

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF FAIRPORT & PERINTON**

**Oliver Phelps** and Nathaniel Gorham purchased 2.6 million acres of land in the wilderness of Western New York in 1788. The area had rich soil and abundant creeks and streams, both essential in luring farmers from the rocky hills of New England to the western frontier. William Walker of Canandaigua purchased 36 square miles of the land and soon hired his brother Caleb and his cousin Glover Perrin to survey the land and divide it into 66 equal lots. The area was known as Township 12, Range 4, in the governmental unit of Northfield.

**Glover Perrin**, his family, and his six siblings and their families settled in the same area, which became known as Perinton when it was officially established by the New York State Legislature on May 26, 1812. Other settlers soon followed, as word of the area’s good farming traveled back east. Between 1800 and 1814, the Perinton census showed a growth in population from 71 to 821 people.

**MARCH 2018**

**OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS** were farmers, who settled in the flat areas of the town that were more easily cleared, specifically in Egypt and near the intersection of Turk Hill and Ayruilt Roads. Other settlers located near creeks streams, where they built mills. Early commercial ventures also included blacksmith shops, taverns, and inns. The first town meeting was held on April 6, 1813, in Cyrus Packard’s tavern in Egypt, a thriving Perinton hamlet on the stagecoach road between Canandaigua and Rochester. Many of the current and future leaders of the town lived and farmed in Egypt. Packard, for example, was Perinton’s first elected supervisor.

**BY THE 1820’S**, things were changing, as the Erie Canal opened up western New York. The Village of Fairport, an area of approximately one square mile area within the Town of Perinton, was drained of its unhealthy swamps by the new canal. The north-south route through the village provided a means for farmers to bring produce to the canal. The result was a booming canal town, which eventually eclipsed the hamlet of Egypt as well as the surrounding canal settlements of Knapp’s Bridge, Fullam’s Basin, and Hartwell’s (Bushnell’s) Basin. Cyrus Mallett moved from Egypt and built a popular hotel on the canal, one of many that, along with numerous canal stores and barns, lined the new route. Political power also moved to the village as town meetings were held in Fairport starting in 1827. In 1829, the Post Office moved from Fullam’s Basin to the Village of Fairport.

**BEGINNING IN THE 1850’S**, Fairport evolved into a booming industrial town, echoing a trend that was occurring nationwide. As a result of the availability of cheap and easy transportation, which by the 1850’s included the railroad as well as the canal, companies like the DeLand Chemical Company and the Cobb Preserving Company grew and thrived. DeLand Chemical produced saleratus, known today as baking soda, which was marketed nationwide. It was eventually succeeded by the Fairport Vinegar Works, which developed pickles sold as Certo, used in the jelling process. Cobb Preserving, the forerunner of the American Can Company, was one of the first companies to perfect the use of the open-top sanitary can, thereby greatly increasing the safe use of factory-canned goods. The Trescott Company developed fruit grading and packing systems that revolutionized the wholesale grocery business. Taylor’s Oil of Life and Crystal Rock Mineral Water, catering to the late nineteenth century demand for cure-all “patent medicines,” were both produced in Perinton and shipped across the country.

**SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND CEMETORIES** were organized to serve the growing community. Services, including a fire department, a public library, street lighting, and parks, enhanced the life of the town and village. The philanthropy of the early industrialists like the DeLands, Taylors, and Potters contributed to many of those services. In addition, residential areas, with homes built in a variety of architectural styles, were built around the thriving village center.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Bill Poray, Fairport-Perinton Municipal Historian
Capron Galan Art & Design
SPECIAL THANKS TO 

For more information, please visit: perinton.org fairportny.com
10 South Main Street

Bailiffs: The bailiffs, who were originally stationed in the 1850s, were the town’s highway commissioners. The first known bailiff was Jacob Hardick, who served from 1854 to 1867. He was followed by several others, including Andrew DeLand, who served from 1868 to 1872.

12 South Main Street

A large home built in the 1850s, it is one of Fairport’s earliest homes. The home was owned by William Boyle, a Civil War veteran and merchant, from 1887 to 1900. It was later purchased by the Fairport Historical Society and is now a museum.

14 South Main Street

A large Italianate home built in the 1850s, it was owned by John Van Hoosen, a Civil War veteran and merchant, from 1875 to 1900. He later sold it to Henry DeLand, who lived there until 1922.

16 South Main Street

Built in the 1850s, this home was owned by William B. Doebbelin, a Civil War veteran and merchant, from 1887 to 1900. It was later purchased by the Fairport Historical Society and is now a museum.

18 South Main Street

A large home built in the 1850s, it was owned by John Van Hoosen, a Civil War veteran and merchant, from 1875 to 1900. He later sold it to Henry DeLand, who lived there until 1922.

20 South Main Street

Built in 1875 by William B. Doebbelin, a Civil War veteran and merchant, this home was later purchased by the Fairport Historical Society and is now a museum.

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