

## Chapter 1 : Frontier Forts > Texas and the Western Frontier

*Surviving on the Texas Frontier: The Journal of a Frontier Orphan Girl in San Saba County, [Sarah Harkey Hall, Paula Mitchell Marks] on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

In 1821, when Lieutenant William H. B. Travis took his advice, and established Fort Clark on June 20, 1821, with an objective of protecting the San Antonio-El Paso Road and protecting area settlements from both Indians and threats from Mexico. LaMotte, who, along with an advance and rear guard of U. S. Mounted Rifles, began to construct the fort. In 1822, a stone hospital and a two-story storehouse were erected. Brackett established a stage top and opened a dry-goods store. When the settlement was first founded in 1821, it was called Brackett, but, was later renamed Brackettville. Even though the fort was just south of the community, the town grew slowly because of the constant Indian threats. In 1861, at the onset of the Civil War and the secession of Texas, Federal soldiers abandoned the fort in March. It was then used briefly as a hospital for Confederate troops and area civilians. Union soldiers returned in December, next involved in numerous Indian Wars. In 1875, Fort Clark was home to numerous black Seminole Indian Scouts, who would serve the fort from 1875 until 1882. During these tumultuous years, Comanche and Apache Indians often swept through the area, raiding, killing, stealing horses, mules and cattle before escaping across the Rio Grande River into Mexico. At the same time, outlaws were busy working their dastardly deeds in the area, before fleeing the border to safety of Mexico. During these violent times, hundreds of pioneers were forced to abandon their homesteads. In 1876, the fort was the headquarters of Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie when he created an international incident by crossing the border and attacking the Kickapoo and Lipan Apache raiders who were using Mexico as a sanctuary. The troops also played a small role in the Red River War of 1875. Fort Clark Cavalry Barracks After the Indians in the region were subdued, the fort was threatened with closure, but, turmoil along the border due to the Mexican Revolution revitalized the military need for the fort. The fort remained active as an infantry and cavalry post, with troops serving in World War I. During the war, the post also served as a German POW camp. Fort Clark was one of the last horse-cavalry posts in the country. The post was officially deactivated in early 1916, and later that year was sold to the Brown and Root Company for salvage and later used as a guest ranch. For the preservation of Fort Clark, its use as a guest ranch ensured its preservation. Fort Clark Museum In 1936, the property became part of the Fort Clark Springs Association, which has developed the area, providing not only a living and resort community but also preserving some 80 buildings that have been designated as a National Register Historic District. The old cavalry barracks have been transformed into a hotel. Inside the old guardhouse is a museum, operated by the Fort Clark Historical Society, which is open on weekends. Called Fort Clark Springs today, the old fort site is a privately owned resort and leisure living community. However, its being a commercial endeavor has only helped in the preservation of this historic fort. The resort includes an 18-hole golf course, and the old Fort Clark spring feeds a natural swimming pool. Camping and RV sites are available. Fort Clark Springs is located at the southern edge of Brackettville, Texas.

**Chapter 2 : History: Daily Life on the Frontier**

*Surviving on the Texas Frontier has 9 ratings and 1 review. Rebecca said: This journal is written by an ancestor of mine, a 4th great aunt. She endured s.*

Frontier Forts Main Texas and the Western Frontier It is not probable that white settlements will be made here for a century to come, if ever. Area of settlements at the edge of the western frontier circa to and the U. Within a short time, settlers moved beyond the lines of defense and into unprotected lands. Photo by William S. Bison, traditional sustenance for the Plains tribes and later a rich commodity for Anglo hide traders, were to come perilously close to extinction by the end of the nineteenth century. Photo courtesy Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The fertile terraces of the Brazos River attracted settlers who began small farms in the Peters Colony of northwest Texas. Western settlers being attacked by Indians. Small communities on the edge of the frontier suffered the brunt of Indian attacks in early years and served as a buffer for the larger towns. Detail from Harpers Weekly, ca. Note the stations at army forts across Texas. Diseases took as great a toll on settlers as they did on Indians in some years, particularly young children and the elderly. Gravestones, such as this one marking the death of a child in the s central Texas community of Hoover Valley, are a poignant reminder of the harsh frontier conditions. Anglo Texans greeted the end of the U. All too quickly the lure of nearly free and unbroken land attracted a multitude of pioneers. In response, the U. Army in began establishing a new line of forts a hundred miles beyond the original vanguard. For Hispanics and Indians, who also claimed much of this wild land as their home, the years of early statehood left them struggling merely to survive. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the late war cast many Tejanos into a perilous future, with their new citizenship shadowed by an alien legal system and powerful economic forces. Some would fight to hold what they had, and find their recourse outside the law. The situation for the Comanches was even more ominous. The effects of contact had visited the Penateka southern bands with lethal consequences. Dependence on the material goods of Anglos and a taste for alcohol broke both tradition and will. Ecological changes, moreover, upset the annual migration of the great bison herds, a condition that would persist into the years of the Civil War. Armed with superior weaponry and well tutored in double-dealing, they further contracted the kingdom of these one-time Lords of the Plains. To Anglos, so many unrestrained Indian tribes and disgruntled Tejanos posed a psychological threat illuminated by the very real prospect of actual raids. Northern Comanches, joined by Kiowas and individuals from other tribes, splashed across the Red River from the Indian Territory and often probed the length of the frontier line, keeping settlers on constant alert. Additionally, the usual run of rootless and lawless whites took advantage of frontier conditions to prey upon the livestock of isolated settlers. Settlers bet their lives and property on the wager that chaos would quickly give way to order. In the estimation of these plucky newcomers, the prospective rewards were certainly worth the risks. Like their predecessors, the Spanish colonists who in the s had settled the borderlands along the Rio Grande, they learned that all manner of hardships might be survived with a bit of luck and the support of neighbors, though often far afield. As the s unfolded, signs of progress offered encouragement. However meager, any number of villages sprang up between the first and second line of U. This expansive watershed came to be known as Northwest Texas. Settlements such as Fredericksburg, New Braunfels and Castrovilla provided a bit of European culture on the frontier in spite of continued threats of Indian attacks. In the Southern Overland Mail, better known as the Butterfield stage, began cutting a path across the plains and prairies between its terminals at Saint Louis and San Francisco. From Sherman to El Paso a series of stations presented anchors around which communities seemed surely to emerge. Other newcomers to northern Texas learned that the Western Cross Timbers, a veritable "cast iron forest," provided natural fencing. Just when it seemed as if the frontier was beginning to join the mainstream of Texan society, Anglo-Indian conflicts and the Civil War reversed most of this material progress. For their part, the state and federal governments were often at odds, flip-flopping between policies of peace and war. Adding to the sense of anxiety, the federal government in leased four leagues of land for an Indian reservation along the Brazos River below Fort Belknap. That spring, Texans led by ranger captain Rip Ford reported the defeat of over determined warriors

at the Battle of the Washita, in Indian Territory. Not far from there, near Wichita Village, U. Meanwhile, The White Man grew ever more vocal. Words grew into deeds, climaxing in the Reservation War of that pitted militiamen of Northwest Texas against the Indians on both reservations. While no pitched battles ensued, the affair resulted in the expulsion of the native peoples. At last it seemed as if Anglo Texans had gained control of the frontier. The Civil War cost pioneer folk both the protection of the federal troops and much of its home guard, as many militiamen took up arms and marched east to defend the South. Indians, revitalized by feelings of revenge, took advantage of the situation and attempted to reclaim their former homeland and hunting grounds. Rio Grande City, circa This peaceful scene belies the violence that frequently erupted in this and other early Texas border towns. As the artist-soldier Capt. Lee wrote, Rio Grande City "could boast more crimes of murder, robbery, assassination, and outlawry generally, than all the rest of the Texas cities. Click for full image. For many Tejanos, however, the treaty brought an alien legal system along with a change in citizenship. Some victims of the new economic and political order fought back outside the law. Treaty page 1 , courtesy the Library of Congress. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress. As settlers pushed farther west on the Texas frontier in the s, new army posts were constructed to provide a measure of protection. Substantial houses of stone and plaster with a European flair were built in early settlements such as Castroville. The house shown is that of Henri Castro, founder of the s colony west of San Antonio. Click to see full image. The threat of Indian raids was a constant source of anxiety for settlers on the Texas frontier, particularly after U. Perhaps no pioneers in the history of the American West experienced such trying conditions as those who remained on the Texas frontier during the Civil War years. Flag raising at Fort Davis, a community fort on the Brazos River. Settlers who "forted up" in family compounds during the Civil War years found time for celebrations amid worry over Indian raids and lack of supplies. Longhorn cattle, a hardy hybrid of Spanish criollo stock and English cattle," thrived on the Texas plains and prairies, giving rise to the occupation known as "cow hunting. While markets in the interior went begging for goods to send to the Confederate army, there was little the pioneers could produce in bulk. The scarcity of supplies and hard currency, moreover, left them to their own ingenuity. The one commodity they enjoyed in abundance was beef. From the brush country of South Texas to the grassy rolling plains of Northwest Texas, the lean, hardy breed of longhorn cattle proliferated. Belknap has declared unfit to inhabit. Most observers of the Civil War years claimed the Comanches and Kiowas rolled back the frontier a hundred miles in places; certainly the population thinned considerably. Even so, cow hunters actually extended their reach, adapting to the unfamiliar environment, even against the mortal peril of Indian raids. One outfit, near old Camp Cooper, was reportedly tending a herd of 25, head of longhorn when warriors forced them to flee. Most of the war parties were small in number, and the raids were short and sharp, but not all one-sided. An overburdened state cavalry and what was left of the local militias sporadically patrolled the frontier and kept their adversaries on guard. The single most serious incident during these years came in the fall of The "Elm Creek Raid" in Young County reportedly involved a party of between five hundred and a thousand Comanches and Kiowas who raided the middle Brazos, virtually denuding the range of cattle and horses and besieging the citizen post Fort Murrah. If not for some of the home guard and a few isolated but well armed settlers who engaged the warriors, the death toll of the Texas pioneers would have been much worse. Along with the livestock, the war party returned to Indian Territory with almost a dozen women and children captives. Moreover, they forbid frontierspeople to raise arms and organize. The raids continued, bringing so many reports of depredations that their very scale created disbelief. Map adapted from Donald Frazier in Cashion Clear Fork pioneers Judge J. The bride, shown at the age of 15, was born on the westernmost edge of the Texas frontier as the Civil War broke out. Click for more detail. After the Civil War, federal troops returned to man their posts on a frontier that had become more volatile during their absence. The small north Texas town of Jacksboro, shown here in , was charged with new life when Fort Richardson was established nearby and still thrives. Thousands of Longhorns were herded along the dusty trails across Texas during the latter half of the nineteenth century bringing herds from as far south as the Rio Grande to markets in Kansas and other points. Notorious river boat gambling queen Lottie Deno parried her skills at the game into a profitable business at the Fort Griffin Flat. Tonkawa Indians, such as these young boys, were a common sight in the town of Fort Griffin, given its proximity to their village on the Clear Fork of the Brazos.

Tonkawa men served as scouts for the U. By , however, a line of federal forts approximating the antebellum configuration arose anew on the Texas frontier. Some, like Forts Richardson and Bliss, breathed life into towns such as Jacksboro and El Paso, respectively, while entirely new communities sprang up alongside other federal posts. Of these, a few survived their tumultuous frontier beginnings, such as Saint Angela now San Angelo, alongside Fort Concho and Fort Stockton in the shadow of the post that bore the same name. As long as the soldiers patrolled the frontier, however, all the "fort towns" thrived by providing goods and services to the military. Most of those who settled near the posts were earnest pioneers who came west to take advantage of legitimate business opportunities. From the surrounding countryside they provided forage for army horses and mules and foodstuffs for the soldiers.

Chapter 3 : James Bowie - Wikipedia

*Surviving on the Texas Frontier-Few accounts of life in 19th century provide either the vivid detail or the poignancy of those reflections set down by Sarah Harkey Hall in*

Courtesy of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Comanche Trails Across Texas into Mexico. The Comanches, exceptional horsemen who dominated the Southern Plains, played a prominent role in Texas frontier history throughout much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Anthropological evidence indicates that they were originally a mountain tribe, a branch of the Northern Shoshones, who roamed the Great Basin region of the western United States as crudely equipped hunters and gatherers. The Comanche language is derived from the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family and is virtually identical to the language of the Northern Shoshones. Sometime during the late seventeenth century, the Comanches acquired horses, and that acquisition drastically altered their culture. The life of the pedestrian tribe was revolutionized as they rapidly evolved into a mounted, well-equipped, and powerful people. Their new mobility allowed them to leave their mountain home and their Shoshone neighbors and move onto the plains of eastern Colorado and western Kansas, where game was plentiful. Comanche Warriors on Mustangs. Courtesy of George Catlin. After their arrival on the Great Plains, the Comanches began a southern migration that was encouraged by a combination of factors. By moving south, they had greater access to the mustangs of the Southwest. The warm climate and abundant buffalo were additional incentives for the southern migration. The move also facilitated the acquisition of French trade goods, including firearms, through barter with the Wichita Indians on the Red River. Pressure from more powerful and better-armed tribes to their north and east, principally the Blackfoot and Crow Indians, also encouraged their migration. Although the tribe came to be known historically as Comanches, they called themselves Nermernuh, or "the People. Courtesy of the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Comanches did not arrive on the South Plains as a unified body but rather in numerous family groups or bands. The band structure of Comanche society was not rigid, and bands coalesced and broke apart, depending on the needs and goals of their members. As many as thirteen different Comanche bands were identified during the historic period, and most probably there were others that were never identified. However, five major bands played important roles in recorded Comanche history. The southernmost band was called Penateka, or "Honey Eaters. Because of their location, the Penatekas played the most prominent role in Texas history. These three divisions are sometimes referred to collectively as Middle Comanches. Still farther north was the range of the Kotsotekas, or "Buffalo-Eaters. The northernmost band was known as the Yamparikas, or "Yap-Eaters," a name derived from that of an edible root. Their range extended north to the Arkansas River. The fifth major band, known as Quahadis "Antelopes" , roamed the high plains of the Llano Estacado. Native American Uses of the Buffalo. Painting, Comanche Village by George Catlin. The Comanches remained a nomadic people throughout their free existence. Buffalo, their lifeblood, provided food, clothing, and shelter. Their predominantly meat diet was supplemented with wild roots, fruits, and nuts, or with produce obtained by trade with neighboring agricultural tribes, principally the Wichita and Caddo groups to the east and the Pueblo tribes to the west. Because of their skills as traders, the Comanches controlled much of the commerce of the Southern Plains. They bartered buffalo products, horses, and captives for manufactured items and foodstuffs. The familiar Plains-type tepee constructed of tanned buffalo hide stretched over sixteen to eighteen lodge poles provided portable shelter for the Comanches. Their clothing, made of bison hide or buckskin, consisted of breechclout, leggings, and moccasins for men, and fringed skirt, poncho-style blouse, leggings, and moccasins for women. Buffalo robes provided protection from cold weather. But it was the horse that most clearly defined the Comanche way of life. It gave them mobility to follow the buffalo herds and the advantage of hunting and conducting warfare from horseback. Horses also became a measure of Comanche wealth and a valuable trade commodity. In horsemanship the Comanches had no equal. Children learned to ride at an early age, and both men and women developed exceptional equestrian skills. Democratic principle was strongly implanted in Comanche political organization. Each tribal division had both civil or peace chiefs and war chiefs, but traditionally the head civil chief was most influential. Leaders gained their positions through

special abilities or prowess, and retained their power only so long as they maintained the confidence of band members, who chose their leaders by common consent. Tribal decisions were made by a council of chiefs presided over by the head civil chief, but individuals were not bound to accept council decisions. Comanche society permitted great individual freedom, and that autonomy greatly complicated relations with European cultures. By the early eighteenth century, Comanche bands had migrated into what is now North Texas. In Spanish officials in New Mexico documented the presence of numerous Comanches on the northeastern frontier of that province. As the Comanches moved south, they came into conflict with tribes already living on the South Plains, particularly the Apaches, who had dominated the region before the arrival of the Comanches. The Apaches were forced south by the Comanche onslaught and became their mortal enemies. The first documented evidence of Comanches in Texas occurred in 1719, when a small band, probably a scouting party, appeared at the Spanish settlement of San Antonio seeking their enemies, the Lipan Apaches. No hostilities occurred, but it was obvious that the Comanches believed that the Spanish and Apaches were allies. However, fifteen years passed before the Spanish learned the true strength of Comanche presence in Texas. In a force of some 2,000 Comanches and allied tribes attacked a Spanish mission built for the Apaches on the San Saba River near present Menard. A year later, a Spanish punitive expedition led by Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla also met defeat at the hands of the Comanches and their allies in a daylong battle on the Red River near the site of present Spanish Fort. *Map of Comancheria Trade and Raiding Routes. Painting, Trade with Comanches by Charles Shaw.* By the mid-eighteenth century, the armed and mounted Comanches had become a formidable force in Texas. Spanish officials, lacking the resources to defeat them militarily, decided to pursue peace with the Comanches. A peace policy that utilized trade and gifts to promote friendship and authorized military force only to punish specific acts of aggression was inaugurated and remained in effect, with varying degrees of success, for the remainder of Spanish rule in Texas. Continued Apache aggression made it impossible for the Comanches to keep their promise, and ultimately led Spanish officials to advocate a Spanish-Comanche alliance aimed at exterminating the Apaches. The Comanche chief Povea signed the treaty in 1786 at San Antonio, thereby committing his band to peace with the Spaniards. Other bands, however, continued to raid Spanish settlements. Comanche attacks escalated in the early 1800s, and Spanish officials feared the province of Texas would be lost. To avoid that possibility, the governor of Texas, Domingo Cabello y Robles, was instructed to negotiate peace with the warring Comanches. The mission was successful, and the emissaries returned to San Antonio with three principal Comanche chiefs who were authorized by their people to make peace with the Spanish. The result was the Spanish-Comanche Treaty of 1801, a document that Comanches honored, with only minor violations, until the end of the century. As Spanish power waned in the early years of the nineteenth century, officials were unable to supply promised gifts and trade goods, and Comanche aggression once again became commonplace. Comanches raided Spanish settlements for horses to trade to Anglo-American traders entering Texas from the United States. Those Americans furnished the Comanches with trade goods, including arms and ammunition, and provided a thriving market for Comanche horses. Mexican Constitution of 1824. Though Mexican authorities in Texas continued the Spanish policy of pursuing peace with the Comanches, the unstable government in Mexico City failed to provide the resources necessary to accomplish the job with any permanence. Comanches continued to dominate much of Texas, both in trade and warfare. In the late 1820s several principal chiefs, including Paruaquibitse, Yncoroy, and Yzazona, established a tenuous peace with Mexican officials—possibly because of pressure from Osage Indians and other hostile tribes on their north. However, when two of the major peace chiefs died in the early 1830s, Comanche-Mexican relations deteriorated once again, and Mexican officials began encouraging Shawnees, Cherokees, and other tribes to make war on the Comanches. The Mexican Colonization Law of 1824 encouraged foreign immigration to Texas, and settlers from the United States poured into the province. As the Anglo-American population grew, relations between Americans and Comanches began to deteriorate. The amity that had developed through mutually beneficial trade quickly disintegrated when the newly arrived Texans began surveying land that Comanches considered their traditional hunting ground, and the two soon became implacable enemies. *Restoration of Fort Parker. Cynthia Ann Parker circa 1835.* When Texans won their independence from Mexico in 1836, the Comanches and their allies were still in absolute control of the Texas plains. They frequently conducted raids on frontier settlements

from San Antonio to northern Mexico. In May a particularly destructive raid occurred at Fort Parker, a settlement of some thirty-four persons near the Navasota River in the future Limestone County. Comanches and their Kiowa allies attacked the blockhouse, killed several settlers, and took five hostages, including nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker, who lived with the Comanches for twenty-four years. In an effort to stop Comanche destruction on the Texas frontier, Sam Houston, first duly elected president of the Republic of Texas, instituted a policy aimed at establishing peace and friendship through commerce. Peace commissioners did succeed in negotiating a treaty with a band of Penateka Comanches led by Muguara, Muestyah, and Muhy, but the treaty was never ratified by the Texas Senate. When Houston left office in late 1836, Texan-Comanche relations were rapidly deteriorating and depredations were being committed by both sides. The Council House Fight. Courtesy of the San Antonio Express News. Buffalo Hump and Family. Lamar, who succeeded Houston as president, abandoned the peace policy, which he considered a failure, in favor of waging war on the Comanche nation. Fighting broke out, and thirty-five Comanches, including twelve chiefs, were killed. The remaining thirty Comanches, primarily women and children, were imprisoned by the Texans. Seven Texans were also killed in the melee, and eight were wounded. But the violence was not over. In late summer Comanches launched a retaliatory raid.

**Chapter 4 : Surviving on the Texas Frontier : Sarah Haskey Hall :**

*Surviving on the Texas Frontier: The Journal of a Frontier Orphan Girl in San Saba County, 1st edition by Sarah Harkey Hall, Paula Mitchell Marks () Hardcover on calendrierdelascience.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Texas has always been the place to be. It looked like everybody in the world was going to Texas. All foreigners, who, in virtue of the general law of the 18th of August, , which guarantees the security of the person and property in the territory of the Mexican nation, wish to remove to any of the settlements of the State of Coahuila and Texas, are at liberty to so to do, and the said State invites and calls them. Gone To Texas frontier saying Share Tejas. The very name of the Mexican province conjured dreams of wide-open land and wide-open opportunity. New ideas, new jobs, new identities, new starts and new money were all possible on the vast frontier. Fish, game, wildflowers, grains, and cotton abounded. The incentive that the Mexican government offered to Anglo American settlers to relocate was hard to resist: The fact that much of that territory was already inhabited by American Indians, well, that was just going to be overlooked. The promise and opportunity of life in Texas vastly outweighed the threats that frontier life might pose, so for a while there, it looked like everybody in the world really was going to Texas. From Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, the adventurers packed up their belongings and their newly-issued land grant titles and headed toward their futures. Settlement managers, or empresarios, such as Stephen F. Share July 16, , Brazos River, Coahuila and Texas Dear Friend, On arrival at the Brazos, we found two families, Garrett and Hibblings, who had got there a few days before us, and were engaged in erecting cabins. We were, all of us, much pleased with the situation of this place, and decided to remain here for the present. As far as we have seen, we are well pleased with this part of the country. The land is rich and fertile! You would scarcely believe me, were I to tell you of the vast herds of buffalo which abound here. You, in Kentucky, cannot conceive of the beauty of one of our prairies in the spring. One must see it to get even a faint idea of its beauty. Settling In The colonization law passed by the Mexican government in March of granted each head of a family acres of land for farming and 4, acres for raising livestock. Although the migrating settlers left much behind them, they brought with them professional skills, money, and literacy. Many also brought their slaves, although the Mexican government was opposed to the enslavement of any people of color. Anglo American settlers vouched that their slaves were actually "indentured servants" or "contract laborers," and moved on. The first order of business was to build a home. For many Texas families, that structure was a one- or two-story rough timber cabin with a middle breezeway where dogs could loll comfortably in the dirt or trot through from front to back. Home, in frontier parlance, was a "dogtrot" cabin. Share Dogtrot cabin Men talked hopefully of the future; children reveled in the novelty of the present; but the womenâ€”ah, there was where the situation bore heaviest. As one old lady remarked, Texas is heaven for men and dogs, but a hell for women and oxen. Theyâ€”the womenâ€”talked sadly of the old homes and friends left behind, so very far behind it seemed then, of the hardships and bitter privations they were undergoing and the dangers that surrounded them. Noah Smithwick, circa Share Share Home sweet home? We set off for Texas. With heavy hearts, we said goodbye to Mother, and my brothers and sister. Mother ran after us for one more embrace. She held me in her arms and wept aloud, and said: Native Tejanos had called the Texas province home since the Spanish explorations of the s. Some American Indians had inhabited the land for thousands of years before that. As news of frontier opportunity spread throughout the U. When not engaging in skirmishes, early Texas settlers spent most of their time doing backbreaking labor from sun up to sundown. The "white gold" cotton and the staple corn crops had to be planted, tended, and harvested. Chickens, pigs, cows, and goats required care. Daily food had to be hunted and caught. The frontier provided no linen or lace, so women sewed tanned deer hide into buckskin clothing. Those lucky few who had managed to strap a spinning wheel onto their wagons before leaving their U. Any kind of trade with the other far-flung Texas settlements required weeks of hazardous travel on dirt track roads. Settlers organized home schooling and church services, although both were haphazard and occasional experiences. For most settlers, rest and recreation, like coffee and cigarettes, were usually in short supply but greatly enjoyed when available. The whole family were dressed in buckskin,

and when supper was announced, we sat on stools around a clapboard table, upon which were arranged wooden platters. Beside each platter lay a fork made of a joint of sugar cane. And for cups, we had little wild cymplings [gourds], scraped and scoured until they looked as white and clean as earthenware, and the milk with which the cups were filled was as pure and sweet as a mortal ever tasted. Despite the hardships and the danger, immigrants from Germany, France, Ireland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other countries throughout the world followed the siren call to frontier Texas. These settlers brought their cultures, languages, and world views and established communities throughout Texas, many of which still retain a distinct heritage today. From a population of about 20, in , Texas grew to over , hardy frontier settlers by the late s. In , honorary Texas frontiersman Davy Crockett had uttered his famous directive, "You may all go to hell and I will go to Texas. They up and went to Texas. Nothing much has changed.

*Get this from a library! Surviving on the Texas frontier: the journal of an orphan girl in San Saba County. [Sarah Harkey Hall; Paula Mitchell Marks] -- Few accounts of life in the nineteenth century Texas provide either the vivid personal detail or the poignancy of these recollections set down by Sarah Harkey Hall in*

Once a farmer cleared the land, built a cabin and a barn, and planted his crops, he still had a lot of chores that needed to be done each day. In order to survive, the entire family needed to work. Each day, the settlers would wake up with the sunlight and work until sundown. Homesteader NE by Unknown Hard Work One of the first things a farmer needed to do was to build a barn and a cabin. The barn was important to keep the animals safe from wolves and other predators and also to store farming tools and grain. Planting the seed on a big farm took a lot of work. First the farmer would need to plow up the field with a large plow pulled by a horse or oxen. Next, he would scatter the seed throughout the field, and finally he would use the oxen to drag dirt over the tops of the seeds. Frontier Women Women had their jobs and worked hard too. In many cases they helped the farmer in the fields during planting and harvesting times. Other tasks often included: When children grew older they took on more difficult tasks. Older boys often worked the farm or chopped wood. Older daughters often helped to care for their younger siblings. Education Some settler children went to a local one-room schoolhouse. Usually they had only one teacher that taught all of the grades. They learned the basics such as reading, writing, math, spelling, and history. When writing, they used slates instead of paper. Slates were like small chalkboards they could hold in their hands. The children usually went to school in the winter and summer, but stayed home to help on the farm during the planting and harvesting seasons of spring and autumn. Entertainment Although the pioneers worked most of the time, they would occasionally get together for a dance or a picnic. Once the barn was finished they would have a dance. They played fiddles and accordions for music. Children had fun playing games outdoors and swimming. Girls would learn to practice their sewing by making their own dolls to play with. Bad Weather The life of a pioneer was heavily dependent upon the weather. This plow could cut right through thick soil without the dirt sticking to it. It made life much easier on pioneer farmers. Native Americans often helped the settlers, teaching them how to plant crops and about the local herbs they could use for medicine. They had outhouses where they used leaves or dried cornhusks for toilet paper. In the southwest, many settlers made homes from adobe bricks like the Native Americans. In areas of the Great Plains where trees were scarce, they made sod homes from blocks of dirt and grass. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element.

**Chapter 6 : Quanah Parker Trail: A Road to Remember | Plains Trail Region**

*Surviving on the Texas Frontier: The Journal of a Frontier Orphan Girl in San Saba County, by Sarah Harkey Hall; Paula Mitchell Marks. Eakin Pr,*

Daniel Boone escorting settlers through the Cumberland Gap In the colonial era, before , the west was of high priority for settlers and politicians. The American frontier began when Jamestown , Virginia was settled by the English in . In the earliest days of European settlement of the Atlantic coast, until about , the frontier was essentially any part of the interior of the continent beyond the fringe of existing settlements along the Atlantic coast. Only a few thousand French migrated to Canada; these habitants settled in villages along the St. Lawrence River , building communities that remained stable for long stretches; they did not simply jump west the way the British did. Although French fur traders ranged widely through the Great Lakes and mid-west region they seldom settled down. French settlement was limited to a few very small villages such as Kaskaskia, Illinois [8] as well as a larger settlement around New Orleans. Likewise, the Dutch set up fur trading posts in the Hudson River valley, followed by large grants of land to rich landowning patroons who brought in tenant farmers who created compact, permanent villages. They created a dense rural settlement in upstate New York, but they did not push westward. These areas remained primarily in subsistence agriculture, and as a result by the s these societies were highly egalitarian, as explained by historian Jackson Turner Main: The typical frontier society therefore was one in which class distinctions were minimized. The wealthy speculator, if one was involved, usually remained at home, so that ordinarily no one of wealth was a resident. The class of landless poor was small. The great majority were landowners, most of whom were also poor because they were starting with little property and had not yet cleared much land nor had they acquired the farm tools and animals which would one day make them prosperous. Few artisans settled on the frontier except for those who practiced a trade to supplement their primary occupation of farming. There might be a storekeeper, a minister, and perhaps a doctor; and there were a number of landless laborers. All the rest were farmers. North Carolina was representative. However frontier areas of that had good river connections were increasingly transformed into plantation agriculture. Rich men came in, bought up the good land, and worked it with slaves. The area was no longer "frontier". It had a stratified society comprising a powerful upper-class white landowning gentry, a small middle-class, a fairly large group of landless or tenant white farmers, and a growing slave population at the bottom of the social pyramid. Unlike the North, where small towns and even cities were common, the South was overwhelmingly rural. Land ownership brought a degree of independence as well as a vote for local and provincial offices. The typical New England settlements were quite compact and small—under a square mile. Conflict with the Native Americans arose out of political issues, namely who would rule. In the peace treaty of , France lost practically everything, as the lands west of the Mississippi river, in addition to Florida and New Orleans, went to Spain. Otherwise lands east of the Mississippi River and what is now Canada went to Britain. Steady migration to frontier lands[ edit ] Regardless of wars Americans were moving across the Appalachians into western Pennsylvania, what is now West Virginia, and areas of the Ohio Country , Kentucky and Tennessee. West of the mountains, settlements were curtailed briefly by a decree by the Royal Proclamation of . However the Treaty of Fort Stanwix re-opened most of the western lands for frontiersmen to settle. Pioneers housed themselves in a rough lean-to or at most a one-room log cabin. The main food supply at first came from hunting deer, turkeys, and other abundant game. Clad in typical frontier garb, leather breeches, moccasins, fur cap, and hunting shirt, and girded by a belt from which hung a hunting knife and a shot pouch—“all homemade”—the pioneer presented a unique appearance. In a short time he opened in the woods a patch, or clearing, on which he grew corn, wheat, flax, tobacco, and other products, even fruit. Homespun clothing replaced the animal skins. Land policy[ edit ] The land policy of the new nation was conservative, paying special attention to the needs of the settled East. By the s, however, the West was filling up with squatters who had no legal deed, although they may have paid money to previous settlers. The Jacksonian Democrats favored the squatters by promising rapid access to cheap land. By contrast, Henry Clay was alarmed at the "lawless rabble" heading West who were undermining the utopian concept of a

law-abiding, stable middle-class republican community. Rich southerners, meanwhile, looked for opportunities to buy high-quality land to set up slave plantations. The Free Soil movement of the s called for low-cost land for free white farmers, a position enacted into law by the new Republican Party in , offering free acre 65 ha homesteads to all adults, male and female, black and white, native-born or immigrant. Map of the Wilderness Road by After winning the Revolutionary War , American settlers in large numbers poured into the west. In , American pioneers to the Northwest Territory established Marietta, Ohio as the first permanent American settlement in the Northwest Territory. It was later lengthened to reach the Falls of the Ohio at Louisville. The Wilderness Road was steep and rough, and it could only be traversed on foot or horseback, but it was the best route for thousands of settlers moving into Kentucky. In alone, Indians killed over travelers on the Wilderness Road. No Indians lived permanently in Kentucky [24] but they sent raiding parties to stop the newcomers. Johnson , who later became Vice president The War of marked the final confrontation between major Indian forces trying to stop the advance, with British aid. The British war goal included the creation of an independent Indian state under British auspices in the Midwest. The death in battle of the Indian leader Tecumseh dissolved the coalition of hostile Indian tribes. In general the frontiersmen battled the Indians with little help from the U. Army or the federal government. They rejected the British plan to set up an Indian state in U. They explained the American policy toward acquisition of Indian lands: The United States, while intending never to acquire lands from the Indians otherwise than peaceably, and with their free consent, are fully determined, in that manner, progressively, and in proportion as their growing population may require, to reclaim from the state of nature, and to bring into cultivation every portion of the territory contained within their acknowledged boundaries. In thus providing for the support of millions of civilized beings, they will not violate any dictate of justice or of humanity; for they will not only give to the few thousand savages scattered over that territory an ample equivalent for any right they may surrender, but will always leave them the possession of lands more than they can cultivate, and more than adequate to their subsistence, comfort, and enjoyment, by cultivation. If this be a spirit of aggrandizement, the undersigned are prepared to admit, in that sense, its existence; but they must deny that it affords the slightest proof of an intention not to respect the boundaries between them and European nations, or of a desire to encroach upon the territories of Great Britain. Then when population reached , the territory applied for statehood. Louis, Missouri was the largest town on the frontier, the gateway for travel westward, and a principal trading center for Mississippi River traffic and inland commerce but remained under Spanish control until The Louisiana Purchase of [ edit ] Thomas Jefferson thought of himself as a man of the frontier and was keenly interested in expanding and exploring the West. Between and the s, the federal government purchased the actual land from the Indian tribes then in possession of it. Additional sums were paid to the Indians living east of the Mississippi for their lands, as well as payments to Indians living in parts of the west outside the Louisiana Purchase. He charged Lewis and Clark to "explore the Missouri River, and such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean; whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable communication across the continent for the purposes of commerce". By , Astor had taken over independent traders to create a profitable monopoly; he left the business as a multi-millionaire in

**Chapter 7 : Fort Clark, Texas – Surviving the Frontier – Legends of America**

*Encuentra Surviving on the Texas Frontier: The Journal of a Frontier Orphan Girl in San Saba County, de Sarah Haskey Hall, Paula Mitchell Marks (ISBN: ) en Amazon.*

His father had been wounded while fighting in the American Revolutionary War , and in married the young woman who had nursed him back to health. The Bowies first settled in Georgia and then moved to Kentucky. They sold that property in and relocated to what is now Missouri , before moving to Spanish Louisiana in , where they settled on Bushley Bayou in what soon became Rapides Parish. All the children learned to read and write in English, but James and his elder brother Rezin could also read, write, and speak Spanish and French fluently. James Bowie became proficient with pistol, rifle, and knife, [15] and had a reputation for fearlessness. When he was a boy, one of his Indian friends even taught him to rope alligators. The Bowie brothers arrived in New Orleans too late to participate in the fighting. For the next seven years, the brothers worked together to develop several large estates in Lafourche Parish and Opelousas. Without the capital required to buy large tracts, [24] they entered into a partnership with pirate Jean Lafitte in to raise money. By then, the United States had outlawed the importation of slaves , and most southern states allowed anyone who informed on a slave trader to receive half of what the imported slaves would earn at auction as a reward. On each occasion, he bought smuggled slaves and took them directly to a customhouse to inform on his own actions. When the customs officers offered the slaves for auction, Bowie purchased them and received back half the price he had paid, as allowed by the state laws. He then could legally transport the slaves and resell them at a greater market value in New Orleans or areas farther up the Mississippi River. Within two years, they had established the first steam mill in Louisiana to be used for grinding sugar cane. With their profits, James and Rezin bought a plantation in Arkansas. In May , Congress authorized the superior courts of each territory to hear suits from those who claimed they had been overlooked. Although the Superior Court originally confirmed most of those claims, the decisions were reversed in February after further research showed that the land had never belonged to the Bowies and that the original land grant documentation had been forged. Supreme Court upheld the reversal in Bowie knife and Sandbar Fight Bowie became internationally famous as a result of a feud with Norris Wright , the sheriff of Rapides Parish. The duellists each fired two shots and, as neither man had been injured, resolved their duel with a handshake. Bowie was shot in the hip; after regaining his feet he drew a knife, described as a butcher knife , and charged his attacker, who hit Bowie over the head with his empty pistol, breaking the pistol and knocking Bowie to the ground. Wright shot at and missed the prone Bowie, who returned fire and possibly hit Wright. Wright then drew his sword cane and impaled Bowie. Witness accounts agreed that Bowie did not attack first, and the others had focused their attack on Bowie because "they considered him the most dangerous man among their opposition. Multiple accounts exist of who designed and fabricated the first Bowie knife. Some claim that Bowie designed it, while others attribute the design to noted knife makers of the time. Many craftsmen and manufacturers made their own versions, and major cities of the Old Southwest had "Bowie knife schools" that taught "the art of cut, thrust, and parry. In , he became engaged to Cecilia Wells, who died in Alexandria , on September 29, two weeks before they were to be married. He stopped at Nacogdoches, at Jared E. McKinney, one of the Old Three Hundred colonists. Other areas assembled similar volunteer militias, and Bowie commanded a group of the volunteers. Bowie may have been the first to induce settlers to apply for empresario grants, which could then be sold in bulk to speculators as Bowie had. Bowie also lied about his age, claiming to be 30 rather than . After Mexico won independence from Spain , government interest in the mining potential waned. A number of native groups roamed the area, including Comanche , Lipan Apache , Tawakoni , and Tonkawa. Without government troops to keep hostile natives at bay, mining and mineral exploration were impossible. Some believed that after the Mexican citizens left the area, the Lipan took over the mine. Lacey, who spent eight months living in the wilderness with Bowie, described him as a humble man who never used profanity or vulgarities. The Texans returned fire and the Battle of Nacogdoches began. After the cavalry retreated, they initiated a siege of the garrison. Several months later, a cholera epidemic struck Texas. Fearing the disease

would reach San Antonio, Bowie sent his pregnant wife and their daughter to the family estate in Monclova in the company of her parents and brother. The cholera epidemic instead struck Monclova, and between September 6 and September 14, Ursula, their children, her brother, and her parents all died of the disease. From then on, he drank heavily and became "careless in his dress. He was appointed a land commissioner and tasked with promoting settlement in the area purchased by John T. Bowie was forced to flee Monclova and return to the Anglo areas of Texas. Travis , the leader of the War Party, to gain support. Bowie visited several Indian villages in East Texas in an attempt to persuade the reluctant tribes to fight against the Mexican government. Santa Anna responded to the rumblings by ordering large numbers of Mexican troops to Texas. The name " Texian Army " sometimes is applied to this militia. As the Mexicans stopped to reload their cannon, the Texians climbed a bluff and picked off some of the soldiers. One Texian and ten Mexican troops had been killed. Austin requested to be relieved of his command of the army, and Sam Houston was named army chief. Edward Burleson was chosen as temporary commander of the troops in San Antonio. Bowie appeared before the council at some point and spoke for an hour, asking for a commission. At the end of the fight, the Texians had two wounded men, but had captured many horses and mules. In the ensuing fighting, the Texians suffered only a few casualties, while the Mexican army lost many troops to death and desertion. Believing the war was over, many of the Texian volunteers left the army and returned to their families. He again was turned down as he "was not an officer of the government nor army. Battle of the Alamo After Houston received word that Santa Anna was leading a large force to San Antonio, Bowie offered to lead volunteers to defend the Alamo from the expected attack. Bowie and the Alamo commander, James C. Neill , decided they did not have enough oxen to move the artillery, and they did not want to destroy the fortress. It serves as the frontier picquet guard, and if it were in the possession of Santa Anna, there is no stronghold from which to repel him in his march toward the Sabine. Neill went on furlough on February 11 to visit his sick family, leaving Travis, a member of the regular army, in command. They chose Bowie, infuriating Travis. Travis ordered all the Texan forces into the Alamo. The Mexican army raised a red flag to warn the defenders that no quarter would be given. A newspaper article claimed that a Mexican soldier saw Bowie carried from his room on his cot, alive, after the conclusion of the battle. This account has been disputed by numerous other witnesses, and it is thought to have been invented by the reporter. He placed these in a coffin inscribed with the names of Bowie, Travis, and Crockett. The ashes were interred at the Cathedral of San Fernando. From to , Bowie was the subject of a CBS television series , The Adventures of Jim Bowie , which was primarily set in s Louisiana, although later episodes ventured into the Mexican province of Texas. Jones changed his last name in the s because he feared confusion with Davy Jones , a member of the already famous The Monkees.

### Chapter 8 : Surviving on the Texas Frontier - Eakin Press

*The threat of Indian raids was a constant source of anxiety for settlers on the Texas frontier, particularly after U.S. troops left Texas during the Civil War years. Painting by Nola Davis, courtesy of Fort Richardson SHS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.*

### Chapter 9 : American frontier - Wikipedia

*Visions of Survival on the Texas Frontier " the Story of Josiah Wilbarger. Wilbarger's grant, highlighted in red on a satellite view of eastern Travis and western Bastrop Counties. To get a*