



**Lanesfield Historic Site  
Field Trip Guide  
Farm Family Program  
Grade Levels Pre-K to 3**



### **Contact Information**

For payment questions, scheduling, or cancellations, call the Johnson County Museum at (913) 826-2787 or (913) 715-2570. For directions to the site, to inform museum staff that you are running late, or to cancel a program due to weather, call the Lanesfield Historic Site directly at (913) 893-6645. The school is located at 18745 S Dillie Rd, Edgerton, KS 66021.

### **Payment**

Admission price will be \$5.00 per student fee, with a minimum of 20 students. (You're welcome to bring groups of less than 20, but are still required to pay as if 20 students were attending.) We will send an invoice before the program, and ask that payment be made by calling 913-715-2570 or mailing to 8788 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66212. We accept checks (**make checks out to JCPRD**) or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover). Teachers are free, while chaperones are required to pay the \$5 fee. We ask that you bring a minimum of one adult for every 5 students.

### **Schedule**

The program begins in the visitor center on the property. We plan for 45 minutes in the visitor center for an introduction to the time period and farm life and practicing 4 chores, including making butter! We will then spend 45 minutes in the schoolhouse working on lessons from 1904, including writing with pen and ink. If time allows, recess games are played on the lawn. Students can visit the gift shop at the end of the program if the teacher wishes to do so. Groups larger than 60 students will be split into three 40 minute groups. For larger groups, the 3<sup>rd</sup> group will be recess games led by you or your parent helpers. We have a laminated card ring with games and information. The groups will be closer to 30 than 45 minutes as time allows.

### **Cancellation**

If you must cancel, please notify the Curator of Education at least two weeks in advance. Call the Johnson County Museum at (913) 826-2787 or 913-725-2575. In the event of a weather cancellation, we will reschedule your class at the first available date.

### **Bring Your Lunch**

A pavilion with picnic tables is located next to the site. Please be aware that no microwaves, soda machines, or indoor lunch facilities are available at the Lanesfield Historic Site.

### **What to Wear**

Encourage students to wear historically appropriate clothing such as overalls, dresses, caps, bonnets or lace-up boots. Read *George's Story* for more ideas! As in real one-room schoolhouses, we will be using permanent ink for our penmanship lesson, so students should be aware that their clothes may become stained. Portions of the program take place outside, so students should dress for the weather. Our visitor center and schoolhouse are air conditioned and heated, and there is a short walk between the buildings.

### **Cameras and Cell Phones**

To insure the best possible living history experience, we ask that use of technology is limited in the schoolhouse. Photography is allowed in the visitor center and outside, and after the program ends.

### **Role of Teachers and Adult Chaperones**

Teachers and supervising adults are asked to participate in the program. In the Visitor Center, adults will help facilitate the four chore stations. In the schoolhouse, adults will take on the role of an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, adhering to the school marm/master's rules unless an emergency arises.

## **History of Lanesfield Historic Site**

The history of the Lanesfield area began even before the Lanesfield School was built. From thousands of years ago until the 1850s, various tribes of American Indians lived in this area. Beginning in the 1820s, the Santa Fe Trail served as a trade route between Independence, Missouri, and the Spanish Southwest. This route was used until the early 1870s. Many students at Lanesfield School in these later years remembered looking out the schoolhouse windows and seeing the wagons roll by.

In 1855, Kansas was opened for settlement. The new settlers of the territory had to vote to decide whether or not Kansas would enter the union as a slave state or a free state. There was a great deal of fighting between people on opposite sides of the issue, and the territory came to be called "Bleeding Kansas." One of the pre-Civil War battles took place near where the schoolhouse now stands. A small skirmish known as the Battle of Bull Creek took place near the one-room schoolhouse; fortunately, there were no casualties. James Henry Lane led a group of free-staters at the Battle of Bull Creek. Thus, the town of Lanesfield was named after this notable free-state leader.

Lanesfield was started in 1858, and the first school was housed in a log cabin in 1867. In 1869, the stone schoolhouse was built. The town was a mail stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Lanesfield boasted a population of approximately one hundred people. The booming town also included three churches, three stores, and a two-story hotel. However, in 1870, the Santa Fe Railroad was built a mile south of the town. A railroad depot was built beside the tracks and within five years the townspeople of Lanesfield had moved almost their entire town closer to the railroad. A new town, Edgerton, was built beside the railroad line. Lanesfield eventually became a mere memory.

The school had been left behind; fortunately, Lanesfield School continued to serve farm families in the area until 1963 when it finally closed its doors. Like other one-room schoolhouses in other areas, Lanesfield School was always an important part of the local farm community. The school was the site of many functions including pie suppers, school programs and school board meetings.

## **1904**

The schoolhouse has been restored to its 1904 appearance, in part because we know more about what the school looked like in 1904 than at any earlier time period. Most of the teachers were young women. They taught children from ages five to sixteen or first grade through eighth

grade. The teacher taught only one lesson to one grade at a time; the other grades were given a lesson to work on independently at their desks. Teachers stressed morals, values, and temperance. The skills of mental arithmetic and memorization were also very important in the classroom. Children were expected to be silent, respectful, and serious about their schoolwork.

## Farm Family Program

This two-hour program highlights a day in the life of farm children at the turn-of-the-century. The children will spend half of the program in the Visitor Center of our site learning about farm life and participating in basic farm tasks. Students will break into groups to try simple farm chores; making butter, hanging wash, “making” biscuits, and shelling corn. Adult help is greatly appreciated and will be needed to monitor and lead each group. We recommend at least 4 adult chaperones attend. The second half of the program will allow the children to imagine the past by experiencing a typical day of school in the 1904 restored schoolhouse. Students will participate in a few lessons led by a costumed schoolteacher. The students will get a chance to compare their own school to a standard day in a one-room schoolhouse one hundred years ago.

In the early 1900s most of Johnson County was rural. Electricity, telephones and indoor plumbing were luxuries unavailable to most farm families. Farmers grew some of what they needed. They also sold most of their crops for cash and purchased many essentials in nearby towns such as Gardner or Edgerton. Farm families needed everyone, including children, to work on the farm. Each person had his/her own responsibilities and duties. Children were expected to go to school and do their chores. The Farm Family program uses the "Dille Family" as a conventional example of a farm family. The Dille children attended Lanesfield School and lived across the street in the early 1900s.

### **Before your visit:**

Discuss "doing chores" with your class. Have them make a list of the chores they do at home, and then ask:

What are some of the different chores that they do?

Do they get paid for doing chores?

What happens if they don't do their chores?

How do you help your family by doing chores?

Ask your students to imagine the chores that children would have done one hundred years ago. Have them draw a picture of a chore that they might have had to do if they lived on a farm one hundred years ago.

### **Just for fun:**

**Flying Dutchman** was a highly popular game played in the 1900s. To play **Flying Dutchmen** children simply stand in a large circle holding hands. Two people are chosen as “it.” The “its” hold hands and run around the circle until they touch the hands of two people holding hands inside the circle. The “it” pair and the tagged pair run in opposite directions around the circle. The team that arrives to the original tagged position first stays in the circle, and the other two are “it.”

## Post-Visit Learning Extensions:

### Kansas HGSS Standards:

- Choices have consequences: Would you choose to live in a rural area? How are rural families different than urban and suburban ones? How have inventions impacted your day at school?
- Individuals have rights and responsibilities: What are your responsibilities in school? Are rules in school important?
- Societies are shaped by beliefs, ideas, and diversity: How does my behavior affect my class? How are experiences different for people who live in the country and the city?
- Societies experience continuity and change over time: Do rules ever change and why would they? Would you work on a farm? What kind of job would you like to do? What is the same about your classroom and what has changed since 1904? How have forms of transportation changed over time?
- Relationships between people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic: How does the land around you and the weather impact your life? How

### Activities:

- ✓ Complete the attached venn diagram to compare and contrast schools then and now.
- ✓ Add a chapter to *George's Story*. What adventures does George have next?
- ✓ Design a school of the future – what will schools be like in another 100 years?
- ✓ Write a letter to the school teacher at Lanesfield. If you ask questions, we will write back to you! 18745 S Dillie Rd, Edgerton, KS 66021.
- ✓ Illustrate your visit. Include as many details as you can remember!
- ✓ Act out a day in the life of a child 100 years ago. Write a skit about what school will be like in 100 years.
- ✓ Write a story, schedule, or journal entry about a child's day in 1904.
- ✓ Research the Santa Fe Trail, the trail that ran right through Lanesfield!
- ✓ Create a timeline with illustrations using the historical information about Lanesfield.
- ✓ Map the interior of Lanesfield School. With the class, draw and discuss the following features of the room. Have students map their own classroom and discuss the differences.

1904 One Room Schoolhouse

My Classroom Today



same