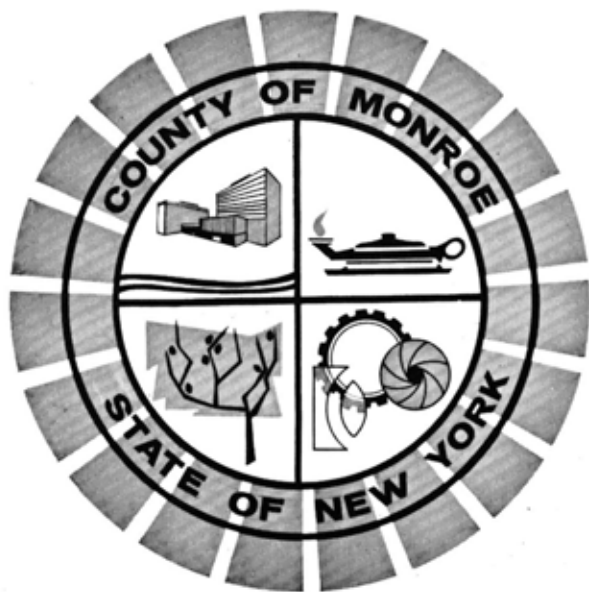




# **HISTORICAL MARKERS**

**PLACED BY  
STATE AND COUNTY**



**IN**

**THE COUNTY OF MONROE**

**STATE OF NEW YORK**

## Foreword

Markers in green and gold, Monroe County colors, and in the blue and gold of New York State recognize the growing awareness of our local heritage. To satisfy the curiosity about these references to our historic past, this booklet is presented under the sponsorship of the Historical Affairs Committee of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.

Erection of markers by Monroe County was begun under the direction of Mrs. Florence Lee, then County Historian, in observance of the New York State Year of History in 1959. The program was continued in the next three years, bringing the present total to 65. The first county court house, built in 1822, is the motif used on the green and gold markers which were designed by Carl Schmidt. The research and additional information about these vignettes of history are available in the Monroe County History Office.

New York State has discontinued its program of marking individual sites in favor of the erection of large regional markers, two of which have been placed in Monroe County.

Markers indicated with an asterisk (\*) are State markers. Markers indicated with two asterisks (\*\*) are markers that are missing.

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MONROE COUNTY HISTORIAN OFFICE  
39 WEST MAIN STREET  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14614

Brighton - 5  
 Chile - 3  
 Clarkson - 5  
 Gates - 2  
 Grace - 3  
 Hamlen - 2  
 Henrietta - 3  
 Irondequoit - 4  
 Mendon - 7  
 Ogden - 3  
 Parma - 4  
 Penfield - 6  
 Perinton - 11  
 Pittsford - 10  
 Riga - 6  
 Rush - 3  
 Sweden - 4 (all in Brossport)  
 Webster - 5  
 Wheeland - 12  
 Rochester - 22

Corrections:

- 1) State markers don't have 1 \*
- 2) Sch #14 should say Lake Rd East Fork @ North Hamlen Rd

## Town of BRIGHTON



### DENONVILLE TRAIL

French forces returned to Irondequoit Bay along this route July 25, 1687, ending a 14-day campaign to break the power of the Senecas.

Clover Street, south of Monroe Avenue.

### SEMINARY-1845

Built for Celestia Bloss  
 Author, teacher-principal of Clover Street Seminary.  
 It reopened in 1874 as St. Mark's School for Boys.

1550 Clover Street.

### WARRANT HOMESTEAD

Settled in 1819 by Thomas Warrant, coppersmith and abolitionist. This home used as station on the Underground Railroad.

1956 West Henrietta Road

## CITY OF TRYON

First white settlement  
west of Canandaigua  
founded 1797, abandoned  
1818. John Lusk was the  
first settler 1789.

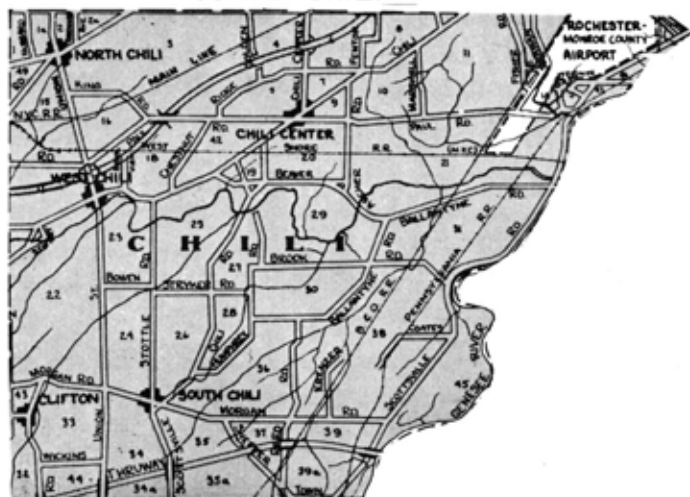
\*200 Landing Rd. No.

The Meadows North of this  
Stone form the site of  
**THE INDIAN LANDING**  
famous in the early history  
of this country.

\*Blossom and Landing  
Road, on boulder.

It was the beginning of the  
**OHIO TRAIL** from CANADA  
to the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.  
From this point the portage  
ran west to the mouth of  
**RED CREEK** in **GENESEE  
VALLEY PARK**. Skirting  
the southern base of the  
**PINNACLE** and **MT. HOPE**.  
Rochester Centennial 1912.

Town of CHILI



## JOSEPH MORGAN

Revolutionary War Captain  
First settler in Chili in  
1792. Supplied seed grain  
to whole region and set  
out one of first orchards.

Scottsville Road, 1 mile  
south of Morgan Road.

## B. T. ROBERTS

Founded Chili Seminary in  
1866. His life of service  
is honored in the name of  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Chartered in 1949.

\*\*4291 Buffalo Road.

## HARMON MILL - 1834

Flour ground here by  
Anan Harmon took  
1st prize at first  
international exhibition  
London, 1851.

Village Square, Clifton.

Town of CLARKSON



## LEWIS SWIFT

Widely known astronomer,  
discoverer of 12 comets  
and over 1200 nebulae,  
was born here in 1820.

8265 Ridge Road West.

## HENRY R. SELDEN

1805-1885

Lieut. Gov. and Judge lived  
here. George B. Selden,  
inventor of "Selden Patent" for  
automobiles, was born here.

\*8402 Ridge Road

### HOUSTON TAVERN

A popular stopping place in stage coach days. Built soon after 1825 for Isaac Houston who was the sole proprietor for many years.

\*7089 Ridge Road West.

### PHILIP BOSS

Artist and cabinet maker lived here from 1820 to 1830, moving to Rochester where he achieved great popularity as a painter of portraits.

\*8412 Ridge Road

### HOME OF SIMEON B. JEWETT

1801-1869

Political Leader, Jurist, Partner of Henry R. Selden, U.S. Marshal, Northern N.Y. under President Buchanan.

\*3779 Lake Road

### Town of GATES



### HARRIS SEED FARM

1879

Founded by Joseph Harris Editor and Owner of the "Genesee Farmer" 1856-1865.

3670 Buffalo Road

### TOWN OF GATES

Named in 1813

Last remnant of old Town of Northampton

1548 Buffalo Road.



### Town of GREECE

### LONG POND SITE

An Iroquois group camped here around 1400 A.D. Ash beds excavated in 1912 yielded artifacts of bone, stone and pottery.

28 Kuhn Road.

### OLD RIDGE ROAD

Molded by the great glacier and long an Indian trail. Traveled by pioneers' ox carts, covered wagons, stagecoaches. Town of Greece founded 1822.

2505 Ridge Road West.

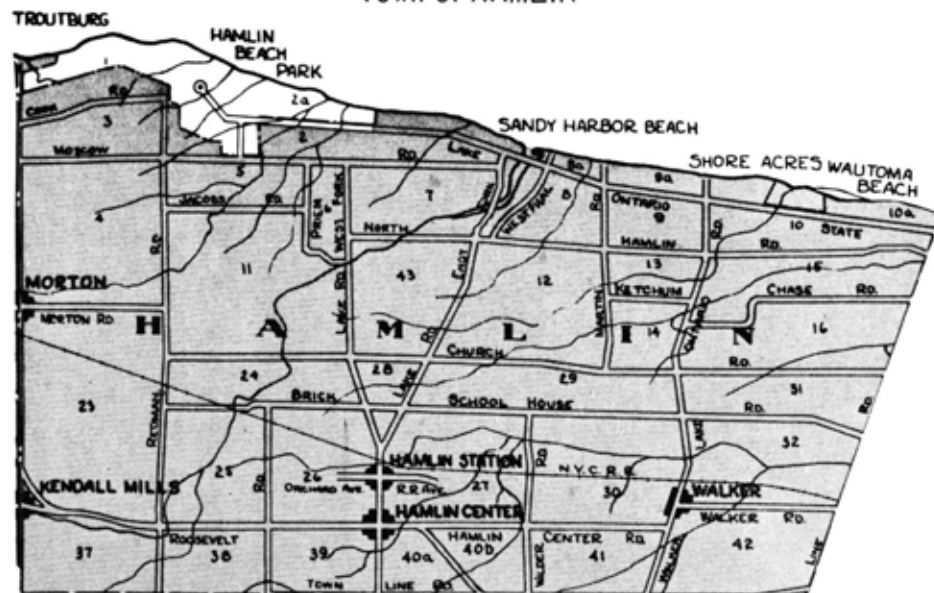
## OLD TROLLEY ROUTE

1891 - 1925

Rochester-Grand View Beach  
and later Rochester-Manitou  
Railroad linked resorts  
of a gay era at the lakeside.

2000 Edgemere Drive.

## Town of HAMLIN



### HAMLIN NO. 14

The last common school  
district in the county to  
operate a one-room school.  
Annexed to Hilton Central  
School District, Sept. 1956.

Lake Road at Hamlin Road.

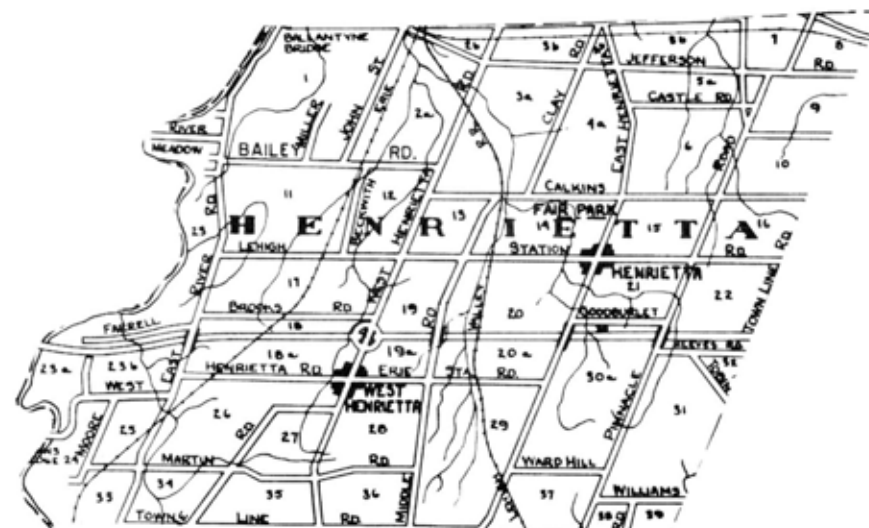
## TOWN OF HAMLIN

1853

First named Union  
Renamed Hamlin in 1861  
for Vice President  
Hannibal Hamlin.

Lake Road, south of  
Route 18.

## Town of HENRIETTA



### BORN IN LOG HOUSE

On this site in 1825

Antoinette Brown Blackwell  
was first ordained woman  
Minister in United States.  
This house her early home

1099 Pinnacle Road.

### MONROE ACADEMY

Boarding school erected in  
1826, one of the earliest  
for advanced education in  
Western New York. Became  
Union Free School in 1871

3044 East Henrietta Road.

### CARRIAGE SHOP

Built in mid 1830's for ox  
and horse shoeing, wagon and  
carriage making. Later used  
for foundry, steam sawmill and  
farm implement factory.

5375 West Henrietta Road.

*See what the  
carriage shop was  
with this as an example  
half the country's  
buildings would  
be made.*

## Town of IRONDEQUOIT



### BUILT IN 1839

Home of Isaac Butts  
born 1816, died 1874  
founder, Rochester Daily Union.  
Editor, Rochester Advertiser  
and Union Advertiser.

1571 Ridge Road East.

### SWAYNE'S CORNERS

Town of Irondequoit organized  
April 2, 1839 at this early  
crossroad settlement. Here  
later were Swayne's Hotel and,  
until 1957, Forest House.

2100 Ridge Road East.

### FORT DES SABLES

A French trading Post  
built by Joncaire near  
this site in 1717 as a  
Seneca link to New France,  
aroused British ire.

Culver Road at Sea Breeze.

### HOSEA ROGERS

Pioneer and Lake Captain  
Born at Carthage 1812  
Settled here 1832  
Built this home 1852  
Died here in 1904.

2689 St. Paul Boulevard.

*I don't see what so  
special about this  
houses.*

## Town of MENDON



### MENDON ACADEMY

Incorporated 1836  
Acquired by Mendon School  
District No. 2, Jan. 3, 1839  
Closed as school and sold  
to Fire District, 1950

Mendon-Pittsford Road,  
Mendon.

### CAMP SITE

Of primitive Algonkins  
who fished here ages ago  
Driven out by the Iroquois  
who occupied this region.

\*Mendon Ponds Park,  
Canfield Road.

### BRIGHAM YOUNG

Lived in the rear  
wing of this house  
when he joined the  
Mormons in 1832.

\*Cheese-Factory and  
Ionia-Mendon Roads.

### TOTIAKTON

Seneca Town of 120 cabins  
was located here  
burned by Denonville, 1687  
Jesuit Mission, 1668 - 1683

\*Plains Road.

### WAR SITE

Denonville's Army of 3000 French and Indian allies camped here 23 July 1687 returning to Irondequoit.

\*Mendon Ponds Park, north of Pond Road.

### SITE OF MILL

1791

Built by Zebulon Norton of Vermont, first pioneer in village of Honeoye Falls.

\*So. Main Street  
Honeoye Falls.

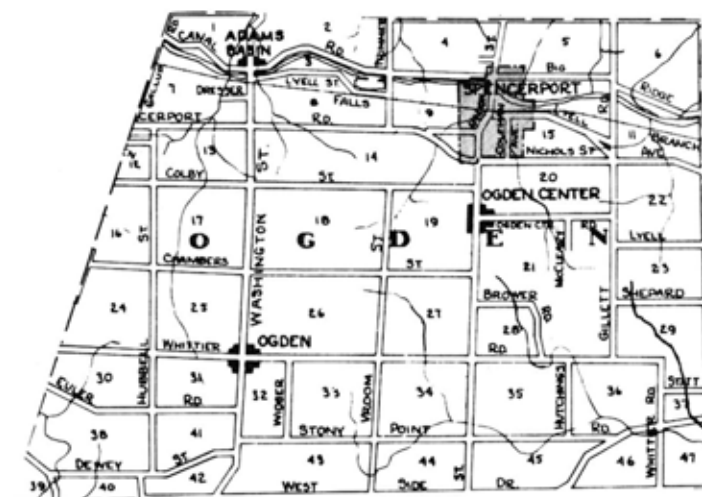
### TOTIAKTON

"In the Great Bend"

July 1687 French victors over Senecas lifted their standards and claimed this country for Louis XIV

\*Plains Road.

Town of OGDEN



**SITE OF HOME**  
of Alexander Milliner,  
Drumer Boy in Bodyguard  
of George Washington.  
Later, soldier in  
Revolutionary War.

Canal and Adams Basin  
Roads.

### INDIAN HILL

Indian encampment when  
whites entered region.  
Grandparents of Frances E.  
Willard settlement here in  
1816 as pioneers on this land

\*287 Dewey Road.

### BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN T. TROWBRIDGE

1827 - 1916

Poet; Author of "Darius  
Green and His Flying  
Machine" and other Stories

\*2726 Nichols Street,  
Spencerport.

Town of PARMA



First settlement in the  
**TOWN OF PARMA**  
Bezaleel Atchinson and  
family came in 1796. He  
erected a log house and  
first schoolhouse here

Hill Road, south of  
Burritt Road.

### SURVEYED 1796

By Joseph Colt and named  
Braddocks Bay Township.  
Five families led by Benj.  
Weeks survived extreme  
hardships that first year.

Curtis Road near Manitou  
Road.

### PIONEER SITE

Jonathan Underwood of Vermont settled here in 1805. The First Baptist Church was erected nearby in 1830.

286 South Avenue, Hilton.

### METHODIST CHURCH

Oldest west of the Genesee  
First Sermon preached 1804;  
Class organized 1811.  
Church built 1830.

\*Parma Center Road.

### Town of PENFIELD



### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Creek Street at Embury Road.

### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Five Mile Line Road, south of Whalen Road.

### PENFIELD-1810

Named for Daniel Penfield original proprietor.  
First town meeting was held April 2, 1811 in early schoolhouse here

1821 Penfield Road.

### CAMP SITE 1687

Denonville's Army of about 2600 Frenchmen and Indians Camped here overnight July 12 on the way to attack the Seneca Indians.

1891 Clark Road.

### THE FALLS

Of Irondequoit Creek dropped 90 feet in a mile Called "Sgoh-sa-is-thah" by the Indians, later gave power to many mills

2160 Washington Road.

### IRONDEQUOIT

Site of a large Algonkin Town  
The Senecas lingered here until 1845

\*1800 Blossom Road. \*\*

## Town of PERINTON



### HANNAN HOMESTEAD

Occupied since 1810 by Hannan family. James Hannan, pioneer and 1812 Soldier; Son and Grandson Perinton Supervisors

6653 Pittsford-Palmyra Road.

### FULLAM'S BASIN

Early rival of Fairport named for Elisha Fullam From this settlement Erie Canal passengers often took stage to Rochester

185 W. Church Street, Fairport

### RICHARDSON TAVERN

Beside old Erie towpath At Hartwell's now Bushnell's Basin, near Great Embankment Western canal terminal 1821-23 Shipping Port until after 1850

1474 Marsh Road, Bushnell's Basin.

### GLOVER PERRIN

Build Perinton's first log cabin here in 1790. His brother Jesse in 1791 cleared land to the west used for cemetery

723 Ayrault Road.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9

Formed 1822  
in towns Perinton & Pittsford  
First School built 1835  
later brick and stone school  
was used 1856-1898

107 No. Washington Street,  
East Rochester.

## DENONVILLE TRAIL

Linden Road at Irondequoit  
Creek.

## ABNER WIGHT HOME

Built by Abner Wight 1794  
Moved here from Wight farm  
Across road - first white  
child to survive born here  
Later home of Col. Howard

\*234 So. Main Street. Fairport.

## LASALLE ROAD

Route used by the French  
Army of Denonville to  
destroy Seneca Indians at  
Town south of Victor, N.Y.  
July 13, 1687

\*Pittsford-Victor Road, east  
of Bushnell's Basin.\*\*

## SENECA TRAIL

Traversed by French Army  
of Denonville, 1687. Here  
were Seneca Lodges where  
friendly Indian followers  
of Trail were welcomed

\*Pittsford-Bushnell's Basin  
Road, 2 miles east of Pittsford.

## STAPLES INN

First stop west of Palmyra  
on Genesee Turnpike to change  
stage horses. Built by Captain  
Olney Staples, 1820. Egypt's  
third tavern.

\*7056 Pittsford-Palmyra Road.

## DE LAND CHEMICAL CO.

Site of Saleratus Works  
Established 1852 by the De Land  
Family. The product which sold  
internationally helped develop  
Fairport

\*4 No. Main Street, Fairport.

## Town of PITTSFORD



### CARTERSVILLE

An active shipping port  
on the Erie Canal  
Horses were changed here  
in era of the towpath

East Street, at Jefferson Road.

### SPRING HOUSE

1822

Resort hotel on stage route  
and near old Lock 62 of  
the Erie Canal. Renowned  
for sulphur springs nearby

3001 Monroe Avenue.

### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Marsh Road, north of Thruway.

### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Marsh Road, at Irondequoit  
Creek.

### SENECA TRAIL

Crossing the Irondequoit  
thickly wooded, perilous  
defile where Denonville  
expected an ambush on  
Journey to Gannogaro, 1687

\*437 Jefferson Road.

## DENONVILLE

With army of 3,000  
French and Indians  
Crossed these grounds  
twice in July, 1687

\*Oak Hill Country Club.

### THE FIRST HOUSE

In Pittsford Village  
was erected on this  
spot by Israel Stone  
in 1789

\*38 State Street.

### FIRST LIBRARY

In the Genesee Country  
Northfield Library Co., 1803-  
1808, kept its books at the  
Farm of Ezra Patterson,  
first Librarian

\*92 Pittsford-Mendon Center  
Road.

### ON THIS SPOT

Stood the first school  
house in Monroe County  
erected 1794; first  
Teacher, John Barrows

\*190 Pittsford-Mendon Road.

### PITTSFORD VILLAGE

Founded August 1789  
By Captain Simon Stone  
and Lieutenant Israel Stone

\*Main Street, at Monroe  
Avenue

## Town of RIGA



**EARLY CHURCH**  
First Congregational Church of Riga. Church society started 1806. Building erected 1823, copy of Hinsdale, Mass. church

**HOTEL CREEK**  
28 settlers spent the winter, 1806, in surveyor's cabin called "The Hotel". First Riga home, 1806, by Elihu Church, owner of this land

**OLD TAVERN**  
Built by J. Thomson, 1808 first frame house and first Post Office in Town of Riga Thomas Adams Homestead

**FOUNDED 1843**  
Churchville graded school occupied this building until 1895. A fine example of the lost art of building with cobblestones.

**RIGA ACADEMY**  
A flourishing School for boarding and day pupils was organized here in 1846. Building was earlier known as Thomson's Tavern.

**FRANCES E. WILLARD**  
Great Temperance leader was born in house standing on this site Sept. 28, 1839. The Willards left this house for Ohio two years later.

Riga Center and Churchville Roads.

Chili-Riga Center Road, east of Riga Center

\*Riga Center and Riga-Mumford Roads.

\*22 W. Buffalo Street, Churchville.

\*Riga-Mumford and Riga Center Roads.

\*In building wall, 24 So. Main Street, Churchville.

## Town of RUSH



## BAPTIST COLONY

1804

Sixteen families from Connecticut settled here First town meeting of Rush was held near here, 1818

941 Rush-West Rush Road

Site of a settlement of TUSCARORAS  
6th Nation of Iroquois League. Driven from Carolina by British 1714-1722

\*County Line, Rush-West Rush Roads.

## HONEOYE VALLEY

Three Indian Tribes have hunted, fished and tilled the soil here for thousands of years.

\*East River Road, at Rush-West Rush Road.

## Town of SWEDEN



### BROCKPORT CENTRAL

Centralized 1927, first Central School District in county, 34th in state formed Aug. 17, 1927 from 19 area school districts.

Allen Street, Brockport.

### MARY JANE HOLMES

1828-1907

Author of forty novels sold in the millions lived here at "Brown Cottage" on this site.

25 College Street, Brockport

### SITE OF

Baptist College 1834 Collegiate Inst. 1842-State Normal School est. 1866 Teachers Coll. 1942 State Univ. Coll. of Education 1959

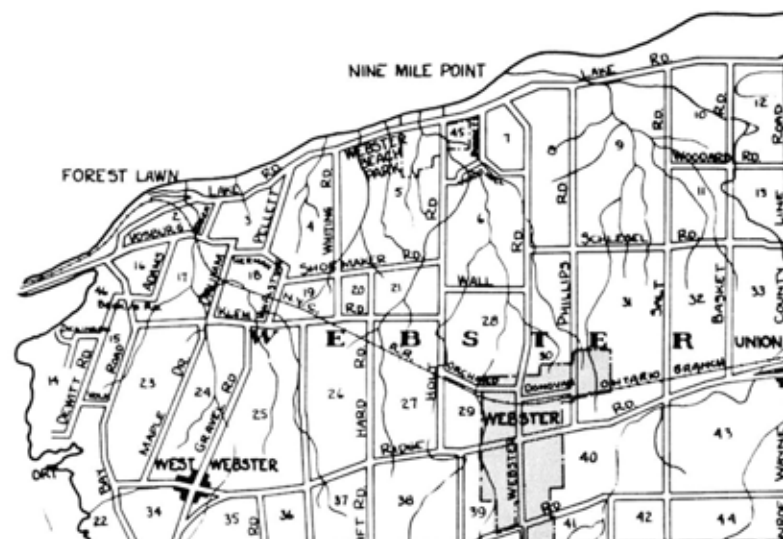
College Street, Brockport

### MC CORMICK REAPERS

made here in 1846. Seymour and Morgan by building 100 Reapers for Cyrus Mc Cormick began quantity production of Reapers

\*Market and Park Street, Brockport.

## Town of WEBSTER



### HOLT HOMESTEAD

of 1812 pioneer family, birthplace, Dr. L. Emmett Holt nationally known author, Pediatrician, 1855-1924

767 Holt Road.

### MILL SITE

Caleb Lyon, pioneer, built the first sawmill near here in 1806. He formed a settlement and projected a harbor at Nine Mile Point

1420 Lake Road.

### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Bay Road, south of Lake Road.

### DENONVILLE TRAIL

Bay Road at Webster Town Line.

### FORT SITE

Here Denonville's French Army landed to invade the Seneca Country; July 12, 1687, 400 men were left to build fort; Battle at Victor July 13, 1687

\*266 Lake Road, Webster

## Town of WHEATLAND



### RAWSON HARMON II

Founded Agricultural  
School here in 1846.  
Won first prize at first  
World's Fair in London  
1851, for wheat grown here.

2100 North Road.

### NORTHAMPTON

First town west of Genesee  
River organized here 1797  
Ebenezer Allan Home 1786  
Peter Shaeffer Farm 1789  
Terminus Pioneer R. R. 1838

\*41 Main Street, Scottsville.

### ERECTED 1834

Quaker meeting house  
Built and used by Orthodox  
Quakers 1834-1854  
By Hicksites 1854-1873

\*Quaker Road.

### BURIAL SITE

Quaker Cemetery  
bought 1833  
from Darius Shadbolt

\*Burrell Road, near Bower-  
man Road.

### ERECTED 1854

By Orthodox Quakers  
used thirty years

\*South Road, between River  
and Bowerman Roads.

**SITE OF FIRST**  
Quaker Meeting House  
Town of Wheatland  
Frame building 1827  
used until 1854  
by Hicksites

\*32 Burrell Road

**SITE OF**  
**EARLY SCHOOL**  
Quakers met here  
1824-1827

\*34 Burrell Road.

**FIRST HOUSE**  
West of Genesee River  
stood 1700 feet due south  
"Indian " Allen, building, 1786  
Peter Sheffer, Settler, 1789

\*Scottsville-West Henrietta  
Road.

**COX FERRY**  
Operated by Joseph Cox  
1820 to 1830. Replaced by  
covered wooden bridge  
built by Ira Carpenter  
and used from 1830 to 1870

\*Scottsville-Rush Road and  
Wheatland-Rush Road at  
Genesee River.

**CANAL STREET**  
Road to Genesee Valley  
Canal Landing and to  
warehouses of Carpenter  
and Philip Garbut.  
Canal used 1840 to 1878

\*6 Rochester Street,  
Scottsville.

**FEEDER GATES**  
Lock, Dam and Toll House  
of Genesee Valley Canal  
Located approximately  
One hundred feet East  
Operated 1840 to 1878

\*River Road, at Route 383.

**ISAAC SCOTT**  
First Scottsville settler,  
from whom Scottsville  
derives its name buried here  
Built log house on present  
Main Street 1791

\*Scottsville-Mumford Road,  
at cemetery.

# City of ROCHESTER



## CLARA BARTON

Red Cross Trail  
linking Chapters 1 & 2  
of the American Red Cross  
founded by Miss Barton at  
Dansville & Rochester 1881.

1895 Mt. Hope Avenue.

## ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Opened in September 1857  
By the Sisters of Charity  
from Emmitsburg, Maryland.  
Cared for over 3000 sick and  
wounded Civil War soldiers.

89 Genesee Street.

## CAMP HILLHOUSE

Col. Crooks' 8th N.Y. Vol. Cav.  
& Irish Brigade of 105th N.Y.  
Vol. Inf. used this county  
fairground site as Civil War  
Recruiting Station, 1861-62.

255 Crittenden Boulevard.

## ELY HOUSE - 1837

Designed by Hugh Hastings  
for Hervey Ely in Greek  
Temple style with wings  
Occupied by Howard Osgood  
1871-1905 and D.A.R. 1920

11 Livingston Park.

## 1835 HOUSE

Home of Benjamin Campbell,  
merchant-miller; later of  
Frederick Whittlesey,  
jurist. Headquarters,  
Landmark Society

123 So. Fitzhugh Street.

## NURSERY OFFICE

Designed by A. J. Davis  
in the Gothic Style, 1855  
for Ellwanger and Barry  
the nurserymen who made  
Rochester the Flower City

668 Mt. Hope Avenue.

## WAR OF 1812

Genesee Militiamen under  
Capt. Francis Brown blocked  
landing by British Fleet  
under Commodore Yeo at  
this site, May 14, 1814

Ontario Beach Park.

## CHARLOTTE CEMETERY

maintained by County of Monroe

22 River Street.

Revolutionary, War of 1812  
and Civil War veterans, lake  
captains, Sam Patch and first  
lighthouse keeper rest here.

## KINGS LANDING CEMETERY

maintained by County of Monroe

1900 Lake Avenue.

Rochester's oldest graveyard.  
Pioneer builders of river port,  
veterans of revolutionary,  
1812 and Civil Wars lie here.

## RAPIDS CEMETERY

maintained by County of Monroe

82 Congress Avenue.\*\*

Named for Genesee Rapids  
near Castletown, a settlement  
established 1804. Veterans of  
1812 and Civil Wars sleep here

### STONE STREET

Named for Enos Stone  
First Permanent Settler.  
1810, on east side of early  
Rochester. Farmer and Land  
Agent for Col. Rochester

Stone and Broad Streets.

### BRIGHTON VILLAGE

In early 19th century, hub of  
activity on stage route & canal,  
famed for seeds and nurseries.  
Church first organized in 1817  
Rochester annexed village 1905

1775 East Avenue.

### CASCONCHIAGON

Indian village at the  
falls nearby. Occupied  
by Senecas until 1819

\*Maplewood Avenue, north of  
Driving Park Avenue.

### SITE OF INDIAN FORT

Built by early Algonkins  
in form of a semicircular  
earthen embankment  
with three entrances

\*West bank of Genesee River,  
east of north end of River  
Street.\*\*

### INDIAN TOWN

In primitive wilderness  
here was a large Algonkin  
village whose bark cabins  
and tilled fields covered  
nine acres

\*River Boulevard, near Elmwood  
Avenue.

### LEWIS HENRY MORGAN'S HOME

1855-1881. Here he wrote  
his great books: "The American  
Beaver", "The Human Family",  
"Ancient Society".

\*Inner Loop and So.  
Fitzhugh Streets.\*\*

### JONATHAN CHILD

First Mayor of Rochester  
1834-1835, built the house  
in 1838 and lived here with  
his wife, Sophia Eliza Rochester  
Child, until 1850

\*37 So. Washington Street.

### OLD HIGH SCHOOL

Built on this site, 1827.  
by Brighton District 4 and 14  
named Rochester Collegiate  
Institute, 1839. Dr. Chester  
Dewey was principal 1836-51

\*Midtown Plaza.\*\*

### INDIAN SPRING

Attracted Indians here;  
supplied good water to  
Rochester's first settlers  
for a decade after 1812;  
gave name to Spring Street

\*Spring Street at Washington  
Street South.\*\*

### HIGHLAND PARK

Rochester's first Park was  
offered in 1883 by Ellwanger  
and Barry and accepted Jan.  
13, 1888. Park Commission  
was formed May 1, 1888

\*Highland Park.

### SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Outstanding leader in  
woman's rights movement  
made her home here  
with her sister Mary  
1866 1900

\*17 Madison Street.

### PIONEER SCHOOL

First Schoolhouse in Rochester  
was built of wood on this site,  
1813. It was replaced by a  
two-story stone building, 1836,  
and by this structure, 1873.

\*13 South Fitzhugh Street

#### AREA MARKER

Erected by New York State — Westbound Interstate 490 at Rt. 36

#### HISTORIC NEW YORK — THE HOLLAND PURCHASE

The Holland Land Company, a group of bankers in the Netherlands, was organized to purchase the unsettled region of western New York State. By 1793, their agent in the United States, Theophile Cazenove, had arranged to buy more than three million acres. This land, the Holland Purchase, consisted of the area west of a line through Stafford, located a few miles east of Batavia, that ran from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. Indian claims were settled in 1797 and reservations were established. The Purchase also excluded a strip along the Niagara River.

Joseph Ellicott was surveyor and agent for the Holland Land Company for more than 20 years. He planned roads, surveyed towns, and laid out a port that developed into Buffalo. The Land Office, built in Batavia of limestone in 1815, was the headquarters for the sale of most of western New York. Pioneers, migrating from mostly eastern and central New York and from New England, came here to purchase land, generally making small down payments.

Out of the Holland Purchase were formed Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties and parts of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Allegany counties.

#### AREA MARKER

Eastbound N.Y. State Thruway - Between Exits 47 and 46 -  
Scottsville Rest Area

#### HISTORIC NEW YORK — THE GENESEE VALLEY

The Genesee River rises in Pennsylvania and flows northward 150 miles before emptying into Lake Ontario. Starting as a placid stream, the Genesee, in Letchworth State Park, plunges over three impressive cataracts, dropping 300 feet in three miles. The spectacular gorge has been called "The Grand Canyon of the East." The River then twists and turns through a broad valley. At Rochester the falls furnish water power which has greatly aided the city's development.

To the Seneca Indians, who occupied villages in the area, Genesee meant "beautiful valley." In 1762, Mary Jemison came to the valley as a Seneca captive and lived there as an Indian for 71 years. The Treaty of Big Tree (Genesee), in 1797, ended Indian claims to western New York, and land speculators purchased the region. The great estates of James and William Wadsworth are still owned by their descendants.

The Genesee Valley Canal, connecting the Erie Canal with the Allegheny River near Olean, was completed in 1857 and abandoned in 1878. Later, a railroad, now the Pennsylvania, followed the canal's route. The Genesee Country during the 19th century was an important wheat growing area. Farms now produce fruits, vegetables and dairy products.

#### AREA MARKER

Erected by New York State — Empire Blvd. at Irondequoit Bay  
Town of Penfield

#### HISTORIC NEW YORK - IRONDEQUOIT BAY

From Irondequoit Bay, Indian trails led southward to Seneca villages and on to the Ohio country. LaSalle and French missionaries arrived in 1669. In 1687, Marquis de Denonville, governor of New France, landed with soldiers and Indian allies to subdue the Iroquois. The expedition devastated Seneca villages but had no permanent effect. The French in 1717 established Fort des Sables, and in 1721 the English built Fort Schuyler to keep watch over their rivals. During the French and Indian War and at later times troops camped temporarily at the bay.

In 1797, Salmon Tryon, a land speculator, established the City of Tryon. Hopes of developing it into a thriving port and metropolis were thwarted by superior facilities on the Genesee River, leaving a ghost town after 1818.

Steam vessels once cruised on Irondequoit Bay, and the bay's waters, marshes and coves attracted fishermen, hunters and ice cutters. Railroad trains in the 19th century and trolley cars in the 20th brought vacationers from Rochester to resorts on the bay. These flourishing summer retreats had declined by 1930. Expanding suburbs with homes, clubs and parks, now surround the bay.

#### AREA MARKER

Erected by New York State — Eastbound Interstate 490 at Rt. 36  
Town of Riga

#### HISTORIC NEW YORK — THE SENECA INDIANS

The Seneca Indians about 1550 joined with the Cayugas, Onondagas, Oneidas, and Mohawks to form the Five Nations, or Iroquois Confederacy. This was the legendary "great peace" made by the Indian statesmen Hiawatha and Dekanawidah. In 1722, the Tuscaroras became the sixth Iroquois Nation.

The Senecas, whose main villages were situated between Seneca Lake and the Genesee River, were called "Keepers of the Western Door," the contact with the western tribes. The most numerous and warlike Iroquois Nation, they dominated, at one time, tribes southward into Pennsylvania and northward into Canada. They contended for the fur trade with the Hurons and Neutrals and drove the latter from western New York.

Although the Iroquois were under British protection, the Senecas were wooed by the French, and some turned against the English in 1763 during the uprising of western Indians led by Pontiac. Yet during the American Revolution they supported British attacks on the New York frontier. For this their villages and lands were devastated by the Sullivan-Clinton campaign of 1779.

Following the Revolution, some Senecas left New York. Descendants of this and other Iroquois Nations later settled in Oklahoma, but many Senecas still live on reservations in western New York.



## Historical Markers...in the County of Monroe State of New York — February 1967

### FULL BOOKLET TITLE

**“Historical Markers Placed by State and County  
in the County of Monroe State of New York”**

### EDITION

**February 1967**

Contains a few additions and layout modifications, but is essentially the same as the original June 1965 first edition.

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2015.08.11 received from Mary E. Smith, Hamlin Town Historian emerita. This copy contains some pencilled margin notes by her.

### PRODUCTION

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