

SOUTH SAINT LOUIS TRAIL

operated by

Greater Saint Louis Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

sponsored by

Boy Scout Troop 212, Thunderbird District
Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

formerly sponsored by

Boy Scout Troop 158, Tomahawk District
Holy Innocents Catholic Church

About the Trail

The South Saint Louis Trail is a closed (circular) fourteen (14) mile hike located in South Saint Louis. Many of the area's historic landmarks, buildings, and parks have been selected as points of interest, and are discussed at length in this trail brochure. Since the route can be traveled by automobile, it is possible for persons with special needs to visit the points of interest and enjoy the trail as well. The trail was designed to provide an enriching experience to those who desire to familiarize themselves with and/or learn more about our wonderful city.

The trailhead (and terminus) is the vonSteuben statue in Tower Grove Park (just east of the north entrance to the park.) Ample parking is available nearby for passenger vehicles. You will proceed toward the south entrance to the park, then west a short distance to Morgan Ford Road; then south on Morgan Ford to Holly Hills (passing Bevo Mill along the way), then southeast a couple short blocks to Carondelet Park.

The trail winds through Carondelet Park, passing several more points of interest, then northeast along Broadway to Lyon Park and the Anheuser-Busch brewery. Then, the trail heads west on Arsenal Street to Grand Avenue, and then north on Grand to the Compton Hill Reservoir and Water Tower; it backtracks southward one block on Grand to Flora Avenue, and then west on Flora past some stately homes all the way to Shaw Gardens. The trail finishes with a southward return to Tower Grove Park via Tower Grove Avenue.

Information for Leaders

Leaders (adult and youth) should carry this trail brochure and share the information on points of interest to all in the group.

Hikers should be in Scout uniform, carry a canteen, and dress for the weather.

Lunches may be eaten in the parks along the way; or, there are some inexpensive restaurants along the trail.

Stay on the trail route at all times.

In the interest of safety:

- a) walk on the east side of Morgan Ford
- b) walk on the south side of Holly Hills
- c) walk on the east side of Broadway. Note: special caution at Broadway and I-55, as there is no stop signal for right-turners off Broadway.
- d) walk on the south side of Arsenal
- e) walk on the west side of Tower Grove
- f) hikers should be broken into smaller groups when crossing busy intersections
- g) hikers should obey all traffic signals and signs, and be courteous to other pedestrians and street traffic.

Note the two park maps included (Tower Grove and Carondelet) in addition to the main trail map.

Happy Hiking..!!....from Troops 212 and 158 of Thunderbird District, GSLAC/BSA.

Trail Instructions and Points of Interest

1) Tower Grove Park Bounded by Kingshighway, Magnolia, Grand, and Arsenal. It has been called one of the finest examples of a Victorian park in the United States. Its gazebos, statuary, fountains, lily ponds, stately entrances with unique gatehouses, and tree-lined drives and walks convey Henry Shaw's vision of a strolling park. In the tradition of his native England, it was to be a place of tranquility and ordered beauty. It was also the city's very first public driving park, designed with broad carriage roads. The land was originally part of the Prairie des Noyers common field, laid out by the early French pioneers as common farm land, and acquired by Mr. Shaw at a foreclosure sale.

Since the initial park boundaries included extensive St. Louis County property on the west, an act creating TGP was drafted and approved by the Missouri legislature in March, 1867. This act established the park and legally permitted Mr. Shaw to deed the property to the City of St. Louis. The park, second largest in the city, encloses an area of 285 acres, and more than 20,000 trees that were planted on treeless farmland. These trees were gathered from many places around the world, planted as nursery stock in Shaw's Gardens and later transplanted. Among them were sugar maple, Norway and scarlet maple, sycamore, pawpaw, horse chestnut, white birch, shell bark hickory, wild cherry, redbud, gingko, dogwood, catalpa, persimmon, honey locust, butternut, black walnut, tulip, American and European larch, Osage orange, a variety of magnolia, box elder, buckeye, peach, crabapple, linden, elm, sweet gum, and many species of oak...!! In recent years, Eagle Scout projects have identified and labeled the many kinds of trees and their species.

2) Friedrich von Steuben Statue Located north of the fountain pond. Since the generous gifts of Henry Shaw in the nineteenth century, only one statue has been added to the park, the figure of Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, whose military genius gained recognition in Prussia where he served as an instructor and aide-de-camp to none other than Frederick the Great.

Ben Franklin recruited von Steuben while in Paris to serve under General George Washington. He would serve the Continental US Army in many capacities with distinction and honor, attaining the rank of Major General. The statue was given by the German government to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904; and in grateful recognition of von Steuben's services to the American people in their struggle for liberty, the Steuben Society of America presented the statue to Tower Grove Park on August 25, 1968.

3) Fountain Pond and Victorian Ruins (established in 1872) Located west of the Music Stand and east of the lily ponds. The ruins is an arrangement of stone blocks which were "selected" from the remains of the first Lindel Hotel (at 615 Washington Ave) which was destroyed by fire in 1867, the year before the park was deeded to the city by Henry Shaw. These large stones are laid together to resemble a ruined façade, having a graceful outline and picturesque effect, as well as suggestion of antiquity.

4) Music Stand (built in 1872) Located east of lily pond area between the main and north drives. The first concert was given in 1873. White marble busts on pedestals of polished granite were gifts of Shaw to the people of St. Louis. Mozart and Rossini were created by Howard Kretschmar, a St. Louis sculptor; Wagner and Beethoven by Baron Friedrich von Miller of Munich; and Gounod and Verdi presumably by Ross C. Adams.

5) Alexander von Humboldt Statue Located on Main Drive. On November 24, 1878, the second bronze statue, that of von Humboldt, German naturalist and Amazon explorer, was unveiled. It also was created by Baron von Miller, and the presentation ceremony was a very elaborate one: it was an occasion for all the many Germanic societies in the city to gather. There were a long procession, band music, and much oratory; and masses of people packed the park for the festive occasion.

6) William Shakespeare Statue Located in the middle of the circle on Center Cross Drive. The statue was unveiled on April 23, 1878, the 314th anniversary of the birth of the poet/playwright, and was created by von Miller. It has been commended as an excellent likeness. Note the four plaques on the pedestal depicting characters in his plays: Falstaff, Hamlet, Queen Catherine, and Lady Macbeth.

7) Turkish Shelter (built in 1871, located on the east side of Center Cross Drive, near Shakespeare Circle.) This is one of ten (10) gazebos designed and built by Shaw. It was originally a dovecote, with the base of the upper cupola "arranged for pigeons and other birds."

8) McDonald Park Located on Utah and Bent Streets. Comfort station and drinking water available all year.

Note: Proceeding south along Morgan Ford, there is an excellent view to the west of the St. Louis State Hospital, the highest point in St. Louis, as you traverse the new bridge over the Missouri Pacific RR tracks near Fairview Avenue. As you approach both the Meramec Ave and Chippewa St. intersections, proceed with caution as these are very busy at all times.

9) Christy Memorial United Methodist Church Located at Morgan Ford and Neosho. Celebrates 100 years in 1999..!!

10) Bevo Mill Located at the Morgan Ford/Gravois/Delor intersection. Years before World War I, August Busch Sr traveled Europe extensively, gathering data on windmills. He planned to build a restaurant/beer garden at this location, which at the time was occupied by a blacksmith shop. In 1916, he built a 5-story structure modeled after a Dutch windmill, with almost all the stones at the bottom of the mill being taken from Grant's Farm. Local legend has it that Mr. Busch was so exacting about the construction that he personally hand-picked the stones, and wore out several Pierce Arrow automobiles hauling the stones from Grants Farm to Bevo.

According to German tradition, a pair of storks were placed on top of the chimneys, symbolic of good luck. A set of tile murals, made at the Berlin Porcelain Factory in 1891, were mounted in the main dining room. Early in the 1900's, Busch produced a non-alcoholic beverage tasting like beer. He named the drink "Bevo", derived from the Bohemian word "pivo," meaning "beer," "Bevo" was almost an overnight success, and became the namesake for the existing windmill known worldwide as Bevo Mill.

11) St. Matthew Cemetery Extends from Bates Avenue to Federer Street.

12) Carondelet Park Bounded by Leona Street, Holly Hills Avenue, Interstate 55, and Loughborough Avenue. (see separate map.) When Carondelet Park was dedicated on July 4, 1876 (our nation's first centennial) a 13-gun salute was fired at daybreak. Later, a 38-gun salute was given for the 38 states; and at noon, a 100-gun salute was rendered for the centennial. The park was almost named "Independence Park" in honor of the 100 years. In days of old, the park was welcomed relief to residents of south St. Louis and beyond, who had at that time a half-day ride to reach Forest Park..!! Slowly-dissolving limestone formed underground chambers, which gave the park one of the region's more interesting topographies. Note that comfort stations and drinking water are available from mid-April to mid-October. Of notable interest are: Horseshoe Lake, the Boathouse (1918), and the Music Pavilion (1898) as you proceed along the route towards Lyle Mansion.

13) Lyle Mansion A Virginia carpenter, Alexander Lyle built this house in 1842 on a 180 acre tract given to his grandfather, Amos Curtis Lyle, by the King of Spain. During the Civil War, southern sympathies caused Lyle's family to flee the house, never to return. A cousin, Eugene Field (the poet) later acquired ownership of the property. In 1940-42 the City of St. Louis spent \$ 10,000 to restore the place. Living there at the time was Otto Hempelmann, Superintendent of Parks, and his wife Clara. Probably the oldest frame house in the Carondelet area, the mansion is a city landmark.

14) Frank T. Hilliker Bridge Constructed in 1885, it was originally called the Kansas Street Bridge. In April, 1969, an overloaded Missouri Pacific RR car destroyed the old bridge. The MOPAC people proposed to replace the bridge with one of modern design that would be less expensive to construct; but Mr. Hilliker, an active member of the Carondelet Historical Society, resisted the plan and became the driving force responsible for having the bridge rebuilt in its original historic design. The bridge was later renamed in his honor.

15) Old 1st District Police Station Holly Hills at Colorado. (presently Gateway Ambulance Co.) In years gone by, this was a familiar "stop" by many Troops hiking this trail. The officers on duty at the station were always very hospitable to Scouts.

16) Old Sts. Mary & Joseph School (now St. Joseph Ctr, operated by Catholic Charities) Corner of Holly Hills & Minnesota. To the south of this intersection is the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, a storied complex and feature of the Carondelet-Jefferson Barracks Trail.

17) Coast Guard Base St. Louis Located at the foot of Iron Street on the Mississippi. The base occupies 4.4 acres on the river front, on property acquired in the early 1940's. It once had a complement of 65 full time enlisted, officer, and civilian personnel. The Coast Guard's 2nd District, which includes Base St. Louis, was charged with numerous responsibilities along the nearly 6,500 miles of navigable waters, or 13,000 miles of shoreline. Eighteen tenders helped manage and control this vital inland transportation system that carries more than 550 million tons of cargo each year. In 1874 the steamers Lily and Alice, under the direction of Congress, were the first commissioned vessels to perform operations similar to present-day CG river tenders. The Coast Guard motto "Always Ready" or Semper Paratus, parallels a goal familiar to Boy Scouts.....i.e., service to country and other people. At present, the base is home to the USCG Cutter "Cheyenne."

18) Broadway Boulevard Before the Civil War, Broadway had four names: the northern section was called Bellefontaine Rd; the central section was Fifth St; the southern section Carondelet Rd; and the extreme southern section was Main St. Its name, Broadway, described its tremendous width along much of its route, necessary to permit easier passage for the many market wagons and horse-drawn buggies using it as thoroughfare.

19) Sr. Marie Charles Park Located at the foot of Elwood Street. A nice promenade and different view of "Ol' Man River."

20) Bellerive Park Located at Broadway and Dover Sts. Established in 1908, it has an area of 5.67 acres. Visitors will enjoy this view of the Mississippi. No greater factor assured St. Louis' future growth than the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. When Pierre Laclede established his fur trading post in 1763 in what's now downtown St. Louis the river was of vital importance for the canoe-oriented beaver trapping business. Today, river traffic is much more active, of course, with modern barges and towboats providing low-cost transportation.

An historical marker commemorates the old town of Carondelet, an area bounded presently by Upton, Michigan, and Bates streets, and the river. Be sure to read the history inscribed thereon, as it is very interesting to say the very least. This area contains some of the city's oldest buildings, and in an excellently preserved setting. Many dwellings dating to the 1830's have made this area one of the region's more desirable.

Note: Comfort station with drinking water open all year.

21) Alexian Brothers Hospital Located between Osage and Keokuk Sts. The original structure was a fine example of 19th century hospital design. The first patient was admitted in 1970. An extensive building program was completed around the mid-1980's at this Catholic institution, with the replacement of most of the original structure.

22) Old Lemp Brewery (can be seen from the intersection of Broadway and Lemp Streets. This storied brewery, and the family that owned and operated it, has quite a history in itself. Be certain to include it in your historical readings...!!

23) The deMenil Mansion Located at Cherokee Street and Broadway. Another must-see at another time for sure. Tours are available year-round, so call for information.

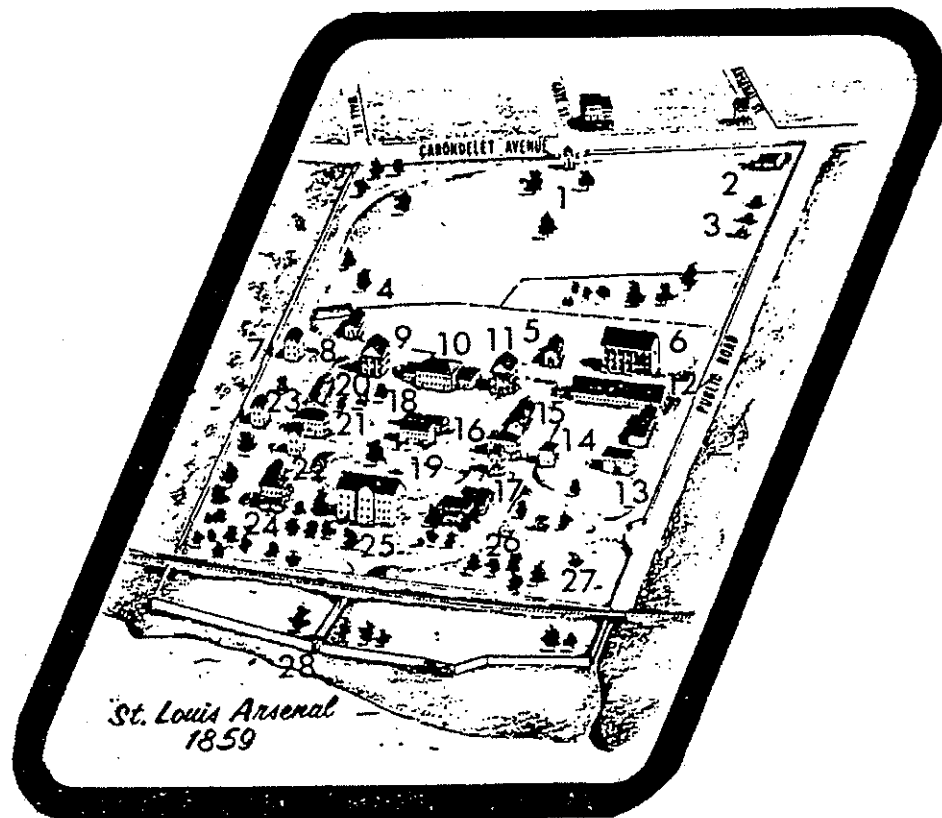
Note: As you continue along Broadway, look to the west near Utah Street, and you will see the spires of St. Agatha Catholic Church, a beautifully preserved facility which still offers Latin Mass on selected Sundays.

24) Lyon Park Located at Broadway and Arsenal. This park includes the western several acres of the original St. Louis Arsenal grounds that were given to the City of St. Louis in 1871 by the Federal Government on the condition that it be used to perpetuate the memory of Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon. General (then Captain) Lyon took command of the St. Louis Arsenal in 1861 when the Civil War began. He immediately fortified the facility against attack, and then mustered all regular and volunteer forces available to him. He marched them several miles to Lindell's Grove, and captured by surprise a contingent of Confederate militia commanded by General David Frost, who was planning to take control of the arsenal and its supplies. General Lyon's aggressive action helped secure the St. Louis area and consolidate Union control. General Lyon was later killed at Wilson's Creek near Springfield Missouri, on August 10, 1861 while leading his troops against a superior Confederate force.

Comfort station and drinking water available from mid-April to mid-October.

the riverfront property has been under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. The part adjoining Broadway is now Lyon Park, and the remaining 24 acres has been the Defense Mapping Agency, and is now the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

In 1827 the federal government purchased 27 acres from the Arend Rutgers and August Chenie families. Initially under the command of Captain John Symington, the arsenal was completed in 1840 after a slow start and a quick succession of several commanding officers. The majority of the structures were built of unfinished limestone taken from a quarry on the arsenal grounds. Routine operations at the arsenal continued for several years until after the Mexican War of 1846 and various other expeditions that ended in 1848. The illustration below is a sketch of the St. Louis Arsenal as it probably appeared at its peak of permanent development shortly before the Civil War.



In this illustration the view is generally to the west. Carondelet Avenue near the top of the picture is now South Broadway. The Mississippi River is at the bottom of the picture. The structures listed below are identified by corresponding black numerals on the illustration. Numbers in parentheses indicate approximate construction dates; asterisks indicate structures still existing in whole or in part.

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| 1. Guard House (1859) | 15. Lumber Storehouse (1837)* |
| 2. Magazine (1831) | 16. Office (1835) |
| 3. Laboratories (1831) | 17. Storehouse (1830)* |
| 4. Ordnance Coalhouse (1850)* | 18. Casting Room (1837) |
| 5. Quartermaster Coalhouse (1850)* | 19. Barrack (1830) |
| 6. Artillery Arsenal (1850)* | 20. Lumber Storehouse (1837)* |
| 7. Enclosing Wall (1838)* | 21. Hospital (1835) |
| 8. Married Soldiers' Barrack (1852) | 22. Storehouse (1830)* |
| 9. Carriagemakers' Shop (1852) | 23. Married Soldiers' Barracks (1852) |
| 10. Armory (1835)* | 24. Commanding Officers' Quarters (1834) |
| 11. Carpenters' Shop (1854) | 25. Arsenal for Small Arms (1830) |
| 12. Timber Storehouse (1853)* | 26. Officers' Quarters (1828) |
| 13. Stable (1852)* | 27. Guard House (1847) |
| 14. Stable (1828) | 28. River Gate (1838) |

- 26) Anheuser-Busch Brewery Located at 610 Pestalozzi Street. Site of the world's largest brewery and beer producer. It was originally known as the Bavarian Brewery. In 1852 production exceeded 3500 barrels a year; since 1980, the numbers have exceeded 50,000,000...!! The brewery, of course, has a rich history, and a separate guided tour is a must-see. Available year-round at no charge. Call for reservations.
- 27) Benton Park Named for Thomas Hart Benton, US Senator from Missouri who served from 1820 to 1850. The park encloses 14.5 acres, two lakes, and a statue of Friedrich Hecker, a German revolutionist who came to St. Louis in the mid-1800's. The park was established in 1886. Comfort station and drinking water available year round.
- 28) St. Frances deSales Catholic Church (on the original So. St. Louis Trail, and a landmark visible from all over the area.) Located at Gravois Boulevard and Ohio Street intersection, this parish was organized in the year 1867; and dedication of the first church was in May, 1868. During the early 1880's, a spire and slate roof were added. In 1888 Archbishop Kenrick laid the cornerstone for a new parochial school, and work began on the new church in 1895. The old church was destroyed by the tornado of 1896, and it was decided to complete only the basement of the new structure. Work on the superstructure was resumed in 1907, and the present church was completed in 1908 when on May 27 a 12-foot iron cross weighing 900 pounds was attached to the steeple. This cross has since been replaced by an 18-footer covered with 20 karat gold leaf. The nave is 65 feet high, and the steeple is said to be the city's loftiest. St. Frances deSales is noted for its very fine altar, artistic windows, and the mosaic chapel. In November of 1978, it was added to the National Register of Historic Sites.
- 29) Compton Heights Residential Area This area, embracing Hawthorne and Longfellow Boulevards and adjacent blocks between Grand and Nebraska Avenues, was laid out in 1888 by Julius Pitzman to correct errors he had made in designing Vandeventer Place. Several unique features were incorporated into his design, including gracefully curved streets to create a pleasant vista and reduced traffic flow. Residential restrictions, first in Missouri, insure private use of each residence and establish a common setback for each as well. Although well established by 1900, the largest flurry of construction in Compton Heights centered around the World's Fair. Many of St. Louis' first families settled in the neighborhood -- corporate leaders of Anheuser-Busch, Falstaff, Magic Chef, Monsanto, and Pet, Inc. were among early founders. A number of the homes remain in the hands of these original builders some 100 years later. We offer that investigating the history(ies) of this area will be most fascinating.
- 30) Compton Hill Reservoir Located at Grand and Russell Boulevards. This park and reservoir, a facility of the St. Louis Water Division, was created in 1871, chosen because of its high elevation, permitting gravity distribution of water to a wide area of St. Louis east of Grand. The 56,000,000 gallon capacity reservoir is surrounded by a decorative wall and steps designed by Guy Study. The standpipe water tower at Compton Hill stands 179 feet high, and was completed in 1896. Its Romanesque design was the work of architect George Mann, and is also on the National Register of Historic Sites, and is of course a St. Louis landmark.
- A controversial statue called "The Naked Truth" (near the tower) was unveiled in the park in 1914 as a memorial to Dr. Emil Preetorius, Carl Schurz, and Carl Daenzer, all German-American newspapermen. It was a gift to the city by the German-American Alliance. Sculpted by Wilhelm Wandschneider, it was viewed as quite daring for its day.
- Note: Comfort station available all year; drinking water from mid-April to mid-October.
- 31) Flora Place Residential Area Located on Flora Avenue between Grand Ave and Shaw's Garden. Flora Place came into being during the 1904 World's Fair and in the decades following, having been laid out by Julius Pitzman from a request of Henry Shaw for a "splendid approach to the botanical garden's main gate." The monumental Flora Place gateway at Grand is by Weber & Groves, completed in 1898. The five-block long boulevard is lined with three-story brick homes with the thick walls, decorative woodwork, and marble fixtures marking early twentieth century architecture. As older residents have moved out, younger growing families have found that big rooms, 10-foot ceilings, and spacious backyards are just what they need. The old homes, usually needing remodeling, respond handsomely. Though not as old or perhaps as picturesque as other areas, for example the Lafayette Square townhouses or the Central Westend private streets, these homes are nonetheless representative of a kind of middle ground for preserving the value of private dwelling with city conveniences. Some are reported to still have third-floor gas jet outlets featured when the homes were built. The parkway, by the way, is city maintained.
- Note:** For persons taking the trail by automobile, there is no thoroughfare to Flora Place via Grand Avenue. You must get there via westbound Magnolia or Shaw and then 39th or Lawrence Streets.

32) Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Gardens Addressed at 2101 Tower Grove Avenue, this 79 acre area was established in 1859 by Henry Shaw. It is recognized as one of the botanical capitals of the world, with its world-renowned herbarium and library, with some volumes dating to the 15th century..!! The most impressive structure of the gardens is the Climatron, built in 1960. It is the world's first air-conditioned greenhouse, and the climate ranges from an Amazonian rain forest to that of dry arid lands. The garden was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

About Henry Shaw: Born 7/24/1800, Sheffield, England. He attended Mill Hill School, considered one of the finest institutions of the Kingdom. His education concentrated in the liberal arts, but his ability with mathematics provided the foundation for his later business success. Forced to leave school at 17 to help in the family business, he traveled to Canada and then the U.S. searching for a suitable business to operate. He decided to locate in our city and started a hardware store that became so successful that he retired only 20 years later. He immediately started accumulating the property necessary to implement his plan to build and develop the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park. He gave the last 30 years of his life to this goal before he succumbed to malaria on August 25, 1889.

33) Mausoleum Mr. Shaw's mausoleum was designed by Barnett of red Missouri granite; and the actual tomb, of white marble, bears above it a likeness of Shaw's recumbent figure created by Ferdinand vonMiller II from a photograph taken 10 years before Shaw's death. This custom of Englishmen representing themselves in effigy above their burial places dates back to the time of the Crusades. Close by his mausoleum is another, made of limestone -- which Shaw had originally intended to be used; until he discovered that it eroded quickly. Thus instead, he placed a statue within it entitled "Victory of Science over Ignorance" -- a pun on the fact that he'd been taken by a shrewd stone dealer..!!

34) Tower Grove House Mr. Shaw acquired the property in 1840 through a purchase from T. Payne, who had laid out a race track -- the center of which was a grove of trees. Near the grove Shaw built his towered mansion, and he named it "Tower Grove House." This house was to become his country home, and it was constructed in the Italian style very popular with Americans who traveled to Europe at that time. In 1851, Shaw moved into this house and spent the last years of his life there while building and developing his gardens and park. Meticulous Victorian period restoration of the house was begun in 1953. Much furniture and material owned by Shaw were located and moved to the house, and everything in the house is original. It has been designated a St. Louis Landmark.

As you return to Tower Grove Park and the trail's end, try to imagine what it must've been like over a hundred years ago, with horse and buggy the main transportation, streets as yet unpaved, no radio (let alone TV), and a strolling beautiful park something to really look forward to on a lazy Sunday afternoon. For that matter, imagine all along the trail what conditions must've been like, how long it must've taken to get from here to there (after all, you just walked it, so you should know..!!), and try to come away with a feel for what life in St. Louis must've been with woods and wilderness just west of Kingshighway..!!

