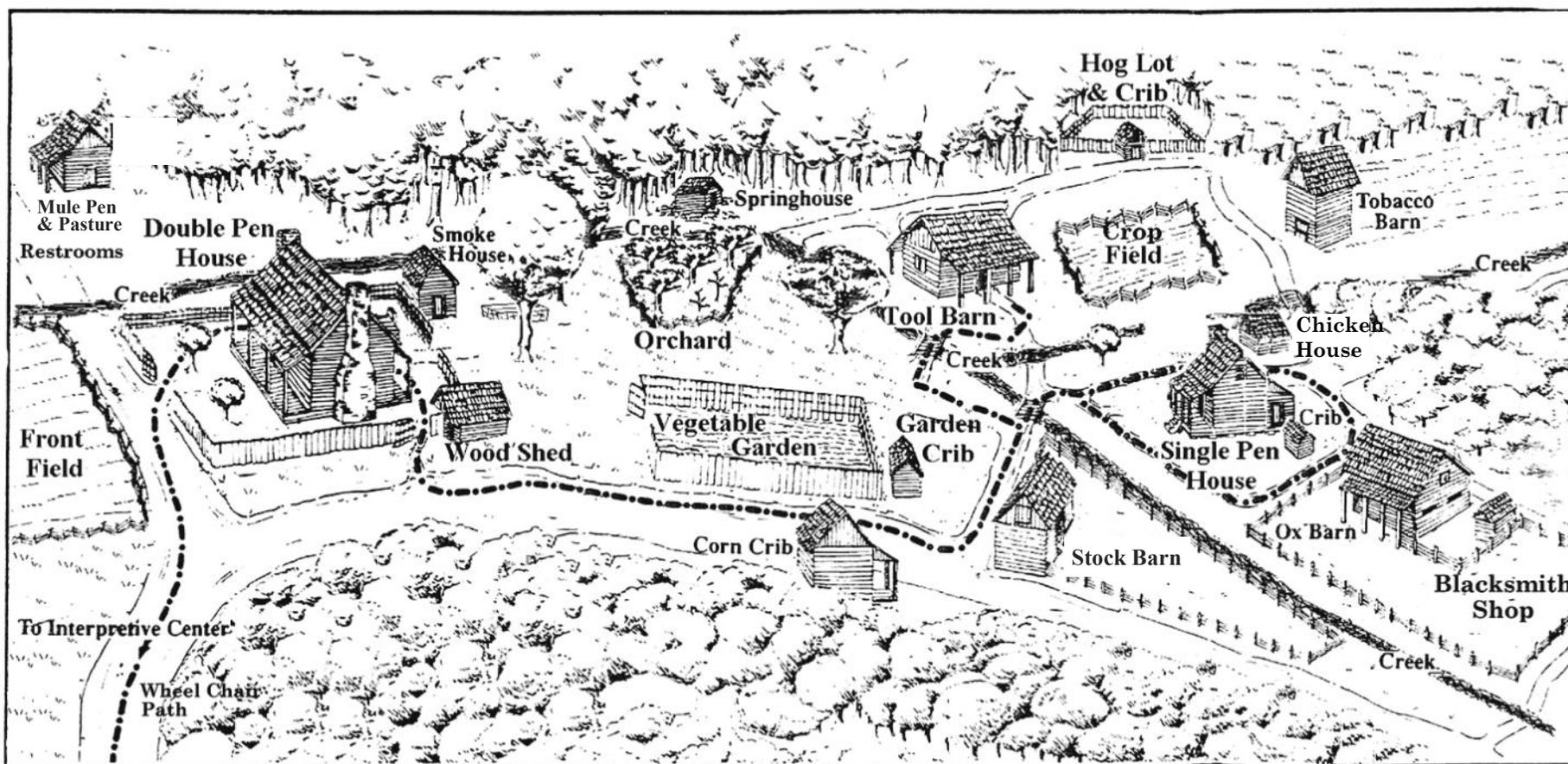


Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area | Western Kentucky and Tennessee



Welcome!

The Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum represents a two-generation farm.

You'll find the perfect blend of artifacts, restored historic structures, and traditional activities to help take you back in time to relive history before the Civil War.

Our livestock are rare and endangered breeds. We cultivate many varieties of garden plants and field crops; most from heirloom seeds, dating back before the Civil War.

Living between the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, plus close to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, impacted farm life here in Pryor Creek. These rivers also provided easy access to send crops and livestock to market.

Rural families lived off their crops, vegetable gardens, and livestock. Tobacco and corn served as cash crops in this region. Our farm family will be out working chores typical of the period. Join the living history interpreters as they go about the daily farm work and lend a hand. Feel free to ask questions.

Please help us preserve and protect the Homeplace. No smoking allowed on the farm site. Please do not feed or chase the animals.



Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum

Stewart County, Tennessee | www.landbetweenthelakes.us | www.facebook.com/FriendsofLandBetweenTheLakes

Step Back in Time...

Take a Walk on the Farm

The Homeplace 1850s Farm is an example of an Upper South, “yeoman” or middle class family farm. Built for the hot southern climate, many features identify this as southern farm — separate animal barns and pens, breezeways, and covered porches to provide shade for both man and beast.

As you stroll around the farm, notice features used for survival and conservation. Ask questions of our farm family as they do their daily farm chores.

Blacksmith Shop | Farms had small blacksmith shops to make or repair farm equipment.

Chicken House | This log crib provides a safe haven for the chickens and ducks. At night, chickens sleep on the horizontal poles/roosts. Boxes on the left provide a safe place for the chickens to lay eggs. The ducks make nests and sleep on the ground; there they also lay their eggs. These heritage breeds are Dominique Chickens and Black Cayuga Ducks.

Corn Crib | Corn dominated southern agriculture in the 1850s. “Indian” corn not sold, was stored on the cob for winter use for people and livestock.

Double Pen House | The most notable feature of this single family home is an open, central hallway that separates two equal sized “pens” or rooms. Families used one pen as living space, while the other pen—the parlor—welcomed visiting guests. The open central hallway faced the prevailing wind and served as a cool, shady setting for the family and guests.

Fences | Farmers fenced fields and yards to protect them from free-ranging domestic livestock and wild life. Many types were used including rail, paling or rived board, and split rail snake fencing. Rural fences were “horse high, bull strong, and pig tight.”

Front Field and Crop Fields | While “Indian” corn was king, tobacco served as an important cash crop as well. Farmers also planted other vegetables for resale. Cash crops traveled to urban markets by the rivers. Yeoman farmers cultivated around 80 acres; earning enough income to make them middle class.

Mule Pen and Pasture | Mules were the draft animal of choice for pulling heavy loads. All mules have a horse mother and Jack (donkey) father; their offspring is hardier, and more disease and heat tolerant than horses. Weighing around 1,500lbs, Todd and Dan are the heart of the farm. Todd and Dan are sorrel and Belgian Draft Horse offspring.

Hog Lot and Crib | Typically hogs free ranged and foraged for acorns, chestnuts, and hickory nuts. In the fall, farmers place hogs in enclosures like this one to fatten them up for the winter slaughter. Yeoman farmers helped make Tennessee the number one hog producer in the U. S. in the 1850s.

Four-Crib Stock Barn with Breezeway and Loft Has three stalls and a tack room for storing harnesses, saddles, and feed. The upper loft is for hay storage.

Orchard | Every family would have an orchard to provide fruit on the table. The Homeplace orchard consists of a variety of heirloom fruit trees, such as, Bartlett pear, Red June apple, Horse apple, Sheep Nose apple.

Ox Barn and Cribs | The four-crib barn offers shelter to our oxen. The two front cribs provide relief from summer heat and contain mangers for feeding. The loft stores hay and straw, and two back cribs store corn fodder. An ox is trained to work together with a yoke. Our 8-year old team, Ozzy and Otis, Ayrshire breed, are about 2,500lbs each and do the heaviest farm work. Red, a Milk and Shorthorn breed, is 14-years old and retired.

Sheep | Usually ranged free and were mostly used for their wool—either sold or used on the farm. Our Border Leicester sheep can be seen either grazing or in a pen.

Single Pen House and Crib | Known as the “first generation” house, early settlers commonly built a one room or single “pen” log home. By mid-century, kitchens were added.

Smoke House | Laying away a supply of meat for the next year began shortly after the first frost. Dry salt curing preserved the meat, while the smoking process flavored it.

Springhouse | Farmers wanted a clean, cold spring for water and cold storage for crocks of milk or butter. *(In an attempt to revive the spring, the **springhouse was dismantled** in 2015. Unable to bring the spring back, we are researching alternatives.)*

Tool Barn | Provided sheltered workspace for farmers to build home furnishings and repair farm implements. Farmers stored tools and equipment in one of the tool barn “cribs” while plows, wagons, and buggies stayed under a barn lean-to or in a breezeway.

Tobacco Barn | Dark-fired tobacco’s name comes from the curing process. Farmers “fired” and “cured” this 13-month crop by building smoldering fires in floor trenches of the barn. It was the only commercial type raised here. By 1850, tobacco was a major cash crop in the area.

Vegetable Garden and Crib | Large gardens provided the main source of produce. Families ate fresh vegetables or preserved them for winter use. We plant heirloom seeds and provide historic vegetables for our Historic Foodways program. The nearby crib stores bean poles, hoes, and other garden tools.

Wood Shed | Oxen pulled logs from surrounding forests to use for the fireplace and wood stove. Large logs were stacked outside, while stove wood stayed dry in the wood shed.