

Mother of Invention: How Museums Created New Opportunities and Renewed Vitality in Response to the Pandemic

Friday, June 3, 2022, at 10:45AM



Michelle Doherty
Education Coordinator
Old Barracks Museum



Rachael Goldberg
Executive Director
Liberty Hall



Angelica Diggs
Assistant Director, Operations
Museum of Early Trades & Crafts



Gary Garrido Schneider
Executive Director
Grounds for Sculpture

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Honoring a Vibrant and
Thoroughly Creative Life



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"It's easy sometimes to forget the simple things that give us pleasure. If we open our eyes, life is marvelous."



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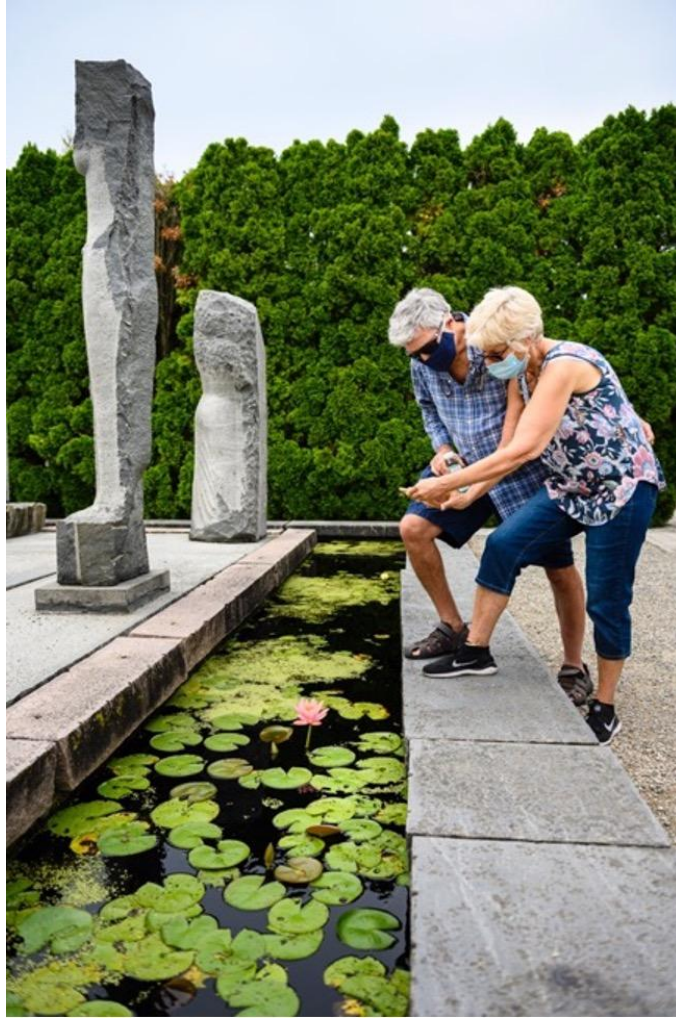


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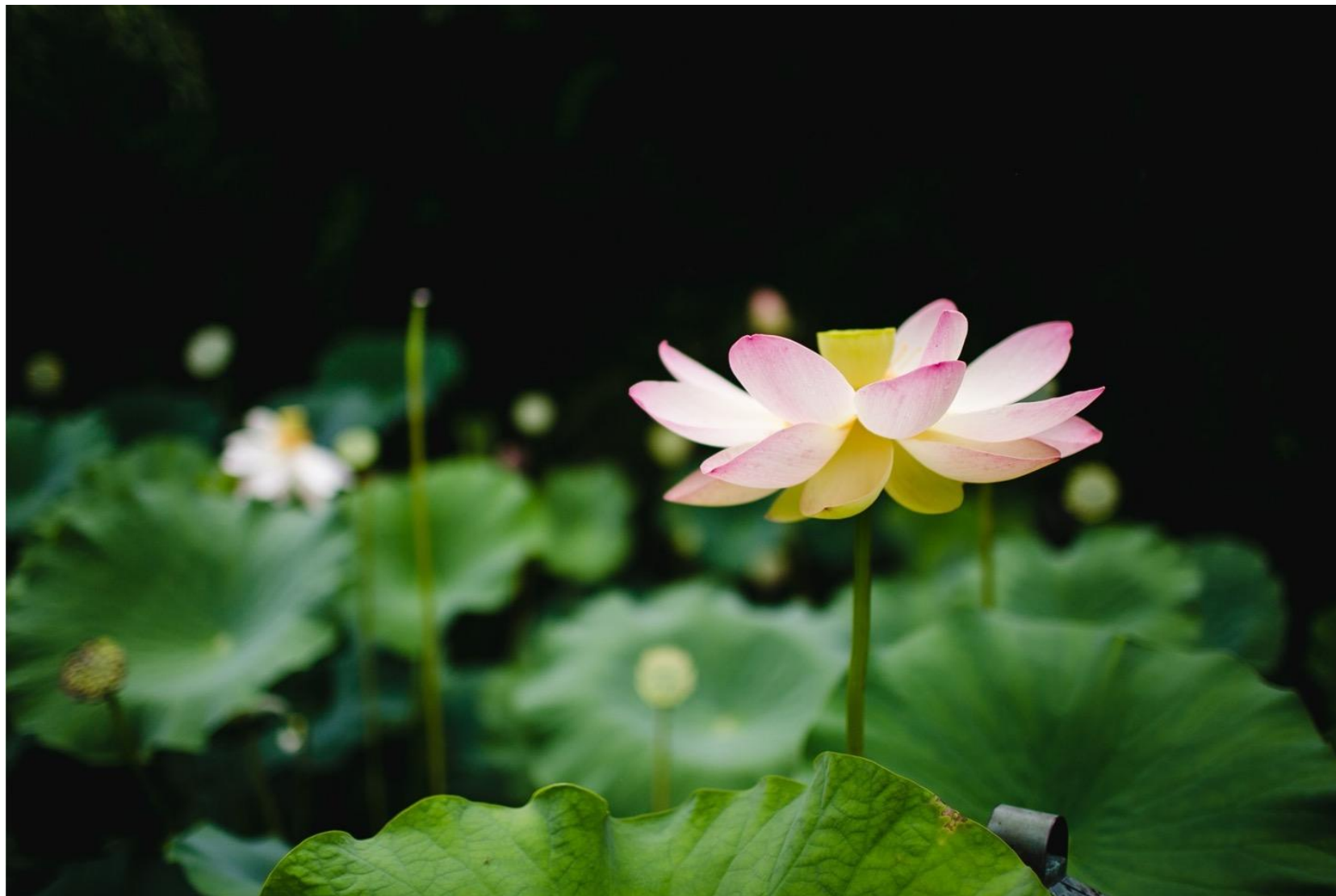
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<https://libertyhall.kean.edu/>



Educational Programming at Liberty Hall



What's Next?

First up on our social media platforms...

Histories Mysteries!


Do your feet ever get cold in the winter months walking from the house to the car or even playing in the snow? This is a footwarmer! One side opens so that hot coals or ash could go inside. This particular foot warmer would have most likely been used in a carriage so that those who were traveling in the winter months could keep their feet warm!

Foot Warmer - mid 19th century, wood frame with pierced tin sides, home and later factory-made



What's Next?


Next up on our website...Activities with Liberty Hall!




Make a Silhouette with Liberty Hall Museum

Portraits at Liberty Hall


While Liberty Hall is primarily a history museum, when visiting you'll see lots of amazing artwork, especially portraits of the people who lived here:



Painting of William Livingston, circa late 18th century



Painting of Julia Kean, circa 19th century



Photograph of May Kean Raynolds, 1945


Before the invention of the camera in the mid-1800s, the only way to preserve someone's likeness was to have a portrait painted. Having your portrait painted required sitting still for many hours for an artist to capture your likeness and it was also relatively expensive.

Silhouettes


Today, we're going to take a look at a different type of portrait, the silhouette. A silhouette is the outline of a person's face in profile (from the side) cut out of paper. Traditionally, the paper was black and, after cutting, the silhouette was placed against a white background. Silhouettes only took a few minutes to produce compared to the hours required for a formal painted portrait.

History of Silhouettes


Silhouettes date back to the mid-1700s in France when a man named Etienne Silhouette, a French finance minister, became known for making these inexpensive likenesses of his family and friends. In America, silhouettes were highly popular from about 1790 to 1840. Once the camera was invented, silhouettes lost their appeal. We have several silhouettes in the collection of Liberty Hall. Here are a few of our favorites:



3D Silhouette of a man on display in Mrs. Kean's Room, circa 19th century



Silhouette of Christine Kean Griffin, circa 1860s




3D Silhouette of a woman on display in Mrs. Kean's Room, circa 19th century

Make Your Own Silhouette

How would you like to make a silhouette? It's really easy; you'll only need a few things:





What you will need:

- Partner to assist
- Sheet of white paper
- Tape
- Two sheets of different colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Pencil
- Bright light



Steps:

1. Begin by taping the sheet of white paper to a wall.
2. Sit or stand sideways in front of the paper. Use a strong moveable light source, like a desk lamp, and position it so that the shadow of your head appears on the white paper. Make sure the outline of your entire head is visible on the white paper. It may take a few minutes to adjust the light or the person being silhouetted to get this accomplished.
3. Hold still! Have your partner trace the outline of your head onto the paper.
4. Take the paper off the wall and use scissors to cut out the outline of your head. This will be your template.

show us what's going on inside that wonderful brain of yours! Please share your finished projects with us by emailing a photo to libertyhall@kean.edu

Want to do more?


- Read your favorite book about portraits and silhouettes! Some of our favorites include:
 - *The Gentleman and the Kitchen Maid* by Dennis Nolan and Diane Stanley
 - *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola
 - Youtube Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TUQdF27HMo>
 - *Kate and the Mona Lisa* by James Mayhew
 - Youtube Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0L6yyYM90>
- Looking for other books?
 - Check your local library's digital collections
 - Free Audio Book Guide from Scholastic:
 - <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blead-free-audio-books-and-why-you-should-try-them.html>
 - Audible Free Audiobooks
 - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Tag us on Social Media!

If you had fun creating your silhouette, please share your stories and pictures by emailing the museum or posting on our social media pages!


- Email: libertyhall@kean.edu
- Facebook: [libertyhallmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/libertyhallmuseum)
- Instagram: [@libertyhallmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/libertyhallmuseum)

The museum will be open again soon! Our doors are only temporarily closed. We can't wait to see you and your family at Liberty Hall Museum!



What's Next?

Next up on our website...Lesson Plans with Liberty Hall!



Colonial Privy at Liberty Hall Museum

Lesson: Colonial Privy at Liberty Hall Museum
Grades: 6-8
Subject Areas: American History, Colonial America, Poetry Analysis
Duration: 30-45 minutes

Essential question: How can poetry be used to analyze aspects of colonial daily life?

Overview Summary: Middle school students will analyze poetry while studying the bathroom practices of colonists. Students will discuss Liberty Hall Museum's privy and chamber pots, read and analyze a poem about an outhouse, and write their own poetry.

Objectives for Students: After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the various elements of poetry
- Analyze a poem for relevant historical information
- Construct an original piece of poetry demonstrating the use of various poetic elements and historical contexts

New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts:

- NJLSA.R.1.** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- NJLSA.R.2.** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- NJLSA.R.4.** Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- NJLSA.R.5.** Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Common Core Curriculum English Language Arts:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone

Liberty Hall Museum, 2020 Page 1

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5** Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

Materials:

- Liberty Hall Museum Colonial Bathroom Fact Sheet (provided on page 3)
- Passing of the Backhouse Poem (provided on pages 4 and 5)
- Poem Analysis and Activity Sheets (provided on pages 6-8)

Key Words:

- Liberty Hall
- Poetry
- Outhouse
- Chamber Pots
- Elements of a Poem

Opening Activity:

- Introduce Liberty Hall Museum:
 - Liberty Hall Museum is a historic house and garden museum in Union, New Jersey. It was the home of William Livingston, the first elected governor of New Jersey. In 1811, the home and grounds were purchased by the Kean family who lived in the home until 1995. In 2000, the home and grounds became a museum.

Historical Context:

- Establish and discuss the historic setting and context of the lesson plan with your students:
 - Liberty Hall was built in 1774 and the Livingston and Kean families lived in the house for over 200 years. The house today has five bathrooms, all of which have flush toilets, but flush toilets were not installed until 1925 when indoor plumbing was put into the house. This means that for over 150 years, residents of Liberty Hall did not have a flush toilet or a bathroom.
 - Where did residents of Liberty Hall "do their business" before toilets were installed?

Poetry Lesson Plan Activities:



- Read the colonial bathroom fact sheet (page 3)
 - This fact sheet provides basic background information about the outhouse and chamber pots used by residents of Liberty Hall.
- Read the poem "The Passing of the Backhouse" (pages 4 and 5)
 - This poem is by James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916), an American poet known for his sentimental, humorous, and children's poetry.
- Complete the "Identify Elements of the Poem" activity sheet (page 6)
 - This activity has students identify various elements of the poem including figurative language, alliteration, personification, and more.
- Complete the "Analyze the Poem" activity sheet (page 7)

Liberty Hall Museum, 2020 Page 2

a. This activity has students answer questions regarding the poem.
 5. Complete the "Write your own Poem" activity sheet (page 8)
 a. This activity asks students to write their own poem about their own bathroom.

Activity #1: The Liberty Hall Museum Colonial Bathroom Fact Sheet

The Privy


The privy is an outdoor toilet without plumbing. Normally, they are built a reasonable distance away from the house and on the downwind side. This location helped balance the issues of easy access versus the smell! A privy consists of a wooden bench seat with holes where one could sit and "do their business" into a large hole in the ground underneath the privy structure. The wooden structure over the benches existed to shelter the user, and also to protect the toilet itself. The privy at Liberty Hall has two seats inside each door. The seats are different sizes—the large one for adults and the small one for children. This double privy was unusual for the time, most privies would have been single. Toilet paper was not yet invented, so most colonial people used leaves or corn cobs. Yes, corn cobs! Privies were very unsanitary by our modern standard and most people did not wash their hands after using the bathrooms because they did not know about germs or bacteria. Yuck!

Imagine having to use a privy and go outside to use the bathroom? What would you do if it was raining, snowing, or the middle of the night? Colonists had a solution for this...

The Chamber Pot

Chamber pots were small clay or porcelain bowls used in the house. Many had fancy designs and most had a lid. Some chamber pots had a crocheted piece that slid over the lid called a shusher. These Chamber Pots were used during the night (aren't you glad they had a shusher?!) and had to be emptied each morning into the privy. Unless a family had enslaved people or servants to empty the chamber pots, this chore was

Liberty Hall Museum, 2020 Page 3



Activity #3: Identify Elements of the Poem

Rhyme Scheme: pattern of rhymes at the end of each line. It is usually referred to by using letters to indicate which lines rhyme; lines designated with the same letter all rhyme with each other.

Figurative Language: words and expressions used to convey various meanings and interpretations that appeal to the senses of the reader

Liberty Hall Museum, 2020 Page 6

What Else?

Summer Activities at Liberty Hall



LIBERTY HALL
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LIBERTY HALL
Summer
ADVENTURES

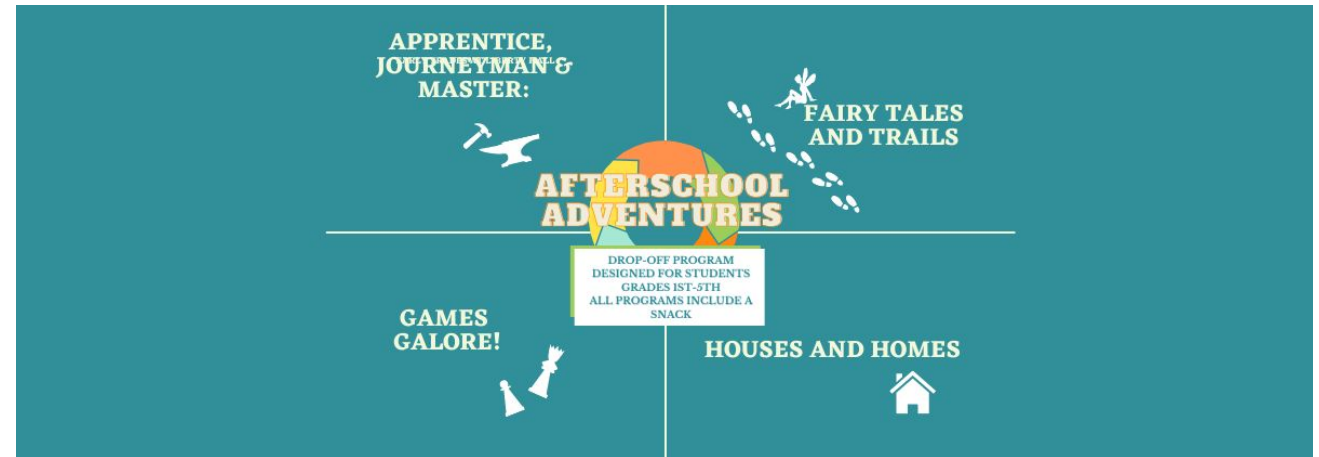
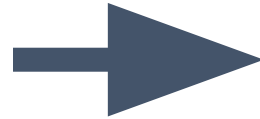
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New programs every week!
Designed for 1st-5th graders!

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\$4 per adult

Drop-Off Programs 2pm-4pm
\$12 per child
\$10 for members

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DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS
GRADES 1ST-5TH
ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE A SNACK

GAMES GALORE!

HOUSES AND HOMES

Aha!



The Covid Bump!

- ❖ Extremely dedicated LH staff
- ❖ Thinking outside the box
- ❖ Big Picture



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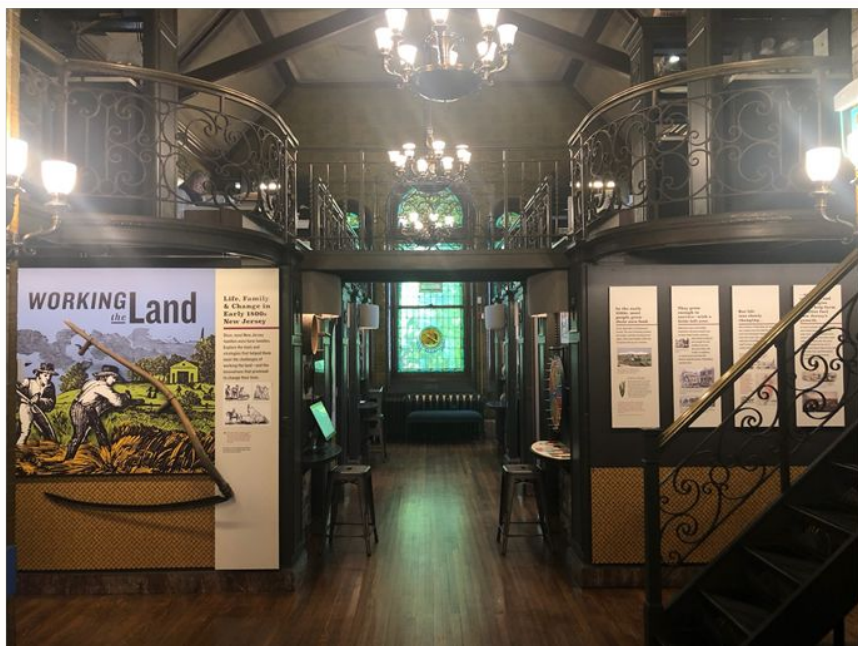
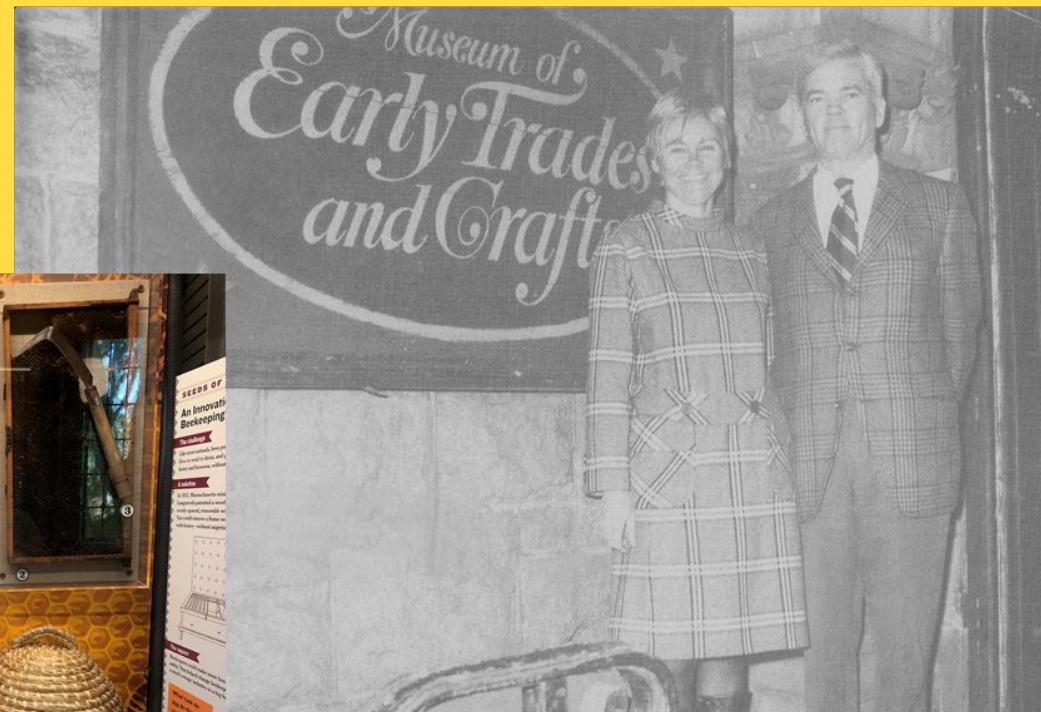
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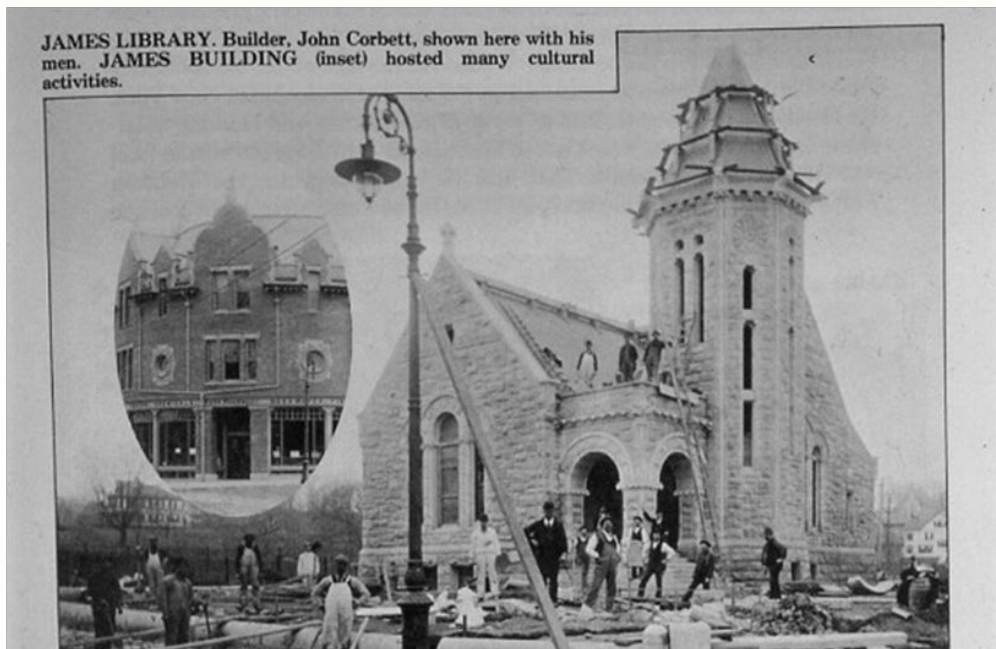
THE NEW JERSEY HISTORY AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE



Founding of METC



James Library Building



Effects of the Shutdown



METC is opening by reservation only on August 4, 2020.

Here are some of our **re-opening guidelines** to keep you safe! For full details please visit www.metc.org/reopening.



We are so excited to **welcome** you back!

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Education Annex

James Building



Annex Exhibits



Wish You Were Here...

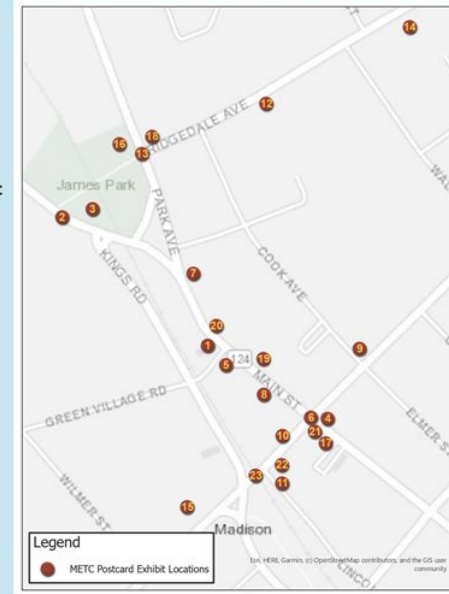
Do you love scavenger hunts? Do you love history? Do you love Madison, New Jersey?

If so, try your hand at METC's historic postcard scavenger hunt! Enjoy a scenic walk through historic Madison and see if you can spot where these historic scenes are located in modern-day Madison!

Scan the QR code below with your phone for a virtual version of this map and explore the modern-day locations of these historic scenes!

Don't forget to tag @METCNJ on Instagram and use the hashtag #METCWishYouWereHere to share your pictures! We'll share your pictures on our Instagram & Facebook!

Scan for your own map
→



Special thanks to Lynette Dooley for her assistance in creating this map of historic Madison.

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Annex Exhibits



Saying Yes to Partnerships



New Education Models



New Education Models



Online Content

— Paper Lanterns

Chinese New Year Paper Lanterns

METC MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

Paper Lanterns

Share



PART 1: LEAVING & TRAVELING

Challenges and Choic...

CHALLENGES & CHOICES VIDEO #2

METC

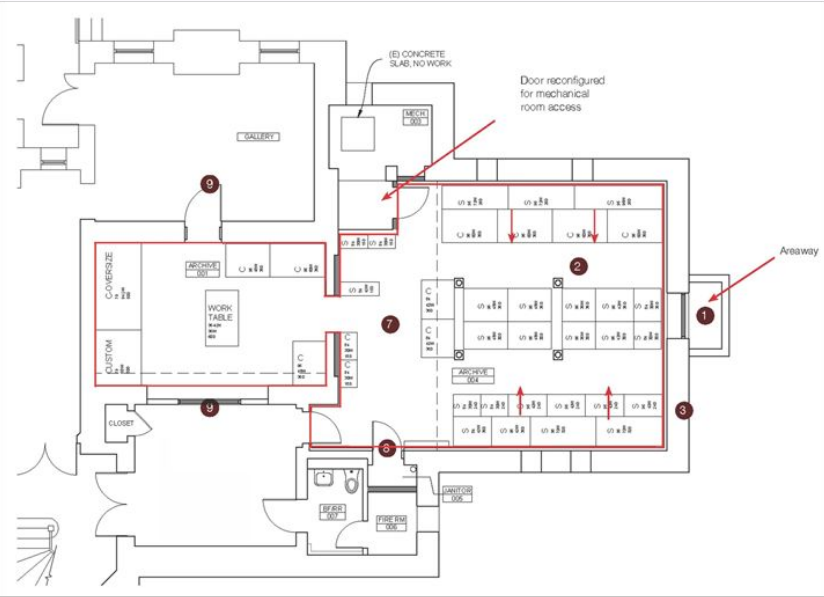


Cholera to COVID-19 Exhibit

By News 12 Staff



Viewable Storage Facility



This rendering was prepared by Historic Building Architects LLC as part of the feasibility study phase.



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Viewable Storage Facility



What did we learn?

- Ability to quickly adapt as a small sized museum
- A dedicated staff with imagination is the most important asset
- Support of the Board of Trustees to reallocate investment assets
- Recognized we were a community anchor

www.metc.org