

Making History At the Fairport Historical Museum

By Bill Poray



Above:
 Perinton Historical Society President Bob Hunt and Catherine Angevine at the unveiling ceremony on September 17th.

Right:
 In attendance at the unveiling of the historic marker was Cynthia Perrin Annett, of Cincinnati, Ohio. She and her husband stopped in Perinton as part of their journey to retrace the steps of her pioneer ancestors. Cynthia is a descendant of Lemuel Perrin, a brother of Glover and Jesse Perrin, for whom this town is named.

Visitors typically come to the Fairport Historical Museum to learn about history. Instead, on a simply perfect September evening, an enthusiastic crowd came to **witness** history. Those in attendance had the opportunity to observe, as Perinton Historical Society President Bob Hunt and the indefatigable Catherine Angevine unveiled a historic marker in the front yard of the museum.

The historic marker commemorates the inclusion of 18 Perrin Street to the National Register of Historic Places. The achievement, which required research, detailed documentation and perseverance, was led by Catherine Angevine. She then took on another challenge, and successfully obtained a grant



Photos by Keith Boas

Continued on page 4



Comments from your President

~Bob Hunt

September 15, 2019:
Once again, I am in my office in the carriage barn, ready to share some

thoughts for the October issue of the *Historigram*. It is a beautiful late summer day with low humidity and I've just finished mowing the lawn. Cindy and I enjoy history and like visiting nearby historical sites and museums. We recently spent a night at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles, and while there, visited a couple of nearby historical sites: the Seward House Museum and Harriet Tubman Home, both in Auburn.

The Seward House Museum is a circa 1816 historic home located at 33 South Street, once the home of William Henry Seward, who served as a New York state senator, governor of New York, and U.S. senator. He was also a presidential candidate, and then served as Secretary of State under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. A guided tour of the home lasts about two hours and costs \$12 for adults, with a two-dollar discount for seniors. We learned a lot about the life and career of William Seward. One of the interesting topics of discussion was the attempted assassination of Seward and Vice President Johnson. The trio of John Wilkes Booth, Lewis Powell and George Atzerodt plotted to assassinate the three top governing officials of the time. Booth was successful in the assassination of Lincoln, while the other two were not. Powell succeeded in getting into the bedroom of Seward and stabbed him several times, but was beaten away by a guard, Army private George Robinson, and Augustus Seward, a son. You will have to visit the museum to get the rest of the story.

The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, located in Auburn and Fleming, New York is, of course, associated with the life of Harriet Tubman. It is comprised of three properties: the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged in Auburn, the nearby Harriet Tubman residence, and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church in Auburn. They are located at 180 and 182 South Street, and 33 Parker Street, respectively. At 180 South Street, a museum offers the story of Tubman's life, shown in photos and a timeline. An hour-long program is provided in which a docent reviews Harriet's life, including stories of her adventures. Harriet was a major conductor on the Underground Railroad, and known as the "Moses of her people." She moved to Auburn in 1859 and purchased a home and property from then Senator, William Seward. In 1896 she purchased a 25-acre parcel from a property next door, where she eventually established the Home for the Aged. Harriet

Tubman died in this home in 1913. (Some of the information for the Seward and Tubman stories came from Wikipedia.)

I recommend putting both of these museums on your to-do list. Both can be visited in one day, as we did, with a visit to the Seward House in the morning and, after a nice lunch at the Prison City Brew Pub, the Tubman Museum in the afternoon. I recommend the curried clams and a pint of their refreshing lager. The next morning, after staying at the Sherwood, we took a beautiful two-hour luncheon boat ride on Skaneateles Lake.

Two items of note from the Farmer's Almanac September 2019 calendar:

- 1) A cabbage weighing in at 127 pounds won first prize at the Alaska State Fair in 2009
- 2) Steve O'Neal of the New York Jets had a 98 yard punt in 1969, longest in NFL history

Finally, our annual Yuletide Traditions fundraiser is fast approaching. See the insert in this issue of the *Historigram*. Perhaps we can all give some thought regarding an item we might consider donating for the big event.

Thanks for your continued support, it is appreciated. We will chat again in the next issue.

Bob Hunt, President
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HISTORIGRAM

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Perinton Historical Society

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As of September 15, 2019

Business (\$100)

The Inn on Church

11 West Church Street, Fairport, NY 14450
Phone: (585) 678-1106
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Perrin (\$500 and above)

None this month

Upcoming Programs and Events

Tuesday, October 15

7:00 p.m. at the museum
Program: The Lost Wineries of Western New York
Presenter: Jane Oakes

Tuesday, November 19

4:00—7:00 p.m. at the museum
Event: PHS Yuletide Traditions
Opening bids accepted for silent auction items

Tuesday, November 19

7:00 p.m. at the museum
Program: Genesee Country Village & Museum: 50 Years in 40 Minutes
Presenter: Peter A. Wisbey, GCV Curator of Collections

Saturday, November 23

10:30—11:30 a.m. at the museum
Special Event: Author appearance and book signing
Author: G. Rollie Adams, author of *South of Little Rock*.
Softcover \$20.00; cash and checks accepted

Saturday, November 30

10:30—11:30 a.m. at the museum
Special Event: Author appearance and book signing
Author: Ellen Stoll Walsh, author of 17 children's books.
Various prices; cash accepted

Saturday, December 7

2:30—3:30 p.m. at the museum
Special Event: Children's Craft with PHS member Karen Allen and a visit from Santa

Sunday, December 8

2:30—3:30 p.m. at the museum
Special event: Topping Ladder Company presentation
Presenter: Doug Topping

Tuesday, December 10

6:00—7:00 p.m. at the museum
Event: PHS Yuletide Traditions final bids accepted for silent auction items

Silent auction winners will be announced following the evening's program.

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 p.m. at the museum
Event: Annual Holiday Party and Christmas Sing-Along

Please bring a dessert to pass.

to cover the cost of the historic marker, through the William C. Pomeroy Foundation. In 2008, the structure was one of the very first to be named a designated Fairport landmark, under the village’s historic preservation ordinance.

The building first opened to the public in March of 1938, and served for the next forty years as Fairport’s public library. Many in the community have fond memories of childhood visits to 18 Perrin Street. Some of those visits were for purely academic purposes—others were not. One witness at the unveiling of the new historic marker, a nearby resident growing up, recalled that she and a girlfriend repeatedly scaled the front steps and entered the library, on roller skates. She vividly described the vigorous and swift reaction of the librarian, Mrs. Gaffney, to this breach of protocol.

By 1978, the Fairport Public Library had outgrown the forty-year-old building. Perinton’s population had skyrocketed from approximately 10,000 when the library first opened in 1938 to almost 40,000 by 1979. Once a new location was found for the library, the opportunity was born for the establishment of a community museum, operated by the Perinton Historical Society. After much preparation of the former library building, the PHS collection of artifacts was relocated by members and friends, from a cramped second floor room of the Crosman Community Center on East Avenue. The location had served as PHS headquarters since the early 1960s, but had many shortcomings, including the lack of a meeting room.

The grand opening of the Fairport Historical Museum in June of 1979 was successful by any measure. A community affair widely attended by residents of all ages, those who were unable to drive were delivered to the new museum by volunteer chauffeurs.

The museum was open for only one year when an energetic group of volunteers emerged to care for the gardens at the former library. The Greenbrier Garden Club initially had the help of Boy Scouts in 1980, when many of the beds that still adorn the rear yard were first created. For thirty-nine



Provided through a grant of the William C. Pomeroy Foundation, the beautiful new historic marker is a welcome addition to the grounds of the Fairport Historical Museum.

Photo by Keith Boas



A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the grand opening of the Fairport Historical Museum in June of 1979, and was attended by local dignitaries and Congressman Frank Horton.



PHS President Bob Hunt was one of the speakers participating in the historic sign unveiling.

Photo by Keith Boas

years, the Greenbrier Garden Club has remained a special and valued partner of the Perinton Historical Society.

After forty years as the Fairport Public Library, 18 Perrin Street was reinvented in 1979. Ever since, the Fairport Historical Museum, operated by the Perinton Historical Society, has been an essential fixture of this community. We look forward to the next forty years.



Additional Thanks to:

- Sam Bartolotta, who assisted Catherine Angevine with building measurements, needed for the documentation necessary in seeking designation on the National Register.
- Matt Wells and Bob Hunt. Each did their share, including installation and painting of the pole, and the attachment of the historic marker to the pole.
- Lucy McCormick, for ordering the cake and presenting it so beautifully, complimented with delicious lemonade.



The Lost Wineries of Western New York

Presented by Jane Oakes

Tuesday, October 15th
at the museum

Free admission
No registration required

The story of New York's commercial wineries begins in Hammondsport, New York, right? Actually, the answer is no. Meet the forgotten commercial winemakers of York, Pavilion, Charlotte, Irondequoit, Hemlock, Dansville, and Ossian, and learn why the grape varieties they used have gained new popularity in competitions across the United States.

Jane Oakes has been involved with historic education for more than forty years, beginning with volunteer work as a teen at the Valentown Museum in Victor, New York, under the tutelage of the renowned historian J. Sheldon Fisher. She taught classes at the Genesee Country Village & Museum, and was a Museum Studies and local history teacher-consultant for the regional BOCES Gifted and Talented programs. Jane has been a consultant for regional museums in the Western New York area, as well as for groups and individuals seeking advice on restoring historic opera houses.

504 piece Jigsaw Puzzle
size: 16x20in

Perinton Historical Society
18 Perrin Street
Fairport, New York 14450
585-223-3989
PerintonHistoricalSociety.org

PERINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving History. Telling the Past.

Fairport's Historic Lift Bridge
Fairport's iconic lift bridge is known for its unique angles. The bridge has spanned the width of the Erie Canal since 1934.

Perinton Historical Society (PHS) is a not-for-profit organization. Founded in 1992 to promote interest in preserving and sharing the history of Fairport and Perinton, PHS aims and operates the Fairport Historical Museum and Fairport Public Library. PHS also educates hundreds of schoolchildren each year on local history.

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Fairport Museum, home of the Perinton Historical Society. This building at 18 Perrin Street, constructed in 1937, served as the Fairport Public Library from 1938-1978. Since 1978, it has housed the Perinton Historical Society's Fairport Museum.

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New Museum Gift Shop Items are on the Way

The museum gift shop is gearing up for a busy holiday season with the arrival of several new items. Two limited-edition puzzles celebrating Fairport history are on the way. The first features our iconic lift bridge, which has recently closed for renovation. Thanks to Keith Boas for allowing us to use his amazing photo for that puzzle. The other highlights the Fairport Historical Museum, now in its 40th year at 18 Perrin Street.

Another collectible Christmas ornament is on order, also celebrating the 18 Perrin Street building. Many people will always think of this structure as the Fairport Public Library, as it is an important component of their childhood memories. The ornament commemorates both the library and the museum and is a perfect complement to the other ornaments in the series: the lift bridge, Carl W. Peters mural, First Baptist Church and the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Fairport. These new items should arrive in the gift shop in plenty of time for Christmas.



Postcard Club Event on October 20th

43rd Annual Rochester Postcard Show

**Sunday, October 20, 2019
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

Members Free - Non-members \$3.00

Perinton Community Center
1350 Turk Hill Rd, Fairport, NY 14450

WNY Postcard Club
For Info Call Michael - 585-721-3388
WNYPostcardClub.com

The Western New York Postcard Club will be holding a show and sale on October 20th, at the Perinton Community Center. Just let them know you are a member of the Perinton Historical Society, and you will be granted free admission!

Thanks, WNY Postcard Club.

The Return of Downton Abbey

Have you been anxiously awaiting the Downton Abbey movie, which arrived in movie theaters on September 20? If so, you'll want to visit the museum and see our newest exhibit, Fashions Inspired by Downton Abbey. This display is updated from our 2013 exhibit and features some new costumes that have never been out of the PHS costume closets before now.

These gowns from the PHS costume collection have been specifically chosen to represent Downton characters, due to their styles and colors. In addition to the Countess of Grantham, Lady Mary, Lady Edith and the Dowager Countess, you'll also see costumes representing Isobel Crawley Grey, Mrs. Patmore, Anna Bates and little George Crawley. A selection of hat pins and hats will be on display as well.

Perinton Historical Society

Mission

To promote interest in preserving and sharing local history through education and accessibility.

Yuletide Traditions Registration is Now Open

The Yuletide Traditions Committee is looking forward to its sixth annual silent auction event! This is when we ask individuals, organizations and businesses to donate gift cards and gift baskets, wreaths, tabletop trees and decorative items for our three-week silent auction, which takes place from November 19 through December 10. All proceeds benefit the Perinton Historical Society. The event has raised more than \$11,000 in its first five years. The funds are used to work on special projects, such as the museum exhibit reorganization that occurred in 2018. PHS is so appreciative of its donors, special event attendees and bidders!

We ask that all donors register so the YT Committee can plan for space requirements. Registration began September 28 and runs through October 26. Donations will be dropped off on Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

To register, simply complete the registration form (see page two of the flyer included with this mailing) and drop it off at the museum or mail it to: YT 2019, Perinton Historical Society, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport NY 14450. You can also email registrations to Vicki Masters Profitt at Director@PerintonHistoricalSociety.org.

Fairport Lift Bridge Receives Much Needed Renovation

By Bill Poray

Built in 1914 to accommodate the widened Barge Canal, Fairport's iconic Main Street Lift Bridge is temporarily closed, as the most significant renovation in its history begins. The mechanical components and controls of the bridge will be replaced and updated, but the visual appeal of the bridge will not change. Completion of the project is planned for November of 2020.

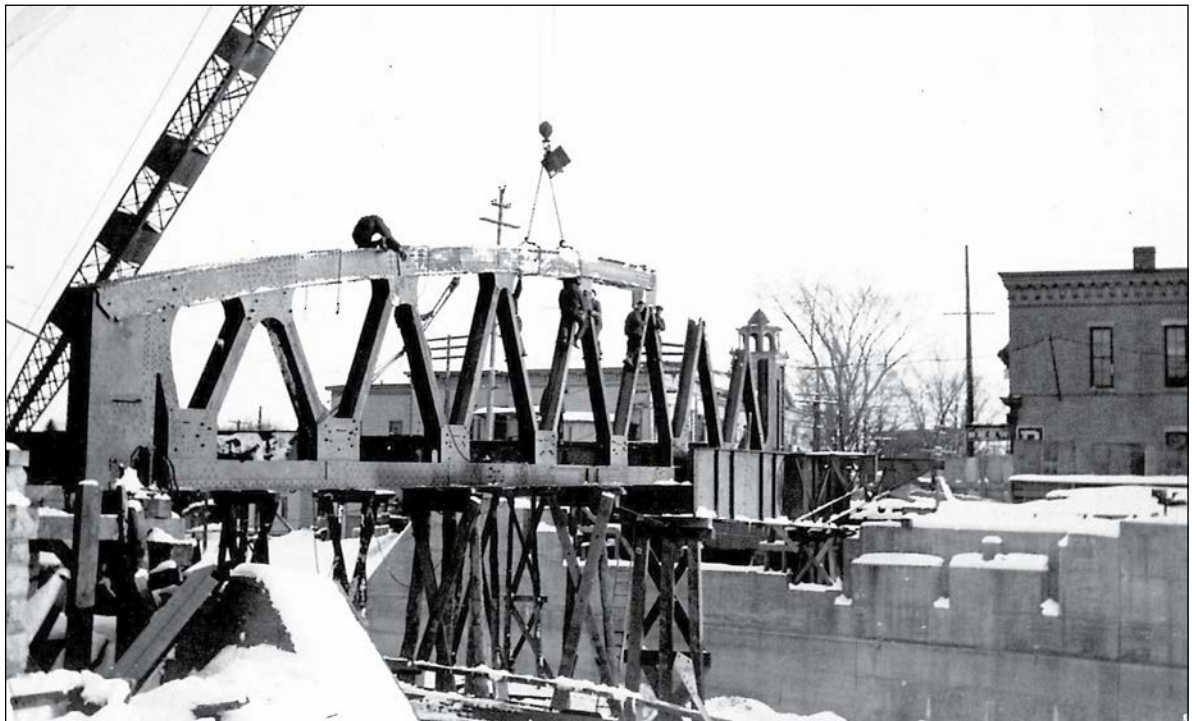


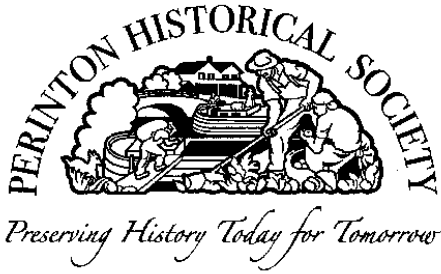
This street mural by Lorraine Stauch displays the "Fairport On The Rise!" logo, which encourages residents and visitors to frequent their favorite shops, restaurants and activities within the village. A pedestrian trail has been established to highlight the walkability of the village.

For more information, visit the Fairport village website at: <https://village.fairport.ny.us/>

Photo by Bill Poray

Fairport's Main Street Lift Bridge is being assembled in this photo, probably taken in March of 1914. The view is to the south, looking across the canal. Bridge construction on the canal typically occurs in the winter months, when the canal is closed. The building to the right is Bramer's Drug Store, on the corner of South Main Street and West Avenue.





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The 7th Federated Garden Club "life members" paid a visit to the museum on August 22. PHS members involved in the group include former PHS President Anne Johnston and Joyce Lyle.

Fairport Historical Museum, 18 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Sundays and Tuesdays from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Free admission. Group tours, presentations and special projects are by appointment. Please call and leave a message at **585-223-3989**.

www.PerintonHistoricalSociety.org