

## **Student's Tour of Mount Clare Museum**

Mount Clare Museum provides visitors with a unique space in which to step back into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and learn more about an important Maryland family. While adults will quickly realize its historical significance, students may not understand why they are visiting this large mansion and how it applies to their lives. In utilizing the work of Meg Ventrudo, a museum intern from the early 1990s, and adding my own perspective as a teacher, I hope to create a tour for fourth and eighth graders. I chose these two grade levels because most Maryland students study American history during these two grade levels. If students of other ages, grade levels, etc., come to Mount Clare, the museum tour can be adjusted for their needs.

In designing this tour, I tried to take the perspective of the student and think about what material culture in the various rooms of the Carroll house would interest me, spark my curiosity, and puzzle me. I also wanted to provide the teacher with appropriate “before, during, and after” museum activities that would keep students engaged and adhere to curriculum standards.

If I could make any recommendations, I would strongly suggest small groups for each tour, no more than 10 per group, which will allow students to ask questions and be able to see the items in each room. Students who have unanswered questions and/or cannot see something quickly become frustrated and uninterested, and may cause discipline problems for the docents. Also, I would suggest that question and answer time be provided for students, but also tours should not extend beyond the engagement level of the average student (i.e. students should not spend a half hour in each room).

I hope these tours will be beneficial to the museum and the visiting guests.

## Visiting Mount Clare

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### *Pre-visit/During Visit/Post-Visit Activities*

To the teacher: Students will be visiting an eighteenth century historic Baltimore mansion that was the country home of Charles Carroll and his wife Margaret Tilghman Carroll. Mr. Carroll was a barrister (lawyer) who wrote the Maryland State Constitution and played a significant role in Maryland politics before and after the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Carroll was an accomplished gardener and made many stylistic changes to the home over the years. Students are visiting this home in order to get a better sense of how prominent Marylanders lived, worked, entertained, and interacted with each other and their environment.

Before the visit: Students should have a basic understanding of the history and importance of Mount Clare. Attached are handouts that you may want to use in order to introduce Mount Clare to your students.

[Social Studies Curriculum Objectives C403.00 (.01,.03, .05, .06), C406.00 (.01)]

Visit to Mount Clare Museum

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Visit Activity

Instructions: You and your classmates are taking a field trip back in time! You will be visiting the home of some very important Marylanders who lived over 200 years ago. Before you visit, you should know a little bit about these people and their home. Read the following description and then answer some questions. There are no right or wrong answers!

Charles Carroll and his wife Margaret Tilghman Carroll built Mount Clare as their *country home*. Their main residence was in Annapolis. They began building the home in 1754 and the home was finished by 1767. Mr. Carroll was a very important **barrister** who made study of the law his occupation. Mr. Carroll wrote the Maryland State **Constitution** and was a member of the Maryland **Assembly**. Mrs. Carroll grew many varieties of plants and even had an *orangery* and a *pinery*. The Carrolls had no children and left their house to their nephew when they died.

#### Vocabulary Identification:

Some of the words in the reading were *italicized* and **bolded**. Using what you already know and context clues, can you define the words below?

1. country home- \_\_\_\_\_
2. barrister- \_\_\_\_\_
3. constitution- \_\_\_\_\_
4. assembly- \_\_\_\_\_
5. orangery- \_\_\_\_\_
6. pinery- \_\_\_\_\_

#### Questions:

1. Why do you think the Carrolls built a country home? Do people have “country homes” today?

2. Mount Clare took over ten years to build. Can you think of some reasons why the home took so long to build? Have your parents or relatives ever had a house built? How long did their house take to build?

3. Do you believe Mr. Carroll was well-qualified to write the Maryland State Constitution? Why or why not?

4. Can you think of some reasons why the Carrolls may have not had any children? Take into consideration the time the Carrolls lived and information you know about health from science class.

5. Mrs. Carroll was known for her gardening skills. Brainstorm some other activities Mrs. Carroll might have enjoyed doing and/or been responsible for on a daily basis.

6. The Carroll home was quite large and had a lot of furniture and other items inside. Who else do you think shared this home with the Carrolls?

7. Imagine that you had the opportunity to go back in time and live at the Carroll home. Compare and contrast your life today with what you think your life would be like during the 1700s at Mount Clare.

8. Do you believe it is important to visit historical places, monuments, homes, etc.? What can places like Mount Clare tell us about the past? Do historical places teach us any lessons for the future? Why or why not?

*Visit to Mount Clare Museum*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**During Visit Activity**

To the teacher: Depending on your class and what you feel would work best, the activity below may or may not be of interest to you and your class.

Instructions: You and your class have just arrived at Mount Clare. Some (or all) of your classmates are no longer students but historical reporters. As you take a tour of the museum, use your keen eyes and sense of history to record notes about items you see in the home. Listen to the docent as they tell you interesting stories. Be prepared to share your notes with the class!

**Amazing Stories About Mount Clare****Unusual or Interesting Items I Saw in Mount Clare****Questions I Still Have About Mount Clare**

*Visit to Mount Clare Museum*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Post-Visit Activity

Instructions: You and your classmates have just had the opportunity to visit the home of an important Maryland family, the Carrolls. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll would like to know what you think of their home. Write a letter below to Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, telling them about the things you liked in their house, the stories you heard, and your opinion of life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. You may want to include the following in your letter:

-  One item you liked in at least three rooms of Mount Clare
-  A story about the Carrolls that you enjoyed
-  A comparison between an item/story/room at Mount Clare and your home
-  Suggestions for changes to the home
-  Thoughts about how Mount Clare has changed over the years and what the future of the home should be like