

THE DELAND FAMILY

Part Three

Daniel and Minerva were not the only DeLand family members to have an impact on the Fairport community.

From the beginning, Henry DeLand, Daniel's brother, was the DeLand Chemical Company's premier salesman. He traveled the nation, at first in a horse and buggy and then by rail, touting the company's "Cap Sheaf Soda." He established a network of agents who collected orders that were rushed to the factory. By 1864, under Henry's guidance, sales had expanded to the point that warehouses were built in Chicago and St. Louis. It was even reported that they spent \$12,000 in one year for advertising, an enormous sum in those days. It was Henry who took over as head of the company upon Daniel's death in 1872, along with Daniel's son Levi. During the period of time that he was running the business, he built the mansion that is known today as the Green Lantern Inn. He lived there with his second wife, Sarah Parce (Minerva's sister) and their two children Harlan and Helen. At different times Betsey Parce, his mother-in-law, and Eliza Marring, Henry and Daniel's widowed sister, lived there with them. The 32 room French chateau-style mansion, built in 1876, continues to be a Fairport landmark. About the same time that he built his house, Henry traveled to Florida and, seeing opportunities in the citrus business, purchased land there. For the next five years, the family divided its time between Fairport and the wilds of central Florida, building a community that would become DeLand, Florida. In 1881, Henry sold his shares in the DeLand Chemical Company to move to Florida full time. The 1890's were an economically difficult time, and the DeLand family was not excepted. The winter of 1894-5 brought freezes to Florida that destroyed most of the orange groves in DeLand. After honoring his financial guarantees, Henry was nearly destitute. He returned to Fairport and, at age 60, began selling saleratus or baking soda for the Monroe Chemical Company. He died in 1908.

Henry's daughter Helen devoted her life to serving first her father and then her community. After graduating from Smith College and teaching for a time at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, she returned to Fairport with her father to work with him as secretary-treasurer at the Monroe Chemical Company. Those early years of the 20th century were difficult ones for Helen. She lost her father, mother and brother Harlan in the space of ten years between 1903 and 1913. Within several years, she returned to education, teaching at Fairport High School. Eventually she became the librarian for both the village and the high school, serving in those positions until 1933. She also contributed to the story of Fairport by recording memories of her childhood and writing articles for the local paper about Fairport history as well as by belonging to the Fairport Historical Club, a group of women concerned with preserving the story of the community. In addition, she wrote and published The Story of DeLand and Lake Helen, Florida. Helen DeLand died in 1956 and is buried along with many other members of the DeLand family in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery family plot.

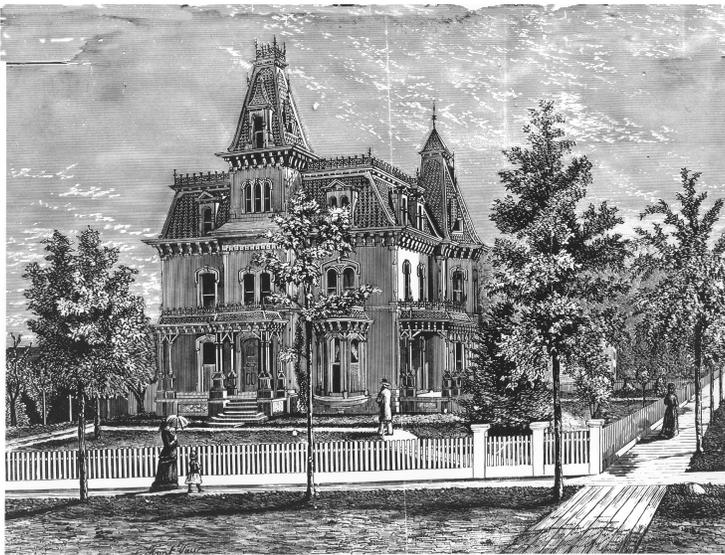
Although there are no longer any DeLands living in Fairport and the companies they created are gone, the legacy of this family lives on in the institutions they championed, the homes they built, and the tradition of community service they practiced.



Henry DeLand



Helen DeLand



Henry DeLand Mansion (Green Lantern Inn)