COAL BREAKER.
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TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Early industries during the formation of Sullivan County, came about due to the ingenuity of pioneers who came to settle here. Many people think of lumbering, tanning and farming. But another important industry here was that of mining.

As early as 1851 there was consideration to possibly build a railroad in the vicinity for the extraction of coal. Nothing happened until 1859 when Myron M. Wilcox was deer hunting and discovered a vein at Bernice. Joining with George D. Jackson and his father Dr. Josiah Jackson, they then purchased from Michael Meylert what later became part of the coal field. Then with the financial help of Mr. M.C. Mercur and connections of Mr. C.F. Wells, Jr., the Sullivan & State Line Railroad was begun in 1867 and completed to Bernice in 1871. This coal field between Birch Creek and the Big Loyalsock, to the east branch of Pigeon Creek is very nearly eight miles in length and an average of one and one quarter miles wide. This semi-anthracite coal was being extracted when worked at capacity for an average of three hundred tons per day.

We'll give you a bit more information next week, but for now this is to remind you that on Sat., July 29th a 1 p.m. the Sullivan County Historical Society will have as guest speakers: Cory Richmond of the Sullivan County Conservation District and David Fowler, mine enthusiast and Society board member – talking about the mines of Sullivan County. Subjects will range from reclamation to history of to workings of mining. This program coincides with the History Quest brochures to explore Sullivan County by highlighting just one of the questions being asked on the brochure for you to discover the answer to. The program is open to the public and to be held at the Barn on the museum complex at Laporte behind the courthouse on Meylert Street.

For more information, phone 570-946-5020 or email us at museum@scpahistory.com. Meanwhile, you can visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.