Lenox Lincoln-Mercury

Founded: 1893

Location: 328 West South, Lebanon (1893–)

In 1893 Calvin W. Lenox founded the Lenox Junk Yard in Lebanon. Originally from Ohio, Lenox settled in Boone County in 1868, working as a farmer and carpenter. Lenox was joined in 1920 by his sons, Harry L. and Charles, who began selling tires and gas in addition to scrap. The brothers decided to dissolve the partnership in 1928, flipping a coin to determine who would go to Frankfort to open a separate tire and scrap business. They never determined who won the toss, but Charles moved to Frankfort.

Harry retained the Lebanon salvage and tire yard and was joined by his son Calvin in 1930. Under Calvin's influence, the yard became a dealership for John Deere machinery. Harry's son Richard joined the firm a decade later. The Lenoxes switched from John Deere to Oliver farm machinery in 1944 and in 1947 began selling Hudson and Studebaker automobiles. In 1952 Calvin sold his share of the business to his brother and retired to Florida; Richard was later joined in business by his sons Rick and Than. In 1952 the Lenox firm became a Lincoln-Mercury dealer. The Lenoxes established a second dealership in Frankfort in 1977. The Lebanon and Frankfort operations merged in 1993.