

# The Ghosts Of LeRoy House Will Appear Again

by Lynne Belluscio

The ghosts are returning to LeRoy House on October 18 and 19. After their appearance last year, we thought we'd invite them back. But not all of them were available this year so we had to find a few others who were willing to tell their stories. There are five rooms that will be "haunted". Not scary, but historical. All the events are based on true stories or people that happened in LeRoy House. If you enjoyed the stories last year, you had better call and get tickets as soon as you can. And if you missed out last year, now is the time to find out what everyone was talking about.

You will meet Jacob LeRoy's gardener, Mr. Florence McCarthy (played by Sam Leadley), who arrived in LeRoy in 1830, to manage the extensive gardens. He has grown some wonderful giant cauliflowers. In fact, the giant cauliflowers caught the eye of some men from Batavia, and they reported it to the newspaper. Everyone knows about these giant cauliflowers but the cook isn't happy. Come and listen to the heated discussion and find out what is going to happen to the giant cauliflowers!

Upstairs in the back parlor two Ingham University students, Mary Cox (played again by Liz Carney) and Anner Peck (played by Elizabeth Bolton) are gossiping over tea. They are anxious about the courses they are taking. And they certainly have noticed all the handsome young soldiers who are living down on Church Street. On Sundays, the Ingham girls sit in the balcony of the Presbyterian Church facing all the young

men. It's hard to concentrate on the sermon. And some nights the soldiers walk up to Ingham Hall to serenade the young women. Mary and Anner have a lot of stories to share.

Last year you met Mrs. Spry (played by Brenda Beal). Her husband is the Superintendent of the LeRoy Central School and the Spry family lives in LeRoy House. Last year, she had just returned from the reception for Amelia Earhart. This year (1934), she has been on the welcoming committee for the visit of the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. She is campaigning for a friend who is running for Congress. Mr. Spry will fill you in on every little detail of the day's events. She's even brought some of the left over cookies to share.

The Land Office is being rearranged and it will become the parlor of the apartment of Professor Russell and his wife. They lived in LeRoy House in the 1870s, when the house was used as a boarding house for the LeRoy Academic Institute. Their apartment was the two front rooms, upstairs and downstairs, connected by the "disappearing staircase." Mrs. Russell's two children are upstairs asleep, but Mrs. Russell wants to tell you about another tenant who lives in the house, Professor Blennerhassett. He's quite an odd person, but he is convinced that the house is haunted and he knows why! Mrs. Russell is reluctant to tell the story, but since her children are asleep, she will probably tell you what she knows.

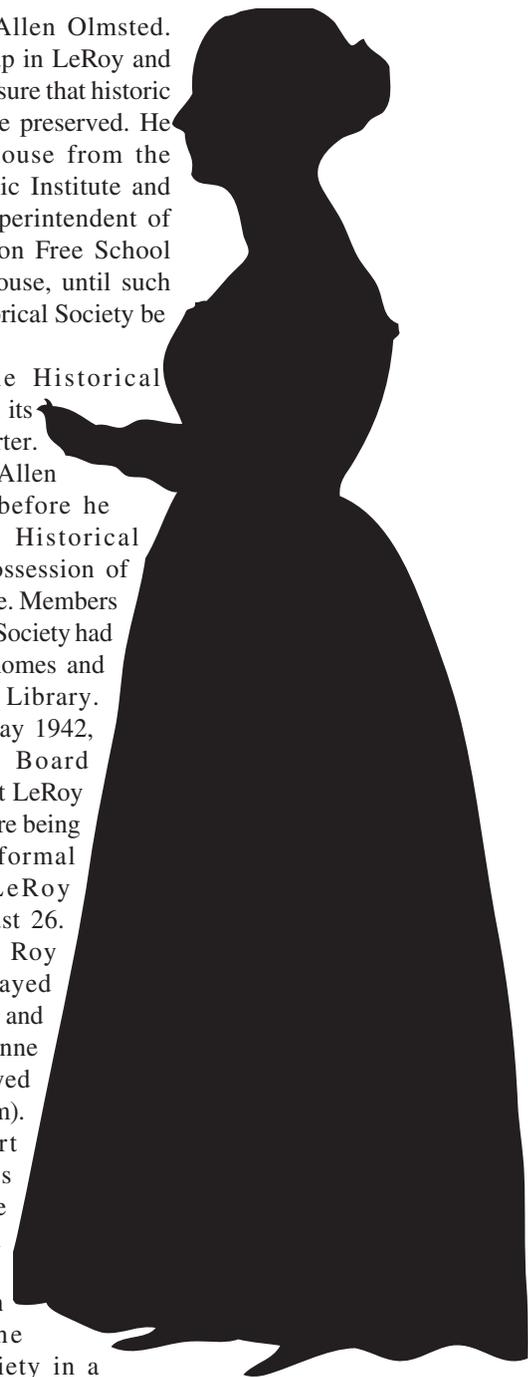
LeRoy House became the property of the LeRoy Historical Society in 1942 through the

generosity of Allen Olmsted. He had grown up in LeRoy and wanted to make sure that historic LeRoy House be preserved. He acquired the house from the LeRoy Academic Institute and allowed the Superintendent of the LeRoy Union Free School to live in the house, until such time that a Historical Society be formed.

In 1940, the Historical Society received its provisional charter. Unfortunately, Allen Olmsted died before he could see the Historical Society take possession of the historic house. Members of the Historical Society had met in private homes and the Woodward Library. Beginning in May 1942, the Executive Board began meeting at LeRoy House. Plans were being made for the formal opening of LeRoy House on August 26. Join President Roy McPherson (played by Scott Ripley) and Secretary Adrienne Sanderson (played by Joanne Graham). Curator Albert McVean has assembled some of the wonderful antiques that have been donated to the Historical Society in a small display.

Everyone is invited to join us for this special glimpse into the past. It is a rare opportunity to meet the ghosts who were here. Tickets are available for

\$5 for members and \$8 for non-members and can be purchased at the Jell-O Gallery 10 to 4 Monday through Saturday or Sunday 1 to 5. Or call 768-7433 for more information.



1835



1860



1879



1934



1942