

HISTORY OF THE PINCKNEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Florence Preuss



About 1950, a group started working to get a library in Pinckney. Reverend Brady of the Congregational Church was very active in promoting it. A Friends of the Library group was organized with Mrs. Thomas Bonner, Chairman; Mrs. Max Russell, Secretary; and Mrs. John Colone, Treasurer. On June 17, 1952, a meeting was held in the Township Hall to decide definitely whether or not there would be a library. Those present were Reverend and Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Colone, Mrs. Rose, Mr. Ed Wakefield, and Miss Florence Preuss. It was decided to open with a Tea, Saturday, June 28, in the Township Hall. Our first books were to be donated; membership fees for Friends of the Library were to be used for supplies. The Read Lumber Company donated the lumber for the first shelves.

Present at the Tea were Mrs. Louis Stackable, Mrs. Lu Darrow, Mrs. Leonard Lee, Mrs. Thomas Bonner, Mrs. Mark Nash, Mrs. Max Russell, Mrs. John Colone, Mrs. Schoen, Dexter Librarian, Mrs. Alonzo Van Slambrook, and Miss Florence Preuss, as well as many visitors. At this time, volunteers signed up to take charge of the library: Miss Preuss, Tuesday 2-5 p.m.; Mrs. Colone, Tuesday 7-9 p.m.; Mrs. Bonner Saturdays 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Miss Preuss opened the library Tuesday July 1, 1952 with one box of books. It has been open to the public, for regular service, ever since.

Since the Township furnished the building, fuel and light, it was a public library, and steps were taken to conform to the State standards for Public Libraries. Mr. Thomas Bonner gave the library \$500 for the year 1953, and at the January meeting the first Library Board was elected: Mrs. Thomas Bonner, Chairman; Mrs. Max Russell, Secretary; and Mrs. John Colone, Treasurer. Trustees were: Mrs. Jennie Devereaux and Miss Florence Preuss.

During the annual meeting on September 1953, at the home of Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Bonner read the history of the library, and it was voted to retain the same officers for the coming year. Those present were Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Colone, Mrs. Devereaux, Mrs. Fannie Kavanaugh, Mrs. Floris Clark, Mrs. Mary Hoff, and Miss Preuss.

At the February 1954 meeting Mrs. Colone's letter of resignation was read and accepted, and Miss Janet White was appointed treasurer and Mrs. Russell volunteered to take charge of the library Tuesday evenings.

At the March 1954 meeting Mrs. Bonner informed us that our library had been recognized by the State Library and listed in its annual report, with Miss Florence Preuss listed as the librarian. At this meeting it was voted to send Miss Preuss to the Library Workshop to earn her librarian's certificate, at the library's expense. Mrs. Bonner gave up working at the library on Saturday afternoon, her place to be taken over by Mrs. Kavanaugh, Miss Martin, Mrs. Fred Read and Mrs. Devereaux in rotation. Mrs. Bonner attended the Workshop at Higgin's Lake with Miss Preuss, at her own expense, June 28-July 1. Miss Preuss also attended workshops in 1955, 1957, 1958, and 1961.

Mrs. Bonner made some arrangements in September 1954 to organize the library serving Putnam Township, Pinckney, and Hamburg Township. Mrs. Russell was name trustee for Putnam Township, Mrs. Fred Read for Pinckney, and Mrs. Bonner for Hamburg. To meet State standards, Miss Preuss received a salary as librarian. The library was closed Saturday evening and was open from 12-5 instead.

In June 1956, Mrs. Bonner resigned. Putnam Township reappointed Mrs. Russell to the Library Board as Chairman and Mrs. Cacia Chamberlain to fill the vacancy for three years, until 1959. Hamburg Township was not represented.

In June 1958 the library was badly in need of more bookshelves and Putnam Township Board agreed to purchase them and to their being place back of the room divider. Mrs. Russell agreed to see that they were installed. Nothing was done about it. At the Annual Township Board Meeting, April 1, 1959, it was decided that the library would function better as a Township Public Library, with a board of seven members appointed but the Township. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Chamberlain resigned, and Mrs. Albert Sannes, Mrs. Norman White, Mrs. Harvey Garr, Mrs. Leonard Lee, Mrs. Robert Tasch, Mrs. W.J. Winger and Mrs. Fred Read were appointed as trustees.

The new Library Board met at the library Monday, June 22, 1959 and decided upon a four year term of office, with appointments staggered. They drew lots for the first term; Mrs. Garr and Mrs. Lee, four years; Mrs. Tasch and Mrs. White, three years; Mrs. Read and Mrs. Sannes, two years, and Mrs. Winger, one year. Mrs. Tasch was elected chairman; Mrs. White, vice chairman; Mrs. Garr, secretary; Mrs. Lee, treasurer.

In 1960 Mrs. Winger was reappointed for four years. She moved to Iowa in 1961 and Mrs. Stanley Dinkel was appointed to fill her unexpired term. In 1961, Mrs. Read and Mrs. Sannes were reappointed for four year terms. In 1962, Mrs. Tasch and Mrs. White were reappointed for four years.

It was ruled in 1964 by the Supreme Court that, according to the Constitution, Penal Fines were not to go to the schools but to the libraries. Then, with those accumulated fines, the old blacksmith shop on Howell St. was bought by the Library Board. They then contracted Jim and Earl Gallup to remodel the building into a library. In March of 1966 the building was finished and on March 18 it was opened to the public with an Open House.