12:29 67%

develop into a larger, more prosperous community center had passed. About that time, the cotton gin that replaced the Moore's Mill was abandoned. Nearby communities such as Pilot Knob, which had two cotton gins, included a grocery. Residents of the area did their major shopping in Del Valle and Austin and only picked up small items at the community store. The store primarily catered to tenant farmers or sharecroppers, people who didn't have the means to go to town. The store offered a line of credit to farmers and laborers who shopped there (Stolle Interview, 1995).

Even as the Moore's Crossing area faded in significance, it achieved its greatest notoriety as the scene of one of the county's most heinous crimes. In 1925, three members of the Engler family—Charles, Augusta, and their 23 year old daughter, Emma—were brutally murdered at their home on Elroy Road, within sight of Moore's Crossing. Like many families in the vicinity of Moore's Crossing at that time, the elder Englers were German immigrants but their daughter was born in Texas. Initial investigation implicated the Moore's Crossing blacksmith, John Sternadl who discovered the bodies, in the murder. A black transient was also accused of the crime, a charge that escalated to vigilantism in the community. News of the murder filled local and national newspapers but ultimately no one was convicted of the crime. The murder that horrified the small community has never been solved and remains one of the most notable events associated with Moore's Crossing (Masson et al. 1994: 19; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920).

The Great Depression: 1929-1939

Farm families struggled through the Great Depression in southeast Travis County. Farmers who worked their own farms found it difficult enough, but life was exceedingly hard for tenant farmers and sharecroppers. In fact, conditions during the Great Depression led to the collapse of the traditional system of sharecropping and tenant farming in the county by the end of World War II.

The farm subsidy programs of the New Deal forced a decline in sharecropping and tenant farming in southeast Travis County by offering payment to land owners who let their fields lie fallow. The goal was to limit the amount of agricultural goods on the market, thereby increasing the price of remaining products. In theory, the federal government's objective was to support farmers by allowing them a profit from their reduced production. In practice, the program discouraged the long standing system of tenant farming and sharecropping that had been mutually beneficial to land owners and renters in the past. Subsidy payments discouraged both resident farm owners and absentee landlords from renting or sharing their excess farm land, leaving few opportunities for tenant farmers and sharecroppers (Masson et al., 1994: 33).

The government tried to alleviate farm worker displacement with small, monthly "relief" checks until they found work; this practice actually discouraged unemployed farm workers from finding new jobs. In effect, people received money not to work and thus, had little incentive to seek employment (Masson et al.,1994: 33). The demise of the sharecropping and tenant system also contributed to a temporary decrease in the number of native Mexicans working as farm laborers. Because relief did not extend to non-citizens, many unemployed Mexican nationals returned to their homeland during this period.

To compound unemployment problems, numerous local dairies along Onion Creek closed in the face of competition from more efficient, automated dairies elsewhere. Dairy failure reverberated throughout the regional economy. Reduction in hay and feed needed for dairy cows severely limited the type of cash crops farmers could profit from. Also, reduction in hay and feed limited crop rotation possibilities, according to longtime area farmer, Simon Ybarra (Masson et al.,1994: 33). In addition, dairy employees lost jobs and owners needed fewer hands for hay and feed cultivation and harvest, further contributing to unemployment in the area.

One exception was the Olson Dairy that opened on the former Wallace-Burleson-Moore farm site. J.B. and Elizabeth Moore apparently lost their historic family farm and other property at Moore's Crossing during the Depression. In 1936, Arthur and Hannah Olson purchased the farm where they established a dairy. Two years after they bought farm, the Olsons remodeled and enlarged the house to its current bungalow-like appearance (Maier, 1981: n.p.). They owned the property until about 1960. The Olson's dairy may have succeeded because they implemented modern dairy methods and equipment and they had an abundance of natural pasture, which was essential to support dairy operations in central Texas (Kieke interview, 1995).

In 1936, the same year the Olsons acquired the Wallace-Burleson-Moore homestead, Jim and Alma Eilers Smith purchased the complex at Moore's Crossing. The following year, declaring the gin abandoned for more than ten years, J.B. Moore reclaimed the property just as he had in 1910 when the school on that site closed. Moore relinquished the parcel to Franz Kretzschmar in 1937 (Travis County Deed Records, Volume 578: 20). With this sale, the Moore family left the area, marking the end of an extended era of Wallace-Burleson-Moore tenure on lower Onion Creek.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

HAYS COUNTY.

COUNTY-SEAT, SAN MARCOS.—Area, 690 square miles. Chief products corn and cotton, the latter being found very profitable, though but recently introduced. Average yield of corn, 25 bushels per acre; of cotton, 300 to 500 lbs. lint. Sorghum is extensively raised. The yield of nearly all the crops raised in the South exceeds the average of any I have seen in the other Southern States. Stock do remarkably well, raising themselves almost without cost to the owners, summer or winter. There is an abundance of fencing material; also fine cedar and other lumber for building. Stone of the best quality for building is also abundant. I never saw better. It is soft, and can easily be sawed and dressed. Living cheap. Butter, milk, cheese, poultry, bacon, lard, pork, beef, etc., at about half Northern prices. Bacon is easily saved. Hogs do well on the mast generally without feeding, except for a month or two before killing. Sheep also do well. Chief shipping point is Lavacca, to which point freight is about 75 cents per 100 pounds. Price of land on the increase, and improved places are worth $12 to $20 per acre, and some even higher. Water-power very superior. None better any where. Most of the negroes work on rented land here as elsewhere. Some few of them are doing very well. A good hand cultivates 10 acres in cotton, and 15 in corn. We have very few white men who hire as laborers, though they are much preferred to negro laborers. The farm-work is chiefly done by the owners themselves and their families. Peaches are abundant, and many other fruits are being successfully raised. Schools and churches in all the settlements of the county. The Coronal Institute is just completed, and is one of the finest buildings of the State, and most beautifully situated. For beauty of natural scenery this and surrounding counties can scarcely be surpassed.

[redacted]

Let me make myself clear, AgriHood = Ni[redacted]er Farm .
This is & always will be the Jim Crow South. Respectful policies & Financial benefits for everyone except Foundational Black Americans!
I recognize Racism when i see it TF do they think this is??

27m Like Reply 1

Olivia Overturf

[redacted] so then you don't want to be part of this sharecropping agriland trust grant?

2h Like Reply

[redacted]

you mean agri-ghetto excuse me agrihood... no my family didn't build this country and fight their way out of slavery and sharecropping for me to disgrace their name by skipping back in to subjugation. I'm pretty sure I would be the first person to have their @$$ whooped by all of their dead ancestors AND then their parents. Hard pass.

2h Like Reply 1

Olivia Overturf

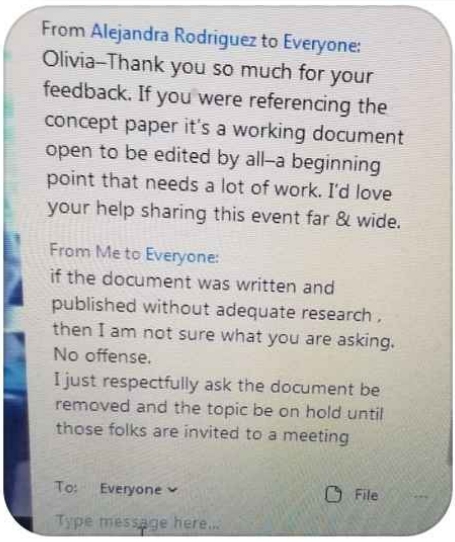
[redacted] ok I was just checking..since they never invite black people to the meetings and I was accused of overreacting by saying the word "agri-hood" was offensive.

2h Like Reply

7:32 48%

Replies

portion of her grant, but also admits on her website that she never serviced the community before but since she lost her farm she figured she may as well try to market on some community trauma🤦‍♀️When I called her out during a live meeting she essentially told me to cooperate / collaborate with her... See More


From Alejandra Rodriguez to Everyone:
Olivia–Thank you so much for your feedback. If you were referencing the concept paper it's a working document open to be edited by all–a beginning point that needs a lot of work. I'd love your help sharing this event far & wide.

From Me to Everyone:
if the document was written and published without adequate research , then I am not sure what you are asking. No offense.
I just respectfully ask the document be removed and the topic be on hold until those folks are invited to a meeting

To: Everyone File
Type message here...

5h Like Reply

[redacted]

I mean there's no Indians in Texas 🙄 when you successfully destroy a people's culture and history...how can they be expected to stand up. We need native education!

5h Like Reply 1

Write a reply...

12:44 62%

Discussion

Suggestion by **Katie Lavallee**

Katie Lavallee 6:25 PM

Add: *"Black & brown livestock farms in Southeast Travis county - invite! Translations to be more inclusive..."*

You 12:44 AM

"marganilzed livestock farmers in Southeast Travis County". Please you guys, be cognizant of wording. This is why we don't attend meetings.

Add a reply

I'm trying to create a safe space where we can collaboratively make a difference in the issues that bring us together: creating a future where agriculture is sustainable and just.

Olivia Overturf New

I'm not sorry for my words. This was not a safe space,nor was it diverse. No one gets paid for their work ,none of us have. If you don't consult with the community leaders doing the work, then you are not helping anyone and that's why we never participate in these meetings.

Reply

Reply Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

10:11 30%

Olivia Overturf

Add: *"Please consult with other black and brown community leaders about this specific wording. Sounds offe..."*

Alejandra Rodriguez New

Please be kind and be open to collaborate if you decide to join our meetings again. The issues we're trying to address in this space are complex and hard to solve, so mistakes will be made. Grace, collaboration, and kindness are needed in this conversation. I welcome all constructive feedback but getting personal or making accusations is not OK. Diminishing my work to serve my community was also not OK. I'm trying to create a safe space where we can collaboratively make a difference in the issues that bring us together: creating a future where agriculture is

Chat

Millberg Farm but all media is honoring a nondisclosure agreement with a developer about highway and commuter location we get both. City of Kyle, Hays County and state of Texas survived 2019 eminent domain bill but they are going to resubmit new bill. City and county and adjacent landowners all planned an apartment complex on our property. I like Marty's comment are we at the table or being served!

From Me to Everyone:

was the word just used "agrihoods"?

To: Everyone

File

Type message here...

From Alejandra Rodriguez to Everyone:

Olivia–Thank you so much for your feedback. If you were referencing the concept paper it's a working document open to be edited by all–a beginning point that needs a lot of work. I'd love your help sharing this event far & wide.

From Me to Everyone:

if the document was written and published without adequate research , then I am not sure what you are asking. No offense.

I just respectfully ask the document be removed and the topic be on hold until those folks are invited to a meeting

To: Everyone

File

Type message here...

Chat

the feed store? I'd be happy to go by to spread the word and invitation about the working group. my e-mail is michelle@farmshareaustin.org if you'd prefer to share the info there

From Me to Everyone:

No. I didn't provide this information and it is very well known to everyone in the MA community. This information is not accurate. and again, there are no Native Americans on this call. Nor are there any elders from the MA/NA/AA community.

To: Everyone

File

Type message here...

provided by the farmers
Pays for land trust
membership

• Opportunity to connect wi
food and learn more abou
• Access to beautiful, open s