

# A Step Back In Time



Travel down to Old Shawneetown and come visit the John Marshall Museum. Old Shawneetown is located at the end of Rt. 13 bordering the state of Kentucky on the Ohio River. The John Marshall Museum is one of the oldest brick buildings in the state, and you will have an adventurous time here in this hidden jewel in Southern Illinois. A lot of history is found in the John Marshall Museum, from floods, money and old stories passed down from generation to generation, also there are many pictures on the walls of buildings that no longer stand in the



historic town. The paintings of the original owners John Marshall and his wife Amira Leech Marshall hang in the museum. There is a neat hidden trap door in the bank, at first glance you wouldn't know what this little door is, it is a secret door in the floor where the banker would lower down money to a guard in the basement, he would sleep above the money to keep it safe from river pirates and other thieves.

The dining room is set up with antique furniture and kitchen items. Display cases show relics from the town including a 1937 flood diary that shows the rising water levels, and also souvenirs and books you can purchase. Going upstairs, led by a docent dressed in period attire as they did in the 1800s, you will be led to the bedrooms to see how things used to be. From antique clothing to antique beds stuffed with goose feathers, a wash bowl and some of the attire they would wear while walking down the streets of Shawneetown. You



can open the curtains and look across the Ohio River to Kentucky and see the beautiful bridge and the levee that protects the town.

The children's rooms have old toys they would have used in those times, we let visitors look and play

with them as they did in that time. Walk down the spiral wooden staircase and go outside to walk up the stairs to the levee, taking in the beautiful scenery of the Ohio River, and the bridge. Looking back at the John Marshall Museum you get a sense of peace that relaxes you, with warmth and beauty of how it was back in those times. Life was so simple without technology, just the sun in the sky, the breeze in your hair and your family at your side.



Down the street you have the 5 column bank owned by the state of Illinois. The 5 column bank always draws in people from around the world, the 5 column bank has seen it all, from floods to becoming a residence during the civil war. Many people can't help but take pictures of the bank, and many enjoy taking their prom pictures. Down the road is Nate's Bar and Grill a neat little place to dine in and enjoy the atmosphere with historic pictures hanging on the walls. Did I mention the awesome food there, everyone goes to Nates to eat a good bacon cheese burger or two!

Also Gillios Pizza 3 miles west, is known for their delicious pizza in the area, people come from all around to eat Gillios Pizza.



## Westwood Cemetery



Westwood Cemetery is the oldest in the state, it is located between New and Old Shawneetown. Travel about 2 miles on Old Rt 13 and take a little drive on the gravel roads as they wind around the beautiful hills carved out hundreds of years ago and you will come upon Westwood Cemetery. You are greeted by a beautiful iron arched gate, stone pillars and a gazebo. Westwood is peacefully beautiful and wonderfully taken care of. Near the top of Westwood is where General Thomas Posey is buried. General Thomas Posey was the first Indiana Governor, his daughter had a home that was located on this hill, General Posey was visiting his daughter when he suddenly took ill and passed away, she then buried him in her flower garden where he lies today. You should take this drive and go out and see General



Thomas Posey resting place and bring a picnic lunch to share with your family. You can sit in the gazebo and feel the nice breeze coming off the fields surrounding the cemetery, you will find a sense of peace by visiting historic Westwood Cemetery.



Old Shawneetown and the Gallatin County Historical Society are happy to see visitors and tourists come to our town for its history. The Gallatin County Historical Society has a website and a facebook page, you are welcome to join us there to see upcoming events, and ask any questions about the town's history or family histories. Walk down the sidewalks and see parts of old foundations of buildings that no longer stand in the shadows of the day, look at the old hitching posts along main street that are still waiting for horses to be tied up. You will also see landmarks where General John A Logan was married as well as the first newspaper in the state, also located on Main St. Old Shawneetown is no ordinary town, the town is saturated in the history of its flood waters, historic politicians, banking history and many stories that have never been told.