

**BIOGRAPHIES OF  
FRANCIS LEWIS AND  
MORGAN LEWIS**

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Biographies of Francis Lewis and Morgan Lewis by Julia Delafield

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**JULIA DELAFIELD**

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BIOGRAPHIES

OF

FRANCIS LEWIS

AND

MORGAN LEWIS.

BY THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER,

JULIA DELAFIELD.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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Nor many years hence my children will say, "If mother were here she could settle this question—she must have been acquainted with the hero of this adventure; she would tell us what was the standing of this family when Pearl street was the fashionable quarter." Before I take my departure, I will put them in possession of such of my recollections as may gratify innocent curiosity, and spare them the regret felt by my mother and her family that my grandfather, the late Major-General Lewis, left no manuscripts. He could have given us the reminiscences of his father, Francis Lewis, who, born in the reign of Queen Anne, had taken an active part in the old French war; was a member of the first Congress,

and had had the honor of inscribing his name on the great charter of the nation. A handsome fortune, which he had accumulated by honorable enterprise, was freely spent whenever the interest of the country was suffering in consequence of an empty treasury, and, until age obliged him to retire from active pursuits, his life, as well as his estate, was devoted to the country.

General Morgan Lewis himself had served with distinction through the war of the Revolution, and the war of 1812 and 1814. He had been Chief Justice and Governor of the State of New York; he had filled every office that his fellow-citizens in his native State had it in their power to bestow upon him. He did not refuse when we urged him to write his memoirs, but he always put it off to a more convenient season, which season, of course, never arrived.

Edward Livingston, the great jurist,



when told of the death of one of his contemporaries, observed, with a sigh, "Soon there will be no one left who remembers the old stories and jokes of Clermont." The tenacious memory for which my grandfather, General Lewis, was celebrated, I have, in a measure, inherited, and I can not employ it better than in rescuing from oblivion recollections and narratives which I have heard from his own lips. Even the Clermont anecdotes will, at some future period, have an interest with the public. When we realize, as we are beginning to do, the power and dignity of our Republic, curiosity will be felt in relation to the domestic life and personal habits of the fathers of the country.



FRANCIS LEWIS.