



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

Vol. XXXIX • No. 7

May 2007
585-223-3989

The Cox Shoe Factory Strike of 1890: The Aftermath Part 3 of 3

The six month strike took a toll on the Cox Shoe Manufacturing Company. There had been a boycott of Cox shoes during the strike, and there was a lingering resentment on behalf of the owners of the company concerning the power of the union and concessions made by management. Patrick Cox, in particular, felt that all business decisions should be made by management without deference to a worker's union.

March 19, 1891, three months after the end of the strike, the Cox Shoe Company closed up its factory in the city of Rochester and moved its entire operation to the Fairport plant. The work force increased from 225 to almost 700. The move lasted less than three years before Patrick Cox made the decision to move the company back to the city of Rochester to the McKay building on Stone Street.

A reporter from the Monroe County Mail asked Patrick Cox for the reasons behind the move back to Rochester. Cox's reply was rather vague at first but he did admit that the strike of 1890 influenced his decision along with his belief that the public per-



Patrick Cox • 1896

ceived shoes manufactured in Fairport to be of inferior quality.

It can be said that this last move by the company from Fairport to Rochester was Patrick Cox's final revenge on the striking union workers. In three short years he moved his company from Rochester, eliminating 600 city jobs, and then turned

around and moved the company back to Rochester eliminating all of the Fairport jobs.

On October 15, 1896 Patrick Cox died in his home at 7:00 in the morning. He had just returned home from an ocean voyage to Dublin, Ireland to attend the National Peace Conference that promoted the cause of Irish freedom. Patrick was struck with what was called a "stroke of apoplexy" on the 14th, became unconscious and died the next morning.

Patrick Cox's death closed the chapter on Fairport's most famous labor strike.

≡ Our Mission ≡

"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote Community interest in the preservation of local records, structures and artifacts for posterity, and for the enlightenment of the people of our town of Perinton."

Mark Your Calendars

- ~ April 29 - Spring House Tour in Fairport's West Street neighborhood. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- ~ May 15 - Annual Perinton Historical Society Picnic at Perinton Park.

WANTED: Volunteers for Canal Days June 2nd and 3rd

The Perinton Historical Society is going to have a booth at Canal Days this year. This event is a fund raiser for us. We sell our gift shop items and offer memberships to help pay for heating and lighting bills at the museum. The booth will be coordinated by Bill Keeler and we will again be sharing the tent with the Landmark Society of Western New York.

What Bill needs now are volunteers that can spell him for an hour or two on Saturday June 2 (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or Sunday June 3 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). There will be two volunteers at the booth at all times.

If you are going to be in town that weekend and can spare an hour, please call the museum at 223-3989 and leave your name and number where you can be reached. You can also sign up at the museum, or fill out the form on page 3 of this newsletter and drop it in the mail slot at the museum. Bill will make out the schedule on June 1 and call you back with your time slot.

**★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★**

The Society recently received donations from the following and we appreciate their support:

~May Thomson donated a Hoover vacuum for the museum.

Museum to Offer Expanded Hours in the Summer

The Board of Trustees has approved additional summer hours for the Fairport Museum beginning July 5th thru August 30. During that time we will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the first two Mondays of the month from 8 a.m. to noon and Thursday evenings from 7p.m. to 9 p.m. These extra hours are a service to the community and this program allows tourists and residents more opportunities to visit our museum during good weather.



Winter Packed a Punch

The winter of 2007 started out slow but turned out snowy and cold. In March some of the temperatures were the coldest on record for the month. So how bad was the winter of 2007? Well, a horse and carriage barn built in the 1860's next door to the museum succumbed to the winter weather this year. The roof caved in with snow and the north wall came crashing down into the museum parking lot on or about March 2. No one was hurt primarily because the driveway hadn't been plowed all winter and no one had ventured into the back yard. All the debris has since been picked up.

Annual Meeting and Picnic Scheduled for May 8

The annual Perinton Historical Society picnic and meeting will be held rain or shine in the shelter at Perinton Park on Fairport Road near the canal at 6:00 PM on Tuesday May 8. Hot dogs, hamburgers, decaf coffee and lemonade will be provided by the Society. Members coming to the picnic are requested to bring their own plates, silverware, and a dish to pass. Please make reservations with the form below or by calling the museum at 223-3989 and leaving a message. Please indicate:

1. How many people will be coming.
2. Whether you would like a hot dog or hamburger.
3. What dish you would like to pass (salad, hot dish, cold dish, dessert)

After dinner will be the annual meeting and election of members for the Board of Trustees.

So come join us for a pleasant evening at the park.

Name: _____ number of people coming _____

I would like (indicate number) _____ hot dogs _____ hamburgers

I will be bringing (circle one): salad hot dish cold dish dessert

This form can be delivered and dropped in the mail slot, or mailed to the
Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Canal Days Volunteer

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Day available: Saturday June 2 _____ Morning _____ Afternoon

 Sunday June 3 _____ Morning _____ Afternoon

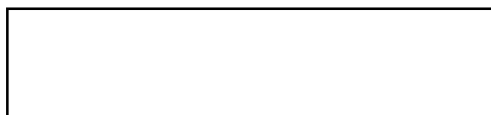
Bill Keeler will call you May 31 to reconfirm and schedule you for an hour to watch the booth.



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Fairport, NY 14450

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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR HOURS

***Summer Hours
7/5-8/30/07**

Sunday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.*
Thursday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.* & 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The first two Mondays of every month the Archives open for
Community Researchers only from 8 a.m. to noon.

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

*Group tours, presentations and special projects by appointment.
Call 223-3989 and leave a message.*