

# From stacks of untold library tales

**By Gordon B. Seavey**  
Staff Correspondent

**L**ocal historical memorabilia and art treasures often found their way years ago to the J.V. Fletcher Library for exhibit and storage, being the most logical place in town to be exhibited. This was long before the Museum came into existence.

The original of a map of Westford prepared in 1853-55 by Edward Symmes was framed and presented to the library, but the most important of all was the original "Solemn League & Covenant" of Westford, dated 1774 and signed by over 200 citizens of the town. Some signatures show the writing skills of the educated, other signatures were pretty scratchy and shaky, and some were just an X or a thumb print. But all

signers were patriots, each and every one. This document had been preserved for many years by the family of Mary A. Tennant, then of Roxbury, and the donor.

And to the horror of little girls, a giant moose head "adorned" one of the rooms for many years. Ed Fisher, long town counsul, shot the animal on a Nova Scotian hunting trip and had it mounted. When Mrs. Fisher viewed the finished product, she probably told Ed to "get that thing out of here!" So the library had it for "an indefinite time."

Julian A. Cameron, a very quiet, gentlemanly person, was for many years a library trustee. He was an ardent reader, mostly of current fiction, and annually donated about a hundred books for the library shelves. He is to be remembered as president of the Abbot Worsted Co.

And as to finances: in 1915 the library received \$310.54 from dog licenses which almost paid the salary of Mary P. Bunce. The latter was paid \$417.69 for the year and had to pay someone to drive her by buggy back and forth from her home near the end of Providence Road.

There were four legacies of \$1,000 each left to the benefit of the library and as the going interest at the time was four percent, the income amounted to \$160.

The library was opened only a couple of days a week, but even then 12,250 books were put in circulation. Fines paid for tardy return of books brought in \$27.73. The final cash balance at the end of the year, after taking out \$43.55 for supplies, was \$6.34.

*Gordon Seavey is a Westford native who grew up in a home next to the library.*

Correction: The donor's name was Mary A. Tenney