

Perinton Historical Society

Historigram

18 Perrin Street Fairport, NY 14450

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The Potter Family: Following the Money

By Bill Poray

In the previous issue of the Historigram, we reviewed the life of Frederick T. Potter (1870–1943).

A wealthy bachelor and man of leisure. At his death in 1943, he left his home and five acres to be used as a community center, park and playground. He also provided \$5,000 for alterations to the property, and another \$45,000 to be held in trust for maintenance and upkeep.

Fred Potter's Grandfather: Henry S. Potter—Source of Three Generations of Wealth

Henry S. Potter (grandfather of Fred Potter)



Alfred B. Potter (father of Fred Potter)



Fred Potter



Left:

Henry S. Potter was the grandfather of Fairport's Fred Potter. Henry's profile adorns the massive monument (see page 5) that he commissioned in 1875 at a cost of \$6,000. The monument was placed at Rochester's Mount Hope Cemetery nine years prior to his death.

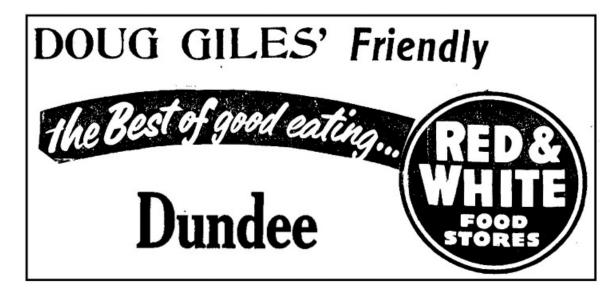
Below:

Early 20th century photo of the former home of Henry S. Potter, at 20 Monroe Avenue in Pittsford. He and his family relocated to Rochester's affluent 3rd Ward in 1850. From the Karl Jost collection, Perinton Historical Society.

Tracing the Potter fortune leads us to Fred's grandfather, Henry Sayer Potter (1798–1884). Born in Galway, Saratoga County, he was the son of Nathaniel Potter, born on July 4, 1776, the first day of our national independence. The Potter family was among the earliest settlers of land near Seneca Falls, and by 1808, relocated to Canandaigua. Nathaniel Potter died in 1810, leaving his wife and four children. Henry, not yet a teenager, began his work life as a store clerk, first in Canandaigua, then in Williamson. By 1815 he moved to Pittsford, where he met his future wife, Harriet Benedict. Henry Potter eventually prospered in Pittsford, where he operated a successful general store and also offered financing for local businesses and families.

As referenced in the previous issue of the Historigram,





In 1959, Bob Hunt worked for amatuer weather man Doug Giles at the Red & White Store in Dundee, NY.



~ Bob Hunt ~

Greetings from your President

September 14, 2021—

Good evening.
Here I sit in my office at
44 Georgetown Lane, drafting
my *Historigram* article for
October. The location is nice, but
not as nice as the carriage house
at 53 Roselawn Avenue.

However, no mowing, painting, snow removal, etc., makes it snow removal, etc., makes it OK. It looks like a snowstorm, it looks like rain, and it looks like a beautiful tomorrow. These are the signs nature gives us about the approaching weather. Back in 1959, I worked at Giles Red & White Store in Dundee, NY. I rode my bike to the store at 7:00 a.m. before school. My job was to get the produce area ready for shoppers that day. On one gloomy and rainy day, my mother took me to the store, as she also had to be at work as a telephone operator. Upon arriving, I said to my boss, Doug Giles, "Doesn't look like a very nice day." Doug said, "Rain before seven clear by eleven." I sort of looked at him and said to myself, "He's crazy." But guess what, at about 10:30 the skies cleared, and it turned out to be a beautiful day. The reality is that if it is raining a 7:00 a.m., it is highly likely that it has been raining the greater part of the night and the storm is about over. From 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. the old sun starts to heat up and dissipate the clouds. As you probably know after reading my comments for 11 years, I'm interested in the weather.

What do the signs give us as to approaching weather? Very interesting. My dad would look up at the clouds and say, "Mare's Tails, going to rain within 24 hours." In my mind my thoughts were again, "What are you, crazy? The weather

is beautiful." Well, in doing some research, cirrus uncinus is a type if cirrus cloud, also known as mare's tails. Generally, wispy cirrus clouds resembling horse tails signal that a rainstorm is on its way.

Of course, we have all heard of "Red skies at night, sailors delight" and "Red skies in the morning sailors take warning." A reddish sunset means that the air is dusty and dry. Since weather in North American latitudes usually moves from west to east, a red sky at sunset means dry weather and thus good for sailing. Conversely a reddish sunrise means that dry air from the west has already passed over, clearing the way for a storm to move in.

Here are two more: "Clear Moon, Frost Soon." When the night sky is clear, the Earth's surface cools rapidly, as there is no cloud cover to keep the heat in. If the night is clear enough to see the moon and the temperature drops enough, frost will form, so expect a chilly morning. "Ring around the moon? Rain real soon." A ring around the moon usually means an advancing warm front, which means precipitation. Under those conditions, high thin clouds get lower and thicker as they pass over the moon. Ice crystals are reflected by the moon's light, causing a halo to appear.

You may have a favorite saying about the weather as well, and if so, send it to me. I do not need to hear about the groundhog seeing his shadow.

Next month I will talk about observing nature's signs, or the signs animals, insects, birds, and plants give us as we live our daily lives.

Please stay healthy and be safe. And thanks for being a member and supporting PHS. It is appreciated.

Bob Hunt, President 585-415-7053 rhunt356.rh@gmail.com

Photo Archive Documents Lift Bridge Project

By Kay Joslyn



Meet Dominic Sherony! While he is a Fairport resident and a retired Xerox chemical engineer, his real passion is bird watching. He has published papers on birds, leads bird watching trips and posts his photographs on Flickr. But how does he fit in with our museum? In May of 2020, Dominic became interested in the rebuilding of the lift bridge. He began to photograph the removal of the main beams and before he knew it, he was making daily trips to the construction site. Dominic struck up conversations with the bridge workers, asked questions and learned what the project entailed. Over the course of 14 months, he took 2,500 photos.

Dominic contacted PHS at the Fairport Historical Museum and offered to donate the photographs, in order to preserve his observations for future generations. John Laurence and I had the opportunity to meet with Dominic. Since we were involved in a committee that was documenting the effects of the COVID-19 on the Fairport community, it seemed appropriate to include the bridge project as one more thing that affected our lives in 2019-2021. We were impressed with all the facts Dominic had documented. Here are a few:

- The bridge is not square or level in any plane.
- All materials were manufactured in the United States.
- The weights on the four supporting cables had to be readjusted several times.



One of 2,500 photos by Dominic Sherony of the Fairport lift bridge project.

Dominic has pared down the number of photos put onto a loop for the television monitors at the museum. He also has provided a guide which describes each of the photos.

For those of you who are interested in a more technical description of the entire process, he has written notes detailing the bridge rebuilding, including problems that arose and their solutions. These will be available in a notebook.

We are very appreciative of Dominic's contribution to the museum and hope that you will take a few minutes to marvel at the subject of his work, the lift bridge, an engineering masterpiece in the heart of our village.

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By Lucy McCormick, YT Committee Representative

The 2021 PHS fundraiser, Yuletide Traditions, is back! Once again you're invited to participate in a festive silent auction and other events. The Grinch is not hosting this event, but Yuletide Traditions will look a bit different this year—because of the pandemic and because of trends the committee has noticed since the inception of this event in 2014:

- Individuals and businesses donating items for silent auctions will be asked for baskets and gift cards. We have certainly appreciated and have been awed by the creativity and artistic talent of many who have made festive items. However, because we have many members downsizing, we are suggesting that trees and wreaths not be donated. Baskets of all sorts and sizes are appreciated—for entertaining, wine lovers, young readers, crafty kids, canine and feline friends, gardeners and many other themes. Gift cards have also been popular, some receiving bids two and three times their value. Monetary donations are welcome as well.
- Several programs and events will be offered. Because of the pandemic, seating will be more spaced out than in the past. We're fortunate to have Bill Poray speak at the kickoff to YT on November 16th, with a presentation about the history of the Potter Family and Potter Memorial. While events are being planned as we write, one festive addition to the mix will be an ugly sweater contest. Participants will be encouraged to stop by the museum for a quick photo or invited to submit their own photo. Voting will take place for the best ugly holiday sweater in several categories.
- Refreshments will be wrapped items and bottled water, but we will certainly miss sharing cheese and cracker trays and unique homemade treats.

We look forward to you joining us for Yuletide Traditions. The Grinch will not be invited!

after relocating to Rochester's affluent 3rd Ward in 1850, Henry Potter made an immense fortune through the creation of the New York & Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. Five years later, additional acquisitions led to the creation of the Western Union Telegraph Company. For the most part, the next two generations of the Potter family were financially set for life.

Henry and Harriet Potter's home in Rochester was located at 133 South Fitzhugh Street (photo below). A Greek revival brick mansion, it was built in 1840 by David Hoyt, a bookseller and publisher of the Farmer's Almanac, among many other periodicals. The Potters moved from Pittsford to the former Hoyt home in about 1850. Potter's daughter, Henryetta, later owned the home until 1907. By the 1ate 1960s, the 6,000 square-foot mansion, then used as a boarding house, was in poor condition. The owner sought to demolish the structure. After a twenty year period of court battles to determine the future of the building, the Landmark Society of Western New York began a massive rehabilitation process of the home. The Hoyt-Potter home served as the headquarters of the organization for many years.



Greek revival mansion of Henry and Harriet Potter at 133 South Fitzhugh Street in Rochester's affluent 3rd Ward. The property was in the Potter family for 57 years.

Monument to the Memory of Henry S. Potter

In 1875, nine years prior to his death, Henry S. Potter commissioned artisans to construct a monument to commemorate his life. Said to be the most costly of many erected that year at Rochester's Mount Hope Cemetery, Potter's memorial included a large medallion likeness of himself, along with two finely carved figures in Italian marble, said to portray Sorrow, being consoled by Hope. Perhaps it is Hope who should be consoled, for, as the photo in the right column shows, her head is no longer attached to her body.



The author with the Potter monument at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester. The cost of the monument when finished in 1875 was \$6,000, or approximately \$150,000 in today's money.

Henry Potter was not known for great acts of philanthropy, with one exception. Late in life, he provided \$13,000 for what the *Democrat & Chronicle* referred to as a "new and commodious building," which became the western wing of the Rochester Orphan Asylum. Located on Hubbell Park a short distance from his home, the addition was dedicated in February, 1882. His wife had died two years prior to its construction, and he passed two years after in January, 1884.

The Contested Will of Henry S. Potter

The patriarch of the Potter family was a very wealthy man. Estimates of the value of his estate at his death suggest that in today's dollars, it would be valued at over fifty million dollars. The death of Henry Sayer Potter occurred on the morning of January 9, 1884 at his residence on South Fitzhugh Street. Twenty days later, objections to Potter's last will and testament were presented at probate court.

The will of Henry Potter was a complex document, with twenty-three separate provisions, naming his spouse, five children, and ten grandchildren. For the most part, Potter's wealth was distributed in the form of trusts, with income derived from annual payments. Each of Potter's five children were to receive a portion of the estate, defined as "one-sixth of the net annual income of my estate in semi-annual payments during their respective natural lives." However, there was one glaring exception.

"Millionaire's Son Disinherited Unless He Will Abandon His Wife"

The headline above, published in the *New York Tribune*, made for tantalizing reading for residents of the nation's largest city when published on January 31, 1884. Readers of newspapers far and wide learned of an outrageous provision within the complex will of Rochester's Henry Potter, which spelled out the following condition regarding his eldest child, who was 56 years old when his father passed.

The lengthy passage in the will included the following unsettling declaration:

"...Charles B. Potter shall not live with or at any time contribute in any manner to the support or maintenance of his present wife, Jennie W. Potter. If he does not live with, or at any time, or in any way contribute to her support or maintenance, then pay to him his full share, one-sixth of the income of my estate..."

The intent was clear: For Potter's son to collect upon his inheritance, he must leave his wife of many years, the mother of his two children.

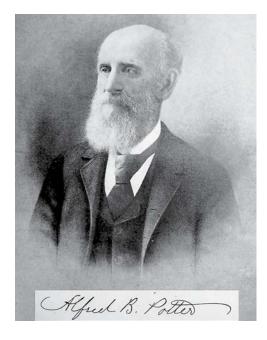
Decision of the Court

In late February of 1885, a decision was handed down by surrogate Justice Joseph A. Adlington on the legality of the will of Henry Sayer Potter. The will was largely found to be proper, with two exceptions, determined to be unlawful. One, which had previously received little public notice, was related to special financial treatment of Potter's unmarried daughter, Henryetta. However, it was the potential disinheritance of Potter's son, Charles, which caused the greatest stir.

The court's decision to overturn this provision of the will, and reinstate Charles Potter as a rightful heir to his father's fortune resulted in the following editorial published in the *Democrat & Chronicle*:

"To those who knew Mr. Potter pleasantly and superficially the clause in his will cutting off one of his sons from participation in the income of his estate, unless he committed a monstrous act, was a great surprise, and quite repugnant to the impression made upon them by the gracious manner of the decedent. To those who knew him more intimately, in his declining years, surprise was lessened by their larger knowledge of his prejudices and weaknesses, attributable doubtless to his advanced age."

After the court's decision, trust funds established in the will provided the children and grandchildren of Henry Potter with substantial semi-annual payments for the rest of their lives.



Alfred B. Potter: Alfred and his wife Huldah were Fred Potter's parents.

Alfred and Huldah Potter: Parents of Fred Potter

Alfred Benedict Potter (1833–1896) and his wife Huldah Thayer Potter (1843–1925) moved from the town of Sweden, near Brockport, to Fairport in the 1871. The 1870 census listed Alfred's occupation, age 37, as "retired farmer." The financial success of his father likely allowed Alfred to retire at a young age. The couple, then with two young children, purchased a brick home with several acres of land on Fairport's West Church Street.

The brick house was originally built in the Italianate style. It featured a low pitched roof, with widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets. A cupola, perhaps the most recognizable feature of Italianate design, was perched atop the roof.

The Potter Home in Fairport: Methodists, Teetotalers, and Batsmen

The home and property of Alfred and Huldah Potter was for many years a gathering place for social activities involving Fairport's First Methodist Church, located nearby on West Church Street. Mrs. Potter was especially active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and hosted numerous events at their home.

It was their devotion to the abstinence of alcohol use which, according to Fairport newspapers, resulted in vandalism of the Potter property, referred to in The *Fairport Herald* as "a villainous act" carried out by "some cowardly scoundrel out of a spirit of mere devilishness."

As the popularity of baseball flourished across the country, the Potter property became the site of many contests, where Fairport clubs hosted teams from other nearby localities. These games were held in the 1880s, and provided young Fred Potter with exposure to the game, and probably led to his life-long love of the sport.

In Three Years: Major Renovations, a Wedding and a Death

In the spring of 1893, the house was dramatically renovated, and most of the Italianate features were removed. A wood framed third floor was constructed, with clapboard siding. A gambrel roof was added, and Second Empire architectural features including a mansard roof and tower, and dormer windows. A large porch and porte-cochere were also added at this time.

According to the *Democrat & Chronicle*, "more than usually brilliant scene occurred at Potter Place" in the fall of 1895, when Alice Belle Potter, daughter of Alfred and Huldah, was wed to Walter J. Howard. The celebration was well documented in Fairport and Rochester newspapers, where Meyerring's Orchestra "...ensconced in the awningsenclosed veranda, rendered selections as the company of several hundred invited guests assembled to witness the event."

Just months after his daughter's marriage, Alfred Potter fell victim to an ailment which resulted in an unusual cause of death. The *Democrat and Chronicle* reported, "Potter has been the victim of a nervous affection which resulted a few days since in singultus, or hiccups. The best of medical skill was constantly on hand and everything was done for the sufferer, but all efforts were to no avail and he succumbed to the ailment..."

Huldah Potter outlived her husband by almost three decades. She shared the family home with her son, Fred until her death. Shortly after, Fred's sister Bertha and her husband Frank Rusling moved from 11 West Church into the family home. Fred gained possession of the property, for the first time, after his sister's death in 1935.

Fairport's Fred Potter Remembered in Many Wills

The grandchildren of Henry Potter, including Fairport's Fred Potter, continued to benefit from his accumulated wealth for decades after his death in 1884. Income paid in semi-annual installments from a trust fund established in his grandfather's will provided Fred with income as early as 1885. Additional funds were distributed to Henry's heirs in 1892. Although the wills of Fred's parents have not been located, it is likely that he was named as a beneficiary in each.

In addition, the death in 1929 of his grandfather's last remaining child, Henryetta, resulted in the dissolution of her estate. From this, Fred Potter received two hundred thousand dollars. Six years later, Fred's sister Alice Potter Howard died, on February 6th, 1935. One-third of her estate, \$68,077, was left in trust to her brother. Fred's remaining sister, Bertha Potter Rusling, died five months later, on July 2nd, 1935. Alice's will named Fred as her sole beneficiary. His inheritance from Alice exceeded a quarter-million dollars.

In total, Fred Potter was the recipient of well over a half-million dollars in old Potter money between the years 1929 and 1935, and perhaps much more that has not been accounted for. Accounting for inflation, in today's dollars the value of Fred's inheritance from those six years alone would total over ten million dollars.

Last of the Fairport Potters

The life of Frederick T. Potter was covered in more detail in the September issue of the *Historigram*. Suffice to say, Fred Potter had the financial resources to live what appears to have been a rather carefree life, unencumbered with financial concerns.

Although he never married and had no children, he was involved in and supportive of his hometown. When Fred Potter died, he left the Potter house of three generations and its grounds to the village of Fairport, and a portion of his assets and belongings to a variety of local institutions, including churches, the Fairport Fire Department, and the Fairport Public Library. Per Fred's will, he left money to a small number of friends and employees. The balance and, perhaps, the bulk of Fred Potter's estate—an amount that was not publicly identified, was left to six of Fred's cousins. Just how much each received is a mystery.



Potter Memorial, circa early 1950s

Earl Pittinaro collection, Perinton Historical Society

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2021–2022

Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of September 15, 2021

Business (\$100)

Frank N. Pittinaro, C.P.A. William Webb & Associates, LLC

404 East Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33060 Phone 954-943-1650, E-mail: Frank@webbcpa.com

Canandaigua National Bank & Trust

72 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424 Phone: 585-394-4260. Website: cnbank.com

Lucien A. Morin II, Partner McConville Considine Cooman and Morin Attorneys and Counselors at Law

100 Packetts Landing, Fairport, NY 14450 Phone: 585-223-2170, lmorin@mccmlaw.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes

32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450. Phone: 585-388-1270

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14550 Phone: 585-388-0112, Website: thefvi.com

Robert Ruhland (aka Mr. Perinton), Keller Williams Realty

2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618 Phone: 585-303-6607, Website: bobruhland.yourkwagent.com

Salle d' Escrime of Prescott, AZ, A Fencing Club

Patricia Dodge Waples, Owner

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

Karen Susan Brown Dave and Margie Bird Scott and Amy Edwards Jane and James Heafner Douglas Horan Evelyn Frazee and Tom Klonick Fritz and Georgia May Gail Mazur Jane Cleveland McComb Juliet Moynihan Padraic Neville Richard Phillips Bill and Irene Poray Charles and Vicki Profitt Chris and LuAnn Trapatsos Lisa Wemett Anonymous (5)

Potter (\$250-\$499)

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Heidi and Jack Gilmore
Norman Horton
Bob and Cindy Hunt
Dr. Duncan Moore
Lucy and John McCormick
Dorn and Janet Ulrich
Dave and Linda Wiener

Perrin (\$500 and above)

Nancy Slaybaugh

Memorial Donations

Caroline C Smith In memory of Alberta W. Cleveland

Heidi and Jack Gilmore In memory of Kenneth R. Phillips Family

Juliet Moynihan In memory of Carl and Becky Miller

♦



Fairport's New Bronze Sculpture A Celebration of Canal History

Fairport celebrated the unveiling of a bronze sculpture on the morning of September 18th at Kennelley Park. A celebration of canal history, the art was funded by Fairport resident and PHS member Carol Ann Britt (at far left). Her granddaughters participated by removing the red and white covering, as a large crowd waited in anticipation.

See page 10 for a photo of the uncovered sculpture.

Perinton Historical Society

Mission

To promote interest in preserving and sharing local history through education and accessibility.





Two stops along East Whitney Road:

(Top)
A backyard retreat at No. 2381

(Left) An entrance to Underground Railroad history at No. 2187

Virtual House Tour Ready!

By Lucy McCormick
House Tour Committee Representative

A fter months of planning, the 2021 PHS Virtual House Tour is finally here! Grab your favorite beverage and use the link e-mailed to you to view the tour online anytime during October. Enjoy the varied architecture of six homes and learn their stories. If online access is a problem or you would prefer to view the tour on a larger screen, the tour will be shown at the museum on two dates: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7:00 pm and Sunday, Oct. 24, 2:00 pm.

The length of the tour is approximately forty-five minutes. You will "travel" across Perinton, viewing mainly the exteriors of these homes and some interiors and gardens:

- 185 N. Main St., home of Laura & Michael DiCaprio
- 2187 E. Whitney Rd., home of Lauren & Martin Launer
- 2381 E. Whitney Rd., home of Laurie Copp
- 1120 Turk Hill Rd., home of Nancy & Michael Driscoll
- 425 Aldrich Rd., home of Linda & Brian Shaw
- 344 Loud Rd., home of Mary Ruth & Brent Smith

We appreciate the homeowners' gracious willingness to have their lovely homes showcased.

Upcoming Programs & Events

The Fairport Historical Museum is once again open to visitors! Stop by to see our new exhibits. The museum is open Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Free admission.

We are delighted to return to in-person programming. All program attendees are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

Saturday, October 9th through Sunday, October 31st

Registrations for Yuletide Traditions silent auctions are accepted.

Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

At the museum

PHS Members Only Event

Program: 2021 Virtual House Tour

Although you may have already viewed the virtual house tour from the comfort of your living room, the virtual tour will be on the large screen in the museum program room.

Sunday, October 24th at 2:00 p.m.

At the museum

PHS Members Only Event

Program: 2021 Virtual House Tour

A daytime showing of the virtual house tour

Saturday, October 30th from 10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Event: Trick-or-treating at the museum

Tuesday, November 16th, 7:00 p.m.

At the museum

Program: Old Money—Fairport's Potter Family

Speaker: Bill Poray

Tuesday, December 7th, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

At the museum

Final bidding on Yuletide Traditions silent auction items. Silent auction winners will be announced following the evening's program

7:00pm Event: PHS Annual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 12th from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

At the museum

The museum's last day open before closing for the season



Halloween Happenings

Halloween is coming soon.

So grab your masks and grab your broom.

Perinton Historical will be your host.

Come dressed as yourself, a witch or a ghost!

Bring your ghouls and boos to the museum for Halloween fun on Saturday, October 30th. Drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. for treats, scary stories, coloring sheets and more.

Also look for the PHS scarecrow in the Fairport Scarecrow Festival, which runs September 23th–October 11th.

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Our First Ever Virtual House Tour

PHS is offering special showings of the 2021 Virtual House Tour in October. During this PHS members-only event, visitors can view the house tour on the museum's large screen in the program room—Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m and Sunday, October 24th at 2:00 p.m.

The virtual tour was produced by Noah Lucia of Sidekick Films. Thanks to the PHS Tech Team, Dave Wiener and Charles Profitt, for providing technical support and to Membership Chair Jim Unckless for his tremendous efforts in getting the information to our PHS members.

Yuletide TraditionsRegistration Dates

The Yuletide Traditions Committee is looking forward to its seventh annual silent auction, which takes place from November 16th through December 7th. During this three-week event, gift cards and gift baskets, that have been donated to the PHS from individuals, organizations and businesses, are placed in silent auctions. Visitors can bid on the items during regular museum hours. Final bids are accepted through 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7th. Winners will be notified following that evening's program. All proceeds benefit the Perinton Historical Society. The event has raised more than \$12,000 in its first six years. The funds are used to work on special projects such as the exhibit remodel in 2018. PHS is so appreciative of its donors, special event attendees and bidders!

We ask that all donors register so the YT Committee can plan for space requirements. Registration runs October 9th through October 31st, and donations should be dropped off on Saturday, November 13th from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. To register, simply complete the registration form (inserted in this newsletter) and drop it off at the museum. Or mail it to: YT 2021, Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport NY 14450. Registrations can also be emailed to Vicki Masters Profitt at Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.



Looking Back

An appealing silent auction gift basket from Yuletide Traditions in 2016

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Non-Profit Organiztion U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 149 Fairport, NY 14450



Artist Dexter Benedict created this wonderfully expressive sculpture, a tribute to the mules that once towed packet boats through Fairport and Perinton on the Erie Canal.

Said the artist, "I feel honored to have had the opportunity to create such a sculpture and attempt to give a visualization to history. I'm pleased to have the bronze mule secured in the heart of Fairport overlooking the Erie Canal."

Photo by Keith Boas

Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum hours are Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. and Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00—4:00 p.m. Free admission. Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment.