

STEP BY STEP

THROUGH THE

JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

COMPILED BY TEXAS STORYTELLER THOS. BURKHARDT

ROUTE ONE STARTING AT SPRINKLE CORNER

AUSTIN-TEXAS:
JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS FOUNDATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS:

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE-BOOK

Welcome to Pioneer Farms, a most special place of living history, where Texas' past comes alive again. We provide this guide as a resource to help you conduct an informed and enjoyable tour through our historic sites; one that provides ample learning opportunities for students. We would ask that you read and follow our safety rules and code of conduct. It will make your visit a safe one and will ensure that our historical sites and the artifacts inside them are not damaged or destroyed, so that future visitors can enjoy the same Texas history that you are.

The Guide-Book is organized so that you can narrate your students' tour by reading the passages at each stop. Our sites are small and will not accommodate more than 30 visitors inside at one time. Larger groups will cause crowding that puts our sites at risk of damage. The map includes numbers that correspond to the order of your tour. Using the map and schedule together will help you keep your tour organized and on schedule.

Please do not allow students to rush into houses. If a group is already inside a house, please wait patiently outside for the tour ahead of you to conclude its visit.

Information is provided in this binder about each location and area of interest on your tour. Please present the information to your class so as not to create delays for tours that follow you. Short class exercises are suggested at each site to enrich the learning experience for your class.

At the conclusion of your visit, please return this binder at the General Store. We thank you for your patience and cooperation during your visit.



Dr. Rosemary Morrow
Programs Manager, Pioneer Farms

MAP OF THE JOURNEY



Exhibits are located at each historic site. Marked nature trail extends from German Emigrant Farm to Tonkawa Camp along creek.

Tickets
 Shopping
 Information/Office
 Lost & Found
 Parking
 First Aid
 Restrooms

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

Using the map on the preceding page, you should orient yourself by standing on the front porch of the General Store. The length of the tour is just over three-quarters of a mile. A system of clearly marked trails and pathways begins and ends at Sprinkle Corner. Visitors could stay on marked pathways at all times.

Follow the directions on the pages that follow to determine the route for your tour. Some tour groups will tour the village first, and others will start at our other historic sites and come back to the village later. **Walk now to the site listed on the next page to begin your tour.**

For appropriate safety and comfort of all, all visitors are asked to follow these rules to ensure a safe journey:

- Children must be accompanied and supervised at all times by an adult.
- Privies are located at the various interpretive sites.
- Do not feed the livestock. Animals are unpredictable and can cause serious injury. If you pet them, be careful as some may bite or peck. Livestock corrals and pastures should not be entered under any circumstance.
- Beware of the natural hazards of the prairie — snakes, fire ants, bees, poison ivy, stinging nettles and thorns.
- Littering, smoking, expectorating, foul language or misbehavior are not allowed. Eating in buildings, climbing on fences and structures is also prohibited.
- If an area is roped off, you should stay out.
- Pets are not allowed on the grounds. Neither is boozing or consorting with known scofflaws.
- Natural elements and artifacts should not be removed from the museum grounds. Flowers are to be looked at, not picked.
- Visitors should refrain from using any modern conveniences and gadgets such as cell phones and personal-communications devices, as they may spook horses and neighbors from the 1800s who have never before seen them.
- First aid kits are available at each farmstead and historic stop, and in the General Store, for those needing remedies and bandages.

SPRINKLE CORNER

A RURAL TEXAS VILLAGE IN THE YEAR

1899

The town of Sprinkle was founded in 1876 by Erasmus Frederick Sprinkle, who brought his family to Texas in a wagon all the way from Kentucky a few years earlier. A farmer by trade, he started growing cotton in the fertile black soil and soon opened a small store. It was the only one in the area, and it became a trading center for a large area. In its early years, Sprinkle had a general mercantile store (pictured below, in 1893), three churches, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a school and several homes. Though it had a population of more than 100 residents in 1900, thirty years later it was little more than a wide place in the road. The Sprinkle Corner village is designed to replicate the spirit and size of the original Sprinkle — right down to the town square, 100 feet by 100 feet.



Our Jackson & Giles General Store is a replica of a store operated from 1897 to 1901 in Gilesburg, a hamlet of a town that was located about a half-mile northwest of where we are standing. It was named for Eugene Giles, who operated the store. Most of the small-town stores of the area looked much like

this one: Small in size, one-story, built of “slab” boards that were sawed from logs. This replica store was built in 1994 as a set for a made-for-television movie, *Lantern In Her Hand*. Its interior decoration and furnishings include many artifacts from early-day stores in Central Texas and feature many of the original smells — from sweet peppermint sticks and pungent coal oil to handmade brooms and bolts of brightly colored fabrics. Stand on the porch for a few moments, look around and imagine you are in the real community of Sprinkle that was located just a mile to the southeast.

BY THE FRONT GATE: NATIVE GROVE

Just past the steps of the store is a Native Grove that replicates ones where townspeople would sometimes gather for conversation in the evening coolness, beneath the oaks, maples and bois d’arcs. At the edge of the main street, by the native grove, stands a wooden flagpole carved by hand from a 30-foot telephone pole by Pioneer Farms volunteers, using standard plans for an 1871 U.S. Army flag staff. Almost any town of any size had a flagpole, often located outside a general store or hotel, where there was a gathering point for neighborly conversation. Sprinkle Corner is no exception.

ACROSS THE STREET: TATE HOUSE

Samuel William Tate came to Texas in 1845, traveling all the way from Tennessee in an ox cart — a really rough ride, no doubt. He settled in the Sandy Mountain community in Llano County, northwest of Austin, and in 1854 built this long-porched building as his house and general store. He cut logs from nearby forests for the supports. Look under the porch, and you may be able to see some of the old bark still on some logs. He and his wife reared 12 children in this “dog-trot” building, a typical Texas house of the period with a breezeway in the middle. Tate went on to become the county’s first district clerk and served as postmaster for many years before passing away in 1899, at age 76. The building was a gift to Pioneer Farms from the late Lady Bird Johnson. It’s the oldest commercial building in Sprinkle Corner and among the oldest in Austin.

NEXT TO THE TATE HOUSE: STOREFRONT

Like many stores in small Texas towns during the late 1800s, this one is small in scale, with just a single room, and is of wood-frame construction with a steep-pitched roof. This building, a later kitchen addition to the Moody House just down the street, was moved into the Town Square in early 2018 and is interpreted as a late-1890s shop. Its front entryway dates from years

before, after being salvaged from a decades-older building built by noted Austin masterbuilder Abner Cook. Cook built the Governor's Mansion and other significant early buildings in Austin. The building was moved to Pioneer Farms in 2018 and the historic entry, which had been in private storage for more than a century, was installed to complete the shop that replicates several in period photos from Elgin, Pflugerville and other small towns in this area in the late 19th century.

FISK LOG BUILDING

The first parts of this rough-hewn log building were hacked from cedar breaks in Austin in the decade before the Civil War, when Millard Fillmore was president and when most of Texas was a wild frontier. The building was later doubled in size, used as a store, as a corn crib or house, and later for storage. Little about its early origins or ownership is known, but we do know that early-day Austin civic booster Walter Long bought and stored the structure sometime in the 1930s to save it for posterity. Long's descendants donated the building to Pioneer Farms in 2009, and it was carefully disassembled and moved here as part of an Eagle Scout project. When restored, a traditional carpentry shop will occupy its two rooms, and its wide porches will offer outdoor workspace on the Town Square.

BEHIND THE WOOD BUILDING: SADDLERY

Located at the edge of town with the other trade shops is this one-story, unpainted building that houses the Saddlery. Most towns had a saddlery where tack and harnesses were made and repaired. Distinctive and pungent odors would have greeted visitors: Polish and solvents combined with rawhide and tanned leathers. Saddleries and leather shops were usually located near livery stables, close to their primary trading customers. Relatively small buildings such as this one were often moved from one town to another as communities relocated, either rolled along on logs (if the distance was short) or lifted onto a wagon frame pulled by a team or horses (if the distance was farther). In much the same way, this building was relocated to this site. This storefront was built in 1994 as a prop for a television movie filmed here. It is currently being used for storage.

ACROSS THE STREET: VILLAGE SMITHY

This barn-like building featuring vented eaves replicates a blacksmith shop in Elgin during the 1890s. Buildings of this design and scale were common in for such shops in small towns of that period. Texans during the 1800s relied on

blacksmiths to manufacture a variety of items, from horseshoes, hinges and chains to nails, tools and wagon wheels. The presence of a smithy on a farm during much of the 1800s generally indicated the homestead was prosperous. By the late 1800s, as manufactured goods brought in by rail and wagon replaced blacksmith-made items, many smiths moved their operations into two small towns where business remained good. A forge with coal and fire, anvil and hammers, sharpening stone and water bucket were the major tools of the blacksmith. Amid the smell of sooty smoke and sounds of hot metal being hammered into shape, a smith in an 1890s shop like this would spend most of his time shoeing horses and repairing equipment. The ends of the roof were left open, and the roofline was almost a half-story higher, to vent the smoke from inside the building. Often, local blacksmith shops were located in converted livery barns or carriage stables. Most were of wood, pole-barn-style construction like this one. This smithy was constructed by hand by volunteers in the fall of 2017 and as a part of an Eagle Scout project led by Austinite Andrew Butler. It features an array of forges, indicative of a shop in a town that was an area trading center where there was plenty of business.

BACK INTO TOWN: TOWN SQUARE

On our left, as we walk east, lies the Town Square — something that no self-respecting small town would have been without in the late 1800s. Most measured 100 feet by 100 feet, the first attempt by early settlers at community planning — at a time when most towns were a hodge-podge organized only as they grew. The town square was a gathering point. Some were places where wagons were parked and horses were watered, others covered with grass in what was a town's first and perhaps only park. By the late 1890s, many town squares had a band shell, a gazebo or shrubs, trees or ornamental gardens. If we listen carefully, we can almost hear the sound of famous orator William Jennings Bryan making a speech on the stage in 1898 or, perhaps, the sound of horses whinnying at the nearby hitching posts as conversations and laughter echo from the porches of nearby shops.

QUICK EXERCISE: MEASURING BY PACES

During the 1800s, long before modern tape measures were available, people often measured short distances by walking them off – in paces. That came from the use of the “foot” as a measure of distance. Walk two sides of the town square, keeping track of the number of paces for each. Then, determine how many “paces” – or “square feet” – the square is in total size.

NEXT TO THE STORE: W.T. WROE STOREFRONT

Just east of the General Store is a large white storefront, typical of those seen on small-town squares across Texas during the late 1800s. It is a replica of a general store building in Cele, a tiny community in northwest Travis County. Ours replicates the home of Wroe & Sons, a prominent harness and tack supplier in Austin that also sold buggies, wagons and carriages. On display inside the building are several horse-drawn vehicles that were actually used in Austin during the late 1800s, as well as a real Texas stagecoach — they were called “Mud Wagons” in this part of the country — and a Victoria Coach once used by the governor of Texas. The vehicles are part of the Janet Long Fish Collection that was assembled during the late 1800s and early 1900s, as motorized vehicles replaced horse transportation. This storefront connects to the turret building next door.

NEXT DOOR: GROVE APOTHECARY

Sitting like a pointy-topped sentinel at the northeast edge of the Town Square is the Grove Apothecary, built about 1893 as an addition to the Orsay House located just down the street. When the Orsay House was moved to Pioneer Farms in August 2006, its turret section had to be removed and was saved as a separate building on the Town Square. Bay-window buildings like this often decorated main corners of trade and housed a variety of businesses: banks, apothecaries, dry goods stores, among others. This example is named after the Austin’s Morley Brothers Grove Drugs, prominent early-day druggists whose trademark monogrammed brown bottles are now prized collectors’ items. It currently houses exhibits.

TOWARD THE OPEN FIELD: JARMON HOUSE

Built around 1900 by Robert Jarmon, a prominent storekeeper in the nearby community of Sprinkle, this one-story, three-bedroom house was a hilltop landmark there for more than a century. A popular post-Victorian design for rural homes, it features wide veranda porches with signature columns and a steep-pitched, wood-shingle roof. Jarmon migrated to this part of Texas from Virginia in the 1870s and eventually settled in Sprinkle with his wife Beulah and children. After working for William Barr, who owned the general store in Sprinkle, Jarmon bought the store. Barr’s father served as postmaster general of the Republic of Texas. When the house faced demolition in 2010, Jarmon’s granddaughter, Elizabeth Wilder, moved it here to save it.

OTHER SIDE OF THE SQUARE: WESSELS HALL

Anchoring the south side of the Town Square is a one-story wooden building surrounded by large decks that was a community center common to many small towns in the late 1800s. Most were known as dance halls. Built around 1900, this one came from West Point, a small community in Fayette County near La Grange. Starting in the 1850s, dance halls were popular social centers across Texas and were a key reason that Texas' rich music culture thrived the way it has — from German polkas to western swing to conjunto music. Built by two brothers, this hall features a free-span interior floor — an open dance floor with no supporting poles — and is typical of many in this area during the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was donated to Pioneer Farms by builders' family and was moved here in late 2012.

NEXT DOOR TO THE HALL: AYNESWORTH-WRIGHT HOUSE

Just east of the Town Square sits a one-story Early Texas-style house that was built starting in 1851, six years after Texas gained statehood. Isaiah Hezekiah Aynesworth, a Tennessee preacher-farmer-carpenter-surveyor who recently had arrived in Texas, built it in a Greek Revival style for his homesick wife, Nancy. Aynesworth bought 246 acres of land for \$500 near the current-day intersection of I-35 and Airport Boulevard and completed this house in 1853. That makes it older than both the Governor's Mansion and the General Land Office, the oldest state government buildings. A father of six, Aynesworth sold the property in 1855 to Dr. Joseph Wright, just arrived from North Carolina, for \$5,000 and moved to Burnet County where he continued to preach and farm until his death in 1876. Wright, his wife Rachel, and two children cultivated a large garden and farmed several acres. Their pastures were surrounded by a bois d'arc hedge that the Aynesworths planted.

BEHIND THE HOUSE: DOCTOR'S CABIN

Just behind Dr. Wright's house sits a simple log structure where he dispensed medicinal powders for one dollar after he bought the house in 1855. He was one of the first trained physicians to practice in Austin in an era when "horse doctors" often treated people. He moved his office to more modern quarters by the 1870s, but the little cabin remained in his yard until after his death at age 99 in 1898. Wright was the original surveyor for the University of Texas campus in the early 1880s. He was active in efforts to improve fire protection, law enforcement and public schools in Texas' capital

city. While this 1850s cabin is approximately the same size as Wright's, it served as a granary, then a house at another site.

NEXT DOOR: HOUSTON-ORSAY HOUSE

Built in 1875 on Neches Street in Austin, this small home – originally just two rooms connected by a central hall with a kitchen added later — was typical of many working-class houses built after the Civil War. Its Gothic style was popular at the time, noticeable in the decoration around the top of the porch. It was built by a nephew of Texas hero Sam Houston. As a rental, it was the home of Henry Orsay, a French Canadian by birth who came to Austin in November 1865 with a Union Army general named George Custer. Orsay stayed in Austin after Custer departed months later. He was a civilian attaché to the Civil Guard during Reconstruction and was a witness to the Semicolon War when Texas had two governors for a time in 1871. He was also chief clerk in the Adjutant General's Office when Camp Mabry was founded. Orsay and his wife Hulda lived in the house for a time in the 1890s. The house was moved to Pioneer Farms to save it from demolition in 2009.

ACROSS THE STREET: MOODY HOUSE

This Queen Anne-style house was built in Taylor, northeast of Austin, in 1883 by a prominent merchant. By the early 1920s, the across-the-street neighbor was Dan Moody, a lawyer and fierce prosecutor of the Ku Klux Klan who served as Texas governor from 1927 to 1931. His family purchased the home, and it was later moved to a rural site near Hutto in the 1970s. The house represents a quaint design that was common in small towns in Texas during the late 1800s, with its wrap-around corner porch and cute dormer windows on the steep-pitched roof. Moody's descendants donated the house to Pioneer Farms to ensure its style and history would be preserved, and it was moved to this site in early 2018. It will eventually house exhibits.

QUICK EXERCISE: A DIVERSE HISTORY

Texas was settled by people from a lot of other places. That created much diversity on the frontier, especially in this area where white settlers from the East lived among former slaves who were called Freedmen, immigrants from Germany and other parts of Europe, and Tejanos of Mexican descent. Ask for a show of hands of who was born in Austin and who was born elsewhere. The ones from Austin would be like the Tonkawa Indians and other First Texans, and the rest would be like settlers.

CONTINUE AHEAD UP THE ROAD

CHISHOLM TRAIL

A LONE STAR PRAIRIE IN THE YEAR

1870

The famous trail used after the Civil War to drive cattle overland from ranches in Texas to Kansas markets stretched north from near San Antonio. Named for Jesse Chisholm, who built several trading posts before the Civil War in what is now western Oklahoma, the trail was started in 1867 by Texas cattlemen to reach a railhead in Abilene, Kansas. That year, 35,000 head were shipped from there — including the first 2,400 steers driven from Texas. By 1887, when railroads reached into Texas and the trail drives faded, an estimated 500,000 cattle had moved up the Chisholm Trail.



The path of the trail for a time in the early 1870s crossed Walnut Creek just south here, at a point near the Tonkawa Encampment that is just ahead on the tour. Chisholm died in 1868 and never drove cattle on the trail that bore his name.

ON DOWN THE ROAD: BARBED-WIRE FENCES

By the 1870s, westward expansion of agriculture across the Great Plains had been halted by the lack of adequate fencing needed to protect crops from cattle. Where stone and wood fences were common in the East, Texans used ditches, mud barriers, thorny hedges and bois-d'arc barriers. The features of thorn hedges and smooth wire were combined into barbed wire. On November 24, 1874, Joseph F. Glidden of DeKalb, Illinois, was granted a patent for the first barbed wire. Known as the "Winner," it was the most commercially successful of hundreds of eventual barbed wire designs. "Light as air, stronger than whiskey, and cheap as dirt," the product was touted. Barbed wire soon enclosed the open range, contributing to the end of the cattle drives and Indian raids. By the 1880s, most lands in Texas were fenced.

JUST AHEAD: FORK IN THE ROAD

They're not paved, and they have no exit signs or billboards. They're often dusty and narrow. But roads such as the ones leading away from Sprinkle Corner were the norm in rural areas during the 1800s, the rough-hewn expressways for commerce as Texas grew up. Grass growing the middle like a centerline was the norm. Several major roads traversed this area after fording Walnut Creek just to the southeast of this point: Cameron Road, a major trade route north out of Austin; Fiskville Road that ambled west through the Pecan Bottoms, and Dessau Road, which headed northwest to the hamlet of the same name. This road was once a lightly used trail that ran along a fence line.

QUICK EXERCISE: TRAVELING ON FOOT

In the days before cars, Texans rode horseback and traveled by foot. How long would it take you to get to school if you walked using a watch? Measure how long it takes you to get to the next site. Count the number of steps it takes and divide that by the number of minutes. Then you can measure how fast you were traveling.

DOWN THE TRAIL TO THE RIGHT: BLACKLAND PRAIRIE

At the start of the nineteenth century, a sea of native grasslands called the Blackland Prairie stretched to the north of Austin as far as the eye could see, as far as one could travel in a day by horseback. On a windy day, the grass swayed back and forth like waves. In all, the Blackland Prairie ecoregion covered more than 6.1 million hectares of rolling hills and plains that stretched from near San Antonio to the Red River. Large herds of buffalo grazed seasonally in this region as late as the 1830s but had generally disappeared by the 1840s. By the second half of the Nineteenth Century, row crop agriculture was well established in the Blackland Prairie. Today, less than one percent of the original vegetation remains.

AT THE CORNER: JOHN JOLLY CABIN

The one-story, single-pen log cabin built during the 1850s by John Grey Jolly was used at a stagecoach stop on the line between Austin and Lampasas from sometime just after the Civil War until the 1880s when service on the line was stopped. The stage stop featured this cabin and another, pens for horses and a small log barn. By 1866, a small community named Jollyville had grown up around the cabin on Rattan Creek at U.S. 183, eighteen miles north of Austin in southwestern Williamson County. Jolly operated a blacksmith shop and a store and provided land for an early school at the site. In 1878, the school enrolled 35 pupils and the town had a dozen residents.

BESIDE THE PATH: LONGHORN CATTLE

The Texas longhorn is a hybrid breed resulting from a random mixing of Spanish retinto stock and English cattle that Anglo-American frontiersmen brought to Texas from Southern and Midwestern states in the 1820s and 1830s. Within three decades they were a recognizable type. In the 1850s Texas longhorns were trailed to markets in New Orleans and California. After the Civil War, millions of Texas longhorns were driven north to market. With their long legs and hard hooves, longhorns were ideal trail cattle. They even gained weight on the way to market. The spread of barbed-wire fences brought an abrupt end to the cattle drives and the dominance of the longhorn. Longhorns were bred almost out of existence. By the 1920s only a few small herds remained, but the breed has since rebounded.

CONTINUE AHEAD TO THE CABIN AT LEFT

FRITZ KRUGER FARM

A GERMAN EMIGRANT HOMESTEAD IN THE YEAR

1868

Immigrants from Germany began homesteading in this fertile area outside Austin in the 1850s. Some relocated from areas to the south, which were more prone to Indian attacks, while others arrived from Indianola and later Galveston, the primary ports of entry. After the Civil War ended in 1865, the community of German immigrants in this area had grown to more than 20 families. They settled the communities of Dessau and Pflugerville — the latter named for its founding Pfluger family. Log cabins were replaced over time with more substantial stone and wood-frame houses.



THROUGH THE GATE: KRUGER CABIN

The Frederic “Fritz” Kruger family immigrated to Texas in the late 1850s from Anhalt Dessau in Germany. Frederic, relative Andrew, and others constructed this log house in 1867 from cedar logs cut six inches wide at a Bastrop sawmill. The cabin’s single room was the center of family activities —

a parlor, a dining room and a bedroom all in one. The parents slept in the cabin, and the 13 children who lived with them slept in the loft upstairs or in the barn. Fritz's wife, Fredericka, shocked non-German neighbors by working alongside her husband in the fields. During the Civil War, Frederic helped run Texas cotton around the Union blockade by hauling it to Mexico.

QUICK EXERCISE: HAULING WATER

When the Kruger family lived here, there was no running water. Using buckets and a wooden yoke, they carried water from the creek through the trees down the hill to the back porch. Imagine having to carry water a mile from a creek – a long way. Would you get tired? How many times a day would you have to carry water to the cabin for the family to have enough? How many trips would you have to make?

IN THE YARD: OUTBUILDINGS

From the earliest days that settlers moved into this area, fire was one of the biggest threats to homesteaders' daily lives. Cabins burned often, and cooking fires were one of the main culprits. As a result, outdoor kitchens like this one were common. By the late 1860s, most outdoor kitchens like this had a stone hearth. Heavy steel cranes allowed cooks to swing heavy pots off of the fire without lifting them. At the back of the yard is an open-bay barn typical of those on small farms in the 1860s. The center of the barn was used for animal feeding or small pens. Because livestock was such an important asset, barns were often the first building a new settler might build, even before a house.

JUST AHEAD: GARDEN & HEN HOUSE

Common on early Texas farms, the Three Sisters Garden was planted by Native Americans for centuries in many regions of North America. So called because they feature corn, beans and squash, these gardens form an ecosystem of companion planting — the corn provides a climbing stalk for the beans, which provide nitrogen to the soil and nourish the corn. The squash leaves spread out and prevent competition from unwanted weeds and shade for the corn's shallow roots. Next to the garden is the hen house. Eggs added protein to a family's diet. Chickens were another source of meat, and their feathers could provide pillow filler and their leavings were a nutrient-rich fertilizer for gardens. While some farmers let their chickens run loose during the day, the Krugers kept their chickens penned up. The earliest types of chickens tended

to be native or early breeds such as Plymouth Rocks. Like most farmers, the Kruger family consumed most of the output of their coops, but as time progressed, they expanded their flock and bartered eggs with neighbors.

BY THE HEN HOUSE: DEVIL'S GATE

This open-style gate was popular on many Central Texas farms before the Civil War. Its name made it a colorful addition to history. Livestock and most wildlife would not pass through the opening because it was required a sharp right turn, and from a distance, it looked like a trap. After the Civil War, when manufactured hinges became more readily available, these types of gates disappeared. The devil part? Legend has it that the devil is unable to make right turns. Hence, he could not get through it either. Superstitions held that if a devil's gate was present, the family would be prosperous, happy, and free of evil spirits.

THROUGH THE GATE: JOHNNY

In 1800s Texas, outdoor toilets had a variety of colorful names: "Netty," "johnny," "privy," "necessary," among others. The Krugers called theirs *seitengebäude*, German for "outhouse." That term originally referred to an outbuilding used for a variety of purposes but mainly for activities not wanted in the main house. Over time, the name came to mean a small enclosure around a pit used as a commode. Usually built of scrap wood, the first outhouses in Texas sometimes had only a hole in the floor over which a person would crouch. This outhouse has two holes, most likely because the Krugers had 13 children at home. Most outhouses were located downwind from the house. Toilet paper was commonly newspapers or hay.

ON DOWN THE TRAIL: FISKVILLE ROAD

Once known as Fiskville Road, this path once connected areas to the north and east with the small community of Fiskville located along Walnut Creek near the present-day intersection of North Lamar Boulevard and Ohlen Road. The town was founded in the early 1870s and named for George Greenleaf Fisk and Josiah Fisk, early settlers in the area. A post office was established in 1873, when the population was estimated between 150 and 200. By the early 1890s the town had a steam flour mill, cotton gin, general store, church, district school and a dairy. The town disappeared from official state maps around 1910. Today, two Austin streets are named for it.

CONTINUE ON THE TRAIL TO THE FORK, TURN RIGHT TO THE CREEK

WALNUT CREEK

A NATIVE TEXAS GREENBELT IN THE YEAR

1853

Meandering through the shady greenbelt that lies just down the road is Walnut Creek, one of 14 Texas creeks that bear this name. It runs from northwest Travis County for 25 miles to the Colorado River. The creek was named for the hundreds of black walnut trees that once lined its banks. Most died in an early-1900s blight, but several remain here. They are joined by a large grove of Texas pecan trees just to the west. The creek serves as habitat for an array of native species — fish, snakes, coyotes, ringtail cats, deer, and a variety of native hawks and birds. The area looks much as it did before the Civil War, from the flood-plain grasses in the creekside meadow to the deep pools of water in ages-old sedimentary rock that line the waterway, where prehistoric fossils can be seen. Stand in the quietude of the brook and smell the sweet Texas history that was lived here.



The topography in this area features high limestone bluffs on either side of the creek — on the south for miles, then on the north side. The point where

the topography changes, where the creek crosses Pioneer Farms, has made this a natural crossing point for centuries — for the native Tonkawa Indians who traveled through here seasonally in search of game, for the early Spanish explorers looking for gold, for the early settlers who cheered the black soil and abundant game. This crossing is believed to have possibly once been used on the northern branch of El Camino Real, a 1700s route for Spanish travelers, as the place where roads to Cameron, Fiskville, and Dessau fanned out to the north and west, and as a spot where cattle drives on the famous Chisholm Trail crossed onto the rolling Blackland Prairie for a time in the 1870s. Archaeological exploration in the area has confirmed that this area was a campsite and crossing point long before Austin was first settled in 1839.

ON THE PATH BY THE CREEK: NATIVE WILDLIFE

A variety of native wildlife lived in this area during the 1850s and supplied the First Texans and early settlers with food as well as hides for clothing and shelter. The Tonkawa Indians used deerskins and buffalo hides to cover their tipis. They ate deer meat and fish from streams like Walnut Creek. Other native wildlife included a variety of snakes, including venomous rattlesnakes and water moccasins; bobcats and ringtails; coyotes and skunks; and prairie hens, ducks, turkeys and several types of hawks. Most of those animals still live in this area and frequent the creek side areas in the early morning hours and at dusk as they hunt for food, much like the early settlers did.

QUICK EXERCISE: TRACKING ANIMALS

Wildlife was a food source for the early settlers. This included deer, squirrels, fish and even doves. Early settlers had to hunt to survive. How did they do that? They looked for evidence of animals in an area, such as tracks or scat. They would wait and try to find the animals. Look in the grasses and water areas and see what traces of animals you can see. If you see wildlife, back off and give them space. Do not get close.

CONTINUE UP THE HILL TOWARD THE BIG TREE

TONKAWA ENCAMPMENT

A VILLAGE OF FIRST TEXANS IN THE YEAR

1841

The Tonkawas were a group of independent bands of native peoples that united in Central Texas in the mid-1600s, though their range was as far south as the Gulf coast and north into Louisiana. The Tonkawa name comes from a Waco Indian term meaning "they all stay together." By the mid-1800s, most Tonkawas — a nomadic people that practiced Plains Indian traditions — had disappeared from the Austin area. Known as keen hunters and trackers, they were prized as scouts by the armies of both the Republic of Texas and the United States. After being relocated to desolate areas west of San Antonio, tribal members in the 1870s were removed to a reservation in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) where they remain today.



IN THE TONKAWA CAMP: TIPIS

Conical tents like this, originally made of deer and buffalo skins, were a staple housing design for Native Americans on the Great Plains from at least the 1500s into the 1800s. By the 1840s, when white settlers began populating Texas, canvas from wagons had taken the place of the skins in many villages. By its design, with a vent at its top point, a fire could be lit inside. Blankets, bedding and personal effects would have decorated the interior. Heights could range to 25 feet. Based on paintings in the 1850s and early photographs, most Tonkawa tipis in this part of Texas did not have symbols painted on them. A tipi is built by tying three poles into a balanced tripod, with additional poles and a covering then added. The word ‘tipi’ comes from the Lakota term *thipi* that means (thi) to dwell and (pi) they dwell.

TOWARD THE CREEK: HORSE CORRALS

Just a stone’s throw away from the Tonkawa camp would have been the modern-day equivalent of a parking lot for the clan staying here. Tonkawa horses were kept within sight of the camp to prevent raiders from stealing the “rides.” As many as three dozen horses might be kept in one corral. The corral would be moved from time to time to keep it in good grass. Horses were a prized asset of the Tonkawa who used them for transportation and as work animals since the First Texans were introduced to horses by Spanish explorers about three centuries earlier. Considered expert horsemen, the Tonkawa mostly rode bareback. Men used horses for a variety of activities — from raiding competing tribes’ camps to moving their own camps by travois from one place to another. The corrals would have been made from brush or with ropes tied between trees.

BY THE BIG TREE: PIONEER OAK

Beneath the majestic Pioneer Oak, estimated to be 600 years old, just up the hill from Walnut Creek is the site of an early-day Tonkawa Indian camp, one of just a few documented in Texas. It is believed to date to the late 1700s or early 1800s, before Texas became a Republic, when this area was still part of Spain and then Mexico. This camp likely would have featured groups of tipis and flat-topped brush huts, a central fire pit for ceremonies, and gathering areas for members of the clan (family unit) that camped here. The clans were led by women, just as the herds of buffalo were led by female bison. The Tonkawa believed they were descended from wolves. The Pioneer Oak tree is a “lightning tree,” evidenced by the stripe down one side, that shows where lightning once struck it.

QUICK EXERCISE: LIGHTING STRIKES

This tall tree is about twice as old as Texas and grew here long before the days when the first settlers arrived in this area. It is believed to have been struck by lightning in the mid-1800s. Discuss what happens when lightning strikes a tree, how the bolt of electricity moves down the tree under the bark to the ground, and how all the bark along that path is blown off and never grows back.

UP THE HILL THROUGH THE TREES: CAMERON ROAD

Appearing on maps as early as 1868, this trail was once part of Cameron Road, a major trade route between Austin and Cameron, located northeast of Georgetown. Like other major roads of the day, this one was a former trail that became popular because it was the most direct route. Wagons forded Walnut Creek just down the hill, at a point where the Chisholm Trail once crossed the creek and where Indians once made their camp. Note that the fence lines along the road's edges are close to the road — a feature typical of country roads of the day. Many sections were just wide enough for two wagons to pass. Traffic consisted of horse-drawn wagons, horseback riders and an occasional stagecoach. By the late 1880s, the alignment of Cameron Road shifted to the west, its course likely changed by floods.

CONTINUE ON THE TRAIL TO BARNYARD PENS & BARN

FREDERICK JOURDAN FARM

A TEXIAN SETTLER'S HOMESTEAD IN THE YEAR

1873

This “Old Home Place,” or homestead, lying just uphill a short walk north of the Tonkawa campsite typifies the farm of a middle-class settler’s family who had come to Texas from the Eastern states. They were called Texians when they first arrived in the 1820s and 1830s. By the 1870s, an average farm would have covered 250 acres, purchased 30 years earlier from those who had claimed the land and made a few improvements. While most Texans still lived on family farms, the era after the Civil War was a time of great change: Reconstruction (or “Yankee occupation,” as many Texans called it) ended in Texas in 1873. The first railroad train arrived in Austin two years earlier, and a newly invented product called barbed wire began fencing the open range and forever ending the cowboy trail life that had defined the Western frontier in previous decades.



BY THE BARN: GRAPE ARBOR

Like several of their neighbors, the Jourdans built a grape arbor within a few years after they homesteaded here in 1858. Arbors such as this usually featured a variety of native grapes — usually not good for wines — and could shade the entry path to their cabin. A vine-shaded entryway could add a touch of class. Wild grapes of various varieties flourished in this part of Texas for centuries. The Spanish explorers remarked in their written diaries about

the sweet grapes along the Colorado River, and the Tonkawas were known to eat grapes and even ferment them into a ceremonial wine. Farmers harvested the grapes to eat and to occasionally distill wine, mostly for their own consumption. The Jourdan family maintained an arbor for years to shade the path between their cabin and barn.

UP THE PATH THROUGH THE ARBOR: JOURDAN CABIN

Frederick Jourdan arrived from Tennessee in 1839, while Texas was still a republic. After several moves he settled here in 1858, on land that had originally been homesteaded by Texas Ranger Lt. James O. Rice in 1844. Jourdan's slaves built the cabin from cedar logs. Originally used as a corn crib to store livestock feed, the building was later converted into a house — most likely after a fire or tornado destroyed their other abode. The Jourdan Cabin is original to the Pioneer Farms site and features a “dog-trot” style cabin — two rooms, one on either side of a breezeway, with sleeping areas for children in an upstairs loft. On a hot summer afternoon, the temperatures in the breezeway could be ten degrees cooler than outside. The house also features an indoor kitchen with a “modern” wooden cook stove and a second bedroom, which was added in the 1870s. The Jourdans eventually acquired 2,000 acres in this area along Walnut Creek where they reared 12 children and grew cotton, wheat and corn.

FROM THE PORCH: OUTBUILDINGS

The buildings you see to your left, while looking out from the front porch, are outbuildings typical of a farm of this period. The one farthest away is a log barn built in the dog-trot style, just like the house. Dog-trot buildings were popular both as houses and barns for much of the 1800s in the southern Appalachian Mountain region and Tennessee in the late 1700s and may have come to Texas from there. Sometimes, a family might live in one side of their barn until their separate home was completed. This barn was relocated here from the Texas Hill Country. Just up the corral line from the barn is the hen house — a source of eggs, meat, feathers for pillow and mattress filler, and droppings that provided a nutrient-rich fertilizer for kitchen gardens. The chickens pecking in the pen are Rhode Island Reds and other varieties the Jourdans may have had. Beyond the hen house is an outdoor kitchen, a root cellar that was an early version of a refrigerator to store canned goods and produce, a smokehouse for curing meats and an outhouse. The post-and-rail corrals made of rough cedar posts confine various livestock that were used to work the fields and feed the family.

QUICK EXERCISE: LIVESTOCK TYPES

Livestock kept by early settlers varied, sometimes based from where the settlers had come or how much money they had. Settlers from Eastern states tended to have oxen, cows, horses, chickens and pigs. German emigrants had pigs, mules, chickens and cows. Well-to-do farms had many more types of livestock. What types have you seen so far, and how were they different from farm to farm? What were the various types of livestock used for?

UP THE ROAD FROM THE CABIN: SWEDISH SILO

Round and short and somewhat of a curiosity, the wooden silo just down the path from the Jourdan Cabin was built between 1898 and 1912. It is original to Pioneer Farms. Like dozens of other barrel-shaped silos that once dotted this farming region, it is reported to be only one of two still in existence — and the only one that has been restored and can be seen by the public. For years it was known as the Swedish silo, presumably for the Swedish immigrants that built it. Grain silos such as this came into vogue after the Civil War, replacing corn cribs and barn lofts as a place for farmers to store their animal feed. While silos in states north of Texas were taller, those in this part of the country tended to be just one or two stories in height — owing to the longer growing season here. This silo originally had a twin that was located just to the east, marked by a circular foundation still visible.

BY THE TRAIL NEAR THE BARN: GILES TANK

Named for the family that impounded a tributary of Walnut Creek during the last century, this pond served for years as a stock tank and watering pond for Giles dairy and farm. The wooded areas surrounding it have a colorful history. It was near here, in the late 1850s, that a young man was reported to have been kidnapped and murdered by Indians. Along the banks of this pond, area residents many times reported seeing ghosts and other apparitions during the fall harvest. The pond is home to fish, beavers and various native plants. Fish if you brought your cane pole and some bait, but don't swim because there are snakes and other critters in and around the placid water that might scare you.

UP THE ROAD, TO THE LEFT: DAWSON CORN CRIB

This double-bay log building, with a “dog trot” breezeway at its center, was built as a corn crib around 1851 by Noah Dawson, an Austin farmer. Constructed of rough-hewn cedar logs that were saddle- and V-notched, a common building style of the day, the building also features a “witch’s hat” roof — with a ridge pole and notched rafters. In its role as a barn, corn and other feedstock for animals would have been stored in one of its log bays while the other bay would have been used for storage of implements and tools. It served as a barn, a house and — during its time at Pioneer Farms — as a blacksmith shop. With the relocation of the blacksmith shop to the town square in 2017, the structure is again being interpreted as a barn to serve the livestock in the adjoining pastures.

BY THE DAWSON BARN: FLAG POLE

This short flagpole features squared edges and a joint, which allows the flag to be flown by raising the pole. This “break-joint” flagpole was popular during the early to mid-1800s in Texas, often seen at rural stores and trading posts and in military camps. All were hand-hewn and featured wood or blacksmith-forged steel pins that secured the joint. Break-joint flagpoles usually ranged in height from 10 to 20 feet, shorter than other types that used rope and pulleys. This type of flagpole faded from popularity by the 1880s. Flagpoles in the early days were used to attract customers and would make a business stand out from its neighbors, much as they do today. This flagpole was carved by hand in 2003 by volunteers, working from historic plans and using period-appropriate methods.

CONTINUE ON THE TRAIL TO THE BIG RED BARN

JAMES HALL BELL FARM

A COTTON PLANTER'S HOMESTEAD IN THE YEAR

1886

Cotton was one of the few crops harvested in both the Old and New Worlds before Columbus and, after Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin in 1793, became entrenched in Texas and the South by the mid-1800s. Although the price of cotton dropped steadily after the Civil War, rich soils, good growing conditions and new farm machinery provided most farm owners with comfortable lifestyles. Most farm owners had large and well-appointed homes, well-built barns and outbuildings, and finely bred livestock. Cotton was still king in Texas in the 1880s, but the world was changing quickly — from the frontier era to the modern Victorian era. Telephones came to Austin in 1881. The University of Texas opened the same year. In 1883, a new libation called Dr Pepper was invented in Waco. The fabled Driskill Hotel opened in 1886. Two years later, a grand new State Capitol was opened.



INTO THE BARN: SCARBOROUGH BARN.

Built circa 1850, atop a hill near Austin's Highland Mall, this barn was once a part of the Scarborough family farm just north of Austin. It is likely the oldest

extant barn of its type in the area, still in farm use, and one of the oldest in Texas. It features large, hand-sawn timbers held together with pegs instead of nails. It is a common design for barns built before the Civil War. The double-pen design could stable six horses or mules and store seed or animal feed in two granaries. As you walk through the barn, smell the sweet aroma of livestock and hay — a scent that city folks seldom know nowadays, but one that used to be common in frontier Texas. Hay was stored on the upstairs deck, which was also occasionally used for gatherings and dances. Extended sheds on each end made room for tack, harness and wagons and, on this farm, a carpentry shop. That was a sign that the owner was a successful businessman. Just outside the barn are various implements — hay rakes, plows and hay cutters. Fine barns such as this were a hallmark of successful farms in mid-1800s Texas.

IN THE PASTURE, BEHIND THE BARN: CALDWELL CORN CRIB

Located behind the Scarborough Barn is this one-story log building, built circa 1829 in Garfield, southeast of Austin, by early homesteader Hezekiah Caldwell. It is the oldest building at Pioneer Farms, and one of the oldest extant in Texas. The structure is made of cedar logs, each notched in various ways to fit together at the corners. Its rough-hewn construction is typical of most Texas buildings of that time, featuring a log structure atop a field stone foundation. As a corn crib, it was built to store food for both settlers and livestock. Yellow kernel corn was fed mainly to animals, while the white-kernel variety was a staple on settlers' tables — in cornbread, corn meal mush, grits and pones.

NEAR THE BARN: ECLIPSE WINDMILL

The tall tower and tank marks a common necessity on Texas farms: a reliable water supply. The advent of windmills in the mid-1800s allowed Texas farmers to fence more land and improve livestock, since the water they produced lessened farmers' reliance on weather. This Model 10 Eclipse windmill was manufactured in 1886 and was one of the most common on the Southern Great Plains until World War I. Invented in 1867 by the Rev. Leonard H. Wheeler of Beloit, Wisconsin, the original model had four large paddle-shaped blades. By 1881, Eclipse windmills were being marketed through Fairbanks Morse & Co. This windmill's arms are made from oak, and its fins and blades are cypress. The parts are painted olive green, with the tips decorated in maroon or blood red. By the 1890s, wooden construction gradually gave way to metal windmills.



ACROSS THE ROAD: JAMES BELL HOUSE

Built about 1859 along Brushy Creek on the rolling prairie east of Round Rock, this Greek Revival style plantation house was the home of James Hall Bell, an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court. It served as the centerpiece of Bell's 600 acres of agricultural interests in Travis and Williamson counties for more than 35 years. A Harvard-educated attorney trained in Kentucky, Bell (1825-1892) had moved to the area in 1859 from Brazoria County, on the Texas coast. He supported Governor Sam Houston in opposing Texas' secession but, unlike Houston, continued to serve as an elective official throughout the Civil War. Bell was a founder of the Texas Republican Party. He and his wife Catherine reared five children — two sons and three daughters — in this house constructed of milled lumber. Its deep front porch, central hallway, and large rooms reflect the conservative popular tastes of the day. Bell's other connection to history: In 1873, he delivered the telegram from President Ulysses Grant that ended the Semicolon War — a dispute over a misplaced semicolon in the state election law that left Texas with two governors for several weeks.

OUT THE BACK DOOR: KITCHEN & SPINNING ROOM

Since the earliest days of Colonial settlement in the United States, the fear of fire placed most kitchens in free-standing buildings such as this one. It is equipped with a large stove, several work tables, and cabinets. Dependencies were usually one-story in construction and matched the Main House in design.

They often housed not only a kitchen but also a spinning room or wash house. Many Texas farms of this size before the Civil War had two dependencies, as you see here.

NEAR THE KITCHEN: OUTBUILDINGS & CORRALS

Beyond the kitchen lies formal white-board corrals that reflected the relative wealth of the landowner. The yard features a cistern house located just east of the main house where water could be pumped for bathing and cleaning; a smokehouse near the kitchen and the ever-present outhouse — a nicer version than on some other farmsteads. Beyond the dependencies, in the farmyard, lies a small barn that sheltered pigs, hogs or sheep — called a “half-barn” because it was a half-story in height. Such barns were common animal sheds in early Texas, built just high enough to shelter sheep, goats and sometimes pigs. Their center was high enough for a farmer to stand and provided a place to store feed.

IN THE YARD: ORNAMENTAL FLOWER GARDENS

Unlike the previous homesteads on the tour, this one has an ornamental flower garden, an emerging feature by the 1880s as the Victorian era began. Garden chairs and pots were sometimes present. These gardens were usually maintained inside the fenced yard, the bottoms of which were enclosed with so-called “rabbit boards” to keep unwanted wildlife from burrowing underneath and nibbling the flowers and shrubs. Most flowers were native species, although on some well-to-do farmsteads the gardens featured imported flowers.

QUICK EXERCISE: COTTON WEALTH

Discuss with your students what they see about the James Bell House that would indicate he had more money than the other home sites at Pioneer Farms. Furniture? Gardens? Bright paint? Cut-board fences? More toys for his children?

CONTINUE ON THE TRAIL TO THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS!

The last stop on the tour will be returning to Sprinkle Corner, where you started your travels. Feel free to shop for souvenirs and snacks in the General Store and to peruse the exhibits and other historical sites before you leave. **You have just finished walking through nearly 70 years of Texas history during the 1800s!**

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

What was the most interesting historical site we visited today?

How old was it?

What was going on in Texas and the United States during that period?

What was the most unusual item you saw?
(butter churn, cast-iron stove, tipi, carriage, outhouse)

How was that item used?

Do we still use an item like this today — if not, what has replaced it?

At which site would you like to live? Why?

Where would you get your food?

How would you get your clothes?

Where would you sleep?

Where would you go to school?

THANKS FOR VISITING PIONEER FARMS!

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS

Our museum covers more than 90 acres, encompassing the core of what was once the homestead of Frederick and Harriet Jourdan. In 1956, the Jourdan grandchildren, Laura and Eugene Giles, donated the property to the Heritage Society of Austin for a park to honor early-day settlers. Opened in 1975, the museum was operated by the Austin Natural Science Foundation and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Between 2003 and 2013, the museum was staffed by volunteers and was managed by a semi-independent Board of Governors that from the start established self-sustaining operations. In 2015, after successfully establishing its business operations, the museum was transitioned into ownership and management of the non-profit Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms Foundation, an entity created to ensure the successful future of the Austin treasure.

In the past decade, the museum has more than quadrupled the amount of historical programming offered to the public, including the highly acclaimed Heritage Artisans initiative that offers demonstrations and instructional classes in dozens of 'lost arts' and pioneering skills. Annual special events have been expanded year-round, and more than a dozen additional historic buildings have been preserved as part of greatly expanded historical sites and exhibits. Interpretive periods for the historic sites have been expanded from one year to stretch from 1841, when Texas was a Republic, to 1899, just before the dawn of a new century — giving visitors an expanded view of Central Texas' colorful and storied history during the nineteenth century. Annual attendance now exceeds 60,000 visitors, a five-fold increase since 2003. More than 8,000 school children each year learn about Texas history by touring the museum through a variety of focused learning programs during weekdays.