

Historic Inspiration

The past comes to life at a Texas living history museum devoted to teaching visitors about the pioneer era with restored 19th century cabins from across the state.

With grindstones and milling equipment dating to the 1860s, the Shaw gristmill still produces fresh Texas cornmeal exactly the way the pioneers made it 150 years ago.



For many log cabin dwellers (and dreamers), the idea for living in a log home starts with a story. Tales of Davy Crockett, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Daniel Boone and other pioneers lifted from the history books fascinate us in our fast-paced modern world, and they bring to mind a simpler time marked by self-sufficiency, determination and faith in the promises of the future. This historic reality clearly comes through at the Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth, Texas. From the moment visitors walk onto the grounds, they are transported to a differ-

ent place and time and get a complete lesson on what life was like for the early Texas settlers who lived and worked in the historic buildings restored at the living history museum.

Back in the 1950s, members of the Pioneer Texas Heritage Committee and the Tarrant County Historical Society realized that the once-omnipresent log cabins left over from the 1800s were disappearing from the Texan landscape. As they came down, from age or weather, or to make way for more modern homes and buildings, a vital link to America's past was destroyed as well, and the concerned historians dedicat-

ed themselves to making sure these important relics were not laid to waste. Through the 1950s and into the early 1960s, six mid-19th century log cabins from across the state were found and transported to Fort Worth, where they were painstakingly restored. In 1966, the campus opened to the public, and the City of Fort Worth has operated it ever since.

Over the years, different artifacts have been incorporated into the cabins and workshops, and a variety of events have taken place, such as Dutch-oven cooking presentations, leather-crafting classes and hands-on daily chore demonstrations, as well as play days where the staff and volunteers bring out period-specific toys and engage young, bright-eyed visitors in a variety of games pioneer children played. No TVs, video games, iPods or technology of any sort are necessary to enthrall these youngsters—just some rolling hoops, Jacob's Ladders, mancala boards and a set of jacks. And standing tall over all the

The one-room, board-and-batten Marine schoolhouse served as Fort Worth's only school through the 1880s before it was converted to a church and later a private home.



Visit www.loknlogs.com

- Kiln Dried Log Walls
- Sodium Borate Pressure Treated Logs
- Lifetime Transferable Warranty

View and download—

- All Standard Model Floor Plans
- Standard Model Price Lists
- Adirondack Series Catalog

Full color catalog available, \$12.95

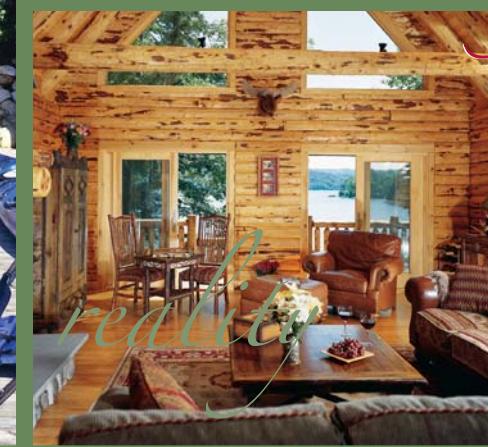
*dreams
plans*
Rustic Redefined

reality
Log-N-Logs'
homes feature

MARVIN 
Windows and Doors
Built around you!

LOK-N-LOGS
INC.

Sherburne, NY 13460 • 800/343-8928
www.loknlogs.com



Circle 016 on Reader Service Card for Free Information

HISTORIC CABINS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

If you can't wrangle a trip to Texas, consider visiting one of these historic cabins a little closer to home.

Laura Ingalls Wilder Home

Independence, Kansas

This replica "Little House on the Prairie" is just one of the many recreations of the homes Laura lived in as her family moved from place to place around the Midwest. Volunteers built the cabin according to descriptions from her book, and visitors can discover many of the places she wrote about as well. Given the family's constant relocation, similar recreated home sites exist in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota and New York.



Davy Crockett Birthplace

Limestone, Tennessee

Tennessee commemorates its native "King of the Wild Frontier" with the 105-acre Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park, located at his birthplace alongside the Nolichucky River in Greene County. A replica cabin made of reclaimed logs believed to be from the original Crockett cabin sits on the site of the original, where the folk hero was born, and an engraved footstone that served as the front step for the Crocketts' home can be found outside the front door. The park also features a museum with exhibits on the life of Davy Crockett and offers picnic facilities, a swimming pool, campsites and excellent fishing opportunities. Coonskin cap optional.



Henry David Thoreau Cabin

Concord, Massachusetts

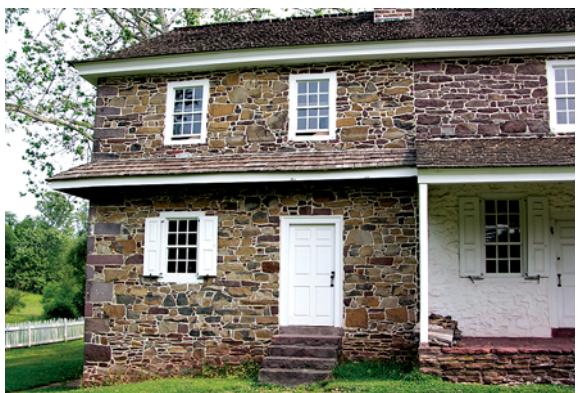
High school English isn't complete without studying "Walden," Henry David Thoreau's transcendentalist classic on self-discovery. His two years spent apart from society in a self-built 10-by-18-foot cabin at Walden Pond provided the inspiration he needed to create his literary masterpiece. Although the original structure was accidentally dropped in a foundation hole and destroyed while it was being moved to a different location, an exact replica has been created and stands just off the parking lot at the Walden Pond State Reservation. Fun fact: According to "Walden," Thoreau's cabin cost just \$28.12½ to build.



Daniel Boone Homestead

Birdsboro, Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission preserved the homestead where the almost-mythical American frontiersman was born in a one-room, one-story log house, which Boone's father built purposefully around a natural spring. This unusual but convenient feature cooled the root cellar and provided an easily accessible source of water for the house. A later owner expanded the building and demolished the log section in favor of a two-story stone structure, but the original foundation and cellar remain.

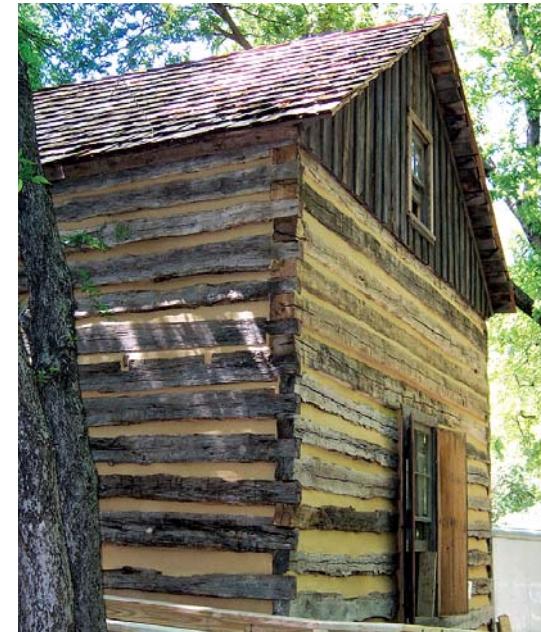


TOP TO BOTTOM: Krista Kennedy photo; Tennessee State Parks photo; Friends of Walden Pond photo; Edward Bujak photo (PatriotDays.org)

visitors, tours and activities are the cabins themselves—living testaments to the fact that, with care, log homes truly can withstand the test of time.

"By doing the activities that were done and by making modern-day comparisons, we're showing people who are so far separated from the past what life was like for these settlers," says Kelli Pickard, director for the Log Cabin Village.

Historians originally involved in the project and museum staff have conducted extensive research on the histories of these revered structures, and have uncovered significant details on their construction and inhabitants over the years. In the case of the Seela cabin, now the hands-on learning center for the Log Cabin Village, historians found that the original owner consulted with the local Caddo American Indian tribe to



The 1860s-era Howard cabin recently underwent a full restoration to fix weakened building materials and preserve the rare two-story log structure for future generations.

learn where the floodplains were before building his house near the Brazos River. With the Foster cabin, a plantation home from Port Sullivan noted for its impressive size as well as its full second story, they learned that the home was constructed by slaves, and even tracked down the names, photos and partial histories of a few who were particularly cherished by the family.

The cabins themselves are made of oak, and occasionally some cedar, and they were chinked with whatever daubing material was available where and when the homes were built. (Bits of stone packed in with mud or straw was the filler of

VINTAGEDOORS.COM

Visit us online or call for a free catalog: (800) 787 2001

Circle 027 on Reader Service Card for Free Information

MIDWEST WHOLESALE LOG SUPPLY, INC.

**Mill Direct Pricing of Logs for:
Developers • Manufacturers • Contractors • Owner/Builders**

Engelmann Spruce • Lodgepole Pine
Douglas Fir • Eastern White Pine • Cedar

Full Round • Saddle-Notched Corners
Swedish Cope • Log Siding with Full Corners •
Chink-Style • Dovetail Corners

Hand-hewn & Handcrafted Logs Available

Lengths up to 16 feet -- No additional charge
(Prices subject to change. Please confirm when ordering)

CALL (573) 374-2424

Fax: (573) 374-2425 / e-mail: mwls@socket.net

Visit our website for specials and pricing on our complete line of products

www.mwlsi.com

8-inch Logs	.....	\$5.50 LF
9-inch Logs	.....	\$7.25 LF
10" Logs	.....	\$8.75 LF
11" Logs	.....	\$9.75 LF
12" Logs	.....	\$10.75 LF
Prices reduced, please call for current pricing!		
8x8 D-Logs	.....	\$7.75
6x12 Chink Logs	.....	\$7.75
3x8 Log Siding	.....	\$2.75 LF
3x10 Log Siding	.....	\$3.25 LF
Log Hand Railing	.....	\$10.25 LF

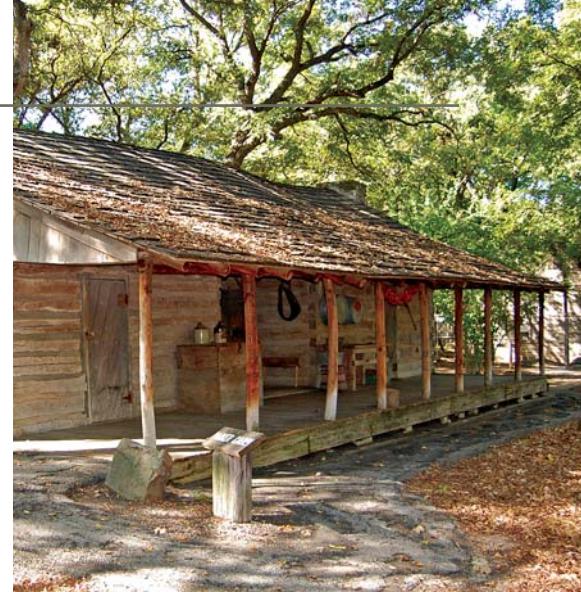
Circle 017 on Reader Service Card for Free Information

choice for many industrious pioneers.) As the cabins are renovated, builders are introducing Log Jam chinking—a modern product with excellent elasticity, adhesion and durability properties that still retains the classic look of traditional mortar.

“Everything we’ve done is to give the experience a more authentic feel,” says Pickard. “The museum profession has embraced hands-on learning. And technology has changed—we can use hidden track lighting instead of fluorescent bulbs, which makes the visitor experience more immersive so they can feel like they’re experiencing what life was like.”

And the public has been involved in almost every step of the changes the Log Cabin Village has undergone. Through the recent restoration of the Howard cabin, a two-story hand-hewn log house from Hood County that developed a serious lean over the years, building crews specializing in restoring historic log structures kept the renovation site visible to the public as they worked, and staff members updated visitors through a restoration blog. “It was a huge outdoor exhibit and a good educational opportunity,” says Pickard.

Perfectly designed for the Texas heat, the Parker cabin uses a “dogtrot,” or breezeway, to allow cool summer breezes into the home. Parker family heirlooms still adorn the interior.



On an average day, visitors might get to speak with a blacksmith in action, gather artificial chicken eggs as a chore, or learn how to dip candles the old-fashioned way. And in doing so, it becomes easier to imagine and feel a link to the past.

Walking through the exhibits, seeing the original furniture and decorations in the historic homes and speaking with the staff and volunteers who are clearly passionate about their work may help you connect with the past as well. And maybe once you come back to the present, you’ll walk away with some renewed inspiration for a future cabin of your own. ■

INTRODUCING



Coming soon to a city near you...

log on to our web site for
future dates & locations.

SAVE \$2!
Show coupon online at
loghomeinfofair.com

2 EVENTS IN ONE ▶ 2 BIG DAYS

THE 1/2 DAY SEMINAR PROGRAM SATURDAY 9 AM – 2PM

- Unbiased, professional speaker
- Step-by-step information
- Guaranteed to save you thousands
- Bonus: Annual Buyer's Guide and Log Home Planner
- Seminar ticket includes 2-day access to Info Fair
- \$99 per couple, \$75 per person



THE 2-DAY INFORMATION FAIR SATURDAY 10 AM – 6 PM SUNDAY 10 AM – 4 PM

- Informal exhibits
- Industry experts
- Log & timber companies
- Décor & furnishings
- Specialty bookstore
- Free workshops
- \$10 per person (coupon available online)



Photos by Rich Trutley

Pre-Register Today ▶ loghomeinfofair.com ▶ 800-782-1253