



# Educator Guide

## Welcome to Spring Hill

Spring Hill is a privately funded historic farm in Massillon. Inhabited from 1811 to 1973, the Rotch-Wales families were some of the earliest settlers in the area. They were also strong supporters of the abolitionist movement. The families even opened their home and farm to freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad.

Thomas and Charity Rotch were the first people to live at Spring Hill. Originally from New England, the Rotches moved to Ohio in 1811 and founded the village of Kendal as a town focused on the wool trade.

Thomas and Charity Rotch were good neighbors. They helped establish and support surrounding communities like Zoar and encouraged settlers to come to Stark County. The Rotches were also members of the Quaker Indian Affairs Committee, which ensured good relationships between settlers and indigenous peoples.



**The Rotch Family Seal**

The family put a fish, known as a 'roach' on their seal to help others know how to say their last name.

Being civic-minded, they helped found libraries and schools that are the foundation of the local educational institutions today. Thomas and Charity were firm in their ideals of equality and education for all that aligned with the abolitionist movement through opening their farm as a station on the Underground Railroad.

After they passed away in 1823 and 1824, the Rotches' longtime friend and farmhand, Arvine Wales, bought Spring Hill. Arvine would continue the Rotch legacy of keeping Spring Hill open as a station and live at Spring Hill with his family until he died in 1854. After 1854, Arvine Chaffee Wales, son of Arvine Wales, would inherit Spring Hill.

Arvine Chaffee would live here with his wife, Eliza, and their three children, Helen, Arvine III, and Horatio. Like his father and the Rotches, Arvine Chaffee was civic-minded and was even elected to the Ohio Senate in 1870. Arvine Chaffee would pass away in 1882.

After being run by tenant farms until 1900, Arvine Chaffee's eldest son, Arvine III, managed Spring Hill from 1900 until 1907, when Arvine Chaffee's youngest son, Horatio Wales, moved in. In 1910, Horatio married Irene Irene McLain. They would manage the farm until Horatio died in 1952.

In 1966, Irene McLain Wales helped purchase Spring Hill with a group of volunteers who desired that the home and its history be preserved. Spring Hill has been a historic home since Irene's death in 1973, continuing Irene's legacy of sharing our history with the community and the world.



# Directions

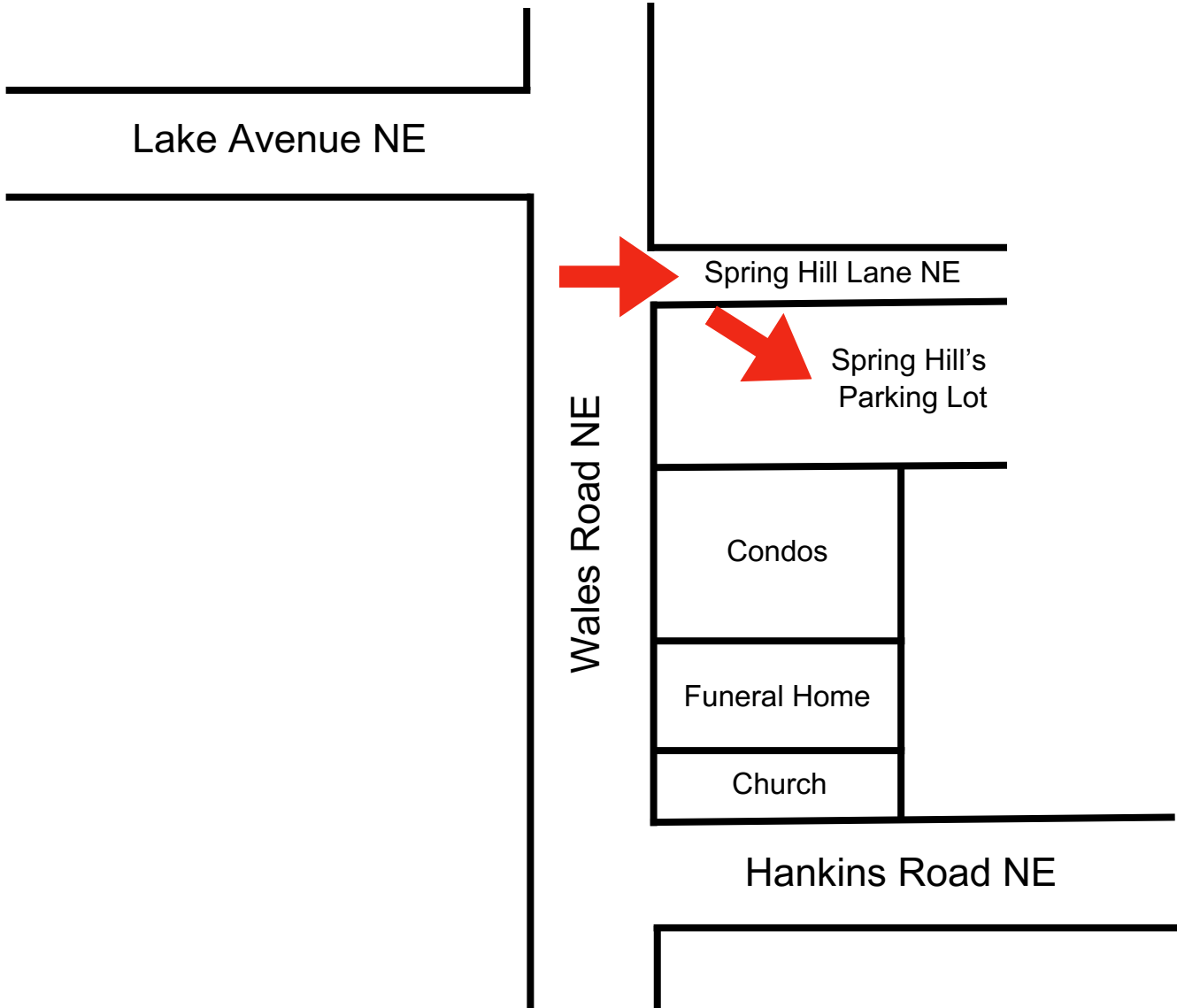
## Address:

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

Many routes bring people in on Lake Avenue. To get to Lake Avenue from Route 21, take the Lake Avenue Exit. It will end right beside Spring Hill Lane. This is the more direct route, however, because of the intersection, it makes turning onto Wales Rd and on the Spring Hill Lane very tricky. If you want to go this way, it is recommended to turn around in the church or funeral home parking lot and come back to turn right onto Spring Hill Lane. (The small lane on the right that is before the intersection at Lake Ave.)

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.

Once at Spring Hill, you will pass through a row of trees. On the right of the trees is the entrance to the large parking lot. It can easily accommodate a bus.



# Planning Your Visit

To plan your visit, please contact us Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm at 330-833-6749, or you can email us at [info@springhillhistorichome.org](mailto:info@springhillhistorichome.org).

## Please have the following information ready at the time of your inquiry:

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

The house can accommodate single groups of 15 comfortably. Larger groups will be broken into smaller sizes and will start at different places, either on the property or in the house. Groups can be up to 50 at a time.

A confirmation email will be sent after the reservation is made. The sooner you have made your reservation, the sooner we can get pre-visit material 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.

## Fees

For a field trip, students are **\$4.00** each.

1 adult chaperone for every 15 students is free, teachers are free.

Cash, check, and check are 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.

## Food Service

Spring Hill does not have any food sales. However, we have picnic tables on the property for students to have a packed lunch at.

If desired, or if the weather becomes inclement, there is room inside the 1953 Granary Barn that can hold around 50 students.



## 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.

# Visiting Spring Hill on a Field Trip

While at Spring Hill, students will learn about the history of Spring Hill. Starting with Thomas and Charity Rotch through the three generations of the Wales family, Spring Hill has 162 years of history to share. The topics that they will be introduced to include Underground Railroad, Quakerism, Agriculture in Early America, Education in Early America, and Foreign Relations in the early 20th century. Our programs align with the State of Ohio's educational common core and New Learning Standards.

These topics can be focused upon further per request during a field trip to fit the educational needs of the students, or to better align with learning materials at school.

## Such topics that can be further focused on include:

- Spring Hill and Massillon's History
- The Underground Railroad
- The Institution of Slavery
- Ohio Pioneer Living
- Music



**Domestic Staff Staircase**  
Used by staff, this staircase was also part of the Underground Railroad.



## 1812 Plat of Kendal

Thomas Rotches laid out a community called Kendal in 1812, based on the wool trade. (Massillon's Fourth Ward)

## Additional Information

Students have been introduced to more and more primary documents and materials. At Spring Hill, students will get the chance to see primary materials in the Spring Hill collection. We then discuss what we can discover from these materials. This allows students to use their imagination and think critically about the information presented.

These documents and materials can be introduced to students of various ages, and discussions can allow students to explore many topics. If scheduled ahead of time, our outreach presenter can bring primary documents and photographs for students to work with. This allows students to spend time on specific ideas.

After the tour, students are given time to digest the information we've provided and then talk about their ideas. This also allows students to think critically about the materials they have just learned during the visit.

# Offsite Opportunities

If you are thinking that it may not be possible to visit Spring Hill this year, we hear you! Finding time for field trips or speakers to come into your classes is sometimes challenging, and we understand that. Spring Hill can make in-school visits to your classroom, bringing along with us the programs and materials that would be explored on the farm.

In addition, Spring Hill can present topics in the classroom in a lecture style if desired. These topics can be used to supplement a visit, or can be used to teach students about the history and experiences at the historic property.

## Topics to choose for a presentation:

- The Legacy of Spring Hill– 1811 to present day
- The Families of Spring Hill – From the Rotches to the Wales from 1811 to 1973
- One Stop on the Road to Freedom – Spring Hill as an Underground Railroad station
- The Fog of War – This topic covers 4 periods of war that the families of Spring Hill would have lived through and how the home front was affected
- Making Friends – The Quaker Ideals of Thomas and Charity Rotch
- The Herb Garden– Medicinal Remedies of Spring Hill
- Farm to Table – Food History of Spring Hill
- Household Management– The Domestic Staff of Spring Hill

**Like the in-person field trip we can craft an experience suited to your requests.**

## How Can We Get Involved?

Spring Hill is always looking to get students involved. We are happy to work with schools to help students learn about history in a hands-on way. If you would like your class to do a service project, please contact the office at:

**330-833-6749 or [info@springhillhistorichome.org](mailto:info@springhillhistorichome.org)**

Our mission is to preserve unimpaired for future generations the house, outbuildings and grounds known as Spring Hill; to interpret Spring Hill and the families who lived there in light of their historical importance; and to maintain Spring Hill as a historic site open to the public.

Spring Hill Historic Home is committed to creating enriching educational experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom.

*Thank you!*



**Charity School of Kendal Diploma**  
Founded in 1829 at Spring Hill by Arvine Wales, the Charity School of Kendal was a free school for children in the area until 1924.