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 This is the very latest in taxidermy and we are sure you will appreciate this really designed creation. (On panel at right.)
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 Buck Heads— \$22 to \$27.50

1935 GAME LAWS — ROSTER
 (AND PRICE LIST)
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Nov. 29, 2017

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY’S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

The photo accompanying this week’s article was among papers that came with an acquisition from John Harry Speaker. John is the last living man with the Speaker name from his line and has great pride in his family’s history. Lyman B. Speaker whose home was on Jack’s Road in Hillsgrove Twp. was born in the home in 1839 and died in it in 1919. Between times, he’d married Ida McBride in 1863. In 1881, on Christmas Eve, the family had traveled by boat to attend services at their church in Hillsgrove across the Loyalsock Creek. Returning home, the boat capsized and Mrs. Speaker, their sons five year old, Fred and eight month old, Raymond Boyd were drowned. Mr. Speaker, his mother Sarah and the hired girl all survived with the help of son John, 11 years old, who’d been on the bank and helped save the survivors. This tragedy at yuletide left a sad mark not only on the family but also on the community of Hillsgrove at that time.

This family, like many others, had already suffered the loss of three previous children; both Trevor and Fanny in 1865 and Harry Ron in 1869. All died presumably from childhood diseases of the times. Life in the early years of Sullivan County and surrounding areas was difficult at best when you consider that not too long previously our region had been considered wilderness and was still in the midst of developing. We’d like not to say that hardships as those described here were common place, but every struggling family could have dabbed the tears away for lost loved ones.

John Speaker has brought into the museum an enlarge print of the Speaker home in its heyday when Lyman Speaker opened his home to travelers, calling it the Sidney Cottage. Also with the picture is the registry book of guests to the home from 1880 to 1942, and the family genealogy.

Switching topics, that 1935 hunting roster featured with this article has significance in that it was loose within the pages of the Sidney Cottage registry. Although the top portion has been torn off, the reverse of the page shown is completed in pencil for men from Chambersburg and Waynesfort PA. Because the roster was distributed by the Clearfield Taxidermy Company it has some curious information on it. For themselves they state “Never closed during November and December”. For deer mounts the prices ranged from \$20 (doe) to \$47.50. You could also get from coat racks, foot stools, inkwells, thermometers to reading lamps made from the feet of deer, goat or sheep starting at \$2.50 to \$23.75. And for elk or moose feet you could get a door stop for \$5. The taxidermy also did bear head mounts for \$18-\$25 and another \$15-\$20 to do the balance of the hide into a rug. Now, if you got a bear cub and wanted an umbrella stand, that would run you between \$40-\$50 – depending on the size of the cub. The company also listed prices for tanning all manner of hides. Remember, that was 1935 and as all things that change – including monetary inflation – those prices are gone with something like the price of a gallon of gas for .35 cents.

History can run you thru many highs and lows, and that’s what we’ve done this week. We hope you’ve enjoyed these tidbits of history and if you’d like to visit to see more, you may phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com. Meanwhile, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook.