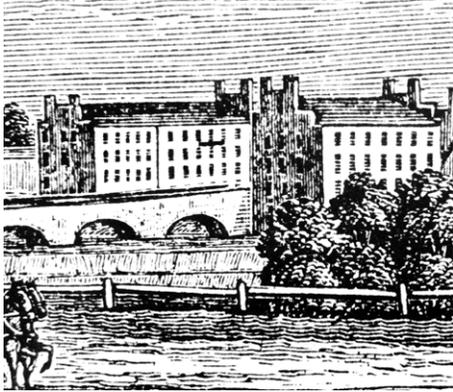


# 1 to 23 Main

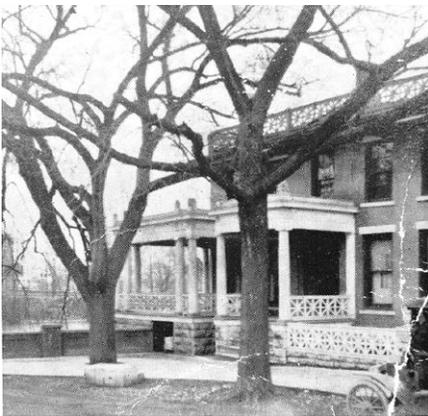
by Lynne Belluscio

Well, it was a little too hot on Sunday, and although there was a small group assembled on the steps of the Woodward Library, we all agreed that it might be prudent to postpone our walk up Main Street. If you're interested in joining us, call 768-7433 and leave your name and number and we will add you to the call list and let you know when we're going on our stroll. This article adds some information and images of #1 through #23 on Main Street, from the Creekside to Shelby's.



Earliest image of LeRoy.

#1 Main Street, next to the bridge is the former Creekside Inn. It's one of the earliest buildings on Main and was probably built in the 1820s. Built of black Marcellus shale or "oil shale", it was covered with stucco. In the 1830s it was Ballard's hat factory. On the 1894 birds-eye-view map, it served as F.C. Lathrop's Bank



Percy Hooker's front porch.

office. By the early 1900s, it was the private home of Percy Hooker, the first New York State Commissioner of Highways. At that time it had two beautiful porches.

By 1940, Harold Cleveland lived in the house with his huge collection of stuffed animals. He sold the house to Dr. Knoll. Even-

tually it became a well-known restaurant and bar, operating under several owners and names. (Recent posts on LeRoy Then and Now Facebook page has included discussion about who ran which bar when.) Today, it stands picturesquely on the bank of the creek, waiting for its new lot in life.

#3 Main Street is the law office of Robert Humphrey. I don't know much about the building. Jim Arrington told me that Dr. Murdock, the optometrist had his office here. At one time, there was a neat little gift shop in the basement, known as the Silver Nutmeg and upstairs was the law office of Don Cooney. In 1894, it was the office of M.N King, Deputy Sheriff and the office of S.F. Comstock, Insurance and Town Clerk.

#5 is "Treat Your Windows" shop, adjacent to the Eagle Hotel. Pavilion Natural Gas had offices here.

#7 has had a long history. Originally it was a tunnel to the back of the hotel that allowed stage coaches to pass through to the livery stable behind. It was closed up, perhaps as early as the 1830s. In 1897, there was an insurance office and a music shop in the "drive through." Sam Frank's Dinette was here and I remember a great Mexican restaurant a while back.

#9 the Eagle Hotel, which may be the longest operating business in LeRoy, had a wonderful long porch across the front, but that was removed when the hill from the bridge was filled in.

There were many people who boarded at the Eagle and others who had offices in the Eagle. In 1834, the first Village meeting was held at the Eagle, as noted on the brass plaque.

#15 is the former Odd Fellows building. In 1897



Market fire.

there was a wallpaper and paint shop on the main floor. *The LeRoy Gazette* and News office suffered extensive damage as the result of a fire in the building to the west. The A & P store was in the building in the 40s. Today, it is the home to our newest restaurant, No Finer Diner.

#19 a major fire burned out the building on this site. The fire spread east through the Odd Fellows building and stopped at the fire wall of the Eagle.

In the 1940s it was the Cut Rate Drug Store. Recently it was the Radio Shack and Electronic Store. LeRoy's newest retail store, The Divine Tree recently opened.

#21 - In 1897 this was a market with lard rendering and cobbler shop located behind. In the fire

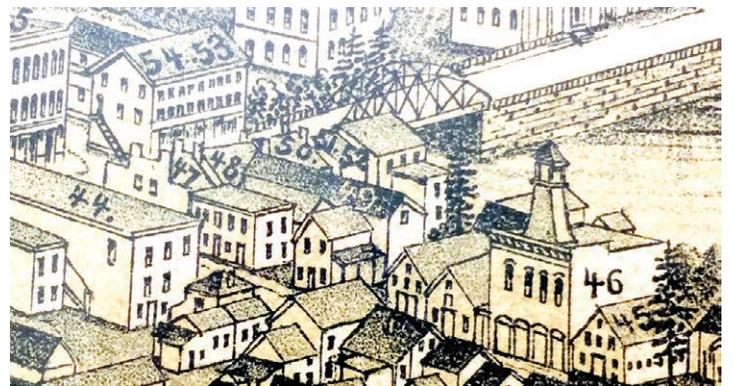
photograph, C.A. Root's Meat Market sign can be seen. It was totally replaced and is now the office of Dr. Gugino.

#23 - On the 1897 map this building was the LeRoy Bank, with a set of outside stairs on Bank Street. In 1927, it was the telephone exchange. Jim Arrington said in his time, Frank Willard had a grocery store on the corner. Jim Shelby operated a jewelry store until recently.

Main Street, South of Le Roy, N. Y.



Early postcard image.



1894 Birds-Eye view map.

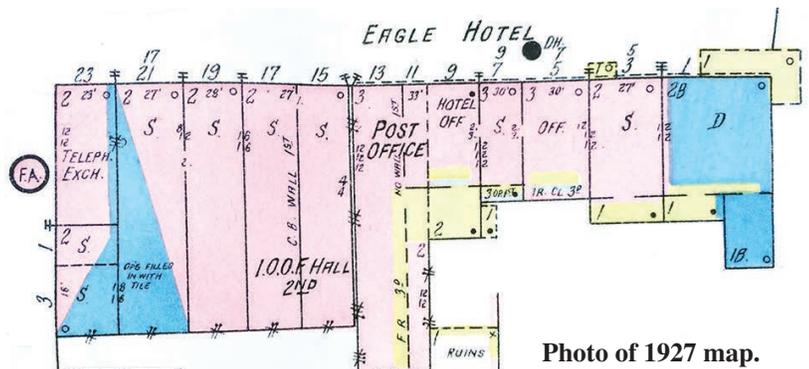


Photo of 1927 map.