

HISTORICAL

Durham Public Library was instituted in 1873. The first meeting preliminary to organization was called by public proclamation of Mayor Alex. Cochrane and was held in the Council room, Nov. 4, 1873. The mayor was appointed chairman and Dr. Jas. Gun, Secy. After discussion the following resolutions were carried unanimously:

1. That a Mechanics' Institute and Library be formed in this town consisting of an unlimited number of shares—each share to be of the value of one dollar.

2. That a committee consisting of Messrs Wm. Jackson, J. H. Hunter, F. McRae, H. J. Middaugh, A. Butters and the Secy be appointed to secure names and subscriptions, to report a week later.

On Nov. 11th this committee reported that 101 "shares" had been taken and were duly thanked and reappointed. The first trustees, (Directors) were then chosen: George Jackson, President; Rev. Mr. Park, 1st Vice-Pres.; J. H. Hunter, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Walter Hastie, Treas.; Dr. Jas. Gun, Secy., and D. C. MacDonnell, John Jack, Thos. Smith, W. H. Rombough, James Jones and John Franks, Committee.

Dr. Gun and D. C. MacDonnell were appointed to draft a constitution. The first selection of books was made by the following committee: Messrs Wm. Jackson, Rev. Park, Burnet, Evans, Chas. Moffat, Hastie and Secy Gun. Alex. Robertson was appointed first Librarian. The declaration for deposit in Registry office has 51 signatories, 30 of whom are now (1902) dead.

The Presidents and their years of service were Geo. Jackson 1874; D. C. Macdonnell, 1875 and 1876; Adam Cochrane 1877 and 1878; D. C. MacDonell, 1879; Robt Bull 1880-'81-'82; Rev. Mr. Asbury, 1883; Dr. Jas. Gun 1884; Jas. Brown, 1885; Dr. Gun 1886 till his death in 1901, after which, Thos Allan was appointed and at this date (1902) is still in office.

Similarly the Secretaries have held office as follows: Dr. Gun, Secy from 1873 to 1883 inclusive; R. J. Hill 1884; Wm. Gorsline, 1885; Robt. MacFarlane, Jr., 1886-'87-'88-'89; Jno. L. McKenzie, 1890; C. McArthur 1891-'92-'93; C. Ramage 1894 to this date (1902).

The Treasurers have been Walter Hastie, 1873 to 1878; John Cameron, 1879 to 1891; John Kelly, 1891 to this date (1902).

The Librarians have been A. Robertson, H. H. Miller, J. Winterbourne, Mrs. McRae, Wm. Gorsline, Arch. Davidson, Clifton Elvidge.