

ROCHESTER HISTORY

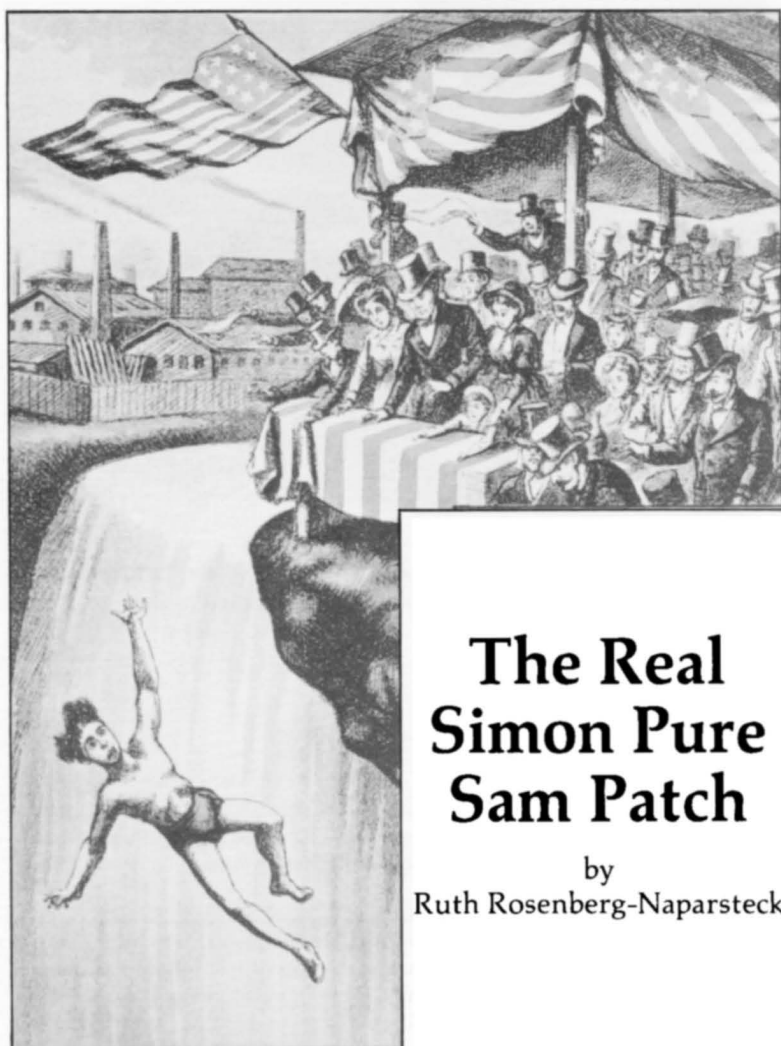
Edited by Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck

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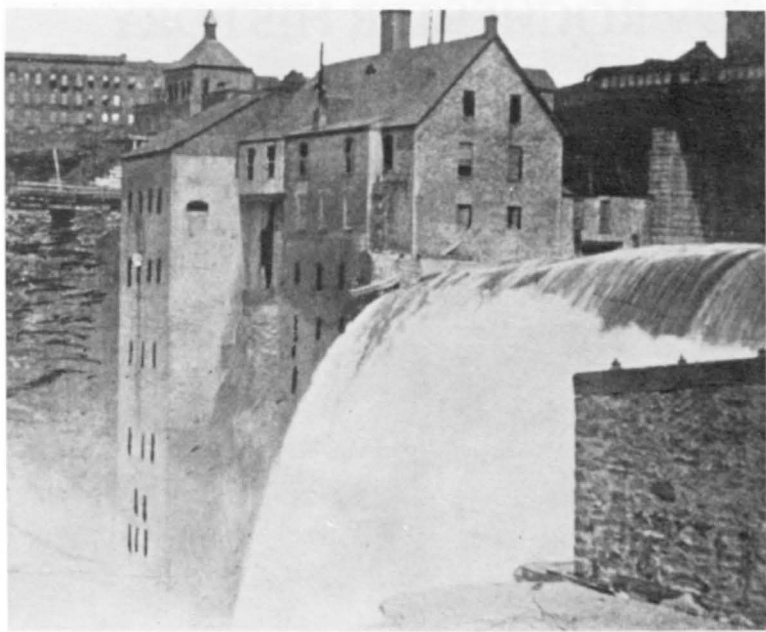
Summer, 1991

No. 3



The Real Simon Pure Sam Patch

by
Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck



Above: An 1880's view of the east bank of the Genesee Falls taken from the ledge from which Sam Patch jumped. Office of the City Historian.

*Cover: Sam Patch jumping over the Genesee Falls in the 1870 book, **The Wonderful Leaps of Sam Patch**, published by McLoughlin Brothers, N.Y., Courtesy of the Rare Books Division, University of Delaware.*

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*Patch thought what would bring him fame was to challenge the mighty Niagara Falls. He leaped twice over the Falls. He was the first to jump and survive. Eyewitnesses proclaimed, "He may challenge the universe for a competitor." From **The Wonderful Leaps of Sam Patch**, Courtesy of the Genesee Country Museum.*

Some Things Can Be Done As Well As Others

Over 160 years ago a young daredevil named Sam Patch made the hearts of thousands pound as they witnessed his "scientifically calculated" jump from Brown's Island at the High Falls of the Genesee. They crowded the banks on both sides of the falls, stood on the roofs of factories and leaned out of windows to get a view of the famous Sam Patch. He had been jumping for three years by the time he made his final leap in Rochester on November 13, 1829. He had even twice jumped over Niagara Falls! It was true "There was no mistake in Sam Patch," the crowd believed.

But just this once, on November 13, 1829, something went wrong. Patch had danced with death once too often. Now he was dead. That was 160 years ago. What is it about Sam Patch that continues to stir our imaginations?

Samuel Patch Pawtuckett Cotton Spinner

Patch was born in Pawtuckett, Rhode Island in 1807 and spent his youth as a cotton spinner there. While still a youth, he moved to Patterson, New Jersey where he started a cotton mill of his own in partnership with an Englishman. However the business failed when Patch's partner left with the funds. According to reminiscences, Patch began to jump for purses of money.

On September 30, 1827, Patch seized the opportunity to jump before a crowd that had gathered to watch Timothy Crane move a large wooden, pre-constructed bridge over the Passaic Falls. Dodging a constable who had forbidden the jump, Patch not only jumped before the cheering crowd, but retrieved a large piece of wood that had drifted as the bridge was being placed.

There was much speculation that he would not jump the eighty foot ledge above where the bridge was to be placed, but on that day the banks near the falls were crowded with onlookers who had gathered to watch the placement of the bridge.

Patch, in this early feat, wore only an undershirt and underwear. William Brown of New Jersey witnessed the jump. He said in 1888 that Patch appeared composed. Brown recalled:

He took a couple of small stones in his hand and went to the brink of the cliff and dropped them off one after the other, and watched where they struck the water down below. Then he walked back a few yards and turned and took a little run to the brink of the cliff and jumped off, clearing the rocks about ten feet. He went down feet first, but with his body inclining considerably to one side; and in this shape he struck the water and disappeared. A few seconds later his head bobbed up at a point down stream, and he began paddling for the shore. The crowd gave him a big cheer.¹

Patch jumped the Passaic Falls at least three times. Before one jump, the *Rochester Daily Advertiser* reported that an advertisement appeared in the *Providence Cadet* for Patch's third jump on July 26, 1828. The *Rochester Daily Advertiser* could find no objection to the jump since Patch had jumped without harm before. But the idea that the jump might create competition and drive others to make the attempt, perhaps unsuccessfully, was haunting. Perhaps, though, the editor thought, the competition would render the

feat common and diminish the supposed danger. The *Advertiser* commented, "It has been a common thing for persons to leap from the top of the large stone six-story factory, below the bridge into the whirling and boiling current eighty feet below, and we have never heard of any accident has yet happened."²

The paper further reasoned that the agitation of the water by the falls accumulated so much air it "rendered it almost impossible for a person to sink any considerable depth . . . the stream becomes nearly as soft as an ocean of feathers."³

Patch had earned a considerable reputation. Articles appeared in numerous newspapers around the country, "Patch the New Jersey Jumper!" In August of 1828 he arranged to jump at Hoboken, New Jersey. At 4 o'clock on August 11, he jumped from a distance of one hundred feet," considerably more than at Passaic Falls and . . . unrelieved by the break of the water which proved an assistance there."⁴

A sloop had been moored not far from shore and Patch climbed to a platform erected at mast head to ninety feet above the water. Five or six hundred people watched from the lawn of Van Buskirk's Hotel and from boats that nearly covered the water. When a large enough crowd had gathered, Patch leaped into the water and as he always had before, rose after a few seconds to hear the roar and cheers of the crowd.⁵

It is doubtful that all of Patch's feats are recorded. What he did over the long Northeastern winters is not certain; but the following season, Patch was anxiously awaited by a country that could not forget his daring.

After two years of jumping ship's masts and yardarms, his daring increased and indeed public pressure to be more daring must have been great. By October of 1829 Patch anxiously accepted an invitation to jump the Niagara Falls, the greatest challenge the country offered.

The Greatest Challenge Niagara Falls

Sam Patch had been jumping about two years by the fall of 1829 when he was invited to exhibit his daring by jumping over the Niagara Falls. This was the greatest challenge Patch had ever accepted. He was to be part of a series of exhibitions organized to

attract business to the Niagara frontier. Local businessmen intended to blast great parts of rock from the face of the falls with gunpowder, send the schooner, *Superior* crashing over the falls and entertain visitors with strolling players.⁶ But Sam Patch, who had by now earned a reputation as a great daredevil, was the main attraction.

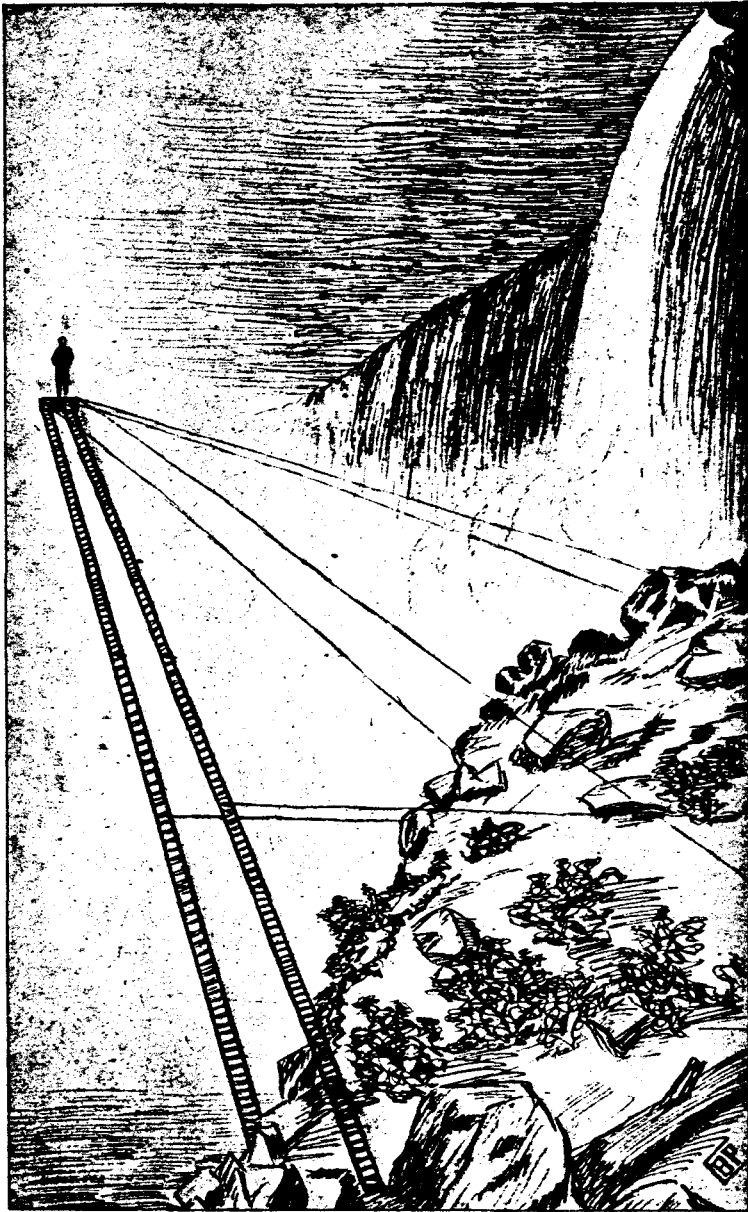
For several days before the show, handbills were posted to announce the coming attractions; Patch's jump, the blasting away of rock and the wreck of the *Superior* promised an exciting show. Men who were on the Niagara frontier on business, extended their stay.

For some reason Patch was delayed and arrived a day late. The crowd had dwindled and had become skeptical of his promise to jump. Col. William Stone, who was present, speculated that it was the largest congregation of American and Canadian citizens since the War of 1812 ended scarcely a decade before. Hundreds of people had gathered on both sides of the falls. Stone observed, "Flags (were) streaming, bearing mottoes full of liberty and patriotism on one side as in the other-just as though King George's subjects were as free as General Jackson's."⁷

The crowds were rewarded for their travel with the sites of great blasts of rock. "Like insects . . . upon the beetling cliffs which they were charging with villainous salt-petre," remarked Col. Stone, "the men setting off the blasts on the cliff walls, clung to the edges, barely visible to those eyeing them with spyglasses. The visitors could see the falls anytime, but seldom would there be such an exhibition as this," wrote Stone.⁸

Unfortunately the Niagara River plunging over a great ledge created such a roar that the great explosions were followed barely by a sound. Stone wrote, "I know not whereunto to liken the sublime effects of these displays, . . . Imagine . . . a volley of popguns interfering with the thunder of Jupiter."⁹

The sovereigns of our country and the subjects of the other "were marvelously delighted,"¹⁰ Stone wrote. Each half hour, beginning at noon, for 1 1/2 hours the crowd was entertained by great blasts of gunpowder. Near the Indian ladder a large rock projecting on the British side was blown away, followed by a blast at the American side of the falls near the end of the bridge between Goat Island and the Canadian shore. A third explosion intended to blast out nearly a quarter of an acre of Table Rock was



Patch leaped from the platform below Goat Island opposite the Cave of the Winds. The upper ends of the two 96-foot ladders converged high above the ladder bases set far apart. Ropes and chains fastened the ladders to the rock ledge. From the **Official Guide—Niagara Falls and River Frontier**, 1901, published just 72 years after Patch's two leaps. Courtesy of the Local History Department, Niagara Falls Public Library.

stopped by the Colonial government who feared the change in water course could flood the capital of York and would drain Welland Canal.

At 3 o'clock the schooner, *Superior*, was scheduled to plunge over the falls. It was an old vessel purchased by businessmen for this purpose. The schooner was set adrift on the river near Goat Island to which it had been towed. It was expected to be caught by the main current and swept toward the Canadian side where it would be carried over the falls. The crowd of hundreds stood along the banks and below the falls at river level.

To those above the falls the ship began to appear, quite small, but visible. As it neared, its two masts became more visible. It moved swiftly, bouncing violently in the rapids. The masts were torn away with a loud crash. Now adrift without direction, it was carried by the current, bouncing over successive rapids. Unexpectedly it was carried too far from shore, became trapped in the whirlpools and struck a rock broadside, where it remained hung up between Goat Island and the shore.

Because Patch was delayed a day, he was to jump the next day over the falls precisely at noon. Many were skeptical when they saw the preparations were incomplete. Patch was the main attraction. But the crowds waited and entertained themselves among the many vendors and watched boxing matches between "his majesty's colored and Killarney subjects."¹¹

Patch was to jump from a 125 foot ladder erected below the cliff near Goat Island. Within an hour of the scheduled jump, a chain securing the ladder to the cliff walls snapped, breaking 15 feet from it. The steady morning rain had already diminished expected crowds and was slowing work on the ladder. Patch was visibly distressed. He was anxious to jump this greatest of all challenges, to build his reputation that he felt was now at stake.

To repair the ladder the jump was rescheduled from noon to four o'clock. People stood in the pouring rain, the crowds growing as the hour approached. Precisely at four, Patch appeared from a cleft in the rock ledge. He was dressed in his usual white costume. As he climbed the ladder the crowd cheered, but it could barely be heard above the roar of the falling water.

Sam joked that he could not jump or he may get wet. He bowed to the crowd, threw a kiss to the ladies, kissed the American flag, and after making a few adjustments and calculations for his jump, he leaped, perfectly erect, arms straight at his sides, toes pointed.

The height of the jump gave the crowd a long moment to fear the awful consequences of his jump. He disappeared into the bubbling whirl of water and many people wondered aloud if he had met the fate of an earlier ill-fated jumper named Morgan.

A boat, kept waiting to pluck Sam out of the water, circled the spot where he disappeared below the water's surface. Sam slipped unseen by the boatmen and crowd and swam to shore. When he was spotted by the onlookers, whose gaze had wandered beyond the water, the crowds swelled with cheers. Sam was the first to leap over Niagara Falls and live. Hundreds went home filled with excitement and wonder that any human could or would challenge the great Niagara Falls. Truly he was the real Simon Pure!

The following week a hanging was scheduled at Niagara. Patch announced that he would jump the following day, taking advantage of the crowds. Because of the small crowd at his previous jump and the small amount of money he had collected, he would be jumping over the falls on the 17th of October at 3 p.m.

The Second Jump

On the way from Buffalo that morning he gave a demonstration of his bravery. From the steamboat on which he rode, the foreyard was raised fifty feet from the water. He leaped into the river and amidst the cheering of the crowd on board, he emerged, unharmed.¹²

Thousands of people had gathered to watch Patch's second leap. Col. William Stone noted that the platform, though over one hundred feet high was only two thirds the height of the bank of Goat Island. The view from above the ladder dwarfed the feat, but Stone said it "made you imagine that it would require super-human powers to accomplish such an enterprise," if you descended to the base of the bank and looked up at the perpendicular ladder."¹³

Patch climbed the ladder to the platform and stood ten minutes basking in the cheers of the crowd. He kissed the flag and leaped like an arrow into the water. "Then it was that a painful and unpleasant, yet indescribable sensation was driven from each breast, by the flood of joy which succeeded, on seeing he was safe."¹⁴

Those who had watched from below rushed to congratulate Patch when he emerged from the water. They clasped the hand of the brave young man as he triumphantly shouted, "There's no mistake in Sam Patch!"

After the second jump over Niagara Falls, the *Buffalo Republican* commented, "The jump of Patch is the greatest feat of the kind ever effected by man. He may now challenge the universe for a competitor." Patch had firmly established himself as America's greatest daredevil. Newspapers all over the country carried stories about Jumping Sam Patch!

Patch was the "Lion of the Day," according to Stone,¹⁵ but he was not without his challengers. W.P. Moore announced in the newspapers of the Niagara, Buffalo area that he would challenge Patch any distance from sixty to 170 feet for a small sum of money. He followed Patch by steamboat to the Niagara River. Patch had launched a succession of daredevils who challenged death and the power of Niagara Falls.

Patch Faces the Challenge of the Genesee River Gorge

To many travelers, the High Falls of the Genesee River was nearly as spectacular as the Niagara Falls. And certainly it must have seemed to the people in this newly settled area that the falls offered a tremendous challenge to a jumper. The mills races and canal that drew water from the river had not diminished the great 97 foot height of the Falls. So there was great interest when Patch turned his attention to the falls in Rochester.

An October 29, 1829 advertisement in the *Rochester Daily Advertiser and Telegraph* proclaimed that "Sam Patch — having returned from jumping over Niagara Falls has determined to convince the citizens of Rochester that he is the real 'Simon Pure' by jumping off the falls in this village, from the rocky point in the middle of the Genesee River into the gulph below, a distance of one hundred feet. . . . Sam assures the world there can be 'no mistake.' He goes the 'whole hog' — and unlike too many politicians of the present day, he 'turns no somersets' in his progress! He goes straight as an arrow!"

Subscription papers were left at various taverns for spectators to make donations (however small the advertisement stated).

Patch had picked up a begging pet bear in Buffalo. It had been

advertised to jump with him in Rochester. On Friday November 6, at 2 p.m. Patch took his position at the falls, standing on the rock ledge in the middle of the river. He took the bear by the collar and pushed it over the Falls into the turbulent water below. The bear struggled safely to shore. Patch leaped after the bear.

Though it was a Friday when many people would be at their benches and counters, the crowds began to gather several hours before Patch's scheduled 2 p.m. jump. Between six and eight thousand people gathered to see him. The *Rochester Daily Advertiser and Telegraph* reported that "the jump was all that could have been anticipated. . . . Thousands witnessed in breathless suspense the perilous feat."¹⁶

Though crowd estimates were so large, Patch supposedly felt there was not enough money raised at the first jump and decided to jump a second time on the following Friday, the 13th of November. Posters advertising "Higher Yet! Sam's last jump," were hung on buildings, in taverns, on fences and in packet boats. Plans were made to build a platform 25 feet over the rock ledge to raise the height of the jump to 125 feet.

The *Rochester Herald* recalled, "The crowd that was to see Patch's death began to gather soon after daylight, November 13, 1829. Excursions were run from lake, canal and stage distances . . . it seemed as if Monroe and Ontario Counties had turned forth their population."¹⁷ Though cold and damp, the roads were crowded with buggies and wagons and horses. Men moved among the crowds gathering coins for Patch's pocket.

At 2 p.m. Patch climbed the pole to the small platform and stood looking over the crowd.¹⁸ His bear was to follow an hour later. He must have swelled with pride to see the thousands rather than hundreds of people who had gathered to see his final jump of the season. Patch turned to his friend, Joseph Cochrane, and took a strong drink to ward off the November cold. He took off his jacket and adjusted his clothing, a loose white top, white pants and a black scarf tied around his waist.

He waved his hand to the crowd and called out:

Napoleon was a great man and a great general. He conquered armies and he conquered nations, but he couldn't jump the Genesee Falls. Wellington was a great man and a great soldier. He conquered armies and he conquered nations and he conquered Napoleon, but he couldn't jump the Genesee Falls. That was left for me to do, and I can do it well.¹⁹

SAM PATCH The HIGH & HANDSOME



By Arna Bonter
And Jack C
Illustrated By

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY BOSTON

The folklore of Sam Patch survived into the 20th century and has in the late 1990s been revived as a passenger boat. Courtesy of the Local History Department of the Niagara Falls Public Library.

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Os been strengthened by books, stories and the naming of a commercial Genesee River
ic Library.

Most of his words were lost in the breeze and mutterings of the crowd. But all knew the motto of the real Sam Patch, "Some things can be done as well as others," and they were about to see that demonstrated.

Standing perfectly erect, he concentrated for a moment, then leaped into the air. Some observers said his body began to tilt to one side. Others said they saw his arms and legs flail as he tried to right himself into his usual posture — hands at his side, toes pointed and body perfectly erect. Rather than cutting through the water like a knife, his body slammed into the river with an audible smack.

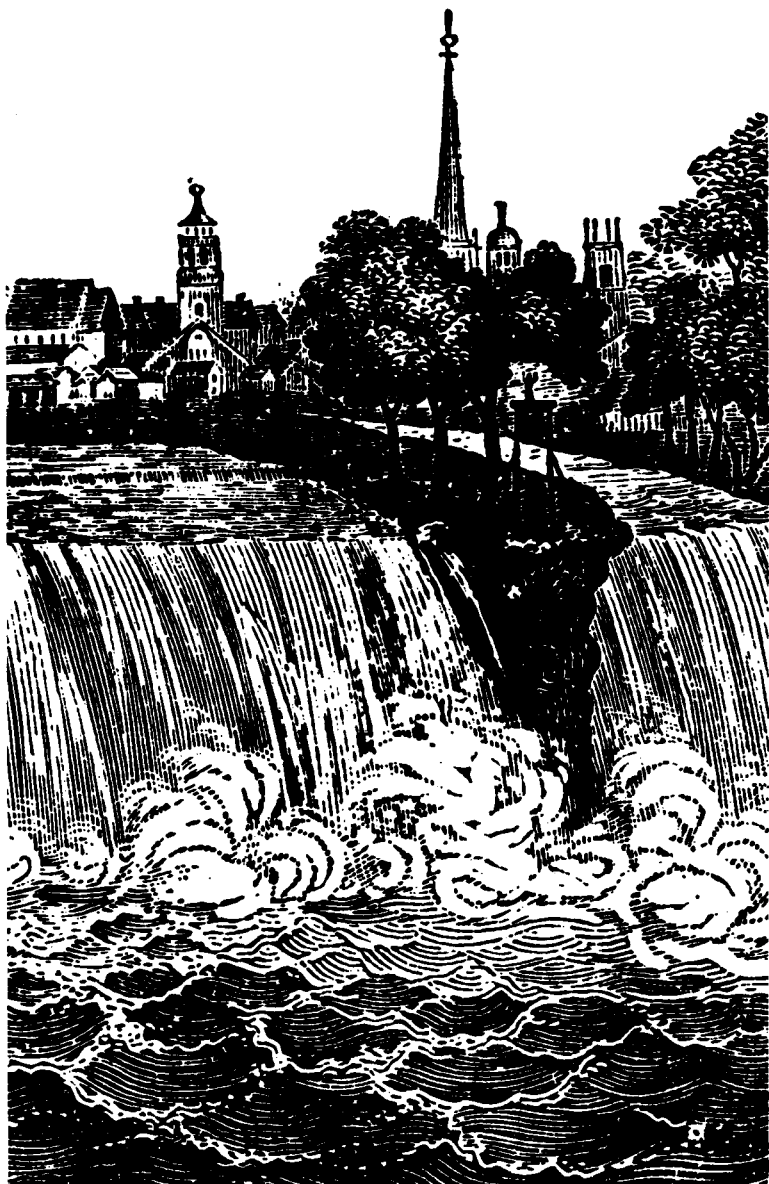
The crowd watched expecting Patch to pop out of the water as he had in the past, but as the seconds passed into minutes, the crowds began to mumble that something had gone wrong. Patch was dead!

All day and into the evening boats moved slowly over the water seeking any sign of Patch. Their lighted torches cast an eery light over the water. Patch was nowhere to be seen. No one knows for certain what became of the bear. Travelers reported seeing it at various taverns, some too late to be within the lifetime of the bear. One account claimed that John Sears, the barber made bear grease hair cream from him.

There was speculation among those in the crowd about what might have happened. The *Gem* supposed, "Patch lost the command of his erect posture that he said was vital to his success." Perhaps it was the strong wind. Perhaps it was alcohol. But, as many ministers charged, it would not have happened if people had not encouraged Patch by their attendance.

The *Anti-Masonic Enquirer* scolded:

It was a daring and useless exposure of human life, which, having resulted disastrously, creates a train of painful reflections. We would not dwell upon this distressing scene, and yet we cannot banish it from our thoughts. We still see the frail mortal, standing, as it proved, upon the brink of eternity! The terrified imagination follows him from the giddy height, through the thin air, into the deep, dark chasm below! — It lingers but a few moments of breathless and agonized suspense! The waters, troubled a moment in swallowing up their victim, are at rest! The expiring bubbles announce that the spirit has departed, leaving the body in the 'dark bosom of the ocean buried.' The multitude shrinks away abashed and rebuked.²⁰



*On his second leap at the Genesee Falls, Patch jumped from a 97-foot platform at Brown's Island on Friday, November 13, 1829. This drawing appeared in **The Ladies Gem & Amulet**, November 13, 1830. Local History Division, Rochester Public Library.*

The *Rochester Observer* echoed the scolding that attendants received from the churches, its severity is verified by recollections of witnesses:

We have all, more or less, been accessory to this awful daring of the providence of God. . . . We are always in his keeping, but are never to dare his power.

This exploit would have been extolled in shouts by the gazing multitude, had he risen in safety from the abyss; but an incensed God had decided otherwise.

. . . All who gave countenance to them, by witnessing or encouraging their exhibition, offend against the majesty of Heaven, and are daring the vengeance of an offended Deity.²¹

The kind of foolish disregard for life and tempting of death exhibited by Patch and encouraged by the crowd was the focus of many revivals that were just beginning to sweep through upstate New York.

Perhaps it was because people were unwilling or unable to accept the burden of guilt upon them that led to the rumors that circulated about Patch's survival. The *Gem* reported that Patch had been "seen" in Pittsford, Canandaigua and other places nearby. The editor wrote, "We are surprised that such stories should gain the least credence, especially among those that witnessed his last jump."²²

Other people believed Patch was in hiding somewhere and would appear as a stunt in a few weeks. Or maybe they wanted to believe this. They were encouraged by jokers, one of whom placed a notice supposedly from Patch saying that he would appear at Acker's Eagle Tavern at noon on the 28th of November.

A man also appeared in Albany claiming that he was Sam Patch and that a straw man had jumped the falls in Rochester. He added that he was half sorry he was not dead after seeing the mournful articles and long faces. "It was a pleasant thing, too, I assure you, to be myself a spectator to my own doings," said the imposter. The *Boston Traveler* recognized the "clever" hoax.²³

The months passed. Poems and brief articles appeared about him throughout the country that winter. The *Gem* reported, "For months after, the superstitious affirmed that often, as at twilight they have been gazing at the dancing waters in the deep abyss, they have seen Sam making merry with the foaming billows, and repeating his fearful fete (sic) to a concourse of sea-gulls and fishes."²⁴

In an earlier article the *Gem* assured people that Patch was too vain not to claim his cheers immediately. There was no chance that he was still alive. "He will not be seen again, unless his ghost, in such a twilight as when I was there, should emerge from the foam, and vanish among the shadows that fall from cliff to cliff."²⁵

Patch's body was found on St. Patrick's Day the next Spring when a hired hand at the Latta House near the mouth of the river, broke the ice to water some horses. He was so alarmed that he ran back to the house and brought back men who placed the body on a sled and dragged it up the street from the river. The body was identified by the coroner as Patch because of the white pants and black scarf remaining around his waist. A detailed description of the condition of the body was printed in the newspaper.²⁶ His body was buried in the northwest corner of the Charlotte Cemetery not far from where it was found. It was later marked by a wooden board that stated simply, "Sam Patch — Such is Fame." This concluded the speculation about the whereabouts of Sam Patch, but it did not end the haunting memory.

One writer said, "Well do I remember the event. We can never forget it. It is written upon our memory with a pen of iron, and in our imagination we often see him hanging in mid-air, casting a reproachful look at those who by their presence, encouraged his fetes (sic) of frenzy."²⁷

Articles continued to appear. Plays were performed, sermons were preached, poems and novels were then and still are being written. Lessons were learned, as the *Gem* pointed out in that gloomy November in 1829: "Sam Patch, who had rashly, but till now uninjured, sported with the law of nature, given us an example that vain and mortal man may not trifle with bounds prescribed by an Omniscient God." At least Patch had not died in vain.

Romantic writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne asked to see the place where Patch jumped almost as soon as he arrived in Rochester. He wrote "Why do we call him a madman or a fool, when he has left his memory around the falls of the Genesee, more permanently than if the letters of his name had been hewn into the forehead of the precipice."²⁸ Others like George Elwood, preferred that Rochester be known for more valuable contributions. He wrote in *Some Earlier Public Amusements of Rochester*:

His (Patch's) name became famous simply because he was the pioneer in that large procession of inspired idiots who have continued bridge-jumping and rapid-shooting, making

parachute descents from lofty balloons and navigating the ocean in dories, ever since. In distant provinces the traveler always finds that Rochester is inseparably associated in the minds of the people, either with the advent of spirit rappings or the fate of Sam Patch.²⁹

For many years the train crossing the NYCRR bridge above the Falls lowed to point out to passengers the place where Sam Patch made his last leap.

Patch's fatal jump so traumatized those who encouraged him by their presence that he was never forgotten, his story passed from generation to generation. No history could be complete without including him.

Despite the controversy that Patch did not fit the criteria for a legitimate piece of folklore, partly because his story, according to one critic, lacked oral transmission, Patch has become a part of the folklore of upstate New York. Herbert Wisbey, Jr. wrote:

The Sam Patch legend lives not because of yellowed newspaper stories or forgotten plays, but because his exploits made good yarns that generations of folk in upstate New York told and retold down through the years. Actual hero or not, Sam Patch is certainly an authentic folk character and probably more of a 'hero' to the 'folk' than to the sophisticates of his own day or today.³⁰

From the day of his death, onlookers were scolded, they passed on the message of such foolish amusement to their children. They could not forget such a traumatic event that became the focus of a fiery revival period. They passed on to their children the warning that "all who give countenance to them (daredevils) by their witnessing or encouraging their exhibition, offend against the majesty of Heaven, and are daring the vengeance of an offended Deity."³¹ No wonder traveling circuses and amusements by-passed Rochester.

As the years passed the responsibility for the foolish jump shifted from those who had encouraged Patch to the good-for-nothing tramp himself; an indication that the guilt was lifting as the generations passed and that noneducational amusement was more acceptable. Fewer facts were known about Patch as time passed. Those with memories passed away and the few who wrote about him differ so greatly in their recollections of his physical description and character as to be useless. But Patch lives on in folklore.

And perhaps the place Sam Patch will occupy in our history is foretold in a poem simply titled "Sam Patch" written in November 1829 by "Ariel" which read in part:

Some ready tongue ever, the tale shall deliver,
And point to the spot where he gasp'd his last breath;
And the cataract pouring a white windy sheet o'er him,
For ages shall tell how it wrapt him in death.³²

Now, last eventful scene, we see
Sam at the Falls of Genesee;
By invitation here he came,
Flushed high with triumph, crowned with fame!
His platform is arrayed in state—
The day is fair—the crowd is great—
The thundering torrent seems to groan
That it must human conqueror own.
The moment comes—the people cheer—
And call for Sam. "Sam Patch is here!"
But why that cloud upon his brow?
Sam never looked so strange as now.
He gazes down with visage pale,
As if he'd pierce the future's veil;
He looks around on earth and sky,
As though he bade the world good-bye
He takes his 'kerchief from his neck,
And barely can emotion check.
"Here, Tom! he said, "you bear on this,
To my poor mother, Sam's last kiss!"
He jumps! He sinks! The waters roar
Above him, and he's seen no more;
And as their breath the people catch,
They sigh, "*Alas! brave, foolish Patch!*"

This text appeared in the original 1870 book "The Wonderful Leaps of Sam Patch", tucked into cut-out of illustration on the cover of this issue of Rochester History.

HIGHER YET! Sam's Last Jump.

"Some things can be done as well as others."

There's no



Mistake in

SAM PATCH.

OF the truth of this he will endeavour to convince the good people of Rochester and its vicinity, next **Friday, Nov. 13, at 2 o'clock P.M.**

Broadsides were posted on canal boats, schooners, stage stops, fences and taverns throughout the Genesee country. Despite the November cold, it appeared that the whole population of town and village turned out to see Patch make what he thought was the last jump of the 1829 season. Courtesy of the Rochester Historical Society.



Patch picked up a pet bear in Buffalo and brought it with him to Rochester. Before his first jump on November 6, Patch threw the bear over the falls and it struggled to safety. The bear was to follow Patch's jump on the 13th, however, Patch never surfaced and no mention is made of the bear. One report says John Sears, the barber, made bear grease from it, some travelers said they saw it in Rochester; but neither the bear's name nor its fate are known.

End Notes

1. **Union & Advertiser**, July 11, 1888.
2. **Rochester Daily Advertiser**, July 26, 1828.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*, August 11, 1828.
5. *Ibid.*, August 12, 1828.
6. The Schooner Michigan had been sent over the falls the year before with its cargo of live animals, much to the delight of the crowd.
7. Stone, Col. William L., "Visit to Niagara in 1829, **Buffalo Historical Society Publications**, Vol. 14, Buffalo, N.Y., 1910.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*, p. 268.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.*, p. 269.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 272.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 249.
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.*, p. 270.
16. **Rochester Daily Advertiser & Telegraph**, November 7, 1829.
17. **Rochester Herald**, November 14, 1909.
18. **Union & Advertiser**, August 17, 1889.
19. *Ibid.*
20. **Anti-Masonic Examiner**, November 17, 1829.
21. **Rochester Observer**, November 20, 1829.
22. **Rochester Gem and Ladies Amulet**, November 28, 1829.
23. **Boston Traveler**, as reprinted in **Rochester Gem and Ladies Amulet**, November 19, 1829.
24. **Rochester Gem and Ladies Amulet**, January 7, 1837.
25. *Ibid.*, December 12, 1835.
26. **Rochester Daily Advertiser & Telegraph**, March 19, 1830.
27. **Rochester Gem and Ladies Amulet**, January 7, 1837.
28. *Ibid.*, December 12, 1835.

29. Elwood, George, *Some Earlier Public Amusements of Rochester*, 1894, pp. 19-21, Rochester Public Library.
30. Wisbey, Herbert, Jr., *New York Folklore*, 1970, pp. 78-80.
31. **Rochester Observer**, November 20. 1829.
32. **Craftsmen**, December 1, 1829, in Samson's Scrap book Vol. 11, p. 216., Rochester Public Library.



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