FOREWORD

In the year 1903 the village Study Club of Rochester assigned to Miss Ida L. Ela "The Early History of Rochester" as subject for a paper to be presented to the Club at one of its meetings. This paper, prepared with care and using in part facts gained from pioneers then living, has been a valued source of information on village history.

In response to an effort made for its preservation by the Woman's Study Club of the centennial year, the members of Miss Ela's family are presenting a limited edition of the published manuscript to the village library as a centennial gift.

Prepared for publication by Mrs. Mary E. Williams.

Changes made in the original manuscript are few. Locations determined by landmarks of 1903 are redefined; a few additional incidents are introduced; the story of the plank road and the statements regarding the civil organization of the township and the source of its name are expanded to incorporate facts now available.

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