
NOTE.—The publisher has thought that the following brief description and historical memorandums of the county of Monroe and its environs, would not be an unacceptable or unappropriate appendage to the first Directory for the Village of Rochester. To persons at a distance, or to a succeeding generation, circumstances that seem trifling to us, from their familiarity, may acquire a lively interest.

DESCRIPTION AND MEMORANDUMS
 OF THE
COUNTY OF MONROE
 AND ITS ENVIRONS.



THE tract of country now forming the county of Monroe, extends along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, about 21 miles west and 14 miles east of the Genesee river; its breadth southward from the lake being about 22 miles. Its geographical position is, as nearly as it has been yet observed, between lat. $42^{\circ} 51'$ and $43^{\circ} 16'$ N. and between $3^{\circ} 22'$ and $4^{\circ} 03'$ west longitude from New-York.

The face of the country, like that of the neighbouring counties on the lake, presents the general aspect of a level yet somewhat elevated table, sometimes dropping abruptly, and sometimes more gradually subsiding to the level of the lake. To a distant and general view, this level aspect is interrupted by only one narrow ridge, of gravelly consistence, rising in the town of Brighton and running in a northerly and easterly direction, in appearance like an irregular and broken wave, with several pointed summits; yet, on a closer inspection, the surface is considerably diversified.

The shore of the lake is indented with numerous bays and inlets, of which the Irondequoit bay east, and Braddock's bay west of the river, are the most considerable. On the borders of the Irondequoit, and the creek of the same name, which discharges itself there, the surface

presents a most extraordinary and picturesque appearance. It consists of a multitude of conical or irregular mounds of sand and light earth, sometimes insulated and sometimes united, rising to an average height of 200 feet from a perfectly level meadow of the richest alluvial loam.

The rest of the country is diversified with gentle undulations retaining the remnants of their dense forests of beech, maple, and oak, on a deep yellow loam, covered with six to ten inches of black vegetable earth—some light and sandy plains, supporting alternately the oak and pine—a portion of the land called *Oak Openings*, or sparse and scattering oak woods, on a solid calcareous gravel, and sometimes a lighter sand, mixed with clay—occasional patches of black-ash swale and pine swamp—and along the river and creeks, winding flats of the richest vegetable composition.

The subterraneous structure of this region can hardly be considered as yet sufficiently explored, although the deep ravine cut by the Genesee river, from its falls at Rochester to the dropping of the surface near the lake, exposes to view a theatre of regular and beautiful stratification but rarely witnessed, and the late excavation of the Erie canal has afforded an additional key to the unlocking of its mineral treasures. Beginning at the lowest observable stratum, the arrangement seems to be: 1st, Saliferous or salt rock; this has been employed in building the aqueduct at Rochester—2d, Grey band—3d, Ferriferous slate—4th, Ferriferous sand rock;—5th, Calciferous iron ore—6th, Calciferous slate, nearly 100 feet thick; this is the stratum cut into and exposed by the great falls in the village of Rochester—7th, Geodiferous lime rock, or swinestone, about 30 feet thick. The outcropping of this stratum forms what is called the

Mountain Ridge ; in the vicinity of Rochester, and bed of the river above the falls, it presents a dark, approaching to a slate colour, and has a peculiar fetid odour. The 8th, or Corniferous lime rock, overlays the former, and appears in the south part of the county, which, still farther south, is overlaid by bituminous shale and coal.

It is probable that the fetid odour of the lime rocks is derived from their affinity to and cotemporaneous formation with the superincumbent bituminous strata. In the two last mentioned lime formations, sulphates of zinc, barytes and strontian, with sulphate of lime in the variety of snowy gypsum, as also fluuate of lime, have been found. There are inexhaustible quarries of plaster of Paris in the town of Wheatland. The only metallick ore which has yet been found in quantity, is that of iron, of which a very productive variety, the bog ore, occurs in Penfield. Those presenting themselves in the banks of the river have not been well examined.

The agricultural character of the soil of this district of country is that of the utmost fertility—the alluvion of the fetid lime stone which forms its base, being peculiarly adapted to the continued production of superiour wheat. Perhaps, also, the moistness of the climate, from its vicinity to the great lakes, contributes to this effect. It is said that a chymical analysis of Genesee wheat, shows it to contain more saccharine matter than that of the southern states, while the latter combines with a larger portion of water in the composition of bread. This may serve to explain why southern flour is more agreeable to the *baker*, but Genesee to the *eater*, when they come into competition in our cities.

The Genesee River, the principal natural feature in this district, belongs to the eleventh class in Woodbridge's arrangement of comparative magnitudes. It rises on the *Grand Plateau*, or great Table-land of Western Pennsylvania, interlocking with the head waters of the Allegany and Susquehannah rivers, around which a tract of six miles square might be so located as to embrace their several waters which flow into the Atlantick ocean, through the bays of St. Lawrence, Mexico and Chesapeake, and probably elevated 1600 or 1700 feet above the tide waters of the Atlantick.*

It runs, from its source, about north 10° east, to Lake Ontario, about 150 miles—and about 125 miles in the state of New-York—through the counties of Allegany, Livingston and Monroe, touching the southeast corner of Genesee. After crossing the Pennsylvania line into this state, it runs N. N. W. about 40 miles, to the Canaëda Reservation, where it turns and runs N. N. E. or N. 25° E. in nearly a uniform line as to its general course, but with numerous small curves and windings, embracing large tracts of rich alluvial soil. It receives the Canascraga creek, and Conesus and Hemlock outlets, on the east, and the outlet of Silver Lake and Allen's and Black creeks, on the west, beside many smaller streams. A few miles above the Gardeau Reservation, it has two falls, near together—one of 60, the other of 90 feet. From the Reservation, it is navigable for boats to the head of the rapids, near Rochester—90 miles by water and 50 by land—and from thence by the feeder two miles into the Erie canal at Rochester. The third fall of twelve feet, is immediately above the canal aqueduct: the fourth is the great fall of 97 feet, about 80

* This is a region of bituminous coal, of good quality, supposed to be abundant in quantity.

rods below the aqueduct. From thence there are considerable rapids, to Carthage, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, where the fifth fall, of 20 feet, occurs; and twenty rods below, is the lower fall, of 105 feet. Half a mile below this fall, the river comes to the level of the lake, and affords sloop navigation, from Carthage and Hanford's Landing, four miles, to its mouth.

This forms the Port of Genesee, which has a safe and convenient harbour of 20 feet water within, and from seven to eight feet on the bar, which lies half a mile in the lake. The whole fall in the river, from the head of the rapids, passing through the village of Rochester, to the lower falls, is estimated at 226 feet in the distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; in which the waters of the river can be used four or five times over, for hydraulic purposes.

The word *Genesee* is formed from the Indian name for *Pleasant Valley*, which is very descriptive of the river; its banks, the alluvial flats, and the surrounding uplands, from ten to twenty miles on either side of it, being equal to the lands of any other country of the same latitude. The Genesee flats in particular, to which probably the Indian appellation referred, must strike every eye as peculiarly worthy of the name. These are either natural prairies or Indian clearings, (of which, however, the Indians have no traditions,) and lying to an extent of many thousand acres, between the villages of Geneseo, Moscow and Mount Morris, which now crown the opposite declivities of their surrounding uplands, and contrasting their smooth verdure with the shaggy hills that bound the horizon, and their occasional clumps of spreading trees, with the tall and naked relicks of the forest, nothing can strike with a more agreeable sensation than the eye long accustomed to the in-

interrupted prospects of a level and wooded country. Had the Indians, who first gave this name to the valley, witnessed the flocks and herds that now enliven its landscape, and the busy towns, with spires overlooking it from the neighbouring hills, the boats transporting its superabundant wealth down its winding stream, and the scenes of intellectual and moral felicity to which it contributes in the homes of its present enlightened occupants ; and had they been able to appreciate this, they would have contrived the longest superlative which their language could furnish, to give it a name.

About forty years ago, the tract of country of which the county of Monroe forms a part, was only known as the hunting ground of such remnants of the *Six Nations* as survived the chastisement of Sullivan, and the still more destructive influence of frontier civilization. And many a veteran warrior is still alive, on the neighbouring reservations of Caneadea, Squakey-Hill, Canawagus, Seneca, Tonewanda, and Tuscarora, to entertain his degenerate sons with the exploits of his meridian vigour, when not a white man's axe had been lifted in all these forests.

The pre-emptive title, however, to this territory was claimed by the state of Massachusetts, under its colonial charter, which contemplated the whole region between its north and south boundaries, from the Atlantick to the Pacifick ocean. The charter of the state of New-York interfered with this claim, and after various unsuccessful attempts to adjust their differences, under the Congress of the old confederation, they were at last happily settled by mutual commissioners, who met at Hartford, on the 16th day of December, 1786. According to this settlement, Massachusetts ceded to New-York the sovereignty and jurisdiction of all the

territory claimed by the former within the limits of the latter, and New-York ceded to Massachusetts the property of the soil ; or, in the words of the settlement, “ the right of pre-emption of the soil from the native Indians,” —“ to all the lands now in the state lying west of a line running due north from the 82d mile stone, on the north boundary of Pennsylvania, to the British possessions in Canada, excepting a tract of one mile in width along the Niagara river.”

This line commences in the 42d degree of north latitude, 82 miles west of the northeast corner of the state of Pennsylvania, and is called the *Pre-emption Line*. It runs through the middle of the Seneca lake, at its north end, and about one mile east of Geneva, and also through Sodus bay. Dr. Spafford, in his Gazetteer, says, it proves to be the meridian of the city of Washington.*

In 1787, Massachusetts sold this tract, containing six millions of acres, to Messrs. Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, for one million of dollars ; or, for three notes of £100,000 each, New-England currency, payable in *consolidated securities* at par.

In the following spring, Oliver Phelps, living at Granville, Massachusetts, prepared himself with men and means to explore the country, and with great resolution and intrepidity took leave of his family, his neighbours, and the minister of the parish, who had assembled on the occasion, *all in tears*, and started on his expedition ; they bidding him a final adieu, scarcely hoping ever to

* It is also the west boundary line of the *New-York Military Lands*, which contain twenty-eight townships, each ten miles square—that proud and splendid monument of the gratitude of New-York to her Revolutionary heroes—she gave 550 acres of good land to every soldier !!!

see him return again from an Indian country hardly yet pacified !

He persevered, and penetrated the wilderness, from the German flats, in Herkimer, to Canandaigua,* a distance of 128 miles by the present improved road—sent out runners, and collected the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations, and in July, 1788, with the aid of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland, as State Commissioner, and Indian Missionary, concluded a treaty and purchase of a tract containing about $2\frac{1}{4}$ million of acres ; bounded east by the pre-emption line, west by a meridional line, running from a point in the north line of Pennsylvania, 42 miles west of the 82d mile stone, to an *elm tree*, in the forks of the Genesee and Canascraga ; thence down the Genesee, as it meanders, to a point two miles north of the Canawagus village, [now near Avon bridge,] thence due west twelve miles, [$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the village of Le Roy,] thence northerly, parallel to the general course of the Genesee river, [N. 24° E.] to Lake Ontario—which course forms the east line of the Triangle Tract, so called, and is about 24 miles long.

The reason of this remarkable offset of twelve miles to the westward, may not be unworthy of notice, as illustrative of the change in the value of landed property which has taken place since that time. Mr. Phelps proposed the erection of mills at the falls of the river, now at Rochester, and wished for a competent space around them for a *mill-yard*. To this the Indians assented, and gave him the aforesaid offset, being a space of 12 miles by 24, for that purpose.

After a mill had been erected by a Mr. Allen, and the Indians came to see it, and the quantity of ground requisite for a *mill-yard*, they uttered their interjection

* Meaning a chosen place, in the Indian language.

of surprise, *quoah!* and added, KAUSKONCHICOS! (signifying, in the Seneca language, *waterfall*,) and this ever after became the Indian name for Mr. Phelps.

The kindness, however, and good faith with which Mr. Phelps, like the celebrated William Penn, always conducted his intercourse with the Indians, did not fail to secure their confidence and affection; in token of which, they adopted both him and his son, Oliver L. Phelps, as honorary members of their national councils.

The leading chiefs and warriors concerned in these negotiations, were *Farmer's Brother*, the grand sachem, and who, for his political wisdom, might be called the George Clinton of the Six Nations—and *Red Jacket*, the celebrated orator, who is still alive.

After the treaty, Mr. Phelps surveyed the land into tracts, denominated *Ranges*, running north and south, and subdivided the ranges into tracts of six miles square, denominated *Townships*, and designated each by numbers, beginning to number both ranges and townships at the 82d mile stone, in the southeast corner of the tract, [now the southeast corner of Steuben county,] numbering the townships northwardly to the lake, from 1 to 14—and the ranges westwardly, from 1 to 7. Thus, Bath is designated as township No. 4, in the 3d range; Canandaigua as township No. 10, in the 3d range; Pittsford as No. 12, in the 5th range; and Brighton as No. 13, in the 7th range of townships, in Gorham & Phelps' purchase.

As the Genesee river runs about 24° east of north, below Avon, and Mr. Phelps continued his 7th range of townships to the lake, the 5th range was left to contain but twelve, and the 6th range but ten townships—and in order to square the tract lying west of Genesee river, he set off two townships near the lake, which he called

the *Short Range*, now comprising the towns of Gates and Greece; and the present towns of Caledonia, Wheatland, Chili, Riga, Ogden, and Parma, being then four townships, he called the first range of townships *west of Genesee river*, in Gorham & Phelps' purchase.

This tract formed the counties of Ontario and Steuben for many years, until 1821, when Monroe and Livingston counties were formed, except that part of it lying west of the river, which was annexed to the county of Genesee at its organization in 1802, and the south part of the 7th range set off from Steuben to Allegany.

In 1789, Oliver Phelps opened a land office in Canandaigua—this was the first land office in America for the sale of her forest lands to settlers. And the system which he adopted for the survey of his lands by *townships* and *ranges*, became a model for the manner of surveying all the new lands in the United States; and the method of making his retail sales to settlers by *Articles*, has also been adopted by all the other land offices of individual proprietorships that have followed after him.

The *Article* was a new device, of American origin, unknown in the English system of conveyancing; granting the possession, but not the fee of the land; facilitating the frequent changes among new settlers, enabling them to sell out their improvements and transfer their possession by assignment, and securing the reversion of the possession to the proprietor, where they abandoned the premises. His land sales were allodial; and the other land offices following his example, have rendered the Genesee farmers all fee simple land holders, which has increased the value of the soil and the enterprize of the people.

Oliver Phelps may be considered the *Cecrops* of the Genesee country. Its inhabitants owe a mausoleum to

his memory, in gratitude for his having pioneered for them, the wilderness of this CANAAN of the west.

Gorham and Phelps sold out about one third of this tract by townships and parts of townships, to companies and individuals, to settlers and speculators, who invited an emigration into the country that soon formed the new county of Ontario, (taken from Montgomery,) which, by the U. S. census of 1790, contained a population of 1075.

On the 8th of November, 1790, they sold nearly all the residue to Robert Morris, containing 1,264,000 acres, for eight pence lawful money per acre—who sold the same to Sir William Pulteney, for the sale of which the latter opened a land office at Geneva, and also at Bath, under the agency of Charles Williamson.

Gorham and Phelps, not being able to pay the whole purchase money, compromised, and surrendered to Massachusetts that part of the land to which the Indian title remained unextinguished, being about two-thirds of the western part of it; in consideration of which, the state cancelled two of their notes.

In 1796, Robert Morris purchased the aforesaid land of Massachusetts—extinguished the Indian title—sold out several tracts of fifty and one hundred thousand acres off the east side of the tract, and along the Genesee river; and mortgaged the residue to Wilhelm Wilink and others, of Amsterdam, called the Holland Land Company, under which the company afterward acquired the title; surveyed it, and in 1801, opened a land office at Batavia, under the agency of Joseph Ellicott, for the sale thereof.*

* It would be a good measure of publick economy, to get the early and leading titles to the lands in the Genesee country, collated and authenticated by an act of the legislature, to be used in our courts of record, in evidence on litigated titles; ions of them for

The early settlements of the country were mostly made in the vicinity of the Buffalo road, as the leading avenue through it. The earliest settlements in the territory, now the county of Monroe, were those made in 1790, by Israel and Simon Stone, in Pittsford, Glover Perin, in Perinton; by Peter Shaeffer, on the flats of the Genesee, near Scottsville; by Orange Stone, in Brighton; and in 1791, by William Hincer, at the mouth of the river: and four out of these six patriarchs of the forest are still living. The two last lived twelve miles apart, and for several years without an intervening neighbour; and such was the eccentric turn of the last named, that, as fame reports, he was jealous of all new comers, fearing they would disturb the tranquillity of this *conveniently* distant neighbourhood. In 1796, Zadock Granger and Gideon King settled at the upper landing, four miles from the mouth of the river. In 1805, the harbour of Genesee was made a port of entry, and Samuel Latta was appointed the collector. In 1822, the United States government erected a light-house for the harbour.

Monroe County was erected by a law passed Feb. 20, 1821, and named in honour of James Monroe, then President of the United States; and organized by holding the first term of the County Court, on the 8th of May, 1821.

It was taken from Ontario and Genesee counties, viz: the towns of Brighton, Pittsford, Penfield, Perinton, Henrietta, Mendon, and a part of Rush, [that part of T. No. 11, in the 7th range, north of the Honeoye outlet,] lying east of the Genesee river, from the county of Ontario; and the towns of Gates, Parma, Clarkson, Sweden, Ogden, Riga and Wheatland, lying on the west side of Genesee river, from the county of Genesec.

Since then, the town of Greece has been erected from the north end of Gates; the town of Chili from the

east end of Riga ; and the south part of T. No. 11, in the 7th range, taken from Avon, in the county of Livingston, and added to Rush. The county now contains sixteen sizeable towns, and comprehends a territory of about 675 square miles, or 420,000 acres; bounded on the E. by Wayne ; on the S. E. by Ontario ; and on the S. by Livingston ; on the S. W. by Genesee ; on the W. by Orleans county ; and on the N. by the national and state territorial line in the middle of lake Ontario. When erected, it contained a population of 26,526, by the United States census of 1820.

The first county officers were, Elisha B. Strong, *First Judge* ; Timothy Barnard, sen. Levi H. Clarke, and John Bowman, *Associate Judges*. Nathaniel Rochester, *Clerk* ; James Seymour, *Sheriff* ; Timothy Childs, *District Attorney* ; and Elisha Ely, *Surrogate* ;

The present officers are, Moses Chapin, *First Judge* ; Brooks Mason, Timothy Barnard, Jr. William B. Brown, and Timothy Childs, *Associate Judges*. James Seymour, *Sheriff* ; Simon Stone, 2d, *Clerk* ; Daniel D. Barnard, *District Attorney* ; and Orrin E. Gibbs, *Surrogate*.

THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER.



THE village of Rochester is situated on both the eastern and western banks of the Genesee river, seven miles from its mouth, at lake Ontario, and includes the third and fourth of the six several falls on the river : the third, or upper one, is a small fall of twelve feet, situated at the foot of the rapids, and immediately above where the canal aqueduct is erected ; and the other is the great fall of 97 feet, situated 80 rods below. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of where the *alluvial way* or celebrated Ridge Road intersects the river, and at the first bridging place south of the lake, with accessible and convenient banks for crossing it ; and also for passing around the head of the Irondequoit, (or Toronto bay, as Dr. Spafford calls it,) giving a continuation to the Ridge Road from east to west. It is also three miles south from Hanford's landing on the west side of the river, and 2 miles from Carthage landing, the head of sloop navigation from the lake, on the east side ; and about 35 miles by land, and 70 by water, from Mount Morris, to which place the river is navigable at all times ; and 50 miles by land, and 90 by water, from Gardeau, or the second of the upper falls, which is the head of navigation during freshets. The two lower falls are at Carthage, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the village.

The grand Erie Canal, after curving along the declivity of the mountain ridge from the N. W. passes through the middle of the village, crosses the river in a splendid aqueduct, and thence runs along the eastern bank up

the stream about eighty rods to a small ravine, through which it resumes its course eastwardly.

This situation, together with the vast water power, conspire to give the village its commanding position for trade, by the lake, the river, and the canal, as well as for manufactures.

The canal, at this place, is 501 feet above the tide waters of the Hudson, 270 feet above Lake Ontario, and 64 feet below Lake Erie.

The village corporation contains about 720 acres on the west, and 430 on the east side of the river.

It is 218 miles west of Albany—28 northwest of Canandaigua—and 35 nearly northeast of Batavia.

It is situated in latitude 43° N. and about $40'$ W. longitude from the meridian of the city of Washington.

The *Mill Lot*, so called, lying in the centre of the village, on the west side of the river, and containing 100 acres, was a gift from Oliver Phelps to Ebenezer Allen, in 1789, in consideration of his building a grist-mill on it, for the accommodation of the new settlers then moving into the country. But the settlements being mostly made along the main road leading through Canandaigua to Buffalo, left this section of the country to remain a wilderness for several years. Mr. Allen moved away, left his mill to go to decay, and sold his lot, which passed through several hands to the Pulteney estate.

In 1802, Nathaniel Rochester, William Fitzhugh, and Charles Carroll, of Maryland, purchased the lot, and left it remaining unoccupied until 1812, when they surveyed it into village lots, opened it for sale, and gave it the name of Rochester, the family name of the senior proprietor.

The other lands now occupied as the village of Rochester, were farm-lots Nos. 47 to 54, in township No. 1.

short range, west of the Genesee river, and now the town of Gates: and Nos. 3 to 10, with 36, and a lot called the *Hatchet Piece*, of the third division of township No. 13, of the 7th range, east of Genesee river, and now the town of Brighton.

The lots on the west side, were a part of a tract of 20,000 acres, bought of Phelps and Gorham by a company of seven purchasers, in the year 1791, and partitioned between them by lot. Charles Harford, one of these, made the first improvements in the N. W. part of the village, about the year 1807, by building a small mill, with one run of stones, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter: but it was not till 1812, when lots Nos. 48 and 49 were purchased by Matthew Brown, Jr. Francis Brown, and Thomas Mumford, that this portion of the village was surveyed as building lots, and denominated Frankfort, after the Christian name of Francis Brown.

The centre of the village east of the river, was a part of the farm of Enos Stone, a part also of a larger joint purchase from the Phelps and Gorham estate, in the year 1789, for 1s. 6d. New-England currency, per acre. A little clearing was made on this land—a log house built on the bank of the river, and a saw-mill erected near the fording place, about 1808; but it was not till 1817, that this part of the village was much improved. At that time, Elisha Johnson, having purchased 80 acres from the west side of Enos Stone's farm, surveyed and laid it out into building lots.

James **S**son of Enos Stone, is believed to have been the first child born in Rochester, May 4, 1810.

The N. E. part of the village, or lots Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7, were owned by Moses Atwater, and Samuel I. Andrews. Their first improvements began in 1813.

The first bridge at this place, (where the middle bridge

now stands,) was commenced in the year 1810, and finished in 1812, at the joint expense of the counties of Ontario and Genesee, amounting to \$12,000. Previous to this, the river was crossed by fording on the level rocky bottom, about twenty rods above where the canal aqueduct is now erected; the only bridge then on the river, was where it is intersected by the Buffalo road at Avon, twenty miles distant from this place.

Hitherto, there was nothing in the appearance or prospects of the place where Rochester now stands, to indicate the unexampled growth which it has experienced since 1812. Its water-falls, indeed, afforded the prospect of advantages for hydraulick machinery; but the small productions of the surrounding country, and the superior prospects, as it then seemed, of other points in the vicinity for commercial purposes, were but little calculated to excite sanguine expectations.

In the month of January, 1810, Frederick Hanford opened a store of goods, at what was then called the upper landing, or *Fall-Town*, (being the first merchant's store on the river below Avon,) and opened the way to the trade of the river and lake. Hence, that place has since been called Hanford's landing. The village, also, at the mouth of the river, attracted some attention, and promised to become a place of trade.

It may tend to give an idea of the commercial and civil importance of all those points at that time, to state that the mail was then carried from Canandaigua once a week, on horseback, and part of the time by a woman!

From the year 1812, which may be regarded as the birth year of Rochester, as a village, we shall note, in the form of annuals, whatever events contributed to its growth and increase up to the present time; and whatever else may seem worthy of being remembered, as connected with its history.

1812—The bridge across the Genesee river was finished. The proprietors of the Allen mill lot surveyed it into village lots, and opened it for sale and settlement.

Isaac W. Stone built a house and opened a tavern, opposite the place where the Methodist brick chapel now stands, on the east side of the river; which was the only tavern in the place for two or three years. He also built a saw-mill near Enos Stone's log house.

Matthew Brown, Jr. Francis Brown, and Thomas Mumford, purchased lots Nos. 48 and 49, laid them out in village lots, and called it Frankfort. The only improvements then were Mr. Harford's grist and saw mills and two log houses.

Moses Atwater and Samuel I. Andrews purchased lots Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, in the 3d division of lots, in township No. 13, in the 7th range, about the great falls, on the east side of the river, (which now forms the northeast section of the village,) and commenced their improvements. A Post-Office was established in the village. Its first quarterly income was \$3 42cts.

In July, of this year, the first merchant's store was opened, by Ira West.

1813—The Legislature granted \$5,000, for cutting out the path and bridging the streams on the Ridge Road, between this place and Lewiston, which was then almost impassable.

There were three houses built and occupied on the west side of the river. The land where the publick buildings now stand, was cleared, sown with wheat, and afterwards used as a pas-

1813. ture. The mill race, south of Buffalo-street, was opened by Rochester & Co. [There is now in the same place a large and commodious canal, which supplies water for three flouring mills, five saw-mills, a trip hammer and nail factory, and considerable other machinery.]

1814—On the 14th of May, Sir James L. Yeo, admiral of the British fleet on Lake Ontario, anchored off the harbour at the mouth of the river, with five large and eight smaller vessels of war; when all the male inhabitants of the village, capable of bearing arms, (being 33,) turned out with the militia of the neighbouring towns, to prevent his landing, leaving only two men to take the women and children into the woods, in case he should land and send a detachment of troops, as had been threatened, to burn the bridge across the river.

The first mercantile operations of any importance in the village commenced this year.

1815—Elisha Ely, Hervey Ely, and Josiah Bissell, Jr. finished the red mill, with four run of stones, now owned by Ebenezer S. Beach.

Samuel Hildreth, of Pittsford, commenced running a stage and carrying the mail, twice a week, between this place and Canandaigua.

A private weekly mail route was established between this place and Lewiston—dependent on the income of the post-offices on the route for its support.

M. Brown, Jr. F. Brown, and T. Mumford, commenced their mill canal, at the head of the great falls, and finished it in 1816.

1815. The building of the cotton factory, in Frankfort, was commenced by an incorporated company. Abelard Reynolds opened the first tavern on the west side of the river, on Buffalo-street. In December, the first census of the village was taken—population, 331. Aug. 22—The first religious society in the place was organized, consisting of 16 members, 14 of whom are still alive. The purchase of produce in any considerable quantity, from the surrounding country, commenced this year.
- 1816—Caleb Lyon commenced the settlement of Carthage. January 17—Rev. Comfort Williams was installed pastor of the Presbyterian congregation, being the first clergyman settled in the village. Dauby & Sheldon established a weekly newspaper, entitled the *Rochester Gazette*;—[now published by Edwin Scrantom, and called the *Monroe Republican*.] Matthew and Francis Brown finished a mill canal on the west side of the river, at the head of the great falls, 84 rods in length, 30 feet wide, and 3 feet in depth, through a rock—which forms the mill race for their mills, the cotton factory, and many other establishments, and from which the water falls down the bank ninety-six feet. Buffalo road was surveyed and laid out to Batavia.
- 1817—By an act of the Legislature, passed in April, the village was incorporated by the name of *Ro-*

1817. *chesterville*, and on the first of May, the first village election was held, for five trustees—when Francis Brown, Daniel Mack, William Cobb, Everard Peck, and Jehial Barnard, were elected. Francis Brown was chosen president of the board, and Hastings R. Bender clerk.

The first house for publick worship was built, on Carroll-street,—[now occupied by the second Presbyterian society.]

Elisha Johnson purchased of Enos Stone, from the west side of his farm, 80 acres, adjoining the river, and surveyed the same into a village plat—constructed a dam across the river, above the old fording place, and excavated a large mill canal from thence to the bridge, 60 or 70 rods in length, 60 feet wide and 4 feet deep; opening extensive water privileges, at an expense of \$12,000. Orson Seymour and others, in the course of the year, became jointly interested with Mr. Johnson, in his purchase, the back land of which was yet a forest.

The price of wheat, during the early part of this year, was from \$1,75 to \$2,25 per bushel. The loss sustained by the millers and merchants was very considerable.

William Atkinson built the yellow mill, on Johnson's mill canal, containing three run of stones.

This year, the steam-boat Ontario commenced running from Sackett's Harbour to Lewiston, touching at the *Port of Genesee*.

1818—Gilman & Sibley built a paper-mill, near Atkinson's flouring-mill.

1818. Strong & Albright built their mill at Carthage, containing four run of stones—[now owned by Elisha B. Strong & Co.]

Carthage bridge was commenced, by Strong, Norton & Co.

July 7th, Everard Peck & Co. established the second weekly newspaper, entitled the *Rochester Telegraph*;—[now published semi-weekly, by Weed & Martin.]

In September, the second census of the village was taken—population, 1049.

The exports, from the Genesee river down the lake to the Canada market, during the season of navigation, were, 26,000 bbls. flour—3,653 bbls. pot and pearl ashes—1,173 bbls. pork—190 bbls. whiskey—214,000 double butt staves—together with small quantities of sundry other articles—valued at \$380,000.

1819—Matthew and Francis Brown rebuilt their flouring mill, containing four run of stones, on the site where the former mill was burnt down in March, 1818.

Solomon Cleveland built his mill on the east wing of the great falls, containing two run of stones.

Atwater, Andrews and Mumford, built a toll bridge, a few rods above Cleveland's mill. This was the second bridge across the Genesee river in the village.

The famous bridge at Carthage, was finished this year.

The Royal Arch Chapter of Free Masons was installed. March 23d.

1819. The title of the village corporation was changed by an act of the legislature, from *Rochester-ville* to *Rochester*.

September 28th, the state engineers made a survey of a route for the canal through the village.

The exports from the port of Genesee to Canada for the year, were 23,648 bbls. flour ; 8,673 bbls. pot and pearl ashes ; 1,451 bbls. pork ; 500,000 staves ; 50,000 feet of square timber ; which, together with sundry smaller articles, were valued at 400,000 dollars.

1820—By the United States census of August 1st, the village was found to contain 1502 inhabitants.

September 21st, the Hon. Roger Skinner held a session of the United States District Court, which was the first Court of Record held in the village.

The second house for publick worship in the village, was built by the Episcopalians—[now the old building standing in the rear of the Episcopal church.]

The exports from the port of Genesee to Canada for the year, were 67,468 bbls. flour ; 5,310 bbls. pot and pearl ashes ; 2,643 bbls. beef and pork ; 709 bbls. whiskey ; 179,000 staves ; together with small quantities of corn, oil, lard, ham, butter, cider, &c.—valued at \$375,000. The prices of produce had fallen greatly—the general price of flour, was \$2,25, to \$2,50 per barrel ; of wheat, 37½ cents per bushel, and corn, from 20 to 25 cents.

1821—February 20th, a law passed in the state legislature, erecting the county of Monroe.

Morris S. Miller, Robert S. Rose, and Nathan

1821. Williams, the commissioners appointed by law, located the county buildings for Monroe, in the village of Rochester, on a lot given for the purpose, by Rochester, Fitzhugh, and Carroll. September 4th, the corner stone of the Court-House was laid.
- A Female Charity School was opened for the gratuitous instruction of poor children.
- In May, the first County Court for Monroe was held.
- In August, William Britton commenced building the Canal Aqueduct, with 30 convicts from the State Prison, at Auburn.
- November 20th, the price of wheat was 50 cents per bushel.
- The price of produce having fallen so low in Canada, and the canal having been partly finished, to favour the shipment of it to Albany, so materially reduced the quantities shipped for the Canada market, that no subsequent account of the annual exports there, has been taken.
- 1822—February 5th, 7000 bushels of wheat were taken in this day, at the mills in Rochester and Carthage.
- October 29th, the first canal boat left the village for Little Falls, laden with flour.
- The third house for publick worship was built by the Friends, or Quakers.
- And the fourth commenced, being the Methodist brick chapel, on the east side of the river.
- In Sept. the 4th census of the village was taken—permanent population, 2700; and 3130, including labourers on the publick works.
- “ — — — — — William At-
— — — — — tones.

1823—In ten days preceding May 6th, there were 10,000 bbls. of flour shipped at this village on the Erie canal, for Albany and New-York.

October 7th, the completion of the canal aqueduct across the Genesee river, was celebrated by the passage of boats, escorted by the military companies, masonick societies, and citizens of the village. [A description of the aqueduct will be found in a subsequent page.]

The fifth house for publick worship was built, being the Roman Catholick chapel.

Rochester and Montgomery built their mill near E. S. Beach's, containing three run of stones.

1824—The law for incorporating the Bank of Rochester, passed the legislature.

The first Presbyterian society built a stone church near the court-house.

The Episcopal society moved their old building, and erected a stone church on the same ground.

The bridge, beginning to decay, was rebuilt by the county of Monroe, for \$6,000. Samuel Works, commissioner; Elisha Johnson, contractor.

1825—The fifth census of the village was taken in Feb.—population, 4274.

H. N. & A. B. Curtis built their large stone building at the east end of the bridge, containing two run of stones, and extensive machinery for manufactures.

In October, Marshall, Spalding & Hunt established the *Rochester Album*—[now published by Elihu F. Marshall.]

The sixth census of the village was taken under the state census, August 1st—population, 5273.

1825. The powers granted to the village Trustees by the charter of incorporation, were found to be inadequate to a good police regulation, and the question was agitated during the fall, whether they should apply for a city charter, while applying for an increase of power to the old corporation ; but after considerable discussion, the subject of a city charter was declined, and the village charter was amended by vesting more ample powers in the board of trustees.

1826—Brown & Whitney built their mill at the lower end of Brown's mill canal, containing two run of stones, and designed for four.

The Dissenting Methodists began to build their meeting house, being the seventh house for publick worship.

A company of land proprietors, and other individuals, began to build the third bridge across the Genesee river, at this place, in a line with the Pittsford state road, by subscription.

In October, Luther Tucker & Co. established the *Rochester Daily Advertiser*.

In December, the 7th census of the village was taken—population, 7669.



Having thus far noticed some of the leading circumstances connected with the rise and progress of the village of Rochester, we proceed to present a view of what it is at the present time ; and this, for the sake of order, we shall comprehend under the heads of INSTITUTIONS, POPULATION, and STATISTICKS, strictly so called.