

June 12, 2019

Death Certificate for unknown person 1910

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

BODY FOUND IN OLD HOUSE (!) Now that's a title grabber. The story takes place in June of 1910.

"A real mystery, one that may never be solved, now confronts the local authorities. It will be remembered that on Saturday afternoon this section was visited by a hail storm. While on their way home from Dushore, John O'Neil and Ashley Davis entered the old house

on the Heacock property, about a mile north of town, for shelter from the storm. David made the statement that he was going to look the house over as he had never been in it before.

"They noticed a peculiar odor but thought it was a dead woodchuck. Davis went up stairs and there on the bar floor found the badly decomposed body of a man. He called to O'Neil who went up stairs and after a look at the remains they summoned Dr. Herrmann. An investigation disclosed the fact that the man had been dead a long time, but just how long no one is able to say. Dr. Hermann states that death occurred at least two or three months ago.

"A further investigation was made Sunday and in the pockets of the man's clothes was found a small comb, a pocket mirror, a cash fare railroad ticket, and a match box. Beside the body lay a cane and an empty whiskey flask. There was not a scrap of paper or any thing by which the real identity of the dead man might be established. The body was too far decayed and eaten by worms to aid in establishing identity.

"For several weeks people passing by the house and especially the railroad section hands have noticed a peculiar order and when the body was found there on Saturday the question of where the stench came from was settled.

"The case was partly solved when some lumbermen and woodsmen from Ricketts recognized the comb and mirror as those of Edward Kennedy of that place. A man by that name has been missing from Ricketts since the latter part of March and the last seen of Kennedy was in Dushore about the first of April. It has at least been called the body of Kennedy and buried as such.

"The body was rolled in a blanket and buried in the Cadwalader cemetery Sunday afternoon."

Then on the death certificate, most information is marked "not known". In the cause of death section: "Found dead Cherry township Heacock farm, appearance of having been dead

Form V. S. No. 8-508-11-21-08

PLACE OF DEATH
County of Allegheny
Township of Cherry Registration District No. 831
or
Borough of Cherry Primary Registration District No. 3286
City of _____ (No. _____) St. _____ Ward _____

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
File No. 56620
Registered No. 34

(If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information.") FULL NAME Name Unknown

(If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME, street and number.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <u>Male</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>Not known</u> 19 <u>10</u>	(Month) (Day) (Year)
DATE OF BIRTH _____	(Month) (Day) (Year)	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 190_ to _____ 190_	
AGE <u>Baby 35 months or 40 days</u>		that I last saw him alive on _____ 190_	
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Not known</u>		and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____	
BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) <u>Not known</u>		M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Found dead Cherry township Heacock farm, appearance of having been dead four months, all surrounding conditions of body impede to post-mortem</u>	
OCCUPATION <u>Woodman</u>		Contributory _____ (Duration) _____ Days	
NAME OF FATHER <u>Not known</u>		(Signed) <u>A. J. Rantner</u> M. D.	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) <u>Not known</u>		<u>June 18 1910</u> (Address) <u>Dushore</u>	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Not known</u>		SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Tumblers, or Recent Residents. Farmer or _____ row long at _____ Days Usa Residence _____ Place of Death _____	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) <u>Not known</u>		Where was disease contracted? _____	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF (Informant) <u>Ward</u>		PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL <u>Cadwalader Cemetery</u> <u>June 18 1910</u>	
(Address) _____		UNDERTAKER ADDRESS <u>J. H. Yorkin</u> <u>Dushore Pa</u>	
Filed <u>July 5 1910</u>		Registrar _____	

N. B.—Every item of information should be exactly supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIAN should state from what hours should be given in hours, that may be properly classified. This "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given.

four months, all surroundings indicated death from natural causes, condition of body impossible to post(mortum).” It isn’t unusual to find some segments of a death certificate incomplete or unknown but to have one with no information for to be supplied concerning the individual . . . well, this is a first for this individual in searching records of Sullivan County.

For this and more, you can visit the museum on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. or call the museum at 570-946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com Also, see our web site at www.scpahistory.com and like us on Facebook.