

# REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Carpenter Museum  
Blanding Library  
Goff Memorial Hall  
Arts in the Village  
Cultural Events



FALL 2019

Quarterly Newsletter

## REMEMBERING THE MILKMAIDS

### *New intern spearheads upcoming exhibit*



With a grant awarded from the Bristol Country Savings Charitable Foundation, the Museum is working on a new exhibit and digital materials that explore the role sports played through the story of the Milkmaids, a softball team made up of young women from Rehoboth and surrounding

towns during the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibit will provide exciting opportunities for visitors to connect while learning about an often-overlooked part of Rehoboth's story, women and girls at play.

Independent scholar and educator, Miranda DiCenzo, is the museum's intern for Fall 2019 – Winter 2020. She specializes in historic textiles, material culture analysis, and women's studies. She holds a B.S. 2011 and M.S. 2018 in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design from the University of Rhode Island. Miranda previously interned with the Preservation Society of Newport County, has worked on a number of projects with Hearthside Historic House Museum, and has given a variety of talks and lectures on fashion and women's histories of the past two centuries. Miranda's research uses a holistic approach to combine historical artifacts and fashion studies with social history through the use of material culture analysis to facilitate awareness and discussion. She has received an award from the URI Center for the Humanities for her research in fashion history. established suggested themes for each year's program.

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## UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

### GENEALOGY GROUP

**Third Wednesday of the Month**  
**7 to 9 PM**

Join this lively group to discuss DNA, wills and probate records, land records, technology tools and the brick walls we encounter while researching. All invited. Wifi available.

### ARTISANS SHOW

*(formerly Folk Art & Artisans Show)*

**Friday, November 8**  
**4 to 9 PM**

**Saturday, November 9**  
**9 AM to 4 PM**

**Francis Farm in Rehoboth**

*(Francis Farm Road off County Street)*

Just in time for holiday shopping, this popular craft show features over 70 vendors throughout multiple buildings. Ample parking available.

### REHOBOTH MILKMAIDS EXHIBIT and EVENTS

**Coming Spring 2020**

*For more info about any  
museum group or events,  
visit our website at:  
[rehobothantiquarian.org](http://rehobothantiquarian.org)*

## RAS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What is the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society and how does it work? The Society was founded in 1884 to preserve the history of the town of Rehoboth and also to serve its cultural needs by providing a building to house a library, school, and meeting hall as well as the collected documents and artifacts.

It is now incorporated as a non-profit educational organization with a volunteer board elected by the membership to oversee the paid library and museum staff and the many committees and other volunteers who are essential to making things work.

Goff Memorial Hall, at 124 Bay State Road, still houses the Blanding Public Library -- now funded primarily by the Town of Rehoboth through an annual grant approved at Town Meeting -- and provides space for a large number of community activities. Historical artifacts and other resources, including genealogy and local history research materials, have moved down the street and are available to visitors and researchers in the two buildings that make up the Carpenter Museum at 4 Locust Ave; the staff there is also responsible for our newsletters and other communication with Society members.

Committees include Arts in the Village, which brings top-notch classical music concerts to Goff Hall; Artisans Show (AKA "Folk Art and Artisans Show"), which organizes the annual show; Buildings and Grounds, which keeps an eye on the many items of repair and maintenance needed by old buildings and helps organize needed care; Collections, which assists with the Museum's artifacts; and Scholarship, which awards an annual grant to a student of history or library science.

Membership in the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society is open to anyone interested in supporting our mission to "preserve, promote, and enhance the significant historical, educational, and cultural assets of Rehoboth, Massachusetts."

Be a member. Be a volunteer. Be part of history.

*Rebecca Smith*



*Following a graveside memorial service, a reception was held in the Tilton Room at the Carpenter Museum in September.*

## REHOBOTH CIVIL WAR VETERAN REMEMBERED

Civil War veteran Alexander Williams, died in the Rehoboth Alms House in 1888 and was buried in an unmarked grave at the historic Hix Cemetery off Brook Street. Last year, the Rehoboth Cemetery Commission, along with the town's Veteran Services Officer, undertook a project to acknowledge Williams and his service with a brand new gravestone obtained through the Veterans Administration.



A presumed ex-slave from a southern state, Williams made his way north and later enlisted in the Navy to serve on the U.S. Mahaska. Members of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment re-enactors took part in the graveside ceremony and later shared stories at a reception held in the Tilton Room of the museum.

Rev. Ken Postle officiated at the ceremony and spoke eloquently about William's life and circumstances, slavery, and the lives of people of color who served bravely in the Civil War.

The Rehoboth Cemetery Commission is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of 54 historic burial grounds dating back to the late 1600s.



# 41st ANNUAL ARTISANS SHOW

*Known previously as the Folk Art and Artisans Show*

**Friday, November 8 from 4 to 9 pm**

**Saturday, November 9 from 9 am to 4 pm**

Now in its 41st year, the Artisans Show is an annual shopping experience showcasing over 70 of the region's finest local and independent artisans, crafters, and makers. The first Show was modest: only two local crafters displayed their wares at the museum in May 1979. For many years, the Show expanded to all the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society sites, including the historic Goff Memorial Hall at Blanding Public Library, and Otis Dyer Barn. When attendance for the two-day show reached the thousands, the event was moved to its present location at historic and picturesque Francis Farm.



***Look for the RAS Raffle Booth at the Show to help support our non-profit organization and take chances to win great raffle prizes!***



***Francis Farm is located in Rehoboth on Francis Farm Road, off County Street.***



**Matthew Graybill . Solo Piano**

**November 9 . 7:30 PM . Goff Hall**

ARTS  
IN THE  
VILLAGE

Described as an "exceptional young artist" by The New Yorker, American pianist Matthew Graybill has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. He will present his eclectic program entitled "Debussy: His Friends and His Enemies." Claude Debussy was known for his sharp-tongued musical and verbal homages, and insults abound in this program. Quotes from Debussy's letters and musical criticisms will enliven the music and allow the audience to engage with his distinctive character.

All performances will take place on Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm, at Goff Memorial Hall, 124 Bay State Road, in Rehoboth. Doors open at 7 pm for early seating, which is non-reserved. Payment by cash or check made out to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society. Admission prices: \$18 for general, \$16 for seniors, and \$8 for children & students.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS IN 2020

**Neave Trio** on February 29 featuring violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura

**Bay Winds Sextet** on March 28 featuring Stephen Toro, Donna O'Brien, Linda Diebold, Jonathan Malone, Jeff Stewart, and Donald Rankin on woodwinds and piano

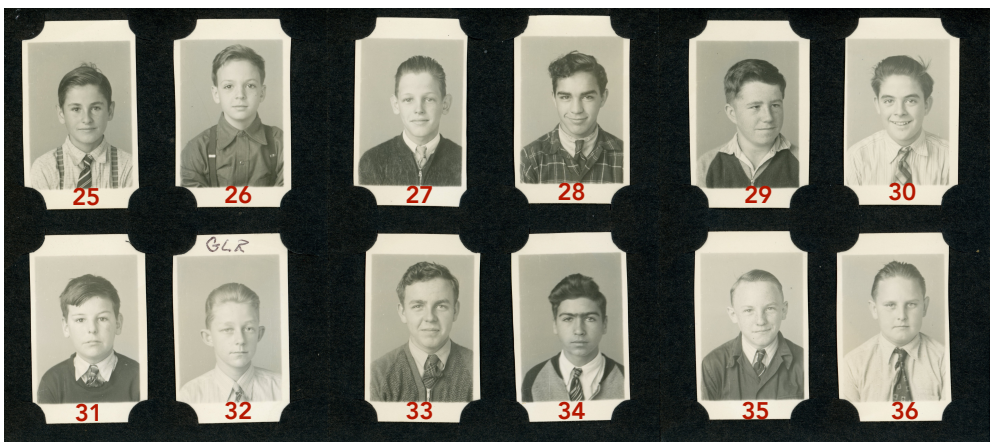
**Schwarz & Bournaki** on April 25 on cello and piano.



## DO YOU KNOW ME?

The Carpenter Museum recently acquired a photo book from the Anawan School eighth grade class of 1942. Can you help us identify the students pictured? We know the teacher to be Miss Beatrice Nelson and the principle to be Miss Dorothy Beckwith.

If you recognize any of the students please email the museum!  
Make sure to include which numbered student you are identifying.  
[director@rebothantiquarian.org](mailto:director@rebothantiquarian.org)



## NEW BOOKS IN THE RESEARCH CENTER

Baptists in North America,  
Volume 1; Swansea, MA

Memory Lands, King Philip's  
War and the Place of Violence  
in the Northeast

The New England Historical  
and Genealogical Register,  
Volume 1-(1847)-16(1862)

The Great Migration,  
Immigrants to New England,  
1620-1640

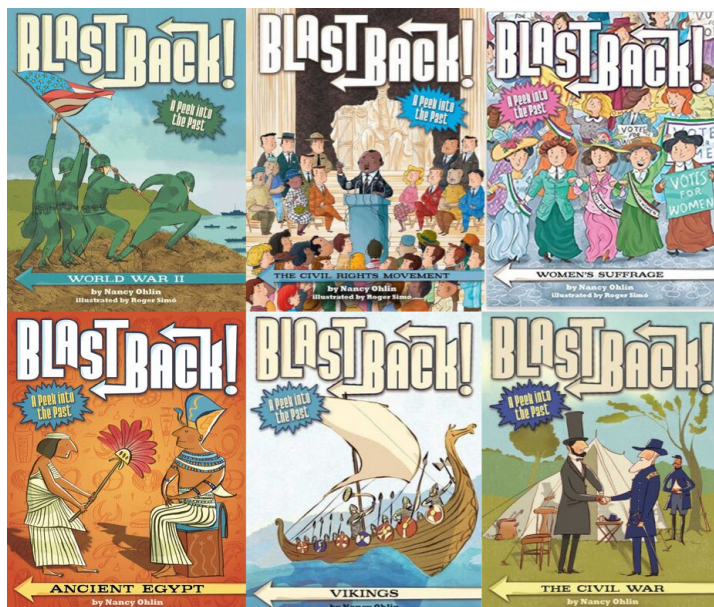
The Great Migration  
Newsletter Volumes 1-25

The Great Migration Begins  
Immigrants to New England  
1620-1633, Volume I,II,III

The Great Migration Begins  
Immigrants to New England  
1634-1635, Volume I-VII

**These volumes offer the  
research biographical  
sketches and documentation  
of the immigrants that came  
to New England.**





## WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES AT BLANDING LIBRARY

Kids are getting hooked on Blast Back! a new nonfiction history series for grades 2 through 5.

Love history? Author Nancy Ohlin and illustrator Adam Larkum have created an inviting and fun nonfiction series of books for kids about various events in history.

History not your thing? Each adventure offers interesting and little-known facts incorporating clever and humorous illustrations to attract even the reluctant reader.

Published by Little Bee Books, this history series includes titles such as Vikings, The American Revolution, Pearl Harbor, Women's Suffrage, The Titanic and many others that offer details and discoveries for a "Peek into the Past" and an understanding of what it was really like during that time.

Each book would make a great read-aloud for families, and adults may even learn a thing or two!

**Cathy Charbonneau**  
Children's Librarian, Blanding Public Library

Monday - Thursday from 10 AM to 8 PM  
Friday - Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM



## BLANDING LIBRARY GOFF MEMORIAL HALL

### WEEKLY TOT TIME

**Wednesdays at 10:30 AM**

This fun 30-minute program is designed for children under three years featuring books, finger play, and music.

### STORY & CRAFT TIME

**Tuesdays from 10:15 to 11:15 AM**

For children age 3 and up. Enjoy a story and make a craft to bring home. Registration required.

### YOGA FOR FAMILIES

**Friday, October 25, November 15, December 15  
10:15 to 11:15 AM**

Free parent-child wellness program offered by PACE Child Care Works Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

### DRAGON & TIGER QIGONG

**Wednesday, Oct. 23, 30 and Nov. 6, 13, 20  
10:15 to 11:15 AM**

Learn and practice this 1,500-year-old self-healing movement system to develop balance and flexibility.

### BLANDING BOOK CLUB

**Wednesday, November 6 at 7 PM**

This friendly group of readers will discuss Kristan Higgin's book *Good Luck with That*.

**Wednesday, December 4 at 7 PM**

The book selection is *Sargent's Women - Four lives behind the canvas* by Donna M. Lucy.

### HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

**Tuesdays from 11 AM to 12:15 PM**

Hank Coleman is back with a 12-week series on the American Revolution.

### BOOK TURKEY CRAFT NIGHT

**Wednesday, November 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**

Make a beautiful and unique Thanksgiving table decoration using an old book (provided). Please register.

**PLUS: REHOBOTH CONTRA DANCE  
SUNDAY NIGHT JAMMERS  
LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP**

Go to [BlandingLibrary.net](http://BlandingLibrary.net) for complete information.