

May 12, 2021

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

This article is the last installment of information taken from the 1902 Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools for Sullivan County. Because we're reading from the year 1902, you need to consider every day life and conditions different from what we would know today. Much of Sullivan County was even more rural than it is in current times. Roads were not paved. Buses were not in existence, yet. Homes were heated with wood and sometimes coal. The school houses themselves were heated with wood maintained by community members, the teacher and sometimes even the students themselves. Most school houses were one big room. Within the General Report, one section discusses the need to convert all desks to single seats and that at the time of reporting half of the existing schools now had slate blackboards, with hopes of supplying all the schools eventually. Another interesting point was the subject of centralizing the schools. The argument for this possible future action was improved and cohesive high school learning in each district.

The last subject in the report was that of "Roll of Honor" for "Names of pupils who were present every day of the school term". Keep in mind that these kids walked, rode a horse or a buggy to get to and from school throughout the school year. Many kids worked on their parent's farms and many of those quit school at or before the eighth grade. And went to out of county schools to complete their education to the twelfth grade. Parents by and large saw the education of their children as an improvement over what they themselves may not have had available to them in their youth. For that reason, children supported and encouraged by the parents, belonged on this Roll of Honor for perfect attendance and were issued a certificate stating just that. The listing has 114 names and here are just a few:

Cherry Township: Mary Lang, Charles Jacoby, Anna Meehan, Alice Keating Sadie Scanlin, Lyle Diltz, John Walsh, Lizzie Litzelman, Ella Yanney. Colley Township: Michael Rouse, Anna Johnson, Stella Searfose, Joe Finan, Lillian Dieffebach, Carl Thrasher. Davidson Township: Mildred Buck, Clarence Boatman, Milton Fenstimoker, Adona Sick, Roland Horn, Carrie Speary, Herma Stackhouse, John Rabb, Fay Sheets. Dushore Borough: Charles Borton, Mildred Hayman, Grant Carpenter. Elkland Township: Vernon Bird, Harold Woodhead, Rue Rogers, Ada Mulnix, Don McCarty. Forks Township: Mary Scanlin, Stella Hill. Forksville Borough: Roy Smith, Bertha Streby, Peal Wanck, Bessie Wright Lou Snyder, Essie Hunsinger, Fox Township: Jesse Williams, Orphia McKay, Ella Brown, Samuel Hine. Hillsgrove Township: Clyde Biddle, Lorna Helsman. Laporte Township: Blanche Fiester, Clayton Lowe, Eva Gavitt, Freda Armes, Olive Peters, Willis Mosteller, Robbie Hunter. Shrewsbury Township: Charles Parmeter, Melvin Edkin, Melvin Worthington, Mary Duggan, Leroy Taylor.

Some names may be recognized by descendants of the students from the year 1902. Many names have been lost to history. But each name is just one person's presence in our history of Sullivan County. For this and more information you can contact us for an appoint to come see YOUR museum by calling 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com Also visit us on our website at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.