

Nov. 13, 2019

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . .
. while dusting

This week is yet another case of looking for one thing; we found another. Because we so often run across obits that we think you may find interesting, it would seem that that's all we get done. But in reality, much of the research done here is based on obituaries. This is just one.

"Memorial of Mrs. Sarah R. Molyneux, read at the recent W.C.T.U. meeting by Mrs. F.B. Glidewell - Dear members of the Union and friends of the departed sister: It is all too soon that we are called to offer this tribute to one so beloved and so much needed. Our hearts still feel the sudden pain that well nigh hushed their beating. Time has not yet softened the poignant grief, the overwhelming shock, by which we were stunned and bewildered as when the thunder-bolt rives the strong oak near our dwelling. We had not seen the gathering storm. To our senses the lightning arrow came from a cloudless sky and amid Sabbath stillness. While we do not forget the stroke was permitted by a God of infinite wisdom, it is with tremulous hearts we perform this labor of love.

"The lamented subject of this memorial, Mrs. William Molyneux, nee Miss Sarah R. Little, born March 14, 1838, in Elkland, Lycoming (now Sullivan) county, Pa. She had no recollection of her birth place, as her father removed with his family to Hollon Hill, now called Liberty Corners, Bradford county, when she was about one year old, and soon after made a second removal to Macedonia, Bradford county. At the early age of sixteen Sarah commenced teaching district school, and in this, as in all after undertakings, gave evidence of thoroughness and capability. She taught several terms, both in Sullivan and Bradford counties, with good success. She attended the Collegiate Institute, at Towanda, and afterward the Wyoming Seminary at Kingston. While there, in the year 1856, during a series of revival meetings of great interest and profit, conducted by the principal, Rev. Reuben Nelson, A.M., she commenced that new life, of which she has now gone to test the glorious reality.

"After leaving the seminary she taught one year in the Wysox Academy. But her practical energy could no longer endure to be cramped by the meagre salary paid to teachers, and turned to a business more remunerative if less intellectual. She learned the millinery business in Towanda with a Miss Darling, and then opened a millinery and fancy store at Monroeton. She continued business at that place two years, with good success, after which, in company with Miss Darling, removed to Aurora, Illinois [Illinois]. After her partner's marriage Miss Little continued business alone, amassing quite a little fortune as the result of her excellent management and careful economy. Her business faculties, however did not crowd out those of natural affection, as it was her custom every year to visit her parental home while on her way to New York to purchase goods.

We'll continue this written tribute next week. Until then, to reach the museum email museum@scpahistory.com or phone 570-946-5020.



Nov. 20, 2019

Molyneux home built in 1822 by Thomas son of Wm.
(original settler), still standing

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February 22, 1878, she was united in marriage to
William Molyneux, of Millview, Sullivan county, Pa.,
and returned at once to her native state, where she
has since resided. Of the years since she came
among us, it seems needless that we should speak;

and yet it is a pleasure to rehearse the good deeds and kindly acts of our friends when gone.

"The grandest eulogy that ever fell from human lips is this: "They that knew her best loved her most." There may not be many great deeds of Mrs. Molyneux to relate, but the continued performance of "little acts of kindness, little deeds of lot," make up the sum of a beautiful and well-ordered life. The mother love that prompted her to take to her own childless heart and home the orphan child, so completely to fill a mother's place that now it is doubly orphaned, is but one example of her noble charity. The engagement of her own private affairs, while building and furnishing her beautiful home never lessened her interest in public affairs. The temperance cause, especially, always found in her an earnest advocate and brave defender. When the county W.C.T.U. was organized Mrs. Molyneux was unanimously elected president, and with self-sacrificing devotion to the work, discouragements, calm, judicious, earnest, self-possessed and intelligent, a true Christian, temperance woman. Since then she has filled the office of treasurer and superintendent of the department of scientific temperance instruction, well and faithfully serving in any way that the cause might be advanced. But she has gone.

May 10, 1885, Mrs. Molyneux left us. In the soft sunlight of the quiet Sabbath morning we did not see the bright coming of angels, but they bore her away. We cannot trace her flight and only imagine her entrance at the pearly gates. But we rest assured that she is safe in the arms of Infinite Love. Need I say that we miss her? That our little society has lost its strong right arm? Nay! Rather let us remember that the Sullivan county W.C.T.U. has a representative in heaven, one who will not forget us or the cause for which we labor.

Not dead, but just commenced to live
Where life is joy eternal,
And every vanished pain but gives
New rest for bliss supernal."

Researching further, William Molyneux (again from obituaries) was born January 4, 1826 and died Dec. 12, 1891. He was the grandson of Wm. Molyneux, who'd come from England in 1793 to survey Sullivan County for Joseph Priestly and became one of the original settlers for Sullivan County locating just above Millview, Forks Township. The family attended the M.E. church of Forksville. Aside from his



obituary, another article states a notice of William Molyneux's death (also appearing in Dec. 17th, 1891 issue) as "one of the most highly respected citizens, died on Saturday last at an advanced age. Several weeks ago he was stricken with paralysis and never rallied. His wife died some five or six years ago. An adopted daughter survives him."

They were both buried in the Millview's (new) Molyneux cemetery.

This concludes one story and we can only hope you've found it interesting. For information or to visit YOUR museum, call 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com or visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook.