

# Tuscarora Heroes Unveiling: December 19, 2013, 6:30pm

## Monument Commemoration on Bicentennial of Tuscaroras Saving the Lives of Dozens of Local Residents

### “A Forgotten Moment in a Forgotten War”

In the annals of Western NY history, nothing has caused more torment and despair than what happened in Lewiston on that cold winter morning in 1813. Things would have been much worse had it not been for the brave actions of the Tuscaroras.

The Lewiston monument honoring the Tuscarora Nation is the largest War of 1812 Bicentennial monument project in the U.S.

No local tax dollars are being used and all of the planning, organizing and fundraising was done by volunteers from the Historical Association of Lewiston.



*This is one of three large scale clay models depicting a Lewiston woman reaching out and being saved by a Tuscarora native. The bronze sculptures will be larger than life-size.*

### Summary of the True Story

Lewiston was brutally attacked in the early morning hours of December 19, 1813, by invading British forces from Canada during the War of 1812.

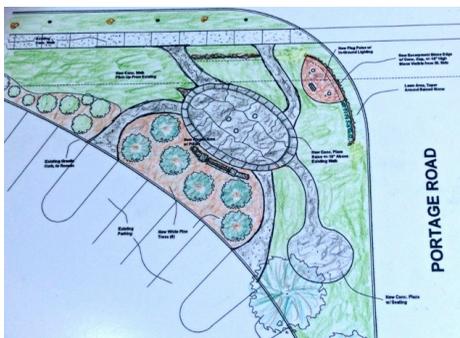
Lewiston residents ran for their lives through the snow and mud. Some were half dressed and many in their bare feet. About a dozen local citizens were killed, including women and children.

At the moment when the escaping residents lost hope and thought they would all become victims of a bloody massacre, a small group of Tuscarora men, led by Chief Solomon Longboard, ran down the Escarpment “as if their numbers were legion.”

Chief Longboard also instructed three men to blow horns from the top of the Escarpment. Even though it was just a bluff, the enemy thought it was a signal for an American counterattack and immediately stopped the assault.

Despite being outnumbered 30-to-1, the Tuscaroras were able to buy the fleeing residents enough time to get out of harm’s way, saving dozens of American lives.

### Turtle Plaza Design Emphasizes Symbolism



*Design by Rocco DelGrosso*

Nearly every aspect of the monument project will have a symbolic significance. For example, the plaza, which will be located at Portage Road and Center Street will be shaped like a turtle. The monument’s three bronze sculptures will be mounted on the turtle’s back, which according to Iroquois belief, was the birthplace of the

world. The 13 large turtle scales represent the 13 moons of the year, and the surrounding 28 scales represent the days of the lunar cycle.

Six northern white pine trees will represent the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy -- the Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga and Tuscarora nations.

The American and Tuscarora flag will be flying side-by-side. The U.S. flag will be the War of 1812 flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes and the Tuscarora flag will have six purple stripes overlaid with a native shirt. The Tuscaroras are known as the “shirt wearers.”

A large bronze plaque, placed behind the sculptures, will contain the names of the Tuscarora Heroes, along with the names of the Lewiston residents who were killed in the attack. No funds have been solicited or accepted from Native American sources. This is considered a gift to the Tuscaroras.



### Beautiful Commemorative “Good Luck” 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” keepsake because it represents the good fortune brought by the Tuscaroras to the fleeing Lewiston residents. It’s 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 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. Price: \$10.

Don’t miss the unveiling of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument (Portage & Center St.) on Dec. 19, 2013, at 6:30pm, 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.

### Artist Detailing Finishing Touches

Susan Geissler of Lewiston is one of the most acclaimed sculptresses in the United States. She was recently at a Colorado foundry executing some final details before the sculptures are cast in bronze. The sculptures will stand for thousands of years, ensuring that no one ever forgets the bravery of the Tuscaroras and how they saved Lewiston citizens.



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