

Carriage Hill Farm Tour

The following information are some basic facts to provide to the public to help improve their visit and inform them on the park and its history. Feel free to pick key points to get across to the visitor. For more information, direct them to the website or to an education staff member.

Thanks.

I. Welcome to Carriage Hill! Carriage Hill MetroPark is one of 46 MetroParks facilities within Montgomery County and bordering with adjacent counties. Carriage Hill was originally known as Dry Lick Reserve and was the first MetroPark. It was purchased in 1965 with the intent of starting a living history farm. The farm would later be purchased in 1968.

II. Carriage Hill MetroPark is over 1000 acres in size and features all the amenities of a typical park. It has a variety of hiking trails of different sizes and difficulty. In addition, Carriage Hill features some of the largest restored prairies in the park district. We also feature 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.

III. 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 historic crafts/demonstrations, the time period is brought back to life.

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.

V. Carriage Hill Today:

Animals: The animals you see at Carriage Hill are all heritage breeds that would have existed in the 1880s. Percheron Draft Horses, Spotted Poland China hogs, Merino Sheep, Buckeye Chickens, Milking Shorthorn cows and donkeys are documented to the 1880s and show you what animals would have been like during that time.

Crops: Historic farming practices are demonstrated at Carriage Hill to show the differences between then and now. This includes growing heirloom crops. Crops such as corn, sorghum, wheat, oats, rye and pumpkins are grown in our fields. In addition, all of the vegetables grown in our kitchen garden are from the 1880s or earlier.

Crafts: Demonstrations of historic crafts are presented at Carriage Hill. Blacksmithing, woodworking, broom making, spinning, sewing, and artisan cooking, all depict daily activities you would have seen in the 1880s.

For more information on Carriage Hill and what we have to offer, please go to www.metroparks.org. Thank you for visiting and enjoy your day.