

April 4, 2019

The third Laporte school built in 1890, then was torn down in 1992 and is the location of the present day children's park off Court St.

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . .
while dusting

With the end of the school year approaching, you might be interested to know about a school no longer in existence. The Laporte School was first heard about in October of 1889 as noted in the newspaper the Sullivan Republican printed in Laporte. It read: "The foundation for the new school house at LaPorte is about completed. The building will be erected in early spring." Then in June of 1890 the following: "The roof of the new school building at this place, [again, the Sullivan Republican of Laporte] which is being covered with slate, is about finished. The progress of the work of erecting the building is progressing very rapidly and contractor Keeler hopes to have it completed by August 1st."

Interestingly enough, this was not the first public school in Laporte. Minutes recorded from May of 1853 shows subscription for a sub-district referred to a Tannery with all but one being for \$5.00 each (the exception being Michael Meylert for \$25.00). Then a Teacher's Report to the Directors for Laporte Borough Nov. 1857 list the students from age 5 to 19. In an edition of the Sullivan County Democrat in July of 1858, entitled Laporte Union School, it states that the board of directors have employed Rev. Hallock Armstrong, A.M., and Mrs. M.M. Armstrong, to take charge of the school during the ensuing year. A drawing from the photo album of Jesse Wrede has just a drawing of the first Laporte School house which states that it was located between the Mason Home and the Post Office (no years given). Then a photo of a brick school "built 1890 between Laporte Borough and the Tannery, burned 1906." An article from the Sullivan Review attest to the burning. The fire began on a Monday afternoon between the two floors of the building. It had 'gained such headway that all that was possible to do was to get the children out'. "The building was a mass of roaring, seething flames, fanned by a high wind, and absolutely no facilities whatever for fighting fire. The result was a total loss of the building and its contents."

So, for a school building that only stood for 16 years, this was devastating to one small community. The amazing thing of what has survived is the photos and listings of pupils attending the Laporte [LaPorte] School beginning in 1880's, 1902,03, 04, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, and 26.

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