

Piper starts Potter's Field monument fund in Lewiston

SUBMITTED BY RUSS PIPER
Village of Lewiston Historian

Moving along now that the dedication of the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery have taken place, I am starting a new project. Apart from regular cleaning, I'm hoping to move forward to placing a permanent granite monument in the Potter's Field behind the old stone church.

The Potter's Field was started in the 1850s to bury the poor, residents, runaway slaves who didn't complete their journey to

freedom in Canada, persons passing through the village, and lastly those who succumbed to the cholera and Spanish flu epidemics. Closed to burials in the 1920s, these unknown persons rest with no acknowledgement of their plight. They, too, whomever they may have been, are indeed a chapter in Lewiston's history. Their story needs to be known both now and for the future.

In conversations with Mayor Anne Welch; Tom Collister, curator of the Lewiston Historical

Museum; and Eva Nicklas, artistic director of the Lewiston Arts Council, I have decided to start a fundraiser seeking donations to help me to erect a permanent, yet simple granite marker to acknowledge these unknown souls. Albeit my ultimate goal is to be able to acquire funding for the resetting and repair, including missing dates on the existing markers.

The Village Bicentennial is but less than a year away, but it is of importance to be able to showcase the oldest cemetery in the county

in good light for those who stop to visit or pay respects to those at rest within its hallowed ground.

Bearing all of this in mind, I have arranged a Potter's Field monument fund with the village clerk's office. I hope to achieve a goal of \$2,500-\$3,000 to erect a permanent memorial to these souls as their part in Lewiston's rich and vast history. This amount includes the marker, lettering and placement in the Potter's Field section in the older part of the cemetery. Anyone wishing to help with this

project can donate to the fund in person or by mail in c/o the Village Clerk's Office, 145 N. Fourth St., Lewiston.

As a seventh-generation member of the Piper family and current village historian, it is important to preserve Lewiston's history, and a labor of love for me to be a part of its historical preservation.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you in advance for any assistance in bringing this project to life.

IN THE NEWS

Our Lady of Peace appoints new executive director

On Oct. 26, Susan Keegan, LNHA, PT, DPT, MBA, RAC-CT, began serving as the executive director of Our Lady of Peace on the Mount St. Mary's Hospital campus in Lewiston.

A press release stated, "Susan joins us with a tremendous amount of experience in health care. Most recently, Susan has served as the director of orthopedics, neurosurgery, pain management and gastroenterology at Lancaster Medical, located in Western New York. In this role, she was responsible for 11 outpatient and five inpatient locations, as well as all surgical services. She also previously had oversight of a 70-bed rehabilitation unit located within a 160-bed

skilled nursing facility. As a physical therapist, Susan has provided direct care and operational oversight for therapy provided in acute, subacute, long-term, sports and cardiopulmonary care settings.

"Living in Lewiston, Susan strives to bring positive change to her own community. We warmly welcome Susan and are excited to see the amazing things that she will contribute to Our Lady of Peace."

Tuscarora Heroes remembrance ceremony Sunday

At 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, there will be a brief ceremony recognizing the 208th anniversary of the Tuscarora Heroes courageous actions. The event will take place at the Tuscarora He-

roes Monument at Portage Road and Center Street in Lewiston.

On Dec. 19, 1813, the Tuscaroras saved the lives of many Lewiston citizens by stalling the British attack during the War of 1812. The extra minutes enabled about 100 Lewiston citizens to run for their lives and escape down Ridge Road to points east. Still, about a dozen local citizens were killed in the attack, the village was burned to the ground, and the Tuscarora Village was also destroyed.

The bronze monument was dedicated in 2013 as a permanent testament of thanksgiving from the people of Lewiston to the Tuscarora Nation.

The public is invited to attend this remembrance. There will be a fellowship breakfast at Syros Restaurant immediately following the ceremony.

Niagara County to participate in statewide STOP-DWI holiday campaign

Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti announced Niagara County law enforcement agencies will participate in a special high-visibility

engagement campaign on impaired driving.

His team said, "In a combined effort to stop impaired driving, prevent injuries and save lives, law enforcement officers across New York state will take to the roads. The statewide STOP-DWI holiday season high-visibility engagement campaign starts on Dec. 17 and will end on Jan. 1. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office, as well as law enforcement agencies across Niagara County, will be out in force."

The STOP-DWI holiday high-visibility engagement campaign is one of many initiatives promoted by STOP-DWI New York and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The statewide campaign also targets 4th of July, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Super Bowl weekend and St. Patrick's Day.

NCSO noted, "While STOP-DWI efforts across New York have led to significant reductions in the numbers of alcohol- and drug-related fatalities, still too many lives are being lost because of crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers. Highly visible, highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI high-visibility engagement campaign aim to

further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving."

Candlelight Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston

The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston will open its doors to the community on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to attend the candlelight service in the historic Old Stone Church at 505 Cayuga St. "This is Noel - a Christmas Eve Service of music and story," will begin at 6 p.m. Robert Hull, music director for the church and renowned Western New York organist, will direct the choir.

The church, established in 1817, is the oldest and most historic in the village. It played a significant spiritual role in many of Lewiston's most historic milestones. Of particular note, was its place in the history surrounding the Underground Railroad. During this important Civil War period, a bright light was displayed in The Old Stone Church steeple as a signal to Canadian neighbors that slaves were about to be transported across the Niagara River to their shores and freedom.

Parking is available in front of the church and in a large lot directly behind.

Per state order, masks are required indoors.

Give us the scoop!

We welcome your submissions.

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