The Greenbrier Historical Society, a nonprofit organization located in Lewisburg, West Virginia, is dedicated to the collection, preservation and interpretation of the Greenbrier Valley's rich history. The society's collection of documents and artifacts is housed at the North House and represent over 200 years of local history. Dedicated to the advancement and education of students, the Greenbrier Historical Society is pleased to present new and innovative programs for hands-on, historical learning. The programs are offered free of charge and can be scheduled by contacting the Greenbrier Historical Society at the North House Museum.

Beyond Programming

The Greenbrier Historical Society's North House Museum and Archives is open free of charge Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm, or by appointment for guided tours and research assistance.

Contact Us

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GREENBRIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Hands-On History!

Educational programs

Discovery, Fun, and Excitement at the

North House Museum
Where History Comes Alive!

Call today for more information: 304.645.3398

*Indicates programs only offered at the North House

*Transportation

Explore the impact of WV geography on early transportation by visiting our 1780 Coffman Covered Wagon, the 1875 Rural Free Delivery Postal Wagon, and



the 1897 Blue Ribbon market buggy. Compare and contrast transportation from the 18th century to our modern auto mobile and discuss how travel and technology have changed over the centuries.

*Wagons Ho! Pioneer Days on the Greenbrier Frontier.

What was life like for the pioneers arriving in the Greenbrier region? What were the challenges and rewards? How did



they cope with illness, bad roads, dangerous animals and the local Native Americans? Interactive discussion focuses on what early settlers would have brought with them when moving to the frontier and how they would have dealt with the limitations and uncertainties of pioneer life. Students will read from primary documents, actual letters and journal entries of those who left behind accounts of their experiences.

Children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, mathematics and science in third grade than children who did not. This benefit is also seen in the subgroup of children who are most at risk for deficits and delays in achievement.

For Youngest Students

Native American Pottery—Children handle and examine authentic Indian pots and then make their own with playdough.

West Virginia Toys and Games—Compare West Virginia's past and present through toys and games. Discover how



children entertained themselves before toy stores and modern electronics. This program invites students back in time to the 1800's to play with replica toys.

Conflict on the Greenbrier Frontier

As Britain's American colonies moved toward revolution, Native Americans and settlers were at war in the western country, the



frontier of the Greenbrier Valley.

Discover how the Shawnee and other tribes adapted to the Greenbrier area to meet their needs. Explore the timeline and some frontier artifacts. Students will learn about the far reaching effects the explorers and Eastern woodland tribes had on each other and create an accordion journal and write and illustrate their conclusions.

The Hollowell Pioneer Life Traveling Trunk

The Hollowell Traveling Trunks are made possible with donations from the Hollowell Foundation. Their generosity has allowed the GHS to realize our dream of free, traveling



programs for students in the Greenbrier Valley area.

In this trunk are items that children may otherwise never hear about, let alone see and touch. Through these objects, children learn about the challenges that the settlers faced as they journeyed for many days to start new lives under difficult conditions, far from family and the comforts of home.

*Tombstone Tour



An on-site program, the Tombstone Tour treats students to a history walk through two of Lewisburg's cemeteries. Students will hear stories of famous individuals and colorful personalities buried there, as well as learn a little about

cemeteries as genealogical data-bases and tombstone art. A discussion will evaluate historic cemetery preservation, what it is and why it is important. Tours are about one hour, but can be tailored to your schedule.

S.T.E.M. AND S.T.E.A.M. WORKSHOPS FOR ALL GRADES

Fiber Art — Fiber Science

Students will use a microscope to identify,

compare and contrast wool and cotton fibers. They will use a magnifying lamp to understand woven and knitted structures in common cloth. Each student will spin a little wool into yarn to take



home and have the opportunity to weave on a table loom.

Traveller and the Monocular: How General Robert E. Lee directed battles during the Civil War



Students will study a brief history of General Lee's horse, Traveller, including facts about his birth and early years, how General Lee obtained him, and his work during the Civil War. There will be a S.T.E.M. based discussion about how the monocular works and how it was used by commanders during the Civil War to track the progress of battles. Students make a monocular and use it to study a battle between units of toy soldiers.

Paper Engineering

Pop-up cards and accordion books are fun to make but also require concentration, imagination and fine motor skills. Creating these clever paper objects fosters 3-dimensional thinking.

In this workshop, students can make and

illustrate either a small accordion book or an ingenious pop-up card. Learning the history of a variety of moveable books and examining an elaborate pop-up book provide context and fun.



Civil War Medical Pannier

Discover the importance of Civil War medicine. Students open an authentic reproduction medical chest from the 1860's to examine medicine tins with strange names, such as quiniæ sulphatis and argenti nitras. Each

student is given a "fate card" describing an injury or disease, and learns what treatment was available at the time and what outcome could be expected.



The Hollowell Civil War Traveling Trunk Civil War Letters



Students are given the opportunity to role-play by using period clothing elements and reading from letters written during the

Civil War. Primary documents underline the real difficulties and hardships experienced by war-weary soldiers and women on the home front. Students are given a copy of a cross-written letter to decipher.

How Did They Dress?

How did people clothe themselves before the Industrial Revolution? Every step

from spinning thread to making cloth was accomplished by hand and children worked along side family



members to provide the necessities of life. This program consists of demonstrations of weaving and fiber preparation for spinning and each student will spin two colors of wool into yarn to take home.

These programs were made possible thanks to generous donations from the following sponsors:

Telford Foundation Hollowell Foundation Marie Leist Foundation

The Museum Coordinator is partially funded by:

The Mary Nickell Foundation