

July 3, 2019

The Ricketts mansion is in the foreground,
the 3 story hotel is in the background,
taken 1902

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

Continuing with last week's article on a hiker's trip to Sullivan County. This piece is being transcribed from the 1892 newspaper the Wilkes-Barre Telephone.

"Long Pond Now by many called Lake Ganoga. This popular summer resort is owned by the Ricketts family. Mr. F.L. Ricketts resides here. After partaking of a good dinner we took a row on the lake and caught a few fish. Among the Wiles-Barre people registered there were Messrs. A.H. McClintock and family, C.P. Hunt and family, Isaac Thomas and family and Col. G.M. Reynolds.

"The lake is nearly a mile long and at the widest nearly a half a mile wide. It is nearly forty feet deep and the water is fresh and clean. It has one small inlet creek and a number of springs to supply it. It is the head or source of Kitchen's Creek which empties into Huntington Creek at Patterson Grove. The primate forest surrounds it except for a short distance near where the hotel is. The hotel and turnpike are on the west side, say twenty-five rods from the water. The buildings are a large stone house, built in 1852, and a wooden building built later, 40 by 100 feet, three stories high.

"At three o'clock in the afternoon we went on through eight miles more of forest. The road was very rough and lonely; neither house nor field is seen. Up hill and down, over creeks and corduroy roads, and under great hemlock and beech trees; at length we hear a wagon coming and we are taken in to ride by a young butcher from Dushore, who had been taking supplies to a camp of bark peelers. He told us it was about five miles still to Seemans.

"Seemans The road was very rough and hilly and our seat had no springs, but we found it somewhat better than walking.

"Now, we come to some fields and go down a long hill and stop at Mrs. Seeman's, just this side of the Big Loyalsock Creek.

"We are twenty-eight miles from Shickshinny, two miles from Lopez and say nine miles from Dushore.

"Here, at the foot of a hill, in a green vale near the Big Loyalsock, we find a railroad, the same that passes through Dallas and by the Lake. I presume within a few months passengers can come from here by this road via Harvey's Lake and Bowman's Creek.



“We stay all night at Mrs. Seeman’s Hotel, two miles this side of Lopez. Mrs. Seeman is a friendly, industrious German woman, who has a talent for doing business and saving money. She said: “My first husband was Mr. Tryfogle, who fell from a load of hay and was killed. Later, I married John Seeman, who died suddenly one evening about two years ago. This is the oldest tavern stand in Sullivan County. That little house up there by the barn is the first building erected in Sullivan County. It was built by George Ellis.” This place was called, Ellis, then Tryfogles and now is known as Seemans. As we sat in the bar-room and talked with the bark-peelers, Percy admired the deer-heads, which decked the walls. Mrs. Seeman said; “Oh, no, I will not sell them, they were shot by my first husband.”

“Mr. Thomas Cowley said, “I wish you would go up along the old turnpike and see ‘the Devil’s Grave.’ It looks as fresh as a new-made grave and no grass grows on it. It is a few steps from the turnpike. They say about eight years ago when the turnpike was being made, one of the men calling himself the Devil, was killed by a falling tree, and his comrades buried him and put up two rough stones. His grave is visited by many people.”

“On the banks of the Big Loyalsock, near Seemans, is a little walled Cemetery, say 32 feet square, in which lie eight graves bearing the name of Ellis. The oldest one bears the date “1819”. It contains a few other graves, one of a Mr. Hopkins, who died in 1888. It is neat, quiet, well-kept burying ground.”

One more stop on this hiker’s journey next week as he goes to Lopez. Until then you can visit the museum in Laporte on Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. or contact us by phone 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com Or visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.