

July 27, 2016

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

As you pass by farmer's fields and see the growth of crops, imagine if you will the early days of clearing the land for such fields. From the beginning of settlement of our county and surrounding areas, people struggled to create for themselves a life that would sustain them both in their present and for their children's future. This struggle for farmers continues through generations, with or without the help of Mother Nature and her own fickle interest. Such was the case in a 1922 article featured here from the Williamsport Gazette & Bulletin of Sept. 6th. We bring you this not only for its subject but also for the people mentioned in the article.

"Neighbors Help Milton E. Taylor in Changing the Course of Mozey Run – The course of Mozey run, below Beech Glen is being changed by Milton E. Taylor, of Clover Leaf Dairy farm near Muncy Valley. The chief causes for changing the course of the run is to prevent "wash outs" in the state road and to convert the old bed of the stream into a fertile field.

"To speed up the good work a number of men assisted Mr. Taylor at a frolle on Wednesday. They were Walter Laurensen, Ernest Fulmer, Ellas McClintock and team, Harry Shipman and team, Henry Rider, George Phillips, Harry Secules, Herbert Chestnut and team, Martin Sones, William Sones, Charles Moran and Fordson tractor, Fred Starr, Kenneth Myers and team, Ebner Myers and team, Elmer Laurensen, Charlie Renn and team, George Montague, Glen Montague, Frank McClintock, Paul Edkin, Charles Crawley and team, Benjamin Rider and team, Fink Spearman, Albert Myers and team, Howard Edkin and team, Emery Worthington, Charlie Taylor and team, George Corson, Milton Taylor, George Taylor, Wilbur McClintock, Earl McClintock, Jason Neuffer, Jasper Bay and team, Bennie Laurensen, Leon Myers, Sam Sherwood.

"The following ladies assisted Mrs. Taylor with the dinner: Mrs. George Corson, Miss Nora Corson, Miss Marguerite Moran, Miss Edna Myers, Miss Josephine Taylor, Mrs. Maria Taylor, Mrs. Martha Taylor, Mrs. Milton Taylor."

This may sound like a lot of people and horses for the job but if you go see the stream bank restoration on Elk Creek and the equipment, full tree logs and rip rap then you could be impressed with the time comparison and each of them trying to do something similar. The 2016 Elk Creek project was done with eight men, plus three more from the Sullivan County Conservation District and a back hoe with a finger bucket to move the huge stones. The muscle effort with hand tools and horses (except for the one Fordson tractor) from 1922, in comparison to this modern project, isn't really so different in that it is still folks working together to do a heavy job to improve or help a stream to the best of their ability.