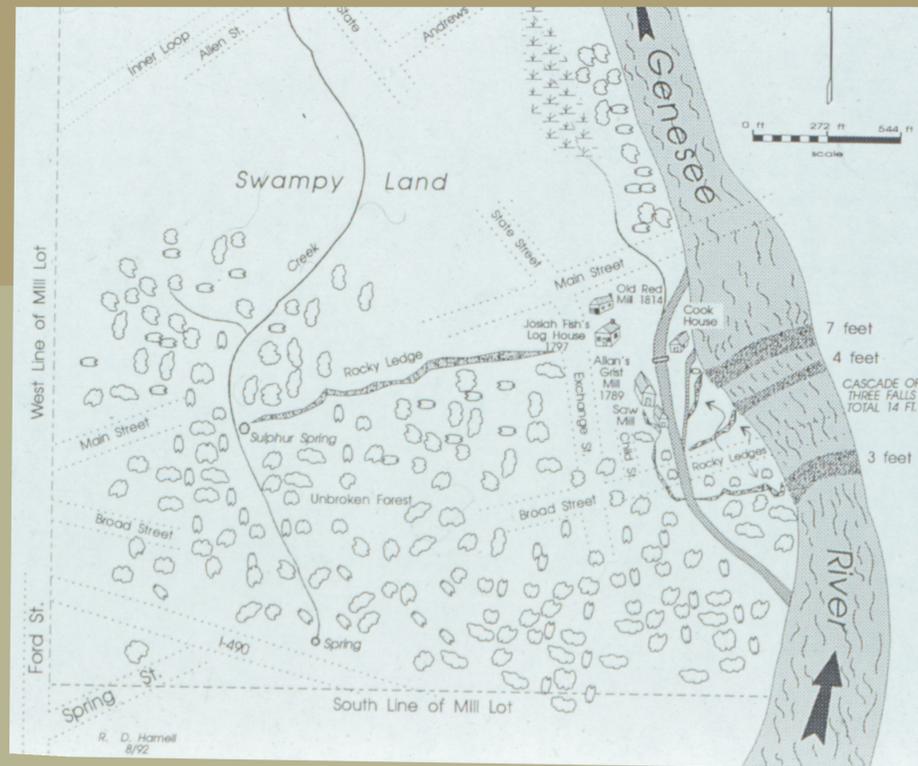


The Legacy of Nathaniel Rochester

Si monumentum requiris circumspice

“If you would behold his monument, look about you.”



Above: Sketch of One Hundred Acre Tract drawn by Morley Turpin and Major Wheeler C. Case for the Rochester Historical Society.

Col. Nathaniel Rochester scouted the Genesee Country with his business partners William Fitzhugh and Charles Carroll. Riding on horseback from Hagerstown, Maryland, the three men saw in the ruins of Ebenezer (Indian) Allan's sawmill and gristmill, the potential to build a community. Purchased in 1803, the One Hundred Acre Tract lay undeveloped until 1811 when Col. Rochester began to sell lots from a hand-drawn map.

Though the One Hundred Acre Tract lay seven miles south of Lake Ontario, the war with the British (War of 1812) stalled land sales as settlers moved away from the battles on the lake.

From One Hundred Acre Tract to City of Rochester

1812- State road crosses first Main Street Bridge
 1817- Annexation of Frankfort including Brown's Race, the most powerful mill race in the Genesee River Valley
 1821- Rochester becomes the seat of newly formed Monroe County.
 1823- Erie Canal reaches Rochester crossing the Genesee River at aqueduct.
 1834- Rochester becomes a city

When the War of 1812 ended in 1814, land sales became so brisk that the settlement became the village of Rochesterville in 1817.



Right: 1840s drawing of Rochester's 1812 Main Street Bridge
 Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

“sprung up...like a mushroom”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

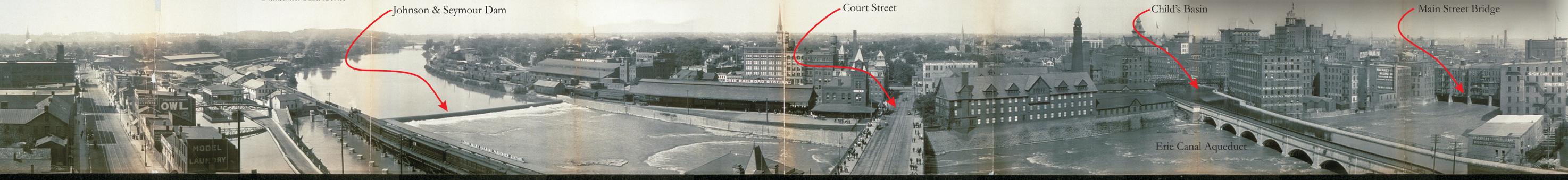
Johnson & Seymour Dam

Court Street

Child's Basin

Main Street Bridge

Erie Canal Aqueduct

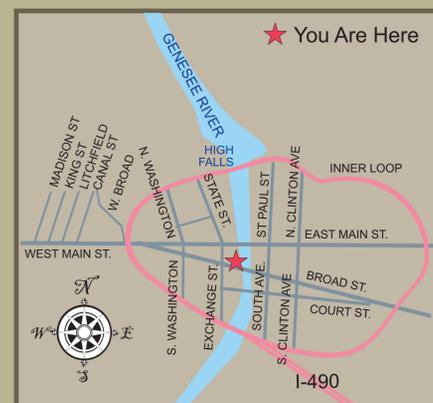


Above: Panoramic View of Rochester taken from the roof of the Rochester Business Institute building, circa 1906. Library of Congress

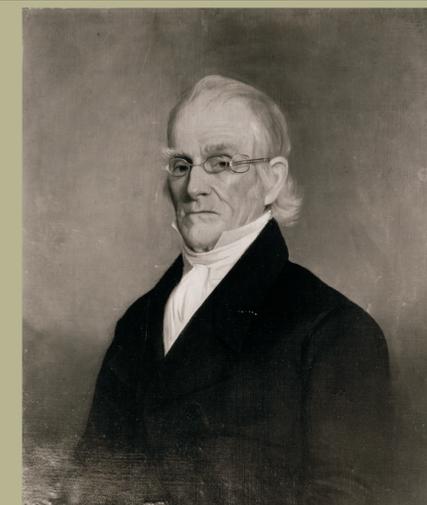
Through the 19th century, the One Hundred Acre Tract became the nucleus of today's Rochester,

absorbing the settlements that once lined the Genesee River. Rochester is strategically located in the Genesee Country on an international lake port, the Erie Canal, an interstate and an international airport. In 1834 Nathaniel Hawthorne described Rochester as having “sprung up like a mushroom” because it grew so rapidly.

The Main Street Bridge, built in 1812, carried settlers over the state road for twenty miles. Col. Rochester moved to Rochesterville in 1817, creating a great stir among the residents. At Dansville, New York, where he lived before coming to Rochester, he freed the slaves he brought with him from Maryland. His Southern manner and his leadership were admired. He died in his home in Corn Hill in 1830.



Above: Nathaniel Rochester's home at Spring and Washington Streets, built in 1824, was razed in 1908 to make way for the Bevier Building. From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center



Above: John James Audubon's "Portrait of Nathaniel Rochester" circa 1820
 Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division.



Above: The Bevier Building was first used by Mechanics Institute which became the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The building was later converted to office space. Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

