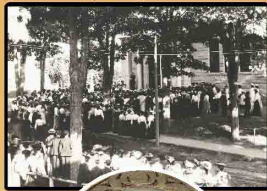


Farmington Public Library

Courtesy of Farmington Public Library



Almost from its beginning as a remote farming settlement, Farmington has been known as a center for the arts & culture.



In 1799, a small group of Farmington residents organized a “Social Library” that circulated books throughout the town for over 50 years. In 1901 Farmington’s library was constructed of granite from North Jay, Maine, and is one of the few examples of Beaux Arts architecture in Maine. It was named “The Cutler Memorial Library”, due in large part to an endowment from the family in memory of Nathan Cutler, a Farmington resident, prominent lawyer, and politician. Nearly 2,000 people attended the building’s dedication in 1903.



Courtesy of Brian Vandenberg

In 1805, Supply Belcher, a noted composer and musician, and dubbed “The Handel of Maine”, organized the town’s first choir. Later in 1894, Farmington native, Lillian Nordica, won international fame for her role of Elsa in Lohengrin at Richard Wagner’s Bayreuth Festival. She was the only non-German of her time to be invited to perform. The great care taken in providing cultural vitality along with the best and broadest education is still evident today by the numerous exhibits, plays, and concerts offered by local organizations.



Courtesy of Tom Sawyer's Collection

