

Thank You For Your Support

by Lynne Belluscio

I need your help to win a bet. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society, I made a bet with the Board that I could get more new members with this *Pennysaver* article than the twelve of them. So I'm counting on all of you who read the *Pennysaver* -- and there are a lot of you. Now you're saying to yourself, "Why should I become a member of the Historical Society?" Maybe you're not a "joiner." My response is, don't consider it a membership. Think of it as supporting the Historical Society so we can continue providing school programs and keeping LeRoy House and the Jell-O Gallery open.

Maybe your family didn't come here in a covered wagon. And maybe your grandfather didn't work for Jell-O. And maybe you've only lived in LeRoy a short time. But consider this town without an organization that preserves the rich heritage of this community.

As some of you know, at one time there was talk of leveling the LeRoy House and building a bank on the site. Not so long ago, some people wanted us to tear down the Academic Building where the Jell-O Gallery is. Thank goodness that never happened. I think about all the people who contact us with questions about their families that used to live in LeRoy. Just this morning I had a call from a man who found an O.F. Woodward bottle in the Adirondacks. "What can you tell me about the bottle?"

Who was O.F. Woodward? Why would a bottle from LeRoy end up in the Adirondacks?" I had the answers and he was happy to learn about our local history. A couple of weeks ago a man arrived to do research on the salt industry in LeRoy. He was here most of the day and yesterday I received a copy of his research on the salt and oil industry in New York. I will share his research with all of you in a *Pennysaver* article. Last week we had an e-mail from a woman who wanted copies of photographs of her father. I scanned them and e-mailed them to her.

So now you ask, what does the picture have to do with supporting the Historical Society? To be honest, there is no connection. I just like the picture and I used in 1995 in the membership article in the *Pennysaver*. I have no idea who the baby is. The photo is in an album assembled by a LeRoy photographer Charles Brooks from the late 1890s. We are in the process of scanning all the photographic images in the five file cabinets and someday they will be accessible on the internet.

So now the history part of the article: Which of the statements below are true?

1. Jacob LeRoy thought he found gold in the hills nearby.
2. The Town of LeRoy is named for Herman LeRoy who never visited the town.
3. Oatka Creek was originally called Allen's Creek after



Ebanezer "Indian" Allen, a Tory sympathizer and bigamist.

4. During WWII Lapp Insulator manufactured products used in the Manhattan Project which developed the atomic bomb.

5 Orator Woodward who owned Jell-O, never graduated from high school.

6. A trail on the Underground Railroad came up the Bernd Road and crossed Route 5 and up the Keeney Road on the way to Elba.

7. At one time, before the LeRoy football team was known as the Knights, it was suggested

that they be called the "Mighty Midgets" or the "Swans."

8. Chocolate, coffee and cola Jell-O were the three brown flavors of gelatin.

9. In the 1860s Selinger's Brewery on Myrtle Street produced both ale and lager beers.

10. _____ (your name) is a member of the LeRoy Historical Society,

All the statements above are true ... if you fill in your name in line 10.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to the "LeRoy Historical Society"

MAIL TO:
LeRoy Historical Society
23 East Main Street, PO Box 176
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