

[Genealogical Guide to Monroe County, New York](#)

Place Names

In New York State a county is divided in to towns. Within that town could be an incorporated area which would be known as a village. Not every place in the county is a town or village. Then there are numerous places that have names that are just road crossings or unincorporated hamlets.

For a very early list of places in the whole state, view [Gazetteer of the State of New York...](#) (1824) by Horatio Gates Spafford (Monroe County is on pages 325-327). This book is also available on a few other websites on the internet.

Another very good book for description of places in New York State is [Gazetteer of the State of New York](#) (1860) by John H. French. Again this book is available on a few other websites on the internet. The Monroe County section has been transcribed on [this web page](#). Some of the reprints of this book made over the last 30+ years have also included a name index to people mentioned in the book. Reprints can be bought through many genealogical book dealers.

A source specifically for locating places in Monroe County is [On the Origin of Names of Places in Monroe County, New York](#) (1911) by Rear Admiral Franklin Hanford. This book gives the names of all the small communities, resort areas and even the names of railroad stations. There is an alphabetical index to places in the rear of the book.

There is a small booklet that may be of help in finding a street in Rochester that you can't find on a current map. [Changes in Names of Rochester City Streets](#) is a 20 page booklet that will help with street name changes. It is only available in the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library (catalog number [Rrq974.789 C456c](#)). There are also streets that no longer exist that you may have to research using old maps.

On the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) website you can search for a place anywhere in the US. They not only have current names but also have some historic place names. Once you find a place then there are many map links to show the location.



Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)



[This web page](#) lists approximately 800 names of places in Monroe County. Included are hamlets, ponds and some cemeteries. By clicking on the links on that web page you are sent to the US Geological Survey page for that place. Again when there you can click on many maps to show the location of a place.

