

Carriage Hill Farm Orientation

The following information is some basic facts to provide for the public to help improve their visit and inform them of the park and its history. This includes information for a welcome and quick orientation. Feel free to pick key points to get across to the group. For more information, direct them to the website or to an education staff member. Thank you.

I. Welcome to Carriage Hill! My name is _____! I will be helping

assist you with your tour today. Before we begin, let me tell you a little bit about what Carriage Hill is:

- Carriage Hill MetroPark is one of 46 MetroParks facilities within Five Rivers MetroParks.
- Carriage Hill MetroPark is over 1000 acres in size and features all the amenities of a typical park. It has hiking trails, restored prairies, and Cedar Lake, a man-made lake, that features fishing.
- We also have the Carriage Hill Riding Center which features guided trail Rides, lessons, and even pony rides for the kids.
- However, what makes Carriage Hill unique is that we not only have natural history but we portray cultural history as well.
- One of the main features of Carriage Hill is the historic farm. The farm is an original farmstead that has been restored to its appearance in the 1880s. From historic farm breeds, heirloom crops and historical crafts/demonstrations, the period is brought back to life.
- So rather than reading about history you can experience history through seeing the clothes they wore, the food they cooked and the chores they did.
- If you would please follow me, we will now walk down the historic farm to start your experience for today.

II. Information on Various Stops: **marked with a star on the self-guided map.**
(These are areas that aren't necessarily staffed for tours and can provide additional information for groups).

A. Walkway

When you leave the visitor center you will proceed down the walkway to the historic farm. The walkway itself is historic. As you walk down the walkway, you are actually walking on the original Shull Rd. The current Shull Rd. was put in around the 1990s. Shull Rd existed in the 1880s and was the original road that the Arnold family took to go to Dayton. You will see that the walkway extends around the back of the visitor center and eventually turns into a dirty road that runs beside the pasture. This is an original section of the road. It would then exit out onto Brandt Pike. Originally Brandt Pike was a turnpike, and you had to pay around ten cents to travel on it.

B. Blacksmith Shop: #1 on the map

The blacksmith shop is where metal can be shaped and worked into whatever form is needed by making it glowing hot. Coal is used rather than wood because it will burn much hotter, and metal must be incredibly hot to bend and shape. To blacksmith, a fire is started in the forge with the coal, and the hand-cranked blower next to it allows control over how hot the fire can get by controlling air flow. The metal is then placed in the forge, and once the metal is glowing orange or yellow it is hot enough to hammer on the anvil to shape it. Tools, such as hammers and axes, can be made and metal machinery can be repaired here. All of this could be done right at home on the farm, making a blacksmith shop useful for any farmer.

C. Woodshop: #2 on the map

The woodshop is where wood can be cut, shaped, and sanded into items of all kinds. Furniture, decorations, and children's toys could all be made in the woodshop, but it takes many different tools and machines to make them, which can be seen throughout the shop. A woodshop allowed a skillful worker to build what they need out of wood from trees growing right on the farm, rather than purchasing items in the city.

D. Icehouse/Smoke House: #3-#4 on the map

The woodshop is just one of the outbuildings on the farm, with the icehouse and smokehouse near it. The icehouse is where ice cut in the winter is stored, allowing the farm to have ice through much of the year. The smokehouse is where meat is smoked to flavor and preserve it, meaning the farm can have a longer-lasting supply of meat.

E. Barn- Upstairs: #12 on the map

The upstairs of the barn is where grains and crops grown in the fields are stored. Crops, such as wheat, corn, and barleycorn are stored in the top of the barn after they are harvested and threshed. Hay, used to feed horses and mules, and straw, used for animal bedding, are stored here as well. The grains and hay the farmers grow can be used to feed horses, hogs, and other livestock, and extra crops could have been sold at the markets in a city. Straw was used as bedding for the animals. Easy enough, hay is green and if for eating, straw is yellow and the animals lay on it. All crops grown on the fields would have been used on the farm or sold at the market for cash,

F. Barn- Downstairs: #12 on the map

The downstairs of the barn have pens and stalls for livestock on the farm. There are pens and stalls for hogs, sheep, horses, and mules in the barn. Hogs and sheep are kept in this part of the barn in colder weather, and in warmer weather they are kept in larger pens and pastures outside. Horses and mules were used for their power and were used for such tasks as pulling equipment or powering machines. Sheep were used for their wool, which could be used for clothing or spun into yarn, and extra yarn could be sold at the market. Hogs were used as a source of meat on the farm, and the meat from a hog was often salt-cured and smoked to preserve the meat for use throughout the year.

G. Farm Animals: #12 on the map

At Carriage Hill, we have a variety of animals that you would find on a farm. However, the animals that we have differ from most farm animals in that they are “Heritage Breeds”. Heritage breeds are farm animals that existed in the 1880s. They are old breeds of animals that essentially haven’t changed since the 19th century. Here is a quick overview of what we have on the farm:

Percheron Draft Horses: Originally from the La Perche region of France, these gentle giants are what you would call a draft horse. A draft horse is a breed of horse that is used for working on a farm. They are used to pull wagons, plows, and various pieces of farm equipment. One interesting fact is that Percherons are born black and can change color over time to be grey, white or even a brownish color.

Milking Short Horn Cows: The cows that we have at Carriage Hill are one of the oldest American breeds. Milking short horns cows produced a good quantity of milk as well as good quality milk. This breed is known for its reddish color and good disposition. For kids, milking the cow was a chore that had to be done twice a day.

Chickens: The chickens that we have are a mix of several different heritage breeds including buckeyes, Dorking’s, and Dominique’s. These were all very good breeds who were good for meat and good for laying eggs.

Sheep: We currently have Merino Sheep at the historic farm. Merino sheep were a gift to this country from the King of Spain in 1812. They became quite popular and created the “Merino Craze” where most farmers had to own them. This was due to them producing a large quantity of wool as well as high quality. Merinos are known for their wrinkles which results in more wool than typical sheep.

Pigs: The type of pigs that we have at Carriage Hill are Spotted Poland China’s. Poland Chinas are a pig that was developed and raised in the Miami Valley in the mid-1800s. This breed was bred to be very fat and

large on purpose. This resulted in lots of meat and even more so, a large amount of fat to be turned to lard. The lard brought in double the amount of money that the meat did. Lard was used for making soap, in cosmetics, greasing equipment and for baking/cooking. Did you know that the bristles from the pig were used to make brushes, especially toothbrushes?

H. Summer Kitchen: #7 on the map

At Carriage Hill we have two kitchens, a summer kitchen and a winter kitchen. The winter kitchen is in the historic house and is where you cook in the cooler months of the year. However, once spring rolled around you would then switch over to cooking in the summer kitchen. That way you would keep the heat out of the house during the hot summer months. To cook in the summer kitchen would often require the farm wife taking the stove apart, cleaning it and moving it out to the summer kitchen. Later in the fall, this would be repeated and the stove would be brought back into the house.

I. Kitchen Garden: #9 on the map

The kitchen garden is a small garden that would be kept near the house and was used for growing produce for the family. A wide variety of vegetables and fruits would be grown to eat and to preserve through canning. The garden here at Carriage Hill is planted with a wide variety of items including tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, beans, carrots, squash, cucumbers. In addition, we also have practical herbs that would be used as well.

III. Thank you for visiting the farm today and we hope that you had a wonderful experience. Please come back and visit us again. For more information on our hours and upcoming events, please go to www.metroparks.org. Take care and have a wonderful day.

Additional Historical Facts on the Arnold Family and their history

IV. Historical Facts about the Farm:

- 1805 James Miller would acquire the acreage on which Carriage Hill now sits. He was an early patriot and pioneer in Wayne Township.
- 1830: Daniel and Catherine Arnold, and their five children, came to Ohio and purchased 158 acres off her father, Henry Harshbarger.
- 1836: Front Section of Daniel Arnold House built.
- 1843: Joseph Arnold bought 76 acres south of Dry Run from his father Daniel Arnold. He would then construct a house in 1846. This house can be seen today on the Family Farm Trail.
- 1861: Henry H. Arnold buys the farm from his father, Daniel. He would immediately add a second story to the old Loghouse they originally moved into and also purchased a Brownwell Steam Engine in 1866.
- 1878: Henry H. and Joseph added on to their houses; Henry's bank barn was built this same year.
- 1880s: The family would prosper and travel to market two to three times a week. The walkway between the farm and visitor center was old Shull Road and the road they would have taken. They would then take Brandt Pike to Dayton. It was a three-hour trip, one way.
- 1916: The last of the Arnolds would sell the farm off. It would later be acquired by the park district in 1968.