

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JOUR.  
Sunday, October 7, 1956

## Dug First Coal In 1825

Robert Burns, who settled near Buffalo Hart station in 1825, said he believed the first coal was dug in Sangamon county in 1826. Burns had a neighbor, William Bridges, who was a blacksmith and gunsmith. William and Hiram Robbins came to Bridges to have work done and he had no fuel. They told him they had seen coal cropping out of the ground in their hunting excursions and gave him directions.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., JOUR  
Sunday, October 7, 1956

## Gas Lights, Coal Mining Came To City Together

Gas lights and the Springfield coal mining industry came in together.

On Jan. 16, 1854, Springfield Gas Light Co., forerunner of the present Central Illinois Light Co., was incorporated with John Todd Stuart, president, and coal was first mined commercially in the county that year to supply the gas company. The first gas in the city was piped through wooden mains.

Coal mining at one time the city's leading industry, began on an extensive scale in 1866 when three coal mines were opened. Parley L. Howlett opened a mine at Jimtown, now Riverton; William Saunders and William Beard opened the mine known as "Old North" on the Henry Converse farm, north of Springfield, and Jacob Loose established a mine at the junction of the Wabash and Chicago & Alton railroads, south of the city, later known as Iles junction.

Springfield's first electric lights came in the late winter of 1878-79 following installation of temporary equipment in the Ide foundry, Fifth and Madison Sts., and in City Railway park, now part of Lincoln park, the following summer. The first permanent system began when the Illinois Power Co. plant went into operation in July, 1881, in the former Baptist church building at Seventh and Adams Sts.

The city water light and

power department had its inception when the city entered the field of municipal ownership in 1860 with the purchase of Springfield Waterworks Co. and made plans to transport water into the city from the Sangamon river.

Early Harness Makers.

} Riverton cc #1?

} Wabash cc #1



Illinois State Journal article on history of mining around Springfield

11/29/31 - <sup>by</sup> Frank Fisher

First coal mined around 1854 in the hillsides of the Springfield Gas Light Co.

in 1865:

Jacob Loose opened mine at the junction of Wabash RR & Chicago & Alton RR (1155 Junction) (mi 313 - Wabash/Junction near)

Parley E. Howlett had a mine at Jintown (later named Reverton)

Wm. Saunderson & Wm. Beard developed a mine on the Henry Converse farm north of Springfield (currently known as the 1500 block of North Lincoln Avenue). This is known as the Old North Mine, was on the Chicago & Alton RR

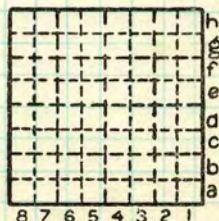
(which would put it near the Number Twelve ce mine on west, Panther Creek No. 2 on the east - is probably in the portion of west end / Panther Creek No. 4, just south of Number Twelve ce)

From the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, IL

By CAC Date 9/93

Quadrangle \_\_\_\_\_

County Sangamon Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

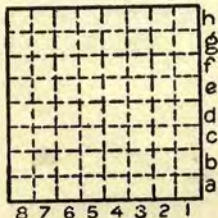


ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA

From: Coal Report, 1882, p. 74

"From the accompanying report it will be seen that including the "B" shaft of the Sangamon Company, which has been recently opened, there are thirteen coal mines in the county, of which eight are in the immediate vicinity of Springfield. The total amount of capital invested is \$675,000 as compared with \$509,000 the year before. These mines have produced 632,835 tons of coal, and have an estimated capacity of 1,409,000 tons per annum. Number of acres coal land, 7,650; number of acres worked out, 1,005; total number persons employed underground, 1,006. Each mine is operated by shaft, and by steam power, and the inside work is on the room and entry plan. The stratum of coal worked here is number five; that at Dawson is reported as number six. For the purpose of ventilation each mine has either a fan or a furnace. A fan is now being constructed at Dawson, and at Auburn a fire lamp and grate appliance is in use. I have used an anemometer for ascertaining the volume of air at the down cast, and am of the opinion that better ventilation should be afforded mines to protect them more fully from the injurious effects of gases. Each mine is provided with an escapement shaft or its legal equivalent. The Wilmington and Springfield Company, and the Springfield Co-operative Company being contiguous mines, have effected a communication by mutual agreement, and the main shaft of each is regarded as an escapement shaft for the other. Workmen at Dawson and at Auburn are now engaged in constructing escapement shafts. In the working of the Black Diamond mines a break-through was made into

By..... Date.....  
 Quad..... Part.....  
 County..... Sangamon.....



Sec.	
T.	N.
	S.
R.	E.
	W.

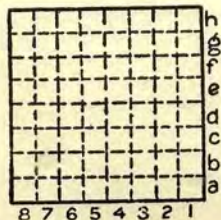


ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA

From: Coal Report, 1882, p. 74  
(Continued)

the adjoining mines of the Wabash Coal Company, which the proprietors of the former claimed constituted a second place of egress, as contemplated by the law, and relieved them from sinking an escapement shaft. The proprietors of the Wabash Company, who had long previously put in an escapement shaft for the use of its men; objected, and proceeded to obstruct the passage-way between the two mines. To determine their relative rights in the premises the facts were submitted to Judge Zane of the Circuit Court of this county, who, after argument, decided that the communication should be kept open, and ordered a mandatory writ to issue for the observance of the decree. The proprietors of the Wabash Company appealed from this decision, and the case was again argued at the May term of the Appellate Court, but as yet no decision has been rendered."

By..... Date.....  
Quad..... Part.....  
County..... Sangamon.....



Sec.	
T.	N.
	S.
R.	E.
	W.