

Eye-Opening Story for a Fairport Homeowner

By Bill Poray

An inquiry to the Perinton Historical Society's Facebook page by a recent homebuyer in Fairport led to the unraveling of an interesting story:

Amy Purcio purchased her home at 48 East Church Street in 2017. With an interest in the history of her home, she sought more information regarding previous owners, and how the house may have changed over the years. What Amy learned was that the history of her new home includes a surprising story, with more twists and turns than she anticipated.

Monroe County records indicate that Amy's house at 48 East Church Street was built in 1885. Our experience is that the build dates in these records are often incorrect. In the case of Amy's home, the year 1885 is likely about 43 years too late. And that makes for an interesting story. The first chapter of this story begins at church.

The congregation of the Fairport First Baptist Church built a wood frame house of worship at the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets in 1842. (See illustration here on the right). In addition, a small house was erected for the first pastor of the church. In 1876, the landmark brick church which still stands today was built to replace the thirty-four year old frame structure that the congregation had outgrown.

In preparation for the construction of the new church, its predecessor and the pastor's house had to be removed. The session room of the church was offered for sale in an advertisement in the Fairport Herald. Church leaders accepted John Hook's offer of one hundred dollars, and he promptly moved it to 11 Filkins Street, where it was refashioned for use as a house. The larger portion of the church, referred to in church documents as the "meeting room," was moved to 16 West Church Street, and remodeled for use as a home by Harrison Wooden. The house burned to the ground in 1890, one of a rash of fires for which arson was suspected. Finally, the small dwelling house of the pastor was removed from the property.

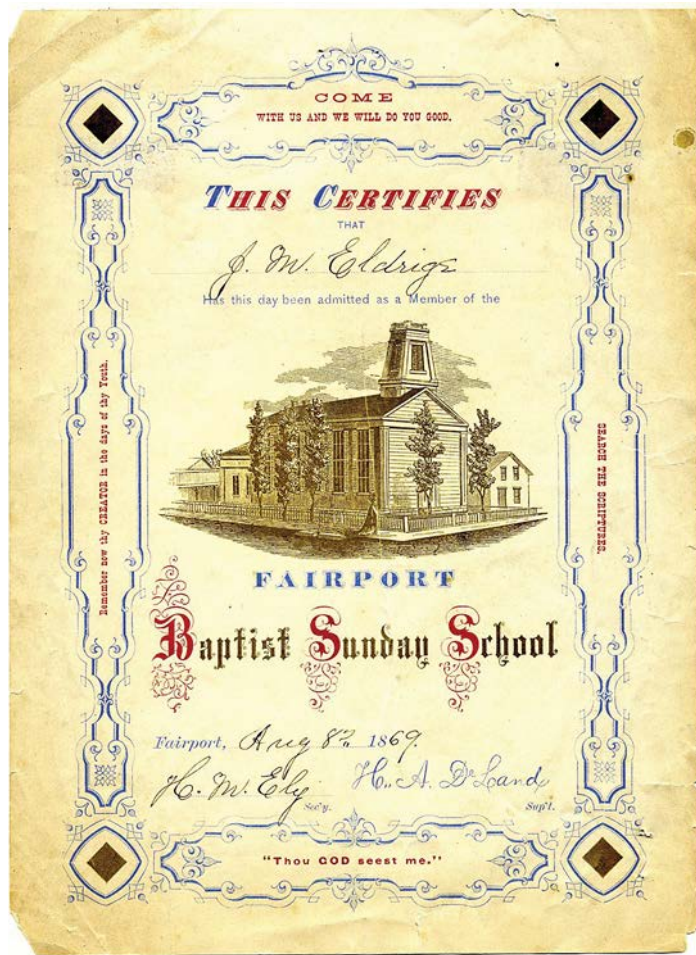


Image of the original Fairport First Baptist Church and pastor's residence at right, as published on an early church document

Mount Pleasant cemetery was established in 1866. As part of the design of the cemetery, access to the cemetery was created from two roads, South Main Street, and East Church Street. Soon it became clear that the road from East Church Street was too steep and difficult for use by the horse drawn hearse, especially during wet and slippery conditions. The

Continued on page 4



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

March 15, 2019:
You guessed it, once again I am writing from my office in the carriage barn, this time on a beautiful sunny winter day. Yesterday we hit 70 degrees, and it sure felt good. I'm ready to hear the sound of a lawn mower, and I'll be glad to be the one pushing it. It's time to trim a few branches

from our forsythia bush, bring them inside, and place in a vase with water. In a few days you will have a vase of yellow flowers, sure to get you in the mood for spring.

The Fairport Historical Museum opened the first Saturday of March. Hours are Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering an hour or two at your museum, we are always looking for docents. You will receive training and are assigned to work with docents who have been around for a while. This allows you to become comfortable with greeting visitors to the museum. With more docents we could be open more days. Thanks for your consideration.

We've undertaken several initiatives to improve the grounds of the museum. The unhealthy large ash tree in the back garden has been removed, which allows this beautiful space to receive more sunlight. The two trees in the front have been trimmed, giving them better shape, and also allowing for healthier growth. The hedge which was trimmed to the recommended 18" last year is looking good. We will soon be erecting a sign in the front lawn, stating that "This Property has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places." Thanks to Catherine Angevine, who was instrumental in obtaining a grant for the sign.

I recently read an interesting article on twilight (dawn and dusk) on timeanddate.com. I learned that twilight is the time between day and night, when there is light outside, but the sun is below the horizon. Twilight occurs when Earth's upper atmosphere scatters and reflects sunlight, which illuminates the lower atmosphere. There are three levels of twilight; civil, nautical, and astronomical.

Civil twilight occurs in the evening called dusk when the sun is between the horizon and 6 degrees below the horizon or dawn when it occurs in the morning. Civil twilight is the brightest form of twilight, with enough natural light during this period to carry on outdoor activities. Nautical twilight occurs when the sun is between 6 degrees and 12 degrees below the horizon. The term nautical twilight dates back to the time when sailors used the stars and the horizon to navigate. During this period the horizon can still be seen, and the stars are also easily seen with the naked eye. Astronomical twilight occurs when the sun is between 12 degrees and 18 degrees below the horizon. In the morning the sky is completely dark before the onset of astronomical twilight, and in the evening the sky is completely

dark at the end of this twilight period. Twilight time varies depending on the latitude one is at, being shorter at the equator and longer at the poles. At the March equinox, the North Pole does not have nautical or astronomical twilight, but continuous civil twilight. At the North Pole, during the September equinox, there is no twilight as the sun does not go below the horizon. This is called Polar Day or Midnight Sun. The same happens at the South Pole but opposite times of the year.

Hummingbirds begin their migration north about the middle of March, so it's time to think about putting out your hummingbird feeders. Also in March, the American Legion was founded in 1919. Finally, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey had their first performance, also in March of 1919. Important information everyone needs to know; it may be on the test.

Thanks for your continued support, it is appreciated. Let's chat again in our next issue.

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



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Program: Buffalo Soldiers

Presenters: Bing Reaves and members of Pennington-Moye VFW Post 9251

Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Perinton Park Pavilion

PHS Annual Meeting and Picnic

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Bushnell's Basin Cemetery Tour

Perinton Historical Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>Vice President</i>	Vicki Profitt
<i>Secretary</i>	Doug Whitney
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
<i>Communications</i>	Renee Barry

TRUSTEES

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

MUSEUM

<i>Director</i>	Vicki Profitt
-----------------	---------------

Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of March 15, 2019

Business (\$100)

The Inn on Church

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: (585) 678-1106

Web: www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes

32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-388-1270

Bonnie Wetzel, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

65 South Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-303-1678

Web: TopRochesterAgent.com

Canandaigua National Bank and Trust

72 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Phone: (585) 394-4260

Web: cnbank.com

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14550

Phone: 585-388-0112

Web: thefvi.com

DeLand (\$100–\$249)

None this month

Potter (\$250–\$499)

None this month

Perinton Historical Society

Mission

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

HISTORIGRAM

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

Editor: Bill Poray Art Director: Keith Boas

Contributing Writer: Nancy Antell Slaybaugh

Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless

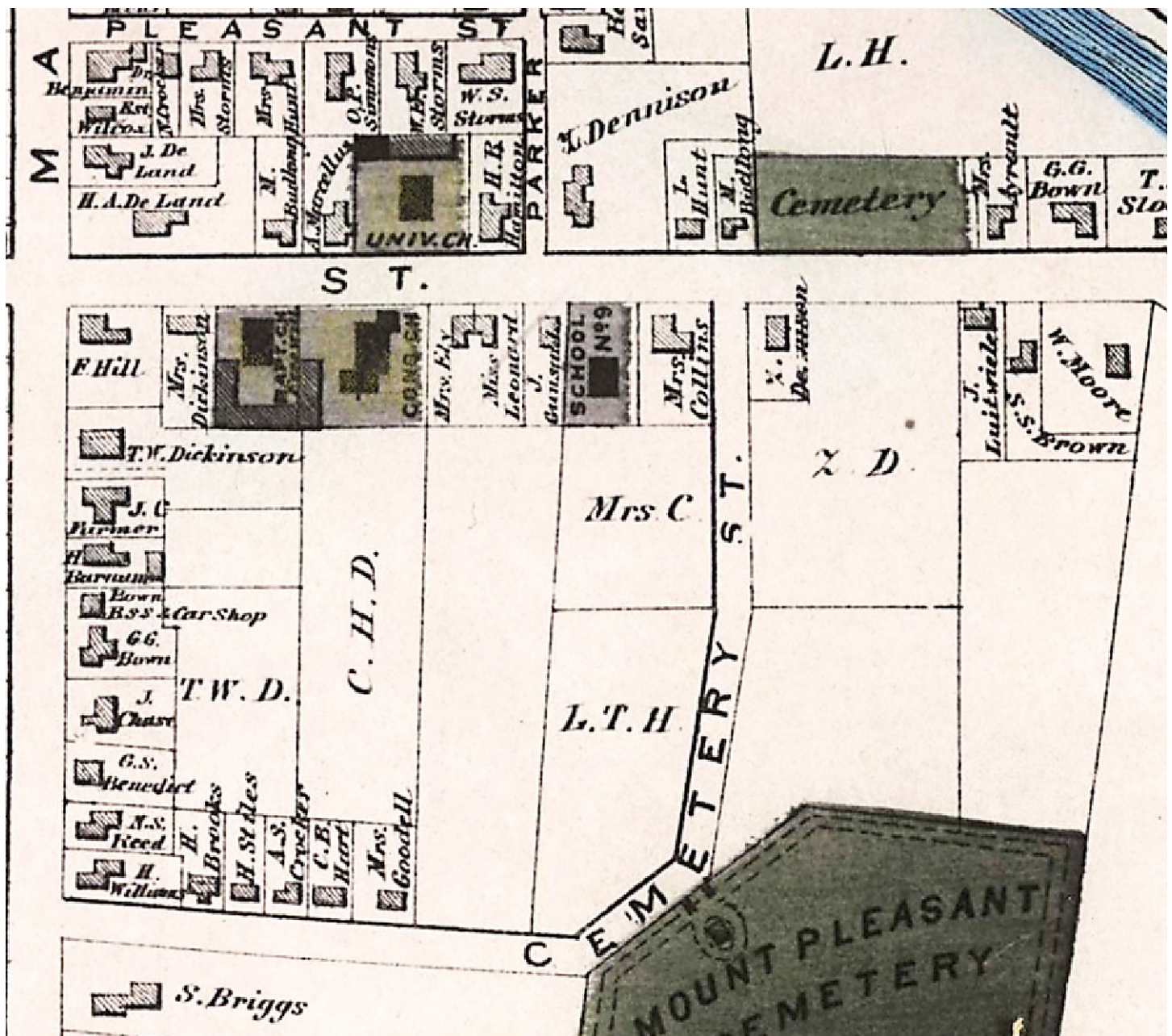
Proofreading: Irene Poray



Young Crafters Enjoy Opening Day at the Museum

Suzanne Lee and her daughter Anica Harris hosted a Children's craft hour as part of the Fairport Historical Museum's opening day festivities on March 2nd. The participants included Sonia Phelan and her daughter Lena (top) and Scott Miga and his son Tommy (bottom).

Photos by Bill Poray



A portion of the 1872 map of Fairport, which shows Cemetery Street, with access from both South Main Street and East Church Street. The northern portion of the street was later closed.

road was soon abandoned, which made the deep lot, the space where the cemetery road had been, available for use as a building lot.

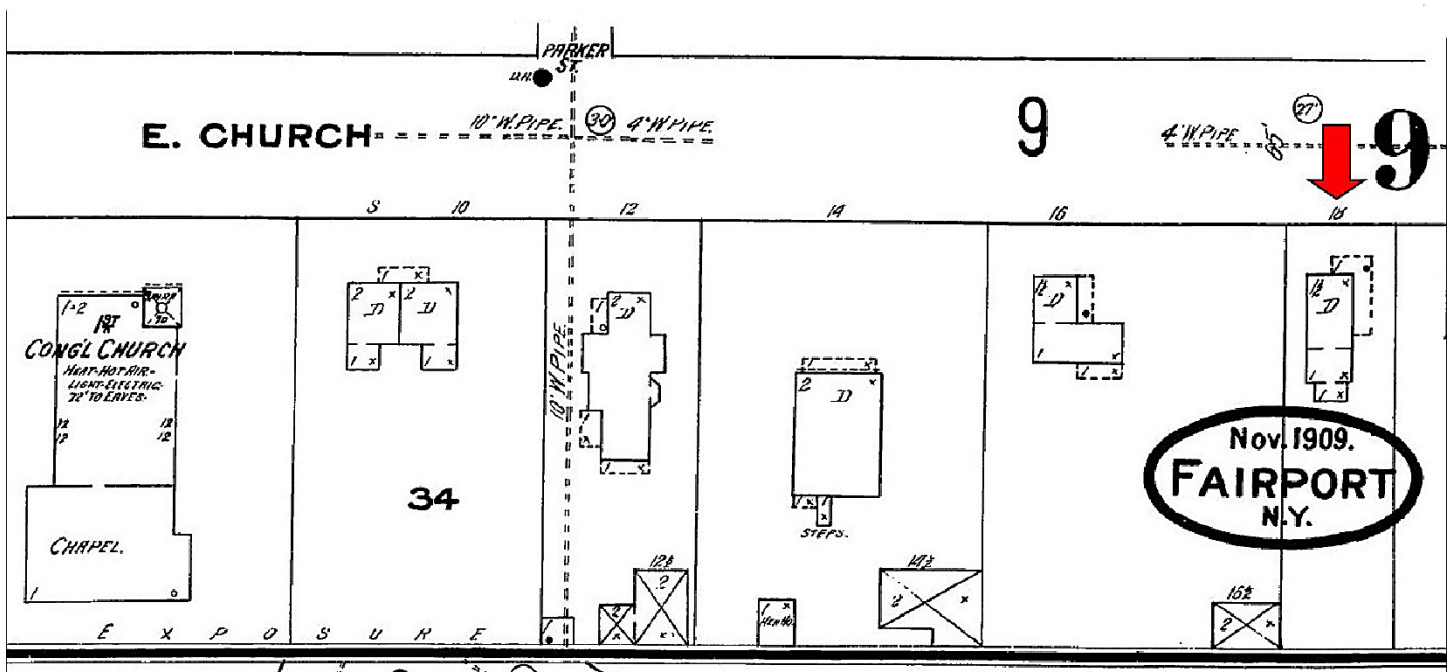
So it was that in 1876, nine years before Amy Purcio's house was said to have been built, the thirty-four year old home was raised off its foundation adjacent to the old church, and rolled along East Church Street, drawn by horses or perhaps oxen. If this seems as if it could be a tall tale, in Fairport and Perinton, it was in fact, a common occurrence. As of this writing, research has continued to unearth more structures that have been moved from one place to another in this community, with the total now at an astounding 119 homes and buildings relocated.

Using census reports, maps, and newspaper searches, many previous owners of her home have been identified, notable among them members of the Blood and Hellems families in the first half of the 20th century. When Amy Purcio pointed out that current renovations had revealed evidence of a fire in the home's history, a focused search in newspapers resulted in the unearthing of a front-page story published in the Monroe County Mail in April of 1921. The reports indicated that while the damage was significant, the house was repaired. The resident at the time, a nurse named Elizabeth Smith, rented the home from Jay Blood. She was awakened by the fire, which was determined to have started in the chimney, and escaped unharmed.



The former residence of the first pastor at the Fairport First Baptist Church, relocated to 48 East Church Street in 1876

Photo by Bill Poray



A portion of the 1909 Sanborn map. The property at the far right is 48 East Church Street.

As Amy's renovations continue, she realized it would be helpful to understand how changes to her home have unfolded over the years. Fortunately the existence of Sanborn insurance maps, which provide detail on the footprint of her home over a period of almost forty years, have given Amy more information on the history and changes to her house. For instance, the earlier Sanborn maps show that in the early 1900s, a wrap-around porch was part of the home's design, some of which has been enclosed for decades, and the rest removed.

Owning an older home might not be for everyone. But I have found that many owners have established a special bond with their vintage homes. They have embraced the history in which they live, and realized a fair amount of joy in the recognition that our old houses and buildings are a significant part of what makes this community a place of which we can be proud. Welcome to the club, Amy Purcio. Your home has a unique story, all its own.



Civil War Artifacts on Display

Last June, William Palmer Hutchinson flew to Rochester from his home in Florida with some family treasures in hand. The items he brought belonged to his great-grandfather, Chester Hutchinson, a Civil War soldier who served with the 108th New York Infantry. The 108th first saw battle on the single bloodiest day of the war at Sharpsburg, Maryland. Fairport resident Chester was one of over 23,000 casualties at that battle, known to Northerners as the Battle of Antietam, which took place on September 17th, 1862. Chester eventually recovered and returned to his regiment, where he was again severely wounded, this time in 1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness. Despite being told he wouldn't survive, Chester overcame immense odds and lived to the age of 90. He died in 1932 and is buried at Fairport's Greenvale Rural Cemetery.

Another descendant, great-granddaughter Marge Filitti Davis, recently discovered two photo albums in her attic, one of which contained 1891 wedding photos of Chester and his second wife, Hattie Down Wiley, and their blended family of ten children.

The treasures brought by Bill Hutchinson include a shadowbox containing buttons from Chester's Civil War uniform, a tintype of him in army uniform and his Grand Army of the Republic badges, two powder horns, Chester's military discharge papers and his Springfield Model 1863 rifled musket, all of which were donated to the PHS. Another item of note is Chester's personal copy of the 108th regimental history written by his comrade, George H. Washburn. Museum Director Vicki Masters Profit was thrilled to accept these cherished artifacts on behalf of the Perinton Historical Society.

The Chester Hutchinson exhibit will be on display at the Fairport Historical Museum through the end of June.

William Palmer Hutchinson, holding Chester Hutchinson's rifled musket



Bing Reaves

Photo courtesy of Bill Sauers, Greece Historical Society

Buffalo Soldiers to Visit the Museum

The Perinton Historical Society is pleased to welcome Bing Reaves and members of the Pennington-Moye VFW Post 9251 presentation team to the Fairport Historical Museum on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Reaves and his colleagues will discuss the history of the famous Buffalo Soldiers.

Following the long and bloody Civil War, Congress passed legislation to reorganize the military for peacetime service. An historic part of this law called for the formation of two African-American cavalry regiments, the 9th and 10th.

The brave men of these regiments became known as Buffalo Soldiers, but the origin of the name is unclear. It has been said that the Native Americans created the nickname due to the soldiers' dark skin, curly hair and bravery in battle, which reminded them of the herds of buffalo roaming throughout the plains.

Through the years, soldiers of these and other all African-American regiments were engaged in conflicts from the American Indian Wars through World War II. The last Buffalo Soldier regiments disbanded in 1951.

Bing Reaves and his colleagues, all members of Pennington-Moye VFW Post 9251, saw the opportunity to educate the public about the long and storied history of the Buffalo Soldiers. They have presented all over Monroe County.





Volunteers Snap to Attention!

Ready to Take On Our 40th Year at the Museum

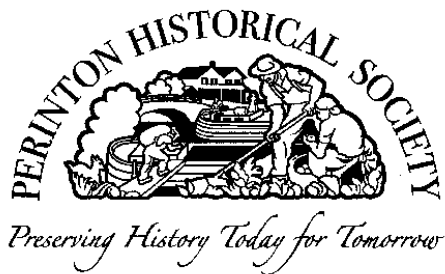
On February 24th, 33 veteran and new volunteers attended a training seminar led by new Volunteer Coordinator John Laurence. During the session, John discussed the ins-and-outs of volunteering at the museum, then Director Vicki Masters Profitt took the group on a tour. It was a great opportunity for the volunteers to meet with each other before the museum re-opened for the season on March 2nd.

Thanks to our veteran volunteers for continuing to represent the Perinton Historical Society in such a friendly and knowledgeable way. And welcome to our 19 new volunteers—Jordyn Bagley, Jane DeMeis, Joe DeMeis, Laura DiCaprio, Jim Fassanella, Linda Fassanella, Lori Galan, Russ Green, Kay Joslyn, Marlane Juran, Pam Lewis, Richard Lucci, Donna Moore, Marilyn Moran, Linda Northrup, Anita Rubsam, Brent Smith, Mary Ruth Smith and Debby Vercant. We appreciate your time and enthusiasm!

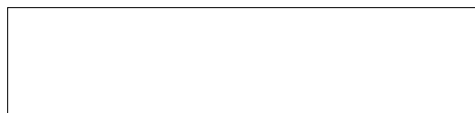
On March 9th, 17 volunteers attended the first of our mini-training seminars. Vicki Masters Profitt presented the seminar, about researching genealogy at the museum. Handouts are available at the volunteer desk for those who missed it.



*Photos by
Keith Boas*



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



Civil War Nurse Mary Jewett Telford Celebrates 180 Years

March 18, 2019 marked the 180th anniversary of Civil War nurse Mary Jewett Telford's birth. To honor this remarkable woman, Museum Director Vicki Masters Profitt gave a presentation about Mary at the Fairport Historical Museum on March 19th.

An exhibit featuring items pertaining to Mary's legacy as a humanitarian is on display at the museum through the end of June.

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

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Free admission. Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org