

Erie, Pa.

Erie, one of the first places of settlement by Europeans on the Lakes, was a well known fort and trading post of the French early in the eighteenth century, and was known as Fort Presque Isle. At that time the French, in their plans of American acquisition or conquest, had established a chain of forts that extended all the way from Montreal, by way of the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, the Niagara River and Lake Erie points, to Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburg, and thence to New Orleans. There were at first two routes from Lake Erie, one by way of Barcelona and Chatauqua Lake to the Allegheny River; the other via Presque Isle and LeBœuf (in Erie County) to the Allegheny River at Venango (now Franklin). The Presque Isle route, being most direct, became the established one and the post in time became important, being the terminus of an excellent military road, extending south to LeBœuf, now Waterford. It was destroyed by Indians during the uprising of Pontiac, rebuilt by the French, captured by the British, and was one of the last posts to be surrendered to the Americans after the close of the Revolutionary war.

Erie was established as a borough of that name about 1795. In 1812-13 there was built at Erie the fleet that afterward, under Com. Oliver H. Perry, was victorious in the battle of Lake Erie. Later years have produced fewer events in connection with this place which have entered into national history, but it has had a steady, healthy, industrial and commercial growth, in that manner contributing its fair share to the upbuilding of the nation of which it is a part.

Erie is beautifully situated upon an elevated sloping plateau that lies, with a bluff bank of sixty feet, along the eastern end of Presque Isle Bay, a sheet

of water four miles long and a mile and a half broad, the bay communicating by an ample channel with the lake outside and forming the harbor of Erie.

It imports large quantities of iron, grain, flour, lumber and copper; exports coal, machinery, manufactured goods and merchandise. The industries of Erie are engine and boiler works—in which particular line it is said to lead the world; paper, woodenware, rubber, church organs, pianos, cars, castings and forgings, electric machinery, pearl buttons, stoves, children's carriages, tools and several other lines.

Erie's streets are wide and regular and well paved, principally with asphalt and brick. It is the site of the Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, upon the grounds of which stands a block house (a restoration of the original defence of its kind) upon the spot where General Anthony Wayne, a Revolutionary hero and famous Indian fighter, died and was buried. It has fine public buildings, schools, hospitals and churches; five lines of steam railroad communication and three electric trolley lines extending into the country. Its present population is 60,000.



Forgot the Exact Words.

A Highland servant was sent with a leg of venison to a lady, with the words—"this is with Mrs. Dunbar's compliments. It is a leg of deer, and if more venison comes from the hills you'll get some." The servant forgot the exact words of the message, but managed to say:—"This is with Mrs. Dunbar's complaints. It is a leg of the deil, and if ony mair vengeance comes from the hill ye'll get it."



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