

REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

CARPENTER MUSEUM
BLANDING LIBRARY
GOFF MEMORIAL HALL
ARTS IN THE VILLAGE

SPRING 2021

RAS NEWSLETTER

CARPENTER MUSEUM FEATURED ON PBS RHODE ISLAND'S TREASURES INSIDE THE MUSEUM

On Friday, April 30th, the Carpenter Museum will be featured on the Rhode Island PBS show *Treasures Inside the Museum*. Jim Karpeichik from Ocean State Video filmed at the Museum in late October. We are very eager to see the finished product and hope you will tune in to watch at 8:30PM.

On the segment, Museum Director Danielle DiGiacomo discusses some of the Museum's treasures including King Philip's Kettle and the Gilbert Stuart painting of Eliza Devereux. As many know, Gilbert Stuart painted the portrait of George Washington that is shown on the one-dollar bill; having one of Stuart's original portraits in our collection is definitely a Museum highlight.

PBS also filmed the drum that Rehoboth native Joseph Hiram Pierce used as a teenage drummer boy in the Revolutionary War, as well as scenes of Board President Rebecca Smith baking gingerbread in the Museum hearth. Research Manager Lende McMullen showcased some of the records found in the E. Otis Dyer, Jr. Research Center and the segment concludes with Danielle discussing highlights from the Museum's current exhibit *Play Ball! The Rehoboth Milkmaids, Pioneers of Women's Softball*.

If you miss the first showing, an encore of the episode will be shown on Friday, May 2nd at 7:00pm on Rhode Island PBS.

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Friday, April 30th, 8:30PM

PBS Rhode Island *Treasures Inside the Museum* with the Carpenter Museum

Wednesday May 5th, 7PM
ZOOM EVENT

Rehoboth Antiquarian Society Annual
Membership Meeting

Wednesday May 12th, 1PM
ZOOM EVENT

Introduction to Genealogy with E. Otis
Dyer Jr. Research Center Manager
Lende McMullen

Tuesday June 22nd, 7PM
ZOOM EVENT

Speaker Series Kickoff!
Brenda Sullivan of the Gravestone Girls
Registration coming soon

rehobothantiquarian.org

RAS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome, spring! There is a cautious sense of coming out of hibernation, and we all hope to see one another in person this year. The Blanding Library and Carpenter Museum are open (masks still required), concerts are being discussed, and the craft show committee hopes that the show will go on again in November. Stay tuned.

More immediately, the 137th Annual Meeting of our members will take place on the 5th of May. It will, unfortunately, be another Zoom meeting, but please join us if you can. The business will be fairly brief -- reports on the state of our Society and the election of officers -- and will be followed by a talk on the history of our neighbor, the Rehoboth Congregational Church. There will also be an opportunity for questions and conversation. Please be sure to renew your membership if necessary and register for the Zoom meeting link. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Rebecca H. Smith
president@rehobothantiquarian.org
508-252-5767

REHOBOTH GENEALOGY GROUP

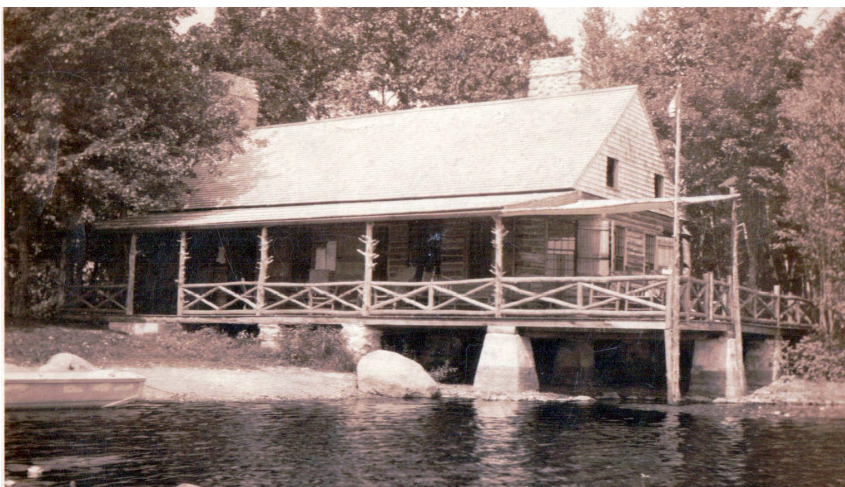
Despite the restrictions COVID has placed on all of us, The Rehoboth Genealogy Group has been still meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM on the video and audio conferencing platform called Zoom. Over the past few months, we have offered presentations about the following:

Land deeds and how to find them
A website called Relative Finder
Tips and tricks for genealogy
Using City Directories
Myths and Realities of the Pilgrim Story
Revolutionary War pension files online

We also meet to share about our findings and brick walls we encounter or break through. This hour goes by fast with our lively group when there is so much to discover and share.

These meetings are open to all.
Send your email address to
genealogy@rehobothantiquarian.org and you receive an email from me, Lende McMullen welcoming you to our group along with the password to join our next meeting.

DO YOU KNOW THIS REHOBOTH LOCATION?



The Museum's photograph collection includes images from Rehoboth's past. Can you solve the mystery of this photo? Hint: The water you see is the Warren Upper Reservoir.

Answer found on page four of the newsletter.

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT WRAP-UP

CHAT WITH A CURATOR



At this year's members event Director Danielle DiGiacomo chatted about the Carpenter Museum's Girl Scout collection. As well as sharing the history of the organization in Rehoboth, Danielle used it as a case study of how a museum makes donation, storage, and exhibition decisions.

There is evidence of a troop in Rehoboth as early as 1922. The troop "Red Rose Troop No. 1" gave their first public demonstration of their work in August 1923. At this ceremony held at "the church" they sang songs including their own Scout Song and awarded badges to those who had earned them.

Pictured are a few of the artifacts shared at the event including a photograph of Gertrude Rounds (b. 1889), one of the first Girl Scout leaders in the town of Rehoboth. A Rehoboth native, she taught in town as well as in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Other artifacts include the books *Scouting for Girls* (the official handbook of the Girl Scouts) from 1925 and the *Girl Scout Song Book* from 1935. *Scouting for Girls* belonged to Jane Hodges, a member of Bluebird Troop #5 in Attleboro. This book includes information on how to track animals, tell the difference between poisonous and edible mushrooms, tie various knots, cook over a campfire, and perform basic first-aid. The book trains young women and girls to be hardy

outdoors, explaining that only extreme heat or heavy rainstorms should stop them from doing activities outside. A light rain or even snowstorms are said to be "very pleasant to hike in."

Songs are a way for groups of people to feel connected to each other. The Girl Scouts learned songs to sing while hiking, to sing around the campfire, and as graces before meals. They used singing as a way to teach valuable lessons like following a leader, listening at all times, correcting yourself when you make a mistake, having the confidence to sing out loud but the intelligence to know when to sing softly, and to be a part of a whole, just as a girl or woman is part of her community. The pictured Girl Scout Song Book belonged to Jeanne Mellor of North Rehoboth Red Rose Troop, Patrol 1.

This members program demonstrated the gap in the Girl Scout collection the Carpenter Museum holds. While there were plenty of books, notes, and pamphlets from the 1920s, 30, and 40s, precious few artifacts exist in the collection from after these years. The only photographs of troops or their leaders the Museum has, for example, is the portrait of Rounds and then a smattering of candids from the 1980s. No uniforms, badges, or other such reminders of past troops have made their way to the Museum. This is our call to action - if you have any photos or objects from the earlier days please consider donating!

REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

2020 RAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society recognized the 2020 RAS Scholarship Award recipient, Elizabeth Ulrich, on January 9th in front of the Blanding Library. Elizabeth, a resident of Somerset, is enrolled as a master's candidate at Valdosta State University and is studying Library and Information Science. Elizabeth is currently employed by the Fall River Public Library where she has expanded cataloging and collections development by digitizing non-print materials (including photographs and video on cassette), making them more accessible and available to the public.



Front row from left to right: Elizabeth Ulrich, scholarship recipient; Maureen Whittemore, RAS Scholarship Committee. Back row from left to right: Rebecca Smith, RAS President; Joyce Coleman, RAS Scholarship Committee; Wayne Taylor, RAS Treasurer; Anna Deignan, RAS Scholarship Committee

2021 RAS SCHOLARSHIP OPEN FOR APPLICATION

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society is pleased to announce the opening of the 2021 RAS Scholarship program. The one-time RAS Scholarship is awarded each year to a student that exemplifies the mission of RAS to preserve, promote and enhance the significant historical, educational and cultural assets of Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Qualifying award candidates must live in or near the Greater Rehoboth area and prove acceptance to or be currently enrolled in a post-secondary discipline related to museum or library studies such as history, archaeology, anthropology, conservation, restoration, preservation, or library science. Additional consideration will be given to candidates with a demonstrated history of involvement in programs relating to the Blanding Library or Carpenter Museum.

An award of up to \$1,000 will be given to the winner prior to the start of his or her second semester with the intention of aiding in funding ongoing education.

Applications are due by June 15th, 2021 and can be found on the RAS website: <http://www.rehobothantiquarian.org/ras-scholarship>. Applicants will be invited for a face-to-face or virtual interview between June 21st and July 2nd. Award winners will be announced no later than August 31st, 2021.



BLANDING LIBRARY KIDS PROGRAMS CONTINUE DESPITE COVID



BY C. CHARBONNEAU, CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIAN

When we closed our doors during March 2020, we were immediately presented with challenges as to how to continue services to our families and younger patrons. Not only did parents, students, and teachers have to redefine ways to connect, but librarians did as well. Most of the early months were spent collaborating with other public libraries sharing ideas on Zoom and podcasts to help each other meet their communities' needs. Not all could record story times or educational programs, so many shared their events for free. Three programs we introduced, and plan to continue, are Story Walks, Take & Make craft kits, and Miss Joyce's (virtual) Storytime Adventures.

We had previously borrowed two pre-fabricated Story Walks from the Norfolk Public Library. Seeing how well-received this idea was, we were excited to create several of our own to display along the library's front garden with each season. A Story Walk is a way to read through a children's picture book page by page using yard signs and garden stakes set up along a pathway or garden area. It was a great way to invite families to spend some time at the library, even in off hours or when the building was closed to visitors. Families were eager to get outdoors. Story Walks give visitors a chance to share a story and do some walking together. Thank you to The Friends of the Blanding Library for purchasing supplies and making this possible (and thanks to a special live-in volunteer who helped with construction). Be sure to take a walk around the library's front garden if you haven't yet visited.

The 2020 summer reading program theme was *Imagine Your Story*. Summer reading packets were created and ready to hand out curbside, including bookmarks, reading logs with stickers for tracking minutes read, the American Library Association's suggested reading lists, and brag tag pendants. Children received additional stickers and tags as they read their way through the summer months. A total of 150 reading packets were handed out!

Our Take & Make craft kits were an immediate hit, starting in October with the idea of a take-home scarecrow kit; 50 kits were handed out! November brought A Turkey for Thanksgiving on display as our featured Story Walk, and small Take & Make turkeys were offered as the craft. Fifty turkeys were "gobbled" up quickly. Two craft kits were available during December: a paper gingerbread house and family story to decorate and a 3-dimensional pre-cut cardboard gingerbread house (complete with recipe for icing) to frost and embellish with their own treats at home, both popular during the holiday season. In the new year, Take & Make crafts continued with 50 of NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) planet Earth suncatcher kits

and a Mitten Story mitten craft for younger patrons. We are currently offering two kite/windsock kits -- a simple paper bag kite with colorful streamers for those under five, and, for those with more patience, a Japanese Koinobori windsock kit. Take & Make crafts are a great way for libraries to provide children and families with free hands-on activities.

Miss Joyce, our Story Time presenter wanted to continue her connection to those families that could no longer meet in groups at the library. Working from home and being a novice in technology she, along with her daughters' assistance, created "Miss Joyce's Storytime Adventures." Her videos consist of stories, songs, and simple interactive activities filmed in various settings, helping to restore some calm and comfort while sharing the joy of books. We continually receive positive comments from parents like "My son gets so excited and looks forward to seeing Miss Joyce."

We do not know what to expect in the future months, but we are preparing for a variety of scenarios in which libraries are open fully, partially or digitally. Our Story Walks, online adventures, and Take & Make kits will be part of the plan to keep the Blanding Library connected to our patrons.

See opposite page for photos of activities.

REMEMBERING SALLY KNOX

Sally Knox, lifelong resident of Rehoboth and longtime member of RAS, died peacefully in her home on December 10, 2020. Sally was a volunteer in the E. Otis Dyer, Jr. Research Center.

Sally took part in an oral project history for the Carpenter Museum. A recording of Sally speaking about her life in Rehoboth is a part of the Museum's permanent collection. In her interview Sally mentioned that as a teenager, she lived on Route 44 across from the Midway convenience store. This photo of Sally as a young girl (pictured on right) hangs in the Museum.

The photograph shows Sally outside the store "waiting for the boys to come by" with her friend Wilma Ingham Smiley in September 1950. Sally said, "It was a place that you could go in and buy a few groceries, but the best part was that they sold ice cream. My cousins and I used to go there and we'd sit out front and just enjoy the traffic going by because that was a big thing."

We will miss Sally and are grateful and honored to have her story as part of the Museum's oral history collection.







BLANDING LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM / Fri - Sat 10 AM - 4 PM

CARPENTER MUSEUM HOURS:

Tues & Thurs 1 - 4 PM / 1st Sat of the month 1 - 4 PM

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