

Perinton Historical Society Historiogram



18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

585-223-3989

July 2012

Vol. XLIV • No. 9



BICENTENNIAL EDITION

Happy Birthday, Perinton!

Schedule of Celebration Events

July 1–July 15

Events at Center Park, Turk Hill & Ayrault Roads, unless otherwise noted.
(Free admission except for the Firecracker Five-Mile Race)

Sunday, July 1

- Noon Ringing of Perinton Church Bells
- 2–3:30 Interfaith Music Service
- 5:30 Bicentennial Opening Ceremony
- 6:00 Ruby Shooz Concert

Tuesday, July 3

- 7:00 Walking Tours–Village of Fairport

Wednesday, July 4

- 8:00 Firecracker Five-Mile Race–
Perinton Park (entry fee)
- 10:00 July 4th Parade
- Noon Picnic in the Park–Perinton Park

Saturday, July 7

- 10:00 Walking Tour–Bushnell's Basin
- 10:00 Walking Tour–Egypt
- 10:00 Open House–
Bushnell's Basin Fire Department
- 10:00 Open House–
Egypt Fire Department
- 10–4 Youth Day
- 6–8 Outdoor Unplugged Concert

Sunday, July 8

- 1:30 Crescent Trail Historic Hike–
From East end of Lift Bridge Lane
East
- 1–3 Holy Hunt–Perinton Churches
- 6:00 The Bowties Concert
- 7:30 Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
Concert

Tuesday, July 10

- 7:00 Walking Tours–Village of Fairport

Saturday, July 14

- 3:00 Antique Car Show
- 4–7 Gala Family Picnic
- 4:30–6 Firemen's Waterball Competition
- 5:00 Mustache Contest Judging
- 7–9 Pan Loco Concert

Sunday, July 15

- 6:00 Bill Tiberio & Friends Concert
- Bill Welch Band Concert

July 1 to July 14

Scavenger Hunt

In This Issue

President's Comments	2
200 Years Ago	2
50 Years Ago	3
1945: Celebrating VJ Day	4
Fairport's Oldest House	6
Footprints for 4th Graders	7
Reminiscence	7
Annual Membership Meeting	8
Children's History Programs	8
2012 Scholarship Winners	8
PHS Membership Drive	9
Fairport Historical Museum	10

Comments from your President

~ Bob Hunt ~



Greetings!

This issue of the HISTORIGRAM is a special edition in celebration of the Town of Perinton's Bicentennial. Be sure to get a copy of the scheduled activities occurring this summer and enjoy as many of the events as you can with friends and family. One of the

events I helped put together is the scavenger hunt. This event can be enjoyed by the entire family as you discover historical information about our town. There are 20 sites to be visited so that you can fill out the crossword and arrive at the secret answer.

On May 15th PHS held its annual meeting/picnic at Perinton Park with approximately 40 members enjoying good food and fellowship. Linda Wiener was elected as your treasurer and Jim Unckless was elected as a director, both for a three-year term. A brief report was presented to the group by the various officers and committee chairs of the society.

In spite of the weather, 2012 Canal Days was a great success for PHS as we had merchandise for sale and information to share from our booth in the Village Landing lot. Many people stopping by asked about walking tours and about becoming members. For the weekend, we sold a little more than \$700 in merchandise. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped at the booth. On Sunday afternoon, during a shift I was staffing, three sisters stopped by to express their disappointment that the museum was not open. They had traveled from Boston, New Jersey and Atlanta especially to see the area and visit the museum. The sisters, who are descendents of the DeLand family, were interested in learning what information the museum had about their ancestors. I told them they picked the proper time to visit the booth as I just happened to have a key for the museum and would be happy to let them in for a visit. One sister had photographs she wanted to give to the museum showing their father when he worked at the can factory. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting these ladies and we had a great conversation. Being at the right place at the right time sometimes results in wonderful happenings.

The next board meeting is August 7th at 7 pm at the museum. Thanks for your continued support and we will chat again in the next issue...

Bob

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



~ 200 Years Ago ~

An ACT for dividing the town of Boyle, in the County of Ontario. Passed May 26th, 1812

Be it enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, that from and after the first Monday in April next, all that part of the town of Boyle, in the county of Ontario, aforesaid, known and distinguished by township number twelve, in the fourth range of townships in said county, is hereby erected into a separate town, by the name of Perrinton; and the first town meeting shall be held at the house of Cyrus Packard, in said town.

Reprinted from Perinton's Heritage, 1962



Cyrus Packard's tavern, about 1900

*Site of the first Town of Perinton meeting
on April 6, 1813*

Cyrus Packard came to Egypt in 1806. In 1810, he opened this tavern on the north side of Main Street (Route 31). For several years, the tavern was a popular stop for stagecoaches, as well as for Perinton town meetings.

In 1813, Packard was elected the first supervisor of the town. From time to time, he also had other town jobs including justice of the peace, constable, commissioner of highways and commissioner of schools. He died in 1825.

HISTORIGRAM

Published monthly by the Perinton Historical Society

Editor: Bill Poray

Layout: Keith Boas

Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless

~ 50 Years Ago ~ Perinton's Sesquicentennial



The images below are from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society, and reflect the excitement surrounding the celebration of our town's 150th anniversary in July of 1962.



(Above) On July 22 of 1962, an enormous crowd gathered on the west bank of the canal and Fairport Road bridge to see the "Sesqui Spectacle", a parade of 27 boats which included an Army Duck boat, sponsored by the Ragu Spaghetti Sauce Company and a boat transporting the "Sesqui Belle Queens".

(Left) Sesquicentennial Parade float created by the Canal-towners, the Fairport chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association. The building in the background is located at 87 South Main Street. Initially constructed in the early 20th century for use as a movie theatre, the building has long been home to the Fairport Lodge 476, Free and Accepted Masons (F & AM).



Packet boat floats are a natural for Fairport parades.

This colorful float was sponsored by Charlie's Marine, which was located along the north bank of the canal, just west of the lift bridge. The storefront in the background on the left is George H. Wilson Insurance, at 83 South Main Street. It was initially a home owned for many decades by the Wilcox family and was later modified for commercial use.

The building was eventually demolished and replaced by the structure currently in use by Fairport Family Dental.



The first scheduled event commemorating the town's 1962 Sesquicentennial was the dedication of the historical marker at the Hannan homestead, located on Route 31 near Moseley Road. In 1969, the property was sold by Robert and Marguerite Antell, who were descendants of the Hannans, to Wegmans Food Markets. The Antells later built Perinton's most distinctive landmark, the "Mushroom House" in Powder Mills Park.



August 15, 1945 Locals Celebrate VJ Day

By Keith Boas

After reading Bill Poray's "request for old photos" article in a recent issue of this newsletter, I remembered some 1945 photos in my mother's family album. As I revisited these snapshots, after so many years of disregard, my mind flashed back to August of that eventful summer when my parents were glued to the radio, waiting for the news that World War II was finally over.

But these old pictures "tell" only part of the story. Let me first take you back five years to the beginning of World War II. My father Don (Buddy) Boas*, who lived on Midvale Drive, was a cabinetmaker at the Aeolian-American Piano Company in East Rochester. During World War II, the factory made wooden gliders for the U.S. Army Air Corp. (The factory closed in 1985 and the site is now occupied by the Piano Works Mall.) Don was in his early 30s when the war started and would have been drafted, except for one thing: His cabinetmaking skills were critical to the civilian war effort. So Don remained a civilian and went to the factory every morning to make gliders.

When Don wasn't busy at the factory, he took care of the family pony, a gentle half breed that he'd bought for his sons. Realizing how much children loved ponies, and always looking for new ways to make a few dollars, Don came up with an ambitious plan in the spring of 1945: Build and operate a pony rides concession for the Fairport Firemen's Carnival. After getting a permit from the fire department, he spent evenings and weekends constructing a ticket booth, fence and gate—complete with a handcrafted sign (the B-Bar-B Ranch). As for "horse" power, he wisely considered that one pony would not be enough and arranged to borrow two more from friends.

As luck would have it, his grand opening, on the first night of the carnival, was on the very date** that Japan surrendered, officially ending World War II. In a huge celebration mood, Perinton residents poured onto the carnival grounds. Don, plus ponies and three teenage helpers, valiantly met the crush of kids. By the end of that first evening, August 15th, more than 500 children had ridden the ponies.

* Donavon (Buddy) Earl Boas, 1908—1957, lived with his wife Edna and their two sons, Roger and Keith, at 136 Midvale Drive, a cozy Perinton Cape Cod home built for them in 1931.

** Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945 in the Far East. Because of time-zone differences, it was a day earlier (Aug. 14) when the surrender was announced here. The carnival opened on Aug. 15 (Eastern Daylight Savings Time).



Don Boas' B-Bar-B-Ranch pony rides operation at the Fairport Firemen's Carnival, Aug. 15—18, 1945



Pony rides helpers from left to right: Eddie Brinkle on Dolly, Douglas Boas on Bantam and Donnie Brickle on Tony
Both photos: From Edna Boas' 1940s photo album

Article from FAIRPORT HERALD-MAIL, Aug. 16, 1945

Firemen's Carnival Off to Good Start

Wednesday (Aug. 15) marked the official opening of the Firemen's carnival* and chief "Cal" Stewart's boys had an offering that brought enthusiastic comments from the crowd of opening day visitors. Amusements of all kinds proved popular. The Ferris Wheel and Merry-go-round ran loaded to capacity most of the time, and the ponies on the pony ride (were) panting for breath.

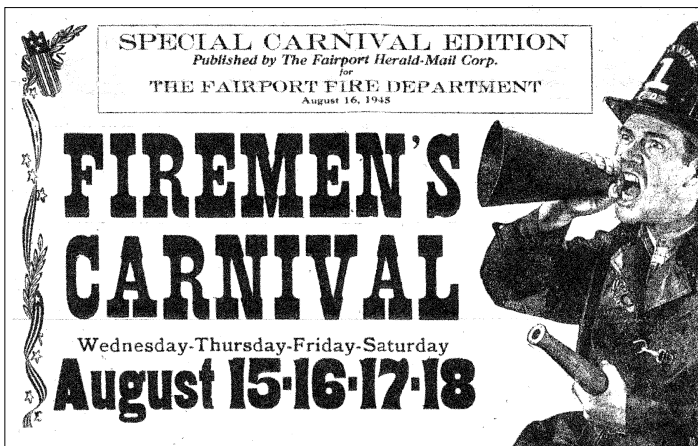
* The carnival was held in a large field along the north side of West Whitney Road, on the site of the present Pines of Perinton apartments.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Roger and Keith Boas
taking a ride around
Perinton's Midvale Drive,
with their pony providing
the "horse" power.

*Circa-1945 photo
by Edna Boas*



Don Boas and
friend in Don's
pasture behind
136 Midvale Drive.
Since 1960, the
property has
been owned by
Island Valley Golf
Course.

*Late-1940s photo
by Edna Boas*



VJ Day Parade on Midvale Drive

Neighborhood children created their own parade to celebrate VJ Day. From L to R are Midvale Drive residents Keith Boas, Roger Boas, Ken Barager, the Coy children, and unknowns in the wagon. The Coy home (142 Midvale Drive) is in the background. *Photo by Edna Boas, Aug. 15, 1945*

At 15 cents a ride, Don and his helpers collected more than \$75, impressive proceeds for one night's work 67 years ago.

The following year, Don went "big time," taking his pony rides to the East Rochester and Macedon Center Firemen's Carnivals, in addition to the annual Fairport event.

By the summer of 1947, his little business enterprise was history. The operation just wasn't all that thrilling for him anymore. Plus it was exhausting work, leading ponies around in circles hour after hour during each evening at a carnival.

The ticket booth Don had meticulously constructed in the spring of 1945 now sat abandoned behind his little pony barn. But not for long! About three years later, Don was busy again, this time converting the ticket booth to cages for his new mini business—rabbit-breeding!



Fairport's Oldest House

*By William Keeler, Director and Curator
of the Fairport Museum*

So where is Fairport's oldest house? The quick answer is it depends on when you lived in Fairport and who you want to believe.

Crude log cabins first appeared in what would become Perinton in the late 1700s. Frame houses began to appear with the arrival of sawmills on Thomas Creek in the early 1800s. By 1820, the town had a population of 1,674. Few houses existed in what is now the village of Fairport until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. At that time, several rival settlements had developed, usually around canal bridges. Small grocery stores and taverns for travelers sprang up and thrived.

By the middle 1800s, the hamlet was becoming more populated and in 1867, the village of Fairport was formed. Prosperous men were now building houses that reflected their status in the community. Many of the older buildings that were built on prime real estate were either razed or moved as newer, modern buildings took their place. By the beginning of the 20th century, many of these early houses were gone or had been moved to less noticeable locations.

In December of 1903, a fire at the house at 18 Filkins Street brought to light the strange history of this house and the claim of it being the earliest building in the village. According to reporters for the Monroe County Mail and Rochester Post Express, the house was built around 1813 by Colonel John Peters on the north side of what would be the Erie Canal and just west of the site of today's Turk Hill Road Bridge, then known as Peters Bridge. It was used at that time as a grocery. Before 1836 the house was moved across the canal onto the south side of East Church Street, several hundred feet from Colonel Peters Tavern on the corner of Church Street and what is now Turk Hill Road. Later it was moved farther down East Church Street and then to 26 Perrin Street, just two doors from

today's Fairport Museum. The house stood on that property for many years and was totally covered in ivy when Charles Howe bought it in 1886. Charles Howe was a very successful salesman and had John Rochester Thomas design a house for him for the site. The tiny house on the property was sold to George Filkins who moved it to his new housing subdivision on Filkins Street. The fire in 1903 did not destroy the building but did cause \$300 in damage, all covered by insurance.



39 East Church Street in 1947.
From the Perinton Historical Society Collection

In 1935, the Perinton Historical Society was founded by 12 local women. The ladies began to look at the history of the town and its buildings. Led by Marjorie Snow-Merriman, the women concluded that the earliest frame house in the village was at 39 E. Church Street and was built before 1817. The house on Church Street was originally erected on the northeast corner of Church Street and S. Main by Isaac Beers. According to the author of *Landmarks of Monroe County*, printed in 1895, the building shows up on an 1822 map of Fairport with six other log houses in close proximity. The house was bought and moved down the street by Henry DeLand in May, 1874 so he could build his mansion known today as the Green Lantern Inn.

In 1976, the Landmark Society of Western New York took a survey of all the houses in the village that were at least 50 years old. They consulted maps and local historians in writing their report. The researchers acknowledged the claim by local historians at the Perinton Historical Society that the house at 39 E. Church Street was the oldest house in the village. There was no mention of the age or origin of the house on Filkins Street in the survey, just a notation that it may have been built in the 1840s. Its secret is lost to history.

Both houses are still standing and have been remodeled to a point where they no longer look as they did in the 1800s. So which is the oldest? It's still not clear. In 1903, residents of the village would agree that it was the Filkins Street house, and today most would side with the E. Church Street home based on the reputation of the early historians at the Perinton Historical Society. Whichever it is, it is remarkable that these two houses, remnants of the past, are still here and we can look at them today with an appreciation of their long and storied histories.



18 Filkins Street in 1947.
From the Perinton Historical Society Collection



Fairport Footprints a Big Success!

By Bill Poray

On Saturday, May 5th, the Perinton Historical Society played host to a massive crowd, as **Fairport Footprints** was held in partnership with Fairport Schools, Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association, Fairport Partnership for a Better Community, and the Town of Perinton Bicentennial Committee. Fourth grade students and their families were invited to “experience the village of Fairport in a whole new way,” to quote a flyer created for the students. Activities available to kids and their families included music and food vendors in Kennelley Park, historical walking tours, and the opportunity to explore village shops and stores, the canal and the Thomas Creek Wetlands.

Fairport’s fourth grade school curriculum features learning modules covering local history. When school budget cuts eliminated student field trips, hands-on opportunities for students to learn about local history were compromised. That’s when a handful of local teachers and administrators met with a core team from the Perinton Historical Society. Working with the Fairport Partnership, the Merchants Association, and the Bicentennial Committee, it was determined that May 5th would be a terrific day to launch our first **Fairport Footprints**, as so many other exciting events were already planned for the day.

The Fairport Historical Museum was an extremely popular



Students, parents, and grandparents filled the museum for four hours of fun and exploration during the first ever **Fairport Footprints** on May 5th

destination, as more than 250 people passed through our doors in only four hours! Students had fun learning about Fairport and Perinton, while searching for clues in our scavenger hunt. From babies to grandparents, everyone seemed to have a great time. Many people commented that the last time they were in the building was when it functioned as the town’s library. Lots of other folks told us they had never visited before, and were thrilled with their new discovery.

Our sincere thanks go to the many Fairport teachers who helped to create and support our first **Fairport Footprints** event. We look forward to growing on our success next year.



Reminiscense

By Doug Whitney, Secretary

Bill Poray, editor of HISTORIGRAM, recently discovered, that 50 years ago, I had written the forward to the official Perinton Sesquicentennial program. He asked me how it happened.

In 1962, I was 23 years old and attending the University of Michigan Law School. Perinton’s 150th birthday celebration was being planned, and Bob Antell, a Sesquicentennial committee chairman, asked me to write a forward for the program.

I recently read what I wrote 50 years ago. That forward seems too wordy to me now, but it does read that a goal for success should be “individual responsibility and community understanding.”

A few days ago, I told a newcomer to Perinton that I had attended the West Avenue School, now Packetts Glen condominium, from 6th—12th grade in the mid 1950s.



The person was incredulous and said, “How can that be true?”

I replied that in the mid 1950s there were about 10,000 people living in Perinton with about 5,000 living in the village of Fairport. Today, the Town has approximately 46,000 people and the village still has about 5,000. How times change.

In 1962, Perinton was on the cusp of significant development. It had many farms, few subdivisions, and commercial development was just beginning to accelerate.

Generally, Perinton has been blessed with good planning of its boom.

Looking back, I think that Perinton has approached the goal I wrote about 50 years ago. May it continue to do so.

Happy 200th, Perinton.

Annual Membership Meeting

By Doug Whitney, Secretary

The annual meeting of the Perinton Historical Society was held on May 15, at Perinton Park. Thirty nine members of the society were present. After a picnic supper, President Bob Hunt convened the meeting.

Linda Wiener was elected treasurer for a three-year term, and Jim Unckless was elected trustee for a three-year term.

Vice president Vicki Proffit cited some upcoming events for members: a tour at S. Perinton Cemetery on Wilkinson Road with Civil War era presentation on June 19, at 7:30 pm; and talk by Bob Marcotte, *Democrat & Chronicle* reporter, titled *Rochester in World War II* at the museum on September 18.

Trustee and membership chair Jim Unckless reported that membership is at approximately 300.

Trustee Bill Poray reported that on Fairport's Spring Fling weekend, a successful history scavenger hunt for 50 4th graders was held at the museum. He also thanked Keith Boas and Jim Unckless for assisting him in publishing the monthly HISTORIGRAM. Donning his scholarship-chairman hat, Bill happily announced that the winners of the first \$1,000 Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarships are Megan Gilmore and Brady Meixell.

President Bob Hunt then reviewed highlights of the past and

current year, covering participation in Cruz Nite, Octoberfest and the Bicentennial. The Bicentennial activities include *Windows of the Past* at the Green Lantern Inn, a float in the July 4th parade, historical scavenger hunt, library display, and house tour on October 14. He praised vice president and program chair Vicki Proffit for her stimulating monthly programs, all of which played to a full or overflowing house. Bob also commended past president Catherine Angevine for her leadership of and contributions to PHS in 2010–11.

Children's History Programs Summer of 2012

Children in grades K–6 are invited to our children's history programs with an adult in attendance. Programs are FREE and take place at the museum, 18 Perrin Street in Fairport.

July 8: Celebrate Perinton's History. Drop in anytime between 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Be a part of history by helping to create a Bicentennial quilt. Each child will design a paper quilt square to take home and another for display in the museum.

August 12: Old-Fashioned Games Day. Drop in anytime between 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

Come enjoy fun and games the old-fashioned way! Learn to play hoops and sticks, marbles, jacks and many other fun games on the lawn.

2012 PHS Scholarship Winners: Megan Gilmore and Brady Meixell

By Bill Poray

We are excited to announce the first \$1,000 winners of the Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship. Megan Gilmore and Brady Meixell are both seniors at Fairport High School, and each wrote historic essays judged to be the finest among a large number submitted for consideration. In the near future, we will feature each essay on the PHS website and publish excerpts in the HISTORIGRAM. In addition, the essays will allow the museum to establish an ever-growing library of student papers on topics related to our local history.

Megan's research paper, [The Little Brown Jug](#), explores the classic football rivalry between East Rochester and Fairport High Schools, and the origin and traditions surrounding the jug. Miss Gilmore will attend the University of Delaware.

Mr. Meixell's paper, [The History of Fairport's Only Statue](#), looks at the life and work of Ellen Stoll Walsh. The Fairport author has written and illustrated many books for children, including the modern classics, [Mouse Paint](#) and [Mouse Count](#). Brady will study at the College of William and Mary.

Thanks to the people who have made the Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship possible, through their charitable

donations. Thanks also to the *Friends of Fairport*, for its generous support, and *Dollars for Scholars*, for its invaluable guidance and expertise in the administration of our program.



Scholarship winners Megan Gilmore (left) and Brady Meixell (right) meet with Bill Poray after the Dollars for Scholars Awards Assembly on June 6th.



Circa-1890 photo
courtesy of the
Town of Perinton

Postcard view of the Fairport Depot, a railroad passenger station located in the village off of the east side of North Main Street between the New York Central Railroad tracks and the West Shore Railroad tracks.

The depot was probably built about 1882. It was in use through the late 1950s when passenger service to and from the village ended. The building was demolished in 1962.

Save The Date!

PHS House Tour on West Church Street

October 14, 2012

Questions – Call Deb Mabry: 585-738-7866

~ Our Mission ~

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

Support the Perinton Historical Society with Your Membership

Please consider using the form below to join PHS or to renew your membership for the coming year. Membership dues and contributions support our community programs, publications and operation of the Fairport Historical Museum. PHS is a registered non-profit organization so your donations may be tax deductible. Your dues will cover membership through August, 2013.

Volunteers are always needed to continue and expand our work in the community. We invite you to learn more by visiting the museum and our website.

If you would like to help by serving on one of our committees, please check the appropriate box below. To speak to someone, call the museum at 585-223-3989 and leave a message. A knowledgeable volunteer will return your call.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

☐ E-mail *Historigram* ☐ Mail *Historigram*

Please check the level of membership you prefer:

☐ Individual..... \$15

☐ Family \$20

☐ Senior Single [65 or older] \$8

☐ Senior Couple \$12

☐ Patron \$50

☐ Extra Contribution..... \$_____

To make our programs successful and meet our goals, we depend on your generous gift of time and talents. Please volunteer to help by checking the areas of interest listed below:

- ☐ Board of Trustees – governing body of the society
- ☐ Finance Committee – budget and fund raising plans
- ☐ Education Committee – programs and tours of the museum
- ☐ Property Committee – repairs and upkeep of the museum facilities
- ☐ Museum Volunteer – 2 hours per month
- ☐ *Historigram* Committee – articles, editing, proofreading, production and mailing
- ☐ Structures Committee – interest in local historic structures
- ☐ Historic Tours – houses, cemeteries and other landmark tours
- ☐ Other – give us your ideas _____

Make your check payable to **Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, New York 14450**

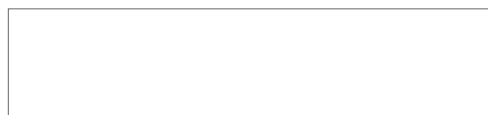


Preserving History Today for Tomorrow

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, New York 14450



The May PHS program was provided by Trustee Dave Wild, who brought a large portion of his toy car collection and shared his considerable knowledge on the topic. The museum was filled to capacity, with many first-time visitors. Thanks to Dave for an excellent program.



The Fairport Historical Museum is open to the public on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, on the hours listed below.* If you want to conduct research or have other needs at the museum on other days and/or times, you may make an appointment. Just call and leave a message at 223-3989. Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment.

HOURS*

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

*Summer hours, during July and August, will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 2—4 pm, in addition to the regular hours listed above.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org