

Heritage Tourism



Heritage Driving Trail Ralls County, Missouri

Welcome to Ralls County

Ralls County, Missouri, features an abundance of heritage attractions, which cover a variety of themes.

Ralls County history pre-dates Missouri history as the site of the War of 1812 Fort Mason, which was commanded at one time by Nathan Boone. Ralls County was also home to one of the most distinctive “melting pot” communities in America, Ilasco, traces of which remain today near U.S. Highway 79.

Other themes which Ralls County exemplifies include frontier church plantings, extraction of natural resources (lumber, limestone and coal, among others) and the march of higher education before public high schools became universal at the Van Rensselaer Academy.

Ralls County was also a part of the rise and fall of railroading. **The Hannibal-St. Louis Railroad**, known locally as the “Short Line,” played a prominent role in the development of the county, moving freight and people for nearly 75 years before being overtaken by the rise of paved highways. The Short Line Depot in Center has been preserved and renovated to provide a view into that significant era.

Although a Federal garrison in bordering Hannibal which helped to protect the Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad curtailed some of the fighting which ranks Missouri 3rd among all of the states in terms of armed clashes during the Civil War, Ralls County has its share of Civil War history, including much of the brief service of Marion County Ranger member Sam Clemens, better known as **Mark Twain**—and the final resting place of one of the victims of arguably the Union’s most brutal act of the Civil War, the Palmyra Massacre

Although agriculture has dominated the economy of Ralls County since its earliest days, this area has seen its share of novel approaches to attracting visitors, from those who “took the waters”

at Spalding Springs more than a century ago to those who visit The Landing Water Park today.

Ralls County has also developed considerable recreational resources; **Cannon Dam** and much of **Mark Twain Lake** lie within the boundaries of Ralls County. The county has a number of excellent parks and hiking trails, as well as extensive campgrounds.

The Driving Trail Begins

The Ralls County driving trail begins in **Perry** at the **Ralls County Historical Museum and Library** at 120 East Main Street.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

Antique lovers will appreciate the quality and variety of shops available in downtown Perry, all within walking distance of the Historical Museum and Library. The Hannibal-St. Louis Railroad “Short Line Spur” ended at Perry, which was a coal mining center of some importance a century ago.

Perry was the hub of one of the major themes of Ralls County: extraction. In Perry’s case, the raw material extracted for more than half a century was coal. Perry is part of a Coal Mining Trail that extends as far north as Novinger in Adair County, a few miles south of the border with Iowa, and includes coal mining sites in Monroe, Macon and Randolph Counties. The nearby Vandalia Historical Society has an extensive exhibit detailing coal mining methods in the region. Perry has been blessed with an excellent park just off Main Street (Highway 154).

The Bill Trower Memorial Park features picnic and recreation areas, as well as a bandstand, VFW monument and a WW-II era

howitzer.

For those who are interested in older churches, the Presbyterian Church is on the south side of Main Street and Perry's Christian Church can be located by turning left off Main Street onto Madison Street. The City's Reservoir is located at the end of Madison Street. If you turn right off Madison Street, it ends in front of the former Perry Elementary School.

Greenlawn Chapel

From the [Ralls County Historical Museum and Library](#), head north on Route J to historic [Greenlawn Chapel](#), site of a restored Methodist church founded in the mid-1800s that was at one time the center of what is now a ghost town. The Greenlawn community once included a blacksmith shop, general store, wagon wheel factory, post office, schoolhouse and family dwellings.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

The Greenlawn Cemetery adjacent to the church is the final resting place for nearly 200 area residents (the cemetery has been "open" to anyone since 1883, not just church members). Each year, a "Homecoming" commemoration is held over Memorial Day weekend at the chapel, which provides access to the interior of the church, as well as time to reminisce about life in the Greenlawn area.

Cannon Dam

From Greenlawn Chapel, follow Route J north en route to Cannon Dam and Mark Twain Lake.

[Cannon Dam](#), named after long-serving former Congressman Clarence Cannon, who represented the area for some 40 years, impounds Salt River to create an 18,000 acre lake with nearly

300 miles of shoreline, the largest in Northeast Missouri.

You will find a variety of public access areas available along this stretch of road, including Duane Wheeler Access Area and the Ray Behrens Recreation Area, which includes a hiking trail.

The [M.W. Boudreaux Cannon Dam Visitors Center](#) is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is open daily. This complex includes several scenic overlooks ideal for picnics, a deck with a view of Cannon Dam itself, an open-air shelter area, Exhibit Gallery, Gift shop and Community Room. The [North-east Missouri Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) is also located on the grounds. The Memorial honors Northeast Missouri natives who served and died in Vietnam.

Across Route J from the Visitors Center, you can enjoy an excellent view of the face of Cannon Dam from a scenic overlook. Once across Cannon Dam, the Warren See Spillway Recreation Area provides a ground-level view of the dam, as well as a play area and restrooms.

From the [Cannon Dam Visitors Center](#), proceed north again on Route J, enjoying the wooded scenery near Mark Twain Lake. Additional recreational opportunities are available off Route J at the Frank Russell Public Use Area, which includes a hiking trail, and the Spalding Beach Public Use Area, which includes a shelter house and swimming facilities.

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Continue north on Route J until it intersects with Shiel Road. Turn right and proceed down Shiel Road until its junction with Gentry Road. Your next stop will be [St. Peter's Catholic Church](#). St. Peter's is one of the best examples of church planting in Missouri.

St. Peter's Catholic Church is an architectural treasure, built of

native stone. Also known as Brush Creek Church, due to its proximity to nearby Brush Creek, St. Peter's parish was founded in the 1830s by a priest who would later become the Bishop of Detroit, the Belgium-born Father Peter Paul Lafevre.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

The greatest historical significance of St. Peter's Catholic Church is that it was the site of the baptism of America's first African-American priest, [Father Augustine Tolton](#). Father Tolton was born a slave in the early 1850s and was baptized at St. Peter's prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Tolton's family then moved to Quincy, Illinois, where he would later serve as priest of St. Joseph Church, the first church in America served by an African-American priest.

From St. Peter's Catholic Church, proceed west to Route J and turn left, continuing on Route J until you reach the junction with Route A. Turn left onto Route A and proceed south.

Ariel Christian Church

Turn right on Hatch Road and proceed south until you see another excellent example of church planting, [Ariel Christian Church](#). The present building was constructed in 1890, and the congregation was founded in 1869. More information regarding the history of this congregation is available at Ariel's website.

Spalding Springs

Proceeding back onto Route A, turn right and head east until the junction with Route H. Turn left (north) and proceed past Spalding Springs, clearly visible on your left.

In the late 1800s, this area once hosted a thriving spa where patrons 'took the waters' from the mineral-enriched spring.

The town of Spalding was built up around this industry—and declined following the golden era of the spa movement, which ended with the onset of the First World War. The last such surviving spa in Missouri is at [Excelsior Springs](#).



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

Rensselaer

From Spalding Springs, travel north on Route H to the village of Rensselaer, home of the Van Rensselaer Academy and [Big Creek Presbyterian Church and Cemetery](#), the final resting place of Laura Hawkins Frazer, known to the rest of the world as Becky Thatcher.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

The Van Rensselaer Academy embodies another theme present in Ralls County, the march of educational progress prior to the advent of universal public high schools. This Academy was one of a number of such institutions built and maintained throughout Northeast Missouri before the construction of public high schools in the late 19th century. The Academy was established around 1840, with classes meeting initially at Big Creek Church and then Big Creek School. The Academy building was constructed in 1852.

Another example of church planting, Big Creek Presbyterian Church, was first organized in 1834; the stone church, built in 1866, is still used for services and community functions today.

Laura Hawkins Frazer, Mark Twain's neighbor and the inspira-

tion for Becky Thatcher, was born in Ralls County. She is buried with her father, Judge Hawkins, in Big Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, about a quarter-mile from Big Creek Presbyterian Church on a hilltop located on the western side of Route J.

Hydesburg Methodist Church & Cemetery

From Rensselaer, head back south on Route H and turn left (East) on Route HH. Continue on Route HH until you reach the junction of Big Creek/Hydesburg Road (they form a ‘V’ junction a few yards from HH). Turn left off HH and then immediately right and proceed approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Hydesburg Methodist Church and Cemetery. The church is still in use today.

Hannibal

After you have returned to Route H from Hydesburg, turn left and continue on Route HH until the junction with US Highway 61. Cross over the southbound lanes to Highway 61 North, turn left and proceed to the first intersection. Turn right at the stoplight onto Warren Barrett Drive. You will cross into Hannibal city limits, but remain in Ralls County.

Locals will tell you that you’ve just entered the “Village of Ralls.” (Twenty miles to the west, Monroe City is bisected by not only Ralls, but also Marion County within its city limits). An industrial park was begun in this area in the late 20th century.

An example of how corporations have changed over that time period is the General Mills plant on the west side of US Highway 61. Originally started in the late 1960s as the farthest west plant to manufacture Underwood Deviled Ham—and selected because of their CEO’s love for [Mark Twain](#)—the plant has changed ownership several times, including Pet and Pillsbury. This business has been so successful that several additions to the plant have been made, and it also absorbed the structures left behind when

Western Printing closed its doors in 1973.

A casualty of the downturn of the automotive economy and the rise of outsourcing to foreign countries is the Dura Automotive Complex, located behind the Hannibal Inn near the Ralls County line with Marion County. This complex at one time employed several hundred people who made parts for the domestic automobile industry. It is now vacant.

Proceed down Warren Barrett Drive for a quarter-mile and turn right onto New London Gravel Road. Within a couple of minutes (approximately half a mile), look to your right and enjoy the view of Woodside Place, the former “country” home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Garth. This mansion, now known as [Garth-Woodside](#), played host to Mark Twain, who came here at the invitation of the Garths, who were both childhood friends and schoolmates.

John Houston Garth made a fortune in lumber, as did many of the early wealthiest citizens of Northeast Missouri. Their homes reflected the finest craftsmanship the woodworking artisans of the late 19th century could provide.

Garth was also one of the area’s first philanthropists. His name lives on today in Hannibal at the site of one of the first free public libraries west of the Mississippi River, the [Hannibal Public Library](#). Garth’s interest in libraries predates that of Andrew Carnegie.

[Garth-Woodside](#) is rated as one of the top bed & breakfasts in the United States. In addition to these honors, the mansion is also known for its architectural significance, particularly its ‘flying’ three-story staircase.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

Stonecroft

From Woodside Place, continue south on New London Gravel road until it intersects with Camp Creek Road. Turn left (East) and follow Camp Creek Road until it intersects with Route O. At Route O, turn left (North) and proceed toward your next destination, [Stonecroft](#), which is privately owned. From Route O, turn right on Carr's Lane.

Stonecroft, like Woodside Place, was a “summer” home, this one belonging to William Lawrence Brown, who built it in 1872. The stone used to build this architectural gem was quarried on the Brown property. Stonecroft shows both Italianate and Greek Revival influences.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

William Lawrence Brown's life story was worthy of a Twain novel. He made his first significant money during the California Gold Rush. Upon his return to Northeast Missouri, he invested wisely, including a financial interest in the first bridge to cross the Mississippi at Hannibal, now known as the Wabash Bridge.

Brown's story also reflects the theme of extraction: many of the structures built during the mid to late-19th century incorporated locally quarried stone.

Antioch Baptist Church

From Stonecroft, head south on Route O until the junction with Scott's Lane. Turn left (East) on Scott's Lane and continue until you reach Route T. Travel north on Route T until it intersects with Antioch Road. [Antioch Baptist Church and Cemetery](#) is on the corner. This church was organized in 1870 and still holds weekly services. The Cemetery is immediately adjacent to the Church.

From Antioch Baptist Church, continue east on Antioch Road until it intersects with US Highway 79.

Ilasco

Turn left (North) on Highway 79. As you approach Ilasco, you will notice Marble Creek Cemetery on the hillside on your left.

As you continue north, you will be entering the remnant of one of the most interesting “melting pot” communities in America: Ilasco.

The Ilasco area was once the site of a thriving community of nearly 3,000 people who spoke more than a dozen languages. Most early residents were immigrants from Eastern Europe who were recruited to work at the nearby Atlas Portland Cement Plant, which is best known for contributing most of the concrete that went into the construction of the Panama Canal.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

The Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society maintains a number of interesting features related to Ilasco, including a park that was once the site of the high school and elementary school buildings. The old jail has also been preserved. A Memorial park has been erected commemorating the extensive immigrant community, the former Lutheran church, as well as area veterans. You can reach these sites by driving over one of the few plank-deck bridges still open to traffic in Missouri.

Ilasco Methodist Church is adjacent to the park; across Highway 79, you will see St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, which dates to 1874. The church periodically holds services and ice cream socials, although it has not been an active parish for more than 50 years.

Just up the road on Highway 79, turn right on Monkey Run Road to see the small community of “Monkey Run,” the last residential remnant of the Ilasco community. Much of what you now see will be removed as a result of buyouts following the Flood of 2008. The Mississippi River itself is in full view just beyond the railroad tracks.

Local legend has it that much of the Monkey Run area was part of a working plantation, and that one surviving building served as slave quarters.

Heading back to US Highway 79 from Monkey Run, you can see the Continental Cement plant in front of you and on your right. Formerly known as Portland Atlas Cement, this plant is well over a century old and has expanded considerably, including a nearly 300-foot tall kiln which was recently constructed. Some of the plant’s buildings, including a shipping facility just off Highway 79, date to the plant’s original construction. The cement plant embodies the theme of extraction, as it continues to quarry local limestone for use in cement products.

The cement plant is also the beginning point of the Bricks and Mortar Trail, which extends south and west to Fulton, Mo, proceeding through Vandalia, Farber and [Mexico](#), Mo, where the extraction theme was the local clay deposits used as the basis for a thriving fire brick industry.

Saverton

From the Ilasco area, proceed south on US Highway 79 to its junction with Route E. Continue east (turning left) on Route E. Your next stops will be in Saverton.

Saverton figures prominently in not just Missouri history, but pre-Missouri history. The site of a fort used during the War of 1812 was located a few miles to the south of Saverton.

Fort Mason was one of a chain of forts that guarded Missouri,

Illinois and Iowa residents who had settled along the Mississippi River north of St. Louis from the threat of violence from Indian nations, which had allied themselves with the British.

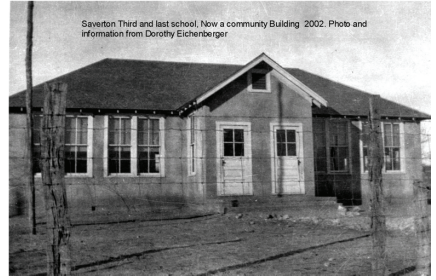


Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

Fort Mason was commanded by Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone. Nathan Boone was not the only famous militia member to serve at Fort Mason. John Coulter, a member of the Lewis & Clark Expedition who was also the first white man to see Yellowstone, is also believed to have served at the Fort Mason garrison.

The Fort Mason site is near the present-day Central Stone Quarry.

Lock and Dam 22

As you follow Route E into Saverton, you will arrive at a “T” junction. Turn right (south) and proceed for about a mile until you see Lock and Dam 22 on your left.

Lock and Dam 22 is located just off Route E across the BNSF train tracks. Built during the 1930s as a Depression-era public works project, this lock and dam complex maintains the Mississippi River to a depth of at least 9 feet between Saverton and Quincy, Illinois.

Locals will add that Lock and Dam 22’s nearest downstream neighbor is Lock and Dam 24, at Clarksville in the adjacent Pike County, Mo. For a variety of reasons, Lock and Dam 23 was never built.

Saverton 2

From Lock and Dam 22, head back up Route E to the “T” junc-

tion. The building you see on your left is now the [Saverton Community Center](#). Before becoming a community center, this building served as Saverton's school, one of many one-room schoolhouses still standing in Ralls County.

Continuing straight into Saverton, you will notice the historic Saverton Community Church on your left. On your right, you will notice the site of one of the smallest post offices anywhere, former home of the 63467 zip code. Saverton's part-time post office was a casualty of 2011 budget cuts, joining the list with historic Kinderhook post office across the Mississippi River in Pike County, Illinois. Route E dead ends at Camp Oko Tipi, which has played host to tens of thousands of area youth who have attended summer camps there over the last half century.

Ted Shanks Conservation Area and Visitors Center

Turn left at the "T" junction and proceed west on Route E until its junction with US Highway 79. As you head south (left), you will pass the former site of Fort Mason and encounter several scenic overlooks both in Ralls and northeastern Pike County. If you continue south on U.S. 79, your next major destination will be the [Ted Shanks Conservation Area and Visitors Center](#) near Ashburn, Mo. You will also be joining a segment of the Pike County Driving Trail, as well as traveling down the Mississippi River Scenic Byway.

Special note for year-round travelers: people from all over the globe drive the length of Highway 79 during the Fall in order to take in the magnificent sights provided when the thousands of trees, which line its path turn colors.

Thousands of travelers also come back to Highway 79 during January and February to see the bald eagles, which stop along the Mississippi in order to go fishing. They especially favor the waters below Lock and Dams 22 and 24, although eagles can be

seen soaring at nearly any point on Highway 79 during this time period.

In order to complete your Ralls County heritage drive, cross over Highway 79 and proceed southwest on Route N until it intersects with Route V. The church you see on your left just before the Route V junction is the historic Salt River Christian Church.

New London

Turn right on Route V (West) and enjoy the wooded views and the Salt River bridge before you enter the county seat of Ralls County, New London, which dates back to 1820, prior to Missouri statehood.

On the outskirts of town, be sure to turn right on Depot Street. At the end of Depot Street, you will notice an unusual building on your right: the former depot for the Hannibal-St. Louis Railroad (the “Short Line”).

Currently, U.S. Highway 61 follows or parallels the Short Line route all the way to Wentzville.

New London has a rich history and much of it is centered on the Courthouse Square, which includes the oldest Courthouse in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River.

This structure, built in 1858-59, served as the model for the Missouri buildings constructed at the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1933-34. You will especially enjoy the native limestone included throughout the building and grounds, which echoes the theme of extraction.



Courthouse; “Oldest fully Active Courthouse west of the Mississippi river” built 1858 (in New London)

The Ralls County Courthouse has been in daily operation for more than 150 years. An excellent depiction of Ralls County history is available within the courthouse itself, but you will need to

take the elevator down to get there. Take two lefts off the elevator and enjoy the work of Mark Twain High School students, who painted an extensive mural on an entire wall of the basement. The mural begins with Fort Mason, prior to Missouri's statehood, and depicts historic events through the last part of the 20th century. This mural is a stop on the Missouri Mural Trail, which includes a WPA project mural painted during the 1930s in the Vandalia Post Office, as well as murals located in downtown Hannibal.

Another historic structure is located just behind the Courthouse—the [Ralls County Jail](#), also constructed extensively from native materials and another example of extraction.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

There are a number of old churches in New London, all of which are within walking distance or a short drive from the Courthouse Square: [First Baptist](#) (just east of the Jail on East 3rd Street), Second Christian Church (due north of the Courthouse at the corner of Ralls Street and East 1st Street), and New London First Christian Church (a block west of the Courthouse square on West 4th Street).

New London has two fine parks for those who enjoy a picnic: one 'downtown' located diagonally across from First Christian Church, and the city's main park, located diagonally across from First Christian Church, and the city's main park, located just behind New London Elementary School on the south end of town (1101 E. Main Street).

Barkley Cemetery, the final resting place of one of Mark Twain's friends and Civil War militia companions, fellow riverboat pilot Absalom Grimes, who became famous in his own right as a Confederate mail runner during the Civil War, can be reached

by traveling north on Ralls until it intersects with East Rector Street. Turn right on E. Rector and proceed about a quarter of a mile; Barkley Cemetery is on your left.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
Main Street, New London.

From Barkley Cemetery, head back out South Rector until it intersects with Main Street; turn left on Main Street and continue on Main until it becomes Highway 19, crossing over U.S. Highway 61. As you travel up Main Street, notice the former St. Joseph's Catholic Church on your right, which dates to 1874. The building materials are also native.

From New London, travel south on Highway 19 to Center, following the Short Line Spur Historic Trail.

Highway 19 parallels much of the Short Line Spur all the way to Perry, an example of the march of progress of paved roads replacing the railroads. As you look to your right, you will see a second set of telephone poles in farm fields. They mark the old roadbed of the Short Line Spur, which was constructed to reach Perry coal fields. The original roadbed was planned to go through to [Mexico](#), Mo.

Center

[Center](#) was originally referred to as “Jeffville,” after the first name of the area's first settler, who began construction of a general store before any houses were constructed in the area. He anticipated the coming of the railroad.

One of the highlights of the Ralls County Driving Trail is the restored Center Short Line Depot, which is visible from the Highway 19 and Route CC junction. Parking for the Depot is available on your right. Be sure to examine the Short Line memorabilia, which has been collected by the Ralls County Historical Society

to incorporate into the exhibits. The Center Depot served as the mid-point of the Short Line Spur and handled passengers as well as freight.

Center's Mason Park is located within an easy walk of the Short Line Depot and is visible from the Highway 19 and Route junction (the only stop sign on Route 19 in Ralls County). It is well equipped with a play area, picnic tables and shelter house.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

Two old churches are also within easy walking distance of the Short Line Depot; Olivet Christian Church is a little more than a block away to the west on N. Foster Street, while Center Baptist Church is directly east of Mason Park. Center Baptist Church is directly east of Mason Park. Center United Methodist Church is located on South Main Street, several blocks from the Short Line Depot.

The well-equipped [Ralls County Public Library](#) is literally around the corner from the Short Line Depot, facing the Highway 19 junction on Route CC.

The lot adjacent to the Public Library was the former site of a hotel constructed to take advantage of rail traffic. Another former railroad hotel still stands adjacent to the railroad tracks in Vandalia, Mo, and survives as a bed and breakfast and restaurant.

Another example of church planting is next on your route; one of the oldest Baptist churches in north Missouri is located 3 miles east of Center on Salem Lane. Salem Baptist Church dates to 1832, one of the oldest congregations west of the Mississippi River.

Madisonville

From Salem Baptist Church and Cemetery, head back west on Salem Lane to Center.

Just up from the Short Line Depot, head south on Route P at the Highway 19 junction until you reach the intersection of Route P and Route C; from here, turn left toward Madisonville.



Salem Baptist Church and Cemetery; Oldest active Baptist church in Ralls County, organized May 1832.

Madisonville is the site of a lodge hall building that dates back to the 1860s. Madisonville was also the site of an 1866 shootout that left three people dead and another eight wounded. The uneasiness of the Civil War gave way to another period of civic unrest; Reconstruction.



Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

St. Paul's Catholic Church & Cemetery

From Madisonville, take Route C west to the junction with Cleveland Lane, which intersects with Highway 19. Turn right on 19 (northeast) until you reach the junction with Route EE. Take a left onto EE and proceed north to [St. Paul's Catholic Church and Cemetery](#).

St. Paul's incorporates the themes of church planting and the extraction and use of local raw materials in construction. It is also the home of one of the oldest frontier cemeteries in Mis-

souri. Along with Fort Mason and the early settlement of New London, the history of St. Paul's also predates Missouri statehood.

St. Paul's is considered to be the Mother Church of Northeast Missouri, West Central Illinois and Southeast Iowa. The roots of this church go back to 1812; an original log cabin structure was built in 1834.

The present structure was built during the Civil War. Then-parish priest Father Francis Kielty served as both priest and architect for St. Paul's. Labor to build this structure was donated by parishioners.

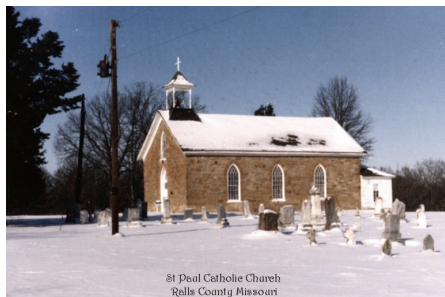


Photo courtesy of Ralls County Historical Society

St. Paul's Cemetery is the reputed last resting place of one Wittington, a native Virginian who was a Revolutionary War veteran. St. Paul's is also believed to be the first cemetery organized in Ralls County. St. Paul's grounds are also the Site of Seven Statues of Mater Dolorosa, erected in 1939 by descendants of original parishioners. This site is considered to be one of the most peaceful in Missouri.

Muldrow Cemetery

From St. Paul's, head south on EE to the junction with Highway 19. Turn right (south) onto Highway 19. Within a few hundred yards, look to your right. The concrete abutments you see on both sides of Dry Fork Creek are the remnants of the Short Line Spur railroad bridge, which was dismantled in the mid-1940s—a stark visible reminder of the decline and fall of the railroad culture that was instrumental in the development of Ralls County.

The Short Line Spur was replaced by the road you are riding on, Highway 19.

Continue south, past the Perry exit, to Muldrow Cemetery (located on your left just off the northbound lane of Highway 19). This frontier cemetery includes a victim of what is considered by many to be the single worst atrocity committed by Union troops during the Civil War. Muldrow Cemetery is the final resting place of John M. Wade, one of the 10 men executed in 1862 in the Palmyra Massacre.

Audrain County Trail: If you should choose to head south on Highway 19 from here, you will join the Audrain County Trail and soon join the Bricks and Mortar Trail at the junction of Highway 19 and US Highway 54.

Monroe County and Ulysses S. Grant Trails: If you should choose to head north, back into Perry, you will join the Monroe County and [Ulysses S. Grant Trails](#) at the junction of Highway 154. The Monroe County Trail will also take you north to the Highway 36/72 Avenue of Genius as well as the [Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site and state park](#).

Marion County and Mark Twain Trails: If you should choose to continue further north to the end of Highway 19 at its junction with US 61 (the [Avenue of the Saints](#)), you will join the Marion County and Mark Twain Trails in Marion County, which intersects as well with the Avenue of Genius in Hannibal.

Short Line Trail: If you should choose to travel south on the Avenue of the Saints at the junction with Highway 19, you will join the Short Line Trail down Highway 61 and will also join a portion of the Pike County Trail, which features a railroad tunnel that once carried the Short Line overhead and a railroad-themed park in Frankford, less than ten miles south of New London.

Sponsors

The Ralls County, Missouri Heritage Driving Trail is brought to you by the Missouri Humanities Council and the [Ralls County Historical Society](#). A special thanks to Ron Leake for being a tremendous resource throughout the project's development.

Additional Contributors:

[Antioch Baptist Church](#)

[Ariel Christian Church](#)

[Avenue of the Saints](#)

[Big Creek Presbyterian Church](#)

[Cannon Dam](#)

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