

## Life through the lens of Frank Beaumont

By Bill Poray

Add Frank Marion Beaumont to the list of our former residents I wish I had a chance to know. Born in 1898, young Frank was the son of a carpenter, Harry Beaumont and his wife, Helen Worthy Beaumont, and the grandson of Civil War veteran Thomas Beaumont. The family lived on Summit Street, and later on Filkins Street. Frank's life was short, just twenty years in all. He didn't waste any time, filling each day with pursuits that were important to him.



*In this photo by Frank Beaumont, members of Troop 1 are on a hike to the oxbow in June of 1916.*

Frank Beaumont was one of Fairport's first Boy Scouts. He loved the friendships, camping and hiking, and the spiffy uniform too, which bore more than a passing resemblance to the United States Army uniforms of the day. A few years later, he traded in his Boy Scout uniform for that of the 17<sup>th</sup> New York Calvary.



*Troop 1 scouts stop for a photo by Assistant Scout Master Frank Beaumont, while on a hike to the Turk Hills.*

Frank learned to operate a camera, and used it to record images of the people and places important to him. He carefully mounted each picture in an album, now part of Perinton's historic archives. The album's photos date from 1914 to 1917 and each includes a hand written caption. There are photos of neighbors and family members, schools Frank attended, and the Methodist Church, where he and his family worshipped. His images offer a wonderful view of the world of a Fairport teenager in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Frank used his camera to document the activities of his Boy Scout troop, including camping trips to the shores of Lake Ontario, hikes to Turk Hill, and parades in Fairport and East Rochester. In 1917, at 19 years of age, he became the Assistant Scoutmaster for his troop.



*1916 photograph of Frank  
Beaumont on a Boy Scout camping  
trip near Sodus Point.*

Known for his character and patriotism, in February of 1918 Frank Beaumont quit school, with just a few months left until graduation. Frank enlisted in the Calvary, and was assigned to Camp Douglas in Arizona for training. His letters home were full of joy and optimism, including this passage: "I like sleeping in a tent very much, it is just like camping with the Scouts." Even when assigned to KP duty with the cook squad, he put a positive spin on the experience, exclaiming, "It was quite interesting to see such a large quantity of food prepared."

Sadly, at the age of twenty, Frank Beaumont contracted pneumonia while at Fort Douglas, and died one week later, on June 1, 1918. He was Perinton's second casualty of the war, and was laid to rest at Mount Pleasant Cemetery with full military honors.