

13 Things

1 Charlotte is the site of four minor battles during the War of 1812. The "Valiant 33," a group of locals defending the hamlet, marched in and out of the woods, footing the British into thinking there was a larger military force. The British never returned.

2 Sam "The Yankee Leaper" Patch successfully jumped High Falls in 1829. Due to poor fund-raising, he decided to make the jump again one week later on Friday, November 13. He plunged to his death. The body was found beneath the ice in Charlotte the following spring.

3 The Times Square Building at 45 Exchange St. was designed by Ralph Thomas Walker. Each of the aluminum wings on Walker's "Wings of Progress" is 42 feet high and weighs six tons.

4 The first permanent settler on the east side of the Genesee River was Enos Stone in 1790. The location is now part of the Brighton township.

5 Frederick Douglass' family house was located at the present location of the James P. Duffy School No. 12. The house burned to the ground in 1872.

6 The original Reynolds Arcade Building (now replaced by the current Art Deco style) was the first indoor shopping mall and housed first headquarters of the Western Union Telegraph Co.

7 The Kimball Tobacco Co., located at Court Street in 1880 (now the site of the Blue Cross Arena), was one of the nation's largest cigarette manufacturers. In 1881, William S. Kimball commissioned his brother-in-law, J. Guernsey Mitchell, to create the replica statue of Mercury, the Roman God of eloquence, skill, and trade. It stood 21 feet tall on top of a smokestack. Today, Mercury grasps his satchel of gold and caduceus in a new location: the Aqueduct Building.

8 Child Street is named after Jonathan Child, Nathaniel Rochester's son-in-law and the first official city mayor.

9 The statue of Frederick Douglass at Highland Park originally stood at the New York Central Train Station on Central Avenue until the station was demolished.

10 Culver Road and Oliver Street (one block west from Culver Road and East Avenue) are named after Oliver Culver. He once walked to Irondequoit Bay from Ticonderoga, N.Y., out of boredom while waiting for a boat that never came. He proudly survived a deadly tomahawk wound to the head, and was heralded as a shipbuilder, businessman, road builder, politician, community leader, and coroner, amongst many other titles.

11 Cobbs Hill Park housed three Army prisoners of war encampments during the fall of 1943, the summer of 1944, and the winter of 1945. German and Italian POWs as young as 16 years old worked as many as 60 hours a week at farms and food processing plants. To the city's dismay, as many as 200 civilians gathered at night on Norris Street to enjoy the German POW men's chorus in exchange for candy, cigarettes, magazines, musical instruments and novelties.

12 Rochester's first train station was the Auburn Railroad shed, a wooden building replaced in 1852. The Rochester Historical Society houses an oil painting of the structure by Eugene Sintzenich.

13 The Catholic Daughters of Charity opened St. Mary's on West Main Street in 1857 as the first hospital in Rochester. In June of 1863, it was declared a government hospital and treated 5,000 Civil War soldiers. St. Mary's introduced the first horse-drawn ambulance, and purchased the city's first motorized ambulance in 1915.

—*Carlie Fishgold*

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