

# SIMSBURY

## Genealogical and Historical Research Library

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### The Simsbury Free Library The Original Trustees: Part 6

*Amos R. Eno wrote these words to be read in January 1890 at the dedication of the Simsbury Free Library building:*

*My last teacher was a graduate of Amherst College, and I took my degree figuratively in the Academy or Studio about twenty by thirty feet, which I think may now be seen standing opposite Mr. Bestor McLean's barn. There were about thirty graduates, and if you will look at the Studio you will see how nicely we were packed, with the box-stove in the center.*

*The school was presided over by the Rev. Allan McLean of blessed memory, who was revered and loved by every one that knew him. His influence for good will be felt in Simsbury for many generations.<sup>1</sup>*

*So it must have been a pleasure for Mr. Eno in 1874 to appoint John Bunyan McLean, the grandson of his boyhood pastor and teacher, to be one of the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library.*

#### **John Bunyan McLean (1852-1923)**

John Bunyan McLean followed his grandfather's example and became both a clergyman and an educator. But unlike his grandfather, education took precedence in his life. He never was pastor of a church, but he established two private schools: the Simsbury Academy, followed by the McLean Seminary. He also became the first superintendent of Simsbury's public schools.

All of that was in the future for John B. McLean in October 1874 when Mr. Eno appointed him to the Simsbury Free Library's board of trustees. At that time he was a twenty-one-year-old bachelor school teacher, the fourth of Dudley Bestor and Mary Payne McLean's five children. His father was a prosperous farmer who was active in town affairs. A deacon of the Congregational Church, his father served as town clerk, judge of probate and, as a Republican, was elected the town's representative to the state legislature in 1870 and 1880.<sup>2</sup> Also, for many years he was on the Board of School Visitors, the precursor of the Board of Education, as would be his son John.<sup>3</sup>

Reverend Allen McLean wrote that his grandson was given the name John Bunyan "for that excellent man, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, a book of estimable value."<sup>4</sup> John B. McLean, like his older brother, Charles Allen McLean, was born with a malformation of his ankle and foot described by Charles's daughter, Mary McLean Daniells, as a "club foot," but neither of them let that stop them from any physical activity, she remembered.<sup>5</sup> His sister Hannah's son, architect William Roger Greeley, wrote:

His appetite for literature had been strong enough to impel him once a month for six winter months to walk the twelve limping miles to Hartford to hear a lecture and then grope his way back through four hours of inky darkness over the lonely mountain road, arriving home at two or three in the morning.... He was so curious to see an opera that he got Uncle Charlie to go with him to the Railroad Station and borrow a hand-car which they then pumped to Hartford. After the opera they came out of the hall to find that it was snowing. The hand-car wouldn't move so they borrowed two brooms of a friendly hostler and lashed them to the hand-car in such a way that they would sweep the tracks in front of the wheels.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. Greeley also wrote about the night the McLean family was coming back from Hartford after a revival meeting:

The revivalists were crowded into a nine-car train and when crossing flooded meadows in Tariffville the trestle gave way and three of the cars went down into the water. Uncle John and Uncle Charlie plunged into the icy flood, waist deep, and spent the night rescuing the living and pulling out the bodies of the drowned. They were in the icy water for about six hours and yet survived unharmed.<sup>7</sup>

John McLean's early education prepared him to be a teacher. After completing all the schooling available in his hometown he studied at Hartford High School for a year or two and may have taken courses at the State Normal School in New Britain, but was not graduated from either school.<sup>8</sup> He began to teach when he was about seventeen in one of Simsbury's common schools, as public elementary schools were called.<sup>9</sup>

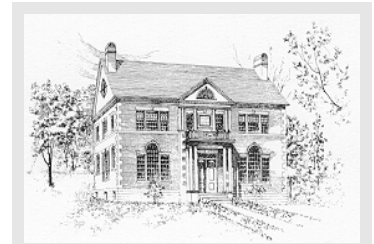
Realizing that some of his students were going on for further education, in 1879, when he was twenty-six, he began an evening select school that quickly grew into the full-time Simsbury Academy. He taught his students for the first two weeks in the upper story of the Hop Meadow District School amid the books of the Simsbury Free Library.<sup>10</sup> Then, for the rest of the school year, he taught in the small building that stood next to the probate office on the south side of Wilcox Street. A newspaper article gave this account of the building and of the school's next location.

This little building has an interesting history of its own, having originally been the law office of Elisha Phelps, one time congressman and the grandfather of Mrs. [Antoinette Eno] Wood. It was later moved and became the law office of Judge J. O. Phelps...The school increased in popularity so rapidly that Mr. McLean was obliged to seek larger quarters and bought the Everett Wilcox house which stood at the north end of Hop Meadow street. This building was moved [to Station Street] and the school conducted there for many years. At the time it was almost entirely a day school and the pupils were the sons and daughters of the town folks."<sup>11</sup>

In the late 1880s, Lucius I. Barber, the Simsbury historian and Mr. McLean's good friend, wrote of the Simsbury Academy, "Here boys are fitted for College, or trained for business, and both boys and girls prepared for teaching."<sup>12</sup> Mr. McLean and his assistant teacher taught academic subjects, and the school eventually had instructors for drawing and painting, vocal music, and instrumental music.<sup>13</sup>

The Wilcox house mentioned in the newspaper article originally stood somewhere on the present St. Mary Church property. Probably with the help of his brother Charles, who had become a builder, Mr. McLean moved it to about where the Landmark Building is today, but reoriented it to face Station Street. He added a third floor, most likely by changing a peaked roof to a gambrel and adding the dormers that are evident in a photograph of the building.<sup>14</sup> This is where he lived and kept his school until he built a neighboring building in 1884. It was 27 by 96 feet, with a store on the first floor and his schoolroom on the second, which was described as "of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate 75 or 80 pupils," although only forty-five were enrolled that year.<sup>15</sup>

The young scholars of the Simsbury Academy added zest to the town. The *Hartford Daily Courant* reported in February 1883 that forty-eight students and teachers had taken a sleigh ride to the Thurston House in Tariffville for supper. The next month the paper said "the young ladies of J. B. McLean's school gave the young gentlemen belonging to the same school a supper at the town hall." (This is the building that is now Boy Scout Hall.) A month after that, the students presented their



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annual exhibition, or program, that ran for two evenings and raised \$70 (about \$1,490 in today's dollars), for which they and their guests were treated to an oyster supper in the schoolroom.<sup>16</sup> During the summer months they arranged picnics at places like Lake Congamond. The several boys who boarded liked to join the local students for a swim in the Farmington River or a day of shooting on Talcott Mountain.<sup>17</sup>

Remembering his own youthful trips to Hartford, Mr. McLean made sure the school sponsored a yearly series of programs during the winter months that brought to town many speakers, musicians and other performers. Particular favorites, who were asked back, were violinist and violist Guisepppe Vitale and the Yale Glee Club.<sup>18</sup> The proud principal also brought his students to recite at the Teachers Institutes that were held in town from time to time. Another offshoot of the Academy was its own annual reunion in June, which was always well attended. The school had been in existence only seven years when the alumni group reported that "among the 176 persons that have been connected with [the academy] there have been eight marriages of the pupils, and among the graduates are two doctors and seventeen school teachers."<sup>19</sup>

It must have seemed romantic to the young people when their thirty-year-old principal married Miss Ida E. Stillman of West Hartland on July 29, 1883, and pure tragedy when the young bride died of a fever on November 21.<sup>20</sup> Just a year later, Mr. McLean married his late wife's sister, Miss Carrie Stillman, who taught in Center School. They were married in Simsbury's Congregational Church on November 5, 1884.<sup>21</sup> Within months Mrs. McLean contracted "lung fever" (pneumonia) and died on February 13, 1885.<sup>22</sup>

Time passed. John McLean devoted himself to running the Simsbury Academy and, simultaneously, developed a business and prepared for the ministry. To become a minister he studied theology at home and took exams given by the Hartford Seminary.<sup>23</sup> In February 1887, at the age of thirty-four, John B. McLean was granted a license to preach by the Hartford Central Association of the Congregational Church.<sup>24</sup> From that time forward he often was referred to as Reverend McLean. He probably made his debut in the pulpit in his own Congregational Church and over the years he frequently was invited by churches all around Hartford County to conduct services and give sermons.

Then on June 16, 1887, John McLean married a third time. His bride was Ella E. Bottom, who had come from Willimantic to teach in the Hopmeadow District School. The *Hartford Daily Courant* reported that the Congregational Church was decorated with a profusion of flowers, with Charles E. Holcomb presiding at the organ. Rev. John W. Dodge came down from Yarmouth, Massachusetts, to officiate and Simsbury Free Library trustees George C. Eno and Horace Belden were the ushers. Afterward, Charles E. Curtiss gave a reception at his house.<sup>25</sup> Ella E. B. McLean outlived her husband and over their thirty-five years of marriage they raised two daughters and a son.

While he was running the Simsbury Academy, Professor McLean, as he was also called, developed a second enterprise along the northern side of the block-long Station Street. By the time he was twenty-four he had become a seedsman, that is, someone who sells seeds, and a florist. He published an annual catalogue and had several greenhouses.<sup>26</sup> He employed Edward Welch until Mr. Welch moved to Hartford and began his own florist business.<sup>27</sup> The first floor of the building that Mr. McLean built in 1884 housed the store that he needed for his florist and agricultural implement business.<sup>28</sup> In April 1888 he sold this property, which included the house, store and greenhouses and ran from Hopmeadow Street to the New Haven and Northampton railroad line, for \$5,000 to his older brother Charles.<sup>29</sup>

Unfortunately, just fourteen months later Charles contracted rheumatic fever and died.<sup>30</sup> John helped to keep the business open until Charles's widow, Harriet Woodford McLean, was able to sell the property in August 1889 to Samuel T. Welden.<sup>31</sup> The present Welden Hardware Store dates from this time, but in June 1900 the original block of wooden buildings and some of the greenhouses were

destroyed by fire. Mr. Welden rebuilt his store in brick. His nephew, William B. Welden, who later owned the business, remembered that customers gathered in five rocking chairs to discuss the news of the day and that Mr. McLean “never lost interest in the store, nor his glee in needling the clerks.”<sup>32</sup>

Two weeks after the wedding of John and Ella McLean in June 1887, the *Hartford Daily Courant* reported, “A new building for the academy is to be put up during the summer or fall on the lot north of the Rev. J. L. Tomlinson’s.”<sup>33</sup> (Amos R. Eno came to town from New York City that same week to establish the place on his land where he was going to build the Simsbury Free Library building.)<sup>34</sup> The cornerstone for the new school building was laid with much ceremony on August 1st and the imposing, gabled wooden structure was ready for occupancy in December. The newspaper account of the dedication ceremony, held on January 14, 1888, gave this description:

The building is beautifully situated on rising ground, looking for miles both north and south on the finest scenery of the Farmington Valley. It is forty by eighty feet, and is three stories high. The first floor contains reception rooms, dining hall and kitchen; the second floor contains the sleeping rooms. On the third floor is the school room proper, the studio and various recitation rooms. The large folding doors which separate the school room from the recitation rooms had been thrown open, giving ample room for an audience of several hundred persons.<sup>35</sup>

Prominent educators spoke at the dedication and Mr. McLean announced that the school had received two generous gifts: \$1,000 from Amos R. Eno and clear title to the land on which the school stood from Lucius I. Barber. He also announced that the school would be called the McLean Seminary in honor of his grandfather, Rev. Allan McLean, who had been pastor of the Simsbury Congregational Church for more than fifty years.<sup>36</sup> The building was about where the Sycamore Apartments are today.

The catalogue for the 1888-89 school year named seven faculty members in addition to Rev. McLean. The curriculum included English, French and German, history, mathematics, bookkeeping, drawing, piano, banjo and guitar and a “preparatory department.”<sup>37</sup> The suppers and entertainments went on as before, except that instead of being held in the town hall or Congregational Church they were in the seminary building, where the rooms were described as “fitted up with great taste and decorated with flowers, ferns and plants.”<sup>38</sup> Outside groups had summertime events at the school, such as the festival on the lawn and dance in the hall put on by the local Masonic lodge.<sup>39</sup> Seminary Hall was the premier place in town for social and cultural programs until the Casino was built in 1896 (on the site of the present Eno Memorial Hall).

In 1889 the students gave a musical performance to raise money for the victims of the Johnstown flood, one of their many benefit fund raisers.<sup>40</sup> The popular novelist George W. Cable began to come down from Northampton, Massachusetts, to do dramatic readings and before long Mark Twain made an appearance.<sup>41</sup> By this time Professor McLean’s older sister Sally was a novelist, too. Her first novel, *Cape Cod Folks*, published in 1881, had engendered the first libel action for fiction in the United States and had brought her immediate national fame.<sup>42</sup> Sarah Pratt McLean Greene wrote twenty novels before she died in 1935.

By this time, too, his younger brother, George Payne McLean, had graduated from Hartford High School, studied law in the office of a Hartford lawyer, and been admitted to the bar. He had represented Simsbury in the Connecticut legislature in 1883 and 1884 and served on the commission to revise the Connecticut statutes in 1885. He was elected to the state senate in 1886. This was the beginning of a career that would lead to his term as Governor of Connecticut (1901-03) and three terms in the United States Senate; he was elected in 1911, 1916 and 1922.<sup>43</sup>

The McLean Seminary boarded only girls, but at least for awhile it may have accepted boys, as well as girls, as day students.<sup>44</sup> In 1895 Rev. McLean advertised his school in *Scribner’s Magazine* as the McLean Seminary for Girls.<sup>45</sup> The 1900 United States Federal Census listed fourteen female

boarders between the ages of thirteen and twenty. One was from New Jersey, four were from New York, four from Massachusetts and five from Connecticut.

After the girls went home in June 1891, the McLeans began to open the seminary to vacationers each summer, especially clergymen and their families.<sup>46</sup> The Maple Tree Inn, built in 1895, also welcomed summer boarders. Two railroad lines brought city people into town to enjoy the rural atmosphere, authentic colonial houses and pleasant scenery. In an illustrated article in *The Connecticut Quarterly* magazine, Rev. McLean extolled the sights to be seen in Simsbury, including the Farmington River, “a stream which would have ravished the soul of Wordsworth.”<sup>47</sup>

In 1902 both Mr. McLean and Miss Sarah J. Smith, former Hartford High School teacher and founder of the Woodside Seminary, announced that her school would lease the McLean Seminary building and move there from Hartford in April.<sup>48</sup> Further, it was said that Mr. McLean would “retire from active work in teaching and devote his time to special educational endeavor, having been engaged to lecture by the city board of education of New York during the present season and having for a subject of his course ‘Instinct in Animal and Man.’ He is also collaborating with Professor W. M. Davis of Harvard in geological research in the Connecticut River valley.”<sup>49</sup>

For some reason the deal with the Woodside Seminary fell through, possibly because Miss Smith’s sister who was the vice-principal became mortally ill.<sup>50</sup> After this time both schools ceased to exist. But interest in secondary education was on the rise among the townspeople in Simsbury and at a special town meeting in April 1903 they voted to establish a public high school. Until a building could be erected, high school classes would be held on the third floor of the McLean Seminary.<sup>51</sup> Simsbury High School opened its doors on September 14, 1903, with Harry Lawton of Milford, Massachusetts, as principal, two assistant teachers, and fifty-one students.<sup>52</sup> The fine brownstone high school building (that serves as the town hall today) was dedicated in December 1907.

During the years John McLean ran private schools, he stayed active and involved in public education. In 1883 he had been elected to Simsbury’s Board of School Visitors, and he remained on the board the rest of his life.<sup>53</sup> In 1896 the town voted to make him its first Superintendent of Schools, a post that he also held the rest of his life. By 1908 he was Supervisor of the schools in Burlington, Granby and Simsbury; they were among the towns eligible for a supervisor hired by the state because each had fewer than twenty schools.<sup>54</sup> In reports in professional journals and speeches at meetings of educators, he propounded what was needed to improve the country schools. William Greeley remembered riding in his Uncle John McLean’s one-horse buggy as he toured his far-flung circuit.

The schools were scattered over the hillsides and among the mountains in a sparsely settled farm country, on lonely roads, with a stove and woodpile for heating equipment and a kerosene lantern to light the teacher’s path home in the winter twilights... I would discover that he knew and understood each teacher and her problems...[and] these lonely teachers greeted his arrival as if he were a kind and trusted father ready to listen to their troubles and solve their vexing problems.<sup>55</sup>

Like many of his contemporaries in the Victorian era, John McLean was a naturalist, always studying the physical world and making collections of botanical and geological specimens. William Greeley remembered that around the porte-cochere of the McLean Seminary building his uncle placed on the grass “amethyst clusters, shells, fossils and geodes that he had found on his tramps through the mountains.” Mr. McLean became rather well known for this avocation and by 1895 he was listed in *The Naturalists’ Directory International*.<sup>56</sup> The next year he became a founding member of the Connecticut Forestry Association. In 1899 he assured that group “there was really far more interest in trees in the country than the farmers were generally credited with. He suggested that there were many strips of useless, worn-out land that had been cropped to death that might well be sown to white pines.”<sup>57</sup>

It is one of history’s happy coincidences that the Mr. McLean’s father’s homestead and farm

straddled Firetown Road and adjoined Amos R. and Lucy Jane Eno's property, which ran east to Hopmeadow Street. As a young boy visiting his Eno grandparents, Gifford Pinchot, who would become in 1898 the first Chief of the United States Forest Service and later Governor of Pennsylvania, befriended the McLean brothers. Toward the end of his life, Mr. Pinchot wrote, "The horse and buggy days are far behind us, and the oxcart days are still further... But I remember well how my sister Nettie and I used to ride behind the oxen with John McLean, that sturdy member of a sturdy family, who afterward brought only less honor to Simsbury than U.S. Senator George McLean. Him I knew well in later life, as I knew John as a child."<sup>58</sup>

With John McLean's multiple careers and interests, which also included running a farm, helping Lucius Barber form a historical society, and pedaling on 75- and 100-mile bicycle trips, it is a wonder that he had time to work on behalf of the Simsbury Free Library. He was, however, one of the board's most active members. He served as librarian for most of the library's first ten years. He was on the book purchasing committee from the beginning until his death, and he served as secretary for thirty-four years. He also was the committee-of-one appointed to present the library's case at town meeting and convince the townspeople to vote to cover the library's running costs, which they did in 1890.<sup>59</sup>

John B. McLean died on May 12, 1923. He had lived just long enough to see the architects' plans for the addition that Antoinette Eno Wood intended to donate to the library building that her father had given the town. Mr. McLean's seat on the board remained vacant until October 1927 when two vacancies were filled by Maud Selby Tousignant and Chester David Thompson.

By Mary Jane Springman

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## Notes

1. *Report of the Proceedings at the Dedication of the Simsbury Free Library, January 28, 1890* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893), 5. Unfortunately Mr. Eno was mistaken in the college from which his teacher graduated. Rev. Allen McLean was a member of the Class of 1805 at Yale College. See *Biographies of the Graduates of Yale College with Annals of the College History*, 6 vols. (New York: H. Holt and Co., 1885-1912), 5:783-84. Rev. McLean did school at least two graduates of Amherst College in theology to prepare them for becoming licensed Congregational ministers.
2. Obituary of Dudley Bestor McLean, *Hartford Courant*, December 31, 1894, 3.
3. *Hartford Daily Courant*, October 9, 1883, 4; October 13, 1885, 6.
4. Allen McLean, "A Genealogical Memorial of the Connecticut McLean Family," 241. Handwritten manuscript dated 1851, but with additional data written after Rev. McLean's death in 1861, in the Connecticut Historical Society library.
5. Mary McLean Daniells, "George Payne McLean and His Family," April 11, 1972; 8, 10-11. Photocopy of typed manuscript in SGHRL McLean file.
6. William Roger Greeley, "Notes & Reminiscences of Life on the McLean Farm," Lexington, Mass., 1961. 19. Photocopy of typed manuscript in SGHRL McLean file.
7. Greeley, 17.
8. Greeley, 17-18. Obituary of John B. McLean, *Farmington Valley Herald*, April 19, 1923, 1. *Catalogue of the Hartford Public High School* (Hartford: Case Lockwood and Brainard Company, 1925). *Alumni Catalogue, State Normal Training School, New Britain, 1920* (Hartford: State Board of Education, 1920).
9. *Hartford Daily Courant*, August 5, 1884, 4; July 25, 1920, 16.
10. *Hartford Courant*, Dec. 28, 1907, 11. John E. Ellsworth, *Simsbury: Being a Brief Historical Sketch of Ancient and Modern Simsbury, 1642-1935* (Simsbury: The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary, 1935), 157.
11. *Hartford Courant*, July 25, 1920, 16. J. O. Phelps's second initial is corrected from C to O.
12. Lucius I. Barber, M.D., *A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury* (Simsbury: The Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1931, 1974), 383.
13. *Hartford Daily Courant*, August 18, 1885, 4.
14. *Hartford Courant*, June 21, 1900, 2.
15. *Hartford Daily Courant*, July 29, 1884, 3; November 18, 1884, 4.
16. *Hartford Daily Courant*, February 26, 1883, 4; March 9, 1883, 4; April 6, 1883, 4.
17. *Hartford Daily Courant*, July 4, 1883, 4; September 9, 1886, 4; October 13, 1886, 4.
18. *Hartford Daily Courant*, January 5, 1886; February 9, 1886, 4; *Hartford Courant*, March 5, 1890, 1.
19. *Hartford Daily Courant*, June 8, 1886, 4.
20. *Hartford Daily Courant*, September 4, 1883, 4; November 14, 1883, 4; November 27, 1883, 4.
21. *Hartford Daily Courant*, February 5, 1884, 4; November 11, 1884, 2.

## Jean Perreault Honored by Connecticut Society of Genealogists

*Footprints Across Connecticut From Simsbury 1930 Census* by Jean E. Perreault was awarded First Prize for a Genealogical Resource Publication in the 2008 Literary Award Contest sponsored by the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Mrs. Perreault received the award at the society's 40th anniversary gathering on May 17.

As announced earlier, the book will receive an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations at its annual meeting on June 2.

*Footprints Across Connecticut From Simsbury 1930 Census* is for sale at SGHRL.

22. *Hartford Daily Courant*, February 3, 1885, 4; February 18, 1885, 4.
23. *Farmington Valley Herald*, October 11, 1979, 5.
24. *Hartford Daily Courant*, February 15, 1887, 4.
25. *Hartford Daily Courant*, December 9, 1885, 4; June 10, 1887, 4; June 21, 1887, 4.
26. *Hartford Daily Courant*, April 8, 1884, 4.
27. Samuel Hart and others, *Encyclopedia of Connecticut Biography...* (Washington, D.C.: American Historical Society, 1917), 259.
28. *Hartford Daily Courant*, July 29, 3.
29. Simsbury Land Records, 50:508.
30. *Hartford Courant*, June 12, 1889, 6.
31. Simsbury Land Records, 53:118. William B. Welden, "History of the Hopmeadow Store in the Hardware Business Under the Sign Samuel T. Welden, Florist and Seedsman, 1889 to 1925," October 1, 1951, 1. Photocopy of typed manuscript in the Alice Irene Welden collection, SGHRL archives.
32. Welden, 3.
33. *Hartford Daily Courant*, June 29, 1887, 4.
34. *Hartford Daily Courant*, July 2, 1887, 4.
35. *Hartford Courant*, January 16, 1888, 6.
36. *Ibid.* The Simsbury Town Records, 50:497, show that Lucius I. Barber gave John B. McLean a deed for three acres of land. When the property was sold by the widow Ella E. B. McLean to Henry N. Curtiss in 1927 it contained eight and eight-tenths acres. See STR, 66:110. At that time the building was described as somewhat obsolete, and it was eventually torn down and the property subdivided.
37. *Hartford Courant*, August 22, 1888, 6.
38. *Hartford Courant*, November 13, 1888, 6.
39. *Hartford Courant*, August 23, 1894.
40. *Hartford Courant*, June 7, 1889, 6.
41. *Hartford Courant*, May 9, 1889, 6; March 19, 1891, 6.
42. Karen L Kilcup, "Sarah Pratt McLean Greene (1856-1935)" in *Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers*, Denise D. Knight, ed. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1997.), 173.
43. Ellsworth S. Grant, *The Senator From Simsbury: George P. McLean* (West Hartford: Fenwick Productions for the McLean Fund, 2001).
44. Judy Masterson, "Mary McLean Daniells Shares History of Simsbury's McLean Family" in *Farmington Valley Herald*, October 11, 1979, 5.
45. *Scribner's Magazine*, June 1895, vol. 27, no. 6, 18.
46. *Hartford Courant*, July 9, 1891; 6; September 11, 1895, 9; June 29, 1896, 8; July 15, 1896, 10.
47. John B. McLean, "Simsbury" in *The Connecticut Quarterly: An Illustrated Magazine Devoted to the Literature, History and Picturesque Features of Connecticut*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1895, 140-50.
48. *The School Journal*, 1902, vol. 64, 58; *Hartford Courant*, April 28, 1902, 13.
49. *Ibid.*, *Hartford Courant*, December, 1901, 16; *The School Journal*, 1902, vol. 64, 58.
50. Obituary of Miss Esther L. Smith, *Hartford Courant*, November 16, 1903, 8.
51. *Hartford Courant*, April 29, 1903, 15.
52. *Hartford Courant*, July 22, 1903, 14; September 15, 1903, 13.
53. Evan W. Woollacott, *The Gavel and the Book: The Simsbury Town Meeting, 1670-1986* (Canaan, New Hampshire, 1987), 65-66.
54. *Farmington Valley Herald*, February 7, 1908, 1; *Report of the Board of Education of the State of Connecticut to the Governor*, Public Document No. 8 (Hartford: The State, 1911), 160-61, 177.
55. Greeley, 20.
56. Samuel E. Cassino, comp., *The Naturalists' Directory International* (Boston: S. R. Cassino, 1895), 130, 344.
57. *Hartford Courant*, December 31, 1896, 4; May 6, 1899, 5
58. Grant, 88.
59. *Original Minute Book of Trustees' Meetings of Simsbury Free Library*, (photocopy), 1-102. Woollacott, 62.

## SGHRL Updates

**Summer Openings and Closings** The library will be CLOSED on July 4 & 5. It will be open Wednesday through Saturday throughout the rest of July. In August the library will be open Wednesday through Friday and CLOSED on Saturdays, except by appointment. Please contact us by Friday if you would like to use the library on a Saturday in August. We will be happy to see you. The library hours are 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**Simsbury in the Great Depression** A capacity crowd packed the library's reading room for the opening of Donna Hopkins' *Simsbury in the Great Depression* exhibit and the afternoon symposium. Richard Curtiss, Chairman of the History Department, was assisted by a number of students as he explained how the Depression Era is being taught at Simsbury High School. Jean Perreault presented her book on the 1930 census, then all the attendees joined in a discussion moderated by Trustee Thomas J. Donohue. The exhibit has now ended.

**Spring Talk with Jean Nudd** With her usual aplomb, Jean Nudd, Archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration, explained how to use pre-1850 census records and Canadian border crossing records to search for ancestors. SGHRL members and guests also enjoyed the delicious lunch that Trustee Missy McKeen arranged.

**Celebration of Leaders** Hopmeadow Country Club rang with praises for our past Simsbury Free Library trustees: Peg Donohue, Dick Wagner, Harvey Moger, Linda Dotson and the late Bob Lindauer. Selectman John Hampton read a proclamation honoring them. Trustee Rick Schoenhardt had arranged for framed architectural drawings of the library to be presented to each. Chairman Jim Flynn gave a PowerPoint presentation about the library and its history, and scores of well wishers applauded them at the Sunday brunch.

FIRST CLASS

**SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY**  
749 Hopmeadow Street  
P.O. Box 484  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
860 658-5382  
E-mail: [info@simsburygenealogy.org](mailto:info@simsburygenealogy.org)  
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