

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

Issue # 3 Summer 2009

A Carbon Hill Family

The Jacob Born family immigrated to the USA in 1892, and eventually lived with their children on Sixth Street here in Carbon Hill. Their old home still stands.

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Volunteering

It only works with all of your help.

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Streets of Carbon Hill

The Joliet papers of long ago published articles on each of the local coal mining villages. Carbon Hill was no exception.

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Carbon Hill #3 Mine

A Joliet reporter goes down into the shaft of our mine and prowls around in January of 1893.

Simply amazing!

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November Meeting

On November 2, 2009 the Carbon Hill Historical Society will hold its 14th annual meeting, followed by a program open to the public.

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About our Society

Your membership in the Society keeps the school museum thriving.

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A Carbon Hill Family

On August 17, 1892, Capt. JC Jamison sailed his ship, the SS Westernland, with 715 passengers aboard, into New York's harbor. Among these 715 were German born Jacob Born, 26, his wife Catherine, and children, Elizabeth and Christof. They had boarded at Antwerp, Belgium and made the journey like so many others-- in steerage. By 1900 they were living on Sixth Street here in Carbon Hill where Jacob was a coal miner and in addition to kids Lizzie and Chris, there were now Barney, Catherine,



and Lenert. Mary (Mae), Jacob, Anton, and William were born in the next decade. By 1920, Jacob, now 54, was working as a presser in the local clothing factory. First born son Chris had served in WWI and returned to marry Theresa Burla. Chris worked at both the

Brick and Tile Factory and the Atlas Wallpaper Mill but died too young, in his fifties, of leukemia. Chris had 4 daughters: Vivian, Eileen, Thelma and Norma Jean.

As a newlywed, Thelma returned to grandfather Jacob's house and raised her own family. She has remained in Carbon Hill all these years, in a newer brick home next to the old homestead where that original Born family began life in America.

Hardworking, kind, honest, neighborly, the Born family is one fine example of the traits which helped Carbon Hill thrive through all these years. We were happy to honor Thelma and all descendants of Borns at Homecoming Sunday.

JOLIET DAILY NEWS--

JANUARY 27, 1893

"Carbon Hill is "feeling very well, thank you." Old shafts and new are in full operation. Robert Fleming, postmaster and president of the town board gives much valuable information. The same company that dug the artesian well in Coal City is to dig one at the Hill. The well is to be at the southwest corner of the new park. There will be a substantial trough there for watering horses. The overflow will go into a natural depression in the park and form a pond there 300 feet square, which will serve to beautify the park and act as a reservoir in case of fire.

A hook and ladder truck, at a cost of \$300, has been bought. As soon as the Wilmington Light and Power Company can connect to the town they will erect in the middle of the park a double arc light of 44,000 volts on a high tower. This will give a full light on all sides for a quarter of a mile and furnish much illumination to the new shaft half a mile away. Eight hundred dollars worth of clay sewer pipe has been laid in the town and \$1,000 worth of plank sidewalk is in process of laying. It is intended to make this twelve feet wide all around the park, which will be the business center. The south side of the park is now rapidly filling with business structures. Carbon Hill has 800 inhabitants and expects to double that soon. On the west side toward the new shaft improvement is rapid. The new part of town stops at the big osage hedge on the west but the lines will soon be extended further. A big two story house has been moved there from Braceville.

A large attempt at tree planting has been made and a \$10 reward has been offered for the discovery of those foolish children who mutilate them. Those in the park are pretty well preserved. But the young vandals delight in stripping the trees of bark and branches. So different are the sources of pleasure for different human creatures. Unless the parents take the matter up at home

authorities cannot prevent this mischief. "



Joliet Daily News:

January 31, 1893

A REPORTER GOES DOWN INTO THE SHAFT
AND PROWLs AROUND

So much has been said about No. 3 shaft of Carbon Hill by people who have visited that place, about the amount of coal they were producing for the length of time they have been running, their good work, etc, that a NEWS reporter visited that place the first of the week. Arriving there about noon he inquired of the weigh boss where Mr. Guiney could be found. Incidentally remarking that it was his purpose to give the shaft a little write up.

James Guiney, coming up on the next cage, agreed to pilot your news gatherer around. The first place visited was the engine and boiler room, which is a substantial brick building. There are two boilers, one sixty and the other 100 horse power, and plenty of room for more when needed.

The air shaft, Mr. Guiney said, is one of the best on the prairie. Its dimensions are 8 feet by 6 feet 6. The next place to visit had to be reached by getting in a box, and then someone let the box drop, and your body goes down in the shaft at a Nancy Hanks gait, while your head stays on top, till you get your bearings. Then your head will come after a while.

In answer to my questions, Mr. Guiney said: "We started to sink this shaft on the 17th day of July (1892) and are now taking out 200 tons of coal a day and are making place for men at the rate of eight and ten a week. In two more weeks there will be an output of 300 tons all day." The guide was kind enough to show the visitor around where the men were at work. The coal was found to run three foot to three foot four and good digging. Mr. Guiney said the men that had their place opened up were making from three and a half to four dollars a day.

It is very nearly a perfectly dry shaft. There is only one place where there is any

water. It is very fortunate for them as they can secure it for their boilers. The Suffern shafts have to haul water from the artesian well in Coal City. There is only one pump in the shaft and Mr. Guiney says it is used mostly for washing the mules' feet.

The bottom of the shaft extends 100 feet back each way and is very roomy; in fact one of the boys said the very first dance given by the Carbon Hill baseball club would be held there. The journey to daylight was one of more secure feeling. The Star Coal Company ought to feel proud of No. 3 and of its pit boss as he seems to be a man with the right kind of ability and his work shows it.

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS for this year's Carbon Hill Homecoming-----

We are truly indebted to the more than 90 volunteers who worked, served, baked, made poorboys, flipped burgers, cleaned, organized, and helped in so many ways to make our food stand run so smoothly.

The Carbon Hill Historical Society has received a check from Carbon Hill's Village Homecoming Committee for \$2,000 for our efforts. We can put it to good use!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



November 2, 2009 Meeting

notes from Michele

It is nearly impossible to think that our Carbon Hill Historical Society will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2010! But it is true; all good ideas take time, energy, and hard work. So please join us at the museum Monday evening, Nov. 2, 2009 for a walk down memory lane.

At 6:30 pm we will hold our annual Carbon Hill Historical Society meeting, vote for officers, review the past year's work, expenses, and income; list building and program needs for 2010. We need your presence for this short meeting to fulfill our not for profit status. We will follow this brief meeting with a 7 pm program, "The Story of the Carbon Hill School Museum."

From the days when it was a school through the Doc Brockhause years and on into our centennial year of 1992 (when a large committee worked to ensure that our history would be preserved) and right up until this very moment, people like you are contributing to our effort to make the Carbon Hill School Museum a treasure for all to enjoy. There are so many photos, scrapbooks, artifacts, and stories which illustrate that even the recent past is history too!

See you on November 2!

Carbon Hill Historical Society Officers, 2009

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

Public Relations

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Membership application & information at:

www.coalcity.lib.il.us/museum.htm

Carbon Hill Historical Society
Louise Jensen
630 Judson Street
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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
Carbon Hill, Illinois 60416-7018