

## **EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH**

### **MY NIGHT IN A STAGE COACH**

The year was 1856-the month December-the place Tamaqua. I was a young man then, and a strong one. I did a good deal of traveling through the State of Pennsylvania, going from county town to county town from the beginning of the year to the close. It was pleasant business enough, for there was less railroading to be done then than now, and more staging, and not infrequently long rides on canal boats in the summer time. I was not often hurried on my trips, and took my own time. My exact business at the county seats consisted of hunting up titles to obscure, wild lands, paying taxes upon them, and getting them in good condition for immediate sale.

In consequence of the nature of this business, I knew a good deal about the topography of Pennsylvania, and a good deal that, at the time, was worth knowing about its roads and its inns. All of the latter was bad, but some were better than others. One of the worst of them was at Tamaqua, and possibly it is there yet, though when I last slept under its roof, it was all together such a lament-able condition of decay, and its roof was such a very leaky roof indeed, that I doubt not it long ago disappeared out of the sight of men, and possible out of their memories also-Tamaqua having achieved a railroad since, and of course, grown as only railroad towns do grow.

I arrived there in that December of 1856, on Monday afternoon, which was quite as cold and disagreeable a Monday afternoon as I remember ever to have known, though, when compared with the Tuesday that followed, it might be considered rather warm than otherwise. I was half frozen when I got there, and I was not quite thawed out when I left, for I had yielded to a burning curiosity to visit a coal mine, and I fancy that Tamaqua is nothing but a coal mine, with a thousand mouths that every morning swallow so many thousand miners and disgorge them every night. It was then.

**Register of Deeds  
Judy Lambert  
(Continued)**