

Hopkinton Public Library The "Treasure Room" Update

Hopkinton Public library has made great strides regarding how it administers the significant archival and historical materials that are housed in a small room fondly called the "Treasure Room" in the Library. The Library continually balances the preservation needs of these special collections and the access needs of researchers.

In 2007, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) awarded \$15,000 to the library and the Historic Commission. With this generous funding, we were able to recruit Nancy Heywood, an archivist, to identify, evaluate and organize the collection to provide better physical and intellectual control over the historical materials. The collection includes historical documents, books, records, photographs, maps, 19th century manuscripts and log books, published genealogies, cemetery records, binders containing articles of town histories and vital records. Since 2007, materials have been sorted, labeled, organized grouped and are now in file cabinets, binders and file made especially for preserving old, precious materials. An indexed list of the entire collection has been developed which helps researches to identify and locate items on the shelves. An additional grant was awarded by CPC in 2010 allowing us to "digitize" photographs that are now available through the library catalog and via the Internet.

Recently the Library Trustees worked closely with the town Facilities Manager and library staff in improving the physical condition of the room. The room has gone through a make-over with new carpet, freshly painted walls and a new ceiling!

CPC funds provided to the library enabled us to make significant progress towards the care of the collection as well as providing better access to these rare materials.

Come and see our new room or check out the photographs on-line at:

<http://dlib.cwmars.org/cdm4/browse.php>

Rownak P. Hussain
Library Director
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