



Lore Series Trail Ride #9: Farms of Folly

Lore Script & Photo Prompts Included

Start ride from Scarlett Meadows, north of Rhodes

Red Dead Redemption 2 is known for its vast open world, but hidden among the scenic countryside are disturbing stories of violence, madness, and mysterious disappearances—particularly among its rural homesteads. In this ninth entry in our Lore Series, we'll uncover the chilling truths behind some of the game's most infamous farms and settlements. These locations may appear peaceful at first glance, but each one hides a tale of murder, obsession, cultism, or cannibalism—and in some cases, inspiration drawn from real-life American legends.

This will dive into the twisted pasts of Robard Farm, Pleasance, Aberdeen Pig Farm, and Granger's Hoggery. Each location invites speculation and rewards close attention to environmental clues.

Trail Guide Location #1

Robard Farm: Obsession, Betrayal, and Bloodshed

What appears to be a simple, working farm tells a tragic tale of infidelity and fatal obsession. Upon visiting Robard Farm in story mode, players can find three corpses - two inside the house, and one woman outside against a wagon. The woman outside is Annette, and beside her lie a revolver and a machete.

Photo Prompts 1-5: Annette (1) and (2), Claude and Harriot 3-5.

Looting her reveals a letter from a man named Claude:

“Annette,

I did not want to write this letter. I thought I had been clear at the stable, and clear again when you waited for me outside the general...

...Please, for the love of God, please do not approach Harriot.

I do care about you, but I cannot have you in my life anymore. Leave me and my family alone.”

Photo Prompt 6: The Letter.

Annette, having been rejected by Claude—who had chosen to stay with his wife Harriot—returned to the farm and killed them both before turning the gun on herself. The sequence reverses the common trope of the vengeful spouse, showcasing the deep mental unraveling of a woman scorned.

Trail Guide Location #2

Pleasance: A Ghost Town Touched by Sin and Fire

Just north of Robard Farm lies the long-abandoned town of Pleasance, a place that lives up to its name in irony alone. Founded in August 1883 and destroyed by September of the same year, the settlement was the site of a gruesome massacre that claimed ten lives.

Victims were found shot, stabbed, and mutilated. Paint warnings are smeared on buildings - "STAY OUT, PLAGUE", "UNCLEAN SINNERS", and "ILL WITH SIN!" - adding confusion to whether the town was attacked, cursed, or overtaken by disease. The local church lacks a cross, fueling theories of cult activity or Satanic influence.

There are notable similarities to Boston Township, Ohio, a real location nicknamed *Helltown*. This once-occupied settlement was evacuated under mysterious circumstances, with rumors of Satanic rituals, mutant animals, and a government cover-up tied to a chemical spill.

Photo Prompt 7: Boston Township.

Trail Guide Location #3

A giant snake can also be found near Pleasance in-game (story mode only), possibly nodding to the myth of a giant python haunting Helltown’s woods.

Photo Prompt 8: Giant Snake.

Trail Guide Location #4

Aberdeen Pig Farm: Cannibalism, Incest, and “Family Values”

Heading north toward Roanoke Ridge, we arrive at one of the most disturbing encounters in the game - Aberdeen Pig Farm. The seemingly hospitable siblings, Bray and Tammy Aberdeen, greet players warmly, but something feels deeply off.

Photo Prompts 9 and 10: Bray and Tammy (1) and (2).

Inside, their behavior quickly becomes unsettling. They flirt with each other, call each other pet names, and feed each other food off their forks. Bray encourages Arthur to drink repeatedly, claiming it's an “old family recipe.”

Trail Guide Location #5

After passing out, Arthur awakens in a corpse-filled pit, robbed and surrounded by the remains of past victims. Returning to the house allows the player to kill the Aberdeens and recover the stolen money—hidden “behind Momma,” referring to a painting of their mother.

Photo Prompt 11: Bray and Tammy's Mother.

A skeleton found in a closet may belong to this same “Momma,” though some believe she's buried outside. A hogtied Tammy will plead with her mother for forgiveness if brought to the pit, suggesting guilt and possibly spiritual torment.

Bray can also be found writing:

“Ma and Pa, you brought this on yourselves... But you loved them pigs, and that day they ate well.”

This dialogue and crimes mirror the real-life “Bloody Benders”, a family of serial killers in 1870s Kansas. Like the Aberdeens, they ran an inn where they murdered and buried guests. Kate Bender and her brother John were suspected of having an incestuous relationship.

Photo Prompt 12: The Bloody Benders.

Eerily, one of their victims was named Abigail Roberts - a name shared by a prominent character in the game, though obviously unrelated.

Trail Guide Location #6

Granger's Hoggery: The Pig Farmer with a Bloody Past

Our final stop brings us to Granger's Hoggery, where we meet the notorious gunslinger Emmet Granger during "The Noblest of Men, and a Woman" side mission.

Photo Prompt 13: Emmet Granger.

Despite appearing like a harmless pig farmer, Granger's criminal record is staggering: scalping, burning, burying victims alive, and even cannibalism. He brags about eating those he deemed "effeminate" and was involved in at least three known massacres before obtaining a federal pardon by turning informant.

Players must clean out his pigsty before he agrees to talk—though he shares little before launching into a duel. Killing Granger adds to the growing theme of evil hiding in plain sight among rural Americana.

His character is a parody of William Munny, the former killer-turned-farmer portrayed by Clint Eastwood in the film *Unforgiven*.

Photo Prompt 14: William Munny.

Conclusion: Dark Secrets in the Heartland

From obsessive lovers to cannibal siblings and ghost towns plagued by disease and sin, these rural locations challenge the idea of innocence in isolation. Each farm or settlement hides a violent past that lingers in notes, bones, and whispers left behind.

Rockstar masterfully weaves real-world inspirations—such as *Helltown*, the Bloody Benders, and classic Western cinema—into the fabric of Red Dead's America, making every location a potential story waiting to be uncovered.

Next time you ride past a quiet homestead, ask yourself: what really happened there?