

## Legends of Freeborn County School tours - Our heritage

by Bev Jackson

Thirty-seventh in a monthly series of Freeborn County Articles - April 2003  
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It's time for school tours. May is a busy month with visitors from miles around enjoying the museum and historical village. The volunteers and staff always enjoy the thank you notes received from the students. Below are some of the letters we receive from the students. The letters are as the students wrote them including the spelling etc.

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"Dear FCHM Staff, Thank you for showing us the inside of the museum. The staff did a good job. Everyone was nice. Your staff Rocks! Sincerely, Jeanelle"

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"My favorite place was the church because it interested me the most. Back then I didn't know that men & women sat in different sides of the pews, and that most every thing there was original. I also didn't know that Norweigen people that lived in this county built churches like upside down boats and added sides. The women when they got married they never wore white dresses only dark colors so that they can wear them more than once. That was my favorite place in the museum,. Amy"

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"The Jail really helped me remember when my brother went to jail. It was cool how they were made back then. The ceiling was tiny I don't really think I will be in jail for any thing. They had a little checker board in there for the cop maybe if he gets bored. The handcuffs were small and rusty. Clint" (To learn more about "the handcuffs" see legend number 3.)

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"The school house was small, but it was sort on interesting. She had us sit down in the chairs, and she would tell us that whenever boys would get bored they would take their ink pen and get ink on the girl in front of him hair with ink marks. She also said things about having gym in the one-room classroom. The kids would move the desks that weren't bolted into the ground and move them to the corner. They would usually have a relay race. And every morning she would say a hymn and a kid would play the organ. She also said that there was actually a dunce chair were the kids who misbehaved in class. She would talk about how if you got in trouble and you had a brother or sister in school she said the younger brother or sister do chores so they wouldn't tell, but usually the parents would ask them why they were doing their brother or sister's chores and you would have to tell them and get it hard core. That it some things I learned in the school house. Amanda"

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"Dear FCHS Staff, Thanks a bunch for letting us come to your museum! I learned how to make butter. I learned that they did almost everything in the kitchen - they even shaved! I really liked the Indian things. Sincerely Tony"

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"The places that I like were the cabin, the church, and the old instruments. The log cabin was old. When people used to live in it there were no games for the children to play so when they got the newspaper they would read it and attach it to the wall. When the kids were bored they would go to their mom and she would give them a word. They would go to the wall and try to find it on the wall... The instruments that I saw were old and cool. There was a violin that was over 20 years old. The instrument that I liked was the saxophone. I had a really fun time there. Luke"

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"At the museum I liked the barn. I liked to look at the old cars and fire trucks. I also thought it was weird what they used for air conditioning. My favorite of the old cars was the blue one. The shape of the blue car was weird... Overall the field trip was pretty good. Tyler"

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"I liked the museum a lot. I really liked the hands on things. I'll remember those the best. My favorite thing was the animal exhibits. The animals looked like they were still alive. The squirrel looked so living. It also was so cute! He looked curious. The birds were also neat, too. It is neat that the you have the old school. Even though it is creepy. I wish I could come back. It is so cool that you do this. Thank you for letting us come, learn, and have fun.

Kristine"

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"Dear museum people, I really liked the museum tour! I loved seeing the potty and bathroom. The jail was cool too! Thank you Helen so. so, so, so , so, much for giving us the tour! I would love to go there 19,000 times! My mom and me are going to go there this summer!! Yippy yah hoo! Maybe my dad too. I loved the School, Church, General store, and log cabin too! From Katie"

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I believe that these letters say it much better than I can. Our heritage is priceless. Yippy yah hoo!

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