



Aug. 19, 2020

TOURING SULLIVAN
COUNTY'S MUSEUM
. . . while dusting

About eight years ago, this writer, Wilson Ferguson, and Ralph and his mother Bonnie Boyles took a look-see up what is called today Bear Mountain, below Estella on Route 154. The problem

with finding anything on that mountain turned out to be an adventure in itself. When looking for ancestral burials in the Wenk Cemetery, it looked to be a dead end. Until, lo and behold, the name of the mountain was originally Green Mountain. That discovery opened up the doors for further searching. What those of us going to the mountain were looking for was the Green Mountain School. Wilson knew of an old foundation on the southeastern side of the mountain and Ralph did also but when going first to Wilson's location, Ralph said "No, this isn't the site.". So, having a tape measure and Bonnie's memory, we measured the foundation remains then went to Ralph's location on the northwestern side. This site was right across an old road from where Bonnie said the "2nd Burgess mill" was located. Bonnie's history was that when the trees were exhausted on one side that the mill, homes and the school were all taken down (with markings) and reconstructed at that second location. From the measurements, we determined that the school was reconstructed exactly to the measurements of the first, even to where the doors and windows were located in the building.

To jump ahead to about four years ago, Sandra Lee was visiting the museum for quite a few days, multiple times, to research her family of Oslers and Devines. She mentioned that she had a photo of the Green Mountain School that she'd be willing to give us the original for. As it happens, Sandra's life was interrupted . . . by life. But this week she and a friend came in and she gave us that original.

Within the compiling for the Green Mountain School is a souvenir from the 1897-98 school year. The teacher was R.T. Beers. F.W. Meylert was the County School Superintendent. Directors were P.H. McCarty, L.G. Rosbach, H.E. Fawcett, Frank Bahl, H.W. Osler and Geo. E. Brown. Students were Wallace Burgess, James H. Parrish, Harvey Parrish, Ralph Burgess, Guy Burgess, William Anderson, Leslie Brown, George Griffith and Raymond Bryan.

A later but undated souvenir shows that by grades the students were: 1st – Asa, Dean and Ivan Vargeson, 2nd – Lynn Boyles, Ralph Yeagle and Beatrice Maguire, 3rd – Carter Coates, Laura Vargeson and Leona and Bessie Maguire, 5th – Mark Burgess, Carmen Boyles and Bertha Vargeson, and 6th – Floyd Parrish and Emma Boyles.

It would seem at times that we go in search of information and appear to be side-tracked but with the help of well-meaning people we uncover more than we could've hoped for.

To visit the museum by appointment, phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com.

And from the Osborne Farm Annual of 1913: Don't kick a man merely because he is down. And, Cash down people are not dunned to pay up.