

A



The Appleknockers were Geneva's American Legion drum and bugle corps from 1929 to the early 1960s. Its successor, the Junior Appleknockers played in the 1960s and 70s. The senior corps advanced to the national American Legion championship in 1941 and played everywhere from local parades to Carnegie Hall.

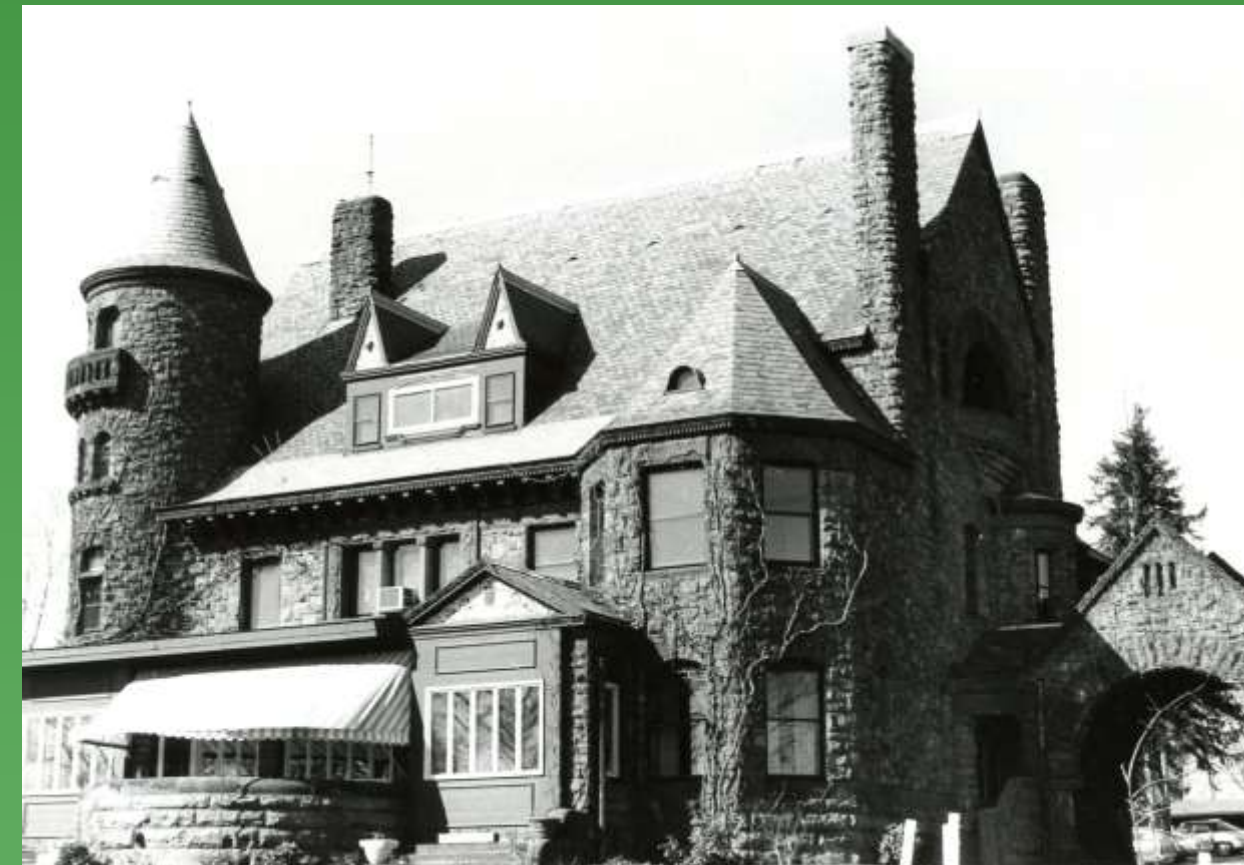
In 1901, Geneva's Empire State Can Company and 122 other small companies were consolidated into the American Can Company. Formed in the 1890s, Empire State Can was built on the north end of Geneva near the new Lehigh Valley Railroad station. The Geneva shop made can-making machines; the plant closed in 1989.



Geneva has almost every type of American architectural style from an early American saltbox house to a Modernist office tower. Washington Street, for example, has Federal and Greek Revival (early 1800s), Victorian styles (mid- to late- 1800s), early 1900s Craftsman bungalows and Prairie ("Frank Lloyd Wright") style, and post-World War II vernacular houses.

B

From 1828 to the early 1900s, steamboats carried freight, canal boats, and passengers up and down Seneca Lake. Sailboats have been on the lake since the 1790s. Between 1904 and the 1930s, the Fay & Bowen Company made quality motorboats.



Belhurst Castle is well-known inside and out. Built in the 1890s, it is one of several Richardsonian Romanesque buildings in the city. Owner Red Dwyer operated a casino there beginning in the 1930s. There are also several ghost stories related to the hotel's history.

Long Pier was built in 1828 to create a protected harbor. Around 1900, Genevans began building boathouses on the north side of the pier. While the structures were intended only for boat storage, some folks lived there in the summer. In 1962, the boathouses were burned by order of the state.



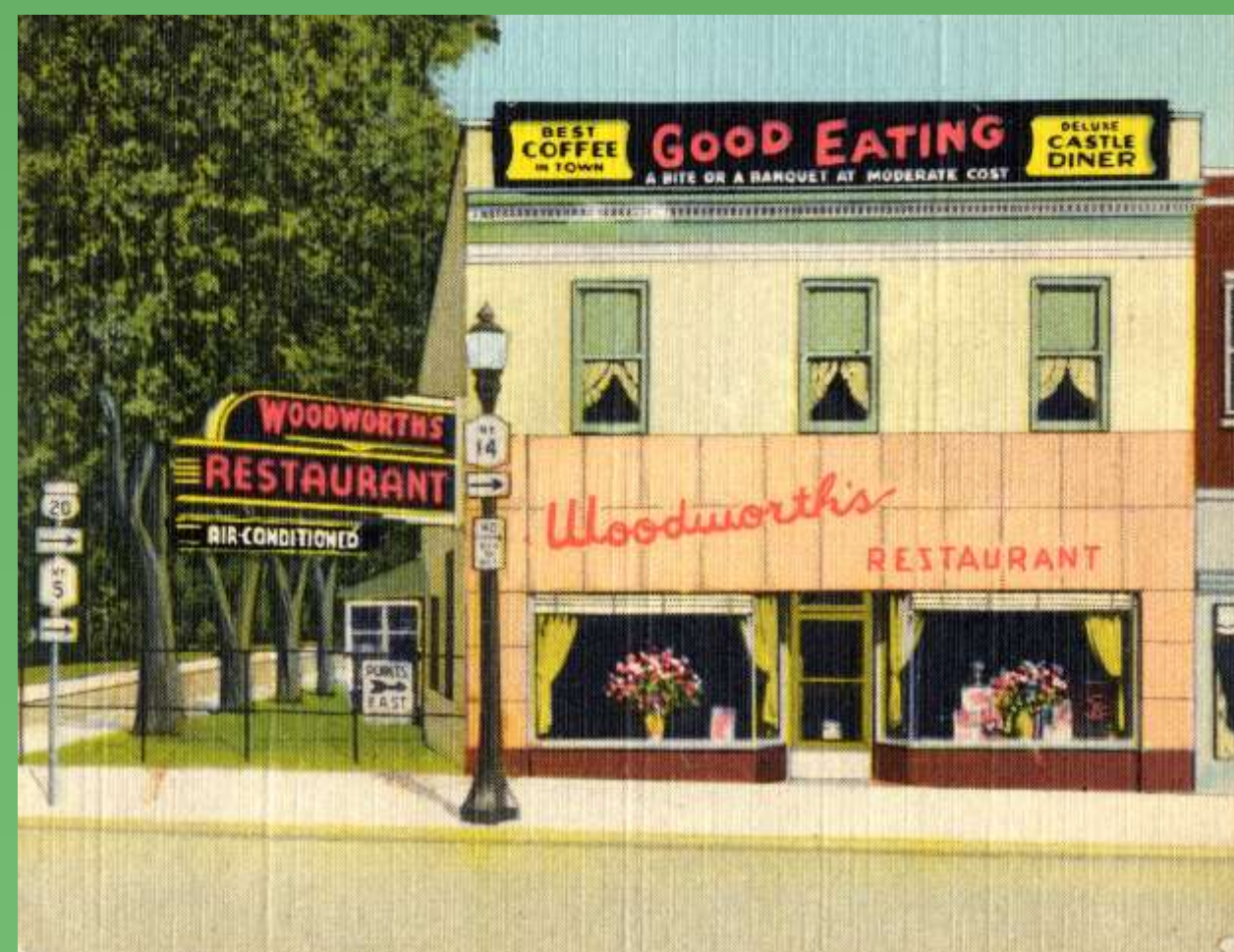
E

Originally, Exchange Street was named Water Street for its nearness to the lake. In the mid-1800s it was home to warehouses, hotels, bars, and bordellos frequented by canal people. During the 1870s the name changed to Exchange because of all the commercial trade, and became more respectable in the 1900s.



The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station was established in 1882 to conduct scientific research to aid the state's farmers. The Station has grown from one building to 20 and employs over 300 people. Modern research includes fruit and vegetable breeding, food processing, and plant disease prevention.

For many Genevans, eating is a big memory. It begins at home with family recipes but extends outward to generations of diners, taverns, and restaurants. A few favorites have been Woodworth's, Pronti's, and the Twin Oaks.

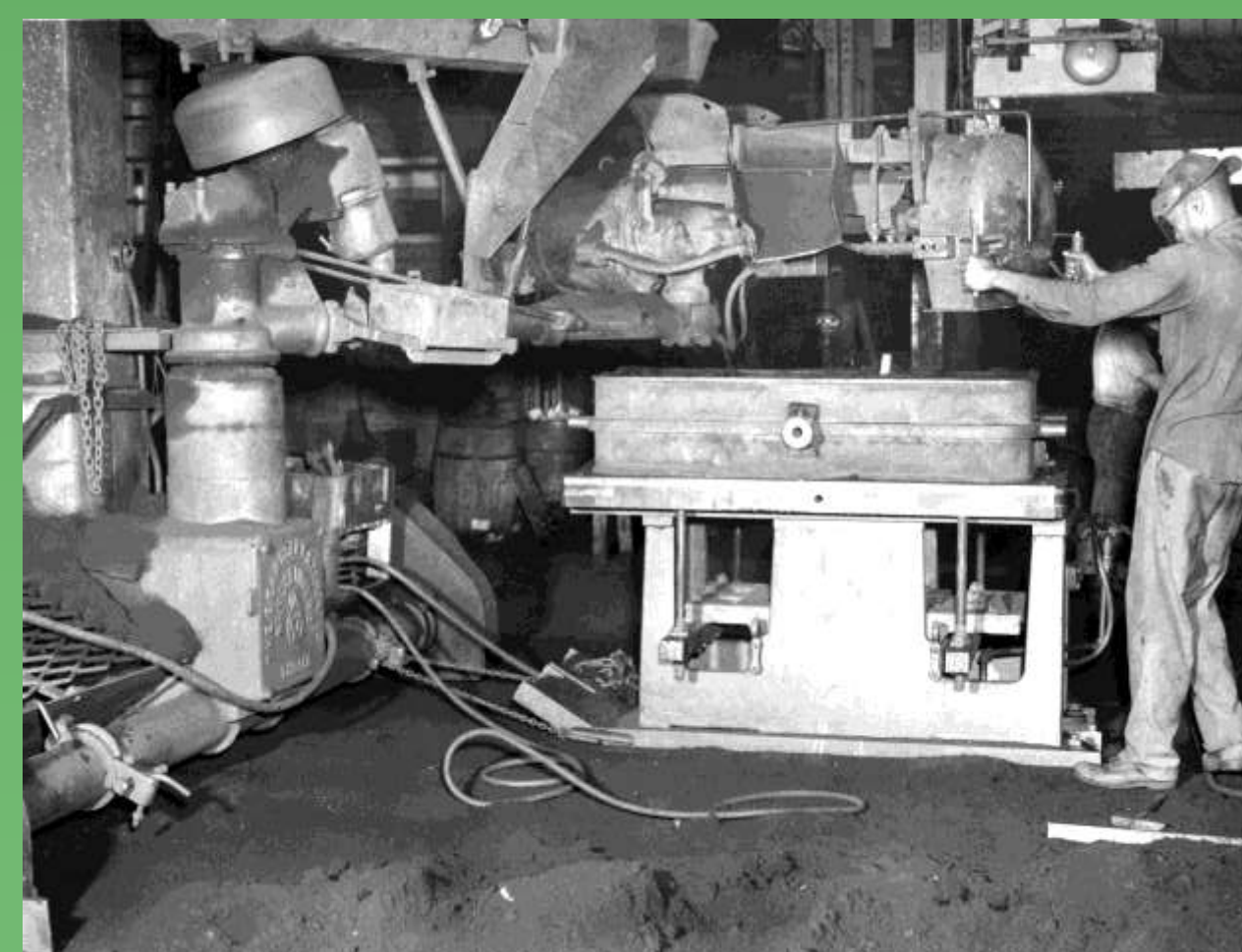


F



With the exception of 10 years in the late 19th century, Geneva has been protected by volunteer fire departments since 1816. (Today, fire truck drivers are paid professionals.) The three companies in operation today—Hydrant Hose, Folger Hook and Ladder, and Nester Hose—were established in the 1880s.

Fink's was a lakefront gas station from the 1930s to the early 1960s (right). In the 1960s and 70s, it became a vacant lot hangout for young people, as in, "Are you going to Fink's tonight?" Separated from downtown and houses by a four-lane road, it was a good spot for unsupervised socializing.



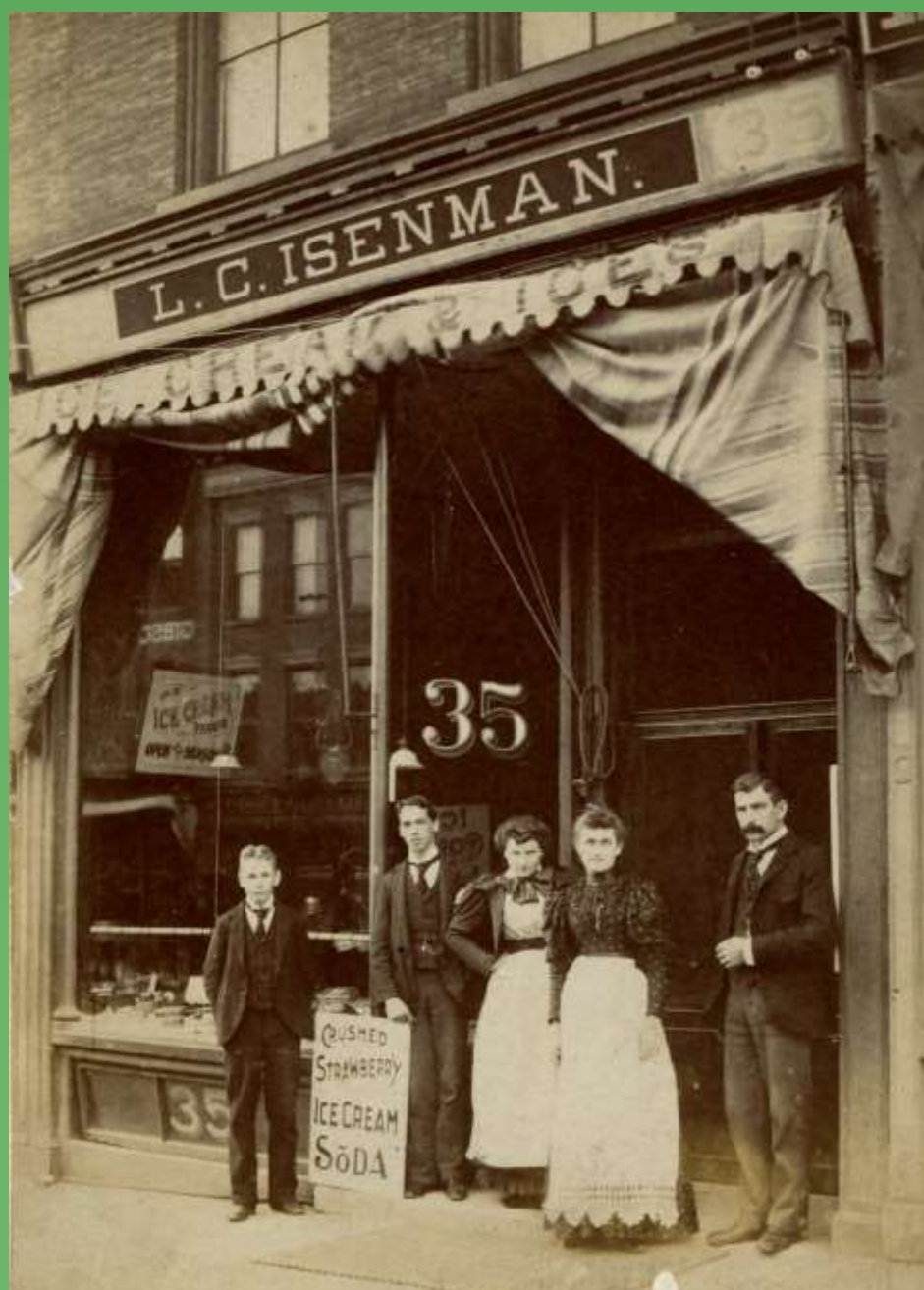
From the 1850s to the 1960s metal foundries were important in Geneva. Products ranged from farm implements (Burrall, Herendeen) to boilers (Herendeen, Central New York Iron Works, Vance Boilers) to stoves (Phillips and Clark, Summit, Andes). Other foundries did custom casting.

I



From the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s, industry thrived in Geneva. It did not take hold until steam power was available, and declined due to corporate mergers and changes in technology. Locally-manufactured products included stoves and boilers, wallpaper paste, boats, cutlery (left), and metal type for typewriters.

In the late 1700s, immigration began with New Englanders, Southerners, free and enslaved African Americans, and British Isle immigrants. They were followed by the Dutch, Germans, and Irish. In the 1890s, newcomers were Italians like the Delano family (right), Syrians, and Jews. Post-World War II saw an influx of southern African Americans, Latinos, and Asians.



From 1901 to 1957, Isenman's served ice cream and confections. It was a favorite hangout for Geneva and DeSales High School students, as well as anyone with a sweet tooth.

J

Scottish immigrant John Johnston (1791-1880) is considered “the Father of Tile Drainage in America.” He promoted it by practice, laying miles of drainage on his 320-acre farm, and through writings.



Although slow to formally organize, a Jewish community has been in Geneva since the late 1800s. Largely as a response to the war in Europe, the Jewish Communal Welfare Group was organized in 1939. Temple Beth-El was formed in 1947 and purchased this building as their synagogue in 1951.

The Junior High School had several homes. First in the former Classical and Union School on Milton Street, it moved to a new North Street building (right) in 1957, then to the old High School on Pulteney Street in 1981. At that time, sixth grade was added to form the Middle School.



K

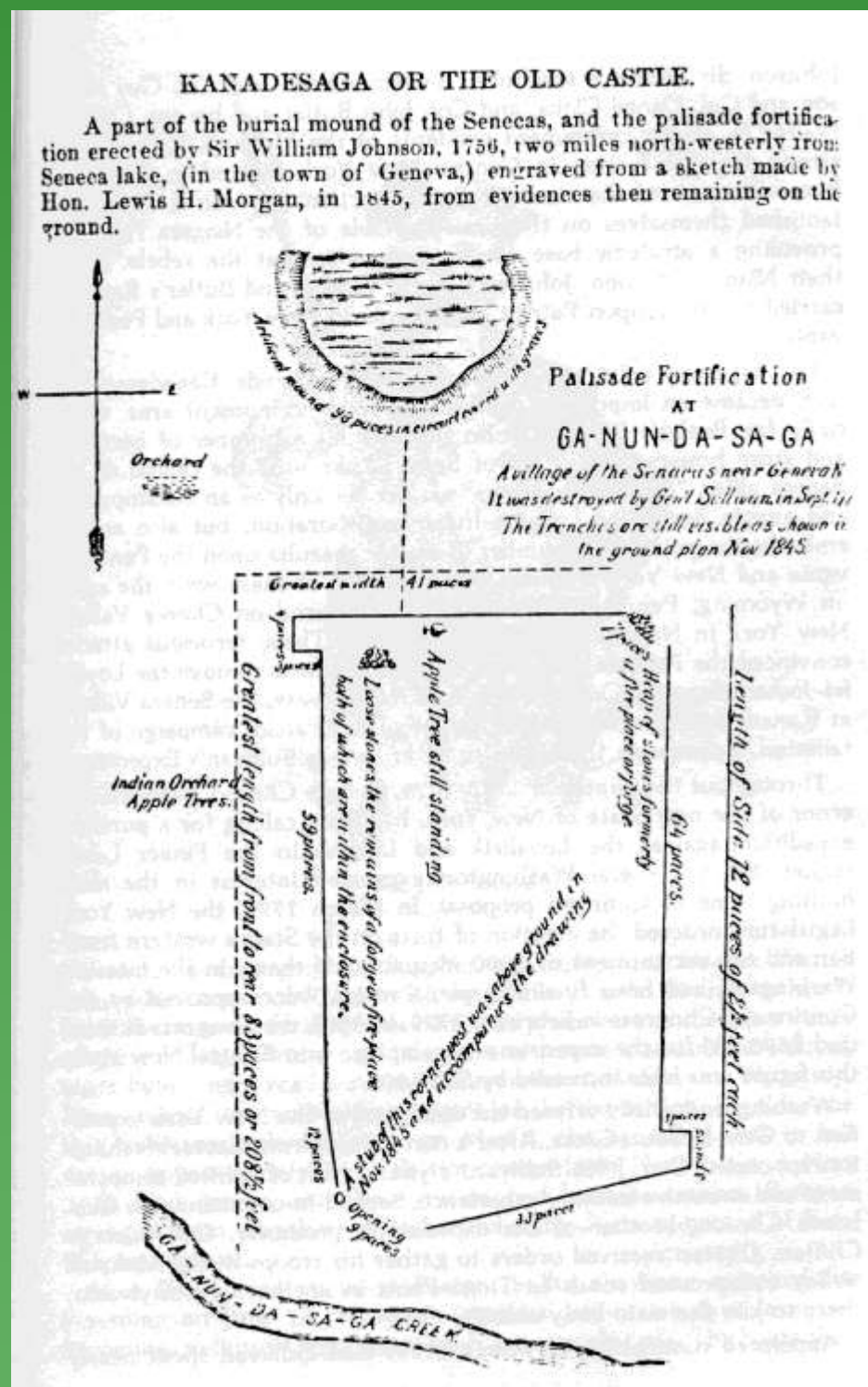
Located five miles south of Geneva, Kashong Point had two hotels and a steamboat landing by the end of the 19th century. Cottages soon followed, and owners formed “The Tribe of Kashong” in 1912 to govern the settlement.



L



Until the late 1980s, the lakefront was used primarily for industry and transportation. The creation of Lakeside Park in 1916 was opposed by some who felt factories should be built on the lake rather than a park. Today, the lakefront is recreational, with continuing debate about how it should be developed.



Kanadesaga (1754-1779) was the last of three Seneca Indian towns around Geneva. Tribes would relocate as resources near their town dwindled, but they always stayed near Seneca Lake.

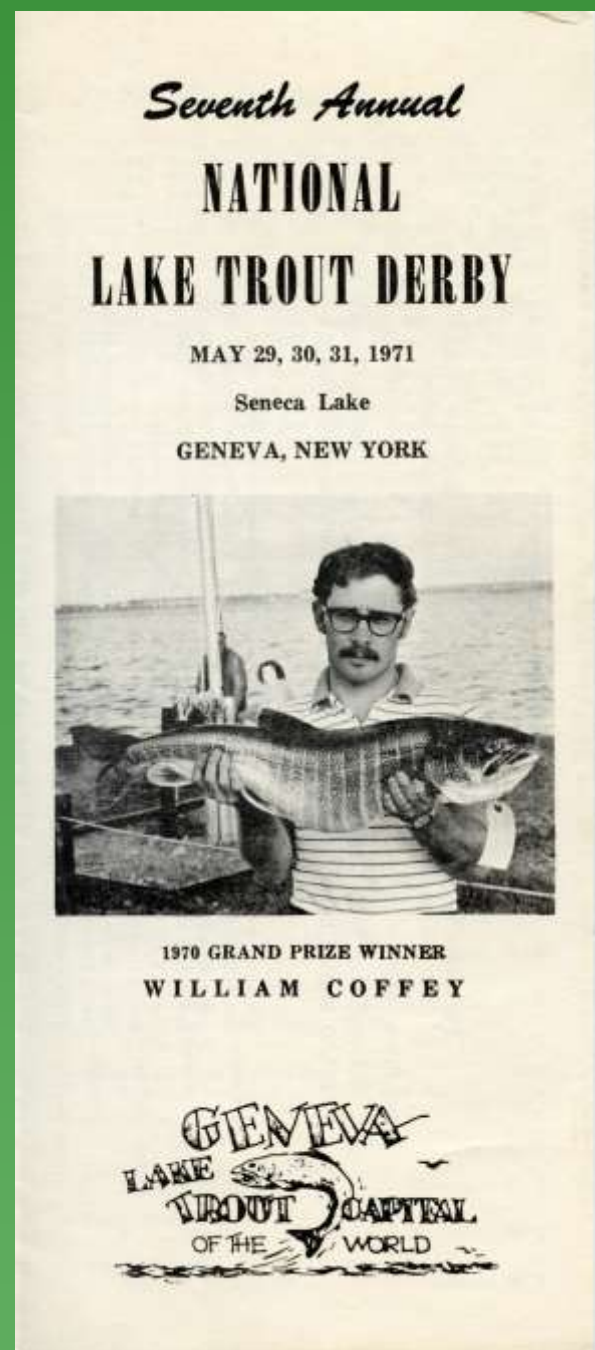


In 1897 Knights of Columbus #272 was formed. They dedicated their current home on Milton Street on August 3, 1952.

The National Lake Trout Derby began in 1965, and Geneva has claimed the title of “Lake Trout Capital of the World” ever since. Hundreds of fishermen gather on Seneca Lake on Memorial Day weekend to compete for the largest trout (lake, brown, and rainbow) and landlocked salmon.



Geneva has always been a lacrosse town. Due to the lack of other high school teams in the 1930s, Geneva High's team played against colleges. Hobart's team won 13 Division III national championships, and William Smith has had a varsity team since 1966.



M



In 1897 Elizabeth Smith Miller (1822-1911), cousin of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, formed the Political Equality Club to work for women's suffrage. She often hosted Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Frederick Douglass at her Lochland Road home and brought other famous suffragettes to speak in Geneva.

Henry McDonald (1891-1976) was a sports icon for decades. A professional football and baseball player, he was locally known for coaching DeSales High School football and umpiring Little League baseball. In 1973, he was inducted into the Black Athletes Hall of Fame, alongside Willie Mays and Jackie Robinson.



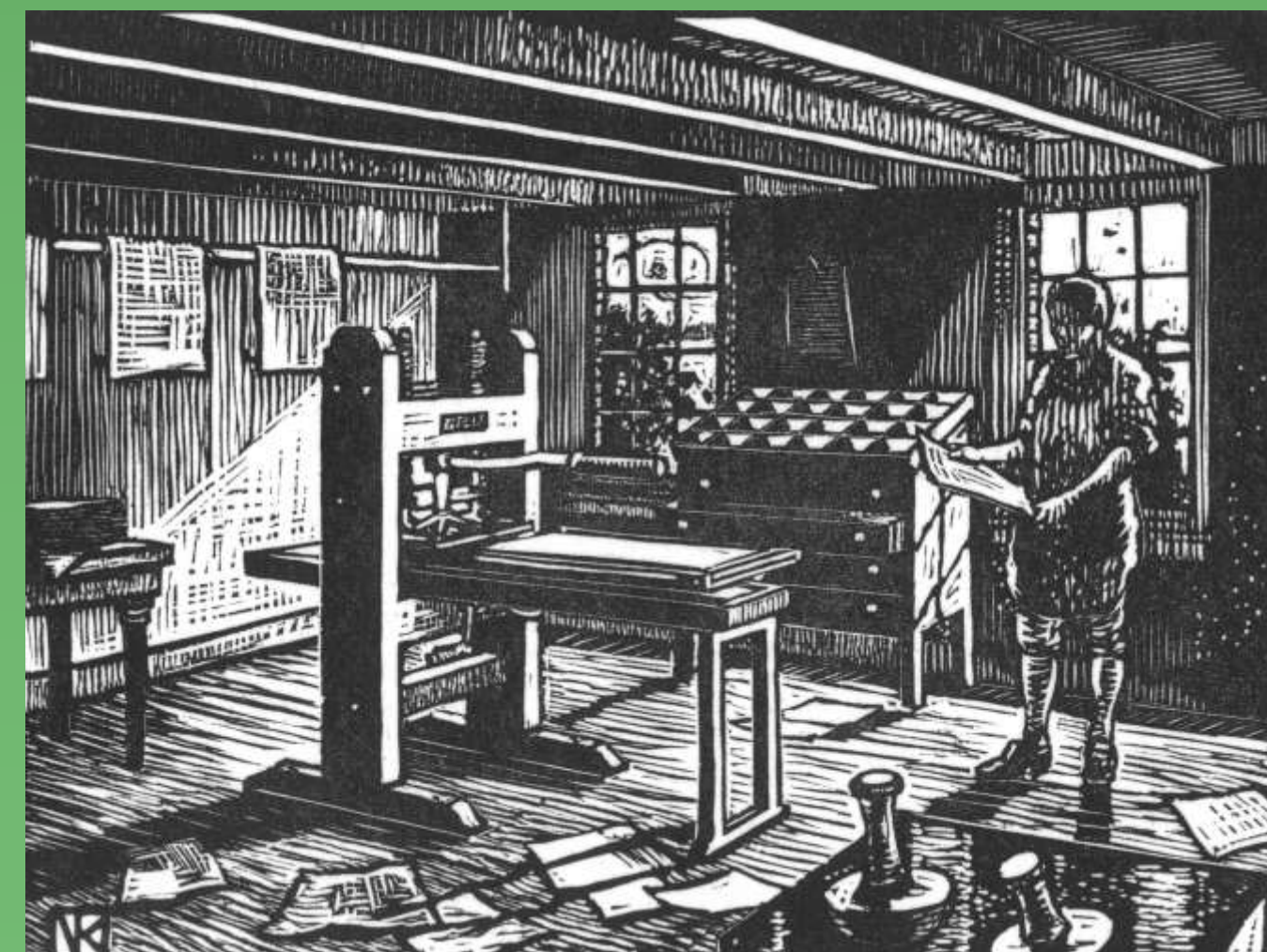
From the amateurs that gave recitals to the international stars like Duke Ellington (left) that came to town on the railroads, Geneva has a rich music history. Accomplished professionals grew up in Geneva as well, including jazz musicians Scott LaFaro and Michael Hashim and founding members of Gym Class Heroes.

N



Historically, Geneva's neighborhoods were identified by which school children attended or the stores that were within walking distance. Cultural background and family relations also held neighbors together. Having identified 11 modern neighborhoods, the Geneva Neighborhood Resource Center works to strengthen connections among residents.

Beginning in the 1840s, nurseries were Geneva's first large successful businesses. Thousand-pound crates of plants were shipped around the country. By 1875, more than 8,000 acres in and around Geneva grew shrubs, flowers, and fruit and shade trees.



When Geneva was established in the 1790s, newspapers were among the first businesses. Today's Finger Lakes Times began in 1895 as the Geneva Daily Times.

O

For over 50 years P.B. Oakley (1894-1982) covered Geneva as a journalist and photographer for the Geneva Times, Syracuse Post, Syracuse Journal, and Syracuse Herald-Journal. He donated over 11,000 images to the historical society, taken from the 1930s to the late 1960s.



P

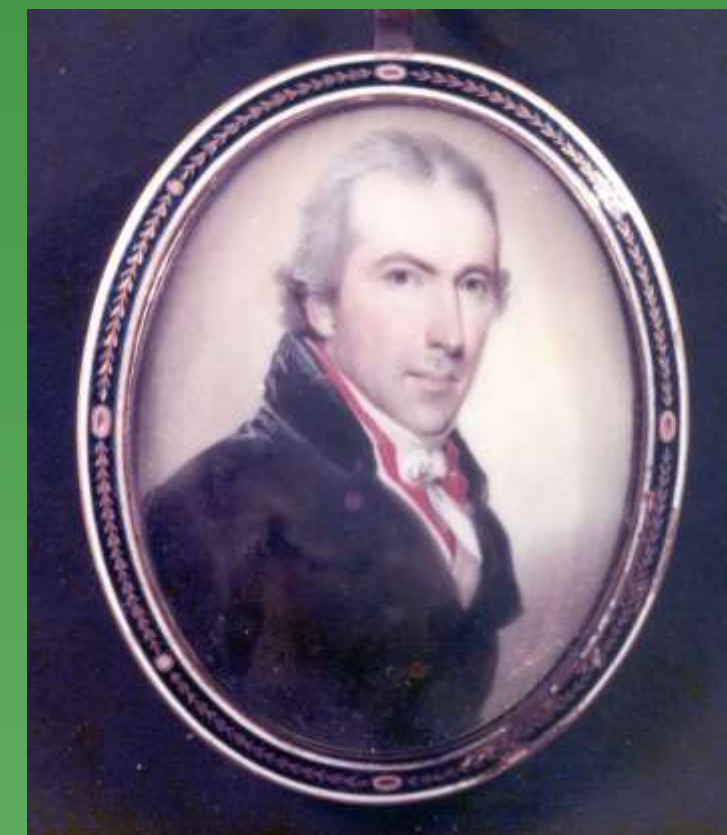


Parks and playgrounds are one of the few amenities that are evenly spread around the city. Seven playgrounds have offered summer programs, and a few were home to winter skating rinks. Beginning with Lakefront Park in 1916, recreational space along the water has slowly increased over the years.

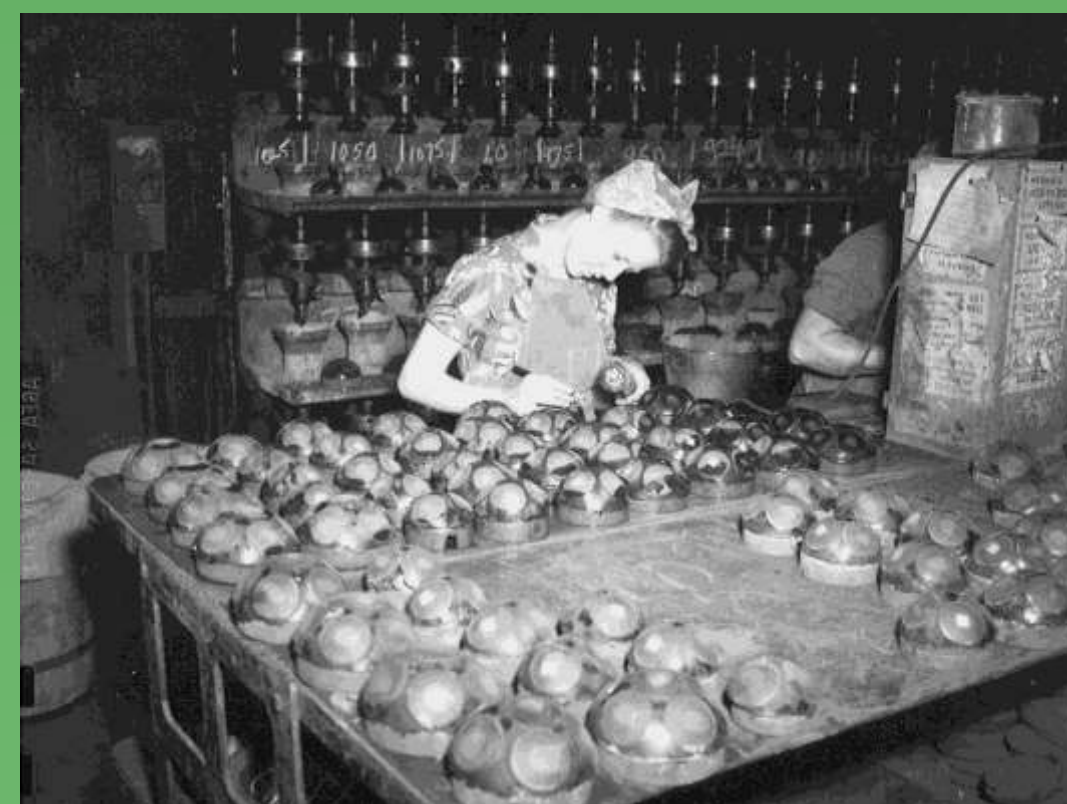


In 1810, the Ontario Glass Manufacturing Company (1810-1830, 1841-1847) was formed south of the village on Seneca Lake. Around the glasshouse a settlement sprang up of houses, a church, a school, and a store. The area is still called Glass Factory Bay.

In 1792 the Pulteney Associates (Sir William Pulteney, William Hornby, and Patrick Colquhoun) bought 1.27 million acres of land, from Seneca Lake to the Genesee River. Charles Williamson (right), their land agent, lived in Geneva and was responsible for development and improvements throughout the region. Pulteney lives on as a Geneva street name and in two area village names.



By the 1870s, nurserymen began investing in industries including optical companies. Geneva Optical Company and Standard Optical later merged to form Shuron Optical, which operated until 1960. People remember Castle Creek turning red from the lens grinding rouge that was discharged into the water.

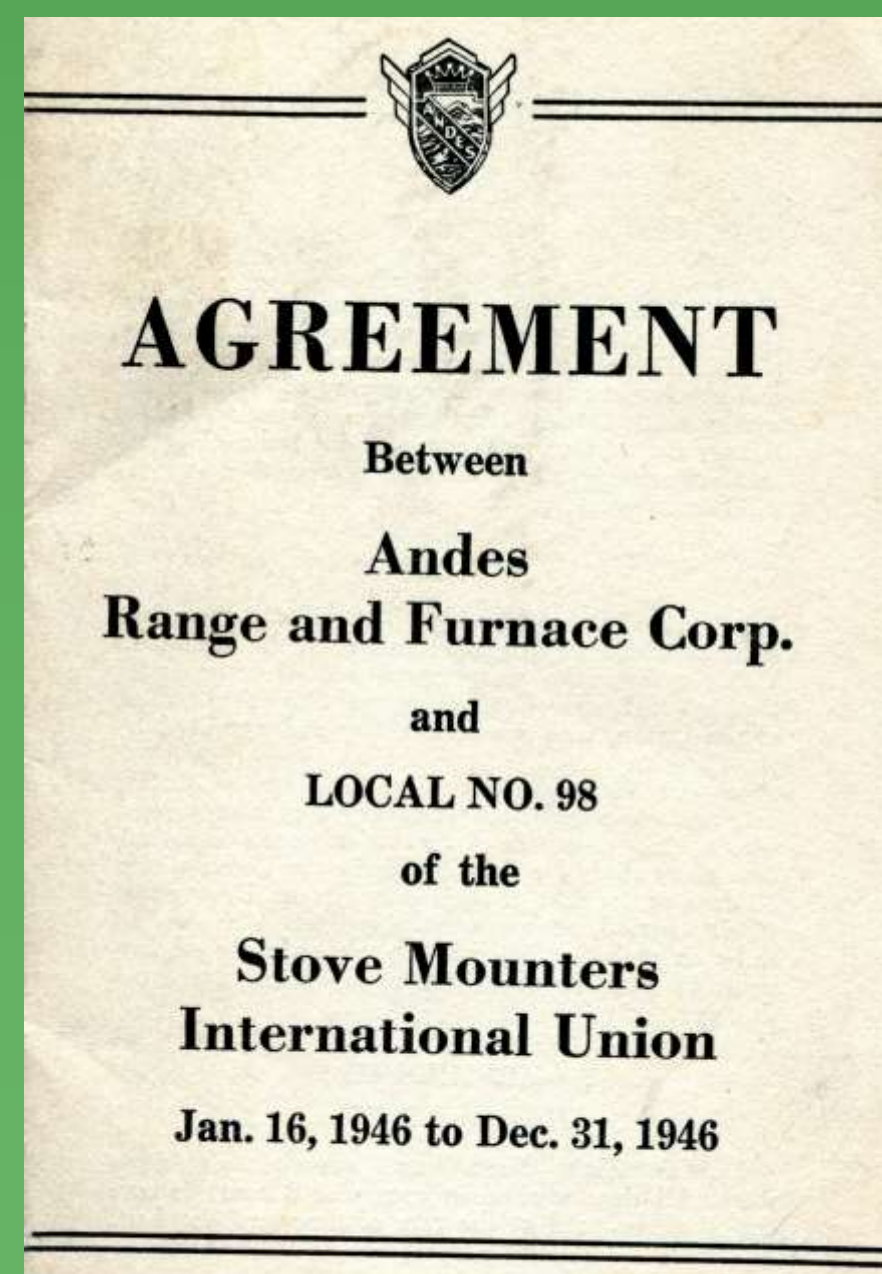


In 1892, Patent Cereals moved from Brooklyn to Geneva's lakefront for better access to grain and a good transportation network. They produced everything from wallpaper paste to dog food to breakfast cereal. The company was purchased by Lauhoff Grain and closed in 1963.

U



Around 1965 Urban Renewal, the demolition of substandard housing and industrial buildings, came to Geneva. The main area of demolition was bounded by the south side of Seneca Street and the west side of Exchange Street, now a municipal parking lot. The L-shaped area had been warehouses, garages, and light industrial buildings.



Trade unions for collective bargaining of wages have been present in Geneva since at least 1833. In that year, several shoemakers went on strike because their employer hired a new worker at a lower wage. The workers were indicted for “*acts injurious to trade or commerce*”, and their case eventually went to the New York State Supreme Court, where the justices ruled against the shoemakers.

V



Vance Metal Fabricators, an employee-owned company, began as the Vance Boiler Works in 1897. During the 20th Century as the economy and technology changed the company shifted its focus. They moved from boiler making to boiler repairs to metal fabrication. Today, Vance does custom welding and manufactures parts for larger companies such as ITT Goulds Pumps.



Variety stores, also called “five and dimes” or “five and ten cent stores”, were once a staple of downtown. In 1940, W.T. Grant, Neisner’s, S.S. Kresge, and Woolworth’s were all on Seneca Street. Variety stores are still around but inflation has renamed them “dollar stores.”

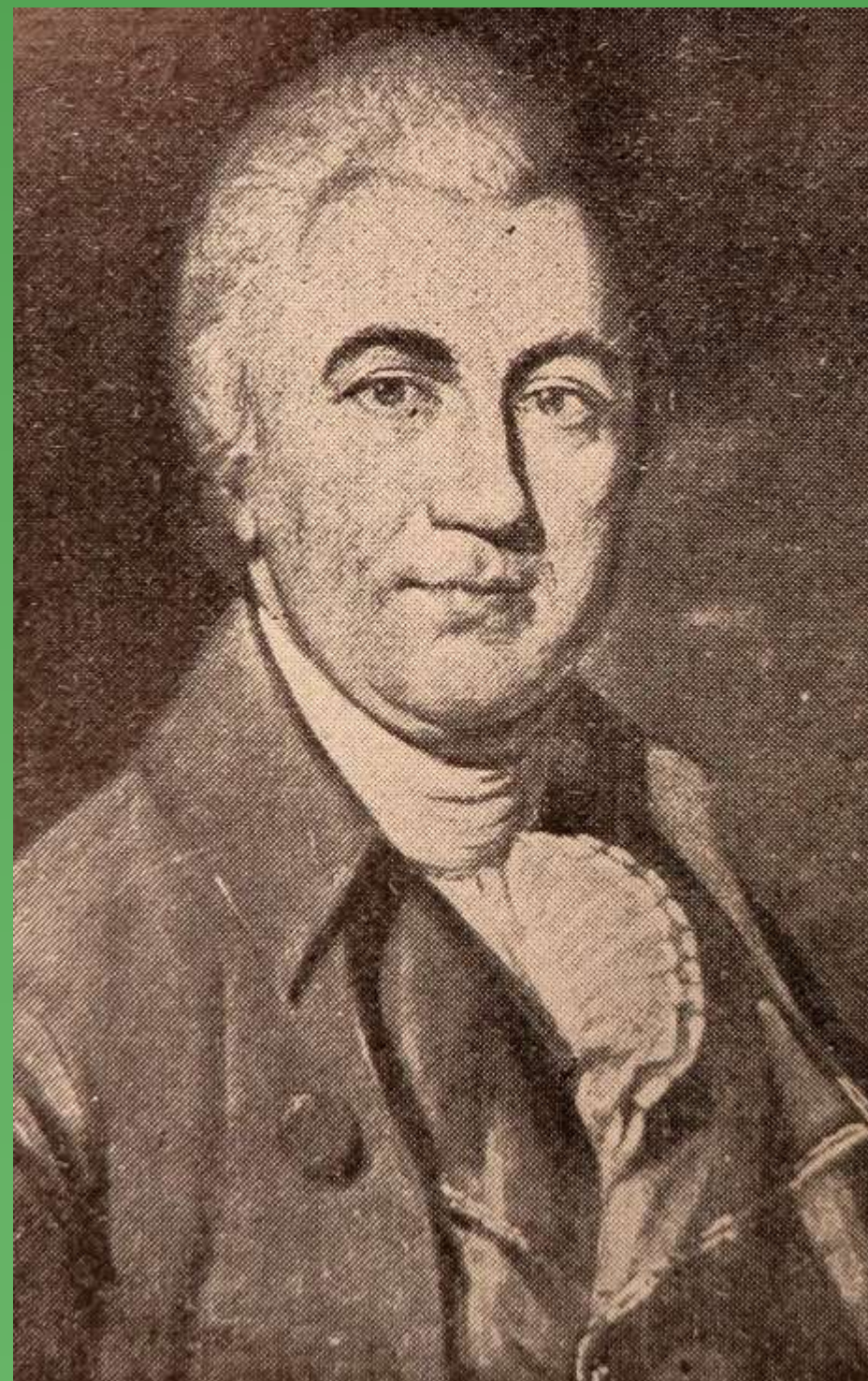
Y

The Geneva chapter of the **Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)** was organized in 1886. Its Castle Street building was completed in 1894 and survived a fire in 1902. In 1968, the board of directors decided the building required too many repairs, and a new, smaller facility on William Street was opened in 1971.



Founded in 1927, the Seneca Yacht Club (SYC) opened their clubhouse and docks near the Seneca-Cayuga Canal in 1929. The club has long been youth- and family-friendly, offering youth sailing classes and social memberships to those who just want to enjoy the lake. SYC has hosted several central New York and national-class regattas.

During its early years, Geneva had a strong Yankee, or New England, influence. Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham (right), the original purchasers of land in this area, were from Massachusetts and targeted New England farmers to move here. The “mother church” of the Geneva Presbyterian Church was the Congregational Church of Conway, Massachusetts.



Z



In 1963, hair care manufacturer Zotos moved into Geneva as many industries were leaving. They took over the former Geneva Forge plant on the north side of town, and have expanded several times. As a commitment to staying in Geneva and to green energy the company built two large wind turbines in 2012.

ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) codes were introduced in 1963. Geneva's ZIP code is 14456, flanked alphabetically by Geneseo (14454) and Gorham (14461). Built in 1905 in the Colonial Revival style, the post office on Castle Street is on the National Register of Historic Places.

