

Taking Tea School Field Trip

April 22 ~ May 16, 2025

Do you want your students to better understand life in the 1800s? Bring them on the Taking Tea field trip! Taking Tea introduces fourth graders to 19th-century life in the Finger Lakes region through an interactive field trip. During the program, students:

- Visit two historic houses and meet costumed interpreters who introduce them to the families who lived in the houses in the 1800s.
- See the differences between rural and village life in Seneca County.
- Experience how architecture, clothing, food, technology, and women's roles shifted during the century.
- At Rose Hill Mansion they churn butter and learn about the Swan family who lived in the house and farmed the land from 1850 to 1890.
- At the Becker House they meet interpreters portraying Mrs. Becker and her servant and join Mrs. Becker for tea in her dining room.
- Students are encouraged to dress in a costume that helps them imagine they are visiting the past, but this is not required.
- Taking Tea takes place at Rose Hill Mansion, 3373 Route 96A, Geneva and the Seneca Falls Historical Society, 55 Cayuga St., Seneca Falls.

Registration

Registration opens Tuesday, January 21. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis through an online scheduling form linked on the [Historic Geneva website](#). If you have difficulties with the form, please email Anne Dealy at educator@historicgeneva.org with your preferred dates and session times. The maximum number of students per session is 25. If you have questions about the program, please email Anne or call Historic Geneva at 315-789-5151.

Fees

- \$5.00 per student
- Teachers and chaperones are free.
- Aid for this program is available for eligible school districts through the BOCES Arts-in-Education program. Contact your local BOCES office for more information.



New York State Standards

4.6a After the Revolution, New Yorkers began to move and settle farther west using roads, many of which had begun as Native American trails

4.6b In order to connect the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, the Erie Canal was built. Existing towns expanded and new towns grew along the canal. New York City became the busiest port in the country.

4.6c Improved technology such as the steam engine and the telegraph made transportation and communication faster and easier. Later developments in transportation and communication technology had an effect on communities, the State, and the world.

4.6d Farming, mining, lumbering, and finance are important economic activities associated with New York State.

4.7a Immigrants came to New York State for a variety of reasons. Many immigrants arriving in New York City were greeted by the sight of the Statue of Liberty and were processed through Ellis Island.

Program Details

Classes spend one hour at Rose Hill Mansion learning about the Swan family and their mid-century farm. They then travel to Seneca Falls to learn about life in the village. At their scheduled time, students ring the front bell at Mrs. Becker's house in Seneca Falls, present their calling cards, and call upon her. Here, they imagine that they are visiting the past and will join Mrs. Becker for tea. They can talk to her about life in the village. They will also meet her maid and tour the first floor of the house before concluding their visit and returning to the 21st century.

- Please bring no more than one chaperone per five children. The program space is limited, and extra adults cannot be accommodated.
- Arrive on time at each location. A late arrival will shorten your program time.
- Do not arrive at the Becker House earlier than your scheduled time. If you are early to either site, please remain on the bus until your scheduled starting time.
- Please notify us of any allergies or physical restrictions students may have so that we can accommodate them to the best of our ability.
- Groups have 45 minutes between sessions to travel, visit restrooms, and have lunch or snack. There are no public restrooms or lunch facilities inside either museum building. There are two single-person restrooms in an outbuilding near the parking lot on the Rose Hill grounds.
- The Seneca Falls Public Library at 47 Cayuga Street has restrooms. Their Community Room can usually be reserved in advance as a lunchroom. Information is at <https://senecafallslibrary.org/about-us/meeting-room/> or call 315-568-8265, ext. 2.
- **We would like to offer the option for classes to bring in cake to be served at teatime at the Becker House!** In the 1800s, teatime would often be accompanied by snacks or sweets to tide people over until dinner. Due to time and cost restrictions, we can't provide any snacks. However, if you would like to bring in a cake, sweet, or biscuit for your class, we will incorporate it into the visit and have the Becker House "maid" serve it to the students. There is a recipe for 1-2-3-4 cake included in the supplementary materials at <https://historicgeneva.org/school-programs/taking-tea/>. Please notify us if you plan to do this.

Previsit Session

To prepare your students for their field trip, museum staff members will present a previsit session at your school. The session takes about one hour and includes a slide presentation. Staff will introduce students to the time and share some specific information about the two houses the students will visit. They will also discuss appropriate behavior and manners on the day of the visit. The previsit should help your students understand what to expect on their visit.

- Schools in Ontario and Yates counties should call Anne Dealy at Historic Geneva, educator@historicgeneva.org or 315-789-5151 to arrange a previsit.
- Schools in Seneca, Cayuga, and Tompkins counties should call Jill Sandroni at the Seneca Falls Historical Society, sfhs@rochester.rr.com or 315-568-8412 to arrange a previsit.

For further information about Taking Tea contact:

Anne Dealy, Director of Education
Historic Geneva
543 South Main St.
Geneva, NY 14456
educator@historicgeneva.org
315-789-5151

Jill Sandroni, Education Coordinator
Seneca Falls Historical Society
55 Cayuga St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
educator@sfhistoricalsociety.org
315-568-8412