

Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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585-223-3989

Inventors from Egypt, NY: The Woolsey Brothers (Part 2 of 2) Lorenzo Jerome Woolsey

The second child of Lorenzo Orsen and Martha Hartman Woolsey was Lorenzo Jerome Woolsey born in 1846. Known by his friends as Jerome, he went to school at the White Brook School in Perinton and later attended Macedon Academy. Up to the age of 24, Jerome lived and worked on the family farm in Egypt on Victor Road near Wilkerson Road. He married Della Berlew of Cayuga in 1870. They lived on a farm on Pannell Road.

After four years of marriage, Jerome and Della divorced. Jerome was married again to Emma Ranney from one of Egypt's most prominent families. They lived for a time on Cherry Street in Egypt, where Jerome would occasionally work at his brother's store along with a bit of farming. Later the couple moved to Macedon and then to Rochester.

Jerome had a good sense of humor but was also a studious man who loved books and collected rare coins. He was the president of the Numismatic Society of America for one year and is reported to have sold his coin collection to the City of Rochester. For a living, Jerome worked at various times in insurance, real estate and later in life investments. He invested in Kodak stock and a motion picture theater. In his early

Patents Awarded to Lorenzo Woolsey

1888 Patent #394,805 Calendar
1897 Patents #582,110, 559,248 and 561,850
fence stays.

years he worked on original ideas leading to several patents.

In 1888 at the age of 42, Jerome Woolsey invented a calendar that aided the billing process for small shop keepers. While working in his brother John's store on Palmyra Road in Egypt, Jerome observed that most purchases were made on account not in cash. The customers were required to pay their bill in 30, 60 or 90 days. Because of the different number of days in each month, it was difficult to determine exactly what date the bills were due. Woolsey's calendar was really a chart that was added onto a regular calendar and indicated the exact date a bill was due 30, 60 and 90 days from the date of purchase. It is interesting to note that one of Jerome's witnesses to his application was Joseph H. Snow, who owned a men's clothing store in the village of Fairport.

Three of Jerome Woolsey's patents were for fence stays. In order to pen small animals on a farm, large holed fences were sometimes constructed using a medium gage wire. Because of the great lengths of wire involved, it was difficult to weave this type of fence. Woolsey invented an ingenious set of twists in the wire so it could be locked in place making a hole of desired size with a simple set of pliers.

Our Mission

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

Emma died in 1934 and Lorenzo Jerome Woolsey died in 1935. They are both buried in the Woolsey family plot at the Perinton Methodist Church cemetery.

If you would like to see Jerome's original patent applications, go to Google Patents and search for the patent numbers given above.

Museum to Offer Extended Summer Hours

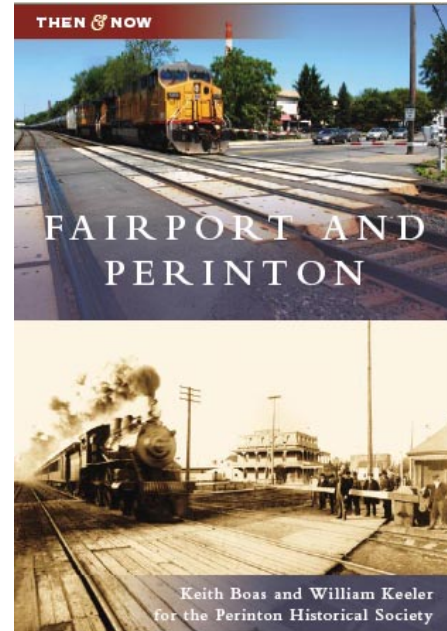
The Board of Trustees has approved additional summer hours for the Fairport Museum beginning July 8 through August 27. During that time we will be open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; the first two Mondays of the month from 8 a.m. to noon; and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. 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.

The Society Needs Volunteers for Canal Days

June 6 and 7

The Perinton Historical Society is going to have a booth again this year at Canal Days the first weekend in June. Bill Keeler will be running the booth. This is a fund raising event and the Society does a good deal of business selling gift shop items, and this year we also have our new book to sell.

What Bill needs now are volunteers that can spell him for an hour or so on Saturday June 6 (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or Sunday June 7 (9 a.m. To 5 p.m.). There will be two volunteers assigned to the booth at all times. You can volunteer by filling out the form below and dropping it off in the mail slot at the museum or calling the museum and leaving a message at 223-3989. Please leave your name, number, what day and time you are available, and Bill will get back to you June 1 when he makes out the schedule.



Book Signing to be Held in the Fairport Public Library

There will be a book signing for "Then and Now: Fairport and Perinton" on Saturday May 9 in the Fairport Public Library from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The Friends of the Fairport Public Library have graciously allowed the Society to hold a signing in the Elma Gaffney Room. Keith Boas and Bill Keeler will give a short power point presentation using selected pictures from the book, and tell stories about some of the pictures and challenges in making the book. After the presentation, the authors will be around to sign books, and answer questions. Books will be for sale at that time, or if you have already bought one, they can be signed by the authors.

As an added bonus, Then and Now posters, that were published in 1992 by the Village of Fairport, will be given away to anyone attending the signing. These posters were created for the Village of Fairport's 125th anniversary. On the poster are postcard images from circa 1900 and pictures of the same scene in 1992. After 17 years, the modern scenes are still the same today.

This should be a good time, and very informative. Hope to see you there.

Notice: The Fairport Historical Museum will be closed for Mother's Day on May 10.

Reformatting Newspaper Subject Index Completed by Society Members After 5 Years

With the United States facing the greatest recession since the Great Depression, it is natural to make comparisons to those dark days in history over 70 years ago. Then as now, the U.S. government is creating stimulus packages, and work projects to jump-start the economy, and put people back to work.

In 1933, President Roosevelt was elected President of the United States during the height of the Great Depression. That October, the unemployment rate was at 22.9%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average was at 93. To stimulate the economy and put people back to work, Roosevelt created several agencies. The acronyms are familiar even today. Programs like the NRA (National Recovery Act), CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps.), AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration), and the WPA (Works Project Administration) were all enacted by Congress.

In 1935 there was a program under the WPA, which was developed especially for the youth of America. The program, headed by Aubrey Williams of Alabama, was called the National Youth Administration, or NYA. The program was developed for two purposes; First, to provide grants to young people in exchange for work, which kept them out of the unemployment ranks, and second, the program was used for economic relief and job training. Training was given for construction jobs, office work, recreation, health care, and many other fields. Unlike the Civilian Conservation Corps, the NYA was open to women. In 1938, the program served 327,000 high school and college students, and had an annual budget of approximately \$58,000,000.

The program was decentralized, and most projects were administered by state and local communities. In Fairport, funds from this program were used to index all the town records from 1813 on, and a newspaper index of all local papers published from 1873 to 1895.

In the Fairport Public Library, in the closet next to the entrance are 8 small file drawers of 3"x5" cards. The over 14,000 cards each contain a subject or name found in the Monroe County Mail or Fairport Herald from 1873 to 1895. This index can be used to find articles in the hundreds of microfilmed newspapers in

the library. However, you have to know that the index exists, and ask the librarian if you can use it. Now for the first time the entire index has been entered into an Excell data base, and will be available to library researchers on the computer.

The project started 5 years ago. In 2003, Helen Mathews asked Bill Keeler, curator for the Fairport Museum, for a project that would help the museum. Bill suggested creating a database for the index, which would help researchers looking into the history of Fairport and Perinton. Over the next four years, Helen typed nearly 12,500 records into the computer, and for the final year, the trio of Pam Lewis, Roger Nelson, and Bill Keeler have made the remaining entries. Ironically, it was members of the Perinton Historical Society in the 1940's that helped with the checking of information typed on the original cards, and now it is members of the Perinton Historical Society that have offered their time to convert these cards into a computer database for the 21st century. A copy of this index will soon be available in the Fairport Museum.

The Perinton Historical Society thanks these volunteers for donating their time in helping to create one more tool to help us all find, and understand the history of this community.

Sample NYA Subject Cards are listed on Page 4.

Our Float at the 4th of July Parade

For the first time in recent memory, the Perinton Historical Society is having a float in the 4th of July parade. Ricci's Towing has generously lent us their flat bed towing truck for the parade. The theme will be School Days. Harold and Ann Castle have rounded up 5 children to sit at vintage desks under the watchful eye of a stern teacher. Look for us at the Parade!

Sample NYA Subject Cards

Wilson, George. Collapsed after 4,000 mile walk; taken to poor house. Monroe County Mail Ag 12, 1897 page 7 column 4.

Wickham, Capt. William. Is the oldest person living in Sodus. He kept a store in Sodus when it was burned by the British in 1814. Fairport Herald July 17, 1874 page 3 column 6.

Winegar, John (Pittsford). Was prevented from committing suicide by Dr. Weare who substituted a harmless fluid for the poison asked for by Winegar. Fairport Herald Dec. 25, 1874 page 3 column 4.

Van Ness, Verna. Awarded prizes as handsomest baby at Western New York Fair. Fairport Herald Oct. 8, 1880 page 3 column 2.

Wolcott, Henry E. Cashier of the Bank of Fairport disappeared, and the bank closed its doors. Fairport Herald July 21, 1876 page 3 column 3.

Wolcott, Henry E. Heard from Denver as having sold his interest in a silver mine for \$115,000. Many would like to see him come back and pay what he owes them. Fairport Herald April 23, 1880 page 3 column 2.

Wainwright, Dr. O.E. Killed when floor gave way at strawberry festival at the Central Baptist Church in Syracuse. Fairport Herald June 26, 1874 page 2 column 3.

Walsh, James (Avon). Disappeared under suspicious circumstances. Monroe County Mail Dec. 2, 1886 page 3 column 4.

Wright, Hiram (Webster). Arrested on charge of playing baseball on Sunday. Monroe County Mail August 29, 1889 page 2 column 3.

If you would like to see these entries in the newspapers you can go to the Fairport Public Library and request the microfilm or you can go to fultonhistory.com and enter the subject heading.



Stone mount found on Roselawn Avenue

Don't Do That

by Catherine Angevine

“Hey Edith! I am going to have that big stone block in the front yard hauled away. It is nothing but a nuisance and I am tired of trying to mow or plow around it,” Fred hollered from the yard. Edith, horrified at such a suggestion went outside and threw herself across the big stone block, prepared to defend this 19th century artifact with her life.

Why is Edith so horrified? Because these big stone blocks are a unique part of our Village history. They, along with hitching posts, were an essential part of getting from here to there in years prior to the automobile. Every horse drawn conveyance, carriages, sulkies, sleighs, buggies, democrats, etc. eventually came to stop and passengers needed a place to step out, and then tie down the horse. Or, the lone rider required a step to mount and dismount without falling off the horse or asking a passerby for assistance.

The Historic Structures Committee has embarked on another adventure in the Village and is seeking to identify all the remaining hitching posts and horse mounts/carriage steps in the Village of Fairport.

The Committee has identified 23 so far, the obvious ones...but needs the community's help in finding ones they may have missed. These are items perhaps lurking in your yard where they cannot be seen from the street, or buried in a garden.

The Committee is also interested in any old village photographs a resident may have showing a hitching post or mount at a village residence, even if the mount or post no longer exists.

Please call the Fairport Museum at 223-3989 and leave a message. Someone from the Historical Structures Committee will get back to you.

Annual Meeting and Picnic Scheduled for May 12

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 p.m.** on Tuesday May 12. 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)

At the meeting there will be a few words from our president and then the members will vote on nominations for officers for the Society.

Our new book *Then & Now: Fairport and Perinton* will also be available for sale if you have not acquired a copy yet. This is always a good time to renew friendships and partake in some excellent food. Hope to see you there.

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 6 _____ Morning _____ Afternoon

 Sunday June 7 _____ Morning _____ Afternoon

Bill Keeler will call you June 1 to reconfirm and schedule you for an hour to watch the booth.



18 PERRIN STREET † FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #149
Fairport, NY 14450



FAIRPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

18 PERRIN STREET, FAIRPORT, NY 14450

REGULAR HOURS

***Summer Hours
7/8-8/27/09**

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 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.*