*DESTNATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*This is dedicated to Bill Kohl Sr. trustee on the Lodi-Harrisville Historical Board. After reading the story of the oldest man in the United States that resided in Lodi he became very passionate that this story be told and this citizen be honored. I certainly agree.*

*Chedorlomer Griffin was born April 22, 1772 in Granby, Connecticut, died September 16, 1787 in Lodi, Ohio. Lomer is buried along with most of this family in the Wooster Street Cemetery. Veteran of the War of 1812. Chedorlomer known as Lomer was married three times, Charity Moore in 1797, Charity Blodgett Lyman in 1831, and in 1844 Jemina Taft. A grand total of 12 children.*

*Records do not have the exact date when he moved into Ohio; it must have been sometime between 1825 and 1828. He settled in Harrisville Twp., about 1 ½ miles from Lodi, where he lived for 10 years, when he later moved into town.*

*Lomer had lost his right arm by a falling branch from a tree he was felling in the woods. But, was known as one of the hardest working men in the neighborhood.*

*Stated in Harper’s Weekly, May 1, 1875 titled OUR OLDEST INHABITANT: The oldest man in the union, in all probability is Mr. Loomer Griffin, of Lodi Medina County, Ohio. It states in spite of this advanced age, he is still hale and intelligent, and well remembers the localities and scene of his early years. He recalls distinctly the departure of his brothers, one younger than himself, for the Revolutionary army, to take part in the great contest for independence and liberty, while he remained behind to assist in taking care of the homestead.*

*Stated in Harper’s Weekly, Mr. Griffin has always taken an active interest in public affairs. Strange to say, he appears to have missed voting for General George Washington, his vote, so far as can be gathered from his own conversation, having been cast for John Adams. Since then he has acted with the Whig and Republican parties. There is nothing peculiar in his personal habits. He has lived plainly, in farmer style; has never used tobacco in any shape; but for about a century was accustomed to take his bitters with –treat regularity, until the “crusaders” induced him to quit the practice. It is said , however, that the old gentlemen’s chief reason for “swearing off “ was the high price of whiskey, and that he intends to resume whenever it come down to the old rates.*

*The article states his wit is quite keen. He rather dislikes to be bothered by inquiries about his age, when questioned by a newspaper interviewer, Loomer testily told the interviewer to “go West and kill grasshoppers.’*

*It states what wonderful changes have taken place over the world in politics, science and the industrial arts since he was old enough to take interest in the progress of public affairs! He has lived through changes we only know from books, and with his eyes has witnessed the growth of America from its colonial states to its present commanding position among the great nations of the world.*

*THE AMERICAN CENTENARIAN, Medina County Gazette, September 20, 1878; the Last Moments of Lomer Griffin, the Oldest Living Inhabitant in the Union-Still Lives, but Unconscious.*

*In view of the momentarily expected demise of Lomer Griffin, the oldest man in America, who has been lying at the point of death at his home in Lodi, in this county, for the last few weeks, we will present our readers with a brief biographical sketch of this remarkable man, who has outlived five generations and attained an age which does not fall to one in millions. The precise age to the subject of this notice has long been a point of dispute, and probably has never been quite satisfactory to all of his friends and more intimate acquaintances. His age at present has been variously placed from 106 to 119 years. After many researches into the old man’s history, we are convinced that the former is probably the correct one, and certainly it is a most astonishing and wonderful age, and almost seems beyond the human possibilities.*

*The Gazette assumed the later age was correct due to obtaining the birth certificate from Litchfield, Litchfield County, Conn.*

*His last breath passed from him on Monday evening, and he died peacefully.*

*I hope to work on a display for our Lodi-Harrisville Museum honoring Chedorlomer Griffin. If anyone knows the home when he resided in Lodi (if still standing) please call the society.*

*We are still encouraging the planting of rhododendrons in our Village. We would like to plant several at Letha House Park/Field. If you would like to donate a rhododendron plant to be planted at Letha House Park please contact me at 330-635-7294.*