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THE PIONEER DAYS NOCHESTER

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THE PIONEER DAYS ROCHESTER

Houserated

Published byThe Paine Drug Co.

Licensed Pharmacists of Grantsmer 1820
24-26 Main St. East

Rochester N. Y.

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by
THE PAINE DRUG COMPANY

Preface

The publication of this little book is prompted by the unusual number of requests we have received for copies of the historical sketches appearing above our name in the newspapers and street cars of Rochester during the past two years.

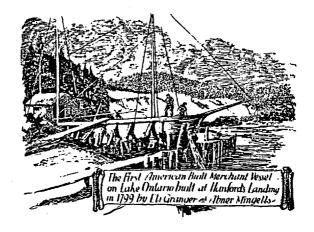
The interest in this series displayed by the Old-Timers, their children, and their children's children has been a deep source of gratification to us, and we thank them sincerely for the many suggestions they have given us from time to time.

If you obtain as much pleasure in looking over these high-lights of early Rochester as we have had in looking them up, we shall feel that our time has been doubly well spent.



HAT IS NOW CALLED "ROCHESter" was known as a "Mud Hole" and a "Dismal Swamp" in 1790. Yet Samuel Latta had the courage of his convictions, and started us on the Seas of Commerce when he built this warehouse at the mouth of the Genesee.

It is recorded that just about this time the first dish of currants was served at a tea-party—a thing that furnished much conversation for many months.



first settlers upon the west side of the river below the mouth of Black Creek. At the end of the eighteenth century, with the help of Albert Mingells, he built the first American Merchant Vessel at Hanford's Landing.

It was one year later, in 1800, that Colonel Nathaniel Rochester set out from Maryland to look over the place that later received his name.



R ECOGNITION! CHARLOTTE HARbor was made a Government Port of Entry in 1805. Things began to look up for the "City of Mud in a Dismal Swamp."

A few years later the first community picnic was held at "bough arbor," corner of what is now Main and St. Paul Streets. Twenty attended, each contributing his share. There were roast lamb, roast pig, vegetables and a bottle of whiskey.



MAGINE MEETING A DEER ON Main Street today! That was a common occurrence, however, in the Pioneer Days of Rochester. And that was not all, as Edwin Scrantom, one of the early settlers, wrote:

"In the day-time we could hear and see the deer in the swamps. At night we heard the mournful hooting of owls, the sharp barking of foxes, and sometimes the howling of wolves."



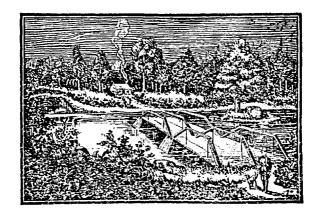
N AUCTION WAS NO ORDINARY occasion when Rochester was Rochesterville. All other engagements were foregone and work forgotten in order to hear Derick Sibley bring down his hammer with a "Going! Going!! Sold!!!"

It is said that the census-taker of that period had a very easy time of it, as no one missed an auction. The first census was made in 1815, showing a population of 331.



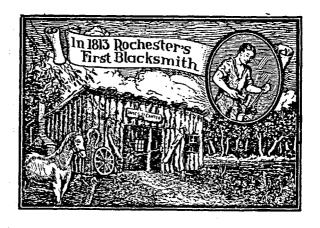
THE FIRST PHYSICIANS OF ROCHesterville included Dr. Simon Hunt, Dr. O. E. Gibbs and Dr. Jonah Brown.

Dr. Hunt performed the first surgical operation, resetting the dislocated ankle of a daughter of Hamlet Scrantom. It is reported that he was fully two hours in performing what was stated to be a very successful operation.



BEAUTIFUL CURVING RIVER, with great trees and thick underbrush crowding close to its banks; a wooden bridge, with a railing on either side, where one could stand and watch the swift current and hear the roar of the Falls; a sturdy log cabin or two—that was Rochester's Main Street in 1813.

Front Street, used to be a high water creek, a considerable island lying between it and the main channel.



JAMES B. CARTER GAVE ROCHESterville its first black-smith shop. Carter was one of the busiest of the busy villagers, never closing his place in those "Covered Wagon" days.

It is of interest that just about this time Francis Brown gave Gideon Cobb a yoke of oxen for cutting down the timber and grubbing the stumps towards making a three-rod road where State Street now is.



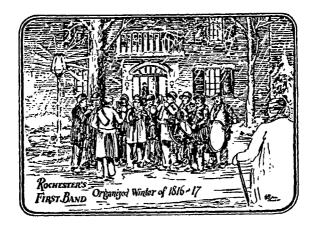
IN JUNE, 1813, SIR JAMES YEO, THE Commander of the British Fleet, anchored at the mouth of the Genesee and carried off what provisions they needed, including salt and whiskey.

The greatest sufferer from Yeo's Invasion was the poor mute who was captured, during the excitement, on the road between Charlotte and Rochester. Under the suspicion that he was a British spy he was cruelly tortured before the real reason for his not talking was discovered.



OCTOBER 8TH, 1815, WAS THE DATE of the village's first wedding. Miss Delia Scrantom was the bride. Jehiel Barnard, our first tailor, was the groom. John S. Mastick, the Justice of Peace, tied the knot.

Jehiel's boon companion, Ira West, enlivened the occasion by bringing along four gallons of the best Madeira and a left-handed fiddler.



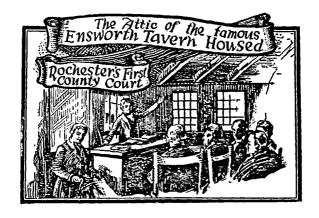
IFE WAS BEGINNING TO BE really worth living. In 1816 the Band was organized, the first weekly newspaper—the Rochester Gazette—appeared, the first steamboat entered the Genesee, and the first shade trees were set out by Harvey Ely and John G. Bond.

The following year a fire company of twenty-six members was organized. This year also marked the first Fourth of July celebration.



TT TOOK TWENTY-FOUR YOKE OF oxen to draw this schooner built by Oliver Culver to Irondequoit Creek.

Culver was one of the first settlers. In the early part of the nineteenth century he was shipping one hundred and eight barrels of pearlash a year to Montreal. Ashes, by the way, brought one shilling a bushel in trade at the store.



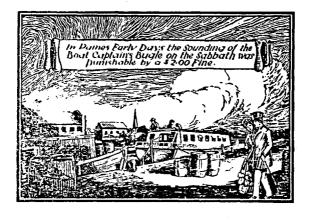
PEFORE ROCHESTER HAD A COURT House, the first County Court was held in the attic of the famous Ensworth Tavern, which stood just a few steps from Paine Drug Company's location. That was in 1821, marking the first anniversary of this store.

A year later the first ordinance for a sidewalk was granted, which was to reach from our store to the Mansion House at the corner of Market and State Streets.



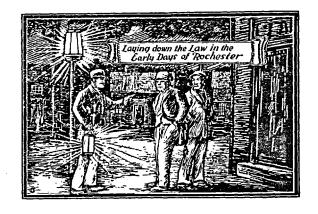
CANAL BOATS FROM ROCHESTER entered the basin of the Erie Canal at Albany as early as November, 1823. It was with no little pride that Calvin Granger proudly piloted the boat of which he was Captain, up and down Clinton's Big Ditch.

In an old journal of one of our pioneers is this item relating to a first journey by canal: "Commending my soul to God, and asking his defense from danger, I stepped on board the canal boat, and was soon flying towards Utica."



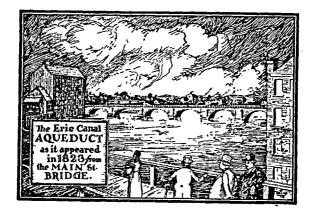
TIS DOUBTFUL IF ROCHESTER WAS ever responsible for a stormier agitation than the one originated on the Sabbath Question. That was during the "Decade Memorable," 1824 to 1834, the ten years preceding our incorporation as one of the cities of the Empire State.

Josiah Bissel, Jr., A. W. Riley and Aristarchus Champion headed the movement for the suppression of Sunday travel and the abolishing of Sunday mails, hotly proclaiming it wicked to run stages and boats on Sunday.



IN THE EARLY TWENTIES OF THE nineteenth century our village boasted of a Vigilance Committee of six men, each armed with a pistol and a knife. They kept law and order with a stern hand, never hesitating to make use of the old jail in North Fitzhugh Street when the occasion called.

Loafing about the town-pump at the "Four Corners" was against the law. A one dollar fine was imposed upon house-holders who did not sweep their side-walks every Saturday. Keeping a nine-pin alley invited a fine of five dollars per day.



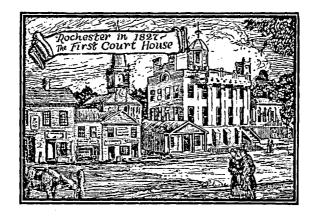
THE FIRST CANAL AQUEDUCT over the Genesee River was commenced on the 17th of July, 1821, and was completed in September, 1823, costing \$83,000. The workers included thirty convicts from Auburn Prison.

Among the toasts drunk at the Aqueduct Celebration in October, 1823 was this one by Colonel Rochester: "The most stupendous and strongest work in America, and an imperishable monument of the industry of the agents who planned and superintended and the mechanics who constructed it."



THIS IS HOW NORTH WASHINGTON Street looked in 1824. The Rochester Female Society erected the first Free School on this lot which was donated by William N. Fitzhugh.

It was not far from here that, in 1825, tomatoes as a vegetable were first grown in Rochester. Mr. Tousey, a Virginian, who spent his summers here, brought tomato seed with him and raised tomatoes for his own table at Christopher's Tavern. His friends who tried them did not admire his taste, however.



THIS IS THE SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN
Street at the Four Corners in 1827. The
First Court House, which is seen here, was
built on the same site as the present Court
House. It was made of stone quarried on the
spot—a lot given the city by Colonel Rochester, Colonel Fitzhugh, and Major Carroll.

The names above the doors on the buildings next to the Court House are: A. Chapin; B. Landfear, Cabinet Maker; Russell Green, Painter and Glazier; and A. Wakelee, Provision Store. The original sketch was made by Captain Basil Hall, R. N., in 1827.



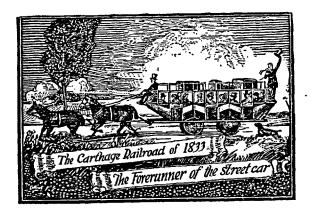
PRECTED IN 1828, JUST EIGHT years after our store was established and right next to it, Reynolds Arcade was recorded as the largest and most expensive building in the United States west of Albany and the finest in the United States outside of New York City.

Here was the Post Office; here was held the first justice's court; here the first physician practiced the healing art; and here the first lawyer expounded the principles of legal lore.



FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS THE Eagle Tavern was one of Rochester's leading hostelries—a haven for weary travelers, a place to meet and decide weighty affairs of the city, and a mecca for entertainment-seekers.

This old landmark stood on the site of the Powers Building at the Four Corners. The name of H. K. Van Renssaeller appeared above the main entrance. The tavern was torn down in 1868.



Onerailroad—a horse-railroad with pleasure cars thereon, running to Carthage. Before starting Captain Cheshire would sound his bugle, and if in a particularly cheerful mood would entertain the passengers while en route.

The Carthage Railroad was two miles long, beginning at the east end of the old Aqueduct at the head of Water Street. Its officers were John Greig, president; F. M. Haigt, secretary; and A. M. Schermerhorn, treasurer.



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMmon Council was held on June 10th, 1834, in the Court House. Here the Mayor took his oath of office, "delivering a most admirable address."

Jonathan Child came to these parts in 1810 from Lyme, New Hampshire, taught school in Utica, and settled in Charlotte where he was merchant and postmaster. In 1818 he married a daughter of Colonel Rochester.



POCHESTERVILLE BOASTED OF A population of 1,502 when its first drug store, now known as Paine's, was opened. It was situated just east of the Reynolds Arcade of today, in practically the same location as now. The date was 1820.

William Pitkin was the founder of Rochester's pioneer drug store. History tells us that "in his little laboratory he concocted those nauseous drafts in which the settlers relied for relief from fever, ague and the countless other ills common in the early days."



this drug store in his own fashion for twenty years, retiring in 1840 in favor of Lansing B. Swan. Rochester had become a city of 20,191 people.

The business continued to show a steady growth under the leadership of Mr. Swan. It was not long before he employed as his clerks Alfred S. Lane who came to Rochester from Utica, and Cyrus F. Paine, son of an Albion physician.



FTER THE DEATH OF LANSING B. Swan in 1852, Mr. Lane and Mr. Paine purchased the business. They conducted it under the firm name of Lane and Paine, a designation which is familiar to Rochesterians of the older generation.

The city was making rapid strides in size and population, and Lane and Paine's progressed along with Rochester. Larger quarters were becoming absolutely imperative.



THE SITE ADJACENT TO THE OLD drug store was acquired by two brothers of Cyrus Paine—Lemuel and James—who came to Rochester from Chicago. Here they erected Paine's present building into which the concern moved in 1873, after Cyrus and Lemuel Paine had organized a new partnership.

Five years previous to this date Clarence D. Van Zandt entered the employ of Lane and Paine as a clerk.



Zandt made his connection with Lane and Paine he became a partner in the company. This was in 1881, upon the death of Alfred S. Lane.

In 1897 the firm name was changed to the Paine Drug Company, and again in 1910 to the Paine Drug Company, Inc. Mr. Van Zandt was, and still is, president and treasurer. The other officers are George W. Sanford, vice-president, and Frank H. Goler, secretary and general manager.

Over a Century of High Ideals

NDER THE LEADERSHIP OF WILliam Pitkin and his successors—through one hundred and five years of peace and war, prosperity and panic—Paine's has endeavored to keep pace with the steady advance of "Rochesterville" to the "City of Rochester."

Since 1820 we have ever been on the lookout for new ideas but have never lost sight of the high ideals upon which this business was founded.

Now—in 1925—it is, we hope, with pardonable pride that we direct your attention to the Paine Drug Company of today, an organization of more than sixty persons housed in its own five-story building at 24-26 Main Street East.

Here is a department of Professional Prescriptionists who devote their entire energies and studies to accurate Prescription Compounding; a retail department which is kept always up-to-date with the products of reliable makers; a department of Surgical Instruments and Physicians' Supplies; and a manufacturing department.

The past record of an institution is an imperishable omen of the future—"foot-prints in the sands of time" that are a definite guide for those seeking honest service.

Whenever the occasion presents itself you will not be amiss in following your great-great-grandparents to the company linked with the pioneer days of Rochester and in the same location for over a century.

The Paine Drug Company of Today

| CLARENCE D. VAN ZANDT | | | | Pre | s. | and Treas. |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|-----|-----|------------|
| FRANK H. GOLER | | | | Gen | eri | si Manager |
| GEORGE W. SANFORD . | | | | | | |
| Fred W. Fleming | | | | | | Secretary |

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A. C. Rizzo H. R. Cornish G. F. McClintock C. H. Riley

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Mary Slattery

OFFICE

E. F. Hohman, Auditor

Catherine Bucher Mary F. Burke Clara Dentinger Eleanor F. Playford Ruth Schoenberger Helena Suriano Ruth E. Sturge

Elizabeth K. Englehardt Ro Harriet B. Noble

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Edgar Tabor

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Arthur Gresens

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