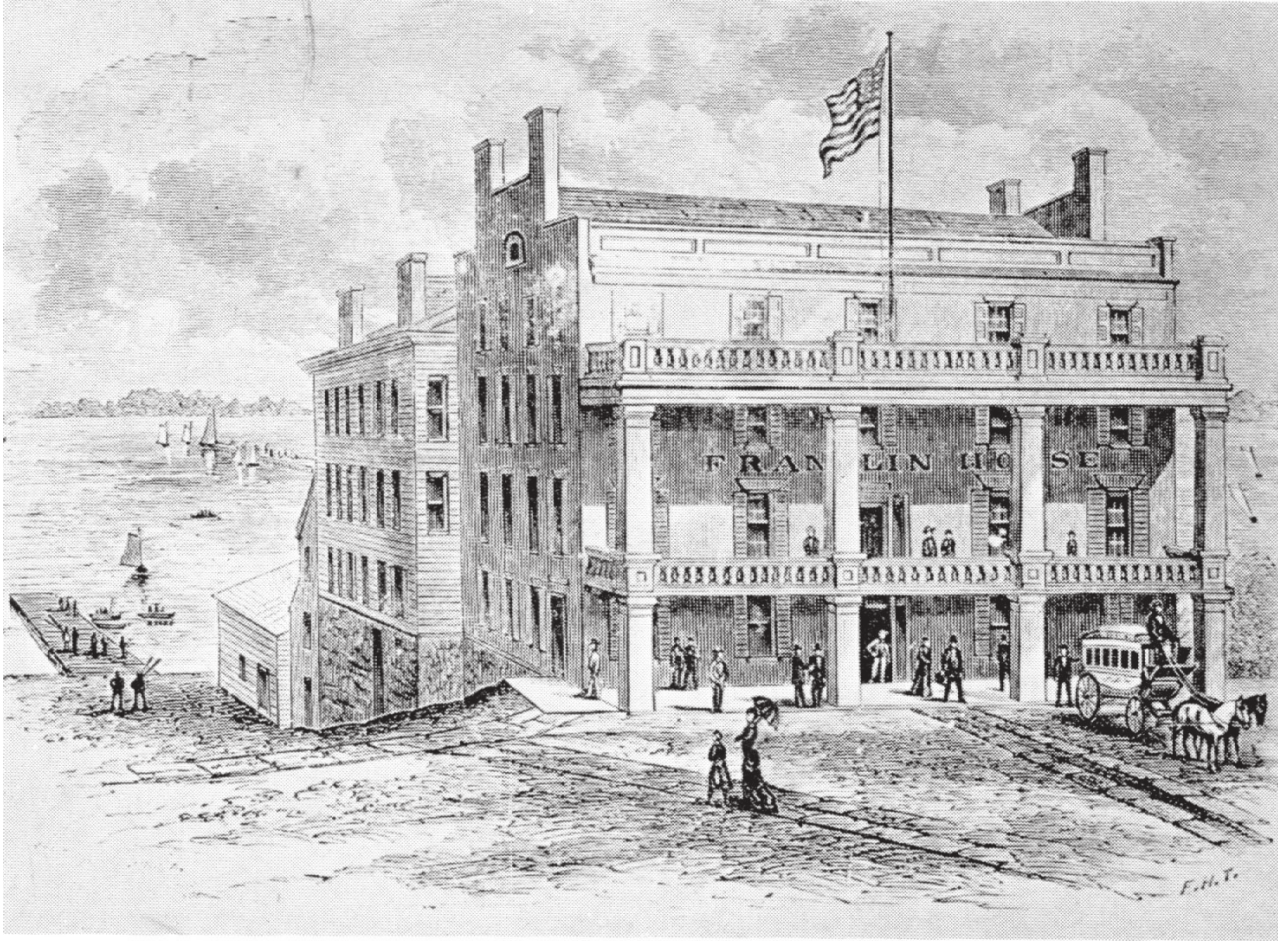


# One Franklin Square



The Franklin Slip was a pier that extended from the Franklin Hotel into the lake for steamboats to dock.

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**I**n 1825 the original Franklin House was built at the corner of Exchange and Seneca Streets, the same year the Erie Canal opened. As business interests moved closer to the lakeshore, the Franklin replaced the Geneva Hotel as the village's main hotel and marked the business shift from the village square (Pulteney Park) to the lakefront. In November 1900 the Franklin House was taken down and replaced with a business block.

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From 1903 to 1940 Dorchester and Rose, a hardware business, was located on the first floor with offices on the upper floors. In 1942 Montgomery and Ward opened for business on the first floor. When Montgomery and Ward left in 1975, the building was updated and changed to One Franklin Square.





# One Franklin Square: Seneca Lake

At 634 feet deep, Seneca Lake is the deepest lake east of the Mississippi River. Taking in water from Keuka Lake and hillside streams, it drains north to Lake Ontario, so Geneva is at the “foot” of the lake. Because of its depth, the lake’s entire surface has only frozen over four times since 1800.

For many years Seneca Lake’s shore came almost to the back of the Franklin House. The lakeshore has been altered by the construction of the Seneca Cayuga Canal, industry and the construction in the 1950s of the “Arterial Bypass” for Routes 5 & 20, which put almost one million tons of dirt in the lake to build the road.



The fertile land around Seneca Lake was the “bread basket” of America before the Midwest was settled. As canals were built at the north and south ends of the lake, Geneva became an inland port. Farmers brought produce such as wheat, corn, and fruits to load onto canal barges.



As people had more time and money, they turned to the lake for recreation including cruising the lake on steamboats, swimming, boating or listening to concerts in parks.



# One Franklin Square: Seneca Lake



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The Seneca-Cayuga Canal began at Lake Street and went around the north end of the lake to connect with the outlet. This entrance and several piers in the harbor protected canal boats from the sometimes-choppy lake water.

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Beginning in the 1840s, railroads built their depots downtown to be near the canal and its warehouses. Industry developed on the waterfront in the 1850s to be closer to both forms of transportation. For the next century, the lakefront's purpose was commercial, not recreational.



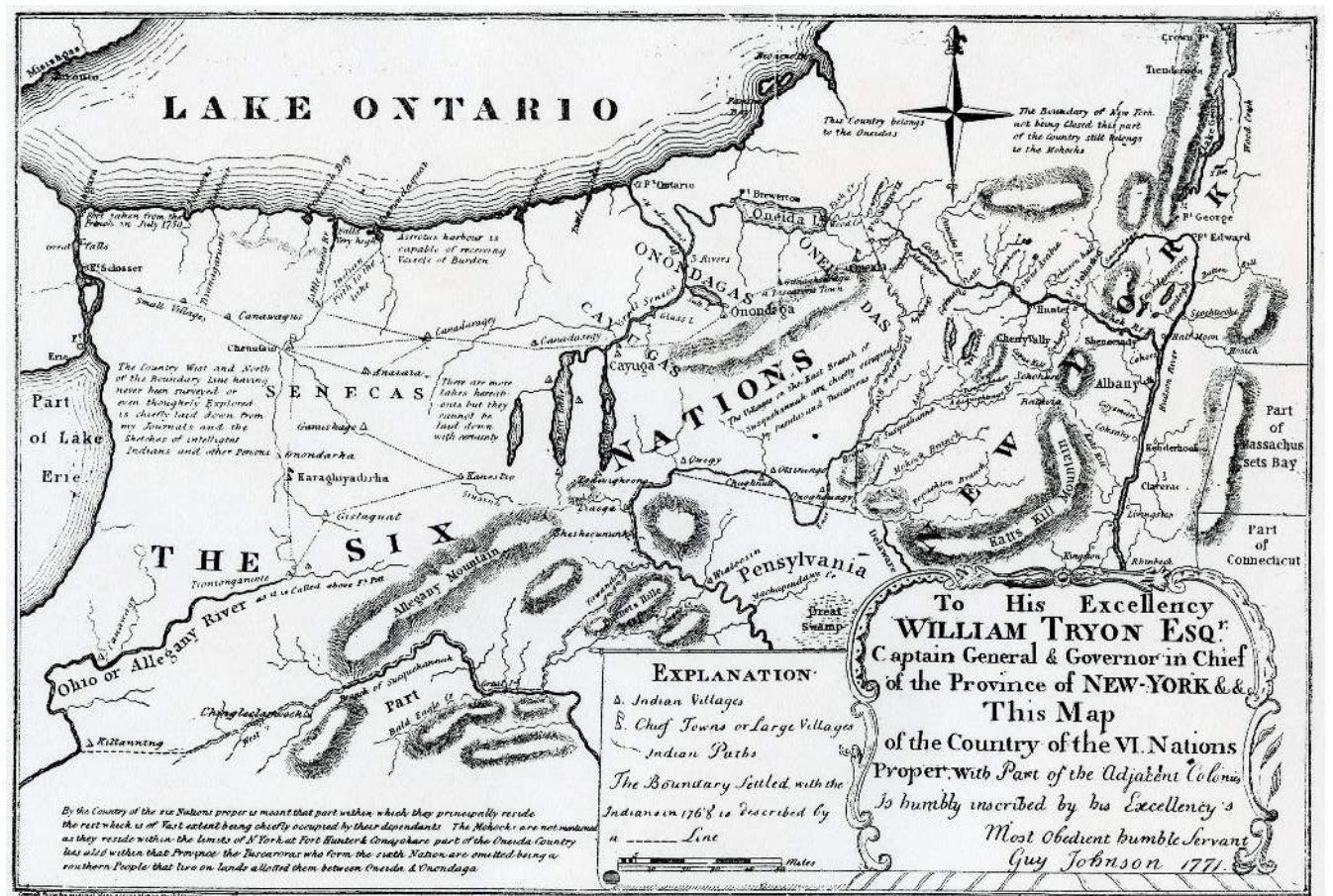
In the early 1950s, tons of dirt filled in the lakeshore to make space for the Routes 5 & 20 arterial around downtown. The road occupied all of the new lakefront. In 1988, the road was relocated to make space for development and recreation.



# One Franklin Square: Native American Heritage

In the 1600s and 1700s the Onödowá'ga:' (Seneca Nation) had several settlements near Geneva - White Springs (1688 - 1715), New Ganechstage (1715 - 1754) and Kanadesaga (1754 - 1779). The Onödowá'ga did not plan permanent settlements. A village would be moved every 10-50 years depending on how long the resources lasted. Kanadesaga was a major Onödowá'ga:' Seneca settlement. Settlers called Native settlements "castles" because of the fortifications surrounding them. A trail went from Seneca Lake to Kanadesaga which is now Castle Street.

Seneca Lake and the lands surrounding it provided the Onödowá'ga:' with transportation, fuel, fertile cropland and good fishing and hunting. The Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779 destroyed all Native American settlements they encountered, succeeding in driving the Onödowá'ga:' west seeking shelter with the British in the Niagara Frontier.



Formed around 1570, the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois Confederacy) originally comprised of five nations, from east to west, the Kanien'kehá'ka (Mohawk), Onyotá'a:ka (Oneida), Onöndá'gaga' (Onondaga), Gayogo'hó'n' (Cayuga), and Onödowá'ga:' (Seneca). In the early 1700s a sixth nation, the Tuscarora, migrated from North Carolina to the border regions of New York and Pennsylvania and united with the original five nations.



In 2020, Land Acknowledgment Stones: A People's Art and Activism Project by lookdownriseup (on Instagram) began leaving rocks around the area. The stones are harvested from shores of waterways and fields of the Finger Lakes, then painted with a purple/white tag based on the wampum belt of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and left as a gesture of acknowledgment of how this land came to be.