

9/11/2019

This photo of St. Basil's is about 1930 with old steeple cover and roofing but work needed because of rotted rafters, then redone in 7/1973 for similar reasons and again in 10/2002

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

September 11: on this the date of more recent troubling times, it seems apropos to highlight something from the past. This is to be an example of just one of the freedoms we take for granted that has been a staple of American history, shown right here in Sullivan County.

An earlier storm that raged particularly harshly over Dushore left the icon of St. Basil's church with a skeletal steeple. But about the time that had happened, we'd discovered while going through papers given by Kay Homer from the Tubach collection, a letter. Dated Oct. 15, 1889 the letter was from the Rev. J. A. Enright to George H. Wells, Esq. as follows:

"You will be pleased, I am sure, to hear that the spire on the church is nearly completed. In accordance with your request I write to remind you of your generous promise, as I am anxious to meet the payment, due this week. No assurance of mine is necessary to the effect that your generosity will be much and deeply appreciated by our good people, and their Rev. Pastor, as well as by the community at large, who look upon the church as an ornament not only to Dushore but to Sullivan Co.

"For myself I shall only offer an assurance that I shall invoke a blessing upon you and yours, and tendering to you an expression of my sincere respect and gratitude. Very truly yours,"

This implore on the part of Rev. Enright was hand written with dip ink on ruled paper and under the return address on the envelope reads "Contribution of Spire". His letter is kind but urgent for the satisfaction of completing the spire/steeple for St. Basil's.

When he states the part about the community's appreciation for the church, he is actually referencing all of Sullivan County. Because, as this writer was told by many "old timers", when under construction the stones you see today that comprise the outside walls were hauled by oxen or horse drawn wagons by people of all denominations, just to help one church get built.

So, when you think about catastrophes, really anywhere in the world, including those perpetrated on America – think about the freedoms we have and the pride we exhibit for those freedoms even when in fact we are put upon. Now, let's see if we cannot exhibit that pride always for those same freedoms we enjoy in times of calm.

To visit YOUR museum you can call 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com or stop in to 458 Meylert St., Laporte (behind the Courthouse) on a Tues. or Thurs. (weather and personal schedules permitting). Also visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook.

