

# TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Historical Facts about the Mary Duncan Public Library

Benson (Johnston County, N.C.)

Compiled by Linda Haynes

#### Library Established

1931

#### Notable Librarians

The first librarian at Mary Duncan Public Library was Miss Lucy Creech who began working there in 1939.

#### Important Facts

The Mary Duncan Public Library started from a collection of books for a local women's reading group. The collection was housed in a corner room of a bank building that is now the library's current home. The Mary Duncan Public Library was funded, except utilities and part time staff, by private money until the 1998-1999 budget year when the library became a department of the town of Benson.

One of the library's locations was a log cabin built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The first paid librarians were WPA workers.

#### Notable Stories

The Mary Duncan Public Library is currently located on the first floor of the old Farmers Commercial Bank of Benson. The basement of this building has been used by the library as a haunted house every October for the last 7 years.