

BI-SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

COMMEMORATIVE OAK TREE PLANTING



Tuesday



October 22, 2024



1:00pm

DANSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 Main Street
Dansville, NY 14437
585-335-6720
dansvillelibrary.org



DANSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rhea Walker, President

Sherrie Reilly

Mary Ann Holden

Alise Rounsville

Suzy Boor



The Dansville Public Library provides free access to resources and opportunities to educate, enrich, and inspire people of all ages in a diverse and inclusive environment.



“It is rarely in this migratory age ... any family both owns and dwells in the same home for toward a century. It is all the more fitting that such a house becomes the home of that whose life does not terminate, but becomes more useful and attractive with time and growth.”

- from Charles Edward Shepard's Presentation Address at the Fiftieth Anniversary and Opening of the Shepard Memorial



Today, Dansville Public Library houses more than 34,000 items and loans books, magazines, DVDs, fishing poles, museum passes, and more! In 2023, the Library loaned more than 46,500 items and had over 3,400 registered borrowers.





COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



WELCOME

Megan Clement
Library Youth Coordinator

REMARKS

Rhea Walker
Library Board of Trustees President

REMARKS

Margo Prak
Library Director

TREE PLANTING



Please join us for refreshments in the Library's
Holden Room following the ceremony.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Farrell's Lawn Service, Inc. - Tree and Planting
Karen Howell - Cookie Trays

A BRIEF HISTORY

1816 ~ Colonel Rochester and his wife Sophia sold to Joshua Shepard and Lester Bradner the property on which the library now stands. Mr. Shepard became the sole owner, eventually.

1823-1824 ~ Joshua Shepard built a homestead on his lot at the corner of Main and Perine Streets.

Dec. 7, 1872 ~ Movement for a Library was initiated by a small group of persons who formed the Dansville Library Association.

Jan. 13, 1873 ~ The Livingston Circulating Library Company was formed; when its Certificate of Organization was recorded by the County Clerk, it was "deemed legally incorporated."

July 18, 1874 ~ The first Library room was opened on the second floor of the Maxwell Block.

Dec. 13, 1893 ~ The Library became a free Public Library, under the name Dansville Public Library, with a charter from the University of the State of New York (the Regents) to be supervised by the State Education Department, and locally by the Board of Education.

1920 ~ Charles Edward, Thomas Rochester, and Mary Shepard offered the homestead as a memorial to their parents and grandparents. ... Necessary remodeling was financed chiefly through a bequest from Dr. Francis M. Perine of Dansville.

July 18, 1924 ~ The Shepard Memorial was dedicated on the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the first Library room, 100 years after the completion of the homestead.

1935 & later ~ Many art objects and curios... were received from General Charles McCormick Reeve, who was born in the Shepard homestead in 1847.

1937-1938 ~ General Reeve approved and financed alterations to provide a larger Children's Room and new first-floor space for the caretakers.

1939 ~ Reeve Schley (a nephew of General Reeve) and Mrs. Schley authorized and paid the cost of transforming the front room downstairs into a homelike reading room, to honor the General, some of whose furniture is used in it.

1955 ~ The Library became a member Library of the Livingston County Library System, which in turn became a unit in a multi-count group... known as the Pioneer Library System

1985 ~ The front porch of the Shepard Homestead was converted to a ramp, increasing accessibility to the Library.

2011 ~ 9,000 square foot expansion project was completed to provide additional space for the community to gather and to house the library's collection.

These dates are excerpted from William Conklin's Library history, Acorn to Oak (1969), and added to by Library Director Margo Prak.