



# Calendar

Visit [historic-deerfield.org](http://historic-deerfield.org) for up-to-date information and to register for special programs.

Museum Events, Programs and Exhibitions · Spring/Summer 2024



Unnamed Figures:  
Black Presence and Absence  
in the Early American North

Juneteenth Concert

Wooly Wonders: Heritage  
Breed Sheep Weekend

Fun with Flowers

Into the Woods:  
New England Forests  
in Fact and Imagination



## Historic Deerfield



A photograph of a forest floor in spring. In the foreground, numerous bright green ferns with coiled fiddleheads are growing. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. In the background, a stream flows through a wooded area with trees showing early spring foliage. A semi-transparent green box is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing white text.

Shake off winter's chill and step into a season of rebirth at Historic Deerfield! Let our beautiful landscape and fascinating programs whisk you away to a time of renewal, discovery, and surprises.



events at a glance

# May 2024

**1** New Exhibition opens! *Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North* • 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wednesday–Sunday, Flynt Center of Early New England Life

**4** Opening Celebration! *Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North* • 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Hall Tavern, the Flynt Center, and other locations along the street

**4, 5, 11, 12, 25, 26** Family Program: *Swirls and Swags* • 12–4:30 p.m. at the History Workshop

**11** Historic Trade Demonstration: The Doctor is In! with Jack Richman

**11, 25** Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration! Measure and Mix: Reading Old Recipes • 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. in the Hall Tavern Kitchen



**12** Nature Walk around Old Deerfield • 10 a.m.

**18, 19** Woolly Wonders: Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend! 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life

**25** Historic Trade Demonstration: Redware Pottery with Rick Hamelin



Unless otherwise noted, all programs are included with general admission to the museum.



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*events at a glance*

## June 2024

**1** Historic Trade Demonstration: Silversmithing with Steve Smithers

**1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30** Family Program: Swirls and Swags · 12–4:30 p.m. at the History Workshop

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Open Hearth Cooking · In Season Now · 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at Hall Tavern

**8** Historic Trade Demonstration: Dressmaking with Linda Oakley and Shoemaking with Peter Oakley



**9** Nature Walk around Old Deerfield · 10 a.m.

**15** Historic Trade Demonstration: Gunsmithing with Richard Colton

**20** Music for Juneteenth · 7 p.m. at the Deerfield Community Center. \$15 (\$10 for members and youth 17 and under)

**22** Family Fun Day: Fun with Flowers · 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at various locations along The Street

**22** Historic Trade Demonstration: Bobbin Lace with Lynne White and Ceramics with Buster White

**28–29** Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife: *Into the Woods: New England Forests in Fact and Imagination* · On Zoom and at the Deerfield Community Center. Visit [Historic-Deerfield.org](http://Historic-Deerfield.org) or call (413) 775-7179 for registration information.

**29** Historic Trade Demonstration: Woodworking with Sharon Mehrman



# Opening Celebration!

May 4, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

## **Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North**

May 4, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Come and view our new exhibition, *Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North* (on view at the Flynt Center), and enjoy several demonstrations and activities to mark the opening of our spring season! Activities will be held at various locations along The Street 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

### **Stoneware Pottery Demonstration by Mark Shapiro.**

Shapiro has done extensive research on Thomas W. Commeraw, a free Black potter of early New York. Shapiro will be demonstrating some of Commeraw's decorative techniques.

### **Powder Horn Carving Demonstration by Laurie McCarthy.**

McCarthy is an artist and reenactor. She will demonstrate powder horn carving and incorporate a design from a horn attributed to John Bush, an African American carver from Shrewsbury, MA.

**Wilson Printing Office with Printer-in-Residence Martin Antonetti.** Several printed pieces will be on display in the exhibition and Antonetti will demonstrate printing. Visitors will be able to take away and complete their own printed pamphlet.

**Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration** featuring Pickled Oysters! Come to the kitchen in Hall Tavern where we will pickle oysters and put them in a reproduction oyster jar made by Mark Shapiro and inspired by one designed by Thomas W. Commeraw, a free Black potter of early New York.

**Make-and-Take Craft at The History Workshop.** We open for the season with a family-friendly activity inspired by the designs of Thomas W. Commeraw. Decorate ceramics in his style!

Enjoy a **Highlights Tour of the Exhibit** with a museum guide.

**Take the Slavery and Freedom in 18th-Century Deerfield Walking Tour.** Tours depart from the Flynt Center of Early New England Life.



## **Swirls and Swags: Fun with Ceramic Designs**

Family Program at the History Workshop · May 4 (open 10 a.m.– 4 pm.) · This program will take place most weekends in May and June. See *Events at a Glance* for dates. Explore the work of Thomas W. Commeraw, a free Black potter of early New York whose ceramics are featured in the *Unnamed Figures* exhibition at the Flynt Center. Come learn about his work and decorate a small clay pot inspired by his designs!

Above: Three-gallon Jug, Thomas W. Commeraw (c. 1771–1823). Collection of Joseph P. Gromacki.



# Highlights of the Season



## *New Program!*

### **Nature Walk** • May 12 and June 9, 10 a.m.

Take a guided Nature Walk around Old Deerfield. Come every second Sunday through November for a fun morning of looking and discovering. See what's in bloom in the Cooks' Garden. Are there any wildflowers popping up around town? Observe the busy chipmunks and squirrels dashing around and see if you can find any burrows or nests. Listen for birds and insects. So many changes to note as Spring blossoms into Summer!

## *Fun for the whole family!*

### **Wooly Wonders—Heritage Breed**

#### **Sheep Weekend** • May 18 & 19, 10 a.m.–

4 p.m. at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life • Come and visit heritage breed sheep under the big tent this weekend. Discover the history of sheep in New England and find out why the Merino created such a craze. New this year: “Meet and Greet the

Sheep” with heritage breed expert, Peter Cook from Tare Shirt Farm in Berwick, Maine. Enjoy hands-on activities like dyeing yarn and weaving. Make and take a sheep-inspired craft or two. Watch sheep dog herding and sheep shearing. Have fun playing lawn games and trying your hand at using a drop spindle to spin wool into yarn.

### **Music for Juneteenth** • June 20, 7 p.m. at

the Deerfield Community Center • Join us for an evening of music in observance of the Juneteenth holiday, emceed by Tim Eriksen. \$15 (\$10 for members and youth 17 and under)

### **Family Fun Day! Fun with Flowers** •

June 22 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Celebrate summer and see what's in season as you explore Historic Deerfield's gardens and grounds. In the month of June, our Hearth Cooking theme “In Season Now” emphasizes fresh herbs and edible flowers. The gardens will be filled with flowering plants that are edible, flavorful, useful, and beautiful. During this family-friendly event, visitors may sip herbal iced teas, roll seed balls with wildflower seeds, search for plants along Old Main Street and the Channing Blake Footpath, explore color with flower-pound-ing (hammering flowers onto paper!), and create a fanciful paper hat to show your floral flair!



[historic-deerfield.org](http://historic-deerfield.org)



*Hybrid event!*

## **Dublin Seminar for New England**

### **Folklife: Into the Woods: New England**

**Forests in Fact and Imagination.** June 28–29 at the Deerfield Community Center and on Zoom · Learn about the rich and varied histories of the relationship between the peoples of New England and adjacent areas and their forests. We will explore the economic, cultural, and social significance of trees and forests in New England history, while sharing methodologies for their study and interpretation. Visit [Historic-Deerfield.org](http://Historic-Deerfield.org) for registration details.

## **Historic Trades Demonstrations**

**May 4 · Powder Horn Carving** with Laurie McCarthy.

**May 4 · Stoneware Pottery** with Mark Shapiro.

**May 11 · The Doctor is In!** with Jack Richman.

**May 25 · Redware Pottery** with Rick Hamelin.

**June 1 · Silversmithing** with Steve Smithers.



**June 8 · Dressmaking** with Linda Oakley and **Shoemaking** with Peter Oakley.

**June 15 · Gunsmithing** with Richard Colton.

**June 22 · Bobbin Lace** with Lynne White and **Ceramics** with Buster White.

**June 29 · Woodworking** with Sharon Mehrman.

## **Hearth Cooking Demonstrations**

### **Measure and Mix: Reading Old Recipes ·**

May 11 and 25 in the Hall Tavern Kitchen from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Old cookbooks vary in the kind of information and instruction given to create a satisfying dish. How much is a “teacup of flour,” “butter the size of a walnut,” or “a considerable amount of water?” Come and visit with our open hearth cooks and learn about reading old recipes and see how they figure it out!

**In Season Now ·** June 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 in the Hall Tavern Kitchen from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. The month of June begins with the end of asparagus season and the promise of sweet strawberries. By the end of the month, the herb garden will be bursting with color, fresh herbs, and edible flowers to flavor favorite recipes. The dishes this month are “Cook’s Choice.” Come see fresh local produce put to use in our historical recipes.





# Things to Do *When You're in Deerfield*

**At the History Workshop** • Young visitors can explore colonial life at the History Workshop through period games, dress-up clothes, a family-friendly garden, handicrafts and more. This spring, the History Workshop gives families and visitors of all ages the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics, including the work of Thomas Commeraw, a free Black potter of early New York whose ceramics are featured in the *Unnamed Figures* exhibition at the Flynt Center. (See *What's on View* for more info.)

Visitors can learn about Commeraw's work and decorate a small clay pot inspired by his designs!



**In the Apprentice's Workshop** • This interactive learning space provides visitors with a hands-on experience to show how woven linen textiles, architectural woodworking, and English factory-made ceramics were produced in the late 18th and early 19th century. Please check at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern desk for more information about tour times.

**The Henry Needham Flynt Silver and Metalware Collection** is recognized as one of the top ten collections of American silver nationwide. The building features a silver-smith's workshop with many traditional tools, and a room devoted to pewter and other metalwares made and used in early America, including pieces made by Paul Revere. Guided and self-guided tours of the Silver and Metalware Collection are available by appointment during the regular season. Check at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern desk for more information.



**historic-deerfield.org**

## **Guided Outdoor Walking**

### **Tours** (45–60 minutes) ·

Enjoy an outdoor walking tour of Deerfield. Tours include Deerfield Architecture Tours and Deerfield History Tours. On the day of your visit, inquire at the Visitor Center to find out which tours are happening for the day. All tours are weather-permitting.



### **Visit the Witness Stones ·**

Walk the Street and see the 19 Witness Stones memorials (at multiple Historic Deerfield-owned properties) where enslaved men, women and children lived and worked. These plaques allow visitors to learn more about the individuals whose presence they commemorate. Witness Stones are an essential element in the Museum's ongoing initiative to share this history.

### **"Encountering Pocumtuck" walking tour**

with Historic Deerfield's mobile app (available for Apple and Android devices). This guided experience features 16 stops in Old Deerfield where you can explore Pocumtuck life, culture, and history.



## **The Deerfield Inn and Champney's Restaurant & Tavern**

Start Spring with great music, beverages, food, and atmosphere at Historic Deerfield's beautiful New England Inn. Visit [ChampneysRestaurant.com](http://ChampneysRestaurant.com) or call (413) 774-5587 for reservations.

**Week Nights at Champney's ·** Pizza Night Mondays, Burger Night Tuesdays, Oyster Wednesdays, and Prime Rib Fridays.

**Mother's Day ·** May 12, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

Invite Mom out for a special meal celebrating all of her seasonal favorites!

**Summer Concert Series on the Terrace ·**

June 6–August 29 · Thursdays, from 6–9 p.m. Come enjoy live music featuring a different local musician each week. Rain or shine!

**Father's Day ·** June 16, 11:30 a.m.–8 p.m.

Take Dad out for his favorite burger: Black Angus, Veggie, Faroe Island Salmon, or Special Burger of the Night!

**Pride on the Patio!** June 26, 6–9 p.m. Live Music by *TJ & The Peepers* and drag performance featuring Henna C. Johnson.





# What's On View?

**New Exhibition! *Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North* · May 1–August 4, 2024 ·**

As a corrective to histories that define slavery and anti-Black racism as a largely Southern issue, this exhibition offers a new window onto Black representation in a region that is often overlooked in narratives of early African American history. Through 97 remarkable works including paintings, needlework, and photographs, *Unnamed Figures* invites visitors to focus on figures who appear in—or are omitted from—early American images and will challenge conventional narratives that have minimized early Black histories in the North, revealing the complexities and contradictions of the region's history between the late 1600s and early 1800s.

Despite their vital importance, the experiences and contributions of Black figures in the Northeast have often been ignored or

minimized. While the exhibition features a rich collection of artwork, it also delves deeper by considering what's missing. Historical records show Black people lived and worked in the North during this period. Yet, many images from that time exclude them. By including works without Black figures, the exhibit prompts us to think about how these omissions continue to affect our understanding of history.

This exhibition, which *The New York Times* called “A vitally important, deeply moving show . . .” originated at the American Folk Art Museum in New York. Historic Deerfield is its second and final location.

The Deerfield installation of this exhibition was made possible through the generosity of the Americana Foundation.

Below: *John Potter and Family*, Artist Unidentified (c. 1740). 53.3, Collection of the Newport Historical Society.



### **Vermont Furniture from the Alley Collection ·**

through November 30, 2026 · Visit our “Into the Woods” gallery to see an impressive array of 18th- and 19th-century Vermont furniture recently donated to Historic Deerfield by collectors William and Patricia Passmore Alley. The exhibition highlights both published and unpublished material from the Alleys’ collection, showing how these objects reveal varied techniques and ornament as well as the characteristics of the environment in which they were made. Many examples in the exhibit retain their vibrant, original surfaces and are organized according to their decoration: solid and highly figured native wood, painted wood, ornamental painting on metal and glass, and veneer and inlay. Though quite different in appearance, these decorative schemes reveal the Alleys’—and 18th- and 19th-century Vermonters’—fondness for furniture with bold, contrasting surfaces.

Bill and Trish Alley, both adoptive residents of Vermont, grew up in families that fostered a life-long love of wood, handicraftsmanship, and history. Over time, the couple amassed a significant collection of Vermont



furniture that expanded the corpus of documented Vermont furniture through its inclusion in several landmark publications, including *The Best the Country Affords: Vermont Furniture, 1765–1850* (1995) and *Rich and Tasty: Vermont Furniture to 1850* (2015).

### **Museum Collections Study Gallery**

Visit the visible storage area on the second floor of the Flynt Center to see other fine decorative arts, featuring our world-famous collections of New England furniture and clocks, American powder horns, Samuel Pierce pewter tools, Chinese export porcelain, English pottery, and American ceramics. The collections are arranged in more than 80 glass cases, according to media.

## **Join the Friends of Historic Deerfield!**

Friends of Historic Deerfield, supporting all aspects of museum operations with their unrestricted gifts, received a number of attractive member benefits, including:

- ✱ Free admission to museum houses, the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, and exhibitions for one full year
- ✱ A subscription to our magazine, *Historic Deerfield*
- ✱ Discounted admission to all programs

- ✱ A 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore
- ✱ A 10% discount at the Deerfield Inn
- ✱ A 10% discount at Champney’s Restaurant
- ✱ Invitations to special Friends events and exhibition openings
- ✱ Guest Pass(es)

Visit [historic-deerfield.org/join](https://historic-deerfield.org/join) to join online or call (413) 775-7176.



# Visitor Information

**Hours:** Historic Deerfield is open to the public Wednesday–Sundays, and Monday holidays, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., through December 1, 2024. Closed Thanksgiving Day. The Henry N. Flynt Library is open Tuesday–Friday and on the first Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

**Admission:** \$20 for adults (18+), \$5 for youth ages 13–17, and FREE for children (ages 12 and under), members, and residents of Deerfield/South Deerfield. Admission includes walking tours, historic house tours, the History Workshop, the Apprentice's Workshop and the Flynt Center of Early New England Life. For specific event information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit [historic-deerfield.org](http://historic-deerfield.org).

**Accessibility:** Wheelchairs (26") and assistive listening devices are available at the Visitor Center at Hall Tavern. The first floors of several Historic Deerfield museum houses, the Memorial Libraries, the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, the Deerfield Community Center, the Deerfield Inn and the Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore are accessible to those using standard-size 26-inch wheelchairs.

**Food:** Champney's Restaurant & Tavern at the Deerfield Inn is open every day for breakfast (7–10 a.m.), lunch (11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.) and dinner (4–9 p.m.).

**Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore:** Stop in for gifts, books, cards, housewares, locally made goods and artwork, and more! Spring/Summer hours: Wednesdays–Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Shop online at [historicdeerfieldstore.com](http://historicdeerfieldstore.com)

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Historic Deerfield, Inc.  
Box 321 · Deerfield, MA 01342

[www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org)

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*Opening Doorways To The Past.*

(413) 774-5581 | [info@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:info@historic-deerfield.org)