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Rochester's Congressmen Part II 1869-1979

By Joseph W. Barnes

Fifty-eight men and one woman have served in the House of Representatives from districts that have included all or part of Rochester's territory. Completion of this series (begun in the previous issue of *Rochester History*) permits the compilation of some modest, but useful, statistical information.

Some of the changes in Rochester's congressional representation over time simply reflect the national experience. Even "freshman" congressmen are now older and, once elected, tend to remain in office longer. Before 1869, the average age of Rochester representatives when elected to office was 43.27 years. This average includes the pioneer settlers, young lawyers, and others who represented Rochester's site during the frontier period. The average age on entering office of congressmen from Barnard (elected 1826) to Selye (left office 1869) was 45.8. For the period 1868-1979, the average has been 49.53. As the age at which their congressional careers are begun has grown steadily, so to the amount of time our

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congressmen have remained in office has lengthened. The national government is now 190 years old; the midpoint in its history in 1884. Before that date, Rochester's congressmen served, on average, for 1.46 terms. Since 1884 our representatives have enjoyed an average 4.05 terms. The long incumbencies of several recent congressmen (Horton, Conable, Keating, Wadsworth) help underscore the point.

For more than a century, Rochester has seemed to be a Republican (or Whig) city, if only its congressional representation is examined. However, modern Democratic gains within the city and its surrounding urbanized area have been offset since 1912, when, for the first time, the state legislature used the Genesee River within Monroe County as a dividing line between congressional districts. As a result large rural, Republican areas were attached to the city's halves. (Even before that division, Republican interests had several times been served by the candidacies of Brockport and Albion men.) Since Whittlesey's term in office (1831-1835), a time roughly corresponding with the emergence of the American party system, Rochester has helped elect 39 congressmen. Of that number only 8, or 21%, were Democrats. The remainder were elected as Republicans or Whigs, with the exception of Selye, a Republican who ran for office as an independent.

The creation of new congressional district boundaries in western New York has been a usual event following reapportionment in recent years. As we have seen, it was not uncommon in the early nineteenth century. In fact, whenever the state's population shows rapid gains or losses relative to the nation as a whole, the state's legislative and party leaders are compelled to adjust district boundaries drastically. If, as is expected, the state should lose additional representation following the 1980 Census, the boundaries of Rochester's 34th and 35th Congressional Districts may once again be changed.

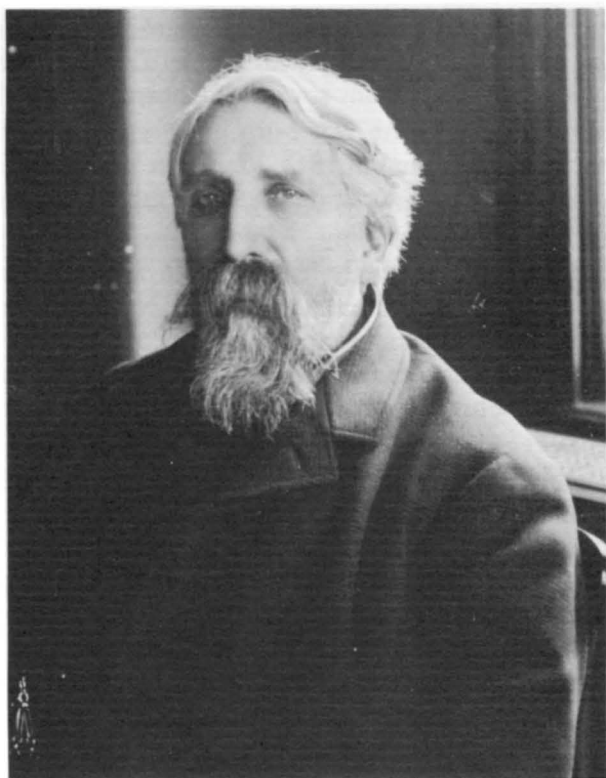
NOAH DAVIS (1818–1902), a lawyer and supreme court justice from Albion, served briefly in the Forty-first Congress (1869–resigned 1870). Orleans County had been attached to Monroe to form the 28th Congressional District in 1861, when New York's apportionment was decreased from 33 to 31 representatives. Davis served after Lewis Selye and before Freeman Clarke's second term in congress. Clarke had made his fortune as a young man in Albion. Davis' election thus represented, in a minor way, a re-establishment of Orleans County interests. Noah Davis was born in New Hampshire and moved with his parents to Albion in 1825. His parents were poor, but young Davis was industrious, working his way through Gaines Academy by copying in a judge's office. Davis also attended Lima Seminary and studied law in Lewiston, afterwards practicing in Gainesville and Buffalo. In 1844 Davis became the partner of Sanford E. Church of Albion, the former judge in whose office he had toiled. Davis himself was elected to the supreme court bench, serving from 1857 until 1868. He resigned his place in Congress to accept President Grant's appointment as United States Attorney for the southern district of New York (Davis was of course a Republican). He served at that post for two years, returned to the state supreme court for another fifteen years, and after 1887 practiced law in New York City. He became a member of the council of the University of the City of New York (New York University). Although he died in New York, Davis was interred in Mount Albion Cemetery.

CHARLES H. HOLMES (1827–1874), an Albion lawyer, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Noah Davis' resignation from the Forty-first Congress (1870–1871). Holmes was a native of Albion. He attended the public schools and Albion Academy, apprenticed himself to several village attorneys, and, supporting his studies with several interludes of school-teaching, graduated from Albany Law School. Holmes was not a candidate for renomination and returned to his law practice after his brief service to Congress.

JOHN M. DAVY (1835–1909) was born in Ottawa but moved to Rochester as an infant with his parents. He attended

public schools and the Monroe Academy in Henrietta. He read law and was almost ready for the bar when, in 1862, he raised Company G of the 108th New York State Volunteers. Lieutenant Davy's Civil War service was brief; he was stricken with typhoid the first winter and honorably discharged in 1863. (Nevertheless, he was the first Civil War veteran to later serve as Rochester's congressman.) Davy commenced law practice in 1863 and served as district attorney 1868-1872. President Grant appointed him Collector for the Port of Genesee in 1872. In 1874 he replaced Freeman Clarke as the Republican standard-bearer in the (now 30th) Congressional District and secured a seat in the Forty-fourth Congress (1875-1877). Davy ran a second time in 1876 but, owing to a dispute between Monroe and Orleans Republicans over the right of nomination, he lost to the Orleans Democrat E. Kirke Hart. In 1888 Davy was nominated for state supreme court by his party, cross-endorsed by the Democrats, and elected by the largest vote ever cast for a justice in the Seventh Judicial District. He retired in 1905.

E. KIRKE HART (1841-1893), an Albion native, was the last of three congressmen from Orleans County who represented the Rochester district. He was the son of Elizur Hart, self-made banker and capitalist, from whom he inherited the Orleans County Bank in 1870. Young Hart grew up in Albion and attended Albion Academy. In 1871 he was elected to the state assembly as a Republican by a large majority, but shortly afterwards he affiliated with the Liberal Republican movement and became a nominal Democrat. That party nominated him in 1876 for election to the Forty-fifth Congress (1877-1879). Hart did not run a second time. In 1882, with George Ellwanger, he founded the *Rochester Post-Express*, an independent "quality" daily that endured for several decades. Hart was a director of the Niagara Falls International Bridge Company and a promoter of electric lighting in Albion. He was active in village affairs, serving as a school commissioner, trustee of Mount Albion, and organizer of the public library. He was influential in securing the



John Van Voorhis

Albion House of Refuge for Women and was on its Board of Managers.

JOHN VAN VOORHIS (1826–1905) represented Rochester in the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Congresses (1879–1883) and also in the Fifty-third (1893–1895). The Van Voorhis family was descended from seventeenth century Dutch settlers of Long Island. John was born in Otsego County. The family moved to Mendon in 1843. John Van Voorhis attended rural academies, read law, and taught school in Victor and at the East Bloomfield Academy. After admission to the bar in 1851 he practiced law briefly in Elmira. In 1854 he opened a law office in the Reynolds Arcade and won considerable regard for his abilities. During the late '50s he served as school commissioner and as city attorney; in 1862 he was appointed collector of internal revenue by President Lincoln, but was never confirmed owing to the opposition of Congressman Ely who favored another candidate. In 1873 Van Voorhis served as defense counsel to Susan B. Anthony, then on trial in federal court in Canandaigua for violation of election law. Van Voorhis' defense was spirited, though unsuccessful. Later, in Congress, he urged the construction of a "U.S. Court House, Post Office, & etc." or federal building, in Rochester. The proposal was vigorously opposed by Congressman Elbridge G. Lapham of Canandaigua, who pointed out that his town already had a court house. Van Voorhis prevailed, although the Rochester Federal Building (more recently the City Hall on Church Street) was not completed until shortly before his third election to Congress. As a congressman and lawyer in private practice Van Voorhis was a steadfast supporter of the rights of the Senecas. He was universally respected for his character, as well as his legal attainments.

HALBERT S. GREENLEAF (1827–1906), a Democrat, was a successful candidate for representative for the Forty-eighth (1883–1885) and the Fifty-second (1891–1893) Congresses. His name is best recognized in the Rochester lock manufacturing partnership of Sargent and Greenleaf. A native of Vermont, Greenleaf was the product of a solid New England

family, but he was not born to wealth. As a young man he worked on farms in the summer and taught school in the winter. Once he signed aboard a whaling ship; another time he worked in a brickyard; he also travelled through the south as a bookseller. The 1850s found him settled in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, where he first worked at the bench in a cutlery factory. For a time he worked for James Sargent, who would later become his partner in the Rochester lock manufactory. (While in Massachusetts Greenleaf organized another lock company under the name Yale & Greenleaf.) Greenleaf had been active in the militia and during the war attained the rank of Colonel of Massachusetts Volunteers. After the war he briefly managed a Louisiana salt factory but was persuaded to come to Rochester by James Sargent. Active in civic affairs as well as manufacturing, Greenleaf became a member of the board of Mechanics Institute and of Rochester Savings Bank. He was among the original members of the Board of Park Commissioners. As the successful candidate for election to the Forty-eighth Congress (1883-1885) he gained pluralities in both Orleans and Monroe Counties. Before the 1884 election, Orleans County was dropped from the 30th District, and Greenleaf lost to Charles S. Baker. Many Republicans rallied to the James G. Blaine ticket that year. Greenleaf served a second term in the Fifty-second Congress (1891-1893). In 1894 he lost a mayoral contest with the emergent Republican boss, George W. Aldridge.

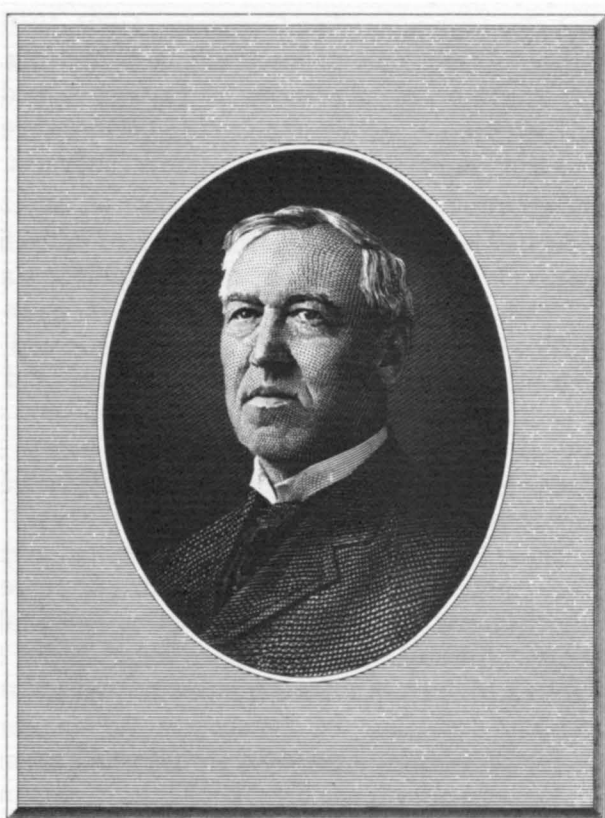
CHARLES S. BAKER (1839-1902), Republican, occupied the congressional seat for Monroe County in the Forty-ninth, Fiftieth, and Fifty-first Congresses (1885-1891). A native of Churchville, Baker attended the Genesee Wesleyan seminary at Lima. He taught school before studying law. He was admitted to the bar in Rochester at the end of 1860. He served briefly as a lieutenant of volunteers but was disabled at the First Battle of Bull Run and was honorably discharged. After the war Baker engaged in a variety of political activities, serving at times as a member of the Board of Education, as a county supervisor, as an assemblyman, and as a state senator. In Congress Baker served on the Committee on Ter-

ritories and had charge of legislation admitting the Dakotas, Montana, Washington, Wyoming, and Idaho.

HENRY C. BREWSTER (1845-1928), like E. Kirke Hart, inherited a bank from his father. Simon Brewster was president of the Traders National Bank. His son occupied, successively, the posts of clerk, cashier, president, and chairman of the board at the bank. Henry Brewster also served on the boards of the Genesee Valley Trust Company (which he helped organize) and the Alliance Bank. He helped organize the New York State Bankers' Association, was first president of the Rochester Clearing House Association, and was twice president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. He was an officer of local, state, and national Republican organizations. Brewster represented Monroe County (now designated the 31st Congressional District) in the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Congresses (1895-1899).

JAMES M. E. O'GRADY (1863-1928), like Brewster, was a Rochester native. He attended the Free Academy and the University of Rochester, where he was a member of the class of 1885. O'Grady read law and was admitted to the bar the same year he graduated from college. For five years (1887-1892) he served as school commissioner and for another five (1893-1898) as a state assemblyman; he was twice elected speaker. O'Grady served only a single term as a representative in the Fifty-sixth Congress (1899-1901). Owing to a dispute with Boss Aldridge, O'Grady did not receive the Republican nomination for re-election.

JAMES B. PERKINS (1847-1910) was among the most accomplished of Rochester's congressmen. Born in Wisconsin, he moved with his parents to Rochester in 1856. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1867 and the following year was admitted to the bar. He served as city attorney 1874-1880. In the early '90s he lived in Paris and produced several scholarly works on French history, including *France Under the Regency* and *A Life of Richelieu*. The historian-lawyer returned to Rochester where he won election to the state assembly (1898-1900). In 1900 Aldridge chose Perkins as a replacement for the independent minded O'Grady.



James B. Perkins

Perkins proved no less a problem to the machine but his stature and popularity won him election to not only the Fifty-seventh but also four succeeding Congresses (1901-1910). He died in office. At the time of his death he was being considered for appointment as Minister to France. A leader in Rochester's intellectual circles, the erudite Perkins defended Algernon Crapsey in the infamous heresy trial at Batavia in 1905.

JAMES S. HAVENS (1859-1927), a Democrat, was elected to fill the unexpired term of his law partner Perkins in the Sixty-first Congress (1910-1911). A native of Weedsport in Cayuga County, Havens attended the public schools there and Monroe Collegiate Institute in Elbridge. He graduated from Yale in 1884, read law in a Rochester office, and was admitted to the bar in 1886. His practice lasted over forty years. Havens had never run for public office before 1910, but was persuaded to do so because George Aldridge, the Republican boss, had decided to seek the office of congressman himself. Governor Hughes announced a special election for April 1910, throwing the Aldridge forces off balance, and Havens was swept into Congress by a coalition of Democrats, reformers, and disaffected Republicans. Serving only eleven months in office, Havens refused renomination, fruitlessly expecting the Democratic nomination for governor. His skills as an attorney were very well regarded. In 1918 he began work for the Eastman Kodak Company, at first as assistant treasurer but in later years as a highly placed corporate attorney.

HENRY G. DANFORTH (1854-1918), the son of an associate judge on the Court of Appeals, began life with advantages. He was born in Gates and attended private schools in Rochester and Phillips Exeter Academy. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1880 and commenced practice in Rochester in partnership with his father. Danforth was generous with his time and energy in public service; he served on the boards of Rochester General Hospital, the Reynolds Library, and Elmira Reformatory. He was elected as a Republican to the Sixty-second, Sixty-third, and Sixty-fourth Congresses (1911-1917). Between Danforth's first and second

terms the Rochester district was redrawn, or rather two new districts were created, dividing the city into east and west halves. Danforth represented the new 39th District, which took in part of the city's west side, and most of Monroe County's western towns, as well as Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties. The Danforth family home on West Avenue is now the Danforth Senior Citizens Center.

THOMAS B. DUNN (1853-1924), a manufacturer, was selected by Aldridge to represent the new 38th District which included the east side of Monroe County, Charlotte, and portions of Greece. Dunn served in the Sixty-third and four succeeding Congresses (1913-1923). He was the founder of a highly successful business, T. B. Dunn Company, which manufactured Sen-Sen breath deodorizer and chewing gum. He was a director of the Genesee Valley Trust Company and of Mechanics Savings Bank, was twice elected president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and served briefly as a state senator and state treasurer before being sent to Congress.

ARCHIE D. SANDERS (1857-1941), who succeeded Henry Danforth in the 39th District, represented the large rural interests in that district. He was born and lived most of his life in the Town of Stafford, adjacent to Batavia in Genesee County. His father was a state assemblyman and large landowner generally considered one of the "substantial citizens" of the countryside. Young Sanders attended LeRoy Academy and Buffalo Central High School and joined his father in the produce business in 1873. In the '90s he was elected, successively, to the posts of highway commissioner, town supervisor, and state assemblyman. Sanders was highly active in Republican affairs. He attended numerous state conventions and the national convention in 1896 which nominated William McKinley. Sanders was rewarded with appointment by President McKinley to the job of local collector of internal revenue, a position he held until 1913. After serving in the state senate 1914-1915 Sanders won election to the Sixty-fifth and seven succeeding Congresses (1917-1933). At the time of his death Sanders was chairman of the Genesee County Republican Committee.

MEYER JACOBSTEIN (1880–1963) served the 38th District in the Sixty-eighth, Sixty-ninth, and Seventieth Congresses (1923–1929). A Democrat elected in a heavily Republican district, this able man pursued the various careers of teacher, scholar, politician, labor mediator, banker, and publisher. He was born in New York City, the son of an immigrant tailor, and moved to Rochester as an infant with his parents. Here, as a young man, he sold newspapers to help pay for his education, attended political lectures, and once befriended Susan B. Anthony. Jacobstein attended the University of Rochester, but transferred to Columbia, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees and finally, in 1907, a Ph.D. in economics. He taught for a few years at the University of North Dakota, then at the University of Rochester, where he also served as director of emergency employment management during World War I. In 1922 Thomas B. Dunn was not running for re-election, and the Republican party named Frederick T. Pierson, a trial lawyer and city councilman, as his replacement. The Democrats nominated Jacobstein, little expecting he would win an upset victory. But Dr. Jacobstein's tireless campaigning, together with his labor support (he had won a favorable reputation on mediation and arbitration boards) and the Al Smith landslide won him a small majority. During his years in Congress, Jacobstein owned the Rochester Business Institute. He sold that enterprise and became president of the First National Bank & Trust Company (which eventually merged with Lincoln-Alliance). After this venture in banking, Jacobstein tried his hand at publishing, becoming local publisher (1934–1937) of the Rochester *Journal-American*, a Hearst newspaper which finally sold out to the Gannett chain. Afterwards, he was again in Washington, D.C., working at the Brookings Institute and the Library of Congress for nearly twenty years. He retired to Rochester.

JAMES L. WHITLEY (1872–1959) was the Republican representative for the 38th District in the Seventy-first, Seventy-second, and Seventy-third Congresses (1929–1935). A Rochester native, Whitley graduated from the Free Academy and worked for three years in a Water Street foun-



Meyer Jacobstein

dry to pay his college tuition. He attended Union College and the Albany Law School, graduating in 1898, during the war with Spain. Whitley volunteered for the Rough Riders, but was politely refused, serving instead as a sergeant in an artillery battery. After commencing law practice in Rochester he served in the corporation counsel's office and for the civil service commission. Well regarded by Republicans and Democrats alike, he was "brought forward" by George Aldridge in 1904 to run for state assembly. In the assembly (1905-1910) Whitley made valuable friends, among them Alfred E. Smith and James W. Wadsworth, Jr. Between the time he spent in the assembly and in the senate (1918-1928) Whitley authored several law texts. His six years in Congress were productive; he claimed partial credit for the new Rochester post office on Cumberland Street, one of the first public works projects completed during the New Deal. He also made pioneer efforts toward legislation creating deposit insurance, a program subsequently adopted by the Democratic majority in Congress.

JAMES W. WADSWORTH, JR. (1877-1952) more than matched the record for incumbency in the 39th District previously set by Archie Sanders, having been elected to the Seventy-third and to eight succeeding Congresses (1933-1951). But Wadsworth also enjoyed two earlier terms as a United States Senator, in 1915-1927 (reversing what might seem to be the appropriate chronological order for service in both the House of Representatives and the Senate). Wadsworth began his political career as early as 1905, when he was elected to the state assembly and soon chosen speaker, the youngest individual ever to have held that position. Because of his long service in Congress as a staunch leader of Republican conservatism, Wadsworth was recognized as a political figure of national, as well as regional, importance. He was born in Geneseo of a long-established, landed family; his father held many political offices including that of congressman. Young Wadsworth graduated from Yale in 1898, served in the Spanish-American War as an artilleryman in Puerto Rico, and, in 1902, married Alice Hay, daughter of the Secretary of State. His election to the speakership of the

assembly (1906–1910), was brought about despite his youth by intense factional rivalries within state party circles and the intervention of George Aldridge on his behalf. Between service in the assembly and first election to the U.S. Senate, Wadsworth managed a ranch in Texas. As a senator, Wadsworth established himself as an advocate of military preparedness but as a fierce opponent of women's suffrage, prohibition, and the Versailles Treaty. His senatorial career was terminated in 1926 by loss in the election to Robert F. Wagner. Wadsworth lost a good deal of power within the state party as well, and he retreated to his estate for a number of years before re-emerging to run for the first of his nine terms in the House of Representatives. As a representative he strongly fought New Deal measures and in fact was a founder of the American Liberty League. Conversely, he (again) favored military preparedness in the late '30s and opposed the Neutrality Acts favored by many fellow Republicans. Wadsworth maintained his conservative posture throughout the post-war years but earned the respect of even liberal Democrats for his gentlemanly composure and thorough integrity. In 1944 Wadsworth's 39th Congressional District was redesignated the 41st; it still contained most of the western half of Monroe, as well as Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties.

JAMES P. B. DUFFY (1878–1969) was an heir to the Duffy business interests (including the Hotel Rochester and Duffy-Powers building, the New York & Kentucky Company, and the American Fruit Products Company); a lawyer; a prominent Democrat; and the representative for the 38th District in the Seventy-fourth Congress (1935–1937). A Rochester native, Duffy attended the Free Academy, graduated from Georgetown University in 1901, and from Harvard Law School in 1904. He began practicing law in the same partnership that contained Congressmen Perkins and Havens. His lengthiest public service was on the Rochester Board of Education, of which he was a member 1905–1932. He also volunteered his time as a director of the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, the Rochester Community Chest, and the

Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. Duffy never married and lived in downtown hotels much of his life. His last successful election campaign was in 1934. In 1937 he was named to fill a vacancy in state supreme court, but failed to win re-election; in 1941 he was defeated as a city council candidate. In addition to his other duties, Duffy served at various times on the state's alcohol control board and probation commission and as a selective service officer.

GEORGE B. KELLY (1900-1971), a congenial life-long Democratic activist, was elected to several offices during the '30s, including that of representative in the Seventy-sixth Congress (1937-1939). With the help of labor support, he replaced Duffy as candidate in the 1936 primary. Kelly had previously served in the assembly (1933-1934) and the state senate (1935-1936). He was a native of Waterloo in Seneca County; he attended schools there and in Rochester and took extension courses at the University of Rochester. He worked for the General Railway Signal, Ritter, and the Pfaudler companies before settling down, in 1920, with a job at Fashion Park. Here he mastered Italian and was soon made a manager and labor arbitrator. In the late '20s he "stumped" for other Democrats and won influence in local party circles. He allied himself with the New Deal or liberal wing of his party, and his 1936 election to Congress owed something to the voters' enthusiasm for Roosevelt and Lehman. During his two years in Congress Kelly was an advocate of public housing—especially for Rochester—but a dilatory city administration failed to seize the opportunity for federal funds for this purpose. In 1938 he ran for re-election, but was defeated by the fiercely anti-New Deal Republican Joseph J. O'Brien. For the next few years Kelly filled state and federal labor mediation posts. At the beginning of World War II he was employed by the Genesee Brewing Company and served that company's interests in a variety of capacities for ten years. He was an organizer of radio station WNYR and managed the station during its formative years. In 1954 Kelly supported a successful reform movement within the local party which placed Francis D'Amanda in the chairmanship. Kelly then received



James W. Wadsworth, Jr.

an appointment as assistant state industrial commissioner which lasted until 1958. During the final ten years of his life Kelly worked repeatedly as a campaign manager and adviser for local candidates.

JOSEPH J. O'BRIEN (1897–1953), the Republican leader of East Rochester, represented the 38th District in the Seventy-sixth, Seventy-seventh, and Seventy-eighth Congresses, (1939–1945). O'Brien was born in Rochester and attended parochial school here and McGill University in Montreal. He served in the navy during World War I and afterwards worked for the New York Central Railroad (in East Rochester) as a construction superintendent. During the '20s he was also a professional wrestler and football player. O'Brien was a "joiner." He was a member of the American Legion; the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department; the Elks; the Moose; and the Knights of Columbus. He had the uncanny ability, developed to a degree rare even among politicians, to remember everyone by name. In the '30s he was elected treasurer and assessor of the Village of East Rochester. In Congress O'Brien won widespread support among his largely Republican constituency for his anti-New Dealism, but as the United States entered World War II his isolationism became embarrassing. In 1942 O'Brien was severely challenged by Walden Moore, a University of Rochester professor whose candidacy had been advanced by the Rochester Group for Liberal Action. In the same year, local Democrats cross-endorsed James Wadsorth in the adjacent district. Two years later, Congressman O'Brien was defeated. From 1945 until his death, he served as district administrator for the New York State Compensation Board.

GEORGE F. ROGERS (1887–1948), a former Democratic state senator, won election in 1944 to represent the 40th District (formerly the 38th) in the Seventy-ninth Congress (1945–1947). Rogers was a native of Ontario, Canada, where he attended the public schools before emigrating, in 1899, to Rochester. He was a successful Dewey Avenue grocer and Democratic party leader of the Tenth Ward, from which he

was elected county supervisor in 1934-1935. Rogers was a state senator in 1937 and 1938. His death at a summer home in Coburg, Ontario, followed shortly after his defeat in the 1948 congressional election.

KENNETH B. KEATING (1900-1975) won six terms in the House of Representatives from Rochester's east side district, became a popular United States Senator, and served finally as Ambassador to India and Ambassador to Israel. Keating was born in Lima, in Livingston County, and attended Genesee Wesleyan Seminary from which he graduated at age fifteen. Despite his youth, he entered the University of Rochester where he achieved a distinguished record; he was class valedictorian (1919), Phi Beta Kappa, and a sergeant in the Student Army Training Corps. Keating taught briefly at East High School, then enrolled in Harvard Law School. He graduated in 1923 and commenced practice in Rochester, where he ultimately joined the firm of Harris, Beach, Folger, Remington, & Bacon. Until World War II, Keating led a relatively quiet life, although his skills and perseverance earned him a good reputation within the legal profession. He volunteered for service in the war, worked mainly in allied lend-lease matters in the China-Burma-India Theater, and achieved the rank of colonel. Before the war Keating had become involved in Republican affairs. He served as Brighton Town Attorney and attended the national convention in 1940. In 1946 local party leaders selected Keating instead of O'Brien as congressional candidate. He proved to be an outstanding vote-getter, and won election to the Eightieth and five succeeding Congresses (1947-1959). During twelve years in the House of Representatives he established a "progressive Republican" voting record. Keating's ever-increasing margins of victory at the polls convinced state party leaders and the Eisenhower administration that he should run for United States Senate in 1958. At the Republican state convention in Rochester, Keating accepted the candidacy although it meant considerable risk, and he won an upset victory. In the senate Keating distinguished himself as a freshman member. He played a major role in the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, spon-

sored legislation leading to the adoption of the 23rd Amendment, enfranchising the District of Columbia, and helped expose the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. After losing in the 1964 election against the "carpetbag" candidacy of Robert Kennedy (but running well ahead of Barry Goldwater, whom he refused to support) Keating practiced law for a year in New York City where he was associated with the future Secretary of State, William P. Rogers. In 1965 Keating was elected to the New York State Court of Appeals. Resigning that position before mandatory retirement in 1969, he accepted Richard Nixon's appointment as Ambassador to India. During the Bangladesh conflict between India and Pakistan, Keating advocated the Indian position. His independence from the Nixon-Kissinger policy which supported Pakistan contributed to his return to the United States in 1972 (when he campaigned briefly in behalf of Nixon's re-election). In 1973 Keating accepted appointment to his final public post, Ambassador to Israel.

HAROLD C. OSTERTAG (1896-) succeeded James Wadsworth as representative in the 41st (west side) Congressional District. In 1951 because of a loss in the number of New York's representatives, the district was redesignated the 39th; Keating's 40th District was again made the 38th. Certain portions of the east district west of the Genesee River, including the Tenth Ward and Greece, were added to Ostertag's district as part of the legislative realignment. Livingston County was removed from the west side district, and Wayne County was added to the 38th District. Ostertag, a native and resident of Attica in Wyoming County, perpetuated the custom of rural representation of the west side district. A veteran himself, Ostertag became director of the Wyoming County Veterans Service Bureau after World War I. He was also a traveling agent for the New York Central Railroad. His activities in several veterans' organizations, as well as participation in Attica civic affairs and the Republican party, led to his election as Wyoming County assemblyman, a position he held for eighteen years. In 1950, Ostertag won election to the first of seven consecutive Congresses, the Eighty-second

through the Eighty-eighth (1951–1965). A solid, well-respected though unassuming legislator, Ostertag was known as a staunch administration Republican during the Eisenhower years.

JESSICA M. WEIS (1901–1963), Rochester's only congresswoman, replaced Kenneth B. Keating as the Republican candidate in the 38th District in 1958 when Keating chose to run for the U.S. Senate. The daughter of Lackawanna Steel magnate Charles H. McCullough, Jr., young Jessica (known always as "Judy") enjoyed a finishing school education and married the non-political Charles Weis, chairman of a rising Rochester firm, Stecher Lithograph. Judy Weis arrived in Rochester, became the mother of two daughters and a son, and seemed destined for an active, if restricted, life as society matron. She was an organizer of the Chatterbox Club, an officer of the Junior League, and a worker for the Genesee and Children's Convalescent Hospitals. In the 1930s, however, she became an active participant in Republican affairs, first as a local party fund-raiser and campaign worker for Landon, then as an officer of the county committee, finally as a member of the party's state executive committee. In the 1940s she became an officer of the National Federation of Women's Republican Clubs and member of the national committee. When she was widowed in 1958 and sought the 38th District congressional seat as an outlet for her considerable energies, her long record of party work (she had attended five national conventions and seconded Thomas Dewey's nomination in 1948) won her the nomination despite the support given City Councilman Frank J. Horton by County Chairman Fred Parrish. Judy Weis was elected to the Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh Congresses (1959–1963). Because of declining health, she could not seek a third term in office. Politically conservative, she refused her \$600 "stationery allowance," feeling that congressional allowances and expenses could become bloated. She was a member of the House Committee on Space and Aeronautics. Judy Weis died shortly after leaving office.

FRANK J. HORTON (1919-) was elected in 1962 in the east side district, then redesignated the 36th, and has served continuously in the Eighty-eighth through the Ninety-sixth Congresses (1963-). His nine terms to date equal the record for incumbency of a Rochester representative set by James Wadsworth. In 1972 the east side district was again redefined. Now the 34th District, it includes all of Wayne County, all of eastern Monroe County except Henrietta, and the city's Eighth Ward on the west side of the Genesee River. Congressman Horton was born in Texas and spent part of his youth in Louisiana, where he graduated from Louisiana State University in 1941. During World War II Horton served in the infantry overseas and rose to the rank of major. He attended Cornell Law School, graduated in 1947, and joined a Rochester law firm, Johnson, Reif, & Mullan. Active in masonic affairs and Rochester's Community Baseball corporation as well as in the Republican party, Horton filled out an unexpired term on city council before winning election in 1957 to a full four-year term as councilman-at-large. He was among the losers in the 1961 election which turned over city hall to Democratic control. This was the only major setback in Horton's political career. Since 1964, when he handily survived the Goldwater presidential candidacy, Horton has recorded overwhelming electoral victories. In 1978 he accepted cross-endorsement by the local Democratic organizations. Horton's success owes a great deal to a policy of careful attention to constituent services. A liberal and often independently-inclined legislator, Horton has focused much of his energies in the Government Operations Committee, of which he became ranking minority member in 1973. He found himself frequently opposed to Nixon and Ford White House policies. In 1974 he openly opposed the presidential pardon of Richard Nixon, urged federal guarantees for New York City's debt in 1975, and resisted massive aid for the collapsing South Vietnamese regime the same year. Since the early 1970s Horton has been a supporter of legislation for the creation of a Consumer Protection Agency. He was a sponsor of the Privacy Act of 1974. Horton has frequently attacked

excessive government regulation of the private sector. In an effort to achieve practical reforms in this area, he accepted chairmanship of the Federal Paperwork Commission in 1977.

BARBER B. CONABLE, JR. (1922-), Rochester's west side incumbent congressman, enjoys nearly as much seniority as his east side colleague. First elected in 1964 to the seat vacated by Harold Ostertag, Conable has won re-election seven times and has served in the Eighty-ninth through the Ninety-sixth Congresses (1965-). Conable was born in Warsaw, in Wyoming County. He graduated from Cornell University in 1942, served in the Marine Corps during World War II, and finished Cornell Law School in 1948. The son of a long-term Wyoming County judge, Congressman Conable gravitated toward Republican affairs. He was elected to the state senate and served a single term, 1963-1965, before entering Congress. Like his east side colleague, Conable has survived several election years which have added to Democratic majorities in the House of Representatives. Both congressmen have benefited to some degree from the misfortunes of their party, in the sense that senior positions rapidly became available to them. Conable joined the Ways and Means Committee in 1967, became chairman of the Republican Research and Planning Committee in 1971, and chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee in 1973. [Congressional redistricting in 1972 briefly threatened the incumbency of several western New York congressmen and altered the shape of Conable's district, afterwards designated the 35th. In order to preserve a seat for Henry P. Smith III of Niagara Falls, state Republican leaders detached Orleans County and three western Monroe County towns from the west side district. Livingston County was added (rather, reattached) to Conable's district; also added were Henrietta and the western towns of Ontario County except Victor. The city's west side, except the Eighth Ward which was included in the 34th District, remained in Conable's territory.] During the Nixon presidency, Conable was generally supportive of administration policies. In the impeachment crisis of summer 1974, Conable, the fourth-ranking House Republican, publically

remained undecided until early August. Unlike Congressman Horton, Conable agreed with President Ford's policy toward New York City's financial emergency. Generally more conservative than his east side colleague, Conable has developed a special interest in fiscal affairs. Since 1977 the ranking minority member of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Conable has earned recognition as one of the most knowledgeable persons in Washington in matters relating to the federal tax code and budgetary policy. Throughout the 1970s he voted against popular tax cuts, warning that continuous government deficits would lead to serious inflation. Conable helped push through the Tax Reform Act of 1976, which fared poorly in the Senate. Although he generally dislikes tax legislation in favor of special interests, Conable has helped add to the tax code provisions to encourage the repair and re-use of historic buildings.