



PERINTON HISTORIGRAM

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

February 2002

VOL. XXXIV

NO. 5

EDITOR Ruth Ewell

Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday, February 12 -- Talk on Civil War by Bob Marcotte (details below).

Tuesday, March 12 -- Alan Isselhard talking on Romance of Horse Drawn Sleighs (details next month).

Tuesday, April 16 -- Talk on the Erie Canal by John Groves (details later).

Tuesday, May 14 -- Annual Picnic.

February Meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., Merriman-Clark Room, Museum

We are happy to have the talk by Bob Marcotte at this time. It had been scheduled for September 11, but had to be postponed because of the tragic events of that day.

Bob Marcotte is the Just Ask columnist of the Democrat & Chronicle. He will talk about the experiences of Perinton soldiers who saw heavy fighting during the Civil War while serving with the 108th New York Volunteer Infantry. This group fought in such battles as Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and others.

Bob has researched 28 Fairport and Perinton soldiers whose wounds, illnesses and imprisonment mirror the hardships of the Civil War. His presentation will include a display depicting the soldiers and their battles. There will be a question and answer session and a chance to share any family stories you may have. Information will be available on how to research a relative's involvement in the war.

The program is open to the public, so do come and bring a friend.

New Display in Museum

Beginning in February, there will be a display of drawings and photographs of inventors and their inventions from Perinton and Fairport. You may have caught a glimpse of the display at the Fairport Public Library, where it was exhibited in January.

There is a picture of Joseph Yale Parce, Fairport's first patentee, and a picture of his hoisting crane from 1859. Film removing toothbrushes, which could be bought for just \$1.00, were invented in the late 1890s by Doctors Irving and Milton Kohler, Fairport High School graduates. Those who remember the Trescott Company on Railroad Street can see a picture of an apple sorting line containing three of Willis Trescott's many inventions. Bottles of ingredients used to make Dr. Robinson's "Improved Medical Compound" which was intended for dysentery, cholera, diarrhea and similar bowel complaints, will be in the display case. They are taken from our collection of local trade bottles.

These and many more drawings and interesting facts about the inventors are in the first display case as you enter the door of the museum.

Report of January Meeting

A large audience gathered at the Fairport Library on Tuesday, January 15, to hear Mayor Clark King talk about games. Clark has a huge collection of board games, all manufactured in the United States. He stressed that these are not electronic or computer games and definitely not toys or puzzles.

Reporting on Clark's talk, which he entitled "Games -- It's Your Move," was made easy because he had organized his material so beautifully in outline form and presented it on flip-over pages on an easel in front of the room. He listed as the reasons for collecting games as recreation, education, and religious or moral teaching. There are some ancient games which are still around: Macala or Wari, which started about 4000 B.C. along the Nile; Senat or Ur, 3000 B.C. (both of these were found in King Tut's tomb); GO, 1000 B.C.; backgammon, started in Italy about 100 A.D.; dominos from China about 1000 A.D.; checkers about 1100 A.D.

American games date back to 1744 with a Pennsylvania Dutch card game used to teach Bible verses. Between 1750 and 1830 some card games were patterned after English games. In 1822 a board game, Travelers Tour the U.S., by Lockwood, a book publisher, appeared. Other early games were the Mansion of Happiness and Dr. Busby, the latter a best seller and a card game. Parchesi is the earliest U.S. trademarked game, appearing in 1874.

Clark called the period 1880-1913 the Golden Age of Games. Some that were popular then were produced by Parker Brothers and by Milton Bradley Company. In the Silver Age of Games (1915-1945) the All Fair line of games was manufactured by E.E. Fairchild and Co. in Rochester. In old games the inside bottom of the box was used as the playing board, but later separate game boards came along. A popular game was Monopoly, which has the most varieties sold in the world.

In the Modern Age of Games (1946-2001) we saw: Scrabble, Clue, Hopalong Cassidy, What's My Line? The influence of television is seen in some of these games. Trivial Pursuit began in Canada and was at first not well known in the U.S. because the topics were Canadian. There were cooperative board games, where instead of competing the players worked together toward a common goal, or there were simulation games or role playing games. A game called Cootie, played here in 1948, was also played in Scotland by May Thomson, one of our members, and called there Beatle. One of the most recent games is Cranium. The company which now owns ^{almost} all games is Hasbro, although there is one company, Pressman, still operating independently. It is owned by a 90-year old woman who vows she has no intention of selling out.

There is a good market in game-related merchandise -- clothes, pens, ornaments, books, magazines, key chains, toys, cars and trucks. Clark finds his games at garage sales, through the internet, in catalogs, and in shops. Value is affected by age, manufacturer, artwork, theme, condition, completeness, rarity and uniqueness. Clark doesn't just collect games; he plays them, too, and has played them all.

There was enough time for questions and to allow browsing in the display. What a stimulating and exciting evening! Now -- it's your move!

New Members

We welcome the following, all of whom live in Fairport:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Angevine, Eleanor & Ray Newell, Mr. & Mrs. Brent Penwarden III.

Special Gift Shop Offer

The museum gift shop has recently acquired 5 slightly damaged prints entitled "Rochester from the West 1853." These 22"x31" prints show a panoramic view of early Rochester with canal boats on the Erie Canal Aqueduct, which is now Broad Street. They are available for framing and available now in our gift shop for \$5 each.

This and That, by President Bill Matthews

Sometimes things move at the speed of a glacier around the museum. For instance, there was the painting of the front stairway that I've wanted to do for the last several years. Finally Art Wilson and I got at it the beginning of January, and in a couple of days it was finished -- to our satisfaction.

In the fall the three-hole bench was installed in the old brick outhouse as well as some landscaping outside, all on hold now until spring, when some interior painting will complete this project. By the way, former Fairporter Marilyn Pitcher VanSlyke wrote to us saying that when her parents bought 70 East Church Street in 1934 they installed indoor plumbing. Therefore, the outhouse was unused except by woodchucks for the last 66 years or so. This little building behind Potter Memorial can be easily viewed from the parking lot off Potter Place.

Almost a year ago we decided we needed electric heating cables over the rear entrance to the museum to prevent snow and ice buildup on the roof and gutters. Working with Fairport Electric, we are now making some progress and, if the snow holds off a little longer, this much needed work will be accomplished. Our thanks to Mitch Wilkie and his expert electricians.

But now and then we are able to apply two old cliches such as: "Strike when the iron is hot" and "There is not a moment to lose." As an example, last week we received a call from a gentleman who wanted to donate an 1858 map of Monroe County, 5 foot square, framed and covered with plexiglass. We enthusiastically said, "Yes, thank you," and Bill Keeler and I had it safely in the Merriman-Clark Room three hours later! Be sure to examine the Fairport section the next time you visit the museum.

New Donations to the Museum by Bill Keeler

Further information about the 1858 Monroe County map -- It once belonged to Fairport lawyer David Starr Jordon, who died April 23, 1990, at the age of 68. Jordon was a former Perinton Town Board member from the mid-60s to the early 70s, served as town justice for 10 years, and was the Fairport village attorney for 3 more. The map has engraved pictures of two local houses -- D.B. DeLand's residence on the corner of Whitney and Main and the house of J.G. Ramsdell on Mason Road. D.B. DeLand was a salesman and later owner of the Deland Chemical Works on North Main and J.G. Ramsdell was a nurseryman who raised the Rose Red apple and many other varieties in Egypt, N.Y.

The new owner of the Fairport Herald building brought in a small box of printing blocks with pictures that were published in the Fairport Herald Mail. Most of the blocks are of people in the 1940s, but a few are of local buildings. Included in the collection are blocks of Valentown Hall, the Millstone Block on North Main Street, and Dr. Whitney's "new" office on West Avenue.

Two small child's school desks that once sat in the Northside School on East Avenue were donated by Donald Ferraro. They were rescued from the school by Don's mother after the school closed in the 1960s.

New Donations to the Museum (continued)

Curator Bill Keeler acquired two items of interest from E-Bay. If you have ever seen a parade from Main Street in the village, you can visualize the bands and fire companies marching down the street from the Baptist Home. Bill acquired an unusual postcard which recreates this same scene from around 1911. The photo was taken from the top of the Main Street bridge, looking north. The "box factory" is on the right, with horses and buggies lined up in front of the building. On the left is the Millstone Block, festooned with patriotic bunting, and there is a row of four American flags suspended on a line over Main Street. The trolley station, built in 1911, can be clearly seen, as well as the second story porch on the Millstone Block, which was built out over the sidewalk and used on that day as a reviewing stand. The firemen are walking down the center of the dirt street. The second company is the East Rochester fire department led by two mounted horses carrying the department's banner.

Another artifact that was purchased is a catalog of evaporating and grading machinery made by the Trescott Company of Fairport. The catalog was printed around 1910, when engravings were still the best way to illustrate your products for sale. There are many fascinating engravings of fruit graders patented by Willis Trescott in 1908 and includes five full pages of testimonials from satisfied customers.

All these items will be processed shortly and be available to be viewed by the public.

What I Left Out by Bill Keeler

Here is some more information to go with the Perinton Historical Society's book, "Perinton, Fairport, and the Erie Canal." Bill Keeler was the editor.

One organization that was found in hundreds of communities throughout the United States was the G.A.R., or the Grand Army of the Republic. In Fairport, this Civil War veterans' organization was founded in 1886, a picture of which is found on page 117. The picture was taken in front of the Morey house on South Main Street in 1914, where the Village Landing is today. The organization closed in 1937, when the last surviving member, Horace Waddell, died. He is pictured in the front row, 8th from the left. The Perinton Historical Society has 44 original applications to the G.A.R., including Mr. Waddell's.

Horace Waddell lived at 58 Roselawn Avenue and was "mustered in" on July 21, 1908. He was 68 at the time and was still working as a mechanic. Horace enlisted as a private in Company C of the 54th New York regiment and was mustered out in Rochester on 11-10-1864.

Horace was recommended for admission by J.J. Fassitt, who was the Post Commander in 1906 (front row, 6th from the left). Fassitt enlisted 7-23-1862 as a private in Company C of the 108th regiment of New York volunteers and was discharged at Bailey's Cross Roads 5-28-1865. His brother, Alvin, also served in the 108th, but died in 1862 and is buried at Harper's Ferry. Private Fassitt was one of several men who joined the 108th from Fairport.

The 108th participated in battles at Antietam, Fredericksburg, the battle of the Wilderness and Gettysburg. In an article written many years later called Memorial Memories, Reminiscences of the One Hundred and Eighth Regiment, Colonel S.P. Howard of Fairport described to a reporter the scene at Gettysburg. "In this fierce battle, the 108th New York was in the thickest of the fight, the brave men of Company B supporting a battery and losing heavily in numbers from the fire of the enemy's rifles and shells."

What I Left Out (continued)

"On this hotly contested ground, Comrade Chester Hutchinson (second row standing, 11th from the left) was shot through the lungs with a rifle ball, and Comrade Robbins (front row, 10th from the left) suffered the loss of his right arm by the bursting of a rebel shell. Lieutenant Howard's sword was struck by a bullet which imbedded itself in the hilt, grazing the fingers of his hand while in his grasp. He was also shot in the arm, carrying the ball in the wound for some time. At the close of a skirmish, when his company had been attacked by the enemy, he found thirty holes made by bullets through his hat."

In the battle of the Wilderness, Company B was the only one to capture a battery from the enemy.

Ironically, none of the soldiers mentioned above is buried in our Civil War cemetery at Mt. Pleasant (page 58). Colonel S.P. Howard, who died in 1920, and Chester Hutchinson, who died in 1932, are both buried in Greenvale cemetery in the village. Horace Waddell, J.J. Fassitt and Mr. Robbins are not buried in any cemetery in Perinton or Fairport.

And still another article . . .

Starting a new company or business is risky in any era. To get started a person has to work long hours and hire people who can be trusted and relied on. Family members fit the bill nicely. The men pictured outside of the Morey and Dudley grocery store on page 50 show many immediate family members who helped run the business. E.L. Dudley, one of the partners, can be seen on the far right. His two brothers are also pictured -- Richard Dudley second from the left and Walter Dudley sixth from the left. Smith Morey, the other partner, is the ninth from the left, and his son, Joseph Morey, is the fifth from the left. The Morey and Dudley store was in business for 14 years, from the middle of 1870 to the 1880s.

Smith Morey settled in Fairport in 1873. He was a former 49er, but it is not clear if he actually panned for gold or sold supplies to the miners. He ran the store (top of page 50) and also the Smith Morey Dry Goods Store on Main Street (bottom of the page). Morey originally lived in a house on South Main Street which in later years was reconstructed and added to the dry goods store. He also owned a branch clothing and dry goods store in Bergen, N.Y. which was closed because of his failing health. He died in 1893.

E.L. Dudley, Smith Morey's partner, left the partnership in the 1880s to form a different partnership with Charles Howe and John Dixon, manufacturing soda, saleratus and baking powder. In 1895, Howe and Dixon left, and Howard Becker joined E.L. Dudley to form Dudley & Co. which manufactured Napoleon Baking Powder and Utopia corn starch.

The dental parlor, seen above the store, was occupied by Willis Trescott. This is one of the first offices occupied by Willis after graduating from Pennsylvania Dental College in the winter of 1874-75. He continued in the dental field until 1905, when his love of agriculture and horticulture took over, and Willis began to work full time at the Trescott Manufacturing Company on North Main Street in the village. Trescott was a prolific inventor, receiving patents for a fruit evaporator (1881), a fruit bleacher (1883?), two separators (1908), one for fruit and one for vegetables, and a fruit brushing machine in 1934. Willis Trescott continued to work at the company until his death May 19, 1938.

Note: If you have not yet gotten your copy of the book on which these articles are based, hurry in to the Museum gift shop to purchase one!

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!