
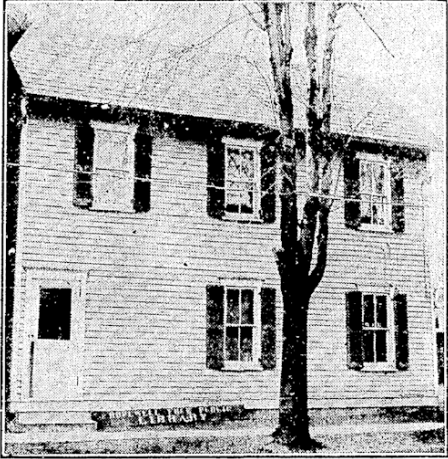




The Hopewell Public Library (1914)

Rev. 5/9/2020 x - D. & C. Dixon - Typos, Sanborn Maps, Hopewell Library Company

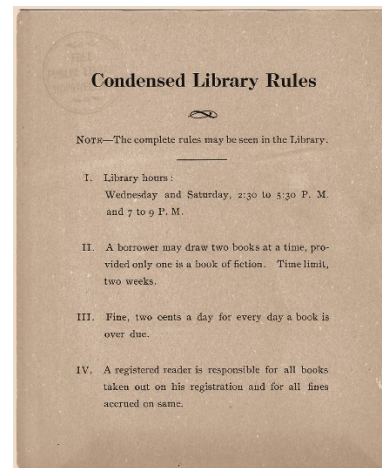
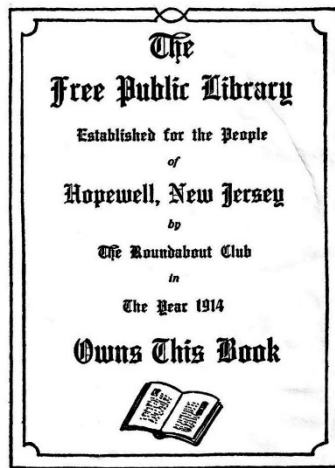
The Hopewell Free Public Library first opened in April 1914, and traveled through several other locations (including combining and later splitting with the Hopewell Museum), before settling at its current site in 1965.

	
<p style="text-align: center;">March 18, 1914 Hopewell Free Public Library Opens</p> <p>(64 West Broad at corner of Mercer, now private) Joseph Harrison harness shop (#14) [Hopewell, N. J. map, T. M. Fowler, 1887 (cropped, with annotations)]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March 15, 1915 Library Moves to Fireman's Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(15 Seminary, now private) Second floor, above Fire Department [Trenton Sunday Times, Dec. 12, 1915]</p>
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Jan. 22, 1925 Library Moves to Stout / Smith House Combined Public Library and Museum</p> <p>(28 East Broad, now Hopewell Museum) [postcard, with "Free Public Library" sign]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 13, 1965 Library Moves to National Bank Building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(13 East Broad)</p>

The Hopewell Public Library has a busy history in Hopewell Borough, starting in 1914 as the Hopewell Free Public Library. The saga includes four locations in town, multiple purchases of the same building, and combining with and splitting off from the Hopewell Museum.

This is an illustrated history of the development of the public library in Hopewell Borough. It starts with other approaches to libraries in town, and then includes a chronology of the library organizations and associated buildings, plus historic images (photos and extracts from maps) and selected quotes from associated sources.

This is an evolving document as more information is discovered. The information provided is based on the referenced sources. We welcome your feedback and new discoveries at HopewellHistoryProject.org.



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Libraries in Hopewell in the 1800s and Early 1900s

There are several tantalizing references to libraries in Hopewell Borough before 1914, but not much is known of them, beyond what is listed here.

A Library in Pennington (1802)

An 1802 list of libraries in Hunterdon County (which then included Hopewell) reported a library in Pennington, run by "Achilles Wilson".

"In 1802 several libraries were in existence. At Trenton, Elliott Howell, Librarian; Pennington, Achilles Wilson, Librarian ; Ringos, David Bishop, Librarian ; Flemington, Asher Atkinson, Librarian. [1]

[1] From Collector's book of 1802 in possession of Peter Young at Ringos"

[In The First Century Of Hunterdon County, State Of New Jersey, by George S. Mott, D. D.

Read before The New Jersey Historical Society, at Trenton, January 17th, 1878

Published in Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, Second Series. Vol. V., No. 2., 1878.]

"Hopewell Library Company" (1804) - Catalog of Books

The Hopewell Museum has a pamphlet titled "Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Hopewell Library Company," which was printed in Trenton by Sherman & Mershon in 1804. The pamphlet is 8 pages, with an alphabetical list of 191 books with the number of volumes and price.

[HVHS Summer 2019]

"Hopewell Library Company" [Pennington] (May 6, 1806) - Incorporation

The Hopewell Museum has a copy of the incorporation record for the "Hopewell Library Company," which was dated May 5, 1806, and signed by County Clerk, Charles Lloyd Fell. The incorporation was recorded on May 6, 1806, in Volume 1, page 116, of Special Deeds for Hunterdon County. "Pennington" is handwritten in the margin.

The list of trustees are Pennington names, also associated with Achilles Wilson, who was associated with the 1802 library reference: Jos. Rue, Nath. Temple, Ephraim Woolsey, J.T. Blackwell and John Carpenter.

[HVHS Summer 2019]

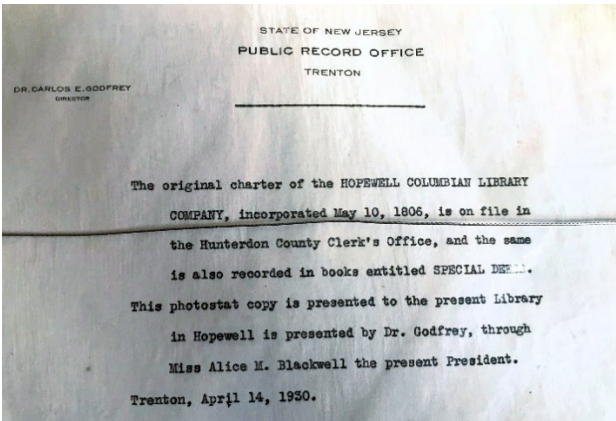
"Hopewell Columbian Library Company" (May 10, 1806) - [Re-]Incorporation

The Hopewell Public Library has a framed document from 1806 in which the trustees of the [then existing] Hopewell Library Company changed its name to "Hopewell Columbian Library Company." The document gives the address as Columbia, in Hopewell Township, in Hunterdon County, which seems to indicate that they were based in what was then Columbia (now Hopewell Borough).

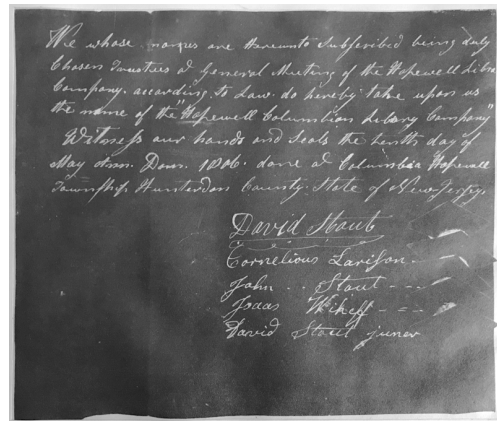
The list of trustees appear to be Hopewell names: David Stout, Cornelious Larison, John Stout, Jonas Wikoff, David Stout Jr.

- The Hopewell Museum was donated a copy of this document [HH 4/18/1930, in HVHS Fall 2005]

- The Hopewell Museum was donated 5 books from this library, published 1793-1811 [HH 5/15/42]



Statement from New Jersey Public Record Office, presented to the library, April 14, 1930 [HPL]



Photostat of original charter of the Hopewell Columbian Library Company, incorporated May 10, 1806 [HPL]

"We whose marks are here unto subscribed being duly chosen trustees at general meeting of the Hopewell Library Company, according to law, do hereby take upon us the name of the "Hopewell Columbian Library Company". Witness our hands and seals the tenth day of May anti. dom. 1806. Done at Columbia Hopewell Township Hunterdon County State of New Jersey.

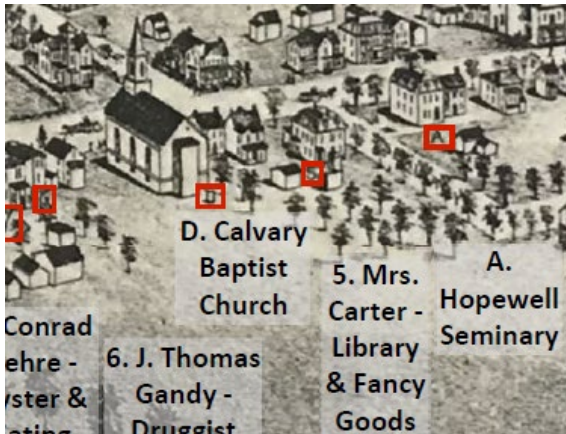
/s/ David Stout, Cornelious Larison, John Stout, Jonas Wikoff, David Stout junior"

[Transcribed as possible from handwritten original]

Mrs. Carter Library - 15 E Broad at Seminary [Hopewell Bistro] (by 1887)

The 1887 Fowler map of Hopewell shows "Mrs. M. A. Carter, Library and Fancy Goods" in the building at the corner of East Broad and Seminary (15 E Broad, apparently rebuilt as the Central Hotel and now the Hopewell Bistro).

Nothing more is known of this; [HAHG 1990] lists it as the first public library in Hopewell. (The earlier 1875 Mercer Atlas map by Everts and Stewart shows the location as "home of Mrs. C. Riley." The later 1890 Scarlett & Scarlett Fire Map shows a small building at the corner with "Bakery" building behind. Then the 1902 Sanborn Fire Map shows a larger building as the "Central Hotel.")



"Mrs. M. A. Carter, Library and Fancy Goods" (#5)
at corner of E Broad and Seminary
(15 E Broad, now Hopewell Bistro)

[Hopewell, New Jersey map, T. M. Fowler, 1887
(cropped, with annotations)]

New Jersey Circulating / Traveling Libraries - Grange

There are multiple references to "circulating libraries" around the area in the 1800's and into the 1900's. These were state efforts to loan books to municipalities to reach lightly populated regions. The Grange was coordinating this effort in Hopewell.

By 1901 the principal of the Hopewell public school decried the lack of any library in town. The town had moved the public school to 12-14 Model Avenue near Greenwood in 1888, and was preparing to found a high school in 1906: "Four years ago about 160 books were received from the Hopewell Circulating Library and this constitutes almost entirely the school library. ... When it is remembered that there is no library in town except the Sunday School libraries it will be seen what a great advantage a good school library will be to the children. - Miles D. Wagner, Principal" [HH Sep 11, 1901]

"The second library to serve Hopewell seems to have been a traveling library organized by the Hopewell Grange. Even less is known about this library, which is mentioned in a newspaper article dated February 4, 1914, and found in Ms. Weart's scrapbook. The article states that the New Jersey Public Library Commission supplied books to the grange for its traveling library, which served the outlying districts of Hopewell. ... [When the Hopewell Free Public Library was organized] The Hopewell Grange was concerned that the state would only give money to support one library in Hopewell. However, Miss Askew [of the state Public Library Commission] assured them that this was not the case, since the new library would serve the needs of the borough and the grange would serve the needs of the countryside." [HVHS Fall 2005]

The Tabard Inn Library - Hopewell Cash Market

There were also commercial ventures for distributing books to eager readers in the United States during the early 20th century. For example, the Hopewell Herald in 1909 contained advertisements for the Hopewell Cash Market of W. J. Braunworth, Hopewell, N.J ("High Grade Goods. Lowest Prices"). These advertisements included the expected market goods - vegetables and fruits, tea and coffee, flour, newspapers and magazines - plus a for-profit membership lending library:

"Join the Tabard Inn Library and get good reading at a small cost." [Hopewell Herald, June 30 1909]

"An early holiday suggestion - Why buy a book for an Xmas gift when a life membership certificate in the Booklovers library will give unlimited reading for 3 months for what one book would cost.

"Hopewell agency for Booklovers and Tabard Inn libraries, up-to-date books rented on our 2c a day plan." [Hopewell Cash Market ad, Hopewell Herald, Nov. 30, 1910]

Hopewell Cash Market.
High Grade Goods. Lowest Prices.

Home Grown
**Raspberries, Peas,
Beets, Radishes,**
and early vegetables and fruits.

Tetley's tea, the virgin flavor,
is kept for you in airtight tins.
Just the right kind to make leed tea.

Our coffee has the taste that
satisfies—red, brown, blue and
white bag. Each one a winner.

We are the leaders in flour.

Hopewell agency for news-
papers, magazines, delivered by
carrier or mail.

Join the Tabard Inn Library
and get good reading at small
cost.

Open evenings.

W. J. BRAUNWORTH
Phone 48-L. HOPEWELL, N. J.

William Donaldson & Company
Solicit you to become a member of
The Tabard Inn Library.

Buy Exchangeable Books—Through an arrangement made with The Tabard Inn Library every \$1.50 book bought of us at \$1.18 can be exchanged at any Tabard Inn Station at any time and as often as you like.

The Plan Is Simple—You pay \$1.18 for a \$1.50 book in the Tabard Inn Library and the book is yours. When you have read the book you may want another, you simply hand us back the book with 5c and select any other book in the exchange station. It may be you will not finish reading the book until you arrive in Chicago, New York or London, or some other of the 2000 cities where the Tabard Inn Library has its branches. At any of the branch stations you can exchange by paying 5c.

REMEMBER, to become a member of the Tabard Inn Library, it cost you absolutely nothing above the regular price of the book, viz.: \$1.18, our price for all \$1.50 books (except net books). Now think after joining the Tabard Inn Library you have the privilege of reading the new up-to-date books at 5c each. Cheap enough, don't you think—this library will commence operations Saturday, September 10th, and we ask you to join early—there is no restrictions whatever as to what you buy—only it's got to be \$1.18 book. **Book Section Wm. Donaldson & Co.**

"The Tabard Inn Library"
advertisement with bookcase illustration
[Minneapolis Journal, September 09, 1904 (LOC)]

"Hopewell Cash Market" / "Join the Tabard Inn Library"
[Hopewell Herald, June 30 1909]

As described by LibraryHistoryBuff.org:

"The Tabard Inn Library was a for-profit membership library founded in 1902 by Seymour Eaton. It was administered by the Booklovers Library, another Eaton enterprise."

"After paying a life membership fee of \$3.00, members could purchase the book checks or exchange tickets for 25 cents for six or one dollar for twenty-five. The member then dropped one of the book checks into a compartment on a special revolving bookcase at the Tabard Inn Library Station to exchange one book. The stations were located in drug stores and other commercial establishments throughout the United States."

"The bookcases held 120 books which were to be changed from a central location every week. A member deposited five cents in a compartment in the bookcase (see left) to exchange a book. The carved message around the top of the bookcase reads 'The Best Reading Rooms In the United States Are the Homes of the American People'."

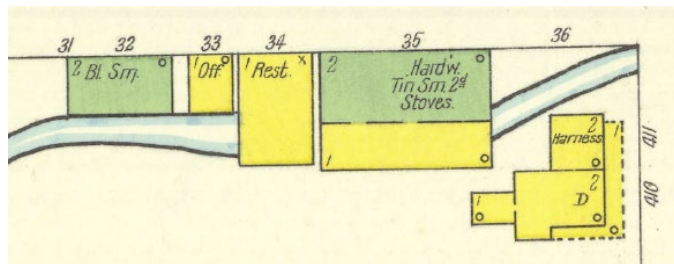
Hopewell Free Public Library Founded - 64 W Broad at Mercer (March 18, 1914)

The Roundabout Club led an effort and contributed funding to establish the Hopewell Free Public Library in 1914. The library was opened in March 1914 in the former harness shop of Joseph Harrison on West Broad at Mercer (64 W Broad, now private home).

- April 25, 1889 Meeting at Dr. J. A. Miller to organize "Lawn Tennis and Social Club".
 - Jan. 10, 1890 Named Roundabout Club because of habit of meeting roundabout homes of members.
 - Nov. 1913 Committee from club consulted State Library Commission.
 - Dec. 13, 1913 Committee authorized to canvass for members money and books available for purpose.
 - Jan. 10, 1914 Meeting in Grange Hall to organize Free Public Library Association.
 - Jan. 16, 1914 Board of Trustees appoint Miss Eleanor Weart librarian.
 - Mar. 18, 1914 Library open for inspection in Mr. Harrison's office.
 - Mar. 21, 1914 Open for business with 600 volumes.
- [Library Chronology, Weart 1946]



"J. H. Harrison, Harnesses" (#14),
on W Broad at corner of Mercer
[Hopewell, N. J. map, T. M. Fowler, 1887
(cropped, with annotations)]



"Harness" shop on W Broad at corner of Mercer
[Sanborn Fire Map of Hopewell, N. J., 1902]

"The Hopewell Free Public Library is now established in the Harrison building. The association has collected more than \$500 for books and magazines which, with the books loaned by the State Library Commission, will give a good collection." [Trenton Times, March 01, 1914]

"The library opened in the old Joe Harrison harness shop near Grange Hall on Mercer Street. The books were kept in the glass cases where Joe exhibited his finest harnesses." [Trenton Evening Times, c1949]

"In March 1914, John Armstrong painted a sign for the front of the library which was then located in his grandfather's harness shop on the corner of Broad and Mercer streets."
[Hopewell Herald, Oct. 17, 1923]

"Large Attendance at Hopewell Library

Hopewell, March 21 - The Free Public Library was opened Wednesday in the Harrison building. The attendance and interest shown by the townspeople guarantee the support of the proposition. The library is being managed by the Hopewell Free Public Library Association. Miss Eleanor Weart is librarian and Miss Margaret Bond assistant." [Tr Times, Mar 22, 1914]
[Paper published Sun., March 22, 1914, article dated Sat. March 21, so opening was Wed. March 18]

About the harness shop and adjacent structures:

"Blackwell House / Harness Shop, 64 West Broad Street

The original c. 1865 building was (in 1875) a harness shop owned by B. Blackwell. The c. 1880 expansion added a residential unit to the earlier commercial structure -- further expansion occurred c. 1905. The commercial section of the building continued to serve as a harness shop into the 20th century." [SS 1984]

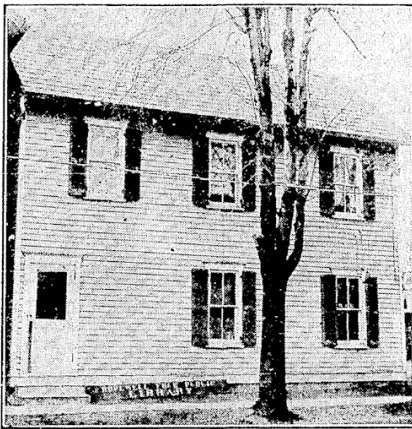
Adjacent structures on maps:

- 66 W Broad (toward Louellen) - "...was the site of the B. H. Leigh Wheelwright Shop, but by 1887 a 2 story flat-roofed dwelling had been erected here." [SS 1984]
- 2-6 Mercer (#12, now Franco's Pizza) - "J. H. Piggott Agricultural Implements"
- 12-14 Mercer (#13, now Shulte Restorations, formerly Grange hall) - "Hopewell Herald"

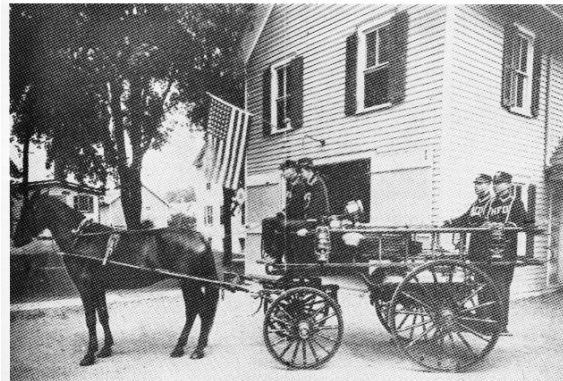
Hopewell Free Public Library Moves to Fireman's Hall - 15 Seminary (March 15, 1915)

One year after opening, on March 15, 1915, the Free Public Library moved to Fireman's Hall (15 Seminary). The library used the second floor. The building was used by a Hopewell fire company before the local companies consolidated in Columbia Hall. During this time, it was also used by the borough as an election polling site.

The library became tax supported in 1917. "The first of January the Free Public Library passed from the hands of the Library Association and was placed under borough control." [HH, Jan 24, 1917] As of October 1916, with a Borough population of 1,200, the library had 680 active patrons and owned more than 1,300 books, and had circulated 10,127 books over the past year. [Trenton Times, Oct. 22, 1916].

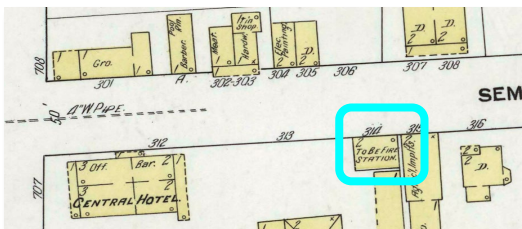


"Hopewell Free Public Library"
(front / street side - sign on ground)
[Trenton Sunday Times, Dec. 12, 1915]



FIRST CHEMICAL ENGINE AT SEMINARY AVENUE FIRE HOUSE. left to right are: Elmer Van Dyke, Harry Cox, William Cray, Charles Williamson.

"First Chemical engine at Seminary Avenue Fire House" (c 1911) (north side)
[Hopewell Fire Department 75th Anniv., 1986]



Identified as "To Be Fire Station" at 15 Seminary
[Sanborn Fire Map, 1912]

"Mar. 15, 1915 - Moved to Fireman's Hall
(Next to Schanck's Market)."
[Library Chronology, Weart 1946]

"In the spring of 1915 through the kindness of the Business Men's League and the fire department, the library was moved from Mercer street to its present quarters on Seminary avenue. The work was accomplished by little boys with their express wagons." [Hopewell Herald, Oct. 17, 1923]

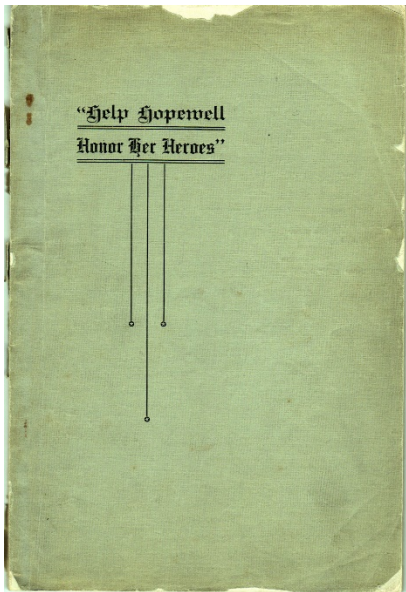
"The library is conveniently located on the second floor of Firemen's Hall on Seminary Avenue, which is near the center of the town and the room is given to the association rent free, by the firemen."
[Trenton Evening Times, Dec. 12, 1915]

"The building is expected to be made a community centre, since the building is used practically by town organizations. The lower floor is used by the fire department and the upper floor is used for the library, Borough Council for its meetings, the Business Men's League and the Welfare League. It is expected at the close of the war a move will be started to have created a municipal building which can be used by all organizations working for the welfare of the town." [Trenton Evening Times, Monday, Jan 13, 1918]

Library Week - Fund Raising for Combined Public Library & Museum (1921)

In May 1921 the Hopewell Free Public Library, still housed in Fireman's Hall on Seminary Avenue, organized a major Library Week event to raise funds for a new larger building that could accommodate its growing collection of reading material, plus museum space for the increasing displays of historical antiques donated to the Library. A week-long celebration, "Help Hopewell Honor Her Heroes," was planned.

Over a hundred townspeople took part in two performances at Columbia Hall (at the Hopewell Theater site) in "The Masque Of Hopewell - an Historical Pageant." The participants included many descendants of the original characters.



Library Week, May 21 - 30, 1921 - program booklet

For the purpose of raising funds to erect at Hopewell, N. J. A Library and a Museum in Memory of Our Pioneers and Heroes Slogan: "Help Hopewell Honor Her Heroes" [HPL]

The pageant covered Hopewell history, starting with native tribes at Minnepenasson and the Stout family, and then stepping through glimpses of Isaac Eaton, Revolutionary call to arms, John Hart, George Washington, Lafayette, the Frog War, and the Centennial. The presentation also had a tableau with Civil War and WW [I] veterans, and John Robinson who came North via the Underground Railroad. It ended with an Appeal To Knowledge: "In books, ye talk with sages, and walk with kings."

Throughout the week the library was open to view the antique exhibits, with tea each afternoon at 4:00 pm. There was an information booth, an outdoor quilt and coverlet exhibition, a Colonial Supper, moving pictures (*Daddy Long Legs!*), bake sale, and Memorial Day Exercises that included a baseball game, refreshments, and evening festival and bazaar.

"The rapid growth of the library has made a new and larger building an imperative necessity. In 1921 several collections of Colonial records and antiques; notably that of Miss Sarah D. Stout were offered to the library, provided a suitable fireproof building be erected for them. The Trustees having accepted the offers, and finding the people of Hopewell appreciative, and with their friends and relatives far and near interested in the enterprise, have set aside the last week in May as Library Week." [LW 1921]

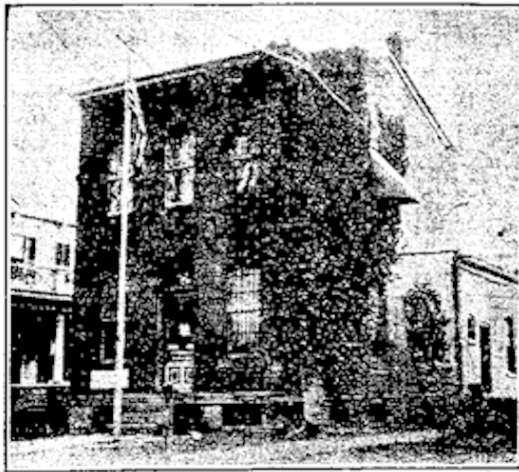
Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Association (1922)

The Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association was incorporated in February 1922, separate from the library, to solicit funds for a combined library and museum. This resulted in extensive public discussion on the alternatives for housing the library's books and its growing collection of artifacts.

In March 1922 the association purchased the old National Bank building (13 E Broad) for \$6000. In December 1922 there was public discussion about the possibility of enlarging the building with an addition.

Then in October 1923 Hugh A. Smith (the former mayor) published an open letter offering to sell his residence (the Stout House, 28 E Broad) for the library / museum. Smith also offered to take ownership of the old National Bank building (13 E Broad) as part of the purchase.

The Association did buy the Stout / Smith building in April 1924, and the museum took residence soon thereafter and the library January 1925 (see next). The debt from the purchase was paid off in May 1926 though the generosity of Edward Updyke of Omaha, Nebraska, husband to Mary Stout Updyke, the sister of Miss Sarah D. Stout, whose original donation spurred the need for a museum. The Association's name was formally changed to Hopewell Museum in 1961 [MC Clerk, 1962].



Hopewell Post Office

"Hopewell Post Office" (13 E Broad)
[Trenton Evening Times, March 26, 1922]

Offered as Hopewell Library

Home of Hugh A. Smith

The accompanying picture shows the Smith property in Hopewell which the owner, H. A. Smith, has offered to the Hopewell Free Public Library Association for use as a library and museum at a price far below its probable worth. Randall Stout, who built the house fashioned it from handcut brown stone. It has 19 rooms and is surrounded by spacious grounds.

"Home of Hugh A. Smith" (28 E Broad)
[Trenton Evening Times, Oct. 21, 1923]

Funding details:

"In February, 1922, to comply with the library laws of New Jersey, the library soliciting committee appointed by the library trustees became incorporated as a non-remunerative corporation under the name of The Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association. In March, 1922, they bought of George E. Pierson, John N. Race and Dr. T. A. Pierson, the old bank building, the price which was made to the association being \$6,000. The building is now occupied by the telephone company and the post office. The rents from these tenants have paid the Interest on the mortgage of \$4,000, the taxes, insurance and all running expenses, \$2,000 having been paid down on the property at the time of the purchase."

[Trenton Evening Times, Oct. 17, 1923]

"An Open Letter

To the Library Publicity Committee, Hopewell, N. J.:

To every interested person in the Hopewell Free Library:

I am interested in the Free Public Library and agree with others that the present owned building is too small for the library and its historical collections, and agree to sell my property on Broad street for \$16,000.00 which can be used immediately. I am open to two propositions: First, I will take a first mortgage of \$6,000.00 and the present owned Free Public Library could be disposed of to pay the balance of which I will contribute \$1,000 and my son, Alfred, will contribute \$500.00. Second: I will take over the present owned building at what the library paid for it, namely \$6,000. I will also take a first mortgage of \$8,000. On the balance I will contribute \$1,000 and Alfred will contribute \$500.00.

I will keep the above propositions open for thirty days.

Signed,

H. A. Smith"

[Hopewell Herald, Oct 10 1923]

"Through the generosity of Edward Updyke of Omaha, Nebraska, ... the two mortgages against the Library Museum building, amounting to \$6,600, have been paid off.

This debt is paid off in the memory of Mr. Updyke's wife, Mary Stout Updyke, ..., as it was her wish to see the Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association housed in a property free of debt. Mrs. Updyke was a sister of Miss Sarah D. Stout and J. Hervey Stout, of this place, who left the Stout relics to begin a museum collection here which has been a delight to the townspeople and visitors who have viewed the exhibition rooms.

The Smith property, which now shelters the museum articles and the Hopewell Free Public Library, was bought by the Funding and Building Association about two years ago. The indebtedness had been paid to the extent of about \$1,200 prior to the present fine sum, which clears it of all debt."

[Trenton Evening Times, May 23 1926]

Combined Public Library & Museum Moves to Stout House - 28 E Broad (Jan. 22, 1925)

The current Hopewell Museum building was built as a residence for Randolph Stout in 1877. It was purchased from his estate by Hugh A. Smith (the former mayor) in 1906.

After extensive public discussion of Smith's offer to sell the building, the Funding and Building Association, purchased it in April 1924 for the combined use of the library and museum. The museum moved in immediately. The west side of the first floor was walled off to provide a dedicated space for the library. The Hopewell Free Public Library moved to the building in January 22, 1925. [Trustee minutes, Feb. 13, 1925]



"Residence of H. A. Smith" (28 E Broad)
[1909 Hopewell N.J., Fry & Whitehead, 1909]



"Public Library and Museum, in Memory of
Our Pioneers and Heroes - Hopewell, N. J."
[postcard 1940 (note added front porch)]

"Resolved - That the work of shelving and petitioning off has made the two rooms, on the first floor, west side of the building, at No. 28 East Broad street, private from the other rooms of the building, and amply adequate for Library purposes." [Trustees minutes, Jan. 17, 1925]

The Stout House

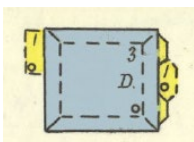
"Randolph Stout House (Hopewell Museum), East Broad Street
2½ story, 3 bay masonry Second Empire structure built in 1877.

...It was initially associated with a lumber yard formerly sited on the lot to the west. This lumber yard was removed during the 1890s. In 1924 the former Stout house became the home of the Hopewell Museum and the borough's public library (the library was moved elsewhere in 1965)." [SS 1985]

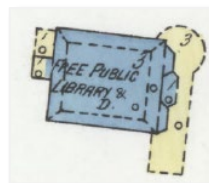
April 26, 1906 - Purchased by Hugh A. Smith from Carrie W. Stout, Executrix [MCD 288 273]

April 8, 1924 – Purchased by the Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association from Hugh A. Smith and Charlotte M. Smith [MCD 534 343]

"Mr. Abbott and family are now occupying the second floor as tenants and caretakers. ... Old Hopewell is to be congratulated upon having such a home for its most valuable educational center..." [Hopewell Herald, Wed, April 16, 1924]



Residence, original front
[Sanborn 1902 (& 1912)]



"Free Public Library"
(extended front porch)
[Sanborn 1927]

Hopewell Public Library Moves to National Bank building - 13 E Broad (Feb. 13, 1965)

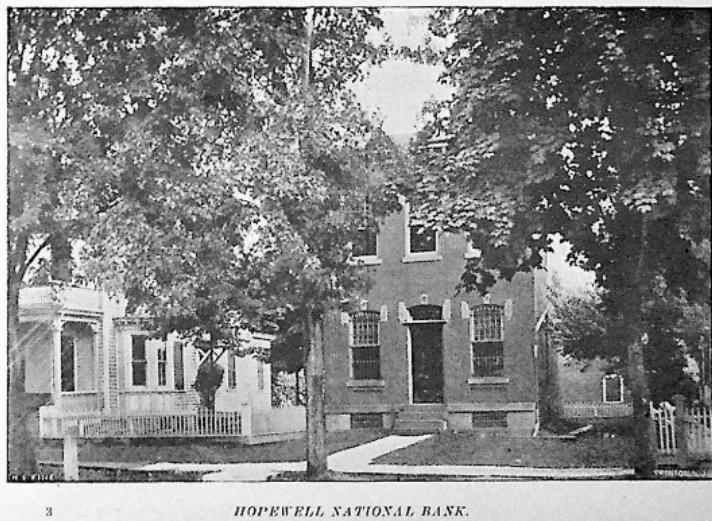
On Saturday, February 13, 1965 the Hopewell Public Library moved to its current location in the old Hopewell National Bank building (13 E Broad Street). The bank vault is still in the building, although its door has been removed.



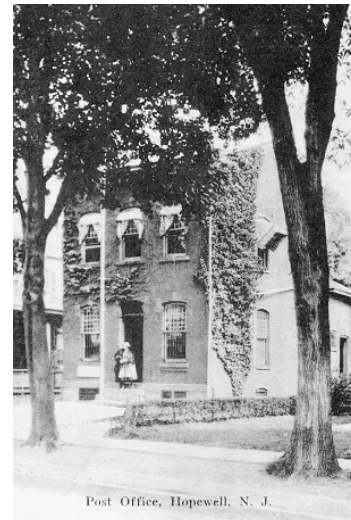
Hopewell Public Library today

"Back in 1965, the library was moving to 13 E. Broad St. and a February 18 story related that "the dream of many years came true in Hopewell last Saturday [Feb. 13] when the Free Public Library opened the door of its new headquarters. ... Only a few years before, the museum had become a separate organization supported by donations and the library dependent upon tax money and collections from its subscribers. Each has its own board of trustees. The quarters occupied by the library were rented from the museum with the rent paid by the borough." [Hopewell Valley News, April 20, 1989]

"Old Phone Building / Hopewell Borough's mayor and council plan to inspect the building on West Broad Street which housed the New Jersey Bell Telephone installation before the new dial system was put into operation last month. ... Councilman J. Neil Arrington read a letter from the Bell Telephone Company in which the building was appraised at \$15,700. ... The possibility of housing the Hopewell Public Library in the building was discussed by the Council. Both the Library and the Hopewell Museum, they share the Museum Building, are in need of enlarged quarters. [newspaper article]



"Hopewell National Bank" (13 E Broad)
[*Healthful Historic Hopewell*, Normer Gray, 1897]



"Post Office" (13 E Broad)
[Postcard (after 1914)]

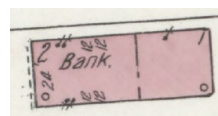
The Many Lives of 13 East Broad Street (1890)

The future home of the Hopewell Public Library (13 East Broad) was built for the Hopewell National Bank, which commenced business there March 17, 1890 [HH 7-20-1892]. The rear addition was built between 1902 and 1912 [Sanborn maps for 1902 and 1912]. The lot was originally purchased for \$100 [MCD 171 368].

In 1914 the National Bank was constructing a new larger building at the corner of East Broad and Greenwood (2 E Broad, formerly Cook's Block, now Dana), with a plan to use the old building as the town's new post office [HH Supplement, May 1914]. The building was then occupied by the post office and the telephone company (on the second floor). The Hopewell Savings and Loan Association also had offices there.



"Bank"
[Sanborn 1902]



"Bank"
(with addition)
[Sanborn 1912]

Sources

[HH] Hopewell Herald

[TrTimes] Trenton Evening / Sunday Times

[HwMus Web] The Hopewell Museum - website

[HVHS] Hopewell Valley Historical Society Newsletter

[Trustee minutes] Journals of the library trustee meetings, at the HPL

[MCD book / page] Mercer County Deeds, recorded by book and page

1909 Hopewell NJ - Booklet / Fry & Whitehead (1909)

[LibWeek 1921] Library Week pamphlet, "Help Hopewell Honor Her Heroes" (1921)

[Weart 1946] "Hopewell Honors the Weart Sisters" program (1946)

[SS 1984] Hopewell Site Survey / Cultural Resource Survey (1984)

[FireDept 1986] Hopewell Fire Department 75th Anniversary Booklet, 1911 - 1986 (1986)

[Gantz 1987] *Hopewell's Past* / Betty Gantz (1987)

[HAHG 1990] *Hopewell : A Historical Geography* / Richard Hunter & Richard Porter (1990)

Thanks

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Hopewell Public Library Timeline

Date	Event	Source
1806-05-10	"Hopewell Columbian Library Company" founded in Columbia, Hopewell Township, Hunterdon County	NJ PRO
1877	Randolph Stout House built (current Museum, 28 E Broad)	SS
1887	"Mrs. M. A. Carter, Library and Fancy Goods" at Broad & Seminary on Fowler map (15 E Broad, now Hopewell Bistro)	1887 Fowler
1890-03-17	Hopewell National Bank opens at 13 East Broad, future site of Hopewell Public Library	HH 7/20/1892
1906-04-26	Strout House purchased by Hugh A. Smith from Carrie W. Stout, executrix (current Museum, 28 E Broad)	MCD 288 273
1914-01-10	[Roundabout Club] Meeting in Grange Hall (12-14 Mercer) to organize Free Public Library Association	Wert 1946
1914-03-18	Hopewell Free Public Library opens at Broad and Mercer in former harness shop of Joseph Harrison (64 West Broad). 600 volumes	Wert 1946
1914	Hopewell National Bank constructing new building at corner of E Broad and Greenwood (2 E Broad, formerly Cook's Block, now Dana)	HH 5/1914
1915	Hopewell Post Office replaces Hopewell National Bank at 13 East Broad Street	
1915-03-15	Hopewell Free Public Library moves to Fireman's Hall , 2nd floor (15 Seminary, next to Schanck's Market). Children carry books in wagons	Wert 1946
1916-10	Hopewell Public Library had 680 active patrons, owned over 1,300 books, circulated 10,127 books over past year. Boro population 2000	Tr Times 10/22/1916
1917-01-01	Hopewell Free Public Library becomes tax supported, under Borough control	HH 1/24/1917
1921-05-21	Library Week fund raiser, including "The Masque Of Hopewell - an Historical Pageant" with 100 participants	Pamphlet
1922-02	Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association incorporated, separate from library, to solicit funds for combined library and museum	Tr Times 10/17/1923
1922-03	Old National Bank building purchased by Library and Museum Association for \$6000 (13 E Broad). Building occupied by post office and phone company (2nd floor)	Tr Times 10/17/1923
1924-04-08	Strout House purchased by Library and Museum Association from Hugh A. and Charlotte M. Smith (current Museum, 28 E Broad)	MCD 534 343
1924-04	Hopewell museum opens to visitors in Stout House (28 E Broad)	
1925-01-22	Hopewell Free Public Library moves to Stout House with museum (28 East Broad). Uses 2 rooms on west side ground floor.	Trustee minutes
1946-01	Hopewell Public Library has 10,837 volumes	Wert 1946
1965-02-13	Hopewell Public Library moves to 13 E Broad (Hopewell National Bank)	Newspaper