

Potter Historic District Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Provided by the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission

In August of 2017, the National Park Service recognized the Potter Historic District by placing it on the National Register of Historic Places. The district encompasses a total of sixteen acres of land in the village that include the Potter mansion, carriage barn, park and residences which were a part of the original Potter Subdivision.

The Potter Historic District met two National Register criteria for designation: The district is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our history, and structures having a distinct architectural style popular during the early 20th century. All the residences within the original Potter subdivision are contributing, indicating a high degree of integrity within the nominated district.

History & Architecture

The area being designated a district was originally owned by the Potters, one of Fairport's most affluent and influential families. Their sixteen-acre estate was a substantial parcel that represented approximately five percent of the acreage of the village. Alfred and Huldah and their three children, Fred, Alice, and Bertha, were a community-minded family, supporting many organizations within the village. They also regularly made their property available for community events (fireworks, games and parties) for the benefit of village residents. The Potters marketed the subdivision to potential upper middle class clients by offering sizeable lots overlooking the park-like setting of their remaining estate with amenities such as sewers, plumbing, electricity and easy access to main roadways.

Continued on page 3



Owners of these homes in the Potter Historic District can now take advantage of the New York State Historic Homeowners Tax Credit program.



Fred Potter willed the Potter home, carriage barn and park acreage to the Village of Fairport in 1943.



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

Happy New Year to everyone in our PHS family. I'm writing my comments early this month, as we are heading south for a couple of weeks, hopefully to warmer weather. That is not always guaranteed, as this past week saw a winter storm, called a "bomb cyclone," travel up the east coast. What makes a storm

a "bomb" is how rapidly the atmospheric pressure falls; falling atmospheric pressure is a characteristic of all storms. In order for a storm to be called a "bomb" the barometric pressure must drop by at least 24 millibars over 24 hours. One will also hear this storm called a bombogenesis. Deep drops in barometric pressure occur when a region of warm air meets another of cold air. The air starts to move, and the rotation of the earth creates a cyclonic effect. The direction is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere (when viewed from above), causing the winds to come out of the northeast—a Nor'easter. Anyways, we just suffered through a very cold week because of this so called "bomb" BRRR.

2017 has been a wonderful year for your Perinton Historical Society. Here is brief summary:

February: Historian Dan Cody kicked off our WWI exhibit with a program on Rochester's participation in the war.

March: A very dedicated group of volunteers started a Thursday morning project of organizing our collections in a way that will make them more user-friendly. This group has continued volunteering for the entire year. Expanded Saturday hours (10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) began in March. Saturday is usually our busiest time at the museum, especially when the Farmer's Market is open.

April: The Village of Fairport celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2017 and a special program was presented at the museum to review our history. Postcards from 1909–1911 went on display. Fairport and Pittsford fourth graders visited the museum. This often results in the students bringing their parents to the museum for a visit.

May: Spring Fling kicked off the canal opening, the first Farmer's Market of the season, and a very busy day at the museum. The Greenbrier Garden Club hosted its annual plant sale this month. This club maintains our gardens in the back of the museum. They have again done a wonderful job, and the gardens are always inviting. Our annual meeting and picnic was attended by about 60 members at the Perinton Park Pavilion, with plenty of yummy good food.

June: St. Mary's Cemetery was featured for this year's tour. Dead people came to life. Miss Susan B. Anthony gave a talk at the library.

July: Our Float Committee put together a huge eight layer cake float for the 4th of July parade; remember it was the village's 150th anniversary. The Perinton Historical Club reenacted the debate on Women's Suffrage at Kennelley Park as part of the VoteTilla canal tour. The "yeas" won in a landslide.

September: Magelene Moore-Holly presented as Harriet Tubman and relayed the stories of her life.

October: Many wonderful homes on Filkins and George Streets were featured on the house tour. Also included on the tour was a stop at the historic Newman-Dean home on West Church Street.

November/December: Bill Poray presented the program, entitled "Little Journeys to Pleasant Places." We held our annual *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser, a big success with 70 items up for bid. Our membership continued to grow with 479 memberships at year end, compared to 447 last year.

I believe most people have heard the expression "Once in a blue moon," which means something occurring once every two to three years. This comes from the "blue moon" which is what the second full moon in a single month is called. It happens about every two to three years. Well, a strange phenomenon is occurring this year. We have had a blue moon in January this year, with the first full moon on the first and the second full moon on the 31st. There is no full moon in February this year but March will have a second full moon or "blue moon." This odd occurrence changes the meaning of the expression. We won't see another blue moon until October of 2020.

Thanks for your continued support. It is always appreciated, and we will chat again next month.

Bob Hunt, President
585-415-7053, rhunt356.rh@gmail.com



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



The homes in the Potter Historic District reflect the popular architectural styles of the time; Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Prairie and Craftsman.

At the beginning of World War II, Fred Potter made a substantial amount of the property available for community Victory Gardens, which continued after his death in 1943. In his will, Fred Potter left the remaining ten acres of the Potter estate to the village and the "youth of Fairport."

The village converted the Potter mansion into a community center and created Potter Memorial Park, now known as Potter Park, with a playground and baseball diamonds, using the barn for a teen center. The park remains a focal point, aesthetically and for activities, for village and town residents.

The majority of the residences reflect the popular architectural styles of the time, including a number of revival styles, (Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Prairie and Craftsman) as well as the former Potter Mansion, which began as an Italianate style building before it was given a mansard roof and, even later, a gambrel Dutch colonial style roof. Associated with the mansion is a contributing carriage barn. Several of the residences have garages contemporary with the houses but most are non-contributing due to loss of integrity/alteration.

The district's twenty-one primary contributing buildings largely reflect its early twentieth century development. One exception is the Potter Mansion, originally built in 1858, prior to the Potter family purchasing the estate. The district also includes eleven secondary buildings, mostly garages, as well as a carriage barn associated with the Potter Mansion. The twenty residential houses that make up the subdivision were built between 1909 and 1953. A park is also included with a potter's shed in the community garden section of the park. The park acreage contains a non-contributing Veteran's Memorial in the northeast corner of the property, dedicated in 1945 to Fairport and the Town of Perinton soldiers, that was rebuilt in 2014.

Rehabilitation & Restoration— Financial Incentives

Fairport Mayor Fritz May said, "The Fairport Historic Preservation Commission (FHPC) has been designating our village structures since 2007 when the commission was formed. Fairport is very proud to add the Potter National Historic District to our existing nationally listed structures and bridges. The owners of these residences can benefit from the New York State Parks program offering of Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credits that can help the owners maintain these structures. We are grateful to the National Parks Service for its support in recognizing that these are historically and architecturally important to the Village of Fairport."

Owners of National Register listed properties can take advantage of the New York State Historic Homeowners Tax Credit program and/or the State and Federal Commercial Rehab Tax Credit programs. Each program provides tax credits worth 20 percent of qualified rehab expenses. These incentives are widely used across the state by homeowners and developers alike and help spur investment in historic buildings and communities. The village owned properties within the Potter Historic District are also now eligible for grants from both state and federal programs.

Listing of properties on the National Register fits with the village's overall preservation efforts. The FHPC has locally designated over 36 properties and will continue that effort.

For more information, go to the history section of www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.





Yuletide Traditions *By the Numbers and Then Some*

By Lucy McCormick

This year's *Yuletide Traditions* was a great success. An amazing total of 420 adults and children attended a variety of lively programs. A *Yuletide Traditions* record of 70 items were donated to the silent auction. Over \$3,400 was raised, enabling the Perinton Historical Society to focus on enhancing its display venues.

But these numbers don't tell the whole story. An event like this takes a community, and the community responded resoundingly. Solicitations were sent, and donors from the membership and the Fairport/Perinton community at large came forth with delightful items creatively packaged for the silent auction. Many donors have supported this event since its inception four years ago, and 21 new donors came aboard this year. Four Girl Scout troops also participated this year. The committee then scurried to display the items and decorate the museum in holiday dazzle. Items and events were widely publicized in the local media and on social media. The stage was set. Then came the programs—and the bidders—cautious and slow at first, but building to a feverish pitch as the final hours of the final night drew closer. Bids were closed, sheets tallied, and winners announced. Items were claimed and marched out of the museum into the frosty night.

If you could peek into the homes of the winning bidders, you might see many finely decorated doors and hearths; people enjoying wines, chocolates, and other gourmet treats, and even a few pieces of vintage museum furniture. And so much more!

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make *Yuletide Traditions* a success—donors, bidders, and all kinds of worker bees! We hope your holidays were very merry. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.



Perinton Historical Society **Mission**

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

Special Recognition Level **Memberships**

As of January 15, 2018

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 Web: www.thefvi.com

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty

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

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design

3 Railroad Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: (585) 377-9310 Web: www.tpsigns.com

The Inn on Church

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-678-1106
Web: www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch

Pixos Print

75 Goodway Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-3000
Phone: 585-500-4600
Web: www.ReadytoRun@pixosprint.com

New since November 16, 2017

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

Art Alvut and Mary Okenden

Dr. Duncan Moore

Anonymous (2)

2017-2018 Year-to-date: 26

Potter (\$250-\$499)

2017-2018 Year-to-date: 7

Perrin (\$500 and above)

Frank and Catherine Angevine

2017-2018 Year-to-date: 3

*The PHS Board wishes to recognize special
donations received recently in honor and/or memory
of two of our members:*

In honor of Catherine Angevine, on the occasion of her
birthday, donations were received from Vicki Profitt and
Linda and David Wiener.

In memory of Carol Saum, donations were received
from Doug and Jean Whitney, Henry Hanford and the
Junior League Garden Club.



The U.S.S. Fullam, near San Francisco in December of 1944.

Public domain photo from the U.S. National Archives

The U.S.S. Fullam and the Fullam's Basin Connection

By Bill Poray

The United States Navy launched a new ship in April of 1942. Named the U.S.S. Fullam, the Fletcher-class destroyer served from 1943 to January of 1947. The Fullam received seven battle stars for its service during World War II, and was used on escort, patrol, and bombardment missions.

The name Fullam is familiar to many in Perinton, especially those with an interest in local history. They know that Fullam's Basin, also known as Fullamtown, sprang to life in the early 1820s with the construction of the original Erie Canal. Elisha Fullam, a Revolutionary War veteran, was one of Penfield's early settlers. He purchased land adjacent to the canal in the area of today's Perinton Park, where Fairport Road and the canal still intersect. Farmers brought their crops here to be loaded on boats and transported to distant markets. Fullam's Basin was a transportation hub, with both packet

boats and stagecoaches transporting travelers east and west. Fullam's hotel, which included the area's first post office and also a tavern, was a popular stop between Palmyra and Rochester. Once the railroads came in the early 1850s, Fairport boomed and Fullam's Basin disappeared.

Rear Admiral Fullam retired in October of 1919 after 46 years of service to his country. He may be best known for his prolific letters written to numerous newspapers after his retirement, under the nom de plume, "Quarterdeck." Despite the disguise, Navy brass knew all too well the identity of the author. Fullam's letters and testimony before government commissions and committees advocated for fundamental strategic change within the Navy. He was ahead of his time in pursuing a three-pronged plan of submarines, aircraft, as well as a traditional surface fleet. Fullam denounced the Navy's failure to grasp what he perceived as necessary changes in military warfare. He urged leaders to recognize both the threat of enemy aircraft and the value and strategic importance of the airplane as a superior weapon, both militarily and economically.

While Retired Rear Admiral "Quarterdeck" Fullam had his supporters, many considered his views to be those of an overly opinionated crank. Carter Field, a respected commentator of the time, wrote in 1942, "The plain truth is that he was regarded as a pest by most of the admirals who were running the Navy in the eight years between the close of World War I and his death."

The strategic vision of William Freeland Fullam was eventually embraced, and many of his viewpoints implemented, although years later than he would have liked. He was somewhat vindicated when a destroyer was commissioned bearing his name. The irony is that the ship was decommissioned after less than four years. The U.S.S. Fullam was mothballed in 1947, and eventually destroyed during naval target practice on July 7, 1962.



William Freeland Fullam was a great-grandson of Elisha Fullam. This photograph dates from approximately 1874 while Fullam was assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. Fullam was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1914, and was senior officer in command of the Pacific Fleet during much of World War I. He also served as Superintendent of the Naval Academy, and wrote several books on Navy procedure, training and protocol.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: *Early Baseball and Rochester's Baseball Pioneers*

Presenter: Joe Territo and Tony Brancato

Saturday, February 24th, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at the museum

Event: Volunteer Recognition and Training Seminar

Tuesday, March 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: The Musical Dossensbachs of Early 20th Century Rochester

Presenter: Lisa Kleman

Tuesday, April 17th, 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: Conversations in Mary's Home: A Staged Reading of a New Play in Progress

Presenter: Erica Kortepeter-Ragan and the Webster Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Players

Tuesday, May 15th, 6:00 p.m. at Perinton Park Pavilion

Event: Perinton Historical Society Annual Meeting and Picnic



Museum News

The museum is closed for the season, but will reopen Saturday, March 3rd with new exhibits.

Vicki Masters Profitt would like to thank Karen and Will Allen for their assistance during *Yuletide Traditions* set up. The Allens decorated the beautiful blue and green tree in the gift shop, as well as the white PHS tree in the program room. We're so pleased to have them as museum volunteers. Their decorating skills are certainly well utilized at the museum!

Did you know you can support the Perinton Historical Society whenever you shop on Amazon.com? Just log in to Smile.Amazon.com and select the Perinton Historical Society as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to the PHS. Thank you for your support!

[Smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2372953](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2372953)

Welcome Our New Volunteer Coordinator

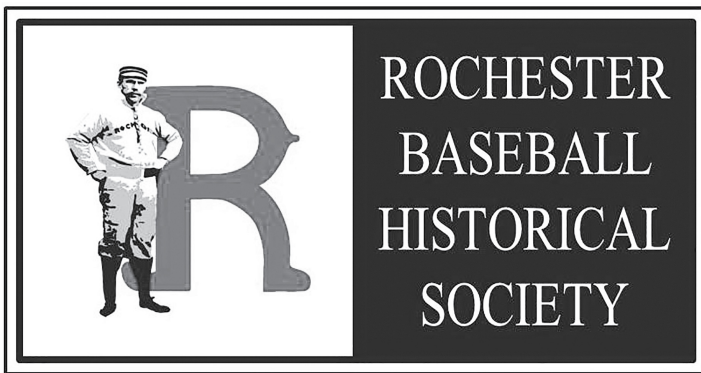
The Perinton Historical Society's Executive Committee and Trustees welcome Renee Barry, our new Volunteer Coordinator. Renee has been actively involved in the PHS for the past few years. Not only does she assist with our many technological needs, she has also worked on presentations for the house tour. And if the PHS isn't keeping Renee busy enough, she also volunteers as technology coordinator and is a board member of the Perinton Food Shelf and is on the board of Crescent Trails Hiking Association as their historical videographer. The Perinton Historical Society is so pleased to welcome Renee as Volunteer Coordinator!



Volunteer Recognition and Training Seminar

All current museum volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend our first training seminar of the year on Saturday, February 24th from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet our new Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Barry, and to share experiences with other museum volunteers. Attendees will also have the chance to tour our new exhibits.

We welcome all those interested in becoming a museum volunteer to the seminar as well. Veteran and new volunteers, please RSVP for the seminar to museum director Vicki Masters Profitt, Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.



www.ROCHESTERBASEBALLHISTORY.ORG

Early Baseball and Rochester's Baseball Pioneers

The PHS is pleased to welcome Joe Territo and Tony Brancato of The Rochester Baseball Historical Society to the museum on Tuesday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. *Early Baseball and Rochester's Baseball Pioneers* is a discussion about the evolution of our national pastime through the 19th century and into the first part of the 20th century and the local men who played. This was a period of rapid change for baseball as it moved from a children's game to a popular adult club sport. An interesting Rochester location linked to the dawn of baseball will also be revealed.

About the Speakers

Joe Territo is a resident of the town of Greece, and is the President of the Rochester Baseball Historical Society. He is also the team photographer for the Rochester Red Wings.

Tony Brancato is a Fairport Resident and a founding member of the Rochester Baseball Historical Society. He serves on the Board of Directors of the RBHS. Tony plays for the current Rochester Live Oaks vintage base ball club at the Genesee Country Village vintage base ball program.

(Note: In the sport's early years, it was referred to as "base ball" with two words).

About the Rochester Baseball Historical Society

The Rochester Baseball Historical Society is certified by the New York State Board of Regents as an educational organization and is dedicated to the preservation, research, and dissemination of the baseball history of greater Rochester, New York. The Society is a network that facilitates these goals through publications, presentations and the promotion of our region's long and rich baseball heritage.

www.rochesterbaseballhistory.org

THE GREAT HEDGE CAPER

*By Catherine Angevine
Property Committee*

The hedges around the museum have gotten out of hand, in spite of the diligent efforts of volunteers to keep them neatly trimmed. They are leggy in some places and overgrown in others. To have them professionally trimmed is beyond our budget, so we are initiating the great hedge caper.

We recently found the original landscaping plans for the Fairport Public Library (now the Fairport Historical Museum) and learned that the hedge height was recommended to be 18 inches. Aha! Now we have a plan.

This is where you come in. We will need many, many, many helping hands to get the hedges trimmed. Because we have to work when the plants are dormant we plan to start on Saturday, March 3rd at 1pm. If the weather does not suit that day we will push it to the following Saturday and so on until the job is done. Please put this on your calendars now! On the caper day, you will need to bring: hand loppers, sturdy work gloves and kneeling pads. We will also need brooms, rakes and tarps.

Please leave your name, phone number and e/mail address at info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org or leave a telephone message at the museum: 223-3989.

Come and clip!

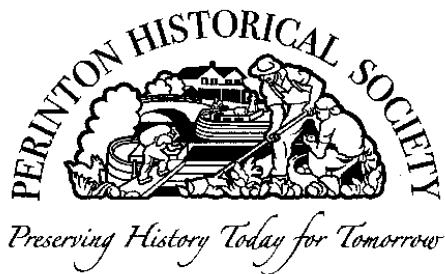
Meet your neighbors!

Make new friends!

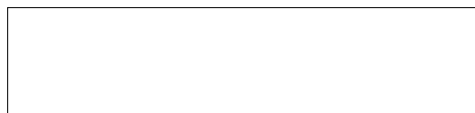


Front view of the museum showing sections of the hedge.
The photo was taken in 2015.





Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 149
Fairport, NY 14450



The PHS program for February (see page 7) is titled *Early Baseball and Rochester's Baseball Pioneers*. This undated photo features some of Perinton's baseball pioneers, members of the Fairport Athletic Club (FAC) team.

Photo from the Town of Perinton archives

The Fairport Historical Museum—18 Perrin Street, Fairport—will be closed through March 2nd. It will reopen on Saturday, March 3rd. During this period, you may call Vicki Masters Profitt at 585-233-1204 or email her at director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org to book a group tour or do research.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org