

*Lewiston  
History  
Mysteries*

# Happy 100th Centennial Birthday, Lewiston Fire Company #1!

## Volunteers in 1914 had no equipment, started “Bucket Brigade” to protect life and property

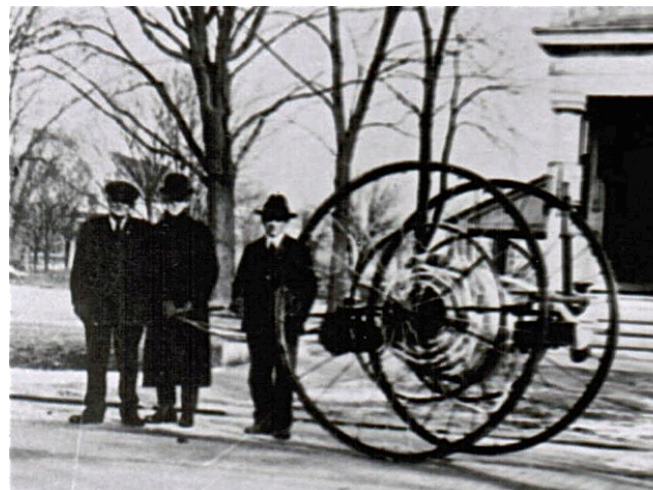
A hundred years ago, Lewistonians had only themselves and neighbors to help put out fires. The fire company was formed in 1914 as a bucket brigade. The first group of volunteers consisted of 25 men. Each man was required to keep two canvas buckets in a convenient place, so they could respond as quickly as possible when the Presbyterian Church bell rang alerting them to a fire.

1934 saw tremendous growth in the fire company with the purchase of additional hose and new equipment. An incredible number of volunteers – 53! – joined the company that year. During World War II, the fire company numbers were greatly reduced while the firemen served their country. The fire company contributed further to the cause by participating in scrap metal and clothing drives and contributing to blood banks. The current fire hall on North Sixth Street was built in 1955, expanded in 1965, and expanded again in 2013.



### First Fire Hall on Center Street, Next to Today's Brio's

The first fire hall was built in 1927. It had one bay and a siren on the roof. It was located at 446 Center Street, between today's Brio Pizzeria and the Frontier House. Fred Perrigo was the first Fire Chief.



### “Hose Reel” Acquired in 1916

You can see the proud volunteer firemen standing in front of the Frontier House, next to their new “hose reel” in 1916 – the Fire Company's first apparatus.



Here is the fire company's pride and joy -- the 1937 Ward LaFrance pumper which is still part of the fleet. Like the hose reel above, this photo was taken in front of the Frontier House during a parade. Emerson Walker is driving. It was recently restored by the volunteer firemen. Look for it in future parades and events.

### Lewiston Fire Co. Time Line

- 1914** Fire bucket brigade formed
- 1916** First equipment bought
- 1917** Official incorporation by the Village Board of Trustees
- 1927** First fire hall built on Center Street
- 1934** First Fireman's Field Day
- 1955** First ambulance purchased
- 1955** Cornerstone laid fire hall on N. 6th St.
- 1969** Purchase of tone generator – only volunteer fire company in Niagara County to dispatch its own calls
- 1976** Purchase of Swann Road property to serve as a satellite hall for eastern portion of the district
- 1982** Purchase of Jaws of Life – a gift from the Ladies' Auxiliary
- 2014** New Fire Hall expansion dedicated and Centennial Celebration!



### Welcome to Historic 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. 6 & 7, 2014.

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 Book

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 for \$10.



### Tuscarora Heroes Coin

This beautiful new commemorative coin represents the “good luck” the Tuscaroras brought to Lewiston citizens. Available for \$10 at Apple Granny and the Lewiston Museum. (All proceeds go to the monument fund.)

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