

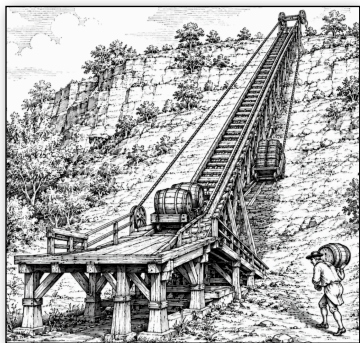
Why Lewiston is the “Most Historic Square Mile in America”

There are several reasons why Lewiston stands out

Lewiston, New York, is famous far and wide for its music, festivals and food. But its reputation goes much further and an easy case can be made that our small community is the “Most Historic Square Mile in America.” Sure, there are hundreds of historic places across our great nation — Williamsburg, Gettysburg, Lexington, and Harpers Ferry to name a few — but they are mostly noted for ONE reason, not several. Lewiston, on the other hand, has a varied and layered history that makes it exceptional. Here is a summary of how Lewiston became the Most Historic Square Mile in America:

1) Lewiston’s “Portage” opened the West to international trade on the Great Lakes.

If it weren’t for Lewiston’s portage in the 1600 and 1700’s, there would be no Cleveland, Detroit or Chicago. All goods and trade on the Great Lakes had to pass through Lewiston. Why? Because it was the only way around Niagara Falls. Ships would dock at Lewiston and goods would be carried up and down the Escarpment, back and forth from above the falls. In fact, the first railway in America — an inclined wooden gravity tramway — was built here in 1764 at today’s Artpark to transport goods to the top and bottom of the Escarpment.



2) The United States’ historic invasion of Canada from Lewiston.

The first major battle of the War of 1812 was launched from Lewiston, where half of the American Army assembled to invade British Canada. The War of 1812 profoundly shaped our nation — establishing the boundary between the U.S. and Canada and helping secure peace along what became the world’s longest undefended international border for generations afterward. In its aftermath, citizens increasingly identified themselves as “Americans” rather than as residents of individual states. The war also demonstrated to the world that American democracy wasn’t a fluke, earning respect and a place at the international table. It



also produced one of the rare occasions when Native Americans saved the lives of dozens of white settlers after British forces invaded the U.S. right here in Lewiston.. This “forgotten moment in the forgotten war” is commemorated today by the Tuscarora Heroes Monument on Center Street.

3) Lewiston volunteers helped courageous freedom seekers.

Lewiston was the final stop on the Underground Railroad for countless freedom seekers who fled slavery in the South. Local volunteers, including Lewiston’s greatest citizen, Josiah Tryon, defied the law of the land and secretly harbored and led the fugitives across the Niagara River to a new life of freedom in Canada. Horace McGuire wrote in 1916, “The house of Frederick Douglass on South Avenue (in Rochester) was the principal station here. At night these black people were taken on their way to Charlotte, or Oswego or Lewiston, going as far as possible during the darkness.” Several locations in Lewiston, including the Presbyterian Church, the Lewiston Museum and “Tryon’s Folly” are known to have sheltered the escapees. You can visit the Freedom Crossing Monument on the N. Water Street riverfront in Lewiston.



4) Massive hydropower production set the nation’s course toward clean energy.

The 1961 opening of Lewiston’s Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant marked a pivotal engineering triumph. As the Western world’s largest hydropower facility at the time, it harnessed Niagara’s mighty flow to deliver vast clean, renewable energy — powering New York State’s economy and symbolizing American innovation and cross-border cooperation.

Welcome to Historic Lewiston, NY

A Cultural Town, Historically Renowned

Visit the Lewiston Museum at 469 Plain Street (phone: 716-754-4214). You can download and see our past placemats at HistoricLewiston.org. Placemats written and designed by volunteer, Lee Simonson.
Over 20 years of historical placemats with over 2 million distributed!
“Top Ten Best Small Towns in America” — USA Today



FREE ESTIMATES

- Fast 24-hour emergency service
- Furnace and AC tune-ups
- Tankless water heaters
- Drain and sewer cleaning
- Expert installations and service

Call 716-283-3802

Buying or Selling?

With 29 years of award-winning service, our expert agents turn your real estate dreams into reality.
GreatLakesRealEstate.com



Call 716-754-2550



WARNING! Oak wilt disease is threatening oak trees in the Niagara region. Fatal cases confirmed in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Critical risk areas: Lewiston, Youngstown, Niagara Falls, Grand Island. Protect your high-valued oak trees with preventative vaccinations.

Call or text: 716-273-5522
Email: info@savingoaks.com
Website: SavingOaks.com

Choose to bank
where you belong



Regular banks pay dividends to their shareholders.
Credit Unions pay dividends to YOU as a member!

716-284-4110

3619 Packard Road and 900 Main Street, Niagara Falls
With locations in Lockport, Wheatfield and North Tonawanda

www.niagaraschoice.org



Your funds are insured for up to \$250,000
by the National Credit Union Administration



Serving you since 1953