



Oct. 29, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

It would seem from recent acquisitions and articles that you may think we're dwelling on treasures passed from mothers to daughters – and you'd be right. Property, such as land, animals and/or equipment, was often inherited from fathers to sons. What women considered treasures weren't necessarily considered inheritably worthwhile in the value of money, but rather valuable in their love shared from one generation to another.

Such is the case with this week's article of subject. This tiny little dress, when first glanced at, appears to be for a doll but was really for a child. It was made by Jane Sadler Rogers, prior to her daughter Zilpha's birth in 1829. Jane was the wife of Moses Rogers and she died February 2, 1892 at the home of her son, J.W. Rogers in Forksville, at the age of 82 years. They were among the first settlers to that village. Besides this son and daughter, she was also the mother of M.A, Isaac and Sadler S. Rogers. Her obit says that she enjoyed life long health and that "she was sick but a few days before her death".

As for her daughter Zilpha, she then passed away Mar. 12, 1907 at the age of 78 years. She'd married John Fleming, having from that union: Isaac, William, C.Q. Mrs. W.F. Randall, Mrs. O.A. Gardiner, Miss Bertha, Mrs. Charles Nye and Mrs. G.W. Snyder. This child's dress was passed to her youngest daughter. [Isn't it curious that if you were a married woman, only your husband's first name or initials were used to identify you and not your own first name?]

Next we're on to Mary F. Fleming Snyder who died May 22, 1946 at the age of 83 from a stroke. She's been born on what later became known as the Bahl Farm near Warburton Hill in Forks Twp. Married in 1885, she and her husband George had two daughters; Marion Roshach and Louise who had married B.U. Ford of Laceyville. Marion had already passed away at the time of her mother Mary's death and from here the dress went to Mary's other daughter Louise.

The end result of the dress's travel resulted in the gifting to the museum from Jane Rogers' gr-gr-granddaughter Cheryl Clapper Biondi Franklin. The journey on which the little dress road was paved with love from one generation to the next. Cheryl is now retired to Florida and like so many families, she thought that it's return to it's origins and more easily accessible location for descendants would in fact be the museum. This in no way diminishes the importance of the history for this piece but rather insures the heritage that it began with.