


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. . ."

The flu epidemic - "On account of the influenza epidemic in town, the Board of Health closed the Library from September 26 until November 1."

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- 1973 - Great Books program was instituted by the library director, Arthur Olson.
 - 1975 - The Ray Memorial Building was named part of the Dean Historical District and put on the National Register of Historical Places.
 - 1979 - *The Franklin Sentinel*, published from 1883-1978, was microfilmed and added to the collection.
 - 1982 - The Franklin Public Library became a department of the town for the first time. The Ray Memorial Association signed the library over to the town and the Association was dissolved. An advisory board was appointed by the town council.

Votes in the controversy over who could use the Franklin Books - according to Peirce

Sept. 26, 1788 - **Article:** To see if it be the mind of the town to take Effectual Measures for the right improvement of the Donation of Books by his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire and to prescribe such Rules and Regulations as may best answer the true Interest and Design of the Doner, act or do any matter or thing Relative thereto that the town thinks proper. On this article voted: - to reconsider the vote passed. November 3rd, 1788? [Sic. Peirce naturally questions the 1788 date in his source. It must have been a 1787 vote.] of confining the donation of Books sent by Dr. Benjamin Franklin to the parish.

Dec. 3, 1788 - **Article IV:** To see if it be the minds of the town to take any Measures to settle the Unhappy Dispute that hath arisen in this town Respecting the Library lately presented to the town by His Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire and to take any Measures for the right improvement of said Library and also to see if the town see cause to Reconsider any former Votes passed Respecting said Library and to act or do any matter or thing Relative thereto the town thinks proper.

Voted. Not to Record the Articles of Regulation respecting the Library at present but to refer them to April meeting.

April 6, 1789 - The same article as before referred to May meeting.

May 4, 1789 - **Article X:** Same as above, referred to next meeting.

June 8, 1789 - **Article VII:** Same as above.

Voted. That Mr. Emmons Lend out the books belonging to the Library sent to this town by Dr. Franklin according to the directions in the Letters accompanying said Library until the next March meeting, to which town meeting the seventh article was again referred. (Letter of Dr. Franklin to town unfortunately lost, but undoubtedly from the whole controversy favored the broader lending of books.)