

## **Medina: A Case Study**

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“The pioneer” had no single identity. The settler walking west with all of his belongings on his back arrived at the same time as families who brought silk clothing and fine furniture. The poor homesteader and the wealthy speculator both built crude log cabins for their first temporary homes. These early cabins, large or small, had many uses, often serving as meeting house, school, inn, church and courthouse as well as a home.

The westward move into Medina County was not a linear one. Land bought on speculation might be withheld from sale until the price inflated, or a high selling price or swampy land might deter settlers. In 1830, when nearby Medina was a bustling village with many fine homes and businesses, York Township was just being cleared and the few settlers lived in rough, temporary cabins.

The reasons for joining the westward expansion and the subsequent experiences were as varied as the individuals themselves.