



**PITTSFORD'S LIBRARIES**  
**TIMELINE**  
Updated 11/15/24



- 1803 Northfield Library is formed at about 110 Mendon Center Rd in a house built by Ezra Patterson c 1796. An historic marker designates the place. Patterson also serves as first librarian. 44 people took shares at \$1.00 each. The first officers are Major Ezra Patterson (treasurer & librarian), William Griffin (secretary). First directors are Noah Norton, Nathan Nye, Dr. John Ray. First inspectors are Glover Perrin, Amos Stone, Jared Barker, Silas Nye, Oliver Culver. The collection includes 70 books. Books not returned on time cost the subscriber one shilling the first hour and six cents for every hour after that.
- 1809 Northfield Library discontinues operations.
- 1834 Pittsford Social Library is formed.
- 12/11/1852 School District No. 6 (Cobblestone Academy, 17 Church St) library is formed. Thomas Gillam is listed as “Librarian.” At least 120 people are listed as borrowing books.
- 1882 Mrs. Krill establishes a lending library of 80 books, but it is short lived as she soon moves out of Pittsford.
- 1884 The Alvard brothers house their “Franklin Square Library” in the J. Lockwood store (33 S. Main St.).
- 1890 Pittsford Library Club/Pittsford Book Club is formed. Each of 20 members pledge to buy two new books annually, which were shared twice monthly.
- 07/00/1905 The Pittsford Book Club holds its tenth annual meeting [the date doesn’t match with its 1890 organization]. The club has 20 members. Harriett P. Acer Carpenter is president, Romaine Hayward Lusk is VP and secretary, Mrs. N. T. Killip is treasurer.
- 1920 Pittsford Community Library (PCL) is formed by Una Hutchinson and Margaret Becker Malone with 50 books borrowed from the Library Extension Division of New York State and stored on two shelves of Thomas’ grocery store at 1 S. Main St. The library is open for business for two hours on Saturday afternoons. It was successful and soon moved to rooms over the Crump store at 1 N. Main St.
- 1923 George & Ida Woodward have the 200 Fairport Road house, “Harwood Farms,” built for their family. They live there until 1929. George was the manager of Likly's luggage store. The house is then sold to State Senator Rodney B. Janes, who lived in it for 44 years. The original landscaping included 1,500 tulips planted on each side of the yard from the road to the house. In the center of each half of the front yard were 2,000 tulips planted in a circular bed.

- 1924 The Pittsford Community Library is chartered to the Village of Pittsford and moves to quarters in the Little House on Monroe Avenue, at that point located on the south side of the street at 17 Monroe Avenue.
- 02/21/1929 PCL elects officers: Una Hutchinson President, Edna Steve Jones first VP, Elisabeth Knight Bacon 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Hazel Hulburd Allen Secretary, Robert Wadhams Treasurer.
- 03/03/1932 The PCL collection now has 5,739 books, an increase from 3,922 from a year ago. 31,184 total circulation in 1931.
- 1934 The PCL collection grows to 6,500 volumes since its inception in 1920.
- 1937 Mary Emily Wiltsie Field donates to the Village the 21 N. Main Street building as a library and community center. The building becomes known as the Wiltsie Memorial Building.
- 12/30/1937 The Charles Hastings Wiltsie Memorial Building at 21 N. Main Street is dedicated. Officials are: Mayor William H. Guetersloh, Village Clerk William L. Ford, Village Treasurer Grant L. Matthews; Village Trustees George N. Babcock, Wilbur E. Forman, Robert Wiltsie Wadhams and George O. Zollman; PCL Board President Una Hutchinson, VP Elisabeth Knight Bacon, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Elizabeth Hubbard Sutherland, Secretary Hazel Hulburd Allen, Treasurer Robert Wiltsie Wadhams, Librarian Margaret Hutchinson Lusk. At 4 o'clock dedication services are held. The services open with greetings by Mr. Harold L. Field, who acts as chairman of the meeting. The invocation is given by Rev. Louis W. Edelman, pastor of St. Louis Church. This is followed by brief talks from those interested in the construction and use of the building, including: architect James B. Arnold; Mary Emily Wiltsie field, donor of the building who presented the key to Village Mayor William H. Guetersloh; the building and its use are described by Una Hutchinson; Rochester attorney and president of the Rochester Public Library Harvey Remington Foote outlines the career of Charles Hastings Wiltsie; the importance of the library in the community is described by director of Rochester libraries John Adams Lowe; the benediction is pronounced by Rev. Henry S. Gatley, rector of Christ Church. All are invited to inspect the building following the dedication.
- 12/31/1937 The Pittsford Community Library opens in its new home at 21 N. Main Street, and is open 16 hours a week.
- 01/07/1938 Circulation of books to patrons will start in its new quarters on January 10. The library will be open four days each week, on Mon, Wed, Thu & Sat from 3-5pm and 7-9pm. In remodeling the building, extensive alterations and additions are made. One of the interesting features is the Memorial Room (aka the Assembly Room). It duplicates in detail the living room of the Wiltsie home at 123 Plymouth Ave., Rochester, the mahogany paneling and furnishings having been brought to Pittsford intact. The Reading Room is decorated to harmonize with the Assembly Room. The Children's Room in the front of the building is finished and furnished in maple. In the basement is a meeting room, with adjoining kitchen completely equipped, to be used for meeting purposes.
- 1938 NYSED erects an historic marker in front of the Northfield Library/Major Ezra Patterson house. It reads, "First Library in the Genesee Country, Northfield Library Co., 1803-1808, kept its books at the farm of Ezra Patterson, first librarian."

- 03/18/1943 500 new non-fiction books, including 100 new adult books and 32 new children's books, are added to the collection.
- 01/25/1958 Ann Leslie Dowling holds wedding reception at the Library, 21 N. Main Street, after her wedding in Pittsford to Stephen S. Williams. Ann's grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. J. Herbert Hutchinson, had lived there before it was the library and Ann had a part-time job at the Library in high school.
- 10/29/1958 The Pittsford School District purchases the Northfield Library/Major Ezra Patterson home.
- 03/11/1959 Pittsford Village Board is granted permission on March 10 for the PCL to join the Monroe County Library System (MCLS). The next step is for the Library to formally request to join. A contract will be drawn up and signed between the MCLS and PCL. MCLS benefits will include: library cards that will be honored by any other library in the system (Hilton Public Library is the only remaining one outside the system); privilege of returning books to any library and can order books from any library; rotating book collections.
- 05/11/1959 The Pittsford Community Library joins the Monroe County Library System, extending its services to include inter-library loan privileges to its borrowers. The formal contract between the County system and the PCL is signed in late April. PCL hours are 3:00-5:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm every day and closed on Sundays and Tuesdays.
- 05/29/1959 Margaret Hutchinson Lusk retires as PCL librarian after 31 years. The Library has 18,000 volumes at the time of her retirement. Marian Butler takes over from Margaret Lusk as librarian. The Library staff hosts an informal open house from 3:00-5:00pm and 7:00-9:00pm in honor of Margaret Hutchinson Lusk.
- 03/22/1960 PCL circulates 80.9% more books in February 1960 than February 1959. The gain in circulation is attributed to the increased services made available due to the Library's inclusion in the Monroe County Library System.
- 09/08/1960 Pittsford is listed as one of the fastest-growing of Monroe County town libraries. Circulation jumped by 57% to 23,522 volumes.
- 10/04/1960 PCL Trustees request the Pittsford Town Board double its \$3,500 contribution to \$7,000. The proposed 1961 PCL budget is \$15,105, with \$7,000 from the Town and \$6,000 from the Village, with the remainder from fines and state aid. Marian Butler states figures show Town Library users outnumber Village users three to one. William Webber is treasurer of the PCL board and wants the Library to be open 30 hours per week instead of the present 20 hours.
- 11/00/1960 Volunteers mend broken books, weed out old books and type and file on the third Thursday of each month. Members include Mrs. Robert Odenbach of 20 North Country Club Dr., Mrs. B. Ward White of 330 Kilbourn Rd., Mrs. Ernest Kempster of 7 Arlington Drive, Mrs. Joseph Bennett, Mrs. Peter Weis, Mrs. Ray Larrabee, Mrs. Milton Seager, Mrs. Howard Becker, Mrs. John Allington, Miss Virginia Holzwarth, Mrs. William Wegman.

- 11/01/1960 PCL hours are increased from 22 to 30 hours per week. Mon-Thu 2:00-5:00 & 7:00-9:00; F 10am-12pm, 2-5pm, 7-9pm; Sat 2-5pm
- 10/26/1961 PCL is looking for 40 part-time volunteers for the first time in its history to donate at least one hour of their time every two weeks. Volunteers will staff the signout desks, do typing and book repair. Head librarian Marian Butler expects PCL will double its 1959 registration if the current growth rate continues. Registration figures indicate an average of 120 new borrowers a month are using the Library facilities. Current staff consists of Marian Butler and five part-time paid workers. As of 9/1/1961, there are 3,154 registered borrowers vs 2,338 from 1/1/1960. Circulation Jan-Aug 1961 is 41,776, a 23% increase over the corresponding period last year. Total circulation in 1960 is 51,804. Total circulation in 1959 is 35,556. Pittsford Rotary Club donates eight new 36" five-foot bookcases for use in the new adult reading room.
- 03/15/1962 MCLS completes evaluation of the PCL and suggests: freeing clerical staff from shelving books by employing more library pages, adding more books for children and young adults and more popular and introductory materials for adults; converting the basement into a children's library and update lighting; adding more shelving, especially for magazines; enlarging the charging desk to replace two existing desks; purchasing a filing cabinet, drinking fountain and inexpensive adding machine; increasing Library director wages from \$2.20 to \$2.50 per hour. Pittsford librarian is receiving \$2 an hour. The MCLS consultants recatalogue 6,000 books not previously processed, card catalogue and shelf list file revised and weeded and made suggestions for work schedules, Library routines and utilization of existing space. Consultants discard 4,161 books due to poor physical condition, obsolescence or other reasons and order 899 books to fill gaps in the collection. The new books cost \$2,218 and half that cost was paid by MCLS.
- 04/10/1962 Pittsford Town Board discusses taking over the PCL from the Village at a board meeting. The Library is chartered to the Village and the building is owned by the Village. The Town responds that the house is in poor condition and does not lend itself to restoration.
- 04/26/1962 At a March meeting, the Pittsford Historical Society passes a resolution to help preserve the old building on Mendon Center Rd. that had been the first library. The building is slated for demolition to make way for a new school (Mendon Center Elementary)
- 08/02/1962 Long-play phonograph records may now be borrowed from the PCL for two-weeks.
- 09/00/1962 Friends of the PCL organization is formed to raise money for more library services and to stimulate interest in the Library.
- 09/27/1962 David Edwards of the PHS English Department faculty is the reviewer of the first series of book reviews. He reviews "Ship of Fools" by Katherine Anne Porter. The newly-inaugurated reviews are being presented as a result of numerous requests from Pittsford residents. Price of admission for the series is \$1.25 or 50 cents to attend a single review.

- 10/18/1962 Florence Hoerner King of 64 South Main St. is guest reviewer for the second series of book reviews sponsored by Friends of PCL. She reviews "O Ye Jigs & Juleps" by Virginia Hudson, a newly-published book which is the diary kept in 1904 by then-11-year-old Miss Hudson. The program takes place at 10am.
- 11/00/1962 Mary B. (Mrs. Ara) Ballarian of 63 State St. resigns from the PCL board after 17 years because "new blood and new ideas are needed for such a rapidly expanding library." She was Library Director longer than any current member except Una Hutchinson. Mary served as Secretary of the Board for the past four years and the previous 13 years as VP. She promoted the idea of offering phonograph records, served as the Board's house committee to ensure the building was kept clean, helped organize the volunteer library workers program and encouraged the founding of the Friends of PCL.
- 11/19/1962 The third reviewer of the series is Mrs. Clarence Wynd of Jefferson Rd., past president of the Rochester Association for the United Nations, who reviews "The United Nations' Structure for Peace" by Ernest A. Gross, "Brighter than a Thousand Suns" by Robert Jungk and "Now It Can Be Told" by Leslie R. Groves.
- 11/22/1962 Florence Hoerner King (Mrs. Edmund R.) of 64 S. Main St. is named a PCL board trustee, succeeding Mary B. Ballarian. Mrs. King has a children's TV program called "Katie's House" she has conducted for four years. She has volunteered at the Library for some years. Mrs. King has four children: William, Julie, Richard and Sam.
- 02/07/1963 PCL begins expansion. Circulation currently shows the second highest increase of all Monroe County library branches. The expansion will allow for 3,200 books vs the current 2,900 and includes renovation of the basement room and installation of new lighting in an upstairs reading room. The Library's annual total budget for the year is \$28,000, a \$4,000 increase in the operating budget and an annual appropriation from the Village. The expansion cost estimate is \$6,000.
- 03/18/1963 Pittsford Central School Board president Frederick W. Cummings writes to Town officials to see if they would like to relocate the old Northfield Library/Major Ezra Patterson home.
- 04/23/1963 The new Children's Room opens in the basement of the PCL at 21 N. Main Street. Pittsford Rotary Club will help move the books from their current upstairs location to the new room. Until now, the basement has served as a community meeting room for organizations such as Girl Scouts. Metal shelving installed along the walls. New curtains and a fireplace screen are donated by the Friends of PCL. Jane Hutchinson Dowling is in charge of Children's Library activities. The room opened 8 days earlier; it was initially scheduled for a May 1 opening.
- 06/14/1963 PCL fines for adult books will increase from 2 to 5 cents a day beginning July 1. Maximum fine for adult books and records will be \$2.50. Until now, the maximum has been the cost of replacing the item. The cost of reserving materials will increase from 5 to 10 cents per item. The loan period will increase from two to four weeks. Children's books will remain on a 14-day loan pattern and overdue children's items remain at 2 cents per day.

- 06/26/1963 PCL board makes Mrs. Ernest Kempster interim librarian in charge until the appointment of a permanent librarian is made. Mrs. Thomas Dowling will be staff member in charge of personnel and services and Mrs. Richard Miller of West Jefferson Rd. will be volunteer chair in charge of recruitment and scheduling.
- 07/15/1963 Robert C. Odenbach of 20 Country Drive is appointed as PCL trustee to fill the unexpired term of the late Charles H. Wadhams, who died April 1, 1963. Una Hutchinson (sister of Margaret Hutchinson Lusk) was reelected president, Dr. Lloyd Allen VP and Wyatt Brummitt secretary.
- 09/28/1963 Marian Butler (wife of George R. Butler) of 7 Maple St. leaves job as librarian at PCL for a part-time position at the Pittsford High School library.
- 10/28/1963 Helen Vogel of 5582 West Henrietta Rd. succeeds Marian Butler as PCL librarian.
- 12/01/1963 New PCL procedures: all books, records, magazines and pamphlets will circulate for two weeks. Current magazines do not circulate. Items can be renewed if not on reserve, but records are not renewable. It will cost 10 cents to replace a lost library card.
- 04/00/1964 Una Hutchinson retires as president of the PCL Board of Trustees, to be succeeded by Mrs. Charles Wadhams of 36 French Rd. Una recalls, "We [PCL] were in the Thomas' store until one night, a farmer's wife came in with a basket of eggs. There was a minor mishap, and someone dropped an armful of books into the basket, breaking all the eggs. That signaled the end of our tenure in the general store." Current circulation approaches 100,000 and includes about 15,000 books.
- 05/14/1964 PCL trustees elected Frances King as president, Dr. Lloyd Allen as VP, Robert Odenbach treasurer and Wyatt Brummitt secretary. Summer Library hours are announced: Tue & Thu mornings from 10am-12pm, Mon-Fri afternoons 2-5pm, Mon-Fri evenings 7-9pm.
- 08/00/1964 New flagpole outside the PCL is donated by Mr. & Mrs. John Wadhams in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wadhams and the late Charles F. Wadhams. Mrs. William Wegman is a library aide at this time.
- 08/06/1964 This week, Una Hutchinson's PCL service is honored by dedication of a plaque in the hallway of the N. Main Street Library which reads, "The Community of Pittsford proudly and gratefully acknowledges its great debt to Una Hutchinson, teacher, leader, gentlewoman, who worked for long years with unstinted devotion to found and foster this storehouse of great riches: our Library." The plaque consists of engraved metal and is mounted on wood.

- 09/11/1964 The Library flagpole was bent double to the ground due to vandalism. The pole was a gift of the Friends of PCL and presented in memory of Charles and Robert Wadhams. It had only been in place for a month. According to an editorial by Una Hutchinson, this flagpole replaced a flagpole that had been erected and dedicated in April 1943 to Nicky Commisso, the first Pittsford casualty of WWII. The Commisso flagpole had been vandalized earlier in 1964.
- 10/22/1964 Mrs. Herbert Bettinger is president of Friends of PCL. Other Friends members are Mrs. B. Ward White of 330 Kilbourn Road and Mrs. F. Edgar Myers of 45 Country Club Drive.
- 11/02/1964 Library trustees appoint Mrs. Fred H. Bergstedt as new librarian.
- 11/05/1964 A drinking fountain has been installed at the PCL at 21 N. Main Street courtesy of the Friends of PCL.
- 1972 Town of Pittsford purchases the former Star Market for conversion to a library. The Star Market building had been designed by Rochester's first black architect, Thomas W. Boyde, Jr.
- 04/26/1973 Landscape architect of the front garden is Heinrich Fischer of Oakleaf Landscape & Design, Inc. The garden is the gift of the Pittsford Garden Club. The low brick wall is the gift of CWL Construction Co. in memory of Carl W. Luther, Sr., father of the firm's president.
- 09/06/1973 The NYS Board of Regents conducts an official inspection of the Library on July 5 and finds the Library is meeting both the Regents and NYS Education Department requirements. The Library is rechartered from Village to Town jurisdiction. 7,000 of its 30,000 volumes are inaccessible due to lack of space.
- 10/10/1973 The 21 N. Main Street building closes in anticipation of the 24 State Street building opening.
- 11/01/1973 PCL opens at its new location of 24 State Street, formerly Star Market, and contains 39,455 items and a circulation of 255,393 items borrowed. Librarians are Dorothy Packard and Ethel Bergstedt.
- 10/11/1977 Town of Pittsford takes title of the Janes residence, 200 Fairport Rd. The willed gift of State Senator Rodney B. Janes (1892-1973) is an eight-acre site and a two-story, 4,600 sq ft wood frame with brick exterior house. Architect Roger Leaper reported that the facilities are adequate to house a 6,600 volume library, with estimated renovation costs of \$62,000
- 02/00/1978 Janes Library branch opens. By March 1980, an upstairs room is redecorated for special program use. The first floor contains the circulation room, the Children's Room and the adult room. There is still room for additional expansion upstairs and in the basement.
- 01/17/1980 Pittsford Town Board approves \$10,000 of Federal Revenue Sharing funds for new office space at PCL. Work on the project will begin this winter.

- 10/00/2003 A Library Bond Referendum is approved by Town residents for a new two-story library to be constructed on the 24 State St. site. To allow for demolition and construction, the Library moved to temporary quarters at 3750 Monroe Avenue.
- 09/17/2005 The Pittsford Community Library opens in its new 32,000 square foot building at 24 State Street. Ultimately, the Janes Branch will be consolidated into the main Library and that property at 200 Fairport Rd will be renovated to become a Local History Library.
- 02/09/2015 Janes Branch building is sold by the Town of Pittsford for use as a private home.