

The Abington Social Library

Words and music by Sally Rogers, ©2013

The men of our town saw fit to establish in 1793
The Abington Library, just for men, to lend out books to read.
The library held an education for ladies who chose to look.
For the greatest university is a fine collection of books

Chorus:

Books and education

Education and books

There's nothing more needed and nothing more cherished

Than education and books.

The Ladies of Abington saw a need for an organized circle of friends
To gather together in unity, a library to recommend
To share lexicons, newspapers, books and gab, on these they all were
keen

A Social Ladies Library, they established in 1813.

Chorus:

A folio, 600 pages, could be borrowed for up to 4 months.

An octave of 200 pages could only be kept for one.

Books were expensive and newspapers rare, and treated with kid gloves

Those who read or borrowed them took care of the books with love.

Chorus:

And now, in 1892, in Chicago at the World's Fair

Our library's constitution has traveled and been displayed there.

Sometimes women must organize, shout loudly to be heard

For all to see the importance of the power of the word.

Chorus:

*Information for this song was taken from Susan Griggs' **Folklore and Firesides of Pomfret**. Remembering that women had no access to higher education until later in the 19th century, the new library provided them with resources to expand their world and a place to share in communion with other women.*