

Mar. 12, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

When doing research with that ability through the microfilm of Sullivan County newspapers, we often come across many an interesting article. Such was the case recently from the March 22, 1888 issue of the Sullivan Review. One hundred and twenty six years ago this month an obituary appeared which reminds us of the saying "I felt bad for myself because I had no shoes, until I saw a man who had no feet". This column of "In Memoriam." is being transcribed as it appeared: one complete column, not pieced together.

"Septer J. King died Dec. 13, 1887 aged 36 years, Death caused by cancer.

"Died February 6, 1888, Freddie son of Septer J. and Alice L. King; aged 7 months. Death caused by congestion of brain and lungs.

"Mr. Septer J. King spent the most of his life in Elkland township, and was well known to most of the business men of Sullivan county.

"He was in poor health for some time before he gave up and consented to take rest. His occupation was farming. Every effort was made to secure medical skill, and the best physicians were employed, but all to no purpose. Death had chosen its victim. His sufferings were great, but the God in whom he trusted gave supporting grace. Mr. King was a member of the Evangelical church and was beloved by all its members. His life was that of a constant Christian. To add to his afflictions, in August last his oldest son was instantly killed by lightning, while working in the hay field, but the father was able to say, "Not my will, but thine be done, Oh, God."

"Little Freddie was a sweet child and attracted the attention of all that saw him, but God that doeth all things well, plucked the bud to transplant it in his immortal flower garden, where it will never fade. Let all who read these lines breathe a silent prayer that God may wonderfully, sustain the wife and mother, and help her to bear up under this affliction. She requests me to say to the many friends who have shown so many acts of kindness during her afflictions, that they have her heart felt thanks. [signed] D.P.Bathbun"

Many such obituaries, even today, can elicit a sad truth to the hardships of life; this was just one. For this and more, you can contact YOUR museum by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com or visiting our website at www.scpahistory.com and see us on Facebook.