



# Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

Vol. XLII • No. 7

May 2010  
585-223-3989

## A Tribute to Peter J. McDonough; politician, preservationist and long time member of the Perinton Historical Society

Peter J. McDonough passed away March 26, 2010 at the age of 83. Everyone knew Peter as a politician. He was mayor of the village of Fairport from 1971 to 1981 and served in the Monroe County Legislature. What is not commonly known is Peter's historic preservation activities and his role in moving the Perinton Historical Society museum from the Crosman Center to our current location on Perrin Street.

Peter loved antiques and anything old. He enjoyed telling the story of when he was first married. His new bride Bernadette sent him to the store to buy food for dinner and he returned home with an antique instead of groceries. The Perinton Historical Society and Fairport Museum were a perfect fit for both Peter and Bernadette. The couple moved to Fairport in 1969 and joined the society at the annual meeting that same year. Peter preferred to support the society from behind the scenes. In contrast Bernadette took a leadership role and was on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for over 30 years. Over the years the McDonoughs have donated several items for the museum collection and have always participated in Society events.

In 1970 Peter McDonough ran against Gordon Murphy for mayor of Fairport. A major plank in Peter's platform was to save the Main Street Lift Bridge from demolition for urban renewal.

McDonough won the election, saved the bridge, and served as village mayor until 1981.

The Urban Renewal Agency was established in Fairport in 1965. By the middle of the 1970s studies had been completed and options were being discussed over how to proceed with a plan to revitalize the village. In 1976, Peter McDonough with the support of the village board, hired the Landmark Society of Western New York to conduct a house and building survey of structures in the village of Fairport. The survey was done to record and document the historic structures in the village and to better understand the built environment before making final decisions for renovations. Staff of the Landmark Society took photos and collected historical facts on structures in the village that were 50 years old or more. This 10 volume collection is still considered one of the best surveys ever done by the Landmark Society. Copies of this important report are still used today by researchers in the Fairport Museum.

The moving of the Fairport Public Library to the new Village Landing Mall created an opportunity to establish a local museum in the village. Peter worked with the village board, the Fairport School District, and executives at the Perinton Historical Society to broker a deal which brought the Society's collections from a single room at the Crosman Center to the former library on Perrin Street. In 1979 volunteers from the Perinton Historical Society moved their collections to the former library and established the Fairport Historical Museum. Peter along with other members of the Society moved all the artifacts and documents to the new facilities. Some people still remember Peter McDonough and Al Knapp riding down East Ave. on Fred Potter's vintage tandem bi-

### ≡ Our Mission ≡

*"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote interest in preserving and sharing local history."*

cycle on their way to the museum.

In 2006 the First Baptist Church was in jeopardy of being sold and razed for a drug store. Peter McDonough helped form an organization that advocated for a preservation ordinance in the village to save the church and other historic buildings in Fairport. There was an analogy Peter used to help explain the relationship between Fairport's historic buildings and the village's heritage. Peter explained that Fairport was like a three legged stool with the legs represented by the Main Street Lift Bridge, the Green Lantern Inn and the First Baptist Church. Remove one of the legs and the stool would not stand, and the removal of one of the key historical buildings would devastate the historic feel of the village.

That same year, Peter took a leadership role in the Perinton Historical Society for the first time. He was appointed President of the Society by the Board of Trustees. Through his efforts, the Perinton Historical Society took a stand in support of a preservation ordinance and established an Historic Buildings Committee within the Society to record and promote historic properties in the village. Fairport passed a preservation ordinance in 2007 and the Historic Buildings Committee has updated the 1976 Landmark Society Survey and is pursuing several other projects.

Peter McDonough will be missed but his legacy lives on both in the village of Fairport and at the Fairport Historical Museum.



**Building Inspection** - Perinton Historical Society volunteers checking out the recently vacated library building in 1979. Peter McDonough is the tallest person in the back row with Bernadette on his right.

## Happenings at the Society

For more information visit our website at [www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org) or call the museum at 223-3989.

~ **May 18** - starting at 6 p.m.. Perinton Historical Society Annual Meeting and picnic at Perinton Park off Fairport Road in the pavilion near the canal. Candidates for office will be listed on our web site before the meeting.

## A Message from the Cookbook Committee

by May Thomson

The cookbook is a fund-raising project for the society. The book will also mark the 75 anniversary of the Perinton Historical Society. We need input from all members. Please send your favorite recipes (all categories of recipes) to The Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450 or e-mail your recipe to [info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org). You may also drop them off at the museum during open hours, drop them in the museum mail slot or give them to any board member. The committee will be working on this project during the summer, but we need your recipes.

## Society Volunteer Opportunities

### Museum Staff

#### Only 2 hours per month

Since 1979 the Fairport Museum has been operated by the Perinton Historical Society and has opened the building to the public. We have kept the same hours for the last 30 years and have staffed the museum with volunteers that work two hours a month at the reception desk helping researchers and visitors coming to see our exhibits.

With the recent retirements of Ruth Post and Charlotte Danneker, as well as Bob and Cathy Speciale, we are in desperate need of volunteers that are willing to watch the museum for two hours a month. We have open slots for the third and fourth Sunday in the month from 2 to 4 and the third Thursday in the month from 7 to 9 at night. You will be working with one other volunteer. No experience is necessary and training is provided. The duties of the job is simply to help researchers with their questions by pulling files for them to examine and selling items in our gift shop.

Anyone interested in helping with this vital job please contact Bill Keeler by calling the museum at 223-3989 and leaving your name and number. Bill will get back to you and set up a time to meet.

### Museum to Offer Extended Summer Hours

The Board of Trustees has approved additional summer hours for the Fairport Museum beginning July 6 through August 26. During this time we will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.; and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. These extra hours are a service to the community and this program allows tourists and residents more opportunities to visit our museum during good weather.

### Canal Days Booth

#### June 5 & 6

The Perinton Historical Society is going to have a booth again this year at Canal Days the first weekend in June. Bill Keeler will be running the booth. This is a fund raising event and we will be selling gift shop items.

What Bill needs now are volunteers that can spell him for an hour or so on Saturday June 5 (9a.m. to 6p.m.) or Sunday June 6 (9a.m. to 5 p.m.) There will be two volunteers assigned to the booth at all times. You can volunteer by filling out the form on the next page and drop it off in the mail slot at the museum or call the museum at 223-3989 and leaving a message. Please leave your name, number, what day and time (afternoon or morning) you are available. Bill will get back to you June 1 when he makes out the schedule.

### Extending Our Thanks

Thanks go to Charlotte Danneker for her years of service as a volunteer at the museum. She is retiring this year because of health concerns. Thanks also go out to Bob and Cathy Speciale who are also leaving as museum volunteers after years of service.

The Society thanks Bill Keeler, Susan and Ron Roberts for their donation in memory of Imogene C. Blum who passed away March 7, 2010 at the age of 91. She was very active in the Perinton Historical Society as a board member and past president. Imogene was also the curator for the Fairport Museum for many many years.

The Society thanks the many people who made donations to the Perinton Historical Society in memory of Peter J. McDonough. As of this printing, they are Joseph and Ellen Slisz, D'Arcangelo and Co. LLP, Robert Wagner, Ken and Audrey Weil of the Weil Foundation, P.O. And R.E. Ross, Deanne Molinari, Barbara and Warren Heiligman, Judith and James Vaeth, Arthur and Jean Wilson, Thomas and Diane McCrink, Lorraine and John McMahan..

---

# Recognizing the Society's Long Term Members

By Jim Unckless, membership secretary

The Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge the incredible long-term commitment to PHS of our members. According to our records, twenty-three of our current members have been supporting the society for at least 35 years and a total of fifty two for at least 30 years. **Bob Stevens** has been a member continuously for the last 59 years! The long-term members include:

## 50+ years

Robert Stevens

## 45 to 49 years

Morey & Ann Rasbeck, Clark & Sharon King;

## 40 to 44 years

Betty Bantle, Bernadette & Peter McDonough, Marguerite Antel, George & Holly Wolf

## 35 to 39 years

Robert Wagner, Douglas & Susan Angevine, Joan Alliger, William & Elizabeth Sharffenberger, Seymour & Marilyn Rudin, Matson & Ruth Ewell, Richard & Prissilla Minster

## 30 to 34 years

John & Mary Gordon, David and Linda Glossner, Geoff & Anne Johnston, Jerry & Joanne Williams, Doug & Jean Whitney, John & Lorrie McMahon, Drew & Carolyn Saum, Jim & Bonnie Smith, Carol Gardner, Warren & Pat Knapp, Carol Alvut, Franz & Joanne Sasse, Fritz & Georgia May, Don & Dorothy Naetzker, Phil & Donna Yawman, Carol Ann Britt.

Thank you all for your involvement and support!

## Crossword Puzzle Answers – March Issue

### Across

3. LEWISSELYE — Member of the 40th Congress of the United States from New York under President Andrew Johnson from 1867 to 1869.
4. BARNEYBIRD — The name of the packet boat that landed in a tree during the Oxbow break of 1871.
5. MICROSCOPES — What Ezra Griffith had a passion for.
8. COW — What Mr. Strong lost the second time when the canal broke and flooded his farm.
11. VILLAROSENBORG — The name of the Green Lantern Inn in 1923.
12. GEORGIANREVIVAL — Architectural style of the Fairport Museum.

### Down

1. SELFMADE — To improve oneself through good morals, character, and life long learning so that he or she can be a better citizen.
2. PRIVET — Common name for Ligustrum Amurense plants.
3. LAUDANUM — One of the ingredients in Dr. Robinson's Improved Medical Compound for Summer Complaints
6. SHOVEL — What tool did laborers working on the canal break keep secure so that it would not be stolen?
7. MUSKRAT — What animal is the chief cause of canal breaks in the Erie Canal?
9. OXBOW — Place on the Erie Canal where the Fairport canal riot occurred.
10. BENZINE — A chemical that can be taken to get high.

---

# Annual Meeting and Picnic Scheduled for May 18

The annual Perinton Historical Society picnic and meeting will be held rain or shine in the shelter at Perinton Park on Fairport Road near the canal at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday May 18. Hot dogs, hamburgers, decaf coffee and lemonade will be provided by the Society. Members coming to the picnic are requested to bring a dish to pass, and their own plates and silverware. **Please make reservations** with the form below or by calling the museum at 223-3989 and leaving a message. Please indicate:

1. How many people will be coming.
2. Whether you would like a hot dog or hamburger.
3. What dish you would like to pass (salad, hot dish, cold dish, dessert.)

At the meeting there will be a few words from our president and then the members will vote on the nominations for officers for the Society. This is always a good time to renew friendships and partake in some excellent food. Hope to see you there.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people coming \_\_\_\_\_

I would like (indicate number) \_\_\_\_\_ hot dogs \_\_\_\_\_ hamburgers

I will be bringing (circle one)    Salad            Hot dish            Cold dish            Dessert

-----  
This form can be delivered and dropped in the mail slot at the Fairport Museum,  
or mailed to the Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, New York 14450  
-----



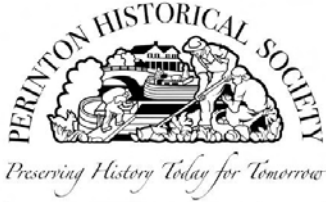
## Canal Days Volunteer Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Available:    Saturday June 5            \_\_\_\_\_ Morning            \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon

                                 Sunday June 6            \_\_\_\_\_ Morning            \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon

Bill Keeler will call you June 1 to reconfirm your selection and schedule you for an hour to watch the booth.



18 PERRIN STREET ♣ FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #149  
Fairport, NY 14450



---

# 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 Researchers only.

Visit our website:  
[www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org)

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