

In the Country Again A Two Days' Ride

Perinton was a thriving agricultural community in the latter portion of the 19th century, and residents were vitally interested in the state of affairs on the farms in their town. After all, successful local farms were essential to families putting food on the table. In July of 1886, the Fairport Herald dispatched a writer to tour the countryside, visit with farmers, and assess the status of the farms and crops. Provided here is the report, edited for clarity and the limitations of space.

Bill Poray, Editor

A horse-drawn wagon on the farm of Allen Ayrault. The site eventually became the home of Fairport High School in 1970.



After two weeks of the finest hay weather that any farmer ever saw, last week Friday night there was a gentle and a bountiful rain. The result was that Saturday morning was a remarkably pleasant one, so the Herald man embraced the opportunity to take a ride among his farmer friends.

Starting to the southwest, the first stop was at the farm of J.P. Wilmarth, where we found a tent pitched alongside of the blackcap berry field, so as to have a shade in which to crate the berries, and for the pickers to rest in. Work had not yet

commenced for the day all around but they were stirring so as to be at it when the water dried off.

Mr. Wilmarth has one of the best bearing orchards in this section, but this year the fruit is scarce and far between. His grain and hoed crops look first class.

At Elmer Benedict's they had started the cultivator in the corn with one man, while the other two were just about to put up a tent by their berry field. And by the way, he has one of the best cared for and prolific fields of blackcap berries we have ever seen. He has his own drier, gotten up with his



Comments from your President

February 15, 2020: I'm in trouble with my Editor, as I am a day late with my comments. Once again, writing from my office in the carriage barn, ready to share some thoughts for the March *Historigram*.

~ **Bob Hunt** ~

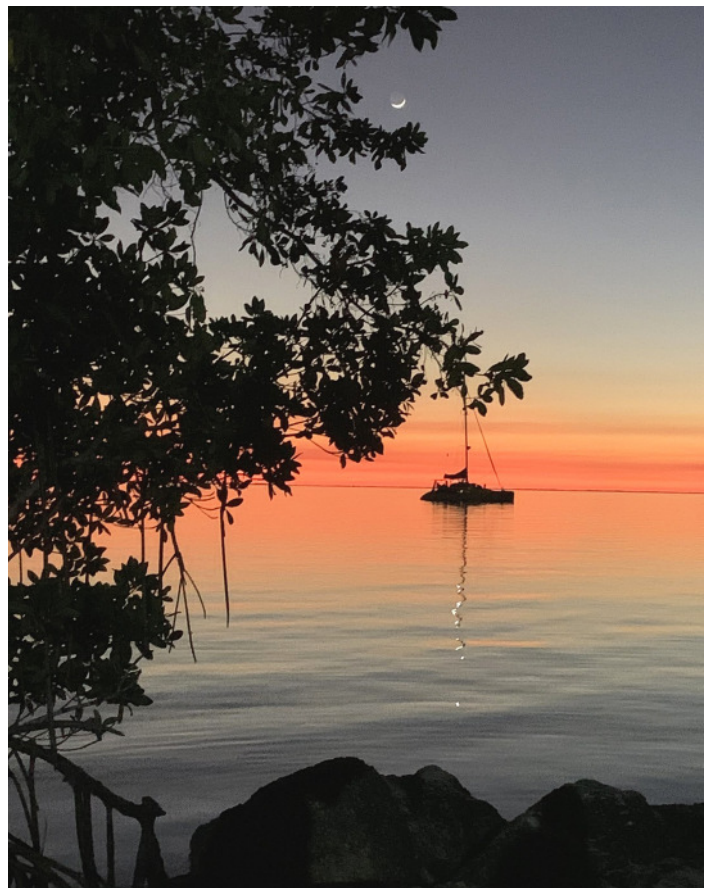
Yesterday we woke to zero degrees and tomorrow 45 degrees is expected. Rochester is leading the snowfall race this year with Buffalo and Syracuse.

We left on January 19th for a couple of weeks of warmer weather, driving south with visits to college friends along the way. We checked off an item on our bucket list, by driving all the way to Key West, and spending three nights in the old town. We parked the car in the garage space we had, then rented bikes and traveled the Key. We enjoyed great food, people watching, sunset sail and chickens everywhere. Probably the highlight was visiting the Little White House made famous by President Truman, who stayed there for 175 days over 11 visits. The Little White House was originally waterfront when it was built in 1890 by the US Navy, as officer's quarters for the submarine base. When President Truman was looking for a place to unwind after 19 months of "The buck stops here Presidency," he was convinced by the Navy elite that Key West was the spot. He loved the place, however, his wife Bess said it was nothing more than a run-down fishing cabin. When the Navy became aware of her comments, they proceeded to renovate the property into what you see today. Harry convinced Bess to join him with statements such as "even the floors are level now."

We had an excellent docent for our visit who shared many interesting stories about President Truman. Harry liked his bourbon, cigars, and playing poker, and often started his day with a shot of Old Grand-Dad, followed by a brisk walk around Key West. Old Grand-Dad was his favorite when he was buying, but liked Wild Turkey when someone else was picking up the tab. He loved to play poker, so the Navy built a beautiful wood poker table for eight, for his use while at the Little White House. It featured slots for chips and eight built-in ash trays. The Navy also felt that a poker table sitting in the porch/family room did not present a proper vision for the President, so they built a top, which would go over the poker table, making it look like a nice round conference table. There was a beautiful set of Steuben crystal glasses from Corning Glass with the Navy seal etched into them. Priceless.

The press loved President Truman and always gave him

It's been a crazy winter so far, with 77 inches of snow to date, and fluctuating temperatures.



Sunset at Key Largo. Photo by Bob Hunt

positive stories. Maybe it was because he always invited them to picnics on the grounds, where he was the chef, flipping burgers and turning hot dogs. The visit caused me to seek out the book "Truman" by David McCullough. It will be my reading material for the next decade, as I'm a slow reader and the book is about four inches thick. Thirty pages read so far.

Other presidents have used the Little White House as a retreat as well, with General Eisenhower meeting there in 1948 and 1949, when the Department of Defense, as we know it today, was created. President Eisenhower went there in 1956 to recover from his heart attack. Presidents Taft, Kennedy, Carter and others have used the property for important meetings and events.

A reminder: This is the time of year you should plan a trip to Cartwright's Maple Tree Inn in rural Allegany County. Great pancakes, all you can eat, with their freshly made maple syrup. It is also the time to bring inside a few cuttings of forsythia. Placed them in a vase of water, which will result in a bouquet of yellow flowers in a few days.

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

Dr. Seuss in World War II

March 2, 2020 marks the 116th anniversary of the birth of one of America's most well-loved authors, Theodor S. Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss. Although he is celebrated as a children's author, many believe that Geisel wrote his books with a deeper meaning than that which is printed on the page. In that vein, we welcome Rosemary Irwin to the Fairport Historical Museum on Tuesday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. as she explores Dr. Seuss in World War II.

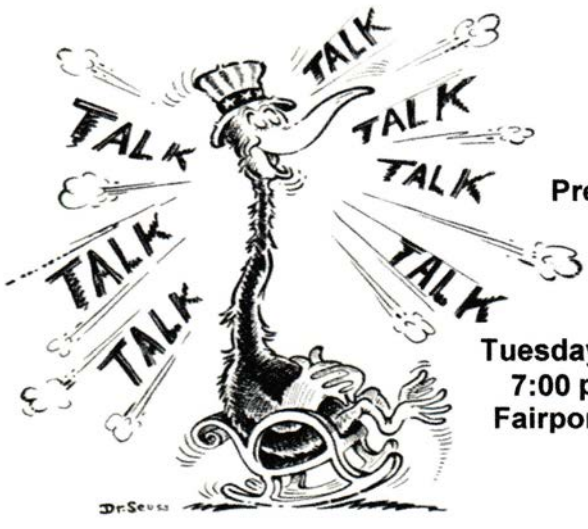
Was Yertle the Turtle inspired by Hitler? Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, created cartoons to convince the U.S. to join World War II and later to communicate important truths to the Allied troops. We know Dr. Seuss for the Grinch, but before his popular children's stories were adapted for television and movies, he created documentaries for the U.S. military for which he won two Academy Awards. What Geisel created before and during WWII changed hearts and minds then and were the forerunners to our most beloved children classics. Come hear this hidden, important story of Dr. Seuss in World War II.

Rosemary Irwin lectures throughout our local area on topics as varied as health care, history, art, and technology. She has also facilitated classes created by Harvard, Stanford, and Humanities New York, translating complex material into lively non-academic discussions. Since 2012, her mission has been "to give lifetime learners a reason to be in the room." This event is free and is open to the public.

Sculpture at
The Amazing World of
Dr. Seuss Museum
in Springfield,
Massachusetts

Photo by
Vicki Masters Profit






Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss in World War II

Presented by Rosemary Irwin

Tuesday, March 17
7:00 pm at the
Fairport Museum



Upcoming Programs & Events

Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
The museum opens for the season.

Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: Dr. Marcena Sherman Ricker, Physician to
Susan B. Anthony
Presenter: Rev. Garth Brokaw

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.
At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: Dr. Seuss Goes to War
Presenter: Rosemary Irwin

Saturday, March 28 from 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
At the Fairport Historical Museum
Event: Discussion and book signing of
Murder at the Cemetery
Author: Karen Shughart

Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.
At the Fairport Historical Museum
Program: The Architecture of James H. Johnson,
architect of the Mushroom House
Presenters: Katie Eggers Comeau and Christopher Bandt

Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
at the Fairport Historical Museum.
Event: Greenbrier Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m.
At the Perinton Park Pavilion
Event: PHS Annual Meeting and Picnic





A turn-of-the-century image of Edwin Jordan (with dog) and his family and workers. The Jordan farm was located on the border of Penfield on Route 250, Fairport Nine Mile Point Road.

own plans and ingenuity, with which he dries both apples and berries. It was not running but looked like a good machine, and it certainly has done good work. Although it was early in the morning they wanted us to stay to dinner, but we rather wait and take a whole day at a visit—in the house as well as in the fields.

A little further south is Bushnell's Basin, where business was rather dull. The blacksmith was shoeing the landlord's horse, which accounts for those two places of business, and the store and post office was not yet opened up for the day. Mr. Olney, and several of his neighbors, were working in their gardens, and the result of their labor was already showing to good advantage.

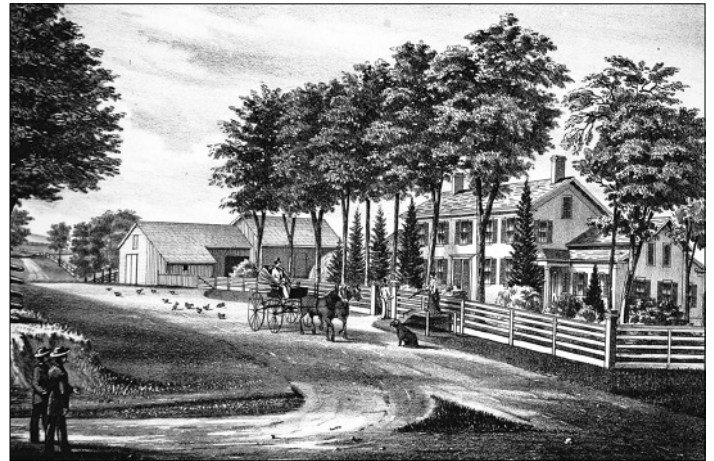
Returning through the little village again we took a glance over the Hughes farm, which looks well, in spite of the fact that Jas. E. is away from home part of the time. On the Burley farm, and also the Jas. E. Pritchard farm, the hoed crops were doing remarkably well. Potatoes in that section promise well, and also a good sized field of cabbage is getting a good start.

Frank Ketchum had his boys going for the potato bugs like a duck for a June bug, and there were acres and acres of both, that is, potatoes and bugs. He had made a nice start in his hay, and was just starting in his wheat, all of which were of the best. Andrew Tedman, who is a brother of Mrs. Ketchum, Sr., is staying there this summer, and is making a sturdy farmer, and he enjoys it too.

At the home of Andrew Ketchum we made a longer stay than usual, as we had to go to the back fields to see his stock, which by the way, is his chief support. He has pure blood Holsteins and Jerseys, and some crosses between these two, with some Durhams in other cases. He has twenty-one head of cattle, including old and young, and they are mostly of the best. The farm embraces nearly 200 acres, and besides stock he raises a large quantity of corn, potatoes, and spring grain, his spring wheat being really good. He had seven cultivators

going in his corn and potatoes. His winter wheat was very fine.

And by the way, we wish to remark about the fine shape of the Ketchum farms, and all along east of there, where our route lay, are watered by living springs and little running brooks. They are nice to look at, and they make the stock laugh to be near them on a hot summer day. We believe it is a fact that stock will do better with good, pure, living water, and poor feed in the summer season, than they will on the best of feed and little or no water. But where they have both it is no wonder they soon get to be premium stock.



Home and barns of Charles Howe, whose farm was located on the northwest corner of Pittsford Palmyra Road and Turk Hill Road. This image is from the 1877 History of Monroe County, by W.H. McIntosh.

A little farther east, in the Bonesteele neighborhood, is what is known as Valentown Hall. It is an immense building, but experience has proved there was too much money put into the building to make it a paying investment.

A short distance east we turned to the north and came to the Kline and Bowerman neighborhood. They have farms second to none, and their buildings and all other surroundings are in perfect harmony.

Next north is the old Wheeler place, which since the financial reverses of the owner several years ago has somewhat run down—at best it has not improved. It is a good location. Next north is the farm of Mr. Woolsey, where we called the previous week. As this was on ground covered by a former trip, we started for home as fast as possible, however noting by the way, how fast the farmers in the vicinity of Egypt post office had pushed their haying for the past few days. Hay almost in, and wheat nicely started.

Tuesday morning of this week the editor started out again for a ride. The night had been cool, as was also the morning, but there was a prospect of warmer and continued dry weather. We started directly east by way of the Howard Crossing. The first thing to draw attention was the large amount of good a little work had done on the hill just east of

the crossing, in the way of turn piking, putting in sluices, etc. The result is that the road will be much improved for years to come. The next thing to notice is that the village of Fairport is drawing an immense amount of gravel from the Howard pit to put on the village streets.

Upon the top of the hill is the old Howard farm, more recently the Becker farm, which is now owned by Mrs. Marshal Howard, of Rochester, and is worked by the Quirk brothers. The crops are all good. The hay was all housed, and they were rigging the self-raking reaper so as to start the wheat.

The next place, the old Walker farm, is this year worked by Mot. Wickham. Since Mr. W. died, the farm has run down some because of the various changes in the management, as is always the case under similar circumstances. It is a good farm, and when a good stirring farmer buys it and works it himself he will have one of the best farms around.

The farm of Vick Tomlinson, who lives just east and cross the road, is in rather a slip-shod condition, just about like its owner. The trouble with Vick is that he needs a wife to wake him up, pull his hair, his nose, and do other vigorous things if necessary, as it is too bad to see that fine farm run to waste.

J.J. Van Norman, just north, was gathering potato bugs and cultivating. During the three years since he bought the old Howell farm he has improved it very materially by sinking huge rocks, gathering off the stone, and cleaning out the fence bogs. He has cows, poultry, a garden, fruit, besides all kind of farm crops, and all look very good indeed. His family all take hold with a will and help, and they make things go.

Next east of John Howell, and across the road, is the fine little fifty acre farm of John Kennedy, and he keeps it slick as a mouse. He has a fine even field of wheat which was being cut with a self-binder, by the Bills brothers, at \$1.25 per acre, and furnish the twine. All the crops on this farm look good.

The old Budlong farm, or about 200 acres of it, where the homestead was, is being worked by the Bills brothers, and they are doing it right up to the handle. They have a field of corn which cannot be excelled, being as good as that on the John Van Ness farm, seen last Saturday, in the south part of town. These boys were brought up in the neighborhood, and are by industry getting a good start in the world.

We turned north, then west, and came by the Packard farms into our own county again, and called upon John Brydges. We found him sick and all curled up under the end of a haystack which he had been trying to build. He was suffering from a summer attack of some kind, but was that day lucky in having a tramp come along to take his place in drawing hay, although he tried to do the stacking. Henry Brydges had his hay all cut and was fast trying to get it in so as to get into his wheat, which is a big crop, as also are his oats.



The barns of Charles Howe, as seen in the 1877 image on page four, and badly deteriorated, above, exactly one hundred years later. The extremely close location of the structures to busy Route 31 helped ensure the demise of both the farmhouse and barns.

A.J. Crocker and Andrew Burroughs, who now run the old Bosworth farm for a milk dairy, were pushing along with their hay and potatoes. They raise oats, and some corn for soiling purposes, and buy large quantities of mill feed so that they keep a large number of cows in milk. It is lots of work to run the business, but the boys pitch in their best, and are doing well.

South from there we called upon Lee Hamilton, who has an immense crop of hay, one small field of three acres being about equal to anything of the kind we ever saw. While visiting with him the whistle of the Fairport chemical works blew for noon, so after declining the hearty invitation to stay to dinner, we started for home on the road west. Mr. Tillou was just leaving the hay field for dinner, but we talked a minute with him. His hay is big, while his other crops are coming on nicely.

Clem Cornish we did not see, but his farm looked as if he had been rustling around. There was not a weed to be seen, nor anything amiss, while his crops looked good. Clem is such a particular man that we wonder how he ever came to get married. After leaving his farm we came to the village, having had a delightfully pleasant half day in the country.



Perinton Historical Society

Mission

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

Museum Gift Shop

We are always looking for new gift shop items and would like to get your thoughts on what we already carry in the shop and what you would like to see that is new.

Of the items we already carry in the museum gift shop, which are your favorites?

- Artwork * Autographed books
- * Coasters * Decorative items
- * Magnets * Notecards
- * Ornaments * Postcards
- * Stained Glass
- * Toys * Games & Puzzles

What other items would you like to see in the museum gift shop?

- Apparel * Bookmarks
- * Crafts that are locally made
- * Home décor * Jewelry
- * Keychains * Paperweights
- * Pet-related items
- * Picture frames * Signs
- * Tote bags * Travel mugs
- * Other

If you have ideas or sources for new gift shop items, please email Vicki Masters Profitt at—

Director@
PerintonHistoricalSociety.org

I look forward to hearing your thoughts.



Volunteer Voices

PHS has many things to be thankful for as the museum reopens for the season and the most important of all is our volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to our volunteers who give of their time each month to staff the museum. These are the faces of the PHS who greet our visitors and share our history. We are pleased to welcome back our veteran volunteers this season and to introduce our new volunteers to the museum.

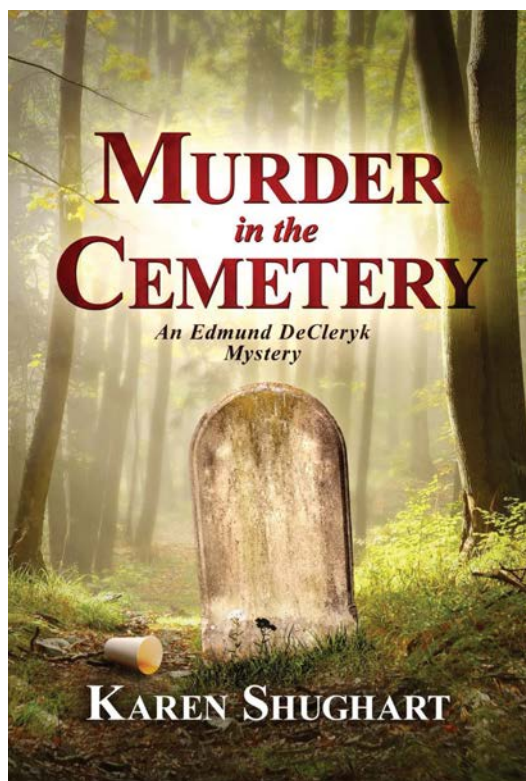
Information about the Volunteer Recognition and Training Seminar that was held on February 29th will be in the April issue of the *Historigram*. Thanks to Volunteer Coordinator John Laurence for planning and holding the event.

All best wishes to retiring museum volunteers Doris Davis-Fritsch and Nancy Goodermote. They will be missed.

Volunteers work just one two-hour shift per month and new volunteers are paired with veterans for training. If you are interested in becoming a museum volunteer, please contact John Laurence at jlaurence977@gmail.com.



In the Fairport Herald
100 years ago this month



Murder at the Cemetery

New Book by Karen Shughart

Criminal consultant Edmund DeCleryk is back! For those of you patiently anticipating author Karen Shughart's sequel to *Murder in the Museum*, your wait is over.

Karen will be at the museum on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00–11:00 a.m. to discuss and sign copies of her newest book, *Murder at the Cemetery*. The softcover book sells for \$15; cash and credit cards accepted. *Murder in the Museum* will also be available for sale at \$15.

On a bright, spring afternoon the body of George Wright, a childhood friend of criminal consultant Edmund DeCleryk, is discovered at a cemetery where casualties of the War of 1812 are buried. After conducting an autopsy, the medical examiner determines that George has been murdered, the cause of death by poisoning. Lighthouse Cove Police Chief Carrie Ramos hires Ed to investigate, with his spunky wife, Annie assisting him.

Suspects include a physician's assistant, a college student and a family member, among others; however, George's demise may be the result of secrets that have surfaced from the grave.

You'll discover what Ed found on the beach in *Murder in the Museum* and how that, and an artifact dating back to the early 1800s, are linked to this untimely death.

Annie loves to cook, and at the end of the book she shares recipes for meals she prepared for friends and loved ones.

Special Recognition Level Memberships—As of February 15, 2020

Business (\$100)

Robert Ruhland (aka Mr. Perinton), Keller Williams Realty
2000 Winton Road S. Bldg. 1, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-303-6607, Web: bobruhland.yourkwagent.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes
32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-388-1270

The Inn on Church
11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-678-1106
Web: www.facebook.com/theinnonchurch

Fairport Village Inn, Wayne and Patty Beckwith
103 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14550
Phone: 585-388-0112, Web: thefvi.com

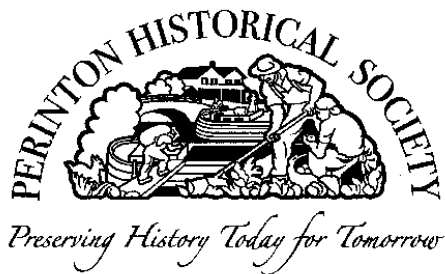


Rev. Brokaw discusses Dr. Marcena Ricker

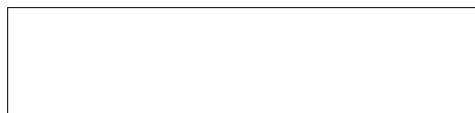
March 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Marcena Ricker was born in 1852 at Castile, New York. She graduated from the Rochester City Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1884. By 1900, Marcena had earned her MD degree, becoming one of the first female doctors on staff at the Rochester Homeopathic Hospital. She set up a private practice in the City Hospital neighborhood with a focus on working women who had been widowed and were raising children alone. Dr. Ricker convinced the Monroe County Association of Baptist Churches to establish the Baptist Home on the hill just outside the Fairport village limits. In addition to numerous civic involvements, Marcena was Susan B. Anthony's physician and was at her bedside when she died. Join us as we explore the life of this remarkable Rochester woman whose social activism was solidly rooted in her faith.

The Rev. Garth E. Brokaw, a native of Adrian, Michigan, came to Rochester to finish his graduate degree at Colgate Rochester Crozer Bexley Hall Divinity School. Before he graduated, he was called to become Chaplain at the Fairport Baptist Home. His ministry there lasted thirty-two years. He served as Chaplain, Assistant Administrator and, for twenty-two years, as the President/CEO. Rev. Brokaw continues to serve the Homes as its historian and serves on the Board of the FBHCM Foundation. Rev. Brokaw is a member of the Lake Avenue Baptist Church, where he also serves as historian. In addition, Garth is the Immediate Past President of the American Baptist Historical Society in Atlanta, Georgia. This event is free and is open to the public.



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



Museum Reopens for the Season

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Fairport Historical Museum—18 Perrin Street, Fairport—will be closed through March 6th. It will reopen on Saturday, March 7th. During this period, you may call Vicki Masters Profitt at 585-233-1204 or email her at director@perintonhistoricalsociety.org to book a group tour or do research.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org