

HISTORY OF THE RIVERTON FREE LIBRARY

Index

Section I	--	Riverton Free Library Association
Section II	--	Work of the Library
Section III	--	Library Building
Section IV	--	Library Finances
Section V	--	The Library Today
Appendix	--	List of Officers and Librarians List of Trustees

Riverton Library History Committee

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RIVERTON LIBRARY HISTORY

Section I - Riverton Free Library Association

At the turn of the century when the Riverton Free Library was founded, Riverton itself had only been a borough since 1893 and Palmyra since 1894. Previously, they had both been part of Cinnaminson Township then largely farmland. Riverton was started in 1850 by nine men from Philadelphia who bought land on the banks of the Delaware River where they could build summer homes. Their Riverton Improvement Company includes names such as Biddle, Miller and Parrish that figure in the Library's history. Palmyra was started a little later and by 1890 had a population of 1898. Riverton then had 1062 residents and the total population for all of Cinnaminson Township was 3939.

Although originally a summer colony, Riverton gradually became a year-round residential community with ties to the surrounding farming area as well as to Philadelphia. Mr. William Parry describes it as having, in 1880, "lumber and coal yards, warehouses for agricultural implements, fertilizers and farmer's supplies; express and telegraph offices, two large boarding houses well filled in summer . . . with access to the city in 30 minutes by rail or in 45 minutes by water". The Riverton Yacht Club, founded in 1865, built the pier at the foot of Main Street which was used by the paddlewheel steamers to Philadelphia as well as by other river traffic. On the land east of the railroad, a baseball field and a bicycle track offered diversion, and the Riverton Country Club was built here about 1901. The Riverton Lyceum was formed as a social and recreational organization in 1886 and on its rolls are names such as Flanagan and Showell that pay a part in the history of the Library. The Porch Club, a women's organization founded in 1895, gave invaluable support to the Library from its beginning. The Riverton School started in 1865 with 60 pupils, and by 1890 there were also several churches in the community. A newspaper, the New Era, was founded in 1889. The Dreer Nursery along the Pompeston Creek was the only major commercial enterprise in the area, and its rose and water lily gardens were a pleasant asset.

The history of the Library begins with a meeting in 1899 described in the Minutes Book of the Riverton Library and Free Reading Room Association as follows: "In response to an invitation of the Rev. R. Bowden Shepherd, a number of the citizens of Riverton met at the Rectory of Christ Church, Riverton, on Thursday evening, January 12th, 1899, for the purpose of taking steps toward establishing in Riverton a Library & Free Reading Room. Mr. Shepherd stated the object of the call & on Motion, the meeting was organized by the selection of Dr. Alex Marcy, Jr. as President and Mr. Walter G. Wilson as Secretary. On motion, it was resolved: That steps be taken to establish and maintain in

Section I - 2

Riverton, a Library and free Reading Room which shall be absolutely free from Sectarian, Political, or Personal control. Mr. Shepherd stated that in order to start the movement Christ Church would give the free use of its present Library, consisting of some 800 vols. & in addition would give the free use of its present library room and also another room, both in the Parish Building, and both rooms to be free of cost for rent, light and heat, and on Motion of Mrs. E. H. Ogden, the offer was accepted and the thanks of the meeting were tendered to Christ Church for its very liberal offer."

In February, 1899, a constitution and by-laws for the Riverton Library & Free Reading Room Association were adopted, calling for a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 8 Directors, the officers and half of the Directors to be residents of the Borough of Riverton. The use of the Library and Reading Room were to be absolutely free to all. Annual subscriptions were \$1.00, and one could become a Life Member by paying \$25.00 annually for five years. Borrowers must have reader's cards, and if not a subscriber, the card must be endorsed by a subscriber or contributor. Library hours were from 4-6 and 7-9 daily, and "no conversation will be permitted in the reading room."

The following officers and directors were elected: Rev. R. Bowden Shepherd, President; Mrs. Charles C. Miller, Secretary; Mr. Walter G. Wilson, Treasurer; other Directors were Dr. Alex Marcy, Jr., Mrs. E. H. Ogden, Mr. J. S. Bioren, Mrs. E. C. Grice, Mrs. F. G. Brown, Mrs. E. B. Showell, Miss Cornelia S. Coale, and Mr. Alex C. Wood. A Library & Reading Room Committee was formed to be in charge of the distribution of books and the regulation of the Library, an Examining Committee to examine and approve all books donated or purchased, and a Finance & Purchasing Committee to supervise the Library's financial affairs and to purchase books.

The name of the Association was changed in 1900 to "The Riverton Free Library Association", and in 1906, the Association was formally incorporated. The 1906 By-Laws called for 15 Trustees, the majority to be residents of Riverton, with a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Committee to be composed of 5 Trustees to be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

But to return to 1899, Miss Elizabeth Campbell was appointed Librarian and the books were catalogued with the help of Miss Sarah Askew from the State Library Commission. On May 25, 1899, the Library was formally opened with an address by John Thomson, Librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia, on the subject "Growth of Free Libraries". The printed First Annual Report of the second annual meeting held in May 1900 states that the Library then had 1683 volumes and a circulation of 8411. 158 annual sub-

Section I - 3

scriptions had been received and 458 reader's cards issued. Receipts were \$878.70 and expenditures \$855.58.

The progress of the Library over the next ten years is reflected in the annual reports of the Rev. R. Bowden Shepherd, President. Circulation and number of volumes were both increasing as the Library was used more and more by the community. In its first five years, 59,869 books had been circulated, with 1042 reader's cards issued - 695 for Riverton, 294 for Palmyra and 53 in the surrounding county. There had been 9361 Reading Room users.

Mr. Shepherd was anxious that the Library maintain a high standard in the books it offered. In a later address to an annual meeting of the Association, he specified three questions that should be asked as to a book's value: i.e. Does it refine? Does it inculcate noble thoughts? Does it build up character? He was somewhat disturbed by the heavy emphasis on fiction (85%) in the books circulated as opposed to what were then called "Class Books" (15%). Nevertheless, as a realist, he approved the inauguration of the 1¢-a-day bookshelf in 1909 where duplicate copies of the most read books could be rented.

Mr. Shepherd's other chief concern (and in this he was followed by all later presidents of the Library Association) was a financial one. Annual receipts were little more than covering expenses, and his goal was an Endowment Fund made up of special gifts with income sufficient to cover salaries and other running expenses so that all subscriptions could be used to purchase books. By the time Mr. Shepherd resigned as President and moved away from Riverton in 1911, the Endowment Fund had reached \$1000.00 which was its early goal.

During these years, it was the custom to follow the Annual Meeting of the Association with some entertainment such as a talk., or songs and recitations. Jas. W. King, Esq. of the Philadelphia Bar gave an address in 1912, and Miss Sarah Askew, organizer of Libraries under the New Jersey State Library Commission, gave talks on several occasions. Subjects of the talks ranged from "The Little Brown Jap and the Big Russian Bear" to readings from Uncle Remus.

Perhaps the major event of the Library's first years was the move to its present location at 306 Main Street. It had become evident that the Library could serve its purpose better in a home of its own, and in 1908, Mrs. E. H. Ogden made a generous gift of the present building in memory of her husband, Edward H. Ogden, former Mayor of Riverton. Section III on the Library Building gives more detail on this subject.

Section I - 4

Robert Biddle, the second President of the Association, held office from 1912 to 1927, and his term might be called the era of consolidation. The years remaining before World War I seem to have been good ones.

Money was still not plentiful but the Library was able to loan 26 books to the Riverton School for use and reference by the students, and this practice was continued through the years. The annual meetings still included songs, music and entertainment, and talks by Mr. Shepherd on return visits to Riverton. However, in 1916 when the address was delivered by Edward J. Cattell, Statistician of Philadelphia, there is no mention of other entertainment and this pleasant custom may have been discontinued during the war years.

A Lecture Course Committee was formed in 1910 with Miss Robertson, Mrs. Fitler, and Mr. De La Cour as members, to arrange for a benefit series of lectures each year. Four lectures were delivered in 1911 by Prof. Green, Prof. Pearson, and John Kendrick Bangs. In 1915, the lectures were delivered by Warwick James Price on "Political Aspects of the War in Europe", and Mr. Price also lectured from 1917 through 1920. The lecture benefits appear to have ended around 1922 when Mr. Mechling, then Chairman of the Committee, stated that "it is almost impossible to secure good speakers at a price that would allow a margin to be added to the Treasury."

The Library was busy with war work and took part in the American Library Association drive to build libraries for and get books to the soldiers and sailors. By 1918, 1080 books had been collected and shipped to Camp Dix. In addition, the Library distributed pamphlets and books on vegetable gardening, canning and food preservation.

The Library did have some problems of its own. In 1916, the President's Report notes that the building was in need of repairs, a windstorm had damaged the maple trees, and the Library itself was closed for two months due to an outbreak of infantile paralysis. 1919 was marked by the influenza epidemic, and here we might mention the Library's policy with regard to contagious diseases. In the first by-laws of the Riverton Library and Free Reading Room, it was stated that books exposed to such diseases should be burned and replaced. By 1930, this regulation must have been softened and we learn from the minutes of a 1931 meeting that, in the case of measles, there were two ways a book could be disinfected: 1) Keep in a cool place for two weeks, the period of incubation, or 2) Keep in a closed room for twenty-four hours with a formaldehyde candle burning, taking care to stuff all cracks with paper or rags under the doors. Either method would seem to constitute quite a chore for the Librarian.

Section I - 5

In 1922, the Library was wired for electricity. This event was a heartwarming example of community support, for the six mechanics employed by the electrical contractor each donated one day's services to the Library, and the fixtures were donated by interested friends of the Library. Also in 1922, the Burlington County Travelling Library loaned 160 books to Riverton, and this invaluable support from the County has continued and grown through the years. This same year, the Board of Trustees decided not to participate in the Community Fund Drive and the Library has customarily made its appeal directly to those interested in its work. Riverton's newspaper, the New Era, had always been most helpful in printing items for the Library and in 1923, began the practice of publishing twice a month a list of the new books on the Library shelves. Use of the Library by students increased steadily throughout the Twenties, and by 1925, the students from Palmyra High School used it frequently.

During Mr. Biddle's term, the format of the printed Annual Report was changed to summarize the activities of the Library under such headings as Book Record, Burlington County Free Library, Reader's Cards Issued, Special Contributions and Benefits, and Gifts of Books, as well as the Reports of the Librarian and Treasurer. A list of Subscribers and Life Members was included. Mr. Biddle was a business man who commuted to work in Philadelphia. As a footnote of the Riverton of his day, we are told that there were so few buildings east of the railroad that he could see both Riverton and Palmyra stations as he left his home on Highway. If his train were already approaching Riverton, he would be driven (by horse & carriage) to Palmyra station instead. As a businessman, Mr. Biddle was concerned with obtaining adequate support for the Library and like his predecessor, makes frequent mention of the need for a "more stable income."

Carl De La Cour became President of the Library Association in 1927 after having been Vice-President since 1912, and his term lasted until 1932, difficult years for the Library as well as for the country. The start was fairly auspicious - in 1928 and 1929, benefits included a Porch Club dance, a Curb Market where local fruits and vegetables as well as produce brought out from the farmer's market in Philadelphia were sold, a reading of John Brown's Body, and even a Treasure Hunt. The Riverton PTA and the Palmyra Woman's Club raised money for the Library. Remodelling the Library building was discussed and Mr. Stewart, an architect, advised that while a large expenditure for remodelling might not be worthwhile, about \$2000.00 would cover the needed changes. No further action was taken on the project at this time although in 1932, the Library building was repaired and painted with the help of a special collection of funds amounting to \$569.51 in "individual contributions from 75 families for special repairs," a remarkable achievement during the depth of the Depression.

Section I - 6

The Library suffered a great loss at the death of Miss Elizabeth Campbell in 1930, but fortunately, her sister, Miss Antoinette Campbell, took her place with Mrs. Richard Barclay and Mrs. Malcolm Dickinson as assistants.

Special financial problems for the Library came with the Depression years. By May of 1932, circulation had increased to 34,600 since readers had more free time as a result of unemployment, while the subscription income decreased. However, the Boroughs of Riverton and Palmyra both increased their support. The printed Annual Reports end with that of May, 1932, doubtless due to lack of funds, and the Treasurer's Report for the year ending May, 1931, shows a balance of \$5.51.

In 1932, Harry F. Jones became President of the Association and held that office for twenty years. At the outset of his term, the Library was in difficulties since circulation had increased about 16% to 41,000 but the number of subscribers had decreased 25% and some of them were delinquent. It was decided to close the Library for two weeks in 1933 due to the depleted Treasury. Mr. Jones believed that the Library needed wider community support and suggested in 1935 that the number of Trustees be increased to 21, but the Board took no action on this. In the same year, the practice began of having the annual President's Report printed in the New Era as a means of informing the community of the Library's services and needs. At the annual meeting in 1936, there was a discussion of the need to interest new local residents in the Library and New Members Committee was formed. In 1937, the date of the Annual Meeting was moved from May to January and the By-Laws were changed accordingly. The By-Laws were revised again in 1942 to provide for a quorum consisting of 7 Trustees.

By 1940, the Library needed painting and a finance drive was planned, but the Second World War evidently put a halt to this project. As in 1916, circulation decreased but books were sent to Fort Dix and the Library participated in the Victory Book Campaign. The Librarian reported that circulation was reflecting greater global interests. In 1944, Miss Antoinette Campbell retired and was replaced by her niece, Mrs. Barclay.

In 1945, circulation was increasing especially in the field of children's books. Story hours for Brownie Troops and others were held and special visits by mothers and children were sponsored during Book Week. The Library received money from the Lippincott Fund for the first time. The Boroughs increased their support, and the Shade Tree Commission was to plant a hemlock hedge and replace a storm-damaged tree on the Library property. In 1948, Mr. Victor Retschard gave an illustrated lecture on Switzerland as a benefit,

Section I - 7

and in 1949, a Lecture-Concert by Guy Marriner produced increased funds. By this time, the Trustees' Committees included one for Entertainment and for Publicity, as well as the Executive Committee, the House Committee and the Book Selection Committee.

The year 1950 was filled with activities celebrating the Library's 50th Anniversary. Mr. E. Newbold Cooper, Vice President of Girard College, gave a most interesting address in May on the history of the Library and its place in the community. Later, a Book Show was held with displays including an early Bible, first editions of Thackeray, Swinburne, and Alice in Wonderland, early children's books, miniature books, and 17th century books on medicine.

In 1955, the first Bookmobile expedition to the schools of the community was held as a means of encouraging the already increasing use of the Library by children. Story hours and Children's Book Contests with prizes were annual events during this period. In 1958, as a result of a Court decision that part of the Lippincott Fund receipts could be used for capital expenditures to house books as well as to purchase them, an attractive new Children's Room was added to the Library building, filling a long-felt need for more and better space for the many children who used the Library.

By January, 1959, the Library's circulation was 27,285, with 648 contributing members. 1410 reader's cards included 551 for River-ton, 650 for Palmyra, and 209 for Cinnaminson Township. The annual operating budget was approximately \$5000.00. Grants from the three municipalities totalled \$1600.00, and the aid from the State of New Jersey was received for the first time. The annual subscription fee was raised to \$2.00 in 1960, and the By-Laws were revised.

Before resigning in 1962, Mr. Jones discussed the Library's situation in a Special President's Report in April. Current annual expenses amounted to about \$7200.00 of which some 50% went for salaries. Mr. Jones felt that the need to increase salaries was of paramount importance. For many years the Library had been fortunate in having dedicated Librarians and staff members in spite of inadequate remuneration, but it was not reasonable to expect this situation to continue, and a way had to be found to bring the salary levels up to current standards. He also discussed the limitations of the present Library facilities, and suggested the possibility that a larger or more central building should be planned. As an alternative, he asked the Board to consider the desirability of restricting the Library services since Cinnaminson, and possibly Palmyra in the future, might have their own libraries.

In his final Report for 1962, Mr. Jones strikes a familiar chord when he says that "it is difficult if not impossible to omit reference to our financial needs." Nevertheless, under his guidance and

Section I - 8

due to his concern that the Library become a truly Triborough enterprise, community support for the Library had greatly widened. In addition the Library had met the increasing demands for its services especially from the children. In spite of his many other business and civic interests, Mr. Jones always found time to devote to the Library. He not only strengthened the Library by his work as President, but in the form of the Florence W. and Harry F. Jones Memorial Fund, he saw to it that provision was made for the Library's future growth and well-being.

Mr. F. William Thacher, Jr. became President in 1963 after several years as a Board member and as Vice President. His first Annual Report in January of 1964 states that the books and facilities were in good condition and that the Library was well-staffed, but he also noted that "most charitable endeavors in which class the Riverton Free Library falls, are continually faced with the problem of income and expenditures - they never seem to balance and unfortunately, the balance bar usually runs on the short side."

An early problem for the new President was the building in Cinnaminson Township of a branch of the Burlington County Library, thus reducing the area served by the Riverton Library as well as the support from Cinnaminson. There was also a possibility that the Lippincott Fund income, formerly divided between Moorestown and Riverton, might go to Cinnaminson, and it wasn't until about 1968 that the Court decided that this income should continue to be distributed as in the past.

Mrs. Quentin Ferguson had succeeded Mrs. Barclay as Librarian in 1962 and was doing a fine job in re-cataloguing the books and maintaining efficient service, but her efforts were hampered by the layout of the Library as well as lack of space for a workroom and for storage. The Library building was divided into a number of small rooms, hard to supervise when crowded with school children. The Jones Memorial Fund was available and the Association, under Mr. Thacher, felt the time had come to make some needed major changes. A successful drive for contributions supplemented by the Jones Fund and in 1968, the interior of the Library was remodelled and renovated, providing a better arrangement with more open space plus service and storage rooms in the rear.

Meanwhile, Mr. Thacher and Mr. Ernest Ransome, Treasurer, worked for increased aid to the Library from the Boroughs of Palmyra and Riverton, and the resulting increased State aid. As of the end of 1969, the Library Budget of over \$9000.00 was covered as follows: 43% from the Boroughs and State Aid, 36% from subscriptions and contributions, 8% from fines and rentals, and 13% from miscellaneous sources.

Section I - 9

The five presidents of the Riverton Free Library Association over a span of seventy years have all been men truly interested in their community. Each of them, with the help of their officers and the Board members, has generously supplied the interest, effort and sound judgment needed for the growth and continuity of the Library.

Section II - Work of the Library

The vital ingredient for any Library is the quality of its staff, and the Riverton Free Library has been unusually fortunate in this respect. The first Librarian was Miss Elizabeth Boyd Campbell who, we are told, "had a remarkable memory - she read slowly but forgot nothing. She was a graduate of Friends' Central School in Philadelphia and her Library training was under Miss Sarah Askew, the State Librarian, who came down from Trenton to Riverton to give instruction. It was under her supervision that the library system was set up and the first books catalogued. Miss Askew was a remarkable person and she and the new librarian remained friends for many years." The Library was first housed in the Parish House of Christ Church and an early user of the Library describes the reading room with a long table for periodicals and easy (?) chairs, and remembers with affection "an armchair back of a big rubber plant in that reading room where a child could curl up with current copies of "Punch" or "Judge" and be unobserved." This same reader tells us that Miss Campbell "was a perfectionist - she had a good business head and her ability in sewing, knitting and baking were well known to all her friends at that time, and she brought to her library work the same meticulous concentration. Samples of her "library hand" used in those pre-typewriter days, are still extant in the old monthly reports." Other examples remain also since it was Miss Campbell's practice to write a note of acknowledgement and thanks on receipt of each salary payment (\$36.00 a month in 1910). We know too that Miss Campbell "was a shy person with quiet gracious dignity, but she would stand no nonsense from unruly boys and she was the one person unafraid of a blustering janitor who was frequently off the water wagon."

In 1900, the Library contained about 1500 volumes and by 1910, it had 4400 volumes, with an annual circulation of 16,480 and some 800 reader's cards in use. The library was open 24 hours a week.

In 1914, we find mention of books loaned to the school library, and this cooperation with the schools continued. During the 1950's, the Library presented encyclopedias to the various school libraries in the community, and visited the community elementary schools via the Bookmobile. For many years, various school classes would make special visits to the Library to familiarize the students with its services.

Expense records for the years from about 1914 to 1920 show the annual purchase of an Evening Sky Map, evidence that the readers of that era still had the opportunity and interest to study the stars.

In 1920, books from the County Travelling Library supplemented Riverton's some 6000 volumes. Circulation was 19,232, with 1886 reader's cards in use. The Librarian's Report for 1922 shows that

Section II - 2

new reader's cards were issued that year as follows: Riverton - 92, Palmyra - 99, Riverside - 22, and cards were issued also to residents of East Riverton, Delanco, Bridgeboro, Cambridge, New Albany, Beverly and Cinnaminson.

In 1923, the New Era started to publish a list of new books available at the Library. This might have been to counter a fall-off in circulation which was attributed then to the use of radio. In 1936, a circulation drop was believed to be due to movie-going, and again in the 1950's, television watching was blamed for a decline in reading. However, each circulation drop due to the electronic wonder of the day proved only temporary.

It is interesting to note the reading patterns during the first 30 years of the Library's history, as shown in the table below:

Year	<u>Circulation</u>			
	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>
<u>Fiction</u>	7,194	15,174	16,376	25,386
<u>Non-Fiction*</u>	<u>1,217</u>	<u>1,306</u>	<u>2,856</u>	<u>4,563</u>
<u>Total</u>	8,411	16,480	19,232	29,949

*Non-Fiction Categories

Philosophy	16	28	13	115
Religion	107	44	115	100
Sociology	143	137	500	615
Philology	16	4	54	39
Natural Sciences	75	109	175	294
Useful Arts	8	43	203	298
Literature	239	236	458	652
History	353	224	442	466
Biography	259	221	266	926
Travel	--	142	158	523
G General Works	--	76	322	300
Fine Arts	1	42	150	235

These categories bring up some interesting speculation. For example, why was the circulation of books on Useful Arts only 0.7% of total non-fiction in 1900, and almost 7% in 1930 when mechanization had advanced to such a degree? Were people busy practicing the Useful Arts in 1900 and only reading about them in 1930? At any rate, non-fiction reading was about 15% of the total circulation in 1900, 8% in 1910, 15% again in 1920, and it rose to about 20% in 1930. Reader's cards were renumbered every five years, and in 1930, 3200 were

Section II - 3

in use. The Library then contained 7802 volumes.

Miss Antoinette Campbell succeeded her older sister as Librarian in 1930 after having been her assistant since 1925. Miss Nette "as she was to everyone, was warm, impulsive and enthusiastic. She had the gift of sympathy, to the extent of hearing all kinds of confidences and troubles - growing out of discussing books. Less versant with library science (her only scientific training had been absorbed from work with her sister), she possessed a wide and catholic taste in reading. She'd had excellent English courses at Miss Hill's School in Philadelphia, and was an enthusiastic worker for the University Extension Lectures given in the old Lyceum in Riverton. Her wide reading and her gift of interest in people, particularly youngsters, was a great contribution."

The Depression years marked the first part of Miss Nette's tenure. Circulation for 1933 was the highest ever - 41,864 due to the fact that people had more time for reading even though financial difficulties forced the Library to close for two weeks that same year. The Library was open 24 hours a week. However, beginning about 1935, it was closed annually during the month of August so that it could be thoroughly cleaned. (It might be noted here that back in the early 1900's when Main Street was a dirt road, it was through the efforts of two wives of Library Board members, Mrs. Marcy and Mrs. Shepherd, that Riverton acquired a watering cart named the "Mary-Beck" to sprinkle the dust, thus perhaps lessening the chore of cleaning the Library's volumes.)

Also during the 1930's the charge for rental books was increased to 2¢ per day, and Miss Campbell noted in her reports that plays were popular and magazines were much read.

The number of books available to Riverton Library from the Burlington County Library was steadily increasing, and in 1940 reached 1500 volumes. Riverton had some 9000 volumes of its own at that time, and total circulation was about 30,000. Miss Antoinette Campbell resigned in 1944 and was succeeded by her niece, Mrs. Richard Barclay who had been her assistant since 1931.

The following period in the Library's history might well be described as the Children's Years. Mrs. Barclay believed in the importance of reading for the younger generation, and her warm-hearted understanding and tolerance for these young readers brought them to the Library in large numbers. Special visits planned for Scout troops and school classes, Bookmobile visits, and Book Week contests all helped to make the Library a familiar and welcoming place for the children of the community. This influx of young people did have an effect on the Library atmosphere - the requirement of "silence in the reading room" was relaxed some-

Section II - 4

what and Mrs. Barclay noted in 1935 that bubble gum and dating presented a few problems. However, these were surmounted, occasionally with the help of volunteers to keep order during spring evenings. The Librarian's Report for 1958 remarks that "the plan to have an adult sitting reading in the back room served as a deterrent to groups of revelers."

In 1957, Mrs. Barclay's efforts were reinforced by the addition of a long-needed new Children's Room where special tables and chairs in attractive surroundings made juvenile books more accessible to the Library's young readers. In 1959, a new distributing desk was installed.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Barclay did not neglect the adult readers. The activities during the 50th Anniversary year are described elsewhere. The Porch Club garden section had a flower arranging class at the Library in conjunction with a special display of related books, and the same group decorated the Library at Christmas. The 1950 Book Show was followed in 1952 by a display of old newspapers from the early 1800's and the Civil War days. In addition, Mrs. Barclay found time and energy to attend numerous library conferences and workshops held throughout the State, and in 1959, a meeting of the Burlington County Librarians was held at Riverton.

Circulation records during these years show that out of a total circulation of 17,522 in 1949, 12,138 were adult books and 5,414 were juveniles. By 1960, with a total circulation of 29,456, adult books totalled 17,101 and juveniles 12,355. 2,704 Burlington County Library books were on loan to Riverton Library in 1949, of which 1165 were adult fiction, 951 juvenile fiction, 283 adult non-fiction and 305 juvenile non-fiction.

By 1962 when Mrs. Barclay resigned as Librarian, circulation was about 30,000, with over 10,000 volumes in the library, divided as follows:

Adult Fiction	4200	Adult Non-Fiction	3600
Juvenile Fiction	1900	Juvenile Non-Fiction	900
Total Fiction	<u>6100</u>	Total Non-Fiction	<u>4500</u>

New reader's cards were issued every five years and when this was done in 1962, 415 cards were issued for Palmyra residents, 545 for Riverton, 244 for Cinnaminson, and 23 for residents elsewhere, for a total of 1226 reader's cards.

Section II - 5

Mrs. Barclay and the Misses Campbell represented an association with the Library of over 60 years by members of the same family. Their untiring efforts and devotion to the Library - never adequately rewarded from a financial standpoint - made it possible for the Library to exist from its modest beginnings and early struggles, through two wars and a depression, to its present place as an integral part of the community. Mrs. Barclay always thought of the Library as a small informal, friendly institution, but in her final report, she said that "the Library is at a crossroads; it can jog along as it has, giving joy to us who have loved it, but sooner or later, it will have to march with the times and take a more vital, active part in community affairs if it is to be a modern library."

Mrs. Quentin Ferguson became the fourth Librarian in 1963. She had a degree in Library Science and had worked on the staff since 1954. She took on the large task of rechecking and typing the old handwritten catalog cards. In addition, with the help of Burlington County Library, a program for discarding old books was inaugurated and both projects did much to increase efficiency and modernize the Library's services. For a few years, reader's cards were renumbered annually until the Gaylord charging system was installed. McNaughton books were added to the Library shelves - a program whereby extra copies of especially popular books were loaned temporarily through the Burlington County Library until the demand for them lessened and they could be returned for them lessened and they could be returned thus saving Riverton Library the expense of buying a number of copies of the same books. A display case was installed and used frequently for exhibits including local collections of antique dolls, early Christmas cards, etc. - all helpful in fostering greater community interest in the Library.

Mrs. Ferguson attended many County and State Library meetings and workshops, and participated in activities with other nearby libraries such as a visit to the Library of Congress. She encouraged Board members to visit and become familiar with other libraries for a wider understanding of Riverton's own problems and resources.

A special project to which Mrs. Ferguson devoted much time and effort was the building up of the Library's periodical files. Donations for a special Magazine Fund helped in this, and by 1968, Riverton Free Library had back issues for 10 years, for 25 magazines, a notable accomplishment for a library of its size. Through these years, the Library was heavily used by students in the local schools, and its magazine resources were especially helpful in providing up-to-date information on new scientific and other developments.

Section II - 6

In 1965, the Library had some 12,500 volumes, with 1457 reader's cards in use. Circulation was 31,839, of which 18,286 were adult books and 13,553 juvenile books. The 1968 remodelling of the Library interior to give it a more modern open layout eliminated many former problems of supervision and service, and was a source of pride and satisfaction to all. Mrs. Ferguson retired in December 1968, with a fine record of accomplishment in modernizing the Library's facilities and services as well as in encouraging interest in the broader aspects of library use.

The present Librarian, Mrs. Francis Myers, was formerly a member of the Riverton Library staff, and has also been affiliated with the Cinnaminson Branch of the Burlington County Library. She is continuing the work of her predecessors - Book Reading Contests have been held during the summer vacation months, and Wednesday morning Story Hours for pre-schoolers are a regular part of the Library program. In 1969, the Library was open 303 days, 27 hours a week, and was not closed during August as in past years. A copying machine was installed in 1969. Mrs. Myers has worked especially to interest local service clubs in using and supporting the Library to a greater degree.

No history of the Library would be complete without grateful mention of the members of the Staff. The list begins with Miss Elizabeth Bockius who substituted in 1913 when Miss Campbell was on vacation. Mrs. Hunn was on the staff in 1925 and Mrs. Malcolm Dickinson was an assistant for almost 30 years during the tenures of both Miss Campbells and Mrs. Barclay. Miss Florence Tabor was a most valuable member of the staff from the early 1930's to 1969 when she retired. Mrs. Wm. H. Heisler and Mrs. Charlotte Olney were assistants to Mrs. Barclay. More recent staff members include Mrs. William Wyllie, Mrs. Gustave Probsting, Mrs. Gordon Thomas, Mrs. David Styler, Mrs. Paul Martin and Mrs. Paul Neyhart. The work of these staff members has done much to foster the Library's growth and success.

Volunteer workers have played an important role in the Library's history. Some years ago, a group of ladies including Mrs. De La Cour, Mrs. Somervell, Mrs. Chalmers, Mrs. Jones, Miss Anna Coale, Miss Helen Woolman, Mrs. Bessie Morgan, Miss Massey and others, met frequently at the Library to help with the work of book-binding and repair. More recently, Mrs. Lyn Vlaskamp helped organize the Story Hour Program. Perhaps these two examples can represent the many people - too numerous to list here - whose help has meant so much to the Library for seventy years.

Section III -- Library Building

In 1908, the Riverton Free Library moved from its quarters in the Parish House of Christ Church to its present location on Main St. between 3rd and 4th Streets. The building and the land on which it stands were originally part of property owned by the Senat family, and the house was occupied by George Senat until his death in 1898. It was sold by his niece, Mary W. Senat, to Mrs. Edward H. Ogden in 1908. A long-time resident of Riverton tells us that Mr. Senat was a bachelor who was very fond of children and carried peanuts and candy in his pockets at all times for distribution to his young friends. He was called "Uncle George" and well-liked by everyone.

There follows an exchange of letters from the Library files dated in January of 1908:

My dear Mr. Shepherd:

Knowing the necessity of a permanent home for the Free Library of Riverton, I am offering to the Trustees of the Free Library Association the house formerly occupied by George L. Senat as a memorial to my husband, Edward H. Ogden, to be occupied by the Free Library of Riverton.

Very truly,
Sarah Morris Ogden

Dear Mrs. Ogden:

Thank you so much for your note about the Library. It is ever so nice of you to bear the needs of the Library in mind and to propose to provide a building for its permanent use. It is especially gratifying to have Mr. Ogden's name forever associated with it as he was so deeply interested from the very beginning. Do I understand that you desire me to bring the matter of your offer officially before the Board at its next meeting on Tuesday evening, February 4th? If so will you kindly furnish me with all the papers and data bearing upon your generous gift, whether it is your intention to deed the property to the Corporation, and to provide for its perpetual endowment and maintenance. I am sure you will understand from your familiarity with the workings of Incorporated bodies how necessary it is for such a Board to know all things, before taking action . . . Deeply appreciating your interest in and provisions for the Library, I remain

Very sincerely yours,
R. Bowden Shepherd

Section III - 2

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Your note just received. I wrote to you as President of the Board. I therefore wish the matter to be presented officially on Tuesday Evening. My intention is to deed the property to the Corporation. I am not proposing to provide for its perpetual endowment and maintenance. I propose to furnish and to have the house thoroughly equipped for a library and feel that is all I can do at present. . .

Very sincerely,
Sarah Morris Ogden

The Deed from Sarah Morris Ogden to the Riverton Free Library Association, dated February 4, 1908, describes the property:

"All that certain lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected situated in the Borough of Riverton, County of Burlington, in the State of New Jersey. Beginning in the middle of Main Street one hundred and seventy five feet south of the middle of Third Street, thence extending southwardly along the middle of Main Street fifty feet in front or width to a corner, thence extending westwardly of that frontage between two parallel lines drawn at right angles to said Main Street, and parallel to Third Street thirty five feet to the Westerly line of said Main St.- then continuing on in the same direction 122 feet more to the 50 ft. front by 122 feet deep, exclusive of Street and is the Southerly one half of Section 51 and numbers as Lot One in Section 51 on the plan of Riverton. Being part of the same premises which Mary W. Senat conveyed to Sarah Morris Ogden."

The following clause is also part of the Deed: "Upon the express condition however that the building shall be called 'The Edward H. Ogden Memorial Building of the Riverton Free Library Association.'"

The building has two stories. Downstairs consisted of a central hall and staircase, with a room on either side. The Library has an old photograph of Mr. George Senat sitting in the left-hand front room. Two more rooms were in the center of the first floor, and a fifth room extended back on the Fourth Street side of the building. A back porch and kitchen were added in 1919, the 1958 Children's Room was built in the angle between the two middle rooms and the back room, and in 1968, the staircase and the partitions between the front and middle rooms were removed, leaving one large area. The second floor of the building has been occupied by caretakers. A 1970 appraisal valued the building at \$17,250.00, and the land at \$7,550.00.

Section III - 3

The library building has been painted in various colors, often white, or green with white trim, and is currently yellow. It fits in perfectly with the large shade trees and the late 19th century homes along this part of Main Street, and is a small landmark of late Victorian charm.

Section IV - Library Finances

When the Library was founded, its basic financial support was to be the annual subscriptions from members of the Association. These have ranged from the \$1.00 minimum (\$2.00 since 1960) up to \$50.00 or more. Student subscriptions have been \$1.00. Until about 1930, half the Library's annual budget was met by subscriptions. In later years, only a third or a quarter of the expenses were covered by subscription receipts. A chart at the end of this Section shows Receipts and Expenditures at ten year intervals from 1900 through 1969.

Special Funds

Other sources of income have included the Endowment Fund and the Reserve Fund, now merged into one Investment Fund. The Florence W. & Harry F. Jones Memorial Fund is described in Section I. The Lippincott Fund is described below:

The question of library service for Cinnaminson is first mentioned in 1911 when the Minutes for the October meeting show that 50 books were placed in the home of Mr. Augustus Coe to establish a Branch Library in the village of Westfield, but no further mention of this project is made. In an address made by Mr. E. Newbold Cooper on the 50th Anniversary of the Riverton Free Library, he quotes from a letter to Harry Jones from Jay Knox of the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Camden, as follows:

"Susan W. Lippincott, a member of an outstanding family of Burlington County, was a very public-spirited woman. One of her interests that she originated was to provide that the people of Cinnaminson Township had ready access to a library. The nearest libraries, then as now, were in Riverton and Moorestown, which in the days of the horse and buggy were not readily accessible to Cinnaminson residents. So sincere was she about this project that she went to some lengths in her will to set up an organization to be called the Cinnaminson Library Association and directing her will 'that not more than 20% of the income aforesaid set apart by said trustee in any year for the purchase of books shall be expended for works of prose fiction and that the remaining portion of said income set apart as aforesaid for the said purpose shall be used for the purchase of periodicals, current and standard literature and works of reference'."

"The site of the library that she had in mind was in the vicinity of the intersection of the Moorestown-Riverton Road and Route 25 (Route 130) but she realized that one of these corners could never be used because of the fact that on it was a scale used by farmers for miles around to have their produce weighed which, of course, was a need for that space that would be perpetual."

Section IV - 2

"After her death, the Cinnaminson Library Association was incorporated. The fund grew from the sum of \$2,300 mentioned in her will plus her bequest of one-eighth of her residuary estate which amounted to approximately \$13,000, until it attained sufficient size for serious consideration to be given to the erection of a library building. The trustees went so far as to have an architect prepare plans and secure an approximate figure of the cost of building a library. After giving the matter consideration over a period of several years, it was the considered judgment of the trustees to petition the court of chancery and ask that the income from the fund be distributed equally between the Riverton and Moorestown libraries, inasmuch as transportation facilities had so changed since the days of Susan W. Lippincott, that these two libraries were, from an element of time, as closely or more closely available to the residents of Cinnaminson Township than the original library would have been to many of those residents. The court granted the Cinnaminson Library Association's petition, inasmuch as through such use of the funds her fundamental purpose would be fulfilled. The library association surrendered its charter and a corporate substituted trustee was appointed by the court of chancery to administer the funds and to pay the income to the two libraries."

A bequest from Mary W. Lippincott later supplemented the Susan W. Lippincott Fund. Income from this Fund was first received in 1946. About \$800.00 has been spent annually on works of reference, prose fiction and magazines as directed in the will, and this has resulted in Riverton's having an unusually fine collection of such volumes for a library of its size.

Bequests and Memorials

The Library has received generous bequests through the years including those from Mrs. Edward H. Ogden, Edward H. Pancoast, Mary B. Flanagan, May Thornton Slim, Howard B. Lippincott, Elsie W. Thomas, and Walter Rogers. These bequests were usually added to the Endowment Fund but in some cases, they had to be applied to urgent current library needs such as an oil burner.

An interesting bequest almost came to the Library in 1937 through the Charles E. Lloyd estate. This was a "Low Clock" which, we are told, belonged to John Low of Hartspun, Lancashire, England, who came to Pennsylvania in 1727 bringing the clock over on the historic ship Welcome. This clock passed through various family hands to Charles S. Ogden, brother of Edward H. Ogden, and finally to Charles Lloyd. The family wanted the clock placed in the Edward H. Ogden Memorial Library Building at Riverton, and the Library accepted with pleasure. However, the lawyer for the estate advised against this move and the Low Clock was sold at Freeman's.

Section IV - 3

In 1951, Dr. C. S. Mills gave to the Library the J.D. Eisele Collection of mounted specimens of plants and flowers from all over the United States. This Collection was very valuable but was perishable and the Library had no way of making it accessible to the public. Mrs. Chalmers made a special trip to present it to the Botany Dept. of Rutgers.

The Library has also received a number of memorial gifts, sometimes directed to a special type of book such as children's books, or books for boys. All these gifts are much appreciated and it is the practice of the Library to put special identifying plates in the books purchased with such funds.

Individual Contributions

Another important source of support for the Library over its seventy years has been the number of individuals who have given financial and other help in moments of need. Special gifts have always been forthcoming when repapering, or extra lighting, or building repairs were needed, as evidenced most recently in 1968 when a fund-raising drive netted over \$5000 for the remodelling of the Library.

Group Support and Benefits

The Porch Club has played a major role in this category. Beginning with a contribution in 1900, continuing with benefit lecture series, Curb Market sales, dances, a performance of "Niobe" in 1911 and the "Mikado" in 1927, and card parties almost every year since 1930, the Porch Club activities have raised over \$15,000 for the Library. During the early years, there is a long record of card parties, concerts, musicals, and "entertainments" given at the Lawn House on the river bank, as Library Benefits. The Junior Porch Club also contributed to the Library.

In 1909, a performance by The Players Club raised \$125.86, and in 1910 the Palmyra Dramatic Association performed at the Lyceum netting \$106.00. In the 1920's, the Library received support from the Riverton-Palmyra Chautauqua, and the Choral Society of Riverton-Palmyra gave a concert in 1935. The Riverton School PTA gave donations to the Library during the 1920's and 1930's, and the children at the Riverton and Westfield schools contributed.

The Woman's Club of Palmyra, organized in the late 1920's, has been a valued regular contributor to the Library.

Section IV - 4

Government Aid

The Borough of Riverton has contributed to the Library's support since 1910, starting with \$100 which has been increased to the present \$2000 in 1969. The Borough of Palmyra began its support of the Library in 1927 and has increased its contribution annually to the present \$1000. Cinnaminson Township contributed first in 1942 and continued until the Cinnaminson Branch of Burlington County Library was established.

On the subject of financial aid from the State of New Jersey, the records show a letter in 1899 to Henry Buchanan, State Librarian, on this matter. He replied stating that there was no law authorizing the State to aid libraries except public school libraries. However, the governing body of a borough may appropriate not exceeding \$300.00 per year to establish a local library. The governing body can raise not more than \$1000.00 per year to aid libraries, if the voters approve. The New Jersey Library Association was working at the time for a law to secure state aid for libraries.

The above was apparently the only contact with the State until about 1960 when the Library began to receive State Funds based on a formula related to the contributions of local government. State Aid amounted to \$986.00 in 1969.

Miscellaneous

In one foray into the wider world for support, the Library wrote to Andrew Carnegie in 1903. His reply stated that "the demand upon his time is such that he cannot give attention to a library application (for funds) unless the community is able to guarantee that the library will be supported at the cost of at least one thousand dollars a year." So for 67 years, the Riverton Library has managed without Mr. Carnegie.

Section V -- The Library Today

The history of the Riverton Free Library would not be complete without a few words on where it stands today. The founders believed the Library to be a vital community asset, and the seventy years' records show that they and those that followed them worked hard for its continued existence and well-being. But a community changes and its institutions must change also to meet new conditions and needs.

The Boroughs of Palmyra and Riverton are still largely residential, but the surrounding farmland has disappeared into real estate developments. Access to the city, formerly dependent on the railroad and the river, is now subject to the vagaries of the automobile and its traffic. The population of Riverton is over 3500 (3650 in 1963) and that of Palmyra is almost 8000 (7720 in 1960). The movement of industry to outlying areas, the growth of shopping malls, and other attributes of the affluent society have dispersed and perhaps weakened the sense of community which existed in 1900.

In the use of the Library, reading of fiction for pleasure and entertainment has been supplemented (and partly supplanted) by the new media of radio, movies, and especially television. Educational standards have demanded more than the three R's even in elementary schools. The Library's role as a reference and information source has grown steadily. The table at the end of this Section compares circulation for 1969 with that of 1949. Over this twenty year span, fiction circulation has increased somewhat, most of the increase being in juvenile fiction, while non-fiction circulation has more than doubled. Non-fiction was 20% of the total circulation in 1949 and represented 33% of the total in 1969. Circulation of juvenile books in 1949 was less than one-third of the total while in 1969, juvenile books represented almost half the total circulation. This change has occurred along with the current expansion of school libraries.

The scope of library services has increased markedly since Riverton Library was founded. Record and film collections, art collections, special programs ranging from story hours to great book groups, technical aids and improvements such as charging machines and copiers - all these in conjunction with modern standards for staff training and library facilities both broaden the library's services and increase its expenses.

The records show that the Riverton Library budget has never been met by subscriptions alone. Special contributions and special funds have always been needed, and support from the Boroughs and the State has become increasingly important.

Section V - 2

In an informal survey of other similar libraries in the area made a few years ago, Riverton compared very favorably in a number of volumes and was about average in circulation and hours open. Since then, the remodelling of the Library has brought its facilities more nearly up to modern standards. Its staff has always made up in dedication and interest for any lack of formal training as measured by state requirements.

There is a strong trend nowadays for small community libraries to become part of larger state or country organizations in order to widen the services offered as well as to meet minimum requirements for staff and facilities. This may result in a library's being totally tax-supported - as in the case of the schools. On the other hand, it is still true that each individual community library can best know the needs of its readers. Riverton Free Library has been much strengthened by its association with Burlington County Library, and the contributions from the Boroughs and the State have been most important, but the records show that community support on a voluntary basis has always been available when the Library's needs are properly presented. It is hoped that whatever changes the future may hold for the Riverton Library will be met by the same interest and effort on the part of its many friends as has been the case for seventy years.

Section V - 3

Circulation Table

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1969</u>
<u>Fiction</u>		
Adult:		
Riverton Books	8245	8583
Burlington County Books	<u>1165</u>	<u>829</u>
Total	9410	9412
Juvenile:		
Riverton	3637	3908
Burlington County	<u>951</u>	<u>2598</u>
Total	4588	6506
Total Fiction	13,998	15,918
<u>Non-Fiction</u>		
Adult:		
Riverton	2445	3574
Burlington County	<u>283</u>	<u>1488</u>
Total	2728	5062
Juvenile:		
Riverton	521	1434
Burlington County	<u>305</u>	<u>1104</u>
Total	826	2538
Total Non-Fiction	3,554	7,600
Total Adult Circulation	12,138	14,474
Total Juvenile Circulation	<u>5,414</u>	<u>9,044</u>
Total Circulation	17,552	23,518

Treasurer's Reports - 1900 to 1970

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>May 1901</u>	<u>May 1911</u>	<u>May 1921</u>	<u>May 1931</u>	<u>Jan 1941*</u>	<u>Jan 1951</u>	<u>Jan 1961</u>	<u>Jan 1970</u>
Balance on Hand	23.12	60.58	129.63	294.92	217.87	1358.12	172.24	514.34
Subscriptions								
\$1.00 & under	99.00	140.00	155.00	190.00		218.00	104.00	148.50
\$2.00							792.00	472.00
\$10.00 & Under		301.50	498.00	637.50		541.00	580.00	1053.00
Over \$10.00	206.00	255.00	340.00	547.00		325.00	520.00	1430.00
<u>Tot. Subs.</u>	<u>305.00</u>	<u>696.50</u>	<u>993.00</u>	<u>1374.50</u>	<u>839.00</u>	<u>1084.00</u>	<u>1996.00</u>	<u>3103.50</u>
Special Contribs.	226.17							
Boro of Riverton		100.00	134.95	75.32	250.00	140.26		235.00
Boro of Palmyra			300.00	223.99	600.00	700.00	1100.00	2000.00
Cinnaminson Twp.				200.00	300.00	350.00	550.00	1000.00
State Aid						100.00	200.00	
Benefit Proceeds		282.55	112.73	4.00	109.25	222.30	357.76	986.00
Fines & Rentals	46.20	217.00	291.00	617.50	474.90	536.21	307.70	262.10
Investment Interest	3.23	6.36	131.18	275.47	110.00	80.00	952.18	731.12
Special			150.00	50.00			132.36	
Miscellaneous	4.15	47.25	62.24	80.99	77.34	79.32	2025.00	330.00
							42.46	145.49
<u>Total</u>	<u>607.87</u>	<u>1410.24</u>	<u>2304.81</u>	<u>3196.69</u>	<u>2978.36</u>	<u>4650.21</u>	<u>7835.70</u>	<u>9307.55</u>

Disbursements:

Salaries, etc.]	245.00	375.00	875.00	1669.00	1610.00	1780.03	3394.65	6413.47
Books & Magazines	184.64	353.18	494.27	702.44	467.58	397.85	397.04	254.70
Supplies, etc.	67.02	147.96	224.72	129.65	92.02	160.45	394.49	1044.10
Utilities	15.00	139.45	340.94	169.40	269.76	262.13	578.06	950.94
Insurance		42.00	72.00	119.00	113.52	143.64	166.92	424.31
Repairs & Maint.		32.28	125.27	297.34	49.67	31.84	77.71	
Special	22.50	238.85	50.00	50.00	148.50	891.80	2019.30	150.00
Miscellaneous	10.00	34.00	28.36	54.35	124.43	13.85	247.37	40.51
Balance	63.71	46.52	94.25	5.51	102.88	842.35	560.16	29.52
<u>Total</u>	<u>607.87</u>	<u>1410.24</u>	<u>2304.81</u>	<u>3196.69</u>	<u>2978.36</u>	<u>4650.21</u>	<u>7835.70</u>	<u>9307.55</u>

*From New Era

RIVERTON FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - OFFICERS & LIBRARIANS

President:	1899-1911	-	Rev. R. Bowden Shepherd
	1912-1927	-	Robert Biddle
	1927-1931	-	J. Carl De La Cour
	1932-1962	-	Harry F. Jones
	1963-	-	F. William Thacher, Jr.
Vice Pres:	1907-1911	-	John C. S. Davis
	1912-1926	-	J. Carl De La Cour
	1927-1942	-	Francis B. Elwell
	1942-1947	-	J. Carl De La Cour
	1948-1953	-	John Ward
	1954-1962	-	F. William Thacher, Jr.
	1962-	-	Blaine E. Capehart
Treasurer:	1899-1900	-	Walter G. Wilson
	1901-1903	-	Charles Evans
	1904	-	George J. Newton
	1905-1910	-	Robert Biddle
	1910-1916	-	Henry C. Parrish
	1917-1918	-	C. Clifford Collings
	1918-1931	-	Harry F. Jones
	1932-1934	-	Mrs. Eugene Zieber
	1935-1942	-	Willis De La Cour
	1942-1962	-	Howard M. Rogers
	1963-	-	Ernest L. Ransome III
Secretary	1899-1900	-	Mrs. Chas. C. Miller
	1901-1905	-	Miss Helen Lippincott
	1905-1927	-	Miss Cornelia S. Coale
	1927-1932	-	Mrs. Arthur Coe
	1933	-	Miss Cornelia S. Coale
	1934	-	Mrs. Victor Ritschard
	1935-1961	-	Mrs. Wm. W. Chalmers
	1961-1969	-	Mrs. Chas. W. Lueders, Jr.
	1969-	-	Mrs. Lewis M. Robbins
Librarian:	1899-1930	-	Miss Elizabeth Campbell
	1930-1944	-	Miss Antoinette Campbell
	1944-1962	-	Mrs. Richard D. Barclay (Mrs. Joseph Willits)
	1962-1968	-	Mrs. Quentin Ferguson
	1968-	-	Mrs. Francis Myers

TRUSTEES -- RIVERTON FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Abell, Mrs. John P.	1941-1966	R
Ashburner, Henry	1918-1925	
Baker, Mrs. Leonard R.	1931-1932	
Baur, Dr. H. L.	1935-1939	
Becton, Mrs. George T.	1963-	R
Bennett, Joseph B.	1962-1965	R
Biddle, Miss Hannah McI.	1913-1922	R
**Biddle, Robert	1905-1935	R
*Bioren, John S.	1899-1912	R
**Blackburn, Mrs. Frederick	1906-1923	P
Bowen, Walter L.	1913-1940	R
*Brown, F. G.	1899	R
Capehart, Blaine E.	1949-1970	C
Chalmers, Mrs. William W.	1933-1962	R
Chew, Miss Hannah	1924-1929	R
Clark, Mrs. Stuart	1935-1963	R
*Coale, Miss Cornelia S.	1899-1946	R
**Honorary Trustee		
Coe, Mrs. Arthur F.	1927-1932	R
Croft, Walter H.	1956-	R
Collings, C. Clifford	1916-1918	R
**Davis, John C. S.	1904-1913	R
De La Cour, J. Carl	1910-1947	R
Honorary Trustee		
De La Cour, Willis	1935-1947	R
Dunn, Dr. W. R.	1926-1929	P
Elwell, Francis B.	1926-1942	R
Evans, Charles	1900-1904	C
Evert, Mrs. W. Brooks	1962-1968	R
Ferguson, Carter	1950	
Fittler, Mrs. N. Myers	1907-1922	R
Flanagan, Charles L.	1913-1935	R
Geissinger, John B.	1949-1952	P
*Grice, Mrs. E. C.	1899-1903	R

TRUSTEES - 2

**Hemple, Joseph	1906-1916	P
Hollingshead, Richard A. III	1952-1953	R
	1963-1964	
Johnson, Mrs. Frank N.	1923-1931	P
Jones, Harry F.	1918-1962	R
Jones, Paul R.	1941-1946	P
Lane, Nathan	1940-1957	R
Lippincott, Mrs. Benjamin	1911-1916	C
Lippincott, Miss Helen	1901-1905	R
Lockwood, Mrs. Carter	1948	
Lueders, Mrs. Chas. W. Jr.	1949-	R
*Marcy, Dr. Alex. Jr.	1899-1912	R
**		
Marcy, Miss Marjorie	1921-1922	R
Marshall, Harold F.	1958-	P
McGrew, Mrs. Donald C.	1970-	R
McVaugh, Mrs. John E. Jr.	1970-	R
Mechling, Benjamin	1917-1946	R
Metzger, Fred. W.	1941-1962	R
*Miller, Mrs. Chas. C.	1900	R
Miller, Donald D.	1962-1969	R
Miller, Miss Elizabeth R.	1924-1927	
Morrison, Robt. W.	1965-	P
Naisby, Henry	1955-	P
Newton, George J.	1900-1905	R
*Ogden, Mrs. Edward H.	1899-1912	R
**		
Parrish, Henry C.	1910-1952	R
Honorary Trustee		
Poinsett, R. Z.	1932	
Porter, Mrs. William G.	1922-1923	R
	1936-1939	
Purnell, Mrs. W. T., Jr.	1923-1925	P

TRUSTEES - 3

Ritschard, Mrs. Victor	1929-1962	R
Ransome, E. L. III	1958-	R
Rapp, Mrs. T. G. Jr.	1970-	
Raver, Rev. Neal	1949	
**Reed, Miss Ethel M.	1906-1909	P
**Roberts, Mrs. Thomas	1900-1920	R
**Robertson, Miss Bertha C.	1903-1932	R
Robbins, Mrs. Lewis M.	1967-	R
Rogers, Howard M.	1942-1962	R
Rogers, Mrs. John C.	1963-1969	R
Rudman, Mrs. Fred.	1953-1957	R
**Sharp, Dr. Lewis	1906-1911	P
*Shepherd, Rev. R. Bowden	1899-1911	R
** Honorary Trustee		
Shepherd, Mrs. R. Bowden		
Honorary Trustee		
Shirley, Mrs. William E.	1964-	R
*Showell, Mrs. E. B.	1899	R
Smith, H. Edmond	1953-1957	P
Smyth, Rev. Chas. R.	1954-1957	P
Spahr, Floyd	1935-1939	P
**Taylor, Howard G.	1902-1911	C
Thacher, F. Wm., Jr.	1949-	R
**Thilow, J. Otto	1901-1925	P
Vaughan, D. L.	1914-1917	R
Ward, John	1940-1952	P
Warner, Lee, Jr.	1938	R
Washington, Mrs. William	1966-	R
*Wilson, Walter G.	1899-1901	C
*Wood, Alex C.	1899	C
Wood, Edward S.	1899	R
**Wriggins, Miss Helen V.	1905-1906	R
Willits, Mrs. Joseph	1958-1964	R
Zieber, Mrs. Eugene	1931-1934	

- * - First Board of Directors, 1899
- ** - Director-Trustee at Date of Incorporation 1906.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
FOR
RIVERTON LIBRARY HISTORY

- 1) Minutes of Riverton Free Library Association Meetings - 1899-1969
- 2) President's Reports - 1899-1969
Treasurer's Reports - 1899-1969
Librarian's Reports - 1899-1969
- 3) An Address Delivered in Public School Auditorium - Riverton, N.J.
Thursday Evening, May 25, 1950, by
E. Newbold Cooper, Vice President, Girard College
(50th Anniversary of the Library)
- 4) Address by Lloyd E. Griscom for Riverton Yacht Club 100th Anniversary at the Porch Club, Riverton, N.J. on 3/1/65.
- 5) Riverton Yacht Club Centennial Yearbook - 1865-1965
William Mann and Robert Eisele, Editors
- 6) The Riverton and Palmyra Directory for 1890-1891
Published by Alfred Smith, Riverton and C. C. Reinhard
Palmyra, Containing "Historical items, a business and
street directory of the two towns, a list of the
churches with their services, companies and clubs, and
information of value to the residents of Riverton and
Palmyra"
- 7) The New Era
Christmas, 1909 - Vol. 20, No. 49
November 2, 1939 - 50th Anniversary Issue
- 8) Recollections of:
Miss Edith Coale
Mr. & Mrs. Gardner Crowell
Mr. Willis De La Cour
Mrs. Quentin Ferguson
Mrs. Francis Myers
Mrs. William G. Porter
Mrs. Victor Ritschard
Mrs. Joseph Willits