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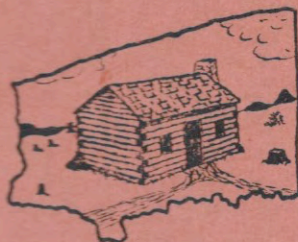
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# A Homely Approach to Lewiston, N. Y.

## 1800-1954

By

HELEN B. KIMBALL



No. 10

PUBLISHED BY THE  
NIAGARA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK

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FIRST EDITION

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Historical Association and Society  
of Lewiston

Box 43

Lewiston, New York 14092

**NIAGARA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

It is the plan of the Niagara County Historical Society to issue with the maximum frequency permitted by funds set aside for this purpose, pamphlets dealing with the general history of Niagara County. Contributions for the continuance of this work will be gratefully received. Those wishing to have private documents of historical interest printed under the imprimatur of the society, may do so under special arrangements, and with the understanding that such material must meet with the approval of the Society's Board of Directors. Publications of the society are mailed to all members in good standing.

Monthly meetings, between September and May, are held in the Auditorium of the Lockport Public Library, with the public cordially invited to attend free of charge and without need of membership. Adult membership, \$2.00 annually. Junior membership, \$1.00 annually.

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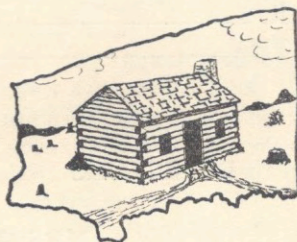
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# The Niagara County Historical Society, Incorporated

Lockport, New York

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We came upon the land in Lewiston in 1938, settling in the home built by John Piper on 3rd St. In such phraseology did Asahel Sage describe his coming to this region in 1807, 131 years before. We also had come from New England and we met the Indians on the first day. Chief Rickard presented himself at our door and asked for his moose head. That was a bit startling but was explained in a very matter-of-fact way. Old John Piper was the local taxidermist and his out buildings were a veritable museum of stuffed animals, birds and reptiles, fascinating to the children who could only peer through windows at the contents. The Tuscaroras, mighty hunters, had killed a moose several years before and had brought the head and hoofs to Mr. Piper to mount. The depression and lack of funds had prevented their claiming the finished product. On this day all financial arrangements were settled and the Chief and his son walked out of the yard proudly bearing the trophies. I suppose they now decorate his home on the Reservation.

In 1941 we moved into our home on the Ridge Road, built on land that formerly was Powell's ice pond. The area was quite rural; Mr. Filby, our neighbor, was still using a horse to do some of his farm work, Powell's farm was diminished in acreage from its original size of "147 acres up over the hill, and two rods beyond" but still very much of a farm. There was a small herd of cattle, orchards of cherry, peach and apple still producing and fields of wheat, hay and oats cultivated. The big barn was being used to stable riding horses, it being still possible to canter over the fields and some highways. Across the street directly from our house stood the original Powell homestead. There Mr. Ray Powell and his sisters were born. The only bit of the old establishment still standing is the chicken house, sometimes used by a knight of the road as shelter from the storm or to sleep off an alcoholic binge.

Down the road to the west lived old Cappie Anderson and his wife. Their's was a producing farm with horses that escaped periodically and ran over the landscape; geese that waddled and gabbled over the road in the mornings just as the commuters were on their way to the plants. Threshing machines rumbled down the Ridge in season followed by all the boys in the neighborhood to Cappie's fields. The greatest treasure on the entire farm was a huge dump in the back woods containing all kinds of articles connected with early rural life.

We loved to roam down the lanes and up on the escarpment but much of the past history and what we were seeing was uninterpreted to us at the time. Hickory College, the country district school, was the meeting place of the Community Club, interested

in developing the facilities of the school and providing an opportunity for new comers to become acquainted with their neighbors. It was through our interest in the school and its unique history and its progressive teacher, Mrs. Roy Breckon, that we began delving into the past of our immediate neighborhood. This project culminated in producing a little booklet on the school and lead to further study. A hobby of fact finding about an old settlement is absorbing but also frustrating.

An invitation to talk about Lewiston at the Niagara County Historical Society gave an impetus to enlarging the area of research, down the Ridge to the village, down Center Street to the River and up some of the side streets. The things we are most interested in are those we see as we go through the village, buildings and objects so familiar to the old timers they have lost track of their beginnings and fail to see them now as structures of interest. We boldly knocked on doors, accosted grey haired people in stores, read every thing available in the library and came up with most confusing stories. What fun!

It is time a new pamphlet was issued on Lewiston's past. The scholarly ones dealing with the importance of this area as a great trading center in the very early days usually end with the building of the Erie Canal and assignment of Lewiston to Limbo. Let's investigate some of the old families, perhaps we will be surprised at the amount of living and working that was going on here during all those years to the present time when we are bursting at the seams with families choosing this area for their homes. I was warned that I might discover a horse thief among the old boys but so far the thefts recorded have been the removal of a quantity of sand and gravel from one of the village streets. That culprit was investigated by a committee of the town fathers in the 1850's.

The year 1800 — a good one in which to start our journey. What was it like on this frontier? John Maude traveling through says: "Queenstown contains from 20 to 30 houses. On the opposite side, there are at present only two houses, one of which is the Ferry-House." (I wonder when the Ferry which was such an integral part of the history of this region was established?)

1807 — Christian Schultz. "From Niagara we proceeded up the river to Lewis Town, on the left bank, a new settlement of about a dozen houses, so called in honour of his excellency Governor Lewis, but as his sun of glory has set, the inhabitants talk of petitioning the legislature for leave to change its name! Immediately opposite it lies Queen's Town — containing about one hundred houses."

1808 — A traveler spending the night in Queenstown, "a pleasant village of about 16 or 18 houses" was advised to continue his



route "by Lewiston (a shabby American settlement opposite Queenstown)."

1811 — "On the American side of the Niagara are very few settlements but they have commenced and it is supposed that they will go on rapidly."

These old travelers should have compared notes on the number of houses in the villages. Some of our old friends were living in that "shabby American settlement" and were joined by more families until there were more than a dozen different family names represented when along came the War of 1812. These pioneers had left their old New England homes and were struggling to establish a new life. No one wanted war. John Lovett, the secretary of Solomon Van Rensselaer, has left us some very graphic pictures of the feelings of the people on both sides of the frontier waterways: "If any man wants to see folly triumphant, let him come here; let him view friends by friends stretched for hundreds of miles on these two shores; all loving and beloved; all desirous of harmony, all wounded by being coerced, by a hand unseen, to cut throats. The PEOPLE must waken, they will waken from such destruction, lethargy and stupor. May Almighty God rouse them, for this WAR is the OMINOUS gathering of folly and madness, and so every one must know who comes in sight of it."

War brought an encampment of militia to the very doorstep of the new settlement, at the Ferry landing. John Lovett was a great letter writer and has left us pictures of camp life, some of them so like what present day soldiers grumble about, he might have been writing currently.

"I am happy and respect myself but the Lord only knows what will become of home. I have not received a cent from any quarter. STOP! Away we must march, at the beat of drum, and hear an old Irish clergyman preach to us, AMEN. I have become a perfect machine; go just where I'm ordered."

"The cursed flags of truce bother our souls out. Scarcely a day passes, but some scamp gets a canoe, sticks up a pole, and such part of his shirt as he can best spare, after having washed it so long that he can venture his soul and body on the chance of proving it white, and thus rigged, away he comes to our shore after some raft, or boat or canoe or in plain truth to reconnoitre us."

These flags of truce went on all during the period before the battle of Queenston, there was general visiting back and forth. but occasionally someone got triggerhappy and the bullets flew. "A wretch fired the other night at Judge Barten (Lovett and Barton) and myself as we were setting upon our horses on the

bank; the shot came in a correct line but fell 30 rods short in the River. Last Saturday morning one of our lads returned the compliment: put his ball so quick through a lad's head on the other side that he fell dead without winking. Over came Col. Myers with whom had the honor of an hour's conference on the bank, both talked largely and returned good fellows. In short we are all fire and powder on both sides of the river and every day that passes without blood seems to me more and more strange . . . This morning report of sick was 149. We have had lately (September) the most tremendous storm of cold rains and wind that I ever saw at this season of the year. It was eno' to make an Ox quake. The wind was terrible, hail, lightening, thunder and the whole army of terrors seemed pressed into requisition. Many tents blew up and over. The General's marquee was deluged, bed and all drenched. My tent hooks gave away; I jumped out of my blanket, in quick time to save my papers, stood in my shirt-tail for half an hour, holding the sides together, until I had not a dry thread to brag of; and when I went to my blankets, they were as wet as myself. However, I made the best of them through the night. O, the glorious life, and the innumerable comforts of Soldiers."

Gen. Hull's surrender at Detroit greatly affected the troops encamped at Lewiston. "This was a great damper to the troops and what added to the mortification, Gen. Brock at the head of his British troops had been seen, on the opposite side of the river, within a quarter of a mile of us, conducting along the heights of Queenston, Gen. Hull and his American army; marching these prisoners of war triumphantly along in full view of the United States troops laying at Lewiston.

Never did I see such vehement excitement and distrust on the part of our troops, the idea spread through the camp that Hull had sold the army. No doubt but this had some effect upon the militia declining to reinforce their brothers on the 13th of Oct.

Discontent and fear spread among the soldiers that they would be HULLED. And great alarm was felt by the inhabitants."

A little note inserted states that "Mr. Swan arrived in three days from Albany." That was fast traveling, one hundred miles a day on horseback!

Soldiers who fell sick received rugged treatment in those days. "October 6, 1812. Poor Solomon is sick. About two weeks ago he was seized pretty violently. He quit his tent and went to a hut about half a mile from camp; after seven days came back to camp, overdid and had a relapse worse than the first with the fever. We bled him, and for three days filled him half full of salts, jalap, Caster-oil, Calomel etc. I have no doubt Solomon



will be well in six days, he may be a little weak. We are every few days, deluged in water, such storms of wind and rain I think I never experienced, every third night I get as wet as a muskrat. But in the worst of it I sing in proper tune, "No burning heats by day, nor blasts of evening air, Shall take my health away, if God be with me there." As yet he has been with me in great mercy. Do not start if within three mails I date "Canada." I tell you we are going to work!"

Every reader of Frontier history knows of the miscarriage of plans for the first attack on Queenston on October 11th. The Queenston second attempt was planned for the 13th. Here we meet the Cookes and Asahel Sage. "Mr. Cooke, a highly respectable citizen of Lewiston (father of Bates Cooke who with one or more brothers, volunteered his services for the occasion) was this time entrusted with the duty of procuring trustworthy boatmen, at whatever expense, and they with the boats were put under his direction."

Old Joshua Cooke writing in 1902 states that Lothrop Cooke lost his leg due to injuries received in hauling the boats through the cold water to a point where they could land on Hennepin's rock. Lothrop evidently went back and forth many times during that day trying to get the immobile militia to take to the boats. The Cookes were familiar with the currents having kept the ferry for seven years. (In the early writings mention is made of Capt. Lemuel running the ferry between Youngstown and Newark; first mention of their being ferrymen at Lewiston made by Joshua Cooke in a pamphlet: *The Battle of Queenston Heights*, 1901).

Asahel Sage is the only one who has a marker on his grave indicating his part in the attack. His stone in the village cemetery reads: "Here lies the pilot and guide who conducted the American Army to Queenston Heights in the battle on the 13th October 1812." It is regrettable that some such inscription is not also on the graves of the Cookes.

There seems to be conflicting accounts about the part played by Winfield Scott. The collection of Van Rensselaer letters from which much of this material is obtained gives the following account. "Lieut. Col. Winifield Scott had arrived at Schlosser at the head of his regiment; informed of the intended attack on Queenston, he dashed on his horse and presented himself to the commander, Stephen Van Rensselaer. He earnestly solicited the privilege of taking part in the invasion with his command but was told that Col. Solomon Van R. was in command and that he could have a part by waiving his rank for the occasion. He was unwilling to waive his rank but he pressed his suit so warmly that he was told that he should bring on his regiment take position on the heights of Lewiston with his cannon and co-operate in the attack as circumstances might warrant.

He hastened back to Schlosser, put his regiment into motion and by forced march through the deep mud reached Lewiston at 4 a. m. October 13. Again he importuned for permission to participate directly in the enterprise. But in vain. Stephen Van R. insisted there was to be no divided command." A battery was set up on the grounds of Benjamin Barton. Today you may read the inscription on the marker put there by the Niagara County Landmarks Association in 1902, to pay tribute to Winfield Scott and his regulars. Many of the townspeople gathered for the ceremony. Mr. J. B. Scovell made the address, and among the guests was the maternal grandmother of Miss Mildred Kerr who remarked that as a young girl she had once danced with the General.

A description of General Scott as he appeared at the time of the Patriots War is given in the diary of Mary Peacock, a cousin of the Ways family. "Sunday, January 21, 1838. (Buffalo) When I was going to church this afternoon I met General Scott. He is very tall and of a commanding figure. He was in full uniform. What makes him appear more conspicuous was his having in his cap bright yellow plumes instead of the usual colors. I do not recollect of ever seeing them before. I have heard that he is rather singular in his dress sometimes. Instead of a cloak he sometimes wears a blanket made of broadcloth like the Indian chiefs make use of, and twists it around him in the same manner. I suppose he does so to appear eccentric."

At the Buffalo Fireman's ball, February 2, 1838. "Among the distinguished characters present was Gen. Scott and his staff. . . . Gen. Scott looks to be quite old. His hair is almost white, but he is the largest man that I ever saw. Almost all his aides are small. I suppose that they made him appear larger." That was old Gen. Scott, twenty-five years after his participation in the attack on Queenston.

Col. Solomon was severely wounded and then Scott was given permission to cross the river and to take command. Every schoolchild raised on the Frontier knows the sequence of events which followed with Scott the hero of several dangerous encounters.

One is impressed with the courtesies extended by opposing sides to captured officers, and by the tone of the letters exchanged between Maj. Gen. Sheaffe, the successor to Gen. Brock, and Maj. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer. On the evening of the capitulation, Scott and his two principal officers were invited to dine with Gen. Sheaffe.

Joshua Cooke writes that Col Scott begging to participate in the attack exclaimed, "Let me go as a volunteer! I will waive



my rank and fight as a common soldier!" Whatever the conversation between Scott and Van Rensselaer, the outcome was the same and Scott proved his ability as a leader.

Solomon Van R., who led the assault, was brought across the river later in the morning severely wounded and was carried to a house about two miles from the river. This was the home of Capt. Lemuel Cooke on the Ridge Road, now owned by Dr. W. R. Lewis. At that time it was only a tiny house, whether it was once occupied by Joseph Brant or was built by the Cookes on the land formerly occupied by Joseph Brant is one of the elusive facts lost during the years. To this house however were brought also the other wounded officers. I suppose the water from Brant's spring was used to wash the wounds. Joshua Cooke says, "Morrison and Uncle Lothrop, the two village physicians, Alvord and Willard Smith, their arms red to the elbows, nobly aided the army surgeons to relieve the wounded." Solomon was in Cooke's home five days before being moved to Buffalo.

A very touching letter arrived during that time to Maj. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer from Maj. Gen. Shaeaffe. Fort George 16th Oct. 1812 "I have heard with great regret that Col. Van Rensselaer is badly wounded. If there be anything at my command, that your side of the river cannot furnish, which would be either useful or agreeable to him, I beg that you will be so good to have me appraised of it.

I have the honor to be, sir, with much esteem,  
Your very devoted servant,

R. H. Sheaffe"

A letter from the same Gen. asked for an armistice to bury the dead and to pay last respects to Gen. Brock. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer in answering thanked him for his offers to Solomon, "I do not know that he is at present destitute of anything essential.

I shall order a salute for the funeral of Gen. Brock to be fired here and at Fort Niagara.

As this, sir, is probably the last communication I shall have the honour to make to you from this station, I avail myself of the opportunity to tender you the assurance of my great esteem and consideration."

What about John Lovett, the secretary, who wrote so much about the weather? He had manned a battery and stuck his head so close to the gun that he was ever after deaf. He accompanied Solomon to Buffalo after leaving Lemuel Cooke's house and from there wrote his last letter about the attack. "I saw the boats on both sides idle! The eternal truth is that the men who had

solemnly pledged themselves to go over, would not. I saw a field officer (Major Morrison) who had yelped his lungs sore, to go over, tied up his temples on the day of battle, and at night told me he had 'hardly been able to keep off his bed the whole day' but eno' . . . I am sick of rolling and tumbling in the frothy billows, with fleet Indians, ragamuffins, vagabonds, and slubber-de-gullions who whirl in the eddies of Niagara."

Who the slubber-de-gullions were we do not know, certainly not our "highly respectable citizens" of whom he wrote earlier, but we will leave the water front now and concentrate on the development of the village. Someday you may enjoy going down by the water's edge and picture to yourself conditions as they were those fall days of 1812.

War conditions existed on the frontier for months after the battle of Queenston but there is very little recorded about Lewiston between October 1812 and December 1813. What were our pioneers doing all that time? Some were connected with the armed services but the others were going about their home and farm duties as diligently as they could. In those early years there was no distinction between the village of Lewiston and the town of Lewiston. Four miles east on the Ridge, Rufus Spaulding had established his home in 1810. The Sages, the Robinsons, Silas Hopkins, the Cookes, all settlers on farm lands were clearing the timber and improving their home sites, with an ever watchful eye out for an Indian. During the summer of 1813 they probably worked very hard in small garden patches to raise food for the family and fodder for their animals. Perhaps they had a feeling that hostilities had moved away from their door?

December 19, 1813, the burning of Lewiston which shouldn't have happened at all, retaliation by the British and Indians for the burning of Newark by the Americans. This episode on both sides of the river has been written up in every historical treatment of the Niagara Frontier since Turner wrote the "History of the Holland Purchase", however little family incidents as they are told by our present inhabitants add a bit of interest to the well known facts.

Word spread that the enemy were coming down the river and through the village. People fled or were killed on the way. Dr. Alvord, one of the village physicians was killed but Dr. Willard Smith escaped down the Ridge and aided the Cookes to escape. The Spaulding family had the table all set for a meal, they gathered everything up in the tablecloth and ran. One of the silver spoons included in the contents of the cloth is now in the possession of Ralph Hotchkiss, one of the descendants. Children were gathered up by any passing sled and separated from their



frantic parents for hours. Mother Robinson and young daughter hid in the woods for several days before being discovered by Father John. Solomon Gillette saw his murdered son lying on the ground near Fourth and Center Streets but did not dare recognize him.

The most readable account of this whole awful day is the one written by Joshua Cooke. It is part of the bound volume of articles written for the 25th anniversary of the Niagara Pioneer Association, available in the Niagara Falls Library. He was an old man at the time, 1902, and quite garrulous, perhaps he added a few extra touches to his narrative but it should be read by the boys and girls in social study classes.

During the past months of 1952-53 many articles dealing with the early families of Lewiston have appeared in the Niagara Falls Gazette written by the county historian, Clarence Lewis, who has gathered his material from books and personal interviews with descendants of the pioneers. The Sage family house on the Ridge Road is said to have been spared by the British and Indians as it was a favorite tavern. Recently another item concerning this same family stated that a log house built by Sparrow Sage was burned and this present structure built later. Let us consider the time element involved here. Sparrow arrived on the Ridge before 1807. He certainly built a log cabin first. The story of his young Mary being carried off by the Indians in the summer of 1814 from the existing house which was a tavern would indicate that it must have been built and spared before that summer. He couldn't have returned from that flight to the east when spring came and have built his home in that short interval.

What was left from the burning of Lewiston? The above is an example of the conflicting stories on that subject. All the information I have gathered is presented here. Mr. J. B. Scovell in his history of the Niagara Portage quotes the records of Jonas Harrison, first Collector of Customs, "Every house in the village, save one, has been burned." That is identified by Mr. Scovell as the tavern of the Hustlers on the corner of Center and 8th Street.

The other building mentioned in early writings is a log stable belonging to Solomon Gillette. We can accept that because Jonas Harrison says "house", he probably wouldn't have mentioned a log stable in his report to the government. Solomon lived first in a log hut near the present water tower, later near Hibbard's service station. Log stables could have been in either place, who knows? The present residents of the village who have passed the age of seventy years say that a house formerly standing on the corner of 6th and Center and occupied for many years by Michael Burke, the village builder, was always known as the

"House Left Standing." Mrs. Lucy William Hawes, writing in 1887 of Lewiston, whose little book is quoted in some of the legal documents pertaining to village property, says that the "House Left Standing" had disappeared.

Some enterprising person in 1900 issued a mailing folder of pictures of Lewiston. Included is a picture of an old house on the lot directly east of the Frontier House, the caption of which reads, "Only house left standing etc." As the caption under several of the other pictures are slightly erroneous as to dates we question this one.

So as you walk through the village of Lewiston and try to identify the house which was spared, some one is sure to point out the last mentioned. That story has been current for fifty years. As for me I'll settle for the Hustlers' Tavern. The Sage place is surely a survival but that is beyond the boundary of Jonas Harrison's village report.

There is another puzzler in the village, a little stone house situated between the town hall and Michael's Electric Shop on Center Street. It has a corner stone on which is scratched, "J B F 1811". Surely this stone building would have stood even if the interior were looted. J F in Lewiston stands for Joshua Fairbanks, but a visit to his grave revealed no middle initial "B" on his monument. Mr. Scovell says Fairbanks never used a middle initial, and that the explanation of the stone lies in the fact that for years there existed a pile of rubble in that area and stones from it were used by the later builders for their houses. The earliest name appearing on the land search for that lot is William James, 1821. Did a wag scratch that date at some later time? The solving of this mystery would be most gratifying to the amateur historian.

The hardy settlers returned in the spring of 1814 and began rebuilding their homes, they were joined by several more in 1815 and the expansion of Lewiston really began in earnest. It is from that year that the oldest standing houses really date, the ones we see as we walk down Center Street.

### **Villages Personalities and Their Homes**

Early descriptions of the terrain of this region mention the three mountains that had to be climbed from the river to the level plateau road leading to the upper Niagara where water transportation could be resumed. Mountains seems to be an extravagant word to be used for the elevation upon which Benjamin Barton built his home which stands today as a memorial



to his industry and hospitality. By the year 1807 when he brought his family here he had already met the Porters in Albany at the public auction of lands in this area. He and they purchased much land including the landing places at Lewiston and Schlosser, for which they received a lease for twelve years. In 1806 under the firm name of Porter, Barton & Co. they commenced the carrying trade around the Niagara Falls on the American side; this was the first regular and connected line of forwarders that ever did business from tide-water to Lake Erie on the American side of the Niagara River.

Between 1807 and 1813 the house which stood on the hill must have been quite an elegant one considering the amount of goods which according to Mrs. Lucy Hawes were destroyed in the burning. "His houses, stores and mills were burned, his valuable household stuff, china, glass, bedding, his carriages, wagons, sleighs, and harnesses; his bountiful supply of food laid away for the coming winter were destroyed, and his valuable stock driven away."

Over the front door of the fine home he built after the war is the date "1815". In March 1953 we were taken on a thorough sight-seeing trip over the grounds and through every room and cellar. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wolcott Hooker, the present owners, take great delight in their home and carry on a degree of gracious hospitality started by Benjamin so many years ago.

The main hall has a beautiful cylinder staircase which ends in a trap door leading out to the roof, two stories high. There is no attic. Whoever designed his home fitted its architecture to the hill site much as recognized architects do today, it is low and rambling. The living room towards the river has a curious patch in the board floor near one wall which is one of the puzzles of the place. Mr. Hooker in pointing it out said it had never been determined what could have been built there and evidently later torn out. Mr. John Brasser, an oldtimer in the village, solved the riddle. He said that was the location of the first postoffice in Lewiston. In my notes I had this item from Wm. Pool, Landmarks etc., 1897: "Benjamin Barton, who was nearly or quite the first postmaster of Lewiston." I was quite excited about that discovery, little combinations of this and that are the reward of the person hunting the facts of early settlement. Mr. Hooker was pleased with that bit of lore.

The home was purchased in 1940 by the Hookers from one of the descendants of Benjamin. Mrs. Hawes in 1887 wrote: "Mr. Peter P. Barton still lives on the old homestead, with his daughter Miss Kate Barton. They with the family of Mr. Hugh Fraser, whose wife was the daughter of Amos Tryon are the only descend-

ants of Major Barton in Lewiston." Between then and 1940 some of the Barton relations did occupy it. It had greatly deteriorated in the later years and much had to be done to restore some of its former beauty. For instance every floor was covered with layers upon layers of red paint. Where the floors have been scraped and the natural wood is revealed one is overwhelmed by the width of the boards. The kitchen appealed to me. At the time of the purchase the oven was intact but there was only a tiny some-time-later fireplace. Now there is a true replica of a fireplace of that period complete with cranes, pot-hooks and surrounding woodwork and mantel. The outside door of the kitchen was a narrow unattractive thing which has been replaced by a very weathered huge door from the old Cataract House. The locks on front and back doors are tremendous with keys similar to the one used in the Library door. The old house has many rooms and cellars that are veritable fortresses.

A carriage road swept grandly up to the front door in the old days when guests from the surrounding villages and officers from the Fort attended the balls given by Judge Barton. In the hillside is the outline of an excavation now filled in which formerly, so says tradition, led to a trap door in the kitchen. Underground railway? I wonder if John Lovett ever spent a comfortable hour or two in the first house that stood there? He was evidently a companion to Benjamin as he relates being shot at when they were sitting on their horses at the river's edge.

After the strenuous years of repairing the damage done to his property his next venture of interest to us was the building of the Frontier House, maintenance of stage coach lines and continuing his farming interests. One of his farms was on the Ridge Road which was purchased later by George Meacham and is known to the residents as "The home of lofty trees." It is said that after retiring from active business he still kept up his interest in farming and cattle. His name appears in church and village records, he was connected with all major developments on the frontier. He died in 1842 aged 72 years.

Across the road from Barton Hill stands the imposing structure called Fairbanks. The actual age of this home is not known to me but I imagine that it was started sometime later than 1815. The tombstone of Joshua Fairbanks reads: "Joshua Fairbanks, born in Dedham, Mass., January 1768, died October 1853, age 85 years. Beside him lies his partner for some 64 years, Sophia Reed, September 1772-September 1853. They were among the first settlers of Lewiston in 1793." I can find no written account of their settling here until after 1805. The early accounts state that he reported in at Fort Niagara and explained that he was on his way to Chippawa. There he conducted a tavern, moved



to Queenston later and was host to Theodosia Burr and her husband Joseph Alston in the summer of 1801. Where he was during some of these early years is a mystery. Would a tavern keeper have been able to build a house as large as Fairbanks? Their daughter evidently married Samuel Barton, perhaps the Barton wealth helped the Fairbanks. Joshua is mentioned as one of the builders of the Frontier house. The next owners of the home were Capt. and Mrs. Van Cleve. Mrs. Hawes says of them: "Capt. James Van Cleve was for many years a popular and skillful commander of steamships on Lake Ontario. Mrs. Van Cleve was a woman of rare intelligence and public spirit, the daughter of Samuel Barton and grand-daughter of Joshua Fairbanks. She inherited the Fairbanks house, opposite that of her other grandfather Benjamin Barton. Many noted people gathered under her roof where they found a hearty welcome and well-stored library." The wrought iron gate with "James Van Cleve" inscribed mentioned in "Back Number Town" is no longer there. An item about the library was found in the records of the Lewiston Academy recently, a long list of books donated to the Academy by the Van Cleves. The list is enough to stagger one, all histories and scientific volumes which must have been dull reading for the Academy pupils. They requested that this gift of books be circulated only among the personnel of the Academy and that careful records be kept of each book borrowed. I suppose at that date large libraries were really quite rare and this was a gift to the school which was very welcome. Present inhabitants remember the library in that same house when it was owned by the Gleason family in the early years of this century. Even then the ownership of a large library was a mark of distinction, few farm families in Lewiston owned many books.

The home of Miss Murphy on corner of Cayuga and Fourth is said to have been the first Lewiston home of Capt Van Cleve. During the years Fairbanks has been improved and had periods of lesser grandeur and then been changed again so that the original is somewhat lost. Mr. J. B. Scovell bought it and gave it to his bride as their first home; Mr. Edwin R. Bartlett and his family lived there for several years and now it is a large apartment house. These two imposing homes opposite each other on the hill above the river have been the centers of much gracious living down through the years.

The name of Tryon remains in our village as a street name in the new development called "Tall Oaks" on the River Road but the Tryon whom it honors lived across the fields from these two families. For many years there stood at the corner of Fourth and Center Streets a shabby weather-beaten house known as the Fraser Place. This was the original home of Amos Tryon

whose wife was the daughter of Benjamin Barton. Everyone knows the story of "Tryon's Folly" especially since it is the subject of one of Mr. Clarence Lewis's recent articles in the "Gazette." None has ever given an adequate explanation of why Mrs. Tryon refused to move to the grand house on the river. I think she wanted to remain quite near her relations where things were happening and gay parties were being held. The location on the river was quite remote reached only by a woody muddy trail. Perhaps she loved her first home on Center St. When it was finally torn down townspeople say it was still very beautiful inside and residents here have beautiful pieces of furniture made from some of the interior wood.

The plot of land bordered by Fifth St., Center and Sixth is the location of the next oldest buildings in the village as far as I know. The information is obtained from Mrs. Hawes' book which lawyers have used as authentic data. William Hotchkiss Sr. came to Lewiston from Clinton, N. Y. in 1815 and that year commenced the construction of dwelling, law office and store, still standing on Center St. Today's residents know these three buildings as the Long House, the Short House, and the Library. I like this note from Mrs. Hawes: "Although a lawyer, Judge Hotchkiss was noted as a peace-maker, frequently advising his neighbors to amicably settle their disputes without recourse to law."

I have often wondered why the three buildings were jammed into such a small space when there must have been ample room for everyone in 1815. The Long House is now an apartment house and it is difficult to picture it as it must have been when new. However the beautiful stair railing in the large entrance hall remains and three handsome panelled doors which indicate the beauty in the rest of the home. A ball room is said to have been one of the features of the house. Mr. Hotchkiss was closely connected with the Lewiston Academy and the records of that institution are now in the possession of Mr. Ralph Hotchkiss, one of William's descendants. The little law office must once have been the meeting place of many of the village inhabitants, now it is an apartment and quite ardently sought after if a vacancy occurs.

The Library is frequently the subject of conversation between newcomers and old residents. The Librarian points out a framed printed handbill of the stock of Calvin Hotchkiss who had his store in the library. Calvin was the cousin of William.

Handbill of the stock of Calvin Hotchkiss.

NEW AND CHEAP GOODS WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
C. HOTCHKISS



Has this day received from New York and is now opening, a new supply of FRESH IMPORTED GOODS suitable for the present season, consisting of almost every article of

STAPLE AND FANCY GOODS

which are usually wanted in the country viz :

Dry Goods	Crockery	English Blister	Steel
Groceries	Glassware	Cast and American	
	Shoes		
	Cotton Yarn and Wicks	Russian	
	Dye Woods	Swedish	Iron
	Paints	English	
	Nails		
	Shovels		
	Spades etc. etc.		

In receiving his new supply in addition to his former stock, he can now assure his friends and the public, that a more general assortment is not to be found in any one store in the country; and from the low price he will sell at, he is warranted in saying it is well worth the attention of those who wish to purchase to call and examine his assortment and prices.

Lewiston, June 1, 1824.

Several bills from Calvin Hotchkiss for merchandise are included in the Academy records. He must have been very successful in his role as merchant as he retired to his farm of seven hundred acres at "Five Mile Meadows." There he cultivated his good land with great success, built a fine spacious dwelling and died a bachelor at an advanced age. That house is now Stella Niagara Cadet House.

The Library building continued as a store for many years although the type of merchandise sold there varied from the original stock of Calvin Hotchkiss. Marcus Silberberg who arrived from Germany in 1852 looked the Frontier over and decided to open a clothing store in Lewiston. This was in the Library. His family occupied the old Dr. Smith house across the street where Miss Bertha Silberberg was born. She has recently died after a long life devoted to civic interests in the city of Niagara Falls. By 1860 Marcus saw that Lewiston was not the location for a growing business and moved store and family to the Falls.

We do not know all of the occupants of the building but of interest to us is the millinery and dressmaking shop conducted there by the Misses Burke. Their living quarters were upstairs.

One of these sisters became Mrs. Eugene Murphy, the <sup>step-</sup>mother of Fred Murphy, recently retired from long years of service in the immigration offices and Miss Mae Murphy the village librarian for many years. Miss Eugenia Murphy, their sister, has recalled many "homey" incidents of the village which are included in this history.

The Library was the brain-child of the Men's Club a civic organization active at the turn of the century. Led by Dr. George Hobbie and Mr. J. B. Scovell they vigorously set about enlisting the aid of all residents in establishing funds for the creation of a village library. On Memorial Day 1901 the first library was opened to the public in the building now occupied by Vaughan's store. In May 1908 it was moved to the present location then owned by Mr. J. B. Scovell but later sold to the library association. One of the most interesting antiques in the village is the huge brass key which is used to unlock the library door. Similar in size are keys used in Barton Hill and the Frontier House.

Miss Mary Margaret Wright was the first librarian. A newspaper clipping of January 1, 1922 reveals that Miss Alicia M. Ottley, deceased, had been the librarian for the past eleven years. "She was very faithful to her duties in the library, kind, pleasant, and very courteous to all." Miss Mae Murphy is the librarian whom most of us remember, an entire generation of school children have used the books of the library under her quiet guidance. She is at present retired but is ready to answer questions concerning the early days. The Lewiston Service Guild adopted the Library as its special civic project and has wrought many changes in the interior and in numbers and types of reading materials. The present librarian, Mrs. D. Windzor Jones, carries on the work of the earlier librarians plus services to the military personnel in our area and an increasing population. This is an honorable and venerable institution.

The Cooke family is the next to be considered in our examination of the very earliest buildings on Center St. Capt. Lemuel Cooke after his year of service at Ft. Niagara in 1796-97 settled at the river's edge in Youngstown and operated the ferry to Newark. In 1802 he and his sons built a cabin on the site of Joncaire's cabin at Lewiston and lived there until they purchased the land formerly occupied by the Mohawks under Joseph Brant on the Ridge Road. Lothrop Cooke sometime during those years preceding the War of 1812 lived in Canada and married a wife of French descent. When war was declared all aliens were commanded to swear an oath of allegiance to England which Lothrop refused to do. Knowing that he would be imprisoned for refusing he secretly set out in a canoe with his wife and small son and



crossed the forty miles of Lake Ontario. His part in the battle of Queenston has already been related. He was practically a dying man at the time of the burning of Lewiston and was tenderly placed on a straw covered sleigh and taken on the flight to safety down the Ridge. Mrs. Hawes in writing of him says: "Passing through hardships in early life he fought the battle of life nobly and successfully. He was Collector under President Fillmore, Deputy Sheriff and a magistrate for more than thirty years. His lofty height and bearing and his cheerful hospitality are still recalled to the memory of surviving friends (1887)." Joshua Cooke, his nephew describes him as a very powerful man, with an eye like an eagle and perfectly devoid of fear. Such was the man who built his house on Center St. in 1815. It is the second house on the south side from the corner of Seventh St. now owned by John Bingenheimer. During the years it has gone through alterations and improvements, the work at one period being done by Parkinson the village builder who constructed the Manse. Dr. Kerr the village doctor for many years lived in the house and maintained his office in an attached building which now is across the street occupied by William Zimmerman. This is a sample of what has happened to many buildings which were integral parts of early Center St. In some instances the houses have been moved several blocks away and remain much as they were originally. Others have been restored to a beauty exceeding their original appearance, some have been separated and some have been joined. It is difficult to give an authentic picture of the appearance of the main street as it was then but each house and owner actually identified helps to reconstruct the old village.

Just as the Hotchkiss family concentrated in one area so did the Cookes. Next to Lothrop lived Bates, where the Bedenkapps built, his little house was moved to Oneida St. where it is still being used. Here he had his law office and I imagine Horatio Stow used to be a guest in his home on Center St. Bates was the father of that delightful old story-teller and family historian, Joshua. He was active in village and church affairs, was involved in the Morgan trial, was representative in the U. S. Congress and Comptroller at Albany, "the latter doing what the Indian Hatchet could not do, it killed him."

The aforesaid families and dwellings are to my knowledge the very oldest locations; time changes all things and these 1815 buildings have undergone many periods of neglect and recovery, they may not resemble the original in too many details.

The period of years between 1820 and 1850 could be called the Golden Age in Lewiston's development. The Kelsey Tavern now the home of Mrs. Frank Hall sat right on the edge of the road

and was the scene of a gathering to honor Lafayette, the Frontier House was started in 1824 and for many years was the terminus of the stage lines and the setting for balls and village entertainments as well as over-night lodging for many noted travelers. Sherburne Piper arrived and built that imposing home now called Hennepin Hall, the stone houses on the Ridge were built in the 1830's, the churches had their building programs in this period. The good fathers of the village were instrumental in having a branch horse railroad built down the side of the mountain and through the village to the river. The academy was begun in 1824 and was the center of refinement until 1850. The Erie Canal brought an end to the old Portage business but it provided easy access to the markets for the ever-increasing farm and orchard products of this region. With canal and railroads creating jobs for laborers, immigrants arrived from the old countries and added a hardy new stock to our early pioneering families.

The village fathers were joined by the rural dwellers in creating schools for the children. The 1840's saw the erection of Robinson School on the Swan Road and Hickory College on the Ridge.

Some of these developments have been the subject of pamphlets issued by the Niagara County Historical Society and newspaper articles so recently published in the Niagara Falls Gazette written by the county historian that we will not dwell upon them.

Some landmarks of that period are disappearing due to the great building boom going on in Lewiston today. The big trees on land near Oak Hill which once was the home of Seymour Scovell are being cut this year. On Center St. in front of the house where doctors have lived since the days of Willard Smith, the stone steps for alighting from carriages have been removed. This house was built in 1820 by the pioneer doctor and there his son and successor Dr. Edward Smith was born and carried on the work of his father. Upon his death his practise was bought by Dr. Kerr in 1889. There have been periods when this house was used by others than doctors as the Silberbergs lived there in the 1850's while Dr. Smith was elsewhere. Also for many years it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Childs but again it is the home and office of a doctor, Dr. Hans Seltzer, who came to this community when Dr. Kerr became too old to practise.

Hennepin Hall or Lewiston Manor or St. Elmo's or the home of Sherburne Piper according to the period in which you are interested is now part of St. Peter's parish and is rapidly being changed into a parochial school. The Hon. Piper came to Lewiston in the 1830's a graduate of Dartmouth, was a teacher at the Academy and later a practising lawyer. For several years he was on the board of trustees of the Academy and the notes he left are so scrawled I was unable to decipher more than a few words. Most



people in going through his enormous house appreciate the fine woods, the well built chimneys and fireplaces which are reported to have cost one thousand dollars each, the beautiful stairway which curves up and up. The artisans were John Carter of Youngstown for the mason work and Mortimer Bacon for the beautiful staircase and railing. Mortimer Bacon was the great-grandfather of Mrs. George Field and he lived where Michael's electric shop is now on Center St. I found him mentioned in the village records as of August 1, 1859: "The account of M. H. Bacon for making 2 biers . . . \$5.50 was presented paid." Evidently the town fathers had to bury unclaimed bodies. The great house owners of those days had so little regard for the servants. This is revealed by the location of the great ovens in the cellars where all the food was prepared, it then was carried up a very tiny dark pair of stairs to the dining rooms above. I suppose labor was cheap and there was always someone else to take the place of a servant who broke a leg or a neck. Great and imposing were the stairways for master and guests but narrow, dark and steep the ones the servant trod.

Plain St. which is parallel to Center and next south to it was developing during these years and it retains many of its beautiful homes in a fine state of restoration. It is one of the loveliest streets in the village. The small house on the corner of Niagara and Plain is owned by a descendant of Augustus Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bacon. Recently a visit to that old house revealed a secret about the habits of some of our old home owners. This is a word-of-mouth story and is not authenticated. Every room of the house was covered with green paint, as are many of the floors in old houses in Lewiston. The explanation is that every year when the Canadian Steamships put up at the wharves for a paint job the men of the village who did the work would help themselves to a little paint carrying it home in their lunch pails, and then apply it to their floors.

Each year a fresh coat of paint was applied. A present-day owner restoring the floors to the original never knows what will be uncovered. In this case the wood was black ash a tree not supposed to be native west of Conn. However in a description of trees found on Goat Island I found mention of "Two species of Ash, white and black are among the trees of the island, and are to be met elsewhere in abundance." (1901) Wherever the wood came from it is beautiful when the green paint is removed.

If you are walking along Plain St. admiring the houses and lofty trees turn at the corner of Niagara and walk south toward Oak Hill the big stone house built in 1834 by John Cleghorn for Dr. Seymour Scovell. It has a false front added to break the

wind. It was famous in its day for its terraced gardens, its green house, its grapes, peaches and melons. This was the home of a man closely connected with the Academy. Niagara St. was cut through the forest so that he could easily walk to the main part of the village and join friends at a game of whist in the Frontier House. He was collector of the port under Pres. Jackson and Van Buren, a very lucrative post. Why he was called "Dr." is unknown to me. I have found no mention of his being an Md. and Ph.D's were rather rare then. I imagine it was an honorary title such as "Colonel" in Kentucky.

Leander K. Scovell, his son, married Emeline Ways whose home was the old house on what has for many years been known as the "Kelley Farm" near Hickory College. Leander who was first encountered in the trustees' book of that school built the beautiful stone house on the Ridge now owned by Ansley Wilcox. This house is remembered by the older residents as the "Dr. Eddy" house because Mary, the daughter of Leander and Emeline married Dr. Eddy and lived there for many years. It is interesting to note how the old families continued in the ancestral homes for several generations in contrast to conditions today in Lewiston where the industrial population is forever changing.

### The Hustlers

Why should the story of the Hustlers and their tavern be included in every pamphlet about old Lewiston? Perhaps because it gives a piquancy to other dry facts, perhaps because every new resident hearing about Thomas and Catherine for the first time seems to enjoy the yarns about them. So we will bring them back from their long rest in the village cemetery by means of the writings of Joshua Cooke and Mrs. Hawes.

The tavern was located on Center St. at the turn of Portage and was evidently well established before the War of 1812. Mr. Scovell says it was left standing after the burning and I found a note recently to the effect that the proprietors returned "when it was safe." They entertained Cooper during the summer of 1821 and he was so amused by them that he included them in his book "The Spy" as Sergeant Hollister and Betty Flannigan. Thomas was a Revolutionary soldier, Catherine had been a sutler, following the army from Fort Wayne. To this probably is due the fact of somewhat formidable elements in her character. She swore, played a good hand at cards, and according to Cooper, was the inventor of the celebrated drink the "gin cocktail" which she administered to feverish patients as well as weary stragglers. She said, "It warms both sowl and body, and is fit to be put in a



vessel of diamonds." Cooper often read his manuscript to her and when he repeated the refrain of his drinking song, she would laugh immoderately, not knowing she sat for the picture. It ran:

"Old Mother Flannigan  
Come and fill the can again,  
For you can fill and we can swill,  
Good Betty Flannigan."

Thomas died the following December, aged 68 years. About ten years later she was still holding forth at the tavern where Joshua met her on his way to school. Joshua lived where the Bedenkapps built, and was on his way to the little school on the Academy grounds, the year probably 1831.

"When about ten years old passing her house one wet morning I was hugging the long front stoop of the tavern to avoid the mud. In average haste of the boy a little late for school I had failed to tie my shoes and the strings were trailing. There stood the dread dame, arms akimbo looking for war. War fell on me. In a voice like a cracked bassoon she cried, "Come up here you little brat and tie your shoes; what do you go that way for through the mud? Can you tie a double bow-knot?"

"No, Mrs. Hustler." I stammered.

"Well now put your foot up on the steps and I will show you how." She taught me. "There now, honey, come in and get some bread and sugar." And off to school. He concludes by stating that there was high old revelry there on Saturday nights.

Catherine died in March 1832, aged 70 years. Her epitaph is getting a little dim to be deciphered:

Traveler, as you are passing by—  
As you are now, so once was i—  
As i am now, so you must be;  
Prepare for death and follow me."

How long the tavern stood after her death I do not know. In later years there was a terrible fire in that area in which it may have been consumed.

### **The Palmy Days of Lewiston**

The old families who left substantial homes have acquired considerable wealth during the 1820's and 30's. Mrs. Hawes calls these the "palmy days of Lewiston." The following paragraphs are copied from her book, "Lewiston, Past, Present and Future." In 1887 she was writing so close to the rise and fall of Lewiston

that her comments are worth consideration. With the re-discovery of her history this spring much interest was evinced in what her prophecy for the future had been and to what extent it has been fulfilled.

"Fifty or sixty years ago Lewiston had advantages denied Buffalo and Rochester. Her main or Center St. was the great "Overland route across the Continent." Great lines of stages thronged with travelers to the Falls and loaded with heavy foreign mails rattled down the broad avenue. Lewiston was the port of entry and the distributing post-office. The salary of the post-master was \$2500, that of the collector \$2000. Before there were any railroads, great ox teams, sometimes thirty a day, bore merchandise up the mountain, taking the place of the old tramway with its windlass. The pioneers of Michigan, Illinois and the states beyond, came in their covered wagons and were often detained here by the floating ice. Great droves of cattle and other domestic animals passed through, and likewise the fine timber of the virgin forests, shipped to Montreal and Quebec.

"The society was exceptionally good; nearly every house on the street had its piano on which young ladies, taught at Eastern schools or the Academy played for cotillions or country dances and for the accompaniments to the songs of Scott, Burns, Moore and Byron. Balls were the order of the day, and the ladies found ready escorts in the officers at the Fort, law students and teachers at the Academy.

"All kinds of finery could be bought in Lewiston in those days. Silks, satins, rich laces, slippers, fans, shawls, parasols and gloves. Shops for hardware, shoes, drugs, a milliner, a tailor and a saddler supplied all wants in their lines.

"Good liquors and bountiful tables were the rule; and while the young people danced, their elders played chess and whist."

Her reasons for the decline of Lewiston:

"If we look for the cause of the strange decline of this once prosperous settlement, they are numerous and conclusive. At the completion of the Erie canal, its commerce found a new outlet in Buffalo, the great vessel interest became almost worthless as railroads were built on both sides of the river. Lockport became the county seat to the great disappointment of the many sound and distinguished members of the bar residing in Lewiston. The monied men became involved in the disasters of Buffalo Banks. Rival schools in neighboring towns successfully competed with the Academy which lost many scholars during the Patriot War (1838).



"The descendants of the earlier settlers with a few exceptions seemed to have lacked the physical strength and pluck of their ancestors. They were delicately reared and the homes they fell heir to were ready to their hands without the toil and labor that made them so. They bought worthless stock, they entrusted their savings to unsafe hands, the Bridge was destroyed shutting off communication with Canada; fire and intemperance did their work. The churches suffered from all these causes, and of late the town was bonded, and the vaunted peach crop nearly ruined."

Prophecy in 1887 :

"Even as I write comes the glimmer of better times to the faded old town. The N. Y. C. takes its cars to the river, and the popular observation trains carry an increased number of travelers from every quarter. Before the eyes of the inhabitants float visions of Artesian wells; of the bridge rebuilt; the old Academy revived; the Frontier House taking its rank as a first class hotel; the churches repaired and beautified, and Cooke's hall, the old Universalist church made into a modern casino.

"We can well imagine what hundreds of men and thousands of dollars could do in cultivating and adorning this unequalled site for a rural town . . . The principal streets are on a fine plateau, the beginning of the famous Ridge Road to Rochester, a wonderful natural feature of this region. Here are a dozen fine streets 100 ft. wide shaded by old trees. The air is softer and the season a fortnight earlier than that of Buffalo, and Toronto is the great market for surplus produce of every description, particularly for tomatoes, cherries and peaches.

"Scores of old houses on commanding sites could be removed and replaced with stately homes or pretty villas, each one retaining its fine gardens, which with irrigation and cultivation would yield fruit and vegetables of every variety. The mountain side could be made a succession of vineyards, the soil being unsurpassed for grapes of almost every kind from which excellent wine has been produced. Beyond the village for many miles on the Ridge Road is a succession of fine farms with great fields of wheat, corn, rye, barley and hay, with orchards of apples, pears, and peaches and vineyards of grapes. Notably among these is the farm of William Hotchkiss, for many years a merchant of Lewiston, on which was raised the celebrated wheat crop, for which he received a valuable silver medal from the New York State Agricultural Society in 1851.

## Awarded

Wm. Hotchkiss

The sample of wheat, 63½ bushels per acre, for which honorable mention was given at the Great Exhibition, London.

"When this dense crop ripened, it was found impossible to cut it with a scythe or any known reaper, but fortunately a band of English peasants came along on their way to Canada and with great labor despatched it with their sicles. This wonderful field enriched by the drainage of the land above produced good crops of wheat for twenty years after."

Some of Mrs. Hawes prophecy came true but she couldn't visualize in 1887 the great industrial development of the Niagara Frontier which has turned Lewiston from a rural town into a growing area of commuters' homes. Some of the old houses she suggests should be torn down are now in better shape than they were for many years and the old Academy has been superseded by a fine Centralized school system. We will concede that she had a vision of the possibilities inherent in the location of this beautiful area.

## Vital Statistics

Lewiston Village was surveyed in 1805 by Joseph Annan, a relation of Benjamin Barton, chartered in 1822, incorporated April 18, 1843. The town of Lewiston was created on February 27, 1818 at a meeting held in the home of Sparrow S. Sage on the Ridge Road. So for many years there was no dividing line between village and country dwellers and we find the names of all active people in the entire area listed as officers of political organizations and private institutions.

The Library is custodian of practically the first book of records of the village board of trustees, with reports dating from the early '50's.

The entries give a glimpse into conditions in the village during that period.

1859 — "Resolved that all the trustees be a committee on sidewalks and that they shall direct the street commissioner in regard to the grade and repairs of same."

Whatever the work of this committee was, there were no sidewalks for practically fifty years. The first flagstones were in front of some of the stores, those in front of the Red and White



were probably laid years ago when Moses Bairsto owned the store. Cement sidewalks were hailed by everyone with great joy as the inhabitants had been plowing through the mud and dust for many years.

Resolved — "That the ordinance in regard to hogs running at large in the street be enforced in all cases, except where they are provided with rings in their noses sufficient to keep them from rooting." Evidently two years later they were still trying to control the animals as they voted to have a Public Pound. They leased land for the pound from O. P. Scovell, "south west corner of Block D." That is the corner of 3rd and Oneida. On July 2, 1861, M. Cornell was paid \$50.16 for labor and material in construction of the pound.

Mrs. Hawes mentions the ringing of the bell on the old Stone Church as one of Lewiston's time honored customs. "It calls up the sleepers at 7 A. M., it summons the hungry to dinner at 12M, it reminds the youth that their mothers expect them at 9 P. M. and whether at morning or night is a welcome and cheerful sound for many miles away." The expense of employing a bell ringer was paid by the village. "John Richardson's account for ringing the church bell for the quarter ending June 30, 1859, amounting to \$12.50 was referred to the finance committee." In later years this practice was discontinued and the people of Queenston missed it so much that they offered to share the expense for several years. John Keyes is remembered by the older residents as the bell ringer of their youth. He was 87 years old when he met death under very questionable circumstances. It is said that after ringing curfew one dark night he took the wrong turning down by the river and was drowned. His monument was already at hand as he had formed it of cement, a small pyramid, pointed at the top so no birds would sit on his tombstone. Another bell ringer also came to a sad end. He was not one of the wisest of men and when he saw some friends in swimming jumped in to join them even though he could not swim. In these days the fire siren announces 12 o'clock noon and curfew is sounded at 10 P. M.

Lewiston was the scene of a circus performance on the 21st day of June 1860. R. Sands American Circus was granted a license to perform in the village. The location of land suitable for such an outfit is thought to have been the Common which existed for many years in the low lands at the north end of Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Sts. That was an area where cows and horses could be staked during the summer months, skating was possible there during the winter. The lovers of horse racing trained their animals on a tract there and were watched by all the small fry of the village.

After most of this material on Lewiston's past had been assembled a fresh supply of letters and documents was discovered which has given more pictures of life in the old days. These are all connected with the Hotchkiss family from the days of William and Calvin. Evidently the store in the old Library was stocked on September 8th, 1815, as the complete inventory of goods belonging to Calvin Hotchkiss and put in stock with William Hotchkiss and Asahel Woodruff is included in this collection. It was a complete store carrying everything for house, farm, men and women. The value of stock was \$1194.17. A partnership existed for a few years between these men and then was dissolved.

There are dozens of receipts for all kinds of village business. One is Sam Barton's postage acc. from July 1, 1835 to July 1836. Evidently one could charge his postage as well as groceries. This was the period when the recipient of mail paid the postage. The bill includes postage on the New York Times from April, 1835 to July 1, 1836 . . . \$1.30. It is interesting to note that our early settlers were reading the New York Times!

A bill from George W. Rector, the stage man lists costs for cartage in October 1836:

Horse to Lockport	12/	1.50
1 Lode of Apels to Slosser team to falls	16/	2.00
Balance on flower	12/	1.50
June 1837 team to falls with wife		2.00

This was paid by Wm. Hotchkiss.

Joel Harris was the tailor in 1837. His bill for making a coat was \$6.50; padding, lining \$2.25; pants \$1.75. An overcoat cost \$9.00, a vest \$1.75.

The blacksmith that same year was Charles Brown whose bill includes: Shoeing 1 span bay horses \$1.56; Setting tires for 8 wagon wheels \$8.00.

The doctor, G. W. Graves charged 75c per visit and \$1 for 100 pills.

The old Lewiston Horse Railroad put in a bill for \$2.50 for freight on two crates stone ware, 1000 lbs. @ 2/ from Lockport. Lovell Lewis agent.

One of the characters from the past that I would have enjoyed knowing is Josiah Tryon who with his wife Mary befriended all who needed help. These two good people kept a little store between the present post office and Helms' store. They had no great wealth but gave freely of what they had. They were active in the Underground Railroad. Josiah submitted a bill to



Mr. Hotchkiss for cutting, evidently someone else did the sewing, perhaps Mrs. Hotchkiss.

Cutting clothes for Eugene	.75
Cutting pants for self	.25
Cutting 2 Roundabouts self	.50
Cutting pantaloons	.25

There were repetitions of names amongst these old bills, showing that the second generation of early settlers had by now established businesses in the village. A Lemuel Cooke is a cabinet maker who had his shop near Vincent's garage. It was burned later in the fire which destroyed practically that whole block. Bates Cooke the second was a blacksmith whose bill includes repairing wagons and setting shoes.

Quite a bit going on in the village in the 1830's.

The Hotchkiss family by 1860 was scattered abroad, one son in Buffalo, one in Milwaukee and the girls visiting around so that there was a great exchange of letters which have preserved for us several interesting village events. One of the sons had secured a colored boy for farm work but he had to be dismissed even though he was an excellent help with the live stock as he was insolent to some neighbor. The young men in the village were all ready with the tar and feathers if they should catch him off the farm so his employer had to get him out of town before he was taken for a ride on a rail!

The Fourth of July 1860 was celebrated in great style, related in a letter to Leander Hotchkiss. "In the morning it was quiet, but about two o'clock the excitement started. There was a procession of between thirty and forty people on horseback dressed in the most fantastic and outlandish costumes who marched through the principle streets and afforded no small amusement and fun to the lookers on. They had a very good band of music. There was but one lady in the grand procession (probably a gentleman dressed up) and he or she was the observed of all observers. She was dressed magnificently in pink calico and flourished a fan of unheard of dimensions and flirted with the numerous gentlemen to her heart's content. His Satanic Majesty was represented by Mr. Billy . . . There were Turks, Indians, soldiers of the Revolution, and representatives of nearly every nation. They went to Canada and on their return Mr. Charley Stowe delivered an oration which was witty and amusing. He was arrayed as an old soldier and had his speech written on a paper five yards long."

Sister Lette visiting Oneida wrote of her impressions of that place. "I had supposed it was a dilapidated miserable old place

like Lewiston only much worse, instead of that the houses are all nicely painted, standing up straight and all have beautiful yards in front and around them filled with shrubbery." Lette certainly gives us a picture of Lewiston in 1860. Practically all the houses in the village were right on the street with no chance for beautiful yards.

This section could be prolonged many pages by using material saved all these years by this one family. It encompasses all the years between 1814 and the turn of the 20th century.

### Bits of This and That

Mr. Percy Morgan of the River Road has been the recorder of rain fall in Lewiston for many years. Back in 1849 the record was kept by the Lewiston Academy. No name is signed to a letter which we presume is a rough draft of one sent to the University giving the meteorological report for the year 1848. The scientist gives a very careful explanation of the lack of rainfall in this region. "For some years until the commencement of the last year the Rain gage has been kept at an elevation of fifty feet above the ground on the roof of the Academy to guard against the loss of it by theft. I then made different arrangements by placing it where it would be secure eight feet from the ground. It has been attended to with regularity and precision and confidence may be placed in the result stated.

The causes of less rain falling at this place than at any other Academy in the state probably arises from our local position as respects the level of table land immediately south of us and its sudden depression of 220 ft. to the general level of the land north of the mountain ridge. Clouds surcharged with rain are frequently seen approaching us directly from the southwest which on their near approach are directed wholly to the Lake or to the tract south of the mountain ridge; or as frequently occurs the clouds separate, a part going to the Lake and another part to the terrace south of us without any rain falling at this place. If the foregoing statement is true it follows that the amount of rain which falls in this village is no indication of the quantity which falls generally in this part of the Western District of New York." His statement is considered by local observers to be an adequate explanation of the comparative dryness of this region.

### Word-of-Mouth Stories

Some stories never found in print are handed down as word-of-mouth yarns interesting to listen to but not always



authenticated. Some of the residents of the Tuscarora Reservation bear names of French or English origin dating back to the period of French and English possession of this territory when officers took Indian wives. I have read in Turner's History that Captain Mountpleasant was a British officer at the Fort who was removed to Canada leaving behind his wife and children. A strange comment that he was mindful of them in the following years and sent them gifts struck me as a bit callous. I think it was this wife who later married Pemberton the American who was tied to a tree in the village but escaped through the intervention of Joseph Brandt. So American names were added.

One of the descendants of this union was Benny Pemberton, an Indian who was known around the village for many years. My informant said he was an old, very tall and straight Indian who carried a bow and quiver of arrows on his back, because he said he never knew when he would be called to the happy hunting ground and he wanted to be prepared. He detested the whites. He said that long ago when the white men came to Lewiston they wanted things cheap, (land, corn, furs,?) The Indians didn't like the deal. When they went to the village they were treated badly, abused and trouble followed. The chief came down and quieted the troublemakers. Then he turned and climbed the mountain. When he reached the spot where Dagget's house is now he stopped and stretching out his hands cursed Lewiston, "May it never prosper!" That is the curse and when it is repeated it is supposed to be the reason for Lewiston's periods of quietness, shall we call them, and the reason why industry and stores have come and gone, ventures started then collapsed. This is a yarn, it circulates among some of the people.

From Ray Powell I received another picture of Benny who was a farm hand during the harvest season on his farm. Benny was difficult to manage but Ray employed him several seasons. One day Benny was coming up the Ridge from the field to the barn with a basket of tomatoes on his arm and was a bit unsteady on his feet. Just as a car came along Benny listed too far south and was hit. Benny was unhurt but all that remained of the basket was the bail on his arm. The smashed tomatoes added a bit of gore to the scene but Benny proceeded on his way.

### **The Plague!**

How terrible was the word "Cholera" on the frontier. It struck right here on the Ridge Road. This story was related by Mr. John Brassler who heard it many years ago from Mr. Royall who was a participant in the activities connected with the outbreak.

The little ferry had been laid up because the river was full of floating ice. This was in the 1840's, the period of great migration to the lands in Michigan and the schooner wagons on their trek west stopped all along the Ridge as far as Dickersonville, the emigrants waiting for passage across the river. Cholera broke out. Imagine the fright among the settlers and the poor people on their way to a new home. The deaths were numerous. Mr. Royall went out each morning with his wagon loaded with coffins and came back with each occupied. Many of the bodies were buried in trenches in the cemetery. Little children left homeless were taken in by local settlers. An old book in the village library has a chapter on the outbreak in Buffalo where fear gripped all the inhabitants, but I think the anguish among those in the wagons must have been almost too much to bear. Miss Eugenia Murphy remembers seeing in an old cook book of her mother's a remedy for the cholera, hand written on the fly leaf. Evidently all early settlers were ever on the alert for such an outbreak.

Mr. Brasser was also the informant about the old tow path which extended from Youngstown to Lewiston at the water's edge. In the days of sailing vessels if there was no wind the boats were hauled down by hand. Mrs. Herbert Vaughn recalls that there appeared each spring in a certain part of their land on the River Road a hard packed area where nothing would ever grow. This is presumed to be part of that old path.

Trolley car tracks up Center St. with a turn toward the north on Fifth arouse the interest of some people. They are all that is left of a branch of the Gorge Railroad which continued down through the fields to the Fort which was an active garrison for many years, principally around 1917. Farmers had loading sheds in their fields near the tracks for shipping their produce to the Fort. Later these tracks carried passengers to Niagara Beach which at the height of the season was a howling place. About three times a week excursions along the Gorge Route would continue down to the Beach with trolleys running far into the wee small hours of the morning. A car with great searchlights went ahead of the others so the whole countryside was illumined.

### **The Churches of Lewiston**

1953 is an epochal year in the history of the three churches in Lewiston, St. Peter's St. Paul's and the First Presbyterian. Lewiston without too much warning of changing conditions finds itself part of the great industrial expansion of the entire Niagara Frontier, faced with housing, church and school problems which are being met.



St. Peter's Catholic Church has purchased the Lewiston Manor for a parochial school and work is being done currently both inside and out to put it into shape for some classes in the fall. St. Paul's Episcopal Church under the leadership of Rev. James Wells has installed a new organ and is engaged in a fund raising campaign for a new church building.

The First Presbyterian Church has dedicated the addition to its building which will greatly facilitate the work with young people in the parish.

The written lore of the region includes accounts of the church of the Mohawks, a log building erected by Joseph Brant approximately on the boundry between the farms of Lewis Hull and the Isaac Cooke farms. Today we locate it as in the vicinity of Hillside Dr. and the Ridge Road. Capt. Brant served as lay leader in this church and occasionally a chaplain from Ft. Niagara came to celebrate communion. A bell which had been given the Mohawks by the King was brought with them from central New York and was hung on a pole in an apple tree nearby. Joshua Cooke states that his grandfather, Lemuel had no love for the Indians or Indian relics. He had suffered too much at their hands, so one day when he wanted sled runners he walked out on his land and cut down that particular tree. The bell may be seen on the Reservation in Brantford, Ontario, where the Mohawks were given sanctuary after the Revolution.

The Rev. Davenport Phelps in writing to Pres. John Wheelock, November 1800 upon the exertions of Brant remarks, "There is already a degree of civilization among a number of the Indians which would surprise a stranger. And with some of them an appearance of Christianity that many of the whites who profess it, might blush at a comparative view . . . Brant greatly encourages civilization and Christianity." That is a very remarkable statement and the early settlers would have been quite justified in refuting it. However any account of the development of the churches here has to start with Brant and his little log church.

Missionaries came to the Frontier from New England States and one, the Rev. Miles P. Squieres, located in Buffalo felt the call to work among the heathen in the Lewiston area. He probably traveled from house to house throughout the village and along the Ridge Road interviewing the families until on January 20, 1817, he was able to gather five for an organization meeting in the home of Joseph Seeley. These five were Aaron Childs, wife Lucy; John Robinson, wife Elizabeth; Polly Huggins. Strange isn't it that Joseph Seeley consenting to having the meeting in his home did not join the band? The Robinson family through a maternal line is present in this area in the seventh generation, the children of Charles M. Brown.

This little handful of worshippers drafted a Covenant and adopted a Presbyterian form of government. In April they were joined at the first communion by I. N. Bailey, Martha Kelsey, Julia Henry, Thomas Chamberlain, Jonas Chamberlain, Lucinda Chamberlain. Again the meeting was in the home of a man who did not join, Josiah Sheapherd. However he must have been convinced later as he is included in the list of trustees incorporating the society on June 12, 1817. The others were Benjamin Barton, Aaron Childs, Erastus Park, Augustus Porter, Elizah Ransom, Rufus Spalding. The question arises upon reading that plaque on the front of the church, why Augustus Porter? He and Benjamin Barton were the great landholders and business moguls of the area, but Porter was in Niagara Falls. Perhaps there was a land transfer somewhere which benefited the Society. No one has answered that question as yet.

It must be understood that although the Presbyterian form of church government was adopted, as the First Religious Society grew and plans were made for a building it was a union or community church, there wasn't any other.

In September the Rev. David M. Smith arrived to be the first pastor of the group. Here was a man who really worked. He looked after the local spiritual needs of the Frontier and traveled about the area starting other churches.

He was greatly distressed because there was no church building where the people could worship. In the winter of 1825-26 he traveled back to the New England states to raise money toward a building fund. Newspaper clippings of the day from Rochester, Boston and other cities have preserved his eloquent appeals for money. This is a sample: "With some missionary aid, the inhabitants (Lewiston) by much exertion on their part and by much self denial on the part of their pastor, have been enabled to retain among them hitherto the preaching of the gospel.

Hitherto the progress of our society has been greatly impeded by being obliged to hold our meetings in a schoolhouse (this was the tiny stone schoolhouse on the N. W. corner of the Academy lot) claimed and generally occupied a part of each sabbath, by other denominations . . . By spirited and preserving efforts of a few individuals a suitable site is procured and funds have been subscribed sufficient within \$1500 or \$2000 to erect a commodious church . . . In our present condition with no place in which to worship without being interrupted, and being exposed to error in various shapes the word preached is like "seed sown by the wayside." He pleads for help, saying greivous wolves stand ready to devour the flock!



Miss Gazelle Hoffman has David Smith's account book for that trip; expenses for four months, \$117.44; donations to the building fund \$587.65. Imagine our great surprise to find a letter from this same man among the Academy records which reveals that he was the same active fund raiser for the Lewiston Academy.

Poor David Smith! He worked so hard for the building which was started the year he had to sever relations with the congregation. 1826 saw the beginning of the church edifice but that same year the whole area was in a turmoil over the Morgan anti-Mason affair. The preacher was a Mason and was forced to leave the church, he became associated with the Academy. Bates Cooke, the first treasurer of the church, was one of the prosecutors of the abductors and was earnestly engaged in the search for Morgan's body. What a rift in the congregation. A group followed the minister from the Presbyterian congregation and formed the Episcopal Church of Lewiston.

From this point the two societies were to develop separately but for several years the old stone church was the meeting place for both and for the other church groups without a building, namely Baptists and Methodists.

In those early days the dwelling of the preacher was called a "mission house" as David M. Smith was really a missionary. He built a home on the lot between Plain, Fifth and Cayuga Streets. In the fall of 1855, Mr. O. P. Scovell using that as a nucleus built a larger dwelling for his bride Elizabeth Jewett, and there Mr. Josiah Boardman Scovell was born. According to Mr. Scovell he has thus been connected with practically every minister in the old stone church.

The next step in the development of the Episcopal Church took place in November 1831, when a meeting was held in a room in the church by the Rev. John Robertson, a missionary under the "Education and Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York."

The organization of St. Paul's followed on January 16, 1832, with the Rev. Robertson presiding at the meeting. Asahel Lyon and Oliver Grace were elected wardens. Vestrymen were: Samuel Barton, George Sharkey, Abed Smith, George Hawley, Odenathus Hill, Henry Franklin, Guy Reynolds and Horatio Stow.

In May 1832, the first steps were taken for building an Episcopal church. Three years later the corner stone was laid. This date is significant as many people are interested in the comparative ages of these two old churches. It will be an aid to memory to connect the laying of the corner stone of St. Paul's with the

completion of the First Presbyterian Church. The two decades, 1820, 1830, witnessed many "firsts." Those years covered a rich chapter in the history of Lewiston.

The churches were erected but hard times and difficulties descended upon both congregations. In 1844 the old stone church was in debt and was sold on the steps of the Frontier House at public auction. A member of the congregation, Ira Woolson and wife Clarissa, who lived where the Gilbert Farris do now, bought the church for \$100 and sold it back to the congregation for \$101.

(This selling of property on the steps of the Frontier House for debts or mortgage must have been a regular custom as I met it again in reading the search for title for the little stone house on Center Street).

In the old days papa bought a church pew for the family and if he were an important member of the community he paid a large price for a pew in the front. There is a diagram extant of the pews and owners in the early church. Side pews up front were owned by Amos Tryon, Lovell Lewis, Alex Cole, B. Barton, S. M. Hurd, N. Baker, Gad Nichols, Asher Williams who paid \$150 to \$200 per pew.

In the main section they came higher, \$200 to \$250, being the price paid by Isaac C. Cooke, Hetzel Colt, Isaac Colt, Jr., Richard Ayer, William Hotchkiss. Locations in the middle rear of the church were cheaper. B. Barton's name is written in several places on the diagram. Someone suggested that he bought several for the retinue of servants. If such a diagram were to be made today everyone would scramble for a rear seat. I wonder when the trend toward the back first started?

Both of these churches have had periods of regression and expansion. There have been gifts to each which have added greatly to the beauty of the interiors, organs, windows, furniture, memorial gifts and the necessary improvements paid for by the congregations. When any form of structural improvement is contemplated on these old buildings there is great concern lest the walls will come tumblin' down as the early masons used a very crumbly kind of cement. However, every generation produces some artisan who has the ability to tear out and enlarge safely, and the walls stand. During the periods when the churches have been without a pastor the steadfast congregations have stepped in and conducted services. Also attended to caring for the church property even to mowing the Episcopal church lawn by a devoted woman. The church was closed, the grass long and she wheeled her lawn mower up the street and trimmed the grass. A woman unafraid of being thought eccentric.



St. Paul's goes forward to meet the challenge guided by the Diocesan motto, "Each for the other and all for God." The First

The First Presbyterian Church has just dedicated a large addition to the old stone portion which will furnish adequate facilities for the growing church school needs. The rooms available will undoubtedly be used by many community groups but it is primarily for the program of Christian Education.

An attractive blue and gold booklet issued in 1951 is the source material on the development of St. Peter's Parish in Lewiston. In the month of May 1951, clergy and laymen of St. Peter's Catholic Church celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Lewiston parish. Father Campbell has granted permission to use verbatim some of the paragraphs from this anniversary brochure.

Accounts of the traveling Catholic missionaries on the Niagara Frontier date back to 1626, but we are interested in the church that stands on Plain St. and in the people who have developed it. Father Dolan, builder of the edifice has a tribute paid him by Father Campbell. "The immaculately dressed priest who appears on occasions as occasions demand, is a contrast to the Father Dolan builder of the present St. Peter's, dressed in working clothes, quarrying stones, mixing mortar with the men of the parish, raising money among some twenty families, leaving behind a gem of architecture which cost in his day \$8600, and today is insured for nearly \$100,000."

Before 1851 a traveling Catholic missionary from nearby cities visited Lewiston and celebrated mass in the homes of consecrated people at which time marriage or baptisms would be performed.

When the parish was created a church formerly owned by a Baptist group was purchased and the first resident pastor was appointed. It was he who registered the first baptism and the first marriage. First baptism: Ellen Price — May 16, 1851. First marriage: George McSpadden and Julia Nolan — August 2, 1851. We think of the early 1900's as a quiet period in the history of Lewiston, but the good Father Dolan and the faithful twenty families must have had a vision and great faith in the future to start building a fine church at that time. The little old church was removed to the back of the lot while the new one was under construction, and then sold to George Brown who removed it to his farm on the River Road where it was dismembered and the pieces built into his greenhouse and farm buildings. Nothing ever seems to disappear entirely in Lewiston, parts of this and that are incorporated into something new and so old Lewiston carries on with a fresh start!

St. Peter's has undergone improvements during the fifty years of its life and now is a joy to those worshipping there. The parish has long included Stella Niagara, has recently added De Chantal Hall and most recently Hennepin Hall.

Descriptions of these three integral parts of the parish will be more fully given as we visit them as historic landmarks in Lewiston. However we are indebted to the information in the little booklet concerning their connection with Catholic history in this region. Stella Niagara is the Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. It is also a boarding and day school for girls in grade and high school, and for boys in the grades. The original site, consisting of fifty acres and a substantial country house, property of the March family, was purchased by the Sisters in 1907. The new grey stone building was completed in 1909 when the school was opened. 1935 was the date of the formal opening of the Cadet School housed in the old Calvin Hotchkiss home, now known as Thomas More Hall. "Stella Niagara" meaning "Star of Niagara" is selected from the familiar Latin hymn, "Ave Maris Stella" (Hail, Star of the Sea).

One Sunday we were taken on a tour of the school by a very gracious Sister and were impressed with the beauty of the interior. In many ways this Catholic institution has carried on the "finishing" touches that the old Academy was noted for. Many non-Catholic young people have been educated in the regular studies and in the fine arts by the gentle sisters during the past years.

De Chantal Hall, on the River Road, known as the Robinson Estate, was purchased by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in 1948. It is now the Lewiston residence of many young men of the Order who spend several years there in study and training, for the Holy Priesthood.

Hennepin Hall, formerly Lewiston Manor, started in the fall of 1953, its first season as a school. It is the latest step in the expansion of St. Peter's parish which had its beginnings in 1851.

Methodists, Baptists and Universalists have come and gone as church congregations in Lewiston. The Universalists held meetings in the 1840's in the apartment house on center St. now known as Brown's apartment. The Presbyterian Church absorbs the protestants of many denominations who desire to belong to a church in the community they have chosen for a home.

In the fall months of 1953, the Lutheran denomination established the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Messiah under the pastorate of the Rev. Howard A. Lenhardt. May 16, 1954, will be



their Organization Sunday at which time there will be approximately 150 charter members. A vote has already been taken to purchase the present Episcopal Church which they have been using as their meeting place.

The close cooperation between the ministers and members of the churches is one of the outstanding factors in present day Lewiston which makes it a fine area in which to dwell.

### **A Visit to De Chantel Hall**

Father Heckel, Superior

All during the years of our living in this region I have wished to visit the mansion on the River Road, surrounded by the extensive stone walls. I had heard stories about it and had gathered bits of lore connected with its history and finally asked permission to see the interior. We were cordially invited to come at two o'clock one Saturday afternoon in March 1953. Armed with all the information we had on the subject, we used the enormous knocker on the main front door, which incidentally, is insured for \$600, and were escorted into the living room. There we met Father Heckel, Superior. Much more than an hour was spent in a complete tour of the rooms and cellars led by Father Heckel as guide. This old mansion is now a monastery so I caught up on notes while my husband and son visited the second floor.

Practically all the information extant about this old building is contained in a newspaper article published by the Buffalo Express in 1893, It was probably written by Mr. J. Hooker who lived at the time in the house now occupied by the Edwin Bartletts. The owners of the estate were hoping to sell it as a country club to a group of Buffalonians. The information in the clipping has been supplemented by personal reminiscences of Miss Mildred Kerr, Mrs. George Brown, Mrs. Frank Hall and Miss Gertrude Carter.

Who conceived this building? Judge Horatio Stow, a Buffalo lawyer who received his early training in the office of our fellow townsman, Bates Cooke. In 1848, he had acquired the wealth to build the house of his dreams and selected this beautiful spot on the Niagara River. He engaged artisans in each building art and acted as his own contractor. For the masonry he engaged John Carter of Youngstown, grandfather of Miss Gertrude and Jennie Carter who live on the old Carter Farm.

The main part of the house which probably included the tower was later enlarged by the addition of an extensive stone building on the Lewiston side. At this time the quarry where the ori-

ginal stones were obtained was closed and the building stones were brought from Canada. It is related that Michael Burke, uncle of the Misses Mae and Eugenia Murphy, was employed a full year on the wood work in this second section. The third section is of inferior workmanship constructed of different materials and of a more recent date. This is the wing towards Youngstown.

Judge Stow was for many years the legal adviser of the Tuscaroras obstinately refusing any compensation. One day a long line of wagons loaded with wood and driven by young Tuscaroras, came to the gate of the Judge, bringing a note from their chief, who, after recounting the obligations of the tribe for his long and valuable services, ended by saying, "I called the tribe together and harangued them to gratitude. They reward you with this wood and much thankfulness."

John Mountpleasant, chief.

Our tour started in the reception room and then to the chapel. These two rooms are in the first addition. The chapel which was formerly the library, is a beautiful little consecrated worship center. It is still in the process of being completed and is being converted in materials similar to the existing woods in the room. The floors are of white oak, so the good Fathers have had an altar constructed of white oak ply wood. The seats are benches of white ash which match very nicely the white oak. The chandelier is a perfectly beautiful one of chains of crystals, it is the most outstanding one in the Hall.

The former music room, in the original part, is now the study. Here Father Heckel drew our attention to the fireplaces. In all fireplaces there are engraved iron plates as linings, which were imported from France. The marble for one came from Italy, for another from France. The dining room which now has the appearance of most college dormitory dining halls is in the original part and is remarkable for the huge fireplace with the original brass trimmings and enormous brass andirons. The ceiling is beamed of chestnut wood. And the view from the windows, few colleges have dining rooms where the students can look out on the changing moods of a Niagara River!

Always in digging around long-ago-built houses discoveries are made. Recently when they were excavating for the installation of a new oil burner the workmen struck masonry. Mrs. Brown recalled that there had been years ago, a porch at that spot, where the owners and their guests could sit on a summer day and enjoy the view and breeze from the river.

Down in the cellar are the outlines of the large bake oven; this in



addition to the little building on the front lawn which has been identified as the bake house.

The most conspicuous object on the grounds is an enormous stone construction which was the water tower with formerly a windmill attached. This is recorded on a map of the village, 1875. It supplied water to the house and all the outbuildings.

The trees, their origin and who planted them and when have been the subject of many conversations we have had with the older residents. The clipping states they are from every state. One thinks this needs explanation and that isn't too easily obtained. Many of the trees have died, been replaced or the varieties have disappeared from the grounds. Mrs. George Brown told us that her father and mother-in-law were employed on the estate shortly after they landed here as Irish Protestant immigrants, and the young man had planted some of the trees. Another story is that Mr. Robinson, a later day owner had been a lumber baron and he had trees set in which originated in the sections where he had lumbered. Who planted what where and how many and when are the unknown factors. We do know that the oaks are dying and it causes great sorrow among tree lovers to see the blight striking these grand old trees.

The clipping of 1893, mentions asparagus beds. Once several years ago we were walking along the south wall and saw many asparagus fronds here and there. I suppose they were escapees from the original gardens.

How long did Judge Horatio J. Stow enjoy this dream place? A visit to the cemetery reveals he died at the age of forty-nine years, February 19, 1859. His funeral service was conducted by Joshua Cooke, the son of Bates, in whose office he had first read law. Perhaps in those struggling early years he frequently returned to Lewiston as a guest of Bates. I think he would be pleased with the treatment the old house is receiving now. Father Heckel and his staff seem to be greatly interested in the grand old building and desirous of preserving its atmosphere while of necessity changing some of it to conform to the needs of a seminary.

### **The Cemetery**

When questions are asked about the beginnings of the cemetery such answers as are given are very general in nature. It is believed that that portion of land in the region was set aside when the village was surveyed as a cemetery lot and families said, "I'll take this plot." How they reckoned the size they

would need for future generations to be buried in the same plot I have not been able to figure out. How did Lemuel Cooke estimate the amount of land needed to bury five generations of his family? When the new addition to the Presbyterian Church was dedicated in May 1953, old documents were exhibited among which was a copy of the right to the cemetery by the church. Part of it follows: Cemetery deed or patent. "Do give grant and confirm unto the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Society in the Town of Lewiston . . . An act relative to the Cemetery Lot in Lewiston passed April 13, 1839 . . . Part of out lot No. 17. (Excepting and reserving to ourselves all gold and silver mines...) 15th April 1840

Arch Campbell, Dep. Sec."

This document pertains to the old, upper level of the cemetery; the lower section was a hay field purchased in this century by Charles Walker and Blake Fraser and sold off into burying plots by them.

A walk through the old part is of interest to those who know something about the early settlers, it helps to get the connections straightened out. To those who collect old inscriptions it is less rewarding. The oldest stones have sunk into the ground in many cases hiding part of the inscription, on others the words are so faint it is impossible to read them. One method of deciphering the verse is to take a piece of paper and place it over the words, then rub with a pencil back and forth over the paper as we used to do with a penny in the old days. This sometimes works. Be careful of snakes who love to lie at the base of the stone unobserved until someone tries to clear the grass away at that spot. It isn't pleasant to feel one crawling under the hand!

In all the early cemeteries the same pattern of family history is repeated over and over. Papa lies in the center his age very advanced, one mama lies to his right, she died very young and perhaps has an infant or two by her side. On the other side is the second wife who lived for many years. There are probably several graves of young children by her side also. In the old days diphtheria, consumption, and appendicitis (not known then by its modern name) and child bed fever carried off many young people.

Part of the interest in wandering through the cemetery derives from reading first names such as Delgracia Eddy King, Tamerzon, wife of Lovell Lewis. Whenever the old Tryons are mentioned both are spoken of together, Josiah and Mary Tryon and their tombstone records them together: Josiah and Mary Tryon, 1798-1855, 1819-1867. One of the humblest men of the village, a man



# Historical Association and Society of Lewiston

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who did much around the cemetery, planting flowers and improving the grounds, a man who left his "x" on receipts, has his own handmade monument square in the middle of the whole area.

Directly next to the church building lie the Hookers, father and mother of Mr. R. Wolcott Hooker. "Ambolena Maria Jones Hooker, 1869-1939. She had happiness and gave it generously."

"Albert Huntington Hooker, 1865-1936, Scientist, Humanitarian, A lover of nature from childhood, Gentle Father, Tender Husband." Those words express the memories people in the village have of the two fine people who lived in the house now owned by the Carl Haeberles on Fourth St. They loved their home and grounds and did much to the entire property to improve it. Mrs. Hooker was an informal person who would drop into a neighbor's house and regale them for hours with humorous anecdotes of her own doings. Mr. Hooker for many years was the most ardent hunter in these parts for Indian relics and very successful in finding them. His most rewarding cache was unearthed on the old Ways farm on the Ridge where he found an old Indian burial ground.

Besides this well known cemetery there were family burying grounds maintained for many years by the old families, only one of which remains today to be visited. The Cookes had one on their farm, now owned by Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Lewis, Ridge Road, and there Bates must first have been buried as his tombstone forms part of the walk from the back door to the garage.

However at a later date markers were erected in the village cemetery recording the names of all those formerly buried in the family ground.

The Sage family cemetery stood on the mountain side of the Ridge Road and was visited in 1950. Here were Sparrow, his wife Mary and wife Sarah and other members of that early family but upon the death of Mr. Frank Sage the names of all those buried in the old farm ground were incorporated on a family monument in the village and the old cemetery has disappeared.

The last surviving family cemetery is one on what has long been known as the Kelley farm, east of Hickory College about at the railroad crossing. It is now owned by the Kieron brothers who are striving to improve the land and make it a successful producing farm. This is probably the very oldest of its kind in these parts. There are several Evans graves and the next generation of Ways; Benjamin was the patriarch of that branch. His daughter Emeline married Leander Scovell and they are buried there. For a long time it was a mystery why that old

cemetery should contain a Scovell but the pattern was solved by reading "The Diary of Mary Peacock, 1838-39" who was a cousin of the Evans and Ways, in which she mentions these persons. For many years Mr. J. B. Scovell and Dr. Kerr visited the cemetery and kept it in fine shape but in later years it has become overgrown with weeds. The iron gate which for many years hung loose has this year been carefully rehung by the Kierons who are interested in this old relic of the past.

### Village Life Around the Turn of the Century

A visit with Mrs. Joseph Childs on her 70th birthday yielded many interesting items about the appearance of Center St. in the last years of the nineteenth century. Examination of the search for the land on which the house stands revealed it was first owned by Bates Cooke, his brother Lothrop lived next door and his little law office stood where Nassoij lives now. Cookes also owned land across the street. Mrs. Childs was born in the house on Niagara St. where Peter Maclaren lives. When she was about a year old her father, W. J. Bedenkapp, bought the land from the Cooke family and in 1887 built the house where she now lives with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Walker, Jr. and son James. The little frame house so long ago occupied by Bates Cooke is now on Oneida St. just before the turning onto River Road. Just another example of the old things of Lewiston still carrying on!

For several years Mr. Bedenkapp worked at railroading for the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg R. R. at the rate of \$1 per day. Later he clerked in the store of John Fleming. During these early years the father and mother saved as best they could and achieved \$1000 which they entrusted to the town financier for investment. It vanished, due to a failure in the stock market. Many other families lost their savings in the same way. There were many broken hearts and many harsh things said during that period but as old Joshua Cooke wrote about the bitterness at the time of the Morgan scandal, "Time heals all things" and they went forward on the next venture a bit wiser.

Together with Mr. James Childs of the Ridge Road he was on the Customs Force at the time when Chinese were being smuggled across from Canada. Mrs. Childs recalls one occasion very vividly when word came through to the family that an attempted crossing was to be made. She and her sister Maud were told to go quickly and get Mr. Childs. It was dark so they took a lantern and started out. It was a very dark night and they were very young and very frightened. They had to pass some



scarey old buildings. On the corner where Hibbards is stood the old five cornered house, once the dormitory of the Academy, then a ruin. The old Academy was a ruin, Century Manor dilapidated and unoccupied, and a little farther on a house where two old sisters lived who would peer out from behind the curtains. Then down into the dark gully and so on to Mr. Childs house. There they would tell him to come quickly and he would accompany them to their home. The two men armed with pistols would go down to the river to catch the illegal entrants. The common method of coming across was to walk or crawl along the cables of the old Suspension Bridge. That night ten Chinese were caught. They were taken to a lock-up on the old Academy grounds and kept there until morning. Early the next morning the girls were awakened by their mother to see the ten marching down the street, Mr. Bedenkapp at their head, Mr. Childs at the foot of the parade, on their way to the railroad station and the immigration officers. That old lock-up existed for many years until one man was rescued from it by his pals coming down from the Falls and cutting a hole in the roof through which he escaped. The state finally had it abolished.

Across the street from Bedenkapp's stands the town hall or as it was known by many Moss Hall. The east end is the older section and has over the door the words, "Lewiston Opera Hall", almost never spotted by anyone new to the village. The west section is of a different color brick and was added as a town hall more recently, about 1926. Old Moss Hall was built by Reuben Moss or a building there was converted by him into a community center. The land came down to him through inheritance, I think, from Joseph Hewitt. Here dinners were held, dancing classes for young adults, girls' calisthenic classes, and the greatest occasion of the whole year was the COLONIAL BALL held in February. Everybody went in costume, girls attending Elmira College came home for the special event and everybody worked for weeks on costumes. In those days such an event gave a great deal of business to the village dressmakers. One such lady was Mrs. Krahler who lived where the Coulters do now on the Ridge Road. She employed several young ladies to help her, one of whom was Nellie Fleming, only recently deceased who is remembered for the dozens of articles knitted for war relief.

Families who wanted a lot of sewing done would have the dressmaker come for several days, others would go to her house for fittings. Miss Mildred Kerr told me that Mr. Jewett Scovell, brother of Mr. J. B. was always interested in colors and design and when he would see the dressmaker arriving at Dr. Kerr's he would go over to comment and give suggestions. When Miss Kerr needed something special like long white kid gloves Jewett

would be asked to get them in New York on his yearly visits to the city during the opera season.

Well, the colonial ball was a gala affair with grand march, quadrilles, lancers, waltzes and Virginia reels. It was the inspiration of the Men's Club for the benefit of the village library. Dr. George Hobbie, uncle of Dr. J. Albert Hobbie, present resident, was a leader in the whole library project. Many of the older books in the library still have a bookplate indicating that they date from the Men's Club library.

Moss Hall was also the meeting place of a Mission started by the Mother of Dr. J. Albert Hobbie. In the late 90's there were living along the river banks many poor families, fathers addicted to drink furnished by the many taverns in our select village. These families did not fit too well into the organized churches so services were arranged for them in Moss Hall. Dr. Kerr was also instrumental in giving them religious training. Sunday School was held and Sunday evening song services which were popular not only with the "river" people but with the young townspeople. The latter would attend all the services in the established churches then hurry over to attend the song festival. According to Mrs. Childs and Miss Kerr, "it was great fun, such singing of the old gospel songs!" During the week a prayer meeting was held in the downstairs corner room. Everybody went. There weren't too many things to do in those days. During the great celebration to usher in the new century a stereoptican lecture was held there on the Passion Play. The speaker, Mr. Hayward was introduced by Mr. Scovell, the popular young lawyer who had visited Oberammergau.

One of the Mission workers was Mr. George Elson who became the husband of Miss Mable Hobbie and they together devoted their lives to such work and general welfare work.

I asked Mrs. Childs about the old stone house next door to the Town Hall but she had no information about it. No one in the village seems to know its beginnings. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Coulter have shown me about, I have read the search and examined the corner stone, "JBF 1811." Regardless of who built it or whether it was the walls of Jonas Harrison's house, "left standing" it is a fascinating little house and until the problem is solved about its age and builder it will intrigue all those interested in old Lewiston. The north wall is 2 ft 10 in. thick, side walls 28 in. The oven and hearth are filled in but the outlines remain. I was told the oven was 10 ft long and extended well into the next parcel of land. Mr. Coulter filled it in in 1922. Later he was told that had he left it undisturbed he could have claimed the land on which it was. When the final settlement of



payments was made and the search completed it was necessary to re-survey and they found discrepancies in boundaries going far down the block.

That sort of thing happens frequently in these old settlements as the Presbyterians found when they planned to erect an addition to the church. Many buildings are "squatters" without any intention of being so. Also titles to lands go undisputed for years until something like an addition comes up or an estate is being settled which has long been in the possession of one family. The church had to get a special act of the legislature for one piece of their land.

Continuing my investigation about Moss Hall I learned from Mr. Brasser a startling story of a Hallow'en party held there. The room was crowded, the only exit was a wooden staircase on the outside of the building. Someone from the street threw a cabbage into the room, it hit a lamp and knocked it out of its bracket. Mr. Brasser grabbed it and hurled it out of the window. It bounced on the road and never did break, but he still shudders when he thinks of what might have happened in that crowded room had the lamp broken on the floor. There weren't many safety devices in those days.

The old stone house east of Bedenkapp's was known for years as "The first and last chance" saloon. It had a two gallery porch and was an old wreck as late as 1940. The present owners have converted it into a comfortable home. At one time Lewiston had thirteen saloons and the Saturday night revelries caused much concern among the serious people.

Across the street where Vincent's garage is now stood a cold storage building owned and operated by Mr. Bedenkapp for several years. It was the period of the great apple cultivation in the region. Men went all around the country buying up the crops of Baldwins, Greenings, Seek-no-further, Russett and Fall Pippins. Most of these names have disappeared from the apple market.

Apples were packed in barrels and it was the job of the children to pick out the "headers" to make the top attractive. There was a tremendous harvest in 1893 the year of a panic and every orchardist strove to find a market for his apples. Libby Powell McConkey remembers that at the height of the picking season her family would feed 15 men at noon with a hearty meal, the pickers slept in the old barn below the Ridge on Will Powell's farm. The cold storage building had windows that had to be opened at night to let in the cool air and closed in the morning. Mr. Bedenkapp was frequently away as he was Supervisor of Lunacy over a large

area and then it was the job of Mrs. Bedenkapp and the girls to take a lantern and open all the windows, a very spookey job. The building was located just there in order to facilitate loading the barrels on the train.

On the corner of Center and 8th Sts. a small pony shoe is imbedded in the sidewalk. This marks the last blacksmith shop in the village. It was known for years as Daleys. The area to the east is still called Vinegar Hill because of a cider mill in the vicinity and the best known hill for sliding is still Calladine's because of Calladine who was Justice of the Peace for many years. He lived in the old brown frame house with the long windows across from the village park.

And so we covered the whole area around Bedenkapp's which was built in 1887. The old house has witnessed many developments in the years it has stood there but it has kept up with changing times and now has a very colorful interior which would have been considered very extreme in the old days.

### Schools

"Schools keep step with the growth of Lewiston" was a featured full page article in the Niagara Falls Gazette of June 20, 1939. It is source material for all the early years but now needs an addenda to include the centralization of schools effected in 1947 into the Lewiston-Porter Central School System.

The first school mentioned in the early records was a log building where Watson, a Scotchman, taught in the year 1806. He was followed by Jonas Harrison, the first lawyer and collector of the port. If the story is true of Lothrop Cooke walking to Batavia on his way to East Bloomfield to attend school because there was no school near his home he must have performed that feat prior to 1806. Perhaps he was seeking an institution of higher learning than Lewiston afforded.

As soon as the pioneers had a home over their heads after the burning in 1813 they started a school building. In 1815 or '16 a stone building was erected at the northwest corner of Academy Square. It has been described as two stories in height and 24 ft. square. School district No. 1, Town of Cambria, was formed in 1816 and the Town of Lewiston was separated from Cambria on February 27, 1818. The school district remained No. 1 after the separation. On April 26, 1816, William Miller and Joshua Fairbanks, commissioners of common schools instructed Solomon Gillett to call a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the district at Thomas Hustler's on May 3 for the purpose of choosing officers and such other business as might come before the meeting.



At the first meeting Alexander Millar was chosen Moderator, Bates Cooke, clerk, and Arthur Gray, Jonathan Bailey and Lemuel Cooke, trustees. Lothrop Cooke was selected as the collector. Notice that there was no division between village and town then, Lewiston village was chartered in 1822, so we find Lemuel Cooke of the Ridge Road and Millar from River Road participating in a village school meeting.

It was decided that the site of the stone building begun and intended for a school, "shall be and remain the site of the school house district No. 1 in the Town of Cambria." Five hundred dollars was raised by taxation and on June 28, 1816 another \$500 was raised to complete the building. It was the second floor of this school that was used for many years as a meeting place for the First Religious Society of Lewiston, as well as by other religious sects as they were formed. This school was maintained until about 1844. Recently receipt for its sale was discovered.  
Lewiston November 15th, 1844.

"It is hereby certified to the Treasurer of the Lewiston Academy that there is due the Trustees of School District No. 1 town of Lewiston, forty dollars for the purchase of the stone school house near the Academy, the payment of which is authorized by the Trustees."

Jonas Bell  
Secy.

On the reverse of the order :

"Rec 15 Nov 1844 from F. Hotchkiss Treasurer of the Lewiston Academy Forty Dollars in full for the within certificate. \$40.

Oliver Grace Trustee  
School Dist No. 1  
Town Lewiston"

How plain it looks in print! In the handwritten receipt there are many little curlicues.

I wonder if there was any feeling of class distinction between the pupils attending this humble school and the Lewiston Academy which arose so close to it? They were side by side from 1824. What a great deal of talk must have gone on in the village before this academy was incorporated on April 17, 1824 and the corner stone laid on July 4th. The original charter contains the names of William Hotchkiss, Robert Fleming, Nathaniel Leonard and Nathan Baker as trustees. The lot of ground upon which the Academy stood embraced several acres and was formerly a part of a public square belonging to the village of Lewiston, a portion of which was appropriated to the Academy in 1824 by the state authorities. The main building was erected during that year.

It was 65 ft. in length, 34 ft. in width and four stories high. The fourth story was financed by the Masonic Lodge.

In 1926 the Lewiston fathers organized an ambitious program to restore the old Academy into a community center. An attractive booklet was issued as propoganda from the pages of which the following is copied.

"The venerable and imposing structure located at the easterly end of Lewiston village, and formerly known as "The Old Lewiston Academy" was once the pride of the people and held honorable rank among the educational institutions of the land. The early projectors of this institution displayed admirable taste and foresight in the selection of Lewiston as the place of its location. Facing as it does to the east, its four stories of windows looking along the famed Ridge Road, it marked to the gaze of hordes of incoming travelers their last stopping place before crossing the border into the wilderness to which they were bound as settlers of the states of Ohio and Michigan. It is said that the stage drivers always awoke the echoes of the forest by "winding the horn" just before the notable building came within view."

The records pertaining to the first few years of the Academy have not turned up but a bundle of rich source material dating from the 1830's has been residing in the Lewiston Library for many years and permission was obtained from Mr. Ralph Hotchkiss to examine it very recently. Such treasures came tumbling out of the dusty package as to make the amateur historian sing like Old King Cole's birds! Indentures, receipts, lists of pupils, expense accounts, personal letters, dunning letters from creditors all these give more than a history of the Academy, they give vivid glimpses into the affairs of the village and its inhabitants during the existence of that venerable institution. Perhaps someday such memorabilia will be found concerning the period before 1830 but until they are we can use this rich collection to reconstruct some of the activities of the village fathers.

The earliest date recorded is August 30th, 1832, a statement of funds belonging to Lewiston Academy, on hand \$30.49. Wherever an accounting is made the sums involved are very small, in fact barter was used in many instances to settle debts.

On this first record a list of names with heading: "Amount due on Subscriptions" indicates that the inhabitants had pledged amounts of money for the establishment and support of this school. Here in a column is practically every known pioneer settler of Lewiston: Bates Cook, Jared Randall, David M. Smith, Caleb Raymond, George Shockey, Willard Smith, Lothrop Cooke, (sometimes Cook, otherwise Cooke) Thomas Kelsey, Oliver Grace, Robert Fleming, Samuel Barton, Calvin Hotchkiss, Noah Beach,



John Beach, William Miller, Jacob Townsend, Joseph Sutherland, Benjamin Barton. Total pledges due \$346.15.

On the reverse side are listed the amounts due from the trustees "as near as can be estimated" which include an item of \$41.80 "amt due Church building committee." The trustees had evidently pledged a sum toward the union church which was then under construction. This is of interest currently as the Presbyterian Church is again in the building stage with parishoners pledging but I know of no institution aiding the building fund! The most legal document begins. "This indenture made the twenty-fourth day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand and eight hundred and thirty-seven between the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of New York . . . and the Trustees of the Lewiston Academy." It is the lease granted by the state for the use of the ferry lot and ferry for a period of ten years from "the 24th day of June 1836, being the day when the former lease expired." The annual rent was one peppercorn. Someone with a sense of humor drew up that lease. It is signed and sealed after each name, a tiny blob of red sealing wax on which is affixed a perforated piece of paper. The trustees signing it were Seymour Scovell, Asahel Lyon, O. Hill, Guy Reynolds.

Many people do not know that that first ferry across the river between Lewiston and Queenston was a horse tread-mill ferry. I heard that recently and was delighted to find the ferryman's account for expenses for the period of October 1838 through April 1839. A ferryman contracted to run the ferry and turn over a certain percentage of income to the academy. Job Chubback was the ferryman at this time.

His account starts:

Oct. 1838 Horse boat to Job Chubback.	
Hall out and calking Scow .....	7.00
to paid Wadsworth for grog .....	.50
to paid Wadsworth for tallow and soap .....	5.00
to paid Helmes for labor 18 days .....	18.00

All during the years represented by this collection of records the pay for one day's work either by men or women was \$1. The cleaning women who swept with corn brooms or whitewashed the walls or the men who built the fence or laid the plank road, all received the same pay, one dollar a day.

A statement of amounts due the cleaning women for their work dated May 19, 1838, includes a note about the young boy employed, "Also S . . . B . . . for four days' work waiting on the women: All these hands have worked well". Signed N. W. Fisher.

The Rev. David M. Smith has been encountered in connection with the establishment of the first church in Lewiston. What a pathetic letter turned up in the midst of the Academy accounts, written by him August 1848 to the trustees of the Lewiston Academy.

“Dear Sirs :

On leaving Lewiston in Nov. 1829, I had a charge of \$100 against the Trustees of Lewiston Academy for money expended in establishing the institution and putting it in operation. This expenditure was in going to Albany and continuing there several weeks when application was made for the use of the Ferry over the Niagara River. I had drawn up the petition and circulated it among the citizens of Lewiston and obtained their signatures that the avails of the Ferry might be appropriated for the benefit of the Academy.” He talked with Gov. Clinton and made a trip to observe a school in New York City, all on his own account. Nineteen years later he very much needs the money and begs them to pay what they owe. I wonder if he ever received his traveling expenses. Rev. David Smith was evidently one of the most energetic men, he pops up here and there always soliciting funds. Readers of local history have known him as first minister and principal and teacher but this new evidence makes him more of a personality in the village.

One account headed “S. Scovell in account with M. H. Fitts” starts 1835 June 5th and is finally settled Feb. 17, 1837. Included are tuition and incidentals for Maria and her brother Leander, tuition for one quarter \$5.00. One Smith’s Geo & Atlas for Maria, \$1.12; wood for Leander’s room, \$1.00. On the bottom of the page are listed the credits, board for M. H. Fitts, his brother and wife and Miss Dunbar, teacher, plus “bounty on Board of scholars @ 2/ per week.” M. H. Fitts owes Mr. Scovell after reckoning. Evidently Seymour Scovell looked after many items in the running of the Academy, I do not know the interpretation of the board bills but I think it was a case of barter. Perhaps it means that the principal and family and some teachers lived at Mr. Scovell’s. Maria grew up to be Aunt Maria Hotchkiss, well remembered by some of the older residents of the village.

A letter to Lothrop Cooke, one of the trustees, indicates that a father is much distressed that his son has been expelled and wants a hearing with the board to determine the justification of such an act. Lothrop later resigned from the board of trustees because he was not in sympathy with the actions of one of the board. This might be called “old gossip” but the old men need have no fears that their difficulties will be revealed. The



writing is not easily deciphered and no names are mentioned, just hints, someone more conversant with family histories than I might be able to spot the trouble maker!

The receipted bills are a clue to many bits of activity in connection with the maintenance of the Academy. A few follow: "Aug. 7th, 1843: Pay to Van Valkenburgh or bearer seventeen dollars fifty cents on account of materials for a plank road across the public square near the Academy. Jonathan Bell, Secy." Plank roads were one of the first means of overcoming the mud and ruts and sometimes they were toll roads. The Hotchkiss family have in their possession a brass stamp with the inscription on it, "Niagara Falls — Lewiston Plank Road." This was evidently stamped on a ticket to indicate toll paid.

The cost of material and services for making out the annual report to the Regents of the University in January 1844, came to \$19.64. Services of Secy. \$15; 1 quire paper—.19; 1 bunch quills .50; postage \$3.95. They had complaints from the regents that their library account was not correct and their meteorological report was quite different from that sent in by other institutions. The trustees wrote long letters of explanation to justify their first reports. Not too different from problems of current school officials.

The Academy had its first setback in 1838 during the period of the Patriots' War in Canada when many Canadian pupils withdrew. In March 1849, a letter explains that the trustees face the problem of no income. "During the present session of the Legislature a company has been chartered to erect a suspension bridge across the river, which will supersede the ferry and thus cut off the main source of our income." The Academy closed in 1851. Letters would indicate that it was used as a private school in 1855 which did not exist for long. In the 1860's new life came to the old institution, "an extensive, substantial and most conveniently planned stone building, erected during the past eighteen months, after the most approved style of modern architecture and capable of accommodating several hundred students."

"A large and beautiful astronomical observatory crowns the main building. There are also dormitories for the accommodation of a large number of students in the building while a first class boarding house already erected on the Academy grounds will furnish board at a reasonable rate. And for all these large expenditures every dollar is paid and has been provided for. A class of young ladies will be graduated in the spring of '65 and another of gentlemen will be thoroughly prepared for College." This is a pencil draft of a petition to the Regents to establish a Teachers Class in the Academy, and a grant of the Literary fund to finance it.

This is practically the last of the Academy. It is amazing that

in the 1860's the money was secured to build an addition. A brochure of 1867 states "The building has lately been enlarged and re-fitted at the expense of \$5000." Lewiston at this time was not prosperous and the Civil war was just over.

So rich a collection of material about the old Academy leads one to lengthen the account but interesting as it may be to some we will dispose of the old school.

What about the village public schools during this period? In 1835, \$250 was appropriated to build a second school, of wood, 21 ft. by 20 ft. one story on a lot near the sand bank of the cemetery. The two schools were maintained until 1845 when a new brick school was completed at a cost of \$1300 near the site of the wooden school. There were two rooms and in 1848 a wooden addition was made to accommodate a third room. In the same year a resolution was passed that persons who sent children to the school should pay the expense of the firewood or furnish the same in proportion to the number of scholars they sent.

Special taxes were levied to meet expenses but in 1864 all expenses were met by regular school tax and the institution became practically a free school for the first time. This brick school under the cemetery hill was sold at auction in 1900 and the Barton Lot was purchased for the next school house. The dedication of the new Lewiston Union School took place on February 2, 1901. A full high school course was voted by the Board of Education on September 26, 1902, and none was to be graduated from the school without earning a Regents Academic diploma.

Interested in a ditty that was sung on the playground in those days?

Mable Frances  
Maudie May  
Sadie Elizabeth  
Glennie Ray!

Perhaps there were others as euphonious but they haven't been re-discovered.

The handsome school burned on February 16, 1904, totally destroyed at a loss of approximately \$14,000. The old academy came into use during the rebuilding period, then relapsed into disuse for another period.

All through the years the inhabitants of Lewiston have felt the need of a community house, it is as current a topic of conversation as ship canals in the old days and power development projects now. In the 1920's a group of men really put on a vigorous campaign to collect money to restore the Academy into a building suitable for a community house. It failed, finally the



old building became a menace to life and limb and it was torn down. Many people are interested to know what became of the old building. It is scattered around the area carrying on an existence under different circumstances. A letter from J. C. Hooker written December 20th, 1900, explains the first step: "I am with you if you want to transfer the Academy bell to the new school house. It is the best use that we can put that old relic to, by all means let the old bell grace the new school house so that we may hear its clatter once more."

The receipt for the bell by the Lewiston Union Free School is signed by the board of trustees, W. J. Bedenkapp, Thomas A. Kerr, Lawrence Burke, January 17, 1901.

If you should visit the old Lemuel Cooke home on the Ridge, which was restored in the 1920's by Harold Hall you would see the front door latch which was taken from the old school. In the 1930's Mr Ray Simonds who was running the quarry at the time was employed by the village to tear the old ruin down. He had equipment suitable for the job. The Ft. Niagara Association took great quantities of the stone which was used to build the entrance at the draw bridge. Some of the stone was used around Century Manor on the corner of Ninth and the Ridge. People took the beautiful old cornices for garden benches. Thus was "finis" written to the old Academy.

1947 saw the next step in the advancement of school facilities in the whole area when the school districts of the Youngstown Union School, the Lewiston Union School, and thirteen common schools in the town of Lewiston and Porter voted for centralization under centralization a fine school has been built on the Creek Road and improvements made in some of the other existing schools. A few of the country district schools have been closed. Construction of the new school began on July, 1950, and school opened on September 3, 1952. The present Board of Education consist of Mrs. Glen Bagley, Howard L. Baker, Park Lammerts, Clifford J. Carroll, Cameron E. Nichols, Joseph L. Thompson, and Charles W. Ulrich. Miss M. Gazelle Hoffman is district superintendent of schools; Tobias J. Collins, supervising principal; Miss Edith T. Ripson principal of the Porter schools; Harry K. Blakeslee, principal of Lewiston schools. The building was dedicated on May 28, 1953. Already plans are being drawn for an additional school building to be erected on land directly next to the present centralized high school, so great has been the increase in population since centralization was first voted.

From 1806 to 1953 schooling of varying degrees has been possible in Lewiston. Now even the grandmas and grandpas may attend as Adult Education is carried on in the new school during the winter session.

## Dr. Thomas A. Kerr — 1864 — February 20, 1948

The expression, "He is a town character" said of a man brings up a picture of someone who because of his actions appears slightly ridiculous or the object of pity. Taken literally the description fits the well-remembered doctor of the village and town Dr. Thomas A. Kerr who practiced medicine for fifty-one years, his office in the heart of the village, his patients scattered over miles of surrounding area.

In 1889 old Dr. Smith had died and his widow advertised his practise for sale. Dr. Kerr was then twenty-five years old in his first year of medicine after having graduated from the University of Vermont. An uncle helped him finance the purchase of Dr. Smith's business and Dr. Kerr arrived to set up his office in a small building which formerly was located between Dr. Seltzer's home and the Collessano property. Evidently doctors and lawyers had small buildings right next to their homes where they had their business offices as we have seen in the case of Judge Hotchkiss, Bates Cooke and a later office of Dr. Kerr on Center St. The family lived at the old Sherman Piper house which at that time was in one of its less beautiful states.

Little is available to describe the building up of his practise during those early years but he was becoming an integral part of Lewiston compounding his own medicines, developing an ability to cure pneumonia and to greatly relieve victims of heart diseases. For a time he and his family lived in Lothrop Cooke's home, now John Bingenheimer's and his office was a small building on the east side. Later he built the home on Fifth St. which will be known for many years to come as "Dr. Kerr's." Here he was close to the church where he acted as elder for forty years, his neighbor was O. P. Scovell and J. B., all three closely involved in the affairs of church and village.

A personality as well known as the doctor was his horse, Chimes, whom he drove for twenty years. This was a thoroughbred Hambletonian purchased from Smith Raymond, one of the Frontier Raymonds who was the local authority on horseflesh at the time. The story is told that all the inhabitants knew his trot as he carried the doctor down the road. At night when the rural phone rang folks would listen in to find out the trouble. If some neighbor was calling the doctor they would be alert for the sound of Chimes' hoof beats and then lie awake until they heard him return. If the interval was overly long much speculation as to the seriousness of the illness of the neighbor would keep the good friends awake. Chimes was kept for winter use even after Dr. Kerr purchased his first automobile in 1909, the roads at that time being almost impassable for a car in the winter. He finally



was retired to the Tuscarora reservation under the care of Johnson.

During those long years of service to his townspeople the office of the village doctor was never closed. Every two years he made a brief trip to his old mother in Canada at which time his wife and daughters answered calls which were met by a Niagara Falls physician. The same arrangements held when he attended yearly the Health Officers' Convention in Saratoga. Only once did he and Mrs. Kerr take a real vacation, a month's trip by train through the northwest. His work was taken over during that month by Dr. Backus of Buffalo.

He found time to be coroner, member of the board of trustees of school, village and public library, elder of the Presbyterian Church; interested himself in the welfare of his patients such as arranging the increase in a man's pension, providing material needs for those in want. During depressions his home and barn were distributing centers for Red Cross materials, at another time his barn was fixed to give a home to someone temporarily in need of home and friend. No one person can recount all the wonderful deeds of a real Christian country doctor, his life touched hundreds of people during those years. Rev. Gordon Newfang recently said of him, "Dr. Kerr cured his patients' souls with the short catechism and creed while he was administering to their bodies."

The late Dr. Jones of Buffalo who was called in for consultation when a man was desperately ill with pneumonia later asked Dr. Kerr how long the man lived. Dr. Kerr said he had survived and was fine. Dr. Jones in astonishment exclaimed, "Doc you can raise the dead! That man had no chance of survival."

The Lewiston-Queenston Rotary honored him with its second citation for exemplary community service. (Their first citation had been given to Mr. John Brasser). In 1947, he received a certificate from the New York State Medical Society commending him for his half-century of practice. He was a great "town character."

### **Organizations**

Previous to the turn of the Century there is little information available as to organized groups as we know them today. The inhabitants were busy promoting railroads, schools, attacking other civic problems but their recreation came in family groups or neighborhood gatherings. Attending camp meeting at Pekin gave pleasure to two wagon loads of Scovells and Hotchkiss one summer day. A picture owned by Miss Mildred Kerr shows

a group of fair ladies and leisurely gentlemen on the lawn of Calvin Hooker's home, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Bartlett, with a bewhiskered gentleman sitting in front. He was the professor of German brought down to instruct the group who had time and means to undertake the study of German. Mrs. Lucy Hawes mentioned an embryonic historical society in 1887 but no further reference to it was ever found.

The Lewiston Men's Club was the forerunner of all the service clubs of the present day. Mention has been made of them in connection with establishment of the village library under Dr. George Hobbie and Mr. J. B. Scovell.

There existed a musical society about this time composed of both men and women who gathered in the homes to play and sing together. Everybody carried a lantern and walked through the mud or dust to the home where the song fest was to take place. Some of the members of that group were Mr. Fisher with his violin, Mrs. Michael Burke, known as Aunt Sarah, the organist at the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Jewett Scovell, who taught all the young things piano playing, Dr. George Eddy, Miss Margaret Burke who had a beautiful voice. Three of the songs remembered by one elderly resident were Killarney, Last Rose of Summer and Mauvorneen as sung by Margaret Burke and accompanied by Mr. Fisher, so beautifully done as to be remembered all these years.

Today the club of greatest age is the Lewiston Study Club which has been meeting regularly since 1905 every two weeks excepting the summer months. It was the inspiration of Mrs. Charles Hoffman, mother of Miss Gazelle Hoffman, and Mrs. Thomas Gleason. Two charter members Miss Cornelia Sage and Miss Eugenia Murphy, remain of that first group. Miss Sage moved away many years ago. Miss Murphy, after having been in Buffalo for many years is back in Lewiston and again a member of this club. It has always been a study club with regularly assigned programs. Recently a second study club has been organized in Lewiston as some of the younger women have felt the need of a group for similar study.

Within the past year an Inter-Council of organizations has been formed in Lewiston to which there are forty groups sending representatives! That is a far cry from the one or two of the early years. Everything is done in groups, clubs, societies these days. Are we more gregarious or too timid to do things by ourselves. ?



## The Fire Department

The organization which is closest to the hearts of the inhabitants next to the Churches is the Volunteer Fire Department. Fires have wrought great destruction in Lewiston during its long existence, but we now have a feeling of security knowing that the members of the village fire department with their up-to-date equipment will respond to a call for help in case of fire.

As early as 1838 there was a small group in the village calling themselves a fire company. They had a hand engine but that is all that is recorded about them. They went out of existence after a short time. The fire of 1867 which wiped out the north side of Center St. near the railroad tracks was a very destructive one and may have destroyed quaint old things we would be interested in today, it doubtless caused great hardship to the owners of the establishments in that section.

Around 1904 the New Gorge Hotel which was approximately where Chateau Gay is now was burned. An old clipping is headed, "\$30,000 fire at Lewiston." "Lewiston has no means of fire protection, and this in a measure was responsible for the total destruction of the hotel, but even had there been fire fighting apparatus in the village it is doubtful if much of the building could have been saved, as it is in an isolated place, some distance from the business part of the village." An overheated grate was blamed for the destruction of "one of the prettiest little summer hotels in this section of the State."

All the older residents of the village remember the burning of the steamship Cibola at Lewiston in 1895 when the American Hotel near the wharf was destroyed by fire before the ship went adrift in the lower Niagara. It was at this time according to Mr. Scovell's account in "Niagara Portage" that records were rescued from the basement of the hotel, which had been the old custom house. These records were later stored and found to contain the account book of Jonas Harrison, first collector of customs. The young men who carried the valuable papers to a safe place might be called the Volunteer Fire Department of that day.

So great has been the influx of new residents in Lewiston that a fire which occurred only a few years ago is remembered by only a small proportion of the people. This was the great fire which occurred on the Fourth of July and which in destroying the old Porter Fibre Bottle Works threatened the whole village. The fire department worked on that windy night harder than ever before or since. No less than 15 village homes were saved from complete loss or heavy damage. The Presbyterian wagon sheds which

were about 15 blocks from the river front were among the places saved. "Had it not been for the Youngstown and Ransomville firemen the fire would have developed into a mighty serious affair," Chief H. F. Walker is quoted as saying on the morning after.

The first fire department of modern times was organized in 1914. This was a haphazard arrangement but it was a beginning. The village purchased a small fire truck and built a small building to serve as headquarters, also contributed a small amount to the support of the outfit. But the real incorporation of a volunteer organization took place on May 5th, 1917. The water works were built and the village supplied with water between 1915 and 1917, and Lewiston was ready for a fire department. The names of the original directors were, Glen R. Bedenkapp, J. H. Burke, Fred J. Pitz, LeGrand McConkey, F. M. Perrigo. Other members of that first company were F. C. McConkey, J. C. Brasser, George V. Carter, I. G. Myers, A. W. Piper, Wm. C. Garrity, Ward N. Hoffman, Fred J. Pitz, Carl Redman, Fred S. Murphy, F. G. Huss, H. J. Toohey, Harlan Walker, A. G. Brown, G. E. Quakenbush, Joseph J. Doty, Clarence J. Baker, Harry Scott, F. Perrigo, J. E. Hotchkiss. Lawrence Burke was president of the village board of trustees at the time and Ralph A. Hotchkiss the clerk when the board of trustees consented to the formation of a fire corporation in the village.

As funds were available the small building was enlarged and a fire siren installed. During the period of the rural telephone office in old Moss Hall the telephone operator pushed a button and set off the siren.

The raising of funds for equipment has been accomplished by holding annually dances and a field day which is one of the biggest public affairs in the village, held on the village park grounds it draws crowds from all the surrounding countryside.

When asking for information about the Fire Department I was told that the man who knew all about it was Mr. James. He was president for twenty years, with Fred Toohey acting as secretary and treasurer during many of those years. He has given me much of this data. At present the organization is looking forward to the erecting of a larger building which will house all the apparatus and have ample space for community gatherings.

### **Louis Bromfield — Malabar Farm — Lewiston Style**

The large farms of the Ridge Road and the River Road are becoming fewer and fewer each year as land is sold off for



building lots, however we have one example of the reverse order. On the south side of the Ridge near Hickory college were the two farms of Silas Hopkins and William Hotchkiss. For many years both were maintained by decendants of the original owners but not so long ago the lots on the road side were sold for building while the acreage in back was held by the Kelly estate and maintained by tenant farmers. In 1943, Mr. William Cammack 2nd bought 90 acres of the old Hotchkiss farm including the very old house which was in a sad state of disrepair.

1944 saw the start of reconditioning the farm in much the same way that Louis Bromfield writes about in "Malabar Farm." This is the farm that grew the famous crop of wheat, and on which in 1876 Leander Hotchkiss planted a "Centennial Orchard" of Baldwins which still stands although the fruit is no longer first class. During the intervening years orchards went untrimmed, land was used without being enriched and the whole acreage was in a state of starvation. Mr. Cammack is trimming out the old orchards and setting new ones, the land is being richly fertilized and is again becoming a wheat and corn producing farm. To the original purchase has been added more acres from the old Hopkins farm which is receiving the same restoration. How amazed these old boys would be to see the modern machinery employed on their farms, especially the new corn sheller which takes the corn off the cob and deposits it in a truck to be carted to Lockport by the tons. In addition to the land he owns Mr. Cammack also rents Old Cappie Anderson's farm on the Ridge and rolls back and forth with his farm machinery working both farms. Most amazing is this farm story when it is realized that the young man with this program is also an industrial worker, keeping regular office hours each day.

The original owner was Joseph Ellicott, 1811, who sold it to Jacob Townsend in 1813. He was the grandfather of Mary, wife of William Hotchkiss, Jr., so it came down from her side by purchase or inheritance. Old Jacob's tombstone says he arrived in 1810. The old house is very similar to the old Evans house just up the road, plain early farm houses and so long unrepaired there is much work to be done in both of them. In both cases work of restoration has commenced but both owners are so busy with the farm work the old houses have only the most essential repairs accomplished as yet.

This farm was one on which Wm. T. Love had an option in the '90's when he was creating his Model City and instigating the Love Power Canal project. In the words of the option: "Farm known as the Hotchkiss farm about a mile east of the village of Lewiston, bounded on the north by the property of the Fleming

farm; on the east by the S. S. Hopkins; on south by the Ridge Road; on west by Dr. George Eddy, subject to right of way of Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg R. R." One dollar paid for the option, June 14, 1893. This was extended to 1897 and finally written off in the search as of March 1904.

Wm. T. Love had all the townspeople and the farmers in a whirl. There were dinners and celebrations to popularize the idea, families were divided as to the soundness of the deal. I have sat in on a conversation between a brother and sister reminiscing about those days when "mama would have no faith in it at all, but papa was inclined to believe in it." Options on land were taken as far down as Ransomville, buildings were erected in Model City and the first shovelful of dirt being dug is recorded in a picture recently found. This was in La Salle and shows a group of our fellow townsmen and ladies standing about old John and Mrs. Fleming. John was president of an old Niagara Power and Water Co. and Love had to work through that company so old John dug the first shovelful in the project. Mr. Scovell was the attorney for all this business and he has some rare stories to tell of the audacity of Wm. T. Love. The project failed, modern power developments were already at hand to be put into use on the Niagara Frontier. I never have known who finally was left holding the empty bag. Someone must have lost money.

### **The Ridge and Some of Its Settlers**

Many people consider the Ridge Road, which is a continuation of Center St. in the village, one of the most beautiful roads in New York State. In 1884 George Meacham chose it as the site of his future home and bought the Barton farm adjoining the village on the north side of the road. If you were to walk along that section today you would enjoy using the path he laid out from his house to the village line, under the shade of the grand old elms. His home of three stories is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Robertson and presents a slightly different appearance from the original as previous owners added the large porch and pillars. Mr. Meacham is remembered as the owner of three historic flags which were hung out each Fourth of July from ropes strung high in the elm trees. These were the flags which had been used when Abraham Lincoln lay in state in Buffalo on the way to Springfield for burial. Mr. Meacham and his partner, undertakers, had charge of the body during that service in Buffalo. The smallest of the flags draped the coffin, while the two larger ones stood as sentinels at the ends of the coffin. Two of these flags are still in Lewiston in the possession of descendants.

Henry, the son, married Susie Hull, and they became the parents



of May who is now Mrs. Charles Brown, Sr., owner of one of the flags.

The Hulls lived on the Ridge across from Hickory College, the old house was called "The Fort" because of the height of the wall surrounding the yard. It is said that it was built thus for convenience in mounting a horse. Lewis Hull married Jane Robinson, born in 1829, daughter of the first Robinsons in the region. Their daughter Susie taught in Hickory College and Lewis was a trustee of the school. When he became elderly Mr. Hull was troubled with rheumatism and would cross his fields to a vile smelling sulphur spring which still exists and fill his jug with the water. This he would drink to relieve his aches and pains.

These two families being united by marriage have brought down the earliest pioneers to the seventh generation continuously living in Lewiston. And so we end this short history with a family who was here at the beginning.

### Summary

1802 the year Lemuel Cooke and his family built their cabin on the site of Joncaire's at the river's edge to 1953, one hundred and fifty years, the age of one small village and its surrounding farm lands. Much living has been done during those years, some of which we have tried to recreate in these pages. There are many more early stories in the frontier literature than are repeated here, many of them are well known, not all of them are in current books. Perhaps someone sometime will collect every fact and fancy connected with the places extant in Lewiston. This "homely approach to Lewiston" has attempted to interpret what one sees as he walks the streets of Lewiston. Tributes to many residents of present day Lewiston have gone unexpressed but are deserved by hundreds for their participation in all the civic advancement programs down through the years. If some families are mentioned several times it is because they have been most patient in aiding this research into the past and because of their long residence in Lewiston have been able to gather up the memorabilia connected with it. Our grateful thanks to all who helped formulate this informal history of Lewiston.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

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| No. 1. | "THE STREETS OF LOCKPORT" with<br>notes on the early history of the city.<br>By Mrs. Charles A. Kaiser ..... 1948.... Out of Print<br>Same—2nd edition ..... 1949.... Out of Print                   |
| No. 2. | "RECOLLECTIONS OF THE WAR OF<br>1812 and EARLY LIFE IN WESTERN<br>NEW YORK", from the papers of Lyman<br>A Spaulding ..... 1949.... Out of Print<br>Same—Special Edition ..... 1949.... Out of Print |
| No. 3. | "THE HISTORY OF NEWFANE, N. Y."<br>By Ray A. Newell ..... 1950.... Out of Print  |
| No. 4. | "THE OLD LOCKPORT AND NIAGA-<br>RARA FALLS STRAP RAILROAD,"<br>(Illustrated). By Raymond F. Yates 1950..... \$1.00   |
| No. 5. | "THE HISTORY OF YOUNGSTOWN,<br>N. Y." By Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L.<br>Howard ..... 1951.... Out of Print<br>Same—2nd Edition ..... 1951.... Out of Print   |
| No. 6. | "RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAN<br>AMERICAN EXPOSITION", by Henry<br>M. Nicholls ..... 1951.... Out of Print   |
| No. 7. | "DUSTY LOCKPORT PAGES." By Mr.<br>and Mrs. Ilbert O. Lacy ..... 1952.... Out of Print  |
| No. 8. | Selections from "A NARRATIVE ALONG<br>THREE-FOURTHS OF A CENTURY<br>by Anson Augustus Boyce, Edited by<br>L. L. Pechuman ..... 1952..... \$ .50  |
| No. 9. | "RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAN<br>AMERICAN EXPOSITION", By Henry<br>M. Nicholls ..... 1953..... \$ .50  |
| No. 10 | "A HOMELY APPROACH TO LEWIS<br>TON"—By Helen B. Kimball ..... 1954..... \$1.00   |