

M.N. Spear Memorial Library
10 Cooleyville Road
Shutesbury, MA 01072
www.mnspear.org
259-1213

Last fall, when the Shutesbury 4th grade visited the Spear library it reminded me of my own first trip to the Brighton Branch of the Boston Public Library. My second grade class walked to the library, a much shorter walk than the 1.1 mile trek from Shutesbury Elementary School to our library. We were given a tour and library cards and encouraged to borrow one book. I remember feeling overwhelmed by so many choices. A nice librarian helped me choose a book, *The Little Matchgirl*. I was mesmerized by the story of the poor little girl, trying to sell matches. I can still visualize the artwork in that book. I continued to visit that same library, walking there on my own, and borrowing that same book. Eventually I began borrowing other books and discovering worlds, ideas and stories. That first visit to my local library ignited something in me, a love for reading and learning that has influenced my decisions in life. Perhaps it is part of the reason I have chosen to work in our local library now.

Perhaps you have a library in your past that provided you with some fond childhood memories. For many people, libraries in their childhood provided special places, memorable books and lasting impressions. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the library in Shutesbury and the 250th anniversary of our town, we'd like to collect your memories into a commemorative book.

Shutesbury has a lot of history and memories to share as it celebrates 250 years of being a town. Our library has been part of Shutesbury for 200 of those years. Free and public libraries are a vibrant part of the growth of ideas, civic energy and community spirit. Shutesbury is now engaged in the work of gathering resources to support the building of a new library, one able to sustain the institution our town forbearers knew was essential to a healthy community in a democratic society. For 200 years townspeople marshaled their resources nurturing our free and public library. Making a memory book will remind us how libraries influenced us, and is a fitting way to honor the past and inspire our future.

Please take a moment to think back and write down a library memory to include in our book celebrating this 200th anniversary. Your library memory can be written on the other side of this letter, dropped off at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, mailed to PO Box 256, Shutesbury, MA 01072, or emailed to mnspearlibrary@verizon.net. If you'd like to help on this project, or if you have any questions, please contact Susie Mosher at sndmoes@verizon.net or Mary Anne Antonellis at mnspearlibrary@verizon.net

