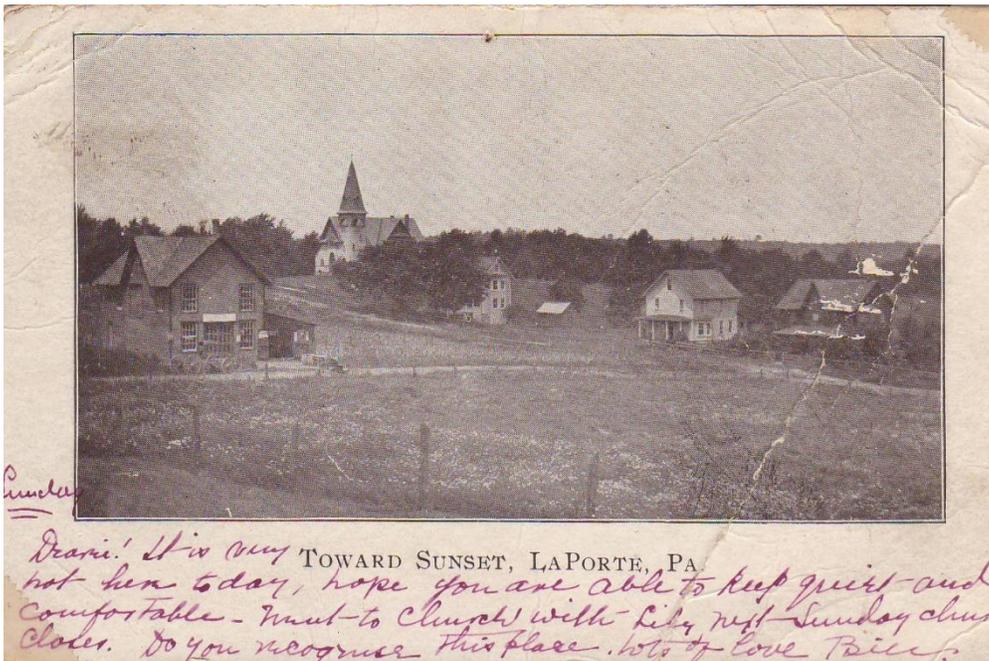


Nov. 3, 2021

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

The following is taken from a 1953 printing of "Betsy and the Fleur-de-lis Necklace: A Tale of Old Azilum " by Elsie Murray. This rendition describes the journey of Betsy Franklin starting along the "Tawandae and the Wesauking rivers". This focus is on traversing Bradford County adventure but ends with a "Finale" worth



repeating here.

"Elizabeth Franklin La Porte lived to be mistress of the Great House – the "Queen's Mansion_ - for nearly half a century; presiding there until her son, Congressman John La Porte, built a spacious frame house alongside it and tore down the old log structure for fear of fire. For Barthelemy La Porte remained when many of his companions returned to France, taken over presently La Grande Maison and direction of the colony.

"Betsy lived to see her husband chosen to positions of honor and responsibility in his adopted country, her son elected to a seat, first in the State Assembly, then in Congress. Proudly she applauded when a new county-seat in the heart of the wild lands owned by the Asylum Company was named Laporte in honor of son John, surveyor-general of Pennsylvania.

"Last and not least, daughter of a peaceful English countryside, Betsy lived to conquer her fear of the wilderness and the river, of the howl of the wolf, the snarl of the bob-cat and the swirling waters of spring and autumn – lived, in fact, to pass on to more than one generation not only a zest for untamed Nature, but the love of trees, of cultured garden plots and orchards, of running streams and of rustic living which her English father and her French husband had brought from the Old Country."

Stories such as these, based on the facts and adventures of those from the past, give us a glimpse into the perils and accomplishments of our forefathers and mothers when the land we now occupy was quite literally frontier. The enthusiasm they exhibited in relaying their own tales were inspiring to each generation and continue today to enlighten us to appreciate their efforts.

To contact YOUR museum you may phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com or just stop in if by happenchance you see the 'open' sign in the window. Although we're not officially open, we do make appointments – weather and personal schedules permitting. Also visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.

Photo: LaPorte, PA. This is a completely different view than any others on file and probably taken the latter part of 1800s. The postcard itself is pre 1907 when cards had a dividing line on the backs.