

Lewiston Bicentennial Commemorative Edition

Bicentennial 1822-2022: Lewiston celebrates 200 years



Members of the Lewiston bicentennial committee gathered last Friday on the Alphonso I. DiMino Memorial Band Shell to plan for next weekend's special events. (Photo by Joshua Maloni)

FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF LEWISTON
JULY 1-4, 2022

Friday July 1, 2022
6:00pm - Official kick-off with ringing Red Brick School bell and church bells
7:00pm - Summer of '69 at Academy Park Bandshell

Saturday July 2, 2022
11:00am - Lewiston Bicentennial Parade Sponsored by Deal Realty
2:00pm - 4:00pm - Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
7:00pm - Nerds Gone Wild

Sunday July 3, 2022
11:15am - Outdoor Community Service, First Presbyterian Church
1:00pm - Potter's Field Monument Dedication, First Presbyterian Church Cemetery
4:00pm - REFLECTOR plays Academy Park Bandshell
7:00pm - The Tower plays Academy Park Bandshell

Monday July 4, 2022
10:00am - Historic Walking Tour "12,000 Years of History at Artpark's Lower Landing"
7:00pm - Red, White and Blue Monday, LeeRon Zydeco, Academy Park Bandshell
At Dusk - Fireworks Show from the Lewiston Plateau

BY KEN SLAUGENHOUP
President of the Historical Association of Lewiston
It's here!
Well, to the people who gathered almost three years ago to consider how to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Lewiston and Village of Lewiston ... it's here.
At the urging of those interested in the history of this area, a group of like-minded people gathered to talk over possible ways to highlight the history – and gather people together to have a great time also. First order of business was to create a formal committee. Thirteen different elements

of the community were invited to send a formal representative. These groups were Village of Lewiston (two seats), Town of Lewiston (two seats), village Historic Preservation Commission, town HPC, Historical Association of Lewiston, Sanborn Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce (two seats), Lewiston Library, Council on the Arts, Tuscarora Nation, Niagara University, town historian and village historian. Each organization received one vote, regardless of the assigned seats. Thus, the formal committee consisted of 13 entities to consider and approve all of the plans and

actions. Over time, many others joined in on the planning with ideas, fundraising, and individual assignments to make this all a reality.
As the planning began, we believed the town was formally established in 1823 and the village preceded that in 1822. The thought was we would design several events spread out over 2022 and 2023 to address that difference. Ideas were brain-stormed and outlined. Then two rather amazing things happened.

First, detailed research uncovered the fact that the Town of Lew-

iston was actually established in 1818, by act of the New York State Legislature. It was a shock to realize that we had already "missed" the town's bicentennial. That discovery also led to the need for a new town seal, showing the corrected date.
Secondly, well, you know. COVID.
The pandemic had significant impact on everything and, of

course, our planning was included. The bicentennial committee is all volunteers, and started with no money to work with. Fundraising was high on our to-do list. It became clear that the impact on local businesses made this difficult. Even meeting face to face needed to be suspended for a while, and the word Zoom entered everyone's vocabulary.

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Lewiston Museum has history on display all year long



SUBMITTED BY TOM COLLISTER
Museum Curator

People from all over come to Lewiston for its fine restaurants, small shops and historic buildings. We love our small-town feel and its rich history. In a few days, we will be celebrating the 200-year anniversary of Lewiston being legally recognized by the state of New York Legislature as a village. As I write this article, I wonder how many people really know all the history there is in this area?

I am sure most of you know the falls started here about 12,000 years ago; and from walks in Artpark, you know the French and the British were here along with the Native Americans. The Hopewell mound in Artpark indicates native peoples were here around 1,000 years ago.

We all know and celebrate the burning of Lewiston in 1813, and that the Underground Railroad used Lewiston as a path to freedom through our monuments and annual ceremonies. But do you know that people started coming through Lewiston 10,000 years

ago? That the bones of a mastodon were found at the end of Water Street? How about that the original layout of Lewiston, in 1796, was to have a major town square covering from Fourth Street to Fifth Street, and from Cayuga Street to Onondaga Street?

There was no Academy Park. There were plans for a large lake to occupy the entire area south of Center Street from the river, so ships could sail across to Portage Road where locks would lift them up to the top of the escarpment.

Do you know the first railway in North America was built in Lewiston? Or that President McKinley was supposed to be killed here at the waterfront?

You can find all this history and



"The Cibola Anchor"

more when you visit the Historical Association Museum on Plain Street where you will see the artifacts, maps, pictures and documentation on why we say Lewiston is "The Most Historic One Square Mile in North America."