

# OH, THAT ROCHESTER

A very broad look at Rochester,  
geographically and philatelically.

By Tom Fortunato  
for the Rochester Philatelic Association, January, 2018



We all know about the city we live in, Rochester, NY.

But what do you know about other places named Rochester?

Here's a brief tour of "other" Rochester villages, towns and cities near and far that you may (or may not) have heard of before.

The derivation of the name "Rochester" refers to a "fortified bridge." The City of Rochester in Great Britain was called "Hrofoecoestra" as found in *The Veneable Bede* (circa 730 AD). It is a combination of the old English word "hrof" meaning roof or bridge, and the Latin word "castra" meaning a fortified military camp.







A purchase a few years ago sparked a thought. Just how many “Rochesters” are/were there? And how many of them have philatelic connections? Here’s a place to start: <https://roadsidethoughts.com/la/rochester-xx-jackson-tidbits.htm>



# ROCHESTER, NY (Monroe County)

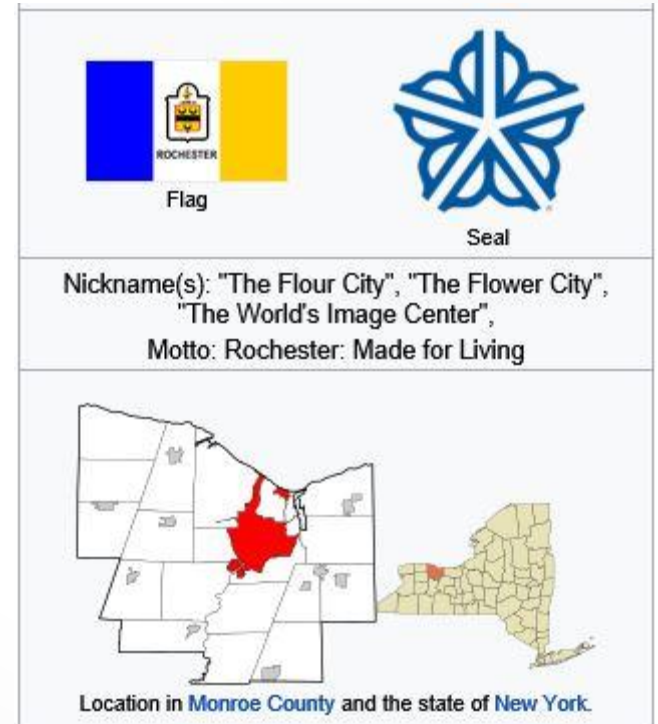
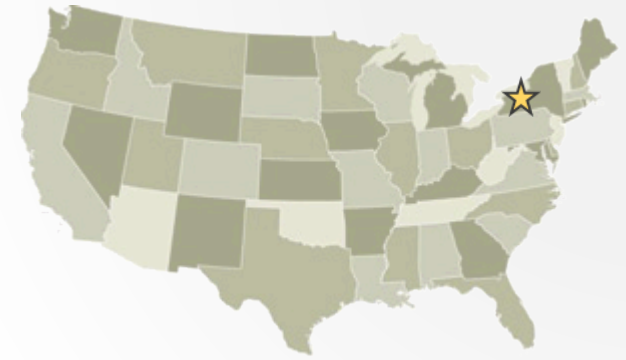
Founded in 1788.

Population: 210,000

Post Office Opened: 1812-1821  
(Genesee County), 1821-Date (Monroe County)

Rochester was first known as "the Young Lion of the West", and then as the "Flour City". By 1838, Rochester was the largest flour-producing city in the United States. Having doubled its population in only 10 years, Rochester became America's first "boomtown".

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov>



Rochester N.Y.  
 September 10

Mr. Cary J. Davis  
 Michigan  
 Batavia

ROCHESTER  
 NOV 21.  
 N.Y.

PAID

Mr. Zechariah Seymour  
 Canandaigua

Rochester N.Y.  
 September 10

ROCHESTER  
 NOV 21.  
 N.Y.

PAID

1814 manuscript marking

1816 green mark with Paid





1828 cover with paid marking

1870s cork cancel

# ROCHESTER, NY (Ulster County)

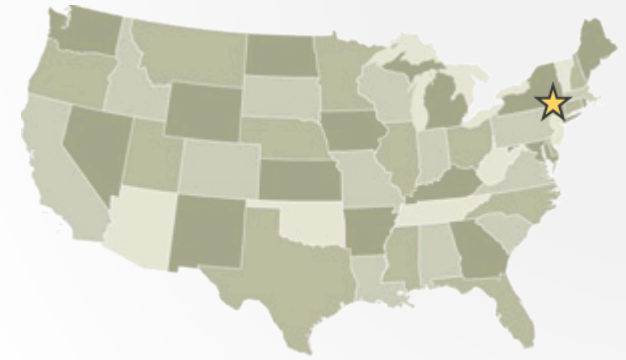
Founded in 1703.

Population: 7,238

Post Office Opened: 1820-1826

Mombaccus was the Dutch name for the area that became the Town of Rochester. It was first settled in 1672. The name Rochester began with the issuance of a land patent in 1703. It became a Town in 1788 and the formal establishment of the Town of Rochester occurred in 1803.

<http://townofrochester.ny.gov>



# ROCHESTER, CA (San Bernardino County)

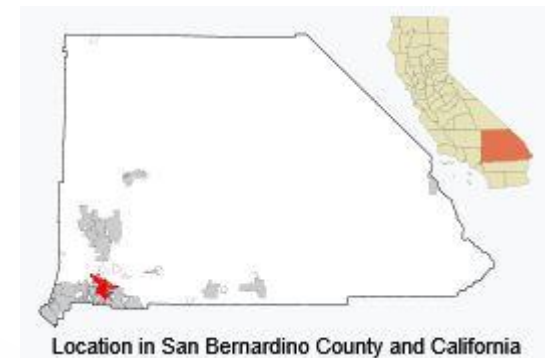
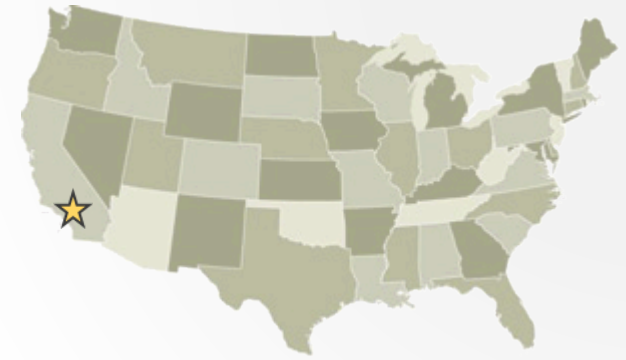
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1890-1911

Located within the City of Rancho Cucamonga.

<https://california.hometownlocator.com/ca/san-bernardino/rochester.cfm>





This side may have a message written upon it for POSTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.  
 The right hand side must be reserved for stamp and address.

*I am working again, have been out twice, since I've been sick. She is teaching school again, and has photographs being prepared until the winter unless it becomes necessary to postpone her studies.*

Published by H. G. Zimmerman & Co. Chicago  
 September 18, 1909.



*Mrs. R. L. Smith*



September 18, 1909

# ROCHESTER, IL (Sangamon County)

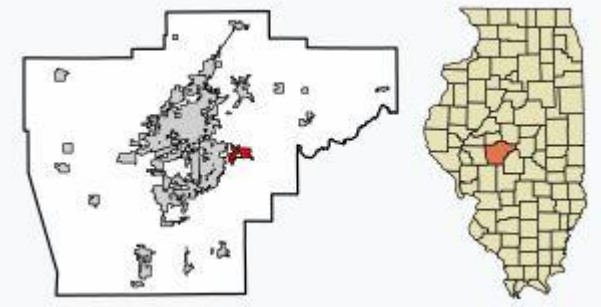
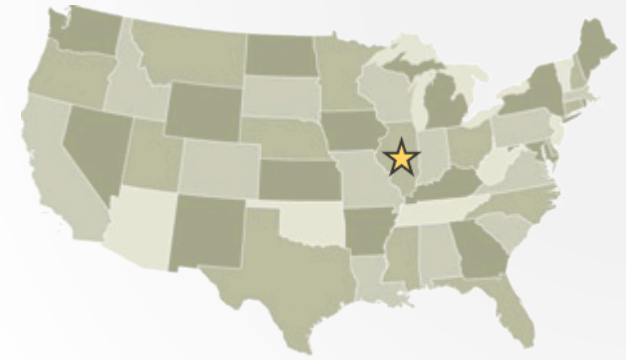
Founded in 1819.

Population: 2,762

Post Office Opened: 1834-Date

Rochester is the southeastern end of the Lost Bridge Trail, a 5.0-mile (8.0 km) trail built by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) atop an abandoned rail bed formerly used by the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) railroad.

<http://rochesteril.org>



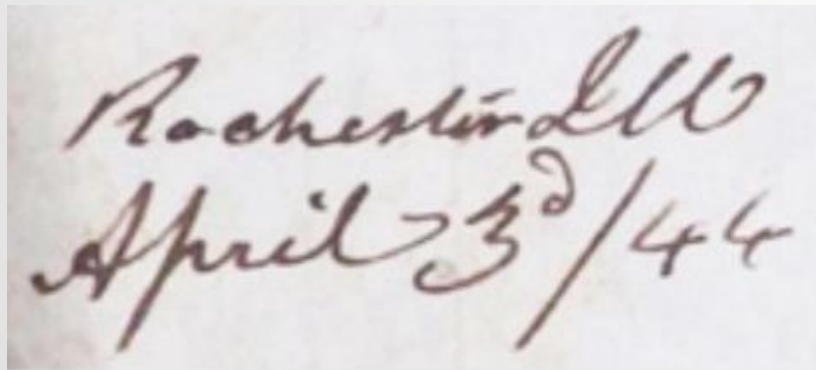




Rochester Ill  
April 3<sup>d</sup>/44

Mr. Richard Stafford, Esq.  
Ossipee N.Y.

25



1844 manuscript marking



ROCHESTER ILL.  
SEP 22 1879



Le Roy  
burgh  
N. Y.

ROCHESTER ILL.  
SEP 22 1879



1879

IL

1911 RFD



POST CARD

DEC 18 1911 P.M.  
ROCHESTER ILL



This Space for Communication  
helo mae how are  
you I am O.K. as  
care is writing I will  
send this card to

For Address Only  
Miss Mae Shaw

POST CARD

DEC 18 1911 P.M.  
ROCHESTER ILL



Luray  
Kans.

# ROCHESTER, IN (Fulton County)

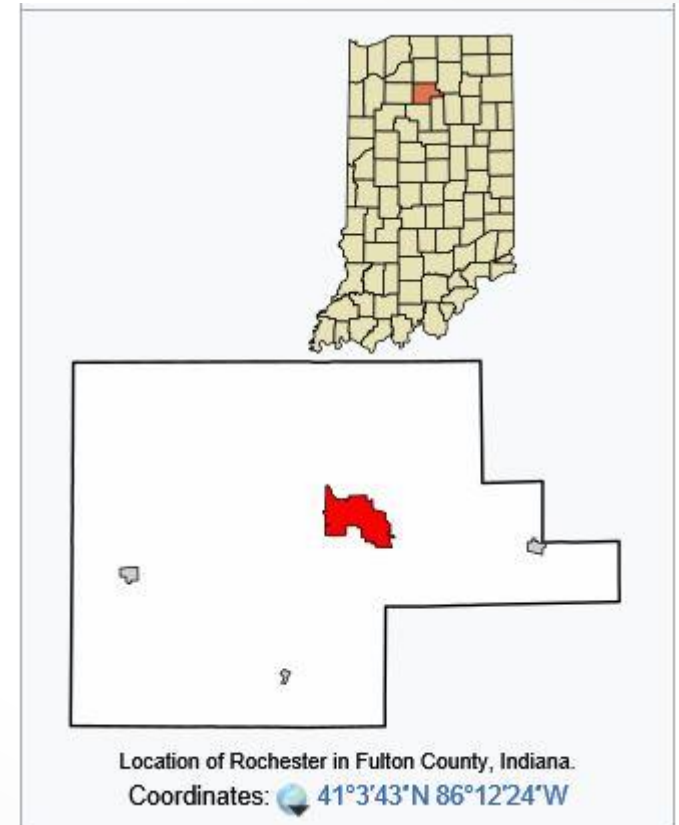
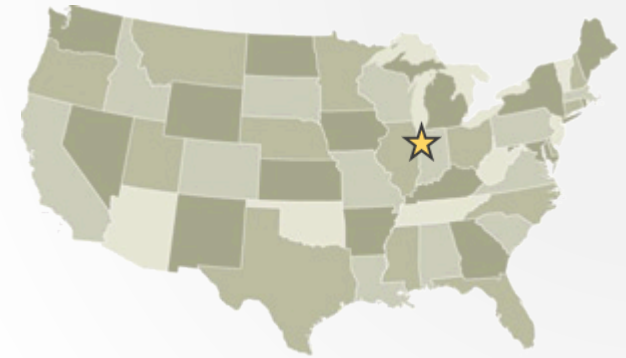
Founded in 1835.

Population: 6,021

Post Office Opened: 1836-Date

Rochester was laid out in 1835. The founder Alexander Chamberlain named it for his former hometown of Rochester, New York. Known as "The Round Barn Capital of the World", Rochester is the county seat of Fulton County.

<http://www.rochester.in.us>





IN



1898



1859

1909



# ROCHESTER, IA (Cedar County)

Founded in 1836.

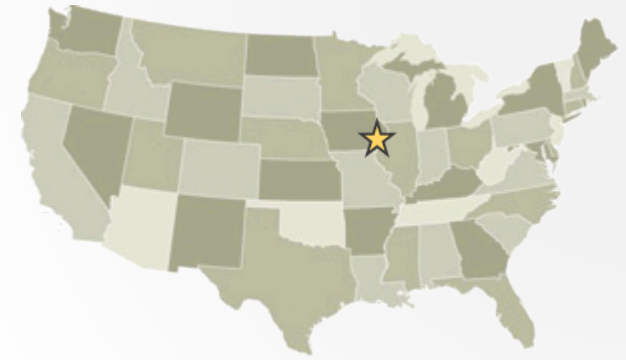
Population: 133

Post Office Opened: 1854-1903

Rochester was named after Rochester, New York, known for its flour mills, due to its location on the Cedar River.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,\\_Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Iowa)

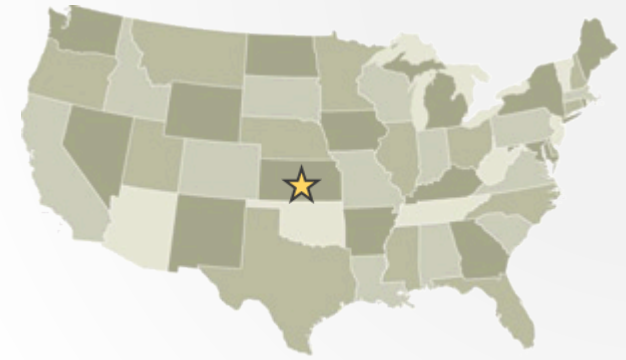
[http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/Iowa  
a Outdoors  
Magazine/Nature/files/HallowedPrairie.pdf](http://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/Iowa%20Outdoors%20Magazine/Nature/files/HallowedPrairie.pdf)





# ROCHESTER, KS

(Neosho and Kingman County)



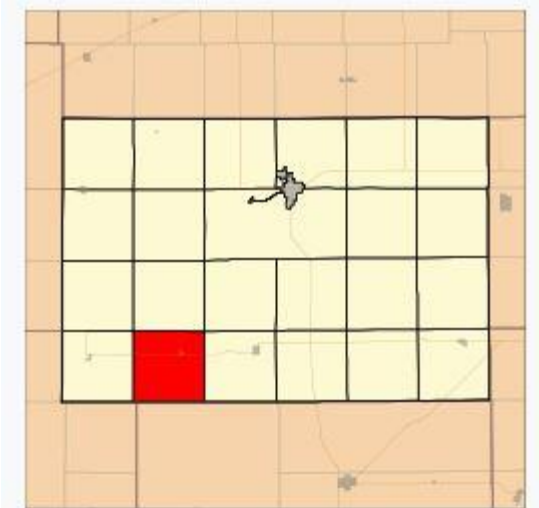
Founded in mid-1880s.

Population: 162

Post Office Opened: 1869/1872 (Neo.),  
1879-1899 (Kingman)

The town moved in 1887 and renamed New Rochester, when there were 28 other places named Rochester in the country. Later renamed Zenda after the novel THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester\\_Township,  
Kingman\\_County,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester_Township,_Kingman_County,_Kansas)



Location in Kingman County

Coordinates:  37°25'45"N 98°18'01"W

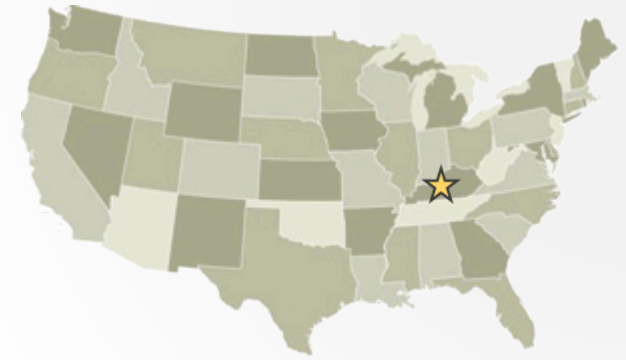
# ROCHESTER, KY (Butler County)

Founded in 1839.

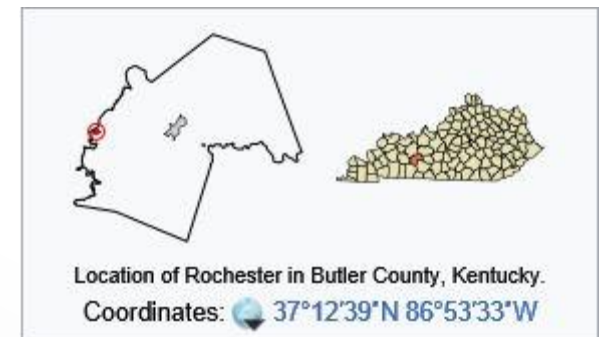
Population: 154

Post Office Opened: 1843-Date

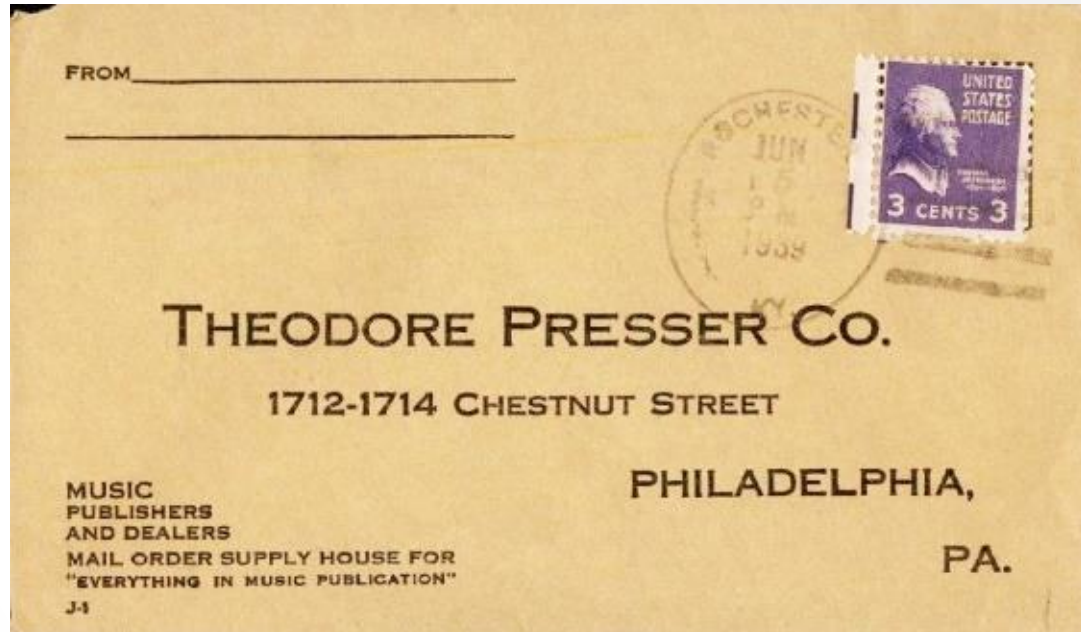
Rochester was named to honor the family of John Rochester.



<http://www.kyatlas.com/ky-rochester.html>







1892



1939

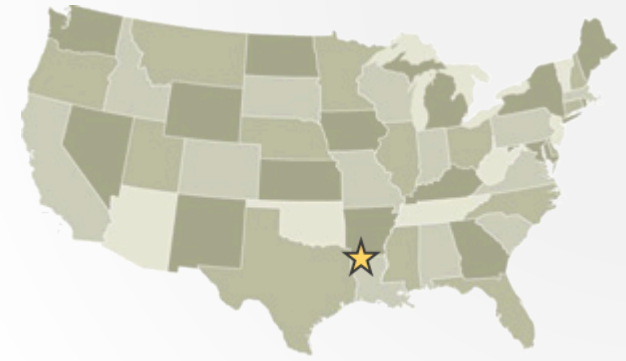
# ROCHESTER, LA (Jackson Parish)

Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1850/1910

No data found.





# ROCHESTER, MA (Plymouth County)

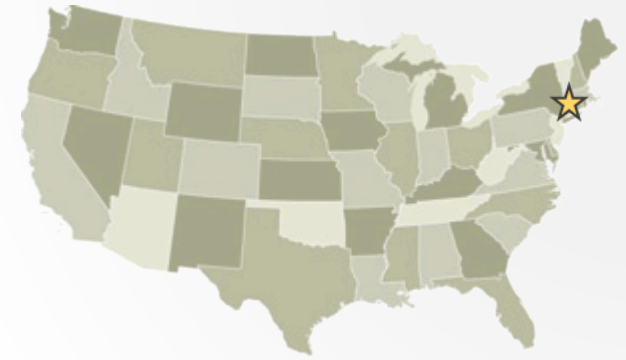
Founded in 1679.

Population: 5,232

Post Office Opened: 1800-1920,  
1928-Date

The town was officially incorporated on June 4, 1686 as Rochester, and was renamed for Rochester, England, from which early settlers to the town came. The town originally thrived with the early shipbuilding and whaling trade in Mattapoisett Harbor.

<https://www.townofrochestermass.com>



Seal

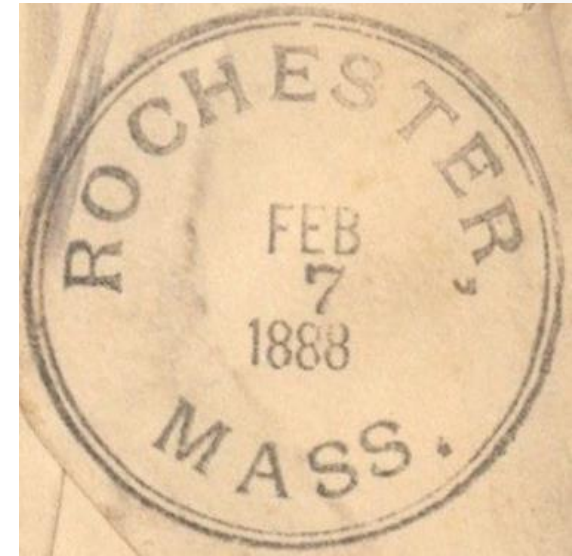


Location in Plymouth County in Massachusetts

Coordinates:  41°43'54"N 70°49'14"W



1869



1888 backstamp



# ROCHESTER, MI (Oakland County)

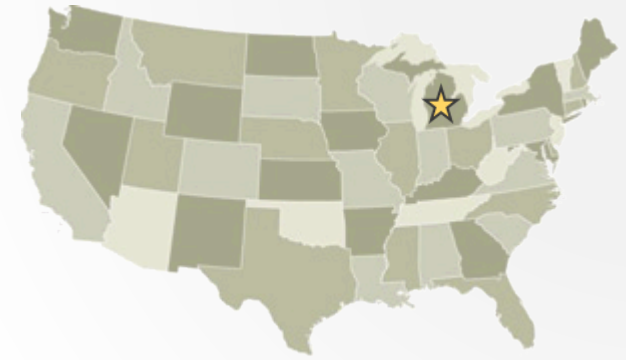
Founded on April 12, 1869.

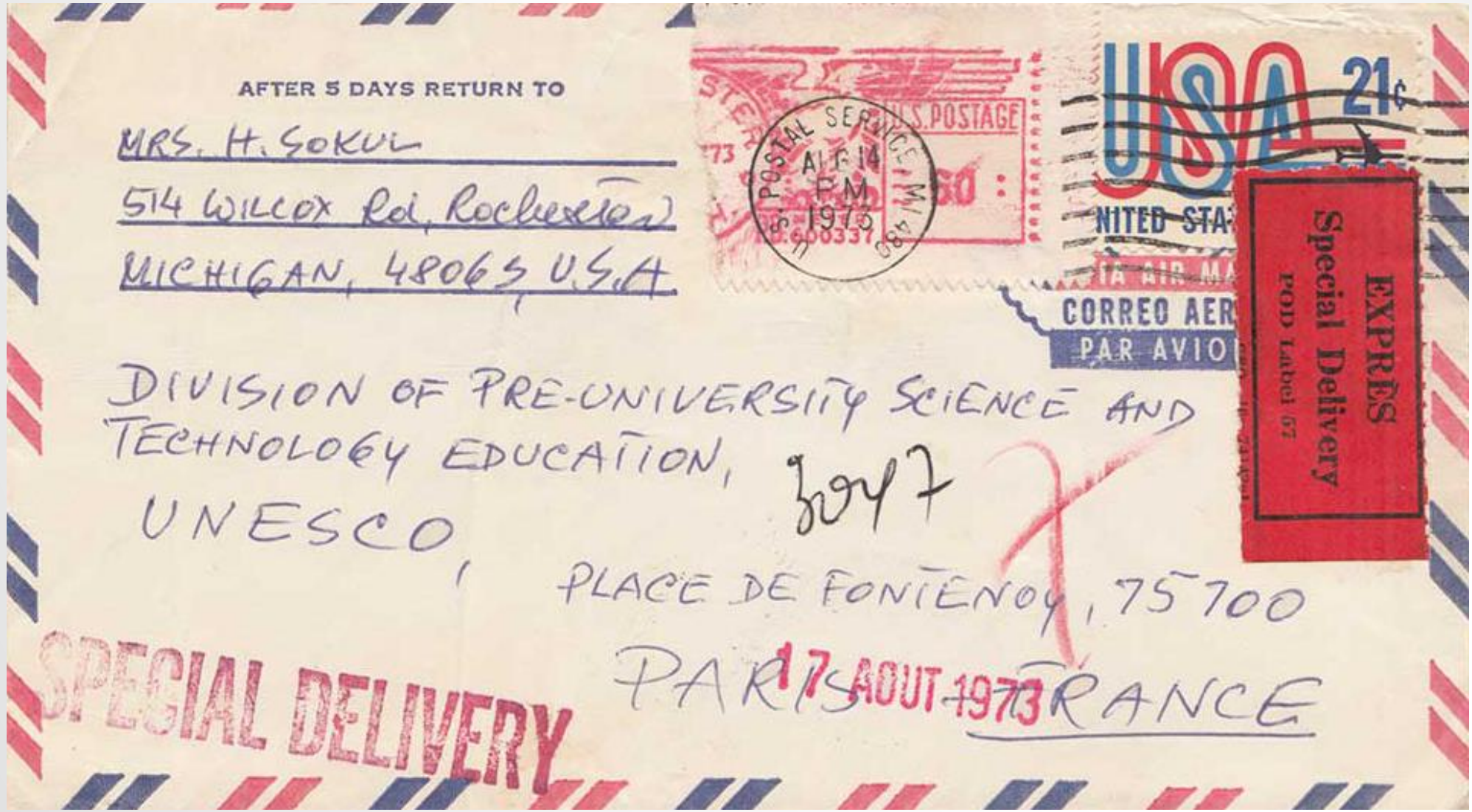
Population: 13,017

Post Office Opened: 1827-Date

The first settlers in what would become Rochester, the Graham family, built a log cabin in 1817. The city was named for Rochester, New York, just like Rochester, Minnesota, as many early settlers to the area were formerly from the state of New York.

<http://www.ci.rochester.mi.us/>





AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

MRS. H. SOKUL  
514 WILCOX Rd, Rochester  
MICHIGAN, 48063 U.S.A

POSTAL SERVICE  
 AIR MAIL  
 AUG 14 PM 1973  
 600337

USA 21¢  
 UNITED STATES  
 AIR MAIL  
 CORREO AEREO  
 PAR AVIO

EXPRES  
 Special Delivery  
 POD Label 67

DIVISION OF PRE-UNIVERSITY SCIENCE AND  
 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, 2047  
 UNESCO,  
 PLACE DE FONTENAY, 75700

SPECIAL DELIVERY

PARIS 17 AOUT 1973 FRANCE



# ROCHESTER, MN (Olmstead County)

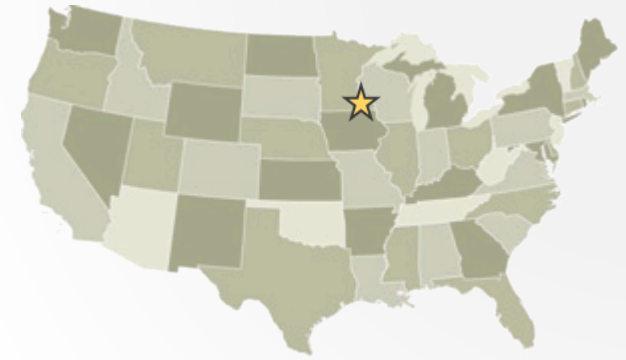
Founded in 1854.

Population: 114,011

Post Office Opened: 1955-Date

The area initially developed as a stagecoach stop between Saint Paul and Dubuque, Iowa. The community was named after Rochester, New York by emigrants from that area. It is the home of the Mayo Clinic and one of IBM's largest facilities.

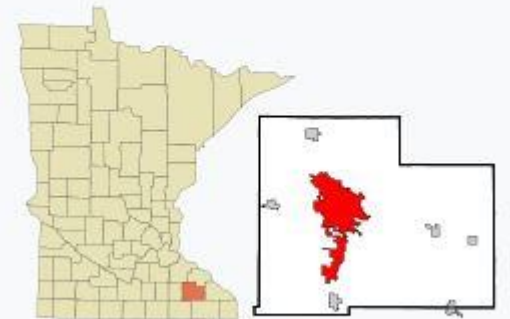
<http://www.rochestermn.gov>



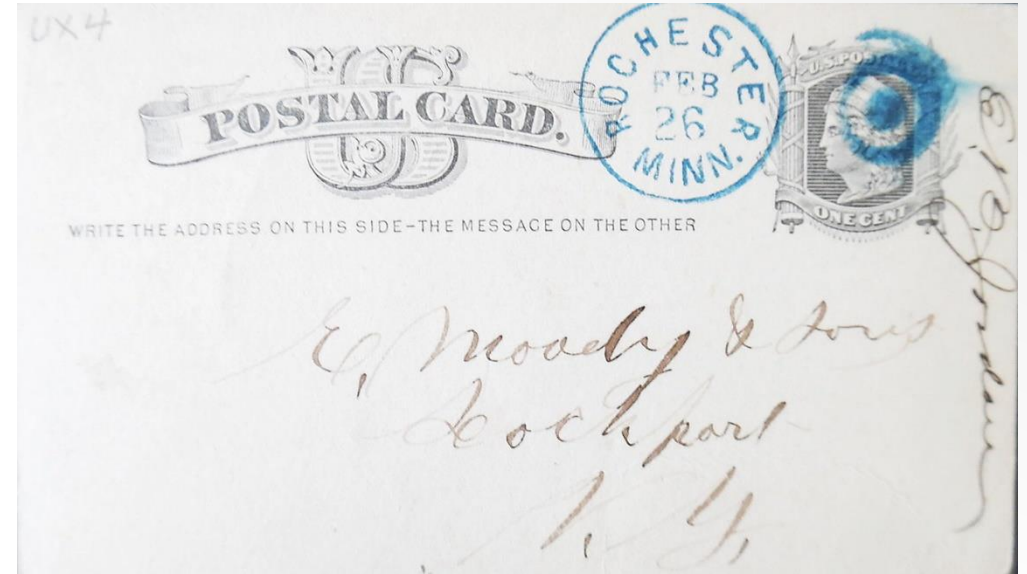
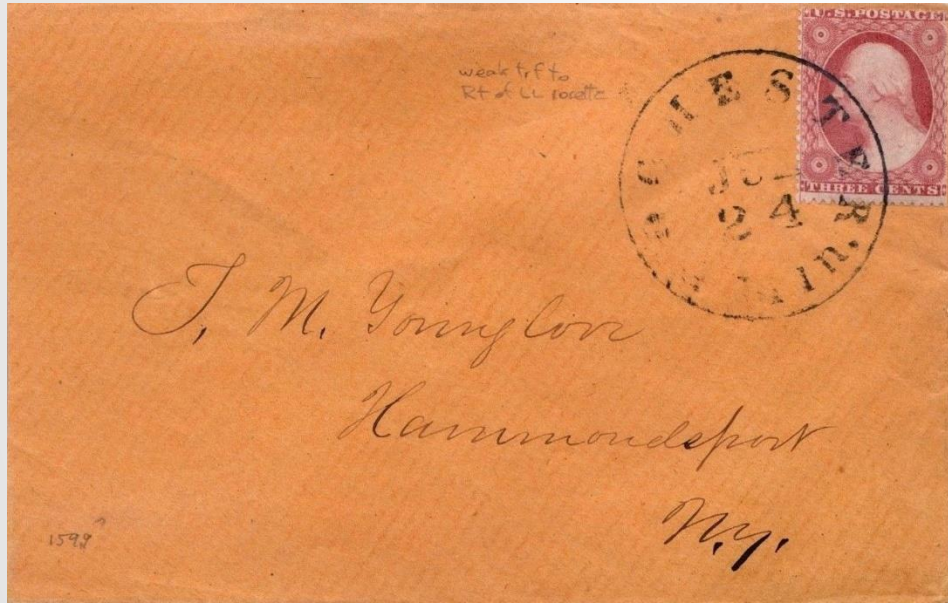
Flag



Seal



Location of the city of Rochester within Olmsted County, Minnesota



1850s



1879

# ROCHESTER, MO (Andrew County)

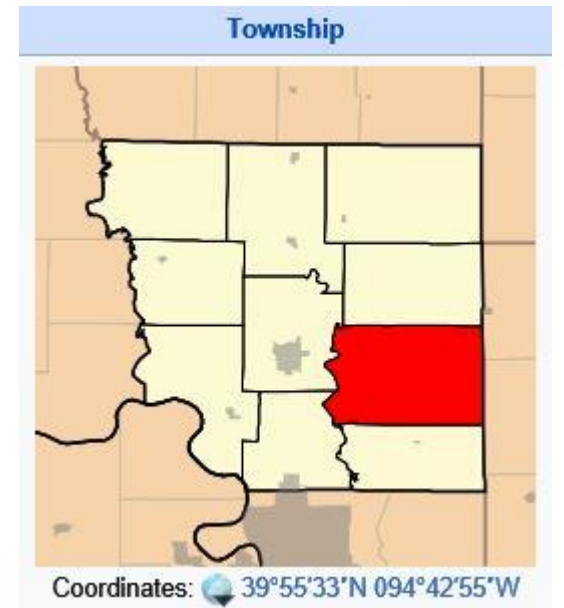
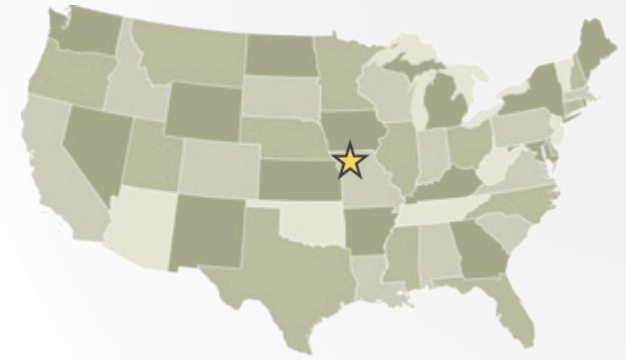
Founded in 1841.

Population: 1,182

Post Office Opened: 1844-1935

Among the principal business transacted at the May term of Andrew County Court, 1841, was the modifying of the boundaries of Jasper and Platte Townships, creating Rochester Township.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester\\_Township,\\_Andrew\\_County,\\_Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester_Township,_Andrew_County,_Missouri)





# ROCHESTER, MT (Madison County)

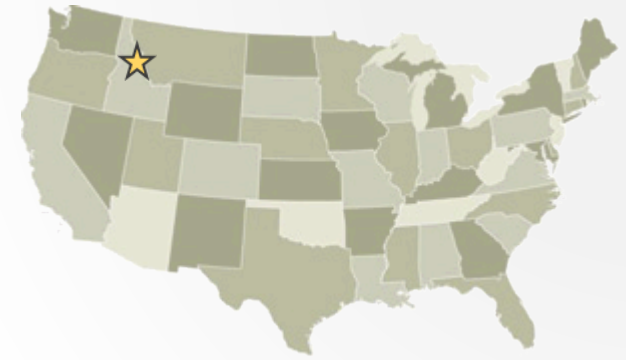
Founded in 1869.

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1868-1876, 1888-1889, and 1892-1918

The Watseca mine operated from 1868 until the 1980s. A few stone buildings, a wooden head frame, a modern gold mill (now abandoned) and the old cemetery remain.

<http://www.ghosttowngallery.com/htme/rochester.htm>





1908

# ROCHESTER, MT

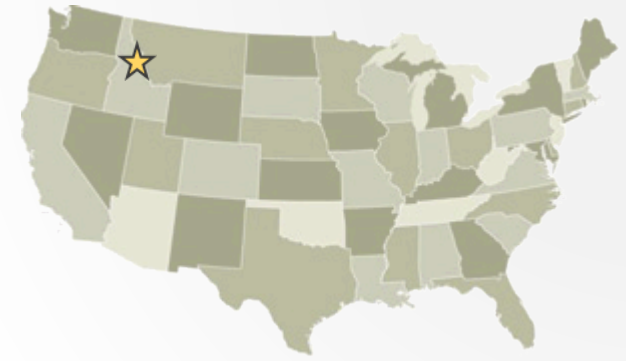
(Powell County)

Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1890-1892

No data found.





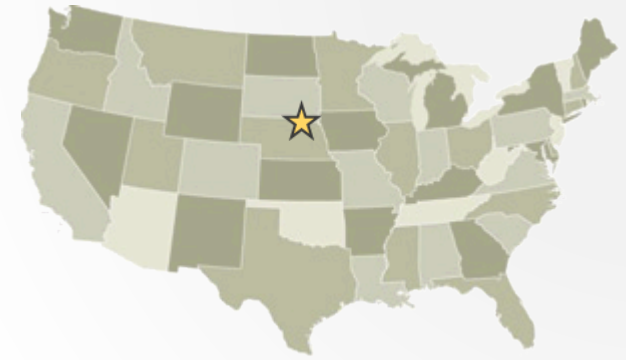
# ROCHESTER, NE (Boyd County)

Founded in ?

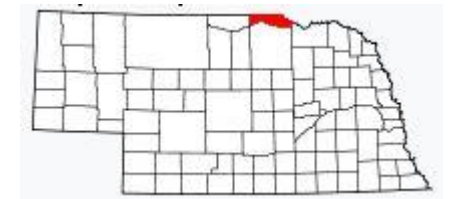
Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1895-1898

No data found.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boyd\\_County,\\_Nebraska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boyd_County,_Nebraska)



# ROCHESTER, NV (Pershing County)

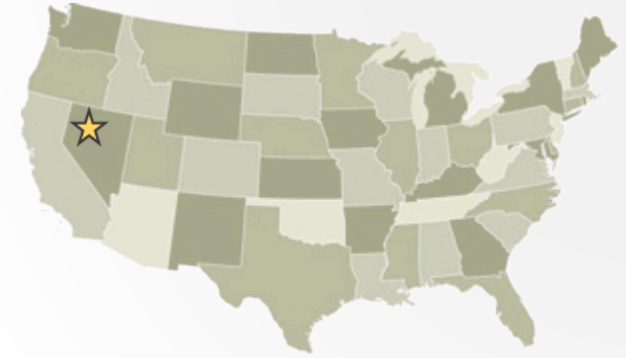
Founded in 1860s.

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1913-1926

Rochester is the collective name for three different sites: Rochester Heights, Upper Rochester and Lower Rochester, spread out along a 3 mile stretch of Rochester Canyon. Gold was discovered in the 1860s by immigrants from Rochester, New York. Now a ghost town.

<http://silverstateghosttowns.com/rochester.html>



IN FIVE DAYS RETURN TO  
Rochester Merger Mines Company  
ROCHESTER, NEVADA

*Gen. Mines Co  
Payroll - 37-50*



Nevada Industrial Insurance Commission  
Carson City, Nevada.



# ROCHESTER, NH (Strafford County)

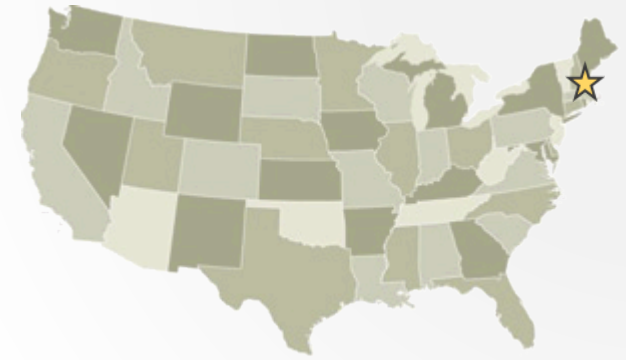
Founded in 1722.

Population: 30,345

Post Office Opened: March 26, 1812-  
Date

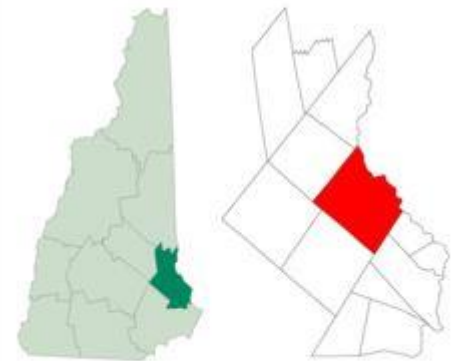
The town was one of four granted by Colonial Governor Samuel Shute of Massachusetts and New Hampshire during his brief term. It was named for his close friend, Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester and brother-in-law to King James II.

<https://www.rochesternh.net>



Seal

Nickname(s): The Lilac City



Location within Strafford County, New Hampshire

Coordinates:  43°18'7"N 70°58'23"W

Rochester Fair  
 At Nov 22

Elder Timothy Merrimeck,  
 Cornish,  
 MAINE,

1814 manuscript

FREE  
 D. Hanson P.M.

ROCHESTER  
 SEP. 9  
 NH

Buffalo  
 07 30  
 N.Y.

Capt. Asa P. Hanson  
 Rochester  
 New Hampshire

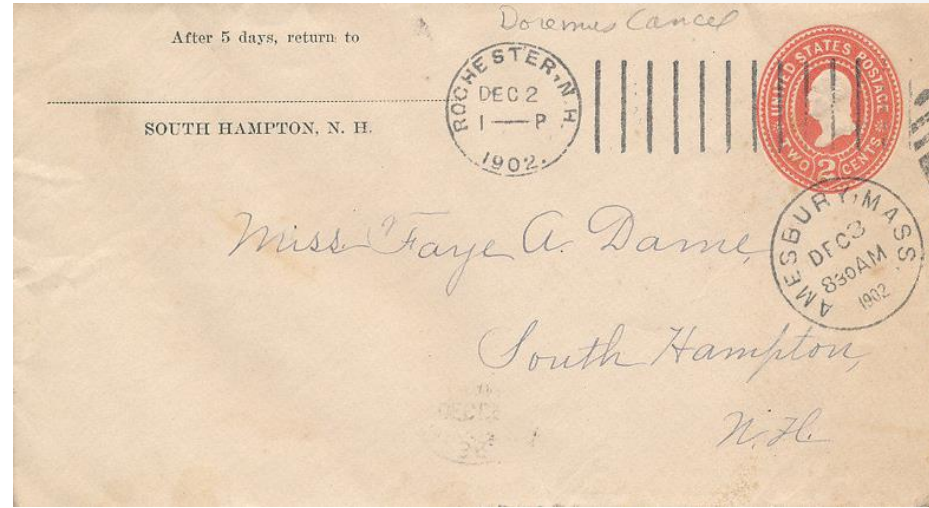
ROCHESTER  
 SEP. 9  
 NH

1839 as receiving mark

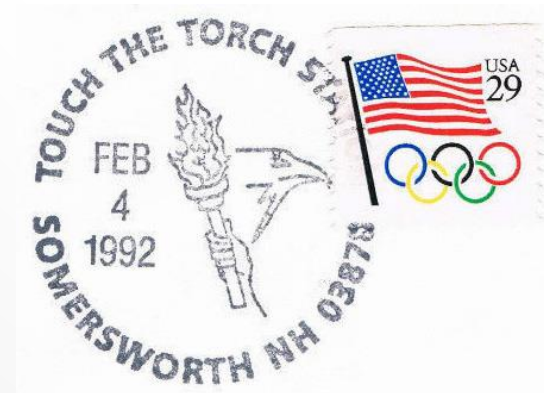
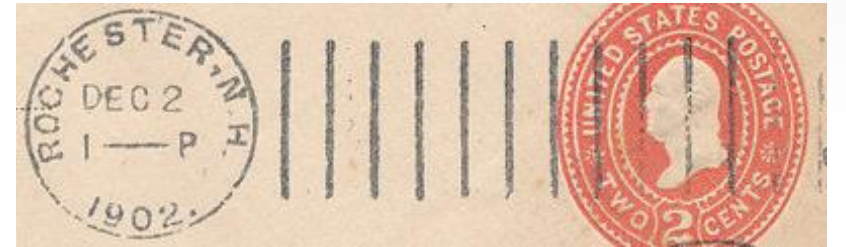




1882



1902  
Doremus  
cancel



1992



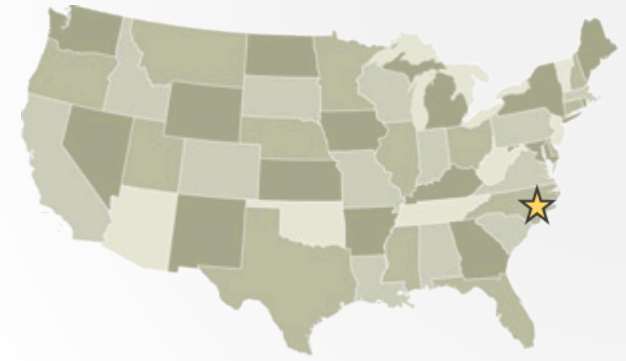
# ROCHESTER, NC (Robeson County)

Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1888-1904

No data found.



# ROCHESTER, ND (Cass County)

Founded in ?

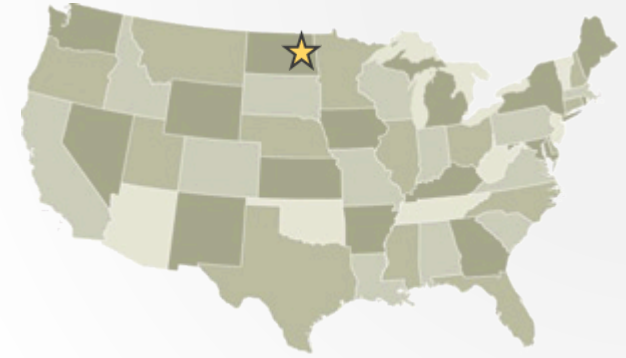
Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1882-1884

No data found.

<http://www.city-data.com/township/Rochester-Cass-ND.html>

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/55429/Rochester+Township/Cass+County+1906/North+Dakota/>



# ROCHESTER, OH (Lorain County)

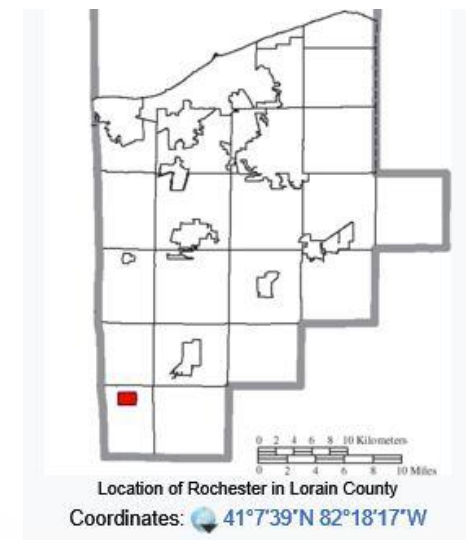
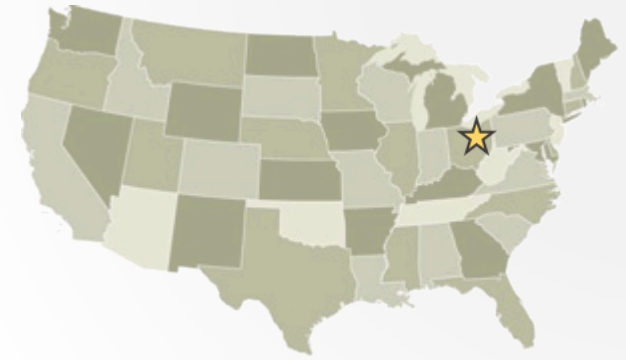
Founded in 1827.

Population: 181

Post Office Opened: 1883-1966

Rochester Township was the last settled of any of the townships now comprised within the boundary lines of Lorain County in 1827. The village derives its name from Rochester, New York, the native home of a land agent.

<http://www.rochesterohio.com>







1910



# ROCHESTER, PA (Beaver County)

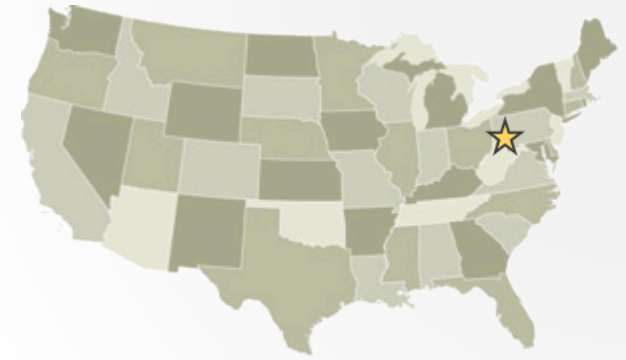
Founded in 1799.

Population: 3,534

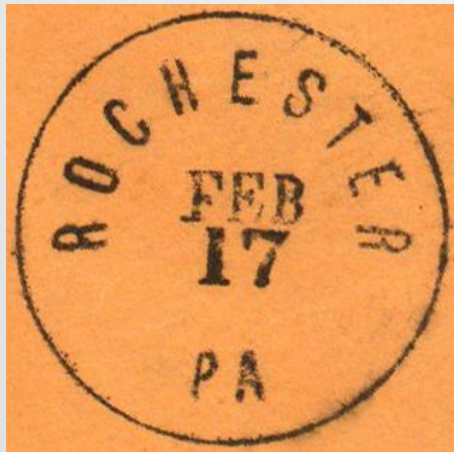
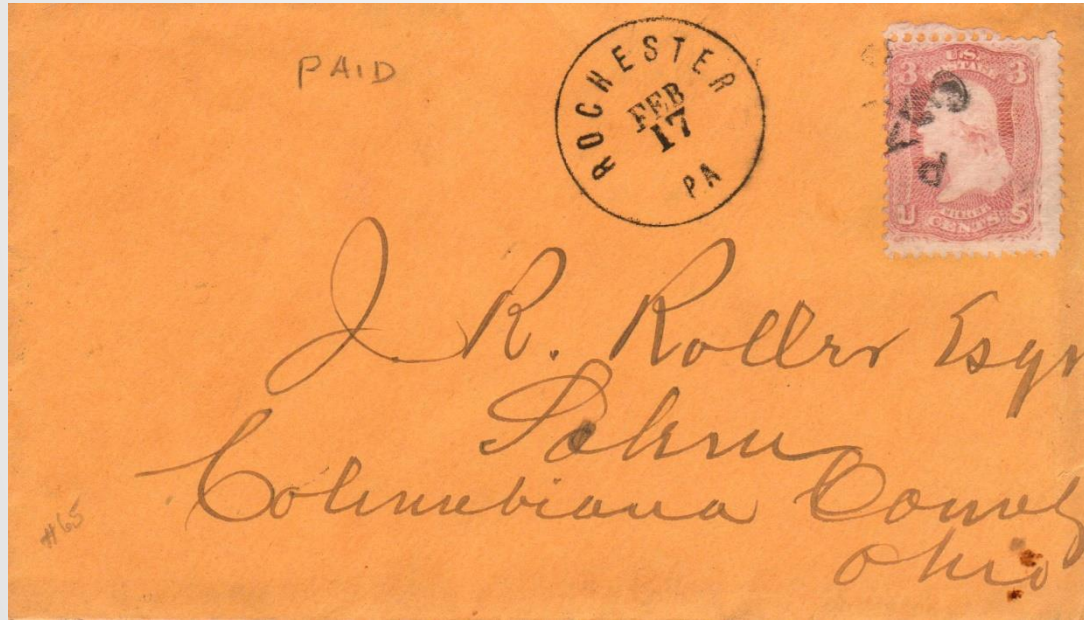
Post Office Opened: 1849-Date

The borough adopted its name in 1834 when a local businessman decided to christen his home with the name Rochester so he could have a unique name to stamp his goods. Scenes in the 1986 movie *Gung Ho*, the 1996 movie *Kingpin* and the 2000 movie *"Wonder Boys"* were shot in Rochester.

<https://www.rochestertwp.org>







1860s

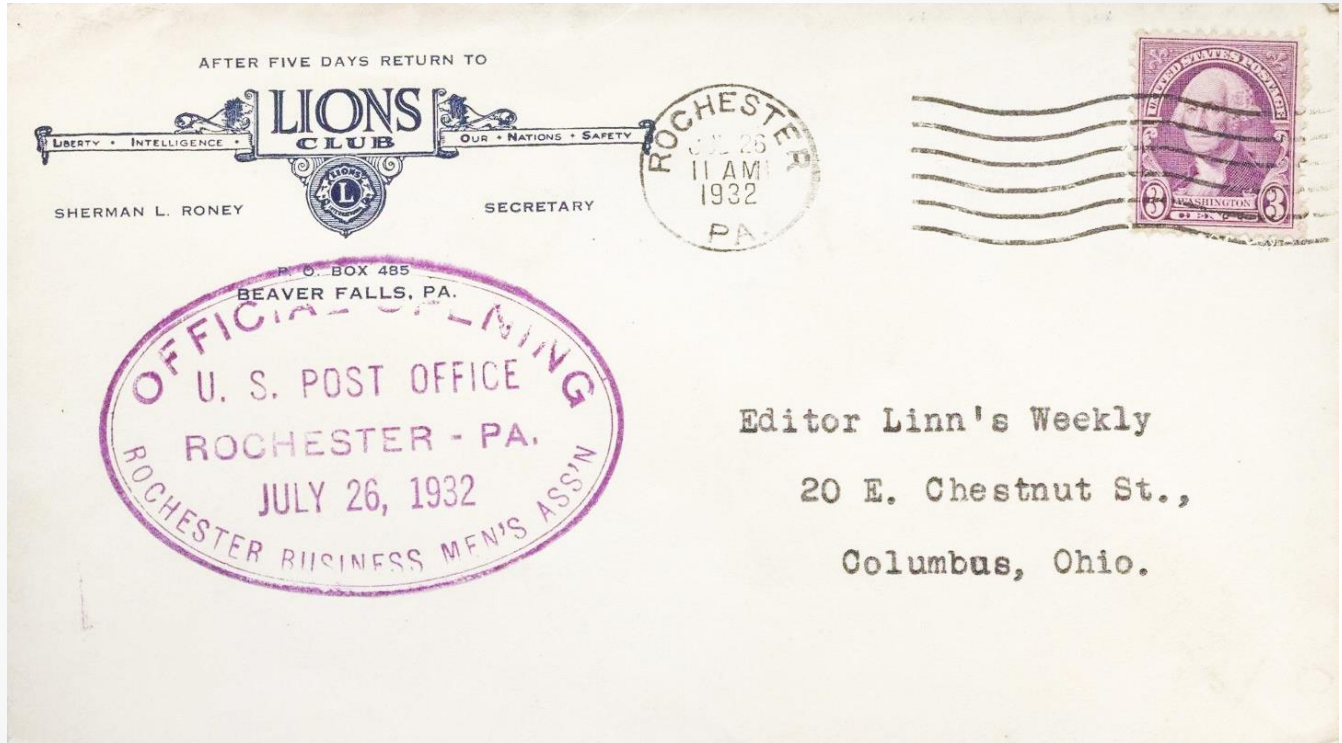


1904 Perfection cancel





1932 on International Reply Coupon



1932

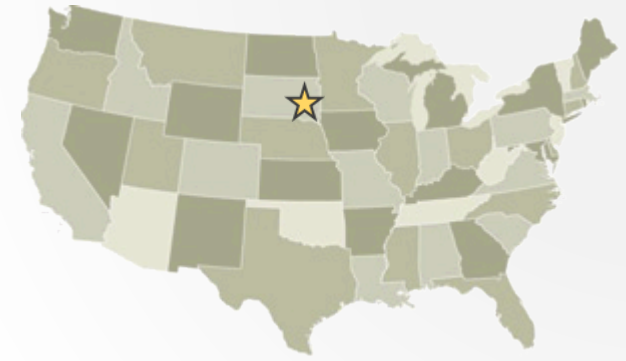
# ROCHESTER, SD (McCook County)

Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1874-1879

No data found.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCook\\_County, South Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCook_County,_South_Dakota)

# ROCHESTER, TX

(Haskell County)

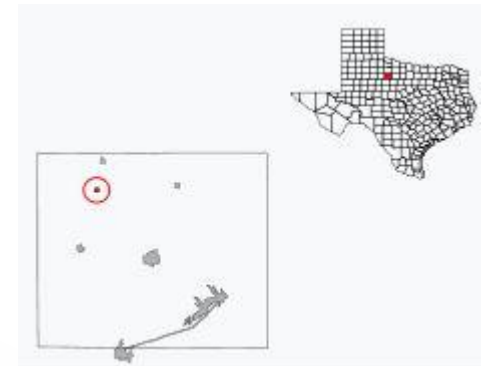
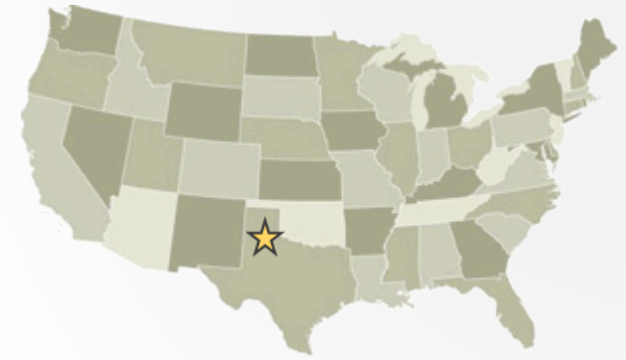
Founded in 1906.

Population: 324

Post Office Opened: 1906-Date

Rochester was founded by A. B. Carothers in 1906 as the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway was built in the area. It takes its name from Rochester, New York.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,\\_Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Texas)







1949

# ROCHESTER, UT

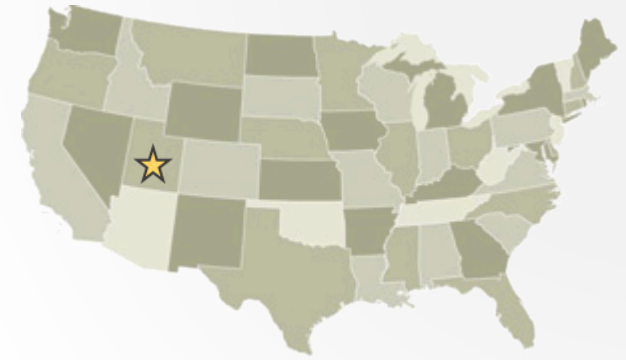
(Emery County)

Founded in ?

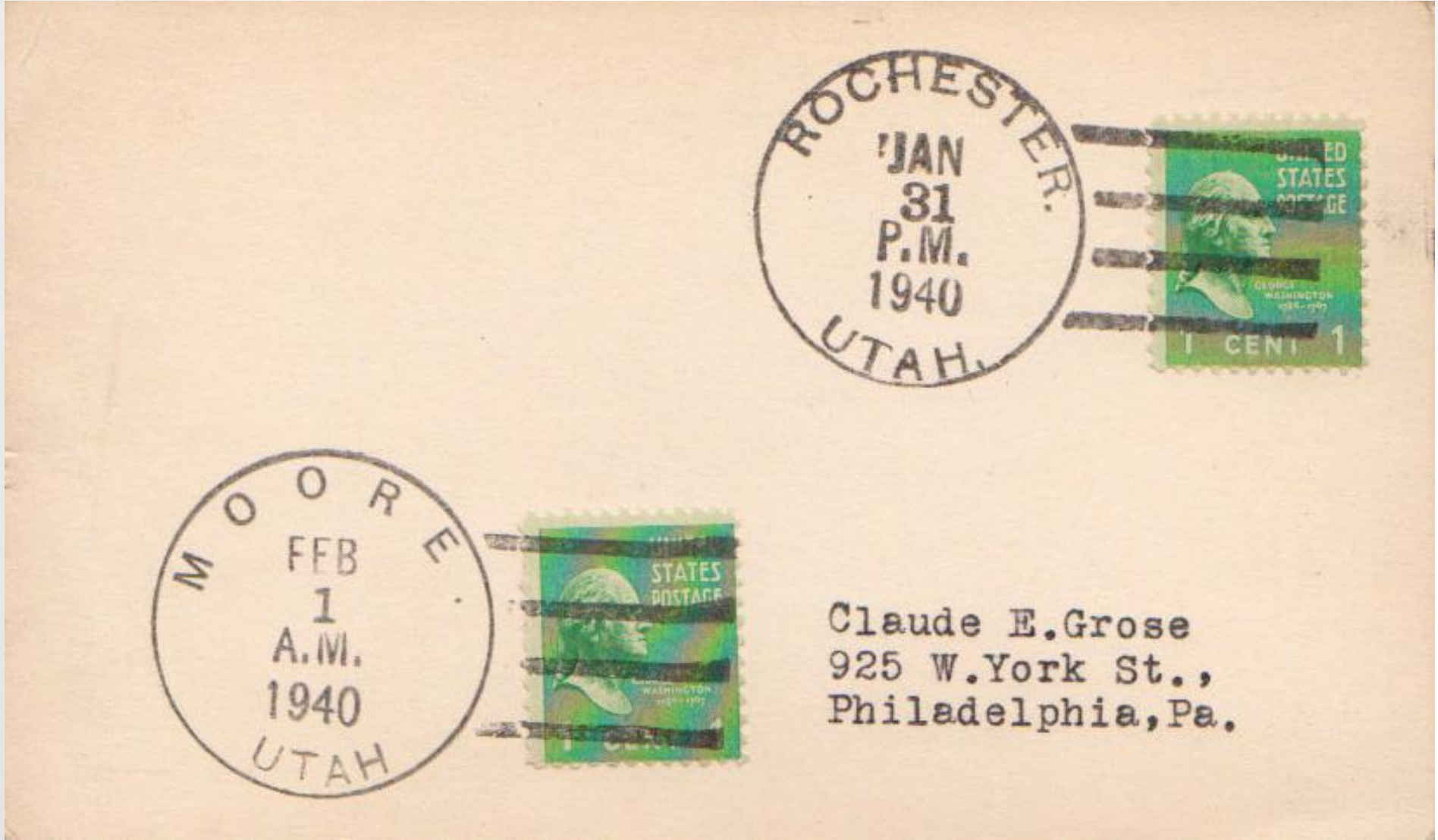
Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1920-1940

No data found.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emery\\_County,\\_Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emery_County,_Utah)



ROCHESTER.  
JAN  
31  
P.M.  
1940  
UTAH.



M O O R E  
FEB  
1  
A.M.  
1940  
UTAH



Claude E. Grose  
925 W. York St.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.



# ROCHESTER, VT (Windsor County)

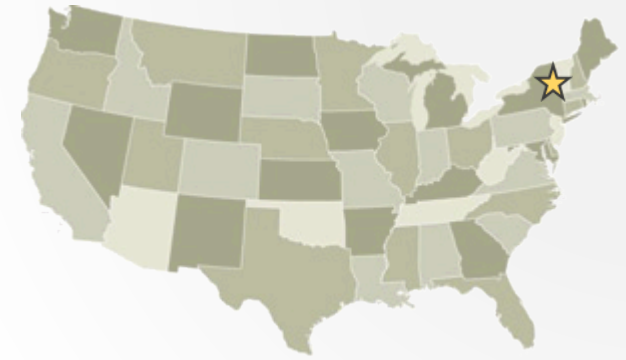
Founded in 1781.

Population: 1,139

Post Office Opened: 1816-Date

Rochester was granted in 1780, chartered in 1781 to Dudley Chase, Asa Whitcomb and 63 others, then organized in 1788. It was first settled in the winter of 1781-1782 by David Currier and his family.

<http://rochestervermont.org>



Rochester  
 Mar 4

25

Gilman Marston Esq  
 Indianapolis  
 Indiana



Lucian W. Hyman  
 Montpelier



63



1863

Rochester  
 Mar 4

1839 manuscript

HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY  
 HEART OF GREEN MTS.  
 THEN - NOW - FOREVER

Mrs Roger Evans  
 8159 Prim St.  
 3 Transoull  
 Ohio 44136

1981

# ROCHESTER, WA (Thurston County)

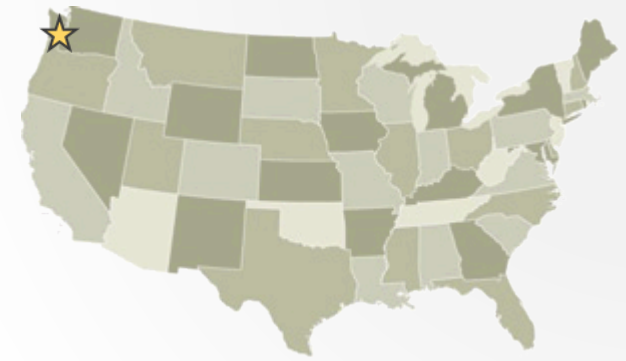
Founded in 1852.

Population: 2,388

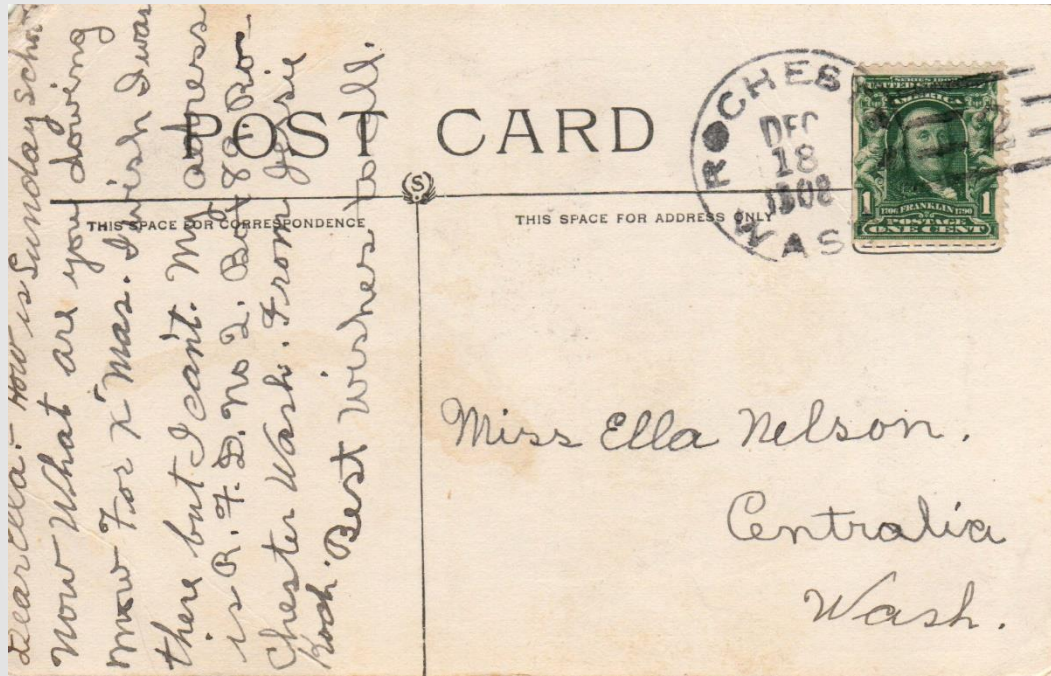
Post Office Opened: 1890-Date

Rochester was founded in 1852 by Samuel James. Robert Paton, who opened the first market in 1889, opened the first lumber mill in the early 1880s. Rochester, Washington was named after Rochester, Michigan.

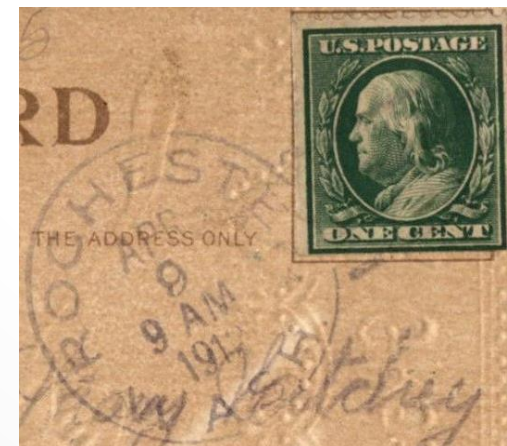
<http://www.rochester-wa.com>







1908



1912

# ROCHESTER, WI (Racine County)

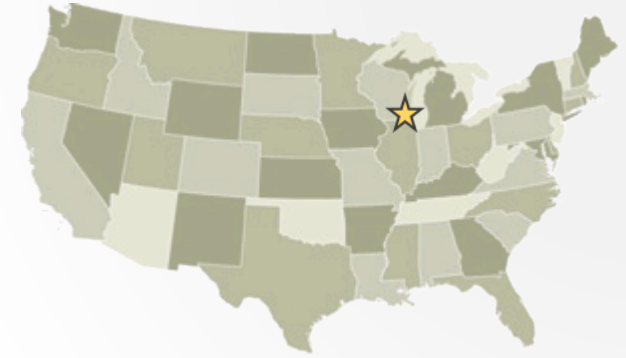
Founded in 1835.

Population: 3,782

Post Office Opened: 1837-Date

The first non-Native American settlers in Rochester were a group of five farming families from Rochester, Vermont. The old Union House hotel in the Village of Rochester was a part of the Underground Railroad.

<http://rochesterwi.us>







1860s



# ROCHESTER, WY (Johnson County)

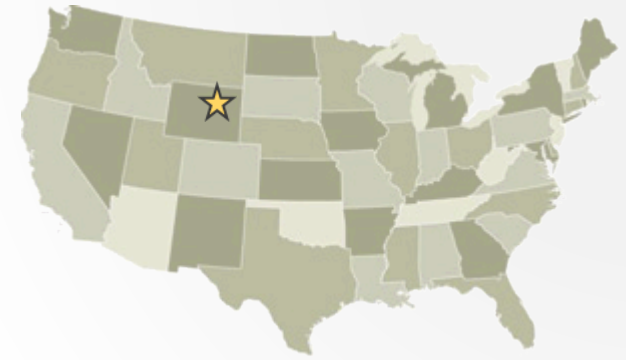
Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1879-1882

Rochester Post Office was established as the Fort McKinney Post Office on November 26, 1876. Changed to Rochester on July 7, 1879. Elias U. Snider continued as postmaster. Changed back to Fort McKinney on May 2, 1882.

<http://wyomingplaces.pbworks.com/w/page/27716220/Rochester>



# ROCHESTER, VIC

Australia

Founded in 1855.

Population: 3,136

Post Office Opened: 1863 to Date

Rochester (via Rowecheester) was named after Dr John Pearson Rowe, who had a hotel here before the township was gazetted in 1855.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,\\_Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Victoria)





1935





# ROCHESTER, AB

Canada

Founded in early 1900s.

Population: 79

Post Office Opened: unknown

Originally called Ideal Flats, renamed Rochester in 1912 when rail service from Edmonton to Athabasca was completed, for Herbert Rochester who was secretary to the General Manager of the Canadian National Railway from 1909-15.

<http://www.athabascalandingtrail.com/rochester.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,\\_Alberta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rochester,_Alberta)



MORRISON BOX 166  
ROCHESTER, AB  
T0G 1Z0

*B.C. Surveyor of Taxes.  
Box 9446 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria  
BC  
V8W9V6*



2000



2004

# ROCHESTER, KENT

Great Britain

Founded in ancient times.

Population: 27,000

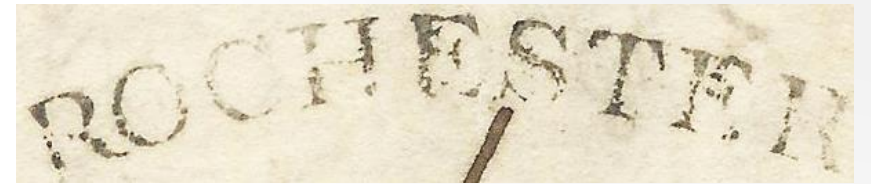
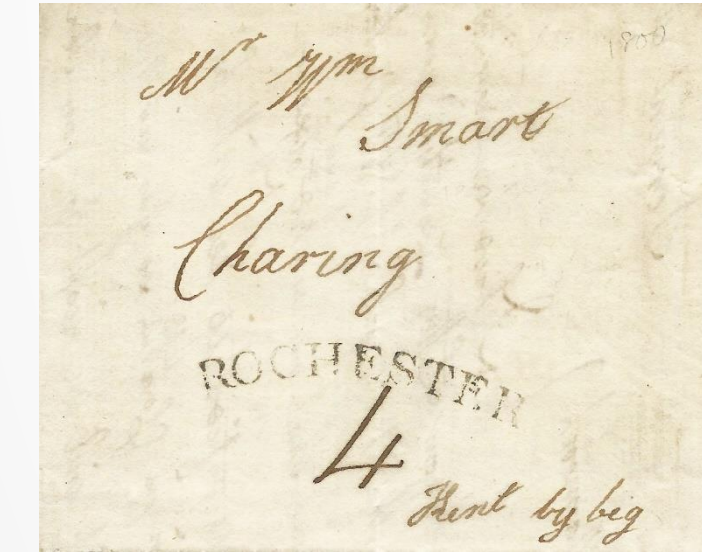
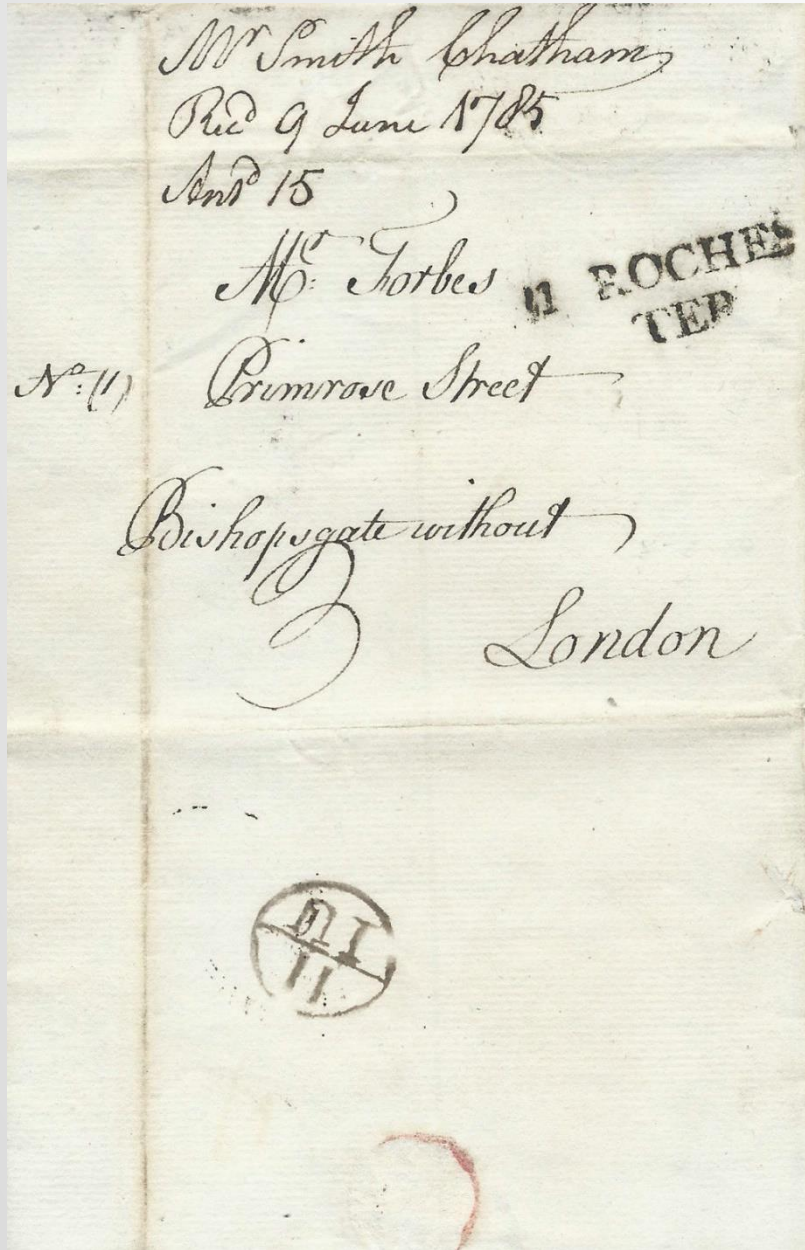
Post Office Opened: unknown

Rochester was recognized as a City from 1211 to 1998. The City of Rochester's ancient status was unique, as it had no formal council or Charter Trustees nor a Mayor, instead having the office of Admiral of the River Medway, whose incumbent acted as de facto civic leader.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Rochester,\\_Kent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Rochester,_Kent)







1800 arched mark

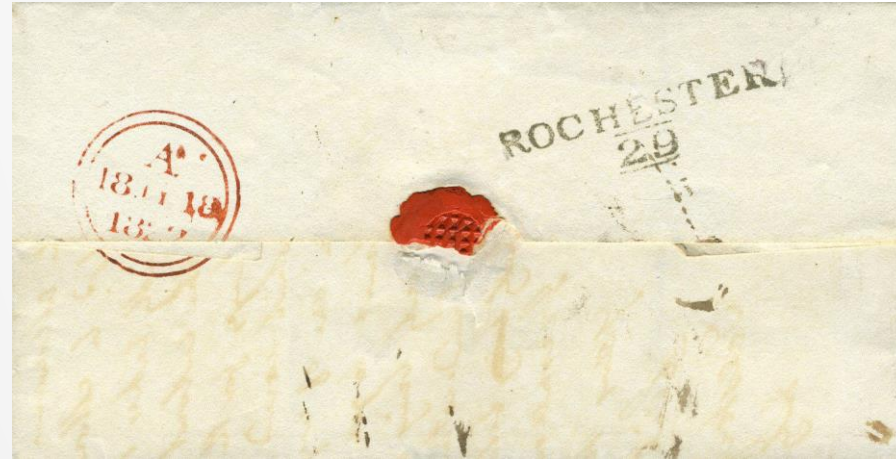


1785 Broken  
31 mile mark



1800 straight mark





1811 ship letter mark on infected letter from Malta

1822 29 mile mark

1842





1849



1893



1906





# ROCHESTER

Zimbabwe

Founded in ?

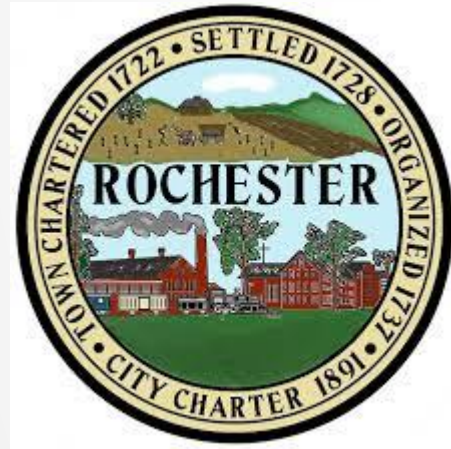
Population: ?

Post Office Opened: unknown



<http://travelingluck.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Zimbabwe+%28general%29/882388Rochester.html>





I hope you've enjoyed this brief look at Rochester in geography and philately. This is a never ending project with ongoing improvements!