## Welcome to the Crouse Family Museum.

Pictures and stories of the Crouse family are housed in this building.

The fruits of its labor and impressive heritage, left for the benefit of local residents, can be seen in the historic farmstead, in bustling Waldenwoods, and in Hartland village and Township.

After World War I, John Robert Crouse, known throughout the burgeoning electric lamp industry as the "Father of Cooperation," began to focus his attention and considerable fortune on his birthplace: Hartland, Michigan. He assembled 1,500 acres surrounding the ancestral farmstead on Crouse Road, modernized and expanded farming operations, and developed an impressive pastoral retreat on the shores of Lake Walden. He gave it the name "Waldenwoods," in honor of noted naturalist and author Henry David Thoreau. It was designed for business meetings and social gatherings, but was enjoyed in summers by his relatives and rapidly growing family

In time, the village of Hartland and Hartland Township were also to receive the benefits of J. Robert's ideas, energy and fortune. He conceived the "Hartland Area Project" as a far-reaching series of plans and programs to improve the social, cultural, educational, and economic life of his hometown. Most of his projects, foundations and dedicated buildings survive to this day, as does his guiding principal . . .

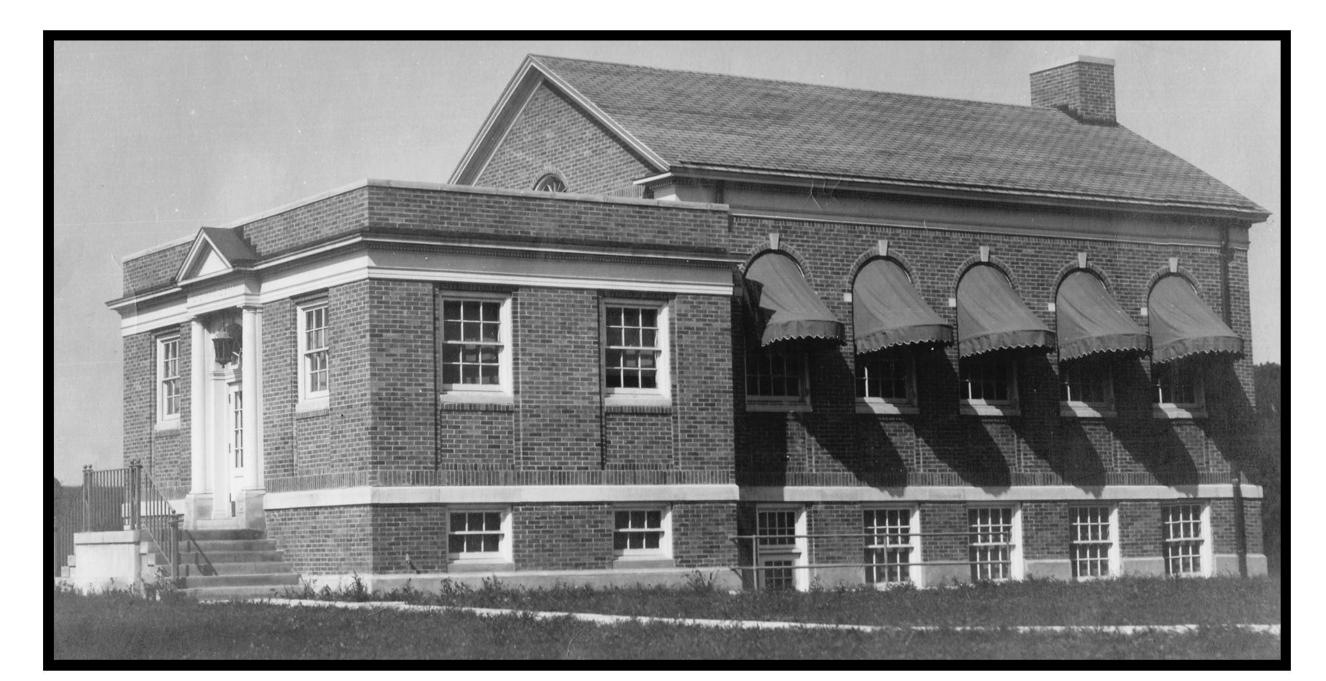


Hartland Music Hall

## "Friendly Association for Wholehearted Service"



The family continues to maintain the dreams and vision of John Robert Crouse and his ancestors.



Cromaine Library