



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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September 2001

VOL. XXXIV **NO.** 1 **EDITOR** Ruth Ewell

IMPORTANT! If you have not yet paid your dues, this will be your last issue of the Historigram.

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, September 11 -- Special Civil War presentation by Bob Marcotte, 7:30 p.m. at the museum (details below).

Sunday, October 14 -- House Tour in the Town of Perinton, 1-4 p.m. (details and ticket next month).

Tuesday, November 13 -- Bill Lattin, Director of the Cobblestone Museum, will talk on "Stained Glass Windows from Orleans County Churches (details later).

Tuesday, December 4 -- Christmas Program (details later).

Tuesday, January 15 -- "Remember Those Board Games?" A talk by Mayor Clark King, joint meeting with Fairport Library (details later).

September Meeting, September 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Museum

The society will host a special Civil War presentation by Bob Marcotte, researcher and columnist for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The talk will be about the New York 108th Regiment and its role in such battles as Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and others. Bob has done original research just for this presentation about Fairport veterans who were part of this regiment. The 108th had over a dozen young men from Fairport in its ranks, several of them whose service records will be revealed at the meeting. Bob has prepared maps of several of the battlefields and will pass on information about doing research concerning Civil War soldiers through the National Archives.

If you've seen Bob Marcotte's name before, it is probably from the "Just Ask" column in the Democrat and Chronicle. Bob is a native of Kansas and began working for the Gannett newspapers in 1976. Three years ago he began working on a book about the Rochester connection to the Civil War. The book is completed and hopefully will be in book stores within the year.

There will be a question and answer session after the presentation. Bring in your questions or family stories that you would like to share. This should be a special night, so be sure to bring a friend.

Report of May Annual Meeting and Picnic

Members who attended the picnic were treated to a fine array of salads, casseroles and desserts provided by those attending. Delicious hot dogs and hamburgers were prepared by chefs Jim Unckless, T.C. Lewis, Bill Keeler, and other volunteers. Helen Matthews coordinated the refreshments. No one should have gone home hungry!

Report of May Picnic and Annual Meeting (continued)

The slate of proposed officers for the coming year was hardly surprising since all the present incumbents had agreed to run again. It is wonderful to see people enjoying their work! All were voted in unanimously. They are: 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 (a five-year term) - David Wild. (The other Board members whose terms continue are Bill Keeler, Jim Unckless, T.C. Lewis, John Jongen.)

Canal Days

Once again the society had a booth near Fleet Bank the weekend of Canal Days. It was staffed by: Jesse Ames, Sharon Catanese, James and Anna Keeler, Richard and Deb Mabry, Lucy McCormick, Casey Pfeil, Ruth Post, Eileen Slocum and Jim Unckless. Jerry Gearhart and James Keeler helped to put up the booth on Saturday; Anne and Geoff Johnston and Caroline Keeler helped to take it down on Sunday. Total sales were \$842, of which \$65.88 went for rental of the tent. Thirty of the society's "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" books were sold.

Congratulations and thanks to Bill Keeler who masterminded the whole event!

Happenings at the Museum This Summer and Some Thank-you's

We are grateful to the Fairport Historical Club who recently gave a contribution to the society. Thanks to Donna and Phil Yawman who made a donation in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Peter and Bernadette McDonough. The 7th District Federated Garden Clubs of New York, Inc., gave us a donation for opening the museum garden as part of a tour of several Fairport gardens which was arranged by Joyce Lyle. Bill Kinsman was instrumental in obtaining at no cost to the museum a new 35mm Kodak Slide Projector.

Several members labored on outdoor tasks. Sars McNulty trimmed the driveway and front hedges, Fritz May mowed the lawn, John Jongen worked on the front garden and also trimmed part of the northside hedge. Matson Ewell trimmed the remainder of the hedge, with Sars McNulty "of the perfect eye" a few days later smoothing out all the bumps and bulges. The Greenbrier Garden Club kept their garden in the rear of the museum looking as beautiful as ever.

The museum was open for extended hours this summer. The ten extra hours a week were staffed by Carol Alvut, Heather Johnston Bauer, and David Wild. Many boaters stopped by as well as local people who were glad to see we were open more often than the usual six hours a week.

Carol Rolph spent much time this summer working on the costume collection, and Bill Keeler typed away at the computer, entering a great deal of information about the museum. It is good to know we are slowly getting to be part of the modern world!

A Sad Note

Two of our long-time and valued members died recently. Georgiene Bolton had been a member since 1949. She has bequeathed to the museum her collection of antique hatpins. Bertie Cleveland had worked in the museum as a staffer and as volunteer coordinator. Most recently she was the author of the chapter on "old home week" in the

A Sad Note (continued)

society's "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" book. She got such a kick out of going to the book signings! Her family designated the historical society as a recipient of donations in her memory (along with the Congregational Church). The society's fund is growing every day; we are most grateful for this tribute in her name.

Both these ladies will be greatly missed!

Observations from the Outhouse - by Bill Matthews, Project Manager

There aren't many people who would think that restoring an old brick outhouse was the way to spend one's lazy summer days, but the truth is that I've looked forward to doing just that ever since this little artifact was moved to the rear of Potter Memorial last November.

The first thing to do was to remove the old tar paper and wood shingles (9 trash cans full of debris) and put on a new wood shingled roof. Interestingly enough, underneath the old shingles were boards that definitely were recycled from some previous use. The new shingles were not new exactly but also were recycled from a building long ago.

Next came the replacement of about two dozen bricks that had eroded over the past hundred years or so. Again, the new bricks were also old, saved from some former life. Plastering the interior walls to replace the areas where the original had come off is almost finished, and that will be followed by some woodwork and then hanging of the old door. Interior painting and the reinstallation of the 3-hole bench will follow.

Grading and landscaping are also on the agenda for fall. Will it all be done by November 6th, the anniversary of the buildings move to Potter Memorial? Stay tuned, or better yet, stop around some day and see for yourself!

Fairport Museum Acquires Trescott Sorting Machine

On a trip last year to the Antiques Mall in Waterloo, Bill Keeler, Museum Curator, discovered an apple sorting machine made by Trescott Co. of Fairport. The machine is similar to the drawing of W.A. Trescott's separating machine patented in 1908.

The oak sorter is 9 feet long from the intake chute to the tray which holds the sorted fruits or vegetables. The center is a conveyor belt made up of interlocking rings that allow apples smaller than 2-1/4" in diameter or potatoes smaller than 1-7/8" in diameter to fall through the rings and be expelled through a side chute.

After receiving approval from both the museum committee and the Board of Trustees, Bill bought the machine for the museum this past spring. The owner, Judith Barnaba of Lyons, was kind enough to write a brief history of the machine:

"This piece of farm equipment, most often known as an apple sorter but sometimes called a potato grader, was found in Wayne County.

"It was discovered on land belonging to one of the two feuding Norman brothers who farmed in a section of Lyons once called Slaterville (or Slatersville, depending on whom you ask). It stood in the barn on that Ashley Street property until the late 1990s when I, a neighbor, purchased the charming relic at a yard sale."

The machine is currently at the bottom of the stairs in the basement of the museum. This summer Bill Keeler plans to have the motor rewired so that the machine will run and some apples can be sorted this fall.

New Members

We have a wealth of new members, many of them coming to us because of a solicitation letter sent this summer to members of the Landmark Society in Fairport who were not also members of the Perinton Historical Society. There will probably be many more by the next Historigram; listed below are the ones received at this writing. They all reside in Fairport unless specifically noted.

Melinda Aschman, George and Maureen Basil, Heather Bauer and Family of Penfield, Steve Beren and Family, Ellen Blum, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Burruto, Philip and Claire Dailey, Toni Messerino DeMocker of East Rochester, Nancy Forman, Paul Guarracini, Don and Marcia Jolley of Rochester, Theodore K. and Virginia R. Knowles, Eugene Burns Langie, James S. D. Cooper, Marilyn Merritt, Andrew J. Raus, Rosalie Rosini of East Rochester, Barbara and Robert Shaw, Douglas Smith and Family, Tom and Nancy Speedy, Dale Davis/Michael Starenko, Robert H. Trimble, Jane and Bob VanAlstyne, John and Marjorie Yaeger, Laura Schmidt, Brian Marcellus.

We welcome them all and hope we will have a chance to meet them at a meeting in the near future.

We now continue with some more articles entitled "What I Left Out." These are wonderful tidbits of history that Bill Keeler researched when editing the book "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" but which there was no room to include in the book.

One of the more unusual photographs discovered in compiling pictures for the book was the Burgess & Butts Revival photograph on page 115.

Evangelistic campaigns were popular in the early 20th century. Evangelists such as Moody, Chapman and Gypsy Smith would tour small towns and villages throughout the United States, preaching the Christian faith. The Burgess and Butts Revival was one such campaign that traveled around the northeast and upstate New York in 1914. The Fairport Herald in their November 14th edition described the Burgess and Butts Revival as "...especially designed to strengthen the church in personal soul winning as well as to gather in any lost souls."

George E. Burgess was a YMCA leader in New York and Pennsylvania for 15 years before resigning to enter the evangelistic field. The "Good News Campaign" lasted from the middle of November to the middle of December. Volunteers from the area built the Great Gospel Tabernacle on the lot where R.C. Shaheen is located today. Posters were given out to people to hang in their windows to show support for the campaign. Mr. Burgess would speak to church members in their respective churches during the day and then assemble in the Great Tabernacle at night for a meeting.

The prominent feature of every meeting was the music sung by the choir and directed by Benjamin F. Butts. He was one of the best known gospel singers at the time and would give very moving solos during the meeting. Born in Ohio in 1866, Benjamin Butts studied music at a very early age. He went into business in Kansas City but left in 1888 to enter evangelical work. Both Benjamin and his wife would work with children in the tabernacle on religious lessons and choir rehearsals.

The meetings were a mixture of preaching and singing. The Great Gospel Tabernacle was known as "Everybody's Church" and people from all denominations were invited to attend. The Fairport Herald reported the "many favorable comments being made. Already the sincerity of the evangelists and of the Christian people who have rallied around them are being felt throughout the community."

And still another "What I Left out" article:

Water powered mills have always been important in early pioneer communities. They made lumber for shelters and barns and later were used to grind grain for bread. One of the first mills built in Perinton was the Northrup Mill, later called the Jefferson Mill, pictured on page 24. The mill was built around 1810 on Thomas Creek on the west side of Baird Road.

In 1808 Isaiah Northrup moved to the property on what is now Baird Road with several of his Connecticut neighbors. The mill was built to make lumber to build the first houses in the neighborhood. Later Isaiah sold the mill to Henry Haywood who converted it to a grist mill. In 1853 William Pindle bought the mill and used it to produce land plaster. By 1870 Frank Jefferson bought the mill and converted it to a custom flour mill. The picture on page 24 is from this era.

Frank Jefferson was a naturalized American citizen who was born in England. He and his wife Mary, from Livingston County, New York, lived in a house on the ridge overlooking the mill. They had a daughter, two sons, a servant and a boarder, E. Owen, who worked with Frank in the mill. In an article in the August 23rd issue of the Fairport Herald Mail, Mrs. Jennie Jefferson Frank, the last surviving cousin of the Jefferson line, described baptisms that were performed near the mill. They "repaired" to the water after Sunday school. Usually a flock of ducks was swimming on the stream nearby. As clergyman and candidate entered the water the choir sang "Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod? With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God." The clergyman would sometimes remark: "We have occasionally heard of a person who has been sprinkled requesting to be immersed, but we have yet to hear of anyone who has been immersed requesting to be sprinkled."

The mill is listed in local directories up to 1885. Frank Jefferson retired to a house on West Church Street in the village and died July 18, 1906, at the age of 77. Nearby Jefferson Avenue is named for him.

We have had good response to the dues request sent in August. Many people have sent extra contributions, and we are very grateful to them. If you have not yet paid your dues, you can use the coupon below.

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 door
18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450 of museum at 18 Perrin Street.

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

We can still use hosts/hostesses at the house tour Sunday afternoon, October 14. If you would be willing to do a one-hour shift and have not yet volunteered, please check here ☐. Since the houses are close to each other there will be plenty of time for a volunteer to do a shift and still have time to visit the other houses on the tour.

A Look Back

After reading the article about the tabernacle that once was erected in Fairport, Matson and Ruth Ewell began to reminisce about the tent "revival" meeting which was held as part of the village's 125th anniversary celebration in 1992.

A large tent had been raised in the parking lot behind Fleet Bank. Everyone was invited to come and take part in the ecumenical service there. Reverend John Cedarleaf read passages from a wonderful old Bible (the King James version which, regretfully, we don't hear much anymore). Different representatives from the various churches in Fairport recounted the history of their church. Some were in costume -- Sue Sweet was especially memorable talking about St. Luke's Episcopal Church dressed in a beautiful 1800s gown. But the star of the show was Reverend Bill Kerr, who led the singing of the hymns, his fine strong voice booming out above everyone else. He was the reincarnation of Benjamin Butts of the 1914 tabernacle meeting.

It was a great neighborhood gathering. Let's do it again sometime!

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

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