

Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Inventors from Egypt, NY: The Woolsey Brothers (Part 1 of 2) Elliot Hartman Woolsey: Doctor and Inventor

The hamlet of Egypt, New York produced two inventors in the 19th century. They were Dr. Elliot Hartman Woolsey and his brother Lorenzo Woolsey.

Elliot Woolsey was born October 14, 1843 to Lorenzo Orsen Woolsey and Martha Hartman Woolsey. Elliot was always an energetic person. A newspaper reporter, Edward Hamil from Oakland, California, wrote about Elliot's personality upon his death saying, "It hardly seems possible that a human machine with so much tumultuous energy could run down. What a roaring, thundering, fighting friend he was! How he gathered the men he liked close up under his heart and how he plucked his enemies by the beard. If he made some men hate him to the core, he made others love him to the end..."

Elliot went to school at White Brook district 11 school in Perinton and then to Macedon Academy. In April of 1861, at the age of 17 ½, Elliot falsified his age and enlisted in the army in Rochester to fight for the Union in the Civil War. When his father found out, he brought Elliot back home to the family farm. He didn't stay long. Elliot ran away again, this time to Elmira, New York to enlist with the 13th New York Volunteers. His father Lorenzo is reported to have said, "Let him go for no one can stop such a

determined boy."

Elliot Woolsey was wounded several times, recovered and reenlisted. The last time he was wounded, he was taken to a hospital for care. When he recovered, Elliot became very interested in medicine and stayed on at the hospital until the end of the war.

When Elliot returned home, he studied medicine under Dr. E.M. Moore of Rochester. He later attended medical school at the University of Buffalo and graduated in 1868.

After earning his medical degree, Elliot Woolsey moved west, finally settling in Oakland, California. Here he became a member of the Alameda County Medical Society, and served on the Board of Health. He established the first receiving hospital in Oakland. In 1890 he built his own hospital and called it the Oakland Hospital for Invalids.

One of Elliot's patients was August Schilling, a coffee and tea merchant in Oakland, California. Mr.



E.H. Woolsey, Buffalo 1865

Our Mission

"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote interest in preserving and sharing local history."

Schilling was overweight and as his personal doctor, Elliot Woolsey suggested that he engage in vigorous exercise. Both men were very intelligent and creative. Mr. Schilling had several inventions patented, and Dr. Elliot had invented a speculum-irrigator (patent #413,470) which was used in his hospital. Between the two men, they devised a shaking machine to help reduce weight. Although it was reported that they were thinking of patenting this device, no patents are known to exist.

The 20th century was not kind to Dr. E.H. Woolsey. His hospital burned to the ground and Dr. Woolsey discontinued practicing medicine at that time. A life long bachelor, Woolsey had a favorite pug dog by the name of Frankie. This was his constant companion for seven years. Frankie died in December of 1906. In the famous San Francisco earthquake of 1906,

Woolsey, in attempting to flee his hotel, fell on the stairs, injuring his knee. This injury required him to be confined to his bed. Pneumonia set in and he died January 21, 1907. Dr. Elliot Hartman Woolsey is buried in the South Perinton Church cemetery.

If you go on the 2009 Perinton Historical House Tour, you can see the Woolsey cemetery plot at the South Perinton Church Cemetery.

If you would like to see Dr. Woolsey's patent application for his Speculum-Irrigator, go to Google Patents and search for patent number 413,470.

Coming in the May Issue:
Egypt inventor Lorenzo Woolsey

Novel Shaking Machine Invented for a Lakeside Patient August Schilling & his Physician Contrive a Jolter of Great Power

From the Oakland Enquirer 1894

A. Schilling, whose palatial home is on the shore of Lake Merritt, at the head of Jackson Street, is the owner of a novel machine, the only one of its kind in existence. It is a shaking machine, and it was made especially to shake Mr. Schilling, though he is generous enough to allow his friends to try it when they are so inclined.

The machine is the joint invention of Dr. E.H. Woolsey and Mr. Schilling. Some months ago Mr. Schilling went to the doctor for treatment, and among other things the doctor said he should take more exercise. "Good, vigorous exercise," said the doctor, "is what you want. You need a good shaking up. Buy a hard-trotting horse and ride him five or six miles a day. Better still, if you could only manage to ride half an hour a day on a bumping freight train you would soon be all right."

It was this last sentence that gave Mr. Schilling his cue, and straight away he set out to build something that would answer the purpose, so far as shaking was concerned over a freight train. He took Dr. Woolsey into his scheme, and together they worked on a model, which has since been perfected and put in a summerhouse in Mr. Schilling's garden. As a shaker it beats a half dozen freight trains.

It beats a runaway team attached to a rock wagon.

To an ordinary observer the machine looks something like a small platform scale, but it is anything else. A system of cogwheels is so arranged that the bumping and shaking are given with regularity and precision. The motive power that runs the "shaker" is electricity, and by regulating the current any degree of shake may be had. An idea of the amount of shaking it does may be had when it is known that a jar of cream securely attached to the shaker will be turned into butter in less time than it could be done with an ordinary churn.

For over a month Mr. Schilling has been taking a ten-minute shake every morning before breakfast, and in speaking of the machine he says he feels confident that it is a great thing to stir up the liver, and incidentally to get rid of surplus flesh. He recommends a ten-minute shake immediately after eating a hearty dinner.

Dr. Woolsey is as enthusiastic over the invention as Mr. Schilling is, and although he occasionally takes a shake, he does not make a regular business of it, as does Mr. Schilling. The two are thinking of applying for a patent on the machine.



Museum Gift Shop Now Selling Genuine Fairport Commemorative Postage Stamps



For those of us who still use “snail mail”, there is that certain attraction of putting on just the right postage stamp for letters to family or friends. Whether it is to support your cause like the Breast Cancer stamp, celebrating the season with Christmas stamps, or just a bit of whimsy with colorful commemorative stamps, many people go out of their way to pick out a stamp that fits their fancy.

Since 2006, the United States Post Office has authorized a company to produce postage stamps from personal photographs from people who use the U.S. mail. The company, Photostamps, has issued over 45 million stamps since its inception. The stamps range from wedding photographs to those of the family pet and are legal stamps for regular first class mail. Two different commemorative stamps from the museum's extensive photograph collection have been created and are now on sale in our gift shop.

The two photographs selected are of Daniel DeLand founder of the DeLand Chemical Works and Levi DeLand the last owner of the company known then as L.J. DeLand and Company. These two men were selected because of their contribution to the prosperity of Fairport and their patronage to civic projects for the betterment of the people of Fairport in the 19th century.

Daniel DeLand was born in Candor, New York, on May 15 in 1823. He married Minerva Adelaide Parce in Norwich, New York in 1848. After a short apprenticeship with his father-in-law, Justus Parce, learning the method for manufacturing saleratus, Daniel and Minerva moved to Fairport in 1852 and started the DeLand Chemical Works. Saleratus is a form of pearl ash and is used in baking. Daniel DeLand made several trips to Europe to study the most modern methods of producing saleratus. The company started out as a small operation in two buildings near the Erie Canal but the company grew rapidly and was employing 100 workers by 1872. Daniel involved himself in the community. He was Perinton Town Justice in 1858, a member of the Fairport Board of Edu-

cation, Deacon of the Baptist Church of Fairport and Bible Class teacher. When Daniel became a judge in Rochester, he turned over the day to day operations to his brother Henry DeLand. In late December of 1872, Daniel met with a tragic accident. While checking his factory, he fell down an elevator shaft and sustained life threatening injuries. He died three days before Christmas in 1872.

Levi DeLand, the son of Daniel DeLand, inherited his father's stake in the company. He ran the company with his uncle Henry until 1881 when Levi bought out his uncle's shares and became the president of the company. Like his father, Levi DeLand became very involved with his community. He was at one time a Perinton Town Board member and President of the Village of Fairport. In 1877 he formed the first fire department known as the DeLand Hose Company; in 1881 he formed the L. J. DeLand Band, in 1883 he was a member of the New York State Assembly and in 1900 he brought the first electric generator used for lighting to western New York. For many years, the L.J. DeLand Company was a major employer in Fairport. In 1893 a disastrous fire burned down the North Main Street factory. Levi DeLand rebuilt the factory and resumed the manufacture of saleratus and baking soda. At that time, a new and cheaper way of making saleratus was being used by other manufacturers called the Solvay process that used salt instead of wood ash. The company struggled to make a profit and the factory closed ten years later in 1903. Levi DeLand died on June 6, 1904 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

The price for these stamps is \$19 per sheet of twenty 42 cent stamps includes a brief biography of either Levi DeLand or Daniel DeLand.

So if you're a Fairportophile, philatelist, or just want to show civic pride on your next correspondence, come check out our newest addition to the gift shop. The gift shop is open on Tuesdays and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March Meeting to Feature Local Trail Advocate

Join us on March 10 for the monthly meeting of the Perinton Historical Society at the Fairport Museum. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature a presentation by Dave Schaeffer, Trailmaster of the Crescent Trail Association and a member of the Town of Perinton Recreation & Parks Advisory Board. His presentation is titled: *Perinton Trails: Their History and an Up Close Perspective*

Dave's talk and slides will provide a brief history of public trails in Perinton, including the Erie Canalway Trail, the RS&E Trolley Trail, and the Crescent Trail. He will discuss the Town and Village policies, actions, and partnerships with community volunteers, which led to development of the system of footpaths known as the Crescent Trail and designation of Perinton as a "Trail Town USA." Not only is he an advocate for our local trails but he has spent countless hours maintaining trails and working with volunteer organizations doing the same. Dave will present up close views of what you will discover along the trails while reaping benefits to your body, mind, and spirit.

PHS Society Meetings & Events & Museum Schedule

- ~ **March 1** - Grand reopening of the Fairport Museum and unveiling of copies of 1817 Geddes Maps. Noon to 4:00 p.m.
- ~ **March** - *Perinton Trails: Their History and an Up Close Perspective*
- ~ **April 9** - The new Book *Then & Now: Fairport and Perinton* by William Keeler and Keith Boas will be available in the Museum Gift Shop for the first time from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- ~ **April 26** - Annual House Tour in the Hamlet of Egypt from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- ~ **May** - Annual Society meeting and picnic

Perinton Historical Society 2009 House Tour: *The Hamlet of Egypt*

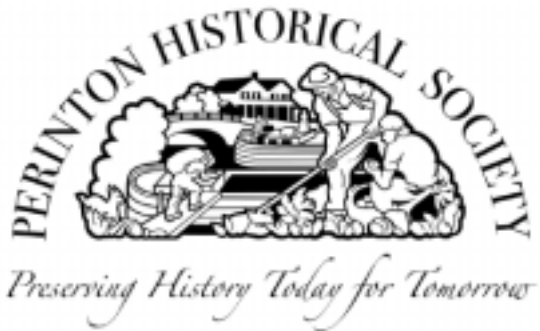
The 2009 House Tour will be held in one of the oldest settlements in Perinton, the Hamlet of Egypt. Six houses and businesses will be on this year's tour. It has been awhile since the society members have viewed houses in the town through the house tour and this should be a real treat. The houses range from one of the earliest houses in the town built in 1815 to a house built in 1925. The tour will be Sunday afternoon, April 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

We are still looking for volunteers that would like to show individual houses or house captains that would keep track of volunteers and make sure the houses are covered. The assignments would be in two hour shifts so that you will have plenty of time to visit all the houses on the tour if you decide to volunteer. If you are interested contact Alan Keukelaar at akeukelaar@rochester.rr.com or call the museum 223-3989 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

If you have not renewed your membership or you have friends who would like to attend the tour, memberships are available at the Fairport Museum during normal hours 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Sunday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Memberships will be issued right up to and including the day of the event. Tickets, which are the tour brochures, will be sent to you in the mail or if time doesn't allow, given out at the museum.

"Special memberships" will be offered again for \$10 each from April 1 to 24 at the village and town halls and April 1 to 25 at the Fairport Public Library.

Correction to the February Historigram
Page 1 paragraph 6: James Geddes was born
in 1763 not 1783.



Board Adopts New Logo for the Society

To help market and promote the PHS and its programs a new logo and brochures are being developed by a committee chaired by Doris Davis-Fritsch.

These projects from brochures to the website are in different stages of copy writing and layout. You will see the new logo to identify the Society designed and illustrated by Doris on the Historigram and all other publications going forward.

If the logo image looks familiar, take a look at the Carl Peters mural in the Museum. The mural depicts the history of Perinton from its beginning as a farm community to the boom days of canal commerce. The picture represents our agricultural roots in front of the Erie Canal and the barges being loaded with produce for shipments to New York City and Buffalo. The double gabled building in the background is a representation of the old Pritchard Tavern, the first tavern built shortly after the official opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. After discussion and interviews with the board it was clear that the mural was one of our most unique assets, and did truly represent what we are all about, thus inspiring the new logo.

One part of the communications plan is to reorganize and refresh the current website. Take a look at www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org to see our new site, which is currently under construction.

Thanks to the committee of Jim Albright, Sean Delehanty, and Ruth Erdman who have been writing copy and to Keith Boas who provided his talents to the photography. Keep an eye on the new look and feel to our promotions in the near future.

Then & Now: *Fairport and Perinton* New Book to Arrive at Museum April 9

Salesmen at Arcadia Press, the publisher for the book "Then and Now; Fairport and Perinton" has assured Bill Keeler, gift shop manager, that the books will arrive on April 9 for the Thursday night shift at the Fairport Museum. The society has ordered 300 copies. Bill Keeler will be on hand that evening if anyone wants to have their book signed. It is important that if you buy the book, that you purchase it from the museum because the society earns much more money from gift shop sales than we do from royalties from other shops and stores.

Purchasing the book directly at the museum will give you an added bonus. You will receive, at no extra charge, a tour brochure which includes a map of all the locations found in the book by page number. If you are not familiar with where the places are in the book, you can locate them on the map. This brochure is not available anywhere else.

The book will sell for \$23.75 which includes tax and it will be available on and after April 9 during normal museum hours. Bill is also trying to place copies at the Perinton Town Hall which can be bought during their open hours. If you plan on going on the house tour, the book will be for sale at the South Perinton Methodist Church. This price is slightly higher than our other books because of printing costs and an upgrade in paper in the current book.

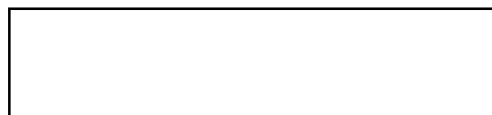
Several book signings are planned after the books are delivered so stay tuned. There is also a Power Point presentation developed that can be shown to groups with samples of the pictures. If you belong to a group that would like to have Bill Keeler and/or Keith Boas come and talk about the book, please call the museum at 223-3989 and leave a message.



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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR HOURS

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

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

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

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