



Perinton Historical Society HISTORIGRAM

18 Perrin Street
Fairport, NY 14450

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Invented in Fairport: The Rose Breeders

Part 2 of 2: George B. Hart, Horticulturist, Owner of Hart's Greenhouses in Fairport

There was a time in the United States when plant varieties were not protected by patent laws. Ever since European settlement in the 1500s, new plant varieties have been introduced to both American continents. Variations in these standard varieties would appear from time to time in the form of mutations or chance happenings known as sports. Qualities that made these sports different than the standard variety were encouraged. The plants were propagated establishing new varieties with better features like more pleasing colors, more fragrant smell, better taste or bigger size. These chance varieties were jealously guarded and sometimes put under lock and key until enough plants could be raised to introduce them to market. When there were enough plants for sale, a nursery would put these new varieties in its catalog. The problem was that the growers had no protection from people taking these new found varieties and producing them for their own use or for resale. There was no real economic reason to develop new improved plant varieties. That all changed with the coming of botanist Luther Burbank.

Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, in 1849. He began a 55- year plant breeding career when he purchased a 17-acre farm

at the age of 21. Burbank performed plant hybridization on a massive scale. At one time he maintained as many as 3,000 experiments involving millions of plants while trying to improve various species. Before he died in 1926, Luther Burbank had developed 800 strains and varieties of plants, none of them protected under the law. After his death, Luther's widow and other supporters, including inventor Thomas Edison, appeared before Congress to advocate for a change in the United States Patent Law that would protect distinct varieties of asexually reproduced plants. The Plant Patent Act, part of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, was designed to protect these rights for 20 years after discovery and was enacted on May 23, 1930.

One of the first applicants under this new provision in the patent law was George B. Hart. George began his work in the flower industry at the age of 8 in the Salter Brothers greenhouses. The company raised cut flowers and would ship them into the city of Rochester and beyond for sale. In 1918 Hart would buy the company's greenhouses on Moseley Road in Fairport and set up his own company.

The year after George Hart bought the Salter Brother's greenhouses they burned to the ground in a fire. He promptly rebuilt them and decided to raise roses instead of cut flowers. By 1920, George B. Hart Inc. was raising 25,000 roses. In 1933 the company employed 60 workers, owned 100 acres and had 20 greenhouses. The 300,000 square feet of glassed greenhouses was the largest area of glass under which roses were grown in the country.

✧ Our Mission ✧

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



In 1929, the 'Talisman Tea Rose' was introduced by Robert Montgomery of Hadley, Massachusetts, and it shortly became the hottest rose in the industry. Every rose grower in the country acquired some of these roses and began propagating them in their own greenhouses. George Hart was no exception. Around this time George noticed a mutation or sport on several of his Talisman roses. One of the sports had a slightly different color from its parent being something between spectrum red and carmine on the Richardson color scale. There was also an absence of blue in the petals when the rose was in full bloom and when it was fading. By 1930 the Plant Patent Act had been passed and George Hart decided to apply for patent protection for this new variety of rose. He then began to propagate this new plant and kept it locked up in a special greenhouse until his patent was approved. In two years George had raised 4,000 of these roses, and six weeks into 1932 he had over 10,000 plants.

Plant patent number 8 was approved by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 25, 1932. It was the first New York State rose to be patented. Now the pressure was on to raise enough plants for market and test George's new discovery in rose shows. George Hart named his new plant the Mary Hart rose in honor of both his wife and daughter. On January 1, 1933, the Mary Hart was introduced to the world. The Mary Hart rose won 2 silver medals in the International Flower Show in New York City and several medals at the Atlanta City Flower Show. The rose was also entered into shows at Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Boston. In May of 1933 at

the Convention Hall in the city of Rochester, the Mary Hart was introduced to the public at the Rochester City Flower Show. By all accounts, the rose was very well received and became a good seller for the company.

George B. Hart died in 1941. The business remained in the family until the late 1960s. The greenhouses have been replaced by an apartment complex. Today, there is no known company that raises the Mary Hart tea rose.

To see a picture of the Mary Hart rose on the internet go to:

<http://www.helpmefind.com/plant/pl.php?n=16649>

Happenings at the Society

- ~ The next Perinton Historical Society meeting will be Tuesday, **October 19 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Fairport Museum. The speaker for the evening will be Bob Kelly, Volunteer for the Town of Victor Historian. His topic will be "Historical Markers in and Around Victor .
- ~ Thanks go out to **Peg Clark** who is a long time museum volunteer on Sunday afternoons in the museum. She is retiring this year to pursue other interests.
- ~ **Bill Hartigan**, long time member and volunteer on Tuesday afternoons at the museum, has passed away. His funeral was September 8.

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What's new in the gift shop...

Lincoln Inaugural Book and Plate On Sale in Gift Shop

by Wayne Morrison

With the upcoming 150th Anniversary Observation of the Lincoln Inaugural Train on February 18th, it seems fitting that reflections are in order at the local level. Thrice Abraham Lincoln is known to have traversed the Town of Perinton by means of the railroad.

The first was upon the Auburn & Rochester Rail-Road on Wednesday, September 27, 1848. With the adjournment of the first session of the 30th Congress, Mr. Lincoln, a member from the state of Illinois, prepared to return to his home in Springfield. The train passed through the extreme south-western portion of the Town of Perinton (just west of the present Powder Mills Park) and then on to Rochester and the wonders of Niagara Falls.

The second was upon the New York Central Rail-Road on Monday morning, February 18th, 1861. The Presidential Special (or Inaugural Train) carried the President-Elect from Buffalo to Albany that day, passing the depot at Fairport at 7:52. John Duff was at the throttle of Engine No. 84, and William S. Wood was General Superintendent for the entire trip. The depot later became the freight office, was taken down, and the site is now occupied by H.P. Neun & Co., on North Main Street.

The Third was also upon the New York Central Rail-Road early in the morning of Thursday, April 27, 1865. The Funeral Train of the lamented President passed the depot in this village after a scheduled stop in Palmyra, and previous to an extended stop in Rochester.

Further details may be found in "Lincoln's Journey to Greatness" by Victor Searcher, "The Lincoln Inaugural Train, From Rochester to Syracuse" by Wayne Morrison [on sale in our gift shop] and "Lincoln in Western New York" by John Fagent.

The museum gift shop now has copies of Wayne's book "The Lincoln Inaugural Train, From Rochester to Syracuse" in our gift shop for \$25. In it are the stops Lincoln took on his way to Washington D.C. including a picture of our own Fairport Depot, which is believed by Wayne Morrison, to be the only surviving picture of a train depot along the NYC line in the 1860s between Rochester and Syracuse. Also



for sale is a commemorative plate with a listing of stops, including Fairport, taken by the Inaugural Train. The price for the plate is \$25.

Village Barns Being Cataloged

Is that a barn in your backyard? A real barn? Can we see it?

The **Historic Structures Committee** needs your help. We have completed our photographic survey of the existing barns and carriage houses located in the Village. There are over 100 barn structures still standing, from large elaborate carriage houses, to simple one horse carriage houses and many large working barns.

The next step is to research the history and architecture of these old buildings. Some of this we can do using old maps and on-line inquiries. But, the best way to learn the real story about these historic structures is to look inside at the layout and construction. Post and beam? Hand hewn beams?

If you are a barn owner, please share your barn and its history with us. You can reach us by calling the Museum at 223-3989 or e-mail us at info@perintonhistoricalsociety.org.

Mary Jewett Telford, A Civil War Nurse illuminated

by Vicki Proffitt

On a cold day in March, 1839, Hannah Southwick Jewett gave birth to her sixth child, a girl she named Mary. Dr. Lester Jewett was no doubt proud of his growing brood, which would later add four more to their number. The Jewett family lived in Seneca, New York, where Lester was a physician and surgeon. In 1846, after the deaths of the two youngest Jewett children, the family migrated to Lima, Michigan, where Lester Jewett's brothers had settled many years earlier.

By all accounts, Mary grew to be an exceptional child. She began teaching in the district school at age 14. Several years later, Mary taught at a girl's school in Morganfield, Kentucky. Ultimately, Mary moved back to Lima, Michigan to be near family.

When the Civil War began, Mary was determined to become a nurse. Her younger brother, William T. Jewett, enlisted in the 4th Michigan cavalry in 1862. Sadly, he died four months later from typhoid fever. Mary's older brother, Edward E. Jewett, joined the 124th Ohio Infantry two weeks after William's death. Longing to contribute to the war effort, Mary applied for a nursing position with the U.S. Sanitary Commission. She was denied because she was too young. It took a special permit from her father's friend, Michigan Governor Austin Blair, to gain entrance to the nursing profession in which she longed to be a part.

Mary arrived at Hospital No. 8 in Nashville, Tennessee, eager to help the soldiers convalescing there. She spent each day climbing up and down the stairs to visit the 600 soldiers who filled the hospital. Her duties may have included changing dressings, assisting with the surgeries and writing letters home for the soldiers who were unable to do so themselves. For eight months, she was the only woman in the hospital. Mary's shy smile and gentle ways must have made her a favorite among the young men yearning for their mothers and sweethearts back home. For years after the war, a soldier she had tended to at Hospital No. 8 traveled hundreds of miles to see her and thank her for saving his life. After one year of nursing at the hospital, the constant stair-climbing had wreaked havoc on her body and, with a sad heart, Mary resigned her commission as a nurse and returned home to Lima, Michigan.

Soon after she arrived home, Mary wed Civil War veteran Jacob Telford. Jacob had served in the 15th Indiana Infantry during the war, where he was severely wounded at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Little is known about Jacob's early life., but records state that he was born in 1833 in Seneca, New York, the same town where Mary Jewett was born. Wouldn't it be romantic for Mary to have found and nursed Jacob, her childhood friend, back to health at Hospital No. 8 in Nashville where they fell in love and decided to marry? Unfortunately, we have no information that verifies this idea. We simply know that they did marry, in the summer of 1864, and they lived happily together until they were parted by Jacob's death in 1905.



Photo of Mary Jewett Telford - courtesy of Floris A. Lent.

Mary and Jacob Telford lived in Grinnell, Iowa, from 1866-1873. They then moved to Denver, Colorado, where Mary hoped the climate would help alleviate the symptoms of her asthma. It was in Denver that Mary came into her own as an activist and as a humanitarian. In 1880, her short children's story, "Tom", was published in St. Nicholas magazine. In 1883, Mary became a charter member of the National Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). The WRC is an organization dedicated to assisting veterans of the late war. Amazingly, that worthwhile organization is still in existence today and continues to offer aid to American veterans of all wars and their families. Mary continued her humanitarian efforts by serving on a children's welfare committee for the Charities and Corrections board.

During these busy years in Denver, she also edited the *Colorado Farmer* journal. Not content to rest on her laurels, Mary Jewett Telford founded, edited and published the *Challenge*, a temperance journal. Mary was very interested in

the temperance movement, and she traveled extensively on the lecture circuit for the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). In fact, she is mentioned in the Rochester newspapers multiple times as a visiting temperance speaker. Mary's husband, Jacob Telford, died in 1905. At that time, Mary and Jacob were living in McMinnville, Tennessee. In keeping with his wishes, Mary sent Jacob's remains to Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro, where he had been wounded so many years before. After Jacob died, Mary continued her work as editor of the W.C.T.U. journal the *Union Signal*. Little more than a year later, on August 5, 1906, Mary followed Jacob in death following an operation in Hinsdale, Illinois. She was buried in Illinois.

Many places where Mary Jewett Telford was born and lived have been mentioned-Seneca, NY-Lima, MI-Morganfield, KY-Nashville, TN-Grinnell, IA-Denver, CO-McMinnville, TN-Hinsdale, IL, but what connection does this incredible woman have to Perinton? Mary's older sister, Catherine Jewett, married James Wilkinson of Perinton in 1858 and they settled here. After the death of Dr. Lester Jewett in 1863, Mary's mother, Hannah Southwick Jewett, moved to Perinton and lived with her daughter Catherine Jewett Wilkinson. Hannah died in 1877 and is buried at South Perinton Cemetery. Nine months after Mary's death in August 1906, Catherine Wilkinson had her sister Mary's remains brought to Perinton, where she was interred beside their mother, Hannah Southwick Jewett (1803-1877).

Additional information about Mary Jewett Telford can be found at www.illumhistory.wordpress.com. Special thanks to Floris A. Lent, Wilkinson family descendant and curator of the Jewett family memorabilia, for sharing Mary and her family with me. Thank you also to Martha Jewett, Clay Fetter and Evan Marshall, descendants of Mary Jewett's youngest brother, Nathan, for their support of my project to illuminate the life of Mary Jewett Telford.

Early Businesses in Fairport: Cartwright's Fairport Poultry Yard



Silver Polish Fowls bred by C.D. Cartwright & Co. of Fairport NY. Lithograph designed by I. Porter for *Poultry World* circa 1877.

One of the more unusual businesses in Fairport in the 19th century was the Fairport Poultry Yard run by Charles D. Cartwright and Company in the late 1870s. The company boasted of having the finest stock of show poultry in the country. Charles Cartwright raised a variety of exotic poultry including several kinds of Polands, White Dorkins, Crevecour and Houdan. The 1877 print (pictured here) shows two of his prize winning Silver Polish Fowls.

These crested chickens won first premium in 1874 at the Palmyra Fair and the Arcadia Fair. They also came in first at fairs in 1877 at Fritchburg, Buffalo and Chicago.

The Polish fowl is a long established line of domesticated poultry going back as far as the 16th century in Eastern Europe. It was known on the European continent as the Crested Dutch, Padouns or Padoues. When the breed arrived in England, they were simply called Polish Fowls.

The Polish breed is a smaller than usual fowl with the average weight of the male at 6 pounds and the female at 4.5 pounds. The females lay white shelled eggs but they are non-sitters. Incubators are used to hatch the chicks. The most striking characteristic is the large knob of feathers on the top of their skulls. The females' foreheads are rounded and the males have their foreheads at a backward angle. The feathers over their eyes restrict their vision so they are easily frightened. Sometimes the crests are so large

and heavy that the birds suffer from hernias.

Charles Cartwright is known to have raised these birds from 1874 to around 1880. He also worked in the marble yards (as a worker) around this same time. The yards were later called Cartwright and Fonda, manufacturers and dealers in monuments and headstones. The business was located at 12 West Ave. in the village.

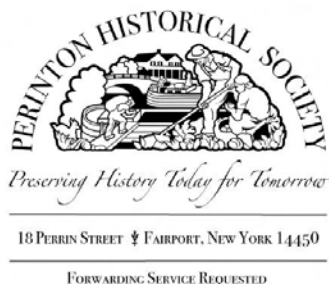
Old News...

Deadly Catch

New York Times July 17,1900

Frank Van Duzen, an enthusiastic fisherman and resident of Fairport, caught the largest fish of his life in Ox Bow creek yesterday, and the excitement proved so intense he died immediately after landing his prize.

Van Duzen, accompanied by his brother, left his home early this morning, and had quite a successful day's fishing when, just as they were about to start for home, Frank cried, "I've hooked a whopper," and immediately commenced to play out line. The fish, a twelve pound carp, was eventually landed after a most exciting struggle, during which the pole was broken and the fisherman nearly pulled into the stream. The fish had hardly been landed when Frank fell over upon the bank. He was found unconscious, and died before assistance arrived. The Coroner granted a certificate, giving heart disease as the cause of death. Van Duzen was sixty four years of age.



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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

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