

**PETE DUNCAN**  
**MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK**  
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**MACOUPIN MINE MAPS AND RECORDS SCANNED**

*Over 100 years of records historical preserved and protected*

**County News: December 21, 2015**

**Carlinville** - After sitting in the Courthouse dome for years unsorted, mine maps and permits of Macoupin County mines have been digitally preserved and indexed, Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan announced.

Dating back to the 1880s, the County Clerk's office has kept on file maps of coal mines as well as their permits filed with the state. These valuable records had been stored in a cabinet up in the dome of the Courthouse for years deteriorating. Thanks to the latest effort in scanning historic records by County Clerk Duncan, those records will now be around for years to come.

"Macoupin County has a long history of coal mining and with that, there are nearly 1,000 maps and permits that are held by my office," Duncan said. "These records may seem unimportant, but just looking at what's happened in Benld these last few years show the importance of having these maps preserved and available."

All records on file have been scanned and indexed and in the near future will be available soon to view on the County website. Duncan also hoped to be able to use the maps to create a countywide GIS map of all areas listed in the maps that have been mined in the County.

In 2004, the State Department of Natural Resources did a pilot program with four counties to preserve their maps in order to update their records and enhance the safety of mine workers. The effort by Macoupin follows in their footsteps and brings Macoupin to their level in terms of preservation and access to these historic mine maps.

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