



Hours
M-Th 10-8
F-Sa 10-5
Su 1-5 (Oct-Apr)

215 N. Ottawa St.
Tecumseh MI 49286
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Winter
2023

SHELF LIFE

BEYOND THE STACKS

This fall has been a busy one for us at TDL. At the end of September we celebrated 20 years as a district library. Our Friends group served lemonade and popcorn; there were outdoor games and our staff set up stations inside for making friendship bracelets, building with Legos, and creating leaf rubbing greeting cards. In the lower level we had some wonderful programs – storyteller Mike Cox, the amazing IlluminaTe Dance Troupe, local historian Ashley Chase and the hilarious magic show of Cameron Zvara. It was a real family day, with something for every age group, and the beautiful weather only made it better.

We've been making some capital improvements to the property. The parking lot was seal coated and the flat roof had slopes installed to the drains. We'll have more projects as the fiscal year goes on.

TDL's Community Survey is up and can be accessed through our website, a dedicated computer at the library, the email that was sent to e-newsletter subscribers, or our Facebook post. The information obtained will be used for the upcoming Strategic Planning Committee and for general library planning and decision making. It takes less than 10 minutes to fill out and will be available until the end of November.

Our Annual Report has been completed and printed following the yearly presentation from our auditor to the TDL Board. We received the highest possible rating on our audit. Our Annual Report is a snapshot of the year, financially and statistically.

Finally, each year we send a letter detailing the accomplishments of the library and asking for contributions. Our annual letter asking for financial support of TDL was just sent out, and we've received some very nice donations from library supporters. If you are one of them, we thank you!

LEARN

EXPLORE

INTERACT

CREATE

ENJOY

Our Vision Statement:

The Tecumseh District Library strives to be a premier facility offering a welcoming, accessible community

From the History Room:

The Underground Railroad in Lenawee County

1830. The story of the Underground Railroad in Lenawee County begins in Raisin Township. Elizabeth Chandler, a Quaker who'd moved from Philadelphia, began the Logan Female Antislavery Society, the first female antislavery organization in the Old Northwest Territory. Laura Smith Haviland was a member of this group. At that time, Lenawee activists believed that the way to change slavery laws was by convincing citizens that slavery was wrong.

1830s. Despite the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act, many residents of Lenawee County were not afraid to help fugitive slaves passing through the county. Local vigilance committees protected fugitive slaves and no enslaved person who made it to Lenawee County was ever captured and returned to their owner in the South.

1839. Raisin Institute opens, making it the first integrated, coeducational school to be opened in Michigan. This school was started by Charles and Laura Haviland and Laura's brother Harvey Smith. From 1839 to 1850, all the school's principals came from Oberlin College, near Cleveland.

1840. The Liberty Party, a small, liberal political party established to abolish slavery through changes in the law, never caught on in Lenawee County, where the Whigs and the Democrats were popular.

1844. "No matter where the abolitionists thought the movement should go next, they all shared in the thought best expressed by A.M. Baker of Adrian. He said there were many differences of opinion in Lenawee on what to do politically about slavery. However, he went on, **all united in detesting slavery**. He knew there were twenty refugees from slavery living in the county right now, and **he knew the county was united in protecting them.**" (*The Antislavery-Underground Railroad Movement in Lenawee County, Michigan 1830-1860* by Charles Lindquist p. 26-27)



Laura Haviland 1864

1846. The Woodstock Manual Labor Institute, a trade school, opened one mile north of Addison. Prior Foster, a free black man from Ohio, was the school's founder. Youths of color received free tuition, although they worked for the school. The school drew support from the national antislavery movement. The school library contained two thousand volumes, many received as donations from eastern publishers. It was the first all-black school in the Old Northwest Territory, although in 1848 it became an integrated school.

1848. The Free Soil Party was established. Less liberal than the Liberty Party, it did not work for the abolition of slavery, but for following the guidelines of the 1820 Missouri Compromise.

1850. Haviland traveled extensively in her quest to lead fugitives north to freedom. The Raisin Institute had to be closed due to building issues, as she didn't have the money to repair or restore the buildings. The school reopened in 1856, with over 200 students. The Woodstock Manual Labor Institute continued through the 1850's.

1854. Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 abandoned the Missouri Compromise and allowed people in the territories to decide if they would allow slavery or not.

1860. The third antislavery political party to develop was the Republican Party, which quickly became the major alternative to the southern Democratic Party. It became the dominant party in Lenawee County as well as the entire North. It didn't support abolishing slavery but rather supported not allowing slavery to spread west of the Mississippi.

1861-1865. Years of the Civil War.

1864. Laura Haviland closed the Raisin Institute for good, due to supply issues caused by the Civil War.

1865. Following the Civil War, State Senator Charles Croswell of Adrian drafted a bill that would abolish slavery forever in Michigan. The bill he wrote for the Michigan Legislature ratified the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on February 3, 1865.

1830-1865. As we study the history of the Underground Railroad in Lenawee County we learn that it wasn't just a story of tunnels or hidden rooms but of **networks of committed people working together** to protect the enslaved as they made their way north to freedom.



State Senator
Charles Croswell



Talk to a Teen About Tech

Saturday, January 20, 2024
12 pm - 4 pm

Do you need help setting up an email account? Do you want to learn how to make playlists of your favorite music on Spotify? Did you get a Kindle as a gift over the holidays and need assistance setting it up? The members of Tecumseh High School's Key Club will be in the library from 12pm to 4pm to answer your questions and give you their technology expertise. Bring your devices and your questions, and come Talk to a Teen about Tech!

Key Club is a student-led organization that teaches leadership through service to others. Members of the Kiwanis International family, Key Club members build themselves as they build their schools and communities.



Meet Teen Librarian, Jody Helme-Day, and Library Assistant, Brock Miller! Jody and Brock host a weekly Game Club, where they do not mind losing game after game of Uno and Magic: The Gathering, and Brock runs campaigns in our monthly Dungeons & Dragons Meetup. Jody also hosts the Teen Book Club, which meets on the first Thursday of the month.

Recommended Reading

Jody



*Warrior Girl
Unearthed*

By Angeline
Boulley

Brock



Steelheart

By Brandon
Sanderson

Thank You

Recent TDL Donors

We feel so fortunate to have the support of our community and we thank the following donors who have recently contributed to TDL:

Marilyn Adams
Ron Campbell
Gordon & Judith Chapin
Susan Crowell-Bishop
Doris & James Cubberly
John T. Dustin
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