

1925 LeRoy Directory It's Good to be Alive in LeRoy



A couple of weeks ago, I purchased a colorful LeRoy advertising fan on Ebay with a charming little girl and a kitten on the front. On the back was this notice: "Compliments Thos. M. Philibin Meat Market and Real Estate Phone 56." So you could stop by Mr. Philibin's and buy a pot roast and chicken thighs, and take a look at houses or farms for sale. (I can only imagine the meat market on one side and an office in the back for his real estate business.) We did a little sleuthing to find out more about Thomas Philibin and found his 1946 obituary in the LeRoy Gazette. He was born in 1892 and attended St. Peter's Church. In 1914 he opened a grocery store at 47 Main Street but he left his business and enlisted when the war broke out. When he returned home, he went into the retail meat business at 72 Main Street across the street. In 1924, he combined his meat business with the real estate business and relocated

once again to 47 Main Street. (Street numbers changed, so it's not certain that Philibin's store at 47 Main is 47 Main today - which is where the hardware store is now.) But the 1924 date gave us a clue to the possible date of the fan. So we went to the 1925 LeRoy Directory and sure enough, there was an advertisement for Philibin's Meat Market and Real Estate business.

PHILIBIN'S
Meat Market
House of Satisfaction

DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF
REAL ESTATE

PHILIBIN'S
Phone 56 47 Main Street

A few days ago, Steve Barbeau gave us a metal shoe-horn for Daggs shoes. A quick search in the clipping files indicates that Charles Daggs was born in 1889 and died in 1945. He worked as a clerk in a couple of the shoe stores in town, and once again, the 1925 LeRoy Directory has an advertisement for "Reliable Footwear Charles D. Daggs Main Street."

RELIABLE FOOTWEAR
CHARLES D. DAGGS
Main Street Le Roy, N. Y.

The 1925 Directory was published by Joseph C. Barone. According to the front page, he "was born of Italian parentage in LeRoy in 1897. He attended LeRoy public schools and reached his third year in high school in 1917, when he left school and went to Geneva to become a foreman in the plant of the Geneva Preserving Company, where he remained for four years. Returning to LeRoy in 1921, he engaged in the manufacture of cheese until 1924, when he established the advertising distributing and posting business, in which he is now engaged. He presents this directory in the hope that it will serve as a public convenience and a record of the people living in LeRoy in 1925."

While looking through the Directory I discovered an advertisement for the "Parkside Home Mrs. Martha E Tillou Proprietress LeRoy's Boarding and Rooming House 15 East Main Street." I was pretty sure this was the house just east of LeRoy House, but I needed to check the address, because it is now 27 East Main Street. (Just an update on 27 East Main. As some of you know, the house was put up for auction on November 18. The Historical Society was prepared to bid on the house but the bank, HSBC, offered over \$100,000 for the property, which was much more

than we felt it was worth, and the bank now owns it. Since that time, we have been trying to make sure it was secured, since the front door and a basement window were often wide open. Although the doors are now locked, a large basement window is wide open, and we have learned that there is a lot of water damage because the pipes froze and burst. The Historical Society has registered the house with New York State as a Zombie House and we will continue to make sure the bank is maintaining the house as outlined by the new state law that went into effect on December 20.) Again, I looked through the Directory for some clues. I was pretty sure that the house that John Allen lives in today (formerly Gardenview B&B) was the home of the Townsend family, and indeed it was and in 1925 it was 11 East Main Street. The house between LeRoy House and the Townsend house didn't exist in 1926, so I wanted to confirm the address of LeRoy House. I was certain that the Superintendent of LeRoy Schools lived in LeRoy House. The Directory listed Mr. Earl B. Taylor as the superintendent and sure enough, he and his family lived at 13 East Main Street - - LeRoy House. (The LeRoy House today is 23 East Main Street.) So, this indicates that what is 27 East Main Street now - - the house just east of LeRoy House - - now owned by HSBC - - was the former Parkside Home.

The PARKSIDE HOME
MRS. MARTHA E. TILLOU
Proprietress
LE ROY'S
Boarding and Rooming House
15 East Main Street Le Roy, N. Y.

Joseph Barone wrote in the Directory "Days come and go in LeRoy as in every other community. The whole atmosphere breathes the thought 'It is good to be alive; indeed it is good to be alive in LeRoy.' "