

Lewiston  
History  
Mysteries

Rockefeller  
Donated  
Manhattan Land  
for UN

Several locations for the UN were considered, but the decision was made when John Davison Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), son of Standard Oil industrialist John D. Rockefeller, donated \$8.5 million to purchase land in New York City for the organization. He was the father of the five famous Rockefeller brothers, including former New York Governor, Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979).



John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

# United Nations Headquarters Almost Located Here



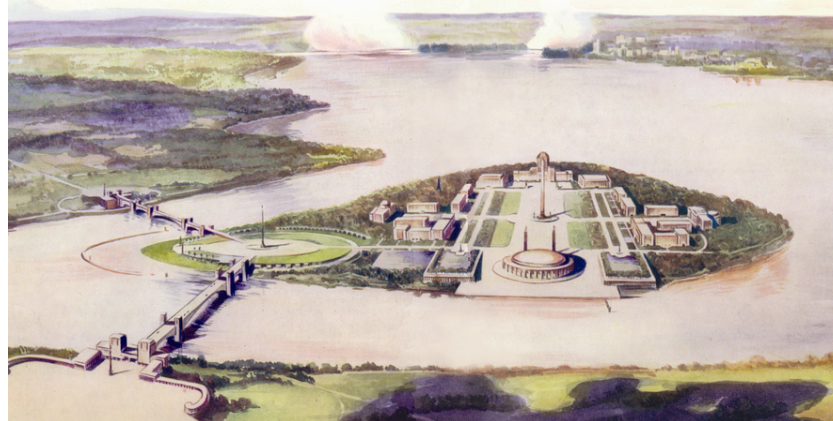
Navy Island, which was proposed as the new world headquarters for the United Nations in 1945, has a fascinating history. When this area was controlled by the French it was known as Île de la Marina. The French built four ships to service the Great Lakes. The British set up a shipyard on Navy Island when the French lost control in 1763. In the War of 1812, the British stationed a detachment on the island.

In 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie (1795-1861), the first Mayor of Toronto, led about 200 of his supporters and captured the island and proclaimed the Republic of Canada there, in protest to British rule. Eventually, the rebels were forced from the island and retreated across the river into the United States.

The island was used for farming for many years, but has since been abandoned and has been overtaken by forestation and natural elements.



Navy Island is a small Canadian-owned island in the Niagara River. The Niagara Parks Commission has acted as custodian since 1938. In 2008, a team of volunteers scoured the island cleaning up litter left behind by careless visitors. The terrain is lush with vegetation, even wild raspberries and grapes. There's also a variety of trees such as pawpaw, oak, hickory and blue beech.



## 1945 Artist Conception of the United Nations: Navy Island with Niagara Falls in Background

Navy Island, less than three miles above the falls, was proposed to be the new World Peace Capital and headquarters of the United Nations by an international committee in 1945 and 1946. The island was considered to be an ideal location as it lay on the boundary between two peaceful countries. An artist's rendering of the World Peace Capital showed the property with bridges spanning both countries (at Grand Island in the US and the Canadian mainland on the other side). It was proposed that Navy Island would be ceded to the United Nations as long as the headquarters remained, and would revert to the Canadian government should the U.N. move. San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens, the Great Meadow area of Pound Ridge, NY, Chopmist Hill Area of Scituate, Rhode Island, and even the Black Hills of South Dakota and Bald Head Island in North Carolina were all proposed as sites for the United Nations before Manhattan was finally decided upon. The Manhattan site was selected after John D. Rockefeller, Jr. offered to donate funds to purchase the land.



## Beautiful Commemorative Coin Treasured by Area Collectors

As the area gears up for the December 19, 2013, unveiling of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument on Center Street, people are collecting the spectacular commemorative coin that is helping to raise funds for the project. The coin is considered a "good luck" piece and it's being reported that it is commonly given as a gift to friends and loved ones. Coins are \$10 each, and are available at Apple Granny Restaurant, the Lewiston Museum (469 Plain St), the Village Hall (Red Brick School), and The Village Bake Shoppe (417 Center St.) You can order over the phone: 716-754-4214 (\$4 shipping and handling fee.) You can also send a check payable to the Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc., PO Box 43, Lewiston, NY 14092.

## Welcome to Lewiston, NY Ranked "Top Ten Best Small Towns in America" -- Rand McNally

The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village. Mark your calendar for our next spectacular Lewiston Tour of Homes on Dec. 7 & 8, 2013.

Get our free email newsletters by sending an email to: [join@HistoricLewiston.org](mailto:join@HistoricLewiston.org). You can also see and download our past placemats at our website, [HistoricLewiston.org](http://HistoricLewiston.org).

Historic Lewiston placemats written and designed by volunteer, Lee Simonson.

**HistoricLewiston.org**  
716-754-4214



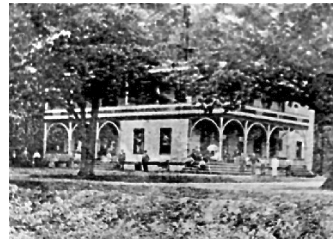
### Tuscarora Heroes

The amazing and true story of how the Tuscaroras saved Lewiston citizens from the brutal British attack during the War of 1812. The book is now available at DiCamillo Bakery and the Lewiston Museum. Price: \$10.

Don't miss the unveiling of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument on Dec. 19, 2013, on the 200th anniversary of the Tuscarora's brave action -- a rare moment in American history when Native Americans saved the lives of white settlers against a foreign attack.

### Rare Photo of Queens Hotel

The Queens Hotel was built on the south side of Navy Island in 1875 and was a popular summer resort until being destroyed by fire in 1910. (Photo courtesy of the Francis J. Petrie Collection.) Today the island is home to a large population of deer. It is a popular retreat for nature enthusiasts, who fish, watch rare species of birds, and enjoy the dense foliage. A permit is required to camp there.



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