



### Further Milestones in the History of the F.P.L. (Excerpted from town reports)

- 1907 – “Mrs. Peirce and Mrs. Thayer have fitted up, for lecture purposes, the hall opposite the Children’s room. It has been furnished with a platform, a table, comfortable chairs and electric lights. Wall-cases have been added which already contain valuable historical books, manuscripts and autography; also the bronze medal struck by Congress to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin; this was sent to the Library by Secretary Elihu Root at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt.”
- 1918 – World War I – “On account of shortage in coal, the Library was open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays only, from January 1 to May 15. . . . In behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors, an appeal was made to the public by posters and notices in the local papers; in response to which 109 volumes were brought to the Franklin Library and forwarded to the War Library headquarters.”
- The flu epidemic – “On account of the influenza epidemic in town, the Board of Health closed the Library from September 26 until November 1.”
- 1937 – The Children’s Room – “For the coming year the (Franklin Library Association) has been asked to assume the management of the Children’s Library. Inasmuch as the Town has previously had the service of a library for its children at no expense whatever, the Association felt it was only right to accede to the request of the Ray Memorial Association and take over for a time the care of the Children’s Library.
- 1938 – The Great Depression – “Since June, the Library has had the help of W.P.A. workers who have contributed somewhat to the need for assistance.”
- 1942 – World War II – “The Library has served as collection center for books in the Victory Book Campaign, and 604 books have been sent to the New Bedford U.S.O. Club. The need for books for the boys in the service still exists and contributions are welcome.”
- 1949 – Classes in practical arts for adults were held in the Lecture Room, sponsored by the school department.
- 1952 – Books were distributed to the public schools by volunteers.
- 1965 – The library made its first purchase of large print books.
- 1967 – Service to shut-ins began.
- 1968 – A special reference section was set up in the reading room.
- 1972 – Library opened 50 hours a week, as per state mandate in order to receive state funding.