

Her brother Stewart remained at home with their mother and worked for the Lowell Textile School as an instructor in design and weaving. He later served as a deacon in the North Chelmsford Congregational Church and a Selectman for the Town of Chelmsford and in 1947 he donated his childhood home to the town to be used as a library, in memory of his sister Anna C. MacKay. The town converted this home into a branch library for North Chelmsford. The Anna C. MacKay Library has continued to flourish and today is one of the busiest branch libraries in Massachusetts.



*Current view of the MacKay Library
2008*

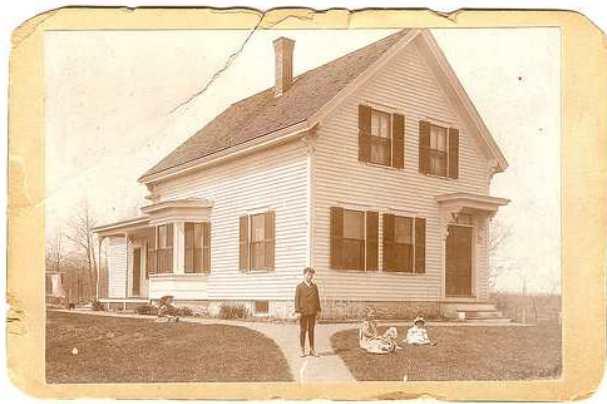
MacKay Library
43 Newfield St.
North Chelmsford, MA
Phone: 1-978-215-3212
Fax: 1-978-256-8511
E-Mail: chelmsfordlibrary.org

ANNA C. MACKAY A BRIEF HISTORY



By Bonnie Rankin

Anna Campbell MacKay was born in Chelmsford Massachusetts June 28th, 1888, the daughter of Stewart and Sarah E. MacKay. She had one older brother Stewart who was 3 years her senior. The MacKay's resided on Newfield St (formerly Canal St.) and in 1890 began to build the house that is now MacKay Library.



43 Newfield St, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Stewart MacKay Sr. immigrated to America from Scotland in 1878 (inscription in small Bible found in Library) and worked as a Pattern Maker (1900 Census). Sarah his wife was also from Scotland.



At the age of 18, Anna C. MacKay was hired by the North Library Corporation to be the Librarian for the free Library located on Gay Street. 'Anna not only worked at the Library, she taught Kindergarten in her home in a room above the kitchen. She attended the North Congregational Church and taught Sunday school. Anna liked making crafts and often used them while teaching. She also enjoyed teaching about children from different parts of the world.'

In 1922 Anna's Salary was \$300/ year and the town appropriated \$12,000 to the North Chelmsford Library. There were 8,451 bound volumes at the library and their circulation was 24, 875.

Anna was the Librarian at the Gay Street Library for 16 years until her death on March 25th 1924, at the age of 35. She died of Nephritis (a kidney disease), and upon her death, the North Library Corporation wrote a letter to the MacKay family expressing their "... appreciations of her long and faithful service as Librarian, and her interest in its welfare." She is buried in the family plot at the Riverside Cemetery in North Chelmsford.

