



Facts about Buckham Memorial Library

Library History

Faribault Public Library as a tax supported institution dates from 1897, when it was housed in the City Hall building. Mrs. Anna Buckham gave the Thomas Scott Buckham Memorial Library building to the City of Faribault in memory of her husband. The cornerstone was laid in September of 1929, and dedication of the building took place on July 20, 1930.

The Building

Anna Buckham chose Greece as a central theme for the library because Judge Buckham was an avid Greek scholar with a particular interest in the arts.

The Greek window in the center of the original building was designed and made by Charles Connick of Boston. It expresses the spirit of the Greek tradition in light and color. The Connick studio is one of the finest stained glass studios in the world. Mr. Connick also designed the famous Rose Window in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

On the walls of the second floor Great Hall are four Greek murals painted by Alfred J. Hyslop, a former professor of art at Carleton College in Northfield. The panels depict scenes from Olympia, Athens, Sparta, and Delphi.

A major renovation project was undertaken in the early 1990's, with a new addition to the Library connecting the building to the Community Center next door. A rededication ceremony was held on July 23, 1994. The Buckham Center concept was born, with the Faribault Senior Center, Community Center, and Buckham Memorial Library connected by inner hallways and participating in cooperative programming. The annual Buckham Center Hometown Holidays celebration is an example of a community event planned and coordinated with the entire Buckham Center participating.

Tower Chimes

The Deagan Company built tower chime systems between the years of 1920 and 1958. Systems were originally installed in 439 public buildings and churches around the country. Because of lack of interest in historic preservation, and because service was unavailable for many years after the Deagan company closed, many systems fell silent over the years. The Buckham Memorial Library's chimes stopped working in the mid-1980s. William T. Pugh of Top Rung Tower Chime & Organ Service in Lawrence, Kansas restored the Library's clock chime system in 1999. The chimes strike on the hour.

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