

GENESEE COUNTRY SCRAPBOOK

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The Rochester Historical Society

LEWIS HENRY MORGAN

By JOHN R. SLATER

LIVINGSTON PARK SEMINARY

By HARWOOD BROWNELL DRYER

THE OLD ROCHESTER SAVINGS BANK BUILDING

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AN 1853 HISTORY OF SABBATH SCHOOLS
IN ROCHESTER

THE CLINTON STREET UNIVERSE

A Schoolboy Publication of 1852

Lewis Henry Morgan

By JOHN R. SLATER

Rochester has conspicuously ignored for two generations the most eminent Rochesterian of the nineteenth century. Lewis Henry Morgan, born near Aurora in 1818 and graduated from Union College in 1840, came here in 1844 to practice law with George F. Danforth, and lived on Fitzhugh Street near Troup until his death on December 17, 1881. His library, publications, manuscripts and museum collections, which belong to the University of Rochester, do not seem to interest many Rochesterians. Perhaps they are too voluminous, too dull, too far behind or ahead of the times.

Before 1900 only three Rochesterians were widely known beyond state and national boundaries — Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Lewis Henry Morgan. All were pioneers, early defenders of human rights; the rights, respectively, of women, Negroes, and Indians. The first two were not scholars; they were courageous one-idea reformers, whose dominant ideas ultimately prevailed. Therefore both are publicly honored here every year.

Morgan was a versatile and adventurous scholar of many ideas, original discoveries, bold projects, far-reaching generalizations. Some of his theories about social origins have been attacked or superseded; but as an early collector of ethnological data his record remains illustrious. Yet in his own city there has been only one occasion when the public attention was conspicuously called to his many contributions to human knowledge. That was nearly forty years ago.

On November 29, 1915, the ninety-

seventh anniversary of his birth, a joint public meeting of the Rochester Historical Society and the Rochester Academy of Science was held in Catharine Strong Hall under the auspices of the University of Rochester with president Rush Rhees in the chair. I was there. Eight years later, in 1923, the Rochester Historical Society published in Volume II of its proceedings the papers about Morgan delivered on that occasion by Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey and Dr. Charles A. Dewey, together with an article by Donald B. Gilchrist, then librarian of the University, on Morgan's gifts to the Library, with a complete bibliography. The facts are there for those who care to read them, and need not be summarized here.

That 1915 recognition by the University after a long silence came about through the vigorous initiative of another eminent scholar, the late Herman LeRoy Fairchild, who had suggested it some months before. He intended much more than a public meeting. He proposed a public subscription for a statue, Dr. Crapsey an annual lectureship. Neither project ever came to anything. Though Rochester has a Lewis H. Morgan public school, proposals that a college building for women should be called Morgan Hall were long ignored.

The only other notice of this distinguished man was the mild news interest in the recent demolition of the Morgan house to make way for approaches to the Troup-Howell bridge. This bridge might well have been named for Morgan, whose Indian name meant a bridge, and whose life was one; but the city preferred to name it for two streets

and a hyphen. As for the house, it has attracted far less attention than those formerly inhabited by Leonard Jerome and the Fox sisters. Observe our scale of values.

Of Morgan's learned studies in ethnology, American archaeology, animal psychology and social origins, this is no place to write. His complete published works are in the libraries. Visiting scholars from other cities and other lands sometimes come here to examine them. Even his early books about the Iroquois and the beaver are perhaps less known here than elsewhere. As for his abstruse works about aboriginal kinship and ancient society, they are not easy reading. His literary style lacked simplicity and charm, but what he had to say was important. Not important for us perhaps, but in several other ways besides authorship, Morgan was far ahead of his time. Let us consider four.

1. He was one of the earliest white Americans to respect and defend red Americans; not as Cooper and Longfellow represented them, but as they were. As a young man in the village of Aurora he became so interested in the Iroquois system of tribal organization and federal government that he founded a fraternal society called the Grand Order of the Iroquois. Its aims and ritual were modeled on those of the Seneca and Cayuga, whom Morgan knew and whose language he learned. As an adopted member of the Seneca Nation, he made the acquaintance of an Indian named Ely S. Parker, last grand sachem of the Seneca, and great-uncle of the late Dr. Arthur C. Parker of the Rochester Museum. Ely Parker was on Grant's staff during the Civil War, and later became a brigadier-general and commissioner of Indian

Affairs during Grant's first administration.

Finding upon investigation that other Indians of the South and West had many of the same traditions, including matrilineal descent, a combination of elected and hereditary chiefs, and tribal councils, Morgan began to wonder if this similarity might extend to most or all of the North American tribes. He began to collect evidence pro and con, giving due weight to exceptions but more to general trends. Ultimately he had correspondents in many countries who answered his inquiries and criticized his conclusions. He seems to have followed the inductive method so far as his data permitted.

As an investor in iron mines and railroads in northern Michigan before the Civil War, he made frequent northwestern journeys, some extending as far as the upper Missouri, and also in the Southwest among the Pueblo Indians, mingling business with scientific exploration. His opinion that the Indians of Mexico and South America, including the Aztecs and Incas, romantically depicted by Spanish annalists and Prescott in imperial splendor, were really nearer the level of the warrior tribes of North America, was one of his many points of difference with his contemporaries and his successors.

Whether right or wrong about Indian origins, he saw wherever he went evidence of the folly and cruelty of the treatment of the hostile and peaceable tribes by the government. Whether the army's policy of extermination or the incompetent management of the reservations contributed most to the degradation of a proud and valiant race, Morgan contended all his life for justice. He was always for the underdog. As a lawyer he appeared in federal courts to defend the validity of early Indian treaties and to thwart attempts

to seize Indian lands. Like our own Dr. Arthur C. Parker he fought many a losing battle. Understanding Indian character, admiring the laconic dignity of their speech and certain lofty qualities of their religion, he tried to do in his day for the Iroquois what later writers such as the Missouri poet John G. Neihardt and the New Mexico novelist Oliver LaFarge have done for the Sioux and the Navajo. They believed in the dignity of man.

As an early Rochester "guardian of the western door" and a welcome visitor to the "long house," Lewis Morgan should be honored here. The University of Rochester River Campus, built on the site of a pre-Iroquois Indian village, is not far from the forgotten graves where he and his family rest. In this Genesee Country he should be remembered, not as one altogether past, for some of his deeds remain.

2. He had a remarkable power of winning the confidence of scholars, and communicating with them amicably on matters of agreement and disagreement. Even before the days of annual scientific conventions, through his friend Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian, and many correspondents in Cambridge, New York, and the West, he gradually widened the circle of experts and beginners in American ethnology. Locally he was perhaps regarded as a recluse, though he took part in state politics as an assemblyman and state senator between 1861 and 1869 and was well known at Albany.

In Rochester he was intimate with able men like Martin B. Anderson, Henry A. Ward, Chester Dewey, Edward Mott Moore, Mortimer F. Reynolds, the Ely family, and many other leading citizens. In 1854 he was one of the founders of The Club, commonly known by non-members as the Pundit

Club. His thirty-four papers read before that club are preserved in the Morgan archives. The list of titles, given in the bibliography in Volume II of the Historical Society series, shows the wide range of his interests. He also encouraged free public lectures for workingmen such as were promoted by the old Rochester Athenaeum.

Many inquirers came to Rochester to consult him. With some of these younger men who became his disciples and yet dared to differ from him, he carried on a voluminous correspondence. Their long letters to him, full of the excitement of a pioneer science, are filed away at the River Campus. Scholars come here to read them. Some have been printed, as for example two volumes of letters by an early American ethnologist named Adolphe F. Bandelier, edited by Leslie A. White and published in 1940 by the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. This business man of Swiss birth, living in a small Illinois town with little access to large libraries, was often a guest at Morgan's house, and wrote gratefully of his many obligations to his elder patron. Morgan's own letters, all written by hand in those days before typewriters, have been scattered, but photostats of many have been acquired. They show the magnanimity and insatiable curiosity by which he encouraged and inspired young men.

For a few years after the war Rochester was almost a clearing house for lively discussion of the new social theories of Spencer and the evolutionary philosophy of Darwin, Huxley, and John Fiske. A Spencer Club founded here in the '70's included Morgan and some of the more progressive minds of the conservative Third Ward. Some of its former members joined with Dr. Charles A. Dewey in 1882 to found the Fortnightly Club. Dr. Dewey, son of Chester Dewey, was Morgan's personal

physician, and knew him better than many of his other colleagues. To some extent the tradition of hospitality to new ideas, begun by Morgan and transmitted by his juniors through the Pundit and Fortnightly Clubs, has been maintained here for a century. In those days ideas were different, but some of them did prevail, notably in education and religion. We Rochesterians move slowly, but we do move.

3. A minor but attractive aspect of Morgan, not common in bookish persons, was his skill as a cabinet-maker. This hobby he took seriously. He loved good wood and good tools. The handsome black walnut bookcases made with his own hands formerly in Sibley Hall, show artistic design as well as expert craftsmanship. According to the late Donald B. Gilchrist, "He had a wood-working shop fitted up in the attic of his home. Here he made and carved the great bookcases from solid walnut and fitted them with plate glass doors. The cornices are ornamented with the carved heads of animals, beautifully done. One of the cases is twenty-four feet in length, the other twelve feet."

When the Morgan house was wrecked a few months ago, Andrew D. Wolfe of the University administration had the bright idea of rescuing panels, cornices, mantel trim and parquetry from the once stately library already in ruins. He has them stored away waiting for some fortunate day when, with them and the walnut bookcases, a stately Morgan room can be set apart at the River Campus, to commemorate a thinker who knew how to use his hands. Sometimes fine wood is better than fine words; it may even last longer, and can never talk too much.

Among the Morgan letters in Wells College Library is one which he wrote in 1858 to his Congressman after a trip

to Washington about designing built-in bookcases. He offered to have his Rochester draftsman make detailed plans for lining the Congressman's library with handsome shelves such as were in his own Rochester home. "Let me have your general ideas as to amount of carving, if any, and general style, and I will indoctrinate him. He [the draftsman] thinks black walnut with oil finish the finest wood." (New York History, April, 1950, p. 181).

4. Most important of Morgan's permanent contributions to Rochester enlightenment and culture was his lifelong interest in the higher education of women. Not long after he came here, before the University of Rochester was founded, he decided that "female seminaries" of that period were not good enough for girls with brains. Although he acted as attorney for the University in procuring its charter from the Regents at Albany, and received its honorary A.M. in 1851, he never succeeded in convincing the trustees that women should be admitted to its classes, or to separate classes under its supervision. Oberlin and Mount Holyoke were then the only places where real college training was open to women.

Rochester had a few progressive citizens who subscribed in 1852 to Morgan's project for what he called "Barleywood Female University." The original record book of this quaint enterprise, in Morgan's own handwriting, is in the Local History Division of the Rush Rhees Library. It includes the bold assertion that "there is no good reason why female education should not be as thorough, as systematic, and also as cheap as it is in our colleges; or why female seminaries should not bear, with them, a favorable comparison. The only way to build up such institutions, and to make them instruments

of widespread usefulness, is to secure to them large, liberal, and permanent endowments."

Among the sponsors of this pioneer undertaking were such men as Azariah Boody, William Buell, Jonathan Child, John N. Wilder, Levi A. Ward, James K. Livingston, Freeman Clarke, and James S. Wadsworth, all leading citizens, some of them also aiding the new college in the United States Hotel. The effort to raise \$50,000 failed, though a good many \$250 subscriptions were received. The date of the prospectus was February 10, 1852.

At this time it is interesting to note that Azariah Boody's gift of eight acres of land on the north side of the present Prince Street Campus, now offered for sale by the University, was originally intended by him for Morgan's "female college" if that had materialized. (See "Rochester, The Making of a University," by Jesse L. Rosenberger, 1927, pp. 76-77). After Mr. Boody's election to the University Board of Trustees in July, 1852, the land was transferred by him to the University for the use of men rather than of women.

During all the years that followed the failure of this public-spirited project Morgan continued to believe women's education should be equal to men's. He continued to urge such an innovation in Rochester even after his friend Matthew Vassar founded a women's college at Poughkeepsie in 1861, and Henry Wells another at Aurora in 1868. In 1873 with his friend Dr. Edward Mott Moore, father of Rochester's parks, he "tramped the streets of this city for two long winter months to try to raise enough money to found a female college in this city. Dr. Anderson was at that time heartily in sympathy with the movement. The idea was to locate it in the vicinity of the present college and have the same

professors teach in both institutions." (Quotation from Moore, Rosenberger, p. 240.) That effort also failed; they did get pledges, but not enough. How then did Lewis Henry Morgan finally get his way? This is the story:

A year before the visionary Barleywood Female University dawned upon his fertile imagination, he had married an Albany girl named Mary Elizabeth Steele. They had two daughters and a son. During the 1850's that house on Fitzhugh Street, with its stately library and carved walnut bookcases, had three lively children playing around and delighting their busy father. He was often absent from home, on business or exploring trips. In 1862, the darkest year of the Civil War, he had to go west. During his absence scarlet fever struck the family. The two little sisters died within a short time; the boy, Lemuel, afflicted with incurable defects, survived to the deplorable age of fifty-two. Life's ironies are bitterest to the best minds, and must be borne in silence. For the remaining nineteen years of his life Lewis Morgan walked in shadows but followed the sun. He worked harder then ever for human enlightenment and a brighter future for mankind, knowing that he would never see them.

At his death in 1881 his will left all his property for the support of his widow and son, the residuary estate after those two lives to go the University of Rochester for the education of women. During later years support of the son and legal complications greatly reduced the value of this bequest, which finally brought \$80,000 to the University in 1909.

Nine years before that, through the efforts of Rochester women including Susan B. Anthony, Helen Barrett Montgomery, Fannie Bigelow, Emily Weed Hollister, Edwina Danforth and others, subscriptions for \$50,000 insured the

admission of women in September, 1900. The lapse of time was sufficient for most Rochesterians except the President and trustees, to forget Lewis Henry Morgan's bequest of a larger sum, still held up in the courts. All the credit for admission of women was given to the Anthony Campaign, and has been ever since; except among the few who know that Morgan started the whole movement more than a hundred years ago.

For the past fifty-five years Univer-

sity women have had nearly all the advantages of men, and will soon have all. They deserve it. But it is not a bad time to remember that ninety-three years ago a silent scholar in the old Third Ward came home from a long journey to the ruins of his happiness. What his own girls could never have should go some day to other girls, who now inherit from the distant past their right to freedom of the mind. In some of them his brave spirit may go marching on.

Livingston Park Seminary

By HARWOOD BROWNELL DRYER

For over a century and a quarter there stood on Spring Street fronting a lovely, quiet street that became Livingston Park one of Rochester's finest post-Colonial houses. Located on a high, commanding knoll among grand old trees, it was long a noble landmark in the "Ruffled Shirt Ward". The fine frame house with its gabled portico, with two-story Roman Ionic columns and modillioned cornice was beautifully proportioned. To me it always expressed the dignity of the old Third Ward and at the same time, the friendliness of a country home.

When the news reached me belatedly that the property had been purchased by the Rochester Institute of Technology and that it was planned to demolish what to me was the choicest building in the community, it nearly broke my architectural heart. With the backing, both moral and financial of the Rochester Historical Society, of which I was then president, and of the Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, it was my privilege to be able to save this beautiful building from complete loss. President Mark Ellingson of the Insti-

tute twice stayed execution until our arrangements could be completed and men put to work. Starting the seventeenth of November and finishing the project in the middle of December 1954, Stewart and Bennett's carpenters carefully took it down piece by piece and put it into storage, there to remain until a new site and adequate funds can be found for its reerection. So, for the moment it is in mothballs.

I like to think back and in imagination see it as it was when built. Erected probably about 1825 or a little earlier, it was situated on the highest spot along Spring Street, a commanding position in that part of the village, safely above flood water and the malarial swamps. Rochesterville had recently attained a population of 2700 and with appropriate dignity had dropped the "ville". With his beautiful white clapboarded house, Mr. James K. Livingston had done much to support and increase that dignity.

The four Roman Ionic columns of the portico were turned out of clear seventeen foot walnut logs. A hole five

inches in diameter was bored the entire length of each column to reduce shrinkage and avoid splitting. The capitals were carved in white pine. The original eave cornice was made from a pine timber seven inches high by eighteen inches wide. The crown mould was planed on the face of the solid timber and the gutter adzed out of the top to carry off the water. The main entrance to the house was at the right of center under the high portico. As one entered the door, the stair was directly in front, rising in a graceful curve to the left, the handrail springing from an exquisitely carved newel post. The rooms were originally heated by fireplaces with wood mantels, five or six of them in the body of the house. At the rear was a long one-story frame wing with kitchen and a woodshed, for the storage of firewood. Nearby stood the necessary out-house. A residence of such importance surely demanded at least a three-seater, with hollyhocks and a screening of grape trellis. Also, there must have been a barn or stable for driving horses. An old photograph shows a picket fence.

Mr. Livingston, an attorney and miller, met with financial reverses and sold the property, we are told, in the year 1828 to Mr. Joseph Strong. Ten years later it changed hands again. The new owner, Dr. Frederick F. Backus, remodeled the house and lived there until 1860. It was during his early occupancy that the Greek Revival additions were made. The front entrance became a window. A one-story addition was constructed with a porch on the Spring Street side. This had a flat roof surmounted by a balustrade. Balustrades were also erected along the sides of the main roof of the house between the chimneys and from gable to gable. The porch roof was supported by four Greek Ionic columns with very fine carved capitals. From that time on, the main

entrance was under the side porch. The fine stair was moved bodily to the side and the hall and wing became one large parlor.

In 1860 the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Curtis. They made only minor alterations to the front portion of the house. However, they took down the one-story frame kitchen wing and erected a two-story brick addition on the old stone foundations. This became school rooms and bedrooms when Mrs. Cathro Curtis opened the Curtis Seminary for girls, later known through its long career as the Livingston Park Seminary. The dining room and brick pantry were located in the basement of the old house. The kitchen, pantries and store rooms were in the basement of the brick wing. This brick wing of 1860 was not architecturally important and no effort was made to preserve anything but the original basement doors and windows and the facing stone of the walls.

On the death of Mrs. Curtis in 1892 the Seminary was conducted by Miss Georgia C. Stone until 1900. Mrs. William M. Rebasz took it over at that time and successfully operated it for many, many years.

When in 1934 the Livingston Park Seminary finally closed its doors, the old house fell on hard times. Alterations made by the Gospel Mission destroyed the beautiful old open stair well and a portion of the rail and the interior Greek cornice. Fortunately, the original living room cornice remained.

Our careful dismantling brought to light evidence long concealed. One item was an old jug. Perhaps it had contained hard cider when concealed under the floor and built in. In the ceiling of the Greek wing a broken adze was found. The borings in the columns of the portico were a surprise.

The only weak and decayed spot in the frame of the building was over the south column. The bored cavity in that column, when the latter was taken down, yielded sawdust, black walnuts, a rubber ball and starling nesting material.

The most remarkable work of man uncovered was a horizontal chimney flue extending from the marble mantel in the Greek Revival parlor completely across the ceiling to the southeast chimney in the old stair hall. The entire space between two ceiling joists was lined with brick. Iron tierods on each side had kept the timbers from sagging and the brick joints from opening.

Structurally the building was in excellent condition. The framing members were mainly chestnut, a tree now lost to the blight. All joints were mortised and tenoned and secured together with oak pins. Even the rafters were pinned into the ridgepole.

The large timbers were hand hewn. Some of them, the plates and purlins were over forty-three feet long. The short bracing members were sawed. Also the timbers used in the alterations were sawed. The lath in the original

house was hand split, in all the additions, sawed. Only one original fireplace with its wood mantel remained.

Beginning in mid-November, through rain, sleet, snow and an occasional glimmer of sunlight, the carpenters worked through a most disagreeable month, weatherwise. With the aid of a steel crane the heavy timbers and columns were taken down. How they were raised in position a century and a quarter before we could only guess. We marveled at the workmanship and the precision with which they were fitted. Innumerable drawings were made to assist in reassembling. Practically all materials worth reusing were saved and stored. On December 17, 1954 we "turned it back to the Indians."

The beautiful old house is gone, likewise the old cucumber tree. Even the hill has disappeared on which it stood for so many generations. However, with the aid of those who loved it, Livingston Park Seminary can again rise from its ashes. Its stately white columns can again appear as last I saw it intact, through the golden leaves of Autumn.

May 19, 1955

The Old Rochester Savings Bank Building: Seed Bed of Culture

By DON C. RECORD

Ghosts of another era will silently steal away when the Rochester Savings Bank razes its century-old building at West Main and Fitzhugh Streets this summer.

For back in the eighties, this building was a nursery for small cultural and business organizations which since have become great in the life of Rochester.

The Rochester Art Club, founded in

1877 after the demise of the Academy of Art, obtained use of three commodious rooms under the skylight on the top floor, but disharmony developed over the desire of some members to employ models to pose in the nude. Such a model was engaged some months later, though her identity had to be concealed.

Guernsey Mitchell, sculptor and artist, returning from Paris in 1880, took

offices over the bank and there designed the statue of Mercury. Later, unveiling of this 21-foot tall bronze statue, equipped with wings and sandals, carrying a bag of gold in one hand and a messenger's rod in the other, was a gala occasion. Perched atop the chimney of the Kimball tobacco factory, it quickly became famous and long continued as Rochester's skyline symbol.

Rochester Historical Society, organized in 1888 at meetings in the home of Mrs. Gilman H. Perkins, found that it could have a room in the Rochester Savings building for its meetings and to house its growing collection of papers at nominal expense, so it took a five-year lease.

The Chamber of Commerce was founded in this building in 1888 with 300 present, and it continued to hold meetings there for seven years until the expanding organization moved to what is now the Commerce Building at Main Street East and South Avenue.

Vacuum Oil Company and the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad also had offices in the RSB building in their early days.

It was there as a bank clerk that George Eastman made some of his first experiments in photography which were to lead eventually to formation of what was to become this city's largest industry.

It is recalled that during the noon hour on sunny days, he would slip out the back door of the bank into a courtyard with his camera to take a picture of the fountain which was there then, and quickly develop the photograph to test his emulsions.

Eastman had begun making dry plates to replace the old clumsy wet plate method, the first of his important developments to make photography easier and simpler.

The Rochester Club opened its second quarters in the R.S.B. building in 1874 in the newly-added top floor. There it had comfortable rooms in which to smoke and read trade journals. Card games and similar pasttimes made slow progress until after the club planned its new home in East Avenue in the late eighties.

Rochester Athenaeum & Mechanics Association housed its library in the bank building for a number of years before it was compelled to close during a depression and store its books until they were taken over some years later by Reynold's Library.

Henry A. Ward's famous rock collection was stored in the building for a time until it was forced to move because the hall had been promised to the Rochester Academy of Music and Art. On a trip to Europe Ward sent back 120 large specimens added to 50 already stored on an upper floor of the bank building.

There were some 40,000 specimens ranging from tiny semi-precious stones to great blocks of basalt, models of famous diamonds and plaster casts of extinct mollusca, reptilia and mammalia.

The task of moving was tremendous, but it was finally completed and the collection installed in Washington Hall, East Main Street, with Sam Fenn as guardian, janitor and general assistant.

It is recalled that Ward's classes at the University of Rochester excited the attention and envy of the entire college, especially when he conducted field trips all over the Genesee Gorge and the High Banks near Portageville.

A reception celebrating Susan B. Anthony's 70th birthday in 1890 in the Chamber of Commerce rooms in the bank building gave evidence that the city was finally giving recognition to one of its most famous pioneers. Her

birthday already had been celebrated in other cities, and apparently it was with some reluctance that local societies were enlisted to sponsor a lavish if tardy reception for Miss Anthony.

This famous old bank building, which is to be torn down and replaced by a modern three-story branch bank and office structure, was first opened for business in 1857. The site was acquired two years earlier for \$16,000.

Formerly this area had been called "Chicken Row" because it consisted of a line of disreputable shanties with cages of live chickens on the sidewalk. A fire wiped out the structures, along with the vermin infesting them, and thus made way for a more suitable building to match the Courthouse, the Powers Building, No. 1 School and St. Luke's Church.

Constructed of Connecticut brownstone, the bank building at first was only two stories high. A third story was added in 1877 and four more in 1888. The top floor and superstructure were removed in 1933 and the building modernized in appearance.

President Thomas H. Hawks says studies have been made on the possibilities of modernizing the building again to extend its relationship with the earlier era, but the cost was prohibitive and it was in fact impossible to make it over into efficient banking and office quarters. So, regretfully, decision was made to tear it down, and soon the building and its many contributions to Rochester life, together with its cultural and business organizations in earlier days, will be but memories. The "ghosts" will quietly flit away.

Rochester Savings Bank is the oldest savings bank in New York State outside of New York City. It expects to open its new banking structure January

1, 1957, at the close of its 125th anniversary year.

Founded in 1831, three years before Rochester became a city, its application was opposed by Canandaigua on the grounds that Rochesterville was included in its banking territory.

There were no railroads then, no telephones or telegraph system. Bank checks had to be taken to New York City by stagecoach for collection.

Founders of the bank included Dr. Levi Ward, its first president; Jonathan Child, the city's first mayor, and Everard Peck, publisher of the Rochester Telegraph, the city's first newspaper.

Only two other banks had been formed here up to that time, the two original commercial institutions — Bank of Rochester and Bank of Monroe — both of which were dissolved long ago.

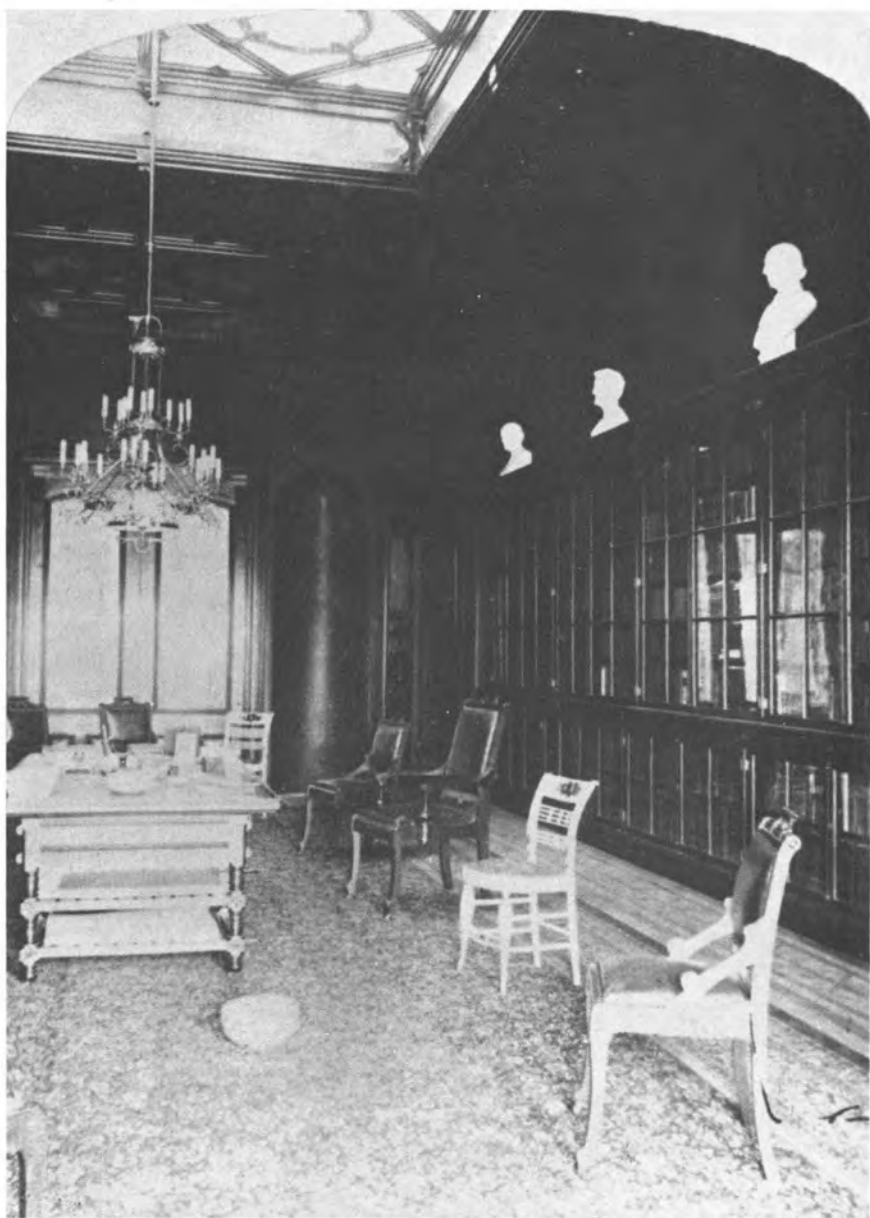
Other founders and original trustees of Rochester Savings were Edward R. Everest, Harvey Frink, Jacob Graves, Willis Kempshall, Lyman Langworthy, Joseph Medbury, Ezra M. Parsons, Ashbel W. Riley, David Scoville, Almarle H. Washburn, William S. Whitteley and Elihu F. Marshall.

At the start, the bank had only desk space in the Bank of Rochester building in Exchange Street. In 1842 it moved to its own building at 47 State Street, now the American Express office.

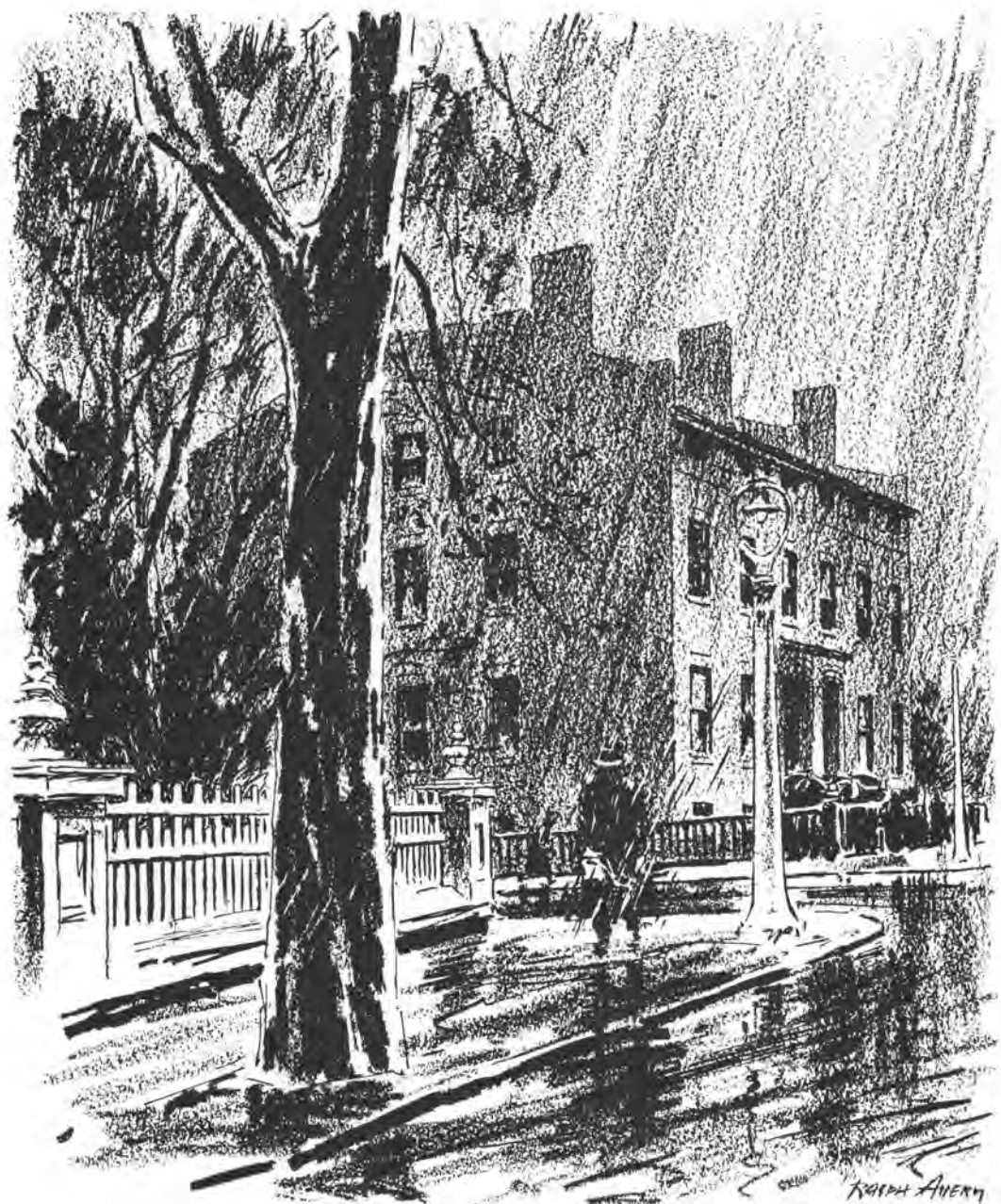
Elijah F. Smith was president when the bank moved to the new building at 47 West Main Street opened in 1857. At that time deposits amounted to \$855,827, and so prosperous was the bank's business that the dividends to depositors were raised from 5 to 6 per cent.

Through those early years, the bank survived both panics and depressions, never missing dividend payments to its depositors. A particularly severe panic swept the country in 1873 and in 1877

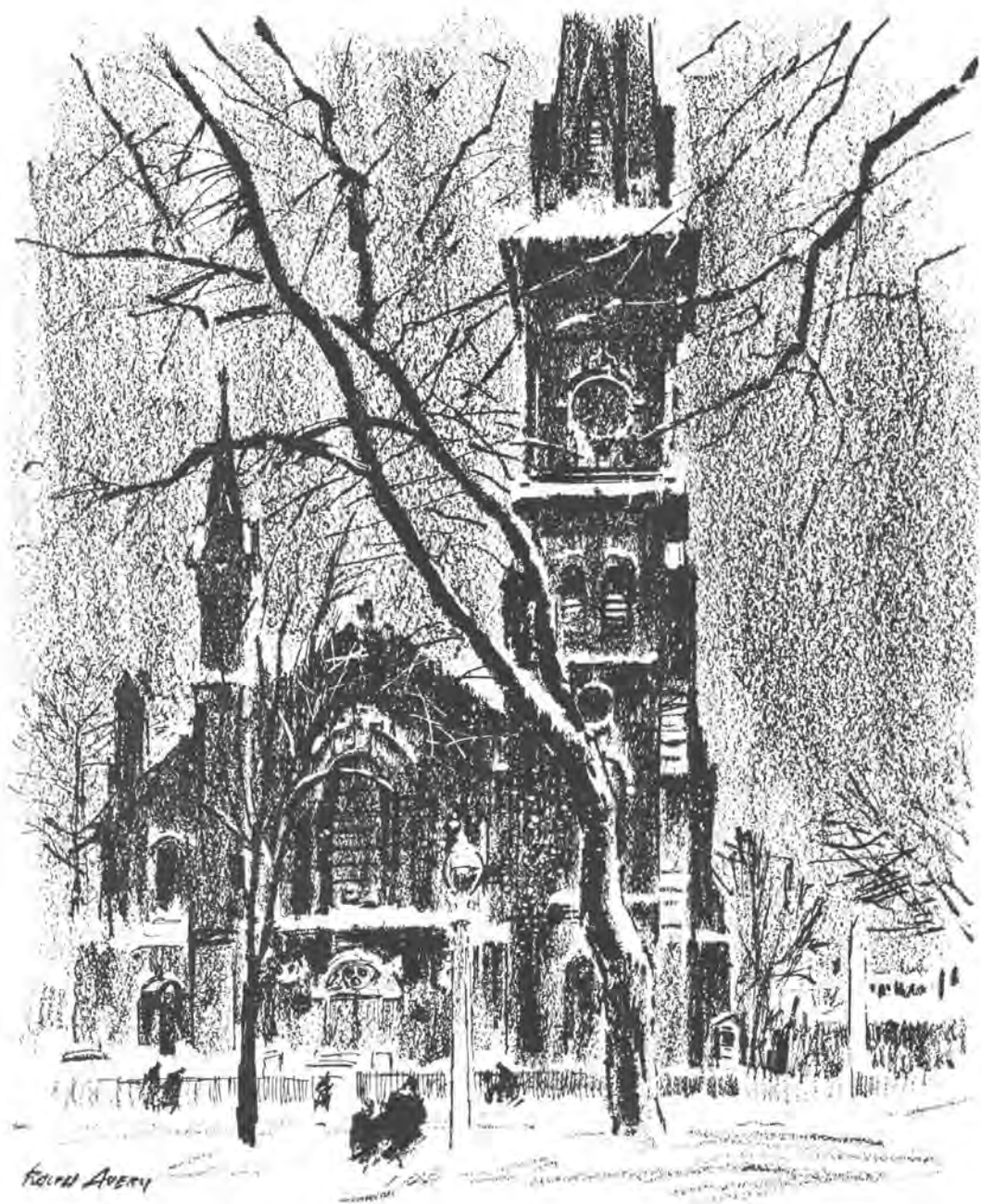
(Continued on page 12)



LIBRARY OF THE LATE DR. LEWIS MORGAN ON 124 SO. FITZHUGH

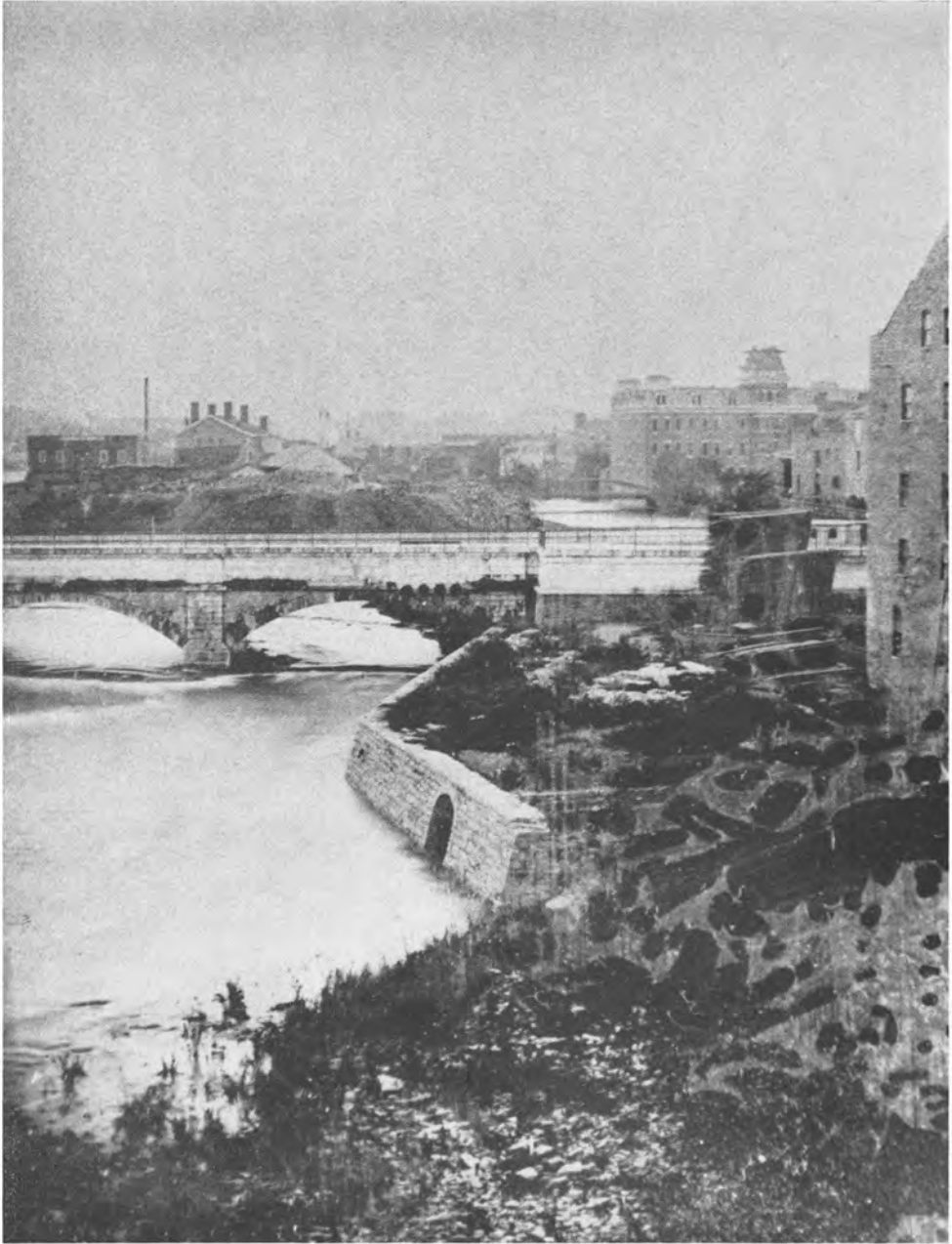


LEWIS MORGAN HOUSE



PLYMOUTH CHURCH

*These two illustrations are from the portfolio on the Old Third Ward,
by Ralph Avery, reprinted by the kind permission of the artist.*



FIRST PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE EASTMAN

First Photograph by George Eastman

1877

We are obliged to Oscar N. Solbert, Director of George Eastman House, for permission to reproduce this historic photograph. It was found in an old trunk in the home of George B. Dryden, of Evanston, Illinois, whose recently deceased wife, Ellen Andrus Dryden, was Eastman's niece.

Little did George Eastman dream, 78 years ago, when at the age of 25 he took his first photograph, that he would become the founder of the modern photographic industry! Still less could he have foretold that the view he selected from a back window of one of the Main Street Bridge buildings (possibly the studio of George Monroe, his photographic instructor) would one day be the site of the Community War Memorial. The west end of the aqueduct (already 35 years old in his day) and a portion of the river wall in the foreground are still standing, but the rest of the scene has undergone many changes.

Many will recognize the recently demolished Bogart garage building in the right background. Of course it was not a garage in 1877 but the Stein Manufacturing Company which later joined with its rival next door to form the National Casket Company. Even the old Rochester, Fitzhugh & Carroll raceway and the west span of the old Court Street Bridge, which can be glimpsed in front of that building, have both now disappeared.

It is doubtful whether any living Rochesterian remembers the old "Blue Eagle" jail which appears in the left background, but its 5 chimneys and other architectural features clearly identify it as the county's second jail, built in 1831-33 at a cost of \$12,000. William Lyon MacKenzie, leader of the ill-

fated Canadian Rebellion of 1836, was perhaps its most famous resident, but it was another inmate, Dan Rice the bankrupt circus manager, who dubbed it the "Blue Eagle" in a song bemoaning the shabby hospitality of a city which should have entertained him, he thought, at the grand Eagle Hotel then occupying the site of the Powers Block.

The old jail stood south of Court Street approximately where the R. G. & E. substation is now located. The low building at the extreme left of the photograph was a small planing mill, likewise south of Court Street, and operated by J. D. Bell. At the extreme right of the photograph towers the 5-story stone mill, owned at the time by Isaac Butts (editor of the *Union*, predecessor of the *Times-Union*) but leased and operated in 1877 as a furniture factory. The blobs in the right foreground behind the river wall reveal that young Eastman had some difficulty in developing this his first photograph made on glass after the old wet-plate technique.

Perhaps the most interesting historical detail is the expanse of gravel and ashes which then comprised the "island" on which the Kimball tobacco factory was to be erected a few years later. Hidden below that mound, which rises above the granite sides of the aqueduct in this picture, were the stone arches of two earlier mills. The foundation of the factory and the new river wall were laid without disturbing those forgotten arches and they were uncovered only after the demolition of the City Hall Annex (formerly the factory) a few years ago when the contractors excavated for the Community War Memorial. The mystery of those earlier arches still baffles local historians.

(Continued from page 10)

there was a tremendous "run" on Rochester banks. It was during this difficult period that Rochester Savings dispatched two of its trustees on an overnight trip to New York to bring back sufficient funds so that all depositors who demanded their money were paid.

Other crises through which this bank maintained the confidence of the Rochester public were the prolonged depression beginning in 1893, the Wall Street panic of 1907, the Great War crisis of 1914, the postwar depression of 1920 and the stock market crash of 1929.

Rochester Savings has had 16 presidents, one of whom, Elijah F. Smith, served three separate terms for a total of 17 years. Dr. Ward served 11 years and was succeeded by William Pitkin, who also served two years as mayor of Rochester. Others included Jacob Gould, John Haywood, William Kidd, George H. Mumford, William A. Reynolds, James Brackett, Hobart F. Atkinson, Harold P. Brewster, Henry S. Hanford, Edwin Allen Stebbins and Thomas H. Hawks, at 38 the youngest president of any Rochester bank. Stebbins served the longest term of any of the presidents, 24 years.

George Eastman was elected a trustee in 1900 and a representative of the Kodak company has been a member of the board ever since. The present one is Donald McMaster, vice president and general manager of Eastman Kodak Company.

Probably unique in banking circles is the service of three generations of the Edward Harris family as the bank's attorney. The first Edward Harris became counsel in 1870 and attorney nine years later. His son, Edward Harris Jr., succeeded him in 1911, and the latter's son, the third Edward Harris, took over the post in 1949.

John C. Hosking is the bank's oldest employee in point of service, — 46 years. He joined Rochester Savings in 1909 as a messenger and advanced through the years to vice president and member of the board of trustees.

The present main office in Franklin Street was built in 1928 and expanded in 1951 to provide for moving main office operations there from the old West Main building.

Rochester Savings Bank pioneered in 1918 by introducing school savings. Importance of this service in teaching the value of thrift at an early age cannot be overestimated. The department has grown through the years until today school children have some two million dollars in savings in this bank alone, and RSB ranks ninth in the country in school savings.

Two years later, in 1920, the bank again pioneered, this time in starting an industrial savings department, now called Payroll Savings. Participating industries, on request of employes, withhold a designated part of wages to be placed in the savings bank. This, too, has grown to include scores of cooperating industries and more and more employes who find this a painless way of saving part of their income.

Thus has Rochester Savings Bank served the community through the years as a strong, dependable financial institution, with the aid of its mortgage loans helping to make Rochester a city of homes, and at the same time enabling individuals to be more thrifty and financially secure.

To this had been added the benefits of its rooms and offices in the old Main West building, soon to be torn down. Particularly in its early era, small, struggling groups found haven there as they strove to build the beginnings of a richer culture in Rochester.

Old Plymouth Church Corner Stone

Several interesting items were recovered when the old Plymouth Church corner stone was opened a few months ago. A copy of the *Rochester Directory* for 1853-54 and September 1853 issues of several publications, including *The Genesee Evangelist*, help to recreate the spirit and atmosphere of the community at the time of the dedication of this historic old church, more recently known as the Spiritualist Church. An American Bible Society edition of the Bible; a copy of George B. Cheever's *The Journal of The Pilgrims at Plymouth* (New York, 1848); one of George Punchard's *View of Congregationalism, Its Principles and Doctrines* (Boston, 1850); an old and much worn copy of the *New England Primer* which had belonged to young Samuel Miller, Jr. whose death in his fifth year occurred on October 3,

1838, just as Mt. Hope Cemetery was being opened, with the result that he became the first to find rest in Rochester's lovely old cemetery — these and other appropriate publications were found in perfect condition in the tightly sealed tin box in the Plymouth Church corner stone.

Perhaps the most interesting documents of all were the "Record of proceedings relating to the erection of a new church edifice in the City of Rochester," including a copy of the subscription list, and the manuscript "History of the Sabbath Schools of Rochester" furnished by John N. Thompson, Superintendent of the Brick Church School, for the occasion. Because of the historic value of the latter paper we reprint it here in full.

"History of the Sabbath Schools of Rochester"

By JOHN N. THOMPSON, Supt. of the Brick Church School

The first school was organized by the ladies in 1818, Everard Peck, Esquire, the first Bookseller, kindly consenting to act as Supt. This school contained from thirty to forty scholars and was kept up during the summers of 1818, 19, 20 & 21 under the care of different Supts. and teachers. I came to Rochester the 26th day of August, 1821, and the first sabbath became a teacher, David Walker [?] the present City Sexton being Supt. Of the eight teachers, Ebenezer Bliss died at one of the Indian missionary stations; Rev.

Jonathan Green and Mrs. Delia Bishop have for more than a quarter of a century been connected with the Sandwich Island Mission; another teacher is the present Supt. of the Brick Church School.

In the Spring of 1822 a Union was formed embracing four schools. The original constitution and bye laws are still in my possession although thirty years have quickly passed. No. 1 School was held in a School House where now stands the First Presbyterian Church, Nathaniel T. Rochester, Supt. No. 2 was

held in a store fronting Market Street, now occupied by the Store of Samuel Hamilton, John N. Thompson, Supt. No. 3 on the corner of Platt & Mill Streets, Miss Marian Alwyn [?] and Levi W. Sibley Supts. No. 4 was held in a School House, corner of Clinton and Mortimer Streets, Jonathan Green, Supt. The Union was continued until the summer of 1823 when it was abandoned.

1824 — The first Baptist School was formed, Myron Strong, Supt., and was held in the Court House.

1825 — Four Schools were kept through the winter. The S. School Concert commenced in May. The Monroe County of S. S. Union was organized in Aug., through the agency of Rev. Geo. G. Sill, and a Depository of Sunday School books was established which was kept in the store of and by Czar Dunning, corner of Exchange place and State Street.

1826 — The Brick Church School was organized with thirty scholars. In Sept. the first County Celebration was held, *see printed Report.*

1827 — The School of the 3rd Presbyterian Church began, Josiah Bissell, Jun., Supt., and was held in the School House, Corner Clinton & Mortimer. The African School went into operation in old No. 1, Zenas Freeman, Supt.

1829 — The Glorious revival under the labour of Rev. Mr. Finney brought hundreds of teachers and scholars into the Church.

1831 — The Free Church commenced a School near Washington Square which flourished for several years under the care of A. W. Riley.

1834 — The Second Baptist Society organized a School.

1836 — In Aug. the Washington Street School began with 18 teachers and 26 scholars.

1839 — The State Street & Hanfords landing Schools were formed, also several others in the suburbs of the City.

1828 — The first Methodist School commenced.

The Rochester School Union, embracing all Evangelical Schools, was formed in 1833. The Constitution was signed by the following Supts.

Charles J. Hill, 1st Presbyterian

John N. Thompson, 2nd Presbyterian or Brick Church

H. L. Achilles, 1st Baptist

Selah Mathews, 3rd Presbyterian

Ashbel W. Riley, Free Presbyterian

Wm. S. Bishop, African

John N. Thompson was elected President, A Record Book obtained, a full history of the rise and progress of Schools furnished, which record is still kept, in which is copied the annual Reports of all the Schools for the past eventful 30 years.

Rochester Schools have sent forth the following Missionary teachers and Ministers: Ebenezer Bliss to the Chocktow Indians; Rev. Jonathan Green, Edwin O'Hall, Mrs. Delia Bishop, Mrs. Fidelia Coan to the Sandwich Islands; Rev. Alanson Hall, Henry Cherry, F. W. D. Ward, E. A. Webster to India, also Rev. Mr. Lockwood; Miss Julia Johnson to Siam; Doct. Henry and Miss Caroline Deforest and Miss Marian W. Smith to Syria; Rev. Grover L. Comstock to Burma; Rev. Mr. Curtis of Woodbury, Conn., Rev. Darwin Chichister, Dowsville, N. Y., Rev. Mr. Winston Rockville, Conn., Rev. Lockwood Noyt of Lima Seminary, Rev. Merrill Miller of Bath, N. Y.

Sept. 17th, 1850, a Celebration of the Schools was held and a procession

formed on North Sophia Street, under the direction of John N. Thompson as Marshal, embracing nearly 5000 teachers and scholars marching in the following order to Washington Square:

- 1st Division
Music
Mayor and Common Council
Rev. Clergy
Banner of the Association
1st Presbyterian School
2 St. Lukes Episcopal
3 Trinity
4 Free Baptist
5 State Street Congregational
6 First Baptist
7 Mt. Hor Brighton
8 St. John's Methodist
9 Fourth
10 German Mission
11 Free Catholic
12 German Lutheran
13 Third Baptist Colored
Second Division
Music
14 Orphan Asylum

- 15 Evangelical German
16 Third Presbyterian
17 St. Paul, Congregational
18 Second Baptist
19 Tabernacle
20 Union Irondequoit
21 Brick Church
22 District No. 7
23 German United Evangelical
24 Washington Street

These schools in line extended more than a mile and were just one hour in passing Exchange Street. Every teacher and scholar wore a badge of ribbon on which was an engraving of Robt. Raikes, the founder of S. Schools. It was the greatest day that Rochester ever saw and will long be remembered.

This School matter has been hastily put together by the undersigned at the request of some of the members of the Plymouth Church and for the purpose of a place under the Corner Stone to be laid on the 8th day of Sept. 1853.

John N. Thompson
Supt. Brick Church

"The Clinton Street Universe"

SCHOOLBOY NEWSPAPER OF 1852

Among the papers of the late Mrs. Edwin Allen Stebbins was found a manuscript copy of a school periodical produced by the junior members of the Clinton Street Academy of which her uncle, Perley Munger Conkey was one. We reproduce here two pages of the manuscript and one of the "poems". As far as can be determined, it dates from a little more than a century ago—possibly 1852.

This school of which Miss Jannette Phelps was principal was at Clinton Street at the corner of Johnson St., "a beautiful and very pleasant location"

and is said to have been "in a very flourishing condition" according to the directory of 1853. These boys mentioned were all born between 1838 and 1840, the girls in 1836 and 1837 and all lived in the immediate neighborhood.

In an editorial in the Evening Union of March 1855 we read of the school: "There are now upwards of ninety scholars in attendance nearly all of which are girls or young ladies. . . . A few boys are admitted at the particular request of some friends of the principal. . . . It is the aim of the Principal to make school attractive to the pupils.

The school room is not regarded as a prison house to which the child must be scourged, but rather as a pleasant resort, where, under the kind care of affectionate teachers, the mental, moral and physical powers are cultivated and ripened. The visitor does not see long rows of benches over which are bending ninety young candidates for consump-

tion, dyspepsia and a train of diseases which are planted in the school room and when developed in later years are charged to sedentary pursuits and the climate. But he sees children sitting, walking or studying at ease, without any of the air of restraint so often observable in the school room".

An Evening Reverie

By S. PLATT STARR

One rainy eve I sat me down beneath
the murky skies
When sleepy hogs were grunting and
tobacker sheds arise
Where bull frogs sing the loudest and
the lurid vapor shoots
A thought was running through my
mind and water through my boots.
Once more I roused up my ideas and
this was the thought I think.
Oh! Is there not some happy land a
land beyond the seas,
Where pot-pie smokes in boundless lake
and dumplin's grow on trees?
Can gingerbread be found in stacks
and smear-kase by the ton?
And when you do a job of work you
go the ready John
Where Nature's lessons may be read
in every bubbling brook
Where bumble bees don't sting a chap
and mulley bulls don't hook?
Do people there get milk from cows
as much as from the pumps?
Does cholic ever come about, the
measles or the mumps?
Do lovers fear for rival swains to run
them off the track?
And do they find the girls at home and
never get the sack?

Do husbands bear upon their snouts
the mark of finger nails?
Do lambs skip o'er the verdant hills
and wag their wooly tails?
And in that land that's far away do
mad dogs ever bite?
Can green ones see the Elephant at
fifty cents a sight?
Do scents of oysters reach one's nose
upon each passing breeze?
Do people fear for bed-bugs there or
ever dream of fleas?
Do trousers rip without a cause or
brogans pinch your corns?
And does the whiskey make you
"yorked" at half a dozen "horns"?
As if that land were nigh there came
a strange and pleasing smell
And then upon my listening ear the
sound of footsteps fell
At length I heard a deeptoned voice
which seemed to mutter "Ah!"
I looked around it was a goat it only
hollered, "Bah!"
My train of thoughts was broken off
my happy vision fled
I quickly hustled to my feet and
scampered off to bed.

The Clinton Street Universe
Published by the Month of
Clinton Street Academy

Vol. 1st

No. 4

"No feet up continent contracts our powers
But the whole boundless Universe is ours."

Contributors

Julius Wile	Francis Hamilton
Frank Amaden	E. Platt Starr
Joseph McMaster	F. Kemper Conkey

Lady Contributors

Benny L. Marsh Betty Wentworth

Terms \$75 in advance: all communications addressed to
K. S. L. Universe office opposite the blackboard.

The young Gentlemen of this school have nothing to do
with this paper. It is conducted and supported by the
Junior members of this Academy.

Midnight Musings,
By Benny

When the night grows long and dreary
And the stars peep sadly down
And my soul feels lone and weary
Weary of its earthly round
Their strange thoughts with dark forebodings
Cluster round my aching heart
Darkened hopes my spirit goading
Till I loathe life's busy mart.

Be the hopes that once I cherished
But which faded ere their bloom
On Ambition's altar perished
Made my youthful heart their tomb
But they spring again before me
Robed in laurels fair and bright
Then the silent gloom steals o'er me
Wakes more long the dreary night

When dark grief with chains has bound me
And my eye grows dim with tears
How the absent gather round me
The beloved of other years
I clasp the hand that's mouldered long
Within the churchyard's narrow home
And hear again the gentle song
Though voice is hushed in silent tomb

The Father and his Son
By Percy

Once upon a time there lived a man and

his son about three miles from the village of W—. Their possession consisted of an acre of land (upon which stood their house) & a horse. Their house was built after the old fashion w^h of logs. The man's occupation was that of making baskets and his son's was that of gathering the willows from a marsh about a half of a mile from their house. One bright morning in the month of June the boy started as usual to gather the willows. He was proceeding leisurely along and had arrived within ten yards of the marsh when a wolf sprang from a thicket near by and made towards him with all the speed he could command, the boy got up into a tree about a foot from him as fast as he could. He had nearly got up when the wolf arrived at the tree, the wolf immediately sprang as high as he could and his nose just touched the boy's foot the boy kicked and hit the nose of the wolf and sent him back with considerable force. The wolf gave a yelp and then set down at the foot of the tree. The boy drew a whistle from his pocket and blew a shrill blast. The father was sitting on the porch making baskets when he heard the whistle, he knew what it meant and dropping his work, went and got his gun and ran to the marsh with all speed possible and saw his son in the tree and the wolf at the foot looking up into the tree he immediately slackened his pace and kept behind the trees as much as he could until

Arthur H. Crapsey

In the sudden death of Arthur H. Crapsey on May 23, 1955, this Society has lost one of its most faithful members. A Rochester-born son of the late Algernon S. Crapsey, D.D., Arthur Crapsey was educated in the city schools and at the old Mechanics Institute. He worked for a time as a reporter for the Democrat & Chronicle and later on the editorial staff of the Times Union. He was a member of the 2nd N.Y. Ambulance Co. during the First World War and after its conclusion became secretary to County Manager Clarence A. Smith. He was named coordinator of the Monroe County Defense Council in 1941 and director of the Veteran's Information Bureau in 1944. The later year also brought his appointment

as official Historian of Monroe County.

His service in these capacities prompted his selections as chairman of the Rochester Freedom Train Committee and brought many other calls for community leadership. His careful directions of the work of compiling town and other local records and the well planned tours he conducted throughout the county won him a place on the Board of Managers of the Rochester Historical Society in 1948. His earnest study of local history found expressions on many occasions, notably in an eloquent address to the Society on "The Life of Frederick Douglass" shortly before his death. The gap he leaves in our ranks is a large one and he will long be remembered.

Mr. Kenneth J. Siple of Watervliet, N. Y., has sent us the following quotations from the West Troy Advocate and Watervliet Advertiser for Aug. 22, 1838.

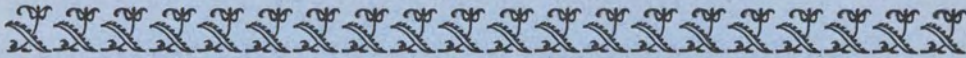
ROCHESTER. — Through a country of unsurpassed fertility, past hundreds of wheat-fields of from two to three hundred acres — green grain prairies, without a solitary "stump" or obstruction — to Rochester. It was dim twilight as we rolled over the upper bridge that crosses the Genesee, and entered the city. The streets through which we had already passed and others stretching outward around us, the dimly-described steeples, the lights moving across the aqueduct, and gleaming from the bridge beyond, and the hum and bustle on every hand, all conspired to impress a stranger with the importance of the town. Yet did this "dim obscure" view awaken no expectations which the daylight was to dissipate. As we stood on the roof of the Eagle House, on the following morning, and surveyed the town, with its scores of noble stone mills, skirting the river on either hand; its broad and handsome streets, and the crowds who thronged them; its beautiful churches and public buildings, we could scarcely realize that twenty years ago, not a single building reared its head within all this crowded metropolis! Yet such is the astonishing fact.

— Knickerbocker.

The August 29, 1838 issue of the same newspaper (p.2) had the following item:

Sam Patch outdone. — On Tuesday last, about two miles below the steamboat landing on the Genesee river, a horse attached to a cart loaded with wood, was precipitated from the bank, cart and all, to the water's edge below, a distance of 75 feet nearly perpendicular, and after adjusting himself, commenced browsing upon the shrubbery, without having received the least apparent injury.

— Roch. Daily Advertiser.



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