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LEARN ABOUT GRAPEVINE'S HISTORY THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Living history exhibits, attractions, museums and more showcase the dynamic story of Grapevine

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS (March 1, 2023) – Want to learn about life as the pioneers made their way into Texas and beyond? Grapevine is the perfect place to celebrate life on the Grape Vine Prairie and to experience authentic the heritage of the pioneers in the American West.

Settled in 1844, Grapevine has a rich history. Named for the wild mustang grapes that blanketed the area, Grapevine's proud history comes alive as you stroll through town. Here are just a few of the places you can experience the history of Grapevine.

How It Began

In August 1843, Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, met with ten American Indian chiefs and captains on the Grape Vine Prairie to forge a treaty of peace and friendship. In 2021, the City of Grapevine commemorated that moment in time by dedicating the **Peace Circle**, located in Peace Plaza at the corner of Main Street and Dallas Road. Peace Circle features eleven 1.25 life-size bronze statues accurately depicting these leaders and is one of the largest collections of bronze statues in Texas. The peace treaty was signed on September 29, 1843, at Bird's Fort and opened north Texas for settlement.

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Living History at Nash Farm

For a look at what life was like on the Grape Vine Prairie head to **Nash Farm**, 626 S. Ball St., the oldest farmstead in Tarrant County, Texas. In 1859, Thomas Jefferson Nash purchased 110 acres of farmland on the Grape Vine Prairie. A decade later, he and his wife Elizabeth (Mouser) Nash, built their family home on the property. They raised six children in the home and went on to farm the surrounding acres. Of the original 110 acres, 5.2 remains intact, including the home, the barn and the family cemetery. The Nash Farmhouse was restored in 2008 and is now managed by the Grapevine Heritage Foundation in partnership with the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau. Each year, the farm hosts numerous programs including canning and preserving, campfire cooking, interpretive programs and hands-on activities.

Nash Farm hosts events throughout the year such as **Spring Into Nash, Fall Round-Up and Victorian Christmas**. The venue also offers educational programs such as **Victorian Candy Making, Cheese Making, Dairy Days and First Fridays at the Farm**.

History Lesson

More of Grapevine's history can be explored at the **Settlement to City Museums at Ted R. Ware Plaza**. Located at 208 W. Hudgins St., the complex features a collection of historic houses originally located on the Grape Vine Prairie.

Set within a home built in 1888, the plaza's Keeling House features the **Settlement to City Museum** with Grapevine artifacts, as well as vintage police and firefighter treasures, and the Settlement to City collection, which highlights the city's timeline from prairie settlement to city. The **Donald Schoolhouse** offers a lesson on Grapevine's educational system, from an early pioneer log cabin to its modern-day school district. Learn about the days when cotton was king by taking part in hands-on activities at the **Grapevine Cotton Ginners Museum**, set within an early 1900s home and featuring an E. Van Winkle cotton gin. In addition, the **Grapevine Historical Museum** is housed in the replica of the Grapevine Ice House and depicts the evolving life and times of Grapevine, from dinosaur footprint castings to the 1950s. All the artifacts are from Grapevine.

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Grapevine's Historic Attractions/p.3 All Aboard

Climb aboard the **Grapevine Vintage Railroad** where history and hospitality create lifetime memories for the entire family! Imagine riding the rails in authentic, 1920s-era coaches pulled by two 1950s FL9 diesel locomotives. Get your picture taken with the train conductor, engineer or other special onboard characters. Engage in onboard experiences reflective of early 20th century rail travel. Children, adults and rail fans of all ages will be delighted by the onboard adventures.

Most months of the year, guests can choose from three weekly excursions offering a variety of ride opportunities for all ages. The **Cotton Belt Route to the Historic Stockyards** departs at 12:50 p.m. from the Historic Cotton Belt Depot located at 705 S. Main St., returning to Grapevine at approximately 7 p.m. Guests disembark in the Stockyards and experience authentic Western heritage. The **Trinity River Excursion** is a 45-minute round trip excursion which departs at 3 p.m. from Stockyards Station in Fort Worth. The **Grapevine Bear Creek Short Line Excursion** is a one-hour round trip excursion. This excursion does not travel to the Historic Stockyards.

Throughout the year, the Grapevine Vintage Railroad offers special excursions such as **Spring Break Trains, Kiss Me I'm Irish Express, Easter Bunny Express, Jazz Wine Trains, Day Out with Thomas™, Halloween-themed trains, Christmas Wine Trains** and the **North Pole Express**. Charter and special event opportunities are also available throughout the year. For more information, visit GVRR.com.

Crime Doesn't Pay

Take a peek into what might have happened on the Grape Vine Prairie when you see the **Glockenspiel Clock Tower** on Historic Main Street come to life. Each day at noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., two larger-than-life 9-foot-tall characters, affectionately known as the **Would-Be Train Robbers** appear at the top of the clock tower at 636 S. Main St. The Would-Be Train Robbers then commence what each believes to be the perfect heist, but in the end, they learn that crime doesn't pay. The Glockenspiel lovingly reflects local Western lore, making it a favorite with locals and visitors alike.

Take A Peek Inside a Historic Grape Vine Prairie Cabin

The **Torian Cabin** is located on Historic Main Street just across the street from Grapevine City Hall. It has been preserved and maintained by the Grapevine Historical Society and the City of Grapevine since

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the early 1970s. The two rooms of the Cabin are open for viewing year round and the décor is changed to reflect the current season.

Constructed of hand-hewn logs, the Torian Cabin was built along the edge of the Eastern Cross Timbers near the pioneer community of Lonesome Dove, a few miles northwest of present-day Grapevine. It originally stood on a headright settled in 1845 by Francis Throop, a Peters Colonist from Missouri. J.C. Wiley bought the property in 1868. He sold it in 1886 to John R. Torian (1836-1909), a farmer from Kentucky. Torian family members occupied the structure until the 1940s.

For more information on Grapevine's history or to book your Grapevine getaway now, visit GrapevineTexasUSA.com.

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