

LEWIS TOWNSHIP

Taking its name from the county itself, Lewis Township was created on November 11, 1852 from Leyden and West Turin. Lewis embraces nearly all of Inman's Triangle, known as the "New Survey", the whole of township No. 1 or *Xenophone* and part of Township No. 2, or *Flora*. Township No. 1 was surveyed and divided into lots by Benjamin Wright in 1797. While settlement began as early as 1798 in what is now West Leyden, much of the township remained uninhabited until well into the 1840's. To facilitate travel, a road was first cut through to Constableville in 1803, the present basis for Route 26.

Much of Lewis is forested land and contains the headwaters of the Salmon and Mohawk Rivers. Because of the large amount of forests, lumbering naturally became a major industry of the township. Sawmills appeared on many of the rivers and streams. One factory produced whaling oars, primarily for the Boston market. Another important product was Bird's Eye Maple. It is estimated that two-thirds of all Bird's Eye Maple was produced in Lewis County.

One claim to fame for the Lewis Township is that the first telephone service for the County was established in West Leyden between Rome and Boonville in September 1882.



West Leyden Hotel