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
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
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
1844 manuscript marking

1911 RFD

1879
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
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

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
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
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
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, Rockford,
MICHIGAN, 48063 U.S.A

DIVISION OF PRE-UNIVERSITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION,
UNESCO
PLACE DE FONTENOT, 75700
PARIS, FRANCE

17 AOUT 1973

1973
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
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
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
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
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

[Signature]

Payroll 37.50

Nevada Industrial Insurance Commission
Carson City, Nevada.

1919
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
1814 manuscript

1839 as receiving mark
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.


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
With love and best wishes,

Mrs. Meta Richards

Rochester

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
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
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.

ROCHESTER, UT  (Emery County)

Founded in ?

Population: 0

Post Office Opened: 1920-1940

No data found.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emery_County,_Utah
MOORE
1
-Feb
1940

Claude E. Grose
925 W. York St.,

1940
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, 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
Dear Mother,

We are all well and hope you are. Miss Mary is getting along just fine.

Mrs. Nelson
Centralia
Wash.

December 18, 1908

Post Card

December 18, 1912

Post Card
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
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 Rowechester) was named after Dr John Pearson Rowe, who had a hotel here before the township was gazetted in 1855.

Mr. L. M. Whitehouse,
P.O. Box 981,
HONOLULU,
Hawaii.

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
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.

1785 Broken 31 mile mark

1800 arched mark

1800 straight mark
1811 ship letter mark on infected letter from Malta

1822 29 mile mark

1842
ROCHESTER

Zimbabwe

Founded in ?
Population: ?
Post Office Opened: unknown

http://travelingluck.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Zimbabwe+%28general%29/_882388_Rochester.html
I hope you’ve enjoyed this brief look at Rochester in geography and philately. This is a never ending project with ongoing improvements!