



MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES & CRAFTS

Summer Newsletter 2020

In This Issue

From the Director	2
Share Your Story	2
Calendar of Events	3
Annual Appeal	3
METCxN-YHS Exhibit	4
Collection Highlight	4
Summer Camps	5
Virtual Programming	5
Re-Opening METC	6
Restoration Updates	7

New Exhibit Coming Soon:

CHOLERA to COVID-19

Epidemics, Pandemics & Disease

The emergence of a new disease, COVID-19, has had a devastating affect on us all. But it also revived interest in examining the long history of infectious diseases. As Americans continue to incorporate social distancing, working from home, and wearing masks into their daily lives, many ask “Have we experienced this before?” or “What can we learn from the epidemics and pandemics from the past?”

On September 22nd, METC will open a new Main Gallery exhibit tilted *Cholera to COVID-19: Epidemics, Pandemics, & Disease*. This exhibit explores America’s experience with infectious diseases, such as yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, typhoid, and tuberculosis. Primary source documents supplemented by historic objects from METC’s permanent collection will highlight the resources, tools, and techniques physicians used to diagnose and



“The Apothecary,” From the *Panorama of Professions and Trades*, 1836.

treat patients during these historic outbreaks. Throughout the duration of this exhibit, testimonies from the *Share Your Story* project will be featured alongside primary source material from the 18th and 19th centuries. This exhibit intends to reveal the pervasive impact disease had upon daily life, but more importantly how resilient Americans were throughout instances of widespread illness.

From the Director



Who could have imagined six months ago that we would find ourselves living through a global pandemic that would change almost everything as we know it? We are all facing the many personal and professional challenges brought on by COVID-19 and as each of us try to make sense of a new reality, we also try to stay focused on emerging from this crisis as a stronger and more resilient community. METC has managed to continue operations at a very reduced level with the assistance of some government funding as well as a few small operating grants; and thanks to these generous funders, we have found ways to meet the needs of our museum community.

In late 2019, we began some long term planning for technology, and thanks in large part to this initiative, by late April 2020, we were able to quickly adapt many of our programs to a digital platform that was shared via our website with teachers, parents and students—providing some much needed educational content. We also offered new programs that brought us together virtually—Conquering Everest, Trivia Night and Architectural Tours. But while these kept us minimally functional, the fact remains that METC, like most museums, was hard hit by the pandemic. We usually are host to thousands of students as a field trip destination, but this was certainly not possible this year and it had a devastating affect on our bottom line. But we are hopeful that with continued support from our community we will be able to continue to advocate for history, preservation, research and education for years to come.

The encouraging news is that we are working closely with a number of public schools to provide digital content in the humanities for the upcoming school year and we are excited about the opportunity to be a partner with many schools with curriculum based educational programs. We are also having discussions about the content of our exhibits in an effort to identify topics that reflect the changing role of cultural institutions. In the meantime, we continue to think creatively about education and recognize that everything we do needs to focus on the greater good of our community. As The Smithsonian's Lonnie G. Bunch, III says, "[museums are] about the greater good and that greater good is more than serving audiences, it's about helping a country find truth, find insight, find nuance, and in many ways...find that they're better suited than most to define reality and to give hope."

- Deborah Farrar Starker

Share Your Story Today!

Over the past few months, METC has received personal stories about people's real life experiences living through COVID-19. You can read these stories by an artist, METC staff members, and local community members on our website. METC is still collecting stories for the Share Your Story project! You can help us document this important moment in history by submitting your story to us at www.metc.org/share-your-story. These stories will also be included in our upcoming exhibit *Cholera to COVID-19: Epidemics, Pandemics and Disease*.

Stories can come in a variety of formats! We want to see your paintings, photographs, read your written accounts, listen to your audio diaries, and watch your videos. Everyone can tell their own story in their own way!



Read more about this story online!

Calendar of Events

For more information on these events or to register please visit www.metc.org.

Summer Concert Series- Orquestra los Nueve del Sabor

August 21, 2020 6-8pm, Free

A Salsa band that plays all the classic hits! Los Nueve bring the blend of Montunos, Salsa and popular Latin styles from the Caribbean and South America!

Summer Enrichment Camp– Clay!

August 25, 2020– Waitlist only

Get Ready to get messy and explore all things clay!

Summer Enrichment Camp– Art of Imagination

August 26, 2020– Waitlist Only

Get creative with art projects ranging from painting without a paint brush to full body self portraits!

Summer Concert Series- House of Hamill

August 28, 2020 6-8pm, Free

House of Hamill writes and performs unusual new fiddle tunes and exciting, unpredictable original music while breathing new life into traditional and contemporary songs .

Summer Concert Series- What's What

September 4, 2020 6-8pm, Free

Local Madison band, What's What, brings solid musicianship and fun vibes to up-tempo rock music from the 70's and 80's .

Outdoor Architecture Tour

September 12, 2020 11am, \$15 Non-members/Free for METC Members

Explore some of the many architectural gems in downtown Madison with Architectural historian and METC docent Alison Grenier-Poupel for a walking tour. Pre-registration is required.

New Exhibit:

Cholera to Covid-19: Epidemics, Pandemics, and Disease Opens

September 22, 2020

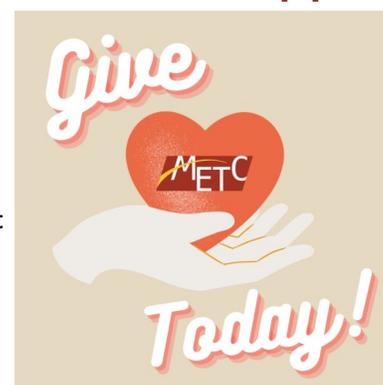
Our newest Main Gallery exhibit opens to the public. The exhibit will highlight America's experience with infectious disease and how physicians would treat them.

Consider Making a Donation to METC's Annual Appeal

This year it is more important than ever to have the support of our members, donors and partners to help us continue our mission; and your financial contribution to METC this year will mean so much more to us than ever before as we struggle to keep our doors open and build community connections.

Recently, The American Alliance of Museums reported "...that without significant financial assistance, as many as 30% of the country's museums—mostly in small and rural communities—will not reopen." This is a crucial time for METC as we are being looked upon as a vital resource for education around the state.

Please consider making a significant gift today and if you have already made a contribution, we thank you for your support! If you have not yet made a donation, it is easy to do it online [here](#) or you can send a check to METC. If you have a matching gift from your employer please include that information, and if you are interested in planned giving, please feel free to contact our director for a conversation about how you can use this type of charitable giving to make a lasting gift to METC. Thank you for being a part of METC!



METC & New-York Historical Society Exhibit

METC mounted a new mini poster exhibit, *Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow*, courtesy of the New-York Historical Society (N-YHS). *Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow* offers an in-depth analysis on the struggle for full citizenship and racial equality found by formerly enslaved people. These eight posters chronicle the achievements and setbacks African Americans faced from the end of slavery in 1865 to the end of World War I in 1919. METC is proud to present these materials as a resource highlighting the role African Americans played in advocating for their rights during this critical 50-year period in American history, and more importantly, their relevance today. This exhibit is being presented so that it can be viewed from the sidewalk in front of the Annex and be accessible to everyone as they walk down Main Street.



As visitors view these posters, they are encouraged to think about citizenship and what that word means to them and how the definition of citizenship has changed over time. By scanning a QR code found on one of the posters, visitors can submit their definitions and share their thoughts with METC .

Collection Highlight



METC's new exhibit *Cholera to COVID-19: Epidemics, Pandemics, & Disease* plans to explore the infectious diseases that plagued our nation in the 18th and 19th centuries. Physicians during the period were unaware – or yet to discover – the infection and transmission of these diseases. Scientific discoveries and improvements to sanitation helped stop the spread of some of these diseases. For example, in 1796, English Physician Edward Jenner developed and administered a preventative treatment for smallpox by using cowpox instead of inoculation with smallpox.

Besides physicians, other medical practitioners who prospered in the 18th and 19th centuries included homeopaths, hydropaths, Thomsonians, druggists and apothecaries. This Medicine Chest (pictured to the left) was owned by a Druggist in New York. A paper label inside the lid reads: “Nov. 16 1819 / F, Place / Apothecary & Druggist / No. 17 Park, Near the Theatre / New York” Inside are seven clear glass bottles. Two glass bottles contain paper labels alluding to their 19th century contents. One label explains the use for its contents: “*for a moist cough where the expectoration is too free: a teaspoon once in three hours. Shake the vial when used.*” The owner of this chest claims to be an apothecary and druggist. These individuals, specifically apothecaries, sold medicines, practiced patient care (like a physician), and sold other goods. There was little regulation to the practice, and it was not warranted that the individual was educated. Professionalization of the trade did not come about until the mid-19th century with more reforms to the profession in the late 19th century.

Visit *Cholera to COVID-19: Epidemics, Pandemics, & Disease* opening September 22nd to learn more!

Summer Enrichment Camp



METC is excited to be able to offer in-person summer enrichment camps this year. Although these will look quite different from other years, METC feels it is more important than ever to offer hands-on, screen-free engagement to children at this time. In the first camp, The Joys of Food, children explored where the food we eat comes from and compared cooking and food preparation in the 19th and 21st centuries. A guest appearance from Shelley Cathcart, METC's Curator of Collections, showcasing cooking tools and recipe books from our collection, rounded out the camp. Upcoming camp topics range from Dragons, Myths and Fairy Tales, which will explore mythical creatures and fantastic tales, to Art of the Imagination, which will let

children's creativity run wild with a variety of artistic projects and activities.

All the camps are based in METC's new Education Annex, which allows plenty of space to socially distance and safely engage in fun activities. If you are passing by the Annex on a camp day, you might glimpse camp in action.

METC Virtual Programming

METC began offering a range of virtual activities as soon as the museum had to close and cancel all in-person programs in mid-March and the Education Department offerings have continued to grow and expand ever since. We are continuing to adapt to meet the changing needs of our audiences, and anticipate that virtual programming will continue to be our primary form of engagement for the foreseeable future.



Starting in June, we have been thrilled to provide either live or pre-recorded programs through a number of area libraries, including the libraries of Livingston, Randolph, Denville, Florham Park, Whippanong, Roxbury, Rockaway Township, New Providence and Somerset County. We also have been able to offer some much-needed engagement to residents of several senior living facilities and one of our programs will be appearing on the Piscataway Township Community Television Station.

The METC Education Department is also preparing to offer live, virtual and interactive experiences for school children starting in the fall. This will allow the many children who would normally come to the museum for field trips to still have a fun, engaging and educational experience through METC. It will also allow METC to expand its reach to those who are unable to come to the physical museum.

We're Ready, When You're Ready!

After closing our doors to the public on March 16, 2020 METC has re-opened to the public by reservation only on August 4, 2020. Although no walk-in visits are available at this time, we are thrilled to be able to welcome you back to the museum.

In order to welcome you back safely, here are some guidelines for visiting :

- Call 973-377-2982 ext. 13 or email operations@metc.org to make a reservation at least 24 hours in advance. Your reservation will be confirmed by a METC staff member.
- Select a time to visit . You have the choice of 10am, 12pm, or 2pm.
- Reservations for groups of 10 people or less only.
- Pay your admission online ahead of your visit or use contactless payment if you pay at the door.
- Please wear a mask and observe social distancing guidelines
- Wash your hands frequently or use one of our many hand sanitizing stations located around the museum.
- If you are feeling sick, please stay home. We are happy to honor your reservation at another time!



For more information on our re-opening, or our safety procedures, visit www.metc.org/reopening or give us a call at 973-377-2982! We can't wait to see you back at the museum!

Enjoy a Good Book From METC



Summertime is a great opportunity to enjoy downtime with a good book . Why not learn about the history of New Jersey?

Owning New Jersey tells the fascinating tales of how New Jersey was founded and how the property lines were drawn and changed. In one chapter, the author highlights the struggle of freed African Americans who fought for their right to own property in the state. Another chapter tells the strange story of an abandoned graveyard rediscovered years later.

In use for nearly 100 years, the Morris Canal was essential for the growth of industry and the transport of goods. *The Morris Canal and the Age of Ingenuity* tells readers about the origins of the canal and how it was built.

These are just a couple of the books available in our museum store. We even have METC bookmarks inspired by the beautiful architecture of the James Library building so you never lose your page!.

You can shop our store in person during your visit to METC or you can still shop online at www.metc.org. When you shop online, you can ship your book directly to your home or do curbside pick up at the museum. Happy Reading!

Thank you for Your Support

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**From 5-1-20 through 8-10-20*

Restoration Update



We are very pleased to announce that our museum recently received a major grant to help preserve, restore and protect our historic site. The Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund awarded grants to 28 historic sites in 18 towns across Morris County. We are extremely grateful to the MCHPT, The Morris County Freeholders, and the Borough of Madison's Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Fund for supporting this on-going restoration project completing the interior restoration of the James Library Building

The museum staff, along with project consulting team, Historic Building Architects, plan to begin this phase of the project in September. This multi-year project will include cleaning, repair, and restoration of interior masonry and decorative painted stencil finishes inside the building. While work is in progress, visitors to the museum will be able to observe the phases of this project from repair to restoration, providing an opportunity to experience first-hand the delicate work involved with the conservation process at a historic site. We will keep you posted with more information as the project gets underway.



9 Main Street
Madison, NJ 07940

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
founded by Edgar & Agnes Land in 1969 with their
original collection of over 8,000 artifacts.

Our Vision

Sharing the past, imagining the future.

Our Mission

To inspire a connection with New Jersey's history,
culture, trades, and crafts.

Acknowledgements

METC gratefully acknowledges generous funding
from: The Fred W. Bruehne Trust • Borough of
Madison • The Charles L. Read Foundation • Hyde
& Watson Foundation • Madison Rotary • Madison
Downtown Development Commission • Investors
Foundation • Morris County Historic Preservation
Trust • New Jersey Council for the Humanities •
Orange Orphan Society • PSE&G • The Park
Avenue Foundation • The E.J. Grassmann Trust
• Provident Bank

*The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts receives an
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Historical Commission,
a division of the Department of State.*



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MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!