



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

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www.tecumsehlibrary.org

Summer
2024

SHELF LIFE

BEYOND THE STACKS

News from Tecumseh District Library

Along with the rest of the community, we are looking forward to Tecumseh's Bicentennial Celebration in July. The history of Tecumseh is a fascinating one, and the Clara Waldron History Room at TDL has a wealth of interesting information. Included in this newsletter is an article sharing a few of those compelling stories.

Tecumseh District Library plans a robust schedule of events each year. Some of them are one-time events held in person at the library or another location, or virtual programs on Zoom or on Facebook Live. However, much of our programming is long term and ongoing.

For children we have **Page Turners**, a program where the child reads to one of our friendly staff members, and **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**, where a child is read to by their family and caregivers. Both programs have been fun and rewarding for all involved.

Teens have their **Wednesday Game Club** from 3-5pm and have a great time playing video games and board games. On the 3rd Thursday of each month, interested teens play **Dungeons and Dragons** in the afternoon. Teens also have the opportunity to attend a **Teen Book Club** and more information on that club can be found on the Teen Page of our website.

Adults have two book clubs; the **Afternoon Book Club** on Wednesdays once a month and the **Evening Book Club** once a month on Mondays. They also have **Crafting and Chatting Around the Fireplace** from 10am to 1pm on Fridays and 5-8pm on Thursday evenings. The **Monthly Walking Club** at Brookside Cemetery provides a great opportunity to meet with others for some exercise and socialization.

LEARN

EXPLORE

INTERACT

CREATE

ENJOY

Our Vision Statement:

The Tecumseh District Library strives to be a premier facility offering a welcoming, accessible community resource where all people can learn, explore, interact, create, and enjoy.

From the History Room: Early Settlement of Tecumseh

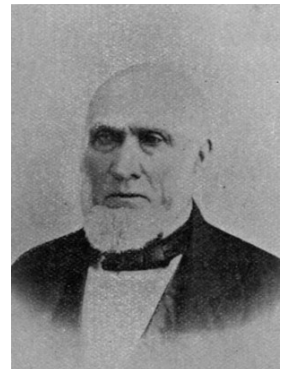
Settlement and statehood reached Ohio in 1803, Indiana in 1816, and Illinois in 1818. The settlement of Michigan was delayed due to limited transportation routes, fear of hostile Indians, and negative reports about the living conditions. Michigan's reputation improved after the War of 1812, and the US Land Act of 1820 allowed the purchase of land from the government for \$1.25 per acre, which was \$100 for 80 acres.

"Michigan Fever" spread! Michigan's population in 1820 was 8,675 and by 1839 it had risen to 31,640.

Steamboat travel on the Great Lakes began in 1818 and the Erie Canal was completed in 1825. Now travelers from the east could come to Michigan almost entirely by water until they reached Detroit. Most of the new settlers came from New York and New England.

The first settler in Lenawee County was Musgrove Evans, a Quaker native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Jefferson City, New York. Lenawee County had been established by Lewis Cass on September 10, 1822 and was the seventh county in the Michigan Territory.

Musgrove and his brother-in-law, General Joseph W. Brown, explored the area in 1823 and returned in 1824 with 10 or 12 others on a schooner from Buffalo to Detroit. They left their families in Detroit and traveled on foot the 60 miles to Tecumseh, while looking over farmland and deciding where to settle. The area between Adrian and Tecumseh had the River Raisin and could offer hydraulic power for milling. Brown and Evans erected the first



General Joseph W. Brown



Peninsular House, Tecumseh, Built in 1827.

Peninsular House,
Home of General Joseph W. Brown

sawmill in 1824. Evans also built a log house and provided shelter for the 16 white settlers of the county. Evans laid out the plat for the Village of Tecumseh, including 4 public squares. One of those was the Military Grounds, which later became the location of the Tecumseh District Library. Brown built the village's first frame house in 1827, which operated as a tavern or "public house."



Laura Haviland

The Charles and Laura Haviland family came to Raisin Township in September 1829 to be closer to both sets of parents who had settled there a few years earlier. They moved from Cambria, New York with their first three children.

In August of 1830, Thomas and Elizabeth Chandler along with their aunt Ruth Evans, left Philadelphia and moved west to Michigan. Thomas was “sick of storekeeping”

and believed he would be happier farming. Thomas had lived with a farmer the summer before they moved to learn about farming and to get in shape for the physical lifestyle. Elizabeth was a published abolitionist writer. They settled south of Tecumseh in an area where other Quaker families had settled. Most of Michigan’s early settlements were organized around religion or ethnicity and the fact that many Quakers had already settled in the Michigan Territory also mattered to Thomas, Elizabeth and Ruth.

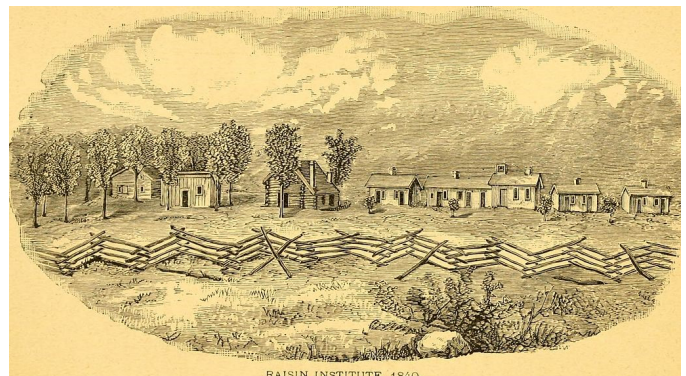


Elizabeth Chandler

The Chandler farm was close to the Haviland farm, and Elizabeth and Laura were both neighbors and friends, as well as members of the Quakers. In 1832, they formed the Logan Female Anti-Slavery Society. This organization was to become one of the main links in the Underground Railroad system to Canada.

Elizabeth died in 1834, just before her twenty-seventh birthday. Laura continued on with the work, beginning the Raisin Institute, a school for all children regardless of race, creed or sex. Her brother, Harvey Smith, helped fund the building of the school. A graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio served as principal.

In the spring of 1845 an epidemic killed both of Laura’s parents, her husband and her youngest child. Laura was left with seven children to support, a farm to run, the Raisin Institute to manage, and substantial debts to repay, yet she continued on with her work. She was considered a “superintendent” on the Underground Railroad, guiding fugitive slaves to Canada, worked as Inspector of Hospitals after the Civil War, ran an orphanage for homeless African-American children, advocated for women’s suffrage, and so much more. She died on April 20, 1898 and is buried next to her husband in the Raisin Valley Cemetery in Adrian, Michigan.



Raisin Institute 1840

Summer Reading Programs run from Monday, June 10th to Saturday, July 27th.

For more information and to register, please visit our website at tecumsehlibrary.org and follow the links on the home page.

Children

Our Children's Summer Reading Program is designed for infants through 4th graders. Each child will be given a free book to get them started. Children who complete the program by reading or listening to 10 to 20 library books, based on their reading level, will get to visit the "Treasure Lagoon" to receive exciting prizes.

Tween

Students entering 5th or 6th Grade in the fall can pick up a combined registration and blank booklist form at the Circulation Desk.

To successfully complete the program, Tweens need to read eight books from TDL's Tween or Teen Fiction Collection. All finishers will receive assorted gift cards from local businesses!

Teen

While supplies last, each Teen who signs up gets a gift bag with a reading log, some treats to keep, and a free book! For every book read, Teens get an entry into a raffle for prizes at the end of the program. So read more books to increase the chances of winning!

Summer Reading Programs

Adult

Why should the kids have all the fun?! Each time you read a book, magazine, or listen to an audiobook, fill out an entry form and drop it in the big glass jar at the Circulation Desk. Every week during summer reading, three names will be drawn and the winners get a pie! No Registration Required.

Recent TDL Donors :

**Nancy & Calvin Smith
The Lakehouse Bakery**

**Mary Beth & George Reasoner
Patricia Baker**

We feel so fortunate to have the support of our community. Thank you!