

EARLY HISTORY OF ROCHESTER

1810 to 1827

George W. Fisher

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# EARLY HISTORY

OF

# ROCHESTER.

1810 to 1827,

WITH COMPARISONS OF ITS GROWTH AND PROGRESS TO

1860.



NEW COURT HOUSE.

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PUBLISHED BY  
**GEO. W. FISHER,**  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

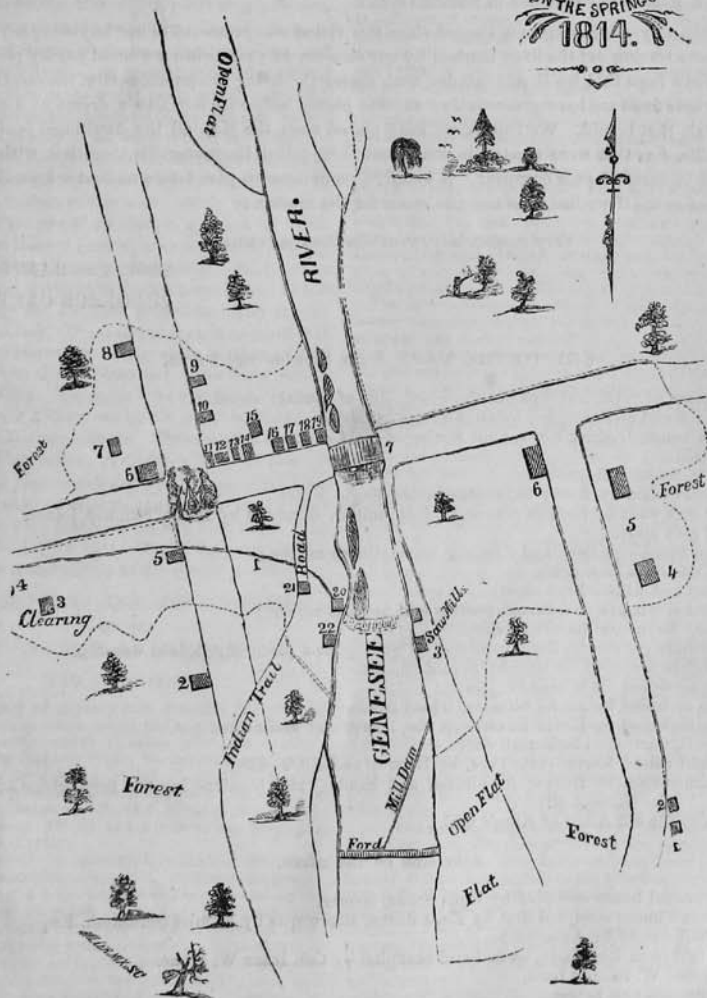
1860.

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ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC

MAP  
of  
ROCHESTER  
IN THE SPRING OF  
1814.



1- 582854

The following ~~extract from a letter~~ to JOHN KELSEY, Esq., author of the *Lives of the Pioneers of Rochester*, dated August 2d, 1854, explains itself:

DEAR SIR:

"Agreeable to your request we have prepared a Profile or Map of Rochesterville, (the now city of Rochester,) as it was in March, 1814.

More than 40 years having now elapsed since this vision was presented to our boyish eyes; and while we are tracing out the lines marked by our memory in years when we could hardly picture to ourselves a hope that we should this day walk among the living in a populous city, the one-twentieth of whose faces we hardly recognize; all this passed before us now like a dream of a night or like a tale that is told. We believe we have placed upon the Map all the dwellings, business houses, mills, &c., that were erected in what was then called Rochesterville, together with the names and business of each occupant. A hundred reminiscences pass before us that we would be glad to here recite if we had time and you space for the matter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

EDWIN SCRANTOM,  
PHEDERUS CARTER.

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#### KEY TO THE MAP. WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER.

1. The strata of rock that dips out the South side of Buffalo street.
2. House owned and occupied by Orin E. Gibbs, M. D.
3. School house, District No. 1, built Spring of 1814.
4. Lime Kiln.
5. Silas O. Smith's Store.
6. A frame owned by Henry Skinner, now the Eagle Hotel.
7. Log house built by Hamlet Scrantom, Esq., miller, occupied by Henry Skinner, joiner.
8. Ira West's store.
9. Abram Stark's grocery and dwelling house, (brick maker.)
10. John Mastick's Law office.
11. Hervey and Elisha Ely's store.
12. Abelard Reynold's new house, (saddle and harness maker.)
13. Abelard Reynold's house and shop.
14. Jehial Barnard's tailor shop, used also on Sunday as a place of religious worship.
15. New house occupied by Hamlet Scrantom, Esq.
16. House occupied by Wheelock, joiner.
17. House occupied by Aaron Skinner, school teacher.
18. House occupied by David K. Cartter, Esq., carpenter and millwright.
19. James B. Cartter's blacksmith shop.
20. Saw mill raised March 11th, 1814, by Hervey and Elisha Ely.
21. Log house built by Hervey for himself and hands while constructing the first bridge across the Genesee River.
22. Ruins of the old Allen or King's mill.

#### EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER.

1. First framed house occupied by Enos Stone, farmer.
2. Old plank house occupied first by Enos Stone, afterwards by Hamlet Scrantom, Esq.
3. Saw mill owned by Enos Stone.
4. First tavern in Rochester, owned and occupied by Col. Isaac W. Stone.
5. Col. Isaac W. Stone's barn.
6. Enos Stone's new house.
7. Bridge across the Genesee River.



# ROCHESTER

## FROM 1812 TO 1827.

In looking back over the past of Rochester, and comparing it with the present, it is gratifying to every *old settler* to know that our goodly city has ever been on the advance, and that now, (1880,) she ranks as the fifth city in point of population, (numbering about 50,000,) in the Empire State.

Situated in one of the most fertile regions, and surrounded by the best agricultural and horticultural country in the world, with moral and religious advantages unsurpassed by any city in the Union, it is easy to see what will be her future.

The first Directory of Rochester was published by Elisha Ely, and printed by Everard Peck, in 1827. Attached to this work, which was really a very perfect one of its kind, is a sketch of Rochester and Monroe county, covering about seventy pages, which is very interesting. That of the county was prepared by Jesse Hawley, Esq., and of the city by Mr. Ely, both gentlemen highly competent to the task. The sketches contain so much that is really interesting of the early history of this place, it was thought best to re-print them entire, in book form. The book is now out of print, and only here and there can an old copy be found in possession of our citizens. The statistics are worthy of preservation, and after a lapse of over 80 years, are reproduced and put into pamphlet form at so low a price as to enable every person to possess a copy for preservation, or presentation to an *absent friend*. We have followed the copy closely, and the sketch relating to the county comes first.

### DESCRIPTIONS 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  $8^{\circ} 22'$  and  $4^{\circ} 08'$  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 numer-

ous 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 or 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 wood, 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 unlooking 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 sand—3d, Ferriferous slate—4th, Ferriferous sand rock;—5th, Calcareous iron ore—6th, Calcareous slate, nearly 100 feet thick;—this is the stratum out into and exposed by the great falls in the village of Rochester—7th, Geodiferous lime rock; or swinestone, about 80 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 the slate colour, and has a peculiar fetid odour. The 8th, or Corniferous lime rock, overlies the former, and appears in the south part of the county, which, still further 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 contemporaneous 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 fluete of lime, have been found. There are inexhaustible quarries of plaster of Paris in the town of Wheatland. The only metallic 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 bank 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 superior wheat. Perhaps, also,

the moistness of the climate, from its vicinity to the great lakes, contributes to this effect. It is said that a chemical 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 Susquehanna 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 1800 or 1700 feet above the tide waters of the Atlantick.

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

It runs from its source, about north 10° east, to Lake Ontario, about 150 miles—and about 125 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 Canadea 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 Canasraga 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 rods below the aqueduct. From thence are considerable rapids, to Carthage, 1½ 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 to Hanford's Landing, four miles, to its mouth.

This forms the Port of Genesee, which has a safe and convenient harbor 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 of 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 8½ 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 Genesee, 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 relics of the forest, nothing can strike with a more agreeable sensation the eye long accustomed to the 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 Canadea, 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 Pacific 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.

[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!!!]

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 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, [meaning a *chosen place*, in the Indian language,] 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 its 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.  $24^{\circ}$  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 of surprise, *quoaah!* and added, KAUSKONCHICO! (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 warrior 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  $24^{\circ}$  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 conveying; 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 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 Willink 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 public 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; and save the expense of special exemplifications of them for every cause.]

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 Ferrin, in Perinton; by Peter Shaeffer, on the flats of the Genesee, near Scottsville; by Orange Stone, in Brighton; and in 1791, by William Hinchey, 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 tranquility 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 appointed the collector. In 1823, 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 Genesee.

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 430,000 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 north 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 2½ 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 Teoronto 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 60 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, 1½ 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 easterly.

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 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 730 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 85 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 settlement 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 1809, 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 64, in townships No. 1, short range, west of the Genesee river, and now the town of Gates; and Nos. 8 and 10, with 86, 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 improvement in the N. W. part of the village, about the year 1807, by building a small mill, with one run of stones, 2½ 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 1879, 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, 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 1818.

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 hydraulic 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 Handford 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 Handford'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 that time by a woman!

From the year 1812, which might be regarded as the birth year of Rochester, as a village, we shall note, in the form of annals, 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 third division of lots, in township No. 18, 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 \$3.42 cts.

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 public buildings now stand, was cleared, sown with wheat, and afterwards used as a pasture. 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 neighboring 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.

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, 381.

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 *Rochesterville*, 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 Jehiel Barnard, were elected. Francis Brown was chosen president of the board, and Hastings R. Bender clerk.

The first house for public 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.

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 28d.

The title of the village corporation was changed by an act of the legislature, from *Rochesterville* 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; 8,678 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 public 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, 87½ 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 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 20th, the first canal boat left the village for Little Falls, laden with flour.

The third house for public 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 8130, including labourers on the public works.

Hervey Ely built his mill, adjoining William Atkinson's, containing four run of stones.



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, masonic societies, and citizens of the village. [A description of the aqueduct will be found in a subsequent page.]

The fifth house for public worship was built, being the Roman Catholic chapel.

Rochester and Montgomery built their mill near E. S. Beech'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.

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 public 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.

## INSTITUTIONS.

### I.—THE POLICE.

The government of the village is conducted, according to its present charter, by a board of five trustees, who, with a treasurer, collector, two constables, five assessors, and ten fire-wardens, are annually elected, by the qualified inhabitants, on the first Monday in May. The chief engineer of the fire department is elected by the fire-wardens and firemen only, on the second Monday of May, annually. A clerk of the board is appointed by the trustees.

The powers of the board of trustees are believed to comprehend every thing necessary to secure and enforce neatness, regularity, good order, and safety by night and by day, within the precincts of the corporation, and efficiently to restrain what-

ever may be offensive, or detrimental to decency, good morals, or religion.

The following is a list of regulations, with the fines or penalties attached to them respectively, now in force by ordinance of the trustees, agreeably to their chartered powers.

Householders must clean and keep clear the sidewalks and streets opposite their premises, except in specified cases.—Fine, for neglect, \$5.

No person may injure any walk, street, sewer, drain, well, or other article for public use.—Fine, for each offence, \$10.

Householders must sweep and clean the sidewalks, opposite their dwellings, every Saturday, from the first day of April till the first day of November.—Fine, for each neglect, \$1.

No householders or others are permitted to throw any offensive matter whatever into the streets or lanes.—Fine, \$2.

Immoderate riding or driving, in the streets, is forbidden.—Fine, for each offence, \$5.

Hucksters must not occupy any place in the streets or lanes of the village, for the sale of fruit, &c., without a license for the same.—Fine, for each offence, \$3.

No person may stop his horse or team on any cross or side-walk, so as to hinder or endanger any person passing thereon.—Fine, for each offence, \$2.

No auctioneer, constable, or other person, may hold any sale so as to collect a crowd on any side or cross-walk.—Fine, for each offence, \$5.

Fireplaces, of every description, to be kept in good repair so as to be safe.—Fine for neglect, \$10. The same to be cleaned, as directed, once every three months.—Fine for neglect, \$5.

No person may keep above 12 lbs. of gunpowder in any house within the village, nor even that quantity, except in close canisters.—Fine, for every day this ordinance is transgressed, \$20.

No candle nor fire to be kept, or carried in an exposed manner, in livery stables.—Fine, for each offence, \$5.

Householders shall have a place of safe deposit for ashes, and in no case suffer them to be put into wooden vessels.—Fine, \$5.

For constructing insecure chimneys to any house or manufactory.—Fine, \$10.

Fire wardens, to inspect houses and yards once in each month.—Fine, for neglect, \$2.

Householders shall obey the directions of fire wardens, in things relating to security against fire.—Fine, for non-compliance, each offence, \$10.

Each house must have a scuttle in the roof, and stairs in the same.—Fine on the occupant, for neglect, \$5.

Fire buckets, to be kept in each house—for one or two fireplaces or stoves, one bucket; for 3 or 4 fireplaces, or stoves, 2 buckets; for more than four, 3 buckets.—Fine, for neglect in any particular of the ordinance, \$5.

Fire buckets must be produced at fires, when they occur.—Fine, for refusal or neglect, \$2.

The inhabitants must obey the orders of the chief engineer and fire-wardens, at fires.—Fine, for disobedience of orders, \$5.

The chief engineer and fire-wardens to give prompt and regular attention to their duties, in cases of fire.—Fine, for neglect, \$10. The chief engineer to inspect their engines, &c., once in three months, and report to the trustees.

It is the duty of the president, trustees, or fire-wardens, to remove idle and disobedient persons from fires.—Fine, for disobedience to their orders, \$5. Such persons may also be put into custody, till after the extinguishment of the fire.

None, except the chief engineer, trustees and fire-wardens, may give orders at fires.—Fine, \$5.

Firemen, must instantly, on an alarm, repair to the engine to which they belong, and aid in moving it to the fire, and in working it there; unless prevented by absence from the village, or sickness.—Fine, for neglect of this duty, \$10.

Hook and ladder men, subject to the same rule, in the proper department.—Fine, \$10.

No person may discharge fire arms, nor rockets, nor squibs, nor any fire works, within the village.—Fine, \$5.

No person may burn shavings, chips, or straw, nor kindle any large fire, in the streets, within fifty feet of any building.—Fine, \$5.

All bell-ringers are bound to ring, on an alarm of fire.—Fine, \$5.

Publick bathing is not permitted in any waters within the village.—Fine, \$2.

Vaults to necessaries, must be of such depth and so constructed, as is provided in the ordinance relating to them.—Fine, for neglect, \$25.

Necessaries must not be so situated as to be a nuisance to neighbours.—Fine, \$25. They must be purified with lime, once in each month, during the summer half year, as directed in the ordinance.—Fine, for neglect, \$5.

Every house must be furnished with a sink-drain, covered with earth.—Fine, for neglect, per week, \$2.

No stagnant water is allowed on any lot.—Fine, to occupant or owner, as the case may be, per day, \$2.

No person is allowed to throw any dead animal, putrid meat, or fish, into any river, canal, mill-race, basin, or aqueduct, within the village.—Fine, \$5.

Cellars must be kept free from all stagnant water, putrid vegetable or animal matter.—Fine, for each offence, \$5.

Hogs are not permitted to run at large.—Fine, 50 cts. They are not to be kept so as to be offensive to neighbours.—Fine, per day, \$2.

No horse, mare, or colt, permitted to run at large.—Fine, to the owner, \$2.

Swine, running at large, may be impounded, and the claimant subjected to the expenses, as per ordinance.

Neat cattle are not permitted to run at large, after the first day of December, till the first day of April.—Fine, \$1.

No nine-pine alley to be kept.—Fine, per day, \$5.

Grocers, for selling liquors or serving customers on the Sabbath day, or permitting any collection of people or noise at their groceries.—Fine, \$10.

Masters of canal boats, for suffering any horn or bugle to be blown within the village, on the Sabbath.—Fine, \$2.

Theatrical representations are restrained by ordinance. Fines, for transgressing that ordinance—a principal or manager, \$25—any actor, for each offence, \$5—owner of premises where they so trespass, each offence, \$5.

Circus riders prohibited in like manner.—Fine, to principal, \$25—each rider, \$10.

Shows of all kinds prohibited, unless special license be obtained.—Fine, \$10. Owners of premises where this ordinance is violated.—Fine, \$5.

No cellar doors may project more than four feet from the front line of the building.—Fine, \$10—and for every day the same remains, contrary to this ordinance, \$1.

Cellars used for groceries, and such purposes, must have an iron railing on each side of the entrance, extending four feet from the line of the

building; all others must be covered with a door.—Fine, for every day the ordinance is transgressed, in each case, \$1.

No outside stairs to upper stories, or projecting platforms, are permitted.—Fine, for erecting such, \$5—and for continuing the same, per day, \$1.

No lamp or other posts may be erected, except at the edge of the side-walk, or by special liberty from the trustees.—Fine, \$2—and for each day the transgression is continued, \$1. Posts, in all cases, must be not less than nine feet high, from the surface of the side-walk, to the bottom of any lamp, sign, &c. placed thereon.—Fine, per day, \$1.

All licensed grocers must have a sign to that effect near their door.—Fine, per day, \$1.

Common orlers must have a license, and not use horns or trumpets, but only a hand-bell.—Fine, for each offence, \$1.

Owners of inhabited lots, residing in the village, and occupants, when the owners are not residents, are responsible for not having proper necessities, to prevent nuisances—and in case of nuisance, are fineable per day, \$5.

All who slaughter cattle are, in like manner, in case of nuisance to those residing in the neighbourhood, liable to a fine, per day, while it continues, of \$5.

Wagons, containing articles for sale, must not be placed across any street, nor so near the side-walks as to prevent others passing; nor may any stop in the square formed by the intersection of Carroll and Exchange-streets with Buffalo-street; and if loaded with hay, they must stand west of the court-house yard in Buffalo-street, and east of River-street, in Main-street.—Fine, for each transgression of either of these ordinances, \$1.

The keeping of billiard-tables for gaming is prohibited.—Fine, \$5. Tavern-keepers and grocers keeping billiard-tables.—Fine, per day, \$5.

The following are the present officers of the corporation:

**TRUSTEES.**—*First Ward*, William Brewster.  
*Second Ward*, Matthew Brown, Jr.  
*Third Ward*, Vincent Mathews.  
*Fourth Ward*, Eliza Ely.  
*Fifth Ward*, Giles Boulton.  
**ASSESSORS.**—*First Ward*, Preston Smith.  
*Second Ward*, Ezra M. Parsons.  
*Third Ward*, Ira West.  
*Fourth Ward*, Daniel Tinker.  
*Fifth Ward*, Davis C. West.

Matthew Brown, Jr. *Pres. of the Board of Trustees.*

Rufus Beach, *Clerk and Attorney.*

Frederick F. Baokus, *Treasurer.*

Raphael Beach, *Collector and Constable.*

Stephen Symonds, *Constable.*

M Willson, *Weigher of Hay.*

Regular meetings of the Corporation, every Tuesday, at 8 o'clock, P. M. at the office of the clerk, in the Court-House.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Samuel Works, *Chief Engineer.*

### FIRE WARDENS.

*First Ward*—S. Melancton Smith, John Marchant.

*Second Ward*—Benjamin H. Brown, Timothy Burr.

*Third Ward*—Edwin Stanley, Walter White.

*Fourth Ward*—A. B. Curtis, John Histed.

*Fifth Ward*—Samuel Smith, Aaron Newton.

### ENGINE COMPANY, NO. 1.

Daniel D. Hatch, *Fireman.*



John Swift, *Assisant.*  
William Haywood, *Secretary.*

ENGINE COMPANY, NO. 2.

Davis C. West, *Foreman.*  
Stephen Charles, *Assisant.*  
Giles Boulton, *Secretary.*

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY.

Isaiah Tower, Jr. *Foreman.*  
Phelps Smith, *Assisant.*

C. A. Van Slyck, *Secretary.*

Stated meetings of the several fire companies, on the first Monday in each month.

## II.—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Title, or Denomination.	Year of organization.	Place of worship.	Present Clergymen.
First Presby't'n.	1815	Court-square.	Rev. Jos. Penney
Episcopal.	1817	Fitzhugh-st.	Rev. F. H. Cumins
Friends, or Quakers.	1817	Hughes-street.	
Baptist.	1818	Court-house.	Rev. O. O. Comstock
Roman Catholic.	1820	Platt-street.	(Vacant.)
Methodist Ep's'l.	1820	River-street.	Elder J. Dempster.
Methodist Soc'y.	1822	Hart-street.	Elder Orren Miller
Christ-ian.	1823	Frankfort-sqr.	Elder S. Sibley
Sec'd Presby't'n.	1828	Carroll-street.	Rev. Wm. James
Third Presby't'n.	1827	Clinton-street.	Rev. Geo. Parker

## III.—BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

### THE FEMALE CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

Was organized 26th February, 1822.—The following is an extract from the CONSTITUTION :

"ART. 1. The primary objects of this society shall be, the relief of indigent persons and families, in cases of sickness and distress, and the establishment of a *Charity School*.

"ART. 2. It shall be the duty of the directors, to direct the application of all the means of the society—to solicit contributions in money, goods, provisions, clothing, bedding, &c., and to obtain subscribers.

ART. 3.—All articles of clothing, bedding, &c. belonging to the society shall be loaned, (not given,) and it shall be the duty of the committee to see that they are returned."

This society has been in successful operation for five years, during most of which period, a school has been kept, in which forty children are educated gratuitously. The school, which is now flourishing, is under the charge of Mrs. Saddler, whose fidelity has met the unqualified approbation of the society.

In many cases, relief and assistance have been afforded to sick and distressed families, by the loan of clothing, bedding, &c. of which the society have always a supply on hand. The funds are raised from the annual subscription of the members, and an annual collection taken up when a sermon is preached for the benefit of this charity. The present number of members is 148.

The society has a school-house, erected on a lot which was given by William Fitzhugh, situated on Franklin-street.

Officers elected, February 6, 1827 :—

Mrs. J. K. Livingston, *President.*

Mrs. Mary Scovill, *V. President.*

Mrs. Samson, }  
Mrs. Burr, }  
Mrs. Plumb, } *Directors.* { Mrs. Bissell,  
Mrs. Colman, } { Mrs. A. Allcott,  
Mrs. Parker, } { Mrs. Cumins,  
Mrs. Whittlesey, } { Mrs. Beach,

Mrs. Whittlesey, *Treasurer.*

Miss Ewing and Miss Stone, *Superintendents of the School.*

Annual meeting first Tuesday in February.

### MONROE COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Auxiliary to the American Bible Society, was formed May 30, 1821. The sole object of this institution is the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment. Surplus funds paid to the parent society.

Life membership, \$10—annual membership, \$1.

The society have purchased, of the American Bible Society, 1470 Bibles, and 1205 Testaments, and have received, as donations—in 1821, 100 Bibles and 100 Testaments—in 1825, 150 Bibles and 250 Testaments; in all, 1720 Bibles, and 1555 Testaments.

In addition to paying for the Bibles purchased, they have refunded the amount of the donation in 1825, and have remitted fifty dollars, as surplus funds, to the parent society.

Officers of the society :

Vincent Mathews, *President.*

Wm. Atkinson, { *Vice Presidents.*

F. F. Backus, }

Enos Pomeroy, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Wm. Pitkin, *Recording Secretary.*

Levi Ward, Jr. *Treasurer.*

Treasurer's office, and depository of Bibles and Testaments, in the counting-room of Wm. H. Ward & Co. Carroll-street. Annual meeting, first Tuesday in June.

### MONROE COUNTY MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

Was formed July 11, 1826.—Extracts from the Constitution :—

"ART. 1. This society shall be known by the name of the Home Missionary Society of Monroe County, auxiliary to the American Home Missionary Society.

"ART. 4. The funds of this society, after paying incidental expenses, shall be paid over to the treasurer of the parent institution, with directions as to the section of country in which it shall be expended in missionary labours, should the board deem it expedient to give such directions.

ART. 6. The society shall meet as often as called by the directors, and annually, on the second Monday in April, when the officers shall be chosen, and a report of the directors received, and when the constitution may be amended, by a vote of two thirds of the members present."

Officers elected July, 1826 :—

Irā West, of Rochester, *President.*

Rev. J. Penney, do. *1st V. Pres't.*

Charles Church, of Ogden, *2d V. Pres't.*

Charles J. Hill, of Rochester, *Treasurer.*

Everard Peck, do. *Secretary.*

The society has several missionaries, in different parts of the country, towards whose support, from fifty to one hundred dollars a year are contributed by the society.

### FEMALE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

Auxiliary to the American Home Missionary Society, was organized in January, 1818. Its object is to assist in supporting the preaching of the gospel in feeble and destitute churches in the settlements. Officers for 1827 :—

Mrs. Patty Beach, *President.*

Mrs. Margaret Penney, *Secretary.*

Mrs. Henrietta Bissell, *Treasurer.*

Annual meeting, on the first Tuesday in January.

### FEMALE BENEVOLENT AND AUXILIARY MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, ROCHESTER.

Organized February 23, 1827.—The object of the society is, to raise funds in aid of plans and societies formed for the purpose of promoting the in-

terests of religion, as connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church; special reference being had to the claims of the "General Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church," and the "Monroe County Episcopal Association for disseminating religious knowledge."

The society consists at present of 120 members.

Officers for 1827:

Mrs. Elisha Johnson, *President*.  
Mrs. H. Montgomery, *Vice President*.  
Mrs. Wm. Pitkin, *Secretary*.  
Mrs. T. H. Rochester, *Treasurer*.

#### MONROE COUNTY EPISCOPAL ASSOCIATION.

Organized February, 1827.

The objects of the society are, the supply of vacant places within the country with the services of the Episcopal church—assisting in the establishment and support of new congregations, and the formation of Sunday schools.

[The officers had not been chosen, when these pages were put to press.]

#### MONROE COUNTY TRACT SOCIETY.

This institution was organized in 1828. Its operations were considerably extensive in distributing tracts in this region of the country. In October, 1828, they were called upon by an agent of the American Tract Society, with such propositions as induced them to merge this society in the *Rochester Tract Society*, auxiliary to the American Tract Society. The following is extracted from the first article of the constitution: "The object of this society is to aid the American Tract Society, instituted at New York in 1825, in extending its operations in destitute parts of the United States." One hundred dollars was subscribed and forwarded to the parent Society in New York, to furnish the depository. The following are the officers of the society for the present year:

Josiah Bissell, Jr. *President*.  
William Atkinson, } *Vice Presidents*.  
John Watts, }  
Willis Kempshall, }  
Everard Peck, *Secretary*.  
Levi A. Ward, *Treasurer*.

Treasurer's office, and depository of Tracts, in Wm. H. Ward & Co's counting-room, Carroll-street.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Most if not all the religious societies in the village support one or more sabbath schools, and these are generally connected with a county sabbath school union. A general depository of suitable books is kept for sale at the counting-room of C. Dunning & Co. in Carroll-street. An interesting anniversary meeting is held in Rochester in the month of October in each year.

#### IV.—LITERARY AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

The extreme occupation and multiplicity of urgent public objects, has hitherto prevented the citizens of Rochester from making those efforts in the cause of literature and education, which their importance demands. There is as yet no public library of general literature, nor public seminary of education. Measures are in operation, however, for prosecuting both of these objects, which it is hoped the present year will see in a good state of advancement. The private and district schools in the village, are about 20 in number, in which 1150 children and youth are instructed in all the branches of a common and classical education.

#### FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

This institution was organized October 13, 1826. The general purposes of it may be ascertained by the following extract from the constitution of the society.

"The objects which the Franklin Institute shall have especially in view, shall be the establishment of a library for the use of the members, consisting of books on the arts, sciences and manufactures; a museum of models of machines; a cabinet of mineralogy, geology, and chemical substances, scientifically arranged; lectures and apparatus for illustrating the sciences connected with the mechanical arts, and mutual instructions in elementary sciences, as far as practicable."

This institution is formed upon similar principles with several others now in successful operation in our own country, and in G. Britain; originating in the belief that "the condition and prospects of our village, mark it out as especially demanding of its citizens their zealous efforts in establishing and maintaining institutions to improve the arts by the aid of science, and to adorn and benefit that part of community employed in productive industry, with the advantages and pleasures of mental cultivation."

In pursuance of these objects, the society, consisting of about seventy members, have already obtained a small cabinet of minerals, a library, and several models of machines; and have commenced a system of cultivating knowledge in the arts and sciences by lectures, experiments, and such examinations and inquiries as the means of the Institute admit.

The affairs of the Institute are conducted by a committee of seven, who are chosen annually. The present committee are, Rev. Joseph Penney, Rev. F. H. Cuming, Levi Ward, Jr. Elisha Johnson, Jacob Graves, Giles Boulton, and Edwin Stanley.

The society occupy No. 6, in Johnson's building, corner of Main and Canal streets, which is open to subscribers every day in the week, (Sundays excepted,) from 9 A. M. to 12 M.; and from 2 to 9 P. M. Stated meeting—Friday evenings of each week.

Terms of admission to membership, \$5, subject to an annual tax of \$2.

#### MASONICK.

*Wells Lodge*, No. 282, of Master Masons, was installed in 1817. Its present officers are—  
Robert Martin, *W. M.* | Charles C. Lathrop, *J. W.*  
Phelps Smith, *S. W.* | Ebenezer Watts, *Treas.*

Bill Cobly, *Sec'y.*

Regular communications, Tuesday of or preceding full moon in every month.

*Hamilton R. A. Chapter*, was installed March, 1819.

#### Officers for 1827—

Jacob Gould, *H. P.* | Ebenezer Watts, *S.*  
Robert Martin, *K.* | S. P. Allcot, *Treas.*  
Bill Cobly, *Sec'y.*

Regular convocations, Wednesday of or preceding full moon in each month.

A *Knights Templar's* encampment was installed August, 1826, and was admitted into the general grand encampment, September, 1826.

Rev F. H. Cummings, *G. C.* | Simeon P. Alcott, *S. W.*  
Jonathan Child, *G.* | Ebenezer Watts, *J. W.*  
Abelard Reynolds, *G. G.* | Edward Doyle, *Treas.*  
Jacob Gould, *P.* | H. C. Williams, *Rec.*

Regular meetings, Monday of or preceding new moon in each month.

### NEWSPAPERS, &c.

There are at present published in the village, four political and miscellaneous newspapers, one religious newspaper, and a Christian monthly magazine, viz :

*The Monroe Republican*, weekly, established 1816.  
*The Rochester Telegraph*, semi-weekly " 1818.  
*The Albion*, weekly, " 1825.  
*Rochester Daily Advertiser*, daily, " 1826.  
*Rochester Observer*, semi-monthly, " 1827.  
*Gospel Luminary*, monthly, " 1824.  
*The Rochester Telegraph* is also published weekly for the country.

*The Rochester Mercury* is also issued from the office of the Daily Advertiser, once a week, for the country.

There are received at the post-office, about 26 daily, 284 semi-weekly, and 690 weekly newspapers.

### POST-OFFICE.

The post-office was established in the village in the year 1812. The receipts of the first quarter amounted to \$3 42. The receipts for the last quarter of 1826, were, \$1718 44.

The arrival and departure of mails, are at present as follows, viz :

*The Eastern and Western Mails*—arrive and depart every day.

*To and from Palmyra*—seven mails a week in summer, and three in winter.

*To and from Penfield*—six mails a week.

*To and from Scottsville*—seven mails a week in summer, and three in winter.

*To and from Onwego*—one mail a week.

*To and from Batavia*—three mails a week.

*To and from Genesee, &c.*—three mails a week.

Abelard Reynolds, *Post-Master*.

Office in Buffalo-street, near Carroll-street.

### BANK OF ROCHESTER.

Incorporated in 1824.—Capital 250,000 dollars.

Elisha B. Strong, *President*.

A. M. Schemerhorn, *Cashier*.

Elisha B. Strong,	} <i>Directors.</i>	Fred'k Bushnell,
Levi Ward, Jr.		Ira West,
M. Brown, Jr.		S. P. Alcott,
Jonathan Child,		A. V. T. Leavitt,
James Seymour,		William Pitkin,
Abelard Reynolds,		W. W. Mumford,
Chas. H. Carroll,		

John T. Talman, *Teller and Notary*.

Henry Roser, *Discount Clerk*.

Levi Burnell, *Book-Keeper*.

Days of Discount, Tuesdays and Fridays, at 11 o'clock.

Hours of business, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M.

### POPULATION.

The following tabular view will show the increase of population, from the year 1815, when the first census was taken, to December, 1826 :

	Year.	Population.
First census,	December, 1815,	381
Second,	Sept. 1818,	1,049
Third, (U. S.)	August, 1820,	1,502
Fourth,	Sept. 1822,	2,700
Fifth,	February, 1825,	4,274
Sixth, (State)	August, 1825,	5,273
Seventh,	December, 1826,	7,669

The population is composed chiefly of emigrants from New-England, and other states of the Union, together with a considerable number from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany, and a few natives of Canada, Norway and Switzerland.

It is a remarkable fact, that, in a population of nearly 8,000, not one adult person is a native of the

The oldest person now living in the village who was born here, is not yet 17 years of age.

These inhabitants, almost without exception, are employed either in professional or productive industry. The following may be considered as nearly a correct statement of the

### PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS.

7 Clergymen,	124 Shoemakers,	17 Coachmakers.
25 Physicians,	67 Hatters,	67 Blacksmiths,
28 Lawyers,	73 Coopers,	14 Gunsmiths,
74 Merchants,	20 Clothiers,	10 Chairmakers,
89 Clerks,	20 Millers,	95 Masons,
84 Grocers,	21 Millwts,	25 Cabinet-mkrs,
33 Butchers,	304 Carpenters,	5 Combmakers,
48 Tailors,	& Joiners,	26 Painters,
24 Wheelwrights,	23 Tanners,	16 Inn-keepers,
21 Saddlers,	29 Tanners,	16 Goldsmiths,
8 Tallow-chandlers,	423 Labourers,	8 Bookbinders,
		31 Printers,
		14 Bakers,

### STATISTICS.

#### I.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The superfluous productions of the extensive and fertile valley of the Genesee river, together with that of the surrounding country east and west, naturally concentrate at Rochester, and are exported from thence. While these exports passed through the port of Genesee to the Canada market, the amount was more accurately known, than since the opening of the canal; the amount of tonnage being now more the object of reckoning at the several places of entry, than a specific account of the particular kinds.

From the best data at hand, we have collected the following account of the exports by the canal, in the years 1823 and 1826. A few of the leading articles only are here presented.

Articles.	1823.	1826.
Flour,	barrels, 64,114	202,000
Wheat,	busbels, 20,590	
Pork,	barrels, 1,250	7,000
Beef,	do. 528	750
Pot and pearl ashes,	do. 9,500	
Whiskey,	gallons, 52,903	135,000

As imports, might be enumerated almost every article within the limits of merchandise—the demand of the surrounding country both for the necessary and the luxurious being already very large, and yearly increasing, as the soil becomes subdued, and the consumer's means more extensive. A very considerable wholesale trade begins to open both with the remote parts of our own country, and the Canada shore.

The retail trade for the place, will principally appear from the following list :

42 Merchant stores,	4 Hat stores,
5 Hardware do.	5 Goldsmith do.
5 Druggist do.	7 Millinery do.
8 Book & stat'y do.	1 Looking-glass do.
14 Boot & shoe do.	4 Clothing do.
1 Military goods store.	

### LUMBER.

The trade in lumber is very considerable. Great quantities of pine boards are annually brought here from the country bordering on Genesee river, which are principally used in the village and neighbourhood. Some of the pine lumber, however, is sent to the Albany and New-York markets. There have also been large quantities of square timber and oak plank, for ship-building, sent by way of the canal to New-York. It has been in demand, and commanded a good

price; but so great are the expenses of transportation and canal tolls, that it has of late proved an unprofitable business. The quality of the white oak timber is said to be inferior to none of the kind in the United States.

#### FREIGHT BOATS.

The following list exhibits the number of boats and horses belonging to the several regular lines of freight boats, the owners and principal agents of which reside in the village. Besides those enumerated, there are a number of boats owned here, that ply regularly on the canal, which are not attached to any line of forwarders.

Line.	Boats.	Horses.
Pilot,	84	181
Washington,	32	170
Merchants'	80	172
Troy and Erie,	28	161
Hudson and Erie,	21	115
Union,	20	83
	160	882

The boats generally run from Troy and Albany to Buffalo, two of each line leaving this place every day, Sundays excepted. Although they are designed principally for the transportation of freight, most of them have comfortable accommodations for passengers—which they are enabled to carry at a less rate of fare than boats which are employed only as packets, owing partly to the difference in transit duties charged by the canal commissioners on freight and packet boats.

The usual rates of transportation of flour, from this place to the Hudson river, in the spring and fall, is one dollar per barrel, and during summer, 87½ cents.

Merchandise, from Troy and Albany, is charged 68 cents per cwt.

Passengers are charged one and a half cents a mile, exclusive of board, which is an extra charge of about fifty cents a day.

The boats generally run day and night, and about sixty miles in twenty hours.

#### II.—MANUFACTURERS.

##### FLOURING MILLS.

There are at present, seven merchant mills for manufacturing flour, within the precincts of this village, or its immediate vicinity; having in all 24 run of stones. Arrangements are also made for erecting two others, with twelve run of stones, during the ensuing summer.

The following are the returns of flour made at the existing mills, for the year 1836.

Beach's mill,	24,580	barrels.
Brown's do.	20,000	do.
Atkinson's do.	20,500	do.
Rochester's do.	20,000	do.
Cleveland's do.	15,750	do.
Strong's do.	17,000	do.
Ely's do.	82,889	do.

Total, 150,169 barrels.

The perfection of the machinery, and the arrangements in the establishments, will be in some measure conceived, when the fact is stated, that in the last of these, during a considerable portion of the fall, the wheat was taken in, and flour manufactured to the amount of 250 barrels per day.

Besides the above, there are three mills with seven run of stones, for custom work.

##### COTTON MANUFACTORY.

There is at present but one establishment of this

description in the village—conducted by S. S. Alcott. It has 1400 spindles, and 80 power looms. It employs about 80 youth and children, who are liberally afforded the advantages of a school five evenings in the week, supported at the expense of the employers.

#### WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.

There is but one establishment where all parts of the process is carried on, and three others, where cloth-dressing, dyeing and wool-carding are conducted. This trade must be regarded as opening an inviting field, in a region whence wool is exported, and into which manufactured cloth is so largely imported—where sheep may be raised so extensively, and where such water power exists.

##### MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTORIES.

Besides the manufactories already mentioned, there are,

- 3 Furnaces for melting and casting iron,
- 2 Trip hammers by water power,
- 2 Breweries,
- 2 Distilleries,
- 3 Tanneries,
- 1 Oil-mill,
- 9 Saw-mills,
- 1 Nail manufactory,
- 2 Stone and earthen ware manufactories,
- 3 Scythe, axe and edge tool do.
- 5 Tin and sheet iron do.
- 3 Soap and candle do.
- 2 Morocco do.

- 1 Comb-maker's shop,
- 1 Machine maker's do.
- 3 Copper-smiths' shops.
- 3 Gunsmiths' do.
- 2 Plough-makers' do.
- 2 Iron turners' do.
- 4 Chair-makers' do.
- 5 Cabinet-makers' do.
- 4 Hatters' do.

- 1 Paper mill,
- 8 Book binderies,
- 6 Printing offices,
- 1 Looking-glass manufactory,
- 4 Saddlers' shops,
- 14 Coopers' do.
- 17 Blacksmiths' do.
- 1 Window sash manufactory, by water power,
- 1 Shoe last do. do.
- 1 Barrel do. do.
- 1 Pail and tub do. do.

This has produced 25,000 pails the last season.

The four last mentioned manufactories are beautiful specimens of the ingenuity and mechanical talents of our countrymen, and promise to be lucrative, while they are creditable to the inventors.

#### III.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Of these, the first in importance and interest is undoubtedly the

##### ERIE CANAL.

Its passage over the Genesee river is thus described by a civil engineer who superintended its construction.

"This stupendous fabric, which forms a prominent link in the great chain of inland communication, is built on one of the rifts which compose a part of the extensive falls of the Genesee river, about eighty rods south of the great falls. It is situated nearly in the centre of the thriving village of Rochester, parallel to the great leading western road, and across the Genesee



river, about eighty yards south of it. The approach of the Erie Canal to the Genesee river, from the east, is for a considerable distance confined to a steep, bold bank; at the foot of which formerly ran a raceway. This artificial water course, on the immediate bank of the river, was compelled to give place to the Erie Canal, and has been placed outside of it, till at the instant of its crossing, it is passed under it in an arch of twenty-six feet chord. The natural and artificial scenery, here represented, is grand and peculiarly interesting. The river, with its rapids, is surmounted by the race above mentioned; which in its turn is surmounted by the Erie Canal, which is again overtopped by the table land in the vicinity, on the extreme edge of which is an important street of the village of East Rochester.

The Aqueduct, from the eastern extremity of its parapet walls to its western termination, is 804 feet long, and is built on eleven arches; one above named of twenty-six feet chord, under which passes the water necessary for a number of important flouring-mills, &c. nine of fifty feet chord, and one on the west side of the river, of thirty feet chord, under which passes water for a number of flouring-mills, and other hydraulic establishments in West Rochester. The structure is founded on solid rock, in which excavations were made to found the piers, which are 36 feet long, and 10 feet wide, including at each end a pedestal and dome, out of which rises a pilaster. The height of the piers is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet; the rise of the arch, 11 feet; its thickness at the foot, 3 feet; at the apex,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  feet. The parapet walls or sides of the trunk, are five and a half feet high, including the coping, which is so constructed as to form a capital to the whole trunk.

The whole of this immense building is of cut stone; many of them, particularly in the piers, of very great size. These are trenched to the rock by large iron bolts, and so cramped and cemented, as nearly to form a mass which possesses the consistency and firmness of a single unbroken rock.

The stone of which the walls are composed, is red sand stone, intimately blended with a small portion of iron. The pilasters and coping are of gray silicious lime stone.

On the north wall, which is of sufficient thickness for the towing path, is an iron railing; and at the west end, the whole is terminated by a highway and towing path bridge, of the most solid and elegant workmanship.

The work was commenced by Alfred Hovey, the contractor, on the 17th of July, 1822, and completed on the 11th of September, 1823, and cost \$83,000."

#### CANAL BASINS.

The canal basins, in the village and vicinity, (beginning at the east,) are—

- 1a. Gilbert's Basin—junction of feeder and canal.
- 2d. Jonnason's do.—west side of river-st.
- 3d. Child's do.—west end of the aqueduct.
- 4th. Fitzhugh's do.—between Washington and
- 5th. Fisher's do.—Buffalo-st [Sophia-st.
- 6th. Washington do.—Allen-street.
- 7th. Warehouse do.—Court-street.
- 8th. Ely's Slip.—Sophia-street.

There are also two dry docks, for repairing and wintering boats, owned by Oliver Culver, and an ingenious set of machinery at Fisher's basin, for raising canal boats out of the water to repair.

#### DAMS AND MILL COURSES.

Next in importance to the canal, are the *dams and mill courses*, that have been constructed at a great expense, and afford a great number of mill sites.

These are—1st. The dam above the rapids, having a mill race passing off to either side of the river; at present supplying nine water power establishments on the west and ten on the east side—2d. Brown's dam and mill course, of 80 rods, below the great falls, which already supplies ten establishments—and, 3d. Cleveland's course, on the brink of the falls, on the east side, supplying two mills.

Below the falls, another dam is about to be constructed, and at Carthage there already are two mill courses, each supplying two establishments, and affording the means for a very great number more.

#### BRIDGES.

There are now three bridges over the river, within the limits of the village.

First, built in 1810-12, re-built in 1824.

Second " 1819—by a private company.

Third " 1826—by individuals.

Connected with the first or middle bridge, is a market, now building, in the manner of a bridge, over the water of the river.

#### IV.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

##### THE COURT-HOUSE

Was erected in 1822, on a lot given by Rochester, Carrol and Fitzhugh, for the county buildings, extending 166 feet on Buffalo-st. and 264 feet on Fitzhugh-st. The natural declivity of the ground is reduced to two platforms; the first on the level of Buffalo-street, forming a neat yard in front of the building, which recedes 75 feet from the line of the street; the other raised about 6 feet above the former, and divided from it by the building itself and two wing walls of uniform appearance, presenting, towards Buffalo-street, the aspect of an elevated terrace, but on a level with the streets immediately adjoining.

This last, together with the yard of the first Presbyterian church, now comprehended within the same enclosure, forms a small square, laid out in grass plats and gravel walks, and need only the further attention of the citizens in planting it with shade trees and shrubbery, to render it a very pleasant and valuable accommodation as a public walk. This is now known by the name of Court-square.

The court-house building is 54 feet long, 44 wide, and 40 high. It presents two fronts, the one facing Court-square, showing two stories and a base—the other towards Buffalo-street, two stories and a full basement.

Each front is finished with a projecting portico, 30 feet long and 10 wide, supported by four fluted Ionic columns, surmounted by a regular entablature and balustrade, which returns and continues along the whole front.

From the centre of the building arises an octagonal belfry, covered by a cupola.

The basement affords convenient offices for county and village purposes.

The court room is in the second story, extending the entire length and breadth of the building, and is a remarkably well lighted and airy apartment.

### THE COUNTY GAOL

Is situated in the rear of a handsome and commodious brick house occupied by the gaoler's family, on the west side of Hughes-street, and enclosed with a high and formidable wall of stone.

Within are two tier of cells, divided by a hall through the centre, enclosed in a very strong and secure manner.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This building is situated on the south side of Court-square, and fronts the court-house. It is eighty-six feet long, sixty-four wide, and thirty feet high above the base. It is built of stone, covered with a durable cement, in imitation of whitish free stone; but the water-table, window and door sills, caps and starts, together with all the projections of the masonry, are of a red hewn sand stone. The platform and steps extending along the front are of the white Sweden stone.

The front of this building is a design by O'Donnell, in the Gothick style. Twenty feet of the centre is occupied by a square tower, projecting three feet from the face of the building, and both the tower and remaining part of the front, as well as all the angles of the building, are ornamented with pilasters, of full and handsome projections, supporting a bold entablature and cornice, both in the range of the eaves and over the several sections of the tower.

The angles of the towers are so constructed as to give each the appearance of a prism, or cluster of four pilasters, touching each other at their interior angles, the faces of two and the edges of two being visible, reduced as they ascend, from section to section, till they emerge as pinnacles at the top, still retaining their features as composed of four pilasters. The spaces between these pinnacles are finished with an embattled balustrade.

From the tower arises an octagonal spire, 79 feet high, divided into sections by bold astragal bands, showing the several faces conspicuously pannelled. The whole height of the steeple is 150 feet.

The interior of the building combines great convenience with good proportions, and a light airy appearance rather than laboured ornament.

The vestibule is entered by three doors, one in the tower, and one in each wing. The stair-case is opposite the centre door, and under it is a furnace, from which heated air issues into each pew in the body of the church.

The pulpit, which is low, is situated between the two inner entrance doors, and occupies, together with its stairs, a slightly recessed arch of 20 feet wide and 88 feet high. From the pulpit, the floor has a gentle ascent to the opposite extremity, and the pews are arranged as the chords of a circle, so that all directly face the pulpit. The galleries are much inclined, and supported by Ionick columns.

The steeple is furnished with an excellent bell, of 1800 lbs. and an organ of 14 stops has been lately erected in the gallery. The whole expense of this building, and the lot on which it stands, including the cost of the bell, amounted to about \$16,000.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This building, known by the name of St. Luke's Church, is 73 feet in length and 58 in width, constructed of stone. It is erected upon a lot which was appropriated for the purpose by Rochester,

Fitzhugh and Carroll, and is situated on the west side of Fitzhugh-street, a few rods south of Buffalo-street, and opposite Court-square. The style of the building is Gothick, which has been rigidly observed in every particular. There is not an ornament about it which is not in accordance with this kind of architecture. The main part of the front is of hewn gray stone, from Auburn. The two corners of the tower and the two corners of the body of the house are of red free stone, as are also the water table, the caps, sills and jambs of the windows and doors. The two windows in the tower are strikingly beautiful, containing a proper number of spandrels and branching mullions, and ornamented with rich and delicate tracery. Around the arch of the first of these, handsomely cut in the stone cap, is the name of the church, with the year of its erection. The tower is 16 feet square, projecting five feet beyond the body of the church, and rising to the height of 90 feet. This is finished at the top with eight pinnacles, connected by a castellated or embattled balustrade. A similar balustrade runs around the roof of the whole house, having similar pinnacles at each corner. The wood work on the outside of the house has been made strongly to resemble the red free stone, by a process termed *smalting*.

In the arrangement of the interior, will be seen convenience, elegance, and a strict economy of room. The pulpit and desk consist of a number of delicate Gothick arches, behind which is a drapey of dark blue velvet. The chancel is in the form of an oval, placed in front of the desk, and containing a communion table of Italian marble, and a baptismal font of the purest alabaster, resting on a pedestal of agate marble. The gallery is supported by large cluster columns, painted in imitation of light blue variegated marble. The ceiling is finished with intersecting vaulted or groined arches, ornamented with stucco work. In the church is placed a large and remarkably finetoned organ.

The corner stone of the building was laid on the 11th of May, 1824, and the house opened for public worship, September 4, 1825.

### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

Is a neat brick building, 42 by 55 feet, with tall Gothick windows, a balcony and dome, situated on River-street, in the eastern division of the village. It is surmounted by an octagon cupola, covered with tin plate; and from the elevated ground on which it is erected, it makes a handsome appearance.

### THE METHODIST SOCIETY

Are now erecting a frame building on Hart street, of respectable size, to be called "Bethel Church."

### THE ROMAN CATHOLICK CHAPEL

Is situated on Platt-street, a few rods west of State-street, in the north part of the village. It is built of stone, on elevated ground, from which a fine prospect of the village is presented.

The building is forty-two feet long and thirty-eight feet wide, with large Gothick windows. It was built in the year 1828.

### THE MARKET BUILDINGS,

Now erecting on the north side of the middle bridge, consist of an open platform, adjoining the bridge, of 20 feet, designed for a vegetable market; next, a raised platform, in a range with and corresponding to the side-walks of Buffalo and



Main-streets, of which the market will serve as a continuation. Next to this is the covered meat wide, between two rows of turned columns, and on either side, the places for stalls, each 10 by 14 feet.

The building is 40 by 80 feet, and built on the plan of the new market, in Boston—cost estimated at \$3,000.

It is in contemplation to build, the ensuing season, two large and beautiful stone edifices, for the second and third Presbyterian societies; also, several extensive milling establishments, besides a number of stores, dwelling houses, &c.

### V.—TRAVELING.

The facilities for travelling to and from Rochester, in almost every direction, have so much increased within a few years, and are a matter of so much importance, as to deserve a distinct enumeration.

The chief routes are, to the ports on Lake Ontario, and the rivers Niagara and St. Lawrence, by steamboats and schooners that ply upon the lake, and come into the port of Genesee;—directly east and west to Albany and Buffalo, with all the intermediate places, by the Erie canal;—to Albany by the great western state road;—and to Lewiston by the famous ridge road.

In addition to the travelling occasioned by the extensive export and import trade of this particular region, Rochester proves a thoroughfare for the trade of a large portion of Ohio, Indiana, the Michigan territory, and Upper Canada; and for the crowds of travellers from almost every country who annually visit the falls of Niagara.

1. *By Lake Ontario.*—The steamboat Ontario constantly plies during the summer season, between Lewiston on the Niagara, and Ogdensburg on the St. Lawrence river, touching at Hanford's Landing, (three miles from Rochester,) Oswego, Sackett's Harbour, and Cape Vincent, by which, passages may usually be had either way, once a week. The Ontario is an excellent boat, having been rebuilt in a substantial manner in 1825, with accommodations not inferior to any steam-boat on the lakes.

It is frequently the case, that travellers from the cities who visit Niagara falls, come out by stages and canal packets, and return by the steam-boat, to Ogdensburg, and from thence to Montreal, &c. The traveller is compensated for the trouble, time and expense, which this journey occasions.

The rates of fare, hitherto, have been,

From Lewiston to Genesee river, \$5.

From Genesee river to Sackett's Harbour, \$5.

From Sackett's Harbour to Ogdensburg, \$5.

The above rates include all expenses of board, &c.

2. *By the Canal.*—The packet-boats daily arrive at and depart from Rochester, both east and west, during the season of navigation, and afford excellent and comfortable accommodations. During the whole of the summer months, or from the first of May to November, the traveller is sure to meet, in these boats, a large company of the most respectable of both sexes; while the easy motion, and rapid progress of the boat, with the opportunity of alternate reading and conversation, beguile the tediousness of a long journey. These boats run night and day, and accomplish about 80 miles in twenty-four hours. The fare, including all expenses, is generally about four cents a mile. The packet-boat company have at present 12 boats, and 180 horses.

The following list of distances on the canal, is believed to be correct, and may not be inappropriate in this place, viz:—

EASTWARD.			
From Rochester to	miles.	From Rochester to	miles.
Pittsford,	10	Chitteningo,	116
Palmyra,	29	New-Boston,	120
Newark,	38	Canistota,	124
Lyons,	44	Rome,	145
Clyde,	53	Utica,	160
Montezuma,	64	Herkimer,	174
Port Byron,	70	Little Falls,	187
Weed's Port	78	Canajoharie,	202
Jordan,	79	Amsterdam,	225
Canton,	85	Schenectady,	240
Syracuse,	99	Troy,	262
Orville,	105	Albany,	269
Manlius.	108		

WESTWARD.			
From Rochester to	miles.	From Rochester to	miles.
Brockport,	20	Lockport,	64
Holley,	25	Pendleton,	71
Albion,	35	Tonawanda,	88
Knowlsville,	40	Black Rock,	91
Middleport,	52	Buffalo,	94

3. *By Stages.*—There are two stage routes from Rochester to Albany, usually occupied by two lines of stages, by which there are at least two regular arrivals per day, besides numerous extras during the chief season of travelling. One of these routes is as follows:

To Pittsford, 8 miles; Palmyra, 15; Lyons, 16; Montezuma, 16; Bucksville, 6; Weed's Basin, 3; Elbridge, 6; Camillus, 7; Syracuse, 7; Manlius, 10; Cazenovia, 9; Nelson, 4; Morrisville, 7; Madison, 7; Sangerfield, 8; Bridgewater, 7; Winfield, 7; Richfield, 8; Springfield, 9; Cherry Valley, 5; Schoharie, 28; Albany, 26.—Total, 217 miles.

The other, via Canandaigua and Utica, is as follows:

To Pittsford, 8 miles; Victor, 10; Canandaigua, 11; Gorham, 5; Geneva, 11; Cayuga Bridge, 14; Auburn, 9; Skaneateles, 6; Marcellus, 6; Onondaga Hollow, 10; Manlius, 10; Sullivan, 12; Vernon, 12; Westmoreland, 6; New-Hartford, 7; Utica, 4;—141. To Herkimer, 15; Little Falls, 7; Manheim, 10; Palatine, 10; Caughnawaga, 15; Amsterdam, 8; Schenectady, 15; Albany, 15—96. Total, 237. To N. York, by steam-boats, 149.

To and from Lewiston, by the ridge-road, a stage arrives and departs daily. The following is a list of distances on this route:

To Parma, 11 miles; Clarkson, 7; Murray, 7; Ridgeway, 15; Hartland, 10; Cambria, 12; Lewiston, 12;—75. From Lewiston to Buffalo.—Niagara Falls, 7; Buffalo, 22;—29. Total, from Rochester to Buffalo, 104.

To Buffalo via Batavia.—Scottsville, 12 miles; Caledonia, 9; Le Roy, 6; Stafford, 5; Batavia, 5; Pembroke, 14; Clarence, 8; Amherst, 7; Cold Springs, 9; Buffalo, 2;—Total, 77.

The rates of fare in all these, as well as those that follow, average about 8½ cents a mile.

Besides the above, there are stages to Batavia, every day, through Chili, Bergen and Le Roy—whole distance estimated at 88 miles. Also, to Batavia, through Scottsville, Caledonia and Le Roy, 40 miles. To Genesee, every second day, through Henrietta and Avon; whole distance, 80 miles. To Penfield, every day in the summer; distance 8 miles.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### SULPHUR SPRING BATHING ESTABLISHMENT.

This establishment, both healthful and comfort-

able to the resident citizen and traveller, was erected by an individual over a strong sulphur spring, on the south side of Buffalo street, near Washington street.

It consists of a bar-room, a ladies' drawing-room, and several bathing-rooms; and the visitor is furnished with warm or cold baths, either of sulphur, alkaline, or fresh water, according to his choice or taste.

The sulphur water from this spring is said to have a peculiarly pleasant effect, in giving softness and smoothness to the skin.

#### THE THEATRE

Is situated on Carroll-street, a few rods north of Buffalo street. It is open but part of the season, the company of performers not being permanently settled here, and only exhibiting a few weeks at a time.

Of the influence of theatrical exhibitions, upon the morals and habits of a young community, it does not become to speak; but we are constrained to say, that the character of the performances at this theatre has not generally been such as reflects credit upon the taste of our citizens.

#### THE MONROE COUNTY POOR-HOUSE,

Situated three miles south-east from Rochester, was erected at the expense of the county, in the year 1826. It is a convenient brick building, calculated to accommodate from 75 to 100 paupers. It is managed by five superintendents, and has at present about 35 occupants, about 20 of whom are employed in some useful labour.

#### CARTHAGE BRIDGE,

Having been an object of interest to the traveller while it stood, and its site and ruins being still an object of curiosity, we subjoin the following description:

It was built by a company of gentlemen, at the village of the same name, across Genesee river, about one and a half miles north of the village of Rochester. It was completed in February, 1819, under the direction of Brainerd & Chapman.

It consisted of an entire arch, the chord of which was 352 feet, and the versed sine 54 feet. The summit of the arch was 196 feet above the surface of the water. The entire length of the bridge was 718 feet, and the width 80 feet, besides four large elbow braces, placed at the extremities of the arch, and projecting 15 feet on each side of it.

The arch consisted of nine ribs, two feet four inches thick, connected by braced levellers above and below, and secured by 800 strong iron bolts. The feet of the arch rested upon the solid rock, about 60 feet below the surface of the upper bank. Soon after the completion of the bridge, loaded teams, with more than thirteen tons weight passed over it, without producing any perceptible tremour.

It contained about 70,000 feet of timber, running measure, besides 64,620 feet of board measure. It was built in the first place upon a Gothick arch, the vertex of which was about 20 feet below the floor of the bridge, and was, in point of mechanical ingenuity, as great a curiosity as the bridge itself.

The famous bridge at Schaffhausen, in Switzerland, which stood for fifty years the pride of the eastern world, was but twelve feet longer span than the bridge at Carthage. The

most lofty single arch at present in Europe, is 116 feet less in length than this, and the arch not as high by 98 feet.

This famous work, which reflected so much credit on the enterprise, of the proprietors, and the ingenuity of the builders stood but about one year. The immense weight of timber, pressing unequally upon the arch, threw up the centre from its equilibrium, and the whole tumbled into ruins.

This bridge was of the utmost importance to the rising village situated on the eastern bank of the Genesee river, within a short distance of the celebrated Ridge Road, the two points of which, broken by the river, might be said to be connected by it.

The scenery around this place is picturesque and sublime, being within view of three waterfalls of the Genesee, one of which has 105 feet perpendicular descent.

The manufacturing privileges at this point are very extensive and eligible, on both sides of the river. At present, they are only occupied by a flouring-mill, an oil-mill, and two saw-mills; but the time is not far distant, when extensive establishments will be erected, and a flourishing village built on each bank of the river.

Immediately after the destruction of the arch bridge, another bridge was built upon piers, about a hundred rods south of the site of the former, and upon a lower level, which makes a safe and easy communication from the west side of the river to Strong & Co's flouring mill, and the village of Carthage.

Another flouring-mill, to contain four run of stones, is now building, and preparations for other manufactories are in progress.

#### THE HARBOUR AND PORT OF GENESÉE

Is situated at the mouth of Genesee river, about seven miles north from the village of Rochester. Within the bar are twenty feet of water. There is a light-house on the west bank of the river, built by the United States in 1824. A port of entry was established in 1805, and Samuel Latta was appointed the first collector.

Jesse Hawley, the present collector, resides in the village of Rochester.

G. H. Holden, deputy collector and surveyor of port, resides at Charlotte, a small village near the mouth of the river, which was first settled about the year 1810.

There is a post-office in the place.

#### MONROE HIGH SCHOOL,

In Henrietta, about seven miles south from Rochester, is a brick edifice, 50 by 60 feet, and three stories high, exclusive of the basement, which is 7½ feet high, built of stone. The first story contains, on the left of the Hall, a school-room 50 feet long by 24 wide, and eleven feet high, and on the right of the hall, another room, 40 by 24. On the second floor is the principal school-room, 60 feet long, 40 wide, and 18 feet high, lighted by eleven windows, eight feet in length. Adjoining this is a small retiring room. The third story is nine feet high, and contains spacious rooms for a library, and the trustees, and a number of smaller rooms for studies.

At each corner of the balustrade, is an urn, five feet in height and two in diameter; and the building is surmounted by an octagon cupola, twelve feet in diameter, around which is a platform, whence there is a fine view of the surrounding country.

The expense of erecting and completing the building was about \$5,000, four-fifths of which sum was subscribed by the farmers of Henrietta, and the remainder by a few individuals in Rochester. This is the first academy incorporated under the act of 1821. The trustees are—

Levi Ward, Jr.,	Ezra Howard,
Giles Boulton,	Martin Roberts,
Jacob Gould,	Ozias S. Church,
Elijah Little,	Luther C. Chamberlin,
Elisha Gage,	Thomas Jones,
Abijah Gould,	Charles Dannels.
D. B. Crane, <i>Principal.</i>	
Mr. Gazlay, <i>First Assistant.</i>	

### CONCLUSION.

Having reviewed the progress already made in this village and vicinity, it may not be improper to conclude, by noticing some improvements to which its present circumstances loudly demand the attention of its citizens, as also some of the unoccupied fields of profitable investment and productive industry which are still presented; and undoubtedly the object that here presents itself as first, both in necessity and importance, is the

#### CAUSE OF EDUCATION.

There is yet no institution of learning enjoying a public and organized patronage. There is no edifice built for science—no retreat for the muses—no academick grove yet planted. The occupations of the citizens hitherto in their secular affairs, accounts for this; but this rather increases than diminishes its necessity. In proportion to the enterprise and bustle, and success in matters of mere physical wealth, which is daily presented to the observation of our youth, should be the effort to counteract the sordid principles which this alone must impress, and to enrich the mind of the rising race with the softening and elevating influence of education; without which, riches will fail to make them respectable or happy.

The age in which we live is teeming with improvements in education, as well as in other things. Our minds are no longer chained down to a few formal precedents, any or all of which might be inapplicable to our circumstances—we may now create the very thing we need; at least we may lay its foundation on a comparatively cheap rate. Only let a competent space of land be secured, and sacredly devoted to the cause of *general education*. Let the plan be liberal—as wide as the prospective wants of our population; and let buildings, in conformity with the plan, be erected as required.

If Greek and Roman literature be still indispensable to an enlarged mind and cultivated taste, let a provision for its thorough acquirement not be overlooked. If mathematical learning has become the handmaid of every useful art, as well as the very *marshal* of our reasoning powers, let its cultivation not be forgotten. If a manufacturing population, as ours must necessarily be, may be raised from the drudgery of the day that makes man a machine, and from the vices of the evening relaxation, which make him a beast, to the dignity of a mind that converses with God in the study of his physical laws, and that benefits society by his inventive ingenuity, while he reaps innocent enjoyment to himself; if this may be done by popular lectures on the arts and sciences—by philosophical experiments—by a cabinet—by a botanick garden commensurate with our means, why should not this be embraced in our plan? And if monitorial instruction, or any other improvements, may as-

sist in extending the benefits of elementary instruction to the whole of our children, rich and poor, let this not be overlooked. At all events, let the education of our youth be understood, as it is, an indispensable object, without which, our other labours are comparatively useless. Let it be understood that much time has already been lost, and cannot be redeemed; and that immediate exertion is demanded, to sustain the interest, reputation and well-being of our community.

THE PAVING AND LIGHTING OF THE VILLAGE. Is also an object which, though not wholly overlooked, demands more prompt and efficient measures than have yet been taken. These seem heavy burdens to the citizens at present, but a little reflection on the past, will clearly demonstrate that the necessary means are not unprofitably expended.

As to unoccupied resources for enterprising citizens, even a superficial observer can be at no loss to discover many. The river yet affords a multitude of mill sites, where labour-saving machinery of every description may be erected; the surrounding country presents a large and rapidly increasing demand for all the productions of art and industry; and the canal affords the means of cheap transportation to all the Atlantick cities, and, westward, through the lakes, to a distance of 3000 miles! An extensive establishment for working the iron ores of the neighbourhood, would be an advantage both to the publick and the proprietor. A glass manufactory could hardly fail to do well; and the fluete of lime in the vicinity, might be employed to good purpose in ornamenting the glass ware now imported.

The encouragements for the woollen manufacture, (especially if the pending tariff law should be carried in its favour,) may be considered as almost unlimited.

There is yet no brass-founding establishment in the place, though the demand is already considerable, and fast increasing.

There are also connected with the agricultural industry of the neighbourhood, many profitable objects presenting themselves.

The supply of the village with the productions of the garden and dairy, is not yet equal to the demand, and we will still import from abroad, at a high price, many articles for which our climate and soil is equal to any other under the sun. It is a singular circumstance, (for instance,) that we should here give two pounds of pepper, the growth of the Indian isles, for one of mustard, a plant as easily cultivated and floured here as wheat, of which we export so many thousand barrels.

There is perhaps no region in which the hop flourishes more luxuriantly, or with so little care, as here. A multitude of other articles might be mentioned, but these are sufficient to excite inquiry in our intelligent farmers.

To conclude:—We have seen our village, from a log hut or two, in the deep and lonely forest, rise like the work of magick, in a few years, to the form of a busy and populous city. We have seen the forest yielding to the fruitful field, and the fruitful field to streets crowded with commerce, and wharves covered with the merchandise of every nation. From a few adventurous settlers, braving the hardships and dangers of an untried wilderness, we now see a multitude of people enjoying all the necessities and luxuries of life. The past is instructive, the future deeply interesting. Industry and enterprise, crowned by the blessing of a bountiful Providence, have effected what we see. What future achievements may not be ac-

complicated by the same means? But a new element here enters into our calculations. It was the yielding forest and the passive earth that have been hitherto regulated and subdued; our future prosperity depends on the tractability of a mass of mind, a host of mingling opinions, passions, virtues and vices, thrown together from every quarter of the globe. Shall it rise through years to come in moral and social order and beauty? Let each citizen answer for himself; each will have his share of agency in the event; but let it be remembered, that a new instrumentality must be at work. The means that have transformed the forest, will not act upon the mind. Education must be cherished; religion must be revered; luxury and vice must be adjured; our magistracy must feel the true interests of the citizens, and must be supported in their efforts to promote every virtuous, and to suppress every corrupting influence. So doing, we are permitted to anticipate prosper-

ity. The Providence that has blessed the early, will equally smile upon the latter exertions. We may be wise and honourable, good and great, if we labour for it by the appropriate means, and with a corresponding ardour. And the time has come, when, if we put forth no other energies than those which merely tend to property and wealth, they will only tend to demolish the fabric they have reared, and render our successors a monument of the vanity and folly of human expectations. But we look for better things. We reckon on a community enlightened enough to know the value of its blessings, and the way by which they must be secured. We look forward to this place at some distant day, as a flourishing city; flourishing not merely in wealth and power, but in knowledge and virtue, an honour and blessing to sister cities around, and the home of a great people, enlightened and happy.

The following remarks by GEORGE G. COOPER, local editor of the *Daily Union and Advertiser*, to whom is indebted the credit of having sought out and republished the above sketches are so appropriate, and contain so much that pertains to the *present day*, we publish them entire as part and parcel of this book:

#### Rochester in 1827 and 1860.

The Sketches of Monroe County and Rochester up to 1827, taken from the first Directory, were concluded in our paper yesterday, having occupied eleven columns of solid matter. When the publication was commenced, we confess that we were hardly aware how interesting these incidents would be to very many of our people. Though they are no more than brief memoranda of events in the progress of Rochester, from a savage wilderness to a garden—an important centre of civilization and trade—yet as such they have been eagerly read, we are assured, by thousands. Old citizens, who have witnessed the progress of events, here noticed, almost from the outset, as well as those who know nothing of Rochester till since it became a city, are alike interested in these memoranda and they will preserve them for future reference. No one can peruse them with other than feelings of pride as he now looks upon our county and city, and contemplates how much has been accomplished by the industry of our people in half a century. The industry of the people of Monroe County has been bestowed upon a tract of country highly favored by Providence for development, and this is a fact not to be overlooked. The wealth of our locality lies chiefly in its soil. The water power of the city has done much to increase her trade and attract hither men of industry and capital, but that water power would have been of comparatively little value but for the soil which furnished the staple products to sustain life and employ capital in commerce and trade. The soil, the water power, the canal and

the lake have combined to attract labor and capital to this city and to make both productive. The Railroads have been incidentally beneficial, but Rochester has endowed these corporations with a liberal trade, and they cannot materially injure her without great prejudice to their own interests. These are facts which every Rochester man should keep in view in contemplating the past and predicting for the future. The growth of our place has been quite uniform—always healthy, and it has been as little affected by financial revulsions and the fluctuations of trade as any city in the Union. But we are diverging from our purpose, which was to briefly note some of the changes which have taken place since the first Directory of Rochester was published, in 1827, and the notes are only such as are suggested by reading these sketches. They, perhaps, should have been made from day to day as the matter was published.

The location of the city—the population we mean—has gradually spread from the points referred to in these statistics to nearly the extreme limits of the corporation. The city was chartered in 1834 with a population of 12,252, and since that time its territorial limits have been somewhat increased—chiefly at the north along the River so as to include the head of Lake navigation on the Genesee. From east to west the city is pretty compactly built up to the lines for a mile or more from the River each way. From north to south, which is between four and five miles, the population has not extended so thickly, and at the extremes it has not the density of a village.—Property in the Mill Lot of 100 acres, given by



Phelps to Indian Allen to induce him to erect a grist mill in 1789—which he deserted, and which Rochester, Fitzhugh and Carroll purchased for a small sum and laid it out into lots in 1812, is now the most valuable in Rochester, and lots 100 by 20 feet, have sold at \$20,000. The assessed valuation of the hundred acres is now several millions of dollars, and the real valuation treble that at which it is assessed. The eighty acres purchased by Elisha Johnson from the farm of Enos Stone in 1817 is now the most valuable property on the east side of the River, and its value can only be estimated by millions. James Stone, referred to as the first child born in Rochester, was born in the only house on the East Side of the River—and that built of logs. He is now fifty years old—a worthy and industrious farmer in the neighboring town of Greece.

The Frankfort tract has been well settled for many years, and it may be said to be entirely built over. It lies north of the Central Railroad, and between the River and Erie Canal. The Messrs. Brown and Mr. Mumford, who laid out that tract, have passed away, but they have sons yet living among us, in the prime of life and usefulness.

The Andrews and Atwater Tract, in the north-eastern section of the city, was slower in development, but within a few years past it has increased in population as rapidly as any other. The sons of Mr. Andrews still reside in that tract and are well-known citizens.

The bridges of Rochester need a passing notice. What was called the Middle Bridge in 1827, stood where Main Street Bridge now stands. It has been rebuilt two or three times, and the last time in 1856-7 of cut stone at a cost of over \$60,000. The first bridge at that place was completed in 1812 at a cost of \$12,000, paid by the counties of Ontario and Genesee, which then covered the territory. In 1819 the second bridge was constructed by Andrews, Atwater & Mumford, about midway between the Falls and where Andrews Street Bridge now stands. It was a toll bridge and stood but a few years. In 1826, a bridge was built by subscription at Court street. In 1819, the high bridge at Carthage, the wonder of the times, was built, and fell in just one year. It stood on the site of the Suspension Bridge constructed by the city in 1856, at a cost of \$25,000, which shared the fate of its predecessor in less than one year from the time it was commenced. Two bridges were subsequently built across the River, near the Lower Falls, and one stood as late as 1835, since which time there has been no bridge in the north part of the city, other than as we have stated.

Andrews Street Bridge was first erected, we believe, about 1836, and was rebuilt of iron, at a cost of \$12,000 in 1857. Clarissa Street Bridge,

in the south part of the city, was erected in 1841-2, and is now an iron structure. Court Street Bridge (of iron) was completed in 1858, and cost about \$32,000, we believe.

The first post office was opened in 1812, and the quarter's revenue was \$3.42. The current quarterly receipts are now about \$5,000.

The mill races are now as they were first laid out, except that they have been enlarged and improved, and upon them are situated many large and beautiful mills, capable of making more flour in a day than the mills of any other single town in the world. The Red Mill, built by the Ely's and Josiah Bissell in 1815, is still standing on Aqueduct street. The Strong Mill, built at Carthage in 1818, was burned five or six years since. The mill built by Mr. Cleveland in 1819 is now standing, and is known as the "Genesee Falls Mill." In 1822, Hervey Ely built a part of his mill, still standing near the Aqueduct. The Whitney Mill, built in 1826, is still standing at the foot of Brown's Race.

In 1815 Abelard Reynolds, who still lives, opened the first tavern in Rochester on the west side of the river. As the original boniface he may be proud to know that nearly two hundred landlords have taken license to keep tavern in 1860.

In 1815 the first census was taken, and the population was 381. The last census is now being taken and will show a population of about 47,000.

In 1815 the first religious society was organized of 16 members. 14 were alive in 1827, but how many are still living we cannot say. It was a Presbyterian Society, and Rev. Comfort Williams was the pastor. His son Chas. H. Williams still resides here an active business man. The first house for public worship was a wooden building on State street, (then called Carroll street) in 1817. It was built by the Presbyterians, was sold to the 1st Baptist Society about 1824, and occupied by the latter until 1837, when it was removed to the rear of the lot it occupied opposite Mumford street, and subsequently was destroyed by fire while used as a carriage factory. The second religious edifice was built in 1820 by St. Luke's Society on the lot where the stone church now stands. The latter was erected in 1824. The Quakers built the third house for worship in 1822, on Fitzhugh street, where they have a meeting house now. The same year the Methodists built the Brick Chapel on St. Paul street, which they sold to the Catholics and which is now used as a livery stable. The Methodist Society own St. John's Church and the Catholics St. Mary's, both good buildings. The latter will be a splendid edifice when completed. In 1823 the fifth house of worship was erected by the Roman Catholics, on Platt street—St. Patrick's Church—and it now stands.

In 1824 the present First Church edifice was erected, and there it stands, improved from time to time to keep it from going to decay.

In 1826 the Methodists began to build their chapel on the corner of Bank and Fitzhugh streets, which was burned once, rebuilt, and has recently given place to a block of stores. These were all the churches of Rochester prior to 1827. The Second and Third Presbyterian Societies were organized about that time, and worshipped in halls.

The praise bestowed upon the church edifices of Rochester by the author of the sketches of 1827 has been read, and it was all deserved at the time it was written. He says it was in contemplation to build, the ensuing season, two large and beautiful stone edifices for the Second and Third Presbyterian Societies. They were built, have been worn out, and given place to something more costly, and more in keeping with the spirit of the age which controls religious as well as civil bodies. The Second Presbyterian Society erected their church in 1829, and in 1860 tore it down, and are now building a temple to cost forty or fifty thousand dollars. The Third Society also constructed their church at the corner of Main and Clinton streets, became embarrassed and were compelled to sell out to the Second Baptist Society, who occupied the building until last fall, when it was destroyed by fire. The lot has been sold for stores, and the Baptists are building a beautiful stone edifice on North street. The Third Church hung for a while between life and death, then rallied and erected a church edifice on Main street, which was burned in the summer of 1858, and they have now just completed a fine stone church on Temple St., and a chapel beside, and both are paid for. There are now about forty churches in the city, some of which are very costly and elegant. The writer of 1827 could now see, if living, that far more has been done in this department of public improvement than he called for to make Rochester what he expected her to become.

In educational facilities the city has made as much progress as any other. In 1827, we are told, there were no institutions of learning enjoying public and organized patronage. We have now an excellent University, half a dozen or more excellent academies, a number of seminaries and private schools, and a system of public schools which cost the people over \$60,000 per year to sustain, to say nothing of the interest in capital invested in school property, worth perhaps \$150,000. There are 18 public schools, and most of them are in large and beautiful edifices, some of which cost above \$10,000.

Our benevolent associations exhibit as great progress and increase as do any other in thirty years. They are "too numerous to mention,"

and they cost many thousands annually to sustain them efficiently. Our Hospitals, Asylums, Charity Schools, and organizations for dispensing relief to the suffering, are in keeping with the progress of our city.

The Press of Rochester has kept pace with other departments of business. In 1827 there was one monthly, one semi-weekly, four weekly, one semi-weekly, and one daily newspaper.—Of all these but one survives under the original name, and that is the Daily Advertiser, the other half of our Union. The Monroe Republican and Rochester Mercury, weeklies, were merged, and called the Rochester Republican, the weekly now issued from this office. There are now published in Rochester two or three monthlies, five weeklies, one tri-weekly, one semi-weekly and three daily papers. The aggregate circulation of these papers is greater than the papers of any city in the State, excepting of course, New York. One weekly, Moore's Rural New Yorker, has a circulation of about fifty thousand copies. The Daily Union and Advertiser issue is between four and five thousand copies per day. Assuming that what cotemporaries claim is correct, and the Daily issues of Rochester are above ten thousand copies per day.

There was but one Bank here in 1827, with a capital of \$250,000. There are now 11 Banks with an aggregate capital of nearly three millions.

As to the occupation of the inhabitants—the trades and professions—we can give no comparative statistics, to show the increase. The physicians must number about 100, the lawyers nearly double that number, and the clergymen about sixty.

The Old Aqueduct, to which a chapter is devoted, and which was regarded as a wonderful piece of work in 1827, passed away years ago, and only a single arch is left as a monument to the grandeur of the enterprise. It cost \$83,000. The new Aqueduct, built about fifteen years ago, cost upwards of \$600,000. It is safe to predict for it a continuance for many generations.

The Court House, erected in 1822, was spoken of in 1827 as something of which the county could boast. Alas, this, too, has passed away, and on its site some ten-years since was erected the edifice which now stands there, and which cost over \$70,000.

The County Jail, so briefly referred to as "situated on Hughes street, in the rear of a handsome and commodious brick house occupied by the Jailor's family," has gone with other public buildings, and this so long ago, that many now residing here do not remember the building. North Fitzhugh was called Hughes street, in 1827, and the Jail stood on the site of the Unitarian Chapel. The new Jail was erected since 1830, and the old



Jail was occupied as a recruiting station by the U. S. officers for a number of years.

The Market Building—estimated to cost \$3,000—"built upon the plan of the new Market in Boston," was going up in 1827, and no doubt the villagers looked upon the growing structure with pride. It stood on the corner of Main and Front sts., where Mr. Erickson's elegant brick block now stands. The Market tumbled into the river more than 25 years ago, and the building that succeeded it has recently passed away to give place to one that is as good as can be desired.

Traveling in those days was not as easily, quickly and cheaply performed as now. Stages, boats, and a weekly steambot on Lake Ontario, were the only dependence of the public to get in and out of Rochester, unless they resorted to private conveyances. Stages have nearly all passed away, boats convey freight alone; instead of one steamer a week on the lake, we have three per day. And now no less than sixty trains of cars arrive and depart from the city daily, and some of these not unfrequently carry five hundred passengers.

The Monroe County Poor House still remains as one of the old landmarks of 1827, but it has been enlarged, and its thirty-five occupants of that day have been succeeded by four hundred paupers. It is a lamentable fact that pauperism has increased in the ratio of business and general prosperity. The only consolation that we can find in this emergency is, that we are told by one inspired of Heaven, that the poor we are to always have with us.

We might go on at great length in noting the changes in Rochester since 1827, but we have not space to do so to-day. The statistics of manufactures and trade would show largely in favor of the enterprise of our people, but these we must omit. In conclusion, we appeal to our readers to peruse the concluding remarks of the writer for the Directory of 1827, and see if our people have not accomplished all that he called upon them to perform to make Rochester "at some distant day a flourishing city—flourishing not merely in wealth and power, but in knowledge and virtue, an honor and a blessing to sister cities around, and the home of a great people, enlightened and happy."

As an appendix to the first Directory, a few brief notices of local events connected with the rise and progress of our city, collected from various sources have been added, which are worthy of perusal.

#### PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

ORGANIZED IN 1847.

The first preliminary meeting was held to organize a Pioneer Society, when it was suggested that the hardships and privations endured by them, should be commemorated in an appropriate manner by the survivors.

In accordance with this suggestion several preliminary meetings were held, which resulted in the adoption of a series of resolutions designed to control their future proceedings.

It was determined in the first place, to convene a *social meeting*, to be composed of Pioneers who had settled at, or were born in Rochester prior to the first of January, 1816, and who were then residents of our city or its vicinity.

Article first of their Constitution admits persons who at any time previously to the first day of January, 1820, were residents of Western New York.

After the adoption of resolutions expressive of their gratitude to God for having preserved the lives and health of so many of them, a committee of arrangements composed of the following gentlemen was appointed, viz:

Enos Stone, Harvey Montgomery, Samuel G. Andrews, Silas O. Smith, Aaron Newton, Moses

Chapin, Jonathan Packard, Harvey Ely, Chas. J. Hill.

#### FIRST PIONEERS' FESTIVAL.

The first meeting of the Pioneers, called for the purpose of commemorating the early settlement of Rochester, was held at Blossom Hotel, on Thursday the 31st day of September, 1847. The following gentlemen were chosen officers:

*President*—ENOS STONE.\*

*Vice Presidents*—Hon. Ashley Sampson,\* Ralph Lester,\* Oliver Culver.

*Prayer* by Rev. A. G. Hall.

A sumptuous dinner was prepared by the Messrs. Blossom—themselves Pioneers and proprietors of one of the oldest hotels in the city. There were sixty-two present at this festival.

The society now (1860) consists of about ninety gentlemen and forty-two ladies. They hold annual meetings at the Court House in Rochester, on the second Tuesday in June in each year.

The portraits of about sixty members of the Association have been painted by Mr. Colby Kimball, an artist of Rochester, and are now hanging in the Court Room.

\*Deceased.

## JUNIOR PIONEER ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED IN 1855.

*Annual Meeting October 26th, each year.*

Not wishing to be outdone by the *old gentlemen*, the Juniors organized a society composed of persons who have resided in this County previous to 1825. At their first organization the following officers were elected:—

*President*—Ezra M. Parsons, of Gates.

*Vice Presidents*—Wm. A. Reynolds, N. Osburn, H. L. Achilles, L. D. Ely, John C. Nash.

*Recording Sec'y*—L. Starr Hoyt.

*Corresponding Sec'y*—L. Ward Smith.

*Treasurer*—George W. Fisher.

*Executive Committee*—Jarvis M. Hatch, T. A. Newton, D. H. Griffith, Jacob Howe, N. A. Stone, T. Chapman, C. H. Bicknell, George W. Fisher, John B. Dewey, James S. Stone.

*Committee on Historical Collections*—W. A. Reynolds, L. Ward Smith, J. C. Nash, George W. Fisher, L. D. Ely.

Being younger and more active men, their meetings partake largely of *Young America*, and as they annually come together at their social gatherings, the boys of 1812, '14, and '16, are found to be a full match for their *sires* in *tough yarns* of their boyhood—and their yearly gatherings are looked forward to with as much zest as though they were still under the training of their old *schoolmaster*—Doctor Burch.

Mr. O'Reiley says of "THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTERVILLE, in 1817, from which period the commencement of Rochester may be fairly dated, the difficulties interposed by the war having prevented any considerable improvement before the year 1816. The improvement of the place in various ways, between that period and the year 1837—forming the first score of years since the place was lawfully organized under a village charter. We preface the account by some notices of the proceedings of the corporation, under the village and city charters, between the years 1817 and 1837—THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS."

## CORPORATION OF ROCHESTER.

1817, June 10.—The first Board of Trustees elected under the village charter.

1817, October 9.—The first Fire Company formed.

1819, the name of the village corporation was changed from "Rochesterville" to "Rochester," the original name, by an act of the Legislature.

1826. The powers granted to the village corporation were found to be inadequate to a good police regulation. The question was agitated during the fall, whether application should be made for a city charter. After considerable discussion, the project of a city charter was de-

clined by the people, and the Legislature amended the village charter by vesting ample powers in the Board of Trustees.

1826. First election under a new village charter. The village was divided into five wards.

## CITY CHARTER.

1834. After several applications made to the Legislature, the city of Rochester was chartered in the spring of 1834. On the incorporation of the village in 1817, about 4750 acres were included within its limits. The city charter in 1834, extended its bounds so as to embrace upward of 4,000 acres.

## THE MAYORS OF ROCHESTER.

The organization of Rochester under the city charter occurred June 9, 1834.

Jonathan Child, First Mayor.

1834–5. At the inauguration the next day, Mayor Child made the following remarks:

"The rapid progress which our place has made from a wilderness to an incorporated city, authorizes each of our citizens proudly to reflect upon the agency he has had in bringing about this great and interesting change. Rochester, we all know, has had little aid in its permanent improvement from foreign capital. It has been settled and built for the most part, by mechanics and merchants, whose capital was ECONOMY, INDUSTRY and PERSEVERANCE. It is their labor and skill which has converted a wilderness into a city; and to them, surely, this must be a day of pride and joy. They have founded and reared a city before they have passed the meridian of life. In other countries and times the city of Rochester would have been the result of the labor and accumulations of successive generations; but *the men who felled the forest* that grew on the spot where we are assembled, *are sitting at the Council Board of our city*. Well then may we indulge an honest pride as we look back upon our history, and let the review elevate our hopes and animate our exertions. Together we have struggled through the hardships of an infant settlement, and the embarrassment of straightened circumstances; and together let us rejoice and be happy in the glorious reward that has crowned our labors."

On the 23d of June, in the following year, Mr. Child presented his resignation, and on the 2nd of July,

1835–6, Jacob Gould was chosen.

1837. A. M. Schémernhorn.\*

Mr. S. held the office about two months, when he resigned. To fill the vacancy thus occasioned,

Thomas Kempshall

was chosen on the 7th of March, 1837. On the retirement of Mr. Kempshall,

1838. Elisha Johnson,

1839. Thomas H. Rochester.

1840. Samuel G. Andrews.  
Mr. Andrews held the office but a short time, when he was elected Clerk of the Senate, and resigned, and E. F. Smith was elected for the remainder of the year.

1841. E. F. Smith  
was the first mayor elected by the people, 1841.

1842. Charles J. Hill.

1843. Isaac Hills.

1844. \*John Allen.

1845-6. William Pitkin.

1847. John B. Elwood.

1848. Joseph Field.

1849. Levi A. Ward.

1850. Samuel Richardson.

1851. Hamlin Stilwell.

1852. Nicholas E. Paine.

1853. John Williams.

1854. Maltby Strong.

1855. Charles J. Hayden.

1856. Samuel G. Andrews.

1857. Rufus Keeler.

1858. Charles H. Clark.

1859. S. W. D. Moore.

1860. Hamlet D. Scrantom.

#### POPULATION OF THE CITY AT DIFFERENT DATES.

First Census	1815.....	331
	1818.....	1049
	1820.....	1502
	1822.....	2700
February,	1825.....	4274
State cen. Aug.	1825.....	5273
	1826.....	7669
	1830.....	9269
	1840.....	20,191
	1845.....	25,261
	1850.....	36,403
	1855.....	43,877
	1860 about	50,000, returns not in.

#### THE PUBLIC SQUARES OF THE CITY AT THE PRESENT TIME, ARE,

2d Ward. Brown's Square is bounded by Brown, Jay, Kent and Jones Streets.

2d Ward. Centre Square is bounded by Ann, John, Centre and Sophia Streets.

3d Ward. Caledonia Square, is bounded North by Edinburgh and South by Glasgow st.

4th Ward. Washington Square is bounded by Court, South Clinton, Wood and South sts.

6th Ward. Franklin Square is bounded South by Andrews and North by Bowery.

7th Ward. Wadsworth Square is bounded North by Howell, South by Marshall and East by William Street.

8th Ward. Mechanics' Square is bounded East by King and West by Madison Street.

9th Ward. Jones' Square is bounded East by Schuyler and West by Graham Street.

\* The only ones not now living—1860.



IRONDEQUOIT BAY. Scene in 1850, near the Newport House. This Bay is about five miles long and one wide, and communicates with Lake Ontario by a very narrow opening, about four miles Eastward from Charlotte. It is quite a popular resort and one of the pleasantest places for fishing and picnic parties in the vicinity, being about a half hour's ride from the city. Here many a BUNGLING ANGLER has caught a ——— bite ———

*Finally*, we offer you a book worthy of perusal, and full of interesting *local matter*—a narrative of events that have transpired within the memory of a large portion of our citizens;—a history worth preserving;—a description of a city teeming with INDUSTRY and WEALTH, and possessing within her corporate limits the elements of a large city.

The traveller passing along the flying rail car, as he reaches the borders of the Genesee Country, asks,—What of *Rochester*?—Yes, What of *Rochester*?—She is looked upon with pride by every citizen, and astonishment by all travellers. Known far and near for her large nurseries and horticultural gardens, her numerous flouring mills, and manufacturing interests, her firemen, her military, her mercantile establishments, her banking credit, (being the last city in the State to surrender and stop specie payment during the commercial crisis of 1857)—her lake, her river, her bay, her falls, where Sam Patch made his final leap, showing that “some things could be done as well as others,”—her Genesee country with its fine scenery and natural advantages,—her MOUNT HORE,—the indomitable *perseverance* of her citizens,—the *never surrender* element she inherited from one of her early defenders—Captain FRANCIS BROWN, when ordered by Sir Admiral Yeo in 1814, with his fleet of *thirteen vessels* moored at our landing, and about to storm the town, he sent a British officer with a flag of truce on shore, saying that if they would deliver up the stores in and around Rochester and Charlotte, Sir James Yeo would spare the settlement from destruction—he was asked “Will you comply with this offer?” With all the true courage of a great general, and ready wit; surrounded by his brave company of about *thirty men*, hastily collected together in their grotesque military dress, equipped with their old rifles, muskets and shot guns, being *the only army* he had to protect and defend the place, the cool reply of Capt. BROWN was, “*Blood knee deep first.*” Thus ended the parley. The return of the flag to the fleet was followed by a vigorous attack of bombs and balls, while the compliment was spiritedly returned by a rusty old six-pounder, which had been furnished and mounted on a log for the important occasion. After a few hours spent in this unavailing manner, Admiral Yeo with prudent caution, withdrew his fleet to a safer harbour. And last, though not least, her public schools, her university, her many churches and religious societies.

Thus has Rochester gone on with all her improvements, not forgetful of the past, ever mindful of the future, until her fifty thousand inhabitants are proud of the place of their residence, conscious in the belief that all have contributed something towards keeping alive and making green the place they call—HOME.

THE PUBLISHER.

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NOTE. A more full and complete work of STATISTICS and LOCAL EVENTS, with illustrations of scenery, buildings, &c., in and around Rochester, will be issued from materials now being collected, as soon as enough has been gathered to make a book WORTHY OF NOTICE. Persons possessed of any information, views of buildings, scenery, &c., will do well to confer with me on the subject.





VIEW OF THE UPPER FALLS OF THE GENESSEE RIVER.



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