



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
18 PERRIN STREET FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

May 2001

VOL.	XXXIII	NO.	8	EDITOR	Ruth Ewell
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Calendar of Coming Events

Saturday, May 12 -- Book Signing at Barnes & Noble, Pittsford, 3-5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15 -- Annual Meeting and Picnic (details below).

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3 -- Canal Days. Museum open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 2-4 on Sunday. Society booth on Main Street 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Annual Meeting and Picnic, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Perinton Park

The Perinton Park building by the canal makes a perfect spot for our picnic. Even if it rains (which we are predicting it won't), we can still carry on in the enclosed building.

The society will serve hamburgers and hot dogs and provide coffee, tea, and lemonade. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass (salad or dessert). They should also bring their own plates, cutlery and cups. There will be a charge of \$1 per person, or \$3 per family. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling Helen Matthews (377-8456) or Bernadette McDonough (223-7991). They will need to know (1) name, (2) how many in your family are coming, (3) choice of hot dogs or hamburgers, (4) what dish you will bring to pass. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, May 10.

After we have finished eating, the annual meeting and elections will take place. We will be voting on members of the Executive Committee and one member of the Board of Trustees. Bill Matthews' letter later in the historigram will give details on the slate.

35 MM Slide Projector Needed

The museum needs a new(er) slide projector. If you have, or know of, a Kodak Carousel projector that might be donated to the museum, please call Bill Kinsman at 223-8510. We would love to have a Kodak auto-focus carousel projector with a zoom lens, but we will be happy to receive any Kodak carousel projector.

Annual Fourth Grade Visit

By the time you get this, the fourth grade visitation will be in full swing. Northside will come first, spending six mornings at the museum, to be followed in June by Brooks Hill for three mornings. Jean Keplinger and Matson Ewell are the hosts for Northside and are joined by Annie Callahan for Brooks Hill. Each child gets to hear a talk by Jean, some orientation to the museum by Matson or Annie, and to do a history quiz/treasure hunt in the museum. We're always pleased when kids come back at a later time, bringing their parents to show them what they have learned about our local history and the museum.

Report of April Meeting

A full meeting room greeted Bill Lattin, Director of the Cobblestone Museum in Childs*, New York. He had some fine slides to show and much information to impart about cobblestone buildings.

Bill Matthews, our society president, opened the meeting with his usual "five minutes of history." This time it dealt with an article which had been in the morning paper about museums which are being asked to return Indian remains to the local tribes. Although our museum does not have any human remains, we do have arrow-heads and other memorabilia of the Indians who once lived in this area. Bill posed some philosophical questions about possession and left us all thinking about what we have a "right" to claim.

We were surprised to learn from Bill Lattin that of the 1200 cobblestone structures in North America there are 900 in New York State, most within 75 miles of Rochester. They were built between 1825 and 1860. When the Erie Canal brought wealth to the farmers in upstate New York, they were able to replace their original log cabins with more substantial homes. Many of them chose to do so with the glaciated stones they found in their fields or with stones gathered along the lake shore.

Mr. Lattin is particularly interested in the mortar used in these structures. It consisted mainly of quicklime as the bonding agent with sand. Lime makes the mortar white. Only about four rows of cobblestones could be laid by a mason in a single day; any more than this would sag. The cobblestones are actually a veneer on a rubble wall. Cobblestones can be laid in a variety of ways. Mr. Lattin showed us slides of some walls made with large stones, some with very small ones, some laid in herringbone pattern, some with the front facade different from the side walls. We can only see the end of the stone. No two cobblestone buildings are alike. Cobblestones have been used to build Federal style houses as well as Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and octagonal ones. There is even a three-story building in Alexander, New York. There is no such thing, however, as "cobblestone architecture."

Cobblestones have also been used to build smoke houses, hops dryers, holding vaults in cemeteries, and in railroad structures. Some buildings have cobblestone foundations only. Mr. Lattin pointed out that it was important not to plant shrubbery around foundation walls, contrary to present practice, as the shrubbery tends to collect moisture around the walls and add to their deterioration.

The Cobblestone Society and Museum in Childs is well worth a visit. It consists of seven historic buildings -- a church, a cottage, a school, a blacksmith shop, a print shop, a harness shop, and the Farmers Hall. All are clustered at the intersection of routes 104 and 98. The museum and shop are open June 23 to Labor Day.

As usual, we are grateful to Helen Matthews for the fine refreshments served after the meeting.

"Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal"

Our newly published history book is selling like hot cakes! We have now passed the breaking point where the society had to advance money for the publication; from now on every book we sell is pure profit.

*Note: The April issue of the Historigram incorrectly listed "Clyde" as the site of the Cobblestone Museum. We apologize for the error.

"Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" (continued)

The first book signing event at the Fairport Library on March 24 was a great success. Eight of the ten authors were able to be there; they were kept very busy signing as people lined up to buy the book. There was a very fine write-up of the event by Donna Nickels in the "Community News," with pictures of the authors and a photo of T.C. Lewis, who had volunteered to sell books at a side table.

Now there will be a second book signing at the Pittsford Barnes & Noble on May 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. Hopefully, Betty Bantle and Ruth Post, the two authors who were not able to get to the first book signing, will be there. If you want to have a complete set of authors' signatures in the book you have already bought, bring it to Barnes & Noble on the 12th and get Betty and Ruth to sign their names.

The authors were honored March 29 at an appreciation dinner at the museum. Later in this historigram in an article by Bill Matthews you will find a report of this event. A further happy consequence of the book's appearance is the number of new members it has attracted. A list of these is found below.

New Members

We welcome the following:

William and Bonnie Anderson of Fairport, Kevin and Kathryn Clark of Fairport, Charlie Cleveland of Fairport, Rob, Laurie & Cody Crippen of Fairport, Kathy and Jim Delehanty of Fairport, Sean Michael Delehanty of Fairport, Roberta Garman of Fairport, Jeffrey Kime and Family of Fairport, Patricia Lerner of Fairport, Fran McCarthy of Fairport, Steve Melcher and Family of Fairport, Mrs. Mavis Rossborough of Fairport, Frank Sadowski of Fairport, George & Edna Schuttee of Fairport, Gerald & Antoinette Thompson of Fairport, and Lois Tipton of Rochester.

We hope we will have the pleasure of meeting them soon!

A Message from Society President, Bill Matthews

In the chronicles of the Perinton Historical Society, the "Book Authors' Appreciation Dinner" held on March 29 will certainly be an important entry. The authors, Board members, and other guests enjoyed a very pleasant dinner party organized by "Chief Author" Bill Keeler, with the expert help of Joyce Lyle who provided floral table decorations and Helen Matthews' kitchen expertise, not to overlook the three young ladies Bill recruited to serve and wait on table. The food catered by Rund's was hot, delicious, and prompt. From punch through coffee and dessert, the conversation flowed freely, so that when it was time for a few brief speeches and the presentation of a book to each "author," no one objected. A special guest was Donovan Shilling, whose idea for our book set the whole process in motion. But it was Bill Keeler and his team who turned a good idea into reality. If you don't have a copy yet, there are books for sale in the museum gift shop.

Not only do we have a new book, but we also have a brand new professional brochure for the society. This was the result of the collaborative effort of Bill Keeler, Anne Johnston and Kent Lilley, a student at Fairport High School. Why not pick up a copy for yourself and take one to give to a friend?

Coming up before we know it is the annual picnic at Perinton Park, along the Erie Canal. And it is again time for the election of officers of the society. Briefly, the

A Message from Society President, Bill Matthews (continued)

members of the Executive Committee have one-year terms and the Trustees five-year terms. This year all of the Executive Committee agreed to run again, as did the one Trustee whose five-year term expires. So while it may seem that incumbents are always reelected, there is room for any member who wants to serve, in any capacity, to begin by saying, "What can I do to help?" And don't forget that the Treasurer will be happy to accept your hard or soft money at any time, no questions asked!

As a result of a recent brainstorming session concerning the proper storing of valuable records and other small items, Bill Keeler suggested that the answer might be the long-neglected mini-room out in the dark and dirty area called "the furnace room." Sure enough, this six foot square room was all masonry and would be perfect after cleaning, painting, the removal of obsolete pipes and a sink and toilet. Once again, it is a pleasure to create another useable area in this grand old building.

I want to conclude with my thanks on behalf of the Perinton Historical Society to three gentlemen who are always ready to listen and act on our behalf: Ken Moore, Fairport Village Manager; Mitch Wilkie, head of Fairport Electric; and Bob Radell of the Urban Renewal/Industrial Development Agency.

I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic on May 15th.

We now continue with further chapters from Bill Keeler's addendum to "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," which he calls "What I Left Out."

The title for Chapter 11 was originally "Churches and Schools." Our records, however, contain many interesting photographs and documents concerning organizations in the village. A local newspaper article stated that Fairport had 15 secret societies in 1905 and that was excluding church organizations. I decided to expand the chapter to include the many organizations that were found here.

One society that we have a lot of information on is the Women's Baptist Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church. We have the history of the society that was written in 1946 commemorating the organization's 75th birthday (written by Adelaide Clark).

The American Baptist Home Mission Society was started in New York City in 1832 followed by the Women's Union Missionary Society of America in 1860. The idea for forming a missionary society in Fairport came from Mrs. Henry DeLand after she attended a convention in Chicago in 1871. Mrs. DeLand was quoted by her daughter as saying, "I listened to the appeals that were then made, and saw the plan, so direct and so effective, and I felt that a new era had opened to the Women of America. My soul caught a spark of the fire there kindled and I came home with a desire burning within me that we as a church and society might engage in this work." The association was formed with the help of Mrs. DeLand that September.

The society began to meet once every four weeks on a Tuesday evening at 7:00. At the meetings there were hymns and prayers for the missionaries that were abroad. This was followed by "missionary intelligence" where there would be readings of magazine articles, poems and letters from missionaries. Members paid 2 cents a week or \$1 a year to become members. Much of the money raised was sent to support the parent organization to support the missionaries.

What I Left Out (continued)

Mrs. H.H. Hunt, shown on page 115 in the book, was president from January 1887 to June of 1899. Her husband, Rev. H.H. Hunt, is pictured on page 110. Helen was born in Gorham, N.Y. and married H.H. Hunt in 1879. She and her husband came to the pastorate in Fairport in 1886.

Mrs. Hunt was a devoted church member and beloved leader of the society. Miss Minerva DeLand paid tribute to her in 1921 when she wrote: "You who knew her remember what a beautiful woman she was -- beautiful in character and beautiful in face. Her words were always an inspiration. The minutes often spoke of the earnest words she addressed to the society upon more unselfish giving and the need of prayer for the missionaries and their labors. Her knowledge of the mission field and the workers was boundless, and she urged the members to acquaint themselves better with them. It was indeed a privilege for a young woman to be a member of a society where Mrs. Hunt was President." Mrs. Hunt died in Lewisburg, Pa., April of 1932.

Another Chapter of "What I Left Out" by Bill Keeler

The finest photographer to work in Fairport in the late 19th century was F.B. Clench. Born in Niagara, Canada, he set up his first photographic studio in Lockport in 1863. While visiting friends in Fairport, he was charmed by the village, moved here, and set up a studio on the entire second floor of the Deal Block. An article from "Wilson's Photographic Magazine" describes Clench as ". . . one of the most painstaking and progressive artists . . . It is seldom that we have seen more of feeling and sentiment put into so many different attitudes of the same subject. Grace and ease characterize every pose, the lines well arranged, the accessories well chosen, and the lighting such as to give a beautiful and perfect modeling of the face and figure."

The cover of the book "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" is an example of his fine work, capturing the pleasure craft "Wanderer" and its reflection in the Erie Canal. Other photographs accredited to him in the book are: Dr. D.G. Weare on page 53, J.K. Quakenbush in page 57, Charlotte Howard on page 96, Lee Hazen on page 100 and, of course, the boat "Wanderer" on page 102.

Clench's first wife, Mary Smith of Lockport, died here in 1892. He married his second wife, Lucy M. Lewis, in 1896. Clench Photo Studio operated in Fairport from 1889 to 1902, when F. B. Clench moved to Madison, Georgia, to set up shop there. He moved back to Fairport around 1914 because of failing health, and died here on November 11, 1914, at the age of 76. F.B. Clench is buried in Greenvale Cemetery in the village.

Bill's series will continue in the fall.

An End-of-the-Year Tribute

We don't want this membership year to end without a thank you to all the volunteers who do so much for the society and the museum.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee who take care of so many details of the operation of the society!

Thank you to those who plan and arrange for our excellent programs, including the house tour, and to those who provide and serve the delicious goodies at the meetings!

An End-of-the-Year Tribute (continued)

Thank you to those who spend time at the museum -- the volunteers who staff it during open hours and those who work behind the scenes, putting information on the computer, maintaining our web site, keeping our costume collection in good shape, improving our building, taking care of the grounds, hosting visiting groups of students, pursuing historical information requested by the public.

Thank you to those who contribute articles to the historigram and who help get it assembled and ready to mail.

Thank you to any who help with special projects, such as our ten authors who spent much time writing and researching "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," and to those who help with our booth during Canal Days, and to all involved in creating our new brochure.

There are many unsung heroes. We have probably missed a few in this listing of thank-you tributes. We wish we could give the name of each of them. But mostly we want them to know how much we all appreciate their efforts.

This will be the last historigram until September.
Have a good summer!!!

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

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