

HISTORIGRAM



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

***Home of the Fairport
Historical Museum***

Newsletter for the Perinton Historical Society

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Editor: William Keeler

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**Memorial Fund
Established for
Grace Whitney.**

Many of you have read in the last edition of the *Historigram* that long time Perinton Historical Society member Grace Whitney passed away last December 22nd. Grace worked as a volunteer at the Fairport Museum for many years on Tuesday afternoons. Since her death, the Society has received many donations in her memory.

In February at the joint meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, it was decided to establish a memorial fund and use the money to restore a local artifact. Bill Keeler,

THE MISSION OF THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS FOR POSTERITY, AND FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PERINTON COMMUNITY.

curator at the museum, has selected a sampler made by Perinton resident Katherine Southworth age 10 in 1816. The sampler will be cleaned and remounted on acid free board by a professional conservator in the next few months. Later this work will be framed and placed on display in the museum in memory of Grace Whitney.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE GRACE WHITNEY MEMORIAL FUND

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Perinton Historical Society Adds Brick to Freedom Hill Project.

Some of you may have noticed a small assemblage of vintage military equipment on the VFW Post's property overlooking Macedon Center Road. The M60 tank and Huey Helicopter are part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8495's Freedom Hill Project. Also found on the hill will be a memorial walk with bricks inscribed with a veteran's name and unit that have been donated by individuals and family members. A donation of \$25 is required for this lasting memorial.

Our Board of Trustees voted to dedicate a brick in honor of the Perinton men who served in the 108th New York Infantry Volunteers in the Civil War.

Of the soldiers that were mustered in to the 108th in 1862, there were at least 28 individuals who were residents of Perinton or Fairport or moved here after the war.

108 TH N.Y. INFANTRY CIVIL WAR 1862-1865

The following is an account of the first battle encountered by the

108th from research donated to the Museum by Bob Marcotte in 2001.

"The Soldiers of the rookie 108th New York infantry from Monroe County were roused that fateful morning of Sept. 17, 1862. They waded across a shallow stream. Many of the men stopped first to carefully roll up their trousers and remove their shoes and socks to keep them dry-this, despite the exhortations of their officers to keep moving.

They advanced through fields and over fences, and then 'halted, piled up our haversacks, loaded our guns, and were ready for action,' recalled Chester Hutchinson, a private from Fairport. 'Firing had commenced, and each one was giving messages to those who might escape being killed or wounded; we did not have to wait long before we were on a run up a little hill, over a rail fence on top and in front of a corn field full of rebels.'

Other Confederate soldiers were waiting behind barricades, piled along side of a country lane that had sunk into the ground from the eroding influence of wagons and weather. This created a perfect defensive position to fire at the Union soldiers, silhouetted as they crested the top of the hill.

Hutchinson and his comrades had officially been mustered into service only a month

before, and now found themselves in one of the hardest places imaginable for their baptism of fire: in front of the infamous Sunken Road at Antietam. On this single bloodiest day of the American Civil War, the 108th would suffer 195 of the nearly 23,000 men killed, wounded or missing on both sides. They included seven of the 28 members of the regiment identified...as living in Perinton at some point."

UPCOMING PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS:

Tuesday, March 11th 7:30 at the Fairport Museum.

Patents and Trademarks from Perinton and Fairport, Part 2
A slide and overhead transparency presentation by Bill Keeler curator for the Fairport Museum.

Tuesday April 15th 7:30 at the Fairport Museum.

Treasures from the Rochester Historical Society by Ann Salter, Executive Director of the Rochester Historical Society.

Tuesday, May 13th at Perinton Park.

Annual Perinton Historical Society Picnic and election of officers.

SOLDERS FROM PERINTON OR FAIRPORT THAT FOUGHT IN THE 108TH NEW YORK INFANTRY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Adams, Franklin W., 19 years old, mustered in as a private and discharged in 1863 for disability.
 Barnard, Henry J., 22 years old, wounded in action at Antietam. Discharged for disability in 1863.
 Barry, Charles W., 29 years old mustered in as a private in 1862 and mustered out in 1865.
 Bortle, Beldon, 21 years old, mustered in as a private and killed in action at Antietam.
 Bown, Edwin A., 22 years old, mustered in as a private and discharged due to deafness in 1863.
 Brownell, Jerome, 21 years old, mustered in as a private and wounded in action at Gettysburg in 1863.
 Bucher, Henry, 18 years old mustered in as a private in 1864 and may have been the drummer for the 108th.
 Downing, Thomas H., 18 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862 and died at Salisbury in 1864 after being a prisoner for three months
 Dryer, John, age 34 mustered in as a private in 1862, was wounded at Antietam and discharged in 1863.
 Fassett, Alonzo, age 44 mustered in as a private in August of 1862 and died at Harpers Ferry that November of chronic diarrhea.
 Fassett, Jonathan J., 22 years old mustered in as a private in 1862 and mustered out in 1865.
 Field, Charles E., age 22, mustered in as a private in 1862 and mustered out in 1865.
 Garlock, Andrew, 30 years old, mustered in as a private, wounded in action at the Wilderness in 1864 and mustered out in 1865.
 Hart, Joel S., 18 years old, mustered in as a private and discharged for disability in 1862. Lost 1 finger on the right hand.
 Hine, Dennison Z., 21 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, wounded in action at Antietam and discharged for disability in 1863.
 Hiscutt, Francis, 24 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862 and mustered out in 1865.
 Howard, Simeon P., 22 years old mustered in as a first sergeant in 1862, wounded in action at Antietam and the Wilderness and mustered out in 1865.
 Hutchinson, Chester, 18 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, wounded in action at Antietam, and the Wilderness. Mustered out for disability in 1865.
 Kelley, William J., 21 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, deserted in 1863 and later discharged due to lameness in his feet.
 McNeil, James M., 21 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, deserted from the hospital and later re-enlisted and served in the 102nd Pa.
 Moore, Charles, age 17, mustered in as a musician in 1862 and died of congestive fever in 1864.
 Moore, Ira, 29 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862 and discharged for disability in 1863.
 Moore, William, 44 years old mustered in as a private in 1862 and discharged for disability in 1864.
 Moore, William H., 44 years old, mustered in as a private and discharged for disability in 1864.
 Morrison, William, 19 years old, mustered in as a private in July of 1862 and died in December of that year of dysentery.
 Schroeder, Christian, 36 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, wounded in action at Gettysburg and Spotsylvania and mustered out in 1865.
 Simpson, John, 30 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, wounded at Fredericksburg and discharged for disability in 1863.
 Smith, John G., 22 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, wounded in action at Antietam and Gettysburg and discharged in 1865.
 Tallman, Orville J., 19 years old, mustered in as a private in 1862, and mustered out in 1865.

Bill Keeler to Present Patents and Trademarks from Perinton and Fairport

If you enjoyed Bill's presentation two years ago entitled *Inventors and Inventions from Perinton and Fairport 1859-1934*, don't miss his presentation at the March meeting entitled *Patents and Trademarks from Perinton and Fairport Part 2*.

Bill has found more early inventions from the talented residents of Perinton and Fairport from the late 19th and early 20th century. Besides all new "wacky" inventions and utility patents, early registered Fairport trademarks from such companies as the DeLand Chemical Works, Cox Shoes and the Trescott Company will be shown. Slides and overheads will be used at the meeting, which will be in the Merriman-Clark room in the Fairport Museum March 11th at 7:30 P.M.

Bill Keeler works part time as a Librarian and Curator at the Landmark Society of Western New York, a Librarian at the Rochester Historical Society and as an Archivist, Curator, Historian, Board Member and Editor of the *Historigram* at the Perinton

Historical Society and Fairport Historical Museum. In his spare time he is working with volunteer authors in writing a second pictorial book sponsored by the Perinton Historical Society entitled *Perinton and Fairport in the Twentieth Century*

As an added bonus, there will also be an unveiling of a working scale model of the first invention patented by a Fairport resident.

The wooden model of Yale Parce's swiveling crane patented in 1859 was made by woodworker and model maker Robert W. Rose of South Butler, New York. Working from line drawings from the U.S. patent office, Mr. Rose made a faithful reproduction of the crane used at the DeLand Chemical Company in the late 1800's.

This model is a departure from the beautiful wooden models of cars and trucks that Bob makes as a hobby. He has generously donated this model of the crane to the museum to be displayed with our DeLand Chemical Company artifacts.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. The Perinton Historical Society meetings are free and open to the public. Come early and bring a friend.

A Tribute to J. Sheldon Fisher.

By Ruth Ewell

Sheldon Fisher, who died December 21, 2002, at the age of 95, was indeed a friend to the Perinton Historical Society and the Fairport Historical Museum.

His name is shown as a trustee on the framed charter from the State of New York, which now hangs at the entrance of the museum. The provisional charter is dated September 14 and 15, 1950 and was the official beginning of the historical society as recognized by the state.

The artifacts which made up the original museum, then housed in the Crosman Arms building, were given by Sheldon. They consisted mainly of arrowheads and other items, which he had found in Fishers. These items are now in the show case in the north room of the present museum.

Sheldon gave many programs for the society. In some of them he dressed in his Indian garb and had us all dancing. He was adopted by the Seneca Indians in 1964 because of his help in establishing Ganondagan, the ancient Seneca village at the corner of Boughton Hill Road and route 444. His

Indian name was "Haiwases"—"he who chases news and history."

Several times the society was entertained by Sheldon at Valentown Hall and given a tour of his amazing collection. His original documents of the Holland Land Purchase were on display there; he sometimes brought these with him to show at programs he gave at the museum.

Sheldon's wife, Lillian, whom he married in 1939, was also our good friend. She often accompanied him when he came to give programs or to take part in our picnics and suppers. Lillian worked with Sheldon in many of his endeavors. She was very much a part of his life.

We will miss Sheldon very much.

What I Left Out: Why a Carnegie Library Was Never Built in Fairport. Part 2 of 2

By Bill Keeler

This is one of a series of articles written by Bill Keeler, which gives more information about the pictures found in the book *Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal*. The page numbers given in the articles correspond to those in the book.

A school election was held on August 20th 1915 that asked the voters to approve a library site on North Main Street so that the

Library Committee could proceed in applying for the Carnegie funds to build a new library. This election attracted the largest number of voters up to that time. The Higbie site on North Main Street was voted down by a mere 34 votes and there was no clear mandate for an alternate site. By December the Chamber of Commerce had conceded that the \$11,000 promised by the Carnegie Corporation could not be accepted because of the lack of an agreed upon site for the building.

Despite the coming of World War I and the Great Depression, the library was not far from people's minds. In 1930 Robert Douglas, inventor of Certo (Chapter 8), left several hundred shares of stock for a new library. Architect Henry Martin designed a plan for a new library and the Perinton War Chest Committee, which disbanded after the Great War, contributed several thousand dollars to the growing library fund.

America had changed by the 1930s and talk of a new library surfaced again with the initiation of new Works Progress Administration projects. The United States government provided the labor for the project and the rest of the \$44,000 was provided by donations. The property issue was bypassed altogether by the elected

trustees of the school district. The reasoning was that no vote needed to be taken by the taxpayers because the trustees were elected by the voters and could make the decision as to where the library should be built. The school board decided to place the new library building on school property at 18 Perrin Street, one of the sites considered in 1914. It is also interesting to note that many of the same members of the library board in 1914 were also on the board in 1937 including Mrs. Price.

Construction began and the building was formerly opened March 5th, 1937 23 years almost to the day when the Fairport Chamber of Commerce announced that they were heading a committee to construct a new library.

Ironically, the library building has found it's way to Main Street. Imagine if the location of the library on Main Street had been approved by the voters in 1914 and Fairport had built a Carnegie Library. The current location of the library may have been very different today.



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