

Susan B. Anthony's Many Trips to Perinton

By Bill Poray

The year was 1845, when Susan B. Anthony, traveling with her parents, first came to Perinton. Or more likely, passed through on the Erie Canal, on their way west to Rochester. Just 25 years old at the time, she and her family were in financial difficulty, and relocated from Battenville, Washington County. She returned to Perinton at least five more times in her life, following her passion and life's work in pursuit of equal rights for women.

Miss Anthony, as she was often called, was arrested for the crime of voting in the election of 1872. In the months prior to the trial, she traveled a great deal, speaking to groups and seeking support in many nearby communities. An entry in Anthony's diary confirms that on March 11, 1873, she arrived in Bushnell's Basin, where she met with a local woman, Susan S. Hughes (1807–1887). Widowed for 22 years, Mrs. Hughes operated a prosperous farm of 125 acres, located almost across the street from the Methodist Episcopal Church. After the two women visited, Anthony met with a group of local residents at the church.



Undated photograph of Susan B. Anthony

*From the Grantham Bain Collection,
Library of Congress*



Left—This church, the oldest in Perinton, still stands in Bushnell's Basin. According to her diary entry of March 11, 1873, Susan B. Anthony had a "very nice meeting in the old church."

*1940s photograph from the collection of the
Perinton Historical Society*



~Vicki Profitt~

From your President

February 13, 2022

With the temperature trending down into the teens again after several glorious days in the 40s, I feel the need to find warmth wherever I can. Alexa has been helping by playing several of my favorite songs. Did you ever listen to the lyrics of *Here Comes the Sun* by the

Beatles? "It's been a long, cold, lonely winter. It feels like years since it's been here." Yes, we are only to mid-February and that is my sentiment as I look longingly out at the new garden I created last summer, the new garden currently covered in snow. Solace comes in the form of imagining the garden in a few months when everything comes back to life, and in playing songs that remind me of more hospitable temperatures. If you are looking for similar respite from the cold, I would suggest *The Dock of the Bay* by Otis Redding, *Under the Boardwalk* by the Drifters or any song by the Beach Boys.

There are so many exciting things to tell you about at the museum! Our Square credit card reader has arrived. Once we load the gift shop inventory into it and train our volunteers, the PHS will be able to accept card payments at the museum in addition to cash and checks. The new program room chairs were delivered last week. Thanks to our new business members Fulkerson Services, Inc. for giving us a great price and to their delivery team, led by Ben, who carried all 88 chairs down the stairs to the program room. We appreciate our ROC the Day donors whose contributions were also put toward the chair purchase.

Assistant Curator Nancy Slaybaugh and I have been working on refreshing the exhibits. The atrium now showcases a beautiful selection of valentines. These come from the PHS collection and include recently acquired valentines donated by the Hutchinson family, courtesy of Marge Filitti Davis. Most of them date to the early 1900s. The Mushroom House exhibit remains in the South Wing but has moved into the mirrored case. World War II veteran Lester Conover's exhibit will come over from the Town Hall and be placed in the long South Wing case. Nancy and I are still deciding what will inhabit the two window displays in the atrium.

Speaking of songs reminds me of a conversation I had with our former Volunteer Coordinator, the late John Laurence. John and I met at the museum on a semi-regular basis to discuss volunteer needs. During one such meeting in 2019, I mentioned how excited I was to be taking my son, Will, on a road trip to Pittsburgh to see the band Queen perform. Will and I are both Queen fans and the concert was

his 13th birthday gift. John commented on how surprised he was that I enjoyed a "hard rock" band like Queen. A lively conversation about music ensued, including a debate about the definition of hard rock and which bands fit into that category. John preferred more folksy music such as James Taylor. I've been thinking a lot about John since his passing on January 5th. His beautifully-written obituary made it clear to anyone who didn't know him, but especially those who were fortunate to be in his circle, that this was a giving, caring man. A man of substance and integrity. A man who lived life to the fullest and who received great joy in giving back to his community. That was our John Laurence. Alexa is playing James Taylor's *You've Got a Friend* now for our friend John and it will be, forevermore, "John's song."

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Perinton Historical Society

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MISSION

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

The HISTORIGRAM is published nine months per year by the Perinton Historical Society. The content of our newsletter is provided by PHS Board members and committee staff. Opinions expressed in any article in this newsletter are those of the author of the article alone and are not those of the PHS unless expressly stated otherwise.

Editor: Bill Poray *Art Director:* Keith Boas
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Proofreading: Irene Poray, Nancy Slaybaugh

Looking back— Winters on the Erie Canal

By Keith Boas

Since the Erie Canal was constructed nearly 200 years ago, it has been partially drained for the winter. The small amount of water remaining at the bottom of the ditch ices over in extended freezing weather, enabling skaters to enjoy outdoor rinks in many canal communities. As seen in the historic photo at the right, taken in about the year 1900, an enthusiastic crowd of skaters has gathered on the Rochester Aqueduct (now the Broad Street Bridge).

Much more recently, in the winter of 2010, a major pond hockey tournament took place in Fairport, just west of the lift bridge. The extremely cold weekend did not discourage macho hockey teams traveling here from all over Western New York to compete.

Fishing through the ice has always been a popular, but probably not too exciting, winter activity in Fairport by a few dedicated souls (photo on the right) who don't mind the bitter cold temperatures.

CAUTION

There is no perfectly safe ice on the canal, even in extremely cold weather, ***especially*** for snowmobilers!



Rochester Aqueduct, circa 1900
Photo courtesy of the Rochester Public Library



Ice fishing by the lift bridge in 2020



Pond hockey tournament west of the lift bridge in the winter of 2010

Hockey & fishing photos by Keith Boas

On March 25th of that year (1873), Anthony appeared in Fairport at Shaw's Hall on West Avenue. Her diary entry for that day states:

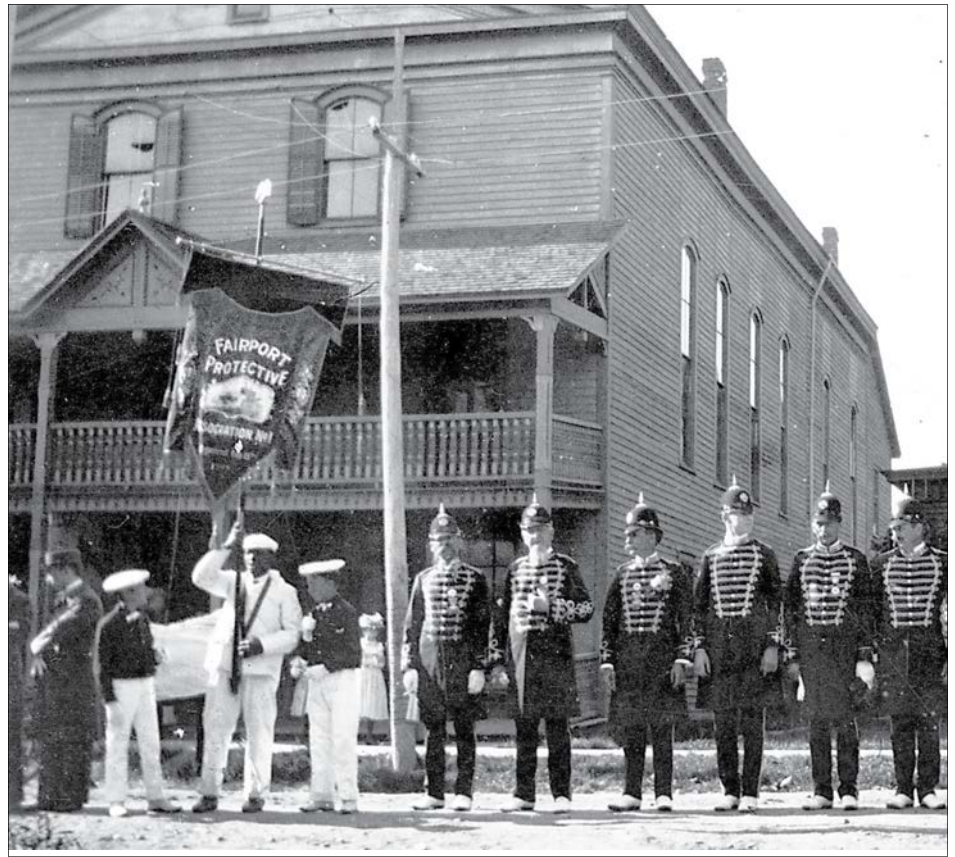
*"Fairport – Shaw's Hall.
Reverend and Mrs. Butler very
cordial. Fine audience. Hardest
hotel bed. Added to cold, just
about all I can do to keep
going. Then to bed, so many
sick ones at home."*

Ten days later, she met with a group in Egypt. In her diary, she wrote:

*"Egypt – Cullen Loud – school
house. Wm. Becker. Ankle
better, but fiery looking still.
No pain in it. Only lame when I
walk. Small audience."*

Late 1800s view of Shaw's Hall on West Avenue. Susan B. Anthony spoke to "a fine audience" here on March 25, 1873.

*Photo from the collection of the
Perinton Historical Society*



The April 4, 1873 diary entry of Susan B. Anthony confirms that she spoke at the District 4 schoolhouse in Egypt on that day.

*Photo from the town
of Perinton historic
archives*



Susan B. Anthony spoke in the Methodist Church (center of image) in 1894. This 1880s photo is a view to the north, with George Street in the foreground.

Photo from the collection of the Perinton Historical Society

Three years before her death in 1906, the now iconic Susan B. Anthony once more visited Fairport. The event was the 12th annual convention of the Monroe County Political Equality Club, held at the Fairport First Baptist Church on June 9th, 1903. Her diary mentions that before leaving home for Fairport, she “sent 47 letters and 8 packages.”

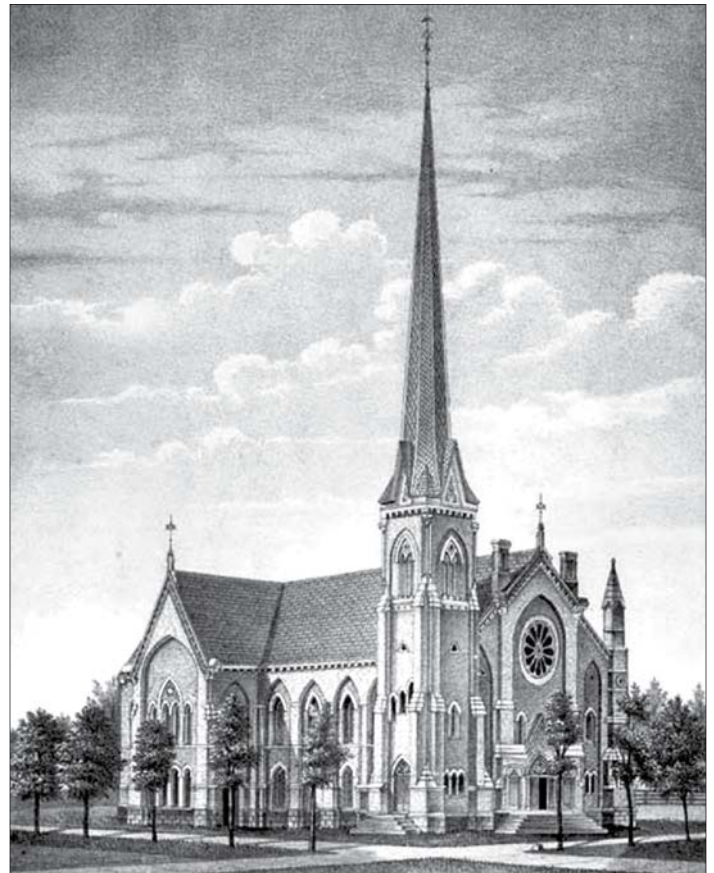
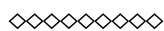
Upon her arrival in Fairport, Anthony spoke briefly in the afternoon session, as did a local woman, Mary A. Butts, known for her civic contributions in the community.

In her diary, Anthony entered the following notes:

“Monroe County Political Equality Association annual convention in Fairport, 9 miles east of Rochester. Reverend Anna H. Shaw was with us. Was a good audience in the Baptist Church. Reverend E.E. Knapp the minister – his wife a fine woman.”

Susan B. Anthony, now 83 years of age, was escorted from the church to the New York Central passenger station, for the short train ride to Rochester.

Fourteen years after her death in the year 1906, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted most, but not all women, the right to vote. Many minority women remained disenfranchised, and did not gain the right to vote for years to come.



In what appears to be her final trip to this community, Susan B. Anthony attended a women’s rights convention at the Fairport First Baptist Church on June 9, 1903.

Image from the 1877 History of Monroe County, NY, W.H. McIntosh

Upcoming Programs & Events

Please be aware that masks may still be required for presentations held at the Fairport Historical Museum and at the Fairport Public Library

Saturday, March 5th

The museum reopens for the season and resumes regular hours of Sundays and Tuesdays 2:00–4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15th: 7:00 p.m. at the museum

Program: Lily Dale–The Women's Rights Connection
Members of the Lily Dale Assembly will host a movie.

Sunday, March 27th: 2:30 p.m. at the museum

Event: Vintage Tweets–A Discussion of Suffrage Era Postcards

Presenter: Carol N. Crossed

Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM

Program: Rochester's Forgotten Architects–
A Re-Discovered Heritage

Presenter: Cynthia Howk

Registration required through Fairport Public Library

Wednesday, April 27th: 7:00 p.m. at the Fairport Public Library

Program: Encore presentation of Historic U.S. Route 20
Presenters: Rob and Carole Lillis

Registration required through Fairport Public Library



Lily Dale

The Women's Rights Connections

Join us on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the museum as The Lily Dale hosts a film that will enlighten you about how women's rights and spiritualism came together in the little town of Lily Dale, New York. Historical photos, newspaper clippings, re-enactments, interviews, and voice-overs bring to life the work of these important women and entertain you with scenes of us imagining them at séances and mediumship readings. There are feature scenes with the founders of modern Spiritualism, Kate and Maggie Fox, and how their lives helped shape a religion where women were automatically considered equal. The film will also show Susan B. Anthony and her well-documented time in Lily Dale and what experiences she had at a séance on the grounds. Also featured is Hollywood's blonde bombshell Mae West and her special friendship with Lily Dale medium, Jack Kelly.

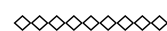
This film is brought in part by Action and Vision grants from Humanities NY, NY State Opportunities, Council on the Arts, and a grant through Tri-County Arts Council in Olean.



Events Committee Assistance Needed

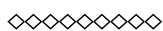
The past several years have been challenging in many ways, including event planning. Masks–yes or no? In-person or ZOOM? How many can safely fit into the program room during a pandemic? Our 2020–21 program season was all virtual. The 2021–22 program season returned to in-person with masks required. What will the 2022–23 season bring?

We are looking for a small team of volunteers to join the PHS Events Committee. The committee will compile and contact a list of presenters, slot them into the program dates and work with the Tech Committee to ensure we have tech assistance on those days. The committee may also be called upon to make announcements and introduce speakers. The new program season begins in September and runs through August. If interested, please contact Vicki at Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.



Welcome Our New Volunteer Coordinators *John and Nancy Bowley*

PHS is happy to announce John and Nancy Bowley as the museum's new Volunteer Coordinators. The Bowleys raised their children in Fairport before moving away. After ten years, they returned home to Fairport. They have spent the last several years as PHS members and look forward to connecting with our museum volunteers.





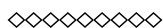
Vintage Tweets: A Discussion of Suffrage Era Postcards

PHS is pleased to welcome author and humanitarian Carol N. Crossed to the museum on Sunday, March 27th at 2:30 p.m. as she discusses her book, *Vintage Tweets: Suffrage Era Postcards*.

Vintage Tweets is a poignant, amusing and insightful collection of 100-year-old suffrage postcards, the social media of the late 19th and early 20th century. Carol Crossed's entertaining narrative explores the meaning behind the illustrations, which represent both domestic and political views of the woman's vote. The coffee-table display features 400 postcards from the author's personal collection and tells of the struggle of both support and opposition of the early woman's movement. *Vintage Tweets* is a tribute to one of the most radical eras in U.S. history.

Carol began a career in human and civil rights activism while attending Howard University in the summer of 1965. In the 1980s, she was a supporter of human rights for indigenous populations. Carol was an editorial assistant for 15 years to *The New York State Feminist*, past editor of *Voices for Peace and Life*, and a contributor to *Pro-Life Feminism: Yesterday and Today*.

In 2006 Carol purchased and restored the birthplace of Susan B. Anthony in Adams, Massachusetts. Four years later, it opened as a historic house museum honoring the feminist foremother. To recognize this accomplishment, she received the Northern Berkshire Massachusetts Business and Professional Women Award. Carol is also a founder of the Harriet Tubman Museum in southern New Jersey. Today she is president of Feminists Choosing Life of New York.



2021–2022 Special Recognition Level Memberships

As of February 15, 2022

Business (\$100)

Fulkerson Services, Inc.

111 Parce Avenue, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-223-2541, Website: fulkersonservices.net

Lift Bridge Yarns

24 High Street, Suite 1, Fairport, NY 14450
Dawn Verdugo & Jessie McNaughton
Phone: 585-364-0521, Email: Dawn@LiftBridgeYarns.com

Frank N. Pittinaro, C.P.A.

WilliamWebb & Associates, LLC
404 East Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach, Florida 33060
Phone: 954-943-1650, Email: Frank@webbcpa.com

Canandaigua National Bank & Trust

72 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424
Phone: 585-394-4260, Website: cnbank.com

Lucien A. Morin II, Partner

McConville Considine Cooman and Morin, P.C.
300 Meridian Centre Blvd., Suite 110, Rochester, NY 14618
Phone: 585-546-2500, Email: lmorin@mccmlaw.com

Barranco's Clothing and Shoes

32 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: 585-388-1270, Email: BarrancosClothing@gmail.com

Fairport Village Inn

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

Salle d' Escrime of Prescott, AZ A Fencing Club

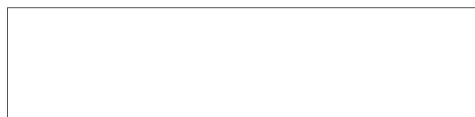
Patricia Dodge Waples, Owner

Memorial Donations In Memory of John Laurence

John and Lucy McCormick
Ron and Sue Roberts
Dave and Suzanne Scheirer



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



Remembering our friend, Harmonica Pete

The Perinton Historical Society recently lost a good friend. Pete Dupre, 98 years old, known as “Harmonica Pete,” served as a medic in the 114th General Hospital Unit and spent three years overseas. In recent years, he served as an ambassador for the Greatest Generation Foundation.

Pete carried his harmonica everywhere, and with good reason. He played at the smallest events, and the largest. His renditions of the *National Anthem*, *America the Beautiful*, *Amazing Grace*, and others have filled the air at professional sporting venues across the country, and at the anniversaries of important events in American history, including the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944, and the Pearl Harbor Memorial.

Here in his adopted hometown, Pete was always willing to lend a hand, and a tune, including last June, when he played at an event at the Fairport Historical Museum.

Harmonica Pete Dupre was one of a kind. A thoughtful, kind and gentle man, who used his talents to make the lives of those around him just a bit better. That is a good model for any of us.

Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum will re-open to the public on March 5th. Hours will be Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Free admission. Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org