

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Where's Abbie? Students find history at Living Heritage Museum

ATHENS, Tenn. (May 21, 2010)—More than 90 second graders from Apison Elementary School in Apison, Tenn., along with their parents and teachers, recently visited the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum to learn firsthand how children of yesteryear lived.

While exploring various exhibits—including those on education, medicine, commerce, industry, religion, and home life—the children eagerly searched for one of the museum's oldest artifacts: a wooden jointed doll named "Abbie Gardiner." Created around 1745, the 12-inch-tall doll is hidden amongst other historical items. Searching for her energized the students as they carefully inspected every display, learning about history as they competed to find Abbie.

Following their tour, the children were given the opportunity to color pictures of Abbie as a reminder of their adventure with her in the museum.

"A primary mission of the Living Heritage Museum is providing educational enrichment to children in our region by making history accessible and relevant," said Diane Hutsell, the museum's executive director. "Learning how other children once lived and played is fun way for students today to embrace history."

Founded in 1982, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is a private, nonprofit organization housing more than 7,000 artifacts in 30 permanent exhibits that represent the culture and history of Southeast Tennessee from the 1700s to 1940s. The

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Museum also offers several changing exhibits as well as numerous special events and programs throughout the year and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.livingheritagemuseum.com.

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