

FIELD NOTES

Illinois State Geological Survey

1824.4b

June 25, 1931

 Sheffield Mining and Transportation Co. Bradsby, H.C.
History of Bureau County, 1885, p.38.

100 acres of workable coal land

80 acres worked out

4½' thickness of vein

40' depth of coal below surface slope into coal

Mules used in hauling coal

58 persons employed

Operated 12 months a year

23,741 tons produced in 1881

\$1.75 average value of coal at mine

#30,000 amount of capital employed

26,605 tons annual capacity; 4 places of egress

The text continues:

Sheffield mine is one of the oldest and most prosperous mining enterprises in the state. The mines at this place were opened more than 30 years ago, about the time of the construction of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, and have always been an important coaling point on this line. The seam is reached by an inclined plane, carried down to the level of the coal, about 40' below the level of the surface. This is the No.6 seam and is geologically identified with that at Kewanee. It has an average thickness of 4½' and no trouble occurs from water.

This deposit has been considered local and limited, but has been very productive, and presents

(cont. next page)

By L. C. McCabe Date 1931Quadrangle BudaCounty Bureau Sec. 24 T 16N R 6E

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uniformity and persistence. The main entries are now advanced to a great distance from the original dump, and aside from local inequalities, the seam is continuously good.

A constant demand at this point for locomotive fuel has led to comparatively uniform output for many years, and has gradually developed a permanent and prosperous community of miners, many of whom possess comfortable homes and surroundings. The average price of mining is \$1.00 per ton, subject to such variations as the season may cause, or as sometimes affected by contracts agreed upon. Disaffections among the men is unusual and few efforts at strikes have occurred in years.

The above text reports four local mines.

Mr. Charles Boyden of the Farmer's State Bank at Sheffield said that the cause for closing the mine was an attempt on the part of the mines from the deeper mines near La Salle to establish union procedure. Before that the wage had been 85½ cents to the miner and what screening was necessary was done in the mine. The scale was higher than the union wage, but the unions tried to force the erection of cleaning devices on the surface.

The minute book of the company in the Boyden office at Sheffield has a last entry under the year 1902.

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Quadrangle Buda

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County Bureau Sec. 24 T 16N R 6E

ing to the geological map, the line commences at a point on the east line of the county, ten miles south of the northeast corner of the county, nearly due west of Homer station on the Illinois Central road; thence west, but belying a little south, until it crosses the track of the C., B. & Q. road a little southwest of the village of Malden; thence it bears off a little north of west until it intersects Green River at the northeast corner of the township of Gold; thence down Green River to a point north of Geneseo. All of Bureau south of this line is underlaid by lower coal measure deposits. This is about two-thirds of the county. As the county lies on the northern limits of the coal-fields of the State, the deposits are somewhat irregular and detached. Sheffield mine is one of the oldest and most prosperous mining enterprises in the State. The mines at this place were opened more than thirty years ago, about the time of the construction of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad, and have always been an important coaling point on this line. The seam is reached by an inclined plane, carried down to the level of the coal, about forty feet below the level of the surface. This is the No. 6 seam, and is geologically identified with that at Kewanee. It has an average thickness of four and a half feet, and no trouble occurs from water. This deposit has been considered local and limited, but has been very productive, and presents uniformity and persistence. The main entries are now advanced to a great distance from the original dump, and, aside from local inequalities, the seam is continuously good.

A constant demand at this point for locomotive coal has led to comparatively uniform output for many years, and has gradually developed a permanent and prosperous com-

munity of miners, many of whom possess comfortable homes and surroundings. The average price of mining is \$1 per ton, subject to such variations as the seasons may cause, or as sometimes affected by contracts agreed upon. Disaffection among the men is unusual, and few efforts at strikes have occurred in years.

The next mine of importance is in the southeast corner of the county, near Peru. The formation here corresponds with that at Peru and La Salle. The shaft is about 300 feet deep. This vein is No. 2, and is about three feet thick, of superior quality. The Hollowayville Mine is 385 feet deep, to the same seam. In the southwest corner of the county, near Kewanee, is a shaft 186 feet deep, to the seam worked both at Kewanee and Sheffield. Outcrops of coal are also found in the ravines and along the bluffs of Bureau Creek, which have been the local source of supply to the village of Tiskilwa and the surrounding country for many years.

The most noticeable, however, of the mines in the county removed from railway connections, are those near Princeton, from which this town secures its supply chiefly. In this mine are found two seams, No. 7 being about two and a half feet thick, but of inferior quality; while the lower one is a bright, hard coal, four and a half to five feet thick, and about 150 feet below the surface. This is No. 6, the same as the seam at Sheffield. The mines in this locality are free from water, and the deposit is of considerable local extent, and the coal is sufficiently free from the sulphuret of iron to be used in the manufacture of gas at Princeton.

Thomas Elliott, Inspector of Mines, reports the following for Bureau County mines for 1882: