

Carbon Hill School Museum

Welcome to the old Carbon Hill School, now a public museum, owned and operated by the Carbon Hill Historical Society, a registered not-for-profit Illinois organization, dedicated to collecting, preserving, and displaying our local history.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2011

The Decker Family

The Decker family has roots in the USA back into the 1700's, but their Carbon Hill days began in the 1940's.

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School's Out

Country schools from days gone by.



Shermanville

Near County Line and Blodgett, Roads on the way to Big Fish marina and restaurant was a quarry village called Shermanville circa 1872.

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Summer Schedule

We have lots in the works for this summer. Come visit!

*Homecoming:
June 22-26*

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PHOTO ID

Photo from the Savant and Robertson families may include someone you know? Probably South Side school? A little help, please...

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About our Society

Your membership in the Society keeps the school museum thriving.

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The Deckers in Carbon Hill

Usually our family stories begin with Europeans arriving to the USA in mid to late 1800's to mine coal. But the Decker family roots in America go back to the 1700's in Kentucky. Both Fount Decker and Blanche Ashley were born and raised in Kentucky surrounded by generations of family.

They were married Dec 18, 1931 in Grayson County. Fount made his first journey to Illinois alone for work. He boarded on the Wills farm, where he was appreciated as a hard worker. His daughter Louise (Jensen) remembers the door latch opening and her Dad



coming home for Xmas. Soon the whole family moved to Maine Twp, where Louise attended the Gibson School.

In the 1940's the Deckers bought a little home in Carbon Hill, on First Street, for \$500. Fount added on a

kitchen and this place remained home for the rest of their days. He gardened several empty lots over the years and maintained bountiful fruit trees. She sewed and made rugs (on display in the museum).

Louise went to Carbon Hill School along with her siblings ----Kenneth, Boyd, Joyce, and Linda. They all remained in the area and three still have their homes in Carbon Hill.

Louise and her husband made a visit to Kentucky in 1958, driving through a rocky creek bed to the family's log cabin. Louise has kept Granny Beck's butter dish & churn.

On Sunday, June 26, we will honor Louise and her family. Join us in the museum after the parade at 4 pm for stories and refreshments.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS

When we consider our area's "old" schools it is generally our Carbon Hill School, the two similarly styled North Side and South Side schools of Coal City, Diamond' school, and Goose Lake and Sulphur Springs, the last two of the "country schools". But original Felix Township in the 1850's, had at least three early schools: Jugtown School, which started in 1853; Short School, which started in 1856; and Robinson School, which started in 1857.

Jugtown School was appropriately named for the big jug factory and community at Pine Bluff and Jugtown roads. Jugtown's original school was right in that community in what is now the Goose Lake Prairie. (At the time of Jugtown, Felix Twp included the area north to the Illinois River. But that's another story.) There has been much archeological study of Jugtown community over the years. Photos, artifacts, and details of the community are on display at our museum. You may remember the newer Jugtown school which was located on the north end of Jugtown Road -- on the east side of the road just before the slough.

Another Felix township school, Short School, was located on Carper Road, south of the old Short cemetery. That school was actually on property which is now part of the Coal City Area Club. The Short School was bought and moved by Jack Murphy to his property on Murphy Road at I 55.

Robinson School was on McArdle Road, a few miles west of where Carbon Hill now stands. Robinson School was sold at auction and became one of the little Anderson homes on Blackstone St. To learn more the country schools,, stop in the museum.

Summertime
Schedule

Our annual Carbon Hill Homecoming takes place June 22 through June 26.

At the museum, we will be open during Homecoming from 4 - 8 pm featuring several new displays, photos and stories.

We'll have old -- very old-- **wedding dresses** on the mannequins. Included with the dresses are the photos of the brides, all local. The dresses will remain on display all week.

We'll also display all that came after the wedding: aprons, **handiwork**, cleaning tools, all things house and garden.

Dozens of **baseball team shirts** from the local sponsored teams with photos from Homecomings and sports through the years will be added to the usual photos throughout the museum.

For the history buffs, **fossils, coal tools, maps** and photos are on display: we help answer your questions.

The Carbon Hill School Museum is also hosting a visit of the Heritage Corridor tractor riders **June 15**.

The Scottish History Club of Riverside, IL will come for a guided local bus tour here **July 16**. The museum has local Scottish immigrants and leaders on display.

We are conducting a **third local bus tour for the Coal City Public Library patrons on August 11**. To sign up -- you must contact the public library directly.

The museum will also open for the 1st Annual "Crusin' the Hill" Cruise Night at Carbon Hill park Saturday, **August 27**, from 3-8 pm.

We'll have old car photos, old car parts, and interesting old car "stuff" on display that evening. If you have any photos of your family car, your favorite hot rod, or any car related trophies to put into our display, let us know!

SHERMANVILLE !!!

A New Building Material ---
Feb 8, 1872, Chicago Tribune

Opening up of a Sandstone Quarry on the "Kankakee Feeder," The Character of the Stone, and Its Cost Laid Down in Chicago.

Any person who furnishes a new building material to the people of Chicago, at a reasonable price, should be regarded in the light of a public benefactor. Never before, perhaps, in the history of the world, have inanimate brick, wood, and stone been so intimately associated with the welfare of any city. From time to time, as occasion required, we have mentioned the different kinds of stone which are to enter into the buildings of the restored city, and discussed their qualities. Public prejudice, since the experience of the fire [Great Chicago Fire, 1871] has inclined toward the sandstones, of which many durable and beautiful kinds are offered in our market. Among them all there are probably none more durable for its inherent excellences than a stone from the quarry on the Kankakee, recently opened, and which was mentioned in our building article last Sunday, as the principal material of the new Sherman House. Specimens of the stone can be seen at the office of Mr. Boyington, the architect. It is a pure sandstone, of a negative gray color, and free from lime, iron, and other deleterious elements. A piece of it heated to a white heat failed to show any signs of disintegration -- a pretty thorough test of its durability.

The quarry from which the stone is obtained was discovered by Mr. Haley, of Joliet, a year or two ago. It is now owned by Sherman, Haley, and Co, the headquarters of the firm being in this city, and it can be furnished in this market at rates approximating the cost of the product of the Joliet and Lemont quarries. This quarry has a front on the Kankakee River of 900 feet, and extends across a distance of three quarters of a mile to the feeder of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The stone lies in strata of from ten inches to four feet in thickness, is worked with the greatest ease, and can be loaded by a derrick directly upon canal boats, and brought to this city, from which it is distant only 64 miles. The capacity of the bed is unknown, but it is believed to be illimitable. The quarry has been worked but one year. But two buildings in the city, thus far, have been built of this material. One of them is at the corner of Monroe and Aberdeen streets, and the other at the corner of Wood and Monroe. Both show the handsome appearance of the stone to good advantage. It can be furnished in this market at a lower rate than the different varieties of Cleveland sandstone. It is likely to be received with great favor by Chicago builders. Its best sample will be the new Sherman House, which will be entirely of the new material.

Shermanville was @ County Line & Blodgett Rds



Photo ID help, please..... clues?



Carbon Hill Historical Society Officers, 2011

Michele Micetich --- President
Linda Bradley ---Vice President
Louise Jensen ---Secretary-Treasurer

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Membership information and newsletters at:

<http://www.ccpld.org/museum.htm>

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Come Visit Us at the Museum!

The Carbon Hill Historical Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and display of local history. The Society is a registered not-for-profit organization and is the sole owner of the Carbon Hill School Museum. The museum is open Mondays, noon to four p.m. --- or by appointment. We are located at 875 Second Street in Carbon Hill. Dues for membership in the Society is \$15.00 annually. Thank you!



Carbon Hill Historical Society & School Museum
630 Judson Street
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