



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Early Housing Subdivisions In Fairport The Early 1900s Building Boom - Part 2 of 3

In the 19th century most people lived and worked in the same community. The housing market in the village of Fairport was quite stable in those early days. Factories such as the DeLand Chemical Works, Defendorf Barrel Company, Bown Brothers carriage factory, Cobb and Thomas Canning Companies, and other small businesses kept people employed and workers earned enough money to invest in a house. Subdivision lots were sold mostly to people who worked in the village, speculators or retired farmers. Five subdivisions were approved between 1873 and 1882.

In 1884 a large employer moved into town and there was a need for housing for their workers. The Cox Shoe factory built a large factory on Parce Ave. and employed 200 men and women. By 1891 the factory was employing nearly 700 workers when their Rochester plant closed down. Between 1884 when the factory was built to 1894 when the shoe company moved back to Rochester, five subdivisions were approved in the village.

The beginning of the 20th century saw a building boom in the village. Between 1902 and the stock market crash of 1929, there were at least 16 subdivision applications in the village of Fairport which was

significantly higher than the number of applications from the previous thirty years.

Transportation had changed during this time period. The Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Electric Railroad was established in 1906 and was competing with the railroads for commuters traveling to the city of Rochester and points east. The automobile was also making its way onto the transportation scene. Automobiles became widely available and cheap enough so that middle class people could afford them. In 1920 there were an estimated 700 to 800 automobile owners in Fairport. The automobile enabled the worker to live in another community other than the one in which he or she worked making families more mobile. People began to move to the uncrowded suburbs to live.

Given this increase in building applications, the village of Fairport enacted its most detailed building ordinance on March 3, 1924. The ordinance established a "fire zone" in the most congested area of the village which was the central business district. Buildings could not be moved into or within the zone and fireproof building materials had to be used for walls and structures facing the street.

There were separate sections in the ordinance specifically for movie theaters and appliances. Every home improvement from electrical, to chimneys and coal burning appliances had to have a permit. Fines for not having the proper permit were \$25 and the violation had to be fixed in ten days or another fine of \$25 would be imposed. These new codes made new construction in the village safer than in the past.

✦ *Our Mission* ✦

"The Mission of the Perinton Historical Society is to promote interest in preserving and sharing local history."

By the 1930s the Great Depression had hit the United States. Many of the lots set up in the various subdivisions remained unsold. In some cases it took decades for the subdivisions to be fully built out.

Next Month: The Faircroft Subdivision

A Sample of Building Codes and Ordinances Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fairport, N.Y. March 3, 1924.

- Section 4 e: Small outhouses shall not exceed 150 square feet in area, eight feet in height and shall be located 30 feet or more from any other building over one story high.
- Section 6: All walls and partitions in schools, hospitals and places of public assemblage, over one story high, and all partitions in theaters shall hereafter be built of brick, stone, hollow or solid blocks, or metal lath and Portland cement plaster on metal studding.
- Section 22 subsection 1: Every motion picture machine or devise must, before being operated, be installed in a room, compartment, booth or enclosure constructed entirely of fire proof material.
- Section 22 subsection 2: The motion picture booth must not be placed directly over an exit, and in all cases must be securely anchored or fastened so as to prevent dislodgement in case of panic.
- Section 23: No chimney in any building shall have wooden supports of any kind. Supports shall be incombustible and shall rest upon the ground or foundation.
- Section 29: Combustible floors under coal ranges and similar appliances without legs in which hot fires are maintained shall be protected by a sheet of metal, or a ½ inch layer of asbestos building lumber, which shall be covered with not less than 4 inches of masonry set in cement mortar.
- Section 29: All coal stoves or ranges, with legs, shall be set on incombustible material which shall extend at least 12 inches in front.
- Section 31: All gas, gasoline, oil, or charcoal burning stoves or heating devices, shall be placed on iron stands at least 6 inches above combustible supports, unless the burners are at least 5 inches above the base with metal guard plates 4 inches below the burners.
- Section 36: Any and all persons who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance or fail to comply therewith, or who shall violate or fail to comply with any order or regulation made thereunder, or who shall build in violation of any detailed statement or specifications or plans submitted and approved thereunder, shall severally for each and every such violation and non-compliance respectively, forfeit and pay a penalty in the sum of twenty five dollars.
- Section 37: All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

November Meeting Feature...

Meeting to Feature Talk on Early Rochester People

Noted Rochester author Warren Kling will be the guest speaker at the November 11th meeting of the Perinton Historical Society. Kling will present a slide presentation on Notable People of Early Rochester based on his book entitled *America's First Boom Town: Rochester, New York*.

Before Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and George Eastman there was Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, Charles Carroll, William Fitzhugh, Enos Stone and the Brown Brothers. Warren Kling will tell us about these early pioneers and how they developed the village of Rochesterville into the city of Rochester which was chartered in 1834.

A Rochester native, Kling has written a number of articles on pioneers of the area. Warren Kling will also be signing and selling his book after the meeting.

The meeting will be held Tuesday evening November 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairport Museum at 18 Perrin St. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Mark Your Calendars

- ~ **November 11** - Talk by Warren Kling on his new book *Rochester: America's First Boom Town*, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairport Museum
- ~ **December** - Annual Society Christmas Party
- ~ January, February, and March - speakers to be decided
- ~ **Spring** - Release of the new book *Then and Now: Fairport and Perinton* by William Keeler and Keith Boas
- ~ **April** - Annual House Tour
- ~ **May** - Annual Society meeting and picnic

Corrections for the October Historigram:

Page 4 paragraph 4 Wes Paddock is the father of recently retired Fairport High School principal Dave Paddock.

Page 2 second column bottom. The JY Parce subdivision was created in 1874 not 1872.

Engraving Transferred to Susan B. Anthony House

By Bill Keeler, Fairport Museum curator

One of the most enjoyable parts of being curator is talking with colleagues and sharing information about our profession. Last year, I visited Mary Sweeney the volunteer curator of the Susan B. Anthony House to talk about cataloging collections. Afterwards, she took me on a personal tour of the Anthony House at 19 Madison Street.

The house actually belonged to Susan's sister, Hannah Anthony Mosher. Acquired in 1994 along with the house next door at 21 Madison Street, the house at 19 Madison needed a great deal of restoration of the exterior which was done for the next eleven years. The house at 21 Madison was removed for a parking lot. The second phase of the restoration of the home, the interior spaces, has now begun. Professional plasterers and carpenters are now busy at work restoring the wood trim, floors, lights, ceilings and stairs. The rooms will be refitted with appropriate lighting, wall coverings and furnishings. There are even several black and white pictures of certain rooms that give conservators a good indication of what hung on the walls and appropriate furniture. The goal is to put the building back to its authentic and historic condition as it would have looked during Susan B. Anthony's last eight years of her life from 1898 to 1906.

One of the pictures I was shown was of the parlor. There are plans to refurnish the room with some of the furniture that still exists in the house. Over the fireplace mantel was a framed picture, which has yet to be found in their collection. I recognized it as an engraving of George Washington and his family and remembered seeing a copy of it in the Fairport Museum in a map drawer on the second floor.

The engraving was printed by Caldwell and Company from New York City in the late 1800s and is based on an oil painting by Edward Savage who painted the picture in 1796. George Washington is dressed in his general's uniform seated on the left with a hand on the shoulder of his grandson George Washington Parke Custis. Eleanor Parke Custis, their granddaughter, is standing on the right side next to a seated Martha Wash-

ington with the map of the newly proposed capital city on the Potomac River on a table between Martha and George. George Washington married the widow Mrs. Martha Custis in 1759. The couple was childless throughout their marriage but after the death of John, Martha's son from a previous marriage, Martha and George adopted two of John's 4 children and raised them as their own.

Behind Martha Washington to the far right is William Lee, George's African-American valet. It appears that the lithograph company made two versions of the painting, one with William Lee in the picture and one without. The engraving that the Fairport Museum has includes William Lee but the engraving that once hung in the Anthony House was missing Mr. Lee.

William Lee was George Washington's valet and was his butler for a short time. He looked after his master's clothes, powdered his wigs and often picked up and delivered his mail at the post office in Alexandria, Virginia. Billy, as he called, went to war with General Washington and took care of his important papers. After the war, several accidents prevented him from performing his duties as valet and he went on to become the shoemaker at Mount Vernon.

The staff of the Susan B. Anthony House was interested in acquiring our copy of the Washington family for special exhibits. With the approval of the Perinton Historical Society's Board of Trustees, the engraving will now be transferred to the Susan B. Anthony House. Annie Callinan, former Fourth Grade Program volunteer at the Fairport Museum and current Director of Programs and Visitors, will be handling the transaction. The engraving will be preserved and used for special exhibits at the Anthony House with a small sign saying that the engraving was donated by the Perinton Historical Society.

The Susan B. Anthony House is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 to 5. You can check out the restorations being done and ask to see the picture of the parlor with the engraving of General Washington's family over the mantle.

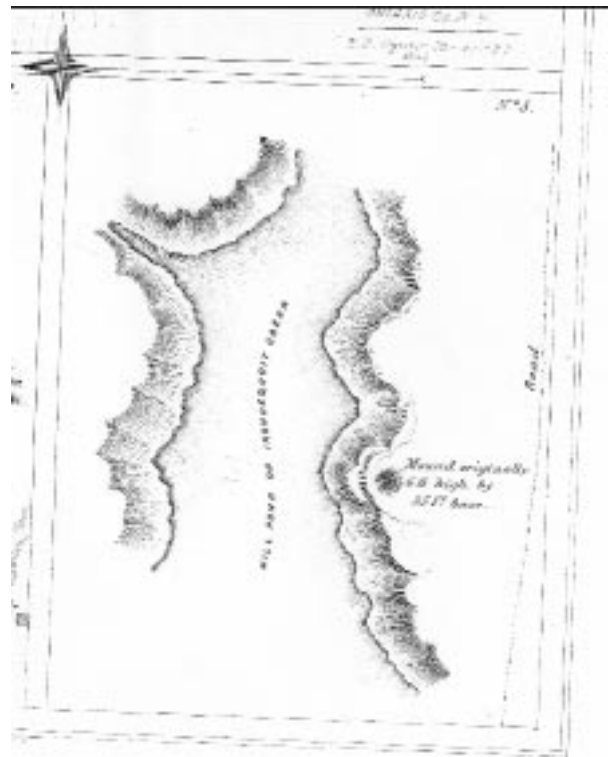
Note: If you would like to see a picture of the original painting by Edward Savage you can go to the National Gallery of Art website at <http://www.nga.gov/collection/gallery/gg62/gg62-561-exhibit.html>

Perinton's Native American Monument

When we think of Native American monuments we think of Aztec ruins or perhaps the Indian Mounds in Ohio. Seldom do we think of Native American monuments so close to home. When the Genesee Valley was first settled certain features on the landscape, clearly made by man, were often identified. Many were defiled in those early years by people looking for treasure.

In 1849 members of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. went on an expedition to New York State to look for Native American monuments that had been recorded to see if any had survived since their discovery. E. G. Smith, one of the members of the expedition, published a book entitled *Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New York* which records what was left of these Indian monuments. By 1849 most of the monuments in this area of the state had been destroyed and the only remaining ones were a

(continued on next page)



Map of the mill pond on Irondequoit Creek and location of the Native American Mound.

few small mounds. One of these small mounds was found in Perinton on top of a rise overlooking the east side of a mill pond on Irondequoit Creek. E.G. Smith describes the mound as "...originally eight or nine feet in height, by perhaps forty feet base. It is a favorite haunt of 'money-diggers,' by whom it has been pretty thoroughly excavated. A shaft had been sunk in it but a short time before it was visited by the author; and at that period many fragments of human bones, much decayed, which had been thrown up from near the base, were bleaching upon the surface. The soil is here light and sandy, and a depression is still visible near by, marking the spot whence the material composing the mound was procured. It could not be ascertained that any relics of art were obtained here."

Much has changed along Irondequoit Creek in the almost 160 years since the report was written. The description of the location of the site is vague enough to place it anywhere on Irondequoit Creek from what is now the border of the town of Penfield and Perinton to the border between Perinton and Fishers. The two most likely spots where the monument once stood would be on the east bank of the creek in Legion Eyer Park or Spring Lake Park. By looking at topographical maps and hiking the area it is clear that the monument no longer exists if it was in either of these two places.

More Perinton Firsts

- First peach orchard was planted by Elder Jones on Lyndon Road.
- First man to draw hay off Turk Hill was Ansel Howard.
- First doctor was Elijah Northrup who lived on Baird Road.
- First school teacher was Lucretia Packard in 1811.
- First lawyer was Samuel Bennett of Perinton Center in 1796.
- First cooper was Aaron Seymour before 1817.
- First carpenter was Hiram Hayes circa 1822

Fairport Museum to Close for Construction

Beginning November 1st, the Fairport Museum will be closed for at least one week and perhaps as many as two as we have electricians replace the lights in the north and south wing of the museum.

Many of you may have noticed the flickering fluorescent lights in the museum the last couple of years. The light fixtures have been around since the days the building was a library, as late as 1979. Over the years we have added UV filters to the lights and changed bulbs. Last year, Bob Black volunteered to change lights in the museum. Some of the fixtures were so bad, Bob couldn't replace the lights without danger of receiving an electrical shock. At that time a decision was made to change the fixtures.

In checking old photographs, we found that the original lighting consisted of pendant lights that hung from the ceiling with milk glass reflectors. Only one of these original fixtures still remains. Bill Keeler, museum curator, was not able to find an exact match to the originals. However, he did find some period fixtures to replace the fluorescent lights.

House Parts, on South Ave. in the city, was able to build pendant fixtures with the same bronze tint of the original fixtures from the 1930s. They were also able to acquire original light globes of the school house type from Villa Maria High School in Buffalo NY. The high school built in the 1930s is on the National Register of Historic Places and recently replaced their outdated fixtures.

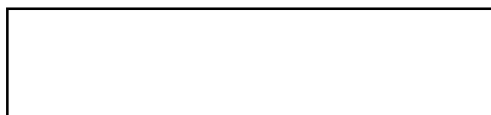
There will be eight fixtures extending three feet from the ceiling in each wing and they will be equipped with energy saving bulbs. The electricians will begin the first week of November with the north wing and follow with the south wing shortly after that. Bill Keeler and Art Wilson will move displays and cover up the book shelves to keep the dust down in the building. Hopefully by Thanksgiving we will be able to open up the museum again for visitors and groups.



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18 Perrin Street
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FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR HOURS

Sunday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The first two Mondays of every month the Archives open for Researchers only.

Visit our website:

www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum

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