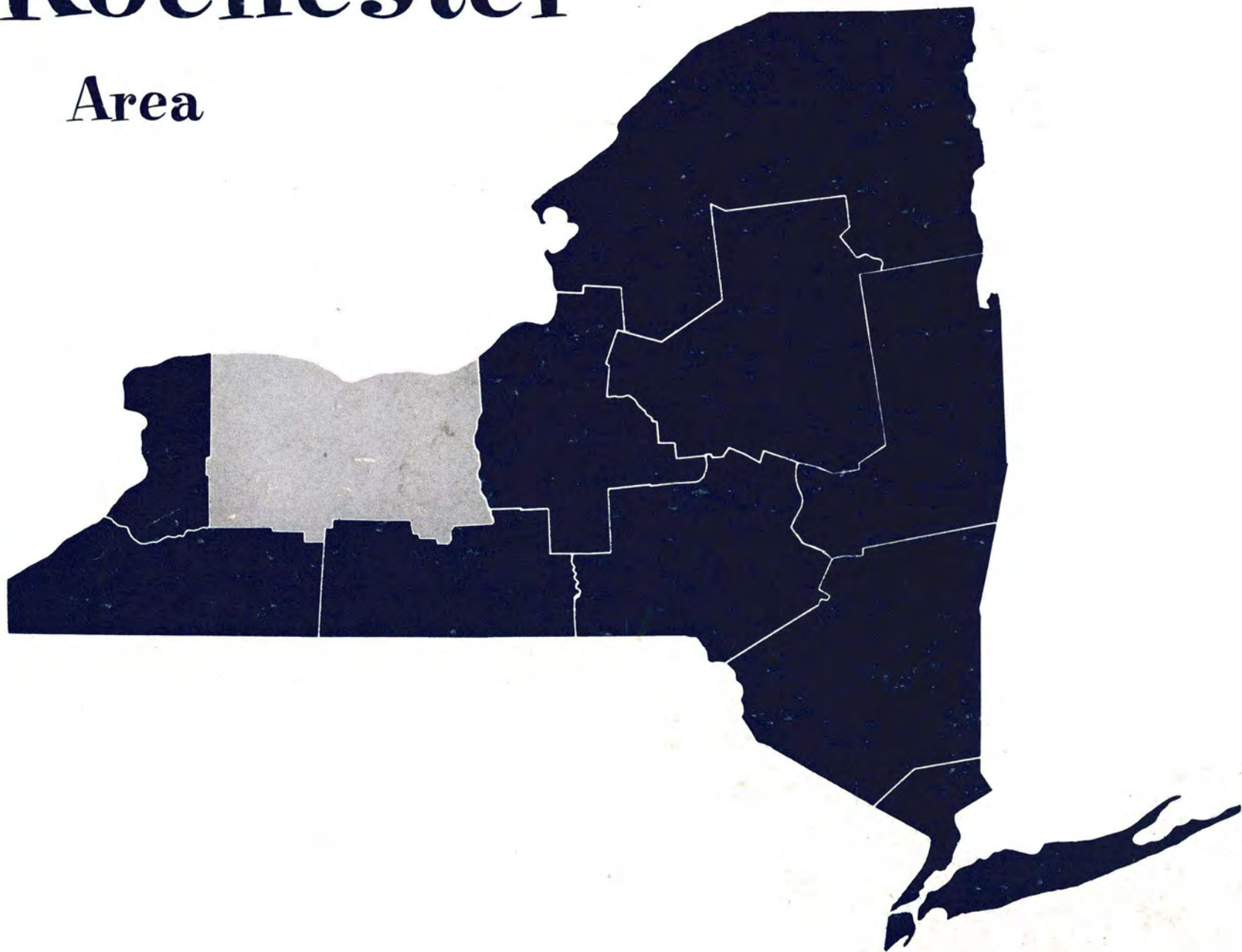


ANOTHER OF LAMB'S SECTIONAL HISTORIES OF NEW YORK STATE

The
Rochester
Area



ROCHESTER AREA

Includes

WAYNE, SENECA, YATES, ONTARIO, LIVINGSTON, MONROE, ORLEANS, GENESEE,
and WYOMING COUNTIES

or

SECTION IX of Revised HISTORICAL ATLAS of NEW YORK STATE

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INTRODUCTION

This is a short history on one of the great economic units of New York State. It was written to make easier the task of teachers of local history who are confronted by the lack of teaching materials in readily available and readable form; it also should increase the understanding, and inspire the interest of the pupils. Its purpose is to relate clearly and concisely the main events and forces which have made this Area what it is today. It sifts from hundreds of historical source materials the facts and trends that matter most. It serves as a starting point for any person who desires to delve more deeply into the history of the Area. The author is deeply indebted to the New York State Department of Commerce for the facts and figures necessary to analyze recent economic development.

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The French Fight the Seneca Indians

CHAPTER I *The Beginning*

In the western part of New York are nine counties whose economic activity centers in the great city of Rochester, the third largest community in the Empire State. It is particularly fitting that this section of the state should be called the Rochester Area. More than three-fifths of the people living in this area are in Monroe County, which includes Rochester, the other two-fifths live in the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. The Rochester Area ranks high among the divisions of the state in both industry and agriculture. It is a place of fine traditions, beauty, interesting social development, and considerable cultural achievement.

The entire Rochester Area has been favored by geographic factors. Its fertile soil is splendid for fruit and vegetables. Cool winds from Lake Ontario on the north hold back the first blossoms until the danger of frosts is ended in the spring; and in the fall warm winds add to the length of the growing season. The northern part of the area consists of two ancient lake bottoms, formed long before the coming of man when Lake Ontario covered wider areas. The lower of these prehistoric lake bottoms is the Ontario Plain, while much higher and to the south is the still older Erie Plain. These two areas are not only admirably suited for agriculture but provide a level route that made the building of canals and railroads comparatively simple. Separating the two geologic beaches is a limestone cliff over which the water of the various streams tumbles on its way to Lake Ontario. These many waterfalls have been the tireless servants of the men and women who have lived and la-



A French Jesuit doing Missionary Work with the Indians

bored here. Lake Ontario itself is, of course, one of the major reasons for the continued prosperity of this area. Here is a great watery avenue of travel and commerce not only with other parts of the state but with Canada as well. Lesser but important bodies of water that add to the beauty and prosperity of the area are Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, Canandaigua Lake, and Keuka Lake. The main river valley is that of the beautiful Genesee, which starts in Pennsylvania yet crosses all of western New York before it empties into Lake Ontario. For all these natural blessings, the people who live in the area should be thankful.

CHAPTER II

The Indians and Early Settlers

The Rochester Area, together with the Syracuse and Mohawk Areas, constituted most of the home territory of the great Iroquois League. The Rochester Area was the home of the Senecas, who were the most numerous of the Iroquois nations, and who guarded the western gateway to the figurative long house. The eastern part of the area was also the home of some of the Cayugas, another Iroquois nation. Indian villages were located near such present-day white communities as Canandaigua and Genesee.



One of the Seneca legends is concerned with the Indian settlement of Bare Hill. Here it was that the Great Spirit is supposed to have opened a great hole in the earth to allow the first Senecas to come

forth to dwell in our world. But at the foot of the hill there was an enormous serpent that seized and ate the Indians as they emerged from the ground. A great number were devoured before one warrior, who was particularly brave and resourceful, managed to inflict a fatal wound on the reptile. While the serpent thrashed around in its death agony it threw up the heads of the Indians it had swallowed. These heads became rounded stones, which are peculiar to the vicinity in our present day. Bare Hill has ever since been considered sacred to the Senecas.



Perhaps the best-known of the great Seneca chieftains was Red Jacket, the famous Indian orator. He polished and rehearsed his speeches until his words would sway the entire Seneca nation. Unfortunate was the man who earned Red Jacket's scorn or who was exposed to his biting sarcasm. He was particularly opposed to the sales of Indian lands to the whites, and to the extension of white civilization among his people. He saw clearly that concessions to the whites meant the weakening of the Seneca nation. He refused to use the white man's axe or furniture, though not his clothes nor his alcohol. He received his name from a red coat he received for his services to the British during the Revolution, and which he wore proudly ever after. Once in 1792 he was presented with a silver medal by President George Washington, and this also he never tired of wearing. Even though he spoke

against land sales to whites he insisted on signing every land treaty, so his name would be on the documents. Despite his craving for liquor, he lived until he was about eighty. When he died in 1830 the Seneca lands, on which no white man lived when he was born, had been pierced by the Erie Canal, white settlements were growing rapidly everywhere, and the proud Iroquois Confederacy had followed other great empires like Babylon, Egypt, Athens, and Rome into the dim mists of history.



The first outposts of white civilization among the Senecas and Cayugas were French rather than Dutch or British. French Jesuit missionaries, following Jogues and other martyrs who had penetrated to the Mohawk villages farther east, managed to establish successful missions among the Senecas and Cayugas during the late 1660's. The first important Seneca mission was that of Saint Michel, established by Father Jacques Fremin three and a half miles south of Boughton Hill, although Father Chaumont had been originally selected to do so a decade earlier. The first Cayuga mission was that of Saint Joseph, south of Union Springs in Cayuga County, just outside the boundaries of the Rochester Area, which also had been first established in the 1650's. These early missions were allowed to exist undisturbed for about twenty years.

Relations between the Senecas and the French became gradually worse in the 1680's. In 1687 the French Governor Denonville determined to teach the Indians a lesson that they would remember. He landed at Irondequoit Bay, and marched against one of the Seneca villages with an army of one thousand men. Eight hundred Seneca warriors lay in ambush along Denonville's route. The jaws of the Indian trap snapped shut around the French and their Indian allies, and a major Indian victory seemed at hand, when some French reserves appeared on the scene. Then the Indians lost heart and melted away into the forests where Denonville could not find them. For the next twelve years relations between the Senecas and the French were characterized by massacre, ambush, and torture.



That these relations eventually improved was due to the influence of French fur-traders, and particularly to Chabert de Joncaire. Joncaire (the elder) exercised influence among the Senecas in somewhat the same measure as did William Johnson among the Mohawks for the British at a later date; he actually lived among the Indians, and ranked as a Seneca chief. He managed to keep the Iroquois stirred up against the British; and continually sought to promote bad relations between the Senecas and the western Indians, so that the latter would be forced to

sell their furs to French Canadian fur-traders rather than through the eastern Iroquois to the British. Joncaire lived until 1739, and during all that time the only white influence felt among the Senecas was the French. It is interesting to surmise what the eventual outcome of the French and Indian Wars might have been if Joncaire had lived somewhat later and had been in his prime at the same time as William Johnson. As it was, the Joncaire influence continued after 1739 through his sons, particularly one who was also known as Chabert.

The last French and Indian War came to a close in 1763, and decided once and for all that New York state, and North America in general, was to be British and not French. The onrush of white settlement by that time was being felt by the other Iroquois nations farther east. In 1768 the Treaty of Fort Stanwix agreed that all New York land west of the present city of Rome belonged to the Indians. All of the Rochester Area was of course far to the west of that line, and it was far from safe for any white man to settle on lands belonging to the Senecas. When the Revolution broke out the entire area still belonged to the Indians.



During the war between Britain and her colonies the Indians made a pretense

of neutrality, but they realized that in the long run their main enemy would be the advancing American settlers rather than the British across the sea. Under the influence of such Tories as the Johnsons and the Butlers, they attacked American frontier settlements in the east. The Iroquois did so much damage that the American government, in the midst of its bitter struggle with the British, decided that it was necessary to take time out in 1779 to subdue the Iroquois and prevent the continuance of the depredations.



The Sullivan-Clinton campaign of 1779 ravaged the Indian villages of the Rochester Area. The main American army under General John Sullivan started from Easton, Pennsylvania, and at Tioga joined another army commanded by General James Clinton. The combined army hurried along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, in Seneca County, to Geneva. Excursions were made in various directions, principally through Canandaigua and Honeoye to old Genesee Castle, which marked the western climax of the campaign. Less than three weeks had elapsed from the time Sullivan had left Tioga until he had reached Genesee Castle on September 14. During that period a great amount of damage had been inflicted on the Senecas. Western New York was now unquestionably American soil, and the Indians never fully recovered from the devastation wrought by the Sullivan campaign.



Thomas Morris and Seneca Indians Make a Land Agreement Known as The Big Tree Treaty



An Aqueduct of the Erie Canal Crossing the Genesee River in Rochester

CHAPTER III *The Treaties*

After the close of the Revolution American settlers made ready to move onto lands that had belonged to the defeated Indians. All the lands had to be secured from the Indians by land treaties supervised by the state and federal authorities.* But there were conflicting claims to the Indian lands, and many Americans hesitated to move into the western wilderness until such conflicts were settled. The eastern part of the Rochester Area, including the present Seneca County and part of Wayne County, was contained in the Military Tract, which also included the Syracuse Area. It was called "Military Tract" because the state gave it away free, six hundred acres per soldier, to those men who had fought in the patriot army during the Revolution. The awarding of the land to the soldiers was badly bungled, however, and land titles were not straightened out until 1803.

Much of western New York had been claimed by Massachusetts, and the two states had quarreled about their claims until 1786, when they made the Treaty of Hartford. This agreement fixed the western boundary of the Military Tract with the Preemption Line, which ran north and south across the state through the vicinity of Geneva. All land west of the Preemption Line was to be sold by Massachusetts, but politically it was to belong to New York. Massachusetts sold its land to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham on an installment plan. Phelps and Gorham proceeded to sell part of the land in turn

to actual settlers, though they refused to sell any west of the Genesee River. Thus western New York between Geneva and the Genesee River became known as the Phelps-Gorham Purchase. Instead of becoming wealthy from their huge land holdings, Phelps and Gorham could not keep up their installment payments to Massachusetts. They relinquished all land west of the Genesee River to Massachusetts, and sold all their land east of the Genesee not already sold to settlers to Robert Morris of Philadelphia, who in turn sold it to an Englishman named Sir William Pulteney. Charles Williamson was placed in charge of the Pulteney holdings, and it was from him that most of the actual settlers really acquired their land titles. Actually this is but a simplified version of the Phelps-Gorham story, because their operations were complicated still further by the rival claims of John Livingston and others, and by unpredictable actions by the New York and Massachusetts legislatures. The story is of particular importance here, however, because such a large portion of the Rochester Area consists of the Phelps-Gorham holdings.

Massachusetts sold to Robert Morris all the land west of the Genesee River that had been relinquished to that commonwealth by Phelps and Gorham. Morris thereupon reserved for himself for later sale a tract since known as the Morris Reserve.* This was a strip stretching north and south across the state bordering the Genesee River, and constituting about one-fifth of the area purchased from Massachusetts. Morris sold the remaining four-fifths, containing about 3,300,000

acres, to some Dutch bankers who became known as the Holland Land Company.

Although the Holland Land Company came into possession of western New York by 1793, Indian claims were not extinguished until 1797, and the huge area was not completely surveyed until 1800. Batavia was selected for the company's headquarters, and it was from that office that the affairs of the Holland Purchase were managed for the next thirty-five years. The outstanding agent for the Holland Land Company was Joseph Ellicott. Part of the territory included in the Holland Purchase consists of lands in the present counties of Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming.



The early settlers of the Rochester Area came from many different places. The Military Tract was of course settled largely by New Yorkers from farther east, though families from Massachusetts and Connecticut began to appear. Many of the settlers of the Phelps-Gorham Purchase were from Massachusetts, but many from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland also moved up the river valleys from the south. The settlers of the Holland Purchase were even more heterogeneous, and soon included immigrants, particularly Germans.

*Foot Note: Land treaty of Kanadesaga or Geneva November 1787 and Fort Stanwix treaties of August and the Phelps and Gorham treaties at Buffalo Creek in 1788 are covered in more detail in other Sections of Lamb's Sectional Atlas of N. Y. State.

*Foot Note: Morris also had to liquidate the Indian claims to his Reserve.

CHAPTER IV

Early Transportation

The extent of settlement depended to a considerable extent on the development of transportation. Bridges and roads had to replace old Indian trails. Of special importance was the Great Genesee Road, which ran all the way from Utica to Geneva, and enabled settlers to pour into the heart of the Rochester Area. This road was financed by lotteries, and expedited by labor donated by the inhabitants of the region. It was made a turnpike in 1800, and at least fifty families settled along it within four months of its completion. Settlers could travel over its entire length in three days. This historic turnpike was gradually extended, and soon after the War of 1812 was completed all the way to Lake Erie. By 1830 five daily lines of stages were running between Buffalo and Albany—all the way from Lake Erie to the Hudson. Communities along the stagecoach routes were stimulated. Geneva, which in 1791 had only fifteen houses, by 1818 had a population of 2,000. Other communities that grew rapidly in early times because of their location on turnpikes were Seneca Falls and Canandaigua.

Between 1817 and 1825 the Erie Canal was being built. Through much of the Rochester Area its construction was comparatively simple because of the level terrain, but the crossing of the Genesee River taxed the ingenuity of man. Eventually the canal crossed the Genesee on an enormous aqueduct that had nine arches and was more than 800 feet long. At that time it was acknowledged to be the longest stone structure in America.* So successful was the Erie Canal that lateral canals

Rochester Page 8

were also built: the Genesee Valley Canal, connecting Rochester with Olean on the southern border of the state; the Chemung Canal, connecting Geneva with Elmira and Pennsylvania; the Seneca and Cayuga Canal, connecting those two lakes; and the Crooked Lake Canal, connecting Seneca Lake with Lake Keuka.

Probably no other area in New York State was affected as much by canal building as was the Rochester Area. According to Dewitt Clinton, not a single house was standing in 1810 at the present site of the city of Rochester. In 1816, shortly before the canal was begun, there were only 330 people in that vicinity. But the farmers who settled in western New York turned that part of the state, and particularly the Genesee Valley, into a famous wheat land. Many of these farmers transported their wheat by flatboats to flour mills at Rochester, from whence much of the flour found its way across Lake Ontario to Canadian cities. Then came the Erie Canal through Rochester. By 1826 as many as 160 canal boats were owned by Rochester people. Flour mills, which in 1823 numbered only seven, nearly tripled during the next twelve years. Population increased 500 percent during the 1820's; by 1834 Rochester was a thriving community of 14,000 citizens. By 1840 Monroe County, in which Rochester is located, was the second largest wheat-producing county in the nation, and Rochester itself was the fourth largest community of the state, exceeded only by New York City, Brooklyn, and Albany.

*Foot Note: Another engineering problem was the embankment at Irondequoit which is described by Dr. Blake McKelvey in his article "Rochester and the Erie Canal," Rochester History, July, 1949, as follows: "The embankment had to be raised to a height sufficient to carry the canal



But the Erie Canal, which made Rochester the Flour City by providing it with seacoast markets, eventually promoted serious competition from the Middle West. Western farmers, living on vaster wheat lands than could be found in New York State, could grow more wheat, and the Erie Canal provided them also with fine seacoast markets. The growth of wheat, which reached its height in New York State in 1844, soon after went into a sharp decline. The farmers of the Rochester Area turned from wheat to corn and other crops, and to sheep and hogs. Soon again, however, they were shifting from sheep and hogs to dairy cattle, to serve the growing communities along the canal and farther east. New milling cities grew up in the Middle West, and Rochester turned to other industrial pursuits; some of these were lumber mills, brickyards, and tanneries. Rochester became noted for spectacles, and for the fine tools it manufactured. Then came the growth of the great nurseries, which changed Rochester from the Flour City to the Flower City. Other manufacturing interests included clothing, thermometers, optical supplies, and photographic supplies. Rochester attained world-wide fame in the last-named field with the development of the Kodak factories.

across the valley 65 feet above the surface of the creek . . . Three gravel hills or drumlins . . . served as natural piers between which the embankment extended a total of 80 rods, reinforced by more than 900 log piles."

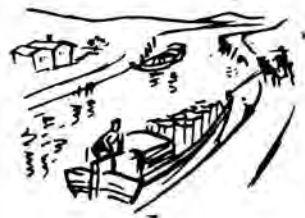


Jemima Wilkinson, the "Universal Friend"



Canal Boat Loading at a Mill

The building of canals affected many other communities in much the same way as it did Rochester, though of course on a lesser scale. Brockport is a typical example of a community that sprang up along the canal where none had ever been before. It is obvious that its founders from the beginning regarded it as a port, though it was located hundreds of miles from the Atlantic seacoast. Older communities that the canal by-passed ceased to grow, and sometimes declined in population and importance.



Just as the canals crowded on the heels of the turnpike builders, so the railroad construction gangs were moving across New York State even before the canals were completed. The level plains that had once been the beaches of prehistoric times became railbeds for the "Iron Horse." Communities scrambled to outbid each other for the privilege of having railroads connect them with the outside world. When the railroad was built to connect Syracuse with Rochester it was twenty miles longer than necessary, so that it could circle around through Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, and other communities that had been by-passed by the Erie Canal. By 1842 it was possible for people to travel by rail all the way across New York State from New York City to Buffalo. This

achievement, however, was not as wonderful as it might seem; rail transportation across the state was not provided by one company, but by several, each of which owned only one segment; and there were eight such segments between Albany and Buffalo. The trains were uncomfortable, comparatively unsafe, and slow. The schedules of the connecting lines did not encourage through travel; at Rochester



all travelers were required to change trains, because the two separate depots for east and west travel were half a mile apart, and it was necessary to take a bus or hack or to walk from one railroad line to the other. Eventually the most serious deficiencies of the early railroads were remedied. The various small railroad lines were united under one company, which we now know as the New York Central. Station facilities were consolidated so that through travelers would no longer be required to travel by other means from depot to depot, although at Rochester this improvement was fought bitterly by the operators of the hacks and buses. The new railroad lines and their improvements stimulated the growth of the Rochester Area in much the same way as the construction of canals had done.

CHAPTER V

Sects, Organizations, and Their Leaders

During its earlier history the Rochester Area was familiar with unorthodox religious movements and unusual social experiments. The earliest of the radical religious sects were the "Jemimanites," or followers of Jemima Wilkinson, who were among the first settlers in this region. In New England at the age of twenty she had had a severe illness. Finally she had risen from her sick bed with the announcement that Jemima Wilkinson had passed on, and that her body was then possessed by a new spirit dedicated to the saving of lost souls. Her teaching aroused considerable criticism, particularly since she insisted that her disciples should obey her instead of their parents, husbands, or wives. She dressed herself partly as a man and partly as a woman, and became known as the "Universal Friend." To escape the antagonism of her New England neighbors she determined to settle on the New York frontier, where she and her disciples could live in peace. In 1788 a settlement was made on the western shore of Seneca Lake near the present village of Dresden in Yates County, but they later moved into the present township of Jerusalem nearby in the same county. The "Friend's" attempts to impose celibacy on her followers and to gain additional converts were not particularly successful. As she herself grew old and her own beauty began to fail her influence declined. Though her settlement flourished economically during her lifetime the entire movement collapsed when she died in 1819.



The next strange movement, mainly political, resulted from the disappearance of William Morgan. In 1826 Morgan was an inconspicuous member of the Batavia Lodge of Masons, a religious and charitable organization that now has a vast membership. Because he needed money and was anxious to retaliate on his fellow Masons for some grievance, real or fancied, he decided to publicize the secrets of the order. He enlisted David C. Miller as a partner, but the two conspirators quarreled when Morgan accused Miller of attempting to rob him of his share of the profits. In any case, Morgan was arrested on a charge of petit larceny, placed in jail in Canandaigua, and transferred to old Fort Niagara, from which he disappeared. The Masons declared that his arrest and disappearance was the result of an agreement between them and Morgan, and that he had been safely escorted to Canada to get him out of the mess he was in in return for his promise not to expose their secrets. Miller, however, asserted that Morgan had been kidnapped and murdered. When a badly decomposed body was found in Lake Ontario, Morgan's wife claimed it, though a Canadian wife was equally insistent it was her husband's corpse. Actually the evidence in the entire case was highly uncertain, and no one has ever been able to prove what happened to Morgan.

The Morgan affair split the Rochester Area wide open; neighbors stopped speak-

ing to one another; and even families were rent asunder on the issue. The Masons and their friends felt that their enemies had contrived the rumors and evidence of Morgan's death in order to destroy their order, which they insisted was only social and religious. Other people, however, became firmly convinced that the order was a menace to the nation, and that it was their patriotic duty to destroy it. Even religious leaders decided that Masonry was contrary to religion, and was the work of the devil.

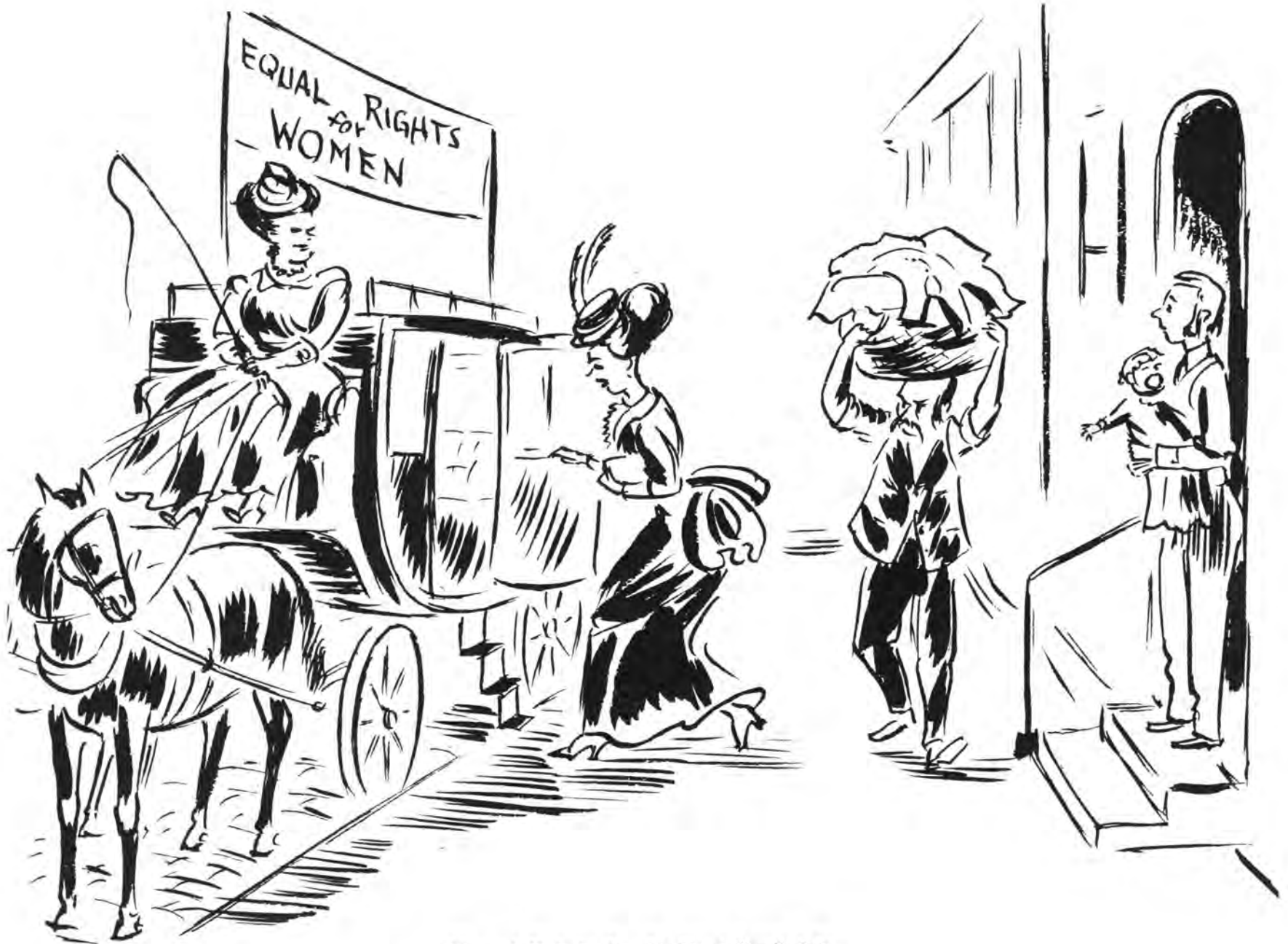


Feeling was so bitter in 1827 that politicians who happened to be Masons were denied nominations in various towns in Monroe and Genesee counties. It happened that Dewitt Clinton, who was Governor of New York State at the time, was a grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. Clinton's political opponents sought to secure every advantage to themselves out of the Morgan episode. They pictured the Masons as a murderous brotherhood, with Clinton as one of the main heads of the gang. Clinton himself sought to demonstrate the innocence of himself and the order by offering \$2,000 to solve the mystery, and by attempting to prosecute anyone concerned with the abduction. In 1827 the voters in the Rochester Area elected anti-Masonic candidates for the state legislature. When Clinton died early in 1828 the anti-Masons

insisted that his death was due to a guilty conscience. In the election of 1828 the political heat generated by the Morgan affair was so great that the electoral vote of the state was split between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams. In 1831 a national Antimasonic Party nominated William Wirt for president. So in five short years the disappearance of an insignificant citizen of Batavia had sky-rocketed into a national political issue. Then the movement began to decline, and the Antimasonic group was absorbed into the new National Republican Party. But considerable opposition remained to all secret societies, and even secret college fraternities were frowned on.



The Rochester Area was also the birthplace of the Mormon religion. Joseph Smith, though born in Vermont, spent most of his youth on a farm near Palmyra in Wayne County. He claimed to have had a vision and to have talked with an angel named Moroni. The angel told him that under a certain rock on Cumorah Hill he would find some golden plates, which, when translated, formed the famous Book of Mormon; he is supposed to have found the sacred plates in 1827. Smith's followers accepted the new translation as of Divine origin—as sacred as the rest of the Bible accepted by other religious groups. The new religious sect was founded in 1830 in Manchester, Ontario County, but was formally organized at Fayette, Seneca County, a few weeks later.



Women's Fight for Equality Upsets Family Life



The Blower Girls

Perhaps the most sensational of Smith's new teachings was that it was acceptable for a man to have more than one wife. Most of Smith's neighbors were skeptical about his role as a prophet, and were determined that he and his followers were not going to practice polygamy in western New York. As a result the Mormons were forced to move out of New York to Ohio, and then to points much farther west. Under the leadership of Brigham Young the Mormon movement became of national importance, and helped to open up the Far Western frontier, particularly Utah.



Modern spiritualism had its origin in Wayne County. A family named Fox moved there from Canada in 1847. In this family were two daughters, living at home, named Margaret and Kate. They told of hearing rapping on the walls at night, and of someone digging in the cellar, and of having cold hands touching them in the dark. They reported having talked with the spirit of a peddler who had been murdered there four years earlier. The details of the murder were re-enacted by spirits every night, and always ended with the unfortunate victim being dragged downstairs to his grave in the cellar. Naturally such reports excited the curiosity of neighbors, and people came from miles around to pry on the Fox family. To escape from this meddling by cu-

riosity-seekers and to obtain privacy the family moved to Rochester; but the rappings continued there. In time the "Rochester rappings" became famous all over New York State, and great numbers of people visited the Fox family in the hope of communicating with friends and relatives in the spirit world.



The Rochester Area was also one of the main battlegrounds in the fight for equal rights for women—a principle that has won acceptance in our own day but that was considered radical and dangerous a hundred years ago. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton moved to Seneca Falls from Boston in 1847. A year later a reformer from Philadelphia named Mrs. Lucretia Mott was visiting her sister, Mrs. Martha Wright, at Auburn. Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Mott happened to meet, and as a result a famous Women's Rights Convention was called to meet at Seneca Falls in July, 1848. They issued a declaration of sentiments, which insisted that "all men and women are created equal," and declared themselves opposed to "this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation." This declaration and the resolution adopted at the Seneca Falls Convention created a furor. The press and the clergy strongly defended the *status quo*, and accused the reformers of starting the "reign of petticoats," and of undermining a social order that had endured for

"six thousand years." Such publicity, instead of discouraging the reform leaders, seems to have served as a challenge to spur them on to greater efforts. Although Mrs. Stanton was disowned by her father, she did not waver. She was an abolitionist and a temperance reformer as well as a women's rights advocate, and went so far as to insist that drunkenness was a sufficient excuse for divorce.



Susan B. Anthony of Rochester was another nation-wide figure in the fight for women's rights; she was particularly concerned with the right to vote. She and several other women succeeded in voting in Rochester in 1872, but were arrested for their efforts to exercise their citizenship; the other women paid bail, but she refused. At the ensuing trial in Canandaigua she was directed to pay a fine or go to jail, but the aggressive crusader refused to do either, and no one ever forced her to obey.



Another feminine crusader from this area was Amelia Bloomer, who had attended the Seneca Falls Convention and who in 1849 had started the *Lily*, supposed to have been the first journal ever

published by a woman. This publication specialized in propaganda in behalf of women's rights. Mrs. Bloomer, however, has become more closely identified with the cause of dress reform, having made popular the article of women's wear known as the "bloomer."

The Rochester Area produced the first female physician in the United States, Miss Elizabeth Blackwell, who was graduated from the medical college at Geneva in 1849. It was the home of one of the pioneer educational institutions for women—the Ontario Female Seminary at Canandaigua, established in 1825. It also was in the front lines in the battle for temperance, when Rochester served as the meeting place for the Women's State Temperance Convention in 1852. Indeed, it would be difficult to find any new and radical movement that did not exist in the Rochester Area.



CHAPTER VI *Industry*

Even though the area was young compared with some other parts of the state, its industries developed rapidly. Today it is one of the leading industrial areas of New York State. In 1948 more than 135,000 people out of a total population of 800,000 were engaged in manufacturing. More than 48,000 of these worked in factories that turned out instruments and related products, primarily cameras and scientific equipment. In this field the Rochester Page 16

Rochester Area outranks every other area of the state, including New York City; and has actually outdistanced all the rest of the state put together. It is the leading Area upstate, and second only to New York in the entire state, in the making of apparel, mainly men's clothing. A large number of people living in the Area are also employed in making machinery (other than electrical) and in processing foods and kindred products. Factory payrolls reached a total of \$428,940,000 in 1948. The 1,363 manufacturing establishments of the Area added \$640,330,000 in value to what they made, or approximately \$470,000 per establishment. There were 36 firms that employed 700 or more employees each.

Monroe County, which includes the City of Rochester, is of course the industrial giant among the nine counties of the Area. It boasts of three-fifths of the population of the Area, yet claims four-fifths of the factory workers and more than four-fifths of the manufacturing. More than two-fifths of its factory employees are engaged in making instruments and related products, and more than one-tenth in making apparel and related products. Of the 36 firms in the Area employing more than 700 workers, 27 are in Monroe County alone, and 25 in Rochester.



One of the best-known and most famous companies in the Area is the Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester. Its founder

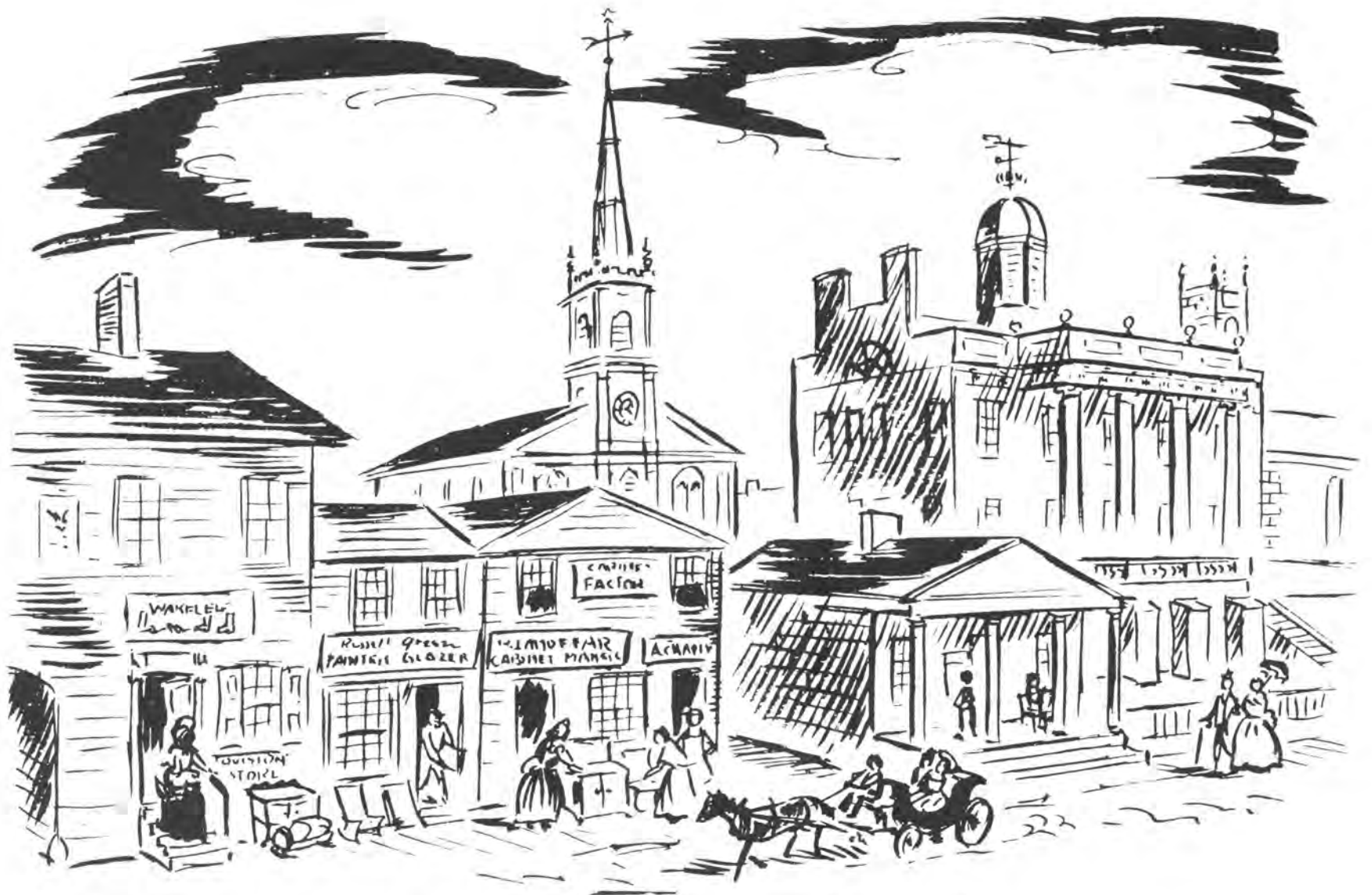
was George Eastman, who experimented with photographic plates in his mother's kitchen while working as a clerk in a Rochester bank. When his experiments began, picture-making was a complicated process, and the results were often disappointing. He introduced the idea of film on a roll, and the taking of pictures by merely pressing a button. At first it was necessary to send the entire camera to Rochester to have the film removed and developed, but later improvements made this unnecessary. In time Eastman's Kodak became known throughout the world. The business expanded to include the manufacture of paper and chemicals for developing and printing films in homes; the making of films for movies; the production of projectors; and the manufacture of aerial cameras, gun cameras, and special lenses and other equipment needed by our armed forces. Rochester is also the home of Graflex, Inc., which also makes cameras and allied products.



Also famous and known throughout the world is the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company. It was founded a century ago by two German immigrants, John Jacob Bausch and Henry Lomb. It became a success when Bausch built a machine that could grind lenses as good as those imported from Germany. Eyeglass frames were also one of the concern's first products. Since the early days this company has expanded in much the same way as Kodak. It is now well-known for a variety



Upper Falls in Rochester—1831



View of Courthouse and Presbyterian Church in Rochester—1827

of manufactured goods, such as binoculars, microscopes, projectors, and also more specialized items required by our armed services. Among other Rochester firms now engaged in similar business are the Shuron Optical Company and the Wollensak Optical Company.



Clothing is another comparatively old industry in Rochester, since it has been traced back to the 1850's. This business was greatly stimulated during the Civil War by the demand for uniforms in the Northern army. After the war the emphasis continued to be placed on men's clothing, though some clothing was made for women and children as well. Among the larger establishments that today make clothing in Rochester are such well-known firms as Bond Stores, Inc., Fashion Park, Inc., the Hickey-Freeman Company, and Michaels-Stern & Co., Inc. One of the interesting aspects of the clothing industry in Rochester is the size of its shops. Between 1914 and 1929, when the average number of workers per shop in New York City was decreasing from 25 to 17, the average in Rochester was increasing from 58 to 273. The shoe industry began about the same time as clothing, and was also stimulated greatly by Civil War demands.

The food industry has also remained important, though Rochester has long since ceased to be the flour city of its youth. Among the largest food-processing

firms in Rochester today are American Home Foods, Inc., which specializes in the preparation of baby foods; Fanny Farmer Candy Shops, Inc.; and the Tobin Packing Co., Inc., which processes meat products.

Yet the industrial picture of Rochester is not confined to such long-established businesses. Other Rochester firms employing more than 700 workers are Fasco Industries, Inc., which produces electric motors and other equipment; the Gannett Company, Inc., which publishes newspapers; the General Motors Corp., which makes electric and other equipment; the General Railway Signal Co.; the Gleason Works, specializing in gear-cutting machinery; the Pfaudler Co., specializing in food-processing equipment; the Ritter Co., Inc., producing surgical equipment; the Samson United Corp., making electrical appliances; the Stromberg-Carlson Co., specializing in communication equipment; the Taylor Instrument Co., making weather instruments; the Todd Co., Inc., manufacturing bank supplies; and the Yauman & Erbe Mfg. Co., manufacturing steel office furniture.

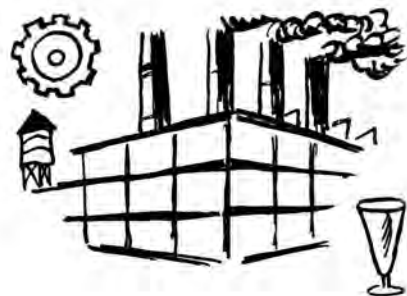
The second largest community in Monroe County is East Rochester, which in 1950 had a population of 7,020. It has two companies, each of which employs more than 700 workers. One is the Aeolian American Corp., which makes pianos and piano parts, and the other is Despatch Shops, Inc., which manufactures railroad equipment. The next largest communities in Monroe County are Fairport and Brockport. Brockport was born because the Erie Canal happened to come that way. Though it has remained a small com-

munity, its population increased by one-third between 1940 and 1950.



Ontario County is the second most populous of the nine in this area, yet it claims only 7.5 percent of the people. Its chief industry is the making of machinery (except electrical), while others of importance are the processing of foods and the making of instruments and related products. Its most populous center is Geneva, which in 1950, with a total of 17,087 inhabitants, was the third largest community in the Rochester Area. It increased about 10 percent between 1940 and 1950, and showed signs of becoming larger; more than 3,000 of its citizens were employed in manufacturing. Geneva boasts two companies that employ more than 700 workers each: the Shuron Optical Co., Inc., which makes a variety of optical goods, and Timely Clothes, Inc., which specializes in men's clothing. This community also has large iron foundries that make steam boilers and furnaces. Another population center of Ontario County is Canandaigua, with 8,296 people in 1950. This community, which was important back in the early days of the turnpikes and the great land companies, is today a maker of tinware.

Third among the counties of the Area in population is Wayne County. A large portion of its manufacturing population is concerned with the making of stone, clay, and glass products, though another large portion processes food and kindred products. Newark, with a population of 10,275 in 1950, is the largest community in the county; it makes furniture and paper boxes. Lyons manufactures certain articles of men's wear, such as suspenders and belts. Palmyra, though small, is the home of the Garlock Packing Co., which makes mechanical packing for all types of machinery. This is the only concern in the county employing more than 700 workers.



Genesee County has 6 percent of the population of the Rochester Area. Its most important industries are the making of machinery other than electrical, and the manufacture of stone, clay, and glass products. Batavia, with a population of 17,807, was in 1950 second only to Rochester. This community, which in the distant past was the home of one of the great land companies and later the center of Anti-masonic agitation, is an important industrial center. It contains two firms each of which employs more than 700 workers: the Doehler Harvis Corp., which makes

nonferrous die castings; and Massey-Harris Co., which makes farm machinery. Other goods manufactured here include clothing, paper boxes, and iron products. Another Genesee County community is LeRoy, which has the large firm of the Lapp Insulator Co., Inc., makers of porcelain insulators and radar and radio parts. Other products made at LeRoy are Jell-O and underwear.

Livingston County has 5 percent of the population of the Rochester Area. Its industrial workers are employed in the printing and publishing field, in making electrical machinery, and in processing foods. It has no large industrial establishments, and its largest community, Dansville, had in 1950 a population of only 5,238. Other centers of population in the county are Mount Morris and Geneseo.

Next among the counties stands Wyoming. A large number of its industrial workers make textile mill products. Its largest community is Perry, which in 1950 had a population of 4,560; it is the home of the Perry Knitting Co., Inc., which specializes in the manufacture of children's nightwear and men's sport shirts. Other Wyoming communities are Warsaw, which produces buttons and elevators, and Attica, which makes stokers for furnaces.



Orleans County and Seneca County are about the same size in population. More than two-thirds of the industrial workers in Orleans County are engaged in the processing of foods grown in the rich farm lands. Medina is the largest community, reporting 6,187 people in 1950. Here is located a large plant, the H. J. Heinz Co., which prepares baby foods, soups, and vinegar. Albion is the home of another large cannery, the Snider Co.



More than half of the industrial workers of Seneca County are engaged in the making of machinery. The largest community (6,629 in 1950) is Seneca Falls, which was identified so closely with the radical social movement that infected the area a century and more ago. The largest industrial firm today is Gould Pumps, Inc., which specializes in the manufacture of pumps. Another important center of population in Seneca County is Waterloo.

Yates is the smallest county in the Rochester Area; it has a population of only 17,614 (in 1950), and only a small portion of the inhabitants are engaged in manufacturing. The only important industrial center is Penn Yan, which in 1950 had a population of 5,479. Here we find small canneries and wineries, and also small factories making fruit baskets.



Viewing the Genesee Falls



Buffalo and Main Streets, Rochester—1840

The Rochester Area was achieving agricultural leadership even before its industries were developing. The growth of wheat by the early settlers was enormous; and it was this farm crop that stimulated the development of Rochester as the Flour City. When other crops replaced wheat, the farmers of the area continued to set records; this dominance has continued to the present. In 1950 there were more farms in the Rochester Area than in any other area of the state. The value of the farm products sold in 1949 was \$103,480,000, or about one-sixth of the entire state total. The dominance of the Rochester Area in agriculture can be best illustrated by the fact that its nearest competitor, the Northern Area, produced farm products worth \$67,878,000.



This Area leads all sections of the state in the growing of vegetables, since in 1949 it produced about 30 percent of the state total. The counties that contributed the most vegetables were Wayne, Orleans, and Monroe, in that order. The Rochester Area grew about three-eighths of all the fruits and nuts raised in New York State; nearly half of the Area's total came from Wayne County alone. No other county in the state comes close enough seriously to challenge Wayne's leadership in this field.

The Rochester Area leads all upstate areas in horticultural specialties, though in the state as a whole the New York City Metropolitan Area and Long Island produce more. Monroe County ranks first within the Area, followed by Wayne and Livingston. The Area also leads the rest of the state in miscellaneous crops, and produces more than half of the upstate total. Wyoming County is an important maple sugar producer. The sale of livestock and livestock products form an important part of the farmers' income here, even though the Area is not a state leader. The value of dairy products is nearly three times the value of the vegetables sold. Wyoming County is the leader in the Area, followed by Livingston, Monroe, and Genesee. Wayne County is the Area leader in poultry and poultry products, followed by Monroe and Ontario.



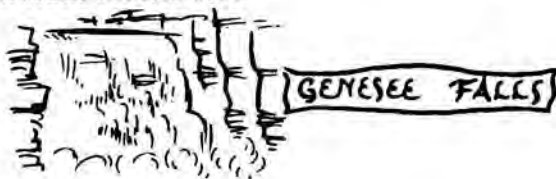
The Rochester Area has won a permanent place in the pages of agricultural history. The navy bean, as a field crop, had its origin on an Orleans County farm in the 1830's. Beans did not become popular, however, until after the Civil War. During the War the Union soldiers were fed beans regularly. Although forced to eat them at first or starve, the soldiers learned to like them, and carried this taste to all parts of the nation. Soon New York State was producing two million bushels of beans per year.

Historical farm publications were born here. Although earlier farm journals were published elsewhere, the first paper to be written from the point of view of practical experience was the *Genesee Farmer*, first published by Luther Tucker in Rochester in 1831. Another publication of historical importance was the *New Genesee Farmer*, which was started in Rochester nine years later.



It was in the Rochester Area that farmers first used tile to drain wet clay soils, and thereby greatly increase the extent of productive farm land. The first drainage tile used in the United States was laid in 1851 in the town of Fayette, Seneca County. It was in this area that S. M. Babcock perfected a device that would accurately determine the butter-fat content of milk; though he was born outside this Area, it was at Geneva in Ontario County that he began his experiments. It was in this Area that the first black raspberry was perfected—the Doolittle, which was first raised in Ontario County in 1850. There were many other achievements too numerous to mention. Such achievements in agriculture were just as important to the economic development of the area as were the achievements in the factory towns.

The Rochester Area also beckons to the tourist. Many fine recreational facilities are to be found in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region, in the scenic Genesee Valley, and along Lake Ontario. Perhaps the best known scenic attraction is beautiful Letchworth State Park. This park is often spoken of as "The Grand Canyon of the East," because of the great gorge carved in the Genesee River. At one point the walls of the gorge tower about four hundred feet above the stream. The river reaches this depth after three plunges over cliffs, each of which is between seventy and one hundred feet high. The park received its name in honor of William Pryor Letchworth, who deeded his house "Glen Iris" to the state when power companies threatened to spoil its natural beauty. Here the tourist can see the last council house of the Seneca Indians. Here in 1872 Ex-President Fillmore and other distinguished leaders of our nation attended the last council of the Senecas, together with the descendants of such famous Indians as Red Jacket, Cornplanter, and Joseph Brant. Here also the tourist can see the log house in which lived Mary Jemison, "the white woman of the Genesee." She remains one of the interesting traditions of this area. At her home in Pennsylvania she was captured by Indians at the age of fifteen, and taken to Ohio, where she married an Indian warrior; later she moved into the Genesee Valley. She shunned every opportunity to return to white civilization, and lived among the Indians all her life.

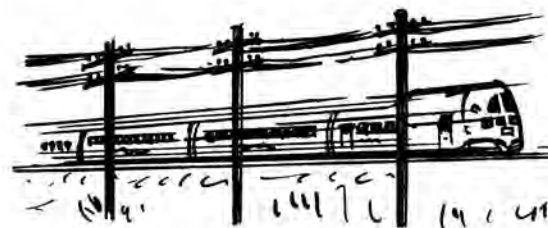


Other widely-known attractions include the Mormon Shrine on Cumorah Hill; the beautiful rose gardens around Newark; and the famous lilac display in Rochester's Highland Park. The 281 amusement establishments in the Area in 1948 reported more than twelve and a half million dollars in receipts, or more than \$44,000 per establishment. There were 85 hotels in the Area, 27 of which were in the city of Rochester; their annual receipts were about nine million dollars, approximately two-thirds of which was reported by the Rochester hotels.



There were six daily papers in the Rochester Area in 1951. Largest, of course, are the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* and the Rochester *Times-Union*, both of which reported a circulation of about 110,000; the third largest was the Batavia *News*, with a circulation of 11,000, followed by the Geneva *Times*, the Canandaigua *Messenger*, and the Medina *Journal Register*. The Area also has adequate radio and television communication, though the large stations are confined to Rochester.

In 1948 there were 9,840 establishments engaged in retail trade. The total retail sales in the area exceeded the volume of wholesale receipts by a large amount; the average sales per establishment were about \$77,000. The highest average sales were in Batavia, where they approached \$100,000, followed by Rochester. Canandaigua, Newark, and East Rochester, in that order. The average, however, was good in all the communities—the lowest being about \$41,000 in Mount Morris.



Transportation facilities are extensive. Here are six major and three minor railroad lines, which tend to radiate out from Rochester. Here is the great port of Rochester. Nine separate bus companies serve Rochester. Daily air service is available at the Rochester Municipal Airport. About 9,000 miles of improved highways link the farms with the industrial communities. All these factors contribute to a healthy economic situation, and make the area an ideal retail and wholesale market.

In 1948 there were 1,143 wholesale establishments in the Rochester Area, and the average sales of each were considerably in excess of half a million dollars. About two-thirds of these firms were to be found in the city of Rochester, although there were some in all the nine counties.



George Eastman Changed This.

A total of 3,167 other firms were engaged in selected service trades; these of course centered also in Rochester. The annual average receipts per establishment were more than \$17,000.

Bank deposits reached a total of \$833,202,000 in 1949, and averaged more than \$1,000 for each resident of the Rochester Area; the average in Monroe County was \$1,300, yet in Orleans County it was under \$500. Following Monroe County in total bank deposits were Ontario, Wayne, Genesee, Livingston, Wyoming, Seneca, Orleans, and Yates. A further indication of the economic well-being of the Rochester Area is the relatively large number of motor vehicles owned here (approaching 300,000 in 1950). There were about a quarter of a million telephones in service in 1949, nearly one for every three people. The full property value of the Area in 1949 was about a billion and a quarter. Taxes levied varied from a county high in Wyoming County, of 4.3 percent of full value, to 3.3 in Yates and Ontario.



CHAPTER VII *Education*

There are a total of twelve institutions of higher learning in the Rochester Area. The largest is the University of Rochester, which has an enrollment of 6,500 students; it was founded in 1850, and was of Baptist origin, as was the Rochester Theological Seminary, founded soon after. At first the University was for men only, but begin-

ning in 1900 women were admitted too. Its Memorial Art Gallery is today one of the best-known art museums in the state. Rochester is the home of the Eastman School of Music, which is connected with the University of Rochester; it is known throughout the cultural world; the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the best among cities the size of Rochester. Throughout its history Rochester has been a pioneer in the field of public education since the turn of the century. Many of the educational practices taken for granted in our own day were started here. It was a pioneer in the teaching of homemaking; it taught sewing as early as 1901, and cooking as early as 1908. It was also a pioneer in the movement to provide special training for children who were below normal in intelligence. Rochester was also the first city east of the Mississippi to have junior high schools, as we understand their definition today. There are many additional aspects of Rochester's cultural achievement; and various other educational institutions and cultural societies too numerous to mention here. It should be sufficient to state that Rochester's cultural traditions have been and are outstanding, and that the accomplishments in this field have proved as far-reaching as the achievements in industry and agriculture.



Geneva boasts also of Hobart College, William Smith College, and a state agri-

cultural experiment station. Hobart College has a long and interesting history; it grew originally out of Geneva Academy, which in 1822 was transformed into a college by Episcopalians, and after 1825 became known as Geneva College. In 1852 it was renamed Hobart College. Geneva also was the home of a medical college, from which was graduated in 1849 Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician in the United States. Another educational institution of historical importance was the Ontario Female Seminary, which was organized at Canandaigua in 1825. It was one of the national leaders in providing education for women at a time when education was considered necessary for men only.

St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester was founded in 1891 and opened in 1893 to prepare students for the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. More than 2000 have been ordained to the priesthood. Nazareth College, also in Rochester, was founded in 1924. Conducted by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, it is dedicated to higher education for women. Yet another Rochester educational institution is St. John Fisher College which opened its doors in 1951 and graduated its first class in 1955. It is under the direction of the Basilian Fathers.

It is difficult to find another area whose development and achievements are as numerous and as well balanced. With such fine traditions, so much economic wealth, and such fine cultural opportunities, the Rochester Area is well equipped to remain a leader in the Empire State as the future unfolds. May the Great Spirit continue to bless the land of the Senecas.

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List of Suggested Activities for Rochester Area

1. On an outline map of New York State, draw in the nine counties of this area and locate the county seat of each one. Also include the natural waterways that help to make up this area.

2. Draw a map of New York and on it, label the territory which belonged to each of the five tribes that made up the Iroquois League. Color each territory so the extent of it can be easily be seen.

3. In the Atlas, look up the routes followed by General John Sullivan and James Clinton as they came into western New York State to break the power of the Iroquois. Then draw a free hand map of New York State and with two different colors trace their routes. Locate each place of importance in the expedition.

4. Consult other sections of this series, the Teacher Edition index, and your encyclopedia to learn more of the biographies of:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Red Jacket | Fox Sisters |
| Father Isaac Jogues | Susan B. Anthony |
| General John Sullivan | Amelia Bloomer |
| General James Clinton | George Eastman |
| Charles Williamson | John Jacob Bausch |
| Joseph Ellicott | Henry Lamb |
| Jemima Wilkinson | Mary Jemison |
| Joseph Smith | |

5. Do an outline map of western New York State, placing on it the following places of importance in the western settlement of the state. Also consult your Atlas.

1. Military Tract
2. Preemption Line
3. Phelps and Gorham Purchase
4. Pulteney Estate
5. Bath
6. Morris Reserve
7. Holland Land Company
8. Batavia
9. Your community, if you live in western New York State.

6. On a transportation map of New York State locate the following: Use your Atlas.

1. Erie Canal
2. Genesee Valley Canal
3. Chemung Canal
4. Seneca and Cayuga Canal
5. Crooked Lake Canal
6. Oswego Canal
7. Oneida Lake Canal

7. Imagine you are traveling on the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo in the 1820's. Write a letter (using correct letter form) to a friend telling him of your experiences.

8. Plan a discussion on the merits of railroad transportation over canal transportation in the period 1820-1840. Outline your arguments for and against. Have several teams of two, then allow the class to decide which means of transportation has the best arguments presented.

9. List the industries and products this area produces in chart form as:

City or Village, Industry, Products

From the above chart make a large New York State map on oak tag or heavy cardboard. On it put

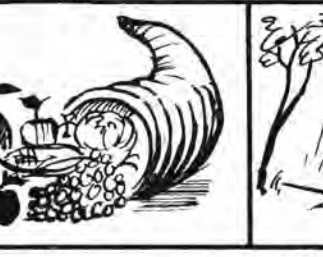
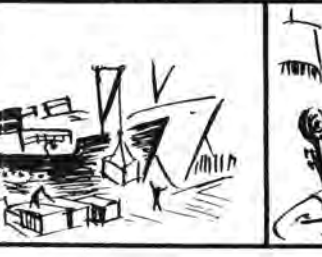
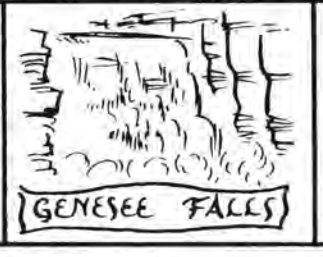
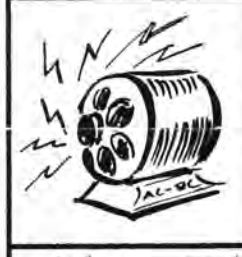
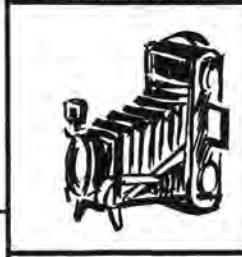
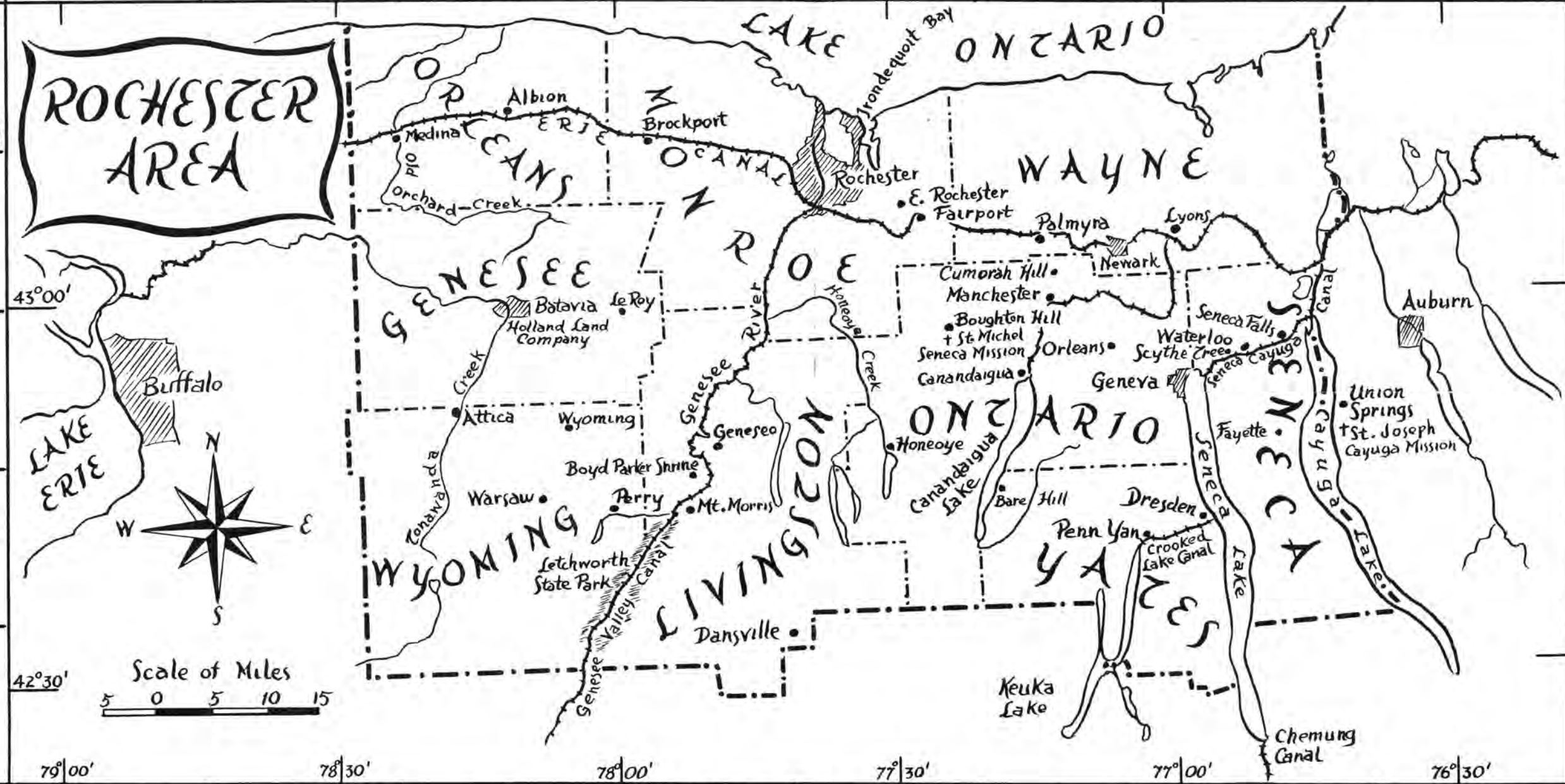
1. all of the industrial communities,
2. all of the products (Draw a picture of the product, cut it from a magazine, or put on the real product or a portion of it).

10. This Rochester area is a leader in agricultural production. Make a chart of the agricultural products as:

County, Product

From this chart make a large New York State map and put on it

1. all of the counties
2. all of the agricultural products (Draw a picture of the product, cut it from a magazine, or put on the real product).



THE ROCHESTER AREA



MANHATTAN 1626



NEW AMSTERDAM
SURRENDER 1664



FORT STANWYX



WASHINGTON LANDS AT
WALL STREET 1789



ORISKANY 1777



BURGOYNE'S SURRENDER 1777



THE ERIE CANAL 1830



DE WITT CLINTON 1831