



## EARLY HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1857 G. Tanner elected as librarian of the Winona Lyceum.
- 1858 Dr. I. R. Cone, librarian, reports collection of 47 volumes.
- 1863 Officers elected for the Young Men's Library Club. Sheldon P. Carey named first president.
- 1867 Book collection reported at nearly 1000 volumes.
- 1875 Library closed due to debt issues.
- 1877 Mrs. J. B. McGaughey, Mrs. Thomas Wilson, and Miss Charlotte Prentiss lifted the debt and reorganized the library under a new name, the Winona Library Association.
- 1882 Miss Jeanette A. Clark is named librarian. She will serve as librarian for over a half-century until the year 1936.
- 1886 Winona Library Association turns over 3500 books to the city for use for all residents to form Winona's first free public library located on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Lafayette streets.
- 1899 William H. Laird's \$50,000 donation builds the present-day Winona Public Library on 5<sup>th</sup> and Johnson St. and opens to the public on January 21st. The Winona Library Association donates \$7000-\$8000 toward furnishings.
- Frederic Somers Bell elected first president of the Library Board.
- Statue of Hebe donated to the library by Mrs. William H. Laird on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The statue is a copy in Carrara marble of the original work by Antonio Canova.
- 1910 Kenyon Cox mural, *The Light of Learning*, donated to the library by William H. Hayes in memory of his wife and former library employee, Charlotte Prentiss Hayes.
- 1913 Library collection grows to 32,000 volumes. Additional stack space is constructed with a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Laird family, providing space to hold up to 60,000 volumes.
- 1921 First Children's Room opens on ground floor with a separate entrance on Johnson Street. This space was previously the library's Lecture Room. Miss Mary A. Holmes is named the first children's librarian and in charge of their 5000 books.
- 1936 Miss Ethel Binney succeeds Miss Jeanette Clark as librarian. She will serve until 1944.