

Legends of Freeborn County

Trip to museum gives students surprise look at years gone by

by Bev Jackson

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Bev Jackson is the executive director of the Freeborn County Historical Museum.

Following the spring school tours, we receive hundreds of notes, some handwritten and some by computer. The following excerpts will give you an idea of what the students thought before and after their trips. Some of them will amuse you, and some will surprise. These kids don't miss anything, and their own interpretations show much more insight than we usually give them credit for

The spellings are exactly as originally written.

"When I heard we were going to the museum, I thought 'O yeah, another boaring trip! But I was wrong. I really enjoyed it! Thanks again" Laura

The early settlers didn't have TV or radio, instead they played outside. They played some things like we play today like Tops, Crochet, Baseball. Some of them games I have never herd of like hoop and stich....Theas exhibits can be very eaducational you should come down and check it out." Steven

I must complament the museum with all of the great things you have collected! And I hope I can visit your museum agian!" Tara

"I thought it was neat how women used to tie their corsets so tight they would faint...It made me feel that women who wore them cared more about if they looked, fat or skinny, than today." Jenny

"I am in band so it was neat to see those early band instruments. I hope you have a nice summer! Thanks again!" Kimberly

"They also had organs which families played and listened to. Together they did a lot of fun thing and look at us now. We fight all the time and never do anything together...So we should learn a lesson from the pioneers." Doug

"I could see myself out there with rocks for tools and gardening or hunting. I might even try it!" Tim

"Dear Friend, I like your museum because it was exciting to see the church and jail house, but in that wood shop the light blew out." Cheyene

"The best part that I like was when we were in the school house and we read the big book. (A Dick and Jane story) Are tour guide was funny. I never thought that the Museum was that big. I hope I can come back." Brandon

"For instance, about 90years ago, you might have ended up siting in church for at least 2 hours! Also, instead of collecting offering with plates and dishes, the usher used a long stick with a bag on the end. If you were caught sleeping during church, the usher would poke you with the end of the stick to wake you up." Dave

"The most interesting thing to me was how they shaved. Men have a very small space in the kitchen, and their raisers are very dull." Jill

"The steps up to the top floor are very small and skiny. The ceiling is low so you had to bend over when you walk. The childern or the guest's bed under the parent's bed. Next to the parents and childern's bed were bedside pot. In the family or living room there is a piano for the minister to practice his next service. Then there is a fanting couch. What is a fanting couch? Well woman wore busall that tie in the back and they (husband) tie them in the back so tight that the women would fant and then they would lay on the couch till they felt better." Becky

And then there was a note from the Hollandale Christian School: "We like your place we like the school and we like the church the post office the jail and the pastor's house. It was cool dude. Thank you!"

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It is time to start planning spring tours. Each year the student thank yous are an eye opener to the adults who have fond memories of 40 and 50 years ago.

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The tours are learning experiences for the adults as well as the students and a lot of fun too.

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