

Perinton Historical Society **Historigram**



18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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585-223-3989

“Grandma, where do you go on vacation?”

A Grandmother Remembers

By Betsy Garner Carpenter

A letter to my granddaughter:

Dear Missy,

I love the questions you ask me like, “Grandma, where do you go on vacation.?” I know you, your brother Matt, and your mom and dad enjoy going to Ocean City, NJ, for your summer vacation. My special go-to place is the village of Fairport, NY, where I grew up. Let me tell you a little about it.

In 1946, when I was your age, six, my mother and dad, your great-grandparents, and I moved to 1 Galusha Street in Fairport. Just a few weeks after we moved, your great-uncle Steve, my brother, was born in Rochester’s Genesee Hospital. This was a happy time for us. We’d never owned a home before, and the Galusha Street–Fifth Avenue neighborhood was filled with kids

our age. Mary Ann Kenney, our next-door neighbor, was the daughter of our police chief, Charlie. Her mother, Emma, made delicious lemon meringue pies and often gave one to us.

Warren and Kathy Knapp lived around the corner on Fifth Avenue. Many years later, Warren would marry Pat Smith who also became a friend of mine. Warren and Kathy’s parents, Harriet and Albert Henry Knapp, were so good to us. We loved to play in the Knapp’s backyard. They had a sandbox and swing set, plus they had a wonderful slide as high as the one you and Matt enjoy at Lake Pine.

Joe Cummings, our local football coach and playground director, his wife, Mary, and their four boys had a home on one side of the Knapp’s property. Come summer Jack, their eldest son, loved to collect garter snakes in the swampy area at the base of Brooks Hill off South Main Street. He’d bring them home, and put them in an “escape proof box” with grass and water. This practice ended the day one of his pet snakes escaped, and slithered around the corner onto Galusha Street. A neighbor lady’s lawn mower accidentally hit the snake. It flew into the air and landed in her home’s basement window well, nearly scaring the poor woman to death!

Delores and Harlow Crandell’s house was on the other side of the Knapp home. Harlow was a natural born carpenter. He’d direct us in the construction of our huts and forts, most of which we built in the then double vacant lot at the intersection of Galusha Street and Fifth Avenue. Our building efforts began when we kids took apart an old chicken coop located in the back of what was once a field. The wood and tin from this coop became the material we used when building our “hideouts.”

However, before this field was our place for hut building and hours of pretending we were cowboys like Roy Rogers and the Lone Ranger, it was subdivided into Victory Gardens. Your great grandfather rented one of these plots. I remember that we raised seemingly endless amounts of yellow summer squash. This led



Elizabeth North, photographer for the *Fairport Herald-Mail*, took this picture in Nick Messerino’s grocery store. Nick is standing behind the Dash dog food display. Ralph Fredenburg (right) of Armour made the presentation of the bike to me, while salesman Barney Delehanty held our family dog, Sylvie.

Continued on page 4

HISTORIGRAM

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~ *Bob Hunt* ~

Comments from your President

Dundee, NY - November 30, 1948: "Dear Santa Claus, I have been a good, good, good, good boy." This is the start of a letter from your president to Santa as an eight year old. To read the rest of the letter and to see Christmas memories from my youth, you will have to visit the

display at our museum during December.

Much has been happening at your museum. First of all, the Fairport Public Library has donated two computers for use at the museum. One will be used by your curator, Bill Keeler, to keep track of the many items in our collection. This will assist members in searching for history on family members, items of interest, articles and photos. The second computer will be located at the volunteer's desk to help our volunteer docents in assisting visitors and members seeking information. A big thank you goes to Betsy Gilbert and the Fairport Library Board for making these computers available. A second big thanks goes to Jim Donahue of JD Computer Solutions for preparing and installing the computers. We are finally into the 20th century technology and possibly, with continued funds and support from the great Fairport/Perinton community, we will sneak into the 21st century.

You must stop by the museum to view the makeover of the gift shop. With Christmas just a few weeks away, take a look at the many gift ideas to be found in the shop. Thank you Vicki and Bill for the fresh look. And, oh my gosh, someone painted the front doors of the museum red. I must say, I have heard more raves than rants, thank goodness. And what a coincidence the red is the same red found on a carriage barn located at 53 Roselawn Ave.

A few articles back, I asked members to come up with fund raising ideas for the PHS. I did not hear from many, but let me pass this idea by you: A recent article in the Democrat & Chronicle discussed the raising of bees for food and profit. What if we could find locations for bee hives around the community to produce honey? I think honey goes for five dollars per pound, and a hive produces about 50 pounds per year. There's a group called Rochester Beekeepers that meets

every fourth Monday at the Monroe Cooperative Extension—I might just go and check it out. Your comments are welcome.

Lastly, having the museum open on Saturday mornings in conjunction with the Farmer's Market across the street has been very positive and has generated more visits than any other time. The hours this year were 9:00–11:00 a.m., and I will suggest to the board that next year we consider expanding our hours to 9:00–noon or 12:30 pm. This can occur only with volunteers willing to give a few hours a month to the PHS. The new year is just around the corner, so a great resolution would be to volunteer a couple of hours. It would probably be a resolution easier to keep than losing ten pounds.

To all, a joyous and peaceful Holiday Season and thank you for your continued support.

Bob Hunt, President

585-415-7053 / rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



Special Recognition Level Memberships

Memberships and contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and important to the future of the PHS. We will list business memberships in each issue of the HISTORIGRAM, on the PHS website and at the museum. We will recognize DeLand, Potter and Perrin memberships once in the newsletter and at the website and museum, unless they prefer to be anonymous.

Business (\$100 and above)

Bob Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty

R C Shaheen Paint and Decorating Centers

DeLand (\$100–\$249)

Wayne and Patricia Beckwith

Cuddle Up a Little Closer with our Cold-Weather Costume Exhibit

As the leaves on the trees change, so do the exhibits at the Fairport Museum. Although our Downton Abbey exhibit has ended its run, a new display has arrived in its place. Now through December 21st, visit the Fairport Museum to view our cold weather costume exhibit featuring nine exquisite coats, cloaks and capes, and several fur muffs all from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society.

Stop by the Fairport Historical Museum in December to view PHS President Bob Hunt's collection of toys he received as a youth at Christmas.

Peppermint Summer

Author Spices Up the Museum

Children's author Pat Gorthy gave a wonderful presentation at the museum on November 9th



before signing copies of her book, *Peppermint Summer*. The book tells the story of 10-year-old Emily Taylor as she travels on the Erie Canal in 1860 from Rochester to Lyons to visit her grandparents and their peppermint farm. Signed copies are available in the gift shop for \$10. It's a great gift for 3rd–5th graders, who will be mesmerized by Emily's journey, and learn some local history along the way.



November Collectibles on Parade Susan Angevine's Turkey Collection

We'd like to extend our gratitude to Susan Angevine for loaning her extensive turkey collection to the museum during November. Susan has collected turkeys since 1996, when she saw several turkeys in the yard of her home. The eye-popping display showcased more than sixty of her fabulous fowl.

Do you or someone you know have an interesting collection you'd like to exhibit at the museum? We're looking for unique items that we can display in the cases located in the atrium. Each month, we'll feature a new collection. For more information, contact our director, Vicki Masters Profitt, at 585-223-1204 or director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org.



Book Signing with Michael Keene

Saturday, December 7th

Michael Keene, author of *Folklore and Legends of Rochester: The Mystery of Hoodoo Corner & Other Tales*; *Murder, Mayhem & Madness: 150 Years of Crime & Punishment in Western New York*; and *Madhouse: The Hidden History of Insane Asylums in 19th Century New York*, will be on hand at the museum from 9:00–11:00 a.m., signing copies of his books. The books sell for \$20 each. An audio collection featuring all three titles is also available for \$20.

Book Signing with Donovan Shilling:

Saturday, December 14th

Fairport native Donovan Shilling, author of over ten books on local history, will visit the museum from 9:00–11:00 a.m. to sign copies of *A Towpath Tale: Adventures on the Old Erie Canal*. A historical novel for teens to adults, *A Towpath Tale* is a vibrant account of the adventures of Joshua Ford, a young mule driver on the old Erie Canal during the season of 1884. A series of escapades befall Joshua, some comical, some unusual and one—devastating!

The tale provides a delightful history of life on the canal. Mr. Shilling will also sign copies of his newest book, *Rochester's Movie Mania*, which sells for \$30. The book *A Towpath Tale* sells for \$20.



Annual Christmas Party and Program

7:30 pm, Saturday, December 14th

Please bring a finger dessert to pass as we celebrate the holidays and listen as Chris Bensch, Vice President for Collections and Chief Curator at *The Strong*®, presents *Decking the Halls to Shopping Malls: American Christmas Traditions and How They Grew*. Although our Christmas traditions have an aura of permanence, many can actually be traced to the second half of the 19th century. This lecture explores the origins and changing styles of such standard holiday features as the Christmas tree, ornaments, stockings and greeting cards. The Victorian period established familiar holiday patterns for everything from favorite carols to traffic jams of shoppers.

Frederick Ferris Thompson's Diaries: The Interpretation of a Primary Source

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 21st



Join the curator, chair and archivists from the Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion History Committee as they discuss the life of Frederick Ferris Thompson in this special presentation for the PHS. Thompson and his wife, Mary Clark Thompson, purchased the Sonnenberg property in Canandaigua in 1863. The Thompsons kept the Sonnenberg name, meaning "sunny hill" in German, but lent their own style to the mansion they built on the property. After Frederick died in 1899, Mary worked with landscape architects to create the nine incredible gardens for which Sonnenberg is known today. This presentation will take place in the **Elma Gaffney Meeting Room at the Fairport Library**. Registration is required, and begins at www.fairportlibrary.org on December 24, or by calling the Fairport Library at 585-223-9091.

"A Grandmother Remembers" continued from page 1

to a dilemma when my brother decided it would be fun to hit me over the head with one. My Mom told Steve that if he did this again, she'd have to hit *him* over the head with a squash. Never give a three-year-old a challenge like that. Of course Steve did, and, yes, Mom had to follow through with her threat. Her gentle tap surprised rather than hurt him. Much to her embarrassment, his screams could be heard throughout the neighborhood!

Secondhand toys and cars as well as hand-me-down clothes were common in our village. Our country had gone through what was called The Great Depression when lots of people lost their jobs and many didn't have much money. This was followed by World War II, a time when every person was issued ration stamps for food and gas. When we moved to Galusha Street, the car we owned was a secondhand, battleship-gray Dodge coupe. I did not have a brand new bike until I won one in 1950. One day in July, a letter from Armour Company arrived telling me that a name I'd submitted to the Dash dog food *Name the Puppy* contest had been selected, and I'd won a beautiful Monarch bike with white sidewall tires. I was thrilled.

Nick "Nicky" Messerino's Market carried a good selection of meats, produce, and canned goods. Customers were greeted by name and made to feel welcome. As a little girl, this warm greeting made me feel special. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, your great grandma could call in her grocery order, and it would be delivered to our home the same day. Those were the days when most families, including ours, had only one car. Home delivery was a great help. Immediately after World War II, it was impossible for us to get butter. I'll always remember how pleased my dad, your great grandfather, was when "Nicky" procured real butter for him. What a delicious treat, far better than the white Crisco-like stuff to which we had to add a packet of yellow cake coloring to make it look like butter.

I know how much you and Matt love your puppy, Molly. As you have explained to me, "Molly is a mutt." Well my brother and I also had a mutt we named "Sylvie." Without Sylvie, I couldn't have won my Monarch bike! She was a beautiful blond, born to a dog owned by the Reverend John E. Dahlen, then minister of the First Baptist Church, and his wife, Sylvia. We named our puppy "Sylvie" in honor of the minister's wife who was also a beautiful blond! Sylvie would pull us on our sled after a heavy winter snow, and would race beside us as we rode our bikes along the old canal towpath.

Back then, the towpath, now named the Erie Canalway Trail, was a bumpy, weed-choked path where mules once pulled boats along the Erie Canal. My dad and I would peddle our bikes down Galusha Street, turn left onto Nelson Street, and right onto West Church Street. At the Fullamtown Bridge, we'd go down the bank to the towpath. If we were lucky, we'd pass a tug pulling a barge. Often we'd steer our bikes toward Fairport's historic lift bridge, a unique Fairport landmark. I've walked across it, peddled across it, marched across it, and even stood on it when it went up to let a tug pass. Once, on a very warm day, I stood in my bare feet on the bridge as it went up. This was a mistake!

Before the bridge lowered, I could see the warm tar from its sidewalk oozing between my toes. Lucky, my Uncle Dave was with me. He picked me up, carried me to his car, and once back home, used turpentine to remove the tar.

Our parade route for events such as Memorial Day and the Fourth of July began at Whitney Road near the Baptist Home. After marching down North Main Street, we'd cross the lift bridge, proceed along South Main Street, turn right onto West Church Street, and gather at the Potter Place War Memorial. Local ministers and elected officials presided over these memorial events. Everyone took these services seriously, for many families had lost loved ones in our nation's wars.

I was proud to play flute in our Fairport High School marching band. Our uniforms were gray and blue. Our Eisenhower jackets, similar to those worn by our country's famous World War II general and president, were waist length. Band members respected Waldo Woodworth, our talented and energetic director. We followed his directions to the letter when it came to halftime performances at football games as well as concerts.

High School football games were played on the field behind the West Avenue Junior-Senior High School, today's Packett's Glen. School spirit was always high, and many of us bought ribbons from members of the Block F Club and Alpha Beta Phi, organizations whose members were some of our school's best athletes. We wore these ribbons proudly. Would you believe that I still have many of mine? (See picture below.)



Back in the 1950s, East Rochester was our chief rival. Annually, our two football teams played for the *Little Brown Jug*, a coveted trophy that would be placed in our high school's display case if Fairport won this game.

Some of my friends from high school band and orchestra days still live in the village or the surrounding town of Perinton. Keith Boas, our solo cornet player, and his wife, Carol, live in Perinton. Andrea Christopher, my "partner in crime" in the flute section, lives in Fairport. Warren Knapp, a first clarinet player, and his wife, Pat, live in Perinton. These are some of the folks I enjoy visiting when I take a Fairport vacation. Andrea and I have



The FHS band performing at a Fairport football game.

Photo by Don Boas in 1954

hiked and biked the Erie Canalway Trail and visited the Lilac Festival. Keith and Carol have treated me to delicious meals and joined with me in recalling some of our school adventures. Warren, Pat and I have laughed so hard remembering neighborhood mishaps, like Sylvie dog's "close encounter" with Kenney's pet cat, that tears have run down my cheeks.

Like several of my classmates, I left Fairport for college in September 1958. There were 67 members in our class, a small number when compared to today's high school graduating classes. Our commencement was held in the auditorium of the West Avenue Junior-Senior High School. Valedictorian John Fisk delivered an address about the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line developed in Alaska and the Arctic in the mid-1950s. This was a timely topic because the Cold War with USSR was in full swing. Marlene Pittinaro, who later married Frank Pappalardo, sang a lovely solo, Musetta's *Waltz Song* from *La Boheme*. Whenever I think of Marlene, I remember her wonderful smile, and that she always had a kind word for everyone. George Wolf served as Concert Master for the Senior High School Orchestra that evening, and led his fellow musicians in our recessional, *War March of the Priests*. Today, both George and Keith serve as two of the Trustees for the Perinton Historical Society.

During our graduation ceremony, prizes were given to deserving students in a variety of subjects, such as mathematics, science, music, French, Latin, Spanish and art. I'd forgotten what the dollar amounts were until I found my graduation program. The largest prize was a \$10 Industrial Arts Award given by Fairport Hardware Company. Today that would amount to about \$78. One of the smaller prizes was a \$2.50 check "given by the Amicitia Club to the senior girl and boy who have made the most satisfactory adjustment to school and to life." The Inflation Calculator estimates that this would be about \$20 in 2012 currency. Isn't it amazing what inflation has done to our currency over the past 55 years?

So Missy, my little Jersey girl, I leave you with this thought: No amount of money can replace good friends and happy memories. Perhaps one day you'll return to your home-town of Medford as I return to Fairport. Old friends are treasures; they make any vacation extra special.

My love to you and Matt,
Grandma Betsy



Looking Back— The FHS Marching Band

By Keith Boas

In Betsy's article (left), she recalls the Fairport High School (FHS) band during the 1950s. My own memories of the band parallel those of Betsy's, as I was in the band at the same time. Like a few of my classmates, I also marched in the Fairport VFW Band, later to become the Fairport Fire Dept. Band.

During the mid to late 20th century, the FHS band, besides marching in parades and performing in concerts and at school assemblies, worked hard on marching excellence for football game halftime shows. For marching events, attendance always was mandatory. If you wanted to be in the band, you *had* to participate 100% in its marching program!

An article (below) appearing in our local newspaper on November 8, 1956 explained the band's rigorous marching schedule that autumn:

Marching Schedule Heavy for FHS Band

The Fairport High School band has had a busy schedule these past two weeks. They have been rehearsing five days a week for the special show they will put on during halftime of the Fairport—East Rochester game this Saturday, November 10.

Marching music for the Halloween Parade was provided by the FHS band on October 31. Selections consisted mainly of "On, Oh Fairport," serving a dual purpose as a tune for parading and a spirit rouse for the team and the community for the Brighton and East Rochester games.

The band played at the Brighton game last Saturday and lifted hearts and hopes at some mighty low moments.

A great deal of thanks are due to the high school band which has added music and color to the exciting game of football at Fairport High.

Levi DeLand

Black-Listed From the Sons of Temperance

By William Keeler, Curator of the Fairport Historical Museum

The DeLand family is the most well-known and respected historic family in the village of Fairport. Their contributions to the area and the economy are legendary. Yet hidden in the archives of the Rochester Historical Society is a ripped and tattered notebook entitled “Teoronto Division No. 95 Sons of Temperance Black Book. Members Expelled or Suspended. 1848.” Under the letter D there is an entry that on February 4, 1849, Levi Deland of Fairport was expelled from the Sons of Temperance. No reason is given for the expulsion.

The Sons of Temperance was a brotherhood of like-minded men who believed that alcohol was an evil and pledged to refrain from making, buying, selling or using any form of spirituous beverage. The membership was highly restrictive. A member, called a brother, had to be recommended by another brother, and three other brothers had to investigate the life of the applicant to see if they thought he was worthy. The organization also served as an insurance company. Every brother had to turn over a two-dollar membership fee and six cents per week. Whenever a brother died, the group would contribute thirty dollars for funeral costs and another fifteen dollars for his widow.

The group was founded in America in New York City in 1842 and spread quickly throughout the northeast. Two years after its founding, there were 4,104 members and 45 different divisions. In 1847 the membership had increased to 13,721 members and 183 chapters. The Teoronto Division, of which Levi was a brother, was based in Rochester. The name of the division is from the Iroquois or Mohawk language. The name refers to what we know of today as Irondequoit Bay. In Iroquois, it means where the waves breathe and die. In Mohawk it means a place where there is a jam of flood wood. Both are quite appropriate for the area.

Like several fraternal organizations of the time, there were a set of rituals, costumes, passwords and secret handshakes. As part of the initiation, brothers had to drink a glass of water, God’s beverage, to show their commitment to the cause. They had to repeat the following pledge: “No brother shall make, buy, sell or use as a beverage any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider.” The aim of the society was “to reform drunkards and to prevent others from becoming drunkards.” Levi DeLand joined this society shortly after moving to Perinton.

Levi DeLand was the patriarch of the DeLand clan in Fairport. He was born on December 27, 1792 in Hartford, New York, in Washington County. At the age of 20, Levi served in the United States Army as the fourth Sergeant for Captain David William’s 17th Mead’s Regiment of the New York Militia during the War of 1812. He is also said to have served under Captain Reuben Ellenwood in the 20th Gridley Regiment from October, 1812 to November, 1814. He married Hannah Brown



Electra Tracy and Levi DeLand

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

while still in the military in January of 1814. Hannah died during the birth of their sixth child, Joel Levi, in 1825. Levi DeLand married again to Electra Tracy at Newark in Tioga County, New York, eight months after the death of his first wife. Levi and Electra had nine more children.

In 1847, Levi and his family moved to Perinton and bought a farm just east of the village of Fairport at the corner of Macedon Center and Hamilton Roads. The 1850 census shows Levi and Electra living in Perinton with 6 children.

**Other brothers from Fairport Expelled
or Suspended from the Sons of Temperance**

J.L. Conklin, expelled August 14, 1849
 John W. Cook, expelled July 10, 1850
 C.H. Dickenson, expelled March 23, 1851
 William R. Hunt, expelled August 14, 1848
 James S. Hendrick, suspended November 1849
 Lorenzo Howard, expelled July 10, 1850
 B. Wilbur, expelled August 25, 1850

He was a deeply religious man and an active member in the Baptist Church. It was printed in his obituary that “He lived a good man, discharged well his obligations as a citizen and in the full confidence and hope that the Christian faith can alone endure...”

Staying a member of the Sons of Temperance was not that easy. Total abstinence in a world where liquor was consumed in great quantity and by all levels of society was a daunting task. In 1844, there were 54 brothers expelled from the national organization. Of those who were expelled, 28 were reinstated. It is not clear from the black list why Levi DeLand or the other brothers from division 95 were expelled. A one-inch margin on the right side of the ledger has been torn off on all the pages in the book. This could have shown the brothers’ indiscretions and was perhaps removed to protect the reputation of the members.

Levi DeLand died in Fairport on December 22, 1869 at the age of 77. He was survived by his wife Electra and eight of his fifteen children. He is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

The Sons of Temperance still survives today in the United Kingdom with just over 6,000 members including women. The insurance part of the organization was dropped in 2011 but its members still believe in the basic principle established by the organization in the 1840s of refraining from the drinking of alcohol.



GREAT WAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR PHS!

Simply drop off your deposit cans and bottles to EZ Bottle and Can Return. Tell them you want to donate the deposit to the

Perinton Historical Society

EZ BOTTLE AND CAN RETURN

1259 Fairport Road - Fairport, NY 14450
585-377-9140

Upcoming Events

*At the Fairport Historical Museum
Except January 21st*

Now through December 21

Cuddle Up a Little Closer: Cold-Weather Costume Exhibit
Collectibles on Parade: PHS President Bob Hunt shares his collection of toys he received as a youth at Christmas

Saturday, December 7

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Book Signing with Michael Keene, author of *Folklore and Legends of Rochester: The Mystery of Hoodoo Corner & Other Tales; Murder, Mayhem & Madness: 150 Years of Crime & Punishment in Western New York;* and *Madhouse: The Hidden History of Insane Asylums in 19th Century New York*



9:00–10:30 a.m.

**Create a Craft–
Gingerbread Baby
Ornaments**

Drop by and create a gingerbread baby ornament for your tree. Free activity for children of all ages.

Saturday, December 14

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Book signing with Fairport native Donovan A. Shilling, author of multiple books, including *A Towpath Tale; Adventures on the Old Erie Canal* and *Rochester’s Movie Maina*

Tuesday, December 17

7:30 p.m.

Christmas Party & Program–Please bring a finger dessert to pass. *Deck the Halls to Shopping Malls: American Christmas Traditions and How They Grew*, presented by Christopher Bensch, VP of Collections for The Strong

December 22–February 28

Winter Closing: The Fairport Historical Museum will be closed for winter, but will re-open on Saturday, March 1 with exciting new exhibits. Our February 18 program will take place at the museum as usual

Tuesday, January 21

7:30 pm at the Fairport Public Library

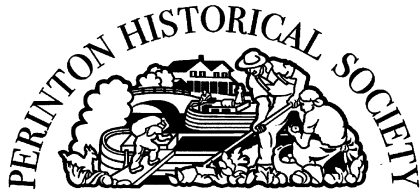
Registration required*

Frederick Ferris Thompson’s Diaries:

The Interpretation of a Primary Source

Presented by the curator, chair and archivists from the Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion History Committee

***Note registration information in article on page 3.**



Preserving History Today for Tomorrow

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The Fairport Historical Museum will be closed from December 22 through February 28. We will reopen on Saturday, March 1.

During this period, you may call Vicki Profitt at 585-233-1204 or email at vprofitt@rochester.rr.com, to book a group tour or do research.



Holiday Shopping and Author Appearances

Christmas is just around the corner! Don't forget to stop by the revamped museum gift shop for a wide array of enticing and unusual gifts that will appeal to everyone on your holiday shopping list. Children will love the new toys in the shop that are reminiscent of the "good old days." Autographed copies of *Peppermint Summer* by Pat Gorthy are also available while supplies last. The gift shop is open during regular museum hours through December 22, and cash or checks are accepted.