
* LEWISTON *

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

BY MRS. LUCY WILLIAMS HAWES.

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HERE is no place in Western New-York of greater interest than the neglected old hamlet of Lewiston. The tens of thousands of tourists who pass down her broad streets on their way from the Falls to Canada or the "Thousand Isles," never fail to remark the beauties of its situation, and wonder at its decline. Sixty years ago it was a thriving place, though it would seem that "human progress in her seven league boots," when striding over the continent, had ignored this spot.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first hut at the head of the navigable waters of Lake Ontario was erected at Lewiston, in 1721, by Chabert Joncaire, a lieutenant in the French Army and an adopted son of the Senecas.

It was not far from the present terminus of the N. Y. C. R. R., on the river below the hill. It was 30 x 40 feet, surrounded by sagades, and was the deposit of furs brought by the hunters and trappers of the surrounding region. Here blankets, knives, rum, ammunition, trinkets, and ginseng were exchanged for skins of beaver, bear, fox, otter, squash, marten, mink, lynx, wolverine, fisher, raccoon, wolf, deer, buffalo robes, and castoreum; the Indians taking them in packs on their backs to Schlosser at twenty cents a pack. Here Joncaire entertained Baron de Longueil, Marquis de Cavagnal and the Sieur Chauvignerie, the interpreter of the Iroquois, holding council there, in which Joncaire spoke with "all the good sense of a Frenchman and with the sublimest eloquence of the Iroquois."

EARLY TRAVELERS TO NIAGARA FALLS.

It is very amusing to read the accounts of early travelers to this region. Chateaubriand, a brilliant French writer, came to this country in 1790, and wrote a book called "The Natchez," describing savage life. He says, "The Cataract of Niagara, the first in the known world, is like a sea of a million of torrents rushing to a gaping gulf. Innumerable bows are to be seen in the sky, crossing

the abyss and from it proceeds a horrid noise which is heard at the distance of sixty miles. Enormous rocks towering upwards decorate the sublime scene. Scarcely a living animal is seen except eagles, as they hover over in search of prey, and are often overpowered by the current of air and forced with giddy whirl to the bottom of the abyss.

"The spotted Carcajou suspended by its long tail from the lower limbs of trees tries to catch the fragments of the drowned carcasses which are thrown ashore by the boiling surf, such as elks and bears, while rattlesnakes, announce by their baleful sounding that they are lurking on every side.

"My imagination loves to wander by the light of the stars, on the borders of these immense lakes, to hover over the roaring gulf of terrific cataracts, to fall with the mighty waters, to mix, to confound itself, as it were, with the wild sublimities of Nature!

"On arriving at the cataract, I alighted and fastened my horse's bridle about my arm. As I leaned forward to look down, a rattlesnake moved in the neighboring branches. The horse took fright, reared on his hind legs, and approached the precipice. His feet were on the point of slipping, and he was held only by the reins. Astonished at this new danger, he made a final spring ten feet from the edge. My arm was broken in falling from the steep rocks. The savages drew me up by birch cords, carried me to their huts, and nursed me.

TRIBUTE.

"Benevolent savages! who so hospitably entertained me, and whom I shall doubtless never again behold, let me here be permitted to pay the tribute of my gratitude. May you long enjoy your precious independence in those delightful solitudes where my wishes for your happiness will ever follow you. Generous family! it is a consolation that his name is still pronounced with tender recollections by the poor Indian!" It seems indeed difficult to imagine a peer of France, accustomed to the luxuries of a Court, made comfortable in the wigwam of a savage.

In 1789, an English traveler, Mackenzie, "hears murmurs difficult to define. A repeated cry like the tinkling of a bell or the barking of a dog. The traveler is greatly deceived, and fancies he is approaching the cottage of a laborer. Harmonious warblings swell upon the breeze, but the concert grows weaker and gradually dies away among the rushes. The noise proceeds from frogs, which sometimes bellow like bulls, and are called 'bull frogs.'"

Marquette, the devoted Jesuit missionary, faithful to his Divine Master, waded through forests and snows, defied the savage, and subsisted on roots. But he said, "Life in the wilderness had its charms." "Living like a patriarch beneath his tent, each day selecting a new site for his dwelling, with a never failing carpet of green inlaid with flowers, his encampment on the prairie resembled the pillar of stones where Jacob felt the presence of God, and the venerable oaks around his tent reminded him of the tree of Mamre, where Abraham broke bread with the angels."

THE PIONEERS.

In 1798, Surveyor-General Simeon De Witt recommended Lewiston as the proper site for a town on lower Niagara River, and the first permanent settlements were made on the present site of the village in or about 1800. Joseph Howell, the first white child, was born in or near Lewiston in 1799. Middaugh kept a tavern, and McBride built a tannery about the same time. Emigration came slowly in. It was a wild, beautiful country, more fertile and less rough than the hills and pastures of the East. Wolves grew scarce and deer were more plenty—though wolves were seen in the country forty years after. The labors of the pioneers were soon rewarded by fields of wheat and corn, rye and barley, orchards, from apple seeds left by the French, and vegetables of many kinds. Cranberries grew in the marshes and berries in the field; good fish were caught in the river; and the faithful men with their heroic wives and children rejoiced in comfortable homes, barns for their harvest, schools for their children, and, better than all, humble places of worship.

WAR OF 1812-15.

Then came the dread tidings of war to the devoted hamlet. The proceedings of Congress during the previous session had led to many gloomy forebodings, which were realized on the 26th of June, 1812, when an express from President Madison reached Black Rock and Fort Niagara, spreading gloom along the frontier. A similar despatch was sent by John Jacob Astor to Thomas Clarke, Esq., of Queenston. War was declared at Washington on the 18th of June. "The revocation of

the English orders in council regarding neutral commerce and right of search," took place in London on the day preceding, so if the Atlantic telegraph had been in operation a most disastrous war might have been prevented. England at that time could ill spare sufficient force to guard her provinces, as every soldier was needed to feed the army of Wellington in the great contest on the Peninsula.

On the 4th of July, eight days after the declaration of war, the aggregate militia force on the frontier was 8,000 men. Maj.-Gen. Wadsworth assumed the command, and on the 11th of August Maj.-Gen. Van Rensselaer established his head-quarters in Lewiston.

The Canadian border was in a much better state of defence than ours; 600 or 700 "British Regulars" were stationed along the river between the lakes with a hundred pieces of artillery; the militia of the Upper Province was ordered out en masse, and the services of the Mohawk and other tribes of the Province were secured. This had long been a favorite policy of England in case of border troubles.

The Senecas, hearing of the outrages of Canadian Indians on American soil, declared the Mohawks "Out of the Confederation of the Six Nations," and became themselves fast friends and useful armed allies of the United States.

On the 13th of October, 1813, Gen. Van Rensselaer and his troops crossed the river at Lewiston and attacked Queenston, which was held by the British forces, under Maj.-Gen. Brock, Governor of the Upper Province of Canada; thus was the war carried "into the enemy's country."

BROCK'S MONUMENT.

Opposite Lewiston and above Queenston, the famous Brock's Monument is a striking feature in the scenery. The view from the battlefield is beyond compare. The mighty rushing river, with its greenish-blue waters, the far-off cultivated fields, the villages of Lewiston and Queenston huddled under the mountain, with the old forts at Niagara and Lake Ontario in the distance, with Burlington Bay on the left, while often a mirage "lends enchantment to the view."

At the time of his death Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock, who fell at the battle of Queenston on the 13th of October, 1813, was one of the ablest officers in the British Army. He was second in command of land forces under Lord Nelson in the attack on Copenhagen in 1801, was promoted by the Prince Regent to serve as Major-General on the staff of North America, and in addition to the command of the troops, was appointed Governor of Upper Canada. After the taking of Detroit he was

made an "extra Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath," a distinction the knowledge of which would have cheered him in his last moments had he been aware of it.

Gen. Brock was tall and commanding, his manners were courteous, and he was on friendly terms with the officers at Fort Niagara until war was declared. The venerable Miss Emily West, daughter of the surgeon at that post, Dr. Joseph West, who has recently died, remembered going to church, on the Canadian side, on the Sunday preceding the battle of Queenston. She said, "Gen. Brock went to the boat with us after church, and taking my sister and myself by turns in his arms, said: 'I must bid good-bye to my little, rosy-cheeked Yankees'—and extending his hand to my father said: 'Farewell, doctor, the next time we meet we shall be enemies.' Then the war began. Raw militia poured into the fort from all quarters, and we were sent to the country. On our way we met a powerful Tuscarora Chief with a hundred young Indians, bedecked with war-paint and armed with tomahawk and hatchet, on their way to offer their services at the fort. When we returned we found Col. Scott (afterwards Maj.-Gen. Scott) had pitched his tent over my favorite rose bush, and I remember walking with my father through rows of white tents, while he visited the sick and wounded soldiers."

The death of Gen. Brock occasioned universal sorrow, not only throughout Canada, but in the mother country, and during the funeral procession, which conveyed his body to Fort George, Gen. Van Rensselaer ordered the firing of minute guns on the American side as a "mark of respect to a brave enemy."

The province of Upper Canada erected the present monument, and the House of Commons voted the erection of another to his memory in St. Paul's Cathedral, the last resting-place of Nelson, Wellington, and other heroes. In a meeting on Queenston Heights, in 1840, the Hon. Mr. Justice Macaulay said: "The fame of Brock floats down the stream of time broad, deep and fresh as the waters of the famed river, with whose waters it might almost be said his life's blood mingled."

THE BURNING OF LEWISTON.

After two years of badly conducted warfare on the border, in which instances of courage and loyalty were intermingled with those of treachery, cowardice and disgrace, Gen. McClure, of N. Y. S. Militia, destroyed the Village of Newark, now Niagara, leaving the inhabitants homeless, exposed to severe winter weather, justifying the act as a matter of military necessity.

Then began the terrible work of retribution and revenge. Col. Murray, with a force of

British regulars and hostile Indians, landed at "Five-Mile Meadow," shooting and plundering the inhabitants, and laying low the whole frontier to Buffalo. It was a terrible scene—every vehicle was put in requisition to convey the women and children further East, being aided in their flight by friendly Tuscaroras. The peaceful settlers fled from their burning homes at the point of the bayonet and tomahawk. A section of country containing more than 6,000 souls was effectually broken up. Many families were reduced from competency to the last degree of want and sorrow, desolate and broken-hearted. Some of the settlers returned the succeeding summer, but as many never came back, having seen enough of frontier life. A stirring appeal was made to the legislature for aid to the sufferers; and the cities of New-York and Albany, and wealthy citizens from various places, raised a purse of \$63,000 for their relief, after which the old town sprang to life again.

THE VILLAGE OF LEWISTON

Was incorporated in 1822. It occupied nearly a mile square of the mile-strip belonging to the State and was surveyed by Joseph Annan, half brother of Benjamin Barton, he following the example of Surveyor Eliocott in giving it broad avenues like those of Buffalo. Nature fitted the land for the rod of the surveyor, a beautiful plateau, the beginning of the famous Ridge Road. The middle or main street was called Centre Street; those parallel with it, three on either side, were named for the Six Nations—Tuscarora, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk. The streets from the river were numbered to Ninth Street.

THE FIRST COURT IN NIAGARA COUNTY.

The first court of Niagara County, after its separation from Erie, was held in an old stone school-house which stood northwest of the present Academy, and which was demolished in 1863. Oliver Grace was Clerk. Judge Silas Hopkins presided, with Robert Fleming and James Van Horn as Associate Judges. The courts were held in Lewiston until July, 1823, when they were removed to Lockport. In the meanwhile Samuel De Vaux had been added to the bench of judges before named. The members of the bar of the county were John Birdsall, Wm. Hotchkiss, Zinah H. Colvin, Bates Cooke, J. F. Mason, Elias Ransom, Hiram Gardner, Theodore Chapin, Sebridge Dodge, Harvey Leonard.

EARLY SETTLERS.

Among the earliest settlers of Lewiston were the family of Cooke. Capt. Lemuel Cooke, a first sergeant in the U. S. Army; came from

Wallingford, Conn., in 1796, with the first American forces holding Fort Niagara. In 1802 he went to Lewiston. His sons were Bates, Lothrop and Isaac. He took up the old Brant farm east of the village, where his descendants are still living. Bates Cooke studied law, was postmaster for many years, became member of Congress, filled the office of Comptroller of the State, and was a most valuable and respected citizen. He left several children. His son, Rev. Joshua Cooke, the famous hunter, angler, and genial companion, is now a missionary among the mining settlements of Northern Michigan.

Judge Lothrop Cooke was a marked character. He was born in 1785. In 1799 he walked to Batavia on his way to school in East Bloomfield. He was very loyal and efficient in the frontier troubles, losing a leg from exposure in conveying troops across the river at the siege of Queenston. Maj.-Gen. Wadsworth, in a letter written to Judge Cooke, dated Geneseo, October, 1816, says: "I am much disposed to serve you. I shall never forget the services your father and yourself rendered on the frontier with so much credit to yourselves. Both of you richly earned a grant of land in Indiana in one day's service." Passing through great hardships in early years, he fought the battle of life nobly and successfully. He was Collector under President Fillmore, Deputy Sheriff of the counties of Niagara and Erie, and a magistrate for more than thirty years.

His lofty height and bearing, and his cheerful hospitality, are still recalled to the memory of surviving friends. The house which he built in 1815, on Centre Street, is still standing, with additions and alterations, and his daughter, Elizabeth M. Cooke, and the children of her sister, Mrs. Cornelia Cooke Trowbridge, still reside there.

Isaac Cooke, the third brother, lived on the old Brant farm on the Ridge Road, purchased by the family soon after the Revolutionary War, which is owned and occupied by Mr. Wm. Jones Cooke and his brother and sisters. Mr. W. J. Cooke is the present public-spirited and efficient Supervisor of the town of Lewiston, an office formerly held by his father.

Of the daughters of Lemuel Cooke, Betsey became the wife of Jonas Harrison, Collector of Internal Revenue after the War of 1812, whose house, at the corner of Center and Sixth streets, was the only one left standing after the burning of Lewiston. Their children were Mr. James C. Harrison of Buffalo, and Mrs. Rachel Fitts, the wife of the well-known teacher, Moses H. Fitts. A younger daughter, Amelia, was betrothed to the celebrated surgeon, Dr. William Beaumont, U. S. A., but her life-long invalidism prevented their union.

Dr. Beaumont came to Fort Niagara in 1825, bringing with him a young French Canadian who had been shot in the side, leaving a hole which healed but never closed, giving Dr. B. opportunities to view the process of digestion which no other man ever enjoyed. Dr. B. carried on his experiments, extracting bile and gastric juice, and watching the process of digestion, for many years. The man, Alexis St. Martin, enjoyed excellent health during the process, and died recently at an advanced age.

The first church for Christian worship in Western New-York was built of logs by the Indian Chief Brant, on the Cooke farm. Brant translated the prayer-book into Mohawk for the use of his tribe. The bell, which rested in the crotch of a tree, was stolen by the Indians from the chapel of Sir Wm. Johnson, and afterwards carried by them farther west.

Benjamin Barton, father of Major Benjamin Barton, the well-known forwarding merchant of the firm of Porter, Barton & Co., was a native of Sussex County, N. J. He was a friend of Robert Morris, and interested in the sales and settlements of Western lands. Two autograph letters of Mr. Morris are preserved. In one of them, dated Philadelphia, December 11, 1800, he writes:

"You have now the clearest information I can give you. *If, however, you should find it necessary to write again, be good enough to pay the postage of your letters, for I have not a cent to spare from the means of subsistence.*

"I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

"ROBERT MORRIS.

"MR. BENJAMIN BARTON,
Sussex Co., N. J."

This from the great "Financier" (an equivalent to the office of Secretary of the Treasury) under Washington, when the Treasury "had not a copper in it and was two millions and a half in debt"; who established the "Bank of North America," heading the list of subscribers with the sum of \$10,000; who told Washington he would answer with his head for funds to lead the army to Yorktown; supplying the troops with thousands of barrels of flour; to whom John Hancock, in a severe crisis of the Revolution, wrote: "All things depend on you"; who, in 1776, was member of Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence! He was ruined in unfortunate land speculations after the Revolution, and from being the possessor of immense wealth was reduced to ask Mr. Barton to pay his own postage, and left his widow to subsist on an annuity of \$1,500 a year from the Holland Land Company, as an equivalent for the release of dower in the lands purchased of her husband.

Major Benjamin Barton, prominent among the early settlers on the frontier, came with

his father in 1787, when only seventeen years old, to assist in driving cattle and sheep for the use of the British Commissary at Niagara. In 1792 he married Miss Agnes Latta in Canadaigua, and removed to Lewiston in 1807. Being employed by the Surveyor-General, he early foresaw the immense trade which would in time flow through these great inland seas. In connection with Judge and General Porter he bid off at auction a large tract of land at Niagara Falls, and received leases of the landing places at Lewiston and Schlosser, for the term of twelve years.

Under the firm of Porter, Barton & Co., they were the first regularly constituted line of forwarders from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean. The Northwestern Fur Company sent through them their accumulated stock of furs to the houses of John Jacob Astor and Ramsey Crooks of New-York. The old accounts of the firm are very interesting. In 1813, when the frontier was invaded and laid waste, Major Barton was a large sufferer. His houses, stores and mills were burned, his valuable household stuff, china, glass, bedding, his carriages, wagons, sleighs and harness, his bountiful supply of food laid away for the coming winter were destroyed, and his valuable stock driven away by the merciless British soldiers and their fiendish Indian allies.

In 1814 he was quartermaster of General Porter's brigade of volunteers, and afterwards received a commission from President Madison as Deputy Quarter-Master-General, U. S. A. At the close of the war he repaired the injury done to his property, gave up business, and enjoyed the fortune achieved through his industry and perseverance, dying in 1842, aged 72 years. His sons were William Barton of New-York, Jas. L. Barton, the well-known local historian of Buffalo, Samuel Barton, Mr. Joseph A. Barton, and the venerable Peter Porter Barton, who, with his sister, Mrs. R. H. Boughton, are the only survivors of his once numerous family. Mrs. Mary Barton, the beloved wife of P. P. Barton, was a daughter of Capt. Joseph Whitney. Major B.'s daughters were the wives of Amos Tryon, a successful merchant; Sheldon Thompson, Mayor of Buffalo in 1841; Zinah H. Colvin, a bright lawyer; R. H. Boughton, an enterprising railroad man; and Dr. Darius Shaw.

Mr. Peter P. Barton still lives on the old homestead, with his daughter, Miss Kate Barton. They, with the family of Mr. Hugh Fraser, whose wife was the daughter of Amos Tryon, are the only descendants of Major Barton left in Lewiston.

The old house on the hill, with the great willow overshadowing its grounds, was for many years the abode of comfort and hospitality, and has witnessed many a gathering of "the neighboring gentry" from Canada, Buffalo, and intervening places.

Judge Silas Hopkins came with Benjamin Barton from Sussex County, N. J., to Lewiston. In 1788 he purchased many furs, and although he only paid four cents for a mink skin, he carried home to New Jersey \$400. He took up land near Brant's Spring on the Ridge Road, and his descendants still live there. He remembered Brant well. He was colonel of the militia in 1812, first Judge of the Courts of Niagara and Erie, and filled with ability many public stations.

Judge Robert Fleming was an Irishman, who came to America at the close of the rebellion of 1798, in which he had engaged. He landed at Philadelphia, and came afterwards to the Holland Purchase, and in 1814 was captain of "Batavia Volunteers," with whom and twenty Senecas he led at the "sortie" at Fort Erie under General Porter. He served from the beginning to the close of the war of 1812. Then he was appointed Collector of Customs in the Niagara District, and retained the position until 1829. In 1818, and again in 1834, he was member of the Assembly of the State of New-York. He was First Judge of Niagara County from 1828 to 1833, and was an excellent citizen. At the time of his death he left four sons, Robert E., Oliver, William and George, and three daughters, Fanny, Sarah Jane, and Ellen S. Of these, the survivors are William, George, Sarah Jane and Ellen S. His son, William Fleming, is a valued citizen of Buffalo. Robert Emmett Fleming died at Fort Wayne, Ind. George Fleming lives in Chicago.

Jacob Townsend, whose farm on Lewiston Heights is the residence of his son-in-law, James C. Evans, was one of the noted forwarders of his time. He came from Connecticut in 1810, and from his house saw the smoke from the battle of Queenston. The firm of "Townsend, Bronson & Co.," included Sheldon Thompson of Buffalo, Mr. Bronson shipping the goods at Oswego. Mrs. Wm. Hotchkiss is his only surviving child. Her brothers were the Rev. Sheldon and Rev. Kneeland Townsend. Her sisters were Mrs. James C. Evans and Miss L. A. Townsend. Her sons are Charles, Eugene, Leander W., and George. Her daughter is the widow of Samuel Barton, Jr.

William Hotchkiss, Sr., came to Lewiston from Clinton, N. Y., in 1815, and that year commenced the construction of dwelling, law office and store, still standing on Center Street. He served several terms as judge before Erie County was set off from Niagara, and had an extensive and lucrative practice. Although a lawyer, Judge Hotchkiss was noted as a peace-maker, frequently advising his neighbors to amicably settle their disputes without recourse to law. He died in 1848, aged seventy-three years.

The Hon. S. B. Piper, one of the first teachers at the Academy, was a noted and eloquent lawyer, member of the Assembly and candidate for Congress. His large and well-built house is the most prominent one on Centre Street. His wife, a grand-niece of Joseph Ellicott, is living with her son in Georgia. Mr. C. H. Piper, his brother, formerly a resident of Lewiston, and student at the Academy, has been for many years a practicing lawyer at Niagara Falls.

Dr. Willard Smith was a well-known skillful surgeon and physician in the border troubles, having a wide circuit, and often called in consultation by Drs. Trowbridge and Marshall of Buffalo. His first partner was Dr. Alvord, who was killed in the raid of 1814. In 1820 he built the house on the corner of Center and Seventh streets. There his son and successor, Dr. Edward Smith, was born, and from his youth has had an extensive and lucrative practice in his native county. He married a daughter of Judge James Smith, and has several children.

Mr. Rufus Spaulding came to Lewiston in 1810. He owned a fine farm four miles east of the village. He held the offices of supervisor and magistrate, and lived to an advanced age, leaving several children. His descendants are now widely scattered. His son, Franklin Spaulding, was formerly Sheriff of Niagara County, Collector of Customs, and later Postmaster of Niagara Falls.

The late Joseph E. Whitman, an esteemed citizen, was many years deputy collector of Lewiston. He married the daughter of the venerable Rufus Spaulding. She was an infant on her father's farm during the flight of the citizens from their burning homes in 1813, was caught up by neighbors on a passing sled, and not restored to her affrighted mother for many hours. Mrs. Whitman has two daughters, one of whom is the wife of Mr. George Hotchkiss. Mr. John Whitman of Georgia is a brother of Joseph E. Whitman, and formerly was Postmaster of Lewiston.

Calvin Hotchkiss, a successful and wealthy trader, retired many years ago to his farm of seven hundred acres at "Five-Mile Meadows." There he cultivated his good land with great success, built a fine, spacious dwelling, and died a bachelor at an advanced age. His nephews, William, Fitz James, George, Wm. T., Van Epps, and Henry F. Hotchkiss, were well-known citizens of Lewiston in its palmy days. His nieces were Mrs. Merrill, mother of Eliphalet Merrill, Mrs. Helen McArthur of Buffalo, both deceased, and Mrs. Clara Hooker, who resides in Lewiston with her son, Mr. Calvin Hooker, whose wife was the daughter of Mr. J. P. Wright. The estate of Calvin Hotchkiss, "The Meadows," now owned and occupied by Mrs. Louisa Hitchcock, is one of the finest on the river, with its extended view

of the intervals, its pretty fountains, and extensive outbuildings.

Capt. James Van Cleve was for many years a popular and skillful commander of steamships on Lake Ontario. He was a friend of Ericsson, the inventor, using one of Ericsson's first engines on the boat "Vandalia," built at Ogdensburgh. Ericsson is still living in New-York. Capt. Van Cleve lives with his adopted daughter in Sandwich, Ont., where his wife, Mrs. Harriet Van Cleve, recently died, mourned and regretted. Mrs. Van Cleve was a woman of rare intelligence and public spirit, the daughter of Samuel Barton, and granddaughter of Joshua Fairbanks. She inherited the Fairbanks house, opposite that of her other grandfather, Benjamin Barton. Many noted people gathered under her roof, where they found a hearty welcome, and well-stored library. The house was improved and decorated many years ago by Mr. Emmett Burr, and is now owned and occupied by Mr. Joseph Skinner, who will soon erect a planing-mill in the upper part of the town.

Mr. Reuben Boughton was an early settler in Lewiston, where he married the youngest daughter of Benjamin Barton. His family came to Boughton Hill, in the Town of Victor, from Stockbridge, Mass., in 1790. Enos Boughton planted the first orchard west of Seneca Lake. Col. Seymour Boughton was killed at the battle of Black Rock in 1812. Mr. B. was an active business man and an early and valuable official of the various railroads in the vicinity of the Falls. Later on he was a respected citizen of Titusville, Pa., where he died, and where his widow still lives. He left three sons, Reuben, Victor, and Frank Boughton, and two daughters, Mrs. Gilman of St. Paul and Mrs. Edward B. Smith of Buffalo. His daughter Marion, the wife of Lieut. George Williams, U. S. Revenue Marine, died in 1862, leaving one daughter.

OAK HILL.

Notably among the best houses of an early date is that of Dr. Seymour Scovell, built of stone, in 1834, by John Cleghorn, on the second plateau above the river. It was famous for its terraced garden, its greenhouse, and its grapes, peaches, and melons. The greenhouse and fine stone stables have been destroyed by fire and storm, but the old place still retains much of its pristine style, and is owned and occupied by the Scovell family. Mr. Porter Scovell, a highly respected citizen and scholarly man, has filled the office of Town Clerk for many years, nominated by both parties. Mrs. Maria R. Hotchkiss, the widow of Henry F. Hotchkiss, is still mistress of the spacious mansion. Her sister, Mrs. Cynthia Anstey, wife of Wm. H. Anstey, lives in New-York with her children, Mrs. C. C.

Starkweather, and Mr. W. C. and Miss Minnie Anstey, while her grandchildren, descendants of Mr. Philip C. H. Brotherson, reside in Galveston, Texas.

Dr. Scovell was Collector of the Port under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, a genial, hospitable man, and the old house has been the scene of many brilliant parties and weddings, which continued many years after his decease. The merciless railroad rolling at the foot of the fine lawn, disturbs its delightful silence, but no place on Niagara River has memories more pleasant than those associated with "Oak Hill."

The late lamented Leander K. Scovell, son of Dr. S. Scovell, late Senior Warden of the Episcopal Church, owned a fine farm on the Ridge Road. His widow was the daughter of Mr. Benjamin Ways and niece of Joseph Elliott. His only daughter, Mary, is the wife of Dr. Geo. P. Eddy, Jr.

Mr. O. P. Scovell has filled several important offices with great credit. He is fond of geology, and is of great assistance to many scientists, on both sides the river, who are prying into the mysteries of the great Niagara Gorge. His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Shepard. Both his present wife and himself are cousins of Saxe, the poet. Mr. S. is a pillar of the church, under the shadow of which he lives, in the old house built by "Priest Smith, a "Home Missionary" and widely-known preacher. Mr. Scovell has two sons, Messrs. Jewett and Josiah Scovell. Mrs. Juliette Colt of Suspension Bridge is a sister of Mr. Scovell.

Among the early names worthy of mention is the numerous family of Colt, once occupying four beautiful farms on the river road to Niagara Falls. These farms are now, all save one, occupied by strangers, the one exception being that of the late highly-respected Hetzel Colt, whose widow still resides on the farm, with the family of her son, Mr. J. B. S. Colt. Descendants of the other families are now scattered abroad through many different States.

"Stow Place," now called "Ellangowan," owned and occupied by Mrs. John Craigie, stands in a grove north of the village. It was built by Hon. Horatio J. Stow, in 1848. Judge Stow studied law with Bates Cook, in 1832, and the dream of his life was to have a home on Niagara River. After a successful career as a lawyer in Buffalo, while yet a young man, he superintended the building of his house and laying out the grounds. Mr. Fair of Buffalo and Mr. Parkinson, the well-known builder at Lewiston, were architect and builder. It is built of stone and lined with well-seasoned oak, hand-made; it had spacious rooms and all modern conveniences, a fine lawn, orchard and garden, and was, when built, and probably yet,

the finest house on Niagara River. At the death of Judge Stow, in 1859, it was purchased by William Tweedy, Esq., of Buffalo, an old and respected merchant of that place. Mr. Tweedy and his sons-in-law, Messrs. Rumrill and Holbrook, successively occupied the place until 1882, when it was purchased by John Craigie, Esq., whose widow, the daughter of the late David Thorburn of Queenston, M. P. for Welland, resides there with her daughters. On the river bank at "Ellangowan" stands the ruins of an oak tree, famous in Indian history as a target, which still bears marks of arrows, said to have been lodged there before the memory of the oldest Indian of fifty years ago.

Mrs. Frank Atwater, afterwards the wife of Mr. James C. Evans of Buffalo, the daughter of Mr. Tweedy, resided many years at Stow Place. Mrs. Anna J. Stow, widow of Judge Stow, lives with her son, John Talcott Stow, Surveyor of Ventura County, in Buenventura, Cal. Her eldest son, Mr. Charles Stowe, the brilliant and versatile writer on whom Mr. P. T. Barnum depends in literary matters, lives at Girard, Penn. His wife was Amelia, daughter of Nelson Cornell. She left three children, Lucy Hawes, Anna Powers, and Frank Horatio.

Judge Stow fondly hoped that many of his Buffalo friends would become his neighbors, building homes on the river—hopes never realized.

Among early and prominent firms on Centre Street was that of A. S. Bairsto & Co. The surviving partner, Mr. Abraham Bairsto, is a bachelor who, through a long, industrious, and blameless life, has won the respect and confidence of his neighbors and friends. He came with his brother, Mr. Moses Bairsto, from New Hampshire, in 1828. Mr. M. Bairsto removed to Cambria and married Miss Latta, in 1834. He returned to Lewiston and built the store on Centre Street in 1857. Mr. Bairsto was an upright and respected citizen, elected Whig Supervisor of Cambria in 1845, and Republican Supervisor for Lewiston in 1863, holding this office through the War of the Rebellion, when the duties connected with it were very arduous. He was an efficient member of the Lewiston Soldiers' Aid Society, assisting Mrs. Van Cleve, Mrs. John Porter, and other patriotic ladies in forwarding large and valuable boxes of supplies to the 5th branch of the Sanitary Commission. He left a son, Mr. Charles Bairsto, and two daughters, Mrs. G. W. Worden and Mrs. T. E. Clark of Niagara Falls.

Col. Alexander Millar came to Lewiston at a very early day, was made a prisoner by the British during the border troubles, and sent to Halifax. His son, Alexander Millar, during a long life, occupied a farm on Niagara River. He is entitled to the distinction of being the pioneer in the successful growing of fine

fruits in this section of country. He left two sons and two daughters, Mr. David R. Millar, a lawyer of Lockport, and Mr. Allan H. Millar, who, with his sisters, the Misses Margaret and Mary Millar, still occupy the old homestead.

John Robinson came from Mifflin Co., Pa., in 1805, with a large family, of whom Dr. M. Robinson, a well-known physician, is the only survivor. Of descendants still living in the vicinity are Mrs. Lewis W. Hull, granddaughter of John Robinson, and two grandsons, Mr. A. Hamilton Robinson of Suspension Bridge and Mr. Charles K. Robinson, a lawyer of Buffalo.

The oldest native-born citizen is Mrs. Solomon Gillet, who was born, in 1805, on the farm now occupied by the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels. Her husband was born, in 1807, in a log-house which stood near the foot of the mountain road, and is still remembered by some of the present inhabitants. He was sent to Montreal as a prisoner and held till the following March.

In 1809 Joseph P. Hewitt came to Lewiston from LeRoy, N. Y., where he was born in 1803. He was a large property owner, leaving five farms besides village property. His brothers were James Hewitt, next to Mrs. Gillet, the oldest native-born citizen of Lewiston, and Benjamin Hewitt, who also owned a fine farm and residence on Niagara River. Benjamin Hewitt's daughter Mary is the wife of J. B. S. Colt.

Richard Ayer, a highly esteemed citizen, came to Lewiston in 1816. After his death his venerable wife occupied their pleasant home until her death, scarcely a year ago. The farm is now owned by Mr. James Buckley.

During the summer of 1813 an Indian, passing through the woods, came to the house of Mr. Sparrow S. Sage, taking captive Mrs. Sage and another woman, who were alone in the house, and starting with them for the fort. Mrs. Sage's companion escaped and alarmed Mr. Sage, who started in pursuit with an axe. Overtaking captor and captive he struck the Indian a blow on the shoulder which nearly severed the arm from his body, and from which he soon died. The gun which the Indian carried is still retained as a valued relic by one of Mr. Sage's descendants, who still resides on the old place.

John Gray came to Lewiston in 1815, starting a mill on the bank of the river. His son Arthur Gray has cultivated his farm on the river for many years. He died nearly a year ago, leaving a wife and a large family of sons and daughters to mourn his loss. Jonathan Gray, another son of John Gray, now lives in Washington.

Capt. Joseph Whitney, commander of the steamer "Great Britain," more than half a

century ago, and later of the "United States," was, after leaving the lake, a resident of Lewiston during the remainder of his life. His kind and genial nature is still remembered by many friends. His son, Robert B. Whitney, who is now identified with railroad interests, still resides in Lewiston, John H. Whitney lives in California, and his youngest daughter is the wife of Ezra N. Hill, of Brockport, N. Y., at one time a teacher and resident of Lewiston.

Col. Alexander Dickerson came to Lewiston in 1811, lived for a time on the river road, and removed to the settlement called in his honor Dickersonville, where he died in 1868, aged sixty-eight years.

Gad P. Nichols came from Vermont, and settled in Lewiston in 1816. He left three sons, Andrew J., Robert, and Prince Nichols, who are engaged in fruit growing in the vicinity.

Achish Poole came to Lewiston from Massachusetts in 1811. He left two sons, Thomas and William Poole. The latter served some years in the Legislature and is now editor of the *Niagara Falls Courier*.

Stephen Powell came from England many years ago, and was much interested in the improvement of stock. Several of his descendants still reside in the vicinity.

Sanford White, Sr., came to Lewiston in 1830, and here resided until his death, in 1882. His son, Sanford White, is the present postmaster of Lewiston.

The present deputy collector of Lewiston is Mr. James H. Kelly, who is also a prominent grain dealer.

Mr. John Fleming has long been an influential citizen, a successful tanner and merchant in Lewiston, an upright man, one of the foremost in the Church and community, and he has a large and interesting family.

Mr. George Collard is an energetic citizen, formerly landlord of the American Hotel, and proprietor of the omnibus line which for many years transferred passengers from the depot to the steamer on the river.

Mr. William J. Moss came to Lewiston in 1830. He held the office of supervisor from 1875 to 1878.

William and Thomas Kelsey were old residents. Thomas was the host of the Kelsey House, and his brother William, a tanner, living on the corner below.

Among those who still walk the streets of Lewiston, who have been witnesses of the many and great changes which have passed over the old town, are Mr. Alexander Lane, aged seventy-nine; Phineas Smith, eighty-eight years of age; John Scott, familiarly known as General Scott (and who was once playfully introduced to Gen. Winfield Scott by that title), and Joseph Carter, the father

of William and John Carter, respected citizens of the place. Mr. J. D. Byrne, a venerable citizen, still occupies one of the ancient houses of the settlement.

Mr. Wm. P. Mentz is an extensive farmer, who owns and occupies the farm of the late Joseph Colt, and has served as supervisor of the town.

Lewistonians are scattered from Maryland and Georgia to California and Canada. We recall the names of Porter, Fitch, Lyon, Bell, Page, Bement, Caverno, Ways, Stow, Wright, Randall, Mrs. Delia Colvin Hatch, the Revs. Byington, Bull, McCall, Cooke, Murray, Treadway, Havens and Skinner. Of Physicians, Drs. Frisbee, Hill, McCollum, Thomas, Geo. P. Eddy, Sen., Cole, Whittaker and Coon. Geo. P. Eddy is now a practicing physician in the town. The Lattas, Haywards, Hopkins, and Hewitts still live on their paternal acres. The farm of Wm. Miller also is occupied by his son, Galen Miller, a lawyer and formerly supervisor.

Among the names of noted persons who have at some time resided in Lewiston, we find none more eminent than that of Judge Noah Davis, who, in early life, studied law with the Hon. Bates Cooke.

LEWISTON ACADEMY.

The most conspicuous building in Lewiston is the Academy, the corner-stone of which was laid, with Masonic honors, in 1824. It was first incorporated under the general law of the State of 1821, which authorized academies to be conducted on the Lancasterian plan. Joseph Lancaster, an English Quaker, instituted the system wherein the scholars were "Monitors" or teachers, but his ideas were not approved, and his system failed.

The school opened in the latter part of 1825. In 1826 the Legislature authorized the Land Commissioners to convey the ferry lot for the use of the Academy to Benjamin Barton, William Hotchkiss, Edwin M. Smith, and Robert Fleming, as trustees. Jared Randall was the ferryman, who paid, as rent for the ferry, \$1,500 per annum.

The teachers were mostly from Dartmouth College. Among them we find Messrs. Quimby, Piper, Caverno, Close, Saxe, the poet, Mr. Moses H. Fitts, the Misses Margaret Baldwin and Laura E. Dunbar. Among the students were the Rev. Samuel Nellis, D. D., Chancellor of Victoria University, Coburg, Ontario; Orange Judd, the Hon. Charles G. Fairman, Judge Cyrus E. Davis of Niagara Falls, Mr. James Bixby of Buffalo, Maj. James F. Fitts, a lawyer of Lockport, who served through the late War of the Rebellion, and many others now scattered far and wide. Lectures on chemistry, with excellent apparatus, were given by the accom-

plished scientist, Dr. Odonathus Hill. The library contained many and good books. Scholars came from Buffalo, from Western towns, and Canadian cities. Bright boys and beautiful girls enacted plays in the great hall. At one time a part of the scenery from the Eagle-street Theatre of Buffalo, with the orchestra, were taken there, and "She Stoops to Conquer," "The Honeymoon," and other plays were performed before an admiring and appreciative audience. At one time the number of scholars was 150, including many boarding pupils. The first trustees were Judge Fleming, Benj. Barton, Dr. Willard Smith, Messrs. Colvin, Leonard, and others. The present building was improved and enlarged in 1863. Among those who favored this movement and assisted in every way to encourage the renewing of the old institution was the late Moses Bairsto. A meeting was recently held within its walls, when the scholars of thirty and forty years ago met to exchange greetings, renew old associations and discuss matters concerning the revival of their "Alma Mater."

THE PALMY DAYS OF LEWISTON.

Fifty or sixty years ago Lewiston had advantages denied Buffalo and Rochester. Her main or Centre street was the great "Overland-route across the continent." Great lines of stages thronged with travelers to the Falls, and loaded with heavy foreign mails, landed by Cunard steamers at Portland, rattled down the broad avenue. Lewiston was the port of entry and the distributing post-office. The salary of the postmaster was \$2,500—that of the collector, \$2,000. Before there were any railroads, great ox teams, sometimes thirty a day, bore merchandise up the mountain, taking the place of the old tramway, with its windlass. The pioneers of Michigan, Illinois, and the States beyond, came in their white-covered wagons, and were often detained here by the floating ice on the river they had to cross on their way to their El Dorado. Great droves of cattle and other domestic animals passed through, and likewise the fine timber of the virgin forests, shipped to Montreal and Quebec.

The society was exceptionally good; nearly every house on the street had its piano, on which young ladies, taught at Eastern schools or the Academy, played for cotillions or country dances, and for accompaniments to the songs of Scott, Burns, Moore, and Byron. Balls were the order of the day, and the ladies found ready escort in the officers at the fort, law students, and teachers at the Academy.

THE FRONTIER HOUSE.

The present proprietors are Mrs. Quackenbush and Miss Raymond, daughters of a

former landlord, Caleb Raymond. Its triple sign, which read—

COACH HOUSE. READING ROOM.
FRONTIER HOUSE.

from different points of the compass, amused travelers, as they passed through the village. The hotel was one of the finest inns west of Albany. It was built by Messrs. Benj. and Samuel Barton, and Joshua Fairbanks in 1825. It was very popular under the management of the well-known Jerry Mann, Messrs. Hewlett, Merrifield, Whitney, and others. Two lines of heavy four-horse coaches, "the Barton" and "the Pioneer," the latter not traveling on the Sabbath, with passengers for the Falls and Lake Ontario, drew up to its door to enjoy a good dinner.

Famous balls were given at Kelsey's and Colt's taverns, and at the "Frontier" in its spacious ball-room, which was thronged with the beauty and fashion of the time. Several invitations lie before me. One reads: "A Ball." The company of Miss Cook is respectfully solicited at a ball given at Mann's Frontier House, on Monday, June 25th, at 5 o'clock, P. M. Managers, R. J. Townsend, N. Tryon, R. H. Boughton. Lewiston, June 20, 1827. "Just sixty years ago!" At a New Year's ball given at the Assembly Rooms of Mrs. Kelsey, dancing began at 4 P. M.!

Mr. Brown B. Chamberlin was invited to the Assembly Rooms of Mr. J. Shepard and Mr. Wait Martin, in 1824. "Independence Day," "Washington's birthday," "Jackson's Victory," were celebrated by balls, and there were "Vacation balls" and "Dancing School Publicks." The only Christmas invitation came from Canada, dancing to begin at 2 o'clock, P. M. A ball was given at the Assembly room of Isaac Colt on the 4th of July, 1827, and a "Suspension Bridge Ball" at the hotel of Joseph Winn, Queenston, ten years later, when Messrs. Ulman, Berryman, and Peter Brown were managers. A basket of flowers decorates the invitation with these lines:

"Ladies, lovely, young and gay,
Blooming fresh as flowers in May,
Hither come while we invite,
To spend the gay and festive night.
Lightly tripping as you go,
On the light fantastic toe,
Hither come!—or pleasures cloy,
Without you—we've no real joy."

Among the managers of these balls we find the names of many staid and sober citizens: Calvin Hotchkiss, Seymour Scovell, John Porter, Robert E. Fleming, B. B. Chamberlin, S. B. Piper, J. D. Byrne, Franklin Spaulding, R. D. Colt, Dr. Hill, Lemuel Cook, William Hotchkiss, Franklin A. Fairman, Willard Smith, Oliver Grace, L. A. Kelsey, Leander Woodruff, N. Tryon, R. H. Boughton, Col. Cummings, H. J. Stow, J. Colt, P.

Whitney, B. Barton, S. Barton, W. T. Hotchkiss. All kinds of finery could be bought in Lewiston in those days. Silks, satins, rich laces, slippers, fans, shawls, parasols and gloves of the finest, found ready market. Shops for hardware, shoes, drugs, a milliner, a tailor and a saddler supplied all wants in their lines.

Good liquors and bountiful tables were the rule; and while the young people danced, their elders played chess and whist.

THE DECLINE OF LEWISTON.

If we look for the causes of the strange decline of this once prosperous settlement, they are numerous and conclusive. At the completion of the Erie canal, its commerce found a new outlet in Buffalo, the great vessel interest became almost worthless as railroads were built on both sides of the river. Lockport became the county seat to the great disappointment of the many sound and distinguished members of the bar residing in Lewiston.

The monied men became involved in the disasters of Buffalo banks, following the failure of Benjamin Rathbun. Rival schools in neighboring towns successfully competed with the Academy, which lost many scholars during the Patriot War.

The descendants of the earlier settlers with few exceptions seemed to have lacked the physical strength and pluck of their ancestors. They were more delicately reared, and the homes they fell heirs to were ready to their hands without the toil and labor that made them so. They bought useless stocks: they entrusted their savings to unsafe hands; the Bridge was destroyed, shutting off communication with Canada; fire and intemperance did their work. The churches suffered from all these causes, and of late the town was bonded, and the vaunted peach crop nearly ruined.

A favorite project of Lewistonians is to bring the water of Niagara River through Gill and Whitmer's creeks, and to tunnel the remaining distance—2½ miles—to the brow of the mountain. This tunnel could be bored in the soft shale at less cost than an open cut in the rock, which would necessarily be very deep.

TOWN BONDS.

In 1870, the town of Lewiston issued bonds for \$152,000, at 7 per cent., to the Lake Ontario Shore R. R., with the understanding that the road was to extend from Oswego to Niagara River, in which case the Bridge would be rebuilt. This contract was never fulfilled, great dissatisfaction prevailed and law suits ensued, and although new bonds at 4½ per cent. have been issued, the debt still hangs over the heads of property owners, the road

having been merged into the Rome & Watertown R. R., which traversed the side of the mountain.

The remains of the old tramway up the mountain on which goods were taken to Schlosser a hundred years ago, have been seen within a few years. It was perhaps the first of its kind on the continent. The horse-car R. R. along the mountain side preceded the N. Y. Central R. R. more than 12 years. It swept through Centre Street to "Bairsto's Corner," where it took a sweep to the river ending at the American hotel near the present terminus of the N. Y. C. R. R. This was in 1838, and as the first railroads in the country dated only eight years previous, it will be seen how early Lewiston had railways. Maj. James F. Fitts writes, "It was something to stir the Lewiston of that day. I well remember a train of three or four passenger-cars coming into sight on the down grade, on the mountain side, and speeding through the street to the river." They were clumsy vehicles, some of them being two stories high, and the others made like an Irish jaunting-car.

THE GOOD TIME COMING.

But, even as I write comes the faint glimmer of better times to the faded old town. The N. Y. Central takes its cars to the river, and the popular "observation trains" carry an increased number of travelers from every quarter. Before the eyes of the inhabitants float visions of Holley Water Works; of Artesian Wells; of the bridge rebuilt; the old Academy revived; the Frontier House taking its rank as a first-rate hotel; the churches repaired and beautified, and Cooke's hall, the old Universalist church, made into a modern "Casino."

Lewiston needs another Lorillard, that a more beautiful Tuxedo might spring up amid its borders. We can well imagine what hundreds of men and tens of thousands of dollars could do in cultivating and adorning this unequalled site for a rural town. Mr. Lorillard had to blast the rocks, level the forests, clear the land and kill the rattlesnakes in Northern New Jersey, where the country was far rougher than Lewiston ever was. The principal streets are on a fine plateau, the beginning of the famous Ridge Road to Rochester, a wonderful natural feature of this region. Here are a dozen fine streets 100 feet in width, shaded by old trees. The air is softer and the season a fortnight earlier than that of Buffalo, and Toronto is the great market for surplus produce of every description, particularly for tomatoes, cherries and peaches. Scores of old houses on commanding sites could be removed, and replaced with stately homes or pretty villas, each one retaining its fine garden, which with irrigation and cultivation

would yield fruit and vegetables of every description. The mountain side could be made a succession of vineyards, the soil being unsurpassed for grapes of almost every kind from which excellent wine has been produced. Beyond the village, for many miles on the Ridge Road, is a succession of fine farms, with great fields of wheat, corn, rye, barley, and hay, with orchards of apples, pears, and peaches, and vineyards of grapes. Notably among these is the farm of William Hotchkiss, for many years a merchant of Lewiston, on which was raised the celebrated wheat crop, for which he received a valuable silver medal from the New-York State Agricultural Society, in 1851. Surrounded by a wreath of fruits and flowers, the front bears this inscription:

AWARDED

WM. HOTCHKISS.

The sample of wheat, 63 $\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre, for which honorable mention was given at the Great Exhibition, London.

When this dense crop ripened, it was found impossible to cut it with a scythe or any known reaper, but, fortunately, a band of English peasants came along on their way to Canada, and with great labor despatched it with their sickles.

This wonderful field, enriched by the drainings of the land above, produced good crops of wheat for twenty years after.

In 1876, Mr. Leander W. Hotchkiss planted on the spot an orchard, which he named the "Centennial Apple Orchard." It is in a flourishing condition, and promises to sustain the reputation of the "historic grain field." According to the report in an agricultural journal of 1856, the average crop of wheat in the model county of Ontario was only thirteen bushels an acre—a little more than a fifth of the crop on the Hotchkiss farm.

THE VILLAGE CHURCHYARD

Is a most interesting spot. Here, not only the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," but great landed proprietors, explorers and traders, successful merchants, learned men and refined gentle women, lie side by side. Maj.-Gen. Van Rensselaer erected one of its first monuments "in token of respect which he bore to the memory of Capt. George Nelson, of 6th Reg't U. S. A., who fell at the attack on Queenston on the 13th of October, 1813," with the motto, "Here sleeps a soldier, here a brave man rests."

Here lie five generations of the Cooke family—Isaac, Lemuel, Lothrop, Lemuel, James. The first named was a soldier of the Revolution, who followed his family here from Wallingford, Conn., and died in 1810. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Hayes, wife of ex-

President Hayes. On the tablet of Alexander Millar, the Scotchman, you may read:

He loved that spot of earth
Which gave a Wallace, Bruce, and Duncan birth.

Horatio J. Stow, the first Recorder of Buffalo, a man of fine intellect and great legal knowledge, is buried here, and here is the grave of John Oliphant, the faithful "Chief of United States Loan Department" during the War of the Rebellion.

On the tablet of a gypsy queen is written:

Farewell Macey! wife of Lawrence Boswell.

The Curfew bell on the old church is one of Lewiston's time-honored institutions. It calls up the sleepers at 7 A. M., it summons the hungry to dinner at 12 M. It reminds the youth that their mother expects them at 9 P. M.; and whether at morning, noon or night, is a welcome and cheerful sound for many miles away.

COOPER, THE NOVELIST,

Spent a summer here while writing his novel "The Spy." He was much amused at the landlord and landlady at whose house on the hill he stayed. They were Mr. Hustler, who had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and his wife, Betty. They figure in his book as "Sergeant Hollister" and "Betty Flannigan." Mrs. H. is still remembered by the oldest inhabitants. She followed the army from Fort Wayne. She "swore like our army in Flanders," played a good game at cards, and, according to Cooper, was the inventor of the celebrated American drink the "gin cocktail," which she administered to feverish patients as well as weary stragglers. She said, "It warms both soul and body, and is fit to be put in a vessel of diamonds."

Cooper often read his manuscript to her, and when he repeated the refrain of his drinking song, she would laugh immoderately, not knowing she sat for the picture. It ran:

"Old Mother Flannigan,
"Come and fill the can again,
"For you can fill and we can swill,
"Good Betty Flannigan."

She died in 1832, aged 72 years, and is buried in the old churchyard. Her epitaph is this:

Traveler, as you are passing by—
As you are now, so once was I—
As I am now, so you must be:
Prepare for death and follow me.

THE TUSCARORAS.

The remnants of this powerful tribe still live in the "Indian Village" on the Mountain Ridge above Lewiston. They originally came from North Carolina, where they had fifteen towns and twelve hundred warriors. Persecuted and driven from their lands in North

Carolina, they fled to the North, and became the Sixth Nation of the Confederacy in 1712. After many wanderings they encamped near Fort Niagara in 1780, subsisting on rations from the garrison. They soon took possession of a mile square on a mountain ridge given them by the Senecas. In 1804 they purchased of the Holland Company four thousand acres adjoining, which includes their present possessions. For many years they held to their savage life and customs, wearing little clothing except long shirts belted at the waist, and men are now living who remember them as painted savages whooping through the streets of Lewiston. They were very backward in cultivating their land, retaining the spirit of their ancestors, who "could not stoop so low as to hoe corn and squashes, or stoop down to milk cows, like negroes and Dutch people." Now they have well cultivated farms, churches, "Council house," good homes, good schools, good roads, and are fast assimilating with the whites in speech, dress and manners.

John Mountpleasant, the late chief, was a good specimen of his race. He was a grandson of Capt. John Mountpleasant of the British army, and nephew of the beautiful Indian woman Peggy Chew, who married an officer of that name. Caroline Parker, his widow, is a sister of General Ely Parker, recently on General Grant's staff. She was educated at the Normal School in Albany, and was the interpreter of her father, William Parker, "presiding chief" of the Tonawanda band of Seneca Indians, when in 1857 General Denver, Commissioner of Indian affairs, met the tribe in Council.

The Ogden Land Company claimed, through a treaty to which the Indians never assented, a territory occupied by 800 men, women and children, which they held through their ancestors from time immemorial. The Commissioner told them they must go—the Supreme Court had decided against them. The counsel for the tribe denied this. A final answer was demanded: Would they go or not? Caroline Parker spoke hurriedly and apart to the counsel: "What shall we do? We cannot go now." The counsel replied. Then Caroline turned, and addressed a few words to her tribe in their own language. It was a scene not to be forgotten. The old Sachem Parker, a large and handsome man, rose with dignity and determination, and said to the Commissioner, "We will not go!" By the prompt and judicious action of President Buchanan, the Indians were left in possession of their homes, and, in a final assemblage in council, Messrs. Bryan and Martindale, their legal advisers, had the satisfaction of hearing an old chief say: "Now we own our lands from the center of the earth to the heavens."

Mrs. Mountpleasant still lives at Tuscarora Indian Village, beloved and respected.

Judge Stow was for many years the legal adviser of the Tuscaroras, obstinately refusing any compensation. One day a long line of wagons, loaded with wood and driven by young Tuscaroras, came to the gate of Judge Stow, bringing a note from their chief, who, after recounting the obligations of the tribe for his long and valuable services, ended by saying:

"I called the tribe together, and *harangued them to gratitude*. They reward you with this wood and much thankfulness.

"JOHN MOUNTPLEASANT, *Chief.*"

It is due to the Tuscaroras to bear testimony to the unflinching assistance they rendered the whites during the border troubles. The most friendly feeling has ever existed between them and the Lewistonians.

THE OLDEST INHABITANT.

Mrs. Nancy Ann Shepard was born in Bridgewater, Oneida Co., N. Y., in 1794. Her grandfather Gilbert, came west with the Wadsworths from Connecticut, intending to settle in the Genesee Valley, but the stumps and rattlesnakes were too thick for him, and he returned to Little Falls to end his days. Mrs. Shepard, who is a cousin of the artist Gilbert, went to school at the Clinton Academy in the early years of the century, and afterwards to Lewiston, where her husband kept the principal hardware store. She is a remarkable woman for her age, she sees and hears well, takes long walks, writes a good hand, makes her own caps and bonnets, spins on a wheel, sings a song, and her pleasant, comely face would do credit to a much younger woman. She once lived in Buffalo, on the site of the Tift House. She used to ride to Buffalo and Lockport through the forests on horseback. She remembers seeing Lafayette, and relates many interesting stories of the olden time.

Lewiston once had its newspaper. The "Lewiston Sentinel" was published by Jas. O. Daily in 1823, and passed into the hands of Oliver Grace, who afterward changed its name to the *Niagara Sentinel*, and removed it to Lockport.

THE AMERICAN HOTEL.

This old and popular tavern, now kept by Mr. William Waggoner, has been the place of

"Rest and good cheer
For man and beast for many a year."

It was built by Nelson Cornell, an enterprising merchant, hotel-keeper, and owner of the great line of stages from the former depot to the dock. He also built the large white house near by. His son, Hiram Cornell, suc-

ceeded him. His daughters were Mrs. Dr. Cole and Mrs. Charles Stow. His widow resides in Girard, Pa.

Mr. Benjamin Cornell, the well-known Express agent, is a brother of Nelson Cornell.

The village has still a pleasant little society, with a book club of the best periodicals, and pleasant gatherings, where papers are read on various interesting subjects.

Several new houses are in process. Mr. J. W. Bedenkapp is putting up a pretty house on the spot where stood the house of Hon. Bates Cooke, whose law office is still standing. Mr. Meacham has a fine residence among the old elm trees on the old Barton farm. Mr. Lawrence Rumsey has a beautiful chateau at "Five-Mile Meadows," and Mr. Edwin T. Evans is rearing a delightful villa on the plateau above the town.

Another gleam of business enterprise in the village is the opening of a new grocery store, by Mr. Robert Pendergast.

I must leave to abler hands the history of Lewiston churches, and of the great vessel interest on the river and Lake Ontario. Rev. Joshua Cooke, and Capt. Van Cleve are, respectively, the best authority on these subjects. Mr. Wm. Fleming of Buffalo could contribute greatly to local history.

The old Presbyterian, formerly the Union, church, has a large congregation under the care of its faithful and excellent pastor, Rev. L. G. Marsh; the Episcopal church, with its small and devoted band of worshippers, is under the charge of Rev. G. Stuart Jones.

The Catholic church, formerly a Baptist church, is thriving under the care of Father Mellany.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES.

I can speak of the region with authority, as I came here from New Bedford, Mass., when a young school girl, in 1830, nearly 60 years ago, with my brother, Joseph R. Williams, then a Harvard student, when a trip to Niagara Falls was as great an event as a journey to Constantinople would be to-day. We traveled by stage coaches and canal boats. We visited our uncle, Isaac S. Smith, the civil engineer, who was building the old Buffalo light-house and pier. We spent a night at Gen. Porter's, at Black Rock, stayed at Forsyth's tavern on the British side of the Falls, and went under the cataract, which was considered a brave feat, receiving certificates to that effect signed by the guide, Collingwood Forsyth. Our great fear that night when we went to sleep was that the Falls would stop running before morning! We went to Fort Niagara, saw the old mess-house, much as it is now, were shown the place where Morgan was confined a short time before, and were horrified at a strong box through the crevices of which four hundred rattlesnakes were thrusting their

heads, having been caught for a foreign museum. Beyond the walls of the fort, where the waves dash now in storms, were houses, gardens, and orchards—since overtaken by the lake. I can also bear witness to the recession of the Falls, and the changed appearance of their banks. Returning to Buffalo, then a small village, we took the only steamboat on the lake, "the Superior," Capt. Pease, and went to visit an uncle in North Western Pennsylvania, who had taken up a large tract of land in company with Mynbeer Han Jan Huidekoper, a Hollander, the great landed proprietor who founded Meadville. Finding ourselves so near the famous state of Ohio, of which we heard such wonderful accounts, we mounted horses and rode over the border, never supposing we should go so far away from home again.

Girl and boy as we were, how little we knew what lay beyond us as we passed under the broad board swinging betwixt great forest trees, on both sides of which was painted "State Line." We knew nothing of the treasures of gold, silver, copper and iron beyond us, or the coal, oil, and gas under our feet. Not a bushel of wheat or a barrel of flour had been brought over Lake Erie, though sixty million bushels of wheat passed through Buffalo this summer. Never having seen a slave until we saw a negro nurse attending a southern family at Reed's tavern in Erie, how little we expected to see the extinction of slavery.

We were greatly interested in seeing U. S. troops armed for the Black Hawk war, never having seen a larger military force than a company of Massachusetts militia. How little we foresaw what a vast army of gallant men would spring to arms in that region at the call of Abraham Lincoln, then a humble dweller in those wild woods!

Never having seen a log cabin until we entered the Erie Canal, we knew not what costly dwellings would rise in a few years in the great line of cities from Buffalo to San Francisco.

The whole region breathes an air of romance. As we look from the mountain we recall to mind how many wonderful incidents have occurred in the valley, and how many notable characters have peopled it, and passed through it. In imagination, we behold the old forts at the mouth of the river, the one on the American side held successively by three armies—French, British, and American, the whole region swarming with blood-thirsty savages. Hither came the Jesuit Cavalier, La Salle, of ample fortune and great learning, to whom "Louis XIV., by the Grace of God, King of France and Navarre," granted a patent to hold the western parts of the country, termed "New France," to build forts and trade in furs; Cardinal Richelieu

had fifty years before organized an unsuccessful company of a "hundred partners" to convert the Indians to the Catholic faith, open up the fur trade and discover a route to the Pacific Ocean and China. The old French fort had its ravines, its drawbridge, and raking batteries, its mess-house and barracks, a little city by itself, the largest place south of Montreal or west of Albany, and is still a spot of surpassing interest. Hennepin, De Nonville, Marquette, Joliet—Sieur Joncaire, with his titled visitors, Sir Wm. Johnson, Louis Phillippe, King of the French, General Bradstreet, General Montcalm, and the valiant Israel Putnam once trod this region.

Later on, we behold the battle of Queenston, the gallant British officers, Brock and Sheaffe. Our own brave officers of the American army, Scott, Wool, Wadsworth, Porter, and Van Rensselaer; the wounded Scott, then a lieutenant, borne away to a prison in Halifax.

Then we remember the burning of Newark, and its terrible consequences, when Lewiston was made desolate by avenging soldiers, and hostile Indians. One evening, many years ago, a fair lady rode up to the tavern of Joshua Fairbanks, at Queenston—she was Theodosia, the daughter of Aaron Burr, and the wife of Gov. Allston, of South Carolina, who both accompanied her. They rode from Albany to the Falls on horseback through the wilderness. Here, at the old Kelsey Tavern, kept by Thomas Kelsey, at the corner of Centre and Seventh streets, Gen. La Fayette held a reception and met the Indian chief Cusick, whom he had employed as a scout in the Revolution. Here Tom Moore wrote songs, and Cooper found characters for his "Spy."

You might have seen, in 1833, Fanny Kemble jump from the driver's seat of the stage coach, as it stopped at the Frontier House, sitting on the steps while she made notes in her diary. You might have seen the wreck of the "ill-fated Caroline" after her mad plunge over the Falls, or the vagabond Lett applying the torch to the first monument erected to Gen. Brock.

You might have dined at the Frontier with De Witt Clinton, Washington Irving, Mrs. Sigourney and Miss Sedgwick; or breakfasted with Henry Clay, at Capt. Van Cleve's in the Fairbanks mansion. You might have seen His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales cantering over the battlefields of one of his mother's colonies, and seen Jenny Lind driving down from the Falls to the little Episcopal church to witness the marriage of her Swedish servants.

While we listen to the "Gregorian chant" sung by Father Hennepin 200 years ago at the foot of Oak Hill, we are aroused by the shouts of the Volunteers at Suspension Bridge, as they followed their gallant leader, young Porter "worthy son of worthy sire" to the

battlefields of Virginia, never to return. And very recently you might have listened to the dirge of the "Hampton singers" over the body of the venerable abolitionist, Josiah Tryon, the life-long friend and advocate of their now redeemed race.

We of a generation now fast disappearing who have lived to see such wonderful things may well take courage for the future, and delight that we leave a world so full of promise to our descendants.

I shall look to my friends of the "Lewiston Historical Society," now in embryo, to carry on the work I have begun. For their amusement, and my own pleasure, I jotted down everything I heard about their beloved old town, little thinking it would reach its present proportions. They will find their work replete with interest. Since the invaluable work

of Orsamus Turner of Lockport, in 1849, entitled "The history of the Holland Land purchase," there has been nothing of much consequence touching the history of this vicinity; and were it not for the papers of Messrs. George J. Bryan, James L. Barton, and the indefatigable and accomplished translator, Mr. O. H. Marshall of Buffalo, the recollections of Mr. Albert Porter, Mr. George W. Holley of Niagara Falls, Mr. Chipman Turner of Batavia, and a few others, there would be little but vague traditions to rest upon.

A new edition of Turner's work should be published, and copies found in every library of "The Holland Purchase." Then some able historian should take up the thread where Mr. Turner left it forty years ago.

LEWISTON, October 1, 1887.