

Baptists, Congregationalists and Piety Hill

By Bill Poray

Former resident Ida Dougherty Aylward penned an essay published in the Fairport Herald in 1933, recalling her childhood years in Fairport. Born in 1879, her family made their home on "Piety Hill" at 199 South Main Street. Both Ida and her husband, William Aylward were artists, and were longtime residents of Port Washington, Long Island, where she died in 1955. The edited text below is the second installment of her 1933 essay.

At the age of eight I was for some reason presented in the educational world. Miss Adelaide Archer, adorned with a white apron, tied with dazzling yellow satin ribbons, received me and inspired me with an admiring devotion that has continued until the present instant. She had a very enterprising personality, original and ingenious, and employed several kindergarten gadgets that struck our favorable attention.

I had been well prepared for school discipline by my father, one of those rituals I particularly remember. Whenever I received summons from him from any distance, a stentrian "Ida!" I replied promptly, "Yes sir!" and started on a silent run till I presented myself immediately before him with "What, sir?" Neither affected deafness, nor an instant's delay, nor long distance argument was tolerated. My social life now suddenly expanded, both by schoolmates and a number of children appearing on "Piety Hill" in neighboring houses newly provided, my joy was unbounded.

My first infant affections centered upon a roly-poly of great initiative named Willie Clapp, who was in turn enamored of Mabel Storms. It was characteristic of his enterprise that in the first grade he tendered the first straw ride on his birthday that I had ever heard of. The happy company, properly chaperoned, rode around town in a pung with bags of



Hardick's store on the northwest corner of South Main Street and West Avenue (right side of photo), where Ida Dougherty spent "a good big dollar" on Christmas gifts.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

candy from four to six. Oh celestial affair! I can still hear Willie's perfectly proper protests of regret to my mother at the door when she told him that due to my cold I could not join the reveling band. I have had a good many disappointments but I don't remember anything worse.

In Ella Brigham's second grade I went on the first picnic. The glamour of that expedition is indescribable. It was anticipated for weeks and was a May Day affair. Mabel Storms was elected May Queen and I was one of the maids of honor. "May the smiles of heaven serene rest upon thee, gentle



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

Yesterday, June 14th, was Flag Day—celebrated on that date because the Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States on June 14th, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14th as Flag Day. In August of 1949, National

Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

On the subject of the US flag, be sure to stop by the museum to see the exhibit by Keith Boas, *Flying the Flag*, featuring nearly 100 photos of flags in Fairport and Perinton. The exhibit will be shown until July 30th.

We had a great annual meeting and picnic at the Fellows Road Park with almost 60 in attendance. Fantastic food was shared by all, my own preference being the lemon bars, found on the dessert table, which quickly disappeared. Two Trustees were elected for a new three-year term; Jim Unckless, who has served for over 20 years, and Linda Wiener—reelected as Treasurer. Congratulations to both. Vicki Profitt, Vice President and Director, gave a report on museum happenings over the past year. Thanks for your attendance, and if the numbers continue to grow, we will need a bigger venue.

Another successful Canal Days was held the first weekend of June, with PHS presenting items from the gift shop for sale and handing out information about the museum. Sales from the gift shop amounted to almost \$500, and we have added three new members. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked at the booth on Saturday and Sunday.

In the last *Historigram*, I promised to fill you in on how I'm related to Millard Fillmore, the 13th President. This started when our oldest granddaughter McKenna had to write a report for school on someone from the past and I suggested she write about our relative, President Fillmore. This became quite a challenge in researching the family tree. My great grandfather Charles Hunt was married to Lydia Anne Fillmore and lived their married life in the Town of Milo, which is south of Penn Yan. They are buried in the Milo cemetery along with many other Hunt ancestors. I always thought Millard was a distant uncle, but our research found that he is my cousin three times removed, if my calculations are correct.

- Lydia Anne Fillmore was the daughter of Rev. Asahel Norton Fillmore.
- Asahel Norton Fillmore was the son of Simeon Fillmore.
- Simeon Fillmore was the son of Nathaniel Fillmore I.
- Simeon Fillmore was brother to Nathaniel Fillmore II.

- Nathaniel Fillmore II was the father of Millard Fillmore.
- So Simeon was uncle to Millard Fillmore, and his son Asahel was a cousin.
- The father of Nathaniel Fillmore I was John Fillmore II.

John Fillmore I was born in Manchester, England about 1676 and married Abigail Tilton of Ipswich, MA on June 19, 1701. They were wed in Hampton Falls, N.H.

John loved the sea and was called "John the Mariner." John was often at sea and while on a voyage, homeward bound, was taken captive by a French frigate and carried as a prisoner into Martinique, where he suffered incredible hardships. Ultimately, redeemed and again on the way home via boat, he was poisoned with others by the French and died in 1711. He was buried at sea.

I will continue next month on the capture of John Fillmore II by pirates and the interesting outcome. He obviously survived or I would not be here to tell the story.

Thanks for your continued support of PHS, and we will chat again next month.

Bob Hunt, President
585-415-7053, rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



Recent visitors to our museum from Belgium
Photo by Vicki Masters Profitt

Belgians Visit the FHM

Theresa and Freddy Michiels, who hail from Ghent, Belgium, visited the museum on April 25th. The Michiels are retired schoolteachers who have four daughters, two of whom live in Belgium, one who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and another who resides in Fairport. They had enjoyed spending a week with their daughter in North Carolina before arriving in Fairport for their first visit. They saw many sights during their stay in the United States, and were very impressed with our museum.



Left: Seth Weidman. Center: Bill Poray—coordinator, PHS Scholarship Program. Right: Daniel Smith

2015 PHS Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Seth Weidman and Daniel Smith, winners of the 2015 Perinton Historical Society Scholarship! Seth's winning paper detailed the history of Fairport's First Congregational Church. Daniel's submission discussed the involvement of Perinton citizens in the Underground Railroad.

Seth Weidman will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology, and Daniel Smith will attend John Carroll University. Each school will receive \$1,000 to be applied toward the student's tuition.

Thanks to Fairport-Perinton Dollars for Scholars for their support, and a special thanks to all who have contributed to the scholarship fund.

Technology Committee Seeks Volunteers!

We are in need of volunteers, one evening a month to activate our new-fangled TV and video set up prior to the monthly program presentation. Volunteers will have to be at the museum the whole evening, approximately two hours. Training will be provided. We want to recruit at least six people so that the volunteers are not over scheduled. One of the volunteers already doing the job would be glad to talk with you and provide details.

If you are interested, please respond at—
info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org

Or call the museum at—
585-223-3989 and leave a message.

Thank you,
The Technology Committee

HISTORIGRAM

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Editor: Bill Poray Art Director: Keith Boas
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Perinton's Earliest Settlers Illuminated in Cemetery Tour

The 6th annual Illuminated History cemetery tour took place on June 16th. The event featured three historic Perinton burying grounds – Egypt Cemetery, Perinton Center Cemetery and Schummers Cemetery. Fifteen actors portrayed the eternal residents of the cemeteries. The tour took place at the Fairport Historical Museum.



Photo of Doug Whitney (Jesse Perrin)
by Eric Matson

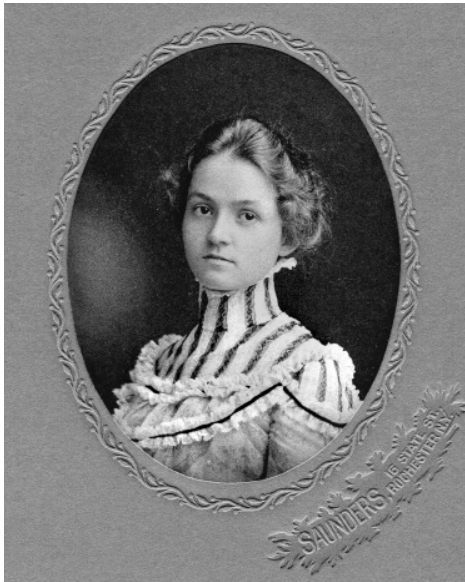
Vicki Profitt extends her appreciation to the actors, all of whom did incredible jobs in their portrayals: Doug Whitney as Jesse Perrin, Anne Johnston as Mary Hubbell Northrop, May Thomson as Susan "Suza" Walkup Aldrich, Dave Scheirer as Cyrus Packard, Wes Harris as Oliver Loud, Bob Hunt as James Hannan, Cindy Hunt as Lucretia Packard Hannan, Anica Harris as Lucy Ramsdell Lapham, Suzanne Lee as Irena Cady Ellsworth, Craig and Charlotte Caplan as Leander Carney and Bridget Carney Maloney, Sue Scheirer as Delia Northrop Treadwell, Cheri Branca as Ann Larwood, Lucy McCormick as Lucy Lapham Bortle and Denise McLaughlin as Deva Ellsworth. Special thanks to Suzanne Lee for script writing and tour planning.

Next year's cemetery tour will focus on Mount Pleasant Cemetery to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Soldiers Monument, placed there in 1866 to honor 30 Civil War soldiers who died in service to their country.

qu-e-e-n!" we caroled, after school, practicing the art of crowning. The day finally dragged in sight. We walked a mile, along the towpath, to Ayrault's woods and passed a hilarious and blissful day, crowning the little queen, being shown the "minnies" in the brook by the boys, discovering the exotic mandrake blooms, and the center clearing of smooth grass with one tree in the center, as if for Robin Hood. On the edge of this wood dwelt bona-fide Indians, moreover, a mere mild trio engaged in basket-weaving from sweet grass, but the objects of prolonged and awed stares nevertheless.

Mabel Storms, May Queen and Ida's rival for the affection of the boys.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society



Fairport picnics however, from my point of view, finally fell into three classes, boat rides, Sunday school and Fourth of July. The launches were owned by the Cobb and DeLand families and they were both very generous in offering them for festive occasions. For hours upon hours happy, singing young folks sped up the peaceful meandering Erie, usually to Palmyra and back, leaving at sunset and coming back by moonlight. People travelled very little in those days and in general knew even less about sports.

The rival Sunday schools however threw quite high bids on the table at times. The Congregational school once travelled to Niagara Falls, the peak of pious accomplishment. There were many excursions to Charlotte, Irondequoit Bay and Sea Breeze, all being ideal occasions for infants with pails and shovels and greedy stares. So glamorous were they I am surprised that I survived the excitement of it all. When these objectives were exhausted the picnics settled down to more hum-drum routes to picnic grounds in fairly near woods and orchards. But there were always huge swings set up, and many sports arranged, and the climax of dinner never palled. Many children carried on the racket of trading invitations to these picnics, appearing at them all in turn. Occasionally it

incurred heart burnings, as I remember the despair with which Congregational children were forced to regard a Baptist child of twelve win a two-pound box of candy in the "girls' race" and carry it smugly home unopened to be consumed privately by no one but Baptists. We children all had our views about the quality of the dinners. I have no doubt that the Baptists had their own preferences to off-set my conviction that Congregational cakes had quite a different texture, and finer grain than Baptist cakes.

The 4th of July picnic was a closed corporation, for it was confined to a few families on Piety Hill, and usually held in the grove of my own home, now known as "The Elms." The Fourth was a greater holiday than Christmas to me. On the night before, I went to bed with a string fastened to my toe and hanging entirely to the ground from my upstairs window. Kate Pratt instituted this rite and she it was who arose at 4 a.m. and came over and jerked the string, that we children might all begin as early as possible to improve the shining hours of the day of days. We had made several idiotic contraptions from the American Girls and Boys Handy Book, which didn't work, but nothing could dampen our burning enthusiasm. The burning wheel of that Day rolled on its glorious course, sparking and banging, with rests for food and lemonade in the cool lovely grove where our parents sat and "visited" about the hundred interests they had in common.

Then finally sunset and slow darkness stole over till the wide prospect spread out before us, and the Roman candles and rockets below with their astonishing shower of stars and sparks commenced to ravish our souls as we sat on the broad verandah and ate the ice cream which was an epoch in itself. Finally obliged to mount for bed at ten, I kneeled at the window till midnight to see the last rocket, to drain the last bubbling drop of that day's golden wine. I know now that no holidays can be like that in after life, even in the world's most beautiful places.

I remember one Fourth when the family across the road, who dared not to be Congregationalists, elected to entertain a large company of Christian Brethren. On the shady side of the house they sat, in a large ring of chairs, those innocent strangers, singing hymns and praising the Lord, who must have been surprised to be noticed on that particular afternoon. They were modestly concealed from the road by low trees and bushes, and after crossing the road in our delighted gaze, one of the picnickers, Gardner Bown, stealthily made his way through the bushes with a large bunch of fire-crackers and a long fuse. Nicely calculating the time, he put them under a chair and made a quick get-away. As the good people were anticipating the end of the world at any moment, and may well have had it in mind at the time, the ensuing uproar from immediately under them may have given them a worse jolt than we realized, for there was a beautiful pandemonium.

Fairport entertainments were never of a very remarkable order, if the truth be faced. It was of course the Congrega-



Boys race down Main Street during 4th of July festivities.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

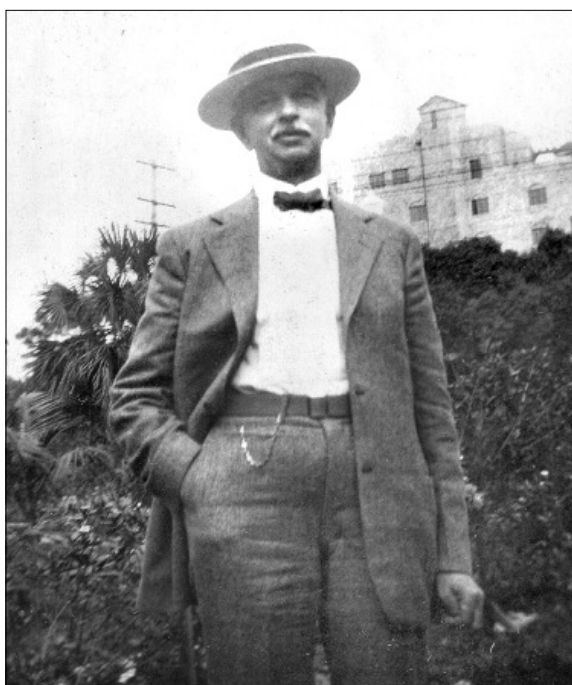


Left:
Adelaide Archer, the author's first teacher

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

Below:
Fireworks prankster Gardner Bown

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society



tionalists with their superior caste texture and complex, who purchased the first stereopticon and arranged a series of these, with the stereopticon playing the star role in four out of six. It was a very superior stereopticon costing all of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and naturally the enterprising pastor, George F. Waters, was "Bruton Holmes." With enormous interest did I accompany him on these European journeys, beside my parents, in the unwonted darkness of the church! But alas! The stereopticon's nose was completely broken after a brief two seasons.

Fairport was convulsed by the advent of a Y.M.C.A. On the fair stage of its gymnasium in the resplendent new Bown block, appeared not only home talent in the superior waving motions of Delsarte and Indian club performances but also artists of well-known circuits, and no doubt quite as good as could be financed on our limited resources. Rochester was not easily gone to in those days. Two good miles did our family walk in a blizzard, to and from the station, to a night performance there of "Elijah", conducted by young Walter Damrosch who had newly inherited his father's orchestra.

Everyone travelled to Rochester in those days on twenty-five cent round trip tickets issued by the P. Cox shoe factory. This racket must have been winked at by the railroads, as it was so general; and perhaps it did not seem so cheap at the time, as the regular wage of the Cox workers was one dollar a day, and I used to wonder what they could possibly do with so much money. No one thought it necessary then for children to have spending money. My father offered me, purely to inculcate thrift and order, two cents a dozen for all the pins I found on the floor. This soon developed into the hired girl's calling me to extract them from her dust pan after sweeping the brussels carpets. No dressmaking was done at home, and by Christmas time, after one year of dust panning I had never amassed more than one dollar. But it was a good big dollar, not a rag of green paper, and was spent riotously for gifts at Hardick's.



Village of Fairport— Historic Resource Survey

Submitted by Fritz May, Mayor, Village of Fairport

The Fairport Historic Preservation Commission (FHPC) was established in June 2007, when the village board passed a local Historic Preservation law and created the Commission. In the past eight years, the FHPC designated for preservation, more than 30 structures, properties and hitching posts as it fulfills its mission to protect, enhance and perpetuate Fairport landmarks in a manner consistent with our changing society. It has now received the results of an epic survey of historic properties within Fairport that will likely have a dramatic influence on historic preservation efforts in the village for the next 20 years.

The FHPC designates a structure only when it meets at least one of five criteria outlined in the law. These criteria are clearly seen in those structures that have been designated. A few examples: The Deland House (Green Lantern Inn) with its special character and historic value; The Abner Wight house (home of an early settler); the Martin Wood house (best example of a Greek Revival in Fairport); Rochester Telephone Building (designed by renowned architect J. Foster Warner) and the lift bridge (which is uniquely Fairport).

While the FHPC designation of individual structures has successfully preserved many important landmarks, a new approach was taken in early 2014. A survey of historic properties was commissioned—something that had not been done on a systematic basis since 1976.

The FHPC hired Bero Architecture of Rochester to conduct the survey with additional research by members of the FHPC. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development funded it. Besides identifying all buildings with historic and/or architectural significance within the village limits, Bero was asked to make recommendations on protecting these important village resources.

The survey, delivered by Bero to the FHPC last fall, identified more than 100 structures that would be appropriate for local designation, of which about 30 had potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Bero also commended Fairport for its vigorous designation efforts. But it also found that Fairport lacked a preservation tool used by many communities in New York to drive income tax benefits to its residents—the use of historic districts.

Owners of designated structures have realized many benefits from the designation. Studies show that local designation of landmarks can stabilize and often increase property value. Landmark status can increase sale potential and loan value due to lending institutions' perception of greater value. There is also the gratification in owning an identified structure of architectural and/or historic integrity. Designation insures that the building's special historic, architectural or cultural

character will be protected from destructive or insensitive rehabilitation in the future.

Owners of properties on the National Historic Register, however, have the potential to be eligible for both New York State and Federal income tax credits for rehabilitation work on their historic structures—many qualify for a tax incentive of 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of structures, up to a credit value of \$50,000. A property can be placed on the national registry either by individual application or by inclusion in a National Register Historic District.

For more information on preservation visit the village website at: www.fairportny.com or www.perintonhistoricalso-ciety.org, under "Village Preservation".



2015 PHS House Tour— A Blast from the Past

"Every day, promptly at 5:30, youngsters in Potter Place troop into the Harvey Ulrich home at 67 to view 'Howdy Doody' on television. Mr. Ulrich mans the set; Mrs. Ulrich passes carrot strips."—*Rochester Times-Union, February 8, 1950.*

Well, Howdy Doody has folded his scarf and strings. But Potter Place remains as lovely and welcoming as ever. The PHS House Tour committee has been busy visiting the seven homes on tour, Sunday, October 4, 1–5 pm. Mark your calendar—and please consider volunteering as a house docent for a two-hour shift. You don't need to be a history or architecture whiz to guide visitors through a house: You'll get training a week or two before the tour at the home you will staff, and you'll meet many wonderful people. If interested, contact Elaine Lanni at eellaannii@gmail.com or call the museum at 223-3989. You won't even have to pass carrot strips!

Boy Scout Chris Grace Awarded Eagle Rank

Chris Grace, of Scout Troop 208, was awarded the Eagle rank in a court of honor at the museum on April 25th. Chris earned the community service portion of his Eagle rank by painting the program room in the museum's lower level during the summer of 2013. The ceremony was conducted in the program room, followed with a reception on the main level. Nearly 60 people attended. Well done, Chris!



Chris Grace is flanked by his father, Pat and brother, Kevin, who has also attained his Eagle Scout rank. *Photo by Vicki Masters Proffitt*

Multi-Generational Show & Tell

Suzanne Lee of Suzanne Lee Personal Histories and Taylor Whitney of Preserving the Past, LLC, held their second Show & Tell at the museum on Saturday, May 9th. Interesting items were displayed and discussed by the 15 attendees at the event. Democrat & Chronicle blogger Missy Rosenberry was one of the attendees, and introduced the group to her family's tradition of removing their shoes and socks and wading in the snow while taking photos of their very cold feet.



Photo by Missy Rosenberry



Flying the Flag— A Fairport Tradition

The *Flying the Flag* exhibit by photographer Keith Boas runs through July 30th at the museum. Admission is free. Check the back page of this issue for the hours when the museum is open.

Pictured above is the home of PHS members Connie and Bill Foster at 20 Woodlawn Avenue. *Photo made in 2008.*

Special Recognition Level Memberships—As of June 18, 2015

Business (\$100)

Ed Bradford, Liftbridge Financial Advisors
6 North Main Street, Suite 400w, Fairport
Website: <http://liftbridgefinancial.com>

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories
33 Chesham Way, Fairport
Phone: 585-267-6189

Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design
3 Railroad Street, Fairport
Website: <http://www.tpsigns.com>

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith
103 North Main Street, Fairport
Phone: 585-388-0112
Website: <http://www.thefvi.com>

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty
2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-303-6607
Website: <http://bobruhland.yourkwagent.com>

Potter (\$250-\$499)

Frank and Catherine Angevine



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Greenbrier Garden Club Plant Sale— A Blooming Success

The Greenbrier Garden Club held their plant sale on the sidewalk of the Fairport Historical Museum on Saturday, May 9th. The members did a wonderful job cultivating many different varieties of plants that were then made available for this annual event. The Greenbrier is also responsible for tending the gardens at the museum.

Photo by Vicki Masters Proffitt



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 10:00 a.m.–Noon	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