

Perinton Historical Society Historiogram

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Delphine Hanna—Pioneer of Physical Education Dedicated to the Educators of Fairport, Past and Present

By Bill Poray

“It was the bitter cold winter of 1884. In the township school in upstate [Perinton] New York a young teacher watched the last pupil reluctantly leave the genial warmth of the well-kept fire in the class room to trudge home through the deep snow. Each week it had been apparent that fewer pupils could weather the wintry blasts, and, like their teachers, even the faithful few grew more and more listless. A vague memory of her own lassitude during the long winter confinements of her childhood in Wisconsin stirred in her mind the question, why?”

From “Portrait of a Pioneer—Unswerving Dedication to an Ideal Brought in a New Era of Health Education for College Women”, *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, July, 1957

Delphine Hanna was of Perinton pioneer stock. Her grandfather was Amos Chadwick, her grandmother, Cynthia Staples. Both families played important roles in Perinton’s early history. The daughter of John Vacanson Hanna and Juliet Chadwick, Miss Delphine Hanna was born on December 2, 1854 in Markesan, Wisconsin. If you stumble upon her grave at Greenvale Cemetery on East Church Street, as I did, you would think she was born ten years later, as her tombstone says she was born in 1864. The stone is incorrect. In fact, the stone is not even hers. Miss Hanna has no grave marker of her own. The only indication of her burial at Greenvale is on the reverse of her Uncle Jeremiah Chadwick’s substantial tombstone, where the following is written:

*Delphine Hanna M.D.
Born Dec. 2, 1864 Died April 16, 1941*

It is the title of “M.D.” that caught my attention. I am familiar with two women who were early physicians in Fairport, Sophia Howard, and Francis White. But I had never heard of Delphine Hanna, and so, my curiosity piqued, I decided to do some research. At the Fairport Museum, I found a single reference to Miss Hanna, an early photograph of her at a young age. Below the photo are very old notations regarding her education: Brockport, 1879; Sargent School of Physical Education (Harvard), 1885; University of Michigan Medical School, 1890, Cornell, about 1901; and Oberlin College, about 1901; Professor of Physical Education at Oberlin.

Although born in Wisconsin, at some point in her youth, Delphine Hanna relocated to Perinton, living with members of the Chadwick family. She later attended the Brockport Normal School for Teachers, graduating in 1879. The Federal Census of 1880 confirms that Miss Delphine Hanna was living with the



Delphine Hanna, possibly 1879, the year Miss Hanna graduated from Brockport Normal School, by Rochester photographer John H. Kent.
Photo from the archives of the Perinton Historical Society

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Comments from your President

~ Bob Hunt ~



Greetings!

I sit at my computer putting together some comments for the April *HISTORIGRAM* with the thermometer outside tipping around 70 degrees. I need to get an outside jack for my computer or one of those iPad gadgets so I can do my column outside.

As I visited the museum for our March meeting, I noticed someone or someones had cleaned up some of the winter debris from around the property and placed it at the curb for pick up. I don't know who it was, but thank you, thank you...it is appreciated.

Comments from our March 13 Board meeting...Some may be reruns but are important events, which should be on your schedule of activities:

- ◆ April 17th: The program for April will be our own David Wild with his antique toys. The program begins at 7:30 PM at the museum. Our programs, arranged by Vice President Vicki Profitt, have been averaging 77 attendees. We may need a larger venue if this continues.
- ◆ April 19th: PHS will host a display at the Green Lantern Inn Bicentennial event. Understand this will be a grazing event and not a dinner, and should be an enjoyable evening, so please plan to attend.
- ◆ May 5th: Our museum will be open 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for *Spring Fling*, which features the opening of the Farmers' Market and canal for the season, sidewalk sales and other fun activities.
- ◆ May 15th: Don't forget our annual meeting and picnic at 6:00 PM at Perinton Park.
- ◆ June 28th: The Hemmings Motor News Great Race will be visiting Fairport's Main Street from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The museum will be open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to support this event. If you can help that day, please let me know. I have been attending the Great Race meetings, and this should be a fun event.
- ◆ July, in the time frame of the 1st to 15th: A scavenger hunt is being prepared and will feature 20 historical sites around the Town of Perinton. Booklets will be available at the appropriate time at the museum, Fairport Public Library, Perinton Community Center and Fairport Village Hall.
- ◆ July 4th float: The committee chair Ann Castle is moving ahead and, rumor has it, is planning a boat to float on Main Street. Sounds exciting!

◆ The Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship received 10 essays, competing for two \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded this year. The winners will be featured in a future issue of *HISTORIGRAM*.

Our next board meeting is April 10th at 7:00 PM at the museum. Thanks to all for your continued support and we will chat again next month...Bob

Rhunt1@rochester.rr.com 585-415-7053



Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:30 PM
at the Fairport Historical Museum



Antique Toy Cars History and Values

Presented by David Wild

A retired electronics engineer in the military electronics field, Dave worked on the 1957 atomic bomb tests, the electronics package for the F-111 Fighter and numerous communications and surveillance systems for intelligence agencies.

Dave has been heavily involved with antique toy cars and sports cars since the 1940s, and raced at Watkins Glen and other east coast tracks for many years in the 1950s and 1960s. He was "grandfathered" in as a race instructor and currently chairs one of the committees for the Watkins Glen Vintage Grand Prix Festival.

A Perinton Historical Society Trustee, Mr. Wild has been collecting antique toy cars since the 1940s. Dave will display his collection at the museum and will lead a discussion of this fascinating hobby.

HISTORIGRAM

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"Hanna" continued
from page 1

family of Arlington Chadwick on Perrin Street, and identifies her occupation as "teacher".

She first taught at the District No. 3 School on Turk Hill Road, and by the fall of 1884 was assigned to the "Junior A" grade at the new Union School located on West Church Street.

Upon completion of a semester with Dr. Dio Lewis, the famed physical culture advocate, "Del" Hanna soon came to the realization that students and teachers alike needed a physical education founded upon a scientific basis. To further her knowledge in the field, she enrolled in Dr. Dudley A. Sargent's School of Physical Training at Harvard, likely in the summer of 1885.

"By now it was quite clear she had chosen her life work. She was now convinced that a regimen of exercise was essential to well-being, but it must be based on scientific principles. It was to a small Midwestern college in Oberlin, Ohio, reported to welcome with open mind experimentation in newer educational theories, that Delphine Hanna brought her convictions. Unmoved by the lament of her school principal, "but you are a teacher in a thousand," Miss Hanna gave up the lucrative salary of \$800 to accept Oberlin's guarantee of \$300 for living expenses for the year 1886."

Excerpt from Oberlin Alumni Magazine, July, 1957

The Principal of the Women's Department at Oberlin College was supportive of physical education for women, and was intrigued by Miss Hanna's views on the subject. By the fall of 1885, an offer of employment was accepted by Miss Hanna, although no funding was available from the college for the new curriculum or for her wages. A good friend, Miss Julia Dickinson of Fairport, came forth to donate money for her salary and necessary physical education equipment. Living quarters in a dormitory on campus were also provided to Miss Hanna, about which she wrote: *"The room contained a black bedstead with husk mattress six inches too short, a wash-stand with pitcher and bowl, two chairs and a rack of wood. It was customary for the occupant to rent a bureau, but after some discussion one was provided out of deference for my pedagogical status."*

Delphine Hanna was off and running. She created exercise classes, and meticulously recorded data, which she submitted to national research studies in education, orthopedics and medical science. She also sent copies to Dr. Sargent at Harvard, for use in his studies. She soon established one of the first four-year degree programs in physical education in the country. The program was



An early women's Physical Education class at Oberlin College.
Photo used with permission, from the Historical Archives at Oberlin College



Miss Delphine Hanna on the campus at Oberlin College, Ohio. Photo used with permission, from the Historical Archives at Oberlin College

open to both women and men, unusual and bold in that era. The course curriculum included physiology, anatomy, medical corrective exercises, massage, hygiene, elocution, and various types of dance, although in the earliest years dance was for women only.

The Oberlin Alumni Magazine of July, 1957 reported:

"It is almost impossible to train a portrait-lens on the energetic figure of Delphine Hanna in the ensuing years. Though indefatigable in behalf of physical education and the preparation of teachers, she was equally zealous to improve her own professional status and to achieve appropriate recognition of the competence of women. In 1887 she attended summer sessions at Harvard, and took entrance examinations for credit at Michigan, completing medical school in two years. She was among the first of the "hen medics" and subsequently was named to the Michigan Hall

"Hanna" continued from page 3

of fame. In 1898 she entered Cornell University to acquire a Bachelor of Arts Degree; in the meantime she had studied the Swedish gymnastic system with Baron Passe and additional orthopedic work in Zurich. In 1901 in recognition of her outstanding studies and publications of anthropometric charts, Oberlin College bestowed the Master of Arts Degree upon her."

Delphine Hanna arrived at Oberlin College to teach Physical Culture in 1885. Within two years she became Director of the Women's Gymnasium and Teacher of Physiology. She was appointed Director of Physical Training in 1897 and Professor of Physical Training (later Physical Education) in 1903. She continued in this position until her retirement in 1920 as Professor Emeritus. Hanna was a pioneer in the field of physical education for women. She has been credited with being the first woman in the United States, and perhaps the world, to hold a professorship in physical education. Through her influence, the teachers' course in physical education at Oberlin was established. She also initiated the college's camp on the shore of Lake Erie in 1921. At "Hanna Camp" physical education students learned to swim and to teach swimming.

In 1925 Delphine Hanna was inducted into the Michigan Hall of Fame for her outstanding work in the field of physical education for women. In 1931 the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation honored her with its highest award. A dedicated and talented teacher, and educational pioneer, Miss Delphine Hanna retired in 1920, and eventually relocated to Coconut Grove, Florida. She died in 1941 in a home for the aged in Castile, New York following a long illness, the cause of death – "infirmities of old age." Sixteen years later and not forgotten, in 1957, the Delphine Hanna Foundation was established to provide funds for the enrichment of the physical education program of Oberlin College.

Doctor Delphine Hanna started her teaching career in a one room schoolhouse in Perinton, a building which still stands today on Turk Hill Road. She went on to become the first woman professor of Physical Education in the United States, and perhaps the world. Delphine Hanna was a true pioneer.



~ *Our Mission* ~

The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote interest in preserving and sharing local history.



The old Fairport Main Street Bridge and behind it, the building at the corner of South Main Street and West Avenue, which was moved. The building is now 38 West Avenue.

1911 Photo courtesy of Jean Keplinger,
Perinton Town Historian

~ *100 Years Ago This Year* ~

The building at 38 West Avenue, next to the Moonlight Creamery, once sat at the northwest corner of South Main Street and West Avenue. According to Dr. James Welch*, who was the Fairport Village Historian in the mid 1970s, the structure was moved to its present site 100 years ago to make room for the widening of the canal.

In his 1976 book *Memories of Fairport*, Dr. Welch recalled that, before the building was moved, boys used to dive from its roof into the canal. The village government frowned upon such activity and passed an ordinance which forbid swimming anywhere near the old Main Street Bridge. We can assume this ordinance also covered the perilous, while popular, activity of diving off the top of the building.

Sources: *Perinton Historical Society website*
FAIRPORT HERALD-MAIL (numerous issues,
1911--1981)

* *Dr. James Welch was a Fairport dentist for 50 years.*

He was also--

President (Mayor) of Fairport: 1920--1921

Fairport Village Historian: 1973--1978

Perinton Citizen of the Year: 1975

*Curator of the Perinton Historical Society for
many years*

Dr. Welch died in 1981 at the age of 90.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The *HISTORIGRAM* article by Keith Boas about Tony Pittinaro brought back many happy memories. Tony was such a good man, and he knew just how to make a gangly twelve year old girl (me) feel like a million dollars. One day I took shoes into his South Main St. shop for repair. He asked me, “How old are you, Betsy Garner?” I answered “Twelve.” Immediately, he responded “twelve-teen.” Well, I was thrilled, and never forgot this exchange. As you remember, back in the day, we all wanted to be cool teenagers. I also remember that he stocked girls’ gym sneakers in a “variety” of colors: white, blue, and tan. I thought getting tan sneakers was the best.

Near Tony’s shop was the shop of “Waitie” Adams, a dear little lady that I vaguely remember. My mother frequented her shop that stocked all things for women including sanitary supplies! I know my mother always remembered a thought Waitie passed along to her. It was, “When you feel your worst, you should look your best.” Good advice. Now my question to you is this, what was Waitie’s real name? I’ve spelled it as I recall it sounding to my child’s ears.

Saxton’s Department Store was also a place to shop. I recall as a pre-teen finding a navy blue woolen one-piece bathing suit there. Wouldn’t today’s little girls laugh at this. Also, Mother purchased a special dress for me at this store so that I would be presentable when I received an eighth grade award.

And, of course, who could ever forget the bowls of goldfish in Bramer’s store windows, or buying school supplies at both Wagers and Bramers? I could go on and on. I feel sure our joint memories could fill many books. I’m thankful that you are part of the “Historigram” team. You all are doing a great job of reminding folks of “the way we were.”

Best wishes!

Betsy (Garner) Carpenter

Before Demolition for the Fairport Village Landing: Bramer’s Drug Store was on the corner of South Main Street and West Avenue, next to Saxton’s Dept. Store.

Photo courtesy of Jean Keplinger, Perinton Town Historian



Dear Betsy,

Thanks so much for sharing your memories of shopping on Main Street. With regard to your question, the “dear little lady” that you remember was indeed named Waitie Adams. Evidence of this can be found in census reports and several years of Fairport directories. She was also referred to as Waitie in the newspaper announcement of her wedding to Mr. Orlo Adams in 1901.

Born July 7th, 1881, Waitie Cordelia VanAlstyne married Orlo H. Adams in September of 1901. Census reports tell us that Mr. Adams was a bookkeeper and in sales at the “can factory”.

Waitie ran her Main Street store for many years, and also periodically sold dresses and other goods from the family home at 81 West Church Street.

Waitie passed away in the mid 1950s, while her husband died in 1963. Each was well known in the community for their volunteerism and involvement in several organizations.

Thanks for the question, Betsy!

Editor, HISTORIGRAM

27	14	17	Standen, Emma J.	Head #	08,000
			Clark, Marianna	Lodger	
			Leadley, Louise	Lodger	
			Ford, J. Williams	Lodger	
			E. Vadas	Lodger	
87	15	18	Adams, Orlo H.	Head	08,000
			Waitie V.	Wife #	
			Adler, V.	Girl	
			Furness, Wm R.	Lodger	
87	16	19	Wagner, William	Head	08,000
			Nellie	Wife #	

Waitie Adams is listed on the 1930 Federal Census (see arrow).

Chester Hutchinson

Fairport Veteran, Patriot and Loyal Citizen

By Vicki Profitt, Illuminated History

“Our marching and countermarching brought us on the 17th of September in front of Lee’s army. We halted, piled up our haversacks, loaded our guns, and were ready for action... Our position was a hot one, and the air was alive with bullets, shells, shot and canister.”

Civil War veteran Chester Hutchinson’s recollection of being severely wounded at the battle of Antietam nearly thirty two years earlier

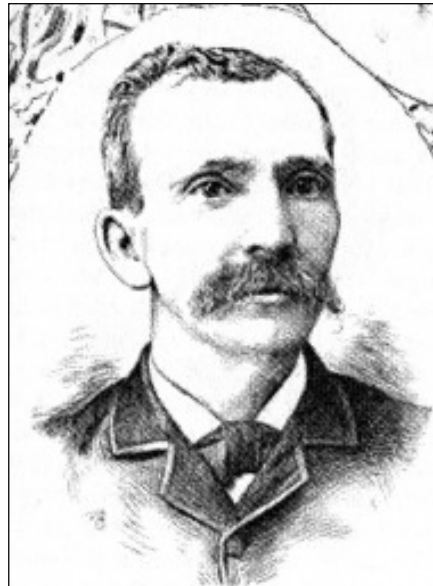
Chester Hutchinson, the fifth of seven children born to Lewis and Betsey Palmer Hutchinson, was born in Penfield, New York, on July 12, 1841. The Hutchinson family soon moved to Perinton, where Chester’s maternal grandparents, Ira and Sarah Beilby Palmer, were among the earliest settlers of the town. Lewis Hutchinson supported his large family as a farm laborer, and it was expected that Chester would also work the farm. After the death of his mother in 1849, Chester moved to Pittsford, where he continued his schooling and raised vegetables to be sold in the markets in Rochester. Ten years later, Chester moved to Fairport and apprenticed in the sash and blind trade run by his uncles, Seymour and John G. Palmer.

After three years at the sash and blind factory, the Civil War beckoned and Chester enlisted in Co. B, 108th NY Infantry on August 4, 1862. He arrived in Washington, D.C. on a cattle car with other members of his regiment. Rules were lax at the beginning of the war, and soldiers could sleep where they wished as long as they were present at roll call. Years after the war, Chester recalled spending his first night in Washington, D.C. sleeping on the east stone steps of the White House. Soon Chester would have more to concern him than finding a good spot in which to catch some shut-eye.

One month after enlistment, the men of the 108th NY Infantry received a trial by fire. On September 17, 1862, the regiment was led into battle at Sharpsburg, Maryland, on what would become the bloodiest single day of fighting of the entire war. Over 23,000 Union and Confederate casualties occurred at this battle, which the Northerners called Antietam. Chester was one such casualty. The gunshot hit his right breast, “the ball glancing along the bone, coming out about four inches from where it entered and stopping” against his right arm. It took Chester more than one year to recover from this wound.

He was successful in his effort to return to his regiment in early 1864; however, Chester was once again quickly engaged in a fight for his life. This time, it was at the battle of the Wilderness. Struck in the left breast by a minie ball, which

passed through his lung, the doctor who dressed Chester’s wound, pronounced it fatal. Death would come to Chester, but not in May, 1864. After lying in pain for three weeks, he was transferred to Fredericksburg, Maryland, where he was located by Sergeant Chilson of Company B, 108th NY Infantry. By the fall of 1864, Chester was sent to City Hospital in Rochester to recuperate, and he remained there until his regiment arrived home and he received his discharge.



Chester Hutchinson, from the book--
A complete military history and record of the 108th Regiment N.Y. vols., published 1894

After the war, Chester Hutchinson wed Mary Grover. For several years, the Hutchinsons made their home in West Bay City, Michigan, where Chester was employed at the Crump Manufacturing Company, a planing mill and box factory. After Mary’s death in 1886, Chester and his four children returned home to New York, where they lived for many years at 6 Prospect Street in the village of Fairport.

Hattie Down Wiley became Chester’s second wife on January 1, 1891. As the widow of another Fairport Civil War soldier, James B. Wiley of the 111th NY Infantry, Hattie brought six children to the marriage. Chester and Hattie had one son together, Lynn, who died in 1896 at age two. Hattie and Chester brought up their combined eleven children together and were married for more than forty years.

In his later years, Chester was very active in the community. As a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) E.A. Slocum Post 211, an organization dedicated to aiding veterans of the Civil War, Chester served in various leadership positions throughout the years. E.A. Slocum Post 211 was disbanded in 1937 due to the death of its last member, Horace Waddell. Chester traveled each year to attend reunions of the 108th NY Infantry and, in 1899, won first place in the reunion shooting contest. He was also employed as a watchman at a bank, worked at the Dobbin & Moore Lumber Company, was very active in the Baptist Church, and was appointed as a tax collector.

Continued on page 7

"Hutchinson" continued from page 6

In the 1920s, as the ranks of the Civil War soldiers were diminished by death, Chester Hutchinson became a prominent face in the news. No fewer than two poems were written about him, which celebrated the milestones of Chester's 80th and 85th birthdays. The 85th birthday poem was written by Pittsford resident and elocutionist Franc Fassett Pugsley, a daughter of Chester's comrade from the 108th NY Infantry, Jonathan J. Fassett. Mrs. Pugsley managed to fit into her lengthy poem information about Chester's birth, early life, war experiences and wounds, marriages and children before bestowing this wish upon Chester, "May the sun turn the evening skies to gold and love brighten all the way."

Chester Hutchinson died on April 19, 1932 at age 90. Not bad for a man who, 68 years earlier, had been told he wouldn't survive his wounds. Chester was buried at Greenvale Cemetery in Fairport beside his son, Lynn, and stepsons Mark and Frank Wiley. Hattie, his wife of 41 years, joined him in 1940. A newspaper article written one month after his death stated that, "Chester Hutchinson joined his comrades on the march into eternity, carrying with him the reverence and respect of the people in the community, a patriot and a loyal citizen."



Fairport Playing Cards For Sale

The Fairport Museum Gift shop now has playing cards for sale. The cards are poker size, with white silhouettes of buildings over a dark blue background, and are packaged in a small white box.

The words "Fairport, New York" are in the center of each card, and you can pick out several landmark buildings in the village from the silhouettes.

Designed by New York City graphic designer Anna Keeler, the price is \$8.00 per pack.

Profits from the sale of gift shop items go to pay for museum utilities and maintenance.



From the FAIRPORT HERALD-MAIL March 6, 1912

A fox chase is to be held at the Spring Brook hotel in Egypt on Wednesday, March 18, at 2:30 p.m.

For Sale

6-room house, good lot, well fruited. Close to the Sanitary Works. Only \$1,350 for quick sale.

From the ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE, March 18, 1905

EGYPT BAND WON THE PRIZE

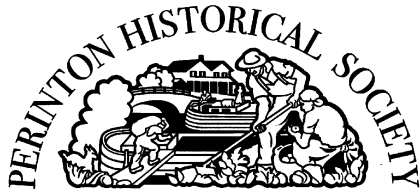
Contest Held at the Masonic Fair
Given at Macedon

The Egypt Concert Band of this town is establishing quite a reputation for fine music. Its members are nearly all farmer lads, who for the past two years have given much time to practice and have reached an unusual stage of proficiency.

Two years ago this band gave regular Saturday night open air concerts in this village, and although the organization was young at the time the music rendered was of a high order.

At the Masonic festival and fair held by the Masonic fraternity of the village of Macedon, which has just closed, a prize band concert was held, the bands participating being the Cornet Band of Palmyra, and the Egypt Cornet Band.

The prize was awarded the Egypt Band, which is considered quite a distinction, as the Palmyra Band is an old organization which has participated in many contests.



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Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is open to the public on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays—on the hours listed below. If you want to do research or have other needs at the museum on other days and/or times, you may make an appointment. Please call and leave a message at 223-3989.



Photo by Bill Poray

HOURS

Sunday 2 pm—4 pm
Tuesday 2 pm—4 pm
Thursday 7 pm—9 pm

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org

On February 21, Charles L. Lowe presented a wonderful and informative program to a full house at the Fairport Museum. The topic was the Rochester and Eastern Line, which connected Rochester, Canandaigua and Geneva with high-speed electric interurban railway cars from 1903 to 1930.