

A Blacksmith, a Veterinarian, and Horseless Carriages

By Bill Poray

One man worked with fire and metal to make horseshoes. Another was a horse doctor. And yet another sold horseless carriages. All did their work in different decades, on the same plot of land in the village of Fairport.

First of a two-part series

An empty lot rests quietly just north of the Fairport First Baptist Church. Before long a new building will rise from the ground, part of the ever changing landscape in our community. Some will mourn the loss of what was there before, repeating a process that occurred almost one hundred years earlier. For on this small plot of land, buildings and people have come and gone.

Henry H. Norman was born in England in 1821. He came to the United States when just a boy, and after a brief period in Macedon and Penfield, he and his young wife, Cassandra, and infant daughter, Elizabeth, settled in Fairport in 1845.

A blacksmith by trade, Norman set up his shop at the corner of what is now Fairport's North Main Street and Lift Bridge Lane. He built his family a wood frame house on South Main Street, steps from a newly built small wooden church, the first home of Fairport's Baptists. The Normans populated their home with four daughters, first Elizabeth, then Henrietta, Alice, and Adella.

Like many others, the Norman house likely grew with the family. In various documents, Henry Norman's occupation was listed as a blacksmith and also a contractor, so perhaps he built the family home himself. He also served for a time as Fairport's postmaster. At the age of 56, his health began to fail, both physically and mentally.



Comparison of a circa 1910 postcard with a contemporary photograph. The subject of this article is the house on the far left—an early Greek revival house later replaced with Hupp Motors, then modified for use by the Fairport First Baptist Church.

Postcard (left) from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

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Comments from your President

January 14, 2016:

Greetings and Happy New Year. Winter is finally upon us after the warmest December on record. One can tell it has been warmer by checking the heating degree days on the back of the Democrat & Chronicle Sports section. To date the heating

degree days number is 2228, which is more than 700 below the normal. To refresh your memory, a heating degree day is an index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day. So the colder it is, the higher the number on a given day.

One of the joys Cindy and I have during the winter season are the birds who come to visit at our feeders located over our back patio just outside a sliding glass door. We have our share of cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, juncos, tufted titmouse (or titmice?), nut hatches, sparrows, goldfinches and mourning doves. On occasion we have a visitor passing through like the rose breasted grosbeak who spent a few days with us last winter. The grosbeak was enjoying the seeds from the cones on our hemlock tree.



An ear of corn provides a feast for this Perinton squirrel on a cold winter day.

Photo by
Keith Boas

Also, there are several squirrels that enjoy hanging out at the feeders as well and get frustrated at times with the lack of seeds on the ground. You can watch them look up at the feeders with the thought, "Up there is where I want to be." The feeders are hung from a clothesline that I put up over the patio in the fall. At some point during the winter, the squirrels will try to tight rope out to the hanging feeders. However, one of the feeders closes when the weight of the squirrel is applied and the other two are tube feeders with plastic domes over the top. The squirrels can usually get to the tube feeders, but once on the dome, they find them tipping and dumping

HISTORIGRAM

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Perinton Historical Society

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them to the ground. They will make several attempts but will eventually give up.

This past week Mother Nature helped the squirrels when the heavy winds blew one of the tube feeders free and smashing to the patio. The result was a sunflower seed buffet for the squirrels and a repair job for me, fixing the broken feeder. Oh well—the joy of watching nature.

The *Yuletide Traditions* event was a huge success this year, and many thanks go out to our members, merchants, and clubs who donated items for the auction. Also thanks to all who bid for the items. This event brings in dollars, which are extremely useful for your museum. When you go by the Fairport Village Inn notice the nice PEACE sign that Wayne Beckwith purchased at the event for hanging on the Inn's front porch.

The museum is closed until March, but if you want to visit for some reason, give me a call, as I live only about two blocks away and will gladly meet and let you in the door.

Thanks for your continued support, and we will chat again next month.

Bob Hunt, President
585-415-7053, rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



Sign Maker Leaves Photographic Legacy

Edgar C. Holt created business signs for storefronts and work trucks in Fairport, East Rochester, and other nearby communities from the 1930s to the 1950s. We have him to thank for many important images of our community, as he photographed much of his work.

The photographs of Edgar Holt are preserved as part of the collection of the Perinton Historical Society.



Edgar Holt's Certo sign displayed near the corner of North Main Street and Lift Bridge Lane, formerly State Street. The northwest corner of the Box Factory building is constructed on the stone foundation visible in this image.



Holt's sign for the Fairport Department Store, located in the Bown building on the west side of South Main Street.



Yuletide Traditions Success!

The 2015 Yuletide Traditions was a great success. More than \$2,100 was raised for museum programs and operations. Several hundred people attended programs and events, the final event being a spirited musical presentation on band organs. By the numbers, 58 silent auction items were donated by 40 donors and were purchased by 36 winning bidders.

A successful Yuletide Traditions takes a "village," and the "village" certainly responded, from the enthusiastic YT committee, the kind donors that included individuals, organizations and businesses, and the generous bidders who engaged in some fierce bidding wars.

Thank you, all!

Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of January 15, 2016

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>

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport
Phone: 585-388-0112
Website: <http://www.thefvi.com>

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty

2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-303-6607
Website: <http://bobruhland.yourkwagent.com>

DeLand (\$100-\$249) Year to date: 21

Kevin Kesby

Duncan Moore and Gunta Lidars

Anonymous

DeLand (\$250-\$499) Year to date: 5

"A Blacksmith..." continued from page 1

The Norman's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, married local merchant Burton Howe, the son of a prominent Perinton family, in 1864. She and her husband moved in with her parents on South Main Street and helped care for her ailing father until his death in 1885. Mr. Howe was successful in a number of retail partnerships, most notably the firm of Howe and Kellogg, located in the Ives Block and later in the Bown Block, a short walk from the Norman-Howe home.



Burton Howe and his wife Elizabeth Norman Howe. She lived in the house for all but the first two years of her life.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

THE HERALD.
FAIRPORT N. Y.,
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1880.

Howe & Kellogg's

3

MOTTOES!

The Best Goods,"
"At The Lowest Prices."
"For Cash."

HOWE & KELLOGG,
THE NEW CASH STORE,
Ives Block, No., 15 Main Street.

1880 advertisement for the store of Burton Howe and Myron Kellogg, first located in the Ives Block at 15 South Main Street and later in the Bown Block



Circa 1911 photograph of the South Main Street home of Dr. Payne and family, including a son, George. Doctor Payne was well known in the Perinton community.

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society



Detail from the above 1911 photo of the South Main Street home. Note the signs for Payne's veterinarian business on both the house and barn.

Elizabeth Norman Howe and her husband Burton Howe lived the rest of their lives in the South Main Street home, first in the shadow of the little frame church built by the Baptists, and later in the much larger shadow of the towering red brick church, which replaced it. Burton Howe died in 1904, and Elizabeth Norman Howe just six months later, in January of 1905. She was 61 years of age and lived in the same house for all but the first two year years of her life.

The next owners of the Norman-Howe home were Marvin and Alice Jewell. Mr. Jewell was a land speculator and real estate developer. Both he and his wife were very active in the Fairport Grange. They remained at the South Main Street address for only five years, and in 1910 sold the house to veterinarian Walter J. Payne and his wife, Elizabeth Fogerty Payne.



Grant Lewis (left) visits with his friend Doctor Walter Payne (right) at the office of the veterinarian in the Chadwick Block on South Main Street. Doctor Payne's diploma from the Ontario Veterinary College in Toronto hangs on the wall above the head of Grant Lewis.

Circa 1902–1904

From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

Doctor Payne relocated his family and animal hospital from a location on West Avenue to the barn behind the South Main Street residence. Properties on village streets had recently been assigned address numbers for the first time. The new Payne residence was number 58. Due to more increased development over the next several years, the street was renumbered and the Payne house became 92 South Main Street.

Walter J. Payne was born in Macedon in 1872. After attending Macedon Academy he studied at the Ontario Veterinary College in Toronto. Upon his graduation, he began his practice in Genesee County. Fairport newspaper *The Monroe County Mail* announced the arrival of Fairport's newest resident in 1899. Commonly known as W.J. Payne:

"...a veterinary surgeon who has had seven years' experience at Oakfield, has come to Fairport and has rooms in the Chadwick block. He comes well recommended, his popularity in Oakfield being attested by a gold watch which was presented him by the fire company of that place just previous to his coming to Fairport."

The veterinarian and his family lived in the Norman-Howe-Jewell-Payne house from 1910 to 1920, until a purchase offer was received from a local pharmacist. Albert Hupp arrived in Fairport on Christmas day, 1909, and soon opened the A.B. Hupp Drug Company. With the explosion of automobiles taking America by storm, Hupp, being interested in all things



A tilting table is used to position the patient for a medical procedure. Dr. W.J. Payne is in the center of the photo, behind the horse.

From the Town of Perinton Historic Archives

mechanical, was awarded a Ford franchise. By August of 1920, he had gained possession of the Payne property at 92 South Main Street. Before long, where horses were once cared for by Fairport's village veterinarian, horseless carriages would be sold and serviced at Hupp Motors.





Boy Scout Austin Quintana and his father Keith, by some of their freshly painted work at the Fairport Historical Museum

Austin Quintana Completes Eagle Scout Project at the Museum

Visitors to the Fairport Historical Museum may have noticed the fresh coat of paint on the stairwell and outside the program room on their way down to our November and December programs. That is all due to Austin Quintana of Fairport Boy Scout Troop 208, who chose to paint those areas to earn his Eagle Scout rank. In October, Austin mustered together his crew, who got down to business by washing walls, taping around windows and trim, and painting the walls.

We appreciate Austin's determination to accomplish the task and the fine job he and his team did to spruce up the lower level at the museum. Special thanks also goes to Austin's dad, Keith Quintana, for painting the high walls of the stairwell, and to Ray Shaheen of R.C. Shaheen Paint & Decorating Centers for supplying the paint. Well done, Austin!

The Museum Needs You!

The Fairport Historical Museum is always looking for volunteers to staff the museum. If you can give of your time for one two-hour shift per month, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Scheirer, at 585-377-3789 or by email at dscheir1@rochester.rr.com.

Coming this Month



Circa-1910 postcard of the Rochester Aqueduct and Erie Canal
From the Frank Sadowski postcard archives

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

The earliest known postcard is postmarked December of 1848, though common use of postcards did not occur until much later. Thus, the earliest postcards with images of the Erie Canal feature the enlarged Erie Canal of 1836 through 1905, which stretched from Buffalo to Albany. Some features and areas of the enlarged Erie Canal were favorite subjects of postcard publishers, particularly the Flight of Five Locks at Lockport, Genesee River Aqueduct at Rochester, canal in the center of Syracuse, Syracuse Weighlock Building, and Mohawk River Aqueducts at Schenectady.

Frank Sadowski is a former librarian, having retired from the University of Rochester Libraries in 2009 after 20 years of service as a cataloger. Previous employers were the Pennsylvania State University Libraries, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Library, and the University of Virginia Medical Center Library.

As a child in Maryland, Frank sang the *Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal* song in school, never thinking that he would live within a four block walk of the canal, and have the canal take up so much of his life.

Webmaster of **The Erie Canal** (<http://www.eriecanal.org>), Frank is a member of the Canal Society of New York, Friends of Schoharie Crossing (Fort Hunter, NY), Camillus Canal Society (Camillus, NY), and Wabash & Erie Canal Association (Delphi, IN).



~ The Early Days ~

100 Years Ago This Month

From the Fairport Herald Newspaper



THE MODEL BAKERY AND LUNCH ROOM
O. E. SPRINGETT, Proprietor 14 South Main Street



**"That's
Just the
Weight You
Asked For"**

WE don't like to say it, but it's true that some meat dealers either skimp you on weight or purposely weigh you more than you ask for. Such DISHONESTY doesn't pay. We ABSOLUTELY give FULL WEIGHT, and we don't purposely give a half pound too much in order to charge you a few cents more. YOU weigh US on TRIAL.

JOHN D. WEBB'S PURE FOOD MARKET

12 West Avenue

Merchants' Delivery.

Both Phones

Annual Treasurer's Report

Linda Wiener

The following is a summary of the financial status of the Perinton Historical Society for the fiscal year ended 8/31/15.

Income

Membership Dues	\$10,000
Grants	14,706
Gift Shop	4,701
Donations	4,592
Education Contributions	1,455
Special Events	1,383
Interest Income	29

Total Income \$36,866

Expense

Depreciation	\$11,104
Museum	6,465
Building	3,178
Gift Shop	3,686
Historigram	2,137
Educational Outreach	2,000
Office Expense	1,904
Special Events	1,236
Membership	500
Programs	490

Total Expense \$32,700

Net Operating Income/(Loss) \$4,166

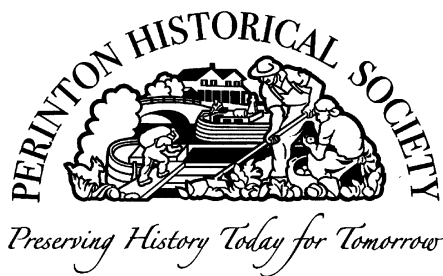
Net Assets:

Cash & Equivalents	\$29,568
Gift Shop Inventory	5,740
Community Foundation Funds	86,077
Deferred Revenue	<u>(5,975)</u>

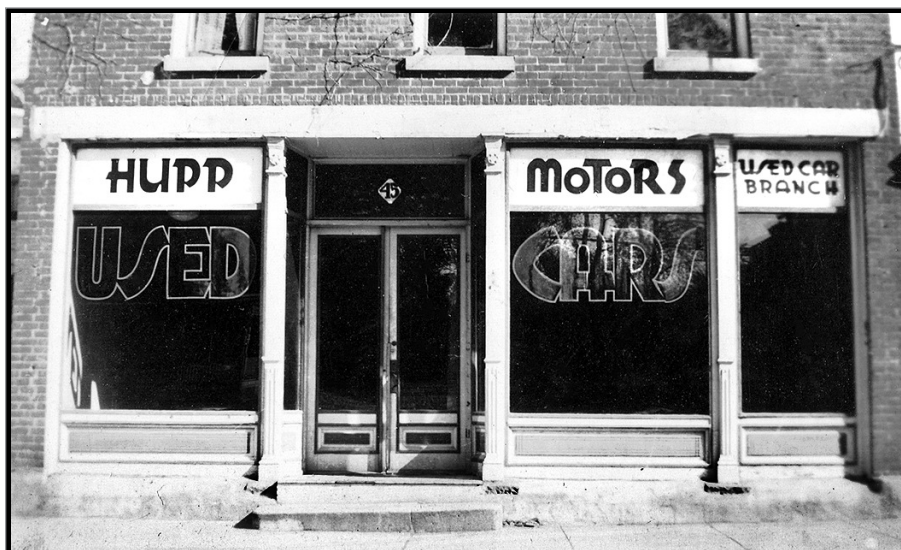
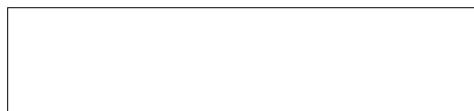
Net Assets \$115,410

Notes: Cash & equivalents include \$1,000 for the Educational Outreach and funds in bank accounts and CDs that are available in one year or less. Of this \$24,362 was held in checking and money market accounts. The remainder is in CDs maturing at various times during the year. The Community Foundation Funds are available upon approval of the PHS Board of Directors. The interest and dividends earned on these funds are returned to PHS annually in the form of a grant totaling \$3,402 in 2015. Depreciation expense is a non-cash item recorded according to generally accepted accounting principles as an offset to fixed assets purchased during the year. Fixed assets totaling \$11,104 were purchased with one-time grant funds awarded by the Community Foundation.

PHS files and pays sales tax annually related to gift shop sales, files 1099s annually and files an Informational Return-990-N with the IRS. PHS is registered with the New York States Charities Bureau but is exempt from filing an annual return. All tax filings are current.



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



Sign Maker Edgar Holt created signs for many of the storefronts in Fairport during the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The building pictured here, at 45 South Main Street, is now a branch office of the Fairport Savings Bank. For more on Edgar Holt's signs, see page 3.

The **Fairport Historical Museum**—18 Perrin Street, Fairport—is closed through February 27th. It will reopen on Sunday, February 28th. During this period, you may call Vicki Masters Proffitt at 585-233-1204 or email at director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org to book a group tour or do research.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org