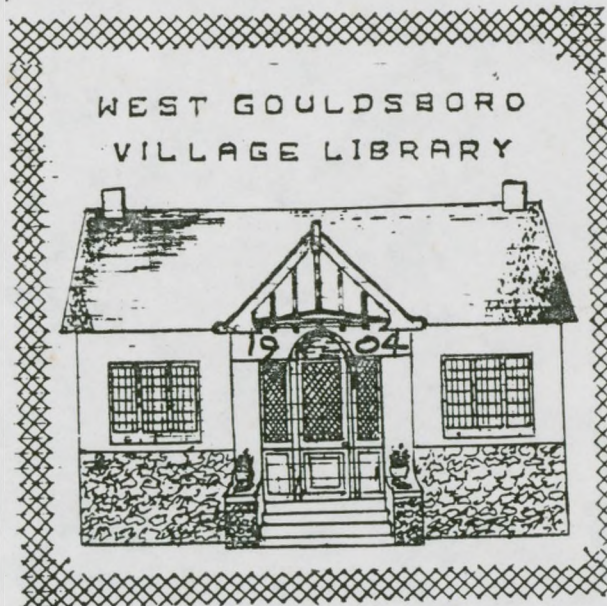


A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
WEST GOULDSBORO
VILLAGE LIBRARY
by
Dorothy M. Osborne
August 1990



The West Gouldsboro Village Library was the result of a suggestion by the Rev. Samuel R. Maxwell in 1904 when he was preacher at the West Gouldsboro Union Church. Public interest promised support and two fairs and a play by the West Gouldsboro Players Club netted approximately \$500 for the building of a permanent library.

In the fall of 1904, a temporary library was established in the front room of Mrs. Elizabeth Shaw. A Bible, sixteen books and some magazines were acquired as a beginning.

In 1906 with gifts from individuals, organizations, from a Mrs. Cockrane, a Mr. Eliot and Andrew Carnegie who gave \$500, and approval of architectural plans by a Mr. Savage of Bar Harbor, it was voted to build a library. The estimated cost was \$1395.00.

Land was given by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kingsley by deed dated August 1906. Grading at the site was done by local volunteers. A building committee was elected September 8, 1906: Fred Tracy, chairman, E.E. Soderholz, Charles Follett, Frank P. Noyes and Fletcher T. Wood.

The attractive English style half stone, half timber building was erected as it now stands eighty six years later, next to the West Gouldsboro Union Church.

Mrs. Helen Bradley donated the matching mantels for the twin fireplaces. These came from "The Briars", the summer home of her father, J. Montgomery Sears.

The West Gouldsboro Village Library was dedicated August 28, 1907 with a memorable address by Dr. Henry Griffen. The cost of the building was \$2520.38.

The first librarians were: Mrs. Nellie Bunker, Mrs. Hannah Kingsley, and Mrs. Grace Wood Clark. In 1924 there were more than 1700 books in the library by purchase and donation.

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Library service in West Gouldsboro was interrupted about 1956 with the advent of the State of Maine Bookmobile service. Since the demise of the Bookmobile service, many small rural libraries are re-opening. Today we celebrate the re-opening of this one, with a collection of over 700 books among which is a fine collection of the classics from the original library. The date referred to in the last paragraph was August 28, 1990.

The present Board of Directors is: Dorothy M. Osborne, widow of a summer minister of the West Gouldsboro Union Church for 27 years, in whose memory the historical plaque on the West Gouldsboro Union Church is given, Mrs. Mary Lou Tracy Hodge, granddaughter of the chairman of the building committee of the erection of the Library, Frances Bailey Wood, daughter-in-law of Fletcher T. Wood, Janet Quirk, Donalyn Winfree, and Annette King. Deceased in 1991, a member of the Board, Eleanor Noyes Tracy was the daughter of Frank Noyes, a member of the original building committee and mother of the present treasurer. The Library Historical Plaque was dedicated to her memory, unveiled by her husband, son of the Chairman of the original building committee.

Chandler P. Noyes, age 94, was in attendance at this celebration. He is the son of Frank Noyes, a member of the original building committee. Also attending was Mrs. Edith Perkins, (Dodie), granddaughter of Mrs. Helen Bradley who gave the twin mantels for the library.

Currently the library has over 2000 books. Volunteer librarians in 1992 are: Dorothy M. Osborne, Mary Lou Hodge, Frances B. Wood, Janet Quirk, Donalyn Winfree, Elizabeth Reilly, Nan Flaherty, and Annette King. Mrs. Betty Coullard has singularly compiled a computerized list of the books to date. The logo on the stationary is done by David Wood, second cousin of Fletcher T. Wood.

August 1992

Dorothy M. Osborne, Director