Harry knew everything about his cousins, and they knew everything about him, including the fact that he had a crush on Bess. Ethel Noland later said "there never was but one girl in the world for Harry Truman, from the first time he ever saw her at the Presbyterian kindergarten." Bess was that girl. With this knowledge in mind Harry's cousins decided to ask him to return a borrowed cake plate to the Wallace house one day in 1910. Nine years earlier Harry and his family had moved out of Independence. Thus when Harry was asked to return the cake plate he jumped at the chance to renew his relationship with the girl of his dreams. After returning the cake plate Harry and Bess started to date and nine years later they married.

Bess Wallace

Activity 8)

Answer the following questions:

1. Do you have a favorite cousin, if so why do you like them?

2. What have you learned from your family members?

From here go across the street to the Summer White House.

Stop 9: President Truman

In 1944 Harry S Truman was elected vice president of the United States. On April 12, 1945 President Franklin Roosevelt died, as a result Vice President Truman became the President. After Truman became president his home here in Independence, the white house in front of you, became known as the Summer White House. It was to this house that President Truman would retreat to escape the pressures of being President, and to relax with his family.

During the eight years that he was President Harry S Truman faced a number of great challenges. Many of the decisions that he made changed the course of world history. In order to make the right decisions Truman relied on the things that he had learned from his parents, friends, teachers and history.

After Truman left the presidency in 1953 he returned to this house to retire with his wife Bess. Harry came back to Independence because it was his home. Independence is where Harry grew up, it was where his friends were. It was Truman's childhood here in Independence and the people around him that made him into the man he became. Truman's honesty, ability to work hard and his love of history helped him to become a great President, a President that many of his own heroes would have been proud of.