



PLANNING YOUR TOUR

Plan your students' tour as early as possible to obtain the date(s) that you desire. When calling the Museum, please be prepared with the following information at hand:

School Name _____
 Teacher's Name _____
 Contact Number _____
 Grade Level of Students _____
 Number of Students _____
 Dates for activities: _____

Power Point (If applicable)

Date _____

Time _____

Museum Tours

Date _____

Time _____

What Options You are Choosing:
 What is It Box—one per class _____
 How many classes _____

Fossil Box

Bulletin Board Materials

Power Point Presentation

Building Tours

Museum Center

Fithian Home

Gift Shop

Children Shop

Prepared Bags

Lunch Option

Cemetery Tour

Time of Departure _____
 (From either Museum or Cemetery)

School materials will be delivered approximately 3 weeks before tour or power point presentation.

VERMILION COUNTY MUSEUM

116 N. GILBERT STREET
 DANVILLE, IL 61832
 217-442-2922

Email: vermilioncounty@att.net

Website: www.vermilioncountymuseum.org

2021-2022 School Tour Information





COME EXPLORE THE MUSEUM

County history, natural history, coal mining, Indian artifacts, Lincoln, and Dr. Fithian's residence, all offer a way to learn and experience Vermilion County history.

The Vermilion County Museum Society offers many options to teachers, students, and groups to explore the Museum and learn about Vermilion County History. Although located in Danville, the county seat named after Dan Beckwith, it offers a glimpse into all aspects of Vermilion County's rich history and heritage.

Tours are offered **free of charge** to school children, teachers, and chaperones. Tours or presentations can be customized according to areas of interest and times available, including any or all of the following:

Historical School Program

(This is a multi-faceted program, choose any or all of the components that you wish to utilize.)

- **What Is It box** (*Hands-on vintage items and activities for students*)
- **The Fossil box** (*Examples of local fossils and rubbing materials*)
- **Bulletin board materials** - photographs representing the town or school location
- **Power Point Presentation** at the school with highlights of Vermilion County history (*Approximately one hour, presented by Museum staff*)
- **Vermilion County Museum Tour** includes Museum Center, Dr. William Fithian's Home, and a trip to the Gift Shop. All students who tour both buildings receive an activity book, recapping their day at the Museum.
- **Cemetery Tour** (*A walking tour of Spring Hill Cemetery, approximately 45-60 minutes*)

A visit to the Museum Center's gift shop is included in this tour, or you can have pre-paid gift bags prepared for students. Fee and items to go in the bags will be discussed when the tour is booked.

Time is allotted for a lunch break when scheduling both a museum and cemetery tour. Lunches can be eaten at a local park or at the Museum during inclement weather.



What Is It and Fossil Box

A Closer Look at What You Will See on Your Tour

The Vermilion County Museum Center is a replica of the 1833 courthouse in which Abraham Lincoln practiced law. It is divided into several areas:

THE FIRST FLOOR and ATRIUM

- The life-sized Lincoln statue; children can stand next to Abe and be measured or sit in the chair and be photographed.
- The **Lower West Gallery** contains the **Schoolroom**, with blackboards, desks, and other artifacts from county schools.
- The **Natural History** area has colorful dioramas showing plants & animal habitats. On shelves under the dioramas are artifacts the children can pick up and examine. A life-size replica of a prehistoric mastodon skull is available for viewing. Area Indian artifacts are also on display.
- The **Lower North Gallery** depicts Main Street in the early 1900s, along with examples of transportation of the time. In this gallery, children are encouraged to walk through a coal mine, while listening to the sound of miners working.
- Around the **Atrium** are taxidermied animals, which could be found in the wilds of Vermilion County. After learning about the animals, children may choose to stamp samples of footprints, labeling them to take home.

THE SECOND FLOOR

- The **Upper West Gallery** showcases the Lincoln Law Office, including the desk Lincoln and his law partner, Ward Hill Lamon, used in their Danville office.
- Memorabilia from the **Civil War** and other wars are displayed in cases.
- The **Upper North Gallery** houses the Museum's changing displays depicting Vermilion County history through farming, business and industry, transportation, and newly received artifacts.

The Home of Dr. William Fithian is a Lincoln Site on the National Register of Historic Places which was completed in 1855. It was a home Abraham Lincoln visited while in Danville. Lincoln gave an impromptu speech in his stocking feet from a second floor bedroom balcony. While in the home the children visit and learn about the following rooms:

- Dr. Fithian's Office
- Feldkamp Parlor
- Cannon Study
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Back Porch
- Georgetown Room
- Child/Nanny Room
- Lincoln Room
- Bredehoft/Shutts Memorial Room
- Upstairs Parlor