



THE RETURN OF STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

It was a joy to offer our Strawberry Festival to Rehoboth! Once again, with the help of the Rehoboth Cultural Council we were able to fill our lawn, and two buildings, with hands-on activities for Rehoboth residents and friends of the museum. We were excited to open our doors to more than 250 visitors and it was lovely seeing so many familiar and new faces throughout the afternoon.

From making herb sachets to building clay pots, visitors had the opportunity to explore a range of historic crafts and skills as they chatted with our knowledgeable volunteers. In the barn the wonderful Elizabeth Springett got our floor loom up and running and was a joy to talk to as she expanded on the art of weaving. Next to her the weaving table seemed to be constantly bustling with visitors. Across the way one of our long time volunteers, Ron Whitmore demonstrated carpentry hand tools and engaging visitors with a bit of a magic trick.

Inside the Museum we had the hearth fire going where Cathy Potter and a handful of other volunteers were cooking up some fritters, soup and ginger bread, just walking into the room and smelling all of that delicious food was a treat. Visitors bought baked goods brought by our fabulous volunteer bakers and of course there was strawberry shortcake!

A huge thank you to our hardworking volunteers who helped with setting-up, breaking down, and managing our many booths. Strawberry Festival was a success because of volunteers like you who made the event a unique experience. We hope to see you all again next year! In the meantime, you can always come for a tour, research, or attend an upcoming event at the museum.

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Passport to History Program Now - September 1st

Stop by the Museum to get your passport, which serves as admission for one free visit to 16 participating museums in southeastern Mass.

First Saturdays of the Month Museum and Research Center

Open 1-4PM

July 2nd

August 6th

September 3rd

2022 Speaker Series *New England's General Stores* with WCVB/Boston's Ted Reinstein

Thursday, September 22nd, 7PM

Join us in a talk about Reinstein's book and have a special viewing of Rehoboth's own general store artifacts from our collection.

*Free for Members / \$5 for
Nonmembers*

2022 Speaker Series *Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln* with Rehoboth's Edward Achorn **Wednesday October 12th, 7PM**

*Free for Members / \$5 for
Nonmembers*

REMEMBERING E. OTIS DYER SENIOR

As many of you are aware, E. Otis Dyer, Senior, President Emeritus of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, died recently at the age of 95, and his absence is strongly felt. Living on the ancestral farm on Great Meadow Hill for most of his adult life, Otis made his mark on many aspects of the town of Rehoboth as a farmer, land surveyor, historian, and author. Serving the town through both public and private organizations, he sat on several town boards, including as a founding member of the Rehoboth Historical Commission, and was also a very active member of the Rehoboth Land Trust. He and his son Otis Jr. knew the history of the town's land-holding better than almost anyone else and worked to preserve Rehoboth's open space and rural character. Otis was a life-long lover of history and became an expert in our local past and present, researching and writing books and articles even in his last months.



As a long-time active member of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society – including more than two decades as President – Otis was a big part of the revitalization of the Society in the 1970s, including the building of the Carpenter Museum, modeled on his own house on Fairview Avenue, and later increasing services at the Blanding Library. In 1993, as part of the Rehoboth 350th Anniversary celebration, he spear-headed the construction of the museum barn subsequently named in his honor. For years now, questions about Rehoboth often led to the advice to “ask Otis.” We will miss his knowledge and his active involvement. We miss him.

By: Rebecca H. Smith, President



THE WAY IT WAS: REHOBOTH IN THE 1930'S AND 40'S

BY GORDON RAMSPOTT, RAS MEMBER

Gordon Ramsrott came to live in Rehoboth in the late 1930's from nearby Swansea with his mother, father, and older brother, Richard when he was about 9 years old. They lived in a house on School Street, across from his grandfather and where his mother grew up. Now, approaching his 94th year of life, he recalls these early years.

Dirt Roads and Horseback Riding

I had a saddle and a driving horse and could ride or drive around town easily. There were lots of dirt roads and not much traffic in those days. I could leave home and go down School Street to Summer to French, then Lake Street and Winter and back to School Street where I lived. The only tar road was School Street. Another ride was School Street to Summer, to Pond, to the trolley track and over to the village and up Locust Avenue, to Summer, and home to School Street. The only tar roads were Locust Avenue, Summer and School Streets.

Swimming in the Palmer River

We would ride our bicycles to the Summer Street bridge most of the time but there were several other places to go swimming in the neighborhood. These places were Wilmarth Bridge, the trestle at the end of the trolley track at Pond Street, the Boy Scout Camp on Pond Street, and Bowen's on Danforth Street. Before the summer was over, we would have tried them all several times. By the time we had ridden our bikes there and back we didn't know we had been swimming.

Shad Fishing at Shad Factory on Read Street

If we heard the shad were running, we would take a bottomless bushel basket, a couple of grain bags and go down to catch some shad. We would take off our shoes and roll up our pants and when the shad would come up onto the apron of the dam, we'd drop the basket over them and then throw them up onto the bank. When the bag was about 1/4 full. it was all we could carry. We would take some home and sell the rest to a farmer for fertilizer.



Ramsrott as a boy riding his horse, c. 1939

READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH



MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This summer's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path". We will celebrate the great outdoors and things like hiking, camping, bugs, and more! Sign up at the Blanding Library. Children will be able to track summer reading using either a Reading & Beading, a reading log, or a Book Buddy.

A Passport Program, developed by 5 local libraries, will feature one of the National Parks - Blanding Library representing The Grand Canyon! Check the library website event page for details.

2022 CRAFTER'S MARKETPLACE SEEKING VENDORS



SHOW DATE: SATURDAY OCTOBER 22ND 9AM-5PM

All quality vendors are encouraged to apply!

Visit our website to find out more and
download an application:

www.rehobothantiquarian.org/crafters-marketplace

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Summer Story Walk Now - September 3rd

Come walk and read page-by-page through our Story Walk around the library's front garden. This summer our featured story is *How the Sun was Brought Back to the Sky* by Mirra Ginsburg. Illustrated by Jose Aruego and Areane Dewey.

Baby / Toddler Storytime (Ages 0-4) Tuesdays 10:30-11:00AM

Children & caregivers are invited to join us in our hall for a fun, 30 minute interactive program of movement, books, music, games & more. Siblings welcome. Registration required.

Mobile Mini Golf

Sat., July 9th 11:30AM - 2:00PM

Bring your "team" for a round of mini golf at the Blanding Library! Call to reserve a time slot for your team (max of 5 people per group).

Rainforest Reptiles

Tuesday, July 12th 1PM

Come see bugs, lizards, frogs, and more up close! A presentation by a herpetologist will teach you about tropical animals. Sponsored by the Rehoboth Cultural Council.

