

# Warren County's towns have rich history

The following information was supplied by the Warren County Historical Society and Ron James of the Village of Innsbrook.

## Foristell

Residents of Virginia began moving to northwestern St. Charles County in the 1830s and soon found that the soil of the area was well-suited for tobacco production. Located at the western edge of the county, the city was laid out in the mid-1850s by J.A. Davis.

At the time, the town was known as Millville and its post office was named Snow Hill. In 1877, the name was changed to Foristell in honor of resident Pierre Foristell, a wealthy farmer and cattle dealer.

Foristell was incorporated as a village on New Year's Day, 1980.

## Innsbrook

Incorporated July 21, 1998, the Village of Innsbrook is Warren County's newest city. The city's

history dates to 1971 when Ed Boyce purchased 1,000 acres of an inventor's hunting property with the goal of creating a chalet community, said Ron James, the city's spokesman.

Boyce built a series of A-frame chalets beside manmade lakes, which proved popular.

The city was named for Innsbrook, Austria, because the chalets and topography reminded Boyce of Austria, James said. Eventually, the chalet owners began requesting year-round occupancy of the area, James said. More substantial homes were built to comply.

As time went on and the area grew, Innsbrook reached "terminal density," James said.

Fear of losing the peace and quiet that drew residents to Innsbrook to commercialization pushed Innsbrook administrators to seek incorporation, he said.

"The area was growing so fast. Innsbrook's identity has always been intertwined with nature. If we were surrounded by high density subdivisions, we might lose some attractiveness," James said.

The Warren County Commission

approved the incorporation of Innsbrook into a fifth-class city by a two-to-one vote on July 21, 1998. The city is now made up of 5,000 acres, 60 lakes and 100 miles of roads. The city has its own fire and security services in addition to sewage and water treatment, James said.

"Quality of life is our key product," James said. The city is not interested in other industrial endeavors, James added.

## Marthasville

Marthasville is the first town settled in Warren County. Although several settlers had made homes there previously, Dr. John Young of Virginia has been given credit for establishing the town.

Young and his wife, Martha, came to Warren County in 1818. Young laid out the town and named it Marthasville, in honor of his wife.

The first store was established the same year by Young's brother, Benjamin.

The town's population swelled

with the German immigration in 1834. The first postmaster was Erastus Grabbs, a merchant and community squire.

During this period, Marthasville was the principal landing place for all of the territory then comprising Warren County.

Shipping was big business for Marthasville and it became a site for farmers to buy products.

The Emmaus Asylum, an institution for epileptics, also was located near Marthasville at that time.

## Warrenton

Warrenton was founded to house the Warren County courthouse in the early 1800s. The first settlement recorded in Warrenton was by a Dr. Bruin in 1818. John M. Faulconer is listed as the first school teacher in Warrenton. He later served as a county treasurer and mayor of Warrenton.

The county courthouse was the center of life early in Warrenton. Until 1855 it was used for worship services for people of varying reli-

gions. In 1855, the first two churches were built. They were the Methodist "Marvin Chapel" and a Baptist church.

The town's chief industry until the Civil War was tobacco manufacturing. Several factories, employing a total of about 300 men, were located in Warrenton.

## Wright City

In 1856, Wright City was located and platted by Dr. H.C. Wright, who named the town for himself. He built the first dwelling in the city shortly after selling a right-of-way to the Northern Pacific Railroad Co. In 1858, the Wabash Railroad put a line through the town.

The town was not incorporated until 1869. At that time it had an official population of 169.

Many of the town's residents were farmers. The earliest businessman was August Mestmacher, a shoemaker widely known in northern Warren and western Lincoln counties.

# Slip back in time to a pioneer harvest

*Marthasville farm recreates pastimes of German settlers*

By PEGGY BRADBURY  
Special to the Post-Dispatch

It's no stretch to say that Luxenhaus Farm looks and sounds like a 19th-century movie set during Deutsch Country Days, held on the third week-end of October each year to catch the Missouri countryside at the peak of fall color.

The farm, tucked against a wooded, rocky hillside off High-

restored log cabins and farm buildings.

But for two days each October, the woods become a pioneer village. Hundreds of artisans and volunteers don costumes, demonstrating some 70 arts, folk skills and farm chores of German pioneers in Missouri.

Artists demonstrate slip-trail redware pottery making, paper marbling and papermaking, copper, tin or blacksmithing, show Biblical instruments, or play period music. Others spin and weave and sew, make cornhusk and apple-faced dolls, and shape baskets, brooms, rugs, utensils and tools. Many are among the best in the country at what they do, says Lois Hostkoetter, who owns the farm with her husband, Bob.

Hundreds of volunteers from the Warrenton and Wright City Future Farmers of America demonstrate "life skills" on the farm. Young men in white shirts, black-brimmed hats and black pants with suspenders heave axes or draw huge saws, splitting rails and slicing logs. Women and girls in long dresses and mob caps make soap and candles, stuff sausage, churn butter, and show how washing and ironing was done before electricity. Teenagers in period garb make root beer or help younger children pet farm animals, or operate a hand-

like bullets from a machine gun.

Men shear sheep, run a steam-powered sawmill or pitch bundles of green cornstalks into a mule-turned sorghum press. Both men and women cook the juice into sorghum. Others simmer beef in giant cauldrons to make kettle beef for visitors, a German pioneer tradition handed down from the first settlers. Others cook bratwurst, appel kuchen, aptel nachtisch, and pop kettlecorn.

There is so much to see, including an Indian encampment, that a map is included with admission.

The farm is about an hour west of St. Louis. Take I-70 west (past the junction of Highway 40-61) to the Foristell exit. At the exit, turn south on Highway T. Stay on Highway T to Highway M. Turn west (right) on M, then south (left) on Highway O. Parking is free, with a tractor shuttle ride from the parking lot available.

## Deutsch Country Days

When: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Luxenhaus Farm, 5437 Highway O, Marthasville, Mo.

How much: \$10 adults, \$3 children 6 to 12; children 5 and under free.

Info: 433-5669

Drawing Tonight 7pm - Play NOW thru October 31

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# Deutsch Country Days..

Escape into Missouri's German spirit as you enter "DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS" at LUXENHAUS FARM, two miles northeast of Marthasville, MO. in Warren County.

DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS is an annual living history event, with proceeds supporting the Warrenton and Wright City Chapters of the FFA, along with many other historic and youth groups. The FFA is a national youth organization enrolled in agricultural education, preparing members for careers in agri-business and agriculture. The FFA is 425,000 members strong, with 7,500 chapters across the nation. Students learn leadership by serving as officers, committee chairs and by attending personal development conferences. More than 200 exciting and diverse careers in agriculture await these young people. Agricultural education and the FFA are leading the challenge to keep agriculture America's most productive industry. FFA members wish to thank each guest, volunteer and neighbor who contribute so graciously to the success of DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS.

Nineteen Missouri log structures, circa 1800-1860, inspiration, hard work and awareness of our forefathers fortitude - all are a part of DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS at LUXENHAUS FARM. Each log building is authentic, moved from their original sites, many avoiding the bonfires of progress. Each structure has been restored by the Bob Hostkoetter family and friends--re-constructed to preserve the German heritage of this area and a our forefathers by-gone way of life.

The community of buildings is a tribute to our pioneer ancestors who possessed a spirit no longer found in today's society. Held the third weekend of October, DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS features over 68 Midwest costumed artisans, continually demonstrating the authentic early German skills of their forefathers, many utilizing the same tools. Life skills such as blacksmithing, candle-soap- and rope making, knitting-weaving-spinning and butter churning are daily fare. An 1850 Warren County log barn is filled and surrounded with farm chores such as corn shelling, grinding bones and commmeal, corn-husk doll making, and spoon making--many demonstrated by the FFA. The General Mercantile is brimming with preserves, fresh baked treats, antiques and gifts--many reminiscent of your grandparents's childhood. And of course - FOOD - kettle-cooked beef, bratwurst, kartouffel salad, roasted corn, affel kuchen and many other traditional German favorites. VOLUNTEERS make up the entire work force of DCD. An information cabin is provided so guests can help make next years DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS run even more smoothly.

DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS and LUXENHAUS FARM have been featured in Country Accents, Country Heart, Country Home and Country Living, magazines. The "Rural Missouri" featured DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS and LUXENHAUS FARM in the October '97 issue. The Small Farm Journal and the Steuben News, national German newspaper, have covered the farm event extensively in their publications.

In 1998, it's OCTOBER 17 and 18, (always the third weekend.) Please "Komm, freuet euch mit uns!" Come, enjoy yourself with us - See our German heritage unfold!

# GROUND'S MAP

## Willkommen to the Fifteenth



Three Miles N.E. of Marthasville, MO

## October 18 & 19, 1997

**Be a VOLUNTEER at  
DEUTSCH COUNTRY DAYS.  
It's a Very Fulfilling Job!  
(Sign-up at the Information Cabin)**