
What to Expect

- Each tour is two hours long.
- Tours are typically divided into 2-4 groups; depending on size of school group.
- Groups rotate through four stations chosen by their teachers or designed for their grade level based on *Illinois Learning Standards*.
- Costumed docents guide the lesson for each station.

Please contact the site for group prices and available dates.

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Historical Trunks for the Classroom

Check-out one of our Historical Trunks for your classroom. Each grade level has its own unique trunk topics designed around the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers may check out a trunk to use in their classroom up to two weeks prior to their scheduled tour date. Children's books, hands-on activities and lesson guides are included.

School Tour Hours

Wednesday - Friday

10 am—2 pm



The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House



Educational Concepts for School Field Trips

Teachers are encouraged to build their own unique tour based on the educational concepts detailed here or pick one of our preplanned tours (below) designed around the Illinois Learning Standards. When building a tour, be sure to select one topic from each of the following locations.



House



Lawn/Porch/
Washhouse



Orientation
Room



Kitchen/
Indentured Servants




Educational Concepts



Kindergarten

- * ***Stories & Songs** - Children participate in 1818 stories & songs 
- * ***ABC Lesson** - Children explore the ABC's through the use of an early 19th century battledore 
- * **Kitchen Chores** - Students perform chores necessary in the kitchen 
- * **House Compare/Contrast** - Children compare and contrast the Stephenson House and their own house 
- * **Planting/Harvesting** - *Spring*: hoeing and spading and examining plants. *Fall*: identifying seeds, storage of seeds 





** *Teachers may pick either Stories & Songs or ABC Lesson*

Second Grade




- * **Games** (*weather dependent*) - Students play period games on front lawn  
- * **Children's Bedroom** - Students learn about life of the Stephenson children 


- * **Garden** - Identifying herbs and their uses 
- * **Servants' Quarters** - Compare the lives of servants to the Stephenson family 

Third Grade

- * **Video** - Students will watch a 15-minute movie about the Stephenson House 
- * **Weather & Symmetry** - Discussion of how weather effected everyday life on the farm and the symmetry of Federal architecture 
- * **Food Preservation** (*kitchen*) - How did the household store food long term? How does weather effect food supply? 
- * **Laundry** - Students will have a hands-on experience doing the laundry 

Fourth Grade





- * **Folk Arts & Crafts** - Samples demonstrating crafts made during 1800's 
- * **Militia** - Equipment for a soldier, marching orders and drill work 
- * **Images of Greatness** - Students focus on the lives of important men & women during Stephenson's time 

- * **Recipes in the Kitchen** - Recipes used in hearth cooking and a demonstration of starting a fire 

Fifth Grade

- * **Archeology** - How we discover the past by digging in the earth 
- * **Indentured Servitude & Slavery** - Discussion about the servants who lived at the house, slavery vs. indenture, culture of the servants 
- * **Trades & Apprenticeships** - Kinds of trades in the Illinois Territory; are the items made functional or decorative? 
- * **Concepts of Culture** - As students tour the house they'll find examples of items illustrating the concepts of culture 

Seventh Grade

- * **Video** - Students look for social customs 
- * **Fact or Fiction** - Illustrated true or false statements about the War of 1812 
- * **Servants Way of Life** - Way of life from the servants point of view 
- * **Stephenson's Way of Life** - Way of life from the Stephenson's point of view 
- * **Mourning Col. Stephenson** (*October Only*) - Mourning customs practiced in the early 19th century are presented in the parlor 