



# The Nesmith NEWS

November 2022

Volume 28

Number 3

## Nesmith Library History, Part 2: Clarisa Hills, Librarian

*Chelsea Page,  
Social Media / Digital  
Literacy Librarian*

Last month, I shared with you some research concerning Nesmith Library's first librarian, Miss Clarisa "Clara" Hills, a resident who served this community as librarian from 1871-1878. It's truly incredible how much you can learn about someone's life from the 1800s, especially considering that most of the facts of Clarisa's life are from the good fortune of her relatives being linked to enough sources, including Census records, historical texts, and birth/death records.

Nesmith Library makes available Ancestry Library Edition (for use in the library only), HeritageQuest, and Fold3 for your genealogical research needs. These resources can really help provide the details that help you track down an ancestor, or, like me, a figure of interest from the community's past. Sign in through our catalog with your library card and PIN to access HeritageQuest and Fold3 from home, or visit Nesmith Library and access all three from our comfortable study sections, or our public ac-



cess computers. You can print records and information from all three sources, but are not able to save a tree or return to your research later like a personal Ancestry account. We also have a variety of local history books, and archives of the *Windham Independent*. Please visit our [Windham NH Resources page on our website](#), or visit us to use these resources, including the book by Leonard A. Morrison which I will cite below.

I was able to piece together the outline and facts of Clarisa's life (see October's newsletter), however, I can't help but

wish that it was possible to know what she was like, a young woman caring for her mother on the farm that her father and grandfather had built in Windham, serving as a single woman in her thirties as the sole librarian to the learned and voracious readers of the community, and later moving into her own home in Nashua. Perhaps she was highly social and wished to be closer to the society events of Nashua, or perhaps she retreated into privacy and curated her own collection of books to delight in. I feel in a strange way connected to Clarisa, since I

### Contents:

Teen Events	2
November Adult Programming	3
October Outreach	4
Storytimes	4
Monthly Children's Programs	5
Special Events for Children	5
Read Newspapers Online	6
Dates to Remember	6

am also an unmarried woman in my thirties, working as a librarian providing information and access to all sorts of library materials for the town of Windham and surrounding community. She was there 151 years ago, and now I am here in 2022. I think that's pretty neat.

As the first librarian of Nesmith Library, Clarisa was present for, and likely to have been involved in, several important projects: expanding the collection of the library from the initial 741 volumes to 1,600, and gathering the "sheets on which the names of books were written" into the first catalogue of the collection. Leonard A. Morrison, well known for preserving Windham's history and a very involved selectman and Nesmith Library trustee, was one of the gentlemen who helped to prepare the catalogue of 73 pages, and distribute 350 copies among the residents of the town so that they could come to

the library prepared with items of interest to them.

Morrison summarized, "From the commencement of the library to the present [1871-1883], over 4,500 books have annually been taken from the library by citizens." On the next page, Morrison writes, "In 1880, additional shelves were furnished for books. The present number of books, Nov. 19, 1882, is 2,411. Miss Clara [Clarisa] Hills was the first librarian, and served seven years with much acceptance. Her successors were William S. Harris, William K. Milner, and John Cochran." In the Genealogy section of his book, Morrison adds that Clarisa "... was an efficient librarian of Nesmith Library." Mr. Morrison was a contemporary of Ms. Hills, and they likely worked closely together in those early years developing the Nesmith Library, though Clarisa would have moved on and been living in Nashua by the time this book from

Morrison was published in 1883 (*The History of Windham in New Hampshire*, L.A. Morrison). The book is available in print at Nesmith Library, as well as [digitized and searchable on the Internet Archive](#).

If you are interested in using the genealogical research resources which are available through your Nesmith Library card, please contact us by visiting 8 Fellows Road, calling 603-432-7154, or emailing me at [cpaige@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:cpaige@nesmithlibrary.org). You can also contact Library Director Sylvie Brikiatis for updates and questions about our Buy A Brick Fundraiser, for which we will continue to accept brick orders until February 2023! Order forms are available at the library and on our website, where you can also elect to pay online through the Friends of the Library of Windham. Thank you for reading.

## Teen Events

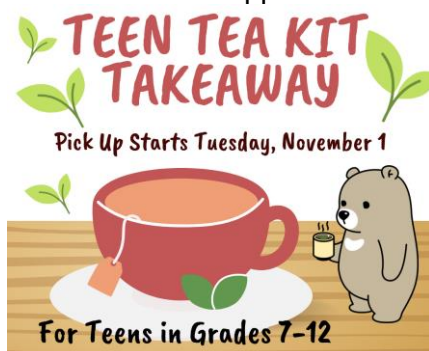
Molly Pevna,  
Youth Services Librarian

The events this month will be a day to November! We'll have our most delicious competition of the year, the **Teen Tournament of Pies!** If you like pie, are a baking enthusiast, or you just like the *Great British Baking Show*, then stop by on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.



The tweens are having a big **Tween Video Game Rumble** on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30

p.m. Don't have time for a full event, don't worry, we still have our Teen Takeaway. Have a tea-tastic time making your very own blend of tea with our **Teen Tea Kit Takeaway** happening on Tuesday, November 1 while supplies last.



After calming down with your very own tea mix, you can join us

for our first ever visit from Lindsey Singleton from Lighthouse Coaching and Consulting. Lindsey will be presenting **After Where and When: Navigating the Road to College Readiness** on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. Aimed at young adults heading to college in the fall, this workshop helps prepare for the social, emotional aspect of the college transition.

We will have our regular **Teen Advisory Group** meeting on Tuesday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. Questions about TAG or anything else? Feel free to reach out to Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org). Note: all programs labeled "teen" are for grades 7-12 and all "tween" programs are for grades 4-8.

## November Adult Programming

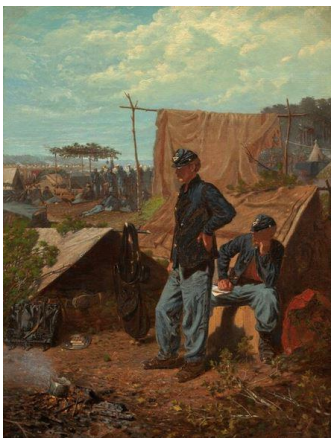
Maria Schroeter,  
Adult Collection Development /  
Adult Programming Librarian

Happy Thanksgiving! Time for baking, basting, and pants with an elastic waist! We've got some great new titles coming out this month: *Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six*, from thriller author Lisa Unger, will be out on November 8; Viola Shipman's *A Wish for Winter* (out on November 15) follows a bookstore owner looking for romance; and on November 18, *Traveling the Old Ski Tracks of New England* by E. John B. Allen explores the history of skiing in the region. All of these are already listed in our catalog and ready for you to put on hold. If you need help putting an item on hold, just give us a call and we can walk you through it or do it for you.

### Nesmith Library Book Group

The Nesmith Library Book Group will meet on Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. This month we've been reading *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin. Currently, the book group is not accepting new members, but when space becomes available, I'll open it up again. If you would like to be on the wait list, send me an email!

### Winslow Homer



Winslow Homer, one of America's most celebrated artists, was

on the front lines of the Civil War documenting battles and moments of quiet contemplation in scenes that have come to define the conflict. On Wednesday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m., Jane Oneail will join us on Zoom to explore the evolution of Homer's paintings, which after the war show a beautiful, if uneasy, peace in America.

Jane Oneail is an independent scholar and holds a master's degree in Art History from Boston University and a master's degree in Art in Education from Harvard University. Jane is a New Hampshire native and has worked at some of the state's most esteemed cultural institutions including the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, where she served as executive director, and the Currier Museum of Art, where she held the role of senior educator. Jane has also taught at the college level for more than a decade, most recently at the N.H. Institute of Art. Find out more about Jane and her art programs at [www.iamculturallycurious.com](http://www.iamculturallycurious.com).

### Holiday Luminary Craft



On Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m., Nesmith Library card

holders, ages 18 and up, are invited to create a glowing holiday luminary using tissue paper and glass jars. All materials will be provided, and space is limited, so register early!

### English Handbell Choir



Save the date! On Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Pelham English Handbell Choir will be back for a holiday concert!

Adult programs are for ages 16 and up (unless otherwise noted) and registration is required. To register for these programs, please visit our Events Calendar at <https://nesmithlibrary.org/calendar/month>.

For more information on any of these programs, or if you have any questions, please contact Maria, our Adult Programming Librarian, at [mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org), or call the library at 603-432-7154.

## October Outreach

Azra Palo,  
Head of Youth Services

October was a busy outreach month for the Nesmith Youth Department! This year for Harvest Fest (October 16), Molly and Azra handed out treats and chatted with community members of all ages. Thank you to the Windham Parks and Recreation Director Cheryl Haas for once again inviting us to the festivities. On October 21 Azra, Molly, and Kirstin had a busy outreach day with both a Community Helpers Visit at Golden Brook

School and a Mack's Apples Storytime in Londonderry. We spoke to the kindergarteners about getting a library card, and they went home with a goodie bag! It was a beautiful day at Mack's for a fall themed storytime complete with a generous donation of apple cider doughnuts and small pumpkins for the little ones. Thank you to the kindergarten teachers for inviting us and to Mack's Apples for allowing us to have a storytime once

again at the pumpkin patch! The full Nesmith Youth Department rounded out October with a Halloween Parade and Storytime on October 28. Thank you to the Windham Fire Department and Windham Terrace for handing out treats to our little goblins and ghouls! We are grateful to have a supportive community in Windham and look forward to our future outreach events.

## Storytimes

Azra Palo

### Toddler Storytime

Mondays until December 12  
10:30 a.m.

Ages 18 months to 3 years, in person, with caregiver. Registration not required.

Toddler Storytime is BACK for the school year at Nesmith Library! Caregivers with children ages 18 months to 3 years can sing, dance, and follow along to stories and songs with Miss Chris, Mondays at 10:30 a.m., through December 12! Older and younger siblings are also welcome. Questions? Email Chris at [csavukinas@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:csavukinas@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Baby Storytime

Wednesdays, November 2 to December 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 0-18 months, in person. Registration not required.

All babies and their caregivers are invited to join us Wednesday mornings at the Nesmith Library for Baby Storytime! Starting November 2 at 10:30 a.m., we will have stories, songs, dancing, and more for

ages 0-18 months. Siblings are always welcome. Questions? Email Kirsten at [krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, November 3 to December 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5, in person. Registration required.

We are inviting our preschool

friends to join us for storytime! On Thursdays starting November 3 at 10:30 a.m., Miss Molly will lead us in a fun storytime for ages 3-5 including songs, dancing, and stories. This is an independent storytime. For more information about our preschool storytime, please email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).



## Monthly Children's Programs

Azra Palo

### Forest Friends

Friday, November 4

All ages. Registration not required. Takeaway.

Stop by the library to pick up your special forest friend craft before they're gone! Starting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 4 we'll have a special woodland animal craft for you to take home and make. Crafts are available while supplies last. Questions? Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Create Club

Saturday, November 5

2:00 p.m.

Ages 6-11, in person. Registration required.

Young patrons ages 6-11 are invited to sign up for November's Create Club. This month is an ambitious one. We're going to make two different styles of pop-up cards! We're going to run this program more like a step-by-step class, so please be on time and bring your listening ears. Caregivers are welcome to join in or not, but they must remain in the library as their children participate.

For more information, please email Kirsten Rickershauser at [krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org).

### STEAM Takeaway

Monday, November 14

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Takeaway.

Gobble up another STEAM takeaway at the Nesmith Library! Registration is required, and families are welcome to pick up their kits starting Monday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. Questions? Email Azra at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Tween Program: Video Games

Wednesday, November 16

6:30 p.m.

Grades 4-8, in person. Registration required.

It's Mario Time! The ultimate showdown of skill, who will win? Join us on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. for a game night like no other. We'll be playing Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. on the Switch projected onto our big screen! Game and controllers are provided. Questions? Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Magic Tree House Explorers

Monday, November 28

6:00 p.m.

Ages 6-11, in person. Registration required.

Young patrons ages 6-11 are invited to join us Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. for our next meeting of the Magic Tree House Explorers! This exploration will take us back to the Ice Age, where we'll learn about how our ancestors lived. Specifically, we'll look at cave art and try to make some of our own. For more information email Kirsten at [krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:krickershauser@nesmithlibrary.org).



## Special Events for Children

Azra Palo

### Turk-tacular Craft Takeaway

Monday, November 21

All ages. Registration not required. Takeaway.

It's almost Thanksgiving! Why not start out the week of celebrations with a turkey friend? Starting Monday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m., you can pick up your turkey day craft. Available while supplies last. Questions? Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Gobble 'til You Wobble Storytime

Wednesday, November 23

10:30 a.m.

All ages, in person. Registration not required.

Gobble, gobble! Are you ready to show us your best turkey impression? Come show us your best turkey moves on Wednesday, November 23 at 10:30 a.m. We'll sing, dance, and have a big bubble bash

to celebrate Thanksgiving. Questions? Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).



## Read Newspapers Online

U.S. major daily newspapers are now available with your Nesmith Library card.

We have a new online resource: **U.S. Major Dailies** from ProQuest.

Read the latest editions of major national newspapers online by signing in to our catalog with your Nesmith Library card, whether you are at home, out and about, or at our library.

Newspapers include:

- *Boston Globe*
- *Chicago Tribune*
- *Los Angeles Times*
- *New York Times*  
(*New York Times*)

*Magazine* and *New York Times Book Review* also available)

- *Washington Post*
- *The Wall Street Journal*

You can also search for other U.S. major daily newspapers.

Visit the Esources sec-

tion of our catalog to see all of our digital resources, sign in, and start reading! Please contact us if you have any trouble using our resources with your Nesmith Library card, or if we can answer any questions you may have.



## Dates to Remember

- 11/1 Teen Tea Kit Takeaway, 9:00 a.m.
- 11/2 Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- 11/3 Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 11/4 Children's Forest Friends Takeaway Craft, 9:00 a.m.
- 11/5 Create Club, 2:00 p.m.
- 11/7 Toddler Time, 10:30 a.m.; FLOW meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/8 Teen Advisory Group, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/9 Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Book Group, 6:00 p.m.
- 11/10 Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- 11/11 Veterans Day,

- Library Closed
- 11/14 STEAM Takeaway, 9:00 a.m.; Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/15 Navigating the Road to College Readiness, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/16 Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; War and Peace and Winslow Homer, 6:00-7:30 p.m.; Tween Video Game Rumble, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/17 Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 11/21 Children's Turktacular Takeaway Craft, 9:00 a.m.;

- Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- 11/22 Teen Tournament of Pies, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/23 Gobble 'til You Wobble Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Closes at 3:00 p.m.
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Day, Library Closed
- 11/25 Library Closed
- 11/28 Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Magic Tree House Explorers, 6:00 p.m.
- 11/29 FLOW Holiday Craft, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 11/30 Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.
- 12/1 Holiday Luminary Craft, 6:00 p.m.
- 12/5 English Handbell Choir, 7:00 p.m.

## Nesmith Library

8 Fellows Road  
Windham, NH 03087

Phone:  
(603) 432-7154

Website:  
[www.nesmithlibrary.org](http://www.nesmithlibrary.org)

Twitter: @NesmithLibrary  
Facebook: /nesmithlibrary  
Instagram: /nesmith.library/

Library Director:  
Sylvie Brikiatis

### Service Hours

Monday – Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Nesmith Library will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day. For Thanksgiving, the library will close early at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23 and reopen for normal hours on Saturday, November 26.

