



June 7, 2017

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

We're now open officially on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. through summer, until the Sullivan County Fair when we'll be there on 8/31, 9/1-3 from noon to 8 p.m.

For the second year, you can now pick up around the county our 2017 History Quest brochure for you to find out more about Sullivan County. Then on Sat. July 29th at 1 p.m. there will be a talk at the museum's Barn in Laporte by Cory Richmond of the Sullivan County Conservation District and David Fowler of our board of directors on mining in Sullivan County. This brochure and the talk were very well received last year and both the Conservation District and the Historical Society are pleased to offer the new discovery questions for the 2017 brochure.

The other thing we are bringing back for a second year is the Sullivan County Century Farm Awards, also in conjunction with the Sullivan County Conservation District. We reinstated the 1960's Century Farm Awards last year but are concerned that not all eligible farms applied to be awarded. For that reason, we are going to run the program yet again this year. Criteria: The focus of this program is on agricultural stewardship of family farms evolving from their past.

1st – The farm must have been in the same family for at least 100 consecutive years, e.g. the descendant must either live there, farm the land or otherwise have it maintained.

2nd – The farm buildings, if present, must be in good state of repair. However buildings are not required to be eligible.

3rd – The farm must contain 25 contiguous acres.

4th – Some portion of that land must be agriculturally maintained, e.g. fields or pastures. The use of the land need not necessarily be worked by the land owner themselves.

Applications may be obtained at the museum behind the courthouse in Laporte, the Conservation District Office at the Ag Center outside Dushore, at the Prothonotary's Office in the Courthouse or by going on line to www.scpahistory.com. Deadline for applications to be received at the museum is Oct. 1st, 2017. Awards will be given at the Sullivan County Conservation's annual dinner in October, date to be announced.

It is the task of the Society & Conservations Dist. to preserve the history of Sullivan County farms for future generations. The goal of this program is to focus on the agricultural stewardship of family farms evolving from their past.

The Sullivan County Historical Society's Annual Dinner Meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 17th, 2017 starting with dinner at 6 p.m. and the short meeting at 7 p.m.

followed by the speaker. Dinners are by pre-reservation only, at a cost of \$15.00 per person (*to be received no later than Sat. the 12 by 5 p.m.*). The dinner/meeting will be held this year at the Laporte Community Hall on Muncy Street in Laporte. Mark Lewis will be giving the talk this year. Marc is a sixth generation Sullivan Countian from Hillsgrove. He has participated in building and floating two log rafts on the north branch and the west branch of the Susquehanna River. His subject will be on olden days logging equipment along with a power point of old photos of logging and lumber camps and he does this in period clothing. All are welcome, you need not be a member of the Society to attend.

And lastly, we are in need of volunteers. This is, and has always been, an all volunteer organization. Throughout the years many people have volunteered their time and energy to help maintain the Sullivan County Historical Society's museum. Those volunteers are county residents, or summer people or those perhaps having property here but not living here full time. Volunteering does not require a degree in anything we do, nor does it require full knowledge of the history of Sullivan County but rather a willingness to meet new people and to learn. If you are a new volunteer or new to the county, someone versed in the museum's lay out can be with you, guide you through the different displays laid out by subject and "show you the ropes". If you consider that volunteering here would be of interest to you, please contact the museum via email at museum@scpahistory.com or phone 570-946-5020. Also check out our website for what is available at the museum by going to www.scpahistory.com and you can like us on Facebook.

It may happen that visitors come to the museum on an officially open day, only to find it closed because we've no one available to "sit the museum". So, if you would consider that no matter what your interest, or your expertise, or the amount of time you have to spare; please know your help to this all volunteer organization would be greatly appreciate. After all, we do this not just for the present but also those who come after us. Some would say "history comes alive", but . . . it can only survive if we preserve and maintain it.