



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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April 2006
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Two More Buildings from the Old West Avenue Business District Razed

It is strange to refer to Fairport's West Ave. business district since there is so little left to see. But from the 1850's to the late 1970's the section of West Ave. from the Main Street bridge to Perrin St. was as lively and vibrant as South Main Street.

The West Avenue Business District has always held a precarious position in the village of Fairport. For most of its life West Ave., formerly called Cherry Street, was a quick right going south just off the Main St. bridge. There is even a curve built into the deck of the bridge that once fed traffic into the street. The businesses on the north side were perched at the edge of the canal. A whole block was removed around 1912 to make way for the widening of the Erie Canal.

Urban renewal in the 1970's removed another block from the north side and the entire south side up to Perrin Street. Businesses such as Hupp's Drug Store and Williams Hardware Store were removed. Some of the businesses relocated to other sections

of the village and others simply closed their doors. The access to West Avenue from the bridge was closed and replaced by Kennelly Park. Up until this February, only three buildings remained from this once prosperous section of town. The two small buildings that were removed were at 30-32 and 34-36 West Ave.

In 1962, Imogene Blum wrote a history of this street and made a presentation to the members of the Perinton Historical Society. The following are passages concerning the history of these two buildings.

30-32 West Ave. "Leander Shaw owned this building and it served as the Town Clerk's office until this office was moved to the Town Hall. Andrew J. Deal served as Town Clerk in this building, and this is where the late Charles Butler opened his law office in the summer of 1897. He also served as Town Clerk. A Mr. Boyer purchased this building from the Shaw estate and conducted a pool room here. In the rear Dick Tinkler had a repair shop and at one time Esbon Simmon's father had a marble shop here. He made the soldiers monument which stands in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

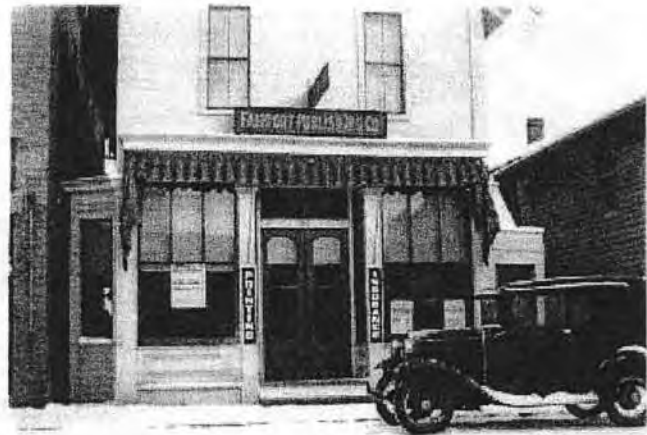
Before Fred Lieb bought the building from A.B. Hupp in 1925, Ella Carpenter had her hat shop here, and there had been a music shop here. Mr. Lieb and his wife Lillian, lived upstairs until April 1929. After Mr. Lieb's death in December 1961 the bakery was

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"

closed for a few months. It was reopened under the name of Fairport Bakery and the building was sold September 1961 to Joseph Palazzo who operates the bakery. I can remember well going to Lieb's on errands and, if given a few pennies for myself, selecting my purchases from their penny candy counter.

To look at the next building [34-36 West Ave.] one would never guess what has gone before. In 1890, Will O. Greene purchased it and enlarged it to make room for offices and press rooms of the Monroe County Mail. When Mr. Greene came to Fairport in 1886 S.D. Palmer was the owner and publisher of the Mail, which was in financial difficulties. Mr. Greene bought the paper, and by hard work put it on a sound financial basis and made it a first rate paper. His business outgrew its quarters in the Butler Block and moved across the street to the Chadwick Schummer Block. After necessary alterations, the paper was moved to a permanent home in this 20 by 80 foot two-story building. Mr. Greene retired from the newspaper business and sold to Mr. Hard who in turn sold to F.B. Miner. Mr. Miner had been publishing the Fairport Herald and with this transaction in 1925 the papers were merged and published as The Herald Mail. After Mr. Miner's death his daughter, Edna Parent, carried on for a few years. Then a stock company was formed under the name of the Fairport Publishing Company. Glenn Gazley edited the Herald-Mail for several years. The paper is now



The building at 34-36 West Ave. when it was the Fairport Publishing Co. - date unknown. (From the Edgar Holt Collection).

owned by Empire State Weeklies."

The building was divided in two with the newspaper business on the left and an insurance agency on the right. The Herald-Mail went out of business in 1993.

The two buildings have had many tenants since 1962. There has been the Brick Oven Pizza and Sub Shop, Dairyland Dairy Products, a dentist, lawyer, various hair dressers, real estate brokers and apartments. The buildings were removed in February to make way for a new building that will have retail shops on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor.

Fairport Facts:

In 1920 there were 6,113 voters in the Town of Perinton. Out of those registered voters 2,480 were members of the Socialist Party, 1,684 were Prohibitionists, 1,428 Republicans and 521 Democrats.



April 11

7:30 p.m. at the Museum
Gary Albright, Art Conservator

May 9

5:30 p.m.
Annual Society Meeting and Picnic
at Perinton Park

Stories From the 20th Century:

Historic Math

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

It's not often that you look for math problems in a history book but there is some math embedded in the book for those who are so inclined.

Question #1: Page 42 top. In 1920 there were 6,113 registered voters in the Town of Perinton and out of that number there were 521 Democrats. What percentage of Perinton voters were Democrats?

Question #2: Page 62 top. The 1903 Fullamtown Liftbridge used 317 gallons per lift. If the bridge used 1,251,977 gallons a season, how many lifts did the bridge make?

At 15 cents per 1,000 gallons, how much did the Town of Perinton pay to the Village of Fairport for the use of the water?

Question #3: Page 68 top. A Fairport resident in 1928 paid \$5.77 a month for electricity. That same year, a man in Newark paid \$6.96 a month for the same amount of electricity. How much more a year does the Newark man pay than the Fairport man?

Question #4: Page 125 bottom. Leander Shaw was a Fairport undertaker beginning in 1870. If he performed 6,000 burials between 1870 and 1911, how many burials did he average per year?

Question #5: Page 10 top. If the Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Railroad cost 7 million dollars and is 87 miles long, how much did each mile of track cost? (Note: This is a trick question. Remember there are two sets of tracks per mile.)

Question #6: Page 17 bottom. If a trolley car is traveling 65 miles per hour and can reach the city of Rochester in 23 minutes (p.15), how far is the route from the village of Fairport to the Culver Road station in Rochester?

Question #7: Page 22 bottom. The Baird Road trolley bridge was sold for scrap in 1942. There was 25 tons of steel recovered. W.T. Jackling and Sons paid \$1,200 for the structure. How much money per pound was paid by the company?

Question #8: Page 28. There are 48 total lots in the Midvale subdivision. If the center 24 lots sold for \$800 each and the other 24 lots sold for \$350 each, how much money would Mr. Higbie gross if he sold all the lots?

Answers are on page 4.

If there are any mathematicians out there who would like to submit math problems from the figures in the book, please send the question, page number and the answer to the editor of this newsletter and it will be published in a later edition.

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

April Meeting to Feature Gary Albright, Art Conservator

When: April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairport Historical Museum at 18 Perrin Street.

Topic: The Care and Preservation of Photographs presented by Gary Albright, Art Conservator.

We all have photographs-usually stored in shoe boxes or albums, and placed under the bed or closet. We see them as lasting forever, but they don't. Photographs require special care. They react aggressively to the climate, and they frequently have inherent problems as a result of materials from which they are composed. Throughout their history, photographs have been recognized for their fragility. We will discuss that history, examine their deterioration and offer practical advice on their preservation. When was the photograph made? How should it be stored? Can it be safely exhibited? These are the questions and issues that will be addressed.

Gary Albright is an art conservator working out of Honeoye Falls, NY. From 1999 to 2003 he worked as a conservator at the George Eastman House and oversaw the preservation of one of the world's premiere collections of photography.

Come and bring a friend.

Don't forget to save May 9 for our annual picnic at 5:30 p.m. at the Perinton Park building along the historic Erie Canal.

Perinton Historical Society ~ Trivia ~

Former Town of Perinton Historian, Helen Butler, was 1st vice-president of the Society from 1972 to 1976.

New in the Gift Shop

Just in time for Canal Days, the museum gift shop has just added 4 new items to its selection of gifts.

The first is a glass coaster set. This set of four table coasters comes in green or black and has a picture of the pin that was handed out during Old Home Week in 1908 on each coaster. The pin is green with an extended right hand with the slogan "Fairport Extends the Glad Hand. Old Home Week Aug. 2-8, 1908." The logo was designed especially for Old Home Week and was used for many years after the event by the Fairport Chamber of Commerce as their symbol. The coasters are handsomely displayed vertically in a white holder.

The next two items are wooden boxes. The first is a small "dream box" which has a picture of the gazebo that is in Kennelley Park on the cover. The second is a larger cherry wood box with the familiar Fairport logo of a canal boat with passengers on the cover.

The last item is for those intrepid hikers who walk along the canal. It is a survival kit in a sardine can. The kit, which is housed in a standard sized sardine can, contains a compass, whistle, matches, first aid instructions, razor blade, fire starter, bandage, duct tape, note paper, pencil, paper clip, tea, sugar, safety pin, etc. The can itself can be used to cook in or boil water. This ingenious kit is a must for hikers, canoeists, boaters, fishermen, or bikers who travel along the Erie Canal.

Answers from Historic Math on page 3:
Q1: 8.5%, Q2: 3,949 lifts, \$187.80. Q3: \$14.28.
Q4: 146. Q5: \$40,229.89. Q6: 24.92 miles.
Q7: .024 a lb. Q8: \$27,600.

The Middle Years: Finding a Home

(Part 3 of 4)

The first meetings of the Perinton Historical Society were at member's homes. As more committees were established and more interest in local history grew in the community, meetings were held in the public library and the Potter Community Center.

After the first meeting, members and people from the community began to donate historical items to the Society. The library offered a loft room for storage and some of the larger items were stored in A.B. Hupp's barn. The library also offered space in the basement for short term exhibits. In 1938 there was a costume exhibit, 1939 shawls and fans, 1945 an exhibit of Carman Peck's paintings and in 1946 paintings by Carl Peters were exhibited.

In 1951 the Town of Perinton offered the Perinton Historical Society the old Bushnell's Basin School #1 for a headquarters and museum. The building was available because of the decentralization of the Fairport school system. The Society Board was reluctant to take ownership of the building because of its remoteness in the far south west corner of Perinton away from the population center in the village. The town offered this same building to the society in 1977 and the Board turned them down again for the same reason. It turned out to be a smart move by the Board because the following winter heavy snows caused the roof to collapse.

By 1964 the public library had expanded and was in need of all its storage space. Between 1964 and 1965 the Society began transferring its documents and artifacts to the Community Center at 42 East Ave. in Fairport. The building had been the former Northside School, was bought by the Crosman Arms Co. and transferred to the Village of Fairport to be used as a community center. The Perinton Historical Society was given a single room to display all of its collections. It was apparent from the very beginning that the Society and the new museum needed a bigger space. School groups who came to visit had to walk single file past the display cases because of the lack of space in the room.

In the late 1970's urban renewal was being discussed in Fairport. It was clear that this new project would make it possible for the Fairport Public Library to expand into a new building. A proposal and capability study was submitted by the Society in October of 1978 suggesting that the old library building be used as a community historical

museum. The original proposal called for the donation of the building to the village and town by the school district. The village and town would agree to share the operating costs and both the town and village historians would have their offices in the building.

A three year lease agreement was struck between the school and the village, with the society owing the village \$3,000 after the term of the lease. In June of 1982 the public passed amendment #4 that transferred the title of the building to the village of Fairport. As it turned out, the village of Fairport is now responsible for the outside of the building and the Perinton Historical Society keeps its collections in the building and is responsible for the upkeep of the inside of the building and utilities.

In June of 1979 the Fairport Historical Museum was officially opened in the former Fairport Public Library building at 18 Perrin Street. Attending the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting were Tony Teresa, Superintendent of Schools, Linda Bailey, School Board member, Elizabeth Webb, School Board President, Matson Ewell, Perinton Historical Society president, Peter McDonough, Fairport mayor, Bernadette McDonough, village historian and society board member, Town Supervisor Lake Edwards, town historian Helen Butler, Sheldon Fisher, Valentown Hall curator, Trustees David Glossner and Pat Knapp, County Legislator Sue Faust and Congressman Frank Horton.

We have come a long way since 1979. We have increased our membership from 115 in 1979 to over 400 today. The Fairport fourth grades use the building for their education program every spring and we have meetings and speakers in the Merriman-Clark room once a month from September to April. The museum collections have expanded and we have begun to professionally catalog and conserve our artifacts.

The future looks bright as we continue to increase our membership base and bring in new people with new ideas to lead us into the 21st century.

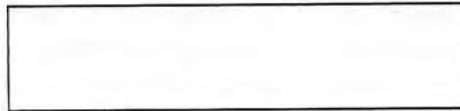
Next Month: The Last 30 Years.



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR 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
from 8 a.m. to noon.

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

*Group tours, presentations and special projects by appointment.
Call 223-3989 and leave a message.*