

PERINTON/FAIRPORT STREET NAMES

First of three columns

Years ago, property lines were described in terms of links and chains and landmarks like streams and large trees. Roads and streets were often named after the people who had settled there, and the very first roads were merely paths between neighbors. Perinton's very first road (path) was between Glover Perrin's house on Ayrault Road and his brother Jesse's house on South Main Street. Just a brief look at the 1902 Plat maps of Perinton and Fairport shows that a number of roads were named after families whose farms abutted that road. Not only have streets been named after important (and not so important) personages, but they have also been named for businesses that flourished in the area and for settlements connected by those roads.

In the village of Fairport, DeLand Park A and B, Parce Avenue, and Perrin Street are all named for important families in the history of the town and village. The DeLand family founded the DeLand Chemical Company in the late 19th century, virtually putting Fairport on the industrial map during that time. The two streets were originally part of the DeLand property at the corner of North Main and Whitney Roads. Parce Avenue was named for Joseph Parce and his family. Joseph was not only involved with the DeLand Chemical Company, but was a DeLand brother-in-law and the father of Walter Parce, the founder of East Rochester. The large house at 137 North Main Street just north of Parce Avenue was the family home. Perrin Street was named specifically for James Perrin, a nephew of Glover Perrin, who with his wife Johanna and several brothers and a sister, were the first white settlers in the town of Perinton. Filkins and George Streets are in the vicinity of the George Filkins farm. Potter Place flanks the Potter House and property at 53 West Church Street. The Lewis Brooks farm, which occupied the current site of Johanna Perrin School and the aptly named Brooks Hill School, also gave its name to the south end of Potter Place, which on the 1902 map is labeled Brooks Avenue, and nearby Lewis Street. Hulburt Avenue runs through what was the Thomas Hulburt farm, which extended nearly all the way north to Fairport Road. Woodlawn Avenue (formerly Woodland Avenue) was part of property owned by Martin Wood. Nelson Lewis owned the area through which Nelson street runs. A.R. Cole and L Beardsley owned property on what became known as Cole and Beardsley Streets respectively. Church Street is aptly named for its churches, which have numbered as many as seven. Several streets, among them Clinton Place, Dewey Avenue, Jackson Place, and Monroe Street, were named for presidents and notable heroes.

Sometimes, streets and roads, especially ones that connected settlements, were appropriately named for those areas. Fairport Road was originally called the Rochester Road as it was the main link between the village of Fairport and the city of Rochester. The Victor-Egypt Road and Fisher's Station Road, both in the southern part of town, are named in the same way. One of the town's earliest roads, so designated in 1805, is today's Route 31, which is more often than not referred to as Pittsford-Palmyra Road, indicating the two communities that it connects. (Early on it was also known as Mud Creek Road, probably a descriptive term.) Likewise, today's Route 96 is also known as Pittsford-Victor Road after the two areas it connects. That road was earlier known, however, as Ketchum Road, after the Ketchum family whose Valley View Farm incorporated several hundred acres in the area.

In the Town of Perinton, many, many roads were named for farming families in the vicinity. A subsequent column will highlight some of those examples.

