

The Bookworm



Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 9, Issue 5

May 2020

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Bookworm/About Town
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Friends of the Ripley
Library Welcome You

NOTE:
New Temporary
Hours of Operation
Currently closed
until further notice

Monday 10 - 5
Tuesday 10 - 7:30
Wednesday 10 - 5
Thursday 10 - 5
Friday 10 - 5
Saturday 9 - 2
Sunday Closed

Happy May Day!!! I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe. These sure are curious times in which we live. I miss seeing everyone come into the library, the laughter and conversations we have. We are hoping to be open soon at least on a limited basis. The library system is working with the State and we are hoping for May 15th to be a slow opening for libraries. We have to be very cautious so we do not put our patrons or clerks at risk. This also depends on the Governor if he feels the time is right. Much of this is a wait and see process.

As of right now, the system is working with May 15th in mind. At that time we will probably just have curb side pickup of books and returns may have to be put through the book drop. We will have to have hand sanitizer, masks and gloves. These will have to be worn by both patrons and clerks. We will also have to let the books set for 24-48 hours before we can handle them, so you will not be able to pick up your books until you receive your phone call from us telling you your books are ready for pickup. But won't it be nice to get library books again?!

I am excited about even the thought of going back to the library. Along with this good news, we have other news for you. The Webpage is marvelous! Keep an eye to the website at ripleylibrary.org. This is going to be amazing; so many new things will be put on it and just the look of it is

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Friends of the Library Meeting:
No currently scheduled meeting

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wonderful. Last month you were able to access the Bookworm and About Town. You can still do that of course, but take a look at the layout. We will be bringing much more to you in electronic format. We are working on a story time, classes, speakers etc.

More exciting news is the long awaited renovations will begin about June 1, 2020. So for us, this exciting new website is even more wonderful. We may be closed at different intervals due to renovations, so you will have access to many programs electronically. This is all very exciting and I am so happy to be able to tell you about it. Of course we will have all of our usual things going on as soon as we are allowed to be fully functional, but this is a great substitute while we wait.

Depending on when we are no longer under a "Stay at Home" order from the Governor, we will be looking for some help moving things out of the library and into the storage container. We need everything out so the contractor can get going at the first of June. We will need a little muscle, we old folks are getting, well old, and it is a little hard for us. If we had a small crew it could actually be done in a couple of hours. If you are willing to help, please let us know. Call the library or email me at director@ripleylibrary.org.

That is about all of our updates for now and soon I should be able to say.....See you at the library again. Rhonda

2020 United States Census

"The Constitution requires that everyone living in the United States participate in the census every 10 years. People of color, those living in poverty, people experiencing homelessness, rural communities, religious minorities and immigrant communities often go undercounted. Fear, mistrust and lack of awareness about the process are among the reasons some don't participate." (excerpt from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. [CLINIC] website).

The Census Bureau DOES NOT release your information to any other agencies. It is safe to be counted and it is necessary to be counted. Vulnerable individuals, i.e. those who are in this country without proper documentation, can safely be counted among the population, and SHOULD be counted.

Advocate for Libraries

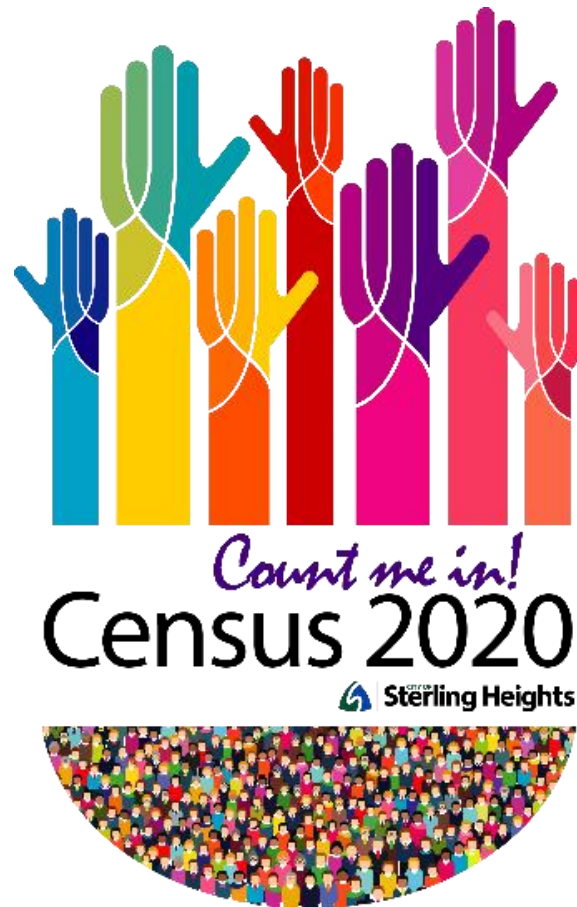
Editorial—Robyn Albright

It seems to me that libraries should have been deemed an essential business during this pandemic. With proper sanitation measures, job applications could be completed on library computers, information could be researched on the pandemic, instructions read for making masks to wear in public, books taken out to read for those without their own libraries, and for children who are bored to tears and driving their parents nuts.

As last month's article "Advocate for Libraries" stated, today's libraries are much more than places to check out books. Many in our community and surrounding area do not have home computers, or access to Wi-Fi. Libraries are a necessity for these people to better their lives.

I expect that with the cost of the COVID-19 virus, state funding for libraries will be cut drastically, if not eliminated entirely. It is a hard time for everyone financially and socially. Please keep the Ripley Library in mind and donate a dollar or two if and when you can. It's going to be a tough recovery.

With your help we will get through this, together!



With all of the world under the influence of Covid-19, many people have forgotten about the Census.

This is very important and is part of the Constitution. Be sure you are counted. The Census is used to determine where funding goes. How many times have you heard “everything goes to NYC?” That is not entirely true, however some of it may have to do with people not filling out their Census and therefore proper information did not get registered.

Remember also the Census is used to draw district lines so that we get the proper representation in government. PLEASE do your Census. It is easy and you can do this by phone, internet or mail. With the danger of Corona Virus, let’s not make the Census takers come to your house. Protect yourself and protect them. Please, do your Census for all of us.

Does Your Vote Count?

There is always talk about the Electoral College vs. Popular Vote during a presidential election year. Even though many people want to throw out the Electoral College, it's not that easy. It is part of our Constitution, and it is extremely difficult to overturn any part of the Constitution.

Does the Electoral College elect our president and vice president in accordance with the wishes of the voters? The majority of the time, the answer is yes. There are three notable exceptions in the 19th century.

In 1825 the House of Representatives actually chose the president. There were four candidates for president that year, and none of them won the required more than half the electoral votes. Interestingly, 1825 was also the first year that the popular vote was counted, even though it had no bearing on the outcome of the election. Andrew Jackson won 99 electoral votes and had 153,544 popular votes; John Quincy Adams received 84 electoral votes and 108,740 popular votes; William H. Crawford suffered a stroke before the election but received 41 electoral votes; and Henry Clay won 37 electoral votes. There is much more to this story should you want to read more. [https://www.270towin.com/1824 Election/](https://www.270towin.com/1824_Election/)

Two other 19th Century elections were decided for the candidates who didn't have a majority, Rutherford B. Hayes (1876) and Benjamin Harrison (1888), but other factors played a part in these elections, such as voter fraud, suppression, and "floaters," voters who agreed to sell their vote for a particular candidate.

We have to jump to the 21st century for other examples of voter majority losing to electoral college votes. In 2000 George W. Bush (50,456,002 votes, or 47.9% of the population) vs. Al Gore (50,999,897 votes, 48.4%), Bush won with 271 electoral votes to Gore's 266 with a difference of more than a half a million votes. Perhaps this election will go down in history as the ballot of the hanging chads.

Fast forward to 2016. President Donald Trump won election with 304 electoral votes to Hillary Clinton's 227. However, Trump's popular vote was 62,979,636 to Clinton's 65,877,610, a difference of more than 2.8 million votes.

Calls for an end to the Electoral College always get louder from the losing side, but is getting more bipartisan support as well as popular support as our country matures and becomes better informed.

What are your thoughts? We'd love to hear from you.

thebookworm14775@gmail.com

In this election year it is more important than ever to understand the process of politics. As much as we hope our politicians are honorable and working in our best interests, it isn't always that easy. The following is the first in a series of articles written by Mary Ellen Humphrey who served as both a state representative and senator.

Adventures in Politics Land Introduction to Partisanship

**By Mary Ellen Humphrey,
former State House and Senate Member**

You've heard of the accidental tourist. Well, I was the accidental legislator. You see, my two children grew up and went off to the Coast Guard Academy, one year apart, and there I was facing the dreaded Empty Nest Syndrome. A friend suggested I might run for the State House—she said, "it's a fun group, you'll really enjoy it." I dismissed the idea for several very good reasons, like I was too busy, and more importantly, I didn't know anything about politics. In fact, I had no idea how one even goes about running for office.

Where I lived, you are required to license your dog every year by the end of May. It was June first when I arrived at the town office to license Dixie. Judy, the town clerk greeted me cheerfully. I handed her the forms hoping she'd overlook the late fee, after all, it was only one day overdue. She started examining my paperwork, and I noticed a flyer on the bulletin board about the State House. Curious, remembering my friend's suggestion, and hoping to distract Judy, I asked, "How does one put their name on the ballot to run for the House?"

She looked up. "Are you interested in running? You know Bob retired last term and there's no one to represent our town now."

"I didn't know that," I said, realizing immediately how uninformed I sounded.

She nodded. "It's easy." She reached into a drawer and pulled out a form. "This is a Declaration of Intent. Just fill it out and pay two dollars!" Using her

pencil, she turned it over, and pointed, adding, "or you can have ten registered voters sign here and there's no fee."

I had no idea how to find ten registered voters, but two dollars was a lot less than the late penalty, so I took a pen from the counter and started to fill it out. Judy never did charge me the penalty, and I handed her the extra two dollars thinking I was pretty smart. Until I got to my car.

As I drove home, I wondered, what had I just done. Perhaps no one would notice. One thing I knew for sure was that I wouldn't tell anyone. Some things are just meant to be, I guess....because come November, I was elected to represent my town. No one was more surprised than me!

The first time I entered the Hall of Representatives, dozens of men and women were milling about, many talking to people they obviously knew. I was shy and didn't know anyone, so when I saw a group of women sitting near the front on the left side, I went over and asked if I might sit with them. A lady looked up at me suspiciously, a clue that perhaps this wasn't such a good idea, and asked, "What party do you belong to?" When I told her, she pointed and said, "They sit on the other side of the hall".

A younger woman said, "You can sit here with us for now. You'll have an assigned seat by the end of the day. But feel free to join us if you want."

I reluctantly sat down as the younger woman frowned at the older one. Well, good start, I thought. Apparently party did matter for some reason.

After that awkward beginning, I decided it might be best to stick by myself and say as little as possible. That worked pretty well until we started having public hearings on various bills in our committees. I never realized that so many people were interested in the legislative process. Over a thousand bills were sponsored every session, and they were divided up between twenty-two committees that specialized in various topics, like Education, or Veteran Affairs, or Municipal Government. I was assigned to Executive Departments and Administration which considered all manner of things relative to government activities, including administrative rule making.

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Intro to Partisanship, continued from Page 5

When I read the proposed legislation, it seemed quite straight forward, but once the public hearings started, different and opposing opinions were expressed. It was confusing because they all seemed to have valid arguments. So early on, after our first public hearings had ended and the Chairman asked if anyone had any questions, I raised my hand. "Mr. Chairman," I said, copying the protocol I'd observed, "With so many different opinions on these bills, all seeming logical, how does one know which way to vote?"

"That's a good question," he said, but I wasn't sure he meant it because he pursed his lips together and looked irritated. "It's really not that hard," he explained pointing to the man on his left. "John is the Majority Whip, and he always votes first. Just vote the way he does."

That wasn't the answer I expected. One of the committee members who sat across from me laughed. Later, in the lunchroom, we sat at the same table. "They don't understand you," he said. He was from the "other" party.

I said, "Well, I don't want someone to tell me HOW to vote, I want to know HOW to come to the right conclusion. You've been here for a long time; how do you decide?"

He replied, "Listen carefully. Everyone has an agenda. See past it and look for what's best for those you represent. You'll figure it out." Finally, something that I could use.

Book Club

By Sharon McIntosh

My humble suggestion for this coming month is to **Organize your Recipes**.

I know that's not reading, but with all the recipes floating around on FB and probably being shared among friends, you may want to keep at least some of them in order. According to my scales and everyone who is talking about cooking and eating, we have all been doing a bang up job of both. When we get back to normal again, if we organize now, we can spend less time looking for that special one that everyone liked. Besides, I foresee lots of picnics this summer....I hope. Peace, kindness, safety and health to you all.



Say What?

Have you heard the news? The ripleylibrary.org website is having a major overhaul. Within the next few weeks, you will find some very new and exciting elements added to our site along with an entirely new format.

Not only will you find more up-to-date library information but you will also have access to The Bookworm and About Town, Story Time, The Kids Corner, Educational Links and so much more. Check it out every week to see what's been added. Although the library doors may still be closed, there are many new and wonderful things happening at the Ripley Public Library!

Ripley Library Sewing Ladies News

By Sharon McIntosh & Donna Deet

We call our group The Ripley Library Sewing Ladies. We are not an officially formed guild or club. We just get together to share patterns, fabrics, challenges and knowledge during our weekly gathering at the Library. Recently we have been keeping in contact with pictures of the projects we are involved in either as a group or individuals. We are now working as a group to make a quilt for the Library to have for their Fall Auction.

We have made place mats for Meals on Wheels, the quilts for Pre-Schoolers and a number of lap robes which were presented to Nursing Homes. Several of our members are now involved in making masks for COVID-19 whether for caregivers, health care workers or private citizens.

We occasionally have out-of-town guests who enjoy our company and add to the knowledge, wisdom and sometimes humor of the gatherings. We're a very informal group and are always looking for more interested folks to join in and have fun with us. I attempt to send out a group e-mail each week to the ladies to sort of

outline a very loose agenda, the very first item being :Show and Tell.

We are all willing and able to offer

demonstrations of techniques or quilting tools we have found useful and want to share with the group. We major in PHD's (Projects Half Done) and offer assistance or suggestions for finishing the project. Whether it's rag quilts, paper piecing, partial seam, Prairie points, Selvage Edge Tote Bags or intricately pieced patterns, someone in the group has done it or knows some shortcuts to make it go faster and turn out nicer and is always glad to share.

The Ripley Library has been eager to assist us in any way, whether making copies of patterns or setting up tables for us to work on large projects and providing space for us to store large items like ironing board, iron and cutting boards.

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year the Ripley Library Sewing Ladies

donated Nap Quilts for the 28 preschoolers at Ripley Central School. The quilts were made of cotton fabric with fleece for the back. It was a labor of love for our quilters and the children loved them.

Donna Deet: "We received kudos on the RCS website and received a nice email from the two pre-K teachers. My daughter worked there for many years and had just retired so I thought it would be a nice thing to do and the ladies agreed. There were 5 of us who worked on the quilts and we donated all the materials for the quilts. Needless to say we were very busy last spring and summer working on the project. Before that we donated quilts to the Westfield Nursing Home and placemats for the Meals on Wheels program.

Editor's Note: If you would like to take part in this group's activities, you can contact any of the ladies involved: Jo Anne Arnold, Marty Danielson, Donna Deet, Joan Fletcher, Julie Hogue, Debbie Hubbard, Lou Ann Lyon, Nancy McIntosh, Sharon McIntosh, and Sue Ryan.



We Asked—You Responded

We wanted to know what you wanted to read about and several requests came in for historical stories about Ripley. Thank you to those who took the time to let us know what interests you! Keep the requests coming!

This month's Ripley history is taken from **Marie McCutcheon's** book, *Echoes From the Past*. Do you recognize any of the names in this article from the past? Mrs. McCutcheon wrote two books about Ripley, and they were much sought after. Copies can be read at the Ripley Library. This is an excerpt from a chapter called -

"That's What We Learn At The School"

"Ripley first had the advantage of newspaper coverage when John Hale Cobb came to town and introduced and edited what was called The Ripley Local Review. It was July 5, 1882 when Volume 1, No. 1 rolled off the press in a building located somewhere on Main Street."

D.A. Preston came to town September 2, 1884 to become the new principal of the District 3 school. In the same edition where this was announced, Preston wrote, "'the editor has kindly given us a portion of a column to be used from week to week in school work. This work will be arranged and carried on entirely by the scholars, and will consist of school items, educational and local notes, gleanings from other papers, sketches of biography and history, etc. The parents are invited and urged to help their children in arranging this column. We thus hope to materially benefit the school, and yet not trespass too much on the patience of the reader.'"

"Quincy Common School District 3 was reorganized on December 19, 1882 as Ripley Union Free School...Rice's Hardware had not been built; Dr. MacNee's house had not been built (although a small building is supposed to have

stood on the spot) and the next building was the Presbyterian Church."

The first student column was written by Emily Tracy. In it she covered the schedule of the school bell, which "was originally hung in the belfry and is now mounted on the present school campus...Stored in the bus barn since the 1946 demolition of the Ripley Grade School building, it was at the suggestion of Victor Scroger, then Supervising Principal of Ripley Central School, that the class of 1959 finance the mounting of the bell as a parting class gift to their alma mater; and it was Gerhardt Krause, father of Salutatorian Joe Krause of that class, whose donated brick-laying expertise brought the project to fruition and completion.

"Three items make up the school column...the third is the piece de resistance, [written by] twelve year old Bert Tinker. Bert was a fourth generation Tinker in Ripley and the son of Frank A. and Marian Palmer Tinker. Joshua Tinker, his great grandfather first appeared on our records during 1830.

"A Boy's Composition

"Ripley is near Lake Erie it has nice bildins and houses there is one brick block in town it is a little west of Mr Masons hardware it is devided into three stores. To are grocies stores and one is a drug store they have nice watches and chains rings clocks and everthing nice Westfield is on the east Mina is on the south and Pennsylvania. The to railroads that run through here is Lake Shore & nickel Plate they both run east & west they both have nice cars on I like to wride on the Nickel plate the best It rides a good eal the nices I think, This is all I can think about Ripley. But Ripley ain't very large anyway Bert Tinker. "

Bert is still correct, even though his writing skills are somewhat lacking—Ripley ain't very large anyway.

My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

During the quarantine and our desire to stay healthy but informed, we still like to read and keep in touch by any safe possible means.

Last month, I suggested that if you were so inclined, you could pick up any book you had around your home and read it. I'd be interested if anyone did that and if so, did they find it informative, entertaining or bring back thoughts and memories of by-gone times.

I chose to read Kon-Tiki, written by Thor Heyerdahl about the journey he and five others took across the Pacific to try to prove that it was possible that people from Peru, many centuries ago, did in fact, travel on a Balsa Wood raft to the Polynesian Islands.

The book describes all aspects of the adventure, from gathering political and financial support to agreeing to carry numerous instruments to measure weather and wind speed, radio equipment, packaged food, and water proof containers to make the endeavor possible.

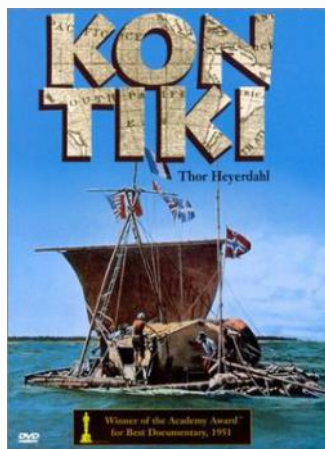
After many set-backs, funds and equipment, building materials needed to construct a raft to the specifications outlined in several historical writings and tribal stories of the distant past, were located and

obtained. The use of a Naval facility in Peru was procured to build the raft and it was launched in time to avoid the worst storm season.

The trip took a little over three months, during much of which they were only in contact with the mainland by ham radio and never saw or communicated with any other human or marine vessel.

They did, ultimately, land on a Polynesian Island, were welcomed in various languages and were celebrated with feasting, dances and ceremonies.

Upon being picked up by an American ship and returned to the States, they presented President Truman with the American Flag that had flown on their raft.



To me, this was a fast moving, informative, enlightening and very enjoyable read. Our grandfather had read it to my brother and me many years ago and I wanted to see how 70 some years between readings would change my perception of the telling of the adventure. Even better this time.

Among Friends

Nancy McIntosh

As we all know, the restrictions placed on everyone to stay home due to the coronavirus can be unnerving at times. This could be a time to relax, read, bake, clean out a closet, or start a new project. So many options to choose from but then again you may not have the desire to do anything at all.

With extra time on my hands, I find myself looking at other libraries online, finding projects that may have worked for them or maybe ones with a little bit of tweaking could be used at the Ripley Library. What are other Friends working on? What ideas do you think might work for programs, fundraisers, or entertainment? If you have any suggestions, please send them to thebookworm14775@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you. In the meantime, stay safe and stay active, physically and mentally.

Bad Timing?

If a class or event is taking place at a bad time for you, please call the Ripley Library (716-736-3913) and request a time that is convenient for you. The Library tries to make events available to as many people as possible. Don't be left out!

Quilting & Sewing

The Ripley Library Quilters have been busy. They meet on **Thursdays at 1 pm**. If you've never tried quilting, there are seasoned quilters available to help you. If you are experienced, join in the social side of quilting.

Any sewing project is welcome as well. Open to all levels.

Come sew or quilt!

Meeting Space Available

Until such time as the Library renovations are finished, meeting space is limited. Please check with the library if you need a space to meet. (716)736-3913

Knitters and Crocheters meet every **Tuesday between 3-7:30 pm**.

Learn from experienced knitters or bring your own projects to work on.



Open Craft Can't make it for scheduled craft times? Come on in **Thursdays at 10:30 am**. Bring whatever craft you are working on and settle in with the rest of the group. Knitting, painting, sewing - or whatever your area of interest. Everyone welcome!

Ripley Public Library Mission Statement

The mission of the Ripley Public Library is to promote life-long learning for all community residents, providing unrestricted free access to all printed and recorded material from its own collection as well as that of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System. The Library will endeavor to create a community center that provides so much more than information for all of those who ask questions and seek answers.

Please Note

All groups and activities have been suspended until further notice. COVID-19 guidelines are in effect and the Ripley Public Library is closed until the "self quarantine" is lifted. We hope to see you again soon!

Join Friends of the Library Now!

The Friends of the Ripley Library have made a huge difference in not only the library, but in the town as well. We need YOU to join us in doing something worthwhile that benefits our entire community. Membership is as simple as filling out your name, address and phone number and contributing a \$5 per year membership fee. No experience necessary, all ages are welcome. WE NEED YOU!



Thank you so much for your past support. We hope you will become a member and contribute to another great year.

Friends of the Ripley Library Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Dues are \$5 annually in January

Print this portion and return it to the library, or pick up a form at the library desk.

FRIENDS OF THE RIPLEY LIBRARY

Friends of the Ripley Library
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Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. We would like to increase our list of recipients but we need your help to do so. Please tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about The Bookworm and the fun things we're doing at the library. Each month you will also receive an email, About Town. For a monthly copy, send your email address to:

thebookworm14775@gmail.com

If you would like to opt out of our mailing, please let us know at thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Library Calendar of Events

- **No activities or meetings will take place until further notice, due to the coronavirus.**

Library Board Seats

Two Ripley Public Library Board seats will be up for election this June, term beginning July 1st. If you are interested in running for the Library Board, please contact Rhonda Thompson, (716) 736-3913

**Notes & Things****E-Books**

E-books have been available for quite awhile, and many of our patrons “check out” e-books from the Ripley Library. But did you know e-books are not free to the library? The library needs to buy a license to have these books for their readers. And unlike purchasing a book, where you pay for it and it's yours, the license is only good for a specified period of time. If the library wants to renew its license, it must pay again.

The Ripley Public Library is a “free” library, which means you can check out books and materials without paying a fee. However, if you would like to help defray the cost of these e-books, you may want to consider a small donation to the library. It will be greatly appreciated!