



Lewiston History Mysteries



"There is no town in the country richer in picturesque scenery and historical interest than Lewiston."

-- Sanford's History of Niagara County, 1878

Hustler's Tavern: Birthplace of the "Cocktail"?

Why was Hustler's Tavern reportedly the only building left standing when the British invaded during the War of 1812? Some say it was because the British officers remembered too many good times they had there sipping a "cocktail" -- the drink that owner Catherine Hustler is credited with inventing when she stirred a "gin mixture" with the tail feather of a stuffed cockerel (a young male of the domestic fowl.)

She said it "warms both soul and body and is fit to be put in a vessel of diamonds." The Hustlers entertained author James Fenimore Cooper during the summer of 1821 and he was so amused that he included them in his book, *The Spy*, as characters Sergeant Hollister and Betty Flanigan.

Hustler's Tavern is no longer standing, but the site was located at 800 Center Street (northeast corner of 8th and Center Streets).

Historical Association of Lewiston

Want more fascinating information about Lewiston? Pick up "A Guide to Historic Lewiston" at the Chamber of Commerce brochure rack in the little Yellow House at 476 Center Street. The Historical Association, which has produced this placemat, is a group of dedicated volunteers who work to preserve and promote Lewiston's rich heritage. Our Museum is located at 465 Plain St. Summer hours are Wed-Sun from 1-4pm. Visitors, volunteers and sponsors are always welcomed!

For the latest news and events, contact the Historical Association toll free at: 800-714-9540

Was Lewiston named after the famous Lewis & Clark explorers? No!

Morgan Lewis gets that honor. In fact, he served as Governor of New York **exactly 200 years ago** from 1804-1807. Earlier, he was the state's Attorney General and Justice of the State Supreme Court. He put his military uniform back on during the War of 1812 and served on the Niagara Frontier. Lewis County is also named after him and he is buried at St. James Cemetery in Hyde Park, New York.



Gov. Morgan Lewis Bicentennial

Spirits of the Seaway Trail Historic Walking Tours of Lewiston

Every Saturday, 2pm
June thru September
Little Yellow House
476 Center Street
\$8 / \$5 children under 12

Did you know?

- That Niagara Falls actually started in Lewiston 12,000 years ago, near today's Artpark. Since then, the falls has eroded south about 7 miles to its present location.
- That Lewiston, NY, was the last stop on the Underground Railroad -- the secret passage that enabled Southern slaves to escape to freedom in Canada. (It wasn't really a railroad.)
- That Lewiston had more population than Buffalo before the Erie Canal opened in 1825, and was the center of the "Great Overland Route across the Continent" for stage coaches. It was also the site of the first railroad in North America that was used to haul goods from the Niagara River to the top of the escarpment. It was the only way for shipped materials to get around the falls.

? **What's that funny looking cement thing in front of 500 Center Street?**
It's an original "carriage step" that people used to step off their carriages while visiting Dr. Edward Smith's medical office. The building was constructed in 1845.

A Hero Visits Lewiston

Some historians think that if it wasn't for the **Marquis de Lafayette**, the United States would still be a British colony.

The French citizen was a close associate of George Washington's and his actions helped corner the British forces at Yorktown, leading to the American victory in the Revolutionary War.

Lafayette returned to the United States in 1824 for a year long tour. He was revered and treated as a hero.

After touring the Falls, Lafayette came to Lewiston for dinner and spent the night at the Kelsey Tavern at 625 Center Street, now the Talarico Real Estate office.



Marquis de Lafayette

He was reunited with his former Indian guide, Nicholas Cusick here. While at the Falls, General Lafayette was fascinated by the view from Goat Island and inquired about purchasing the island. Judge Augustus Porter who owned the island at the time, and was hosting his tour, offered to sell it for \$10,000. But an aide to Lafayette convinced him not to buy it. Sixty years later, the Porter family sold it to the state for the new Niagara Falls State Park.



The Kelsey Tavern at 625 Center Street, where General Lafayette stayed in June 1825.
Built 1820

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