



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

18 PERRIN STREET FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

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EDITOR

Ruth Ewell

Calendar of Coming Events

Saturday, October 7 -- Special sale in front of museum in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival in the Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Manned by the Greenbrier Garden Club.

Sunday, October 15 -- House Tour in the Village. Details below.

Tuesday, November 7 -- Historical Society participation in Voter News Service. Details later in this bulletin.

Tuesday, November 14 -- Meeting at the museum, 7:30 p.m. Chuck Miller will talk on "Homes of the Presidents." Details next month.

Tuesday, December 5 -- Christmas musical at the museum, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 16 -- Society meeting at the Fairport Public Library. Speaker and topic to be announced.

Twenty-second Annual House Tour, Sunday, October 15

The tour will take place in the Village of Fairport. Tour hours are 1-4 p.m.; refreshments will be served at the Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, 2-4 p.m.

Descriptions of the houses can be found later in this bulletin. On the last page is a map and your ticket. Be sure to take the ticket with you on the tour and have it checked by the host/hostess on duty. If you have a family membership, the label on the reverse side of the ticket will indicate that it is for two persons. Be warned that at some of the houses you may be asked to remove your shoes. THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY WITHOUT A TICKET. And please -- no children under 14!

The tour is **free** for members of the Perinton Historical Society. If you have friends who wish to join the society now so they can take the tour, they can obtain membership applications at the Fairport Historical Museum which is open 2-4 Sundays and Tuesdays and 7-9 Thursdays. No new memberships will be accepted the day of the tour.

Chairing the tour for the third time is Lorry McMahon. We owe her many, many thanks for all the work she has done to make the tour possible. Thanks, too, to the house captains and the hostesses in each house. And much gratitude is owed to the homeowners who have been willing to open the doors of their homes to us!

Gift Shop

We have a few of the Erie Canal medals for sale. They are the size and weight (1 oz.) of U.S. silver dollars and have an emblem of a canal boat and mule on one side. They are \$10 each.

Selling for \$13.95 in the shop is a delightful book written by Barbara Dean Stewart of Fairport entitled "Fairport Ghost Stories." Barbara uncovered these stories from tales of local folks and in reading and researching Fairport history.

Gift Shop (continued)

The beautiful book "Erie Canal Legacy - Architectural Treasures of the Empire State" is available at the museum gift shop. It is by Andy Olenick and Richard Reisem and published by the Landmark Society. It would make a wonderful Christmas present. It sells for \$39.95.

Participation in the Voter News Service on Election Day, November 7

The Perinton Historical Society will again take part in this activity which provides a great opportunity for us to earn some funds as well as a chance to see the behind-the-scenes operation that goes on at the voting polls in the Town of Perinton after they close at 9 p.m.

As a volunteer participant your job would be to be present at your assigned voting place at 8:45 p.m., ready to obtain the results from the voting machines at 9 p.m. and to telephone the results to an assigned 800 number in New York City. You will have identification and the materials available to make it go very smoothly.

If you can help, please contact Bernadette McDonough at 223-7991 as soon as possible. She will go over in more detail what is involved.

Fairport Post Cards on Display

Late last year, Addis Adams, Jr. donated an extensive collection of postcards and trade cards to the Historical Society and Museum. This is the most extensive collection ever seen of cards exclusively of this community. There are over 400 cards in the collection, depicting scenes of Fairport in the early 20th century, and trade cards that go back to the 1890s. Some of the postcard scenes are of the DeLand House, Oxbow, Osburn House, the Old Home Week electric arch and the Classic Union School. There are trade cards from the DeLand Chemical Works, Newman Baking Powder and A.C. Hooker's One Horse Grocery. These cards are now on display in the museum and can be seen during open hours. Many thanks go out to Addis Adams, Jr. for his generous donation.

Picture Book Update

The first draft of the book "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal" has been written and is currently being reviewed by the authors and local historians. Last November, ten society members began the task of choosing photographs and writing captions for the 217 pictures that will appear in the book. 94% of all the photographs that will be used were found in the Perinton Historical Society's large photograph collection. The 218-page book may be in publication by late December or early January. Many thanks go to the authors for their many long hours and effort in this project.

New Members

We welcome the following, all residents of Fairport:

Margaretta Bernard, Ruth Howard, Elizabeth McMahon, and Patricia and Douglas Scott.

We hope to greet them in person at future meetings this year.

Report of September Meeting

A very full house greeted "Governor DeWitt Clinton" when he appeared at the Perinton Historical Society meeting on September 12. Erie Canal fever had really swept through Fairport! The World Canal Conference held in Rochester stirred much interest in the canal, especially since visitors from the conference spent time touring Fairport and observing the exciting way our waterfront has developed the last few years.

At the beginning of the meeting Lorain Francis of the Village Merchants Association thanked those from the Historical Society who had helped as hosts at the village festivities, and she displayed photographs of them. Bill Matthews, President of the Society, then took his "historic five minutes" to present himself as Lt. Colonel John By, of the Royal Engineers, who had built the Rideau Canal in Ottawa, an area which Bill had visited this summer.

Donovan Shilling really captivated the audience and held them enthralled as he told the story of the building of the Erie Canal. He told how difficult it was to get diggers (ads in New York City papers advertised for "mechanics" at 50¢ a day -- "mechanics" appealing more to men than "diggers"), how the mosquitoes in the Montezuma Swamp almost put an end to the endeavor until snow stopped their plague, about the building of the "great embankment" in Bushnell's Basin and the aqueduct downtown. Donovan had brought with him an amazing model of the canal and a packetboat which he had built; he pointed out on the model the events and happenings which it depicted. His talk held the interest of his listeners with its blend of history, folklore, and humor.

A fine social time followed the talk, a chance for everyone to enjoy the refreshments provided by Helen Matthews.

Volunteers

We were very pleased with the response to the volunteer check-list which appeared at the bottom of the dues payment notice. It was good to know that so many were willing to help.

Bill Keeler has contacted those who indicated an interest in helping with curatorial duties or with staffing the museum during open hours.

Ruth Ewell is pleased to have a whole group of people willing to help at various times with assembling the Historigram. She will contact a few of these each month as the need arises.

Lorry McMahon was happy to get volunteers to act as hosts/hostesses at the house tour. However, she could still use more. If you could give an hour to work at one of the houses on Sunday, October 15, give Lorry a call at 223-6034.

One call for volunteers which should have appeared but did not is the need for people to help Helen Matthews with refreshments at meetings. She could use offers of food for a meeting or help in setting up and cleaning up. If you could assist in any way, call her at 377-8456.

On the following pages are descriptions of the houses which will be on the house tour.

8 West Street -- Home of Ted and Sandy Good

Seven families have resided at 8 West Street since the house was built 140 years ago. Beginning with the Benedicts, past owners have been the Hewes, the Griffiths, Minerva Baker, the Parks, and the McMahons. The current owners, since 1998, are Ted and Sandy Good.

The architecture of this circa 1860 home could be described as transitional, designed between the Federal and Victorian periods, with a cross-gable wood frame style. An Italianate design front porch was added sometime after the house was built but has since been removed. A hand-pull door bell still rings as loud as it did in the 1880s.

Many changes were made by the different owners over the years, including the addition of a summer kitchen off the back, the removal of a wall separating the front parlor from the living room, and the rebuilding of the front staircase which is hand-made and of a quarter-turn geometric design with walnut spires and pine treads. Oil lamps were first used for light -- one of the originals is hanging in the front hall. When electricity was installed, a "knob and tube" double line wiring system was used; it is still used to light the barn. An 1800s canal barge lantern hangs next to the entrance of the cobblestone cellar, which contains a double cistern and a coal bin. A fireplace was added to the front room in the 20s, and recently a new hand-made "Adams style" surround was installed by the Goods. The dining room contains bay windows, probably added sometime soon after the house was built, a built-in china hutch, and glass pocket doors. Hand-blown glass remains in most of the home's windows.

Early on, the back lot was filled with cherry and apple trees, a vegetable garden, and a grape arbor which extended from the summer kitchen. The wood frame barn contains space for two carriages, original horse stall with hay mount, a granary under the stairs, and a large loft on the second floor.

Renovations made by the Goods include a new kitchen, laundry room, and a second floor bath that contains a claw foot tub which was resurrected by the McMahons after it was discarded from Mr. Potter's home at the end of the street. Most of the antiques are family hand-downs, and many of the paintings were produced by local artists affiliated with Roselawn Galleries which the Goods run. (Coincidentally, Roselawn Galleries originally started two streets over from the house.)

121 West Avenue -- Home of Rob and Mary Beth Stalter

Rob and Mary Beth are the sixth owners of this house. It was built in 1879 and was originally three rooms. Jane and Stanley Hammond were the original owners, followed by Charles and Nettie Briggs, who bought the house in 1923. It is believed that the house eventually was left to the Briggs' daughter, Mrs. Ward, who was a third grade teacher in the Fairport schools. Mary and Brewster Bastian lived in the house from 1942 until 1980, followed by the Kleubers.

Since buying the house, the Stalters have done some extensive upgrades. They remodeled the kitchen and moved the original pantry to the new back room. They re-used the wainscoating in their new kitchen to maintain the originality of the house.

121 West Avenue (continued)

They raised the roof and added a striking master bedroom and bath on the second floor. It was not believed that they could get into this area from the hall, but they found a clever builder who cantilevered the entrance and enabled access to the rear of the house. As you enter the bedroom, take time to notice the entrance. You will be "in the air" as you walk through the entrance into the bedroom.

The Stalters have made the first floor front room into a library. Rob is a history teacher; you should take the time to notice many of his historic pieces. As you enter the house, be sure to admire the windows on the front porch. They are etched glass and are hinged to open.

You will enter the house through the front porch. Please be prepared to remove your shoes. You are welcome to tour the deck and yard.

81 West Church Street -- Home of Earl and Elnore Jackson

As you drive through the village, 81 West Church Street is always eye-catching, with its window lights, flower boxes, and seasonal decorations.

Built around 1910, the house was made into a double at one point, as many houses were in the early part of the century. Waitie Adams, her husband Orlo and their son Addis were early owners of the house. Waitie had a dress shop and store in the house; she later moved her business to downtown Fairport to the Adams building across from the village hall. Their son, Addis, later became a lawyer; he lived in the white brick house on the corner of George Street and South Main Street. Jerry LaClaire, also once an owner of the house, is remembered as he ran French's appliance store in the village.

The Jacksons purchased the house in 1992. Although they have done extensive renovation and restoration, they have worked hard to keep the changes in line with the original aura of the house. A two-story addition was added four years ago, which enabled the living room and kitchen to be enlarged and the dining room to be moved to the back of the house. Earl painstakingly matched four different widths of hardwood flooring in the kitchen so that the addition would exactly match the original floor. Elnore is a quilter. She uses the front bedroom as both a guest bedroom and a work room for her quilting. The shelf in this room was originally a table. Earl and Elnore have many antique pieces which you should take time to note as you walk through the house.

Please enter through the front door and be prepared to remove your shoes.

20 Woodlawn Avenue -- Home of Bill and Connie Foster

This house is not only a home but also a bed and breakfast called "20 Woodlawn Bed and Breakfast." The house was built in 1882 and has had only two owners besides the original builder. Beda Rundel was the first owner.

As many houses have changed through the years, so has 20 Woodlawn. The house was originally a one-family home but was made into a two-family residence in the 1930s. Louie and Sarah Hess lived in the apartment with their son Elmer.

20 Woodlawn (continued)

One apartment became Yantz's hair salon. Connie Sparks Foster and her husband Lewis Sparks (now deceased) bought the house in 1957 and gradually converted it back from a double to a single family dwelling. In 1980, Connie and Bill were married. Three years ago they turned the house into a bed and breakfast, with two guest rooms and an upstairs sitting room.

The Fosters have collections throughout the house, many of which are striking, such as the antique lamps that adorn all parts of the house, and the antique clothing, which includes an apron that was hand made by Connie's great grandmother. Some of the collections are whimsical, such as the "maid" in the living room; Connie changes her into costume for holidays and places her on the front porch.

As you go through the house, note the woodwork and stained glass windows as well as the octagon turret room on the second floor, which is a children's playroom. A painting of Bill's great, great, great, great grandmother adorns a wall in the front parlor. You will need to take your time as you tour this house in order to absorb all of the collections and decorations as well as the unique features. We will limit the number of people inside at any one time so that everyone has time to enjoy all aspects of the house.

Please be prepared to leave your shoes on the front porch. You are also welcome to walk the grounds and admire the gardens and multiple porches on the house.

18 Perrin Street -- The Fairport Historical Museum

Stop for some refreshments while house visiting. They will be served from 2-4 p.m. in the downstairs Merriman-Clark Room, which is dedicated to Marjorie Merriman and Adelaide Clark whose research is the foundation of the museum's collection of perinton information.

On the main floor of the museum admire the mural painted by Carl Peters in 1938. He was a Fairport artist whose work here was commissioned by the W.P.A. He later became very well known. Also note the Fairport pioneer prohibition banner, 1882, which is now displayed in a beautiful case. Funds to create this case came from many contributors.

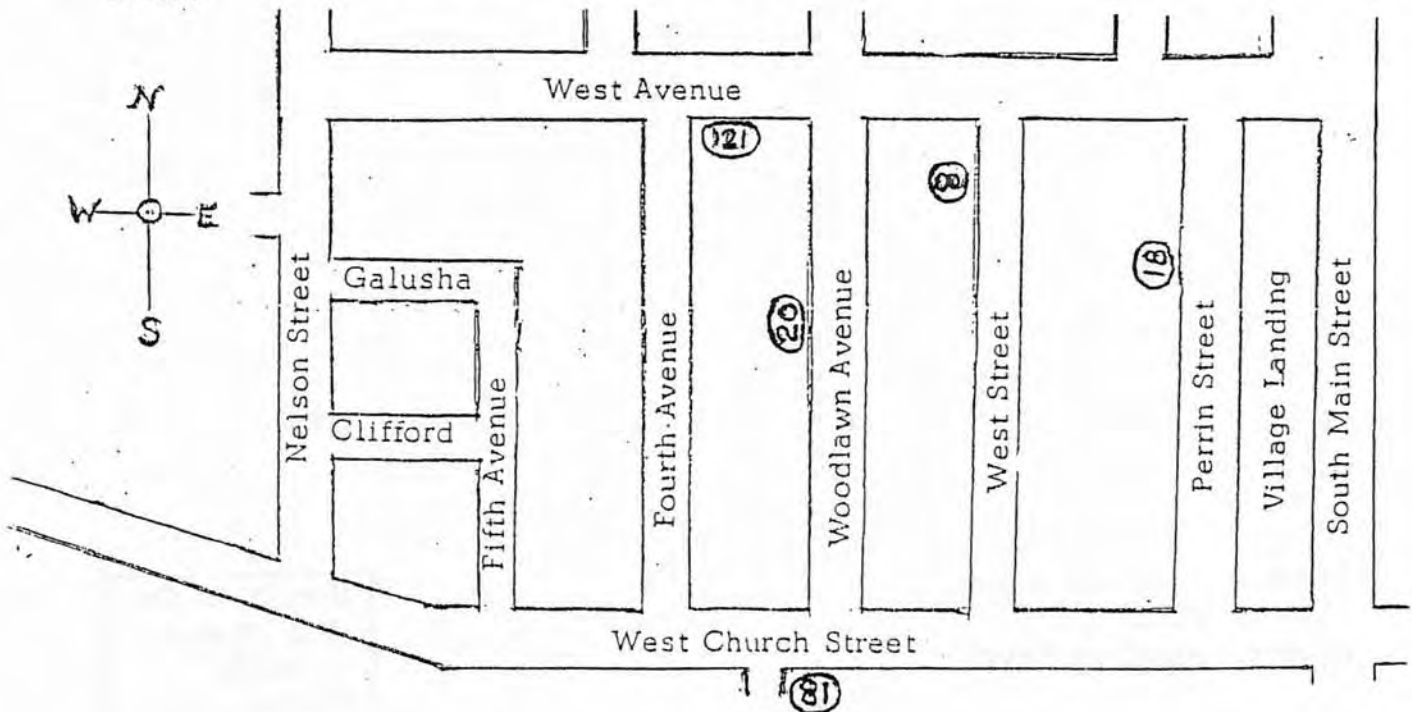
The museum building was erected in 1937 on the site of the former Fairport Public Library; it served as the Fairport Library until 1979 when the library moved to its present quarters in the Village Landing. The building was then leased by the village to the perinton Historical Society to operate as a museum.

The building is constructed of brick made in Virginia from the same clays used in the University of Virginia, Monticello, and in rebuilding Williamsburg. The roof is of black Bangor slate, fastened with copper nails; the entrance steps and platform are of gray Indiana limestone. The interior wood is Appalachian white oak and American cherry.

The Greenbrier Garden Club maintains the old fashioned flower and herb garden behind the museum and also keeps the urns at the entrance planted with seasonal flowers.

PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR
 Sunday, October 15, 2000, 1-4 p.m.

THIS IS YOUR TICKET FOR THE HOUSE TOUR. You will note that your name is on the reverse side. Those with a family membership need only one ticket. Bring this sheet with you and have it checked at the entrance to each house. The houses can be visited in any order you choose. The numbers shown below correspond to the numbers on the signs posted in front of each house.



1. ☐ 8 West Street -- Home of Ted and Sandy Good
2. ☐ 121 West Avenue -- Home of Rob and Mary Beth Stalter
3. ☐ 20 Woodlawn -- Home of Bill and Connie Foster
4. ☐ 81 West Church Street -- Home of Earl and Elnore Jackson

Refreshments will be served at the Fairport Historical Museum, 16 Perrin Street, between 2 and 4 p.m.

Please be prepared to take off your shoes if asked. Thank you!

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THIS TOUR POSSIBLE!

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

Return Service Requested

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