

# NEWSLETTER

**RAS**  
*Rehoboth  
Antiquarian Society*



*Carpenter Museum . Blanding Library . Goff Hall . Arts in the Village*

JULY 2016

## NOW APPEARING AT THE CARPENTER MUSEUM: CELEBRATE ART, REHOBOTH!

The Rehoboth Cultural Council invites the public to **Celebrate Art, Rehoboth!** an exhibition featuring the work of 27 local, professional artists, and the work of 37 student artists from Palmer River Elementary School, Beckwith Middle School, and Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School.

The exhibition is on view in the barn and Tilton Room through Sunday, July 24 during regular museum hours: Tues. and Thurs. 1-4 p.m. and Sun. 2-4 p.m. Admission and parking are FREE. For more information, visit [CelebrateArtRehoboth.com](http://CelebrateArtRehoboth.com).



*Student artist Kylie Furtado's work is part of the "Celebrate Art, Rehoboth!" show, now on exhibit at the museum.*

## ANNUAL STRAWBERRY COUNTRY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

Despite the rain, close to 400 people came to the museum's annual Strawberry Festival in June to enjoy activities and exhibits and, of course, yummy strawberry delights. Thanks to the Rehoboth Cultural Council for serving lots of strawberry shortcake.



*A young visitor trying his hand at making wooden pegs.*



## UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

### Rehoboth Genealogy Group

**Wednesday, July 27**

**6 to 8 PM**

**Trim Room at the Library**

We will acquaint ourselves with the Robert S. Trim Genealogy Room and use materials there to complete genealogy searches. These will be provided or you can bring your own.

### Celebrate Art, Rehoboth!

**Through Sunday, July 24**

**Tues. and Thurs. 1 to 4 PM**

**Sundays 2 to 4 PM**

This first-ever exhibit of work by local professional artists, as well as student artists, will be on display in the E. Otis Dyer, Sr. Barn and the museum's Tilton Room downstairs during regular operating hours.

### Folk Art & Artisan Show

**Friday, Nov. 11 from 4 to 9 PM**

**Sat., Nov. 12 from 9 AM to 4 PM**

Mark your calendars for the always fabulous Annual Folk Art & Artisan Show, a great place for holiday shopping.

*Call 508-252-3031, email us at [carpentermuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carpentermuseum@gmail.com), or visit [carpentermuseum.org](http://carpentermuseum.org).*

## “WHEN WE WERE KIDS” IN REHOBOTH

*Melissa Dupouy Smith Reminisces about Girl Scouts, Riding Bikes and Ice Skating in the early 1960s*

The Girl Scouts were an important part of growing up in Rehoboth for many girls in the early 1960s, including Melissa Dupouy Smith. Her mother Virginia (Ginny) was well-known and respected as the head Girl Scout leader in Rehoboth. “My old friends still tell me that my mother was wonderful,” Melissa said.

Melissa is one of four children of Parker and Ginny Dupouy. Her sisters are Susan and Priscilla and her brother is Parker Jr. Melissa is the only one who lives in Rehoboth now, though she too lived elsewhere for 20 years or so before coming back home. She lives on Carpenter Street today, though not in the same house she grew up in.

### Scouting for Adventures

Ginny Dupouy planned the weekly Girl Scout meetings and all the camping trips and she was especially fond of wood-working. Her Scouts learned to make things like stools and shelves at their meetings. Ginny was also in charge of Bicycle Field Day in Rehoboth, where students at Palmer River learned about bike safety and completed an obstacle course.

Melissa is a childhood friend of Lende McMullen, Rehoboth’s Genealogy Researcher. The two recalled ice skating and sliding down the hill on winter days. Lende said, “Melissa’s mother would build up little mounds of snow by the sledding trail and put lit candles on them so that we could enjoy sliding down the hill after dark.” Lende also liked to play with the Dupouy children on “the big rock” in their backyard on Carpenter Street. “We were always coloring or playing dress-up,” Melissa added. All the kids spent lots of time riding their bikes, too.

“I went to Norrington School, a private kindergarten at the bend of Rt. 118, at what used to be called Coffin Corner. Then I attended Palmer River, Anawan, and Dighton-Rehoboth High School,” Melissa said. She recalled walking to school through the woods with neighborhood kids.

### Frogs & Rubber Boots

“When we were in grade school, my mother always told us we had to walk to school because the bus couldn’t come down our dirt road, but I think she just wanted us to walk to school,” Melissa recalled with a smile. “We would walk through the woods and she would make us wear rubber boots over our shoes if the grass was wet. We learned to leave our red rubber boots at the edge of the woods before we got to school. Coming home took longer because we were always distracted looking for things, such as frogs in the pond.”



*Melissa Dupouy Smith’s Girl Scout Troop (Melissa far left)*



*Melissa Dupouy Smith in 1968 wearing a colonial dress for Rehoboth’s 325th Anniversary celebration. The Horton farm on Bay State Road, across from the Rehoboth Congregational Church, is behind her.*

### FROM THE CARPENTER MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Sadly, this is my last newsletter as Director of the Carpenter Museum. I’ve been Director here for 7 years, and was Assistant Director for more than 2 years prior to that. During that time, I’ve worked with great staff, supportive trustees and amazing volunteers. Together, we’ve grown our membership and opened our doors ever-wider to the local community. Thank you all!

**Barbara Spencer**

## Recalling Ellery Goff A Rehoboth "Character"

By E. Otis Dyer, Sr.  
RAS President Emeritus,  
Rehoboth Town Historian



Ellery Goff, 1858-1953, was a very influential person in town and apparently somewhat of a character. He was Rehoboth's Town Clerk for years, which he ran along with his insurance business from his little study off the living room in the Goff house at 1 Locust Avenue. Mr. Goff was the former president and chief backer of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society and ran the Society's clambakes for years.

In 1953 after his death and without his guidance, the clambakes abruptly ended and the Antiquarian Society went into a steep decline until revived in 1975. During the interim, his daughter and only child Elsie Goff Carpenter and his only grandson Winsor Carpenter kept the organization and library alive. Both were the chief promoters and financial backers for reviving the society, building the museum and restoring Goff Hall. The museum is named for Winsor Carpenter.

### Ellery Begins His Business Career

When he was a young man, circa 1878, he was advised to go to the western United States where the drier climate could help his respiratory problems. Traveling by train, he got as far as Iowa when he noticed the abundance of grain available at a very low price when compared to the Rehoboth market. His western trip ended right there, when he bought a carload of grain, shipped it to the nearest railroad freight yard to Rehoboth, and sold it to neighboring farmers at a good profit.

### Ellery Runs a Slaughterhouse at 1 Locust Avenue

For many years he slaughtered cattle at his home farm at 1 Locust Avenue. About 1910, it was discovered that many dairy cows had tuberculosis and were passing that disease to humans through their milk. A program was begun where the local dairy herds were tested for TB, and if found infected, were ordered to be slaughtered.

Always ready to take advantage of a business opportunity, Ellery entered into the business of killing diseased cows. When a cow tested positive for TB, Ellery was summoned to the farm, and led the sick cow back to his farm for disposal. *Article continued on page four . . .*

## BLANDING LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday 11:30 AM to 8 PM  
Friday - Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM  
*Closed Sundays, Holidays*

*The library is hosting many special events as part of the statewide Summer Reading Program. The library also has books listed on summer reading lists for local K-12 students.*

### Biomes Tide Pool

**Wednesday, July 6**  
**10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

### A Teddy Bear's Picnic

**Saturday, July 9**  
**11 AM to 12:30 PM**

### World Class Frisbees

**Wednesday, July 13 at 10 AM**

### Ukuleles! Strum Along

**Thursday, July 14 at 1:30 PM**

### Ed the Wizard Magic Show

**Wednesday, July 20 at 2 PM**  
*(Rehoboth Cultural Council Grant)*

### Visiting Author and Dancers

**Thursday, July 21 at 10:30 AM**

### Coding with Minecraft

**Tuesday, July 26 from 1 to 3 PM**

### Walk-A-Long Gliders

**Tuesday, August 2 at 11 AM**

### Visiting Author and Craft

**Wednesday, August 3 at 11 AM**

*More programs listed on next page . . .*

For complete calendar of reading program events and programs, please visit: [BlandingLibrary.net](http://BlandingLibrary.net)

**Ellery Goff Article conclusion . . .**

One dangerous part of the business was that his hand became seriously infected from the handling of diseased cows and it took a long time healing.

**Ellery Runs an Insurance and Firewood Business**

For many years Ellery also operated an insurance business from his home at 1 Locust Avenue. Just off the living room was his office where he conducted business. Ellery also owned numerous wood lots in Rehoboth, but mainly in the Maple Lane part of town, where his family lived. Ellery hired woodcutters and horse teams to cut and draw out the wood for sale in the city markets.

One of his wood cutters was John Rabbit (Rego), 1912-1992. One day circa 1937, John visited the Goff house to pay the insurance on his 1931 Plymouth. As he stood in the doorway to the office, Irvin Brown from the corner of Brook and Chestnut Streets came in the front door, also to pay his insurance. Mr. Brown also had a wood cutting operation in South Rehoboth. John had cut for him in the past. Standing outside the office door, Irvin told John he was looking for wood choppers and wanted to hire him. The rate was \$1.50 per cord (a day's work was considered to be one cord cut and stacked in the woods.)

Ellery Goff overheard the conversation and held up two fingers that only John could see. John was always "quick on the trigger" when it came to money and said, "I am sorry, Mr. Brown, but Mr. Goff has already hired me for this winter."

All winter John cut for Ellery on Maple Lane. John said each day Ellery would drive over to Maple Lane in his Ford and walk into the woods to see how the cutting was progressing. John always knew when Ellery was coming because he always whistled the same tune. Joe Carpenter said the same thing about Ellery - that you always knew when he was coming. Ellery always encouraged John to build a fire at noon to warm his sandwiches. He said that no one should eat a cold sandwich.

The insurance agency was passed on to Mabel Berghman, who ran it from her home on Locust Avenue for many years. After Mabel's death, the agency was sold to the Feitelberg Agency of Fall River and Somerset where it continued on.

*Note: Ellery Goff was the father of Elsie Carpenter and grandfather of Ellery Winsor Carpenter, for whom the museum is named.*



Registration is required for some summer programs, please visit [BlandingLibrary.net](http://BlandingLibrary.net) for details.

**Tuesday Tot Time for Kids Under Age Three**

Tuesday, July 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10 AM  
Tuesday, August 2, 9 at 10 AM

**Story and Craft Hour for Preschoolers**

Thursday, July 7, 28 at 10 AM

**Mixed Media Art Class with Deb Banna**

Tuesday, July 12 at 10:30 AM  
(Rehoboth Cultural Council Grant)

**Paper Sculpting Class with Deb Banna**

Thursday, July 19 at 10:30 AM  
(Rehoboth Cultural Council Grant)

**Fiona the Inflatable Humpback Whale Returns**

Wednesday, August 10 and  
Thursday, August 11  
10 AM to 3 PM

Please visit: [BlandingLibrary.net](http://BlandingLibrary.net)  
or call 508-252-4236 for program details and registration info.

**BlandingLibrary.net**

124 Bay State Road . Rehoboth, MA 02769  
508-252-4236 [blandinglibrary.net](http://blandinglibrary.net)

**LIBRARY HOURS**

Mon - Thurs 11:30 AM to 8 PM  
Friday & Sat 10 AM to 4 PM  
(closed Sundays and holidays)

**CarpenterMuseum.org**

4 Locust Avenue . PO Box 2 . Rehoboth, MA 02769  
508-252-3031 [carpentermuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carpentermuseum@gmail.com)

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Tues and Thurs 1 to 4 PM  
Sundays from 2 to 4 PM  
(except holiday weekends)