

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Spring 2023

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A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!



Beth Crawford of Crawford & Stearns, and Pat Kimber, Board Member, discuss reformers and their historic homes.



Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner speaks with New York State Senator Rachael May's Cayuga County Constituent Liaison Aileen McNabb-Coleman.
Photos by Dona Ross.

The Frontenac celebrated Women's History Month, the month in which we reflect on the courage of women in past generations and to celebrate how their efforts and bravery afforded women the opportunities and freedoms experienced today, with two very special presentations.

On March 5, **Beth Crawford**, Senior Associate & Designer with Crawford & Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners, presented an illustrated talk "*Suffragists and Abolitionists: A Look at Some of CNY's Reformers and Their Historic Homes.*" Crawford provided an informative peek not only at the intertwining lives of these reformers but also an insider's look beyond their front doors to view the restoration efforts and adaptive reuses of their homes as led by the Crawford & Stearns firm.

A grant from New York Council of Humanities brought **Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner**, historian, author, educator, founder/director of the Matilda Gage Joslyn Center for Social Justice to the Frontenac on March 19th to present "*Sisters in Spirit.*" Dr. Wagner has appeared on CNN Special Report: Women Represented & Quest's World of Wonder and appeared in and wrote the faculty guide for the Ken Burns' documentary "Not for Ourselves Alone." During her presentation, Dr. Wagner shared surprising insights, learnings and facts Matilda Joslyn Gage and other suffragettes gleaned from the Haudenosaunee women and how these impacted their reform movements.

A lively Q&A followed. Attendees at both programs benefitted from the new enhancements to our sound system.

2023 Programs In and About Your Community

The museum is pleased to present a variety of programs during the months from May through October. We hope to see you. Refreshments are served. Programs are free, but donations are appreciated.

Open House! Fine Art Show & Sale—Sunday, May 21st, 1pm-5pm

This Fine Art Show & Sale will feature local artists and artisans. Come and meet the artists and purchase a remembrance. Over 16 local artists and artisans from Springport, Aurelius, Fleming, and Ledyard will show and sell their art. Featured guest artists are Kari and Diego Ruiz. *A painting demonstration by Kari Ruiz will take place at 2:30pm.*

Mobsters, Molls and Murder—John Lamphere Sunday, June 4th, 7pm

Prohibition and the illegal sale of alcohol was a major factor in the rise of organized crime to a national level. This is a presentation on some of those people involved, mostly NYS crime individuals with information on some in the locale of Union Springs. This era of Organized Crime created some of the most infamous figures in American History. And in an interesting twist, some of them would emerge as some of the most patriotic Americans in the years prior to and during WWII.

How Farming Folk Made Contact with the World—Ruth Bradley, Cayuga County Historian, Sunday, July 16th, 7pm

Ruth Bradley will present an overview of how once isolated farm communities made contact and communicated with the wider world. Before smart phones, television, the internet, how did rural people "get the news"? How did they stay in contact with each other? From the development of Rural Free Delivery, to the Rural Radio Network, to the wide-spread use of telegraphs and telephones—these were the initiatives that worked to share information between rural/farm communities and the greater world beyond – and how this growth in information, in turn, changed rural life forever.

Haudenosaunee Women & Their Teachings – Jeanne Shenandoah—Sunday August 20th, 2pm

More information on this program will be available later. It will be expanded when available on our website. Native American wisdom and teaching about plants and medicine. Jeanne Shenandoah is a member of the Onondaga Nation, who has a lifetime of experience using local plants for food and medicine. She will share her wisdom and knowledge as a Haudenosaunee woman.

Raptors of Upstate New York—Steve Kress, Cornell Ornithology – September 17th, 7pm

Learn about some of the common raptors of Upstate New York. Using magnificent photography, this program will help you learn how to identify the common hawks of roadside and backyards with tips on distinguishing eagles, ospreys, and vultures at a distance.



Raptors live in every habitat and are among the most accomplished migrants. They include the fastest flying birds (peregrines) and the bird with the best sense of smell (turkey vulture). The program also includes tips on recognizing common owls—the flat-faced nocturnal equivalents of eagles and hawks. Marvel at their astounding senses of sight and hearing that permits them to capture prey and fly in darkness.

Historical Presentation in Celebration of the Anniversaries of the Village of Union Springs and Town of Springport—Bill Hecht—Sunday, October 15th, 1pm.

In recognition of the 175th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Union Springs and the 200th anniversary of the formation of the Town of Springport, long term resident Bill Hecht will be sharing his wealth of photos, historical documents, maps, newspaper clippings, postcards and more. Attendees are encouraged to share their memories of growing up and living in the area.

The Frontenac Goes Hollywood!

During the winter, we received a request from Anna Louie, a researcher working with MWArchival located in Los Angeles, who is creating a feature length documentary about Humphrey Bogart. The film also includes a focus on his mother, Maud Humphrey. Ms. Louie was seeking photos of Cayuga Lake featuring sailing, as the Bogarts vacationed in the Finger Lakes in the 1910's. Humphrey Bogart had many interests including sailing. Ms. Louie was drawn to our website by the beautiful photos of the area and sailboats in its Gallery section.

Greta Anderson, a graduate of Union Springs High School who is now studying Anthropology and Museum Studies at Oswego, spent hours searching our photos and those of the William Hecht Collection, providing some wonderful photos of sailing during this era. We so appreciate Greta and the time she devoted to meeting this request.

However, a question remained—what drew Humphrey Bogart to Cayuga Lake and what part of the lake held his interest? This led us to research his genealogy and the discovery of his unknown yet deep ties to Cayuga County. Bogart's mother, Maud Humphrey, was a noted artist born in Rochester in 1865. His surgeon father, Belmont Bogart, was born in Watkins Glen in 1867 and spent his early years in Bath. In June of 1900, the Belmont Bogart family was residing in Bristol, Ontario County with their five-month old son, Humphrey. By 1905, they made their home in the fashionable upper west side Euclid Hall, which was located on Broadway in NYC, between 85th and 86th Streets.

Humphrey Bogart's grandfather, Adam Welty Bogart, was born in Owasco in 1829. Adam was a restless sort, moving around the Finger Lakes area and finally dying in New Jersey in 1892.

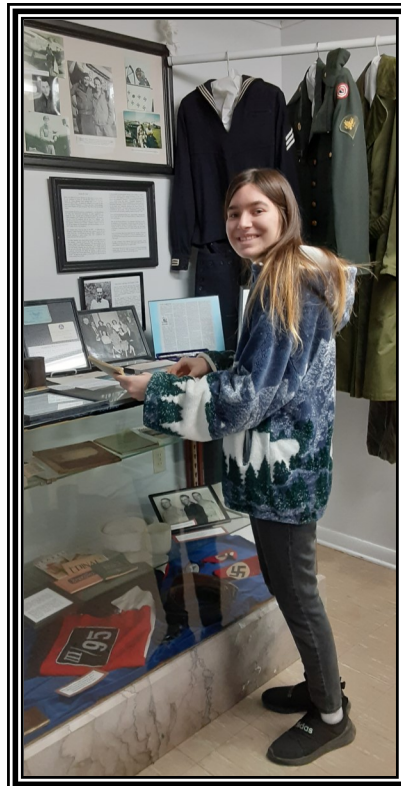
Humphrey Bogart's great grandfather, Peter Brokaw Bogart, was born in New Jersey in 1793, dying in Victory, NY in 1843. Newspapers of the time reported his death as "suicide by hanging himself in his barn on the morning of that day, while laboring under temporary insanity." In addition to Adam, Peter Brokaw Bogart fathered six children, all of whom are buried in Victory, Cato or Meridian cemeteries. And going back even farther, Humphrey's great-great grandfather, Dr. Jacob Bogart, was born in Pennsylvania in 1772, dying in Cayuga County in 1822. According to Elliot Storke's 1879 History of Cayuga County, Bogart was one of the earliest physicians to settle in the Town of Fleming, "settling at the foot of the lake." He was licensed to practice medicine by a county judge in 1802. Jacob Bogart is also mentioned as a founding member of the Cayuga Medical Society in 1806, at that time living in Owasco. Jacob was also chosen as clerk of the Sand Beach Church when founded in 1807. Jacob's gravestone may be seen today at the Sand Beach Church in Fleming, NY.

People contact the Frontenac for help with their research for all kinds of reasons and we are always so happy to help in any way we can. In this instance we were unusually successful and can close the book on this case with satisfaction thinking "here's looking at you, kid."

William T. Pomeroy Patriot Burial Marker Unveiling

On Sunday June 11th at 1:00pm, the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Sons of the American Legion and the Frontenac Museum will unveil the newest Union Springs historical marker – a William T. Pomeroy Patriot Burial Marker which recognizes those who fought in or were involved with the struggle for American independence.

Revolutionary War Veteran and settler of Carrs Cove, James Carr, will be honored with this marker located at the site of his burial, the old Quaker Cemetery on Grove St. Our local American Legion chapter will provide the presentation of colors, a three-volley salute and taps. Union Springs Historian Jean Lanning will share the story of Carr's service during the Revolutionary War including his time as a POW. The SAR and the Frontenac are indebted to the William T. Pomeroy Foundation for their support in providing this marker, the first of its kind in our area.



Greta Anderson adds information to an exhibit in the War Room.

Meet **Greta Anderson**, who interned with us over the summer and this past month. She is a student at SUNY Oswego majoring in Anthropology and Museum Studies. Greta graduated from Union Springs High School in 2022. She worked on de-accessioning pieces, arranging displays, and compiling the Humphrey Bogart research for the movie request.





Mark Your Calendar: Doug's Fish Fry is Coming to Town!

The Frontenac Historical Society is sponsoring Doug's Fish Fry on **Saturday, July 8 and Saturday, September 2, 2023** from **11am to 6pm**. **Location: Dollar General, Union Springs**. You can call to place your order on the day of the event until 4:00 pm at **607-753-9184 Option #2**.

Your support is appreciated. It helps the Historical Society and Museum provide programs of historical interest, maintain documents and artifacts, and care for maintenance of building and grounds.

Frontenac Historical Society
PO Box 338
Union Springs, NY 13160

~News From the Curating Team~

Drug Store Exhibit – The drugstore exhibit, with artifacts from the former Doremus Drug Store and its predecessor, Rogers Drug Store, formerly in the school room, has been moved and recreated in the Union Springs room. It is now located next to the Cayuga Lake National Bank exhibit creating a business district in a section of this room.



Local School History – A new exhibit on local school history will be opening this year. The Frontenac has a wealth of material from local schools going back to the middle 1800's when there was a one-room schoolhouse on almost every corner in the area. These are some of the examples of that history.

There are textbooks, pictures, report cards, school records and an album of pictures of these schoolhouses. The 1875 Maps of Cayuga County Townships include the physical location of those buildings, some of which are standing as homes, as empty abandoned buildings, some in piles of old boards, and some with no trace.



We have a collection of Union Springs yearbooks going back to the 1930's and other records and artifacts from the highly regarded institutions or academies for which the village was known in different eras. Last year we prepared an exhibit of the Oakwood Academy, for the centennial celebration of the current Union Springs Academy. In addition to old pictures and school documents, we were able to glean information about the academic and social events of the celebrated school and of the students and faculty from records in the Union Springs Advertiser.

Among our archives are photos contributed by schools and families throughout the years. Preparing an exhibit begins with treasure hunts through the archives but the real fun is exploring the archival boxes, reading through letters, articles, and personal stories. For example, there is an autograph book from the mid-1850's in which ordinary folks used beautiful handwriting to record poems, rhymes and clever sayings for the child that asked them to sign.

Curators had fun with a picture from Miss Spring's Kindergarten class of 1951. This class started the year with Miss Spring – who married during the school year and became Mrs. Lewis. Opendore curator Marilyn Post, who happened to visit the museum when the picture was displayed, was in the class and remembered having to learn and practice her teacher's new name.

Here's the Commercial— Opportunities Available!

For anyone looking for a hobby, for anyone who enjoys playing around in history, for anyone who enjoys the company of people who share an interest in genealogy—Join the Curating Team. There are regular tasks and activities in which to use the talents and interests that you may have left behind in a career or never explored in a busy life. This is a place and time to put them to use and to serve the community in a meaningful way. The Frontenac Historical Society & Museum is not just about Union Springs. Its service area includes the townships of Aurelius, Fleming, Ledyard and Springport, and the included villages. There are opportunities for creativity and for plain old "grunt" work. The curating team meets on **Tuesday mornings from 9am to 12noon**. Stop in and learn more or talk to any member of the team.



Wells College Golf Course Celebrates 100 years!



The Frontenac Historical Society is taking part in the planned Centennial Celebration of the Wells College Golf Course this year with research and exhibit development for a summer exhibit at the course. Much of the information will also be stored and shared on a video loop in the golf course clubhouse.

Established in 1923 when the assets of the Aurora Country Club (incorporated in 1909) were donated and moved, legally and physically, to the Wells College campus, by rolling the clubhouse on logs from its original site on the north side of Dublin Hill Road. Standing near the former site on Dublin Hill Road, it can be seen directly across the ridge on its current location on the campus. This building is currently being restored as an event center for use by the golf course and the college.

The golf course is one of the oldest in the county. Golf has been played at Wells as early as 1897 when a group of faculty and students dug six holes and marked them with sticks on a field near the current ball diamond at the corner of Rte. 90 and Poplar Ride Road. The sport originated in Scotland in the 14th century and came to America with Scottish soldiers serving in the British military.

Watch our webpage for more information on when the summer exhibit and celebration will take place.

Membership – Please Join with Us!

We value all our members as they are the lifeblood of support for the museum. Our volunteers and board members work to assure history is maintained in a clean and comfortable environment while you enjoy special exhibits, programs and displays of bygone days. Won't you join us by renewing your membership, joining as a new member, or donating in memory of a loved one? Membership runs from January thru December. Thank you for your consideration and thoughtfulness in keeping history alive in our community!

JOIN THE FRONTENAC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership is key to our museum. We rely on members to help the Society run programs, maintain the museum, building and grounds, conduct research and store and preserve local history, artifacts and documents.

To make a special memorial gift, please contact the museum at **315-889-7273**.

Membership Dues

Individual Membership \$10

Family Membership \$15

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please create my/our membership in the Frontenac Historical Society for 20 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Mail Gifts to: Frontenac Museum, PO Box 338, Union Springs, NY 13160 **OR**

Access our website: www.frontenacmuseum.org and donate thru PayPal.

The Frontenac is a qualified not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions may be tax deductible. The membership year runs from January 1—December 31.