

Adams Memorial Library Opened to Public Today

From the *Clinton Herald*, May 7, 1929.

Located on Third Street between Lafayette and Locust streets is the new public library of Prophetstown, the gift of Minnie Adams and her children, Mrs. Lester Roth and John and Robert Adams, in commemoration of their husband and father, Henry C. Adams, a building 82 by 52 feet in dimensions.

As one enters the building to the right is a bronze tablet which reads: "This tablet is erected by the people of Prophetstown, Illinois, in appreciation of the gift of this library building by Minnie W. Adams, Florence Adams Roth, John W. Adams and Robert H. Adams in memory of Henry C. Adams."

On entering the building, stone steps lead to the basement, where to the left is the assembly room, toilets, store room, furniture room and a work room.

Entering the main library room from the hall one is surrounded by books which are racked and on display. This room is furnished with a rubber floor, done in antique oak furniture. The building is heated by oil and is self regulating. The librarian is furnished with official quarters conveniently located.

The building itself was erected by F. E. Breed, a Prophetstown contractor, and is made of pressed brick, trimmed with Bedford stone, with a tile roofing.

This afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the library building was opened to the public when the following program was given:

Invocation – The Rev. L. V. Sitler.

Presentation – Mrs. Minnie W. Adams.

Acceptance – Mayor Brydia.

Duet – Mrs. Rodee and the Rev. L. V. Sitler.

Advantages of a library – The Rev. W. H. Campbell.

Mrs. Hazel McNamara has been selected librarian.

She presented the keys to Mayor Brydia, who said: "We thank you, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Florence Roth, John Adams and Robert Adams for this wonderful memorial of a man who made his way from the bottom to the top. We know the spirit this was given in and we believe the public appreciates it. It is a memorial that will last as long as Prophetstown is a city. The City council have arranged for the maintenance. It is fitting that the Adams family give it for benefit of all in the city which Mr. Adams lived. Henry Adams in his life was a man among many. I turn the keys over to Mrs. Frary, president of the library board and trust they will manage it to the best interest of the city."

Mrs Frary: "In behalf of the Library Board I thank you."

Mrs. C. P. Rodee and the Rev. L. V. Sitler sang "In the Garden of My Heart." The Rev. I. C. Campbell then gave an address: "The advantages of a library."

"Elizabeth Browning said: 'Let no one call himself friendless who has books and his God.' I think of books as friends. I want to congratulate the city of Prophetstown on this gift, a great friend. I admire Mrs. Adams and her children's choice of a memorial for their husband and father. A statue might have been erected, to be admired for a time and then it may have been forgotten. This is a living monument that will grow in usefulness," said the Rev. Mr. Campbell.

"Mrs. Adams has selected her books with the first thought of the children. A library is of the greatest value for the children. It is of great value in building up the citizenship for a community. It is on an equality with two other institutions – the church and the school.

"We read books for information and entertainment and they, like friends, make impressionism on our minds. A library is a place where the best books are kept. They are of value because the average person cannot afford a large library. Every one should have a little library that will last forever. Do not spend money for books of passing value. A library is an indication of the reading tastes of the community. The report is that better books are in the lead of public demand.

“We have been given a wonderful gift. Unless we use it we will not get the most out of it. Books are friends and when you take one from the library treat it as a dear friend. Let it speak to you and bring it back as you received it. If you have a book of great value to yourself pass it on.

“I want again to commend Mrs. Adams and her children and assure them I will cooperate with the board to me this a success.”

It is the plan to have the library opened four days of the week, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday, from 3 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m.