

## Joint Ventures

During Greene County Days this year something special happened. In addition to all the wonderful windows to the past that craftspeople and collectors brought to remind us and today's youngsters of "how it once was" a new addition proved timely, entertaining and informative. On the



lawn of the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society in Carrollton, a group of timber framers set up a live demonstration to show how early settlers prepared logs to build homes, barns, outbuilding, etc.

On Friday, of that weekend, the men gave explanations and answered

questions as they demonstrated their craft for groups of Greene County school children. Later that day they visited some of the historic

porthole barns in the county talking to owners, and giving suggestions on simple repairs to their barns. The timber framers from Trillium Dell, one of only two such companies in Illinois, is located in Knoxville and owned by Rick and Laura Collins. Their products and services include restoration, new timber frame home construction, and other timber elements such as porches, trusses, and additions.



*Illustration 1: l. to r. Rick Collins (owner), Rich Stephenson, Tim Narkiewicz,*

On Saturday demonstrations continued and on the second floor of the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society, Rick Collins, held a workshop for barn owners or anyone interested; later answering questions pertinent to particular barn problems.



The timber framers were brought to Greene County through a heritage grant from Landmarks Illinois awarded to the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association and the Greene County Economic Development Group.

The talents of the timber framers highlighted IVHCA's 2009 theme of historical porthole barns, especially those of Joe Minch, builder of several Greene County porthole barns in the 1800's. Anyone wishing more information about Trillium Dell can contact them at [www.trilliumdell.com](http://www.trilliumdell.com).