



Photo is possibly of Dudley Martin, 1890 or 1891

Feb. 17, 2016

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

When cleaning a display case earlier this winter, an old framed photo of a child with only a name on it for information, arouse our curiosity. It was given to the museum with a multitude of various items by Ethel Martin Keller, daughter of Bayard T. Martin (b. 8/12/1872 – d. 2/11/1961). B. T. Martin was the editor/publisher of the Sullivan Review from 1916 to 1959. Upon further investigation, the card catalogue stated that Dudley Martin (the child) was the son of J. Newton Martin & Emily J. Sylvara Martin, and that he was a brother to Bayard T. dying of diphtheria at “this age”. So, as is our habit, we went to the obituary index. No person named Dudley Martin was listed but there was a child listed as: in the Nov. 20, 1890 issue of the Sully “an infant child of James Martin, of this place, died on Sunday”. We’re not positive that these two are the same child but it would seem possible since the family had kept this photo portrait up to Ethel’s time. And another note of interest is that

imprinted on the back of the photo is “Mirker Rosencrants, Dushore, PA.”.

The compiling for this family also has the original marriage certificate for Charles Martin and Abigale L. Converse, both of Davidson Twp. in 1861. Another find was the original type copy for an article to celebrate B.T. Martin’s birthday about his life. Then we came across a narrow type copy written by Mr. Martin about his grandfather’s memories, which includes his rendition of what is referred to as “Devil’s Grave” and stage coach travel.

We’ll tell you more about Devil’s Grave next week but for now stage coach travel was going from being a luxury to becoming more like public transportation in today’s world. Grandfather Martin had carried mail between Long Pond and Towanda. Coaches were leather and springs drawn by four horses. Mr. Martin was 18 when he started this job, beginning his day at 3 a.m., breakfasting at the Schreivogle place, on to Painter Den and Lopez creeks, passing Devil’s Grave about 4 a.m. Then crossing the Big Loyalsock and continuing to Shinersville (now Mildred). On to Fairchild tavern, Sugar Hill, along Payne’s Run, then Mosier Hollow (now Dushore) and stopped for the night and a change of horses. From there to New Albany and onto to Towanda, arriving about 4 p.m. Stage coach drivers were expected to do “little errands” along the way such as get merchandise or deliver messages and recompensed by the person asking the favors. The return trip started about 6 a.m. from Towanda. This round trip was the inspiration of many a story across this country of, usually, men who not only carried the mail but also the news of the day and became a contact for those people and settlements along their route.

From our compiling on the subject of stage coaches a description of the Ricketts region states that the Berwick/Towanda/Elmira Turnpike, which ran somewhat parallel with Route 487 today, began stage coaches in 1827. A toll gate for the Turnpike was atop Red Rock Mountain, otherwise known as the Watson Place. Stages ran twice daily from Schrifogel’s Hotel to Long Pond (Ganoga Lake). Because of poor road conditions, this 8 mile stretch was better known as “The Road to Hell”. The stage ceased in 1851, then the present day Route 487 was built in 1907.