

Meeker County Museum at the G.A.R Hall

308 N Marshall Ave, Litchfield, MN 55355 · 320-693-8911 · director@meekercomuseum.org

Greetings,

I am writing to extend an invitation to you and your students to visit the Meeker County Museum at the G.A.R Hall in Litchfield for your next field trip

Our Museum features several exhibits that include the history of Meeker County's dairy farmers, musicians, county school attendees, first settlers, veterans, business owners, politicians, and so much more. For years, the MCM has welcomed school tours and encouraged students to dive into their local history. We're excited to announce this year that the MCM has retooled our 3rd, 5th and 6th grade field trips with activities that would align well with Minnesota's Education Standards for Social Studies. More information is available on the next page.

The MCM is open to field trips throughout the school year, with some exceptions depending on the day. There is a \$1 charge for all persons taking the tours, teachers and chaperones included. We request that there be at least one adult supervisor for at least every ten students. Teachers can plan for the field trip to last approximately 90 minutes.

If you are interested in reserving a date, you can do so in one of two ways:

- Fill out the form on our website, www.meekercomuseum.org/school-tours and an MCM staff member will contact you within three business days to confirm the date.
- Contact Museum staff directly at 320-693-8911 or staff@meekercomuseum.org

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or other staff members at the Meeker County Museum at the G.A.R Hall if you have any questions. Good luck with the new school year, hope to see you at the Museum!

Sincerely,

Bayley Schluter, Executive Director
Meeker County Museum at the G.A.R Hall
308 N Marshall Ave, Litchfield, MN 55355
320-693-8911
director@meekercomuseum.org

Addressing School Standards at the MCM

Staff at the MCM recently had the opportunity to work with a 6th grade teacher to better understand the state education standards, and how we can use them as inspiration for our field trips. Below is a list of 3rd, 5th and 6th grade social studies standards that would be met through a field trip with the Meeker County Museum at the G.A.R Hall.

3rd Grade

Standard 3.4.2.3.1 - Historical events have multiple causes and can lead to varied and unintended outcomes. *Explain how an invention of the past changed life at that time, including positive, negative and unintended outcomes*

Field Trip Activity: Bring out artifacts from the Museum's collection whose invention brought a major change to people's lives (the telephone, radio, agricultural equipment, etc)

Standard 3.3.1.1.1 - People use geographic representations and geospatial technologies to acquire, process and report information within a spatial context. *Use maps and concepts of location (relative location words and cardinal and intermediate directions) to describe places in one's community, the state of Minnesota, the United States or the world*

Field Trip Activity: Students will be given an opportunity to review plat and town maps dating because to the late-1880s and compare them to how the areas appear today.

Standard 3.4.1.2.1 - Historical inquiry is a process in which multiple sources and different kinds of historical evidence are analyzed to draw conclusions about how and why things happened in the past. *Examine historical records, maps and artifacts to answer basic questions about times and events in history, both ancient and more recent.*

Field Trip Activity: While touring the Museum, the guide will ask leading questions such as "Did your parents use this or your grandparents?"; "Which of these two artifacts do you think is the oldest?"; or "Why do you think 'they' made this tool with these materials?"

5th Grade

Standard 5.3.4.10.1 - The meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources changes over time. *Explain how geographic factors affected land use in the North American colonies.*

Field Trip Activity: Gather in the front lawn and have the students imagine themselves as Meeker County's first settlers. Do they choose to live closer to a lake or in a town that shows more growth potential? Using facts from that time period, including major historic events, that move closer to present day, the students decide on the best place to plant roots.

Standard 5.4.1.2.2 - Historical inquiry is a process in which multiple sources and different kinds of historical evidence are analyzed to draw conclusions about how and why things happened in the past. *Explain a historical event from multiple perspectives.*

Field Trip Activity: While touring the G.A.R Hall, discuss how the Civil and U.S/Dakota Wars affected the soldiers, those who stayed home, and how we look at these events today.

6th Grade

Standard 6.4.4.19.1 - Regional tensions around economic development, slavery, territorial expansion and governance resulted in a civil war and a period of Reconstruction that led to the abolition of slavery, a more powerful federal government, a renewed push into indigenous nations' territory and continuing conflict over racial relations. *Explain the causes of the Civil War; describe how the debate over slavery and abolition played out in Minnesota.*

Field Trip Activity: The G.A.R Hall was constructed as meeting space for Civil War veterans, and includes several portraits of Meeker County citizens who served and then returned to Meeker County. Using their stories, students can learn about what Minnesotans thought about the War, how the battles affected its veterans.

Standard 6.4.4.19.3 - Regional tensions around economic development, slavery, territorial expansion and governance resulted in a civil war and a period of Reconstruction that led to the abolition of slavery, a more powerful federal government, a renewed push into indigenous nations' territory and continuing conflict over racial relations. *Explain reasons for the United States-Dakota War of 1862; compare and contrast the*

perspectives of settlers and Dakota people before, during and after the war.

Field Trip Activity: The US/Dakota War began in Meeker County with the attack on the Baker and Jones families in Acton Township. This moment, and several others that occurred during those six weeks, will be discussed during the guided group tour of the Museum

Standard 6.4.4.23.2 - The end of the Cold War, shifting geopolitical dynamics, the intensification of the global economy and rapidly changing technologies have given renewed urgency to debates about the United States' identity, values and role in the world. (The United States in a New Global Age: 1980-present). *Identify the major Minnesota political figures, ideas and industries that have shaped or continue to shape Minnesota and the United States today. (The United States in a New Global Age: 1980-present)*

Field Trip Activity: The guided tour of the Museum will include an exhibit on the men and women who found statewide or national fame through success in business, politics or pop culture.