

Albert K. Drury

by Lynne Belluscio

Another noted LeRoy photographer was Albert K. Drury who came to LeRoy in 1867. The editor of the *Gazette* noted that "Mr. Drury well understands his profession, is good looking, single and a candidate for success in the trade." His studio was in the Central Block on the North side of Main Street.

The studio was formerly operated by Mr. Ball. He was born in Rochester in 1843 and as a young man he was an assistant to Charles E. Jones a photographer attached to the headquarters Cavalry of the Army of the James. They had a permit to transport photographic materials and supplies from Baltimore to Bermuda Hundred and thence to Norfolk.

Drury and Jones would have taken portraits of the Union Officers and men who were involved with the siege of Richmond and Petersburg and they would have been at Appomattox when Lee surrendered. Bill Lane contacted the Library of Congress to see if they had any Drury photos and so far, no signed Civil War photographs by Drury have shown up. Drury's stock and trade were the small cartes de visites and the larger cabinet cards which

became popular at the end of the Civil War.

An ad in the *LeRoy Gazette* mentions: "The attention of the public is called to the well-known gallery which is furnished and fitted with every requisite for the comfort and convenience of patrons and the production of artistic results. Over 15 years of practical experience in the art enables Mr. Drury to guarantee first class work in every respect. Children and babies he pays particular attention to and is quite successful in getting good pictures. Old pictures of any kind copied and enlarged to any size and finished in India Ink or colored in oil or water colors. The newest patterns of frames and mattings in great variety."

Albert Drury was married to Nettie Garret, a daughter of a Rochester policeman. At the end of January, Nettie had gone to Rochester to see her sister, Nellie who was dying of consumption. While there, Nettie caught cold and died at the end of April. She was twenty seven and had a five year-old daughter. The sisters were buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Albert continued his photographic studio in LeRoy through

1900. The Historical Society has over 300 images that are attributed to Albert Drury. Although some are not identified on the back, it is obvious that the photos were taken in Drury's studio because of the furniture, rugs and backdrops. The photograph of the woman and the chair probably dates to the 1860s because of the style of her dress. The child with the chair is probably a little later. Notice the different rug in both of the photos. The three photographs with the pedestal probably date from the mid to late 1870s because of the dress styles.

