



REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN LESCAULT

The Carpenter Museum has had the pleasure of hosting archival collections volunteer Ethan Lescault since January. Ethan is a master's dual degree candidate in history and archives at Boston's Simmons University. Completing the extensive inventory of E. Otis Dyer's final donation of historical documents has been no small task but anyone interested in the detail-oriented field of archival work is no stranger to tedium. That is not to say the collection is without its surprises.

Documents as old as the 18th century are tucked away amongst the maps, lists, and personal correspondences. Ethan says his biggest revelation is the sheer size of Old Rehoboth.

Ethan is pursuing an archival career because he believes preserving collections for future historians is important. He comes to us from Coggeshall Farm Museum in nearby Bristol, Rhode Island where he worked as interpreter with Assistant Director, Chelsea Johnston. He thinks working with the Dyer collection is a "great way to brush up on cursive reading and the challenges that come working with raw materials." We are glad to have him!

If you or someone you know are interested in being a volunteer at the Carpenter Museum email Chelsea at carpentermuseum@gmail.com. History degree not required, fun guaranteed.



UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Last Day to View *Play Ball! The Rehoboth Milkmaids: Pioneers of Women's Softball*
Thursday April 27th

Last chance to view this great exhibit!
Open regular hours 1-4PM.

Rehoboth Antiquarian Society Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 3rd, 6PM

Potluck and membership meeting back in the Carpenter Museum's Tilton Room. Presentation by this year's RAS Scholarship winner and History PhD. candidate Laura Clerx

First Saturday of the Month Museum and Research Center
Open 1-4PM

*May 6th
July 1st
August 5th*

New Exhibit Opening
Thursday May 25th

The Museum's rotating exhibit gallery will feature a brand new exhibit. Come in and see what history we have to share! Open regular hours 1-4PM.

Strawberry Festival
Sunday, June 4th, 1-5PM

Join us for our annual spring festival. Learn early American skills like butter making and pottery. Family friendly!
Free



rebothantiquarian.org

RAS MEMBERS ONLY CEMETERY TOUR



BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHELSEA JOHNSTON

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society was lucky to get a wonderful sunny day for our annual Members Only Event. This year a cemetery tour brought 30 members, new and old, to explore Burial Place Hill, one of, if not the oldest burial ground in Rehoboth. Beverly Baker, a RAS board member and part of both the Historical Commission and the Cemetery Commission, led attendees on an insightful and informative tour of the burial ground. This included a stop at the longest epitaph in the country, discussion about ownership and the history of the land, and interesting stories about those interred.

In a fun turn of events one of our other board members, the informative Otter Brown, was able to expand on information about the land the burial site is on. It is surrounded by a ravine on its north and east sides and was created by the glaciers. As always it is lovely to see our members come together to learn and share about Rehoboth. If you are curious about any of the burial grounds in Rehoboth swing by the Carpenter Museum for a new Cemetery Map or to do a bit of research.

We appreciate the continued support of our members and are so excited for the events that we have upcoming this year! We hope to see you there!

**VENDOR APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN!**

2023 Crafters' Marketplace Show

**Saturday October 14th
9AM to 4PM**



Located in the historic Rehoboth Village

Find your application on our website at
rehobothantiquarian.org/crafters-marketplace

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The sun is shining, the weather is warming, and I am looking forward to watching the shrubs and flowers come to life on our properties. I am also feeling thankful that we got through the winter with no weather-related disasters. We are, however, facing the fact that the boilers at Goff Hall are going to need replacing, so my thanks are also aimed at our ad hoc boiler committee: Whitney Pape, Don Poissant, Wayne Taylor, and Ron Whittemore. Our Society thrives on member participation. Thank you.

Rebecca Smith, RAS President



UPCOMING BLANDING PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Life Sized Candy Land April 18th-27

Make your way along the colorful path through the Lollipop Woods, where you may meet Lord Licorice & Queen Frostine. Come as a family, with friends or individually to play your way to the finish.

Free entry / all ages

Little Yoga - Think Spring Tuesday, April 18th, 10:30AM

Yoga instructor Rebecca Mele will lead a yoga program especially designed for these little ones & their caregivers structured to be interactive and fun! No need to bring mats.

Ages 0-4 / siblings welcome

Game Day at the Library Friday, April 21st, 11AM-2PM

Join us in Goff Hall for an afternoon of pizza, board games and bingo! Pizza at 12PM and bingo at 1PM. Play one of the library's games or bring a favorite from home to share with new friends.

Free entry / all ages welcome!

Celebrate Earth Day Saturday, April 22nd, 11AM-3PM

Tables will be set up in the hall with special craftivities to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. No registration needed. Supplies may be limited.

Free entry / All ages

Baby / Toddler Story Time Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00AM

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

Please register for this event.

0-4 / siblings welcome

Story and Craft Time Thursdays, 10:30-11:15AM

Join us for a story or two! A simple craft will be available to make or take home.

Please register for this event.

3+ / siblings welcome



BLANDING LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

The Library hosted a celebration of South Asian culture on Wednesday, March first. Goff Hall was filled with the art, sounds, colors, and scents of South Asia with local henna artist Roohi Saraff creating temporary tattoos, a screening of the Bollywood blockbuster *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, full of Indian songs, dance, and romance, a selection of Indian sweets (gulab jamun, ras malai, jalebi) and hot snacks (samosas, pakoras, and cauliflower 65), imported decorations, and the Blanding Book Club's discussion of *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. It was a magical night, made even more special when our Ms. Saraff posted about the event on Instagram, tagging the author. #thealkajoshi (the author) responded saying, "This is amazing! Thanks so much for discussing THE HENNA ARTIST!"

The Blanding Library book club meets once a month. May's book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Join this fun & friendly group of readers. Stop in the library for a copy or call to reserve one.

For all Library programs see our programs and events calendar at: rebobothantiquarian.org/blanding-library

REHOBOTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society has awarded our 2022-2023 scholarship to Laura Clerx, a Seekonk resident. A graduate of Bishop Feehan High School and Harvard College, Laura is currently enrolled in a PhD program at Boston College. Her area of study is Early American History. Laura's graduate research focuses on how "scientific knowledge made by early Americans was influenced by economic expansion in the early republic." William Blanding of Rehoboth contributed to this field of study by observing and recording local weather conditions in diaries. Laura will be our featured speaker at the RAS Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the Carpenter Museum in Rehoboth.



fall in a post-high school program majoring in museum studies, history, library science, or related fields encouraged to apply. An application and information can be found on the RAS website: rehobothantiquarian.org/ras-scholarship/. The application deadline is Friday, June 16, 2023.

**Maureen Whittemore,
RAS Scholarship Committee Member**

The 2023-2024 RAS Scholarship Committee invites eligible candidates from the Greater Rehoboth area to apply for this second semester scholarship. The successful candidate(s) will be awarded up to \$1,000 in scholarship funds. Students enrolled in

WINTER MAGAZINE CORRECTION

Lende McMullen's article "Old Place Names in Rehoboth" from this year's RAS winter magazine had shifted labels that need correction. Please see the corrected place names that correspond to the map listed below. All pertain to the SE corner of the map.

7. Bad Luck Reservoir 1600 West of Reservoir Ave. (Origin unknown)
8. Bad Luck Landing Place Foot of Long Hill at Reservoir Ave & Simmons St.
9. Tittle Rock & Woods 1700 Gorham St. & Reservoir Ave.
10. The Sign Board 1800 Corner of Cedar St. & Gorham St.
11. Chace's Corner 1800 Simmons St. & Cedar St. Intersection
12. Manwhague Swamp East of Plain St.