

Bad Business for Mr. Goodwin

By Bill Poray

Reverend Charles Goodwin's name frequently appeared in newspapers across central and western New York from the 1880s to about 1910. Rarely was the news positive.

Fights, assaults and arguments were often associated with Charles Goodwin's name. But the year 1897 was especially memorable for Reverend Goodwin. It seems trouble followed him wherever he went. And in most of those places, there was a jail. Buffalo newspapers referred to Goodwin as "the so-called Reverend," an indication of his reputation in that city.

Charles Goodwin arrived in Fairport in January of 1897 and immediately began a series of religious revival meetings at a small Free Methodist church on Cole Street. After a bit of controversy erupted, the local religious community apparently looked into Goodwin's past. No village churches or the local YMCA allowed him to use their facilities. Goodwin then took his revival meetings outdoors, to the corner of Main Street and West Avenue near the canal bridge. He mixed his spiritual message with a verbal assault on the YMCA.

Having worn out his welcome in Fairport, Reverend Goodwin moved on to the nearby hamlet of Egypt. Some embraced his message, while others were less welcoming, including three men arrested for creating a disturbance during one of Goodwin's meetings. According to The Monroe County Mail, "the case created quite a bit of interest" with "a large number of the Egyptians present each day." The jury soon arrived at a verdict of guilty for the three men, but Justice Walker quickly suspended their sentences. Newspapers provided no indication with regard to the circumstances leading up to the actions of the three men.

When it became clear that Egypt had seen enough of Charles Goodwin, he moved on to Bushnell's Basin, where he again had mixed reviews. In one incident, while Goodwin's Saturday night revival meeting was underway at the Free Methodist Church, unknown assailants broke a window and

**BAD BUSINESS
FOR MR. GOODWIN.**

**Serious Charge Against a
Buffalo Revivalist.**

**A YOUNG WOMAN'S
CHARGE OF ASSAULT.**

**Bushnell's Basin Was Altogether Too
Lively for the Evangelist—Warned
by "White Caps" and Finally
Placed Under Arrest.**

The eye-catching headline and statements are from the March 20, 1897 edition of the *Buffalo Courier*.

The *Monroe County Mail* referred to Charles Goodwin as "a self-styled evangelist who seems to have the faculty for getting into trouble wherever he goes—thought by some to be insane."

pelted him with dozens of eggs. The Free Methodists soon published a notice which confirmed that no relationship existed between the church and Reverend Goodman. The pastor of Fairport's Free Methodist Church wrote the following:

"I deem it just to all concerned, seeing there have been articles going the rounds of the press, about one Mr. Goodwin, holding revival meetings as connected with the Free Methodists, to say he is not a Free Methodist, nor has been engaged in holding Free Methodist revival meetings. The meetings he has held have been entirely on his own. George E. Ferrin, Pastor, Free Methodist Church of Fairport, N.Y."



Comments from your President

April 15th, 2017:

Good Friday and Happy Easter from my office in the carriage barn. A beautiful morning started with a bright orange eastern sky as the sun began its day, rising at 6:30. The forecast is for a nice Easter weekend, thus allowing outdoor activities

~ **Bob Hunt** ~

as families and friends gather. This morning's newspaper declared Binghamton as the probable winner in this year's snowfall derby, with a season's depth of 135.2 inches. Probable winner, because Syracuse, with a depth of 135.1 inches was beaten by a whisker, and the snowfall season technically doesn't end until June 30th. Although I hope not, there is always the possibility of a late spring snow. Rochester had 107.1 inches, which is above our average of 99 inches per year. All of these numbers are a joke when compared with Alta, Utah where the average annual snowfall is 546.1 inches. The official frost free date for Fairport is May 15th and a bit earlier if you live closer to Lake Ontario.

On April 3rd, Fairport Rotary held its meeting at the museum with over fifty Rotarians and guests attending. They started to gather about 5:45 which allowed time to enjoy the museum and the displays prior to the meeting starting at 6:15. The meal for the meeting was provided by whole-E-ROASTERS food truck. Town Historian and PHS Board member Bill Poray presented the program.

His talk was about unraveling mysteries from our past and included recently recovered paintings of Carl Peters, a grave-stone discovered in a garden on South Main, identifying pictures on glass negatives and the story uncovered from old 16 mm Kodak film. Bill commented that the "Rotarians were not much different from the 4th graders he presents to each year."

A while back a friend of mine sent me this story entitled "Freak of Navigation." I provide it here for your enjoyment:

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the result to the master, Captain John Phillips. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0 degrees 31' N and LON 179 degrees 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We are only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line." Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak

of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favor. At midnight the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crosses the International Date Line. The consequences of this bizarre position were several.

The bow of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900. This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years and two different seasons, but in two different centuries all at the same time. Amazing.

(Author unknown)

The rocking chairs are once again on the front portico, so the museum is ready for your visit. Come and enjoy the exhibits. Also, don't forget to put the annual meeting/picnic at Perinton Park on your calendar. The date is Tuesday, May 16th at 5:00 pm. Hope to see many of you there.

Thanks for your continued support and will chat again next issue.

Bob Hunt, President

585-415-7053, rhunt356.rh@gmail.com
(Note the new email address)



Perinton Historical Society

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MUSEUM

Director	Vicki Profitt
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Upcoming Programs & Events

Saturday, May 13th, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
at the museum

Event: Greenbrier Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Tuesday, May 16th, 6:00 p.m.—Perinton Park Pavilion

Event: Perinton Historical Society Annual Meeting and Picnic
(See reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter.)

Tuesday, June 13th, 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: *Annual Illuminated History Cemetery Tour highlighting St. Mary's Cemetery*

Wednesday, July 19th, 7:00 p.m.

At the Fairport Public Library

Program: *An Evening with Miss Susan B. Anthony*
Presenter: Jeanne Gehret

This program is co-sponsored by the Fairport Public Library and will be held in honor of the VoteTilla event happening the late afternoon and evening of July 19th.

Museum News

The fourth grade school visits to the museum have begun! Bill Poray and Vicki Profitt host two classes a day. While one class is seeing a PowerPoint program on historic happenings with Mr. Bill, the other class is upstairs with Miss Vicki taking a museum tour and completing a scavenger hunt. Then the kids, as Mr. Bill likes to call it, “do the old switcheroo” and we do it all over again for the next class. During April and May, 24 classes will visit the museum—21 from the Fairport fourth grades and three from Pittsford’s Thornell Road Elementary. It’s a wonderful way to introduce kids to local history, and the PHS is excited to partner with the school districts on this fun and informative field trip for the students.



Postcards: The Forgotten Art Form

The exhibit closes
May 30th.

Catch it while
you can!

The Fairport Historical Museum has extended its hours and is now open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., in addition to Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00–9:00 p.m.



Over the Top: Honoring Fairport's World War I Veterans

This exhibit features artifacts from the collections of the Perinton Historical Society and the Office of the Perinton Town Historian. It commemorates Fairport's 280 soldiers and sailors who served during this pivotal war. Read the story of William T. Colmyer, who was aboard the U.S.S. President Lincoln when it was torpedoed by the Germans in 1918. See the trench periscope created by Wollensak Optical Co. in Rochester. Discover the names of ten Fairport soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. This exhibit may be seen during regular museum hours and is on display through October.

Illuminated History: Cemetery Tour to Shine a Light on St. Mary's Cemetery



Photo by Vicki Profitt

This year's *Illuminated History* presentation will feature several eternal residents of St. Mary's Cemetery. Hear the stories of some of the many immigrants who made Fairport their home, as told by the actors portraying them. Learn about the World War I soldier who was a member of the famed “Lost Battalion” in the Argonne Forest in 1918. And discover the shopkeepers who opened their businesses on Fairport's

North Main Street. These stories and others will be shared at this special event for the Perinton Historical Society. The presentation will take place Tuesday, June 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the museum. The program is free and open to the public.



Church in Egypt where "the so-called Reverend" Charles Goodwin held revival meetings, until he wore out his welcome with residents.

The troubles for Goodwin escalated when he was invited to the home of the Bushnell's Basin postmaster and his wife, Henry and Nancy Poucher, and their young niece. It was during the niece's 18th birthday celebration that Reverend Goodwin's advances of a physical nature toward the young lady landed him in hot water, culminating in a charge of assault in the 3rd degree. The incident was reported in newspapers across central and western New York, including *The Buffalo Evening News*, which stated the following: "Goodwin conducted prayer and revival meetings at Fairport and Egypt, but made himself so obnoxious that he was ordered out of town. While in Buffalo he lived at 334 Fifteenth Street. His actions were queer and he was generally disliked."

A jury trial of the Bushnell's Basin affair was held before Justice Doyle in Fairport. Reverend Goodwin represented himself without benefit of an attorney. The jury soon returned a verdict of guilty. The Reverend was fined twenty-five dollars, paid by a few supporters from Bushnell's Basin. Others in the Basin were less accommodating. Goodwin received a letter with the following message:

"Bout time for you to make your tracks out of Bushnell Basin; if you don't the White Caps will be after you.
We will give you till Saturday to get out.
(Signed) Skull and Cross Bones."

The White Caps have been referred to as post-Civil War gangs of violent vigilantes. They often targeted minorities, immigrants, and those they believed acted outside of societal norms. They shared many common beliefs and behaviors

with the Ku Klux Klan.

Goodwin took the advice of the White Caps and headed back home to Buffalo, where he worked as a street preacher with the Salvation Army. In early July, he married 21 year old Edna Bernhardt at an outdoor wedding on a busy city street in Buffalo. She was half his age. It was reported that shortly before the ceremony, he couldn't recall her name. Days later, he compelled his new bride's young daughter to pass a collection box during his street corner sermons. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children promptly brought charges of abuse against Goodwin. He was sentenced to thirty days in the Erie County Penitentiary.

Upon his release, the maligned preacher and his young wife left Buffalo and traveled to Attica. The religious community quickly identified him as a fraud. He skipped town and next surfaced in Naples, Ontario County, in early October of 1897. He had lived there fifteen years previous, and apparently had not alienated the entire community at that time, as *The Naples Record* reported he was staying with friends. While in Naples, he proclaimed himself to be the organizer and president of the Christian Soldiers Association, an organization referred to by the Naples newspaper as "a religious association that is calculated to assist the different Christian bodies."

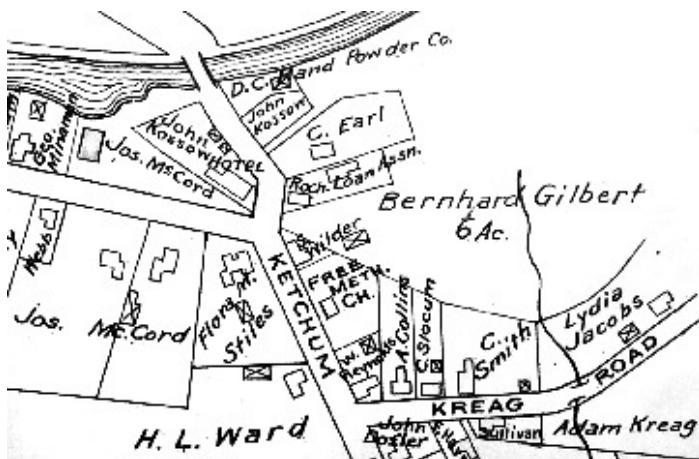
Goodwin was soon on the move again. The Buffalo evangelist appeared before Justice Fellows of Penfield in late October, arrested for assault in the third degree, the result of an incident involving a 16 year old girl. The charge was dropped when the jury failed to agree on a verdict. Days later, he was again tried and convicted. He was sentenced to pay the costs of the trial and told to leave town within 24 hours.

By the summer of 1898, Goodwin returned to Fairport with his self-proclaimed title of President of the Christian Soldiers Association. It is doubtful the group included any other members. He preached weekly for a short period from a room above the Filkins Meat Market on South Main Street, and sometimes next door over the Star Laundry. His stay was brief, and soon Goodwin left Fairport, apparently for good, and opened a preaching room in Rochester.

Trouble found Reverend Goodwin in Rochester as well, when he was embroiled in an altercation with a man on Hudson Avenue. A shouting match caused a spectacle on the street, as passersby heard Goodwin referred to as "wife beater," among other unflattering labels.

Not long after, *The Monroe County Mail* announced that "the wife of Charles Goodwin, an eccentric character well known in this vicinity," was bringing charges alleging cruel and inhuman treatment against him. The newspaper had recently reported that Goodwin "is now publishing a little sheet called the *Soldier and Sword*, in Rochester. The paper is largely devoted to the same sort of harangue he used to deliver in the streets here."

Not long after their marriage, Goodwin's wife began to disappear for weeks at a time. He posted advertisements in Buffalo



Goodwin held his Bushnell's Basin revival meetings at the Free Methodist Church. Several years later the church became the Bushnell's Basin station for the Rochester and Eastern trolley.

ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1904.

Theft of Organ Charged Against an Evangelist

**Charles Goodwin Arrested in Front Street Second
Hand Store on Complaint of His Wife.**

alerting the public to her departure, and sometimes referred to her as mentally deranged. By 1900, the Federal Census identified 136 Hudson Avenue in Rochester as the home of Charles and Edna Goodwin, but the daughter was not listed.

There seems to have been no end to Reverend Goodwin's self-inflicted wounds. Seven years after the 1897 episodes in Fairport, Egypt and Bushnell's Basin, he was arrested in Rochester for stealing clothing belonging to his estranged wife.

Shortly after this incident, he was again arrested, this time for the theft of a small organ he sometimes used in his street preaching. He carried the organ, which belonged to his estranged wife, to a secondhand store on Rochester's Front Street. Patrolmen Murray and Ingalls laid in wait at the store, and when Goodwin returned to pick up his payment for the organ, he was arrested and taken to police headquarters. The trial became a complicated affair when the wife of Goodwin contradicted herself in testimony, which resulted in dismissal of the case.

What became of Reverend Goodwin after the organ incident is anyone's guess. If one were inclined to try to find him, the local jail might be the first place to look.



Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of April 17, 2017

Business (\$100)

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-388-0112

Website: <http://www.thefvi.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>

The Inn on Church

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-678-1106

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch>

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty

2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618

Phone: 585-303-6607

Website: <http://bobruhland.yourkwagent.com>

Ed Bradford, Liftbridge Financial Advisors

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

Website: <http://liftbridgefinancial.com>

Pixos Print

75 Goodway Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-3000

Phone: 585-500-4600

Website: ReadytoRun@pixosprint.com

Suzanne Lee Personal Histories

33 Chesham Way, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-267-6189

Website: <http://SLeePersonalHistories.com>

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design

7 East Avenue, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-377-9310

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

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

None this month



A portion of the 1885 birds-eye view of Fairport by L.R. Burleigh, showing Filkins Street

Save the Date—Sunday, October 1st **For this Year's House Tour**

Parapets, bargeboard, balusters and brick. What do they all have in common? They describe just some of the architectural details of houses on Filkins Street—the site of this year's house tour on Sunday October 1st.

Plan to join us from 1:00–5:00 p.m. as we visit homes and learn about George Filkins, who was a Civil War veteran, village trustee, developer and builder. Discover which houses he built and which houses he actually moved to this neighborhood in the late 1800s.

House Tour Volunteers Needed! Are you interested in helping support the Perinton Historical Society? Would you like to join a fun group of other volunteers? You can do both by joining the House Tour Committee! Contact Elaine Lanni to find out how you can help as we research, publicize and lead visitors through some of Perinton's architectural treasures.

Email: ellaannii@gmail.com or call 585-766-5467.

We Need You!

Museum volunteers work one shift per month greeting and assisting visitors. New volunteers are paired with veterans for each shift, and training is provided. We are always looking for new volunteers to staff the museum, and especially need volunteers on Saturdays from 10:00–1:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. If you can give of your time just a few hours a month, please contact PHS Volunteer Coordinator Sue Scheirer by phone at 585-377-3789 or at dscheir1@rochester.rr.com. We look forward to adding you to our volunteer roster!

For information on becoming
a member of the Perinton Historical Society,
visit our website at—

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.

Perinton Historical Society ***Mission***

To provide interest in preserving and sharing local history
through education and accessibility.



The Susan B. Anthony House and Museum is spearheading a celebration of women gaining the vote in New York State. Five boats will set out from Seneca Falls and travel to Rochester, where the celebration will conclude at the Susan B. Anthony House and Museum. The boats will make several stops in towns and villages along the canal, giving travelers and residents an opportunity to enjoy events en route.

The boats will dock in Fairport on Wednesday, July 19th, at 4:30 p.m. A welcoming crew will greet them and invite them to attend two events in the village: a re-enactment of a 1914 debate on women's suffrage by the Fairport Historical Club at 5:30 p.m. in the gazebo at Kennelly Park; and a portrayal of Susan B. Anthony at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairport Public Library community room, sponsored by the Perinton Historical Society and the Fairport Public Library.

Everyone is invited to attend. And a couple dozen wellcomers are needed. If you are interested in greeting the travelers, please contact Lucy McCormick at lmccormick@rochester.rr.com or 223-6934.



Photo by Keith Boas

Annual Meeting and Picnic Scheduled for May 16

The annual Perinton Historical Society picnic and meeting will be held rain or shine in the shelter at Perinton Park on Fairport Road, near the canal at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16th. Hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers, decaf coffee and lemonade will be provided by the Society. Members coming to the picnic are requested to bring a dish to pass, and their own plates and silverware.

Please make reservations with the form below, or by calling the museum at 223-3989 and leaving a message. Please indicate how many people will be coming in your group, whether you would like hot dogs, hamburgers, or veggie burgers and what dish you'd like bring to pass.

At the meeting there will be a few words from our President, and then the members will vote on the nominations for officers for the Society. This is always a good time to renew friendships, meet new people, and partake in some excellent food. Please join us for a pleasant evening in the park.

Name _____

Number of people attending _____

I would like (indicate number)

Hot dogs _____

Hamburgers _____

Veggie burgers _____

I will be bringing (circle one)

Salad Hot dish Cold dish Dessert

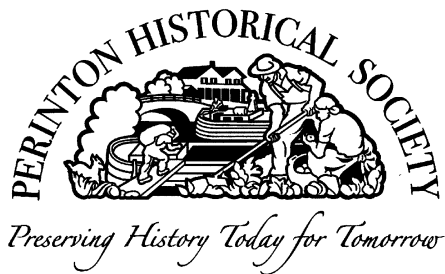
This form can be delivered and dropped in the mail slot at the Fairport Museum no later than May 14th, or mailed to the Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



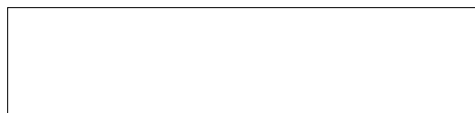
Photo by Vicki Profitt in 2016

Greenbrier Garden Club Plant Sale

The Greenbrier Garden Club Plant Sale is set for Saturday, May 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the museum sidewalk. There'll be a variety of plants for sale at very reasonable prices. The club beautifully maintains the museum's gardens, and the PHS is pleased to host the annual plant sale.



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



Works Progress Administration (WPA) masons working on the new Fairport Public Library on Perrin Street in the fall of 1937. Fairport's new library opened in the spring of 1938.

*From the collection of the
Perinton Historical Society*

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 10:00–1:00 p.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