



Miller Place ★ Mount Sinai
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
.....
CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF HISTORY

MPMS Historical Society Jr. Docent Program

Developed by Margaret Cibulka for North Country Road Middle School,
Miller Place, New York 2013-2016

Objectives:

- To create positive learning experiences for seventh grade students focusing on Miller Place History
- To develop a core of seventh graders who can function as docents for the Miller House and the Miller Place-Mount Sinai Historical Society
- To open membership as Jr. Docents in the Miller Place- Mount Sinai Historical Society to those seventh graders who complete 5 of the 12 suggested activities.

Activity 1 Guided, Walking Tour

- Walking Tour of Historical District
- Stop at the c 1720 William Miller House, the oldest existing home in Miller Place
- Tour House with Docent, visit barn, corn crib and old post office
- Stop at 1832 Miller Place Academy-speak with librarian about its history
- Walk back to the school stopping at the original grind stone from the 1700 Miller Place Mill

Activity 2 Personal Interviews

- Interview neighbors who have lived in Miller Place a significant time, ask to see old photos, record conversations with “old timers”. Inquire as to their occupations. Compare the occupation of these current residents with the occupations of our early settlers.
- Explore your own family history as it relates to Miller Place. Why did your family choose Miller Place as their residence? Using Power Point media, or Prezi add copies of old family photos, identifying sites and relatives. List their occupations.

Activity 3 Historic Remnants

- Create a Power Point Presentation showing the Miller Place Historic sites.
- Identify architectural styles, construction materials and building methods in your presentation.
- If desired select well-known families-such as the Davis', Hopkins, Helmes, Tuthills, Somas and create their life stories in the media program, **GoAnimate**
- Was there a Native American tribe in Miller Place? Describe their life style. What led to their demise?
- Locate old maps and indicate where the Native Americans may have lived.
- Analyze street and park names, such as, Landing Rd., Alilah Court, Grist Mill Lane, Tallmadge Trail, Gully Landing Road. Cordwood Landing Nature Preserve. Why were these names chosen?

Activity 4 Stories in Stones

- Select two families of early residents. Find their tombstones. Photograph the tombstones for a Power Point Presentation. Record the sayings on their memorials. Note ages and speculate on the possible reasons for their deaths.
- Document why a particular historic site is worth preserving.
- Participate in the field trip to Seaview Cemetery.

Activity 5 Culinary Project

- Research the food supplies available by season to our early Miller Place residents during the 1700-1800's. Discuss the methods used in the preparation of meals.
- Participate in a Open Hearth cooking demonstration at the Miller House, sample the food and write a restaurant critique.

Activity 6 The Question of Slavery

- Research the possibility of slavery in Miller Place. If there were slaves, where did they live, what work did they do, when were they freed, by whom, why? Were the children allowed to learn to read and write? Are any descendants currently living in the area?

Activity 7 Today is History/ Time Capsule

- Record for four months current events which you feel would be of importance to Americans 50 or 100 years from now. Analyze these events and select those

which future generations would see as significant and reflective of our time. Add them to a CD which will be placed in the Historical Society's Time Capsule.

Activity 8 Essay

- Present a Power Point presentation on the c 1720 Miller House or the c 1807 Daniel Hawkins House to the MP-MS Historical Society Board and their guests. An award will be given by the Historical Society at graduation for the most complete and accurate Power Point presentation.

Activity 9 Sketch or Photograph

- Select one of the historic houses and sketch or photograph the house and grounds. Your sketch or photo may be selected by art instructors for a page in an historic calendar.

Activity 10 Sustainability

- Develop a project which examines whether Miller Place has sufficient green space, potable water, parks, walkable neighborhoods or an excess of shopping centers for its population. Compare the current map with an early map of Miller Place dating around 1800.

Activity 11 The Culper Spy Ring

- Research the facts on the Spy Ring which operated on the North Shore of Long Island and resulted in the successful raid on the British troops at Fort St. George.
- Visit the site where Benjamin Tallmadge landed on Mount Sinai Harbor and discuss the reasons the raid was successful.
- Who were the members of his Spy Ring? How did they communicate?
- Develop a method of communication using 18th century clothing. For example, how might they have said, "Do Not Enter the Harbor....British are here." or "Time for a raid...British soldiers are sleeping."

Activity 12 The Mile Walk

- As a final, culminating activity celebrating a year of historical work, students would walk between the two existing Mile Markers in Miller Place- Mount Sinai which Benjamin Franklin set up to aid the new postal system in 1753. For this event we would also request security on North Country Road.

Final Rewards

Jr. Docent Achievement Certificates and Jr. Membership in the Miller Place-Mount Sinai Historical Society will be given to those students who satisfactorily complete 5 of the 12 activities listed above.

Our requests from NCRMS faculty and staff

- English and social studies faculty would present and monitor Activities 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11.
- A WEB site be created based on the students research of Miller Place History
- Art classes design and construct bracelets or “Olympic style” necklaces in an historic fashion for those students who complete 5 of the 12 activities.

Submitted by MP alumni Margaret Doscher Cibulka and Sally Reinisch Ditewig