Old Frackville Tales

Lorraine Stanton

Mary and Jean Connelly at the tennis court after spending a day at Camp Churchill.

Many residents in town that summer were busy buying their own supplies of sidewalk and platform cement for their front porches and sidewalks. Many of the old timers in town still remember Emma Gotchall Connolly, the wife of Charles J. Connolly, who was in charge of the cement sales for the local company. 

Many thanks to her brother, Joseph Connolly, for his help in providing information on this subject.

Emma Gotchall Connolly was born January 3, 1884, the youngest of the three children of Thomas and Mary Connelly. She had two older brothers, Edward Joseph who died in infancy, and Mary and Jean, who were her sisters.

Emma and her family lived in the old Connolly home which had been built by their great-grandfather, Michael Connelly, in 1870. This house was later moved to its present location on Main Street. Emma was raised in the Connelly home and attended school in Frackville.

Emma and her family were active members of the local community. Emma was a member of the Frackville Women's Club and was involved in numerous local activities. She was also a member of the Frackville Volunteer Fire Company and was active in the local Republican Party.

After her marriage to Charles J. Connolly, Emma became active in the local Democratic Party and was a strong supporter of the party's candidates. Emma was also a member of the Frackville Women's Auxiliary and was active in the local women's clubs.

Emma and Charles J. Connolly had three children: Edward, Mary and Jean. Edward passed away in infancy, but Mary and Jean became active in music and drama. Mary graduated from De Sales University and was a member of the local Daughters of the American Revolution. Jean graduated from De Sales University and was a member of the local Women's Club.

Emma and Charles J. Connolly lived in the old Connelly home until their death. Their remains are interred in the local cemetery.

Many thanks to the Connolly family for their help in providing information on this subject.


Mary and Jean Connelly at the tennis court after spending a day at Camp Churchill.

Edward Joseph was born in 1881 and died in infancy.

Mary Connelly was born in 1883 and married Seth Lowe in 1899. She and Seth moved to Branchdale where Mr. Lowe ran a coal mine. Mary was a member of the local Women's Club and was active in the local Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a member of the local Woman's Auxiliary.

Jean Connelly was born in 1885 and married Seth Lowe in 1913. She and Seth moved to Branchdale where Mr. Lowe ran a coal mine. Jean was a member of the local Women's Club and was active in the local Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a member of the local Woman's Auxiliary.

Mary and Jean Connelly were active members of the local community and were involved in numerous local activities. They were also active in the local Republican Party and were strong supporters of the party's candidates.

Mary and Jean Connelly are buried in the local cemetery.

Many thanks to the Connelly family for their help in providing information on this subject.