

*I have lately removed to the mountain...I have here but one room, which, like the cobbler's, serves me for parlour for kitchen and hall.*

*I may add, for bed chamber and study too.*

Thomas Jefferson, 1771

## JOSEPH KIDD,

*Upholsterer, in Williamsburg.*

HANGS rooms with paper or damask, stuffs, tapes, muslin, and chins, in the most elegant manner, makes all sorts of bed furniture, window curtains, and carpets, and fits carpets to any room with the greatest exactness — N. B. He will go to Gloucester County in the morning to perform any of the above articles.

As for LEAD MANUFACTORY, behind the church, may be had all sorts of lead pipes, paper for conveying water from the tops of houses, cylinders, with pans (which will keep milk sweet and cool 20 or 30 days, by all seasons) if it be run on dirt and mended, and every other article in the pipe above business.

He also deals in all sorts of HOUSE FURNITING, CHAIRS, BEDS, and GLAZING, and prints fine sheets, chimney boards, and signs, according to directions.

Joseph Kidd owned an upholstery, paper-hanging, and paint business in Williamsburg, capital of colonial Virginia.

*Virginia Gazette*, 28 December 1769.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



South Pavilion (Outchamber) as it appeared in the 1770s before its remodeling and the completion of the south terrace.

## OUTFITTING THE “OUTCHAMBER”

Although the building you see is the remodeled South Pavilion, the interior is furnished as it might have appeared in the early 1770s. Jefferson's account books include two substantial payments totaling 30£ to Joseph Kidd, the finest upholsterer in Williamsburg. Jefferson was evidently preparing for his new wife's arrival. He already owned a large bedstead and feather bedding, so Kidd likely provided costly “bed furniture” such as fashionable printed cotton curtains lined with silk, as well as a counterpane, or bedcover.

## EARLY FAMILY LIFE

The Jeffersons occupied this multi-purpose room, which also functioned as a nursery; this Jefferson family crib may have been used here. The Jeffersons' first child, Martha (later Martha Jefferson Randolph), was born in this room on September 27, 1772. Maternal and childhood mortality was high in this era. Only three of the six Jefferson children were alive at the time of their mother's early death in 1782: Martha (1772–1836), Mary (1778–1804), and Lucy (1782–85).