 1985. "1830-1920 Decennial US Census" in www.nh.gov/oep, 3/27/2010
32. CHLA, 10/21/06; 10/21/08; 10/16/07.
33. *Dedication*, 40.
34. Emery, 1; *Laconia News*, 5/5/09; *Dedication*, 40.
35. Rollins, 23, 59.
36. CHTR 1909, 4.
37. *Laconia Democrat*, 1/22/09 in *Dedication*, 74.
38. *Dedication*, 40. *The Boston Globe* account of the dedication suggested that having "visited his native town and renewed acquaintances," Mr. Nichols offered to build the library, an asseration which made its way into later accounts. Mr. Nichols address at the dedication made explicit the role of Mr. Emery's visit in his decision to build the library. See *Boston Globe*, 6/11/1910 in *Dedication*, 75; *Center Harbor*, 65; *Dedication*, 40.
39. *Dedication*, 23.
40. CHLA, 10/20/09.
41. NMLA, 4/1911.
42. CHLA,10/20/09

43. *Austin-Nichols*, 10-11
44. *Austin-Nichols*, 12-14.
45. *Austin-Nichols*, 12-14.
46. Abromovich, 62.
47. Placzek, 288. "Brigham" at <http://www.millicentlibrary.org/brigham.htm>
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49. *Laconia News & Critic*, 5/5/1909; 6/25/1909; 7/21/09; 8/11/1909; *Dedication*, 40.
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52. Rollins, 23.
53. Rollins, 23. See Rollins, 23-24 for description of structural and interior features.
54. *Laconia News & Critic*, 6/10/10; Martin, 1.
55. "Seth Thomas Clocks" <http://www.collectorsweekly.com>
56. Montgomery, 67; Bruhn, 24.
57. Tiles indentified by Susan Montgomery, 3/18/2010.
58. Adamovich, 53.
59. *Laconia News & Critic*, 6/24/1910, *Laconia Democrat*, 6/24/1910.
61. *Dedication*, 21. The Hall was also known as Lamprey Hall. See *Weirs Times*, 8/21/1997.
62. *Dedication*, 27-28.
63. *Dedication*, 32.
64. *Dedication*, 34, 37.
65. *Dedication*, 39, 40.
66. *Dedication*, 41.
67. *Dedication*, 41.
68. *Dedication*, 42.
69. *Dedication*, 43
70. *Dedication*, 47-48.
71. *Dedication*, 49
72. *Dedication*, "sacred trust" 52.

Chapter Three. "To Carry on the Library Service," 1911-1930

73. LR, 1911, 1914 & 1915.
74. LR, 1911; Catalogue, 1911.
75. LR, 1915.
76. LR, 1914.
77. NMLA, 10/19/10; 4/19/16.
78. LR, 1914,
79. LR, 1911.
80. LR, 1914.
81. LR, 1915. LR, 1911.
82. U.S. Census, 1880, 1910, & 1920 in *AncestryPlus*, 4/5/2010.
83. LR, 1914
84. LR, 1915.
86. LR, 1914.
87. LR, 1915.
88. LR, 1914.
89. NMLA, 10/21/14.
90. NMLA, 4/19/14.
91. NMLA, 4/18/17; 10/17/17; 10/16/18.
92. Adamovich, p.32
93. NMLA, 10/15/19.
94. NMLA, 10/15/24.
95. NMLA, 10/21/25.
96. NMLA, 10/20/26.
97. NMLA, 10/19/1927

98. NMLA, 10/19/1927
99. NMLA, 1928-1934; CHTR, 1927-1937.
100. LR, 1933.
101. Insert, Financial Ledger. NMLA Financial Records.
102. NMLA, 1933.
103. Lyut, 85, Adamovich, p.32, 38-39. Brodus, *passim*.
104. CHLA, 10/26/32.
105. LR, 1933.
106. TR, 1932 in CHLA.
107. Lawson to Trustees, 11/13/1931. NMLA Financial Records. The rim turned out to be a source of future damage to the building. see Gavin, 4. NMLA, 1990-2005.
108. Bailey to Bennett, 10/10/1930 in NMLA Financial Records.
109. TR in CHLA, ca. 1930-31 (nd).
110. IR, 1938..
111. Adamovich, 40, 42-43.
112. Center Harbor War Memorial. Nichols Memorial Library
113. Adamovich, 40.
114. CHTR, 1952
115. NMLA, 9/16/52; 9/15/53; 9/7/57.
116. Newspaper clipping, ca. 8.26.60
117. LR, 1957, 1959, & 1960.
118. "1830-1920 Decennial US Census" and "1930-1969 Decennial US Census" in <http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/DataCenter,3/27/2010>.
119. French, *passim*.
120. LR, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1960. IR, 1938.
121. LR, 1960.
122. LR, 1957, 1959, 1960.
123. LR, 1960 & 1961.
124. Bickford to Trustess, 9/1/61 in BOT 1960-1979; NMLA, 9/21/61
125. "1960-1979 Dicennial US Census" in <http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/DataCenter/. 3/27/2010>. "Center Harbor" in <http://www.nh.gov/nhes, 3/27/2010>.

Chapter Four. "One Should Expect Some Changes," 1962-1982

126. LR, 1962.
127. "1930-1969 Decennial US Census" in <http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/DataCenter, 3/27/2010>; "Center Harbor" in <http://www.nh.gov/nhes, 3/27/2010>.
128. LR, 1962 and 1963.
129. LR, 1962.
130. LR, 1963.
131. LR, 1962.
132. LR, 1962 and 1963.
133. LR, 1970.
134. LR, 1975.
135. Policies of the Nichols Memorial Library, 1968 in BOT, 1960-1979.
136. Proposed By-laws, 10/2/1973 in BOT 1969-1970.
137. Treasurer's Report, 1968 in BOT, 1960-1979.
138. CHTR, 1968.
139. CHTR 1967, 3 and CHTR 1969, 3.
140. LR, 1971.
141. LR. 1971.
142. LR, 1972.
143. LR, 1973.
144. Wadsworth to CHWC, 10/14/1970 in BOT, 1960-1979.
145. Bartlett to Trustees, 11/21/1970 in BOT, 1960-1979.

146. Wakeman to Matheson, 12/5/1970 in BOT, 1960-1979.
147. Ladd to Trustees, 12/5/1970 in BOT, 1960-1979.
148. Rand to Ladd, 12/18/1970 in BOT, 1960-1979.
149. Agreement, 10/27/1971 in BOT, 1960-1979.
150. LR, 1973.
151. LR, 1973.
152. LR, 1974.
153. TR, 1974
154. TR, 1975
155. TR, 1975
156. LR, 1977; TR, 1978.
157. TR, 1974
158. TR, 1975; LR, 1976.
159. Treasurer's Report in BOT, 1960-1979. NMLA, 1969 and 1974 in BOT, 1969-1970. CHTR, 1969, 1974.
160. LR 1976.
161. LR, 1974.
162. LR, 1976
163. LR, 1977.
164. NMLA, 5/10/77; LR, 9/30/1977. Raymond Kelly had served as a Trustee from 1929 to 1972, Rand from 1965-1977. Rand also served as the Library's auditor and Kelly as Association Treasurer.
165. TR, 1978 in BOT, 1960-1979.
166. Minutes, 2/28/79; 8/15/78 in BOT, 1960-1979. Whitman, Nancy. Interview, 4/2/2010.
167. Minutes, 2/28/78 in BOT, 1960-1979.
168. NMLA, 10/10/1978; Minutes, 2/28/1978 in BOT, 1960-1979.
169. Minutes, 3/28/1978 in BOT, 1960-1979.
170. Minutes, 7/11/1978 in BOT, 1960-1979.
171. Poff, n.d. (ca. 10/1978) in BOT, 1960-1979. Poff's comments were discussed at the August, 1978 Association meeting. See NMLA, 8/18/1978. See also Borrell, n.d. (ca. 10/1978) in BOT, 1960-1979.
172. NMLA, 8/18/1978.
173. Hewins to Taylor, 10/25/1978 in BOT, 1960-1979.
174. Lep to Trustees, 1/29/1979 in BOT, 1960-1979.
175. NMLA, 1/9/1979.
176. TR, Oct. 1982 in BOT, 1980-1989.
177. Minutes, 11/13/1979 in BOT, 1960-1979.
178. LR in CHTR, 1990.
179. LR, 10/8/1985
180. LR, 10/8/1985; TR in CHTR 1984, 48; 1987, 59 and 1988, 5.
181. TR in CHTR, 1988, 51
182. TR, 10/9/1979 in BOT, 1960-1979; TR in CHTR, 1984, 48.
183. NMLA, 10/4/77. Gavin, 4. A belt of new eaves, installed in the 1930s, diverted water from the gutters and had it fall directly to the ground. This saturated the soil around the building and impacted the limestone base. Some of the diverted water flow was falling on the sides of the building, causing stains and erosion.
184. TR, 10/14/1980 in BOT, 1980-1989.
185. TR in CHTR, 1983, 46.
186. TR in CHTR, 1986, 1988.
187. TR in CHTR, 1980.
188. Blaisdell to Trustees, 1/14/80 in BOT, 1980-1989. TR in CHTR, 1980.
189. TR, 10/14/1980 in BOT, 1980-1989.
190. TR in CHTR, 1984, 48; TR, 1985, 47; Mango to Trustees, 4/2/84 in NMLA, 1980-89.
191. TR in CHTR, 1991.
192. TR in CHTR, 1985, 52.
193. TR in CHTR, 1985, 47.
194. TR in 1988 in CHTR, 1988, 51.
196. CHTR, 1981, 3.
197. CHTR, 1988, 3.

Chapter Five. " Services People Demand Will Shape the Library," 1985-2005

198. "Centre Harbor Village District" in nrhp.focus.gov, 4/1/2010; "Fundamentals" at <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov>, 4/1/2010.
199. TR in CHTR, 1988, 51.
200. TR in CHTR, 1989, 47.
201. TR in CHTR, 1982, 52 and 1984, 48. LR, 1989.
202. TR in CHTR, 1988, 51
203. LR 1982, 1989.
204. NMLA in CHTR, 1989.
206. LR in CHTR, 1989.
206. TR in CHTR or NMLA in CHTR
207. NMLA, 1989.
208. NMLA, 5/16/90; Kimball to Harlow, 2/2/1990, in NMLA, 1990-2005. That year, the Town budget for the Library was \$12,000; income from the Nichols Trust, \$4,730. See Treasurer's Report in CHTR, 1989.
209. TR in CHTR, 1989, 1990
210. LR in CHTR, 1990, 51.
211. LR in CHTR, 1989, 1990.
212. TR in CHTR, 1991, 48.
213. LR in CHTR, 1991.
214. TR in CHTR, 1992, 48.
215. TR, 1992.
216. LR in CHTR, 1991.
217. *Meredith News*, 1/29/92 in NMHF.
218. TR 1992.
219. NMLA in CHTR 1991, 50.
220. TR in CHTR, 1992, 45. The increase was cited as 30% in the Trustees Report, 1992, 48.
221. LR in CHTR, 1992
222. TR in CHTR, 1992, 45.
223. TR in CHTR, 1993, 46.
224. LR in CHTR, 1993.
225. On a more sobering note, Mrs. Pickel attended a workshop on the implications for libraries of the Patriot Act, enacted in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. LR in CHTR, 1993, 1996.
226. AR in CHTR 1994, 42; LR in CHTR 1995, 41
227. LR in CHTR, 1995, 41.
228. LR in CHTR, 1996, 45. This was reported as the "first time" the Library had reached the 10,000 mark, but it had already done so in 1970. See LR, 1970.
229. LR in CHTR, 1998, 44.
230. LR, 1991, 231. Whitesides, 104-106. The author received his library training in one such pioneering library, UIUC, which was one of the first major university libraries to change to an online catalog, automate circulation and develop a statewide interlibrary lending program.
232. LR in CHTR, 1998, 43.
233. *Meredith News*, 7/2/1998 in NMHF.
234. LR in CHTR, 1999.
235. LR in CHTR, 2000.
236. LR in CHTR, 2001, 40.
237. LR in CHTR, 2001, 40.
238. TR in CHTR, 1990, 50.
239. TR in CHTR, 1993, 48.
240. "Warrant Articles," 12/15/93 in NMLA, 1990-2005.
241. TR in CHTR, 1993, 48.
242. Garvin, 1993, 1 in BOT, 1990-1995.
243. Garvin, 3. in BOT, 1990-1995.

244. LRPR, 2000, n/p, in NMLA, 1990-2005.
245. LR in CHTR, 1997, 44.
246. LR in CHTR, 1999.
247. LA in CHTR, 1999, 44.
248. Pounds to LRPC, 12/15/2000 in BOT, 2000-2005.
249. LRPC, n/p.
250. LR in CHTR, 2000, 43.
251. NMLA, 2003.
252. Frase to Pounds, 2/27/2001 in BOT, 2000-2005.
253. Palson to Pounds, 4/230/2002 ; Fisher to Pichel [sic] 4/2/2002 in BOT, 2000-2005.
254. LR in CHTR, 2007, 48.
255. LR in CHTR, 2001, 43.
256. LR in CHTR, 2002, 37.
257. LR in CHTR, 2002, 38.
258. LR in CHTR, 2003, 40.
259. LR in CHTR, 2001.
260. LR in CHTR, 2002, 37; LR in CHTR, 2003, 40.
261. LR in CHTR, 2004, 45.
262. NMLA in CHTR, 1998, 45.
263. Treasurer's Report in CHTR, 1989. Income from the Nichols trust was \$4,390 in 1989, the town's library budget, \$12,000. TR in CHTR, 1989, TR in CHTR, 2004, 43.
264. NMLA in CHTR, 1998, 45.
265. "About the Nichols Memorial Library and the Associates," nd, in NMLA, 1990-2005.
266. NMLA, 11/3/2004 NMLA, 1990-2005.
267. Dedication, 43.
268. LR in CHTR, 2007, 2008 and 2009.
269. LR in CHTR, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.
270. LR in CHTR, 2001, 2006. The library's website addresses are www.metrocast.net/nicholslibrary and jnml.wordpress.com
271. "Learn a language with Mango" jnml.wordpress.com, 4/7/2010.
272. LR in CHTR, 2009, 50.
273. LR in CHTR, 2007, 2008, 2009.
274. LR, 2007, 2008 in CHTR
275. LR in CHTR, 1991.



Author Jon Kinnaman, shown in front of the Library's Mosler safe, received his Master of Arts in History and Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University prior to coming to New Hampshire. He has been Librarian of the Nichols Memorial Library since 2005.