

Watching For Flamingoes - April 1 and April 4

by Lynne Belluscio

As most of you know it's time to watch for the flamingoes. If you have any flamingo decoys, it's time to put them out. The flock at LeRoy House will be ready, rain or shine, or even snow and will make their appearance on April 1.

Usually the flamingoes stay outside, but this year, since it's during spring break, and folks might be looking for something to do with the kids, some of the flamingoes will be moving inside LeRoy House for a scavenger hunt. Your challenge will be to find all the flamingoes.

One rare cement flamingo is believed to have been made at the Ribstone Silo Company, owned by Donald Woodward. Another hand-painted wooden flamingo is just like the one that Jacob LeRoy brought with him in 1823 when he and Charlotte moved to LeRoy. A very rare cloth flamingo, with a zippered pocket, was used as a mail pouch on the first airmail delivery in 1928 from the Donald Woodward Airport.

A pair of rare salt and pepper shakers, made in China, are probably the set that Edward Augustus LeRoy brought back with him on

In the garden, the Ingham University croquet set, with flamingo wickets, will be set up. Weather permitting, folks will be able to play a game of croquet. The skittles game will be set up in the back parlor and the table top bowling game in the basement.

Without question, the most unusual piece in the collection is a genuine pink flamingo feather which fell from the last flamingo sighted in LeRoy. This feather was found in a box on the third floor at LeRoy House. It was verified as an authentic flamingo feather by well-known ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson. There will be prizes and refreshments, so plan to join us for a historic day of fun. You'll never see LeRoy House like this again - - at least again this year.

The flamingo fandango will be held on Wednesday, April 1 and Saturday, April 4. We will



Jacob LeRoy office.

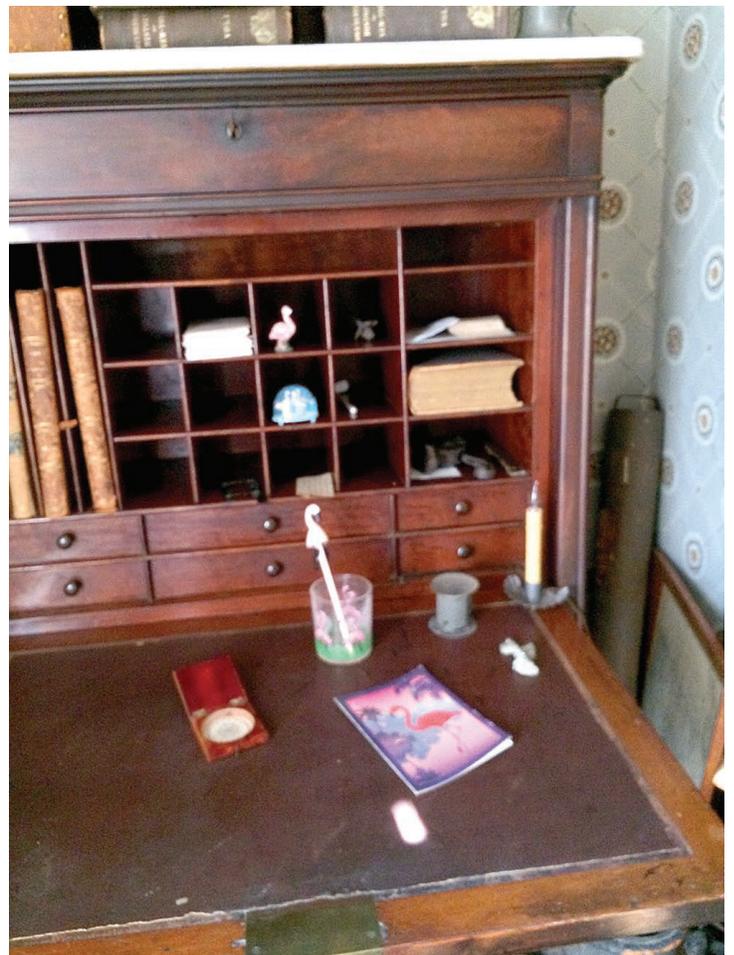


his trip with Admiral Perry in the 1850s. Fragile pieces of flamingo china will be set on the table in the 1920s kitchen and unusual flamingo lamps, that were used in the former Flamingo Bar and Grill on Main Street - - site of the Eagle will be on display.

There is a shirt worn by Placido Flamingo during his last concert tour. Some of the Jell-O advertising featuring a pink flamingo will be featured in the Jell-O Gallery.

be open 10 to 4. Admission to LeRoy House is free. (Regular admission rates apply to the Jell-O Gallery.)

Starting April 6, the Jell-O Gallery is open seven days a week, 10 to 4 (1 to 4 on Sundays). LeRoy House hours fluctuate depending on volunteer schedules, but will be open weekends starting in May.



Jacob LeRoy desk.