

# HISTORIC RAM



Perinton Historical Society  
18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, New York 14450

*Home of the Fairport  
Historical Museum*

Newsletter for the Perinton Historical Society

**Vol. 36      No. 5**  
**Date: February 2004**  
**Editor: William**  
**Keeler**

## **Inside:**

- ▣ **Perinton Historical Society to Honor Bill Matthews with an E.L. Henry Print.**
- ▣ **Historic Recipes**
- ▣ **Jean Keplinger to Speak on Early Settlements in Perinton at the February Meeting.**
- ▣ **...and more.**

## **Helen Deland's Photo Album Finds Its Way Home to Fairport.**

After over 45 years, Helen Parce DeLand's family photo album is back home in Fairport. Bill Keeler, curator, purchased the album for the Fairport Museum with money from a donation by the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association. The album was bought on e-bay from a seller in Lancaster, PA. The seller bought it from a dealer in an antique mall near Hershey, PA, who bought it in a garage sale in the Colonial Park section of Harrisburg, PA. How the album got to

THE MISSION OF THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS FOR POSTERITY, AND FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PERINTON COMMUNITY.

Harrisburg from Norwich Town, CN, where Helen died in 1956, is still a mystery.

The red velvet covered album was given to Helen in 1882 at the age of 13. She had just moved to DeLand Florida the year before with her father Henry, mother Sarah and brother Harlan. Both she and her brother attended school in DeLand. Upon graduation from high school in 1886, Helen went on to Smith College and in 1892 taught at Stedson University in Deland, Florida. She came back to New York and taught school in Medina until she quit to become her father's secretary and treasurer of the Monroe County Chemical Company in 1896.

At the age of 60, Henry DeLand came back to Fairport after losing his fortune in the "Big Freeze" of 1894-95 which destroyed most of the orange groves in DeLand. Many investments in the orange groves were guaranteed by Henry and his employment at the Monroe County Chemical Company on Main Street in Fairport, made it possible for him to honor those guarantees.

After her brother and parents died, Helen returned to education in 1919 by teaching at Fairport High School. By 1924, she was a part time librarian at both the Fairport High School and the Fairport Public Library. Helen DeLand was a

member of the Fairport Historical Club from 1900 to 1919 and wrote the book *The Story of DeLand and Lake Helen Florida* in 1928 about the early days of city of Deland and the village of Lake Helen which was named after her by her father.

In 1952, Helen Parce DeLand, who never married, moved in with her niece Mrs. Louis Walden in Norwich Town, CN because of ill health. Helen died 11-28-1956 and is buried in the family plot at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

The photo album she left behind is a time capsule of people and relatives Helen knew in her time in both Fairport and DeLand. She meticulously marked down the names of the people in the photographs and their relationship to members of the DeLand family. Among the families in the album are Howard, Parce, Marring, Snow and Hubbell. There are 144 photographs most taken between the late 1800's and the early 1900's.

A display of the album and supporting documents is planned for later this year in the Fairport Museum. The Society is extremely grateful to the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association for their donation that made the acquisition of this important piece of Fairport history possible.

## **Additional Donations to the Perinton Historical Society.**

- . Maurice L. and Ann Rasbeck in memory of William Matthews.
- . Ronald and Sue Roberts in memory of William Matthews.
- . Donation from the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association.
- . Vacuum Cleaner for the museum donated by Ruth Post and Peg Clark.

## **Perinton Historical Society to Honor Bill Matthews with an E.L. Henry Print.**

One of the last projects Bill Matthews was working on was the digital reproduction of a drawing by printer and illustrator Edward Lamson Henry (1841-1913).

If you have been to any Society meeting in the Merriman-Clark room in the museum you should have noticed, while walking down the stairs, a small sign on the low ceiling just above the first landing. The sign says "Low Bridge" and was installed by Bill Matthews as a precaution to all those members over 6'2" tall not to bump their head. The phrase comes from a line in the song *Fifteen Years on the*

*Erie Canal* by Thomas S. Allen which reads "Low bridge, everybody down, low bridge 'cause we're coming to a town." Bill Matthews had seen a picture of a canal boat rounding a curve on the Erie Canal and felt this was an appropriate picture to hang in that spot to alert people to the low point in the ceiling.

The picture Bill saw was an illustration called *In the Days Before Rapid Transit* and was drawn by Edward Lamson Henry. It shows an early packet boat towed by a team of horses with a man slumped asleep in a chair on the roof of the boat with several women and men in formal attire at the bow of the boat with large hats and parasols enjoying a pleasant afternoon on the canal. E.L. Henry was famous for his nostalgic views of American life, already gone by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was a printer and illustrator noted for his landscapes and depictions of horses. An original print of this illustration hangs in the Albany Institute of History and Art.

Bill Matthews found a copy of the original print in the house of a Society member and made arrangements to have it digitally reproduced for framing in the museum. John Jongen, PHS Board Member, has been put in charge of completing this project.

The Board of Trustees has voted to



use the money donated in memory of Bill to fund this project. A plaque, along with the warning "low bridge" will be attached to the picture in memory of Bill Matthews keeping him in our thoughts before every meeting in the museum.

### **Upcoming Perinton Historical Society Meeting Speakers and Events**

. Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at the Fairport Museum. Jean Keplinger, Perinton Town Historian to speak on Early Settlements in Perinton.

. Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at the Fairport Museum. Ed Polk Douglas to speak on Greek Revival Architecture in western New York.

. Tuesday April 13, 7:30 PM at the Fairport Museum. Jean Czerkas to speak on local landscape architects Alling Stephen DeForest and William Parce.

. Saturday April 24, 10 to noon at the Fairport Public Library, book signing by the authors of the book "Perinton and Fairport in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century".

. May. Society Picnic in Perinton Park. Special presentation of signed books to authors of the new book "Perinton and Fairport in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century".

## **Historic Recipes.**

This is a series of articles of favorite recipes from women who lived or are still living in Perinton and Fairport, as well as, recipes from local business advertisements and cook books. Biographical information was collected by Fairport Museum volunteers.

**P**ot Luck Suppers are a good way for people to get together, share food and pleasant conversation. Many organizations, including the Perinton Historical Society, use these suppers to help members get to know each other.

In 1973, the Perinton Historical Society served an Early American Pot Luck Supper on George Washington's birthday. The members who came to the dinner had to bring a dish that would be appropriate in Washington's day. After the meal the participants decided to make a souvenir cook book so that they could share the recipes they researched.

The Society cooks were Judy Bulin, Holly Wolf, Alice Carr, Mrs. Lauren Knapp, Carol Wilson, Helen King, Bernadette McDonough, Louise Dean, Mrs. Carleton Koehler, L. McCarthy and Sally Foster.

One of the recipes was *This 'N' That Scalloped Potatoes* made by Delila Knapp. The dish got its name because "...when asked for her recipe she said she didn't have one, as she just threw in a little of

this 'n' that...".

### **This 'N' That Scalloped Potatoes**

Slice six good-sized potatoes. Dice some ham (the larger the crowd the smaller you dice it.), and cut one small onion up fine. Salt and pepper to taste as you layer the ham, potatoes, and onion into a greased casserole. Sprinkle a thin layer of flour on each layer of meat and potatoes. Pour in a combination of evaporated milk and whole milk about 2/3 of the way up the potatoes. Garnish it by laying a couple of slices of bacon over the top before baking at 350 for about an hour.

Delila, a school teacher, was Society member Fritz May's aunt. The Knapps lived on Jefferson Avenue after they sold their property on Monroe Ave. in Pittsford next to Teschners Paint Store. Their property was a gladiola farm and prior to living on Monroe Ave., they ran a mink farm on Briggs Ave.

Another recipe is from Alice B. Carr who married William Carr in 1922. Both were active in the Society. Alice died 10-15-2000 at the age of 102.

### **Alice Carr's Scalloped Cabbage**

Cut a cabbage into slices (not too small). Use 1/2 of a medium cabbage for 4-6 servings. Cook the cabbage in salted water until "tender crisp". Drain it and place in a buttered baking dish. Make 1 cup of Medium White Sauce and 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese. Pour over the top and sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs. Bake until it bubbles up or about 20 minutes at 350.

If you're planning a meal to celebrate Washington's birthday, consider trying one of these recipes for the occasion.

## **Jean Keplinger to Speak at the February Meeting on the Early Settlements in Perinton.**

*By Bernadette McDonough*

Come and enjoy a trip back in time as our speaker, Jean Keplinger, Town Historian, traces the early settlements and growth of what is now the Town of Perinton.

People ventured into the wilderness of western New York

seeking opportunity, a new start, a new life, independence--the same reason that pioneers have always had for moving on...Here in Perinton, they found a rich and fertile land that, once cleared would be well-suited to farming.

Thus, people came west, purchasing land from William Walker, who had obtained it from Phelps and Gorham, and had surveyed the land along with one of our earliest settlers, Glover Perrin. During the last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, settlements were established in Egypt, along Pittsford-Palmyra Road, which was the main route west, and in Perinton Center, which was the area along Ayrault Road more or less between Moseley and Turk Hill Roads. These were the two areas of the town that thrived until settlement moved north when the Erie Canal; came through in the 1820's.

Jean will trace this growth with a slide presentation. Jean Keplinger is a retired teacher and has been the Perinton Town Historian for several years. You can read her articles in the Perinton-Fairport Post where she has a column entitled *Historian's Notebook*. The presentation will be at the Fairport Historical Museum on Tuesday night Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

## Museum Receives the Fairport Garden Club's Organizational Records.

Local organizations come and go as the mission of these clubs are no relevant or members drop away and are not replaced. The Fairport Museum has become a depository for many of these organizations from the Chautaugua Club of the late 1880's to a recent acquisition of the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery record books.

This past year, the Fairport Garden Club disbanded and donated their minute books and scrapbooks to the Fairport Museum in order to make them available for research.

The first meeting of this club, then known as the Fairport and Perinton Garden Club, was on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1961. The club was sponsored by the Perinton Recreation Department and met at the Potter Memorial building on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The first president was Charlotte Williams, Vivian Butters was vice-president, Marian Beck was secretary and Helen Stephany was treasurer. Dues were \$2 annually or 20 cents a meeting.

One of the objects of the organization was to "Cooperate in civic and community projects, which seek to improve and beautify common areas through constructive planting."



The first big project tackled by the club was to assist in executing the new landscape plan for a rebuilt Perinton park, which was formally dedicated on September 26, 1961. The members were asked to care for the park planter along with their other duties in the village.

The club joined the Federated Garden Clubs in 1963 and then resigned in 1965 in order to join the Rochester Garden Center. In recent years, you could see their work in the plantings in front of the village welcome signs and the Fairport Baptist Home gardens. In September of last year, the group decided to formally disband due to the lack of new people joining the club.

The records in the collection include scrap books containing pictures of members, programs, memorials to members with newspaper articles and minute books which are complete from the founding of the club in 1961 to 2003.

We are very pleased that the Fairport Garden Club has decided to leave their records with us to keep for future generations.

#### **Fairport Facts**

In 1898, there were 125 miles of cinder track in Monroe County for bicyclists. There was a track that went down Church Street in Fairport and a rest stop for cyclists was where the Hawthorne Restaurant (former Maplewood Inn) is today on East Avenue in Pittsford.

## **Wanted: Houses in the Village of Fairport to Show for the 2004 Perinton Historical Society House Tour**

Many members of the Society look forward to our annual house tour. This October, the tour will be in the village of Fairport. We are now in the process of lining up houses for this important member event. There are two leads of possible sites and we are in need of two more. If you would be willing to open up your home to a tour in mid-October or know someone who does, please drop a note off at the museum and mark it "2004 house tour".

The house doesn't need to be "historic" to qualify and any house will be considered if it hasn't been on our tour in the past 4 years. Those people who have participated in the past have enjoyed the event. If you are hesitant, references can be given of past home owners who have participated. Any questions can be directed to Bill Keeler at the museum 223-3989.

We are also looking for someone or a team of people to coordinate the tour. If you are interested, please call the museum and Bill Keeler will get back to you.

## Fairport Historical Museum Closed in January and February 2004.

Due to the cold weather this winter, the Board of Trustees has voted to close the museum during the two coldest months of the year. It has been very difficult to bring the heat up high enough for the comfort of volunteers and visitors to our museum this season. The museum will continue to schedule group tours or will open by appointment. To schedule an event or research appointment, please call the museum at 223-3989 and leave a message.

Perinton Historical Society  
18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, New York 14450

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fairport, N.Y.  
Permit # 149

