



## The Pittinaro House

*By Patrick L. Pittinaro*

*The essay below was recently penned by Patrick L. Pittinaro. At my request, he has kindly provided it for publication here. Patrick grew up in Fairport and is a son of Frank and Carmella Pittinaro.*

*Editor*

I was six years old in 1953 when my parents, Frank and Carmella Pittinaro bought the home at 42–44 South Main Street. The house was in a state of disrepair and needed a complete renovation. We were living above 32 South Main Street. It became extremely cramped in 1950 when my brother came along and four of us were living in a one bedroom apartment.

Frank and his brothers, (Earl, Sam and Tony) took a year to renovate the house before we occupied the home. The entire house was jacked up, leveled and reset on 6x6 posts. The house was also rewired and Frank almost died from a live 220 line. His brother Tony was next to him and pushed him away from the wire. The house, as purchased, had 14 rooms (eight bedrooms, six parlors and living rooms) and four bathrooms. Frank and his brothers converted it into four apartments. I remember everything that went on during the purchase and renovation. Cisterns in the basement were removed, the floor leveling, the painting, the electrical work, everything.

I was a helper whenever possible, tagging along behind my father. It was a fun and exciting time for my family. I was getting my own room and so was my brother Frank.

The two story carriage house behind the main home was completely renovated in 1957–58. The building was jacked up off its wooden foundation and eight foot cinder block walls were constructed to support the structure. Once complete, the downstairs served as Frank's Tack Repair Shop. When Frank built things, he built them to last. The cinder block walls were filled with concrete, rebar and stones. When the Urban Renewal bull dozer hit that wall, the driver was in for a shock—and a headache. The wall would not budge.



Home of Frank and Carmella Pittinaro and family on South Main Street, circa 1965

*From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society*

Frank Pittinaro was a World War II veteran. In 1942 he graduated from The Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas and served with the First Cavalry in Africa and Italy. Upon return from service, Frank attended the Doctor Scholl's Training School in Chicago, Illinois where he studied Anatomy, Physiology, Foot Deformity and treatments. He graduated in 1948. From 1948 to 1963, Frank worked with his brother Tony at Tony's Shoe Repair—32 South Main Street. In 1964 he opened Frank's Shoe and Tack Repair in Victor, New York.

Carmella (Pedulla) Pittinaro was a successful businesswoman who ran a beauty parlor in the front room of 42 South Main. After graduating from Geneva High School, Carm entered MME Minerva Beauty Academy in Syracuse, New York and graduated in 1939. After interning under the tutelage of Mamie Capelli, Carm opened

*Continued on page 4*



## Comments from your President

November 15, 2015: Sitting at my computer as I prepare to write my comments for the December *Historigram*, a beautiful sunny but cool day is the view from my office window. The heavy winds from the past few days have moved off to the east.

~ **Bob Hunt** ~

One benefit from the heavy winds is that the large maple tree in our yard has finally given up its leaves, which it doesn't like to do until the very last moment. The stubbornness of this maple usually causes the final raking of the yard to be completed in the colder days of mid-November. Maybe I'll finish during a couple of nice days forecast for this coming week, although we might use the time for a last bicycle ride. We need 21 miles to get us to 1,600 for the year.

A very special event was held this past Veterans Day in the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial erected next to the new entrance of the library off Kennelley Park. At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs members seeking ways to honor our service men and women planted 8,000 dogwood trees along five miles of a New Jersey highway, later to be designated the Blue Star Drive by the state legislature. The project was named for the blue star found in the service flag which hung in the windows of homes and businesses to honor service men and women. This program using the blue star in honoring our veterans was soon adopted by many National Garden Clubs across the country.

While it originally began to honor WWII veterans, the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker project enlarged its mission in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. The by-way marker was changed from its original design in 1981 so it could be placed in areas such as parks, civic and historical grounds. In 1994 the more descriptive wording "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America" was added. Then in 1996 the word "Highway" was eliminated and in 2004 it allowed for the scope of this marker to be placed in other appropriate civic locations.

Thus through the efforts of Joyce Lyle, Chairman of the Seventh District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Section VIII, we now have a Blue Star Memorial in Kennelley Park. I did not know that Fairport has three garden clubs; the Fairport Garden Club, Four Seasons Garden Club and Greenbrier Garden Club, which is the club that maintains the museum's gardens so beautifully. Joyce is a member of the Greenbrier Garden Club. I thank her for bringing the Blue Star Memorial to our community and also to the Greenbrier members for their volunteer work at the museum. It is appreciated.



**Veterans Day,  
Kennelley Park,  
November 11, 2015:**

PHS member and Federated Garden Clubs of NYS Section Chairman Joyce Lyle gave opening remarks at the Blue Star Memorial By-Way dedication.

Standing with Joyce are VFW representative Bill Kuhn on the left and the post's Past Commander Pat Cammilleri.



During some free moments while doing my docent duty at the museum, I spent some time looking through the dozen or so cookbooks found in the Cookbook section of the reference library. Some of the very interesting cookbooks found there include "Fairport Historical Club" 1929 and 1946, "Seasons Greetings" from the Staff of Martha Brown Jr. HS (1980), "Fairport Business and Professional Women's Club" (1987), and "Fairport's Favorite Recipes" by the women of the First Methodist Church (1950). It was in this last cookbook that Cindy's mother Mrs. Frank Wood, or Dooley as known by her friends, had submitted a couple of recipes. One, "Apple Crisp," was immediately made the following Sunday when the granddaughters and family were over for dinner. The other recipe submitted by Dooley is a family favorite especially during the holidays. It is for "Shoo-fly Pie." Some of Cindy's ancestors are Pennsylvania Dutch, and she still has the recipe card with her grandmother's handwriting for the recipe. Check with Cindy: She might share the recipe or you can always find it in the Cookbook section at the museum. Enjoy.

As we enter another holiday season, let us pause and reflect on the many blessings we enjoy as a family and community. **Peace, Love and Joy** to all.

Bob Hunt, President  
585-415-7053, [rhunt1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rhunt1@rochester.rr.com)

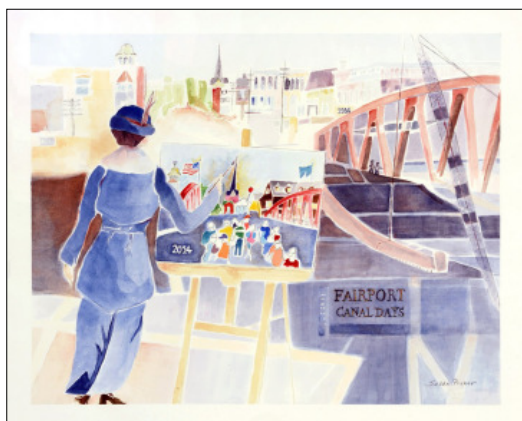
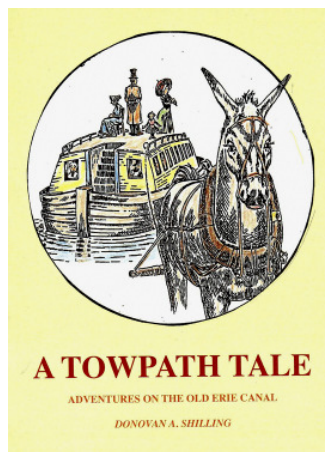




## Book Signing by Fairport Native Donovan Shilling

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
at the Fairport Historical Museum

Fairport native Donovan Shilling, the author of 15 books about local history, will be available to sign copies of his books. *A Towpath Tale*, *Rochester's Movie Mania*, *Made in Rochester*, and several other titles will be available for purchase and signing (starting at \$20; cash or checks accepted).



## Fairport Artist Susan Prener Painting Unveiling and Art Sale

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00–3:30 p.m.  
at the Fairport Historical Museum

Join the Perinton Historical Society in welcoming Fairport artist Susan Prener at the museum on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00–3:30 p.m. Ms. Prener generously donated her original watercolor, *100 Years of Lift Bridge Inspiration*, to the Perinton Historical Society in 2014. At 2:00 p.m. the accessioned painting will be publicly unveiled as part of the museum's collection. Hand-signed prints of the watercolor are available for \$18 and \$30 in the museum gift shop where cash or checks are accepted. Additionally, until 3:30 p.m., there will be time to enjoy other samples of her artwork and, perhaps find something special for yourself or as a gift. (Multiple prices; credit cards accepted by the artist.)

## Annual Holiday Party & Program: The Happiest Music on Earth Presented by Tim Wagner

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
at the Fairport Historical Museum

**Please bring  
a dessert to  
share!**

Circling their way into our memory, carousels and their painted ponies hold a special place in our hearts. And what is a carousel ride without the lilting waltzes and stirring marches pealing forth from the band organ? Like the brass ring game of the carousel, however, the band organ has all but disappeared from the public landscape in favor of recorded music. Band organ enthusiast Tim Wagner will share his passion for outdoor mechanical music with a presentation on the mechanical musical marvel that is the band organ. Fear not, band organ music is alive and well throughout the world. Come and see!



Hearing his first band organ on the Roseland Park carousel in Canandaigua, New York, Tim Wagner was hooked! Amusement parks and roller coasters featured prominently in Tim's photography and filmmaking interests in college. A career in film, broadcast television, and corporate communications led to Tim's current vocation as a film archivist at George Eastman House. A charter member of the Carousel Organ Association of America, Tim is Fairport's finest (and only) organ grinder, proudly entertaining folks with Finster Baby, a 20-note Austrian built busker organ.

Immediately preceding this program, from 6:00–7:00 p.m., final bids will be accepted for the *Yuletide Traditions* silent auction items of decorated trees, wreaths and gift baskets. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the program. All proceeds will support the Perinton Historical Society, its operation of the Fairport Historical Museum, and its educational programs.





*"Pittinaro House" continued from page 1*

1914 photograph by Saunders of the Fairport E.A. Slocum Post, Grand Army of the Republic. The grand home in the background is that of the Morey family, South Main Street, Fairport.

*From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society*

opened her own shop in Fairport, NY. The original shop was above 32 South Main Street but was relocated to 42 South Main Street in 1954 after Frank completed the renovation.

The house provided many fond memories for friends and family. The large porch was full of family and friends whenever there was a parade down Main Street. The beauty parlor had a sliding door and when opened, a large formal dining room was created. This extended room was a wonderful setting for holiday meals and regular visits from out-of-town family. The parlor had a large black marble fireplace and 12 foot ceilings. At Christmas a 12 foot Christmas tree always filled the room. A spiral staircase led to the second floor. Tenants often became long-term friends of the family. Life across the street from the fire hall created its own unique challenges. Overnight guests were always rudely awakened by the 7:00 a.m. whistle or by late-night fire sirens.

There was almost an acre of land behind the house for us to play. The acre included two wooden out-buildings (large tool sheds), a two-story carriage house, two large vegetable gardens, multiple flower gardens, many fruit trees and several very large English walnut trees. There were a ton of flower beds and red raspberry bushes. I sold flowers and red raspberries in front of the house to people who were going into the



Early 1900s image from a glass-plate negative. Unidentified passengers in the driveway of the Morey-Pittinaro home on South Main Street.

*From the Town of Perinton Historical Archives*

Market Basket. Fairport was small back then, less than 5,000 people. Everybody knew everybody. I knew every store owner and they knew me.

Frank and Carmella were reluctant participants in the Urban Renewal Project. After resisting a sale, the property was eventually deeded to The Village of Fairport Urban Renewal Agency via Eminent Domain on January 14, 1975. A 90-day notice to vacate was issued May 1, 1975.







Store sign of S. Morey & Son is visible in the upper left hand corner of this early 1900s image showing South Main Street.

## Before the Pittinaro House

*By Bill Poray*

In the early years, Fairport's Main Street commercial district was lined with small frame houses, the homes of some of our early settlers. Over time, many were enlarged and modified for commercial use. Others were removed to different village locations to provide a prime building lot for larger houses or commercial blocks. To build what would later become the Pittinaro home, Smith Morey and his wife Martha had an old rambling frame house removed from the lot. It had been the property of early Fairport physician Elias A. Clark, and was located approximately across from where Fairport's Village Hall has stood since early in the 20th century.

Notes have been uncovered that indicate the old house was split to create two homes and relocated to George Street. It is believed that the homes at 8 and 12 George Street were created from the early South Main Street home, relocated to make way for what later became the Pittinaro place.

It will not be a surprise to many readers that the mover of the old home was probably George Filkins. He populated many of the lots on George and Filkins Streets with relocated homes, and often was the builder of the new houses on lots vacated by the old, perhaps including the Pittinaro house.



## Donation from Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association (FPMA) presented the Perinton Historical Society with a \$500 donation for PHS's outstanding service to the community. FPMA Treasurer Ed Bradford and FPMA President Doug Sharp made the presentation. Our thanks go to the Merchants Association for their generosity and show of appreciation.

From left to right: Ed Bradford, Bob Hunt, Vicki Masters Proffitt, Pat May and Doug Sharp



# *Yuletide Traditions*

The PHS holiday fundraiser



## ***With Appreciation***

to the individuals, organizations and businesses that  
donated to **Yuletide Traditions**:

Sue Broda, Anne Johnston  
& May Thomson  
Marlene Caroselli  
The Corner Bookstore  
Craft Bits and Pieces  
Diane Prince Furniture  
and Gifts  
Fairport Brewing Company  
Marie Nowaczyk & Carol Stahl,  
Fairport Garden Club  
Fairport Girl Scout Cadette,  
Troop 60336  
Fairport Rotary  
Cindy German  
Roberta DiLella,  
Greenbrier Garden Club  
Joyce Lyle,  
Greenbrier Garden Club  
Emily Webster,  
Greenbrier Garden Club  
Mary Hammele  
Terry Holt  
Bob Hunt  
Suzanne Lee

Deborah Wilcox Mabry  
& Kaitlyn Pospiech  
James Lyle & Chris Bourque,  
Mark's Pizzeria  
Eric Matson, Fotominnen LLC  
Lucy McCormick  
Bob McVea  
Perinton Quilt Guild  
Susan Prener  
Vicki Masters Profitt  
Red Bird Market  
Wendy Rugaber,  
Revelations Design Studio  
Gail Rybicki  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian P. Spindler  
State Farm, Rita Prince Insurance  
Jane Stock, Carol Klinger &  
Cheryl True  
Supergirl Fitness  
Sue Templeton  
Sylvia Vecellio  
Barb Wild,  
Wagonjack Antiques  
Wegmans Perinton



## With Appreciation to the ***Yuletide Traditions*** Committee

The Perinton Historical Society is fortunate to have a dedicated team spearheading the 2015 *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser. Thanks for all your efforts:

Ann Castle  
Joyce Hawkinson  
Bob Hunt  
Suzanne Lee  
Joyce Lyle  
Deborah Wilcox Mabry  
Pat May  
Lucy McCormick  
Vicki Masters Profit  
Liz Rhody  
Sue Scheirer  
Jolene Smith  
Karen Wickens  
Linda Wiener



## ***Yuletide Traditions*** Last Chance to Bid— December 8<sup>th</sup>

The PHS is so appreciative of the support we have received from the community for our second annual *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser. The area individuals, organizations and businesses listed on page 6 generously donated artificial Christmas trees, wreaths and gift baskets to the PHS. Those beautiful items will be silent auctioned off, with bids being taken during open museum hours until 7:00 p.m. on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Winners of the silent auctions will be announced following the December 8<sup>th</sup> annual holiday party and program. Please stop by to view and bid on the beautifully decorated donations, and to support the local authors and artists who will be at the museum showcasing their works during this three-week event.

Check the *Upcoming Events* list on page 9 for details. All proceeds from the silent auctions benefit the Perinton Historical Society. We appreciate your support!

## **Special Recognition Level Memberships**

*As of November 14, 2015*

### **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  
Tel: 585-267-6189 / Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

**Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith**  
103 North Main Street, Fairport  
Tel: 585-388-011 / Website: <http://www.thefvi.com>

**Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty**  
2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618  
Tel: 585-303-6607 / Website: <http://bobruhland.yourkwagent.com>

### **DeLand (\$100–\$249)**

**Padraic Neville**  
**Anonymous**

## Gift Ideas in the Museum Gift Shop

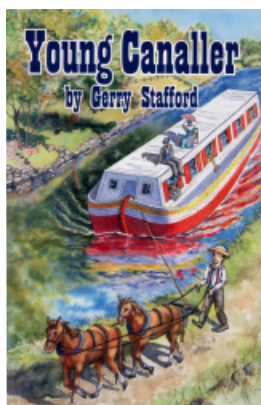
The Perinton Historical Society has once again commissioned a Christmas tree ornament pertaining to our local history. This year's ornament, selling for \$10, features the Carl W. Peters mural, which graces an interior wall of the museum. Other new Carl Peters items in the gift shop include bookmarks, magnets, greeting cards and artwork featuring our mural.

Check out our gift shop for other exciting gift ideas. We have everything from autographed books to Erie Canal playing cards, hurdy gurdies to historic postcard prints.

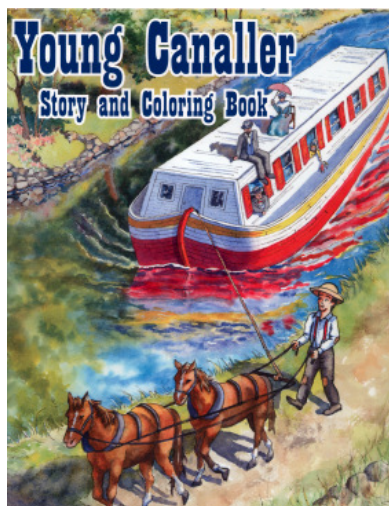


New in the museum gift shop—

A Christmas ornament featuring the Carl W. Peters mural, which graces the interior of the museum. The ornament makes a nice companion piece to the Fairport Lift Bridge ornament introduced last December. (There are still a few of the Lift Bridge ornaments remaining for sale in the gift shop.)



Above book—\$8.95  
Story & Coloring Book—\$5.95

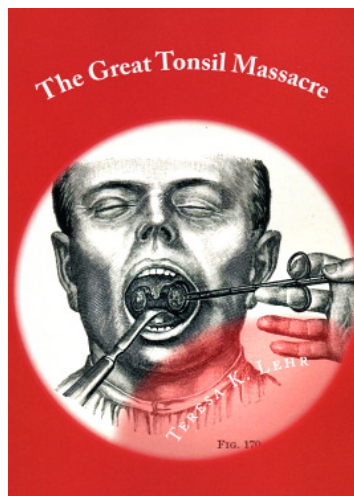


Also new at the gift shop, just in time for Christmas, is the book *Young Canaller* and a coloring book by the same name—both by author Gerry Stafford. They make excellent gifts for young people ages 8–12. The story features the adventures of a 13-year old boy, fresh off the boat from Ireland, who gets a job driving horses on the canal towpath. The publications are great ways to get youngsters interested in the fascinating history of the Erie Canal. The author is a retired grade school teacher from Lockport.

## The Great Tonsil Massacre

Presented by  
Teresa K. Lehr

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
at the Fairport Public Library



In 1920 George Eastman, Harvey Burkhardt DDS, and Health Officer Dr. George Goler convinced other community leaders that several thousand of Rochester's children were in dire need of preventative surgery to remove tonsils and adenoids, glandular "menaces" that they claimed were reservoirs where microbes causing contagious diseases incubated. A propaganda campaign enticed parents of limited means to have their children examined, and for those deemed to need the operation, to give their permission for the surgery, paying only \$5 per child.

The first clinic opened at the Rochester Dental Dispensary in late July and lasted through early September. Fourteen hundred operations were performed in these seven weeks, but hundreds of children remained on the waiting list.

Encouraged by the clinic's success and prompted by the Health Officer's estimate that 18,000 additional children needed operations, the leaders created a second clinic, which opened in January 1921 at the Convention Hall (now GEVA Theater). Four hundred children per week underwent surgery that spring.

Besides detailing this story, this presentation will follow a Fairport youngster, whose family would have qualified for the program, through his or her experience in the busy metropolis.

For most of her working years, Teresa K. Lehr taught English, first in junior high schools and later at The College at Brockport. In the 1990s, she was the assistant curator at the Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives at Rochester General Hospital where she became fascinated with the history of local health care. She is the author of several articles and books.

This program is sponsored by the Fairport Public Library, and reservations are required. Please call 223-9091 or visit [www.FairportLibrary.org](http://www.FairportLibrary.org) for reservation details.

This event is free, and is open to the public.



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum**  
**Book Signing** by author Donovan Shilling who will sign copies of *A Towpath Tale*, *Rochester's Movie Mania* and *Made in Rochester*, plus several other titles. Cash and checks accepted.

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00–3:30 p.m. at the museum**  
**Art Sale** by Fairport artist Susan Prener who generously donated her original watercolor, *100 Years of Lift Bridge Inspiration*, to the PHS in 2014. At 2:00 p.m. the painting will be unveiled as part of the museum's collection. Susan will have her artwork available for sale until 3:30 p.m. Multiple pieces and prices. Credit cards accepted.

**Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the museum**  
Annual Holiday Party & Program: *History of Band Organs & Christmas Sing-Along*  
Presenter: Tim Wagner. Please bring a dessert to pass.

**Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Fairport Library**  
**The Great Tonsil Massacre**  
Presenter: Author Teresa K. Lehr  
**Note:** This program is sponsored by the Fairport Public Library, and registration is required. Please call 223-9091 or visit [www.FairportLibrary.org](http://www.FairportLibrary.org) for reservation details.

**Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the museum**  
**Traveling the Erie Canal Through Postcards**  
Presenter: Frank Sadowski

## Peters Mural Brings MAG Visitors

The Perinton Historical Society hosted 50 visitors from the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) Council's bus tour on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The group began their day by visiting the Carl Peters murals at Charlotte High School before boarding the bus, which brought them to our museum. Bill wowed the crowd with his in-depth observations about our own Peters mural before delving into the life of the Fairport artist. After spending nearly 40 minutes at the museum, the visitors went to Mr. Dominic's on Main for lunch. They then were bused to Rochester to see the remaining two Peters murals. Several of our members were on the bus and overheard favorable comments regarding the PHS presentation and the accessibility of our own mural.

Kudos to Bill Poray for presiding over the group, and to Catherine Angevine for assisting with questions and preparing the museum for the MAG's visit.



## Full House for Historic Highlights Presentation

Fairport Historical Museum, November 17<sup>th</sup>: Once again, Bill Poray has presented an evening program to a packed house! Bill's illustrated and highly entertaining talk *Historic Highlights and Heartwarming Discoveries* included new information, which he's uncovered about historic people and places in our community.

His presentation included a display of rare paintings, which were salvaged during the demolition of the home of painter Carl Peters; glass-plate negatives of local homes and horses from the very early 1900s, which were donated by PHS members Bill and Connie Foster; a gravestone from the backyard of a landmark house on South Main Street, and early color 16 mm home movies from the late 1930s. Especially heart-wrenching was the story of the movies, shot by a young Fairport Baird Road man, Bob Kramer, just before he was married and left to fight—and die—in World War II.

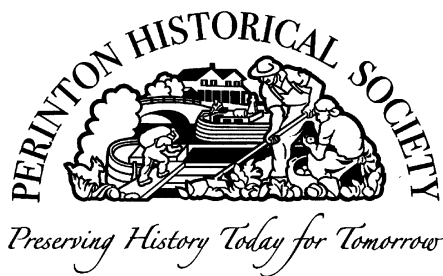
*Bill Poray is the Town of Perinton Historian, a trustee of the Perinton Historical Society, and editor of this publication.*



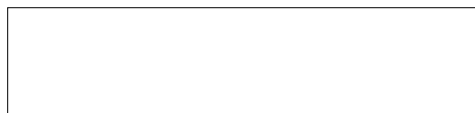
### HISTORIGRAM

*Published nine months per year by the  
Perinton Historical Society*

Editor: Bill Poray      Art Director: Keith Boas  
Production & Distribution: Jim Unckless  
Proofreading: Irene Poray



**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Permit No. 149  
Fairport, NY 14450



2012 photo by Keith Boas

***Season's Greetings from the Perinton Historical Society***

The Fairport Historical Museum—18 Perrin Street, Fairport—will be closed from December 21<sup>th</sup> through February 27<sup>th</sup>. It will reopen on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. During this period, you may call Vicki Masters Profitt at 585-233-1204 or email at [director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org) to book a group tour or do research.

**[www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org)**