

Mar. 27, 2019

The Bahl family plot at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Overton for Frank and Catherine Bahl.

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

While researching for various reasons, we'll often come across something entirely different. Such was the case when we happened onto this Jan. 1941 article from the microfilm reels.

"Oldest Subscriber? Frank Bahl of New Albany, R D 3, Warburton Hill, Forks township, was a business caller in town, Thursday. He came into the office and again renewed his subscription to the Sullivan Review for another year.

"In our conversation with him, we learned that he was married in May 1883, and at that time he entered his subscription to this paper and every year since has paid a renewal, thus he has been a continuous subscriber for 58 years. Some record!

"Mr. Bahl married Miss Catherine Toland of Elkland township, and bought the Toland farm where he commenced housekeeping. He was a blacksmith by trade, and served his neighboring farmers, as well as the lumbermen in this line for a number of years. His ability to shoe a horse was widely known, and many persons owning driving horses at that time, went to his shop to have their horses shod.

"About 1903 he sold his home in Elkland township and purchased the Joseph Warburton farm on Warburton Hill [Forks Township], where he has since made his home. After moving to this farm, he devoted his life to the cultivation of his farm and for many years this farm was one of the show places in western Sullivan county.

"His wife died several years ago, and since that time he has made his home with his son Leon Bahl, who remained on the homestead.

"Mr. Bahl takes a very active part in community affairs, he is always seen at the Sullivan County Fair at Forksville, talking earnestly with his friends and neighbors about national and community affairs.

"We sincerely wish to extend to Mr. Bahl our sincere appreciation for his loyalty to the Sullivan Review and hope that he may live for many more years to enjoy the fruits of an active life."

To complete the information about Mr. Bahl, we then went to the obituaries to learn that he died six and a half years after the above writing on Aug. 30th, 1946. He'd been born in Cherry Township to Michael and Mary Ann (Windhaeuser) Bahl, who'd come to America from Germany in 1829. Frank Bahl was then buried at the St. Francis-Xavier church/cemetery in Overton.

Our point to this is not only Mr. Bahl's longevity of subscription to the Sullivan Review but also the life of just one man who in fact did subscribe to local news. We might also add at this juncture that above the printed article in the paper, it states: "5 cents a copy - \$2.00 a year". This may sound a far cry from the cost of the Sully today but that amount in 1941 was just as valuable to the generation as our dollars today.

We're sure that there are those of you out there who can come close to, match or exceed Mr. Bahl's subscription time – let us know; this could be quite interesting!

To visit the museum, try stopping in on a Tuesday or Thursday. Better yet, make an appointment for one of those days by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com. Also, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and see us on Facebook.

