



# Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

Vol. XLIII • No. 1

September 2010  
585-223-3989

## Invented in Fairport: The Rose Breeders Part 1 of 2: Thomas Edison Motose, Horticulturist

When your first and middle names are Thomas Edison, you know you are destined to do something special. And so it was with Thomas Edison Motose, who invented 14 different varieties of roses in the 1950s while living in Fairport.

Thomas was a Korean horticulturist whose major focus was the development of new varieties of roses by creating hybrids through pollination and grafting. He moved to Fairport in 1954 at the age of 44 and lived at 11 Pleasant St. in the village of Fairport. Motose experimented with new rose varieties in his yard. In order to raise a marketable rose, T.E. Motose needed to find out if the new roses he was developing could survive northern winters and could also be raised in a commercial greenhouse. He struck up a deal with Richard Hart, president of George B. Hart Inc., who owned greenhouses just south of the village on Moseley Road. Richard allowed access to his greenhouses to Mr. Motose for his experimental roses to see if they could be grown successfully in a controlled environment. This arrangement continued for three years from 1955 to 1957. In 1958 T.E. Motose worked for Richard in the greenhouses and continued to create new roses. The last two hybrid roses discovered by him were signed over to the George B. Hart Company: the Judy Hart rose and Dawnlight. Fourteen new varieties of marketable roses were developed by Thomas

Edison Motose during his time in Fairport. Thomas Motose moved out of the area by 1961.

The naming of roses is an art in itself. Roses evoke thoughts of love and caring and names have to appeal to those sentimental values. The names given to these new varieties are as romantic and sweet as the smell the roses emitted. Some of the names are Sweet Twilight, Endless Tale, Abiding Faith and Everdream. Only two roses were named after women. Seiramis (a mythical Assyrian queen noted for beauty and wisdom), and Judy Hart.

Over the years, hundreds of different roses have been developed. As the public's tastes and styles have changed, so too have the varieties offered for sale as some of the older varieties are dropped for better, more modern or desirable ones. Of the 14 hybrid rose varieties developed by T.E. Motose (see page 2), only one is still grown today commercially. The rose "Semiramis" is grown by FilRoses in Belgium.

*Next month:* George B. Hart, horticulturist and owner of Hart's Greenhouses.

## Happenings at the Society

For more information visit our website at [www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org) or call the museum at 223-3989.

~ **September 21** - 7:30 p.m. at the Fairport Museum - A History of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office presented by Sheriff's Office Quartermaster & Historian Todd Allen covering almost 200 years of history serving the county.

### ≡ Our Mission ≡

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

## Hybrid Roses Developed by Thomas Edison Motose in Fairport, NY

Plant patent 1,323. A rose pink hybrid rose named "*Abiding Faith*" 1954.

Plant patent 1,343. A climbing hybrid tea rose named "*Sweet Twilight*" 1954.

Plant patent 1,428. A climbing rose (name unknown) 1955.

Plant patent 1,460. A light pink rose named "*My Friend*" 1956.

Plant patent 1,480. A white with pink center rose named "*Alliswell*" 1956.

Plant patent 1,500. An orange blend hybrid tea rose named "*Auld Lang Syne*" 1956.

Plant patent 1,527. A carmine-red hybrid rose named "*Abasanta*" 1956.

Plant patent 1,537. A pink hybrid tea rose named "*Home Run*" 1956.

Plant patent unknown. A yellow tea rose named "*Everdream*" 1956.

Plant patent unknown. A yellow climbing tea rose named "*Endless Tale*" 1956.

Plant patent 1,552. A yellow blend hybrid tea rose named "*Seiramis*" 1957.

Plant patent unknown. A deep pink climbing rose named "*Abiding Faith*" 1957.

Plant patent 1,715. A pink hybrid tea rose named "*Judy Hart*" 1958.

## Meeting to Feature History of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office

On September 21 beginning at 7:30PM at the Fairport Museum Todd Allen, Historian for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, will give a presentation about the history of that office from 1821 to the present.

This hour long presentation covers 189 years of service to the residents of the County of Monroe in pictures and stories. From the earliest days in frontier Rochesterville to the modern communities which make up Monroe County....from an exotic island jail where the condemned swung from the hangman's noose to modern penal programs.....from horse and buggy patrols to the use of high horsepower police cruisers; Attendees will learn about the job of the Sheriff and his deputies as it has evolved through the years. And maybe enjoy a laugh or two.

Todd Allen is the Quartermaster, Procurement Officer and Historian for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. A thirteen year veteran, Quartermaster Allen commands a unit responsible for supply and logistics support to over 1,200 employees and 1,400 inmates. Through innovation, standardization and a commitment to Total Customer Satisfaction, the Quartermaster Unit has brought great credit upon the Office of Sheriff and in 2003, he was awarded the Distinguished

Service Medal. Quartermaster Allen lectures to several civic organizations and groups annually as well as lecturing on this subject at the Police Academy.

Todd Allen is a twenty year veteran of the United States Army and resides in Henrietta with his wife Cindy and the youngest of their three children.

## Board Seeks an Accountant

The Board of Trustees is looking for an accountant to guide us through the year end audit of our books and to help us establish Gift Shop operation controls. Non-profit experience is a plus. If you can help us, or can direct us to a volunteer resource, please leave contact Catherine at the Museum at 223-3989 or [info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org).

## Our Thanks

...to the Fairport Historical Club for their donation in support of the Fairport Museum, and

...to Charlie and Sue Tholstrup who made a donation to the Society in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Bob and Carol Achilles of Fairport.

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## Greetings from the President

This is the beginning of a communication process with you the members of the Society, that I will continue throughout the coming year. We have much to discuss about the Society, the Museum and where the Society is going.

First of all it was great to see everyone at the picnic. Even though we have lived here for almost 25 years I don't know many of you. If you see me around the Village please stop and introduce yourself. I am envious of the advantage that Clark had of growing up here and knowing so many of you first hand.

The first item the board will be looking at in September is the state of our finances, always an unpleasant topic. We are woefully short of money for capital projects and funding for new programs. Membership dues are being increased this year, the first time in over 12 years, to help defray our immediate costs. We need money to grow and fund new programs as well. The Board will be looking to obtain grants and develop other funding sources.

And...we need to grow the Museum. How do we get more people to come inside? How do we show off our collection? I am personally interested in developing an AudioTour at the Museum and I know the Board will have more ideas. I hope to hear from you as well.

In this busy world it is getting harder and harder to find folks that will volunteer their time. We are no different. If the Society is to continue we have to make it attractive to members old and new, who are willing to serve on standing committees and the Board of Trustees. Specific details about volunteer opportunities (there are many small tasks that need a loving volunteer) will be provided in the next issue of the Historiogram.

We will also be looking at a new format for the Historiogram beginning in the fall of 2011. We want your ideas here also. What would you like to see in a newsletter? Always a little history of course, but what else?

You should know about my interest in history too because it began early. I was about 12 years old when my older sister, who was working, joined the Book of the Month Club. I was already an avid reader and quite intrigued that books were going to be delivered to the house. I still thought it a miracle that I was allowed to take books out of the library. One of the earliest selections to arrive was Thomas B. Costain's first 2 volumes of a 4 volume history of the Plantagenet Kings of Eng-

land. I was hooked. And it continued unabated, finally ending with a BA/History.

Then I spent 20 years at Xerox Corporation. Go figure. But the interest in history never let up. My children, who have no interest whatsoever (one of the grandchildren does look promising though) roll their eyes when I get going on some historical tidbit and my husband rolls his eyes whenever I come through the door with yet another book. And for the last ten years my passion has been the history of art. But that is another story.

And finally, (did you nod off there?) I am putting my feet into very large shoes. I am mindful of all the dedicated and talented men and women who have preceded me and am so very grateful for their contributions to the Society and to the Village of Fairport these past 75 years.

Catherine  
PHS/President

Stay connected! visit the PHS website!  
[www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Hey Sweetie Pie, Whatcha Got Cookin'?

That is what May and Alice would like to know! They are developing a cookbook as a fund raiser for the Society. May Thomson and Alice Ennis are collecting recipes for this project and need - you guessed it - RECIPES! No recipes, no cookbook - simple as that. All recipes are welcome, appetizers, desserts whatever, they are not the least bit fussy. Dig out all those little gems you are hoarding in that recipe box: Grandma's Ginger Snaps, Aunt Susie's Bran Muffins, Betty's Bread and Butter Pickles. You got 'em and we need em! The best recipes are the ones we have been making for many years and serving to family and friends. If we get one from each member household we will be over the top!

Recipes can be dropped off at the Museum at 18 Perrin Street or to May's email at [mus-selb@frontiernet.net](mailto:mus-selb@frontiernet.net).

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## “We Dig History” Float a Great Success at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

The Parade Float Committee had another successful float for the 4th of July. The theme for this year was “We Dig History” and featured children and adults dressed as archaeologists uncovering bones and signs from Fairport's business that are no longer here. The committee headed by Ann and Harold Castle spent several days creating these unique signs. The float was again driven by Rici's Towing Service of East Rochester. Participants on the float were Heather Bauer, Sheila Cormack, Kelsey Cormack, Tristan Bauer, Anne Johnston, Taran Bauer, Ann Castle, and Erin Demare. Other members of the committee not in the photo include Sharon Catanese, Bill Keeler, Lucy McCormick, Sue Templeton, and May Thomson.



## Bill Keeler to Step Down as Editor of the Historigram

By William Keeler

Every good thing must come to an end. I am stepping down as editor of the *Historigram* at the end of this season (May issue 2011).

I took over writing the newsletter in 2002 after Ruth Ewell retired as secretary for the Executive Committee of the Perinton Historical Society. Ruth had been editor and chief writer for the *Historigram* for almost 20 years. Her signature articles were about the speakers and their topic from the previous Society meetings. When I started in September of 2002, I began by writing at least one historical article about Fairport and Perinton. My challenge was that the readership at the Society is very sophisticated and knowledgeable about the history of this area. I didn't want to rehash the old familiar stories found in the newspapers or on the internet, so I chose to base most of my articles on primary source material found outside the Fairport Museum and the Perinton Historian's office. I have done research at the Rochester Public Library, Fairport Public Library, Rochester Historical Society, University of Rochester Rare Books De-

partment, Landmark Society of Western New York, New York State Archives and internet sites such as [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) and my two favorite spots, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Google Patents. Over the years you have seen a variety of materials published in the *Historigram*. There have been poems, recipes, crossword puzzles, inventions, jokes and photographs that have never been printed before. Some articles have taken up to two years to write. If you have followed my articles in the past you are familiar with another feature in my articles, “text inserts.” I fill this area with lists of facts or quotes from primary documents that help flesh out the story.

I could have stayed longer reprinting my old articles or rehashing old stories, but I felt it was time to let someone else try their hand at editing and writing for the newsletter. I will continue to do research and submit articles from time to time. I will also continue pursuing my passion as curator and director of the Fairport Museum.

# Support the Perinton Historical Society with Your Membership

If you haven't already submitted your membership form for 2010-2011, we invite you to join or renew now and take part in the activities of the Perinton Historical Society (PHS).

Membership dues and contributions support our community programs, publications and operation of the Fairport Historical Museum. PHS is a registered non-profit organization so your donations may be tax deductible.

Dues support the following:

- ~ Educational programs - monthly lectures featuring stimulating local and regional speakers, tours for visitors and local groups, school programs
- ~ The Historigram - our newsletter with articles about local history, people, events and exhibits
- ~ Our website at: PerintonHistoricalSociety.org, with growing online archives and information
- ~ Maintaining the Museum and providing free access to its extensive collections and research

documents

- ~ Acquisition and preservation of historical artifacts and documents
- ~ Picnic in the park
- ~ Research assistance (by appointment)
- ~ Historical Tours

Our membership year runs from September 1 to August 31, and membership levels are listed on the form below. Please fill out the form and return it to the Museum. Our dues levels have increased this year for the first time since 1998, necessitated by the increasing costs of our programs and operation and maintenance of the Museum.

Volunteers are always needed to continue and expand our work in the community. We invite you to learn more by visiting the Museum or our website. If you wish to help by serving on one of our committees, please check the appropriate box below. If you would like to speak to someone directly, please call and leave a message at the Museum at 585-223-3989.

*I would like to join the membership of the Perinton Historical Society.  
I understand that my membership will be in effect from September 1 to August 31.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Historigram       Mail Historigram

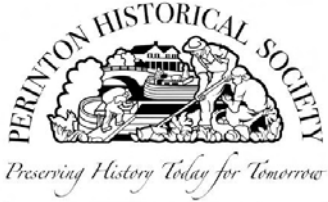
Please check the level of membership you prefer:

- Individual .....\$15
- Family .....\$20
- Senior Single [65 or older]..... \$8
- Senior Couple .....\$12
- Patron .....\$50

To make our programs successful and to meet our goals, we depend on your generous gift of time and talents. Please consider joining a committee or serving on the board of trustees. Please volunteer to help by checking areas of interest:

- Board of Trustees - governing body for the Society
- Finance Committee -budget and fund raising plans
- Education Committee - includes 4th grade program and tours of the Museum
- Maintenance Committee - repairs and upkeep of the Museum facility
- Museum Volunteer - 2 hours per month
- Historigram – articles, editing, production and mailing
- Structure Committee - interest in historic structures
- Historic Tours Committee - house, cemeteries and other landmark tours
- Other - give us your ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Perinton Historical Society**  
and mail to 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450



18 PERRIN STREET ♣ FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

Visit our website:  
[www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.perintonhistoricalsociety.org)

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