

CHESTER TIMES – May 15, 1902

MEDIA'S FREE LIBRARY A DECIDES SUCCESS – Annual Meeting of the Association is Held – Snug Balance on Hand

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Media Free Library Association was held Tuesday evening in the library room of the Borough Hall, and in the Council chamber. There was quite a large number of members present and the meeting was full of interest. The reports of the president, secretary and treasurer were read and show the library to be in first-class condition, with a snug balance in the treasury. The president, Dr. Ernest L. Clark, presided.

A resolution was passed thanking the Media Borough Council for the loan of the room in the Borough Hall and the furnishing of light and heat for the library. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Dr. Ernest L. Clark; vice president, Prof. Leon H. Waters; secretary, Miss Dora Lewis; treasurer, Mrs. Harry C. Smith.

The report of the treasurer was very satisfactory and was as follows: Receipts – Members' dues, \$126; donations, \$718.56; receipts from bazaar, \$454.15; fines, \$40; donation, semi-centennial fund, \$233.64; the rest on deposits, \$2.71; total \$1,575.06; expenditures, \$316.74; balance in treasury, \$659.30.

The report of the president covers almost all that has been done during the year the organization has been in existence and is as follows:

"After a number of months of preliminary work of the people interested in a Free Library in Media, and as a result of interest stimulated at public meetings, an organization was made one year ago of the Media Free Library Association and the officers elected. The Executive Committee started to work in earnest and to obtain a nucleus of books held a book reception, at which 350 books were donated, almost all of them being desirable books and in good condition.

"The entire community was canvassed for subscriptions and received \$713.56. It was thought unwise to start without sufficient money on hand to pay expenses for a year and also provide for a suitable selection of books. Sometime was spent in an additional effort to increase the funds. When the desired amount was made sure by the promise of the semi-centennial fund balance, a librarian was selected and instructed by Miss Allen and the library furnishings purchased and books ordered; a list of which had been carefully selected by the Book committee. The work of cataloguing was commenced about July 1. Such rapid progress was made that the library was opened to the public on August 1, 1901, less than three months from the date of organization.

"At that time there were 570 books on the shelves, which number has been increased by generous contributions and by purchase until the library now owns 1766 books. The Friends, who had always shown a great interest in the Free Library, made an offer of a loan of their books, to be kept together, but open for public circulation. This was accepted and 379 books of the best character were added to the shelves and the total number now in the library is 2145.

"The librarian's report to the Executive Committee shows that the monthly average has been 1333, and the daily average of borrowers, 60. The continued and growing use of the library and reading room attests its usefulness and appreciation.

"The character of the books taken out by the children is watched by the librarian, who tries to direct the taste to the best of the juvenile literature.

“The trustees found it advisable to charter the organization and to this end, a special meeting for reorganization, under the charter was held and proper action taken.

“To insure the running of the library for more than the first year, a bazaar was held in the autumn to raise money for the future use of the library and \$454.15 was realized. While the treasury will show a large balance the number of members is entirely too small to support the library and this will be rapidly diminished unless the membership he brought up by the individual efforts of all interested.

“That the library can be run upon such a small sum as it is and employ a librarian is due to the kindness of our Borough Council which gives us the room with light and heat free of expense.

“Having seen the successful effort of the first year we hope to follow its success from year to year with unabated interest.”

Keith Lockhart Collection