

# Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

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585-223-3989

## “Stories From the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” What Happened to All the Grocery Stores?

As of this writing, it doesn't appear that the village of Fairport will be getting a new grocery store at the former Vix site in the Village Landing. However, it is interesting to reflect on some of the many grocery stores that have operated in the village over the years. It is ironic that a village of a little over 3,000 people could support several grocery stores at the same time in much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and yet have so much trouble, in the last dozen years or more, in attracting a single grocery store to the central business district. As late as 1939, the Fairport Directory lists 13 grocers in the village of Fairport.

There are 12 references to grocery stores in the book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. They are: A.C. Hooker's One Horse Grocery [p.38 bottom], Goodell and Aiken [p.115 top], Saleno & Howe [p.115 top], Howe & Kellogg [p.117 bottom], E.L. Dudley's grocery store [p.121 top], Nick Mescerino's Grocery [p.118 bottom], Adams Grocery [p. 119 top], George Filkins Meat and Grocery Store [p. 120 top], Fairport Market Basket and the A&P [p. 121 bottom], B.J. Woolsey Grocery Store [p. 124 bot-

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This is a series of articles written by the authors of the book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* about people and stories that were left out or incomplete in the book. Page numbers refer to page numbers in the book.

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tom], and Seel Grocery [p.126 bottom]. So how could the community support so many grocery stores?

A possible answer can be found in an article written by Fairport resident Ida Dougherty p.36 bottom found in the *Fairport Herald Mail* in the 1930s. Ida suggested that grocery stores were divided along religious denominations. “There was no object in competition in Fairport for it was a foregone conclusion that all the Congregationalists patronized Ed Dudley [p.121 top] and all the Baptists swarmed to Howe & Kellogg's [p.117 bottom] across the street. It never would occur to me to enter Howe & Kellogg's store to even sample Baptist groceries. And I rather think religious prejudice also kept me away from Joe Moreys.” In theory, you could have as many grocery stores in town as you had churches.

What better way to ensure that you would get pure fresh groceries, in an age when ingredients were not written on the label and there was no expiration date, than to patronize someone that you would see in church every Sunday and was as God fearing as you were.

In the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, food fell under federal regulations and the Food and Drug Administration making food products uniformly made and protected by law from unscrupulous manufacturers. Also, the auto-



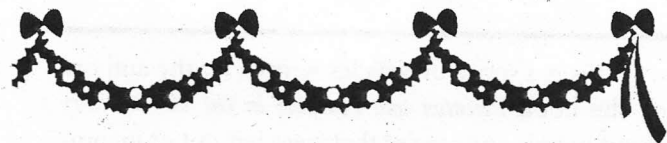
### ≡ Our Mission ≡

“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 People of our town of Perinton”

mobile made it possible to locate grocery stores outside the village because most customers no longer needed to be within walking distance of the store. Grocery store chains became dominant and their location was grouped together so that one store could steal customers from the other instead of building their own customer loyalty. You can clearly see this on Route 31 where there is a Wegmans and Martin's supermarket within a one block area of each other.

Everyone I have talked with is disappointed that the proposed grocery store venture in the village wasn't successful, and hopefully another proposal will be made to make grocery shopping in the village possible once more.

The book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* is available at the museum gift shop, the Fairport Coffee Shop and the Perinton Town Hall.



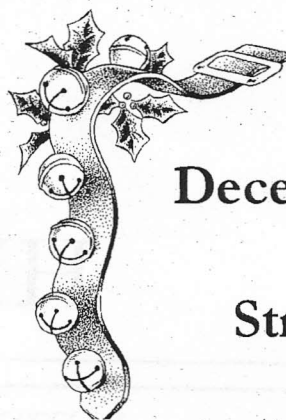
## Plan to Attend

**December 14** ~ *Christmas at the Museum* ~ a concert by Dr. Ken Brown and his Fairport High School students at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Museum.

**January 18** ~ Presentation by Timothy Fabrizio on Old Recordings and Phonographs at 7:15 p.m. in the Fairport Public Library in the Village Landing. (Note: this is the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second Tuesday)

**February 8** ~ Presentation by Terri Lehr on the Fairport Baptist Home based on her newly published book, "For Those Who Shaped Our Heritage." Book signings after the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairport Museum.

**January & February** ~ The Fairport Museum will be closed.



## December Meeting Offers String Quartet

Our popular Christmas program will be presented Tuesday December 14th in the Fairport Museum at 7:30 PM. Dr. Ken Brown, music instructor for the Fairport Schools, will be leading several talented Fairport High School students in some classical and seasonal string pieces. For the past several years Dr. Brown and his group have regaled us with familiar and not so familiar tunes to the delight of members and visitors to our annual musical presentation.

If you can, bring along a dish of cookies and we can relax and share some goodies and friendship. Punch and coffee will be provided by the Society. It should be a fine start to the Christmas season. The meeting is free and open to the public.

## Perinton Historical Society

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## January Speaker to talk about Old Recordings and Phonographs

Recorded sound has come a long way since the wax cylinder invented by Thomas Edison. For many years the standard for the recording industry was the familiar round vinyl record. Today music is now recorded on CDs and the only place to find records now is in second hand and antique shops.

Our speaker for the Tuesday, January 18 meeting at 7:15 PM in the Fairport Public Library will be Timothy Fabrizio, author, and expert on recorded sound. Tim will demonstrate century-old talking machines and play examples of recorded music and songs from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As an added bonus, Tim also has voice recordings of historical figures such as Teddy Roosevelt.

This should be a very interesting meeting to kick off the new year. For those members who have a habit of coming to the museum every second Tuesday of the month for a meeting, remember, there will be no newsletter in January to remind you of the meeting. The date has changed to the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second and the meeting is at the Fairport Public Library at 7:15 instead of 7:30. So make sure to write the date and time down in your planner. This meeting is free and open to the public and there will be free coffee made available in the meeting room from the Fairport Coffee Shop after the presentation.

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*Now Available in Gift Shop...*

## Fairport Museum Coffee Mugs

The Fairport Museum gift shop has just received a shipment of coffee mugs just in time for the Christmas season. These handsome white mugs have a blue handle and blue rim with a drawing of the Fairport Museum on the front. They are being sold in the gift shop for \$6 each plus tax.

If you are looking for a unique local gift try our gift shop for this and other items for your Christmas gift giving.

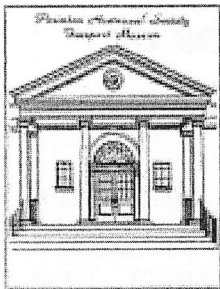
## *Last Call for Tops or Martins Grocery Tapes*

For the last ten years the Perinton Historical Society has been a participant in the Tops Tapesaver Program earning money for the museum. Flora Hosenfeld, museum volunteer, has administered this program over the years. Flora has counted up the totals on over \$500,000 worth of grocery tapes earning the museum nearly \$1,000.

As of January 1, 2005, Tops will be discontinuing this program. The museum can make one final deposit of \$10,000 worth of tapes by this date. Flora has counted \$8,000 worth of tapes and needs \$2,000 more by the end of the year. She is requesting that anyone who shops at Tops or Martins and has grocery receipts from those stores, to drop them off at the museum through the mail slot by December 15. This will give Flora time to count up the totals and turn them into the company. We will still accept tapes through December but please do not bring tapes after this year.

Tops/Martins will be introducing a new program for not-for-profits beginning in January. It is their Gift Card Program. The store will sell gift cards to the museum and for every \$100 our gift shop sells to members or friends, the shop gets \$5. The gift cards range from \$50 to \$300. Next month our Board of Trustees will decide if we will participate in this program. If you buy gift cards on a regular basis and would be willing to purchase these cards from the museum gift shop, please drop us a note in our mail slot at the museum or leave a message on our answering machine 223-3989. This will help us determine if there is any demand for this program.

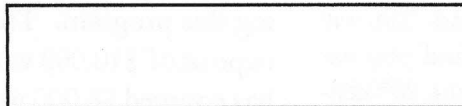
Thanks go out to all those members who have donated their tapes for this program over the years and to Flora Hosenfeld who has spent so much time adding up the tapes and earning money for the museum.



Perinton Historical Society  
18 Perrin Street  
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## FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

### HOURS

Tuesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The first two Mondays of every month the Archives open for Researchers only.

The Fairport Museum will be closed in January and February.

Visit our website:

[www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum](http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum)

*Group tours, presentations and special projects by appointment.*

*Call 223-3989 and leave a message.*