



Dec. 15, 2021

Touring Sullivan County's Museum . . . while dusting

YOUR museum, not unlike every other public entity, has been greatly curtailed in its operation since March of 2020 because of Covid. We have though gradually reopened via appointments and happen chance for visitors and researchers. Some visitors have left phone messages but for a few when we've called back their voice mails are either full or there is simply no answer. Please, when leaving a message:

make it clear and possibly repeat the number, then if you don't hear back from us – call again. Because this is an all - volunteer organization and it is now winter, we're not in the museum on a regular basis. Hours are dependent on weather and personal schedules but we try to be in on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10ish to 3ish. This situation makes for the necessity of appointments.

Having described our availability of being open, you should also take a look at our website at www.scpahistory.com and while you're at it check us out on our Facebook page. For purchases of publications, Memorial Bricks and Laurel Leaves 1980 interview copies and other items you can use PayPal on the website.

The museum has long since been a source of information on family genealogy (801 thus far), artifacts (13,156 in house), maps and surveys. For a small county, this museum was begun in 1933, incorporated in 1938 and the initial board formed in 1940. The first Board of Directors were as follows: F.W. Meylert - president; V. B. Holcombe, B.T. Martin and Sidney Peale, Herbert Molyneux - vice presidents; Joseph Ingham – secretary; Maurice Harrington – treasurer; and others, Payne Studevart, Walter Reinbold and Harry Henning. From that point onward, the museum has grown in leaps and bounds. In 1953 the museum acquired two of the rooms in the courthouse's extra building behind it and in 1956 was given the building entirely. This structure remains today as part of the main building which was added to in 1985 with the extension of the Pauline Holcombe wing. In 1995 the Society, with the help of the Sullivan County Commissioners obtained the Baldwin property across from the museum on Raspberry Alley/ Meylert Street. To this location the addition of the Barn and Shed have increased our ability to make displays of 1850's artifacts in the house and outside artifacts in the out buildings. The support of residents and visitors alike has been the mainstay for the museum's upkeep, continued growth and accessibility of the public to learn the history of Sullivan County in many facets of its history.

So, where am I going with this? It is to the reader, the public, the visitors past and future that we give thanks for the support shown to make the Sullivan County Historical Society's Museum the success it has become. We often say when discussing genealogies that we don't do this for ourselves, but rather for future generations – the yet unborn. To those of you in the present, we give our thanks and appreciation, as we save the past, by the present, for the future. May this Christmas and New Year be blessed for one and all.

Photo: Although this is nowhere in Sullivan County, compare this steam boat to today's cruise ship excursions for modern day mode of travel.