

[Genealogical Guide to Monroe County, New York](#)

Maps and Atlases

Maps are of help to the genealogical researcher to show where a family lived and what was in the family's neighborhood. There are many historic maps of Monroe County and Rochester in the Local History section of the Rochester Public Library. They also have scanned many of their maps and put them online over the years. The Monroe County Clerk's office and the Maps & Records Room (room 225B) of Rochester City Hall also have collections of maps but they have not put any of their maps online. In both the County Clerk's office and City Hall most of the maps are tract maps showing the location of housing plots and streets. They are only helpful in locating neighborhoods, wards and streets. As the City of Rochester has grown over the years, streets have been created, extended, had names changed, had courses altered and been eliminated over time. Looking at old street maps might help you see how a family was effected by these changes. The following historic streets maps of Rochester are on the Rochester Public Library website.

- [1812 map of Rochester](#) (drawn in 1912) that shows some early residents.
- [1820 map of Rochester](#) (east side of Genesee River only).
- [1820 map of Rochester](#) (drawn in 1856 by Horatio Fenn) that shows some residents.
- [1827 map of Rochester](#) by Elisha Johnson.
- [1832 map of Rochester](#) by Valentine Gill.
- [1834 map of Rochester](#) by Elisha Johnson.
- [Map of Rochester from approx. 1834.](#)
- [1845 map of Rochester](#) by Silas Cornell.
- [1854 map of Frankfort](#), a neighborhood near present day Kodak Office.
- [1863 map of Rochester](#) by Silas Cornell.
- [1870 map of Rochester](#) published by C. C. Drew.
- [1874 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1879 map of Rochester](#) published by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1882 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1885 map of Rochester](#) published by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1890 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1899 map of Rochester](#) published by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1905 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1910 map of Rochester](#) published by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1915 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Drew, Allis & Co.
- [1922 map of Rochester](#) published by Sampson & Murdock Co.
- [1925 map of Rochester](#) pub. by Sampson & Murdock Co.
- [1926 map of Rochester & environs](#), pub. by A. C. Wagner.

There is a [page of links to maps](#) that are available on the GenWeb of Monroe County. Most are street maps and usually much smaller than the maps that are online from the library.

There are old maps that show where people lived. A few of these maps are for the whole county and are as big as 4 x 5 feet. Some of those maps are online at both Rochester Public Library (RPL) and Library of Congress websites (LOC). The maps from the Library of Congress can be viewed online and are also available in multiple file formats that can be downloaded; while maps from the Rochester Public Library can only be viewed online. These are maps that show residences:

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- 1851 map of Rochester ([RPL only](#)) by Marcus Smith & B. Callan.
- 1852 map of Monroe County, and inset of Brockport ([LOC link](#)) ([RPL link](#)) by P. J. Browne.
- 1858 map of Monroe County, with insets of Villages and other populated places ([LOC link](#)) ([RPL link](#)) by P. J. Browne.
- [1861 map of Brockport](#) (RPL only) by George Stevens.
- 1887 map of Monroe County ([LOC link](#)) ([RPL link](#)) by J. B. Beers & Co.



Portion of 1858 map.

There are also atlases and plat books for Rochester and Monroe County. A plat book shows how land in a town is subdivided and in many cases also show who owns the land. Some of the Rochester plat books show owners and some just show house numbers. You can find out where your family lived in Rochester from the City directory and then locate the house in the Rochester plat book. Some of the plat books have as many as 60 image plates per volume. The following are links to Rochester Public Library collections.

- [1872 Monroe County Atlas](#) by F. W. Beers. Also a [index of names](#) (PDF file) on the maps prepared by the Genealogical Round Table of Monroe County.
- [1875 Rochester Atlas](#) by G. M. Hopkins.
- [1888 Atlas of Rochester](#) by E. Robinson. First image is index page.
- [1900 Plat Book of Rochester](#) by J. M. Lathrop & Co. First image is index page.
- [1902 Plat Book of Monroe County](#) by J. M. Lathrop & Co. First image is index page.
- [1910 Atlas of Rochester](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr. [This web page](#) is the index page.
- [1918 Plat Book of Rochester](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr.
- [1924 Plat Book of Monroe County](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr.
- [1926 Plat Book of Rochester](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr.
- [1931 Plat Book of Monroe County](#) (except Rochester) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr. Second image is index page.
- 1935 Plat Book of Rochester; [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr.
- 1936 Plat Book of Rochester, ([Volume 4 only](#)), by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr.
- [1941 Plat Book for part of Monroe County](#) by Griffith Morgan Hopkins Jr. Second image shows towns covered.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company made maps showing buildings in cities in the United States. Not only do they show houses but also show out buildings such as sheds and barns. The color of the buildings on these maps shows what material the buildings is made of. [This is a complete key to building types](#) from Library of Congress that shows all the possible building types. Library of Congress has put a collection of these maps online for Monroe County. This collection includes maps for Rochester, Brockport, Fairport, Honeoye Falls, Pittsford, Scottsville and Spencerport in the 1890s. See [this web page](#) for the complete list and links to the maps.

SHINGLE ROOF X	Brick building with frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)
(VENO)	Brick veneered building.
BRICK 1ST	" and frame building.
FRAME, BRICK LINED	Frame building, brick lined.
F=FLAT S=STORE	" " metal clad.
D=DWELLING	Frame building.
(ASB. CL.)	Frame building covered with

Partial key to Sanborn maps

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Rochester Public Library has a set of volumes of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps that are **not** online. This collection of maps were started about 1910 and were updated over the years with additions pasted onto the originals. It appears that the last updates of the Rochester maps were done about 1950.

The City of Rochester has set up [this web page with historic maps](#). You can pick from 1888, 1900, 1910, 1935, 2012 and current maps on each side of the web page by clicking “Map List” and then use the slider to compare views.

[This web page](#) from Monroe County has current, very detailed street maps of each of the Towns in Monroe County and also the City of Rochester (PDF file format). You can download those maps or view them online. Also don't forget your favorite mapping website which can not only show you current locations on maps but can also give you directions.

