EARLY ALMANACS OF ROCHESTER

By Blake McKelvey

Almanacs were already many centuries old when first they came to Rochester, and yet so sensitive was their adaptability that they quickly took on the spirit and character of the Genesee Country. Brought as they were at first by the several streams of settlers who converged in this valley, the first local almanacs inherited something of the character of many of their earlier American predecessors; but within three decades following the appearance of its first almanac in 1820, Rochester was to make some noteworthy contributions in this field.

Almanacs had appeared annually for upwards of a hundred years before the first was issued here. Probably the first to appear in the Colonies was that of Stephen Day, issued in Cambridge in 1639, three years after the founding of Harvard, but its traditional rules for forecasting English weather doubtless proved of little use on this side of the Atlantic. Numerous successors followed, the best of which was the Astronomical Diary, issued by Dr. Nathaniel Ames between 1728 and 1765, for the doctor’s careful mathematical calculations and generous political sentiments set a high standard. Poor Richard’s Almanac made its bow in Philadelphia in 1732, and soon Franklin’s rustic wit and salty proverbs provided a new pattern for almanac makers. It was a New England schoolmaster, R. B. Thomas, who issued the first Farmers’ Almanac at Boston in 1792, and quite possibly many of his annual horticultural suggestions, borrowed in part from Cato the Elder’s De Agricultura or De Re Rustica, found their way to the Genesee, carried here by early settlers or pedlers from Yankeeland.
Still another almanac tradition advanced up the Hudson and Mohawk in the last years of the eighteenth century. The chief compiler, or philomath as he was now called, was Andrew Beers, whose several years experience with various almanacs in New York City proved of great value when he migrated to Albany in 1797. Beers soon became the favorite calculator for almanacs in Albany, Poughkeepsie, and Cooperstown, and when printers in the western towns were ready to issue their own almanacs it was to him that they turned. Thus when James D. Bemis of Canandaigua issued the first almanac in the Genesee Country in 1814, The Farmer's Diary or Western Almanack, Beers was his philomath. Six years later Everard Peck turned to the same source for the calculations used in the Farmer's Calendar, or Ontario and Genesee Almanac published in Rochester in 1820 when the settlement at the falls boasted scarcely 2,000 residents.

The first two almanacs issued by Peck were little more than reprints of the current Canandaigua almanacs. They were announced as "calculated for the Latitude and Longitude of Canandaigua," and that for 1821, in listing the roads and stages of the area, described them as branching out in their respective directions from Canandaigua. Rochester, however, received incidental notice as on the road to Lewiston where a stage passed three times a week. The one detail of particular interest locally was the list of books advertised for sale in Peck's bookstore. It was something, nevertheless, for the struggling printer in the eight-year-old falls settlement to have captured a share of the almanac trade of the Genesee Country from the leading publisher of Western New York, located as Bemis was, in the most respectable town west of Utica.

But it was in 1822 that Rochester produced its first genuinely local almanac. A new philomath had gained a hearing — one who was already an old resident in the country — a tavern keeper on the state road through Perinton fifteen miles southeast of Rochester. For years Oliver Loud had spent his spare moments at astronomical calculations, possibly dreaming of the day when he could issue an almanac similar to the Farmer's Almanack he had known as a boy in Weymouth, Massachusetts before his migration west in 1805. Probably it was his Yankee

1. An earlier almanac by the same name was announced by Bemis in his Ontario Repository of October 15, 1811, but no copy or further record of its existence has been found. Grosvenor Library Bulletin Vol. 21, p. 73.
neighbor, Lyman Wilmarth, soon to become postmaster at Bushnell's Basin when the canal trade brought activity to that community, who encouraged Loud to present the idea of a farmer's almanac to the young Rochester printer, Everard Peck, himself a still more recent arrival from New England. At all events, the year 1822 marked the appearance of the *Western Agricultural Almanac*, printed by Peck, with Loud and Wilmarth supplying the astronomical calculations.

The new almanac, soon re-named the *Western Almanack*, was a true product of its environment. Not only did it supply information on the roads and mails leading out of Rochester, but its astronomical calculations were prepared for that place, although it was suggested that they “will serve for any part of the Western District of the State of New York.” Information concerning the courts and their officers, a few brief anecdotes, and Peck’s book advertisement followed the precedents of the two earlier almanacs, but in other respects the new almanac was more closely related to the New England tradition, being very definitely a farmer's almanac. Indeed, it served in one respect as an experimental predecessor to the farmers' papers which were to play such an important role in the life of the valley a decade later.

The most striking innovation provided by the *Western Almanack* was the series of wood cuts illustrating the characteristic activity of each month on the farm. This feature was in some respects an original contribution to the art of the almanac makers, for the wood cuts in Thomas' *Farmer's Almanack* of Boston had been symbolic representations. The Rochester series, as will be observed from their reproduction herein, calls for the gratitude of the agricultural historian as well as of the art collector, for they are among the very first illustrations of Western New York life published in the area.

In spite of his early death in 1829, Oliver Loud made some creditable contributions. The year after his first almanac appeared in Rochester, the Canandaigua printer likewise substituted Loud's calculations for those of Beers from Albany. Other western almanacs soon engaged Loud as philomath and featured his horticultural advice and homespun humor. For some reason no one of the almanacs Loud served gained a foothold sufficient to insure its continuation for decades after his death, as was the case with Webster's almanac in Albany and Phinney's in Cooperstown where the printing firm carried on long after the
death of Andrew Beers, the chief philomath. But if Loud's influence was soon to be forgotten, at least he gave his readers full return for their ten cents, and we can imagine even the buxom pioneer matrons chuckling over such items as his "Advice to all Ladies whom it may concern:"

A good wife should be like three things; which three things she should not be like.

First. She should be like a snail, to keep within her own house; but she should not be like a snail, to carry all she has upon her back.

Secondly. She should be like an echo, to speak when spoken to; but she should not be like an echo, always to have the last word.

Thirdly. She should be like a town clock, always to keep time and regularity; but she should not be like a town clock, to speak so loud that all the town may hear her.

The agricultural emphasis gradually gave way to other interests in the Rochester almanacs as the village became a milltown during the late twenties. Even the *Western Almanack* of Loud and Peck replaced the "Advice to Farmers" with a table of interest rates in 1826; and two years later the first patent medicine advertisement crept in. An argument against "ardent spirits" was included in the *Western* for 1831, but by this date several more frankly crusading almanacs had made their appearance. The *Christian Almanack*, published by the American Tract Society for distribution by sympathetic booksellers, was introduced to Rochester in 1826 by Everard Peck. But this pious printer, never content with a simple reproduction of another's work, brought out his own *Temperance Almanac* in 1831, described as the first attempt to publish an almanac devoted exclusively to the promotion of temperance. A wood cut, depicting the interior of a grog shop, entitled "Beggars Made Here," suggests that it may have been Peck rather than Loud who planned the illustrations for the *Western Almanack*. Statistics revealing the evils of intemperance, and an indictment of the use of tobacco were likewise included. In later issues of this almanac Peck even omitted the weather predictions in order to save space for lengthy quotations from temperance sermons and other like sources. The idea apparently took hold, for soon the New York Temperance Society was circulating temperance almanacs throughout the state.

*(Continued on Page 20)*
The Historical

**ALMANAC**

of Rochester:

**1941**

Being the 184th year since the Incorporation of Rochesterville.

Containing many Historical Calculations by Harriett Julia Naylor, Philom., and Sober Gleanings from our Predecessors.

Published by the City Historian

Rochester, New York
Of Interest to Our Critics

In presenting this first Historical Almanac, we feel constrained to remind our readers that our Philomath has duly pondered the words of one of our almanac-making predecessors of a hundred years ago, who said (and who will doubt his originality!) "He who wants good sense is unhappy in having learning, for he has thereby only more ways of exposing himself." Such advice should prompt one to pause before displaying the array of "learning" presented herein, but it is hoped that, by salting it down with several choice bits of "good sense" borrowed from our predecessors, the errors exposed will not be too disturbing.

The problem of securing accurate information seems to have been encountered by our predecessors of 101 years ago. Fortunately, after discovering that authorities frequently differ as to the birthdate of a great general or the height of a mountain, the almanac maker of 1840 hit upon a solution. "The only course to adopt under such circumstances," he said, "is [the] truly republican [one] — the decision of majorities." In other words if we can find three scrapbooks giving the date of the first wedding as October 8, 1815, that should fix it, provided there are no more than two supporters of any rival dates. This rules works fairly well in simple cases, such as weddings, but in controversial issues, such as the first birth in Rochester, where the number of authorities is legion and the decision is bound to change if you but press your canvass a day or two longer — in such cases we have had to add the additional rule of weighing the sources. It will readily be seen that a fat scrapbook or a ponderous county history becomes an impressive authority under such a standard, while one or two bound volumes of the daily newspaper can establish a fact beyond dispute, which is a very reassuring conclusion indeed.

The Editors.
January—A good month to flail the grain.

1 (1908) New charter makes Rochester a city of first class.
2 (1935) Alan Valentine elected president of the University.
3 “This has been called the farmer’s leisure month . . . Spend your vacant moments in useful reading.”
4 (1838) City’s first anti-slavery society formed.
5 (1875) City Hall opened.
6 (1886) Reynolds Library opened in the Arcade.
7 (1887) Ice fourteen inches thick cut in river.
8 (1901) Thirty-one children die in Orphan Asylum fire.
9 (1930) Lip reading classes opened at Monroe High School.
10 (1879) End of great snowstorm which caused several deaths.
11 (1861) Mob breaks up abolition meeting in Corinthian Hall.
12 (1846) Monroe County Horticultural Society’s first exhibition.
13 (1870) Veterans of War of 1812 meet in Court House.
14 (1929) Training school for policemen organized.
15 (1827) First trans-Atlantic radio telephone call from city.
16 (1930) Three additional stories to make Kodak Building city’s tallest.
17 (1818) Rev. Comfort Williams installed as city’s first pastor.
18 (1874) Holley Water Works System first used in fire fighting.
19 (1927) Motorization of Fire Department completed.
20 (1889) All public school children to be vaccinated.
21 (1894) Ballington Booth of the Salvation Army visits city.
22 (1917) Dental Dispensary graduates its first class.
23 (1876) Hemlock Lake water first supplied to city.
24 (1895) Keyless fire alarm boxes installed in business section.
25 (1834) Buildings on Main Street Bridge destroyed by fire.
26 (1840) Missionary returned from Syria, speaks at Brick Church.
27 (1888) Ellwanger and Barry give land for Highland Park.
28 (1882) Knights of Labor order strike at local carriage works.
29 (1864) Rochester City Hospital (General) opened.
30 (1918) Eastman Co. provides for Army School of Aerial Photography.
31 (1850) University of Rochester granted first charter.
February—The wood shed will probably be low.

1 (1934) Emma Goldman, famous anarchist, visits old home here.
2 "This is a short month: A poor argument in favor of indolence."
3 (1917) News of break with Germany received quietly.
4 (1800) Birth of John P. Fish in Ebenezer Allan's old mill, probably first white child born within limits of present city.
5 (1855) Anti-Slavery Society opens convention.
6 (1855) "Cold Tuesday." Coldest weather in memory of settlers.
7 (1920) Klondike Klan, veterans of '96 gold rush, holds reunion.
8 (1857) Flood carries away buildings on Main Street Bridge.
9 (1934) Lake freezes from shore to shore in record cold wave.
10 (1934) "Merrymount" by Howard Hanson presented at Metropolitan.
11 (1918) Friendly Home moved to East Avenue at Allen's Creek.
12 (1913) The jitney bus appears in Rochester.
13 (1918) Gift of Eastman Theater and School of Music announced.
14 (1905) Paderewski concert at the Lyceum.
15 (1820) Birth of Susan B. Anthony.
16 (1891) St. Mary's Hospital, oldest in city, damaged by fire.
17 (1917) Centennial celebration of birth of Frederick Douglass.
18 (1861) Lincoln passed through city on way to inauguration.
19 (1824) First bank chartered.
20 (1929) Bar Association votes against placing women on equality with men for jury duty.
21 (1752) Colonel Nathaniel Rochester born in Virginia.
22 (1889) Schools hold first transfer of flags.
23 (1821) Monroe and Livingston Counties created.
24 (1894) Labor group agitates for eight-hour day.
25 (1819) Quaker Meeting established here.
26 (1904) $3,000,000 Granite Building fire.
27 (1922) Female Charitable Society celebrates centennial.
28 (1900) Great snowstorm covers city.
March—A good season to break the flax.

1 (1922) WHQ (now WHEC) broadcasts city’s first radio program.
2 "... Maple Sugar ... sweetening must give a peculiar flavor to the food and beverage of an independent American."
3 (1922) School of Music building opened for inspection.
4 (1933) Bank holiday.
5 (1927) Eamon de Valera visits his mother, a Rochesterian.
6 (1849) Levi A. Ward elected mayor.
7 (1933) Banks reopened.
8 (1917) Attempt to rob penitentiary of prize flock of geese.
9 (1867) Board of Trade established.
10 (1868) Charles Dickens speaks in city.
11 (1927) First local showing of talking pictures.
12 (1887) Unskilled workers demand nine-hour day.
13 (1906) Death of Susan B. Anthony.
14 (1878) Local exhibition of the phonograph and telephone.
15 (1827) Rochester High School incorporated.
16 (1840) Semi-centennial of settlement of Western New York.
17 (1865) Great flood causes over $1,000,000 damage.
18 (1887) Alexander Graham Bell inspects famous local nurseries.
19 (1910) President Taft visits here.
20 (1887) City’s salt supply affected by $75,000 fire at Warsaw.
21 (1817) Village of Rochesterville incorporated.
22 (1887) Merchants favor underground light and telephone wires.
23 (1873) First session in Free Academy building.
24 (1884) "Free Trade" club organized.
25 (1814) Town of Brighton created.
26 (1895) Mass meeting at Charlotte votes against joining city.
27 (1916) Greatest flood since 1865.
28 (1923) First concert of Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.
29 (1890) Horse cars still to be used on part of State Street where property owners refuse to allow electric cars.
30 (1911) First trustees of Public Library named.
31 (1787) Phelps and Gorham purchase Western New York from Massachusetts.
April—"Good fences make good neighbors."

1 (1929) Sixty-mile an hour gale causes life and property losses.
2 (1920) Not over twenty-five houses for rent in city.
3 (1889) Edwin Booth suffers stroke on Lyceum stage.
4 (1856) Western Union Telegraph Company founded here.
5 (1872) First English sparrows liberated in city's parks.
6 (1830) Mormon Church incorporated.
7 (1925) George Eastman resigns as president of Kodak Company.
8 (1887) Striking masons refuse offer of $3.50 for ten-hour day.
9 "It is time now that you were ready to begin your spring work in
good earnest."
10 (1850) Third city charter.
11 (1792) Sir William Pulteney buys vast Western New York area.
12 (1822) "Rochesterville" changed to "Rochester."
13 (1925) American premiere of "Siegfried," first great music photo
   drama, at Kilbourn Hall.
14 (1927) Convention of physicians and surgeons at Medical School.
15 (1901) Eastman Building at Mechanics opened.
16 (1862) Performance of "The Messiah" in Corinthian Hall.
17 (1906) Algernon Crapsey tried for heresy by Episcopalians.
18 (1861) Great meeting in response to call for volunteers.
19 (1857) Third Carthage Bridge falls.
20 (1854) Penny Savings Bank founded.
21 (1831) Rochester Savings Bank incorporated.
22 (1912) Mrs. James Sibley Watson gives Memorial Art Gallery to
   the University.
23 (1843) Millerites prepared for end of world.
24 (1832) Tonawanda Railroad chartered.
25 (1888) Veterans of old 140th to unveil Gettysburg monument.
26 (1864) First letter carriers under new free delivery system.
27 (1865) Lincoln's funeral train passes through city.
28 (1834) First city charter.
29 (1895) Price war reduces cost of bread to four cents a loaf.
30 (1918) Liberty Loan rally addressed by two A. E. F. "veterans."
May—The sheep will be glad to shed their winter coats.

1 (1848) Snakehead rail causes serious railroad accident.
2 "Much is gained by lopping off an hour or two from indulgence in the morning."
3 (1837) First regular passenger train on Tonawanda railroad.
4 (1861) First local regiment leaves for Civil War.
5 (1817) First village election.
6 (1900) First address of Rush Rhees as President of University.
7 (1865) William H. James begins fifty-five years as mailman.
8 (1821) First Monroe County Court held in Eagle Tavern loft.
9 (1821) Monroe County Medical Society organized.
10 (1910) Animals provided for new zoo in Durand-Eastman Park.
12 (1918) Genesee Valley Park sham battle filmed to aid War Chest.
13 (1925) Site of old Liberty Pole marked by tablet.
14 (1881) Academy of Science incorporated.
15 (1918) Barge Canal opened.
16 (1915) Commissioners arrive for 127th General Assembly of Presbyterian Church.
17 (1831) Death of Colonel Rochester.
18 (1917) Prowler near Aqueduct fired upon by sentry.
19 (1910) Halley’s Comet fails to appear; crowds disappointed.
20 (1851) President Fillmore visits city.
21 (1845) Anti-gambling society formed.
22 (1820) First Carthage Bridge falls.
23 (1820) Daniel Webster speaks in Reynolds Arcade.
24 (1908) Lilac Day at Highland Park.
25 (1917) First Liberty Loan meeting.
26 (1918) War Chest oversubscribed by more than $1,000,000.
27 (1917) St. Paul’s Church celebrates centennial.
28 (1873) Cornerstone of City Hall laid.
29 (1861) Nine companies ready for service in War.
30 (1821) Monroe County Bible Society founded.
31 (1921) First Memorial Day parade of World War veterans.
June—Don't neglect the first crop of hay.

1 (1846) First press dispatch received by telegraph.
2 (1834) First city election.
3 (1919) First Community Chest Drive.
4 (1920) Section of Erie Canal through city formally abandoned.
5 (1817) First local Masonic Lodge formed.
6 (1920) First three boats arrive in new Barge Canal harbor.
7 (1825) Lafayette visits Rochester.
8 (1884) Semi-centennial celebration begins.
9 (1834) First mayor, Jonathan Child, elected by Common Council.
10 (1919) First chapter Gold Star Mothers of America formed here.
11 "If you are anticipating the pleasure of supping on good Indian puddings by and by, you must look well to your cornfields."
12 (1910) Last professional appearance here of Buffalo Bill.
13 (1902) Dedication of Spanish trophy gun in Highland Park.
14 (1841) First Board of Education elected.
15 (1896) David Jayne Hill resigns as President of the University to become Assistant Secretary of State.
16 (1896) Last professional appearance here of Buffalo Bill.
17 (1873) Susan B. Anthony convicted of illegal voting.
18 (1850) Second Court House begun.
19 (1844) Concert by Ole Bull, Norwegian violinist.
20 (1833) City Normal School graduates last class.
21 (1925) City Manager Charter submitted to Common Council.
22 (1895) General strike of buttonhole makers.
23 (1934) City flag adopted by ordinance.
24 (1893) Spanish caravels here on way to Chicago Exposition.
25 (1896) Third Court House opened.
26 (1849) Corinthian Hall opened.
27 (1896) Twenty thousand attend bicycle festival at Driving Park.
28 (1852) First train from Rochester to Niagara Falls.
July—Cut and bind the wheat with care.

1 (1891) Weather Bureau established.
2 (1865) First uniformed police.
3 "As this is the season for making hay, see that you verify the old proverb, and make it *while the sun shines.*"
4 (1817) Celebration of Independence Day by blasting mill race.
6 (1852) Body of Henry Clay passes through city.
7 (1911) First successful airplane flight over city.
8 (1917) Draft boards to set up headquarters in firehouses.
9 (1863) City's first street cars, State Street to Mount Hope.
10 (1936) Highest temperature ever recorded here, 102 degrees.
11 (1854) Martin B. Anderson first President of University.
12 (1820) First Roman Catholic Church organized.
13 (1854) Pundit Club formed.
14 (1817) St. Luke's Church organized.
15 (1891) Gasometer on Canal Street explodes.
17 (1933) Site of Rundel Building selected.
18 (1888) Meeting of the "Dudes," 1st Ward Republican Club.
19 (1687) Denonville attacks Totiakton.
20 (1930) 36,000 women engaged in commerce and industry in city.
21 (1861) Congressman Ely captured at battle of Bull Run.
22 (1851) Jenny Lind gives concert here.
23 (1868) Coal used as fuel on lake steamer, "North King."
24 (1885) City mourns U. S. Grant.
25 (1838) First execution in Monroe County.
26 (1890) Sunday ball games given up after heated dispute.
27 (1843) Torchlight parade greets ex-President John Q. Adams.
28 (1888) Infants' Summer Hospital opened for inspection.
29 (1879) First Sunday issue of *Democrat and Chronicle*.
30 (1889) First electric street car.
31 (1890) Eastman Company purchases site of Kodak Park.

13
August—You can't start fall plowing too soon.

1 (1849) Central Medical College opened here.
2 (1848) First Women's Rights Convention meets in Rochester.
3 (1829) 128-foot steeple of St. Paul's Church blows down.
4 (1837) British schooner, capsized in squall, towed into port.
5 (1863) Conscription begins here.
6 "A farmer should never be idle."
7 (1915) First Scottish games held here.
8 (1885) Memorial service for Grant.
9 (1889) Balloon ascent made by Professor Ballou at Ontario Park.
10 (1669) La Salle arrives at Irondequoit.
11 (1849) Western House of Refuge opened.
12 (1874) First Grand Circuit Races held at Driving Park.
13 (1891) St. Bernard's Seminary dedicated.
14 (1879) Grand International Regatta at Charlotte.
15 (1924) Nazareth College opened.
16 (1816) All crops destroyed by frost. "Year of the cold summer."
17 (1858) $175,000 fire on Main Street.
18 (1925) Lake Ontario level lowest ever known.
19 (1890) George Ellwanger gives land for German Home for Aged.
20 (1891) St. Bernard's Seminary dedicated.
21 (1879) Grand International Regatta at Charlotte.
22 (1815) First church, First Presbyterian, organized.
23 (1937) Site of St. Patrick's Cathedral sold to Kodak Company.
24 (1924) Nazareth College opened.
25 (1919) Two carloads of surplus army food sold here.
26 (1889) 125 newsboys hold picnic at Long Pond.
27 (1894) Extensive break in canal near Brighton.
28 (1918) All boys and girls working on farms excused from school until October 15.
29 (1893) Great storm on lake.
30 (1865) 14th Heavy Artillery arrives home.
September—"As a man soweth, so shall he reap."

1 (1840) Genesee Valley Canal opened to Mount Morris.
2 (1840) "Be admonished . . . to mingle temperance with your pleasures, and in age you will delight to reflect on the season of youth."
3 (1890) Nearly 10,000 union workers take part in Labor Day parade.
4 (1821) Cornerstone of first Court House laid.
5 (1840) Great Tippecanoe parade includes a 60-foot canoe.
6 (1917) First forty-seven draftees leave city.
7 (1934) Fittings of 45-year old Lyceum to be sold at auction.
8 (1900) Women formally admitted to University.
9 (1885) Cornerstone of old Post Office laid.
10 (1840) First train left city on Auburn railroad.
11 (1813) British and American ships clash off Charlotte.
12 (1826) William Morgan kidnapped at Canandaigua.
13 (1831) Carroll Street renamed State.
14 (1779) Sullivan's army near present Geneseo.
15 (1857) St. Mary's Hospital opened.
16 (1895) Unusually heavy frost.
17 (1845) "Chrisly's Minstrels." First minstrel show in city.
18 (1928) Colgate-Rochester Divinity School opened.
19 (1833) Death of Mary Jemison, "White Woman of the Genesee."
20 (1843) Daniel Webster at State Agricultural Fair here.
21 (1920) First woman regularly admitted at Divinity School.
22 (1827) Joseph Smith "discovers" golden plates near Palmyra.
23 (1895) 1st Methodist Church holds grand jubilee.
24 (1892) Seven prisoners escape from new jail.
25 (1888) City gives $1,210 for yellow fever victims in South.
26 (1934) 80,000 march in N.R.A. parade.
27 (1852) First horse-drawn cars run on Carthage Railroad.
28 (1819) Canal route through village surveyed.
29 (1890) Children's Pavilion at Highland Park opened.
30 (1878) Genesee Valley Canal abandoned.
October—Fill the cider kegs full.

1 (1913) Nellie McElroy appointed first policewoman in state under Civil Service rules.
2 (1838) Mount Hope Cemetery dedicated.
3 (1881) Local Red Cross Chapter formed, second in country.
4 (1876) School for the Deaf opened.
5 (1891) Street car company begins use of transfers.
6 "All hands should be busy, gathering in the fruits of the earth."
7 (1823) Celebration of completion of first aqueduct.
8 (1815) First local wedding, Delia Scrantom and Jehiel Barnard.
9 (1930) River Campus dedicated.
10 (1892) Chamber of Commerce favors taking water supply from river to meet city’s temporarily expanded needs.
11 (1908) First Rochester Industrial Exposition opens.
12 (1878) Twenty-four prisoners escape from jail.
13 (1920) David Lincoln Ferris consecrated suffragan bishop.
14 (1919) Cardinal Mercier of Belgium addresses huge crowd.
15 (1917) Dental Dispensary opened.
16 (1917) Rochester has contributed $8,000,000 to Liberty Loans.
17 (1936) 65,000 greet President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
18 (1900) William Jennings Bryan speaks here.
19 (1817) First volunteer fire company formed.
20 (1919) U. S. Subchaser S C-245 tied up in Barge Canal here.
21 (1859) Local Cricket Club plays visiting All-England eleven.
22 (1893) 1st Baptist Church celebrates 75th anniversary.
23 (1835) Flood sweeps away Main Street buildings.
24 (1825) Erie Canal completed.
25 (1826) First issue of pioneer daily, The Daily Advertiser.
26 (1926) Dedication of School of Medicine and Dentistry.
27 (1825) Celebration of opening of canal.
28 (1910) Theodore Roosevelt speaks here.
29 (1822) First boatload of flour leaves here on canal.
30 (1935) Elmwood Avenue Bridge opened.
31 (1916) Houdini escapes from a strait jacket while hanging from roof of building on bank of canal.
November—For the land's sake!

2 (1896) City sees its first moving picture.
3 (1925) City Manager Charter adopted by referendum.
4 (1841) Auburn and Rochester Railroad opened.
5 (1872) Susan B. Anthony and 14 other women vote in 8th Ward.
6 (1829) Sam Patch successfully jumps over Falls.
7 (1918) False armistice celebrated.
8 (1803) Mill lot purchased by Rochester, Fitzhugh, and Carroll.
9 (1825) First dramatic performance in Exchange Street "Circus."
10 "Prepare for winter, lest it come upon you like a thief in the night."
11 (1918) City Hall bell rings out armistice news at 4 A. M.
12 (1789) Supposed date of raising of Indian Allen's grist mill.
13 (1829) Sam Patch's fatal jump.
14 (1848) Fox sisters demonstrate "rappings" at Corinthian Hall.
15 (1935) Alan Valentine installed as president of University.
16 (1891) Relay bicycle race from Rochester to Buffalo.
17 (1887) Compulsory education discussed at meeting here.
18 (1925) Brick Church celebrates centennial.
19 (1812) Abelard Reynolds appointed first postmaster.
20 (1811) First lot in 100-acre tract sold to Enos Stone for $50.
21 (1886) Telephonic subscribers refuse to use phones in protest against increased rates.
22 (1921) Subway construction authorized by Council.
23 (1885) Mechanics Institute opened.
24 (1848) Whigs celebrate victory with great "illumination."
25 (1940) Fire destroys three buildings on Main Street Bridge.
26 (1868) Demonstration of plowing by steam.
27 (1901) Annual Thanksgiving dinner for newsboys and bootblacks.
28 (1908) Germans unveil statue of Schiller in Anderson Park.
29 (1894) Rochester beats Hobart in Thanksgiving Day game here.
30 (1866) First annual "donation" at City Hospital.
December—Another year is done.

1 (1890) Driving Park Bridge (then 3rd largest in world) opened.
2 (1888) Beth Israel Congregation opens new schoolhouse.
3 (1847) First issue of Douglass' abolitionist paper "North Star."
4 (1901) First Episcopal missionary conference held here.
5 (1800) Birth of Arabella Granger, first white girl and second white child born within area of present city.
6 First census, taken December, 1815, sets population at 331.
7 (1884) First local Civil Service examination held.
8 (1838) Young Men's Society unites with Rochester Athenaeum.
9 "Stern winter again his dominion has found;
10 The weather grows chill, and sleighing is nigh;
11 Settle up your accounts, pass the cider-mug round,
12 Then purchase a new Almanack, and lay this one by."
13 (1848) Some stores begin to use gas lighting.
14 (1813) First sawmill in village begins operation.
15 (1863) "Soldiers' Bazaar" held for aid of destitute soldiers.
16 (1786) Treaty of Hartford.
17 (1881) Death of Lewis H. Morgan, famous sociologist.
18 (1867) Earthquake shock felt here.
19 (1887) H. H. Warner first president of Chamber of Commerce.
20 (1919) Arrangements made for Homelands Exhibition.
21 (1827) Thomas M. Rathbun first fireman to die on duty.
22 (1917) Food Administrator appointed for Monroe County.
23 (1925) Station WHAM joins network.
24 (1841) German Lutherans erect city's first Christmas tree.
25 (1815) Christmas ball at Mr. Skinner's Assembly Room.
26 (1931) Veterans Memorial Bridge dedicated.
27 (1921) Office of City Historian created by ordinance.
28 (1819) Village to pay night watchman $80 a year.
29 (1929) 1st Christmas concert by Civic Orchestra and choruses.
30 (1902) Rochester and Lake Ontario Water Company chartered.
31 (1893) Sunday papers issued again after lapse of some years.
Lucky Days

The *Western Almanac* for 1835 tells us that "A Persian almanac contains a list of *fortunate days for certain purposes*; as for example, to buy, to sell, to take medicine, to marry, etc. But we think," continues the *Western Almanac* "the best time to buy is when we can pay; to sell, when we can get a good price; to take medicine, when we are sick, and then only; and to marry, when we are ready, and the Dear Ones will have us."

It may be of interest to us later "moderns" to note that the good editor of the *Western* found his information about Persian almanacs in the *Encyclopaedia Americana* completed in Boston but a year or two before, and already available, it would seem, in Rochester in the first year of its status as a city.

Kissing

The Rochester editor of *The Franklin Almanac and Western New York Calendar for 1844*, who apparently got about the country quite a lot, considering the flimsy and halting character of the railroads of the day, made the following observations on the social customs of various regions:

When a wild spark attempts to steal a kiss from a Nantucket girl, she says, 'Come sheer off or I'll split your main-sail with a typhoon.' The Boston girls hold still until they are well kissed, when they fire up all at once and say 'I think you ought to be ashamed.' When a young chap steals a kiss from an Albany girl, she says 'I reckon it's my turn now' and gives him a slap on the ear that he don't forget in a week. When a clever fellow steals a kiss from a Louisiana girl she smiles, blushes deeply, and says — nothing. In Pennsylvania when a girl is saluted with a kiss she puts on her bonnet and shawl, and answereth, 'I am astonished at thy assurance, Jedediah, for this thy indignity, I will sew thee up.' The girls of Rochester, however, are so fond of kisses that when saluted on one cheek they instantly present the other.

The Weather

"Some persons are so foolish," says the *Western Almanac* of 1841, "that they consult the Almanack to learn what is to be the state of the weather. They do not know that all the information which
Almanacks contain on this subject, is inserted at random, and as often as otherwise by the printer's boy, who makes it hot or cold, wet or dry, whenever and wherever best suits his fancy. The man who makes the calculations for the Almanack, knows too much to even pretend to divine what the particular state of the weather will be, even a week beforehand. We have omitted all such notices in this Almanack."

(Continued from Page 4)

Meanwhile Rochester's most remarkable and unique publication in this field was the series of *Anti-Masonic Almanacs* issued in Rochester by Edward Giddins and Edwin Scrantom from 1827 to 1830. The artist was again called upon, this time to portray the twelve stages of William Morgan's tragic experiences, and one wood cut again graces each month. The dramatic appeal of these illustrations was supported by a running account of the abduction of Morgan, supplied by Giddins, the repentant professed-accomplice in the crime, and among all the bitter tracts that appeared on this subject none equalled the venom of this almanac series. Indeed, it was too bitter even for Rochester, and the fourth and fifth numbers were brought out in Utica after Scrantom had refused to handle them here.

With the growth of the community and the appearance of rival printers and booksellers, almanacs became more numerous. *A Poor Richard's Almanack* was published in Rochester by Marshall and Dean for several years after 1829, while William Alling carried on the *Western Almanack* for a decade after Loud's death and Peck's diversion to other fields. A *Farmer's Almanac* and special almanacs by the leading seed men appeared from time to time, while a *Free Soil Almanac* and a *National Reformer* were both issued in 1849 as political tracts.

The development of the wall calendar, the prevalence of weekly and daily papers and other books, and the growing complexity of community life combined by the middle of the nineteenth century to deprive the almanac, at least in the city, of the significant role it had long played. Nevertheless, almanacs of varied sorts continued to appear, many of them of considerable interest, and we venture to add a new one to the long list of those published in Rochester.
A Check List of Rochester Almanacs

The following list, prepared with the assistance of the WPA Inventory of Historic Records staff, includes the almanacs printed in Rochester during the first quarter-century of local almanac makers. However, only those are listed which have been found in the collections of the Rochester Historical Society (NRHi), the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences (NRMA), the Rochester Public Library (NR), or the University of Rochester (NRU).

1820—The Farmer's Calendar or Ontario and Genesee Almanac, for the Year of Our Lord, 1820 . . . Calculated for the Latitude and Longitude of Canandaigua . . . By Andrew Beers, Philom. . . . Rochester, Printed and Sold by E. Peck & Co. [1819-20]. NRHi. NRU.


1825—The Christian Almanack . . . 1825 . . . Published at Boston. Re-Published at Rochester, N. Y., by Everard Peck, . . . [1824-25]. NRMA.

1826—The Christian Almanack . . . 1826 . . . Published at Boston. Re-Published at Rochester, N. Y. by Everard Peck, . . . [1825-26]. NRHi. NRMA.


*The Christian Almanack* . . . Published at New-York, by The American Tract Society. Rochester: Re-Published by E. Peck & Co. [1827-28]. NRHi. NRMA.

Western Almanack . . . . 1828 . . . By Oliver Loud, . . . Rochester, N. Y. Printed by Marshall & Dean, . . . [1827-28] illus. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

Same. Printed by E. Peck & Co. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.


*The Christian Almanack* . . . . 1829 . . . Published at New-York, by The American Tract Society. Rochester: Re-Published by E. Peck & Co. [1828-29]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.


Western Almanack . . . . 1829 . . . By Oliver Loud. . . Rochester, N. Y.: Printed . . . by E. Peck & Co. . . . . . [1828-29] illus. NRHi. NRU.


*Poor Richard's Almanack,* . . . . 1830 . . . By Oliver Loud, . . . Rochester, N. Y. Printed . . . by Marshall, Dean & Co. . . . [1829-30]. NR. NRMA. NRU.

Western Almanack . . . . 1830 . . . By Oliver Loud, . . . Rochester: Printed . . . by E. Peck & Co. [1829-30] illus. NRHi. NRU.

1831—*Poor Richard's Almanack* . . . . 1831 . . . by the successor of Oliver Loud. . . Printed . . . by Marshall, Dean & Co., Rochester, N. Y. [1830-31]. NR. NRMA. NRU.

Sheet Almanac, Ws. M. Chipman's, Observer Press [Rochester, 1830-31]. NRHi.

Temperance Almanack . . . . 1831 . . . Rochester: Printed . . . by E. Peck & Co. . . . . [1830-31]. NRHi.
Western Almanack . . . 1831 . . . Rochester: Printed . . . by E. Peck & Co. . . . [1830-31] illus. NRHi. NRU.

1832—Poor Richard's Almanack . . . 1832 . . . by the successor of Oliver Loud, . . . Rochester: Marshall & Dean, [1831-32]. NR. NRHi. NRU.

Temperance Almanac . . . 1832 . . . Rochester: Published by Hoyt, Porter & Co., 1832, illus. NRHi.

The Western Almanac, for 1832. Rochester: Published by Hoyt, Porter & Co. [1831-32]. NRMA. NRU.

1833—The Farmer's Almanac, for 1833 . . . Rochester: Published by Hoyt, Porter & Co. 1833. NR. NRMA. NRU.

Poor Richard's Almanack . . . 1833 . . . by the successor of Oliver Loud, . . . Rochester: Marshall & Dean, [1832-33]. NRHi. NRU.

Same. Rochester: Parsons & Phelps. NRMA. NRU.

The Temperance Almanac . . . 1833 . . . Published by Hoyt, Porter & Co. [Rochester, 1832-33]. NRU.

1834—The Temperance Almanac . . . 1834; Calculated Generally For All Parts Of The United States And Canada . . . Prepared And Published Under The Direction Of The Executive Committee Of the New-York State Temperance Society . . . Published and sold by . . . Hoyt, Porter & Co. Rochester, N. Y. . . . [1833-34]. NR. NRHi.

1835—Western Almanac . . . 1835 . . . Rochester: Published ... by William Alling & Co. . . . [1834-35]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

1836—Western Almanac . . . 1836 . . . Rochester, N. Y.: Published ... by William Alling & Co. [1835-36]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

1837—Western Almanac . . . 1837 . . . Rochester; Printed by William Alling & Co. . . . [1836-37]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

1838—Universalist Register and Almanac for 1838. O. Whiston and G. Sanderson, Rochester. Printed at the office of The Herald of Truth, [1837-38]. NRU.

Western Almanac . . . 1838 . . . Rochester: Printed, Published, and Sold ... by William Alling & Co. . . . [1837-38]. NRHi. NRU.

Same. Published by Hoyt & Porter. NRU.

Same. Published by Clarendon Morse. NRMA. NRU.

1839—Western Almanac . . . 1839 ... Rochester: Printed ... by William Alling ... [1838-39]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

Same. Published by Clarendon Morse. NRHi.

The Franklin Almanac, and Western New York Calendar 1840 . . . Rochester: Printed and published by David Hoyt, 1840. NRHi. NRMA.

Western Almanac . . . 1840 . . . Rochester. Published . . . by William Alling, [1839-40]. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

1841—The Franklin Almanac, and Western New York Calendar for . . . 1841. Printed by D. Hoyt, 1841. NRU.

The Western Almanac, And New-York Farmers' Calendar . . . 1841 . . . Rochester: Printed . . . by William Alling, 1841. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.

. . . . . . Same. H. Stanwood & Co. NRU.


. . . . . . The Franklin Almanac, and Western New-York Calendar . . . 1842 . . . Rochester: David Hoyt, [1841-42]. NRU.

. . . . . . Same. Clarendon Morse. NRHi. NRMA. NRU.


. . . . . . Same. Printed and published by D. Hoyt. NRMA.

1844—The Franklin Almanac; and Western New-York Calendar . . . 1844 . . . Rochester: Published by C. F. Crosman. [1843-44]. NRU.

. . . . . . Same. Published by David Hoyt. NRHi.

United States Statistical and Chronological Almanac, for 1844. Rochester, N. Y. Published and illustrated . . . by Fisher & Co. [1833-34]. NRU.

. . . . . . Same. Published and illustrated by M. Miller. NRMA.

The Western Almanac, and Franklin Calendar: 1844 . . . Published and for sale by Fisher & Co. . . . and by C. F. Crosman. . . . [1843-44]. NRHi.

. . . . . . Same. Published by M. Miller. NRU.

. . . . . . Same. Published by M. Miller and C. Crosman. NRMA.

Doubtful Rochester Imprints

The Christian Almanac for the Western District . . . Rochester. Published by the American Tract Society and sold by Levi A. Ward for the years 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834.


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