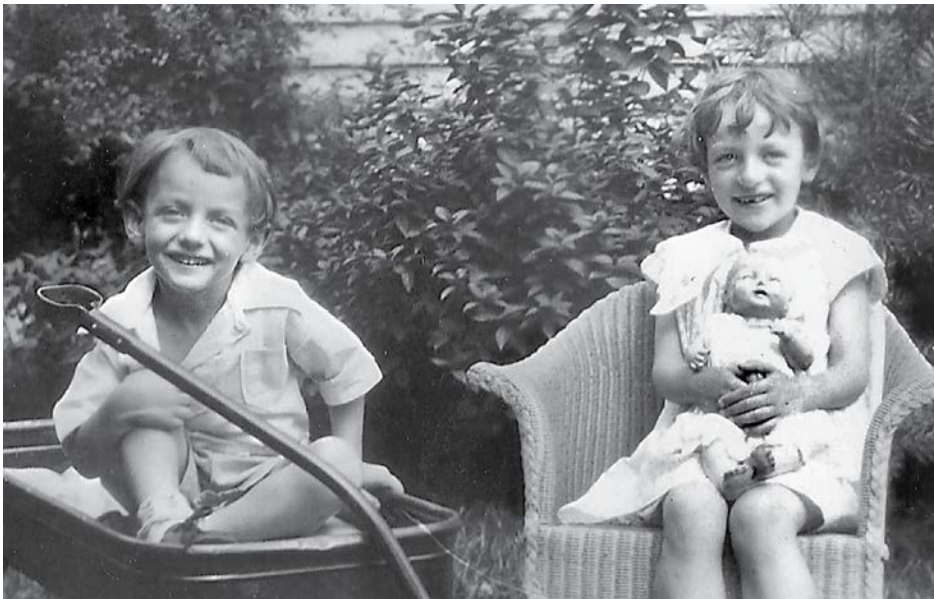


The Carpenter Poet

by Terry E. Holt

Harold R. Spaulding was a native of Fairport, a carpenter, Korean War veteran, husband, father, uncle and friend. He could also be a “brat” as a child by his admission. He was born October 21, 1928, at his grandmother Cornelia’s house on Perrin Street. Cornelia was the second wife of his grandfather, Samuel Warner. The house was a two-family dwelling with his grandmother on one side and Harold’s family on the other. His parents were Francis and Florence Spaulding, and his sister, Ruth Ellen. At the age of two, he moved with his family to 35 East Church Street in the village.

East Church Street was only a block or two away from the railroad tracks. Harold loved trains and everything about them. He would often visit the railroad tracks and watch the trains go by. As an adult, he built a functional train display in his home in Henrietta.



Harold Spaulding with his sister, Ruth

The following poems are from his collection.

The Train Man

*I love to go a-wandering
Along the railroad track.
And if I see a treasured thing,
I put it in my sack.
It may be a rail spike,
A tie plate or some coal
That was left from long ago,
When the big steam engines rolled.*

*The twin horns chime
Way down the line.
The train is coming fast,
Step off the track,
Out of the way.
The train is coming fast.*

*The engineer will lift his arm,
A salute to a friend.
He has seen me there before,
A train lover to the end.*

*Then I watch the trains go by,
I like to count the cars.
But most [of] the time they go too fast,
And I miss the count by far.*

*When it rains or snows,
Or is too cold
And I can not walk the track,
I run to the window,
When I hear the horns chime.
The train goes by out back.*



~Vicki Profitt~

From your President

June 13, 2022

The weeks are sliding by too quickly! It's difficult to believe we are already through the middle of June. Although much of my spare time has been spent on my rocking bench in the Secret Garden,

very little progress has been made with mulching and transplanting. I've been content watching the chipmunks and wide array of birds that visit my feeders.



So many wonderful things have been happening at the Perinton Historical Society. In the past two months, we have hosted a plant sale and a luncheon. PHS members and others have attended our virtual cemetery tour and an Underground Railroad presentation, while PHS volunteers have participated in Fairport's Erie Canal Bicentennial celebration, and staffed our Canal Days booth.

We also accommodated students from Allendale-Columbia School, who biked to the museum.

The PHS Board of Trustees very much appreciates your support of our final two events of this program season—the June 21st PHS Members Open House and the July 16th

Colonial Belle cruise. Photos of these events will be found in the September issue of the *Historigram*.

Pharrell Williams' song, "Happy," reminds me to take a deep breath and be thankful for many things. It has been amazing returning to in-person programming, seeing smiles on maskless faces and just enjoying life once again. I look forward to seeing you when our 2022-2023 program season begins in September.



Perinton Historical Society

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MISSION

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

The HISTORIGRAM is published nine months per year by the Perinton Historical Society. The content of our newsletter is provided by PHS Board members and committee staff. Opinions expressed in any article in this newsletter are those of the author of the article alone and are not those of the PHS unless expressly stated otherwise.

Editor: Bill Poray *Art Director:* Keith Boas
Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless
Proofreading: Irene Poray, Nancy Slaybaugh

Another Successful Canal Days

Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed the Perinton Historical Society Canal Days booth on June 4th and 5th. Saturday morning was blustery, but the weather held steady, and the entire weekend turned out beautifully.

During this iconic community event, the first Canal Days event for PHS since 2019, several new members joined our ranks, and our volunteers greeted dozens of visitors at the booth. The highlights of our tent featured a “What is It?” game from our museum’s collection of antiques, a dress-up box for photos, and a water table for “duck” racing.

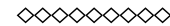


Even the big kids got in on the fun! *Below:* Pat Knapp is shown with a hat from the dress-up box. *Above:* PHS treasurer Linda Wiener looks on as volunteer Warren Knapp tests his skill at the water table.



The Flag Waves Proudly

The Bagley family has generously provided a new American flag, flagpole and holder, which they installed on the museum column on May 29th. These take the place of the previous items that had seen better days and had become a problem for our museum volunteers. Thank you Cindy, Steve and Jordyn!



How You can Support the Perinton Historical Society

- Become a member / give a gift membership.
- Volunteer your time as a museum volunteer or on a committee.
- Donate artifacts to the museum that pertain to Fairport and Perinton.
- Purchase unique gifts from the Fairport Historical Museum gift shop.
- Donate gift cards and gift baskets for Yuletide Traditions silent auctions.
- Donate to the PHS through estate bequests, planned giving, IRA charitable giving, memorial and honor gifts, employer matching contributions, AmazonSmile, ROC the Day.



Coming Programs & Events

Saturday, July 16th from 2:30–5:30 p.m.

Event: Colonial Belle Cruise

Our 2022–2023 program season will kick off on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm.

Enjoy your summer!





HAROLD SPAULDING
"Oh I wouldn't say that" . . . "Chloe" by Spike Jones is simply "the nuts" . . . he prefers Laurel and Hardy to "Van" (here's one sane boy) . . . likes things mechanical and hates tests. Ice cream and chocolate cake? A-H-H-H!

Student Association 1234; Stunt Night 4; Jr. Prom Comm.; Sr. Ball Comm.; Senior Play.

From the 1946 Fairport High School yearbook, the *Hourglass*

The Spaulding men were carpenters. Harold's father, Francis, was a carpenter. He did not do it as a trade but as a hobby. He made trays, lamps, napkin holders and other items he sold at church bazaars, craft shows and out of his house to friends and family. Francis's father, Fred, who worked at the American Can Company, made a rocker for his daughter, Helen. Fred's father, Francis, did carpentry as well as his grandfather, William. William was a Civil War soldier, and used his carpentry skills as a soldier with the 187th Pennsylvania Regiment.

Harold wrote a poem about his work as a carpenter.

*Harold built houses,
One nail at a time.
From sill plate on the wall
to the very roofline.

He sang and he hummed
As the hammer he swung.
Sometimes missing
and hitting his thumb.*

Harold admitted he could be a brat when he was a child. Here's his "brat" story.

The Cupcake Story

We moved to a single-family house on East Church Street when I was about 2. My sister, Ruth, was two years older. We were close during our years. I was the spoiled brat. I liked having my own way.

One time we were ready for our morning snack. There was only one cupcake left. I wanted all of it. I lost my temper. Crumbled it up in my hands. No one got any. The brat?

Our Younger Years

*Harold and Ruth were home alone.
Didn't know what to do.*

*They thought about a lot of things,
But nothing really new.*

*They got out paper
and pencils, scissors and glue.*

*Made a mess of everything,
which was nothing new.*

In December 1935, Harold, age 7, and his sister, Ruth, were on their way to the library when a terrible accident happened. Here is Harold's account of what happened:

We were walking on the opposite side of the street. I suddenly broke away from my sister and ran between two parked cars into the street.

A woman driving didn't see me and I was down, knocked out cold. She never had a chance to stop. I was knocked out cold.

All this I have no knowledge of. Don't remember much of anything before this. My life started when I came to, laying in the hospital. Don't know how long I was out. I came to laying in a hospital bed.

My left leg uncovered all red with mercurochrome or whatever; stinging, with a hot sunlamp shining on it. I was confused and crying.

The worry came to me that Santa Claus wouldn't know where I was.

I believe it messed up my thinking. I struggled all through school at the bottom of my class all 12 years. I do believe the word was passed along from teacher to teacher that holding me back to repeat a class wouldn't gain anything. My capacity was met.

Harold was colorblind. Here is his account of how it was discovered.

Harold's Colorblind

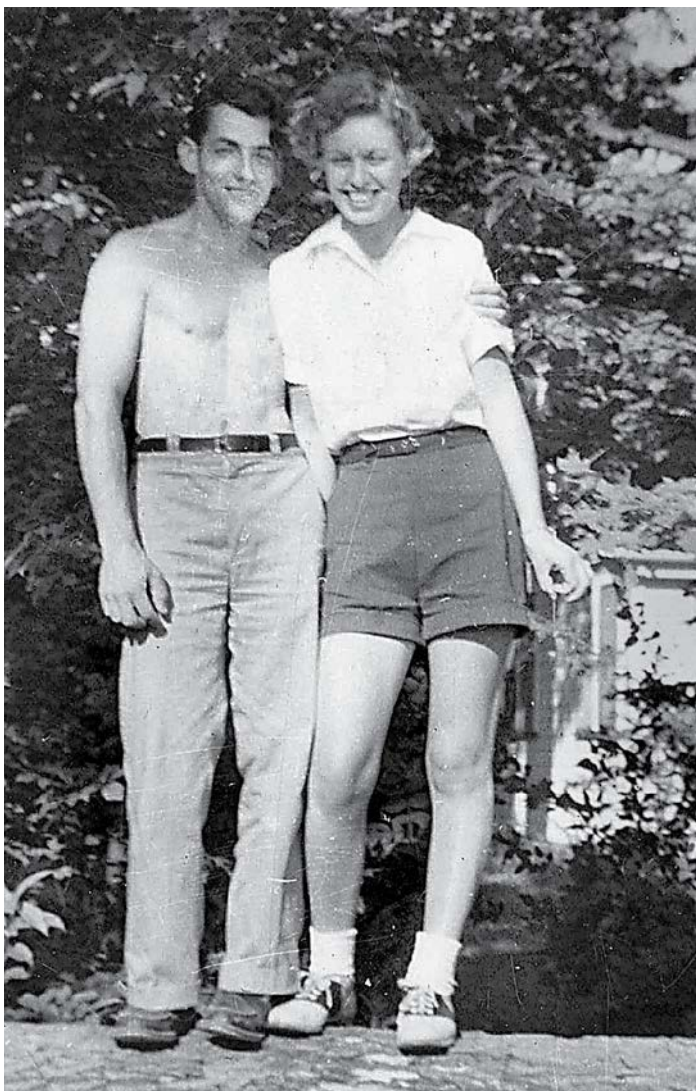
Early in kindergarten or first grade, my parents wondered when I brought home colored pictures I did. Sometimes the grass was green and sometimes brown or reddish.

A girl in the neighborhood in the wintertime wore a one-piece snowsuit. Either green or brown I don't remember which, to school. My mother and sister would watch for her to come home from school. When she was coming by they called my attention. They would ask me what color was her snowsuit. Which either color it was, I chose the wrong one. Then they knew.

Later on in the 50s, I worked for Western Electric in Buffalo. My first job was to wire up relays into the circuit. The wires were all color-coded. Solid colors of red, blue, brown and green. Then these colors with a different tracer band running through it. Maybe 20 combinations of wires. Some were new, some were old and faded.

After doing this for a few days they were getting complaints things didn't work. They discovered the mix-up problem.

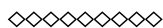
I no longer did that process anymore.



Harold R. Spaulding with his wife, Jean Schultz Spaulding

This is just a glimpse into the life of one man recalling some of the events that made up his life story. All of us have stories just like this. What is your story?

Harold R Spaulding passed away at St. John's Home in Rochester on January 23, 2022, at the age of 93. He left behind his wife Jean, two children, Douglas and Linda, and a granddaughter, Heidi.



A special thank you to Nancy Slaybaugh for providing the title to this story.

Editor's note: The author, Terry E. Holt, is a volunteer at the Fairport Historical Museum and is also on the Perinton Historical Society Yuletide Traditions committee.

2021–2022 Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of June 14, 2022

Business (\$100)

Fulkerson Services, Inc.

111 Parce Avenue, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-223-2541, Website: fulkersonservices.net

Lift Bridge Yarns

24 High Street, Suite 1, Fairport, NY 14450
Dawn Verdugo & Jessie McNaughton
Phone: 585-364-0521, Email: Dawn@LiftBridgeYarns.com

Frank N. Pittinaro, C.P.A.

William Webb & Associates, LLC
404 East Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33060
Phone: 954-943-1650, Email: 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, P.C.
300 Meridian Centre Blvd., Suite 110, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-546-2500, Email: lmorin@mccmlaw.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes

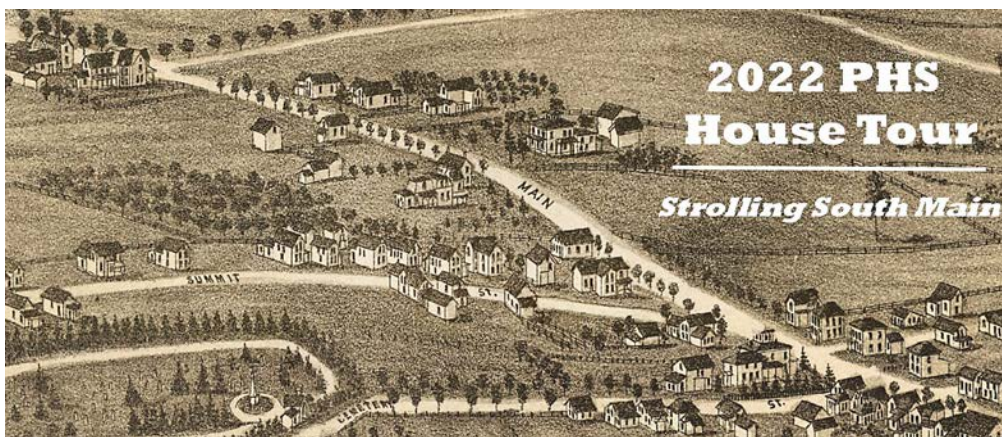
32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-388-1270, Email: BarrancosClothing@gmail.com

Fairport Village Inn

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

Salle d' Escrime of Prescott, AZ A Fencing Club

Patricia Dodge Waples, Owner



By
Lucy McCormick

This year's tour affords the opportunity to visit six wonderful homes at the southern entrance to the village: South Main Street, a historic area of architecturally distinguished homes. If you could travel back in time, you would see a very different area, one dotted with orchards of fruit trees and greenhouses bursting with roses and other precious flowers.

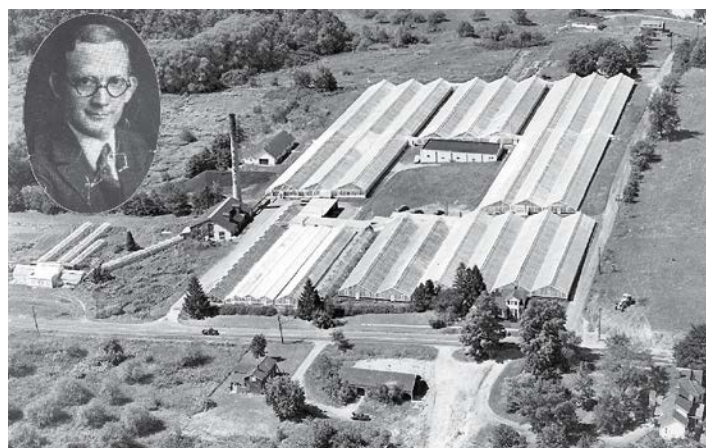
Some of the orchards were owned by the Clark family, who moved to 249 South Main Street in 1907. Charles Johnson Clark bought a home built for Civil War veteran Simeon P. Howard, a home flanked by extensive orchards. On June 23, 1904, the Monroe County Mail described the extent of these orchards: 50 acres, 2500 peach trees, 2500 pear trees, 600 plum trees, 500 cherry trees, 500 prune trees, 300 quince, and a quantity of apple trees. The Clark family sold the home in 1922 but purchased it again years later, in 1936.

Greenhouses were also part of Fairport's landscape. One such complex of multiple greenhouses stood at the corner of Hulburt and Moseley Roads. They were built in 1885 by Rochester nurserymen Al and Dick Salter, who sold cut flowers shipped by rail to Rochester and delivered by horse and wagon to florists. In 1918, George B. Hart, who had worked for the Salter brothers, purchased their business, planting 15,000 roses that first year and adding 25,000 more in his second year. He also grew gardenias. He soon joined forces with James Vick, owner of an established seed company, to form the Hart and Vick Seed Company. With hard work and research on growing roses in this climate, the company flourished. In 1933, the partners opened some of their gardens to the public and built a conservatory and trial gardens connected with winding, walking paths. The gardens became Victory Gardens for residents during World War II. The Hart and Vick enterprise lasted well into the 1950s.

After the death of George B. Hart in 1941, his son Richard C. Hart ran the family business. Upon Richard's death in 1964, the thirty-six-acre parcel was sold to a developer, a contentious move as the property contained the last remnants of a beech and maple forest. Despite a campaign to have the town purchase the land and proclaim it forever wild, the greenhouses were razed and replaced with Hart's Woods



Photo from about 1960, with a sign identifying the greenhouses of "George B. Hart, Wholesale Florists."



Aerial photo of the Hart greenhouses, at the corner of Moseley and Hulburt Roads, with an insert of George B. Hart

Apartments, which later became condominiums, Westage at Harts Woods. The Town of Perinton, however, acquired nine acres, aptly named Hart's Woods, which was declared a national natural landmark by the National Parks Service.

As you stroll down South Main Street, the sight of trees, shrubs, and flowers may trigger thoughts of a bygone era of acres of fruit trees and abundant blooms. Take time to smell the roses—and the gardenias too.





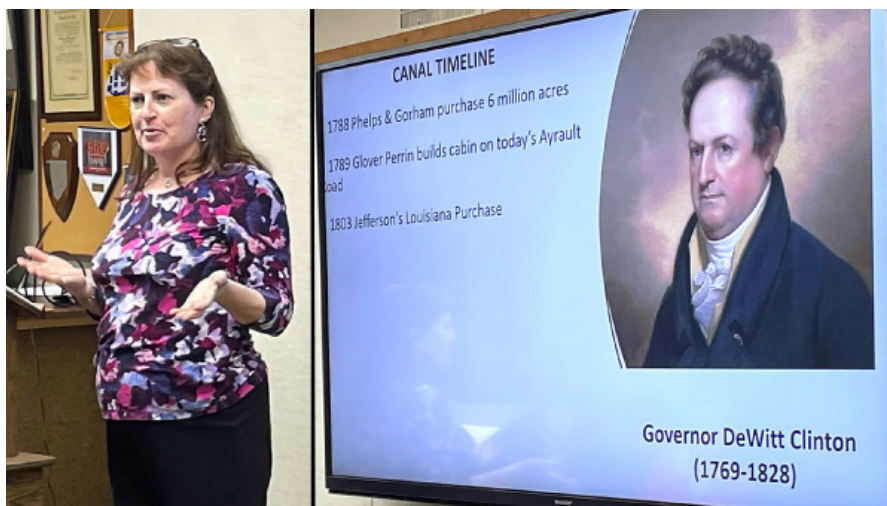
Big Crowd Enjoys 2022 Virtual Cemetery Tour

The full-house crowd found the new chairs and carpeting in the program room to be a big improvement.

Our PHS May program featured an unusual cemetery tour, with actors portraying Perinton residents from the past, each with a link to the Erie Canal.

Suzanne Lee was the driving force behind this unique event. A large and appreciative crowd was in attendance, and was witness to fun and informative portrayals of early inn owners, boat captains, and even a muskrat trapper.

The actors included Will Profitt, Lexi Hearn, Ali Profitt, and Vicki Masters Profitt.

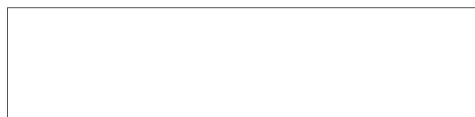


Suzanne Lee (above photo) provided an informative narration for the 2022 PHS virtual cemetery tour.

With a booming voice that was perfect for an Erie Canal ship captain, Will Profitt (left photo) portrayed Marion S. Kelsey, captain of the William B. Kirk.



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Perinton Ambulance, the Past and the Future



On September 28th at 7:00 p.m., the Perinton Historical Society will host ***Perinton Ambulance, the Past and the Future*** at the ambulance base, 1400 Turk Hill Road.

This in-depth look at how Perinton Ambulance came to be will also explain how emergency medical service (EMS) will look in the future. There will be a chance to see old and new equipment, plus a tour of the base will be offered.

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

The museum is open to the public on 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. Call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.
www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org