

“My Home”: Different Points of View

You are part of an historical investigation of the children who lived at Cherry Hill mansion in Albany, New York during the mid-1800s. In Lesson A, you met Jimmy, Minnie, Kittie, & Emma. You looked at photographs and documents. You used historian’s tools like charts and timelines to keep track of facts and questions about each person. Lastly, you looked at your own history and made a timeline of your life.



As you know, some of the children lived at Cherry Hill their whole lives, while others lived there for just a short time. Each child’s experience of “home” was unique. You will learn about their different experiences of “home” based on the evidence they left behind.

Continue your investigation by examining the evidence left by Jimmy, Minnie, Kittie and Emma. Return to the historian’s tools you have already started — use the *Evidence Gathering Reports* to organize your information, and the *Historical Questions Chart* to write questions to investigate. Search for your own historical evidence and create your own comic for future historians to discover.

Happy investigating!

Your friends at Historic Cherry Hill

Glossary

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

Compass Rose: A symbol used to display the orientation of the cardinal directions: North, East, South, and West on a compass, map, nautical chart or elsewhere. Check out the [history](#) of a compass rose , or [how to use one](#).

Diary: A primary source where someone keeps a daily written record usually of personal experiences and thoughts.

Experience: The process of living through an event or events.

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

Landmark: Something (such as a building, a large tree, a statue) that is easy to see and can help a person find the way to a place near it. A landmark is often a place of historical importance (something happened there).

Map: A drawing of all or part of Earth's surface. Its basic purpose is to show where things are. Maps may show visible features, such as rivers and lakes, forests, buildings, and roads.

Maps that are made to show a place at the immediate time are **primary sources**. For example, if a map of Albany was made in 1891 to show where features were in 1891, that is a primary source.

If the map was made after the date that it shows then it is a **secondary source**. For example, if someone today made a map of 1891 Albany, that would be a secondary source.

Activity 1: Examining Historical Drawings

Today, many people take photographs with their phones, but the camera phone is a very new invention. Before we even had snapshot cameras, we drew pictures about our lives. What can you learn from these kinds of primary source documents?



1. Look at this **drawing** of Cherry Hill and read the description.
2. Who drew it? When did they draw the picture? How old were they when they drew the picture? (Hint: check your *Evidence Gathering Report* from Lesson A, or the *Cherry Hill Timeline*). What do you think is happening in the picture? Why did they draw it? Record your evidence on ***Evidence Gathering Reports***.
3. Find a drawing that you or someone else made. When was it made? What does it show about your (or their) life?
4. Draw a picture of your home, your favorite room or any place that feels like home.
5. Compare your drawings to the one here. How do you think life was different 150 years ago?

Drawing by Kittie Putman, mid 1870s
“Postman from —. Here comes the Carrier”

Activity 2: Reading Letters

Before the invention of telephones, people communicated with one another by writing letters. We can learn a lot from these letters— even an envelope can be evidence!



“Mr. William J. Knapp.

No. 112 State St.

Albany,

N.Y.”

1. Look at this envelope from a letter sent to Jimmy in 1874. Read the transcription underneath. Where did Jimmy live?

Years later, while visiting his brother Richard in Philadelphia, Jimmy wrote and received letters almost every day.

2. Look at the letter and transcription on the next page. Who is the letter from? When was it written? What change is happening?

3. Record what you discovered from the letter and envelope on the ***Evidence Gathering Reports***. (Hint: Where did Jimmy live before 1880? Where did he live after that? How old was he when he moved? Where does the person who wrote the letter live?)

4. What information do you still want to know about Jimmy? What about the other children at Cherry Hill? Write your questions on the ***Historical Questions Chart***.

5. Find a letter, email or text message which you or (with permission) someone in your house received. Who is it from? Compare it to the letter to Jimmy. How is it different? How is it similar?

Letter to Jimmy Knapp

Cherry Hill.
July 21st 1880.

Dear Jimmy,

We were all very glad to get your letter, and to know that you had reached Philadelphia safely. I hope you will have a pleasant time and come back safely to us. We have commenced with your room and it will soon look very nice. Ma says to tell you she is going to see Mr Viele & Mr Pruyn for you after the Fourth is over. You must write often and let us know what you are doing & how you are.

Transcription of Letter

Cherry Hill

July 27, 1880

Dear Jimmy,

We were all very glad to get your letter, and to know that you had reached Philadelphia safely. I hope you will have a pleasant time and come back safely to us. **We have commenced with your room and it will soon look very nice.** Ma says to tell you she is going to see Mr Viele and Mr Pruyn for you after the Fourth is over. You must write often and let us know what you are doing & how you are.

[continued on the back]: Now I have to go to my Sunday Reading so I must close...with much love for Richard and yourself, believe me, affectionately, your sister Minnie.

Activity 3: Map Reading

Historians often use historical and modern maps to learn about the past. This map shows what Albany looked like around the time that Jimmy and Minnie were adults. It is part of a [larger map](#), on a New York Public Library website: maps.nypl.org.

1. Look at the **map**. What streets and buildings can you see?
2. Find the largest **landmark** on the map. It was still being built when the map was made. (Hint: It took 30 years to build, from 1869-1899. Check the *Albany, NY Timeline*.)
3. Find this symbol: 🏠 This is Cherry Hill, at 523 1/2 South Pearl St.
4. Find 112 State Street. It is on the north part of the map (use the **compass rose** to see which direction is north). It was a mansion on the corner of State and Lodge Streets, just southeast from the landmark you found. Look for this symbol: 🏠
5. How long do you think it took to walk from 112 State Street to visit Cherry Hill? Look up directions [here](#) using Google Maps.
6. What have you discovered about Minnie and Jimmy's childhoods? Add that information to their **Evidence Gathering Reports**. Write any new questions you have on the **Historical Questions Chart**.



Portion of Albany County. and City of Albany...from Atlas of the Hudson River Valley ...Published by Watson & co. 1891

Activity 4: Reading & Telling Stories

Diaries are a kind of primary source which can tell us many things. We can learn about everyday life, thoughts and feelings, and events which happened in the world. Emma Bonney's mother, Catherine, wrote diary entries about her boat travels overseas. We can learn about what Emma's childhood might have been like from these pages. What was her experience of "Home?"

1. Look at the journal entry on the top of the next page and read the transcription.
2. Where was Emma born? How old was she the first time she moved? What different places did she live? About how many times did she move before 1885? How old was she then? Record your answers on Emma's ***Evidence Gathering Sheet***.
3. Look at Catharine's diary entry "*Summary*," on the bottom of the next page and read the transcription.
4. Record facts on your ***Evidence Gathering Sheet***: How long did it take for the "whole passage" from New York to China? How did they travel? What is the most interesting thing that happened on the trip?
5. Do you have any new questions? Write them on the ***Historical Questions Chart***.
6. **Record your own event! Choose a past, present, or future event** that you put on your own timeline OR pick something that you do everyday. Write a diary entry about it, or turn the event into a comic. You can design your own, or use a template at www.makebeliefscomix.com. There are no rules— it's your story! Share the story with your family, friends, or teacher.

Emma Catharine Bonney Baptized by Rev D. Vroornan at Canton, China
Born in Macoe, China March 20, 1860.
Arrived first time in America 1867
Returned to China
Again to America
Joined 1st Reformed Church Albany N.Y. Rev. Dr. Clark
State St. Presbyterian Church Rev. Dr. James
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“Summary,” Catharine Bonney, 1856 & Transcription —>

Summary.
119 Days = Whole Passage
18,747 miles = " Distance sailed
158 " = Average " per day
356 " = Greatest daily distance
21 " = Least " "
86° = Highest heat of air. 46° = Lowest heat of air
Disasters. = One sailor died of delirium tremens, two sailors fell from aloft, boy sick two weeks
Principal Curiosities. = Whales, sharks, dolphins, porpoises, nautilus, Java sea maker, phosphoric light, brilliant sunsets, albatross, gulls & other sea birds, grand ocean waves, volcanoes, Malay men & boats, tropical trees & fruitful islands.
Mercies & Blessings. General good health, kind and gentlemanly Captain, safety of ship, no hurricane, intelligent & pleasant company, social religious privileges, good cabin accommodations, plenty of good books, and a thousand other mercies not time to mention.

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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