

TIMELINE - MONTEZUMA AREA

5500 BC

Earliest traces of Native Americans in Seneca River Valley

1677

Jesuit Mission settlement, called St. Rene's Mission. (Maps indicate Montezuma Hamlet area, but name of mission is also referenced to be in Savannah area.)

1779

Gen Sullivan's Expedition: Gen. William Butler is sent to destroy all Indian towns east of Cayuga Lake September 9, 1779

1782

Military Tract divisions include Towns of Aurelius and Brutus

1789

Cayuga Reservation formed on East Side of Cayuga Lake

1795

New York Treaty with Cayugas to give up land, Cayuga Reservation is surveyed into lots of 250 acres

1796

Sale of Indian lands begins

1797

Stagecoach route through Cayuga via "Great Genesee Rd" (Later Seneca Turnpike)

1798

First settlement at Montezuma made by Peter Clarke, Comfort Tyler, and Abraham Morgan

1799

Cayuga County formed from portion of Onondaga County March 3, 1799

1802

Town of Mentz formed from portions of Towns of Aurelius and Brutus
March 2, 1802

1807

Cayugas cede all remaining land to New York State

Salt water discovered on branch of Seneca River, now called Salt
Creek

1810

Cayuga Manufacturing Co. begins salt manufacturing

1811

Bridges built over Clyde and Seneca Rivers and turnpike built over the
marshes

1820

Middle section of Erie Canal is first opened between Montezuma and
Utica

1823

First stagecoach line from Rochester with stop in Montezuma est. by
W. W. Fenlon

Baptist Church formed in Montezuma as "Church of Aurelius and
Mentz"

1825

Daily stagecoach route from Montezuma to Cayuga established by
Wm. VanVelzer

First Methodist Episcopal Church of Mentz incorporated, with a
cemetery known as the old Mentz Church at Mentz Corners

Erie Canal completed Oct. 26, 1825

1828

Cayuga-Seneca Canal is opened in Montezuma extending canal to the Finger Lakes

1849

Richmond Aqueduct construction begins

1855

Population about 291, Households, individuals about 900 (based solely on Mentz 3ED census reporting. More individuals enumerated in Aurelius census, but not broken down by ED)

1857

Completion and opening of Richmond Aqueduct

1858

State appropriates \$7000 to develop Montezuma salt springs

1859

Montezuma Township created from portion of Mentz Township April 8, 1859

1860

Population 291 Households, 1480 individuals

1865

Population 292 Households, 1440 individuals

1865

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church built

1866

Montezuma Village incorporated with population of 550

1870

Population 271 Households, 1319 individuals

1880

Population 352 Households, 1361 individuals

1889

Fire destroys many businesses in the village

Montezuma Village charter repealed

1900

Population 241 Households, 991 individuals

1906

Montezuma Fibre Co. opens along the Enlarged Erie Canal, a paper mill that processed flag (cattails) into heavy paper.

1907

Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Rapid Railroad (electric trolley) built through Montezuma with three stops: 69, 70 and 71

1910

Population 225 Households, 941 individuals

1913

Montezuma Fibre Co. files for bankruptcy and closes.

1917

Barge Canal replaces Erie and Richmond Aqueduct partially demolished

1918

Exchange Hotel destroyed by fire

1920

Population 192 Households, 668 individuals

1927

Fire destroys all but two buildings in business section. Town records destroyed with loss of Town Hall

1930

Population 181 Households, 690 individuals

1931

Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Rapid Railroad (electric trolley) abandoned

1940

Population 196 Households, 889 individuals

1945

Montezuma Methodist Church destroyed by fire

1964

PepsiCo broke ground for a \$22 million Empire State Sugar subsidiary refinery in Montezuma to process sugar beets

1968

PepsiCo ceased operation of the plant and leases it to New York Sugar Industries, a subsidiary of Maine Sugar Industries

1975

Standard Brands buys and converts beet plant to a corn milling factory called, Clinton Corn Processing

1982

Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) leases Clinton Corn, later purchasing only to use as a transfer station for animal feed brought in by rail and shipped to markets by truck

2004

Mentz Church building and cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic Places now owned by the Town of Montezuma and home of the Montezuma Historical Society

2005

The Seneca River Crossing Canals District was placed the National Register of Historic Places that includes the remains of several Erie and Cayuga Seneca Canals historic sites in Montezuma