

Loving Life on Dewey Avenue! **Theme for the 2018 PHS House Tour**

Why Dewey Avenue?

Well, when one house tour ends, it's time to start working on the next one.

A docent for the 2017 house tour, Jean Whitney (and proud Dewey Avenue resident), asked, "Why not Dewey Avenue? Many of its homes are over 100 years old."

Thus began the planning.



These views are of the same home at 46 Dewey Avenue. The photo above was taken in 1960, when it was owned by Lloyd and Chloe Sanford, who purchased the home from Dr. M.W. Kohler in 1919. The recent photo at right shows the home as it looks today, owned by Ed and Carol Johnston since 1965.



On a chilly morning in March, six volunteers walked the avenue with notepads and cameras to view the homes on the street running between and parallel to Potter Place and Miles Ave. Observations and discoveries were made and we were fortunate enough to meet some of residents who gave us some insights on the houses and history—and better yet—even agreed to be part of the tour!

Fast forward through the selection-invitation-rejection-

invitation-acceptance phase to the research of the development of the neighborhood.

The next phase was interviewing the homeowners whose homes will be on tour. Whether they were new to Dewey Avenue or had a long history on the street, they all talked about their fondness for the friendly neighborhood. Residents relax on their porches and wave to one another and gather for annual picnics or ice cream socials.

Continued on page 4



~ Bob Hunt ~

Comments from your President

September 15, 2018:

Surprise! I'm not sitting in my carriage barn office, but instead I am at the museum, being a docent on a Saturday morning. There are presently no visitors, so I have begun writing my comments for the *Historigram*.

One of our annual traditions in late August is a visit to the New York State Fair, a tradition which has occurred for, I would guess, the last 40 years. We usually have kids or grandkids with us, but this year it was just Cindy and me. Part of our tradition since living in Fairport is to get an early start, and enjoy our breakfast at the Blue Ribbon Diner in Phelps. After a hardy breakfast it is off to the fairgrounds, arriving around 9:00 a.m.

On the way home, Cindy will often ask, "What was your favorite part?" There are several favorites for me. Growing up on a farm, I enjoy the agriculture parts of the fair: cattle, sheep, goats and fowl. And you can't say you have been to the fair if you don't see the hogs. I also look forward to the 4-H building, with the many activities of their youthful members, including sewing, gardening, cooking, animal care and craft projects. We always leave the fair feeling positive about the youth in our communities.

A new building was showcased this year with the opening of the Expo Center, including an indoor ice rink. They were demonstrating sled hockey while we were there. This also is the new location of the sand sculpture. Of course one has to visit the butter sculpture, the horticulture building, home-craft building and the environmental building with its fish tanks. Normally, by midafternoon, we are ready to call it a day and head for home.

Last month I talked a bit about the wild flowers we have observed while biking. There is a weed out now that takes me back to my youth, and probably one of my earliest memories. Despite its poor reputation as a weed, the milkweed played a vital role during World War II. The milkweed plant grows three to six feet tall on a single stout stalk and takes its name from its milk-like sap. This time of year it develops large greenish-gray pods which eventually dry and split open to reveal seeds secured to a silky floss. This floss was vital to the war effort, for it was used as stuffing for life vests and insulation for flight suits. A national campaign to collect the pods was inaugurated under the direction of the Milkweed Floss Division of the War Hemp Industries. School children throughout the nation gathered the pods, inspired by the slogan, "Two Bags Save One Life." That was because it

required two burlap bags of pods to fill one life vest. I remember, at the age of four, helping my two older brothers gather pods from our Dundee farm. They were Boy Scouts, whose troop was helping the war effort. It was estimated that more than 11 million pounds of milkweed were collected by the end of World War II.



Boy Scouts from Irondequoit Troop 106 pose with their harvest of milkweed pods in this 1944 photograph.

From the archives of the Town of Perinton

Another wild flower presently in bloom and found virtually everywhere this time of year is the goldenrod, one of the last true nectar and pollen sources for bees for the season. The nectar from the goldenrod bloom seems to stimulate the queen to produce more brood. Higher brood count is better for hives since the hive will go into winter with a very healthy colony that will be able to adequately warm the hive during cold winter nights. The goldenrod nectar is turned into capped honey within the hive, which increases the honey stores to adequately feed the hive during the winter months, sustaining the health of the bees. Pollen is also important from the goldenrod and is consumed during the fall and winter months, which also helps to sustain bee health.

Thanks for your continued support. It is appreciated. We will chat again in our next issue.

Bob Hunt, President
585-415-7053, rhunt356.rh@gmail.com



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

Milestones

225

The number of years since the area now named Perinton was first inhabited by settlers.

Beginning in 1793, Glover Perrin, his family, and his six siblings and their families settled in the flat, well-watered areas of the hamlets of Egypt and Perinton Center (corner of Turk Hill and Ayrault Roads).

201

The number of years (July 4, 1817) since digging began for the construction of the Erie Canal

151

The number of years since Fairport village was officially incorporated



Support the Museum as a Volunteer

Museum volunteers work one two-to-three-hour 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 a.m.–1 p.m. and Sundays from 2–4 p.m.

If you can give of your time just a few hours a month, please contact PHS Volunteer Coordinator Renee Barry at reneejbarry@gmail.com. We look forward to adding you to our volunteer roster!



Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of August 30th, 2018

Business (\$100)

Bonnie Wetzel, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

65 South Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585 -03-1678 Web: TopRochesterAgent.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes

32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-388-1270

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-388-0112 Web: www.thefvi.com

Robert Ruhland, Keller Williams Realty

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

Phone: 585-303-6607

Web: bobruhland.yourkwagent.com

Joel Cuminale, Turning Point Signs & Design

7 East Avenue, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-377-9310

Web: www.tpsigns.com

The Inn on Church

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-678-1106

www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch

DeLand (\$100-\$249)

James and Barbara Boyle

Joyce and Charlie Cowden

Richard Lucci

Robert McVea

Juliet Moynihan

Jim and Karen Unckless

Potter (\$250-\$499)

Perrin (\$500 and above)



Early History of Dewey Avenue

1899

James Soanes, a wealthy Englishman and brother-in-law of Fairport's Edward J. Hawkins, purchases the former Hawkins farm, creating Soanes Park, on the south side of Church Street. Dewey and Miles Avenue are formed.

Two hundred shade trees were planted on Soanes Park. Two houses are completed at 10 and 12 Dewey Avenue by E. Palmer who was hired by James Soanes to be in charge of development of Soane's Park.

1902—1904

Edward Hawkins goes to court against brother-in-law James Soanes to gain possession of Soanes Park.

A Fairport village map includes Soanes Park, with 106 lots, including Dewey, part of Miles Avenue, Sampson Street and nine lots on West Church Street.

Soanes Park is sold in foreclosure and purchased by James Soanes.

James Soanes dies, ending his story of rags to riches.

1905—1908

Claud M. Lumbard, a mason by trade, contracts to build on two of the West Church Street lots of Soanes Park.

Attorney James D. Harris advertises 70 lots for sale in Soanes Park, "Fairport's best residence section."

1909—1911

After a failed attempt by Charles W. Christler to purchase Soanes Park, the property is transferred to M.M. Jewell and wife and to Warren Clark and wife. The owners hope to sell a number of lots to people who will build at once.

Real estate is moving rapidly in Fairport, especially in Fairmount Terrace (formerly Soanes Park). Samuel T. Jacobson, a traveling man from Rochester, buys 12 Dewey Avenue.

Miles and Dewey Avenue properties are deeded to the Village of Fairport. The streets become public property and water mains are planned.

Clairmont, New Hampshire real estate firm Gilley & Patten purchase Fairmont Terrace. Sidewalks are built and trees are planted. Dentist Milton Kohler begins construction at 49 Dewey Avenue.

Gilley & Patten sell their interest in Fairmount Terrace back to M.M. Jewell.

Village water, sewers and electric lighting come to Dewey Avenue.

1913

Claud Lumbard co-authors the 1913 Fairport Directory. Claud resided at 31 Dewey Avenue and was the mason responsible for the construction and layout of the concrete sidewalks along the street. On the tour, you can see a historic marker with his name on the sidewalk between houses 34 and 36.

Please join us on Sunday, October 7th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to visit Dewey Avenue and tour the homes at 80, 49, 46, 38, 27 and 20. Do not miss the displays at the entryways to the homes: Dewey folks today and blasts from the past! Current members will receive their tickets in the mail, so be sure to renew your membership.

Thanks to Bill Poray for his assistance with our research, including information from town and village records, the Monroe County Mail, the Fairport Herald, and the Fairport Directory of March, 1913.



Two of the homes being fetured in this year's Perinton House Tour: No. 38 Dewey Avnue (top) and No. 27 Dewey Avenue (bottom).

September 2018 photos by Keith Boas

Upcoming Programs & Events

Sunday, October 7

From 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Event: PHS House Tour—Dewey Avenue

Tuesday, October 16

7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: The History of Halloween

Presenter: Paul Tantillo

Tuesday, November 20

From 4:00–9:00 p.m. at the museum

Event: PHS Yuletide Traditions opening bids accepted for silent auction items

Tuesday, November 20

5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: Lives of Passion: Doctor George Dean and Louise Griswold Dean

Presenter: Bill Poray

Registration is required for this event. To register, please visit or leave a message at the museum at 585-223-3989 or by emailing Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org. Leave your name, phone number, number of attendees and the time of the presentation for which you are registering (5:00 or 7:00 p.m.)

Saturday, December 8

10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum

Book signing:

Miss Tunie's Magic Creatures and Monster Trucks

Author: Joy Keller

Tuesday, December 11

6:00–7:00 p.m. at the museum

Event: *Yuletide Traditions* final bids accepted for silent auction items. Winners will be announced following the evening's program.

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 p.m. at the museum

Event: Annual Holiday Party

Music by the Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble of the Eastman Community Music School

Please bring a dessert to pass.

Check the November issue of the *Historigram* for additional special events occurring during our *Yuletide Traditions* fundraiser.

Museum News



Paul Tantillo

The History of Halloween

*Presented by Paul Tantillo on Tuesday,
October 16th at 7:00 p.m.*

From ancient Celtic roots, through the Middle Ages, from 18th-Century England and Scotland to modern America, the history of Halloween is a long and fascinating one. We'll learn how this strange old festival has become one of the most beloved days in our calendar.

Paul Tantillo has been employed by the Rochester Public Library for 25 years—eight of those at the Charlotte Branch, where he currently works. He's interested in folklore and celebrates his birthday on November 1st, so it was inevitable that he would love Halloween. He's a baby boomer, which means he experienced the innocent, halcyon Halloweens of the '60s and early '70s.



Military Men and Models

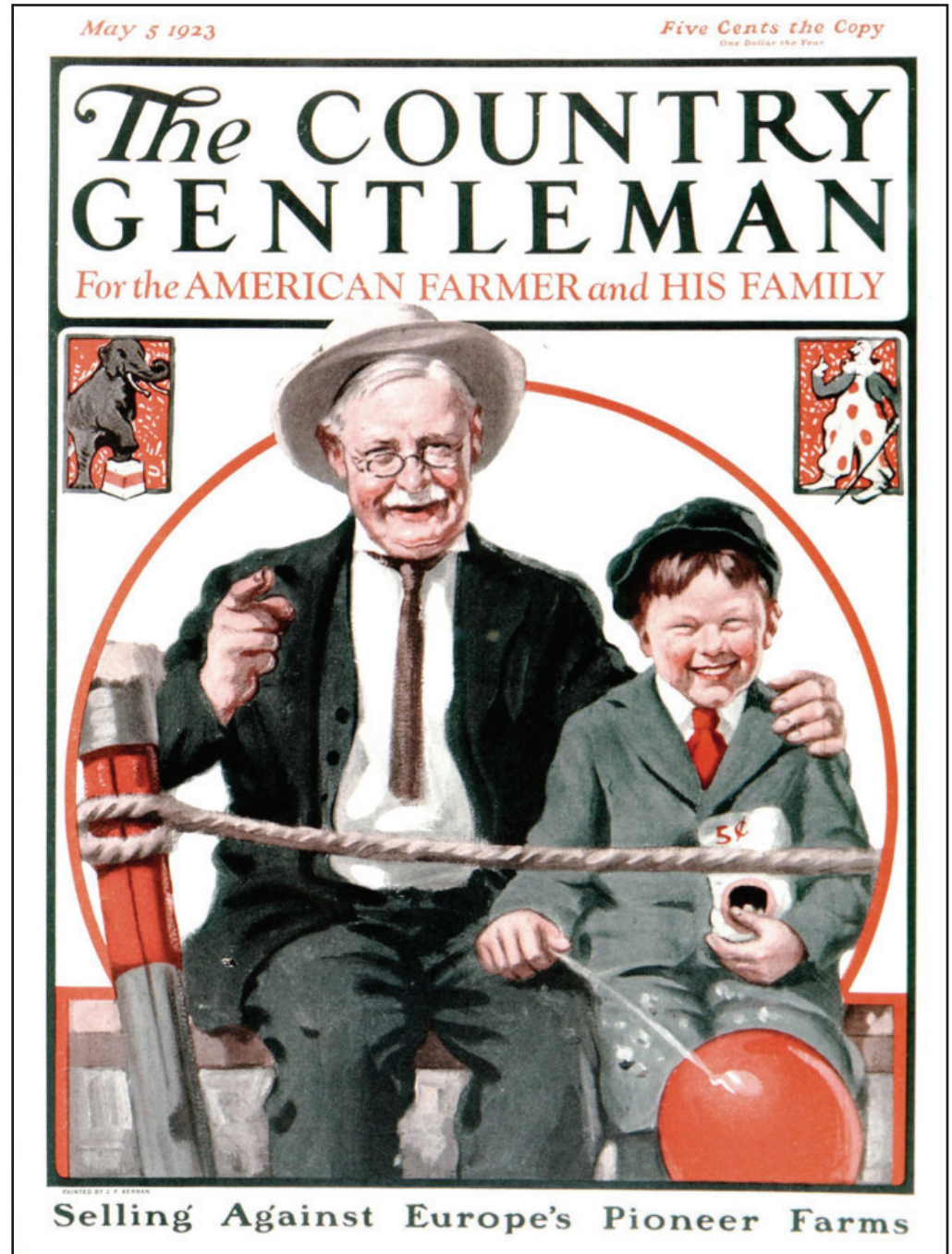
Three Howards of Fairport

By Bill Poray

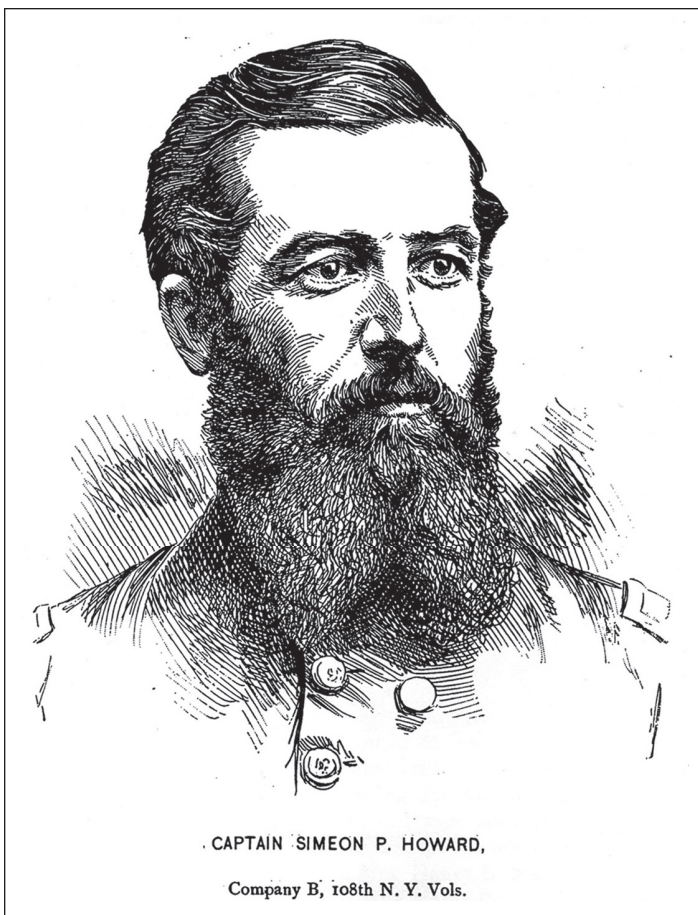
Lorenzo Howard and his brothers left Belchertown, Massachusetts in the 1830s, and traveled west on the Erie Canal to their new home of Fairport. The Howards made a name for themselves in their new village as makers of quality wagons, and as grocers, merchants, and public servants. Lorenzo and his wife, Charlotte, had a son in 1840, and gave him the name Simeon Pepper Howard, the middle name in honor of a grandfather who served in the War of 1812.

Young S.P. Howard, as he became known, went on to fame as one of this community's most respected Civil War veterans, serving in Rochester's famed 108th New York Volunteers. He enlisted in 1862 as a sergeant, and mustered out in June of 1865 with the rank of captain. S.P. Howard fought in many historic battles, including Antietam, the Battle of the Wilderness, and Gettysburg. Although injured at least twice, he survived the war and returned to his beloved Fairport. For much of the rest of his life, S.P. Howard carried the ceremonial rank of colonel among his peers in the Grand Army of the Republic, the fraternal organization of Civil War veterans of which he was an acknowledged leader in western New York.

Soon after S.P. Howard returned from the war in 1865, he and his wife Maryette celebrated the arrival of a son,



1923 issue of The Country Gentleman,
featuring the kindly and joyful face of Simeon Irving Howard on the cover



Portrait of Simeon P. Howard, as it appeared in the History of the 108th N.Y. Volunteers, published in 1894

who they named Simeon Irving Howard. Simeon lived to the age of 73, and spent much of his life working as a novelty salesman in the Syracuse area.

Perhaps not a glamorous life, however, Simeon Irving Howard's biography does include a couple of interesting footnotes. First is his marriage to Mabel Mead Howard, better known as Madame Cassandra. She was a celebrated writer, poet and lecturer, who seemed to possess supernatural powers, and the ability to connect the living with the dead.

Simeon Irving Howard's other notable distinction was his brief but successful career as a model. Somewhat late in life, the amiable Howard became a favorite subject of well-known artist, J.F. Kernan. Howard's appeal was his face, and the kindly and gentle expression that he wore with ease. Kernan's paintings of the Fairport native graced the cover of many magazines in the 1920s, including *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Country Gentleman* (see illustration on page 6), *Collier's*, and others. He reached a level of celebrity as a result, and for several years, his face was well known from coast to coast.



Perinton Historical Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>Vice President</i>	Vicki Profit
<i>Secretary</i>	Doug Whitney
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Wiener
<i>Communications</i>	Pat May

TRUSTEES

Keith Boas	Lucy McCormick
Bill Poray	Jim Unckless
David Wild	George Wolf

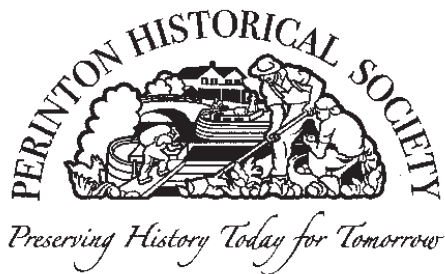
MUSEUM

<i>Director</i>	Vicki Profit
-----------------	--------------

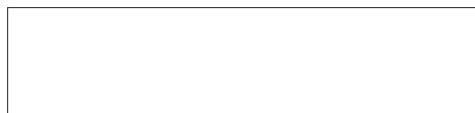


Perinton's monument to local soldiers who gave their lives in the Civil War, erected at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Fairport shortly after the war.

Photo by Bill Poray



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



A portion of the Certo factory at the corner of North Main Street and Lift Bridge Lane, called State Street when this photograph was taken, probably around 1940.

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