



Robert Thomas Tolliver II

Robert T. Tolliver II, “Tommy”, was born near the town of Shawnee in Perry County, Ohio in 1869. His Father Robert Thomas Tolliver was a coal miner as was his Grandfather; Thomas Samuel Tolliver who brought his family to Perry Co., from Cornwall, England in 1860. Tommy is known as a native, in the mines, as he was born in the area and his family owns a small parcel of land and therefore not dependant on Coal Company housing. He went to work in the mines in 1882 at the age of thirteen. He started in the mines as a trapper, later working as a mule driver and finally as a full fledged miner. He worked in the mines during the Hocking Valley Strike of 1884-1885, the organizing days of the Knights of Labor Assembly #135 and the N.P.U. and was present at the merger of these two into the United Mine Workers of America in 1890 in Columbus, Ohio. His was the life of a typical coal miner during the high production days of coal in Ohio and he was and is a staunch “union man”. If you want to know about the Labor Movement, the history of mining in the Hocking Valley and the Central Competitive Field, or about the progress in the mechanics of mining all you need do is ask Tommy for he certainly witnessed and participated in much of the story.

Bob Johnson

Bob is retired from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters after 33 years of service, where he worked as a Millwright and Carpenter and also as a Union Organizer and Business Representative as well as an apprentice instructor for 13 years. He attended Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio and completed the U.B.C. and J. of A. international Apprenticeship Program. Since his retirement he has been actively involved in history programming and has worked as a first person interpreter with the Education and Outreach program at the Ohio Historical Society and is active with several other historical societies and associations. Of all the characters he presents “Tommy Tolliver” is one of his favorites.