



ECHOES OF THE PAST

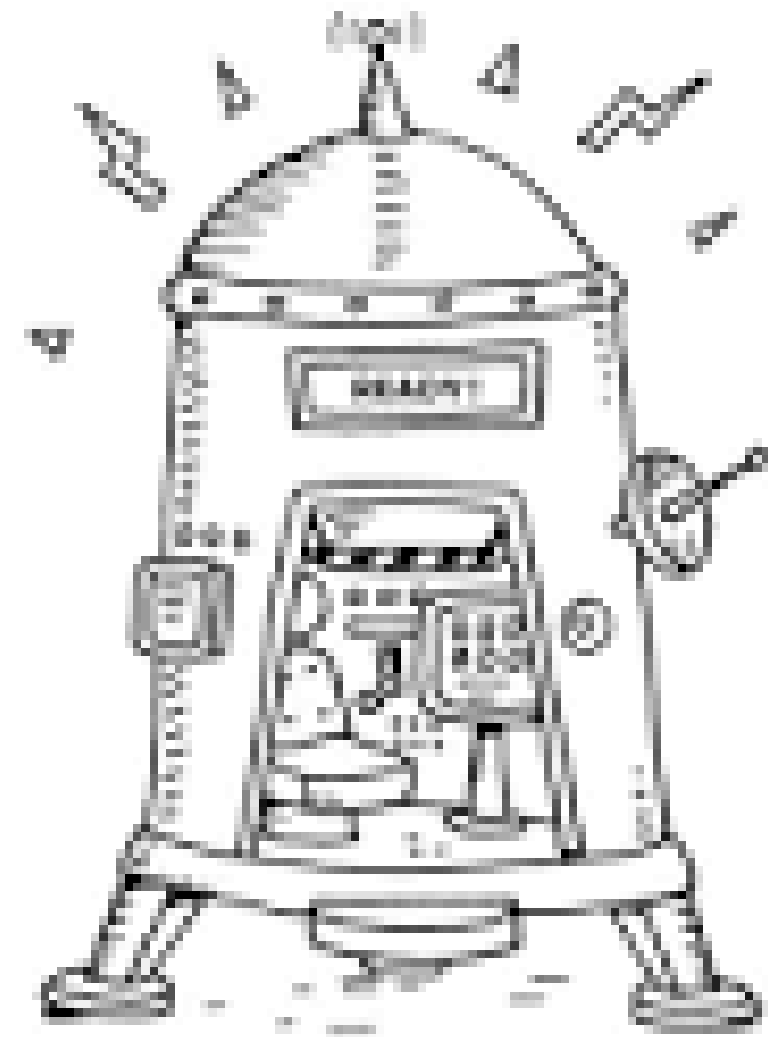
Samuels Public Library

**bringing people, information, and ideas together
to enrich lives and build community since 1799.**

WAYBACK MACHINE

WHAT DO THE VOICES OF THE PAST HAVE
TO TELL US ABOUT:

- THEIR VISION
- THEIR COMMITMENT
- THEIR GOALS
- THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

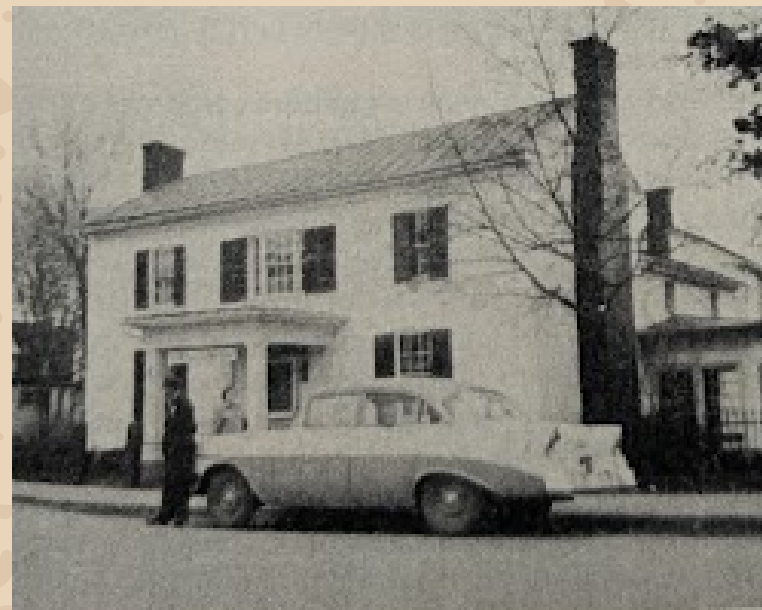


BUILDING BLOCKS

1799- 2nd Library in Virginia



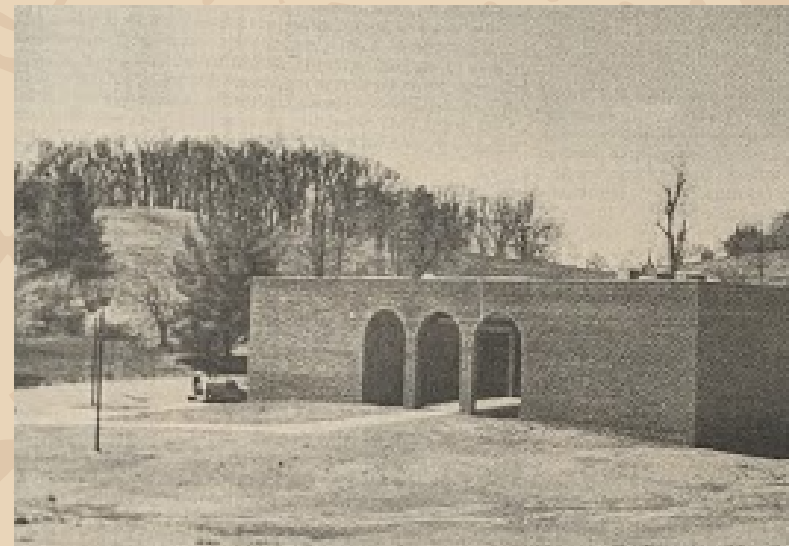
1921: Chester Street Ladies



1953--Ivy Lodge

Dr. Bernard Samuels

Samuels Public Library



1980--Villa Avenue

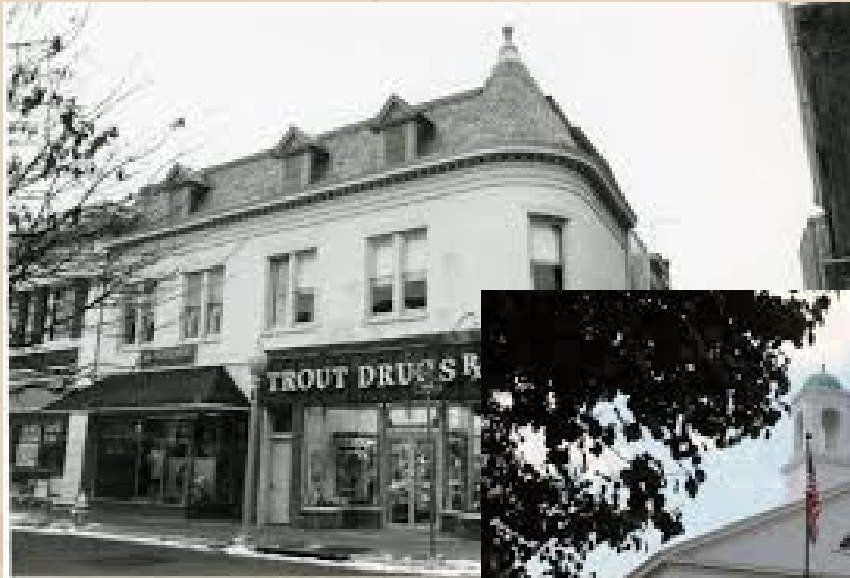
Walter Samuels



2009--Criser Rd

"It disseminates knowledge, inspires a taste for reading and gaining information, gives to the town a tone and reputation, draws many from useless, if not vicious habits. "

LOCATIONS



Trout Drug Store



City Hall



Thompson Harness Shop



THE STEELE HOUSE

"The biggest problem in the early library days was heat....Close behind the chill and dampness...the lack of light..dark, narrow stairs."

15 feet of space in the City Hall with 30 days notice

1921- Steele House with rent paid by town merchants then County
R-MA students "painting and papering the Steele House with gusto"

1921-CHESTER ST. LADIES



Mrs. Melton



Miss Mattie Brown

- Mrs. C.L. Melton (Gertrude Blackwell)
on the 1892 faculty at R-MA; married principal
- Miss Mattie Brown, Social Editor at the Warren Sentinel
- Mrs. Coleman Ware (Bertie Beaty)
- Miss Elizabeth Millar (buried At RMA)

1921 SILVER TEA--BUILD COMMUNITY, GET BOOKS,
PROMOTE LIBRARY, AND RAISE MONEY

"Progressive and aggressive ladies
decided to start a project with a library tea
at the community house"



SURVIVED

THE DEPRESSION/WWII



Continued to have Silver Teas
Not just a social gathering but
a way to educate the
community



World War II
Each challenge met by
working together



Outreach to community
Constant promotion
through social connections

“Never was there a truer saying than ‘Many men, many minds’, when it comes to selecting books for a library. What one thinks is a delightful book another detests, and we wish to try to please all; so if there is a book that you long to read, tell us, and if possible, we will get it.”

1953-IVY LODGE

Dr. Bernard Samuels

- Worldly man, Vienna And Prague
- Taught at Cornell, come home to Front Royal.
- Opened FR to the world
- Paid \$12,500, then donated

Eleanor Norton - first librarian

- Worked at the New York Public Library during the Depression
- Library Science: John Hopkins Univ.
- Reference books

- Front Royal, Warren County, Randolph-Macon Academy, businesses, community leaders
- Volunteers "the unsung heroes and heroines"
- "15 member Library Board...appointment to the library board is a public trust..perfect example today of democracy.. to promote the American ideal"

1980-VILLA AVE.



Walter Samuels

\$250,000 donation

"Mystery Man"

- Outreach to community
- Deal struck to save Ivy Lodge:
given to Warren Heritage Society
- RMA sold \$15K then raised \$9k
- 15 member Board of Trustees
keystone of organization



transferring over 90,000 cards to the new card catalogue.

cut by Dr. David
ard Jr. and John K

WORKING HAND-IN-HAND FOR A BETTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Front Royal Little Theatre
Cedarville Ruritan Club

Riverton Corp.

Avtex Fibers, Inc.

Front Royal Rotary Club

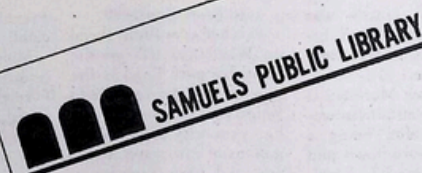
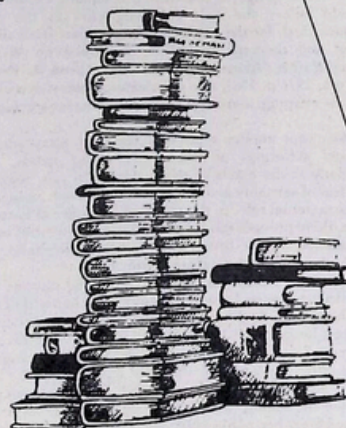
AARP

Loyal Order
of the Moose

Skyline
Caverns

Local
Garden Clubs

A.C.T.W.U. Local 371T



518 VILLA AVE., FRONT ROYAL, VA. 22630 - 635-3153

DEAR WARREN COUNTY CITIZEN,

THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE THE BOOKS YOU WANT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BUY, THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF A PROJECT BEING CONDUCTED BY SAMUELS PUBLIC LIBRARY THIS SUMMER.

IN ONE SPECIAL SET OF SHELVES ARE DISPLAYED A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 200 BOOKS THAT ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR PURCHASE. CATEGORIES OF SUBJECT MATTER INCLUDE ARTS AND CRAFTS, BEING HUMAN, SELF-HELP, AND CHILDRENS BOOKS. BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE SO THAT WARREN COUNTY CITIZENS CAN VOTE FOR THE BOOKS THEY WANT PURCHASED.

INSTEAD OF MY CHOOSING THE 3,000 NEW BOOKS SAMUELS PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL PURCHASE THIS YEAR, HERE IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE BOOK SELECTION PROCESS.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS.....YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARYYOUR BOOKS. WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WE'LL MAKE SAMUELS PUBLIC LIBRARY ONE OF VIRGINIA'S BEST SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

YOURS,
GARY N. GRAHAM
LIBRARIAN

P.S. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A "FREE" LIBRARY CARD FROM SAMUELS PUBLIC LIBRARY, STOP BY - IT ONLY TAKES A COUPLE OF MINUTES AND IT OPENS UP FOR YOU THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

Warren Co. Education Asso.

Extension Homemakers

E. I. deNemours DuPont & Co.

THIS AD MADE POSSIBLE BY THE PEOPLES BANK OF FRONT ROYAL

""Choose the books you want your public library to buy..take an active part in the book selection process...opens up for you the world of books""

Riverton Corp.

Avtex Fibers, Inc.

Front Royal Rotary Club

Loyal Order of the Moose

Skyline Caverns

DuPont & Co.

A.C.T.W.U. Local 371T

Cedarville Ruritan Club

Peoples Bank of Front Royal

2009-CRISER ROAD

- Cooperative venture: land from the School Board; public/private partnerships; community leaders and organizations; volunteers
- Used connections to tap into relationships built over decades: the result is the facility we have today
- 2011--County buys Villa Ave. \$550k, included debt forgiveness of \$231k=property worth \$2.1 million
- Look at the >\$1.2 million on donor wall



THE FUTURE: BEST WAY TO BUILD ON THAT FOUNDATION

- Our vision fits with the past values of cooperation, consensus, and collaboration
- Our commitment to expand on those building blocks
- Our goals and hopes for the future of the public/private/government/citizen partnerships built over the decades
- What would those Chester St. Ladies think?

“It is called ‘Samuel’s Library,’ but each member of the community should more correctly call it ‘my library.’ For, it is ‘our library.’ And it is one of which we should all be justifiably proud. But we should never get complacent; we should continuously strive to make it better and better--to make it more widely used—to cultivate an increasing interest in our residents of all ages from preschool to the golden years to read more and more.”



THANK YOU!

Lewis Moten

Amy Hayes

Jane Ferrell (Warren Sentinel)

Rebecca Poe (Warren Sentinel)

Gertrude Blackwell Melton

Contact me at www.colleensnyder.net about
the "Echoes of the Past"

Samuels Public Library Oral History Project

