

Genealogical Guide to Monroe County, New York

Newspapers

ROCHESTER GAZETTE.

Vol II.]

ROCHESTER, (GENESEE Co. N. Y.) TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1817.

[No. 68.]

Rochester and the surrounding area have had many newspapers since the weekly *Rochester Gazette* was first published in June 1816. The number of newspapers grew rapidly after the Erie Canal came through the area. In 1827 there were four weekly and two daily newspapers in Rochester. By the 1890s there were six daily newspapers in Rochester, including one in German. The Rochester Public Library has an extensive collection of Monroe County newspapers, the vast majority of which are on microfilm. Other libraries, including some out of the area also have Monroe County newspapers. *American Newspapers, 1821 – 1936* edited by Winifred Gregory was the first attempt for anyone to make a list newspapers published over the years in the U.S. and their locations. It does have most of the newspapers published in Monroe County before 1937 but is missing a few titles that were published for just a short time. [This web page](#) is an attempt in 1997 to list newspapers of Monroe County and their availability. It gets complicated because newspapers change their names and also have merged over time. There are some newspapers which only lasted a few months.

Besides general newspapers, there are special interest newspapers. Over time Monroe County had a few newspapers devoted to agriculture. There were also political, religious, literary, anti-slavery and *The Daily Record* which is a legal newspapers that was first published in 1926 and continues to this day. At one time there were two newspapers in German and *La Stampa Unita* that was partial in Italian and partial in English. There were newspapers for Catholics and also a couple for the Jewish community.

There are no birth notices in Rochester area newspapers in the 19th century. Also, it is rare to find a list of children in death notices during this period. The newspapers of that era do have death and marriage notices from the whole county and sometimes beyond the county borders. If the exact date is known for the ancestor, be sure to investigate all the newspapers published for that date as the event might be in a newspaper that was not indexed and only exists on microfilm.

Many newspapers of Monroe County have been put online in the past decade from many different websites. One of the largest is the free website [Fulton History](#) (AKA Old Fulton NY Postcards). It is completely done by by one person (Tom Tryniski) but it has the largest number of New York State newspaper pages of any website. You can't search an individual newspaper, instead you have to do a search by "key words" or names. Sometimes you may find a person being mentioned in a newspaper in another county because this website searches all newspapers. If you get too many search results, try doing an "exact phrase" search or a "boolean" search. If you are not familiar with "boolean" searches then click on the "FAQ_HELP_INDEX" tab for search hints. You can save newspaper pages to your computer as PDF files. These are the newspapers from Monroe County that are currently on the website:

- *The Album* (Rochester); 1825 – 1828
- *The Daily Record* (legal newspaper); 1910 – 1974
- *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester); 1872 – 1970
- *Fairport Herald*; 1873 – 1925
- *Fairport Herald-Mail*; 1925 – 1992
- *Greece Press*; 1934 – 1958

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- *Hilton Record*; 1906 – 1968
- *Monroe County Mail*; (Fairport) 1885 – 1925
- *Moore's Rural New Yorker* (an agricultural newspaper); 1872
- *Rochester Daily Advertiser & Telegraph*; 1828 – 1829
- *Rochester Daily Democrat*; 1840 – 1857
- *Rochester Evening Express*; 1860 – 1882
- *Rochester Republican*; 1829 – 1849
- *Rochester Telegraph*; 1818 – 1820
- *Rochester Times-Union*; 1928 – 1944
- *Suburban News*; (Spencerport) 1961 – 1994
- *Webster Herald*; 1938 – 1981

[NY State Historic Newspapers](#) has newspapers from the whole state that came from libraries all around the state. The easiest way to limit your search to just Monroe County is to click on Monroe County on the map. Then if you want to search just one newspaper, you click on its title. You can also select a date range to search. This website makes it easy to scroll through the pages using the navigation bar. You can save pages to your computer as either PDF files or as PNG picture files. These are the titles that are currently available on the website:

- *Brockport Republic and Brockport Democrat*; 1925 – 1954
- *The Brockport Republic*; 1856 – 1925
- *Cardinal Courier*; (student newspaper of St. John Fisher College) 2002 – 2009
- *Catholic Courier and Journal*; (Rochester) 1929 – 1932
- *The Catholic Courier Journal*; (Rochester) 1945 – 1968
- *Catholic Courier*; (Rochester) 1989 – 2004
- *The Catholic Courier*; (Rochester) 1933 – 1945
- *The Catholic Journal*; (Rochester) 1889 – 1929
- *Courier-Journal*; (Catholic newspaper published in Rochester) 1968 – 1989
- *The Echo*; (Rush) 1879 – 1881
- *Fairport Herald-Mail*; 1925 – 1962
- *The Fairport Herald*; 1873 – 1925
- *Fairport-Perinton Herald-Mail*; 1980 – 1992
- *Greater Greece Press*; 1959 – 1977
- *The Greece Press*; 1934 – 1958
- *Herald-Mail*; (Fairport) 1962 – 1977
- *The Honeoye Falls Times*; 1888 – 1987
- *Honeoye Falls Weekly Times*; 1882 – 1886 and 1987 – 1989
- *The Industrial School Advocate*; (Rochester) 1880
- *The Mendon-Honeoye Falls-Lima Sentinel*; (Honeoye Falls) 1989 – 2009
- *The Monroe County Mail*; (Fairport) 1885 – 1925
- *The New Greece Press*; 1958 – 1959
- *The Pioneer*; (student newspaper of St. John Fisher College) 1951 – 2001
- *The Republic-Democrat*; (Brockport) 1955 – 1974
- *Rochester Daily Telegraph*; 1827
- *Rochester Telegraph*; 1818 – 1827
- *The Social World*; (Rochester) 1885
- *The Stylus*; (student newspaper of SUNY Brockport) 1914 – 2014
- *The Gleaner*; (Nazareth College student newspaper) 1928 – 2010

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- *The Webster Herald*; 1938 – 1950
- *The Weekly Times*; (Honeoye Falls) 1888

Google started scanning old newspapers at one time but abandoned the project. Still, the newspapers that they scanned are on their [Google News Archive](#). From that main web page you have to search all the newspapers in the collection. There appears to be no way to search just one newspaper. You can navigate through issues and pages but their system is quite different than other website and will take a little getting used to. For some reason some pages have blank areas where the text is missing. There isn't any method of downloading any pages of these newspapers. These are the Monroe County titles available:

- *The Post Express*; 1882 – 1925 and few later issues
- *Rochester Beobachter*; (in German) 1864 – 1870
- *The Rochester Evening Express*; 1861 – 1888
- *Rochester Evening Journal*; 1922 – 1923 and 1929 – 1935
- *Rochester Journal and The Post Express*; 1923 – 1932
- *Rochester Journal*; 1935 – 1937
- *Rochester Taglicher (Daily) Beobachter*; (in German) 1871 – 1883



Newspapers.com is a subscription website. They have a full run of the [Democrat & Chronicle](#) from the first issue in 1871 up to recent issues. That amounts to over 2,500,000 pages. You can search just the *D & C* by clicking on the title. Once you find an article of interest, you will need to save it as a clipping. Then you can download that clipping as a PDF file.

Rochester Public Library has two collections of old newspapers that are online. Their [Digital Newspaper Gateway](#) (web page) has links to some single issues and these newspapers:

- *The Airscout's Snapshot*; (newspaper for soldiers of the Aerial School of Photography) 1918
- *The Anti-Masonic Enquirer*; (Rochester) random issues 1828 – 1830
- *Family Journal and Christian Philanthropist*; (Rochester) 10 issues 1833 – 1834
- *Moore's Rural New Yorker* (an agricultural newspaper) 1861 – 1865
- *Penfield Extra*; (published by a teenage, Nellie Williams) 1863 – 1866
- *The Soldier's Aid*; (published by Ladies' Hospital Relief Assoc., Rochester) 1863 – 1865

The Rochester Public Library also has another web page to newspapers titled [Historic Serials Collection](#) that has links to these newspapers:

- *The American Farmer*; (Rochester) 1866 – 1868
- *The Charlotte Pilot*; (newspaper for students at Charlotte High School) various issues 1937 – 1949

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- *The Hospital Review*; (published by Rochester City Hospital) 1864 – 1905 (early issues have Civil War patients)
- *The National Nurseryman*; (published in Rochester) 1893 – 1902
- *The Rochester Gem*; (a literary mag. with some vital records) 1829 – 1831, 1833, 1835 – 1836, 1838 – 1843

The Rochester area is very fortunate to have had most of the 19th century newspapers indexed. During the Great Depression, a project was begun to index all the newspapers by both subject and names of individuals. In the first part of the project, all the Rochester newspapers that were in the Rochester Public Library, at that time, were indexed to December 31, 1850. This resulted in 15 index volumes. The second part of the indexing project was to index newspapers starting Jan. 1, 1851, but during the project the money began to run out and it was decided that only the *Union and Advertiser* would be indexed after June 1854. The project was eventually cut off at Dec. 31, 1897. Just the same, this part of the project resulted in 67 index volumes. The [Rochester Newspaper Index web page](#) has links to those indexes. Also from that web page you can order copies. The price is \$15 for each article. Most of the vital records are only a single line. If you can visit the library, you can save digital copies from the microfilms to a USB device for free or make copies for 15¢ each. The following are the newspapers in those index volumes (including the codes used for the newspapers in the indexes):

Newspapers indexed for **1818 – 1850**

- *Anti-Masonic Enquirer*; (index code **AE** or **AME**) Sept. 15, 1829 – Dec. 24, 1833
- *Liberal Advocate*; (index code **LA**) just a few issues from 1834
- *Monroe Republican*; (index code **MR**) odd issues 1821 to 1825 & Aug. 2, 1825 – Aug. 1, 1826
- *Rochester Album*; (index code **RA**) Oct. 1825 – July 1828
- *Rochester Daily Advertiser*; (index code **RDA**) Apr. 1827 – Jan. 4, 1829 and various odd issues Apr. 1830 – June 1840 and all July 1, 1840 – Dec. 31, 1850
- *Rochester Daily Advertiser & Telegraph*; (index code **RDAT**) Jan. 5, 1829 – Apr. 3, 1830
- *Rochester Daily Democrat*; (index code **RDD**) Feb. 17, 1834 – Dec. 31, 1850
- *Rochester Daily Sun*; (index code **RDS**) June 11, 1839 – Dec. 31, 1839
- *Rochester Daily Telegraph*; (index code **RDT**) June 26, 1828 – Nov. 26, 1828
- *Rochester Gem*; (index code **RGLA**) May 1, 1829 – Dec. 1, 1843
- *Rochester Observer*; (index code **RO**) Feb. 17, 1827 – Sept. 19, 1832
- *Rochester Republican*; (index code **RR**) Dec. 29, 1829 – Dec. 1849 (but missing 1832 – 1836)
- *Rochester Telegraph*; (index code: **RT**) July 7, 1818 – Sept. 6, 1825
- *Workingman's Advocate*; (index code **WA** or **WMA**) Jan. 1, 1840 – March 31, 1840

Newspapers indexed for **1851 – 1897**

- *Rochester Daily Advertiser*; (index code **RDA**) Jan. 1, 1851 – Oct. 17, 1853
- *Rochester Daily Democrat*; (index code **RDD**) Jan. 1, 1851 – June 1854
- *Rochester Daily Union*; (index code **RDU**) Aug. 16, 1852 – Dec. 14, 1856
- *Rochester Union and Advertiser*; (index code **UA**) Dec. 15, 1856 – Dec. 31, 1897

In the 1970s, money was obtained from the Federal government to continue the indexing project. The result was a card file that is only located in the Local History Division of the Rochester Public Library. Like the earlier newspaper indexes, this indexed both subjects and names. The following are the newspapers indexed in that card file:

- *Democrat & Chronicle*; Jan. 1, 1898 – 1903
- *Rochester Post-Express*; 1898 – 1903

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About 1948 the Local History section of the Rochester Public Library began to clip obituaries, some death notices and other biographical articles from the Rochester newspapers. They stopped clipping the little death notices about 1970, but continue clipping the obits and biographical articles. Some have been mounted into scrapbooks, but most are filed in envelopes by alphabetic groupings. You can ask for an envelope of the clippings at the Local History desk.

The Rochester Public Library has a project called “[Life Records](#)” which indexes births, marriages and deaths in the *Democrat & Chronicle* and *Rochester Times–Union* with the help of a federal grant. At this writing the birth index covers 1978 – 2014. The marriage index covers 1965 – present. The death index covers 1960 – present. You can also purchase copies of the newspaper records online. The current price is \$15 per item with a limit of three per day. If you can go to the library, you can make digital copies for free and paper copies for 15¢ each.

Also on the Rochester Public Library website are name indexes to newspapers published in Brockport, NY. If you find a name listed, then you can use the [NY State Historic Newspapers](#) website to view the newspaper page. These are links to the Brockport indexes (PDF format):

- [Brockport births, 1925 - 1953](#) - indexed by Donald P. Specht.
- [Brockport marriages, 1856 - 1917](#) - indexed by Arnold Schockow.
- [Brockport marriages, 1925 - 1953](#) - indexed by Donald P. Specht.
- [Brockport deaths, 1856 - 1925](#) - indexed by Arnold Schockow..
- [Brockport deaths, 1925 - 1953](#) - indexed by Donald P. Specht.

On the [Vital Records page](#) of Monroe County GenWeb this author has extracted marriages and deaths from Rochester newspapers from 1818 to Dec. 1832.

On the [Catholic Courier website](#) there is a search box where you can search articles from 2004 to the present. They also have an [archive search page](#) that will search their publication back to 1889 and also the *Catholic Journal* (and variations of the newspaper names) which eventually merged together.

Although it is a big project to scan old newspapers, the interest is high. You should expect to see more newspapers coming online in the future.

