**Introduction to Wyck**

**Do You Remember?**

What other Germantown family or families have you learned about

that also named their home after an estate or town in England or Scotland? Why did they do this? Does this tell us something about their thoughts on where they came from?

**Thinking It Through**

In the 18th century, homes usually passed to a son after the parents died.

How were things different at Wyck? Why do you think this was so?

Most families in the 1700s and 1800s believed that children “should be seen and not heard.” But in Quaker homes like Wyck, children were very much a part of daily life, and were included in mealtime and gatherings with adults. Why do you think this was so?

**Wyck Activity #1**

What is a Generation?

You have just read that Wyck stayed in the same family for nine generations. You have probably heard of the term “generation” before. People may have talked about “their generation” or a “new generation.” What, exactly, does “generation” mean? It describes people of the same age group. You and your brothers and sisters are one generation in your family. Your parents, aunts, and uncles are another generation. Grandparents are still another generation.

When we study family history, we often give numbers to different generations, to help tell them apart and to understand the different ages of different generations. Here’s an example:

*Tracy’s grandmother Irene was the* **first generation** *in her family to be born and raised in Philadelphia. Irene’s children, including Tracy’s mother Joanne, were born in Philadelphia too. Joanne was the* **second generation** *of the family to be born in Philadelphia. Joanne grew up and raised her own children here. Tracy is the* **third generation** *of her family to be born in Philadelphia.*

Here’s a photo of a family that includes members from 4 generations. The oldest member is 90 years old! The youngest member is only 6 months old. Can you label each generation? (The oldest generation would be #1, the next oldest #2, and so on.)

Wyck Activity #2

**Family Trees**

Another way to show different family generations is to draw a family tree. People sometimes use family trees to help trace their family history. A family tree may show many different “branches” of a family, including aunts and uncles, great aunts and great uncles, first cousins and second cousins.

Here is a simple form for a family tree. See how far back you can trace your own family on your own. Later, ask other family members, like a parent, an aunt or uncle, a grandparent, or even a great-grandparent for help. Or, you can make a Tree of Life, and include all the people who are special to you. You may be able to add other even older generations to your tree! Then turn to the next page and look at the family tree for the Haines family of Wyck.

FAMILY TREE

Directions:

Fill in the blanks on the family tree with the correct names, as directed above. For the blank at the trunk of the tree, write your full name. Then, moving up the tree to the branches, write parents andgrandparents names. Here is the start of your family tree!



MOTHER’S SIDE

FATHER’S SIDE

your grandfather

D

your grandmother

your grandfather

D

your grandmother

your mother

D

your father

your name

1. How many children did Reuben Haines III and his wife Jane Bowne Haines have?
2. Reuben and Jane had two children who died in childhood. Can you list who they are? How old were they when they died?

Wyck Activity #3

Family History

What are Your Family Heirlooms?

Family trees help us to learn about our own personal history and pass it along to the next generation.

What are some other ways that people can remember their own history and pass it along?

Think about the objects in your house. Are there any special objects from older generations that you have saved? Maybe you have a lamp that came from Grandma’s house. Or maybe you have the trophy your uncle won in high school. What about an old teacup and saucer from your great aunt?

Or a postcard sent to your mother when she was a little girl. All kinds of objects can have special meaning to us. They help us remember our family history. We sometimes call special objects like this “family heirlooms.”

Name a special object, or “family heirloom” in your own house, or in the house of one of your relatives? Why is it special to you or your family?

Draw a picture of this special object or heirloom.

Wyck Activity #4

Farm & Garden: History’s Medicine Cabinet

In early America there was no such thing as a doctor’s office. People would be treated at home, and occasionally a doctor would be called. Women were often the ones to take care of everyday illnesses in the family. Women used plants (mainly herbs and spices) and/or animal products from the garden and farm to make medicines. Each plant part or animal product was thought to cure a variety of illnesses.

Part 1: A Cure for Colic

Hannah Marshall Haines’ “A Cure for Colic,” is a well-known Wyck recipe for calming a colicky baby. Colic is a condition in which a healthy baby frequently cries without any known reason. The cause was historically thought to be because of stomach or digestive problems. Each spice or herb in the “Cure for Colic,” was specifically chosen for their medicinal proprieties. Cloves, aniseed, and nutmeg all help with digestion. Cloves are anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal, and antiseptic. Aniseed is a sleeping aid and helps relieve gas and bloating. Nutmeg helps cough and respiratory problems. And raisins are high energy, low fat, and high in anti-oxidants.

Directions:

Below is Hannah Marshall Haines’ “A Cure for Colic.” Read the recipe, then use the information above and in the recipe and write the name of the appropriate ingredient next to its description in

the chart below.

“A Cure for Cholick”

~from the recipe book of Hannah Marshall Haines (1765-1828)

“Take the rinds off four fresh China Oranges, four pints of good Spirits of Brandy, twelve or fifteen Cloves, two Nutmegs, grated fine, a quarter of a Pound of Raisins, one teaspoonful of Aniseed, mix and steep the above two days, shaking it the first when made and after settling, it is fit for use.

Take a tablespoonful with a little water. If that does not ease repeat it again.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Herb/Spice*** | ***1800’s Treatment*** |
|  | Anti-bacterial, anti-viral, anti-fungal, antiseptic. Helps promote digestion. |
|  | Helps promote digestion. Sleeping aid. Helps relieve gas and bloating. |
|  | Helps promote digestion. Helps cough and respiratory problems. |
|  | High energy, low fat, high in anti-oxidants. |

Part 2: Can Roses be Medicine?

The Wyck Rose Garden dates to 1824 and is the oldest rose garden in America, with 70 varieties of old roses. Included in the garden are the original rose plants from the 19th century design, as well as plants from the earlier, 18th century kitchen garden.

The oldest roses in the garden are thought to have been planted in the 18th century as medicinal plants, including the Rosa alba semi-plena. This variety dates to before 1629 and is extremely fragrant, bearing large quantities of rose hips later in the season. This rose was used often in medicine during the Colonial era.

Rose petals were used to make rose water, perfume, and potpourri. Rose petals boiled with honey were used to treat sore throats, and a cloth soaked with rose vinegar would cure a headache if laid on the forehead.

Rose hips, the fruit (with seeds inside) that develop after pollination, contain extremely high levels of vitamin C. Rose hip jam was a way of preserving the fruits to be used all year, and would have kept people healthy.

Directions:

Use the information above and your own knowledge of medicine or medical treatments we use today to complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Symptoms or Illness*** | ***1800’s Treatment*** | ***Today’s Treatment*** |
| Sore Throat |  |  |
| Headache |  |  |
| Scurvy or Vitamin C Definciency |  |  |