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MR. J. E. JONES, J.P.

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Original Committee  
Still Serving  
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MRS. F. HOLLAND



MRS. A. ALEXANDER



MRS. A. B. GIBSON



MR. F. HOLLAND

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ABOUT the end of 1923 Mr. J. E. Jones convened a meeting of the residents of St. Martins, with a view to applying to the City Council for a hall for the district. At that meeting it was decided to send a request to the Council pointing out that at that time there was no place in the district to hold meetings or functions of any description. The reply received from the Council was to the effect that whilst they could not see their way clear to build a hall, they suggested that if we would secure a suitable site they would consider building a Library for the district.

A further meeting of the residents was therefore called, at which it was decided to form a Residents' Association, and from which a committee was formed to deal with the question of the suggestion as received from the Council. In the meantime we were glad to accept the hospitality of Mr. W. Manning of Wilsons Road for his packing shed which he had to clear out and furnish with seating accommodation for about thirty people each month.

The Committee decided that the only suitable site available was at the corner of Wilsons Road and Wades Road which could be cut up into three sections, one for the Library, one to be sold, and the centre section to be held for a hall at some future date. The question of finance was overcome by several members advancing the necessary amount of £100 to pay the deposit on the site. This sum was duly returned when two of the sections were sold.

With the building of the Library assured a public meeting of intending subscribers was held in the Church of England School-room on Monday, October 18th, 1926, for the purpose of electing a Library Committee. There was a very good attendance, Mr. C. V. Harvey presiding, and Messrs. E. Parlane and T. Tillyshort of the

Addington Public Library being present by invitation. The following were elected members of the first committee: Mesdames Gibson, Alexander, Holland, Cherry, Young, Empson, Steel, Brown and Hewinson; Misses Muir, Bartram, Thompson (2), Cherry; Messrs. Bartram, Jones, Holland, Hargreaves, Alexander, Hill, Campbell, Crocker, Barker, Yates, Harvey, Young, and Johnstone. From the above the following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. E. Jones; Secretary, Mr. F. Holland; Treasurer, Mr. D. W. Bartram; Trustees, Messrs. D. W. Bartram, F. Holland; Buyer, Mr. A. H. Johnstone.

At this meeting the Committee formed themselves into pairs to canvas the district to enroll subscribers, and collect subscriptions in advance to enable us to purchase new books, etc. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, they did a great job, and many donations of books and furniture, etc., were received from residents and business firms in the city for which we were very grateful. As a result of the canvas by the Committee we enrolled 161 subscribers and with the purchase and donation of books, we were able to open our Library with 739 books. At this juncture I wish to express our thanks to Messrs. E. Parlane and T. Tillyshort for their valuable assistance, as they both came to my home on several nights and helped in the cataloguing of the 739 books. All those who have had anything to do with the starting of a library will understand the amount of work that this entailed.

The official opening of the Library took place on Saturday, February 5th, 1927, by His Worship the Mayor, Rev. J. K. Archer, who was accompanied by the following Councillors: E. H. Andrews, W. E. Leadley, Mrs. McCombes, O. Anderson, W. Carey, T. Butterfield, and H. T. Armstrong, M.P. Mr. J. E. Jones, President of the Committee, after extending a warm welcome to His Worship the



Mayor, Councillors and friends, gave a brief outline on the work done by the Committee, pointing out that the Library Fund was starting off with a credit balance of £3 9s. 1d. The Library as built being 35 x 20 feet, would hold about 4,000 books. He also stressed the need for a hall as well as a Library for the district.

The first general meeting of subscribers to the Library was held in the Library, Thursday, February 10th, 1927, the following officers being elected: Patron, His Worship the Mayor, Rev. J. K. Archer; President, Mr. J. E. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. D. W. Bartram; Secretary, Mr. F. Holland; Auditors, Mrs. J. Empson and Mr. G. Hargreaves; Trustees, Messrs. D. W. Bartram and C. V. Harvey; Buyers, Messrs. A. H. Johnstone and D. C. Neave; Vice-Presidents, Mr. H. T. Armstrong, M.P., Councillors W. E. Leadley, and O. W. Anderson, Messrs. J. Scott, J. Young, and J. Goddard; Committee: Mesdames A. Alexander, E. Gibson, F. Holland, J. Young, L. Schumacher, R. J. Thompson, C. Baker, and Miss J. Thompson, Messrs. A. Alexander, T. Thompson, D. Campbell, F. Smith, L. Schumacher, E. Gibson, E. C. Street, H. R. Baker, L. Yates, W. Manning, J. Young, and W. Barker.

The first year of the Library was naturally a very busy one for most of us were new to library work, and it was necessary for us to raise funds for furnishings, etc., by various means. Before we could run euchre evenings, it was first necessary to build tables and forms, and then to build a shed at the side of the Library to house the same. It is very interesting to look back to the early card evenings before we had the gas and conveniences, when two of the members would be deputed to boil water outside in kerosene tins for supper. It shows the very fine spirit which existed. One very successful effort resulted in a credit balance of £46 4s. 10d., this was used to procure suitable linoleum for the Library. At the end of the

first year our membership had grown to 273, an increase of 112, and the total number of books on the shelves was 1,851, an increase of 1,112. The Library accounts showed a credit balance of £2 4s. 11d. In 1933 it was necessary to erect further extensions so the Committee took it upon themselves to carry out the work at the cost of £510; the work being done by Mr. J. E. Jones and Mr. A. Hill, which we think is worthy of notice. The cost of the original portion was £1,100.

The cost of all the floor coverings, new fixtures, chimney and fireplace, and minor alterations have all been borne by the Committee without any appeal to the City Council for help. From those early days steady progress has been made in the number of subscribers and books purchased. Our membership to-day is 760 subscribers and we have over 20,000 books, 78 volumes of National Geographic Magazines, 35 volumes of the British Geographic Magazine, 40 volumes of Punch and 32 miscellaneous magazines. It is with regret that we have to report that six members of the original Committee have passed on, one outstanding member being Mr. A. Alexander who was our buyer for fifteen years. One and all we appreciate the very valuable services he rendered. It is also worthy of note that there are five of the 1927 Committee who still take a very active part in the Library with the same President and Secretary over the twenty-one years.

*President*

J. E. JONES.

*Secretary*

F. HOLLAND.

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The first of the two covers, now in use, is a new design, and the second, which has been in use since the first cover was introduced, is a reproduction of the original design. The work was done by Mr. J. L. Jones and Mr. A. H. Hill, who are both of the University of Toronto. The first of the two covers was designed by Mr. J. L. Jones and Mr. A. H. Hill, who are both of the University of Toronto. The second cover is a reproduction of the original design.

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President  
J. L. Jones  
Secretary  
A. H. Hill