

menced to totter and then fell. Too proud to to acknowledge the severity of their losses, and hoping to be able to weather the storm, they refused all offers of compromise made immediately after the fire, and with the cash they got from insurance, expected to retrieve their losses, but they failed to realize their hopes and had to abandon the struggle. Therefore although the Library trust was created in 1880 nothing was done towards opening the library to the public and the books remained boxed up for three years before it was considered expedient to make an effort to open the Library to the public.

In the meantime the interest of Mr. Elder who was a consistent friend of the Library to the time of his death—which occurred but a few months after the opening had kept the idea alive and had succeeded in re-awakening interest in the project among a considerable class in the community, among others the late James R. Ruel who for 15 years was chairman of the Commission and one of the staunchest friends the Library had, and one of four persons who visited the Library on its opening day, for the opening of the Library was heralded by no blare of trumpets and most people were too busy on May 18th 1883, watching the spectacular portion of the Landing of Loyalists, to give much thought to the opening of the Library to the public for the first time.

Today the Free Public Library is one of the institutions of the city which is prominently identified with two important events in its history. It was opened to the public on May 18th 1883, the hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists, that devoted band who left the United States, rather than remain under of government, the form of which was most objectionable to them. The Library is