

# Main building houses office

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As a visitor steps into the main building of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum, they step back into time with the chance to learn about the history of the county and area.

The main building, said Curator Sharleen Wurm, was part of the lumber yard before it became the museum 50 years ago. On Saturday, the museum will celebrate its 50th anniversary during Mini Sapa.

The main building houses the office of the museum for now, which is lined with dishes and weapons from the past.

It also houses the Indian room which has a seven minute video about information on the Last Indian Raid on Kansas soil. The room also has arrow heads, pictures, Indian tools and much more.

The main building also has the music room with pianos and organs.

Former Curator Kathleen Claar started the barbed wire wall with different kinds of wire that were collected and sent in the mail to the museum, along with clipped articles about the wire.

The quilt room is decorated with various quilts made over the years by the people in the area.

The parlor includes a chair that was brought by covered wagon by Mrs. Blanche Carper Jennings' grandfather-in-law, Warren Jennings. The mantle and light fixtures came out of the Otis Benton home. Mr. Benton was a banker in Oberlin. His home later became the Benton Memorial Hospital.

The organ is a Farrand and Votey made in Detroit, Mich., which was owned by Mrs. Claude Morris. The room also has a fainting couch and a quilt made in 1875 by Esther Andrews when she was 10. The piece was hand quilted and contains 7,000 pieces.

In the dining room, there's the ornate sideboard made of oak, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Blickenstaff. The front legs end in claw feet and at the top of the legs are hand-carved gargoyles.

The child's room includes a small bed, a book from 1906, toys and clothes. In the parents' bedroom, the furniture includes a bed, chest of drawers, dresser, straight backed chair and rocking chair from the J.A. Rodehaver family.

The general store includes items that would have been purchased in a store and an advertisement for a stage coach shot gun person.

Next to the general store is the alumni section with pictures of past classes. There's also letter jackets and sweaters. This section is new and expanding.

The main building also has a library and kitchen.

Another piece which was donated to the museum is the Wooton Desk, made by Wooton, a Quaker minister. The desks were made in four grades: ordinary, standard, extra grade and superior. There were three sizes. The desks were made of Indiana black walnut with the interior in a lighter wood of maple, holly or ebony.

The desk was donated by the Otis L. Benton family and was estimated to be worth \$15,000 to \$20,000 years ago.



**THE FIRST CURATOR**, Kathleen Claar, (above), posed in front of the antique Wooton desk, which was made by a Quaker minister and donated to the museum by the Otis L. Benton family. Rusty Addleman and his mother, the late Neva Addleman, (left), held one of the guns which were owned by her father, the late Charles Russell. Mrs. Addleman donated the collection of arrowheads and guns to the museum following her father's death.