



Dec. 20, 2017 Touring

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Sixty-seven years ago on Dec. 21st of 1950 there was a death announcement appeared in the Sullivan Review. Samuel G. Shaffer had died on the 1st of December at the home of his son Jesse of Spring Hill at the age of 99 years, 11 months and 12 days: just 19 days shy of his 100th birthday. A letter was then written from a friend of Samuel as follows:

"I am writing to you in regard to the death of Samuel G. Shaffer . . . we feel a few lines in memory and recognition of him in your column are his due.

"He always enjoyed you column, and especially one or two which you wrote mentioning him.

"He was able to read without glasses up until this last six months and had all of his own teeth except one. . . most of his 99 years were spent about seven miles from the Dushore depot, where he cleared the land and built the house which is now standing at the place known to his former neighbors as "Shaffer's Notch". Hoping to see a mention in your column, and some of this information can help you to remember him, I'll close.

"He has three living children, 30 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren and 29 great great grandchildren.

"Am enclosing the following poem written by Mrs. Robert Shaffer. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Traver of Dushore. Robert is a grandson of Mr. Shaffer.

Today he would have been one century old,
The one whom now has left our fold,
Nineteen days ago he passed away,
Yet seems as close to us today.
Most of the time on the couch he spent,
By the window as he watched us as we came and went,
That couch seems now to us so bare,
As though we should still see him there.
We listen for his footsteps slow,
Or for a sound of voices low,
And though these things we'll never hear,
He'll still be with us in memories dear."

To accompany this obituary is an article from the Rocket-Courier in 1999, which had recapped Samuel Shaffer's "Diary of 1870's Small-Town Life Lives On". Supplied to the paper by his granddaughter, Edna Shaffer Monahan, it contains excerpts for the year 1872 when Samuel was 21 years old and had become the local butcher in the New Albany/Overton area.

It must've been a sad Christmas for this large family but also a celebration of life, just as many families endure these same feelings today. May we all be thankful for the blessings we've received and for the gladness in our futures.

The museum's contact information is phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com, web site is www.scpahistory.com and we're on Facebook.