

DIANA TOWNSHIP

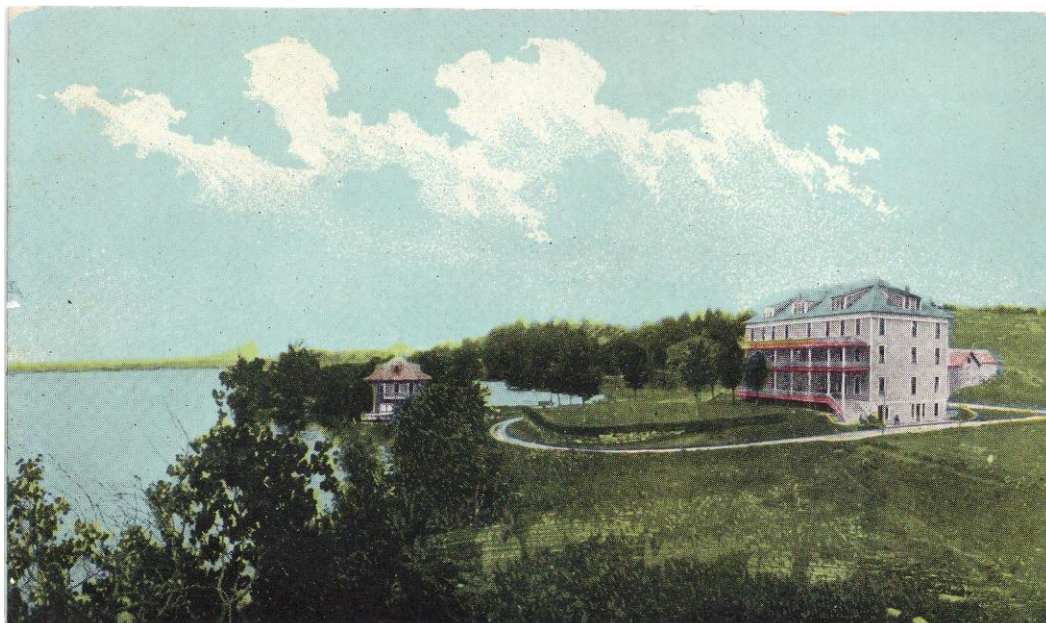
Diana Township is situated in the northernmost tip of Lewis County and was formed from the township of Watson in 1830. Diana was named for the Roman goddess of the hunt at the suggestion of Joseph Bonaparte, the former king of Spain and Naples, and the brother of Napoleon. Joseph Bonaparte used the area for hunting and gave his name to Lake Bonaparte, the largest lake in Lewis County.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the area was used by Native Americans primarily for hunting and fishing rather than as a permanent residence. The first settlers arrived in 1818 and for the most part were farmers and lumbermen. Foskit Harris arrived in 1833 from the town of Champion, Jefferson County, and built a sawmill and gristmill on the Oswegatchie river. These mills formed the beginning of the village of Harrisville. Other businesses soon followed such as a tannery, a chair factory, and a door and blind shop.

Of great importance was the creation of the Diana Paper Mill at the turn of the century, which was later sold to the St. Regis Paper Co. Mining was another important enterprise in the history of Diana Township, mainly talc and wollastonite. A blast furnace was operated at Alpina for a number of years.

Because of its size, Lake Bonaparte has always been a tourist destination. In 1894 the resort hotel "The Hermitage" was built near Joseph Bonaparte's hunting lodge and was a famous attraction for nearly 60 years.

Starting in 1939 with the expansion of the Fort Drum Military Reservation, the northwestern portion of Diana Township has been confiscated by the Federal Government. The former mining and farming hamlet of Lewisburg no longer exists.



The New Hermitage, Lake Bonaparte, N. Y.