



## *Truman Family Farm Grandview, Missouri*

For eleven years Harry Truman worked on the family farm in Grandview, maturing from a shy twenty-two year old into an outgoing and self-confident leader. The long hours and hard work on the farm forever shaped his character and prepared him for the many challenges that he faced as 33rd President of the United States.



In 1906 Harry Truman gave up a comfortable bank job in Kansas City to help out on the family's 600-acre farm. Relatively large for its day, and lacking the modern labor-saving devices of later years, the farm required a significant amount of manpower. Truman provided that and more. Up at dawn, he often worked a 12-hour day, caring for the farm's horses, mules, cows, pigs and chickens. Afterwards he worked in the fields helping to "put in" wheat, oats and corn. The summer sun would sometimes burn his face to the color of raw beef.

**OnCell**  
AUDIO

Keypad Commands

- 1** Rewind
- 2** Pause/Play
- 3** Fast Forward
- #** Skip
- \*0** Leave Comment

**(585) 672-2611**

Evenings were spent relaxing with family at the dinner table, singing songs, playing the piano, or writing letters to his sweetheart Bess Wallace.

With the death of his father, John Truman, in 1914, Harry assumed responsibility for running the farm. He became a careful administrator, deciding what to plant and when to take livestock to market. Production steadily increased as he practiced the careful rotation of crops. Under his care the farm was a modest success, but the devastating effects of weather and unsure profits took their toll.

Truman left the farm in 1917. When the U.S. entered World War I, he enlisted, leaving his mother and sister to run the farm. Though he never returned to work there, he often looked back fondly to his days on the farm. The experience molded him. Above all, it taught him the value of common sense and hard work, the virtues that he carried with him the rest of his life.

