

Bill & Sandra Wayne
431 SE Cty. Rd. Y, Warrensburg, Mo. 64093
1.660.747.5728 or 1.660.624.4944
sandra@olddrum.net or bwayne@cedarcroft.com

A JOURNAL OF GENEALOGY RESEARCH
AND OBSERVATIONS AND TOURISM STOPS IN NORTH EASTERN, MO.

August 30-31, 2011 Trip to Knox County, Mo. (520 miles round trip)
Reason for going was to do more research about Bill's great grandfather W.L. Truman. Truman's hometown was Newark, Mo. Lois Hunziker, Knox City, has emailed with Bill for sometime, and she has compiled more history of Truman's life in Newark. Lois was interested in history especially her community's history. When she discovered Truman's memoir at our website, she contacted Bill with great interest in meeting and doing more research of Newark and the Civil War soldiers from that area. Lois took us on a tour of the Newark countryside, and Lois told us more about Truman's best friend during the war, Johnny Wharton, who was killed in Georgia by a sniper.

For more information refer to Truman's extensive journal of his involvement in the war:
<http://www.cedarcroft.com/cw/memoir/index.html> and
<http://www.cedarcroft.com/cw/memoir/bio.html>

We left about 7:20AM, Tues., Aug. 30, for northern Mo., somewhat near Hannibal, Mo. We arrived at Lois and Ken Hunziker's home, Knox City, about 11:30AM. We had lunch at their home and then the research of documents and Lois' pre-research began. Also, we toured two cemeteries, and she told us about history of Newark, but it was difficult finding the farm where Truman and his family lived before the war.

Also, after going through several documents, Bill and Lois discovered Bill was related to her husband, Ken. What a surprise! A few generations back one of W.L. Truman's sisters married one of Ken's ancestors. Most of the afternoon was discovering more info about Truman's family and why they left northern Mo. Truman joined General Sterling Price's artillery, left home, and never returned to Newark. We also met with Mr. and Mrs. Ken (Gene) Wharton, related to Johnny Wharton, for dinner at a Palmyra, Mo. Mexican restaurant to discuss Wharton and Truman genealogy.

Tourism & Observations:

The first stop on the way home was seeing the rotating 60-cow carousel at the Heartland Dairies near La Belle, Mo. Yes, the milk cows know when to get off the carousel as soon as they are machine-milked. This is a sight to see how the cows go around in a circle and seem to like riding their carousel. There are 360 cows per hour milked.

Members of the Heartland, a CNS International Ministeries, Inc., welcome all visitors to their complex of a community and farming endeavors throughout their thousands of acres in the Newark/Bethel area. Also, we toured the goat barn milking area (goats are milked by hand), and the extensive number of goats in several buildings.

The Heartland complex has a lodge, steakhouse, creamery, café, museum, country store, school, college, medical center, airport, extensive garden for community, and much more. It is a town

within the Heartland goal of helping those in need with new starts in their lives and supporting the ministry. For more details go to www.visit-heartland.com. Tours of the carousel cows can be arranged thru the Heartland Dairies, LaBelle, Mo. (near Newark), 1.660.213.4584. Also, Heartland has another link: <http://www.heartland-ministries.org/>

From Heartland, we headed for Bethel, Mo. Go to this link to learn about the Bethel German colony that ended in the 1870's: <http://www.bethel.maca.net/vp/upVau/welcome.html>
This is a small town, but several two-three story brick buildings and houses resemble somewhat of Arrow Rock, Mo. Most buildings are closed and in need of reinforcement of their red bricks. I met Dee, who is eager to get more tourism in the still German community. She has a B&B, large dining restaurant for daily use. Also, there is a German bakery soon to open and another building opening for festivals and promotion of local beers. The town is the home of the yearly world's biggest sheep shearing event. This link: <http://www.worldsheepfest.com/>
Also, a fiddle camp is held at the Bethel's campground every June. This camp is for youth and adult musicians.

Now for tidbits: (Trip took us thru Sedalia, Marshall, Slater, Moberly, Cairo, Duncan's Bridge, Shelbyville, to Newark). However, along the route in the small town of Clarence there is a 1954 police car with a dummy person wearing a policeman's hat sitting behind the wheel at intersection of MO-151/US-36. Amazing how traffic slows down at that intersection. Going into Clarence is a house with 6 different, huge flags displayed. And, in Clarence there is a tin statue of an old-time filling station worker waving at passers-by. And near Clarence is a rock quarry with the title, We Rock. In Bethel, a sign says, "No EWE turn."

Going into Knox City, there is octagon shaped house like the Navajo hogans. However, the door of the octagon does not open to the morning sun like Navajo hogans. There is a Wild Willie's Bar in Shelbyville and a business there called Shelbyville Moonshiners, Inc. Did you know you have to go to Paris before you get to Mexico? In Shelbina there is a big clock, looks just like a mantle old-time clock, some one built right in their front yard. In Mexico, there is a huge mansion converted to a museum to honor the saddle bred horse history in Mexico.

Where we were in this Northeastern Mo. area, there are many small and almost ghost towns of years gone by. County populations are dwindling. Many old churches are deserted, vacant business buildings are abundant, and history of the area is sliding away in sketchy memories. Lois is trying to get others more involved in area tourism attractions to attract travelers and bus tours. As I write this, I keep thinking of Blackwater, Mo., a town that rebuilt itself and became a tourism attraction because of a story I was told about called "stone soup." It's concept is that everyone can contribute something to bring a little community back to life. Blackwater residents sure did.

The Knox City and Newark areas of Mo give one an education about the expanse of corn production, mega farms (the Heartland community has thousands of acres), and the sadness of little towns trying to make a go of what they have. Follow our route some time and in that northern area there is a different Missouri to experience as if the little towns and villages are waiting for someone or a group to restore them before it is too late.

We returned home about 2PM, Wednesday. Drove 289 miles Tuesday and 218 miles Wed. Call our trip an over-night daytrip.