



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Ousting of Genealogy Library

3 messages

Carol Tinkey <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 4:13 AM

To: mammarkwalter@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Markwalter:

This past week I have been busy talking to many people in the community concerning the eviction of the Genealogy Library (GL) from the MCPL, plus my Letter to the Editor has reached hundreds of Mason City citizens and others in surrounding communities. The first comment from almost everyone I talked to was, "Why? That is where the GL should be located."

Many of these people had used the GL, or had family members or friends that had used it. These people are not members of NCIQS, or people that I was even aware of that had an interest in genealogy. I found out one lady had been a librarian in several libraries in the east and networked with many other libraries. She talked almost non-stop for over half an hour about the importance of having a GL within the public library, and unless there was a strong historical society in the community, the GL would always be located in the public library.

Did you know genealogy is ranked the #2 hobby of people in the US? If you oust the GL, you are going to see a big drop in the number of patrons coming to the MCPL. Our 770 people that have signed the register this year, is only about a quarter of the number that actually use the GL. Moving it to an inadequate area of the library is not an option. In fact, this whole thing will "blow up in your face" and leave a BIG black mark on the library, and I don't think this is something you can afford to happen. I'm sure general usage of the MCPL is down considerably in recent years, and the same thing you have been throwing in our face, that people can find everything on-line applies equally, or more so to YOUR library.

It was very evident from John Henry's idiotic comments in the Globe that he did not know of a good reason to evict the GL. He has no idea of what it would take to scan all the material in the GL, and it certainly could not be done for FREE. Actually if you want a good location for the Young Adult section, the porch would be an ideal place.

I sent the following proposal to John Henry a few days ago. "I want to tell you that the GL has an entirely different usage, that is not being utilized by the MCPL, and that is the importance of the historical materials it contains. The last two research papers I entered in the International Quester competition, (Questers is an organization that is involved in the Preservation and Restoration of historic sites and objects, and the study of antiques.) I could find no materials that pertained to the topics in the MCPL, even with the help of the librarians at the desk, but found enough material in the GL to use. In fact, my paper on "Missouri: Gateway to the West that was about wagon trains won second and my third place topic was "The Ethnic Heritage of Iowa". By the way, the librarians did not even suggest I check in the GL for possible information.

I am proposing that the GL be left intact and in its present location, maintained by the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, and be renamed the Genealogy and History Center, and that the two card files/catalogs be combined, so people know there is historical information within the MCPL. It should be considered much like the Children's Library, a unique area, but a part of the MCPL, as a whole. With this change I am sure the GL will see increased usage and traffic to the MCPL in general will also. (In addition, you do not even promote the GL on your website, so how are people to know it even exists?)

The GL contains invaluable historical material about Iowa and particularly about lowans. The Genealogy Library is renowned for the quality and depth of the collection and is considered one of

the finest genealogical collections in Iowa. Our library is a 5,000+ volumes, fully cataloged collection enhanced with regional ephemera, directories, vital records microfilms, localized obituary, cemetery, church and military records, genealogical materials from states along the migration trails leading to Iowa, books about the European origins of Iowans, how-to-do-it books, maps, periodicals, and passenger lists. Especially unique are the necrology, surname and genealogical files compiled by our members, past and present. Some of these records you will not find anywhere else.

If evicted, chances are these records may be lost forever, or most certainly will not be readily accessible to the citizens of Mason City. The Genealogy Society is a small organization, and does not have funds to move elsewhere, and be able to pay rent, utilities, purchase all the shelving necessary for the over 5000 volumes in the GL and set up internet connection.

Are you sure you want to be responsible to the many citizens who come to the GL looking for their ancestors when it is no longer there? What are you going to tell them - that they no longer are important to the MCPL? So please reconsider your action, so we can continue to be a part of the MCPL."

I might suggest you move the meeting to a larger room on Tuesday, so you can accommodate everyone.

Carol Tinkey

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 7:47 AM

To: John Henry <jhenry1@mchsi.com>, Shelly Schmit <schmishe@niacc.edu>, Dave Moore <dmoore47599@mchsi.com>, Carrie Berg <thebergs1@juno.com>, Dennis Reidel <dennis.reidel@midwestroofingcompany.com>, Mark Dodd <m.dodd@mchsi.com>, Jennifer Lee <jlee1961@gmail.com>, Penny <pennyweitzelmcp@gmail.com>, Kellie Jensen <kelliemjensen@gmail.com>, Teresa Braun <teresa@masoncity.lib.ia.us>, Billy Kammeyer <billy@masoncity.lib.ia.us>

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 11:40 AM

To: Aaron Burnett <aburnett@masoncity.net>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carol Tinkey** <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 4:13 AM

Subject: Ousting of Genealogy Library

To: mammarkwalter@gmail.com

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--
Mary Markwalter, Director

Mason City Public Library

(641) 421-3669



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Library Problem

3 messages

Carol Tinkey <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 3:43 PM

To: Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Mary, I guess I can't figure out why our two groups MCPL and Genealogy Library can't work together and get along. I guess you would have to say, I'm "one of the new kids on the block" as far as the genealogy society is concerned. I've been a member maybe 10 year and treasurer 5 or 6 years, and don't have the 40 year history other members of the society have.

Both the MCPL and GL have so much to offer the citizens of Mason City. They are both great libraries housed in a unique building that at times may not lend itself to the programming we want to present.

I feel very strongly that changing the GL to the Genealogy and History Center is a win-win situation. NCIGS has wonderful history books that the MCPL is totally lacking of, and the MCPL has the facilities needed by the NCIGS.

Genealogy is a "hot" topic throughout the country at this time, and, I didn't realize how many people in Mason City are interested in it. Together we should be able to come up with some interesting learning sessions, such as the one on DNA, which could be repeated.

In order to accomplish this, the MCPL Board of Trustees needs to welcome back the NCIGS members and the GL, and we, on the other hand, need to accept it, and both move on to bigger and better things together

I don't want the meeting Tuesday to be a session where each side accuses the other of things. Instead, why can't it be a time of healing and moving forward with ideas whereby we can better serve the citizen of Mason City.

Carol Tinkey

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 4:43 PM

To: Carol Tinkey <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

Thank you Carol. I will forward your email to the library board.

Mary Markwalter

Library Director

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Mary Markwalter, Director

Mason City Public Library

(641) 421-3669

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 4:44 PM

To: Carrie Berg <thebergs1@juno.com>, Dave Moore <dmoore47599@mchsi.com>, Dennis Reidel <dennis.reidel@midwestroofingcompany.com>, Jennifer Lee <jlee1961@gmail.com>, John Henry <jhenry1@mchsi.com>, Mark Dodd <m.dodd@mchsi.com>, Shelly Schmit <schmishe@niacc.edu>, Penny <pennyweitzelmcp1@gmail.com>, Aaron Burnett <aburnett@masoncity.net>, Kellie Jensen <kelliemjensen@gmail.com>, Teresa Braun <teresa@masoncity.lib.ia.us>, Billy Kammeyer <billy@masoncity.lib.ia.us>

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Mary Markwalter, Director

Mason City Public Library



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

FW: Library genealogy room

3 messages

Pamela Stecker <pstecker@masoncity.net>
 To: Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>
 Cc: Aaron Burnett <aburnett@masoncity.net>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 8:38 AM

FYI. See message below.

Thanks!

Pam

Pamela Stecker, CAP, OM
 Assistant to the Administrator
 City of Mason City
 10 First Street NW
 Mason City, IA 50401
 Phone: (641) 421-3601
 Fax: (641) 424-7189
 Visit Mason City online at www.masoncity.net<<http://www.masoncity.net>>

[Facebook icon]<<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfMasonCity>> [Twitter icon] <<https://mobile.twitter.com/masoncityiowa>>

[SmallerNewMasonCityLogo]

From: Pat Corlew [mailto:pacorlew@gmail.com]
 Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 12:25 PM
 To: Pamela Stecker
 Subject: Library genealogy room

I would like to express my concerns of the closing of the genealogy room at the library. I feel it will affect my ability to access MC history, Cerro Gordo County history and my family history. Not all of this information has been digitalized. Also, the personal help in the genealogy room is very helpful. Genealogy has become a very popular hobby. I also feel it may affect MC tourism as far as restaurants, gas stations, lodging, shopping and visiting other areas of interest while researchers are in MC. Thank you for your time. Pat Corlew, Gladstone, MO.

Sent from Mail<<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986>> for Windows 10

NOTICE: Subject to the requirements of the Iowa Open Records Act, this message and accompanying documents are covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Subsection 2510-252, as amended, and contains information intended for the specified individual(s) only. This information may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, copying, or the taking of any action based on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message. Thank you.

3 attachments



image007.png
3K



image008.png
3K

image009.jpg
7K



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

RE: Library's genealogy collection

2 messages

Schmit, Shelly <Shelly.Schmit@niacc.edu>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 12:25 PM

To: Leona Livingston <leonaliv@yahoo.com>

Cc: "mammarkwalter@gmail.com" <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>, John Henry <jhenry1@mchsi.com>

Hi Leona,

Thank you kindly for taking the time to send your thoughts. I have copied the Library Director and the Library Board President on this acknowledgement of receipt to you. I will see that your remarks are included as a Board item as correspondence received on the matter.

Sincerely,

Shelly Schmit

Mason City Public Library Board Member

From: Leona Livingston [mailto:leonaliv@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2018 12:11 PM**To:** Schmit, Shelly <Shelly.Schmit@niacc.edu>**Subject:** Library's genealogy collection

I recently read the article in the Globe Gazette regarding the genealogy section of the Mason City Public Library. It seems most unfortunate that you and your board no longer see any purpose in having such a collection in the public library.

I am a former librarian and therefore do understand the value of space. However, I am also a genealogist and recognize the importance of a community supporting research and history that can be found nowhere else.

Long after your best sellers, popular events and current public interests change and are gone, the history of your city, county and its people will still be researched. The genealogical section of your library isn't just for hobbyists. It is a research tool for far more than family history and far beyond just the city of Mason City.

I doubt you would consider eliminating a section (say your 900 collection) from your non-fiction shelves simply because you would like space for more popular materials.

Please understand. I do realize that your genealogy section is much more expansive than most libraries. It covers far more than just the local community or county. Consequently, that makes it more valuable for research purposes. Many items in the collection are one of a kind and therefore invaluable.

Certainly, it could be moved to a storage area or another location. But it would no longer be as accessible, or well preserved (climate controlled). Have you ever tried to locate something in a storage area? Yes, the library would have more room, but the people would be losing a most valuable asset.

Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Please re-evaluate your decision. Once the genealogy section is gone, it literally will be impossible to replace.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Leona Livingston (a former Mason City resident)

schmisne@niacc.edu

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>
To: "Schmit, Shelly" <Shelly.Schmit@niacc.edu>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 12:40 PM

Thank you Shelly.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Mary Markwalter Director

Mason City Public Library

(641) 421-3669



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Genealogy Collection

2 messages

John Henry <jhenry1@mchsi.com>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 2:09 PM

To: leonaliv@yahoo.com

Cc: mammarkwalter@gmail.com, schmishe@niacc.edu

Leona:

Shelly Schmit forwarded on to me your email regarding the genealogy collection at the Mason City Public Library.

I agree those resources are valuable for family history research, but the materials are not owned by the MCPL, and are owned by the Genealogy Society. Over many years there have been many difficulties dealing with lack of communication with the Society when problems have arisen, and they have not always been respectful of the Library's property that has been made available to them.

The board has offered to make those materials a part of our permanent collection so they could continue to be made available, but the Society does not want to relinquish their ownership.

I hope the Society finds an appropriate place where they can operate their library and office, but feel after 40 years using the publicly funded space, they need to stand on their own.

Thanks for your input and concern. I sincerely desire a good outcome for the collection, and that the space they occupy will be used more fully by our citizens as per our purposes set forth by the city.

John G. Henry

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 8:19 AM

To: Penny <pennyweitzelmcp@gmail.com>

FY!

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*Mary Markwalter, Director**Mason City Public Library**(641) 421-3669*

Ms. Mary Markwalter

225 2nd St. SE

Mason City, Iowa 50401

6 August 2018

Dear Ms. Markwalter,

I recently read the article in the Globe Gazette regarding the genealogy section of the Mason City Public Library. It seems most unfortunate that you and your board no longer see any purpose in having such a collection in the public library.

I am a former librarian and therefore do understand the value of space. However, I am also a genealogist and recognize the importance of a community supporting research and history that can be found nowhere else.

Long after your best sellers, popular events and current public interests change and are gone, the history of your city, county and its people will still be researched. The genealogical section of your library isn't just for hobbyists. It is a research tool for far more than family history and far beyond just the city of Mason City.

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Certainly, it could be moved to a storage area or another location. But it would no longer be as accessible, or well preserved (climate controlled). Have you ever tried to locate something in a storage area? Yes, the library would have more room, but the people would be losing a most valuable asset.

Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Please re-evaluate your decision. Once the genealogy section is gone, it literally will be impossible to replace.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Leona Livingston

Former resident of Mason City

July 27, 2018

Re: NCIGC Request for time extension to vacate genealogy room

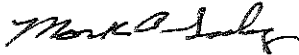
Dear Mary,

The North Central Iowa Genealogical Society has been looking for a home and a place to store the 5k plus genealogical library books and information we provided genealogist with over the course of 40 years.

The membership is, therefore; asking for an extension of time to September 30, 2018 to remove our things from the genealogy room.

We would like to thank the MCPL for proving space for us to operate and provide the services to those searching for family and local history.

Respectfully,



Mark C. Suby
NCIGS President



MASON CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 30, 2018

Mark Suby, President
North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
100 North Ohio Avenue
Mason City, Iowa
50401

Dear Mark:

Your request dated July 27, 2018, which was received at the library on July 30, 2018, for an extension for the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society to move their collection out of the library by September 30, 2018 will appear on the August 21, 2018 Mason City Public Library Board agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Markwalter".

Mary Markwalter
Library Director



Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Genealogy Library

3 messages

Carol Tinkey <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

To: Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 10:43 AM

I received this question/comment, so passing it on to you.

Re: Genealogy Library Inbox

Kathy Carter

to me

10:26 AM (13 minutes ago)

A question for the library director and board: NCGIS is a NONPROFIT organization with resource materials that fit into a library setting. If MCPL starts charging NCGIS, what next? Will they then start charging children to use the children's room? The young adults to use that section? Anyone using the reference section get charged for using that? Could be a nasty precedent.... just a thought!

Mary Markwalter <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 12:03 PM

To: Carrie Berg <thebergs1@juno.com>, Dave Moore <dmoore47599@mchsi.com>, Dennis Reidel <dennis.reidel@midwestroofingcompany.com>, Jennifer Lee <jlee1961@gmail.com>, John Henry <jhenry1@mchsi.com>, Mark Dodd <m.dodd@mchsi.com>, Shelly Schmit <schmishe@niacc.edu>, Penny <pennyweitzelmcp@gmail.com>, Kellie Jensen <kelliemjensen@gmail.com>, Teresa Braun <teresa@masoncity.lib.ia.us>, Billy Kammeyer <billy@masoncity.lib.ia.us>

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*Mary Markwalter, Director**Mason City Public Library**(641) 421-3669***Mary Markwalter** <mammarkwalter@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 12:04 PM

To: Carol Tinkey <tinkeycarol@gmail.com>

Thank you Carol. I will give this information to the library board.

Mary Markwalter

Library Director

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*Mary Markwalter, Director**Mason City Public Library**(641) 421-3669*