June 18, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM
. . . while dusting

When you look up the word 'genealogy', Webster's dictionary states that 1.) a recorded history of a person's ancestry 2.) the study of family descent 3.) lineage. There are many ways to research your family's background, but did you know that this also extends to the lineage of land, buildings, tax and voting records and any number of other sources to find about your ancestors? Another way is through school records. We'll not get into the wealth of information within those records that the museum holds but give you these photos as a demonstration of just one of the many treasures within the compilings on the shelves here.

This past winter, our web coordinator Patty Lane, brought in the 1943 graduating class photo from St. Basil's that was in her Aunt Mary Lane Cygier's things following her passing. We put in a call to Marie Kisner, who was back then Marie Dempsey, to see if she could identify those featured. Not only did she say 'Yes' but she came right in that very afternoon. And what a lovely afternoon it was to visit with Marie! For many years Marie and her husband Charles volunteered here at the museum and to talk in this setting now, she was just as at home now as she was then. It isn't often that you get to know those who have volunteered before you and also have the pleasure of their insight. To Marie: so many thank yous.

The graduation photo of 1943 and that of the 40th reunion in 1983 have the classmates in like order: 1st row L to R – James Deegan, Mary Figzgerald Dieffenback, [Father Carroll], Marie Dempsey Kisner, Paul Rush. 2nd row – Jean Gallagher Calaman Farley, Mary Lane Cygier, Josephine McMahon Yonkin, Agnes Laven Babbin. 3rd row – Frank Snyder, Margarita Coyle, Dennis Ryan, Mary Carroll Cain, Joseph Lynch.

The 1943 class 50th class reunion: 1st row L to R – Marie Dempsey Kisner, Mary Fitzgerald Dieffenback, Mary Lane Cygier, Jean Gallagher Calaman Farley. 2nd row – James Deegan, Joseph Lynch, Mary Carroll Cain, Frank Snyder.