



## TWEED RIDE WITH A TWIST.



Portal to Texas History/Courtesy

Come see historic bikes or ride our trails on modern ones.

## APRIL 13 SPECIAL PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT BICYCLE HISTORY.

Special to the Gazette.

A special day highlighting bicycle history in Texas will be observed at Pioneer Farms on Saturday, April 13.

Featured will be two loops for cyclists — one under a mile, the other 2.5 miles — so bring your bike and enjoy the farm on wheels. Period or vintage bikes and apparel are encouraged, but are not necessary.

All visitors who show up in period/vintage attire or with period/vintage bikes to lineup at 10:30 a.m. will receive special ribbon cockade in recognition of their involvement.

The name of the event derives from the fact that tweed was considered the most fashionable bicycle attire in the late 1800s, so feel free to wear it if you like.

Historic bicycles from the 1850s to the 1950s will be on display, from a big-wheel penny farthing to a bone shaker. Bring a picnic and enjoy a lunch on the grounds.

Austin Bike Farm will provide a bike service station from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and demonstrate how to properly lock a bike.

For bike riders: The shorter riding loop will be on our paths, but the longer loop will include the paths, on mulch down by the creek, and through a mowed pasture.

This special Bike Through History day is designed to encourage a ride through Texas history.

Admission is \$12 a person. Members are free.



Courtesy Photo

Texas living history reenactors fire a cannon at an event.

## FARMS CHOSEN TO HOST STATE LIVING HISTORY CONFERENCE.

Special to the Gazette.

Pioneer Farms has been selected to host the 2025 statewide convention of the Texas Living History Association, the premier state trade group for living historians.

The January meeting at Pioneer Farms will coincide and help kick off the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of Pioneer Farms.

For four days, Pioneer Farms will be the headquarters for the top living historians from across Texas, involved in training sessions and workshops, roundtable discussions and other activities related to accurately recreating Lone Star history.

The convention is the largest gathering of living-history experts and reenactors in the state, most of whom recreate Lone Star history at other Texas museums through historically accurate programs and events.

Pioneer Farms is honored to host such an august group.

## COTTON IN TEXAS FOCUS OF 'LUNCH 'N LEARN' HISTORY LECTURE.

### APRIL 11 PROGRAM SHOWCASES IMPORTANCE OF COTTON, GINS TO 1800s LONE STAR TOWNS.



Portal to Texas History/Courtesy

Small cotton gins once employed thousands of people.

Special to the Gazette.

Join us for our next Lunch 'N Learn history lecture: "The Rise of Cotton in Texas," presented on Thursday, April 11, by Steph Jarvis, director of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum.

She will discuss cotton in Texas from the 1830s to the 1890s and the role of town gins, such as the one she works to preserve in Burton.

The program will be presented in our historic Wessels dance hall with table seating for all attendees. After her presentation Mrs. Jarvis will join attendees for lunch.

You can bring your own lunch or order a box lunch below. Box lunch orders must be made by Sunday, April 7.

Advance registration is \$6 per person, \$8 per person at the door. Advance registration with lunch of \$15 (gourmet turkey or ham sandwich with chips and water), an old-fashioned bargain.

Lecture fee includes admission to Pioneer Farms. Discount advance registrations can be purchased at PioneerFarms.org. Feel free to explore the museum before or after the presentation.

See more details at PioneerFarms.org.

## CHURCH BELFRY IS RESTORED; HELP FINISH THE EXTERIOR.

Special to the Gazette.

Just as the biggest giving event in Central Texas added new donations to the project, the next step in the restoration of our 1876 Dessau Church was achieved last month.

Repair and preservation work was completed on the signature belfry of the sanctuary, including replacement of deteriorated wood and structural upgrades on the bell frame.

Even the cross at the top of the spire is now gleaming once again.

An additional \$4,000 was raised for the church project as part of the city-wide Amplify Austin donation drive, for which we are most grateful.

Donors to the church project include Rosemary Morrow and Michael and Sally Ward.

The church was relocated to Pioneer Farms last year to save it from vandalism and encroaching development.

The church was built by early German emigrants who settled at Dessau, a town two miles north of Pioneer Farms that they named for their native region of Germany.

Preservation of the church interior is nearly complete, and in coming weeks exterior siding will be repaired and painted to complete the project.

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Keyword: PioneerFarms



Pioneer Farms

Feeding horses and livestock were among 1800s chores.

## 'A DAY AT THE FARMS.'

### APRIL 26 SPECIAL PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOLKS TO TRY THEIR HAND AT 1800s CAREERS.

Special to the Gazette.

'A Day at the Farms,' a special program for homeschool families and all other young learners interested in Texas history, this spring will showcase 19th century careers such as blacksmith, surveyor, cowboy, farmer, dressmaker, teacher, doctor, and telegraph operator.

Mark your calendar: Friday, April 26.

Learners will have the chance to interact with our historical interpreters across the farm and try their hand at many of the skills particular to 1800s jobs.

Programming runs from 10-Noon and from 1-3 p.m.

Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and children at PioneerFarms.org, and \$8 per person when purchased at the door.



## PIONEER GHOST TOURS NOW OFFERED TWICE A MONTH.

Special to the Gazette.

Our acclaimed Pioneer Ghost Tours exploring one of Texas' most active paranormal sites have resumed, and we are now offering two tours each month instead of one.

The new tours will 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.

## DIGITAL WAYFINDING PROJECT SET TO LAUNCH IN SUMMER.

Special to the Gazette.

The next stage of our new digitally enhanced experience for visitors is expected to be in operation by early summer.

Installation of portal posts at our history sites is to get underway in coming weeks. Each will contain electronic tags that will signal to visitors on their cell phones, and allow them to open links to detailed historical information about each site.

By the time the project is complete, all 12 of our history sites will be equipped with the cutting-edge technology that is employed by much-larger U.S. and European museums.

Eagle Scout candidate Zane Sinno of Austin is completing this project for his Eagle project.

Pioneer Farms is the first Texas living-history museum to deploy the technology, which we think will be a hit with visitors.

## TOTAL ECLIPSE FEST.



Wikimedia Commons/ Courtesy

A total eclipse has not crossed Austin since 1878.

### 2-DAY 'SUN OFF' FESTIVAL SCHEDULED APRIL 7-8.

### A BIG HISTORY CELEBRATION SET TO FEATURE SCIENCE, HISTORY, MUSIC FOR A TEXAS RARITY.

Special to the Gazette.

The first total eclipse in Texas since 1878, and the first in Austin since 1397, will bring darkness to daylight on Monday, April 8, and Pioneer Farms will be the place to watch it.

Special eclipse-related activities and historical programs will be offered both days. Food trucks will be on site both days.

On Monday, the top Austin band Max and the Hotpickin 57s will open the show at 10 a.m. Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided to attendees until our supply runs out.

Guests on Monday are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket to view the eclipse, which will reach totality from 1:36-37 p.m.

Admission is \$12 per person per day. See PioneerFarms.org for more details and tickets for this exciting, historical event.

### 'EXPERIENCE BLACKSMITHING' CLASSES SET AT ECLIPSE FEST.

Special to the Gazette.

Come out for the eclipse on April 7-8, and experience blacksmithing in special 45-minute classes where you can make a cool project.

These classes are suitable for ages 6 and up, with the Sunday and Monday time slots limited to four students each.

Reserve your time slot either day at PioneerFarms.org.



Pioneer Farms

The circa-1854 Aynesworth-Wright House.

### DONATIONS SUPPORT REHAB OF AYNESWORTH-WRIGHT HOUSE.

Special to the Gazette.

Our circa-1854 Aynesworth-Wright House, one of the oldest extant homes in Austin, is set for an upcoming makeover.

Following the recent passing of Timothy Aynesworth, a descendant of Hezekiah Aynesworth who built the one-story Greek Revival-style home, memorial gifts were made to assist with a planned restoration project.

So far, more than \$3,000 has been donated. The project is to include restoration of siding, stairways, porches and windows.

The house features two exhibit galleries. Memorial donations have come in from Donna Aynesworth on behalf of Key Beck and Family and Gary Leonard and Family, William and Janis Zimmerman, Donald and Jenny D'Armond, Rosemary Morrow, Michael and Sally Ward, and an anonymous gift.

Pioneer Farms is most grateful for the support.

# LIVE LIKE A PIONEER

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

## IN THIS MONTH: 1854.

Special to the Gazette.

On April 26, 1854, the U.S. War Department ordered a survey of land for Indian reservations in unsettled territory, “preferably on timbered land of good soil adjacent to navigable water.” Four leagues of land on the Brazos River below Fort Belknap were selected for use by the Caddos, Wacos and other tribes, and another tract of the same size 40 miles away for the Comanches. A third tract on the Brazos was designated for the Mescalero and Lipan Apaches. The reservations reverted to the state when the tribes were removed to the Indian Territory in 1859.

## HOME REMEDY: PAPULES.

From *Household Remedies & Cures*: “Apply a mixture of one part apple cider vinegar and three parts warm water to infected (pimple), rinse and dry. Repeat twice daily until eruption cures.”

## HOMESTEADING: WEED CONTROL.

To control weeds around homes and gardens, use a mixture of vinegar, soap and salt, with attention to not apply it near vegetables and ornamentals that are not at issue. Kitchen water use can be used with great economy.

## RECIPE: GRAMMIE'S DROP COOKIES.

Pflugerville resident Lydia Harris sends this month's “historic recipe for brown sugar cookies that my grandmother got from her grandmother when Texas was still mostly open land. She baked them for all of her children, and grand- and great-grandbabies as they grew up.”

**Makes:** 12-15 cookies

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a big mixing bowl beat together the brown sugar, egg, butter and vanilla until its thoroughly mixed.

In a smaller bowl mix the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add that to the brown sugar mixture and stir it all together.

Scoop about one tablespoon of batter per cookie and drop onto cookie sheet about two inches apart.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. “Don't burn the cookies because they'll be too hard to eat unless you dip them in milk.

Enjoy these cookies at the table with a glass of milk or in a shady spot outdoors with lemonade, and think about how you're living some yummy Texas history.”

*Contributions to this column are welcomed. Send them to [info@pioneerfarms.org](mailto:info@pioneerfarms.org)*

## HAND-TOOL WOODWORKING CLASSES HAVE RESUMED.

Special to the Gazette.

Weekend classes in hand-tool woodworking are back.

Well-known Austin wood artisan Kelly Shaw, owner of Gatlinburg Woodcrafts, will teach the classes that will begin with a basics class in building by hand a small open-top tool box. See [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org) for schedules.

### PIONEER FARMS GAZETTE.

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## OUR TEXAS HISTORY HEROES!

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

**Mr. & Mrs. Joe W. Bratcher Jr. Foundation  
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National Endowment for the Humanities  
CWS Apartment Homes LLC Franklin Investments  
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**Join these Texas History Heroes.  
Make a donation today at  
[PioneerFarms.org/donate](http://PioneerFarms.org/donate).**



*Learn the Pioneer Ways  
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**Accredited classes and programs now  
open for Spring & Summer 2024  
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*New classes in Blacksmithing, Culinary,  
Farm & Garden, Hand-Tool  
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**Details, sign up at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org)**

## HANDS-ON HISTORY LESSONS IN APRIL TO FOCUS ON POTTERY

Special to the Gazette.

Our popular Hands-On History lessons during April will focus on pinch pot pottery and the Indigenous Peoples of Texas.



Wikimedia Commons/Courtesy

**Pinch pot pottery.**

The program for children will be offered on Friday, April 5, starting at 10:30 a.m. Reservations are open at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org).

The program will also be available to museum visitors as a hands-on activity on Sunday, April 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The program in May will focus on 19th century laundry techniques with a bit of laundry fun, relay style, and the science of soap.



Pioneer Farms

**Blacksmithing classes just doubled in number this spring.**

## 17 NEW BLACKSMITHING CLASSES ADDED TO FOLK ARTS SCHEDULE.

Special to the Gazette.

Seventeen new blacksmithing classes featuring take-home projects have been added to the schedule, along with advanced-skill and specialty sessions.

The projects will include bottle openers, steel roses, Viking jewelry, barbeque forks, trivets, kissing horse hearts and Jingle Bells, among others.

Advanced classes in making hammers and joinery are also being added.

The new classes answer to popular demand and represent the largest expansion of our premier hot metal program in its 20-year history.

Enroll at [PioneerFarms.org](http://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.

These tours are available for groups of 20 or more by reservation at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org).

## BECOME A MEMBER, SUPPORT OUR UNIQUE HISTORY PROGRAMS.

Special to the Gazette.

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

Members get in for free, get special discounts, access to invitation-only events and special programs and recognition for your support.

Sign up at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org).

## SIGN UP TO JOIN PIONEER NATION.

Special to the Gazette.

Interested in volunteering at Pioneer Farms? It's easy.

Apply online at [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org), and once you're accepted we'll quickly get you scheduled and stepping back into 1800s Texas.

We have openings for historical interpreters, special events staff, store clerks, animal feeders, gardeners and in exhibit development and preparation.

Come join the best volunteering gig in the Austin area.

## PIONEER WEATHER REPORT ANYTIME

Check SPRINKLE TX on Yahoo or Google Weather.

## GOINGS-ON. COMMUNITY BULLETINS OF GENERAL INTEREST



Pioneer Farms

**SPRUCE-UP:** Aably led by Eagle Scout candidate Ben Gerbolini, Boy Scouts from Pflugerville's Troop 408 upgraded and expanded historic landscaping at our Houston-Orsay and Aynsworth-Wright houses in Sprinkle Corner on March 23 (photos above and below). The project will be used in historical programs at the two sites, for the hundreds of school children who are slated to visit Pioneer Farms in coming months . . .



**SCOUTS:** Camping and activity opportunities for Boy and Girl Scouts have increased as historical programs have been adapted to qualify them for badges and activity credits. Campers can now overnight in tents at our Texas history sites, below near our 1876 Dessau Church. See [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org) for details . . .



Michael McKenna/Courtesy

**GARDENS:** Kate Horton, our expert Community Garden lead, and girls from Girl Scout Troop 45403 have volunteered to install period wattle panels for grape vines at the Bell Farm garden (below). Two plots are available for lease for \$55 a plot to anyone with a green thumb. Contact us at [info@pioneerfarms.org](mailto:info@pioneerfarms.org) if you're interested . . .



Courtesy Photo

## TELEGRAMS, LETTERS & DISPATCHES.

**AMAZING:** “Your African-American genealogy lecture (Feb. 2) was an amazing resource for our family that did not have any idea of our roots. The past month has been a wonder of discovery for us all, and we are just getting started. Thank you.” — **D.P.**, Austin . . .

**GREAT:** “My class enjoyed a great experience on our (March), and I wanted you to know that it was the most engaged I have seen my students in some time. We will definitely be back.” — **J.R.**, Cedar Park . . .

**WONDERFUL:** “Our first visit to Pioneer Farms since moving from California to Austin left us both amazed at the surprising history here and sad that we didn't know about your wonderful history museum sooner. Texas history is so much more real when you can see it and touch it and smell it.” — **Jerri and Phil D.**, Austin . . .

**WOW:** “The wonderful operation you're accomplishing with dedicated volunteers is most amazing and commendable. Keep up the great work. You are an example of the True Texas Spirit.” — **Barbara D.**, Cedar Park . . .