

The Library



On November 15, 1888, the Scotch Plains Library was established. It was built upon the site of old Excelsior Hall, used for many years as quarters by the volunteer fire department.

This was my second home. I remember when I was in third grade, I was old enough to join the library. It was an exciting time for me. The first book I checked out was "Hoot Owl"--a story about a little Indian boy. Many years later, while researching this book at the current library, I checked the shelves in the children's section, and the book was still there--with the original hand-stamped date!

The librarian was Mrs. Bertha Curren. She kept a careful watch over what the kids read. But I never let her deter me from reading, even the raciest books on the shelf. Here in this small building I cultivated a love for books that would remain with me throughout my life.

The library was moved to Front Street (and now used for other purposes) and was replaced by a modern structure.