

# Historic MANSKERS STATION

## Educator's Packet



**Mansker's Log Station**



**Bowen Plantation House**

Revised 1/11/2013

Historic Mansker's Station would like to welcome your group to explore life on the frontier. We have developed a hands-on educational approach that will allow your students to build a bridge of understanding from the past to the present through activities at both a reconstructed 18<sup>th</sup> century fort and at the Bowen Plantation House. Our general tour program highlights both sites and hits on early Frontier life. There is also an opportunity for groups to dig a little deeper into Frontier Life or Civil War Life through our optional tour programs.

### **How To Make A Reservation**

Please call Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center at **851-2241** to schedule a group tour. The following information will be needed to process your reservation:

- Group Name
- Primary Contact
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Requested Time of Arrival
- Grade Level
- Number of Students
- Number of Adults
- Special Needs or Requests
- Tour Program Selection, and if applicable, chosen hands-on activities and demonstrations

An added bonus for school group tours is the availability of a large picnic shelter in Moss-Wright Park. This amenity is provided at no charge to groups who book tours and is an ideal place to have lunch after the tour. This shelter is adjacent to a large playground. Please let us know if you would like to take advantage of this feature.

### **Site and Tour Information**

Mansker's Fort is a reconstructed 18<sup>th</sup> century fort built near the original site of Kasper Mansker's fortified 1779 station. The fort allows a hands-on approach to educating visitors about the 18<sup>th</sup> century as it was in Middle Tennessee. Visitors may touch almost anything in the fort, although there are certain limitations for safety.

The Bowen Plantation House was built c.1787 by Revolutionary War veteran, Captain William Bowen. It is among the first brick structures built in Middle Tennessee. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes authentic and reproduced artifacts within it. The tours progresses through three time periods of life and portrays the lives of the home's first three owners.

### ***Mansker's Station Basic Tour (limited to 120 students) \$5.00 per student***

Students will be guided through Mansker's Station and the Bowen Plantation House by historical interpreters. The tour will address many aspects of early frontier life, ranging from the first Tennessee settlers at the station to the life of a domestic servant at the plantation. Your group could see a blacksmith working in his shop, ladies cooking on an open hearth, a woodworker on his shave horse or firing of the musket gun as living demonstration of early settlers, and are carried out as accurately as possible. We can always use extra hands-on help with gardening, frontier trading post, washing clothes, or rug beating. Activities and demonstrations your group could see and participate in vary depends on weather, time of year, and volunteer availability. Please allow 2 hours for this tour.

### ***Frontier Life Focus Tour (limited to 100 students) \$5.00 per student***

Travel back in time with a visit to North Carolina untamed western frontier with the Mansker's Station Focus Tour. This tour will make history come to life for school groups of all ages with live demonstrations and hands-on activities. Within this tour we offer activities to choose from, such as farming/gardening, washing clothes, cooking, woodworking, blacksmithing, rope bed & key, rug beating, gun demonstration; and our newest addition, featuring an 18th Century trading post that provides students with a look at the economy during the time in which the station was established. Groups can choose two hands-on activities to participate in and one demonstration activity that will provide experience and help to build a bridge of understanding from the past to present. At the end of your tour, watch the men and, yes, even the ladies, load a musket gun and fire it right before your eyes to send you off with a bang! While we are more than accommodating to your specific class needs, please know that some of the activities offered with the Mansker's Focus Tour may be based on season and weather. Please allow at least 2 hours for this tour.

#### **Hands on Activities (choose two)**

##### **Woodworking Tools**

Working with wood was an important skill to have in the 1780s. Learn the names of basic tools and how to use them.

##### **Gardening**

Help the frontier family with planting, weeding, watering or even harvesting the gardens.

##### **Laundress**

No Maytag? You will haul water, wash clothes by hand and hang them up to dry, all in a day's work on the frontier.

##### **Spring Cleaning**

A winter's worth of smoke and dirt has left the fort in need of a good spring cleaning. Join the fort as they throw open the doors and windows, beat rugs, air beds, sweep out the dirt, and wipe away the dust. Also learn how to construct a rope bed from head to toe.

##### **Passion for Fiber**

Join the ladies at the fort as they demonstrate the many steps in processing raw wool into yarn. We can always use extra hands to help in carding, drop spindle, cord making (lucet), and inkle loom weaving.

##### **Frontier Trading Post**

This trading post will provide the student with a look at the economy during the times in which the fort was established.

#### **Demonstration Activities (choose one)**

##### **Blacksmithing**

The blacksmith's forge was an important part of a working 18th century life. Many useful tools, household items, and repairs were made there. Watch the blacksmith in action as he works the forge and keeps the anvil ringing.

##### **18<sup>th</sup> Century Tavern**

The ladies are busy in the kitchen cooking dinner for the farm family. Come by and smell what they have prepared. Soups, breads and pies, Oh my! Discuss the differences between kitchens of 1780s and today.

### ***Civil War Focus Tour (limited to 100 students) \$5.00 per student***

Travel back in time and visit Tennessee during the Civil War. This tour will make history come to life for school groups of all ages with live demonstrations and hands-on activities. Within this tour we offer a total of 8 activities to choose from, such as farming/gardening, hauling of water, washing clothes, cooking, woodworking, rug beating, sewing/textiles; and a gun demonstration. School groups can choose two activities to participate in that will provide a hands-on experience and help to build a bridge of understanding from the past to present. To send your group off with a bang, watch how a musket gun is loaded and fired before your eyes! While we are more than accommodating to your specific class needs, please know that some activities offered with the Civil War Focus Tour may be based on season and weather. Please allow at least 2 hours for this tour.

## ***(Civil War Focus Tour continued)***

### **Hands on Activities (choose two)**

#### **Woodworking Tools**

Working with wood was an important skill to have in the 1860s. Learn the names of basic tools and how to use them.

#### **Gardening**

Help the farm family with planting, weeding, watering or even harvesting the gardens.

#### **Laundress**

No Maytag? You will haul water, wash clothes by hand, wring them out and hang them up to dry all in a day's work on the farm.

#### **Spring Cleaning**

A winter's worth of smoke and dirt has left the house in need of a good spring cleaning. Join the ladies as they throw open the doors and windows, beat rugs and ticks.

#### **Passion for Fiber**

Join the ladies at the house as they demonstrate the many steps in processing raw wool into yarn. We can always use extra hands to help in carding, drop spindle, cord making (lucet), inkle loom weaving and quilting.

### **Demonstration Activities (choose one)**

#### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Cooking**

The ladies are busy in the kitchen cooking dinner for the farm family. Come by and smell what they have prepared.

Soups, breads and pies, Oh my! Discuss the differences between kitchen tools of 1860s and today.

#### **Woodworking**

Working with wood was an important skill to have in the 1860s. Watch a carpenter create a piece that would have been used during this time period.

### **What to Expect the Day of Your Visit**

The Visitor's Center is the starting point for all tours. This is where our museum is located and where groups will pay the remaining balance of their fees, where restrooms are located, and where your group of students will be split into smaller groups (if applicable).

### **Arrival Information**

- Groups should arrive 10-15 minutes before schedule start time at the Visitor's Center.
- One group leader should check in with a staff member at the visitor's Center.
- Buses may be parked under the covered entrance until unloaded. Afterwards, they may park either in the Visitor's Center lot, closer to the Bowen House or at Shelter 3 for pick-up after the programs.
- Teachers are admitted at no charge.
- The admission rate for parents and chaperones is \$6.00 each.
- Checks should be made payable to the *City of Goodlettsville*.
- Visa and MasterCard are accepted.
- Payment is preferred one week prior to your arrival.

Students of large groups may be divided into smaller groups. This way, all students see the same structures and demonstrations. We believe splitting one large group into smaller groups makes a greater impact on the students. We can accommodate groups no larger than forty (40) at each site, for a maximum of 120 people. This number includes both students and adult chaperones. Please limit chaperones accordingly.

### **Running Late?**

If your group is behind schedule for any reason, please call 851-2241 so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

**Directions to Historic Mansker's Station Frontier Life Center  
705 Caldwell Drive, Goodlettsville, TN 37072**



**From Nashville:**

Interstate 65 (I-65) North  
Exit Long Hollow Pike, #97  
From Exit, Turn Right on Long Hollow Pike  
Turn Right on Caldwell Drive  
Mansker's Station Visitor's Center Located on Right

**From Louisville, KY:**

Interstate 65 (I-65) South  
Exit Long Hollow Pike, #97  
From Exit, Turn Left on Long Hollow Pike  
Turn Right on Caldwell Drive  
Mansker's Station Visitor's Center Located on Right

**From Memphis:**

Interstate 40 (I-40) East to Downtown Nashville  
Merge on Interstate 65 (I-65) North – Exit #208B  
Merge on Interstate 65 (I-65) North – Exit #86A  
Exit Long Hollow Pike, #97  
From Exit, Turn Right on Long Hollow Pike  
Turn Right on Caldwell Drive  
Mansker's Station Visitor's Center Located on Right

**From Clarksville:**

Interstate 24 (I-24) East to Nashville  
Exit Old Hickory Blvd, #40  
From Exit, Turn Left on Old Hickory Blvd.  
Turn Left on Dickerson Pike  
Turn Right on Long Hollow Pike  
Turn Right on Caldwell Drive  
Mansker's Station Visitor's Center Located on Right

**From Knoxville:**

Interstate 40 (I-40) West to Nashville  
Exit Briley Pkwy. North/Opryland (TN 155 N)  
Follow Briley Pkwy. to Interstate 65 N (To Louisville)  
Exit Long Hollow Pike, #97  
From Exit, Turn Right on Long Hollow Pike  
Turn Right on Caldwell Drive  
Mansker's Station Visitor's Center Located on Right

## Mansker's Station

As a long hunter, Kasper Mansker explored Kentucky and the Cumberland Valley regions of Tennessee during the mid eighteenth century. In 1772, while hunting in what was later Middle Tennessee, he discovered a salt lick located near the future site of Nashville. Kasper's discovery eventually became known as Mansker's Lick.



The fertile land around the lick appealed to Mansker so much that he returned in the winter of 1779-1780 with a group of settlers to build a fort on the west bank of Mansker's Creek, named after Mansker himself. For a year, Mansker's Station sheltered the families living there as well as many others who stayed at Mansker's when forced to flee from the Indian attacks on their stations and out-lying homes. By the end of the year, those living at Mansker's Station left the fort due to increasing Indian attacks. Some returned to Kentucky, while others including Kasper and his wife Elizabeth took refuge at Fort Nashborough and other stations. The Indians later burned Mansker's Station, although Mansker did return later to build a second fort.

Since many of the details of Mansker's Fort are unknown, the fort you will see today was reconstructed using descriptions of 18<sup>th</sup> century stations throughout the Cumberland Valley region. The fort is near its original location.

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## Bowen Plantation House

Captain William Bowen built the four-room home in 1787. Captain Bowen, originally from Virginia, earned two land grants of 640 acres for military services during the Revolutionary War. William and his wife, Mary, brought four young children with them to the frontier. Soon the family grew to ten members.

The Bowen family was very prominent in the area with William Bowen Campbell, a grandson of Captain Bowen, serving as Governor of Tennessee.

William Bowen died in 1804, at the age of sixty-two, and Mary died in 1827 at the age of sixty-seven. It is

believed that during this time an addition was added to the home. The Bowen Plantation House is truly an American treasure, and among the first brick structures in Middle Tennessee.

## Vocabulary

**Kasper Mansker** – A long hunter who explored Kentucky and the Cumberland Valley regions of Tennessee. In 1772 he discovered a salt lick near what is now Nashville, and he later returned with other settlers to build a fort on Mansker's Creek.

**Captain William Bowen** – Born in Virginia, he fought in the American Revolution. For his service, Captain Bowen received two land grants in what is now Middle Tennessee. In 1787 he built a brick home on his land.

**American Revolution** – The war between the American colonists and Great Britain that resulted in the creation of the United States. It lasted from 1775 until 1783 and is also called the War for Independence.

**Colonel John Donelson** – Co-founder of Nashville; led women and children to the Cumberland settlements on his boat, the *Adventure*, and others.

**James Robertson** – Co-founder of Nashville with Col. Donelson; led men to the Cumberland settlements over land.

**Cumberland Compact** – The first act of government created in the Cumberland Settlements in 1780; it called for a council of twelve elected judges. The compact was a forerunner to the Tennessee State Constitution.

**Frontier** – A largely unexplored, undeveloped region usually at the edge of a settled area.

**Pioneer** – One of the first colonists or settlers in an unexplored territory.

**Long Hunter** – An individual who travels a long distances on hunting trips for a great length of time.

**Fort** – A place mainly used for defense and protection.

**Blockhouse** – Included among the other buildings in a fort, it has two levels and is considered the main defensive point.

**Log Cabin** – A house made of logs and mortar.

**Blacksmith** – A person who creates objects from iron or steel by using heat and hand tools to bend the metal.

**Land Grant** – A gift of land made by the government for projects such as roads, railroads, or rewards for military service.

**Militia** – A group of citizens organized and trained in the ways of the military.

**Musket** – A weapon used primarily by men in the military.

**Rifle** – A weapon used mainly to hunt, and is more accurate than a musket.

**Powder Horn** – Made from animal horns, it holds gunpowder and keeps it dry.

**Natural Resources** – Materials found in nature such as water, timber, and minerals.

**Salt Lick** – An area rich in salt, which attracts animals.

**Flax** – A plant with fibers that can be spun into thread.

**Linen** – The cloth made from flax.

**Wool** – The hair of a sheep used to make clothing.

## Bringing the Frontier into the Classroom

Hands-on activities that both teachers and students will enjoy!

### Soap Making

Early settlers made soap using two basic ingredients: lye and tallow. Both were available to them in abundance! Lye came from fireplace ashes and tallow is created from melted animal fat. Soap making was usually done once a year, and required a large pot and roaring fire!

This project can be done either in the classroom while students watch, or prepared ahead by an educator and brought to class.

Materials Needed:     1/2 Cup of Cold Water  
                              2 Heaping Tablespoons of Commercial Lye  
                              1 Cup of Melted Beef Tallow (Fat)

- A. Slowly add the lye to the water, stirring. As you mix the lye and water, a chemical reaction takes place causing the water to heat.
- B. Let mixture cool to body temperature warmth.
- C. Combine lye mixture and tallow in a glass bowl and mix slowly with an egg beater until the mixture has consistency of sour cream.
- D. Pour mixture into a mold and let age.

\*Your soap will need to stay 2 – 6 weeks in the mold while the ingredients cure and your soap dries. After removing from molds, store in a warm dry place for 2 weeks to complete the curing process.

### Butter Making

Making butter is an activity that children could do on the frontier. Children would turn a wooden paddle inside a butter churn, eventually turning cream into butter. By using a few inexpensive materials, students can make butter in the classroom that is also a tasty treat!

Materials Needed:     Glass Jar with Lid (a baby food jar works great!)  
                              Whipping Cream  
                              Crackers to Taste

- A. Fill Jars 1/2 Full of Whipping Cream and Tighten Lid
- B. Shake for 5 to 10 minutes, until the Cream Thickens
- C. Yellow Lumps of Butter will Form
- D. Pour Out the Liquid Whey (Buttermilk), and Add Salt to Taste
- E. Spread on Crackers and Enjoy!

For more activities such as these, check out *Children's Early American Crafts*.

## Mansker's Station Trivia

### What Do You Remember From Your Visit?

#### Mansker's Fort

1. What colony was Mansker's Station in when it was built in 1780?
2. List three (3) different animal skins you saw in the station.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
3. In the main blockhouse (the largest cabin), why are squares cut into the walls on the first level?
4. How did they get water for drinking and cooking while **inside** the station?
5. What is the name of the object used to "fan the fire" at the blacksmith shop?
6. What three things would be said before firing a musket?

#### Bowen Plantation House

1. In what war did Captain Bowen fight?
2. Where was the bread oven located at the house? Why?
3. What plants could be used to make clothing?
4. What supports the mattresses on the bed?
5. Why is there a string attached to the dining room lamp?

## Historic Mansker's Station Trivia ANSWER KEY

### Mansker's Fort

1. What colony was Mansker's Station in when it was built in 1780? **North Carolina**
2. List three (3) different animal skins you saw in the station.
  1. **Deer**
  2. **Bear**
  3. **Buffalo**
  4. **Opossum**
  5. **Red Fox**
  6. **River Otter**
  7. **Raccoon**
  8. **Skunk**
  9. **Mountain Lion**
  10. **Wolf**
  11. **Beaver**
3. In the main blockhouse (the largest cabin), why are squares cut into the walls on the first level? **They are used as defense points; muskets, rifles, or other weapons could be fired through the ports.**
4. How did they get water for drinking and cooking while *inside* the station? **Spring**
5. What is the name of the object used to "fan the fire" at the blacksmith shop? **Bellow**
6. What three things would be said before firing a musket? **Ready, Aim, Fire! Or 1...2...3...Fire!**

### Bowen Plantation House

1. In what war did Captain Bowen fight? **Revolutionary War**
2. Where was the bread oven located at the house? Why? **Outside; To Keep the House Cooler in the Hot Weather**
3. What plants could be used to make clothing? **Cotton, Flax**
4. What supports the mattresses on the bed? **Ropes**
5. Why is there a string attached to the dining room lamp? **To lower the chandelier/candles to light and also clean**

Can you match the frontier job with its modern name?  
(You might have to use a dictionary to help you with a few!)

**Frontier Job**

**Modern Name**

Cordwainer

Pharmacist

Apothecary

Candlemaker

Cooper

Bricklayer

Solicitor

Shoemaker

Planter

Barrelmaker

Mason

Lawyer

Chandler

Farmer

Physician

Gunsmith

Waggoner

Policeman

Armorer

Clothing Maker

Blacksmith

Doctor

Watchman

Teamster

Hatter

Teacher

Tailor/Seamstress

Iron Worker

Tutor

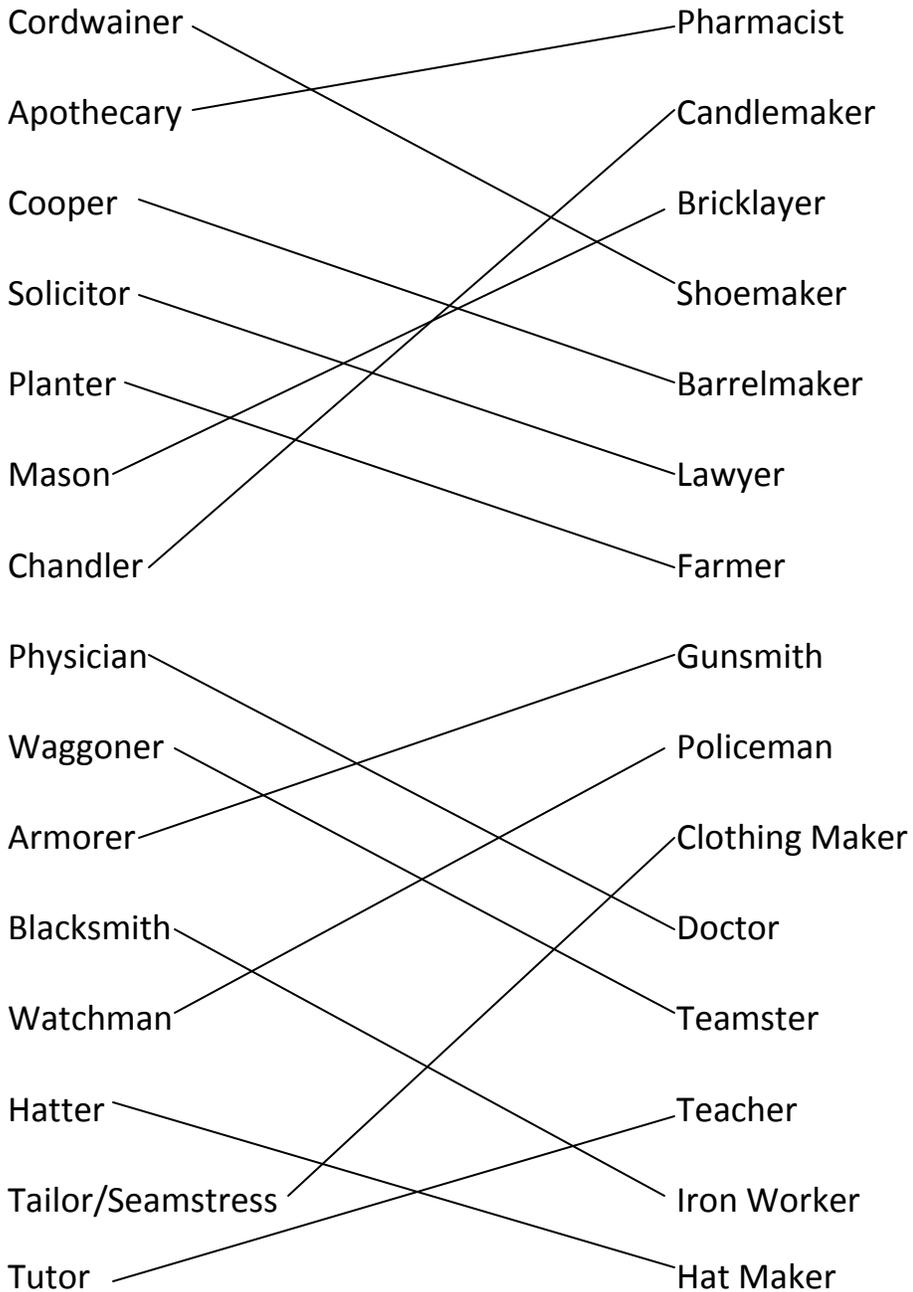
Hat Maker

# Can you match the frontier job with its modern name?

(You might have to use a dictionary to help you with a few!)

## Frontier Job

## Modern Name



## **Post-Visit Activities**

1. Ask students to find out their family backgrounds and how their families came to Tennessee.
2. Have students draw pictures of their most memorable event during the program.
3. Build your own log cabin or frontier fort using ice cream sticks, pretzels, Lincoln logs, or milk cartons.
4. Have students take pictures of their visit to the fort and create a story using the classroom bulletin board.
5. Ask students to write a story about a frontier boy or girl and their life at the Bowen house or fort and their daily activities.
6. Have students compare one or more aspects of life during the eighteenth century and life now.