

Indians Among The Early Settlers

The Seneca, Chippewa and Ottawa tribes had villages in Summit County and were frequently found among the white settlers on trading or begging expeditions. Herman Oviatt, of Hudson, early established a trading point at his cabin, about a mile south of Hudson. Here the Indians gathered in large numbers, exchanging furs for trinkets of various kinds, powder, lead, and whiskey. The latter was in greatest demand, and this was the scale of prices: Coonskins, ½ pint whiskey; Buckskins, 1 pint; Bearskins, 4 quarts.

Before giving the Indians the whiskey, Mrs. Oviatt would demand their guns, tomahawks and knives, which they gave up to her until they got sober, as they invariably got "kok kusi".

One of the orgies is described as follows: "They were of the Ottawa Tribe, and there were 15 to 18 of them. They were provided with a deerskin suit, like a little boy's, all whole, but opened before, and supplied with openings for legs and arms. When put on, it was tied in front. It was ornamented around the arms and legs with fringe 3 inches in length, to which was attached a variety of animal claws, such as those of the turkey, coon, and bear. One would put on this suit and jump, hop and kick about in a sort of Indian 'Highland Fling', while two others furnished the inspiration by patting and humming. The success of the performance seemed

to depend on his ability to get the greatest possible amount of clatter out of the claws attached to his garment.

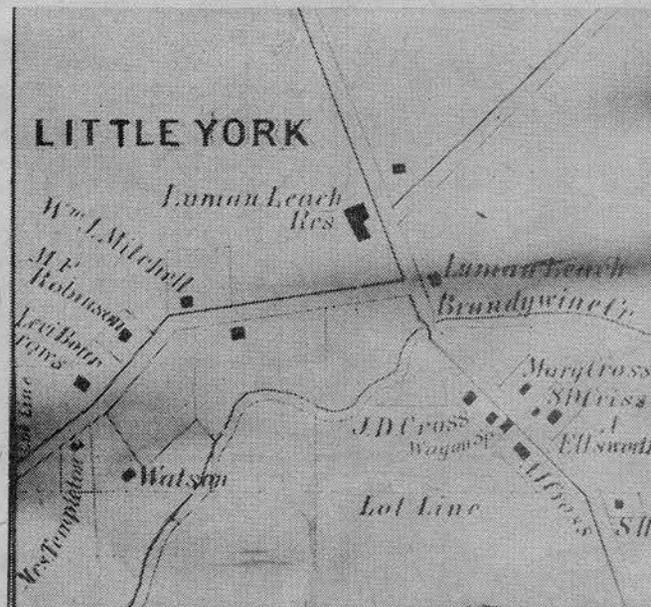
When tired, he would doof the garment, take a drink of whiskey and give place to another terpsichorean artist. In this way, each would try his agility and gradually get beastly intoxicated. Before the proceedings, however, they placed all their weapons with their squaws who were quiet spectators of the scene. At the end of two days, all save two of the squaws

who had been assigned the charge of the papooses, got drunk, and exhibited all the worst phases of this degrading revel.

Perrin's History of Summit Co., 1881.

It is wise to give children small servings of food, particularly of new foods; then let them ask for more. An adult-size serving may look like a mountain to a tiny tot.

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(See Story, Column Six)

Village Is Now Only Memory *Little York*

Sometimes small village settlements like "Topsy" just grew. Such is the case of Little York. Little York is a section of Northfield along the Brandywine and including sections around the corner of Highland Road and Old Route 8. Its history goes back to about 1825. at that time Henry Post built a saw-mill on the site of the village. As was quite common in those days, he did not own the land but merely "squatted" there for the purpose of sawing lumber. His mill was operated partly by

and partly by artificial facilities.

There was at that time a heavy stand of whitewood which was greatly in demand for boats on the canal and for vessels on Lake Erie. Mr. Post did a profitable business on this sight for six years. At the end of that time the mill was purchased by Mr. George Leach. Mr. Leach was quite an enterprising man and soon had built a larger and stronger dam. Before long he had two saws operating and was shipping large quantities of oak, maple and whitewood lumber to

Cleveland.

The saw mill brought in other trades and at one time Little York boasted a blacksmith, a shoemaker, a tanner and a few other tradesmen and mechanics. Like so many villages Little York was destined for a short history. No definite reason can be sighted for its decline. Perhaps the saw mill closed or was washed out in a flood. Perhaps the tradesmen moved on to greener fields; at any rate Little York soon faded back into the annuals of history.