

Meet the Children of Cherry Hill

You are about to begin an historical investigation of the children who lived at Cherry Hill mansion in Albany, New York during the mid-1800s. You will become detectives of history and look at clues about the children and the adults they became. You will look at evidence they left behind to uncover how each child came to live at Cherry Hill, and what their lives were like.

Some of the children you will investigate lived at Cherry Hill their whole lives and left rooms full of historical evidence. Others lived there for just a short time, leaving less. Historical evidence is never complete. An historian's job is to ask why there is missing evidence, and to search for answers from multiple sources.

You will begin your investigation by examining (looking at and thinking about) the evidence on these pages. Use the historian's tools (charts and timelines) to organize the evidence you find, and write questions to investigate. You will also search for evidence documenting your own life, and create your own personal timeline for future historians to discover. Let's get started!

Best of luck,

Your friends at Historic Cherry Hill



Glossary

Abolitionist: Someone who worked to end slavery, particularly in the United States before the Civil War, when it was common to own slaves. Some abolitionists helped people escape slavery through the Underground Railroad movement. To learn about abolitionists who lived in the Capital Region, check out these [activities](#) and [key figures](#) from the Underground Railroad Education Center.

Baptism Record: A record of a Christian person being baptized, or born in the Christian faith.

Class Evidence Gathering Reports: A tool to organize the information you learn from primary & secondary sources.

Historical Questions Chart: A tool to organize questions you have about each person.

Obituary (death notice): an announcement of the death of a person, usually appearing in a newspaper.

Primary Source: An original record of an historical period or event made by people who were there.

Primary sources can be documents, objects, visual, audio and other medium.

Examples: baptism, birth or death records, photographs, gravestones, newspapers, advertisements, obituaries, music, video, cartoons, diaries, journals, letters, drawings, inventories, maps, oral histories.

Secondary Source: An account, record or evidence made using information from primary sources.

Examples: Timelines, history websites and textbooks, family trees, floor plans, tables and charts.

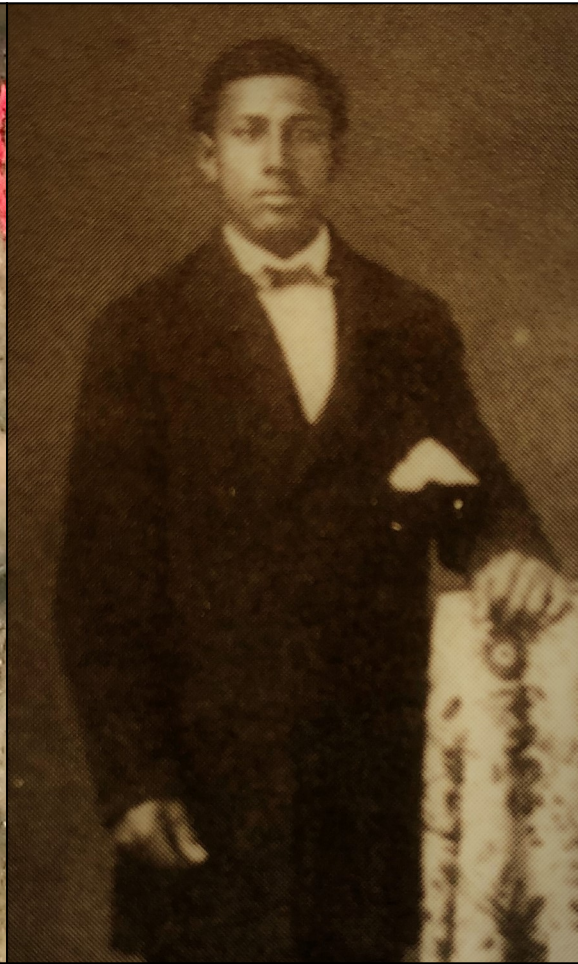
Activity 1: Reading Historical Photographs

Photography was a new technology in the mid 1800s. Only wealthy families had photographs taken because they took a long time to take and were expensive to make. Snapshots with home cameras were invented later, at the end of the 1800s.

1. Look at these *photographs* of children and young people who lived at Cherry Hill during the mid 1800s. How old were they? What year was each photograph taken? Are any of the people related?
2. Record the evidence on the *Evidence Gathering Reports*.
3. Find some portrait photographs of your own family. What year was it taken? How old were the people?
4. Compare your photos to the historical photographs. What differences do you see? What similarities?



Minnie Knapp,
age 3 in 1855



Jimmy Knapp, age 22 in 1865



Emma Bonney, age 7 and
Kittie Putman, age 10, in 1867

Activity 2: Analyzing Primary Documents

Primary documents can tell us about a person's birth, death, or other event in a their life. Many churches kept baptism records from their earliest years, including the *First Church in Albany of the Dutch Reformed Church in America*. Members of the Cherry Hill household attended First Church, including Kittie Putman.



Catherine "Kittie" Bogert Putman, age 3

1. Look at Kittie's ***baptism record*** on the next page. Use the transcription to find her name, "Catherine Bogert," as it was written.
2. Use the ***Evidence Gathering Report*** to record what you learn about Kittie from this source. (Hint: look for her age, parents' names, etc.)
3. See if you can find a document that your family has kept OR look in the newspaper (or at *The Post Star* online [here](#)) for today's birth announcements. How is this record similar to Kittie's baptism record? How is it different?
4. What information do you still want to know about Kittie? What about the other children at Cherry Hill? Write your questions on the ***Historical Questions Chart***.

Baptism Record

Date	Names of Parents	Names of Children	
1856 Dec. 2 ^d	S. Oakley Vanderpoel Gertrude W. Vanderpoel <i>Baptized at the house, in presence of Elder J. Q. Wilson.</i>	Herman Wendell Born July 8, 1856.	1
1857 March 31 st	Abraham C. Ten Eyck Margaret M. Ten Eyck. <i>Baptized at the residence of Hon. Jacob Ten Eyck, in presence of Rev. J. N. Wyckoff D.D. & Elder J. Ten Eyck.</i>	Hettie Gansevoort. Born August 29, 1856.	5
1857 Jan. 9.	William Seymour and Cornelia B. Cary. <i>wife of David H. Cary</i>	Adults, baptized in church at Preparatory Lect. on Profession of faith —	10
1857 April 10 th	Peter Henry Mann & Emily H. Cary - wife of Isaac Cary Harriet Evertsen wife of Evert Evertsen.	Adults. — Baptized at Preparatory Lecture, on Profession of faith.	15
April 10 th	Peter Henry Mann and Emma V. K. Mann	John Van Keuren born Oct. 12 th 1856.	
May 19.	Thomas McCreddie Margaret Smith.	* Thomas, at home present Elder Wm McElroy. Born March 17 th 1857	20
July 6.	Alonso Putnam Harriet M. Putnam.	Catherine Bogert. Born Feb. 20 th 1857.	
" "	Schuyler Van Renssalaer. Maria V. Van Renssalaer.	Ida Maria. Born Oct. 9 th 1856.	25

Transcription of Baptism Record

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Activity 3: Using & Making Timelines

Historians use *timelines* to keep track of when historical events happened and to compare events to one another. Timelines can be organized to show different kinds of history, including local and personal history.

1. Look at the *timelines* on the next page. There are three: *The Cherry Hill Household, Albany, N.Y.*, and *The United States*. What are the start and end dates for the timelines?
2. National Events: When was the Civil War? (Hint: Look at *The United States* timeline) The war was a time of great uncertainty and anxiety for many families in America. **How old were Minnie, Jimmy, Emma, and Kitty when the Civil War began?**
3. Record important information you learn about Jimmy, Minnie, Kittie, and Emma on the *Evidence Gathering Reports*.
4. What questions do you have now that you have seen this evidence? Can you answer any questions? Write all questions and answers on the *Historical Questions Chart*.
5. Check out the *1855-1885 Timelines* pdf on the [website](#) for links to videos, photographs and more information about some of the historic events you see.

1855-1885 TIMELINES

The Cherry Hill Household

1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885			
Minnie moves to Cherry Hill 1854	Kittie is born 1857	Kittie moves to Cherry Hill 1860	Kittie attends Experimental School 1865-1866	Emma lives at Cherry Hill 1871-1872	Indoor plumbing installed 1872	Telephone is installed 1879	Jimmy moves to Cherry Hill 1880	Kittie gets married 1884	Jimmy dies of tuberculosis (TB) 1885

Albany, New York

1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885		
Dudley Observatory built 1856	Kerosene available for lamps 1860	Albany's 1st steam-operated fire engine 1864	Albany's 1st horse-drawn streetcar 1866	Work begins on Capitol Building 1869	Washington Park opens 1872	Albany's 1st Telephone exchange 1878	City's 1st electric streetlight 1881	New City Hall building completed 1883

The United States

1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885			
Abolitionist Frederick Douglass' 2 nd autobiography published 1855	President Lincoln elected 1860	Civil War 1861-1865	President Lincoln assassinated 1865	Financial Panic of 1873	First electric streetcar in NYC 1874	Telephone invented 1876	Edison invents lightbulb 1879	Dr Koch discovers tuberculosis bacteria 1882	1 st State Park in U.S. opens at Niagara Falls, NY 1885

Create Your Own Timeline

1. **Make your own timeline!** You can use an online tool like www.readwritethink.org (click [here](#)), or you can draw one on a piece of paper. Hold your paper horizontally, and write a straight line horizontally across the middle.
2. **Begin with a start and end date.** For example, you can start with your birth date, or an older siblings' birthdate. Make your timeline go into the future by picking a future year (2030 or 2040) as your end date.
3. **Make a list of past and present events** that you can add to your timeline. Talk to you family and find information (like the date an event happened) from family records. Here are some ideas:
 - birth dates of younger family members, birthdays of older family members
 - year you first talked, walked, rode a bicycle, learned to ice skate, learned to do another activity you love
 - year you moved homes, schools, or took a memorable trip
 - date you started school
 - important family events
 - date you first used a new technology (Facetime, etc.)
 - date of national events which affected your life
4. **Predict future events in your life.** What career will you pursue? Will you go to college or technical school? Will you get married? Will you have children?
5. **Share your timeline with family, friends, and your classroom teacher!**