



# The Nesmith NEWS

October 2022

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## Nesmith Library History, Part One: Honoring the Past

*Chelsea Page,  
Social Media / Digital Literacy Librarian*

During our Sesqui-centennial Celebration in 2021, I became interested in the librarians who have served this community since the Nesmith Library was founded in 1871, in Town Hall. Several are memorialized with bricks in our front walkway, and I felt that our very first librarian, Miss Clarisa "Clara" Hills, should be honored similarly. After placing my order for the Buy A Brick Fundraiser (which you can still do, through February 2023!), I decided to use our Ancestry Library Edition access to re-search Ms. Hills' life, and discovered that she is buried right here in Windham, with the rest of her close family in the western section of the Cemetery on the Plains (W-1, plot 171, pictured).



Clarisa's parents, Jeremiah and Eliza (Cochran) Hills, lived in Windham on a farm which belonged to Jeremiah's father and the Hills family. Jeremiah and Eliza married in 1837, and three of their children died in infancy (son 1838, daughter 1840, daughter 1841) before Clarisa was born in 1843. I can only imagine how much Jeremiah and Eliza must have cherished young Clarisa as their only child, as she grew up and attended school and helped around the household.

Between 1850-1860, Jeremiah, Eliza, and Clarisa were living in Windham with Clarisa's paternal grandmother Margarette (Davidson) Hills, who died in 1854 (Clarisa's grandfather had passed in 1817). Jeremiah, Eliza, and Clarisa moved sometime after 1854, and were recorded in the July 1860 Census as living in Pelham, where Clarisa, age 17, had attended school that year. Jeremiah passed away on Christmas Day of December 1860 at age 54, causing Eliza and Clarisa to move

back to Windham sometime between 1860-1870.

In 1871, Colonel Thomas Nesmith's will donated to and charged the town of Windham with establishing a library, which was open to all in the community. The formal opening of the eponymous Nesmith Library was held on June 21, 1871, and Clarisa (referred to at that time as "Clara," possibly a nickname) served as the first librarian until 1878. *In November's newsletter, I will further detail Clarisa's tenure as the first Nesmith librarian.*

Clarisa's mother Eliza died at age 68 of "paralysis," in May of 1878, when Clarisa was 34. That same year, Clarisa bought a house in Nashua at 22 Elm Street (recorded in the 1900 Census when she was 57, and owned the home entirely, no mortgage), where she lived by herself for the next 25 years. She may have become good friends through her 50s and 60s with her neighbors, the Harrises, who appear on the probate register after her death. In 1911, Clarisa

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developed a “cancer of the stomach,” with which she suffered until July 22, 1912, when she passed away at the age of 69. She was returned to Windham to be buried in her family’s plot on the Cemetery on the Plains, her inscription added to the pedestal of the family monument along with her parents and her infant siblings.

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 Li-

brary Edition (in the library only), HeritageQuest, and Fold3 for your genealogical research needs, and 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.

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 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.



## Teen Updates

*Molly Pevna,  
Youth Services Librarian*

It’s not really that spooky, it’s just spooey here in the teen area! We are starting the month continuing our tea series with the **Takeaway Teen Craft**. On Tuesday, October 4, tea cups that you can decorate and keep are available for pick up while supplies last.



Tweens will be celebrating with their own **Tween Mini-Food Challenge** on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. Drop in and

see if you can make the best plate of Halloween themed mini food. Please make sure to email the Teen Librarian Molly if you have allergies before attending.



Teens are having their own **Halloween Spooky Night** on Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. Decorate a mini pumpkin (provided) or bring your own big pumpkin and eat Halloween snacks while watching the best of Hal-

loween spooky movies.



We’ll be having our monthly **TAG** meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. If you’re interested in joining TAG, but want to check out a meeting, register and stop on by. Questions about TAG or anything else? Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

Please note: programs labeled “teen” are for grades 7-12 only and “tween” programs are for grades 4-8 only.

## October Adult Programming

Maria Schroeter,  
Adult Collection Development /  
Adult Programming Librarian

It's football weather! That's what my brother has always called this time of the year...cool days and colder nights. I love the fall! We've got some great new titles coming out this month: *It Starts with Us*, from the hugely popular Colleen Hoover, will be out on October 18; Maggie Knox brings us a romantic holiday story in *All I Want for Christmas* on October 4; and on October 25, *A Doomed of Sugar*, the first in the cozy Maple Syrup Mysteries, will be released. 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.

### Library Book Group

The Nesmith Library Book Group will meet in person on Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. This month we've been reading *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave. If you didn't have a chance to read the book, no worries! Come to the meeting and start with our next book (title to be revealed shortly!) and mark your calendar; we typically meet every second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. In order to participate, you must have a Nesmith Library card or a card from one of the libraries in our consortium, you need to be over the age of 16, and you must register.

### Digging into Native History



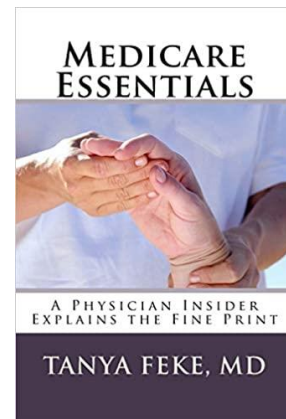
Abenaki history has been reduced to near-invisibility as a result of conquest, and a strategy of self-preservation that required many Abenaki to go "underground," concealing their true identities for generations to avoid discrimination and persecution. Join us on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m., when anthropologist Dr. Robert Goodby will reveal archaeological evidence that shows their deep presence here, inches below the earth's surface. This program is funded with a generous grant from New Hampshire Humanities, and is co-hosted with the Windham Historical Society.

Robert Goodby is a professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Brown University and has spent the last 30 years studying Native American archaeological sites in New England. He is a past president of the New Hampshire Archeological Society, a former Trustee of the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, and served on the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs. In 2010, he directed the excavations of four 12,000-year-old Paleoindian dwellings at the Tenant Swamp site in Keene, and his book, *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History*, was published in 2021.

### Medicare Essentials

Questions about Medicare? Wondering where to start? Join us on Thursday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m., when we welcome Dr. Tanya Feke for an engaging and interactive talk about Medicare. Not only will you learn the basics about how

the Medicare program works, you will learn tips on how to pick the best Medicare plan, where you can cut out-of-pocket costs, and what changes to look for in 2022. Be sure to bring your questions!



Dr. Tanya Feke is a board-certified family physician with firsthand experience in Medicare. Not only has she cared for patients as a doctor, she has been their advocate. Since taking leave from her primary care practice in 2013, she has performed home visits for Medicare beneficiaries and consults with hospital networks nationwide to assure Medicare covers what you need. With a passion for education, Dr. Feke has published two Amazon best-sellers, *Medicare Essentials: A Physician Insider Explains the Fine Print* and *Idiot's Guides: Medicare*. Her website *Diagnosis Life* remains a hub of health and wellness information, free to the public.

### Majestic Moose of N.H.



The moose is the largest member of the deer family, and on Thursday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m., Don Allen, Fish and Wildlife Steward with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, will be here to teach us about these fascinating herbivores. Found in all of our counties, moose have made a comeback from the mid-1800s

when there were fewer than 15 in New Hampshire. Come and hear the story of the majestic moose, and learn the best times and places to view them!

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 our Adult Programming Librarian, Maria, at [mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org), or call the library at 603-432-7154.

## 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



*Azra Palo,  
Head of Youth Services*

We love supporting your efforts to reach your 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten goal, and we're excited to bring back our Beanstack challenge to help you track your reading! We've updated our motivational steps for your reading journey, and those who participated last year are welcome to stop in

to pick up your tote bag and badges retroactively at the children's desk! Visit our website [nesmithlibrary.org](https://nesmithlibrary.org) for more information. You can also contact Azra with any questions. Call 603-432-7154, email [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org), or visit the Children's Room.

## Storytimes

*Azra Palo*

### **Toddler Storytime**

Mondays, October 3 and 17  
10:30 a.m.

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

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., September 12 through October 17! Older and younger siblings are also welcome. Questions? Email Chris at [csavukinas@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:csavukinas@nesmithlibrary.org).

### **Baby Storytime**

Wednesdays, October 5, 12,  
and 19  
10:30 a.m.

Ages 0-18 months. Registration not required. In person.

All babies and their caregivers are invited to join us Wednesday mornings at the Nesmith Library for our fall session of Baby Storytime! Starting Wednesday, September 14 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 Rickershauser at [krickershaser@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:krickershaser@nesmithlibrary.org).

### **Preschool Storytime**

Thursdays, October 6, 13, and  
20  
10:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5. Registration required. In person.

We are inviting our Preschool Storytime friends to join us for storytime! On Thursdays starting September 15 at 10:30 a.m., Miss Molly will lead us in a fun storytime for ages 3-5 years 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*

### Jack-O-Lantern Takeaway Craft

Friday, October 7

All ages. Registration not required. Takeaway.

Light up your Halloween with this special jack-o-lantern craft. Pick up your jack-o-lantern craft on Friday, October 7 while supplies last. Questions? Email Youth Services Librarian Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).



### Create Club

Saturday, October 8  
2:00 p.m.

Ages 6-11. Registration required. In person.

Young patrons aged 6-11 are invited to sign up for October's Create Club. This month we'll take out the yarn again to craft our own dolls! 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, October 17

Ages 6-11. Registration required. Takeaway.

Fizz, boom, boo! It's time for fizzy pumpkins in the October STEAM kits. Come get yours to kick off your spooky celebrations. Questions? Email Azra at [apalo@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:apalo@nesmithlibrary.org) or Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Tween Tiny Food

Wednesday, October 19  
6:30 p.m.

Grades 4-8. Registration required. In person.

Ghosts, spooks, and snack, oh yes! Tweens can make and enjoy their own Halloween themed tiny food! Who will be able to make the most creative plate? You have to come to find out. If you have any food allergies and plan on coming, please notify Molly. Questions? Email Molly the Teen Librarian at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

### Magic Tree House Explorers

Monday, October 24

6:00 p.m.

Ages 6-11. Registration required. In person.

Have you ever wanted to join Jack and Annie in their magical adventures? Or travel to different times and places in history? Here at the Nesmith Library, we may not have a magic tree house, but we have the creativity to make up for it.

Young patrons aged 6-11 are invited to join us Monday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. for another fun-filled meeting of the Magic Tree House Explorers! This exploration will be to Ancient Egypt, where we'll learn about their burial practices, make papier mache mummies, and decorate small sarcophagi. It may get a little messy, so be sure to dress appropriately. Caregivers are welcome to join in or not, but they must remain in the library as their children participate.

Young explorers don't have to read the Magic Tree House books to participate, but we highly recommend the series.

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

## Special Events for Children

*Azra Palo*

### Storytime at Mack's Apples

Friday, October 14  
10:30 a.m.

All ages. In person. No registration required. At Mack's Orchard.

Apples, pumpkins, and stories. It doesn't get much better! Come join Miss Chris, Miss Molly, and

Azra for a special storytime at Mack's Apples. We'll be singing, dancing, and enjoying stories to celebrate fall. Please note Nesmith Library will not be providing transportation to Mack's Apples. For questions about exact location in the orchard or anything else, feel

free to email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).

If we are rained out, we will be meeting the following Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the same location. We will announce on our social media, if we have decided to postpone.

## Halloween Storytime and Parade

Friday, October 28

10:30 a.m.

All ages. Registration not required.

In person.

Trick or treat, it's time for Halloween! Come join us for a special storytime and parade to celebrate Halloween. We'll be singing, dancing, reading stories, and having a parade to trick-or-treat around the library. Of course, costumes are encouraged! Questions?

Email Molly at [mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto:mpevna@nesmithlibrary.org).



## Nesmith Library Solar Panel Installation

On Thursday, August 25 at 12:30 p.m., we held a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the installation of the first solar project on a Windham town building. Local and state officials, members of the Local Energy

Committee, the Nesmith Library Board of Trustees, and the New Hampshire State Library were in attendance, as well as a representative from ReVision Energy.

The project was installed by Revision Ener-

gy earlier this year and will be connected to the Eversource grid. For more information, you can contact Library Director Sylvie by email or by calling Nesmith Library at 603-432-7154.

## Dates to Remember

10/3	Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.	10/12	Group, 6:30 p.m.	10/20	6:30 p.m.
10/4	Teen Takeaway Craft, 9:00 a.m.	10/12	Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Book Group, 6:00 p.m.	10/20	Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Moose of N.H., 6:00 p.m.
10/5	Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Digging into Native History in N.H., 6:30 p.m.	10/13	Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.	10/21	Rain Date for Storytime at Mack's Apple Orchard, 11:30 a.m.
10/6	Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Nesmith Knitters, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Medicare Essentials, 6:00 p.m.	10/14	Storytime at Mack's Apple Orchard, 10:30 a.m.	10/24	Magic Tree House Explorers, 6:00 p.m.
10/7	Children's Takeaway Craft, 9:00 a.m.	10/15	Windham Harvest Fest, 12:00 p.m.	10/25	Teen Video Halloween Spooky Night, 6:30 p.m.
10/8	Create Club, 2:00 p.m.	10/17	STEAM Takeaway, 9:00 a.m.; Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m.	10/28	Halloween Storytime and Parade, 10:30 a.m.
10/10	Library Closed	10/19	Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Tween Tiny Food Party,		
10/11	Teen Advisory				

## 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 Monday, October 10 for Indigenous People's (Columbus) Day.

