

# HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES



## **A Day at Peaked Top School**

Spend an hour or a day as a student in Little Compton's first one- room schoolhouse. Choose Colonial or Victorian times. Use reproduction schoolbooks and supplies to practice your reading, writing, and arithmetic just like early Little Compton residents did.

## **The Sakonnet People**

Learn the history of Little Compton's Sakonnet tribe using objects from our collection, maps, and local histories. Try traditional methods of grinding corn and create a strand of "wampum" beads for young children. Can be adapted for older audiences.

## **Simple Machines in Action**

Enhance your understanding of simple machines with a one- hour hands-on exploration of old-time simple machines. Ten fun- filled activity stations enable you to use and understand gears, pulleys, screws, inclined planes, levers, and wedges.

## **Old Time Fun and Games**

Marbles, hoops, stilts, skittles, Wolf and Sheep, Blind Man's Bluf and Americans vs. British are just a few of the old time games that will transport you back to the days before electronics. This program can be offered indoors or outdoors.

## **Museum in a Day**

Create a museum on the topic of your choice in just one day. Create exhibit panels, write object labels, and develop a tour of your museum for your family and friends.



## **Dutch Oven Cooking**

Explore colonial cooking by baking a cornbread snack or preparing a complete meal using outdoor Dutch Oven cookery.

## **America's First Egyptologist:**

### **Charles Edwin Wilbour**

Did you know that America's first Egyptologist was born in Little Compton, RI? Learn more about his life as a student in a one- room school, an employee of famous gangster Boss Tweed, and as a hieroglyphic expert in Egypt. Make a plaster cartouche of your own and translate messages from hieroglyphics.

## **Online Scavenger Hunt**

Every item in our collection is painstakingly cataloged and searchable on our online collection. Learn how to search our online collection to find the most wonderful or weirdest items in our collection, from cow vomit ropes to Civil War weapons. Discover the inner workings of museum collections and learn how to continue your local history investigations at home.

## **Colonial New England**

Learn what it was like to be an English colonist in Little Compton. Take part in an interactive talk, try on reproduction colonial clothes, and write with quill pen and ink.



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**Schedule with us today!**

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# INTERACTIVE TOURS



## Friends Meeting House

Uncover the roots of America's religious freedom at one of Rhode Island's oldest surviving Friends Meeting Houses. Persecuted in nearby Massachusetts, the Society of Friends (or Quakers) flourished in Little Compton during the 18th and 19th centuries. With the approach of the 20th century, their membership diminished until a single worshipper sat silently at weekly meeting. Includes adjacent Quaker cemetery. (30 minutes-1 hour) Cemetery Quest This guided tour of the Old Burying Ground on the Little Compton Commons begins in the 17th century and ends in the 21st. Seek out the burial sites of local history makers and explore changes in the gravestone styles and burial customs. Includes a visit to the lost "Negro Burying Ground". (1-2 hours)

## Commons Walking Tour

The Commons has served as a center of town activity for centuries. Use oversized reproductions of historic postcards to explore 300 years of history on the Little Compton Commons. Search for lost landmarks and discover how things have changed and stayed the same. The tour is adaptable to varying ages and can be customized to suit your interests. (1 hour) Sakonnet Point Walking Tour Use oversized reproductions of historic postcards to explore the bustling tourist and fishing history of Sakonnet Point. Discover the locations of lost landmarks while you enjoy Native American legends and local history lore. (1 hour)

## Town-Wide History Tour

Explore 300 years of history as you travel by van or bus to visit Little Compton's historical and architectural highlights. The tour includes The Wilbor House Museum and grounds, The Friends Meeting House, The Commons, Adamsville, Sakonnet Point, historic cemeteries, World War II sites and more. The tour is adaptable to varying ages and can be customized to suit your interests. (Minimum of 2 hours - Guests must arrange their own bus or van transportation.)



## Wilbor House Museum

The Wilbor House is a meticulously restored museum complex featuring the Wilbor Family Home (1690 with 1740 and 1860 additions), an 18th-century barn, a 19th-century barn, Peaked Top School, a carriage house, a corn crib, a cook house, a privy, an herb garden, and Peggotty - a one-of-a-kind thatched-roofed artist's studio. Visitors explore 300 years of rural New England history as experienced by six generations of the Wilbor family. A 45-minute guided tour of the house is followed by a self-guided tour of the outbuildings and exhibitions. The tour is adaptable to varying ages and can be customized to suit your interests. (The standard tour is 45 minutes - custom tours vary.)

## Everyone was a Farmer

Enjoy a guided tour of our new permanent exhibition exploring the history of farming from the time of the Sakonnet people to the present day. Your visit will include a brief film and an optional hands-on activity. (30 minutes-1 hour) Slavery, Indenture, and Freedom We will create a pop-up museum at your site or within our Friends Meeting House featuring the materials from our 2016 exhibition "If Jane Should Want to Be Sold." Optional guided explorations of the exhibit and enrichment activities are available. (1 hour or more)

## Terra Nova, Vida Nova:

The History of the Portuguese in Little Compton Portuguese immigrants from the Azorean Islands played an important role in Little Compton's history. A guided tour of the exhibit may be followed by optional enrichment activities. (30 minutes-1 hour)

## Special Exhibition Tour

Enjoy a participatory, guided tour of the season's special exhibition. Topics change each year. (30 minutes-1 hour)



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Schedule with us today!

- Choose one, combine several for a half-day adventure, or request something new.
- We can customize to your needs.