List of Articles Presented to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

The Society has been most fortunate in having received a very unusual and interesting addition to its museum through the generosity of Mr. Charles L. Armor of Laughlintown. The descendant of a fine old pioneer family who settled in the Ligonier Valley, Mr. Armor has always been keenly alive to the romance of the past, and during the course of his long, active life has assembled a noteworthy collection of relics of the early days. These he displayed at his home originally the "Old Compass Inn" on the Lincoln Highway. The Museum contained quaint old furniture, farm implements, cooking utensils, pottery, pictures, clothing, spinning and weaving machinery, specimens of early iron manufacture; in fact, practically every phase of pioneer industry was represented.

A considerable portion of this extensive collection Mr. Armor has presented to the Historical Society. As soon as space is available these objects will be suitably displayed in a special room. A detailed list is appended.

1—Slab of metal from which "grain sickles" were made, found on site of Long's Sickle Mill Laughlintown Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Penna. Mill in operation early part of 19th Century (1810-1830).


3—Homemade iron pitchforks from the Robert Armor farm 1810.

4—Pocket Hunting Knife found on old Forbes Road, Singer Farm, Hermitage School District, Ligonier Township.

5—Handmade Copper Hoop 15½ inches diameter, with English Government mark, the broad arrow stamped on it. Supposed to have been from a powder cask used during the Revolution. Excavated by Peter Brant on site of Fort Ligonier magazine.

6—Horse-shoes found on the old Forbes Road in Willow Grove School District, Ligonier Township.

7—Wagon Equipment of early date, comprising chain of 14 links, 2 tees, breast-chain, harness outfit and a metal wagon wheel box, excavated at foot of hill near spring which furnished water to Fort Ligonier.

8—Hunters Shot Pouch once the property of Benjamin Eaton, a chairmaker of the Laurel Hill Section of Ligonier Valley about 1800.

9—Iron support for stone above cellar way of brick tavern, "The White Swan" or "Blue Ball" at eastern side of Washington Furnace Creek in west end of Laughlintown, situated on Philadelphia & Pittsburgh Turnpike.

10—Long-handled iron skillet made at Ligonier Valley Furnaces.

11—Iron Spike from lining of Powder Magazine of Fort Ligonier built 1758.
12—Old Wagon Jack
  used about 1800 by Benjamin Johnston a waggoner from Lancaster County, who later became a resident of Ligonier Valley.

13—Pair of sheet iron torches
  for carbon oil used at Maple Shgar camps in the early days.

14—Spy Glass
  carried in Mexican War 1846 by Dr. N. S. Burnett who enlisted from Ligonier Valley.

15—Copper Cup
  carried during the Civil War by William J. Carns, Co. B. 28th Regiment P. V. Found in burned ruins of Log School House and Church at northwest end of Laughlintown.

16—Charcoal Iron
  used by the early settlers. This iron was patterned after European irons but was made locally. Date about 1790.

17—Apothecary's Scales
  such as were used by physicians during the early 19th. century for weighing drugs which they supplied to their patients.

18—One glass and one pewter syringe
  used by physicians during the early part of the 19th. century.

19—Wooden Pack Saddle
  used by Major John Hill of Ligonier Valley, Pack saddles were used in the early trail days for transporting goods over the narrow roads.

20—Double pouch Saddle bags, early 19th century.

21—Horse shoes
  found near site of Forbes Road on farms through which the road passed.

22—Homemade ladles
  used to melt lead for making bullets for rifles. No date but thought to be from pre civil war period.

23—Large gridiron
  used at Compass Inn, Laughlintown, for broiling meat over open coal fire (about 1800).

24—Pack saddle
  very old and crudely made, found in basement of old McFarlane Flouring Mill, Ligonier Valley.

25—Long handled waffle irons
  for open fireplace, belonging to Robert and Rachel Armor 1814 Laughlintown.

26—Fire place chain
  with pot-hook for old time chimney having a crane or hanging pole.

27—White pine cane
  made from flagstaff of Pennsylvania state capitol building which was burned February 2, 1896. The upper end of flagstaff fell and was not destroyed.

28—Fragments of moulders “Gates”
  from Westmoreland Furnace Ligonier Valley 1792-1812. This furnace, the first in Westmoreland County was built by Christopher Lobenger of Mt. Pleasant.

29—Brass Buttons
  from military coat worn by James Matthews of Stahlstown while a member of The Valley Rangers Troop of Horse (militia) disbanded 1854.

30—Saddle bags
  box style, used by Dr. John Aschom a dentist of the Ligonier Valley.
31—Hunting knife
10 inch (full length) found at Fort Ligonier.

32—Stove cast at Westmoreland Furnace
This furnace built 1792 was situated in Ligonier Township on Furnace Run about 4 miles from Fort Ligonier, one mile south of Laughlintown on the State road. Christopher Lobinger builder of the furnace was from Mt. Pleasant District and was at an early date a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature. On the sides of the stove are representations of Vulcan, the God of fire and metals of the old Roman Mythology.

33—Womans side saddle
brought at a very early date from Ireland by a family in the Conemaugh River section of Westmoreland.

34—Screw driver
belonging to George Shunk, Ligonier Valley 1800.

35—Pocket knife
found in 1845 in old State Road near Loyalhanna supposed to have belonged to one of the very early settlers.

36—Long handled
wooden skimmer used in tan-yards to skim the tan bark from the vats. From the George Maginnis tannery 1825, situated on East Main Street, Laughlintown.

37—Snake rattles
large and small from various farms on Laurel Hill.

38—Early make
of sewing machine, small size, to be clamped on table.

39—Wooden pocket combs
used by men in the early days.

40—Candle snuffer
of rare design and very old, about 1764.

41—Dresser knob
rare design with mirror center, about 1810.

42—Protractor
used for measuring angles, very early date.

43—Slip purse
for coin, woven mesh, about 1812.

44—Small hunting knife
found on the site of Forbes Road which passed through the Snyder Farm.

45—Cannon Stove
such as were made at charcoal blast furnaces in Ligonier Valley. These furnaces were Westmoreland Furnace 1792-1812 Washington Furnace 1809-1856 Ross Furnace 1817-1848

46—Liquor License
issued by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to Stephen Read, in 1789.

47—Piece of wood
presumably oak, ten inches long from Commodore Perry's ship "Niagara" sunk in Lake Erie 1813. Raised 1913.

48—Piece of wood
four inches long from the wreck of the "Porcupine", War of 1812.

49—Fragment of brick
from John Brown's Fort, Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

50—Farmers' long tin dinner horn
used in the Ligonier Valley 1800.

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Emma D. Poole, Librarian.