

Docent Manual

Basic Museum Facts:

Open daily year-round except major holidays.

Open 10-6 Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 Sunday, and 1-6 Monday.

\$6 for adults. \$5 for children age 4-12. 3 years and younger is free.

The museum opened in 2011 and was started as a Kiwanis project.

The building the museum is in used to be part of McEleney's car dealership.

Saturday morning programs during the school year. Hand interested parties a flyer.

Upcoming sawing dates will be on calendar.

Feel free to add personality and life to the below, and don't hesitate to ask staff or direct visitors to staff for tough questions or historical questions. This is a guide to help you start:

Lobby Photos (a good place to give an introduction):

The photos depict the process of logs coming to Clinton. The lumberjacks cut down trees in Wisconsin and Minnesota. This was usually done in the winter, when the frozen ground made it easier to bring the logs out of the woods on sleds. Then the logs were placed in the river and constructed into rafts, which were then brought down river in the spring when water levels rose. Many of those rafts ended up at sawmills here in Clinton, where the logs were cut into lumber. At the peak of the lumber industry in Clinton during the 1870s to 1890s, Clinton was home to a dozen or more sawmills, depending on how you count them. Some owners, like W. J. Young, owned more than one mill. Some of the owners of the largest sawmills here in Clinton teamed together with Weyerhaeuser, still one of the largest manufacturers of lumber and paper. Weyerhaeuser got his start in the Quad Cities. Together they formed the Mississippi River Logging Company, which allowed them to control every point of production seen in these photos.

Point out gift shop and wood there cut on our sawroom, as well as furniture in lobby.

Warren Ostrom Artwork:

Warren Ostrom was an artist from Rock Island who worked with found materials and reclaimed wood.

Ostrom began carving as a way to cope with PTSD.

There are pieces of Ostrom's artwork all over world. A few even belong to Robert Redford.

Lumberjack Camp:

Scaled for children and all of it can be touched and played with. There are information panels throughout that talk about jobs of the lumberjacks, their daily schedule, what they ate, where they slept, etc. These were in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Guys worked sunrise to sunset.

Water Table:

The water table was designed by Boss Display in Ohio. You will see in Wisconsin, two blue rivers, representing the Mississippi River and Chippewa River. The tan waterway in the middle is the Beef Slough. It was out of the Beef Slough that the Mississippi River Logging Company sent down a billion board feet of lumber, every year. The table can be manipulated by kids changing the dams to change the channel. They make log rafts with the steamboat, a black crib, and two magnetic logs. Point out Lyons and Clinton and the Big Tree that used to separate them.

The large **mural** on the wall behind the water table was the mural that was housed at the old Mississippi River Brewery Company. The artist is from Kansas and the pictures surrounding the mural were his source of inspiration.

Log Raft Simulator Arcade Game

Created by Eureka Exhibits, this game allows you to experience life as a floating raftsman. It is a full motion arcade game, so the seat will move and you need to rotate the oars to steer. The obstacles are all from primary sources and 100s of photos went into the scenery. Liberties were taken to make a fun game, but the main point is to illustrate just how difficult navigating the river with a 200x600 foot log raft really was. If you want to stop the movement, hit the red kill switch. (Volunteers just remember to pull it back up for the next person).

Bill Michaels model:

This model of a sawmill won a national award for best fine scale model. It depicts a 1950s California sawmill, but aside from the truck, is very similar to what a Clinton sawmill would have looked like.

Saw Room (you may take people into the saw room for a closer look):

A 1920s sawmill, powered by the large, yellow Caterpillar engine in the corner. The engine turns the belt which turns the blade. The joystick (wooden stick near the middle) is used to move the log along the track, through the blade.

Sawing demonstrations can be scheduled for large groups or out-of-town guests if requested, and demonstrations are dependent on availability of volunteers.

Wood cut here is used for the benches, shelves, tables and other items found in our gift shop.

Currently a kiln sits in the back corner of the saw room. In this insulated structure, fans and a dehumidifier are used to dry wood in a matter of a couple of days. Otherwise, wood is stacked with spacers in between and air dried for up to a year or more.

Sawmill Mill Video:

Press Play on the DVD Player. It's a video that features our saw running, Helen Struve Cotton, and various facts about the lumber industry.

Legacy Gallery:

Pick and Choose Your Favorite Panels to Point Out.

Blueprint Gallery

Pick and Choose Your Favorite Print to Point Out

Talking Lumber Barons (these points can also be discussed in the lumber baron section of the exhibit area):

Lamb, Joyce and Young owned the three largest sawmills here in Clinton. Struve owned a sawmill in Hauntown, a small town about eight miles north of here. While Struve's business operated on a much smaller scale than the other three, his family managed to stay in business until the 1980s, whereas the other three were all closed by around 1900 due to depletion of the forests in Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is Struve's family that owned the green equipment seen right outside the lumber baron room. There is other information to be found on the other families in the exhibit area, but they all left their mark on Clinton. For example, Young's family started the Clinton Herald and Clinton National Bank, Lamb's family started the hospital, and the Joyce family originally owned the park that is now Eagle Point. You may have heard of the Joyce Foundation in Chicago, which is named for the same Joyce family. While listening to the heads talk, you might hear Young briefly mention a clock. That is the same clock that sits in this room, and is one of the few pieces of evidence we have left of the wealth of the lumber barons here in Clinton. There is more information on the clock on the table in the corner. Another fun fact to point out is that Young was against drinking and was said to fire any worker he heard of having a drink.

The talking heads were made by a company in California that does work for Disney. The same voice actor provided the voice for all four barons.

If anyone wonders why Curtis is not included as a talking lumber baron head, it is because Curtis is not technically considered a lumber baron. The lumber barons owned sawmills that took logs and sawed them into lumber. Curtis then purchased the lumber and turned it into finished products, such as trim found in houses.

It is a common misconception that Clinton had the most millionaires per capita. In fact, that is even stated in our introductory video. However, other cities can make this claim. Still, Clinton did have quite a few millionaires for its size thanks to the lumber industry. Many guests will ask about the mansions that resulted from this wealth. Unfortunately, many of the mansions that belonged to the lumber barons are no longer standing or have become run down, but you can point them toward the Curtis Mansion, which is located along 5th Avenue South and belongs to the Women's Club. Or you can hand them the simple, paper brochure that is a Tour of Clinton.