

The 2014 Perinton Historical Society Scholarship has been awarded to two Fairport High School seniors this year. In the September issue of the **Historigram**, we featured Hannah Donnelly's paper, on the life of George Filkins. Below is Meghan Crawford's winning submission on Fairport's legendary educator and coach, Joe Cummings. Meghan is attending Syracuse University and has received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Joe Cummings

By Meghan Crawford



Joe Cummings at his desk, just off the FHS gym on West Avenue
Photo from the 1954 FHS Hourglass yearbook

"Go Raiders!" would not be a cheer rooted in the Fairport Red Zone if it were not for Joseph Cummings. In fact, Fairport's sports would not be the same today if its physical education and sports programs were not touched by him.

Joe Cummings was involved in Fairport athletics for thirty-six years. However, he was more than just a coach. He was a motivator, educator and an inspiration to every student he came in contact with.

Joe Cummings was born on October 27, 1911. He graduated from Cortland State College, where he lettered in football, basketball and track, with a Bachelor degree in science. He furthered his education during the summers at Columbia University where he earned his Master of Science degree. Cummings was one of twenty-seven physical education students across the nation to represent the United States at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. He was a representative of the International Sports Education Congress.

He married the love of his life on November 22, 1939, Mary Reigal. Reigal was a physical education inductress at Hamburg High School in Hamburg, New York. Cummings was a teacher and a coach at Fairport High School from 1936 to 1961. However, he took four years of leave to serve in World War II as a Navy lieutenant. He became known as "the original red raider." He became Fairport's first athletic director in 1960 and retired in 1973.

During his time coaching and teaching, he founded the Little Brown Jug, a friendly, competitive game between the Fairport and East Rochester varsity football teams. The winner of the game would be able to take home the brown jug until the following year. This tradition lasted forty-nine years. It ended when the skill level and weight difference between the two teams no longer was fair and competitive.

He is also the reason the high school yearbook in 1952, coined the term "Fairport Raiders" when talking about the sports teams. Under Cummings, the football team won County Champions or were Co-Champions for seven seasons.



~ **Bob Hunt** ~

Comments from your President

As I write this on September 14th, summer is coming to an end and today feels like autumn, with the temperature in the high 40s as the day begins. Yesterday was busy at the museum with the House Tour committee preparing the brochures for mail-

ing. Cindy and I have been busy at 53 Roselawn as well, since our home will be on the tour this year. The honey-do list is a bit longer than usual. The Perinton Historical Society House Tour will be on October 5th. And remember, you need to be a member of PHS to go on the tour.

Thanks goes to Bill Keeler for the significant contributions he has made to the Perinton Historical Society during the past 25 years. Bill has been a PHS member, director, officer, past president, *Historigram* editor and curator. The Board of Trustees is grateful to Bill for all he has done for the Society.

Thanks also goes out to Gail Black who has served PHS as the Volunteer Coordinator for 13 years. It is never an easy job keeping volunteers available to fill the various times the museum is open to the public. There were many times when I would stop by the museum and find Gail cleaning or running the vacuum and, in general, making the museum more presentable. Gail and Bob are planning to travel a bit and I know from a recent telephone chat, they were getting ready to drive to Yellowstone National Park. We wish them safe travels.

Suzanne Scheirer is taking over Gail's position as Volunteer Coordinator. Welcome and thank you Suzanne for agreeing to oversee this important position.

In addition thanks goes to retiring volunteers Sally Connors, Jane Kiely, Milly Blaylock, Toni Thompson and Gerald Thompson for their years of service to PHS. As I thank past volunteers for their service, I also send out a message seeking new volunteers. Let us know if you can help out for a few hours a month.

Lastly for this month, thanks goes to Sean Delehanty for his six years as member of the Board of Trustees. With his background in human resources, Sean has been a great asset to PHS and will be missed. Sean also organized our annual meeting and picnic, a task he has promised to continue in the future. Thanks Sean: Your time and effort has been greatly appreciated.

As we begin our new fiscal year (September 1st), I would like to welcome Lucy McCormick as our new board member.

Lucy has been very involved with the Float, Scarecrow, House Tour and Membership Committees. We look forward to her participation as a board member.

On the home front, as mentioned above, we are preparing for the house tour, so we are bringing back inside some of the many house plants we put outside in the spring to give them a boost from Mother Nature. Today was the Christmas cactus, which is about 50 years old and a gift many years ago from my stepmother. In a future column, I will tell the story of this plant and share a photo when it is in bloom.

It seems that I have given a lot of thanks this month and I have probably missed some others, so sorry if I have, and I will try to make it up the next time.

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

Bob Hunt, President

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Perinton Historical Society

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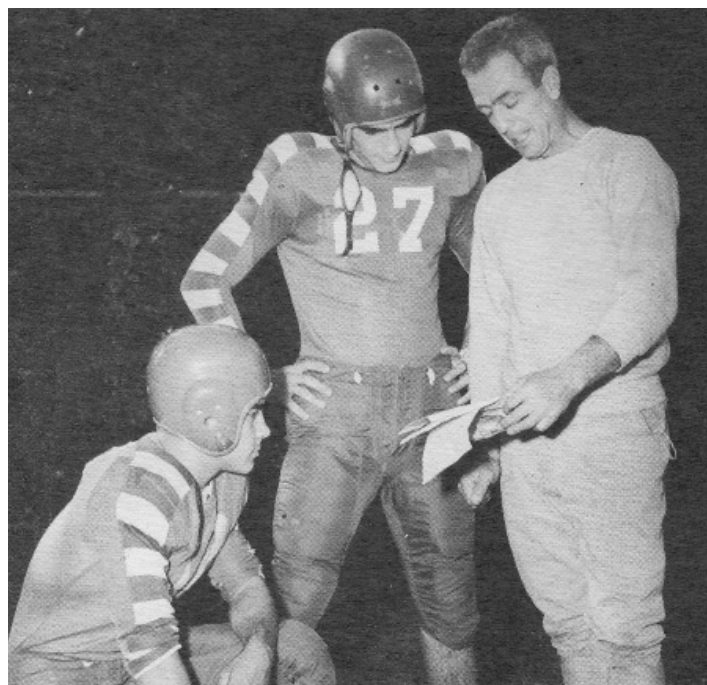
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"Cummings" continued from page 1

As the Rotary President, he helped to initiate a recreation program in Fairport. He also helped to establish the Monroe County High School Hockey League in 1968.

Joe Cummings was able to accomplish a lot for Fairport's athletics during the thirty-six years he was a coach. Cummings's enormous efforts and outstanding accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has received several awards such as the Rochester Club Distinguished Service Award in 1950, the Touchdown Club of Rochester Football Award in 1961, the IAABO Board Coach Award in 1966 and the NYS Coaches' Association Special Honor Award in 1970.



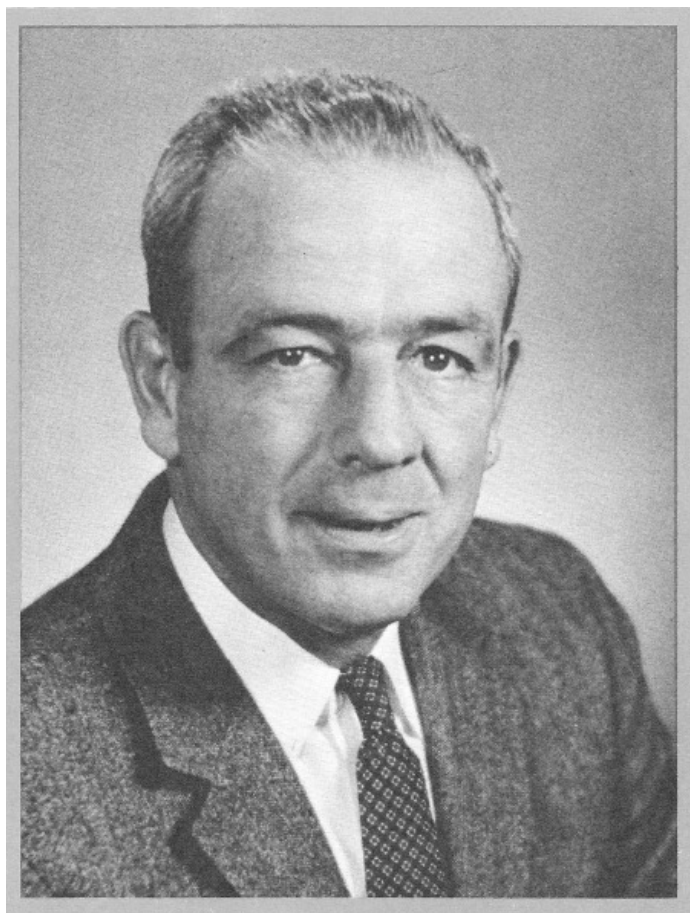
Captains Tiberio (kneeling) and Meyers, Coach Cummings.

Photo and caption from the 1954 FHS Hourglass yearbook



Coach Cummings has also been inducted into both the Monroe County Athletics Hall of Fame, and the SUNY Cortland Hall of Fame.

The Fairport community was so grateful for all that Joe Cummings had done for their athletics that the football field was named in memory of him on September 10, 1994, almost a year before the anniversary of his death. Cummings has made a lasting impact on the Fairport community and will never be forgotten, as his name is on a plaque (see above photo) by the turf in memory of him and his great accomplishments. Whenever the cheer "Go Raiders!" is heard, the accomplishments of the "original Red Raider" are still thriving.



MR. JOSEPH CUMMINGS

We, the Class of 1966, dedicate this yearbook to you, Mr. Cummings, because you have been such an inspiration to us throughout our high school years. You have taught us something we cannot learn from books. You have taught us to be good school citizens, to help our teams out when they need us the most. Most important, you have taught us what it means to have Fairport spirit. Because you have shared unselfishly your own dynamic spirit, we have become better persons. Your forcefulness at pep assemblies makes us proud to have such a wonderful person as you behind us. This is but a small tribute to your indomitable spirit.

Photo and caption from the 1966 Fairport High School Hourglass yearbook



History of Music Boxes

*Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the
Fairport Historical Museum*

During the holidays, many small music boxes can be found for sale in gift shops and online. A few are made in Europe, but most are from the Far East. Did you know that music boxes have been made for over 200 years, first in Europe and later in the United States?

Presenter Craig Smith helps us travel through time in pictures and music to see how a music box works and how these music boxes developed into large, elaborate instruments. Join in the player piano sing-along with Christmas music as a finale.

Craig Smith has been retired from Xerox for 15 years and has collected and restored music boxes of all types since about 1979. He has restored mechanical musical instruments for several museums, including a rare musical grandfather clock in the Hoffman Clock Museum in Newark, New York. If you have a music box to share, please bring it along.

Raise Money For PHS!

Drop off your deposit cans and bottles to EZ Bottle and Can Return, and tell them you want to donate the deposit to the

Perinton Historical Society

EZ BOTTLE and CAN RETURN

1259 Fairport Road
Fairport, NY 14450
585-377-9140



Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of September 15, 2014

Business (\$100)

Liftbridge Financial Advisors, 6 North Main Street,
Suite 400, Fairport

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories, 33 Chesham Way,
Fairport

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design,
3 Railroad Street, Fairport

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Potter (\$250-\$499)

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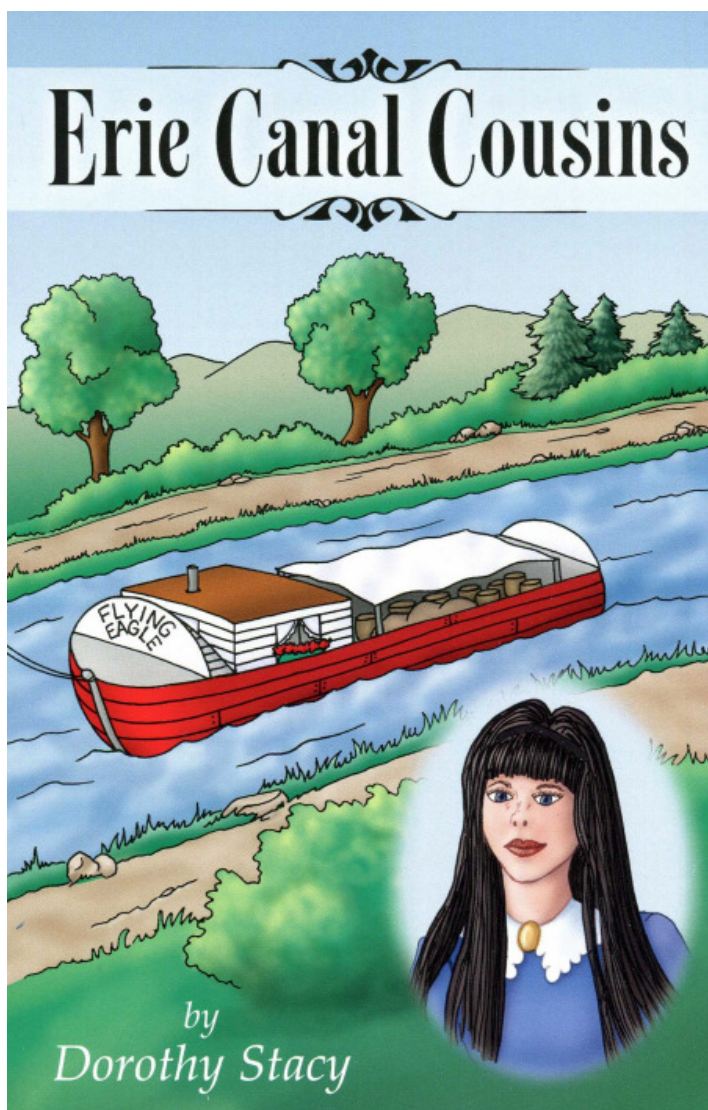


PHS Yuletide Traditions

The Perinton Historical Society holiday fundraiser is here! Donate a decorated artificial tree, wreath or gift basket for silent auctions to benefit the PHS. Registration forms and donation guidelines are available at the Fairport Historical Museum and on our website at www.Perinton-HistoricalSociety.org. Registration ends October 25th. Space is limited. The items donated to the Yuletide Traditions event will be on display November 18–December 9.

Please stop by the Fairport Historical Museum during regular open hours to view and bid on these magnificent holiday items, the proceeds of which will be used to fund educational programs and operation of the Fairport Historical Museum.

Thank you for your support!



Erie Canal Cousins Book Series

The Perinton Historical Society is pleased to welcome childrens' author Dorothy Stacy to the museum for an appearance on Saturday, December 6th. Ms Stacy is the author of the *Erie Canal Cousins* series for middle readers.

Each paperback book sells for \$10, or \$40 for the set of five. Cash or checks are accepted, and signed copies will be available for sale in the museum gift shop. For additional information about Dorothy Stacy, please visit her website, www.DorothyStacy.com.

ERIE CANAL COUSINS (Book 1)

Join Rose, Charles, and the Finnegan family aboard the Flying Eagle, as they travel on the Erie Canal from Albany to Utica, New York. Share in their adventures and listen to their story as they take a trip on the canal boat in the year 1840. The canal is alive with colorful boats, prosperous towns, booming businesses, and interesting sights. It is where locks, low bridges, mules, and towpaths are a part of everyday life. *Erie Canal Cousins* is the story of a 13 year old girl living at this time, learning how to make her way in the world. It is full of family life, humor, and growing friendships.

THREE WEEKS IN UTICA (Book 2)

13 year old Rose Stewart is in Utica where she must face the challenge of another new place, new relatives, and endless work. Overwhelmed and homesick, she befriends a neighbor girl, and starts to feel better about her situation until Seth and Samuel, Maggie's older brothers, appear—giving Rose more to fret about. Rose discovers the prosperity and beauty of 1840s Utica when she visits the Clinton Market, tours the city, attends a frolic at one of its many mansions, and picnics on the banks of the Erie Canal. Farm life in 1840 was hard work, but people took time for enjoyable neighborly activities. Rose learns how to quilt, participates in a quilting bee and makes butter. She clashes with Maggie's brother, Seth, and makes a new friend of Maggie's other brother, Samuel.

ALBANY HOMECOMING (Book 3)

Rose is back on the Erie Canal on the Flying Eagle, returning to Albany with her cousins, the Finnegans. After many enjoyable experiences on the boat, an unexpected crisis arises as they near Albany, causing everyone distress. The story continues in Albany where you will meet Rose's Mama, Papa, her sister Cassie, and brothers, Robert and Caleb. You will spend a day with Rose in a one-room schoolhouse and learn some tidbits about early Albany.

CANAL TOWN CHRISTMAS (Book 4)

Join the Stewarts as they celebrate the special days of Thanksgiving and Christmas. When an unexpected guest arrives, the Stewarts learn some new customs, have tons of adventures along the way and cope with the limitations of living in the 1840s.

STARS OVER BUFFALO (Book 5)

This is the last book in the *Erie Canal Cousins* Series. In it, Rose travels with some of her cousins, west of Utica on the Erie Canal, passing through the cities of Rome, Syracuse ("Salt City"), the scary Montezuma Swamp, Rochester ("Flour City"), Lockport (famous five locks), and Buffalo. They also get to see dramatic Niagara Falls, a new attraction at that time.

The College at Brockport's Saturday of Service

On Saturday, August 23rd, 29 students from The College at Brockport–SUNY arrived at the Fairport Historical Museum, eager to help out for their *Saturday of Service*. The students dusted, swept and polished nearly every inch of the museum until it sparkled. We appreciate their enthusiasm and hard work.

This was the fifth annual *Saturday of Service* event for SUNY Brockport, and the second in which the Perinton Historical Society participated. The program requires first-year and transfer students to complete two hours of community service before their first day of classes. Students had the ability to choose the organization they wanted to assist, from more than 48 participating organizations.



Photo by Vicki Masters Profitt



What a Mess!

Looking west toward Fairport's old Main Street bridge in 1913.

Photo from the archives of the Perinton Historical Society

Celebrating 100 Years of Fairport's Lift Bridge AGAIN!

Due to the overwhelming response to September's program featuring the hundredth anniversary of our lift bridge, we have scheduled an encore presentation at the Fairport Historical Museum at 7:00 p.m. on October 21st. All are welcome to attend, especially those turned away in September due to the overflow crowd. Learn more about this structure's history and enjoy some fascinating stories.

This unique lift bridge, on the village of Fairport's Main Street, has allowed pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles passage over the Erie Canal since August of 1914 and has captivated residents and visitors alike for an entire century. 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 presentation might be the last opportunity in many years to learn about our iconic, local landmark.

Fairport artist Susan Prener will again be on hand to discuss and sign copies of her new watercolor painting, *100 Years of Lift Bridge Inspiration*. These exclusive copies, which are available only through the Perinton Historical Society, are being sold at the museum's gift shop. The 8x10-inch prints are \$18.00 each. The 11x14s are selling for \$30.00.

The Perinton Historical Society wishes to express its appreciation to Susan Prener for her generous donation of the original artwork.

“Access for All AV System” Grant Awarded

The Perinton Historical Society Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the award of a \$12,500 Historic Preservation grant through the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

The grant reward will be utilized by the PHS to purchase technological equipment, which will not only record the educational presentations held in the downstairs program room, but will also allow the presentations to be viewed upstairs simultaneously for those unable to maneuver the stairwell. When not in use for presentations, the monitors will play recorded loops of upcoming events and information about the PHS and the collections of the museum.

The Perinton Historical Society is honored to be the recipient of this RACF Historic Preservation grant.

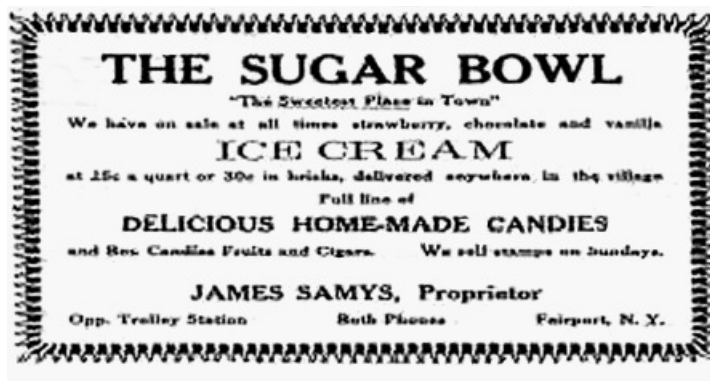
With Appreciation for Our Museum Volunteers

We would like to thank recently retired museum volunteers Sally Connors and Milly Blaylock for their years of service. Both women have been volunteers for many years, working together on the first Sundays of each month. They have our best wishes and appreciation for a job well done.

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 Saturday mornings 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 contact our Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Scheirer at dscheir1@rochester.rr.com for more information, and include “FHM” in the subject line.



Photo by Vicki Masters Profit



~ Looking Back ~

A Hundred Years Ago this Month

Ad appearing in the October 7, 1914 issue of the Fairport Herald

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 5, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

House Tour: Roselawn Avenue

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

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Encore program: *Celebrating 100 Years of Fairport's Lift Bridge*, presented by Bill Poray

Tuesday, November 18, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

PHS Yuletide Traditions

Opening bids accepted for silent auction holiday items

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Program: History of Music Boxes

Presenter: Craig Smith

Saturday, December 6, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Book signing by children's author Dorothy Stacy

She will be signing copies of her *Erie Canal Cousins* series

Tuesday, December 9, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

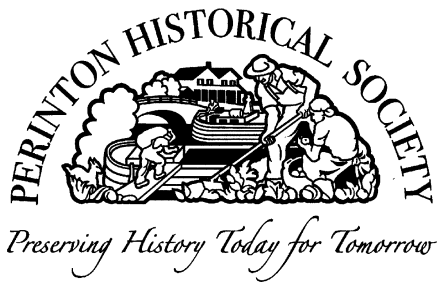
PHS Yuletide Traditions final bids accepted for silent-auction holiday items. Silent auction winners will be announced at the conclusion of the evening's program.

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Program: Annual Holiday Party. Please bring a dessert to pass.

Note: All programs now begin at 7:00 p.m.



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1976 interior photograph of the Fairport Public Library,
now home of the Perinton Historical Society

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.	Tuesday 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Sunday 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