



Rehoboth
Antiquarian
Society

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

NEW FACE, OLD TREASURES



Estelle is this summer's Collections Intern at the Carpenter Museum. An incoming Master's student at Boston University studying Historic Preservation, Estelle plans to continue in the New England museum world with a particular focus on community history and historic house museums. Native to Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Estelle graduated from Grove City College with degrees in English Literature, French, and Medieval Studies in 2023. Her work has revolved around memory and femininity, particularly in the Francophone world, and she looks forward to deepening and expanding upon these interests in the study of New England's rich cultural heritage.

Although she is new to the Rehoboth community, she has enjoyed immersing herself in the history of the town and getting to meet so many members of the local community who are so deeply invested in the preservation of Rehoboth's cultural heritage. So far, her work at the museum has consisted mainly of accessioning new additions to the objects collection, preparing objects for the collections committee to review, and photographing new accessions.

When she is not sifting through archives or exploring historic buildings, Estelle and her husband, Samuel, a RISD graduate, enjoy visiting local museums, practicing photography, hosting dinner parties, and crafting cocktails.

Estelle's favorite new object in the collection is a 19th century letter between a Rehoboth resident and a Civil War Soldier. At the most recent Collections Committee meeting in July, the committee reviewed and accepted a letter written to Mr. W.W. Blanding from E. (Ebenezer) Bradford Gay on August 26th, 1862. Although a seemingly mundane correspondence informing Mr. Blanding of his intention to no longer

UPCOMING CARPENTER MUSEUM EVENTS

**Rehoboth and its Veterans in the
American Revolution**

A Carpenter Museum Symposium

Saturday September 20th 10AM-3PM

May - June

Join us for a day of speakers, displays, hands-on activities, and children's themed projects with a focus on Rehoboth and its residents who participated in the American Revolution!

Free Event

Liberty & Libations:

Revolutionary Cider Pressing

Saturday Sept. 27th 11AM-2PM

Join hard apple cider pommelier Spencer Morris from Sowams Cider Works for a cider press demonstration followed by a talk and tasting. Learn about the most popular drink during the American Revolution as we continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's birth. The press demonstration at 11AM is family friendly. Lecture and tastings at 12:30PM is for 21+ only.

Free for members / \$5 for non-members

Register for lecture and tastings by calling the museum at (508)252-3031 or emailing carpentermuseum@gmail.com

First Saturday of the Month

Carpenter Museum and Dyer Research

Center Open 1-4PM

September 6th

October 4th

November 1st

Crafters' Marketplace

Saturday October 18th, 9AM-3PM

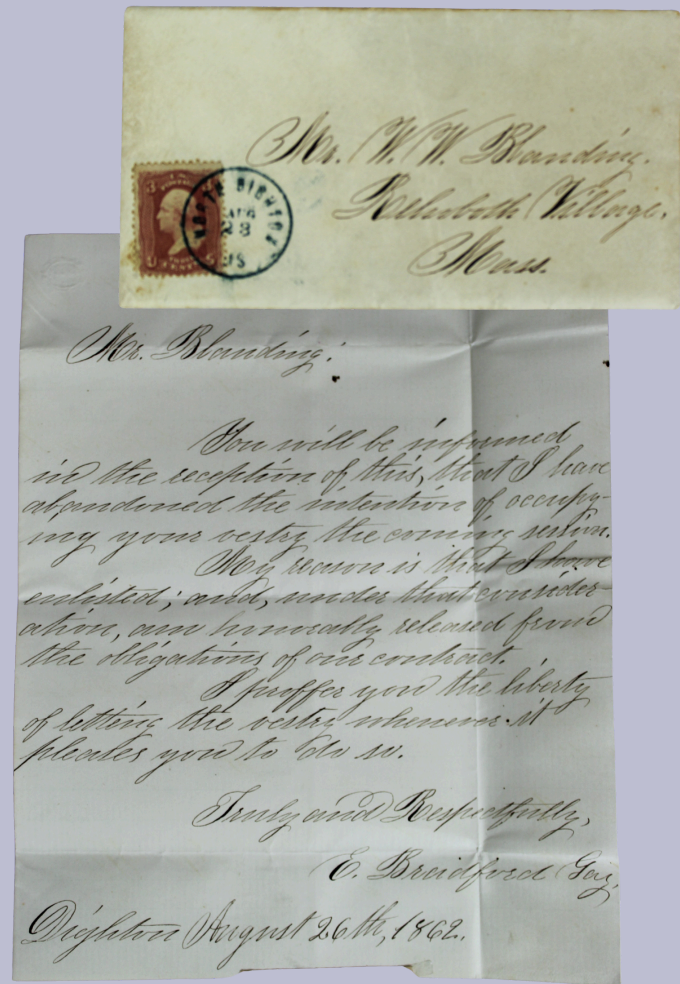
Join us for our 46th annual craft show! This jury selected show has been a staple of the South-Eastern Massachusetts fall craft show season for decades, featuring dozens of vendors at three locations within the Rehoboth Village.



“occupy [the] vestry” (unclear what exactly is referred to by “vestry”), it is the reason behind Gay backing out on his contract that makes the letter so interesting: he is enlisting.

Based on research, Gay enlisted with the 40th Massachusetts Infantry in 1862 (the same year this letter was written). He was in the war until 1864, when he was discharged from the army for injuries sustained in Virginia. Before his time in the war, it appears Gay was a teacher at a local school, where he became Principal after the war, contributing to Rehoboth’s rich history as a place which advocated for the importance of education. At the time of writing, Gay lived in North Dighton, a detail which can be noted on postage on this letter’s envelope.

This letter is significant, not in that it conveys monumental historical information or is necessarily a correspondence between two historically notable people, but rather that it offers a unique glimpse into the life of a young person altering his life plans for the sake of the Civil War. E. Bradford Gay was 20 when he enlisted, and this letter demonstrates both his youth and his eagerness for the responsibility and importance enlisting would afford him. Hay says, “My reason is that I have enlisted; and, under that consideration, am honorably released from the obligations of our contract.” His tone is formal and to-the-point, but one can detect a certain pride behind his words. This letter provides a personal touch to Rehoboth’s connection with the Civil War, as well as an interesting glimpse into the life of an everyday resident of this town in the past.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It’s often remarked that “if you don’t like the weather in New England, just wait a little while.” This summer has certainly exemplified that principle of variety as we have enjoyed or suffered through hot, cold, windy, rainy, dry, humid, and sometimes pleasant days.

The programs and resources at the museum and library offer a wide variety, for enjoyment rather than suffering. Some highlights this summer have been live animals at Goff Hall, yoga for children, a Medicare workshop, a newly-forming knitting group, the annual Strawberry Festival, Palmer River’s third grade visits to the museum, Pokanoket storytelling, a talk on local Quakers and King Philip’s War, a

quilt raffle (ongoing), and a new edition of In Old Rehoboth II. There are also newly-donated artifacts at the museum and many new books at the library.

Behind the scenes, our staff and volunteers carry out a great variety of important tasks – please remember to say “thank you.” I thank you for being members and look forward to seeing many of you at our events.

Sincerely,

Rebecca H. Smith, President



UPCOMING BLANDING PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Science Heroes!

Monday August 11th, 11-12AM

Level Up ! with Science Heroes and the Adventure of the Missing Color!

Join the Science Heroes on a mission to turn science into an adventure with hands-on experiments, interactive stories and lots of fun to get excited about science and celebrate coloring our world with art. Suggested for those K - 5th grade.

No registration required.

**Escape from the Wizard's Tower
presented by Wicked Fun Games**

**Thursday August 21st,
12:30-1:30PM & 2-3PM**

Our presenter will instruct participants to gather ingredients, cast spells, and try to escape out of the tower! Two sessions will be offered.

Ages 8+ / Registration required.

Goodbye Summer Bash

Saturday, August 23rd, 1-3PM

Say goodbye to summer at this fun-filled afternoon event. Games of all kinds, activities, crafts, and snacks.

All ages / No registration required

Afternoon Book Club

Every Second Wednesday, 3-4PM

Ages 18+

Tot Time with Miss Joyce

Tuesdays 10:30-11:15AM

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

Geared for ages 0-4 (siblings welcome)

No Registration Required

Story with Miss Cathy

Thursdays 10:30-11:15AM

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

Geared for ages 3+ (siblings welcome)

No Registration Required



WHIMSY ON THE SHELVES



The Library is hosting an exhibit of Tiny Art from August 1-16 in the shelving near the circulation desk. Artists filled their 4" x 4" canvases with beauty and whimsy. We're thoroughly impressed with the entries! Through the magic of Facebook, we had someone mail an entry from Florida!



EXPLORE, LEARN, PLAY: MUSEUM EVENTS WRAP UP



We've had an exciting spring and summer season at the Carpenter Museum!

We hosted six days of field trips with Palmer River Elementary School 3rd graders on their yearly visit. The students cooked in our historic kitchen, explored our herb garden, made their own tin lanterns and even tried out a bit of farming. As always, we had a fabulous time exploring our early history with such enthusiastic and engaged students. Are you part of a homeschool group or class? Then let us know because we just might be able to modify this fieldtrip for you!

We kicked off summer with our annual Strawberry Festival. We thank everyone who was in attendance. We love seeing Rehoboth, and friends, come together to learn, play and build community. This year, with the support of the Mass Cultural Council, we were able to bring in a large selection of crafters and demonstrators. This included returning friends of the museum, historic costumer Axel Boy and fiber artist / educator, Eleanor Langham. We were also joined by Andrew Volpe who demonstrated copper plate printing and Sandy Chatelle who processed flax, all to the dulcet tunes of The Tautogs.

Through this grant we also updated our historic costuming which is why you saw our staff and volunteers looking extra spiffy this year. As a historical society we are always working to find new ways to enhance our work. More accurate costumes for our programs is an exciting part of this.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who make these events possible, we would not be able to do the work we do without you all!

Rounding out the early summer months we began our 2025 Summer of Early American



History Programming. Pokanoket Sachem Tracey Dancing Star Brown led us through songs, stories, and games followed by cornhusk doll making.

Did you know that corn husk dolls were an early toy that were made by Native American children? Corn was abundant in the Americas and this creative reuse of materials was passed to the colonists. We also lucked out because Strong Turtle, the Pokanoket Tribal Historian was attending and was able to chat with us about Pokanoket history.

A lecture from Elizabeth Cazden exploring the early Quaker history of King Phillip's War took place in July. This rousing lecture was a great exploration of how the war started and how the Quakers in our area intersected with this impactful moment in our history. If you missed it you can find it on our youtube channel. You can find past lectures there as well!

Don't forget to keep an eye on your email and our social media. We many other events planned for this year including a 250th Cider Tasting Event along with Rehoboth and its Veterans in the American Revolution: A Carpenter Museum Symposium coming up in September, a Children's Paper Making Workshop in November and much, much more!