

HISTORIGRAM



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

*Home of the Fairport
Historical Museum*

Newsletter for the Perinton Historical Society

Volume 25
Issue #1
Date: Sept. 2002
Editor: William Keeler

Inside:

- ☐ **New look for
Historigram**
- ☐ **Tribute to Ruth
Ewell**
- ☐ **Mystery Stone
Found Under
Lift-Bridge Lane**
- ☐ **New Society
Officers Elected**
- ☐ **Sept. 10th
Meeting & Oct. 13
Tour Scheduled**
- ☐ **...and more**

New Look for Perinton Historigram

As you may have read in the last *Historigram*, Ruth Ewell is stepping down as editor of this newsletter after almost 20 years. She will be sorely missed.

Traditionally it has been the job of the Corresponding Secretary to write and publish the newsletter. Ruth was the Corresponding Secretary from 1978-83 and then again from 1991 to 94. When she left the executive committee she took the job of editor with her. Not wanting to scare off a new Corresponding Secretary (which may be why Helen

THE MISSION OF THE PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INTEREST
IN THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL RECORDS AND ARTIFACTS FOR POSTERITY, AND FOR THE
ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PERINTON COMMUNITY.

Matthews is stepping down), I will be editing the *Historigram* until a replacement can be found. So if you are a newly retired reporter for a major metropolitan newspaper or always wanted to be a writer and editor, now is your chance.

You will also notice that the newsletter is sporting a new look. I will be experimenting in the next couple of months to find a format that is attractive, easy to read and convenient for me to use. If you have any comments, suggestions or articles you wish to have included in future editions please drop them off at the museum.

New Officers Elected for the 2002-2003 Season

At the annual May picnic of the PHS the following officers were elected to the executive committee for a one-year term:

President, Bill Matthews.

First Vice-President, Bernadette McDonough.

Second Vice-President, Joyce Lyle
Recording Secretary, Bill Kinsman.

Corresponding Secretary,
Heather Bauer.

Treasurer, May Thomson.

Helen Matthews has stepped down after many years as Corresponding Secretary. Also reelected for a

final five-year term as Trustee was Bill Keeler.

Congratulations to the incoming officers for 2002-2003.

Membership Renewal

To those of you who have already renewed your membership for 2002-2003, thank you. If there is an * following your name on the mailing label, we had not received your renewal by the time this newsletter was mailed. We are looking forward to hearing from you. A copy of the membership form can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

A Tribute to Ruth Ewell

Written by Bernadette McDonough on behalf of the grateful Board and Membership of the Perinton Historical Society.

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines the word 'volunteerism' as 'acting or serving in a specified capacity willingly and without constraint or guarantee of 'reward'. This definition only partially conveys the dedication given by Ruth Ewell in her efforts since 1982 as editor of the Perinton Historical Society's *Historigram*. It does not convey the heart, spirit, and vitality of this 'Ball of Fire'.

The *Historigram*, a monthly newsletter, edited by Ruth for twenty years, is one of the first monthly newsletters written by a non-profit group in Western New

York. It cleverly combines a commentary on the monthly programs of the Perinton Historical Society and weaves a story related to research of historical records of the Fairport Historical Museum.

Ruth's ability to bring an interesting part of the history of the Fairport/Perinton area to life in her 'columns' makes the *Historigram* a newsletter that our members look forward to receiving each month. Since museums cannot display all of their collections, Ruth's column take readers behind the scene to create an interesting tour of local history. Her report on monthly programs gives readers the feeling of being personally present at the program even if they missed it. In addition to having the challenging job of composing, editing, and printing the *Historigram*, Ruth has, over all these years, been responsible for assembling the newsletter, as well as getting it copied and mailed.

While today we honor Ruth Ewell, we would be remiss if we did not include a tribute to Matson Ewell, for one cannot think of one without the other. Since 1975 both Ruth and Matson have been inseparable in their contribution and dedication to the growth and quality of the museum. Although Ruth is stepping down as the editor

of the *Historigram*, she will continue to provide us with her spirit and guidance as we record, preserve, and take pride in our community. Thank you, Ruth, for a job well done!!

Mystery Mill Stone Unearthed at Liftbridge Lane

This past spring the Fairport Public Works Department found a mill stone under the street when reconstructing Lift Bridge Lane near the Box Factory. The stone, 55 inches in diameter, has an iron hoop around its circumference perhaps to hold together a previous repair to the stone. The stone may have come from the old Boyland Mill, which stood at 11 State Street formerly called John Street and now renamed Liftbridge Lane. The three-story mill would have stood at the entrance of the Columbus parking lot.

The Boyland Mill was owned by William H. Boyland and originally stood on the west side of North Main Street where the old Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern trolley station now stands. The mill processed buckwheat flour, corn meal, graham and animal feed. William operated the mill from 1895 to the time of his death

September 28, 1935. Mr. Boyland married Miss Belle Westfall who lived on Main Street in 1890.

After the marriage, the couple moved into a house on Church Street and later moved to 130 West Ave. and 30 West Street.

The mill building was moved around 1911 when the RS&E Co. bought the property to build a station. Previous to 1911, trolley passengers arrived and departed from the Sugar Bowl across the street.

In January of 1940, the Boyland Mill was destroyed by fire. The entire fire department was called out and several streams of water were trained on the blaze. It was important to control the fire because the building was located next to the Cottage Hotel, Dewey Jackson's coal yard and the Certo plant across the street. Because of the tons of flour, hay and straw in the building, the fire smoldered for several days. Mr., Maier, the owner at the time, continued to run the business from a small portable building on the lot and received storage space in the West Shore freight house. The damage to the building was reported to have been \$20,000 and the building was never rebuilt.

One mill stone from the building found its way into a basement on

East Street and has since been donated to the museum. The stone found under the street has been donated to the Fairport Museum by the village and will be part of the new garden behind the museum which is being planned and planted by the Greenbrier Garden Club.

The club has received a substantial grant to improve the gardens on the museum grounds and we look forward to the new plantings and landscape design incorporating this bit of Fairport history. Also included in the plantings will be a tree dedicated to those who died on September 11th.

Upcoming Perinton Historical Society Meetings:

Tuesday September 10th 7:30
Rochester General Hospital and Other Myths presentation by Philip Maples.

Sunday October 13th 12:00 to 4:00
Tour of the Churches of Fairport

Tuesday November 12th 7:30
Armchair Walk Down Fairport" Main Street During the Late 1940's presentation by Donovan Shilling.

Tuesday December 3rd
Christmas Party

October House Tour to Feature the Churches of Fairport

This year the Perinton Historical Society members will be touring the houses of God in the village of Fairport. Bill Matthews, President and Bill Keeler, Chairman of the Board and Curator, have teamed up this year to organize the house tour for October 13th. Several churches will be open for viewing by members of the Perinton Historical Society. The tour will be from 12 to 4 with a special unveiling of the DeLand Military Band drum at noon in the First Congregational Church in memory of Bertie Cleveland.

More details will be provided in the next newsletter. Remember only members who have paid their dues by October 8th will be admitted on the tour.

September Meeting Presentation to be about Rochester General Hospital.

By Bernadette McDonough

The Society will host an unusual and very interesting program, *Rochester General Hospital*

and Other Myths presented by Philip Maples.

Mr. Maples is Curator of the Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives of the Via Health Rochester General Hospital since 1983 and has been active in local history organizations for over 40 years. He has been Curator or Consultant to several Western New York institutions including: the Morgan-Manning House, Ontario County Historical Society, Granger Homestead and LeRoy Historical Society. He also recently published a book *To Serve the Community, A Celebration of Rochester General Hospital, 1847-1997*.

His presentation *Rochester General Hospital and Other Myths* is a series of vignettes about the 150-year history of Rochester General Hospital. Although based on Lehr and Maples' book, *To Serve the Community*, many of the stories were left out of the publication. In some cases the material has not come to light until after the book was published. Stories like the finest

copperhead, the missing diploma and ambulance races on Main Street will be told.

Mr. Maples' interest is the advancement of the small historical society and he believes that the small society is the backbone of the history movement. He also feels it is the society's job to make history "alive" in their communities.

Within the Perinton Historical Society and in our Museum we have strived To fulfill this mission and Mr. Maples presentation should be a reinforcement of this museum objective.

Gift Shop selling Fairport Centennial collectibles.

Anniversaries are an important means of marking time and longevity. Municipalities usually commemorate their anniversaries in 25 or 50-year intervals.

The village of Fairport was incorporated in 1867. The village celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1967 and its 125th in an event called *Homecoming* in 1992.

Fairport's Sesquicentennial celebration will be in 2017.

If you can't wait until 2017 and you would like to relive Fairport's Centennial of 1967, our gift shop has a deal for you. The museum has recently been given a box of Fairport Centennial items, which the donor has agreed to allow us to sell in our gift shop. We have made up a centennial pack of 11 different collectable items from this event. Included in this package is a wooden nickel, official Village of Fairport Centennial Celebration letterhead and envelopes, a decoupage advertisement, a program of events with a Fairport time line and a copy of the congratulatory letter sent to the village by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.

These packs will be available in the gift shop while supplies last for \$5. All proceeds from the gift shop go to help support the museum.

FAIRPORT CENTENNIAL

1867



1967

**MEMBER
CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS CLUB**

Member's Signature

Membership for 2002-2003 Season

It is time for your annual membership renewal. Please fill out the form below and indicate at what level of membership you wish to renew. Also indicate if you wish to volunteer to serve on one of our committees or fill several positions within the organization. Remember we need volunteers to continue our work in the community. Your membership dollars help support the Perinton Historical Society programs including the cost and upkeep of the Fairport Historical Museum.

The membership year runs from September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003. The form can be mailed to the Membership Secretary at the address shown above or dropped off at the Fairport Historical Museum. Checks should be made out to: The Perinton Historical Society.

Membership includes:

Monthly meetings featuring local speakers

The newsletter *Historigram* with information about upcoming events and articles of local interest.

Members only House Tour

Annual Society picnic

Membership form for Perinton Historical Society for 2002-2003

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please check the category of membership:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family..... | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student..... | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Single [65 or older]..... | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple..... | \$8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron..... | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional..... | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Contribution..... | \$ _____ |

Your check is your receipt. Make checks payable to the Perinton Historical Society. You will be placed immediately on our mailing list.

I would like to volunteer for the following:

- ☐ Education Committee-includes 4th grade program, student and scout tours of the museum.
- ☐ Maintenance Committee-short term projects
- ☐ Museum Volunteer-staff the museum 2 hours a month
- ☐ Volunteer Coordinator-schedules volunteers to watch the museum during open hours.
- ☐ Newsletter editor
- ☐ House Tour Committee

Volunteers wanted:

The Perinton Historical Society House Tour has been a pleasant addition for members. The tour has been organized for many years by Lorrie McMahon for the village tour and Carol Santos for the town tour. Both members have left the program to pursue other interests. The Society is now seeking volunteers to form a committee to continue this program. Preparations begin in January by lining up houses for the tour, contacting owners, reviewing houses, signing up house captains, researching the history of the house, preparing refreshments and other details. If you can spare some time to work on this project, please check the box on the previous page when you sign up for your membership renewal. Without volunteer support, this years tour will be the last for the Society.

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

Address Correction Requested

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