The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is bound in a dark red, textured material, likely leather or faux leather. The spine, visible on the left, is decorated with a series of fine, parallel gold lines. The main body of the cover is plain and shows some signs of wear and discoloration.

EARLY ROCHESTER HOMES. SCAPBOOK OF CLIPPINGS. EARLY 20TH CENTURY.



# A Glimpse into the Old 'Flour City'

## Choice Items From Paper Of 1878

By ARCH MERRILL

THERE'S nothing like an old newspaper to mirror the by-gone times and customs.

Policeman Fred D. Lamb Jr., who patrols the historic Front Street beat of nights, brought in such a paper, a Rochester Evening Express, dated Jan. 15, 1878. It was 10 columns wide and almost as big as a bed blanket. The world news was on Page 3, the local news on Page 6 and advertisements covered half of Page 1.

A lot of water has gone down the Genesee since 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was president and Rochester, still "The Flour City," had some 82,000 inhabitants.

One article in the old paper indicated that one people of this earth had not changed in 66 years. It was headed:

### EXECUTION BY IMPALEMENT *One Horrible Method of Administering Justice in Japan.*

The article went on to tell how a condemned prisoner was fastened to a rude wooden cross and how sharp-pointed bamboo sticks were driven into his body. The torture was prolonged but the victim maintained his stoicism. I shall not go into all the revolting details. The point is, the barbaric and inhuman spirit of the little yellow men, our No. 1 enemies in this war, has not changed one whit in these 66 years.

There was war in the world in 1878, the Russo-Turkish War and the Russians and their Balkan satellites were at the very walls of Constantinople that January of 1878. The Express contained such communiques as:

"Turks claim that their fleet bombarded and destroyed Epuatoria and Yaiti in the Crimea."

"It is calculated that 20,000 fugitives have arrived in Constantinople from Romania during the week."

"The German and Italian ambassadors deny the report that their governments will demand permission for their fleets to pass the Dardanelles if such permission is granted the British fleet."

Doesn't it all have a familiar ring? Only now in 1944, we wage war on a far greater and more deadly scale.

\* \* \*

IN 1878 the Wild West and the frontier had not been relegated to the historical novels and the movies. For a dispatch from Washington told that two companies of U. S. cavalry and two infantry units had been sent into Idaho to put down the Bannock and Shoshone Indians.

Under scientific notes appeared this intelligence:

"Several devices have been suggested for calling attention to the telephone when it is desired to open conversation. One of the simplest is the invention of William Roatgen (probably Wilhelm Roentgen, discoverer of the Roentgen Rays) and consists principally of



Here is a picture, taken about 1878, of the southwest corner of Main and Exchange Streets where the Rochester Trust Company building now stands. Note the street car waiting room at the corner. The art gallery in the block was operated by Morton Rundel,

donor of the present city library building. The dome of the old Courthouse, on the site of the present one, looms up at the right and at its left is the same old City Hall tower. Picture was loaned by Assistant District Attorney Stephen K. Pollard.

a tuning fork, one of whose prongs is brought close to one of the poles or magnets in the telephone. The tuning fork is mounted on a sounding board. Similar apparatus is provided at each end of the line. To sound an alarm in order to give a call on the telephone, it is only necessary to draw a fiddle bow across one of the tuning forks; the other at the further end of the line responds with a note loud enough to attract attention throughout a large room."

The telephone was very young in 1878, for another item in the old paper told how Alexander Graham Bell had demonstrated his invention for Queen Victoria.

Sometimes one is tempted in these wartime days to try the tuning fork-fiddle bow method.

\* \* \*

Turning to the local scene—hidden away on the back page under "Local Brevities" we note that: "The sensation out East Avenue today will be the marriage of the daughter of one of our best known citizens residing on that thoroughfare. It will not be surprising if the floral display is more than usually attractive."

Why the coy anonymity? But of course, there were no society editors in 1878.

And here's another "Brevity," indicative of heated competition in the Fourth Estate:

"The fact that Senator Raines had to run to catch the train for Albany Monday morning afforded our morning contemporary a chance to of-

fer a third-of-a-column item. Must fill the space, you know."

\* \* \*

The paid ad section, probably more than any other department, gives a clear picture of the times in 1878, when the new song hit was "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," when the horse cars toiled up the Main Street hill and the Powers Block was the finest office building between New York and Chicago.

Among the Page One ads was this one:

### \$100 REWARD

The undersigned will pay One Hundred Dollars for the identification of a purplish brown felt or wool slough hat with black binding and cord; said hat having been left by the man who burglarized the residence of W. C. Barry on the morning of Jan. 8.

A. McLEAN, Chief of Police.

Which method of crime detection is respectfully called to the attention of 187 Exchange Street.

L. R. Kendall, 11 Main Street Bridge, advertised under the flaring caption "UNDERWEAR": Red wrappers, white wrappers, blue mixed wrappers, brown wrappers, red drawers, white drawers, blue mixed drawers, brown drawers.—All grades—price to suit the closest buyer."

Another style note was the an-

nouncement of McDowell Co., 53 State Street, of the arrival of "a choice stock of French knit shawls."

And there was the dignified business card of J. H. York, "City Scavenger," who used "the national odorless excavating process in his work, done with neatness and dispatch."

\* \* \*

This ad really should have been under "Scientific Notes":

"James Vick, 60 State St., announces barometer plants have just arrived from Paris. These flowers change color according to the weather. They are as correct as any expensive barometer."

At the Opera House, Fanny Davenport, supported by Augustin Daly's famous stock company, was presenting "As You Like It." Reserved seats were on sale at the Osburn House and the price scale was 50 cents to \$1.

The New York Central was running three trains daily to Charlotte and the Erie featured the Warsaw Express and the Dansville Express, as well as the New York Day Express and the Atlantic Special.

\* \* \*

Verily the old order changeth, yielding place to new.

But I am wondering if one of our newspapers of 1944, when exhumed in the year 2010, would not seem as quaint and hopelessly outdated as the 66-year-old copy that Freddy Lamb brought in.



# Auction Recalls 'Lavender-Lace' Culture of Old 3d Ward

## Sentimental Buyers Lured to Sale at Rebasz Home

Part of the soul of the old Third Ward was ripped away yesterday, bit by bit, by the hundreds of bargain hunters and relic seekers who swarmed to an auction in the red brick house of the late Charles Rebasz at 103 Troup St.

Gloomy beams from a stained glass hall lamp shed a last farewell at dusk last evening on departing visitors who toted away every last belonging of an old Rochester family that lived amid books and grand recollections.

The living room of the 50-year-old house on the fringe of downtown, where in old days intellectuals assembled to talk of literature and astronomy, hobbies of two

generations of Rebasz folk, yesterday was cast into a tumult by milling throngs of strangers and the shouting auctioneer.

"How much am I bid for these books—the whole lot of them . . . Do I hear \$4? Sold!"

A grandfather's clock went for \$75. The books were bought by a lawyer. Dust-covered boxes of spice and pots and pans in the pantry fell in a lot for \$1.50. Old costumes of challis, taffeta and fine muslin which belonged to Miss E. Alice Rebasz, the last occupant, were wadded up into bundles to sell for a few cents each.

When the weather-blistered oaken doors were opened to the public early in the afternoon, the presence of another era—the lavender and old lace era of the '80s and '90s—was lurking still. There was a smell of dust mingled with

old blankets, rugs, upholstery and books that filled four walnut cases of Victorian craftsmanship.

Water colors and paintings in ornate gold frames covered the walls. There was a small statue of Venus de Milo, another of Brahms. Along with books on astronomy, horticulture, and the stage and volumes of Shakespeare there were copies of Victorian best sellers like the Martha Finley series "Elsie's Motherhood" and "Elsie's Womanhood."

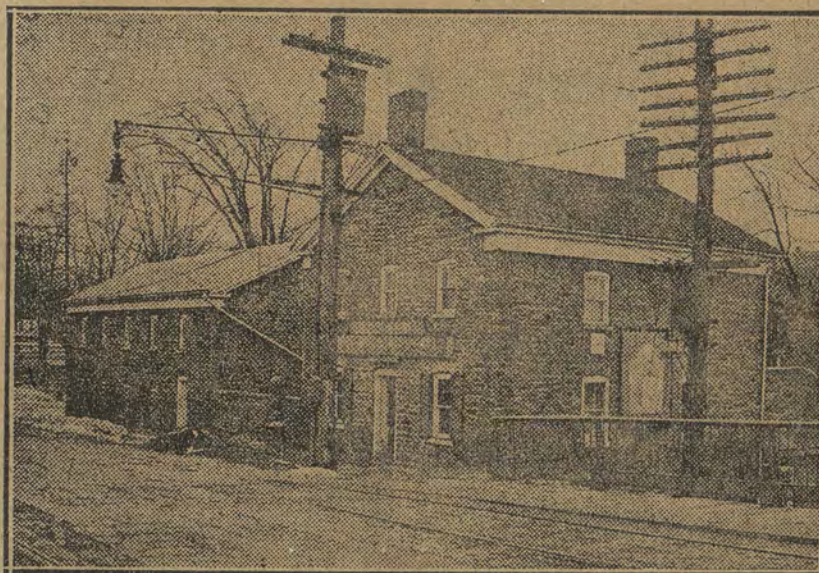
When the auctioneer held up a few pairs of new cotton stockings, a woman shouted "Fifty cents" and turned to a companion to whisper: "They're the kind she always wore. I know they're good."

The owner of the house, who died several years ago, was the son of William M. Rebasz, a scholar, sci-

entist and patron of the arts who symbolized the culture that belonged to the old Third, or Ruffle-shirt Ward, in the height of its grandeur. The elder Rebasz built an astronomical observatory on his home in Adams Street, attracted wide attention for his studies in microscopy and once made a musical instrument because in those pioneer days he was unable to buy one to his liking in America or abroad.

Charles, like his father, was interested in astronomy. His sister-in-law, Mrs. William Rebasz, founded the Livingston Park Seminary for young women. Miss E. Alice Rebasz, daughter of Charles, and last occupant of the Troup Street house, died last year. A son, William M., lives at 129 Rand St.

## Ancient Landmark To Fall Before March of Rochester's Progress



—Photo by Stone, Herald Photographer.

ONE of the oldest buildings in the city, which with its solid construction has braved the buffets of nearly three-quarters of a century, is about to be effaced to make way for progress. The building, shown in the accompanying cut, is the old Wolcott distillery that stands at the Mt. Hope Avenue end of the Clarissa Street bridge. It was built in 1840 by G. P. and A. F. Wolcott, and since then has continuously housed the distilling business of the Wolcott Company. The building has been condemned by the city to make room for Barge Canal Harbor Improvements and the approach to the boulevard that will parallel the river from that point southward.





Dec 11/22/36.  
**C. G. Fish Home  
 Exudes Charm**

By MARGARET WILLSEA

Among the oldest homes in Penfield is the charming, rambling, country farmhouse owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clinton G. Fish in Five Mile Line Road. The oldest of its three symmetrical wings is of commanding interest because of its blockhouse construction, and the fact it was erected in 1805 when only six families comprised the village. A history of Monroe County records the builder as John Hipp Jr., whose parents had come here from New Jersey. He lived in a log cabin while putting up his new home, which later proved a popular stopping place for Indians of the last village in this section. Hipp opened up the first sawmill on a branch of Irondequoit Creek. He possessed a spring of excellent water, and he was proprietor of a thriving distillery. His latchstring was always out to the Redmen who frequently sought the comfort of his fire-side in the sharp winters.

It was a tiny home. The present owners use the original main room for dining and the little room adjoining it is now a cosy reading room, particularly favored by the family.

is a wall case containing 333 as of Mrs. Fish's hobby & collection of fishes, done in china, glass in more than varieties.

One of these, a snuff box of gold, very old, is of excellent workmanship, jointed at close intervals to provide a graceful, life-likeness.

A built-in cupboard in the dining room displays more antique china and glassware moulded into fish shapes; a fine old milkglass soup and salad service; a set of old-blue and white Nanking ramekin bakers; majolica, and dolphin compotes.

The dining room gives on a hall at a slightly higher level, which brings the visitor into the second wing of the house, added in 1832. This consists of a large and very friendly living room, a book room to the rear, and an inviting sunroom beyond the hall.

A flight of so-called "boxed" stairs rises uncompromisingly, with pioneer straightforwardness, to the several bedrooms.

Below stairs, again, a more formal note has been sounded, in the use of oriental rugs on the fine old floors, and printed hand-blocked linen draperies at the windows. Suitability to the country farmhouse type has ever been borne in mind, resulting in a pleasing effect of dignity combined with liveableness.

Over the living room mantel is a colorful marine study in oils, painted by Walter King Stone, aside from which the other color values of the room have been kept in tone.

Three walls of the bookroom beyond are shelved with a challenging collection of volumes, one side of the room having been especially considered as background for a glorious portrait of Toussaint l'Ouverture, painted from life at the time when that patriot was in Paris en route to Switzerland where he was to be imprisoned and die.

Beneath the picture is a Governor Winthrop desk, made in 1769 by Elihu Fish, great-great uncle of Mr. Fish, who settled in the Quaker settlement of Farmington.

The piece is of cherry and chestnut, combined with white-wood (tulipwood).



The Penfield residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton G. Fish was commenced in 1805, added to in 1832, and completed in 1921. Standing by an old willow pond, its spring was a

famed Indian spot. Left, above, is Governor Winthrop desk made by Elihu Fish, and right, above, shows small part of collection of fishes, of which owner has over 500



# Weather Increases Social Activities at All Count



Built in 1848, the home of Mrs. Henry G. Danforth pictured above is considered by Claude Bragdon, famed architect, one of the most interesting local houses of its

time. Shown at the right is the white marble fireplace in the old-fashioned parlor with its gleaming girondole and five-branch candelabra in vintage pattern.

## Home Built by Judge Danforth, Pioneer Settler, Holds Rare Treasures of Bygone Era

By MARGARET WILLSEA

"THIS is the absolute depth of the wilderness!" wrote a young lawyer, George F. Danforth, to his father in Boston. The young man had come to Rochester in 1840 to settle on a farm in Gates on the old Buffalo Road, now West Avenue.

There he lived for some time with no less distinguished a person than Lewis H. Morgan, the ethnologist. One of the more important of our early settlers, Judge Danforth was among those to sign a petition for the founding of a Unitarian Church in Rochester.

In 1848 he built for himself and family the sand-colored, battened house here illustrated, of an architecture highly popular in the period, known by most people today as Victorian Gothic.

Claude Bragdon, famed architect who once made his home in Rochester, cites the house, present residence of Mrs. Henry G. Danforth, as one of the most interesting of the times. Except for the addition in 1870 of a library, and a portion of the hall and dining room, the house stands today as originally built.

Set well back in a grove of trees, the house has a most inviting aspect. Entering the long hall, one turns to the right into an old-fashioned parlor whose walls are of soft green painted plaster, flecked with the merest touch of gilt. The long windows are curtained in green, and Oriental rugs carpet the floor.

Above the white marble fireplace gleams a handsome girondole and five-branched candelabra wrought in a vintage pattern. Beside the hearth stands a French fire screen and an unusual brazier of Spanish brass. An antique sofa upholstered in rust, a chair of the same material, and another chair done in soft yellow, provide touches of comfort and color. A collection

of old English prints adorns the walls and gray houseplants bloom in the window ledges.

One passes beyond into the little library, done in cream-colored woodwork, where Gothic details prevail in the doors and bookcases.

In this little room is another antique sofa, with its carved feet of the winged lion and gooseneck arms. Noteworthy also is an Effingham Embree grandfather's clock standing in one corner, and again plants blooming in the windows.

To the rear is the main library, with its walls done in brown grasscloth, its window draperies of brown velvet.

An antique prism chandelier, similar to another in the parlor, recalls the old days of tallow tapers and carries the original candle rim.

The black marble fireplace gives gracious warmth in winter, beneath an unusual old French clock of inlaid brass, which under its glass dome, ticks away the hours.

A gracefully curved window seat cushioned in velvet gives vistas into the grounds. Fine engravings hang above the high bookcases.

Across the hall is a sunny diningroom papered in gold grasscloth. Here, above a black marble hearth, are youthful portraits of Judge Danforth and his brother, James. Another brother, Isaac Warren Danforth, attired in a magnificent costume with pantalettes and jacket trimmed in black braid, is also portrayed.

Several china closets of fine black walnut are worthy of mention, not only for their innate beauty but because they so well represent the period in which the house was built, when this was a favored wood of cabinet makers.

The furniture, however, is all of mahogany. Above the sideboard, an old Southern piece, having beautiful brasses, hang portraits of Judge Danforth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Danforth of Boston, flanking a mirrored banjo clock.

Most noteworthy piece in the dining room is a side table brought here by one of Judge Danforth's ancestors. It is of mahogany, an original Chippendale, made about 1750, magnificently simple in design, greatly restrained as to carving. This table, produced before the master fell into the more exuberant style of his later period, was among Americana exhibited at the Memorial Art Gallery during Rochester's Centennial year. One exactly like it may be seen today in the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

The winter kitchen, although entirely modernized so far as

working units are concerned, still has its old brick oven. To the rear, the summer kitchen has been converted into very attractive servants quarters.

Returning to the front of the house, but to the left of the hall, is the study, done in tans. Gothic features prevail again, with the woodwork painted to resemble graining, a detail highly characteristic of the period.

Burnished brasses gleam from the brown mantel, over which is an oil study portrait of Judge Danforth. Representations of other notables upon the walls include an engraving of Daniel Webster and a likeness of Rufus Choate, the lawyer, ancestor of Ambassador Joseph H. Choate.

The hall, which runs the full depth of the house, is carpeted in Orientals, its walls making a pleasing background for some fine engravings.

A marble bust of Judge Danforth, which was made at the time he was in the Court of Appeals, stands near the stairway. It was made in Italy on the order of his friend Daniel W. Powers. The likeness, the folds of the robes of office, show impeccable workmanship.

Other furnishings of the hall include an Italian cupboard and a bride's chest from Brittany, as well as a beautiful grandfather's clock from East Windsor, Conn. That it is a genuine Daniel Bur-nap, made between 1780 and 1800, is attested by a letter inside the case by the early American craftsman.

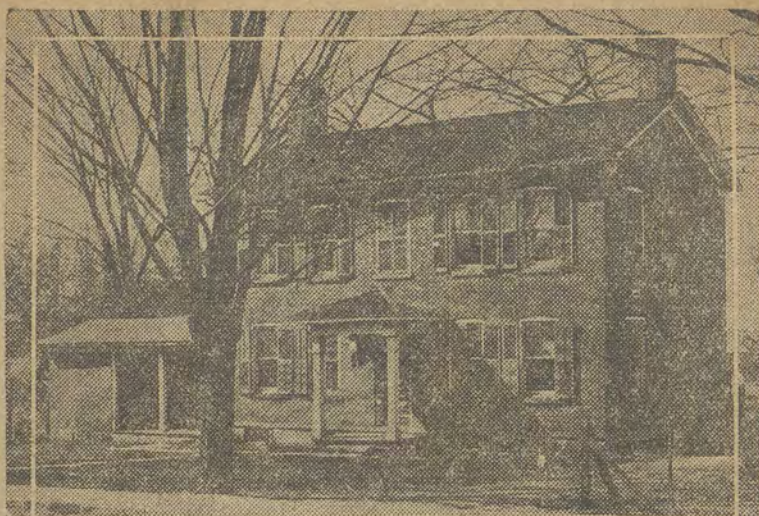
Aspiration was the spirit dominant in the thoughts of the Gothic builders in troubled days when the Old World seemed sunk in deep political and economic morasses. It is comforting to find here in the New World, in equally troubled times, remnants of this spirit, in some of Rochester's early dwellings.





# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

TRUESDALE HOUSE BUILT IN 1833.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

Above—House built in 1833 by James Truesdale.

Below—Warren T. Hilsker with the shotgun, powder horn and shot pouch brought to America from Ireland by his great-great-grandfather in 1823.

James Truesdale, who in 1833 built the house that is still standing at what is now 790 Ridgeway avenue, in the city of Rochester, was a well-read and intelligent man with

considerable vision, but there can be no doubt as to what would have been his answer, 80 years ago, if someone had told him that the house that he had just completed

would one day be within the limits of the city that was growing up to the south of him, and that the day would come when his descendants would be able to brilliantly light the house by pressing a button and would be able to talk into a microphone on the wall and be heard by persons at a distance. What he would have said if he had been further assured that these same descendants would be able to hear music and speeches transmitted through the air over the length of a continent, it is as well not to try to imagine. Yet all these wild imaginings have become realities within the walls of the sturdy brick house where James Truesdale's grandson, J. Warren Truesdale, now is living.

James Truesdale, who was a builder and contractor by trade, came to this country in 1823 from County Down, Ireland, with his wife and children, the eldest of whom was Samuel, who was born August 28, 1806. James Truesdale was naturally attracted to Rochester, where he secured a contract for building the culverts under the new Erie canal between here and Spencerport. His grandson still has a heavy stone hammer and other tools which James Truesdale brought with him from Ireland, as well as a single-barrelled shotgun, five feet two inches in length, a huge powder-horn and a shot belt with pouch of leather which he also brought along, having heard that Indians were plenty in New York state.

James Truesdale first built a log house some distance east of the present brick house. He contracted with the government for 100 acres of land which covered the entire section now bounded on the east and west by the railroad lines. For this land he paid \$8 an acre, preferring it to land in Plymouth avenue in the city of Rochester, which he could then have bought for \$6 an acre. Mr. Truesdale believed that he had also acquired title to the property now covered by the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and it was there that he cut the oak timber which he used for the framework and flooring of his home built in 1833. The stone which forms the cellar wall and the back wall of the house was Medina sandstone which was brought by way of the canal from Medina and was cut on the site of the house by Truesdale's workmen. The bricks were hand-made and were from a brick field which may still be traced on Ridgeway avenue.

So plentiful was timber in those days that only flawless wood was used in the construction of the house, the knotted wood being piled up and burned where it fell. Some years ago, when workmen were installing gas service in the house, it

was found impossible to cut through the three-by-six-inch oak beams with an ordinary saw and it was necessary to use a hack-saw for the work. The two immense chimneys, which originally served four large fireplaces, extend to the floor of the cellar and the fireplaces and hearths are also of the same hand-made bricks.

After Mr. Truesdale had cut the timber for his house he discovered that his title from the state was for land at Barnards instead of for the property on the river bank and he repudiated the negotiations since he had no use for the Barnards land. The government, to make amends for the mistake made, did not ask payment for the timber that had been cut from the river lands.

Ridgeway avenue, as it is now known, was a trail frequented by the Indians in the days when James Truesdale built his house, and the braves frequently stopped to sleep overnight in the big barn which stood on a knoll to the east of the house. It was their custom, in order to show their friendship, to leave their bows and arrows and their tomahawks at the house before going out to the barn. In the morning Mr. Truesdale would return the weapons to them with an accompanying gift of bread and milk. His kindly treatment of them was appreciated for on one occasion, when he and his wife were walking along the road a group of Indians came from the woods and presented them with gifts of beads and deerskin pouches which are still kept in the family as souvenirs. Mr. Truesdale did not place absolute faith in his Indian friends, however, for he always kept the old shotgun beside his bed and showed no hesitation in using it if he heard anyone prowling about the place at night.

After completing his contract on the canal Mr. Truesdale was engaged in many building projects in the growing city of Rochester. The farm was operated on shares by his sons and finally was purchased by his son, Samuel, about 60 years ago. James Truesdale lived to be 90 years old.

The present owner of the place, J. Warren Truesdale, was born in 1851 in the old house and has lived there all his life, watching the city reach out in his direction until the farm at last was taken within the city limits and was cut up for residential purposes, only two and a half acres being retained. The big barn has been torn down, but the old house has been little changed on the outside although it has been somewhat remodeled within and now has running water, electricity and all the other accompaniments of city life, including wireless installation.

Today there are three generations living in the old home, J. Warren Truesdale, grandson of James Truesdale, builder of the house; his daughter, Mrs. Theodore Hilsker; and her son Warren T. Hilsker, who still has some inches to grow before he will be as tall as his great-great-grandfather James Truesdale's gun with which he posed for the Times-Union photographer.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

EARLY DOCTOR'S OFFICE NOW COAL OFFICE.



—Photo

The frame building with the peaked roof and miniature Greek pillars, shown above, originally stood on Spring street at the rear of the Backus house which occupied the northeast corner of Spring and South Fitzhugh streets. In the '50s and '60s it was used by Dr. M. M. Mathews as an office but after the Civil War it was moved to its present site at 48 South Fitzhugh street by John Fay and was occupied by Charles H. Babcock as a coal office. Since that time the building has been in continual use as a coal office, the present occupant being Charles Bradshaw who in the '70s was a clerk in the Babcock office.

In the early days of the use of the building as a coal office there were extensive coal yards with trestles at the back, coal arriving by canal and being unloaded at the yards. At that time there was a weighing platform to the north of the office, the huge scales of which may yet be seen in the building, though they have not been used for many years.

The little building is similar in appearance to the two miniature "Greek temples" which stood in Main street on either side of Rochester's first court house, and which are shown in an illustration in William F. Peck's history of the Rochester Police Department. The building on the east of the court house was the office for many years of Attorneys Vincent and Selah Mathews and it probably was the similarity of names which gave rise to the erroneous statement sometimes made that the coal office on Fitzhugh street originally stood on Main street. According to Mr. Peck, however, the Main street building, after its occupation by Vincent and Selah Mathews, was used as the surrogate's office until 1850 when it was again rented to a private lawyer. In Civil War days it was pulled down to make way for recruiting tents. The corresponding building on the west of the court house was built by Dr. Elwood and Dr. Coleman who used it as an office. It was then used as an office for the county clerk until the erection of the second court house, when it was torn down.

Charles F. Pond who, by reason

of his long residence in the Third Ward and his accurate memory of early events, is an authority on building locations in that section, says that he remembers all three of the miniature Greek buildings and can vouch for the fact that the one now in South Fitzhugh street was moved there from Spring street.

The Backus house, which stood on the northeast corner of Spring and South Fitzhugh streets until it was torn down, about 10 years ago to make way for the present commercial building, was erected in the village days of Rochester by Colonel William Fitzhugh for his daughter on her marriage to Dr. Frederick F. Backus. Dr. Backus was one of the early physicians of Rochester and his name is prominent in city annals. At the first village election in 1817 he was named as village treasurer and at the first city election in 1834 he was elected alderman from the Third Ward.

In 1855 the house passed to the ownership of Dr. Moses M. Mathews and it was occupied by the Mathews family for a number of years. Shortly before the Civil War a boys' school was conducted in the Backus house by Samuel C. Pierce and it is said that the two rooms of the present coal office were used as class rooms. When the war broke out and call came for recruits, practically the entire roster of the school joined up and Mr. Pierce went with them. In its later years the house was used for tenant purposes. Since 1867 the property and that adjoining it on Fitzhugh street has been owned by the Fay estate.

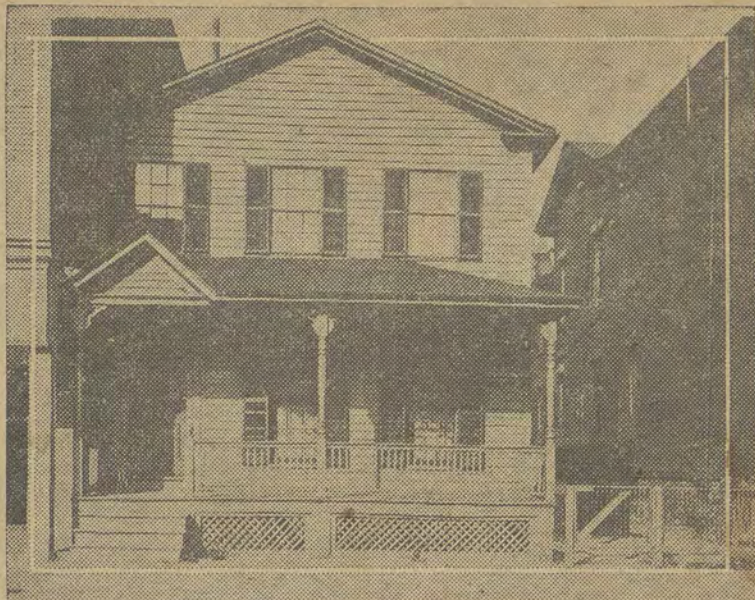
In the grounds of the house was a well which for many years before Rochester had a water system supplied the residents of Fitzhugh street and Spring street with clear, pure water. Another remembered feature of the place was the giant ailanthus tree which shaded the house and sidewalk.

If the present plans of the Common Council for the erection of a new city hall in Fitzhugh street are carried through, the little building which looks like a miniature of some of the pretentious homes built here in the 1820s will go the way of many other relics of early Rochester.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Post House Harbored Many Fugitive Slaves.



Tucked in between a parking station on one side and an automobile sales room on the other, there stands on the east side of Plymouth avenue north, just north of Church street, a modest frame building which was once a center of intellectual and reform movements in Rochester.

The house was in existence before 1838, for it was in that year that Isaac Post came to Rochester from Long Island and took up his residence there. Mr. Post, in the following year, opened the drug store at 3 Exchange street which was conducted by members of the Post family on that site for 63 years and which is still carrying on business at 17 Main street east.

Mrs. Amy Post, wife of Isaac Post, was a woman of brilliant intellect, strong convictions and unbounded energy, and the little house in what was then called Sophia street became a gathering place for those citizens of Rochester who took an interest in the abolition, temperance

and suffrage movements. Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and others interested in various reform movements were frequent guests in the house, and for 20 years before abolition sentiment crystallized in the Civil War the house was a station on the underground railway over which fugitive slaves were forwarded from the southern states to Canada where they automatically became free men and women.

In the earlier editions of William Peck's History of Rochester and Monroe County there is a chapter written by Mrs. Amy Post recounting incidents of the days before the war when the family was frequently awakened in the dead of night by the arrival of some fleeing slave. Mrs. Post, in this article, estimates that an average of 150 fugitive slaves reached Rochester each year and were assisted to safety, being kept in the cellar or the upper rooms of some other abolitionist in the city, until they could be driven in a closed vehicle to the foot of Buell avenue, at Charlotte where

they embarked upon a regular boat flying the British flag and were carried to Canada.

It was seldom that the Rochester people knew when to expect these pathetic guests. Sometimes the fugitives would arrive one at a time, and sometimes they came in parties, 15 arriving in one group. Sometimes it was possible to place them upon the steamer on the night following their arrival, but on other occasions they were kept for several days. Sentiment against the rendition of slaves was so strong in Rochester that though many persons came to know that the fugitives were hidden in certain homes of the city there were no informers and but one arrest of an escaped slave was made in the city. The fugitive slave law that was passed in 1851 aroused such antagonism in Rochester that the fugitives were more than ever safe. It is recounted by Mrs. Post that on one occasion, when Frederick Douglass was addressing an anti-slavery meeting in

Corinthian Hall, a number of escaped slaves whose color was so light that they could almost pass for white, attended the meeting. In the middle of the program word was passed through the hall that sheriffs were approaching with warrants, but the men were taken through a back door of the hall and were spirited away without being arrested.

Mrs. Post was also a leader in the founding of the Spiritualist Society in Rochester.

The house in Plymouth avenue north was occupied by members of the Post family until 1889.

## ROCHESTER HOMES

HOMESTEAD LONG IN FAMILY.



Fitzhugh street including the sites of the present Duffy-Powers building, where he erected what was for many years known as the Baker block; and the property adjoining Powers Hotel, where his daughter in later years erected the Baker Theater, now the Gaiety Theater. Mr. Baker also owned most of the farm property south of the city which was acquired by the city for Genesee Valley Park. A number of additional acres, known as the Baker Farm, were later presented to the Park Department by Miss Frances Baker and now form the second half of the Genesee Valley golf links, while the old farm house is now used as a rest house.

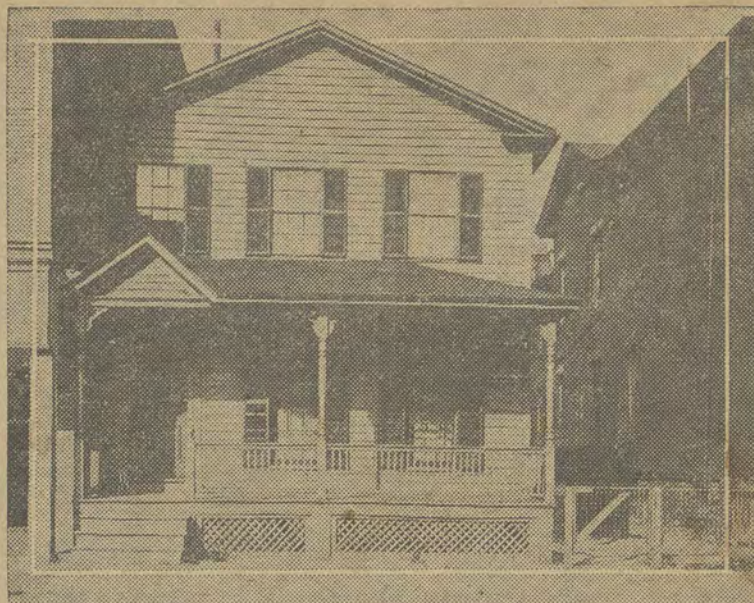
The Baker house on Fitzhugh street is one of the most delightful in the old Third ward. The high ceilings and white-paneled walls and doors make a fitting frame for the lovely old furniture which embodies the best tradition of the colonial period. The garden is also exceedingly lovely in its combination of old-fashioned and modern blooms.

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# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Post House Harbored Many Fugitive Slaves.



Tucked in between a parking station on one side and an automobile sales room on the other, there stands on the east side of Plymouth avenue north, just north of Church street, a modest frame building which was once a center of intellectual and reform movements in Rochester.

The house was in existence before 1838, for it was in that year that Isaac Post came to Rochester from Long Island and took up his residence there. Mr. Post, in the following year, opened the drug store at 3 Exchange street which was conducted by members of the Post family on that site for 63 years and which is still carrying on business at 17 Main street east.

Mrs. Amy Post, wife of Isaac Post, was a woman of brilliant intellect, strong convictions and unbounded energy, and the little house in what was then called Sophia street became a gathering place for those citizens of Rochester who took an interest in the abolition, temperance and suffrage movements. Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and others interested in various reform movements were frequent guests in the house, and for 20 years before abolition sentiment crystallized in the Civil War the house was a station on the underground railway over which fugitive slaves were forwarded from the southern states to Canada where they automatically became free men and women.

In the earlier editions of William Peck's History of Rochester and Monroe County there is a chapter written by Mrs. Amy Post recounting incidents of the days before the war when the family was frequently awakened in the dead of night by the arrival of some fleeing slave. Mrs. Post, in this article, estimates that an average of 150 fugitive slaves reached Rochester each year and were assisted to safety, being kept in the cellar or the upper rooms of some other abolitionist in the city, until they could be driven in a closed vehicle to the foot of Buell avenue at Charlotte where

they embarked upon a regular boat flying the British flag and were carried to Canada.

It was seldom that the Rochester people knew when to expect these pathetic guests. Sometimes the fugitives would arrive one at a time, and sometimes they came in parties, 15 arriving in one group. Sometimes it was possible to place them upon the steamer on the night following their arrival, but on other occasions they were kept for several days. Sentiment against the rendition of slaves was so strong in Rochester that though many persons came to know that the fugitives were hidden in certain homes of the city there were no informers and but one arrest of an escaped slave was made in the city. The fugitive slave law that was passed in 1851 aroused such antagonism in Rochester that the fugitives were more than ever safe. It is recounted by Mrs. Post that on one occasion, when Frederick Douglass was addressing an anti-slavery meeting in Corinthian Hall, a number of escaped slaves whose color was so light that they could almost pass for white, attended the meeting. In the middle of the program word was passed through the hall that sheriffs were approaching with warrants, but the men were taken through a back door of the hall and were spirited away without being arrested.

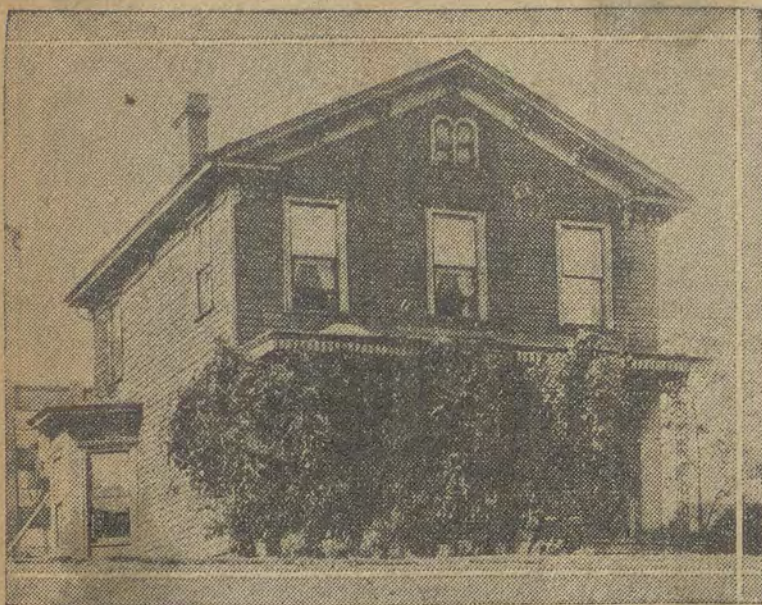
Mrs. Post was also a leader in the founding of the Spiritualist Society in Rochester.

The house in Plymouth avenue north was occupied by members of the Post family until 1889.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

House At 31 S. Washington St., Built Before 1820



The land at the northwest corner of South Washington street and Broad street, which is now being offered for sale to close an estate, is part of the original One-hundred Acre Tract purchased by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, Colonel William Fitzhugh, and Major Charles Carroll, on November 8, 1803.

A map of Rochesterville as it was in 1820 shows a house on the site and indicates that it was owned and occupied by Hervey Ely, one of the merchant millers who helped to give Rochester the name of "Flour City." Ely lived in the house until the late 1820's when he built the house at the southwest corner of Troup street and Livingston park which is now the home of Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R. It was Mr. Ely who, with Dr. J. G. Bond, planted the maple trees which were cut down in South Washington street last year when the street was widened.

In 1844 the house was occupied by Albert G. Bristol, a manufacturer of furnaces. Bristol moved to Spring street, and in 1853, moved back to South Washington street to the house adjoining

his old residence on the south. From 1849 to 1857 the house was the home of Ebenezer Griffin, a prominent attorney who moved there from a house at the corner of Spring street and Caledonia avenue, then known as High street. From 1864 to 1869 the house was occupied by Thomas Hawks and, in the latter year, it was sold by Sybil Bristol to D. Cameron Hyde, another attorney who had been living at 34 South Fitzhugh street. On September 9, 1876, Mr. Hyde sold the property to Hiram Hoyt, who lived in the house until his death on February 1, 1899. Since that time the house has had many occupants, at one time being conducted as a boys' school. In 1910 the place was sold by Frank P. James to Mrs. Ellen G. Darrohn.

### Was Home of Hiram Hoyt.

Hiram Hoyt, who lived in the house for the longest period, was born in Norwalk, Conn., on November 9, 1810. He came to Roch-

ester in 1841 and continued business until 1872, when he retired. He was 88 years of age at the time of his death.

In the days when the house, now known as 31 South Washington street, was built, before the Erie Canal was thought of, it stood on an eminence overlooking West Main street, then Buffalo street. South Washington street rose in a steep hill from Buffalo street and there were several other houses and the building of the old Bethel Presbyterian Church between Ely house and Buffalo street. When the canal was cut through one of these houses was entirely wiped out and the Ely house was left with a steep declivity at its northern boundary. This was built up with blocks cut from the stone excavated from the canal bed and a row of lilac bushes was planted along the top of the bank. These bushes are still in existence. The house was then only a foot or two above the sidewalk of Washington street, the bridge crossing the canal being of the "hump-backed" type under which the canal boats easily passed. As time went on the bridge was transformed into a thing of beauty by the planting of Virginia creeper vines which ran riot over the iron superstructure. This bridge remained until the work on the subway replacing the canal bed was begun. In 1834 after the subway and Broad street had been completed, Washington street was cut down to an easy grade at Broad street, the houses on the south side of Broad street being left high in the air so that they are now approached by flights of a dozen or more steps.

The property, which has a frontage of 172 feet on Broad street, is now offered for sale for commercial purposes and in all probability the mound on which the house stands will be dug away so that the foundations of any building which may be erected on the site will be level with Broad street and South Washington street.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BAKER HOMESTEAD LONG IN FAMILY.



The house at 91 South Fitzhugh street, now owned and occupied by Miss Frances Baker, has been the home of the Baker family since 1865 when Mr. Baker bought the house and its furnishings from Dr. Requa, a dentist who had remodeled the original house on the site and had furnished it throughout with very beautiful examples of old rosewood and mahogany furniture gathered at much trouble and expense. The collapse of oil properties forced Dr. Requa to part with the house and it was bought by Benjamin Baker who owned much property on the west side of the river and who then was living at 12 North Fitzhugh street.

The original house on the site was built by Erastus Cook in the late '20s and was occupied by him until 1857. Mr. Cook was a member of the firm of Cook and Stilwell whose watch and jewelry store at corner of Buffalo and Exchange street was known as "The Regulator." An early advertisement of the firm states that the store is constantly receiving a great variety of goods including cameo, coral, lava and stone breastpins and bracelets, gold and silver watches, Britannia wares and silver cutlery, "the silver of which we warrant equal to American coin."

The advertisement goes on to say:

"And now one word about selling cheap—we very much dislike anything like bombast or humbug, but if we do not convince people at our counter that we sell cheaper than those who boast the loudest, we'll give it up."

### Came To City on Foot.

Benjamin M. Baker's life was filled with the romance of pioneering and trade. He was born in New England in 1807 and as a boy of 17 years started "west" with the proverbial knapsack on his shoulder.

Making his way on foot to the little village of Rochester he first found employment as clerk in one of the few stores of the village. Being provident and ambitious he soon arrived at the dignity of owning his own store; then became proprietor of a livery stable. In the meantime he was beginning to buy property in the center of the city and was soon numbered among the landed men of Rochester and a man of importance

in financial circles. He was one of the first stockholders of the Rochester Trust and Safe Deposit Company and for many years was a trustee of the company. He was an incorporator of the Monroe County Savings Bank and was also a trustee of the bank. Mr. Baker died in the Fitzhugh street home on August 27, 1897 at the age of 90 years.

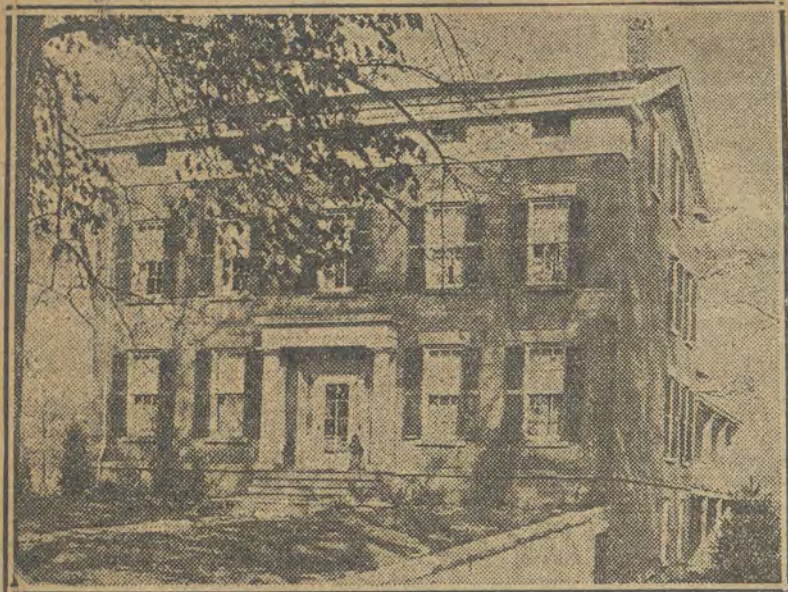
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## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CLOVER STREET SEMINARY BUILT IN '40s.



The fine old house in Clover street, Brighton, now owned and occupied by W. R. Hill, was built about 1845 on five acres of land deeded to Celestia A. Bloss by her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Moore.

In 1838 Miss Bloss began to teach the children of the Moores in a room of the Moore house in Clover street now the home of A. Emerson Babcock. The little daughter of Thurlow Weed of Albany later became a member of the class and admission was sought for children from neighboring families until the necessity for more commodious quarters was evident and the school was moved to the building just south of the Moore house which is still standing and is now used as offices for the Brighton and Pittsford Sewer Commission.

In 1845 the school was moved to the new brick house and on April 7, 1848, it was incorporated under the name of the Clover Street Seminary. Pupils came from Rochester and from all parts of the state, and the school built up a reputation, not only for its high standard of scholarship requirements, but for the manner in which it developed character in its pupils. The love and loyalty that these pupils retained for the school in after life may be read between the lines in accounts of reunions at which their school days were recalled and warm tributes paid to Miss Bloss and the teachers who worked with her.

In the days before Rochester had a streetcar system and the city limit in East avenue was at Goodman street, the large number of pupils that the school drew from this city is evidence of the estimation in which it was held by Rochester parents. To take these day pupils to the school there was an omnibus, drawn by two Indian ponies, which started each morning from the Clinton House in Exchange street. In the winter the omnibus was mounted on runners and the floor of the omnibus was covered with straw in which the well-wrapped boys and girls buried their feet to keep them warm on the long ride. In the spring and summer there was also a

packet-boat on the Erie Canal which left from the canal basin which then existed at the rear of the present Mathews and Boucher store. Passengers by this boat rode to Brighton whence they walked to the school.

Among the members of the faculty in the early years of the school were Mary A. Cogswell, Sara Ingersoll, Cornelia Rochester, Artemus W. Fisher, Elizabeth Bloss, Caroline Comstock, Mary Glen, Emmie Walker, Frances Hoyt, Hilda Comstock, Belinda Brewster, Mrs. C. H. Brockway, A. H. Harris, Charles Wilson, Ezra Rosebrough, Leopold Hack, Signor Martinelli and Emma Sleeper.

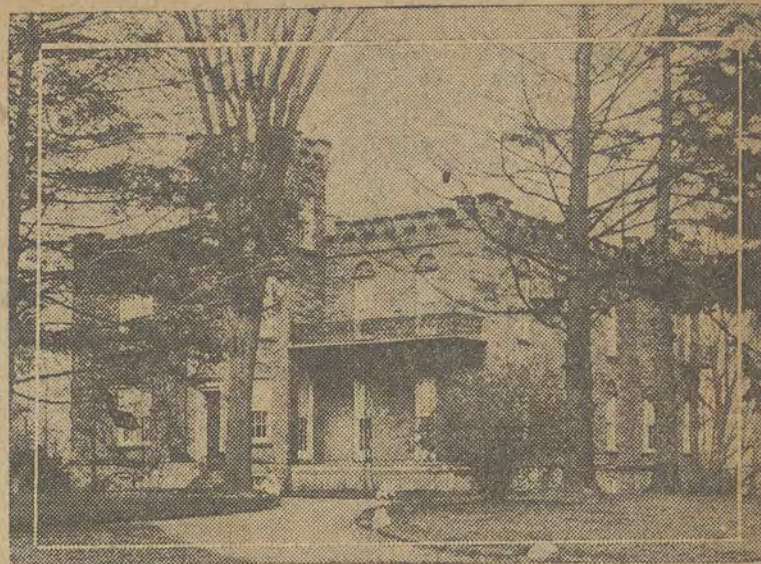
Among the boys who attended the school were Joseph Richardson, Carroll McVean, Hamilton Littlefield, Henry L. Bloss, Douglass Miller, Joseph B. Bloss, John McNaughton, Alexander McVean, George Pond, and Charles Goodman. Among the girl pupils were two Indian girls, wards of Ely S. Parker, one of whom was named Lusinki Jameson. There was also a pretty little octoroon named Mary Fielding who had escaped from slavery and whose history had more than a touch of romance. Just when her happiness in her adopted northern home seemed assured, however, she became ill and her death soon followed.

In 1849 Miss Bloss married Isaac W. Brewster. The school was continued under Mr. and Mrs. Brewster's direction until Mrs. Brewster's death in 1855, Mr. Brewster having died two years earlier. Mrs. Brewster was succeeded by Caroline A. Comstock who conducted the school for two years until it was taken over by Edwin S. Gilbert. In 1857 the school ceased to be incorporated, but was conducted by a Mr. Dunn concerning whose unique disciplinary measures there is still many a startling tradition.

In 1874 the Rev. Thomas Drumm, M. D. (these are his titles as given in the Rochester directory) conducted the St. Mark's School for Boys in the old seminary building. His advertisement describes the institution as being "a classical and

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

WARNER CASTLE BUILT IN '40s.



The quaint, towered and castellated building shown above, now the home of F. H. Dennis, was built soon after 1840 by Horatio G. Warner who had plans drawn to duplicate a castle which he had visited during a trip abroad. In early Rochester directories the house is given as "on Mt. Hope avenue near city line," but it has long since been caught up to by the expansion of the city and many streets have been opened up beyond it. The original grounds extended far about the house and were really a private park, guarded by the quaint lodge and gates which still stand on Mt. Hope avenue. This lodge and many acres of the ground are now park property.

Horatio G. Warner was born in Canaan, Columbia County, N. Y., in 1801 and moved to this city in 1826. He was admitted to the bar and, in 1840, formed a law partnership with Delos Wentworth. He later became owner and publisher of The Advertiser, holding it until its consolidation with The Union. He was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas and also became president of the Rochester Savings Bank. In 1870 he was connected with the East Side Savings Bank. Mr. Warner died at Greensboro, Ga., on February 11, 1876, and his widow, Mrs. Sarah Warner, continued to live there until 1886 when the house passed to J. B. Y. Warner, her son.

Many legends have gathered about the old house and about the strong and original personality of its first owner. Horatio G. Warner is said to have been a man with a keen sense of justice, but also of quick temper and strong prejudices. During the Civil War he was open in his expression of sympathy with the southern

states and there is a story to the effect that, at one time, he flew the Confederate flag from the tower of the house and refused to remove it under threat of gunfire. This story is discredited by Hugh Hamilton, of Lake avenue, from whose father Mr. Warner purchased the site for his home and who has vivid memories of the personality of the man. Mr. Hamilton feels sure that such an incident would have made an impression on his memory had it occurred, and declares that, while Judge Warner made no attempt to hide his sympathies with the South he was too gentlemanly and kindly by nature to openly insult his neighbors in such a fashion.

J. B. Y. Warner sold the house in 1902 to George D. Ramsdell, and on Mr. Ramsdell's death, 10 years later, it was sold to Mr. Dennis.

The house has 22 rooms and is massively built from cellar to garret. Another legend has to do with secret rooms and a tunnelled passage leading from the cellars, but there probably is more romance than truth in these stories. All the woodwork in the house is of black walnut, the doors, of which there are 62, being two inches thick. The stone walls of the building are 22 inches thick, of massive hand-hewn blocks. In recent years the interior of the house has been extensively remodeled, although the exterior remains as built. The black and white marble flagging of the vestibule has been carried through the large hall, a modern kitchen and bathrooms have been installed and other improvements have been made.

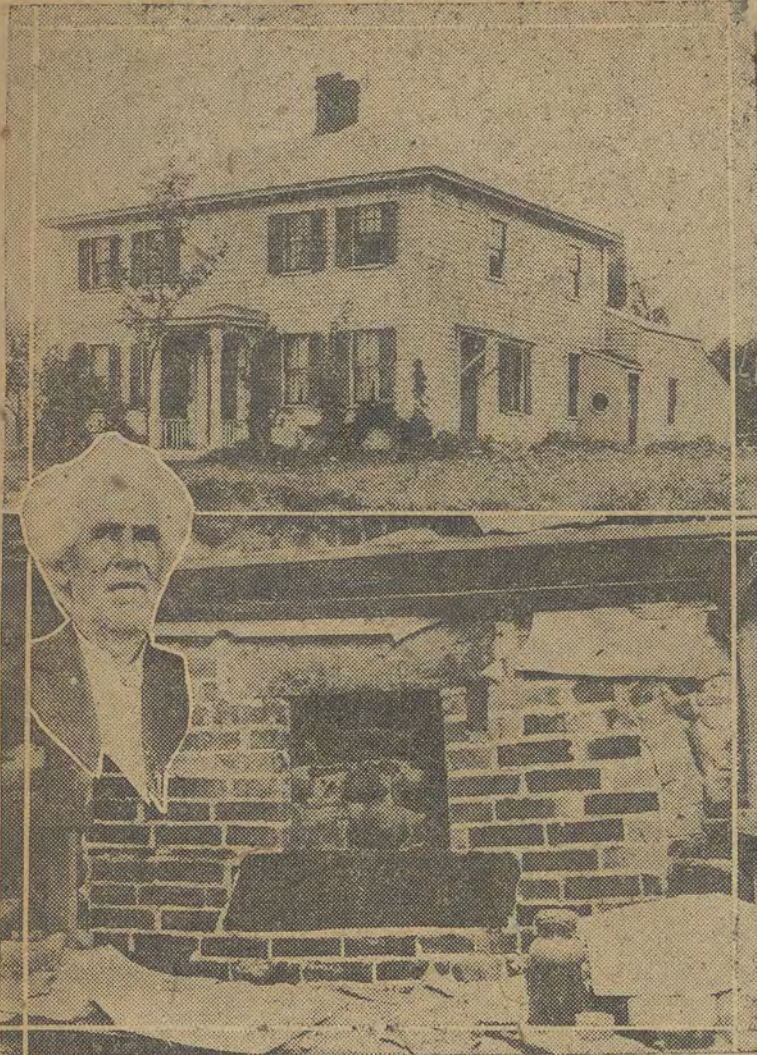
The house was for many years numbered on Mt. Hope avenue but since the cutting through of Castle Park it is listed in the directory as 5 Castle park.

family boarding school for boys in which special attention is given to the formation of correct gentlemanly habits. Terms, \$300 a year".

In later years the seminary building was used as a private residence. When purchased by Mr. Hill, several thousand dollars were spent in remodeling the interior and adding a colonial entrance, but the general lines of the house were not altered.



## Old Home Is Landmark; Its Oven Fed Men Of 1812



—Photos by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

Above—Old house at 1565 Norton street; inset, Thomas Leahy; below, old oven used to bake bread for soldiers of 1812.

When future pupils of the new Andrew J. Townson School, now being built in Midland avenue, allow their gaze to wander from the pages of geography or history to the scene outside the school room windows, their eyes will rest upon a little old house at 1565 Norton street which, although modern looking and freshly painted, has seen history in the making.

Long before the War of 1812, a small shanty stood where this house now stands. The shanty housed a brick oven which was itself as large as a small room. During the war the oven was used to bake bread for the soldiers who were camped on the shores of Irondequoit Bay. At that time that section of the city was a wilderness and the shanty was perhaps the only habitation thereabouts. A few years later the house was built over the shanty and the old oven was left untouched. The oven is still standing in the cellar of the house with not one brick displaced by the ravages of use or time.

The present owner of the house who has seen the passing of many summers and winters in the old homestead is now in his 76th year. Thomas Leahy was a boy of 14 when Lincoln called for volunteers and he enlisted. He was disabled for service about three years later when he was shot in the right hand and knee. When he returned home, the boy went into newspaper work and learned the business from the ground

floor up. In his long career he has been associated with newspapers in the South and in New York state. He has been connected with the New York Herald and with the Democrat & Chronicle of this city.

In the old search of title to his home, Mr. Leahy shows that the first transfer of property was recorded as being made at Brighton. Later the deed was made out to persons who knew the locality as Irondequoit, the original Indian name which was later adopted. The first judicial transfer listed the property as comprising about 40 acres. The owner was Leicester Evans and his wife. In 1837 it passed into the hands of Samuel Benjamin. In the deed, the house is described as being "bounded on the north by the highway leading from Abel Dinsmore's farm to Carthage." Samuel Benjamin died intestate in 1854 and the property passed from one Benjamin to another until Mr. Leahy bought it in 1881.

The lower floor of the building has never been changed. There are five fireplaces, some of which have been boarded up and covered as new wall board displaced the old wall covering. Mr. Leahy has been gradually selling the land until at the present only a small section of the original tract remains. Some time ago he sold a part of the land to the city for the new school which will be built in Midland avenue.

Another landmark which is still standing is the old red school house standing at what is now the intersection of Portland avenue and Norton street. The school house was a gift to the community by Leicester Evans and his wife, Abigail, about the year 1840 or 1850, as near as can be learned. The Irondequoit Cemetery where his and many other old families are buried was opened by Mr. Evans.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

### SAGE HOUSE HAS BECOME SCHOOL



Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

The house now standing at the corner of East avenue and Winthrop street and occupied by the Darrow School of Business, was built on a site purchased by Nelson Sage in 1842. Mr. Sage took up his residence there some time between 1844 and 1849, moving from his former home at 4 North Fitzhugh street, a removal which, in that day, was equivalent to moving from the center of the city to the suburbs. At that time East avenue was known as Main street and ended at Goodman street. Winthrop street, on the map which appears in the 1849 Rochester directory, is called East street.

Nelson Sage was a well-known book seller, the son of Orin Sage of the firm of shoe manufacturers, Sage and Pancost. His daughter, Isabel Sage, was born in the East avenue house and lived there until four years ago when it was remodeled for school purposes. Miss Sage married Dr. Charles E. Darrow, son of Erastus Darrow, another well-known book seller of Rochester whose store at the south-east corner of Main and St. Paul street was for decades a Mecca for booklovers from all parts of Western New York. There are still many persons in the city who remember the sign over Mr. Darrow's door with his trademark of a capital D pierced with an arrow. After the bookstore was closed

the old carriage block, worn by the feet of thousands of Rochesterians, was removed to the curb on Winthrop street to the south of the Sage house. On the top of the stone may be seen the trademark of the arrow-pierced D which also appears on the ends of the stone. On one side of the stone is the word "Bookstore," and on the other side a number which is apparently the address.

In 1920 the old Sage homestead was completely remodeled to serve the requirements of a modern business school by Dr. Fritz Sage Darrow, grandson of Erastus Darrow and Nelson Sage. Dr. Darrow and his wife, who before her marriage was Miriam Minnich, are principals of the school. Dr. Darrow received his doctorate in philosophy from Harvard in 1906 and was a number of years a college professor. During the past years he has devoted himself to commercial work. Mrs. Darrow was a well-known and successful teacher in a local business school. Together they have developed a school which is registered by the University of the State of New York as a standard and approved commercial school. Its faculty is composed of men and women who possess in addition to their academic training a practical knowledge of modern business and are well-known experts in their particular lines.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

STONEBURNER HOUSE BUILT 100 YEARS AGO.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The exact date of the building of the frame work of the house shown above is not known, but it probably was about 1813 or 1814. The original construction was of logs, and this still stands, though the exterior has been covered with clapboarding.

The house was built by Leonard Stoneburner who came to Brighton about 1809. Stoneburner came from the East and had had an eventful life, having been held captive by Indians at one time. When he arrived in Brighton he rented a building on the bank of Irondequoit creek from Stephen Lusk where he built carriages and boats, the latter being launched in the creek and floated to the bay and Lake Ontario. It must be understood that Irondequoit creek was at that time a wide and deep stream and that vessels of considerable size were able to proceed from the lake to Tryontown which was located at the end of the Landing road. In the present day the creek had dwindled to a small stream and what was once a moderately deep harbor is now flat meadow land only partially overflowed in high water.

Stoneburner brought with him to Brighton his wife and four children and one of the sons, William, was active in running boats with food and supplies through the enemy blockade on Lake Ontario to the American forces in the War of 1812. It seems probable that it was the returns from this traffic which enriched the Stoneburner family to the point where it was possible for the elder Stoneburner to build the house shown above, now standing to the left as one passes under the big stone arch of the New York Central over Allyn's creek near his present residence of Patrick Corbett.

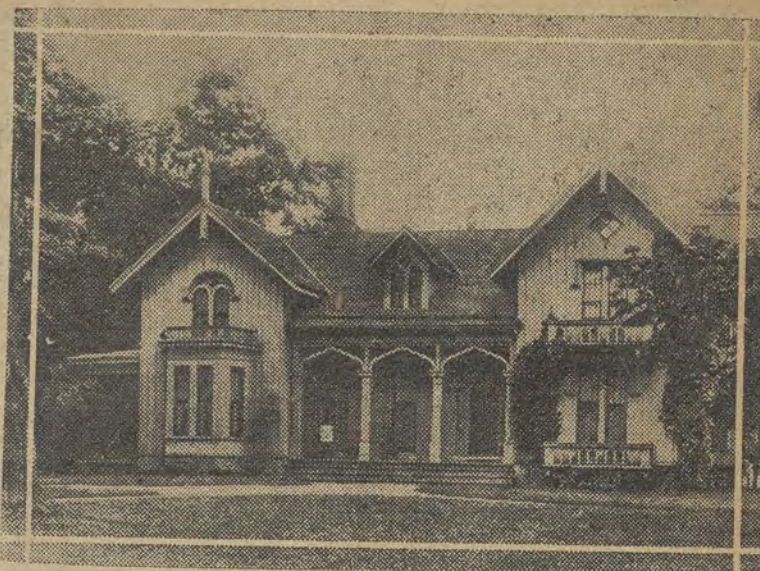
It is related that William Stoneburner started out on one occasion with a 10-ton boat belonging to his father, laden with whisky and potatoes. When three miles east of Eighteen-mile creek he was discovered by a British boat which gave chase and finally took him prisoner, his cargo being confiscated. His capturers endeavored to learn from him the whereabouts of the American forces, but he refused to give the information, despite the fact that he was threatened with impressment into the British service on the ground that his father had at one time been a resident of Canada. After a brief period of imprisonment Stoneburner was put ashore in the forest and left to find his way home as best he could. In 1814 Stoneburner started with a five-ton boat loaded with potatoes which he delivered safely. When he was about to return, however, he and his boat were pressed into service by General Wilkinson, then in command of the American forces. Stoneburner conveyed the party down Lake Ontario, being paid \$1 a day for his services and \$75 for his boat which was retained for the use of the American forces.

Following the close of the war Leonard Stoneburner and his son conducted a shipping business, building one 20-ton schooner and several smaller vessels.

The neighborhood of Allyn's creek has been industrially active in more than one war, for it is still possible to see the cellar excavations and a few of the foundation stones of the two powder mills which stood on the left side of the road running along the creek. These mills furnished powder which was used in the Civil War but were wrecked by an explosion in 1869.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

GARDINER HOUSE BUILT IN 1855



The quaint house at 95 Gardiner avenue, which seems to nestle into the green lawn as though it had grown out of the soil like one of the great trees which surround it, rather than be built by human hands, was for 28 years the home of Judge Addison Gardiner whose name was synonymous in Rochester with sturdy uprightness and sincere kindness of spirit. Since Judge Gardiner's death on June 5, 1883, the house has been the home of Judge Gardiner's daughter, Mrs. Celeste Loomis.

When Judge Gardiner built the house in 1855, following his retirement from the bench of the Court of Appeals to which he had been appointed as the first incumbent following the organization of the court in 1847, the site was some distance beyond the limits of the city of Rochester in the town of Gates.

Judge Gardiner had had various residences in Rochester, among them the house which stood at the corner of Ford street and Park place; 12 Center park, and St. Paul street. The latter house was practically in the country and overlooked the Genesee river and it was perhaps this taste of country life that persuaded Judge Gardiner to purchase the large tract of land in Gates and to build his new home there amid the fine old trees. In the Rochester Directory of 1855 the address of this new house was given as "West End" and it was apparently included in the directory because of the prominent position of its owner who still maintained an office in the city. Judge Gardiner was perhaps the first man to have a vision of the value to Rochester of a park located on the outskirts of the city and he conceived the idea of inviting the people to use the beautiful woods of his estate for recreation purposes, calling it "Free Park", under which name it appears in the 1863 directory. Many persons did take advantage of the invitation, but the property was never formally dedicated as a park and, after many years, the city crept out toward the house until the tract was finally laid out into streets, that on which the old Gardiner homestead stands taking the name of the founder of the tract.

Judge Gardiner was born on March 19, 1797, at Rindge, N. H., and was brought to New York state

by his parents at the age of 12 years. He studied law, and in 1822 began to practise in Rochester, becoming the partner of Samuel Lee Selden. In the late '20s he was made justice of the peace and in 1825 was elected district attorney for Monroe county. In 1829 he was appointed to the Circuit Court bench in the Eighth district. In 1844 he was elected lieutenant governor of New York state and served for three years, resigning before the close of his second term.

Judge Gardiner married Miss Mary Selkirk in 1831 and two children were born to the couple, a son and a daughter, the latter being the only member of the family now surviving.

The grandfather of Judge Gardiner was Isaac Gardiner, justice of the peace in Brookline, Mass., who marched with the Minute Men on April 19, 1775 to meet the British forces and was killed in the ensuing skirmish. Isaac Gardiner, or some of his predecessors, had dropped the "i" in the family name, but it was restored by Judge Gardiner when he was a young man.

Judge Gardiner was known for his kindness and generosity to persons in need. He was one of the converts at the famous Finny Revival which was held in Rochester and soon after became a member of First Presbyterian Church in which he remained until his death.

The famous social club of the '70s, "The Birds and Worms," was organized at a gathering at Judge Gardiner's home on August 19, 1870. Two ball teams were formed in the club and it became the custom to open the season each year with a game on a diamond which Judge Gardiner laid out in his grounds, the players wearing quaint and grotesque uniforms. The badge of the club had as its insignia a distiller's "worm" or coil, the members of the club having no antipathy to distilled liquor. In 1872 a club house was built at Irondequoit bay and was the scene of many a pleasant outing.

Among the charter members of the club were H. Warnick, Luther Vary, Henry C. Daniels, J. C. Crombie, Frank M. Enos, Charles Caldwell, D. K. Carter, Judge Gardiner, Henry S. Mackie, F. S. Fenn, Jacob Maurer, William Rigney, Henry W. Matthews, John Regan and Charles S. Collins.



## House At 33 South Washington Long Owned By Oscar Craig



The house at 33 South Washington street, shown above, is one of the old landmarks of the city which has, in all probability, been doomed by the building of the subway and the cutting down of the level of South Washington street. Already the wrought-iron fence, and the big elm more than 100 years old, have gone, and it seems probable that this property and that adjoining it to the north and abutting on the new boulevard will sooner or later become the site of some large commercial building.

According to data collected by the Old Houses Committee of the D. A. R. the lot that is now 33 Washington street was sold by Nathaniel Rochester to John E. Bond in 1818 for \$75. In 1824, just 100 years ago, the lot and the buildings on it were sold by Alexander O. Spencer to James E. Mathews who, in his turn, sold it to Fletcher M. Haight in 1829 for \$2,000. Mr. Haight sold the place to Vincent Mathews in 1838. It was sold by executors of Mr. Mathews to Mary J. Jerome in 1852 and, in the following year, was again sold to Mary G. Bristol, from whom it passed to Oscar Craig in 1876, the price, at that time, being \$7,000.

Peck's History of Rochester says that the house now standing was built in 1816, but this evidently is an error and the date of building was, more probably, in the '20's of the last century. With the exception of the graceful wrought-iron arches on the porch and the old "halfmoon" or "rising sun" window in the attic, there is little to draw attention to the exterior of the house, but within, and especially in the cellar and attic, one sees on every side the tokens of its age and of the sound workmanship that went into it. The timbers are hand-hewn and of unusual size and the partition walls are of much greater thickness than are those of the present day.

Oscar Craig was born in Medina in 1836 and came to Rochester to open a law practise in 1859. He was widely known in his legal capacity and was also prominent in philanthropic activities, being for a number of years president of the State Board of Charities. During the time of his residence in the South Washington street house it was a center of social activity in the Old Third Ward. Mr. Craig died in 1894 but the house was occupied by Mrs. Craig until her death a few years ago, so that it had been the home of one family for over 40 years.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

WOLCOTT HOUSE NEARING CENTURY MARK.

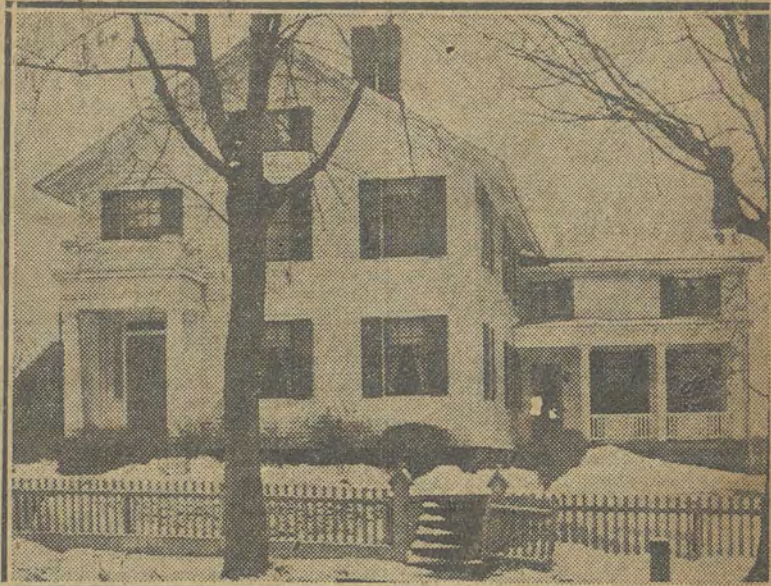


Photo by Staff Photographer.

The house shown above, which still stands at the southwest corner of Mt. Hope avenue and Clarissa street, was erected in 1830 for Epaphras Wolcott who founded the Wolcott Distillery in Rochester in 1827. The old gray stone building extending south along the east bank of the Genesee river, where Mr. Wolcott and his sons carried on their distilling business for so many years and later added the manufacture of saleratus, is also still standing.

Epaphras Wolcott was born in Connecticut, April 17, 1789, and came to Rochester in the early '20s of the last century. The front part of the house remains much as it was in 1830, 11 years before Clarissa street bridge was built, when the forest came up to the very doors of the house. One of the old oaks which was a part of this original forest is still standing near the side

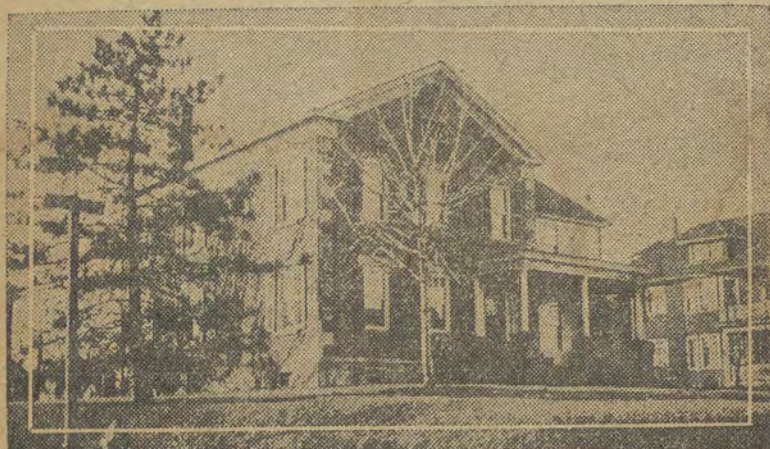
porch of the house. Additions to the house were built in later years and the property remained in possession of James E. Wolcott, 1905.

Epaphras Wolcott died, August 25, 1852, and his wife on November 11, 1853, the house then being occupied by George Paul Wolcott, a son. The latter, with his brother, Anson F. Wolcott, carried on the distillery business and added the manufacture of saleratus. Early directories of Rochester also mention "The Wolcott Tavern," at the corner of Clarissa street and Mt. Hope avenue. Following the death of George P. Wolcott on August 10, 1880, the dwelling house was occupied by the family of James E. Wolcott until the property was sold in 1905.

The house, which is now the home of William M. Bidwell, has been well kept up and it is difficult to believe that it is nearing the century mark of its existence.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Schanck House Was Built 85 Years Ago.



The cobblestone house at the corner of Culver road and Main street east was built in 1839 by Alonzo Bradley for Hendrik Van Brunt Schanck, son of Captain John Schanck of Monmouth county, N. J., a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

The house was built of stones gathered from the farm and the timbers were all of oak, hand-hewn and fastened together with wooden pegs and with hand-forged nails. The cellar walls are three feet thick to give support for the massive super-structure. Both the original oak floors and the cobblestone walls are in perfect condition. Mr. Bradley, the builder, was noted for his skill in cobblestone construction and he also built, in 1844, the cobblestone schoolhouse farther north on Culver

road. This building was torn down a few years ago. Mr. Bradley married a daughter of Mr. Schanck.

The Schanck house was built in the center of the east line of the farm which extended north to the present lines of the Glen Haven railroad and south nearly to the tracks of the New York Central. Mr. Schanck made a trip to New Jersey in 1839 and brought back a load of young peach trees which were the first to be planted in this vicinity and he also planted a large cherry orchard.

The house was occupied for some time by C. D. U. Hobbie, a grandson of Hendrik Schanck, and is now owned by Captain John P. McDonald of the Rochester police department.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

PITKIN HOUSE BUILT IN 1840.



(By Staff Photographer.)

The house at 474 East avenue, which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gilman N. Perkins, was remodeled in 1906, according to plans furnished by J. Foster Warner. At that time the house was enlarged and a rear extension was torn down but there still remains within the new brick walls that were built out to the dimensions of the former mansard roof, the original house built about 1840 by William Pitkin. The mansard roof had been added to the original house by Daniel W. Powers as were also the lions that still guard the entrance. The original building resembled the present building of the Genesee Valley Club in its lines.

William Pitkin, mayor of Rochester in 1845-46, built this house about 1840. In 1853 it was purchased by Azariah Boody who, at the same time, bought all the property known as the Pitkin farm, between East avenue, Goodman street and what is now College avenue. Mr. Boody put through Prince street, which was first known as Boody avenue. Tradition has it that when this name was objected to by prospective residents Mr. Boody changed the name to Prince, in honor of a favorite horse. At that time University avenue was known as Riley avenue, having been named in honor of George S. Riley, who owned a large amount of property in that section, including the tract at University avenue and Main street east, formerly known as the Riley Triangle, and now as Anderson Park. Mr. Boody gave eight acres of the Pitkin farm, then valued at \$10,000, to the University of Rochester as the nucleus for the present campus on University avenue.

In 1855 the Pitkin house was purchased by John Craig and in 1856 it became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Powers, Mrs. Powers be-

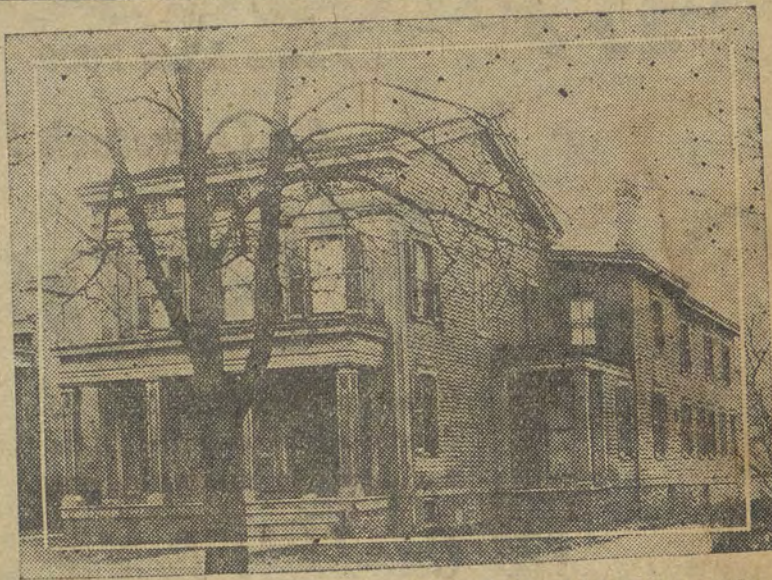
ing a daughter of John Craig. Mr. Powers came to Rochester from Batavia in 1837 and was first employed in the hardware store of Ebenezer Watts. On March 1, 1850, he opened an office for the exchange business in the Eagle building and in the following years became so successful that he purchased the site and erected the present Powers building at Main street west and State street, on an upper floor of which he established the Powers Art Gallery, which became a famous attraction in Western New York.

In July, 1851, while the house was owned by Mr. Pitkin, Jennie Lind is said to have been a guest there. The "Swedish Nightingale" came to this city on July 21, 1851, leaving the cars at the foot of Goodman street and driving to the Eagle Hotel at the Four Corners in order to escape the crowds. She gave two concerts at Corinthian Hall, the place being crowded and many persons climbing to nearby roofs in order to hear her voice as it floated through the opened windows of the skylight. After the concert the crowd gathered about the Eagle Hotel in such numbers and became so noisy that Madame Lind found it impossible to sleep and accepted the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Pitkin to become their guest at their home in what was then the outskirts of the city.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

POND HOUSE DATES BACK TO EARLY '20s.



—By Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house at 133 Plymouth avenue which has been the home of Charles F. Pond since May, 1846, was built in the '20's of the last century by David Hoyt and was occupied until 1828 by Isaac Hills, one of the pioneer lawyers of Rochester and the man who drew up the body of rules and regulations governing the procedure of the first Common Council when Rochester became a city.

Isaac Hills was born in Lenox, Mass., on August 15, 1798, and came to Rochester in 1824, after completing his law studies. In 1828 Mr. Hills was appointed to the office of district attorney and in 1834 to the

office of first recorder of the city of Rochester. In 1843 he was elected mayor of the city, serving for one term of a year. Mr. Hills was a director of the Rochester City Bank and was one of the projectors of the Rochester Savings Bank.

During the occupancy of Mr. Pond the house has been the scene of many social functions of the Third Ward and many notables have been entertained there. The Rochester Historical Society recently published a very interesting article on Third Ward history by Mr. Pond in which many of the old homes are identified and old residents recalled.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CHAUNCY YOUNG HOUSE 125 YEARS OLD.



The house at 771 Chili avenue, shown above, has been the home of Chauncy Young for the past 45 years. Mr. Young says that the main part of the house must be over 125 years old and that it originally stood near the point where the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railway tracks now cross Chili avenue and was used as an inn in connection with the sulphur baths and springs which were near by. It was moved to its present location about 70 years ago.

These sulphur springs had a considerable reputation, their curative properties having been discovered by a man named Turner who lived in a house which stood in the woods at a point east of where the B., R. & P. tracks now cross Chili avenue. Turner became ill and sought the water of the springs, walking across the meadows to get to them. His improvement in health induced him to purchase 30 acres of land about them and to build the baths which he operated for some years. These sulphur springs seem to have been common about Rochester in the early part of the last century, for O'Reilly's "Sketches of Rochester" mentions two sulphur bath establishments within the limits of the city, one on Buffalo street (Main

street west), between what is now Fitzhugh street and Washington street, and the other on Water street where, years later, the Doxtater Baths flourished. There were, also, the sulphur springs which made the old Spring House in Monroe avenue famous for many years.

At the time Mr. Young moved into the house there were but two houses within sight and his friends attempted to dissuade him from moving "into the country." Chili avenue is now closely built up for some distance beyond the Young house.

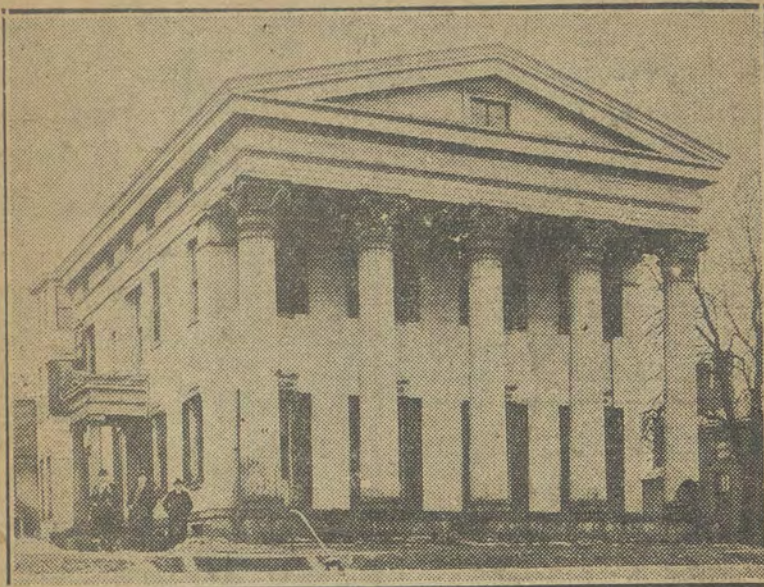
Mr. Young is very well informed on the history of the western part of the city and has given much aid to the Old House Committee of Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., in its effort to collect and preserve data concerning old Rochester homes.

The main part of the Young house reveals its age although it has been well kept up. The porch across the front of the building was added by Mr. Young who has also planted the grounds in attractive fashion. One sturdy oak which shades the house has grown from an acorn picked up by Mr. Young in Mt. Hope Cemetery 38 years ago, and many of the willow trees surrounding the house were originally small slips which he planted and tended until they have become spreading trees.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

JONATHAN CHILD HOUSE BUILT IN 1837.



(By Staff Photographer.)

The house at 37 South Washing-  
ton street, shown above, was built in  
1837 by Jonathan Child, first mayor  
of Rochester, who lived there until  
1850. Even today the house is nota-  
ble for its size and the beauty and  
dignity of its architecture, and in  
1837, when the city was in its in-  
fancy, it made such an impression  
on the community that its owner  
found himself exposed to the envy  
and scorn of certain Rochesterians  
who alluded to the house as "Child's

Folly" and chanted "I told you so,"  
when Mr. Child finally was forced to  
sell it owing to a decline in his for-  
tunes.

The house is often cited as a fine  
example of the classic revival which  
succeeded the colonial type of ar-  
chitecture. The five great columns  
are Corinthian in style, with capi-  
tals that are replicas of the capitals  
of the monument of Lysicrates at  
Athens. All the woodwork is hand-  
carved, including the columns in the

double parlors which extend across  
the entire front of the house. The  
capitals of these columns were re-  
produced from those of the temple  
of the Winds at Athens.

Mr. Child came to this part of the  
country in 1810 from New Hamp-  
shire and in 1818 married the  
daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Roch-  
ester, one of the founders of the  
city. In 1820 Mr. Child was a mer-  
chant in Charlotte and in subse-  
quent years he dealt largely in land  
in this vicinity and carried on a  
commission business.

Perhaps the house in South Wash-  
ington street was always a little  
more than he could handle or per-  
haps it was the financial stringency  
that came in the late '40s but, what-  
ever the cause, Mr. Child parted with  
the house and its large gardens  
which then extended far down to  
what are now the Reynolds Library  
grounds; to John N. Wilder, one  
of the founders of the University of  
Rochester. During Mr. Wilder's oc-  
cupancy many notable educators  
were entertained in the house and  
many brilliant gatherings were held.  
From 1852 to 1856 the house was  
owned by Freeman Clarke who, in  
the latter year moved to his new  
home in Alexander street, now the  
site of the Homeopathic Hospital.  
Frederick Stewart became the owner  
of the house in 1856 and it was  
again the scene of many brilliant en-  
tertainments. It is said that Mr.  
Stewart gave the first fancy dress  
ball ever held in Rochester in the  
great parlors of the house. In 1870  
the house had passed to the owner-  
ship of D. C. Hyde and about 1879  
or 1880 it was purchased by Mrs.  
Ives who conducted it for many  
years as a "home for paying guests,"  
the term "boarding house" seeming  
to fit neither the appearance of the  
house nor the manner in which it

was carried on by Mrs. Ives. For 20  
years the house was a center of  
social life in the Third Ward, being  
generally known as "The Pillars."

After Mrs. Ives's death it was car-  
ried on as a boarding house under  
several heads and in 1920 it was  
purchased by the Washington Club,  
formed from the membership of  
the disbanded Rochester Whist Club,  
which now has its home there.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

THOMAS H. ROCHESTER HOUSE BUILT 1830.



The house at the southeast corner of Spring and South Washington streets, now the home of the Locust Club, was built in 1830 by Captain Daniel Loomis, a pioneer architect and contractor of Rochester, for Thomas H. Rochester, son of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city.

Thomas H. Rochester was prominent in banking matters in Rochester, being connected with the Bank of Monroe, the second bank established in the city; and with the Rochester City Bank of which he was president for some years. He was born on September 23, 1797 before his father came to the Genesee country from Maryland. He died in the Spring street house on October 6, 1874.

In the early days of the house a stone structure was built over the natural spring on the northeast corner of the lot where a depression may now be seen. This was used as a cooling house for the preservation of milk and butter, the

waters of the spring being ice cold and constantly flowing.

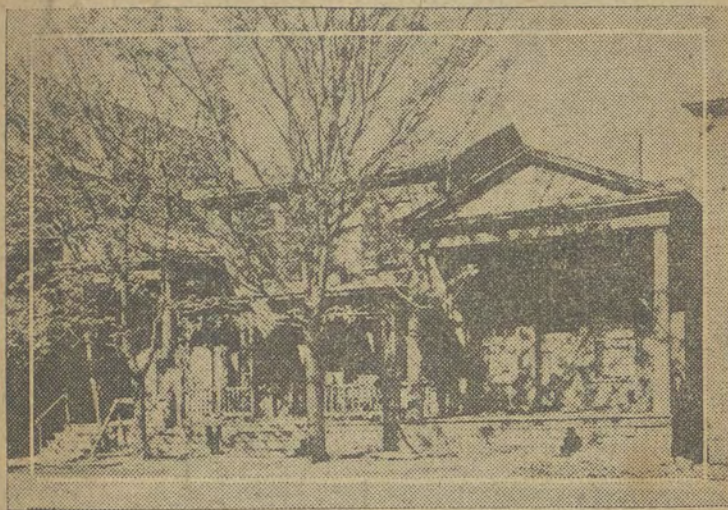
Following the occupancy of the Rochester family Miss Mary Bliss conducted a school for girls in the house for a number of years, the house with its many rooms and its extensive grounds being excellently fitted for this use.

In 1892 the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Potter who lived there until 1907. Mr. Potter turned the old spring house into a stone grotto and the grounds were landscaped after the style of a Japanese garden. Later occupants were Mrs. Esther B. Payne and Mrs. Anna Colony. The house was also used as a girls' dormitory for Mechanics Institute and later was rented to a fraternity of the institute. In 1921 it was purchased by the Locust Club, which had had a large increase in membership under the presidency of Officer George Fordham and was looking for a club house of large size in the center of the city.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

**Starr Homestead Lives Only In Memory.**



The house shown above stood, until a few years ago, on the east side of Fitzhugh street north, just opposite the Brick Church Institute.

Though, in its later years, the building became a tenement house it was at one time the home of a prominent Rochester business man, Frederick Starr, a leader not only in

manufacturing in the city but also along religious and reform lines.

Frederick Starr was born in Connecticut on May 1, 1799, and came to Rochester when he was 22 years of age, opening a shop for the manufacture of furniture. This shop was rapidly expanded and was moved to a building in Main street. In 1850 Mr. Starr added the manufacture of pianos to his business and the Starr piano long held a foremost place.

Mr. Starr was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church for 30 years and assisted in the organization of Central Presbyterian Church. He was prominent in the temperance reform movement which swept Rochester and was also a strong advocate of Sabbath keeping, protesting against the opening of the post-office for the delivery of mail on Sunday and establishing a line of packet boats on the Erie canal, which were run only on week days.

Mr. Starr was a man of strong convictions which he was not afraid to make known. He was an abolitionist, and the house in Fitzhugh street was undoubtedly one of the stations on the underground railway aiding escaped slaves to make their way to freedom. Mr. Starr was also opposed to secret societies, basing his opposition on religious grounds, and at the time of the anti-

Masonic demonstration in Rochester he was ranged with the opposition. He was also an enthusiastic "Free-soiler."

In company with other public-minded Rochester men, Mr. Starr was active in the volunteer fire department of the city and he became the first exempt fireman.

In the '70s the house on Fitzhugh street was the home of Mr. Starr's son, Dr. Charles S. Starr, one of the prominent physicians of the city, who, in 1870, was one of the founders of the Rochester Pathological Society.

The house, with its tall colonial pillars and the trees in front, was a noticeable landmark in Fitzhugh street even after many years of hard usage had bestowed upon it a weatherbeaten and unkempt look. When it was torn down some years ago to make way for a commercial building, the workmen were astonished at the solidity of the foundations and of the framework and rafters of the old building.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

First Postoffice Now Stands In Plymouth Avenue.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

Probably there are very few persons in Rochester who realize that the ancient looking building which stands at 11 and 11½ Plymouth avenue north, sheltering the shops of a barber and a laundryman, is quite as old as it looks, being actually one of the first buildings erected in Rochesterville and serving for some years as the first tavern and the first post office of the village, as

well as providing a dwelling place for Abelard Reynolds, one of the pioneers of Rochester, whose family name is perpetuated in the Reynolds Arcade and Reynolds Library.

According to William F. Peck, Rochester historian, the building on Plymouth avenue was moved to its present site in 1848 from a point on Corinthian street, where the old Corinthian Hall was built and where the Corinthian Theater now stands.

Prior to this, the building had occupied a site on the ground now covered by Reynolds Arcade, where it had been built in July, 1812, for Abelard Reynolds. When the building was moved to Plymouth avenue it was placed with its side to the street and the wooden framework was bricked in. In late years the lower floor of the building has been remodeled for store use and the bow-window added to the second story.

In 1228, when the erection of Reynolds Arcade was begun, the Reynolds building was moved to the north side of Bugle alley which later was known as Exchange place, and is now known as Corinthian street; and the postoffice was transferred, temporarily, to a building at the Corner of Buffalo and Hughes streets, now Main street west and North Fitzhugh street. On the completion of the Reynolds Arcade the post office was moved to rooms in the front part of the building. About 10 years later it was removed to the northwest end of the hall and in 1859 it was again moved to the northeast corner where it remained until the erection of the government building in 1886.

Dr. Lyman B. Langworthy, in his reminiscences of Rochester, published in 1868, refers to this building as having been the first two-story house erected in Rochester. He remembered it as having been used for tavern purposes by H. Millard.

As originally built, the house was intended as a private dwelling for the family of Abelard Reynolds, who brought his wife, his young son, William A. Reynolds, and his wife's sister, Huldah M. Strong, to the new home from Pittsfield, Mass., in February, 1813. Mr. Reynolds had first come here in 1812, but after arranging for the building of his house returned to New England for a short time.

On December 2, 1814, Mortimer F. Reynolds was born in the new house.

Abelard Reynolds had been appointed postmaster of Rochester, the mail being brought from Canandaigua on horseback, once a week. Letter postage was 25 cents, while newspapers were carried for one cent. Mr. Reynolds also carried on the business of saddlery and, as the house was the largest and most comfortable one in the tiny village, it soon became a stopping place for travelers. There are a number of early records that bear tribute to the skill of Mrs. Abelard Reynolds as a cook and housewife, and the entire establishment had the atmosphere of an hospitable New England home rather than that of a commercial tavern, if these old records are to be believed.

In the Municipal Museum at Edgerton Park may be seen the old desk with many pigeonholes which Abelard Reynolds brought with him from Pittsfield and which was literally, "The Rochester Post Office" during the first years of the village when residents were few and the arrival of letters an infrequent event. Mr. Reynolds was postmaster of Rochester for 17 years, being succeeded in 1829 by John B. Elwood.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BURKE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1849.



The house at the northwest corner of Spring street and South Washington street, now owned by Miss Sallie M. Hall, was built in 1849 by Henry A. Brewster, who moved into it from the house now numbered 174 Spring street, then 48 Spring street. The architect of the house, whoever he was, showed a quaint originality in his treatment of the porch pediments and the cornice and, as a result, the house has decided individuality. Its interior arrangement is also very delightful, with the high-ceilinged parlors and the cosy sitting rooms, study and sun-parlor which stray off from the main hall and run back to the kitchen wing with its trellised and high-fenced garden. The gracefully curving staircase, with its mahogany railing, is another delightful feature of the house.

In 1856 Mr. Brewster again built, this time on the land just to the north of the corner, and the corner house was sold to John F. Bush, a manufacturer of mill equipment, who moved there from a home in East avenue. Mr. Bush occupied the house until 1866 when he sold it to William Burke, a manufacturer and dealer in iron and steel, who had been living for some years at 26

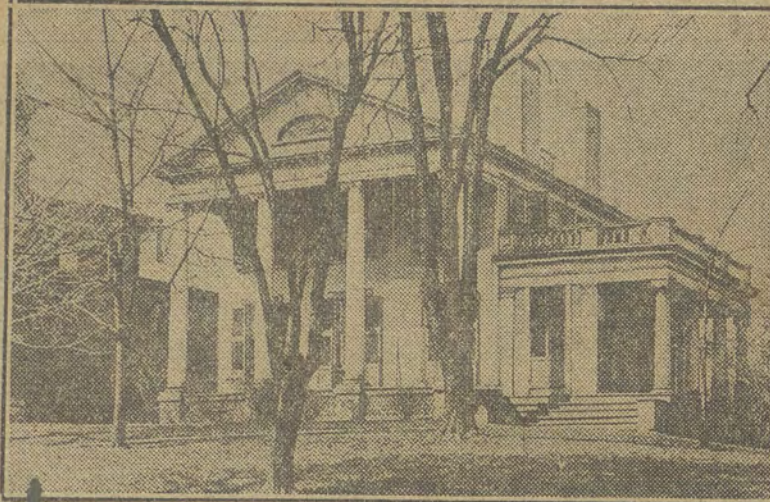
North street. At the death of Mr. Burke, in 1881, the house passed to his son, William Bardwell Burke, and, on his death, in 1914, to his cousins, Miss Mary Louise Hall and Miss Sallie M. Hall, who had made their home with their uncle's family since the death of their parents. Miss Mary Hall, who was a partial invalid for many years, but whose study and research in botany and astronomy kept her in touch with a wide circle of friends, died last April, but Miss Sallie Hall is still living in the old home.

The picture of the house, above, was made many years ago, before the wooden fence with its graceful curve up to the porch steps, and its broad, flat top, was removed. Miss Sallie Hall says that the removal of the fence was contemplated for several years, but the delight that the children in the neighborhood found in walking along its broad top induced Mr. Burke to keep it in place. The young saplings that show in the picture, long ago grew to be good-sized trees but, in other respects, a picture of the house taken today looks much as does the one above. The figures that are to be seen on the porch are those of William Burke and his son, William Bardwell Burke.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

House At 1 Livingston Park Has Been School Since 1860.



Generations of Rochester women look back upon years spent in the beautiful old building shown above which, for more than 60 years, has been the home of a school for girls. In its early days young ladies in crinolines marched decorously through the halls of the old house and learned how to courtesy and to turn a French sentence. Granddaughters of these same demure maidens now flit through the same halls, trim in sport skirts and blouses, and prepare for college, but all feel alike the spell of the fine old building which was erected by men who loved and took pride in their job.

The house at 1 Livingston park which has been the home of the Livingston Park Seminary since 1860 was built in the early '20s of the last century and was bought in 1828 by Joseph Strong. Spring street was then known as "Falls street," and Livingston Park as "Locust street." In 1838 the building was sold to Frederick Backus by Mr. Strong and was extensively remodeled. The interior woodwork of the parlors is of mahogany and is carved in an egg and dart pattern which is repeated in the unusually handsome entrance door. The hand-hewn rafters are held together with pins of locust wood and the beautiful colonial columns in the front of the house are of black walnut.

In 1860 the house and a half-acre of ground were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Curtis and during the summer of that year the western portion of the building was remodeled to fit it for school purposes. In the following September Mrs. Curtis opened the Livingston Park Seminary which she conducted until her death on January 24, 1892. From 1892 to 1900 the seminary was carried on by Miss Stone, the principal, and since that time it has been conducted by Mrs. William M. Rebasz.

There is about Livingston Park Seminary something of the same atmosphere of tradition that clings about the older of the famous girls' colleges. Although the building has been remodeled and added to to meet the needs of new generations there are certain features that remain. Some of the desks now in use were in the house when the grandmothers of present scholars were attending classes there and there is one old clock that still ticks out the slow moments of lesson time as it did in Civil War days.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Willard House First Occupied November 13, 1841.



The house at 233 East avenue, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Willard, was built in 1841 by Silas O. Smith, according to information given to the old houses committee of the D. A. R. by Mrs. Willard. Silas O. Smith died in 1863 and the house was then occupied by Hiram Smith who was not related to the original owner. Still later the house was occupied by Frank Lord who sold it to Hiram Sibley. In 1875 Mr. Sibley presented it to Hobart F. Atkinson, father of Mrs. Willard. Mr. Sibley tore down the kitchen wing of two and a half

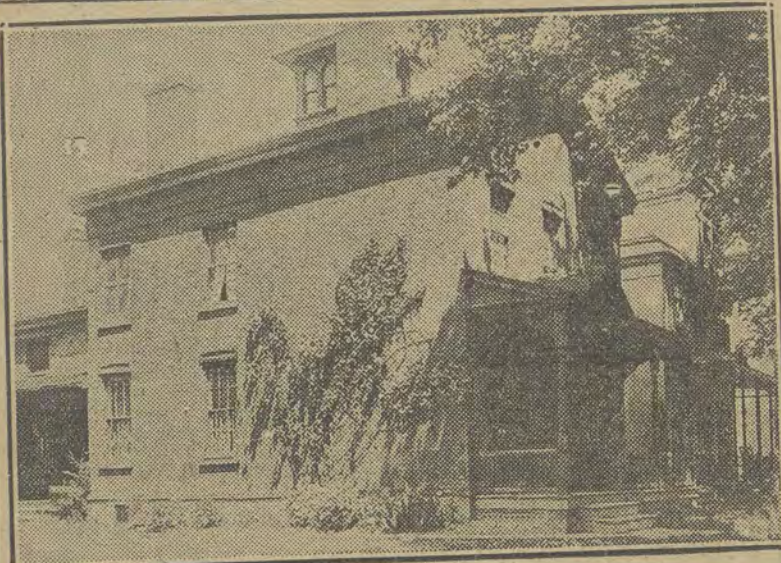
stories and made some slight changes in the interior and, in later years, the wooden entrance on the side was replaced by a stone structure and two windows were added on the west side.

Old letters that have been preserved show that the house was first occupied on November 13, 1841, and was known as "Woodside," being then quite on the outskirts of the city. The building is a fine example of its type of architecture and its sturdy structure gives it every promise of rounding out a century of existence and going on for still another 100 years.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Frederick Douglass Lived In House At 297 Alexander St.



Few persons realize the wealth of historical association which clings about the substantial but unassuming brick house at 297 Alexander street. In an upper room in this house, between 1840-50, Frederick Douglass labored far into the night setting type and printing the sheets of "The North Star," his abolition paper, on a small hand press. In the rooms below conferences of prominent abolitionists were held, and it is said that Garrison, Phillips and many other prominent workers in the cause of anti-slavery were guests in the house during Douglass' tenancy.

Those were the days when Rochester was one of the busiest stations on the "Underground Railway" by means of which thousand of runaway slaves were sent to safety in Canada, and the house in Alexander street welcomed many weary, frightened travelers who came to throw themselves upon the mercy of Douglass. In the floor of the dining room of the house, now covered by a new floor, there was to be seen in days gone by, a trap door leading to the cellar,

through which many an escaped slave was passed to be kept in hiding until he or she could be smuggled to Charlotte, Pultneyville or Niagara Falls and sent across into Canada.

The old grape vine which still clings sturdily to the side of the house must be more than 70 years old for it was planted before the days of Douglass' tenancy.

Another noted owner of the house was Halbert S. Greenleaf who came to Rochester from Massachusetts, after having served as a colonel in the Civil War. Mr. Greenleaf was twice elected member of congress from this district and was active in post-war work for the freedmen. The house again became a center for work for the colored people and was also a center of woman suffrage activity in Rochester. Mrs. Jean Brooks Greenleaf being a pioneer in the movement and a close friend of Susan B. Anthony.

When the Greenleafs removed to a new home in North Goodman street, the Alexander street house became the home of the Allen family and it is still owned by May Allen.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Corkhill House Built In Late '20s.



Many persons must remember the quaint frame house which stood at 207 Andrews street until about three years ago when the site was bought by the Catholic parish of Our Lady of Victory and the house razed to make way for a playground for the children of the parish school.

The house, which must have been built in the late '20's of the last century, originally consisted of the one-story section on the right-hand side of the picture. This was bought in 1832 by Thomas Corkhill, a native of the Isle of Man, who had come to Rochester in 1828, walking all the way from New York city to the little village at the Genesee falls. Corkhill was a tanner by trade and for many years had charge of the tanning establishment of Jennings & Keeler in North Water street. In 1858 he served for one year on the police force, having retired from the tanning business.

At the time Mr. Corkhill bought the house it stood on the edge of a farm which extended to the south as far as the present Edwards store. The farm was gradually divided into building lots and sold. Parts of this land have remained in the Corkhill family until very recently, the latest sales being portions of the automobile parking station on Mortimer street.

Mr. Corkhill died in the Andrews street house on June 12, 1887, at the age of 80 years, but the house was occupied until 1918 by his daughter,

Mary J. Corkhill.

Soon after buying the house Mr. Corkhill built an addition to the east. At that time, Andrews street had not been cut down to its present level and the doors that are seen in the above picture were on a level with the sidewalk. When the street was cut down, the masonry of the basement was exposed and windows were cut in and the quaint porch with its double stairway was built to give access to the house.

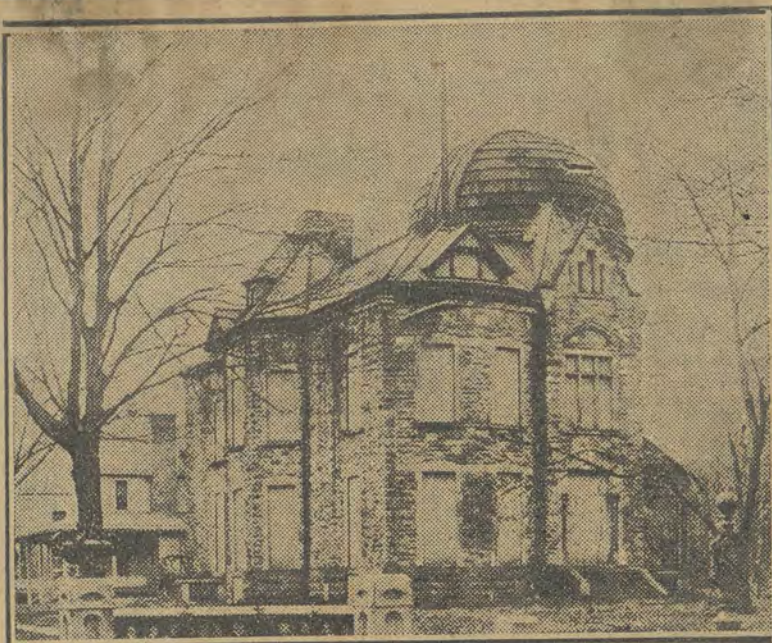
The stone walls were built nearly two feet thick and the oak beams in the cellar and attic were squared with an adz and were fastened together with wooden pins instead of nails. A huge chimney rose in the newer portion of the house, in addition to the chimney in the original portion and there were, in all, eight fireplaces in the house. A notable feature was the great stone bake-oven and fireplace in the basement where much of the cooking was done in the early days of the house. A feature which greatly interested the workmen who tore down the building was the substitute used for laths. Thin planks had been put at each end and had been spread apart and nailed to the frame work. This method is said to be most unusual.

The Times-Union is indebted to Nelson G. Corkhill of 444 Harvard street, a grandson of Thomas Corkhill, for many of the details in regard to the house.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Romance and Tragedy Join in History of Old Building.



The building at the corner of East avenue and Arnold park, known to an older generation of Rochesterians as the Warner Observatory, stands as a monument to the memory of two men who, in their own ways, helped to make Rochester a bigger city and a better-known city. To the present generation it is but a dreary, boarded-up pile of stone which no one seems to want. But to those who know its history it recalls memories of a day when a Rochester business man, self-made and continually aspiring, came to the aid of a self-taught man of science and made possible for him the realization of dreams that had sustained him through lean years of study and research.

It was in 1882, now 43 years ago, that Hulbert Harrington Warner, who made a fortune in manufacturing patent medicine, built the Warner Observatory in East avenue for the use of Professor Lewis Swift the astronomer, whom he had met in 1870. Even in those days the building cost \$100,000 to complete, for its walls were of white Lockport sandstone, carefully cut, and the interior was beautifully finished in native woods. In the observatory, the dome of which can be seen rising to the right of the house, was installed a telescope costing \$13,000, the funds being subscribed by Rochesterians. A star spectroscope, the only one in use at that time, was given by Hiram Sibley, and a sidereal clock was provided by Don Alonzo Watson.

In this building Professor Swift lived and worked until 1894 when he became director of the Lowe Observatory on Echo Mountain, California, where he remained until 1901 when failing eyesight compelled him to give up his work.

There is material for the "great Rochester novel" in the histories of these two men, H. H. Warner and Lewis Swift.

Warner, who died in comparative obscurity in a western city not long ago, was born in Van Buren, N. Y., on January 19, 1842. He was a man of unusual presence and personality; over six feet in height, strongly built, with brown hair and blue eyes of striking brilliance. Coming to Rochester in 1870 he became agent for a Rochester safe company. It was the time of the Pennsylvania oil field boom. Oil companies were making fortunes and they must have safes in which to store their wealth. Warner, always quick to see a business opportunity, conducted a sales campaign in the oil district and was so successful that he soon had his own safe business.

Certain old histories of Rochester contain flattering biographical notices of Warner telling how he was cured of a painful illness through an old Indian prescription and, in his gratitude, decided to give the prescription to the world. Just how much of this is truth and how much is good press agent material it would be hard to say. Warner was of the enthusiastic type and really did believe that he had received help from the nostrum, so many of his friends, still living, say. At any rate, he began the manufacture of the remedy in 1879 under the name of Warner's Safe Cure, his first factory being in the building now occupied by the mechanical departments of The Times-Union in Aqueduct street.

The business grew by leaps and bounds and in the late 1880's was looked upon as the most conspicuous enterprise in the city. It was partly responsible for the development of the postal service in the city, for the immense volume of mail received daily made it impossible for the clerks to hand-cancel the envelopes and the first automatic cancelling machine was installed in the Rochester postoffice to meet the need for greater expedition in handling the Warner mail.

In 1890 articles of incorporation were drawn up for the business and it was still further expanded. Mr. Warner erected the big office building at Pleasant street and St. Paul street on which may still be seen the huge "W's" carved on the cornices. Then came the financial panic of 1895. Mr. Warner went to England and it was announced that British capital was to be secured to enlarge the business. Perhaps no one knows all the details of the crash which came in 1894 but, as a result, Mr. Warner was forced to sell his house at the corner of East avenue and South Goodman street and to part with his summer home on an island in the St. Lawrence river. His stables and his dogs went, also, and other hobbies had to be given up.

His support of the Warner Observatory, which had never slackened up to 1894, had to be withdrawn and Professor Swift accepted the offer made by the Lowe Observatory and left Rochester, taking with him the telescope and other apparatus which had been presented to him for the carrying on of his work. Local newspapers of that date reveal a certain feeling on this matter which was voiced only by a few. As a matter of fact, the erection of the Third Presbyterian Church on the site at East avenue and Meigs street, in 1893, had limited the sweep of vision of the observatory and there would have been little use in retaining the apparatus.

During the years in which Professor Swift was enabled to carry on his work at the Warner Observatory through the support of H. H. Warner and other Rochester patrons he discovered 900 nebulae and at least six of the comets for which he received medals from European societies. His work brought fame not only to him but

to the city which was his home from 1872 to 1894.

Professor Swift was born in Clarkson, February 29, 1820. He became interested in astronomy when a young man and in 1852, while living on a farm at Marathon, constructed a three-inch telescope with which he observed four comets, three of which had not been seen before.

On coming to Rochester in 1872 Professor Swift conducted a hardware store in State street and devoted his nights to astronomical observations. Later he erected his telescope on the roof of the Duffy cider mill near Lake avenue. Some of his most notable observations were made in the 70's and by 1880 he had become one of the notables in the field of astronomical science. One of the last medals received before his death, on January 5, 1913, of gold from a fund left to the Royal Astronomical Society of England by Mrs. Jackson-Gwilt who directed that it should be given to the most deserving astronomer in the world. One can imagine that in the later years of H. H. Warner's life which were clouded by the failure of his Rochester business and by the loss of friendships which were affected by it, he may have found some happiness in watching the career of the older man whom he had befriended and whose later triumphs were in part the result of his timely aid.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CHAPPELL HOUSE BUILT IN '40s.



—Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

The early '40s of the last century saw much building along Plymouth avenue (then South Sophia street) and on Troup and Fitzhugh streets. The house now numbered 105 Plymouth avenue and owned by the Misses Chappell, was built, probably in 1844, and in 1845 was the home of Hiram Wright who, in that year, was city treasurer.

In 1850 James K. Chappell came to Rochester from the West and, soon afterward, married Miss Priscilla Prudence Chappell,—the eldest daughter of James L. Chappell who built the house at the southeast corner of Spring street and Livingston Park and who was a merchant miller and commission merchant operating a line of freight boats on the Erie canal.

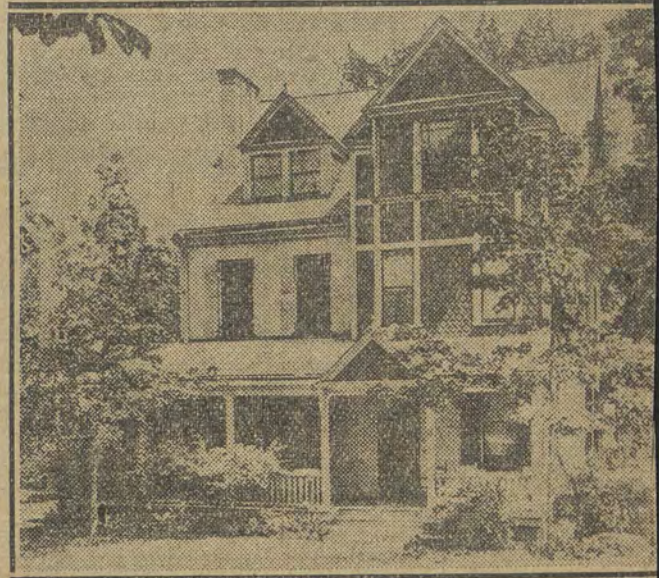
In 1866, James K. Chappell, who was then in the coal and real estate business, with offices in Exchange street, bought the Plymouth avenue house from Mrs. Wright. The house was then a frame structure with a basement in the New York style. Mr. Chappell added the present brick portion of the house and had plans for its complete remodeling. These plans, however, were never carried out. Mr. Chappell died unexpectedly of heart disease

August 28, 1891. After his death the house was divided, the northern frame portion being remodeled and rented as a separate dwelling. The quaint little porch on the frame portion was added a few years ago and is a replica of an entrance on an old New England home.

Mrs. Chappell, who died in 1900, was for many years an invalid but, despite her physical helplessness, was a vital figure in Third ward life. She was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was keenly interested in the philanthropic work that was carried on in the city. It was she who, learning that many of the aged men and women at the alms house were unable to enjoy the recreation of reading because their sight was failing and the county did not provide spectacles for them, persuaded local opticians to donate a quantity of spectacles of ordinary magnifying type which could be used where there was no astigmatic fault. In later years this movement resulted in the opticians giving their services to fit the old people in the alms house with spectacles of the required type, and, still later, came the provision by which the matter is cared for from official funds so that no inmate of the alms house need suffer for lack of aids to sight.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

FENN HOUSE BUILT IN 1844



—Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

The house at the southeast corner of Troup street and Livingston park was built in 1844 by Dr. Horatio N. Fenn, who opened a drug store in Exchange street in 1838. Dr. Fenn held a medical certificate and a druggist's license, and in 1840, having prepared to practise dentistry, he opened a dentist's office. In 1849 he had taken Horace F. Smith into partnership and the office of the firm was in a room of the Livingston park house shown above.

After the death of Dr. Fenn, Mrs. Fenn continued to live in the house until her death on March 21, 1879, when it passed to her son, Robert H. Fenn who sold it in 1882 to Mrs. Pauline B. Lee, widow of Lewis H. Lee and mother of Lewis E. Lee and William B. Lee. Mrs. Lee died

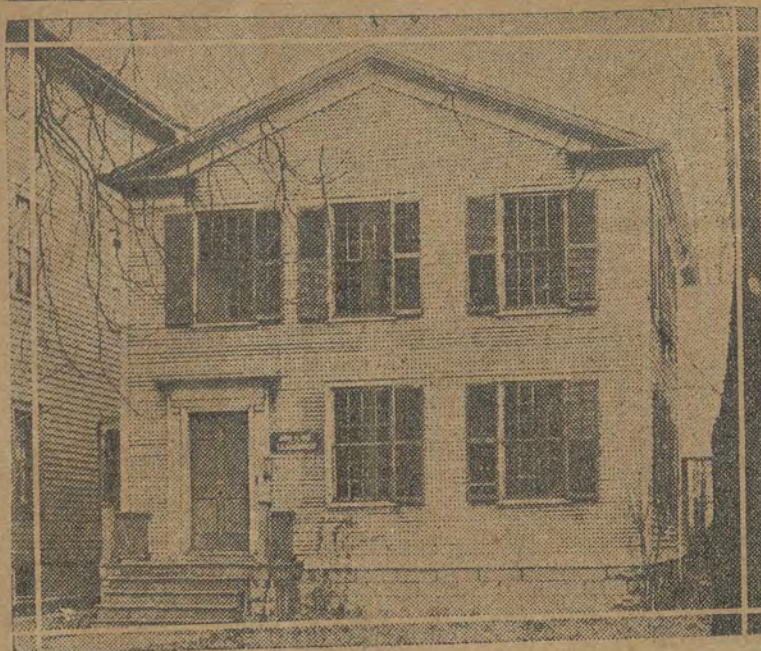
on December 17, 1905 of 75 years and the house was subsequently occupied by William B. Lee until it was sold to Moses Lyman, who owned and occupied it until 1905.

At the time the house was built, Livingston park was known as Livingston place and had been under the name of Spring park. It was a blind alley from Spring street at the corner of Troup street with a few feet of green lawn with trees. The house occupied the center of the block and at one time had a garden at the Spring street end. The house was closed after sunset, but the porch enabled pedestrians to cross the Troup street sidewalk and was no thoroughfare.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Goodman Homestead Now Stands In College Avenue



The little white house with many-paned windows, which stands at 80 College avenue, has a history dating back to the very early days of Rochester when the land now occupied by the University of Rochester was virgin forest, and what is now Goodman street was merely a country road, running back from the main thoroughfare between Rochester and Brighton.

The house shown above was built by the father of George W. Goodman, who had carved out what was known as the Goodman farm from the surrounding forest. The house originally stood facing what is now Goodman street, on the spot now occupied by the south wing of School 31. A barnyard and driveway occupied the space between it and the big elm which still stands a few yards to the south.

The exact date of the building of the house is not available, but in 1832, George W. Goodman married Experience Root, who was born on Feb. 16, 1806 in Pittsford, Mass., and had come to Livingston country with her family in 1830; and took his bride to the house in Goodman street, where they continued to live until the early 70s of the last century, when the house was moved to the newly opened College avenue, and became the home of Henry A. Ward, professor of natural science in the University of Rochester, and founder of Ward's Natural Science Museum.

## Was "Out in the Country."

In the years between the time he took his bride to the old Goodman homestead and its removal to College avenue, George Goodman saw the property surrounding his farm change from countryside to suburbs. The line of the New York Central Railroad was cut through to the north, and University avenue was cut through to the south, following the removal of the University of Rochester from Buffalo street to the plot of ground opposite the Goodman farm. For many years, Goodman street was the eastern limit of the city of Rochester, and the Goodman family first appears in the directory as living "in Goodman street near East avenue." Then the location becomes slightly more definite, "near University avenue in Goodman street." Finally, a "num-

ber is given, but this applies to the new home built on the site of the house removed to College avenue. In this new house, Experience Root Goodman died on Sept. 4, 1890, at the age of 85 years, having outlived her husband by some 20 years. There, too, her son, George H. Goodman, died on June 18, 1901, aged 71 years, survived by several nephews and nieces, among whom were George L. Eaton and Mary L. Eaton of this city.

The old Goodman House, whose age is revealed by the exceedingly narrow clap-boards and the old-fashioned windows and roof, was moved to College avenue soon after the street was cut through in 1873 and became the home of Professor Ward who moved there from a house at the corner of what is now Main street east and Circle street, the latter street then being known as Goodman street.

## Had Many Noted Helpers.

In the establishment on College avenue, which is still carried on by members of the Ward family, many noted scientists received their early experience. Among these were Dr. William Temple Hornaday of the New York Zoological Park, Professor James Orton, Frederick A. Lucas, of the Museum of Natural History, New York city; and Charles Orrin Townsend of Washington.

Natural science collections prepared by the Ward work rooms are to be found in the National Museum at Washington, the Central Park museum in New York city, the museums of Princeton College, the University of Virginia and the University of Rochester, the Agassiz Museum in Hartford and many other places. Many of these collections are still arranged in cabinets of fine workmanship which represent the work of another Rochesterian, S. H. Phinney, father of Herman K. Phinney, assistant librarian at the University of Rochester. The elder Phinney was an early friend of Professor Ward who greatly prized the fine cabinet work which was turned out from his shop and retained him to provide the cases in which the majority of the earlier collections of the Ward laboratory here were shipped and in which they were arranged for exhibition in the museums to which they were consigned.

Up to this time Professor Ward had maintained a natural history exhibit and had carried on his work in two remodeled houses which stood on the University campus where the Reynolds Laboratory now stands. He continued his work there until 1878 when he moved the museum to his house in College avenue where it soon outgrew its quarters and made necessary the erection of other buildings, some of which are still standing.

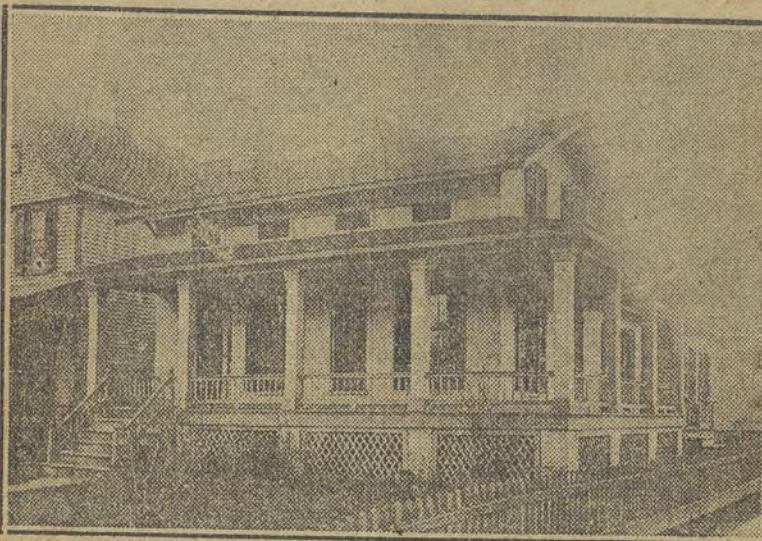
## Founder of Ward's Museum.

Henry A. Ward was born in this city March 9, 1834, and was educated at Williams College and Harvard University. At the latter place he became assistant to the elder Agassiz. It was during a trip to Europe and Africa, made as the tutor to one of the Wadsworth family, that Professor Ward became interested in the idea of forming science collections. On his return to Rochester he accepted the chair of natural science at the University of Rochester and also established the business which was to make his name known all over the civilized world where the Ward natural science collections are to be found in university and public museums. Professor Ward continued to make the house in College avenue his home in the intervals of his trips abroad until 1900 when he removed to Chicago where he met his death in an automobile accident on July 4, 1904.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Dana House Long In Hands Of One Family.



The first directory of Rochester, published in 1834, gives the names of John A. and Daniel N. Sprague as operators of a glue factory on the Erie canal near Broadway. These two men built the front part of the brick house at the southeast corner of Broadway and Averill avenue and used the basement, which was plastered and had a large fireplace, as an office. In 1837 the property was sold to John D. Hawks, who conveyed it to George S. Dana.

Mr. Dana built an addition to the house in 1845, and on Sept. 24, 1846, John H. Dana and Maria R. Wiborn were married there. Fifty years later, Mr. and Mrs. Dana celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the house, and the place continued their home until their death. The property is still owned by members of the Dana family.

Records obtained by the old homes committee of the D. A. P. show that the land was originally

included in the Johnson and Atkinson tract, and that lots 130-32, including 120 feet on Broadway, and running back to the Erie canal, were purchased on Sept. 15, 1831, by John A. Sprague for \$525.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

SPRING HOUSE WAS HEALTH RESORT.



The Oak Hill Country Club now owns the old brick building in Monroe avenue shown above. The building was erected in the '20s of the last century. Its timbers are hand-hewn and the pillars are said to have been turned by Captain Patchen. The first owner, Joseph Tousey died in the house in 1843.

The following facts concerning the old building were given to The Times-Union by A. Emerson Babcock of Clover road who obtained them in an interview with H. J. Peck, of 1555 East avenue, one of the older residents of Brighton.

"The old brick building in Monroe avenue now the property of the Oak Hill Country Club, has always been known as the Spring House and, in its time, enjoyed the distinction of being about the only resort around Rochester. It has had a very interesting and notable career. In the early '20s of the last century Joseph Tousey, grandfather of the well-known resident of Pittsford, L. F. Tousey, built the house which was known as a health resort as well as a place for visitors.

"On the grounds, about one-half mile to the northeast, was a large sulphur spring said to be stronger and to have more medicinal value than the springs at Avon. There were buildings where sulphur baths might be taken, bowling alleys, swings, fountains and all the other equipment usually found at a watering resort. At the Old Spring House was plenty of accommodation for visitors and boarders. The hotel had a large ball room for parties and the floor was said to have been so constructed as to be very springy.

"At this time there was no Newport House at Irondequoit bay, that place then being called Vinton's Steam Saw Mill. At the mouth of the Genesee river there was only a swamp.

"A Mr. Norton succeeded Mr. Tousey at the Old Spring House and

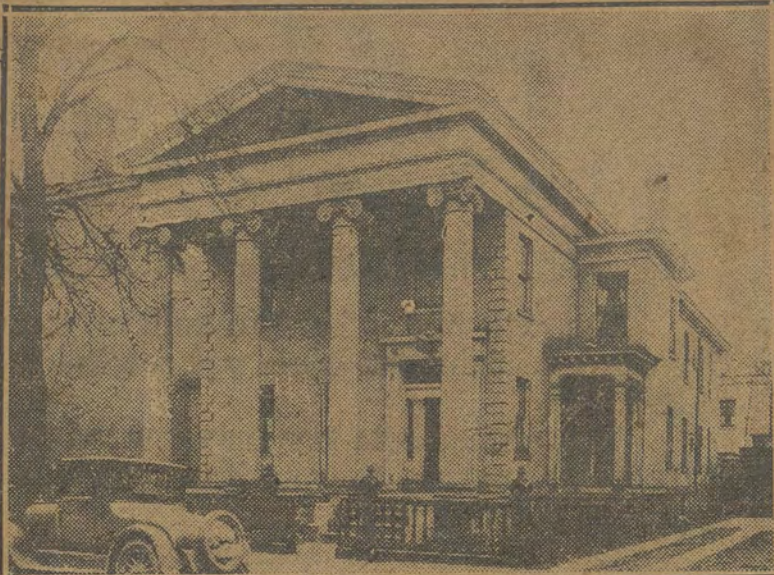
conducted the hotel for several years. He was succeeded by A. C. Wheeler who also conducted a hotel. It would be interesting to have a list of the names of patrons of the place.

"The property was afterward purchased by Joseph Hall who, at the same time, commenced the purchase of large tracts of land which included the Tear farm, the property now occupied by the Rochester Country Club and much other land. In 1854 Mr. Hall was making a business of raising and training thoroughbred trotting horses, and had a half-mile track on the DeForest farm on the Creek road."



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

MUDGETT HOUSE BUILT IN LATE '30s.



The house at 71 South Fitzhugh street, now known as The Spencer, but for many years known to Third warders as the Mudgett House, dates back to the late '30s of the last century. It is shown in an engraving in O'Reilly's Sketches of Rochester, published in 1838, and is referred to as an example of the modification of colonial architecture which had become popular in recently built houses.

According to the Rochester directory of 1844 the house was the home in that year of Simon Traver, a foundryman. In 1847 Charles Church became the owner of the house and after his death his widow continued to live there until 1857. D. C. Hyde is said to have been another resident of the house and in 1869 it became the home of William Mudgett, who moved into it from a house at 320 State street. Mr. Mudgett died in the house on October 7, 1898, at the age of 82 years and his widow continued to live there until her death on May 6,

1911, at the age of 94 years. In 1918, Floyd H. Spencer bought the house and remodeled it for rooming house purposes, naming it The Spencer. It is now owned by Frank Brownyard.

The house is of the same type of architecture as The Pillars in South Washington street and the Montgomery house in Spring street. The front door is a massive, hand-carved affair with a fan-light above and panels with Venetian shutters at the sides, and throughout the house there are numerous examples of beautifully carved wood which testify to the artistic taste of the builder.

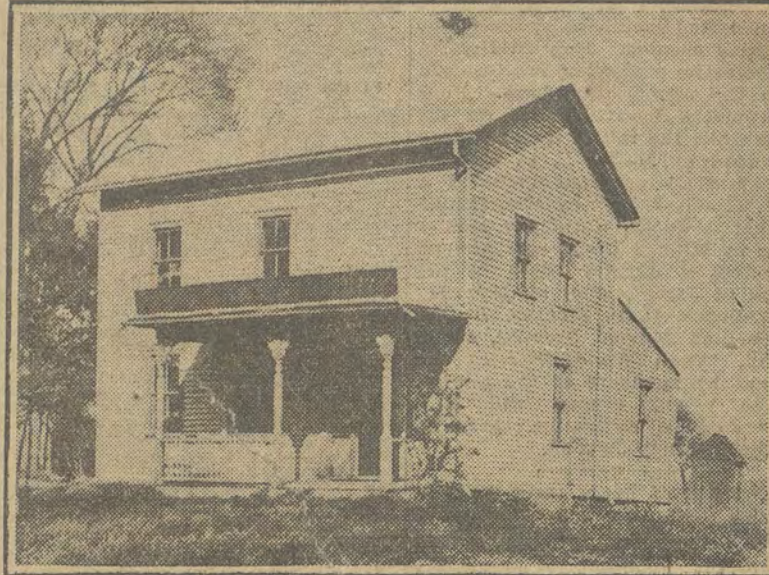
A cut of this house appears in Jane Marsh Parker's History of Rochester, published in 1884, and Mrs. Parker refers to the house as the former residence of Rufus Meech. Reference to Rochester directoris shows that Rufus Meech was living, in 1844, on the east side of South Fitzhugh street in the house which was afterward the home of Dr. Edward Mott Moore. Mr. Meech may possibly have lived

in the Mudgett house before 1844 or at some time during the period between 1857 and 1869. James Livingston is also said to have lived in the house for a short time before building his home at 1 Livingston park.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

## MOORE HOUSE SCENE OF FIRST S. S.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The little frame building which stands in Clover street, just south of the home of A. Emerson Babcock, has two claims to historic interest. It was the scene of the organization of the first Sunday-school formed in Monroe county and for some time it was used for the school taught by Miss Celestia A. Bloss which later became known as The Clover Street Seminary and drew pupils from many parts of the state.

No one knows just when the building was erected. It antedates the Babcock house which was built in 1829 by Isaac Moore. The building originally was of log construction, but it was enlarged and was covered with clap-boards at a later date.

The building must have been in existence in the very early years of the 19th century, for in the spring of 1816 the first Sunday-school organized in Monroe county held its first session there under the leadership of the Rev. Solomon Allen, later the first minister of Brighton Congregational Church, now the Brighton Presbyterian Church. Otis Walker was superintendent of the school, which taught not only religion but reading and writing to the children of the community; and the singing was led by David Bush.

The Rev. Solomon Allen was a revolutionary soldier and at the time Andre, the British spy, was captured, was chosen to carry to the American headquarters the dispatches taken from the prisoner. After leaving the army, Allen, who was then 40 years of age, determined to become a minister of the gospel, and this determination he carried out despite many difficulties, finally receiving his license to preach when he was 53 years of age. By the time Allen had received his credentials as a minister in the Congregational Church his two sons, Moses and Solomon, were grown men and were conducting successful businesses in New York city. They

seem to have been thoroughly in sympathy with their father's desire to carry church privileges to the settlers in Western New York and are said to have provided him with money to assist in his mission work.

Mr. Allen evidently believed that spiritual assistance occasionally needs to be backed by material aid, for it is on record that on one occasion he sent a bolt of pink and red plaid calico to one family where there were many children and no garments of a quality suitable for Sabbath wear. It is also recorded that the next Sunday saw the entire family at Sunday-school, the little girls being clad in pink and red plaid dresses, and the boys' homespun trousers being surmounted with shirts of the same pink and red plaid.

At that time the little house was surrounded by woods and it is said that it was not unusual for the pupils to catch glimpses of deer and bear on their way to school.

On September 18, 1817, the Congregational Church of Brighton was organized by Mr. Allen who remained as its pastor until advancing years impelled him to return to his former home in Massachusetts.

The Isaac Moore house, now the home of A. Emerson Babcock was the first scene of the classes which were conducted by Mr. Moore's sister-in-law, Celestia A. Bloss for Mr. Moore's children and their friends in the neighborhood. About 1840 the classes were shifted to the house shown above which became known as "The Little White School House." Less than 50 years ago it was possible to see the traces of the blackboards and built-in seats that were used by these classes. Within a few years the school outgrew its quarters and was removed to the brick building to the south where it flourished for many years as the Clover Street Seminary. The little white school house was then used as a tenant house for workers on the Moore farm. In recent days the building has been used for office purposes by the Brighton and Pittsford Sewer Districts.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

JEROME HOUSES BUILT IN 1848.



The twin houses at 88 and 90 South Fitzhugh street were built about 1848 by Lawrence and Leonard Jerome, publishers of the Rochester American, a weekly and daily newspaper which they had established on December 23, 1844, and which became the organ of the "Know Nothing" party in Rochester. The Rochester American was absorbed by the Rochester Democrat in 1857, after which Leonard Jerome, who had lived in the house at 90 South Fitzhugh street, removed to New York city where he became prominent in financial and social circles.

Before building their own homes the Jerome brothers lived for some years at the house of Rufus Meech in South Fitzhugh street. This house was later bought by Dr. Edward Mott Moore, sr., who occupied it until his death on March 3, 1902. It was the first house in South Fitzhugh street south of the south-east corner and has now been converted into an apartment house.

The house at 88 South Fitzhugh street, which is shown above, was subsequently occupied by Owen Gaffney and by Charles Chapin. In late years it has been a rooming house and it recently was sold, together with the houses at 84 and 86 South Fitzhugh street, by Perry S. Darrohu to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cohen.

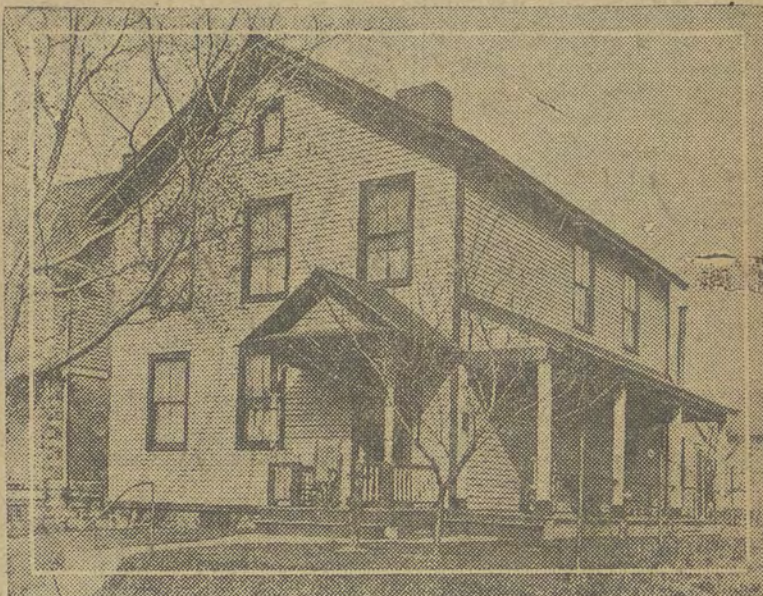
The house at 90 Fitzhugh street which was a duplicate of 88 at the time of building, was the home of Leonard Jerome whose daughter, Jennie Jerome, became a famous belle in New York city and married Lord Randolph Churchill of London. Lady Churchill later married George Cornwallis West, whom she divorced, and not long before her death in June, 1921, she again married, this time an English officer named Montague Porch.

The house at 90 South Fitzhugh street was occupied by Abner Burbank and by John Fox, following Leonard Jerome's removal from the city.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Five Generations Lived In Francis House.



Alexander M. Francis, the present occupant of the house shown above, has given the following history of the building to the old house committee of Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R. He says:

"The house has been owned and occupied by five generations of the Francis family. My parents, Alphonse Francis and Rachel Dunkin, were married here by the Rev. James B. Shaw in 1849 and Grandfather Francis had owned and occupied it before 1830. The house was built by Mr. Frink some time prior to 1816, as that is the date of the marriage of his daughter whose wedding took place in the old home.

"The two porches, of course, are of modern construction, but the roof and general contour of the building have never been changed. The single chimney rising from the center of the cellar is, at that place, about five feet square, gradually lessening in size until it reaches the roof. It has four fireplaces, two on each floor, leading into it and, in the kitchen there is an old crane

for pots and kettles and a brick oven adjoining.

"The floors are all of hard wood and have never been replaced. The original clapboards were only removed in 1885 and I well remember what hard work the carpenters had in removing the nails, as they were of the old 'clinched' kind, and very numerous indeed. At that time, too, the old 'half-moon' or 'rising sun' attic window was replaced by a modern one.

"Mother's 10 children, five boys and five girls, were born here and the writer, the only living son, now occupies the house.

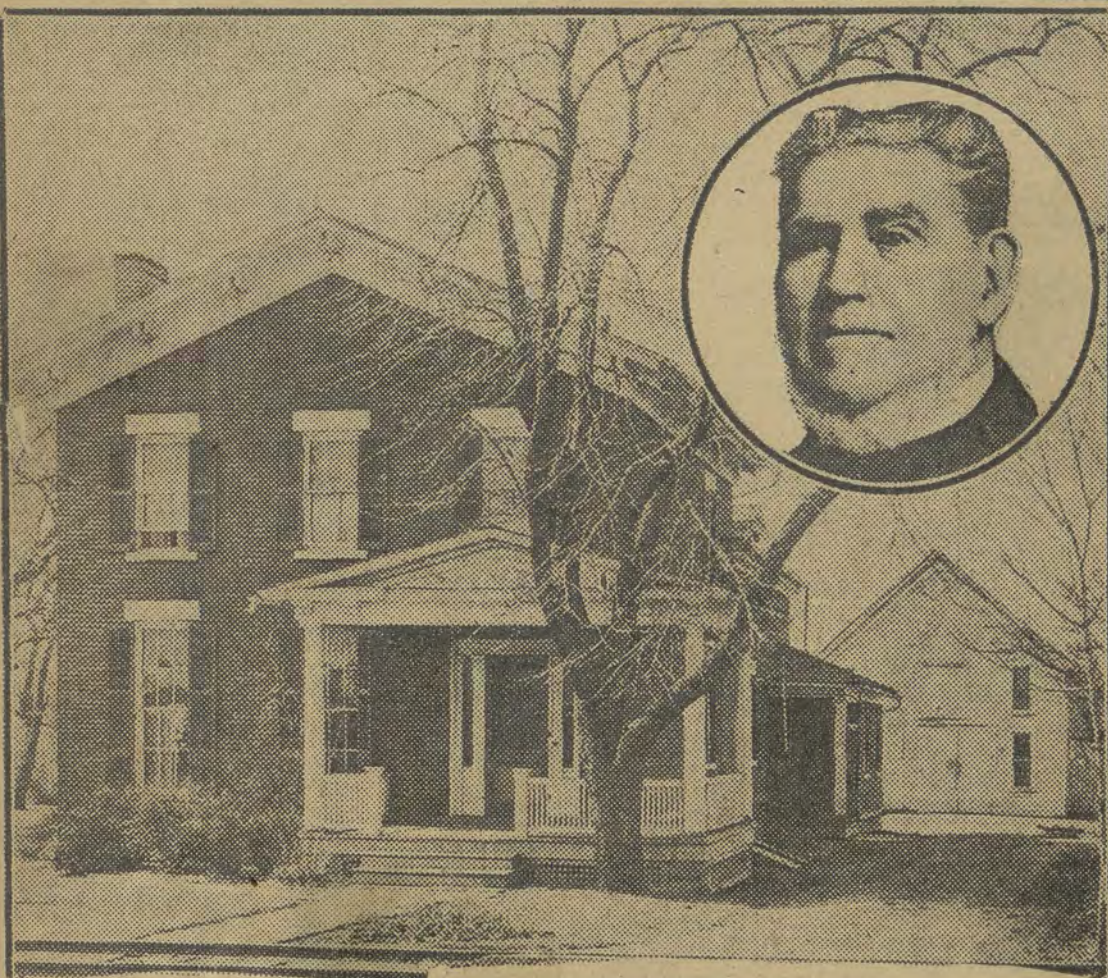
"The old home was surrounded by an acre of land which has been divided into building lots on which are modern residences which have greatly changed the old surroundings."

The Francis house stands at 51 Jewel street in the northeast part of the city. It originally was in the town of Carthage which was established before Rochester, but which failed to hold its own and was gradually absorbed by the growth of the latter city.



# FROM TRACKLESS FOREST TO ELECTRIC-LIGHTED AVENUES

How Rochester Pioneer Lived To Witness Transformation of Wilderness to Modern City; Hosea Rogers, Born in 1812, Tells Reminiscences of Days When Bears and Panthers Roamed Rochester Roads.



The Hosea Rogers Homestead in Summerville Boulevard and (inset) portrait of Hosea Rogers.

**L**IGHTS were turned on last night for the first time in the streets which formerly composed the old Rogers tract in the northeast section of the city. Denver, Alexis, Schaffer, Greely and Iroquois Streets were illuminated."

The foregoing inconspicuous news item of Saturday last hints at a history of absorbing interest that is rapidly fading from the public mind. Hosea Rogers, who was born in 1812, lived to a ripe old age. In 1892 he was interviewed at length on his recollection of early affairs and talked freely to his interviewer who was the late George H. Harris who was well known as an authority on not only early settlement but Indian history. Mr. Harris published the result of the interview in an illustrated article which occupied a page of space and appeared in The Post

Express of March 12, 1898. From that article and other data in her possession Mrs. George Harris has compiled the following interesting and timely summary:

Ezra Rogers, the father of Hosea Rogers, came from Massachusetts to Western New York about 1800, living for a while in Ontario County, from which location he removed, about 1809, to the town of Boyle, which then embraced the present towns of Henrietta, Brighton, Irondequoit, including the eastern portion of Rochester, a place then unthought of.

At that time there was no road to the Genesee River west of the present village of Brighton (1892), and only an Indian trail on the east side of the river from Mt. Hope to the landing below the lower falls, a locality then called Carthage.

The Merchant's road had been through from Canandaigua to the mouth of the Genesee about 1804, terminating at the ferry, nearly opposite the New York Central Railroad depot at Charlotte. Travelers from the east usually came over this road; those going to Carthage

picked their way up the river from the Merchant's road.

This was the route followed by Ezra Rogers and his family to their new home on the Genesee. (By the way, a trace of this old road can yet be seen, back of the house known as the "Hooker house," leading down an incline near the corner of Portland Avenue and Ridge Road.) Several families of whites were settled in Carthage when Mr. Rogers reached there, without other title than squatters' claims, but their names were lost with their disappearance when actual settlers occupied the place.

Ezra Rogers purchased a tract of land that included that portion of North St. Paul Street, in the vicinity of the New York School for Deaf Mutes, this farm being within a half-mile of the landing and thus a promising location.

When he moved on to the farm he built a log house on the east side of the Indian trail, immediately opposite old No. 8 School building (The 250.) Mr. Hosea Rogers was born in that house January 17, 1812.

ground are the ones preserved when the land was cleared. Mr. Hosea Rogers said, "I was the youngest of five children. Mother used to tell me I was an infant when the British fleet appeared at the mouth of the river and displayed its guns. The men seized their arms and started for the lake, and the women and children fled into the woods. My mother, with her children, went to the house of a neighbor who lived near the present corner of Norton and Carter Streets. You must bear in mind that at the period of my earliest recollection, forest trees stood over the greater portions of the sites of Rochester and Carthage. On my present farm in Irondequoit there was much hard wood timber and many large pines scattered about. It was a famous place for game. My brothers killed three deer in one afternoon. Small animals were abundant, wolves were a general nuisance, and wild cats always sneaking about; bears were numerous, and the Genesee bears were especially fond of pork. Many incidents might be related regarding them, but in my father's case, whenever a pig was heard to squeal after dark it was a signal for him to go out and have a contest with bruin over his winter's supply of pork.

Salmon ran up the river to the lower falls and were taken in scoop nets. In April and May sturgeon came up the river and were speared. It was no unusual thing to catch a sturgeon weighing 150 pounds. Their meat was called "Albany beef."

In those early days Indians were almost constantly about the neighborhood, mainly from the Seneca towns up the river, who came to hunt and fish. They had a camping place on the Wilson farm on Norton Street and another on a spring brook near a swamp on my present farm, between St. Paul and Hudson Streets. There was a ten-acre lot there that had been cleared by the Indians in early days, where they raised corn and continued to plant there as long as they visited the location. They were usually inoffensive, selling baskets and wild fruits to the settlers. My schooling was limited. There was no schoolhouse in the neighborhood, but the settlers determined to have a school; a young lady was engaged as teacher and the first school was held in my father's house. The teacher went from house to house, teaching and boarding a week at each place, until she had been over the district, when she went the rounds again. The first schoolhouse in Carthage was a frame building erected in a street than ran east of and parallel with St. Paul Street.

The first teacher in that house, whom I recollect, was Master Dimmick. He had been a pioneer farmer up the Genesee, once worked for Judge John H. Jones, and taught school in Leicester about 1808. He was a strong man, for though there was a rough lot of boys in the school, he was equal to every call upon his store of knowledge and skill at arms. Later the building was moved to

the site of old No. 8, Judge Strong giving the last mentioned lot for the original school grounds, and he closed up the back street. My first recollections of Rochester, as distinguished from Carthage, were the impressions received during a ride with my father up to Rochester. I cannot recall a house standing between our own and the present New York Central railroad. The only house that I remember on the east side of the river was a small building on South St. Paul Street, occupied by Enos Stone. A rude bridge spanned the river at Main Street, and at the Aqueduct there was a fall of several feet. On the west side of the river I recollect a house occupied by Abieard Reynolds, where the Arcade now stands, and all about that vicinity was a swamp.



Carthage landing was three miles from the Four Corners in Rochester. Up to about 1816 the shipping of the lake had found its principal dockage at Fall Town, since called Handford's Landing, on the west side of the river; Carthage landing on the east bank was three-fourths of a mile farther up the stream, and the ascent of the bank easier than at Fall Town. In 1818 Caleb Lyons sold a thousand acres at Carthage to Elisha B. Strong and Elisha Beach, two young men from Connecticut. They had their land surveyed into lots and inaugurated a series of improvements. In 1812 the town of Boyle was changed to Smallwood, and in 1814 divided into Pittsford and Brighton, the name Irondequoit not being given to the town until 1839. About the time Strong & Company began operations in 1818, the name of Carthage was changed to Clyde and a post-office opened. Three stores were built north of the school house and Oliver Strong and Oliver Kimball opened up business there. Later Abner Burbank kept the north store. Strong built a grist mill and a saw mill on the flat just above the lower fall, and erected a residence for himself opposite the street car barns. Horace Hooker lived next north of Strong. Strong became one of the first county judges when Monroe County was established in 1821. A company that included Heman Norton and Francis Albright was organized in 1818 to build a bridge over the Genesee gorge, where Driving Park bridge now stands. This was completed and stood one year and a day.

A second bridge was constructed on a lower grade on the flat above the fall; it stood but a short time. The construction of the Erie canal settled the location of the future city, and Clyde thenceforth became a part of Rochester. The postoffice was discontinued later, the name Clyde fell into disuse, and Carthage again became the title of the place. Among other buildings erected in 1818 was a tavern stand, on the northeast corner of St. Paul and Norton. The same building still stands. For a time there was no occupant, but in 1819 Captain Ebenezer Spear opened the place. Spear was a sailor and nearly all the succeeding landlords I recall were sailors; in fact, the majority of men who founded Carthage were men connected with shipping interests. Shipping to and from the landing, the hauling of logs and timber from the north woods and Rochester, created an immense amount of teaming, so the custom of the house increased and for years it was one of the most widely known and profitable hotels on the Genesee River.

In the change of proprietorship between Lyon and Strong it was discovered that Lyon had given father no deed of his farm, and although he had occupied it since 1800, he was dispossessed of the property. Then father bought one and one-half acres on Norton Street and built the house where Professor Westervelt now resides. (1892) (Then follows a history of navigation on the Genesee and Lake Ontario, very interesting.) In 1836 I bought the Hornby estate of eighty-five acres in the then town of Brighton, now Irondequoit, and on this farm I have made my home to the present day. I began building vessels as a business about 1840, and in that year built the Daniel Webster at Carthage landing. She was lost some years later on the rocks of the river St. Lawrence. I remember her anchor home, where it has stood in front of my house for many years as a hitching post. I was engaged in boat building over thirty years and built in all fourteen vessels.

You must understand that the so-called mouth of the Genesee River of 1892 is nearly two miles further north than the mouth of the stream when I first sailed out upon Lake Ontario. We then considered the present New York Central Railroad depot as the natural mouth of the Genesee. At that point the waters widened into a triangular bay, over nearly all parts of which vessels could sail and in which they found a secure harbor. The extension of piers northward narrowed the channel and the east side channel became

a marsh; the west side was long ago filled and occupied by buildings and railroads. The land in the west side where Hotel Ontario stands and Summerville on the east side is made ground that had its beginning in two narrow flat bars of shifting sand, through which the waters from the river cut, an ever-changing channel. On the end of the east bar about where the ferry now is, stood a great elm tree, visible for a long distance out on the lake. This was called the 'Pilot tree.' It was known to the earliest mariners of the lake and marked the entrance to the Genesee, until its destruction at the time the piers were built."

Mr. Rogers lived to see the growth of Rochester from the leveling of the primeval forest to the latest improvement in 1904. He saw the roads cut through, the hills lowered, the marshes filled; he saw the erection of residences, of business blocks, the removal of old land marks; he was here before the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone. He was a quiet man, shunning ostentation, large of stature, a tower of strength, prospering in business by persistent industry, perfect honesty, and prudence in expenditure, although he believed true economy lay in buying the best of its kind in whatever was needed. Now his broad acres are platted for a residence section of this city, such lands being far too valuable for farming purposes.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

PERKINS HOUSE BUILT IN 1840.



Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

A wealth of memories clusters around the lovely old house at 174 Spring street, for so many years the home of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Perkins. Mrs. Perkins was Miss Sarah Olivia Dewey, daughter of Dr. Chester Dewey whose name is linked with educational development in Rochester along many lines. Dr. Dewey came to Rochester from Massachusetts to become principal of the Collegiate Institute and later became a member of the first faculty of the University of Rochester, his connection with the latter institution continuing to the time of his death at the age of 83 years, in December, 1867. The Dewey home adjoined that of Mr. and Mrs. Perkins on the west and it was natural that the two houses should become centers of intellectual life in the old Third ward.

The house was built in 1840 by Henry A. Brewster. In 1849, Mr. Brewster moved to the new house that he had built at the northwest corner of Spring and North Washington streets and Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, whose marriage had just taken place, took possession of the house

at 174 Spring street, then numbered 48 Spring street. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Perkins in this home—George H. Perkins of this city; Mrs. William J. Averell of Ogdensburg; and a second daughter who died in early infancy.

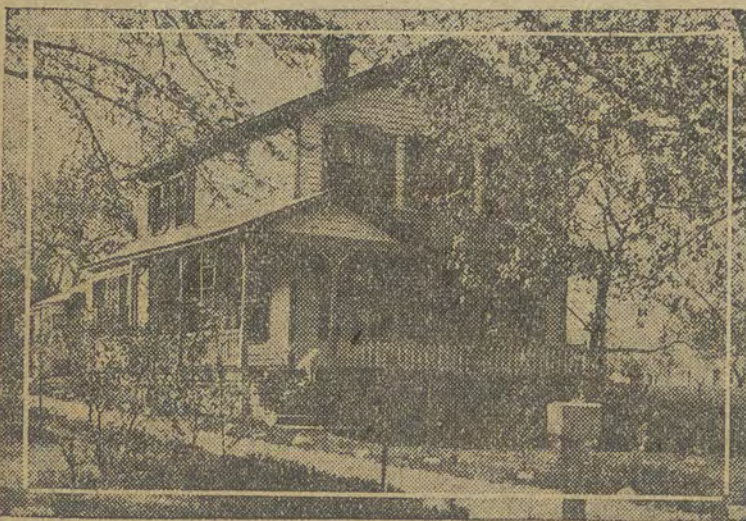
Mr. Perkins was born in Litchfield, Conn., on July 11, 1819, and was brought to Geneseo when a young child. In 1838 the family moved to Rochester and, after spending a short time in the milling and banking business, Mr. Perkins became bookkeeper for E. F. Smith, wholesale grocer. In 1842 he was admitted to partnership under the firm name of E. F. Smith and Company, this name later being changed to Smith, Perkins and Company. Mr. Perkins took an active interest in the affairs of the business until a year before his death which took place on May 12, 1858.

Mrs. Perkins continued to live in the Spring street house until her death in her 84th year, on August 1, 1911. The house is now the home of Dr. Charles A. Dewey, Mrs. Perkins' brothers.

The architecture of the house, pure and unpretentious in line, reminds one of that of some of the old manses to be seen in New England, set down in just such a frame of fine old trees and smooth green lawn.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

FIRST HOUSE OF OLIVER CULVER.



There is not much in the outward appearance of the house shown above to indicate that it has weathered nearly 120 years, but old residents of Brighton identify the house with the first structure erected by Oliver Culver, one of the early settlers of Tryontown, who

took his bride Alice Ray, there following his marriage in 1805.

The house, which is the last one on the left side of the Landing road before its intersection with Blossom road, has been rebuilt and enlarged, but in its framework are still the original timbers cut by Oliver Culver on his farm which extended about the house. The poplar trees which stand not far from the house were planted by Oliver Culver who, according to his reminiscences, placed barrels over the young saplings in order to protect them from the rude play of the Indian children who often gathered near his home.

Oliver Culver, as has been told in another article of this series, was born on September 24, 1778, in West Windsor, Conn. In his 18th year he started "west" to join a surveying party which was to work in Ohio. He stopped over for a time in the Genesee country. After his work was completed in Ohio he returned to Irondequoit Landing, where Tryontown was being built up, and entered into the employ of Tryon and Company. He also purchased his farm in this year but did not begin its development until after his marriage in 1805, prior to which time he boarded at the home of Orringh Stone in East avenue opposite Council Rock.

Like the majority of the residents

of Brighton, Mr. Culver built a number of boats, one big schooner being built by him and Willard Davis and hauled overland by teams of oxen to Irondequoit Landing. In 1822, when the Erie canal was completed as far as Rochester, Mr. Culver built a packet-boat at Brighton, the first built so far west and the fourth to be launched on the canal. The building of the canal practically ended the shipping from Irondequoit Landing.

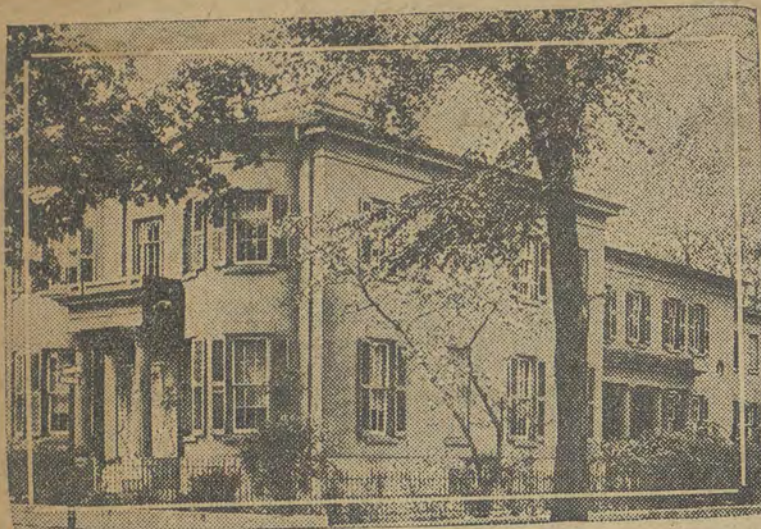
After living for a time in the Landing road house Mr. Culver built a new home in the woods at what is now the corner of East avenue and Culver road where he lived until his death. This house was moved in 1906 to the lot at 70 East boulevard and is now the home of Mrs. Howard A. Smith, a descendant of Mr. Culver.

The house in the Landing road was bought by the father of the late William H. Rowerdink who was born there and who remembered a visit which Mr. Culver paid to the old home not long before his death. At that time Mr. Culver's sight had failed but he asked to be led to the trees that he had planted and recalled many incidents of his residence in the house.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

AMON BRONSON HOUSE BUILT 1844



### Amon Bronson House, Built 1844.

The beautiful old house at the southwest corner of Plymouth avenue and Atkinson street, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Clark, was built in 1844 by Amon Bronson, who for 44 years carried on a lumber business with yards in Exchange street.

The house is one of the finest examples in the city of the "built on honor" system of construction which made the houses of the early part of the 19th century monuments to honest labor and honest material. Mr. Bronson knew good lumber, and when he came to build his own house he saw to it that all the beams were of solid, unflawed hard wood. Doors and wainscoting are of the same massive, substantial type and the flooring is much thicker than is usual today. It is said that after the cellar foundations of the house were laid Mr. Bronson ordered them to be covered over and left for a full year, in order that they might settle and "ripen" before the superstructure of the house was raised.

Mr. Bronson was born in Scipio, N. Y., on March 23, 1807. He moved to Avon when a boy and learned the carpenter business. In 1832 he came to Rochester and purchased the lumber yard in Exchange street which he conducted until his death on July 28, 1876, the business being carried on thereafter by his son, Amon Bronson, jr.

Pictures of Mr. Bronson show him to have had somewhat the same type of face as Abraham Lincoln, though his features were less

rugged and his expression less worried and careworn than that of the president whose policies he supported warmly during the years of the Civil War despite the fact that he, himself, was a member of the Democratic party. During these years Mr. Bronson served on the Bounties Commission which sought to secure additional recruits for the Union army through the offering of bounties for enlistment. It is said that he gave a large sum of money for this purpose in order that Rochester might send still more men to the front. He was also very generous to the families of the men who were in service and is said to have given much in quiet ways which left his charity unknown save to its recipients. He was a member of St. Luke's Church and was interested in the building up of the Industrial School on Exchange street and in the City Hospital.

Mr. Bronson served as alderman and as supervisor and was a trustee of the Monroe County Savings Bank and a director of the City Bank.

In 1840 Mr. Bronson married Ann Emerson, daughter of Thomas Emerson. On November 13, 1869, he suffered a stroke of paralysis but he survived until a second shock on July 28, 1876.

Mr. Bronson's son lived in the old home until 1885 when it passed into the hands of Charles H. Babcock, the coal dealer, who lived there until 1914. It was then the home of Francis E. Cunningham until it was purchased in 1917 by George H. Clark, the present owner.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

ROGERS HOUSE LONG IN FAMILY.



The house at the south-west corner of Spring and South Washington streets occupies a site which was part of the property reserved by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester for the use of his family and for the past 47 years it has been the home of Clinton Rogers, President of the Howe & Rogers Company, whose wife is a daughter of Henry E. Rochester and a granddaughter of Colonel Rochester, the founder of the city.

The house was built about 1860 for Martin S. Newton, a well known member of the Rochester bar, to whom one Rochester history alludes as "the pertinacious little giant." Mr. Newton was at one time district attorney and was prominent in the affairs of the city. He married a daughter of James L. Chappell and the house at Spring and South

Washington street was built as a home for his bride. Mr. Newton occupied the house until 1868 when it became, for a short time, the home of Judge Sanford E. Church, who moved to Rochester from Albion, and in 1870 it was purchased by J. Rapalye, a seedsman, who lived there until Mr. Rogers purchased the home for his bride.

Clinton Rogers was born December 3, 1833, in Wales, Mass., and came to Rochester at the age of 22 years to become clerk for the firm of Wilder, Case & Company. In 1857 Mr. Rogers founded a carpet store in State street with J. Howe as partner, the firm name being that under which the business is still known.

Mr. Rogers married Miss Fannie C. Rochester on August 23, 1876, and, shortly afterward, purchased the house from Mr. Rapalye.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

MILLS HOUSE BUILT BEFORE 1852

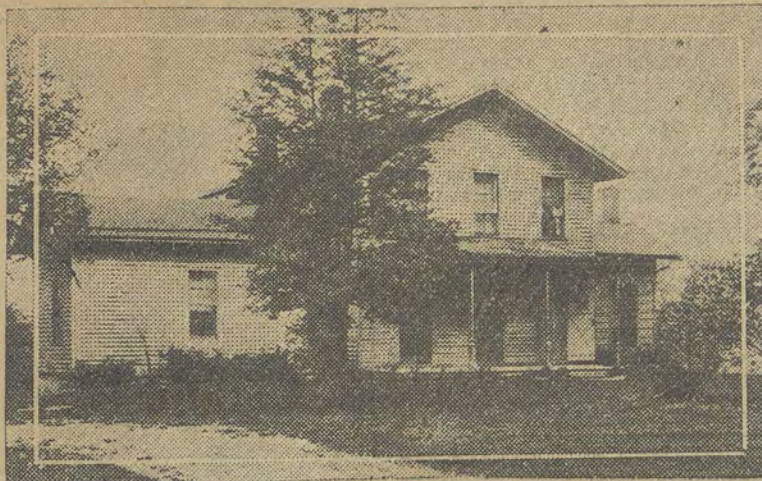


Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

The substantial frame house which stands on the northern end of the Riverside cemetery grounds, and the 100 acres of land surrounding it, were purchased in 1852 by Charles J. Mills as a home for his bride. The house had been built about two years before and it was subsequently somewhat remodeled by Mr. Mills, but the 70-year-old timbers still remain and the house is little changed, exteriorly.

Mr. Mills developed the Lake Avenue Nursery on the site. Many of the fine old trees which still stand in Riverside cemetery were planted by him.

In 1876 Mr. Mills moved to Rochester, building a house in Emerson street, and the boulevard property passed into the ownership of members of Mrs. Mills' family. In 1892

it was sold to the Riverside cemetery corporation by John Chapman, Mrs. Mills' brother. The house is now used as a residence for Charles Collins, one of the caretakers of the cemetery.

Up to 1848 the Lake boulevard was no more than a country road which in spring and late fall was hub-deep in mud. But in that year the Rochester and Charlotte Plank road was laid and traveling was made somewhat easier, though the present day motorist probably would not think that a road composed of planks laid cross-wise and yielding to the inequalities of the roadway beneath much to brag about.

The Rochester and Charlotte Plank Road Company was organized October 1, 1848, with a capital stock of \$70,000. John Williams

was president of the company. Joshua Eaton was secretary and George J. Whitney, treasurer. The directors, beside Mr. Whitney and Mr. Eaton were William Rankin, James H. Goodman, James M. Whitney and James C. Campbell. The organization of this company was no doubt the result of the Brighton Plank Road Company which had been organized in December of the previous year. The Brighton company built a road from "the eastern termination of Main street", now the junction of East avenue and Goodman street, to Allyn's Creek. This road was called East avenue and the name came, in time, to be applied to the entire section from Main street to Brighton. The road was three and one-half miles in length and for part of its length was double track with a gravel road in the center. It was a favorite drive for Rochester horse owners and speeding became so prevalent that it was finally necessary to prohibit the use of the road for racing. The officers of the Brighton Road company were: President, Samuel Miller; secretary, J. W. Bissell; treasurer, N. B. Northrop. The directors were A. Douglass, L. D. Ely and James Campbell.

## Rogers' Homestead Sold; Apartment To Be Built



Old Rogers home at Spring and South Washington streets.

The old Rogers homestead at the southwest corner of Spring and South Washington streets, for the past 47 years the home of Clinton Rogers, president of Howe and Rogers Company was purchased yesterday by Roy J. Reidesel and John W. Lea, Rochester business men. A modern apartment house will take the place of the old house which has been a landmark for over 65 years. The consideration involved is approximately \$60,000 the purchasers announced this afternoon.

According to the architect's preliminary sketch, the building will contain 33 apartments and will cost about \$150,000. Details of the

structure have not been worked out as yet, the purchasers stated, but construction will be started as soon as the plans are completed.

The house stands upon part of the plot reserved by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester for the use of his family. The house itself was built about 1860 for Martin S. Newton who was a prominent member of the Rochester bar. He occupied the house until 1868 when it became for a short time the home of Judge Sanford E. Church who sold it to John Rapalji in 1870. Mr. Rapalji lived there until Mr. Rogers purchased it for his bride in 1876, in whose hands it has remained until the present sale.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BICKNEL HOUSE OCCUPIES SITE OF FIRST CEMETERY



The house shown above, now numbered 63 Spring street and standing on the corner of Spring street and school alley, was built by Caleb Bicknel some time between 1821 and 1827. It appears to have been the twin of the house adjoining it to the west which was also built by Mr. Bicknel and which he occupied from 1834 to the time of his death.

It is claimed by some persons that Mr. Bicknel at one time lived in the house shown above, which, in the old directories, bears the number 15 Spring street. But, if he did so, it must have been before the year 1834. After that date he is listed in the directories as living in the adjoining house, 17 Spring street. The house shown above seems to have been rented to various tenants by Mr. Bicknel. In 1841 the house was occupied by Hiram Leonard, an attorney; in 1844 by Mrs. Sophia Carr, in 1849 by Watson Bidwell,

who was manager of the restaurant known as The Recess at 2 Canal Dock; in 1851 by Russell L. Merchant, a maker of scales whose place of business was at 17 Buffalo street; and in 1859 by Bradford F. Crandall. In recent years the house has also had a succession of tenants. After the death of Mr. Bicknel it passed into the hands of the Mogridge estate and is now rented for residential and business purposes. The basement, which is now used by a vulcanizing firm, has one of the finest fireplaces and mantel-pieces in the city and the lines of the colonial doorway leading in from the porch are of such striking and dignified simplicity as to attract the notice of anyone versed in such matters. The house is of brick, as is also the twin house adjoining it. The latter, however, has been enclosed in a wooden jacket; for what reason it is difficult to understand.

On maps showing the city as it was in 1820, the site on which these two houses stand, and the land extending to what is now the corner of Spring and South Fitzhugh streets, is marked as a cemetery. It was, in fact, the first property used for burial purposes by the settlers of Rochesterville, having been set aside for that use by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, Colonel William Fitzhugh, and Major Charles Carroll, the original owners. These three made a deed of gift of the property to the village corporation in 1821, but, three months later, it was exchanged for three and a half acres of land in West avenue, where the General Hospital now stands, and the bodies that had been interred were removed to the new cemetery.

Caleb Bicknel must have erected the two houses very soon after the site was abandoned for burial purposes and they are, therefore, approaching the century mark.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

PITKIN HOUSE BUILT ABOUT 1849.



Photo by staff photographer

The house at 38 South Washington street, next north of the Bevier Building of Mechanics Institute occupies a site that was originally part of the property reserved by Colonel Nathaniel Rochester for his own use. The first occupants of the house were Mr. and Mrs. William Pitkin, Mrs. Pitkin being Louisa Rochester, daughter of Colonel Rochester. The house was built about 1849 and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Pitkin until 1861.

William Pitkin came to Rochester in 1814 and engaged in the wholesale and retail druggist trade at 14 Buffalo street, on the site now occupied by the Paine Drug Company. One of the early advertisements of the Pitkin drug store states that it dealt in drugs, medicines, paints, varnishes, linseed and sperm oils, dye-woods, machine cards and shearing machines. About 1840 Mr. Pitkin made his home in the house now the home of Gilman N. Perkins, 474 East avenue, moving to the South Washington street house in 1850. In 1845 Mr. Pitkin was appointed mayor of the city by the Common Council, following an election in which Rufus Keeler, the Locofoco candidate, and John Allen, the Whig, received within two votes

of one another and it became necessary to select a third man for the post. Mr. Pitkin was also a founder of the Monroe County Bank in 1821.

In 1861 George Eastman, president of Eastman's Commercial College and father of George Eastman who was to make Rochester known as "the Kodak City," lived in the Washington street house for a short time and in the following year it was purchased by Gilman H. Perkins who lived there until 1884.

On March 25, 1885, the Genesee Valley Club, which had been organized on January 2 of that year, took possession of the house and remained there for four years until its building at East avenue and Gibbs street was completed.

In 1894 the house became the property of Mechanics Institute, but in 1905 was used again for residence purposes. It is now the headquarters of the Rochester School of Optometry.

The house has a rafted basement which was used for a number of years as the meeting place of the Alembic Club, an organization of artists, writers and professional men who met informally each week. This club was disbanded about two years ago.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

SHAW HOUSE BUILT IN '30s



SHAW HOUSE BUILT IN 1837.

The house at 17 Atkinson street, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Clara Morehouse, was built about 1837 by Henry Shaw of St. Louis, Mo., for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shaw, and his sister, Sarah Shaw.

A deed recorded in the Monroe County Clerk's office shows that the site of the house was purchased May 19, 1836, by Mr. Shaw from Mortimer F. Delano. The Shaw family had come from England about the year 1830 and Henry Shaw had pushed west to St. Louis, then the point at which all the fur trade from the east and the west focussed and from which all western caravan travel took its departure. Mr. Shaw became a strong competitor of John Jacob Astor in the fur trade, and, at his death, in the 1890s was probably the wealthiest man in St. Louis. He apparently never made his home in Rochester, though a later owner of the house found in the attic a number of heavy boxes which showed signs of having been brought across the ocean from England and which bore Henry Shaw's name burned into the wood. At his death

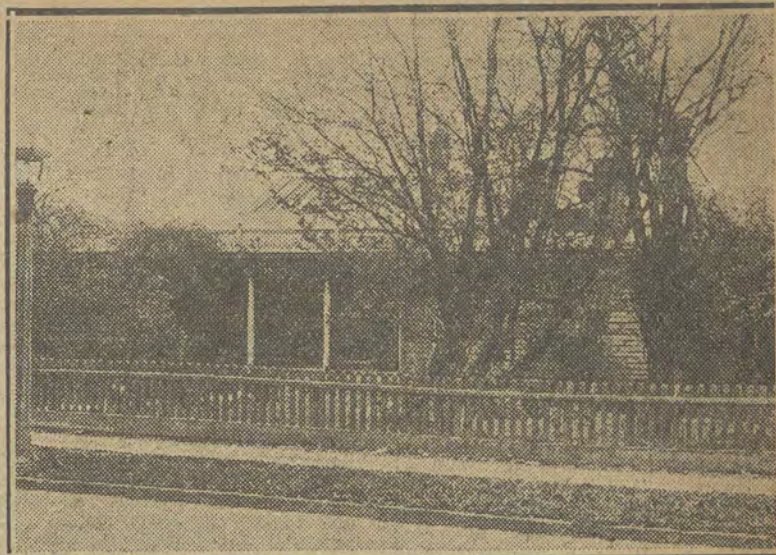
Mr. Shaw left his fortune to the city of St. Louis and his name is perpetuated by the Shaw Botanical Gardens in that city which are said to be among the finest in the world.

The house in Atkinson street was the home of Mr. Shaw's parents until their death and his sister then continued to live there until 1893, after which the house was occupied by General Harrison Fairchild. In 1901 the house was purchased by George P. Decker, Rochester attorney, who made his home there until 1910, when it was sold to Stephen Leggett and was occupied for a time by Mrs. William A. Murphy. In 1917 it was sold to Charles A. Simpson who lived there until 1922 when the house was sold to its present owner.

When Mr. Decker bought the house the interior was considerably remodeled, and, in the process an ancient safe was uncovered in one of the clothes-presses where its presence had been cunningly concealed, a reminder of the days when many merchants believed it safer to hide their money in their homes than to trust it to the care of banks.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

GALUSHA HOUSE BUILT IN '20s



By Durnherr, Staff Photographer.

The quaint, rambling frame house at 32 Gorham street, owned and occupied by the Rev. and Mrs. James C. Gairdner, was built in the 1820's by a man named Strong, who sold it and the land surrounding it, including the property now lying between Hand and Hart streets and between St. Paul and Clinton avenue north, to Martin Galusha. In the first Rochester directory, issued in 1827, Mr. Galusha's name appears, his address being given as Gorham street.

Mr. Galusha planted extensive fruit orchards of plums and pears which yielded fruit that became noted for its excellence and found a ready market. Some of these trees are still in existence and in bearing in the yards of houses on the streets which later were laid out through the property and which bear names commemorating members of the Galusha family, Martin

street, Almira street, Cole street and Galusha street.

Elon A. Galusha, son of Martin, married Free love A. Sole and the young couple took up their residence in the Gorham street home, Mrs. Galusha continuing the fruit growing and marketing business with the aid of her sons following her husband's death. Martin Galusha moved to a house near Franklin square where he lived until his death in the '60's.

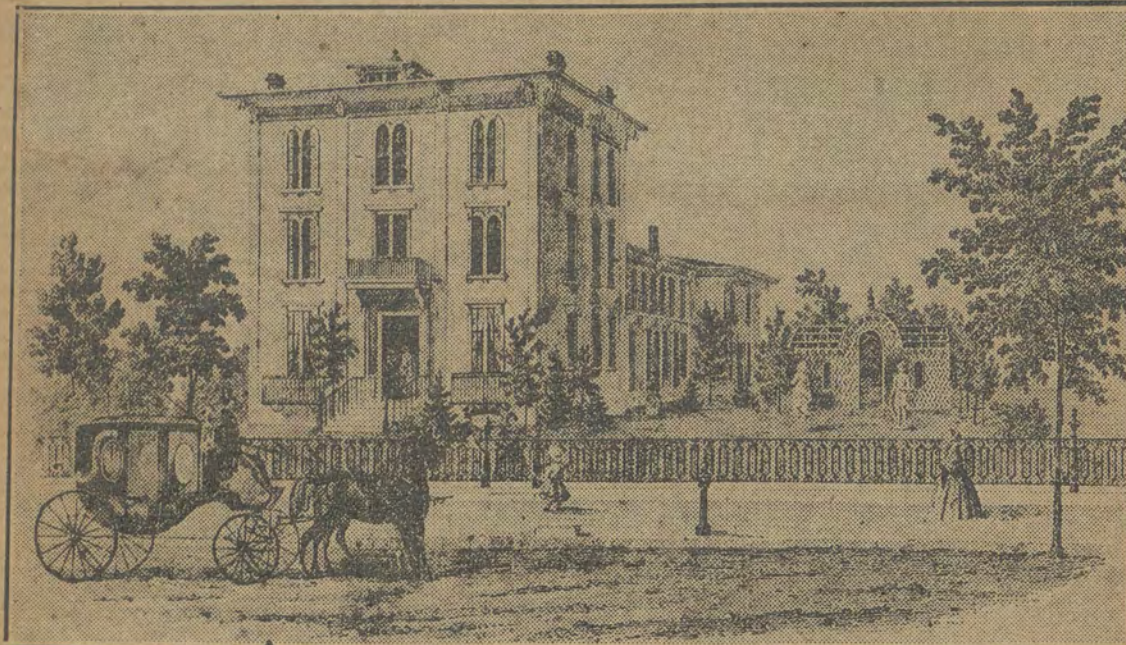
Mrs. Gairdner, the present owner of the house was born there and has always made it her home. The house is quaintly laid out in semi-cottage style and is nearly hidden by the shrubs and trees that were planted many years ago.

Mrs. Galusha was a devout Episcopalian, and in 1875 gave a plot of land at Almira and Grant Streets as a building site for St. James' Church in the organization of which she had taken a great interest and of which she remained a member up to the time of her death.

At the time the house was built, the surrounding district was farmland and woodland, with the village of Rochester to the south and the village of Carthage to the north. Carthage in those days gave promise of outgrowing Rochester, but the falling of the suspension bridge across the river, and the routing of the Erie canal through Rochester, instead of to the north of Carthage, decided the development of Rochester into a city which, in time, reached out and engulfed Carthage.



## Samuel Hamilton Built House In Spring Street Now Occupied By Reynolds Memorial Library



House of Samuel Hamilton in Spring Street as it appeared in '60s before it passed into the hands of Mortimer F. Reynolds. House is now occupied by Reynolds Library.

By Amy H. Coughton.

The building in Spring Street now occupied by the Reynolds Library and often referred to as the Reynolds Homestead, was built in 1856 by Samuel Hamilton, then a prominent business man in Rochester. Arthur S. Hamilton of this city, grandson of Samuel Hamilton, has in his possession a picture of the house, as it appeared in the sixties, and also the original contract between his grandfather and Thomas Davies, stair builder, who agreed, for the sum of \$360, to build two flights of stairs in the front of the house and to change the stairs "in the rear or kitchen part of the said mansion so that the landing shall be upon the line of the well upon the west side of the upper hall."

In this document, which is phrased in legal verbiage with many "parties of the first part," and "covenants and agreements," held to be binding upon the "heirs," executors, administrators and assigns," of Mr. Hamilton, goes into minute detail concerning the front stairways.

One of these flights of stairs may still be seen in the house, leading from the second to the third story. Its winding curves and slim rail are extremely graceful and beautiful. The lower flight of stairs was removed when the house was remodeled for use by the library in 1895, the portico at the east side of the building being added at that time and a flight of stairs being built into the room which thus became the lobby of the library.

The contract describes the stairs as having two-inch strings and carriers, 1½-inch risers, 1¼-inch treads, carbed brackets, 2x4 stud-ding around circles, all to be of the very best quality of their several kinds; two 10-inch carved newells of first quality mahogany; 2¼-inch turned balusters and 2¼ inches by 4½ inches moulded rails—"the rails, balusters and newells to be at least equal to those in the

Honorable C. J. Hayden's front hall stairs."

From which one gathers that there was a little friendly competition in the matter of home-building in Rochester in the early fifties.

Samuel Hamilton was born in Livingston County in 1808. His first visit to Rochester was made when he was 12 years old and he was so impressed with the growing city that he returned in his 20th year and opened a grocery business which he conducted alone until 1835 when he formed a partnership with Joseph Farley. In 1840 he purchased Mr. Farley's holdings in the business, and in 1849 he closed out the grocery store and opened a stationery and book store. The opportunity offered for real estate operations at that period of the city's growth led Mr. Hamilton to give up the book business and devote his entire time to real estate development until he retired from active business in 1861.

Mr. Hamilton built the Spring Street house in 1856, moving there from his former home in North Clinton Street. He lived there until 1875 when he sold the place to Joseph Roby, and himself moved to 66 Plymouth Avenue, where he died Jan. 26, 1876. In 1877 the house was bought by Mortimer F. Reynolds, who died there June 13, 1892, in the east-front room on the second floor, now used as a board room by the Board of Trustees of the Reynolds Library.

The many beautiful trees now on the property were planted during Mr. Reynolds' residence. They in-



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

FIRST SEWARD HOUSE MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD



No one knows just how many summer suns have blazed upon and winter winds battered, the old frame house which stands on the east side of Milburn street not far from the corner of Culver road.

The house was looked upon as an old building in 1834, when it stood at the corner of Alexander street and Monroe avenue and was purchased as a home for his family by Moses B. Seward who had just come to Rochester from New Lebanon, N. Y., so it certainly is more than a century old. It was not moved to its present location until 1860 when the site at Monroe avenue and Alexander street was sold or exchanged for other property by William R. Seward, son of Moses Seward. A wing of the building

where the building of old School 17 still stands, was one of the old burying grounds and, adjoining it, a sand pit and a brick yard. A retaining wall ran along the Seward property, for the ground was sandy and the house stood up from the street.

William Rossiter Seward who now lives at 218 Alexander street, was a child of a few months when his parents made the journey to this city in 1834. His childhood was lived in the house at the corner of Alexander street and Monroe avenue and he well remembers the great Dutch oven and fireplace which stood in the basement kitchen. At that time the main entrance to the house was through a door which occupied the space where the small round window is seen in the front of the building. Apparently the clapboards on the house have been renewed since it was removed to its present site.

Moses Seward opened a cooperage shop after his arrival in Rochester and later entered the milling business in which he remained until his death from cholera in the early '50's.

In 1850 he built the house at 219 Alexander street, now the home of Dr. D. B. Jewett.

William R. Seward, who had entered the banking business, built his home at 218 Alexander street in 1860 and it was at that time that the first Seward house was sold to Nathaniel Clarke and was moved by him to Milburn street.

was detached and stands on a lot further along Milburn street.

When Moses Seward came to Rochester he sought a home site which would remind him of the hills of his old home in New Lebanon, and found it on Monroe avenue and Alexander street. Here he was on the outskirts of the city, with woodland around and beyond him, and with a view of the river valley to the west and south, yet he still had two well traveled roads connecting him with the city. Alexander street, at that time, was no more than a country road bordered with woodland. It ended at East avenue opposite Alexander's Tavern which stood on the north side of East avenue. Beyond Alexander street on Monroe avenue,

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

LITTLE HOUSE ONCE GIRLS' SCHOOL



—Photo by Durnherr, Times-Union Photographer.

The house at the northwest corner of Plymouth avenue and Troup street, now owned and occupied by Dr. Selye Little, was built in the early 1940's, and from 1845 to 1848 was the headquarters of the Atkinson Female Seminary, a school for young ladies which had been founded in 1841 at 4 Canal street by Mrs. William (Elizabeth F.) Atkinson. Associated with Mrs. Atkinson at the founding of the seminary were Miss Celestia A. Bloss, who later founded the Clover Street Seminary; Miss M. A. Cogswell and Miss Sarah Ingersoll.

In 1848 Mrs. Atkinson married the famous evangelist, the Rev. Charles G. Finney, who had conducted revivals in Rochester in 1830 and in 1842, and who was to return here for a final series of meetings in 1855. Mrs. Finney accompanied

her husband on a trip to England where she assisted him in his work by organizing "ladies' prayer meetings." In his "Memoirs," a copy of which is to be found in the Rochester Public Library, Mr. Finney tells of the assistance given by his wife in the revival services both abroad and in the final visit to Rochester.

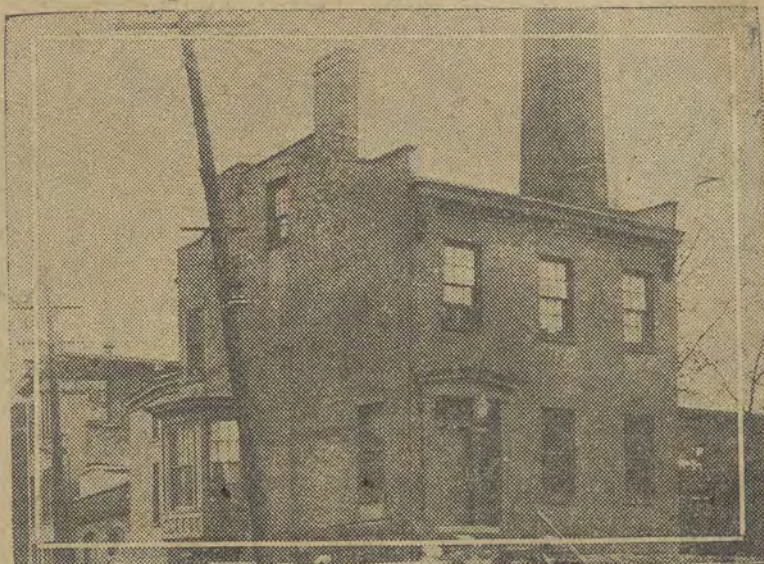
From 1849 to 1855 the house was occupied by Thomas C. Montgomery, a prominent attorney of Rochester.

In 1866 the house was purchased by J. R. Chamberlain, a dealer in rubber goods. During the war Mr. Chamberlain was captain of the Third New York Cavalry. Members of Mr. Chamberlain's family occupied the house until it was purchased by Dr. Little in 1913.

The frame part of the house on the north part of the lot was first built, the brick portion having been added about 50 years ago. The house has been considerably remodeled by its various owners.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BUELL HOUSE BUILT IN '30s.



The house on the east side of South Washington street, just south of the new street built over the bed of the Erie canal, was built in the late '30s by George Bardslee and was bought by E. N. Buell in 1841. Mr. Buell was then agent for the Merchants Transportation Company, one of the leading canal forwarding companies.

Mr. Buell was born in Goshen, Conn., on April 8, 1798, and came to the Genesee Country with his parents when a boy. In 1821 he married Rebecca Root of Genesee and in 1833 moved to Rochester where he built up a commission business, his warehouse being at Plymouth avenue and the Erie canal. Mr. Buell served

as alderman of the Third ward for two terms and was for 30 years an officer of First Presbyterian Church. He died in the South Washington street house on July 11, 1878.

The house was occupied by members of the Buell family until 1889, Mrs. Buell dying there on March 14 of that year at the age of 88 years. Since that time the house has had a number of occupants, among them C. E. Fitch, Samuel F. Hayes, the Rochester Public Health Association, the boys dormitory of Mechanics Institute, the veteran's branch of the Y. M. C. A. and at the present time, the Little House which conducts curative training classes for convalescents. The house is now the property of Mechanics Institute.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

MEDBURY HOUSE BUILT IN 1843.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house at the southeast corner of Spring street and Livingston park, now owned and occupied by Miss Anna E. M. Wild, was built in 1843 by James L. Chappell, a prominent canal forwarder and owner of a line of boats, who lived there until the early years of the '60s. The house then passed into the hands of the Monroe County Savings Bank, from whom it was bought, not later than 1865, by Joseph Medbury, who moved there from his former home, 11 Mill street, Mill street then being a residential street on which lived a number of prominent Rochester families.

Mr. Medbury was born in New Berlin, N. Y., July 16, 1797, and at the age of 18 years left his father's farm and apprenticed himself to a gunsmith in Albany. In 1819 he came to Rochester and opened a store in what is now South avenue, where he dealt in guns and sporting

goods. Later he added the business of silversmith and there are still in existence pieces of silver bearing his mark. Mr. Medbury bought largely of property in the growing village and became prominent in its affairs, serving as president for one term just before the village was incorporated. He was a leader in the organization of the Western Union Telegraph Company and amassed a considerable fortune, though he remained conservative and unostentatious in his manner of life. At one time he was proprietor of the Rochester Daily Advertiser. Mr. Medbury was active in the Rochester militia in the early days of the city and in the course of these activities won the title of major, by which he was generally known. Mr. Medbury died in the Spring street home on October 21, 1882, and Mrs. Medbury, who before her marriage was Ann M. Covert, died there on August 3, 1885.

The house was deeded to Miss Anna Wild by Mrs. Medbury some time before her death.

James K. Livingston was the first owner of this site and at one time lived in a house which stood where the rear of the present house extends. In 1831 Henry Brant Williams bought of Mr. Livingston and others, the entire west side of Livingston park, or Livingston place, as it was then known, and built a white colonial structure with green blinds and a porch which was built around a large tree which Mr. Williams refused to sacrifice. Mr. Williams was born on December 31, 1797, and was christened by Henry Brant, the noted Indian chief whose friendship had been won by his father, Nathan Williams, during the Revolutionary war. Henry B. Williams was married at Auburn in 1817 and came to Rochester in 1821. He assisted in the building of the first aqueduct of the Erie canal and also built several mill buildings. Before moving to Spring street, Mr. Williams lived in a house on Monroe avenue next to the corner of Alexander street. In 1830 he removed to the house in Exchange street which was later razed to make way for the Watson and Sibley wing of the Industrial School.

After selling the Spring street property to Mr. Chappell, Mr. Williams went to Dansville for a time, but returned in 1847 and built a new home in Livingston park. This house was later the home of Judge Strong and of Charles A. Morse. In 1849 Mr. Williams sailed for the California gold fields, accompanied by John H. Rochester, T. S. Fairchild and W. Sherman Gates. Mr. Gates died on the ship and was buried at sea. The remainder of the party arrived in California safely and engaged in mining operations but Mr. Williams was shortly recalled by the illness of his wife. He sailed again for California in 1850, leaving the ship at Panama to make the journey across the isthmus. Near La Cruces he became ill with fever and died and was buried in a desert grave.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Goodman Homestead Now Stands In College Avenue



The little white house with many-paned windows, which stands at 80 College avenue, has a history dating back to the very early days of Rochester when the land now occupied by the University of Rochester was virgin forest, and what is now Goodman street was merely a country road, running back from the main thoroughfare between Rochester and Brighton.

The house shown above was built by the father of George W. Goodman, who had carved out what was known as the Goodman farm from the surrounding forest. The house originally stood facing what is now Goodman street, on the spot now occupied by the south wing of School 31. A barnyard and driveway occupied the space between it and the big elm which still stands a few yards to the south.

The exact date of the building of the house is not available, but in 1832, George W. Goodman married Experience Root, who was born on Feb. 16, 1806 in Pittsford, Mass., and had come to Livingston country with her family in 1830; and took his bride to the house in Goodman street, where they continued to live until the early 70s of the last century, when the house was moved to the newly opened College avenue, and became the home of Henry A. Ward, professor of natural science in the University of Rochester, and founder of Ward's Natural Science Museum.

### Was "Out in the Country."

In the years between the time he took his bride to the old Goodman homestead and its removal to College avenue, George Goodman saw the property surrounding his farm change from countryside to suburbs. The line of the New York Central Railroad was cut through to the north, and University avenue was cut through to the south, following the removal of the University of Rochester from Buffalo street to the plot of ground opposite the Goodman farm. For many years, Goodman street was the eastern limit of the city of Rochester, and the Goodman family first appears in the directory as living "in Goodman street near East avenue." Then the location becomes slightly more definite, "near University avenue in

Goodman street." Finally, a number is given, but this applies to the new home built on the site of the house removed to College avenue. In this new house, Experience Root Goodman died on Sept. 4, 1890, at the age of 85 years, having outlived her husband by some 20 years. There, too, her son, George H. Goodman, died on June 18, 1901, aged 71 years, survived by several nephews and nieces, among whom were George L. Eaton and Mary L. Eaton of this city.

The old Goodman House, whose age is revealed by the exceedingly narrow clap-boards and the old-fashioned windows and roof, was moved to College avenue soon after the street was cut through in 1873 and became the home of Professor Ward who moved there from a house at the corner of what is now Main street east and Circle street, the latter street then being known as Goodman street.

Up to this time Professor Ward had maintained a natural history exhibit and had carried on his work in two remodeled houses which stood on the University campus where the Reynolds Laboratory now stands. He continued his work there until 1873 when he moved the museum to his house in College avenue where it soon outgrew its quarters and made necessary the erection of other buildings, some of which are still standing.

### Founder of Ward's Museum.

Henry A. Ward was born in this city March 9, 1834, and was educated at Williams College and Harvard University. At the latter place he became assistant to the elder Agassiz. It was during a trip to Europe and Africa, made as the tutor to one of the Wadsworth family, that Professor Ward became interested in the idea of forming science collections. On his return to Rochester he accepted the chair of natural science at the University of Rochester and also established the business which was to make his name known all over the civilized world where the Ward natural science collections are to be found in university and public museums. Professor Ward continued to make the house in College avenue his home in the intervals of his trips abroad until 1900 when he removed

to Chicago where he met his death in an automobile accident on July 4, 1904.

### Had Many Noted Helpers.

In the establishment on College avenue, which is still carried on by members of the Ward family, many noted scientists received their early experience. Among these were Dr. William Temple Hornaday of the New York Zoological Park, Professor James Orton, Frederick A. Lucas, of the Museum of Natural History, New York city; and Charles Orrin Townsend of Washington.

Natural science collections prepared by the Ward work rooms are to be found in the National Museum at Washington, the Central Park museum in New York city, the museums of Princeton College, the University of Virginia and the University of Rochester, the Agassiz Museum in Hartford and many other places. Many of these collections are still arranged in cabinets of fine workmanship which represent the work of another Rochesterian, S. H. Phinney, father of Herman K. Phinney, assistant librarian at the University of Rochester. The elder Phinney was an early friend of Professor Ward who greatly prized the fine cabinet work which was turned out from his shop and retained him to provide the cases in which the majority of the earlier collections of the Ward laboratory here were shipped and in which they were arranged for exhibition in the museums to which they were consigned.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

HAYWARD HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1844.



The site occupied by the house shown above was part of the 70 acres, then in Brighton, which were purchased in 1823, by Nathaniel Hayward whose name is perpetuated in Hayward avenue. Nathaniel Hayward was born in Vermont on June 23, 1795, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812, coming to Western New York 10 years later. The land, now covered by the thickly populated Beechwood section of Rochester, was then far in the country, Rochester's Main street pushing no farther east than the point where it now intersects with East avenue. Hayward carried on farming operations and set out large orchards.

Nathaniel Hayward's son, Edwin S. Hayward, inherited the farm in due time and developed a seed business which helped to give Rochester its name of Flower City. In 1844 he built the house shown above and, at the same time, erected a

barn which was said to be the largest in this part of the country.

Edward S. Hayward, jr., was born in the house in 1859 and died there on November 3, 1914. He was educated for the medical profession and practiced for many years in Rochester. In 1910 Dr. Hayward moved to Interlaken, the house and family property being in litigation. He had returned to live in the old home a short time before his death and it was occupied for some time thereafter by members of his family.

The photograph from which the above cut was made was taken about 10 years ago when the old house was still in its original state but was being used for commercial purposes. At the present time the portion of the house seen on the left-hand side of the picture is still standing at 515 North Goodman street, but the right-hand part has been torn down to make way for a driveway and a commercial building.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CHENEY HOUSE BUILT IN 1840.



By Staff Photographer.

The house now standing at 7 Livingston park was built in 1840 by the Rev. Tryon Edwards, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church which then occupied a building on the site of the present City Hall. In 1845 the house was purchased by William H. Cheney who materially improved the grounds and the park. In 1847 the west side of the park had not been terraced. There were no sidewalks, no hedges and no fences. Mr. Cheney planted many of the fine old trees that now shade the house and others were added by members of his family who succeeded him in its occupation.

The lot is 375 feet deep, extending to Caledonia avenue, and has a frontage of 47 feet. Among the beautiful trees planted by William H. Cheney was an English weeping linden which still flourishes and towers far above the house. In the early days of Livingston park hand-wrought ornamental fences of iron surrounded the grounds of each house and tall iron gates closed the north end of the park. A double roadway which circled at the south end gave access to the park, but there was no thoroughfare for vehicles at the south, although flights of old stone steps allowed the pedestrian to descend to Troup street. The oval of springy turf in the center of the park was often used by the residents of the street for outdoor fetes, the park being a little community not unsimilar in its neighborliness to "Pomander Walk." In these early days the figure of the deer which now stands in the grounds of the house of Miss Anna

Wild at the southeast corner of Livingston park and Spring street occupied a position at the north end of the grass oval. Horses were inclined to be shy of the strange animal, however, and it was at last decided to remove it. Miss Wild, reluctant to have banished the animal which had been the playmate of many generations of Third Ward children gave the deer shelter in her yard.

In the early '70s of the last century a Rochester man invented a composition of stone and cement which he named "Frearstone" and advertised widely as being practically indestructible by time or weather. Residents of Livingston park decided to remove the iron gates and to substitute ornamental Frearstone pillars and flower urns. These still remain, proving the contention of the maker for the durability of his invention. The discarded gates of wrought-iron may still be seen at the entrance of a summer home in Irondequoit.

The Cheney house was the first in the city to be lighted by gas and its owners added new conveniences as they became available. The front of the house has been somewhat altered from its original appearance and the stone lions which now crouch at either side of the porch entrance were moved to that place several years ago from the chest of the terrace where they were first placed by Mr. Cheney.

In 1888 the Cheney house was purchased by F. A. Sherwood, whose wife is a granddaughter of William H. Cheney. It is still the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BAKER HOMESTEAD LONG IN FAMILY.



The house at 91 South Fitzhugh street, now owned and occupied by Miss Frances Baker, has been the home of the Baker family since 1865 when Mr. Baker bought the house and its furnishings from Dr. Requa, a dentist who had remodeled the original house on the site and had furnished it throughout with very beautiful examples of old rosewood and mahogany furniture gathered at much trouble and expense. The collapse of oil properties forced Dr. Requa to part with the house and it was bought by Benjamin Baker who owned much property on the west side of the river and who then was living at 12 North Fitzhugh street.

The original house on the site was built by Erastus Cook in the late '20s and was occupied by him until 1857. Mr. Cook was a member of the firm of Cook and Stilwell whose watch and jewelry store at corner of Buffalo and Exchange street was known as "The Regulator." An early advertisement of the firm states that the store is constantly receiving a great variety of goods including cameo, coral, lava and stone breastpins and bracelets, gold and silver watches, Britannia wares and silver cutlery, "the silver of which we warrant equal to American coin." The advertisement goes on to say:

"And now one word about selling cheap—we very much dislike anything like bombast or humbug, but if we do not convince people at our counter that we sell cheaper than those who boast the loudest, we'll give it up."

### Came To City on Foot.

Benjamin M. Baker's life was filled with the romance of pioneering and trade. He was born in New England in 1807 and as a boy of 17 years started "west" with the proverbial knapsack on his shoulder.

Making his way on foot to the little village of Rochester he first found employment as clerk in one of the few stores of the village. Being provident and ambitious he soon arrived at the dignity of owning his own store; then became proprietor of a livery stable. In the meantime he was beginning to buy property in the center of the city and was soon numbered among the landed men of Rochester and a man of importance in financial circles. He was one of the first stockholders of the Roches-

ter Trust and Safe Deposit Company and for many years was a trustee of the company. He was an incorporator of the Monroe County Savings Bank and was also a trustee of the bank. Mr. Baker died in the Fitzhugh street home on August 27, 1897 at the age of 90 years.

Mr. Baker owned much property in Fitzhugh street including the sites of the present Duffy-Powers building, where he erected what was for many years known as the Baker block; and the property adjoining Powers Hotel, where his daughter in later years erected the Baker Theater, now the Gaiety Theater. Mr. Baker also owned most of the farm property south of the city which was acquired by the city for Genesee Valley Park. A number of additional acres, known as the Baker Farm, were later presented to the Park Department by Miss Frances Baker and now form the second half of the Genesee Valley golf links, while the old farm house is now used as a rest house.

The Baker house on Fitzhugh street is one of the most delightful in the old Third ward. The high ceilings and white-paneled walls and doors make a fitting frame for the lovely old furniture which embodies the best tradition of the colonial period. The garden is also exceedingly lovely in its combination of old-fashioned and modern blooms.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

WITHERSPOON HOUSE BUILT IN 1832



The attractive old colonial type house at 53 Elizabeth street, now owned by Detective Michael J. Doyle, was built in 1832, when the land between it and the Genesee river was but sparsely settled and was covered with a fine growth of trees through which a way had to be felled as each new street was laid out.

The walls of the old house are 24 inches thick, of hand-hewn blocks which, in all probability were quarried from some nearby ledge. Stone of the same type is reached wherever foundations are sunk in the neighborhood and much of it was blasted from the bed of the Erie Canal when it was first carried through the city. The brick portion of the building was added some years after the original house was built.

The floors are of 1 1/4 inch white pine which is as sound as the day it was laid and the woodwork throughout the house is equally substantial. There are large fireplaces in many of the rooms and also in the basement and one can still locate the well in the yard which supplied the house with drinking water before the days of the Rochester Water Works system. No doubt the house also had its cistern which caught and preserved rain water for household uses.

Research has failed to reveal name of the builder and original occupant of the house, but about 1846 it was purchased by Samuel F. Witherspoon who lived there until his death on February 10, 1901 at the age of 90 years.

Mr. Witherspoon was born in Vermont on January 4, 1811, of Scotch-English parentage. His great-grandfather, it is said, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the family was of some prominence in New England.

Mr. Witherspoon's name appears in the Rochester Directory for the first time in 1838, at which time he had already established the grocery business at 57 Buffalo street (now Main street west) which he carried on for so many years. In 1841 the directory lists Mr. Witherspoon as living at 22 Hill street. In 1844 he had moved to 10 Frank street and in 1845 to 149 State street, his

brother William who was associated with him in the grocery business, boarding at the same address. In the 1849 directory Mr. Witherspoon's home address is given at 1 Center street, the house shown above, which is at the corner of Center and Elizabeth streets, but is now numbered on Elizabeth street. In that year William Witherspoon now numbered on Elizabeth street.

Samuel Witherspoon assisted in the organization of Trinity Episcopal Church and was one of its first vestrymen. In 1846 he was elected alderman from the Second Ward and at the time of his death he was the oldest living vestryman and former alderman in the city. He was survived by a son, Edward Witherspoon who, in 1901 was organist of Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox, Mass.

Following the death of Mr. Witherspoon the house became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McGivern. Mrs. McGivern lived there until about two years ago when she sold the property to Detective Doyle who also owns the adjoining lots and houses on Center park.

Elizabeth street and Center park, in the '40s and for many years thereafter, formed part of a well-to-do residential district beyond the bustle and noise of the business life of the city. Some of the residents in 1841 were Mrs. Sarah Howard, Lindley Murray Moore, father of Dr. Edward Mott Moore founder of Rochester's park system; Joseph Stone, Dr. Richard Dibble, Nelson Townsend, Calvin Doolittle and John Harris, Jr., all on Elizabeth street; Deputy County Clerk Jeremiah Clark, Samuel Woodruff, Addison Gardner, attorney; and Lansing B. Swan on Center park.

Today, manufacturing and commercial interests are crowding out the old houses from every side and it is only a matter of a short time when the quaint old building shown above, probably the oldest house on the street, will disappear to give place to a commercial building. At present it is a delightful picture, with its ancient gray stone walls set amid green lawn and bright flowers, carrying the imagination back to the days when Rochester was still a village and the little house one of its suburban residences.



# Famed Figures 'Haunting' Houses Erected Long Ago; Some Homes Now Shrines

By ARCH MERRILL  
"All houses wherein men have  
lived and died  
Are haunted houses."

THERE ARE houses in this Western New York of ours that are haunted by famous shades. For this is a mighty historic countryside. Which statement might cause some eyebrow lifting in New England, the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys and the Southern Seaboard, all settled long before the first pioneer's ax was raised in the Genesee Country.

On the other hand, we can lord it over the Midwest a bit in the matter of relative antiquity. Michigan has a Rochester and a Mount Morris and Illinois has a Geneseo because Western New Yorkers settled and named those Midwest towns.

What inspired this piece was a brochure received from the University of Minnesota Press, plugging a new book, "Historic Midwest Houses." It takes in a lot of territory, nine Midwestern states, and has 87 chapters, each devoted to a historic building. On the list are stirring names in the American saga: The Abraham Lincoln residence at Springfield, Ill.; John Brown's cabin at Osawatimie, Kans.; Jesse James' "old home place" in Missouri.

Among the historic Midwest houses, two in particular emphasize the greater age of Western New York. They are the Frances E. Willard House at Evanston, Ill., and the Joseph Smith House in Nauvoo, the Illinois town where the Mormon prophet was slain.

At Rochester's western gate, in the quiet village of Churchville, is another, older FRANCES E. WILLARD House, the one in which the temperance leader was born in 1839. And near the Palmyra-Manchester Road is another and an older JOSEPH SMITH House, altered but still part of it the same one in which long ago the founder of Mormonism dreamed his wondrous vision of golden plates buried in a hillside.

IT OCCURS TO ME that a 9-county Rochester area could muster a really imposing list of historic buildings linked with great names and significant events—not 87 of them but at least a score.

For instance in Rochester's Madison Street there is a sturdy, brick Victorian house, by no means the oldest or the most pretentious in the city but one that forever will be associated with a great American woman, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, the indomitable crusader for women's rights who lived there.

And at the northwest corner of Troup Street and Plymouth Avenue South, in Rochester's "Ruffled Shirt," Third Ward, is the gray brick, columned house, in which lived the FOX SISTERS when in the 1850's the "Rochester Rappings" attracted the attention of the nation and the Spiritualist Church was born. The little home at Hydesville near Newark in which the sisters first heard the mysterious knockings, "the voices from beyond the grave," has been moved to the Spiritualist colony at Lily Dale in Chautauqua County.

The Genesee Valley retains some picturesque links with its First Families, the Seneca Indians. Near the tossing falls of Letchworth State Park stands the old Council House of the Senecas, moved from the site of their old village at Canadea and restored by the late William P. Letchworth, donor of the park. The council fire has long been quenched but about that log structure still hover the shades of the tribal chieftains, RED JACKET, CORNPLANTER, HANDSOME LAKE and the rest. Nearby is a log cabin that MARY JEMISON, the fabulous "White Woman of the Genesee," the white girl who was taken into captivity by the Indians and lived the rest of her long life with the Redskins, built—long before a plow broke the western plains.

Along the Genesee to the southward in the old village of Belfast is a rambling house with wide porches. It is "haunted" by the ghosts of two mighty figures in the world of sports. It was there in 1889 that native son BILLY MULDON, "The Iron Duke," trained JOHN L. SULLIVAN, "The Boston Strong Boy," for his bout with Kilrain. And from the ceiling of a barn that once was a training stable hang the iron rings on which once the ham-handed pugilist swung.

On the banks of the winding river north of Belmont is Belvidere Farms with its white pillared mansion that PHILLIP CHURCH, nephew of Alexander Hamilton and a land baron of the frontier time, built in 1810.

And in the Genesee area are the manor houses of the WADSWORTHS, a family that since the 18th Century has played no small role on the nation's political stage and that founded a hunting preserve—landed gentry way of life in the Genesee Valley.

RICH IN HISTORY is the Finger Lakes Country. The broad Main Street of Canandaigua, one-time capital of the frontier, is lined with stately mansions and public buildings associated with the early days of the Republic. Four cabinet ministers have lived in two of those old homes. One was built in 1800 by PETER B. PORTER, once secretary of war. A later occupant was JOHN C. SPENCER, secretary of war and of the treasury in the Tyler Cabinet. And there is the grand old Granger Homestead built in 1814 by GIDEON GRANGER, Jefferson's postmaster general. His son, FRANCIS GRANGER, also a postmaster general and a candidate for the vicepresidency, dwelt there too. The mansion, with its wealth of antiques, has been preserved by public spirited Canandaiguans.



Famed figures of Western New York 'haunt' many houses, including these three. From left, above, are Joseph Smith and



his Palmyra home; Francis Granger, postmaster-general and son of a postmaster-general and the Granger homestead in



Canandaigua, and Frances E. Willard, famed temperance worker, and followers grouped at Churchville birthplace.

## 'Stage Coach Towns' Ready in Book Form

"STAGE Coach Towns," Arch Merrill's sixth regional book, has just come off the presses and now is available at book stores and at Room 400, The Democrat and Chronicle. The Promotion Department of this newspaper will fill orders on receipts of \$2 in cash, check or money order. The new book, which is profusely illustrated, covers territory in the Rochester area not included in the previous Merrill books. Address is Rochester 4, N. Y.

Among the Stage Coach Towns are such historic communities as Churchville, Bergen, Caledonia, Le Roy, Batavia, Wyoming, Warsaw, Perry, Dansville, Wayland, Bath, Hornell, Phelps, Manchester, Clifton Springs, Shortsville, Victor, Lima, Honeoye Falls and others.

This new book, full of the lore, of the land, will make an ideal Christmas gift, especially for those relatives and friends who know the Stage Coach Towns. You will want it, too, for your own book shelf.

In the Keuka Lake country, near Penn Yan on a hill, standing four square through 138 years is the white frame house that was built by JEMIMA WILKINSON, "The Universal Friend," leader of a fantastic religious cult, the woman "who rose from the dead."

Above Keuka's waters in Hammondsport, the wine capital that also is a cradle of aviation, is an old fashioned cupaloe house where lived GLENN HAMMOND CURTIS. In that home, with Alexander Graham Bell and other pioneers of aviation, he planned some of America's first flying machines.

Not far from the shining waters of Seneca Lake under old trees in Dresden Village is the house where ROBERT G. INGERSOLL, the silver-tongued agnostic of post Civil War times, was born.

And in Sodus Point is a square yellow house with pillars, where for a time lived a young man who became one of America's most powerful railroad tycoons. EDWARD H. HARRIMAN began his railroading career as operator of the little Ontario & Southern, now a part of the Pennsylvania system, running from Stanley to Sodus Point.

Under the brow of Palmyra's Prospect Hill is an old house, the birthplace of another famous American, WILLIAM T. SAMPSON, the Spanish War admiral.

There's the familiar blue historical marker before a dwelling on Nichols Street near Spencerport that was the boyhood home of a noted man-of letters of the Victorian Age, JOHN T. TROWBRIDGE.

Divided and altered almost beyond recognition is "The Brown Cottage" in the canal town of Brockport where MARY JANE HOLMES wrote most of the 38 novels that were so popular in grandmother's day.

In Phelps there's a square chocolate colored house in which author BELLAMY PARTRIDGE, who made his home town the locale of three best sellers, first saw

the light of day.

Shadowed by a majestic hill is the old fashioned house about which will ever cling memories of CLARA BARTON for she lived there when she founded in Dansville in 1881 the first chapter of the Red Cross in America.

At a crossroads in Mendon stands a comfortable farmhouse, a wing of which in the 1830s housed a young carpenter and glazier. His name was BRIGHAM YOUNG and he became the world-famed leader of the Mormon Church.

Le Roy House, now the home of the Le Roy Historical Society, was built in 1813 as a land office and its roomy back porch is "haunted" by a statesman-orator named DANIEL WEBSTER who courted his second wife there.

A sturdy link with our pioneer past is the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia, built 132 years ago, through which stalks the tall shade of JOSEPH ELLICOTT, the father of the Holland Purchase.

And just off Perry's Main Street is an old fashioned white house that once knew the footsteps of a little boy whose name was CHESTER A. ARTHUR and who became the 21st president of the United States.

THESE ARE SOME of our "Historic Western New York Houses," those most closely associated with outstanding names in American history.

So many other buildings that tell of a historic past . . . the cobblestone houses and the old stage coach taverns on the Ridge Road . . . the homes of such good taste and charm built by pioneers in such old towns as Geneva, Palmyra, Lyons, Albion, Bath and the others . . . houses that once were stations of the Underground Railway and sheltered covering Negro slaves fleeing to Canada and freedom . . . houses beside the lake in Pultneyville that still bear the marks of British gunfire in the War of 1812 . . . houses in this land of many "isms" that tell of all but

vanished religious cults like the Strong estate on a hill above Sodus Bay that once housed "The Plain People," the members of the Society of Christian Believers, better known as the Shakers.

Alas, too many of the old buildings linked with Western New York's history have been torn down.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

*Orin*  
Celebrities Were Entertained At Orange Stone House.



The old Orange Stone house, which still stands in East avenue, opposite Council Rock, is one of the oldest homes in this vicinity and has historical association.

In 1790, Orange Stone, son of Captain Enos Stone, sr., a Revolutionary War veteran and brother of Enos Stone, jr., who was to build the first log cabin on what is now the site of Powers building, came to the Genesee country and built a log hut on the site of the present Stone house in East avenue. The present building was erected in 1792 and has suffered few changes in the passing years.

In 1800 the house was still in the midst of the woods and doors were securely barred at night against prowling wolves and Indians. It was some years later that Oliver Cutver and Mr. Stone cut through the road that is now East avenue and which, during the early years of the last century was not much more than a mud cut with here and there a flooring of logs to prevent horses and oxen from sinking knee-deep in the mudholes. The road, however, was the nearest route from the east to the new settlement of Rochester, and so the house of Orange Stone became a tavern where travelers stopped for refreshment. In addition to the settlers there were a number of notable guests entertained in the old house.

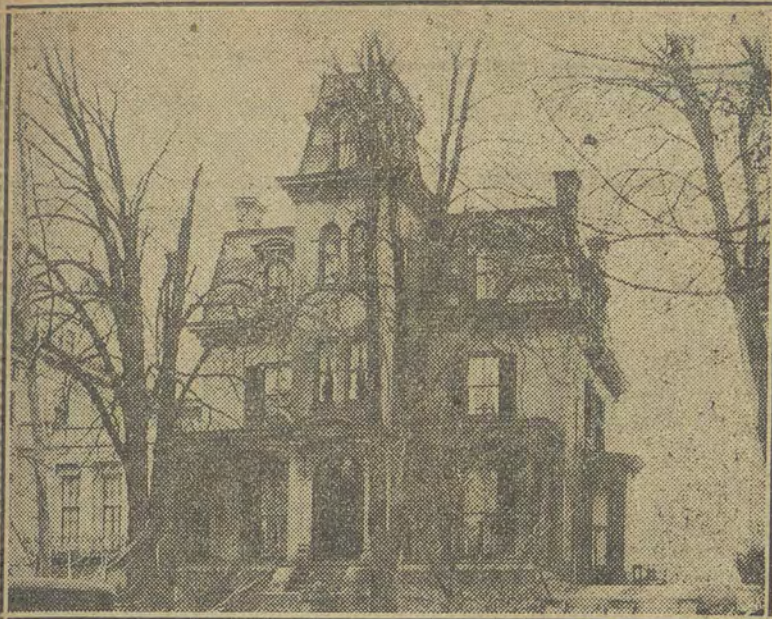
In 1897 Louis Philippe, later king of France, with his brothers, the Duke of Montpensier and Count Beaujolais, escorted by Thomas Morris of Canandaigua, rode through the Genesee country to view the "Big Falls" of the Genesee river, the fame of which had reached even to Europe. The party stopped at the Stone house and were regaled with a dinner of partridge, whitefish and other woodland dainties, followed by draughts of cider pressed out in the wooden mill on the Stone farm. Aaron Burr, who had come to the Genesee country in 1795 to inspect the country with a view to real estate development, but who decided against the project because of the prevalence of malaria, was also entertained at the Stone house. Lafayette is also said to have been entertained at the Stone house at the time of his visit to Rochester in 1825. Another noted guest was the famous Seneca chieftain Joseph Brandt, Brandt and an Indian attache were encamped at Irondequoit Landing in the course of a trip to Canandaigua and Brandt accepted the invitation of Orange Stone to dine at his home. On leaving he assured his host that the Senecas "would act in good faith and give no trouble;" an assurance that must have been welcome to the lonely settlers.

*A home on the East  
Side of the River. N.Y.S.*



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BUELL HOME LONG IN ONE FAMILY.



By Staff Photographer.

The house at 9 Livingston park, now the home of Henry D. Buell, was built at about the same time as the Cheney house, adjoining it, the two houses originally being duplicates and probably designed by the same architect. So far as can be learned, it was first occupied by Charles Hendrix, a hardware merchant of 5-7 Buffalo street, who moved into it in 1845 from the Eagle Hotel, on the site of the present Powers block, where he previously had boarded.

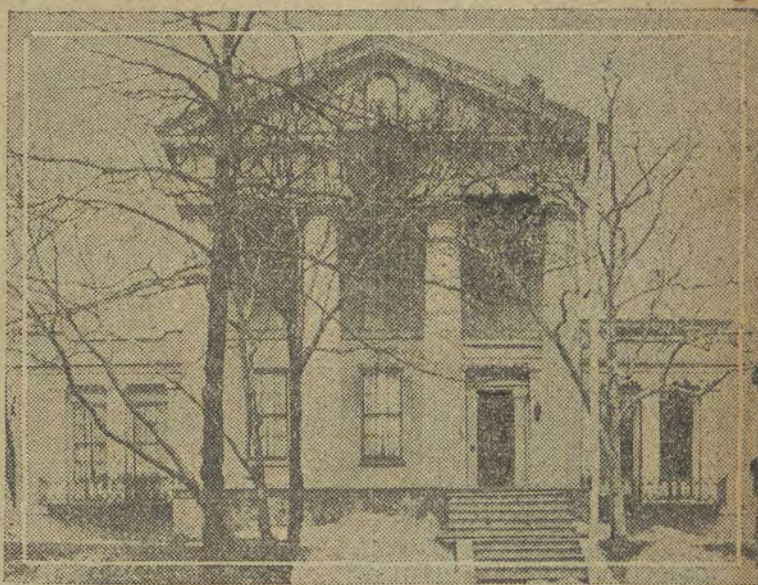
In 1859, George C. Buell, who was a wholesale grocer in Main street, purchased the house from Mr. Hendrix. In 1869 Mr. Buell completely remodeled the house, which originally was of colonial type with a porch and iron grills across the front, to its present style of architecture, a third story of turret type being added. For the past 65 years the house has been the home of descendants of Henry D. Buell.

On either side of the porch of the Buell house there crouch the figures of two grayhounds cast in iron. These animals, together with the lions on the Cheney-Sherwood house, the deer in the wild grounds and a figure of a child holding a shell which for many years furnished drinking and bathing water for the many song birds which made their nests in the Livingston park trees, date far back in the history of the park. It would be interesting to know just who was the person who so successfully "sold" the residents on his stock of cast-iron animals and gave to Livingston park this distinguishing touch of quaintness.

Through an error, a cut of the house at 133 South Fitzhugh street was published yesterday instead of the cut of the Pond house at 133 Plymouth avenue. The house in Fitzhugh street is also one of the old homes of Rochester and its history will be published in this series at a later date. The correct cut of the Pond house will also be published and the history repeated. Effort is made to verify all data given about the old Rochester homes and if errors occur The Times-Union will be glad to receive corrections.

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HERVEY ELY HOUSE NOW D. A. R. HOME.



The present chapter house of Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., at the southwest corner of Livingston park and Troup street, was built in the late 1820's for Hervey Ely, one of the first millers of Rochester and was later owned by William Kidd, who came to Rochester in 1827 and carried on a foundry business which later became the Rochester Car Wheel Works. After Mr. Kidd came Aristarchus Champion, Jonathan Watson and Dr. Howard Osgood.

During its entire existence the house has been a center of social life and its large parlors and halls now lend themselves to the uses of the D. A. R. chapter. The north wing provides space for the women's exchange department of the chapter through which women from all over the United States dispose

of their handiwork, and the basement is devoted to antiques which are also sold on commission for members of the exchange. Formal meetings of the chapter are held in the north parlors.

All the various owners of the house before it was taken over for chapter house use were prominent citizens whose names appear frequently in the annals of the city as interested in all matters of public interest. Hervey Ely and Judge J. G. Bond, another prominent Rochesterian, are given credit for planting the first shade trees in Rochester, in 1816, the same sugar maple trees which recently were cut down in South Washington street to allow the lowering of the grade of the street to meet that of the new subway boulevard.



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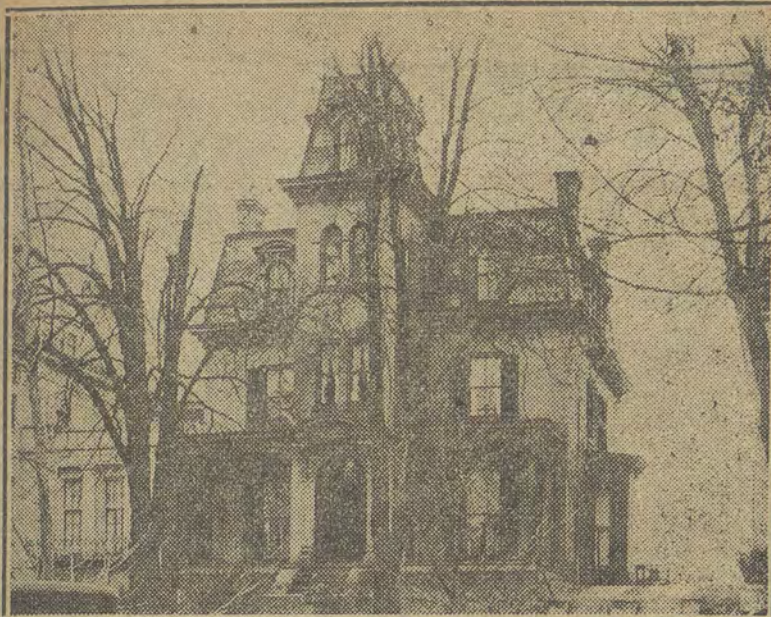
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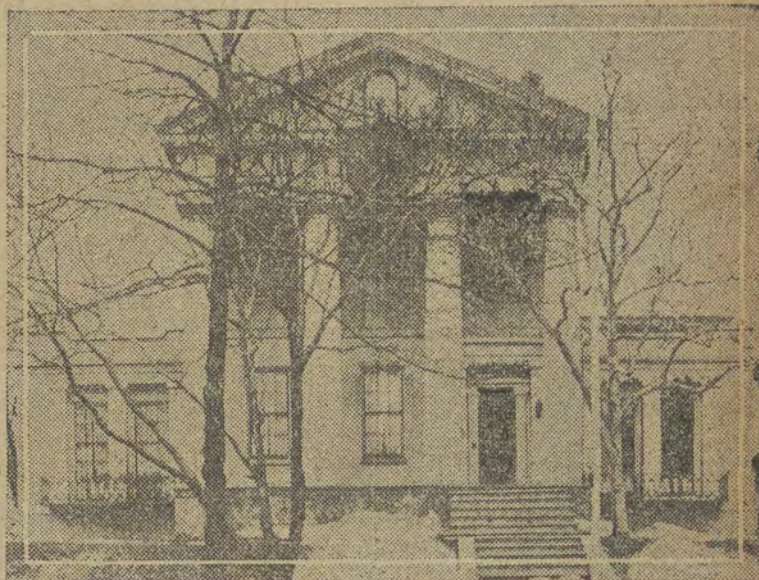
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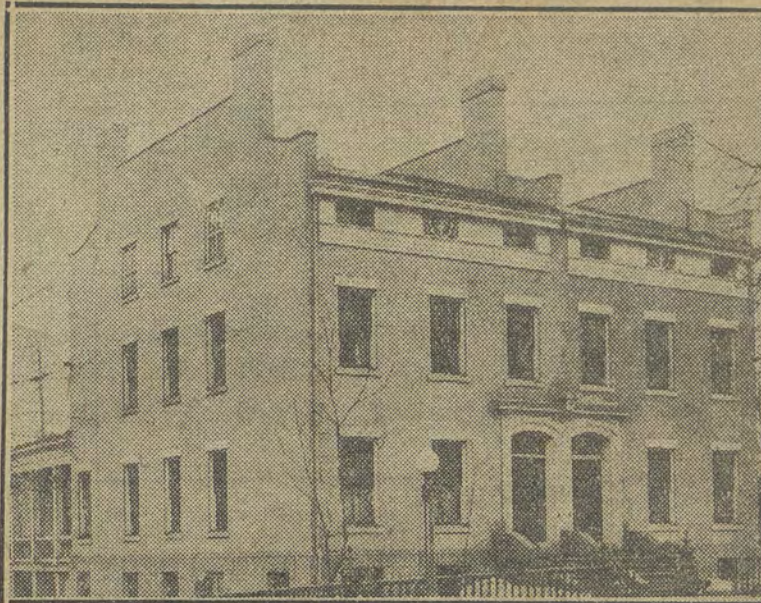
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## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

LEWIS H. MORGAN LIVED IN THIS HOUSE.



(By Staff Photographer.)

The two "semi-detached" houses at the southeast corner of South Fitzhugh street and Troup street shown above, were among the first of their kind to be built in Rochester, the early Rochesterians not taking kindly to the idea of this type of dwelling which was quite common in New York city and Philadelphia.

But the right hand house of the double residence has a more certain claim to fame in that it was the home for many years of Lewis Henry Morgan whose work and writings along ethnological and archaeological lines brought lasting glory to his name and reflected luster to the city which he made his home from 1844 to the time of his death on December 17, 1881.

Mr. Morgan was born in Aurora, N. Y., on November 21, 1818, and was educated at Aurora Academy and Union College, later taking up the study of law. In 1844 he came to Rochester and began the practise of law in the office of Judge George F. Danforth whose partner he became. In 1855 Mr. Morgan became interested in the building of a railroad from Marquette to the iron region about Lake Superior. In 1861 he served as member in the State Assembly and in 1867 as state senator. During these and subsequent years Mr. Morgan pursued his scientific studies and his writing. Among his most notable and authoritative books are "The League of the Iroquois," "Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family," which caused him to be recognized not only as an authority but as a pioneer in ethnological matters; and the interesting "Life of the Beaver," a book of which it has been said that it shows such a knowledge of the methods and habits of life of these little animals that one might almost believe that it had been written by a member of the beaver family.

In 1847 Mr. Morgan was adopted into the Seneca tribe as the son of Jimmy Hohnson, a Seneca chief

who was a grandson of the famous Chief Red Jacket. The Indians thought so highly of Mr. Morgan's understanding and interpretation of their life and customs that they gave him the Indian name signifying "one lying across," expressing their belief that he would be a means of communication between the Indian and the white race.

For a full description of Mr. Morgan's writings and also for many interesting personal reminiscences of him and his life in Rochester the reader is referred to the second volume of publications of the Rochester Historical Society, a large portion of which is devoted to the life of Mr. Morgan and his contribution to science.

Mr. Morgan married Mary Elizabeth Steele in 1851. In addition to a son who survived him, Mr. Morgan had two daughters who died in 1862. Had they lived there is no doubt that Mr. Morgan's faith in the wisdom of higher education for women would have been exemplified through them. As it was he left

his fortune in trust for the establishing of a college for women in the University of Rochester, his effort to establish a separate college for women in Rochester not meeting with success.

Mr. Morgan resided in the house on South Fitzhugh street from 1855 to the time of his death. He caused one room of the house to be remodeled as a library on the plan of the famous library at Abbotsford with panels of black walnut and birds-eye maple and a skylight of stained glass.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

KLINCK HOME WAS BUILT ABOUT 1830.



The house shown above was built near Cobbs Hill about 1830 by a Mr. Ingersoll of Le Roy, and was later owned by Stephen Otis, an uncle of General Elwell S. Otis.

The house was bought soon after the Civil War by Colonel John Graham Klinck, who is shown in the inset on the right of the picture. Colonel Klinck was born in Madison county, New York, August 17, 1820, and came to Rochester as a young man. After a time he went west and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in the Union army, rising to the rank of brevet-colonel.

Colonel Klinck was a prominent

Odd Fellow, being a member of Genesee Lodge and Glide Encampment. He was the chief mover in the organization of Klinck Lodge and was also a member of the Veteran Grays. Colonel Klinck was an ardent prohibitionist and spoke at many public meetings. He and members of his family were also musically inclined and the singing of the Klinck Quartet was a feature of many programs at public meetings and church affairs. Colonel Klinck was killed by the falling of a building near his home in Brighton on December 5, 1873. The house was occupied by his family for several years and then passed into other hands.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

FEMALE ACADEMY BUILT IN 1835.



The building in South Fitzhugh street, shown above, now part of The Fitzhugh, is one of the two first buildings to be erected in Rochester expressly for school purposes. The first building was that of the Seward School on Alexander street where sessions were begun in the fall of 1835. The building shown above was begun in 1835 and completed in May 1836, the school being immediately opened.

Miss Jane H. Nichols, now living in Tremont street, whose parents, the Rev. and Mrs. James Nichols, took charge of The Rochester Female Seminary in 1858, and who later carried on the school in association with her sister, Miss Margaret D. Nichols, who died November 25, 1936, prepared a very complete and interesting history of the school and building in 1912, from which the following facts are taken.

The meeting to promote the establishment of the school was held in the office of Mayor Jonathan Child in January, 1835, when it was decided to raise a sum not exceeding \$4,000 to purchase a site and erect a school building. Shares were sold at \$20 each and were taken by Mayor Child, J. K. Livingston, Everard Peck, S. O. Smith, S. D. Porter, Isaac Hills, Levi Ward, Edmund Lyon, Moses Chapin and other prominent Rochesterians.

The lot was purchased from Amos Bronson for \$300 cash, the trustees assuming a \$600 mortgage. The contract for the erection of the building was let to Nehemiah Osburn for \$2,890. It is said that the floors were made with two layers of boards with mortar between and that the

original shingles are also set in mortar. A feature of the building during its school years were the massive chains which joined the pillars on the porch. These chains, Miss Nichols says, were intended for the protection of the pupils, but the latter soon found that they made delightful swings and put them to that use when the eyes of the teachers were not on them.

Miss Julia Jones was the first principal of the school. In 1837 the school was incorporated under the name of The Rochester Female Academy, with Miss Jones still in charge and the Misses Doolittle as her assistants. In 1839 the trustees made their first report to the Board of Regents and became entitled to a share in the Literature Fund. In the same year Miss Araminta Doolittle became principal, a position which she held until her resignation in July, 1856. From July, 1856, until April, 1858, Mrs. C. M. Curtis acted as principal of the academy and in April, 1858, the Rev. James Nichols, principal of the Temple Hill Academy in Geneseo, was appointed principal. During this same year Mr. Nichols was asked to take charge of a school for boys which was opened in a building on the southeast corner of Plymouth and Spring streets where the Mogridge block now stands. This left the Female Academy in charge of Mrs. Nichols and her assistants. At the time of the Civil War Mr. Nichols volunteered for service as chaplain with the Union Army and served for nearly a year until a severe illness forced him to resign. From this illness he never recovered sufficiently to resume his school work.

The first Regents examination of the school was held in 1865 and Miss Nichols says that the pupils had to copy the questions from the blackboard before writing the answers.

In 1889 T. C. Montgomery and Oscar Craig, acting for the trustees, petitioned the Legislature to pass an

act revoking the charter of the Rochester Female Seminary. This petition was granted and Mrs. Nichols bought the property and continued the school under the name of The Nichols School.

Following the death of Mrs. Nichols in 1892 the school was conducted by her daughters, the Misses Margaret D. and Jane H. Nichols, until it was discontinued in 1903, the property being bought by the Church of Christ, Scientist by which it was used as a place of worship until 1909. In 1910 the building was sold to the Rochester Conservatory of Music which remained there until its removal to the building in Prince street. The Fitzhugh street building was then remodeled and became a part of the "Fitzhugh Apartments". The cut above is taken from a photograph made about 1914 which is in the possession of the Old Homes Committee of the D. A. R.

The Alumnae Association of the Nichols School, which was organized in January, 1895, still holds two meetings each year. The Travel Club also was formed in 1895 by alumnae of the school and is still an active organization.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

MOORE HOUSE BUILT IN 1831.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house at 22 Lake View park, now the convent, the Sisters of Nazareth Academy, was built in 1831 by Lindley Murray Moore, who came to Rochester from the vicinity of New York city. Mr. Moore was born in Nova Scotia of English parentage but moved to New York city in early life. In bringing his wife and five children from that city to Rochester, Mr. Moore sailed by sloop to Albany and then came up the Erie canal. He purchased 170 acres of land extending south and north of the site of the house shown above. For this he paid \$30 an acre. The first house was a crude affair of logs, but when this was burned Mr. Moore built the two-story brick home which now stands on Lake View park. The house was built on a knoll and Mr. Moore gave it the name of Pomona Hill. After five years Mr. Moore sold the place to Freeman Clarke and moved to 5 Elizabeth street. He became a teacher in the first Rochester high

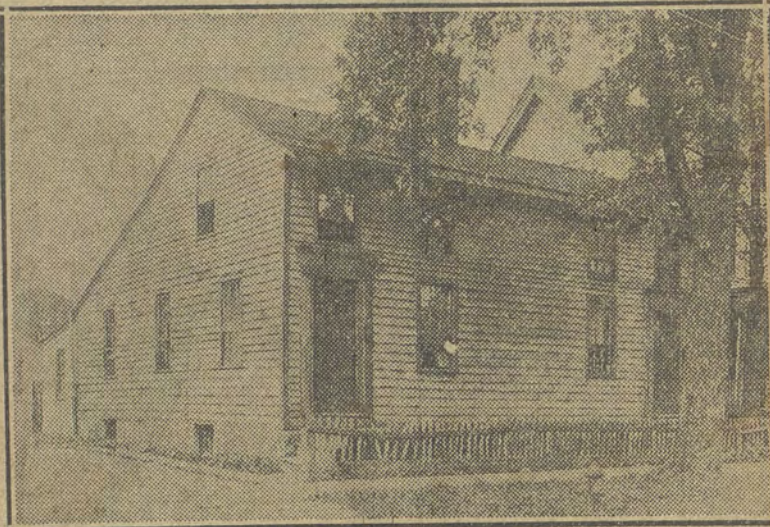
school which was founded in 1827 and which occupied a site where the Unitarian church now stands. In his old age Mr. Moore made his home with his son, Dr. Edward Mott Moore, sr., in Fitzhugh street.

In 1856 Freeman Clarke bought the Seward school property in Alexander street, selling the Lake View park house to Dr. Biegler, who used it as a sanatorium for hydropathic treatments. There are still remaining on the ground vestiges of an old cistern which was used by Dr. Biegler in obtaining water for the treatment of his patients. Dr. Biegler sold the house to E. H. Pottle who occupied it about 1885 when he sold it to William H. Briggs. When Mr. Briggs moved into the house it was the only one on Lake View park, but a short time later Devillo W. Selye built a house across the road and in later years the entire street was built up. About 1920 the property was bought as a home for the sisters teaching in Nazareth Academy.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

WRIGHT HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1840.



The house shown above, which is still standing at 39-41 South Ford street, has seen hard usage since it was built in 1840 by Daniel Wright on a tract of land that was bought by him in 1824 and that has been held by members of his family until the present day. But Wright was a good workman, and although the old house has needed and received much patching and renewing of the outer woodwork, the original beams and partitions are still doing duty and the massive chimney in the

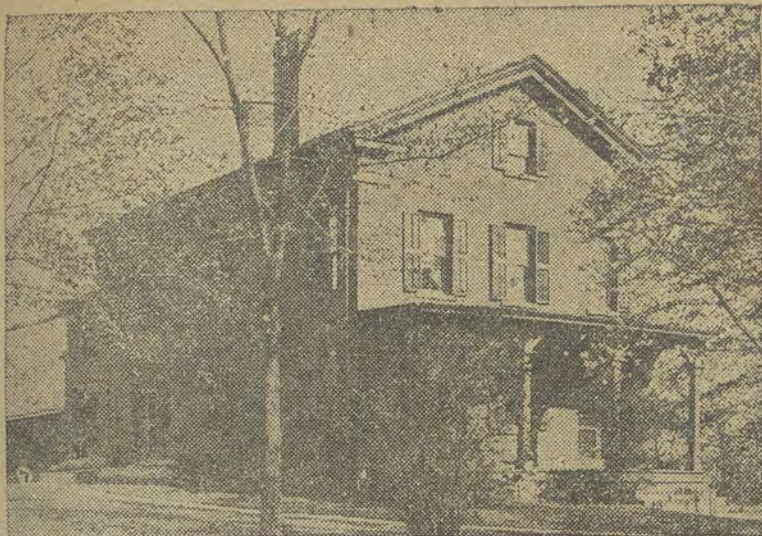
front of the house has scarcely needed repairing.

Early Rochester directories give Daniel Wright as a laborer, but he evidently had a trade in his hands when he came to Rochester, for he is later listed as a joiner and, some years later, as a builder. In 1855 the house was occupied by Mrs. Frances Wright, and in 1866 by William Wright, son of Daniel Wright. It is now owned by descendants of William Wright, but for a number of years has been used as a tenant house.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BABCOCK HOUSE BUILT IN 1829.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

BABCOCK HOUSE BUILT IN 1829.

By A. Emerson Babcock.

The first owner of the old house shown above was Oliver Culver, the pioneer, who purchased from the state of Connecticut, September 2, 1825. The development of this section at this time was proceeding rapidly and it is evident the land on the place was covered with considerable timber. The large hand-hewn timber used in the construction of this old homestead was probably found on the farm. It is noted that Oliver Culver paid only \$1,157.14 to the state of Connecticut for this farm, which lends force to the theory that the place was pretty well covered with forest at this time. In February, 1829, it is noted Oliver Culver and his wife Alice (Ray) Culver conveyed to Isaac Moore 71 acres of this place, and on May 23, 1833, the balance of the farm. There is no person living who has any knowledge of the time the present homestead on the place was constructed. It is evident it was built in sections. The front and highest part being built first. It can be safely said, however, it was built at some period between 1829 and 1833. Probably in 1829.

Isaac Moore was born in New Jersey, in 1787, and came to Brighton prior to 1823. He married Amy Kennedy Bloss on April 8, 1823, and they first lived in a house on the south side of East avenue, near Indian Council Rock and moved from this place to their new home on Clover street. The father of Mrs. Moore and the father of Joseph Bloss of Rochester were brothers and sister. Mr. Moore was a brick manufacturer and had extensive brickyards in different portions of the town. One of these was on the Clover street place and doubtless the brick in the old homestead on this place was all manufactured on the place. He was also a large land owner in Brighton and it is said he owned at one time over 800 acres of land in the town. Mr. Moore was largely a self-educated man with an unusual amount of natural ability. He engaged in the nursery business and his farm at his home was very extensively planted

to young nursery stock, which owing to the peculiar adaptability of the soil to produce wood growth, gave the nursery stock from this farm a national reputation as being the best produced in the country. Mr. and Mrs. Moore had a large and fine family and there is so much that can be written about these unusually fine people that it seems a pity that these things that can be said about them must be omitted owing to lack of space for this article. They had a family of seven children, two of which died young. Amy, the eldest child, married the Rev. John Wickes, who was pastor of the Brighton church and who later accepted a call to a church in Attica, N. Y., where they both died and are buried. Isaac the eldest son died a few years before his sisters, in the state of Washington on the Pacific coast and is buried there. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and an exhorter on temperance and religious matters. Mary died unmarried while on a visit in Rochester, and is buried in Attica. Miss Mary Moore was a very unusual woman being one of the most charming and lovely characters the writer has ever known. She for many years conducted successfully a select school in what used to be Brighton village and had quite a number of scholars from a distance. Among these were William Barnes of Albany and his two sisters. Jacob Moore died February 28, 1901, in Canandaigua, and is buried in the family lot in the Brighton Cemetery. He was an expert horticulturist and produced many very valuable new fruits which entitled him to a place along with Luther Burbank. He originated the Brighton grape and the Hooker seedling strawberry and numerous other fruits that gave him a national reputation.

Caleb Moore died in 1869, and is buried in the family lot in the Brighton cemetery. Caleb Moore at the breaking out of the Civil War raised a company and went to the front as captain of his company. He was a distinguished cavalry officer, being in the Eighth New York Cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of major for gallantry and bravery in action and was later made colonel. He was supervisor

of the town and sheriff of Monroe county. Returning from war much broken in health, he died a few years later and is buried in the family lot in Brighton cemetery. His wife, Amy Kennedy (Bloss) Moore died April 4, 1866, and is buried by the side of her daughter in Attica. Upon the decease of Isaac Moore his son, Caleb Moore, became the head of the family and it was from him

the Babcock family purchased this place August 26, 1868.

The house had originally a cupola on the front section and the entrance at the front was through a single door with a small porch in front. At the side entrances, were three doors. One at the rear, one in the middle and one between the two. On the south side was a small porch to a single door entrance and it was from this door that Governor William H. Seward on the occasion of visitations to the Moore family, frequently addressed large gatherings of people. The walks around the place were of gravel and the front lawn was enclosed by an expensive fence with gates for carriages and pedestrians to enter the grounds. At the rear of the house stood large barns which were the first barns erected in Western New York on strictly temperance principles. North of the house was a pond made by the excavations into the soil for clay for manufacturing brick. This pond made a fine place for skating in the winter and was very much used for this purpose. Mr. Moore, like all of the early settlers realized the necessity of liberal education and accordingly prevailed upon his sister-in-law Celestia Bloss to open a school which afterward became the foundation for the Clover Street Seminary, which was one of the most celebrated schools in the country. Mr. Moore accommodated many of the boy pupils with lodging and board and we have record of several who early attended this school. Among these were Sprague Paine, son of Mayor Paine; George Pond, eldest brother to Charles Pond of Rochester; Cogswell McVean, son of Assemblyman McVean; Joe Richardson, son of Israel Richardson; Charley Powers, who became General Powers of Civil War distinction; Sprague Powers who became a noted physician in New York city; John McNaughton of Caledonia, cousin of the poet; Charley Stillwell, son of the former mayor; Alexander McVean afterward treasurer of Monroe county for many years, and many others who became well known in this section and other places. The Moores kept open house to their friends and acquaintances and were very hospitable. Many celebrities have been entertained in this house by both the Moore and Babcock families. Isaac Moore was a very kindly man, although rather gruff in voice. He early became aware of the curse of liquor and could see the great injury it was doing by its being used so universally in all families in those early days. He accordingly became an earnest advocate of temperance and persuaded his friends to knock in their whisky barrels and become total abstainers. He also hired a man at his own expense, supplying him with a horse and buggy to travel through the country preaching temperance. General Riley the renowned temperance advocate was an intimate friend of the Moore family. It is said that after the Babcock family had purchased and was living in the place, Gen. Riley when passing the place would always remove his hat in respect to

the memory of Isaac Moore.

The Babcock family has now lived in this place 56 years. During this period five generations of the family have lived in the house. Very extensive alterations were made to the house and barns when they acquired the property. The older generations of this family have passed away. The present owner, who came here with his father and grand parents when but four years of age still lives in the old homestead. The growth of Rochester to the east has made it desirable to dispose of a portion of the land to a development company that will soon make it one of the most desirable places for residences in and around Rochester. The old homestead and considerable land still remains in the possession of Mr. Babcock.

The interior of the house is most interesting, with its carved mantelpieces and massive wainscoting and doors. Moreover, it has, or had, a secret room which was discovered beneath the pantry floor when the water-system was being installed. Not even the oldest residents of the Clover road district had heard of the existence of this room which was reached by a wooden ladder and contained a brick receptacle which looked not unlike a sarcophagus, but which failed to reveal anything but emptiness when opened. Many theories have been put forward as to the use of the room some persons suggesting that it was used to conceal runaway slaves in the days of "The Underground Railway" and others that it was used for the safekeeping of valuables from marauding Indians or white ne'er-do-wells who occasionally were met with in the early pioneer days of this part of the country.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

The Everard Peck Homestead Built More Than Century Ago.



Within the high-ceilinged rooms of the old Everard Peck house at the southwest corner of Spring and South Fitzhugh streets, shown above, many a plan for the bettering of living conditions in Rochester were discussed; for Everard Peck who built the house about 1820 seems to have had a hand in the initiating of almost all the philanthropic movements that were launched in the city in the first half of the last century.

The house, which is still standing and is now used for semi-commercial purposes, was the meeting place for those women of Rochester who on February 26, 1822, organized the Rochester Female Charitable Society for the purpose of caring for the sick poor of the city. This society is still functioning though it carries on its work in a less direct way than in the days when the members had assigned to them certain city districts into which they went as visitors, carrying their baskets of food, medicine and clothing for needy families.

It was in the Peck house, too, that many conferences were held concerning the establishing of the Univer-

sity of Rochester, of which Everard Peck was a trustee until his death in 1854; and there, also, plans were laid for the founding of the Rochester Orphan Asylum.

Mr. Peck came to Rochester in 1816 and opened business as a bookseller and bookbinder. In 1818 he commenced the publication of the Rochester Telegraph, a weekly paper, and later he entered the banking business, being connected with the Bank of Orleans, the Rochester City Bank and the Commercial Bank of Rochester.

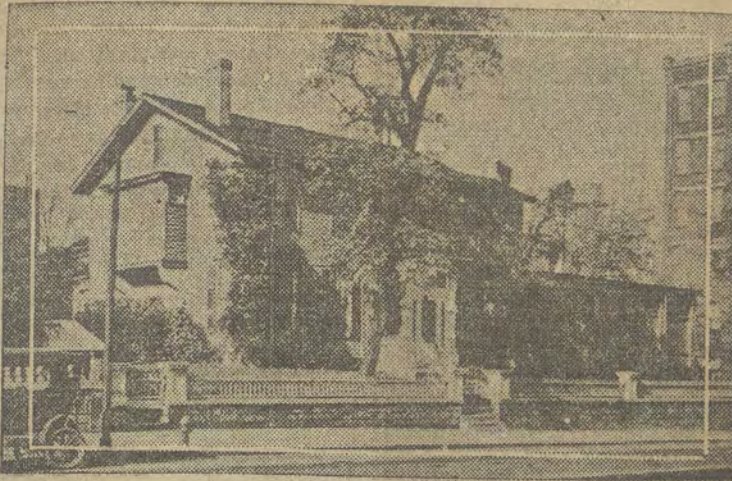
The house was the birthplace of William Farley Peck, author of "The Semi-Centennial History of Rochester", "Landmarks of Monroe County" and other historical volumes. William Peck was also editor of the Daily Democrat in 1867 and later was telegraph editor of the Rochester Daily Chronicle from 1868 to 1870 when the two papers were consolidated.

The Peck house is of the substantial type common to buildings of its day and, unless wiped out by the tide of commercial building now setting up South Fitzhugh street, bids fair to stand for another 100 years.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

House At Andrews And St. Paul Built In 1817 By S. J. Andrews.



Standing in a busy commercial center, as it does, the Andrews house at St. Paul and Andrews streets, shown above, is a well-known landmark, though one that is marked for destruction as soon as a purchaser is found for the site.

The house was built by Samuel J. Andrews in 1817 on grounds that then ran back in a gentle slope to the edge of the river. Mr. Andrews came to Rochester from Derby, Conn., in 1815, when Rochester was in its infancy. He bought a tract of land north of Main street and extending on both sides of the river and it was by him and by Dr. Elwood that Front street was laid out.

Samuel J. Andrews built two houses in St. Paul street before erecting the one at the southwest corner of St. Paul and Andrews street. The first house was at Main and St. Paul streets, where the Granite building now stands, and was the first stone house erected in the village. In 1816 Mr. Andrews built a wooden Colonial house with pilasters and carved capitals at St. Paul and Pleasant street. In this house Dr. Levi Ward lived until he moved to the "suburbs" of Grove place.

The house shown above was of plain architecture and was built from trees cut down on the site. Mr. Andrews' son, James Sherlock Andrews,

was born in the house on October 5, 1846, and lived there until his death on March 21, 1921. During the years of his residence the house and grounds were well kept up and always attracted the interest and attention of strangers in the city by its home-like and attractive appearance in the midst of the grime and bustle of the commercial section that had grown up around it.

Samuel J. Andrews was one of the founders of old St. Paul's Church, and gave the proceeds from the sale of the lot adjoining his home to assist in the erection of the first church building in St. Paul street, on the site now occupied by the Strand Theater. He was greatly interested in educational affairs and also showed much interest in the German immigrants who fled to this country in the years following 1848.

The fine old tree which stood for so many years in the grounds of the Andrews house and which is shown in the above picture, was cut down only a few months ago, its condition having become such as to make it a menace to traffic.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Landmark In Clinton Avenue Was Once Used For Hospital.



The house at 638 Clinton avenue south, shown above, is said to have been built in 1827 by Evander Averill. At that time the house was surrounded by woods which lined the road beside which it was built as far as the point where Alexander street now crosses Monroe avenue.

The house is of simple, unpretentious architecture, but is built with all the solidity of the earlier structures. Intended, originally, for a dwelling place, the old house has today re-

turned to its first purpose, but the years between saw many strange changes in its fortunes.

In 1840 the place was owned by Samuel Hamilton, who sold it to the city for use as a hospital for small-pox cases during the epidemic that was raging in the city. The price paid by the city was \$1,000. In 1859 the city sold the place to the City Hospital and in 1916 it was owned by J. Summerhays. It is now again used for residential purposes.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Weddle House Had View To River.



The house shown above, which was occupied about 1868 by J. Milton French, is still standing at Exchange and Glasgow streets. It was originally owned by Thomas Weddle, one of whose daughters, Mrs. John T. Morrison, is still living in Rochester. In the years when the house was built, in the '30's of the last century, Exchange street was one of the fashionable neighborhoods and houses built there had much of the charm of suburban residences, for the Erie railroad had not yet been built and the banks of the river sloped down to the water in pleasant tree-shaded lawns and meadows.

Even in the '60s and '70s, when the house was occupied by the family of J. Milton French, the street was still a fringe of the "Ruffled

Shirt Ward" and many Rochesterians living today remember the New Year's Day receptions which were held by Mrs. French, whose custom it was to invite six or eight young women to receive with her. During the afternoon and evening of New Year's Day there would be a continual influx of young men who drove up in "cutters," rang the bell and, after saluting their hostess and her pretty assistants, fortified themselves for their next sallying forth into the cold with a lunch of oysters, rolls, cakes and coffee. The young men rather prided themselves on the number of calls that they made in New Year's Day and as each girl at the house counted as one call, the more energetic swains sometimes ran up a record of 50 or 60 calls for the day.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Site Of Crosman Homestead Now That Of Apartment House.



A modern apartment house has taken the place of the old Crosman homestead shown above, which formerly stood at the corner of Monroe avenue and Laburnum crescent.

The rambling wooden building came into the hands of George F. Crosman about 1838 and was occupied as a home by some member of the Crosman family until 1891. Thereafter it was rented until it was torn down and the apartment house was built on the site.

The property was originally in the town of Brighton and the house was surrounded by orchards and flower gardens where Mr. Crosman raised a considerable quantity of the seed which he sold through his seed house which he established in 1840. In the early days the house was nearly smothered by sturdy grape vines which climbed over the roof. An egg-plum orchard near

the house was the great pride of Mr. Crosman.

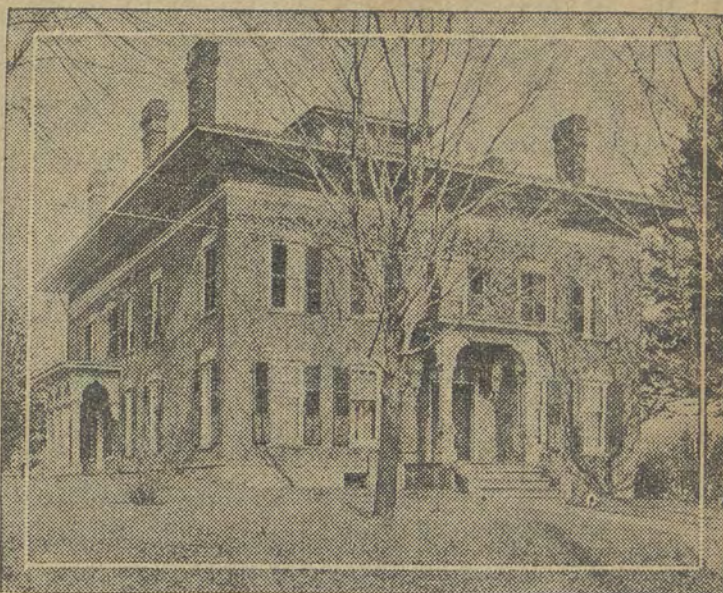
In the early years of the house the road on which it stood was known as Monroe street. Later it was known as the Rochester and Pittsford plank road, the mud surface being laid with planks. This surface remained until the section was taken into the city as part of the Sixteenth ward. Later, a new division of wards placed the house in the Fourteenth ward.

George F. Crosman was born in Vermont in 1802 and came to Rochester in the late '30s of the last century. He established his seed business in 1840 and, after his death in 1865, the business was carried on by his sons, Charles W. Crosman and George F. Crosman, jr. The business is still being conducted at 903 Monroe avenue under the name of The Crosman Brothers Company, with Bertram S. Fenner as president.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

City Has Crept To Very Door Of Old Gideon Cobb Homestead.



The Cobb Homestead at Monroe and Highland avenues, which is shown above, has been occupied by members of the Cobb family for 104 years and in that time has seen the far-off city of Rochester creep up to its door, so that, instead of standing in the midst of wooded country in which Indians and wild animals were a common sight, it is now the center of a fashionable residential section.

Data gathered by the Old Houses Committee of Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., shows that the house was built by Gideon Cobb in 1820 of bricks which he made by hand from the clay of the fields not far distant.

Gideon Cobb came to Rochesterville in 1812, and for a time operated a stage between the village and Carthage, the town below the lower falls of the Genesee river. After his marriage to Roxanna Worden he built a log house on the south side of Monroe avenue where they lived until 1820, when they moved to the house shown above, which Mr. Cobb had built in the center of the 300-acre tract that he had purchased and which included the rise still known as Cobb's hill, now the site of the city reservoir and park. This property was then in the town of Brighton, and Mr. Cobb's brickyard, which supplied bricks for many of the buildings in Rochester, was at what is still known as the Seven Corners.

The Cobb house has three-foot foundations and center walls a foot thick and its timbers are huge baulks hewn by hand from timber cut from the adjoining woods. The house was at one time used as a tavern, many new settlers coming to Rochesterville breaking the last lap of their journey there. It is said that the marks of the bar which once occupied the front room of the house can still be seen in the hard wood of the floor of the room when the floor covering is removed.

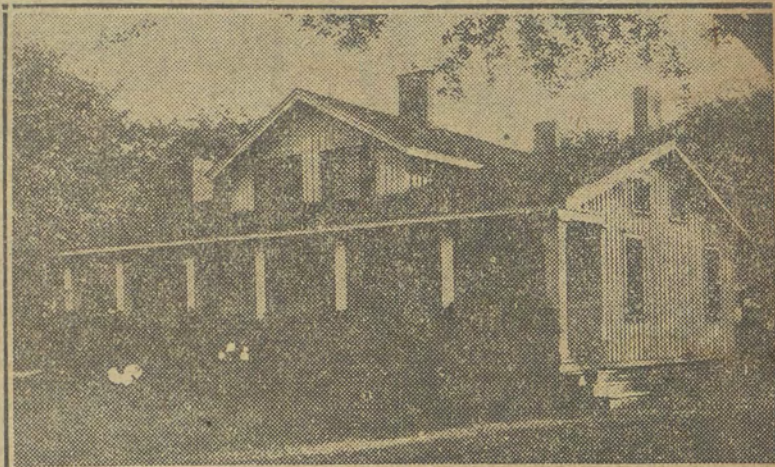
Mr. Cobb in later years, however, became interested in the prohibition campaign that was launched in Brighton by William C. Bloss, and he closed the bar and destroyed his stock of liquor, though the house still extended its hospitality to travelers.

In addition to his brick business Mr. Cobb opened up a sand pit in the side of Cobb's hill and it was these excavations that cleared the space that is now occupied by the Monroe avenue car loop. At the time Mr. Cobb built his home there was only a very rough cart path where Monroe avenue now runs and the rise that is Cobb's hill extended in a slope across to the knoll where the little red brick schoolhouse, also built by Mr. Cobb, still stands. The school property and building were given to the town of Brighton by Mr. Cobb with the proviso that the property should always be used for educational purposes or should return to his heirs. When the boundaries of the city of Rochester were extended to Highland avenue, this property remained a part of the town of Brighton and the school is still conducted under the town school board. The cutting down of the road left the schoolhouse nearly 20 feet above the roadway and it became a landmark that shares with the Cobb house in historical interest.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

HARMON HOUSE NEARLY 90 YEARS OLD.



The house at 701 Mt. Hope avenue, shown above, is said to be nearly 90 years old. In 1851 it was purchased by Jehiel and ~~George Reed~~ as a home for their parents. Following the death of Mr. and Mrs. Reed the house became the home of Hector McLean and was later occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Margaret

McLean Harmon. It is now owned by Charles M. Harmon.

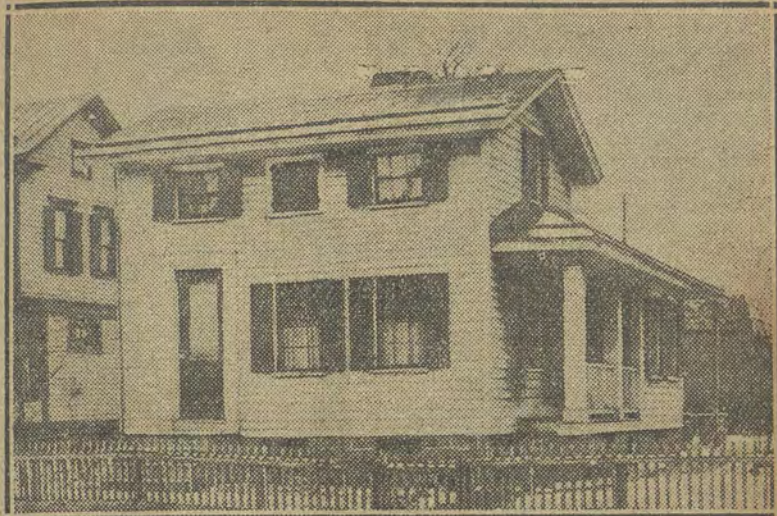
The house is of the Swiss chalet type of architecture, a noticeable feature being the seven square pillars supporting the sloping porch roof. There are four capacious brick chimneys which served fireplaces in the kitchen and in several rooms of the house.

*George Reed*



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

HUCK HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1835.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house now standing at 196 Adams street was built in 1835 by Barnhardt Huck on land in the Cornhill tract which he had bought on May 9, 1835, from John Monroe. Mr. Huck was a master mason and helped to build St. Joseph's Church in Franklin street, and the Wolcott brewery building in Clarissa street. The cellar wall of the building in Adams street is a specimen of his handiwork and is as strong, today as it was the day on which it was built. The upper part of the house is of frame construction with heavy timbers and hand-hewn posts. The gables run across the width of the house and the shuttered windows have six small panes of glass in each sash. The house was built high enough on the cellar walls to accommodate windows giving light to a cellar kitchen. The big brick chimney at the back of the house served a fireplace in the cellar kitchen and one in the living room on the first floor. In the days be-

fore Rochester had a water system there was a pump room with a well and cistern in the rear adjoining the kitchen. The original front door was of paneled oak and the front, side and back entrance were reached by flag-stone walks which are still in use.

Bernhardt Huck, or Barnard Huck, as the name appears in old Rochester directories, came to America from Germany in 1830, the voyage in a sailing vessel taking six weeks. The trip to Rochester was made by canal boat. Mr. Huck brought with him his wife and three children and three more children were born in this country, the youngest, now Mrs. Caroline Sellinger, being born in the house shown above. Mrs. Sellinger is the only one of the children now living. Anthony and Bernhardt, the two sons, both fought in the Civil War, Bernhardt being wounded at the Battle of Shiloh.

The house in Adams street was a haven for many relatives and friends who came to Rochester from Germany. One such party coming by canal to the Fitzhugh Basin asked a pedestrian at the corner of Spring street and High street (now Caledonia avenue), where Mr. Huck lived, and was directed across lots to the house which could be seen in the distance.

Mrs. Huck died in the Adams street house in 1859 and Mr. Huck in 1881. Both are buried in the old Pinnacle Cemetery. After Mr. Huck's death the property passed to his daughter, Mrs. Josephine S. Miller, who died in 1896, and then to Mrs. Miller's daughter, Miss Augusta S. Miller, who died in 1903. The property then passed out of the hands of the Huck family after 68 consecutive years of possession.

The Times-Union is indebted for these facts to Mrs. Horace G. Pierce, daughter of Mrs. Caroline Huck Sellinger.

## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Lockwood House Fine Example Of Cobblestone Work.



The house shown above, which is still standing in Culver road near Parsells avenue, was built about 1835 for Roswell Lockwood. It is one of the finest specimens of cobblestone construction in this part of the country and is believed to have been the work of a young man named Alonzo Bradley who built up a reputation for his skill in this work, and who also built the Schank house at Culver road and Main street east.

In 1820 Roswell Lockwood bought

a tract of nearly 100 acres extending from Hazelwood terrace on the north to a point some distance beyond the line of the present Glen Haven railroad on the south and beyond the Merchants road on the east. The land was formerly owned by Eli and Betsy Stilson. Mr. Lockwood paid \$1,200 for this tract.

The first building on the present site of the cobblestone house was a frame dwelling which was used as a wing when the stone house was built. There was also a long frame building added in the rear but all this wooden structure was removed some years ago and the cobblestone house with its hand-hewn stone insets at the corners now stands in all the dignity and beauty of its plain, straight lines. The interior of the house shows a sturdy construction to match its exterior, the beams being hand-hewn from solid baulks of timber and the partitions being of unusual thickness.

In 1863 the property was sold by Mr. Lockwood to Henry D. Schank, youngest son of Hendrik V. B. Schank. It has now passed into other hands but still remains a very attractive and interesting landmark.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

DAVID HOYT HOUSE BUILT IN 1840.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house at 133 South Fitzhugh street, shown above, was built about 1840 by David Hoyt, one of the earliest booksellers and stationers in Rochester, whose store was for many years at 6 State street. Mr. Hoyt sold the house in 1850 to Henry S. Potter who came to Rochester from Pittsford in that year.

Mr. Potter had conducted a general merchandising business in Pittsford and, in the year following his removal to Rochester, became one of the organizers of the New York and Mississippi Printing Tele-

graph Company of which he was made president. In 1856 this company changed its name to the Western Union Telegraph Company and Mr. Potter was succeeded by Hiram Sibley as president.

Mr. Potter was an incorporator of the Eagle Bank in 1852. This bank was consolidated in 1859 with the Manufacturers' Bank of Rochester, the new name being the Traders Bank, now the Traders National Bank. He was also a stockholder in the Flour City National Bank and in the New York Central Railroad. Mr. Potter was prominent in the various temperance movements of his time and erected a building at State and Andrews streets which bore the name, carved in stone, "H. S. Potter's Temperance Building."

After the death of Mr. Potter on January 9, 1884, his daughter, Miss Henryetta Potter, lived in the family home until 1907. Since that time the house has been occupied by W. B. Tuxhill, by Mrs. Stanley K. Pierson and by J. Frank Mikel, the present occupant.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Culver House In East Boulevard Was Home Of Pioneer.



The beautiful old Colonial house now standing at 70 East boulevard was built about 1805, at what is now the corner of East avenue and Culver road, by Oliver Culver, the grandfather of the present owner, Mrs. Howard A. Smith. The building was moved from East avenue to its present site in 1906.

Oliver Culver was the seventh settler within the present boundaries of Rochester. He came to the Genesee country in 1796 in company with a friend named Lemuel Spafford. Both the lads were still in their 'teens and they thoroughly enjoyed the good sport in fishing, hunting and trapping offered by the streams and woods of the country from the Genesee river to Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay. Several weeks were spent here while waiting for a surveying party with which they were to work in surveying the site of the present city of Cleveland, Ohio. The beauties and opportunities of the Genesee country made so great an impression on the mind of young Culver that at the completion of his surveying work he returned to this part of the country in 1800 and

engaged in business with Messrs. Tryon & Company, which was carrying on shipping with Canadian ports from the settlement of Tryontown at Irondequoit Landing.

In 1800 Oliver purchased a farm which included that section now bounded by the Erie canal bed, Atlantic avenue, Barrington street and Hawthorn street. In 1805 Mr. Culver married Alice Bay of Pittsford and built his first home in the woods near what is now the corner of Culver road and East avenue. In the following years Mr. Culver, with the aid of Orange Stone, George Dailey, Miles Northrup and Lemuel Spafford, and financed by an appropriation of \$50 from the town of Northfield, cut out the road two rods wide from Orange Stone's house, the building still standing in East avenue opposite Council Rock, to the Genesee river. The story is told of

how the surveyors climbed trees in order to determine the direction of the river and how, when they arrived at the point that is now the corner of Main street east and East avenue, they discovered that by carrying the road onward in the direction in which they were going they would strike the bank of the river at the middle falls instead of at the ford above. For this reason they gave their road a sudden angle which took it to the river along the present route of Main street.

In subsequent years the original building of the Culver house was added to until it took on much of its present form. The house was known for its hospitality extended to the settlers who were coming in increasing numbers. It is said that when Enos Stone, brother of Orange Stone, was bringing his wife and younger children to the log cabin which he had built on the site now occupied by Powers block, he stopped at the Culver home and filled a teakettle with brands from the hearth with which to light the first fire in his new home.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

WHITNEY HOUSE BUILT ABOUT 1853.



Older men and women of Rochester still remember the building shown above, which is still standing in State street just north of Big B place, as the scene of some of the most brilliant social functions that took place in Rochester in the 60's and 70's.

The house was built by George J. Whitney, son of Warham Whitney, who came to Rochester in 1819 and built up the milling business which was conducted by his sons after his death in 1840. In the '40s, George J. Whitney was living in Jay street and, in addition to his interest in the milling business, he also conducted a store in what was then called "Frankfort." In 1852 he was living at 46 Jay street, but in 1853 or 1854 he built the house shown above at the corner of State street and the little street running back to the river which then was known by the pretentious name of Waterloo street but later was christened Big B place in honor of a well-known brand of Rochester flour.

In 1857 George J. Whitney built the Whitney elevator in this city and a short time later he assumed the management of the grain elevators of the New York Central Railroad in Buffalo and New York city. He served as a director of the New York Central and was a close friend of Cornelius Vanderbilt of New York who was several times a guest in the State street home. At the time of his death, on December 31, 1878,

Mr. Whitney was virtually manager of the entire western division of the New York Central insofar as the movement of grain was concerned. He also was prominent in Rochester affairs and for eight years was president of the board of directors of the Western New York House of Refuge.

Following Mr. Whitney's death his widow and children continued to live in the State street house. In the renumbering of State street which took place in 1884 the number was changed from 290 to 448 State street. Mrs. Whitney died in February, 1885, and the house appears in the directories in the name of Lois E. Whitney, who lived there until 1887, when she moved to 709 Main street east.

In the early '80s a belt line was built on the east side of the river, ostensibly to give access to points on Lake Ontario. This was soon sold to the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad and the line extended to the west side of the river and was brought to a terminal at the rear of the Whitney house which was purchased for use as a passenger station.

The house originally stood nearer the river than it does at the present time and the grounds were beautifully kept up, the view from the back of the house commanding a stretch of the river and the falls.

In order to make room for the railroad line it was necessary to move the house to its present location, a feat of unusual difficulty which was finally accomplished by placing an inclined platform of heavily greased timbers to the west of the house and allowing it to slide over this platform to the desired position.

An advertisement for the R., W. & O. Railroad published in the spring of 1887 says:

"The R., W. & O. Railroad is the great highway for fashionable pleasure travel. Rochester trains leave from the St. Paul street station until July and then will move from the magnificent passenger station on State street, only five minutes from the Four Corners and a hotels. Solid trains from Niagara Falls and through sleeping cars, and from Rochester to the Thousand Islands, making steamer connections for Montreal, Quebec and the Saguenay. Wagner Palace Car Company's sleeping cars from Niagara Falls to Portland, Me. This is also the only route to all Lake Ontario resorts, the excursion fare being only 25 cents.

The R., W. & O. was later absorbed by the New York Central, but the passenger station was continued in the old Whitney house for a number of years. Later it was closed up but in recent years it has come into use again for commercial purposes, the American Plumbing Manufacturing Company occupying the building, while the ground in front is occupied by the filling station of the F. B. Rae Oil Company.

Automobiles now chug along the roadways where Mr. Whitney's thoroughbred horses were wont to be driven by his coachman, Paris, who was a well known figure; and the house which once was gay with social gatherings now resounds to the thump and buzz of machinery. At some future time, no doubt, the old house with its queer turrets will give way to a modern factory or office building.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CALEB BICKNELL HOUSE BUILT IN 1820's.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The plain, square, peak-roofed house at 67 Spring street, shown above, is one of the oldest houses in the city, having been erected in the 1820's by Caleb Bicknell, who for many years conducted a blacksmith shop at 5 Spring street, where he was for a time in partnership with John J. Squires.

The house is strongly and substantially built and has inner walls of brick with an outer shell of wooden clap-boards. It is of basement type, this basement at present being occupied by the Old Book Store of George P. Humphrey. The basement walls are nearly two feet thick and there is a massive chimney into which open fireplaces. Indications are that the level of Spring street has been cut down since the house was built, exposing a larger part of the basement walls than formerly.

Caleb Bicknell did a thriving trade in the shoeing of horses, the making of mill irons, axes and other implements. The building of the Erie Canal increased his trade and he became a prosperous business man of the growing city and served it for nine terms as coroner. In view of these facts it is strange that the papers at the time of his death on June 12, 1869, noted the fact of his passing in a single line. After Mr. Bicknell's death the old family home was occupied by his widow, Abigail Bicknell, and his son, William J. C. Bicknell. Mrs. Bicknell died in the house on April 7, 1883. William J. C. Bicknell lived in the house until 1894 and conducted a photographic business on the opposite side of the street at 64 Spring street, his first partner being J. Marsden Fox. He died on April 27, 1907, since which time the house has had a succession of tenants, the

upper part being used for residential purposes while the basement has been occupied by Mr. Humphrey's store since 1902, Mr. Humphrey having moved there from the house adjoining on the east where he first opened his store in 1900.

In the 1827 Rochester directory, Bicknell is listed as having his home and blacksmith shop in Spring street. This directory gives a list of householders, and a list, nearly as long, of "boarders". In the latter list is found the name of Aaron Erickson who in that year was living in the home of Bicknell and learning the blacksmithing trade in his shop. Mr. Erickson, during his apprenticeship, learned to make axes and other iron implements and in his later years he was very proud of the fact that he

had made with his own hands at Caleb Bicknell's forge, the iron yoke which swung the first bell of Old St. Luke's Church on South Fitzhugh street.

Mr. Erickson soon left the iron forging trade for that of manufacturing potash and later entered the wool trade in which he built up a fortune which enabled him to go into the banking business. In 1834 he had built a home at what was then 23 North Clinton street and in 1842 he built the house which is now occupied by the Genesee Valley Club in East avenue and which, for many years after the death of Mr. Erickson, was the home of Mrs. Gilman H. Perkins, his daughter.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

Whitney House Had First Mansard Roof In Rochester.



Warham Whitney, who came to Monroe county from Oneida county in 1819, and who is credited with constructing the first grain elevator in the United States, also built the substantial home shown above. The house, which boasted the first mansard roof constructed in Rochester, stood in the center of a large plot of ground at Jay and Magne streets and was for many years a center of social life in Rochester. After the Whitney family removed from it, it became the home of the Burbank family. Exact information as to the year when the house was built is not available, but as Warham Whitney died in 1840 it is evident that the building dates into the early half of the last century and thus has a place among the "Old Rochester Homes."

Warham Whitney built the Whitney Mill on Brown's race in 1827 and it was there that he constructed a strap and bucket elevator for carrying wheat to the bins of his warehouse. While this was a very simple affair compared with the later grain elevator systems it represented the germ of the idea later developed.

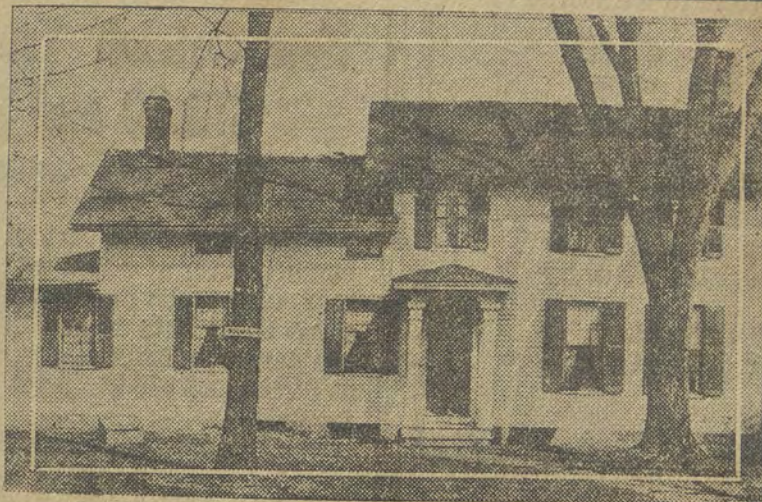
Mr. Whitney carried on the milling business until his death and was also extensively engaged in real estate development. The milling business was later carried on by his son, George J. Whitney, who built a grain elevator at the junction of Brown street and the Erie canal in 1857. This elevator was burned in 1862 but was immediately rebuilt. George J. Whitney was one of the

directors of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad and was closely interested in the development of the railroad lines through Rochester.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

BENEDICT HOUSE BUILT IN 1800.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

To find Rochester's oldest homes one must travel eastward in the direction of the historical Tryontown where some of the old homes, built on the site selected in 1800 for the city, are still standing. The Benedict home on the Landing road, two miles south of old Tryontown, is one of the loveliest of these and presents, inside as well as outside, a picture of days gone by, for passing time has left few marks, and the house as it stands today, is little different from the old homestead erected in 1800.

The Benedict home has been occupied for over 100 years by the same family for Mathew Dryer, great-grandfather of Mrs. Theodore W. Benedict, came there in 1817. Members of the Dryer family, right down the line, have owned the house in turn, and Theodore jr., the son of the present owner, a student at Monroe Junior High school, is the fifth descendant of the Dryer family to live there.

The original farm included 100 acres of land surrounding the homestead. The farm was full of springs in those days, all of which were tributary to the historic "Rattlesnake Creek" just south of the house. The creek is one of the oldest land marks and the deeds to every piece of land in that section are measured from it.

The home is of course, held together by hand-wrought iron nails, as all old homes are, and the old

hand-wrought iron latches on many of the doors show plainly its age. In pointing out some of the interesting features, Mrs. Benedict said that for some unknown reason her ancestors chose to build the woodshed floor of fine old oak boards while the main house has floors of common pine. Some of the walls, too, are of solid oak covered with plaster, while later additions are built in the modern way with laths and plaster.

Some time ago it was definitely established by members of the Rochester Historical Society that a farm once owned by the ancestral family of the late President Harding was located on the Dryer land. A. Emerson Babcock, president of the society, carefully traced down the history and discovered that one member of the Harding family, which settled at Tryon, took up a claim 40 feet east of Rattlesnake Creek. This Harding ancestor married one of the daughters of the Tryon family, history records.

The first settlers located at Tryontown, Mrs. Benedict pointed out, because the bay ended here. The waters receded, however, and in 1812 Rochester's first houses were built on the banks of the Genesee.

Inside of the Benedict home are many lovely antique pieces, and most interesting of all, perhaps, are the wonderful old bed spreads and quaint curtains, the work of the grandmother of Mrs. Benedict.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

SEWARD SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1835.



—Photo by Staff Photographer.

In the house shown above, which now stands at 240 Alexander street, one of the first schools in Rochester for the "higher education" of young women was conducted from 1835 to 1855, handing on to the girls of Rochester and to many who came from other cities the inspiration and ideals that its principal, Miss Sarah T. Seward, had gained during her years spent in the Troy Female Seminary under the guidance of that pioneer in education for women, Emma C. Willard.

Miss Seward, who was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Seward of New Lebanon, N. Y., came to Rochester with her brother, Jason Seward, in the late winter of 1833, making the journey by stage coach from Albany in weather and under traveling conditions that would have daunted a less brave and energetic woman. She opened her first school in the United States Hotel Building which is still standing in Main street west, having as

one of her teachers Miss Sayles, who afterward became the wife of William S. Bishop, and who had been assistant to the Misses Black who had conducted a girls' school in 1830 in the Still building on the west side of South Fitzhugh street near Main street west and, later in the United States Hotel building.

Miss Seward and her brother sent such glowing accounts of the new city of Rochester to their father that he, too, decided to make his home here and, in 1834, he drove to Rochester from New Lebanon.

On his arrival here Mr. Seward began to look for property on which he could build a house that would serve not only as a family home, but also for the purposes of his daughter's school.

Of several sites offered he decided upon one in what is now Alexander street, influenced by the fact that the ground rose in a gentle slope which reminded him of his old home among the hills of New Lebanon.

In this year Miss Seward was conducting her school in a building at Sophia and Spring streets, on the present site of First Presbyterian Church, but in October, 1835, she removed to the new building which had been erected on the property bought by Mr. Seward. The building shown above is only a portion of the original Seward house and was moved to its present site in 1856 when the property was sold to Freeman Clarke.

The school opened by Miss Seward won a high reputation and had an enrollment of 100 pupils during the first year. This was the age when the question of whether or not women should study the sciences was seriously discussed and disagreed over; but Miss Seward had no doubts on the matter and her school was noted for the thoroughness of its scientific equipment and instruction. The school was incorporated in 1838, and three years later Miss Seward was married to General Jacob Gould and the charge of the school passed to her brother Jason. In 1848 the school became known as the Tracey Female Institute and it was carried on for some years under that name. In 1856 the property was sold to Freeman Clarke, a portion of the building being torn down and that part shown above being moved to its present site. In 1893 the land and the house that had been erected upon it by Freeman Clarke became the property of the Homeopathic Hospital.

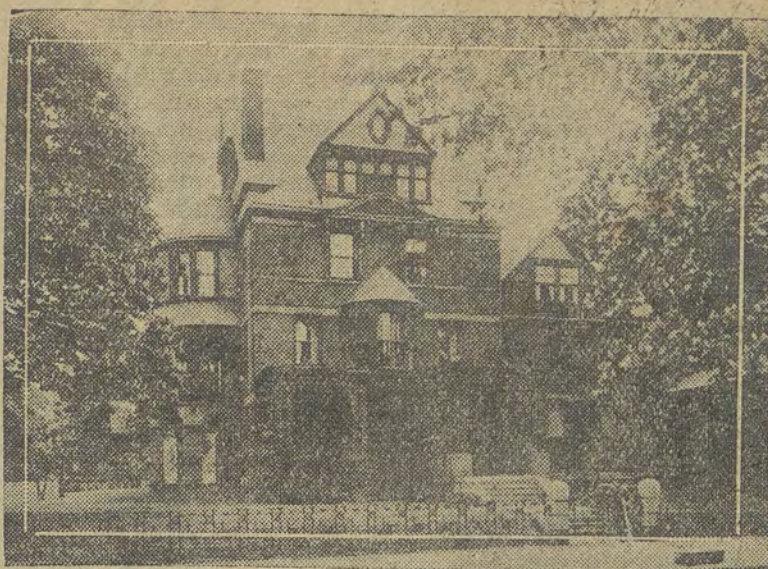
The wing of the old Seward Female Seminary which is shown above is now owned by Frederick Seward Gould and Elizabeth Hull Gould, grandchildren of Mrs. Jacob Gould. The porch across the front has been added in recent years and rather conceals the classic and beautiful lines of the old building, but a single glance at the fanlight window and the gables of the third story reveals the period of the house. Its interior is still more interesting, with its low ceilings and curving staircase. The house has been remodeled to suit modern uses, and partitions which divided the third floor into rooms for dormitory use have been pulled out leaving a spacious attic. An unusual feature of this floor is the storage space afforded by bureau drawers which were built into the walls of the dormitory to afford space for the kerchiefs and other fripperies of the pupils. Wherever the woodwork of the house is revealed it is seen to be of unusual thickness and to have been cut by hand. This site was a chesnut grove at the time the house was built and it is very probable that most of the timbers were cut and fashioned on the spot. Certain electrical workers in Rochester who had the job of installing electric lighting wires can testify to the thickness and imperiousness of some of the beams and partitions.

Miss Gould is now living in the upper of the two apartments into which the house has been remodeled, while the lower one is used for offices by Dr. H. L. Prince. Dr. Prince's waiting room was once the living room of the house and it was there that Sarah T. Seward was married to General Gould. In the room above there hangs a portrait of Miss Seward which shows her as a remarkably handsome young woman with large, intelligent eyes and a humorous but firm mouth, altogether the sort of person one would expect from the traditions that have been handed down concerning her brilliancy of mind and her enterprise.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

ELY HOUSE BUILT BY THOMAS PEASE



Within the many turreted and bay-windowed walls of the house at 126 Plymouth avenue, now owned by Mrs. Margaret Doud, there still stand the frame walls of the house which was built prior to 1830 by Thomas Pease, one of the earliest owners of a line of canal boats in Rochester. In 1838 Pease sold the house to Hiram Wright, who lived there until 1849, when he sold the place to Alfred Ely, by whom the present structure was built around it. The old well, which originally furnished water for the house is said to be still in existence underneath the porch which was added to the front of the building.

Alfred Ely was a political figure in Rochester for many years. He was born in Lyme, Conn., on February 15, 1815, and after completing his college work in Bacon Academy came to Rochester in 1836 as a law student in the office of Smith & Rochester. In 1841 he was admitted to the bar and opened offices in the building at the southwest corner of Main and Exchange streets, later moving to the Elwood building. He became attorney for the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad and for the Buffalo & Rochester Railroad.

In 1840 Mr. Ely married Caroline L. Field, daughter of Joseph Field of this city. All of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ely are dead.

In 1858 Mr. Ely was elected to represent his district in the 36th Congress, and he was re-elected in 1860. Soon after the beginning of the Civil War there occurred what was perhaps the most picturesque, if

unpleasant, incident of Mr. Ely's career. With a party of fellow congressmen he had gone to the camp of the Union troops and was on the ground over which the Confederates swept in the what was later to be known as the first battle of Bull Run. The Confederate officer, not being in a gentle attitude of mind toward Washington officials, refused to free Mr. Ely and he was sent to Libby Prison, where he remained for a term of six months. In the Reynolds Library there is an interesting little volume which was written by Mr.

Ely after his release, which he calls "Journal of Alfred Ely, a Prisoner of War in Richmond." In this he tells of his capture and his experiences in Libby Prison, and also gives a list of officers and men with whom he came in contact there. At the end of six months Mr. Ely was exchanged for a prisoner held by the Union forces and returned to Washington.

Mr. Ely died in the Plymouth avenue home on May 18, 1892, his widow continuing to live there until her death, on July 14, 1912, at the age of 93 years.

Mrs. Ely's will contained the following clause:

"I give and devise to the bishop of that diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church of which Rochester shall form a part, and to his successors in office, the proceeds which may arise or be derived from the sale of my house, including the lot situated at the corner of Troup street and Plymouth avenue, where I now reside, in trust, nevertheless, and the money arising or derived from the fund to be set apart from such proceeds of sale to be used for

the purpose of assisting the aged and infirm clergy of said diocese."

Under this clause the executor of the will, Harvey F. Remington, sold the property on August 4, 1913, to Mrs. Doud, who remodeled the upper floors for apartment use.

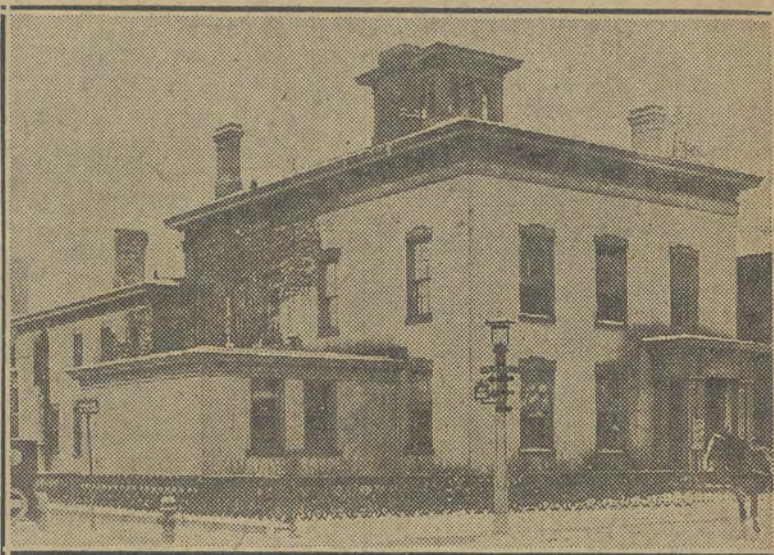
The house is one of the largest on Plymouth avenue and is particularly noted for its great banquet hall on the south side of the house, which rises two stories and was beautifully decorated in French murals. On the second floor was Mr. Ely's library, with domed roof and book-lined walls. There are many fireplaces, some of which have elaborately carved mantelpieces; and the beautifully curved staircase with its niched recesses is another interesting feature of the house.

During Mr. Ely's residence there many notable people were entertained in the house and many brilliant dinners were given in the banquet hall. Among the distinguished guests was Colonel Frederick D. Grant, son of President U. S. Grant, who was entertained at a grand dinner and reception. This event occurred during the years when the late Charles S. Baker was serving as congressman from this district and he and Mrs. Baker assisted in receiving with Mrs. Ely.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

GOULD HOUSE 100 YEARS OLD.



The house at the northwest corner of Spring and South Fitzhugh streets, shown above, and the two houses standing to the north of it, will pass the century mark this year, having been built in 1824 by General Jacob Gould and Captain Lummis. General Jacob Gould, who came to Rochester about 1819 and engaged in the manufacture of shoes, lived in the corner house until his death and it then became the home of his son, Jacob S. Gould, who was born in the house on September 6, 1826. In the later years of his life Jacob S. Gould made his home at 43 South Fitzhugh street, the third of the trio of houses now owned by his nephew, H. P. Gould. This house was first occupied by William B. Rochester, son of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, and, in 1846, by Mrs. Henry Benton, a daughter of General Gould. The second house from the corner was first occupied by Ebenezer Watts. Some 10 years ago this house was remodeled for office uses and is now occupied by the Abstract Guarantee Company.

The General Gould house at the corner of Spring and Fitzhugh streets was occupied in the '80s and '90s by Dr. C. E. Rider, a well known oculist. Still later the low wing to the south was built and the house was rented for office purposes and is now occupied by a number of physicians.

During General Gould's lifetime the house on the corner was a center of social life in the Third ward.

General Gould was a personal friend of President Martin Van Buren, who was in office from 1837 to 1841, and a reception for the president was held at the Gould home on the occasion of one of his visits.

General Gould was prominent in local politics and served as United States marshal for two terms. He was also president of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Rochester and a director and one of the consolidators of the New York Central Railroad. At one time he owned all the property and houses on the west side of South Fitzhugh street between the Erie canal and Spring street.

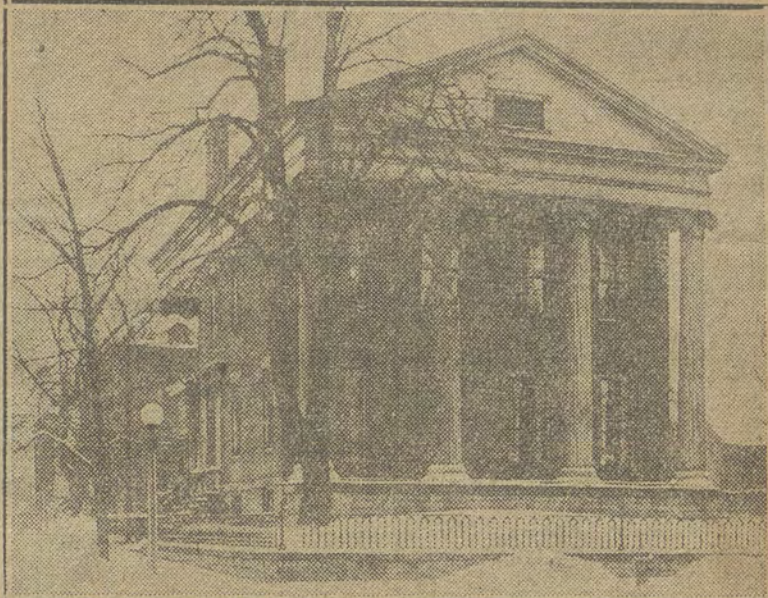
General Gould was twice married, his first wife being Ruby Swan and the second wife Sarah T. Seward, who, up to the time of her marriage, was the principal and proprietress of the Seward Female Seminary in Alexander street.

*Lummis*



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

HOME OF WHITTLESEY FAMILY 76 YEARS.



The old Whittlesey house at the southwest corner of Troup and South Fitzhugh street has been the home of some member of the Whittlesey family for 76 years and has been the scene of many brilliant social functions and important political conferences.

The house was built about 1818 by Benjamin Campbell, a prominent miller of Rochester, and was purchased in 1848 by Attorney Frederick Whittlesey, frequently referred to in Rochester histories as Chancellor Whittlesey because of his appointment on April 16, 1839, to the post of vice-chancellor of the New York State Court of Chancery. This court was established in 1791 and was finally abolished in 1846, its functions being transferred to other courts.

Chancellor Whittlesey was born in Connecticut and came to Rochester in 1820. He died in the old house in 1851, his wife, Ann Hinsdale Whittlesey, also dying there in 1890.

Chancellor Whittlesey was prominent in public affairs both in Rochester and in the state, and in 1827 was named as a member of the committee appointed to investigate the alleged murder of Morgan, the man who published a book purporting to expose the secrets of Masonry.

The house was successively the home of Frederick A. Whittlesey and and W. Seward Whittlesey, the latter for many years assistant postmaster and postmaster in this city. Mrs. W. S. Oliver and her sister, Miss Frances Whittlesey now live in the old home.

The Whittlesey home is one of the most beautiful and delightful old homes in Rochester. Owing to the "jog" in South Fitzhugh street where Troup street crosses, the house, with its graceful colonial pillars, peaked roof and tall windows, holds a commanding position and is visible from far down South Fitzhugh street. The entrance is on Fitzhugh street though the house faces on Troup, and, from this entrance a staircase with mahogany banister and newelpost sweeps to the second floor. The rooms are

large and lofty of ceiling and the entire house and its foundations are most solidly built. In the kitchen is still the quaint, old-fashioned baking oven of brick and beneath the house is a vast cellar in which one might easily lose one's way. The attic also extends the full length and width of the house and has been the repository of generations of heirlooms for which room could no longer be found in the other rooms of the house.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

### CORNING HOUSE RELIC OF PAST DAYS



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The Corning House at 360 St. Paul street, often referred to by people in the neighborhood as "The Castle," is not so very old, as houses go, having been built by Isaac R. Elwood, a prominent attorney, in the late 1850's, but it is one of those houses that have remained, monuments to a past phase of existence, while changes went on about them which entirely altered the face of the neighborhood.

There are still large grounds about the house, but in the days of the Elwood ownership these grounds had not been cut through by the spur of the railroad which crosses St. Paul street just south of the house and the whole property was maintained as a private park, behind the fences of which one caught glimpses of tame deer. In those days there were no buildings on the west side of St. Paul street at this point and from the upper rooms of the house could be seen the gorge of the river and the chimneys of Rochester in the distance.

During the days of the Elwood family the house was one of the recognized centers of social life in the city, and many a brilliant dance and reception was held in the long "drawing rooms" which extend across the entire front of the house.

The house was one of the first to be lighted with gas and to have a water system. The old crystal chandeliers, which still remain, were imported from Europe and are extremely beautiful.

In 1878, William Corning, who had had come to Rochester from Penfield and established a bank in this city, bought the house and it has remained in the hands of members of the Corning family up to this time, Miss Anna Corning of New York city being the present owner.

For many years the house has stood with shuttered windows, its owners, the late Sherwood Corning and his sister, Anna, making their

home in New York city and in Florence, Italy, and seldom returning to the old family home which was left in the charge of caretakers. But there are some old residents who remember when the house was open and the stable had its allotment of thoroughbred carriage horses behind which Mrs. Corning drove out. All the members of the family were fond of travel and on one trip to Egypt Mrs. Corning hired a native dragoman as guide and servant and brought him back to this country. "Toby Marsey," as this man called himself, was a familiar sight about the city for many years. He remained for a time in the employ of the Corning family as footman, making a striking figure in his Egyptian robes and turban as he sat stiffly on the box of the carriage, but, subsequently, he drifted away and took up the business of selling oriental goods at summer resorts.

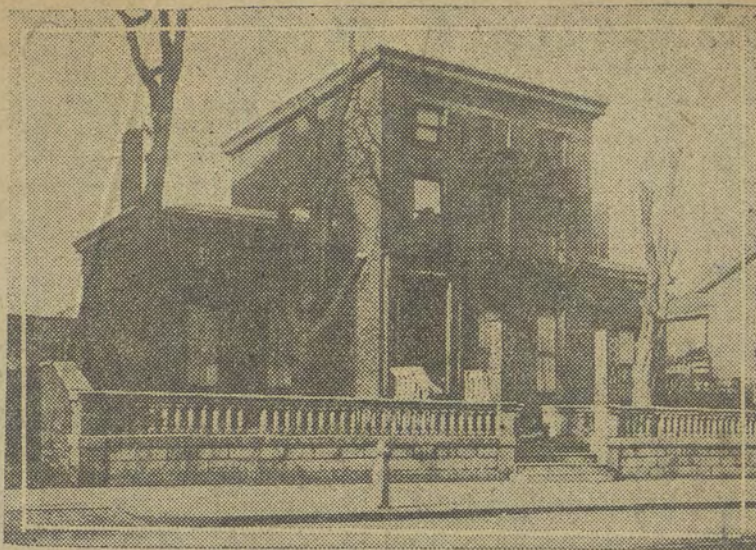
Sherwood Corning, son of William Corning, to whom the ownership of the house came some 25 years ago, was a connoisseur in many of the arts and though he spent little time at the St. Paul street home he brought there many treasures of paintings, marbles and books which overflowed his homes in Florence and Asbury Park. It was he, also, who brought from Italy the great vases of Carara marble which for years have ornamented the lawn of the house.

The last time the house was opened was on December 21, 1923, when the body of Sherwood Corning was brought home for burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery. What the future of the house will be it is difficult to predict, but it is safe to say that it will not be occupied again as a home, the property having a greater value for commercial purposes when it finally shall be sold.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

LEE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1827.



The house shown above was a familiar landmark in St. Paul street until a short time ago when it was razed to make way for a commercial enterprise. The building was erected in 1827 by Charles M. Lee on property which he bought from Samuel J. Andrews, the lot being strip to the south of the Andrews house which had been built 10 years before. It is said that Mr. Andrews devoted the money from the sale of the land to the building fund of St. Paul's Church in St. Paul street, the building now known as the Strand Theater.

The house, while its architectural lines were uncompromisingly stiff and unbeautiful, was very solidly built and its interior presented an attractive appearance, the ceilings being high and the doors and woodwork of hand-cut hard wood.

A striking feature of the place was the stone coping with its many spindles. This ornamentation is said to have been the means of losing the office of mayor for Mr. Lee, for the stones were cut by prison labor at Auburn and his opponent in the election arrayed the forces of labor against him on this score. The house was later the home of the Perrin family and, still later, became a rooming house. The fire-escapes along the front of the building were placed there following the use of the building for rooming purposes.

The house was occupied by members of the Lee family until 1857 when it was sold to Darius Perrin who lived there until his death on March 15, 1894, at the age of 90 years. Elizabeth C. Perrin continued to live in the house until 1907, after which the house was used as a room-

ing house. The fire-escapes along the front of the building, as seen in the cut, were added during this latter period.

At the time that the Woman's City Club was looking for a club house building that organization took an option on the Lee House, believing that it would fill the needs of the club and that its preservation as a historical landmark was desirable. The project was not carried through, however, the club finally choosing a building in Chestnut street.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

HILLS HOUSE PURE COLONIAL TYPE.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house shown above, which stands at 135 Plymouth avenue south, is now the home of Dr. E. Clayton Smith, but was built about 1827 by Isaac Hills on ground which he had purchased in 1825, the deed being recorded on February 16, 1826. Plymouth avenue south was then known as Sophia street. According to Mrs. Thomas Chester, a daughter of Isaac Hills, the house was begun in 1827 and her parents moved into it some time in 1828 from the house now occupied by Mr. Charles Pond at 133 Plymouth avenue south.

The house is frequently cited by Rochester architects as being the finest example of the pure colonial type in the city. Its front door is unusually beautiful. Winding stairs

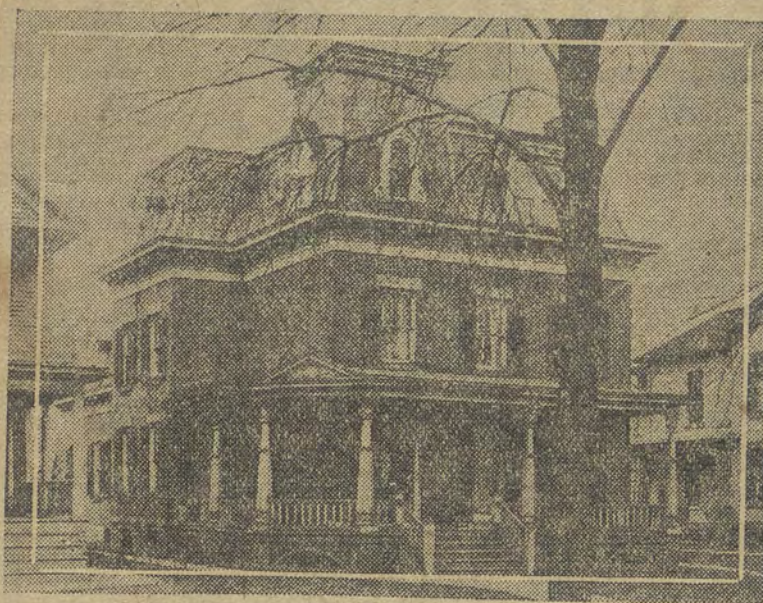
lead to the second floor through an archway, and at the turn there is a wall-niche. The solidity of the partitions and beams, the hand-wrought ironwork in graceful designs and the many fireplaces are further revelations of the period of the house. The garden is one of the beauty spots of the Third Ward and there are fruit trees still in bearing that were planted by Isaac Hills.

Mr. Hills, the original owner of the house was born in Lenox, Mass., on August 15, 1798, and was educated at Union College. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1824, beginning his practise in this city. He became the first recorder of the city and assisted in drawing the first City Charter. Upon the organization of the Rochester Savings Bank he became its first attorney.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

### BUTTON HOUSE LONG IN ONE FAMILY



The house at 97 Tremont street, which is shown above, has been owned and occupied for the past 60 years by Nelson L. Button and Nelson L. Button, jr. Other old families of this part of the "Ruffled Shirt Ward" have moved away and many of the buildings have been torn down or remodeled, but this house remains in appearance practically as it was when it was purchased in 1864 by Mr. Button, sr., from George P. Buell.

Nelson L. Button came to Rochester from Massachusetts in the early '60s and lived for a time in High street, now Caledonia avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Button had known Mr. and Mrs. Rufus A. Sibley in Massachusetts and Mrs. Button is said to have been the first customer of The Boston Store which Messrs. Sibley, Lindsay and Curr started in 1868 in the Marble block in Main street east.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Button were active in the affairs of Cornhill Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. Button being superintendent of the Sunday-school for 27 years and Mrs. Button organizing the first King's Daughters Society in Rochester from the young women of the church. The Button house was always open for the entertainment of visiting Methodist dignitaries and on one occasion the bishop was a guest there. Mr. and Mrs. Button were also well-known for their charities outside the church. In the '60s and '70s, the Poor Department of the city proved inadequate to cope with

the distress which was felt among the poorer population by reason of a period of financial panic and unemployment. During these years it was Mrs. Button's custom to pack baskets with food and clothing and drive to the homes of families of whose need she had been informed. Often, these people would be unaware of the name of their visitor.

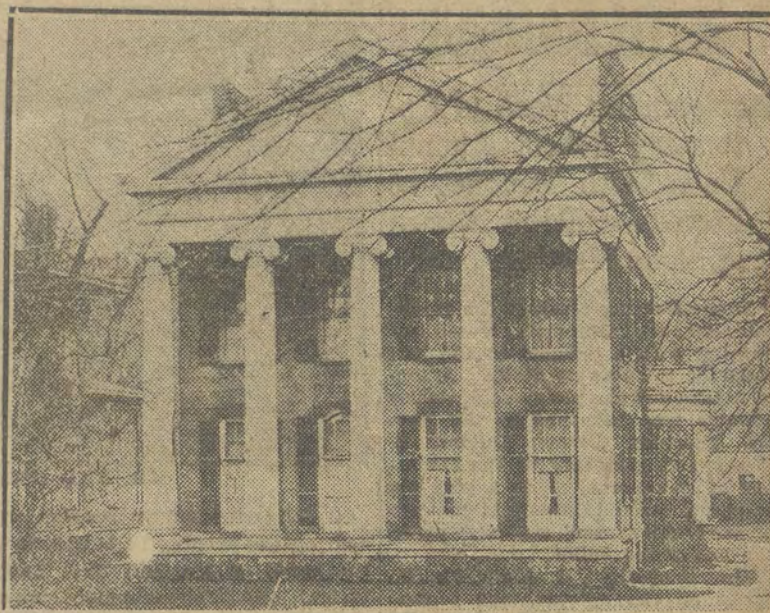
Mr. Button was the representative of the American Book Company in this part of the New York state and was connected with that company for over 40 years until his retirement at the age of 70 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Button died some years ago and the house is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson L. Button, jr., and their daughter.

The structure of the house is of the substantial type of the '50s of the last century. The kitchen has panels and wainscoating of black walnut and the doors and wainscoating of the living room are of solid rosewood. Mrs. Button has retained much of the fine old furniture of rosewood and walnut with which the house was originally furnished and the interior has a delightful old-time atmosphere despite the fact that modern improvements have been added. The house also has a large, light and roomy attic where much treasuretrove in the shape of old silk and cashmere shawls, quaint old bonnets and crinoline shirts are tucked away in old-fashioned sole-leather trunks.



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

MONTGOMERY HOUSE BUILT IN 1885.



(By Staff Photographer.)

The old Montgomery home at 160 Spring street, which was for some years occupied as headquarters by Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., and is now the home of Mrs. J. McCarthy, is one of the finest old homes in the Third ward, strikingly beautiful and dignified in appearance from whatever angle it is viewed and clustered about by many memories and traditions of the social life of the old "Ruffled Shirt ward."

According to information gathered by Kenneth Y. Alling of South Fitzhugh street, the house stands on parts of lots 1, 2 and 16, which were a portion of the original 100-acre lot first purchased by Messrs. Rochester, Carrol and Fitzhugh. The terms of Colonel Nathaniel Rochester's will directed that this land be sold for the benefit of his wife, Sophia, for whom the street now known as North and South Plymouth was once named. The property, therefore, was sold on January 20, 1832, to Harvey Montgomery, who, on March 23, 1835, sold it to Dr. Maltby Strong who erected the present house but never lived in it.

On October 27, 1838, Dr. Strong resold the house and land to Harvey Montgomery and in 1853 Dr. Harvey Fitzhugh Montgomery purchased it from his father. On August 3, 1910, the house, known to residents of the Third ward as "The Mansion House," was purchased from the estate of Dr. F. H. Montgomery by Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., which occupied it until 1920 when the present chapter

house at 11 Livingston park was purchased.

In writing of the Montgomery house at the time it became the headquarters of Irondequoit Chapter Mr. Alling spoke of the fact that the house had been the home of two real Daughters of the Revolution and of several descendants of Revolutionary patriots. He said:

"Nathaniel Rochester was a colonel in the American Revolutionary War. Harvey Montgomery was of Philadelphia Quaker stock but they were patriots and soldiers in the American Revolution. He married Mary Eleanor, daughter of Nathaniel Rochester, who died March 2, 1849. Her oldest daughter, Mary, was mistress of the house until 1858, when Dr. Harvey Fitzhugh Montgomery took possession. From Mary Eleanor Montgomery, the first mistress, to the last, Katherine Rochester Montgomery Osgood, all were

descendants of soldiers of the American Revolution. Two real daughters of the American Revolution, Mary Eleanor Rochester Montgomery and her daughter, Mary, and four generations of the family of Nathaniel Rochester resided in the old Mansion House. No other house in this city has had a record of one family of such distinction and honor occupying the same residence for 72 years continuously. This house, from its beginning, was always one of the chief centers of gaiety, social intercourse and civic progress, which adds greatly to its historical connection and interest to all classes of citizens of Rochester."



# OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

## FAY HOUSE LONG IN SAME FAMILY



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

Few houses built 66 years ago within a block and a half of Main street, almost in the heart of Rochester, have been the home of three generations of one family as has the old Fay mansion at 64 South Washington street, shown above. Representing the second and third generations are Stephen C. Fay and his son, Sumner D. Fay, both born in the house and now living there.

John Doane Fay, father of Stephen C. Fay, bought the land in 1858. The building of the house covered fully two years, as the work was not done by contract, and great care was taken to use only the best materials and to ensure permanency. Some exceptionally long, wide, clean boards are in the three-foot eaves. The platform of the front porch is formed of one very large stone, and unusually large stones are in the foundation walls which rest on the rock underlying the city. The structure is of brick which also serves as partitions, so the great cellar, with its 11-foot ceiling, has the same number of rooms as the first story.

The vestibule, tiled in black and white marble, opens into a hall whose main feature is a stairway with a heavy carved mahogany newel post and rail. The reception room, drawing-room, living-room and dining room have massive mantels of white Italian marble, as have for of the seven chambers. The fireplaces are let into five large chimneys. High, wide windows make the 14 rooms sunny and cheerful. Cornices and ornate centerpieces of plaster of Paris adorn many of the rooms, while the heavy wood-work and mahogany doors, 10 feet in height, are in keeping with the 12-foot ceilings. A few of the graceful bronze chandeliers still remain, others having been replaced by electric fixtures.

The pantries and some of the closets are larger than a modern kitchenette. The house was built before the building of the Hemlock water system, so the bathrooms and marble bowls in some of the

chambers were supplied with rain water pumped from an immense cistern to a tank in the rear attic. The front, or main attic, 40 feet square, is more than eight feet high at its lowest point and is lighted by six windows and a cupola having 12 windows.

The old, formal garden, laid out many years ago, took first prize in a garden contest in 1916 and has more than 100 varieties of flowers and shrubs. From this garden many others have been started.

John Doane Fay came to Rochester about 1843 from Fulton county, where he was born. He was the oldest son of John Fay, who was a member of the Sixteenth Congress and of the New York state Legislature. During Mr. Fay's service in the legislature came the discussions concerning the appropriations for constructing the "Grand Erie Canal" with which his son, John D. Fay, was to be connected for so many years. This connection brought John Fay to Rochester where he discharged the duties of resident engineer, division engineer and canal commissioner. During his connection with the canal it was widened, the locks at Lockport were changed, and the aqueduct in Rochester deepened.

On Mr. Fay's retirement from the office of canal commissioner his associates presented him with a solid silver tablet on which was engraved the expression of their appreciation of his efficiency, ability and courtesy.

During 1850-51 Mr. Fay was engaged with O. W. Childs at the head of a large surveying party sent out by Commodore Vanderbilt to make a survey for an inter-oceanic canal across Nicaragua in Central America, under the auspices of a New York company. Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Fay accompanied their husbands on the trip which was considered a hazardous undertaking, the country being little known at that time.

Mr. Fay made several important railroad surveys. He also was a member of the lumber firm of Fay

Hollister, whose stock was most entirely swept away in the "great flood" of 1865. Mr. Fay later conducted a coal business in a little building at 48 South Fitzhugh street, now occupied by Charles Bradshaw for the same business. This building was shown in the "Old Rochester Homes" series some time ago, having been used, finally, as an office by Dr. M. Hewes when it formed part of a house which stood at the north-west corner of South Fitzhugh and Spring street. The property on which this building stands recently sold by Stephen C. Fay and is one of the sites under consideration for the new city hall.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CHAPIN HOUSE BUILT IN 1832.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The W. W. Chapin house, at the northeast corner of Troup street and South Fitzhugh street, is one of the most attractive old homes in the Third ward because of the beauty of its entrances which are in the revival of the classic style of architecture which is to be found in many of the larger houses built in Rochester in the 1830s, and because of the added dignity given by the grounds on the Troup street side. The massive old elm in the grounds, whose branches extend far across Troup street, is said to have been a landmark for the Indian inhabitants of the Genesee country long before Rochester was thought of. This tree is not shown in the above picture. The vines on the Troup

street side of the house, which are nearly as old as the house itself, also add greatly to its beauty.

The house was built in 1832 for Edmund Lyon, a wool manufacturer, whose mills played a prominent part in the development of the commercial prosperity of Rochester in its early days. Following the death of Mr. Lyon the house became the property of his son, Edmund Lyon, jr., and in 1886 it was purchased by W. W. Chapin, Mrs. Chapin being a niece of Edmund Chapin.

The house was built facing Troup street, the South Fitzhugh street entrance having been added several years later. The north wing on Fitzhugh street is a recent addition made since Mr. Chapin became owner of the house.



T. 7/6/36.

## Slave-Day Landmark Gives Way to Progress

The substantial red brick building at 1933 East Avenue, once the home of William Clough Bloss who, in 1834, published the second abolition paper in the United States, "The Rights of Man," has been torn down to make way for another gasoline service station.

The house which, for the past 40 years, has been the home of Mrs. John Sheehan, was built in 1820 by Mr. Bloss, a pioneer of Brighton and was conducted by him as a tavern until 1826 when he became converted to the temperance cause and called a meeting at which he drained all his stock of liquor into the Erie Canal at the rear of the house.

Besides being a pioneer abolitionist, Mr. Bloss organized temperance societies in every town in Monroe County, promoted free school laws and, in 1838, publicly advocated the ballot for women. These and other facts are engraved on a tablet on the monument over his grave in the Brighton Cemetery just across the canal bed—now the subway line—from the house which many old residents of Brighton still speak of as the Bloss Tavern.

After moving from Brighton, in 1830, Mr. Bloss built a home in East Avenue on the site of the present Cutler building. This building, later moved to 636 Broadway, where it now stands, was an important station on



Once the home of William Clough Bloss, this historic red brick building at 1933 East Avenue has been torn down to make room for a gasoline station.

the "Underground Railway" over which escaping slaves found their way to Canada. It was Mr. Bloss' boast that he never

missed an opportunity of breaking the Fugitive Slave Law which he regarded as iniquitous. He died Apr. 18, 1863.



## Rotary Gives Sol Heumann Civic Award



SOL HEUMANN

Recognized as the Rochester Rotarian who made the "greatest contribution to the welfare and progress of the city" during 1936, Sol Heumann yesterday was the first to receive the "civic achievement award" of Rochester Rotary Club.

The award, said Leslie H. Jackson, chairman of the award committee, was a recognition of Heumann's work as president of the Community Chest, for his leadership in the JYMA, and for his "unselfish and general contributions to other civic movements."

Heumann, who is president of the Keller-Heumann-Thompson Company, clothing manufacturers, was in New York City yesterday on a business trip, but will be the honor guest at a later Rotary Club meeting.

In addition to being president of the Community Chest and the JYMA, Heumann is also a trustee of the Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Lincoln-Alliance Bank & Trust Company, a trustee of the East Side Savings Bank, Rochester Dental Dispensary, Mechanics Institute, Bureau of Municipal Research, and the Automobile Club of Rochester.



# Once There Were Music and Flowers—

By Jean Walrath

**B**LEAK and dark now, the big stone place in Troup Street that was the grandest home in Rochester in the past looks down on the business section, two streets below, awaiting a future.

It is nearly 30 years since the Kimball mansion was filled with the scent of locust blossoms, imported from some far-away place for the wedding of the only daughter in the family, the present Mrs. George C. Gordon of East Avenue.

About 50 years have passed since William C. Kimball and his bride, Laura Mitchell, moved into their new house, which seemed nothing short of a castle to the people roundabout. Over its teacups society was chatting about the Kimball's Italian and Empire rooms and their exquisite paintings that were later to hang in a specially built art gallery on the property.

Those days all came back to the Third Ward's old timers the other day when it was reported that the city of Rochester foreclosed on the property for unpaid taxes.

Except for the caretaker's family, no one has lived there since Mr. Kimball died in 1922. The smaller house adjoining the property on the East, built for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon as a wedding gift, has been turned into a sanatorium.

It was the Gay 90s era when William Kimball, tobacco and cigaret manufacturer and a lover of art, sent for Louis Tiffany of New York to design his pala-

tial Swiss chalet. It was to go up on the imposing site at Troup and Clarissa Streets where William Brewster's red brick house with cupola top had stood.

The Kimballs' home was not meant to be "showy" like many of the grander homes built at the time. On the other hand, no expense was to be spared. The collection of paintings, not famous, was still pronounced by critics as "very fine." So it was with its pipe organ, the gold crested dishes that were designed to match patterns on the ceiling in the dining room and the Kimball's coaches and horses. Superlatives were confined to the greenhouse a few blocks away, where Mr. Kimball raised undoubtedly the finest collection of orchids in the world, according to horticulturists. The public was admitted to see them on certain days of the week.

The Kimballs were not considered "gay," nor were they particularly active in the doings of Rochester's society, whose members were beginning to move into East Avenue about the time the Kimballs built their house. Their mutual interest in art absorbed them. Their home was never identified at a stopping place for notables who visited the city, but it was a liveable place. Occasionally it was opened for organ recitals, played by the late Harold C. Kimball, son of William Kimball by his first marriage.

Mrs. Kimball, who one of her friends referred to as "an all-around kind lady," had a particularly keen artistic sense, if not the passion for collecting fine things that her husband had. So sensitive was she to her surroundings that she would

not use colored dishes on her tea table lest they clash in tone with the gowns of some of her guests. She used white china decorated with gold.

One morning Mrs. Kimball paused in her own garden to ponder over the long discussed question of where the art gallery should be built on the grounds. Appraising the sweep of the grounds, she suddenly decided on the exact spot and for reasons best known by architects and artists her choice set her down henceforth as a woman of unerring judgment in things artistic.

It was Mr. Kimball who assembled the paintings with the held of his brothe-in-law, the late Guernsey Mitchell, noted sculptor, whose "Flying Mercury" on the top of the City Hall Annex is one of the city's landmarks. The annex building was then Mr. Kimball's tobacco factory.

Among some of the more noteworthy canvases in the Kimball gallery was a Joe Domingo called "The Game of Cards," the beautiful picture "The Sower" by H. La Rolle, the large painting "The Village Celebrates" by Ludwig Knaus, Adolph Schreyer's "The Sheik and His Followers," which is in the permanent collection of Memorial Art Gallery, and "In the Marshes Collecting the Herd," a picture by the late Emile Van Marcke, a noted French artist who died 50 years ago.

Nearly 100 others were in that collection, which was sold in 1924. Mrs. Gordon possesses some of them and part of them were bought by the Museum of American Art in New York.

It was in the gallery that Cecelia Kim-



# -Now Only Silence—at Old Kimball Home

ball Gordon's wedding took place. An additional dining room was built expressly for the event. The walls of the new room were covered with wire netting into which locust blossoms were fastened—a solid, fragrant white mass. The bride in white stood before walls of red Pompein plush against which pictures were hung. The ceiling was richly designed in plaster in tints of pale fawn, overlaid with gold. Oriental rugs covered the floor.

Midway up the wall in the gallery hung the musicians' gallery, exquisitely carved of wood. That gallery was part of the second floor of an annex to the art room that housed Mr. Kimball's collections of china and pottery and a cabinet containing 1,200 antique pepper boxes.

The master of this sumptuous house died before his daughter's wedding. He was stricken at Virginia Beach Mar. 26, 1895, when he was 58 years old. As a

business man he was a leader in the community. His factory was employing 1,200 workers as early as 1880, six years after he became head of the firm. He was a director of the Rochester Post Express, published by his brother-in-law, the late Frank B. Mitchell, and his name appeared on the trustees' lists of several commercial institutions. He was a sportsman, a clubman and a philanthropist and before he became an industrialist he was a master mechanic in the United States Navy.

He had come to Rochester from Concord, N. H. He was born in the New England town of Bocaven, now Penacook. His first wife was Marion Keeler, daughter of former Mayor Rufus Keeler.

When the second Mrs. Kimball died 13 years ago she left an estate said to exceed \$1,000,000. Mrs. Gordon received all the real estate left by her mother, the Kimball's blooded horses, a summer home in Nantucket and an interest in the Post Express Printing Company.

The mansion passed from Mrs. Kimball's hands to the late Rose Lutz, a Rochester investor who paid more than \$135,000 for it. There was talk of converting it into an American Legion Home and it has also been proposed that it be converted into a municipal museum.

At present its fate hangs in the balance, but because Troup Street is not what it was in the heyday of the "Ruffle-shirt Ward" it is inconceivable that the Kimball house ever will be some family's home again.



As it was when the old Third was the "Ruffled Shirt Ward," the old Kimball mansion at Clarissa and Troup Streets, still eloquent in a new, modern era it has outlived



# Kimball Mansion Walls Fall to Make Way for Parking

Dec. 10/11/48

The William S. Kimball mansion, a Rochester landmark since 1882, neared oblivion yesterday.

For more than a month, a wrecking crew has swarmed over the structure, dismantling the onetime showplace of the Third Ward. Yesterday a powerful, orange-colored crane lumbered into the yard at Troup and Clarissa Sts. to complete the demolition.

## Three-Foot Walls

With a 1,200-pound ball, shaped like a huge drop of water, swinging from the derrick's cable, the three-foot thick walls of the famed Kimball Art Gallery smashed to the ground. Its use had been preceded by ten crowbar-wielding wreckers, who had pried up the floors, woodwork, and the roof to make way for the final touches.

By tomorrow, little will be left of the 30-room "castle." Next week, an excavation crew will take over to haul out an estimated 15,000 cubic yards of dirt and debris in a gigantic leveling operation. By the middle of November, a smoothly-paved parking lot will await the cars of Rochester Institute of Technology faculty and students.

## Seven-Day Week

The wrecking job was handled by the Benvenuto Brothers Inc., under contract to John B. Pike & Son. The four brothers and their six workers labored seven days a week from sun-up to sun-down to finish the task.

Speaking for the firm, Jim Benvenuto, one of the job's bosses, said "it was the toughest piece of work we've ever tackled." And it isn't too hard to believe. Workers had to cut through steel burglar-proof doors, rip out tough mahogany and cherry woodwork, and generally pull down a home built to withstand centuries of wear.



Chimney and art gallery of old Kimball Mansion crumbled yesterday and left city with one less landmark of Third Ward elegance as 1,200-lb. ball swung on derrick, connected.

Under standard wrecking procedure, the inside furnishings were first removed. Then, the roof was torn off, followed by the uprooting of three floors. After that, it was a case of knocking down all the walls that could be humanly knocked down. The crane was only put into operation yesterday.



# The Unnoticed Paths We Walk

Strange Things, Streets - - -  
We Travel Them Daily with  
Never a Thought of Their  
Time-Tarnished Great Past

By Richard T. Jameson

**I**N our increasingly urban civilization the street has become something indispensable; and the vast networks of streets form, as one might say, the nervous system of our daily lives. And as streets have stretched out their tentacles into the woods and meadowlands, as they have competed with one another for popularity, as they have fought bitter battles among themselves—crossing and overlapping each other, novelists and poets have found romance in their silent, ancient, and often mighty, lives.

But in our own neighborhood, or in our own city, we cross the

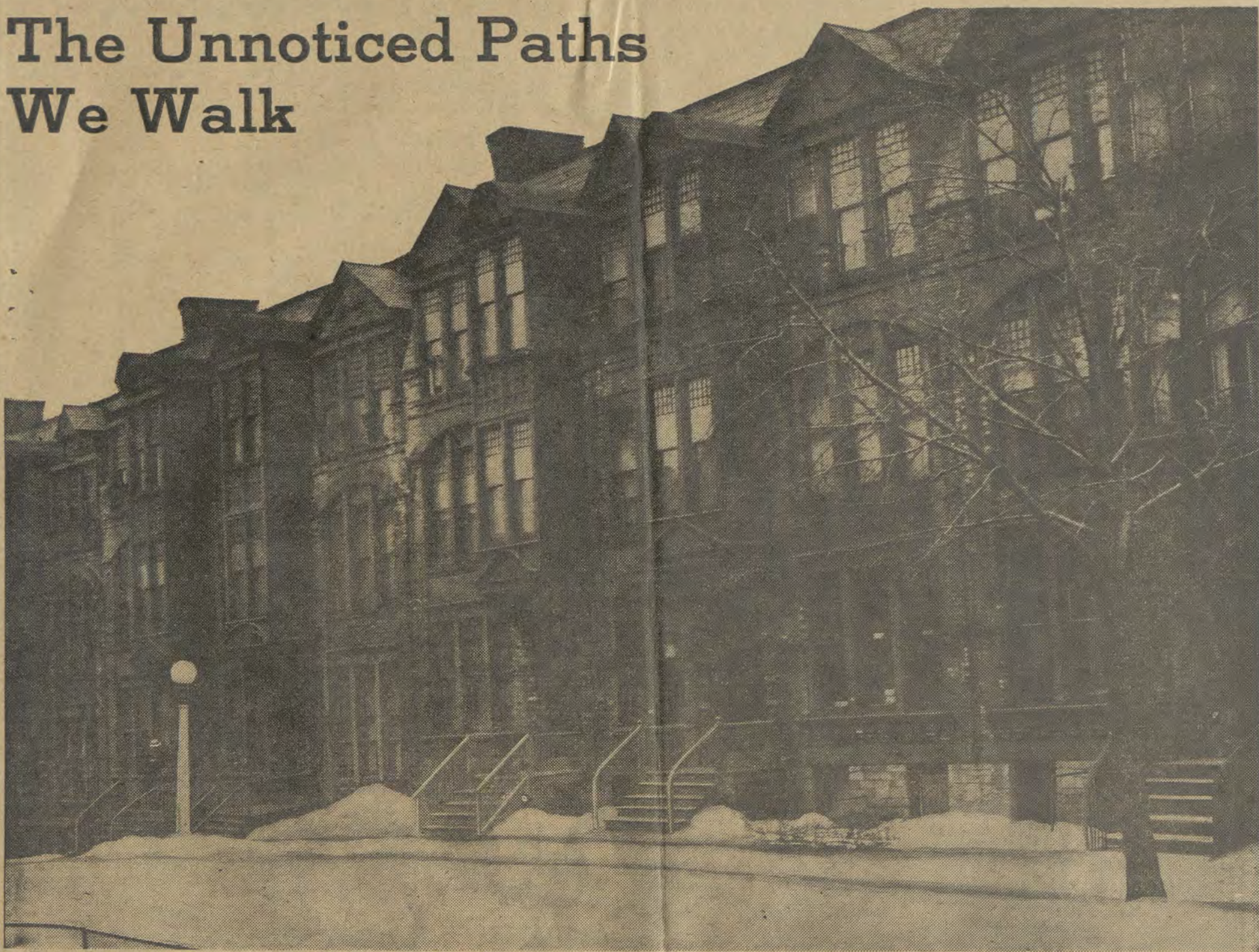
pavements and rush along the thoroughfares, quite unaware of the breathing of that prone colossus, the street, his fingers and toes rooted deep in the dust of crumbled monuments quick with the hidden warmth of partly vanished memories.

We never think of our streets in this way; perhaps a faint feeling sweeps us when a famous London road is altered or when some sturdy Roman paving is cleared of century-old scraps and potsherds cast upon it by the unthinking humble of the Eternal City.

(Continued on Page Two)



# The Unnoticed Paths We Walk



You've passed by this block of buildings probably dozens of times—but now that it is photographed

as a single unit, where is it? . . . no idea? . . . the south side of Grove Place. It is but one of many landmarks

unnoticed from day to day but rich in antiquity and indelibly linked with romantic episodes of the past.

(Continued from Page One)

But Rochester has its streets like these, not renowned, perhaps, but rich in picturesque life. And if, with an inquiring mind, we scrape away the dust, and warts, and blemishes laid on old buildings by the horny hand of Time and the monster of Popular Neglect, we may often discover in unpretentious places antiques of grace and history.

If the curious pedestrian wanders about the brick forest overlooked by the serenity of the Eastman Theater, he may stumble upon a little street tucked away just beyond the roar of Main Street, in the shadow of the YMCA. It is a short, narrow roadway, with suspicions of cobble in its pavement, which bows up in the middle of its stretch, like the back of a fearful cat.

You amble down it—if you walked, you'd be out of the place before you knew it. You would ignore the YMCA's mustard mass of bilious brick; on the street's north side you would see some ancient houses looking down their noses with quaint and dusty dignity; facing these is a series of attached houses embellished with the best in carved brick, Jacobean balconies, and quaint grotesquerie that the Victorian mind was capable of conceiving and executing.

Softening and somewhat mellowing it all are a curtain of several trees and a generous blanket of that carbon produced so ably by any city's busy center.

We have left you ambling down the southside walk, gazing across the street at the old houses and now and again considering at your side the plastic wonders created by an architect fed from birth on Tennyson and Scott. If you yourself are a reader, you would glance at one of the doorways near at hand with their steps leading up from the sidewalk, and you would more than half expect to see Balzac step out, dressed in his white monk's robe, and go slapping down the flagstones in his pair of bedroom slippers.

Or, if the French are too foreign for you, you would have expectations of another sort. This time the door would open suddenly, and a top hat, followed by a man, would rush forth, taking

the steps in one bound. You would recognize him, when the hat was on one ear again and a jaunty cane had appeared from somewhere, as Micawber. You would glimpse another rakish topper swaggering by across the street. Sure, that's Dick Swiveller looking for the Marchioness. And there's Mrs. Gummidge peering from behind a curtain. And there is another young man, who has just appeared out of nowhere, coming to meet us and wearing a bright yellow vest: Is that Copperfield or Dickens himself?

The street is empty again, and we are giving our imaginations a rest. It is a strange, somewhat lovable street. The north side is one of dignity and early American atmosphere, with its old houses, one of them set quite far back among trees and a garden.

The south side, a bank of old red brick, with carved wood embracing the windows, flights of steps, and little porches and all the quaintness of Victorian fantasy, is Dickensian, Balzacian, book-like. It would fit into a drawing by Phiz, Cruikshank, or Tony Johannot.

Such, indeed, is this little island of past things, Grove Place.

Grove Place is a monument to a family, and all its houses have been castles and dependencies of that family. But Change and Time, that wind and tide constantly molding the face of human society, have whirled and washed about that family, too, and today outsiders are living in former strongholds. But today, though reduced in numbers, family members still look across the street at each other.

In 1828 Josiah Bissell Jr. built

a sturdy house where the YMCA now stands. It passed from his hands to Dr. Gibbs, after whom Gibbs Street is named. And from Dr. Gibbs it went to Judge Samuel Lee Selden, who in turn sold the house to Dr. Levi Ward and his son. And it was the Wards and the Seldens who built up the great family establishment on what is now Grove Place and its surroundings. In those old days their lands were out in the country and were bounded by the lines of the present Main, Gibbs, Reilly and Scio streets. The original house and its surrounding property were known as The Grove, and during the place's younger years Indians from the Buffalo reservation wandered about in the surrounding fields and meadows, and herds of cattle used to roam through the woods and lanes.

At that time, too, Main Street East was known as Summit Street and was not yet incorporated with Main Street. In the wet times of the year it became a quagmire.

As the Ward and Selden families grew and increased, the children built homes for themselves and their families, but always on the land where they had spent their childhood. At length these groups built or owned all the houses on the north side of the street, their lands and barns extending behind them, while on the south side the row of attached houses had stood since 1882, all interconnected, being family houses.

At this time Grove Place had been cut through the grounds, but for many years it remained a private lane, kept so by gates at its ends.

It is interesting to reflect upon some of the members of such a clan, what they did, and how they kept their clan together on family property until the city moved in upon their precincts.

Old Dr. Levi Ward received in 1812 the authority to transport the weekly mail from Caledonia to Charlotte. He was so successful in his work that he was given authority to establish postoffices in almost all the country between Canandaigua and the Niagara River. He was a founder of the Rochester Savings Bank. He was a pioneer and a patriarch, and family photographs show that after him came other firm-mouthed patriarchs, and sweet but equally firm-mouthed women.

It can be seen, though some are more interesting than others, that every street has a personality and a life of its own, and that life disappears, personality vanishes, only when masons and carpenters build where the breathing pavement has lain. A street is not merely a thing of asphalt or cement, of brick or steel; for the wheels and the feet that rub its giant, patient back, and the building along its sides all infuse it with a life which stays on and on till picks and shovels carve away its bones and builders lay foundations where life had once streamed over.



## OLD ROCHESTER HOMES

CHURCHILL HOUSE BUILT IN 1848.



—Photo by Times-Union Staff Photographer.

The house at 143 Plymouth avenue, now owned by Attorney George P. Decker, was built in 1848 by William Churchill, who was also its architect. Mr. Churchill was a mason by trade, and much of the work was done with his own hands, the construction being unusually substantial. Mr. Churchill did not quite emulate his friend, Amos Bronson, who, in building the house on the opposite corner, completed his cellar foundation and then allowed it to stand for a full year in order that it might settle before the superstructure was placed upon it; but the construction of the Churchill house

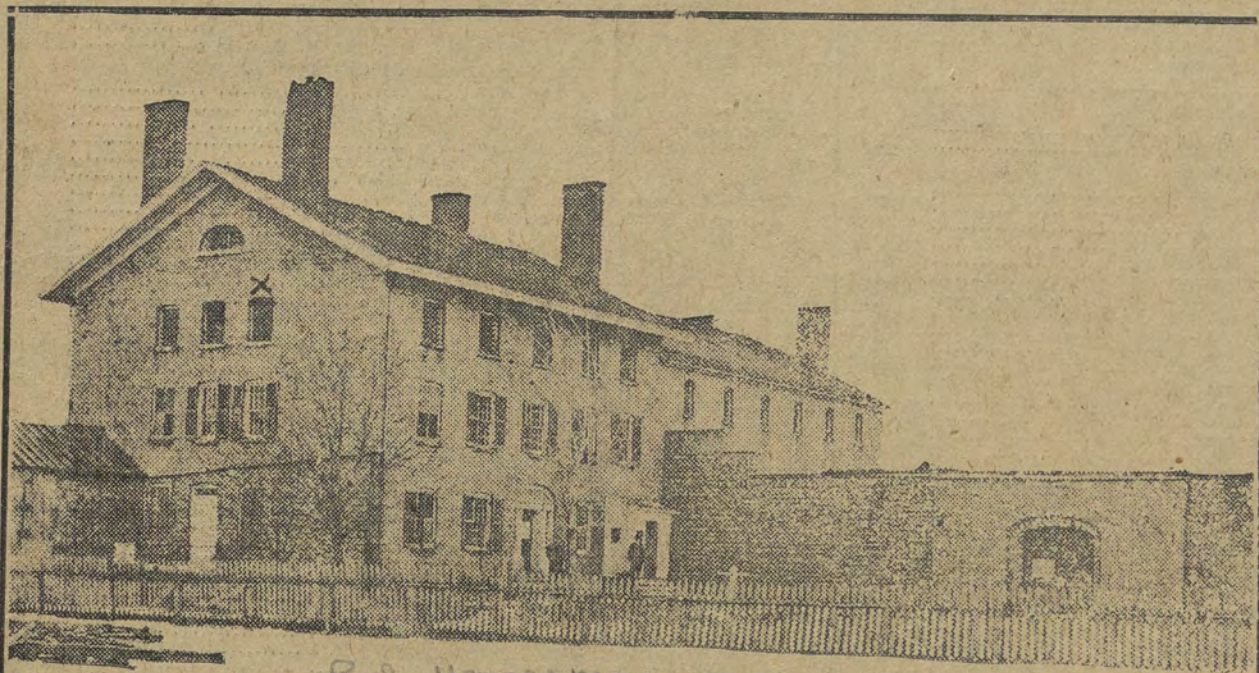
took 12 months, and every part of the construction was executed with the greatest care, only the best of seasoned lumber being used.

William Churchill was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1808, and came to Rochester in 1828. He assisted in the building of many of the fine old houses of the Third ward, notably that for Thomas Hart Rochester, which still stands at the southeast corner of South Washington and Spring streets.

After a few years, Mr. Churchill engaged in the lumber business with George Hollister. This business was very successful and Mr. Churchill became prominent and influential in the affairs of the rapidly growing



*Old Blue Eagle Jail That Took  
Its Name from Famous Clown's Poem*



*Rail. Herald May 24, 1915.*



# Grandeur of Greece

... T. U. 31937 ...

Classic Landmark Leases New Life



Here are shown the classic Greek pillars, Ionic style, on the 102-year-old home at 123 South Fitzhugh Street.

## Century-Old Home Saved From Wrecking Crew

No. 123 South Fitzhugh Street, the 102-year-old Benjamin Campbell house, is to come into its own again.

Bleak and untenanted, it stands forlorn at Troup and Fitzhugh streets, its classic Greek pillars dulled by time, a sharp contrast to the modern brick apartment house next door.

But hammers will ring and painters and masons will enter and get to work. And the old house, one of Rochester's most distinctive landmarks, will shine anew.

Renovation of the towering brick structure will be a step in a movement by a group of citizens to preserve remnants of the dignity of an older Rochester.

Impetus to the movement is a statement signed by Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior, for the Historical American Buildings Survey in 1934. The statement described the Campbell House as follows:

"Possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest . . . worthy of most careful preservation. To this end a record of its appearance and condition has been made and deposited for permanent reference in the Library of Congress."

Title to the century-old house has been acquired by a group headed by Miss H. C. Ellwanger of 625 Mt. Hope Avenue, through the Howe-Morgan Company, real estate brokers. Neither the purchaser nor the previous owner, Miss Mary Oliver, divulged the sale price. The property is assessed for \$15,000.

### Exemplifies Greek Revival

The group headed by Miss Ellwanger, which has yet to name itself, is similar to the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

In addition to being a well-known landmark the Campbell or Whittlesey house, as it is perhaps better known, is described by architects as one of the few extant perfect examples of Greek Revival architecture.

Tall and long, the house is decorated on the Troup Street front by graceful pillars crowned by

Ionic capitals. Main entrance is on South Fitzhugh Street.

When completely restored the house will be furnished in French Empire period furniture, much of which will be donated by persons with an interest in landmark preservation. Mrs. George B. Selden is business agent for the new organization, which plans to open the house to the public.

Construction of the old building was begun in 1835 by Benjamin Campbell, merchant miller, and completed in 1836. The architect was believed to have been either Campbell's father or Hugh Hastings of Hartford, Conn.

### Bought by Thomas Rochester

\* Second owner was Thomas Rochester, a milling magnate and son of Nathaniel Rochester. Rochester bought the property at auction in 1842 and 10 years later sold it to Ann Whittlesey. It has since remained in the Whittlesey family. Miss Mary Oliver's mother was a Whittlesey.

Most celebrated owner of the house was Frederick Whittlesey, who began a career in 1822 in the course of which he was treasurer of Monroe County, member of Congress, vicechancellor of New York State and judge of the Supreme Court of New York State.

The house for many years was the scene of much social life.

In the spacious cellar, amateur dramatics held sway, midway in the last century, according to Mrs. M. B. Alling of 122 South Fitzhugh Street, who in her 90 years has seen the building in its "greatest years."



# Taintor Residence in East Avon Holds Memories of Post-Revolution Days When It Was Popular Inn Frequented by Western New York Stage Coach Travelers, Many of Them Sullivan's Veterans

By C. H. 8/36.

Sturdy House, Built in 1812, Now Occupied By Author and Kin—Has Architect Lures

By MARGARET WILLSEA

Many years ago, before Rochester existed, there was in East Avon an inn where stage coaches stopped several times a day in their journey between New England and Buffalo. It is said that as many as a thousand travelers a day sometimes passed through the village, for it was at the time when farms were being given to the soldiers of Sullivan's army. Many of the travelers availed themselves of the hospitality offered by the proprietor of what is now known as the Taintor House, residence of Miss S. Augusta Taintor, her sister, Mrs. William James Sly and Doctor Sly.

Miss Taintor spends her winters in New York, where she is a teacher, lecturer, and author.

Doctor Sly, a retired Baptist minister, himself is an author, and professor of religious education well known throughout the United States.

In an article written by George Fulton Jr., for the Architectural Forum of October, 1926, it is stated that the house was built in 1812 by one Joseph Pearson, who had emigrated from Eastern to Western New York with seven of his brothers.

The house is one of three buildings which these pioneers erected on the village square, the others being a brick tavern directly opposite, now known as the White Horse Tavern, and a brick church across the street, still standing with few alterations.

Pearson was the second white man to possess the property, which in 1860 came into the possession of Dr. Solomon Taintor, who had married Mr. Pearson's grand-daughter. It is to him that its present excellent condition must be attributed.

The farm has since dwindled to an acre of pleasant, shaded lawns and gardens, and a row of graceful elms that line the highway for about a mile.

The frame of the house is of rough-hewn logs, with clapboard exterior. Foundations and walls are of stone, the chimneys of brick. The timbers were cut from the farm of the pioneers, the stone drawn from the fields, and brick came from a kiln on the banks of the Genesee.

There are the usual one-story extensions at the rear, comprising a kitchen, toolroom, woodshed and carriage room, which add vastly to the charm of the place.

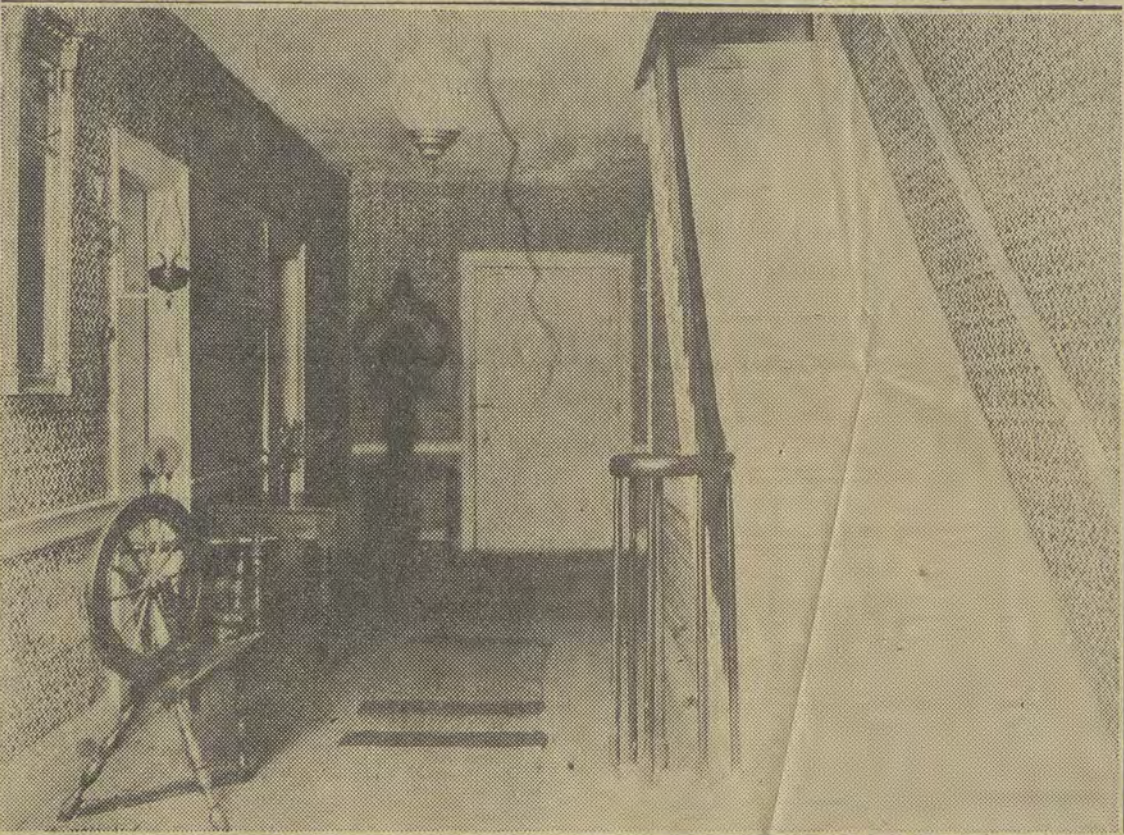
In the '70s, a hood with scroll-sawed brackets was added over the front entrance, but beneath it a refined moulded work shows plainly. The only major reconstruction is that of the east dining room where a vault has been built, in which to store money, no doubt, before the days of banks. This is large enough to hold several persons standing upright.

The once large kitchen with its hearth and brick ovens, is still clearly traceable in the northwestern room and cellar.

The fireplaces, mantels and



The Taintor House in East Avon was famous as a fine inn during old stagecoach days



The original hallway which is pictured here has been left undisturbed. Among its attractive features are a solid mahogany handrail and a number of antiques

stairs with their mahogany rail, have real merit. The china cupboard in the dining room is distinctive, having a pair of convex doors not often found, and shelves edged in a cloverleaf pattern.

A handsome bureau desk of crotch mahogany stands in this room, an heirloom from the

days when Mr. Pearson used it in his smartly appointed inn.

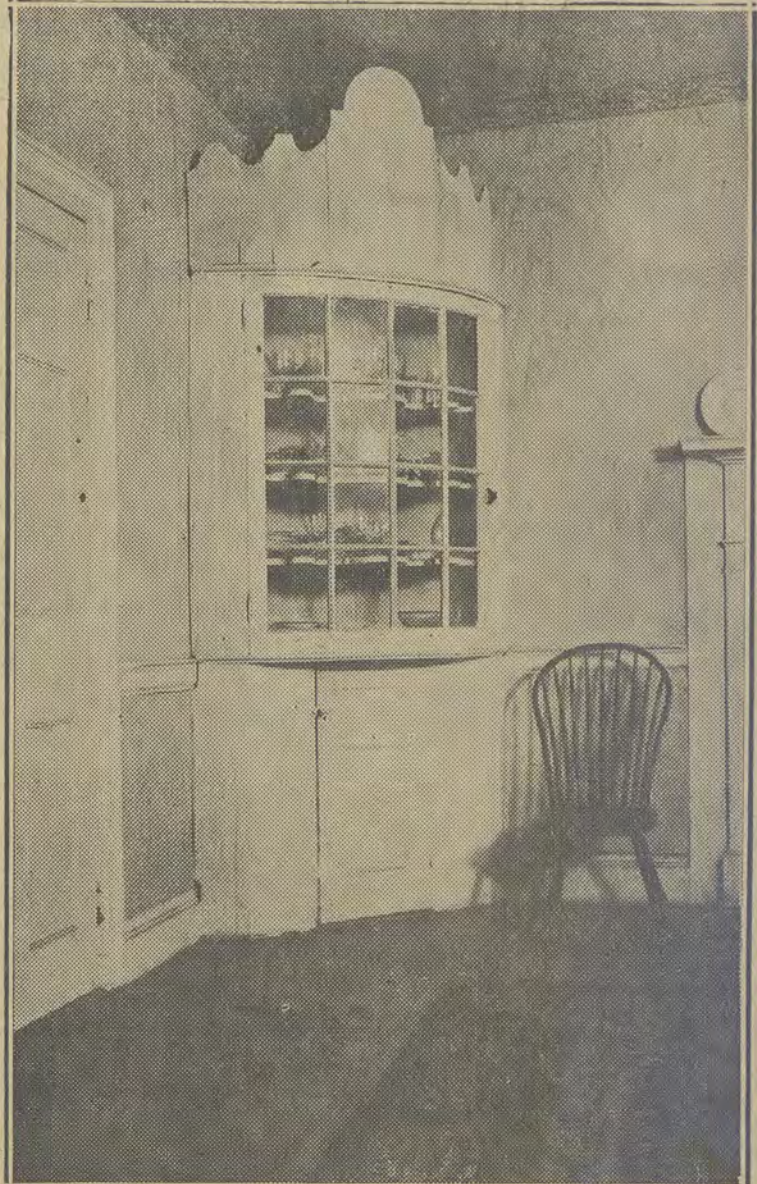
The glory of this home is its front parlor, with its great fireplace, wide panels beneath the windows, chair rail, and best of all, the painted floor. This was the public room, used for the entertainment of travelers. A broad sunburst pattern, painted

in oils upon a floor of wide pine planks, the color graded in tone in a monochromatic scheme, though now covered by a large rug, must have been a spectacular and distinctive detail of its day.

Among other antique treasures here are a dainty Hepplewhite stand, and a tip-top table made by Mr. Pearson.

Of technical interest is the fact that the original drawings of the house are on file in the Congressional Library, for the use of architects, a group of whom made recent surveys of several outstanding homesteads within a radius of Rochester.

No drawings, however, can recapture the romance of the Taintor gardens, where last week several clumps of violets braved the early snow.



Corner cupboard in dining room, features unusual doors of convex glass, and shelves with dainty cloverleaf edge



SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1939

## Pioneer's Descendant Buys Home in Family 100 Years

North Bloomfield—For more than a century the old Alexander Martin homestead, a landmark of the early days of North Bloomfield, has been continuously occupied by succeeding generations of the Martin family.

Located on a side road, overlooking Honeoye Creek, and a short distance from the main highway, the substantial brick and frame farmhouse to which 160 acres of land are attached has been purchased by Richard Martin, a great-grandnephew of the original owner.

The former rectangular brick structure to which a spacious frame rear wing was added later, was purchased by Alexander Martin in 1827 from the builder, Eldrick Smith, a founder of Smith Town, as the village of North Bloomfield was first known.

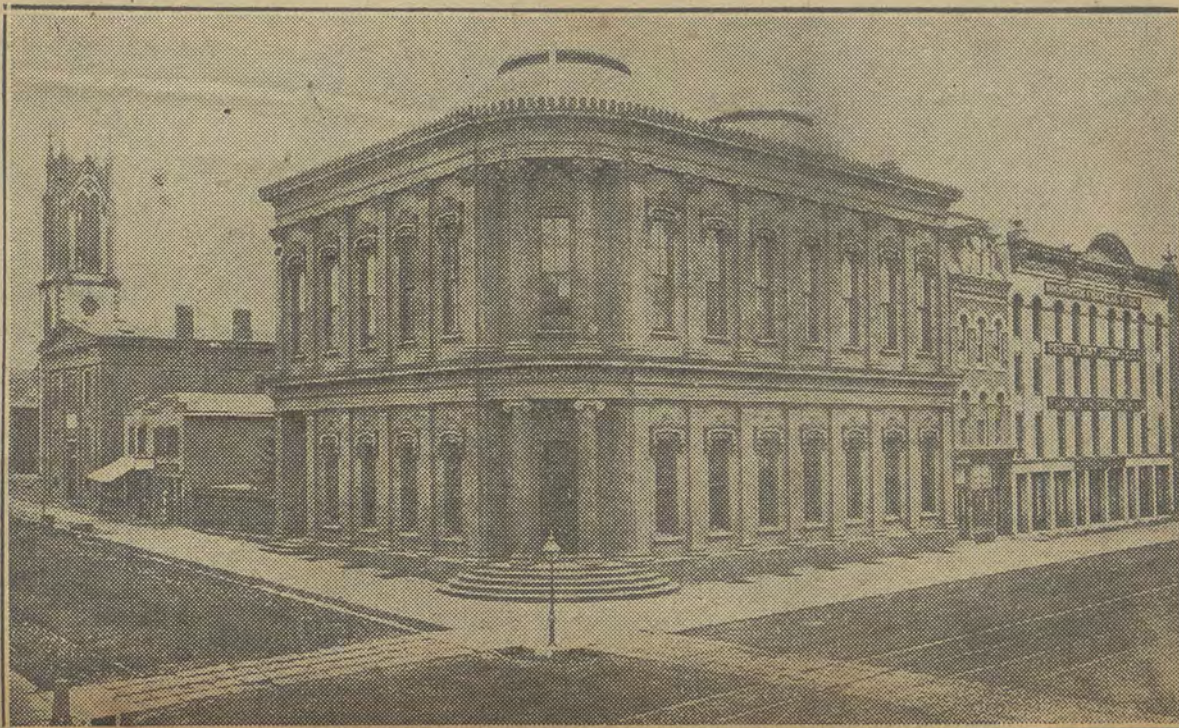
The Martin family has been associated with the history of North Bloomfield since its earliest days, the pioneer Stephen Martin having arrived by oxcart in the 1790's. He

located near the creek bank where he operated one of the first mills of the region.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin, most recent owners of the homestead, held a family gathering recently attended by descendants of Alexander Martin, with nine of his grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren present.



# St. Luke's Has Seen Many Changes Among Neighbors In Past Century



St. Luke's Church and neighboring buildings as they looked in 1860.

The picture shown above reveals some of the changes which Old St. Luke's Church has seen go on about it during the years in which it has gone quietly about its business on the spot where its cornerstone was laid on May 11, 1824.

The steeple of St. Luke's is to be seen at the extreme left of the picture and next to it is the building of the first public high school on the site of the present Municipal building. This site was given for school purposes by Messrs. FitzSimons, Carroll and Rochester, and the first building erected there was a one-story structure with desks on three sides of the walls with a huge fireplace occupying the fourth wall. The seats were oak slabs with legs driven

into auger holes made in the rounded bark side, and other school equipment was equally primitive. This building was succeeded by a two-story building of rough-cast which was known as School 1, and which old residents declare was totally unfit for school purposes. Yet this building was taken over for use as the first public high school in 1857, 216 pupils appearing for the first entrance examination. A fire which partially wrecked the building caused the pupils to be sent to the old United Presbyterian Church building in Allen street, while repairs were made. The building was then continued in use until the present building on the site was authorized in 1872.

The principal of the first high school was C. R. Pomeroy and his staff included Edward Webster, Fred G. Surbridge, Mrs. Mary J. Pomeroy, Emma M. Moore and Susan E. Butts. Mr. Pomeroy was succeeded by Professor Webster who continued as principal until 1864 when he was succeeded by Dr. N. W. Benedict.

In 1872 the city was authorized to purchase the lot north of the high school building which was occupied by the shops seen in the above picture. One of these shops dispensed oysters and ice cream and was much patronized by the pupils of the high school, while the other was occupied by a barber who did a nice trade in trimming the hair and whiskers of the male members of the faculty.

Until 1857, the site west of the corner of South Fitzhugh street and what is now Main street west, was occupied by low, straggling buildings

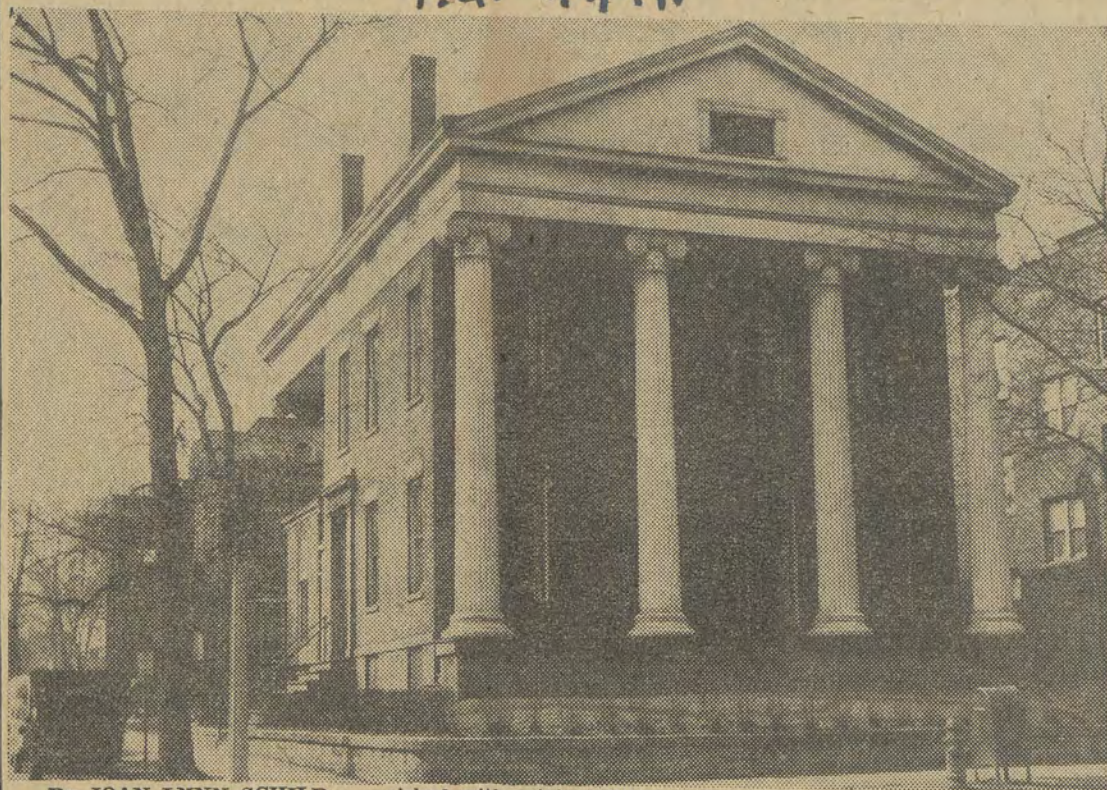
known for many years as "Chicken Row," the sheds being used as a poultry market. At the corner was a shop where Jesse Jackson conducted a bakery and sold "sweets" to the pupils at School 1. Jackson won fame as a baker of elaborate wedding cakes and for many years no Rochester bride of any social pretensions felt that her wedding could be a complete success unless the bridal table bore one of Jackson's towering concoctions of almond paste and spun sugar icing. No less popular were the delectable "sour balls" and "brandy balls" displayed in the window of the Jackson shop to tempt the palate of the youths of the neighborhood. There is many a solid business man and dignified matron, today, who remember with guilty glee occasions on which the tempting wares of Jackson's window drew from small pockets and purses pennies which had been dedicated to the needs of the heathen or the extension of the work of the County Bible Society, so that small tongues licked lips reminisciently when the collection plate went around in Old St. Luke's or the Central or Brick churches.

In 1853 "Chicken Row" was sold under the hammer by Edwin Scrantom, auctioneer, who had advertised the property with the couplet: "Chicken Row has got to go." It was bought in by the Rochester Savings Bank directors and on the same night, March 31, 1853, the entire row of buildings was destroyed by fire. The bank building shown above was erected in 1857. The third story, which present-day Rochesterians know, was added in 1877.



# Historic House Saved from Wreckers

T.U. 4/7/49.



By JOAN LYNN SCHILD

*Times-Union Antiques Columnist*

NO. 123 Fitzhugh St. S., the 115-year-old Campbell-Whittlesey House, has been saved from the wrecking crew for the second time.

That was revealed today following a recent meeting of the City Planning Commission and State Engineers.

Because of a jog in Fitzhugh St. S. where Troup St. crosses, the house stood directly in the path of the inner loop of the State Thruway. Plans had called for the Howell-Troup St. bridge, which is to descend to street level at Fitzhugh St., to cut off the Greek colonial portico of the house.

When the historical and architectural importance of the house was pointed out to the commission by Dr. Carl K. Hersey, president of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York, the matter was reconsidered and plans changed to bypass the house.

## In U. S. Archives

One of the most notable among few extant examples of Greek revival architecture in America, the house was measured and drawn in 1934 by the Historic Buildings Survey of the U. S. Department of the Interior. It was designated as "possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest and most worthy of careful preservation for the benefit of future generations." A record of its present appearance was made and deposited in the Library of Congress.

The house was built in 1835-6 by Benjamin Campbell, a prosperous merchant and miller when Rochester, known as the Flour City, was in boom period of expansion spurred by the widened market which the Erie Canal afforded its mills.

## Bought by Rochester Son

Late in 1841, the grain market collapsed and the miller was forced into bankruptcy. The house was then acquired by Thomas Rochester, son of Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city.

In 1852 it passed to the ownership of the Whittlesey family, who retained it until 1937 when it was rescued from the auctioneer's hammer by the Landmarks Society.

Its most distinguished occupant was Frederick Whittlesey, treasurer of Monroe County, member of Congress, vicechancellor of the New York State Court of Chancery and a justice of the Supreme Court of the State.

Situated in the old Third Ward, the mansion was long a center of the social and cultural life of early Rochester.

## Had View of River

Built of red brick, with white trim, the house belongs to the temple type of architecture, with a dignified Ionic portico extending across the front.

The main entrance is in Fitzhugh St. S., where, in 1836, it afforded a commanding view of the Genesee River.

Through the efforts of the Landmarks Society, it has been fully restored and appropriately furnished with original fittings of its period and it effectively perpetuates the era of culture and prosperity of Rochester that followed the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

The house is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursday, 10 to 12 and 2 to 5 p. m., and Sundays, 2 to 5.



## 'The Castle,' Relic Of Past Days



The house at 860 St. Paul Street has been in the possession of the Corning family since 1878. Yesterday, Miss Anna Corning, the last member of the family, died at General Hospital, aged 83, and it is probable that the old house with its wealth of art objects collected by the late Sherwood Corning and untouched for many years will come upon the market.

## Old Corning Mansion, Treasure House Of Art, Expected To Be Sold

By AMY H. CROUGHTON

The passing, yesterday, of Anna Corning, last of the Corning family, once notable in Rochester society, will undoubtedly mean the coming on the market of the ancient and imposing old family mansion at 860 St. Paul Street, which for a generation has been a feature of romantic interest in the northeastern part of the city.

The house, known to the neighborhood as "The Castle," and, in late years, invested with many a myth owing to the fact that its windows were boarded up and there were no signs of life about it, even when Miss Corning made it a stopping place during visits to the city, was built by Isaac R. Elwood in the early '50s of the last century. At that time the spur of the railroad which now forms the south boundary of the grounds had not been built, and the house was surrounded by a park in which deer roamed at large. The tall trees which screen the railroad track from the house were planted for that purpose, though they appear today to have stood in their places for a century.

### Brilliant Family

The house was purchased in 1878 by William Corning, father of Anna Corning, who brought his family to Rochester from Penfield and established a bank here. There were seven brothers and sisters in the Corning family, all of them brilliant and all showing certain eccentricities of genius. One of the brothers went West, established banks in western states and purchased land then undeveloped but now a valuable asset to the estate. One sister was a clever draftsman; Sherwood Corning, who died Dec. 21, 1923, and whose body was brought to Rochester for burial from the old home, was a poet and a connoisseur. He and his sister, Anna, preferred to live abroad, and their years were divided, after the breaking up of the family by death of

the other brothers and sister, between Florence, Italy; Paris and New York, with infrequent visits to the old home here.

The villa at Florence was closed after the war and shortly before the death of Sherwood Corning, but Miss Corning, in spite of her advanced years, visited Paris recently. She has made her home, however, in New York in a house at 844 St. Nicholas Avenue. She also owned a farm in Webster and these three houses are veritable museums, filled with objects of art collected from many countries of Europe.

The house in St. Paul Street, which stands far back from the road and is screened by a brick wall and hedge of trees and bushes, is built in the roomy style of the middle-nineteenth century. It was one of the first houses in Rochester to be lighted with gas, and the great "drawing-room," extending across the front of the house, has one of the finest French crystal chandeliers ever brought to this country.

### Many Valuable Paintings.

This spacious room is furnished with French period furniture and specimens of French porcelain, many of which can only be duplicated in the Louvre in Paris. A number of valuable paintings by French masters hang on the walls. Throughout the house the furnishings are of the same type, the rarest of their kind that Sherwood Corning could assemble. Yet, for many years, the house has been used by members of the Corning family only at infrequent intervals, its principal rooms remaining locked. A caretaker is kept constantly on the premises, however.

Sherwood Corning, among his other hobbies, was a collector of books, and on the second floor of the St. Paul Street house there is a large library the walls of which

are lined from floor to ceiling with rare volumes. This library, however, he had not entered for years before his death, and he had accumulated another library as extensive and valuable in his home at Asbury Park.

For many years real estate men have cast covetous eyes on the Corning property in St. Paul Street, for its position, along the railroad spur makes it of great value for commercial development. But neither Sherwood Corning, nor Miss Anna Corning, after his death, would listen to any proposal for the sale of the property. Now, with the last member of this picturesque old family gone and the estate passing to cousins and second cousins, it seems probable that another old landmark of Rochester soon will pass.

## ANNA CORNING, DESCENDANT OF PIONEER, DEAD

Stroke Causes Death in  
Hospital of Woman  
Born in Webster in 1844  
—Owned Valuable Art.

The last member of an old Rochester family, Miss Anna Corning of 860 St. Paul Street, died yesterday at General Hospital.

Death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage, according to Dr. Floyd S. Winslow, who attended Miss Corning in her last illness.

Miss Corning was born in Webster, in 1844, the daughter of William and Lucy Corning, descendants of John Howland, who came to America in the Mayflower. William Corning was a banker in Penfield, and later, with his son, William J., came to Rochester, establishing a bank next to where the Rochester Savings Bank is now located.

He purchased the property at 860 St. Paul Street in 1878 and the family home there, which is surrounded by a brick wall, was for many years known by Rochesterians as "The Castle."

Although Miss Corning had six brothers and sisters, she survived them all. She spent much time abroad, for many years wintering in Florence, and was much interested in several branches of art. She had a wide collection of paintings and tapestries in her St. Paul Street home.

Most of her time of late had been spent in her New York City home on St. Nicholas Avenue. She returned to Rochester only a few weeks ago.

The first warning of ill health came last Tuesday when she suffered a stroke and was taken to General Hospital. After her illness developed, incompetency proceedings were brought by Willard G. Rich and Edwin S. Rich, first cousins, and last Friday Supreme Court Justice Thompson declared Miss Corning incompetent, appointing Earl F. Case of the law firm of Warren, Shuster & Case in charge of her affairs. Court proceedings brought out that Miss Corning was possessed of property worth approximately \$750,000, including real

estate worth nearly \$300,000; personal property including money in stocks and bonds, worth more than \$300,000, and furniture and objects of art valued at \$75,000.

Surviving relatives are Willard G. Rich of 75 Pinnacle Road; Edwin S. Rich, 71 Richland Road; Emma S. Rich, 71 Richland Road; John S. Rich of Washington, D. C.; William C. Sherwood and Jean S. Rankin of Duluth, Minn.; Charlotte S. Martindale of Chicago; Ella P. Sloan of Superior, Wis.; Ida Oxtoby, all first cousins, and Eleanor Brown, Willard G. Frank L. Brokenbrough and Fred L. Falley of Lafayette, Ind.; Emily H. Young, 135 Canterbury Road; Clinton B. and Grace Raymond, Penfield; Mary Raymond of 761 Highland Avenue; George B. Raymond of New York City; Raymond Otis of Rochester; Grace R. Otis of Brighton; Marion L. Emerson of Providence, and Harold and Lorain Spencer, second cousins.

The funeral will be conducted from Hedges Brothers' undertaking parlors in East Avenue tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The Rev. Laurence R. Plank of the First Unitarian Church will officiate.



# First Norwegians In America Settled At Town Of Kendall

## CENTENNIAL AT ST. PAUL RECALLS STORY

Lars Larson, Member of First Sloop Company, Came to Rochester and Built House Still Standing at 37 Atkinson St.

By Anna Danielson Parker

The Norse-American Centennial to be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds in St. Paul, June 6 to 9, 1925, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first group of Norwegians to come to America in the 19th century.

July 4, 1825, a company of Norwegians, 52 in number, sailed from the city of Stavanger in a small sloop named "Restoration." After a perilous voyage of 14 weeks through the British Channel and by way of the island of Madiera, they reached New York, October 9, 1825.

In the New York Daily Advertiser of October 12, 1825, appeared an article entitled "A Novel Sight" which reads as follows:

"A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring as we understand only about 360 Norwegian lasts or 45 American tons, and brought 53 passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans county, where an agent who came over some time since purchased a tract of land.

"The appearance of such a party of strangers coming from so distant a country and in a vessel of a size apparently ill-calculated for a voyage across the Atlantic, could not but excite an unusual degree of interest.

"An interprise like this argues a good deal of boldness in the master of the vessel, as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the Americans, but those who inhabited the town wear calicos, gingham and gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England. The vessel is built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way."

### Child Born On Boat.

The additional passenger referred to was a baby girl born to Mrs. Larson whom Mr. and Mrs. Larson named Margaret-Allen. Many of the sloop party were Quakers and the Quakers in New York City are reported to have taken a deep inter-



House built in Atkinson street in 1827 by Lars Larson.

est in these immigrants and helped pay their expenses to Orleans county.

Thus in the autumn of 1825, in the northeast part of the town of Kendall, on the shore of Lake Ontario, in the woods, was founded the first Norwegian settlement in America. Lars Larson who was the leader of these emigrants and owned the largest share in the vessel did not go direct to Kendall with the rest but remained in New York to dispose of the sloop—and its cargo which consisted of iron. He finally succeeded in selling both for the meager sum of \$400. By this time winter had set in. The canal was frozen and he had to skate from Albany to Holley in Orleans county, eight miles south of Kendall. Mr. Larson did not remain long in the new settlement but with his family went to Rochester.

He had spent several years in London in his youth and had acquired a fair knowledge of the English language. In Rochester he found work with a builder of canal boats and in a short time went into business for himself.

### Larson House Standing.

In 1827 Larson built a substantial house for his family which still stands on the original site at 37 Atkinson street and is still owned by his heirs. This is the oldest house built by a Norwegian in America.

It was to this home that Ole Bull the Norwegian violinist, came to call on the Larson family when giving a concert in Rochester. There he had tea with Mrs. Larson and her children and presented his hostess with his photograph which is still cherished by her daughter. Undoubtedly this is the only building in Rochester today that knew the presence of the world-famous violinist.

Mr. and Mrs. Larson had eight children, two sons and six daughters, all now dead with the exception of the youngest, Georgiana H. Larson, living at 41 Atkinson street, in a house she built in 1909 on a part of her father's lot.

Mr. Larson was taking a canal boat to New York for sale when an accident caused his death November 13, 1845. It was reported that his death was caused by falling from the boat into the canal, but the family believed he met his death by foul

play. His widow, Martha Georgiana, lived to a good old age and died at her home October 17, 1887.

Now to return to the little settlement in Kendall, 32 miles west of Rochester, and to continue the story of those Norwegian immigrants of 1825. That winter they built a loghouse that afforded shelter for the greater number of the party. Here they purchased land at \$5 per acre. The head of each family is said to have bought 40 acres. Most of these farms were located on the road known as the Norway road, extending from the lake to the Ridge road, but only the north part was settled by Norwegians.

### Immigrants Go West.

The settlement in Kendall did not become the mecca for the Norwegians in this country, but merely a stopping place for those who came from 1825 to 1836. In the late 30's these Norwegians began to answer the call of the West, and the second settlement in America was founded in La Salle county, Illinois, on the Fox river. After the 30's few Norwegians coming to America stopped in New York state, but journeyed on to the western states, where land was cheaper and opportunities were said to be greater.

Many left the land of the Midnight Sun in the 40's and 50's and came to America, settling in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas and Kansas. Those were the days of the covered wagon. Thus, they traveled from one state to another until they had written the Norwegian names across the vast prairies of the Middle West.

This article would not be complete without the name of the man who was responsible for the coming of the sloop party. In the year 1821 Cleug Peerson, from Tysver Parish, with his friend, Knud Olson Elde, from the Island Fogn, came to America. Peerson remained here three years, returning to the mother country in 1824, when he told the wonders of the new world and its possibilities, creating the greatest interest which resulted in the organizing of the sloop party. To Cleug Peerson must also be given the honor of locating the first two settlements, if not many more. It is said that 50 per cent. of the

Nors-Americans are farmers. Still, we find them filling the offices of senators and governors of states, as well as United States senators. Not a few are eminent writers and educators.

### Few Landmarks Left.

In this centennial year, in this first settlement we find few land marks of those pioneers—an apple orchard here and there, planted by their hands so long ago—a house in good repair, built in the 50's by Henry Hardwick a sloop. He was the last to leave Kendall in 1876, going to Holley where he died in the summer of 1884. The strength and endurance of these people is illustrated by the fact that Mrs. Hardwick walked from her home in Kendall to Rochester a distance of 33 miles in one day to visit her friend Mrs. Larson. Mrs. Larson often spoke of those visits and said she always "went a piece" with Mrs. Hardwick when she returned home, going as far as the gully on the Ridge road. Mrs. Hardwick took these walks several times. Time was precious in those days so she knitted the family socks as she walked.

One more landmark is a house on the lake shore built in the late 40's by Ole Johnson for his family. Although it has braved the storms of more than 75 years it is a substantial house still. The four fire places have long been closed and only the old wide chimneys suggest the home fires of long ago.

Ole Johnson came over in the sloop in 1825 but went back to Norway in 1826. When he returned in 1827 he brought a wife. He moved

from Kendall to Rochester in November 1872, desiring to be near his Quaker church. He and his family are all dead with the exception of his daughter Inga M. Johnson who owns her father's home at 35 Glasgow street. She spends her summers in this home but lives in Detroit in the winter.

The only descendant of the pioneers of 1825 now living in Kendall, is B. F. Stangland, son of Andrew Stangland, a sloop. His mother was an American. The only descendant in Kendall with true Norwegian parentage is Anna Danielson Parker wife of Lewis J. Parker a great-niece of Ole Johnson and Martha Larson.



# United Realty Stores Corp. Takes Lease On Millman Site, Long Known As Liberty Pole

## BUILDING HAS BEEN LANDMARK FOR 70 YEARS

Mammoth Flag Pole Was  
Raised in Front of Tri-  
angle in 1859 and Stood  
for 30 Years — New  
Building To Be Erected.

The United Stores Realty Corpora-  
tion of New York, the real estate  
department of the United Cigar  
Stores Company, has leased the Mill-  
man property at 292 Main street  
east for a long term of years, it  
has been announced. The aggregate  
sum is reported to exceed \$250,000.  
George L. Smith, realtor, of 322  
Powers building, and Walter H. Hill,  
attorney, negotiated the transaction.

It is said that the United Cigar  
Stores Company will erect a new  
building on the site which has a  
frontage of 33.65 feet on Main street  
and 53 feet on North street. The  
cigar company will occupy the  
ground floor and rent the rest of  
the building.

This property has been in the  
Millman family for about 70 years.  
It was first purchased by Samuel  
Millman. The United Cigar Stores  
now hold a lease on a store at Main  
street east and Franklin street, but  
it is said that this lease expires  
within a short time.

To an earlier generation of Roch-  
esterians the general site of the  
property known as "The Liberty  
Pole", the name arising from the  
fact that a tall flag pole was erected  
in front of the buildings on July 3,  
1859, the funds being raised by  
Mayor Filon, William Cutting,  
Nehemiah Osborn, Samuel Millman,  
John Hulett and John Quinn. This  
pole was raised in front of the Cut-  
ting blacksmith shop which ad-  
joined the store of Mr. Millman. It  
was 101 feet in height and meas-  
ured three feet around at the base.  
A weather-vane with a brass ball  
and arrow surmounted the pole.

The pole stood until December  
26, 1889, when it was seen to be  
swaying dangerously in the wind.  
Chief Bemish of Truck a, and the  
Hayes Truck of the Fire Department  
were called out and an attempt was  
made to rope the pole so as to give  
it support from nearby buildings.  
John McDermott climbed one of the  
long fire ladders and was trying to  
adjust a rope about the pole when  
a heavy gust of wind snapped the  
pole and it crashed across Main  
street with the top of the pole point-  
ing up East avenue. A mass of  
overhead wires was carried down  
with the pole and the network of  
wires narrowly missed the carriage



Millman building at North street and Main street east which has just  
been leased by the United Stores Corporation.

of A. M. Lindsay in which were  
Jesse Lindsay, Albert Lindsay and  
several boy friends whose home was  
in Newburg, N. J., and who were in  
Rochester for the Christmas holi-  
days.

A number of Rochester officials  
had canes made from the relics of  
the old Liberty Pole and the ball  
and arrow were retained as souvenirs  
by Samuel Millman and Daniel Dea-  
venport. The arrow was later  
turned over to the Rochester His-  
torical Society by Mr. Millman's  
sons, one of whom still conducts the  
provision store at the corner of  
North street and Main street east  
established so long ago by his  
father.

Samuel Millman was an English-  
man by birth and was a man of de-  
cided individuality. He developed his  
business until the little store became  
known as the headquarters in  
Rochester for good things to eat, in  
and out of season; but he refused to  
change or enlarge the store itself,  
maintaining that his customers came  
to him for his wares and not to look  
at his store fittings. He was quite  
as conservative in his private life and  
it was said that for 17 years before  
his death he had not crossed to the  
west side of the Genesee river and  
that he never had seen the building  
of the present Court House.

After Samuel Millman's death  
changes were made in part of the  
buildings on the "Liberty Pole  
Triangle" site but the little corner  
to the west remained the same.  
Some 60 years ago there was talk  
of the city or a committee of Roch-  
ester business men buying the site  
to raze the buildings and turn it into  
a city park. The property proved  
too valuable for such a project to be  
put through, however.

he considered himself acting under  
the countenance of the acting canal  
commissioners the petitioner thinks  
it just and reasonable that he should  
be indemnified against such judg-  
ment.

"The committee deem it proper  
to state some facts in relation to  
the discovery of this cement by Mr.  
White and the great benefits which  
have resulted from it to this state.

"At the commencement of the  
work on the canals it was considered  
highly important to have a proper  
cement for the stone work. None  
had been discovered in this country  
and a quantity sufficient for the con-  
struction of the canals could not be  
obtained from foreign countries  
without an immense expense. Mr.  
White at his own expense went to  
England and there made inquiries on  
the subject, and after returning  
home began to search for substances  
for cement and to make experi-  
ments. His labors resulted in the  
discovery for which he afterward  
obtained a patent. Even after this  
cement was made known to the pub-  
lic the common lime mortar was  
used in the construction of stone  
work on the canal owing to the  
great expense which would be in-  
curred in procuring foreign cement,  
and to the want of confidence in the  
minds of the acting canal commis-  
sioners and the mechanics in the  
sufficiency of Mr. White's cement.

"In consequence of the use of  
common lime mortar the works then  
made are in a state of decay; some  
have been repaired and others must  
soon call for repair. In 1819, as  
soon as the value of Mr. White's ce-  
ment was well understood, it came  
into high repute and since that time  
it has been universally used and with  
invariable success in the construc-  
tion of the Erie canal. It is now ex-  
tensively exported from the state,  
large quantities being exported on  
the canals paying tolls to the state.

"The committee are satisfied that  
at least 500,000 bushels of the said  
waterproof cement have already  
been used in building the canals in  
this state without license or author-  
ity under Mr. White's patent. Should  
actions be commenced and main-  
tained against the persons who have  
used the cement, as the usual charge  
by the patentee was four cents per  
bushel and as triple damages are  
allowed by the laws of the United  
States, judgments might be recov-  
ered to the amount of \$60,000.

"Believing that it is just and  
equitable that the petitioner should  
be indemnified against the judgment  
obtained against him by Mr. White  
and thinking it advisable to prevent  
further prosecutions against those  
who have furnished the said cement  
for the construction of the canals,  
and deeming it highly important to  
secure the people of this state the  
free use of said cement, the com-  
mittee unanimously recommended  
that the sum of \$10,000 be paid to  
Mr. White on condition of his as-  
signing and assuring to the people  
of this state the full right forever  
to use the said cement, and of his  
discharging the said judgment and  
all claims against the petitioner and  
all and every of the citizens of this  
state for or on account any in-  
fringement of the said patent right.

"And as Mr. White agrees to ac-  
cept said sum upon the conditions  
aforesaid the committee ask leave to  
introduce a bill." (pp. 381-3).

Mr. Burns said documents might be  
multiplied to pile up proof that the  
cement used in the Erie canal work  
was not the discovery of an English-  
man, but rather of an American en-  
gineer who protected his discovery  
by America letters patent.

While the executives are making  
investigations of old documents, an  
active campaign is being made to in-  
crease the membership of the so-  
ciety. Persons interested in preserv-  
ing names worth while in Rochester  
are invited to join the organization.  
For the convenience of the public  
application cards may be signed at  
any of the 10 branches public li-  
braries where information in more  
detail is obtainable. It is understood  
that a number of private documents  
are now in possession of families  
which would clear up many mystify-  
ing traditions in the history of Roch-  
ester. There are no fees attached  
to membership. A general meeting  
will be called early in January by  
Mrs. Mulligan, the president.



# Cement American Invention; Historic Names Society's Secretary Furnishes Proof

Discovery of Canvass White Used in Constructing the  
Locks of Erie Canal 100 Years Ago—Discoverer  
One of Most Eminent Engineers of His  
Day—Old Records Show Patents Issued.

Failure to give Canvass White credit for his discovery of the hydraulic cement used in the construction of the aqueducts and locks along the Erie canal a century ago, caused an article in the current bulletin of the National Geographic Society, to be criticised locally today. By implication at least, the bulletin gives credit for the discovery of the "liquid rock" which held in one solid mass under fater the huge blocks of stone set in place by the builders of the great aqueducts and



ROBERT DANIEL BURNS.

locks to Joseph Apsdin, the stone mason of Leeds, England, the centenary of whose discovery of waterproof cement was observed this year abroad.

Local interest is based on the fact that the greatest aqueduct in the old canal system was constructed here to carry the waters of Lake Erie across the Genesee. Further, Canvass White, one of the principal engineers of the canal, left several monuments of his notable skill in the Genesee country, and the value of his discovery of hydraulic cement was attested before the legislative committee of the state by another great engineer, Benjamin White, who surveyed the ancient village of Frankfort, where the Kodak buildings, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Central freight house and yards, and Browns Square are situated. His map of the village, which was made about 1812, long before the incorporation of Rochester, is referred to in all conveyances of real estate in that section today. The original Benjamin Wright map is now owned by the City of Rochester, and is preserved in the office of the city engineer. A copy is owned by Mrs. Edward W. Mulligan, president of the Historic Names Society.

"Against this judgment the petitioner prays for relief. He alleges and the fact is not questioned, that he furnished the cement at its then usual price without taking into the account the four cents charged by the patentee and as the public has had the benefit of the cement at four cents a bushel less than it would have cost if the charges of the patentee had been paid, and as

"Aspsdin's discovery which produced artificial rock, is dated 1824 and too much honor cannot be bestowed on the English stonemason," said Robert Daniel Burns, secretary of the Historic Names Society and chairman of the special library committee of the Rochester Historical Society today. "But the pioneers engineers of the canal do not owe anything to his discovery. The hydraulic cement used in the Rochester aqueduct and locks and along the entire line was discovered by Canvass White six years before the date which fixes the Englishman's discovery. Further the aqueduct spanning the Genesee was completed in 1824. There is a mass of documentary evidence which establishes white's claim to the discovery and there is the United States patent which had been granted to him in 1820, and there is the record that the state of New York paid him \$10,000 for the right to use his cement on the canal work."

It is the job of the Society for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Names in Rochester and Vicinity to see that persons who had performed notable service in the community are not ignored or confined in Robin Hood's barn," Mr. Burns said. "We are engaged in intensive research of official and private records and other documents in the interests of justice and historic accuracy," the secretary continued. "Naturally, an omission of Canvass White's name from a recital of pioneering in hydraulic cement operations in connection with early canal building in America makes it necessary for us to take due notice."

"Fortunately there is abundant documentary evidence available. For a detailed account of White's discovery of the big souled attempt of the canal commissioners to take unto themselves the honor of the discovery, and the attestation of Wright and others to the big debt the state owes to Canvass White, reference is suggested to Volume II, of Canal Laws &c., Albany, 1915, published by authority of the state. "The joint committee on canals and internal improvements reported, in part, as follows in the Assembly, February 11, 1825:

"In the year 1818, Canvass White, while he was engaged as an engineer on the Erie canal, discovered a waterproof cement for which in 1820 he obtained letters patent from the United States. After date of said letters patent the petitioner furnished a large quantity of said cement for the construction of the canals without any license or authority from said White for which the patentee brought suit against him in the District Court of the United States, and, after a defense made, recovered a judgment of about \$1,700.



## Old Lars Larson Landmark Faces Address Change

11/5/34.  
The 109-year-old Lars Larson house at No. 37 Atkinson Street, relic of an early Norwegian "invasion" of Rochester, will disappear from the city in the near future and reappear, fully constructed, in Decorah, Iowa.

Plans to raze the ancient frame structure piece by piece and transport it to the Iowa town were announced by Thomas Abel of the Abel Realty Company, No. 231 East Avenue, agents for the Larson estate, which has sold the house to the Norwegian Museum Association.



