

A1 AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDWARD C. THAYER AND THE CITY OF
KEENE RE: Keene Public Library

The Library Board of Trustees was established pursuant to an Agreement between Edward C. Thayer and the City of Keene. The Library Board operates under that Agreement and is therefore not a board or department of the City in the traditional sense. The Agreement between Mr. Thayer and the City consisted of a proposal by Mr. Thayer and an acceptance by the City. Copies of the Edward C. Thayer proposal and the City vote of acceptance follow:

MR. THAYER'S PROPOSITION TO THE CITY OF KEENE

Keene, New Hampshire, May 31, 1898

To the Mayor and City Councils of the City of Keene:

Having long felt that our growing city required much better accommodations for their public library than they now possess, and knowing how essential a building with pleasant surroundings and ample room, I submit to your honorable body the following propositions.

Having secured lot and buildings on West Street, No. 79, for the purpose. I will make additions and alterations to the same as will make it convenient for a free public library, reading rooms, an art room, a museum, a lecture room for literary subjects and literary entertainments, and I desire it to be devoted to no other purposes whatever, and I will convey said lot and buildings thereon so completed to said city of Keene on the following conditions, to wit:

That the city accept this offer and my donation of said lot and building when completed, with the proviso that the use thereof shall be limited to the purposes aforesaid, and will move into and establish in said building the present city library, and will thereafter assume and pay the expenses of repairing, maintaining and keeping in good condition the said real estate.

The city will provide by vote or bylaw, or both, however it may be necessary so to do, that the control and government of the library and the real estate shall be permanently vested in a board of trustees, twelve (12) in number, six of whom shall be permanent trustees appointed by me at the time of conveyance, from among the resident tax payers of the city of Keene, and the other six shall be elected by the city for the term of three years, two to be elected each year. Any vacancy in the number of permanent trustees shall be filled by the remaining permanent trustees. Vacancies shall only be occasioned by death, removal from the city, or resignation. There shall in no case be a number of trustees elected by the city in excess of the permanent trustees.

Upon legal acceptance of this offer by the City of Keene, I will at once proceed to carry it into effect.

Very truly yours,

Edward C. Thayer

At a regular meeting of the city councils held June 6, 1898, a resolution was unanimously passed, as follows:

CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

A joint resolution in relation to public library. Resolved by the City Councils of the City of Keene, as follows:

That said city accepts the proposition of Edward C. Thayer, made in writing and dated May 31, 1898, to convey to said city, lot and buildings No. 79 West Street, when altered and fitted by him for the purpose named in said proposition, and hereby binds itself to observe and perform the conditions named in said proposition.