



# PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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November/December 2000

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**IMPORTANT NOTE!** This issue is for two months and contains announcement of two coming meetings. You will not receive another reminder of the December Christmas party, so be sure to put the date on your calendar now so you won't forget it!

## Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, November 14 -- Charles Miller speaks on "Homes of the Presidents" at 7:30 p.m. in the Merriman-Clark Room. Details below.

Tuesday, December 5 -- Christmas Musical at the museum. Details below.

Tuesday, January 16 -- Joint meeting with the Fairport Public Library to be held at the library. Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society will be the speaker. Details next month.

Later in this bulletin is a list of the meetings to be held for the rest of the year.

## November 14 Meeting

We are pleased to have with us again Presidential historian Charles M. Miller. Many of you will remember the informative and witty program he presented to us last November. When they weren't at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, most of our chief executives lived in interesting homes. Mr. Miller will show the interior and exterior of the homes of the first 25 presidents -- from Washington to McKinley -- and will share anecdotes about these presidents and their first ladies.

Chuck Miller has been a professional writer since he was 17 years old. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Kent State University. After several years in the daily newspaper business, he spent the next 38 years in public relations. His interest in American history has taken him to the homes of almost all 41 presidents. He takes part in Elderhostel programs and many talks in the Rochester area.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Merriman-Clark Room at the museum. It is open to the public, so do bring a friend.

## December 5 Meeting

Once again we welcome Fairport High School music teacher, Ken Brown, who will bring some of his talented music students to delight us. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Merriman-Clark Room. It's a great way to start the holiday season!

## Gift from Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association

We were recently delighted to receive a check for \$250 from the Merchants Association "in recognition of the Perinton Historical Society's service to the community."

We certainly appreciate the support the Merchants Association have given the society and thank them for their very generous donation.

Scarecrow Sale

On Saturday, October 7, the day of the Scarecrow Festival along Main Street, the Museum Gift Shop, headed by Joyce Lyle, held a sale at the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It had been planned that the sale would be outdoors, but since it was a very cold day, most of the action took place indoors. Bill Keeler and one of the Greenbrier Garden Club members did spend some time outside, selling books. All together, the Gift Shop took in almost \$100 and the museum was visited by many people. Thanks to all who took part!

Annual House Tour -- October 15

Dark clouds threatened, but the rain held off (probably because of Bill Haag's big umbrella) until after the tour was over. It was great to see groups walking down the village streets, scuffling through the leaves, talking excitedly about the houses.

Everyone agreed that there was a nice mixture of houses. Some homes showed ingenious renovations or additions, some evidence of lovely craft work, others whimsical decorations. Many of the tourgoers got ideas they will try out on their own houses, which is always one of the plusses of a tour such as this.

We can't thank Lorry McMahan enough for all the work she expended to make this tour a great success. She thought of every detail, and even did a lot of baking herself for the reception. She was aided by house captains Carol Santos, Bill and Pat Hartigan, Joanne and Jerry Williams. Helen Matthews helped get things organized in the kitchen.

It's difficult to count, but we estimate that 250 plus people took the tour. A great many of them also visited the museum; Anne Johnston did a brisk business in the gift shop. As you can see from the list of new members following, the tour gave us a huge boost in membership.

Of course, as always, we must thank the homeowners who so graciously allowed the society members to visit their homes and to enjoy there the special touches the owners have added to make them such a delight!

New Members

We welcome the following from Fairport: Heather Armstrong, NolaJean Baker and David Ranney (whose landmark house was on one of our Perinton tours a number of years ago), Mike Barker and Family, Betsy Bell Bluhm and her daughters Janice Blue and Thelma Joy, Karin Buckingham, Veronika Carlow and Family (a gift membership from Carol Ann Britt), Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Carlson, Jeanne Coonan, Lucille Coonan, Rose Ericson, Michael Goyette and Family (a gift membership from his mother), Bill Hartman and Family, Debbie Hegeman and Bob Jacobs, Robb C. Hess, Susan Holcomb, John and Diane Holtzclaw, Erica Lindlau, Judy Mason and Family, Lynn Meixell, Mary Ellen and Richard McDougal, Barbara McKee and Family, Carol Novak, James and Jennie Oberholtzer, Mr. and Mrs. David Onderdonk, Michael Parisi and Family, Mary Roessel, Charlene Saweikis, Dave and Sue Scheirer, Ginny and Bob Schultz, Jan Atkinson Smith, Helen Stutzman, Mary Sweeney, William and Eleanor VerSchneider, Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Wasenske, Nancy Welch, Margo Wheeler, Sarah Williams and Family, Mark and Gillian Young, Carol Boyle, June Brennan, Bob and Judy Branch.

From Penfield: Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, Jane Klein and Family. From Webster: Elizabeth Schmidt. From Pittsford: Betsy Parke. From Rochester: Donald and Elaine Goddard. From Honeoye: Merrily Hoover. From Cape May, N.J.: Neil and Patricia Stalter.

Meetings to Come

Tuesday, February 13 -- "Early Inventions from Perinton and Fairport!" A slide presentation by Bill Keeler of local patents and patentees from 1859 to 1934.

Tuesday, March 13 -- "Historical Gravestones and Carvers" by Laurel Gabel.

Tuesday, April 17 -- "Stained Glass Windows from Orleans County Churches" by Bill Latin, Director of the Cobblestone Museum.

Tuesday, May 15 -- Annual Picnic.

There will be more details about these talks in coming historigrams.

Fairport Historical Club

The museum has recently been given a beautiful silver tea service by the Fairport Historical Club. This set was originally owned by Dr. and Mrs. Leigh Greenfield. It will be displayed in the parlor on the large sideboard which was given to the museum several years ago by another Historical Club member, Natalie Mabry.

Some people do not know the difference between the Fairport Historical Club and the Perinton Historical Society, so this seems a good time to enlighten them. The Club was founded in 1884, with about 7 or 8 women in attendance at the first meeting. They were there because they felt a need for communication, conversation, and intellectual improvement. A program of readings was undertaken, with the resolve that to have the club successful the meetings must be both entertaining and instructive.

The original name was the "Round-A-Bout Club." This later changed to "The Literary Circle" and then "The Ladies' Historical Club." In the early days no one attended club without a hat and gloves!

Dues were \$1.00 and membership then was limited to 25. New members had to be proposed by present members and then voted in by ballot. Associate members were men who paid an annual fee of \$1.00 and signed the Constitution. They had the privilege of attending the evening meetings. Their number could not exceed the active members **nor could** they vote or hold office. Today there are active members (proposed and voted in by members), honorary members (former members made honorary because of their long service) and inactive members (members who have asked for a year off from duties). There is no longer an associate category of men.

The Perinton Historical Society was organized in 1935 by ten local women. The object was to promote interest in the early history of Perinton by obtaining and preserving relics and documents relating thereto.

There were two classes of members: active members were those who resided within the Town of Perinton and participated directly in the work of the society; associate members could be residents or non-residents of Perinton who desired to promote the interests of the society. Associates could not vote or hold office. Dues for both ~~were~~ \$1.00. Originally, admission to the society was by invitation and the endorsement of two members. At some time after the founding in 1935 this was changed. We don't know exactly when this happened, but a newspaper article of February 1, 1940, asks anyone interested in becoming a member to <sup>just</sup> notify the corresponding secretary. At that time the active membership of the society was over 50. Today, of course, members do not have to reside in Perinton.

Although the membership of the society started out as mainly women, more and more men have joined over the years and hold elected office. There are now over 400 members in the Perinton Historical Society.



Vote For Your Favorite Brochure

The Perinton Historical Society is redesigning its brochure which has been in use since 1979. Bill Keeler, Society Trustee, asked Mr. Bussani's Fairport High School computer class to design a unique brochure for the society and museum. Twenty-five students submitted designs from information and pictures supplied by the society. All the designs are on display in the Merriman-Clark Room in the museum. We would like to ask members to look at the entries during open hours or at the November 14th meeting and to vote on which brochure they feel best represents the society and museum. The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee will select the winning entry at their joint meeting November 30th. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from a mall clothing store.

Many thanks go out to the talented students who submitted designs for this project.

Museum Closings

The museum will be closed for the holidays Thursday, November 23, Sunday, December 24, and Sunday, December 31. In the months of January and February, in order to conserve heat, the museum will not open on Thursday evenings.

Remember: You will not get a reminder of the December 5 musical meeting. Be sure to make a note of it on your calendar now!

Perinton Historical Society  
18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, New York 14450

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