

Norway Memorial Library History

The citizen of Norway wanted a library and in 1885 the Norway Library Association was born and resided in the Reformer's Hall in the Advertiser Democrat building from 1885 to 1892. Many were interested in the new library, and two hundred people joined and paid annual dues of \$1.00. By 1892 the town took over ownership of the library and officially named it the Norway Public Library. The library was then housed in two rooms over L. M. Longley's store on Main Street from 1892-1938.

In the mid-1930's Maude Kaemmerling, a summer resident, informed the town that she would like to establish a library as a memorial to her parents and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thompson and Frank E. Thompson. The town found a piece of land owned by Miss Isabelle Whitcomb on Main Street. Miss Whitcomb told the town that she would provide her land only if the town would null and void her back taxes. The town voted to cancel Whitcomb's taxes thus paving the way to accept Mrs. Kaemmerling's offer to build and furnish a library. Architect, William B Coffin, Boston, designed the library to resemble a structure Mrs. Kaemmerling liked from a preparatory school in Vermont. Philip D. Wight constructed the building at the cost of \$31,190. On December 18, 1938 the library held an opening ceremony with Mrs. Kaemmerling dedicating the library to her family. The library was now named the Norway Memorial Library.

By the late 1990's the library out grew its original space and began a capital campaign to build a new addition. Scott Simons Architects from Portland was hired to build the new section to blend in with the original design. In October of 2001 the library held its grand reopening for the new 2,000 square foot wing.

Library Directors (from 1938)

Winifred Bickford (supervised the move from Longley's store)

Helen Brown

Pat Dudley

Alice Dallinger

Rosemary Dyer

Ann Siekman

Elizabeth Kane