



Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



February, 2012

SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Frances Dorrance Chapter 11

Thomas Rutter and the Founding of the Pennsylvania Iron Industry to be presented at February Meeting

The February meeting of The Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held February 28th at 7:00 PM at The Duryea Municipal Building, 315 Main St., Duryea Pa. Our featured speaker will be Dan Graham

In 1715, Thomas Rutter (1660-1730), blacksmith, Baptist minister, and Pennsylvania Assemblyman, traveled up the Schuylkill River on the Manatawny Road and "on his own strength" built Pennsylvania's first charcoal iron work. Called Rutter's Bloomery, and located near present-day Pottstown, by 1716, it was making iron. By 1720 he had built a cold blast furnace which he named Colebrook Dale and a refinery forge named Pine. By 1740, the industry had expanded across the Susquehanna River. Dan Graham will discuss Rutter's role in the founding of the industry which has become synonymous with Pennsylvania's industrial past and its early years.

Dan is an early Pennsylvania iron researcher and a Potts and Rutter family historian. He holds a B.S. from West Virginia University and an MPA from George Washington University. He is retired and lives in Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

The iron industry was one of the key elements in the development of the northeastern portion of Pennsylvania and an essential part in what made this region an industrial powerhouse. This meeting is open to the public and members alike.

Labeling and Elections

Labeling of last season's artifacts has been started and will continue until the work has been accomplished. Labeling takes place on Sundays from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 PM at the offices of Pan Cultural Associates, 22 East St Suite1, Pittston, Pa. If you are interested in this aspect of archaeological work come by and you will be shown what has to be done. No prior experience is required. If you need any more information call 842-2708.

Election of officers for 2012 will take place at the February meeting. The slate nominated at the January meeting is as follows:

President: Edythe Gozdiskowski

Vice President: Al Pesotine

Treasurer: Ted Baird

Secretary: Paula Cenera

Board: Mike Goldsmith, Audrey Collier and Vince Ephault

Alternate: John Orlandini

With March just around the corner, we are coming to the time of year when the membership list will be purged of anyone who has not paid their dues. To avoid missing a newsletter, please pay your 2012 dues as soon as possible. The March newsletter will indicate if your membership needs to be renewed. Or Call 842-2708 to check

Twenty-one WWI German Soldiers Finally Leave the Trenches

In 1918 an Allied Shell burst over a German entrenchment in Alsace France. The explosion buried 34 soldiers in dirt and mud. Thirteen of the bodies were recovered, but the remaining 21 stayed buried due to dangerous conditions. That is, until a group of French archaeologists found them again during a road building project earlier this month. The skeletal remains were in remarkably good condition due to the fact that so little air, water or light entered the ground where they were found. Much like Pompeii, the deceased were found as they were prior to death. Some were lying on the ground while others were seated on a bench. Personal effects such as watches, boots, helmets, weapons, wine bottles, spectacles, cigarette cases, wallets and jewelry were preserved. Leather was still supple and even some readable newspapers were found. The Skeleton of a goat was among the articles excavated, and is believed to have been a milk goat kept by the men. The identity of many of the men is known and German authorities are trying to locate families to allow for private burials. The remains not claimed will be interred at a German war cemetery at nearby Illfurth.

Answer to what is this object

Removable Horse Shoe Calk/Stud

If your initial answer was "a dime" you would have been half right, but the dime is only there to show the relative size of the object in question. The regular calk on a horse shoe is the downward facing portions at the rear and front of the shoe. These serve to give traction for the horse. The removable calk shown are for additional traction in snowy, icy or muddy conditions. They screw into the bottom of the shoe in threaded holes and are used mostly with performance horses such as work horses and in sporting horses for running activities such as polo. Around farmsteads you would most likely encounter calks made for draft animals, where the primary use would be for traction while working in fields. Calks themselves were and still are made in several styles depending on the intended activity. They would be screwed in prior to use and removed when the work was done so as to avoid the risk of a horse injuring itself if it happened to hit a leg with a hoof.

FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11

2012

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

NEW MEMBER 2012 _____

RENEWAL FOR 2012 _____

ENCLOSED (CIRCLE ONE) CHECK FOR \$10 OR MONEY ORDER

PAYABLE TO: TED BAIRD, TREASURER

1123 Drinker Tpke. Covington Twp, PA. 18444