



May 28, 2014

**TOURING SULLIVAN
COUNTY'S MUSEUM
. . . while dusting**

On Sat., June 14th at noon, Gwen Klus originally from Eagles Mere and now residing in Laporte will give a talk in The Barn within the compilings of the museum in Laporte on the histories of the ghost towns Masten and

Jamison City. The intertwining of locations in history from inside and outside Sullivan County can account for the local history of culture and economics as these lands that were frontiers were developing. In Thomas Taber's book "Ghost Lumber Towns of Central PA" published in 1970, he wrote about the logging railroad era in these two locations as well as Ricketts and Grays Run. In it he states when referring to Laquin in Bradford County "What was once the second largest manufacturing community in Bradford County is today – Nothing!" Masten actually located in both McNett and Cascade townships of Lycoming County with the same ties to Sullivan County as Laquin. Along with Masten's saw mills were also a clothes pin factory and a lath mill, all owned by Senator Charles W. Sones. On Sept. 18, 1930 a Sayre newspaper's headline read "Last Log Goes Through Mill, Machinery Silent for Good; Masten Folks Say Goodbye." Thus after thirty years of lumber operation, the timing now allowed for a CCC camp to take its place. But alas, that too came to an end in 1941 and the total desertion of this once thriving community in the mountains took place.

Gwen's other subject is Jamison City, situated in the southeastern corner of Sullivan County and Columbia County. The lumber operation there was from 1889 to 1912. Named after John Jameson who'd purchased the land in this area at the foot of North Mountain for the Bloomsburg and Sullivan Railroad, the name eventually changed to honor the financier of this project: B.K. Jamison. The tannery was built and shortly afterwards the lumber mill. At one time there were five taverns, four hotels, five grocery and meat markets, three general merchandise stores, a blacksmith shop, a wagon wheel hub factory, the brothels at Bush House and the Exchange Hotel (initially no churches existed). The town itself is split in half with Columbia County. Gwen will provide many interesting details about this now all but forgotten "city".