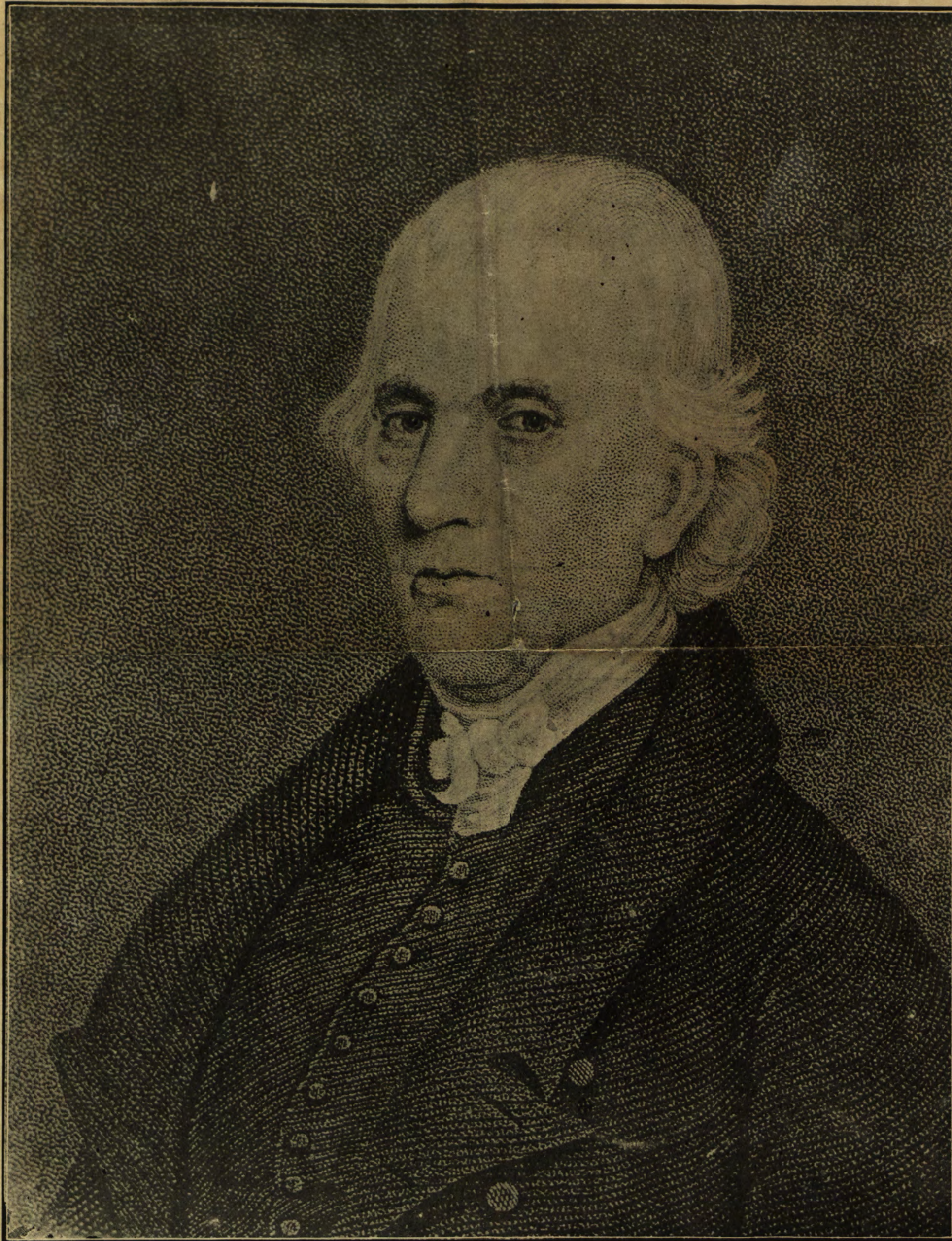


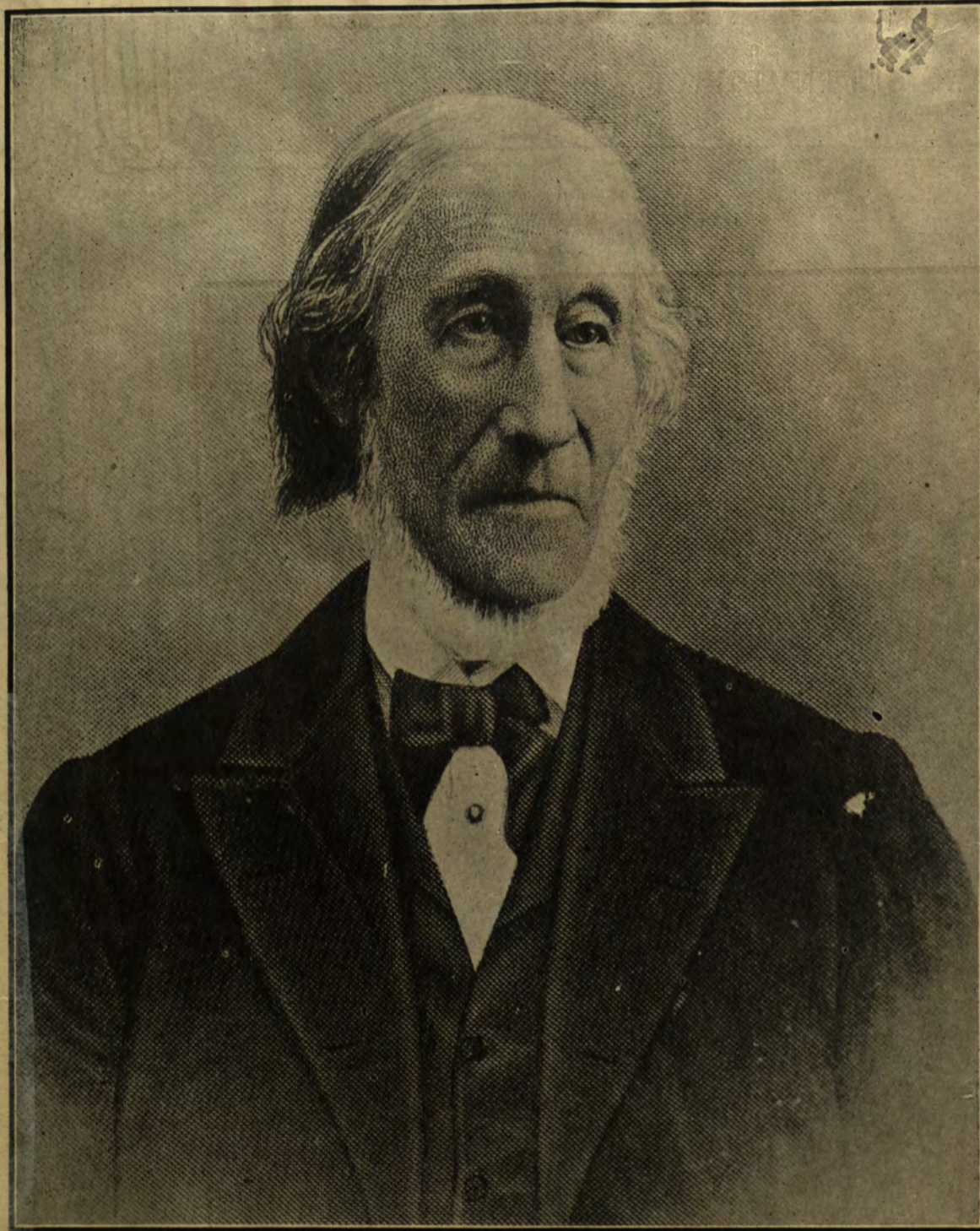
SUPPLEMENT TO
THE ROCHESTER HERALD.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1912.



Colonel Nathaniel Rochester

❁ *First Postmaster of Rochesterville and First Mayor of Rochester* ❁

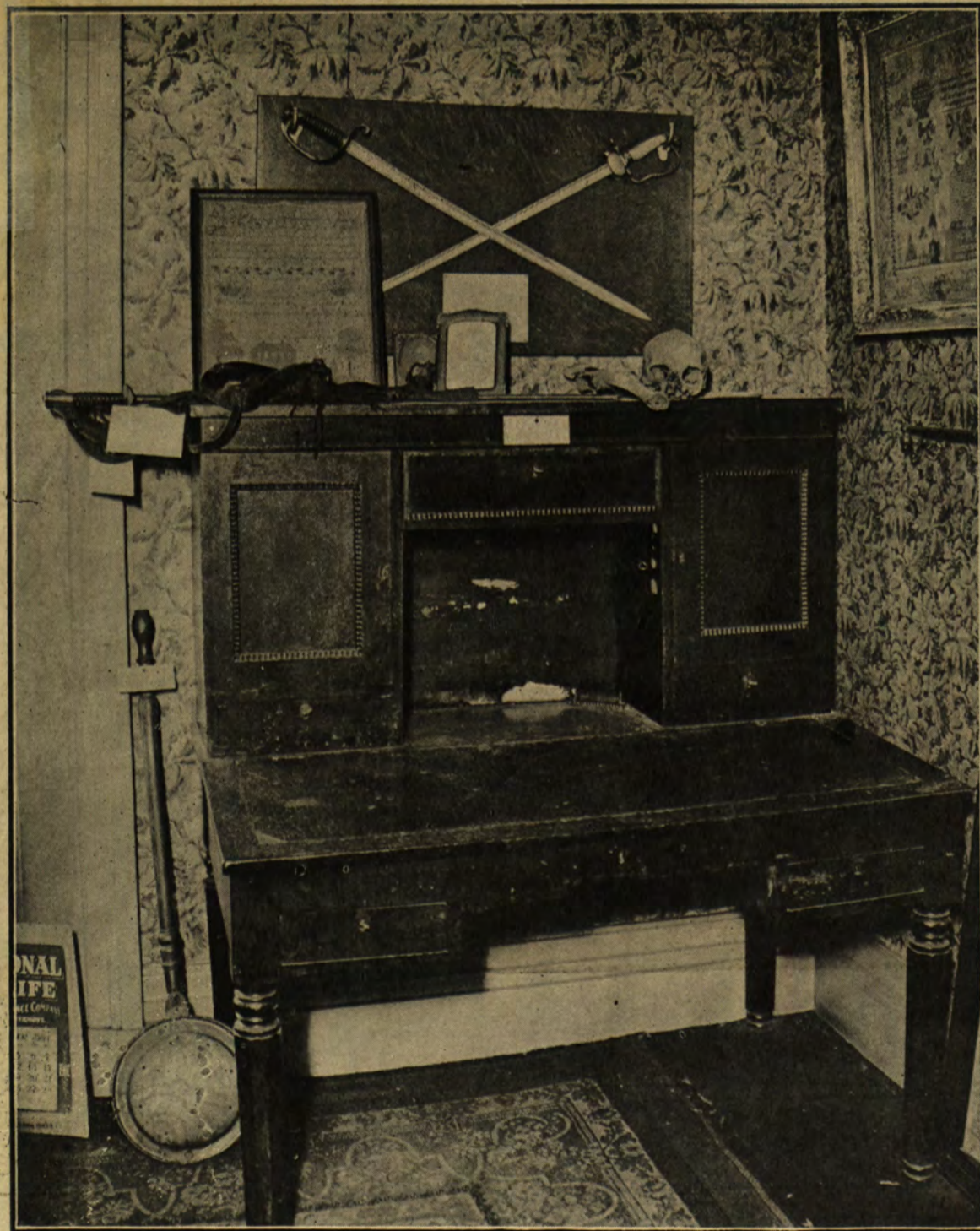


ABELARD REYNOLDS, THE FIRST POSTMASTER

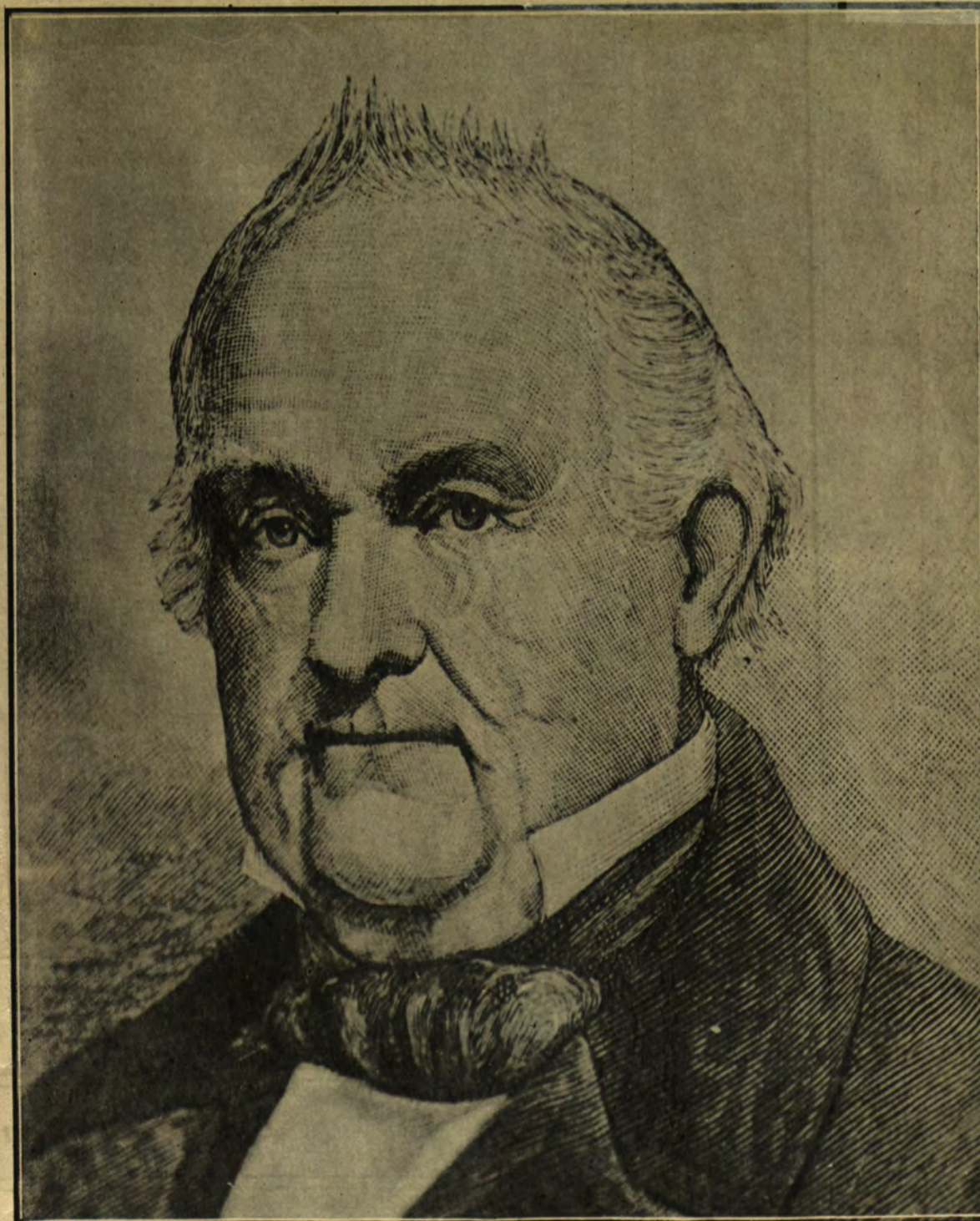


MR. REYNOLDS' OLD DESK, THE FIRST POSTOFFICE.

The first Postoffice in Rochester was nothing more than a single desk. It was stationed in the home of Abelard Reynolds, the first postmaster of Rochester, who brought it here with the rest of his personal belongings from Pittsfield, Mass., in the winter of 1812, making the entire journey by sleigh. The desk is of pine, three and a half feet in length, two in width and four in height. It originally had a pigeon hole compartment in the top and two large drawers underneath and was stained to resemble black walnut. The desk was placed in Mr. Reynolds' shop, where it served a triple purpose, as the receptacle of tools and of private and public papers. All mail was put in the pigeon holes, and a large tin box on top of the desk was made the receptacle of stamps and other appurtenances of the office. The first regular mail was brought to Rochester from Canandaigua, on horseback. It was received once a week, the letters being carried in saddle bags which hung across the horse. Abelard Reynolds, who was the builder of Reynolds Arcade, received his commission of postmaster on November 19, 1812, prior to which time there were probably no mail facilities in the village. The desk is now in the possession of the Rochester Historical Society.



DESK USED BY MAYOR CHILD.



JONATHAN CHILD, THE FIRST MAYOR.

Marred by the passage of three-quarters of a century, but still as solid as on the day it was made, the desk used by Jonathan Child, the first Mayor of Rochester, stands as a tangible link between the old Rochester and the new. It is of comfortable size, made of mahogany or a good imitation, fitted with a lift top, drawers at each end just below it and good sized apartments in the back part. It lacks the beauty and the convenience of the modern roller top desk, but it is as substantial as any that are made now, and must have been held in high value during the days of its service. Just what became of the desk after the death of Mr. Child is not known. It has been in the possession of the Rochester Historical Society for many years, and is one of the society's most valued relics. Whatever its subsequent history may have been, the most important fact in connection with it in the eyes of Rochesterians is that it was the personal property of the city's first Mayor. Mr. Child was elected Mayor soon after the incorporation of the city in 1834, and served until 1835, when he resigned the office rather than sign the licenses to sell intoxicating liquor issued by the Common Council. The Council offered to relieve him of the necessity of signing them by appointing a special officer for the purpose, but Mayor Child declined the favor, thinking it an evasion of his official duties. He died October 27, 1860, soon after learning of the election of President Lincoln, and with almost his last words he thanked God that slavery would die.

*Looking Back at Rochester
Through 100 Changing Years*



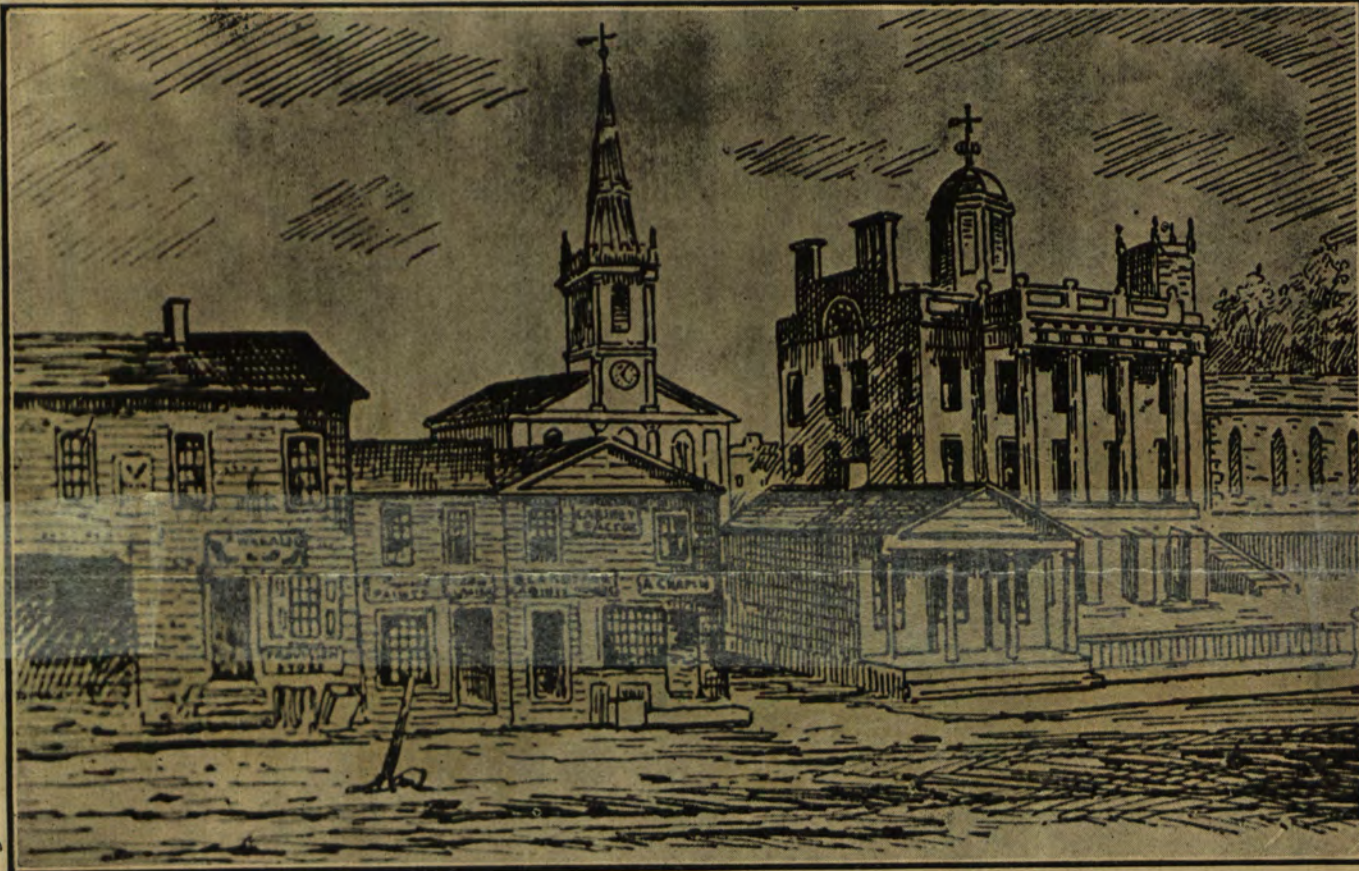
"ROCHESTER IN 1812."

This is a reproduction of the frontispiece in Henry O'Reilly's "Rochester and Western New York," and pictures an incident in the very early history of the Flower City. Enos Stone had a patch of corn in the fall of 1811, and an old she-bear caused him great annoyance by her depredations in his field. So, at 2 o'clock one morning, he turned out with a rusty gun, a boy and a dog, to do battle. The bear took refuge in a tree, and, being smoked out of her fortress, successively climbed and was smoked out of four other trees. Mr. Stone shot her twice, and then, running out of powder, borrowed more from a neighbor and continued the battle, wounding his four footed enemy so that she stood at bay on the ground, where she finally was despatched.



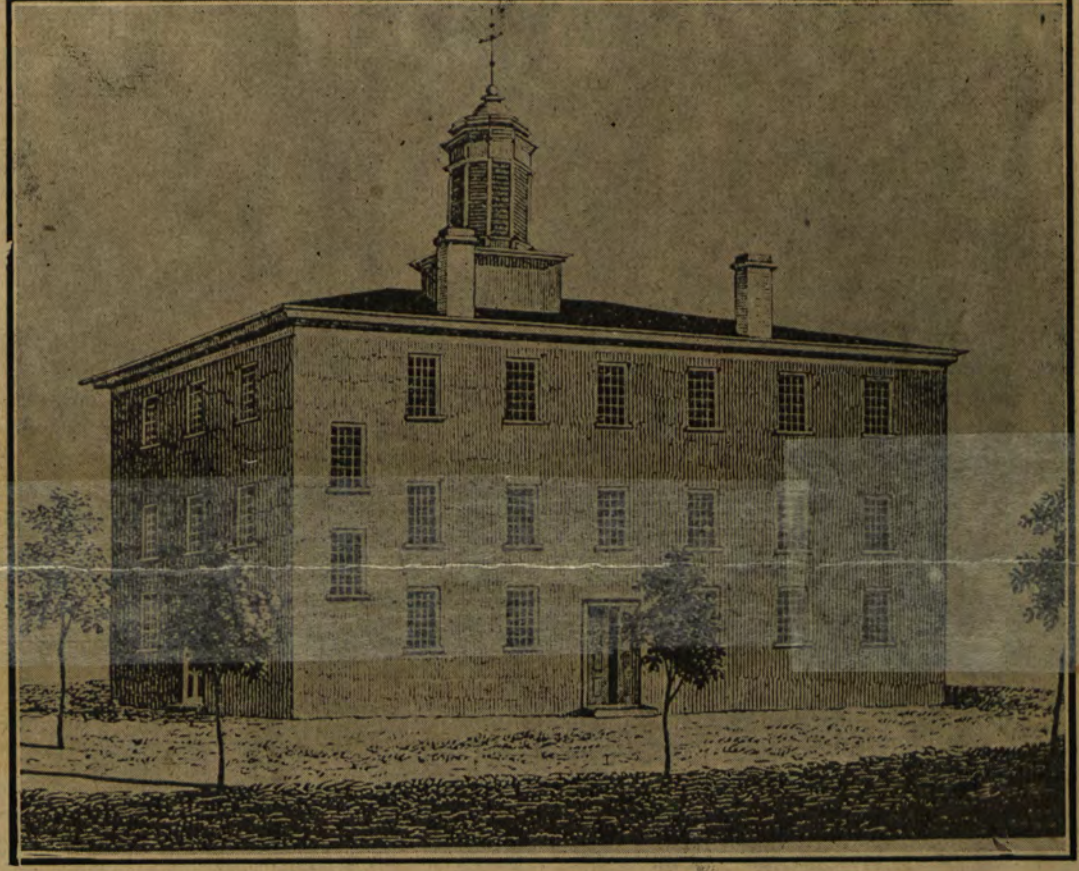
THE OLD "STEAMBOAT TAVERN" AT HANFORD'S LANDING.

In 1802, at the date of the purchase of the One Hundred Acre Tract by Rochester, Fitzhugh and Carroll, the interest of the new settlers was centered in Tryon's Town, south of Irondequoit Landing, and Kings (now Hanford's) Landing. It was thought that one of those places would become the business center of the Lower Genesee country. James Wadsworth became part owner of a tract on the west side of the river, and endeavored to found a town there. The old "Steamboat Tavern" was at Hanford's Landing, near what is now the lower end of Maplewood Park.



THE FIRST COURT HOUSE OF ROCHESTER.

This building stood at what is now Main Street West and Fitzhugh Street, and was finished in 1822. It was 54 feet long, 44 feet wide and 40 feet high, and presented two fronts, one of which faced on what was known as "Court Square," and the other on Buffalo Street, now Main Street West. Each front was finished with a projecting portico, 30 feet long and 10 feet wide, supported by four fluted Ionic pillars, surmounted by a regular entablature and balustrade, which returned and continued along the entire front. In the background of the picture is seen the spire of St. Luke's Church, and in the center of the picture is the old First Presbyterian Church, the yard of which was in the same enclosure with that of the Court House.



THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL IN ROCHESTER.

An act to incorporate the Rochester High School was passed in March, 1827. The two school districts on the east side of the river were constituted into one, and twelve trustees were appointed. A lot of one and three-quarters acres was purchased from Enos Stone, and the building shown here was erected. It had been intended to spend \$5,000 for its construction, but \$7,000 was the cost, and the money to defray the difference was raised by subscription. Before the public spirited citizens of the time were done with the enterprise, the school had cost in the neighborhood of \$11,000.



SOUTHEAST VIEW OF LOWER FALLS IN 1768.

This is the site on the Genesee of several bridges, and, judging from the picture drawn by the artist in 1768, there was at that time a natural bridge over the water at that time. What was known as the Carthage bridge was finished in 1819, and fell into the river in 1820. A few years later another was built farther south, and a few years later still, another bridge was erected which stood until 1835. In 1856 the city erected a bridge on the suspension principle, and that, too, stood only for a year. The present bridge was opened in 1890, and cost \$125,000.



THE OLD PORT OF ROCHESTER.

This was situated five miles south of Lake Ontario on the Genesee, at the north line of the city. Of it, O'Reilly's history says: "The largest vessels on the lake can ascend the river to this point. There is a winding road from the wharves up the bank; and there are three railways for facilitating the business between the vessels and the warehouses on the upper banks, which are here about 160 feet high. The view shown in the picture is reprinted from the O'Reilly history and shows the river at what was known as the Ontario steamboat landing.

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