

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

September 2020

NEWS FROM LOBRANO HOUSE

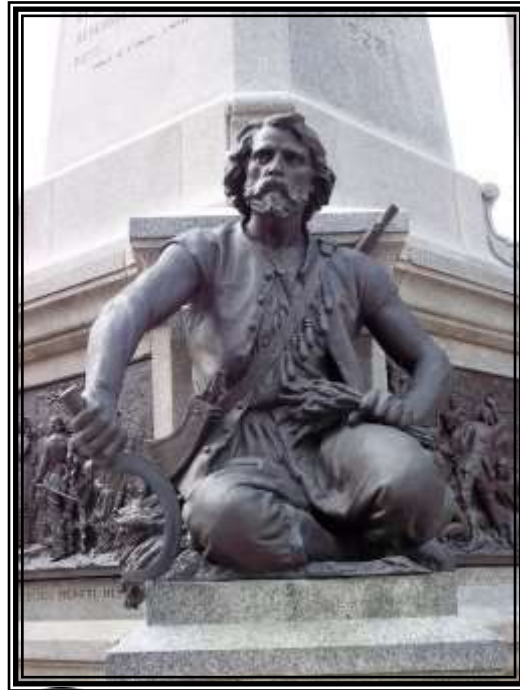
The Kate Lobrano House has reopened for members and visitors, and the hours remain the same: Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., closing from 12:00 –1:00 for lunch.

Monthly luncheons have been postponed until further notice, but we look forward to their return as soon as we feel we can do so without affecting the health of our members.

The Kate Lobrano House has reopened for visitors during our regular business hours—Monday through Friday from 10-3, closing from noon-one for lunch. Until further notice, masks are required.

ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

The 26th Annual Cemetery Tour that was scheduled for Halloween night, Saturday, October 31, 2020, has been postponed indefinitely. It is hoped that a cemetery tour will be possible in the spring of 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic has passed. An announcement will be forthcoming in a future edition of *The Historian* when the date of the tour is known.



This statue of Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil stands at the Place d'Armes in Old Montreal, Quebec.

Le Moyne

CHARLES LE MOYNE DE LONGUEUIL (1626—1685)

By
Eddie Coleman

Early attempts by France to establish forts and settlements in the land which later became Canada failed even though these attempts were made along the Atlantic coast and inland waterways. However the second attempt to form a settlement in the area of Quebec in 1603 slowly and steadily began to survive from 28 men at the beginning to 103 colonists in

1630 to a population of 355 in 1640. These early Frenchmen were encouraged to live among the local indigenous peoples to learn their languages and customs.

Because the English settlements in the New World were further south along the Atlantic coast to present day Massachusetts and Virginia, Cardinal Richelieu, advisor to King Louis XIV, devised a plan to make New France the most important of European settlements in the Americas. By founding the Company of One Hundred Associates, he was able to offer settlers large parcels of land in New France to make it a rich area for farming and businesses which supported the fur trade to en-

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Charles Gray, Executive Director

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MONDAY — FRIDAY
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MISSION STATEMENT

“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”

rich the King and Richelieu’s supporters back in Europe. To aid his mission, Richelieu forbade non-Roman Catholics from living there. Hence, protestants either converted or settled south in the English colonies. One may ask, “How could Richelieu make such a command?” The answer is that after the Protestant Reformation, France remained Roman Catholic. Being a Catholic Cardinal with power from the Pope and the King, he could do pretty much what he wanted to do to make money for the crown and the church.

Not all of the new settlers had land waiting for them, but among those who chose to venture across the Atlantic anyway seeking a new life and new adventures was a young man named Charles Le Moyne. The fifteen year old had been born in Saint-Rémy, Normandy, on August 2, 1626, the son of Pierre Le Moyne, an innkeeper, and Judith du Chesne. He was the fourth of nine children, five boys and four girls. Fortunately, his uncle, Adrien du Chesne, was a surgeon living in New France (Canada), and Charles gained passage as an indentured servant of the Jesuits living and working in the same area. In the four years he lived and worked through his obligation with the brothers, Charles learned the native language of the local Huron Indians.

At age nineteen in 1645, Charles moved to the settlement of Trois-Rivières. As a soldier here, he served as a clerk, but more importantly he was able to use the Indian language of the Hurons he had learned while working among the Jesuits. It also seems as if the Hurons were friendly to the settlers, and other tribes were not especially the Iroquois. The next year he moved to Fort Villa-Marie (Montreal) where he stayed throughout the rest of his life.

For the next several years, the fort was under almost constant attack. Because of his valor in one of the attacks, he was named store-

keeper for the fort. In 1651, the fortunate Le Moyne barley survived an attack in which several settlers were killed. Charles was not alone. Although having been scalped, another man, Jean Chicot, survived as well. In 1655 he and another man took six Iroquois prisoners. As it turns out, one of them was a chief. Later Le Moyne was able to use these Iroquois to exchange for French prisoners. As one can see from just these examples, he was quite a good military man.

In 1654 Charles Le Moyne married Catherine Thierry de Primot (1641-1690) of Montreal (New France). At twenty-eight Charles was fifteen years older than his bride of thirteen. It was probably from the de Primot family that Charles became involved with the fur trade. He and Catherine produced fourteen children of whom thirteen survived. At their marriage Charles received a gift of money and ninety acres of land. Throughout his life he received many awards and honors. Among them were money and land which included land grants. In 1672 Governor Louis de Buade de Frontenac and Intendant of New France, Jean Talon, confirmed to him the seigneurie title of Longueuil. Because of his long, distinguished military service, he was ennobled by the French crown. Hence, Charles became Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil.

Throughout his lifetime in addition to his military career and his involvement in the fur trade, Le Moyne held several public offices. He was assigned the title of attorney general of Montreal for about two years. In addition Governor Le Febvre of New France felt that Le Moyne had done more than any other person in war against the Iroquois. To honor him, the governor named Le Moyne Governor of Montreal.

In addition to the land, he also owned ten slaves; his brother owned twenty-three. In fact they are considered the largest slave owners



This map of New France, shown in white, is dated 1600—1763. France claimed the massive area from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, Great Britain took the land along the Atlantic coast, and Spain settled Florida and the largest area west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. We must remember that the lands had already been settled centuries earlier by those people we now refer to as Native Americans.

in Canadian history. However, the record does not say if the slaves were African or Native American. In its past sixty-five percent of Canadian slaves were Native American.

As a result of Charles' acquisition of so much land through fiefdoms and other means, at the time of his death, he owned vast properties in Montreal, and his total assets made him the richest citizen of the city during this era. In addition several places in greater metropolitan Montreal refer to familiar family names such as Le Moyne and Longueuil.

All of Charles' sons except one, François who died at age seventeen, served in the military both in New France and in Europe. Because of their distinguished careers, each one received titles of nobility from the government of France. Of the boys, five did not marry—Jean François, François Marie, Louie,

Jean-Baptiste, and Antoine. The two daughters married titles. It would seem that the Le Moyne de Longueuil title could have been an advantage for them.

Two of Charles Le Moyne's sons became very important to the history of the southern states along the Gulf of Mexico. Because of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville's military prowess, King Louis IV chose him to lead the expedition to rediscover and reclaim the mouth of the Mississippi River. To aid him in establishing French dominance on the land boarding the Gulf of Mexico, Iberville chose four of his brothers to sail with him—Joseph de Sérigny, Gabriel d'Assigny, Antoine de Châteauguay, and Jean-Baptiste de Bienville. Bienville became the most important of Iberville's four younger brothers, serving as commander and then governor of the Louisiana settlement. After estab-

lishing forts in several areas along the Gulf, Iberville's first one, Fort Maurepas in present day Ocean Springs, MS, became the first French settlement on the Gulf of Mexico. Later, in 1702 Iberville relocated to Fort Louis near present day Mobile, AL, which became the first capital of Louisiana. After the move to Fort Louis, Iberville left his younger brother Bienville in charge and made two return trips to France. He contracted yellow fever while in a battle with the English and died in Havana, Cuba, in 1706. About twenty years later, the capital was moved to New Orleans, the city created by Bienville.

From indentured servant to valuable soldier to fur tradesman to wealthy land owner, the Frenchman Charles Le Moyne lived an important and valuable life, not only for Canada and France, but also for the United States. Some of his children served Canada and some France, but the two who are so very

important to the United States are Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d' Iberville and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville. The two adventurers lead explorations along the southern coastlines of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In addition they helped France reinforce its foothold on the Gulf of Mexico by establishing forts and settlements in the area for French settlers.

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SPANISH INFLUENCE IN HANCOCK COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

By

Jim Codling, ThD, DEd

(The following article comes from a presentation Jim Codling made to a class at Our Lady Academy.)

Children of Charles Le Moyne and Catherine Tierry in birth order

Charles Le Moyne de Longueuil
(1656-1729)
Jacques Le Moyne de Ste-Hélène
(1659-1690)
Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville
(1661-1706)
Paul Le Moyne de Marlcourt
(1663-1704)
Jean François Le Moyne de Bienville
(1664-1691)
Joseph Le Moyne de Sérigny
(1668-1734)
François Marie Le Moyne (no title)
(1670-1687)
Unnamed child
(1672-1672)
Catherine Jeanne Le Moyne Payen
de Noyan
(1673-?)
Louis Le Moyne de Châteauguay
(1676-1694)
Marie Anne Le Moyne Bouillet de
La Chassaigne
(1678-1744?)
Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville
(1680-1767)
Gabriel Le Moyne d'Assaigny
(1681-1701)
Antoine Le Moyne de Châteauguay
(1683-1747)

Charles' children are usually referred to by their titles. For example Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville becomes just Iberville; Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville becomes Bienville, etc. The title *Sieur* is an old French term of respect meaning sir. It may be added to a person's title, or it may be omitted from the title.

There are some difficulties in discussing Spanish influence on Hancock County, Mississippi because of changing and disputed boundary lines. The territory that was claimed by the Spanish in the 18th and 19th Centuries often changed and was frequently disputed. The boundaries of the Louisiana territory were never exact and even Hancock County was once more inclusive than it is today. Therefore, we must start our narrative with a discussion of the political events that affected this history.

Three major influences need to be recognized: the abolishment of slavery; British, French, and Spanish intrigue in the Americas; and American interest in New Orleans.

In 1517 the Spanish brought the first slaves to the West Indies for the sugar cane plantations. One hundred years later in 1619, the first slaves arrived in America. In 1780 Mobile records show that on May 28 "One Negro man named Will about twenty-five years" was sold for the sum of three hundred Spanish dollars. A good field hand was worth a lot of money, but such slaves became more valuable with the development of the cotton gin. Cotton was grown in Hancock County along the lower Pearl River. From Cottonport it was shipped by boat "to a gin at Simon Favre's farm, about a mile above Pearlinton...known as Favreport (later...called 'The Gin.'"(Scharif 80).

Slaves even became more valuable when the importation of slaves became illegal. Then native born slaves became the chief source of labor. The slave trade became a source of intrigue for our county as it was thought that pirates and privateers used the Hancock coast as a dropping off point, and the "Pirate House" follows that tradition.

Jean Lafitte had letters of mark as a privateer, and Spanish ships were fair game. Because of the embargo of foreign born slaves and the Spanish practice of slavery, the privateers would raid the Spanish ships and smuggle slaves into the United States.

The Spanish had historical routes in the Gulf Coast territory that included Hancock County. In 1519 Alonso Álvarez de Pineda travelled to Mobile Bay and called it the Bay of the Holy Spirit, but from 1519 to 1763 the coast was under French influence. In 1763 the French and Indian war ended with the Treaty of Paris. Mobile and the coast came under British rule. In 1780 Bernardo de Gálvez

ELLICOTT'S LINE

Andrew Ellicott was appointed by President George Washington to work with Spanish surveyors in running and marking the boundary between Mississippi Territory and Spanish Florida as determined by the treaty dated October 27, 1795. This boundary along the 31st parallel of north latitude is called Ellicott's Line of Demarcation. On a Mississippi map the 31st parallel is the straight line dividing the southern part of the state from Louisiana.

took Mobile for Spain, and Spanish rule was made official by the Treaty of Versailles which also ended the American War of Independence. Spanish jurisdiction included Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis, which were in the territory that composed Hancock County. In 1799 the Ellicott Line established that anything below the 31st. Parallel was Spanish.

The treaty of San Lorenzo in 1795 set the precedent and in 1799 the Spanish evacuated posts north of the 31st parallel. Then in 1802 Spain returned the Louisiana Territory to France. Napoleon thought he could establish a world empire. However, a year later he changed his mind, and the territory was sold to the United States.

This sale led to another question: Where was the border line between the Spanish territory and the Louisiana territory that the Spanish purchased? The U.S. claimed West Florida as part of the purchase, and Spain did not. Spain claimed that it had taken the territory which included Hancock County from the British and not the French. Therefore West Florida was Spanish. In 1780 Galvez captured Mobile with a jurisdiction including Pass Christian and Bay. St. Louis. The Treaty of San Lorenzo of 1795 gave some boundaries, but the Spanish only evacuated their posts north of the 31st parallel in 1799. The U.S. claimed the Spanish had

ceded the land to the French.

In 1803 the Spanish moved their West Florida headquarters to Pensacola and continued to grant land titles. Spain claimed the American purchase was west of the Pearl River and south of Lake Pontchartrain. The Spanish military occupied Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola until 1810 and refused to leave.

In 1804 Rueben Kemper made a raid into Spanish Territory and as the settlers were mainly French and English little loyalty was shown to Spain in backwoods Mississippi. These settlers were to swear loyalty to Spain, recognize the Spanish language, and accept the Roman Catholic religion, but just like the Texas Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, English protestants were the majority. Because the Spanish never had much control, anarchy developed. In 1810 confusion because of the changes in government led to Dr. Andrew Gaines organizing the residents along the Pearl. John Morales, the land agent in Pensacola, issued a grant, later confirmed by the U.S. Commissioner William Crawford. Gaines deeded small parcels to other claimants but kept the lions share for himself. Thus we had the now defunct town of Gainesville. On January 5, 1811 the Spanish garrison at Pass Christian finally withdrew (Clair and Clair 1976).

It wasn't until 1812 that President Madison signed an Act of Congress creating the state of Louisiana, part of West Florida from the Mississippi River to the Pearl and south of the 31st parallel. The new Mississippi Territory ran east of the Pearl River to the Perdido River. This was contested land. However, the Spanish were too weak to do anything themselves so they courted the friendship of the Creek and other Native American tribes. Thus the contention with Andrew Jackson.

How this affected the Spanish settlers could best be shown by

looking at some of the important families living south of the 31st parallel and east of the Pearl. Because of the small pool of families in the area, these early families were connected.

The Ladner and Cuevas families were early settlers on Cat Island just offshore of the mainland in the Mississippi Sound. The Ladners brought the French influence, and the Cuevas brought the Spanish. Also the Garcia family married into the Cuevas family. The Ladner name like so much in the county changed spelling over time depending on which branch of the family to whom one was referring. Thus L'Adner, Ladnier, and Ladner are variations of the same family lineage.

The Favre name probably had French origins. Simon Favre was born on May 31, 1760 to Jean Claud and a daughter of a Swiss soldier. He worked as a translator for the Spanish administration and the family gave allegiance to the Spanish. The Spanish tried to assimilate settlers by having them swear allegiance to Spain. In 1786 thirty-one non-Spanish settlers signed and thirty-four put their marks as they took the oath of allegiance before Pedro Favort and Santiago de la Saussage (*Along the Gulf* p. 13).

Under the Spanish, Favre became commander of the District of Bay St. Louis. He was assigned to confirm land deeds that were given out at an accelerated rate "to stem the tide of American encroachment." They also encouraged Spanish language and the Roman Catholic religion. The Ildefonso Treaty of 1800 was to encourage Spanish control. The currency was the peso which came from Mexico mints, which encouraged financial control. Military personal were the ideal settlers; thus, De Havia (a Spanish commander) had claim to large acreages on the Pearl River. Other Spanish settlers came later. The Santa Cruz family came to

check on a brother who was a priest in Cuba. They came from the Balearic Islands off the coast of Spain and brought their fishing, boat building, and business skills with them to the new world. The Delcuz family settled in the county and served in the American military.

Even though the Republic of West Florida was established along the Gulf Coast to keep its allegiance to Spain and remain under Spanish control in 1810, President James Madison claimed the area as part of the United States. Finally, in 1819 with the Adams-Onís Treaty the area officially was recognized as part of the United States.

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WEBSITE JOURNEY

By
Virginia Olander

When is the last time you visited our website? Have you looked at the website and wondered what can be found there? The Hancock County Historical Society has a beautiful website filled with information, history, and historical documents. Our well designed website gives us a presence and credibility as a legitimate concern with a mission past, present, and future. It is specific to the Hancock County Historical Society and can be viewed all over the world by anyone who has access to the Internet.

Most of us remember a time before the internet (BI). As children, we were taught to go to the dictionary to see how to correctly spell a word or find its proper definition. Many homes had a set of encyclopedias sold by door-to-door salesmen used by the family for information.

Once in school, students were taught how to use the library and the Dewey Decimal System. Most schools had an hour scheduled in the school week to go to the library to conduct research or find a good book to read on the reading list of your English class. It was, indeed, one of the first identification cards a young child could request with his or her name on it. The library card allows the child or adult the ability at no charge as long as the book/books were returned, usually in two weeks. Communities provided libraries, and still do, for people of all ages to discover the amazing books stacked on the endless shelves where one could get lost in the many aisles of the "quiet" library zone.

Did you know the Library of Congress, located in Washington, D.C., is the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States? The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world filled with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manu-



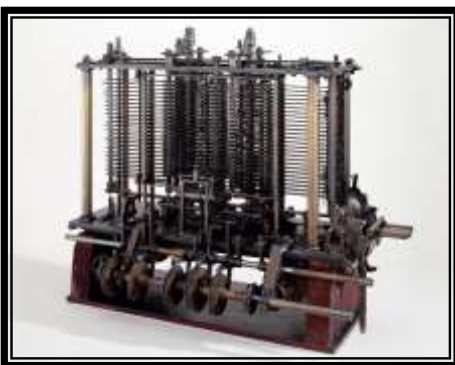
The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.



This photo shows the gorgeous interior of the Library of Congress.

scripts. Anyone who has had the privilege of visiting the Library of Congress will find one of the most beautiful buildings in our country and a national treasure.

When did the computer come on the scene? Believe it or not, the first concept of a computer was invented by an English mathematician, Charles Babbage, between 1833-1871. His invention, called the Analytical Engine (photo, p. 6), was a steam-driven machine developed to compute numbers. It wasn't until a century later, in 1936, that Alan Turing, another British mathematician, invented the Turing machine upon which the modern computer is based. However, it was 1981 when IBM presented the first personal computer "PC" with the code name



This is a photo of the first computer called the Analytical Engine invented by Charles Babbage.

"Acorn."

In 1990, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, at a physics laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, developed the Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), and this gave birth to the World Wide Web—the wwww you see when searching on the Internet. By the mid-1990's, websites filled with history, graphics, music, and games. Personal computers became accessible to the public for use in business, educational, and home settings. The term *Wi-Fi* emerged in 1999 debuting the new generation of computer use and the ability to connect to the Internet without wires.

A website is a "location" connected to the World Wide Web. The content of each website is a collection of information identified by a domain name used by an organization. There are different web servers used depending on the purpose of the website. The development of the "domain world" began in 1985, years before the World Wide Web would mark the beginning of the "Internet." For example, most websites use the familiar domain extensions such as **.com** (created to represent a commercial website), but others are used

such as **.org** (primarily used for nonprofit websites and charities encompassing those 'who make a difference' or **.net**, short for network. The familiar **.gov** stands for "government" and can only be used by the United States federal government.

Unlike the days before the Internet (BI) when libraries, schools, and colleges were open for regular hours, since the Internet (SI) the *information superhighway* is available around the world twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

You may be asking yourself, "What does this have to do with our website?" Well, everything. Over time, when history meets the creativity and innovative minds in the worlds of physics, electronics, mathematics, and time, magic happens. We now have the ability to learn more and connect with one another in a way never possible before in the history of the world.

Charles Gray, the Executive Director of the Hancock County Historical Society, began collecting books and maps and records decades ago. He also secured the Kate Lobrano House to preserve and archive all of these documents and any others

he could gather pertaining to Hancock County. His vision evolved into developing a website and eventually led him to an excellent web designer, Marianne Plum. For years, Charles Gray has collected precious and one-of-a-kind documents, maps, photographs, books, and much more. Prior to the Internet the only way to access this valuable information was to visit the Kate Lobrano House. Marianne’s ambitious design and cross-referencing on our website make it possible for anyone anywhere in the world to access the history that makes Hancock County a unique and special place in the history of our county, state, and country.

The reader is invited to take a nostalgic journey of Hancock County, Mississippi, by visiting our website. On the opening page, you are invited to join the Society if you are not already a member. Charles Gray welcomes all who visit our website. Along the right-hand side of the page can be found current information, upcoming events, and historical tidbits. Across the top of the homepage are “tabs” that when

clicked offer the reader many options for articles of interest including the early history of the county. Additionally, the newsletters are published on the website and contain fascinating articles written by our local historians including Charles Gray, Eddie Coleman, and Dr. James Keating.

If you like legends and stories of Hancock County, click on “Local History” and go to “Local Legends” where you can read about the Hancock County Indians in the 1850’s, a Haunted House, or the infamous Pirate House at 649 North Beach Blvd. in Waveland. Are you looking for a specific individual or family? Click on the “Research” tab and scroll down to “Vertical Files” and search under “Surnames.” Our vertical files contain a rich compilation of information on the families of Hancock County.

Hancock County’s modern history includes the French Europeans landing here in 1699 and three hundred years later the United States landing on the moon in 1969. You may ask, “Is Hancock County also involved in space exploration?” You bet it is, and our historic part of the space program

continues as we prepare to land on Mars. The reader is invited to click the tab “Newsletter” on the opening page and scroll down to the April 2020 article “Stennis Space Center” by James Keating, M.D.

What are you waiting for?

Visit

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com. Today! If you like what you see, join us and become a part of our history.

SOURCES:

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FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY

By
Mark Isaacs

An article published in the August edition of this publication reviewed a **45 Day Trip in 1829** excerpted from S.G. Thigpen's book, *Pearl River: Highway to Glory Land* detailing the Russ family's journey from Brunswick County, North Carolina to the Pearlinton area in the early days of settlement in our region. The firsthand account from a family diary included the cost of ferries and toll bridges. The pioneer settlers "paid \$1 to cross the ferry at Leakesville in Green County," "crossed Black Creek at Perkins ferry for \$1.50, and camped in Perry County, Miss.," and "crossed the Hobolochitto, paid \$2.25 bridge toll."

While these amounts appear insignificant in today's dollars, they were noted in the 1829 diary precisely because they were significant sums in those days. Consulting an online inflation calculator at <http://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1829?amount=2> reveals that that \$1 in 1829 is equivalent to \$27.86 in today's dollars. The \$1.50 it took to ferry across Black Creek must be understood as a \$41.79 investment in today's terms. The \$2.25 it took to get across the toll bridge crossing the Hobolochitto is equivalent to \$62.69 in today's dollars.

These large sums of money gives new meaning to the term "highway robbery," or at least develops the appreciation that it must have felt that way at the time. Understanding the value of a dollar in 1829 certainly gives reason why these large sums of money were noted in a diary of the arduous journey then. Today, it makes us pause to feel what it would be like to pay almost \$63 to cross a bridge. Realization that we pay taxes in order to enjoy mostly free passage coast-to-coast on the interstate highway system puts the difference between modern and pioneer life in perspective.

NEW MEMBERS

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Salt Lake City, UT

Eric Grieshaber
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