

# Stable Utilized as First Site For St. Andrew's Seminary

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary, currently marking seventy-five years of invaluable service to the Diocese of Rochester, was started by a Bishop who was once an orphan boy, and held its first classes in a stable.

The colorful history of this important diocesan institution is clear evidence of the truth of the old adage, "great oaks from little acorns grow."

Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, founder of the Diocese of Rochester, opened St. Andrew's Seminary with twelve students on September 15, 1870.

Finding a place for this infant school had posed a problem but the enterprising Bishop solved it by ordering the stable for horses in the rear of his own house on Frank Street to be renovated for classroom use.

This transformed stable was not very imposing, but the orphan-boy Bishop was proud of it. He had a seminary of his own!

Within ten years Bishop McQuaid was able to build a small new seminary building to which an extra wing was later added. This second structure, also erected in the rear of the Bishop's House, was a decidedly humble affair according to present day standards.

The diocese was growing rapidly and in 1904 a new seminary building was erected on Frank Street (now known as Plymouth Avenue North) and adjacent to the Bishop's House.

This building, best known to the present generation of diocesan priests, also passed from the scene when all the Cathedral properties, including the seminary, were sold to the Eastman Kodak Company in 1937.

Today St. Andrew's Seminary is established at the corner of Plymouth Avenue North and Brown Street in the old Catholic High School which was chosen as temporary quarters following the Eastman Kodak purchase.

Details of the early history of St. Andrew's is somewhat shrouded in the mists of time but an interesting bit of information reveals that the school was originally called St. Patrick's Seminary, and this apparently because it was situated in the shadow of the diocesan Cathedral of St. Patrick.

Early official records also refer to it as the "Latin School" and "The Catholic Classical School."

The designation, however, of St. Andrew's Seminary appears in the Catholic Directory of 1880, indicating that the choice of Christ's First Apostle as the Patron of the little Seminary was made some time during the first decade of the school's existence.

In making his decision to place his Minor Seminary under the spiritual protection of St. Andrew, Bishop McQuaid was presumably influenced by the fact that St. Justus, founder of the famous Diocese of Rochester, England, had dedicated his Cathedral under the patronage of St. Andrew. This suggests that the Bishop wished to establish a relationship between his young Diocese of Rochester in America and the Old World Diocese of Rochester, which is hallowed in history by the deeds of St. Justus and St. John Fisher.

The source of Bishop McQuaid's determination to establish at any cost a preparatory seminary for the training of his priests can be found in the wise recommendations of the Council of Trent.

Some could and some did question the necessity of having a preparatory or minor seminary, but the Bishop of Rochester was on solid ground and his decision was upheld by the Council of Trent.



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The Rectors of St. Andrew's from 1870 through 1945

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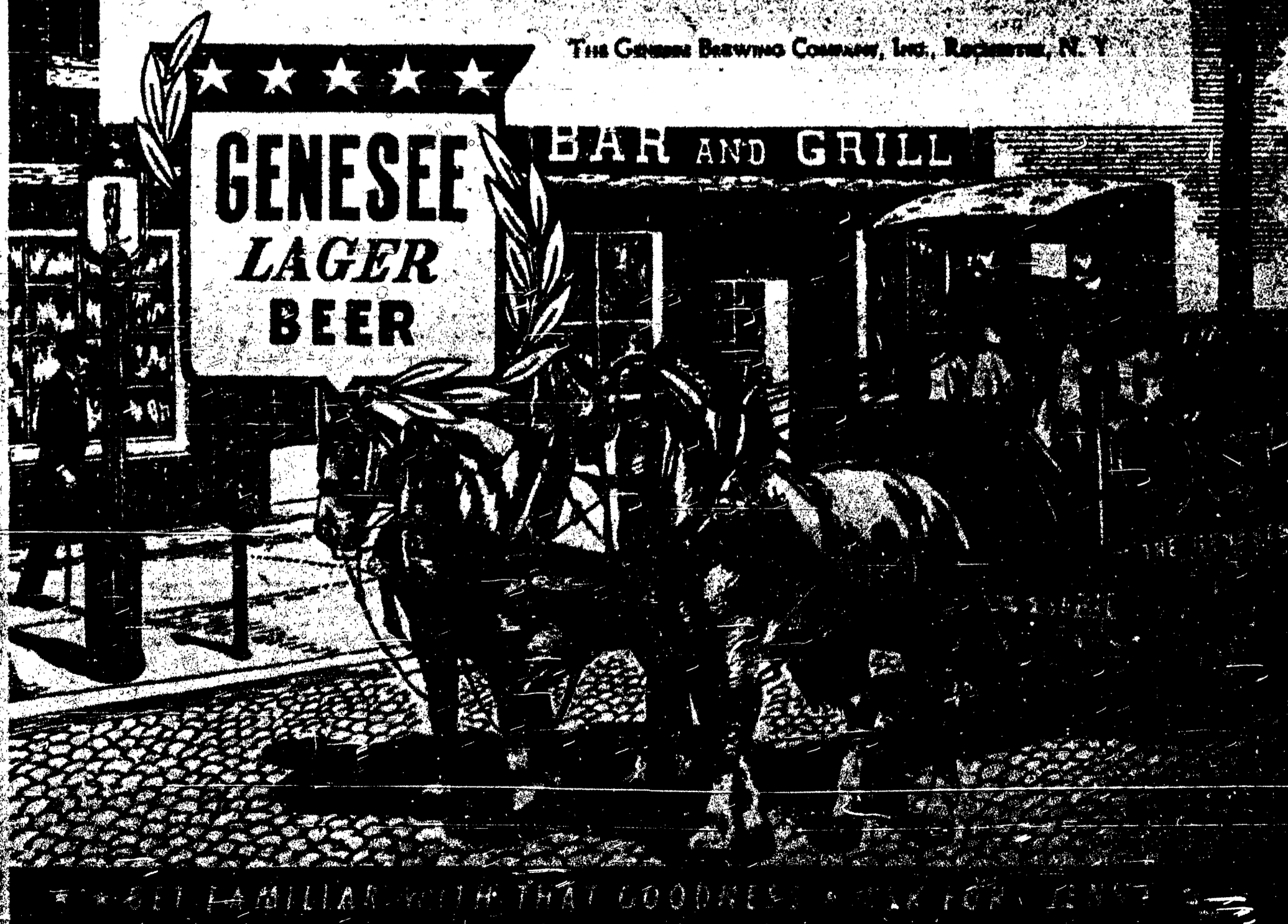
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