



Gather at the General Store



It's spring and the 1875 community of Walnut Hill is slowly coming to life! Small towns in Iowa were a place for farmers to shop and gather with friends and neighbors. Stores and shops were a main meeting place in town. Greteman's General Store is the biggest store in Walnut Hill. The big two story yellow building stands out, half way up the hill.

Farmers and townspeople could buy almost every kind of every day item they needed at this store. This is why it was called a general store; it sold general items-the stuff everyone needed. The goods in a general store were shipped in from all over the world. Steam ships and then trains and then teamsters driving horses and wagons delivered them to small shops like Greteman's. Almost everyone had to stop into the store at some point every so often.

Shopping at an 1875 general store is very different from a big store in 2017. Instead of having a cart and picking out all their own goods, customers gave their shopping list to a store clerk. All the goods were kept behind counters, hanging from the ceiling and in display cases. Shoppers could tell the clerk which items they wanted, but they didn't pick them up on their own. The clerks brought all list items down from the shelves or out of the cases for them. Many of the items were not even in small packages ahead of time! Things like coffee and flour were kept in big barrels. Customers told the clerk how much they wanted and the flour was weighed out on a scale. The clerk would wrap the weighed amount in brown paper or burlap sacks.





neighbors and talked about baseball and church and school and the cost of eggs, just like people do now when they meet friends while shopping at the mall or the grocery store.

The Greteman General Store is special here at Living History Farms. This building was actually build over 130 years ago in a little town called Willey, Iowa. Two brothers, Barney and Frank Greteman, built the store and sold goods to the local community. It was moved to our museum by tearing the building into pieces, moving the pieces, and then putting it all back together again - just like a big puzzle. We are so excited to have it as part of our museum community!



LHF Kids Club Events - May and June

Don't miss our LHF Kids' Club Activity Spots in May and June! These are hands-on activities for LHF Kids Club members at Living History Farms sites. Bring your LHF Kids Club passport and get a stamp for joining in on the activity! At the end of the season in October, kids with a completed passport can exchange their passports for a special prize in the Marketplace Museum Store! [Download your passport](#)



Visit the **1900 Farm** on Saturday, May 13 and help the 1900 Farmers and members of the Iowa Soybean Association plant a patch of soybeans in the 1900 garden. Join us to help with planting between 10am and noon. *Sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Association.*



On Saturday June 17, join the 1850 era pioneer farmers for a wedding dance! Right after the Pioneer Wedding ceremonies at 11am and 1:30pm, kids can join the **1850 Pioneer Farm** staff in dancing a Virginia Reel! Come do si do your partner and meet our community of pioneers!

Also, on Saturday June 17, visit the **Flynn Mansion** from 1-3 pm to discover what proper Victorian gentleman would wear to get dressed up for an anniversary party. Practice tying a neck tie and check out the anniversary decorations!

Can't make it on one of the scheduled activity days? Stop in to the MarketPlace Museum Store anytime during the month to get a stamp in your passport.

History Detectives



Clue #1



Clue #2



Clue #3

Good detectives pay attention to small things. They look around and use their eyes to explore every detail. As spring begins, good history detectives might find these items in the General Store. Little pieces make up big things. Come search the store for yourself to find these little parts!

Try this: General Store Math

The General Store clerks are the people who worked behind the counter and served customers. They had to be very good at math. Every day they would use a scale to weigh out things like coffee and flour using measurements to sell the right amounts! They also had to make change and take customers' money. Are you good at math? See if you can add up this customer's bill. Mrs. Tangen bought at the store 12 eggs for 5 cents, a pound of coffee for 10 cents, a pair of shoes for \$3, some cloth to make a shirt for \$2 and a fancy milk pitcher for \$1.

How much money did she spend?



Word Search

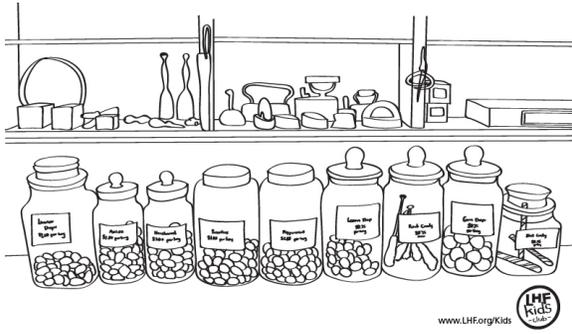
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POST OFFICE
BOOTS
COFFEE
CANNED GOODS
CLOTH
ROCK CANDY
PICKLES
EGGS
PERFUME
PITCHFORKS
LEMONADE
CHECKERS

Coloring Contest

Download this month's printable coloring sheet, color it in, and bring it with you on your next visit or send it in the mail to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the MarketPlace Museum Store!



Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store!
Drawing will be held on May 26, 2017.

LHF Kids Club Coloring Contest

Color in the picture above and bring it to Living History Farms, or mail it to us at the address below to be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to the Marketplace Museum Store! Next time you visit Living History Farms, you might see your picture decorating the windows of the store! Drawing will be held on May 26, 2017, and winner will be contacted via email.

Kids Club Member Name: _____ Age: _____ Parent email: _____

Drop off your finished artwork at the LHF Visitor Center or mail to: Living History Farms, 2600 111th St, Urbandale, IA 50322

[**Download your coloring sheet**](#)



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