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Summary Information

| Repository: | Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum |
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Biographical / Historical

William Wood (1859-1944), philanthropist, farmer, cattle dealer, and lifelong bachelor, chose Hartford architect, William Marchant, to design a library as a memorial to his parents, Dr. William R. Wood and Mary Lyman Ellsworth Wood. He also established a Trust Fund, overseen by the Wood Memorial Library Association, to cover the cost of utilities and maintenance of the building and grounds. The Trust is still overseen today by members of the Raymond family, relations of William Wood.

The library opened to the public in 1927, operated by the Town South Windsor. In 1968, the need for a larger facility in a more central location caused the town to build a new public library and to cease operations at The Wood.
A grassroots effort to keep book lending available at Wood as a branch of the public library was abandoned after two years. However, not willing to relinquish their dream, in 1971 a group of local residents incorporated the Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum, Inc. as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and reopened the building to the public. This wholly volunteer effort was led enthusiastically by the Friends' first librarian, Edith Vibert.

Since 1971, the Friends, as well as operating the library, has grown to offer a wide variety of entertaining, educational and cultural programs, continuing the vision of the building's donor. In 1990, the Friends added an archives, to preserve local and regional history.

Scope and Contents

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

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URL: https://woodmemoriallibrary.org/

Conditions Governing Access

Some materials are restricted. Contact staff for more information. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.
Conditions Governing Use

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