

Interpretive History Series at Springbrook State Park

Springbrook is seven miles north of Guthrie Center on Highway 25. The nearly 700 acres of park include fishing, boating, swimming, camping, and picnicking facilities. Accommodations must be made with the park ranger for overnight camping at Box 142, Route 1, Guthrie Center, Iowa. It's a good spot to spend a vacation.

Twice per month, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, Springbrook State Park has a series of interpretive history programs.

This series of programs is an effort to roll back the clock to the 1860's to give the listener a feeling of what life was like during that period. The series is presented by a "real" 1860's soldier who is returning home from his frontier service. He is in uniform of the Civil War period.

Program 1. Your Journey on the Oregon Trail

The soldier helps you, the pilgrim, get ready for the Oregon trail journey. He talks about what to take with you, as well as the hazards of the trail. He also talks about the sights along the Oregon trail as far as South Pass, in what is now western Wyoming. The soldier hopes that you will be able to successfully "experience the elephant," something so many were unable to do.

Program 2. Life on the Frontier for the Soldier and His Family

In this program the old soldier tries to prepare a new group of soldiers and their families for what they will encounter at their new homes on the frontier.

He warns the officer's wife that she could lose her quarters to the family of a higher ranking officer at any time. You will find out what is in store for the youngsters out west. Some of the weapons used during the time will also be explained.

Program 3. Life of the Indian (Seen Through the Eyes of a Cavalryman)

This program talks about many of the aspects of Indian life. Warfare, religion, marriage, children and life after death are all discussed. There is also a demonstration of sign language in case you run into some "hostiles." You can learn a few Sioux words and "hear" a story told in Indian pictures.

After the regular program, two or three legends from the old west will be told for any visitors who may want to stay and listen.

These programs are designed to bring history alive to the listener. As you listen, you are invited to ask questions. You can just listen and enjoy or feel free to put yourself into the shoes of a pioneer. Plan to take in these programs while you are enjoying your visit at Springbrook.

