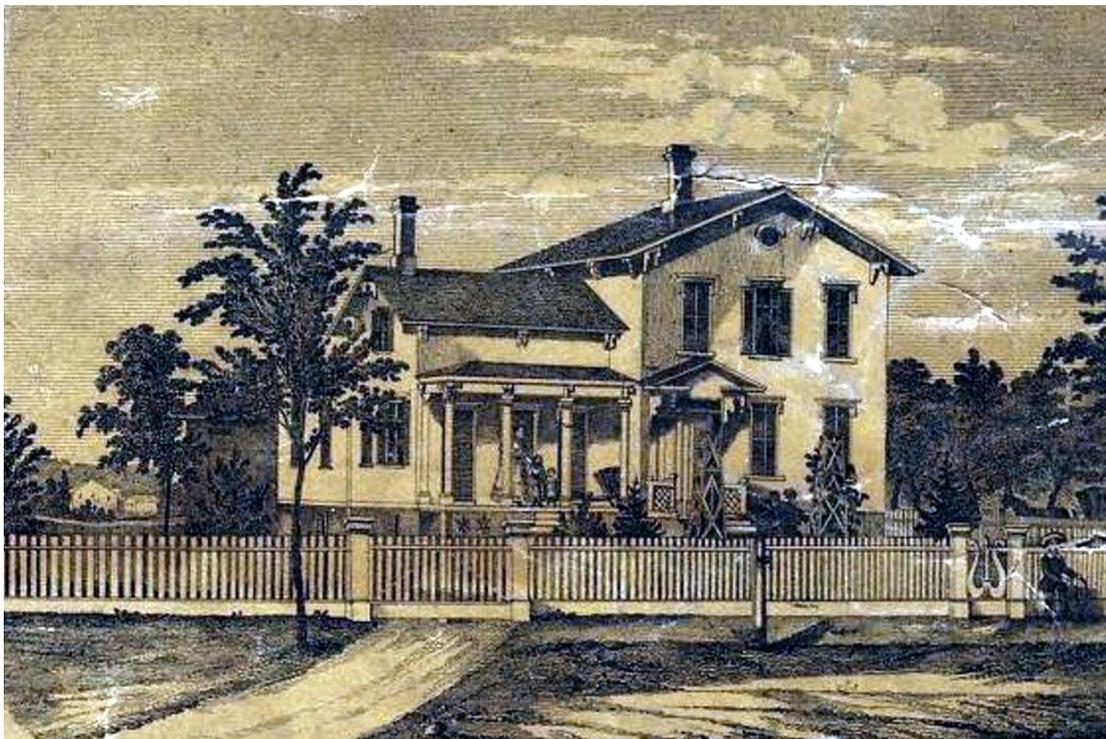


## Properties of Prominent Fairport Residents Vandalized

Two consecutive Fairport newspapers announced the distressing news in 1873: “A Villainous Act”, and “Another Outrage”. Citizens were shocked at the disclosure that the properties of three holders of elective office, some of Fairport’s most respected citizens, had been vandalized. The owners were Mrs. Daniel Deland and her son Levi, Joseph Y. Parce, and Alfred B. Potter. The homes were violated, when “some cowardly scoundrel, out of a spirit of mere devilishness, besmeared the front fences” with a quantity of blue ink. Two of the homes were located on North Main Street and one on West Church Street.



*Home of Mrs. Daniel Deland and son, Levi. The fence was defaced with blue ink in retaliation for Levi’s support of the temperance movement. Image from the 1858 map of Monroe County.*

The motive was clear - the targets of the vandalism held anti-liquor positions, and were vocal supporters of the temperance movement. In the early 1870s, advocates of temperance were successful in strengthening New York State’s liquor laws, which resulted in several new provisions, some listed here:

- No liquor may be sold to persons under 18 years of age, without consent of parents or guardians. The guardian of the minor can recover ten dollars of the seller for each offense.

- No liquor to be sold to any intoxicated person; fine of \$25 for selling to an Indian.
- No sales of liquor on Sundays, election days, or between 1:00 and 5:00 in the morning.
- No liquor may be sold to a habitual drunkard, even if sober at the time he calls for it.
- Sellers of alcohol are liable for all damages sustained in consequence of such sale.

The topic of temperance and outright abstinence were divisive issues, and many residents were angry at the prospect of government limiting or banning the use of alcohol. The Fairport Herald was fully supportive of the local temperance movement, and offered the following support for Deland, Parce, and Potter, the victims of the vandals: “It is well known that these gentlemen are temperance men from principal, and were elected at the last charter election as such. It was also well understood that they would not consent to give a single license in the village, but would do all in their power to stop the sale of liquor in any form. They are simply carrying out the temperance issue which our villagers endorsed last spring. Hence this outrage on their private property. Any business is at pretty low ebb which has to resort to meanness of this kind for its maintenance.”

The Fairport Herald reported the vandalism was “...denounced by every citizen who is possessed of the least particle of self-respect, and the most stringent means will be adopted to bring to light perpetrators of these outrages.” However, no evidence has been found that the “cowardly scoundrels” were ever identified or charged.

*Written by Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian*

*Fairport-ER Post, 04/07/2016*