

October 8, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM

. . . while dusting



What sort of identification do you carry with you? Perhaps a driver's license, voters card, photo i.d. credit card? But if you were living during the Civil War none of these really existed. Oh, you'd probably have a photo of a loved one, money (paper and or coin), letters and possibly a lock of someone's hair (a child or sweetheart).

You money pouch or wallet would fit in a

pocket but in all probability that pocket was inside of your coat in a breast pocket. The particular one we're featuring here has an accordion middle with three sections within it. It then clasps with a leather tongue. Then the two ends fold over the middle to again be clasp but with a much longer tongue to go all the way around. The wallet is made of calf skin, machine stitched edges and a two line stamped design around its outside edges. There was a thought given one time that the reason wallets were carried inside the coats was that they were next to your heart (so that means over the left side of you, to be reached in for with the right hand and anything dear to you was kept there for carrying about).

Mr. Cox's obituary reads: Amos Cox died at the home of his son-in-law, Rev. S.S. Mumey, at Hughesville, June 20, 1906, aged 76 years, four months and 27 days. [Born 1830 so he'd have been 31 when the Civil War began.] Mr. Cox was for many years an honored resident of Cherry township, and about a dozen years ago he moved into Dushore to spend the remainder of his days. He bought a lot and built him a cosy house on German street and for a number of years lived the life of a retired farmer. His wife was sick for several years, and during all her suffering her husband was her most devoted attendant, and his loving care undoubtedly prolonged her life. After the death of his wife, about a year ago, he went to live with his daughters, intending to divide the time between the two, Mrs. Frank C. Welliver of Sayre, and Mrs. S.S. Mumey, of Hughesville. While at Hughesville he was taken sick, and the end came in about ten days. During much of the time he was able to sit up and when the end came simply went to sleep. His death will be sincerely regretted by hundreds.

Curiously, Mrs. Amos Cox (no first name given in either obituary) had in fact died the previous year on Sept. 17th, 1905 at the age of 71. She is listed as having died "at the family residence on German street" and that "she is survived by her aged husband and two daughters". Also that "through her long and painful illness (she suffered from cancer on the breast) she had been a patient sufferer, upborne by her Christian faith, and soothed by the tenderness of her daughters." It would seem, at least at that writing, that poor Mr. Cox got not credit, yet he must've been his wife's caregiver on a daily basis while their daughters actually lived away.