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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo: Austin E. Dwight, August 12, 1919 - August 17, 2013

VBDL RECEIVES DONATION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL HISTORY

DECATUR, MICHIGAN - - - - Van Buren District Library is honored to announce a generous gift that will enhance its local history collection.

Library Director Ryan Wieber acknowledges the receipt of \$10,000 from the estate of Austin E. Dwight, who was born and raised in Decatur. Wieber says the contribution will be used to create the Austin E. Dwight Memorial as part of the district's endowment fund. Annual proceeds from the Memorial will be used exclusively to purchase new materials for the Toni I. Benson Local History and Genealogy Room at Webster Memorial Library.

"We are thrilled to received the donation from Mr. Dwight and his family," Wieber says, "especially knowing it will benefit library researchers for many years to come. Mr. Dwight's appreciation for the help he received while using the library's unique genealogy resources has come back to pay it forward for others interested in family research."

Dwight graduated from Decatur High School in 1936, from Michigan State College in 1941, and the University of Michigan in 1950. He conducted research for Argonne National Labs in Darien, Illinois, and went on to teach nuclear research to graduate students at Northern Illinois University. The published scientist and navy veteran also had a love of genealogy and compiled several family histories. Much of his research was done in the 1990s at Webster Memorial Library.

The Toni I. Benson Room is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

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