

JUNE SUPPLEMENT

MUSEUM vs CORONA VIRUS

By now many of our readers have been home schooling and days have consisted of occupying their youth while following stay at home guidelines except for essential travel/business.



The State current “stay at home order” has been extended to May 31st for various sectors of the economy and this would include museums. The Frankestown Heritage Museum has been working with the Board of Selectmen exploring possible ways to have limited openings. We considered approaches such as visits for single family immediate members to visit on an appointment only basis with only two appointments a day to allow for adequate ventilation of the building. Also hand sanitizer would be provided at the door and face masks required. Most all ideas ran up against the State issued “stay at home” order and business opening restrictions. As a result we will remain closed until we get additional information when the current stay at home order expires and new guidelines are issued.

While we are not yet certain if we will be able to open after May 31st, we understand that folks would like to leave their homes even if just for a local change of scene and will continue to do all we can to make the museum once again available to all.

CONTINUED 

In the interim we will be glad to e-mail you a complete copy of the museum visitor's guide which has photos of each exhibit and a short description of each. The Visitor's Guide is in five sections to correspond to our exhibit themes. Those being Agriculture (81 pages), Commerce (44 pages), Fire (24 pages), Home life (62 pages) and Transportation (32 pages). Each of these sections is suitable for home schooling or just general knowledge and interest. We can e-mail a particular requested section or all of them to you.

If you are interested in receiving a copy please contact Bill McAuley at 547-8320 or wfm03043@comcast.net.

In addition, if you have any suggestions as to how the museum could better serve the community please let us know that also.

Stay safe and healthy – we will all get through this.

Thank-you for your understanding. And a special thanks to all first responders, health care workers and essential employees for their efforts and commitment during this pandemic.

The teaching moment from all this –

NONE OF US WILL BE SAFE UNTIL WE ARE ALL SAFE

PANDEMIC IN THE TIME OF OUR ANCESTORS

From 1616-1619 an unidentified infectious disease decimated coastal New England's Native American population. This disease killed between 75-98% of the Native American population living along the New England coast. Thus when the first English settlers arrived at Plymouth Rock they found mainly deserted or nearly so villages, unburied carcasses and skeletons.

Survivors described the symptoms as including headache, jaundice, fever, hemorrhage and lesions. Europeans seemed to have been resistant to the disease. Native Americans had been isolated from Old World pathogens for nearly 200 generations and had little immunity. It is thought that the disease was brought to the Native Americans by fishermen and fur traders coming down from Canada.

This article will be continued in future newsletters.