

Perinton Historical Society Historiogram

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

Vol. XLIV • No. 5

January-February 2012
585-223-3989

A Tale of Two Barns

By Catherine Angevine

When Lance Warner looked at his barn at 74 Roselawn Avenue this past year, he was undecided about trying to save the building. After all, it was over one hundred years old and not in the best shape. The big front doors opened into the structure, which shortened the interior storage space. And the barn was tilting drastically to the east.



But estimates to replace the barn with a two-car garage were twice the cost of restoring and stabilizing the antique structure. He decided to keep the barn.

The small barn at
74 Roselawn Avenue

Before

After



It is difficult to determine all the uses this old barn has been put to over the years. The house dates to the 1870 or 1880s, the barn from a date prior to 1902. It is held together with square nails, and saw marks on the interior boards confirm late 19th century planing. Hay drops are visible in the loft floor and a hay door is located at the front of the building. A tall door at the rear is large enough to walk a horse through. Siding on the interior walls indicate a stall or buggy bay, but there are no signs of either now.

Mr. Hubert Martin, the owner of the house for 53 years prior to the Warners, had a repair shop outfitted in the loft area of the barn. It is still there, dusty and rusty: his workbench and all his tools right where he left them. We don't know what he did for a living or whether this was his hobby but it had something to do with repairing machinery.

Getting the old barn back into shape was not going to be cheap or easy. Lifting the barn to an upright position was the critical first step. Come-alongs were positioned on the west side of the barn and used to winch the structure upright. When completed, there was almost a two foot rise on the east side of the structure. The entire barn, with its new foundation, would eventually be raised almost two feet all the way around.

The old (and we think original) foundation consisted of nail kegs filled with cement which had been placed at the corners and at intervals along the walls. While the two-by-twelve floor boards were in reasonably good shape, all the joists under the floor were rotted through, so a new concrete floor was laid along with the new cinder block foundation. In the loft, the major center support for the roof and the corner supports on the back wall were braced with two-by-fours. Next came a new roof and new overhead garage door.

Continued on page 3

Comments from your President

~ Bob Hunt ~



Greetings. We are now in the Town of Perinton's bicentennial year!

Since we did not have an issue of *HISTORIGRAM* in January, I will attempt to bring you up to date on happenings over the past two months. In December, we had a Holiday Party at the museum, which featured a string quartet from Fairport High School,

lead by music teacher Samantha Anderson. A wonderful program, refreshments, and fellowship were enjoyed by all. It was just the ticket to get us into the holiday spirit.

The program for February is *Rochester & Eastern Railway* to be presented by Charlie Rowe on the 21st, 7:30 pm at the museum. If you are not participating in these programs, you are missing some great events. Get them on your calendar.

The museum is operating under its winter hours during January and February to save on fuel costs, which means it is open only by appointment. If you want to do research or have other needs from the museum, please call and leave a message at 223-3989. Regular hours will return in March.

At the December board meeting the 2012 annual house tour was discussed and it was decided to move the tour to the fall, with this year's date being Sunday October 14. Chair Debbie Mabry is working on a tour to feature bungalow homes on the north side in Fairport. This will be an exciting event during our bicentennial year so put October 14 on your calendar.

Our float for the bicentennial July 4th parade is moving ahead under the direction of member Ann Castle. If you have an interest in helping with this committee, please give me or Ann a call. Ann's number is 385-1268.

We are also planning a display in one of the glass cases at the Fairport library. Vicki Profitt is chairing this committee and is also looking for volunteers to assist as we continue to celebrate our bicentennial.

At the January board meeting, we discussed the old voting booth which is located at 182 West Church St. This booth was obtained by Bill Matthews for the Historical Society and moved to its present location on property owned by Matson Ewell. Let me know if you have an idea on how this building might be used in the community.

Thanks for your support of PHS, and I will chat again in next month's *HISTORIGRAM*.

Bob

Rhunt1@rochester.rr.com 585-415-7053

~ 100 Years Ago ~

From the FAIRPORT HERALD-MAIL

FEBRUARY, 1912

Harold Rutledge had a thrilling experience on Sunday afternoon with a horse that got a little the better of him coming down Main St. As he turned into West Ave., his companions were thrown out of the cutter. Robes and blankets scattered in the street. But Harold held on pluckily—and brought the rig to a stop at Perrin St.



Sleigh-ride parties from the schools went to Pittsford, Egypt and Macedon Center on Friday night. Frostbitten ears were numerous.



Some interest was shown in a horse race on West Ave. yesterday afternoon between Duane Richburg and Mr. Gunkler, with Mr. Richburg winning.



For Sale

Dandy pony, harness and buggy
F. W. Prouse, 31 Filkins St.

HISTORIGRAM

Published monthly by the Perinton Historical Society

Editor: Bill Poray

Layout: Keith Boas

Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless

Perinton Historical Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>Vice President</i>	Vicki Profitt
<i>Secretary</i>	Doug Whitney
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
<i>Communications</i>	Joan Alliger

TRUSTEES

Ray Buchanan	Sean Delehanty
Bill Poray	Jim Unckless

MUSEUM

<i>Director/Curator</i>	Bill Keeler
-------------------------	-------------

A few blocks over from the Warner house, Sandy and Ted Good at 8 West Street were finishing the renovation of their barn. They too had been confronted with a more than one hundred year old structure in need of major repair.

Their old barn was large enough to house two cars. Plus it had a spacious and usable loft area, so keeping it intact was the plan. But the aging roof was sagging, the walls bowing and the floor buckling.



Exterior view of the barn at 8 West Street

The house dates to around 1860 and the barn from a date prior to 1902. The saw marks on the interior wood and unique nails confirm a mid to late 19th-century build.

The barn contains its original horse stalls. There are hay drops in the loft floor, a tall horse door at the side and a hay door located at the front. A grain bin is concealed under the steps to the loft. Clearly, it was a horse and buggy barn in its first life. In more recent years, it was a playhouse and gathering spot for children.

Like the Warner barn but more than twice its size, this restoration had its own challenges. The first order of business was to remove and repair the buckling floor. The boards were lifted, a large stone removed, the boards repaired and re-laid. The original foundation, with sills laid down on a fieldstone base, remained intact.



Support structure added to the barn's interior at 8 West Street

With that done, the work shifted to the second floor loft area, and began with straightening the walls. Come-alongs were employed for this task also; the walls pulled and straightened until they were plumb. The contractor then installed a horizontal stabilizing beam through the mid-center of the barn with a vertical six-inch square center support, anchored and braced, to the center roof in the loft.

The roof and walls were further strengthened by two large horizontal cross beams at each end of the barn. With the walls and floor stabilized, the new roof went on, and overhead garage doors installed.

The major work complete, Sandy and Ted are now insulating and finishing the loft area, intending to use the space for family gatherings during the summer months.

We are very grateful to Lance and Carol Warner and Ted and Sandy Good for investing their time, energy and money to restore their vintage barns. For the community, they have preserved these delightful old structures, which have a story, are still useful and are still here!

For more photos of these barns, visit the PHS website at perintonhistoricalsociety.org: Click on About, then click on Structure Committee.



~ 100 Years Ago this Month ~

From the FAIRPORT HERALD-MAIL

A horse owned by the Kerbaugh Co. and driven by one of their employees, ran away on South Main St. yesterday afternoon, throwing the driver out on the canal bridge and continuing to the Cottage Hotel, where the horse slipped and fell on the walk and was captured by bystanders. The cutter was partially damaged but the horse was not seriously hurt. The driver was pretty badly jarred and received minor cuts and bruises.

A Prohibition Raid in Fairport

By Bill Keeler

Curator and Director of the Fairport Museum



Many of you have seen the three-part PBS series on Prohibition by Ken Burns. This ill-conceived law affected Americans throughout the country. Many small communities turned a blind eye to the newly created speakeasies that served illegal liquor in defiance of the law. Occasionally, the federal government would send agents to these small towns to enforce the law and show the citizens that booze would not be tolerated. These raids were always reported in local newspapers with very specific locations to embarrass the proprietors. It may have had the opposite effect in highlighting establishments that served illegal brews for those who enjoyed the occasional drink.

On a Thursday afternoon in late October of 1932, prohibition agents from Rochester descended upon the village of Fairport. They called on four establishments in a section of North Main Street, known before Prohibition as Whiskey Flats. All but one of the buildings is still standing today. In the building now known as Tanglefoots, the agents seized a half barrel of beer. In the North Main Hotel next door, now the entrance to a parking lot, they found 20 quarts of beer, 30 pints of beer, a pint of whiskey and a quart of hard cider. In what is now Riki's restaurant, where you can still see the small room which was once a speakeasy during this time, the agents found 820 pints of beer. Just north of the railroad tracks the business now known as the Fairport Village Inn was raided and two quarts of hard cider were found along with a pint of whiskey.

After raiding these high-profile targets, the agents visited a speakeasy located in a residential neighborhood and took in their largest haul of the afternoon. The house was owned by Sam Vigaretti at 122 Parce Avenue and can still be seen today on the corner of Parce and Elm Streets. It was known locally as a speakeasy and the agents hauled out 177 quarts of home-brewed beer, six ounces of wine and half a pint of whiskey.

The Prohibition amendment was eventually repealed. It is ironic that the same establishments, which were shut down for serving alcohol back in 1932, still have businesses in those buildings--businesses that now serve many of the same brews.

And perhaps the current owner of the house on Parce Avenue takes a drink now and again without being arrested.



An unidentified Fairport basement, filled with casks and bottles of alcohol, was raided during prohibition.

Photo provided by Jean Keplinger, Perinton Town Historian



Fairport's First Trolley Station

By Bill Poray

You probably are familiar with the former trolley station on North Main Street, a designated Fairport Landmark (see the November, 2011 issue), and now the home of the Sew Creative store. While this trolley station was built in 1911, construction at another site actually began a year earlier, in 1910.



Circa 1900 view looking north on Main Street from the canal bridge. The tall building in the center is the Boyland Mill. It was relocated to John Street to make room for the trolley station.

Photo from the archives of the Perinton Historical Society

The Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Railway had purchased a lot on the north side of John Street, known today as Lift Bridge Lane. The location was just east of the Cottage Hotel, approximately at the entrance to the Fairport Junction parking area.

Fairport residents strongly objected to the John Street site, concerned that the location would result in the Rochester stub cars crossing Main Street twice for each trip. Residents preferred a location on the west side of North Main Street, on the site of the Boyland Mill. In February of 1910, the R,S & E had approached Mr. William H. Boyland with an offer to buy his property, but the negotiations fell through. The mill would need to be relocated, and the company's offer was considered insufficient by Mr. Boyland.

Without a location on Main Street, R,S & E Railway officials began construction of the trolley station on John Street. By November 3, 1910, the foundation and framework for the station was complete. However, Fairport residents were not deterred and formed a committee, renewing their efforts to pursue a Main Street trolley station. On November 10, 1910, the *Monroe County Mail* reported that work on the John Street station had been suspended:

"The committee has been working on the matter for the past week, ever since work was commenced on the station, trying to secure by popular subscription \$700, the difference between what the company offered Mr. Boyland last summer, and what he was willing to accept. This amount has been

raised. Monday a delegation composed of Village President Richard Saunders, C.J. Clark, Sabin Schummers and Dr. G.S. Price, went to Syracuse to confer with the officials of the road and see if they would renew their former offer."

By November 24th, the company had agreed to purchase the Boyland Mill site and abandon construction at the John Street location. Construction at the Main Street site would not begin until June of 1911, to allow Mr. Boyland time to remove the three story mill building, which he relocated to, of course, John Street.

You might be wondering what became of the partially constructed station on John Street. The *Fairport Herald* reported the following in its August 20, 1911 edition:

"The old trolley station was moved through John Street last night after the (trolley) cars stopped running, being drawn by John Wemes' team."

Where did Mr. Wemes take the old station? Quite possibly just around the corner, as his residence was at 10 Parker Street, on the northwest side of the Parker Street bridge. Several months later, the local newspaper reported that Mr. Wemes had completed an addition to his home. I like to think that the lumber used for the addition came from the framework of Fairport's first trolley station.



Fairport's Forgotten Founding Father Part II

By Bill Poray

Part I of this article appeared in the December 2011 (previous) issue of HISTORIGRAM.

After the war, August C. Hill's attention turned toward Fairport. In 1866, he spearheaded the petition effort which resulted in the incorporation of the village. He was Fairport's first elected President, holding the office for two terms. Fairport's top political office was president until about 1925, when the title changed to mayor.

Newspaper reports indicate A.C. Hill met his demise in the Globe Hotel in Syracuse at the age of 50, on March 30, 1875, although his gravestone at Mount Pleasant Cemetery tells us he died two days earlier.

As was the practice of the time, the Syracuse coroner assembled a jury, which determined that Mr. Hill most likely failed to properly extinguish the gas flame of the burner in his room. As a result, "the deceased remained wholly unconscious after being discovered until his death, the best restorative means having failed to resuscitate him."

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1875

Death of A. C. Hill.

Suffocated by Gas in the Globe Hotel at Syracuse.

TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

OUR VILLAGE IN MOURNING.

A Brief Sketch of His Life and Character.

PARTICULARS OF THE ACCIDENT.

The body was placed on the westbound train for Fairport and, upon arrival, services were held at the Hill home on Pleasant Street.

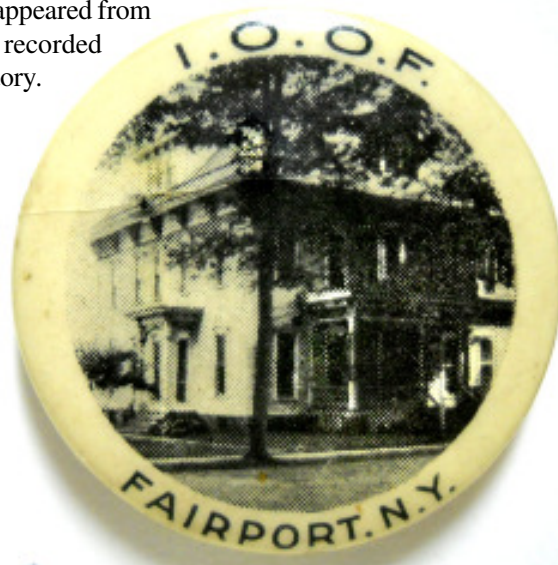
The following gentlemen, a "who's who" list of Fairport's social and business leaders, officiated as bearers: G.L.G. Seely, H.P. Wilbur, George Sanford, H.A. Barstow, Nelson Lewis, W.P. Chase, J.Y. Parce, and Henry A. DeLand. The *Fairport Herald-Mail* dedicated an enormous portion of the April 2, 1875 edition to the life and death of A.C. Hill.

As further indication of the community's respect and admiration for Mr. Hill, the newspaper reported the following: "All the stores, the Saleratus Works, the Union School House, the building in which the Herald office is located, and other places of business were draped in mourning Wednesday and Thursday, and during the funeral exercises the principal stores were closed and trade almost entirely suspended."

The big home on Pleasant Street, not more than five to ten years old, was sold at auction on June 23, 1875. In the 1920s, it became the headquarters for the Fairport chapter of the Odd Fellows Club. It eventually lost its rooftop cupola, and was reconfigured into multiple apartments.

Many of its Italianate architectural features remain intact, including dozens of paired brackets positioned under widely overhanging eaves, original tall window openings and tall double entry doors, and the intricately detailed front porch.

Somehow, despite his role as one of Fairport's most important and respected early citizens, the memory of Augustus C. Hill has mostly disappeared from our recorded history.



1929 International Order of Odd Fellows pin, featuring an image of the lodge on Pleasant Street

Thursday, December 17, 1931

Public Benefit Card Party

Where you can go and have a good time. All the Proceeds go for Fairport Unemployed.

IN ODD FELLOWS HALL, PLEASANT ST.

Friday Evening, December 18th

PRIZES AND REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS - - - - - 25 CENTS

AUSPICES FAIRPORT LODGE, NO. 556, I. O. O. F.

A.C. Hill's former house was the home of the Fairport Odd Fellows lodge for many years in the 1920s and 1930s.

Herb Howard Eats Flap Jacks At Odd Fellows Lodge and Recalls A.C. Hill

(Excerpt from "Back Home Letter" by Herb Howard [1860-1941], *Fairport Herald*, February 17, 1938)

A few days ago I was in Mount Pleasant cemetery and came across the graves of two rather prominent citizens at one time.

They were the graves of A.C. Hill and wife. It seemed to me that it was a sad thing to see the graves in a rather unkempt condition, having enjoyed for years a reputation. A.C. Hill was of the firm of Dickinson & Hill.

Two or three evenings ago I attended a flap jack supper at the headquarters of the Odd Fellows in Fairport. Sitting across from me were two gentlemen and I asked them if they knew who built the house for the Odd Fellows and they both said Mr. Davison, who was the last tenant, and who lived in the house for a number of years.

In the afternoon of the same day I saw the graves of the prominent citizens of Fairport and in the evening sat down at a table to eat flap jacks ... and this same Odd Fellows headquarters was built by A.C. Hill. The house was altogether too large, and must have been a large load to carry, and hastened the death of Mr. Hill.



~ *Our Mission* ~

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



Rochester & Eastern car No. 163 just after it had been repainted in a high-visibility yellow-and-cream paint scheme in 1924.

Original negative owned by New York Museum of Transportation

February 21, 2012 at 7:00 pm
at the Fairport Historical Museum

The Rochester and Eastern Line

Presented by Charles L. Lowe

The Rochester and Eastern Rapid Railway and its successor, New York State Railways, Rochester and Eastern Line, connected Rochester, Canandaigua and Geneva with high-speed electric interurban railway cars from 1903 to 1930. This line will be the subject of a talk and slide show given at the museum on February 21 by Charles R. Lowe.

Included in the general history of the R&E will be a discussion of the "battle" three interurbans, including the R&E, fought for control of the bustling village of Fairport. By 1905, the battle was over and the R&E settled down to the business of rushing its passenger and express freight along its line.

Concluding the R&E history, there will be a short discussion of some landmarks of the line still to be seen in the Fairport area and where you can see the last remaining R&E car as well as ride an interurban trolley.

Mr. Lowe has been a nearly life-long resident of Perinton and has spent the last 30 years researching and writing a history of the Rochester and Eastern. A graduate of Syracuse University, Lowe is a N.Y.S. Professional Engineer and serves as a bridge inspector for New York State Department of Transportation. Lowe also coaches cross country and track at Fairport Central School District.

He resides with his wife and son in the former Perinton District No. 10 schoolhouse on Turk Hill Road.



Preserving History Today for Tomorrow

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 149
Fairport, NY 14450



Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is operating under its winter hours during January and February, which means it is open only by appointment. If you want to do research or have other needs at the museum, please call and leave a message at 223-3989. Regular hours will return in March.

REGULAR HOURS

— Resuming in March

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

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org



Fairport High School teacher Samantha Anderson and three students, Matt Lachance, Matt Yang, and Janessa Mathews, performed for guests at the Perinton Historical Society Holiday Party, held at the museum on December 13th.