

Coordinator and School

1. Meet children at the bus or flag pole
2. Welcome and introduce yourself as Aunt or Uncle....
3. Have children line up by height - shortest up front
4. Have students enter the building and sit in school desk by size
5. Ask for attendance and record it in the register.

Background History for Docents:

Brief History of School/Education in Early America

Law passed in 1642 that required children to be educated- they could be removed from the home if parents failed to do this. If the town had at least 50 families, they had to hire a school master to teach children to read and write. This would ensure they would be able to read the Bible and live good moral lives. In the south, the planter class hires tutors and the worker class was usually home schooled. There were only a few private schools. Public schools came later. Until 1900, the highest education level was usually 8th grade for most students. Later when there were 34 states, children ages 14 and up were also to be educated. By 1910, 72% of America's children attended school- half of them were in one-room school houses like this one. If the building was made of boards, it was to be painted white. Many of the school houses also served as church houses, community gathering places for things such as voting, music or pie supper events. The students either walked to school, rode on horseback or in a horse-drawn hack (sulky).

Liberty School

This school was built on an acre of land in 1895 with the deed having school board names on it. It stood by Liberty Church which was organized in 1845 (pre-Civil War) and could have had school even prior to 1895. Liberty School was closed in 1951 and consolidated into the Fair Grove School District once transportation became easier. Later, in the 1950's, City Utilities of Springfield purchased land to dam up the Little Sac River for the city water supply. The school building was sold to a farmer who moved it about a mile up the road and stored hay in it. Later the building was used to repair sailboats. The school building sat where the present boat dock is for Fellows Lake. In 2008, work began to rescue the building and bring it here. We wanted people to see what education of their ancestors was like in a one-room school.

School House Script

When our founding fathers first came to America, education was not foremost on their minds. They were here to seek religious freedom and make a new life for themselves. Education came about as a necessity. The colonists needed to be educated in order to be able to understand the written laws that they were now living under. To meet this need, Massachusetts passed the Law of 1642 which required parents to see to it that their children and servants knew the principles of religion and also would be able to read the colonial laws. This would ensure they would be able to abide by them. This law also stated that the government could remove children from homes if the parents were lax in their responsibility in this area. A 1647 law stated that towns of fifty families had to hire a schoolmaster to teach children to read and write. Towns of one hundred were required to provide a grammar school master who could prepare the boys to attend Harvard. Also, at this time, "Dame" schools were set up in homes of women who agreed to teach for a small allowance. The main goal of this early education in one room schools (and homes) was that the colonists would be able to read the Bible and thereby live good and moral lives. In the South, the planter class hired tutors for their children who were then sent back to England for college. The poor were homeschooled. Only a few small private schools existed. Public schools came much later.

In the seventeen and eighteen hundreds, children did attend elementary school but few made it to eighth grade. As soon as they learned to read, write and do basic arithmetic, they dropped out to work on the farm, in a factory, or at home. Also, some were apprenticed out to learn a craft. This began to change near the beginning of the 20th Century. By 1900, thirty-four states had ordered compulsory education. Thirty states required education to age 14 or higher. By 1910, 72% of America's children attended school. One-half of them were in one room schoolhouses. By 1918, every state required children to at least complete elementary school (grades 1-8).

In 1905 in Missouri, the Compulsory School Attendance Law was passed requiring students from ages 8 to 14 to be in school at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school term. Therefore, by 1906, in Greene County alone, 124 school districts had been created. Today, the Compulsory School Attendance Law requires students aged 7-17 attend school with a few exceptions. Travel was difficult in the rugged Ozark hills and roads were rare. The Ozarks lacked towns and cities. People lived on scattered homesteads, farming and hunting for their needs. They seldom traveled to a commercial center for goods to trade. The 1905 law forced them to join their neighbors in erecting schoolhouses which were probably made of unpainted logs. If they were made out of boards, Missouri law required that they be painted white. The schoolhouse that parents of the Ozarks built

was often the first community building in the area. It was built by local labor and paid for by subscription which meant the parents had to pay the cost of their children's education locally. Many of these one room schools also served as the local church on Sunday, the meeting place on Saturday, and where citizens came to vote on election day. Students who lived too far to walk came by horse or horse-drawn kid hack or sulky. As the children grew to know each other and their pioneer parents met up and got acquainted, a sense of belonging to a particular area grew and the people slowly became a community.

The teachers who taught in these schools were very special people. In the winter, they had to get to school early to start a fire in the pot belly stove. Baking Irish or sweet potatoes in the ashes from the stove would be a treat for lunch. Otherwise, students carried their lunches in a sack or container from home. Sometimes the teacher or a parent might prepare lunch for their students consisting of soup or stew heated on the stove in a pot. Sometimes there was an attachment to the school (or located close by) where a male teacher would live. If he was married, then his wife was expected to help out at the school. Single women teachers usually had to board with local families who provided supervision of the teacher's social life. Women could not teach once they were married.

Motorized school buses in the 1920's made longer distances possible for travel, so one room school houses were consolidated into large multiple classroom schools. Classes would be held separately for various grade levels. Most one room schools were replaced by WWII. However, in the rural Ozarks some schools didn't consolidate until the 1950's when the roads improved. Liberty was consolidated into the Fair Grove R10 School District in 1951.

Liberty School which was founded in 1895 for \$10.00, the price for an acre of land. It was located next to Liberty Baptist Church which was organized in 1845. There probably was a school there around that time but we have not yet found any evidence. The one room school was sold when City Utilities of Springfield purchased land to dam up the Little Sac River to form Fellows Lake. Liberty School sat above where the boat dock was to go in, so it was sold at auction and moved a mile up the road. Because the school no longer sat on its original location, it was not eligible for preservation grants and could not be considered an historical site.

In 1981, a process began to move the original home of the Gray-Campbell Family to Nathanael Greene Park. Members of the "Friends of the Gray/Campbell farmstead" realized that moving the school to be near the Farmstead would add to the educational experience of those visiting the farm.

Liberty School was on land owned by Ron and Peggy Buchanan who agreed to let the Farmstead have the schoolhouse, if they would move it from their property. In 2008, a fund was established at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to receive donations towards this goal. After six years of money raising efforts, it was determined that the outside of the school and part of the inside would have to be replaced. While this was being accomplished, members began searching for authentic items to furnish the school.

(Share as much as time allows of this history- You may choose to have students work a math problem or spelling problem on the slate and look gently at the old books.)

Students need to be divided into 4 groups. Each group should have an adult with them. Pick up the flag to raise outside and lead the group out to the flagpole. You may choose one or two to help raise the flag and a volunteer to lead the pledge.

Give directions that groups 1-4 will visit 4 stations:

1. The House
2. The Barn
3. The Kitchen
4. The Granary

Groups will rotate every 30 minutes when they hear the school house bell ring. Students should be reminded to stay with their groups and not to touch items until the docent gives them consent. After the last rotation students will meet at the pavilion for their lunch. Dismiss them to begin the rotations.