On behalf of the Drumthwacket Foundation, thank you for visiting the Governor’s residence. We hope you enjoyed your stay and will visit again soon!

The image is one of many thank you letters received by the Foundation from visiting school children.

The Drumthwacket Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit, non-partisan organization. Its mission is to increase a sense of community and pride in New Jersey by preserving the Drumthwacket properties and broadening access, furthering awareness and support of the Foundation and its activities and expanding civic understanding amongst New Jerseyans.
The Story of Drumthwacket

Located in Princeton, New Jersey, Drumthwacket was built in 1835 by Charles Smith Olden who was born in the 18th century farmhouse also located on the property. Mr. Olden would become the 19th Governor of New Jersey during Abraham Lincoln's presidency. He was a strong supporter of the President and would write letters to Lincoln from his desk at Drumthwacket.

In 1893 Moses Taylor Pyne purchased Drumthwacket and added both wings to the house which included the library with its impressive stone fireplace, hand painted ceiling and metal pocket doors. These doors could slide across the leaded paneled windows to protect Mr. Pyne's cherished book collection from fire. Mr. Pyne also directed the creation of Drumthwacket's beautiful gardens which once contained magnificent fountains, bridal paths for horses and a dairy.

State Symbols of New Jersey

State Animal: Horse   Insect: Honeybee   Bird: Goldfinch   Tree: Red Oak   Flower: Violet   Fruit: Blueberries

Write the name of the state symbol you see in the marbles above next to the description.
In 1940 Abram Nathaniel Spanel purchased Drumthwacket. Mr. Spanel was an inventor and a number of his life-saving inventions such as the inflatable rescue raft was used by the American armed forces during World War II. Mr. Spanel with a team of researchers at the International Latex Corporation, a company which he founded, also designed the first space suits worn by astronauts during their initial walk on the moon.

In 1981, Drumthwacket was designated the official residence of the Governor. We hope you enjoyed your visit!

Colonial Gardening at Olden House
Courtesy of the South Jersey Unit, Herb Society of America

In 18th century colonial America, there were no grocery stores, restaurants or McDonalds so you had to grow your own food. Herbs were an important part of the colonial garden where they grew along-side the family vegetable plot. Some thought would have been given to those plants which would thrive year after year (perennials) and those which would require replanting every year (annuals). Colonists grew herbs to flavor and season their food and they used them to treat different illnesses and medical conditions. The knowledge of how to use herbs was passed down from generation to generation.

Herb Mix-Up
Unscramble the letters to spell these Colonial herbs:

ONAGERO  RAMESORY  EGAS  EBE LMAB  NIPATC  ENDERLAV  MINPERATS  LSERYAP

Herb Mix-Up answers: oregano, rosemary, lavender, catnip, bee balm, catnip, parsley

Herb Detective
Fill in the blanks to identify the herb in each picture:

L_VEN_ER  OREG_N_  BEE_B_M  C_TN_P

Herb detective answers: lavender, oregano, bee balm, catnip, parsley, sage, parsley, parsley

When the family of Mr. Pyne’s butler grew too large to live comfortably in the 18th century farm house on the property, he built them a larger house and converted the small homestead into an aviary for exotic birds. Cages for monkeys were also added. Townspeople were invited to stroll the grounds of Drumthwacket and visit the playful creatures.
**Picture Match Challenge**

Match the 18th century object with its corresponding picture. The first one has been done for you.

- Spider
- Pipkin
- Salamander
- Mortar & Pestle
- Sugar Nippers
- Petticoat Candlestick
- Dutch Oven
- Spinning Wheel
- Toaster
- Butter Churn

**Here are some colonial tongue twisters to try!**

- Betty Botter bought some butter. "But," she said, "the butter's bitter. If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter. But a bit of better butter that would make my batter better."

- The skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk.

- She sheared six shabby sick sheep.
Excerpt from “Snowbound, A Winter Idyl”
by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

First published in 1866, snow-bound is a long narrative poem that describes a New England family during a blizzard and the stories they share to pass the time.

Write and illustrate your own poem about winter or another favorite season.

Shut in from all the world without,
We sat the clean-winged hearth about,
Content to let the north-wind roar
In baffled rage at pane and door,
While the red logs before us beat
The frost-line back with tropic heat;
And ever, when a louder blast
Shook beam and rafter as it passed,
The merrier up its roaring draught
The great throat of the chimney laughed;
The house-dog on his paws outspread
Laid to the fire his drowsy head,
The cat’s dark silhouette on the wall
A couchant tiger’s seemed to fall;
And, for the winter fireside meet,
Between the andirons’ straddling feet,
The mug of cider simmered slow,
The apples sputtered in a row,
And, close at hand, the basket stood
With nuts from brown October’s wood.

What matter how the night behaved?
What matter how the north-wind raved?
Blow high, blow low, not all its snow
Could quench our hearth-fire’s ruddy glow.

Olden House Colonial Word Search
Draw a line through the word when you find it!
The first one has been done for you

BROOM
BUTTER CHURN
CANDLESTICK
CHOCOLATE
DUTCH OVEN
HEARTH
HORN SPOON
LANERN
PEWTER
PIPEN
PICKIN
SALAMANDER
SPIDER
SPINNING WHEEL
SUGAR NIPPERS
TEA
TOASTER

Turn upside down for the answers
Eleanor & the Monkeys

This story is based on the recollections of Eleanor Olson, as written in a letter to The Drumthwacket Foundation in September of 1998.

“My name is Eleanor. My grandfather was Moses Taylor Pyne’s butler. The Pynes lived in the big house called Drumthwacket. My grandfather’s name was Henry Egglesfield. His family lived on the same property in the little farmhouse called Olden House.

My mother, Fanny, was one of nine girls in the Egglesfield family. The farmer who worked for Mr. Pyne liked my mother so much when she was a little girl, he names one of the cows on the Drumthwacket farm “Fanny” and carved her name about the cow’s stall!

My favorite animals on the Drumthwacket estate were the monkeys. After our Egglesfield family outgrew Olden House, Mr. Pyne turned it into a monkey house and an aviary with monkeys and birds in cages. I loved to visit the monkeys! I would always bring a small mirror with me when I came to see the monkeys. I would pass it through the bars of the cage and let the monkeys take it. They would look at themselves, making funny faces in the mirror. Then they would feel behind the mirror with their hands, thinking another monkey was on the other side of the glass. They were so funny!

One day, I came to see the monkeys with a piece of chewing gum in my mouth. Just for fun, to see what would happen, I handed it to one of the monkeys. He put it in his mouth and pulled it out in one long string – just as the animal keeper, Rupert, walked in the door! I knew he should be angry with me, but he wasn’t. He was a very nice man and spoke to me kindly, asking me not to give gum to the monkey again. I promised with all my heart, and he gave me a banana and let me feed the monkey REAL monkey food!

I visited the monkeys many times after that day. I still let them look at themselves in the mirror, but I kept my chewing gum in my mouth and let them have the bananas!”

Riddle Me This!

Riddles were popular in the colonial period. Can you figure out some of these? The answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. When is a boy most like a bear?
2. What kind of room is not in a house?
3. What has teeth but cannot eat?
4. What has a tongue but cannot talk?
5. What has 3 feet but cannot walk?
6. What falls down but never gets hurt?

Can you help Eleanor through the maze so she can give a banana to the monkey?