

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Fall 2021

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Curating team members Linda Albrecht and Darlene Graham help decorate this year's Christmas tree entry.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Frontenac Museum's curating team has decorated a tree to be displayed at the Festival of Trees held at the Ward O'Hara Museum in Auburn. The theme and title of our entry is "*A Handcrafted Christmas.*" When you look at the tree, see if you can remember making any of the ornaments adorning the tree. Paper Chains? Icicles?

The tree is located opposite the entrance door and is number #30. If you choose to do the video tour, the tree number is #2. There is a reward for the tree which receives the most points, so we hope you will enjoy visiting all the trees, but select #30 or #2 and support the Frontenac Museum.

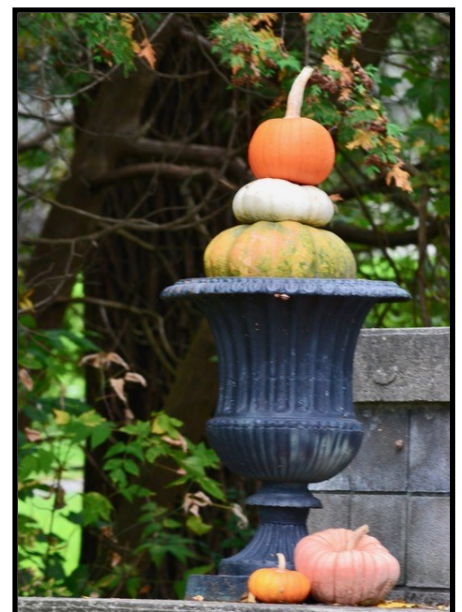
The O'Hara Museum is open, and entrance is free anytime between November 14th and January 31st.

Hours: M-F 2-8pm / Sat. 10am-8pm / Sun. 11am-8pm.
What a wonderful way to get into the spirit of the holidays!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A big **THANK YOU** to the Staehr family for providing fall decorations for the front of the museum which is visible for all who pass by. Rebecca Staehr helped us pick out just the right pumpkins and gourds from their Cayuga Pumpkin and Produce Barn, located on Rte. 326. And, she helped load them into the car.

Many thanks to Bill Boyd for his donation of a "feather flag" which will be visible from the street when the museum is open. We are always trying to find ways to attract visitors and residents to the museum for our summer programs and to enjoy the exhibits. Bill's thoughtful donation will increase our visibility.



SUMMER PROGRAMS RESTARTED



Mark Clymer, archaeologist, and geologist presented “*Town of Springport—10,000 BC*”. He found evidence to support the arrival of the first Americans through artifacts from this era including arrow heads and spear points among several available to view. He spoke about how one identifies the era thru the shape and type of stone used and for what the natives of the area used them. Most of the collection were from historical digs around the area from the northern end of Cayuga Lake to Aurora.

Walt Gable, Seneca County Historian, spoke on “*Ties Binding Cayuga and Seneca Counties.*” Walt provided a booklet on the history of how our county’s boundaries kept changing until 1823. During this time, there were many national developments that allowed the counties to work together initially through transportation, including ferries, bridges, roads, and rail. Additionally, the battle for Women’s suffrage, the Underground Railroad and the Cayuga Reservation were all linked.

The museum re-opened in August, and our limited summer program series was back in business! We thank those who came to the programs, many who wore protective masks to keep everyone safe. The Summer Programs will continue next year, 2022. The program committee welcomes ideas about what you would like to learn about in the context of history within our region. Also, if you have a research project about the area that you would be willing to present, please contact committee chair, Tom Parsnick, at: tparsnic@rochester.rr.com.

UPDATE FROM THE CURATING TEAM

The curating team has begun a project to review and organize the bookshelves in the Genealogy Room. The first task was to sort through several shelves of *The Frontenac*, the USCS yearbook, dating from 1937 to the first decade of this new century. Multiple copies of several years were found with only three years missing. Fortunately, Scott Zippel was working on a similar project for the high school. He was able to complete our collection and we were able to do the same for him. Yearbooks from other schools were shared with those entities, including some 1930 era Wells College books, some from Cayuga Community College, and some from the Union Springs Academy. Several USCS duplicate yearbooks are for sale in the main room of the Museum. They might make Christmas or birthday gifts for former students who have moved away and may not have copies of their own.

In the course, of this project, curators came across an 1865 handwritten record book of the school board meetings. This was one of the first years after the district was organized. This gave the curators a glimpse of school history with some beautifully ornate handwriting of the era. It is one of the many similar treasures in the museum’s collection. Such tasks are often undertaken with the pleasure of discovery!

The next shelves reviewed included very old and some new books related to local history as well as books about that history by local authors. The curating team welcomes anyone who enjoys and appreciates such moments to consider joining the group. Come to the team work sessions on Tuesday at 9am. It should be noted that the curating team is also the “housekeeping” crew of the museum, but the pay off for those efforts is the never-ending discovery of the museum’s treasures and local history.

Another recent project was to fulfill a request from Union Springs Academy to participate in their 100-year anniversary by preparing an exhibit about the Oakwood Academy which preceded them. Established by area Quaker families as a residential and day school for their children’s education in the 1850’s, it operated until the early 1920’s, with students from all across NYS. Local newspapers covered regular updates of events and activities at the Academy. They documented a vast array of leading names in equally vast fields of study and expertise. The exhibit included copies of certificates of graduation and other accomplishments for Benjamin Howland, pictures of buildings, staff and students, and the story of the Howland family, especially Emily Howland. The Howland family was among the several Quaker families that founded Union Springs and other villages in the area. Several daughters of the Yawger family were about students and teachers at the academy. Their legacies include not only the founding of area communities and institutions, but of national movements – women’s suffrage, abolition and the Underground Railroad, public education, peace movements and prohibition. Quaker history is OUR history as it set a tone and agenda for many of the things we cherish about living in this area.

The Frontenac Museum is a repository of that history and brings that history to us today.



RAFFLE WINNERS

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

The Museum sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 13th at the Union Springs Fire Department. Thanks to all who helped us exceed our goal of 31 units, including several Power Red donations.

One unit of blood can save up to three lives. Healthy adults who are at least 17 years old, and at least 110 pounds may donate a unit of blood - the most common form of donation - every 56 days, or every two months.

Power Red (double red cell) donations can be made approximately every four months and can impact the lives of eight people.

Thanks to all that came out to donate blood during this critical time.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets for the 50/50 raffle held during Doug's Fish Fry event in September at the Dollar Store parking area.

Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Sue Knapp of Union Springs.

Winner of the wine basket donated by Dawn Locastro was Diane Hoy.

Winners of the mixed basket which included bottles of wine donated by Andy Casas and Terry Dewes, and the book *Levanna* donated by George McKeel were Stacie Robinson, Billy Anderson, Carol Fearon and Mary Kay Schenck.

The raffle netted the museum \$175. Doug's Fish Fry netted \$674.

Join the Frontenac Historical Society—Keep Us Strong!

Membership is key to assisting the museum continue keeping history alive in our regional and local communities. We need your help to fulfill our mission to the community. To make a special memorial gift, please contact the museum at 315.889.7273. It is a wonderful way to remember those who enjoyed the history of our communities.

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©(3) organization and your contributions may be tax deductible. The Membership year runs from January 1—December 31.

WELCOME!

It is a pleasure to welcome three new members to the Frontenac Historical Society Board for a term of three years. Their interest in keeping history alive in our region and community is commendable.

Joan Parsnick returns to the board after a short hiatus and is active with the Curating Team. Her love of art and gardening is demonstrated in the exhibits developed and in the plants that adorn the front steps of the museum. Her husband Tom is an active member of the Board.

Eric Rosenkrans lives in Union Springs with his wife Fran. Eric has several income properties in the village and works to attract additional businesses to the village. He is active in the Union Springs/Springport Chamber of Commerce, TUCC and Lions Club. His leisure time is spent fishing and boating on beautiful Cayuga Lake.

Karen Shockey is recently retired from her position as Coordinator of Library Instruction with the State University at Oswego where she was active in several library and campus committees. Karen lives in Union Springs with her mother Betty Shockey who was a long-term member of the Board and Curating Team. Karen is active in her church, TUCC and enjoys traveling, reading, and gardening. She has joined the Curating Team and enjoys interacting with team members.

Additionally, the Board of Directors, elected a slate of officers at the annual meeting in August: **Darlene Graham**, Board Chair; **Patty Hanford**, Vice Chair; **Dona Ross**, Secretary; and **Marilyn Baader**, Treasurer.

Frontenac Historical Society
PO Box 338
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE