

# RECENT FIND

The readers might be interested in one of the bottles I purchased a few years ago. When I saw the bottle I knew it was an important piece and started research. The bottle turned out to belong to a naval hero from the Civil War who was involved in many of the battles with the ironclads from both the North and the South.

The bottle was given to William E. LeRoy to commemorate his promotion to Commodore by a lantern company that supplied to the Navy. It is marked with a patent on the locking mechanism and I found the patent information on the lock that coincides with the promotion date. I suspect the bottle was made at the Sandwich Glass Works but it could have been made by one of the many of the fine glass works on the east coast.



Naval officer William Edgar Leroy was born in New York on March 24, 1817. Beginning as a midshipman on January 11, 1832, he became lieutenant on July 13, 1843. Leroy served in the Mediterranean on Commander Issac Hull's flagship, the *Ohio*, and was afterward attached to the steamer *Princeton*. In 1847, Leroy took part in the engagement with Mexican soldiers at Rio Aribiqua.

After promotion to commander on July 1, 1861, he was assigned to the steamer *Keystone State* of the South Atlantic squadron, where he was in on the capture of Fernandina, Florida in 1862, and in an engagement with iron-clads off Charleston, South Carolina a year later, in January, 1863.

In 1864, he commanded both the steam-sloop *Oneida* of the Western Gulf squadron and the *Ossipee*. In the latter vessel, he received the surrender of the Confederate ram *Tennessee* in the battle of Mobile Bay.

Leroy was made captain July 25, 1866, commodore in July of 1870, rear admiral April 5, 1874, and in 1876, commanded the South Atlantic station. On March 20, 1884, he was placed on the retired list. Admiral Leroy was familiarly known as "the Chesterfield of the Navy."

On the top of the lock, at the base of the dog, is stamped: "711 Walton Mf'g Works, N.Y." On the side of the lock, around the pedestal, is engraved: "From Walton's Mft. & Lantern Works, N.Y." The bottle is etched: "Commodore W<sup>m</sup> E. LeRoy, U.S.N."

