

More about Conserving the Grand Drape in Goff Hall

The Rehoboth Antiquarian Society secured funds from the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation to restore the Goff Memorial Hall historic painted grand drape, which hung at the front of the stage in the hall from its opening in 1915. It contains an image of the Goff Inn, the original building on the site, in the center and fantastic stylized peacocks around the bottom edges. The work was done from June 27 to June 29 by MJ Davis and Chris Hadsel of Curtains Without Borders, a conservation team from Vermont that has been restoring these fascinating curtains all over New England. (Please visit their website for more information:

<http://www.curtainswithoutborders.org/>).

The project was completed with the help of local volunteers, who were trained on site by the conservators. They prepared the work area, gently vacuumed the curtain to remove dust and debris, cleaned the curtain with dry sponges, and mended holes and reinforced the edges using muslin. Then conservator MJ Davis in-painted the areas where the image was abraded. The curtain was rolled on a long cardboard tube covered in Tyvek and then covered in Tyvek itself. It is currently being stored while the RAS raises funds for professional installation in the hall.

Many thanks to volunteers Sharon Beskid, Derek DeMello, Michelle Drummey, and high school student volunteers Kelsey Dickison, Noah Gross, and Emily Parker for their hard work helping to bring the stage curtain back to life.

