



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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EDITOR Ruth Ewell

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, January 15 -- Talk by Clark King at the Fairport Library, 7:30 p.m.

Reservations necessary. (See article below.)

Tuesday, February 12 -- Talk on Civil War by Bob Marcotte. (Details next month.)

Tuesday, March 12 -- Alan Isselhard talking on "Romance of Horse Drawn Sleighs."

Tuesday, April 16 -- Talk on the Erie Canal by John Groves.

Tuesday, May 14 -- Annual Picnic.

Reminder -- The Museum will be closed Thursday nights in January and February.

January Meeting, Tuesday, January 15, at the Fairport Library, 7:30 p.m.

Clark King, Mayor of the Village of Fairport, is Charter Member #6 of the Association of Game and Puzzle Collectors. His personal collection includes over 2000 U.S. and foreign board and card games. He is the organizer of a local game-playing group which meets monthly at member homes to play the best of both classic and new board games.

Mr. King will give a brief history of American board games and talk on their impact on our society. Come and re-live the days of your childhood. Recall what life was like before the advent of video games and the internet. Learn about some of the fun new games that you could be playing on a cold winter's night. You won't be SORRY that you took a RISK to attend this meeting. Games even BRIDGE the generation gap. You will find that you could have a MONOPOLY on one of the best and least expensive forms of entertainment available to you and your family.

Mr. King will be available to answer your game-related questions. He will also have on display some of his favorite games, including: The Checkered Game of Life, the Columbian Exposition game, Eddie Cantor's Tell It To The Judge, Star Reporter, the Perinton-Fairport Game, and Settlers of Catan.

Because of the expected popularity of this program, the library is asking that advance reservations be made. They will open reservations FIRST to members of the Perinton Historical Society. Their sign-up deadline is January 8. After that the general public will have an opportunity to sign up for whatever space remains.

Report of November Meeting

Bill Matthews, Society President, opened the meeting by mentioning the society's interest in preservation and the buildings it has rescued, including: Stop 22, now located on the south side of the canal at Packetts Landing; the railway signal building on the north side of the canal, now used for bicycle and canoe rentals; the brick outhouse, now located behind Potter Memorial; and the voting booth still waiting for reclamation. Bill's latest endeavor, which was not sponsored by the historical society, but by the Genesee Country Museum, was the move of the old "opera house" from South Butler to Mumford. Bill had pictures posted of both the brick outhouse and the opera house.

Report of November Meeting (continued)

Bernadette McDonough then introduced our guest speaker, Bill Lattin, Director of the Cobblestone Museum in Childs, who has a great interest in stained glass windows and who has assembled over 300 slides of windows in churches and other buildings in Orleans County.

The earliest window Mr. Lattin showed was from St. John's Episcopal Church in Medina. It dated to 1864 and had been made in England. This early stained glass actually was painted glass, and the color could be scratched off. Tiffany glass started the practice of manufacturing the color directly in the glass. Tiffany glass could be 3/8 to 3/16 of an inch thick, with some of it textured. The Tiffany style used natural tones rather than bright colors.

Some of the subjects in the windows shown were Old Testament characters such as Ruth and Naomi or the prophets Isaiah and John. A series of narrative windows depicted the life of Jesus, showing The Annunciation, The Nativity, the Gift of the Magi, The Holy Family, the Flight into Egypt, Jesus in the Temple, and so on. Most of the windows used as their model paintings which had been done by well known artists. Some of the symbols used were very interesting: the cypress denoting death, since when cut down the cypress never sends up any shoots; the cross and crown as the reward of the faithful; the bell as a Christian symbol for call to worship.

Mr. Lattin opened our eyes to interpretive viewing of stained glass windows and stimulated a desire in us to visit nearby churches to see a larger variety than we see now in our own church every Sunday. His scholarly yet humorous talk was attentively received by the audience.

Bernadette McDonough took care of the refreshment table which boasted a wonderful assortment of goodies provided by members.

Native Fairporter Once Designed Stained Glass Windows

After hearing the talk by Bill Lattin on "The Stained Glass Windows of Orleans County," Bill Keeler, Museum Curator, was reminded of a local artist who lived in Fairport in the late 1890s.

Ida M. Dougherty was born in 1879 and grew up at 199 South Main Street in Fairport. Interested in drawing at an early age, she traveled by trolley every Saturday morning to take classes at the Mechanics Institute in Rochester. Ida graduated from Fairport High School in 1896 and enrolled in Mt. Holyoke's Art Students League. In 1903, Howard Pyle, famous illustrator and author of children's books, started a school for illustrators in Wilmington, Delaware. Ida and her future husband, W.J. Alyward, who later painted many nautical scenes, attended Howard Pyle's first classes. Known as "The Brandywine School, artists studying under Pyle had the ability to portray action scenes from unusual perspectives and greatly influenced the art of illustration. After graduation, Ida Dougherty was commissioned to design a stained glass window depicting the "Marriage at Canaan" for a cathedral in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ida and her husband had a studio in New Jersey and lived for many years in Port Washington on Long Island. Ida Dougherty died in 1955; her husband, William James Alyward, died in the following year.

Gifts to Museum

We are grateful for a gift of \$500 recently received from the Merchants Association. We have also received a gift in memory of Jean Graham Brown from Betty and Dick Barker.

Gifts to Museum (continued)

Jean Graham Brown was the daughter of Alicia Morey Graham. The Moreys were a prominent mercantile family in Fairport. The Reverend Doctor David Graham and his wife, Alicia Morey, were Baptist missionaries to China.

Report of December Christmas Party

The Merriman-Clark Room was festively decorated for Christmas, providing a wonderful atmosphere for those attending the party. There were holiday tablecloths, greens, and red candles on the various size tables. In one corner was a decorated Christmas tree. We felt as if we were in an elegant tea room, especially when the string quartet began to play.

Ken Brown, Fairport high school music teacher, had brought not only his wife but two high school students with him. This talented group performed music by Handel, Beethoven and Vivaldi and, on a livelier note, a group of Irish medleys. Toes were tapping all over the room to the tune of "The Irish Washerwoman." The musicians concluded by playing many familiar Christmas carols and inviting the audience not only to sing along but also to identify which country the carol came from. We are fortunate each Christmas to have Ken Brown and his students come to play for us and also to have Ken's historical perspectives on the compositions.

Helen Matthews and those who provided the refreshments had really outdone themselves. The goodies were delicious as was the punch which was served in addition to coffee and tea. We owe Helen many thanks for organizing this array -- and we thank Helen and her husband Bill also for doing the decorating in the meeting room. They really gave us a great start for the holiday season!

Alberta Cleveland Memorial Fund To Be Used to Restore Drum Head

As you may have read in the newspaper obituary last June, the Cleveland family requested that friends of Alberta's who wished could make donations to the Perinton Historical Society or to the First Congregational Church. The society received a substantial amount in this fund; at the September meeting of the Board of Trustees it was decided that the money be used to restore a bass drum which had been used by the DeLand Military Band. This is a fitting tribute to Bertie whose grandfather, Robert Wignall, was the first leader of this band when it was formed in 1884.

The 36 inch diameter, red, white and blue drum head, along with its wooden shell, had been in storage on the second floor of the museum for a number of years. The drum head had a slight tear in the skin, was very dirty, and the paint was beginning to flake off. Last October, Bill Keeler, Museum Curator, took the drum head to a textile conservator in Albany to be restored. Over the next few months the skin will be humidified, reattached to the rim, the surface cleaned and the paint retouched. There is no timetable for when the work will be done, but the society plans an unveiling when it returns to the museum.

Perinton Historical Society Wins Stewardship Award

On November 29th, at the annual meeting of the Landmark Society of Western New York, the Society received the Stewardship Award for 2001. This award recognizes organizations which have continually cared for and have a commitment to the preservation of an architecturally and historically significant public property over a period of years.

Stewardship Award (continued)

For some time the society has had a long-range maintenance plan for the museum building. The Village of Fairport has helped with repairs to the roof and drainage system and in repointing and restoring the outside brick. We are grateful to them for their assistance. The next project planned is the resurfacing of the driveway beside the museum.

Bill Matthews, who has spearheaded the maintenance efforts, accepted the award for the society.

New Members

We welcome the following:

From Fairport: Ann and Henry Couch, Earl Pittinaro, Judd & Carole Prozeller.

From Bristol, Connecticut: Mrs. Phyllis V. Miller.

Our membership figures keep growing. At the moment we count 652!

What I Left Out

Bill Keeler, editor of the popular book "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal," has submitted many articles which refer to a particular page in the book and which provide more interesting notes and background information that didn't make it into the book. Some of these articles have appeared in issues of the Historigram over the last few months and are entitled "What I Left Out." Here is another:

In the later half of the 19th century, there were at least 11 patents granted to people who worked or lived in Perinton. One of these inventors was James McMillan, who invented a well tubing device, patent #102,572, patented May 3, 1870. James McMillan lived at 6004 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, and in the photograph on page 27 of the book can be seen standing on his front porch.

The invention could be used in the business of well driving. In traditional well driving, a driver would pound an inner tube and an outer tube into the ground in search of water, usually with a sledge hammer. Each tube or pipe would be 6-8 feet in length and would be connected together by couplings as they were pounded into the ground. After a section was pounded flush with the ground, the center tube would be lifted out and the soil taken out before being inserted back into the ground and connected to another section of pipe. Many times the couplings that held the pipes together would be damaged under the pressure of the pounding; so that the couplings would break apart or the threads would become compressed and make them inseparable. McMillan's patent allowed the inner tubes or pipes to be lowered onto one another without threading them together. Each pipe had an inner thread which was not affected by the pounding. To lift the inner pipes from the hole, a rod with outside threads would be lowered and screwed into the inner threads of the pipe that needed to be extracted.

James McMillan had a partner by the name of Ebenezer Cady who weighed 300 pounds and was most likely the person wielding the sledge hammer. After the patent was granted, McMillan entered competitions in various fairs and expositions in the west, bringing home "first premiums." By 1878 he was an agent for agricultural plows and in 1880 he was an agent for the Pitts Grain Separator.

Another article in the "What I Left Out" series can be found on the next page.

Captain David Cady, pictured on page 24, came to Perinton around 1810, shortly after his son Lovejoy Cady moved here and settled across the road from the Hannan homestead on Route 31. Captain Cady was born in Coventry, Connecticut, in 1754, married Lurene Pratt, and raised six children, three of whom remained in Perinton. A picture of Lurene Pratt Cady and two of her children can be seen in a display case in the Merriman-Clark Room in the museum.

An interesting account of Cady's military life is recorded in "The Early Settlers of Perinton 1791-1830," compiled by Marjorie Snow Merriman. "Perinton will ever be proud that Captain Cady spent the last half of his life on her soil. He came to Perinton at the age of forty-four, having finished a brilliant military record for his service to his country. He had been an aide to General George Washington -- in fact, the only aide to Washington at the Battle of Brandywine. He was wounded in the elbow by a musket ball; he swam the Hudson River with the use, consequently, of only one arm, for which act of bravery he was liberally rewarded by Congress. Once, when the army did not know which way the enemy had gone, by having snow cleared from a fork in the road the Captain was able to determine from the prints of the horses' feet which way they must go in order to catch up with the enemy. Another story handed down in the family was that he killed a snake with his sword (he carried both flintlock and sword) and cooked it when rations had been exhausted. Coming across a cow belonging to a woman who lived in a log cabin, he was allowed by her to milk into his shoes. Sensing his need, the old lady gave him some Johnny Cake also."

Captain David Cady died April 25, 1845, and is buried in Perinton Center Cemetery on Ayrault Road.

And here's another ---

Early manufacturing businesses created many jobs for unskilled laborers. European immigrants came up the Erie Canal from New York City to take these new jobs. The picture of the DeLand Chemical Works laborers on page 61 shows many of these Irish immigrants and their sons who followed them into the business of making saleratus. Young men like John Flanigan, James Riley, Ed Hanlan and Thomas Finnegan were all second generation Irishmen. This new generation of Americanized sons of immigrants used companies like the DeLand Chemical Works to gain ~~skills~~ that would allow them to get better and higher paying jobs in the cities.

One such person was Daniel Culhane, shown on page 61, front row seventh from the left. Daniel was born in a house along the west bank of the Erie Canal at Fullamtown in 1856. When he came of age, Daniel followed his father into the employ of the DeLand Chemical Works. At the factory, Daniel learned the trade of a steam electrical engineer and operated the first dynamo in Western New York to produce power for incandescent lighting. In an article in the Fairport Herald, Daniel Culhane described the scene when the first lights were installed in the village. "It was a great day . . . The ~~who~~le town gathered to see electric illumination for the first time. One big farmer came up to me to ask for a bucket of the stuff to take home. We thought it was a great joke then . . ."

Daniel Culhane married Isabel Barson, a local hairdresser, on November 11, 1886. They had five children and lived at 78 Parce Avenue (which is still standing), across the street from the Cox Shoe factory. Several years after the disastrous fire at the DeLand factory (see p.66), Daniel took a job in the city of Rochester as the chief engineer of the Federal Building, which is now City Hall. He remained there until he retired 31 years later in 1937. He died at the age of 83, 16 days after the death of his wife.

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