

Educator Guide

Welcome to Spring Hill

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

Thomas and Charity Rotch were the first residents of Spring Hill. Originally from New England, the Rotches moved to Ohio in 1811 and founded the village of Kendal as a community centered on the wool trade.

Thomas and Charity Rotch were good neighbors who helped establish and support surrounding communities like Zoar and encouraged settlers to come to Stark County. The Rotches also served on the Quaker Indian Affairs Committee, which worked to maintain 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.

Civic-minded and community focused, they helped found libraries and schools that became the foundation local educational institutions. Thomas and Charity were firm in their ideals of equality and education for all, values which aligned with the abolitionist movement.

After Thomas and Charity passed away in 1823 and 1824, their longtime friend and farmhand, Arvine Wales, purchased Spring Hill. Arvine continued the Rotch legacy by keeping Spring Hill open as a station on the Underground Railroad. He lived there with his family until his death in 1854. Afterward, his son, Arvine Chaffee Wales, inherited the farm.

Arvine Chaffee Wales lived at Spring Hill with his wife, Eliza, and their three children; Helen, Arvine III, and Horatio. Like his father and the Rotches before him, Arvine Chaffee was civic-minded and was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1870. Arvine Chaffe passed away in 1882.

After the farm was operated by tenant for several years, Arvine Chaffee's eldest son, Arvine III, managed Spring Hill from 1900 until 1907, when his younger brother, Horatio Wales, moved in to the house. In 1910, Horatio married Irene McLain, and together, managed the farm until Horatio died in 1952.

In 1966, Irene McLain Wales worked with a group of volunteers to purchase Spring Hill so the home and its history be preserved. Since Irene's death in 1973, Spring Hill has continued as a historic home, carrying forward her legacy of sharing it's history with the community and the world.

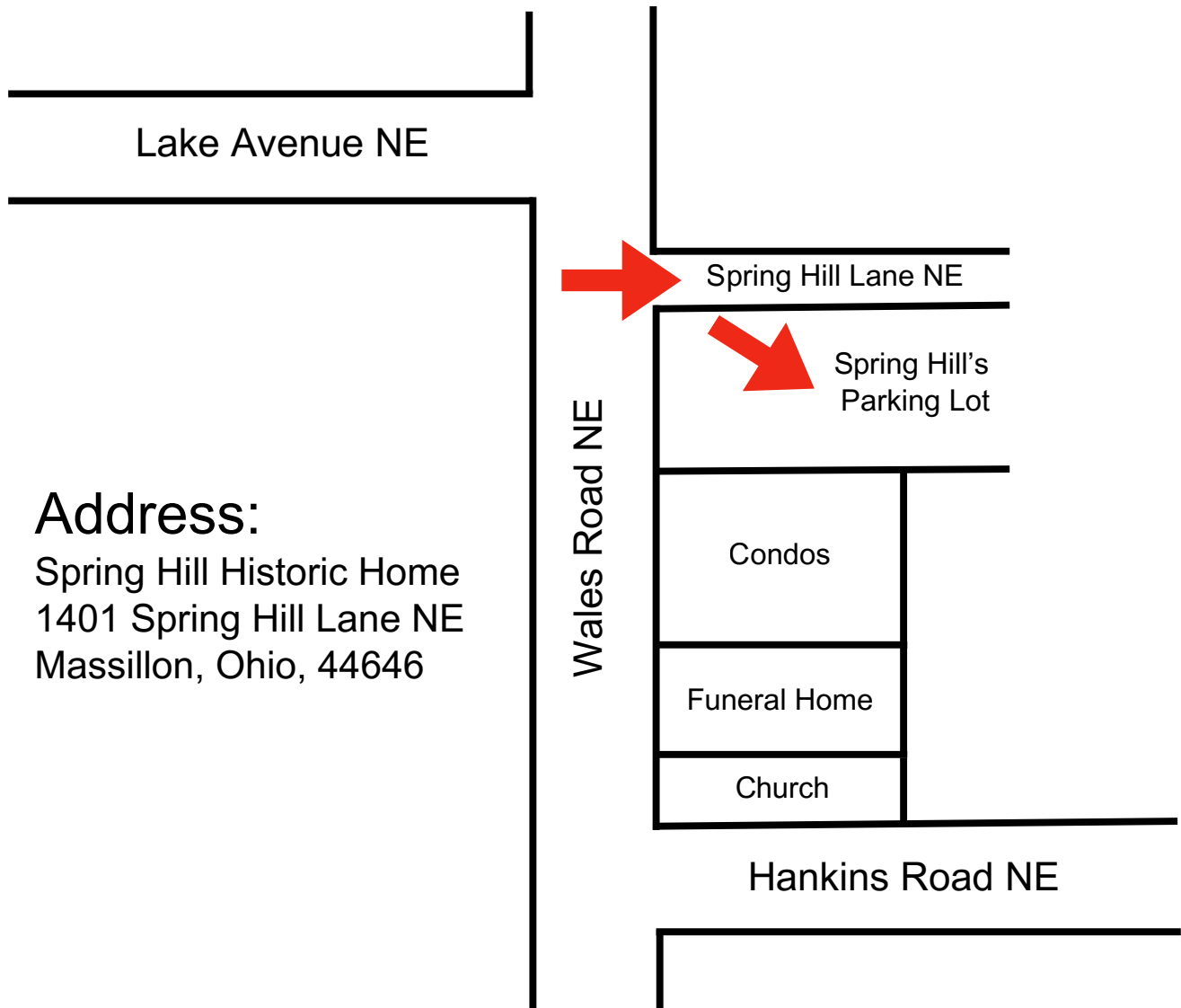


Directions

Many routes will bring you to Lake Avenue. To reach Lake Avenue from Route 21, take the Lake Avenue exit. The road will intersect with Wales Road and beside Springhill Lane. While this is a more direct route, the nearby intersection can make turning onto Wales Road and then onto Springhill Lane somewhat difficult. If you choose this route, it is recommended that you turn around in the church or funeral home parking lot and come back to turn right onto Springhill Lane. (The small lane on the right that is before the intersection at Lake Avenue)

An alternate route is to take Route 21 and exit at Lincoln Way. Turn right onto Lincoln Way West and continue through downtown Massillon to Wales Road. Turn left onto Wales Road and follow it to Springhill Lane.

Once you arrive at Spring Hill, you will pass under the tree-lined lane. The entrance to the large parking lot is on the right and 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.

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 **\$5.00** 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

Starting with Thomas and Charity Rotch through the three generations of the Wales family, Spring Hill has 162 years of history to share with students.

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.



Back Staircase
Used by staff, this staircase was also part of the Underground Railroad.



1812 Plat of Kendal

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

Additional Information

Students will have the opportunity 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 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.

How Can We Get Involved?

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

Offsite Opportunities

Finding time for field trips is sometimes challenging, and we understand that. Spring Hill can make in-school visits to your classroom, bringing along the programs and materials that would be explored on the farm.

Spring Hill can also present topics in the classroom in a lecture style, if desired. Like an in-person field trip we can craft an experience suited to your requests.

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
- 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
- Sheep to Shirt - The manufacturing of wool

Thank you!



The Charity Rotch School of Kendal Youth Diploma

Founded in 1829 at Spring Hill by Arvine Wales, the Charity School of Kendal was a free school for local children until 1910.