

GOULD ACADEMY LIBRARY NEWS



Left to Right: 1893, 1930, 1932 (last view of 1881 school) and Hanscom Hall (1933)

From 1836 to 2011 there have been at least four academy libraries: the first academy building (1836-1880), the second academy hall (1881-1932) and the current one, Hanscom Hall, which saw its original cozy library space grow and take over a large study hall area. Giving up a large day student enrollment wiped out the need for a study hall.

In the 1880s and 1890s library news occasionally made it into local weekly newspapers, but library information was found mainly in school catalogs.

19th Century Library News

The only public room in this building was the library / reading room. At least monthly local newspapers ran a sentence or two inviting Bethel people to visit the reading room where daily papers and monthly journals were part of the public's reading materials.

5/28/1889: Gould Academy closing exercises will occur May 29th. Proceeds from the entertainment after the exercises will be devoted to the (Gould) library.

In January 1890, Gould gave public notice of its recently expanded library, also open to visitors, that included two daily Boston newspapers, two county newspapers, Harper's Weekly as well as educational, scientific and literary journals. These publications would be available in the newly arranged reading room (within the 1881 academy hall).

May 1890, the Gould Academy Athletic Association has just received \$18 worth of tennis good from Boston. The club court is marked out and ready for use. ***The Athletic Exhibition Friday evening is for the benefit of the Academy library.*** The dumb bell drills by 24 girls and boys in costume is a pretty sight. Dancing will follow the exhibition.

April 24, 1891: A business college course of exercises is introduced into Gould Academy by Mr. (Prof.) Hall. ***Ceylon Rowe (a leading storekeeper) has given ten dollars towards a replenishment of books in Gould Academy Library.***

February 21, 1892: Arrangements have been made with the Weather Bureau so that the ***academy*** receives the daily weather report and chart and is to have the telegraphic reports and display weather signals as soon as the new flagstaff is erected.

1893 Gould's Academy Catalog:

The Library and Reading-Room is open during the whole day. The library is well supplied with books of reference, also standard works of literature, history and biography. The reading-room is supplied with daily and weekly papers, educational journals, and the standard monthly magazines. The cabinet contains one of the best collections of minerals and fossils to be found in any school of the State. These have been arranged and catalogued, making them a valuable aid in the practical study of Geology and Mineralogy.

Librarian – Miss M. C. Chapman

1895-1896 Gould's Academy Catalog:

Librarian – Winifred Hall

Gould Academy Library described by Robert D. Hastings (student 1914-1918)

“In one corner of the assembly room (the 1881 academy building) was the library, a room of about 15 by 25 feet, with well stocked book shelves on either side and a large table in the center covered with periodicals, mostly about the war raging in Europe. This room also served as a conference room to which a student would be summoned to answer for some misdemeanor.”

1897 to 1936 Frank E Hanscom, Principal of Gould Academy

Mr. Hanscom was president of the Bethel Library Association for long period of time.

Gould Librarians:



1949 (?) to 1954 and later: Annie L. Blackadar. Positions: Brockton High School; Bourne Library and at Gould, Librarian and Assistant at the Girl's Dormitory.

Photo from The Gould Academy Herald, 1951

(Librarians prior to Ms. Shifrin and after Ms. Blackadar are not yet identified.)



Dorothy A Boyce

22 Years

BA, MS Bates College, Simmons College

Head Librarian, Year Book Advisor



1993 to present: Sara Shifrin, Teaching Librarian. 1988 graduate of Gould Academy; BA St. Michael's College, MA Bread Loaf School of English

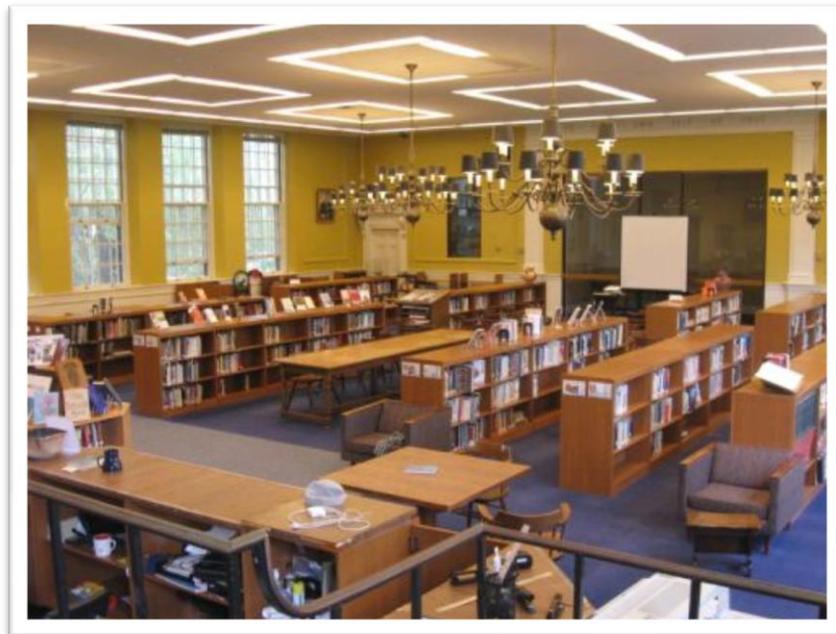
Gould Academy Library – September 2011



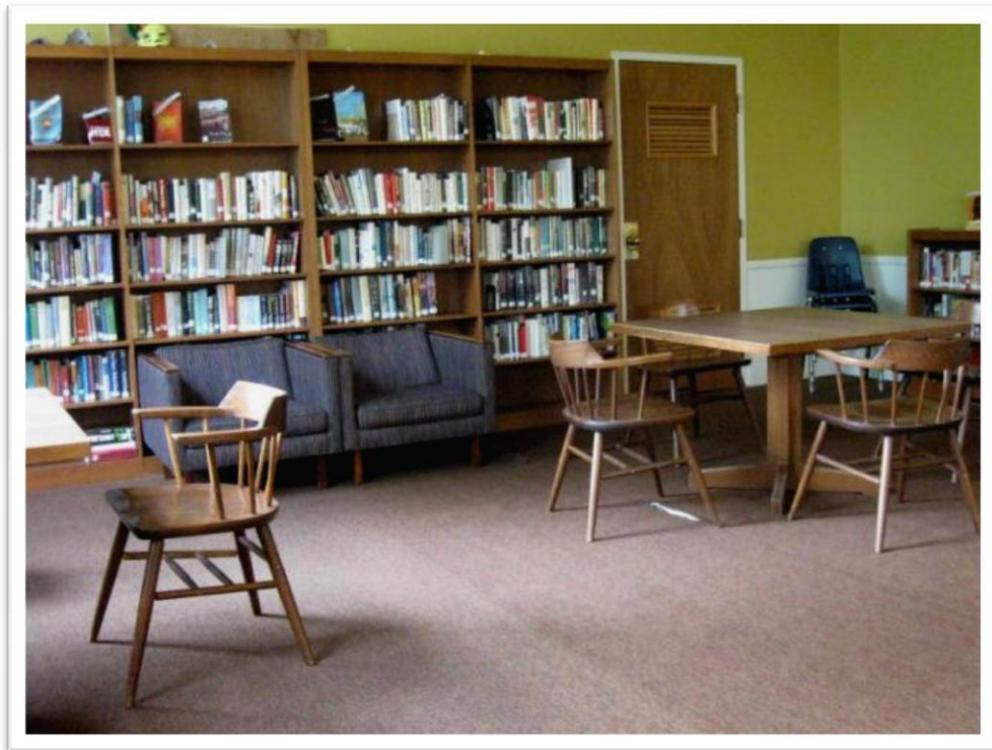
Library Entrance



Periodicals and Computer Stations



Main library book stacks – circulation desk in foreground



Reading and work area – a raised split level behind circulation desk

The Bethel Journals

Donald G Bennett
PO Box 763
Bethel, Maine 04217