

# CIVIL WAR & IMMIGRATION (1861-1877)

## *Manuel Serpa's Whalebone Cane*

This whalebone cane belonged to Manuel Serpa (1835-1918), a successful Portuguese whaler who settled in the Hornbine area of Rehoboth in the 1870s. Serpa, like many other Portuguese-speaking immigrants from the Azores and Cape Verde, came to New England in the 19th century to

work in the fishing and whaling industries. As whaling declined in the 1870s, Portuguese families found work in textile mills and on farms.

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Art and Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. "Greenland Whale ; Sperm Whale." The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1872. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-d042-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

**1861** Civil War breaks out as the southern slave-holding states attempt to leave the Union. More than 15 soldiers from Rehoboth perish in the conflict.

South Carolina becomes the first state to secede from the Union, followed shortly by the other slave-holding states. Fort Sumter, South Carolina, is attacked soon after, and the Civil War officially begins.

**1865** General Robert E. Lee surrenders to the Union at the Appomattox Courthouse. President Lincoln is killed six days later.

**1870** The legislature in the Wyoming territory extends voting rights to women.

The first regiment of all-black soldiers in the Union Army is formed. **1863**

Rehoboth observes its first Memorial Day. **1868**