

Perinton
Historical Society

Historiogram

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Five New Properties & Artifacts of the Horse-and-Buggy Days Designated

By Doris Davis-Fritsch

The Fairport Historic Preservation Commission (FHPC) has recently designated as landmarks the property at 70 South Main Street, house and barn at 185 North Main Street, 23 North Main Street, 25 Woodlawn Avenue and the house and barn at 11 West Church Street. Also designated were several hitching posts and carriage steps throughout the village.

Newman-Dean House and Barn, 11 West Church Street



Built in 1893, the house is a classic example of Queen Anne style architecture of the Victorian era. It meets two of the criteria for designation outlined in the Fairport Preservation Local Law:

(1) It can be identified with historic personages: William M. Newman, who built the structure, was a businessman and builder; George W. Cobb, who lived there for a short time, developed the Sanitary Can; and Dr. George A. Dean, who practiced medicine in Fairport for 40 years.

(2) It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style. Queen Anne features of the building are the steep cross-gabled pitched roof, wrap-around porch with turret, patterned shingles and windows of various shapes and sizes, extended gable in the peak and pent roofs.

John E. Howard House, 70 South Main Street

This structure (see photo on page 5) was built in the mid 1800s. It features many strong Italianate elements, including widely overhanging eaves with brackets in a drop ball design, gracefully arched porch supports, and a rooftop cupola. The Fairport Federal Credit Union implemented a sensitive rehabilitation to the exterior of the building a few years ago, taking care to maintain important historic elements.

Notable residents of the home: John E. Howard whose

family came to Perinton in the 1830s and established a wagon manufacturing business; daughter Dr. Sofia Howard who practiced medicine in area; Dr. Charles White and wife Dr. Francis H. White; and Dr. John N. McEachren. The house served as a physician's office and family home for 84 consecutive years.

Trolley Station, 23 North Main Street

The Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Trolley Station was built 100 years ago in 1911. Gordon A. Wright, who developed a new design for trolley stations, designed it.

The structure has wide eaves with decorative brackets, which allowed passengers cover from sun, rain or snow. Curved roof rfters lift the eaves as they go away from the



building. There is a broad hip roof. The exterior is stucco with decorative bands of wood on top. The building has been easily adapted for other uses including a gas station, antique shop and now a sewing store.

Daniel and Minerva Deland House and Barn, 185 North Main Street

This property (see photo, page 5), circa 1856, was the family home of Daniel B. Deland and Minerva Parce Deland. Together they started a saleratus business, the DeLand Chemical Company, which was Fairport's earliest successful manufacturing business. The barn on the property represents

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Just Around the Corner

By Bill Poray

I was in a Pittsford shop recently, and was drawn to a watercolor painting of a boat at the docks. It was a peaceful image, with bright and colorful brushstrokes. The signature of the artist was neat and legible, like a draftsman's signature on a blueprint. I wasn't familiar with the name, "C. R. Sawdey", so I decided to go home and do a bit of research to see if I could learn more about the artist.

I checked an artist database on the internet, but found no references to the name Sawdey. After a bit more searching, I stumbled upon an article in the Fairport-ER Post from October of 2009. It told the story of Charles Ray "Bud" Sawdey of Fairport, who received the Insignia of Chevalier (Knight) of the French Legion of Honor, France's highest award to a non-citizen, during a ceremony at Rochester City Hall. Another veteran, Robert Salerno of Irondequoit, also received the award that day.

Reading the article, I learned that Mr. Sawdey took part in the Normandy invasion and the liberation of France in 1944. After a bit more research, I found that Mr. Sawdey and his wife Marilyn lived in Bushnell's Basin for many years, but more recently have resided at Packetts Glen, the former Fairport High School building on West Avenue. With my love of history, I couldn't stop thinking about how interesting it would be to hear Mr. Sawdey's firsthand recollections of his days in the military and the Normandy invasion.

Surprisingly, an hour later I happened to meet a woman who is a neighbor of the Sawdeys. Her name is Nancy Secker, and I met her while doing research at our museum on Perrin Street. As I helped her locate some information regarding the history of West Avenue, she mentioned that she and her husband Bruce live at Packetts Glenn. I told Nancy about the painting and my interest in Bud, and she quickly helped me set up a visit with the Sawdeys.

A few days later, I met the Sawdeys at their home in the majestic old high school. Tall and lean, with a quick smile, Mr. Sawdey was easy to talk to, but mostly, I was there to listen. Bud remarked, and of course he's not alone in this, "I can remember things that happened 70 years ago better than things that happened last week." He recalled stories from his war years, with the Fifth Engineers Special Brigade, often



Charles (Bud) Sawdey, with his painting of a boat in a Scottish harbor, near where he had spent time in 1943, preparing for the Normandy invasion.

with vivid detail. I listened to Bud's description of his experiences, from basic training in the desert of California, to his unit's first arrival in Scotland, and landing on the beach at Normandy.

In total, Mr. Sawdey spent more than three years in the Armed Forces, and served 28 months overseas in the European theatre of war. A 1946 newspaper story covering Bud's return to Geneva stated, in part: "...he holds the French Croix de Guerre with palm, the Good Conduct medal, the European, African and Middle Eastern Theatre of War ribbon, the Bronze arrowhead, two battle stars, and the World War II Victory medal."

Charles Ray Sawdey graduated from Geneva High School in 1939, and pursued his interest in art by participating in the summer session of the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in 1942. While still in France in 1945, he attended Biarritz American University. After the war, Mr. Sawdey continued his studies, graduating from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1949, then did post-graduate study at the New York Phoenix School of Design in New York. His education and training led to a successful career as a commercial artist.

Bud and Marilyn showed me many of their wonderful paintings, each with the signature that first caught my eye at the little shop in Pittsford. Frequent subjects include landscapes of Keuka Lake and wooded scenes of favorite places in Maine.

One painting, the oldest that I saw, was different from the others. Bud painted it while lying on the ground at Omaha Beach, Normandy, just a month after the initial invasion in

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1944. He hunkered down in front of a statue of a cross, and began to paint. He used a type of crayon dipped in water, for a watercolor effect. Just two colors, because that's all he had in his pocket. Bud used his helmet to hold the water, and dipped his crayons into it. Suddenly an old German biplane appeared, flying very low. It was headed his way, and Bud thought he might not ever get the chance to finish the painting. But just as quickly, he saw that an American bomber was in hot pursuit and quickly forced the German plane to the ground. The painting of the cross at Omaha Beach is proudly displayed in the Sawdey home.

After listening to Bud's stories, I knew I had to go back to the shop in Pittsford and buy the painting that started me on this unanticipated journey. When I returned to the store, I was happy to see no one had purchased it yet. I stopped to visit the Sawdeys once more, this time to reunite him with the painting and see what he could tell me about it. From what he and Marilyn could recall, it was likely painted in the early 1980s. Bud created the painting from his memory of a boat tied to the dock in Scotland, near where the Fifth Engineers Special Brigade first touched European soil in 1943. He also used photos from a travel brochure of Scotland to create the scene.

The painting by C. R. Sawdey now has a place of honor in our home, and reminds me daily of the new friends I have who live just around the corner from the Fairport Historical Museum.

Bud Sawdey's Letter Home— Geneva Daily Times: January 29, 1944

In a letter to his parents, published in the Geneva Times in 1944, Bud wrote, in part:

“Much as I hate to be away from you all, I am glad I'm over here. If you could see and hear some of the things I have, you would understand fully. I've talked with women and children who have run from the streets during enemy machine-gunning. I have talked to civilians who during attacks have left the safety of air raid shelters to assist in rescue work. I walked by churches once as beautiful as Trinity or St. Stephen's which are now only blackened walls and piles of rocks. In a town not far from camp are ruins caused by the blitzes in the early part of the war. The town is about the size of Geneva and if you can picture the entire business section of Geneva nothing but a heap of rocks, you know about what this town is like. Entire blocks leveled to the ground. Things like that and you understand why you are over here.”



Comments From Your President



Bob Hunt

Wow, what a wonderful weekend we had in Fairport on October 7th, 8th and 9th. Octoberfest kicked off Friday evening and continued on Saturday evening with PHS members providing 27 hours of help at the event. Fairport Village Partnership, the sponsor of Octoberfest, will make a donation to PHS for our assistance. Saturday was the official kickoff of the Scarecrow Festival with the village abuzz with activity—people everywhere enjoying the beautiful summer-like weather. The Farmers' Market vendors were selling their harvest (very abundant at this time of year), Safe Journey was hosting its 5K race, the scarecrows were finished and ready to be judged, and the Fire Department Band was marching through the village, adding music to the festivities. Around the Gazebo, there were hot dogs, kettle corn, Scouting and bobbing for apples. Merchants had their goods set up on the street for easy viewing and sales. And most important, our museum was open from noon until 4 with Bill Keeler as host. We had 28 visitors! Thanks, Bill—great job.

From the Board Meeting on 9-13-11

- Upcoming PHS programs:
11/15/11: *The Art and Life of Carl Peters*, by Bill Poray
12/13/11: Christmas Party and Music Program
- Scholarship: The Peter McDonough Memorial Scholarship has been simplified in scope and presented to select classes at Fairport High School by Bill Poray.
- House Tour: Deb Mabry has agreed to chair the annual House Tour for 2012 and received unanimous approval with the tour reverting back to a fall timeframe. Remember 2012 is the bi-centennial year for the Town of Perinton.

From the Board Meeting on 10-11-11

- Under the treasurer's report, we adopted a whistle blower policy and moved to reestablish the finance committee to provide a reviewing group for our financial transactions and look into ways of generating income for PHS. We are looking for a couple of members to serve on this committee, so please let me know if you have an interest. Thanks.
- We adopted the charge for the property committee which, in simple terms, is to look after the internal and external needs of the museum and property.
- Our total membership is showing a slight increase over last year's numbers.

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**November Program to Celebrate the—
Art and Life of
Fairport Artist Carl W. Peters**

On November 15th, the Perinton Historical Society will host a special evening in celebration of Fairport’s own master artist, Carl William Peters. The Peters family moved from Rochester to a small farm on Jefferson Avenue about 1910, when Carl was a young teen. He lived in Fairport, painting landscapes of the Genesee valley until his death in 1980. For most of his life, in the summer months he could be found in the vicinity of Rockport, Massachusetts, painting nautical scenes and giving painting lessons.

A WWI veteran, Mr. Peters painted constantly—morning, noon, and night. He won many awards in his lifetime, including an unprecedented three Hallgarten Prizes from the National Academy of Design. His work can be found at the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution, as well as countless galleries, museums and private collections. A renowned muralist as well, his Works Project Administration era murals can be found in several Rochester high schools and in our own Fairport Historical Museum.

The event will start at 5:30 pm at the Fairport Museum, with a one-time showing of a number of original paintings by Mr. Peters. The paintings will be on display on the main floor.

Ironically, this will be the largest exhibit of Mr. Peters’ paintings in Fairport since 1946, when an exhibit was held in the same building, at that time, the Fairport Public Library.

A special wine tasting, generously provided by our friends at Casa Larga Vineyards, will accompany the viewing of the paintings, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The wine tasting will provide our guests with the opportunity to enjoy small samples of a variety of wines from Perinton’s own winery.

From 7:00 to approximately 8:30, guests are invited to attend a presentation on the art and life of Mr. Peters. Bill Poray will host the event. He has conducted significant research on the life of Mr. Peters, and with the use of a digital projector will share many images of the artist’s paintings, including those painted in Fairport and the surrounding area.

Bill Poray has been a member of the Fairport Historical Preservation Commission since its inception in 2007, and is also a Trustee of the Perinton Historical Society. Mr. Poray’s recent projects include the restoration of a depression-era bronze sculpture at the Fairport Post Office, and the discovery of a 1898 Fairport Village Census, which he has digitally reproduced and transcribed for use by historians, genealogists, and others interested in local history.

Please join us at the Fairport Museum for this unique and informative program, and be sure to bring a friend.

THANK YOU to the following for providing their generous assistance in making this program possible.

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"New Properties..." Continued from page 1

Perinton history as an agricultural community. It appears to be a four-bay English type barn, typical of early threshing barns. Stall windows indicate that horses were kept there as well.

Italianate features of the house are large paired decorative brackets, wide overhanging eaves, deep trim band, round eave windows, a two story bay window and tall windows with decorative Greek revival "ears". The barn has round-headed windows, and cupola with gable peaks.



25 Woodlawn Avenue



70 South Main Street



185 North Main Street

Warner-Golia House, 25 Woodlawn Avenue

The house was built in the Stick Style, a Victorian variation, and is one of a very few of this style in Fairport. Stick elements in the home are found in the patterns created by the use of sticks in the upper front gable and above the second story windows. The shingles on the second story were applied in varied patterns. The curved braces on the front and second story porch and the curved brackets with a medallion on north and south sides are all Stick features.

The George H. Warner family lived at 25 Woodlawn for 40 years. Mr. Warner was a director of the Fairport Savings and Loan for 45 years and retired from the American Can Company in 1942. The Golias purchased the house in 1974 and have taken meticulous care of the property for almost 40 years.

Relics of Horse-and-Buggy Days

The FHPC also recently designated as landmarks hitching posts and carriage steps on lawns throughout the village. The Commission hopes to protect them for future generations and highlight a unique feature of Fairport. These artifacts are from an age when the horse and buggy were the transportation of the day. The village has more of these relics than any community of its size in the state. For more information go to www.fairportny.com and www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.



"Comments..." Continued from page 3

- The September program, *Folklore & Legends of Rochester*, presented by Michael Keene, drew 50 people.

Please note the next two board meetings will not be on the normal second Tuesday of the month: November's meeting will be on the 1st, as the 8th is election day; and the December meeting will be on the 20th, as the 13th is our Christmas Party and Music Program.

See you next month.

Bob Hunt
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~ Our Mission ~

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

~100 Years Ago This Month~

Source: The Fairport Herald
November, 1911

- ◆ The opening ball held in the new Odd Fellows' hall will be held this evening (Nov. 22) under the auspices of D. B. DeLand lodge. The Masonic orchestra of seven pieces with chimes will furnish music.
- ◆ The High School registration is now 130.
- ◆ Luther C. Brown has sold his bakery and grocery to Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Hulburt, Mrs. Hulburt being formerly Miss Frances Dennis, and they will have possession Dec 4. Mr. Brown says he expects to leave town, but does not state where he is going.
- ◆ So far as we have heard expression on the proposal to form a new township at East Rochester, it is all favorable to the move. As yet, we have heard no one oppose the plan here in Fairport.

New in our Gift Shop: Civil War Journal

By Bill Keeler

"I bid adieu to friends and old associates, feeling a duty to [fight] for home and its comforts, to assist in the rescue of a Government in peril."

George B. Wiltsie, August 19, 1862

We are now in the second year of the five-year commemorative of the American Civil War. 150 years ago, forces from the Union and Confederate States were fighting in the bloodiest war in our nation's history. Millions of farm boys from around the country fought in this conflict. The War of Rebellion changed their lives and that of the country.

Dozens of young men enlisted from Perinton to preserve the Union. One such soldier was George B. Wiltsie. He grew up in a large family and enlisted in the 4th New York Heavy Artillery in August, 1862. George Wiltsie kept a journal of daily life in the Army from his enlistment in 1862 until 1865, several months before his release from the Army. In his journal George chronicles his near-death experience when he contracted typhoid fever. He recovered at home and then picked up his story in the journal when he went back to his unit. There are accounts in the journal of camp life, battles and his capture by Confederate forces in August of 1864. Wiltsie was sent to Salisbury Prison where he stayed until he was released in February, 1865. He died one month later in Annapolis and is buried in Pittsford Cemetery.

The Fairport Museum gift shop now has a complete transcription of this tragic tale which is on sale for \$9.00 plus tax. This 48-page booklet is a must for those interested in the Civil War and what our soldiers went through. George's Perinton connection adds an additional interest to the document. If you attended the cemetery tours by Vicki Profitt in the Pittsford or Mt. Pleasant cemeteries, the booklet will give you an additional insight into the hardships endured by some of the soldiers who are buried there. Only a limited number of copies are available, so stop by the gift shop soon and pick up a copy.



From left to right: William Lyke, George B. Wiltsie, Henry Root, Albert Lyke.

All served in the 4th NY Heavy Artillery.

Photo courtesy of Jason Puckett



Gift Shop, Fairport Historical Museum

ENLISTED				DISCHARGED			
YEAR	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	YEAR	MONTH	YEAR	REMARKS
1862	12	August	1862	1862	12	Aug	Disch. to Co. 4 th NY H.A.
LEFT THE ORGANIZATION REASON:							
1864	20	Sept	1864	Capt. to company 7 th NY H.A.			

Muster Role Information for George B. Wiltsie



Remember **Veterans Day** November 11



In June, 1945, a memorial to Fairport soldiers was dedicated at the northeast corner of the property previously donated to the village of Fairport by Frederick Potter. This memorial remains relevant today, and is the focal point of services to remember the contributions of Fairport and Perinton soldiers.*

*Photo taken in 2008 by Bill Poray

From the Fairport Herald-Mail, June 21, 1945

The new Honor Roll, erected by Brooks-Shepard Post, American Legion, on the Potter Memorial grounds, West Church St., was dedicated on Flag Day, June 14, before an audience of several hundred people.

The Honor Roll contains the names of approximately 750 men and women in the armed Forces from Fairport and Perinton.

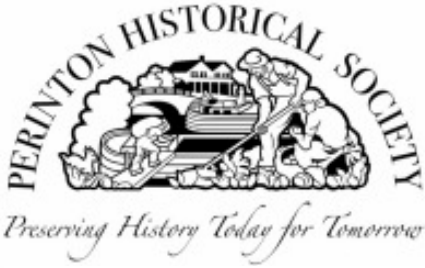
Twenty-four names of Fairport and Perinton service men who have made the supreme sacrifice in World War II appear on the Plaques of the Honor Roll. They are: Rayfield Ames, Clifford H. Brizee, Oakley Crane, Francis J. Crowley, Mason C. Gaffney, Frank P. Garofone, Paul Humphrey, Lawrence L. Hembrock, Carl E. Kishbaugh, Robert P. Kramer, Frederick Leary, Donald A. LeFroie, Maitland McDonald, Howard A. Parkison, William S. Phalen, Marlo Pomponio, Alfred Rinaldo, Raymond T. Rugenstein, Nooney T. Shamon, Horatio Spafford, Arthur H. Teeter, Edward L. Towner, Curtis E. Vincent, Donald F. Williams.

THE HERALD-MAIL, FAIRPORT, N. Y.
 Thursday, November 8, 1956

Observance of Veterans' Day

In June 1, 1954, by act of Congress and the signature of the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Armistice Day, Nov. 11, was officially christened 'Veterans' Day. Thus this day, which previously marked the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of World War I, became a day dedicated to veterans of all wars in which this country has been engaged.

Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, falls on a Sunday this year. Under the sponsorship of the Perinton Memorial Post, V.F.W. and the Assumption Post, Catholic War Veterans, a service to commemorate this day will be held at Potter War Memorial at 3 o'clock, the first of such observance to be held in the village.



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Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

HOURS

Sunday 2 pm - 4 pm
Tuesday 2 pm - 4 pm
Thursday 7 pm - 9 pm

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call 223-3989 and leave a message.

Visit our website:

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org



Fairport Historical Museum, north wing

A portion of the 1938 Carl Peters mural appears in the upper left corner.