

1903—Village of Aurora incorporated, with 184 residents

December 1903: Wright Brothers achieve first sustained, manned plane flight

Spring 1904: a school organized for the Village of Aurora, teacher: Miss Daisy Barron

1905: Aerial Lift Bridge completed in Duluth

1907—1,600 people living within Aurora village limits

1909—Cornerstone was laid for new village hall and courthouse

January 7, 1914: First book listed as purchased for the Aurora Public Library is “The Awakening of Helena Richie” by M. Deland—purchased from the Aurora Drug Co. for \$1.30

Jan 10, 1914: Village of Aurora Library formally opened to the public

1914: Librarian Harriet Levin

July 1914: Babe Ruth makes his Major League debut

August 1914: President Woodrow Wilson announces that the US will stay neutral in the European Conflict

Best-selling books of 1914:

The Eyes of the World by Harold Bell Wright

Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter*

The Inside of the Cup by Winston Churchill

The Salamander by Owen Johnson*

The Fortunate Youth by William J. Locke

T. Tembarom by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

Penrod by Booth Tarkington

Diane of the Green Van by Leona Dalrymple*

The Devil's Garden by W. B. Maxwell

The Prince of Graustark by George Barr McCutcheon

1915—Aurora Public Library owns 273 items. 143 new borrowers are registered. 4,575 items were checked out.

April 1917: The United States declares war on Germany and enters WWI. Some of the books purchased by the Aurora Public Library in 1917 and 1918 include A Soldier of the Legion, Life at the U.S. Naval Academy, Flying for France, Boy's Book of Submarines, Officer's Manual, and My Four Years in Germany.

Best-selling books of the 1920's:

- *The Man of the Forest* by Zane Grey (1920)*
- *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis in (1921)*
- *If Winter Comes* by A. S. M. Hutchison (1922)*
- *Black Oxen* by Gertrude Atherton (1923)
- *So Big* by Edna Ferber (1924)*
- *Soundings* by A. Hamilton Gibbs (1925)*
- *The Private Life of Helen of Troy* by John Erskine (1926)*
- *Elmer Gantry* by Sinclair Lewis (1927)*
- *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder (1928)
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque (1929)

July 1921—Librarian Sadie Ruikka

1921—City Library moves into a room on the main floor of City Hall. Library is open from 7:00-9:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and from 2:30-5:30 pm on Wednesday and Saturday.

1927-1928—Librarians Anna Wood, Linda Anderson, Mrs. P.M. Olson

1929—Great Depression

Best-selling books of the 1930's:

- *Cimarron* by Edna Ferber (1930)
- *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck (1931)
- *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck (1932)
- *Anthony Adverse* by Hervey Allen (1933)
- *Anthony Adverse* by Hervey Allen (1934)
- *Green Light* by Lloyd C Douglas (1935)
- *Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell (1936)
- *Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell (1937)
- *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1938)
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (1939)

1931: Library purchases a 2-year subscription to Time magazine for \$8.

1935—Aurora Public Library joins the Range Library Association

January 1937—Library Board approves motion that married women not considered as applicants to fill the vacant Librarian position; and that in the event of marriage, the Librarian must resign.

July 1938: Mrs. Mary Rabb hired as Librarian

Sept. 1939—The United States declares its neutrality in the war in Europe

Best-selling books of the 1940's:

- *How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn (1940)
- *The Keys of the Kingdom* by A J Cronin (1941)
- *The Song of Bernadette* by Franz Werfel (1942)
- *The Robe* by Lloyd C Douglas (1943)
- *Strange Fruit* by Lillian Smith (1944)
- *Forever Amber* by Kathleen Winsor (1945)
- *The King's General* by Daphne du Maurier (1946)
- *The Miracle of the Bells* by Russel Janney (1947)
- *The Big Fisherman* by Lloyd C Douglas (1948)
- *The Egyptian* by Mika Waltari (1949)

April 1941—Aurora Public Library Board adopts American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights"

December 1941—the United States enters WWII following the bombing of Pearl Harbor

1939-1945—World War II

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- *How Green Was My Valley* by Richard Llewellyn (1940)
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- *The Big Fisherman* by Lloyd C Douglas (1948)
- *The Egyptian* by Mika Waltari (1949)

1944—Librarian Katherine Mishmash

1945—Aurora Public Library owns 3951 items. Circulation this year: 14,588 items checked out from the Aurora Public Library. 864 residents have library cards.

1946—Librarian Ann Hodnick

1949—Librarian Mrs. Mary Turk

1950-1954: US involved in Korean War

Best-selling books of the 1950's:

1950 – The Cardinal by Henry Morton Robinson
1951 – From Here To Eternity by James Jones
1952 – The Silver Chalice by Thomas B. Costain
1953 – The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas
1954 – Not As A Stranger by Morton Thompson
1955 – Marjorie Morningstar by Herman Wouk
1956 – Don't Go Near The Water by Willima Brinkley
1957 – By Love Possessed by James Gould Cozzens
1958 – Dr. Zhivago by Boris Pasternak
1959 – Exodus by Leon Uris

1957/1958: Erie Mining Company

1959—Construction of White Community Hospital begins

Best-selling books of the 1960's:

1960 – Advise and Consent by Allen Drury
1961 – The Agony and the Ecstasy by Irving Stone
1962 – Ship of Fools by Katherine Anne Porter
1963 – The Shoes of the Fisherman by Morris L. West
1964 – The Spy Who Came In From The Cold by John le Carre
1965 – The Source by James Michener
1966 – Valley of the Dolls by Jacqueline Susann
1967 – The Arrangement by Elia Kazan
1968 – Airport by Arthur Hailey
1969 – Portnoy's Complaint by Philip Roth

1961—Bob Dylan releases first album

1965—Arrowhead Library System forms

1965—Aurora's estimated population: 2,876

1965-1975: US involved in Vietnam War

1968—Librarian Mrs. Veryle Dombrowski

1969—Library Board determines that the new librarian must be between 22 and 50 years of age.

1969—Librarian Mrs. Bernice Karich

1969—Split Rock Light House ceases operation

Best-selling books of the 1970's:

1970 – Love Story by Erich Segal

1971 – Wheels by Arthur Hailey
1972 – Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach
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1974 – Centennial by James A. Michener
1975 – Ragtime by E. L. Doctorow
1976 – Trinity by Leon Uris
1977 – The Silmarillion by J. R. R. Tolkien and Christopher Tolkien
1978 – Chesapeake by James A. Michener
1979 – The Matarese Circle by Robert Ludlum

1971—Library begins loaning out record albums

1974—Village of Aurora becomes the City of Aurora

1977—Librarian Mrs. Loydene May

1979—Aurora Public Library adopts revised Library Bill of Rights

Best-selling books of the 1980's:

1980 – The Covenant by James A. Michener
1981 – Nobel House by James Clavell
1982 – E.T., The Extra-terrestrial by William Kotzwinkle
1983 – The Return of the Jedi by James Kahn
1984 – The Talisman by Stephen King and Peter Straub
1985 – The Mammoth Hunters by Jean Auel
1986 – It by Stephen King
1987 – The Tommyknockers by Stephen King
1988 – The Cardinal of the Kremlin by Tom Clancy
1989 – Clear and Present Danger by Tom Clancy

1980—Fonteccio's donate their plot to City so house can be removed and library addition built in its place

1981—Librarian Joyce Banttari

September 1985—New Aurora Public Library building is dedicated

Best-selling books of the 1990's:

1990 – The Plains of Passage by Jean Auel
1991 – Scarlett by Alexandra Ripley
1992 – Delores Claiborne by Stephen King
1993 – The Bridges of Madison County by Robert James Waller
1994 – The Chamber by John Grisham
1995 – The Rainmaker by John Grisham
1996 – The Runaway Jury by John Grisham

1997 – The Partner by John Grisham
1998 – The Street Lawyer by John Grisham
1999 – The Testament by John Grisham

Best-selling books of the 2000's

The Brethren by John Grisham
The Wedding by Danielle Steel
Before I Say Goodbye by Mary Higgins Clark
Easy Prey by John Sandford
Indwelling by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins
Hot Six by Janet Evanovich
The House on Hope Street by Danielle Steel
Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher
The Bear and the Dragon by Tom Clancy
The Rescue by Nicholas Sparks
Drowning Ruth by Christina Schwarz
The Last Precinct by Patricia Cornwell
Winter's Heart by Robert Jordan
The Mark by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins

2001—LTV Mine shuts down

2002—Aurora Public Library's "Library Chit-Chat" newsletter starts

2003—Aurora Friends of the Library group starts

2003—City of Aurora celebrates its Centennial

2004—Aurora Public Library starts a circulating DVD collection

2005—Librarian Paula Chapman

2008—Music CD's now available to check out

2009—Library begins to offer wireless internet

2014—Aurora Public Library celebrates its Centennial

2021—Aurora Public Library celebrates a new mural painted by artist Adam Swanson