

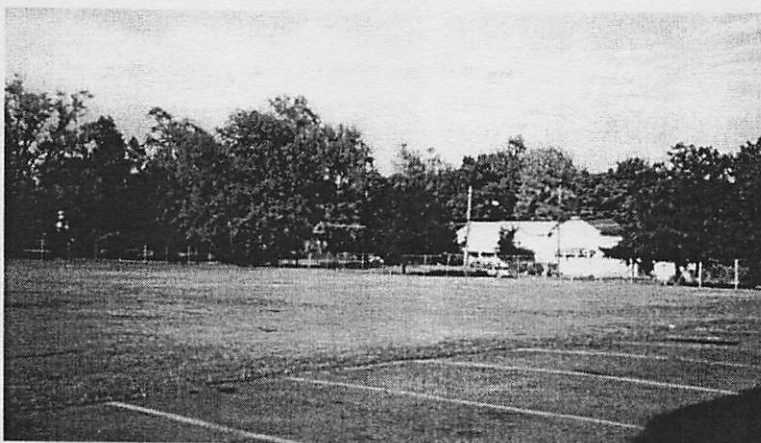
Mynderse Library
Seneca Falls, NY

By Ann Cramer

Winter 2000

FUND RAISING TO BEGIN FOR NEW LIBRARY

Thanks to the Town Board's most generous funding of the land purchase price, Mynderse Library on February 17th acquired the large vacant field next to Academy Square at the corner of Cayuga Street and Beryl Avenue in order to build a new larger and more modern library for use by all citizens in the Seneca Falls area.



Wouldn't a brand new library improve the appearance and usefulness of this ground?

Ever since a complete analysis five years ago by the Finger Lakes Library System found our present library very inadequate in serving community needs, the Mynderse Library Board of Trustees has studied all available options for renovations to their existing building or for brand new construction. The Board is very grateful, however, to State Senator Michael Nozzolio for securing a \$25,000 grant, which was used to temporarily refurbish the present library, adding badly needed shelf space and buying time for the building project. And much of the grant equipment and materials can be transferred to our new building.

After careful study, the Academy Square field was found to best meet the wishes of the overwhelming majority of responses to last year's library needs mail-in survey. The site's central location, ample space for parking, level ground for single story construction and easy handicapped access will allow Mynderse Library to keep pace with any future needs. And the building project will be done to fit in with and enhance the streetscape of the area. Enlarging the present library was not an option because of the lack of yard space to build on, canal bank weaknesses, and structural problems in trying to add a story on top of already wet ground.

As an Association Library with only its membership electing a governing Board of Trustees, Mynderse Library is really not a "public" library, but is helped in its funding by small Town and Village contributions. By state law Mynderse Library has designated the Seneca Falls School District to act as its tax collector each year. But

all other funds must come from the Finger Lakes Library System, United Way, income from investments, voluntary Library Association memberships, and other donations. Monies for the new building must be raised through a major capital fund drive throughout the community instead of from taxes.

Under the terms of the agreement between the Town of Seneca Falls and Mynderse Library, the ownership of the property adjoining Academy Square will revert to the Town if the library is unable to obtain 75% of the new building's cost within 30 months. But donations have already been made to the new "Building Vision Fund" by many Mynderse Academy alumni and some memorial bequests, and grant possibilities will be pursued.

Plans are now underway on two fronts, for selecting an architect for the project and for the major fund drive. Your ideas and support will be vital to equip Mynderse Library for its challenges in the new century. Your library both needs and deserves your support, as it is one of the very few community resources able to cater to the information needs of all our citizens from babies to our eldest seniors.

"MYSTERY MAN" FALL CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Myndwich member John Miller was the first person to correctly identify Colonel Wilhelmus Mynderse as the "mystery man" in the picture hanging on the wall above the Circulation Desk, and wins the prize of 3 free books of his choice from the Myndwich Ongoing Used Book Sale (See the article on library basement uses for more details on the Book Sale).

The picture is actually a photograph taken and tinted by well known former Fall Street photographers Mr. and Mrs. Bullock from an original portrait. A duplicate Bullock photograph but smaller and in black and white hangs in the second floor hall of the Seneca Falls Historical Society Museum. It was Colonel Mynderse's grandson, also named Wilhelmus, who in 1904 gave the property on which Mynderse Library now sits together with his house. The house was used as a library until 1915 when the state demolished it to build the Barge Canal. The Library Association then used its monetary compensation from the state to build the present library on the same property (Source: SFHS archives and staff). But it is the Colonel's picture on the library wall. Congratulations, John!

IT'S 7 P.M. - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS ARE?

Making a real dent in the number of overdue library books is Tom Kent, Mynderse Library's Volunteer of the Year. Tom was recognized by United Way for his faithful and good humored tracking down of overdue and lost books each week for the past 7 years. He enjoys making phone calls, having relied on the telephone in his previous business experience, and finds most library patrons very polite. He averages 10 - 15 calls per week (down from when he first volunteered his services) and notes that students are more prompt in returning books than adult borrowers. Tom much prefers to reach a "real live person" than an answering machine.

If he knows the borrower well, one of his favorite lines is to say "The man who wrote this book didn't take as long to write it as you do to read it".

Tom grew up in Peru, Indiana but received his B.A. from Champlain College in Plattsburgh after serving in the U.S. Army in Japan. Coming briefly to Seneca Falls in 1957, he soon worked in Baltimore for

International Harvester before returning to Seneca Falls in 1960, where he owned and operated Seneca Service Center selling farm equipment until retiring in 1991. Tom and his wife Peg, (a member of Myndwich who for many years was Intermediate School secretary) have 2 children in Arizona and Michigan and 4 grandsons, one of which, though very young, has just won the Planetarium Society's International Essay Contest. In between making library calls Tom is Business Manager for the Seneca Duplicate Bridge Club and temporary Treasurer of the Seneca Investment Club.

A hearty salute to all those library patrons that return their books on time so others may enjoy them. And congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year Tom Kent. Way to go, Tom!

BASEMENT BUSY AT MYNDERSE LIBRARY

Most people spend as little time as possible in their basements, going down only to do wash, check for flooding, guess at meter reading, or to drag heavy items in and out of storage. But Mynderse Library's basement is well used by book sale customers, magazine readers, children's programs and regular meetings of several community groups.

A quick fix to winter blues and the best bargain in town is the year-round Ongoing Myndwich Used Book Sale in the basement with hours the same as regular library hours (Monday and Friday 9 - 5, Tuesday through Thursday 2 - 9, and Saturday 2 - 5 except in summer). Romance novels are ten cents each or 15 for one dollar. All other books are priced at 3 hardcovers or 6 paperbacks for one dollar, and are shelved by categories for easy browsing.



The basement reading area offers Children's Librarian Jan, and husband Vince Caraccilo all the comforts of home!

Be sure to check the children's and young adult titles as well as the popular mystery, fiction, romance and science fiction shelves. Also for sale are classics, history and biography, science, women's studies, religion, sports and hobbies from golf to gardening and cooking. A few of the "better" hardcovers for sale are displayed on a main floor book cart to the left of the Circulation Desk with prices of one to two dollars.

All sale proceeds are used to purchase needed library equipment, and Myndwich members report a steady turnover in titles as book donations are accepted all year. So help make the winter pass quickly by cleaning out your bookcases for the library and by eyeballing the newest sale titles every few weeks.

Other basement attractions are a cozy reading area with new furniture, an expanded magazine and newspaper section, and two LePac automated Card Catalogs like the one on the main floor. A word processor will be installed for future public use in typing letters, resumes and reports.

Not so long ago patrons expected to find mostly Readers Digest, National Geographic and women's and parenting magazines in their library, but no longer. A few of the more unusual magazines at Mynderse Library are *American Artist*, *Antiques and Collecting*, *Home Office*, *ESPN*, *PC World*, and *New York History*. And besides the usual *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today* and local newspapers are *Elderhostel* and *The Finger Lakes Business Almanac*. The newest issues of each magazine are kept on the tall wooden rack next to the kitchen area and can not be taken out, but readers are encouraged to sign out all other issues.

And in between book sale customers and preschool store hours, the library basement is home to meetings of the Women's Reading Club, Seneca Falls Garden Club, tutors and students from Literacy Volunteers of Seneca County, and of course Myndwich, the local "Friends of the Library" book group.

ST. PAT'S SCHOOL PICKS

Thanks to St. Patrick's School Librarian Terri Feeney for compiling the following list of some of her students favorite Mynderse Library books. (Terri's own favorite author is Diana Gabaldon whose time travel novels *Dragonfly*, *Outlander*, and *Voyager* are also in the library).

SIXTH GRADERS:

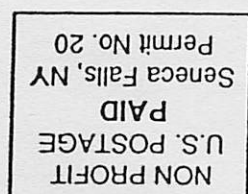
Timothy Adler -	<i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London
Christopher Battaglia -	<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien
Alison Cappellino -	<i>Trouble With Tuck</i> by Theodore Taylor
Felecia Dombrowski -	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i> by Scott O'Dell
Samantha Furano -	<i>Lily's Crossing</i> by Patricia Giff
Myles Knipper -	<i>Super Scary Stories</i>
Emily Kraft -	<i>The House with a Clock In Its Walls</i> by John Bellairs
Mike Kulha -	<i>Outsiders</i> by S.E. Huntington
Melissa Miller -	<i>Polar Express</i> by Chris Van Allsburg
Matthew Quinn -	<i>Mossflower</i> by Brian Jacques
Gabrielle Sinicropi -	<i>A Season For Goodbye</i> by Lurlene McDaniel
Cassandra Howe, Ellen Quarmby and Zachary Rescorl -	<i>White Fang</i> by Jack London

SEVENTH GRADERS:

Charlie Beall -	<i>Angela's Ashes</i> by Frank McCourt
Lara Lorenzetti -	<i>Hannah In Between</i> by Colby Rodowsky
Justine McPike -	<i>Divine Evil</i> by Nora Roberts
Anthony Pluretti -	<i>The Universe</i>
Samantha Sciotti -	<i>Dynamite Dinah</i>
David Ward -	<i>Yon Ill Wind</i> by Piers Anthony

EIGHTH GRADERS:

Jonathan Adler -	<i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen
Luke Oleksa -	<i>1984</i> by George Orwell
Zach Winters -	<i>Nightmares and Dreamscapes</i> by Stephen King



Mynderse Library, 31 Fall St., Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148



MOTHER GOOSE TIME PEPS UP WINTER



Housebound preschoolers ages 2 to 5 (along with their parents, grandparents or babysitters) have gotten a welcome break from cold and ice during Mynderse Library's popular winter Mother Goose Time sessions in the basement. Following special programs for Children's Book Week in November, and December Christmas stories, Children's Librarian Jan Caraccilo has directed Tuesday morning programs on snow, popcorn and Valentines Day during January and February. Stories, songs, puppets and special activities related to reading were featured, and children were encouraged to get library cards and borrow books. For information on an upcoming spring Mother Goose Time, please call the library at 568 - 8265.