

## Growing up on Fairport's South Main Street

*By Elaine Shepardson Lanni*

I had to feign sadness as I said goodbye to my little neighborhood friends in Gates Chili. It was 1959 and we were moving to Fairport—a village with sidewalks and a four corners within walking distance. I could not wait; it was like leaving the country for the city! Haloid had just become Xerox, and, with the opening of their facility in Webster, my dad decided that a move eastward would shorten his commute.

He and my mom settled on a house at the top of South Main Street hill that would accommodate a family of 6: my parents, myself and 3 older brothers. We soon discovered that it only took 10 minutes to walk down the hill and be able to shop at drugstores, a grocery store, and an ice cream parlor. A unique diagonal crosswalk light at the four corners saved a couple of valuable minutes if you were crossing either Main Street or Church Street on your

way to get an ice cream cone at Dairyland.

At Messerino's you could pick up groceries (including beer and cigarettes!) and simply have them put on your family's tab because the owners, meat cutters and clerks all knew you and your family. Across the street was Rudin's, a men's clothing store where Mrs. Rudin amazingly remembered all of my dad's and brother's clothing sizes.

If you happened to be downtown and you heard three toots of a horn coming from the canal, followed by a ding, ding, ding, ding, that meant it was time to run and jump onto the lift bridge so you could ride it up and wave to the boat as it crossed under you.

The children of South Main Street were plentiful, though with many more boys than girls. The Hartman house at 199 South Main was the center of neighborhood activity.

### It's true!

We are hosting an in-person house tour again! Come join us as we stroll South Main Street to visit six distinctive homes located between Summit Street and Hulburt Ave. The oldest house on tour was built in 1825; the newest in 2014!

**The tour will take place on Sunday, October 2, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Parking will be available at Brooks Hill Elementary School and the Fairport Central Schools building on Baumer Place.**

House Tour tickets (for non-members) will go on sale in mid to late September at the museum during regular business hours and at the Fairport Public Library. Current members of the Perinton Historical Society will receive their tickets in the mail, so be sure to renew your membership!



~Vicki Profitt~

## From your President

August 12, 2022

Your eyes have not deceived you. That is, indeed, a live fox in the photo I took while seated about five feet away. Her name is Cinnamon, and she has been coming around the house since April. Usually, she rounds the corner of the Secret Garden early in the day in search of



Photo by Vicki Profitt

water, catching me off guard as I weed. After a short nap under my deck, she continues her restless wandering to neighboring yards to locate her breakfast. I invariably see her strolling through later in the day, her unfortunate prey dangling from her mouth. Cinnamon promises she will stay away from Auburn the chipmunk, Bear the gray squirrel and Copper the red squirrel.

It was such an eventful summer! It's difficult to believe it is nearly at an end and we will soon be planning our Yuletide Traditions silent auctions. The June Members Open House and July *Colonial Belle* cruise were well-attended and the weather was beautiful for both. The *Colonial Belle* cruise raised more than \$1,500 for the PHS. Thanks to our resident rock star Bill Poray for his entertaining and insightful commentary during the ride.

Our 2022–2023 program season kicks off on September 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by a special presentation on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Perinton Ambulance base. Don't forget to renew your membership (see page 8) so you can enjoy the members-only house tour on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check out the events listing and program write ups for more detailed information.

As always, we are thankful for your support of the Perinton Historical Society.



PHS members wave to tourists, as the *Colonial Belle* passes under the Fairport lift bridge.

Story on page 7

## Perinton Historical Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Vicki Profitt
<i>Secretary</i>	Suzanne Lee
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
<i>Communications</i>	Jane DeMeis

### TRUSTEES

Keith Boas	Bill Poray
Kay Joslyn	Nancy Slaybaugh
Lucy McCormick	Jim Unckless

### MUSEUM

<i>Director</i>	Vicki Profitt
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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.

<i>Editor</i>	Bill Poray
<i>Art Director:</i>	Keith Boas
<i>Production &amp; Distribution:</i>	Jim Unckless
<i>Proofreading:</i>	Irene Poray, Nancy Slaybaugh





Pictured here are PHS volunteers with their 2014 Scarecrow Festival creation, a tribute to artist Carl Peters.

## We Need Your Creativity!

Before the pandemic, PHS had a wonderful group of volunteers who created a scarecrow for the annual Scarecrow Festival. Since then, the group has retired and we are looking for new people to join the Scarecrow Committee. The group decides on a theme and creates a scarecrow using items from the museum. This year, PHS must register by September 8<sup>th</sup> if we intend to enter a scarecrow. The scarecrows are placed on Main Street by September 18<sup>th</sup> and remain up through October 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help create a scarecrow for this year's festival, please contact Vicki Profitt at [Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org).



## Saying Goodbye

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the PHS Board of Trustees says goodbye to two of its members, when Matt Wells and former president Bob Hunt retire from their positions.

Before joining the board in 2019, Matt served on the Property Committee. He also presented a program about Gamewell Fire Alarms in 2014, a topic he is passionate about due to his profession as a firefighter.

Bob Hunt served as president of the PHS Board from 2011–2021. Prior to becoming president, Bob was PHS treasurer and then vice-president under Catherine Angevine. The monthly columns he wrote for the *Historigram* are legendary, a mix of Andy Griffith humility and Garrison Keillor humor.

Kay Joslyn joins us as trustee beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. Kay has been an active PHS committee member, serving as House Tour Chair for the past several years and Event Coordinator for the recent *Colonial Belle* cruise. She also volunteers her time as a museum docent. Welcome, Kay!



## Upcoming Programs & Events

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00–8:00 pm at Perinton Park**  
Event: Erie Canal Bicentennial Events

**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the museum**  
Program: History and Memories of the Monroe County Fair  
Presenter: Frances Tepper

**Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Perinton Ambulance Base, 1400 Turk Hill Road**  
Program: Perinton Ambulance, Your Community Ambulance Service: Then and Now  
Presenter: Chief Mike Hoskins

**Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00–5:00 pm**  
Event: Annual House Tour

**Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm at the museum**  
Program: Discovering Artifacts from the Past, presented by ROC Diggers (six-person team with electronic metal detectors)

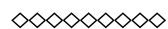


## We Get By with a Little Help from Our Friends

PHS has recently been the recipient of several donations. The Fairport Historical Club and the teachers and other employees from Friends of Fairport each generously donated \$300 to our non-profit organization.

PHS was also fortunate to receive a \$3,750 COVID recovery grant from the Town of Perinton. We are pleased the town was able to award grants to 49 worthy businesses and organizations. The COVID pandemic has taken a toll on us all, but it also shows the resilience of spirit and compassion for others that reminds us every day how fortunate we are to live and work in Perinton.

We are grateful to these organizations for their support of PHS and of our mission to preserve and share the history of Perinton and Fairport with our community.



## 100 Years Ago This Month

From the *Monroe County Mail*  
September 28, 1922

It is reported that a man by the name of Lowell, residing at West Webster, has bought a lot on North Main street, opposite of the Baptist Home, and will erect a home on it for himself sometime within the next year.





One of the properties on the tour is the Hartman house at 199 South Main Street, in its former pink hue, as remembered by the author.

Strangely enough this huge pink house was home to a family of five boys. Although now green, it remains in the Hartman family. Locals know it's the holidays when they see the revolving Christmas tree on the front porch. The large side yard was perfect for games of capture-the-flag or some rather stressful croquet games. I still remember running lickety-split after my croquet ball as it flew down the sidewalk towards Summit Street. Inside we were often engaged in ping pong in the basement, or playing games on a large square table that had been custom-painted with the Monopoly game.

It was truly a typical suburban neighborhood of the 1950s and 1960s, where parents looked after not only their own children, but those of their neighbors as well. Families had varying "calls to dinner" that were hard to ignore. The Hartman signal was a loud klaxon; my friend Sally's was a pleading "Sally Aaaaaan!" from her mom. My parents didn't need one as they knew that when our friends were summoned, we too knew we had better head home.

When not much was going on, some of us found our own excitement. My brother Jed and I would walk up the street around dusk and sit on the concrete base of the "Welcome to Fairport" sign, and wait for the light to magically turn on. Another activity was sitting in the neighbor's yard

counting how many cars ran the newly-installed stop sign at the intersection of Hulburt Avenue and South Main Street. Our backyard bordered about 20 acres that were farmed by Norman Deidrich. He generously allowed us to use a good sized tilled area for a garden, which fostered an actual liking of vegetables by my brothers and me. One year he planted several acres of big knobby, gnarly Hubbard squash. At the end of the harvest, farmer Deidrich bulldozed the leftover rotting squash into hills roughly six feet tall and 20 feet long. My brother Alan and I could not resist donning our hip boots and climbing to the top, as our feet sunk into the smelly, slimy gook. In the spring, part of this field flooded to a depth of four feet in some places. The neighborhood ingenuity took over and we found ourselves on wooden rafts, poling our way through "Lake Weed."

For many years, South Main Street had been lined with Dutch elm trees. During the summer and fall of 1959, my mom and I sadly watched them being cut down as the Dutch elm disease was spreading through the eastern half of the country. The street will never be as pretty, we lamented. Now, 61 years later, one would never know that they were part of my fond South Main Street memories.





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# *Perinton Historical Society presents*

## **Perinton Ambulance: The Past and The Future**

### **On September 28<sup>th</sup>**

*On September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm,  
the Perinton Historical Society  
will host a public tour and  
presentation of the history of  
Perinton Ambulance at the  
ambulance base, located at  
1400 Turk Hill Road.*



**P**erinton Ambulance has been in our local community for over 55 years. Join Chief Mike Hoskins on a look back through time. Come see the inside of an ambulance and learn how these mobile health clinics have developed and grown. Tour the facility and meet some of the heroes that serve our community.

Perinton Ambulance was started through the Fairport Lions Club with an idea and need to service the medical needs of our friends and neighbors. What started as a volunteer commitment and service to the community has grown and evolved into a modern professional ambulance service.

Chief Hoskins will present a look at the origins of Perinton Ambulance with images and stories of the growing pains and challenges of the organization. The chief will explain how the entire public safety and healthcare landscapes have changed dramatically, along with the emergency service workforce. There will be historical pictures and some vintage equipment to view.

That same passion for clinical excellence and service that founded the Perinton Ambulance still permeates the ranks today, now filled with career-oriented professionals who are eager to deliver the highest level of



Then (top photo) and now

quality care possible. We will look at how healthcare innovation, equipment, and treatment protocols have evolved to bring a higher level of service than ever before, to the doorstep of every 911 caller. Learn how Perinton Ambulance continues to innovate and invest in critical technology, equipment, and staff development to provide the exceptional medical services this community has come to depend on.

The presentation is open to the public but with limited seating. Masks will be required. 1400 Turk Hill Rd is next door to the Perinton Town Hall and Community Center. For more information:

**[info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org)**



## Another Successful PHS Open House



Stained glass artist Monique Hunter at the Open House.

Photo by  
Dave Wiener



### Fair Lady

Book by  
Frances Tepper

A program about the book and history of the Monroe County Fair by the author—

At the museum on  
September 20<sup>th</sup>

## History and Memories of the Monroe County Fair

PHS is pleased to welcome Frances Tepper to the museum on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to kick off our 2022–2023 program season.

The Monroe County Fair began in 1823, just two years after the county was formed. Former executive director of the Monroe County Fair Frances Tepper will discuss this traditional festival and how it changed through the years. Since the history of the presenter with the Monroe County Fair began in 1988, she will share humorous anecdotes from her book, *Fair Lady: Memoirs of a County Fair Manager*, about the daily challenges she faced, from weather-related issues to plans and events that didn't turn out quite as she expected.

Ms. Tepper will sign copies of *Fair Lady* following the presentation. The book is \$20; cash, checks and VENMO accepted.

Orphaned at age sixteen, Frances Tepper put herself through the University of Southern California. After marrying her high school sweetheart, she returned to her home state of New York to raise her children and work for 4-H as a program assistant. In 1992, Fran embarked on a career that would become her passion for the next twenty years: executive director of the Monroe County Fair and manager of the fair association's events center. During that time, she published many columns and essays in local newspapers and in the fair industry publication, *Fairs and Expos*, about the life of the fair, writing with her trademark candor, insight, and humor. She was eventually elected President of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs as well as President of the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce, which named her Business Person of the Year in 2000. In 2022, Fran was inducted into the Hall of Fame of New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs.



Fairport's Public Arts Committee was on hand to share the group's work and vision for future art opportunities in the village.

Photo by Keith Boas

Thanks to all who attended our June Open House. It was warm and sunny for this second annual celebration of our members. Attendees had the opportunity to visit with artists Monique Hunter, Betsy Ogles and Barron Naegel, while munching on Clawson's cookies and hydrating with water supplied by Wegmans.

Members of the Greenbrier Garden Club were on hand to discuss the museum gardens. Nancy Ragus represented the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association and Sue Steele participated on behalf of the Fairport Public Arts Committee.

Congratulations to Bryce Doty, Suzanne Lee, Marilyn Moran, Terry Holt and Mary Masciangelo on winning the gift baskets, donated by Suzanne Lee, Lucy McCormick, Cindy Bagley, Jane & Joe DeMeis and Joyce Lyle.

Members had the first opportunity to purchase this year's Christmas ornament (see back page), which features the mule sculpture, lift bridge and Box Factory building. The ornaments are available for purchase in the gift shop for \$10.





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# Cruising on the *Colonial Belle*

*It was a picture-perfect day on July 16<sup>th</sup> when members of the PHS gathered on the Colonial Belle for a three-hour cruise.*

Ninety-one participants enjoyed ice cream while hearing narrations by Bill Poray, Vicki Masters Profit and Captain Tammee Poinan Grimes. Gift baskets beautifully created by Nadine Fiero and Kay Joslyn were raffled off. Congrats to the basket winners—Keith Boas, Irene Poray and Wes Harris. Special thanks to organizers Kay Joslyn, Nadine Fiero and Laura Joslyn and to Captain Tammee and her crew on a job well done. It was a wonderful event that we hope to offer again next year.

The trip was reminiscent of prior canal cruises by the PHS. In 1958, the Society arranged a series of trips on a boat called *Venera*. The maximum capacity was 49 people, who had to bring their own box lunches. According to the *Fairport Herald-Mail*, tickets were available to PHS members first, with the subsequent trips open to the public. Four trips in all were chartered. Were you on one of the *Venera* cruises? We would love to hear about it!



(Above) PHS members boarding the CB for our historic cruise on the canal.

*Photo by Keith Boas*



(Right) Organizers of the canal cruise: Kay Joslyn (left) and Nadine Fiero (right).

*Photo by Lucy McCormick*



During the cruise, members had the opportunity to see the Oliver Loud Tavern. The historic stagecoach stop, built in the early 1800s, was moved from Egypt to Bushnells Basin in 1986. It's now a private residence. *Photo by Keith Boas*



Low bridges did not distract Town Historian Bill Poray. He kept right on talking.

*Photo by Keith Boas*

# Support the Perinton Historical Society with Your Membership

If you haven't already renewed your annual membership in PHS, or would like to join for the first time, please fill in the form below and send it in now. Please note that increasing operating costs have prompted the Board of Trustees to raise dues for the first time in eight years, as shown in the form below.

**Special Recognition Levels:** Our membership form includes special recognition levels authorized by the Board of Trustees. Business memberships will be acknowledged as supporters of the Perinton Historical Society in each issue of the *Historigram*, on the PHS website and at the museum. The DeLand, Potter and Perrin memberships acknowledge greater monetary contributions. These members will be recognized once in the *Historigram* and listed on the website and at the museum unless they prefer to remain anonymous.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ *Historigram* by ( ) Email or ( ) U.S. Mail

The PHS membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

Please check the level of membership you prefer:

- ( ) Individual .....\$20
- ( ) Family .....\$30
- ( ) Sr. Single [65 or older].....\$15
- ( ) Sr. Couple.....\$20
- ( ) Patron .....\$50
- ( ) Extra Contribution .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

Special Recognition Levels:

- ( ) Business .....\$100
- ( ) DeLand .....\$100–\$249
- ( ) Potter .....\$250–\$500
- ( ) Perrin .....\$500 & above

Donations in memory or honor of a loved one  
are gratefully accepted.

The success of PHS depends on your gifts of time and talent.  
Consider volunteering by joining a committee.

Check areas of interest:

- ( ) Board of Trustees – governing body for PHS
- ( ) Communications Committee – publicity, writing, graphic design
- ( ) Finance Committee – budgeting, grant writing, gift shop
- ( ) Fundraising – Yuletide Traditions, etc.
- ( ) Education – helping with adult and children's programs
- ( ) Museum Volunteer – 2 hours per month
- ( ) *Historigram* – articles, editing, production, distribution
- ( ) Historic Tour Committees– house, cemetery, landmarks
- ( ) Technology Committee – assess, plan, implement
- ( ) Membership Committee
- ( ) Seasonal Projects – parades, Canal Days, Scarecrow Festival
- ( ) Other – Give us your ideas \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Your special skills or collections: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.**

*Thank you for your interest in local history and your support of the Perinton Historical Society.*



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# **2022–2023 Special Recognition Level Memberships**

*As of August 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.**

WilliamWebb & 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@mcconlaw.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

### **GRITWORX Designs Woodwork**

7 Tea Olive Lane, Fairport, NY 14450  
Phone 585-678-1156, Website: gritworksdesigns.com

## **DeLand (\$100–\$249)**

Margie and Dave Bird  
Keith and Carol Anne Boas  
Diane and James Dudley  
Evelyn Frazee and Thomas Klonick  
Patrick Grace  
Don and Carol Hutchinson Hines  
Lilita Lassen-Ward  
Suzanne Lee, Wes & Anica Harris  
Bill and Pat May  
Fritz and Georgia May  
Jane Cleveland McComb  
Lucy and John McCormick  
Juliet Moynihan  
Padraic Neville  
Richard Phillips  
Frank and Alice Sadowski  
Robert and Diane Swinehart  
Charlie and Suzanne Tholstrup  
Chris and Luann Trapatsos  
Jim and Karen Unckless  
Lisa Wemett  
Anonymous (3)

## **Potter (\$250–\$499)**

John and Nancy Bowley  
Richard Bulman  
Dorn and Janet Ulrich  
Anonymous (1)

## **Perrin (\$500 and above)**

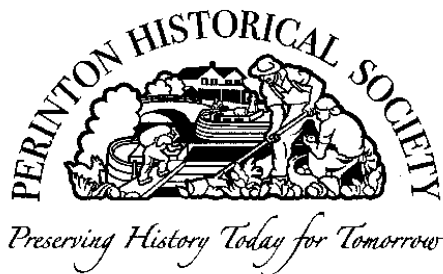
Nancy Slaybaugh  
Anonymous (1)

## **Donations**

Wegman's Perinton

## **Memorial Donations**

Patrick Grace in memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grace  
Edward H. Steve in memory of  
Christina Bluhm Steve  
Don and Carol Hutchinson Hines in memory of  
William P Hutchinson  
Diane and James Dudley in memory of  
Richard and Dorothy Dudley  
Frank and Alice Sadowski in memory of  
Thomas X Grasso  
Juliet Moynihan in memory of  
Gertrude Shepard Miller



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



## 2022 Christmas Ornament Now Available

Now available at our museum gift shop is this beautiful ornament, featuring the iconic Main Street lift bridge as well as the Box Factory building, on the site of the original DeLand factory. And front and center, the wonderful statue of an authentic Erie Canal mule, used over a century ago to pull boats along the fabled waterway. A new addition to Fairport, the statue resides in Kennelley Park, next to the lift bridge.

**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.

Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**. [www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org)