



Aug. 11, 2021 Touring article

(photo: Baldwin House outhouse0

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

We are very thankful for many things here at the museum. The volunteers are our greatest asset and donations of written material, artifacts and monetary are also highly prized. But before school had let out in the spring, we'd been contacted by Sean Papke who was representing the National Honor Society at the Sullivan County High School. That program requires thirty hours of community service by its participants. After school was out, and scheduling between Sean's part-time job, he was able to come in one day a week for three to five hours a day. After two weeks, he asked if a friend of his could join him with the same need for the Honor Society; her name is Zoe Pedro. They have accomplished a variety of jobs within the museum. Taking publications to shelve in the Barn loft, reorganizing multiple compilings of railroad writings and photos into their respective company subjects, putting up displays of the Laporte Little Theatre posters from the past, hanging a display of Mickey Grandinetti's spar boxing gloves, adding to a display of household and medicinal artifacts and sleeving with dates applied to Joseph Ingham papers to then put in chronological order. These two students have been hard working, conscientious and have shown an enthusiastic interest in history – both their own families and Sullivan County at large. We have had a number of students in the past when the schools had senior projects and also young people who have worked thru their churches for community service hours. In more recent years this practice had lapsed, so to have Sean and Zoe was not only beneficial to the museum's contents but also a joy to be around. So, to both Sean and Zoe, we give you our utmost thanks and appreciation.

For those of you interested in railroad history, the Sullivan County Historical Society will be having their Annual Meeting on Sunday, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at Pealer's Hall on Main Street in Dushore. There will be no dinner, nor do you need to make a reservation. This is open to the public. Following a short meeting, the speaker will be Harry Owens speaking on the Bowman Creek Branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which once ran from Bernice to Wilkes-Barre. This was gradually abandoned until it operated only between Bernice and Dushore a distance of 8.5 miles. Begun in 1867 and completed to Bernice in 1871. The line was officially abandoned in Sept. of 1954. At one time Bowman Creek Branch ran virtually parallel to the Lehigh Valley's main line and served communities west of the Susquehanna River via the Ricketts and Red Rock Mountain.

Lieutenant Col., U.S. Army (retired) Harry D. Owens is a native of Trucksville, PA and a 1971 graduate of Dallas Senior High School. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in History from the University of Scranton, he was commissioned as an Armor Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. In his twenty-two year military career, Lt. Col. Owens served in the U.S., Germany, England, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During the First Gulf War he served as the Operations Officer for the First Squadron, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment. While assigned to the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command in Warren, Michigan, Lt. Col. Owens earned a law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law and passed the PA Bar Examination in 1987. After retiring from the Army in 1998, he worked as a Program Attorney for the PA Bar Institute until his complete retirement in Dec. 2017. Since his high school years, Lt. Col. Owens has been interested in the history of the Bowman's Creek Branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Remember the date: Sun., Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at Pealer's Hall in Dushore!

Remember the subject: Bowman's Creek Railroad by speaker Harry D. Owens!