



# Cromaine District Library

[www.cromaine.org](http://www.cromaine.org)

## Company History? Years in business?

The Cromaine District Library has served the residents of the Hartland Consolidated School district and surrounding townships since it was built in 1927. It was donated to the schools by J. Robert Crouse and his uncle, Henry A. Tremaine, as the result of a \$5,000.00 bequest from John B. Crouse, father of J. Robert Crouse. Tremaine and Crouse added \$ 20,000.00 to the bequest to erect the Library, which was named in honor of its donors.

## What products or services do you offer companies or individuals?

Expect to find up-to-date digital resources as well as print and media materials. The library is no longer a warehouse of books, but a collection of experts. Answers are important and experts to show residents how to find those answers are even more important. This community seeks learning opportunities for all ages, from story times for the littlest ones to technology classes for all levels of expertise. Sometimes learning looks like play, whether slime- and bubble-making by the young, or communal crafting and book discussion by the mature. All are welcome to pursue their interests and passions at Cromaine.

## What's an interesting fact about your business most people don't know?

The Hartland Schools provided the land on which the library was built. Mr. Crouse provided a nucleus of 1,225 books for the collection. From time to time Mr. Crouse presented the library with autographed letters and pictures of the "great and near-great." Especially noted were autographs of Queen Victoria, Napoleon, and letters written by Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln. This collection is currently housed at the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, for safety and preservation. Many art works and objects d'art were donated to adorn the library interior.

## What accomplishments are you most proud of?

The aim of the library is to continually provide services and a wide variety of media and materials to meet the informational, recreational and educational needs of all ages, individuals and groups in the Hartland community and beyond.

## What are the greatest obstacles and/or challenges that your business has faced? How have you and your business overcome them?

The Cromaine District Library is funded by a voted millage of 1.6 mills. Part of that funding, donations from the community, and help from Friends of Cromaine organization went towards yet another addition to the growing library. The 3,800 square foot addition opened in September of 2017.

## What do you foresee in the future for business?

### As someone doing business in and around Hartland, how does the chamber help you?

Both Cromaine and the Chamber are involved in Partners in Progress, a collaborative working relationship. Along with Hartland Consolidated Schools and Hartland Township, the four are working toward a shared vision of Hartland Living to attract new businesses and families to the area, and to refine what makes Hartland the place to call "home". Partners in Progress embodies John Robert Crouse, Sr.'s emphasis on the necessity of cooperation to effect positive change.

## When you are not working, what do you like to do in your free time?