

18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

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## The Big Celebration Old Home Week of 1908



*By Bill Poray*

*"The citizens of the Village of Fairport and Town of Perinton, New York, earnestly request the pleasure of your company during OLD HOME WEEK, August second to eighth, nineteen hundred eight. The entire seven days will be taken up with pleasant reunions, concerts, parades, picnics, and many other events that will be of especial interest to all."*

From an advertisement for *Old Home Week*

Before Canal Days, our community celebrated Village Days, but long before that, was the first, really big celebration. Several communities in New York and nearby states had held Old Home Week celebrations in 1905 and 1906. Buffalo's Old Home Week in 1907 was widely praised in the Fairport and Rochester press, and may have been a force in the decision to hold a similar event in Fairport.

Fairport's Old Home Week of 1908 began on Sunday, August 2nd, with a packed agenda through Saturday, August 8th. Electrical engineer Albert Clark brought the village to life, with thousands of electric lights illuminating the big celebration. The triple arch over the old Main Street canal bridge, with the slogan of the week, "Fairport Extends the Glad Hand," incorporated more than one thousand bulbs. At the Town Hall, today's Village Hall on South Main Street, a thirty foot long illuminated sign featured two foot high letters, with the message, "Home Sweet Home." More than two thousand light bulbs were strung in a zig-zag pattern on Main Street, from Church Street almost to DeLand Park, near Whitney Road.

Even before the celebration began, large crowds gathered during the evening of Saturday August 1st, to witness the lights when they were first turned on. The DeLand Band played several selections from the Town Hall balcony, then marched north, across the bridge, and on to DeLand Park, as thousands of people followed. A good start, considering the week-long celebration did not officially begin until the following morning.



More than one thousand light bulbs illuminated the triple arch over Fairport's old Main Street Bridge, which featured the slogan, "Fairport Extends the Glad Hand."

Town Historian Bill Poray will host the PHS program on November 21st. It is based on a virtual tour of Fairport and Perinton, penned for the souvenir book for the **Old Home Week** celebration of 1908, and will also feature images and surprising stories about the big event. Check the **Upcoming Programs & Events** listings on page 3 for more information.



~ Bob Hunt ~

## Comments from your President

October 15th: I'm not sitting in my carriage barn office this month as I write my comments, because last Tuesday as I was descending the steps on our back patio, I stepped on wet and slippery pressure-treated wood, and before I knew it, my toes were in front of my nose and down I went. I broke my femur

below the left hip joint. After surgery on Wednesday, recovery and therapy on Thursday and Friday, I returned home on Saturday. The femur was repaired with a pin which allows the leg to be weight-bearing right away. I can navigate with a walker, although not too quickly at this point. So this month I'm writing from an easy chair in our living room using a laptop computer.

Prior to my spill, at the end of September we drove to Abingdon, Virginia for a four day, five night Roads Scholar bike trip on the Virginia Creeper Trail. It is a 34 mile recreation trail from Abingdon to the North Carolina border, about a mile past the Whitetop Station. The route began as a Native American trail and later was used by Daniel Boone as he explored westward. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a railroad was constructed from Abingdon to Elkland, North Carolina, for the purpose of hauling lumber, iron ore and passengers. The railroad's nickname, Virginia Creeper, came from the early steam engines that struggled to climb the steep mountain grades. The last train ran on March 31, 1977.

Less than a century after the railroad arrived the Virginia Creeper again became a quiet trail. However, with the help of volunteers and local and federal governments, the Creeper became a National Recreational Trail. The route traverses through some of the most rugged and picturesque scenery in western Virginia and is lauded as one of the most beautiful trails in the United States. The Virginia Creeper travels along several streams and creeks over its 34 miles, crosses over 47 bridges and trestles, and for about a mile shares the same space as the Appalachian Trail. We found the four days of riding fairly easy. The first day's ride from Whitetop to Damascus descended in elevation from 3,576 feet to 1,930 feet, basically a 17 mile downhill coast on your bicycle. The 17 participants of the trip stayed at the 4-H Camp in Abingdon, which we found very comfortable with good meals supplied. Bicycles were provided by an outfitter in Damascus and we were accompanied by two guides who entertained us with history and tales of the trail and area. The many streams and creeks we crossed appeared to be great opportunities for trout fishing, and proved so when one of our riders from Oklahoma, an avid fly fisherman, tossed some crushed cheese

cracker from one of the trestles into the pool below, turning the surface into a frenzy of feeding trout. One was easily 15-18 inches in length.

Barbara Kingsolver, an American novelist, essayist and poet who wrote *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, *The Poisonwood* and several other books, lives in Abingdon and owns The Harvest Table Restaurant in the area, where we enjoyed one of our evening meals. All food served is locally caught, raised, or grown. I enjoyed a brook trout caught that day. Another evening, we went to the historic Barter Theater in Abingdon to view the play *Sherlock Holmes*. Overall it was an enjoyable trip, including our return to Fairport, where our route included portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive.

Once again, my thanks to Ann Castle and her committee for the PHS scarecrow erected for the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association Scarecrow Festival. And we can't forget the determined efforts of the House Tour Committee, chaired by Elaine Lanni, for yet another very successful event. It looks like I'd better clear my schedule for multiple trips to Moonlight Creamery with these hardworking PHS volunteers.

Thanks to all for your continued support of the Perinton Historical Society; it is appreciated.

Bob

Rhunt356.rh@gmail.com / 585-415-7053



## Perinton Historical Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>Vice President</i>	Vicki Profit
<i>Secretary</i>	Doug Whitney
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
<i>Communications</i>	Pat May

### TRUSTEES

Keith Boas	Lucy McCormick
Bill Poray	Jim Unckless
David Wild	George Wolf

### MUSEUM

<i>Director</i>	Vicki Profit
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## HISTORIGRAM

*Published nine months per year by the  
Perinton Historical Society*

Editor: Bill Poray      Art Director: Keith Boas  
Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless  
Proofreading: Irene Poray



# Upcoming Programs & Events

**Tuesday, November 21st, 4:00–9:00 p.m.**

**At the museum**

Event: *PHS Yuletide Traditions*

Opening bids accepted for silent auction items

**Tuesday, November 21st, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**At the museum**

Program: *Little Journeys to Pleasant Places*

Presenter: Bill Poray (See page 7 for more details.)

Registration is required for this event. To register, please visit or leave a message at the museum at 585-223-3989 or by emailing [Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org). Leave your name, phone number, number of attendees and the time of the presentation for which you are registering (5:00 or 7:00 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 3rd, 2:30–3:30 p.m.**

**At the museum**

The Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble of the Eastman Community Music School. Come listen to the beautiful sounds of the hammered dulcimer.

**Saturday, December 9th, 10:30–11:30 a.m.**

**At the museum**

Book signing: *On Pins and Needles: A Christmas Tale*

Author: Carole R. Young

Illustrator: Mary Lynn Miraglia

Meet the author and illustrator of *On Pins and Needles: A Christmas Tale*, selling for \$9.95. Cash and checks accepted.

**Sunday, December 10th, 2:30–3:30 p.m.**

**At the museum**

Book signing: *My Heroes and Their Stories of Survival*

Author: Patrick J. Bastow, D.D.S.

Meet author Patrick J. Bastow as he discusses and signs copies of his book about America's veterans.

\$15.00. Cash and checks accepted.

**Tuesday, December 12th, 6:00–7:00 p.m.**

**At the museum**

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

**Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m.**

**At the museum**

*A Jane Austen Christmas: Yuletide Traditions during the Regency Era*

Presenter: Lisa Brown

Please bring a dessert to pass.

Check the December *Historigram* for additional special events occurring during our *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser!



## Susan B. Makes Yet Another Appearance in Fairport!

You may have noticed Susan B. Anthony sitting behind a layer cake on Main Street, just steps away from the entrance to the Village Landing. Her presence was the work of this year's PHS scarecrow team, whose creation celebrated 100 years of Women's Suffrage in New York. The 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, granted suffrage for U.S. women, but the state of New York had granted women the right to vote three years earlier.

This year's scarecrow team included Sue Broda, Ann and Harold Castle, Sharon Catanese, Anne Johnston, Lucy McCormick, Dave and Sue Scheirer, Sue Templeton, and May Thomson.

## We Need You!

Museum volunteers work one shift per month greeting and assisting visitors. New volunteers are paired with veterans for each shift, and training is provided. We are always looking for new volunteers to staff the museum, and especially need volunteers on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00–4:00 p.m.

If you can give of your time just a few hours a month, please contact PHS Volunteer Coordinator Sue Scheirer by phone at 585-377-3789 or at [dscheir1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dscheir1@rochester.rr.com).

We look forward to adding you to our volunteer roster!



A total of forty fire companies and thirteen bands marched in the Fireman's Parade on Thursday morning of Old Home Week. Here the 54th Regiment Band posed for a photograph in front of the Parce mansion at 137 North Main Street.



Tuesday's Old Home Week activities included trotting races laid out on a course on Church Street. In the evening, relay horse races started from Webster, Macedon, Pittsford, and East Rochester, with the finish line on Main Street in Fairport.



## Yuletide Traditions 2017

Beginning November 21th and ending December 12th, visitors to the museum will have the opportunity to bid on beautiful gift baskets, wreaths and tabletop Christmas trees that have been decorated and donated for silent auctions by members of our community, organizations and businesses. All proceeds from the silent auctions benefit the Perinton Historical Society and support its educational programs and the operation of the museum.



A silent auction item from 2016  
Photo by Keith Boas

**Note: The registration deadline for individual or organization donations has been extended from October 21st to November 1st.**



A nice sunny Sunday graced our annual House Tour this year, as members toured several beautiful homes and the Inn on Church. Special thanks to the House Tour Committee, and the home/inn owners who graciously opened their doors to our members.



Balloon ascensions by aeronaut Raymond Jewell of Philadelphia were scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Old Home Week. The first flight was aborted when a parachute attached to the balloon broke when only a few feet off the ground. The next flight was a success, lifting Jewell some four hundred feet off the ground, until he drifted slowly back to Earth about a mile east of the village. In a later flight that reached five hundred feet, a gust of wind took Jewell toward the canal, where he crashed to a landing on the canal bridge at Turk Hill Road, barely escaping injury.

Over the course of the week, there were baseball games and other athletic events, picnic lunches for thousands, speeches by New York State officials, and fireworks. Band concerts were held morning and night. Fireman's Day included dozens of companies competing in inspections, hose and hook and ladder races, and band competitions. The alumni of Fairport schools held special events and meetings, and at night hundreds danced to Moll's Orchestra in the decorated public room on the second floor of the Town Hall.

Throughout the week, DeLand Park, where today's streets named DeLand Park A and B are located, was the center of activities with thousands present from morning to night.

In total, attendance for the week's events were estimated at 40,000. By all measures, Fairport's Old Home Week was a grand success.







Norma Smith Weisbrod stands beside her brothers, Stephen and Pierce Smith, in front of 106 Hulburt Road.

## *Fairport Historical Museum News*

### **MR. SMITH GOES TO FAIRPORT**

In mid-October, three members of the Smith family converged upon Fairport and Pittsford in their first trip to this area. Stephen and Pierce Smith and their sister, Norma Smith Weisbrod, came from San Francisco and Wisconsin on a genealogical trip to visit the area their ancestors called home. Their great-great grandfather, David Wooster Smith, was an undertaker in Pittsford. Another relative, Adela Smith Marsh Hulburt, resided at the current Douglas and Susan Angevine residence on Hulburt Road with her second husband, Thomas L. Hulburt.

After spending the night at the Del Monte Lodge in Pittsford, the trio and a local cousin, Susie Summers, were shown

the sites by museum director Vicki Masters Proffitt. They visited the Pittsford Cemetery, where 24 members of their family are buried, and saw the house at 16 North Main Street in which their relative Lemuel D. Smith lived. A tour of Pittsford village, a visit to Historic Pittsford's Little House and a walk on Schoen Place also took place before the group headed to Fairport.

Following lunch at Riki's, the Smiths were treated to a wonderful personal tour of the Hulburt house (left photo) given by Douglas and Susan Angevine. Stephen, Pierce and Norma were very impressed with the care the Angevines have taken with the house during their 43 years in residence. The Angevines, also natives of Wisconsin, even had Wisconsin Badgers-themed snacks available for their visitors!



The next stop was to the Potter Memorial to see the brick (above) placed in honor of Susie's late husband, David W. Summers, a Vietnam veteran and Fairport graduate. A trip to the Fairport Historical Museum was the last visit of the day.

We are so pleased to have had the opportunity to share in this once-in-a-lifetime adventure for Stephen and Pierce Smith, and Norma Smith Weisbrod, and wish them well as they continue their genealogical trek.



**David Wooster Smith** was born in Clinton, New York, in 1811, the child of David and Sylvia Martin Smith. After David's arrival in Pittsford in 1839, he worked as a carpenter before becoming an undertaker.

In 1841, David married Hannah Paddock in Penfield. The Smiths had seven children. Their son, Stephen, also became an undertaker, assisting David with his thriving business in Pittsford before moving on to continue undertaking in Washington State. David's funeral parlor was based out of his home on Monroe Avenue, which was later razed to make way for the Atlantic gas station. In his later years, David was confined to a wheelchair due to his severe rheumatism.

David W. Smith died in 1895 and was interred at Pittsford Cemetery. His wife, Hannah Paddock Smith, and four of their seven children are buried beside him.

*Photo courtesy of Susie Carroll Summers*

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## Special Recognition Level Memberships

*As of October 15, 2017*

### Business (\$100)

#### **Barranco's Clothing and Shoes**

32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450,  
Phone: 585-388-1270

#### **Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith**

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450  
Phone: 585-388-0112    <http://www.thefvi.com>

#### **Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty**

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

#### **Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design**

3 Railroad Street, Fairport, NY 14450  
Phone: 585-377-9310    [www.tpsigns.com](http://www.tpsigns.com)

#### **The Inn on Church**

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450  
Phone: 585-678-1106    [www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch](http://www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch)

### New listings for special recognition:

#### **DeLand (\$100-\$249)**

Bill and Irene Poray

#### **Potter (\$250-\$499)**

Fairport Rotary

#### **Perrin (\$500 and above)**

None this month

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#### **Perinton Historical Society**

#### ***Mission***

To provide interest in preserving and sharing local history through education and accessibility.



### *Little Journeys to Pleasant Places:*

## Old Home Week Revisited

### *Presented by*

### *Perinton Historian Bill Poray*

Tuesday, November 21st, at the museum  
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Registration is required.

One hundred nine years ago, the village of Fairport held an enormous week-long event, Old Home Week, for past and present residents of the community, and anyone else who cared to visit. A souvenir booklet was published as part of the celebration, and within this publication is an incredibly informative essay, *Little Journeys to Pleasant Places*. This essay will serve as the foundation for a presentation by Perinton Historian Bill Poray, who will use text from the 1908 essay, along with documents, photographs and insights to provide a unique, historical perspective.

Bill Poray is the official historian for both the town of Perinton and the village of Fairport. He has had a lifelong interest in history, especially local history, sparked by school social studies teachers and his own family's involvement in the Civil War. A retiree of General Motors, Rochester Operations, Bill helped to secure and preserve the site's historic artifacts. He has also been a trustee of the Perinton Historical Society for many years, and is former commissioner of the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission. As Town Historian, he has led walking and bus tours, and given presentations on numerous topics, as well as hosted hundreds of school children each year on field trips to the Fairport Historical Museum and other locations.

### REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Due to the popularity of Bill Poray's programs, we've added a second presentation on the same evening. Please register by emailing [Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org) or leaving a message at 585-223-3989 with your name, phone number, number of attendees and time for which you are registering (5:00 or 7:00 p.m.), or by visiting the museum and leaving the information with a volunteer.

The November 21st program is the only one requiring registration in the months of November and December.





The Perinton Historical Society is the grateful recipient of a generous donation from the owners of Richardson's Canal House, Matthew Hudson and Sarah Czech. The meticulously designed and handcrafted one-of-a-kind model of a packet boat, four feet in length, was made by Howard F. Ameele of Pultneyville in 1979. Mr. Ameele was well-known for his boat and ship models. He died a few months after completing the packet boat, possibly his last creation.

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## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Perinton Historical Society board is so appreciative of the efforts Sue Scheirer has put forth over the past three years as the museum's Volunteer Coordinator position. However, due to increased family obligations, Sue will be stepping down as coordinator in December after the museum closes for the season.

That means the museum is in need of a new Volunteer Coordinator beginning in mid-February, 2018. Interested candidates should be organized, computer literate and good with people. This volunteer position takes about 3-4 hours of time per week, during which the coordinator creates and emails the monthly volunteer schedule, arranges for substitute shifts and trains new volunteers. Several times per year, extra hours are spent planning and implementing volunteer recognition ceremonies and refresher volunteer training courses with the assistance of the museum director.

If you are interested in this position, please email museum director Vicki Masters Profitt at [Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org). First preference will be given to current museum volunteers, but everyone is welcome to apply.

We're  
Searching for  
Volunteers



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## 1962 AND 1967 CLASS REUNIONS

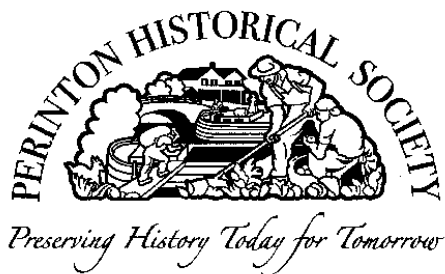
October 7th was a very busy day at the Fairport Historical Museum. We held an open house for the Scarecrow Festival, and also hosted the Fairport High School classes of 1962 and 1967. The combined reunion featured more than 60 members of these graduating classes and their spouses, all of whom had the opportunity to see a presentation given by Perinton Town Historian and PHS trustee Bill Poray.

Paul Corbeil, Vice-President of FHS Class of 1962, was one of our visitors for this special occasion. Paul is shown here with his wife, Karin, holding the name plate belonging to Thomas G. Coffee, Paul's grandfather who was Superintendent of Fairport Schools from 1925 to 1951. The name plate is in the collection of the Perinton Historical Society.

The attendees traveled from all over the country to return home to Fairport for the event. Several attendees even brought Fairport and Perinton items to donate to the museum. Thanks for commemorating your 55th and 50th anniversaries at the Fairport Historical Museum!



On September 11th, a small group of historians representing East Rochester, Fairport, Greece, Irondequoit, Ogden and Palmyra met at the Fairport Historical Museum to discuss a variety of issues pertinent to the running of museums. The discussion included volunteer recruitment, retention and training; technology; accession and de-accession of artifacts and a wide range of other topics. Mostly, it was an opportunity to meet other professionals in the field and share ideas. We look forward to continuing the event on a bi-annual basis and invite members of other museum organizations in the Rochester area to join us.



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Massive crowds attended the festivities at DeLand Park during Old Home Week in August of 1908. (See article, beginning on page 1.)

*All Old Home Week photographs in this issue are from the collection 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 10:00–1:00 p.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](http://www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org)**