



Feb. 1, 2017

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

The section within the museum's archives of church histories within Sullivan County has grown in leaps and bounds. This winter has come with an addition to the collection for the Cherry Twp. church called Peace/Frieden, both a church and cemetery location. The additional records are that of births and baptism in German from the 1800's, English birth and baptism from the 1870's, marriages from the 1800's and deaths in both German and translated English. The church is located on Bear Road one and one half miles west from Route 220 going into Dushore from Laporte. The Sun-Gazette had an article by L. F. Jack in 1999 about this country church and its history which we will now take excerpts from.

"From the beginning, the Frieden's or Peace Church existed in a spirit of cooperation. The original plot of land where the present church stands was donated by Joseph Litzelswope and Dennis Thall. On July 5, 1824, they granted a deed for "one acre of land, strict measure, consideration sum \$4 lawful money to the Roman Catholic, German Lutheran and Dutch Reformed Church." "The "History of the Churches of Sullivan County: by Adona R. Sick notes that "Protestants and Catholics assisted in erecting a log structure" on the acre in 1826. The Yonkin, Thall, Litzelswope and Graifley families were leaders in the building program." Litzelswope had migrated from Germany in 1817 and was given land in exchange for his labors on the Susquehanna & Tioga Turnpike from Berwick to Elmira. There is no clear record of what became of the log structure. The frame building that we see today was erected in 1848 but the plaque on the outside of it depicts that initial log structure as the church's start-up. Various Lutheran ministers served the congregation until 1938. Attendance in the 1930s had dropped off and the Lutheran Synod elected to have members attend Wilmot, Dushore, Ricketts, Lopez or Mildred Lutheran churches and by 1938 Peace Church membership was to attend the Dushore church. "In 1942 the newly incorporated cemetery association was headed by Walter Karge, a younger brother of Fred Karge, the original president. Herman Jacoby was elected vice-president, Mabel Rohe, treasurer, and Hilda Josat stayed on as secretary. These are names that reappear throughout the history of the church through three generations." "In 1948 William Sick donated \$100 to purchase additional ground West of the Church."

At the time of this previously written article (1999) it was mentioned in closing that there was interest in pursuing a program to have the church placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Apparently this application was, at that time, turned down.

"Many of the present members are descendants of the group of citizens who met in 1926 to form an association to preserve and maintain the church and the final resting place of many of Sullivan County's pioneers."

There are other old churches in Sullivan County with just as much history but it is the acquisition of old records that has prompted the writing on this about the Peace Church.

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