



# PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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18 PERRIN STREET FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

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EDITOR Ruth Ewell

NOTE: This issue of the Historigram covers both March and April. Be sure to note the meeting dates for those months on your calendar. You will not get another issue until early May.

## Calendar of Coming Events

- Tuesday, March 14 -- Pot Luck Supper at Museum plus talk by Jean Keplinger, Town Historian, on "Perinton Historical Landmarks" (details below).
- Tuesday, April 11 -- Presentation by Kevin Gorman on "The Civil War -- Then and Now: A Living History" (details below).
- Tuesday, May 16 -- Annual Picnic and Election of Officers (details later).

## March Meeting

Come to the museum on Tuesday, March 14, for an evening of enjoyment of gourmet delights and an interesting speaker.

The museum will open its doors at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. The speaker will commence at 7:30 p.m. Will each family whose last name begins A-G please bring salad or vegetable, H-P a dessert, and R-Z a main course, all sufficient to serve 12. Remember to bring your own place setting -- china and silver. Please be sure to label any serving dishes or utensils in the event they are left behind. The society will provide coffee, tea and lemonade.

Please make reservations by March 10 by calling Helen Matthews (377-8456) or Bernadette McDonough (223-7991). We need to know how many adults and how many children are coming. Reservations are essential so we can plan table set up.

Our speaker, Jean Keplinger, Perinton Town Historian, will talk about "Perinton's Historical Landmarks." Her love of history has given her the opportunity to search for new facts and insights into the wonderful historical treasures that are right here in our own community.

## April Meeting

At our April 11 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the museum, Kevin Gorman will present "The Civil War -- Then and Now: A Living History." This will include a discussion on living Civil War history in the 21st century, information about reenactments, battlefield preservation and the internet. Interest in the Civil War is increasingly alive in western New York.

Kevin, a Fairport resident who is originally from Buffalo, belongs to the 155th New York Volunteers, an Irish regiment, part of the Corcoran Legion. There are about 150 people in this group from Buffalo and Monroe County. They keep the

Civil War alive through their reenactments and participation in various events. A group of them marched in Fairport's Memorial Day parade last year and ended up with a ceremony at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at the Civil War monument there. Kevin hopes some of his compatriots will join him in uniform at this presentation which will include some visual portions. Kevin feels his involvement in Civil War activities is building a bridge between the past and present.

It should be a fascinating evening! The public is most welcome, so do come and bring a friend.

### Report of February Meeting

Peter McDonough delighted the audience at the February meeting with his slides and historical information about toys. Toys have been played with ever since the cave men. We can find examples of them in artifacts of Egypt, Greece and Rome. Peter believes toys exist for several reasons: not only to keep children happy and to keep them "out of their parents' hair," but also to educate the young.

Peter's slides began in the 1850s. Some of the toys shown were "Sunday toys," meant to be played with on Sundays when other toys were deemed "too wordly." Others could be used at any time. Most of the early toys were made in Germany and were constructed of wood, glass or paper. Peter showed us a variety of dolls, some with rubber heads and others of bisque. The heads had perforations at the shoulders where they could be sewed to a cloth body. One leather doll had laces up the front, intended to be a way to teach a child how to lace his shoes. Speaking dolls had a wax cylinder with a recording; these came into being after Edison invented the phonograph.

We also saw slides of cast iron toys, including one of a fire engine and a fire house. Another fireman toy showed a building on fire and a fireman up on a ladder, rescuing a lady. Cast iron banks, both mechanical and still, were intended to teach children thrift. The use of lithographed pictures pasted on wood was a popular way to construct toys -- dollhouses, especially, were easily built this way. Three of the most popular toys have been marbles, rocking horses and Noah's arks.

Peter talked about the way toys have been manufactured which copy characters in comic strips. One of the earliest was "The Yellow Kid." Since then we have had Little Orphan Annie and Mickey Mouse. More modern dolls have been Shirley Temple, G.I. Joe, and Barbie.

Peter took us all back to our childhood and fond remembrances of what we played with then. It was a lovely experience, followed by colorful and delicious Valentine treats provided by Helen Matthews.

### Country Store Display Opens at Perinton Square Mall

A proposal by Matt Rinaldi of Perinton Square Mall to help publicize the Fairport Museum and promote the Perinton area had several of our members scrambling to put together a display. Mr. Rinaldi offered space to the museum to display artifacts in a recently vacated shoe store in the mall. Bill Matthews, David Wild and Matson Ewell hastily formed a committee to set up a display. The theme is an old country store. Some display items are from the museum, others from private collections. There is an old stove, cracker barrel, boxes of dry goods, and one of our new manikins

Country Store Display (continued)

dressed as a store keeper. Pictures of early grocery stores from the museum photo collection give the shoppers a view of what grocery stores looked like at the turn of the century.

The display will be up for six weeks and will be excellent publicity for the museum. Come take a look.

New Member

We welcome Beryl Surrey of Lost Mountain Trail, Rochester.

Fairport Historical Museum Moves to Main Street

No, this is not a typo. As many of you know, the web can do amazing things in the field of computer information. The Village of Fairport has just redone its web page with a site map of Main Street in Fairport. In this idealized Main Street scene, many prominent buildings and sites were moved so that it would be easier for the browser to navigate. The webmaster decided that it would be better to have the Fairport Museum building on Main Street across from the village hall. Other moves include the farmer's market located in the Village Landing parking lot and the Potter Veteran's Memorial across the street from the museum. We even have our own link on the front page which brings you to the museum's home page. You can access the Fairport Village Web site at <http://www.fairportny.com>.



Village Government

Village Operations

Dept of Public Works

Fairport Electric

Fairport Fire Dept

Fairport Police

Water Dept

FACT 12 & 15 TV

Farmers Market

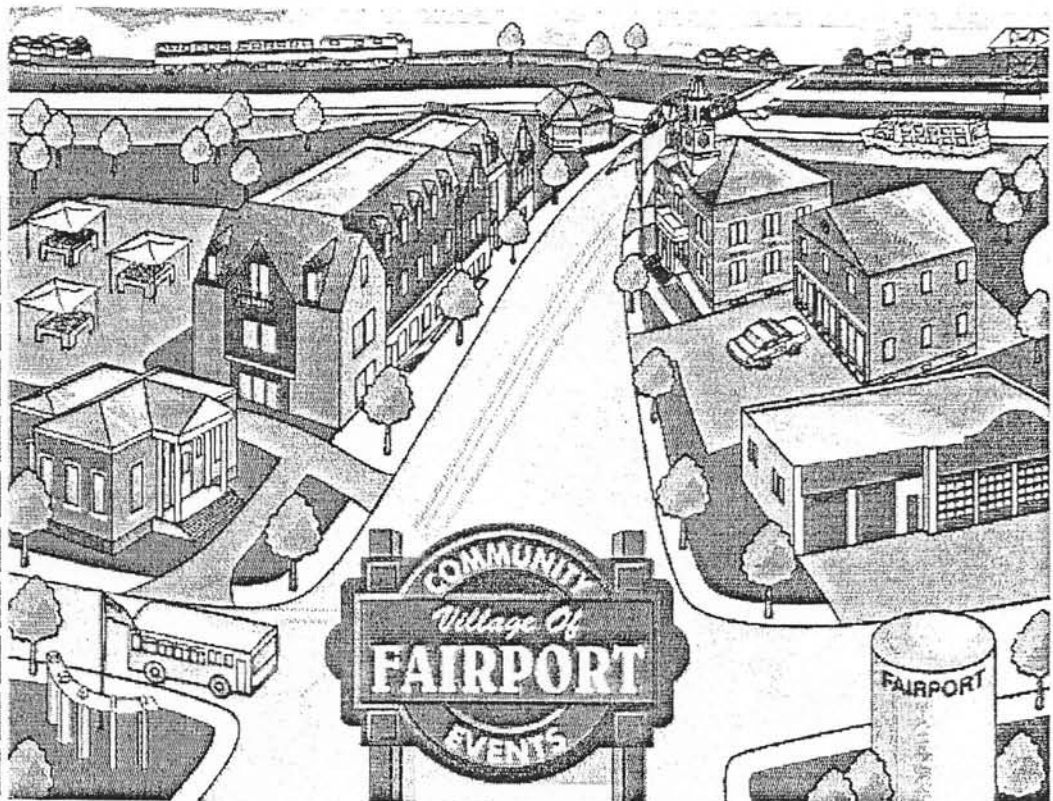
Erie Canal

Parks & Recreation

Library

Historical Museum

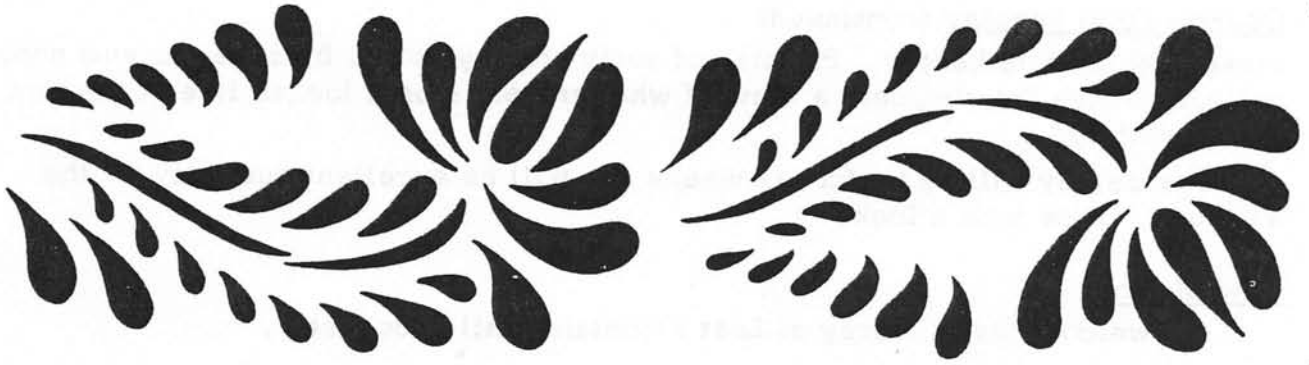
School District



# Welcome to Fairport NY!

Click on the Image Map to visit the village





DON'T FORGET -- Tuesday, March 14, Pot Luck Supper 6:00 p.m. and  
 talk at 7:30 p.m. Make your reservations today!  
 Tuesday, April 11, Civil War Talk at the museum,  
 7:30 p.m.

Put both these dates on your calendar. You will not get another reminder!

ALSO -- We are invited by the Greece Historical Society to a program on March 21  
 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Concord, 485 Holmes Road, Rochester.  
 The speaker, Michael Warren Thomas, will show slides of famous gardens. There  
 is a \$1.00 donation for non-members of the Greece Historical Society.

Perinton Historical Society  
 18 Perrin Street  
 Fairport, New York 14450

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DATED MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!