

House

Preparation:

- Arrive at least 20 minutes before students are scheduled to arrive
- Use the key from the blue cup on the kitchen mantel to open the southeast door.
Return the key
- Open the west door, northwest closet door, southeast cabinet door, and turn on the light (third shelf down on the left of the inside wall) If the silver spoons on the table have been stored on the second shelf from the top, place them on the table.

When Students Arrive:

- Greet them and introduce yourself as Aunt or Uncle...
- Give students a brief history of the founding of Springfield by John Polk Campbell at a natural well. Missouri became a state in 1821, and this area was Indian Territory. In 1829, a treaty was signed moving the Native Americans to Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. This opened up the country to settlers like John P. Campbell. He arrived in 1829 when he put his initials on the tree and returned the next year with his family. Junius Campbell, John's younger brother, came in 1831, and married Mary Blackwell. They had 11 children. (Refer to pictures) Uncle John and Aunt Susie Gray Campbell whose brother built the house. The Campbell children, including Mary Frances who married Charles Doling (Doling park namesake). Of the five boys Robert BRuce stayed on the farm. He and his wife had two children, June and Bob Campbell.
- Show them and discuss the lath and plaster wall (old plaster has hog hair for temper to hold plaster together. We used horse hair in the new wall). Lath is horizontal wood strips. Plaster is made of lime, sand, water and temper. It is smeared on the wall to ooze through lath and when hardened, a finer coat is added to cover the rough first coat, then it is painted. This is unusual for the Kickapoo Prairie frontier.
- Why did we save this house? It is a fancy home for the frontier even if it is only a two-room house. The style at that time was to build the room in a mirror image. Notice that the two rooms look alike. Window-door-window, window-door-window and mirror fireplaces. In Europe and on the frontier, one-room houses or cabins with windows for light and a door for access was unusual. This room has a back door that goes to the outside kitchen. Why do we have a separate kitchen? In the summer it would be really hot for cooking, and there is more of a fire hazard as well. The house was built in a Greek Revival Style. What do you think are some Greek or Roman features of the house? Where are the columns in the house? (Fireplace mantles and door panels) Also, the broad roof line, indoor fireplace making natural closets on each side, and the nine over six window pan windows.

- ON the way over to the archaeological display, point out the hand hewn logs (floor joist) and stacked limestone fireplace base. Stress that the acrylic floor is perfectly safe to stand on.
- Ask why did we excavate at the original site? People's trash tell us how people lived by what they used. We could tell a lot about the family's economic condition by looking in the wastebasket and garbage pails. The 1840's-1870's display of ceramic artifacts and table utensils can be dated and these tell us what we want to furnish our Pre-Civil War house with. Some of the crockery and metal artifacts could date from that era, but most are much later.
- The buttons and marbles are of special interest to the children. The button box contains wood, bone, mother of pearl, glass, and metal buttons. (make note that even though we don't have one anymore, hard rubber or gudda perka rubber was used to waterproof garments, as vulcanization had not been invented where rubber could be made to expand for rubber tires.)
- The marble box contains recently made glass marbles and the clay marbles of the Civil War era. Clay marbles were made from clay, hence the different colors. Two of our marbles are glazed and baked like the brown door knob on the door between the two rooms.
- Children would bring home their slates and slate pencils from school to study. They would gather around the fire (maybe on the floor) for light and warmth. The pencils would drop through the space between the floor and the hearth. This was the reason we found fragments of these items around the fireplace. In 1858, the first oil was discovered in the United States at Titusville, Pennsylvania. Oil lamps became popular because of the better light. Before just candles and fire light gave light to the home. By the end of the Civil War kerosene lamps spread even to the Kickapoo Prairie. Other artifacts could be from any of the earlier periods.
- Go to the weasel (yarn winder). Explain how it works. As the spinner wound the yarn on the weasel, the knob would pop when it completed so many rounds. Picture mom spinning with the young'uns around her, and she would sing a song. What song? *Pop Goes the Weasel!* Ask the student to sing the song.
- You can talk about simple toys in the glass case (rare and breakable). These were handmade, and when technological advances came at the end of the 19th century, toys could be made cheaper and in large quantities. These are the toys they can play with- The Noah's Ark, the climbing rope man, etc. You can point out the violins that would have been used for family entertainment in the evening. The violin over the china hutch is over 200 years old.
- Go to the bedroom. Show them the rope bed and the rope key to tighten the rope. Have they heard the saying "Sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite"? You need the rope strung tight so everyone won't slide to the middle of the bed. The bedbugs were something else. Show them the straw mattress and the

feather mattress on top, the handmade quilt and coverlet. Talk about the trundle beds for the younger children (the bigger one is under the south bed).

- Ask them if they know what the china container is. It's where you go to the bathroom on cold nights so you don't have to go outside. The chamber pot was emptied into the slop jar and covered. In the morning the children could take it to empty into the privy. Wash hands in the bowl. Ask where the water came from that is in the pitcher. Empty the waste water on the flowers around the house,
- Point out the foot warmer where coals are put in the metal box and carried to another area-maybe to the carriage or wagon.
- Wedding dress: The dress is not white so they could wear it as a good dress later. These folks were not well to do. This one has been made over in a later style. (Also it wasn't until Queen Victoria of England, 1840 got married that women wore a white wedding dress.
- Discuss the baby clothes.
- Play with the toys, dancing man, climbing bear, spinning the button on a string (buzzsaw)
- Show the darning egg, shoes and other items on the dresser.
- Discuss the loom and sewing machine

Time will not allow you to do everything. Pick out what you want to stress or expand on.

Closing the house:

- Remove the spoons from the table and return them to the display case. Turn off the lights in the closet and display case and close all the doors.
- Put the donation box in a chair or in the closet out of sight of the window.
- Check with the other docents and ask if any of their things are in the storage closet.
- Sweep the floors and scan the rooms to see if anything is missing.
- Be sure the tow door latches are secure. Secure the southeast door with the key as you leave. Check to make sure the door is locked by pushing on the door to make sure there is no give to the door.
- Return the key to the blue cup on the mantle in the kitchen.