

A STUDY PLAN FOR SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

By Patricia Johnson

GRADE LEVEL: Elementary

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AN INTRODUCTION TO A STUDY PLAN FOR SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

by Patricia C. Johnson

I grew up in a small southern Indiana county believing that history, exciting history, took place on the East Coast or with the Cowboys and Indians out west. Not until I started teaching fourth grade and Indiana History did I realize that what happened in other areas of the United States also happened here.

I was fortunate to have a History Professor at Indiana University, Southeast in New Albany who had an ability to make history come alive! I was also able to spend a great deal of time with the unofficial historian of Scott County, Dr. Carl Bogardus, a close family friend of my husband. Dr. Bogardus, a busy physician pursued his interest in history and spent many hours researching his adopted state and local area. Dr. Bogardus wrote several small books on various topics surrounding the history of Scott County.

The local weekly newspaper has for years been reprinting a page from the past each week. We have an active Historical Society whose members have been very helpful.

SCOTT COUNTY

A Teaching Unit

GOAL: To increase the knowledge of students' home county.
To give students a sense of their past, present and future.

Resources: Scott County Public Library
Scott County Historical Society
Papers of Dr. Carl R. Bogardus
Lexington by Mary Wilson
The Early History of Scott County by Dr. Bogardus
The Centennial of Austin by Dr. Bogardus
Pigeon Roost by Dr. Bogardus
The Scott County Journal and Chronicle weekly paper
Interviews with older citizens.
Family records and pictures.
Descendents of Pigeon Roost by Green

Method: Make booklets and books available to students.

- I. Present lessons and discussions on following topics:
 - 1: History of county before the county was formed.
(i.e. Pigeon Roost Massacre)
 - 2: Reasons for forming county.
 - A. Why it was needed.
 - B. When it was formed.
 - C. Where it's name came from.
 - D. Use of land before becoming county.
 3. Early settlers.
 4. Political makeup, townships; then and now.
 5. Early towns in county.
 6. Industries in county, then and now.
 7. Education in county, then and now.
 8. Social life in county, then and now.
 9. Important people from county.
 10. Famous or infamous events.
- II. The unit is closed with a field trip and the making of a book.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 1:

PIGEON ROOST:

Before Indiana became a state a few brave families moved across the Ohio River to settle in the southern part of the State as we know it today.

A small settlement was begun about twenty miles north of the Ohio River. The settlement was known as Pigeon Roost. It was inhabited mainly by farmers. The people were friendly and welcomed all visitors, both white and red.

The Shawnee Indians would come down from the north to hunt in this area and across the river into Kentucky. The settlers considered the Indians safe, although not necessarily friends.

On September 3, 1812, the settlers were not alarmed to see familiar Shawnee faces moving through the woods. This peaceful scene soon turned tragic as the Indians began killing any white person whether it be man, woman or child that they saw. A total of twenty-four people, three men, five women and sixteen children had been killed when all was finished.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 2:

A NEW COUNTY PETITIONED:

In 1818 the residents of what is now Scott County, petitioned the state government to create a new county. In 1820 Scott County was created. Land from Clark, Jefferson, Jennings, Jackson and Washington was taken to form the new county.

The county was named for General Charles Scott of Revolutionary War fame. General Scott had led an expedition through the Northwest Territory and crossed what is now Scott County.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 3:

EARLY SETTLERS:

The first white settler of what is now Scott County was John Kimberlin, who came from Virginia. He settled his family on five hundred acres. This land was Tract # 264 of the Clark's grant, located 1/2 mile northwest of Nabb, which is now located on the county line.

This tract was assigned to Captain William Harrod. John Kimberlin purchased the land on April 4, 1804. The Kimberlin cabin was used as a blockhouse for survivors of the Pigeon Roost massacre.

Most early settlers came from Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 4:

POLITICAL MAKEUP OF THE COUNTY, THEN AND NOW:

The political makeup of Scott County consisted of three townships. We now have five townships. The county has been predominantly democratic since it's creation.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 5:

TOWNS IN SCOTT COUNTY, THEN AND NOW:

EARLY TOWNS:

Lexington
Vienna
Leota
Holman/Blocher
Wooster
Albion
New Franklin
Austin
Centerville/Scottsburg
Nabb

PRESENT DAY TOWNS:

Scottsburg
Austin
Lexington
Vienna
Blocher
Leota

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 7:

INDUSTRIES IN SCOTT COUNTY, THEN AND NOW:

Many industries sprang up in Scott County. Each of the little towns had numerous industries, including:

- Grist Mills
- Saw Mills
- Pottery Works
- Wheat Fans (Manufactures of)
- Gun Smiths
- Silver Smiths
- Furniture Factories
- Automobile Manufacturers
- Numerous Canning Factories
- Salt Mine
- Banks

MODERN INDUSTRIES:

- Morgan Packing Company
- American Can Co. (Closed in 1988)
- Imperial Marble
- Multicolor
- American Plastics
- Scottsburg Plastics
- Holmes Industries
- Derby Packaging
- Bowater Computer Forms
- Scott Manufacturing Co.
- K-Cord, a new Japanese auto parts plant being built.
- Numerous other small plants, shops.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 8:

EDUCATION IN SCOTT COUNTY, THEN AND NOW:

Schools were provided in areas where twenty-five or more students could be attained. These schools were poorly equipped and had short terms. They were taught by inadequately prepared teachers who were paid by subscription from the patrons.

Seminaries were also established for secondary education to furnish a link between district and college. The first normal school or school for teacher training in this area was established in Lexington.

High School diplomas were given for the first time in 1896. Fifteen students were in the first three year graduating class. A four year course was first offered in 1897. The High School had only one teacher. In the early 1900's, it was evident that one teacher could not handle all needed subjects and it was cut back to three years.

Some of the early schools were:

Greenbrier
Concord
Beech Grove
Frog Pond
Plymouth
Kimberlin
Ireland
Split Stump

Other district schools were known by number.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 9:

SOCIAL LIFE IN SCOTT COUNTY, THEN AND NOW:

From its' early beginnings, Scott County was very up to date with social activities.

All of the towns had:

- Literary Clubs
- Libraries
- Service Organizations "Eastern Star"
- Many Churches

Some communities had:

- Opera Houses.

The usual pioneer forms of entertainment were:

- Quilting bees
- Corn huskings
- Church Socials
- Dances.

Scott County still has many service clubs, movie theaters, bowling lanes, skating rinks, restaurants.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 10:

IMPORTANT PEOPLE FROM SCOTT COUNTY:

William H. English	Writer
William E. English	Military
Reno Brothers	Outlaws, committed two train robberies in Scott County.
John Hunt Morgan	Raided through and camped one night in Scott County.
Colonel Lee James	Commanding Officer at Cape Canaveral, NASA Base.
John Cougar Mellencamp	Has relatives in Scott Co.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 11:

COUNTY EVENTS (FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS):

Pigeon Roost
World's Second Train Robbery
Lynching in Courtyard
Morgan's Raiders

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 12:

To close out Scott County unit, we take a bus tour. The students board the bus after morning record keeping is over and head for the site of the Pigeon Roost Monument. Fortunately, the route to the monument follows closely the trail of the massacre and locations of killings can be pointed out. After arriving at the Monument, the students are allowed to wander through the cemetery and make rubbings off of the stones.

Then we board the bus for the community of Leota. An elderly gentleman has an antique collection dating back to the Pigeon Roost Massacre of 1812. The students tour Mr. Comer's collection. They are free to handle most of the articles on display.

We then go north and pass by the site of the second train robbery in history by the Reno Brothers. We then go through Scottsburg and Austin and out to Hardy Lake, where there is an early 18th Century cemetery and they can make more rubbings. We all enjoy a picnic lunch there before boarding the bus to continue on our journey.

We travel through three towns that no longer exist and go on to Lexington, the original County Seat. We then back track toward our school building, pointing out many other historical sites along the way.

If there is enough time we will stop by the local Dairy Queen for a quick snack. Then it is back to the old school house just in time to transfer to busses to go home at the end of a near perfect day.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

Lesson 13:

The day after our bus tour, the students are given a test on Scott County. They also take their specially printed stories of the County and combine them in a county shaped book to take home and keep.

Letters are written to Mr. Comer thanking him for his time and hospitality in sharing his part of history with us.

The resource material for these lesson plans are made available to the students and they are asked to find as much information as they can to present to the class.

I then read a prepared text about each lesson in detail. The students compare what they have and what I have just taught.

The students are encouraged to talk to older relatives and to bring in any information then can and this is added as fact if it can be documented, as folklore if it can't.

This is an ever changing lesson development.

SCOTT COUNTY HISTORY

TEST:

- 1) What event happened in September, 1812?
- 2) Who or what was Scott County named for?
- 3) Where did the land come from when Scott County was formed?
- 4) How many townships did Scott County originally have?
_____. How many are there now? _____.
- 5) Why was Scott County formed?
- 6) What happened to Holman, Wooster, Albion, New Franklin and Centerville?
- 7) Who's statue stands in the Courtyard?
- 8) Who was the first settler in Scott County?
- 9) Name the man who's antique shop we visited?
- 10) Name three early schools in Scott County?
- 11) What event took place in the Courtyard in
- 12) Did you enjoy your study of Scott County?
What did you enjoy the most?

General James

Scott, son of Scott, Jr.
 (1750-1817) was born in
 North Carolina, in
 1750. He served in the
 Revolutionary War and
 was a member of the
 Continental Congress.
 In 1780, he served in the
 Battle of the Clouds.
 In 1781, he served in the
 Battle of the Clouds.
 In 1782, he served in the
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 In 1816, he served in the
 Battle of the Clouds.
 In 1817, he served in the
 Battle of the Clouds.

In 1808 he was elected Governor of Kentucky. He and his family
 lived in the Governor's Mansion until 1817, when his term ended.
 Governor Scott was bitterly disappointed, when the War of 1812
 broke out, that he could not join his troops because of his advanced age.
 He died on October 12, 1817 at the age of 67.

Edited from: Lee Kerle History of Scott County, Indiana 1880-1886
 by Paul Ferguson

*we also make a book in the shape of the
 County, with specially typed story sheets.*