



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

18 PERRIN STREET FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

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EDITOR

Ruth Ewell

IMPORTANT! Dues notices were sent in early August to all those who owed for the 2000-2001 membership year. If you have sent in your dues, we are most grateful. If you have not, please send them right away (a form is provided elsewhere in this bulletin). All those who have not paid dues by October 1 will be removed from the mailing list; this issue of the Historigram will be their last! Call Ruth Ewell, 377-8208, if you have questions about your membership status.

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, September 12 -- Meeting at the museum, 7:30 p.m. Details below.

Sunday, October 15 -- House Tour in the afternoon in the village. Details next month.

Tuesday, November 14 -- Meeting at the museum, 7:30 p.m. Chuck Miller will be the speaker on "Homes of the Presidents."

Tuesday, December 5 -- Christmas musical, 7:30 p.m., at the museum.

Fairport and the International Canal Conference

Fairport will play a big role in the International Canal Conference to be held September 10-15 at the conference center downtown. First of all, we will be host to some of the boats which will come from the east to be part of a large flotilla which will join downtown with those coming from Buffalo and points west on Sunday, September 10. Many of the boats coming from the east will overnight on Saturday, the 9th, in Fairport, and the village plans a big reception for them.

Then, on Tuesday, September 12, one of those speaking at the conference will be our own Mayor Clark King. And on Wednesday, September 13, many of the delegates to the conference will meet in the afternoon to tour Fairport and then board boats here for a trip on the canal to dinner at Richardson's Canal Tavern. The village will fete them with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during their journey on the canal.

The Fairport Historical Museum will continue its extended summer hours (2-4 p.m. every day except Monday, 7-9 Tuesday and Thursday night) until September 15 to accommodate visitors during this conference time. In addition, the museum will open its doors to canal visitors at additional, yet to be announced, periods during the week. The museum will also mount two special exhibits -- a canal exhibit on the main floor, and downstairs in the Merriman-Clark Room a "hands-on" exhibit of artifacts, all of which visitors can operate, which were either made in Fairport or used here. They are examples of the sorts of manufactured goods which came about because of the presence of the canal in our village. Be sure to stop in to see the exhibits!

Meeting Tuesday, September 12, at the Museum

We are fortunate to have local historian and storyteller, Donovan Shilling, as our speaker at the first meeting of the year. In the persona of DeWitt Clinton, he will

relate his unique account of the fascinating story behind the building of the Grand Erie Canal.

Mr. Shilling, a native of Fairport, is a retired Brighton elementary and middle school principal. During the past score of years, he has been an instructor at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, giving classes dealing with Rochester's rich history. As historian for the Rochester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, he has been involved in their rail related projects and visitor relations at the Chapter's Rochester and Genesee Valley Depot Museum at Industry, New York.

Mr. Shilling has written many accounts of the area's colorful characters and their local enterprises. His upcoming article in the September issue of the new Rochester magazine is entitled "The Opening of the Grand Erie Canal." His most recent book, "Rochester's Lakeside Resorts and Amusement Parks," will be available for sale at the Fairport Museum. (Mr. Shilling suggested to us the idea of a Fairport/Perinton book which is now in process.)

Mr. Shilling will speak at 7:30 p.m. The museum doors will open at 7:00 p.m. to give audience members an opportunity to view the special exhibits.

Report of May Picnic

Once again the end-of-the-year picnic in Perinton Park was a great success. The food was organized by Helen Matthews and was varied and delicious as always. Derryl and David Johnston were the cooks; their hot dogs and hamburgers were superb!

Jim Unckless presented the slate for the annual election of officers. Those nominated were: President - Bill Matthews; First Vice-President - Bernadette McDonough; Second Vice-President - Joyce Lyle; Recording Secretary - Bill Kinsman; Corresponding Secretary - Helen Matthews; Treasurer - May Thomson; Board of Trustees member (for five years) - David Wild. All nominees were unanimously elected. We thanked Derryl Johnston, who is retiring as Second Vice-President, for the service she had given over the years in this position.

A special tribute was paid to Imogene Blum, who is retiring as curator after many years of service. She was presented with a lovely clock containing a plaque attesting to her contributions to the society. We are fortunate that Imogene still plans to be involved at the museum, as her special knowledge of the people and events in Fairport's history is invaluable. We have been lucky to have her!

Canal Days in June

At Fairport Canal Days 2000, the Perinton Historical Society had a booth for the third year next to Fleet Bank. The weather was cool compared to the last two seasons, but it was reported that on Saturday alone there were 119,765 people in attendance. The society sold both candy and items from the gift shop. Despite heavy competition in the candy department, we held our own and were able to sell over \$100 in candy to children and adults on Saturday and Sunday. Total sales for the event totaled \$236, which goes to help support the society and the museum.

Special thanks go to Jim Keeler, Maggie Keef, Jerry Gearhart, Jim Unckless, and Anne and Geoff Johnston for help in setting up, taking down, and watching the booth. Other volunteers who manned the booth were Ruth and Helen Post, Carol Keeler, Martha Brown students Anna Keeler and Noel Santiago, and Fairport High School student Casey Pfeil. We should particularly thank Bill Keeler who masterminded the whole effort.

Canal Days (continued)

The mother and baby stuffed penguins that were raffled went to Carol Sherron of Rochester. She has a large collection of penguin objects, and this new addition will fit nicely with her growing collection. Congratulations to Carol, and thanks again to the many volunteers who made this event happen.

Some Other Thank-you Notes

We are grateful to the Fairport Historical Club for their donation of \$300, given to us for our "many efforts in preserving the history of Fairport/Perinton." We were also pleased to once again receive a grant from the Antiquarian Study Group for \$300 to be used for book preservation.

The museum hedges were kept trimmed this summer by Steve Wilcox and family, by Sarsfield McNulty, and by John Jongen and Matson Ewell. Fritz May took care of the lawn mowing. The ladies of the Greenbrier Garden Club worked hard to maintain their lovely garden behind the museum. We appreciate the efforts of all these volunteers.

Some Words from Our President, Bill Matthews

Since Fairport is situated on the historic Erie Canal, and since Rochester is hosting the International Canal Conference in September, I suppose it is only natural to mention that these words are being written while cruising on the Rideau Canal, across Lake Ontario in Ontario, Canada. This system of canals, rivers, lakes and numerous locks opened a waterway from Kingston to Ottawa, just in case the Americans decided to close the St. Lawrence River route to upper Canada. This, by the way, was 1832, a mere seven years after the Erie Canal opened for business.

Planned in England in the 1820s, the Rideau Canal project was the work of a largely unknown genius; Lieutenant Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers, selected for the job by no less a personage than the Duke of Wellington (remember Napoleon?).

Meanwhile, back at our museum, we can report that for the third year we have had the services of Ray-Vell Development Corp., this time working on the front stone steps which were realigned, cemented and grouted. This now completes the various projects needed to restore and maintain the integrity of the building at 18 Perrin Street.

Inside the museum, Perinton Historical Society Board member, Bill Keeler, has become Curator, but Imogene Blum has retained her key "to the Executive Washroom" and so still provides her unique expertise on her own schedule. Managing the Gift Shop is now the responsibility of Joyce Lyle. I am sure she would appreciate your suggestions as well as your business.

As I complete these few words, it is 7:30 a.m. and time to cast off here at tranquil Jones' Falls and proceed down to Kingston and the end of another delightful five-day cruise. While the summer may be winding down, we can look forward to good times to come at the Perinton Historical Society -- see you there!

New Members

We welcome James and Cynthia Connell of Fairport and Frank and Norma Salvagio of Elder Travelers Net in Fairport. We hope to greet them in person at some future meeting!

New Acquisitions at the Museum

The success of the Fairport Museum and the richness of its collection are the direct result of generous donations from people in the community. Every year the Fairport Historical Museum receives many donations which are added to our exhibits. Beginning this September, the museum staff will be displaying some of these recently acquired artifacts in a display case just inside the front door.

The first collection of new acquisitions on display are some items donated by Jean Keplinger, the Perinton Town Historian. Among them are a derby and commemorative glass from the Town of Perinton's Sesquicentennial of 1962, and a sign for Trolley Stop #16 which was on Ayrault Road. Milk bottles from Rose Dairy and Parkside Dairy, along with two ballot boxes, are also on display.

On behalf of the Society and the Museum, we would like to thank the Town Historian for this generous donation and invite all of our members and visitors to the museum to come take a look at these artifacts now on display.

Wanted: Modelmaker

Bill Keeler is looking for a person who would be interested in building a scale model of an 1859 hoisting crane. The museum has recently acquired a copy of a registered patent invented by J.Y. Parce of Fairport. The machine is a hoisting crane with a swiveling arm that was used for taking barrels of raw materials off Erie Canal boats. It was built for use by the DeLand Chemical Works; one of the first photos we have of the factory shows this crane in operation.

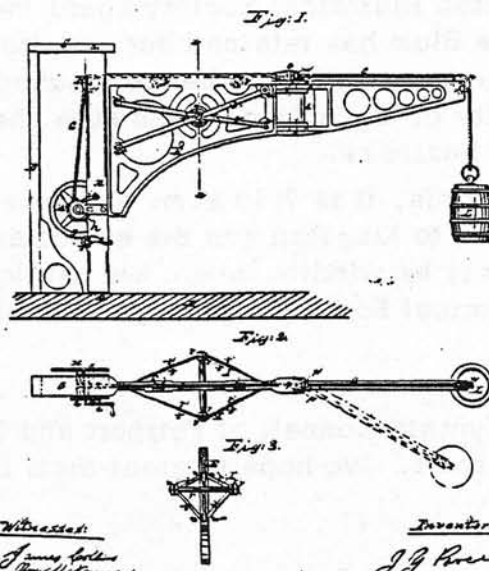
Is there anyone who would be interested in building a model from drawing and specifications from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office? The society will pay for any materials needed. The model will be part of an interactive museum display that the museum staff is developing. Anyone interested in such a challenge should call Bill Keeler at 385-2057.

J.Y. Parce,

Derrick.

N^o 24,912.

Patented July 26, 1859.



Witnesses:
James Smith
Model Maker

Inventor:
J.Y. Parce

2000-2001 Dues

We are grateful to all those who have already sent in their dues. Our special thanks go to those who have given extra contributions or have "upgraded" their membership. You all deserve gold stars!

Dues are used to pay for speakers at meetings, to produce and mail the Historigram, to cover expenses of the House Tour, and to help support the museum in many ways. Even if you cannot get to meetings, you are doing a great service to the society through your dues payment.

Please use the coupon below when you pay. Those who have not been heard from by October 1, 2000, will be removed from the mailing list. If you have questions about your status, call Ruth Ewell, Membership Secretary, at 377-8208.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to The Perinton Historical Society. Please indicate which category below you have chosen:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Senior Single, or Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 - Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$8 Senior Couple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 - Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Business/Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Extra Contribution of \$ _____ | |

Mail to: Ruth Ewell, Membership Secretary	OR	Drop envelope, addressed to
Perinton Historical Society		Ruth Ewell, through slot in
18 Perrin Street		door of museum at 18 Perrin
Fairport, New York 14450		Street.

Your check will be your receipt. However, if you wish a written receipt and a membership card, please check here ().

Volunteers are needed in the areas shown below. If you could help, please check the appropriate box. Someone will then contact you.

- ☐ Host/hostess for one hour at the house tour in the Village of Fairport on Sunday afternoon, October 15, 2000.
- ☐ Museum staffer during regular open hours, two hours per month; training will be provided.
- ☐ Work with the museum curator in cataloging, registration, updating records, marking artifacts and other museum projects.
- ☐ Help with assembling and mailing of the Historigram.

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Fairport, N.Y. Permit #149
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DATED MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!