

The 2014 Perinton Historical Society Scholarship has been awarded to two Fairport High School seniors. Below is Hannah Donnelly's winning submission. Hannah will be attending Ithaca College and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Next month the Historigram will feature the research paper of Meghan Crawford, whose topic is Fairport's beloved coach, Joe Cummings.

George Southworth Filkins: His impact on the Village of Fairport

By Hannah Donnelly

The first house I ever lived in was 166 South Main Street in the village of Fairport. I lived there for five years and I consider myself very fortunate to have lived in a house that has so much historical significance, being that one of Fairport's well-known developers built and lived in it.

My old house, 166 South Main Street, was built by George Southworth Filkins in 1874. I decided to conduct my research on Filkins, because he was a prominent figure in Fairport in the late 1800s, his service in the Civil War, and his impact on the development of the village of Fairport. The information that I have found about George Filkins and his work are from The Fairport Historical Museum, perinton.org and perintonhistoricalsociety.org.

George Southworth Filkins was born in 1838 in Penfield, New York, to Isaac and Catherine Southworth Filkins. He was the youngest son of five children, and while most of his siblings moved, he stayed in Fairport. Filkins served in the Civil War for two years with 113th New York Volunteers, Company B. He returned in 1865. By 1869, he had settled in Fairport at 43 West Church Street and married Ada Benedict. George and Ada had two children, George Allen and Ernest.

After his children were born, he began developing parts of the village of Fairport. He developed Filkins and George Streets, which are just south of Church Street. Filkins then built three houses on South Main Street, 160, 164 and 166. He built all of these houses out of brick and with a similar Italianate architectural style. Italianate style began in England with the Romantic Movement emphasizing rural, rambling,





Comments from your President

Gosh, it's time for the September *Historigram* already. The summer is just flying by way too quickly. It was a busy day for the Perinton Historical Society on Saturday, July 26th. First we utilized the Fairport/Perinton Merchants Association tent at the Farmers'

~ **Bob Hunt** ~

Market to hand out information about the museum. We had a great deal of interest in the exciting happenings at the museum and we even sold a couple of items. (See article on page 5.)

Secondly, as part of their 40th reunion, the Fairport High School class of 1964 visited the museum for a scavenger hunt and to enjoy a presentation by Bill Poray. I sat in on part of the presentation and Bill, as usual, produced an interesting program for about 40 attending from the class. We had many positive comments from our visitors after the event. Thanks to Bill and Vicki for pulling this together.

Also in July, under the direction of float chair Ann Castle and her band of creative volunteers, a float was presented for the July 4th parade depicting the lift bridge in great detail. (See photo and article on the right.) The bridge is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Once again another beautiful

float was created by this committee, with the only damage being to my wallet for treating them all to ice cream at Moonlight Creamery. Thanks to all who worked on the float.

Lastly, I will share a little bit about our summer adventure. To celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, Cindy and I took our youngest daughter Kim, husband Adam and granddaughters McKenna and Kinsey to Africa for two weeks. It was a wonderful trip consisting of a safari in Zambia (see my photo of the leopard), time at Malawi Children's Village (a project for orphans we have been involved with since 2001) and also a few days at the beautiful city of Capetown.

Thanks for your continued support of the Perinton Historical Society, and we will chat again next month.

Bob Hunt, President

585-415-7053 ~ rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



PHS Parade Float 2014

By Ann Castle

The PHS float for this year's Fourth of July parade honored the 100th anniversary of the unique Fairport lift bridge and kicked off the summer celebration of the bridge. The ingenuity of Dave Wild, who designed and built the bridge, and Lucy McCormick, who constructed the bridge tower, made our float possible. The support team consisted of Harold Castle, Sharon Catanese, Kevin Enter, Anne Johnston, Dave and Sue Scheirer, Sue Templeton and Barb Wild. Barb's delicious strawberry shortcake was a great energy boost! It seems to have become a tradition that Heather Bauer and sons Tristan and Taryn ride on the float and pass out candy along the route. They have helped each year. Once again Ricci's Towing graciously supplied the flatbed to carry the float. John MacDonald, who seems to enjoy helping us, was our driver again. Did anyone notice the extra toots on the truck horn as the float passed over the canal bridge? And finally, we all enjoyed another tradition: Bob and Cindy Hunt treated us at the Moonlight Creamery. Thanks to all for another fun time.



Leopard in Zambia

"Trophy" photo taken by Bob Hunt on August 1, 2014

HISTORIGRAM

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"Filkins" continued from page 1

informal farmhouses and moving away from the 200-year-old formal styles of Greek Revival and Classicism. Houses 160 and 164 show more Italianate style than 166; however, 166 still displays some of the Italianate characteristics, such as cross gable-segmental arched windows. Another Italianate feature that 166 has is a simple one-story porch.

An interesting fact about 166 is that the kitchen used to be in the basement. In addition, the windows and door frames on 166 are the original ones from when it was built in 1874.



Another unique feature of 166 South Main Street is the exposed brick wall in what is now the kitchen. This brick wall was the exterior wall of where the house ended.

This historical home was also featured in the Fairport Historical Museum calendar published in 1982.

Filkins lived in 166 South Main Street for a short time until he sold it in 1881, after his wife Ada died in 1879. In 1883 he married Mary E. White and had three children with her, Anna May, Clarence, and Howard.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Filkins family was farming a large parcel of land on Hulburt Avenue in the vicinity of today's Minerva DeLand School. Their farmhouse was then moved to 110 Hulburt Avenue, where George lived. The house at 110 Hulburt Avenue is called the Filkins-Carroll House, which was declared a village landmark by the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission in 2012.

Filkins passed away at age 78 in 1917 and his legacy lives on in the several brick houses he has built, the historical landmark of 110 Hulburt Avenue and the roads he named after himself—Filkins and George Street.



For many years, George Filkins ran a meat market and grocery store in Fairport. He was a clever man and figured out a way to tap into the new municipal waterworks to power his sausage-cutting apparatus. Like many of the homes he built, the three-story building that housed his business was constructed of brick. The building dates back to 1888. Although the third floor was removed decades ago, the Filkins Block still stands at 45 South Main Street, and is currently the home to the Fairport Savings Bank.

Bill Poray

44th Annual House Tour *And more!*

By Elaine Shepardson Lanni

Sunday, October 5, 2014

This year's tour takes us to a number of historic homes on Roselawn Avenue in Fairport. As we celebrate the 100th year anniversary of Fairport's lift bridge, we thought it only fitting to showcase some canal-side homes constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



53 Roselawn Avenue



The Sunflower



132 Roselawn Avenue

Don't miss an opportunity to tour the Sunflower, the largest English narrow canal boat for charter on the Erie Canal. This packet-style boat has been owned and operated since 2009 by Robin Ward and Gary Ezell through *lowbridgecharters.com* from its home port of Fairport. She will be docked on the canal between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., on the west side of the lift bridge. Your house tour ticket will let you see how present-day adventurers can travel the canal in compact, yet comfortable surroundings (no mules needed).

Mooseberry Soap Company will be helping us celebrate with a soap-making demonstration at the museum. Their organic soap will be on display and available for purchase. What's the connection? Fairport once had its own soap company, in the triangular-shaped building, at 20 Roselawn Avenue. Named KOD, for Knocks Out Dirt, this company was known throughout the United States for its quality product.

PHS members will receive their tickets in the mail. Friends and family who want to attend will need to become members of the Society. You'll find a membership form on page 7. Forms also are available at the museum, the Fairport Public Library, Perinton Town Hall and the Fairport Village Hall.

**Please join us on Sunday, October 5,
from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., for tours of
Roselawn homes, a visit to the
Sunflower packet-style boat on the
canal, and a soap-making
demonstration at the museum.
During this time we will be hosting a
reception at the museum with
cider and cookies.**



84 Roselawn Avenue, one of the homes on the October 5th tour

Calling All Docents

We are still in need of additional docents to welcome tour goers to the homes. Please contact Elaine Lanni at 585-766-5467 or via email at eellaannii@gmail.com to volunteer. This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the Perinton Historical Society and promote the history of our town.



Photo by Keith Boas

PHS Shows Off at the Farmers' Market!

On Saturday, July 26th, the Perinton Historical Society enjoyed a busy morning staffing a booth at the Fairport Farmers' Market. Each week, the Fairport/Perinton Merchants Association (FPMA) offers booth space and a tent to one of its members. Our society, being a member of FPMA, took advantage of the opportunity on July 26th. During the morning, staffers encouraged shoppers to visit the museum and also become PHS members. In addition, they sold several items from the museum gift shop.

Pictured here are some of the team who staffed the booth: from left to right, PHS Board member Lucy McCormick, member Maxine Nelson, President Bob Hunt and member Cecile Horkheimer.

Upcoming Events

**Saturday, August 2 through Tuesday,
September 30**

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Exhibit: *We're Off to See the Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m.*

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Program: *Celebrating 100 Years of Fairport's Lift Bridge*

Presenters: Bill Poray and Susan Prener

Sunday, October 5, 1:00--5:00 p.m.

See pages 4 and 5 for specific locations

House Tour: Roselawn Avenue

Packetboat Tour: On the canal, west of the lift bridge

*Please note that all PHS programs in the 2014-2015 season will now begin at 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating 100 Years of Fairport's Lift Bridge

Fairport's historic lift bridge is 100 years old! That will be the focus of the September 16th program at the Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, at 7:00 p.m. (Note the new time.) All are welcome to attend, learn more about this structure's history, and enjoy some fascinating stories.

This unique lift bridge on the village's Main Street has allowed pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles passage over the Erie Canal and has captivated residents and visitors alike for a century now. As part of its centennial celebration, Town Historian and Perinton Historical Society trustee Bill Poray will present historic photographs and accounts of the construction of this one-of-a-kind span and will explore the controversies surrounding it, including the vigorous debate as to its very construction. Attendees should be prepared for a surprise or two along the way. This may be the last opportunity in many years to learn about this interesting and iconic local landmark.

Fairport artist Susan Prener will also be on hand to discuss and sign copies of her watercolor painting, *100 Years of Lift Bridge Inspiration*. Archival copies, available only through the Perinton Historical Society, are for sale in the museum gift shop. 8x10-inch prints are \$18.00; 11x14-inch prints, \$30.00. PHS wants to express its appreciation to Susan Prener for her generous donation of the original artwork.

Coming Soon

Information about a very special fundraiser
for the Perinton Historical Society
to be held this autumn

Welcome New Museum Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Scheirer

Please join us in welcoming our new PHS Volunteer Coordinator, Suzanne Scheirer, who assumed her duties on September 1, 2014. Suzanne takes over from retiring Volunteer Coordinator Gail Black, who served in this capacity for 14 years.

Volunteers Needed at the Fairport Historical Museum

We are always looking for additional volunteers, and would love to add you to our roster. Each museum shift consists of at least two volunteers who work a two-hour shift once a month.

We especially need volunteers to cover Saturdays from 9:00--11:00 a.m. and Sundays from 2:00--4:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering at the Fairport Historical Museum, please stop by the museum (see posted hours on the back page) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Scheirer at dscheir1@rochester.rr.com for more information, and include "FHM" in the subject line.

Special Recognition Level Memberships

Business (\$100 and above)

Liftbridge Financial Advisors, 6 North Main Street,
Suite 400w, Fairport, NY 14450

Bob Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty, 2000 Winton
Road South, Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618.

RC Shaheen Paint and Decorating Centers, 121 South
Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Perrin (\$500 and above)

Frank and Catherine Angevine

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

James and Barbara Boyle

Norman Horton

Bill and Pat May

Robert and Barbara Shaw

Charlie and Suzanne Tholstrup

Anonymous (2)

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 now. All memberships renewed before October 1 will include admission to the October 5th house tour. From October 1 to the tour we will offer memberships at only the Individual and Family levels. We hope to hear from you soon.

Special Recognition Levels: Our membership form includes special recognition levels of membership. The Business membership will acknowledge the member as a supporter 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* delivery - Email (☐) US Mail (☐)

Please check the level of membership you prefer:

- (☐) Individual..... \$15
- (☐) Family..... \$25
- (☐) Sr. Single [65 or older]..... \$10
- (☐) Sr. Couple..... \$15
- (☐) Patron..... \$50
- (☐) Extra Contribution.....\$ _____

Special Recognition Levels:

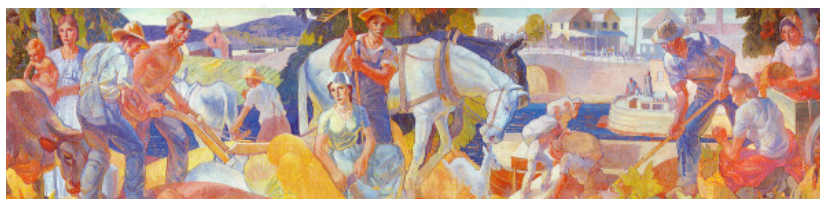
- (☐) Business..... \$100
- (☐) DeLand \$100-\$249
- (☐) Potter..... \$250-\$500
- (☐) Perrin..... \$500 & above

Our membership year runs from
September 1st to August 31st.

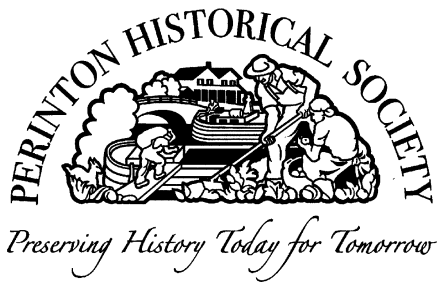
To make our programs successful, we depend on the generous gift of your time and talents. Please consider volunteering by joining a committee or serving on the board of trustees. Check areas of interest:

- (☐) Board of Trustees – governing body for PHS
- (☐) Finance Committee – budgeting, fundraising
- (☐) Education – helping with adult and children's programs
- (☐) Museum volunteer – two hours per month
- (☐) Property Committee – upkeep of the facility
- (☐) *Historigram* – articles, editing, production, distribution
- (☐) Historic Tours – house, cemetery, landmarks
- (☐) Technology Committee – assessing, planning, implementing
- (☐) Seasonal projects – parades, Canal Days, etc.
- (☐) Other – Give us your ideas _____

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



Mural, painted by Carl Peters in 1938, on permanent display in the Fairport Historical Museum



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Fairport, NY 14450



Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the hours below:

Saturday	9:00–11:00 a.m.
Sunday	2:00–4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	2:00–4:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:00–9:00 p.m.

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org