

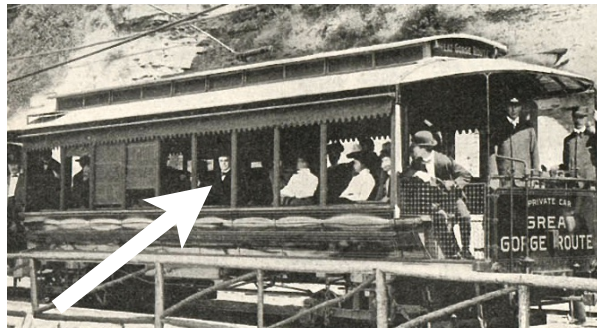
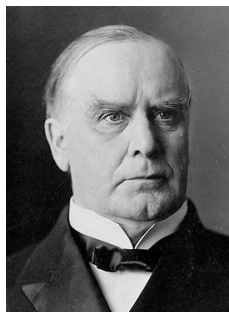
## Lewiston History Mysteries

# President McKinley Visits Lewiston the Morning of Fateful Day

President William McKinley visited the Pan-American Exposition -- the World's Fair -- held in Buffalo, New York, in 1901, with tragic results. The Exposition featured buildings covered in thousands of light bulbs creating an amazing sight, utilizing hydroelectric power generated in Niagara Falls. After McKinley was shot, he received expert care from many doctors, including surgeon Dr. Roswell Park. Ironically, the newly developed X-ray machine was displayed at the fair,

but doctors were reluctant to use it on McKinley because they did not know about possible side effects. Also, the operating room at the exposition's emergency hospital did not have any electric lighting. Doctors used a pan to reflect sunlight onto the operating table as they treated McKinley's wounds. There was a heated competition between Buffalo and Niagara Falls over the location of the Exposition. Buffalo won because it had a larger population (it was the 8th largest city in the U.S. at the time) and had better railroad connections.

Until recently, the highest mountain peak in North America was named Mt. McKinley, located in Alaska. However, President Obama changed the name to Denali.



The Great Gorge Route Railroad, also known as the Niagara Gorge Railroad, was a railway which ran at the bottom of the Niagara Gorge just a few feet above water level from 1895 to 1935, offering riders spectacular views of the lower river and rapids. On Sept. 6, 1901, President McKinley took the ride from Lewiston to Niagara Falls. Reports indicated he stopped briefly to view the Lewiston-Queenston Suspension Bridge which had just opened two years before in 1899.



## Welcome to Historic Lewiston, NY

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The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village.

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](http://HistoricLewiston.org) 716-754-4214**



**Tuscarora Heroes Book**  
The amazing story of how the Tuscaroras saved Lewiston citizens from the brutal British in 1813. 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.



### Temple of Music

The Temple was called the "gem" of the Exposition and home of its formal functions. It could seat 2000. The building was demolished when the fair ended.

Later: McKinley died of an infection from his wounds eight days later on September 14 in Buffalo. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt became President and took the oath of office at the Ansley Wilcox House at 641 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo.

## Presidential Timeline September 6, 1901

**9 am:** President McKinley, along with his wife, and 107 people in his entourage, board "four palatial Pullman cars" in Buffalo and take a "swift" train ride to Lewiston. "All were in joyous spirits and the President rejoiced in the bright, sunny day."

**10:07 am** President and his party arrives at the Lewiston train station, located near today's fish station at Center Street and North Water Street. They quickly transfer to the Great Gorge trolley that will take them along the river's edge to Niagara Falls.

**11:15 am** The Presidential party arrives in Niagara Falls and board carriages to Goat Island to view the Falls. They have lunch at the International Hotel.

**2:55 pm:** McKinley departs Niagara Falls by train to return to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo.

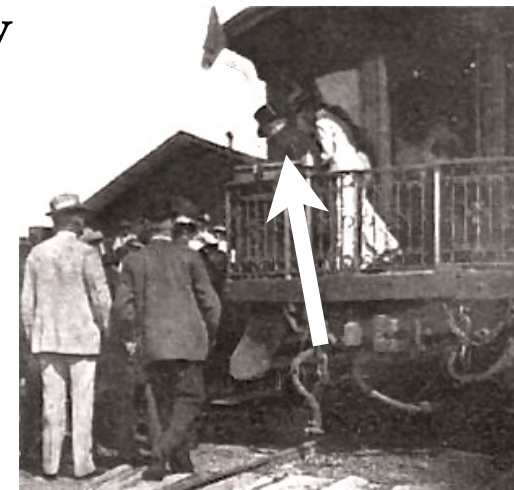
**3:30 pm:** The President arrives at the Exposition and goes to the Temple of Music for a public reception.

**4 pm:** He begins to shake hands with the throngs of people at the Temple of Music.

**4:07 pm:** Leon Czolgosz, a self-proclaimed anarchist, greets the President in the reception line and shoots him twice with a small pistol. He hid his gun by wrapping a handkerchief around it to make it look like he had an injured hand. He is immediately tackled and brought down by the President's guards.



After viewing the Falls, McKinley and his party had lunch at the International Hotel. It was located at the foot of Falls Street and was destroyed by fire in 1908. It was one of the finest hotels in the world.



Above, you can see President McKinley getting off the train near today's North Water Street in Lewiston. After getting off the train, McKinley, his wife Ida, and entourage boarded the Great Gorge Route trolley for a scenic ride along the Lower River to Niagara Falls. It has been rumored that McKinley visited the Frontier House, but that is not true. There has also been a report about his assassin spending the previous night in Lewiston awaiting his arrival here, but that is highly doubtful. Credible reports indicate Leon Czolgosz did take a train to Niagara Falls on the morning of Sept. 6, but soon headed back to Buffalo when he determined he did not have a reasonable chance to get near the President. He finally got his chance during a public reception later that afternoon at the Temple of Music.

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