

Historical Society celebrates 50th year of Highland House Museum

Dr. Sigel Roush 1862-1954

Dr. Sigel Roush was born in Highland County on April 5, 1862 and died at the age of 92 at Highlands Community Hospital in Hillsboro on Dec. 15, 1954.

He graduated from Hillsboro High School and continued his education at the National Normal University (now Wilmington College), Ohio Medical College and post-graduate courses in London and Berlin before studying at Washington Dental College in Washington, D.C. In addition to 45 years as a dentist in Troy, N.Y., he was a writer, lecturer, world traveler, pilot, medical doctor and school principal.

Dr. Roush was married to Cordelia Virginia Mohun, and together they were enthusiastic aviators traveling to almost every country in the world as well as out of the way islands. He was a member of a polar expedition, traveled around the world twice and crossed the Atlantic 25 times.

As a lecturer, he was in every state in the nation and was the first man to broadcast a travelogue over the radio.

He wrote for 35 newspapers scattered around the world, was a staff correspondent for the Washington Times and was an award-winner in several story contests. He co-authored Sunlit Norway for the Norwegian government and authored "The Swamps" about scenes and experiences from his boyhood days in Highland County.

In 1931, Sigel and Cordelia returned to Highland County and built a cottage about a half mile from his birthplace near Russell Station. Dr. Roush was a member of the Elks, several Masonic bodies and was treasurer of the New York State Progressive Party.

Note: Adapted by Pamela Nickell from Sigel Roush by Leland Pennington The Highland County Magazine Vol. II, No. I, Winter 1985.

