



March 27, 2013

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

**. . . while dusting**

In July of 1888, a directory for Pennsylvania was printed by the R. G. Dun Company which was started in 1841 and later merged to become Dun & Bradstreet in 1932. This well worn book is 7 ½ inches high, 2 5/8 inches across and over 1 ½ inches thick. The explanatory key to

ratings is described inside the cover for estimated pecuniary strength and general credit (levels), ranging from over \$1,000,000 down to less than 500. It goes on to explain that "The absence of a Rating indicates those whose business and investments render it difficult to rate satisfactorily to ourselves. We therefore prefer, in justice to these, to give the detailed reports on record at our Offices." And there must have, at one time, been a map accompanying the directory because it begins by explaining each entry having a geographic location by corresponding figures and letters.

Small 'index' papers stick out the top of the book indicating locations for Sullivan County. Abbreviations in names and descriptions are being taken as they are written.

The first is Bernice on page 106 showing a population of 600 and its banking town named as Towanda. Business were: Wm. H. Blight, F.W. Brockway as Phys'n & drugs, James Connor as liquors, J.L. Hilton as sewing machine agent, James O'Connor as liquors, John Schaad as hotel, John Seeman as hotel, Jacob W. Stroud as sawmill, Thorndale Tanning Co. and John Vogel as shoekr. Next is Colley on page 239 showing a population of 350, again with banking town as Towanda. Business were: D.D. Diffenbach as G.S., C.F. Hunsinger as hotel, Landback & Kisner as planning & feed mills, Messersmith & Mosier as G.S., Fred'k Saxer, jr. as implements, Chas. Schock as blacksmith and J.B. Walburn as wheelwright & carpenter.

Laporte is on page 596 showing a population of 800 and again with Towanda as banking town. Business: J.W. Ballard blacksmith, W.M. Cheney Ed. Newspaper, John H. Greene wagons, W.B. Hill drugs, Russell Karns hotel, Ida Keeler millinery, T.J. Keeler - G.S., J.P. Kennedy billiards, Mrs. M.C. Lauer hotel, H.T. & O.H. Lawrence hardward, Jas. & Co. McFarlane - G.S., Wm. & Co. Meylert - G.S., P. Moyer wagons, Daniel Reynolds gro., & c. and Walter Spencer lumber and G.S.

Onto to Millview, population 180! Businesses: Geo. C. Birdsail (no business occupation listed), Frank Hannon saw mill, Wm. Molyneux farmer & lumber and John Warren blacksmith. And finally Sonestown on page 1139 with a population of 300 and banking town was Muncy. Businesses: A.T. Armstrong - G.S., Bodine & Warn - G.S., O.E. Little picture frames, Daniel H. Lorah hotel, Lorah Bros. - G.S. & Lumber, Edward Lyons lumber, Thomas S. Magargle hotel, J. Paulhamus hotel and Geo. W. Simmons blacksmith.

Curiously, whoever put the marking tabs in didn't pick up Shunk on page 1126 with a population of 100 and banking town of Canton. Businesses: Albert & Kilmen ag'l & impls & fertilizers, Bohn Bros - G.S., Jas. H. Campbell - G.S., Daniel Williams saw mill and Henry Williams lumber. Another overlooked town was Hill's Grove on page 494 with a population of 150 and banking town Muncy. Businesses: B.H. Bryan blacksmith, Agent John Gordon - G.S., J.F. Harrison livery, W.L. Hoffman G.S., Hoyt Bros. tanners, Aaron Lewis - G.S., Chas. K. Sadler barber, John J. Sadler hotel, Frank F. Schug lumber and George Snyder hotel.

When re-cataloguing, we have yet to discover who donated this book. But who ever used it not only took care of it, they also used it kindly, because the string binding is still in place although the leather cover has definite wear.