



NEWSLETTER

Term: Fall 2022|



WHAT IS RURAL HERITAGE?

What is Rural Heritage? What does it mean to be rural? Why is it important for a growing society? Rural is defined by living in an area outside of the urban/city area. Rural Heritage is remembering and maintaining the traditions and lifestyles of an early time. Most people can recall something their parents or grandparents did without the assistance of modern amenities thus their heritage.

Rural is more than defined by a location, it is a society, a culture, and a way of life. Mehmet Murat ildan wrote "The closer you are to the countryside, the closer you get to your distant past because historically you came from the countryside and the closer you get to the places you exist, the peaceful you feel!"

Rural Heritage some might say is the preserving of the old ways. Here at the Museum, it is in our mission to preserve this way of life and to teach future generations the traditions of the past. Learning from the past can lead to innovation of the future.

What does rural heritage mean to you? How do you define rural to others?

FEATURE EXHIBIT



Making Apple Butter in the copper kettle - as remembered by Hilda (Pick) Roethe July 2012 - supplied by Helen Mayer We started with 3 bushels of Jonathan apples. After they were washed, we peeled them the night before cooking, and cut them in quarters. We covered them with cloth overnight. Mom (Hilda) always cooked about 3 or 4 pots of them on the stove the night before and put them in the refrigerator till cooking day. She cooked them while they were very soft, and added no sugar to them. Before we started cooking the next morning, the copper kettle was cleaned with vinegar and salt on a

cloth, and then rinsed out with cold water. The raw apples were rewashed, peeled, cut, and put in the kettle along with enough water to "see" it through the apples but not covering them. Cooking and stirring began- if the kettle of apples got too hot and started boiling too much, some of the cold cooked apples were added in to cool the kettle apples down. The cooking continued till the apples had turned a dark red color, and all the cooked apples had been added in also. By this time, there were no more pieces of apple, only the thickening sauce. We added about 2 packages of red hots to the apples, and mom would often add a small hand-full of jellybeans to the sauce too. (Do not use black jellybeans) Ground cinnamon was also added. We used about 4 tablespoons, but this varied according to taste. After about 5 hours of cooking, sugar was added a little at a time, stirring continued non-stop till the apple butter was done. Usually, after 25-30 lbs of sugar had been added, the apple butter tasting began. More sugar was added if needed. Many who cooked apple butter this way put a clean silver dollar in the bottom of the kettle to keep the butter from sticking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17, 2022: Holiday Fun

Starting on November 17th the Museum will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland full of lights and all the garland.

December 4, 2022: Old Fashioned Christmas Open House

Tour the Museum and explore all the Christmas decorations. Santa will be on hand for a free photo op and snacks will be

provided.

January 2023: Closed till February

The Museum will like to remind everyone that it will be closed on most holidays so please call ahead to check opening hours. Any additional events can be found on our Facebook page.

MISSION

The Mission of the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum is to educate the public about the rural heritage of Illinois in a manner that tells the life lessons of success. The Museum explains the ever changing story of rural life from different perspectives: agriculture, business, conservation, education, medicine, natural resources, technology and transportation. A critical element of the Museum's Mission is to preserve and restore important items that would otherwise be lost with the passage of time.

Museum Hours:

Thursday to Saturday

9 am to 5 pm

Sunday

1 pm to 5 pm

Private tours available upon request

Illinois Rural Heritage Museum

187 Fairground Rd, PO Box 58

Pinckneyville, IL 62274

618-357-8908

irhmuseum@gmail.com

www.illinoisruralheritagemuseum.org

KIDS OF ALL AGES



The past few months of been very busy here at the museum. Over 300 school kids toured the museum as well as participated in different events hosted in the meeting room.

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