

The Cary Memorial Library

In 1827, Town Meeting members voted “that sixty dollars be raised by tax for establishing a Juvenile Library.” In 1867, Mrs. Maria Hastings Cary offered the Town \$1,000 for books if a free public library was established; in 1869, Cary Library was opened to the public.



By 1871, the library had outgrown its original location over Whitcher’s Store on Main Street (now Massachusetts Avenue) and was moved to the first floor of the Town Hall. Mrs. Cary had provided \$20,000 toward the building of Town Hall and, until her death in 1881, generously supported the library and left an additional \$5,000 in her will.

In 1906, Cary Library moved to where it stands today. The building was the gift of Miss Alice Butler Cary in honor of her foster mother.

Volunteers from the Lexington Field & Garden Club, under the stewardship of Deb Heaton, have generously tended the main garden and the daylily beds at the back entrance for many years. The main garden has seen changes in the plantings, but they are a lovely greeting to all library visitors.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

History excerpts and postcard photo from <http://lexingtonheritage.org/index.html>