



**SUPPORTING PATTEN FREE LIBRARY**

The Library has been supported by the fees of the early subscribers and the generosity of benefactors like the Patten brothers, Galen Moses, Mildred Wright. But additional money was always needed for the acquisition of material, salaries, maintenance of the various structures, and so forth. For a time, the Patten Free Library was the owner of partial shares in vessels, gifts from investors or the owners of the vessels, as seen on this ledger page. It seems very appropriate that ships would help support the Library of the “City of Ships.” Patten Free Library began to serve the neighboring communities in the 1950s. In the 1970s, those member communities began to give money on a more regular bases, and in 1985 the participating communities decided to base donations on a per capita formula, as a more equitable solution.

Libraries here began as small, private collections, squirreled away in back rooms on the upper floors of businesses on Front Street. The evolution of Patten Library Association into Patten Free Library shows how this institution has grown in number of people served, resources available, programming provided, and accessible space. You can fly around the globe with the information found on the internet; you can dive into local history with the archival material in the Sagadahoc History & Genealogy Room; you can learn skills or new perspectives within the Non-Fiction Stacks; you can escape with the mysteries in the Fiction collection; you can watch the world of children expand through the special programs of the Children’s Room; and you can read quietly in the Reading Room, as you could more than 125 years ago. This ship of a library still sails everywhere.