

Piper gives thanks for potter's field dedication

At this time, I wish to take a moment to say thank you to those of you who came out to share this emotional ceremony honoring the lives of those unknown souls who repose in potter's field. I was completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of thanks and congratulations for my efforts on this project. Many I knew, quite a few I didn't. No matter, I so appreciated the most welcome comments.

It took just over a year or more to clean the grounds of overgrowth, trees, brush and trimming bushes. Overjoyed with the grounds when I finished, I was amazed at the transformation of the grounds looking neat and trim. The tireless hours of my labors paid off – even with the couple of unfinished things I had hoped to have completed. Maybe another day.

My sincerest thanks go to those who so generously donated funds to make this a reality. Jim Farchione of Niagara Monument Works totally exceeded my expectations with the potter's field monument. Even the beautiful, polished granite bench to accompany it. He did an outstanding job making it just perfect in light of the budget I had to work with. He really came



through for the community.

I couldn't have completed this project without the help of the village clerk's office, which handled all the legalities of the potter's field monument fund, and for taking care of the donations and giving me copies of those donations for prosperity currently housed in the museum collection. The crew of the Village of Lewiston DPW, who stepped up to make sure the grounds were readied for the celebration. Tom Collister of the Historical Association, who worked with me on the burial records that were available for me to browse

over and cleaning brush and helping me to set the 100-year-old-plus Victorian urns upright once more to preserve them.

Eva Nicklas and Tim Henderson of the Lewiston Council on the Arts for helping with the script of the dedication ceremony, and helping with coordinating the VFW honor guard. The services of the Rev. Dr. Joyce Serianni for the opening prayer, dedication of the monument and the souls who repose around it, and the closing prayer and benediction. Justin Higner, who, as Commodore Higner, created the ceremonial wreath; and for his role of honor guard during the procession, and placement of the wreath and show of honor and respect to those reposed beneath the hallowed ground.

Peter Andres, who so wonderfully in his role as James Royall, the "Grave Digger," told his story in history. The cast of The Marble Orchard Players, who portrayed the characters of the people in early Lewiston. And to Randy Green of the Tuscarora Heroes, who played a vital role during the British attack on the village.

Mayor Anne Welch and the Village Board of Trustees, who have allowed the honor of serving as village historian. With that, the creation of the Lewiston Local History Museum I established nearly five years ago in the Red Brick School.



Russ Piper



I have managed to amass the largest private collection of local history in the county, currently on display to all who wish to enjoy it.

When asked what my next project is going to be, well, I will be raising funds to place a bronze plaque adhered to a large boulder telling the story of the unknown souls who were forsaken in history. They will have their story told, with words of their plight and fate in life – such as it was at that time. I now need to raise about \$1,500 to have it cast, created and placed on a boulder in potter's field.

In closing, my most heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who

donated funds, helped with cleaning, or just encouraged me to keep going when I was ready to give up the project. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. And lastly, my dear, close friend, Justin Higner, Town of Wheatfield historian, for all your personal help and support to make the dedication so emotional and heart touching.

Thank you all!

*Russ Piper
Village of Lewiston
Historian/"Gatekeeper of the
Secrets, Scandals, Scoundrels and
Skeletons who reside within the
Marble Orchard"*

ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!

BEFORE **AFTER**

- ✓ **WATERPROOFING**
- ✓ **CRAWL SPACE REPAIR**
- ✓ **FOUNDATION REPAIR**
- ✓ **HUMIDITY & MOLD CONTROL**

SERVING BUFFALO & ROCHESTER Since 1985

FREE ESTIMATES

\$500 OFF

Any Full Perimeter Waterproofing System with Sump Pump

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid for prior work, must be presented and redeemed at time of estimate. Expires 8/7/22.

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Frank's
Basement Systems

716-271-2662
FranksInNiagara.com

CLIP AND SAVE

The Way To Go Tours Inc.

"Your Guide to Discovery"

MOTORCOACH TRIPS:

- Aug. 18**-Rochester by Amtrack-Already Sold Out-Need Wait List!
- Aug. 26**-The Beach Boys-Sold Out
- Sept. 14**-Conewango Valley Amish
- Sept. 27**-Grand River Cruise - Blazing Fiddles, Caledonia Ontario
- Oct. 6**-Letchworth State Park - Fall Foliage
- Oct. 8**-Christmas in the Woods
- Oct. 11-15**-Vermont Fall Foliage
- Oct. 20**-PA Amish - New Wilmington, PA

National/International:

- July 30-Aug. 6**-The Canadian Rockies /Train
- Sept. 5-12**-California Dreamin' -Monterey, Yosemite, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley
- Jan. 16-29, 2023**-Journey to Antarctica: The White Continent
- Apr. 10-19, 2023**-Shades of Ireland

Beautiful Gift Certificates
Birthdays and Christmas

Details:
www.thewaytogotours.com

For more information or to book your trip
Call 716-693-0793

gather.
american eatery

453 Center St., Lewiston
Reservations: 716-405-7162

NEW Menu
Wednesday 1/2 bottles of wine
Live Music at Gallo
Patio Open

Porter Empty Return Center

Bring In Your Wine Bottles too!
(5¢ each up to 20 per visit!)

Bring in Those Cans & Bottles & Receive an Extra **15%**
Now thru July 30

3623 Ransomville Road (Next to Rite Aid), Ransomville • 716-791-1113
HOURS: MONDAY & SATURDAY 9AM TO 3:30PM / TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM