19th Annual Creative Harvest Exhibit: September 11-December 21

The show will go on! The 19th Annual Creative Harvest Exhibit and the 2nd hosted by the Hopewell Creative Arts Guild opens on September 11 at the Hopewell Museum. While we are unable to have our traditional exhibit opening we are working with HCAG to arrange small in-person workshops and virtual experiences throughout the course of the exhibit, so stay tuned!

Online gift shop + new books added

Our online gift shop is now live at https://www.hopewellmuseum.org/visit/vault-store-online/! You can purchase books by local authors or about local history and find small gifts for friends and family. You can find the newest children’s book by local author, Sharon Fields, called Where are you Brother Daniel? This book explores the choices faced by enslaved men during the American Revolution. We have also added Next Train Out by Sallie Showalter, which tells the story of the grandfather she never knew through the eyes of her grandmother, Effie Mae.

Thank you to our community sponsors!

We want to thank our local community sponsors for their support during our COVID-19 shutdown. Their sponsorship helped provide take-home art kits for Teen Art Studio kids and supplies for our virtual summer campers. We could not do what we do without our community partners!

Hopewell Museum to offer virtual field trips

As we all continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of our audiences due to COVID-19, the Hopewell Museum will offer virtual field trips this school year. Schools can choose from three activities: Talavera Tile, Appalachian Quilts, and Bourbon County Then & Now. Each activity includes an online lesson followed by guided activity. Teachers/students will receive supplies for the activity prior to the scheduled “trip.” Learn more and book a virtual field trip at https://www.hopewellmuseum.org/learn/education/.

Rotary of Paris Funds for 2020-2021 School Year

Thanks to the generosity of the Paris Rotary we are able to provide field trip activity kits to Paris & Bourbon County public, private and homeschools this year at no cost. These activity kits will supplement a virtual field trip experience. Each student will receive a kit that includes things like markers, crayons, scissors, glue stick, and any other supplies necessary for the activity.
Utilizing local history to support student research

The Hopewell Museum is happy to support the efforts of National History Day in Kentucky students. This program encourages student development of critical thinking and creativity skills through the process of historical research. More than a biography, students dig deep into primary and secondary source research surrounding a specific topic to evaluate information from multiple perspectives, determine an argument, and use evidence to support their argument. These skills are necessary beyond their applicability to school projects as students confront information that comes from more sources and outlets than ever before. Students apply their research to a project type that suits their specific need or learning style: website, documentary, performance, exhibit, or paper. As many students are attending school online for at least some part of the year, NHD is uniquely positioned to offer teachers and students a program that meets current social studies standards and already has a number of resources digitally and virtually available to help students through the process. Museums around the state are poised to help students and teachers through providing access to primary sources about a variety of local, state, and national history topics.

This year’s theme, Communication in History, is particularly relevant as students learn new ways to communicate with teachers, families, and friends as a result of COVID-19 (or rely more heavily on ones that have long been available!). You can learn more about the program in Kentucky at https://history.ky.gov/for-educators/national-history-day/nhdky-resources/ (a 2021 suggested KY topic list is forthcoming!).

If you have a student interested in working on a National History Day project we have primary sources that can help students use local history as a lens through which they can explore a topic. For example, communication during times of war can show students what soldiers and families worried about, were missing, or what their daily life was like during a time of conflict and hardship. Students may also use that topic to learn about ways technology has advanced or adapted to meet needs during times of conflict. At the Hopewell we have a number of WWII letters written to and from soldiers and their families available to learn from. As we head into a presidential election we will also hear more speeches and see more campaign ads in print, online, and tv. Studying how a candidate or group of the past communicated their goals or tried to discredit their opponent can help students make connections to current experiences and understand how decisions made in the past have impacted their future. At Hopewell we have speeches and letters from Betty Jo Denton Heick during the 1970s-1990s and Claude Thomas from the early 19th Century, both showing what was important to them and how they believed they were working in the best interests of the people.

We are working to digitize and make available these and other sources at https://www.hopewellmuseum.org/learn/education/digital-resources/. We are also happy to arrange virtual primary source lessons or one on one in-person research visits for students, regardless of if they are doing an NHD project.