

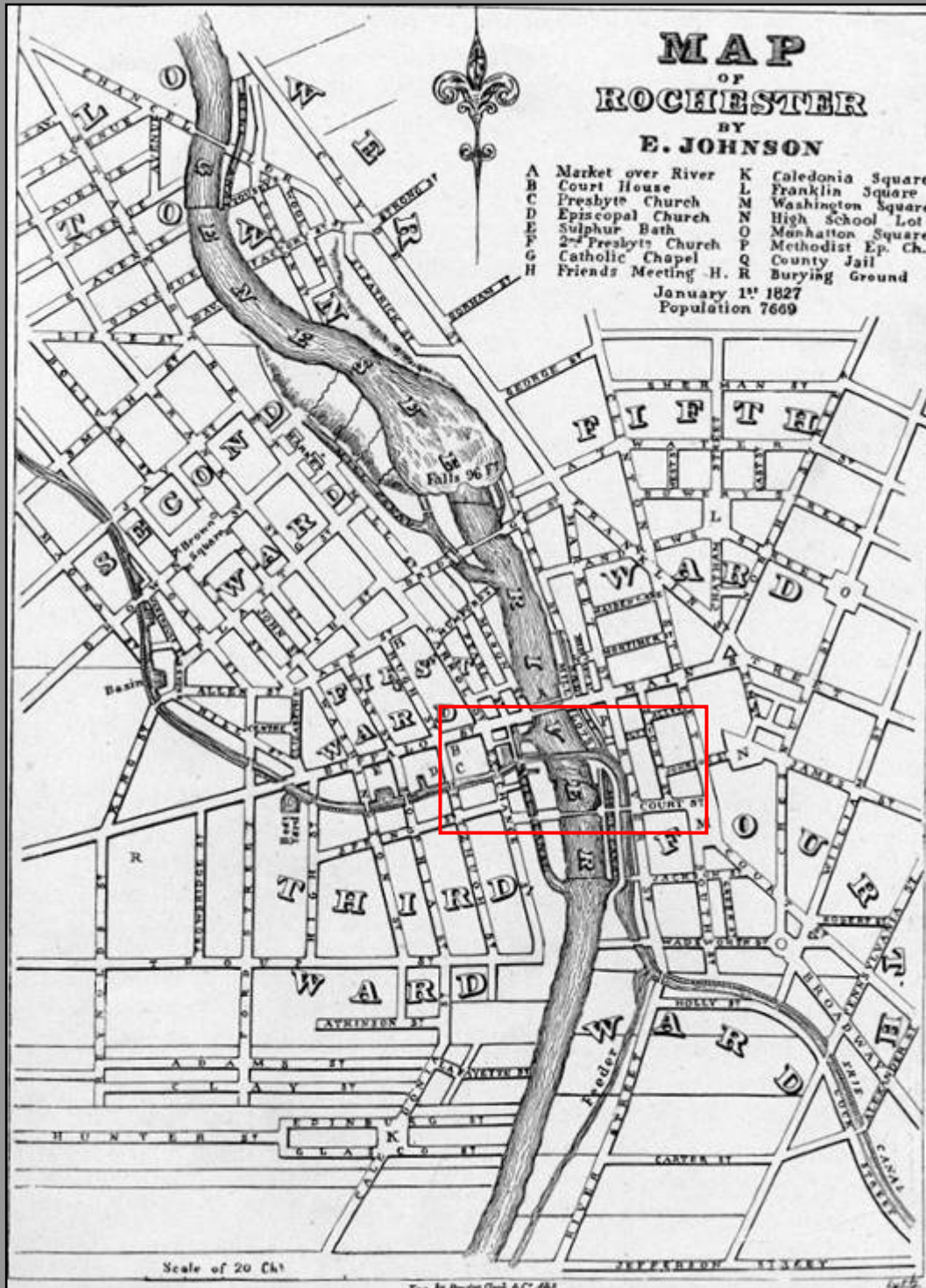
Tag Along

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Rochester



One of the greatest challenges during the construction of the original Erie Canal – Clinton's Ditch – was the crossing of rivers, the widest of which was the Genesee at Rochester.



The crossing was just upstream from Genesee Falls. Hence the largest structure on the canal was required where the current was particularly swift.

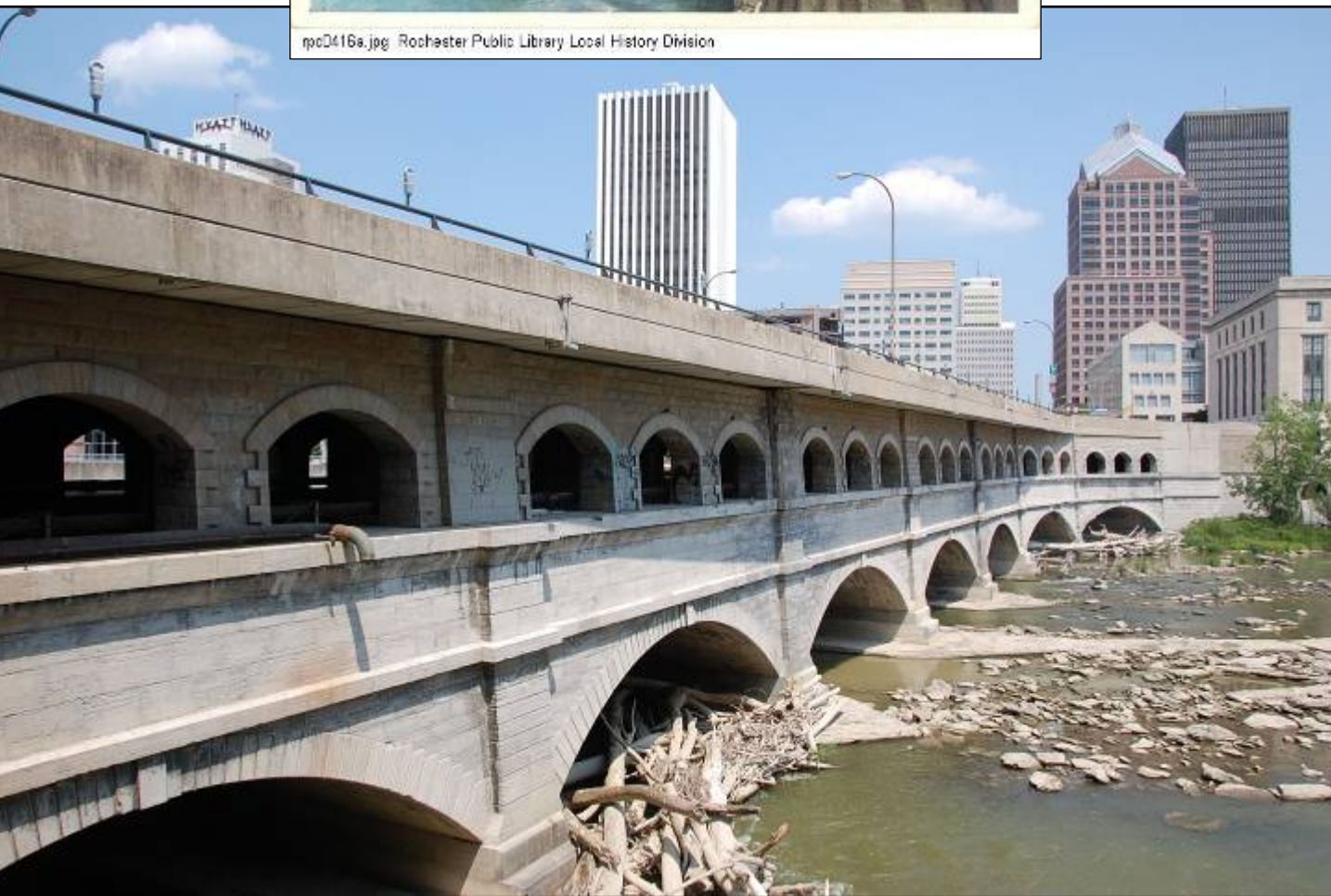
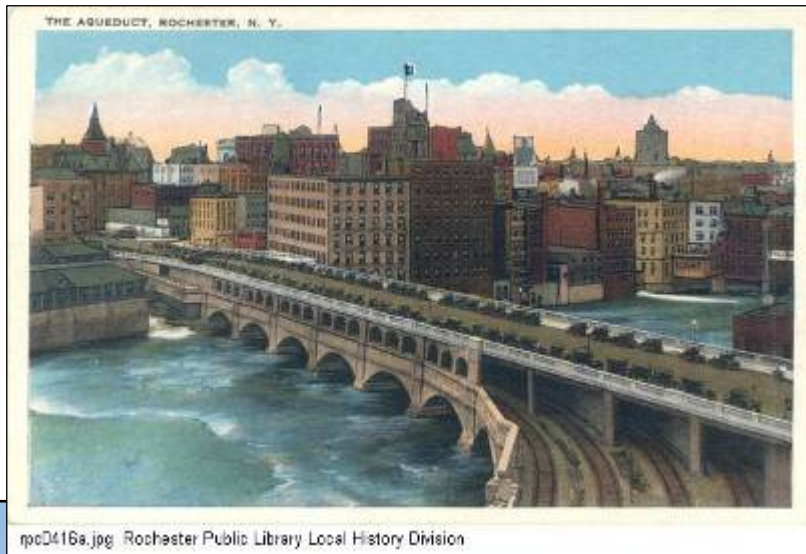
The aqueduct was three city blocks long, and had to support 2,000 tons of water.

It lasted only ten years. Too narrow, too prone to leaking, it was closed in 1833. The current aqueduct (below) began in 1834 and was finished 1842.



In the 1900s the canal was rerouted, and the aqueduct abandoned.

It would subsequently be used for the subway – the transit service of the city - until 1956.



In the 1920s, the Broad Street Bridge was built on top of the aqueduct, and became part of the arterial system of the city. Today, many residents of Rochester do not realize what is below.



According to RocWiki: “The city currently has plans to open this structure to the general public, adding an underground walkway, museum, and shops.

Some advocates would like to see the Broad Street Bridge removed and the canal rewatered – creating a Rochester version of the San Antonio Riverwalk – connecting the stadium with the convention centre.



On both sides of the aqueduct are extraordinary urban vistas:
upstream, the 1936 Rundel Memorial Library over the old millrace.



HISTORY
THE STORY OF THE HUMAN
RACE IN CONFLICT WITH
NATURE AND WITH ITS OWN
ELEMENTAL PASSIONS
BUT EVER ASPIRING

Downstream is High Falls – the source of power for Rochester's early industries



Today, the High Falls historic neighbourhood is in the early stages of gentrification.

