



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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EDITOR

Ruth Ewell

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, February 13 -- Talk by Bill Keeler on "Early Inventions from Perinton and Fairport." A slide presentation of local patents and patentees from 1859 to 1934. 7:30 p.m. at the museum. Details below.

Tuesday, March 13 -- Talk by Laurel Gabel, "Historical Gravestones and Carvers." Details next month.

Tuesday, April 17 -- Talk by Bill Latin on "Stained Glass Windows from Orleans County Churches."

Tuesday, May 15 -- Annual Meeting and Picnic.

February Meeting

Since 1790, when the first three patents were issued, the United States has maintained a Patent and Trademark Office to preserve the inventive genius of mankind. There are over 4 million utility patents registered with the P.T.O. and thousands are added every year.

Fairport and Perinton is the home of many of these ingenious inventions and inventors. The presentation will show some of these early patents, and Bill Keeler will talk about the lives of some of the inventors who lived in the area. Some patents, like the "Jelly Making Product" patented by Robert Douglas in 1917, can still be found today on grocery shelves under the name CERTO and Sure-Jell. Other inventions, like the "Improvement in Clothes-Pounders" patented by Chauncey Hart and his brother George, which has mercifully given way to the modern washing machine, are now obsolete.

The presentation will consist of slides and overhead transparencies. It will be shown in the Merriman-Clark Room at the museum at 7:30 p.m. The audience is encouraged to come early to see the displays. Do feel free to bring guests.

October House Tour

There are many reasons why living in the Fairport-Perinton area is hard to beat. Not least among them all is the annual "Tour of Homes" sponsored by your society. This October event has alternated each year with lovely homes in the village one year and the town the next, for over twenty years. Our thanks and appreciation certainly go to our neighbors who are willing to open their homes and show us their possessions, prized and otherwise. But all of this would not have come to pass in recent years without the skillful organizing of two special ladies, Lorry McMahon, who has covered the village, and Carol Santos the town.

October House Tour (continued)

Regretfully from our standpoint (who wants to meddle with success?), both Lorry and Carol would like to "retire," collect their gold watches, and join the rest of us in going from home to home without a worry in the world. The village tour in 2002 will need a chairperson or two, and Lorry will share her expertise. Carol will do the October 2001 town tour, but would like someone now to work with her on the planning and then take over later when the next one comes up.

So we are open to talk with you out there who might be interested in getting involved in a project like this. The pay is non-existent, but the rewards from working with the great people of Fairport-Perinton are about as high as you can get, and it's all non-taxable. Please contact Bill Matthews (377-8456) if this opportunity is of interest to you.

Report of January 16 Meeting

The Fairport Public Library hosted the last meeting of the Perinton Historical Society. We were pleased to see a large turnout for our speaker, Cynthia Howk, Architectural Research Coordinator of the Landmark Society.

President Bill Matthews opened the meeting with his usual "five minutes of history." He read a letter written in 1863 by a relative of his who was out west, prospecting for precious metals. It was beautifully written, with wonderful descriptions of the events taking place, and was a real piece of history. Sadly, Bill said this was the last that was heard of this relative. No one in the family knows what became of him.

Cynthia Howk said her talk compressed what she usually gives in two semesters of college. "What style is it?" covered architecture in this area from 1790 to the present. Its purpose was to help the audience become visually aware of the three-dimensional resources that define Fairport and Perinton.

She said there were no true colonial buildings here in western New York since we were the wilderness in the 1700s when colonial buildings were erected in the east. Our architectural style began with the Federal, characterized by a facade with five bays. Local examples are the 1800 Stone-Tolan house on East Avenue, which is painted red to look like brick; the 1816 Oliver-Culver house, the oldest house in the city, located on East Boulevard; the Butler house on East Whitney Road in Perinton; the Ranney house in Egypt, which has frieze windows. In a federal house, the chimney is inside and is the main source of heat; the windows are 12 over 12.

In this area the next architectural style to appear was the Greek Revival, of which we have many local examples. Then came the Gothic Revival with pointed arches and scroll decorations, and then the Italianate with rounded Roman arches. The latter often had a cupola on top; the interior decoration could be described as "more is better." The Second Empire style had a mansard roof and sometimes a tower. A major example in Fairport is the Green Lantern Inn. Eastlake (or "stick") and Queen Anne were late 19th century styles.

In the 20th century we had the Colonial Revival period in which houses were modeled after ones that had been built earlier. The George Eastman house, the largest single family house in Monroe County, is classified thus. Other more recent house styles were the Prairie (the Frank Lloyd House in Rochester is an example), the American Foursquare (characterized as the most amount of house that could be built for the least money), the bungalow style (examples in the Baird Road preservation

Report of January 16 Meeting (continued)

district in Perinton), Tudor (such as those in Forest Hills along Fairport Road), concrete block houses, the craftsman or "kit" house which could be purchased from Sears, Roebuck and other catalogs, and the Art Deco as evidenced by the Hallman Chevrolet building on East Avenue. Other styles do not fit any particular category, such as the "Mushroom" house in Perinton. Ms. Howk says American style is still evolving.

A book which she recommends highly is "A Field Guide to American Houses" by Virginia and Lee McAlester, published in 1984. A pamphlet entitled "A Guide to Fairport Architecture" can be purchased for \$1.00 at the Fairport Museum. It has illustrations and descriptions of the architectural styles listed earlier, with examples of village houses in each category.

There is much to learn and much to enjoy in our local architecture. A talk such as this really stimulates our interest in what we can find and identify here in Fairport and Perinton.

Book Release Expected in March

The long awaited book, Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal, is expected to be released by Arcadia Press in early March. The 128 page book contains 218 local photographs from the Fairport Museum's photo archives and documents. Ten members of the society have been working on this project since November of 1999. We are grateful to the following authors for compiling the pictures and writing the captions for the book: Betty Bantle, Sharon Catanese, Alberta Cleveland, Cindy Coupal, Lorain Francis, Linda Herne, Bill Keeler, Joyce Lyle, Lucy McCormick, and Ruth Post.

The book will be on sale at the Fairport Historical Museum and local book stores for \$18.99. From March to Canal Days in June, members of the Perinton Historical Society can buy copies at the museum for \$17.99. All proceeds from the book will go to programs sponsored by the Perinton Historical Society and support the museum.

We hope you all got to see the preview display of some of the books illustrations which was in the Fairport Library showcase this past month. It has certainly whet our appetites to see the finished product!

Report on Voter News Service Participation on Election Day

Bernadette McDonough reports that the volunteer members of the Perinton Historical Society have once again come through with "flying colors" in their reporting of the results of the election districts in the Town of Perinton.

As a result of their enthusiastic reporting, \$724.60 was sent to the society by the Voters News Service. What an interesting way to raise funds for the society!

Bernadette expresses her sincere thanks to the following members for their efforts: Arlene Bell, Donna Bissett, Ray and Judy Buchanan, Peg Clark, Cindy Coupal, Joyce Dennis, Rosemary Eiholzer, Mary Ellsworth, Matson Ewell, Anne Johnston, Bill Kerr, T.C. Lewis, Joyce and John Lyle, Helen Matthews, Fritz May, Peter McDonough, Diane Molinari, Jean Moody, Eileen Slocum, Anne Stonehocker, David Stong, Jim and Karen Unckless, Jayne and Martha VanZile, Robert Wagner.

Those who have participated in this effort have an interesting story to convey. But more importantly, they can feel proud that they were part of the report of "an accurate count" for the Town of Perinton.

Historiogram Helpers

A group of volunteers has been helping Ruth Ewell put together the Historiogram this year. They are: Theda Burnham, Bertie Cleveland, Marjorie Gearhart, Jane Henne and Martha Schafer. Two members of the group help each month. The old saying, "Many hands make light work," is certainly true when it comes to the tedious but necessary tasks of labeling, folding, and sorting the Historiogram. We are grateful for their help.

New Members

We welcome Gary and Linda McKenna of Fairport.

Museum Acquires Artifact from E-Bay Auction

Almost all of the items and documents found in the Fairport Museum are donations from friends and members of the Perinton Historical Society. Occasionally, there is an item that is so unique and rare that the museum will acquire it by purchase. One such item showed up recently on E-Bay. Bill Keeler, curator for the museum, put in a winning bid for a Napoleon Brand Baking Powder tin that was manufactured by Dudley & Company of Fairport.

The tin is 5 inches high and has a picture on the label of Napoleon in full uniform. The Fairport Business Directory of 1898 describes Dudley & Company as "one of the growing industries of Fairport, manufacturers of Napoleon Baking Powder, and packers of soda and corn starch." The company was originally located at 34 North Main Street in the Deal Block but later moved to a larger building on Railroad Street.

In 1895, Edward L. Dudley and Dewitt C. Becker owned Dudley & Company. Edward Dudley had previously owned a dry goods and grocery business in the village before becoming the leading salesman for Dudley & Co. D.C. Becker was a banker, managed a produce business, was the Supervisor of the Town of Perinton, and became manager of Dudley & Co.

The partnership eventually dissolved with Edward Dudley retaining control of the company, which he ran along with his son Raymond. Edward died in 1927, and Raymond sold Dudley & Company to Calumet in 1928.

The tin will soon be on display in our Industry and Business display at the museum.

An Invitation from The Greece Historical Society

See next page.

GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

595 Long Pond Road • P.O. Box 16249 • Rochester, NY 14616 • 225-7221



January 8, 2001

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: New Exhibit - Woodcarving
 Date: As below
 Time: As below
 Place: The Greece Historical Center and Museum, 595 Long Pond Road

On Sunday, February 4, 2001, The Greece Historical Society will have a new exhibit of beautiful wood carvings by local, talented Greece carvers. They include: Al Adaskin, John Benschop, Peter DeLorme, Herb Eselgroth, Bob Hauss, Rex McHail, Ed McKeown, Richard Mead, Bob Myers, Charles Nichols, Keith Randich, Richard VanMeter, Renee Ward, and Vi White. Demonstrations of carving will be held twice a month through May. Scheduled so far are Feb. 4: Al Adaskin, Feb. 18: Rex McHail, Mar. 25: Richard VanMeter and April 22: Bob Hauss.

The Greece Historical Center and Museum is located on 595 Long Pond Road and is open on Sundays from 2:00PM - 4:00PM. It is handicapped accessible and donations are appreciated. For more information, please call 225-7221.

Contact Person: Phyllis Brown
 865-4168

HELP PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

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