



Lee-Fendall House

MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Flower and Leaf Pressing: At Home Activity

History

Flower and leaf pressing has been popular in the United States since the late 1800s. It is a way to preserve a memory or something of sentimental value. Pressed flowers and leaves can be used to decorate a greeting card or bookmark, or be framed as a picture.

After purchasing the Lee-Fendall House in 1850, Louis and Harriott Cazenove renovated their yard into an ornamental garden. This garden would have been perfect for gathering flowers for flower pressing as the art form became increasingly popular in the United States. The Lee-Fendall House garden showcases a variety of roses and herbs, as well as English boxwoods. Surrounding the garden are a black walnut tree, magnolia tree, and ginkgo tree that are over one hundred and fifty years old.

Activity

Materials Needed:

- Flowers or leaves
- Heavy book
- One piece of paper (e.g. printer paper, card stock paper, watercolor paper)
- One piece of wax paper or parchment paper



Roses in the Lee-Fendall garden

Instructions:

1. Select the flowers or leaves you would like to press. Make sure they are not wet. Flowers that are budding or recently bloomed are ideal for pressing as are fresh leaves.
2. Open the heavy book and place the piece of paper inside.
3. Arrange the flowers or leaves on top of the piece of paper.
4. Place the piece of wax paper or parchment paper on top of the flowers or leaves before closing the book.
5. If more weight is needed, place additional books on top of this book.
6. Check daily on the flowers or leaves to see drying process. Once dried, the flowers or leaves can be used for decorating.