



Aug. 25, 2021 Touring

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . .
. while dusting

Continuing on from last week's article taken from the Sullivan County Herald of 1919:

"William Mollins, or Molyneux, came to Massachusetts in the May Flower in 1620 with two children, Joseph and Priscilla. Priscilla was a very fair and sweet faced girl. Captain Miles Standish, (also a descendent of the Molyneux family through his mother, Bridget Molyneux, a descendent of Sir

Richard Molyneux – Sir Richard was knighted in 1367 under the black prince) wanted to make Priscilla "Mrs. Standish". He got bashful John Alden, who was about the same age as Priscilla, to intercede for him. Priscilla is reported to have said, "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?" She married Alden and had eleven children. The incident for this courtship is the foundation for Longfellow's poem, "The Courtship of Miles Standish". William Molyneux, a patriotic merchant of Boston, took an active part in the destruction of tea at Boston in 1770-1772.

"There is an English and Irish branch of the family. In the Irish branch there were also a number of men of note. Both branches have a family crest. The descendents of these two branches are numerous in England, Ireland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Long Island, Oregon, the Dakotas, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Missouri. William Molyneux, the pioneer, had a more dangerous foe to face on his return to England for his family, than the wild beast which were numerous in the wilderness where he had located his log cabin.

"He had been "pressed" into the English marine service and escaped, and was liable to arrest on his return. He was a weaver by trade and lived with his wife and four children near the city of Manchester prior to coming to America. He had gone to the city to purchase materials for his business, and after starting home was seized by what was known as the "press gang", and forcibly conveyed to a man-of-war, then lying in the harbor. The ship soon after this crossed the Atlantic. Mr. Molyneux had not been allowed to even visit his family, and smarting under the injustice of his seizure, sought a chance to escape.

On a dark and stormy night while the ship was lying at anchor in the Chesapeake Bay, he jumped overboard and swam to the shore. He made his way upstream on the Susquehanna to Northumberland where he joined a surveying party for the Loyalsock area. Afterward he made his way to Philadelphia, shipped as a sailor, and returned to England for his family. Soon after reaching Liverpool the authorities made an attempt to arrest him, but he succeeded in eluding them, and after reaching home discovered that his wife and infant daughter, who had been born after the seizure, had died. Taking his sons, John and Thomas and daughter, Elizabeth, to Liverpool, he put them aboard a ship bound for America, and again shipped as a sailor."

Again, we will leave you with this cliff hanger until next week. We are unofficially open or by happen chance on usually Tuesdays and Thursdays depending on weather and person schedules. To contact the museum you can phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com And visit our website at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.

Photo: Howard Reed home, built 1890. Pictured is Lydia Sayman, Ellen Sayman Reed's grandmother Lydia Sayman.