



Bridge Street, Forksville

Jan. 20, 2016

## **TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM**

**. . . while dusting**

From an account book of Moses Rogers, owner of one of the first stores in Forksville comes a letter from within the pages of that book. The accounts cover from 1850 to 1863. The letter appears within the years accountings

of 1856 but is not itself dated. It would appear that this writing was a draft of a letter to be sent Mr. Priestley. Because of the poor condition of the book, we've transcribed it for better public viewing of the pages consisting of said letter.

"Mr. Prestley you neglect reading on the back of the draft of land I bought of your father been part of Benjamin Rush you remember tha(t) Job King saying thear was too lines that he thought thear was a lap but he thought the lap was on John Roger when we run that land out I remember their was a lin about 12 or 13 rods short of the crner that we run to to get our complement that our draft caald for

"Mr. Prestley when I agreed with your father for that land he told me to get a sirvair and run it on and he send me the draft and he wood make me the deed I Said to him that we had not many sirvair near but Job King Your father said I expect he understands sirvaig you will get him to run it out and send me a draft I sent him the draft with the information that Job King roat on the back of it

"Mr. Milert (Meylert) said that we run half acror the Bonser track and he clames is from William F Pah(k?)er and he said that arical for the land was in 50 four 6 years befor I got my deed he said the land over the rush bin was not your fathers at the time when he deeded to me

"Mr. Prestley please send me the draft of Benjman Rush and joining lands and I will have it sirvaid again I think there is not as much as thea cleam of a mistake"

Now you, the reader of this piece, may be thinking that Mr. Rogers doesn't write very well. Not so. Many people educated in the school systems of the day might not be the best spellers, or use punctuation correctly, if at all, or capitalize when necessary. But, they got their points across. And writings such as this are really only a problem for us in the present day. I will say it is difficult to know where a sentence ends and the next begins but once you get the jist of the subject, it becomes a little easier to follow along. The other problem for us today is that you need to shut off spell check on your computer or else there are red lines all over the place! It is then that proof reading your transcription now becomes your headache.

The other thing to notice about this piece is the attention and courtesy of Mr. Rogers writing about a discrepancy of land lines drawn in those early stages of the development of Sullivan County, and his willing kindness to correct what he has perceived as an error.