

# Spotlight on Granville ❁

One of my favorite day trips while visiting the Center Hill Lake region is to a quaint, lovingly restored town called Granville which is located about 30 miles north of the Smithville area. Granville is a vibrant old riverboat town that sits beside another small lake - Cordell Hull Lake. Their wealth of history is showcased in a small museum which is staffed by local folks that love to share the history of Granville. Back in its heyday, Granville was a bustling riverboat town consisting of over 600 families, who made their living off of the fertile land, the riverboat trade, and local commerce. Today, it has been revitalized by numerous volunteers and families that have come back to their roots following careers in larger metropolitan areas. One such couple is a prominent, yet humble businessman and his wife, Mr. Randall and Peggy Clemons. The heartbeat of the community is the T.B. Sutton Store (931.653.4151) which serves as the general store, selling clothing, gift items, candies, and books. It also showcases the Upper Cumberland Arts Alliance (UCAA) artists' work in the gallery upstairs. One of the biggest draws is their Saturday night bluegrass, folk, and country music performances which generally feature local musicians, yet occasionally spotlight headliners out of Nashville. This coupled with their family style, down home country meals make this is a great evening out for friends, families, and groups. The word is getting out about Granville's "Corner Stage" and reservations are recommended to enjoy this excellent evening of music and delicious home cooking in this great resort town. Granville has many festivals

throughout the year, including their Heritage Days in May and bluegrass festival in the summer. Folks from all around come out to enjoy this friendly river town, stay at one of the quaint bed and breakfasts available or down at Granville Marina & Café or Defeated Creek Marina in one of their cabins or campground. There are several gift stores, including the Granville Gifts and Bed & Breakfast, located nearby the granddaddy, the old T.B. Sutton Store. On one occasion while visiting the old general store, we had the pleasure of observing Mr. David Sharp practicing his wood crafting skills for those that stopped by. He does a beautiful job. The Granville Museum showcases the history of this remarkable town. In October, you can enjoy the *Journey Stories Exhibit*, which celebrates its grand opening on October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. as part of a special ceremony during the Granville Fall Celebration. *Journey Stories* is a *Museum on Main Street* project organized by the **Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service**. This unique exhibit tells the story of courage, new beginnings, adventure, fun and freedom



that has happened since the discovery of America. Many expeditions have taken place since that time ranging from the movements of the first settlers, the Gold Rush, advent of different modes of transportation, to those brought on by vacations, the search for freedom, and much more. The exhibit will be open Wednesday through Saturday, from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM (CST) October 2 – November 13, 2010. Admission is FREE.



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