

# Perinton Historical Society Historiogram

18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

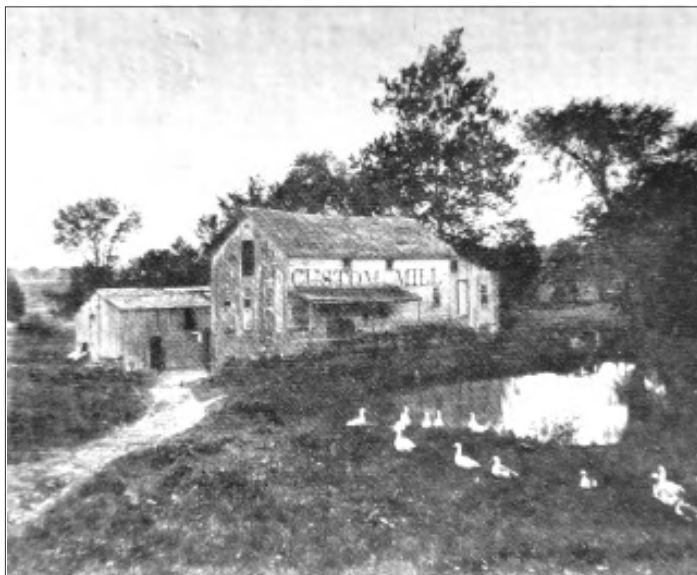
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February 2013  
585-223-3989

## The Old Jefferson Mill

By *Bill Poray*

### *Old Barn on Baird Road Built From Remains of 200 Year Old Mill*



The Jefferson Mill and pond, photographed prior to 1895.

*From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society*

the mill was converted for use as a grist mill. By the early 1850s, William Pringle took ownership of the mill. Gillette's Monroe County Map of 1858 identified Pringle's property as a "plaster mill."

In 1852, at the age of about 22, Francis Jefferson arrived in the United States from his birth country of England. As a young man he chose working in the mills as his trade. In 1860, he lived with the Armitage family in West Bloomfield. Ten years later, Mr. Jefferson had married and purchased William Pringle's mill near Baird Road, and converted it for use as a custom flour mill.

After operating his mill for many years, Mr. Jefferson and his wife Mary retired to a home on West Church Street, selling his Baird Road house and mill to a Mr. Richards, who subsequently sold to George Dryer. The mill was torn down and the mill pond drained about 1895. A barn was built with timbers from the old mill. The barn still stands, just south of the house at 2729 Baird Road, although it appears the early timbers and foundation have been replaced with poured concrete.

The existing house replaced the original Jefferson home, which burned in 1897 (see newspaper article on page 4).

Marjorie Snow Merriman wrote of the Jefferson Mill in 1950. Mrs. Merriman (1886—1966) was a tireless local historian. Her accomplishments on behalf of the Perinton Historical Society cannot be overstated.

**T**homas Creek winds through Perinton, its waters flowing westward, eventually joining forces with Irondequoit Creek. Between Baird Road and South Lincoln Road, just a chip shot from the fifth tee at Island Valley Golf Course, the two creeks once were home to a number of mills of several varieties. The "Old Jefferson Mill," as it was known for many years, was located just west of Baird Road, not more than a couple hundred yards south of the railroad underpass. The mill was built as early as 1810, to saw lumber for the first houses in the immediate area. It was initially the property of Isaiah Northrop, an early settler from Connecticut. Mr. Northrop was a soldier in the War of 1812, and died just a few years after the war.

The next owner was Henry Haywood. It was at this time that

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## HISTORIGRAM

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Editor: Bill Poray

Layout: Keith Boas

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## Perinton Historical Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>Vice President</i>	Vicki Profitt
<i>Secretary</i>	Doug Whitney
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
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Ray Buchanan	Sean Delehanty
Bill Poray	Jim Unckless
David Wild	George Wolf

### MUSEUM

<i>Curator</i>	Bill Keeler
<i>Director</i>	Vicki Profitt

system and furnace upkeep. Over the years the village staff has been a helpful partner and friend in the operation and upkeep of your museum.

- ◆ Board member and editor of the *HISTORIGRAM*, Bill Poray, was appointed as Perinton Town Historian starting January 1, 2013. Congratulations, Bill, we are proud of you and wish you success in the new part-time position. As Bill's new position requires participation in a town meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, the board is discussing changes to our board meeting and program schedule. We will keep you posted to the changes.
- ◆ We are moving ahead with a docent program for the museum, which will supplement the utilization of volunteers who provide research assistance. Our curator, Bill Keeler, is putting together a docent manual and will be providing several training sessions in February. Give me a call if you want to be part of this new program.
- ◆ Several board members and society members will be making phone calls to the membership asking for assistance on PHS committees. We will be seeking volunteers who can donate an hour or two a month to help with the following committees: membership, finance, computers/technology, youth activities, house tour, historical structures, community relations, property, *HISTORIGRAM*, and community events. Please consider volunteering an hour or two. Thanks.
- ◆ We officially appointed Vicki Profitt as Museum Director at our January board meeting. Congratulations to Vicki. We're excited with the new ideas she is bringing forward.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers who donate their time on a monthly basis so the museum can be open to the public. Many of these volunteers have been serving for years, and I was made aware that one of the volunteers, Flora Hosenfeld, is resigning after twenty years of service to the museum. Thank you Flora! Your contribution to the Society has been appreciated.

Thanks and we will chat again next month, Bob  
rhunt1@rochester.rr.com 585-415-7053



## Comments from your President

Greetings! I hope all of you had a joyous and happy holiday season, and I would like to wish all a healthy and peaceful 2013.

A lot has happened at your Historical Society since I last chatted with you in the

*HISTORIGRAM*.

~ **Bob Hunt** ~

- ◆ On December 11<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a wonderful holiday program and party featuring teacher Samantha Anderson, along with seven of her Fairport High School musicians, playing Christmas music. It was a great program and a wonderful evening.
- ◆ We had a productive meeting with our village mayor, Fritz May, and discussed ways in which the village and the society can work together in maintaining the museum and property. The village owns the building and property and financially assists in maintenance and upkeep of the museum. Items discussed were exterior painting, column repair, tree trimming, installation of a proper fire alarm



## WE WANT YOU!

The Fairport Historical Museum is looking for volunteer docents. If you have just two hours a month to donate your time, we want you! Please contact Vicki Profitt

**vprofit@rochester.rr.com**  
or **585-233-1204**

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# Coming Events

*Sunday, February 10, 2:30 pm*  
*At the Fairport Historical Museum*

## **Children's Program— Fairport's Civil War Soldiers**

*Presented by Vicki Profitt*



Pvt Chester Hutchinson  
108<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry

Hear the stories of several soldiers from Fairport and Perinton who fought in the Civil War. Create a paper quilt square featuring one of these local heroes for display in the museum, and another to bring home.

Children in grades K–6 are invited to attend the children's history programs with an adult in attendance. Scout troops are welcome. The program is free.

*Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 pm*  
*At the Fairport Historical Museum*

## **Heroes in the Attic— The Untold Story of Civil War Soldiers**

*Presented by Dennis P. Bielewicz*



Beginning with a remarkable discovery, *Heroes in the Attic—the Untold Story of Two Civil War Soldiers* is a true saga of two college students who abandon their classes to fight in the Civil War. In a secret room of an abandoned house, the author, Dennis P. Bielewicz, uncovered the documents, which led to research and a retelling of the complete military service of H. Seymour Hall and Benjamin Coffin.

From Genesee College in Lima, New York, to Company G of the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, Hall, Coffin and other soldiers in their company train for war and fight at First Bull Run and over twenty more battles from May of 1861 to May of 1863. Compelling in scope, the story of Hall and Coffin defines the heroism of common men against the backdrop of history.

Dennis P. Bielewicz, a retired school librarian, lives in Ontario, New York. His formative years were spent in Portageville and Nunda, New York. He is a military veteran, with diverse hobbies—traveling, family genealogy, reading, fishing and being a grandfather. Dennis has traveled the United States extensively, researching Company G, 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, in libraries, museums, historical societies, and on many battlefields.

Mr. Bielewicz will hold a question and answer session after the presentation. He will also be available to sign copies of his book, *Heroes in the Attic*.

This program is free and open to the public.

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*Tuesday, March 19, 7:30 pm*  
*At the Fairport Historical Museum*

## **An Evening with President Abraham Lincoln**

*Presented by Terry Darrow*

The Perinton Historical Society is pleased to announce a visit from President Abraham Lincoln. Mark your calendars as we celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States with a special portrayal by Terry Darrow on March 19. Additional information is forthcoming.



"Old Jefferson Mill" continued from page 1

In doing my own research regarding "the old Jefferson Mill," I found Marjorie Snow Merriman's 1950 essay. A portion is reprinted below:

*A bit of wall is all that is left of this old mill, which stood for many years in the Thomas Creek basin, west of Baird Road. It was directly opposite the home of Mrs. Lewis Steubing, the third house south of the entrance to Midvale Drive. The Steubing house was erected on the site of the old Jefferson home which burned many years ago. The timbers from the old mill were used in the building of the barn at the rear and to the south of the Steubing home.*

*A charming picture of the old mill with ducks at the water's edge may be found in the Fairport Old Home Week book (circa 1908).*

*This is the mill which was changed into a grist mill by Frank Jefferson and ran for many years as such, from the 1860's on. On one of the maps an addition to this property of seven and one half acres was noted. The mill faced the north and the pond lay to the northeast.*

*Tradition has it that the plans for the mill were drawn by Irena Cady Ellsworth (born 1798, wife of William P. Ellsworth), grandmother of the Ellsworth family of Perinton Center. Mrs. Ellsworth had drawn plans for other mills in the vicinity including one on Irondequoit Creek.*

*It must be borne in mind that both creeks undoubtedly held a much greater volume of water than at present.*



From the Monroe County Mail, May 20, 1897

**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1897.**

**DWELLING BURNED**

**House on The Old Jefferson Mill Place  
Destroyed Tuesday Afternoon.**

A year or two ago George Dryer bought the old Jefferson mill place, in the western part of the town. Shortly after he tore down the old mill building, drained the pond, and put the premises in considerably better shape. Snyder Brizee has lived on the place for about a year past. Tuesday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, while the family were about the place, Mr. Richards, a neighbor, discovered that the place was on fire. It had gained such headway that scarcely anything was saved, leaving the family of Mr. Brizee in rather straitened circumstances, as their furniture and clothing was nearly all destroyed. It is supposed the fire caught from a defective chimney. The loss is inside of \$1,000, and there was an insurance of \$500 on the building.

## Largest Collection in the World!

True! Well, it's probably true, but difficult to prove, that we have more Fairport High School yearbooks than anywhere in the world.

Our collection begins with the class of 1926 and spans to the latest, 2012, with just a couple exceptions.

Come on in to the museum and spend some time with the yearbooks—to look up old friends or relatives, or just browse. All yearbooks are always available for examination.



# Musings of a Philatelist

By William Keeler

Curator for the Fairport Museum

Before there were computers and computer nerds there were stamps and stamp nerds. They were not the most popular students in school but they were great in Geography class. There is an entire subculture built up around the collecting of stamps. Technically these people are called philatelists, which, translated from the Greek, is the loving or the collecting of stamps. When I was growing up, all major “Five and Dimes” and department stores had a small section in the store dedicated to stamps and coins. There were hinges to attach stamps to pages, stamp albums, and packages of sorted and unsorted stamps for sale. The packages of unsorted stamps, I found out later, were actually put together by Catholic missionaries overseas. The nuns working in Africa and Asia would rip stamps off envelopes or have them collected by friends and relatives and sent to the mission. To financially support the projects at the mission, they were sold to stamp companies who repackaged them for collectors.

There is a category of stamp collecting that concerns postmarks and first-day covers. Every post office has a special, local postmark stamp with the name of the community on it. There are collectors who save these postmarks and try to get one from every post office in the country. Local postmarks have been used to notarize special events. In the past you could create a commemorative sheet and then take it to your local post office and have it stamped with a local postmark memorializing for all time a particular time and date for your creation. Commemorative envelopes were developed by the post office with art work on the front that was postmarked in Washington, D.C or the place of the famous event. Many people still remember the commemorative envelope from July 12, 1954 that was issued with the George Eastman Stamp and postmarked in Rochester, NY.

The Fairport Museum has had several philatelists among its members who have contributed items to the museum. William H. Carr was an early member and an officer of the society. He contributed an article about the first printing press to our Historigram in November of 1974 to commemorate the stamp issued that same year by the US Postal Service. A commemorative sheet for the first space walk was donated by Mr. Carr. On the sheet is a picture of the US flag planted on the moon, a reproduction of the plaque left on the moon, and a 10 cent stamp of the moon landing. The stamp was created from a die that actually traveled to the moon and was brought back by the astronauts. Imogene Blum, our former curator for many years, donated 2 commemorative first day envelopes that were issued when Bill Clinton was elected president of the United States and inaugurated on January 20, 1993. Our collection also contains a rare envelope used between 1853 and 1861 that was



Early envelope hand canceled in Fairport between 1853 and 1861

hand canceled in Fairport, perhaps when the post office was located on Cherry Street.

Beginning on April Fools Day, 2013 and running until September, the Fairport Museum will have a major exhibit on the United States Post Office commemorating the 100th anniversary of house to house delivery of the mail in the village of Fairport. Among the items on display will be the original postal route books for route number 3 from 1913 to 1957, photographs, and of course, postage stamps and postcards. It should be an informative and colorful exhibit for philatelists and others alike.



Photo by Vicki Profitt

## Special Thanks—

The Executive Board and the Trustees of the Perinton Historical Society would like to express its appreciation to those who give of their time to volunteer at the PHS and the Fairport Historical Museum. We are thankful to have such wonderful volunteers, and we look forward to having you on board as the Fairport Historical Museum re-opens on March 3, 2013 for another season.

## New Bridge Rekindles Old Memories



In the spring of 1906, construction began on the Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Electric Railway Bridge over the Erie Canal. The bridge was built with a sufficiently broad span to accommodate the widening of the canal, which didn't take place until a few years later. The bridge's useful life was short, as the trolleys stopped running in 1931.

*1911 photo from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society*



The new pedestrian bridge over the canal connects the Heritage Trail and the Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern / Crescent Trail, enhancing Perinton's already noteworthy reputation as a Trailtown USA community. It replaces the old trolley bridge torn down for scrap metal during World War II. Note the absence of the Cobb's Preserving Company, prominent in the vintage photo (top above). 2013 photo by Keith Boas

# THE FAIRPORT HERALD

JULY 26, 1911

## Swimming Exhibition.

We, the undersigned, have assembled and agreed to give the citizens of Fairport a free exhibition July 30 at 2:30 p. m. at the trolley bridge close to the Cobb Preserving Co. east of Fairport. The main feature of the afternoon will be Mr. J. Long diving from the highest point of the bridge, which is 75 feet from the water to the top of the bridge. Preceding the main feature there will be other attractions, consisting of diving and swimming contests.

Wm. Luckhausky, Floyd Maine, John Jodel, and Charles and Floyd Kerns.

## 2013 PHS House Tour Scheduled for October

*By Deb Mabry*

We held our first planning meeting for the committee working on the 2013 House Tour and have come up with some ideas. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm, 100 Broxbourne Drive—a townhouse off Macedon Center Road. We are just at the beginning, so please feel free to come and help us out. If you are interested, please call Deb Mabry at 738-7866.

One of our initial ideas is to have the tour focus on Craftsman style homes—bungalows—built mostly during the period of 1905 to 1930. If you or anyone you know owns a home in this architectural style, please contact me so we can talk about it further. Your help would be appreciated.

Thank you.



## Perinton Historical Society Annual Treasurer's Report

*By Linda Wiener*

### Profit and Loss for the period 9/1/11 through 8/31/12

#### Income

Contributions	\$ 2,022
Grants	2,174
Dues	5,702
Gift Shop	2,792
Special Events	541
Other income	137
Investments	<u>115</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,483</b>

#### Expense

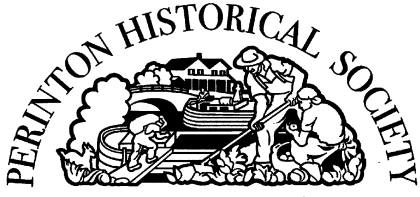
Annual Meeting	\$ 160
Membership	140
<i>HISTORIGRAM</i>	1,497
Museum Expense	4,338
Utilities	2,070
Gift Shop	1,249
Program Expense	678
Scholarship	2,000
Special Events	33
Marketing	414
Office Expense	<u>384</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$12,965</b>

**Net Income \$ 518**

#### Account Balances at 8/31/12

Checking	\$ 5,367
Money Market	2,254
Certificates of Deposit	<u>15,282</u>
Total Short-term Cash	\$22,903
Community Fund Endowment	\$65,782

Approximately 60% of our income is from membership dues supplemented by gift shop sales, grants and contributions. The majority of our grant funds are from The Community Fund. While the money in the Endowment Fund is restricted, dividends are deposited to the account quarterly, and annually we receive grant income based on the performance of the fund. Museum expense accounts for 33% of our total expenses. Included in this category are artifacts, conservation and operational costs for the museum. Utilities and Scholarships each account for 15% of our expenses. *HISTORIGRAM* printing and mailing account for 12% of expenses and the gift shop for 10%. Board members, committee members and volunteers provide many hours of service to the museum and society, which help keep our costs down. Thanks to the financial support of our members and contributors, we are able to provide quality programs and services to our community.



*Preserving History Today for Tomorrow*

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fairport, NY 14450



## Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is operating under its winter hours during January and February, which means it is open only by appointment.

If you want to do research or have other needs at the museum, please call and leave a message at 223-3989.

### Regular Hours Resuming in March

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

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment.



1938 view of the Reference Room, Fairport Public Library.  
This area is now the gift shop of the Fairport Historical Museum.

*Photo from the collection  
of the Perinton Historical Society*

[www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org)