

June 5, 2019

Maple Summit Church after conversion to summer place but before burning down in 2002

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

With the advent of the computer age, we've come to very often rely on the internet for research of information. There are times when this research is for specific subjects but then there are also times when we simply "stumble upon" a subject by happen chance. Such was the case with this week's find of a portion of a site we'd happened onto.

Entitled "Closed Churches Within the Present Boundaries of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church". The site is www.lycoming.edu/umarch/closed-churches/sullivan.htm Looking under "Sullivan County, PA is the section of 1850 Loyalsock Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Taken from the 1887 History of the East Genesee Conference".

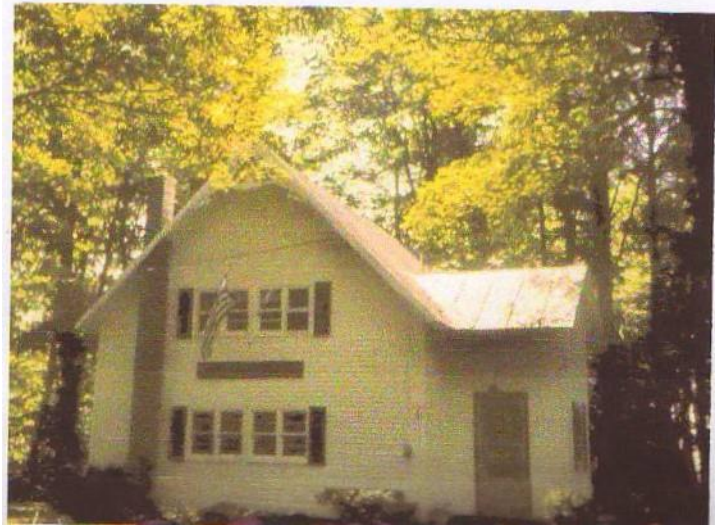
We are choosing to share with you today the Maple Summit, Evangelical Church in Fox Township. "From Canton, go 9 miles south on PA 154 to the village of Wheelerville. At Wheelerville, thru right on county road 4003 toward Tompkins Corners. The community of Maple Summit is about 1.5 miles down this road, about halfway to Tompkins Corners."

From the Central PA Conference of the Evangelical Church the following: "1913, 52 debt reduced and remaining amount pledged for. 1914, 53 church dedicated. 1952, 38 permissions to sell parsonage (charge had been combined with East Point, and used that parsonage). 1960, 94 permission to sell church, proceeds for improvement of Grover – East Point parsonage." [Grover/East Point is actually in the farthest southwest lower corner of Bradford County.]

The piece goes on to describe the history of the Maple Summit Church: "This building was dedicated Feb. 22, 1913, by Bishop W.M. Stanford. The area was never well-populated, and the congregation never was large – and winter services were typically held in farm houses, for the church was too cold and travel was difficult. The church was near the center of a charge that also included Beech Flats, Ellenton, Grover and Shunk – and so a parsonage was built across the road from the church. Over the years most of the area farm houses were sold for hunting cabins, leaving a very small permanent population in the area. Services were discontinued in 1955, and the building was later sold to be converted into a summer cabin."

"Final disposition: The organ and stained glass windows were taken to the Grover Church, and the 500 pound bell was given to a mission in Mexico. The building is now a summer

10. Maple Summit EV



residence. The original structure burned down in 2002 and was rebuilt with the same footprint to preserve the integrity of the site.”

The other churches featured on this site are Bethel EV, Bethel ME, Cherry EV, Colley EV, Estella ME, Fiesters ME, Lopez EV, Lopez MP, Mount Vernon (Edkin Hill) ME, Muncy Valley ME, Sonestown EV, Sonestown ME, Warburton Hill MP and Wheelerville, EV.

Churches, like schools, had the eb and flow of population supporting their existence. But, over time, with a dwindling of residents in any given area of Sullivan County, they each suffered in the demise of their individual survival. Although, it should be mentioned here that they also each played an important part in the fabric of the people who lived in these area – for both the needed learning by young people and the continued ‘faith of our fathers’.

For this and more, please feel free to contact YOUR museum by phone at 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com. Also, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook. Our summer hours are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. – providing we’ve the volunteers needed to man the museum complex. We’re located in Laporte on Courthouse Square at 458 Meylert Street.