



*Downtown Sonestown in 1907.*

April 20, 2016

**TOURING SULLIVAN  
COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . .  
while dusting**

As it happens, we quite often receive an acquisition that may seem small at first glance. Such is the case with an item that came in from Marian Swanson. As

the daughter of Edna Speary from Sonestown, Marian has given us Edna's 1911 diary. Edna was married to Glennis Rickert in 1919. She was a teacher of elementary grades and penmanship. She was born July 15, 1896 and died May 6, 1988 at the age of 92, survived by her husband. So she'd have been 16 at the time of her writing in the diary.

A diary can be recorded in anything and in this case it is in a small pocket size top bound composition book. Edna only has entries from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1912. Her handwriting, although small for to match the size of the booklet, is precise and looks to have been done with dip ink. Entries are similar to the following:

"Wed. Jan. 3, 1911 Carrie and I are keeping house. Papa and Mamma went over to Uncle John's to thrash. We went to the barn at noon to feed and killed three rats. Carrie, Anna Andrews and I started for Church. Carrie staid at Simmons. Got a letter from Beatrice Bennett.

"Fri. Jan. 5, 1911 Have to stay by stove to keep from freezing to death 3\* above zero. About 3 in. snow. Ma and Pa and I are alone.

"Tues. Jan. 16, 1912 Rode to school with Nell. Had a cold and headache. Sick when I Came home. Ask some of them to party at Fulmers. Mable, I and Earl F. were over come about half past eight.

"Sun. Jan. 21, 1912 Could not go to Sunday school. Carrie took Mable to the Valley and she walked up the hill. Earl came to meet her. Carrie went to church and heard the missionary preach.

"Tues. Jan. 23, 1912 I was better and went to school. We drive. We had to take the buggy.

"Wed. Jan. 31, 1912 Went to La Porte. Started about half past nine. Mr. Gavitt gave us a pail of apples. We walked from above Gavitts up to Fieters. We had dinner at Hassans. Went thro the court house. Saw Heckner who is held as the murderer of Mary Sheppas. Saw that will w2here the land was deeded to the Lord.

Many are the musings of a young girl going about her daily life. It seems funny to us today to read the highlights of the weather, friendships, sickness and trip (walking or riding) to anywhere other than school or Sunday School/Church for young people in the era.