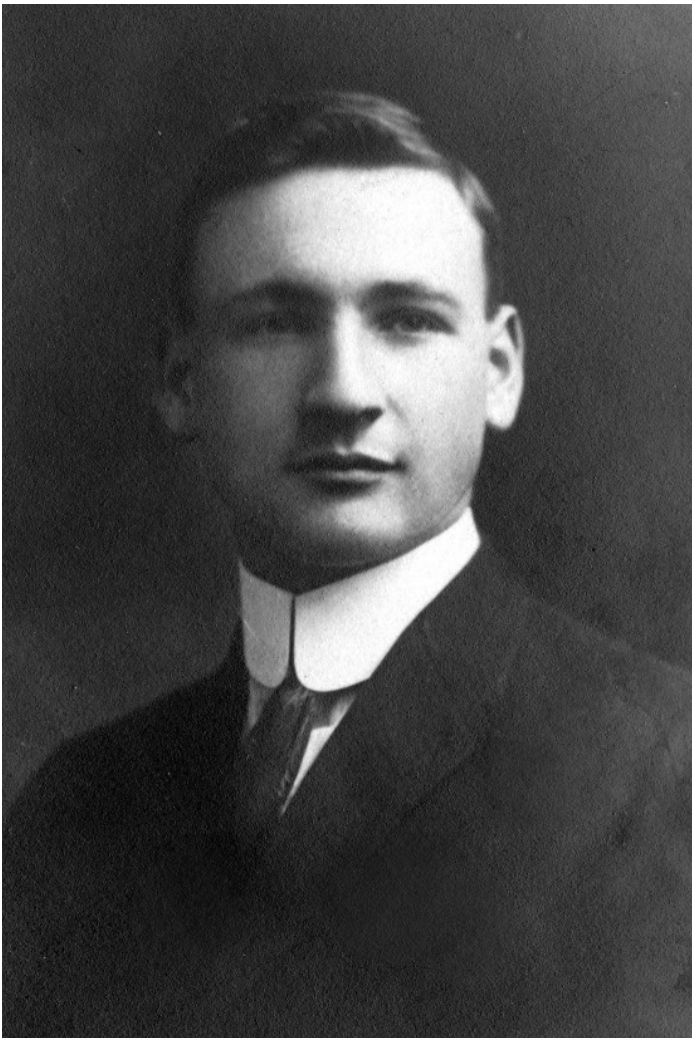


Continued from Last Month

Chesbro Trades Football Uniform for that of an Infantryman in WWI

By Bill Poray



Fred Myron Chesbro (1892-1985)

In last month's issue of the *Historigram*, we provided a glimpse of the life of Fairport native Fred Chesbro, FHS Class of 1910, and captain of the University of Rochester Football team.

Soon after his college days were behind him, Fred Chesbro attended the Officer's Training School at Fort Niagara, where he graduated in November of 1917 with a rank of second lieutenant. He was ordered to report for duty on December 15, 1917 at Camp Clark, American Lake, Washington. He chronicled the trip by train west to Washington and his first days in that state in a letter to the Fairport Herald, published on January 2, 1918.

Chesbro was unfazed by the "endless miles of prairies stretching as far as one could see," and commented, "To me it seemed as if the pioneer must have closed his eyes, jumped and settled where he landed," suggesting that one place would be the same as any other. He was more impressed with the Rocky Mountains, describing "the reflection of the sun on the snow-capped mountains which lighted them up like some dazzling, brilliant silver caps."

Upon arrival in Portland, Oregon, he discovered the existence of "lady barbers" and commented, "Fortunately I had an excellent cut before I left, or otherwise I might have been tempted."

Lieutenant Chesbro served overseas, primarily in Siberia, from August of 1918 to May of 1919. On page five of this newsletter, you will find excerpts of a letter, which he sent from Siberia to his parents in Fairport. Soon after, it was published in the Fairport Herald.

The photos in this article are from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society.

Continued on pages 4 & 5



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

October 14, 2016:

Greetings! Writing again from my office in the carriage barn, and it is going to be a beautiful fall day. "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower"—a beautiful quote by Albert Camus.

We have been enjoying a visit from Cindy's brother Buck and wife Karen from western Montana, who wanted to be here during the fall foliage season. The color is a bit late this year but we have still viewed some vibrant colors during our travels through the Finger Lakes, especially the trip around Skaneateles Lake on Wednesday. Earlier in the week we visited my brother's vineyard near Penn Yan for a ride on his grape picker, a very different experience. Believe it or not, we even sampled some wine. The Skaneateles Lake trip was triggered by an afternoon performance at the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in Auburn where we saw "Tenderly," the story of Rosemary Clooney's life. A very good show, and if you haven't discovered this theater, you will be in for a treat when you do. The theater is housed in an old merry-go-round building on the northeast shore of Owasco Lake, so google it and look into seeing a play in the 2017 season.

Our committees at PHS have been very busy this year in presenting your museum to our community. The programs have been fantastic and the museum looks beautiful. While the Technology Committee brings us into the 21st century, the Scarecrow Committee won us third place with their depiction of Irish workers on the canal. The House Tour Committee recently held a wonderful tour of five homes from the Northside, and I shouldn't forget the volunteers who welcome visitors during the week, as they proudly share the museum and its displays. The Yuletide Committee is working hard, preparing for the sale of arts and crafts items taking place just before the holidays.

Rotary International has a program called Friendship Exchange, which Cindy and I have participated in for many years. Basically, our Rotary district, consisting of 70 Rotary Clubs located in the Finger Lakes from Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border, team with another district in the world for the exchange of Rotarians. We will send a team of about ten individuals to another district for a two week stay in their homes. At another time they will send like numbers to our district for a stay and visit to the Finger Lakes. Cindy and I have enjoyed exchanges to England twice, South Africa and Finland. Just recently we hosted a couple from Eugene, Oregon for four nights and we showed them some of the highlights of our area. As a result Cindy and I reacquainted

ourselves with several museums we haven't visited for a while, which both we and our guests enjoyed. So if you haven't been to the Corning Glass Museum, The Rockwell Museum in Corning or the Curtiss Museum in Hammond—sport recently, get them on your to-do list. Jim and Camille also had a ride on the grape picker and enjoyed remembering their youth by visiting the Strong Museum.

As you may remember, last month we hosted Fernanda Gonzalez Latrecchiana, the mural artist from Argentina. And now this month, we've enjoyed the couple from Oregon and Cindy's brother and wife from Montana. We've been making good use of our upstairs guest rooms. A bit wearing at times, but we never grow tired of showing off our area and its beauty.

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

Bob Hunt, President

585-415-7053, rhunt1@rochester.rr.com



Yuletide Traditions 2016

Beginning November 15th and ending December 13th, visitors to the Fairport Museum will have the opportunity to bid on beautiful gift baskets, wreaths and tabletop Christmas trees that have been decorated and donated for silent auctions by members of our community, organizations and businesses. All proceeds from the silent auctions benefit the Perinton Historical Society (PHS) and support its educational programs and operation of the Fairport Historical Museum.



Scarecrow Honors Canal Workers

A Pokeman Go pursuit led to this year's Perinton Historical Society Scarecrow, honoring 26 Erie Canal workers stricken with cholera back in 1846. Anne Johnston was driving near the Union Burying Ground in Macedon with her grandson Taran Bauer. They stopped to read a plaque donated by "People Who Cared." It read:

In remembrance of the 26 Erie Canal laborers buried here, stricken in 1846. They built the longest canal, with the least experience, for the most public benefit.

Taran suggested using this remembrance as this year's scarecrow theme, and research revealed that many of the laborers were Irish immigrants who enlarged the canal armed with shovels and wheelbarrows.

The renowned Team Scarecrow got right on it and created three flat-capped canal workers with tombstones explaining the significance of the display, which was awarded third place by the Fairport-Perinton Merchants Association at the Scarecrow Festival.

This year's team included Sue Broda, Ann and Harold Castle, Sharon Catanese, Anne Johnston, Lucy McCormick, Bonnie Myers, Sue and Dave Scheirer, Sue Templeton and May Thomson.



Yuletide Traditions Event Meet Artist Betsy Ogles

Artist Betsy Ogles will be at the museum to sell her artwork on Saturday, November 19th, from 10:00 a.m.–12 p.m.



"Painting has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. It is a pleasure that I enjoy sharing with others. I have been fortunate over the last 30 years to have studied with very talented teachers who have provided me with a life-long journey of seeking the next challenge. I paint with acrylic, watercolor, oil, and colored pencil. My subjects are not limited. I paint everything from flowers, to still life, to portraits, pets and landscapes.

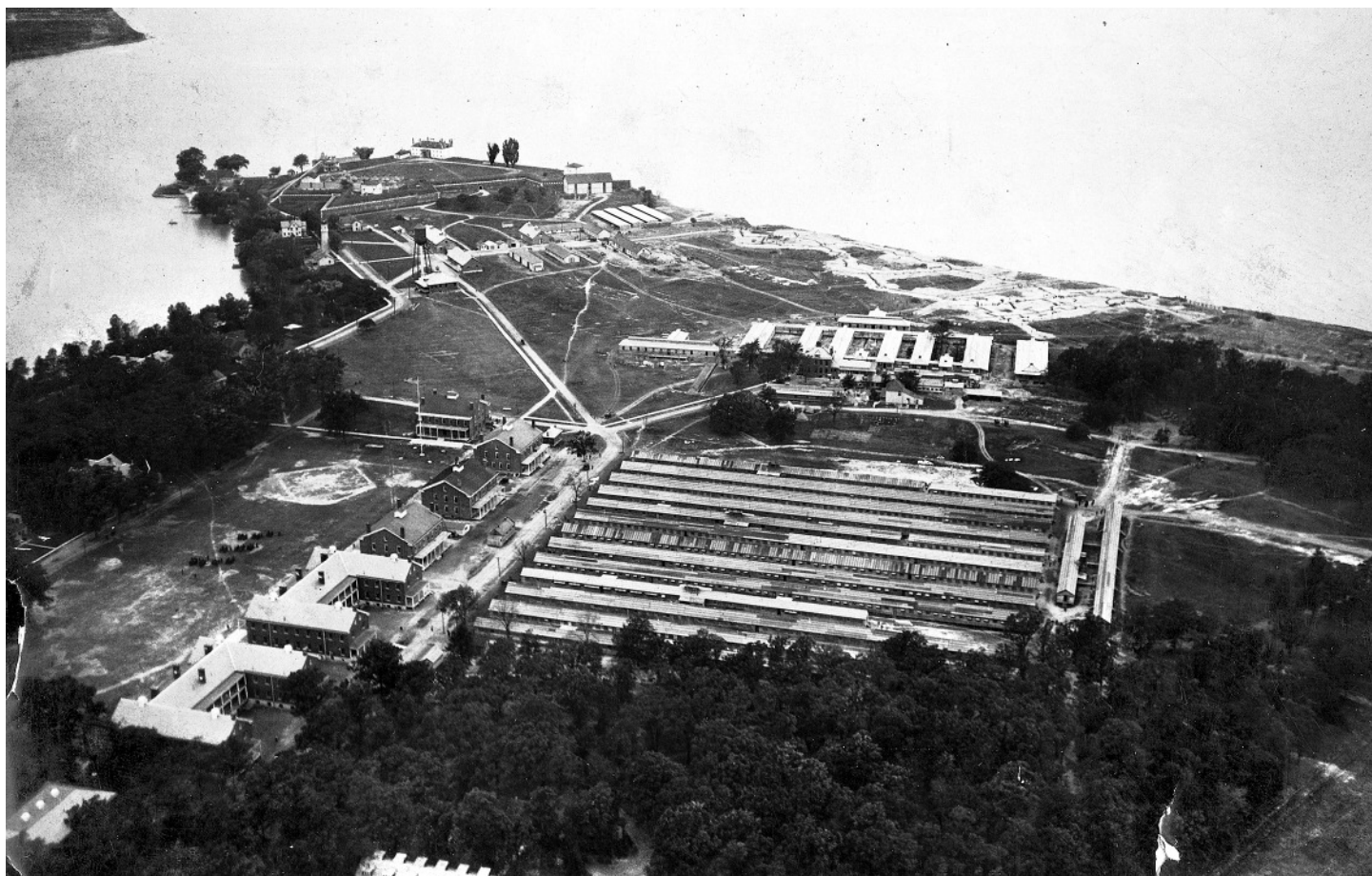
I have been a member of the Society of Decorative Painters since 1988, and co-founded the Rochester, New York chapter, "Flower City Decorative Artists of New York" in 1995. I have served numerous positions within this group, including President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and webmaster. I served as Chair of our 2016 Community Service Project in which we painted slate tiles from the roof of the Perinton Historical Society and donated them to the museum for sale in their gift shop. Of the five tiles that I painted, the most challenging was my rendition of the DeLand Home."

~Betsy Ogles

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



Above:
Aerial view of
Fort Niagara
in 1917

Right:
Sisters Mabel
and May
Chesbro visit
their brother
at Fort
Niagara.





Children in a Siberian village, photographed by Lieutenant Fred Chesbro in 1918

Lieutenant Fred Chesbro Tells of Soldier's Life in Siberian Country

Habaroosk, Siberia, December 22, 1918

The censor has lifted his ban to the extent that we can give a little more information as to our whereabouts. As you note by the heading, I am at Habaroosk, Siberia, which is about 500 miles northeast of Vladivostok. The railroad spur, a part of the Trans-Siberian road called the Amur branch, reaches us from Vladivostok. The town is situated on the Amur River which joins with the Ussuri. The river is a large stream allowing navigation to the ocean. Across the Amur there is a railroad bridge, one of the largest in the world, about two miles in length.

Habaroosk is about 10,000 strong consisting of Russians and Chinese. The principal occupation at present seems to be doing nothing. This is due undoubtedly to war conditions as the Bolsheviki raised havoc with the town's industries. The place owes considerable to the fact that it was an official town where all government business was transferred before the war.

We are beginning to receive an inkling of what Siberia winter is like. Today the thermometer registered twenty below zero Fahrenheit, which gives a slight conception of the conditions here.

These days are usually clear, sunshiny but cold. A large share of the evenings are brilliant with the sparkling of the moon on the snow covered ground. In spite of the frigid atmosphere, we are comfortable when out of doors for Uncle Sam has amply provided us with heavy coats and gloves.

As I wrote in a previous letter, I am studying Russian. Speaking about languages, take it from me, Russian has them all stopped. French and German are insignificant when compared to Russian. The latter seems to be a conglomeration of Greek and Egyptian hieroglyphics and sounds like a mixture of weird noises. However I can say a few words but as far as writing is concerned, I am wanting.

Nothing of unusual interest is occupying our attention except the usual drill and work of garrison duty. Everyone is wondering when we will be sent back to the States. All sorts of wild rumors circulate but evaporate into nothing. By this time winter must be well on its way. I hope that it is not as severe as last year.

With best wishes, I am yours,
Fred (2nd Lt. F.M. Chesbro, Co. H, 27th Inf.,
A.E.F., Siberia, via San Francisco,
California

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 15th
from 5:00–9:00 p.m. at the museum
PHS Yuletide Traditions

Opening bids accepted for silent auction items

Tuesday, November 15th
at 5:30 & 7:00 p.m. at the museum
Who Moved my House? Stories behind the relocation of an incredible number of structures in Fairport and Perinton
Presenter: Bill Poray, Town Historian

(See page 7 for more information, including the requirement to register ahead of time.)

Saturday, November 19th
from 10:00–12:00 noon at the museum
Artist Betsy Ogles, of Flower City Decorative Artists, offers beautiful artwork for sale.

Sunday, November 20th
from 2:30–3:30 p.m. at the museum
Author Peter Burford signs his new book, *Wines of the Finger Lakes*

Saturday, November 26th
from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum
Fairport's finest organ grinder, Tim Wagner, plays seasonal tunes on his Finster Baby mechanical organ.

Saturday, December 3rd
from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum
Children's craft with Suzanne Lee and a visit from Santa Claus at 10:30

Sunday December 4th
from 2:30–3:30 p.m. at the museum
Children's author Sally Valentine signs her books:
The Ghost of the Charlotte Lighthouse
Theft at George Eastman House
What Stinks? An Adventure in Highland Park
Lost at Seabreeze
Stormed
There Are No Buffalo in Buffalo (a book of poems).

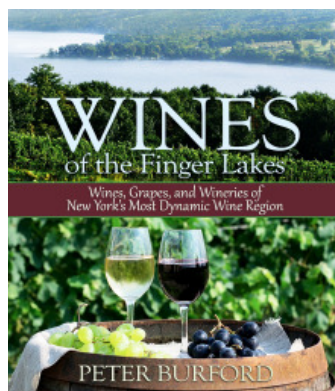
Sunday, December 11th
from 2:30–3:30 p.m. at the museum
Jeff Miner, author of books for young adults, signs his new book, *The Sailweaver's Son*

Tuesday, December 13th
from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the museum

PHS Yuletide Traditions
Final bids accepted for silent auction items. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the evening's program.

Tuesday, December 13th
at 7:00 p.m. at the museum
Annual Holiday Party & Program: *May Your Days Be Merry and Bright*
Presenter: Michael Lasser

Please bring a dessert to pass.



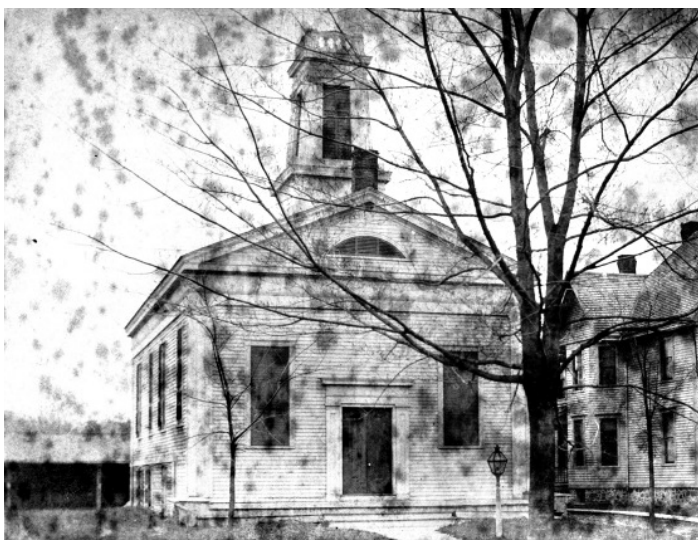
**Meet Author
Peter Burford on
November 20th**

Meet author Peter Burford at the museum on Sunday, November 20th from 2:00–4:00 p.m., as he sells copies of his new book, *Wines of the Finger Lakes*. The book sells for \$15.00; cash, checks & Visa/MasterCard accepted

New York's Finger Lakes region is rapidly establishing a world-wide reputation for its wines. This book looks at the wines, grapes, and wineries of the Finger Lakes and describes how the area is evolving as an important locale for Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, and many other wines. The book features the grapes grown in the region and the unique effect of the Finger Lakes themselves on the region's climate and wine grape production. It surveys the long history of winemaking in the Finger Lakes, beginning in the early 19th century, to a time when the Finger Lakes produced much of the wine consumed in the United States. And the book explores more than fifty of the most important and interesting wineries in the region that today produce world-class wines in one of the most beautiful areas in the eastern United States.

Peter Burford is the publisher of Burford Books and is a long-time enthusiast of the Finger Lakes region and its wines. He lives in Lansing, New York. For more information, you can visit his website at BurfordBooks.com.





Who Moved My House?

Stories behind the Relocation of an Incredible Number of Structures in Fairport and Perinton

**Tuesday, November 15th, at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.
at the Fairport Historical Museum**

Due to the popularity of the Town Historian's presentations, **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. To register, please email Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org or leave a message at 585-223-3989 with your name, phone number, number of attendees and time for which you are registering (5:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.).

Embedded within the facts and folklore of our local history is this fascinating gem: Fairport and Perinton have an amazing number of structures, big and small, that have been moved—picked up and carted to a different location within the community. Who Moved My House will explore the reasons, methods of moving, and stories behind many of these relocated structures.

Bill Poray is the historian for Perinton and the village of Fairport. He has had a lifelong interest in history, especially local history, sparked by school social studies teachers and his own family's involvement in the Civil War. A retiree of General Motors, Rochester Operations, Bill helped to secure and preserve the site's historic artifacts. He has also been a Trustee of the Perinton Historical Society for many years, and was a commissioner of the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission since its inception in 2007. As Town Historian, he has led walking and bus tours, and given presentations on numerous topics, as well as hosted hundreds of school children each year on field trips to the Fairport Historical Museum and other locations.



Yuletide Traditions Event: Fairport's Finest Organ Grinder —Tim Wagner

**Saturday, November 26th
from 10:30–11:30 a.m.**

Finster Baby is a 20-note self-playing mechanical organ. Manufactured in 2008 by Der Orgelbau im Wienerwald in Pressbaum, Austria, the organ is built in the same fashion as those made hundreds of years ago. Punched paper music rolls encoded with the timing and length of each note are read on a tracker bar, activating the 20 pipes via pouch & valve assemblies. Two double-acting bellows provide air pressure to read the music and play the pipes.

The organ grinder turns the crank to power the bellows and drive the music roll. Weighing only 12 pounds, this bauchorgel (belly organ) is the smallest, lightest commercially manufactured 20-note organ. Newly manufactured music rolls for the non-chromatic scale are available from suppliers in at least 5 countries.

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 Museum. 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.



Fairport's finest organ grinder, Tim Wagner, plays tunes on his Finster Baby mechanical organ.

Conant House a Local and Nationally Listed Landmark

The Fairport Historic Preservation Commission (FHPC) recently designated the Conant House at 30 West Street, a local landmark. The National Park Service has also recognized the structure by listing it on the National Register of Historic Places. The Conant property met two National Register criteria for designation: It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the village's history and is a distinct architecture style.



Left:

This Gothic Revival style home at 30 West Street in Fairport was built by Austin R. Conant in 1876.

The property, known as the Conant House, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

History & Architecture

Austin R. Conant built the property in 1876 in the Gothic Revival style. He was head accountant for the DeLand Chemical Co. The home has ornate trusses, three porches and a bay window, window hoods, cutwork patterns and pendants. It also has a carriage barn that was built prior to 1885.

Rehabilitation & Restoration— Financial Incentives

Mayor of Fairport, Fritz May said, “The FHPC has been designating our village structures since 2007 when the commission was formed. We now have five structures and two bridges that have been recognized for listing on the National Register, supporting how important these structures are to Fairport’s history. The five properties can benefit from financial incentives that can help the owners maintain these structures. We are grateful to the National Parks Services for their support in recognizing that these are historically and architecturally important to the Village of Fairport.”

Owners of properties listed on the National Register can take advantage of the New York State Historic Homeowners Tax Credit program and/or the State and Federal Commercial Re-hab Tax Credit programs. Each program provides tax credits worth 20% of qualified rehab expenses. Converted



Above:

The three main gables of the Conant house have ornate trusses that identify it as a later, post-1860 example of the Gothic Revival style.

into three apartments in the 1960s, several owners have worked to restore the house. The current owners are planning to use the NYS tax credit to help in the final conversion from the three family residences into a single family home.

Listing of properties on the National Register fits with the village's overall preservation efforts. The FHPC has locally designated more than 35 properties and will continue that effort. It is also looking into the viability of establishing National Register Historic Districts. Contributing structures in a district also qualify for tax credits for rehabilitation. Establishing a district benefits a larger number of residents and encourages investment in a property.

For more information about the National Register visit <https://www.nps.gov/nr/>. For information on locally designated properties in Fairport, go to the village website at: www.fairportny.com or the PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.

Submitted by the Fairport Historic Preservation Commission



Above: The carriage barn was built prior to 1885, and has hand-hewn mortise and tenon joining, round windows in the gable peak and horse stall windows.



Left:

Homeowners Cathy Harrison and Norm Schillaci are proud of the opportunity to be caretakers of this grand home for future generations to enjoy.

Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of October 14, 2016

Business (\$100)

Ed Bradford, Liftbridge Financial Advisors

6 North Main Street, Suite 400w, Fairport, NY 14450

Website: <http://liftbridgefinancial.com>

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories

33 Chesham Way, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-267-6189

Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

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>

Forever Financial Advisors, LLC

Annie McQuilkin, MS, CFP®

140 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-598-1377

Website: <http://www.foreverfinancial.com>

Pixos Print

75 Goodway Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-3000

Phone: (585) 500-4600

Website: ReadytoRun@pixosprint.com

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design

3 Railroad Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Website: <http://www.tpsigns.com>

New Listings for Special Recognition

DeLand (\$100–\$249)

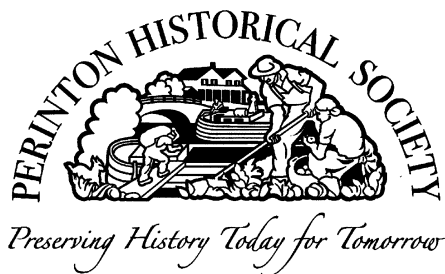
Kevin Kesby

Anonymous (2)

Potter (\$250–\$499)

Bob and Cindy Hunt





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



Answer to October's *What Is It?*



Since 1931, the second of two water towers on Summit Street stood high above the village of Fairport. This is a vent that was atop the tower. As water was added, the vent allowed air to escape through its holes. The tower was dismantled earlier this year.

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 10:00–Noon	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