

## Curator's Picks

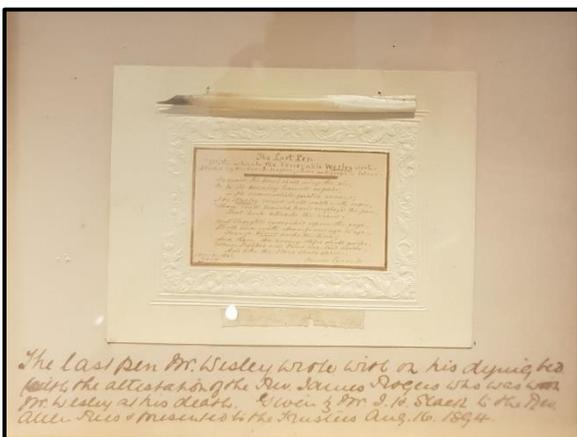
Our Curator has picked four objects from John Wesley's House, particularly pertinent to Wesley Day, to share with visitors; John Wesley's travelling lamp, John Wesley's chamber horse, the quill used to write one of his last letters and a bust of John Wesley

### John Wesley's Travelling Lamp



This little metal and glass lamp is believed to have been John Wesley's. In the 18th century, streets were unlit at night and pedestrians difficult to see. Portable lanterns like this one helped to make the carrier visible to oncoming horse and carriage traffic and provided protection. In itself, this lamp is of little material value but, metaphorically, there is a deep link with John Wesley. John was a light for his followers in times of darkness, and it is easy to imagine him carrying this small lantern through storms and times of trouble.

### Goose feather quill c.1791



Reportedly the last pen John Wesley wrote with on his death bed. It is likely that this quill was used by him when, six days before his death, on Feb. 24th, 1791, he wrote his last letter. This was addressed to William Wilberforce. In it, John spoke out forcibly against slavery, referring to the slave trade as the "execrable sum of all villainies".

The quill was framed in the late 19th century, including an "attestation of the Rev. James Rogers, who was with Mr Wesley at his death". It was presented to the Chapel in 1894.

## Exercise or 'chamber' horse

c.1770-80



This unusual type of chair is an 18th century 'chamber horse'. Essentially, chamber horses were exercise chairs - a form of early gym kit! The leather covered part contained a set of metal springs, which, when sat on and pushed, bounced up and down. It was very similar to the motion made as one sat on a trotting horse, so this exercise chair was soon known as a 'chamber' horse. It allowed the user to take exercise when the weather did not permit riding on horseback, or when a horse wasn't available.

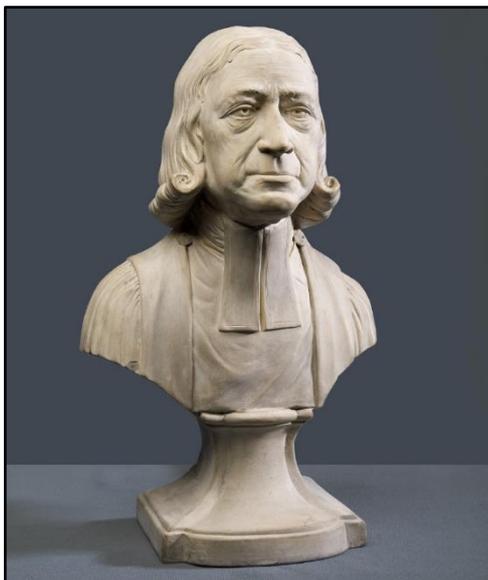
Although this is not John Wesley's exercise chair, John had one just like it. We know he was very interested in medicine and staying healthy, publishing the 'Primitive Physick' medical compendium in 1747 and offering four 'electrification' machines in London for free treatment.

John wrote to his niece Sarah in a letter on August 18, 1790, (when John Wesley was 87):

" You should be sure to take as much exercise every day as you can bear. I wish you would desire ... to send you the chamber-horse out of my dining-room, which you should use half an hour at least daily."

## Bust of John Wesley

Sculpted by Enoch Wood 1781, re-issued by Wood in 1831



John Wesley sat five times for the modelling of the original bust in Burslem, Staffordshire, in 1781. The modeller Enoch Wood was just 22 years old at the time, John was 78. John disliked sitting for portraits but was very well pleased with the likeness of this bust and it was widely acclaimed as the most realistic resemblance of Wesley ever produced. The bust gives an excellent idea of John's appearance around the time he opened Wesley's Chapel and moved into his house on site.

This particular bust was given as a presentation copy from Enoch Wood to Adam Clarke on the 50th anniversary of its first modelling, in 1831.