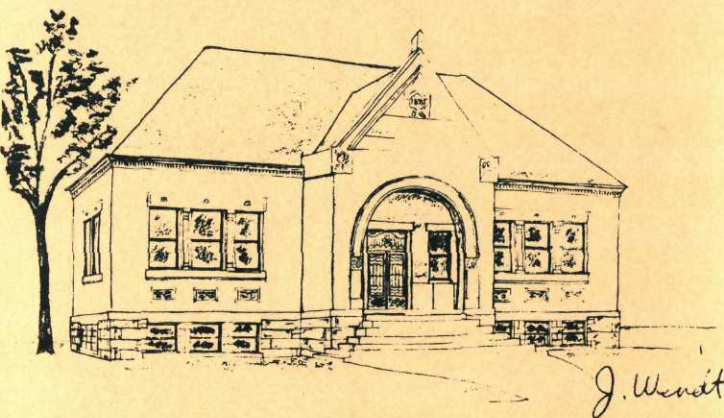


HISTORY OF DUNDEE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

While 1979 has been chosen for the celebration of the Library's Centennial, recently discovered township records indicate that the Dundee Library was operating as a tax-supported library as early as 1876.

Library service in Dundee Township grew out of subscription libraries established by groups concerned with the lack of cultural and recreational activities in the area and was directly related to local agitation and concern with the Temperance Movement of the times.

In the 1850's a small collection of books was brought together by the Hand in Hand group of the Sons of Temperance. In 1871, at the suggestion of J. A. Carpenter, the Literary and Library Association of Carpentersville was organized and chartered under state law. This group expanded the original collection of books and operated for many years as a subscription library in the original Library Hall, a small frame building located at Main and Grove Streets in Carpentersville. Members of the Literary and Library Association served as volunteer librarians until 1883, when Mrs. Lucia Gorman became librarian. The very minimal subscription fees required for membership were supplemented by endowment from the Carpenter family.

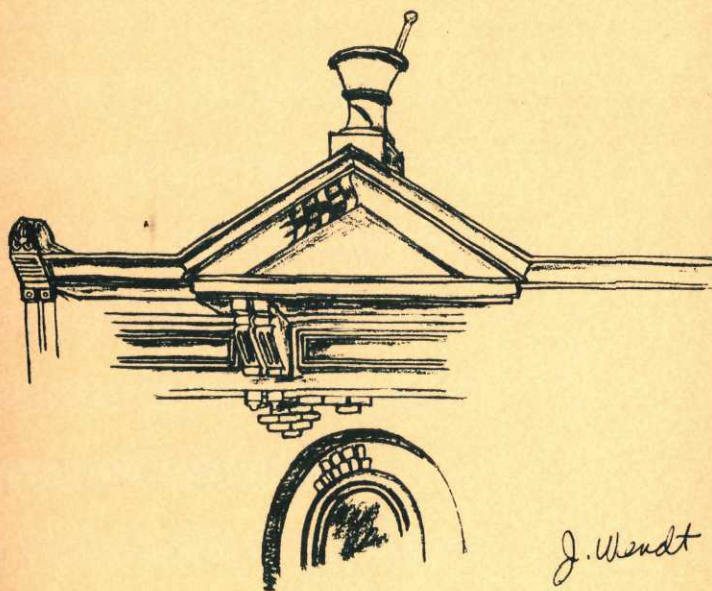


CARPENTERSVILLE LIBRARY HALL

In 1895, Mrs. Mary Carpenter Lord, in memory of her deceased husband J. A. Carpenter, built and donated jointly to the Congregational Church and the Literary and Library Association of Carpentersville the Library Hall located at 21 Washington Street. This township landmark, which was selected as an historic site by the

State of Illinois in 1973 and has also been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, is the present Dundee Township Park District Administration Building.

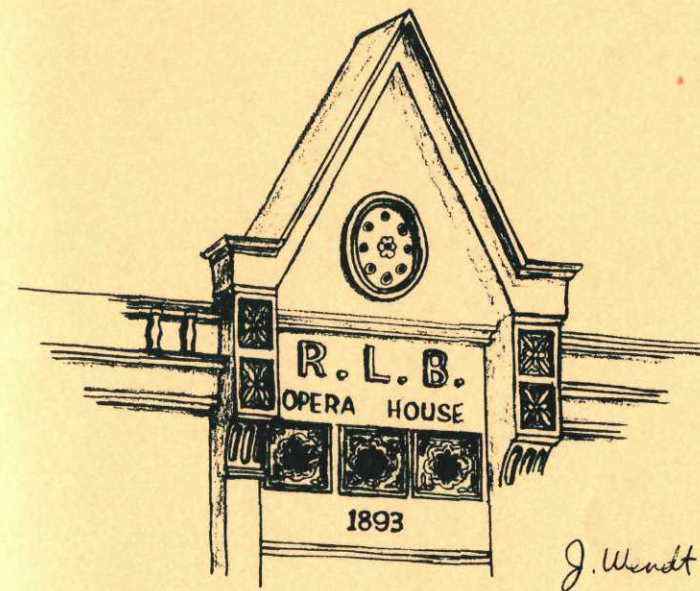
Dundee Library had its beginnings in the early 1870's with a collection of approximately 50 books in English and German, organized through the efforts of Dr. E. F. Cleveland and Fred Haverkamp, who were leaders of several civic movements of the period. The young Dr. Cleveland was a scholarly individual who deplored the lack of cultural institutions in the community. Mr. Haverkamp, a self-educated man who emigrated from Germany at age 17 to become a successful merchant in Dundee, held strong convictions regarding the Temperance Movement and hoped to provide for the young bloods of the community some center of activity other than the local saloons.



DETAIL FROM CLEVELAND AND TEST DRUG STORE

This first Dundee Library was housed in the Allan Hollister real estate and insurance office, a small frame building which stood at the corner of Main and First Streets. With the building of the drug store adjacent to this site, the library was moved into the combination offices and drug store of Drs. Cleveland and Test. Young Henry Baumann, druggist apprentice, served as librarian. He later became owner of the drug store and served for many years as librarian and president of the Board of Trustees. During the 1890's, the books were located on a balcony at the rear of his store and were reached by use of a ladder and "cat walk."

During these early years, the library's holdings were listed on printed leaflets entitled "Dundee Public Library Catalogue." The catalogue of 1884 lists 1120 books, which included 223 books printed in German. It is believed the German books were disposed of with the move across Main Street to the Opera House Building in 1900.



DETAIL FROM OPERA HOUSE

The Opera House of that era was a center for community activities and celebrations as well as a theater where professional and amateur theatricals were staged. Here the library had its home on the second floor in one of several rooms which had been planned as offices.

In 1909 it became necessary to find new quarters for the library to make way for the new telephone switchboard and office to be installed in the Opera House. A committee appointed to seek the erection of a building to house both the library and Dundee village offices was unsuccessful, and the library collection was moved across Main Street into temporary quarters in the drug store of C. S. Sinclair. Here Mr. Sinclair served as volunteer librarian along with his professional duties as druggist.

In 1910 the library was moved into quarters on the first floor of the new Dundee Village Hall. By the early 1920's the library had outgrown its limited space in one room on the first floor of Village Hall, and it was moved upstairs to occupy one half of the second floor space. By 1929, the book collection had grown to 6012 and library patrons totaled 1296.

