



WHEELING / OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHRONOLOGY

- 1807** Wheeling Library Company chartered
- 1813 January 9** Wheeling Library Company is incorporated
- 1834 March 7** Wheeling Lyceum founded
[books later donated to Wheeling Library Company]
- 1848 April 3** Wheeling Athenaeum is chartered
- 1859 May 18** Wheeling Library Association chartered by Ohio County Circuit Court
- 1860 May 15 / 31?** Wheeling Library Association opens its collection in the Odd Fellows Hall
- 1867 December 10** A newspaper article described the Wheeling Public Library with its “shelves...filled with standard works on all subjects, and many of the principal newspapers published in this country are on the files.” [This was a subscription library]
- 1877** Library is moved to state house building.
- 1880 May 15** First telephone in West Virginia is installed in Wheeling
- 1880 July** Library Company of Wheeling’s library is closed. Its 4,000 volumes are transferred to the Board of Education.
- 1882 October 12** Wheeling Library Association becomes Wheeling Public Library. The collection opens in the Hub Building at 14th Street. Board of Education in Wheeling City District assumes control of the Wheeling Library Association’s collection with the stipulation that the Board “establish and maintain in perpetuity a public library.”
- 1895** Wheeling Public Library moves from the Hub Building to the Masonic Temple.
- 1899 August 12** Carnegie Corporation approves a grant of \$ 75,000 for Wheeling to construct a Carnegie public library

- 1904 January 26 Voters reject acceptance of the Carnegie grant:
2,291 FOR, 1862 AGAINST -- lacking the 3/5 majority to pass**
- 1907 June Wheeling Public Library moves from the Masonic Temple to the Schmulbach Building'**
- 1910 May Wheeling Public Library moves from the Schmulbach Building to the Delaplaine Dry Goods House on Main Street**
- 1911 January 9 Wheeling Public Library formally opens a new building constructed by the Board of Education at 2100 Main Street**
- 1912 March Children's Department is opened**
- 1920 December 28 Statue of Ethan Allen is unveiled -- a gift of B. Walker Peterson
Collection of museum curios presented by Sallie Maxwell Bennett**
- 1924 Wheeling Public Library holds 41,608 volumes -- 1/3 of the total volumes located in the entire state of West Virginia**
- 1926 September 7 Board of Education Opens New Addition to Library
[used as Commercial Department and connected to Wheeling High School via a bridge over the alley] Cost of construction was \$ 20,000**
- 1933 May 31 Wheeling Public Library becomes the Ohio County Public Library**
- 1935 August Ohio County Public Library begins bookmobile service -- the first in the state**
- 1938 September 11 Ohio County Public Library opens a Music Department**
- 1942 April 6 Ohio County Public Library opens Warwood Branch Library -- in cooperation with Warwood Women's Clubs -- later called the Hildebrand Memorial Library [July 25, 1986]**
- 1946 June 4 Ohio County Public Library purchases 2,500 recordings for its newly-organized record library. Soundproof listening rooms are built by the library for patrons' use and are formally opened. Remodeling creates an auditorium and additional shelving space.**
- 1951 November 11 Ohio County Public Library opens Elm Grove Branch Library on second floor of Hoge Davis Drug Store building [in cooperation with Elm Grove Civic Association (Improvement Committee)]**
- 1973 Elm Grove branch of Library is closed (low usage is the reason)**

- 1973** Ohio County Board of Education sues Library Board to determine ownership of old library building and contents -- ultimately the Library Board of Trustees prevails
- 1973 May 10** Ohio County Public Library holds ribbon cutting and opens new building at 52 - 16th Street
- 1975 January 24** Fort Ticonderoga, Inc. successfully bids for statue of Ethan Allen
- 1976 August 19** Library Board of Trustees settles lawsuit with Board of Education by accepting a financial payment of \$61,055.91 which includes transfer of ownership of the old building to the BOE
- 2000 September** Sunday hours begun (1:00 – 5:00 PM)
- 2003 January 31** Hildebrand Memorial Library – OCPL Warwood Branch -- closed due to low patron usage
- 2005 November** Plans to acquire former Social Security Building site from federal government fall through
- 2006 May** Bookmobile is retired
- 2006 November** Van and homebound delivery service is begun
- 2007 December** Blind and Physically Handicapped Subregional Library is closed
- 2008 May** WV Deli – downloadable service initiated from OCPL website
- 2009 June** New Wheeling Room opened on Main Floor of Library building
- 2009 September** Local history document, photograph, personal collection archival collection inaugurated
- 2010 September** Renewed focus on Adult Programming including a more robust “Lunch With Books” and “Peoples University” series

Directors of the Wheeling Public and Ohio County Public Library

Director	Date Begun	Date Ended
Henry H. Pendleton	1882	1886
Anna B. Wilson	1886	1910
Etta M. Roberts	1910	1938
Eleanor Hamilton	1938	1950
Margaret Virginia Ebeling	1950	December 12, 1966
Jeannine Kreyenbuhl	September 1, 1967	October 15, 1969
Elizabeth Davis Fair	1970	June 30, 1976
Bruce Farrar	November 1, 1976	May 31, 1987
Ernest R. Kallay, Jr.	July 1, 1987	June 1, 1989
Harve A. Tannenbuam	September 1, 1989	September 15, 1996
Dottie Thomas	January 1, 1997	



Virginia Ebeling at Story Hour