

ROCHESTER HISTORY

Edited by BLAKE MCKELVEY, *City Historian*

VOL. XXII

APRIL, 1960

No. 2

Civic Medals Awarded Posthumously

By BLAKE MCKELVEY

In a recent issue of *Rochester History* we reviewed the careers of 63 "Former Rochesterians of National Distinction." As we observed, many of their fellow citizens supplied local leadership that also merited recognition. It seems fitting, therefore, to list and review here the accomplishments of some whose contributions to the city's history have been most outstanding.

The civic medalists named annually since 1938 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences will serve as a suggestive model for our selection. The caliber of the men chosen has been high—Professor Herman LeRoy Fairchild, Edward G. Miner, Frank W. Lovejoy, Dr. Albert Kaiser, Dr. Arthur Parker, Frank E. Gannett—to mention only those who have since passed on. These with the 14 still living provided leadership in industry and natural science, in civics and community betterment, in public medicine and the arts. It would be presumptuous for an historian, when judging past leaders, to attempt to guess the opinions of their contemporaries. Perhaps, however, with hindsight he can name those whose careers eventually had an impact. Certainly the 41 listed below well merited civic medals.

ROCHESTER HISTORY, published quarterly by the Rochester Public Library, distributed free at the Library, by mail 25 cents per year. Address correspondence to the City Historian, Rochester Public Library, 115 South Avenue, Rochester 4, N. Y.

In Pre-Civil War Years

The selection of civic and community leaders is so closely related to the trends of the day that it seems necessary to view them historically rather than alphabetically. We will therefore consider our nominations by periods, taking the pre-Civil War years first.

To start with it is obvious that several though not all of those honored as "Rochesterians of National Distinction" also merited local civic recognition. Thus Col. Nathaniel Rochester, Henry O'Reilly, Chester Dewey, Isaac Post and Frederick Douglass, all clearly earned civic medals in Rochester before the Civil War. There might have been some hesitation about naming a Negro, or an Irishman after the forties, but O'Reilly would have received his citation before nativist prejudice developed, and Douglass surmounted his racial handicap by the sixties at least.

The list of their contemporaries who merited local civic recognition was much longer. It is interesting to note that most of the leaders of that early period came in sets—a founding father and his sons or sons-in-law, or a pair of brothers. Twelve of the eighteen named below were related by blood or marriage to one or more of their fellows; the Wards and the Seldens comprised the most numerous and influential group even outnumbering the Rochester clan.

JONATHAN CHILD (1785-1860). Born in Lyme, N. H., young Jonathan migrated at 21 to Utica where he taught school and clerked. Moving westward again, he opened a store at pioneer Charlotte in 1810. During the war he moved up the valley to West Bloomfield where he met and married Sophia Eliza, daughter of Colonel Rochester. In 1820 he rented a store at the Four Corners in Rochesterville; with the opening of the canal three years later, he entered the forwarding business as proprietor of the Pioneer Line, the first successful shipping company on the Erie. Child served two terms in the state assembly

before coming to Rochester; he became a village trustee in 1827 and first mayor of the city in 1834. He resigned that post a year later when the council voted, over his protest, to issue liquor licenses. He laid out and developed Child's Basin, the chief packet harbor; he was a trustee of the first Bank of Rochester in 1824, vice-president of the first railroad, and the first local coal dealer. Becoming a warden of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in 1838, he built a sumptuous mansion on Washington Street that year and lived there until the death of his wife in 1850 when he removed to Buffalo.

DR. ANSON COLMAN (1795-1837). Despite his brief years in Rochester, Dr. Colman, who married Catherine K., another daughter of Colonel Rochester, in 1819, earned civic recognition for his professional service during the cholera epidemic of 1832. Born at Richfield Springs, N. Y., he studied medicine under Dr. Joseph White of Cherry Valley before coming to the village in 1817. He later improved that training by spending a season at the leading hospital in Boston in 1824 and again at Philadelphia in 1831. His wide knowledge won him a commission a year later by the hastily organized Board of Health to visit Montreal and observe the ravages of cholera at that place. After studying its effects and conferring with other medical representatives who gathered there to devise a treatment, Dr. Colman returned to direct the city's precautionary measures during the height of the epidemic. He hastened off after the crisis to London and Paris to observe medical practices in these great centers. On his return he was recognized as the best trained physician in western New York.

DR. MATTHEW BROWN, JR. (1766-1851) and FRANCIS BROWN (1774-1824). Born at Brookfield, Mass., the Brown brothers migrated at an early date to Oneida County and came to the Genesee falls in 1810 to purchase the 200-acre tract on the west bank at the main falls. Francis erected a house and a mill there and became the principal settler at the falls during the next few

years. He married a daughter of Daniel Penfield, and with his brother Matthew, who finally settled at Rochester in 1816, he organized the Genesee Manufacturing Co. to build and promote Brown's race. Francis became chairman of the first village board in 1817 and served in that and other capacities until 1821 when poor health sent him south where he shortly died. His brother Matthew, who had abandoned medical practice, took up the management of the Brown race and other properties and became in his turn chairman of the village trustees for several years. He took the lead in an effort to establish a Board of Manufacturers in 1828, a short-lived antecedent of the Chamber of Commerce.

DR. LEVI WARD, JR. (1771-1861). Born at Killingsworth, Conn., Dr. Ward, a graduate of Yale, moved west to Bergen in 1807 and came to Rochester in 1817. Next to Colonel Rochester and Matthew Brown in age, he became from the first a village father and shared in the founding of the first bank, of which he became second president. He helped to launch the first village library in 1822 and a few years later the Athenaeum.

Several of Dr. Ward's sons and daughters became prominent residents, chief among them LEVI ALFRED WARD (1801-1881). He came to Rochester with his father and helped to establish the first local insurance agency; he became a director of several banks and telegraph companies, a founder and later president of the Rochester Gas Co., the Rochester Water Co., and the Genesee Valley Railroad. He was a trustee at times of the first Rochester High School, the Western House of Correction, the City Hospital and the Athenaeum. He served as supervisor, as alderman, and in 1849 as mayor. He backed several of the early expeditions of his nephew, Henry A., whose collections ultimately led to the founding of Ward's Natural Science Establishment, of which Levi A. Ward was chief owner.

ABELARD REYNOLDS (1785-1878). Born at Quaker Hill, N. Y., Abelard Reynolds became Rochester's second permanent settler

in 1812. He erected its first frame house, which quickly became the post office and served for a time as a tavern. He tore it down in 1828 to erect the Arcade, the leading business block in the growing village; it sheltered not only the post office, of which Reynolds was for a time the master, but also the Athenaeum, which he helped to found. He served a term in the assembly and another on the common council. He became a prelate of the Knights Templar.

His oldest son, WILLIAM ABELARD REYNOLDS (1810-1872), was a pioneer in the nursery and seed business at Rochester in 1830. He took over the management of the Arcade in 1845 and became the chief patron of the Athenaeum and the host for its growing library. He erected Corinthian Hall back of the Arcade in 1848 and made it Rochester's principal center for musical and other cultural programs. He was for three years a member of the common council; he served as trustee of the Rochester Savings bank and as president of the board of the Western House of Correction; he helped to found and direct the Western New York Agricultural Society. He was a trustee of the University of Rochester in his last years.

MORTIMER FABRIUS REYNOLDS (1814-1892), was born at Rochester and educated in neighboring academies. He developed a paint and linseed oil business but sold it in 1872 to assume the direction of his brother's and father's estates. He was an incorporator of the Genesee Valley Railroad, the State Line Railroad, and the Avon, Geneseo & Mt. Morris Railroad. He served as president of the last two and also of the Rochester Savings Bank, the Citizens Gas Co. and its successor, the Rochester Gas Co. He served on the boards of the City Hospital and Hobart College. He incorporated the Reynolds Library in 1884 and bequeathed it a generous endowment as a memorial to his father and brother.

EVERARD PECK (1791-1854). Born at Berlin, Conn., Peck learned the book-binding trade at Hartford and moved west to

Rochester where he opened a book store in 1816. He soon acquired a printing press and issued the second local weekly, the *Telegraph* (1818-1829). His home on Spring Street became a favorite center for the meetings of the Female Charitable Society (1822-) and other early groups and sheltered several struggling newcomers, including Thurlow Weed for a time. Peck printed an edition of *The Whole Duty of Women* in 1819 and brought out 30 other booklets during the next decade. Beside sermons and tracts, these included an annual almanac and several school texts. He built and operated a paper mill and late in life became a banker. He helped to found the Rochester Orphan Asylum and the University of Rochester of which he became a trustee. His youngest son, William Farley Peck, became one of Rochester's most productive historians.

ELISHA JOHNSON (1786-1865). Son of a Chautauqua pioneer, Elisha spent a year or two at Williams College before settling in Rochester in 1817. He had located first at Canandaigua and came to the Genesee as representative of that older town's interests in its port. He laid out a town site at Carthage above the lower falls, but he also acquired and developed an 80-acre plot across from Colonel Rochester's tract at the small upper falls. There he built a dam and an eastside raceway. As the ablest engineer in the community, he rebuilt Main Street bridge in 1824, erecting the village market on piers along its northern edge. He built a horse car railroad in 1832 to join the lake port at Carthage with the canal port in Rochester, thus making it one city; he built the first steam railroad to Tonawanda five years later. He proposed and planned an early water works which was not, however, developed; he laid out and gave the city its first small park, named after George Washington. He accepted a contract to dig a tunnel through the Portage hills to carry the Genesee Valley Canal under the highlands; but this last venture proved disastrous, and he left for Tennessee in 1845 where he acquired a plantation and a new fortune.

JOSIAH BISSELL, JR. (1790-1831). Remembered decades later as the most zealous Christian layman in early Rochester, Josiah came to the village in 1815. He engaged in merchandising and building and became an active leader in the union Sabbath School. He helped to establish Third Presbyterian Church in 1827 and became its leading elder. As agent of the Monroe County Bible Society, he launched a campaign to place a Bible in every home in 1825, and he joined Aristarchus Champion two years later in founding the Pioneer Stage Co. and the Pioneer Packet Line, both pledged to observe the Sabbath. He was the chief backer of the Rochester *Observer*, a zealous advocate of religious perfectionism and a bitter critic of all backsliders. He promoted foreign missions, helped to establish a local Boatmen's Friend Society, and took the initiative in bringing the revivalist, Charles G. Finney, to Rochester in 1830 for a series of protracted meetings that transformed the frontier canal town into a sober churchgoing community.

JACOB GOULD (1794-1867). Born in Boxford, Mass., young Jacob early learned the trade of shoemaker but became a school-teacher at Schenectady before moving to Rochester in 1819. Here he opened a shoemaking shop and helped to establish that trade in the town. He became active in the local militia and won the honorary title of general. As a Democrat he won election as second mayor of Rochester in 1835 and received an appointment as collector of the port three years later. He joined Levi A. Ward in establishing a local insurance company and became in 1853 president of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank. After the death of his first wife, who bore him eight children, he married Miss Sarah T. Seward in 1841, head of the leading girls' academy in the city. He became a trustee of the University of Rochester on its establishment in 1850 and took the lead two years later in an effort to transform his wife's seminary into Barleywood Female College. Despite the support of Dr. Chester Dewey, Lewis H. Morgan, and Levi A. Ward, it soon closed.

BENJAMIN CAMPBELL (1790-1883). Born in Voluntown, Conn., Campbell moved west to Rush in 1817 and came three years later to Rochester where he opened a drygoods store. He married Sophronia Ensworth, daughter of the leading tavern-keeper, and in 1826 they became charter members of the Brick Presbyterian Church. He built a mill on the island near the aqueduct that year. A prosperous trade prompted him to enlarge it, but a great fire soon destroyed all but the stone foundations (which remained to be uncovered more than a century later during the excavation for the War Memorial). Campbell recovered over \$10,000 in insurance on that mill, sufficient to enable him to undertake new milling ventures in Rochester and at Mt. Morris and to launch a fleet of canal boats to expedite his expanding commercial operations which extended even to New York. Advancing flour prices in the mid thirties enabled him to build a brick mansion at the corner of Troup and Fitzhugh streets. He moved into this elegant home in 1838, but another fire in 1840 and a sudden drop in the flour market a year later forced him into receivership. The title to his house passed to Thomas H. Rochester, from whom Campbell rented it for a half dozen years while his wife conducted a high-priced boarding house there. When Chancellor Whittlesey purchased the mansion in 1846, Campbell removed to Buffalo where he recouped his fortune and lived to a ripe age of 93.

REV. JOSEPH PENNEY (1793-1860). Among the numerous early ministers at Rochester who had distinguished careers, perhaps the Rev. Joseph Penney most deserved inclusion in our list. Born at Ardahy, County Down, Ireland, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and at the University of Glasgow, he came to America to teach at Erasmus Hall on Long Island in 1819 and accepted a call to Rochester in 1822. His ten years at the first Presbyterian church made it the leading congregation, and his wide learning brought a new breadth to the community's intellectual life. A patron of the Athenaeum and other

cultural movements, he provided a conservative balance against the emotional excesses of Josiah Bissell and his associates. Penney left to take over Jonathan Edward's old charge in Northampton in 1833 and to become president of Hamilton College two years later. But he returned to Rochester in 1855 to spend his last years among his early friends here.

ALVAH STRONG (1809-1885). Born in Scipio, N. Y., Alvah came to Rochester with his parents in 1821 and learned the printer's trade. In 1831 he was converted by Charles G. Finney and became a part owner of the *Anti-Masonic Inquirer*. On the formation of the Whig party in 1834, he and others merged this with the old *National Republican* to form the *Daily Democrat*. With various partners he maintained this paper until 1864 when he sold his interests to D. D. S. Brown. He early became a leader of the First Baptist Church and one of the founders of the University of Rochester and the Rochester Theological Seminary. He served as trustee and treasurer of the seminary and saw his son, Augustus H., installed as its second president in 1872.

SAMUEL LEE and HENRY R. SELDEN. Born at Lyme, Conn., in 1800 and 1805, respectively, these brothers came to Rochester in 1821 and 1825 and studied law under older attorneys here. Samuel became a partner of Addison Gardiner and married a daughter of Dr. Levi Ward. He became a county judge, was elected to the state Supreme Court in 1847, and sat on the Court of Appeals, 1854-1862, when he became Chief Justice. In 1845 he and his brother Henry helped Henry O'Reilly organize telegraph lines under the Morse patent, but in 1849 they switched to the House patent and, with Hiram Sibley, formed the New York & Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Co. of 1851 which gave birth to Western Union in 1856. Samuel apparently remained a Democrat until his death in 1876; Henry became a Republican and won election as the state's first lieutenant governor in 1856 on that ticket. He moved back to Rochester

in 1859 and became a member of the Court of Appeals in 1862-1865. Although forced by poor health to retire, Henry later represented Susan B. Anthony in her famous trial of 1873 and lived to see his son, George B., submit the first U. S. patent application on the automobile in 1879.

Mrs. AMY POST (1802-1889). Born on Long Island, Amy Kirby married Isaac Post in 1828 and came with him to Rochester eight years later. Active at first in the Friends Society, they became leaders of the Hixite faction until its decline in the late forties. Mrs. Post took the initiative in organizing the second women's rights convention, at Rochester in 1848, and she later encouraged Susan B. Anthony to take up and promote that cause. With her husband she backed the work of Frederick Douglass and joined him in directing the local operations of the underground railroad for which their home served as a station. Also with her husband she became a follower of the Fox Sisters and continued for decades to rank as the leading defender of the Spiritualists in Rochester. Together they supported every temperance and peace campaign, and after her husband's death in 1872, Mrs. Post became the grand old champion of all liberal causes. The celebration of her 80th birthday established a community precedent, to be followed in the case of Susan B. Anthony on her 70th and in the case of Mrs. Mary T. Gannett on her 75th, as Rochester learned to honor its rebellious do-wagers in their latter years.

Neither Mrs. Post nor Frederick Douglass could have won sufficient votes for a civic medal prior to the Civil War. And some of the others named above would probably have been overlooked at that time, yet all appear in retrospect to have merited such recognition. Of those named, only the Rev. Joseph Penney was of foreign birth, yet among the Rochesterians of these pre-Civil War decades who attained national distinction, Henry O'Reilly and Patrick Barry, both also born in Ireland, likewise merited local civic honors. Patrick Barry, however, be-

longed more properly to the post-war generation, when indeed a large number of Rochesterians of foreign birth achieved local distinction.

Leaders of Cosmopolitan Years

Almost half the city's leaders during the post-Civil War decades were foreign born and several more were sons of immigrants. This did not hold true among those who won national distinction, since only Barry and James Vick were born abroad and only Bishop McQuaid had immigrant parents. Yet the large delegation of German residents included four who made significant local contributions, while two of English and one of Irish birth achieved similar distinction. Five of the ten others named below were sons of newcomers from abroad. Four were related by blood or marriage to other medalists.

In contrast with the earlier period, the leaders of these decades tended to specialize in industrial, civic, or cultural fields, yet most of those listed served with distinction in at least two fields for that is a basic criterion for the period, and we make only two possible exceptions, J. J. Bausch and Emil Kuichling. We will review the local medalists in industrial science first, remembering, as we do, that they shared leadership with several who attained national recognition as well—Barry and Vick, Hiram Sibley and Daniel W. Powers, William S. Kimball and George B. Selden. Much of the career of Mortimer F. Reynolds (mentioned above) likewise belongs here.

GEORGE ELLWANGER (1816-1906). Born in Wurttemberg, Germany, young George served an apprenticeship in the leading nursery at Stuttgart before migrating to America in 1835. Traveling westward on the canal, he stopped off at Rochester and found a job at the Reynolds nursery. In 1840 he linked forces with Patrick Barry who had just arrived after an apprenticeship on a Long Island nursery. Together they developed the Ellwanger & Barry nursery into the largest establishment of its

kind in America. Ellwanger on frequent trips abroad in search of fresh seedlings and new plants, cultivated an interest in art; with his sons George H. (1848-1906). Henry B. (1851-1883) and William D. (1854-1913), all born in Rochester and educated here and abroad he became a major carrier of old-world culture to Rochester. As a promoter of the city's first horsecar line, as a banker, a dealer in real estate, and later an Eastman Kodak trustee, Ellwanger participated in many phases of the city's business life. But his major contributions were in the horticultural field where the shrubs and trees he introduced helped to create the traditions of the Flower City that persist today in its parks, the first of which, Highland Park, was, as originally constituted, a gift of Ellwanger & Barry in 1887.

JOHN JACOB BAUSCH (1830-1926). Likewise born in Wurttemberg, young Bausch worked in the optical shop of an older brother before migrating to America in 1849. He opened an optical shop in Rochester with the aid of Henry Lomb in 1852. Bausch constructed a hand grinder, polished imported lenses to fit individual needs, and made his own spectacle frames. The great cost of the latter prompted him to experiment with the newly invented hard rubber, and on discovering its potentialities in 1866, he secured exclusive use of vulcanite for optical products. Having thus acquired a sound basis for rapid expansion in the manufacture not only of spectacles but also of microscopes and telescopes, Bausch brought in several talented assistants and many skilled workmen. He relied greatly on his sons and other partners for scientific promotion, but he displayed gratitude to them and to the men in his expanding factories by creating an employee's benefit association on his 90th birthday.

HENRY LOMB (1828-1908). Also born in Germany, young Henry learned cabinet making before migrating to America and to Rochester in 1849. The \$60 he put up to back Bausch's optical venture three years later earned him a part interest in the firm which he served for a time as sales agent. On the out-

break of the Civil War he joined and rose to the rank of Captain in the 13th Regiment; he survived its many bloody battles and returned to take part in the company's expansion. After several years as its chief agent in New York, he again returned to Rochester where in 1885 he helped to found Mechanics Institute, of which he became the principal leader for two decades. He also helped to launch the Public Health Association and took an active part in the German-American Society. Not a scientist or business executive, he left those tasks to J. J. Bausch and his sons, Edward and William (who became the specialist in glass), and to his own sons, Adolph and Henry C., who specialized in mathematical physics; his own major contributions were in the fields of education and public relations.

EDWARD BAUSCH (1854-1944). Born in Rochester, educated there and at Cornell, Edward, the eldest son of J. J. Bausch, made the microscope his early specialty. His many contributions to its development, and to the improvement of photographic lenses and shutters, drew him into active association with other instrument makers and kindled an interest in technological research and exhibitions. He became a leader of the Rochester Academy of Science and took an active interest in several national scientific organizations; he succeeded his father as president of Bausch & Lomb in 1926 and served as a director of several other Rochester firms. Finally in 1940 he gave the site and a \$500,000 building fund for the erection of Bausch Hall for the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences.

FREEMAN CLARKE (1809-1887). Born at Troy, N. Y., Clarke settled in 1827 at Albion where he soon won a reputation as a banker. He moved into Rochester in 1845 to become a director and president of successive banks there and of regional railroad and telegraph lines. Elected to Congress in 1862, he served as U. S. Comptroller in 1865 and was elected a second time to Congress in 1870. Although his financial talents brought him board appointments on three New York banks, Clarke main-

tained his residence in Rochester where he served as a trustee of the university and as a leading member of the commission that supervised the elevation of the New York Central tracks. His wife, Henrietta, youngest daughter of Dr. Levi Ward, linked him with several of the city's dominant families and made their Alexander Street home a focal center of the city's fashionable society. It became, after Mrs. Clarke's death, the new home of the Homeopathic hospital, now the much-expanded Genesee Hospital.

* * *

Merchants and industrialists who gave some time to other matters during Rochester's mid years generally turned to society or the arts. Only a few, such as Congressman H. S. Greenleaf, devoted major attention to public matters. It was no longer fashionable, as in pre-Civil War years, to devote a year or two to the common council and perhaps to serve one term as mayor; indeed it was now almost impossible to persuade leading business men to accept such nominations. Some of those who did accept served only perfunctorily, while others of less stature in the industrial community had to assume major responsibility in the civic field. Four in particular rendered distinctive service, though none of them achieved the power enjoyed by George Aldridge during the latter portion of this period.

HENRY L. FISH (1815-1895). Born at Amherst, Mass., Fish came to Rochester in 1840 to head a succession of small transport companies on the canal. Elected an alderman in 1850, he served repeatedly in that capacity and as supervisor and school commissioner. During a municipal crisis in the late sixties he filled two consecutive terms as mayor, and in 1872, when a corrupt faction threatened to seize control of the city by legislative action, both parties turned to and elected Henry L. Fish to the assembly where he frustrated that plot by securing the creation of a locally-controlled executive board. He was named

to and became chairman of the first board in 1876, and he was seriously considered two years later as the Democratic candidate for governor.

CORNELIUS R. PARSONS (1842-1901). Born in Livingston County of English parents, young Cornelius came to Rochester at three and grew up in the community. He entered his father's lumber business and acquired an interest in politics. Elected to the council in 1867, he served three terms as its presiding officer. He was elected mayor in 1876 and held that position successively until 1890 when he took a year off for foreign travel only to be elected, on his return, to the state senate and for repeated terms until his death ten years later. The first Rochesterian to make a career of local public service in elective offices, Parsons's unquestioned honesty and his courtly manners lent dignity to municipal affairs.

EMIL KUICHLING (1848-1914) Born in Kehl, Germany, young Emil was brought to Rochester two years later by his father. He graduated at the University of Rochester and studied engineering for three years at Karlsruhe, Germany, before returning in 1873 to become assistant engineer of the Rochester water works then under construction. After holding that post for a decade he resigned to spend a year abroad where he examined the sanitary provisions of the great cities of Europe. He returned to become a member of the executive board in 1885 and, three years later, assumed full direction of the construction of the east-side trunk sewer; he became chief engineer of the water works in 1890. He was a leader in the Rochester Academy of Science, the American Society of Engineers, and other technological bodies. He finally removed to New York in 1899 to devote his full time as an engineering consultant.

JOHN BOWER (1814-1902). Born in England, Bower migrated to America and settled at Rochester in 1840. A wholesale tobacconist, he developed an interest in the Athenaeum and served for several years as its president. As an expert accountant he was

appointed to the water works commission in 1874 and directed to set its records in order. He was elected two years later to the first executive board where he served three years. Asked to investigate the city treasurer's records in 1880, he found many loose practices and uncovered forgotten back taxes that totalled \$400,000. His service there brought new assignments to investigate the city clerk's office, the board of education, and other municipal functions. At the request of the Chamber of Commerce, he drafted a model charter in 1891, which, though never adopted, anticipated the small school board and the strong mayor features of the White charter passed in 1899. Broken health prompted his removal to Philadelphia shortly before the good government movement was formed at Rochester to battle for some of his ideals.

* * *

In the cultural fields Rochester produced several leaders of national distinction in these decades, notably Lewis H. Morgan, Henry A. Ward, Martin B. Anderson, and Ashel C. Kendrick, as well as Susan B. Anthony, William C. Gannett and Edward Mott Moore. Several others whose national influence was less evident, exerted real leadership locally, especially in the religious and intellectual fields.

REV. NEWTON MANN (1836-1926). Born at Cazenovia, N. Y., and educated at its seminary and at the College of France in Paris, Rev. Mann became a follower of Darwin and Spencer before coming to Rochester as pastor of the Unitarian Church, 1870-1888. Here he gave frequent lectures on evolution, was a leader and sometime president of the Academy of Science, and published his first book, *A Rational View of the Bible* in 1879. He developed warm associations between the Unitarians and the Reformed Jews of B'rith Kodesh temple. He participated actively in the Spencer Club and other local societies before his departure for Omaha in 1888.

RABBI MAX LANDSBERG (1845-1927). Born in Berlin and educated at the universities of Gottingen, Breslau, and Halle, he taught in a Hebrew seminary for several years before coming to America in 1870 as Rabbi of Temple B'rith Kodesh at Rochester. He introduced numerous changes in the ritual and beliefs of that congregation, welcomed opportunities to join with the Unitarians on many occasions, and worked for a broader cooperation between Jews and Christians in social as well as religious fields. He was active in the Academy of Science, the Fortnightly Club and the Country Club of Rochester, and became an advocate of constructive welfare instead of charity. He won respect as a scholar, and as the head of the reform temple helped to lead its members into fuller community participation.

PROFESSOR SAMUEL A. LATTIMORE (1828-1908). Born in Indiana and a graduate of DePauw University where he became an instructor in Greek, he went to Harvard to study chemistry which he taught at Lima before coming to the University of Rochester to establish its chemistry department in 1867. He helped to organize courses for adult citizens in the 1870's; he helped to establish the Reynolds Library and became president of its board; he helped to found Mechanics Institute, and played an active role in the affairs of the Academy of Science. He was frequently consulted by the municipal officials on sanitary matters, by local industrialists on practical scientific problems, and by local teachers seeking pedagogical guidance in scientific instruction. He became acting head of the university in 1896-1898 and wrote several significant articles for scientific journals.

JOSEPH O'CONNOR (1841-1908). Born of Irish parents who brought him to Rochester in 1855, young Joseph was educated in the city schools and graduated at the university in 1863. He taught Latin for a year at the Free Academy but soon became a reporter for the *Democrat & Chronicle*. He left after a time for newspaper work at Indianapolis, Washington, and Buffalo, but

returned to become editor of the *Post Express* at Rochester in 1886; he continued to direct its course until its Democratic owners sold to Republican investors. O'Connor, a staunch Democrat, resigned at this point but soon returned to write, as "The Rochesterian," a column that attracted wide praise in the city and elsewhere. A romanticist in spirit, he had strong views on political and intellectual questions and managed to express them with grace as well as conviction. His comments on articles and books helped to keep Rochester alert to current literary trends; his own essays and poems inspired emulation and won him respect and admiration as one of the ablest journalists of his day.

Leaders in the City's Renaissance

If but few business leaders of Rochester's mid years displayed an interest in civic developments, the situation changed dramatically around the turn of the century. Not only George Eastman and George Aldridge, but also James G. Cutler, Harper Sibley and Frank Gannett, each achieved national distinction in part because of his civic contributions. Other men, as we shall see, supplied more effective local leadership both in political and administrative aspects of the city's growth. Most of them were much too specialized and too closely confined to Rochester to attain national recognition, but they fully merit our attention.

JOSEPH T. ALLING (1855-1937). Born at Rochester and educated at its Free Academy and at the University of Rochester, where he graduated in 1876, young Alling joined his father's firm, a paper company, Alling & Cory, of which he became president, 1908-1935. He early developed many outside interests—as teacher of a men's Bible class at the Central Presbyterian Church, 1884-1907 (it numbered over 1000 for a time and was described as the largest in America); as president of the local YMCA, 1888-1897; as leader of the good government

movement, 1895-1912; and as a trustee of the university from 1892 until 1937. The untiring champion of civic reform, Alling contributed more than any other citizen to the establishment of a small and independent school board, to the development of a tradition of quality service there and in other civic fields, and to the awakening of Rochester's civic consciousness. In a less dramatic way his long service to the university as trustee, as treasurer, 1903-1916, and as chairman of the board, 1932-1937, was not only of great value in itself but also helped to draw George Eastman more actively to its support.

ISAAC ADLER (1868-1941). Born in nearby Medina, young Isaac came to Rochester to attend the old Free Academy where he graduated in 1885. He studied at Harvard and, after securing an A.B. and a law degree, returned to enter the law office of Theodore Bacon in Rochester. He joined the good government movement in 1896, became a member of the Board of Education, 1906-1913, and a councilman on the City Manager ticket, 1927-1933. He served as vice-mayor and for a time as acting mayor during these critical years. He was elected president of the City Club on two occasions, was an active leader in several welfare societies and a member of the board of the Council of Social Agencies.

LEROY SNYDER (1879-1944). Born near South Bend, Ind., Leroy attended DePauw University and became a news reporter in South Bend and Indianapolis and an executive of the park board at the latter place before going to New York in 1913 to join the staff of the pioneer Bureau of Municipal Research. When, two years later, Eastman invited that body to make a survey of Rochester, Snyder came to direct the job and soon became head of a similar bureau established locally. He resigned, after successfully launching that work, to accept the post of labor manager for Fashion Park and later that of executive secretary of the Rochester Clothiers Exchange and held these positions during the crucial years when peaceful relations

were being developed between these firms and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Frank Gannett called him to the *Times-Union* in 1923 as special assistant to the editor, and the next year Snyder ran for mayor on the Democrat ticket with the backing of many city-manager advocates. Although narrowly defeated on this occasion and again as a councilmanic candidate in 1931, he was one of the most effective workers for the city manager charter. A staunch leader of the City Club and of the Unitarian Church, he was for two decades one of the most highly respected liberals in Rochester.

HIRAM H. EDGERTON (1847-1922). Born in Allegany County, he came to Rochester as a lad and entered his father's lumber business. He became a building contractor in 1880 and erected 40 churches, as well as many stores and other structures, including the Wilder building, the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr store, and the U. S. Post Office. He became a school commissioner, 1871-1875, a member of the east-side trunk sewer commission, and of the public works commission. He served as president of the Common Council, 1899-1907, and as mayor, 1908-1922. Despite his subservience to George Aldridge, political boss during these years, Edgerton's faithful attention to details kept him at the helm for a period of 14 years and enabled him to foster the development of Exposition (now Edgerton) Park and other aspects of the public parks and playgrounds. His interest in engineering made him a backer of such men as Kuichling and Fisher and prolonged the years of their service to the community.

EDWIN A. FISHER (1847-1948). Born in Royalston, Mass., he studied at neighboring academies and taught school for a time. He learned surveying and worked for several years as a civil engineer on various railroads in New England. In 1873 he became assistant engineer in charge of building a water works for Westfield, and served that and neighboring towns in an engineering capacity, building several bridges and hydraulic

works. In 1880 he resumed his work for railroads and soon became engaged on various enterprises in western New York. Emil Kuichling brought him to Rochester as assistant in 1892, and he inherited the latter's post of city engineer in 1896. After several reappointments he became consulting engineer in 1914 and first superintendent of city planning in 1917. Although officially retired in 1926, he continued for two more decades to maintain daily contact with all engineering work in Rochester and completed a half century of service to the city winning wide respect and many honors before his death at the age of 101.

DR. GEORGE W. GOLER (1864-1940). Born in Brooklyn, Goler graduated at the New York College of Pharmacy and came to Rochester to study medicine in Dr. Edward Mott Moore's office, 1885-1888. He began to practice here the next year, and was named an inspector of the Board of Health in 1892. On becoming chief health officer in 1896, he immediately began his long battle to enforce restrictions against impure milk and to combat successive epidemics of rabies, smallpox, scarlet and typhoid fever and other plagues. His war against rats, house flies, slums, and venereal diseases aroused criticism and created many enemies, but his unrelenting defense of public health won still more friends. He established the first public milk stations to assure pure milk to poor children, and the first public inspection clinics to assist needy families in their own neighborhoods. Always alert to new medical advances, he made Rochester one of the healthiest cities in the country.

* * *

Other civic leaders merit recognition, notably those whose major field was religion or public welfare. Indeed in these decades it was the clergyman with a social conscience who achieved distinction, whether on the national level as in the case of Rauschenbusch and Crapsey, or on the local level as represented by Paul Moore Strayer and Justin Wroe Nixon.

Rochester produced distinguished leaders in the temperance movement, in the field of social welfare and in the campaign for public housing.

REV. PAUL MOORE STRAYER (1872-1929). Born in Maryland, son of a Methodist minister, young Strayer pursued his education at Baltimore, Chicago, Yale, Edinburgh and Bonn, and preached at Pittsburgh and South Norwalk before coming to the Third Presbyterian Church at Rochester in 1903. He made the community his parish, took an active part in the early years of the City Club, became a delegate of the Ministerial Union to the Central Trades and Labor Council, and represented the churches of Rochester at labor parades and mass meetings. He wrote a weekly article, "Brother Strayer's Corner," for the *Labor Journal*, helped to establish a free employment agency and collaborated with Professor Rauschenbusch and Dr. H. H. Stebbins in a People's Sunday Evening program of religious services for nonchurchgoers in a downtown theater, 1908-1914. He wrote numerous articles and published a book on *The Reconstruction of the Church* (1915). He developed an active program of social service at Third Presbyterian and helped to establish a Social Service Commission for the Presbyterian Church of America of which he became chairman.

DR. JUSTIN WROE NIXON (1886-1958). Born in Delphi, Ind., Nixon secured his A.B. from Denison College in 1905 and studied under Professor Rauschenbusch at the Rochester Theological Seminary. He left in 1908 before securing his diploma in order to fill a charge at Minneapolis where he remained until 1916 when the seminary called him back to teach Christian Sociology. After eight years there he accepted a call to the Brick Presbyterian Church, where he served until 1937, when he returned to the seminary, now the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, as Newton Clark Professor of Christian Theology and Ethics. An active participant in community affairs, he served as president of City Club for one year, as an occasional arbitrator

in labor disputes, as an active proponent of international and inter-faith brotherhood movements. His alert and critical mind and ready pen made him an acute commentator on all social and moral issues, both in such books as *Protestantism's Hour of Decision* (1940) and in frequent letters to the editor as well as innumerable public addresses. He won respect as the "conscience of Rochester."

DR. HERBERT S. WEET (1871-1953). Born in Orleans County, young Weet taught a rural school there for several years before coming to the University of Rochester where he graduated in 1899 and secured his masters degree two years later. He served as principal at North Tonawanda High School for two years, but returned to Rochester to take charge of the Monroe Grammar School in 1903. He became principal of the newly opened West High in 1905 and superintendent of schools, 1911-1933. His leadership throughout these years in the development of superior schools won him an honorary degree from Albany State Teachers College in 1913 and frequent requests to survey the school systems of other cities, notably Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. He not only pioneered in the development of junior high schools, in the use of school psychologists and visiting teachers, and in the development of a special program for crippled children and slow learners, but he also supervised the system's most rapid expansion, doubling the number of pupils in two decades, increasing the budget fivefold, and adding ten new elementary schools and nine junior and senior high schools. His extracurricular activities centered more and more in the university of which he was a trustee, 1915-1952, and secretary of the board, 1944-1948. The university made him a special consultant to its president during the war emergency.

OSCAR W. KUOLT (1886-1959). Born in Utica, Occie, as he was always known, graduated from its Free Academy and from Hamilton College (1907) and served as superintendent of schools at Hudson Falls and Schenectady before coming to

Rochester in 1919 as coach of the university's basketball team. While serving in that capacity for two seasons, he proved his skills as a community organizer on special assignments in Cincinnati and elsewhere and was engaged as assistant manager of the Community Chest in Rochester in 1921. His chief function there was in the field of community organization and he helped to establish the Council of Social Agencies in 1924 and served it ably as general secretary until 1951. Enlisting the cooperation of a host of public-spirited citizens, he supervised the development in these years of the city's many-pronged social welfare program. His friendly and engaging personality, his disarming humor and tolerant spirit surmounted many old barriers and dispelled prejudice; his practice of making painstaking surveys before recommending action won the confidence of those who paid the bills; and his faithful insistence on following through once a decision had been reached won him the respect of all fellow workers and most alert citizens as well.

Limitations of space compel us to omit several whose contributions were large but whose claims to inclusion here are somewhat doubtful. Some like J. Y. McClintock, the fearless and imaginative civil engineer, James Johnston, the sharp-tongued political maverick, Clinton Howard, the "Little Giant of Prohibition," and Mrs. Helen Jones, the irrepressible champion of city planning and better housing, all earned the respect and gratitude of a later generation although the enmities they stirred up denied them full recognition from their contemporaries. Some others, well received in their day, have since been superseded if not discredited. But we can forego naming those to be forgotten in an article listing those worthy of remembrance. The 41 cited above and the 63 Rochesterians of National Distinction provide a worthy succession of antecedents to the 19 civic medalist of more recent decades. Together their careers have contributed much to the history of Rochester.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ROCHESTER CIVIC MEDAL

1938 - - - - 1960

* * * * *

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FIELD</u>
*Dr. Herman LeRoy Fairchild	1938	Geological Science
James E. Gleason	1939	Industrial Science
*Edward Griffith Miner	1940	Industry and Public Service
*Frank W. Lovejoy	1941	Industrial Science
Dr. John Rothwell Slater	1942	Arts and Letters
Dr. George Hoyt Whipple	1943	Medical Research
M. Herbert Eisenhart	1944	Industrial Science
*Dr. Albert D. Kaiser	1945	Pediatrics
*Dr. Arthur C. Parker	1946	Museum Service
Raymond N. Ball	1947	Civic Achievement
Dr. Howard Hanson	1948	American Music
Thomas J. Hargrave	1949	Civic Achievement
Theodore C. Briggs	1950	Civic Achievement
James M. Spinning	1954	Community Service
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Gannett	1955	Civic Achievement
Dr. John R. Williams, Sr.	1956	Community Service
Edward Peck Curtis	1957	Civic Betterment
Peter Barry	1958	Civic Betterment
Marion B. Folsom	1959	Civic Betterment
Howard T. Cumming	1960	Civic Betterment

* - Deceased.