

Leisure:

Culture and Celebrations in an Iron Working Village

The “core idea” for this exhibit is that life was enjoyed within the harsh environment created by the furnace. The culmination of both physical and textual source material will provide concrete evidence for the exhibition. Three central themes will be presented within the exhibit, each of which explores the role of leisure activities for inhabitants of Catoctin Furnace in the historic period: respite from the harsh conditions of the furnace; division of leisure activities based on race, class, and gender; localized leisure, such as consumption of homemade alcohol, tobacco products, and outdoor activities. The physical exhibit will be divided into three major display categories: play; celebration; and indulgences.



PLAY



Artifacts such as glass and ceramic marbles (top left and bottom right), as well as jacks and porcelain doll fragments were all recovered from beneath the floorboards of the Forge man’s House. These items will be displayed at the Museum to emphasize the importance of children’s leisure activities in an otherwise harsh environment.

“It was a place to fire the imagination of any child.”
(Anderson 2013)



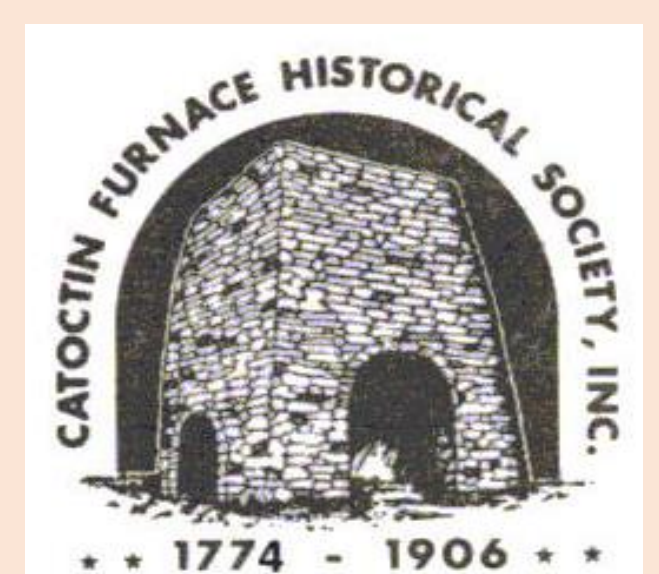
Ceramic pipe bowls and pipe stems, like those pictured to the right, were recovered in abundance from beneath the original floorboards of the Forge man’s House. These items represent the daily indulgences and normalizing influences of tobacco products in the nineteenth century world.

CELEBRATION



Items like this Christmas ornament (above left) and harmonica plate (above right) will be displayed in this exhibit to underline the role that material culture played in celebratory activities at Catoctin Furnace.

INDULGENCES: ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO



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