



## Mercer Museum Vocabulary

These are words you may come across at the Mercer Museum. You may see them on exhibit labels or hear them during education programs.

**Anvil-** A heavy iron block with a smooth surface, frequently of steel, on which heated metals are hammered into desired shapes.

**Archaeology-** The scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, especially those that are excavated.

**Barter-** The act of trading goods or services without the exchange of money.

**Blacksmith-** A person who forges objects of iron.

**Bellows-** A tool for blowing air and producing a current of oxygen to keep a fire going.

**Broadside-** A large sheet of paper usually printed on one side with advertisements.

**Butter Mold-** A tool for marking butter to distinguish the maker that butter.

**Canal-** An artificial waterway allowing the passage of boats inland.

**Chamber Pot-** A pot kept in the bedroom under a bed and used as a toilet at night.

**Chronology-** The sequential order in which past events occur.

**Churn-** A tool for mixing milk or cream to make butter.

**Colonial-** Relating to the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America.

**Concrete-** An artificial, stone-like material for various building projects. Concrete is a mixture of cement, sand, gravel, pebbles, and water.

**Cooper-** A person who makes or repairs casks, barrels, etc.

**Curing-** The act or a method of preserving meat, by smoking, salting, potting, or drying the meat.



**Drop Spindle**- A tool for spinning wool and other fibers into thread.

**Drying**- A method of preserving meat by placing strips of meat to dry in the sun.

**Fleece**- The wool cut off a sheep at shearing time.

**Flint**- A piece of rock, generally quartz that sparks when struck.

**General Store**- A store, usually in a rural area, selling a wide variety of merchandise, such as clothing, food, or hardware.

**Industrial Revolution**- The social and economic changes during the late 18th and 19th centuries from the shift from hand-powered tools to large-scale factory production.

**Jacob's Ladder**- A child's toy made out of six square wooden blocks and ribbon.

**Lenape**- A group of Native American peoples from the Delaware and Hudson River Valley regions.

**Loom**- A tool for weaving fabrics.

**Nippers**- A tool for snipping, pinching, or squeezing.

**Potting**- A method of preserving meat by cooking it and then putting it in a pot in a deep layer of melted fat or lard.

**Salting**- A method of preserving meat by treating it with salt or a salt solution.

**Smoking**- A method of preserving meat by exposing it to hickory smoke.

**Spider Pot**- An iron pot with a long handle and legs used for cooking.

**Tile**- A thin slab or bent piece of baked clay, sometimes painted or glazed, used for roofs, decorations, etc.

**Whale oil**- The oil rendered from whale blubber, historically used as a fuel for lamps, a material for soaps and candles, and a lubricant for machines.

**Wool Cards**- A set of wire-toothed brushes for detangling and straightening wool fibers before spinning.