



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
18 PERRIN STREET FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450

October 2001

VOL. XXXIV

NO. 2

EDITOR

Ruth Ewell

Calendar of Coming Events

Saturday, October 13 -- Museum open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate 100th anniversary of Fairport Electric (see article below).

Sunday, October 14 -- House Tour in Town of Perinton, 1-4 p.m. Museum closed. House Tour ticket at end of this newsletter (see article below).

Tuesday, November 13 -- Bill Lattin on "Stained Glass Windows from Orleans County." (Details next month.)

Tuesday, December 4 -- Christmas Program at the Museum.

Tuesday, January 15 -- Talk by Clark King at the Fairport Library.

Tuesday, February 12 -- Rescheduled talk by Bob Marcotte on the Civil War.
(This is the meeting originally set for September 11 which was cancelled because of the national disaster.)

Twenty-third Annual House Tour, Sunday, October 14

The tour will take place in the Town of Perinton from 1-4 p.m. The Museum will be closed for the day.

Descriptions of the houses on the tour 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 that they can take the tour, they can obtain membership applications at the Fairport Historical Museum which is open 2-4 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays and 7-9 p.m. Thursdays. No new memberships will be accepted the day of the tour.

The co-chairs of the tour are Carol Santos and Theda Burnham. We owe them many thanks for all the work necessary to make the tour possible. Thanks, too, to the house captains and the hostesses in each house. But especially, we thank the homeowners who have been willing to open their homes to us!

100th Anniversary of Fairport Electric, Municipal Power Commission

This anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, October 13. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day and will provide strolling models wearing period costumes who will be present in the museum and throughout the village. There will also be displays in the museum of the developing uses of electricity in Perinton.

The Power Commission building on Lift Bridge Lane will have an open house and displays.

New Members

We have a large list of new members to welcome at this time (there will probably be another large list in next month's Historigram). Some of these people are brand new to us; others are former members returning. In any event, we are glad to have them!

From Fairport: Lynn Barber, Hannah & John Berry, Denise Capitummino and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Caracci (her maiden name was Slocum -- a life-time resident), Margaret Estrich and Family, James K. Feely, Carol Hardy, Joseph P. Maiorana and Family, Mrs. Catherine May, Burton Moulton, Gary Muldoon and Family, Stuart Norris, Eunice Skeates, Rob and Mary Beth Stalter, Harold Stock and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tibbits, Arthur & Virginia Wacenske, Peggy Whitney.

From Honeoye Falls: June Smith

From Penfield: Doug & Janine Webb

From Rochester: Mrs. Virginia Hellard, Wilhelmine Mondy

DeLand, Florida -- 1876-1896

Since we put the museum web site on line we have begun handling many requests for information from around the country. One interesting request came from Brian Meddaugh of the West Volusia County Historical Society. Brian wanted background material about Henry DeLand, founder of the city of DeLand. Bill Keeler sent him some articles, photographs and copies of primary documents from our archives. Bill also asked if their historical society could supply us with some photographs or information about DeLand of the 1870s or information about Joseph Yale Parce, Henry's brother-in-law, who accompanied him to Florida. Mr. Meddaugh sent us some general information on the city of DeLand and copies of archival pictures of the Parceland Hotel, homes occupied by the Parce family, and several photos of the College Arms Hotel which succeeded the Parceland Hotel.

In the next issue of the Historigram we will have a complete article about the DeLand and Parce families in Florida. There just wasn't room in this issue to include the whole story. But you should know that there is now a display on the first floor of the museum of photos and information about this remarkable set of families and their life in DeLand, Florida.

House Tour

On the following pages are descriptions of the houses on the tour. Many thanks to Carol Santos who provided them.

95 JEFFERSON AVENUE

In 1944, Eunice (Baker) Skeates and Edwin Skeates purchased a piece of land in what was then considered a rural section of Fairport and began building their "dream house." Together they designed and built this charming Cape Cod. Ed (now deceased), although not a contractor by trade, constructed the entire house in one year! This included laying the living room floor made of kiln-dried maple and installed with pegs. As their family grew (two sons and a daughter), he added an expansion in 1960 that included a walk-in basement room with fireplace, a large family room/solarium on the first floor and a master bedroom upstairs. Take particular note of all the unique, built-in closets, cupboards and drawers throughout, many equipped with HL hinges and latches, adding to the early-American theme.

You will observe how nicely Eunice has gathered together the history and loving memories of over three generations in this delightfully decorated home. The furnishings, mostly early American, consist of many family antiques, as well as the numerous pieces designed and built by Ed. For example, note the table in the family room which was constructed from wood taken from the inside of Eunice's mother's discarded piano. Also, scattered throughout the home are interesting pieces of Danish artwork. Take particular note of the complete set of Royal Copenhagen plates displayed on the shelves Ed built for them in the family room.

Park carefully on the west side of Jefferson or on Terrace Drive. Please enter through the front door, remove and carry shoes, and proceed directly upstairs. As you tour, your hosts/hostesses throughout will point out the many special features/articles you will be observing. After viewing the kitchen, dining room and powder room, you will exit through the kitchen door.

158 JEFFERSON AVENUE

This home was long associated with the Stubbings family and a few of their antique pieces remain in the home, which was built around 1900. It is also quite possible that former neighbor, Carl Peters, did a painting of this home. The small barn remains intact and separates the historical property from its suburban neighbors.

Purchased in 1984 by Van and Lynn Lane, it has undergone many changes in its adaptation to modern life. A south-facing sunroom was added in 1985 and camouflaged to match the original siding at street side. Hardwood flooring has been added. A fireplace mantel, once installed in a home on Comfort Street in Rochester, now graces the fireplace at 158 Jefferson.

This is now a house that reflects the personality and youthful energy of the Lanes. The home combines indoor and outdoor gardening, in ground swimming pool, skylights with cabinetry, furniture and furnishings of an earlier time. This makes a pleasant and inspiring living space.

Please park along the west side of Jefferson Road (respecting the no parking area neighbors have requested) and enter home at rear porch, carry shoes to exit at front door.

354 JEFFERSON AVENUE

Jefferson Road was laid out in 1809 and was first called the "Road to Northrup Town" which was a settlement started by Isaiah Northrup and several of his Connecticut friends on Thomas Creek near where the creek intersects Baird Road. The road was later known as Basket Road and finally Jefferson Road after Frank Jefferson, last owner of the original Northrup Mill on Thomas Creek.

The house at 354 Jefferson was owned by Emma Pool in 1902. The property was originally 30 acres and extended all the way to the Oxbow on the Eire Canal. The house was built between 1858 and 1873 and has been extensively remodeled. You can still get a sense of the original structure from the small front porch and the bedroom balcony that overlooks the back yard. Nannette Reeves, the current owner, has tastefully furnished the home. One of her prized possessions is a talking doll made in the early 20th century.

Visitors are requested to park on Jefferson Avenue, walk up the driveway, come in the back door and carry shoes or leave on the back deck.

486 AYRAULT ROAD

An example of the romantic style house built between 1820 and 1880, homes like this Greek Revival were dominant from approximately 1830 to 1850. This home has the low-pitch gable front roof with the side wing that was typically lower than the dominant front-gabled portion. This subtype rarely occurs outside of the northeastern states and is particularly common in western New York. Comfort Butler originally purchased the original 39 acres that surrounded this home before 1852. The house was built prior to 1858. Land records reveal that the first deed was transferred on March 20, 1895 from Inez G. Lockwood to Oliver C. Brownell.

According to local documentation, eight families have owned the house including the current owners who purchased the property in August 1963. Fred and Mary Pat Larson raised their three children in the home. You could be a descendant of one of the former owners: Butler, Lockwood, Brownell, Hardy, Wood, Bittner, Ruckdoschel, and the Larsons. One of your tour guides, Doris Bittner, was born in the house. Her parents owned the home from December 1919 until March 1935.

When first constructed, the house contained only three rooms and was 16 ft. x 22 ft. The side porch was added by the Ruckdoschel family, as well as the bathroom, which was added after May 1935. An original barn on the property was torn down. Mr. & Mrs. Larson added the front porch in 1995. They also rebuilt the kitchen windows in the late 1960's, added the wainscoting, rebuilt the attached garage in 1970-71, and removed a second floor doorframe between two bedrooms that was later fitted into the dining room. The furnace dates back to 1939 and is still continuously operating.

Mr. Larson, who is a master craftsman, has filled the home with handcrafted furniture and musical instruments. Lucky participants might find him playing one of these instruments when touring the home. Can you identify these instruments? Mr. Larson has opened his shop in the attached garage so that you can see his extensive tool collection. For approximately eight years, from 1969 to 1977, he repaired bicycles from the garage. In a second floor bedroom, look at the beautifully restored oak bed, an antique that Mr. Larson unknowingly purchased in two separate bids at an auction; the handmade crib; and a washstand, which was reproduced from

five photographs of the original antique washstand that Mr. Larsen saw in Des Moines, Iowa while touring an historical site. Mrs. Larson embroidered the picture on the bedroom wall over 30 years ago. When downstairs, look at the kitchen wall rack, cutting boards, living room table, bookcase, and lamps.

Lastly, one of the most touching pictures in the house, of Fred and Mary Pat as children, is located on the kitchen wall near the table. In 1934 in Limestone, NY, Mary Pat's father took this picture of his daughter holding the hand of a little neighbor boy whose family moved to Bradford, Pennsylvania, in 1939. Who could have guessed that when they grew up they would meet again, fall in love and marry? Don't miss this wonderful photograph!

Parking is available in the driveway, across the road at 487 Ayrault Road, and along the roadway - with caution. Enter house on driveway side and carry shoes. After viewing upstairs, please exit through front porch.

6283 PITTSFORD-PALMYRA RD.

One of the first 100 homes built in the Town of Perinton before 1902, this 2-story mid-19th century vernacular farmhouse features a cross-gable plan. The north facade is 3-bays wide with double entrance doors and gabled hood with bracketed supports. Historically, this house represents a residence associated with Perinton's agricultural history. A northeast porch has been enclosed and there have been later additions to the rear elevation. A small gabled barn and a hen house are on the property. The house is quite large for a farmhouse. It features wide pine plank floors, four bedrooms and two baths. The dining room is used as a family room and has a fireplace. The current owners have built a stone patio and are in the process of redecorating some of the rooms.

The first listing of ownership for this property is from 1806-1815 when Titus and Isaac Munson are shown as owners. An 1852 map lists A.D. Butler as owner of the house. Sometime around 1860 the house was purchased by Ann Hallett. According to a Perinton Historian, Ann and her husband James were English and they had three daughters. Ann was a small English woman with a big voice. She owned a tract of land extending southwest towards Bushnell's Basin, and opened a canal grocery on the canal bank near the southwest end of the Oxbow. She also owned a coal yard. An 1878 county directory lists her occupation as farmer.

From 1897-1940 Adrian Benedict was the owner of 6283 Egypt Rd (now Pittsford Palmyra Rd) and the property consisted of 73.3 acres. Adrian Benedict was a member of a well-known pioneer family in Perinton and the eldest son of Elmer Benedict, the family for whom Benedict Road was named. Adrian operated the property as a farm for forty years. He was town assessor from 1923-43.

There have been numerous owners throughout the years. In 1966, Robert and Mary Lou Reifsnnyder purchased the property (now 1.5 acres) where they raised their seven children. In 1994, their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Kathleen Reifsnnyder, purchased the house from them. Mark's parents live in a house next door. Mark and Kathleen have three daughters.

Enter and Exit through the porch on the east side of the house. Handicap parking ONLY is available on the circular driveway. Park on Selbourne Chase or carefully on Rt. 31 due to the road construction. Watch for signs posted on tour day that indicate the safest nearby parking.

5935 PITTSFORD-PALMYRA ROAD (ROUTE 31)

Long time residents of Perinton may remember the 77-acre farm of William and Alice Brower on Route 31, as it existed in the early 1900's. The barn was then located where Maplewood Estates now is located, across the road from the farmhouse at 5935 Pittsford-Palmyra Road. After William Brower's death, his daughters conveyed the property to Basil E. Savard in 1942. In 1960, Mr. Savard conveyed the land, which became Indian Valley Subdivision to The J. R. Mascitti Building Corp. St. John's Parish built their church and school on part of this conveyance behind the house. In 1984, Mr. Savard's estate transferred the house to Michael and Bernice Wilcox, who operated a photography studio at the site. Finally, in 1989, Al and Judy Wilson became the caretakers of this unique home.

Al and Judy Wilson installed some whimsical exterior ornaments. Current residents of Perinton will recall this home as having the cow in the side yard and the flamingo perched on the chimney of the smokehouse. If your curiosity has ever been raised by the exterior view, this is your chance to see the other whimsical accents inside, and to linger outside to appreciate the grounds, the side porch and placement of the other outbuildings. Even now, a walk in the back yard can stimulate the imagination to step back in time to the farmhouse past of this property. Although traffic on Route 31 in the front of the house has grown increasingly over the years, the back yard remains a refuge in contrast.

On the first floor, the adjacent cozy den compliments the warmth of the large front room. Upstairs, the bedrooms proudly display the quilts Judy has made by hand. In short, your visit to this home will be entertaining and engaging.

Tour participants may park across from the Wilson home at the Maplewood Estates and enter through the farm kitchen at the rear of the home. Be sure to be careful crossing the road!

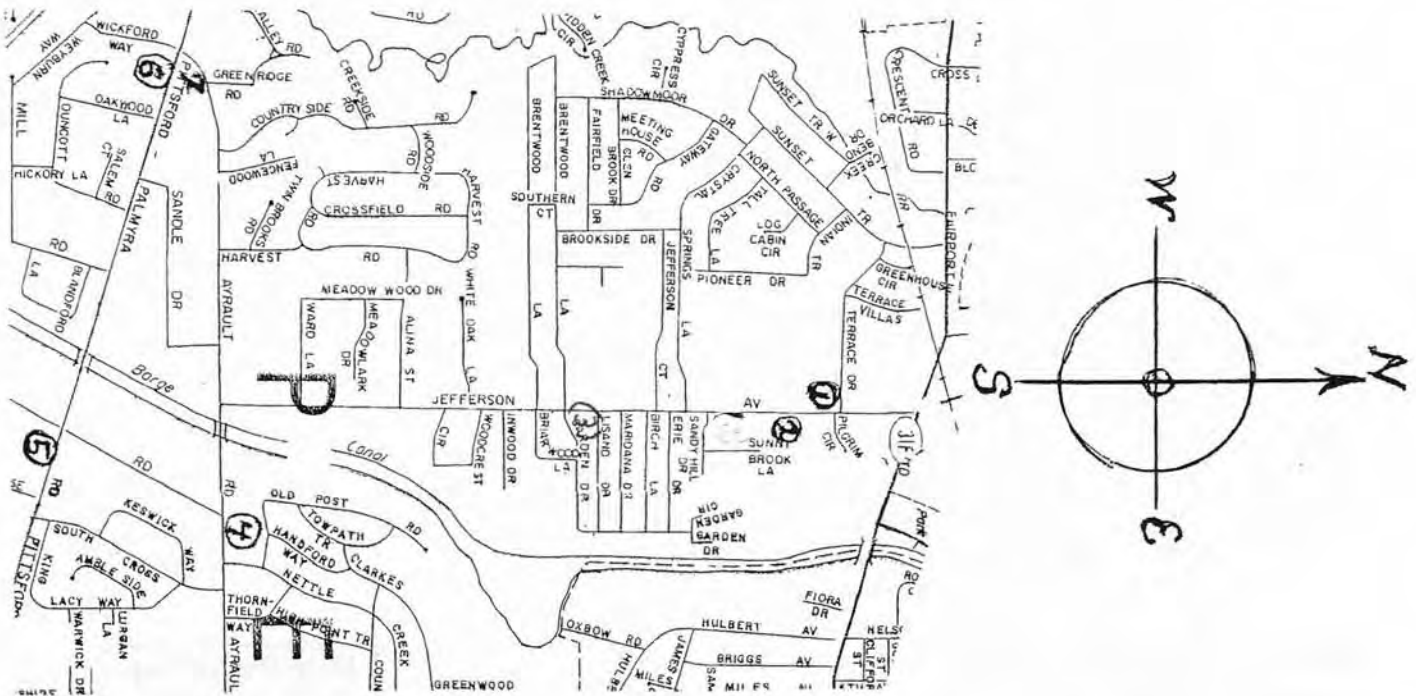
55 AYRAULT ROAD – MAPLEWOOD ESTATES

One of Perinton's newest senior living centers, Maplewood Estates is generously offering refreshments from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Main Dining Room. This beautiful facility, owned by Holiday Retirement Corporation, affords comfortable living for independent seniors with a monthly rent rate that includes all meals, transportation, activities and security.

An example of an apartment will be open for viewing for tour participants that have not yet visited. The staff will be ready with answers to any questions and there will be brochures available for your study.

PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR
 Sunday, October 14, 2001, 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 for two. 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. ☐ 95 Jefferson Avenue. Park carefully on the west side of Jefferson or on Terrace Drive. Enter through front door. Remove and carry shoes.
2. ☐ 158 Jefferson Avenue. Park along west side of Jefferson (respecting the no parking area neighbors have requested). Remove and carry shoes.
3. ☐ 354 Jefferson Avenue. Park on Jefferson. Walk up driveway and come in back door. Carry shoes or leave on back deck.
4. ☐ 486 Ayrault Road. Park in driveway, across the road at 487 Ayrault, or along the road. Enter house on driveway side; carry shoes.
5. ☐ 6283 Pittsford-Palmyra Road. Park on Selbourne Chase or carefully on route 31. Handicap parking ONLY available on the circular driveway. Watch for signs posted on tour day indicating safest nearby parking. Enter and exit through porch on east side of house.
6. ☐ 5935 Pittsford-Palmyra Road. Park across street at the Maplewood Estates and enter through farm kitchen at rear. Be careful crossing road!

Refreshments served from 2-4 p.m. in the main dining room of Maplewood Estates, 55 Ayrault Road. (7)

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS TOUR POSSIBLE!

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
--

DATED MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!