



Mar. 11, 2020

Touring Sullivan County's Museum . . . while dusting

From the Triangle newspaper we'd written from last week, another article for your review. This historical sketch comes from 1899, Vol. 1, No. 1 issue written by Thomas Kelly.

"In 1859 the boro of Dushore was incorporated. As two of the directors of the Cherry township school district then lived in Dushore boro, and there having been no election, these two met and proceeded to fill the board according to law. The town had then made no provision for the collection of taxes, appointment of teachers, election of officers, or any of the necessities and privileges of a corporate town.

"There were the greatest difficulties that beset the new school board, but they raised money enough, in some maner, to defray the expenses of one month's school. At the first regular meeting Richard N. Ely was appointed to teach school for one month, in what is now known as the "old school house" on Cherry street.' "At the next meeting of the board the text books were adopted as follows: Grammar, Reading, Geography, Spelling, Arithmetic (mental and written.) For the first few years History and Physiology were taught only as the pupils wished to study them. Writing was taught by means of copies written on foolscap by the teacher.

Between the years 1863 – 69 we find in the yearly report of the school board this entry regularly made; "No. of Schools Yet Needed – One." This was mainly due to the fact that so many outside of the boro had taken advantage of the better methods of the school and went there in such numbers that the school was over-crowded. But in the fall of 1869 the president of the board was given authority "To visit the school, and if he thought it was overcrowded to see the non-resident pupils were debarred further attendance, also to instruct the teachers to see that no more non-resident pupils were admitted."

"In spite of these precautions the board found it necessary to add the much needed school. It was added about 1869 by raising the building four feet and fitting up the basement as a school room. There were now two schools instead of one, and the first step toward the graded school had been taken. The financial standing of the school district had been made firm, and the school enjoyed prospects of prosperity.

"Another source of revenue was opening in 1875. The non-resident pupils were again becoming numerous, and the board decided to charge a tuition. They fixed the rate at \$1.50 per month for the first school and \$1.00 for the second. The rates of tuition have remained the same since.

"During the period of 1875-85 the town grew rapidly in population, so rapidly the school building could no longer hold even the resident pupils of the town. Accordingly the handsome brick building in use at present was built and finished in 1890, and in 1892 teachers were employed for three rooms. The course of the higher branches taught at present was adopted in 1895. It consists of; Physics, Physical Geography, Geometry, Literature, Civil Government, Rhetoric, Algebra and Book Keeping. Many of these branches had been taught before, but none were prescribed as a regular course till 1895."

We'll continue this discourse from 1899 next week. Until then you can reach the museum by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com Also, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook