

April 13, 2021

## TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

WE'RE STILL HERE! After the past year, we will slowly start to reacclimate to hopefully get "back to normal". Between weather, health, and the governor's orders, the museum needed to close to visitors. We did continue to pay our bills and do some research as requested. For the time being we are asking visitors to make appointments, only to ensure that someone is here. Also, we're asking that visitors wear a mask and social distance. We may live in the woods but we don't feel we're out of the woods, yet. Our official opening will be Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 to 5 p.m. And thereafter on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays until Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>. (Otherwise by appointment.) We miss visitors. We appreciate visitors. And, we welcome the chance to show off the history of Sullivan County to all who wish to learn more about our great Sullivan County!

Now, onto the mundane. Last month we placed an inquiry in the Sullivan Review with a featured photograph of a recently received artifact. We were pleasantly surprised by a response the following week from Janet Albers to identify the piece as horse brasses of six medallions. She stated that "they were quite popular in England although the peak seems to have occurred around the mid-nineteen century. Typically, they were used to decorate the harnesses of heavy draft or shire horses. The brasses also were produced to represent certain key events, such as awards, advertising, commemoration of royal events (highly popular and pricey), and souvenirs for places visited. Horse parades were also popular with individual counties or towns competing to show off their horses and the brasses attached to them. They have also become popular in English pubs as decorative items."

Research shows that horse decorations began as early as 1686 by Walsall, a company that grew into an 1830 producer of such tack for the fashion of equine. To this country came the product thought to have been brought by the influx of Romanians who came from Britain. They used the individual pieces to ward off evil but this practice evolved into more commemorative ideals as their popularity spread. The placement of the strip of leather holding the medallions could be seen on the flank (the rear end), forehead bridle or front shoulders along the yoke – depending on the use of the animal. All but the bottom medallion were singularly mounted so as to flop as the horse stepped high, thus glistening with each prance.

We sincerely thank Janet Albers for her response with accompanying information as to solving the heretofore unknown information concerning the artifact as we received it. This is just one of the many times we've relied on the public to help with identifications or further information about subjects within the museum.

To contact the museum, you may phone 570-946-5020 or email [museum@scpahistory.com](mailto:museum@scpahistory.com) Also, check out our web site at [www.scpahistory.com](http://www.scpahistory.com) and visit us on Facebook.