Rochester on the Genesee

THE GROWTH OF A CITY

BLAKE McKELVEY

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PRESS 1973
# Contents

**ILLUSTRATIONS**  
ix  

**PREFACE**  
xi  

1. **Historic Origins**  
   Selecting the Site  1  
   Colonel Rochester's Settlement  8  
   Incorporation  12  

2. **The First Boom Town, 1817–1834**  
   Struggle for Autonomy  20  
   Boom Town Character  24  
   Becoming a City  35  

3. **The Flour City, 1834–1854**  
   Prosperity and Adversity  43  
   Organizing the City  49  
   Social and Cultural Expression  56  
   The City at Full Tide  62  

4. **The Flower City, 1855–1875**  
   Flower City Prospects  70  
   The Civil War  79  
   Flower City Responses  86  

5. **The Cosmopolitan City, 1876–1890**  
   Economic Diversity  95  
   Technical and Specialized Industries  102  
   New Civic and Political Functions  110  
   A Cosmopolitan Society  116
vi

ROCHESTER ON THE GENESEE

6. The People’s City, 1890–1910
   Depression and Recovery 124
   Civic and Political Reforms 130
   Social and Cultural Expression 138
   “Rochester Made Means Quality” 147

7. George Eastman’s Town, 1910–1929
   Declining Power of the Boss 156
   Interlude of War 162
   Civic and Economic Renewal 168
   New Dimensions of Urban Life 180

8. The Great Depression and World War II, 1929–1946
   Onset of the Depression 190
   The New Deal 195
   World War II 201
   The Urban Response 204

   An Interdependent Economy 209
   Civic and Political Responsibilities 215
   Cultural and Institutional Accomplishments 221
   Metropolitan Attainments 231

10. The Uncertain Present
    A Changing Population 240
    A Resurgent Economy 243
    Antecedents of the Riots 247
    Riots and Repercussions 252
    Civic and Institutional Uncertainties 266

INDEX 277