

MachPelah Cemetery

by **Lynne Bellusico**

October 22 – MachPelah Cemetery – Be There!

Don't miss this event! Some of LeRoy's finest students, and members of the Interact and Earlyact clubs will be portraying some of LeRoy's most historical people at MachPelah Cemetery in the afternoon, Saturday, October 22nd. Tours will leave every 15 minutes from the main gate on North Street. If you have ever wondered what it might be like to meet with Orator Woodward, Emily Ingham or Jacob LeRoy, here is your opportunity. And when you buy a \$5 ticket, you are helping the students raise money for a community project.

As you walk toward the Woodward Mausoleum, you will meet Orator Woodward (who resembles Nate Flint) and his wife Cora (Cece Tillotson) and standing with them will be their oldest son, Ernest LeRoy Woodward (portrayed by Jacob Williams) and not to be left out, will be Donald Woodward (sometimes known as Brock Flint) The Woodward's will have some

great stories to share, and I've heard, that their two sisters, Helen and Eleanor might show up.

Around the corner, you'll meet Jacob LeRoy (who looks a lot like Josh Laurie). Jacob and Charlotte LeRoy (Emily Friend) and a few of their ten children are back in town to place flowers on the graves of their two little girls who died and were buried in St. Mark's Cemetery on Church Street. But when the old St. Mark's Church was torn down, the graves were moved to MachPelah. (Josh has promised me that he will use the correct pronunciation of the family name on Saturday.)

The beautiful Lathrop Chapel will be open on Saturday decorated for a wedding and I've been told students will be rehearsing some music. In the hillside across from the Chapel is the Lampson burial vault. Marietta Ingham and her younger sister Emily Staunton (Michaela Mesiti and Hayley Babbit) are furious, because Mr. Lampson has called in the mortgage on Ingham University, and the school will

be closed. Two Ingham graduates, Sarah Whiting, (who is portrayed by Margeux Carmel) and noted artist Ida Taylor are joining the Ingham sisters, to add their support for their alma mater. Miss Whiting, a physicist at Wellsley College, is very outspoken and is a strong proponent of women's education. I'm sure you won't want to miss what she has to say.

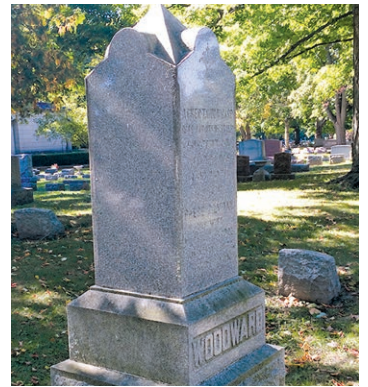
If you've ever wondered where the name MachPelah comes from, Mr. Blodgett will be waiting to tell you that story, and all about how he raised the money to buy the wheat field that would become this National Historic Landmark. Grant Hertzler will be portraying George Blodgett and he will introduce you to 12-year old Caro Chamberlain, who has a very special story.

The next group of students (Tyler Rider, Bryce Bordonaro, Alex Hahn, and Austin Eschberger) were willing to enlist in the Union Army in order to portray some of the men who served in the Civil War. They will be standing near Abner Woodward's gravesite. Woodward, (portrayed by Dominic Filio), died in the Civil War and left his wife and children destitute. Abner's eldest son, Orator Woodward, had to leave school and go to work to help support his family. Eventually he would become a millionaire, and forever become famous.

This cemetery tour will be fun (and not scary) It will give everyone an opportunity to learn a little history, enjoy beautiful MachPelah, and help the students raise

some money for a worthy cause.

Earlyact and Interact are student service organizations affiliated with the LeRoy Rotary Club. In the past, they have raised money for many significant worthy causes including Honor Flight. They are committed to the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Don't hesitate to support this project and purchase your tickets by contacting Samantha Vagg at (585)993-5555 or write an email request to her at: samvagg@gmail.com



"Meet the Famous, and Not So Famous People of LeRoy's Past"

2016 MACHPELAH CEMETERY WALK THROUGH
 Characters portrayed by
 LeRoy Central School Students

October 22
3pm-6:30pm

Walk throughs every 15 minutes
 children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult
 Produced by: LeRoy Rotary Interact

Proceeds to benefit MachPelah Cemetery & Rotary Interact
 This event is a fun & educational event. This is family friendly,
 and WILL NOT be of any haunted nature.

Tickets are \$5.00 each, or a family pass for \$20.00

Please contact Sam Vagg at (585) 993-5555 or samvagg@gmail.com for tickets