

PERINTON/FAIRPORT STREET NAMES

Last in a series

Besides being named for farm families and area communities, old roads and new ones as well might also reflect a business or activity that took place in the area.

In the earliest days, a portion of Ayrault Road was known as the Mill Road since it connected Perinton with a mill on Irondequoit Creek. In later years, the eastern portion of the road became known as Ayrault Road for the Ayrault family that farmed over 300 acres between the road and the canal in the vicinity of today's Fairport High School. The western portion of the road was once called Wapping Bridge Road, a name that doesn't seem to have any local connection at all. Jefferson Avenue was formerly known as Basket Road because it was said that the Native Americans collected willow reeds there for basket making. The eastern portion of the road known today as Whitney Road (again named after a local farmer) was labeled Cheese Factory Road due to the presence of cheese factories. Salt Road, in the same section of Perinton, was named for its salt wells.

Today's developers do not always use names that relate to families or area activities when they create new subdivisions; however there are some new streets and subdivisions whose names either use a former farm family's name or in some way reflect a former use of the property. The Case/Bown farm was located on the southeast corner of Pittsford-Palmyra and Victor-Egypt Roads. That farm was purchased in 1851 by Nathan Case, and was subsequently passed on to his granddaughter Marjorie and her husband Bruner Bown. The Bowns ran a dairy farm on the site and Bown's Hill Lane now runs through the property. The Lapham family purchased land along Mason Road sometime during the second decade of the 19th century and it remained in that family until the 1860's when it was sold to Van Rensselaer Conover. At least three generations of Conovers farmed the land. A portion of the land has been recently developed and the road has been named Conover Crossing. And Schoolmaster Circle is in the vicinity of Fritz Schoolmaster's 77 acre farm between Howell and Wakeman Roads. Kitty Hawk Drive is so named because the development was a former air strip. Streets in the area of Eagle Vale, such as St. Andrews, have been named after famous golf courses. The Colaruotolo family, owners of Casa Larga Vineyards and Anco Builders, have named a number of streets in one of their subdivisions after grape varieties or wines -- for example Chenin Run and Chardonnay Drive. Several subdivision names reflect the area's history. Mason Valley occupies a portion of what used to be Samuel Mason's 150 acre farm. Crystal Springs subdivision is near the old Peddie Springs where Walter Parce operated the Crystal Rock Water Company that bottled and sold mineral water in the early 20th century. Whitney Farms (and Whitney Road) is named for Jesse Whitney whose farm was in that area.

By no means have all of the farming families and family businesses been memorialized with road names, nor have these columns covered every road and street that has a connection. There are clearly many more families that have contributed to the life of Perinton and Fairport than there are roads to commemorate them. However, in meandering around the roads and streets of the town and village, residents can be reminded of Perinton's and Fairport's history, not only in the old road names but also in the new.

