

LE ROY PENNYSAVER - NOVEMBER 2, 2008
Frelinghuyen Who?

by Lynne Belluscio

All of us have been working on what I call the "mini museum collection." It is a collection of little things relegated to little drawers. Ruth and Mary have been cutting foam lining for all the drawers. In the meantime, we have taken all the objects out of the drawers and put them on trays to determine which ones haven't been accessioned.

We are also grouping the coins, buttons and jewelry together. Then there are the other "strange and unusual" objects, like the box with two teeth and the label "J.R. O's teeth dropped out - did not decay." (Now what do you do with two teeth?)

In another little box is the "eye-stone" of Mrs. Lillie Hutchinson's great grandmother (1791-1884). It was "placed in the eye and rolled about to dislodge foreign particles." (I think the two boxes can go in the same drawer.)

I'm rather fascinated with the gold nugget found in the Klondike by A VanValkenburg. We also have a box lid from "The Indispensable Elastic Tire Band" manufactured only by W.C. Boak of LeRoy, New York. (Will have to do a little research on Mr. Boak.)

We have the August 7th, 1903 Union Sunday School picnic at Seabreeze ribbon and the pink ribbon from the LeRoy Union Sunday School Outing at Seabreeze - Wednesday, August 24th, 1904. There is a round metal tag from Randalls Wire Fencing LeRoy, New York, Pat Mar 17, 1891. We also have a heavy-duty metal stamp "A.H. Olmsted" and a small hard rubber ear-wax remover.

There are several LeRoy Bottling bottle caps, Red Cross pins and wooden nickels from the LeRoy Diner. Two coins were taken from the ruins of the Main Street fire, March 4, 1945 and eventually ended up in the "mini museum collection." We have Lapp Insulator pins and Wilfred Vasile's plastic Lapp pass. We have only the handle of a silver spoon from Ingham University and a brass

token good for "one swallow" on Don Woodward's yacht Murdona. In 1892, Mae Bishop won the *LeRoy Gazette* Prize for the "Best Essay" at the Union Free School, and we have her medal to prove it.

With the elections coming up, it has been interesting to look at all the political buttons in the mini museum. We have buttons for Kenney and Johnson, Stevenson, Johnson and Humphrey, Dewey, Dewey and Bricker, Alf Landon. I had to do a little research on Alf Landon. He was the Governor of Kansas and in 1936 he ran against Franklin Roosevelt. Landon was born in Pennsylvania and moved with his family to Ohio where his father was in the oil business. The Landons made a fortune in oil and moved to Kansas.

The Landon symbol was the sunflower and most of his political pins include a sunflower design. Another button I had to research was the Hanly and Landrith button. Frank Hanly was the ex Republican Governor of Indiana. Ira Landrith was an official of the YMCA from Nashville, Tennessee and they were nominated at the Prohibition convention in St. Paul, Minnesota on July 21, 1916. Hanly had beat out the former Governor of New York, William Sulzer for the nomination.

The Republicans ran Supreme Court Judge, Charles Hughes and Charles Fairbanks against Democrat Woodrow Wilson and Thomas Marshall. In the collection I also found a Lowden for President pin. Frank Lowden was a Republican from Illinois who had served in the House of Representatives. Lowden and Leonard



Wood were deadlocked for the Republican nomination which opened the door for the nomination of Warren Harding in 1920. He ran with Calvin Coolidge and died in office in 1923. Coolidge became president and ran for one additional term, but declined to run in 1928.

Probably the most unusual and certainly the oldest button we have is from the 1844 campaign of Henry Clay. The small medal with a red ribbon is affixed to a note: "With the compliments of the residents of Clay St." Several years ago I had come across the medal but couldn't make sense of the engraved message on the back. It clearly read "Clay" and "Protection Union" but the other word was totally illegible to me. But now we have Google to do the research and the mystery was

solved. Searching for Henry Clay medal I discovered that several medals were struck for the 1844 campaign including one that read "Clay Frelinghuyen Protection Union." So another Google search turned up the information about Theodore Frelinghuyen, a Senator from New Jersey who was the Vice Presidential running mate of Henry Clay on the Whig ticket. He had opposed the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Clay and Frelinghuyen ran against the Democrat nominee, James Polk, who won the election. The 1844 Clay political medal is the oldest we have in the collection, but political buttons go back as far as George Washington, who wore a simple button during his inauguration in 1789.

Covington United Presbyterian Church's Annual
Pancake Supper/Bake Food Sale
Candy Sale/Mini-Bazaar
Tuesday, Nov. 4th (Election Day)
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Church Address Is: 1701 Craig Rd., Pavilion



11/2