

An architectural illustration of a two-story historic house with a gambrel roof, multiple windows with shutters, and a central porch. The drawing is in a fine-line, etched style.

SPRING HILL HISTORIC HOME EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

Welcome to Spring Hill

Spring Hill is a privately funded historic home native to Massillon. Inhabited from the 1820s to the 1970s, the Rotch-Wales families were strong supporters of the abolitionist movement and even opened their home to runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.

The Rotches moved to Ohio in 1811 and founded the village of Kendal (current Northeast Massillon) as a wooling town. They assisted settlements and settlers in Stark County, helped found libraries, and established schools. The Rotches also worked as members of the Quaker Indian Affairs Committee and were an active part of the abolitionist movement. Their house was used as a station on the Underground Railroad for 10-50 years. After they passed away, the house was bought by the Rotches long time friend and farmhand, Arvine Wales. Spring Hill was passed down through the Wales family after Arvine passed away in the 1850s. Son Arvine Chaffee Wales lived at Spring Hill with his family. In 1910, it was inherited by his youngest son, Horatio Wales and his young bride, Irene McLain.

In 1973, Irene McLain helped purchase Spring Hill with a group of volunteers with a desire for the home and its history preserved. Spring Hill has been a historic home since that time, and continues Irene's legacy of sharing our history with the community and the world.



The Rotch Family Seal: The family put a fish, known as a 'roach' on their seal to help others know how to pronounce their last name. This, along with the many misspellings of "Roach," "Roache," "Roatch," and "Roche" help us know for sure how the family pronounced their name.

Directions

Spring Hill Historic Home
1401 Spring Hill Lane NE
Massillon, Ohio 44646

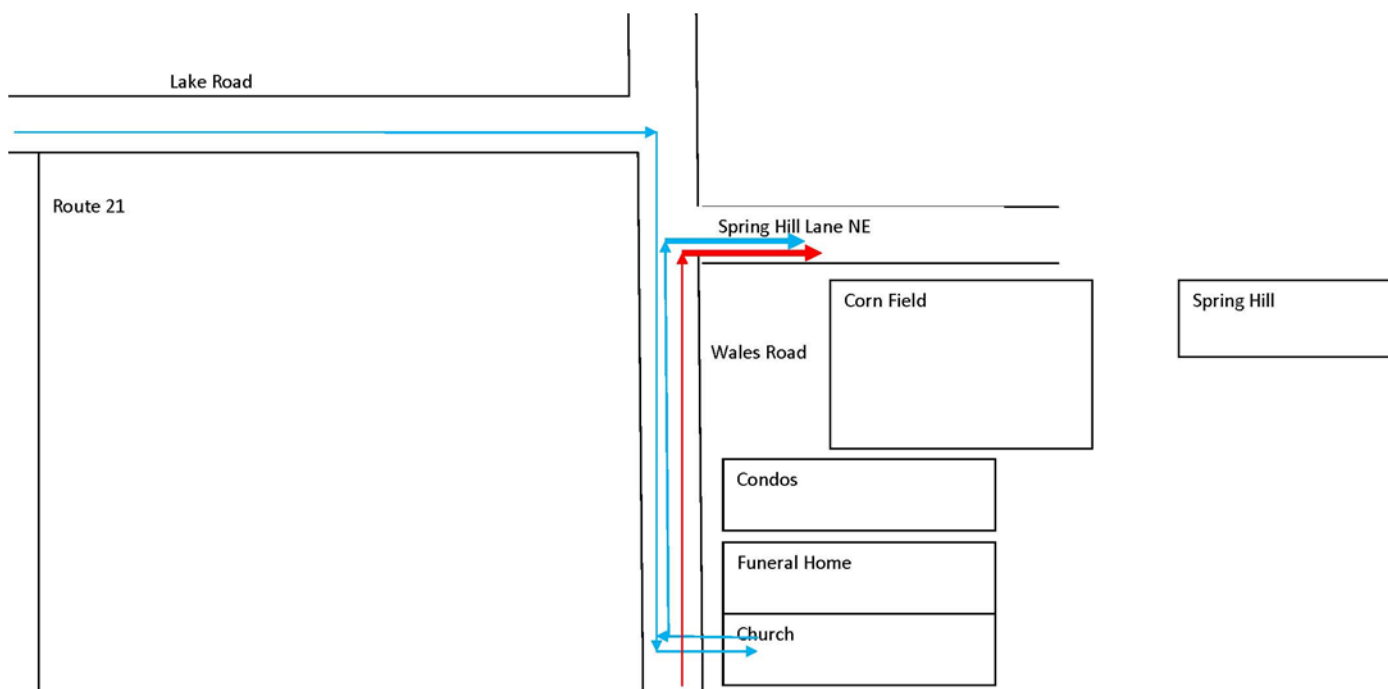
Many GPS devices bring people in on Lake Ave (Continue on Route 21 North past Lincoln Way, past Cherry St, then Lake Ave. the Last Massillon Exit. This is the first Massillon exit when coming on Route 21 South). This is the more direct route, however, because of the intersection, it makes turning onto Wales Rd and into Spring Hill very tricky. If you want to go this way, I would recommend turning around in the church or funeral home parking lot and coming back up to turn right into Spring Hill.

An alternate route is to take Route 21 and exit on the Lincoln Way exit. Turn right onto Lincoln Way West and continue up through downtown Massillon to Wales Rd. Turn left onto Wales Rd and follow it to Spring Hill Lane (This is right before the intersection at Lake Ave.)

Parking

Buses have been pulling into Spring Hill for years, and it is possible, even though it is a little tight. Drivers have two options when discharging their students.

Buses can pull up to the house and drop off students. If buses continue to pull all the way up to the left drive, the drive ends with a gravel and grass open space that will give plenty of room to turn around.



General Information

Teacher Review

Teachers are welcome to come to Spring Hill to review our tours and the subjects we are going to discuss before bringing a class. We encourage teachers to introduce some of the topics to their classes so students can delve deeper into the subject material while here. Educators have two options: call ahead to schedule a free tour over the weekend or a meeting with our director, or ask for information being covered in the tour when you schedule it. We are currently working on teacher introduction packet.

Fees

Students are \$4.00 each. For every 5-7 students, we require a chaperone. These chaperones are not charged for coming. Extra chaperones are \$5.00 each.

Cash and check are currently accepted at Spring Hill. Checks should be made out to Spring Hill Historic Home. If an invoice is required, please let us know ahead of time so we may start on the process.

Food Service

Spring Hill does not have any food sales. However, we do have picnic tables outside. Students can bring sack lunches to eat. If the weather becomes inclement, there is room inside.

Museum Shop

If students would like a chance to look at our selection, please add that onto the tour time. We have a shop full of old fashioned toys, some informational material, and T-shirts.



The best time of year to visit Spring Hill is usually in the spring or fall. However, we can visit you any time of year. In fact, winter works very well for us.

Planning Your Visit

To plan your visit, please call the office Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm at 330-833-6749, or you can email us at info@springhillhistorichome.org. Please have the following information ready at the time of your call:

- Choice of two dates
- Arrival time
- Departure time
- Contact Name
- School Name and District
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Email Address
- Grade Level
- Number in Group
- Special Needs
- Special Interests for the Visit

The house can accommodate groups of 30 comfortably. Larger groups will need to be broken into smaller groups while going through the house. Smaller groups will start at different places, either on the property or in the house. We will expand on these options in the upcoming pages.

A confirmation will be sent after the reservation is made, and there will be a phone confirmation about a week before the visit. Pre-visit materials are currently being put together for various grade levels. The sooner you have made your reservation, the sooner we can get pre-visit material for your classes' grade level to you.

If your scheduled arrival time is delayed, a portion of your visit may be sacrificed. If you must cancel or reschedule a visit, please notify our office as soon as possible. Upon arrival, teachers should check in first, then students may be discharged at the front of the house.



Visiting Spring Hill Tours

Spring Hill and Massillon History

This is our traditional tour, focusing on the background of Spring Hill. Starting with Thomas and Charity Rotch through the three generations of the Wales family, Spring Hill has 150 years of history to share with students. Topics discussed include the Underground Railroad, Quakerism, Native American-Settler relations, Education in Early America, and Foreign Relations in the early 20th century.

The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad has a long history in the United States and in Northeast Ohio. Explore Spring Hill as a station on the Underground Railroad and the effect Northeast Ohio had on the transportation of runaway slaves.

Ohio Pioneers

This tour focuses specifically on life for many pioneers moving to Ohio. Most students think of pioneers traveling to the West Coast, but few think about the thousands who moved to Ohio in the early 1800s. Focus is placed on day-to-day life, reasons for moving so far from home, and challenging students to think about what choices they would make if they were moving to the Ohio frontier in 1820.

Slavery in the United States

Slavery is something that has existed since the beginning of time. However, US slavery is unique compared to many other countries and time periods. Students are introduced to slavery in the north and south, along with the active abolitionist movement that fought to end slavery. We will focus on the Ohio Abolitionist Movement.

First Person Tours

Our first-person tours allow students to interact directly with the past. Most of the tours on the left have been converted for a costumed interpreter and can be done on request. Because of the extra requirements, there might be an increase in price, depending on the number of students.

For these tours, it is very important to introduce the basis of the tour before arriving. Students will be taken into the selected time period and will be treated as if they are living in that time. For many of these tours, terms such as slavery, the Civil War, and the American Revolution must be introduced. When the reservation for the tour is made, a student prep guide will be sent to you with information on what the students need to be introduced to before they arrive. We will provide a small reminder before the tour is started, but it helps if the students have a foundation before arriving.



Photo Credit: Mandy Altimus Pond

Spring Hill Visiting You

Not all schools can make the trip to Spring Hill. So let us come to you! Most of these talks last about 1 hour, but can be longer, combined, and expanded with activities.

Spring Hill and Massillon History

The Rotch-Wales families did a lot to influence Spring Hill and Massillon. In this program we discuss the history of the families, Kendal, Massillon, and Ohio. This can be expanded to focus on individuals or specific generations within the families.

The Underground Railroad

Ohio had a huge impact on the Underground Railroad, its history, and the U.S. Students discuss how the network was pieced together, the different positions, and why people would take part in the Railroad and why they wouldn't. This can be adapted for various ages.

Myths of the Underground Railroad

Many myths surround the Underground Railroad. This presentation is specifically focused on the common misconceptions, including codes, quilts, lanterns, who worked the Underground Railroad, and various other myths. This is good for older students and can be turned into a critical thinking discussion about history in general.

Slavery in the United States

The U.S. witnessed a very different type of slavery than the rest of the world. Students learn about slavery (tweaked for the individual grade levels) and includes a discussion on why slavery needs to be studied and what it was like in different regions and for different slaves.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is like nothing the world had seen before. Students explore the way slaves were collected, transported and sold here in the U.S, both in the Northern and Southern States.

Ohio Pioneers

This talk focuses specifically on life for many pioneers moving to Ohio. Most students think of pioneers traveling to the West Coast, but few think about the thousands who moved to Ohio in the early 1800s. Focus is placed on day-to-day life, reasons for moving so far from home, and the challenges pioneers faced as they moved to the Ohio frontier in 1820.

Fashion Through the Ages

With 150 years of history, Spring Hill has seen a lot of style changes. Explore decades of time to see why people wore what they did and how it fits into what was happening in the world. This also focuses on what people in different classes would wear, including slaves and Native Americans, when applicable. Please select a specific decade from the 1760s-1970s or time period from below.

Music Through the Ages

Everyone loves music, and we've seen a lot of music changes throughout the years. Explore music from different time periods and what it can tell us about the world around us.

Music/Fashion Choices

The American Revolution

The Early 1800s

The Civil War

The Victorian Era

The Edwardian Era

World War I

The Roaring Twenties

The Great Depression

World War II

The Cold War

Creating An All Day Experience

We want to create an experience that will bring the most out of traveling to Spring Hill. For a large group, most tours will have to be done on a rotating system to fit the students into the smaller parts of the house. Let us help you create an experience beyond a tour.

This portion of programs can also be brought to you. If scheduled ahead of time, our outreach presenter can bring primary documents and photographs for students to work with. This allows students to spend more time on specific ideas. These presentations can also be done separately. This means for changing class schedules, the students can have multiple days with Spring Hill, allowing them to get the most out of their experience.

What are Primary Documents?

Students have been introduced to more and more primary documents throughout their schooling. This is a chance for students to get to see primary documents and photographs within the Spring Hill collection. Students are introduced to how to handle these documents carefully and with gloves. Then, they are given the chance to see some of our documents and photographs up close (with help and age appropriate instructions).

We then talk about what types of things can be discovered from these photographs or documents. This allows students to use their imagination and think critically about the information put before them.

These documents can be introduced to various ages and discussions can allow students to go as far into topics as they desire.



Sit Down and Talk

After the tour, students are given a chance to sit down with our volunteers. This gives students a chance to digest the information we've given them and talk about their ideas.

Volunteers will be provided with age appropriate questions. This is very good for older students to allow them to discuss and think about what questions they have, and what our history has done to impact our present and future. This also allows students to think critically about what they've been told and question how we have found our information and what information they could find.

For Middle and High School classes, with short time periods, this is perfect for sending students home with the assignment to find information on the topic. This can specifically be put forth to allow students to add onto our information or to try and find conflicting evidence, or to even prove us wrong. Discussions from this end allow us to touch on sources and the eternally evolving nature of history.



How Can We Get Involved?

Spring Hill is always looking to get students involved. Not only is this a great opportunity for them to learn, but we believe that instilling an understanding of civil duty and giving back to the community should start young. If you would like your class to do a service project, please contact our office at 330-833-6749.

We are happy to work with schools to help students learn about their history and to teach them to become good citizens.

It's Just Not Possible This Year...

We hear you!

It is difficult to find time for field trips or speakers to come into your classes, and we understand that!

Spring Hill can make school visits, bringing along with us programs and hands-on activities.

Want more information? Contact us at info@springhillhistorichome.org.



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