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## Twice buried, twice found

### Glass jar time capsule discovered twice, 1911 newspaper says

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GENEVA — The old fruit jar found in the base of the Geneva Soldiers and Sailors monument is not just once found, it's twice buried, a newspaper article from 1911 reports.

The glass jar time capsule was found by Ameriseal and Restoration workers as they moved the three stone bases of the monument for relocation last week, Geneva City Manager Jim Pearson said.

As workers moved the resting stone under the bronze sailor, they found a small cavity in the concrete pad under the monument. Inside was a clear glass jar filled with newspapers. The three 1903-08 Indian head pennies rested on top of the jar.

The discovery presented more questions than answers, Pearson said. Just a glimpse of newsprint is visible from outside the dirty, cloudy glass and three corroded pennies — their Indian head imprints and dates barely visible — add to the mystery.

It turns out history was repeating itself, as the contractor who moved the monument in 1911 was the original finder of the jar. He opened it and found newspapers and a coin among the deteriorated contents, the 1911 news article in the Geneva Free Press Times reports. Officials added two newspaper articles from Geneva and Ashtabula newspapers to the jar and tossed a few coins in the cavity inside the monument, the article said, burying the jar for 100 years, the newspaper article long forgotten.

But Mary Throop, a genealogist with the Geneva Public Library, wasn't going to let mystery get the best of her history.

Throop had her own discovery this week — a file folder full of information about the monument, including a newspaper clipping about an old fruit jar found the first time the monument was moved in 1911.

The jar included eight old newspapers and a coin engraved "Leopold, Premier of Belgium," marked 1862. The oldest newspaper in the jar was from the Ulster County Gazette (a New York newspaper), published in January 1800. Editions of the Cleveland Daily Herald, The Cleveland Leader, and The Geneva Times are dated 1876. An 1879 edition of the Geneva Express was also in the jar, the Geneva Free Press Times reported in 1911.

That makes the jar, and most of its contents, 132 years old.

“The older papers were all badly faded and bleached out from age and contain many things which today look queer and when read sound peculiar. They are all serious and sound very formal and remind one of many present day legal documents,” the newspaper article reads.

The articles showed the lifestyle of people in 1879, the article reports.

“Chas Talcott was selling ‘Farm Bells’ and other hardware, announcing a ‘Centennial Sale,’ the article reads. “The drug stores were advertising ‘cool drinks that do not inebriate,’ and the grocers were selling flour at \$6 a barrel, potatoes at 12 1/2 cents a bushel, butter at 18 cents and eggs at 11 cents a dozen.”

Will F. Hewins was selling mineral water from LeFever’s springs and the Tyler Bros. advertisement said, “if you want to buy crockery, see us at the old stand of M.C. Gilbert & Son.”

W.F. Simmons Greenhouse celebrated a year of business and J.S. Bollard was the “Old Reliable Magazine Man,” the newspaper ads announced.

L.C. Chamberlin & Son were selling, “the best hard times suit ever offered in Geneva for \$4.”

The article then returns to the jar itself, which reportedly also contained a copy of the first issue of the Geneva Express, dated Nov. 18, 1879, published by the Foster and Putnam. The copy includes an apology by the editor — the paper was published a week late because the editor was sick.

The article also says the jar with the old newspapers was put back into the foundation of the relocated monument, along with “a Geneva and Ashtabula paper of a recent date (was ) also been put into the receptacle and will keep company with the older copies to await perhaps for years to come.”

The monument was dedicated Aug. 4, 1880, an event that featured U.S. presidents James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley as honored speakers.

As automobiles became more popular, Geneva moved the monument in 1911 to ease traffic in the downtown square. The monument was moved to South Eagle and Park streets with Geneva Elementary and its playground in the background.

Who was to know then that it would take exactly 100 years for the monument to be relocated again — this time from its place on Park Street to a new spot in a city-owned park on South Broadway. Again, the contractors would find the old fruit jar.

The monument is steeped in national history, Geneva Public Library genealogist Louise Legeza said, but the jar holds local significance.

Legeza said Throop was enthused about the history of the monument and searched the local archives for clues about the time capsule after reading about the discovery of the jar in the Star Beacon.

“We have a wonderful old file full of information on the monument and this article, dated Oct. 27,

1911, just listed exactly what is in that old fruit jar,” Legeza said.

Legeza said she is excited about the contents of the jar, but is concerned about the condition of the newspaper clippings that were buried for 132 years.

“I am afraid those newspapers may be completely deteriorated,” she said. “Though, old newspapers last a long, long time because they were made of rag, so they stand more of a chance than modern newspapers of lasting in an old fruit jar for more than a century.”

City officials recorded the removal of the jar from the base of the monument. The 30-second video is available on the city’s Facebook page, which is linked through the city’s website ([www.genevaohio.com](http://www.genevaohio.com)).