

Nov. 12, 2014

## **TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting**



There was recently a collection of cabinet cards offered on e-Bay that the museum was then able to obtain. This group totaled nine photos of persons in and around Cherry Twp. What we do after such an acquisition is to search our records for an obituary on each individual and then place all that we've gotten in their family genealogies. While they were all of interest pertaining to local family names, one in particular hung on our hearts. It was the following obit of Leonard Lilley, that appeared in the Sullivan Review on June 18, 1896.

"The entire community was deeply grieved Thursday afternoon to learn of the death of Leonard Lilley, aged 8 years and 4 months, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Lilley of Carpenter Street. Poor little Leonard had been a helpless invalid from babyhood, but although his little pain-wracked body had not kept pace with time, his brain was active

beyond his years, and in the intervals when, comparatively free from pain, his carriage was pushed through our streets, all learned to know and love the patient little body, whose cheerful smile and keen repartee made his presence a pleasure. Denied by his afflictions the sports of ordinary childhood, he made himself a fine musician, and was far in advance of children of his age in the common school studies, being a diligent reader, and good penman and ready mathematician. His greatest source of comfort was his regular attendance at church and Sunday school and when subscriptions were opened a month or so ago to buy a bell for the Lutheran church he claimed the privilege of subscribing with the others, and having himself pushed in his carriage from house to house while he sold his photographs, thus realizing \$25 for the purpose. But he was destined never to hear its mellow notes summon him to the service he loved so well, but was summoned instead to the home where, as he said, there would be no pain. While the bell was being hoisted to its place last Thursday afternoon, the slender chord that bound his spirit to its earthly tenement yielded and he fell asleep to wake on this earth no more. The bell tolled the first time for his funeral on Sunday, when the church was packed to its utmost capacity, and amid tributes of flowers and tears the last sad rites were done, and the little sufferer consigned to his first painless bed. Never was one so young mourned so universally, and the entire community joins in its expression of sympathy for the parents and sisters."

Checking obituaries further, little Leonard's mother, Matilda Myer Lilley passed away at the age of 73 on June 13, 1933. Father, Chauncey T. Lilley died May 21, 1935. She was originally from Cherry Twp. and he originated from Potter County and then came to Bernice in 1875 to work in the company store. He had various business interests with J.S. Harrington, J.S. Hoffa, C.A. Jayne, Charles R. Heverly and Ira Cott before moving to Sayre to operate a meat market for a number of years and then retiring to Cleveland, Ohio.

What's interesting about this particular family name is that we've no genealogy compiling for this family within our archives. And, this isn't the first time we've discovered this. Very often a known family name has no background for family researchers to discover. Other names in this collection of cabinet card photos without genealogies are Meehan, Murphy and O'Neil (one L). If you or any family member you know of has information on these (or other names we've personally spoken to visitors about) could you please gather your background and connection information for the museum's archives, please?