



Mary H. Livermore

Miss Mary H. Livermore was born on October 11, 1883, at Pates, North Carolina. Miss Livermore taught at Meredith, Flora McDonald, and Thomasville Orphanage and did home service work in New York, Virginia, and Tennessee. Her first two years of teaching in North Carolina were at the Old Baptist University for Women in Raleigh (Meredith College).

She joined the Pembroke State College faculty in 1941 and served until 1951. At PSC she taught courses in English and was the initiator and first professor of the Religious Education Department. After her retirement, she was named Dean of Women Emeritus. In 1963, the Library was named in her honor.

She was responsible for convincing E.L. Odum to donate 57 acres of land for the purpose of the Christian education of Robeson County Indians. This land is now the site of the Odum Home.

Religious work dominated her life as seen through her influence in promoting the building of the Odum Home and one of her last projects, the establishment of a chapel at the Lumberton prison in 1964. Even at 80 years of age, she still visited the Robeson County Prison Camp in Lumberton every Saturday.

Mary Livermore died on January 1, 1965, in Robeson County. The following quotation from Aristotle was often used when the life and work of Mary Livermore were praised: *“They who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them.”*

History of the Library

For several years the Library was housed in Old Main. The administrative building was completed in 1949 and named Sampson Hall in honor of Oscar R. Sampson. The Library was located in one wing of the building with a seating capacity of 100 and the capacity to hold 45,000 volumes. The Library actually had 138 periodicals, approximately 17,000 volumes, and a staff of 2.

In May 1963, the Diamond Jubilee anniversary celebration of the college, the library wing of Sampson Hall was named in honor of Miss Mary Hoyland Livermore. The Library remained in Sampson Hall until 1967 when a new library building was constructed. This Library was known as the Mary Livermore Library.

Even though it was a two-story structure, the Library only occupied the first floor. The collection had grown to approximately 50,000 volumes, and 327 periodical subscriptions, and the staff had increased to 6. By 1980 the collection had grown to more than 155,000 volumes and the Library subscribed to 654 periodicals. The staff had grown to 15. By the end of 1990 the Library also occupied the second floor and contained approximately 180,000 volumes and 1,100 periodical subscriptions. The staff had increased to 21.

A new administration building was constructed in 1995 and Sampson Hall was torn down to make room for the new addition to the Library. The ground breaking ceremony for that addition was held on August 19, 1996. The dedication ceremony for the completed addition, with the name of the building officially changed to Sampson-Livermore Library, was held on April 22, 1998. The renovation included a two-story great hall with a glass ceiling, an electronic classroom for bibliographic instruction, a special collections room, a renovated computer lab, and additional office space. The Library holdings increased to nearly 250,000 catalogued volumes, more than 400 electronic titles, and more than 1,300 print subscriptions. Also a partial depository for state and federal publications, the Library was open 90 hours per week during the typical academic semester.

In the late 1990s, the Library received the papers of Charlie Rose, former U.S. Representative from the Seventh District of North Carolina. These papers, and materials relevant to the history of UNC Pembroke, Robeson County, and the Lumbee Indians, help to make up the special collections.

By the early 2000s, the Library also housed an updated computer lab, multimedia and study rooms wired for network access, and an up-to-date electronic reference center. Electronic resources provided by the Library were available 24/7.

On July 16, 2007 the first campus classroom building in 27 years, the Oscar R. Sampson Academic Building, was dedicated. At that time Mr. Sampson's name was removed from the Library and the Library was then renamed the Mary Livermore Library. The Library now holds approximately 350,000 volumes and has access to more than 26,000 electronic periodicals and, in addition, subscribes to approximately 1,200 in print. The Library also has 25 laptops for in-house circulation.

The Library has increased its staff to 13 librarians and 22 full time support staff in addition to part time staff to keep the Library open over 100 hours per week.