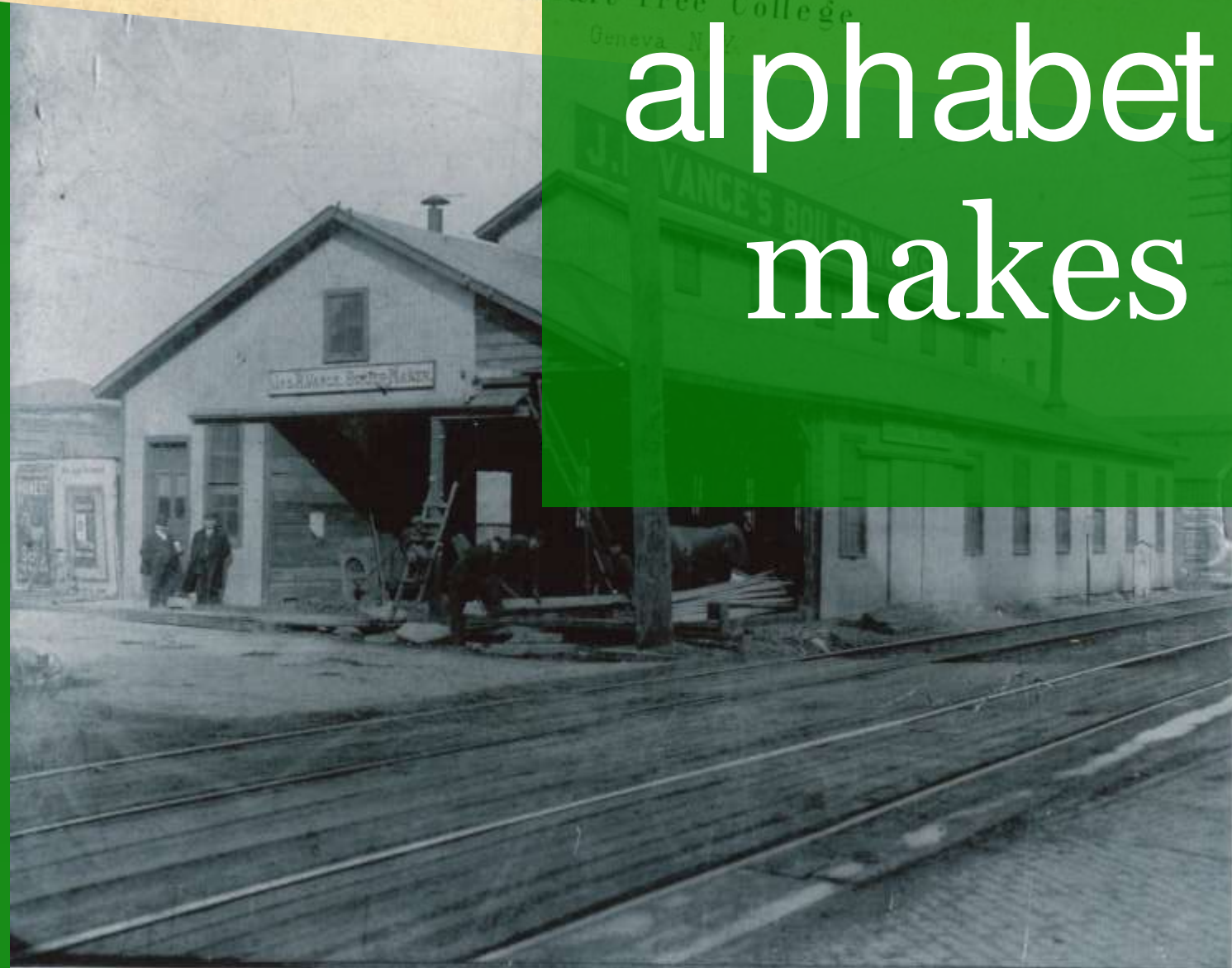




Geneva A to Z

From architecture to Zotos,  
a variety of people, events,  
objects, and places have been  
part of Geneva's rich and  
diverse history.

Geneva A to Z is an  
alphabetical catalog of what  
makes Geneva...Geneva.





# C

Starting in 1825, canals made it possible to travel anywhere in the world from Geneva by water. The Seneca-Cayuga Canal led north to the Erie Canal, then west to the Great Lakes or east to the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean. Geneva became a loading point for canal barges (right).



Castle Street took its name from the old Seneca Indian town, or castle, once located at its western end. Its 19<sup>th</sup> century history ranged from steamboat docks at the lake to the nurseries on “Castle Heights” that made Geneva famous.



Geneva has been home to churches and houses of worship from Episcopalian to Christian Science and everything in between. Current faith communities include numerous African American churches, St. Michael's Syrian-Greek Orthodox Church, and Temple Beth-El.

# D



In 1875, St. Francis Desales Parochial School was established on Exchange Street. It was granted high school status by New York State in 1913, and moved to Pulteney Street (above) in 1930. After 100 years of Roman Catholic education, Desales closed in August 2012.

Immigration has created diversity in Geneva. While cultural groups don't always mingle, schools are one venue that bring people together. This 1931 Geneva High School team photo shows Syrian and possibly Italian youth with descendants of British Isle immigrants.



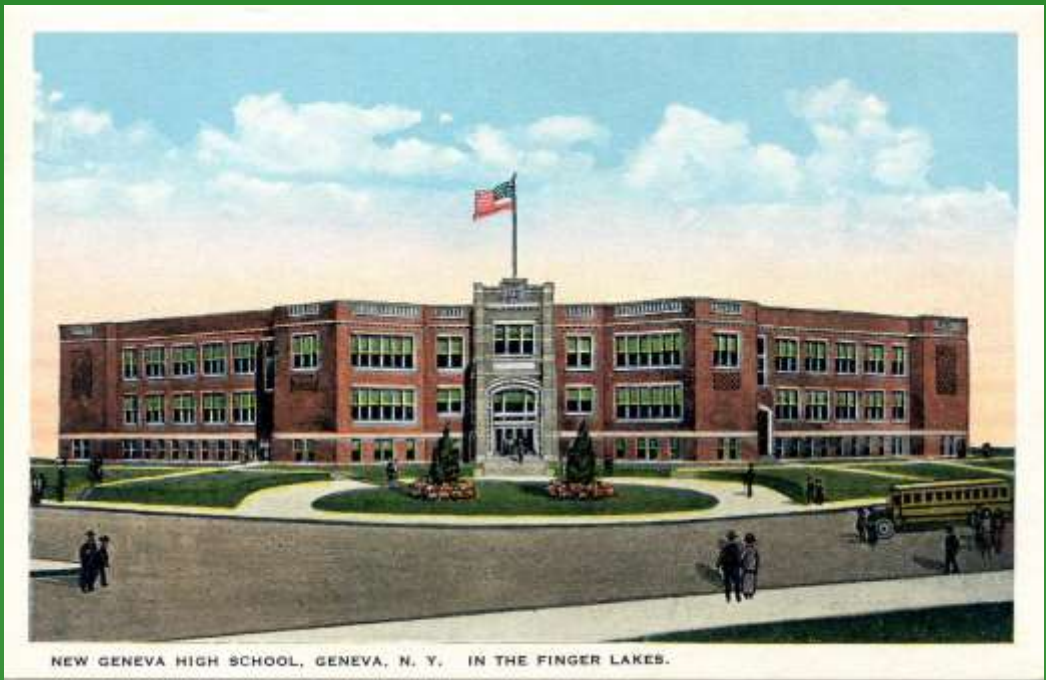
From 1946 to around 1990, Downyflake Donuts were little circles of deep-fried heaven. Period.





# G

**Green’s Bathing Beach** (1916 – 1930s) was a commercial waterfront attraction, south of Long Pier. It included a diving tower, water slide, and changing rooms and concessions. A municipal beach at the northeast corner of the lake eventually drew people away from Green’s.



In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Geneva’s secondary school was the Classical and Union School. Geneva High School moved into its new building erected on Pulteney and Milton Streets in 1926. The school moved to Carter Road in 1981.



Established in 1872, Glenwood Cemetery is Geneva’s largest cemetery. Designed by landscape architects Horace Cleveland and William French, their original plan has been expanded to the south.

# H

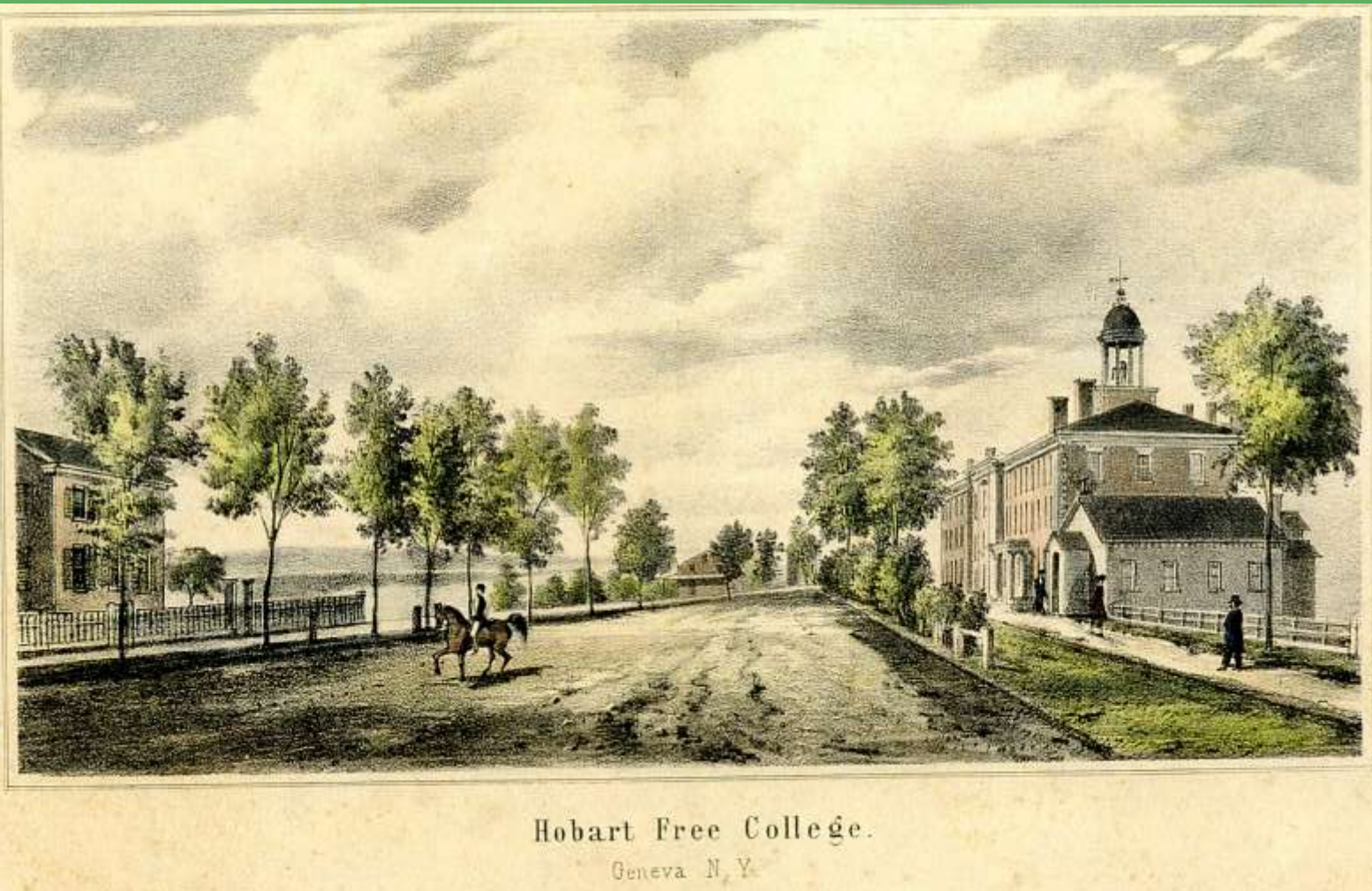


Since the Geneva Hotel (now Pulteney Apartments) opened in 1796, hotels have been an important business in Geneva. Exchange Street was a common location for many hotels, near the canal and railroad station.



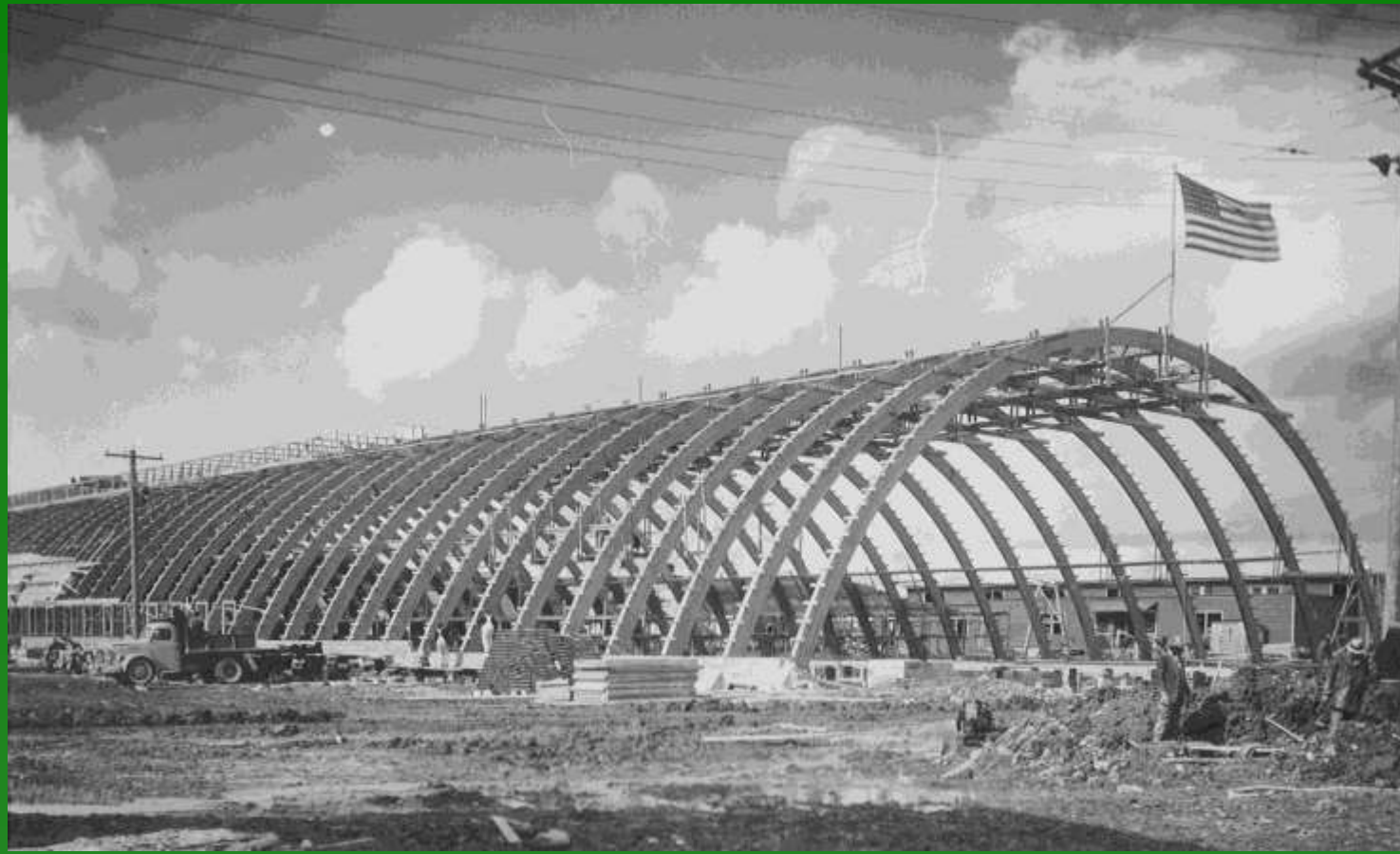
Home Dairy, part of a New York State bakery and cafeteria chain, first opened in the Smith Opera House in 1921. It moved to 36 Seneca Street in 1929. Modernized several times, it was a popular coffee spot for local businessmen.

With strong support from the Episcopal Church and Bishop John Henry Hobart, Hobart College was chartered as Geneva College in 1825. The name was changed in 1852 to honor the bishop. The college consisted of a few buildings on South Main Street until 1900 when it expanded onto Pulteney Street.





# Q



Quonset huts (temporary buildings with a curved roof) were a main part of Sampson Naval Training Station. Developed in the early 1940s for military use, the name came from Quonset Point, Rhode Island where the first buildings were fabricated. After World War II, the Sampson buildings were dismantled and reassembled at colleges in Cortland, Brockport, Oswego, and Middlebury, Vermont.



Until the early 1900s, Hobart College was only on South Main Street. The construction of Coxe Hall (1900), Medberry Hall (1901), and Williams Hall (1907) to the west of South Main Street created a **quadrangle, or “quad”**. The site of Hobart & William Smith Colleges’ convocations and commencements, the quad has also hosted visiting dignitaries such as Bill and Hillary Clinton.

# R

The first railroad came to Geneva in 1841, an east-west line connecting Auburn and Rochester. Two major New York railroads (the New York Central Railroad and the Lehigh Valley Railroad) passed through Geneva and the Fallbrook Line (right) brought coal from Pennsylvania. Railroads moved most of the goods and people in and out of Geneva up to the 1960s.



Beginning in 1885, several Geneva companies made ranges (kitchen stoves). The Philips & Clark Stove Company made the Andes brand stove, changing its name to Andes Range and Furnace Corporation in 1924. Although it closed in 1951, operable Andes stoves can still be found.



Rowhouses are usually found in larger cities. Built around the original village center on South Main Street, they had businesses and offices on the first floor with living space above. As commerce moved to the waterfront after 1825, the rowhouses became primarily residential.



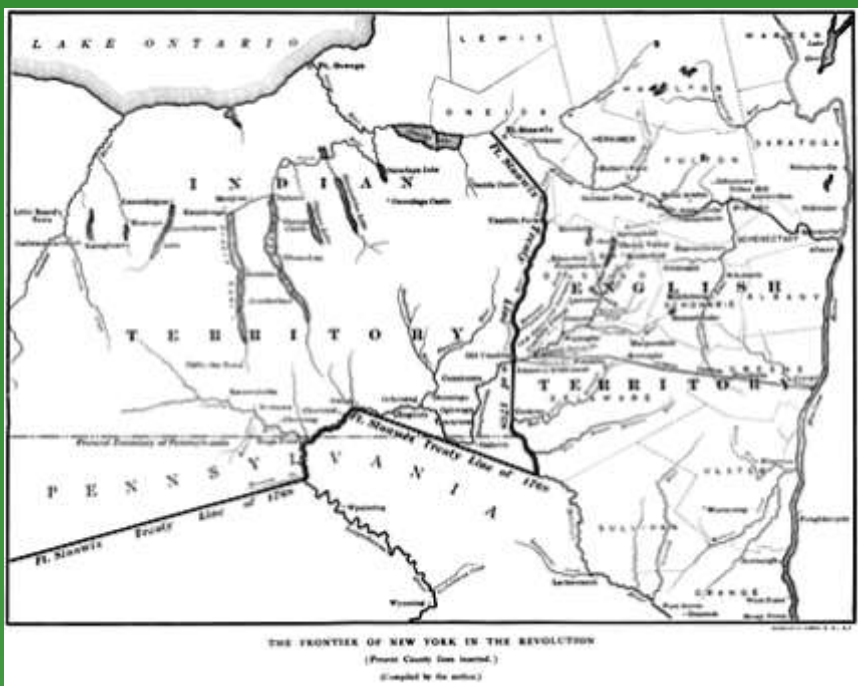
# S



In 1894, nurseryman William Smith built the Smith Opera House to host public events from Shakespeare and opera to political speakers. Part of the Schine’s theater chain from the 1930s through the 1960s, it was almost demolished in the late 1970s but was saved by local preservationists.



Around 1895 Syrian immigrants began arriving in Geneva, settling on Geneva, Tillman, and Exchange Streets. They built St. Michael’s Syrian-Greek Orthodox Church on Geneva Street in 1915. While smaller in numbers, the Syrian community and its church are still present in Geneva.

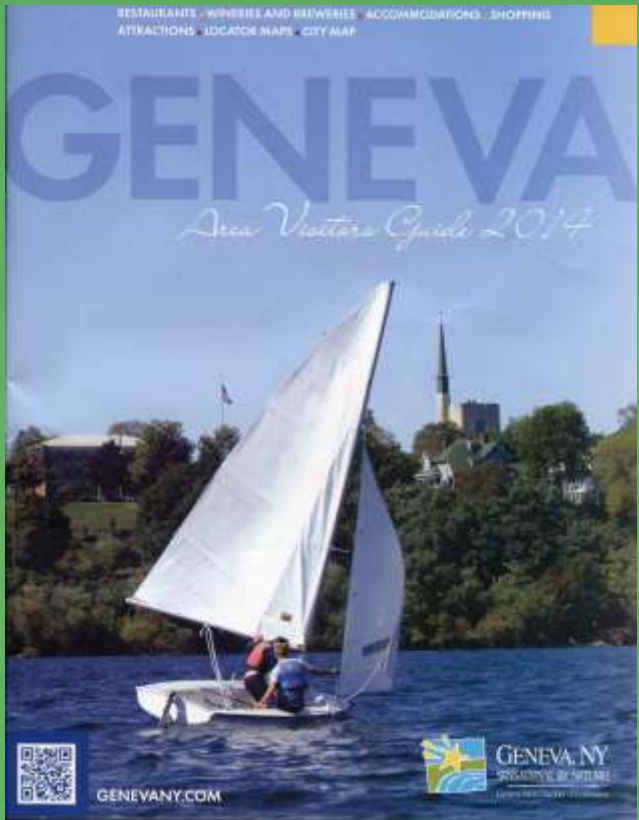


The Seneca Nation of Indians were the “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Iroquois Confederacy. Known as O-non-dowa-gah in their language, it is unclear how the name Seneca came about. It is not unique to this area. In fact, there are 13 communities named Seneca in the United States.

# T



In the 1890s Torrey Park, on the north side of the city, was predominantly settled by Italian immigrants. It was named for Samuel Torrey, who owned much of the farmland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The neighborhood was a mix of factories, working-class homes, and Italian-owned businesses.



Tourism has been part of Geneva’s economy since the mid-1800s when trains and trolleys brought people to town. Beginning in the 1920s, local restaurants and tourist homes promoted themselves to people traveling by car. Tourism in the Finger Lakes has increased over the last ten years as people discover the region’s wines and lakes.



Transportation routes have been the key to Geneva’s prosperity. The main east-west land route across New York State was today’s Routes 5&20. From an Indian path to a modern highway, it brought trade and people through and to town. Our access to water and a north-south land route from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania has also benefitted the town.



W

The Seneca Lake Whale Watch was a whimsical twist on a summer festival. Locals still spent many hours explaining to visitors that there are no whales in Seneca Lake. The celebration of music, local food, and crafts was held on the waterfront from 1994 to 2006.



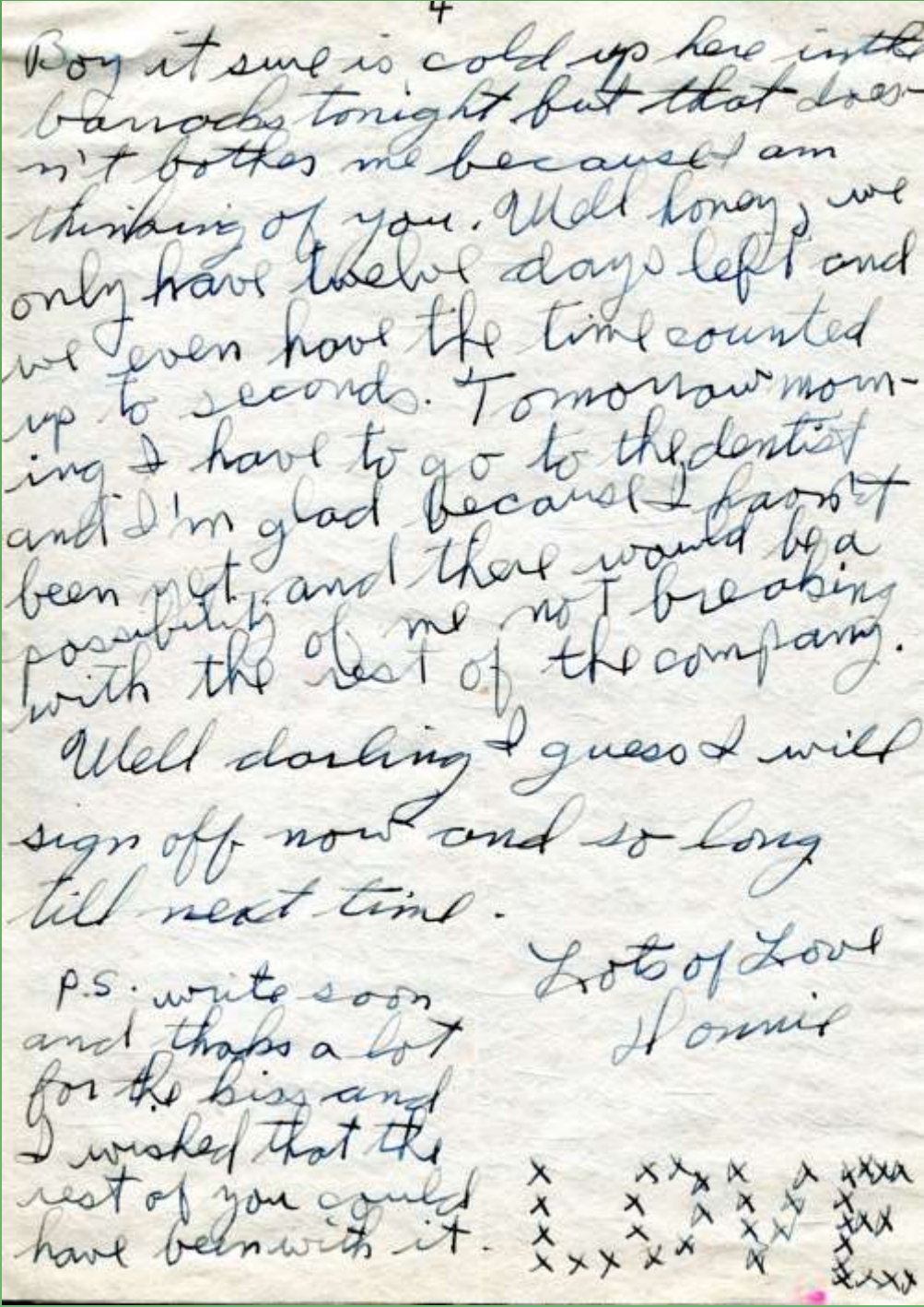
In 1908 William Smith College opened with 19 students. Its benefactor, who also built the Smith Opera House, wanted a liberal arts, non-denominational, school for women. Although it shares facilities and professors with Hobart College, William Smith has always been a separate, coordinate college.



Since the 1800s White Springs Farm, to the southwest of Geneva, has been a prominent farm. Alfred Lewis purchased the estate in 1898 and made it famous for dairy products (the White Springs Farm Dairy Company) and fruits. Today the White Springs Manor is operated by Belhurst Castle, and 35 acres of farmland are owned by Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

X

XOXO as a closing, meaning “hugs and kisses”, has survived from letter writing to text messaging. A “x” for a kiss was a Medieval custom, when a Christian cross was drawn to mean sincerity, faith, and honesty. In our archives we have many letters to and from Genevans, maintaining personal connections when far away from home.



Dr. W. E. Achilles was the first radiologist in Geneva. He joined the staff of Geneva General Hospital in 1919, and also had an x-ray room in his home office at 8 Park Place. As technology changed, he kept old x-ray tubes as mementos.

