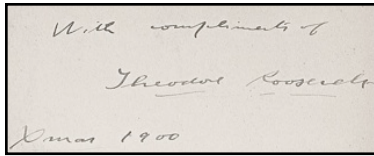


Lewiston  
History  
Mysteries

# Lewiston Library Has Served Community for 113 Years

## Lewiston Library Time Line

**1901:** On New Year's Day, the Men's Club of Lewiston held a "Grand Social Festival and Library Reception" at the Opera Hall for the purposes of starting a library. Each person who attended was asked to donate a book, and some people contributed up to 100 books. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt was invited but unable to attend and sent an autographed copy of his book on Oliver Cromwell. (Roosevelt's book is still on display in the Local History Room.) Subsequently, the "Lewiston Men's Club



Vice President Teddy Roosevelt donated an autographed book to help start the Lewiston Library. You can see he dated it "Xmas 1900".

Library" opened on Memorial Day, in the Benjamin Cornell Building at 469 Center Street with more than 2,000 volumes.

**1908:** The library moved to 535 Center Street and occupied the Hotchkiss building, which today is DiCamillo's Bakery.



For over 50 years -- from 1908 to 1962 -- the Lewiston Library occupied 535 Center Street, where DiCamillo's is located today. The original latch doors of the "Hotchkiss" building are still there and used today.

**1938:** The library was almost forced to close its doors for lack of financial support. However, the Lewiston Service Guild stepped in and took over the annual membership drive, netting \$150, which saved the library. The Guild also made building repairs, cleaned and painted the facility and purchased new books. The Guild continued to collect door-to-door for operating funds for many decades.

**1961:** The Library moved into the Long House at the corner of 5th and Center Streets. The house was built by



Judge William Hotchkiss in 1815 on his return home after Lewiston was destroyed in the War of 1812.

**1990:** The Library moved into its new home at 305 South 8th Street.



Today's modern library on South 8th Street is a 21st Century resource center serving hundreds of people a day. Do you have your library card?

## Many Locals Remember "Noel" the Library Cat from the 1970s

She appeared during a winter storm one December night back in 1970. Mrs. Scipione, Lewiston librarian, didn't have the heart to leave her out in the cold and she welcomed her inside. Noel decided that, even as the storm lifted, the library was the perfect home. (A local youngster recognized her and the owners were contacted, but Noel refused to be reunited with her family.) Although Noel spent most of her day strolling through the old stacks of books, her favorite moments were when the children came into the library. Young students looked forward to getting their homework done with Noel -- she would always find a comfortable spot on the tables. By spring time it became apparent that Noel was going to have kittens. On March 11, 1971, the checkout area of the Lewiston Library was transformed into a maternity ward. The staff stayed after hours to assist Noel as she gave birth to four healthy little kittens. All of the kittens found homes and Noel continued as the official "Library Cat" of the Lewiston Library, becoming the famous subject of local newspaper articles.



Young library patron, Henry Hoffman, is shown here with Noel, the "Library Cat" and her new born kittens in 1971.



### 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, Mangia Cafe and Bakery, and the Lewiston Museum. (All proceeds go to the monument fund.)

## LOVE YOUR LIBRARY!

The "Friends of the Library" was formed in 1984 by volunteers who were interested in helping the Lewiston Library. The organization is still going strong and it's easy to become a member. Membership dues are only \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students).

The "Friends" meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Library at 6pm. It's a great way to get involved and make new friends. Stop in and see what everyone is up to and find out how you might be able to help the library continue its important mission well into the future! For more info, call 754-8375.

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