



Oct. 25, 2017

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

We obtained from Lopez an unusual addition to the museum's collections which was a gate belonging to the fencing that surrounded the Sullivan County Courthouse square until 1952. We already had a section of the fence on display outside the main building but the gate was a bit of a surprise. Namely because neither it nor even a walk thru gate are visible in any old photographs of the courthouse. This wrought iron fence was installed around the entire square in 1872. The gate was located on the east side of the square and utilized for incoming and outgoing materials and for prisoners. That side of the courthouse then, and later in the second courthouse, housed jail cells and living quarters for the county sheriff and his family. When the fencing was demolished by the courthouse maintenance personnel, much of it was removed to Lopez which is where the head maintenance man lived. He then put it up in front of his barn/stable which housed horses. In later years the barn was replaced with a garage for automobiles but they proved too wide for the gate so each section was removed and placed along side of the garage.

Jumping ahead to 2016, the maintenance man's daughter contacted us about coming to get the gate. This was easier said than done as its posts were embedded in concrete and it had sunken underground. Enter today's maintenance man, Mark Minier along with Monty Serafini who retrieved the two ends and the gate and brought them to Laporte. Removing the huge clump of concrete took and then mounting the whole thing assembled in front of the old section of the main building took some doing. John Roloson then power washed the old paint and rust off the gate and later this summer he and his wife Nicole (Boyles) Roloson (along now with infant son Johnny) spray painted the whole thing in rust proof black.

To see it now, it's quite impressive and we've already had comments not only about how nice it looks by folks who've watched its evolution but also had remarks like "Well, it's back home now". Any time a bit of history can be saved it is not only to our benefit but also those in the future to be able to appreciate what came before them. This has been a project of care, like many others within YOUR museum, to help preserve our Sullivan County history.

For this and more stop in if you see the open sign (generally Tuesdays and Thursdays) or make an appointment by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing [museum@scpahistory.com](mailto:museum@scpahistory.com) Also, visit our web site at [www.scpahistory.com](http://www.scpahistory.com) and like us on Facebook.