



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EXCERPTS FROM AN 1899 JOURNAL

BY C.W. LATTIN

On Aug. 10, 1899, C.L. David and his wife and two daughters of Bonner Springs, Kan., boarded a train for a visit to the eastern part of this county. Mrs. David had relatives locally with whom they spent time during their travels. Mr. C.L. David kept a running account or journal of their days' events along the way. Here are some excerpts which relate to our locality. After visiting Niagara Falls on August 12 he writes:

"Evening has come and we go to the N.Y. Central depot for Knowlesville, N.Y. about 40 miles away, to W.S. Bailey's, my wife's brother, reaching there in due time. Met the folks and got acquainted with them, it being the first time we ever met except my wife who was acquainted with them. Mr. Bailey, wife and one boy, whose given name is Laton, composes the family. We spent a pleasant evening with them.

"Aug. 13 — This being Sunday, we spent the day reading and going to church, Sunday school and Christian Endeavor at the Presbyterian Church.

"Aug. 14 — The weather being fine, myself and S.W. Bailey went to Medina on the cars, six miles distance. This is a very nice town of about 5 or 6,000 inhabitants and located on the N.Y. Central Railroad and Erie Canal. Here we went to the falls on Oak Orchard River ... and returned in the evening to Knowlesville on a canal boat for 10 cents each.

"Aug. 15 — We went to the vinegar factory and visited around Knowlesville.

"Aug. 16 — We went fishing today to Kenyonville on Oak Orchard River. There is a large dam across the river. We got a skiff and went out on the pond and had fine luck. We caught over 100 nice fish.

"Aug. 17 — We took our families and went to Lake Ontario fishing. We went to a place called Lakeside on Johnson Creek. We hired a skill for \$1.00 and went after them in earnest. We caught over 100 fish, mostly Black Bass, weight from 1 to 5 lbs., and had lots of fun on the lake. We had a picnic dinner on the ground. We return at 5 o'clock in the evening to Knowlesville with plenty of fish for ourselves and all the neighbors.

"Aug. 18 — We took the canal boat at 1:30

o'clock in the afternoon for Albion. This was a fine ride on the Erie Canal. The family was well pleased with the trip. The canal is about 75 feet wide and averages in depth about 7 feet. We passed through a nice level country. Orchards sometimes came to the water's edge, apples hanging out over the water. We reached Albion at 2:30 p.m. and went to Emel Williams, my wife's uncle. He is 75 years old and wife, 65 years old. They have no children but we were made welcome and found them to be pleasant and glad to see us.

"Aug. 19 — We visited the cemetery which we found to be the nicest and most picturesque place I ever saw. I saw the graves of several noted men one was Governor Church of N.Y. We also went to the top of the monument and could see across Lake Ontario into Canada.

"Aug. 20 — Sunday — We went to the Baptist Church to Sunday School and stayed for preaching. This was a very large church with a \$6,000 pipe organ which made beautiful music. We also attended the evening service.

"Aug. 21 — I went to Knowlesville at 9:20 A.M. on the N.Y.C. Railroad for my mail. I'd received a letter from home and the Bonner Springs Chieftain and was glad to hear from home. I took dinner today at Wm. Bailey's and returned to Albion at 1:42 P.M. on the same road. I went back to Emel Williams and met my family at 4 P.M. Albert Williams, my wife's cousin, came in from Barry Spring, 4 miles out in the country, to take us out to the old Homestead where my wife was born. We soon reached the place and met all the friends of that neighborhood. We also went to see our old uncle Gear Williams. He is 82 years old and sick with cancer and confined to bed. I soon played my hand in getting acquainted and having a good time.

"Aug. 22 — Stayed all day in the neighborhood and took dinner with Dell Burton, our cousin. We completed our visit by late in the afternoon and Albert Williams took us by wagon to Sullivan Howards, reaching there in time for supper. Here we met friends again and had a fine time and music after supper. Found Mr. Sullivan Howard a very nice man, his wife is a cousin of ours.

"Aug. 23 — We stayed at Sul Howards till evening. Today we visited Murray Station one mile away. Wrote letters home and went to the stone quarry where they get out the Medina Stone for paving. This is a red hard sandstone. In the evening we were taken to Webb Howard by Sull Howard by wagon. We had a nice ride, reaching there after dark and met another cousin. Had music and singing and retired for the night.

"Aug. 24 — We stayed at Webb Howards all day and visited the old Homestead where my wife was raised and some of the old neighbors that were living there, that my wife had not seen for thirty years. We also went to Holley and saw the largest vinegar works in the United States. The buildings covered about ten acres of ground with large tanks about 16 feet in diameter and about 25 feet high. I was told that from some cause, some of these tanks burst one day and flooded one of the streets with vinegar and filled several cellars. In the evening Mr. Howard took us to Brockport to Bert Bailey's house, my wife's nephew, reaching there about 8 o'clock after which we soon retired for the night.

"Aug. 25 — After breakfast I went all over the town with Mr. Bailey. He was running a milk wagon and this gave me a splendid chance to see everything. In the afternoon I visited the home of Mary Jane Holmes who is the author of a great many books. I also visited Mr. Bruce, the greatest taxidermist in the U.S.A. and looked over his specimens. Then I went to the shoe factory and went through every department of the works. Stayed all night in Brockport again.

"Aug. 26 — Took the train for Knowlesville at 8 o'clock in the morning to my wife's brother and where we had left our trunk. We packed our things today and by night all was ready.

"Aug. 27 — Sunday — We attended M.E. Church and heard Mr. Watson preach at 10:30 in the morning and attended Presbyterian Church in the evening and heard Mr. Elliot preach a very good sermon.

"Aug. 28 — We took the N.Y. Central R.R. at Knowlesville in the morning for Niagara Falls."