



Nov. 22, 2017

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

When researching, we often come across tid bits of information not directly involved with our initial pursuit. This happened while in the Rogers genealogy where a piece was eye catching because it is a 7 ½" x 5 ½" memorial booklet for Harmon Bliss, Jr. (husband of Helen Rogers) who was born 3/17/1891 and died 7/6/1922. In reading the booklet, it gives his family's close connection in faith and his duty to country. "With a pious and conscientious mother of the older type, he spent his childhood and youth until he was sixteen years of age. In parental love and home influence as well as in heredity Henry H. Bliss, the younger, had all that any one could ask. After fifteen years, he has come to take his place beside his mother in this quiet court of peace." He had schooled at Bucknell University from 1909 to 1913 and then entered the service. Having been in the Signal Corp. in WWI, he went on to be one of only four or five electrical engineers making long distance telephoning into actuality across the nation. They then established five "remote points between New York and San Francisco, that those in New York could hear the beating of the waves on the rocks of the Golden Gate."

It may seem so common place today to pick up a phone or use a device to contact someone else any where in the world but in times past, what we do now would seem more like science fiction.

Then another portion of this same family genealogy that caught attention is a copy of a booklet entitled "A Story of the Late War" by Mrs. Hannah Lide Coker, printed in 1887. You can tell by the lead-in that this branch of the family did not live in Sullivan County, PA. "When the Confederate States were forced into war to repel the invasion of the United States armies, my three sons at once offered their services as soldiers." As we see so often, family ties initiating from Europe, coming here, and then migrating on (usually because of work) have made their mark across this nation and throughout the world. But in this case it is simply the story of one mother's love and dedication to her family. Early on, her youngest son Charlie died at the battle of Malvern Hill, and was carried off the field by his brother Willie. Willie who was later wounded twice and taken prisoner at Gettysburg was imprisoned for the next 22 months. Then son James was wounded in the hip and much of the rest of Hannah's writings concerns the trials of her joining him to look after him and care for his needs during a lengthy recuperation. They finally make it back to their home south of Richmond but not until much difficulty in their journey.

These are but two stories within just one genealogy. And there's oh, so much more within YOUR museum. To come see, phone 570-946-5020 or email [museum@scpahistory.com](mailto:museum@scpahistory.com) for an appointment. Meanwhile, visit our web site at [www.scpahistory.com](http://www.scpahistory.com) and please like us on Facebook.