

A Warm Welcome from DeLand, Florida

Story and Photos by Vicki Masters Profitt

My excitement mounted as we headed to DeLand, Florida, after spending the holidays with family in Cape Coral. I was finally going to visit the town Fairport's own Henry DeLand had envisioned more than 140 years earlier!

In the mid-1870s, while his elegant home was being built in Fairport, Henry ventured to the south by train to visit his sister, Martha, and her husband Oliver P. Terry. Oliver was infatuated with the orange groves in the area of Florida known as Persimmon Hollow and invited Henry along to see them as well. Henry was impressed by the area and quickly paid \$1,000 for a 159-acre parcel of land that was to become DeLand, Florida. The city was incorporated in 1882 and was made county seat of Volusia County. Today, there are about 30,000 people inhabiting the area, which was the first city in Florida to be wired for electricity.

As we pulled into the parking lot of the Robert M. Conrad Research and Educational Center, home of the West Volusia Historical Society (WVHS), we were greeted with a "Welcome Vicki" sign.

Suze and Fred Peace met us at the door. They had made their first visit to Fairport four years earlier and we have corresponded since then.



Suze Peace, Vicki Masters Profitt, and Karen Ryder in front of the Henry A. DeLand House

My family left to spend the day at the condo in Daytona Beach and I remained in DeLand for the next several hours. Suze had invited members of the WVHS board, historians, reenactors and multi-generational locals to a luncheon in my honor. Thirteen people brought delicious salads, chicken wings and desserts to enjoy before we got down to business. For the next two hours, we had a wonderful question and answer session about Henry DeLand, his business and family, Fairport and the Perinton Historical Society.

Following that gathering, I had a few minutes to view the beautiful exhibits in the Conrad Center before Suze, Fred, archivist Karen Ryder and I moved next door for a personal tour of the Henry A. DeLand



Comments from your President

~ *Bob Hunt* ~

January 15, 2020: I am writing from my office in the carriage barn on a rather nice winter day, ready to share some thoughts for the February *Historigram*. A belated Happy New Year and an early Happy Valentine's Day to you all. A new decade, can you believe it? It was only yesterday when we were worried about

being stuck in nonworking elevators when the new century began on January 1, 2000. For me, it is the eighth decade as I start my 80th year on planet Earth. Yes, I was born in 1940. So what was happening back then?

–A gallon of gas was 11 cents. I paid \$2.48 last week. Not bad for 80 years of inflation.

–An average new house cost \$3,920. We just purchased a townhouse at Georgetown for \$191,000. Yes, we are planning to move, where there is less maintenance to do. More on that next issue.

–The cost of an average new car was \$850. We leased a car in October for \$195 per month.

–Nylon hose (stockings): 20 cents. Sorry, I haven't purchased those lately.

–Sadly, Germany was invading the countries of Europe during WWII.

During the holiday time, Cindy and I host the Hunt clan with a get-together at our home for relatives in the area. Always a very welcome attendee is my sister-in-law, Sandra Mills Hunt, the Curator of the Rose Historical Society. We have not visited the museum to date, but on the calendar for this year is a visit to 5016 North Main Street, North Rose, NY. On this year's visit, Sandie gave to me a copy of "Cures and Remedies from a Glenmark Store Ledger 1899–1917." Glenmark was a thriving little community in the town of Rose. The cures and remedies were recorded in a ledger from a Glenmark store and written over many years by different hands with pen or pencil. Well, where has this booklet been? The first cure is for constipation, which I could have used after my last surgery. The treatment calls for fluid of Cascara, Sagrada bitter or bitterless, ¼ to ½ teaspoon night and morning for several weeks, then drop it for a time. Notations indicated that it was harmless.

I don't happen to have Cascara in my medicine cabinet, and in fact I do not know what it is. So, Google to the rescue. Cascara is a shrub, the dried bark of which is used in medicines. Cascara is used as a laxative for constipation, as

well as a treatment for gallstone ailments, and cancer. Some people use it as a tonic, and it is sometimes used in food and beverages as a flavoring agent. Hmm, I wonder if I can use Cascara as a dash of bitters in my manhattans.

So, give me a call if you have an ailment. I have cures or remedies for dyspepsia, hay fever, deafness, sore throat, kidney and liver problems, nervousness, spring medicine for the blood, group, dropsy, hot flashes and about thirty other problems. On a serious note, many of the cures and remedies in the booklet have evolved into today's modern medicine.

If you want to live a long healthy life, be more like a tree. Some trees live to be 1,000 years old. Scientists have concluded that trees drink lots of water, have very stress-free lives, and get along with their neighbors and surrounding environment. Still, I probably wouldn't like the dogs sniffing around my feet.

Lastly, Elvis was born January 8th, 1935. He would have recently celebrated his 85th birthday.

Thanks for your continued support, it is appreciated. We will chat again in our next issue. Watch for Groundhog Phil on February 2nd.

Bob Hunt, President

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With Gratitude

By Lucy McCormick

Yuletide Traditions has come and gone. After a hurried pace to get auction items collected, displayed, bid on and claimed, the Perinton Historical Society's holiday festivities ended successfully with over \$2,300 in proceeds. We are grateful to all our Perinton Historical Society members, individuals and families in the community, businesses and organizations that contributed an amazing array of forty-nine items. Some were decorative, some whimsical, some cozy, and some practical. All were special.

We are also appreciative of the many bidders who made the silent auction competitive and interesting, who went home with one, two or even six items!

Finally, we thank all who helped make the museum festive and implement Yuletide Traditions: those who shared holiday collections, decorated, received items, arranged them, publicized YT happenings, tallied bids, cashiered, helped people to their cars with items, donated and served refreshments, and cleaned up. Whew! It took a village—and more! Thank you, all!

Upcoming Programs & Events

Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester
Presenter: Rose O'Keefe

Saturday, February 29 from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum
Event: Volunteer Recognition & Training Seminar

Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 pm.

The museum opens for the season.

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: Dr. Seuss Goes to War
Presenter: Rosemary Irwin

Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: The Architecture of James H. Johnson, architect of the Mushroom House
Presenters: Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher Bandt

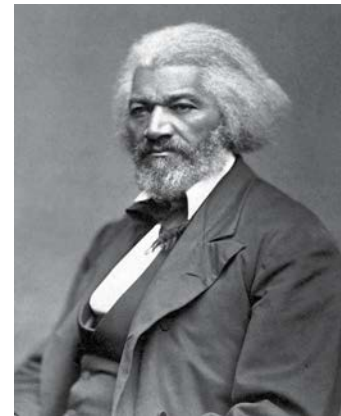
Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Perinton Park Pavilion
Event: PHS Annual Meeting and Picnic

An Invitation to the PHS Volunteer Recognition & Training Seminar

On Saturday, February 29th from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., current and prospective museum volunteers are invited to attend a Volunteer Recognition & Training Seminar at the Fairport Historical Museum. This is an opportunity for volunteers to get to know each other and to get a refresher course on everything from greeting visitors to writing up gift shop sales. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to view the new exhibits before the museum re-opens to the public on March 7th, and to meet John Laurence, our Volunteer Coordinator. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by February 24th to John Laurence at jlaurance977@gmail.com.

Museum volunteers work one two-hour shift per month greeting and assisting visitors. New volunteers are paired with veteran volunteers for each shift, and training is provided. The PHS is always looking for new volunteers to staff the museum. If you can give of your time just a few hours a month, please contact PHS Volunteer Coordinator John Laurence at jlaurance977@gmail.com.



Famed author, orator and former slave Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna lived in Rochester for twenty-five years, beginning in 1848.

Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester

On February 18th at 7:00 p.m., we welcome historian Rose O'Keefe back to the Fairport Museum. Rose is the author of five books about local history, several of which are for sale in the museum gift shop.

Rose will speak to the Perinton Historical Society about Frederick Douglass, famed author, orator and former slave, who spent twenty-five years with his family in Rochester, New York, beginning in 1848. Despite living through one of our nation's most bitter and terrifying times, Frederick and his wife, Anna, raised five children in a loving home with flower, fruit and vegetable gardens.

While Frederick traveled widely, fighting for the freedom and rights of his brethren, Anna cared for their home and their family and extended circle. Their house was open to fugitives on the Underground Railroad, visiting abolitionists and houseguests who stayed for weeks, months and years at a time.

Rose O'Keefe grew up in the suburbs of New York City. After graduating from SUNY Potsdam during the Vietnam years, Rose moved to Rochester, and discovered the beauty of the Genesee River valley and Finger Lakes region, on camping outings with family and friends. She laughs now when people call Albany "Upstate."

Since then, she has become an expert on western New York history and has a special interest in the Frederick Douglass family history, when they were in Rochester from 1847–1872.





Foyer of the DeLand House with images of John B. Stetson (left) and Henry A. DeLand



DeLand Academy, later named John B. Stetson University

House Museum. Although Henry never lived in the house, the museum is a wonderful tribute to him and features many DeLand family portraits throughout the building.

Fred, Suze and I continued our adventure on a drive through historic DeLand to see several of the 15 murals sprinkled throughout the city, each of which portrays a scene from DeLand’s history. A mural called “Henry’s Vision,” located at the northeast corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Woodland Boulevard, shows a larger-than-life Henry DeLand and the land in Florida he would soon purchase and develop into the city of DeLand. We drove past the former DeLand Academy, constructed in 1884 and renamed John B. Stetson University in 1889. Now known as DeLand Hall, the structure was the first academic building on the Stetson University campus and is the oldest building in Florida continuously used for higher education. DeLand Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

We next headed to the neighboring city of Lake Helen, where local historian Lewis Long and his wife, Caryn, showed me around. Lake Helen, a city of about 2,700 citizens, was incorporated in 1888 and was named after Henry DeLand’s daughter, Helen Parce DeLand. There are many small lakes in the city of Lake Helen. Henry’s son, Harlan Page DeLand, was honored with a lake named after him (Lake Harlan), as well as Harlan Avenue and the Harlan Hotel. As we sat together on the expansive front porch of Lewis and Caryn’s beautiful home, which has been in Lewis’s family for at least three generations, I imagined the grand sight and stately rooms the Harlan Hotel had to offer. It had sat directly across the street from the Long’s home. Sadly, the hotel burned to the ground in 1922 and newer, smaller homes have taken its place in the nearly 100 years since its demise.

I’m so appreciative to Suze and Fred Peace, Karen Ryder, Roger and Genna Wangsness, Deborah McShane, Linda Glover Barnett, Betty Johnson, Mary Waller, Louise Caccamise, Kate Ruhlman, Kaye Armstrong and Tony Foresta for the incredible welcome I received at the Robert M. Conrad Research and Educational Center and to Lewis and Caryn Long for taking their time to show me Lake Helen and the surrounding area. It was a visit that will not be soon forgotten.

With the strong ties between Fairport and DeLand, we consider the West Volusia Historical Society to be our “Sister Society” and we look forward to a long collaboration of sharing information about our mutual interests. I would highly recommend a visit to the WVHS if you are down DeLand way. You are sure to get a warm welcome from our friends in Florida.

For additional information, visit these websites:

West Volusia Historical Society — www.delandhouse.com

DeLand Mural Walk — mainstreetdeland.org/mural-walk

Stetson University’s History — www.stetson.edu/other/about/history.php

Lake Helen — lakehelen.org/visiting/history



Perinton Historical Society

Mission

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

Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of January 15, 2020

Business (\$100)

Robert Ruhland (aka Mr. Perinton), Keller Williams Realty
2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-303-6607, Web: bobruhland.yourkwagent.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes
32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-388-1270

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

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith
103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14550
Phone: 585-388-0112, Web: thefvi.com

DeLand (\$100–\$249)
Total: 36 DeLand memberships for 2019–2020
New since last month:

Carol Ann Britt
Evelyn Frazee and Tom Klonick

Potter (\$250–\$499)
Total: 7 Potter memberships for 2019–2020
New since last month:

Pat and Bill May

Perrin (\$500 and above)
Total: 3 Perrin membership for 2019–2020
New since last month:

Frank and Catherine Angevine
Dan and Doreen Spoor

HISTORIGRAM

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The Impact of a 19th Century Fairport Boy on Modern Medicine

By Bill Poray

We can only hope that our time on this planet will somehow benefit those who follow, long after we are but a distant memory. The 1943 death of a former Fairport boy did little to curtail his accomplishments. In fact, his greatest achievements may lie in the future.

Allen Ross Defendorf was born in 1871, and spent his youth in Fairport, in a home that still stands at the corner of East Church and Parker Streets. He was the son of Fletcher and Susan Defendorf, who brought their family from Savannah, Wayne County, to Fairport the same year their son was born. After graduation from Fairport High School in 1889, Defendorf earned his undergraduate degree at Yale University in 1894, and completed the school's medical curriculum two years later. He continued his studies in hospitals in Connecticut and Boston, and soon joined the medical school faculty at Yale. His area of expertise was the study and treatment of insanity.



Allen Ross Defendorf (far left) with his classmates at the Fairport High School on West Church Street

Defendorf studied for a time in Germany, and became an authority on the teachings of renowned psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin, considered the founder of modern scientific psychiatry, psychiatric genetics, and psychopharmacology. Kraepelin's textbooks were considered essential reading for those in the field. They were also unreadable to most, as the books were written in German. Allen Ross Defendorf translated Kraepelin's work, so that academics and physicians in the United States and beyond could benefit from the teachings of Kraepelin. Defendorf also went on to publish his own important works in the field of psychiatry. These books are still important resources for students and physicians today.

Continued on page 7



The photos above and to the right were taken during the craft session inspired by the books of Ellen Stoll Walsh.

Above left: Alison Proffitt helps out with a children's craft.

Above right: A young crafter creates a penguin illustration.

At right: Young artists help Ellen Stoll Walsh with a mouse illustration.

Left: Museum volunteer Jordyn Bagley with visiting author G. Rollie Adams



Fun Raising!

Story and photos by Lucy McCormick

Yuletide Traditions includes fundraising, which was successful. But a large part of YT is also *fun* raising. This was apparent in larger events such as the presentation on the Genesee Country Village and Museum, the unique history of the Topping Ladder Company, and the Quantasonic Pipes musical event, where people enjoyed a sing along and a chance to play a vintage instrument.

But fun raising was also apparent in smaller gatherings, such as author visits from historical fiction author G. Rollie Adams, children's author Ellen Stoll Walsh, a snowman craft session with Karen Allen, a visit with Santa, and face painting with the Girl Scouts. The YT committee is already tossing ideas around for next year's event. Stay tuned!

Treasurer's Report

By Linda Wiener

The following is a summary of the financial status of the Perinton Historical Society for the fiscal year ended 8/31/19:

Income	
Membership Dues	\$ 13,458
Grants	5,363
Donations	5,251
Gift Shop	1,942
Special Events	2,296
Miscellaneous	20
Investment Income	200
Total Income	<u>\$ 28,530</u>
Expense	
Museum Operations	\$ 4,887
Building	12,020
Depreciation	2,109
Gift Shop	404
Museum Collections	2,289
Historigram	2,174
Office Expense	1,087
Insurance	1,079
House Tour	834
Special Events	229
Membership	797
Programs	450
Total Expense	<u>\$ 28,359</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>\$ 171</u>
Net Assets	
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 50,761
Gift Shop Inventory	7,265
Community Foundation Funds	85,734
Total Assets	<u>\$143,760</u>
Sales Tax Payable	\$ 76
Deferred Revenue	9,023
Temporarily Restricted Funds	85,734
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>48,927</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$143,760</u>

Notes:

Cash & equivalents include funds in bank accounts and CDs that are available in one year or less. Of this \$39,884 as compared to \$40,381 on 8/31/18 was held in checking and money market accounts. The remainder is in a CD. The Community Foundation Funds are available upon written approval from the PHS Board of Directors. These funds are considered long-term investments. The value of these funds was \$85,734 on 8/31/19 as compared to \$88,744 on 8/31/18. The interest and dividends earned are returned to PHS annually in the form of a grant, which totaled \$4,269 for 2019 and \$4,194 for 2018. Deferred revenue is exclusively related to 2019–20 membership dues received prior to 9/1/19. These funds are recorded on the Balance Sheet at year-end. On 9/1/19 the balance is reported as Membership Dues income for 2019–20.

The Society's primary sources of income are from membership dues, grants and donations. Primary expenses include general operations of the museum, gift shop and membership programs (e.g. *Historigram*, annual meeting, House Tour).

Income increases over 2018 were related to grants and investment income. An increase of \$1,234 over prior year. Decreases in revenue included donations \$2,857, special events \$1,120, special events \$1,419, memberships \$557 and gift shop sales \$275.

Expense variances included a decrease in museum collections \$3,349 primarily related to prior year Carl Peters preservation, office expense \$2,811 related to prior year bylaws revision project and other less significant decreases. Primary increases in expense included building \$2,885, which included cabling throughout the building at a cost of \$2,398 and depreciation expense \$2,109 related to purchase of computer and electronic equipment.

PHS files and pays New York State sales tax annually related to gift shop sales, files 1099s to report payments to certain vendors that exceed \$600 to the IRS and those vendors and files an Informational Return (990-N) with the IRS. PHS is registered with the New York States Charities Bureau but is exempt from filing an annual return.

"Dr. Defendorf" continued from page 5

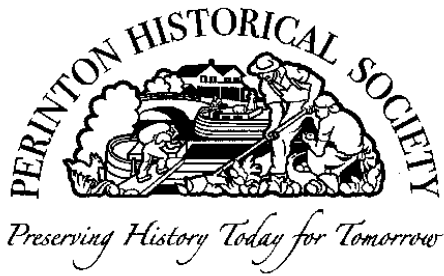
These are significant accomplishments, the benefits of which still serve humanity long after the death of Allen Ross Defendorf. However, it is possible that the greatest achievements for the son of a Fairport barrel maker have yet to be realized.

For in 1908, Dr. Defendorf, working in concert with Raymond Dodge, PHD, Professor of Psychology at Wesleyan University, began a series of unprecedented experiments. Utilizing specialized photographic equipment, Defendorf and Dodge were able to identify a previously unknown relationship between peculiarities of the eye movements

of the insane, versus a control group.

In the last few years, the publication of important new studies related to schizophrenia and the insane are built upon the foundation of learning established through the efforts of Doctors Defendorf and Dodge. The result may be important medical benefits for patients, well over a century after the studies of Defendorf and Dodge.

I don't know if he ever considered following his father's footsteps in the barrel making business, but it is clear that the world is better off for the path chosen by Doctor Allen Ross Defendorf.



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Fairport, NY 14450



This mural in DeLand, Florida is entitled "Henry's Vision." Words on the mural state, in part:
"In 1876, Henry A. DeLand visited this area and loved what he saw. He envisioned establishing a community that would be a social, cultural, religious, and educational focal point in central Florida."

The Fairport Historical Museum—18 Perrin Street, Fairport—will be closed through March 6th. It will reopen on Saturday, March 7th. 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