

Wyandotte County Museum

The Potato King

J. G. Groves: Potato King Trunk Introduction

This virtual trunk will tell the story of J.G. Groves, who was born a slave and went on to become one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Wyandotte County's history. This program is built around a recently published children's book, "No Small Potatoes."

The museum has created two PowerPoint versions of this program. The K-6th version focuses on expanding the Grove's story and entrepreneurship. The 7th to adult version focuses on using historical resources to tell a story. Both versions can be adopted to for a wide variety uses. The content for this trunk can also be used in conjunction with earning entrepreneurial scout badges.

This trunk is intended to be a traditional travelling trunk with reproductions items, photographic prints, maps, and activity hand-oust to support the program. At this time, we will be offering downloadable PowerPoints, worksheets, and teaching guides for this program for virtual use in or outside of the classroom.

PowerPoints and teachers guide will be available through our website. Please contact the museum directly for additional classroom aids, comments, or questions. These documents are free to use for educational purposes.

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Museum Information

The Wyandotte County Museum is operated by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County with support from the Wyandotte County Historical Society and Museum Inc. It is located at 631 N. 126th Bonner Springs, KS 66012, inside Wyandotte County Park minutes from Kansas City Speedway, Legends, and Bonner Springs with easy access from I-70, Highway 7, or State Avenue. The museum is free and open to the public Monday-Saturday 9:00-4:00.

Programs can be scheduled by calling 913-573-5002 or emailing aloch@wycokck.org.

Teacher Info

The J. G. Groves Potato King Trunk is designed to offer versatile educational materials for students of all ages. Below are our suggestions on how to use these materials to meet the

Kansas History, Government, and Social Studies Curriculum guidelines, as of February 2020.
Please feel free to adopt any of these materials to fit your classroom needs.

K: Self

Focus: Choices have Consequences

2nd Grade: Families

Focus: Rights and Responsibilities

3rd Grade: Communities (local history)

Focus: Identities, beliefs, and practices

4th Grade – Kansas History

Focus: Relationships among people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic.

Optional Introduction:

Intro for younger audiences: What has eyes, but cannot see?

Place a potato into a brown paper bag. Can anyone guess what is inside? Can anyone guess by feeling it?

Introduce the story of Junius Groves: The Potato King

Show picture of Julius Groves

Read “No Small Potatoes” to the group

Talk about the story with the class

How do we know if a story is true?

Introduction to bibliography and historical sources

What is a primary resource?

Photograph, Map, Letter

What is a secondary source?

Newspapers, Books

What did you find interesting about Groves life?

He had a large family.

He brought people together.

He hired many people who needed jobs, offered share cropping, and land purchase

He had multiple business interests besides potatoes and had many business partners

He created Groves Center - African American community west of Edwardsville.

He helped found the community church and even had his own golf course

Talk about what brings community together?

Ethnic background / Family tradition / Food

Social Groups / Church

Talk about entrepreneurs

What makes an 'entrepreneur'

List skills and traits

list some famous entrepreneurs?

Inventor vs Entrepreneur

Mistakes that worked

product fails, which became huge successes

post its

silly putty

slicky

Velcro

What would your business be?

How would it start, how it could grow?

Design an ad for your new business