



Aug. 18, 2021

(photo: Lee's Falls in Forks Twp.)

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . .
while dusting

The following article appeared in the Sullivan County Herald, owned by John Scouten and Victor Hugo from 1889 to 1900 in Dushore. The article was published on the June 15, 1919 entitled Early History of Sullivan County, Pa., Forks Township.

"The first to invade the primeval forest of Forks Township were not permanent settlers there, but came to hunt and fish, because game was plentiful. Captain Brown, and Indian fighter, built a log cabin on the land below Forksville, now owned by Fred L. Shaffer. A man named Miller, lived on the opposite side of the creek. A man named Strong, located at Millview, and the run crossing the public road at Millview is called Strong's Run. These settlements, however, were not of a permanent character; they were probably made about 1789 or 1790.

"In 1794 Joseph Priestly, Jr., sent William Molyneux, John Warren and Powell Bird to make a clearing at the forks of the Loyalsock creek. They cleared about two acres of land and built a log cabin near the present location of the M.E. Church of Forksville.

"The first permanent settlers were William Molyneux, John Warren, and Powell Bird in 1704 and 1795, at Millview, Forks Township, which was then a portion of Northumberland County. Northumberland County was organized on the 27th day of March, 1772; it was the tenth county organized in Pennsylvania. It was part of the sixth Indian purchase of land made by the Penn's in 1768.

"William Molyneux built a log cabin on the Molyneux Flats in 1794. He was accompanied by Powell Bird. They returned to Northumberland, and Molyneux returned to England to get his family. In the spring of 1795 John Warren came to Millview with his family and moved into the Molyneux house, until he could build his own on the land above the Molyneux tract on the farm now owned by S.B. Kilmer. William Molyneux and Powell Bird brought their families to Millview in the fall of the same year, 1795. Mr. Bird located on the lands joining Mr. Warren, on the farm now owned by J.K. Bird. Traditions differ slightly as to the manner in which these locations were made.

"William Molyneux, who settled at Millview, and whose descendants form a very large portion of the population of western Sullivan County at present, was the descendent of a prominent family of warriors in English history. Mrs. Nellie (Rice) Molyneux, or Syracuse, N.Y., who has been writing a history of the Molyneux family, has traced it back to 1027. The name has been spelled in numerous ways: Mullins, Mulins, Mulines, Molyneaux, Molyneux and Mollineaux.

"In 1027, we find Robert Molyneux, Lord of Sefton, his sons William and Vivian Molyneux, were the first expedition of King William, The Conquerer. Vivian Molyneux was given the Lordship of Sefton soon after the return of the Normans. Beatrice de Villers was the Morganic wife of King John. Richard Molyneux, a general in the English army, distinguished himself in the French wars in 1445. Thomas fought under Edward the Fourth and was knighted July 24, 1483.

This account taken from that 1919 article is a study in the first settlers into what became Sullivan County. We will continue next week. In the meantime, we will yet be open officially this coming Thurs., Fri. and Sat. (8/19, 20, 21) from 1 to 5 p.m. and also the following weekend on 8/26, 27 and 28. After that you can stop by our booth at the fair.