



1876 CHURCH REBORN.



Pioneer Farms

1876 Dessau Church as it looked almost restored in April.

RESTORATION OF HISTORIC 1876 SANCTUARY CROSSES THE FINISH LINE EARLY.

RELOCATION TOOK MORE THAN 5 YEARS, REHAB COMPLETED IN JUST 10 MONTHS.

Special to the Gazette.

Restoration of the historic 1876 Dessau Church moved to Pioneer Farms just a year ago has been completed, in our latest grassroots preservation success story.

A special recommissioning ceremony is planned during the summer.

Facing deterioration and an uncertain future from encroaching development, the one-story sanctuary was moved to Pioneer Farms in May 2023 after clearing five years of city red tape.

The church is a registered state and local landmark. Built by early settlers from Germany, the church hosted a congregation of formerly enslaved Texans for a time and even saw Elvis Presley singing hymns during a Sunday service there in 1955 after he played the nearby Dessau dance hall the night before.

The restored church is now open for tours as part of a new history site interpreting the importance of faith in Texas communities during the 19th century. Exhibits are scheduled to be completed during the summer.

Contribute to the Church Fund to help with continued upkeep of the amazing sanctuary with a check or online at PioneerFarms.org/donate.

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS WHO MADE PROJECT POSSIBLE.

Special to the Gazette.

Generous donors made possible the Dessau Church relocation and restoration project, including the following. See the full list of these Preservation Heroes at PioneerFarms.org.

Dessau Lutheran Cemetery Association, Kent Saathoff, Naivar Family, Mary Jackson Family, The Mr. & Mrs. Joe W. Bratcher Jr. Foundation, Juliana and Dan Hennig, Vickie Roan/The Menagerie, Rosemary Morrow, Emma Lea Mayton, Johnnie Baldwin, Mary Debois, Jonathan and Donna Durbin, Barbara Gerbig, Mary Herlin, Dealey Herndon, Jay Jackson, Evangelina Mangino, Karen Pope, Steve Saunders, Sara Saltmarsh, Taylor Family, Stephen Ward, Sally and Michael Ward.

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Keyword: [PioneerFarms](https://PioneerFarms.org)



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Telegraph key, above, and Western Union signs are featured.

A TELEGRAPH STATION & POST OFFICE OPENS IN SPRINKLE CORNER.

PART OF NEW EXHIBIT ON 1800s COMMUNICATION IN TEXAS.

Special to the Gazette.

The Sprinkle Corner Telegraph Station and Post Office is now open, an exhibit about communications in 1800s Texas that features a small-town mail window and dot-dash-dot equipment from the 19th century.

The new exhibit also features displays about other early communications methods, including smoke signals, semaphore flags, Pony Express service and even telephones that came to Austin in the 1880s.

Featured in the new display is a 98-window post office case used in a small Texas town during the late 1800s.



Wikimedia Commons/Courtesy

Telegraph key.

Plans call for visitors to eventually be able to send a telegram to another of our history sites or to take a class in Morse Code.



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Blacksmithing classes headline May class schedule.

HOT-METAL, FOLK ARTS CLASSES HEADLINE MAY SCHEDULE.

Special to the Gazette.

Classes in bladesmithing, basic blacksmithing and other hot-metal arts are scheduled in May, along with sessions in archery, raising chickens in your backyard and making medicinal herbs and salves.

The classes are offered through our Texas Folk Arts School, including the May 25-26 bladesmithing class taught by national Forged In Fire champion Chris Farrell.

For a complete schedule of all classes, and to enroll, see PioneerFarms.org.

HANDS-ON HISTORY FOR MAY: SOAP AND LAUNDRY RELAYS.

Special to the Gazette.

Our popular Hands-On History lessons during May will focus on 19th century laundry techniques with a bit of laundry fun, relay style, and the science of soap.



Wikimedia Commons

Handmade soap.

The program for children will be offered on Friday, May 3, starting at 10:30 a.m. Sign up at PioneerFarms.org.

The program will also be available to museum visitors as a hands-on activity on Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY TO BE SHOWCASED AT JUNETEENTH EVENT.

JUNE 8 PROGRAM CELEBRATES 1865 DAY THAT ENSLAVED TEXANS LEARNED OF EMANCIPATION.

HEAR UNION GENERAL'S ORDER, SEE SPECIAL ARTS PROGRAM, TOUR ORIGINAL FREEDMAN'S HOME.



Pioneer Farms

Our annual Pre-Juneteenth special program has become a popular learning event on African-American history.

Special to the Gazette.

A special program celebrating the history of Juneteenth and the lives of formerly enslaved Texans in Travis County, will be held on Saturday, June 8.

The special hour-long program in our Wessels dance hall will feature the reading of the 1865 Emancipation Proclamation and a special arts program from 10-11 a.m. Tours of the Dodson Farm site starts at 9.

See more details at PioneerFarms.org.

The pre-Juneteenth program is designed to encourage the preservation of African American history, from bricks and mortar to the stories and music.

The program is hosted by the Travis County African-American Cultural Commission, the Travis County Historical Commission and Pioneer Farms.



Thanks to our Juneteenth Celebration Sponsors.

DODSON FARM SITE PROJECT OPEN FOR PROGRESS TOURS.

Special to the Gazette.

The Dodson Farm that will highlight the lives and successes of formerly enslaved Texans will be open for tours to show the work progress.

The new history site is to include outbuildings and gardens where visitors will learn about the Dodsons, who came to Austin from a Fayette County cotton plantation after emancipation.

By the 1890s they had purchased land and the house in southwest Travis County, and were a success story despite rampant racism and economic disadvantages of the day.

Support the Dodson Farm Project! See PioneerFarms.org/donate



Wikimedia Commons/Courtesy

Austin Juneteenth celebration circa 1900 featured a band.

MOTHER'S DAY TREAT.

MEET 1800s MOMS, SEE HOW THEY LIVED IN MAY 13 HOMES TOUR, TEA.



Texas Civilian Home Front/Courtesy

Women in typical 1800s attire pose on the front steps.

Special to the Gazette.

Being a mother is a tough and important job, and you can see how Texas women did it in a special Mother's Day Homes Tour — from log cabin to manor house.

Historical interpreters will be present at each site to tell the story of the family that once lived there, including 1800s child care, baby "tenders" and baby clothes.

Visitors can decorate wooden boxes, widely given as gifts during the 1800s, to take home.

The festivities will include a tour of our historic homes, something your Mom would enjoy on Her Day.

A special Mother's Day Tea will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in our historic Wessels Dance Hall for \$10 per person, including tea and tasty dessert bites — plus live music.

Advance tickets for the tea are on sale now at PioneerFarms.org.



Many thanks to our Mother's Day Sponsor.

CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO ON MAY 5 WITH \$5 ADMISSION.

Special to the Gazette.

The popular Cinco de Mayo day that celebrated a Mexican victory over the French in 1862 will get you discount admission: \$5 on 5/5.

Walk the site of our proposed Tejano Farm that will showcase the important contributions to Texas history of Spanish and Mexican culture — from food to music to city names to language and more.



Wikimedia Commons/Courtesy

Old Cinco de Mayo poster.

GHOST TOURS OFFER NIGHTTIME SCREAMS TWICE A MONTH.

Special to the Gazette.

Our acclaimed Pioneer Ghost Tours exploring one of Texas' most active paranormal sites are now offered twice each month.

The new tours explore different areas of Pioneer Farms and are designed to give participants "a better in-depth and immersive experience," said Jeanine Plumer, head of the acclaimed Austin Ghost Tours that runs our tours.

The additional tours answer public demand since many of the monthly tours were sold out. Austin Ghost Tours is a premier tour guide for all things paranormal and is an expert on all things that go bump in the night.

Sign up early to get a spot on these new tours at PioneerFarms.org.

LIVE LIKE A PIONEER

SAGE ADVICE & LESSONS FROM THE 1800s FOR USE ON TODAY'S URBAN FRONTIER.

IN THIS MONTH: 1871.

Special to the Gazette.

On May 23, 1871, the Texas legislature directed the governor to appoint a superintendent to administer a new **Texas Bureau of Immigration** with "the purpose of promoting and protecting immigration" into the state. Brochures described Texas as a destination for the immigrant. One such brochure was titled, "**Texas, the Home for the Emigrant, From Everywhere.**" State agents traveled to southern and northern states, as well as to Europe, to encourage potential immigrants to seek land in Texas, at a time when a number of other prairie states and territories were pitching similar campaigns. The new **Constitution of 1876** brought an end to the bureau, as it included a specific prohibition against using state funds "for any purpose of bringing immigrants to the State."

HOME REMEDY: CHIGGERS.

From *Household Remedies & Cures*: "Soak affected skin in cold water for several minutes, followed by a cold compress. Severe bites can be treated with camphor or calamine lotion applied with a clean cloth."

HOMESTEADING: SHARPENING AN AXE.

To sharpen an axe for cutting small trees, place the axe on a flat surface such as a table or stump. Use a clamp if you have one to keep the axe stable during sharpening. Clean the axe head and sides. File the axe edge working from left to right, matching of the bevel of the blade to avoid having to reshape the angle of the blade. Files sharpen blades when they are pushing, traveling in one direction. Work across one side of the blade until it is sharper, then turn over the axe, clean the file and repeat the process on the other side until the edge is sharp.

RECIPE: MINA'S COLE SLAW.

Longtime Austin resident Mimi Panciera Fite sends this month's recipe that she says is the same as one her grandmother used to serve. "She said it came from the old country. It was an inexpensive and delicious salad from the garden. Her family came to Texas from Italy in the 1800s . . . The name Panciera derives from the stomach armor plate that the Roman soldiers used to wear in Italy."

Makes: 12 servings

Ingredients

- ¾ green cabbage, finely shredded
- ¼ red cabbage, finely shredded
- 3 medium carrots, grated
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon celery seeds
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Directions

Mix the shredded green cabbage, red cabbage and carrots to a large bowl.

In a separate bowl, combine the mayonnaise, honey, salt, pepper, apple cider vinegar and celery seeds in a small bowl and whisk together. Add more honey to make the slaw sweeter.

Pour about half of the dressing onto the cabbage and carrots and toss. Slowly add more dressing until you reach the desired slaw-to-dressing ratio.

Contributions to this column are welcomed. Send them to info@pioneerfarms.org

PIONEER FARMS GAZETTE.

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OUR TEXAS HISTORY HEROES!

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE, PLEASE, FOR OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS.

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Join these Texas History Heroes.

Make a donation today at
PioneerFarms.org/donate.



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Details, sign up at PioneerFarms.org

'HIDDEN HISTORIES' EXPLORES TEXAS' OVERLOOKED PAST.

Special to the Gazette.

A "Hidden Histories" guided tour featuring Texas history that has been overlooked or ignored — including the enslaved and free people of color, Tejanos, Indigenous people, people with disabilities and those who might today identify as LBBTQ+ — is being offered on weekdays and weekends.



Winnie Richards.

The tour is designed to give visitors a deeper view of Texas history by including more information about more people who were part of Texas during the 1800s, but have been little remarked in traditional history books.

These tours are available for groups of 20 or more by reservation at PioneerFarms.org.

POLLINATOR PROJECT GETS A BOOST WITH SEEDS, CLASSES.

Special to the Gazette.

In the next phase of our ongoing focus to maintain wildlife-friendly grounds, an expansion of plantings to support pollinators has been completed.

The project launched five years ago supports pollinators with specific plant species and wildflower palettes for bees, butterflies, beetles, moths and hummingbirds.

The project to date has restored native grasses and wildflowers, and added more bee hives to our historic sites. Recent work has centered on adding habitat for migrating butterflies as urban growth continues to eliminate native vegetation.

New classes on honey bees and how to support pollinators are to be added to our Texas Folk Arts School schedule this fall.

BECOME A MEMBER, SUPPORT OUR UNIQUE HISTORY PROGRAMS.

Special to the Gazette.

Buying an annual Pioneer Farms membership supports our award-winning history programs and second-to-none preservation projects.

Memberships include the Wild West Family pass, the Homesteader Companion pass and the Lone Star pass.

Members get unlimited admission to public programs, special discounts on General Store purchases, access to invitation-only events and special programs and recognition for your support in signage and publicity.

See PioneerFarms.org for more details and to sign up.

Join the other Members who support preserving Texas history.

PIONEER WEATHER REPORT ANYTIME

Check SPRINKLE TX on Yahoo or Google Weather.

ABOUT PIONEER FARMS.

Texas Ranger Lt. James O. Rice, an original Austin settler, was given claim to 1,280 acres at the northward crossing of Walnut Creek in the fall of 1844 — including the site of Pioneer Farms — in thanks for helping locate the site of a new capital for the Republic of Texas. Eight years later, in 1852, Frederick and Harriet B. Jourdan settled on the site with eight children, and eventually amassed a 2,000-acre farm. In 1956, the Jourdan grandchildren, Laura and Eugene Giles, donated the core of their grandparents' property to the Heritage Society of Austin for a park to honor early settlers. Staffed by volunteers, our living history museum is now owned and operated by the independent Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms Foundation.

Pioneer Farms is a City of Austin Landmark, a designated Austin Heritage Tourism Site, an official Heritage Travel Destination of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a TimeTravelers national history destination and a Texas Historical Commission /Hill Country Heritage Site.

Member of the Texas Museum Association, Texas Living History Association, Greater Austin Museum Partnership, American Alliance of Museums, American Association for State and Local History, Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums and the Artists-Blacksmiths Association of North America.

CONTACT US

Address: 10621 Pioneer Farms Drive, Austin TX 78754
Telephone: 512.837.1215 Text: 512.632.9561

Web: PioneerFarms.org
E-mail: Info@PioneerFarms.org

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GOINGS-ON. COMMUNITY BULLETINS OF GENERAL INTEREST



Pioneer Farms

SPRUCE-UP: Westlake High School's Senior Service Day, above, brought out approximately 75 volunteers who hauled away heavy debris, cleaned and generally spruced up a number of exhibits and history sites on April 24. Three days later, about 50 volunteers with JustServe's Global Youth Service Day cleaned the Aynsworth-Wright and Houston-Orsay houses among other sites and exhibits to fine form, in photos below. Many thanks to both groups for their spectacular assistance . . .



Margaret Carniero/Courtesy

PASSING: Philip Hogan, a longtime Pioneer Farms supporter and historical preservation icon who helped orchestrate the successful relocation of more than a dozen historic buildings to our museum during the past 20 years including Wessels Hall, the Houston-Orsay House, Jarmon House, Moody Farm House, Dodson House and the Dessau Church, died on April 19. He was the owner of Hogan Demolition in Austin. A celebration is planned in our Wessels Hall on June 15 . . .



Chris Twing/Pioneer Farms

CYCLES: Our Tweed Ride With A Twist event celebrating bicycling history on Saturday, April 13 featured riders on period velocipedes and biking attire in the 1800s.

TELEGRAMS, LETTERS & DISPATCHES.

AMAZING: "This was our first visit to Pioneer Farms, and we found your museum a most amazing and enchanting place. From the fact that you're staffed mostly by volunteers who saved it from closure 20 years ago to your engaging weekly activities missing at most other museums to the meticulous interpretation of your state's history, you are to be commended. You have created quite a treasure that befits the true history of Texas." — LL., Omaha, Neb. . . .