

houses more than 50,000 historic items — from military weapons and uniforms to Native American baskets to antique clothing and yes, even the old Linotype machine that once set type for the *Illinois Valley News*, a weekly newspaper that continues today.

In 1998, after operating the museum under a long-term lease agreement, Josephine County ended its agreement and returned the museum buildings and property to the Women's Club. With many of its members no longer physically able to operate and maintain the museum and property, a new nonprofit operating group was formed, the Kerbyville Museum Board of Directors.

In 1999-2000, this new group secured a grant that funded the construction of a Native American pit house, and this structure serves as the cornerstone of the museum's Native American exhibit.

Since then the museum has designed its exhibits into "interpretive theme displays." For example, a selection of historic mining artifacts is located in one display along with descriptive text and photographs to help educate museum visitors on our valley's rich and diverse cultural and natural history.

Exhibits in the main museum include a local wildlife diorama, early communications room, mock old school house, historic post office, and general store. Also, antique clothing and quilts, Native American basket and artifact exhibit, historic mining and logging exhibits that include a new model train layout depicting a 1940s mining and logging town, and a research library.

There also is the newly dedicated "Joseph A. Landry Memorial Military Room" in honor of the late Joe Landry, a longtime museum volunteer and Korean War veteran

who died in 2008. The military collection spans the American Revolution (1770s) to Vietnam (1965-1975).

Outbuildings include the historic 1880s William and Nannie Naucke house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998/99, the historic barn and blacksmith shop, historic miners cabins built in the 1930s and moved to the Museum by the U.S. Navy Seabees in the 1980s, and a large covered antique farming and mining equipment shed.

Museum hours :

Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday hours are noon to 3 p.m. The museum is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to the lack of volunteer staffing.

The museum volunteers are a dedicated group, and some have lived in our valley for a long time.

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