



THE EAST GREENWICH FREE LIBRARY
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Have you ever been to the East Greenwich Free Library?
Did you know that it wasn't the first library in our town?

The second East Greenwich Free Library is located on 80 Peirce Street in East Greenwich. Peirce Street was actually named after the man who built this library, Daniel Albert Peirce. The library was built in 1915 and was erected out of Coventry granite. It has heavy wooden doors and original stained glass windows. The children's room was actually dedicated to Daniel Albert Peirce's daughter who died at a young age. The plaque honoring her is still hanging in the children's room today.

The first free library in our town is no longer standing. It was located right next to the second library and was founded by Dr. James Eldredge, James T. Edwards, William N. Sherman, George Greene, Richard Howland, Samuel Knowles, Daniel Greene, Silas Crane, and Joseph Congdon. It was established in 1869 by

George Washington Greene. He saw that children worked on their farms all day and didn't know how to read. This bothered him, so he built the library and taught them how to read at night in the basement of the library. Children would work on their farms all day, and come to the library at night. It cost \$6.00 for ten weeks and an extra \$2.00 for Latin, English, Greek, or French classes. George Washington Greene was a scholar, author, and diplomat. He lived in the Windmill Cottage and served as the Headmaster of the East Greenwich Academy in 1833.

Next time you visit the East Greenwich Free Library, remember its history.