

Dec. 11, 18, & 24, 2019

Sullivan County servicemen's board at Courthouse in Laporte. L to r: Maria Blasi Eldefomso, Louis Blasi, Tresa Blasi Minnier and Frank Meylert.

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting



Among the papers of Joseph F. Ingham of Laporte, 1899 – 1968, is a type written piece of his dated April 5th, 1941. Often times when giving a speech, it would be written out and then read aloud by the writer at a function. Because this one is specifically dated, we feel that this was not only read to an audience but also that it may have been an article for publication. Either way, Mr. Ingham's subject is given during a time when the United States was making efforts to stay neutral in the affairs of Europe. And, as we know today, that eventually was not the case after the invasion on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th, 1941. So, the following is Mr. Ingham's dissertation on his opinion of world affairs in early 1941:

"Germany has again invaded two relatively small and defenseless nations in her ruthless campaign of slaughter and destruction aimed at world domination, and it is high time for all who love liberty above life, religion and truth above savagery and barbarism, to speak out. I county myself one of those.

"We are today embarked upon the most gigantic struggle the world has ever known. It is at one time military, political, and economic, and it is a life and death struggle for civilization against the forces of darkness, evil, and oppression. It is a life and death struggle for each and every one of us, to preserve the blessings of life, liberty, and happiness to our posterity, civilization, and in fact, the whole world is in the crucible of conflict, the outcome of which no one can with any degree of assurance predict.

"Looking back over the history of the world as we know it, we can see that the forces of savagery and barbarism have triumphed before, and thrown the world back a thousand years in its progress. They may so triumph again, but it can only be a temporary triumph. Even a temporary triumph can be so costly to civilization that it must be prevented, whatever be the sacrifice required to accomplish it.

"The forces of reason, tolerance, judgement, education, freedom of speech and thought, and of justice, which it has taken thousands of years to build up to our present state of civilization and liberty, are pitted against the forces of evil, brutality, selfishness, intolerance, oppression and planned and purposeful ignorance, in a death struggle. The forces of evil would, if they could, sweep the world back over a thousand years of progress, to the very conditions it has struggled so slowly and painfully through the years by education and enlightenment, to eradicate forever from the world. Back again to the days when only might made right; when life and liberty and happiness were only pawns in the ruthless game to territorial acquisition by

force. This is the game that was played by the rival plunderers of the middle ages, and of the days before Christ was born, and died upon the cross as a symbol to save the then fast disappearing transcendancy of the spiritual life over complete barbarism.”

We'll continue this piece next week. In the meantime, you can contact us by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com. Or visit our website at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook.

Dec. 11, 2019

Envelope for WWII Savings Stamps placed with employee pay to solicit money for war support effort.

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Continuing from last week's dissertation of Joseph Ingham dated April 4th, 1941:

"I do not intend to complimentary and address as "dictators" these utter blackguards who planned and who are now directing this savage and inhuman war of conquest and destruction. I intend to give them their true name as 'plunderers' because they are that and nothing else. In order to foist their nefarious schemes upon a sufficient number of the world's inhabitants to make their dreams of conquest possible, they have resorted to the basest of treachery and the uttermost depths of guile and deception. They first abolished religion, then law and justice, and finally prostituted education in order to build up their mighty machines of ruthless destruction. They took over the press by censorship and seizure, so that it was impossible for the decent people to voice a public protest. Then they took over the schools, and the education of the youth, and taught them by lies, and twisted, distorted versions of history and religion, to serve their ends without knowing how vile and base they were. Th chained down their thoughts into narrow channels of misinformation, and abolished freedom of worship, nay even abolished the God of Christianity, in order to train their young men and young women to think as they wanted them to think. They taught that might alone makes right, and that one race is justified, if only it has the strength and the ruthlessness, to impose slavery and domination on all other races of the world. They taught them to live and think like pigs, that the biggest and strongest pig gets the best ears of corn.

"Let no one be deceived about this, and no one need be so deceived if he will use the senses God gave him and apply them to the information that is free to all who listen or read."

Let us interject here that it is first amazing and prideful that this writing comes from a Sullivan Countian in 1941. Second, to have had the foresight and understanding of the happenings in Europe at such a crucial time (which we might add was long before the advent of computers) is a complement to the stamina of free-thinking peoples. The German leadership at that time was in preparation of changing the world to their way of thinking and that ultimately meant their domination of all. As was witnessed then from the bombardment in Hawaii to the close of World War II in 1945 – cruel domination of any peoples by any other peoples should never be in existence. We are today in a time when we are learning to thank our veterans for their service: this a just a start to the recognition of what freedom means and the lengths we can all go to preserve it – just as what was shown to us by our predecessors.

The last installment of Mr. Ingham's writing will be next week. Until then you can contact the museum by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com



Dec. 18, 2019

Christmas card marked for 1944 from "Kenneth", just a boy remembering home.

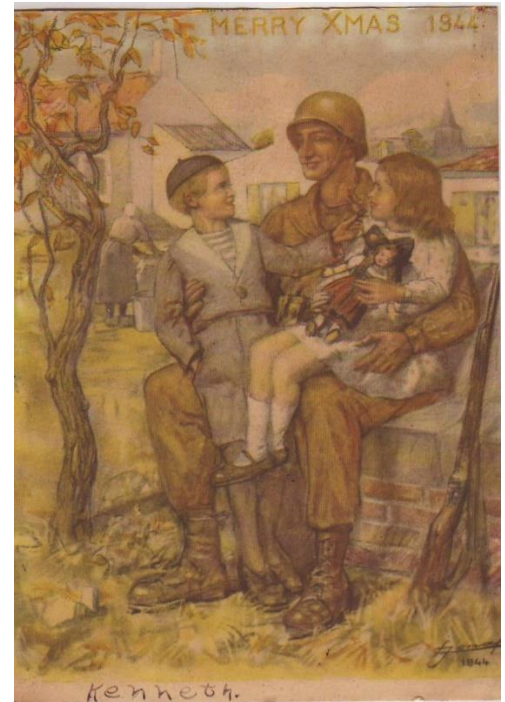
TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

This final installment is from Joseph Ingham's April 5th, 1941 dissertation on his preliminary feelings about the turmoil happening in Europe brought on by the German leadership:

"It is willful, deliberate, and criminal neglect, for us today to listen to the smooth, honeyed words of the traitor who serves a foreign master by counselling us to keep the easy road of doing nothing about it until our turn comes. We cannot mince words and fiddle with fancy phrases while the world burns about us, and we ourselves are marked as the next victim - - the fattest of all fatted calves, petted and pampered, fed and flattered, cozened and cajoled, but all the while being made ready for slaughter. Make no mistake about this, that is the end and purpose of the plunderers, whether they know it or not, for if victory should crown their present efforts, they must go on and on to new conquests. Their power at present is founded wholly upon injustice and oppression, and the way of oppression is that it must go on and on to ever new heights of oppression and victory, or it falls of its own weight and injustice, its treachery of the faithlessness of man to man, and brother to brother, child to parent, upon which it is based. We must believe nothing that they say, for the truth is not in them.

"But the plunderers will lose. They will lose because they have misjudged the ability and character and civilization, the love of liberty and justice, truth and right, to triumph eventually over savagery, ignorance and selfish brutality. The plunderers will be defeated and sent down to base and ignominious death, as is their just desert. Their name will be a hissing and a by-word of contemptuous disgrace for generations to come, symbols of the blackest treachery against Christianity, civilization, and human rights that has ever been perpetrated throughout all the ages of sin, and darkness and oppression that the world has ever known. Their sin is worse than it could have been in ancient times, because then the inviolable principles of human life and liberty were not so well known and so generally recognized as now.

"But it will take sacrifice on our part to accomplish their overthrow, - sacrifices of life and property that are at present inconceivable to us. But when we at last come down to the hard, stark, realization that we are faced again, as we were in 1776, with the choice of giving up our own lives and property, or letting our children grow up in bondage and barbarism, the floodgates of our hearts and minds and souls will be opened up, and such a tide of patriotic sacrifice will pour out as will engulf the forces of evil and oppression and sweep them, however strong they may be, from the face of the earth and from the minds and hearts of all men, for all time to come."



This piece, written for April 5th of 1941, reflected that the powers that be of our country were making every attempt to make peace. Unfortunately, both Germany and then Japan in December of that same year basically abolished all hope of peace to reign. And what followed showed the gumption of free-thinking peoples – be they soldiers or resistance fighters – to combat the very oppression that Mr. Ingham spoke to. This gift of freedom is for all people in all generations, irregardless of any differences we have between one another.

We look forward to serving you in the new year and continuing to open the history for Sullivan County by visit or research. To reach, you can phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com. Also visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.