



July 16, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

This past weekend we had a visitor come into the museum looking for information on her ancestor, the Honorable George D. Jackson of Dushore. She was aiming to find the burial location of that family stemming back from her grandmother. The etching featured with this article was just one of the gems of discovery that we could share with her. His home was built at the same time as St. Basil's Church, beginning plans and construction of the church in 1863. The engraved etching was supplied for the Pomeroy map of Sullivan County printed in 1872 (which we have for sale at the museum). The home now is the site of Jolly Trolley and if you stand across the street and look up at the attic's arch, you can readily see the similarity. To add to her arsenal of family background, we walked the visitor into the Book & School room to then view a life-sized portrait of Geo. Jackson in its original ornate frame. This whole adventure, including a missing obituary of another ancestor, was almost too overwhelming for this lady and at moments seemed to take her breath away. Having come from out of state to find information on her family, she then wanted to know the location of the cemetery of burial. This was immediately known but past cemetery maps showed "state route" numbers.* Not to worry, we were able to direct her utilizing what she thought was funny: our one and only red light in Sullivan County. While making copies for her of the obits needed and the etching you see here, we visited about volunteerism and money problems for museums such as ours. Her background was much in this same problem area where she comes from, so her understanding about "keeping the lights on" was compatible with our own problems. One on the wish list we have here is that of eventually replacing out-dated ceiling lights with more modern and really mandatory updated lighting. She asked "What would it take?" and the response had to be "Thousands, but funding is so curtailed that that'll be awhile until we can accomplish it." She then asked "Would \$500 start you off?" You can guess what the answer was. So, we will now have a restricted fund for this purpose and hopefully build upon the monies need to accomplish this. What a gift! And, there just aren't enough thanks, no matter the amount, for those who fill a need (especially when you least expect it).