

Aurora University OEDC 5197: History of Rockford

Course/Grade Level: 5th

Lesson Title: History of the Mulford Homestead

Teacher: Nancy Otwell

1. **Set Induction:** Show photograph of the Mulford Homestead- (don't tell them what or where it is at first) Analyze quadrants and discuss people, environment, and structure. Pay specific attention to the two men on the porch.

2. Aims/Objectives and Standards:

Describe and analyze historical photographs. Compare and contrast famous Rockford homes from the 1850s to 1880s.

District 205 Grade 3-5 Social Studies Standards

HISTORY

- Analyze and interpret historical stories and events using primary source documents, timelines, images, maps, media, literary works, and non-literary works. **SS5-04**
- Identify and explain how and why exploration and expansion impacted the development of the United States. **SS5-05**
- Analyze how the interactions, both positive and negative, of individuals, social groups, systems, and institutions influenced the development of the United States. **SS5-07**

SOCIAL SYSTEMS

- Identify historically significant individuals, groups, or cultures who affected social life or institutions of the United States through literature, language, arts, traditions, events, media, etc. **SS5-09**

3. Procedures, Assessments and Materials Required:

Show the photograph of the Mulford Homestead- Analyze it by quadrants and discuss people, environment, and structure. Use vocabulary from the photo analysis worksheet to model questioning procedures. Show the letter from 1837. (Tell students that it is not a primary document, but it has important information about the area and people.) Then present the obituaries for these homesteaders and discuss differences from obituaries today. Next, show the tax receipt for the land and discuss how researching many documents together help tell a story. I will also connect this information to a photograph from the 40's of (my) personal relatives who were the descendents of the homesteaders.

4. Resources and Scholarship:

Mulford Homestead photograph, Mulford letter from 1837, (I did not attach this because it is not a primary document) Obituaries of Mulford homesteaders from *Genealogies.com*, Tax receipt(1846), typed copies of personal letter from 1837, photo analysis worksheet.

5. Conclusion/Lesson Wrap-up:

Ask the big question of, "How does this visual information help you understand the history of this area? What would you do and where would you go to find out more about this or other related topics?"

6. Follow-Up Activities:

Present copies of the following two images to partners. Have them fill out a photo analysis worksheet. Discuss how these homes compare to the Mulford Homestead. Continue with research of homes of this period in the computer lab.(1850s-1880s) Have them write up their photo analysis sheet in paragraph form as a written assessment.

P.A. Peterson Home



Dr. Elisha Dunn's Home



Mulford Homestead Built 1857



Mulford, William--DEATH OF AN OLD SETTLER--The many acquaintances of Mr. Wm. Mulford, of the Town of Guilford, will be shocked to learn of his sudden death. He died last Monday a week after a very short illness. Mr. M. was one of the earliest settlers in the country, having emigrated hither from New York in 1837, where he has since lived, cultivating mother earth and accumulating a handsome property. Those who have read the "Bandit of the Prairie" will remember that a man by the name of Mulford in this County was robbed of several hundred dollars, and if we remember rightly, his house was burned by a gang of robbers and cut-throats that infested Illinois at that time. The deceased was the Mulford alluded to in that work, and the robbers, at least some of them, were those that afterwards murdered and robbed Col. Davenport. Mr. Mulford leaves a large family to mourn his sudden departure for the spirit land. -- Rock River Democrat, 03-11-1862

Mulford, Lucy (Stewart)--AGED PIONEER DEAD--MRS. MULFORD, A WELL KNOWN CHARACTER, GONE--Figured in the Early History of the County--The Heroine in an Escapade with the Prairie Bandits, She Had Reached Old Age--Mrs. William Mulford, one of the oldest and best known residents in the county, died last evening at 9 o'clock at her home about four miles east of the city on the Cherry Valley road.

The Mulford family of which the deceased was the mother is known throughout the country. The children are Eli H., John H., William D., Charles I. and Idea Viola. Lucy Stewart was born in Orleans county, New York, about 80 years ago. After her marriage to William Mulford she came to this county, settling here in 1835. Mr. Mulford died in 1862. Since that time she has lived on the old homestead with her son.

*Mrs. Mulford will be remembered to many as the heroine of a story published by the Register Gazette in *The Prairie Bandits*. While living in the old log house which formed the first abode of the family the bandits of those early days descended on the home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mulford showed the greatest bravery and refused to disclose the hiding place of their money until the robbers threatened to tie him up to the barn and set fire to it. When they began to demolish furniture in their search, Mrs. Mulford gave them the keys. They escaped with \$484, but the Mulfords family finally recovered this by seizing a farm after the conviction of the robbers.*

A large stone house has now taken the place of the old log cabin and the Mulford home has become almost a landmark to travelers of the country roads. A large barn with some valuable contents burned this fall.

Mrs. Mulford has a host of friends in the city and surrounding country who will learn of the passing away of one of the noblest of pioneers with a sincere regret. The funeral will be held from the house at 2 o'clock to morrow afternoon, a Cherry Valley clergyman officiating. The remains will be interred in the neighboring cemetery.-- Rockford Daily Register-Gazette, 12-23-1896

Mulford, Charles L.--PLAN RITES FOR C.L. MULFORD--Member of Pioneer Family Dies At Age of 91--Funeral services for Charles L. Mulford, 91, Guilford area farmer--and last surviving member of a pioneer family in Winnebago county, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in the chapel at Greenwood cemetery. The Rev. John Gordon, pastor of Second Congregational church, will officiate and burial will be in Greenwood

cemetery.

Mr. Mulford, who died at 7 a.m. yesterday at the Neilson rest home in Belvidere, where he had been a patient for several month, was the son of William and Lucy Stuart Mulford. He was born Oct. 9, 1851, on the family homestead on Charles street road and Mulfords crossing, five miles east of Rockford on rural route five. Mr. Mulford rsided on the farm nearly all his life. He spent several years farming near Spencer, Ia. Only survivors are two nephews, W.B. and C.D. Mulford, and a niece, Mrs. Walter D. Hodgson, all of Rockford; three grandnephews: Lieut. Stuart Mulford, Harding field, La., William and Robert L. Mulford, and Mrs. Lloyd Fry, all of Rockford. Four brothers and a sister preceded him in death. Eli was killed during the civil war, and three other brothers, Edward, John and William D. Mulford, and the sister Ellen, died later.

-- Rockford Morning Star, 12-11-1942

Forum Office, Rockford.—A. COLTON, Printer.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

Collector's Office, Rockford, July 14th 1846

Received of *Wm Mulford*
Dollars and *fifty one* Cents, being the amount of his Tax due said County
and State, for the year 1845 on his personal property, valued at \$ 311

4.57

W. Dennis Collector.

First tax
payment
\$4.57
in 1846

160 acres
worth \$311.00