



A narrow gauge Climax locomotive of the C.W. Sones Lumber Co., just after coming across the Loyalsock Creek through the covered railroad bridge.

EARLY ROADS.

The first road in Hillsgrove was made by Samuel Wallis of Muncy. Mr. Wallis purchased a large number of tracts of land along the Loyalsock and to get supplies to his surveying parties cut a road from Muncy to the summit of the Allegheny, thence down the mountain to Hillsgrove and up the creek to Forksville, this was called the Courson road. This road was probably cut out in 1793.

The Genessee road was opened about 1800. This road was an emigrant route built from Muncy to Monroeton. It was called the Genessee road because it was the main emigrant line from central Pennsylvania to the fertile valley along the Genessee river in New York. The road started at Muncy, then called Pennsburg, passing the house of William Ellis on Wolf Run, and Abraham Webster near Hunterville; thence over the Allegheny near Highland Lake and down Ogdonia creek to the Loyalsock and up that stream to Elk creek, thence up that stream to Lincoln Falls and through Elkland and Monroe townships to Monroeton.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The first white man who settled within what is now Sullivan county, as far as is known, was Daniel Ogden. He located at the mouth of Ogdonia creek, below the village of Hillsgrove, probably about 1786. Ogdonia creek derives its name from him. It is said that Ogden like

many other American pioneers did not care for society, disliked near neighbors, and when the Englishmen began to move in around him, left the place. He was a hunter and it is said that he and his family got into canoes when they left and went down the Loyalsock creek to Montoursville and up the West Branch to other hunting grounds, about 1794.

James Ecroid, an Englishman, located at Hillsgrove before Ogden left. He made some improvements on the lands later owned by Jonathan Lewis. The following incident is related in a publication of Mr. Gerner, of Muncy. "On Saturday, the 30th of January, 1796, James Ecroid set out to hunt, and lost himself in the woods. The whole neighborhood drove the woods every day, yet he was not found until Friday. He had wandered eight miles from the nearest house yet had been twice within a quarter mile of Hillsgrove. In crossing a run by means of a pine log he had slipped in the water and wet his lower extremities, and subsequent exposure to frost, on one of the sharpest nights in winter, resulted in the loss of most of his toes. The dog-bark disclosed his whereabouts, and he was found by an expiring fire in an exhausted condition." About 1801 Mr. Ecroid moved to Elkland township.

The most noted, though not of the most successful effort made to settle on the wild lands of Sullivan county was made by the French. During the French revolution when Louis XVI was driven from his throne and many of the French Royalists were compelled to flee from France, a colony of the French refugees located in the Wyoming Valley. A company was formed, which took steps to