

THE MANASSAS MUSEUM

FAMILY

ACTIVITY

GUIDE

HISTORIC
Heart
MODERN
Beat

9101 Prince William Street | Manassas, Virginia 20110
703-368-1873 | www.manassascity.org/leisure



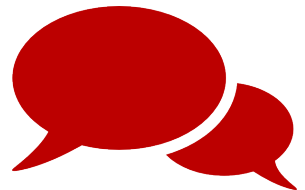
WELCOME

Thank you for visiting the Manassas Museum! Use this guide to explore the objects on display in the Main Gallery and learn more about the history of the city.



There is no particular order to these activities, so start with the one you're most curious about, or the one you like the most.

Use your imagination and have fun! Your ideas and opinions about the objects can create conversations with your family and friends. We encourage you to look closely at the objects on display, but please help us take care of the collection by being careful not to touch artifacts, as oils from your hands may damage them.



TRAINS



Find the section of the gallery titled “The Iron Horse of Manassa.” This section focuses on the history of trains in the area. Explore the display and circle the train-related words in the box on the reverse side as you find them in the gallery!

If you'd like to learn more about the history of trains in Manassas, visit the depot across the street from the museum!

Locomotive

Lantern

Switch lock

Ticket

Map

Orange & Alexandria

Junction

Bell

Coupling link and pin



Have you ever gone for a ride on a train? Circle one:

YES

NO

If you haven't been on a train, use your imagination to answer the questions below:

- What sounds would you hear on a train?



- What would you smell?

- What would you see if you looked out the window?



QUILTS

The museum has nearly three dozen quilts, blankets, and coverlets dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th century but we are only able to display two at a time! The next time you visit, there may be two different quilts on display because we rotate them on regular basis to allow our visitors to see more of what we keep in storage.

Please see one of our Visitor Service Aides or docents to learn more about the quilts currently on display.



Find the two quilts currently on display in the gallery and compare them.

Look closely at each quilt and describe them below.

Quilts



How are they different?

How are they the same?

Colors:

Fabrics/Materials:

Shapes:

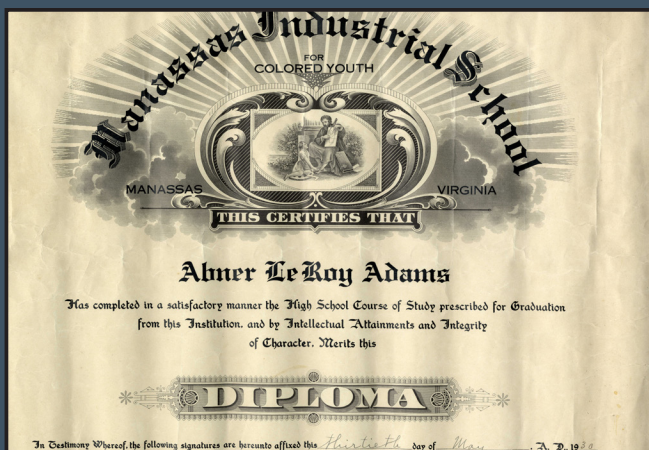
Do you think these quilts tell a story?

If so, what do you think the story is?

Who do you think made each of these quilts?

What do you see that makes you say that?





Jennie Dean

Despite being born enslaved, and without the benefit of a formal education, Jennie Dean’s vision changed the lives of countless African Americans in Manassas, Prince William County, and the region.

When the Civil War ended, leaving the county desolate and deprived, Jennie Dean sought work as a maid in Washington, D.C., hoping to build a new life for herself, but never forgetting the African-American community she left behind in Manassas. She travelled home by train on weekends to teach “her people” in life skills, to establish churches, and eventually, to establish the Manassas Industrial School.

Learn more about Jennie Dean: Visit Annie’s Porch to listen to prompt #3 in our audio section and take a short drive to the Manassas Industrial School at 9601 Wellington Road, the future home of the Jennie Dean sculpture!

Help us honor Jennie Dean's great work!

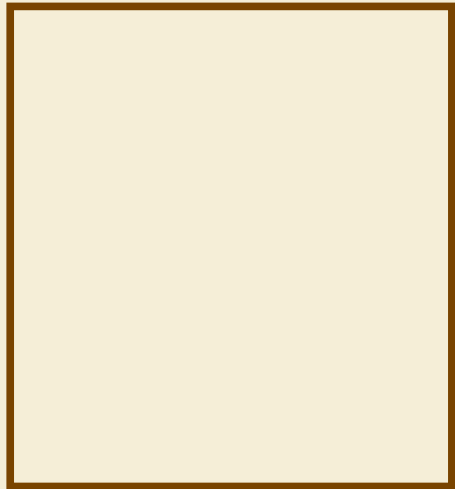
The City of Manassas is committed to creating a memorial to honor this courageous woman. Find the portrait of Jennie Dean in the gallery. This is the only known portrait of Ms. Dean, and as you can see, it only shows her head and shoulders. Based on this portrait, sketch in the space below what you think a memorial sculpture of Ms. Dean should look like.

You
do
your part
&
I'll do mine.

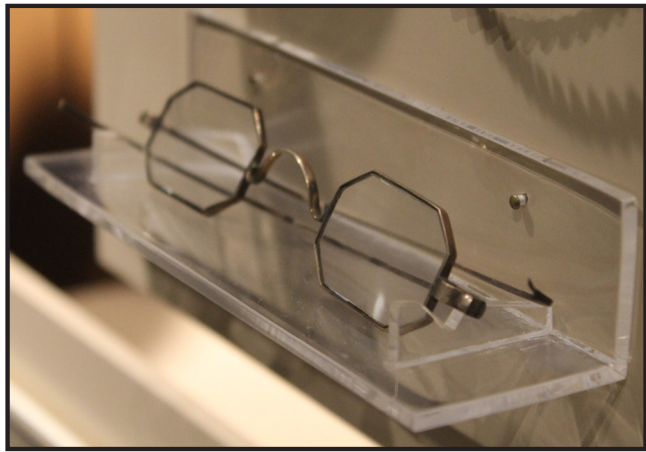
— Jennie Dean



Draw Ms. Dean



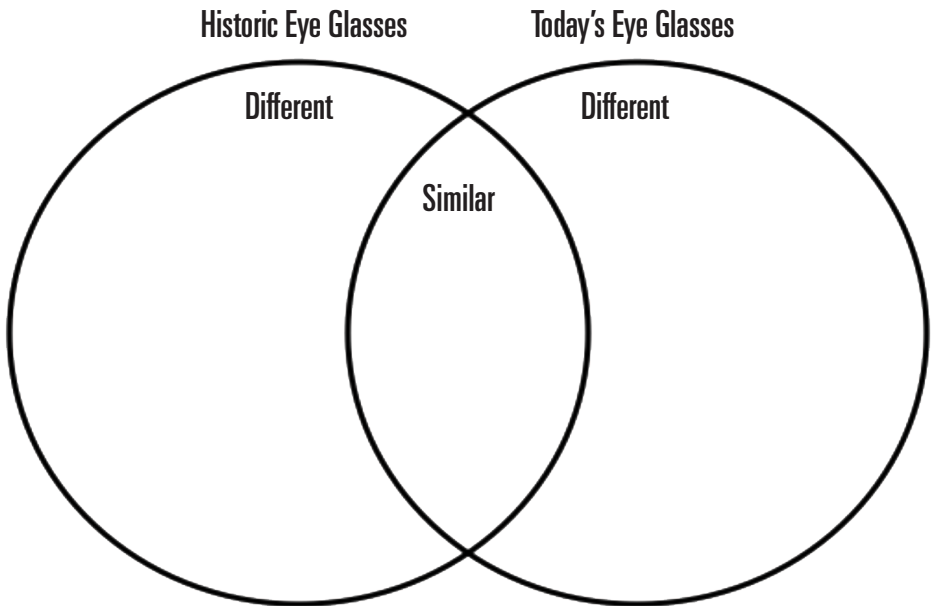
In the same way some people today wear eyeglasses to improve their vision, people who lived in Manassas in the 1850's also wore eyeglasses.



Eye Glasses

Find a pair of eyeglasses on display in the gallery. Are they the same or different from glasses people wear today? What details do you see that make you say that?

Use this Venn diagram to compare these historic eyeglasses to modern ones:

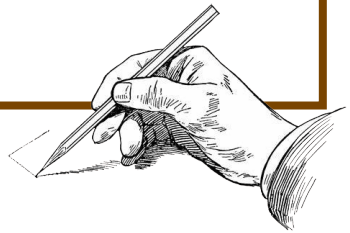
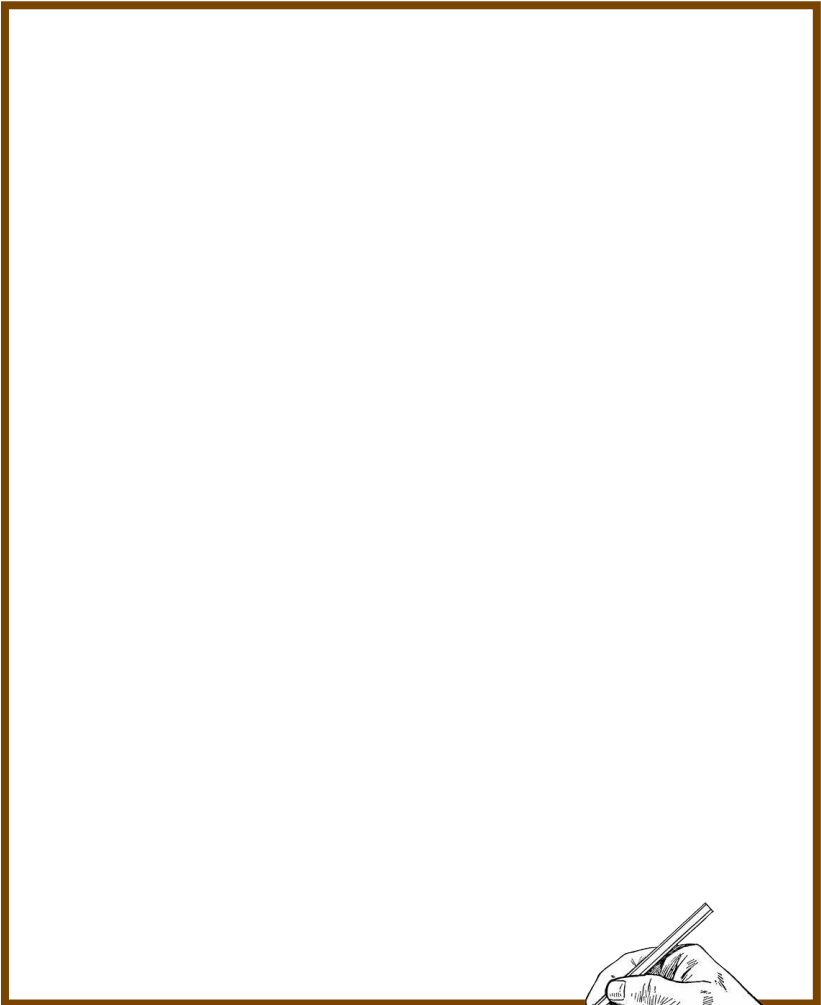


TOOLS



There are a lot of tools on display—tools that were used for things such as drilling, cutting, chopping, cooking, sawing, and even spinning yarn.

Find a tool in the gallery that looks interesting to you and sketch it in the box below. Read the label on the wall near the tool you've chosen to find out how that tool was used.

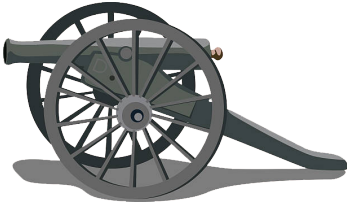
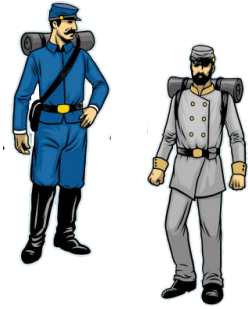


Manassas was the site of two major battles during the Civil War and we have many objects from both sides—the Union and the Confederacy—on display in the Museum’s main gallery.

Civil War



Try on one of the jackets hanging on the coat rack and take a selfie in front of the picture of the cannon on the battlefield.



Be sure to tag us on Twitter or Instagram **@cityofmanassas** or on Facebook **@cityofmanassasleisure** and use **#manassasselfie!**

Union soldiers representing Northern states wore blue, while Confederate soldiers representing states in the South wore grey.

What color did you choose to try on? Circle one:

BLUE

GREY

Why did you choose that color?

Power of Play

The **P**ower of **P**lay is a temporary exhibit that showcases toys and games from the Manassas Museum's collection. Toys encourage children to be creative, problem solve, develop social skills, and of course, have fun! This exhibit highlights the important role that toys, games, and an imagination can play in a child's life, growth, and development.

While you are exploring the exhibit, consider how these toys are different from those children play with today. What values do they impart, and finally, which ones were your favorites?

With this card, you have a toy of your own to take home!



(open for more fun)



Included on this card is a paper doll of Big Red, the Manassas Museum Cat! Cut out Big Red and his accessories and use your imagination to take him on an adventure!



Take pictures of your adventures and share them with us at

[facebook.com@cityofmanassasleisure](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassasleisure)

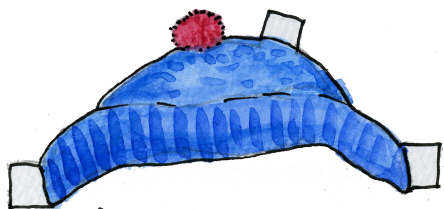
or

[Instagram.com/cityofmanassas](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas)

There are many dolls in this exhibit, but this card contains the only paper doll! Paper dolls have been an inexpensive toy for children for over 150 years. Paper dolls were first manufactured in the U.S. in the mid-19th century. Newspapers and magazines published them both as playthings and to illustrate current fashion trends.



*Cut out Big Red and his sweater
and cap and take him on an
adventure!*



H I S T O R Y

The Manassas Museum was founded in a small downtown location in honor of the city's 100th anniversary in 1973 with 52 objects donated by local residents. The museum was moved to the Hutchison Building on Main Street in 1974 and continued to display objects donated by or on loan from local residents. The museum continued to grow and in 1991, the current building on Prince William Street was opened. Its central location and expansive front lawn mean the museum is always at the heart of every community celebration. Since 1991, the museum has increased exhibit spaces to include new interactive displays and educational offerings for all ages that explore the city's rich history from Native Americans to the present day in permanent and changing galleries.

The museum is also steward to city-owned historic sites such as:

- 1825 Liberia house visited by President Lincoln and Civil War generals
- Mayfield, the Civil War Confederate Earthwork Fort
- Cannon Branch, the Civil War Union Earthwork Fort
- Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial, a tribute to the former enslaved woman who founded the school for African-Americans
- Southern Railway Depot, a working depot with a small railroad museum
- Center for the Arts of Greater Prince William/Manassas at the Candy Factory, an arts center housed in a historic former candy factory with a small exhibit

DIRECTIONS from the Manassas Museum

Manassas Industrial School/Jennie Dean Memorial (1.9 miles)

1. Turn left out of museum parking lot onto Prince William St.
2. Continue straight through 2 traffic lights.
3. Memorial will be on your left at the corner of Wellington Rd./Prince William St.
4. 9601 Wellington Rd, Manassas, VA 20110

Liberia House (1.8 miles)

1. Turn right out of the museum parking lot onto Prince William St.
2. Take the 1st left onto Main St. at the stop sign.
3. Take the 1st right onto Center St/VA-28 at the traffic light.
4. Continue to follow VA-28.
5. Turn left onto Liberia Ave.
6. Turn right onto Portner Ave.
7. 8601 Portner Ave., Manassas, VA 20110

Mayfield Earthwork Fort (1.8 miles)

1. Turn right out of the museum parking lot onto Prince William St.
2. Take the 1st left onto Main St.
3. Take the 1st right onto Center St/VA-28. Continue to follow Center St., Center St. turns into Prescott Ave.
4. Turn right onto Quarry Rd. at the stop sign.
5. Take the 2nd right to stay on Quarry Rd.
6. Turn right onto Battery Heights Blvd.
7. 8401 Quarry Rd, Manassas, VA 20110-5327 (parking lot immediately to the left)

Cannon Branch Earthwork Fort (3.9 miles)

1. Turn left out of museum parking lot onto Prince William St.
2. Turn right onto Grant Ave/VA-234 at the traffic light.
3. Turn left onto Church St/VA-28. Continue to follow VA-28.
4. Turn left onto Godwin Dr.
5. Turn right onto Gateway Blvd.
6. Turn left onto Carolina Dr.
7. 10611 Gateway Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110-2054, is on the right.
(End in the parking lot to the left)

Center for the Arts

Across Prince William St. at 9419 Battle St., Manassas, VA 20110

Southern Railroad Depot

Across Prince William St. at 9431 West St., Manassas, VA 20110

The Manassas Museum System/Parks, Culture & Recreation

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