

HISTORIC RAM



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

*Home of the Fairport
Historical Museum*

Newsletter for the Perinton Historical Society

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Editor: William Keeler

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Book Signing for *Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century* Scheduled for April 25th

There will be book signing at the Fairport Public Library in the Village Landing on April 25th from 10:00 to noon. The nine authors of the new book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century* will be there to sign copies. You can bring your copy of the book or buy a copy in the Elma Gafney room in the library. The books will be sold for \$20.50 which includes tax.

Bill Keeler, editor and one of the authors, will say a few words before the signing, talking about how the book was written and some of the

THE MISSION OF THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS FOR POSTERITY, AND FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PERINTON COMMUNITY.

unusual and rare photos that can be found in the book.

This was a very popular event several years ago when we had a signing in the library for our first book. So come and see the Society members who made this book possible.

All Proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the Perinton Historical Society and the Fairport Historical Museum.

Upcoming Perinton Historical Society Meeting Speakers and Events

. Tuesday April 13, 7:30 PM at the Fairport Museum. Jean Czerkas to speak on local landscape architects Alling Stephen DeForest and William Parce.

. Friday April 2, 2004, 10:30 AM
Re-dedication of Carl Peter's painting "Winter Stream" at the Fairport Public Library in the Village Landing.

. Saturday April 24, 10 to noon at the Fairport Public Library, book signing by the authors of the book "Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century".

. May. Society Picnic in Perinton Park. Special presentation of signed books to authors of the new book "Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century".

Historic Recipes.

This is a series of articles of favorite recipes from women who lived or are still living in Perinton and Fairport, as well as, recipes from local business advertisements and cook books. Biographical information was collected by Fairport Museum volunteers.

Have you ever gone to a dinner party and been served something that tasted absolutely wonderful and asked the hostess for a copy of the recipe? The hostess would then either hand write the recipe or send it to you later. That recipe would then become part of your cooking repertoire and you might fix it on special occasions or when you wanted to relive that pleasant evening.

Loretta Feinberg, who lived in Fairport for many years, collected these special recipes from local cooks in the area in a loose leaf binder. These handwritten recipes are sometimes signed. There are ginger cookies from Mrs. Dickensheets, Chocolate Ice Cream Roll from Mrs. Hooker perhaps the wife of grocery store owner A.C. Hooker, Raspberry Jam from Mrs. Fogarty, Cheese Souffle from A. Stacy and many unmarked recipes and some clipped from magazines and newspapers. Loretta lived to the age of 90 and died April 5, 1985. Her notebook spans almost the entire 20th century.

One recipe that I'm sure you

couldn't find anyplace else is called Daffodil Cake. You don't need to wait until Spring to make this cake because the Daffodil refers to the combination of colors and not to the flower.

Daffodil Cake

Sift before measuring, 1 1/8 cups cake flour (1 cup and 2 tablespoons). Resift twice. Sift separately 1 1/2 cups sugar. Whip on a platter 10 egg whites add 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar. Whip until they hold a point. Fold sifted sugar in gradually. Separate the mixture into two halves. Fold into one half a little at a time 3/4 cupfuls of the flour and 6 beaten egg yolks. Grated rind of 1 orange. Fold into the other half a little at a time 3/8 cupfuls of sifted flour and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Place the batter a cupful or more at a time in an ungreased 9 inch tube pan alternating colors. Bake in a slow oven (250 degrees) 10 minutes. Increase to 325 degrees and bake about 20 minutes longer. Invert pan until cool.

Bill Keeler, Editor and Author, to be Interviewed in April by WHEC T.V.

As part of the ongoing promotion of the recently published book *Perinton and Fairport in the 20th Century*, Bill Keeler along with Michael Leavy author of a recent Arcadia book about East Avenue in the city of Rochester, will be interviewed on April 7th. The authors will be interviewed by Rebecca LaClair and the show will be aired sometime in April on Channel 10.

Both men have worked with Arcadia Press to produce several books and each has a different approach to writing these books.

Bill Keeler is co-author and editor of two books about Perinton and Fairport. In both projects, Bill has used the talents of Perinton Historical Society members to write and collect pictures for many of the chapters in the books. When all the material is gathered, Bill takes a "mini-vacation" to hand deliver the manuscript and photographs to New Hampshire to have them published.

Michael Leavy's first book was *About Lima* and was published in

2002. He has since written two more books *Rochester's Corn Hill: The Historic Third Ward* and his most recent release *Rochester's East Avenue District*. Michael lives in Lima but is a long time Rochester resident and Kodak retiree. A digital camera is his tool of choice for transferring his pictures to Arcadia for publication.

It should be an interesting interview, so stay tuned.

Jean Czerkas to Speak on Local Landscape Architects.

At the upcoming April 13th Perinton Historical Society meeting, Jean Czerkas, landscape historian, will give a slide lecture on local landscape architects Alling Stephen DeForest and William Parce.

Alling Stephen DeForest was born on a farm in Pittsford New York in April of 1875. He went to school in Brighton and studied mechanical drawing at the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute in 1896. He was hired as a draftsman by established landscape architect William Parce. William was

Walter Parce's brother and layed out the streets in Despatch later renamed East Rochester. DeForest became a partner in the firm of Parce and DeForest Landscape Architects in 1898 with an office in the Cutler Building. By 1902 Alling Stephan DeForest headed his own business in Rochester as a landscape architect.

You can still see a DeForest designed garden at Warner Castle in Highland Park. Locally, DeForest designed the two trolley communities in Pittsford, Long Meadow and Howard Farms. You may have seen Jean Czerkas in the newspaper lately for her discovery of a previously unknown house that was once owned by Frederick Douglass. She is the author of several biographies of Alling Stephen DeForest and has served on the Warner Castle Sunken Garden Restoration Committee. She is an experienced researcher and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

The talk will be at the Fairport Historical Museum at 7:30 PM April 13th in the Merriman-Clark room downstairs. There will be refreshments after the meeting. As always, the meeting is free and open to the public.

More Local Decendants of the DeLands Come Forward.

A recent letter from Society member Nancy Slaybaugh revealed that there are six more living DeLand relatives that reside locally. This letter was in response to a newspaper article about the acquisition of the Helen Deland family album, which stated that there were no more descendants of the DeLands in the area.

The six descendants are:
Marguerite Hannan Antell of Fairport
Nancy Hannan Antell Slaybaugh of Fairport
William Hannan Antell of Fairport
Tristan Hannan Antell of Fairport
James Parce Hannan of Pittsford
and Richard Parce Hannan of Victor.

In the letter Nancy writes "The common ancestors are Justus and Betsey Parce-the great grandparents of Marguerite and great-great grandparents of all the others. While Justus and Betsey's two daughters, Minerva and Sara, married two DeLand brothers (Daniel and Henry respectively)

our line is carried through their son, Joseph Yale Parce."

J.Y. Parce married Lucy Mead and had four sons Walter (who founded the village of Despatch, now East Rochester), William (who became an landscape architect and that you can learn more about at the April meeting), Girard Mead, Joseph Yale Jr. and a daughter Adelaide.

The Hannan branch comes from the marriage of Walter and Carrie Parce's daughter Lucille Parce to Jesse Briggs Hannan. Nancy Slaybaugh wites further, "Their daughter Marguerite Hannan Antell is the mother of Nancy, Tristan. Their son Walter Parce Hannan (deceased) is the father of James. Their son Jesse B. Hannan, Jr. (Seneca Falls/Sarasota) is the father of Richard."

If you are or know of more local descendants of the DeLands, please drop a note in the mail slot at the Fairport Museum and we will add the names to the growing list of living relatives.

Additional Donations to the Society

- . Fairport Tiger Scouts
- . Junior League Garden Club
- . Imogene Blum in memory of Bill Matthews

Tribute to Carl Peters and his 'Winter Stream'

By John Jongen, Trustee, Perinton Historical Society

On Friday, April 2, 2004, at 10:30 A.M. the Perinton and Fairport community will pay tribute to Carl W. Peters, renowned local artist, mentor and benefactor to this community. The occasion will be marked by the re-dedication of his painting titled 'Winter Stream' to be permanently displayed in the Fairport Public Library (FPL) Reading Room. The public is cordially invited. The FPL is organizing this tribute event that will invite elected representatives and staffs from State, Town and Village, art teachers, librarians, art curators, local merchants, and the press.

For some time Village of Fairport administrators and members of the Perinton Historical Society had been discussing the need to restore and secure the Carl W. Peters oil painting titled "Winter Stream" displayed over the fireplace mantle in the West wing of the Potter Memorial House.

In March 2003 Bill Matthews and John Jongen of the Perinton Historical Society redoubled their efforts to relocate this painting to a more prominent public location. At Potter Memorial House it was fastened to the brick mantle wall with wood screws which penetrated the frame in six places. In time some of these screws had fallen out so that the painting was now loosely secured with just three screws.

The idea was to replace the original painting with a facsimile about the same size and with an approximate frame. Remembering that the Eastman House art collection had also been replaced with facsimiles, Bill called the Eastman House art curator and was given the name of a professional art photographer, Mike Russo.

We met Mike in May 2003 and he photographed 'Winter Stream' in various light conditions. Some time later we selected an

appropriate image from some thirty proofs and had Mike produce a reproduction on simulated canvas. This image has then framed by Gary Morse of *Olde Country Picture Framers*. John Jongen, with help from Village of Fairport staff, installed the facsimile on November 7, 2003, in the west wing of the Potter Memorial House

Next Bill Matthews and John Jongen met with Roslyn Bakst-Goldman, art appraiser with the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery to determine the insurance value of the original painting and to get an assessment about its frame. We wanted to know if the frame was original to the painting and therefore worth restoring. The appraiser documented the value confirmed that the frame was indeed by Carl Peters.

Sadly Bill Matthews passed away in October 2003 and John Jongen assumed responsibility for the restoration and rededication of the painting. Ken Moore, Village of Fairport Administrator, authorized John to be Village's agent for organizing the Carl Peters tribute event.

After further discussion with PHS Board members, the Village of Fairport, and with Betsy Gilbert, Director of the Fairport Public Library it was decided that the new home for the painting would be the Reading Room of the FPL, opposite another Carl Peters painting already displayed there. FPL would provide for insuring the work of art.

PROVENANCE

Carl's longtime friend Tom H. Miller describes Carl's love of the outdoors this way: *"Carl Peters was consumed with the beauty of nature; the light and its reflections from streams, snow, trees and hills in Upstate New York. Carl preferred painting outdoors. It is the sensation of being outdoors in all seasons and weather that he so magically conveyed for each observer to re-experience. Even in the snow on a very cold day, Carl with his easel, canvas, palette*

and huge gloves or mittens, worked alone and secluded in nature. In these conditions he created a great many paintings for which he became best known in the region. When not painting outdoors, he was at work in his studio, morning, noon, and night. There was good light, no insulation, and the winter chill was tempered only by a kerosene stove. In the winter Carl wore his cap and heavy jacket, even in the studio, not minding the cold because he was too absorbed with his work.

Carl's home and adjacent studio were on the site of the ten-acre apple farm where he grew up, on Jefferson Road. Over the years land was sold for houses until a little over an acre was left. Carl's brother lived on one side of him and a sister on the other. In Carl's last twenty to thirty years, he must have painted a hundred canvases in the front yard, all different, but proving his contention that there is wonderful painting material always close at hand. The old weather-beaten apple trees with white blossoms in the spring, his studio, his brother's house, were each painted in all seasons. Perhaps the best work was again done in the snow. It was a rare occasion when Carl left the property, except to paint a nearby stream, the village street, or the snow-covered hills south of Fairport".

'Winter Stream' was probably painted at a location about one mile from Carl's house, along the Erie Canal. In the mid-1940's, on some sunny winter afternoon he probably drove his car west on Jefferson, then north on Pittsford-Palmyra Road and then turned west on Marsh Road to where the Irondequoit Creek meets the Erie Canal's Great Embankment. There he would have parked his car by the road and carried his easel and paints off into the frozen marshes along the creek. When he found the proper perspective along the Irondequoit he would have planted his easel in a snowdrift, pull up his hood over his cap, put on his mittens, and begin to sketch the scene. The long shadows seem to indicate that

it was mid-winter and perhaps late-afternoon, when the sun is beginning to set in the west.

Tom Miller notes that Carl's scenes were always identifiable: *"Though he altered some details, for example, exaggerating the distant hills or minimizing the trees on the village street, the specific location where each work was painted can always be identified. He often was inspired by a location a dozen or more times, each time capturing its beauty in a different light or from a slightly different vantage point"*.

'Winter Stream' is one of many winter stream scenes that Carl painted. But each is a unique location, or a unique season, or time of day. Carl liked to explore the nuances of light conditions but did not need to go far for fresh inspiration.

In the 1940's the Perinton Historical Society was exploring the idea of annually featuring a prominent local artist. Following a successful first Art Exhibit in May 1945 by Mrs. Carmen Peck, Mrs. Maxwell of the PHS Board of Directors was charged with approaching Carl Peters to ask him to be the second exhibitor in the Art Exhibit series. In March, 1946 Carl Peters enthusiastically accepted the invitation and offered to assemble a collection to be ready in about two months, pending approval by the Library Board.

On May 12, 1946 Carl Peters exhibited 25 of his works at the former Fairport Public Library on Perrin Street. The show continued for the next six days. 'Winter Stream' was among this exhibit. So were 'Peters Barn', 'Penfield Dugway', 'Winter Shadows', 'In the Valley', 'Irondequoit Creek', and 'Willow Creek'. The show was attended by more than 500 visitors and coffee and cake was served on opening day. Mrs. Merriman, of the PHS Board suggested that various local organizations that use the Potter Memorial House for their events be approached to purchase

one of the works to hang in the Potter Memorial House reception room.

On May 21, 1946 the PHS Board voted to contribute the first \$50 toward a purchasing fund. In June the PHS Board decided to purchase 'Winter Stream' from Carl Peters for \$400 and to pay the insurance premium to secure the painting.

In January 1947 the Peters Painting Committee had only collected \$180, leaving it short \$220. The Board decided to approach its membership to contribute \$1 each. In April 1947 the balance due was still \$60. Reportedly Carl Peters donated the balance in return for his use of the Potter Memorial House for paint classes.

In the end PHS contributed \$210, community organizations contributed \$130 and Carl Peters himself donated \$60 toward the price of 'Winter Stream'.

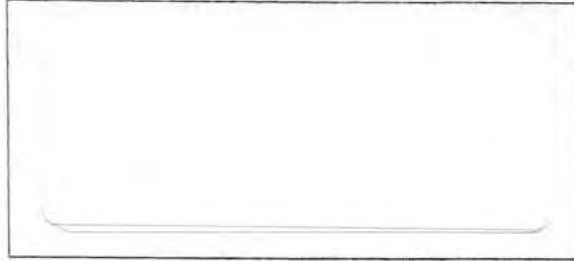
On closer inspection of this winter scene one can clearly see the stream but also, what appears to be, the Great Embankment of the Erie Canal. The location is today built up with several housing developments. I approached a current home owner, a Mr. Sullivan, whose house is adjacent to the Irondequoit Creek near the spot where it emerges from beneath the Great Embankment on its northward flow to Irondequoit Bay. He confirmed that this housing development, adjacent to the Irondequoit, was built in the late 1960s.

Photographic evidence seems to suggest that this scene is indeed a contemporaneous view of the Irondequoit Creek near where it intersects with the north side of the Erie Canal. It is an area near the intersection of Marsh Road and Cottonwood Lane, going west from Pittsford-Palmyra Road to Bushnell's Basin.

To put this scene into some historical perspective it is noteworthy that the Great Embankment proved to be the 'Achilles Heel' of the massive, statewide Erie Canal venture. It was also what put Bushnell's Basin on the map. When westward construction of the Erie Canal's was delayed by the daunting construction of a nearly one-mile long earthen aqueduct across the Irondequoit Valley, shipments to and from the west had to be unloaded, stored and reloaded into and out of packet boats at this location.

This is the spot that Carl Peters chose to paint this bucolic scene, 'Winter Stream', some six decades ago. The pristine wetlands have since vanished. But the location can still be seen at the intersection of the meandering Irondequoit and the Erie Canal, high above the flood plane.

We owe Carl Peters a debt of gratitude for a fine piece of art but, more importantly, he continues to share with us his love for our natural environment, frozen in time on this canvas hanging henceforth in the FPL Reading Room.



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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM IS OPEN

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

- Tuesday 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.
- Thursday 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.
- Sunday 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.
- The first two Mondays of every month the Archives
are open for Researchers Only
8 A.M. to Noon
- Visit our website at:
<http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum/>

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