

Miss. Rockwell's Trip to Ohio, 1850

Here we have a most well written and wonderfully descriptive account by Cornelia, a teen-age daughter of one of the Colebrook Rockwell's (I'm not sure which one) who accompanies her sister Delia and father on a round trip from Colebrook to the northeast corner of Ohio, which was the part called New Connecticut. I'm sure that you will enjoy this rare and historically valuable narrative. Keep in mind that Ohio had been a state for only 42 years at the time of this writing.

June 11. Commenced our journey for Ohio. Left home at 5 o'clock in Skinner's stage for Sandisfield. Ten passengers in the stage – most of them old ladies. Spent the night at Bosworth's. Called at Mr. Hull's & Miss. Philips. The wind blows like March & cold enough for January.

June 12. Wed. morning. Left Sandisfield for Stockbridge at 7. Passed through New Marlboro & part of Tyringham. Same passengers as yesterday. Took dinner in Stockbridge at E. Burrall's. At ½ past 12, took the stage for Albany and were obliged to fit out an extra & we went as far as Chatham in the same carriage in which we left home. Passed through West Stockbridge, part of New Canaan, Chatham, Nassau Village, Schodack and Greenbush, where we crossed the river in a steam ferryboat. Chatham and Nassau Village were the pleasantest villages through which we passed. After leaving Chatham, rode for several miles in sight of the Catskill Mts. – distance 15 or 20 miles. Saw most beautiful fields of grain. Three of the passengers that were in the stage when we left home came as far as Albany with us. They were a gentleman from Whitestown, his lady & a widow lady who was with them. We had the addition to our party of a gentleman from Lee. Reached Albany just before dark & found much pleasanter than I expected.

Stopped at Bement's in State Street. I supposed it the Temperance house and remarked upon the quiet & order of the house & the white faces of the servants, regulated our watches by what we supposed temperance time & after all this, father informed us that this was not the temperance house. Went upon the capitol before breakfast, and walked about the streets till 11 when we left for Schenectady on the railroad. There were 7 cars attached together. We went 7 miles in 15 minutes. Mr. Hurlbut of Winsted was in the same car with us. We were introduced to a Mr. Slater of Rhode Island. Reached Schenectady at 12 & such a scene of confusion I never before witnessed. "Shall I put your baggage aboard such and such a boat & will you stop at such and such a house?" was heard from all quarters. We went on board the packet *U.S. Capt. Cook* for Utica with 28 passengers. Mr. Hurlbut and Mr. Slater were on board the same boat. A Mr. & Mrs. Raymond from N. York, who were just married. He was 64 years old, & she 26 years younger. Loving enough.

Passed the day very pleasantly indeed, but the nights I should have preferred to spend somewhere else. Had a very severe thunderstorm & just before morning ran against another boat, which made all spring from their births. It broke all the decanters in the bar & sprinkled their contents profusely upon the gentlemen. Passed Little Falls on the Mohawk in the night. Reached Utica at 11 and took the stage immediately for Syracuse. Mr. Hurlbut and Mr. & Mrs. Elliot were in the same stage together with a Mr. Seaberry & his son from Rhode Island who were on board the same packet & were going

to the falls. The younger Mr. Seaberry is a clergyman in New Bedford & was traveling for his health. Passed through New Hartford and saw Hamilton College, then on to Vernon where we dined. Both much larger and pleasanter places than I supposed. Left Mr. Hurlbut at Vernon.

Passing through Vernon saw some Indians with a cart and oxen before us. The driver tried to pass them, but their oxen traveled so fast that he found it impossible and they took 2 or 3 miles before us. [There is an asterisk here with a note "not stretched more than 2 miles."] Passed through Indian village where we saw many of the natives wrapped in their blankets. Lenox Hill, Chittenango to Syracuse, which we reached about dark. Stopped at a public house on the banks of the canal. Left at 5 in the morning for Canandaigua. After climbing a hill longer than any in Litchfield County, we reached a village on its summit called Onondaga Hill very appropriately named.

Passed through Onondaga Hollow to Marcellus, a very pretty village situated at the foot of a high hill, where we breakfasted. Broke down our stage just as we entered Skaneateles, and rode through the streets in constant fear of being upset. Walked about the village while the carriage was repairing. It is most delightfully situated on a lake of the same name, and is much the pleasantest place through which we have passed. The waters of the lake are perfectly clear & the shores are beautiful.

We had in the stage in addition to our former company a Mr. Millard, a Christian minister in Bloomfield who was much given to disputation & we heard nothing through the day but disputes upon temperance & religion. Went from Skaneateles to Auburn where we only stopped long enough to exchange carriages. Passed through Cayuga & crossed Cayuga Lake on a bridge one and one-half miles long to Seneca Falls, where we dined. It was the most miserable meal we had eaten since we left home. They had brandy upon the table, which was the first time we had seen it. We have parted with Mr. Seaberry & son not expecting to see them again as they intended going a different route to the falls.

Next passed through Waterloo. Mr. Williams has a very pleasant situation here. Saw some Indians by the side of the road wrapped in their blankets & fast asleep. Rode for some distance on the banks of Seneca Lake with the village of Geneva in view. Geneva is most delightfully situated on its banks. A hill rises directly from the shores of the lake on which part of the village is built. Rode into Canandaigua on the outside of the stage where I had a fine view of the lake and surrounding country.

Reached Canandaigua just at sundown. Stopped at a public house very pleasantly situated with a large green in front. Had been there but a short time when Mr. Seaberry junior arrived from Seneca Falls. His father found it necessary when he reached there to return immediately home & he came on to go to the Falls with us.

Sabbath, June 16. Attended the Rev. Mr. Eddy's church in Canandaigua. He preached in the morning and explained his text, and showed that Christians were not exempt from trials, and in the afternoon that the trials of Christians increased honor and glory. Just at night walked about the village. The principal street is perfectly straight & more than a mile in length & on each side of it are very handsome dwelling houses with beautiful yards and gardens.

Madam Beron, a celebrated Italian singer, was at the same house with us & roomed opposite. She had two beautiful white lap dogs, which took most of her time to keep in order.

Monday, 17. Left at 6 in the morning for Rochester. A delightful morning, but cold for the middle of June. There was in the stage a Mr. & Mrs. Palmer & two sisters from N. York & Mr. Smith & lady who reside at St. Johns in New Brunswick – natives of England. Mr. Smith looked as if he had fed on roast beef & drank brandy all his days. He was, however, a very intelligent man. Most of our company was rather mute.

Passed through Bloomfield, Victor and Pittsford to Rochester, which we reached at noon. Stopped at the Rochester House, which is also a temperance house. After dinner, visited the Falls. Wandered about the streets two or three hours. The streets where the business is done are most of them very dirty & I should think it a fit place for the cholera to rage. Called at Mrs. Bissels and saw Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Whittelsey. After tea, Mr. & Mrs. Whittelsey called and invited us to ride. Met at the breakfast table a Mrs. Bascom, an old school mate, who was going to Illinois.

Father left us the day we reached Rochester under Mr. Seaberry's care and went on several miles to attend to some business. Mr. Seaberry was very polite & we felt quite obliged to him.

Tuesday morning. Left at 8 for Lewiston 80 or 90 miles. We were obliged to send on an extra [stage] in which our New Yorkers took passage while we went in the regular carriage. Had a gentleman, Mr. Schwart, & two ladies from Canada in the stage. One of the ladies was the most comical figure I ever beheld. She was about the common height, but so slim that you almost needed a magnifying glass to see her. A broomstick arranged in clothing would have much resembled her. We had also a captain of a canal boat & his wife part of the way. Found father waiting for us at Clarkson. Saw Brockport, a village on the canal, at a distance. Dined at a small village called Gains. Had for dinner all that we usually find on the breakfast, dinner and supper table. For the second time had brandy on the table.

The country through which we passed during the afternoon looked as if it were but recently settled, the houses were most of them built of logs. At one public house saw about 20 rabbits in one pen. Just before entering Lockport, passed over a horrible road just broad enough to admit the carriage between the stumps.

The locks at Lockport were the greatest curiosity we had seen. The double row of locks using one above another with their gates painted white make a very neat and handsome appearance. A boat was passing through when we were there. The canal for three miles above is cut through the solid rock. There is a large and flourishing village on the canal. After walking an hour, returned to the public house where we found a most excellent supper waiting for us which our walk had well prepared us to relish. Left just at dark for Lewiston. Our Canadians remained at Lockport over the night. Traveled over a miserable road for several miles and were in constant fear of overturning. Did not reach Lewiston til one o'clock & were rejoiced to find a fine room & good beds. From the parlor windows had a fine view of Brock's monument. [British Commander of Canada, War of 1812, died near here.] Saw several Indians in the streets with large bundles suspended from their necks. Left Lewiston for the falls immediately after breakfast.

Four gentlemen besides our own party in the stage – a Mr. Northall, an elderly gentleman, native of England, two young gentlemen, one an Englishman, the other Irish and an American who had traveled in England. Mr. Northall, who had been in this country 2 years and had taught school in Brooklyn, was now on his way to Pittsburgh where he intends to establish a school. He is a very intelligent gentlemanly man. The

other Englishman has been in this country for some time, but the Irishman was viewing the wonders for the first time. We stopped at a place called Devil's Hole where we had a distant view of the falls and saw the water after it had taken its mighty leap. We reached the falls in time to go upon Goat Island before dinner. Went upon the bridge that extends over the Berrapin Rocks to the brink of the precipice and looked upon the waters beneath us. All the ideas I had ever formed of the Falls of Niagara were fully realized.

Left at four for Buffalo and reached there at dark. Rode on the banks of the Niagara River and passed Grand Isle, and at Tonawanda came again upon the canal. Passed through Black Rock to Buffalo. We parted with Mr. Seaberry at the falls. Our English and Irish gentlemen went on to Buffalo with us. Stopped at the Eagle Tavern in Buffalo. There found Mr. & Mrs. Borland with whom we had parted at Utica. Found they were to go out in the boat with us.

Thursday, 20. After breakfast called on Mrs. Dart. Found Eliza with her. We were very glad indeed to see them, it reminds me of days of auld lang syne.

Buffalo is a larger place than I supposed. 'Tis passing strange, 'tis wonderful to find such places as Buffalo and Rochester in the midst of stumps & woods. At one moment in the midst of a forest far as you would suppose from the abodes of men, the next an almost city bursts upon the view and you find yourself surrounded by thousands of your fellow beings all actively engaged in the pursuits of life. Saw many Indians about the streets. Left Buffalo at 8 in the *Henry Clay*, with Captain Norton. It commenced raining soon after we sailed and continued some hours when it again cleared & we had delightful weather. Had a fine company & everything pleasant except an exceedingly cross, disobliging chambermaid. I never met a person so perfectly destitute of the "milk of human kindness."

The cabins of steam and canal boats are miserable places at night & a person needs nerves of iron or a large pile of opium in order to sleep. I had a settee & succeeded in passing the night totally, but Delia's berth was so warm that she could not occupy it & she was obliged to lie upon the floor with a chair for a pillow.

There were many Swiss on deck & in the evening we went up and heard them sing. The Englishman, Mr. Northall, came with us as far as Erie, where he landed. Had just time to eat our breakfast before the boat stopped at Fairport, where we landed. We found Timothy had been here a few days before, expecting to meet us. A carriage carried us to Painsville, where we stopped a short time. [They are now about 35 miles northeast of Cleveland, in the section populated by Connecticut pioneers.]

Saw Esq. Matthews, Mr. Bronson & Mrs. Lawrence of [illegible - begins with Cami - -] who was just starting for home. On our way to Concord, called a moment to see Abigail. Found Timothy & Nelson well and very glad to see us. Concord is pleasanter than we expected.

Saturday slept most of the day.

Sunday went to Painsville & heard Mr. Stafford of Youngstown preach. Hardly ever saw as small a congregation. At noon, went to the Matthews & had some most excellent cherry pie.

Monday. Mrs. Matthews and Mr. Hitchcock called.

Tuesday. Ironed & slept.

Wednesday, 26 June. In the morning, M. Higley, Delia, Susan, Timothy and myself went to the mountain house, 5 miles distant over an Ohio road, the mud some of

the way was above the hubs of the back wheels. Ascended an almost perpendicular hill & came to a handsome house which was the place of our destination & found ourselves well repaid for all our trouble by the fine view which we had of the lake & the curiosities around us. The lake is distant several miles, but with the aid of the glass, could very distantly see the vessels & the waves of the water. The house stands upon sandstone rocks that are filled with pebbles, which give them a singular and beautiful appearance. There are many caverns in the rocks, some of which contained ice. Reached home at noon, and in the afternoon went to Mrs. Matthews to tea. Saw Mrs. Bronson there & heard a great deal of conversation about plants.

Sabbath. Spent part of the day at the schoolhouse & heard Mr. Broughton preach.

Tuesday, July 2. Pa returned from Medina County. He saw Black Hawk at Chaglin. Abigail called just at night and invited us to spend the next day with her.

Wednesday. Went to Dr. (?) where we staid til Thursday morning. Spent the day very pleasantly. Went to ride in the afternoon and called at Mr. Bronson's and after tea, walked upon the banks of the river. Mr. Day called in the evening.

Thursday, July 4. Took the stage for Austinburg. Ten passengers. Passed through to Unionville where we engaged another stage to carry us to Austinburg. The boys at Unionville were celebrating Independence with a military parade. They had caps made of paper and other things to correspond. Saw a young deer going from Unionville to Austinburg. Found when we reached Austinburg that most of the inhabitants had gone to Jefferson to attend a temperance meeting. Called at Mrs. Howells. Mrs. Welch called at the public house & invited us to her father's where we were introduced to Austins without number. Spent the night there & in the morning Mr. Austin called and invited us there. Attended a party at Dr. Hawley's in the afternoon. Saw Mrs. A. Austin & Mrs. Smith. Abolition & colonization were the principal topics of conversation. Returned to Mr. J. Austin's and spent the night.

Saturday, 6 July. Left Austinburg [The name has been changed to Austintown.] in the stage for Youngstown. Father remained in Austinburg. We enjoyed our visit there much & felt extremely obliged to our friends for this hospitality & kindness. Found two passengers in the stage – an Englishman & a “York Stater”. Passed through Morgan to Warren, which we reached about 6 and found it a larger & pleasanter place than we supposed. We rode most of the day in the woods & most of the houses were of logs. At one log house we saw a beautiful little fawn playing with the children. Found when we reached Warren that the Youngstown stage had left & were told that we should find it impossible to get anyone to carry us to Youngstown that night. After much difficulty, succeeded in getting a man with a poor, miserable horse & wagon to correspond. Our horse could but just drag us over the ground & we felt not the least inclination to run opposition to a railroad car. The road was miserable; bridges gone and added to our other fears was that of being caught in a shower. We however reached Youngstown about ten without getting wet or having our necks broken & felt that we had much reason to be thankful that we had not met with any accident. Spent the night in a public house and slept in a room about 8 feet across.

Sabbath morn. Went to Edwards' & were glad to find ourselves once more among friends. Attended church in the morning and heard Mr. Stafford preach. The church is a new and very neat building. The warmest day we have had since we left home.

Monday. Another warm day. Dr. & Mrs. Cook took tea at Edwards'. They were very pleasant and sociable & I liked them much.

Tues. Morning. Went to the store – in the afternoon took tea with Mrs. Cook. After tea went to walk. Saw the first frame house built upon the reserve. Returned and put things in readiness for leaving at an early hour in the morning. Awoke at one and thought it morning and commenced dressing me when I found my mistake; went to bed again and lay til three when I arose and waited til five for the stage. Left Delia at Youngstown where she is to remain til Monday and I left alone much to my sorrow. The road from Youngstown to Warren was very muddy. One old gentleman in the stage as far as Warren. Staid in Warren long enough for breakfast. Four passengers from there. A Mr. Burt of Parkman, and a red-haired gentleman going to Boston and two sons of Gen. Perkins, members of Burton Academy. Fine looking and very interesting boys. Passed through Farmington, a small village where there is an academy taught by Rev. Mr. Miller. From there to Parkman, where Mr. Burt stopped and another gentleman took the stage. Came next to Burton, a small and rather unpleasant village situated on the summit of a high hill. They have from 20 – 30 scholars in the academy, which is taught by Mr. Hitchcock. From here had but one passenger in the stage beside myself.

Passed through to Chardon, where we staid 2 or 3 hours waiting for the Ravenna stage. Saw a Mrs. Skinner and her two daughters. She was the most impudent, disagreeable woman I ever met. Going from Chardon to Concord, we passed a log tavern, the first one I had seen. I never rode when the roads were so dusty. We reached Concord at sundown. M. Higley & Miss. Williams of Painesville called soon after my return.

Thursday, July 11, 1850. Awoke without having been disturbed through the night by either mice or witches & without having suffered from fear as I expected to without Delia for a guard. In the afternoon was invited to meet Mrs. Lawrence & Mrs. Dr. Matthews. Spent the afternoon very pleasantly.

Friday. M. Higley spent the morning here. I denied myself my customary nap after dinner & sewed very steadily all the afternoon. Just at night Timothy brought me a long letter from home, which I was rejoiced to receive. Had a mouse for a bedfellow part of the night.

Saturday. I was awakened by thunder at an earlier hour than usual. I hoped we should have a shower, but was disappointed. Had an extremely warm day. In the evening much thunder & lightning & high wind. Slept on the parlor floor.

Sabbath. I was prevented from attending meeting by the rain in the morning. In the afternoon went and heard Mr. Broughton preach from 119 psalm 132 & 33 verses. After meeting, went to singing school at the boarding house. Only one female singer, a Mrs. Stickney.

Monday, July 15. Fine, cool day. Mrs. Lawrence & Mrs. Matthews spent the afternoon here. I expected Father and Delia & had all things in readiness, but have been disappointed, and am now instead of talking with Delia about what has transpired since we parted standing by the bureau in my solitary chamber writing. So closes this day & now to bed.

Tuesday. Father and Delia came just at night reaching here in the midst of a most terrible shower. Found they had decided to start for home Friday. Dr. & Abigail took tea with us Wednesday.

Thursday. Delia and myself drove up to Dr's. and spent the afternoon. Walked to the village and found that the *Pennsylvania* goes tomorrow. Returned after tea and are now seated in our chamber; Delia on the bed curling her hair, I am writing on a very small corner of the stand & the rest of it is covered with every imaginable article consisting of poison from a druggist's shop & finery from a fancy store. Tomorrow we bid farewell to Ohio & we shall do it with much regret. I have passed 4 weeks very pleasantly here & shall leave with a much better opinion of the country than I had when I came into it. I shall never more be surprised that people remove to Ohio.

Friday, July 18. Pa & Timothy went immediately after breakfast to the mountain & Delia & I put things in readiness for our departure. At ten I bid farewell to Concord & went with Dr. Matthews to Painesville where I staid with Abigail til after dinner when Delia & Father came & Timothy carried us to Fairport. Helen and Susan also came as far as Doctor's where we parted with them & with our other friends. The pain we feel at parting with friends almost counterbalances the pleasure we felt at meeting them. Found the boat at the wharf when we reached Fairport and went immediately on board. I introduced us to the captain & to a Mr. & Mrs. Richmond. Found the boat a very good one & Capt. Flareaty a very pleasant man. Had moreover a good-natured cabin-maid. There were two beautiful fawns on the boat.

Saturday. Reached Buffalo at 11 having been but 18 hours crossing the lake. Went immediately to Mr. Pratt's & were very politely received. Staid there til after dinner when we called at Mr. Dart's. Went a-shopping & afterwards returned to Mr. Dart's where we spent the night.

Sabbath, July 20. Attended church & heard Dr. Snodgrass preach two excellent sermons. His text in the morning showed that the practical rejection of the gospel was the greatest of sins. Text in the afternoon: He that converteth a sinner from the error of his ways shall save a soul from death, etc. Left Buffalo at 7 PM in the *Telegraph*. Had three passengers beside ourselves – a Mr. Adams of the firm of Moorehead & Adams, Buffalo office, Mr. Parsons of Ashtabula & a Mr. Bell from the southern part of Ohio. The stage had been robbed twice within a short time & we rode in some fear of loosing our luggage. Had a thundershower in the night. Passed through Batavia, but could not see anything of the town except when it lighteninged. Reached LeRoy just at daylight. A very pleasant village – we saw where Mr. Denison lived. Also saw a circular church, which was built in the days of “Masonry for a Masonic Temple”.

Breakfasted at Avon, went past West and East Bloomfield to Canandaigua. Dined in Geneva, passed through Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Auburn, Elbridge and Camillus to Syracuse where we glad to find an excellent supper. Camillus is situated in a deep valley. Just saw the salt works at Syracuse. After leaving Syracuse, passed Lenox, Vernon, New Hartford to Utica, which we reached at an early hour in the morning. Mr. Bell lost his hat while asleep in the night. Breakfasted in Utica & staid there an hour, which was the longest halt we had made since we left Buffalo. Left Mr. Adams at Utica & had in his place a Col. House of the U.S. Army. The road was intolerably rough & furnished but a miserable conclusion to a ride of 200 miles. Passed through Herkimer and Little Falls, dined at Caughnawanga & reached Schenectady about sundown. We had rode most of the day on the banks of the Mohawk & the scenery was beautiful. The fields of grain “white for the harvest”, contrasted well with the rich dark green of the corn and grass. The boats on the canal passing leisurely along through the beautiful meadows added

much to the scene. Saw the aqueduct over the river at Little Falls, wished much to stop there, but had not time. Found when we reached Schenectady that commencement was next day & we were obliged to go to Albany to get lodgings. Were three hours going on the rail coach from Schenectady to Albany. Went by horsepower & the driver was so careless as to take the wrong rail when we came in contact with another car & were obliged to return 2 or 3 miles. Stopped at Bements in Albany.

Wednesday morning, July 23, 1850. Went on board the steamboat *Novelty*, Capt. Wiswall for New York. Had a most delightful sail down the river. Passed Hudson and Catskill saw the Mountain House at a distance. Poukeepsie, West Point, Sing Sing, etc. Had a Thundershower just as we were passing West Point. Col. House came with us as far as West Point. Had Van Buren, E. Livingston & Washington Irving on board the boat. Reached New York at 6. Went to *The American* in Broadway.

Thursday. Went after dinner to the Battery and Castle Garden. In the evening went with the misses Battele & Hoyt to Niblos Gardens where we heard much music & saw a fine display of fire works.

Friday. Went to the market and Thorburns Gardens, etc. At 4, went on board the *Oliver Ellsworth* for Hartford. Had a view of Brooklyn as we went out of the harbor. Counted 70 sails in sight at a time. Reached Hartford at ten the next morning. Took Skinner's stage immediately & reached home about sundown, having been absent nearly seven weeks.

The End

Twenty-first century comments:

As the party left Colebrook, the stage followed the exact route taken by the captured British troops from Burgoyne's defeated army 73 years previously. The troops, marching on foot took 5 days to travel from Albany to Colebrook, whereas the stage journey took just over 24 hours. The crossing of the Hudson River was accomplished by means of a steam ferry. Robert Fulton's *Clermont*, the first steam-propelled ship on the Hudson, began to ply those waters in 1807. It is obvious by the text of this account that steam power had proliferated in the ensuing 43 years, as it is mentioned at the ferry crossing, both voyages on Lake Erie, the return trip from Albany to New York City, the return trip from New York to Hartford, as well as inferring that the vessels plying the Erie Canal were under steam power by her description of the collision that smashed the decanters at the bar and roused the passengers from their bunks. It doesn't seem likely that a barge drawn by horses or mules would have gotten into such a situation.

The several references to temperance are interesting. The concern with the abuse of alcoholic beverages, probably a minority concern in all societies, began to take on added emphasis in this country in New York State in 1808, when the first such temperance society was founded in Saratoga. One of the early goals of the movement was directed at eliminating public houses (the motels of their day) as well as addressing the question of alcoholic beverages. This is evident in the text, as they chose to patronize temperance houses wherever possible. The reference to "temperance time" intrigues me, as I can find no other reference to the phrase elsewhere. Could it be that they set their clocks and watches a half hour one way or another from conventional time as a symbolic bond between like-minded individuals?

How similar are Miss Rockwell's accounts of Native Americans on the trek through New York and the scenes today in the Southwest. Today, Native Americans in the Northeast dress and act identically as their counterparts in our culture.

Their traverse of the Finger Lake region has several interesting aspects. The regional name is never mentioned; whether or not this has any significance, I don't know, perhaps the name wasn't in common use then. The long hills and deep valleys containing the lakes are the result of the glaciation that moved across this portion of New York in a north-south direction, scraping long gouges in the relatively soft shale that covers the region. The one and one-half mile long bridge over which the stage crossed Lake Cayuga has been replaced by highways that avoid the lake to the north. Those of you who travel Interstate 90 can identify the location as the site of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, where thousands of waterfowl can be seen in the Fall.

When the party passed through Lockport, they were but a few scant miles north of the residence of Enos North, who had departed Colebrook twenty-some odd years previously. Enos' letters described Lockport when it was created by the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

The mention of Brock's monument was interesting, as it would have been an item of some interest at that time, and does not deserve to be forgotten now.

Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812) was the commander of British forces in Upper Canada (Ontario) from 1810 until his death two years later. It was Brock, along with his comrade-in-arms, Chief Tecumseh, who caused the surrender of the American General Wm. Hull at Detroit in August 1812, for which the king knighted him. He was killed at the battle of Queenston Heights on October 13. A monument was erected to him 12 years later, on the anniversary of his death, only to be blown up by a fanatic in 1840, but as a result of a mass meeting of some 8,000 citizens held on the spot, a new and statelier monument was erected.

I don't understand the reference made to Mr. Rockwell meeting with Black Hawk shortly after arriving in Ohio. The historical Black Hawk, a greatly respected warrior of the Sauk and Fox tribes, was an influential factor in the relations between the Native Americans and the colonists in what was then referred to as the Northwest Territories (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin). The problem here is that Black Hawk died in October 1838. Perhaps another, younger Black Hawk existed, but I can't find reference to his having been instrumental in negotiations between the Whites and the Indians.

On the return trip, the reference of the horse drawn rail car is very interesting, as I would have supposed that form of propulsion had ceased years before.

Then at the very end of the narration, when you would suppose there was no room for surprises, she drops a bombshell by calmly mentioning that some of their fellow passengers consisted of ex-president Martin Van Buren and the writer, Washington Irving as well as a Mr. Livingston, unknown to me. Also, the misses Battele and Hoyt represent names associated with Norfolk and Colebrook respectively. Hoyt was probably her cousin.

I will end this saga by symbolically dismounting from Skinner's stage and rejoice in being home in Colebrook.