

**Gary C Worrell**

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**From:** Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]  
**Sent:** 19 October, 2008 22:29  
**To:** 'Gary C Worrell'  
**Subject:** Postcard  
**Attachments:** Hello.jpg; DryRidgeInn.jpg; BlueRidgeParkway.jpg; Biltmore03a.jpg; BiltmoreGardens01a.jpg; NorthCarolinaSunset01.jpg

Hello (see attached) from the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Denise & I are visiting our friends who are the proprietors of the Dry Ridge Inn ( <http://www.dryridgeinn.com> ), a Bed & Breakfast in Weaverville, North Carolina. A great place, wonderful breakfast, comfy room. Highly recommended.

While here we took time to drive some of the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's the beginning of the "Changing of the Leaves," and although it isn't the peak, there was still plenty of color. We went as far as the Mt. Pisgah Inn, a seasonal hotel and restaurant along the parkway. I would have taken pictures there, but we were literally in the clouds, we could hardly see 20 feet out the windshield at this altitude. The Inn was ending its season, they close on Election Day. From then until sometime in the spring, the bears and ice are too dangerous to stay open.

We spent most of the remainder of our visit touring the Biltmore Estate. Completed in 1895, it was then and still is the largest single home in the United States. It sits in the mountains just South of Asheville on 8000 acres of well maintained farm, forest and grassland. George Vanderbilt had originally acquired 125,000 acres in the area, everything you could see from horizon to horizon. But after his death, his widow donated a large tract of land to the US Government, some of which is now Pisgah National Forest.

The Biltmore House, although still family owned, is no longer occupied, but it's been preserved and opened to the public. The estate also includes a working farm, an award winning winery, several restaurants, a four star hotel, a magnificent garden, and miles of scenic roadways. Two days aren't enough to see it all.

The contributions the Vanderbilt's made over the decades to farming technology, forestry, the local community, and their employees are legendary. Today while Denise & I were walking along one of the roadways, a green Rolls Royce with North Carolina plates, with a driver and single passenger road by. The passenger was the spitting image of George Vanderbilt, and he smiled and waved to us as he passed. We suspect he was one of the senior family

members, proudly surveying the family accomplishments. He certainly has reason to be proud.

Cheers,  
D & G.





















