



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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585-223-3989

Murder in Perinton 1881: The Matthew Hickey Interview Part 2 of 5

The prisoner, Matthew Hickey, was taken to Judge Murdoff who charged him with the malicious and willful shooting of Fred Rufer. Matthew Hickey admitted to shooting Rufer at close range with a Civil War musket loaded with 15 slugs.

A crowd began to gather, and talk of hanging the prisoner began to circulate among the men. It was decided that the safest place for Matthew Hickey, until a further investigation of the murder could be conducted, was in a jail cell in the city of Rochester. Officer Perkins took Hickey on the 9:02 p.m. train to Rochester.

The next morning the Rochester daily papers sent reporters to interview Matthew Hickey. The *Democrat and Chronicle* reporter was brought to the jail cell on the morning of August 19 and the following interview was reported in the August 20, 1881 edition of that paper.

Reporter: What in your opinion of how you will come out of this business?

≡ Our Mission ≡

"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote Community interest in the preservation of local records, structures and artifacts for posterity, and for the enlightenment of the people of our town of Perinton."

Matthew Hickey: Well, I don't know. Just whatever the authorities think best to do under the circumstances, they must do, and I must be satisfied.

Reporter: On what will you rely for your defense?

Hickey: I shall claim self-defense, for I notified him to leave my premises and not move my property until it was paid for...

Reporter: Hickey, if you had the business to do over again—if you were back where you were yesterday, feeling as you do now, would you kill the boy?

The prisoner considered the question for some time. It evidently brought the whole scene vividly to his mind, and he thought the question over seriously. He finally said he did not know.

Hickey: What has been done we know. What is in the future we cannot tell. I can't say whether I would or not.

Reporter: Did you intend to kill the boy when you went for your gun?

Hickey: I intended to make him go off from my premises.

Reporter: Was the shooting done in anger; that is in hot blood?

Hickey: There was no hard words or imprudence on either side. I was worked up a good deal."

The reporter considered Matthew Hickey a cool character and that "He spoke of the tragedy with as

much interest and no more, as he would of the death of a woodchuck...If he has any feeling of regret that he has caused the death of a fellow creature, he signally disguised it during the interview yesterday.”

Next month: Part III - The Case for the Prosecution
Correction: In the third paragraph second sentence of the Part I article *Murder in Perinton 1881*, James Hickey should read Matthew Hickey.

Hickey's Appearance

Democrat and Chronicle August 19, 1881

The prisoner has not a repulsive appearance. His body is spare and lank. His head is well shaped. It is large and well rounded out, and his forehead is what would be called high and intellectual. His eyes are gray and deep set, and have a very stern, though not savage expression. His face contains no hair except the stubble of a white beard. His mouth is well shaped, and the cheeks

are somewhat sunken, and show the wear and tear of seventy summers. His voice is pleasant, and, as he related the story of the shooting, it was perfectly under his control, and as smooth as that of an opera singer. He is not entirely without education. His sentences are full of meaning and clear, but he speaks with a noticeable brogue, the inheritance of his nationality.

Two Museum Volunteer Opportunities

Many of you indicated on your membership renewals that you would be willing to volunteer for some of the activities that go on at the Society. The committees have been notified and you will be contacted when those events come up on our calendar.

There are two small volunteer activities that were not on the sheet and we have a need for someone (or two) to step up and volunteer. We need someone or several people to volunteer to make coffee and bring cookies to the Society meetings usually the second Tuesday of the month for the seven meetings we have from September to March (April being the house tour and May the picnic.) What would be required is to come to the meeting a half-hour early, bring two dozen store bought cookies (The Society will reimburse you for the cost.), fix coffee for 30 people and help with clean up at the end of the evening. If you attend the meetings on a regular basis, this could be something you might want to do yourself or with others.

The second job is to decorate the meeting hall in the museum for Christmas. We have a tree and decorations and we need one person or a team to set the room for our annual Christmas meeting. The room can be set up anytime from the second week of November to the first week in December. It usually takes

several hours to complete. This also could be a project that several Girl Scouts would enjoy in an afternoon.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, call the museum at 223-3989 and leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you.



A Light Hearted Look at Outhouses

Whether you call it a dooley, backhouse, one or two holer, donnicker, throne, closet, the White House or the all too familiar outhouse, this type of structure has been a fact of American life since colonial times. These buildings were known in early America as privies after the Latin *Privus* or private place.

Carol Adriaansen will take us on a journey to help us better understand the place this architectural masterpiece played in American life. To many it was more than the designer conceived.

As recently as 1950, there were 50 million households in the United States that lacked indoor plumbing. These modest structures have been measured and drawn as part of the Historic Architectural Buildings Surveys in the 1930's and they were even part of a Works Progress Administration project from 1933 to 1945. The federal government built and made available improved one hole outhouses to citizens for \$5 complete with concrete pad. Over 2 million of these privies were made.

Today outhouses are sold and reused as garden sheds, storage sheds, pool cabanas, etc. Even a single

one or two hole seat from one of these buildings can fetch as much as \$25. The Perinton Historical Society owns a brick outhouse which was moved by Matthews Building Movers from a home on East Church Street to the Potter Memorial grounds in 2000. Most outhouses were made of wood and our brick outhouse is somewhat rare. There are several reasons why a family would want to erect a brick outhouse. One was to keep the drafts and vermin out of the structure. The best reason was to prevent the great American pastime among young men called "outhouse tipping" which was very popular at Halloween.

Our presenter Carol Adriaansen has been the historian for the Town of Marion for 35 years. In addition to her interest in outhouses she also collects chamber pots and Sears & Roebucks catalogs.

The Society meeting and presentation will be on October 9th at the Perinton Community Center 1350 Turk Hill Road at 7:30 p.m. There is handicap parking and accessibility. The meeting is free and open to the public.



Brick outhouse at the intersection of Main and Church Street being moved to its final destination behind the Potter Memorial Building.

The Little House Out Back

“No Smoking Please”

One of my bygone recollections,
As I recall the days of yore
Is the little house, behind the house,
With the crescent over the door.
’Twas a place to sit and ponder
With your head bowed down low;
Knowing that you wouldn’t be there,
If you didn’t have to go.

Ours was a three-holer,
With the size for every one.
You left there feeling better,
After your usual job was done.
You had to make these frequent trips
Whether snow, rain, sleet, or fog-
To the little house where you usually
Found the Sears-Roebuck catalog.

Oft times in dead of winter,
The seat was covered with snow,
’Twas then with much reluctance,
To the little house you’d go.
With a swish you’d clear the seat,
Bend low, with dreadful fear
You’d blink your eyes and grit your teeth
As you settled on your rear.

I recall the day Granddad,
Who stayed with us one summer,
Made a trip to the shanty
Which proved to be a hummer.
’Twas the same day my Dad
Finished painting the kitchen green.
He’d just cleaned up the mess he’d made
With rags and gasoline.

He tossed the rags in the shanty hole
And went on his usual way
Not knowing that by doing so
He would eventually rue the day.
Now Granddad had an urgent call,
I never will forget!

This trip he made to the little house
Lingers in my memory yet.

He sat down on the shanty seat,
With both feet on the floor.
Then filled his pipe with tobacco
And struck a match on the outhouse door.
After the Tobacco began to glow,
He slowly raised his rear:
Tossed the flaming match in the open hole,
With not a sign of fear.

The Blast that followed, I am sure
Was heard for miles around;
And there was poor ol’ Granddad
Just sitting on the ground.
The smoldering pipe was still in his mouth,
His suspenders he held tight;
The celebrated three-holer
Was blown clear out of sight.

When we asked him what had happened,
His answer I’ll never forget.
He thought it must be something
That he had recently et!
Next day we had a new one
Which my Dad built with ease.
With a sign on the entrance door
Which read: No Smoking, Please!

Now that’s the end of the story,
With memories of long ago,
Of the little house, behind the house
Where we went cause we had to go!

- *Author unknown*

Historic Recipes

This is a series of articles of favorite recipes from women who lived or are still living in Perinton and Fairport, as well as, recipes from local business advertisements and cook books. Biographical information was collected by Fairport Museum volunteers.

Mrs. D.B. Deland's Peach Pickles

Mrs DeLand lived on South Main Street diagonally from what is now the Baptist Home.

Pare the peaches and steam until a fork will easily pierce them.

Put into a jar and pour over them while hot a syrup made as follows:

To 7 lbs. of fruit, add

- 4 pounds of brown sugar
- 1 pint vinegar
- 1 oz. of whole mace
- 1 oz. Stick cinnamon and cloves if liked.

This recipe can be used for pears or plums as well.

Red Cabbage (Roode Kool)

Mrs. Elizabeth Kraai's Red Cabbage or in Dutch, Roode Kool. Elizabeth lived at 84 South Main Street in Fairport.

- 1 medium head red cabbage.
- 3-4 tablespoons vinegar.
- 1 cup water.
- 2-3 tablespoons butter.
- 2 tablespoons sugar.
- ½ teaspoon salt.
- 5 tart apples.
- 3 whole cloves.

Remove outside leaves and grate very fine. Combine all ingredients except ½ of butter. Cook about 4 hours over low heat, shaking pan frequently to prevent burning. Add remainder of butter and serve. (From and Old Dutch Cook Book)

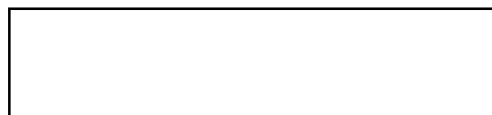
From *The Fairport Historical Club Cook Book* Fairport, NY 1946.



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18 Perrin Street
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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR HOURS

Sunday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The first two Mondays of every month the Archives open for
Community Researchers only from 8 a.m. to noon.

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

*Group tours, presentations and special projects by appointment.
Call 223-3989 and leave a message.*