

# **WELCOME TO THE PAWNEE BILL RANCH!**

Dear Educators:

This teacher's resource guide was created to help teachers, group leaders, homeschoolers, and other educators. This resource guide is intended to be utilized before coming to visit, but can also be used as supplemental learning for those unable to make a field trip to the ranch. Inside, you will find information about the site, its occupants, and much more. This teacher's guide includes information to prepare before visiting our historic structures. The target age group is fourth, fifth, and sixth grade, but many activities can be adapted for any age.

The guide covers the time period of 1880 to 1910, encompassing both Oklahoma history and the history of Pawnee Bill and his life here on the ranch. Through the personal history and possessions of Pawnee Bill, our exhibition pasture, and the historic structures, we offer unique ways of understanding facets of American and Oklahoma history.

If you have any questions about Pawnee Bill Ranch education programs, or you would like to schedule a tour for your class or group, please contact the site at 918-762-2513 or email at [adavis@okhistory.org](mailto:adavis@okhistory.org)

Sincerely,

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum Staff

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **Can we eat lunch at the museum before or after our field trip?**

The museum does not have a café. Visiting groups are welcome to eat sack lunches on the museum grounds. We have picnic tables in several locations on our property, including plenty of grass and shade. Food and drinks are not allowed inside the museum. Our pavilion area can also be rented. Indoor eating areas are not available.

## **What will we be doing?**

Students will be divided into groups and can visit six different stations. These stations include an outdoor grounds tour, blacksmith demonstration, whip act, buffalo pasture tour, a log cabin activity, and rope making. When scheduling the field trip, please let us know which stations you would like to schedule. Some activities are not available on the weekends. Each station takes about 30 to 40 minutes, so please plan accordingly. Every group that books a tour will receive a schedule created by the ranch staff.

## **What is the cost?**

Teachers, bus drivers, aids, and tour group leaders are free of charge. There is a base fee of \$2 for students and \$5 for adults. There is an added \$1 fee for each additional activity.

## **How do I schedule a tour?**

Call the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum at 918-762-2513. We do require at least one week's notice for groups wishing to schedule a school tour.

Please note that in the summer, it may not be possible to schedule a tour during our Wild West Show. Please call in advance to ensure we can accommodate your group.

**What is the maximum number of students I can bring?**

While we do not have a maximum number of students, there is a minimum. We cannot schedule a group of fewer than fifteen people. There is a minimum of twenty people for the blacksmith demonstration, whip act, and buffalo pasture tour.

**Is the museum accessible?**

The museum and outdoor buildings are all wheelchair accessible. The outside restrooms near the blacksmith shop are handicapped accessible. One wheelchair is available upon request. We ask that you contact the museum to ensure the necessary accommodations can be made for your group before visiting.

**Does the museum have a gift shop?**

Yes. Students are encouraged to shop at our store, as we have many items that are aimed for children, such as toys, magnets, and collectible items. The museum store is the biggest source of support for our historic site. However, we understand that not all schools allow students to shop, and it is up to the teachers if visiting students can purchase items in the museum store. If you do not want the students inside the museum store, please advise staff members ahead of time. The museum shop is not a play area, but students can go to the Kid's Corral if they wish to play.

# **MUSEUM MANNERS**

- No food or drinks (including candy and gum) are permitted inside the gallery
- Use your inside voices
- Always walk, never run, in the galleries or outside
- Do not use flash photography
- Look with your eyes, not your hands
- Do not climb on the outside structures
- Stay with your group, do not leave children unattended

# **PAWNEE BILL RANCH**

The Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum opened as a museum in 1962. It was the home of the Wild West showman Gordon W. “Pawnee Bill” Lillie, his wife May, and their adoptive son Billie. The Pawnee Bill Ranch has five historic structures, including a 500-acre working bison ranch, and has many opportunities for student exploration and education.

## **Hours of Operation**

### **Summer Hours (April–October)**

Sunday and Monday: 1–4 pm

Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

### **Winter Hours (November–March)**

Sunday: 1–4 pm

Monday and Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday to Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

# THE HISTORY OF PAWNEE BILL



Gordon William Lillie was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on February 14, 1860. He lived in Illinois with his parents, Newton and Susan, and his siblings, Albert, Effie, and Lena. When his father's flour mill burned, they moved to Wellington, Kansas. In Wellington, Gordon became friends with the Pawnee natives that were being moved from their homeland in Nebraska. By the age of nineteen, Gordon was living in what we know today as Pawnee, Oklahoma, and was teaching English on the Pawnee Indian Agency. This is how he got his nickname "Pawnee Bill."

In 1883 Gordon volunteered to go on the road with a group of Pawnees, as a Pawnee interpreter, for the first season of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The next year Gordon met a young Philadelphia native named May Manning. They would marry in 1886, when he was 26 and she was 17.

In 1888 Gordon and May started their own show, The Pawnee Bill Wild West Show, and began to tour America. May was the star of her husband's show, a sharpshooter known as "The Champion Girl Horseback Shot of the West," performing her show off the back of a bucking bronco. In 1894 the show traveled overseas to Europe, touring through Belgium, the Netherlands, and France.

In 1908 Pawnee Bill merged his show with Buffalo Bill's show. They toured America for five years under the name "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Great Far East," sometimes known as the "Two Bill's Show." The Two Bill's Show was one of the most successful Wild West Shows to ever tour America until it ended in 1913.

After their show days were done, Gordon and May spent their later years farming and raising livestock on their ranch, Blue Hawk Peak, now known as the Pawnee Bill Ranch. They built their mansion in 1910 and had one of the largest privately owned bison herds in the country. Their mansion, an Arts and Crafts-style bungalow, and was a state-of-the-art home in Pawnee County at the time. The home featured electric lights, indoor plumbing, and heat before that technology was common in Pawnee County.

In 1917 Gordon and May adopted a four-week-old baby boy from Kansas City. He was named Gordon William Lillie Jr. and was affectionately known as Billy. While living on the ranch, he played with toys, animals, and books. Billy's life was tragically cut short at the age of eight in an accident on the ranch in 1925.

May Lillie passed away in September of 1936, three weeks after she and Gordon had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Gordon continued to live on Blue Hawk Peak until he passed away in February of 1942 at the age of 81.

# THE BLACKSMITH

A very important figure at the Pawnee Bill Ranch was the blacksmith. The name blacksmith comes from a combination of the word “black,” meaning black metal, and “smite,” which means to strike hard. Blacksmiths create items from wrought iron or steel by using tools to forge the metals. It requires a lot of strength to hammer raw metals into something useful. Almost every prairie or pioneer community had a blacksmith, and Pawnee Bill’s ranch was no exception. Pawnee Bill relied on his blacksmith to repair broken farm instruments and manufacture nails, hinges, and tools. The main use of the blacksmith at Blue Hawk Peak was creating horseshoes.

Horses need shoes to protect their hooves. Horses were essential for both work and transportation. They needed to be shod on a regular basis. A horse with sore feet could not work. Good horseshoes, when properly fitted, contributed to the working life of the horse.

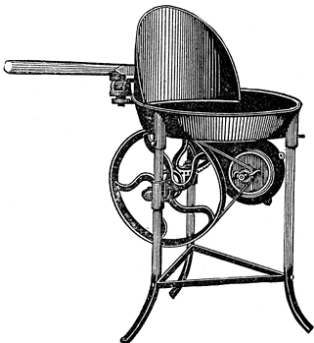


Figure 1. Forge



Figure 2. Anvil

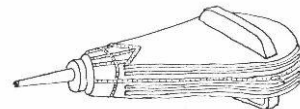


Figure 3. Bellows

The main tools of the blacksmith are a forge, a hammer (known as a sledge), and an anvil. The blacksmith had a forge filled with coals, and with the aid of a bellows, he kept his fire hot. He also had an anvil, which was a solid iron bar on which he could hammer horseshoes fresh from the fire. Once the shoe was the right shape for the horse's hoof, it was put into a bucket of cold water to temper the metal and cool it off. The shoe was then nailed to the horse's hoof.



# BISON CONSERVATION

## Bison or Buffalo?

While we commonly think that these large wooly creatures at the Pawnee Bill Ranch are buffalo, they are actually American bison, their species name being *bison bison*. Buffalo are actually not found in America but are indigenous to South Asia and Africa, and do not resemble the animals we have in North America. The two names have been used interchangeably, and bison have been colloquially known as buffalo throughout history. Referring to bison as buffalo is a common error, adding to the confusion.



Figure 4. American bison



Figure 5. African buffalo

An easy way to distinguish between the two is the hump and the horns. Buffalo do not have a hump, while the bison have one on their shoulders. Buffalo tend to have large horns, which have a very pronounced arch, while the American bison has smaller horns. Finally, bison tend to have large, thick beards, while buffalo are beardless.

Bison are the largest native land mammal in North America. They are built for life on the snowy plains, where their large humps can act as battering rams in high snow drifts and their thick woolly coats provide warmth. Bison are migratory animals, migrating based on the seasons and the abundance of grass in their grazing lands. Bison primarily eat grasses and hedges found on the plains. They are similar to cattle because they have cloven hooves and

live in packs or herds. A male bison, known as a bull, can weigh up to 110 pounds and can grow up to six and a half feet in height. Despite their size, they can run up to thirty miles per hour.

### **The Near Extinction of the American Bison**

Despite the popularity of bison in American culture, they were almost hunted to extinction. In the 1600s it was estimated between 25 and 30 million bison roamed North America. By 1880 there were fewer than a hundred bison in North America. How did this sharp decline in population happen?

Native tribes depended on bison herds for food and shelter, and with the introduction of horses by the Spanish in the 1700s, were able to hunt longer for the animals. These tribes did not hunt to excess, but rather, bison were an integral part of the economy and society of Plains Indians.

However, unregulated market hunting and sport hunting in the 1800s became increasingly popular and American settlers killed bison to an extreme. Due to the roaming behavior of bison, their mass destruction came easy to hunters. When one bison in a herd is killed, the other bison gather around it.

Due to this pattern, the ability of a hunter to kill one bison often led to the destruction of a large herd. For plains settlers, bison hunting and trading buffalo fur provided economic security. Commercial bison hunting emerged, and professional hunters made a far larger impact on the decline



Figure 6. Bison skulls waiting processing in 1892

of the bison population. The United States Army sanctioned and endorsed the elimination of bison, and the federal government promoted bison hunting for various reasons, such as to help ranchers, stop train delays, and control American Indian tribes.

Many people came together to help champion the cause of protecting bison. Theodore Roosevelt, Dr. William Temple Hornaday, and Pawnee Bill were just a few of the men that worked to have bison named as an endangered species. The Lacey Act of 1894 created harsher punishments for people poaching bison off protected lands. In 1973 the Endangered Species Act gave protection to animals not only on protected lands, but in the wild. Today, partly due to bison being bred in captivity, bison are no longer endangered. There were approximately 500,000 bison living in North America in 2018.

At the Pawnee Bill Ranch, we have a bison herd of around thirty to fifty bison and continue to preserve these animals much like Pawnee Bill did during his lifetime.



# LOG CABIN CONSTRUCTION

To prove up a land claim in early Oklahoma, settlers had to construct a log cabin or wood shanty and improve the land in some way within six months. Building log cabins required few building resources—primarily trees and several tools. A log cabin is a small, temporary house with logs laid horizontally and interlocked on the ends with notches.



To build the cabin, the builder would first need to shape and prepare the logs of the cabin with a broad axe. Once the trees are cut, bark is stripped off the log to help the wood dry faster and limit pest infestation. Logs are then finished to have a rectangular, not square, shape. The foundation was formed by four logs, where the length of one log is generally the length of a wall. Notches are placed on the underside of each log, letting one log fit on top of the other to make interlocking corners. The builder would then add a roof made of shingles cut by hand.

When the cabin was completed, the owner would put chinking in between logs. Chinking is a mortar-like material that was used to insulate walls of the cabin, providing warmth during the cold winters.

# TIMELINE

**February 14, 1860 -**  
Born in Bloomington,  
Illinois

**1879 -** Worked for the  
Pawnee Indian Agency

**1886 -** Married May  
Manning

**1908 -** Joined Buffalo Bill in  
the Two Bill's Show

**1917 -** Adopted infant son  
Billy from Kansas City,  
Missouri

**1930 -** Opened Pawnee Bill's  
Old Town

**February 3, 1942**  
Pawnee Bill dies in his  
sleep

**1875 -** Moved to Wellington, Kansas

**1883 -** Worked as a Pawnee  
interpreter for Buffalo Bill's Wild  
West Show

**1888 -** Launched Pawnee Bill's  
Historic Wild West Show

**1910 -** Built home on Blue Hawk  
Peak in Pawnee, Oklahoma

**1925 -** Billy passes away

**1936 -** Pawnee Bill and May celebrate their  
50th wedding anniversary

May dies from injuries from a car accident



# RECIPES

## Creamed Carrots

1 lb carrots	2 Tbs butter
2 Tbs finely chopped onions	2 Tbs flour
1/2 tsp salt	1/4 tsp pepper
1 1/4 cups milk	1 Tbs sugar

Peel and slice carrots. Cook, covered, in a small amount of water over medium heat until tender. Drain. In a medium size skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Sauté onions in butter until tender. Stir in flour, salt, pepper and sugar; cook for 1 minute. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and starts to boil. Pour over cooked carrots and stir to coat.

## The original Toll House Cookie recipe (from 1939)

1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup butter or other shortening	1 egg
1 1/2 cups sifted flour	1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt	2 Tbs hot water
1/2 tsp vanilla	1 bar semisweet chocolate (7 ounces)

Cream butter or other shortening and add sugars and beaten egg. Dissolve soda in the hot water and mix alternately with the flour sifted with the salt. Lastly, add the pieces of semisweet chocolate. Flavor with the vanilla and drop by half teaspoons on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes in a 375 degree Fahrenheit oven. Makes 50 cookies.

## Tomato Soup

1 can tomatoes or 1 quart of freshly stewed	1 pint of stock
	1/4 tsp of soda
1Tbs butter	2 Tbs flour
1 tsp sugar	1 small onion, diced
1 sprig of parsley	1 bay leaf
1 tsp salt	3 shakes of pepper

Put the tomatoes into a saucepan with the parsley, onion, bay leaf, stock, and cook fifteen minutes. Strain through a sieve. Wash the saucepan and put the tomatoes back in, bring to a boil again; melt the butter, rub smooth with the flour, and put into the soup while it boils, and stir till it is perfectly smooth. Then add the sugar, salt and pepper, and soda, and strain into hot tureen. Serve croutons with this soup.

## Mock Apple Pie

2 cups sugar	2 tsp cream of tartar
1 3/4 cups water	36 Ritz crackers, crumbled
2 Tbs butter cut into pieces	
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon	
2 Tbs lemon juice and zest	
Pastry for a double-crust 9-inch pie	

Mix sugar and cream of tartar in medium saucepan. Gradually stir in water. Bring to boil on high heat; simmer on low 15 minutes. Stir in zest and juice; cool 30 minutes.

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Roll out half of pastry on lightly floured surface to 11-inch circle; place in 9-inch pie plate. Place cracker crumbs in crust. Pour sugar syrup over crumbs; top with butter and cinnamon.

# PAWNEE BILL WORD FIND

C	G	F	T	A	I	N	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A
A	M	W	O	L	O	N	G	H	O	R	N	O	M	R
P	E	H	Y	A	B	F	W	Z	X	Z	D	N	M	Z
P	C	I	Q	A	W	G	N	M	E	D	Q	C	Z	Y
Y	W	P	J	C	M	A	N	S	I	O	N	L	X	B
W	L	M	B	H	S	K	V	U	W	A	G	O	N	E
H	G	C	K	X	X	N	N	M	A	Y	L	G	J	O
W	B	L	A	C	K	S	M	I	T	H	H	C	E	X
Z	B	I	S	O	N	C	D	L	H	H	G	A	Q	T
D	R	C	H	Y	F	P	Y	R	I	N	O	B	F	B
E	S	T	A	G	E	C	O	A	C	H	R	I	Q	I
B	U	F	F	A	L	O	X	M	H	J	D	N	C	L
P	A	W	N	E	E	Q	H	F	I	L	O	N	M	L
J	W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T	S	Z	N	I	S	Y
H	C	H	I	N	K	I	N	G	D	O	Y	J	F	S

BILLY  
 BISON  
 BLACKSMITH  
 BUFFALO  
 CAPPY  
 CHINKING  
 GORDON  
 LOG CABIN  
 LONGHORN  
 MAGNOLIA  
 MANSION  
 MAY  
 PAWNEE  
 STAGE COACH  
 WAGON  
 WHIP  
 WILD WEST

# STUDENT EVALUATIONS

The following evaluation can be used as a way for students to express how their visit to the Pawnee Bill Ranch was.

Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following questions:

My trip to the Pawnee Bill Ranch was \_\_\_\_\_.

I didn't expect to see \_\_\_\_\_ at the ranch!

When I was at the ranch, I really liked seeing \_\_\_\_\_.

I wish I could have touched \_\_\_\_\_ at the ranch!

What was the coolest thing that you learned while at the ranch?

Pretend that you are a reporter. Write a one paragraph newspaper article below describing your visit and explaining why other students should visit the Pawnee Bill Ranch.

What do you think could make your visit to the ranch better next time?



# EDUCATOR EVALUATIONS

The following evaluation can be used to tell us about your visit and how we might be able to change our programming for future groups.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grades: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you use the education guide that was provided by the museum? Yes No

Did you use any part of the guide in your classroom? Yes No

On a scale of 1 to 10, how helpful was the education guide? (1 being least and 10 being most)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1. How did you feel about the format of your visit? Please list any suggestions for improvement.
2. What did you think about the content of the programs?
3. Overall, was the students' experience interesting, informative and age appropriate? Please explain, listing suggestions for improvement.
4. Please feel free to share any further suggestions and/or comments on your visit.