

# RVF Rochester - History - Streets

## Book II. "Colorful Streets of Rochester"

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# Colorful Streets Of Rochester...

By Amy H. Croughton

## No. 5—Johnson St., Abolitionists' Mecca



House in Johnson Street where Myron Holley worked for abolition of slavery.

Johnson Street, which runs between Clinton Avenue South and Stone Street, is scarcely known by name to the Rochesterian of today, though it furnishes a short cut for automobiles and carries considerable commercial traffic.

Yet there was a time when this little street, then a residence street, as were both Clinton Avenue and Stone Street, was a mecca for many noted abolitionists and reformers who sought the home, still standing, of Myron Holley, founder of the Liberty Party and editor of *The Rochester Freeman*, a paper devoted to the abolition cause.

The house stood in an extensive garden which adjoined the gardens of other houses on the street which had originally been put through the land owned by Elisha Johnson, president of the village of Rochester, and first mayor of the city, one of the builders of the Johnson and Seymour Race.

Holley touched the life of Rochester at many points. He was of the old New England type of sage and reformer and was born in Salisbury, Conn., April, 1779. While living in Lyons, in 1816, he was appointed a commissioner on the Board of Canals of New York State and became one of the most active of the workers for the Erie Canal project which many persons in the state deemed a great folly. In 1835, while living in Carthage north of Rochester, where he raised garden products and fruits, Mr. Holley addressed a meeting at the Rochester Court House at which he advocated the immediate deepening and enlarging of the Erie Canal.

Holly is described as a benign gentleman of the old school who could address a public meeting and peddle the products of his truck farm, Rose Ridge, in Carthage, from door to door with equal dignity.

HEREWITH there is presented one of a series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In his series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.

In June, 1839, Holley sold Rose Ridge and moved to the house in Johnson Street, then Johnson's Park, investing all his fortune in the publication of an abolition paper, *The Rochester Freeman*. In September of that year the Monroe County convention of the Liberty Party was held in Rochester and Holley was one of the principal speakers and delivered a stirring address on the inevitability of the abolition of slavery.

During the next two years, Holley spent much of his time in lecturing on the subject of abolition. He was noted for his calm, quiet delivery and his careful marshaling of facts. He deprecated appeal to sentiment and emotionalism and was one of the few Rochesterians who withstood the wave of religious revivalism which swept over the city. He was so opposed to this campaign that he actually called a meeting at the Court House and spoke against it, urging that religion be studied and accepted on its intellectual merits.

Tradition has it that the Holley house had a number of concealed rooms in the cellar and a secret passage through which escape was afforded to runaway slaves. Inspection has failed to reveal any passage of the kind described, but the cellar is large and rambling enough to have concealed any number of runaways, and Holley's heart, so it is said, was large and tender enough to make him a ready listener to the pleas of fugitives.

### Was Residential Street

In 1851 there were but three houses on the north side of Johnson Street, the north corner of the street and Clinton Avenue being vacant land. Subsequently, the house of Ten Eyck Snyder was built at this Clinton Avenue corner, and the Howe homestead on the opposite corner where the store building of Howe & Rogers now stands.

Myron Holley died in the old house at 8 o'clock on the morning of March 4, 1841, as the city was celebrating the inauguration of President Harrison. The house was subsequently the home of George W. Harrold, an importer of crockery, who lived there until 1889. Some years ago the property was acquired by a commercial concern. The corner at Stone and Johnson Street is now used as a parking station.

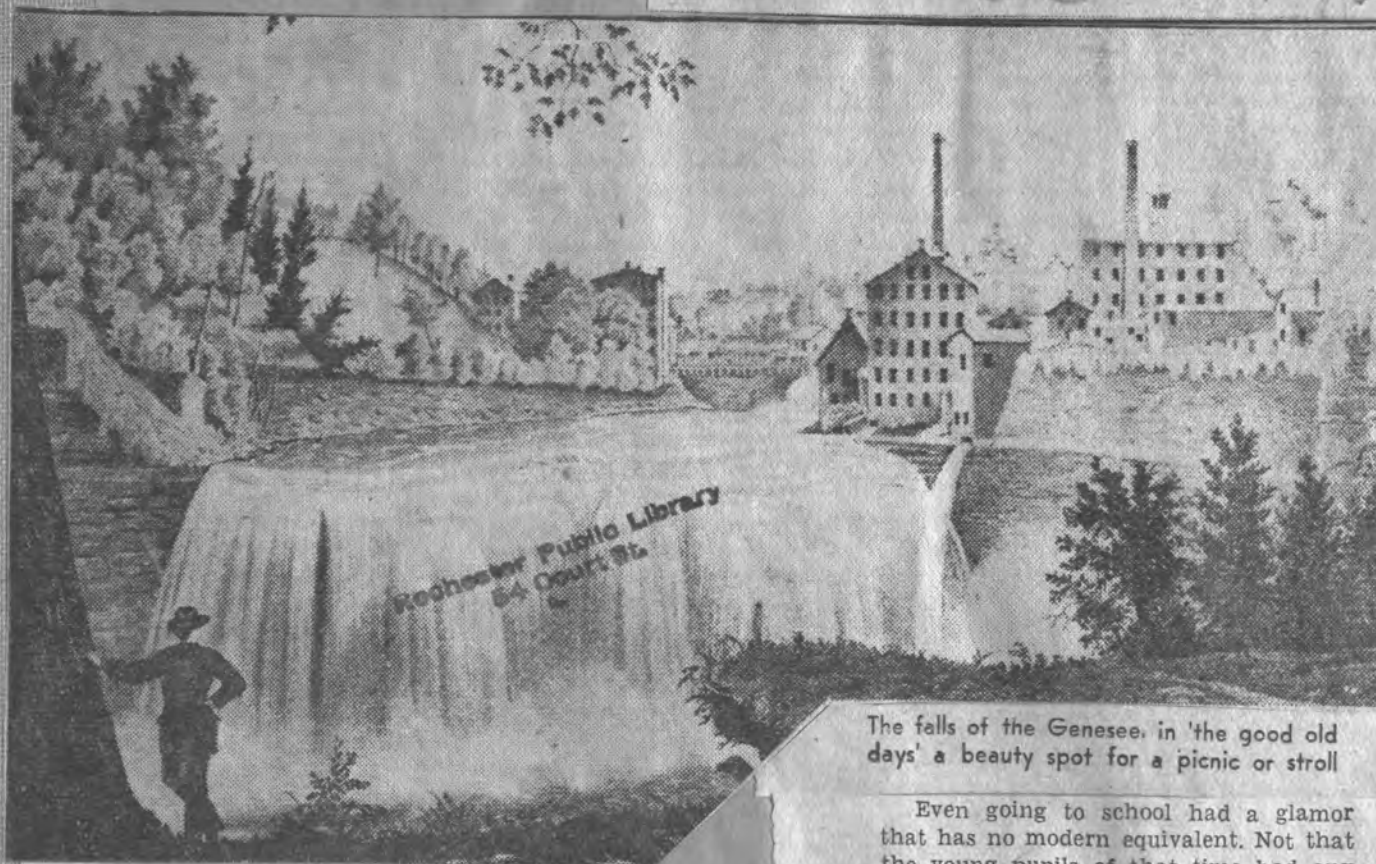
Holley is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery and over his grave was erected, by the Liberty Party, a monument with this inscription:

"The Liberty Party of the United States of America have erected this monument to Myron Holley, the friend of the slave, and the most effective as well as one of the earliest founders of that party."



# The North Side Changes,

# but Memories Won't Die



Rochester Public Library  
64 Court St.

The falls of the Genesee, in 'the good old days' a beauty spot for a picnic or stroll

By Marion Weir

**M**AYBE it was like the sleepy little town on the Mississippi where Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn had their escapades, but anyway Lake Avenue was once a kids' paradise.

That thoroughfare that shrieks with traffic now fails to impress as its modern speedway those who were children back in the '70s.

The avenue's commercial enterprises then were mostly perched on the river bank and the street was lined entirely with quiet residences shadowed by great trees. It was a happy hunting ground for crabs and frogs, for big red apples and swimming holes.

Even going to school had a glamor that has no modern equivalent. Not that the young pupils of that time had any burning enthusiasm for the three Rs, but because of the other attractions that were attached to an education in those days. Old Number 7 School, between Glenwood and Lexington avenues then, was the place where learning was dispensed. Those who attended it forgot the struggle they had with the multiplication tables and remember it as the sanctum of the golden age—youth. Coming and going to school, noon hour and recess time, those were the things that made an education worth while in those days. Children came more than a mile to school, even from beyond Ridge Road, and they walked, too. No slick and shiny school busses were there to solve transportation problems, but there were not any traffic hazards either. The children trooped to school in a crowd, walking down the center of the road, and only occasionally having to step aside to let a horse-drawn vehicle amble past.

And probably the children who lived near the school envied the boys and girls who had the long trek up from the Ridge Road. Tin lunch boxes in hand and not too many textbooks, this aggregation trooped along laughing and talking. It may not have been an easy walk in the winter time, but with the whole crowd of them battling drifts together it had all the excitement of an athletic meet. Recess time in the winter is among the favorite memories of those days. Catching rides on bobsleds provided a grand ride for boys with sleds. They could return on a sleigh going the other way.

Spring and fall found baseball and other games the popular favorite of recess time. Eating lunch was usually a minor matter, the important thing being to have this process take as little time as possible so the children could devote their precious time to play. Maybe some of the pupils were little scamps who put frogs in small girls' pockets and dipped their curls in inkwells and perhaps sometimes a live crab was smuggled in among textbooks later to cause panic. If they got caught there was no red tape about punishment. It was swift and sure, and painfully physical.

Mrs. Emma Kay Beall, recalling those days of Lake Avenue, said the whole yard was a playground. Down along the river there were nooks and crannies that furnished a realistic setting for boys "playing Indian." Boys did not have to imagine they were following an Indian trail as they went in pursuit of their comrade's scalp. The trail was genuine. To get down to the river they climbed down the long flight of stairs at Driving Park Avenue that led to the Glen House. Later there was an elevator. The elevator was a creaking affair and not very reliable. Steamers plying up and down the river from the lake lent a picturesque touch to the scene. Just watching those steamers dock or depart was a sight worth going to see and sometimes on great occasions young financiers who had saved a lot of money took the trip down to Charlotte and back.

In those days parks were the places that stood out from the general rural aspect of the





Where man has added a touch of beauty to that of Nature, glimpse under Ridge Road

had some added attraction such as a stream of water or a pond for skating in the winter. Mrs. Beall—she was a little girl named Emma Kay in those days—thinks that probably no children ever have had better times than those children of the 70s.

The most picturesque park was at the entrance to what is now Lake View Park. It was a place of tall shade trees and every imaginable sort of flower. Pottle's Park that was privately owned. That was too dignified for the harum-scarum games of the kids, but just the same they looked upon it with pride. A gate house, English style, and neat walks made it the fulfillment of the gardens in their fairy stories.

Deep Hollow was always a favorite haunt. A clear stream of fresh water starting from the Erie Canal at Emerson Street meandered across the fields until it reached that spot, where it broadened out to make a pond. A nice friendly pond, Mrs. Beall remembers. Conveniently dotted with big flat stones, it was an ideal place to catch crabs. Not being deep enough to be dangerous, it was a glorious place to paddle around on rafts. The little stream flowed under Lake Avenue and dropped down to the river in a

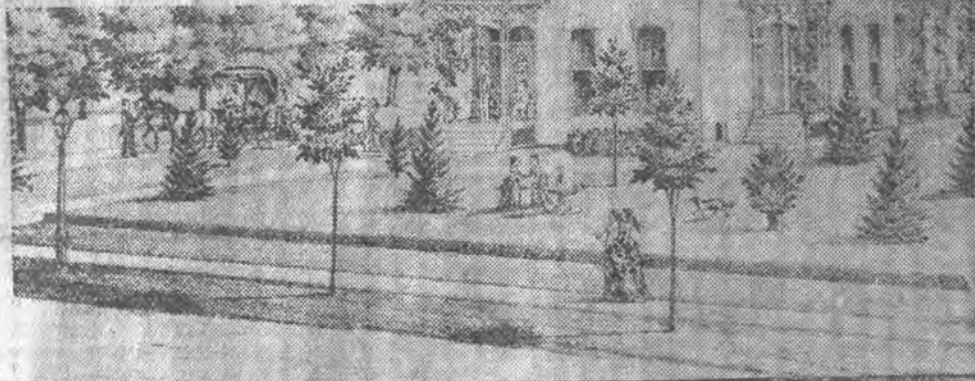
bridge just off busy Lake Avenue where a tree-lined road passes beneath its shadow

beautiful falls. Wild flowers grew on the banks of Deep Hollow in profusion. Immense trees furnished shade and the place was a natural bird sanctuary.

Out at the city line, at Ridge Road and Lake Avenue, was the Simpson home and a large pond called Simpson Pond. That was where everyone skated in the winter. Those who skate in parks today and find the snow cleaned off for them do not know what an easy life they led. In those days the skaters themselves cleared the snow off the ice, men and boys scooped it off, with perhaps the girls joining in and helping too. They sat on an old log to put on skates and sometimes kindled one for a fire. The old pond is covered by a business block now.

Maplewood Park in those days was called Maple Grove. It was surrounded by a high board fence and was a great place for picnics during the summer.

Lake Avenue was no paved thoroughfare in those days. There were dirt roads for a long time and the first improvement was cobblestones. Streets were lighted by gas lights. Every night a man went from lamp to lamp, climbed his little four-rung ladder, turned on



One of the early old homesteads that gave Lake Avenue the distinction it retains to

the gas and lighted it. In the morning he went around again to turn them out individually.

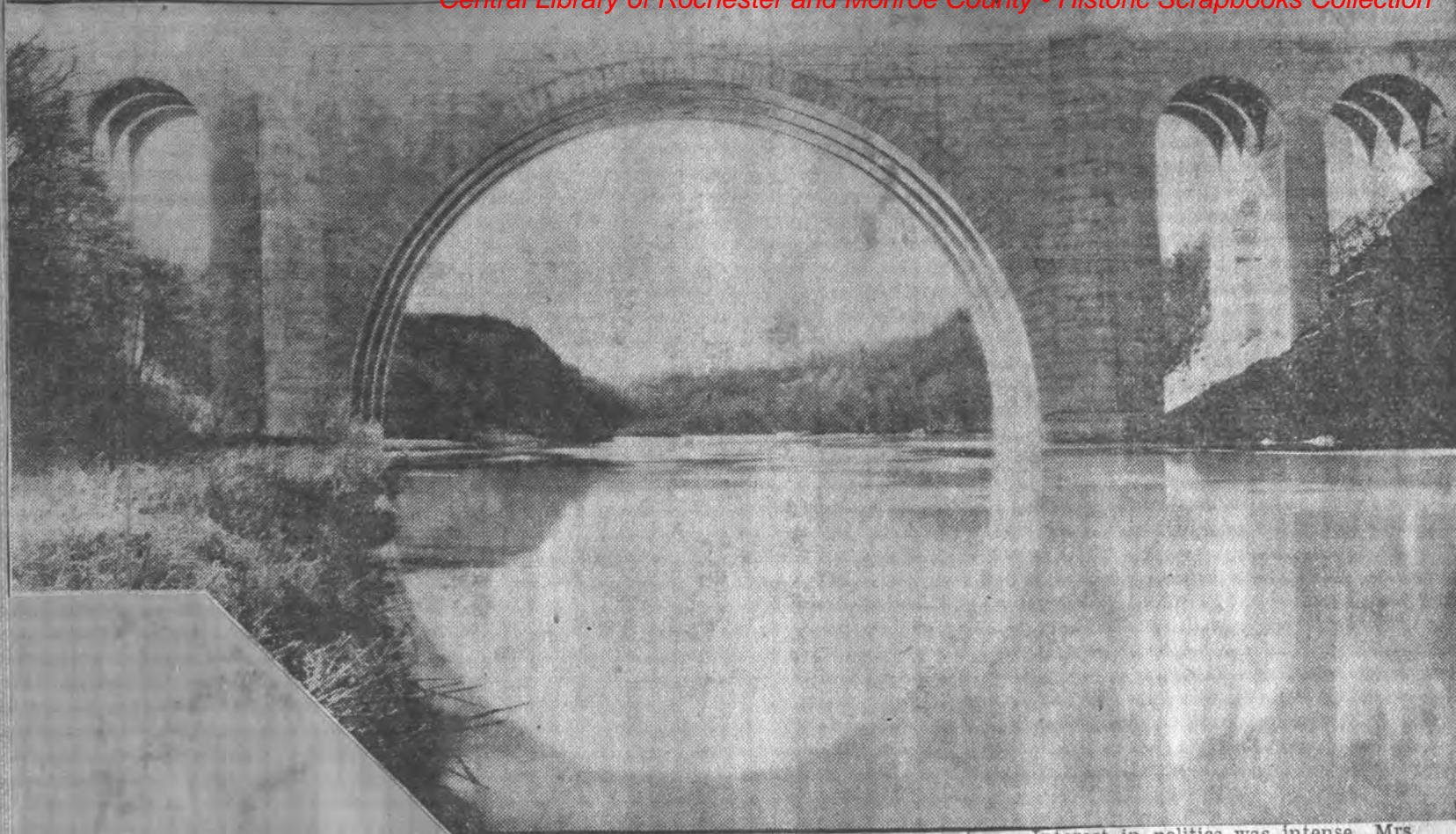
There were some grand old homes in Lake Avenue. Some stately trees, beautiful grounds and long winding drives. The typical residence of Lake Avenue was an imposing sight. There were usually ornate fences around the property and one of Rochester's most popular animals, the iron deer, in the yard. Lake Avenue was not sophisticated. Herds of cattle were driven down the street almost daily and street cars ran only as far as Mc-

this day, the stately Gorsline home as it was pictured by an artist a generation ago

Cracken Street, as Driving Park Avenue was called at first.

There also the greatest horse races of all time were held. There were bicycle races later too. The county fair was held there, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show (with real cowboys) and best of all the circus. The circus was the major event of the year, of course, to the small boys of the vicinity. It was not solely a source of amusement either. They managed to make some thrifty speculations on it too. For one thing they bought apples from the farmers of the vicinity for 25 cents a peck and sold them for 5 cents each,





Engineering beauty matches natural beauty without a clash in the Ridge Road bridge

## Old Timers Sighing For Day When Lake Avenue Was Quiet Street Lined with Parks and Forests

thus realizing a profit on their investment.

People were religiously inclined in those days, said Mrs. Beall, and many of the present churches of the vicinity were started in the 70s in settings that were far from religious; the Prentice lumber office was the first home of Grace Methodist Church. Later an Episcopal Mission and after that a Baptist Mission were launched at the lumber office. A flour and grist mill served as the first home for two other religious groups. Everyone went to church on Sundays. There were no distractions, nothing else to do. Sunday's only diversion was a trip to Mt. Hope Cemetery to stroll around and read inscriptions on the tombstones.

Interest in politics was intense. Mrs. Beall said women were more avid politicians in those days before suffrage than they have been since.

"Political parades?" exclaimed Mrs. Beall, "Yes, and everybody out standing at the roadside to see them pass. Both parties had their silk banners made by the women of the ward. They marched for miles and after the votes were counted there was another grand march by the winning party."

Those who knew Lake Avenue in those days remain unimpressed by modern marvels. They think longingly of the steamboat days on the river, of the days when kids furnished their own amusements and thought the height of entertainment was to spend the day playing in Deep Hollow.



## Story of Traditions of Livingston Park Recalls Old Events

*Dec-Jan 16, 1934*

Under the roof-tree of a stately mansion that makes some of old Rochester still the city of today, Irondequoit Chapter, D. A. R., yesterday afternoon was given the history of "Livingston Park, Its People, Homes and Traditions," at the chapter's January meeting.

The headquarters of Irondequoit Chapter is one of these "homes," 11 Livingston Park. Mrs. Morrison H. McMath, the speaker, explained that, owing to illness in her home she had been unable to do the investigating essential to such a sketch, and that she had turned to her "life-long friend, Miss Jane Chappell," and to Mrs. Eurith T. Rebasz, principal of Livingston Park Seminary. Directly Mrs. McMath had read the first sentence of her paper, she explained that it was written by Miss Chappell, while she interspersed it with personal reminiscences.

Only a glance at this lovely park situated in the old Third Ward, home of Rochester's first aristocracy and some of its earliest and best traditions, shows something of its history. It is doubtful if any, where in New York State there are more beautiful examples of Colonial architecture in private homes than between the gateways opening at one end onto Spring Street, the other in Troup Street. These gates were closed often at sundown and always on Sunday, Mrs. McMath said.

Among the things that make Livingston Park an indispensable chapter in the city's history was the fact that many of the original homes of Colonial type in this park were due to James K. Livingston, for whom it was named. Mr. Livingston, an attorney by profession, engaged more or less in real estate. The houses he erected were designed by Hugh Hastings, architect brought to this city from Hartford by Josiah Bissell. Highly regarded for his character, Mr. Livingston excelled in intellectual matters better than in finance. He became heavily involved in debt. Later he made a dinner and invited all his creditors, paying them what he had owed. His last days, Miss Chappell wrote, were spent with a daughter, Mrs. Rutherford, who lived on the Hudson River. The funeral took place in the First Presbyterian Church, also in the Third Ward, and a large gathering of citizens attended. He is buried in Mount Hope, on Indian trail, in the rear of the old chapel.

Another interesting reminiscence was that Japanese lanterns were used for the first time in Rochester at the wedding festivities of Miss Carrie Cheeney, who was married to John Dodds. Their home was the house now occupied by Frederick Sherwood, their son-in-law. Five generations of the family have lived there.

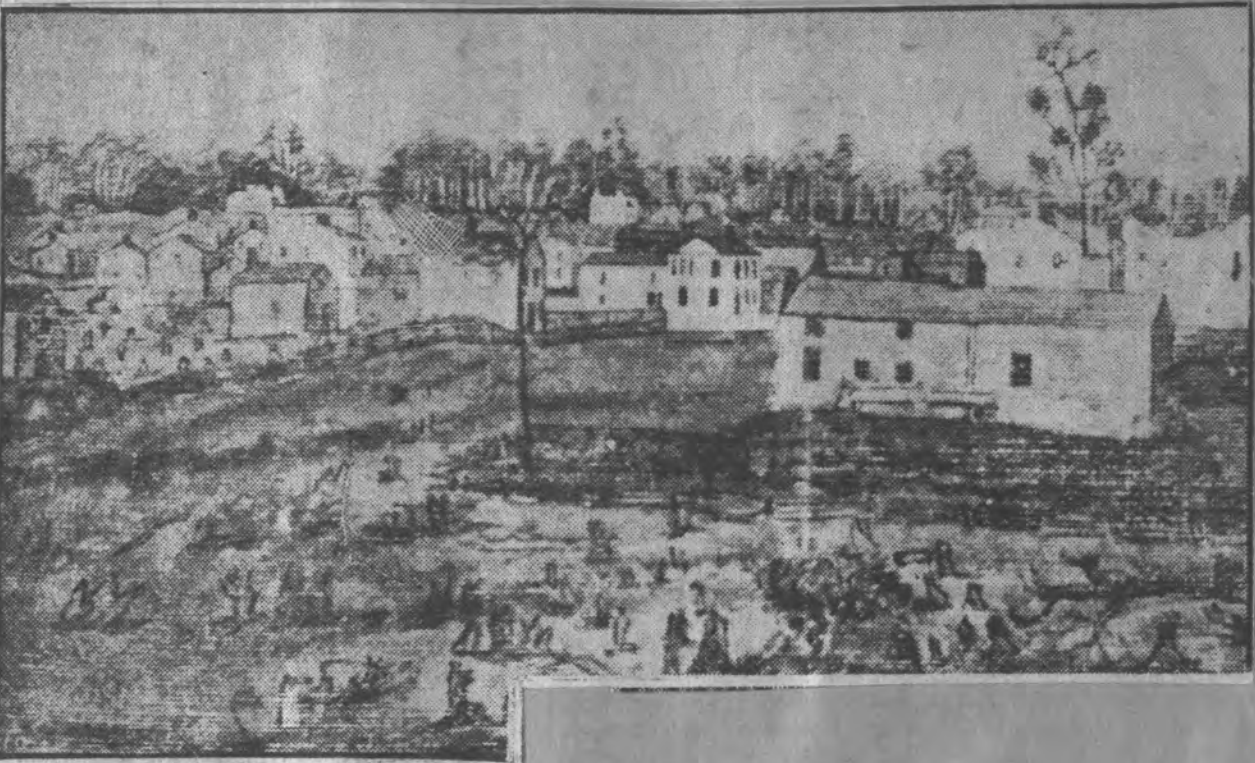
An interest wide as the extent of the English language is attached to Livingston Park, once the home of Mrs. Rudyard Kipling. Before marriage, Miss Carrie Balestier, Mrs. Kipling is the granddaughter of E. Peshine Smith, an authority on international law. Because of this knowledge, Mr. Smith was made legal adviser to the Mikado of Japan.

### Looked the Part

Thomas Hyatt formed another link between the Flowery Kingdom and this Third Ward park, as he served in the administration of President Buchanan as ambassador to Japan. When he returned, his home was decorated with Japanese idols. He wore a Mandarin coat and carried a Japanese umbrella.

Miss Chapell's paper will be turned over to Edward R. Foreman, city historian, as she is an authority on the old Third Ward. Mrs. John P. Mosher, regent of the chapter, president. Miss Emily Hartshorn had charge of an exceptional musical program and also acted as accompanist for the New Era chorus of Brick Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Clinton Stowe, contralto soloist of that church and a member of the New Era chorus. The director of the chorus is Mrs. Lewis Wallington.

## Wildcats to Motor Traffic—



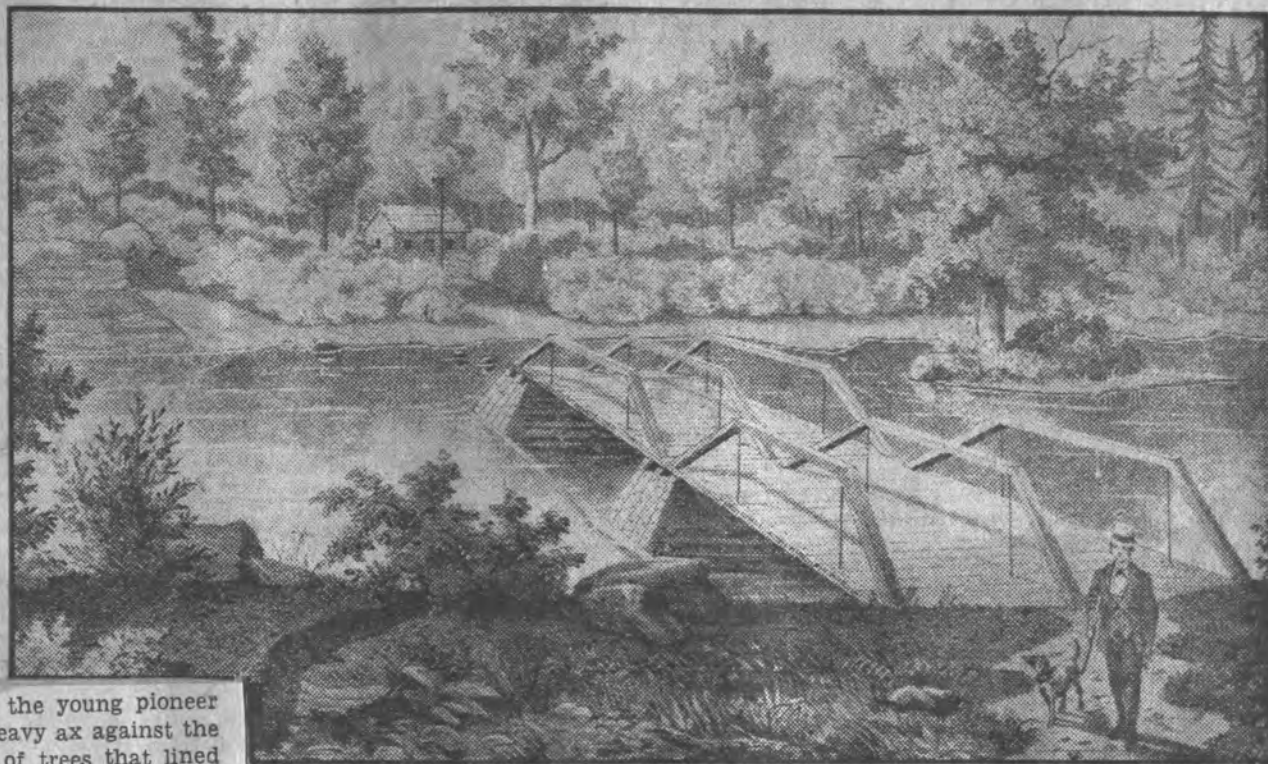
Main Street when city was born, stumps on site of what is now St. Paul intersection



# But It Was Main Street Then and Now

Never Indian Trail  
Or a Pioneer Road  
Avenue was Carved  
From the Wilds by  
Men Who Often Had  
To Battle Animals  
On Spot Where the  
Modern City Later  
Built Its Central  
Business Activity

Rochester Public Library  
155 Court St.



Main Street East in 1812, the first span  
across the Genesee that was destined at a

later date to be replaced by bridge that  
was lined on either side by big buildings

**F**OR days on end the young pioneer had swung his heavy ax against the stubborn trunks of trees that lined the west bank of the Genesee near the first falls. Except for the sound of his strokes, the silence of the forest was broken by occasional echoes of similar operations from the east shore.

But suddenly the axman paused as the air was rent by piercing feline screams and the barking of a dog. The youth threw down his ax and ran toward the sound.

There in the dense thicket at the edge of his clearing was a hunter, apparently paralyzed with fright. Facing the man was a huge wildcat, crouched on a stout limb and apparently about to spring. Only the presence of the barking dog seemed to cause the beast to hesitate.

Leaping forward, the pioneer seized the hunter's gun and fired, lodging three buckshot into the brain of the wildcat, "which rendered him perfectly harmless."

That was merely one of the incidents that enlivened the tale of Zachariah Lewis, the man who at a youth of 19 years was employed by Enos Stone, land agent for Col. Nathaniel Rochester, to clear the forest trees from the center of the Hundred-Acre Tract previous to the sale of lots on the site of the new town that is now Rochester.

Bear, deer, wolves, rattlesnakes and clouds of ravenous mosquitoes had undisputed possession of the woods at the falls of the Genesee River when Colonel Rochester first looked on the location of his future village and city. Only the disintegrating ruins of the old "Indian" Allan mill indicated that there had been previous human occupancy of the site. There was as yet no way of crossing the river, except by the fords, which were impractical except when the water was low.

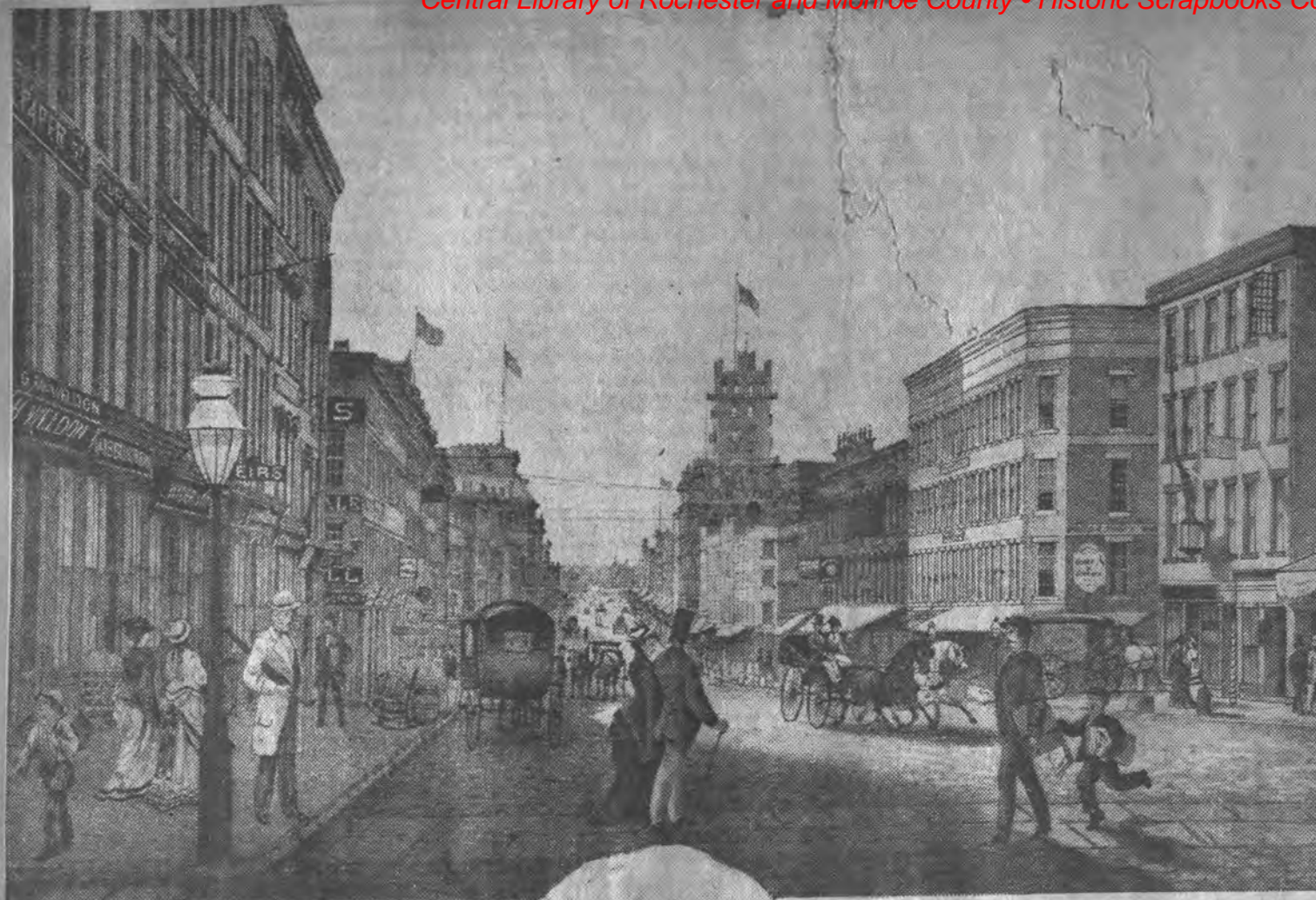
Transition from primaeval forest to village and city life took place within a single generation. As Mayor Jonathan Child remarked at his inauguration a century ago, "The rapid progress which our place has made from a wilderness to an incorporated city authorizes each of our citizens proudly to reflect upon the agency he has had in bringing about this great and interesting change. . . . They have founded and reared a city before they have passed the meridian of life."

Records of what conditions were like at the falls previous to the building of the first log cabin in 1812 are scant indeed, yet the story has been preserved by Lester Lewis of Fairport, a grandson of the man who cut down the forest trees and prepared the way for the first settlers. Through the courtesy of the grandson, the account was obtained by The Democrat and Chronicle as a contribution to the historical stories of the Centennial year and this.

Printed originally in the Rochester Weekly Republican, Jan. 10, 1867, the account, by a member of Mr. Lewis' family, followed a few days after the death of the sturdy old pioneer.



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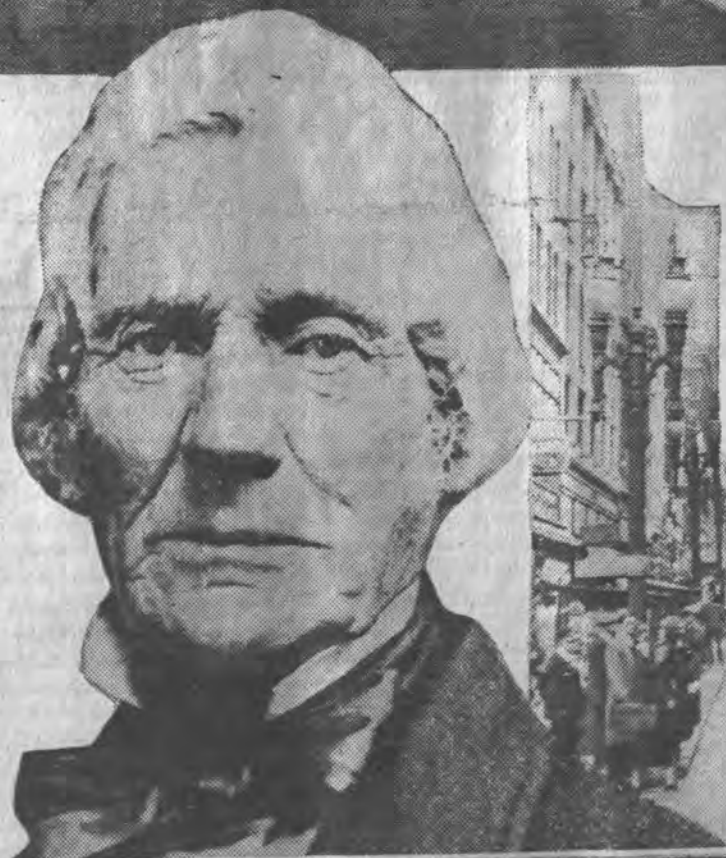


Main Street in 1870, with the modern span lined, as it is today, by business blocks

Zachariah Lewis, it was written, was born in Saybrook, Conn., Nov. 14, 1790, eldest of a family of nine children who with their parents emigrated at an early rate to Scipio, Onondaga County. After a brief residence there they loaded their goods on an ox sled and came westward to what is now the river campus of the University of Rochester, or as the old account says, "the east bank of the Genesee near the rapids." That was in the year 1808, four years before the erection of the first log cabin in the Hundred-Acre Tract.

The story continues:

"The site of the present City of Rochester was then a howling wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and Indians. The subject of this article was for a time employed in piloting emigrants who were going farther West over, or rather through, the Genesee (by the fords) and in clearing a piece of land on the west bank of the river, which he had contracted to do by the job. The ground where the Daily Union Buildings stand (at Pindell Alley and Main Street West)



Zachariah Lewis, one of the pioneers who often had to shoot a wildcat from a tree in Main Street East. At right is the site

By  
William  
D.  
Manning



at St. Paul Street and Main Street East as it is today. Match it with the picture of the identical spot at the upper right



and for some distance along Buffalo Street (Main Street West) was cleared of the primeval forest by his hands.

"Desiring to locate and clear up a homestead for himself, he bargained for 180 acres on the east bank of the river, where Main Street and St. Paul Street are now located, for \$2 an acre. But becoming dissatisfied with the location on account of the great abundance of bears, wolves and other wild animals and the swampy nature of much of the land, he threw up his contract and took up a lot about a mile and a half south

of the Pinnacle. Here he commenced clearing, making his home at his father's near the rapids. He suffered many hardships, going barefoot in summer and having scarcely sufficient clothing to cover his nakedness in winter.

"During the first winter he had nothing but a piece of cold johnny cake for his dinner and many days not even that. The next year, having raised a few potatoes, he fared better. These were roasted in a fire built in the woods. He kept an iron kettle there and sometimes for a

luxury would gather some wild plants and herbs and boil them for greens. During a very dry time in the summer he dug a hole in the ground to procure water, which under the hot rays of the sun soon became tepid, muddy and full of wrigglers. This was his daily beverage and his hat served for a dipper.

"As soon as a little ground was cleared it was sown with wheat and what little was saved from destruction by wild animals was threshed on the ground, cleaned with a hand fan and sold for 31 cents per bushel.

"Here he lived several years, when, selling his improvements, he sought another lot nearby, and clearing a little spot in the woods, built a shanty without tools of any kind except an ax, a pole auger and a wooded paddle, which served to mud up the cracks between the logs. Not a nail was used, not a board, save what was made from two small logs. In eight days from the time the first tree

was cut he had moved into his new house. The writer hereof well remembers that shanty and the johnny cakes that were baked on a board which stood up in the corner of the old Dutch fireplace. He remembered seeing a brother of deceased on a Sunday morning, with a clean shirt in hand, climb up the projecting ends of the logs upon the roof, declaring that he would 'go upstairs and shirt himself.'

"The deceased was fond of relating anecdotes and incidents of his pioneer

life. At one time, requiring a few boards, he went to McVean's sawmill at Scottsville, 12 miles distant, with an ox sled, accompanied by his father and a brother, who carried axes to clear a road through the forest as they passed along McVean, being a hospitable man, invited them to dine with him, which they did. The dinner consisted of a dish of string beans placed in the center of the table and the dishes were a pewter spoon for each person and nothing else.

"At that time the river banks were alive with rattlesnakes and deer, bear and wildcats roamed through the unbroken forest and great packs of wolves 'made the welkin ring' with their unearthly howls at all hours of the night.

"One day while chopping in the woods he heard the bark of a hunter's dog nearby, and on going to the spot, discovered a huge wildcat crouched upon the limb of a tree, uttering fierce growls and his glaring eyes fixed on the hunter and

his dog, which lay trembling at his master's feet. The hunter could not be induced to fire, lest pussy should become enraged, when their lives would be in danger. But declaring that he had seen too much of the woods to be frightened by a wildcat, he (Lewis) seized the hunter's musket, and firing, lodged three buckshot in the animal's brain, which rendered him perfectly harmless.

"Early one Sunday morning he discovered an enormously large bear swimming from the east toward the west bank of the river. Calling out lustily to Enos Stone, who had a log cabin (on the east side of the river near the junction of old and new Main Streets, he (Lewis) hastened to west bank in time to salute Bruin with sundry hard knocks over the head and ears with a heavy club. He (the bear) struggled bravely to effect a landing, but being repulsed, turned and swam to the other (east) shore, where a similar reception awaited him from Uncle Enos. Thus, the bear, after swimming the river several times, was finally worried out and killed with clubs and knives.

"In those days an ox sled was the only conveyance, either for business or pleasure. With this he used to go to Canandaigua to mill, carrying an ax with which to clear the trail of brush and fallen timber. He used to go there on foot to purchase such few articles of clothing and necessities as his scanty means would allow and once he carried a grist on his back. In the fall of 1820 he went two miles barefooted over the frozen ground covered with snow to get a pair of shoes that he had paid for by hoeing corn five days for the man who made them."

# MAIN STREET PAVEMENT 33 YEARS OLD

*R.P. June 1, 1927*  
The Medina block pavement in Main Street East now being replaced after thirty-three years of service, was "one of the best pavements ever laid in the United States," Edwin A. Fisher, consulting city engineer, declared today.

The final ordinance for it was passed August 22, 1893; the contract awarded to Whitmore, Rauber & Vicinus. It was completed September 7, 1894, at a total cost of \$99,000, including the paving between the tracks.

The cost of the new asphalt pavement being laid in Main Street by Thomas Holahan, in the same section between Fitzhugh Street and East Avenue, will cost \$232,000, of which the New York State Railways will pay \$60,000 and other taxpayers, \$172,000.

## LAI'D BY DAY LABOR

While the present contract is being carried out mainly with machinery, the old pavement was laid entirely by day labor without even a steam shovel to facilitate the work. The present job is to be finished within four months; the first contract was finished in one Summer.

Mr. Fisher said:

"The old pavement has carried a tremendous amount of traffic, yet it stood up well through thirty-three years. Not only was the work well done, but the city was fortunate in getting a particular kind of Medina block with good wearing qualities.

"John B. Y. McClintock was city engineer at the time, and I was at that time in the Waterworks Department. I do not recall that there were any ceremonies at the opening of the old pavement.

"A large force of men was employed at the task, for no machinery was used. The concrete was mixed in the street, then carried in wheelbarrows and emptied and, of course, the blocks were all laid by hand.

"Laborers were then paid about \$1.25 a day, which explains the low cost of the work. If the present job had to be done by day labor instead of machines, the cost would be staggering."

## ASPHALT SURFACE

The block pavement was laid over seven and one-half inches of concrete with a foundation of gravel and wooden rails. In the present job the original concrete foundation remains, with five more inches of concrete laid over it.





## The "Downtown" of 1819

THERE was little "hurrying," but a good deal of "tarrying," one hundred and six years ago when our downtown looked like this. That was only one year before Rochester's Pioneer Drug Store—an institution of Professional Prescriptionists—was established.

*Professional Prescriptionists  
For More Than a Century*

MOTOR DELIVERY SERVICE

Telephone—Main 8230

ESTABLISHED 1820  
*The Paine Drug Co.*  
*Licensed Pharmacists*

24-26 Main St. East



THIS is Rochester's Main Street in 1819. The low building in the foreground was on the present site of Reynolds Arcade. The "star" marks the location of the Paine Drug Company where we have been compounding prescriptions for the past one hundred and five years.

*Professional Prescriptionists  
For More than a Century*

ESTABLISHED 1820  
*The Paine Drug Co.*  
*Licensed Pharmacists*

24-26 Main St. East



# BRIDGE IN MAIN STREET ONCE TWO RODS WIDER AT WEST END THAN AT EAST

## Mistake Made in Law Authorizing Structure; Evidence of Discrepancy Still Visible.

BY JAMES ANGLE.

A person standing at the southeast corner of Main and Exchange streets and looking eastward along Main street east will notice, if possessed of the faculty of observation to an average degree, that the line of buildings on the south side of the street, beginning a little to the eastward of South Water street, appears to curve toward the north. If the view is taken from the northeast corner of Main and State streets the north line of Main street east looks as if it was laid out on a straight line.

This difference is not an optical illusion, but is a fact, the reason for it having its beginning more than a century ago.

In 1804 commissioners were appointed by the Legislature to lay out a public road, at least four rods wide, from Salina, in Onondaga county, "to or near the mouth of the Genesee river." Two years later the legislature appointed commissioners "to lay out a public road, at least six rods wide, from the termination of the road laid out from the village of Salina to or near the falls on Genesee river, to Lewiston, on Niagara river." The road described in these acts together formed what was known as the North State Road.

### Road Width Different.

In 1809 the Legislature passed an act which authorized the supervisors of Ontario and Genesee counties to raise money "for the purpose of building a bridge across the Genesee river, between the towns of Boyle and Northampton, at the place where the North State Road crosses the Genesee river." The phraseology of this act, "where the North State Road crosses the Genesee river," indicated that the bridge which the act authorized was a part of the continuous highway from Salina to Lewiston. The Genesee river from the Great Falls to the junction of the Canacaraga creek had been, since the passage of an act of the Legislature, in 1798, a public highway.

By an act passed by the Legislature in 1822, David S. Bates was appointed commissioner to ascertain the courses and bounds of Buffalo and Carroll streets. The certificate and survey of the commissioner, recorded in Monroe county clerk's office, describes Buffalo street as six rods wide

and running to the Genesee river, an expression equivalent to the center of the river. The condition was that part of the North State Road lying east of the center of the river was two rods narrower than the portion of the road on the west of the center of the stream, and if the bridge authorized by the 1809 act followed the lines of the road it would be two rods wider at the western termination than at the eastern end.

The northerly line of the North State Road over the bridge was, practically, settled, in 1833, by the action of the village trustees, as following the north line of the road from Salina, but the southerly line was undetermined. Land was claimed and buildings had been erected which, in the opinion of many citizens, were encroachments on the rights of the public.

### South Line Incomplete.

Notwithstanding this unsettled condition, the contract for the building of the stone bridge, the main part of the present one, was executed on August 21, 1855. The new bridge was opened August 1, 1857, but was incomplete in respect to its south line. On August 25, 1857, the Common Council passed a resolution, "that the city attorney and the Law Committee examine into and report to the council, what right the public have, for the purpose of a street, to the land and bed of the river lying between the south line of Buffalo street, extended to the center of the Genesee river, and the south line of Main street, extended to Buffalo street. And that, for the purposes of this investigation, they be authorized to secure the examination of, and, if deemed necessary, transcripts of any records, stipulation,

maps, charts or other documentary evidence calculated to elucidate the subject and enable them to arrive at satisfactory conclusions therein.

"The report of the city attorney was submitted to the council on September 22, 1857. The conclusions of the city attorney were: that by the act of 1806, which authorized the laying out of the road to Lewiston, the public acquired the right to use for a public highway as a part of the Lewiston road (Buffalo street) six rods in width, to the center of the river; that such rights as to that portion of the six rods as lies south of the bridge, have not been lost by suffering individuals to have such an exclusive and continued possession thereof inconsistent with the rights of the public, as bars those rights.

Though this report was accepted by the council no action was taken. The construction of the bridge had been a source of trouble from the letting of the contract to its opening, and the Council was not inclined to open the way to another cause of a like nature, and the location of the south line of the bridge was a matter of much comment but of no action. On March 8, 1858, Mayor Clark submitted to the Council a communication in which the importance of establishing the south line of the bridge was presented. Proceedings to locate the east line of Front street had developed certain facts that had a direct bearing on the location of the south line of Buffalo street on the Main street bridge, and the difference in width of that street from the north line of the bridge, and the width of the bridge at its east end.

### Mayor's Recommendation

The recommendation of Mayor Clark was, that the south line of the bridge "shall correspond to a straight line drawn from the northeast corner of M. F. Reynolds' building (westerly corner of Buffalo and Graves streets) to the northwest corner of Tone's block, so called, or to such point at its eastern termination as the council may think most proper." The mayor's communication was, on April 19, 1859, referred to the committee on Opening and Alteration of Streets. On May 17th, this committee made a request for further time. On May 31st Alderman Mudgett, of the committee having the matter in charge, presented a resolution, "that the south line of Buffalo and Main streets, between Water street and Graves alley, shall be determined by a line drawn from the southeast corner of Main and Water

streets to the southwest corner of Buffalo street and Graves alley."

The property deemed necessary for the improvement was specifically described in the resolution, but recital of its meets and bounds would, at the present time, be without value, owing to the many alterations subsequently made. The city surveyor was directed to negotiate with the owners of the lands to be taken and to report to the council upon what conditions the property could be purchased. The city surveyor reported that he had conferred with the property owners referred to, and that their names and the value placed by them on the property to be taken were: Frederick Starr, \$7,000; H. N. Curtice, \$10,000. Frederick Starr was the owner of the property from the center of the river westward, and H. N. Curtice owned the lands from the southwest corner of Main and South Water streets to the center of the river.

Further action on the question of determining the south line of the bridge did not appear to interest the council of that term. A new Common Council came into office on April 2, 1860, and on August 21st of that year, a resolution to define and establish the south line of Main street bridge was adopted.

### Provisions of Resolution.

The resolution provided for a committee to negotiate with the owners of the lands necessary to be taken. A month later the action last mentioned was rescinded, and a new resolution was presented. This resolution was more precise and definite in relation to the boundaries of the land to be taken, and the estimate of expenses was fixed at \$14,300. This resolution met the same fate its predecessor had, being rescinded and a new resolution substituted in its place. A statement in detail of the proceedings of the council in rescinding resolutions and substituting others, of amendments and the postponing of action from meeting to meeting, would be an uninteresting recital.

The period of ineffective proceedings and indefinite action continued until March 29, 1861, when the final ordinance was passed. The time taken in arriving at a definite conclusion extended from August 25, 1857, to March 29, 1861—three years and seven months. The vote on the final ordinance was nineteen in favor of the ordinance to one vote in the negative.

The important point decided by the adoption of the ordinance was: "Main street shall be widened on the south side thereof to a point two and a half feet north of the northeast corner of a brick building now owned and occupied by Samuel Richardson, situated on premises formerly known as the Cobb lot, on the south side of Buffalo street to a point where a line drawn from the first mentioned point would strike the southwest corner of Main and South St. Paul streets." South avenue is now the name of the thoroughfare named in the ordinance South St. Paul street.

### Delays Caused.

The settlement of main question, however, did not affect the practice of delay, indecision and change which had become a habit of the Common Council in the matter of widening the south line of Main street. Alterations in the territory to be taxed for the improvement and the correction of assessment rolls were frequently made and changed. On December 10, 1861, a variation in the customary procrastination was created by the adoption of a resolution "to advertise for proposals for extending the arches of Main street bridge, on the south side, to the present south line of the street, to the end that the owners of the property may have an opportunity to construct permanent sidewalks opposite their premises."

In response to the advertisement eleven bids, running from \$9,961.70 to \$17,269.00 were received. The contract was awarded to James Conway, on his bid of \$9,972.20. On July 9, 1862, the assessors were directed to assess the sum of \$22,102.00 on the territory liable to taxation. At the meeting of December 10th, the council elected to extend the bridge to the new line, and directed the contractor, James Conway, to be notified.

At this point the proceeding were halted by the mayor, who suspended the immediate carrying out of direction to extend the bridge to the new line. The council disposed of this obstruction by placing the extension of the bridge line in the discretion of the committee in charge of the matter. On August 5, 1862, the council, under the authority given by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1861, voted a bond issue of \$15,000, and the widening of Main street bridge and the alteration of the south line of Main street was changed from a doubtful measure to the condition of a fixed fact.



By Amy H. Croughton

## No. 9—Main Street West Once Was Buffalo Street



This sketch lent by the Rochester Historical Society shows Buffalo Street, now Main Street West, as it appeared in 1840. The view is taken from a point near the corner of Washington Street. The square of the first Court House with the "Greek Temple" buildings in front is seen on the right; part of the First Methodist Church, the National Hotel and the Eagle Hotel are on the left.

One who would write of the history and romantic tradition of Main Street is confronted with an embarrassing fund of rich material.

Perhaps the best method of attack is to take the street piecemeal, confining this article to that portion of the street between State and Broad Streets. This stretch of thoroughfare, under its first name of Buffalo Street, is particularly linked with the tradition of early Rochester. There a university was born; a bank sprung up on the site of a chicken market; hotels have catered to guests, from the "man and beast" period to the present "family and automobile" day; and court house has succeeded court house as the demands of the county grew.

The name Buffalo Street was first applied to that stretch of the Street; a movement to call it West the bridge over the Genesee River to the western boundary of the original 100-Acre Tract acquired by Colonel Rochester, Fitzhugh and Carroll founders of the village. It was not until June, 1871, that the Common Council changed the name from Buffalo to West Main Street; a movement to call it West Broadway having failed.

### First House Marked

By placing a tablet on the south front of Powers Building, the Rochester Historical Society has made it possible for every passerby to know that here is the site of the first house built on the west side of the river on the 100-Acre Tract. This was the log cabin of Hamlet Scrantom into which he moved on July 4, 1812, and where the first wedding in Rochester took place on Oct. 8, 1815.

In 1816 the principal settlement was still confined to the stretch of rough roadway between the river and State Street, then Carroll Street. Rows of small shops with living quarters attached, lined the roadway. The first of these stores had been built by Silas O. Smith in 1813 at the southwest corner of Main and Exchange Streets. Smith owned the land to the west including the present court house site from which, in 1813, he had just burned the brush and on which he was preparing to sow wheat. Where the City Hall now stands were shallow waters in which huge bullfrogs croaked. Along the roughly laid out streets stood stumps of trees hastily hacked down. The settlers found ready use for all lumber cleared. What was not wanted for building or for fuel was hauled to the swampy sections and sunk to make a foundation for further filling in. Primitive attempts at drainage were also made and by 1817 the "Deer Lick" which had extended north of Buffalo Street between State and Washington Streets had been reclaimed.

The log cabin of the Scrantom was moved back on the lot in 1818 and was used as a stable to a large wooden building which was conducted as a hotel by Dr. Azel Ensworth. This was a rather pretentious place, three stories high and extending to Pindell Alley. It had a watering trough in front and a yard to the north. In the early days of the village the settlers purchased their meat from the Moulson meat wagon which took up its stand in the Ensworth Tavern yard.

In 1829 the Ensworth Tavern was torn down and A. M. Schermerhorn built the Eagle Hotel on the site. This was conducted by Dewey Walbridge and by William H. Van Renssaler who were hosts to many prominent persons including Jenny Lind, President Fillmore and Henry Clay. The hotel was closed on Feb. 11, 1863, and the building was used for commercial purposes. Daniel W. Powers bought it in 1865 and conducted his bank there, managing to keep business going as usual even while the first excavations for the Powers Building were going on in 1868. The first tower of the Powers Building was at the southeast corner of the building. The present tower was added in 1890—in order to overtop neighboring buildings, so tradition says.

In 1869 the Powers Law Library was opened in Room 440. It was moved, in 1891, to rooms 437-38 which had been the meeting place of the Abelard Club, and in 1899 it was moved to the seventh floor. Among the books are 2,000 volumes from the library of Roscoe Conkling. Powers Art Gallery was founded by D. W. Powers in the '70s and was one of the chief sights of the city until the pictures were dispersed in 1898.

Across from the Scrantom cabin, a little south of the southwest corner of Main and Exchange Streets, Silas O. Smith built the first store in Rochester in 1813. On the same site, about 1836, he erected a building which was remodeled in 1856 and was known as Smith's Arcade. The building was again remodeled in 1871 and was in use until 1903 when it was torn down to make way for the building of the Rochester Trust and Safe Deposit Com-

pany. The Rundell Art Gallery, conducted by the man who later left money to the city for an art building, had its home in the Smith Arcade. A waiting room for street car patrons occupied one of the stores on the Exchange Street side and the Post Drug Store was also in the building for many years. One of the stores on Main Street housed a restaurant which exposed great sea-turtles to view in its window, or, sometimes, on the pavement, and promised a course-dinner beginning with turtle soup for 25 cents.

### Three Court Houses

On Silas Smith's wheat field the first Monroe County Court House was built in 1821. The second followed in 1849; the third was begun in 1894 and opened in 1896. In the rear of the Court House was a stretch of lawn and flower gardens, now covered by the addition built in 1926.

The first Court House was a quaint building standing back on a height and flanked by two miniature Grecian temples which served as offices for lawyers and for the county clerk. The second Court House had a high, pillared front, and a tower which was surmounted by the statue of Justice which now occupies a niche in the front of the present building. The broad plaza before the second Court House formed a natural gathering place for Rochesterians on all civic occasions and in the stirring days of the Civil War. Beneath the pavement at the southwest corner of Main and Fitzhugh Streets was a cistern where water was stored for use in case of fire in the days before Rochester had its Hemlock system. Trials of fire apparatus were held in front of the Court House, the crowning achievement being the throwing of a stream of water over the head of "Justice" on the Court House dome.

In the early '80s, Dr. H. D. Cogswell, a temperance advocate, caused to be erected on the Court House plaza a fountain surmounted by a metal figure, the identity of which never was satisfactorily established though it was said that Cogswell had ordered the iron foundry to produce a statue of John B. Gough the temperance orator.

Rochesterians objected to the fountain on several counts and it served as a never-failing source of inspiration for the joke-smiths. On the night of April 4, 1885, the statue disappeared from its pedestal. The fountain remained, however, and dispensed draughts of Hemlock water to all and sundry until preparations for building the present Court House caused its removal in 1894.

In the good old days before automobiles, the hack drivers had their cab stand in Main Street in front of the Court House. Between trips, in Summer, they lounged in the sun and exchanged gossip or played games. In the Winter they sometimes indulged in snowball

fights and on one occasion tunneled through the big drifts and built a snow cavern which attracted many sight-seers.

### Old National Hotel

The northeast corner of Main and Fitzhugh Streets has been occupied by hotel buildings from the early days of the village. The Monroe Hotel was the first on the site. Then came the National Hotel, a building with long, curved balconies. At different times this hotel was known as the Morton, the Champion, and then, again, the National. It was torn down in 1881 and was immediately replaced by the present Powers Hotel. Between the National Hotel and Powers Commercial building there stood, until 1881, the Brooks building and the building in which the Union and Advertiser was published.

The First Methodist congregation erected a large church at the northwest corner of Main and Fitzhugh streets in 1829, the dedication taking place in 1831. The building was burned in 1835 but a new church was dedicated on the site in 1839. Its support proved too great a task for the congregation, however, and the building was sold within a short time, the church moving north on Fitzhugh Street to its present site.

### Infamous Chicken Row

Across Main Street from the church there stood or, rather, leaned, a conglomeration of unsightly frame buildings where chickens were offered for sale and other more or less hap-hazard business carried on. The place, known as "Chicken Row", was for many years a scandal and an eye-sore. The property was purchased by the Rochester Savings Bank on March 30, 1853, and on the same night fire broke out and demolished the row of shacks. The bank building was erected on the site in 1857, but the mansard roof with its ornamental lions and clock tower was not added until 1877.

In 1827 a bathhouse was operating in Main Street West on the south side between Plymouth Avenue and Washington Street. Besides its sulphur spring baths it advertised "a barroom and ladies' drawing room." Beyond Washington Street many warehouses of roughly hewn stone were built following the putting through of the Erie Canal in 1825. These ran through from Main Street to the towpath. Portions of these buildings are still to be seen.

After the old National Hotel at Fitzhugh Street was demolished the name was taken by a hotel at the southeast corner of Main Street and Plymouth Avenue. This was replaced by the Rochester Hotel in 1908.

### Birthplace of U. of R.

The old United States Hotel building, still standing on the north side of Main Street near Elizabeth Street, was occupied for 11 years by the University of Rochester, the first classes of the university convening there on the first Monday in



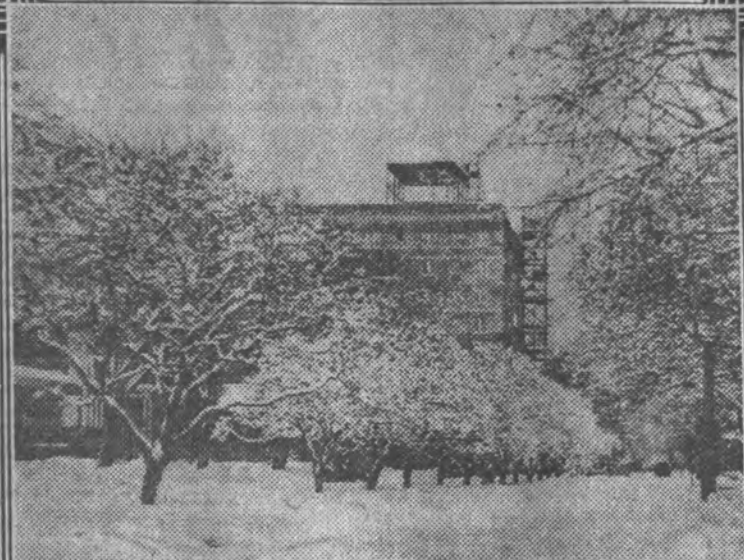
November, 1850, with 59 students and five professors. Ten of the enrolled were sophomores, so that there were 10 graduates at the first commencement, held in the hotel building on July 9, 1851. The Rochester Theological Seminary also began its work in the old hotel building in the same year that the university was founded.

Henry A. Ward, who for many years was closely connected with the University of Rochester and who founded the Ward's Natural Science Establishment in College Avenue, which recently was presented to the university, exhibited his first collection of fossils in a building at the southwest corner of Main Street West and Plymouth Avenue.

And so we come to Broad Street, or, as it was until recent years, the Erie Canal, and its temperamental swing and lift bridges which threw so formidable a barrier across Main Street West that not only did the character of the street seem entirely to change at that point, but even a new name was given to it throughout many years.

## Magnolia Tree Layout in Oxford Street Dates Back to Early Days

*RVE-Rochester History - 1850*



Top—Group of Magnolia trees in Oxford street. Bottom, left; Tree planted on the campus of the University of Rochester by the Class of 1864; right, another campus tree planted by the Class of 1854.

By RAYMOND E. PHILLIPS

In our bustling life of the city we often pass things of interest without giving thought. Oxford street with its beautiful magnolia trees through the center and flanked by Norway Maples forms a unique setting that dates back to the days when all that vicinity was known as the Hooker Farms. It was Mr. Hooker that had the vision to lay out this street in such an attractive manner and planted all of these trees.

According to Professor Charles W. Dodge, of the University of Rochester, and a very close relative of Mr. Hooker, these magnolias are more than sixty years old. Low of growth and now quite rare these trees add a scene of the quaint beauty of olden days and add a feature to the Flower City. If it were not for the ground covering of snow this picture would be taken for a view of the trees in full bloom.

No more fitting monument could be raised than to plant a tree. One of the first groups to appreciate this

fact in Rochester was the class of 1854 at the University of Rochester. They planted the fine elm in the foreground of the circle on the campus. This tree which has been planted and thriving there for over seventy-two years is without a doubt the only living thing to mark the existence of this class as a whole group.

Several class trees have been planted and another fine example is the oak tree dedicated by the class of 1864. This tree is located on the main approach to the circle and has grown on through the years, a symbol of persistence, of loyalty and love to the Alma Mater that has fitted each class in turn and given to the world a more helpful man.

This tree was large enough on June 18, 1870, to shelter a congregation that had gathered together to hear Rev. George Whitfield preach at the Smithfield Presbyterian Church. The congregation was so large that the church across the road could not hold them and they gathered beneath the spreading branches of this oak tree.



# STREET NAME CHANGE MAY BE OPPOSED

*Rochester Public Library*  
*Frank One of Historic Designations of City—Made Plymouth Avenue by Measure of Council.*

A repercussion seemed likely today on the Common Council's action wiping out the old name of Frank Street, given to perpetuate the memory of one of the founders of the city.

As ordained by the councilmen this week, Frank Street passes into history and becomes Plymouth Avenue, North.

Frank Street was one of the oldest names in this city. It goes back to 1812, when Francis and Mathew Brown and Charles Harford bought a large tract of land just north of the 100-acre tract owned by Rochester, Carroll and Fitzhugh, and laid out a village as surveyed by Benjamin Wright, the pioneer engineer of the Erie Canal.

This tract became the village of Frankfort, and the road that ran northerly across the entire tract, parallel to State Street, was named Frank in honor of Francis Brown who became a member of the first village board of trustees in 1817.

The ordinance changing the name of Frank Street failed to attract public attention while pending.

"I do not think the Common Council, which voted unanimously for the change in the name of Frank Street, had been advised of the historic importance of this name in our city's history," said Robert D. Burns, secretary of the Society for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Names in Rochester and Vicinity, to The Times-Union today.

"Once the story of the naming of Frank Street is understood in the Common Council, I am sure that body will be favorably disposed to consider the restoration of the ancient name."

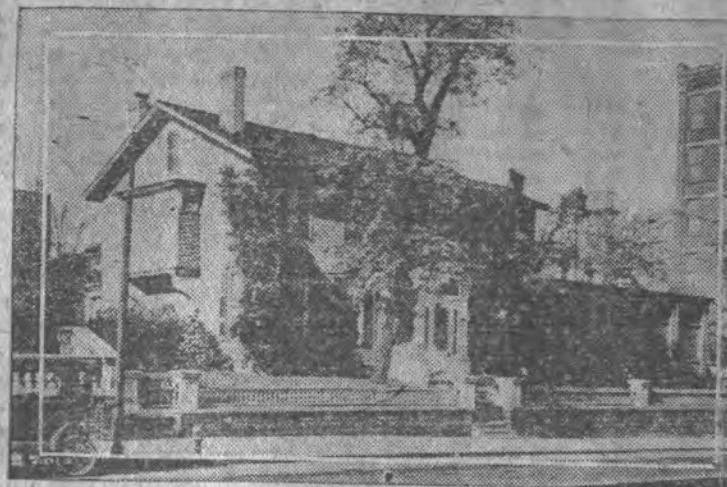
"There is nothing gained in extending the name of Plymouth. This name superseded that of Sophia, which was given by Colonel Rochester to the highway he laid out between old Buffalo Street, now Main Street West, and Troup Street. He gave this name in honor of his wife. Plymouth Avenue was so called from the old Plymouth Church, which in later years has become the Plymouth Spiritualist Church."

"Brown Street, which still perpetuates the name of the family, was not originated by the Browns. The present Brown Street as it appears on the Browns' map of the village made by Wright, the engineer and surveyor, was Court Street."

"If group action by Rochesterians interested in preserving street names which have a meaning, is thought necessary, I am sure the several organizations devoted to historic matters here will gladly co-operate in presenting their case to the Common Council."

By Amy H. Croughton

## No. 25—St. Paul Once Clyde Street



Andrews homestead which stood at southwest corner of St. Paul and Andrews streets from 1817 to May, 1924.

Just as the first settlers of Rochester coming from New England found their way to the Genesee Falls by way of what is now East Avenue, so later comers, who had survived weeks of journeying in sailing vessels from their European homes and a further journey through the St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario and the Genesee River, came into the village by way of St. Paul Street.

Many of these immigrants, landing at what is now Brewer's Dock, found the feeling of solid ground under their feet so satisfying that they were content not to go far from their place of debarkation. So there grew up a foreign colony in the northwest part of the city, which, though its racial complexion changed with the years, yet remained distinctive.

There are old-timers still living who can recall the bubbling and hissing of the melting pot in St. Paul Street and its not infrequent boiling over when the Dublin Gang sallied forth and engaged the Frankfort Gang from the west side in bloody combat, which only ended when the Frankforts had been beaten back across Andrews Street bridge.

For the most part, however, these newcomers were quiet, peaceful citizens who, while loving to retain their old customs, quickly grafted upon them ways of living that they found in their new home and, by their energy and diligence, built up the industry of the city in many directions.

### Road Led to Carthage

A century ago St. Paul Street was the artery of travel between two villages, Rochester and Carthage, the postoffice station name of the latter being Clyde. These two villages had been fighting for 10 years for supremacy as the leading settlement in Western New York. In 1828, Carthage, though still a port of considerable importance for lake freighters and passenger boats which came up the Genesee, and having connection with the west side by means of a bridge across the river, and with Rochester by a horsepower railroad, was playing a losing game owing to the fact that the Erie Canal had passed several miles to the south and was giving Rochester the commercial prosperity for which Carthage had hoped.

Today Carthage is but a name and St. Paul Street and Rochester extend far beyond what originally were its boundaries. When the third Carthage bridge across the river fell in April, 1857, a few months after its erection, the sun of Carthage finally set.

But because Carthage existed and lived so lustily for its brief span, St. Paul Street is unusually rich in historical color; embarrassingly so for one who must observe the limits of a newspaper article. An interesting and authoritative article on Carthage by Mrs.

S. Huntington Hooker was published in Vol. 2 of the Publication Series of the Rochester Historical Society, and is recommended to those who wish to know more of the history of the village.

### Andrews House Built 1817

The southern end of St. Paul Street, between Main Street and Andrews Street, owes its early development to Samuel J. Andrews, Moses Atwater and Thomas Mumford.

Andrews, who had come from Derby, Conn., in 1815, built in 1817 the house which stood until May, 1924, at the southwest corner of St. Paul and Andrews streets and was the home of members of the Andrews family until the death of James Sherlock Andrews on March 21, 1921.

Andrews, Atwater and Mumford also stimulated the growth of the village northward by erecting a toll bridge over the Genesee River a little south of what is now Central Avenue. A roadway called Bridge Street connected the ends of the bridge with State Street and Franklin Street. This street was closed at both ends about 1828 and the bridge fell into disuse and was demolished. The first bridge over the river at Andrews Street was built in 1838 by private capital. The iron bridge which succeeded it was erected in 1857 and stood for 36 years.

On early maps of the city St. Paul Street appears as Market Street to the point of its intersection with Franklin Street (then called Washington). Beyond this point it was called Clyde Street in reference to the postal designation of Carthage. In 1838, eight years after the erection of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the name of the street was changed to St. Paul. This name it continues to bear, although St. Paul's Church, for a period, changed its name to Grace Church and, in 1897, removed to East Avenue, its old building in St. Paul Street becoming a motion picture theater now known as The Strand.

### Was Educational Center

A number of educational schools flourished in St. Paul Street in the earlier years of the city. In 1835 the Rev. Bernard O'Reilly brought to the city Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hughes who opened a school for Roman Catholic children in the home of Dr. Hugh Bradley on North St. Paul Street near Falls Field. A few months later this school moved to the basement of St. Patrick's Church in Platt Street. In 1839 Mary B. Allen established a Young Ladies' Seminary at the southeast corner of St. Paul and Pleasant streets. In 1844 this school had seven teachers including a Prof. George Bartholomew, who gave the young ladies instruction in "mezzotint drawing."

In the 1840s the land between Water Street and St. Paul Street north of Andrews Street, which is now bisected by Carthage Alley, was known as Smoky Hollow, and had none too good reputation. In later years when the first Italian immigrants found their way to Rochester they found refuge in the tumble-down buildings of this section. Just north of Smoky Hollow was the section called Dublin, where the first Irish immigrants settled. Mrs. Katherine Dowling has given an account of this settlement in a paper to be found in Volume 2 of the Rochester Historical Series.



In the 1840s, according to reminiscences published by Dr. Porter Farley, there were only farms and orchards on St. Paul Street beyond Gorham. The Hart house, an imposing, towered structure of 22 rooms, set back in park-like surroundings, was the most important residence in that section. This was believed to have been built in 1838 and was purchased from the Hart family by Gen. Henry M. Brinker in 1867. General Brinker spent much money on the grounds and on the house, importing Italian marble and rare woods for its interior fittings. In 1888 part of the grounds was sold to the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad, which established a station there to which was given the name Brinker Station. Members of the Brinker family occupied the house until October, 1908, when it was torn down to make way for the factory of L. Adler Bros. & Co.

In 1840 there was a group of residences in the neighborhood of the lower falls, this side of Carthage, which were owned by Ansel Frost, Elisha B. Strong and Horace Hooker.

#### Was Residential Street

Until 1883 St. Paul Street, with the exception of the commercial buildings at the Main Street corners, was a residential street. The introduction of a street car line in 1873 did little to change its character, merely making it more desirable for residence purposes and leading to the erection of some of the fine old homes which still exist in the vicinity of the lower falls.

The erection of the New York Central station at St. Paul Street and the opening of Central Avenue and the Central Avenue bridge in 1883, followed by the widening of St. Paul Street 10 feet in the same year definitely turned the tide of commerce into the street and though a few old houses held their places, the Andrews homestead was the only one to retain its original character. The house adjoining the Andrews home to the south was erected in 1827 by Charles M. Lee,

who enclosed his grounds with an elaborate fence of stone cut by convict labor, a fact which was used against him in one of his campaigns for office. This house stood until a few years ago, although it had long since become a lodging house. The Elwood house, which was willed to the S. P. C. A. and was occupied by it for many years, and the George W. Archer house with its extensive stables which in their day housed notable pacers, have all given way to business blocks or gas stations.

The lot at the northwest corner of St. Paul and Mortimer streets, the deed to which is said to have been the first recorded in the Monroe county clerk's office on its opening in 1821, was the site of the home of George G. Clarkson, one of Rochester's mayors, and is now occupied by the Chamber of Commerce building, erected in 1916-17 with money given by George Eastman.

#### Coming of Commerce

On the east side of St. Paul Street the Ward house at the southeast corner of St. Paul and Pleasant streets, which had been occupied by the Allen Seminary, was supplanted in 1883 by the building erected by H. H. Warner to house his patent medicine business, whose surprising growth had much to do with the commercial development of Rochester in subsequent years. When Warner failed, after an unsuccessful attempt to extend his business into Great Britain, the building passed into other hands and is now known as the Case Building. But one who looks aloft may still see the massive initials "W" carved on the cornices of the building, mute reminder of the day when the manufacture of "Warner's Safe Cure" gave employment to several thousand Rochesterians; brought about more efficient methods of handling mail in the Rochester postoffice, and secured improved railroad freight service for the city.

One of the first events that is heard of in connection with the junction of St. Paul and Main streets is the first Fourth of July celebration which was held in the

settlement. One of the first town pumps was also placed at this point and on the northeast corner Samuel J. Andrews erected a stone block, said to be the first in the city, though by 1828 another stone block of four stores had been erected on the opposite corner where the Burke Building, so long occupied by Burke, FitzSimons, Hone & Company, now stands.

#### Old Osburn House

Succeeding the Andrews block on the northeast corner came the Blossom House, which was the center of social life for the East Side until it burned down on Jan. 24, 1854. In 1857 the Osburn House was erected on the site by Nehemiah Osburn. Tradition has it that this was the hotel immortalized in William D. Howell's novel, "Their Wedding Journey," in which the bride and groom are represented as charmed by their reception and by the stroll to Falls Field which is recommended to them. In 1880 the Osburn House building was acquired by Sibley, Lindsay & Curr

and the "New" Osburn House was erected in South Avenue on its present site. For a time the dry-goods store occupied only the lower floor of the building, the upper floors being used for hotel and office purposes. Gradually the whole building was taken over and in 1893 was demolished to make way for the Granite Building, the lower floors of which were occupied by the Sibley store until the fire which damaged the inside of the building on Feb. 26, 1904. Following the restoration of the building the Sibley Store removed to its present site at North Clinton and Main Streets.

The cutting through of Central Avenue in 1883 left a triangle of ground at Franklin and St. Paul streets and Central Avenue which was incorporated into the park system after its organization and on which was unveiled, on June 9, 1899, a statue of Frederick Douglas, colored statesman.

#### Site of Jewish Home

On the east side of St. Paul Street between Scrantom and Evergreen streets, the Jewish Orphan Asylum was conducted from 1884 to when the children were moved to

the buildings in Genesee Street which have just been closed. The Jewish Home for the Aged on the east side of the street between Riverbank Place and Avenue A was founded in 1921.

In the Fall of 1878 the Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes which had been established in the Riley Block in South Avenue was moved to its present site in old buildings leased from the city. On July 31, 1882, a number of the original buildings, which included a truant school and the old Steamboat Hotel, were destroyed by fire and a general policy of rebuilding to give an efficient school plant was adopted.

The second building of School 8 was erected in 1855 on the west side of St. Paul Street. The site was abandoned for school purposes when the new Carthage School 8 was erected, but the building was used for some time as a park zoo and storage house. The building was later razed and the site developed as part of Seneca Park. It would be impossible to speak

of all the industries which have contributed to the importance of St. Paul Street. The Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, which had begun operations in Reynolds Arcade and had had small factories in Water Street, erected its first brick building at Lowell and St. Paul Streets in 1874. Its buildings now extend on both sides of St. Paul and down to the river bank.

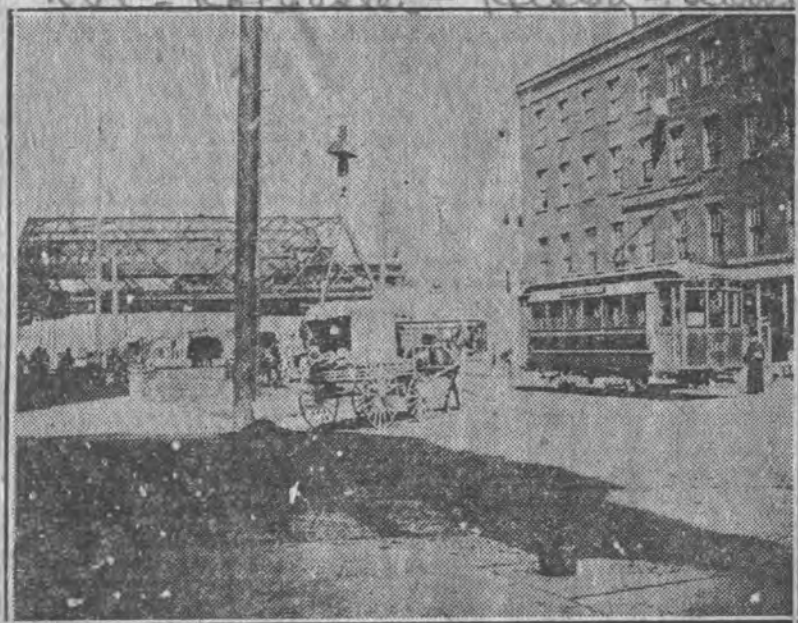
In 1852 Henry Bartholomay brewed the first barrel of lager beer brewed in Rochester at the site in St. Paul Street later occupied by the Bartholomay Brewing Company and now by the Bartholomay Ice Cream Company.

The clothing industry, which had been founded in Rochester in the 1840s, found its way to St. Paul Street about 1860 and since that time scores of firms have sprung up and prospered in the street.



## DO YOU REMEMBER?

State Street At Railroad Bridge  
As It Appeared In Summer Of 1892



The only familiar feature in the above picture, which was taken in 1892, is the building on the right, now known as the Savoy Hotel, but which was built in the days before the Civil War and conducted under the name of the Waverly Hotel.

The bridge of the New York Central Railroad across State street, seen in the picture, is the one built in 1883 at the time the tracks were elevated. It was replaced in 1900 with the present structure. The campaign for placing telephone and telegraph cables in underground conduits resulted in the removal from the streets of Rochester of the ungainly wooden poles, two of which are seen in the picture and it is said that Rochester now has fewer overhead wires than any other city in the country. The old-fashioned arc lights are also a thing of the past in State street.

The electric car shown in the picture is one of the first to be operated in Rochester. It bears the number

101 and was operated on the Lake and South avenues.

It is not so much what one sees in the picture as what one does not see, that makes it strange to modern eyes. One may search the length of the street in the picture and not find a "flivver" or a motor-truck where today it is with difficulty that one threads his way through the constant stream of motor vehicles which pass the Central avenue and State street corner.

# CARROLL STREET MADE STATE STREET IN 1831, AFTER LAND SQUABBLE Charles Carroll Refused to Give Up Land Village Wanted for Public Market.

By JAMES M. ANGLE.

The Board of Trustees of the village of Rochester, at a meeting Tuesday, September 13, 1831, adopted a resolution that the name of Carroll street be changed to State street. Carroll street had been given its name in honor of Charles Carroll, one of the three proprietors of the One-hundred-acre Tract, the location of the nucleus of the present city of Rochester.

Carroll was born on November 7, 1767, upon his father's estate at Carrollsburg, Maryland, now a part of the city of Washington, D. C. He was one of a noteworthy family and a relative of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

## Rancor in Change.

The cause which led to the change of the street's name, and the adoption of one without local significance appears, after the passing of nearly a century, insignificant and, when the history of the event which influenced the action of the village trustees is explained, as showing a tinge of rancor.

In 1817, a partition of the unsold lots in the village of Rochester was made by the owners of the tract, and Nathaniel Rochester and William Fitzhugh conveyed to Charles Carroll lot 73, together with other lots. Lot 73 was located between the river and the east line of Mason (now Front) street, its southern boundary being the north line of Buffalo (Main) street. The date of the conveyance was August 13th, and the deed is recorded in Monroe county clerk's office.

A map showing the lots conveyed was made a part of the deed. This map shows the east line of Mason street, where it joined Buffalo street, to have been different from the east line of the present Front street, the trend of the western shore of the river narrowing the south end of Mason street to thirty-one feet. The lines of the street were, at a later date, changed to their present locations.

## The Public Market.

Charles Carroll died October 28, 1823. His will named his son, Charles H. Carroll as executor. Under deeds from Rochester and Fitzhugh the heirs of Charles Carroll, and others, the title of lot 73 was vested in Charles H. Carroll. The proceedings of the trustees of the village of Rochester show a controversy between the trustees and Carroll, beginning in 1825, relating to Carroll's title and occupancy of lot 73, and particularly to that portion of the lot at the southerly, or Buffalo street, end.

An ordinance was passed by the village trustees, on April 22, 1828, for the construction of "a wall on the east side of Mason street in the Genesee river, as far as the east line of Mason street runs in the river." The passage of this ordinance was coincident with the construction of what was known as the Public Market.

The first Directory of the village, published by Everard Peck, in 1827,

## Controversy Over Property.

At a meeting of the village trustees, on October 6, 1828, it was resolved that "the attorney give notice to Charles H. Carroll that the trustees claim to be legally possessed of the platform at the east end of the river market, and also, give him notice to remove the timbers which have been placed upon side platform, or the timbers supporting the same."

This notice was ignored by Carroll, and the trustees, on April 13, 1830, passed a resolution "to engage Mr. Whittlesey, as solicitor, for commencing a suit in chancery against Charles H. Carroll, for the ground on which the old market stood, on behalf of the corporation." The suit was begun and an answer made by Carroll. The proceedings were delayed by an injunction on the part of Carroll. The record of the proceedings of the village trustees show, that by an order of the Court of Chancery, made August 6, 1830, it became necessary for the trustees "to deposit a certain sum of

money in the said court, and there not being sufficient funds in the village treasury," a resolution was passed "that the trustees raise upon their joint note, payable at the Bank of Rochester, such sum as shall be ascertained to be necessary for the purpose above named."

The president of the board of trustees reported to the board that, on August 14th, the trustees gave their personal note for \$500, payable in four months, to the Bank of Rochester; that \$11.70 was paid for discounting the note; \$462 was paid into the Court of Chancery, in the suit pending with Charles H. Carroll in relation to the market; that the residue of \$26.30 was paid into the village treasury.

## Carroll Paid \$476.25.

A decree of the Court of Chancery, given on August 18, 1831, required a conveyance by Carroll to the village

trustees of a certain part of the premises mentioned in the bill of the complainants, and a release of all the residue of the premises by the trustees to Carroll. Carroll, having executed and delivered to the trustees the conveyance required, and tendered to the trustees a release in the terms of the decree the trustees of the village passed a resolution that "the clerk execute the release on the part of the trustees, also, that there be paid to Carroll \$476.25, the amount decreed to Carroll, being the consideration money and interest for the market ground."

The Court of Chancery, the decree of which determined the rights of the litigants in the suit commenced by the trustees of the village against Carroll, was a court of general equity, and equity meaning equal justice between contending parties, the resolution of the village trustees expunging the name of Charles H. Carroll's father from the streets of the village has, at the present time, the semblance of a retaliation.



# OLD RECORD REVEALS HOW VILLAGE BLOTTED OUT FOUNDER'S NAME

*RVF - Rochester - History - Streets*

## Shows Carroll Street Renamed in Pique over Loss of Lawsuit.

By ROBERT D. BURNS.

Recorder, New York State Archaeological Association.

On file in the office of the city clerk are ancient records which appear to justify the present organized effort to restore and preserve historic names in Rochester. Outstanding on the list, because identified with the founders, are the names Carroll and Sophia. The tale of a village killing the name of one of its founders in a moment of pique over loss of a law suit is told in the official minutes inscribed "Doings of the Trustees of the Village of Rochesterville from March, 1828, to March, 1832." The records are open to the public.

Of the three cavaliers from Maryland who founded Rochester, the first to visit the Genesee was Major Charles Carroll. According to records, he died on October 28, 1823, years before the great quarrel with the village fathers. He never resided in Rochester nor did his associate, Colonel William Fitzhugh, but at their combined request Colonel Rochester named the settlement after his own family. In laying out the streets of the Hundred Acre Tract, the Colonel honored his partners in the enterprise by giving the names Fitzhugh and Carroll to the two principal thoroughfares. Fitzhugh still remains, but in 1831, following litigation with the heirs of the Major, the village fathers, changed the name of Carroll street to State street.

### Lawsuit Stirred Anger.

Research has shown that the major had been in his grave upwards of eight years when his name was attacked. That the village trustees had some cause for a show of anger against the Carroll estate is evident from a study of all the official records covering that period. But the consensus after nearly a century is that the Board of Trustees acted too hastily. The Rochester chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was one of the organizations that petitioned the Common Council to consider naming the subway street in honor of the revolutionary officer who was one of the famous Carroll family which produced a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

"We should be proud," said former Supreme Court Justice Arthur E. Sutherland, who introduced the S. A. R. resolution, "of our relation as a city to the illustrious Carroll family. The name should be given to one of our parks or to the new street over the subway."

The loss of the historic law suit was a heavy blow to the village trustees and freeholders. The litigation was over ownership of lands adjoining the present Main and Front streets and extending to the middle of the river. The official

said Carroll for repairs and interest on Mason street."

So there was no Carroll cash forthcoming to replenish the village strong box. Carroll's victory in the courts was announced and at a meeting of the village fathers on August 18, 1831, this resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that the attorney pay to Charles H. Carroll, the sum of \$476.25, the amount decreed to the said Carroll by the decree of July 2, 1831, being the consideration, money and interest for the market ground and that for that purpose the attorney draw from the court of chancery the deposit of \$460.50, and that he also have an order for \$15.75."

### Rename Carroll Street.

Trustee Humphrey had reported that the court costs were \$431.98 in favor of Ford and Rochester, but this amount through negotiations was cut down to \$106.07, payment of which the village board authorized.

Loss of the law suit burned deep as payment of the money was made out of funds raised by the trustees on their personal notes through the Bank of Rochester and the village fathers invoked the law of retaliation twelve days later. Under date of August 30, 1831, the village minutes read:

"Dr. Brown offered the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Humphrey: 'Resolved that the name of Carroll street and Exchange street be changed to State street.'

"On discussion the consideration of which resolution was deferred until the next meeting."

For reasons best known to the astute village fathers, whose money raised on their personal note had passed into the Carroll pocket, Exchange street was booked for extraction along with Carroll street. As the resolution first introduced now reads, it looks as if the trustees were anticipating public criticism and included Exchange street to offset charges of vindictiveness against the Carroll name.

There is no doubt but that the village was hard up. The official minutes show as much. The record recites these official doings at the meeting September 6, 1831:

"Whereas, the funds of the village are considered inadequate to support a night watch and police constable after the day of—therefore be it resolved, that the said watch and police constable be discontinued after the—day of—"

### No Fund for Night Watch.

On September 13, 1831 these resolutions were adopted: "Resolved, that the name of Carroll street be changed to State street."

This minute is followed by another entry:

"Whereas the funds of the village are inadequate to support a night watch, therefore, 'resolved, that the watchman be discharged from and after the fifteenth instant.'

Thus it appears that the village virtually "went broke" in defending an unsuccessful law suit against the heirs of one of the founders and erected a mark of displeasure which has endured for nearly a century.

Major Carroll made his first visit to the Genesee country in 1799. On September of the following year he came again with Colonel Rochester and Colonel Fitzhugh. All three were men of culture and wealth. The major was born on his father's estate, which included the present site of Washington, D. C. He and Colonel Fitzhugh made their home up the Genesee Valley in the vicinity of Dansville and Groveland.

It was not till June 14, 1904 that the next attempt was made successfully to remove a name identified with the founding of the city. On this date the Common Council obliterated the name of Sophia Rochester.

By unanimous vote of the sixteen aldermen the following ordinance, introduced by Alderman Tracy, of the First ward, was adopted:

"The name of that thoroughfare extending from West Main street to Commercial street and known as Sophia street is hereby changed to Plymouth avenue north in accordance with the petition of a majority of the owners of property on said Sophia street."



# Carroll Centenary On Sunday Spurs Move To Honor Founder

## FAVOR NAMING BOULEVARD FOR NOTED CITIZEN

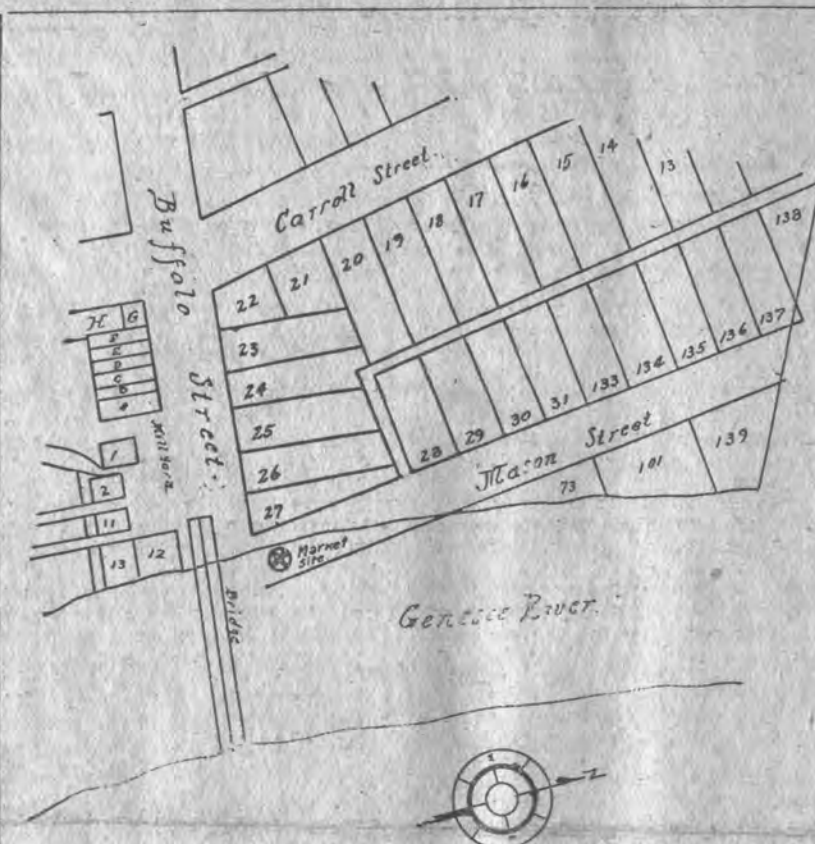
S. A. R. Chapter Adopts Resolution to That Effect—Village Changed Name of Carroll Street to Present State Street.

Of the three courtly and distinguished cavaliers from Maryland who founded Rochester, the first to visit the Genesee country was Major Charles Carroll. Next Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of his death. With the approach of the centenary there is a revival of interest in the movement to have the name of Carroll restored to a place of honor in this city. The local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution adopted a resolution, offered by Judge Arthur E. Sutherland, which in effect requests the Common Council to consider naming the new street atop the subway in honor of the revolutionary officer, who was one of the famous family which produced a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

"We should be proud," said Judge Sutherland today, "of our relation as a city to the illustrious Carroll family. The name should be given to one of our parks or to the new street over the subway."

In the city list of present day streets of Rochester one finds Carroll Alley which extends between Lyell avenue and Frank street, and Carroll place off Caroline street in the 13th ward. This is hardly what Colonel Nathaniel Rochester planned in honor and recognition of his friend and partner.

In laying out the streets on the "100-acre tract," Colonel Rochester, who named the settlement in honor of his own family by request of his two associates in the proprietorship, Colonel William Fitzhugh and Major Carroll, gave the names of Fitzhugh and Carroll to the two principal thoroughfares. Fitzhugh still remains but in 1831 the village trustees inflamed by the loss of a lawsuit to the Carroll family charged the name of Carroll street to State street, and the name of the street persists without objection.



Loss of lawsuit over market site on river near Mason street, now Front street, so incensed village fathers in 1831 that name of Carroll was tabooed, and Carroll street named State street.

That the village trustees had a basis for their grievance is evident from a study of the official records of that period on file in the office of the city clerk at City Hall. The loss of the lawsuit was a heavy blow to the village fathers and freeholders. The town funds were so low that the village trustees were compelled to give their personal note for \$500 to the bank of Rochester paying a discount of \$11.70, to deposit in the Court of Chancery as security. Further at that time the village fathers "fired" the night watchman because there was no money in sight to pay him his dollar.

In a paper read before the historical society entitled "Rochester, its founders and its founding," Howard L. Osgood gave the date of Major Carroll's death as October 28, 1823. There appears to be no ground for questioning the accuracy of this date so that it is evident the Carroll whose name was given to one of Rochester's streets died eight years before trial of the lawsuit over ownership of lands extending to the middle of the river adjoining the present Front street and

Main street. It appears that the village fathers had a quarrel not with the founder, but with his heirs.

The official court records of this lawsuit are now in the archives at the state capitol. The village was sued by the Carroll estate to recover the bed of the river on the north side of Main street bridge which was occupied as a public market. The trustees had purchased from the Carrolls the lot at Mason street, (now Front) and Main street bordered by the Genesee, and the village had constructed a market on piers in the river bed. Charles H. Carroll in his complaint alleged that he had sold only 60 feet, and that the eastern end of the market was on his land.

The costs of this lawsuit fell heavily on the village. The "Doings of trustees of the Village of Rochester" from March 1823 to March 1832" on file at City Hall tell a story of beginnings which appear pitifully grotesque in the light of the present day Rochester with its wealth, industries, and high taxes.

At a meeting of the board the president of the village on August 17, 1830, was authorized to make a lease on the market over the river site with Charles H. Carroll until the first day of April, 1831 at the rate of \$219.06 a year. The suit was still pending and the village already had paid into chancery court \$462 of the \$500 raised by bank loan.

On December 21, 1830 the clerk of the board was directed to write to Charles H. Carroll relative to the balance due from him for filling up Mason street (now Front.) The clerk reported at the meeting of January 11, 1831 that Charles H. Carroll "had receipted on the lease of the Eastern part of the market \$100.81 which was in full for the amount due from the said Carroll for repairs and interest

on Mason street."

Carroll's victory in the lawsuit was announced and this resolution was adopted by the village fathers at the meeting on August 18, 1831:

"Resolved, that the attorney pay to Charles H. Carroll the sum of \$476.25, the amount decreed to the said Carroll by the decree of July 2, 1831, being the consideration, money and interest for the market ground; and that for that purpose the attorney draw from the court of chancery the deposit of \$460.50, and that he also have an order for \$15.75."

This resolution, voting away the money actually raised on the personal vote of the three village trustees, cut and burned deep, for the official records show that at the meeting, August 30, 1831:

"Dr. Brown offered the following resolution seconded by Mr. Humphrey: 'Resolved, that the name of Carroll street and Exchange street be changed to State street.'

"On discussion the consideration of which resolution was deferred until the next meeting."

It will be noted that Exchange street was included in the resolution but as the name still flourishes at the old stand, commentators affect to see a display of tact and political horse sense on the part of the village fathers, and that Exchange street was thrown into the resolution as so much camouflage, for it must be remembered that the village fathers had borrowed the money lost in the lawsuit on their own personal note.

Yet the village was hard up, or else one of those old-fashioned economy waves broke over the community. The official doings at the meeting September 6, 1831, record this resolution:

"Whereas, the funds of the village are considered inadequate to support a night watch and police constable after the — day of — therefore be it resolved, that the said watch and police constable be discontinued after the — day of —."

On September 13, 1831, there appear in the records:

"Resolved, that the name of Carroll street be changed to State street."

Underneath this entry is:

"Whereas the funds of the village

are inadequate to support a night watch, therefore,

"Resolved, that the watchman be discharged from and after the 15th instant."

Trustee Humphrey reported that the court costs of in the Market site lawsuit were \$431.93 in favor of Ford and Rochester. He was authorized to negotiate for lower terms. Humphrey got the cost cut down to \$106.07, and the board authorized this payment.

The lawsuit which ended in the banishment of the name of Carroll from a place of distinction in Rochester set the village back not more than \$700, an amount hardly comparable with present day costs of municipal litigation, but it looks large beside the fact that on September 27, 1831 it was resolved: "That the sum of \$1,500 be raised by the trustees of the village of Rochester by a tax on the freeholders and inhabitants of the village of Rochester for the purpose of paying the debts of the corporation and for the contingent expenses of the present year therefrom."

Major Charles Carroll made his first visit to the Genesee in 1799. In September of the following year he came again with Col. Rochester and Col. Fitzhugh. All three were men of culture and vast wealth. The major was born on his father's estate which marks the present site of Washington, D. C. Neither he nor Col. Fitzhugh ever lived in Rochester, but they made their home up the Genesee valley in the neighborhood of Groveland near the flats of the Canaseraga.

Roughly the 100-acre tract which the three cavaliers purchased and marks the beginning of Rochester, is bounded today by the river on the east. A line drawn from the corner of Spring street and Caledonia avenue to Commercial and Jones streets forms the western limit. The north boundary was a line drawn from Commercial and Jones street east to the river midway between Andrews and Market streets. The southern boundary was a line from Caledonia avenue and Spring street to the river at about Court street.



# Colorful Streets Of Rochester

By Amy H. Croughton

TREES, trees, trees—crowding up about the homes hastily built by the early settlers in Rochester in 1812, they were equally an asset and an annoying problem.

Along State Street, first named Carroll Street in honor of Major Charles Carroll, one of the founders of the city, the settlers hewed down the trees to furnish lumber for their log cabins and rough frame houses, leaving the stumps sticking untidily from the ground. In 1814, Francis Brown, one of the founders of Frankfort, gave Gideon Cobb of Brighton a yoke of oxen to pay for the job of cutting the timber and making a road three rods wide along the line of what is now State Street. Even this seems to have been rather a sketchy job, for travelers visiting Rochester about 1816 remarked upon the contrast between the busy activity of the village and its roadways bristling with projecting stumps. State Street was not cut through between Mumford and Brown streets until after 1813.

## Name Changed In 1831

The name Carroll Street was changed to State by the village trustees, Sept. 13, 1831, in reprisal for the action of Charles H. Carroll, son of Major Carroll, who sought to expel the village market from property at the west end of Main Street bridge over the Genesee which, he declared, had been encroached upon.

The name State Street shifted up and down the length of the thoroughfare between Main Street and the city line. On some early maps the portion beyond Lyell Avenue appears as North State. On Feb. 4, 1862, the Common Council gave the name "Lake Avenue" to State below Ambrose Street. And on May 13 of the same year the junction of State and Lake was placed at Lyell Avenue as it is today.

Shortly after 1812 there stood at the northeast corner of Main and State—Buffalo and Carroll, then—the store of Hervey and Elisha Ely. North of this was the law office of John Mastick and the grocery store of Abram Stark, who also operated a brick kiln. On the west side of State Street was the log cabin of Hamlet Scrantom.

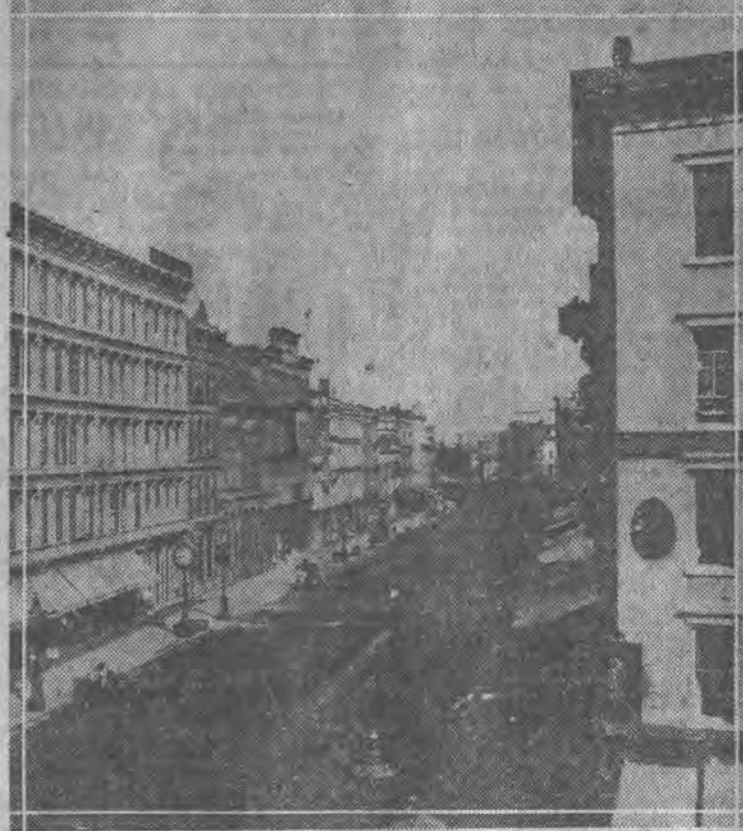
## Mansion House Built 1818

In 1814, David B. Cartter, who had come to Rochester in 1812 and lived for a short time in a house near the northeast corner of Main and State, purchased a plot of land at what is now the southeast corner of State and Market streets for \$106. In the following year Cartter and Abner Hollister built the hotel known as the Mansion House and

HEREWITH there is presented one of a series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history, if it can only be discovered.

Rochester Public Library  
54 Court St.  
Rochester, N. Y.

## No. 16—State Street, Once Called Carroll



State Street in the 1870s looking north from the Four Corners. On the right is the Burns Block. The clock on the left, then in front of the A. S. Mann Dry Goods Store, is still standing.

sometimes, just as "Christopher's," after its best-known landlord, who took charge of it in 1818 after Daniel Mack had been landlord for one year.

The Mansion House, whose name is still preserved in the Mansion House building which now occupies the site, quickly became a center of civic and social activity in Rochester. The first court session in the village was held in the Mansion House and the first Rochester lodge of Masons was installed there.

In 1823 an entertainment was held at the Mansion House to raise funds for the cause of Greek independence. On this occasion Daniel Penfield gave an ox which was led through State Street, its horns garlanded with flowers, and which was later slaughtered and sold for the benefit of the fund.

The Mansion House also served as a theater, for in 1824 a New York theatrical company came to town and gave a performance of the drama, "How to Die for Love,"

in the ballroom of the hotel. In 1825 a resident of Rochester, somewhat vaguely referred to in early records as "Mr. Tousey, a Virginian," gave a dinner at the Mansion House to introduce to his friends a new viand—tomatoes—grown in his garden for the first time in Rochester. The conservative villagers made wry faces over the new dainty, so it is said.

## Lafayette Entertained

But the climax of celebrity for the Mansion House came in June, 1825, when the Marquis de Lafayette visited Rochester and was entertained at dinner at "Christopher's" by the dignitaries of the village.

The Mansion House burned down in 1844.

In the meantime the Ensworth House had replaced the Scrantom cabin at the northwest corner of Main and State in 1818, and in 1829 the Ensworth gave way to the Eagle Hotel which gradually eclipsed the Mansion House as a

center of social activity. The Eagle was operated as a hotel until Feb. 11, 1863, and the building was then used for commercial purposes until the first excavations for the present Powers Building were made on the site in 1868.

Jenny Lind was a guest at the Eagle Hotel in 1851 but was taken to the suburban home of Azariah Boody in East Avenue just beyond Alexander Street on the second day of her stay, having found the noise of the "Four Corners" too much for her nerves. The hotel was the scene of ceremonious New Year's Eve receptions in the '40s and '50s and many Rochester belles made their debut at the Eagle just as did their daughters, a generation later, in the famous crystal ballroom of the Powers Building.

At the northeast corner of Main and State streets the first houses of the settlers gave way to store buildings and then to the Burns Block, which provided stores and offices for the growing business and professional activities of the city. The Ettenheimer jewelry store was in the Burns Block for many years and then occupied a store in the Elwood Block built on the same site in 1879. Alvah Strong's printing office occupied the fifth floor of the Burns Block and was a gathering place for citizens who met to swap news and rumors in some of the exciting crises of the city's life.

## Early Recreations

In 1824 Rochesterians bent on recreation might find it in mild form at the Summer Gardens, three doors below the Mansion House, where there was music, a display of fireworks, and refreshments consisting of sump, mush and milk. Two years later, May 15, 1826, a theater opened in a building on the west side of State Street approximately where Church Street now cuts in. Edmund Kean played the opening engagement at the house, but its career was short, early Rochesterians being suspicious of the theater and all its works.

In addition to its theaters and Summer Garden, State Street had a church building erected in 1817 on the west side of the street where the American Express Building now stands. This was a frame erection on stilts, whose appearance gave rise to the name of "Beehive Church." Children of the settlers appropriated the space beneath the building as a playhouse, while the First Presbyterian Church conducted its services in the somewhat rude hall on the upper floor. In 1824, when the First Church erected a building on the site of the present City Hall, the Beehive Church was for a time the home of the Second Presbyterian, now the Brick Church; and then, in 1828, was occupied by the First Baptist congregation. There being no baptistry in the church this sacrament was administered at the brink of the Genesee River at the foot of what is now Andrews Street.

## Historic Residences

State Street was gradually building up with residences and business blocks. In 1815 William J. McCracken lived on the east side of State Street just north of what is now Big B Place. In 1820 McCracken built the North American Hotel at the corner of Brown and State Street, and George J. Whitney erected the building that is still standing on the site of the original McCracken house. In the early '80s the Whitney house was moved east on its lot to its present site and was used as the station of the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad. After the absorption of that road by the New York Central the building was turned over to commercial uses.

Opposite the North American Hotel on State Street was the house and extensive garden of Dr. Mathew Brown. South of this, on the same side of State Street, was the garden originally laid out by John Matlack who had bought four lots, two fronting on State Street and two on Mill Street. A clause in the deed required that all the lots should be built upon, so the legally-minded Mastick built his house in the center of the property with a corner on each lot and turned the rest of the land into garden and orchard.

## "Hole in the Wall"

The building at 141 State Street, now occupied by the Palmer Fish Company, was built in 1820. When the Fenn building was erected to the south, in 1855, an odd triangle was left. This was roofed in about 1864 and afforded a tiny store 5½ by 6½ feet and a story and a half high, which became known as "The Hole in the Wall." It was occupied for 40 years by Patrick Coyle, a cobbler, and later by tenants who included an armless man who wrote visiting cards with his toes, a tattoo artist a snake charmer, palmists and fortune tellers. Some years ago the north wall was broken through and the space taken into the store of the Palmer Fish Company.

Two houses built on the west side of State Street in 1816, just north of the present car barns, were those of Hamlet Scrantom and Aldrich Colvin. The Colvin house was razed in 1910 and the Scrantom house remained until 1923.

Although the Rochester and Auburn Railroad was running out of Rochester in 1840, connection with the Tonawanda Railroad terminus which carried transportation west was still made by hack or bus. This gap was bridged in 1841 when rails were laid across State Street. These remained, a source of annoyance and controversy, until 1882 when the tracks were elevated and the first bridge over State Street was built and Central Avenue cut through. To go into the story of the various railroad stations would be to wander away from State Street, but the first train shed—it was scarcely more—faced toward



18  
State Street on the east side and adjoined the Brackett House on Mill Street, since razed to make way for the fire station in Central Avenue. The present Savoy Hotel, in front of which stand the metal griffins that once ornamented the entrance to Powers block, was originally the Waverly Hotel and also catered to rail passengers.

#### Some Early Stores

There are certain business names linked with that of State Street for many years. The J. W. Hatch shoe store occupied the building at the southeast corner of State and Corinthian streets from July, 1845, for many years and was the first to employ a woman shoe clerk. The A. S. Mann dry goods store, on the site of the present Scrantom's, Inc., was for many years a leader in its line. It had the first gas lights and first electric lights in any store in the city. The Scrantom & Wetmore Company was founded at 10 State Street, May 30, 1868, and moved to its present site when A. S. Mann retired from business in 1889. For many years the Fahy department store occupied the building where the H. B. Graves store has been located for more than a quarter of a century.

The name of Eastman has been associated with State Street since 1881 when George Eastman made dry-plates in a building on the rear of the site of the present Kodak building.

In recent years the lower end of State Street has largely changed its character. The buildings are the same, but many of the stores advertise their wares in Italian and there is a bank and several steamship agencies that cater especially to Italian citizens.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

### Traffic Reveals Most Change In This Picture Of State Street



The above picture was sent to The Times-Union by an out-of-town reader, by whom the photograph was taken in the fall of 1894 from the window of the photographic studio of Cornell & Saunders, 16 State street. The scene probably had the actual buildings on State street greatly changed in the past 30 years. Such comment is very natural, judging by the changes that have occurred building.

Howe & Rogers have moved to Clinton avenue and the Morris Book Store and the shoe store of Gould, Lee & Luce have given way to a "Five and Ten-Cent" store.

On the west side of the street may be seen the flags advertising two restaurants which were popular with Rochesterians in the 90s. They were "Allen's Home Lunch" and "Elliott's Dining Hall," both of which offered a "full course dinner for 25 cents," the menu beginning with soup and ending with home-made pie. On Sundays and holidays special chicken dinners were served at 35 cents.

The greatest change revealed by the picture is the traffic, the street being guiltless of automobiles in those days.



# Colorful Streets Of Rochester...

By Amy H. Croughton

*R37. Oct. 24, 1924 R.V.F. Rochester - History - Streets*  
**South Avenue Was River Street**

HEREWITH is presented another of the series of articles on the streets of Rochester. In this series, Miss Croughton demonstrates that even the most drab thoroughfare has a background of tradition and history if it can only be discovered.

## ROCHESTER OPERA HOUSE.

### MATINEE.

Robertson's Comedy of

## SCHOOL.

JACK POYNTE, Mr. FRANK MAYO  
Lord Beaufoy, J. Clinton Hall  
Beau Fambush, R. C. White  
Dr. Sutcliffe, J. D. Gorman  
Dr. Knox, Chas. Bradshaw  
Vaughn, J. O. Stevens  
Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mrs. E. M. Post  
Bella, Miss Virginia Gorman  
Nanni Tighe, Miss Mary Davis  
Laura, Miss Clara Milton  
Lilly, Miss Lizzie Hall  
Milly, Miss Alice Tuttle  
Kitty, Miss Pastman  
Betty, Miss L. McKenzie

IN REHEARSAL

**JULIUS CAESAR & DAVE CROCKETT.**

Start 8:30, End 10:30

## SCHWAB'S BAZAAR,

45 Main Street,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

We have just received a beautiful assortment of new styles imitation HAIR GOODS, in all shades.

Also another lot of those 10 cent Berlin Gloves.

Alexandre two button KID GLOVES, only 48 cents.

G. SCHWAB,

45 Main Street,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Frank Mayo, father of the present movie actor of the same name, was a matinee idol when this program was used in the 1870s at the Rochester Opera House on the site of the present Family Theater. A stock company of Rochester actors and actresses supported him in a varied repertoire.

More than 118 years ago, Enos Stone, Jr., attacked the virgin growth of forest on the east bank of the Genesee River, approximately opposite Broad Street on what is now South Avenue, and built for himself and his family a shelter from the chill March winds and belated snow storms.

The cabin, 14 by 20 feet, with a pile of rough stones at one end for a fireplace and chimney, was a rough affair hastily erected on part of the land which Capt. Enos Stone Sr., Revolutionary veteran, had purchased in the vicinity of the upper Genesee falls and had given to his son. It was the first frame structure on the east side of the river in what is now Rochester but was then a part of Brighton.

The younger Stone brought to the house his wife who, most probably, had been staying with friends on the Pittsford Road, Brighton, and on May 4, 1810, a son, James S. Stone, was born there. By the spring of 1812 financial conditions had so far improved that Enos Stone had moved his family to a new home and was able to lend the old one to Hamlet Scrantom, a new settler whose family occupied the cabin from May 1 to July 4 of that year when they moved to their new log cabin on the site of the present Powers building. In 1822 the frame building was moved to a field at what is now the corner of Elm and Chestnut Streets.

There it stood, having been gradually hemmed in by other buildings, until as late as 1891, when it was identified through research made by members of the Rochester Historical Society.

### Stone Kept Tavern

For many years following removal from the frame dwelling Enos Stone and his family lived in a house which he constructed at the southwest corner of Main Street East and South Avenue. This building, which had also been used as a tavern, was torn down in 1846 and about 1855 the Keeler Building was erected on the site. This was razed in 1894 to make way for the Chamber of Commerce Building, now known as the Commerce Building.

Enos Stone also erected a building on the west side of South Avenue not far from Main Street—the site of the present Family Theater. In 1848 this building was fitted up as a theater by Carr and Warren of Buffalo and was named the St. Paul Street Theater. A company of Buffalo actors opened the theater in the fall of 1848 and from that day to this the site has been used for theatrical purposes. In 1855 a Rochester stock company took possession of the house, presenting many current stage successes. In 1868 a company playing "The Black Crook," which was referred to in certain circles as "a play no nice person would go to see," played an engagement of 36

nights in the theater, indicating that at least a portion of the city's population had changed its opinion concerning theatrical affairs since the general disapproval and discouragement expressed in the 1820s.

The Osburn House—the new Osburn House it was called, then, to distinguish it from the one which had just been razed at the northeast corner of St. Paul and Main Streets—was built in 1880 and looked across the Erie Canal aqueduct as it now does across Broad Street.

From 1848 to 1851 the Catholic Collegiate School, conducted by the Rev. Jesse A. Aughinbaugh, occupied the northeast corner of South Avenue and Court Street where the Y. M. C. A. building, now used as an office building, was erected in 1890 at a cost of \$133,000. The Rochester Directory of 1859 also gives the name of Stephen Hill "manufacturer of telegraph instruments" as living at this corner.

### Fire In Minerva Hall

Minerva Hall, at the southeast corner of South Avenue and Main Street, was a favorite place for concerts and social gatherings until it was destroyed by fire in 1858. In 1883 the Merchants Bank began business in the building which succeeded Minerva Hall. As the Union Trust Company, Merchants Branch, it still occupies the site.

South of Court Street, on the west side of South Avenue, where is now an open space, there stood until recent years a row of old building some of which dated back to the 1830s and '40s. These were razed after the building of the Barge Canal Harbor. Another old building at the northwest corner of South Avenue and Court Street which was razed in 1892 had been used in 1840 as the business office for Rochester's first horse railroad which ran from the aqueduct, where it touched Water Street, to the town of Carthage on the river below the lower falls.

The site of the present public baths and swimming pool at 250 South Avenue, opened July 27, 1898, was earlier occupied by the Home of Industry, a building where truant children were kept in confinement until a wiser system of dealing with their problems was adopted.

In 1847 Frederick Douglass, negro editor and abolitionist, lived in a house on the hills near South Avenue where Highland Park now extends. This house, in which dozens of escaping slaves found refuge on their way north to Canada, was burned while its owner was in Washington. In 1859 John

Brown, the noted abolitionist came to Rochester and visited Douglass at this house, attempting to win his support in the disastrous Harper's Ferry raid. Douglass, realizing the futility of the undertaking, used every effort to dissuade Brown from it. Notwithstanding this fact, an attempt was made to secure the return of Douglass to Virginia on a charge of complicity after the failure of the raid and the arrest of Brown. Douglass desired to remain in Rochester and fight the proceedings; but was persuaded to cross the border into Canada and thence to go to England. There his freedom was purchased by a group of English women and he returned to this country at liberty to pursue his work for abolition.

On Nov. 6, 1869, the theater was destroyed by fire but it was rebuilt and christened "The Grand Opera House." The name "Opera House" persisted through many decades though at one time the theater was known as the Rochester Opera House and at another as the Metropolitan Opera House. In 1891 the building again burned and was rebuilt by Frederick Cook, who named it the Cook Opera House, a name which it retained until it became the Family Theater.

### First Methodist Church

The first stone warehouse in Rochester stood, in 1823, at the junction of the first Erie Canal aqueduct and the feeder. In 1826 the First Methodist congregation erected a church on a site just south of the present Family Theater. The building was enlarged in the following year and in 1829 the congregation moved to a still larger building in Buffalo Street. In 1827 there was built on the east side of South Avenue, on the site now occupied by the Genesee Amusement Company, a house which because of its proportions and imposing architecture became known as "The Mansion." Among its successive owners were Charles J. Hill, Thomas Kempshall, Rufus Keeler and W. S. Kimball. This building was razed in 1907. The Mumford Block, which was also built in 1827 near the corner of South Avenue and Court Street, by W. W. Mumford, appears to have been a residential block. Among the names of those who lived there at one time or another are James K. Livingston, for whom Livingston Park is named; Selah Mathews, attorney; Thomas Kempshall, mill owner; Rufus Keeler, leather dealer; the Rev. Mr. Whitehouse, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church; and Frederick Whittlesey, attorney.

In the 1840s and '50s South Avenue, or South St. Paul Street, as it then was known, was a street of homes and hotels between Main and Court Streets. Alvah Strong lived in a house opposite the present Family Theater in 1850 and a number of Rochesterians gathered there to witness a demonstration given by Katie Fox, the rap-

ping medium who, with her parents and sister, was then living in the former Strong home in Troup Street.

### City Boundary Extended

The house of Douglass stood beyond what were then the city limits and, beyond it, in 1859, there stood the Monroe County Penitentiary, the Almshouse and the Insane Asylum. The Almshouse is the oldest of these institutions, the first brick building on the site having been erected in 1826. Up to 1856 insane persons were cared for in the almshouse; but in that year a new building on the site of the present State Hospital was erected to care for 48 persons. In 1891 the care of the insane passed to the state government. The Monroe County Penitentiary came into existence on its present site in 1853 when a workshop was built. All of these buildings were outside the city's boundaries for many years; but today they are within the city, the last number on South Avenue at the boundary line being 1721, while the number of the penitentiary is 1360. All of these institutions have, of course, had many additions and new buildings since their beginning.

Highland Park came into existence in 1888 through the gift of land to the city by the Ellwanger and Barry Nurseries, a gift rather grudgingly accepted by the city officials because they believed the site to be too far away from the center of population for park purposes.

Highland Hospital, originally the Hahnemann Hospital, was established in Oakman Street, east of South Avenue, in 1891 and has since acquired property which gives it a frontage on South Avenue.

St. John's Home for German Aged was established at South and Highland Avenues in 1898 and in 1906 gifts from the estate of Frederick Cook provided for the remodeling of the building and the memorial chapel.

The St. Paul Congregational erection of a dormitory and a Church, now Calvary Presbyterian was organized in South Avenue at Hamilton Street in 1850. The South Avenue Baptist Church was erected at South Avenue and Linden Street in 1907.

### Changes In Name

River Street was the first and very appropriate name of South Avenue. Then it became South St. Paul Street. In a map included in the 1849 Rochester Directory the name South St. Paul appears; but covers only that part of the street extending from Main Street East to Gregory Street. The name Grand Street was then applied to that part of Gregory Street which now lies east of South Avenue and also to what is now the southern end of South Avenue beyond Gregory Street. On the 1849 map the name South St. Paul also appears on what is now Mt. Hope Avenue despite the fact that the Common



# <sup>110</sup>Rochester in Pictures

No. 100

*R.O. July 15, 1928 R.P.V. Rock*



## WASHINGTON PARK

WASHINGTON PARK, bounded by Clinton Avenue South, Monroe Avenue, South and Court streets, was taken over by the Park Department and became a city park in 1900. Prior to that

it had been a public square.

A monument to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War was erected in the center of the park the following year. Italian citizens of Roches-

ter also erected a monument in the park in 1925.

This park, located close to the downtown section, is one of a series of small parks at various points throughout the city.



# Colorful Streets Of Rochester...

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By Amy H. Croughton  
No. 18—Washington St. Cut From Forest



Nathaniel Rochester house, erected at northeast corner of Washington and Spring streets in 1824; razed in 1908.

In June of the year 1816, Jacob Bond looked about him at the houses springing up in the village of Rochester and had a bad attack of that cramped feeling which, sooner or later, attacks so many urban dwellers.

Jacob pondered awhile and then took a long cast out into the wilderness to the west of the city where heavy forest covered the land where Washington Street now extends.

"Aha," said the seeker for wide open spaces. "This is the spot. It will be a long time before I'll be crowded here."

So he cut down trees on the crown of the hill that lay to the north of the present Washington Club and built him a house of sound oak timber which, together with the hill on which it stood, he expected to stand for many generations. Today, if one wishes to recall the Bond house one must visualize it as suspended in the air above the parking station which has been established at the corner of South Washington and Broad streets. And for the Craig House, which succeeded the first structure built by Jacob Bond, one must look for traces in the Municipal Museum, where its unique front entrance is preserved.

Gaylord Bros. Inc.  
Makers  
Syracuse, N. Y.

now Broad Street, George Bardslee erected, in 1830, the house which was later to be occupied for many years by E. N. Buell and which stood until last April.

## Jonathan Child House

In 1837, Jonathan Child, Rochester's first mayor, built the pillared house now the home of the Washington Club. Financial reverses later came to Child and his house became known as "Child's Folly." In 1856 it was the home of Frederick Stewart and was the scene of many brilliant functions, among them a fancy-dress ball of which the older residents still talk. In 1837 the house still standing at 36 South Washington Street and now used as the Mechanics Institute practise house was built for Nathaniel Rochester, the son of Colonel Rochester. After 1869 this house was the home of Dr. Malby Strong. All the land on the east side of South Washington Street north of Spring Street had been retained by Colonel Rochester and was sold or given by him to members of his family. The house at 38 South Washington Street, now occupied by the Rochester School of Optometry, was built in 1849 for William Pitkin, a son-in-law of Colonel Rochester. This house was the home, in 1861, of the parents of George Eastman and, later, of Gilman Perkins. From 1885 to 1889 the Genesee Valley Club had its home in the building. After the house became the property of Mechanics Institute, in 1894, the basement was rented by the Alembic Club, a club of literary men and artists which dissolved in 1923.

The Rochester house at the corner of Spring and South Washington streets, in which Col. Nathaniel Rochester died in 1831, was razed in 1908 to make way for the Bevier Building of Mechanics Institute.

Beyond Spring Street, South Washington Street was steadily built up during the '50s. Notable for its long ownership by one family is the house at 64 South Washington Street built in 1858 for John D. Fay and still occupied by his descendants.

## Picturesque Bridge

The first wooden bridge over the Erie Canal was replaced by another arched wooden bridge with iron supports and super-structure of rather unusual type. This stood until the construction of the subway and Broad Street made it unnecessary. For many years signboards, nearly hidden by a profuse growth of Virginia creeper which made the bridge a thing of beauty, warned drivers that it was not safe for heavy vehicles. But sentiment dies hard in the old Ruffled Shirt Ward and the bridge was retained

to the end despite protests, though it was shorn of its leafy beauty some time before its removal. The residents of the ward, throughout the existence of the Erie Canal, strenuously fought any movement to cut down the hill in the street and to replace the arched bridge with a swing or lift bridge. On the south side of the canal the houses were screened by tall lilac bushes and long streamers of Virginia creeper strayed down the old stone walls so that the approach to the residential section of the street was exceedingly picturesque.

## Old Bethel Church

To the north side of the canal, on the west side of Washington Street, was erected in 1836 the Bethel Presbyterian Church, whose first purpose was the regeneration of mule drivers and canal boat captains, but which eventually changed its name to the Washington Street Church and, in 1858, moved to a new building on the present site in Plymouth Avenue North under the name of Central Presbyterian Church. Many years later, when the office building of the B. R. & P. Railway was being erected, the excavators came upon the remains of the foundations of the old Bethel Church.

North Washington Street appears on the map of the 100-Acre Tract as Franklin Street, but this name was changed to North Washington in 1823. On a map of 1851 a number of houses are shown and named. Two of these were occupied by members of the Churchill family. In those days North Washington Street, like Elizabeth Street and Center Park, was, if not quite so fashionable a neighborhood as Spring Street and Livingston Park, yet a street of comfortable homes of well-to-do families. Today such of the old houses as still stand are given up to furnished rooms and apartments and are becoming more and more hedged in by commercial buildings. At the north end of the street, on the east side, is a row of attached English basement houses such as may be seen along block after block of the older streets in New York City. These were a novelty in Rochester when they were built some sixty years ago, but it was a style of architecture which did not find favor in Rochester where land was plentiful and air and light were appreciated.

## Washington Rink

A carting company today occupies the building of the Washington Rink, which, for several decades, was an amusement center on North Washington Street. The great shed was the scene of gatherings varying in character from Sunday School rallies to six-day walking and bicycle matches, prize fights and an occasional indoor circus. The most impressive event which ever took place in the rink was the funeral service held over the remains of unidentified victims of the fire which destroyed the Steam Gauge and Lantern Works on Nov. 9, 1888. Thirty-four persons lost their lives in that fire and, as many of the bodies were unidentified, the joint service was arranged with Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish clergy officiating.





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