

Prairie du Chien



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Teacher:

The **Fort Crawford Museum** has much to offer teachers and students. Our tour and activities make the area history come alive.

When you plan a field trip for your students, please consider a trip to historic **Prairie du Chien**, the oldest European settlement on the upper Mississippi River, and the **Fort Crawford Museum**. So many events of importance happened at the prairie – the fur trade, a battle in the War of 1812, and the site of Fort Crawford. At **Fort Crawford**, the US signed treaties with the Native people, Dr. William Beaumont conducted experiments on the human digestive system, and Black Hawk surrendered to the United States to end the Black Hawk War. All this and more is at the **Fort Crawford Museum**.

In the **Fort Crawford Military Hospital**, your students will experience a hospital ward from 1832 and hear about William Beaumont and Alexis St. Martin. There is an exhibit dedicated to the second Fort Crawford, the people who were at the fort, and a large diorama depicting the military post. Students will also see how our knowledge of health and medicine has developed since the 1830s.

In the **Prairie du Chien Museum**, your students will learn about and participate in these events. Live interpreters will also guide the students as they learn about the first railroad to arrive at the upper Mississippi, clamming on the river, and sit an early schoolroom.

There is also a **Museum Store**. It contains educational and fun items. The students shop at the teacher's discretion.

Allow 1 ½ to 2 hours for the tour of the **Fort Crawford Museum**. Large classes are divided into groups of twenty to provide time for all to see and ask questions. If you wish to spend more time at the **Fort Crawford Museum**, you may add any of the following programs to your visit. Each program is about 20 minutes in length, so include that in your time allotted to visit the Fort Crawford Military Hospital and the Prairie du Chien Museum.

Mini-Militia

March, perform drills, and take orders under the command of a sergeant.

Fort Crawford Cemetery

Walk to the cemetery and visit the officers, women, and men who are buried in this hallowed ground.

How Did a Soldier Sleep?

Assemble a field bed, rope the springs, fill the mattress sack, and give it a try.

Survival Skills on the Frontier

Read a compass, learn of various methods to start a fire, watch musket firing.

Orienteering

Following the cardinal directions, discover a piece of the past.

School Tours by Reservation – April through October

Students: \$2.50. Teachers and Bus Driver: Free. Additional Adults: \$4.50

Contact:

**Fort Crawford Museum, 717 S. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien WI
608-326-6960, ftcrawmu@mhtc.net, www.fortcrawfordmuseum.com**