

Life through the Lens of Frank Beaumont

By Bill Poray

When researching residents of our community from long ago, I often come away wishing that I had a chance to know them. Add Frank Marion Beaumont to the list.

Born in February of 1898, young Frank was the son of a carpenter, Harry Beaumont and Helen Worthy Beaumont, and the grandson of Civil War veteran Thomas Beaumont, of the 8th New York Cavalry. The family, including Frank's sisters, Effa and Elsie, spent their early years on Summit Street. After Frank's mother died in 1911, his father moved the family to the home he grew up in at 20 Filkins Street. Frank's life was cut short, just twenty years in all. But he didn't waste any time, even as a boy, filling each day with pursuits that were important to him.

The Boy Scouts of America were established in 1910, and when the first Fairport troop was organized two years later, among the earliest recruits was Frank Beaumont. He loved being involved in the Boy Scouts, the friendships, camping and hiking, and no doubt the spiffy uniform too, which bore more than a passing resemblance to the United States Army uniforms of the day. A few years later he would trade in his Boy Scout uniform for that of the 17th New York Cavalry.

When he was a young teenager, Frank learned to operate a camera, and used it to record images of the people and places close to his Filkins Street home. Many decades before photographic technologies such as automatic exposure and focus, Frank had a good grasp on the art and science of photography. He carefully mounted each picture in an album, a 1914 Christmas gift from his sister, Elsie. The album's photos date from 1914 to 1917, and each includes a hand-written caption. There are photographs of neighbors and family members, the school Frank attended on West Church Street, and the Methodist Church, where he and his family worshipped, and where Frank taught Sunday school. His images offer a wonderful view of the world of a Fairport teenager in the early years of the 20th century.



Assistant Scout Master Frank Beaumont



~ **Bob Hunt** ~

Comments from your President

I usually don't know what I'm going to write about each month until I sit at the computer, bring up last month's comments, read them so I don't repeat myself, delete them and look at a blank page. In reflection of the past summer, Cindy and I have some great memories. In addition

to the African trip I mentioned in the August *Historigram*, we had a 50th wedding celebration at Hedges with our wedding party and friends. We also welcomed a new grandson into our lives and found time to absorb some vitamin N (Mother Nature) by bicycling 1200 miles. But enough about that.

The month of October has been full of activity in Fairport. It started with the Fairport Partnership's Oktoberfest at Fairport Junction, with big crowds both Friday and Saturday nights, and several volunteers representing the Perinton Historical Society at the event. PHS receives a check from the event based on the number of volunteer hours we provide. Consider helping out next year—it's a fun time and provides financial support for our museum.

That same weekend, on Sunday, we ran our annual House Tour, with four historic homes in the Roselawn Avenue area, a tour of a canal packet boat and soap making at the museum. It was a great turn out, with more than fifty new members, and an exhausted PHS president, as our home was on the tour. The "honey-do" list prior to the event was infinitesimal. (I thought I had the right word but, in looking it up, found "infinitesimal" means approaching zero or very small. It was the opposite, whatever that word is.) Many thanks to Elaine Lanni and her House Tour Committee—sounds like some ice cream at the Moonlight Creamery.

The following weekend, our community was again alive with the Fairport Scarecrow Festival. The Farmers Market was jumping, a Safe Journey 5K race was run, and Kennelley Park was busy with bands and vendors. Main Street was crowded with many viewers of the newly placed scarecrows, and the museum was open as well. What a great place to live!

Speaking of scarecrows, the PHS committee again did an outstanding job of making a scarecrow, this time depicting Carl Peters (sorry Carl, you were not scary), but you looked fantastic in your plaid shirt and bow tie. I haven't heard yet, but it should be a winner and it sounds like another trip to Moonlight with Ann Castle and her committee. I don't recall seeing Harold Castle at any of the Scarecrow Committee meetings, but he always seems to show up for the ice cream.

Around the home front, we continue to bring plants inside

to winter over, enjoy, and then replant next spring in our garden. The plants include gardenias, some of which are 20 years old. Columbus Day is also the time to plant garlic in this region, and as our property is shady, I've built a new garlic box for the back patio, which receives more sun. Hopefully this will do the trick. I break the garlic bulb into the individual cloves and plant them with the base down and the tip at ground level, as you'd plant onion bulbs in the spring. Then I cover them with about two inches of leafy mulch. Before winter, the cloves should put up several green shoots, which will survive the winter. In the spring, the bulb will put up a seed pod called a garlic scape, which should be cut off before it blossoms. These scapes are great for cooking or making a dip with crème cheese. Around August your garlic should be ready to harvest. Save a few bulbs for planting again in October.

Finally, a bit of late-breaking news: We just received a challenge grant for \$1,000 from the Last Man Standing Football Pool. Our membership needs to collectively donate \$1,000 as a match to receive the money from LMS. We can do it—a few dollars from each of us will make it happen.

Thanks for your continued support: It is truly appreciated. We will chat with you again next month.

Bob Hunt, President
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rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



PHS Scarecrow a Masterpiece!

Artist Carl Peters made a special appearance at the Scarecrow Festival on October 11th, "painting" the 1930s mural, which hangs in our museum. The **Carl Peters** scarecrow was constructed by Lucy McCormick, Dave and Sue Scheirer, May Thomson, Sue Templeto and (not pictured) Ann Castle, Sharon Catanese, Anne Johnston and Denise McLaughlin.

HISTORIGRAM

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Lucas Schutt demonstrated the cold process method of soap making while Cathy Batchelor offered a fragrant array of organic soaps for sale.

Another Successful House Tour!

Blue booties were the fashion of the day as more than 200 members of the Perinton Historical Society toured four homes on Sunday, October 5th. The tour featured houses on or near the canal that were standing when the Fairport lift bridge was christened on August 15, 1914. An interesting twist was the addition of a packet-style canal boat, docked near the lift bridge, for walk-through tours.

Meanwhile, visitors to the museum were treated to a soap making demonstration, courtesy of Mary Bartolotta's Mooseberry Soap Co. and Café. An informational exhibit traced the history of the KOD (Knocks Out Dirt) building, Fairport's own soap making company from 1923 to 1947.

Thanks to all who made this event a success! They include gracious homeowners Bob and Cindy Hunt, Joe and Samantha Kosiorek, Earl and Elnore Jackson, and Andy and Ruth Gates. Thanks also to owners of the *Sunflower* canal packet boat, Gary and Robin Ezell; our friends at Mooseberry Soap Co. and Café; dozens of dedicated docents; the PHS board, and the 2014 House Tour Committee.

REMINDERS:

Our next program at the museum will be on Tuesday, November 18th, and will feature the *History of Music Boxes*. The presenter is Craig Smith who has collected and restored music boxes of all types since the late 1970s. The program will start at 7:00 p.m.

Also, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, December 6th when childrens' author Dorothy Stacy will be at the Fairport Historical Museum to discuss her book series *Erie Canal Cousins*. There are five books in the series (see the October HISTORIGRAM for descriptions of each). Dorothy will be available to sign copies that morning in the Museum Gift Shop.

Idea for Your Christmas List:

These books could make excellent holiday gifts for the youngsters in your life. Each paperback copy sells for only \$10, or \$40 for the entire set of five. Cash or checks will be accepted.

Volunteers Needed at the Fairport Historical Museum

We are continuing to look for additional museum volunteers, and would like to add you to our roster. Each shift consists of at least two volunteers who work a two-hour period once a month. We especially need volunteers to cover Saturdays from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Sundays from 2:00–4:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Fairport Historical Museum, please stop by the museum (see posted hours on the back page of this newsletter) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Scheirer at dscheir1@rochester.rr.com for more information, and include "FHM" in the subject line.

Raise Money For PHS!

Drop off your deposit cans and bottles to EZ Bottle and Can Return, and tell them you want to donate the deposit to the

Perinton Historical Society

EZ BOTTLE and CAN RETURN

1259 Fairport Road
Fairport, NY 14450
585-377-9140



"Frank Beaumont" continued from page 1

Frank often used his camera to document the activities of Fairport's first Boy Scout troop, including camping trips to Sodus Point and Nine Mile Point, both on the shores of Lake Ontario. His photo album includes pictures of hikes to Penfield and Turk Hill, and of parades in Fairport and East Rochester.

In 1917, at 19 years of age, Frank became the Assistant Scoutmaster for Fairport's Troop 1. According to the book *Rochester in History*, published in 1923, Frank's Boy Scout commission was signed by President Woodrow Wilson, and former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft.

Throughout the three year period of Frank Beaumont's photo album, war raged in Europe. Known for his commendable character and patriotism, in February of 1918 he quit school, with just a few months left until graduation. Frank enlisted in the Cavalry, and was sent to Camp Douglas in Arizona for training, where reports indicated he was making good progress. He seemed to inject enthusiasm into everything he did, and his letters home were full of joy and optimism, including this passage: "I like sleeping in a tent very much, it is just like camping with the Scouts."



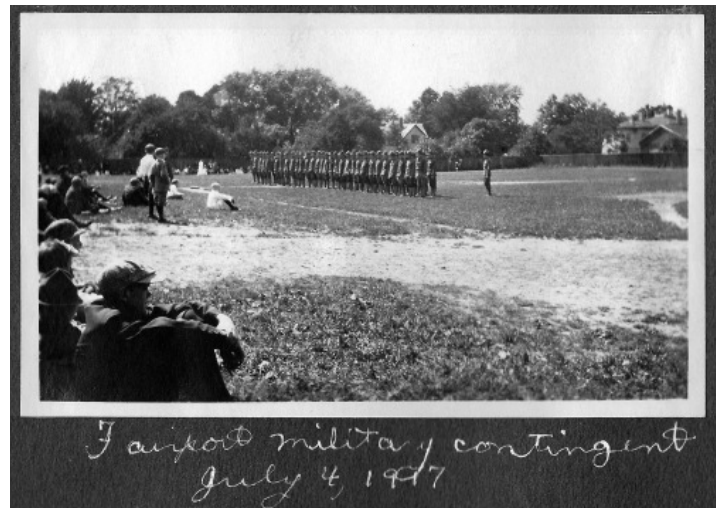
Troop 1 on a hike to Turk Hill, where the boys practiced first aid techniques, gathered firewood and built campfires.
April 1916



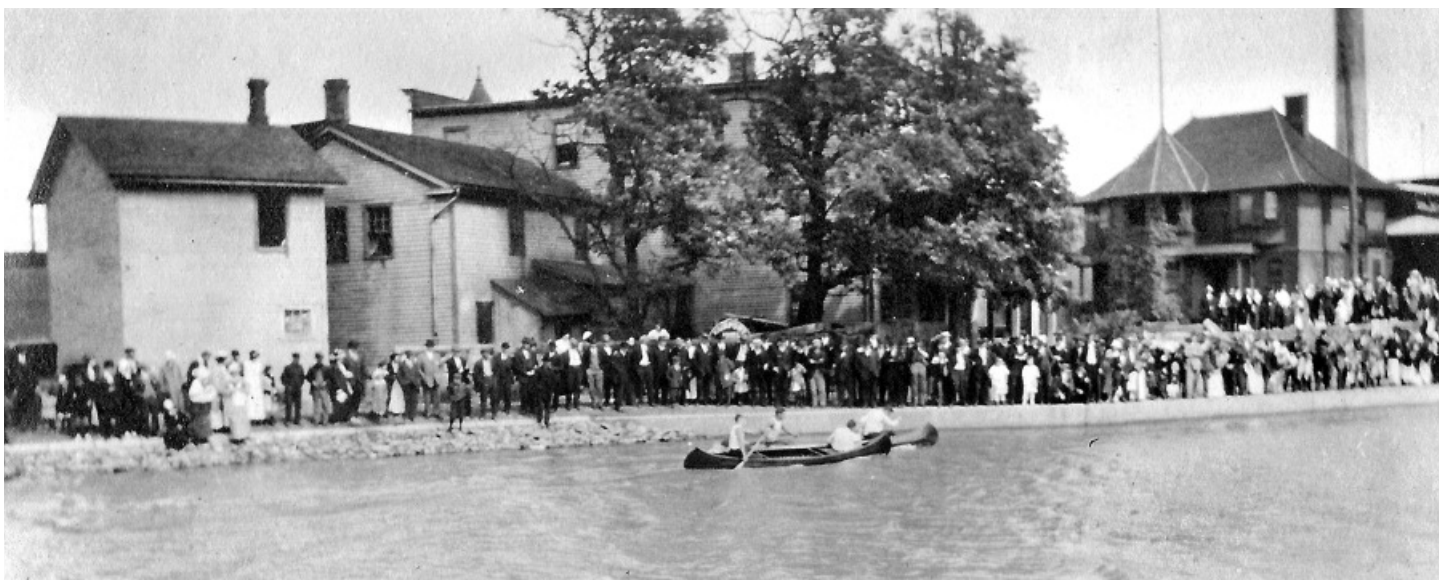
On a hike to the Oxbow in June of 1916. Summit Street water tower can be seen in upper right.



Scouts take a break for watermelon while canoeing at the Oxbow



This 1917 photo was taken on the baseball diamond behind Fairport High School on West Church Street

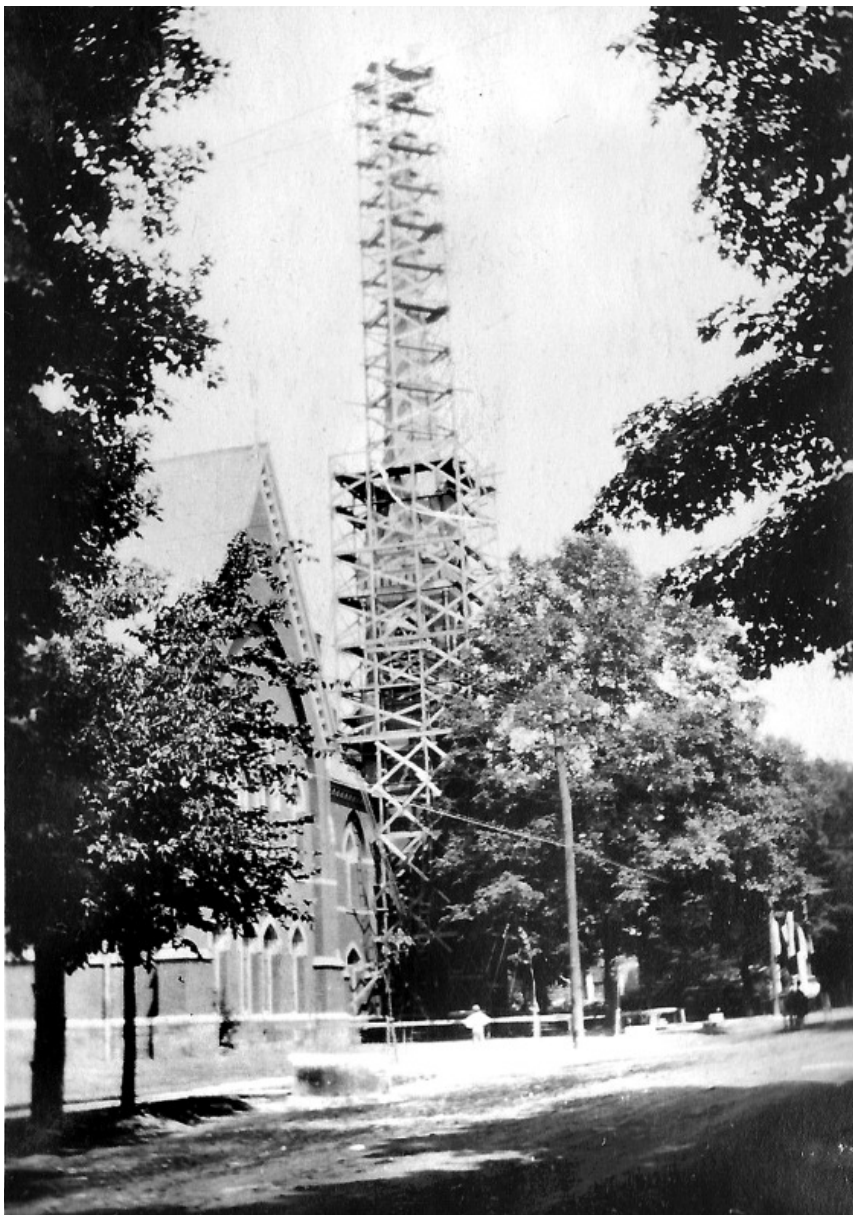


Above:

Crowds cheer at the finish line of a canoe race behind the Fairport Hotel, today's Millstone Block. The building at the right was known as the Vinegar Works when the photo was taken on September 6, 1914.

Left:

Repairs to the spire of the First Baptist Church in 1916, struck by lightning one week earlier



Even when Frank was assigned to KP duty with the cook squad, he put a positive spin on the experience, exclaiming, "It was quite interesting to see such a large quantity of food prepared."

Sadly, at the age of twenty, Frank Beaumont contracted pneumonia while at Fort Douglas, and died one week later, on June 1, 1918. He was the second casualty of the war from this community, and was laid to rest at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on June 7th. In attendance was a large group from the local Grand Army of the Republic post, as well as Boy Scouts from throughout the community. The student body of Fairport High School marched to the cemetery. The burial was made with full military honors, and the gravestone of Frank Marion Beaumont documents his military service with the New York 17th Cavalry, Company E.

Also documented is the world he captured with his camera and preserved in a photo album, a gift from his sister one hundred years ago.



Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of October 15, 2014

Business (\$100)

Ed Bradford, Liftbridge Financial Advisors
6 North Main Street, Suite 400w, Fairport
Website: <http://liftbridgefinancial.com>

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories

33 Chesham Way, Fairport
Phone: 585-267-6189
Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

Joel Cuminalo, Turning Point Signs & Design

3 Railroad Street, Fairport
Website: <http://www.tpsigns.com>

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

Kevin Kesby

Duncan Moore and Gunta Lidars

Doug and Jean Whitney

John and Eileen Wierzbicki

Potter (\$250-\$499)

Perrin (\$500 and above)

Bob and Cindy Hunt



New Items in the Gift Shop

The Fairport Historical Museum Gift Shop is stocked with many new items which have arrived just in time for the holiday season. In addition to the wide selection of autographed books, artwork and memorabilia, the museum is pleased to offer a specially commissioned, limited edition Christmas ornament commemorating the 100th anniversary of Fairport's lift bridge. The ornaments are available for \$9 each. They consist of die-struck silver plate with enamel colors and are based on a photograph of the lift bridge by Fairport photographer and PHS board member Keith Boas. Another gift idea is the print entitled, *100 Years of Lift Bridge Inspiration*. The print comes in two sizes—8x10" (\$18) and 11x14" (\$30). Each print is personally signed by Fairport artist Susan Prener and is available only at the Museum Gift Shop.

Christmas Traditions Their Meaning and How They Started

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Presented by Christine Mott

First, to get the evening rolling, join us from 6:00–7:00 p.m. for your last opportunity to view and bid on the **Yuletide Traditions** trees, wreaths and gift baskets, which have been donated for this special museum fundraiser.

Our annual holiday party kicks off at 7:00 p.m. with a Christmas-themed presentation from Fairport resident Christine Mott, who will discuss Christmas traditions and how they began. Christine is a member of the 7th District Federated Garden Clubs, a master gardener, National Flower Show judge and landscape design consultant.

Winners of the PHS **Yuletide Traditions** silent auctions will be announced immediately following the program.

Please bring a dessert to pass.



PHS Yuletide Traditions

Thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have registered to donate a decorated artificial tree, wreath or gift basket for our upcoming silent auctions. The items donated to the PHS for **Yuletide Traditions** will be on display from November 18th—December 9th.

Stop by the Fairport Historical Museum during regular open hours to view and bid on these magnificent holiday items, the proceeds of which will be used to fund educational programs and operation of the Fairport Historical Museum.

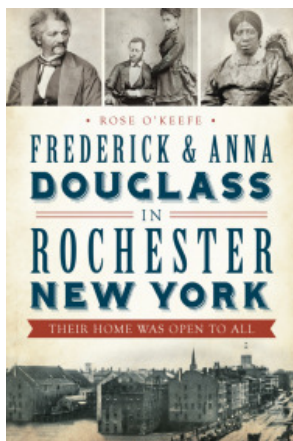
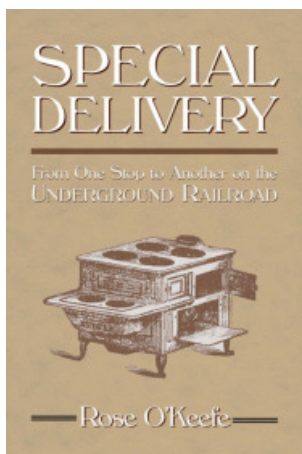
Thank you for your support!

Rose O'Keefe Reading and Book Signing

On Saturday, November 22nd, author Rose O'Keefe will do a short reading from her newest book, *Special Delivery: From One Stop to Another on the Underground Railroad*, which will be followed by a book signing. The event will take place from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Fairport Historical Museum. Rose O'Keefe's other books, *Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester*, *New York: Their Home Was Open to All*, and *Historic Genesee County: A Guide to Its Lands and Legacies* will also be available for purchase—cash or checks accepted.

Special Delivery: \$8.95 + tax

What would it be like to have one of the most famous escaped slaves in the world for a father, and the strong woman who held their home life together for a mother? It would mean being used to all kinds of people showing up on the family's doorstep any time of day or night—and the worse the weather, the better. It would also mean watching your every word and step when you're away from home. When Frederick and Anna Douglass' eleven-year-old son Lewis hears his father tell the family that they are moving from their home on Alexander Street to a homestead on the edge of Rochester, he's shocked at leaving their lively neighborhood. And when his father tells him he must learn to drive a team of horses to help with the move, Lewis is at a loss for words at the thought of this daunting task—and has no choice but to agree.



Frederick & Anna Douglass:
\$19.99 + tax

Frederick Douglass—author, orator and former slave—spent 25 years with his family in Rochester, beginning in 1848. Despite living through one of our nation's most terrifying times, Frederick and his wife, Anna, raised five children in a loving home with flower, fruit and vegetable gardens. While Frederick traveled widely, fighting for the freedom and rights of his brethren,

Anna cared for their home and family. Their house was open to fugitives on the Underground Railroad and visiting abolitionists who stayed for weeks and months at a time. This book weaves the story of the Douglass' experience in Rochester and the indelible mark they left on the Flower City.

Historic Genesee Country: \$19.99 + tax

Genesee Country—composed of Allegany, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Monroe and Ontario Counties near the Genesee River in Western New York, is rich in local history with national importance. The Seneca and Algonkin nations once called this lush land home, and after the American Revolution, settlers came in hordes to till the soil and raise families. The region later became a hotbed of activity for abolitionists, early supporters of women's rights and religious movements that influenced the entire United States. In this book, Rose O'Keefe chronicles the sites where these and other important events took place.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 18, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

PHS Yuletide Traditions

Opening bids accepted for silent auction holiday items

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Program: History of Music Boxes

Presenter: Craig Smith

Saturday, November 22, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Book signing by Author Rose O'Keefe

Her books will include *Special Delivery: From One Stop to Another on the Underground Railroad*; *Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester*; *New York: Their Home Was Open to All*; and *Historic Genesee County: A Guide to Its Lands and Legacies*

Saturday, December 6, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

Book signing by children's author Dorothy Stacy

She will be signing copies of her *Erie Canal Cousins* series

Tuesday, December 9, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Historical Museum

PHS Yuletide Traditions

Final bids accepted for silent auction holiday items. Silent auction winners will be announced at the conclusion of the evening's program.

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

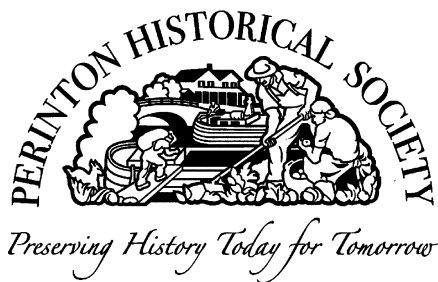
At the Fairport Historical Museum

Annual Holiday Party & Program

Christmas Traditions: Their Meaning and How they Started
Presenter: Christine Mott.

Please bring a dessert to pass.

Note: All programs now begin at 7:00 p.m.



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2014 photo by Keith Boas

Fairport Historical Museum

18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the hours below:

Saturday 9:00–11:00 a.m.	Tuesday 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00–4:00 p.m.	Thursday 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org