

May 15, 2013

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM

. . . while dusting

From Egle's Notes & Queries, published 1879: "Colley, the first township to be erected by the court of Sullivan county, in 1849, was named after Judge William Colley*. It was taken from the east end of Cherry. Population 1,662. Area 31,000 acres."

From Thomas J. Ingham's History of Sullivan County, the initial seven townships of



Shrewsbury, Elkland, Forks, Hillsgrove, Fox, Cherry and Davidson were already established under quarter sessions of court when what is now Sullivan County was part of Lycoming County. "The first election was held at the house of Joel R. Potter, February 15, 1850. The officers elected were: Judge of election, Thomas Messersmith; inspectors, Jeremiah Hunsinger and William W. Burgess; supervisors, John Santee and Joel R. Potter; township auditors, Paul Q. Bates, William Vaughan and Henry Rough; justices of the peace, Albert Vaughan and Jonathan Colley; school directors, Henry Rough, Jonathan Daddow, John Bates, Thomas Messersmith, Dudley Vaughn and William W. Burgess; assessor, Daniel Hunsinger; constable, Adam Messersmith; overseers of the poor, Thomas Messersmith and John Hunsinger."

From Streby's History of Sullivan County published in 1921, he states: "Colley has four distinct elevations of land, all of which reach a height of over two thousand feet. The first elevation is known as the Tyler Mountain and divides the waters of North Mehoopany Creek and its tributaries from those of Wilmot township, Bradford county. The second elevation, the Dutch Mountain lying between Mehoopany Creek and the head waters of the Loyalsock Cree, forms a watershed between tributaries of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna. The third elevation divides the waters of the Loyalsock from its tributary, Lopez creek, and these waters from South Branch of Mehoopany Creek. This elevation forms a plateau in which are located Rough's Big Pond, or Grant's Lake, a beautiful little lake covering about sixty acres of land, and Rough's Little Pond, a much smaller sheet of water. The fourth elevation which reaches a height of about 2400 feet is a continuation of North Mountain which occupies the central part of Davidson township. It forms a plateau on the south side of Lopez Creek and upon it is found one of the ideal spots of Nature, the beautiful lake Ganoga, which is not only one of the highest points in Sullivan county, but it is also one of the highest lakes in Pennsylvania and is over a mile in extent and about eight hundred feet in width.

From the Endless Mountains booklet: "John A. Speaker and William Colley were the first associate judges in Sullivan."

*From William Colley's obituary on file here at the museum, it states that he died at aged 80 years in Sullivan Review publication of Aug. 7th, 1884. From Ancestry files we find that he was born in 1804 in Columbia County and he died Aug. 5th, 1884 in Dushore. He'd "been a resident of this place for nearly 60 years, had been one of the prominent citizens of the county, having held the offices of constable, justice of the peace, county treasurer, prothonotary and associate judge. Funeral services will be held on Friday."

These seemingly small snippets bring to life a sparsely populated area of our county with just as much history as any other portion and reflects names of those people who worked hard to support what was then a newly form township and county.