

Jan. 16, 2019



TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

This all begins with the photo featured for the Gavitt family. Ruth Hilde had brought in the postcard picture which only had written on its back the three names and year dates. Further search took looking on Old Route 220 below Laporte to see if the home could be identified today – result being, we're pretty sure the home stood on the right side going south but that it no longer stands. Then checking both obituaries

and descendants of the Gavitt family to decipher whose who on the back of the photo. It turns out that Lee R. Gavitt was born in Susquehanna County on 12/5/1865 and died at home in Sonestown on 8/9/1946. Alice Amanda Horn Gavitt, Lee's wife, was born in Laporte township 9/10/1863 and also died in the home in Sonestown on 3/14/1949. Both were buried at Mt. Ash Cemetery and both obituaries reference a son, Walter Gavitt. Then when we come to "Eva Gavitt" it became like hitting a brick wall: no information. In talking with Wayne Gavitt and looking through the family genealogy compiled about his family background – again no information. But, Wayne did mention that Lee and Amanda had 11 children.

Wayne Gavitt had given to the museum genealogy archives a copy of the Gavitt family material from Richard Edward Gavitt entitled *The Gavitts of Westerly, Rhode Island* first printed in 1992. Richard had based his initial research on a previously written history from Joseph Gavit of Albany, N.Y. done for volumes from 1928 – 1934 for the *New England Historical & Genealogical Registers* which he traced back to 1440 A.D. In that, Richard found his great grandfather Reuben who lived and was buried around the village of Peacedale, near Westerly, R.I. As for coming to America, Richard discovered "the first immigrant was Philip, who settled in Marblehead, Massachusetts in 1675 and later moved to neighboring Salem. His son, Ezekiel, in 1700, started a branch of the family in Westerly, Rhode Island. Joseph had traced many of the other branches of the family that came from Salem but I was interested primarily in the Westerly branch from which my father, William, came."

Now to go back to Wayne's family line, on page 107 of the Gavitt family compiling, he directed us to item 'v' at the bottom of the page for "Lee R. Sr. (liv. Laporte Twp. & Sonestown, PA). Born, 5 Dec. 1865. Died, Aug 1946, in PA. He married (11 children, none known) [married] Alice Amanda Horn, 18 Jun 1885." [brother, on vi.] Morgan Peter [no further information on him, but this was Wayne Gavitt's family line.]

So, it would seem funny that no children are listed in this publication and that on the obits, only a son Walter is listed. Then when Walter died, it only lists his children but no siblings of his surviving nor predeceased. At this point, the question begs to be asked: does anyone know the connection of Eva Gavitt? Please contact the museum if you've any information.

To come see the museum, you can make an appointment by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com. Also, visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com and please like us on Facebook. We're generally in on Tuesdays and Thursdays but phone ahead to make sure because of weather or personal schedules.