

Perinton Historical Society Historiogram

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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September 2012
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The Little Brown Jug

By Megan Gilmore

This year, the Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two Fairport High School seniors. Below is Megan Gilmore's winning essay. Next month, we'll feature Brady Meixell's paper, "The History of Fairport's Only Statue".

Fairport is all about continuing old traditions and creating new ones as well. Traditions are a way for the whole community to come together, but once they have diminished they should be preserved and remembered. The Little Brown Jug was a competition between the Fairport and East Rochester varsity football teams, lasting for more than four decades, until the size gap in school districts was no longer reasonable. The history of The Little Brown Jug should be passed down to future generations as it so perfectly reflects Fairport pride, spirit, and excellence.

The fierce competition ran from 1939 to 1987 and was founded by Perinton town supervisor Kenneth "Putt" Courtney and Colbourne "Fuzzy" Bennett. The famous Coach Joe Cummings played a large part as well, as he coached 17 jug games and taught Physical Education at Fairport for 36 years, becoming known as the "original Red Raider." Football games between Fairport and ER were played since 1928, but the concept of the Little Brown Jug didn't form until 1939. The Little Brown Jug was seen as one of the biggest and best rivalries in New York State, as the two teams clawed for the "little brown jug." The games were played at different locations depending on the year, but ranged from the West Avenue field, to Minerva Deland, to Roselawn Park, to the "new" Fairport High School field, and even to the East Rochester field.

The jug stood at about one foot tall, with red, white, and blue ribbons tied to the handle. The jug was purchased at a hardware store for just 20 cents, but it wasn't truly the jug itself that was treasured, but the title, honor, and bragging rights for the community holding the jug. The winning team would have possession of the jug until the next year, when it would go up for grabs again, but the jug wasn't the only prize for the winning team. At the end of the game, the town mayor of the winning team would receive a traditional wheelbarrow ride through the Fairport village, while the losing team's mayor had the humiliating task of pushing the opposing mayor



Megan Gilmore, 2012 FHS graduate and a winner of the Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship, with Don Santini, FHS Class of 1957. Don competed in several Little Brown Jug contests as a player, and was Fairport's head coach from 1975 to 1992. Megan has begun her college studies at the University of Delaware.

Photo by Bill Poray

in the wheelbarrow. Although each team fought hard and played hard, the games were all in good fun and the two teams created an incredible bond through this special tradition.

The games unfortunately had to come to an end by the time enrollment at Fairport had grown to be six times that of the enrollment at East Rochester. Not only size in numbers, but size in weight was a factor as well, as the Fairport team greatly outweighed the players on the ER team. The size difference was a disadvantage for ER and it became visible when Fairport beat ER in the last five games that were played. Fairport was

Continued on page 3

HISTORIGRAM

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~ Our Mission ~

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

Perinton Historical Society

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Support the Perinton Historical Society with Your Membership

If you haven't already renewed your annual membership in PHS, or would like to join for the first time, please consider filling in the form below and sending it now. All memberships renewed before October 1 will include admission to the October 14th house tour. Between October 1 and the tour, we will offer memberships, including the house tour, at only the *Individual* (\$15) and *Family* (\$20) levels, available at the Fairport Public Library, Fairport Village Hall, Perinton Town

Hall, museum and by mail. We hope to hear from you soon.

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. To help serve on one of our committees, 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: _____

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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 – two hours per month
- Historigram* Committee – articles, editing, proof-reading, production and mailing
- Structures Committee – interest in local historic structures
- Historic Tours – houses, cemeteries, other landmarks
- Other – give us your ideas _____

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

"The Little Brown Jug" continued from page 1

becoming the central school for the town of Perinton while ER was still a small village school. Although both communities were heartbroken to see this tradition go, people knew that it was for the safety of the football players. A duplicate jug was created so that both deserving schools could keep one on display after the tradition came to an end; though it is not said which school has the original and which school has the duplicate jug.

The Little Brown Jug is a football game played all across the country by high school and college football teams, but the tradition between Fairport and East Rochester was surely a special one. Almost everyone in these communities showed support for the competition; whether it was by participating in spirit week at school, attending the ritualistic bonfire the night before the game, or cheering on their team in the packed stands on game day. Overall the competition was close as East Rochester stood with 26 wins, Fairport with 22, and five ties in between. The Little Brown Jug certainly gave people something to talk about back then, and the stories still stick around today.



Our Parade Float

*By Ann and Harold Castle
Float Chairpersons*

What a great time it was planning and building the float for the July 4th Perinton Bicentennial Parade. Many people contributed to the success of this special float. Planning started in February, 2012, and the enthusiasm built as ideas poured in. By the end of May everything was decided and only the last-minute things remained to be done.

Along with enthusiasm, the size of the committee grew from our humble beginnings of floats from the previous years in 2009 and 2010. Many thanks to Sue and Mark Broda, Sharon Catonese, Dave Scheirer, Bill Keeler, Sue Templeton, Sue Scherir, Lucy McCormick, May Thomson, Anne and Jeff Johnston, Vicki Profitt, Barb and Dave Wild and Bob Hunt.

Special kudos to Dave Wild for building the awesome cabin, complete with stovepipe and clothesline, for our PRIDE OF PERINTON canal boat; Lucy McCormick for all her support and for the clever way of making windows and flowering window boxes which decorated the cabin; Jeff Johnston for his original tiller and rudder; Bob Hunt for locating cardboard and Recreational Vehicles for donating all that cardboard to build the hull of the boat; Fritz May for arranging for the DPW to block Perrin Street in front of the museum so we could stage the float; Lynn and Steve Pembroke for the loan of their boom box to play Erie Canal tunes on the float; and Carol Loomis for contributing yarn for cute "mule" tails.



Perinton Historical Society's float was awarded 1st place by the parade judges. Photos by Bill Poray

Ricci's Towing Service again donated a flatbed truck to stage the float. Judd, the driver, put up with us for the second time and was a good sport helping to decorate his truck. Also thanks to Bill Keeler for the use of his driveway once again for a convenient place to unload the truck after the parade.

Participants on the float and all those who were walking, while the temperature hovered around 90 degrees, were May Thomson, Anne Johnston, Heather Bauer, Captain Taryn Bauer, fisherman Tristan Bauer, Sharon Catonese, Lucy McCormick, Vicki Profitt and our three adorable "mules" all named Sal: Katie Profitt, William Profitt and Alison Profitt, who passed out candy along the parade route from their "feed bags."

Our reward for the contribution of all that time and talent was receiving the first place blue ribbon. Be sure and check out the display the next time you are in the museum.

Perinton Historical Society volunteers are the best!



Great Race A Great Success

By *Bill Poray*

On June 28th, Fairport's Howard and Doug Sharp led a group of drivers into Fairport as part of an annual event known as The Great Race, a cross-country rally of about 90 vintage automobiles. The 2012 race covered 19 cities in four states and Canada. Driver/navigator teams participated in a controlled-speed endurance competition on public roads. Each team was scored based on its skill in precisely following course instructions.

With Main Street closed to traffic, and several thousand people on hand, the commercial district was transformed into a huge party. The inviting smell of hot dogs and the stirring music from the Fairport Fire Dept. Band created a memorable atmosphere.

The Fairport Historical Museum on nearby Perrin Street played a role as well, opening its doors for visitors from near and far. Volunteer Gail Black hosted guests who found the museum displays interesting, and the building a cool reprieve from the midday heat.



Local competitors Doug and Howard Sharp in their 1916 Hudson Pike's Peak Hillclimber.

Photo made in April by Keith Boas



View of The Great Race festivities on Fairport's North Main Street. Several thousand people came to witness the arrival of the vintage rally autos.

Photo by Bill Poray



HISTORIGRAM Buried

The burial of a time capsule on Sunday, July 15th was the culmination of a memorable Perinton Bicentennial Celebration. Included in the time capsule was a special bicentennial edition of the Perinton Historical Society publication, the HISTORIGRAM.

Please put a reminder on your calendars to meet at the Perinton Community Center parking loop garden in the year 2062, when the 50-year-old vault will be raised from its resting place.

Town Supervisor Jim Smith, portraying Cyrus Packard, Perinton's first supervisor, looks on as the Bicentennial Committee co-chairs take turns shoveling soil over the time capsule. From right: Sue Roberts, Carol Saum, Pat Knapp and, in front of Pat, Jean Keplinger.



September Children's Program
Sunday, September 9, 2012

How Children Helped the U.S.A. during World War II

Learn how kids helped their country during World War II. We will discuss what our flag looked like during the war, why there were no outdoor Christmas lights, how food was rationed, and what plane spotters did. Then you can play a food rationing game, learn to recognize friendly versus enemy planes, and crack a secret code! The program takes place on Sunday, September 9th at 2:30 p.m. at the Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, and lasts approximately one hour.

It's free and open to the public.



Hannan Homestead Update

We received a much welcomed clarification from Nancy (Hannan Antell) Slaybaugh regarding an item in the Bicentennial edition of the HISTORIGRAM. On page three, a caption describes the dedication of a historical marker at the Hannan homestead, and states: *"In 1969 the property was sold by Robert and Marguerite Antell, descendants of the Hannans, to Wegmans Food Markets. The Antells went on to build Perinton's most distinctive landmark, the "Mushroom House" in Powder Mills Park."*

Nancy has kindly provided the following clarifying information:

While my mother was a Hannan, my parents did not own the farm. The property they owned and sold to Wegmans was across from the farm on the north side of Route 31 where the store now stands. It was eight acres with a "Hannan" home in that the house I grew up in was built in 1885 by James and Susan Hannan McMillan. That sale in 1969 is what put in motion the creation of the "Mushroom House."

The Hannan farm was sold to several different parties (none of them Wegmans) over a 10-year period, beginning in 1962, and is now Blackwatch subdivision, Knollwood apartments, Perinton Hills mall and office center, and Walgreens. My mother's brothers, Parce Hannan and Jesse Hannan, were the farmers. All three children inherited the farm upon the deaths of my grandparents.



Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 7:30 PM

Rochester War Plants During World War II

Presenter: Bob Marcotte

Special Location:

Mountain Rise United Church

2 Mountain Rise, Fairport, New York

Think of just about any of the weapons or material that helped the United States win World War II, and one or more Rochester companies was probably involved in its production. That includes everything from Superfortress bombers, radar and the atomic bomb to the brushes needed to clean the inside of rifle barrels. The war completely transformed Rochester's industries, required an unprecedented influx of women on the assembly lines, and in turn had ripple effects all across society, including a debate on whether women with children should be in war plants or staying at home to raise their kids. Bob Marcotte, former Democrat and Chronicle columnist, will discuss Rochester's significant contributions to the war effort and its impact on our community.

A native of Lawrence, Kansas, Bob Marcotte returned to that community to graduate with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas in 1974. After working at newspapers in Lawrence and Salina, Kansas, he moved to Rochester in 1976 to work for the Times Union as a Greece and city schools reporter, editorial writer and layout editor. He later was an assistant design editor with the Democrat and Chronicle, and wrote a weekly history column and a blog on local birds for that newspaper before retiring in April 2012. Bob Marcotte lives in Greece with his wife Catherine, and Lulu, their Shorkie dog.

This program is free, and is open to the public. Special thanks to Mountain Rise United Church for use of their wheelchair-accessible building. Donations to the food cupboard are greatly appreciated.

Special Thanks

- To our friends in the Greenbrier Garden Club for their ongoing efforts to beautify and maintain the grounds of the Fairport Historical Museum. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.
- To May Thomson, Lucy McCormick and Ann Castle, who recently created new curtains for the Merriman-Clark Room on the museum's lower level. The new look is a real winner!



No. 88 (above) and No. 128 (below) West Church Street in Fairport, are two of eight West Church Street historic homes featured on the upcoming Annual House Tour.



Our 42nd Annual House Tour

Sunday, October 14, 2012

The 2012 House Tour being held during Perinton's bicentennial year will showcase some of the beautiful homes on West Church Street (a gateway to the "fair port"), on Sunday, October 14, 1:00–5:00 pm. The tour will include the first floors of the eight homes located at numbers 17, 48, 84, 88, 116, 117, 128 and 140. Six of the homes are owned by members of the Perinton Historical Society. We're thrilled that they have offered to have their homes on tour. We thank all the homeowners because if they didn't step forward, our tours would not continue. So if PHS calls on you next year, please take a moment to let us talk you into participating!

This is a unique opportunity to take a little time to walk a village street and tour some very special historical homes, with a wide range of architectural styles. You'll see that the homeowners have been thoughtful in the preservation of their homes, while making them uniquely theirs. You don't want to miss this tour. If you're interested in bringing others along, additional memberships can be purchased with the application that's on page two.

Refreshments will be available at the museum from 2:00–5:00 pm on the day of the tour. Please stop by to see our latest exhibits and visit with fellow members.

The Committee Chairperson, Deb Mabry, is looking for a few more volunteers to help as *House Docents*: 1st shift is 12:50–3:00 pm; and 2nd shift is 2:50–5:00 pm. Your commitment will also include a one-hour meeting with the homeowners a week before the tour, to gather information to share with the tour goers. Contact Deb if you'd like to help: Her cell phone is 738-7866; her e-mail is dmabry@nixonpeabody.com.



~ **Bob Hunt** ~

Greetings!

What a summer it has been and I'm not talking about the numerous days of 90+ degree heat, and the fact of very little rain at the start when the farms and gardens needed the moisture. But I am talking about the wonderful activities that have taken place in our community.

The Great Race was an amazing event, with over 90 vintage cars stopping by for a lunch. The weather was great and the village was packed with visitors and guests. Thanks to Gail Black, the museum was open for the event and had 15 visitors stop by. The bicentennial activities were very enjoyable during the first two weeks of July, highlighted by the 4th of July parade where your Historical Society took first place honors in the float contest. Thanks go out to Chairs Ann and Harold Castle and the float committee for their time and effort. The Scavenger Hunt put together by the Fairport Library and PHS had 70 participants who completed the activity successfully. Again thanks to the committee of John Bailey, Holly Wolf and Cindy Hunt.

And now some shavings from the board:

- A personnel committee, recently established, has been formalizing job descriptions for both the museum curator and the museum director. These descriptions were adopted by the board at our meeting of August 7th. Bill Keeler will be continuing as the museum's curator and we are presently looking to fill the position of museum director. Please let me know if there is interest from the membership and I would be pleased to discuss the position with you.
- We're also preparing our budget for the next fiscal year: Sept 1, 2012--Aug 31, 2013. With limited income, we do our best to keep expenses reasonable as we strive to maintain our collections and facility. Suggestions are always welcome.
- The board will be holding a strategy session on September 25th to discuss where the museum is headed over the next five years. Again, please let me know of any concerns or suggestions you would like us to discuss that evening.

Please put this year's house tour on your calendar. The date is Sunday, October 14th. See the article to the left on this page.

Next board meeting is Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm at the museum. Enjoy the balance of the summer and Labor Day weekend.

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





From Victory Garden to Community Garden

By Bill Poray

During World War II, families, communities and businesses in the United States responded to dramatic food shortages by creating victory gardens. The gardens served the dual purpose of providing much needed fruits, herbs and vegetables, while bringing together citizens in a common cause, in support of the nation. It has been estimated that as much as 40% of the United States food supply during WWII was produced in victory gardens, tended by over 20 million Americans.

In Fairport, Frederick Potter responded by contributing several acres of his property at 53 West Church Street. The Fairport Herald-Mail of March 18, 1943 printed the headline: "Fairport Leads County Victory Garden Allotment", and went on to report the following:

"Fairport has taken the lead in development of the community victory garden project in Monroe County, according to an announcement by Jesse B. Hannan, chairman of the County Committee. Frederick T. Potter has offered ten acres of his land, already ready for planting, located on the east side of Potter Place. Hart & Vick also have tendered the use of two acres on their property at the south edge of the village and the American Can Co. have offered approximately five acres of their Parce avenue property, the latter with the proviso that American Can employees be given first chance at the garden plots."

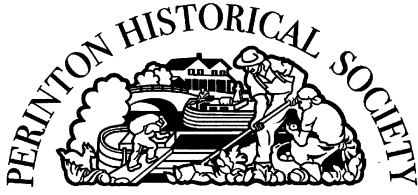
In 2010, Perinton began planning for a community garden, consistent with a national reawakening to the values and benefits first realized in victory gardens. Emily Gallagher, a Fairport High School student at the time, was a driving force in the creation of Perinton's garden, motivated by a visit to

Washington, DC, where she toured the gardens championed by Michelle Obama. Upon her return home, Emily shared her excitement with others, and urged Perinton leaders to consider the establishment of a community garden, where residents could grow their own food, and also provide for those less fortunate. The town of Perinton embraced Emily's idea, and the project was off and running. The Perinton Recreation and Parks Department was charged with pulling together a collaborative team, focused on inclusion and problem-solving. Potter Park became the team's first choice for the garden's location. Help and cooperation came from all fronts, including the town, the village, Potter Place neighbors, volunteers and businesses. At the garden's grand opening on April 12th of this year, Town Supervisor Jim Smith shared the following:

"What you see in front of you today has been donated by companies and built by a dedicated, volunteer labor force. An estimated \$3,500 of materials was donated in 2011; wood to construct beds, stone dust, tools, seeds, paint for the shed and countless bags of topsoil, compost and mulch. And then came the volunteers - last fall we had grandparents with grandchildren, Town staff and their families and husbands and wives with hammers, drills and sore backs building these wooden garden boxes. Again, everyone collaborated to make this possible."

The 20,000 square foot garden area includes a multitude of individual raised plots, as well as a "Share the Harvest" section. The project has been driven by passionate volunteers, along with donations of money, materials and labor. Since the time when Potter's victory gardens provided food, nourishment and a sense of community almost seventy years ago, this land has come full circle. Residents, family members and friends are coming together to share common land, and a common purpose. The community garden at Potter Park has become yet another wonderful asset of the town of Perinton, and the village of Fairport. I imagine Mr. Frederick Potter would be proud.





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Macedon's TOWPATH VOLUNTEERS Fife and Drum Corp., one of several musical units marching in the Perinton Bicentennial Parade on July 4, 2012

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 585-223-3989. 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

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org