

## Duplain/Mapleton/Rochester Colony

On February 29, 1836, a company was formed in Rochester, New York that purchased land in Clinton County. They sold shares for \$125. Each share gave the owner 80 acres of farmland and a village lot in Clinton County.

In the summer of 1837, the John Ferdon, Oliver Bebee, and Samuel Barker families left Rochester, New York, for Michigan. Of the 16 people, 10 were children. They took a boat to Detroit. From Detroit they traveled by Ox-team and wagon on the Grand River trail until they reached the location of the current town of Laingsburg. Then they cut a road north for 20 miles until they got to their new home on July 28, 1836.

The group built log cabins with bark roofs and floors and settled in for the winter. The next year more settlers arrived. Soon the town had a blacksmith, carpenter, shoemaker, doctor, post office, stores, sawmill, and gristmill.

At first the colony village was called Mapleton. In 1841 it was renamed Duplain. Duplain came from Riviere duPlain which was the French word for the Maple River. Because the first settlers came from Rochester, New York, the place also became known as the Rochester Colony.

Methodist circuit riders had visited Duplain since 1837. A Methodist church was built here in the mid-1850's.





Colony School c1910

Duplain was one of the first locations in the county to have a school. The first school was on the Peter Moore property in 1838. Later a schoolhouse was built in the village. It operated as a one-room school until joining Elsie in 1960.

During the early days of the county, Duplain was an important town. After the railroads bypassed the town in the mid-1800's, most of the businesses moved to Elsie or Ovid.