

Footnotes

by Lynne Belluscio

Every time I write an article for the *Pennysaver* or the *Historical Society Newsletter*, I know that somewhere on my copy, I should add footnotes. So in the future I can find the source of the information. But, I haven't done that and there are times I have to re-research my quotations or sources and it can be a pain.

Anyone who remembers their high school English class when the teacher introduced footnotes, can appreciate the arduous task of writing and punctuating footnotes. In Freshman English in college, I handed in a paper with footnotes and I think there was more red ink in the footnotes than in the paper that I wrote. It really discouraged me from writing. Of course it also discouraged anyone from writing anything that couldn't be properly footnoted, so maybe there was a lesson to be learned. Anyway, I hate including footnotes. But if I am using a paper as a resource, there are times that the footnotes are more important than the paper. It's a real conundrum.

So, when Newbold LeRoy, a direct descendent of Jacob LeRoy, e-mailed me to say that he was writing an article for *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, (1) I knew we were in trouble - - or at least he was. His topic was the three family Bibles that belong to him, the Pell, LeRoy, and Otis Bibles.

You might remember that last



year, during the Town of LeRoy's Bicentennial Celebration on June 8, at Trigon Park, Town Supervisor, Steve Barbeau, took the oath of office on the LeRoy Bible. Newbold shipped it to the Historical Society for the historic event. Each of the Bibles has important and significant handwritten family information. But

as Newb began writing and submitting his information to the editor, she continued to ask for the citations for his information.

It was not enough to state that Charlotte LeRoy's mother died in Paris on July 27, 1820, but Newb had to include that J. Rutgers LeRoy, had written in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, in 1919

on page 253, "Inscriptions on the Tombstones of Americans buried in Pere La Chaise Cemetery, Paris France." That was footnote #34. There are 59 footnotes in the article, and to Newb's credit, they take up about 50% of the entire paper.

Included in the footnotes are citations for death notices, marriage certificates, genealogical records, newspaper articles and manuscripts. It is a valuable resource for all of the family records. I just received a hard copy of the record and e-mailed Newb to tell him that I was certainly impressed with his footnotes! He wrote back to say that although he was put to the test to assemble the footnotes, that in the process of making sure everything was correct, he discovered that Jacob LeRoy's second wife, Charlotte Otis Downs was born in Calais, Maine and that her brother, John Tileston Downs had been shot by a counterfeiter and that he was buried in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. I'm trying to track down the story of John Downs through trial records and when I find them I'll write an article - probably not with footnotes, but you understand.

1. Newbold LeRoy III, "LeRoy, Otis, and Pell Family Bibles" *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. 144 (2013), pgs. 101-110.

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