



# PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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**EDITOR**

Ruth Ewell

## Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, April 17 -- Talk by Bill Latin, 7:30 p.m., Merriman-Clark Room at Museum. Details below.

Tuesday, May 15 -- Annual Meeting and Picnic. Details next month.

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3 -- Canal Days. Your help is needed at the Society booth. See coupon at end of this bulletin.

## April Meeting, April 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Museum

Our speaker will be Bill Latin, Director of the Cobblestone Museum in <sup>Childs</sup> ~~Clyde~~. It was originally announced that his topic would be "Stained Glass Windows from Orleans County," but he has decided instead to do his talk on "Cobblestone Masonry Buildings in New York."

Mr. Latin's talk and slides will focus on the mortar which was used in building cobblestone buildings. He says these buildings are "mortar intensive," and he will describe in some detail how soft lime mortar is manufactured.

We all admire the cobblestone buildings in this region of western New York, so it will be particularly interesting to get some background on how they were constructed. We hope to see you at the meeting. It is open to the public, so do bring a friend.

## October House Tour

Carol Santos and Theda Ann Burnham have been hard at work, lining up houses in the Town of Perinton for the house tour on Sunday, October 14. Now they need some people to volunteer as house captains.

House captains meet with the house owner to produce a history of the house and to determine how many hostesses will be needed to work in various parts of the house. A few weeks before the tour they schedule a meeting of the hostesses at the house to talk about the features of the house, to determine shifts and arrange placement of the hostesses.

If you would be interested in this assignment, call Carol Santos (377-2738) or Theda Ann Burnham (388-9441) to find out more details.

## The Books Are Here, the Books Are Here!

Everyone is flocking to buy and enjoy "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," the Historical Society's newly published book. The museum has been open extra hours to serve purchasers. There will be a book signing by the authors at the library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 24. Later in March the society will honor the authors with a dinner for them and their guests.

Other publications of note now for sale in the museum gift shop are some re-edited pamphlets. Some of them had originally been part of a volume entitled "Perinton Papers," written in 1971 by various members of the society which had been out of print for some time. The topics covered have now been made into separate pamphlets, entitled "The Erie Canal," "History of Transportation," "Communication," and "Agriculture and Commerce in Perinton." The Marjorie Merriman pamphlet, "Early Days in Perinton," has also been revamped with an attractive cover; Dr. James Welch's "Memories of Fairport," originally published in 1976, is another newly refurbished pamphlet.

We are grateful to John Jongen, one of the society's trustees, for all the work he has done to improve the appearance and readability of these early publications.

### Report of March Meeting

Matson Ewell opened the meeting with a blast of the canal horn. He then held up a copy of the society's newly published book, "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," and announced that it was for sale in the gift shop. Matson paid tribute to the book's editor, Bill Keeler, who not only took the idea of producing a history of our region, using the wealth of photographs in the museum's collection, but also used the book as a vehicle to get a group of volunteers together to write chapters. To Matson, the involvement of the ten authors to represent the whole community was one of the most important accomplishments Bill achieved in the creation of the book. We gave Bill a round of applause and expressed again how lucky we were to have him as a curator at the museum and as president of the society trustees.

Our speaker, Laurel Gabel, showed many slides of tombstones and emphasized how extremely useful they are in genealogical research. A tombstone not only gives the date of birth and death of the deceased, but also often tells his place of birth, the names of his wife (or wives), often the names of his children (and the married names of daughters), military service, secret societies or fraternal organizations. Much of this information cannot be found in one place anywhere else but on a tombstone. Some of her slides showed the whole history of the deceased on the stone. The ones she showed of children's stones were heartbreakingly sad, especially when many children in a family had died -- fourteen in infancy were shown on one stone.

Laurel spent much time talking about a stone that was particularly enlightening. It was heavily carved and, if you interpreted the meanings of the many images, you could read it like a soap opera. It was the stone of Harriet Loomis who, with her husband Chauncy Loomis, had been a missionary in Africa. Laurel had taken the many leads presented by the carvings on the stone and was able to create the complete story of Harriet and Chauncy. It was a wonderful example of what a researcher can do. The audience was fascinated by the amount of information which someone with a curious mind can glean from a tombstone.

Anne Johnston provided the delicious refreshments, ably assisted by Charlotte Danneker.

### Perinton Historical Society on the World Wide Web

John Jongen has created a web site for the historical society and museum. It is: <http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum>.

On one of its pages, the "Former Residents' page," it proclaims: "You can go home again!" and goes on to say, "Regardless of where in the world you live, Fairport's history is your history!" On this page former residents are asked to send

in their pictures and recollections of life when they lived in the Perinton area. There is a picture on the page of the brick outhouse moved by the historical society from 70 East Church Street to the grounds of the Potter Memorial on West Church Street.

Another item on the web page is a mystery. In the dark recesses of the Fairport Historical Museum lies a photo album with some 20 unmarked portraits except for one: a portrait of renowned naturalist John Burroughs. On the back is written in longhand: "Portrait of John Burroughs, West Park, N.Y. (Never Published!)" Who are the other individuals, babies and adults, pictured in this photo album? Are they related to John Burroughs? If so, how was John Burroughs related to Fairport? Presumably, the album came into the museum's possession by way of a gift from a local resident, but unfortunately we have not been able to locate an accession record to identify the donor. If you can solve this mystery, let us know!

### What I Left Out

This is the first in a series of articles we will be publishing by Bill Keeler. Bill wrote: "In the writing of any book, the editor has to make a lot of tough decisions about what to leave out of a book. There is always that one photograph or bit of research that couldn't be included because of space. In the book "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," this was an even bigger challenge because the authors had to restrict their captions to a little over 100 words and the book could only be 128 pages long. Over the next couple of months, I will be submitting articles to the Historiogram which will refer to a particular page in the book and provide you with more interesting notes and background information that didn't make it into the book. This series of articles will be called What I Left Out.

The first article will be concerning the quotation by Cadwallader D. Colden on page 29 which reads, "The great embankment across the Irondequoit, over which the western section of the canal passes, is one of the greatest works on the canal."

This quotation is from the book "Memoir, prepared at the Request of a committee of the Common Council of the city of New York, and presented to the Mayor of the city at the celebration of the New York Canals," which was published in 1835. The museum has an original copy of this book which has just been restored through a generous grant from the Antiquarian Society. Cadwallader was the grandson of former New York Colonial Governor and Lieutenant-Governor Cadwallader Colden. Only about 1/3 of the book contains Colden's memoirs, the rest has firsthand accounts from other officials that attended the event, engravings of maps, floats used in the land parade in New York City, and copies of thank you letters for commemorative medals from such notable national figures as John Adams, Lafayette and James Monroe.

The celebration began in Buffalo, where the Seneca Chief and several other canal boats carrying dignitaries, would begin a trip down the canal to New York City with barrels of water from Lake Erie and the major rivers of the world that would be ceremonially dumped into New York harbor. On October 25, 1825, cannon fire was begun in New York City and continued along the length of the canal to Buffalo to signal the start of the trip. The sounding of the cannons took 1 hour and 40 minutes to reach Buffalo, and the fire was promptly returned back to New York City in reply. The flotilla reached Rochester on October 27 at 3:30 in the afternoon. Upon reaching Rochester there was a ceremonial confrontation.

The companies were formed in line upon the canal -- which was continued until they arrived at the aqueduct, where the boat called "Young Lion of the West" was stationed to "protect the entrance." The Pioneer boat on approaching was hailed from the Young



Lion, and the following dialogue ensued:

Question -- Who comes there?

Answer -- Your Brothers from the West, on the waters of the great Lakes.

Q. -- By what means have they been diverted so far from their natural course?

A. -- By the channel of the Great Erie Canal.

Q. -- By whose authority, and by whom was a work of such magnitude accomplished?

A. -- By the authority and by the enterprise of the patriotic People of the State of New York.

Here the "Young Lion" (which represented the boomtown of Rochesterville) gave way, and "the brethren from the West" were permitted to enter the spacious basin at the end of the aqueduct.

The dignitaries disembarked to a local church for a short prayer and then went on to Christopher's Mansion for dinner. The "Young Lion of the West" joined the other boats on the trip to New York City. The boat carried local manufactured products, barrels of locally grown food and examples of upstate wildlife. There are no further accounts about the great embankment or the local area.

If anyone is interested in reading more from this unique book, you can request to see it by appointment by calling the museum.

#### Another Chapter of "What I Left Out" (by Bill Keeler)

Not all the research for the book was done in the museum. Jean Keplinger offered to help any author with information and access to photos for the book, and the Fairport Public Library has all the copies of the Fairport Herald Mail and Monroe County Mail on microfilm.

When researching the Fairport Woman's Temperance League 1877-1941 on page 118, I found most of the minute books from that organization at the Rundel Public Library. I went through the first couple of years of the organizational records to get a feel for the organization.

#### The Fairport Christian Temperance Union 1877-1941

The Fairport Christian Temperance Union was founded April 14, 1877. The first meeting notes were taken on April 21, 1877, at the session room at the Baptist Church. Mrs. D.B. Deland was nominated for the presidency but declined at first. She agreed to become president to start the organization and was replaced soon after. Mrs. Deland remained very active in the organization. Many of the wives of the prominent families in Fairport were members of the organization. Names such as Fuller, Dickinson, Bown, Baird, Moore, Brooks, Chadwick, Shaw, Seelye, Robinson, Green, McAuliff, Hardick, DeLand, Sanford, Howard and Cowles all represented the families of doctors and business people of the community.

The "club room" as it was called, was located in a room above the Fairport Marble Works. There are 130 members listed in the front of the 1877 minute book. The women met on Thursday of each alternate week at 3:00. Every member had to sign a reform pledge before being admitted to the Union. The meetings would begin with a reading from scripture, followed by a prayer and a song. Reports and sometimes testimonials or speeches were given, and then the meeting would end in song and a prayer. The room would be opened during the week and used as an office.

Several committees were formed to spread the teachings of the movement. The village was divided into 6 sections with each section being canvassed by members to bring more women into the Union. A committee of 7 women was sent on April 8, 1878 to the town license board to prevent, if possible, the licensing of saloons and restaurants in selling liquors in the village. They met with each board member individually and "After a thorough discussion of the subject by the ladies, it was deemed advisable to meet for prayer the morning of the day on which the license board met and leave our course with our Heavenly Father for His guidance." Another committee was sent out to visit "families of drunken men." On one such occasion in 1879 the committee was met cordially by two families and the third was not at home. There was even a "Temperance School" set up on Saturdays for children.

On July 2, 1878 a motion was passed to change the name of the organization to the "Woman's Christian Temperance Union." Five months later, the women voted to become an auxiliary of the State Temperance Union. The members often wore white badges on their lapels as a sign of unity with the W.C.T.U. On September 9, 1878, Sojourner Truth, a former slave and speaker for women's rights, attended the Fairport W.C.T.U. meeting and commented about the work done by the union.

I couldn't find a connection for this organization and the Pioneer Prohibition Club which made our banner which is now on display. My best guess is that the Pioneer Club was formed the same year a prohibition convention was being held in the city of Rochester in 1882 and they participated in a parade that was held in 1888. From what we know of the Pioneer Club, it was open to both men and women whereas the Fairport Temperance League was only open to women.

#### Canal Days, June 2 and 3, 2001

You know spring is just around the corner when we start talking about Canal Days. This will be our fourth year that the Perinton Historical Society will have a booth near Main Street during this event. Bill Keeler will again be coordinating the booth and is looking for volunteers who would be willing to help run it for an hour or so.

Show hours for Canal Days will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The society will sell candy and gift shop items including our newly released book. If you can help, please fill out the form below and drop it off at the museum. Bill will call you a week before Canal Days to confirm your assignment.

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To: Bill Keeler, Fairport Historical Museum  
18 Perrin Street, Fairport.

I would like to work at the Perinton Historical Society booth on

Saturday June 2 from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday June 3 from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help set up or take down the booth \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

THANKS!

Perinton Historical Society  
18 Perrin Street  
Fairport, New York 14450

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Fairport, N.Y. Permit #149
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DATED MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!