

# **Museum on Main Street**

## **WEB RESOURCES**

### ***Between Fences***

#### **AMERICA DREAMS**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/97/dream/>

The Library of Congress offers this online learning resource for teachers and students. Owning a home with a white picket fence has represented one kind of American dream. This site invites users to explore and learn about other American dreams by using the American Memory collection and other Library of Congress resources.

#### **THE AMERICAN DREAM: URBAN SPRAWL**

[http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/data/2001/07/01/html/ft\\_20010701.3.html](http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/data/2001/07/01/html/ft_20010701.3.html)

This is an abstract posted by *National Geographic* from an article about urban sprawl and its impact on life in America, particularly the rapid conversion of traditional farmland. The page contains a list of useful links related to urban sprawl.

#### **THE BORDER**

<http://www.pbs.org/kpbs/theborder/history/index.html>

This PBS website is a companion to its series examining contemporary life along the U.S.-Mexico border. It includes a history of the border, an interactive and text timeline, an animated map section that shows the evolution of the border, and a valuable list of links to other sites about the border.

#### **CHEROKEE STRIP LAND RUSH**

<http://arkcity.org/index.asp?NID=378>

The Cherokee Strip Museum offers a detailed historical overview of the Cherokee Strip Land Rush, also known as The Oklahoma Land Race. The site includes historical photographs. The page is supported by the website of Arkansas City, Kansas.

#### **THE COLONIAL ALBANY PROJECT**

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/>

The Colonial Albany Social History Project is a model community history program of the New York State Museum, an agency of the State Education Department through its Office of Cultural Education. It was formed in 1981 to understand pre-industrial

community life by studying the contributions of the diverse individuals who lived in the city of Albany during its formative years. The site includes biographies, historical records, and a graphics archive with images of the early settlement and its evolving boundaries, beginning with the establishment of Fort Orange in 1625.

## **COLONIAL AMERICA**

<http://members.aol.com/TeacherNet/Colonial.html>

This site includes an extended subject list with internet links related to all aspects of Colonial American life including relations between European settlers, African slaves, and Native Americans. Images in the digital archive show early settlements, fences, and building styles with informative notations and source information.

## **COLONIAL AMERICA K-12 RESOURCES**

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/colonial.htm>

Teachers and young readers will find an excellent online resource here. From this site researchers are directed to other content-rich internet sites for maps, lesson plans, bibliographies, and curriculum content materials.

## **CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM**

<http://www.cnu.org/>

An urban design movement that emerged in the 1980s, New Urbanism aims to reform urban development to provide more open spaces, walkable neighborhoods, appropriate but diverse architecture, and a balance between jobs and housing as the best way to improve the quality of urban life, reduce motor commuting, increase affordable housing, and slow the progress of urban sprawl.

## **CONQUEST OF THE OLD SOUTHWEST: THE ROMANTIC STORY OF THE EARLY PIONEERS INTO VIRGINIA, THE CAROLINAS, TENNESSEE, AND KENTUCKY 1740-1790**

<http://www.worldwideschool.org/library/books/lit/historical/TheConquestoftheOldSouthwest/Chap0.html>

This book describing the settlement of the Old Southwest is available entirely online through the World Wide School. It describes the settlement of the southwest territory of the United States as the country's first frontier and the cradle of all westward expansion.

## **“A COON-HUNT, OR, A FENCY COUNTRY” BY W.T. THOMPSON**

<http://etext.virginia.edu/railton/projects/price/thomp.htm>

“A Coon-Hunt, or, A Fency Country” by W.T. Thompson is a story told in the rustic tradition of what has become known as Old Southwest Humor, the rough, comical style patterned after the oral tradition (and dialect) of the common people who settled the southeastern territory of the United States, a region known in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as the “Old Southwest.” From Thompson’s book *Polly Peablossom’s Wedding* (1851), this story of “rum-foolery” concerns two coon hunters who climb the same fence all night without realizing it.

### **DEVIL’S ROPE BARBED WIRE MUSEUM HOMEPAGE**

<http://www.barbwiremuseum.com/>

The Devil’s Rope Barbed Wire Museum Homepage includes a history of barbed wire, describes how to identify different types of barbed wire, and shows images of different types of barbed wire. The museum also houses what it claims is the only monument in the world to barbed wire.

### **THE EARLY DAYS: HOW THE WILD WEST WAS FENCED IN**

<http://www.thecattlemanmagazine.com/earlyDays/earlywestfenced.asp>

This online article from *The Cattleman* magazine offers an entertaining historical overview of how the fence impacted the cattle, the culture, and the landscape of the American West.

### **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS**

[http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/naind/html/na\\_000107\\_entries.htm](http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/naind/html/na_000107_entries.htm)

The entry addressing agricultural practices of Native Americans details concepts of land ownership for the individual and the community, the cultivation of the land, interactions between European settlers and Native Americans related to land use, and the Native American’s loss of land to white colonists.

### **THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE**

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/index.html>

*The Handbook of Texas Online* offers a very rich resource concerning the evolution of ranching and property rights, including the histories of particular ranches and ranch families, range wars, sheep wars, fence cutting, the impact of barbed wire, homesteading, the relationship between European settlers and Native Americans, the border between the U.S. and Mexico in Texas history, and other topics related to the exhibit.

## **HOME IMPROVEMENT – ALL EYES ON WILSON**

<http://tvplex.go.com/touchstone/homeimprovement/wilson/>

The character Wilson from the award-winning 1990s sitcom *Home Improvement* always manages to hide his face, usually by talking to his neighbors, the Taylor family, from behind the wooden fence separating their backyards. The site shows other creative ways Wilson managed to hide his face and keep viewers in suspense for years. For an overview of the series starring Tim Allen, including an episode guide, other information, and links, check this site: <http://www.tvtome.com/HomeImprovement/>.

## **HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA**

<http://www.nps.gov/home/home.htm>

The official site for the Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska, describes the Homestead Act of 1862 as well as the process of claiming land. Under “Homestead Legacies” brief biographies are posted of famous homesteaders and their descendants, including the likes of Willa Cather, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Virgil Earp, George Washington Carver, and Lawrence Welk.

## **INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

<http://www.internationalboundarycommission.org/ibcmenu.htm>

The purpose of the International Boundary Commission is to maintain the boundary between the United States and Canada in an effective state of demarcation. Their website provides useful information about the Commission and a history of how the boundary was established.

## **LEVITTOWN, PA.: BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM**

<http://www.fandm.edu/levittown/default.html>

This online exhibit of the State Museum of Pennsylvania offers a fascinating history of Levittown, Pennsylvania, the largest planned community constructed by a single builder in the United States. Completed in 1958, Levittown represents the social and commercial idealization of suburban life in post World War II America.

## **MARK TWAIN IN HIS TIMES**

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html>

This is an online interpretive archive supported by the Department of English at the University of Virginia. Scholars and fans can search Twain’s texts and manuscripts,

contemporary reviews and articles, and view hundreds of images and interactive exhibits. The site contains a substantial section on Tom Sawyer.

### **NATIONAL TOM SAWYER DAYS**

[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es/mo/sawyer\\_1](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es/mo/sawyer_1)

National Tom Sawyer Days is a celebration in Hannibal, Missouri, described here by the Library of Congress online resource for American history and popular culture, *America's Story*. Among the festivities, a recreation of the most famous fence in American literature receives a thorough whitewashing by enthusiastic participants. National Tom Sawyer Days originated in 1956 with the first Tom Sawyer fence painting contest sponsored by the Hannibal Jaycees. The contest has since been copied by numerous communities and towns along the Mississippi river.

### **OUR DOCUMENTS INITIATIVE**

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=true&>

The Our Documents initiative is a resource for students, teachers, and the general public that offers photographic images of 100 milestone documents in American history, the stories behind the documents, lesson plans, and activities. Documents available for viewing include President Andrew Jackson's message to Congress on the subject of Indian removal (1830), the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) that ended the Mexican-American War and established the modern border between the United States and Mexico, and the Homestead Act (1862), among other documents related to land use. The Our Documents initiative is supported by National History Day, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the USA Freedom Corps.

### **PIONEER DRAMA SERVICE: PAINTIN' THE FENCE**

[http://www.pioneerdrama.com/catalog/paintin\\_m.html](http://www.pioneerdrama.com/catalog/paintin_m.html)

Pioneer Drama Service provides details about their musical drama for children based on Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The play requires a cast of 23 and includes music for the title song, "Paintin' the Fence," as well as "What's The Matter With Tom?," "Catchin' Catfish," "Lessons," and "Tom Sawyer." The play is also available in a non-musical version.

### **PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM**

[http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Public\\_Land\\_Survey\\_System](http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Public_Land_Survey_System)

WorldIQ.com offers a comprehensive, interesting, and easy-to-understand guide to the history and concepts involved in the United States' rectangular land survey system,

information on the Land Ordinance of 1785, and maps and examines the system's impact on education and popular culture.

## **THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE**

[http://www.responsiblewildlifemanagement.org/an\\_introduction\\_to\\_public\\_trust\\_doctrine.htm](http://www.responsiblewildlifemanagement.org/an_introduction_to_public_trust_doctrine.htm)

The Public Trust Doctrine is a common law doctrine protecting public access and use of the country's shores and waterways. This site maintained by Citizens for Responsible Wildlife Management provides a general introduction to the Public Trust Doctrine, its history, and its application. C.R.A.B. <http://www.crabnj.com/>, an acronym for Citizens Rights to Access Beaches, is a grassroots organization from Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, formed as a reaction against the efforts of area developers to privatize beach access for the benefit of future homeowners. C.R.A.B. and similar organizations base their right of public access to beaches on the Public Trust Doctrine.

## **SAVANNAH CITY PLAN**

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?path=/HistoryArchaeology/ColonialEraTrusteePeriod/Places-3&id=h-2547>

This article from *The New Georgia Encyclopedia* online offers a historical overview of this unique Southern city. Savannah was the last colonial American city to be founded and the first to be planned on a grid pattern organizing residential and public buildings around a series of town squares. The page offers historical images and links to related sites.

## **SEASIDE, FLORIDA**

<http://www.seasidefl.com/default.asp>

Similar to Levittown, Pa., this site markets the contemporary "white picket fence" concept of Seaside, Florida. It includes a historical overview and a virtual tour as well as property and community guides to this ideal vision of suburban American life.

## **TEN FAMILIES: BEYOND THE WHITE PICKET FENCE**

<http://www.10families.com/>

A contemporary response to the idealized nuclear family of 1950s America, *American Families: Beyond the White Picket Fence* is an online photographic documentation project exploring the daily lives of ten American families whose diverse forms reflect our country's changing family landscape.

## **UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER/FRONTERA**

<http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/migrations/bord/intro.html>

From the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies, this segment of the Migrations in History website offers an historical and cultural overview of the U.S.-Mexico border. Topics addressed include people at the border, regions of the border, and the border in history.

## **VIRTUAL HISTORIC SAVANNAH PROJECT**

<http://vsav.scad.edu/vhs/intro/conferences.html>

The Virtual Historic Savannah Project documents the evolution of urban form by combining architectural and social history research with 3D computer and database technology. The project focuses on historic downtown Savannah, Georgia, which is celebrated both for the large number of historic structures and its unique urban plan. Navigate the grid of the modern city and explore the historic sites and buildings. This virtual tour demonstrates that the grid plan, which distinguished this colonial city, clearly anticipated the rectangular land survey and evolved over the centuries into the quintessential “modern” city landscape.

## **VIRTUAL JAMESTOWN**

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/>

The Virtual Jamestown Archive is a digital research, teaching, and learning project that explores the legacies of the Jamestown settlement and “the Virginia experiment.” As a work in progress, Virtual Jamestown aims to shape the national dialogue on the occasion of the four hundred-year anniversary observance in 2007 of the founding of the Jamestown colony. Maps, drawings, and watercolors depicting Native American villages and their fences and a searchable database of letters written by Jamestown colonists describing the colony and relations with Native Americans are among the documents and resources accessible here.

## **WILD PIGS**

[http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu/handbook/handbook/allPDF/mam\\_d65.pdf](http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu/handbook/handbook/allPDF/mam_d65.pdf)

This informative and entertaining PDF document describes the history of wild pigs in America, tracing the origins of the feral hog population to free ranging practices introduced by European settlers. The document offers guides for identifying wild pigs, details the dangers to livestock and gardens, and recommends effective fencing, including diagrams and fence materials needed to construct your own wild pig trap. The document is offered by the Center for Wildlife Damage Management.

## **WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/>

The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains an online digital archive of historic photographs searchable by keyword. Many of the images included in this valuable documentary resource represent fence styles and uses from the farmstead to the agricultural college.