



Mar. 26, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

This winter an acquisition came into the museum of a genealogy. And yes, we have many but this one made an impression. It was begun within the past two years, if this writer recalls correctly, by Valerie Potuck as a labor of love for her husband. The presentation alone is enough to make you sit up and

take notice and from the cover to the sleeved pages, it speaks volumes to the care in effort to put this genealogy together.

Research on this family name begins with the name Potocki, Albert born in 1437 with origins from Poland and Austria. Then proceeds to pick up in this country and then into Sullivan County. Not much, actually no information was available within the museum at the start of the search. The obituaries were to become an iatrical part of the make up of the Potuck genealogy and that we could supply from the microfilm reel records of Sullivan County newspapers. Then among the pages, was a typewritten account by Bill Breon on his recollections of the people on Sugar Hill. This written history includes photos of people and places from there with many identities. Here are just some of the excerpts from this writing:

"Sugar Hill, a place where, to a small boy [himself], everything was near perfection. To the adults it was something quite different, as we were in the middle of the big depression and the future looked pretty bleak. But they somehow kept it to themselves, and we didn't know how poor we really were. Since we were all in the same boat there wasn't anyone you could say was rich."

"Our toilet was outside the house and a little on the cool side in the winter months."

"Most of the adults worked at the mines [Connell Mine] digging for coal. The work was hard and dirty, on the way home, in the evening, it was hard to tell one man from another." "There were nearly 100 kids, about 65 were boys (World War II and Korea saw 56 of the boys serving their country)."

"I must add that this story is biased because as far as I can remember, the people that lived on Sugar Hill were the best of people, in their own unique way. As a kid you ate wherever you were at mealtime, so the food tasted very good. It always seemed like the best food you'd ever eaten. People could do things with a potato that would make your mouth water. What we learned was to share what ever we had because all of us had the same problems. The only thing I know for sure is, if God visits earth he will stay on Sugar Hill."

This goes on and on with many stories about people he's remembering and times growing up with all of them. Many of the names are still familiar today. To read more, take time to come in and visit YOUR museum. Meanwhile, check out our website at www.scpahistory.com or contact us by phone at 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com for an appointment.