

# ROCHESTER HISTORY

Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, *Editor*

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## Rochester's Pioneer Builders: Relinquishing the Reigns of Power

*By Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck*





ROCHESTER IN 1820

*Cover and above drawing from  
"Rochester and the Post Express: A History of the City of Rochester"  
by John DeVoy, Post Express Printing, Rochester, 1895.  
Except where noted, all line drawings are from this source.*

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*In October of 1847, fifty-six men gathered at the Blossom Hotel in Rochester for the first annual gathering of the Pioneer Society of Western New York. (Drawing from the 1847-48 Rochester City Directory.)*

*The words that appear in italics are the editor's. All others are taken directly from the original newspaper account of the meeting of the pioneers in the Rochester Daily Advertiser on October 6, 1847.*

## The Changing of the Guard

*In 1847, only thirteen years after the incorporation of Rochester, the area's early pioneers recognized that the settlement they built had become a large city and that the reigns of power were passing from them to their children and to newcomers whose ambitions differed from theirs. They gathered at Blossom Hotel on Main Street on an evening filled with stories of the days when, less than three decades before, Rochester was a wilderness. It was an evening overcast with an apprehension for the future of the city these men thought of as their creation. The meeting offered an insight into their innermost feelings.*

*Their reason for gathering was not only to enjoy their recollections, it was to assure their memorials, account for their past, and after assessing the present, to hope for the sound judgement of their children in the future. The men who gathered were confident and accomplished. They were critical of the new generation, but several expressed a confidence, however reserved, in the judgement of the new generation. The changes these pioneers witnessed in just three decades were remarkable and, though most of them could not be considered elderly, they were excited about a future they knew they would not live to see.*

*Seth Jones' remarks reflected the sentiment of those gathered at the Blossom Hotel. Though he was among the earliest of the pioneers, at forty-seven, he was young enough to participate in the future. Jones*

remarked, "A kind of providence has changed the condition of many of us, as well as the country in which we live, and this change can only be realized by comparing the past with the present, and it may not be amiss in us to recount the trials and hardships we have endured, and the humble part we have borne in producing this from a howling wilderness to a flourishing city of about 30,000 inhabitants." *Then speaking for the younger of the pioneers, he added, "May it be our part to help on this good work so well begun, and if we improve the advantages we possess, Rochester has but just begun to be what she will be in thirty years more if she maintains her integrity. With her churches and public schools, mills and machinery and vast water power, all properly brought to bare (sic), her course must be onward."*

*The development of Rochester was so rapid that even one who witnessed them found them extraordinary. Seventy-two-year-old Enos Stone remarked, "The changes, Gentlemen, which we have seen in the face of the Genesee country, and which we have aided to produce, since our first visits to it, have been most striking and important—such as few could have imagined possible within even the lapse of a century, much less in half of that period. In illustration of this, you will have the goodness to excuse a little egotism. I came into this 'breathing world' on the 13th of May 1776, in the town of Lenox, Massachusetts, and in 1790, was sent by me father hitherward, to look after a land purchase which he had made in Township No. 13, called Brighton—including, then, a part of what is now Rochester, as is very well known. Charged with a supply of cattle and hogs, I, in company with others, started for the Genesee country, May 17th, 1790, and reached it in 27 days—finding my brother Orange, (also spelled Orringh) who had previously emigrated to this place. After leaving Herkimer there were but few traces of settlement westward—even Utica being unable to boast of any regularly built dwelling. We, on this occasion, put up a 'Block House', more familiarly known then as the 'Post House', and far behind the one in which we are at present assembled in all that pertained to creature comforts, as will readily be imagined. From Utica, a family had preceded us west, about two weeks, whom we found at what is now called Whitestown— 'White' being the name of this pioneer family. No road thence onward to Oneida, but an Indian trail, and from there to Cayuga Lake there was not a house to be found. At this latter point the hardest draft was made on our patience and stomachs—especially the last, as we were from Thursday morning until Sunday evening without having the pleasure of tasting food. On the last day named, we got to Geneva, having lain out*

upon the ground the preceding twelve nights. But, to be brief, my presence here to-day is pretty good evidence that my first woods experience was safely performed, whatever may have been the privations and hardships attending it. At the time of which I speak, if my memory is not at fault, Ontario county extended from Herkimer to the western boundary of the State—a tract of the country now representing nearly a million people. At first organization of the county, some of which are denominated town officers, were resident at Utica, some at Canandaigua, particularly the 'town clerk', a Mr. Bates— and some at Buffalo. Strange as it may appear to us now, then it was a fact that the British were joint occupants with us, holding the forts both at Oswego and Youngstown.

"Great changes have been wrought since the days of the pioneers—changes not only as regard them, but the country they were the first to attempt to reclaim from the wilderness.

"Gentlemen, we are permitted to assemble today in a splendid and tasteful mansion, situated in a city of 30,000 inhabitants; yet it is within the personal knowledge of some of us when there was not a dwelling here—when the site of the city, or a large portion of it, was deemed an irreclaimable swamp, proper only as a resort for frogs and muskrats. No longer ago than 1789, the country known as the Genesee, belonged to Montgomery County, and it may be well doubted whether, at that time, there were enough men west of Rome (*New York*), to have made up a company as numerous as the present. (*He lists the populations of the counties*). This astonishing change has grown up under our own observation, yet how hard it is fully to realize its extent, or grasp its probable consequence?

"Yet the change is here—palpable and unmistakable, in visible nature, and if we consult no flattering mirror, we shall be compelled, willingly or not, to own that we too are changing—have changed. It is befitting, then, brethren of the 'pioneer corps', that ere we cease to compose a portion of the 'half million' of human beings now dwelling in Western New York, that we should prepare some memorial of ourselves and times for posterity—something which shall not only preserve our name from oblivion, but shall present them autobiographically to those who may come after us, while we call up much personal reminiscences as shall interest the present and the future. For the accomplishment of this purpose, a book has been procured, in which each pioneer will please write his name, birth, and birthplace: besides furnishing for insertion in another portion of the record, such personal narratives of the early settlement of the country as his memory can recall. By doing this we shall



UPPER FALLS IN 1836

confer present pleasure, as well as a great favor on the reading future."

*Stone was aware that the time had come to turn the reigns of power over to a new generation. He seemed sad that he could not be a part of what he must have seen as an exciting future for Rochester, but he was realistic and showed confidence in the next generation. "Brethren," he said to his fellow pioneers, "my task is done—poorly I am conscious, . . . but my consolation is, that, however insipid I may have been, there is plenty of excellent wine—to speak figuratively—with which to carry on and close the feast."*

*Oliver Culver told of some of his enterprising occupations: "In 1805 he established the first express in the western country. He carried the mail on skates from Cleveland to Huron, forty miles in four hours, which can hardly be beaten now, except by telegraph."*

*Culver traveled the Great Lakes trading salt and furs, he raised wheat and cut roads for the town of Northfield.*

*"The first bridge was built over the Genesee where Main Street Bridge now stands in 1811-12, before that time we forded the river above the rapids, in low water; and he has had hair-breadth escapes there in being washed over in the Falls with a load of grain which he had been to Braddock's Bay to procure with a sled and two yokes of oxen."*

*Hervey (also spelled Harvey) Ely, 56, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, asked Oliver Culver to tell about his encounter with a hostile Indian. Culver received a blow on the head with a tomahawk at Twelve-Mile Creek. The scar remained for the rest of his life.*

*Culver also recalled how he and Ely "made a bonfire of 6000 votes sent from Canandaigua during the struggle for the division of the county."*

*In these early days, each small settlement struggled to become the center of the rapidly growing area. Landings were built at several points along the river. Around each there was a flurry of trade and speculation.*

*Culver spoke to Enos Stone, president of the newly formed Pioneer Society, "You, Mr. President . . . built the first house on the east side of the river, and in 1813 we had not given up the belief that the Irondequoit Landing would be the port of entry: everything here (Rochester) was so forbidding and inaccessible. It was in that year that I built my vessel of 47 tons, on the farm owned by Rosswell Hart, Esq., in Brighton, and drew it with 26 oxen to the Landing. It was a fine little craft—and I at the helm made the port of Oswego, where two heavy vessels manned by 24 men were both lost, and all on board found a watery grave."*

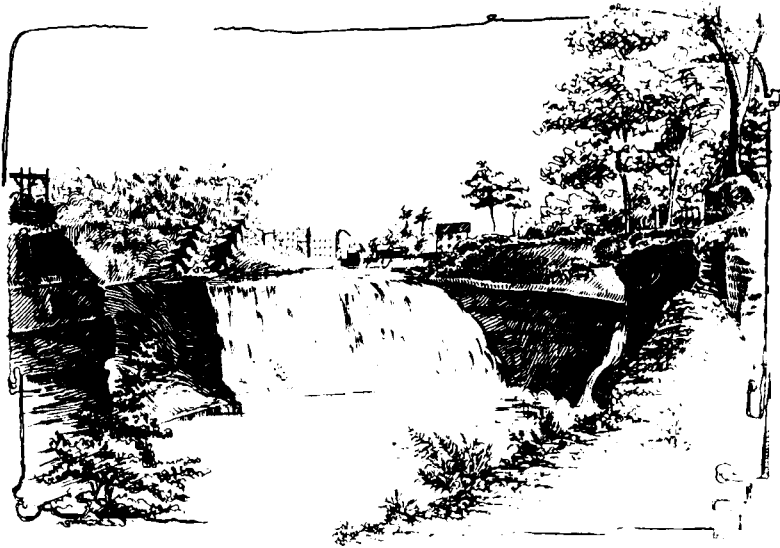
*Expressing the surprise that the city of Rochester grew so rapidly and explaining at the same time how successful businessmen miscalculated their investment, Culver added, "You (Enos Stone) and I . . . did not expect to have seen a city of 30,000 inhabitants where we had so recently hunted bear successfully."*

*"Dr. Jonas Brown came here and commenced the practice of medicine in 1813. He located his office where the bank of Rochester now stands. While visiting a patient near the Rapids he barely escaped falling into the claws of a panther which paid his respects to him as he was riding in the woods a couple of miles south of the city.*

*"Having heard that vocal music would keep the 'critters' at a distance, he tuned up his pipes but he would not vouch for the character of the music he made on that occasion. He gave a vivid sketch of the sufferings of the sick, and stated that he has frequently been called upon to act as nurse, cook, and doctor,—whole families being down at the same time.*

*Jehiel Barnard, 59, of Dutchess County, came to Rochester in 1812 and opened the first tailor shop, the first shoemaker shop, and the first school and meeting house in an 18 by 26 foot building. The article reports, "The first meetings were all well attended. The pioneers were all good singers, and they did their singing after the old congregational fashion as it should be now."*

*Anson House, an attorney, told the audience "his first pettifogging (handling of small legal cases) excursion was made on foot to Phelps-town. When appointed Justice of the Peace he had no coat and was obliged to be 'qualified' in Canandaigua in his shirt sleeves. He walked to that place and took the oath early in the morning before the people were stirring."*



LOWER FALLS IN 1836

*Samuel Andrews recalled that in 1815, when he first saw Rochester, there were only about 25 houses, stores and shops; Ely's red grist mill, three saw mills, and a tannery. He recalled that the Genesee River was not yet diverted to races or to feed the canal, "but a broad, deep river rolled its unbroken volume down the falls, sounding its solemn bass through the woods for miles—sending up clouds of spray through the well defined bow of promise to Rochester; and lodging its congealed particles (it was winter) upon the shrubs and trees and hanging boughs on its banks, forming its frost domes, grottos and grained arches decorated with pendant lustres, and crusted all over with diamonds, which reflected the sun's rays and sent them off in lines of light into the deep, dark wilderness. It was a scene magnificent beyond description—such as no modern eye can behold; for the Genesee River is devoted to other purposes."*

*The contrast between that scene and the present was difficult for Andrews to comprehend in such a brief passage of time. In 1815, Rochester had 300 inhabitants and in 1847, it had grown to 30,000, a hundred times its size just 32 years earlier. There were over 30 churches and buildings for worship, as many schools, over 4,000 houses, about 100 mills and factories and Rochester was the largest flour milling town in the world.*

## A Moral Foundation, Enduring Prosperity

*Alexander spoke of the character of the pioneer men as if he hoped that by knowing it, the future generations would cultivate it in themselves. They were sincerely sympathetic and always willing to help. "They were plain men; plain and unaffected in their intercourse, style of living, and manners, and that influence is acknowledged in the common and just saying, that 'no species of dandyism can exist in Rochester.'" (A speaker in Rochester in 1858 once defined a yankee doodle as one interested in politics who scoffs at fashion and a yankee doodle dandee as a fashionable American who scoffs at politics). They were men regardful of religion and its institutions. Their first work was to set up an altar in the wilderness, and to provide a place of religious worship, and their controlling influence is strikingly visible upon Rochester at this day. Those men . . . inscribed their own epitaph more durably than upon crumbling marble, for they impressed it upon the institutions and interwove it with the manners, customs and fashions of a great community, to be 'seen and read of all men'—and if it might be deemed proper to name individuals among those, all so worthy of remembrance with respect and gratitude, he would mention those of Oliver Gibbs, Elisha Ely, Frederick Clark, and Nathaniel Rochester, whose labors and example, not less than the others contributed to the moral prosperity of Rochester."*

*Everard Peck supported Alexander's observation of the pioneer character. He said that Rochester was uninviting in its appearance when he first arrived. It was tree stumps and few houses, "yet the inhabitants were kind and courteous to each other and hospitable to strangers. They seemed bound together by ties of friendship and of a common interest, and were united in their efforts to give character and respectability to the infant village. The foundations of its future prosperity had been well laid—the institutions of religion and morality had been firmly established, and the whole community, consisting of members of different sects and denominations, met and worshipped harmoniously in one congregation, while all contributed cheerfully to the support of its minister.*

*"The moral and religious influence thus early put forth, doubtless contributed much to the rapid growth and enduring prosperity of our now flourishing city, and it is not too much to hope that the same influence may continue to be felt in the rich blessings it has secured, when those who were engaged in these efforts shall be forgotten."*



EAGLE TAVERN

*In three decades Rochester grew from a swampy settlement in the woods to a thriving city with multistory block buildings like the Eagle Tavern that operated from 1823 to 1863 at the corner of Buffalo (now Main) and State Streets.*

## Carving a City From the Woods

*Jacob Graves recalled that in his first year in Rochester he had the ague 64 times but at least has not been sick since.*

*Judge Moses Chapin talked about Rochester when he arrived in 1816.*

"The principal settlement on Buffalo Street (now Main Street) was between the Eagle Tavern and the bridge over (the) Genesee River. The buildings were rows of small shops on each side of the street mostly one and a half story high. Here and there was a building farther west on that street, and in that year the brush was burned to clear the street along in front of where the Court House and the Methodist Chapel now stand. A frog pond occupied a part of the court-house yard at the base of a high stone ledge. From the bathing house on west was a long causeway over a deep swamp, in which the forest trees were then standing and on west Washington Street there was an unbroken forest. State Street had been cleared of trees, but the stumps were remaining. The forest came almost to the west line of this street, between Ann and Brown Streets.

"On the west side of Exchange Street, a small framed building stood perched on a high ledge of stone about where Alling & Seymour's bookstore now is; farther west was a dwelling house on the side of the Bank of Rochester; then farther south, occasionally a small building. On the west side of this street were no buildings. A yard for saw logs occupied the ground of Child's Basin.

"On North Fitzhugh Street, there was no settlement north of the site of the Baptist meetinghouse. A cart track then led north to adjacent

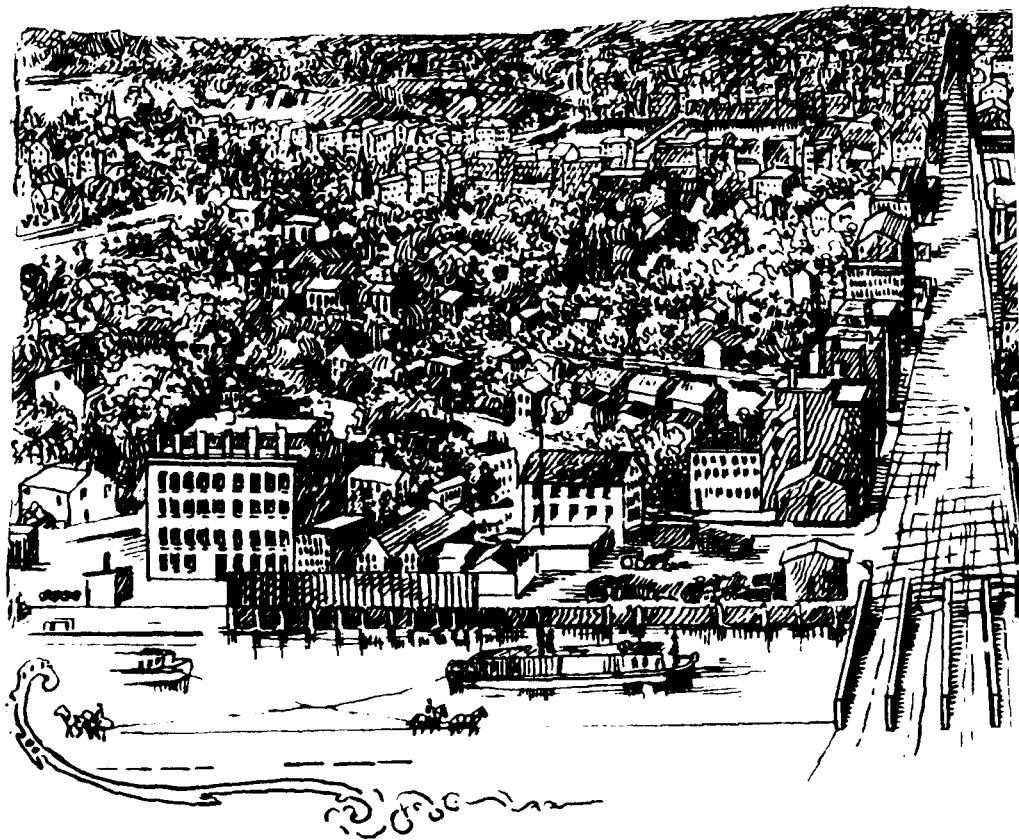
woods. From North Sophia Street, on west beyond Washington Street was an ash swamp filled with water most of the year. The long pendent moss hanging from the boughs of the trees in this swamp presented a picturesque appearance. The land south of Troup Street was a forest.

"On the west side of the river was a small cluster of houses on Main and South St. Paul Streets. From Mortimer Street north and from Clinton Street east, and from Jackson Street was mostly a forest. A black walnut tree, magnificent for its size, stood on the north part of Dublin, not far northeast from the Falls, and attracted many visitors."

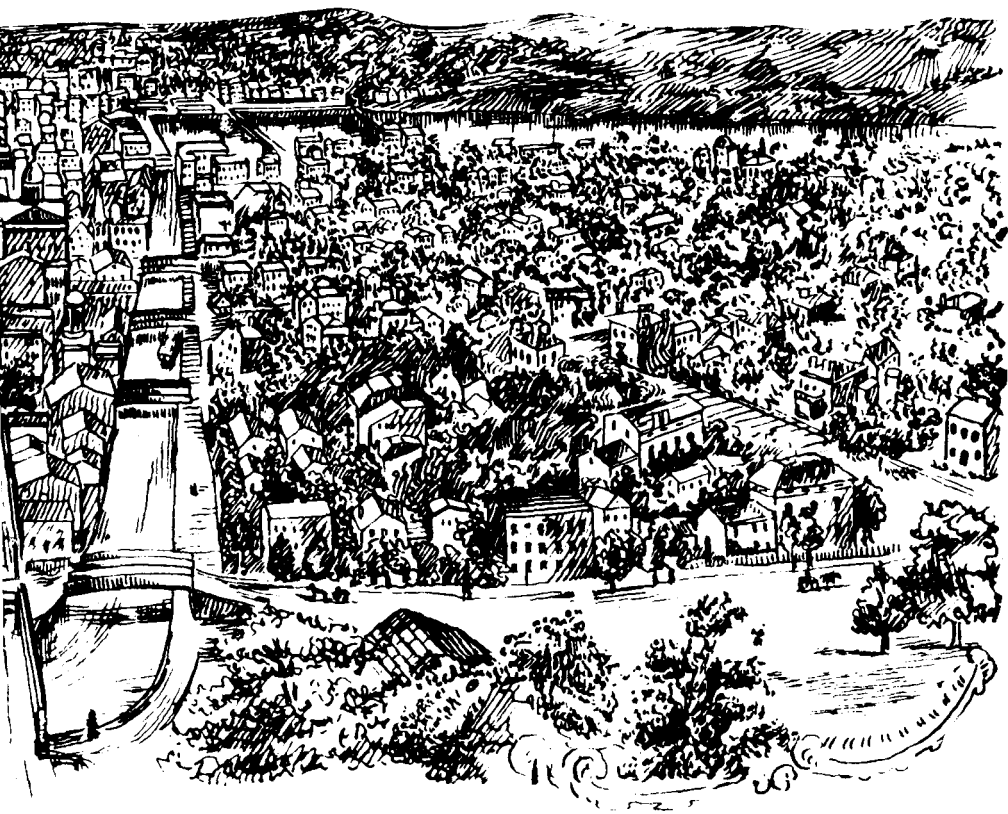
*Chapin cleared a piece of land and built a house in the woods. He could reach town only by a path through the woods to the pump on Spring Street. The following year, 1818, he cleared a path from his house, down Troup Street to Sophia Street.*

*Chapin spoke of the difference in the accommodations between 1816 when he arrived in Rochester and those enjoyed three decades later. He said they were lucky to get to church "early enough on the sabbath to get a seat in the small school house in which the whole village met for worship—called to mind the two taverns with their floors covered with beds to accommodate travelers, and the slab side walks occasionally laid by contribution, when the mud rendered the streets impassable. He referred to a memorable volunteer night watch, so noisy and riotous as to annoy more than they protected the village."*

*Seth C. Jones arrived in Rochester in the spring of 1816. He recalled, "I started from Madison to seek my fortune in the far West. I was 15 years old, afoot and alone, with a sack on my back. I wandered through woods and mud to Pittsford, where I arrived the 20th day of May, with a capital of two dollars, which with two suits of clothes composed all my stock in trade. At this time the only currency was shin-plasters, which a man could travel out of credit in half a day. There I stopped and worked about two years. It was very hard work to get any money for labor at this time. In the fall of 1818, I came to Rochester to see what I could get to do. At last I made an agreement with Roswell Hart to cut a quantity of steam boat wood. I went into the hemlock woods about two and a half miles this side of the mouth of the river, built a shanty, pulled off my coat and went to work. Pork being two shillings per pound, I thought I would commence by catching some fish, so I bought me a hook and line and set it. At night I went to see if I had caught anything, behold there was a fine looking, large fish, fast to the hook. I pulled him in and thought I had a fine prize. I dressed him and put him on the fire and cooked it until I thought it was done, but it was so tough I could not eat it. I put it on again, and the more I cooked it the tougher it was. I thought*



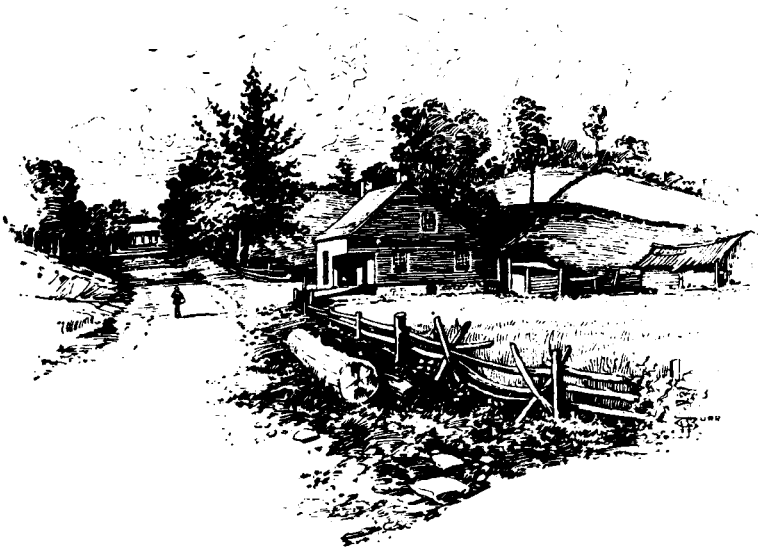
BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF



ROCHESTER IN 1853

this was a poor speculation. The next day there happened to be one of the pioneers passing through the woods and I retold my fish story to him— Why, says he, it is a sheep's head. We never think of more than half cooking them, they are much better only par boiled. I thought I had better buy pork at 2s, per pound. . . (there) was no clearing between Carthage and the mouth of the river on the east side. After I got through with the job I came up to the village, and went to cutting and selling cord wood, and getting building timber. The best price I could get was from 5 to 6 shillings per cord, handsomely piled up in the yards of the wealthiest of the citizens. The best prices that I could obtain for the timber of the Court House was 2¾ cents per foot. So you see I had to do a good deal of hard work for little money."

*William Alexander said that a stranger coming to Rochester and hearing of the deprived lives of the early pioneers would expect to find them haggard and unhappy, hoping that they could someday lead better lives. Alexander said it was not that way at all. "I never met with so pleasant, cheerful, agreeable and apparently happy people, always ready to do each other a good turn, give and receive a good joke, no matter how tight the fit. A stranger would suppose that they fared sumptuously every day and lay on their beds of down. No murmuring in those days. As there was no place of amusement here, the lively and active dispositions of the people could always invent some way to pass off a dull hour agreeably—such as hopping, jumping, pulling at the sticks, running foot races, etc. His Honor the Mayor, Dr. John, was famous for a footrace. The only place for a race course that could be obtained without running logs or around stumps, was the old bridge: several heats were taken by His Honor the Mayor on that course. Esquire House did not look as doleful as one would suppose from the situation he was in when I saw him on a wintry evening in 1817, in company with others, pulling at the sticks in the bar-room near where the present barroom of this house now is. It commenced by the boastings of a man named Freeman, who had a roll of butter in his hat on his head. It was discovered by some of the company. Immediately a match was made; two sat down, one with his back before a large bar-room fire, the pulling commenced, the one near the fire was pulled up, he brought in his man, he chose Freeman, the butter man, he was carefully placed before the fire; he pulled up the first man, another sat down, up he came, after some struggle, the next came up, and the next, till each had had his turn; Freeman was always the conqueror. In the mean time our much esteemed departed friend Benjamin Blossom, who understood the joke, paid good attention to the fire. Freeman then got up, took the forefinger of the one hand and thumb of*



*"The difficulties in travel were not easily overcome, and when my father wished to meet his family as he did at Cayuga Bridge, there was no Stage or Rail Road to convey him there. He wanted to see us and he came on foot." (James Watts)*

the other, and wiping the butter off of from his forehead, exclaiming, 'how I sweat!'

"In those days there were no assaults or batteries, no wrangling or fighting here; nor had we any till they began to work on the canal."

*James Watts remarked, "a migration from the Eastern States 30 years ago, was more of an event with our American people than at present. Now families leave and traverse thousands of miles and it is an everyday occurrence. Of the times from 1800 to the period 1818, friends frequently took a farewell never expecting to meet, as it was thought a new country, wild beasts and natives were sure to embargo a return to the left homes of the east. The difficulties in travel were not easily overcome, and when my father wished to meet his family as he did at Cayuga Bridge, there was no Stage or Rail Road to convey him there. He wanted to see us and he came on foot. It was an adventure to come west more perilous than a voyage around the world is considered at present day. No one thing conduced to make the people one in feeling than the fact that their sociality was necessary and the pioneers of this city, all knew each other, worshipped God under one roof, schooled their children at the same school house, and took an interest in each others welfare."*

*Watts told of his appreciation to the early pioneers for being generous to his father and helping him to settle in Rochester. He said, "When my father reached Rochester, there was not as many stores or places of business as at present and there was but one place he could find to cover his head. You may all remember the Leavitt or stone building which has been torn down to make place for the Munger Block. There my father found a convenient room to commence his business and to live as best he could, without his family for some time. In those days it was thought quite a place: there he continued until he found better quarters. What rent, think you, he was charged a week when he left it, after occupying it some time. Why, says John G. Bond, its owner, a good mechanic is of much use to our new village. I shall make no charge for it, and neither would he take it. There were many such goodhearted men." He went on to recall Ira West and Matthew Brown.*

*"My parents brought me here, here would I always live with my family and be satisfied with its fortunes. Like many of the older portions of the community, its younger branches have gone from us, and death has taken its share. When my mother with two children came here, we had no small difficulty in reaching our dwelling on South Fitzhugh Street. Huge stumps of newly leveled trees stood in the way, and it was a long time before they disappeared in and about the street corner of Fitzhugh and Spring Streets. All the way up above the now Ladies Academy, on Fitzhugh Street, I, with many of the early boys of Rochester, went for chestnuts, and we had to go through the woods to get up to Cornhill, that now densely settled part of the town. I was amongst those who went to school in the 'old school house' that stood on the same site of the present No. 1 School House. I remember it was said in those days that we had good teachers, who were more strict than are allowed at the present time, and furthermore that good scholars, proficient in the first rudiments, (the useful ones I mean) were always reported by all visitors and examiners at our school."*



*Women brought their children through snake-infested swamps to raise their families in Rochester. This tribute to the "Pioneer Woman" by Bryant Baker was once considered for placement in Rochester, but now the 35 foot statue stands at Cherokee Strip near Tonka City, Oklahoma.*

## **To the New Generations**

*Seeming to offer a toast to the future, James Watts, the city's first tin worker, said, "Allow me to offer this sentiment: May the sons, both absent and present, those who were born here and came here anterior to and within the year 1818, children of the early Fathers of this city, so regulate their lives, that after generations, may say, how near akin were Fathers and Sons of the early settlers of Rochester.*

"I tell you gentlemen . . . I look upon the early fathers of this city as Benefactors. You have given a character to it for morals and good order and laid out a city, and paid the taxes to improve it, and carved a foundation upon which succeeding generations may build and profit by it."

*By mid-century, the west had moved farther west. Land companies advertised in Rochester newspapers for industrious laborers, mechanics and farmers to migrate to places such as Illinois where the land was cheap, rich, and open.*

*In 1858, the names of 131 men living in Rochester who were living in Rochester at the time the 1827 city directory was compiled, were printed in the newspaper; the number was notably small. In 1875, the Pioneer Society of Western New York gathered for the last time in Rochester.*

*Watts reached beyond his lifetime when he remarked, "In following out the scheme to extend its limits (of the city) and improve its many superior advantages of an island town, may it never be known to retrograde, but let centuries to come but add memorials to its greatness, in all that ennobles man."*

## Attendants of the First Pioneer Festival In September of 1847

*The following is a list of men who attended the First Pioneer Festival, their age, where they emigrated from, and when they arrived in Rochester.*

William Buell, 56	Canada, November 5, 1818
Aaron Newton, 55	Cheshire, Conn., March 26, 1817
Jacob Graves, 60	Westtown, Mass., October 5, 1816
Dr. H. Carver, 55	Providence, R.I., April 22, 1816
William Brewster, 60	Preston, Conn., April 15, 1816
Enos Pomeroy, 56	Buckland, Mass, October 3, 1815
Seth C. Jones, 47	Madison, Madison County, May 20, 1816
Ebenezer Watts, 65	Boston, Mass., February 7, 1819
William W. Mumford, 51	Aurora, Cayuga County, October 30, 1818
Joab Britton, 67	Westmoreland, N.H., June 1, 1815
John Veazie, no age	Boston, Mass., no date
Elisha Strong, 58	Windsor, Conn., March, 1817
William B. Alexander, 59	Galway, Saratoga County, October, 1817
Eli Stillson, 74	Newtown, Conn., March 9, 1810
S. H. Packard, 51	Charlemont, Mass., July 10, 1818
R. K. Lothridge, 38	Springfield, NY, March, 1817
L. A. Ward, 46	Haddam, Conn., 1818

James H. Watts, 39	Nantuckett, Mass., June, 1817
Fisher Bullard, 53	Uxbridge, Mass., October 2, 1816
Ariel Graves, 50	Swansey, March, 1818
Ephraim Moore, 53	Hollis, N.H., March 8, 1817
Elisha D. Ely, 34	Hadley, Mass., February, 1814
Henry Barnard, 31	Rochester, October 8, 1816
Josiah W. Bissell, 30	Rochester, May 12, 1818
Thomas Kempshall, 52	England, Fall of 1813
Enos Stone, 72	Lenox, Mass., March 17, 1810
Hamlet Scrantom, 75	Durham, Conn., May 1, 1812
Oliver Culver, 69	Hartford, Conn., Fall of 1805
Jehiel Barnard, 59	9 Partners, Dutchess County, September 1, 1812
Silas O. Smith, 63	Newmarlboro, Mass., December 1809
Jonah Brown, 58	Columbia County, New York, September 1813
Hervey Ely, 56	West Springfield, Mass., November 5, 1813
H. Montgomery, 58	Philadelphia, April, 1816
Ralph Parker, 75	Salisbury, Conn., September 29, 1816
Levi Brown, 62	Green River, Columbia, September, 1814
Gideon Cobb, 57	Paulet, Vermont, June 1812
Jonathan Packard, 54	Massachusetts, December 1816
George C. Latta, 51	Seneca, June 1811
Adonijah Green, 57	Kirkstown, Green County, February, 1811
Ashley Sampson, 57	Cornwell, Vermont, October, 1818
Abner Wakelee, 57	Greenville, Green County, May 1815
Ruluff D. Hannahs, 63	Bethlehem, Conn., November, 1816
Nathaniel Draper, 57	Washington, N.H., no date
Anson House, 55	Glastenbury, Conn., May 1, 1816
Samuel G. Andrews, 49	Derby, Conn., December 28, 1815
Moses Chapin, 56	West Springfield, Mass., October 9, 1816
Everard Peck, 56	Berlin, Conn., October 4, 1816
Horatio Fenn, 49	Plymouth, Conn., August 10, 1817
E. Cook, 53	Clinton, Oneida County, April, 1815
Enos Blossom, 35	Onondaga County, March, 1816
N. H. Blossom, 33	Onondaga County, March, 1816
William Miller, 56	Saratoga, February, 1815
Alexander Ely, 85	West Springfield, Mass., October, 1817
Alexander Britton	1817
C. J. Hill, 50	Bethlehem, Conn., 1817
J. T. Andrews	1815

A. Newton, Edwin Scrantom, Charles Hill and Matthew Brown did not attend but sent greetings to their fellow pioneers.

## **Blossom Hotel Bill of Fare**

### **FISH**

Salmon

### **BOILED**

Chicken

Ham

Tongue

Mutton

Corned beef, cabbage  
pork

### **SIDE DISHES**

Oyster pies

Chicken pies

Small birds

Wine sauce

Oysters fried

Curry and rice

Lamb

Mint sauce

### **ROAST**

Beef

Veal

Turkey

Pork

Chicken

Mutton

### **GAME**

Prairie chickens

Partridge

Woodcock

Plover

Quail

Wild duck

Snipe

Pigeon

### **VEGETABLES**

Carolina Potatoes, boiled

Baked potatoes

Turnips

Beets

Onions

Beans

Squash

Mashed potatoes

Celery

### **PASTRY**

Rice pudding

Peach pie

Apple pie

Fruit pudding

Mince pie

Pumpkin pie

### **DESSERT**

Melons

Apples

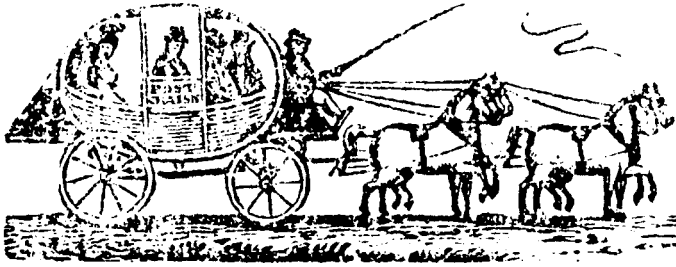
Peaches

Pears

Grapes

Almonds

Raisins



*Stagecoach travel was an improvement over walking, but Weed recalled that passengers often walked to lighten the coach and often needed to pry it from muddy ruts in the roads. (Drawing from the 1827 Rochester City Directory.)*

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## Thurlow Weed's Comments on Early Travel in Rochester

*Though Thurlow Weed did not attend the Pioneer Festival in 1847, he was an early arrival. His comments add to the perception of Rochester given by the pioneers and make his autobiography recommended reading. The following is excerpted from pages 139 and 140 of "The Life of Thurlow Weed", Houghton, Mifflin, Boston, 1883-84.*

"Very few of our citizens possess information, other than traditional, of the mode of travel between Albany and the western part of New York, even as late as 1824. Those who step into a railway car at Albany at seven o'clock in the morning, and step out to get their dinner in Rochester at two o'clock, P.M., will find it difficult to believe that, within the memory of by no means the 'oldest inhabitant,' it required, in muddy seasons of the year, seven nights' and six days' constant traveling in stages to accomplish the same journey.

"And yet that was my own experience in April, 1824. We left Albany at eight o'clock in the evening, and traveled diligently for seven nights and six days. The road from Albany to Schenectady, with the exception

of two or three miles, was in a horrible condition; and that west of Schenectady, until we reached 'Tripes' or 'Tribes Hill,' still worse. For a few miles, in the vicinity of the Palatine Church, there was a gravelly road, over which the driver could raise a trot; but this was a luxury experienced in but few localities, and those 'far between.' Passengers walked, to ease the coach, several miles each day and each night. Although they did not literally carry rails on their shoulders, to pry the coach out of ruts, they were frequently called upon to use rails for that purpose. Such snail-paced movements and such discomforts in travel would be regarded as unendurable now. And yet passengers were patient, and some of them even cheerful, under all those delays and annoyances. That, however, was an exceptional passage. It was only when we had 'horrid bad' roads that stages 'drew their slow lengths along.'"

*Copy edited by Hans Munsch.*



*Back Page:*

*The first thirty-two Mayors of Rochester. Reproduced from group picture in the archives of The Rochester Historical Society:*

- |                            |                       |                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jonathan Child          | 12. William Pitkin    | 23. Charles H. Clark       |
| 2. Jacob Gould             | 13. John B. Elwood    | 24. Samuel W. D. Moore     |
| 3. Abraham M. Schermerhorn | 14. Joseph Field      | 25. Hamlet D. Scrantom     |
| 4. Thomas Kempshall        | 15. Levi A. Ward      | 26. John C. Nash           |
| 5. Elisha Johnson          | 16. Samuel Richardson | 27. Michael Filon          |
| 6. Thomas H. Rochester     | 17. Nicholas E. Paine | 28. Nehemiah C. Bradstreet |
| 7. Samuel G. Andrews       | 18. Hamlin Stillwell  | 29. James Brackett         |
| 8. Elijah F. Smith         | 19. John Williams     | 30. Daniel D. T. Moore     |
| 9. Charles J. Hill         | 20. Maltby Strong     | 31. Henry L. Fish          |
| 10. Isaac Hills            | 21. Charles J. Hayden | 32. Edward Meigs Smith     |
| 11. John Allen             | 22. Rufus Keeler      |                            |



*Thurlow Weed (1797-1882) wrote about his life in "The Life of Thurlow Weed," published after his death by his daughter.*



### The First Thirty-two Mayors of Rochester

*Identification of the above mayors appears on page 22.*