



**Bicentennial Wandering!**

Wandering this month has been pretty interesting. As you might remember, I am attempting to travel to all of the County Seats for the Bicentennial celebration. While at these locations, I will be exploring not only the courthouse grounds but also other locations within the community and county. **I would love to get a picture with you in your community if you would allow me the honor.** Please contact me and let me know and we will make arrangements. I am now up to 28 counties of the 92 since December 11, 2015 – the State of Indiana’s 199<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This past month I have started taking photos of the different courthouses. This has been quite interesting. It is amazing how many times you might go to a community but never really notice the courthouse. It also is amazing how often you don’t notice much about a community. My little challenge has allowed me to take a look at places in a whole different light. One of the best parts of my travels has been that I am able to spend some quality time with family or friends.

[Richmond, Wayne County](#) – I was able to take some time with my mother to visit and photo the courthouse. With Wayne County being my home county, it was nice to make this the first official photo opportunity. While also being in Richmond, we took the opportunity to visit the Whitewater River Gorge and see some of the sights. The Veterans Memorial Park is a special place for honoring the military and is definitely a worthwhile visit. We also visited the Starr – Gennett memorial and Cardinal Greenways Trail. Places I hope to visit yet this year while heading back home are the [Wayne County Historical Museum](#), I always remember the mummy, and Earlham College and the Joseph Moore Museum which has a mastodon. Those are a few of the places to visit. I would be amiss if I did not mention Centerville, my high school, and the former County Seat. Apparently there was a little skirmish back in the day and the citizens of Richmond took the records from Centerville and created the County Seat.



Wayne County Courthouse



Greenfield Courthouse

Greenfield, Hancock County – I was able to take a drive with my father and one of the locations we visited was Greenfield. [James Whitcomb Riley](#) of course is the namesake of many of the places to visit within the city/county. Riley Park is a great place and the Brandywine Creek is supposedly a great small mouth bass fishing hot bed. US40/National Road travels through the community and the courthouse square has many interesting buildings. You also should check out the [Pennsy Trail](#).

Can you say, spending good quality time with your kids? I had the opportunity to travel to Evansville with my middle son Wade. Our reason for heading southwest was to watch our University of Evansville Purple Aces play basketball in the Ford Center. On the way we definitely had to wander.



Lawrence County City Hall

Bedford, Lawrence County – first we had to travel through Oolitic and see the [Joe Palooka](#) statue. Do you know his history? You should look it up. Of course you get a good idea of all of the limestone quarries in the area wild driving through and along old SR37. Bedford has a great downtown area and an interesting courthouse square. Lawrence County has done an awesome job with their scenic routes throughout the county to see all of the sites. It is one of my favorite counties to wander in and there are a lot of places I really enjoy visiting. Did you know that there are three astronauts from the county?



Orange County Courthouse

Paoli, Orange County – Orleans is a quaint little community with a really nice downtown. The Lost River, the Orangeville Rise, Paoli Peaks and of course [French Lick/West Baden Springs](#) are other places that are a must see. You have Hoosier National Forest on in the south part of the county and for the surveyor’s out there reading this, you have to go see the “Pivot Point”. Is there any way to improve on that little park and display? The courthouse coming into Paoli is such a great view! Very unique and interesting courthouse square and beautiful house overlooking the city on the eastern hill.

[English, Crawford County](#) – first thing you see is Lucas Oil Golf Course coming into town. There are several creeks that flow through town. They have apparently played havoc on the community in the past and have flooded the area quite extensively. This has led to many homes being razed. The courthouse was really hard to find. It was on a whim that we took Saw Mill Road and found the courthouse. I wonder if there was another courthouse besides the acting one? I bet there was but have not done the research. Isn’t wandering fun? This is one more mystery I hope to solve when I have some time.

[Tell City, Perry County](#) – a good friend of mine that is from Tell City said that the County Seat is in Cannelton. Well it used to be. It also used to be in Troy and in Rome. Great places to visit. Don’t confuse the Tell City ~ City Building with the Perry County Courthouse. The Ohio River and Hoosier National Forest definitely influence the county and its geography. For those that read our newsletter, I spent several weekends in Tell City this past year while my youngest son was living and working there.



Tell City ~ City Hall

[Rockport](#), Spencer County – [Santa Claus](#), [Holiday World](#), all things Abraham Lincoln and [St. Meinrad](#) for my buddy. A lot of interesting places to visit in Spencer County. The courthouse in Rockport is in a beautiful setting in an old square. Near the courthouse is a really interesting drive through a small park along the Ohio River. It has sheer cliffs on one side of the roadway with the river on the other. On the west side of the City is the Lincoln Pioneer Village in the City Park. Definitely worth a visit.

[Boonville](#), Warrick County – there is a really interesting historic district around the courthouse square and Scales Lake is quite the park to visit. Unfortunately we didn’t get to drive around the city much to discover some of its character. [Newburgh](#) is located along the Ohio River and is home of Castle High School and is a growing suburb of Evansville. There is a quaint district in downtown with a completed walking trail along the Ohio River. You also need to check out the lock and dam. You can find multiple areas that have been transformed by the coal mining that has occurred over the years between Boonville and Newburgh.



[Evansville](#), Vanderburgh County – home of Evansville and the Purple Aces. It is also home of the University of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles. The city has really transformed over the years from when I first visited. The downtown area along the Ohio River continues to grow and change and there are many opportunities for taking in museums, trails and scenery. This part of Indiana still has a special place in my heart. There is nothing like a bike ride along the Ohio River on the southwest side of Vanderburgh County. You are out in the country but not far from the city.

Hope you guys are getting out wandering! Please pass along your places to visit. I am still hoping to spend time with some of you when I travel to your community and **I would love to get a picture with you in your community if you would allow me the honor. Please contact me so that we can make arrangements to meet!**

~ Jeff Banning