

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 2- Pennsylvania Chautauqua in Mount Gretna

Directions: Using the newspaper quotations and pictures below, determine some of the common characteristics Chautauqua towns shared. Explain why these traits were important and why Mount Gretna was an ideal host site for the Pennsylvania Chautauqua beginning in 1892.

**On May 13, 1884, the
Lebanon Daily News wrote
that Mount Gretna had
“...picnic grounds...an
abundance of
good water...magnificent
groves of pines and oaks...”**

Physical Features

Rural, wooded, a lake or other water source; large open areas

Importance

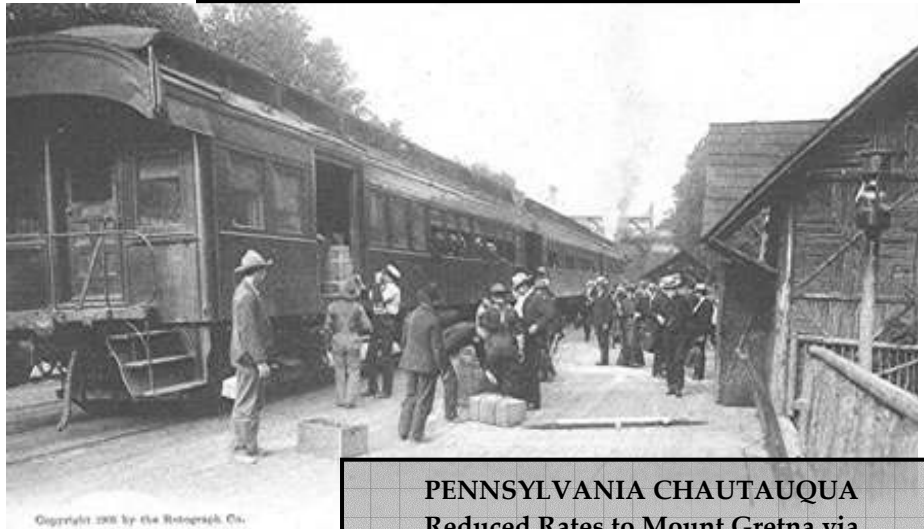
Recreational facilities; space for large numbers of people to congregate; water for recreational uses (swimming, rowing, sailing) and also needed for drinking, bathing, etc.

Transportation

Access by railroad to remote, rural site

Importance

Allows visitors entry from rural, isolated areas (Because of Robert Coleman, Mount Gretna was a stop on the newly created line from Lebanon through Cornwall.) Companies also offered tickets at reduced prices



*Railroad Station,
Mount Gretna, PA*

Courtesy of the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society

PENNSYLVANIA CHAUTAUQUA Reduced Rates to Mount Gretna via Pennsylvania Railroad.

For the Pennsylvania Chautauqua, to be held at Mt. Gretna, Pa., July 1 to August 4, 1898, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell tickets to the general public...inclusive, from stations on its line in Pennsylvania, and from Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Md.,... and... N.Y....to Mt. Gretna and return, at reduced rates. *The Indiana Weekly Messenger, Indiana County, PA June 22, 1898*

*Auditorium
Camp-Meeting
Grounds,
Mount Gretna, Pa*

*Courtesy of the Mt.
Gretna Area
Historical Society*



*Hall of Philosophy, Mount Gretna, Pa
Courtesy of the Mt. Gretna Area Historical Society*



Structure(s)

An auditorium or large hall

Importance

Auditorium provides seating for large crowds to listen to speakers; Hall provides an area where religious studies can occur. (John H. Vincent, founder, argued in 1895 that this was principally to expose participants to the teachings of Jesus.)

Other significant observations

- The ratio of women to men in its classes is on the average about five to one.
- While open to all, white, middle class residents had more opportunity to attend Chautauqua.
- Family summer camp for learning