

HISTORICGRAM



Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450

*Home of the Fairport
Historical Museum*

Newsletter for the Perinton Historical Society

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Editor: William Keeler

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**A Special Thank
You to Members
Past and Present.**

As we conclude another membership campaign, we at the Perinton Historical Society are thankful for the former members who have supported this institution for over 65 years and we are grateful to the current members who have given their monetary and volunteer support to both the Society and Museum. With your help, the Perinton Historical Society will continue its important work in the community well into the 21st century.

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.

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DeLand Military Band Bass Drum Restored

This is a copy of the speech given by Bill Keeler at the First Congregational Church at the unveiling of the restored DeLand Military Band bass drum at the Church Tour last month.

After almost a year of treatment, the DeLand Military band drum is finally ready to be put on display. Gwen Spicer, textile conservator, has been working this past year on the drum head by repairing tears in the cover, stabilizing the paint and reattaching the hide to the wooden rim. The shell, which was missing the hoop and supports, has been modified to hold the drum head for display. Additional work on the drum was done by Matson Ewell, David Wild and Bill Keeler.

The cost for this preservation work was provided by donations to the society in memory of Alberta Cleveland and a grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The society's Board of Trustees felt the restoration of the drum was a fitting tribute to Bertie whose grandfather organized the band in 1881 and whose father was the band's leader for many years.

Robert Wignall Sr. organized the band at the request of Levi DeLand owner of the DeLand Chemical Works. Levi was the son of Daniel DeLand the founder of the company. He and his uncle, Henry DeLand, ran the company after the death of Daniel in an elevator shaft accident in 1872.

Levi visited Buffalo where he heard some of the largest bands in the United States play. When he came back to Fairport he decided he wanted to form one of the best bands in the country and called on Bob Wignall to make it happen.

Bob Wignall Sr. was born in England and had played in the Marine Band and the 7th Royal Fueselleers Band before moving to Fairport. Bob worked for the Delands as a shipping clerk. When Bob was called on to put together a band, he immediately contacted an editor of a daily newspaper in Liverpool, England and asked him to help locate some experienced musicians for the new band. Several men applied to be members of the band, were brought to Fairport and given jobs at the DeLand Works or the Cox Shoe factory on Parce Ave.

The military bands, as they were called, were very professional and highly competitive. Levi spent quite a bit of money to get the talent for his band, new uniforms and the best instruments.

There is a story about the first band instruments that were bought. The instruments were made by the Boston Musical Instrument factory and shipped to Fairport by rail. They arrived at the New York Central station on North Main Street and received by Gene Hazen, longtime station master. Bob Wignall and Billy Alcorn, another member of the band, were at the depot when the boxes arrived. They came in COD. Gene Hazen asked Bob, who he knew was new to this country and perhaps not familiar with American business, if he knew what COD meant. Bob quickly responded "Sure I do-that means Call On DeLand."

The band, which was first called the L.J. DeLand Band, would practice several times a week in preparation for band competitions. One of the first competitions was in Akron in Erie County, New York. They competed with some of the best bands in the country including what was considered a top notch band from Eldred Pa.

In an article in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronical*, Bob Wignall described the scene. "When the train arrived at the station at Akron bearing the Eldred band, members alighted dressed in stove pipe hats and swallow tailed coats. Their instruments had been shipped on ahead all carefully packed and boxed. On the march from the train about 50 prominent men from Eldred marched ahead of the band each waving hands full of bills offering to bet anyone 10 to 1 that the Eldred band would win first prize.

A number of Fairport business men who had accompanied the Fairport band took their bets as fast as they were made. When the train bearing the Fairport band arrived the men alighted dressed in full regalia and marched from the train to their headquarters playing their instruments.

Later when the prizes were announced Fairport received first, to the astonishment and financial loss of some of the Eldred men."

The L.J. DeLand Band was later known as the DeLand Coronet Band and as the DeLand Military Band. The band played in many conventions and parades including the Old Home Week parades in 1908. I don't know when the band was disbanded but it was an important and proud part of community life in Fairport for many years. No one knows how this particular drum came to the museum but its restoration and display at the

Fairport Museum will be a fitting tribute to Bertie Cleveland whose family was very closely involved with the band.

The society would like to thank all those who donated money and made this project possible. The drum will be on display for the next three months in the Fairport Historical Museum.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ALBERTA CLEVELAND MEMORIAL
FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Bills	Joyce J. Dennis	Howard & Janet Sharp
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Pat DiLucia	The Cleveland Family	Winifred & Robert Wagner
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Gift Shop Special:

Framed copies of 1877 Perinton and Fairport Engravings.

The book *History of Monroe County New York 1788 to 1877* has been a unique source of vintage engravings of early houses and buildings in Rochester and Monroe County. These engravings are so highly prized that the books are often broken up and the individual pages sold to collectors.

The Fairport Museum has acquired four of these pages of Perinton and Fairport landmarks. These particular engravings are unique in that they have been tinted with watercolors.

Bill Keeler spent several days this past summer copying and framing these prints using empty frames found in the museum. These framed copies are available for \$10 each in the gift shop. All the engravings have been reduced to 8" x 10" or 7" x 9" and most are mounted in 9" x 12" frames. The buildings depicted are the First Baptist Church, the Milton Budlong Farm, the Osburn House and Green & McAuliffe lumber dealers. As an

added bonus, Charlotte Dannekar, Heather A. Bauer, Ruth Post, Imogene Blum and David Taber have written short histories about the buildings that are included with the pictures.

Each frame is unique and they make great gifts. All proceeds from the gift shop go to support the Fairport Historical Museum.

Call For Volunteers Draws Tremendous Support from the Membership.

The Perinton Historical Society has had an overwhelming response to our call for volunteers. We asked for members to step up and fill positions and needs in the organization and there were over 50 responses.

Twenty five people indicated that they were interested in working on the house tour. Bill Matthews has contacted these people for this year's tour and Theda Ann Burnam, coordinator for the tour in 2003, will be contacting these same people in April of next year as plans go ahead for the Town of Perinton House Tour. Bill Keeler has been conducting several orientations this past month to train the 32 volunteers who will be working in the Fairport Museum during open hours. For the first time in over 6 years we now have a volunteer coordinator who is Gail Black. The first education committee was created this year to accommodate our growing number of tours from school groups, scout groups and our 4th grade program. Four members signed up to help Bill Matthews in short term maintenance projects around the museum.

The Society is now in a much better position to continue its programs for this year and the future. The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees would like to thank all those who signed up and could spare some time to volunteer at the Society and Museum for these important programs.

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Journals Donated to Museum

In May of this year, the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association offered two handwritten ledger books and an index of burial plots to the Perinton Historical Society for use by researchers and visitors to the archives at the Fairport Museum. The journals contain the original handwritten meeting

notes of the organization from 1864 to 1959 and purchasing, expense accounts and deeds from 1906 to 1977. The burial plot index is a copy compiled from 1939 to 1940 by members of the Perinton Historical Society.

The Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Company was organized September 1st, 1864 by five of the more prominent men in the community. The founders were William M. Newman, manufacturer and dealer in baking powder and spices, Henry A. and Daniel B. DeLand, owners of the DeLand Chemical Works, Joseph Yale Parce, inventor and nurseryman and H. Montague Moseley. These men bought 6 acres of land from William Newman for \$1200 and had rights of way for a road from both East Church Street and South Main Street. William Webster of Rochester was hired to clear the land and build the roads leading to the cemetery. The trustees were elected once a year and during the early years the group met in H.A. DeLand's office.

The cemetery was dedicated and open for the sale of lots September 6th, 1865. Twenty four lots were sold the first day. Owners of the lots would pay a yearly fee for upkeep of the plot. In 1895 George Springett was hired to dig graves and maintain the cemetery. The cost for digging graves was \$4 in the summer, \$5 in the winter and the family of the deceased could have the grave lined with evergreens for an additional \$5.

In 1915 an endowment fund was established which grew to almost \$1500 by 1925. The DeLand and Parce families were involved in the association well into the 1920's and early 30's, D.B. DeLand having resigned in 1927.

An exhibit is planned for January with the journals, photos of some of the founders and an original cemetery deed from 1886. We are extremely grateful to the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association for donating these documents to the museum so that they can be made available to the public.

UPCOMING PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS 2002

Tuesday, November 12th 7:30 at the Fairport Museum.

Armchair Walk Down Fairport's Main Street During the Late 1940's
presentation by Donovan Shilling.

Tuesday, December 3rd at the Fairport Museum.

Christmas Party and string concert.

PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS 2003

Tuesday, January 14th 7:30 at the Fairport Public Library.

Historic and Stylistic Connections Between Silver and Pewter presentation by H.P. Prazear.

Tuesday, March 11th 7:30 at the Fairport Museum.

Patents and Trademarks from Fairport and Perinton, Part 2

Slide presentation and talk by Bill Keeler, curator at the Fairport Museum.

Tuesday, April 15th 7:30 at the Fairport Museum.

Talk about early Rochester by Ann Salter, director of the Rochester Historical Society,

Tuesday, May 13th at Perinton Park.

Annual Perinton Historical Society Picnic and election of officers.

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
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