

Defining Moments in the life of a pioneer Tasmanian family Video Transcript

Narrator: A major defining moment in Australian history was of course the settlement of Tasmania.

I wonder what life was like for people living there in the 1800s.

Well this place, Brickendon Farm, not far from Launceston, is living history.

In 1824, a man called William Archer came to this part of Tasmania. It was called Van Diemen's Land at that time as we know.

He came to join his brother who had come out a few years earlier and he settled land here on this very spot.

This was his first cottage and he was living amongst convicts.

Because at that particular time, the majority of convicts in Tasmania were sent to farms like this to work for free settlers.

That was the common experience. And of course, it was a very different experience from that at Port Arthur.

He brought with him some sheep, some pigs, some horses and other livestock and his farm provided food for the convicts and for the free settlers.

It helped to feed this young colony.

When you walk around this place, it's called Brickendon Farm, every building you see was made by convicts.

You can touch the wood that was cut by the convicts. You'd be able to touch the bricks that were made by the convicts.

You can visit the blacksmith shop and see the tools that were used in the 1830s and the 1840s.

You'll see a little chapel that was built in an attempt to reform the convicts.

This place is living history.

In this unit, you'll get a chance to explore Brickendon Farm for yourselves.

You'll be able to compare the lifestyle of the owners to that of their convict servants.

You will find out about the different types of work that had to be done on a farm like this to feed the family and workers as well as help develop the state of Tasmania.

And you'll be able to imagine what a day in the life of Brickendon Farm would be like and investigate some of the defining moments that affected the development of this farm and the history of this pioneer family.