

Have you ever read something that touched your heart or brought back memories from your childhood? I had such an experience while reading some historic library documents this past week.

Near the end of "Club Notes 1960-61" is a quote from an unidentified man who grew up in Wellington. I'd like to share it here and hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

**Libraries** have always fascinated me. They house so many mysteries of the world. I remember very vividly the first time I set foot in the Wellington Public Library. Miss Anabel Williams, my first grade teacher at old Third Ward, had one day imparted the exciting news to me, that I could find many books to read in a wonderful building, and furthermore could take them home with me for two weeks without paying a cent.

That afternoon instead of going home immediately, I walked the two blocks to the library, and with a rapidly beating heart, mounted the stairs on my wonderful quest. I didn't know what to do, and the large "counter" looming just inside the door, stopped me in my tracks. A very kind lady asked me what I wanted. I simply stated that I wanted a book. "Did I have a card?" That bit of a question ruined my dreams. I was completely crushed. I had never heard of a card that was needed.

The lady must have sensed my disappointment. She promised me that I could take a book home with me if I would also take a card home for my parents to fill out and sign. I was overjoyed, and after looking over several books, which the librarian showed me, carefully selected my first library book – "A Boy's Life of George Washington."

A new world was opened to me and I must admit that the "Gingerbread Boy" seemed pretty dull reading after that. For the next twelve years, the Wellington Public Library was as much a part of my education as any class in any school. By means of the library, I explored the length and breadth of our country. I've fought every battle in the Civil War. I journeyed to every country in Europe. I found that there were other newspapers in the country besides the Wellington Daily News. And in later years, I discovered the rich history of Sumner County in the D.A.R. archives in the basement.

From that day until this, I have been hopelessly under the spell of **libraries**, and I have a feeling I shall always be. I have visited some great **libraries** since that time: The Newberry of Chicago, the University **libraries** of Harvard and Princeton, the magnificent British Museum, the Louvre, and our own library here in Basel, Switzerland, but perhaps the strongest attachment I have to any, is to the library in Wellington, for there I met the world for the first time. – Author Unknown

Although I was unable to identify the author of the letter, a clipping from the August 23rd, 1922 Wellington Daily News does include Anabel Williams under the "Elementary School Assignments, Library – First Grade" in the list of teachers.