



18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, NY 14450

Vol LI  
No. 4

December 2018  
585-223-3989

# Perinton Historical Society **Historigram**

## Peter Daley and his Hotels

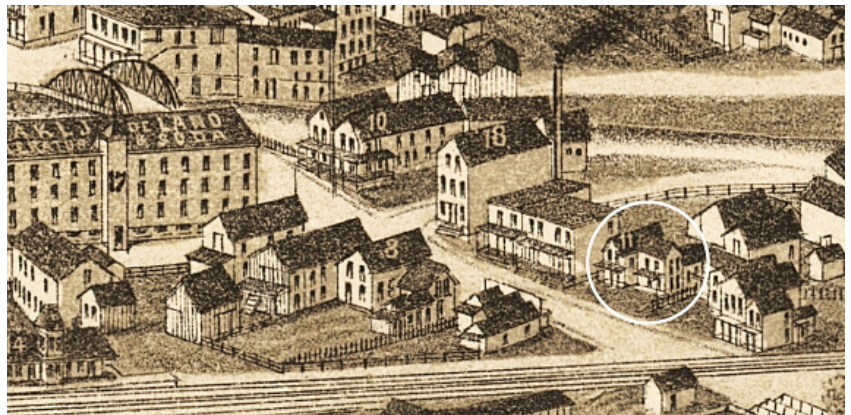
*By Bill Poray*

*Note: There are many ways to spell the name Daley, including Daly, Daily and Dailey. In research for this story, I have encountered all of them. In the following account, I have chosen to use "Daley."*

**P**eter Daley and his wife, Bridget Kelly were both born in Ireland in the late 1830s. Whether they met in their native country, or in Ohio, where they were married in 1866, is unknown. While living in Union township, northwest of Dayton, Owen, their only child, was born. By the early 1870s the family had relocated to the growing community of Fairport. Peter Daley made a career change, from farmer to saloon keeper. He owned one of a handful of saloons on the west side of North Main Street, approximately where Short's Bar is today, a stretch that was known as Whiskey Flats. His place was an early frame house converted for business use. He rented the rooms above the saloon to local men, and others who were passing through town, and called his place the Daley House.

Known to be a fair and compassionate man, Peter Daley was successful as well, enough so to send his son Owen to a private Catholic school in Buffalo. Daley was loyal and generous to his church, and active in the Democratic Party. He was also a very large man. On a cold February day, six of Daley's friends, all big men, weighed themselves on the scale at Dudley's South Main Street store. The men ranged from just over two hundred pounds to almost three hundred. The biggest number belonged to Peter Daley.

The many friends of the Daley family were sympathetic when, on a frigid Friday morning in January of 1886, the Daley House burned to the ground. No one was hurt, but the tenants on the upper floor barely escaped with their lives. Soon after the fire Peter Daley set out to build Fairport's Cottage Hotel, financed in part with the insurance benefit he was paid from the Daley House fire. He purchased the lot on



This reproduction of a small section of the 1885 Birds-Eye View of Fairport includes the Daley House (circled, at right). It was located on the west side of North Main Street, near where Short's Bar is today.

the northeast corner of North Main and John Street, called Lift Bridge Lane today. A blacksmith shop was relocated to the back on the lot, and soon his new hotel, built of "fire-proof" brick, began to take shape.

In August of 1887, the Monroe County Mail proclaimed of the two-story brick building, "*Mr. Peter Daley has christened his house the "Cottage Hotel" and is now ready for business. He has his house neatly and pleasantly furnished, everything is new and clean, and Mr. Daley proposes to keep things in first-class shape.*"

After less than two years in business, Daley sold the Cottage Hotel in March of 1889 to J.P. Smith, who had previous hotel experience in Fairport as the proprietor of the Osburn House. Smith promptly added a third floor to the two-year-old building, as well as the memorable Queen Ann-inspired tower.

*Continued on page 4*



~ Bob Hunt ~

## Comments from your President

November 15, 2018:

Once again I am writing this month's article from my office in the carriage barn on a snowy winter day. Last month I wrote about visiting the transportation exhibit below the Jell-O Gallery in LeRoy. One of the transportation vehicles displayed was a Columbia high wheel bicycle, which is a bicycle with the front wheel about five feet in diameter and the rear wheel one foot in diameter. The early post-civil war years saw the appearance of crude bicycles called velocipedes or "bone shakers," followed in the 1870s by the British high wheeler. Boston-born Albert A. Pope was a visionary who recognized the potential for the bicycle and established the Pope Manufacturing Co. in 1878 for this purpose. The first bicycles he produced were his Columbia line of high wheelers.

My interest in the Columbia line of bicycles is twofold. The first is related to my mother's brother, my Uncle Warren Halstead, who had a damaged vertebrae from a car accident and was basically paralyzed from the armpits down. He moved around using a high table with wheels or with crutches. He was quite a man, and didn't let his handicap stop him from a productive and happy life. Among his many occupations, he raised minks for their fur, had a reel push lawn mower sharpening business, a bicycle shop in Dundee, a sporting goods shop with fishing and hunting items, and finally a shoe repair business. In his bicycle shop he had a Columbia high wheel bicycle.

In the Memorial Day and 4th of July parades in Dundee, I got out the high wheel bicycle, cleaned it up and decorated the big front wheel with red, white and blue crepe paper, and rode in the parade. My memory is that I rode for about three years. Getting on the bike was fairly easy as there was a little step above the rear wheel which one used to climb up onto the seat. The pedals were attached to the big front wheel without a chain or gears, and there was a hand-operated brake lever. When squeezed it would cause a pad to contact the front wheel. Getting off the bike was another story. The best was to have a friend hold the bike while climbing down. The alternative was to tip over sideways, hoping to cushion the fall with your leg, which often resulted in a few scraped knees.

Second, my first bicycle was a Columbia Roadmaster bicycle, which I purchased from my uncle. It was around 1952 when I was 12 years old. I bought the bicycle of my dreams, a maroon and cream colored model with a tank in the cross bars containing a horn, front light, and a rack over the rear wheel.



Fairport's Frank Pittinaro with his high wheel bike in 1962, similar to that ridden by Bob Hunt in his youth.

Photo from the Pittinaro collection, Town of Perinton archives

On the rear fender I stuck on a decal of my favorite NY Yankee, Yogi Berra. The price was \$39.95. I saved up fifteen dollars for the down payment and paid off the balance over the summer by mowing lawns, paying three dollars weekly on the balance. I mowed three lawns, was paid two dollars for one, a dollar for another and thirty-five cents for the third. So three dollars went for the bike, and I had thirty-five cents left for myself for the week. It usually ended up as twenty-five cents, after I bought a Fawn soda pop from my uncle's shop.

It was about this time that I also helped out at the shop working on bicycles brought in for repairs. This usually meant removing both the front and rear hub sets and cleaning out the old grease and dirt with a kerosene wash and putting them back together. Sometimes new bearing rings were required, as the old ones were broken or in bad shape. The coaster brakes were also adjusted at this time.

There will be more stories about Uncle Warren in my future comments. Today I'll sign off with a saying that has been on our kitchen cupboard for a couple of years. "When a man says he will take care of something or fix something, he will. There is no need to remind him every six months."

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

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# Upcoming Events

## **Saturday, December 1**

**from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum**

Book signing: *Black Velvet Band*

Author: Teresa K. Lehr

## **Sunday, December 2**

**from 2:30–3:30 p.m. at the museum**

Book Signing: *Murder in the Museum*

Author: Karen Shughart

## **Saturday, December 8**

**from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the museum**

Book signing: *Miss Turie's Magic Creatures and Monster Trucks*

Author: Joy Keller

## **Tuesday, December 11**

**from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the museum**

PHS Yuletide Traditions final bids accepted for silent auction items. Winners announced following the evening's program

## **Tuesday, December 11**

**7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Annual Holiday Party

Presenter: The Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble of the Eastman Community Music School

Please bring a dessert to pass.

## **Thursday, December 20**

**from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the museum**

The museum's last day open before closing for the season

## **Tuesday, January 15**

**7:00 p.m. at the Fairport Public Library**

Program: Albert R. Stone—Saving the Negatives,

The Stone Family Lineage and ROC Archive

Presenter: Glenn Galbraith, great-great grandson of Albert Stone

This program is co-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.

## **Tuesday, February 19**

**7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Program: History of the American Red Cross

Presenter: Jerry Bennett

## **Saturday, February 23**

**from 10:00 a.m.–100 p.m. at the museum**

Event: Volunteer Recognition & Training Seminar

## **Saturday, March 2**

**from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the museum**

The museum opens for the season

## **Tuesday, March 19**

**7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Program: Mary Jewett Telford, Civil War Nurse

Presenter: Vicki Masters Proffitt

## **Tuesday, April 16**

**7:00 p.m. at the museum**

Program: Buffalo Soldiers

Presenter: Bing Reaves

## **Tuesday, May 21**

**6:00 p.m. at the Perinton Park Pavilion**

Event: PHS Annual Meeting and Picnic

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## Striking Strings Strikes Again

We are so pleased to welcome The Striking Strings back to the museum on Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. The group performed last year at a Yuletide Traditions special event and was a big hit. Our attendees last year especially enjoyed the Christmas sing-along portion of the program, which will take place again this year. This sought-after group brings the beautiful sound of hammered dulcimers to its customized concerts and features both the local and world-wide connections of this unique instrument. The trapezoid shaped instrument, with many courses of strings, is struck by two hammers and has a history dating at least to the 12th century in the Middle East. The hammered dulcimer also has a local history of builders in Genesee and Chautauqua counties and many regional performers dating

from the early 19th century. The long-ringing sound of the hammered dulcimer has been a part of many musical cultures.

Under the direction of founder Mitzie Collins and Linda Sniedze Taggart, the ensemble has performed extensively throughout Western New York and as far afield as Albany, NY, Chatham, MA, and the Congress of the Cimbalom World Association in Hungary, England, and most recently, Slovakia.

The 18-member group, also features fiddle, guitar, flute, bass and marimbula. Their repertory ranges from 12th century dances to Swiss polkas and waltzes, from seasonal repertoire to 19th century hymns and parlor songs.





Early 1900s postcard view of the Cottage Hotel  
*From the collection of the Perinton Historical Society*



After selling the Cottage Hotel in 1889, Peter Daley immediately purchased another, the Sherman House Penfield.  
*Photo by Bill Poray*

Daley in turn purchased the Sherman House near Penfield's four corners. The big brick home had been built for Daniel Penfield's son, and later was converted to a hotel. Owen Daley, now twenty years of age, worked for his father at the Sherman House.

One day in late September of 1889, Owen attended a baseball game between a visiting Rochester club and the local Penfield boys. While playing the game, Henry Simon, Rochester's left fielder, entrusted the hotel keeper's son with his gold watch, diamond ring, and twenty-five dollars in cash. Young Daley didn't stick around for the rest of the game, and skipped town with the ill-gotten booty, as well as his father's prized thoroughbred trotter, Charley Gray. Owen Daley was soon captured in Lockport and jailed.

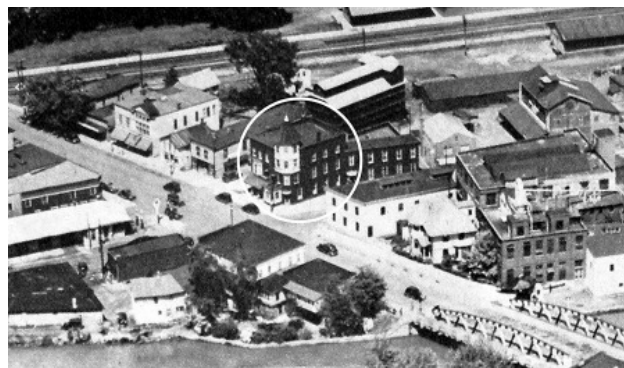
For the next few years, Peter Daley split his time between his hotel and keeping track of his son's many legal challenges. In the spring of 1890, Owen's son was in jail, the details of which have been impossible to determine, although it did involve his native state of Ohio. Some reports suggest he worked for several advertising firms, whose funds he stole through the use of forged checks. By 1892, his occupation

was listed as bartender, likely working in a saloon operated by his father, and he married in 1893.

The following year, perhaps with the influence of the senior Daley, Owen was elected treasurer of the Fairport Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, a position of trust for which he had limited credentials. Early in January of 1895, Owen Daley found himself in a Buffalo jail, charged with murder, the result of a drunken brawl. While a grand jury failed to bring an indictment, newspapers across the state portrayed Owen Daley as a thief and swindler, "well known among the world of sports and hard characters about town."

Soon after the murder acquittal, Owen Daley was charged with several counts of forgery in Rochester, and grand larceny in Buffalo, where it was alleged he stole a safe from a saloon. By the spring of 1895, the son of Peter and Bridget Daley had a cell in the Elmira Reformatory.

It has been said that Owen Daley's mother died of a broken heart after her son's first incarceration in 1889. His father, Peter Daley, once a prosperous and popular businessman in Fairport, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester in January of 1907, at sixty-eight years of age. Owen Daley was released from the Elmira Reformatory, and by 1900, the census lists he and his wife and three children as residents of Rochester's 19th ward. Owen Daley died in 1929 at age sixty-two, a few months after the stock market crash that triggered the Great Depression.

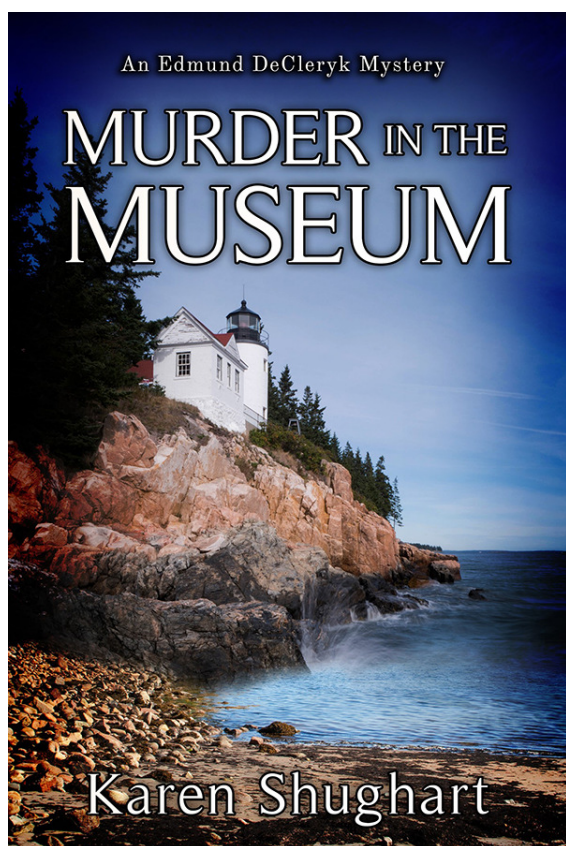


1938 aerial view of North Main Street and the Cottage Hotel (circled)  
*Photo from the Town of Perinton Historic Archives*

As for the Cottage Hotel, like the Daley House, it too eventually succumbed to fire in February of 1968, eighty-one years after Peter Daley first opened the doors. The tragic fire resulted in one death and several injuries. Well over one hundred firefighters from six fire companies did what they could, but were unable to save the building.

Although the Cottage Hotel was destroyed fifty years ago, there are many who have vivid memories of the place. I've talked to retirees of the American Can Company who spent time at the Cottage's bar after their shift. Others remember pasta dinners, Friday night fish fries, and live entertainment in the 1950s and 1960s. And more than a few had their wedding reception at the northeast corner of State Street and North Main—at Fairport's Cottage Hotel.





Did this title catch your eye?  
Author Karen Shughart's book is sure to capture your imagination!

## ***Murder in the Museum***

Meet Karen on December 2 from 2:30–3:00 p.m.  
as she signs copies of her book, *Murder in the Museum*.

Early one gray November morning, retired Lighthouse Cove, New York, police chief, Edmund DeCleryk, finds Emily Bradford's body on the beach at the base of the bluff where the local museum and historical society stands. At the same time, a break-in has been reported at the museum, and Emily's coat and purse are found hanging on a peg in the museum's gift shop where she worked. Was her death the result of a burglary gone bad or something more sinister?

Karen Shughart's inspiration for writing mysteries began many years ago when she and her husband discovered a charming village in the northernmost part of the Finger Lakes on Lake Ontario. All books in the Edmund DeCleryk series, this first one and others to come, take place in the fictional village of Lighthouse Cove, New York, which is very much like the lovely village in which the Shugharts now live.

*Murder in the Museum: An Edmund DeCleryk Mystery*, is solved when the investigator discovers a map dated 1785 and a manuscript written in 1847 that were unearthed during an archaeological dig in Toronto, Canada. The second book, *Murder in the Cemetery*, will link the murder to the War of 1812, and the third book, *Murder at Freedom Point*, will link that murder to the Civil War and Underground Railroad.



## **Meet Author Teresa K. Lehr**

PHS welcomes author Teresa Lehr on December 1st from 10:30–11:30 a.m. as she signs copies of her newest book, *Black Velvet Band*. The book is a fictional account of the 1918 influenza epidemic and its effect on the Rochester community.

In the fall of 1918, the deadliest health crisis in recorded human history spread like a toxic blanket over this already tumultuous period, making it, in effect, a kind of “perfect storm.” How the Spanish influenza pandemic may have influenced each of these events is the subject of *Black Velvet Band*, a fictive history account that places real characters in their actual historic contexts.

The setting—a training school for nurses in one of several general hospitals located in a major American city—is merely representative of similar institutions in other metropolitan areas. A majority of the characters in this story have been inspired by letters written by student nurse Alice Denny to her sister Bess. The nurse trainees are the classmates Alice writes about most often. Most of the events portrayed in the hospital and in city neighborhoods have been gleaned from contemporaneous newspaper accounts.

*Black Velvet Band* fails to uncover a human villain in its examination of the years 1917 and 1918. But it does reveal some historic individuals who, through their foresight, intuition, and selfless actions, may be considered authentic, if unheralded, heroes of the period.



Before retiring in 2011, Teresa (Terry) Lehr taught English and advanced writing and research in junior high schools and at SUNY Brockport. Since then, she has continued researching and writing untold stories she discovered as an assistant archivist at Rochester General Hospital. The author of eight books and many published shorter works, her first five published volumes were institutional histories.

Since retirement, she has turned to imbuing real historic characters living in actual historic periods with personalities and has created dialogue of probable conversations which were never recorded.

All eight of Ms. Lehr's books will be available for \$15.00 each, or two for \$28.00, cash and checks accepted.





## Children's Books Author Joy Keller to Visit the Museum

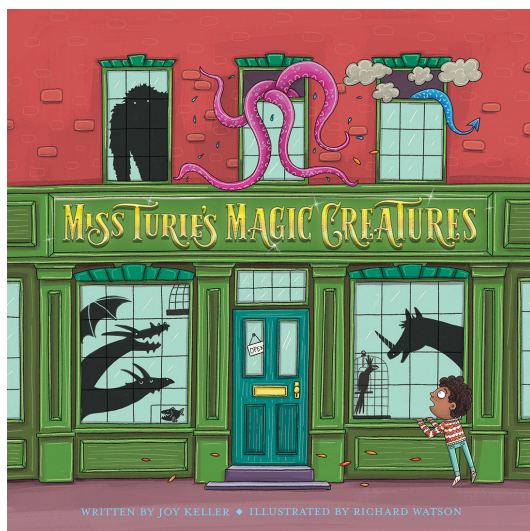
Fairport fourth-grade teacher Joy Keller will sign copies of her two children's books, *Miss Turie's Magic Creatures* and *Monster Trucks* on Saturday, December 8th from 10:30–11:30 a.m.

*Miss Turie's Magic Creatures* is the most exotic pet store you've ever seen! Miss Turie guarantees to "have the pet that's right for you," but can she find a match for her toughest customer yet?

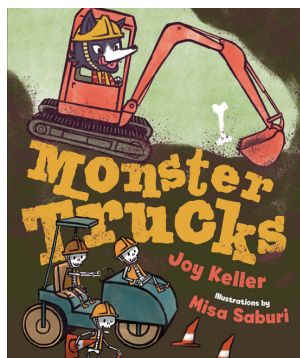
Told in an upbeat, fast-paced rhyme, children will laugh as they learn about mythical creatures and contemplate what they might be like as a household pet. Following the story is a catalog of each featured creature with a more detailed history.

In *Monster Trucks*, monsters pave roads, plow snow and haul muck with their monster trucks in this fun, rhyming picture book. With a gentle bedtime ending, this not-too-scary story is perfect for young monster and truck lovers.

Joy Keller is the author of several fun picture books, including those mentioned above. When she's not writing, she's teaching fourth graders how to write. She lives in Fairport with her husband, two children, and several cats.



These new books, created by Fairport fourth grade teacher Joy Keller, will be available at the museum gift shop for \$15.00 each, cash only.



Some of the beautiful silent auction items in this year's Yuletide Traditions celebration

## Yuletide Traditions 2018

The Fairport Historical Museum will be a very busy place on Tuesday, December 11th! Final bidding on our Yuletide Traditions silent auction items takes place from 6:00–7:00 p.m., followed by a wonderful concert by The Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble of the Eastman Community Music School. We will also celebrate the holidays with our annual party. Please bring a finger dessert to pass.

Did you know you can support the Perinton Historical Society whenever you shop on Amazon.com? Just log in to Smile.Amazon.com and select the Perinton Historical Society as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to the PHS. Thank you for your support!

The Fairport Museum gift shop has a wonderful selection of unique gift ideas, ranging from autographed books by local authors to hand-painted slate tiles showing scenes from early Fairport and many other items in between. New to the gift shop are log candleholders and luminarias created by our Yuletide Traditions committee members, which sell for \$13 to \$22, depending upon the item.



# *Yuletide Traditions*

The PHS holiday fundraiser

## ***With Appreciation***

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

Karen & Will Allen  
Catherine Angevine  
Susan Broda, Anne Johnston &  
May Thomson  
Casa Larga Vineyards and Winery  
Carol Christensen  
Christine Colaluca  
Craft Bits and Pieces  
Durf's Family Restaurant  
Fairport Rotary Club  
Friends of the Fairport Library  
Nancy Gilbride  
Girl Scout Troop 60336  
Jean Hamel  
Jan Dwyer Hess  
Bob Hunt  
Carol Johnston, Blanche Shearer &  
Mary Stevens  
Carol Klinger & Jane Stock  
Suzanne Lee  
Kerri Lehmbeck, CharleeJack  
Designs  
Rusty Likly  
Joyce Lyle  
Charles & Sharon Marang  
Mark's Pizzeria

Karen Martin  
Lucy McCormick  
Margaret E. McGee  
Perinton Quilt Guild  
Plant Paradise Cafe  
Vicki Masters Profitt  
Revelations Design Studio  
Richardson's Canal House  
Riki's Family Restaurant  
Rita Prince State Farm  
Insurance Agency  
Laura Schmidt  
Nancy Slaybaugh  
Jolene & Fred Smith  
Sweet Charity Resale Boutique  
& Shop  
Sue Templeton  
Sylvia Vecellio  
Emily Webster on behalf of  
Greenbrier Garden Club  
Wegmans Perinton  
Wellness Center Fairport  
Bonnie Wetzel  
Karen & Bill Wickens  
Jean Whitney





## Yuletide Appreciation

Yuletide Traditions is celebrating its fifth year in 2018, and the fundraiser takes much planning and many people to make it successful. Museum Director Vicki Masters Profit would like to thank the following people for planning and executing another fun fundraising event: Lucy McCormick, Renee Barry, Ann Castle, Nadine Fiero, Jean Hamel, Joyce Hawkinson, Bob Hunt, Suzanne Lee, Joyce Lyle, Pat May, Peg McGee, Dave Scheirer, Sue Scheirer, Terry Holt, Karen Wickens and Linda Wiener; to our Santa, Charles Profit; and to the museum volunteers who helped to decorate the museum for the holidays and help set up YT: Karen, Dan and Will Allen, Harold Castle and Jolene Smith. Special thanks to Catherine Angevine, Anita Rubsam and Marilyn Moran for preparing the museum for the event by cleaning till it sparkled, to Bill Poray for his Doctor George Dean and Louise Griswold Dean presentation that drew over 100 people to the museum for YT kick off, to Membership Chair Jim Unckless for sending YT info to PHS members, to Doris Davis-Fritsch for publicizing all the special events on the PHS website and to Communications Director Renee Barry for publicizing the YT events in the media, on Instagram and on Twitter.

A debt of gratitude is also owed to our members, neighbors, friends, organizations and businesses who donated gift baskets, trees, wreaths, gift cards and decorative items to YT, bid on YT donations, spread the word about Yuletide Traditions, attended the special events and purchased items in the museum gift shop. Your support allows the Perinton Historical Society to continue sharing the amazing history of Fairport and Perinton with our community!



The Fairport Historical Museum (above) was crowded on the evening of December 20th for the opening of the 2018 Yuletide Traditions celebration. Besides admiring and bidding on a host of festive silent auction items (Carol Boas bidding on a basket, opposite page), members were treated to Town Historian Bill Poray's presentation (opposite page) on local Doctor Dean and his wife. To accommodate the crowd, Bill gave his talk twice, at 5:00 pm and again at 7:00 pm. Museum Director Vicki Profit is seen here (opposite page, bottom) welcoming a member to the event. Below, Harold Castle nibbles on some culinary treats.



Event photos by Keith Boas





## Special Recognition Level Memberships

*As of November 13, 2018*

### Business (\$100)

#### **Bonnie Wetzel, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services**

65 South Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-303-1678

Web: TopRochesterAgent.com

#### **Canandaigua National Bank and Trust**

72 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Phone: 585-394-4260

Web: cnbank.com

#### **Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith**

103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450

Phone: 585-388-0112

<http://www.thefvi.com>

### New Listings for Special Recognition

#### **DeLand (\$100–\$249)**

Dorothy Dodge Leicester

Nancy Loughran

Patricia Dodge Waples

#### **Potter (\$250–\$499)**

None this month

#### **Perrin (\$500 and above)**

Canandaigua National Bank & Trust



## Perinton Historical Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

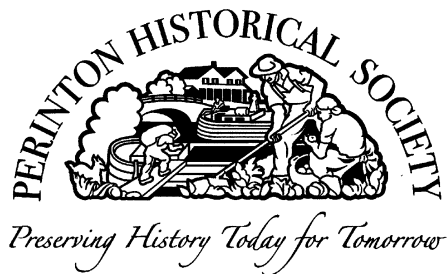
|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>President</i>      | Bob Hunt      |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Vicki Profitt |
| <i>Secretary</i>      | Doug Whitney  |
| <i>Treasurer</i>      | Linda Wiener  |
| <i>Communications</i> | Renee Barry   |

### TRUSTEES

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

### MUSEUM

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Director</i> | Vicki Profitt |
|-----------------|---------------|



Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit No. 149  
Fairport, NY 14450



December evening at  
the Gazebo in Fairport's  
Kennelley Park.

*Photo in 2012 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>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will reopen on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</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)**