



# A PEEK AT THE RANDOLPH MUSEUM

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# AN INTRODUCTION:

This museum is an attraction for all ages and abilities. There is a generous number of interactive exhibits in the museum, designed with accessibility features for people with disabilities and/or challenges. Explore the magnet farm, examine the magnetite stone, and even enjoy a dress-up station!

The upcoming slides showcase just a fraction of the content available at the museum itself, so be sure to experience it in person after you finish reviewing the presentation!





# THE INDUSTRY ROOM

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# THE ANIMAL TREADMILL

The traditional animal treadmill, as seen on the right, was a machine that helped replace manual labor. This invention would work similarly to a treadmill, in which an animal, such as a dog or goat, would continuously run on top of it, automating processes that usually involved human labor. Some examples of these processes include a butter churner or seed grinder. Having the animals running on the treadmill allowed farmers more time to perform other needed tasks



# THE BLACKSMITH'S TOOLS

This image displays the common tools of blacksmiths in the 1800s, the most important being the anvil. The anvil was used to construct many important tools, such as horseshoes. When anvils were invented in around 6,000 BC, they were even used to craft swords and armor. Some metalworkers still use anvils today. Anvils were an essential part of Randolph's industry as workers used them to construct tools and items that could be sold for profit or used by farmers and miners.



# ICE HARVESTING

One of the most profitable industries an 1800s Randolph farmer could be in, during the winter, was ice harvesting. In the hot summer, certain foodstuffs had to be kept cool and ice was impossible to obtain during that time. The only way to get ice at the time was to harvest it after it formed during the winter. After being cut by the ice wedge (top right), it was moved using the tong-like tool shown on the bottom. Most ice was harvested at Dalrymple Pond near what is now the County College of Morris. Due to its importance over the summer, ice harvesting was one of the biggest industries present in Randolph.



# Farming tools

In the 1800s, Randolph, New Jersey, was primarily an agricultural community, and farming was a central part of daily life. Various farming tools were used during this time to cultivate crops, tend to livestock, and manage the land. The purpose of these tools was to make farming more efficient and productive. Some common farming tools used in the 1800s in Randolph, NJ, would have included: the hay fork; the hay knife; scythe and sickle; the pitchfork; and splitters for wood.



This is an old  
bottle corker





## THE EDUCATION ROOM

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# AVERAGE TEACHER OF OLD RANDOLPH

Teachers from the 1800s are drastically different compared to the present day. Nowadays, teachers make a modest salary, but back then, they made considerably less. Often, they would have to live in a student's house since they could not afford to purchase needed commodities. In class, the conditions were different as well. The teacher was much stricter and focused more on values and strict moral behavior. As such, teachers employed the use of corporal punishment, using a reed (one that was no bigger than their thumb, which is where the term "rule of thumb" comes from) to realign the child.



## THE HORN BOOK

The hornbook served as a crucial educational function in early American history, playing a significant role in shaping the literacy and learning of young children. This small, paddle-shaped wooden board with a handle and a printed sheet protected by a transparent horn cover, acted as a primary instructional tool during the colonial and early post-colonial periods in America. The text right below the alphabet contains "The Lord's prayer", a fundamental prayer to the Christian faith, which Students were forced to learn to go to the next grade.



# THE ABACUS

The abacus is an ancient calculating tool that has been used for centuries to perform arithmetic operations. It consists of a frame with rows of rods or wires, each containing a series of beads that can be moved back and forth. The abacus is used by sliding beads along the rods to represent numbers and perform calculations. While the abacus has largely been replaced by electronic calculators and computers in everyday use, its historical significance and educational value continue to be recognized. It remains an important tool for teaching mathematical concepts and fostering a deeper understanding of numbers and calculations.



## THE SLATE

In the 1800s, slate was commonly used as a practical and portable tool for teaching and learning in schools. Slate was thin, flat pieces of rock that were encased in a wooden frame, often with a hole for holding a piece of chalk. They served as reusable writing surfaces and were widely used by students, especially in primary education, before the widespread availability of paper.



# THE ONE ROOM CLASSROOM

The one-room classroom in the 1800s served as an essential and adaptable educational environment, catering to the needs of a diverse student population while also fostering a strong sense of community and shared learning. The one-room schoolhouse aimed to teach practical life skills and citizenship values. Students learned not only reading, writing, and arithmetic but also skills such as cooperation, discipline, responsibility, and community involvement. Yet, they had a secondary purpose as well: economic efficiency. Having various grade levels taught by a single teacher in one room made for more efficient use of limited educational resources.





# THE MINES

# THE CANARY AND THE RATS

The canary is a bird that commonly appeared in mines during 1800s Randolph. They were used to tell if mining was safe. If there was a dangerous gas in the air the canary would die; this told the miners that it was unsafe and that everyone needed to evacuate. The rats were used similarly. If there were tremors, the rats would scurry in groups; this was also used to keep the miners safe.





THE MINING  
HELMET THAT  
WAS USED  
DURING THE  
1800S.



A collection of minerals and tools used in the mine.





Carbide lamps, or acetylene gas lamps, are simple lamps that produce and burn acetylene created by water and calcium chloride. Portable acetylene gas lamps, worn on the hat or carried by hand, were widely used in mining in the early twentieth century as they were simple yet effective light sources.



Carbide Miner's Lamps



Lunch Box Used By Miners



Auger

An auger is a device used to drill into the ground, often used to dig holes for deck posts and telephone poles. The mechanism consists of a rotating metal shaft with a blade at the end to dig into the ground.

### Mining Operations

In the early years, the rock was broken up by hand. Later, crushing machines broke up the rock. Large "concentrating mills" where the ore went through a series of separators, shaker and wet mills removed the ore from the waste rock.

The concentrating mills employed carpenters, welders, pipe fitters, blacksmiths, a tinsmith and engineers.

# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

As mentioned earlier, these exhibits represent only a portion of what the Randolph Museum has to offer. Numerous additional artifacts and stations delve into Randolph's intricate history. In the spring and summer, Cathrine's garden blossoms, providing an opportunity to observe the native plants of our township.

The museum is open, accessible, and engaging for individuals of all abilities. Plan a visit to the Randolph Museum at 630 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869 (where Freedom Park is located).



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