



Home for the Holidays



HOLIDAY WONDERS AT THE MUSEUM

Welcome to the 66th year of Home for the Holidays, a Binghamton tradition. The celebration begins November 18 and continues until January 8. Each week is packed with activities, live music, and performances to get everyone into the spirit of the season.



NOVEMBER 18 – JANUARY 8

Admissions

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors and students; members and children 4 and under are free

Open

Monday: 11AM - 5PM

Thursday: 11AM - 9PM

Tuesday: 11AM - 5PM

Friday: 11AM - 9PM

(Senior hour 10AM - 11AM)

Saturday: 11AM - 5PM

Wednesday: 11AM - 5PM

Sunday: 11AM - 5PM

Holiday Tours (Second Floor, Mansion Entrance)

Fridays: 6PM and 7PM

Saturdays and Sundays: 1PM, 2PM, and 3PM

Santa's Craftshop (Second Floor, right off the elevator)

Saturdays: 12PM - 3PM

ACCESSIBILITY

The Museum and Mansion are wheelchair accessible with handicap parking available near the entrance of the Museum.

30 Front Street | Binghamton, NY 13905 | 607.772.0660

roberson.org

EXHIBITIONS

Roberson seeks to inspire the community through diverse exhibitions and creative educational programs in art, history, and science.

First Floor

NATURETREK

Encounter over 150 mounted specimens from Roberson's Lee J. Loomis collection within NatureTrek. Walk through five habitats that abound the region: deciduous and transitional forests, wetlands, meadows, and backyards.

MODEL TRAIN ROOM

Roberson is home to the region's largest public model train exhibition. The layout depicts the 1950s era, with regional landscapes including Binghamton, Johnson City, Owego, Endicott, and parts of Northern Pennsylvania.

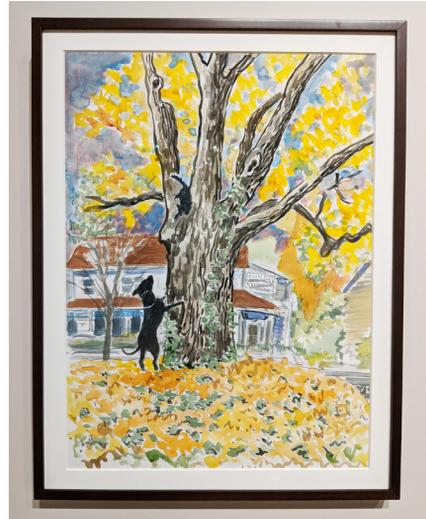
Second Floor

JOSEPH OPSHINSKY

These masterfully cut paper collages showcase forgotten places, regional wonders, and much more. At a distance, Opshinsky's work looks like vibrant silkscreen paintings, but upon closer inspection they are cut paper placed and layered into an intricate collage.

THE LEGACY OF EDWIN LINK

Edwin Link was an astonishing innovator and maker. On display are the world's first flight simulator and findings from his underwater discoveries.



Treed Cat
Joseph Opshinsky
Water Color, 2019

Outdoor Showcase Decorations Provided by **Illuminations**



INTERNATIONAL FOREST

Walk through Roberson's forest of trees and discover how other cultures, countries, and religions recognize this change in the season.

Christmas and Hanukkah are two of the more well-known holidays surrounding this season. And there are so many more religions and traditions. There are similarities and differences among all of them; consider how these traditions may have come about.

Canada

On December 6, 1917, two ships collided in the Halifax harbor and caused a large explosion heard more than 50 miles away. The explosion and the tidal wave in its aftermath destroyed over 325 acres of the north end of the city, killing and injuring many. In response to this devastation, the people of Boston sent aid: doctors, nurses, food, and supplies. And as a small token of appreciation, Canadians send a special Christmas tree to Boston every year.

Finland

The most important day is Christmas Eve. People visit the cemeteries and light a candle on the graves of their loved ones. Some people go to the sauna and some people go to a vesper service.

France

Pere Noël leaves gifts in children's shoes placed by the chimney or beneath the Christmas tree. Different regions of France celebrate unique traditions. Since the 14th Century, families in Provence arrange a small manger or crèche in their homes from rocks, moss, and branches brought indoors by the children.

Japan

Christmas was not celebrated in Japan until about 1900. Each year, the Japanese exchange gifts, eat turkey for Christmas dinner, and display community Christmas trees. One of their gods, Hoteiosho, serves as a gift-bearer. This kind old man is supposed to have eyes in the back of his head so that he can observe children's behavior.



Kwanzaa

Most Americans of African descent celebrate Christmas in the traditional "American" way. To highlight the vibrancy of the cultures of Africa, some African Americans observe Kwanzaa. It is not a religious holiday, rather, it is an African American holiday based on collective principles which contribute to the unity and development of the African American community.



Mexico

Poinsettias, sometimes called the Christmas Flower, are one of the most endearing symbols of Christmas and are native to Mexico where they are known as Noche Buena, meaning Good Night, which is also the term used for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias have been associated with Christmas in Mexico for hundreds of years. It was not until the early 1800s that the flower was introduced to Americans by Joel Roberts Poinsett.

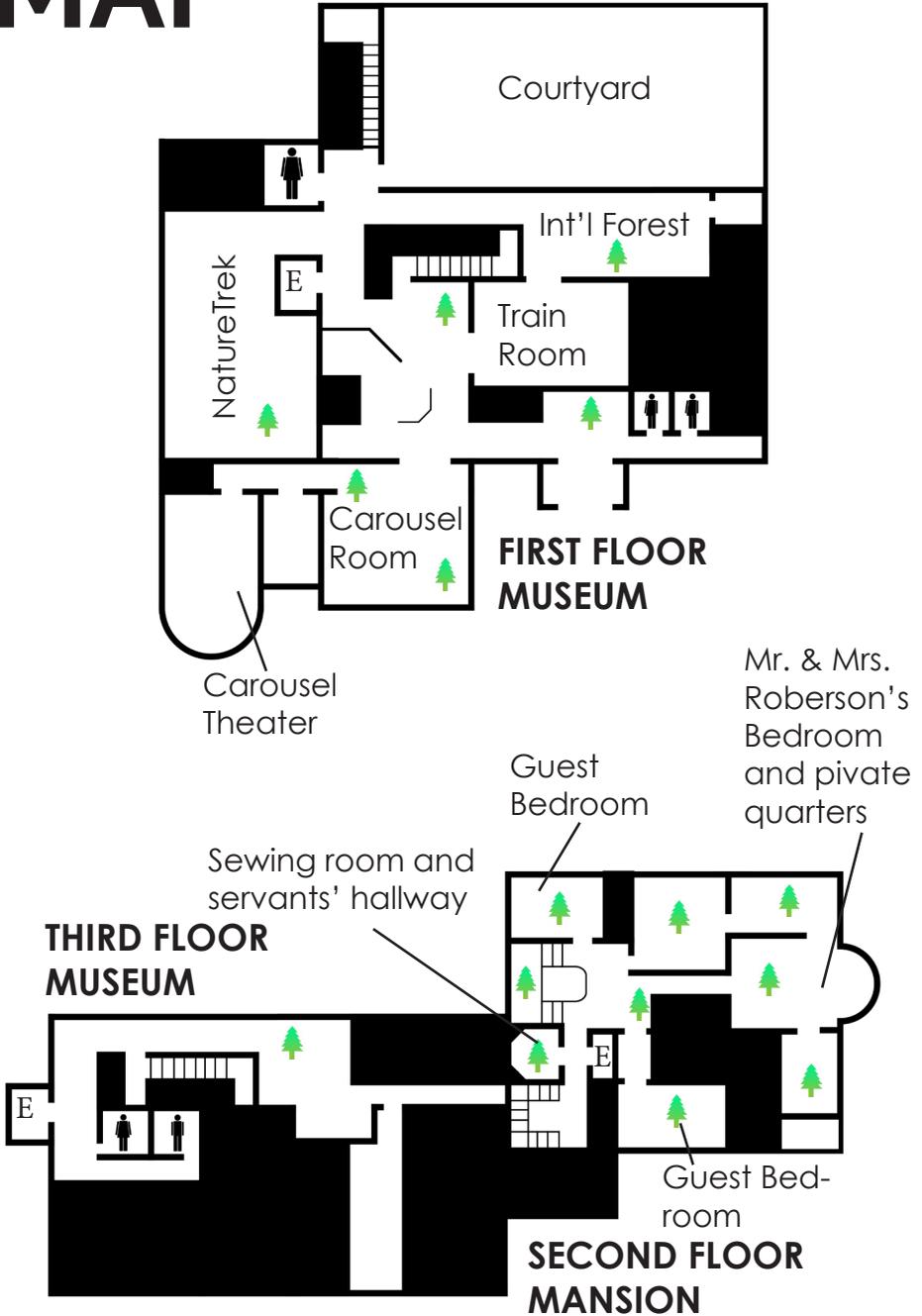


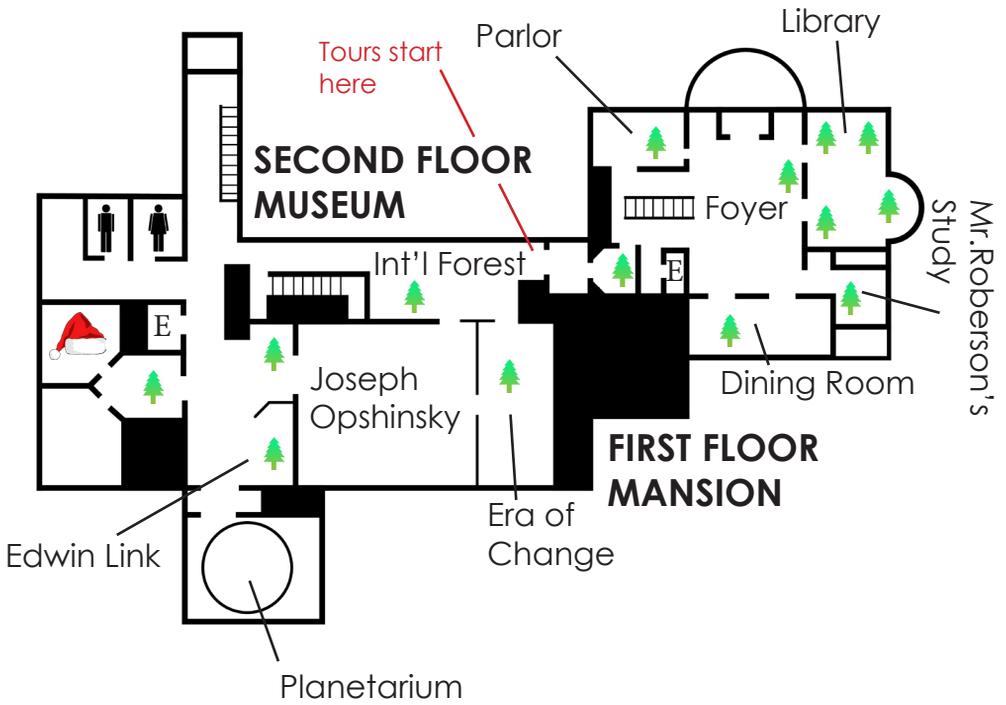
Scotland

During the reign of Cromwell, Christmas was banned in Scotland for a short time with documented accounts of charges being brought up against those "keeping the Yule," as it was called. Though the ban was lifted, celebrating the holiday continued to be frowned upon by the Scots for hundreds of years. Even up to the mid-Twentieth Century most shops and offices stayed open on Christmas as it was considered to be a working holiday.

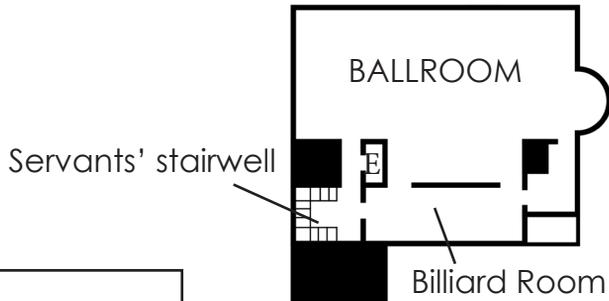


MAP





THIRD FLOOR MANSION



 = **Santa's Craftshop**
Saturdays 12PM - 3PM

E = Elevator

 = Tree displays



HISTORIC ROBERSON MANSION

Step through the threshold, separating the past from the present, and peer into the lifestyle of Binghamton's upperclass.

As we transition from Museum to Mansion, we'll begin our journey through the lives of the Robersons, as they would begin their day—within the breakfast room. It's here servants would make their way from the butler's pantry door to serve the Mr. and Mrs. their first meal of the day.

From this room we enter the foyer, complete with a grand staircase. Every aspect of a house of this time is supposed to say something to visitors about the occupants. Imagine walking up to this three-story Mansion and entering this home. It certainly has an air of grandeur.

The Mansion was built in 1904 and completed in 1907. It features a total of **26 rooms, 11 fireplaces, and a working wrought iron elevator.** The Robersons' home was quite modern for the time, as some of the lamps are wired for gas and electric.

MANSION ROOMS

First Floor

Breakfast Room

Library

Dining Room

Mr. Roberson's Study

Sitting Room

Second Floor

Bed Rooms

Mrs. Roberson's

Dressing Room

Sewing Room

Third Floor

Billiard Room

Ballroom

Christmas in the 1900s: Did the Robersons have a tree?

According to records from this time it's difficult to say. However, in one oral history it's recorded that the dining room was decorated for the Christmas season with red satin cloths and swagged candelabras with roping ribbons to match. But no mention of a tree.

The trend of having a tree in one's home was **relatively new in the early 1900s**. In 1901, a newspaper remarked on how it was introduced in America 50 years ago, most likely by **German settlers** who moved out to the midwest. One paper noted in 1905 on its controversial history, recalling when a German Evangelical Church out in Cleveland, Ohio in the 1850s had perched a tree up within its halls. The entire community thought it sacreligious—that such a display would bring down the wrath of God. Non-German community members even went so far as to boycott the businesses of those who were members of this German church.



But as time went on, people began to understand and even embrace the German tradition. The first Christmas tree wasn't displayed in the White House until 1889, during the presidency of Benjamin Harrison. But it was likely the stylish Queen Victoria and her German husband Prince Albert, who brought the tradition of Christmas trees into the spotlight and into the trends of English-speaking homes during the mid-1800s. Eventually the Christmas tree received a blessing in the very influential American monthly magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*. And with it, other publications soon followed.

Visit *Era of Change* for more interesting history on how Americans did Christmas in the early 1900s.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Throughout the year, Roberson plans a wide range of fun, educational, and special events.

(V) indicates virtual events.

December 28, 29, 30, 31 – Winter Science Wonderland

Bring the family for a special 2 hour session of winter science experiments and activities. *Register at roberson.org*

March 6 – Space Day

Bring the whole family for a day dedicated to exploring everything space, from Planetarium to special activities in the lab. *Registration up February.*

April – An Historic Running Tour 5K (V)

Powerwalk, run or sprint your way through Downtown Binghamton while also hearing the hidden history and stories along the way. *Registration up February.*

August 28 – Rocks and Fossils Day

Dig in for a day uncovering the secrets that lie under our feet and the clues that can unravel the mysteries of our world! Get ready for an exciting day of exploring rocks, minerals, and fossils. *Registration up July.*

September TBD – RoberCon

Two days filled with sci-fi panels, cosplay, and writing workshops with published authors and poets. Meet other geeks in the Binghamton area and beyond, and connect with other fans who share your passions. *Registration up July.*

[Full list of events & workshops at roberson.org](http://roberson.org)

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