

# Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum

*Stairway of Stars:  
Influential People of Nodaway County*



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# Lesson 1

## *Stairway of Stars*

### INTRODUCTION

Every county and every state have influential people who have impacted their own communities as well as wider society. Nodaway County is no different, which is why for this lesson, students will visit the Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum. There, students will learn about the local “stars” that were born and/or raised in the Nodaway County area. After their visit, students will have a better understanding of prominent people from their area and have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge about influential Missourians in a follow up project.

### Essential Questions:

1. Why is it important to learn about influential people of history?
2. How did the influential people of Nodaway County leave an impact?
3. Why is it important to use museum etiquette and apply it to other aspects of life?
4. How did famous Missourians provide significant contributions to the world?

### MISSOURI LEARNING STANDARD

3a.b.4. Identify and describe the significance of the individuals from Missouri who have made contributions to our state and national heritage; examples include Lewis and Clark, Mary Easton Sibley, John Berry Meachum, George Washington Carver, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Mark Twain, Harry S. Truman and Thomas Hart Benton.

### GOALS

- Identify prominent people of Nodaway County.
- Explain how the influential people of Nodaway County left an impact.
- Apply museum etiquette to other aspects of life.
- Identify and describe the significance of individuals from Missouri.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before you and your students come to the museum, there are some things that you should go over. First, your students need to learn how to use museum etiquette. Here is a fun video that will help explain what you should and should not do in a museum. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AozRXET2ssyM>

After your students have been able to watch the video and learn about how to act while in a museum, you should have them practice! Allow your students to work in groups and pretend to be in a museum. Are they being respectful to the people around them? Are they touching the artifacts?

As you continue to get closer to your museum visit, explain to your students why it is important to learn about influential people, especially from Missouri.

You may also want to provide some background information on the museum that you will be visiting. You can go to the Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum's website and take a virtual tour of the museum. This will help the students realize what they will actually get to experience and get excited about the visit! Their website is <http://www.nodawayhistorical.net/>. You will also want to explain to your students about the Stairway of Stars. Here is the following information:

### Stairway of Stars

"In this day and age of constant mobility and frequent migration, the places where people were born and their "hometown" roots are often forgotten and overlooked.

The display that you are about to discover is a tribute to the lives of people who were born or raised in

Nodaway County and whose lives, abilities, actions, and work changed the course of American history. Most of them were not superstars, nor magnates.

They were conventional citizens, who lived simply, but whose actions, achievements, and service to others reached people nationally. History will perpetuate their memory in its books and museums. This display contains pictures, artifacts, and posters that try to represent, in a small way, the great





contribution of these people. Every year the Nodaway County Historical Society adds a new member to the display. The achievements displayed demonstrate how far reaching the lives of these Nodaway County citizens were. It may surprise some, and bring pride to others, but it is meant to educate all. Enjoy taking a visual stroll through Nodaway County's remarkable citizens."

--Jeaneth Puriel

### **Features in Museum Display**

Pictures and descriptions of the following are included in the display:

- Charles D. Bellows- Cattle Farmer
- John D. Hicks-Agriculturalist
- Geo. P. Bellows- Livestock Auctioneer
- Don Hollingsworth- Peony Farmer
- John Sliker Bilby, Sr- Landowner
- Elizabeth E. Styewart Howell- Inventor
- Lester Alvin "Smiley" Burnette- Actor
- Jimmy Jones- Horse Trainer
- Sarah Caldwell- Opera Conductor
- Alma Nash- Musician
- Edwin Carmichael- Military Man
- Hollis Newcomb White Family- Inventors
- Dale Carnegie- Lecturer and Philosopher
- Lynne Overman- Performer
- Edwin Harris Colbert- Scientist
- Robert Partridge- Electricity
- Colonel Edward V. Condon- Military
- Emma Holt Prather- Horse Breeder
- Joseph W. Cornelison- Panama Canal
- Hamline E. Robinson- Dentist/Newspaper
- Homer Croy- Author
- Lester Swaney- Horse Breeder/Trainer
- Lafayette "Lafe" Dawson- Judge
- Captain Jesse D. Taylor- Military Man
- Byron Archibald Dunn- Military Man/Author
- Bill and Vince Tobin- Football Players
- Frank Felton- Agriculturalist

Just for you, the teacher! The book, *Famous People of Nodaway County*, by Bob Bohlken is a great resource for you to have. It gives a more detailed description of the Stairway of Stars' lives and accomplishments. This book can be found at the Maryville Public Library. It is also available for purchase at the Nodaway Historical Society and Museum.

Once you and your students have gone over the background information, you will be ready for your museum visit!

### **ACTIVITIES BEFORE VISITING THE MUSEUM:**

#### **Museum Etiquette**

1. As a class watch the video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AozRXE2ssyM>.
2. Allow the students to practice what they have just learned. You may put them in groups to role-play how they should and/or should not act in a museum.

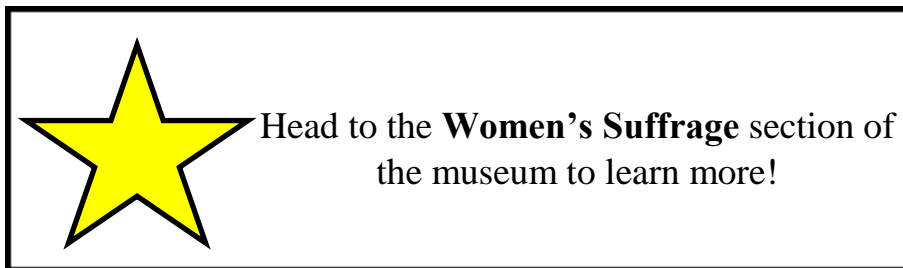
## Virtual Tour

1. Go to <http://www.nodawayhistorical.net/> and take a virtual tour of the museum with your students!
2. Allow them to browse through the museum online.
3. Have them write down the areas of the museum that they visited virtually, in their Social Studies notebook.
4. Then have the students put a star next to the places that they would like to visit and learn more about!

## **ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM.**

**Star Search**– Students will use clues to search the Stairway of Stars for the Nodaway County Star Search! Once they have found the star, they will read a little more about that person and write his/her name on the sheet provided. (See the end of this document.)

1. The students will be provided with a facts sheet about Nodaway County Stars.
2. Once they read a clue, they will search the Stairway of Stars for the star matching their clue.
3. Once found, the student will read about the star, then record their name on the blank next to their description.
4. If they want to know more about the star and the topic, and the star has a “star tag” (pictured below), the students will write down the area they need to visit to find out more!



**Star Struck**– If a Stairway of Stars star has a star sticker, the students will be able to travel to another section of the museum to learn more about the topic.

1. The students will pick a person (with a star sticker) that they are interested in learning more about.

2. The students then visit another area of the museum that elaborates on something their star has done.
3. While in that area, students are instructed to complete the activity provided in that area.
4. They will jot down their ideas, thoughts and observations in their Social Studies notebook.

Corresponding Areas and Stars:

- Women's Suffrage- Alma Nash; Emma Holt Prather
- Faustiana Farms- Jimmy Jones; Lester Swaney; Emma Holt Prather
- Agriculture- Garvin Williams; John D. Hicks; John Sliker Bilby, Sr.; Frank Felton; Charles D. Bellows
- Music- Sarah Caldwell; Alma Nash
- War- Byron Archibald Dunn; Captain Jesse Taylor; Edwin Carmichael; Colonel Edward V. Condon
- Fashion- Elizabeth E. Styewart Howell

**ASSESSMENT/FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:**

**Quick Write.** After the students get back to the school, they will use their notes to do a quick write about what they learned from the museum. This should include at least 5 names of influential people in Nodaway County and a brief description on how they made an impact on society. Students should also include a sentence or two about museum etiquette and how they applied what they learned in the video they watched before coming to the museum.

Prompt Questions:

1. What did you learn from the museum?
2. Who are 5 influential people of Nodaway County, and how did each of them make an impact on society?
3. How did you use the museum etiquette video to know how to behave in the museum?

**Famous Missourians Project.** Students will do a research project on a famous Missourian they chose from a list provided without repeating each other's choices. They will then present that information however they'd like during a

family social studies night. Details of the project may be found in the attached documents. (See detailed prompt and rubric at the end of this document.)

### **References & Resources:**

- *Famous People of Nodaway County* by: Bob Bohlken
- This book can be found at the Maryville Public Library. It is also available for purchase at the Nodaway Historical Society and Museum.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AozRXE2ssyM> Museum Etiquette Video
- <http://www.house.mo.gov/famous.aspx?fm=display> Famous Missourians List
- <http://www.nodawayhistorical.net/> Nodaway County Historical Society & Museum Website

## Star Search

*Directions: Use the following clues to search the Stairway of Stars for the Nodaway County Star. Once you have found the star, read a little more about that person and write his/her name on this sheet.*

1. I am a Missourian who owned land in 44 of 48 states. I was known as the largest landowner of the United States.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

2. We were famous football players.

Who are we? \_\_\_\_\_

3. I served in World War I with Harry S. Truman. I also worked in the Pentagon in 1942. In Maryville, Missouri, I was a pharmacist.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

4. I was born in Clarinda and was a curator of the American Museum of Natural History. I also discovered 50 new animal species and 10 genera.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

5. I studied law in Nodaway County. President Grover Cleveland appointed me to be the third U.S. Judge of the District of Alaska. When I came back to Maryville in 1888, I wrote a handbook for future Alaskan judges on my decisions.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

6. I was a pioneer in adapting cutting-edge genetic, reproduction and nutritional technology into my beef cattle herd. I gained international fame for this very thing.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

7. I was a pedigreed livestock auctioneer.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

8. We created the hydraulic motor and established a company in Maryville.

Who are we? \_\_\_\_\_

9. I came to Maryville to work as a dentist, but ended up creating one of the most influential weekly newspapers in the West.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

10. I served in the Civil War and wrote several books, including "The Kentuckian" series.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_



11. I was born in Maryville and was a professional actor, singer, and performer throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

12. I moved to Maryville, Missouri when I was a small child. My family operated a farm and our cattle herd became widely known throughout the United States. I was the President of the American Shorthorn Breeder's Association.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

13. I was the author of *West of the Water Tower*, which was later turned into a movie.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

14. I was a U.S. Navy Aviator who sank a Japanese Submarine in World War II.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

15. I was a nationally known breeder, conditioner, and trainer of American Saddle Horses and Standardbred Horses.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

16. I was a music teacher who led a band at the National Women's Suffrage parade in 1913.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

17. I was born in Maryville and was in charge of the transition of the Panama Canal from the U.S. to the government of Panama.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

18. I was a successful horse trainer and had 8 Kentucky Derby and 2 Triple Crown winners. My favorite horse was "Citation".

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

19. I am known nationally for my quality lawn and turf seed.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

20. I am a military man. I spent two years in a German Prison Camp from 1943 to 1945. I worked on an escape tunnel named, "Harry" the "Great Escape" tunnel."

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

21. I founded the Boston Opera Company and produced many operas.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

22. I moved to Ravenwood in 1921 and went on to work with Gene Autry in over 80 western movies.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

23. I invented two major inventions, including an accordion-plaiting machine and a self-serving table much like a "Lazy Susan" today.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

24. I was the first woman to breed a Kentucky Derby winner.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

25. I helped bring Rural Electric to Nodaway County.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

26. I was born in Maryville and was known internationally for my book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

27. I was an author as also conducted research on the U.S.'s transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

28. I am a peonie flower farmer with several varieties named after me.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

1. John Sliker Bilby, Sr.
2. Bill and Vince Tobin
3. Colonel Edward Condon
4. Edwin Harris Colbert
5. Lafayette "Lafe" Dawson
6. Frank Felton
7. Geo. P. Bellows
8. The Hollis Newcomb White Family
9. Hamline E. Robinson
10. Byron Archibald Dunn
11. Lynne Overman
12. Charles D. Bellows
13. Homer Croy
14. Captain Jesse Taylor
15. Lester Swaney
16. Alma Nash
17. Joseph W. Cornelison
18. Jimmy Jones
19. Garvin Williams
20. Major Edwin Carmichael
21. Sarah Caldwell
22. Lester Alvin "Smiley" Burnette
23. Elizabeth E. Styewart Howell
24. Emma Holt Prather
25. Robert Partridge
26. Dale Carnegie
27. John D. Hicks
28. Don Hollingsworth

## Performance Assessment: Famous Missourian Project

After visiting the Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum, you understand that influential people in society have roots locally. If there are so many prominent people here in Nodaway County, imagine how many are from Missouri as a whole! For this project, you will choose and research a famous Missourian from the list below and put together a presentation for your families.

Maya Angelou.....	Author/Poet	Jack Buck.....	Sports Broadcaster
Eugene Field .....	Author/Poet	Yogi Berra.....	Baseball Player
John Neihardt .....	Poet/Philosopher	Stanley Frank Musial.....	Baseball Player
Samuel Clemens.....	Author	John Jordan O'Neil.....	Baseball Player/Coach
Laura Ingalls Wilder.....	Author	Lamar Hunt.....	Sportsman
Walter Cronkite .....	Journalist		
Dale Carnegie .....	Speaker	J.C. Penny.....	Business Man
Harry S. Truman.....	President	Sam Walton.....	Business Man
George Washington Carver	Botanist	Ewing Marion Kauffman....	Business Man
Andrew Taylor (A.T.) Still ..	Doctor		
R. Marlin Perkins .....	Ecologist	Frank James.....	Outlaw
Edwin Hubble .....	Astronomer	Jesse James.....	Outlaw
Susan Blow .....	Educator	Calamity Jane .....	Frontierswoman
Josephine Baker.....	Dancer/Actress	Virginia Minor .....	Women's Rights Activist
Ginger Rogers.....	Actress	Dred Scott.....	Civil Rights Activist
Lucas Grabeel.....	Actor	James Smith McDonnell ...	Aviator
Dick Van Dyke.....	Actor	Rose Philippine Duchesne.	Philanthropist
Walter Disney.....	Producer	Tom Bass.....	Horse Trainer
Sara Evans.....	Singer	General John J. Pershing...	Military Man
Tyler Farr.....	Singer	Sacajawea .....	Interpreter
Sheryl Crow.....	Singer		
Scott Joplin.....	Musician	George Caleb Bingham.....	Painter
Emmett Kelly.....	Entertainer	Joyce C. Hall.....	Artist/Business Man
Rush Hudson Limbaugh III.	Radio Personality	Thomas Hart Benton.....	Artist

Presentation: For your presentation, you will need to include your famous Missourian's:

- Name
- Birth/Death Dates
- Hometown
- 5 Details of their career
- 5 Details of their personal life (family, children, etc.)
- How they made an impact on society



Scoring Rubric: Famous Missourians Project

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Student included their famous Missourian's name, birth and death dates, and hometown</b>	Student included any 1 of the criteria.	Student included any 2 of the criteria.	Student included any 3 of the criteria.	Student included all needed criteria. (Name, birth date, death date, and hometown)
<b>Student included at least 5 important details of their person's career</b>	Student included 1 important details of their person's career.	Student included 3 important details of their person's career.	Student included 4 important details of their person's career.	Student included at least 5 important details of their person's career.
<b>Student included at least 5 important details of their person's personal life (family, children, etc)</b>	Student included 1 important details of their person's personal life.	Student included 3 important details of their person's personal life.	Student included 4 important details of their person's personal life.	Student included at least 5 important details of their person's personal life.
<b>Student included a well written explanation on how their famous Missourian made an impact on society and why they're important.</b>	Student included a poorly written explanation on their Missourian; or only included why their Missourian was important; or only included their Missourian's impact on society.			Student included a well written explanation on how their famous Missourian made an impact on society and why they're important.