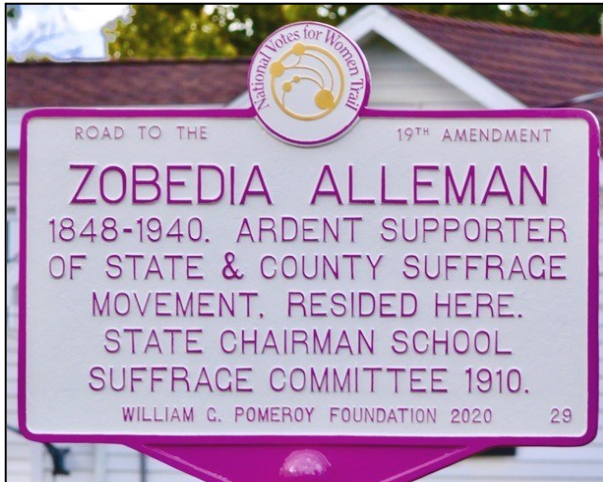


Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Winter 2020

New Markers for Union Springs



With great thanks to the NCWHS (National Collaborative for Women's History Sites) and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, three new historical markers were unveiled on October 6th in the village of Union Springs.

The first marker honored an ardent local suffragette, Zobia Alleman, and is placed at her former home at 8 Homer St. It was unveiled by homeowner, Sarah Van Orman and Dana Ryan, a cousin of Susan B. Anthony. Alleman was active in numerous state and country grass roots suffrage efforts and also served as the New York State Chairman of the School Suffrage Committee.

The Alleman marker is especially important as it is one of only five approved for New York State and is part of the "National Votes for Women Trail." Ten past and present members of the Leisure Hour Literary Club, of which Alleman was a founding member in 1896 and which continues today, were in attendance.

Immediately following, another marker located at the South Pond on Factory St. was unveiled. The marker recognizes the significance of this water supply to early businesses and to the development of the village. Union Springs Historian, Jean Lanning, provided a vivid picture of when a grist, fulling and saw mill existed here in the early to mid-1800. Later businesses included a tannery and creamery. The grant applications for these two markers were completed by the Frontenac Museum.

Finally, a marker recognizing the Quaker Meeting House (now Springport Library) was revealed. Built in 1859, the Meeting House was sold to the library in 1910 by the Scipio Monthly Meeting of Friends. The library continues to this day to be an invaluable resource to the community and authored the grant application for this marker, with assistance from the museum.

EXHIBIT ROOMS

Last February, two exhibit rooms had to be totally emptied so that new ceilings and carpeting could be installed and walls and trim painted. All items in the displays were carefully packed and stored.

When COVID-19 regulations finally allowed us to do so, the Building & Grounds team and the Curating team returned to work (following protocol). Everything from large furnishings and display cases to tiny glass bottles has been cleaned and returned to its former place. The rooms look beautiful and are ready to welcome visitors.



Board member Patty Hanford cleans display items and returns them to their proper places in the newly renovated room.



CHRISTMAS AT THE DOREMUS DRUG STORE

In the 1920,s and 30's, the Doremus Drug Store was the place to do your Christmas shopping. Candy, leather goods, stationery, pens, Whist sets, cards, thermos bottles, clocks, flashlights, china, perfume, talcum powder, toilet water, baskets, curling irons, electric irons and cigars were the items highlighted for sale in their ads, together with toys, dolls, games and books.

The store also held a Christmas Doll Contest. Every customer was entitled to vote for their favorite child as many times as they bought cents worth of goods. So if they spent \$1.00, they were given 100 votes. Fifteen beautiful dolls were given to the 15 girls who received the most votes. One year the following girls were nominated: Louise Connell, Joan Hendrickson, Claire Woodford, Marjory Flinn, Eunice Davis, Josephine Bouevia, June Bush, Barbara Lynes, Jane Tennity, Ava Sowles, Ruby, Kuykendall, Jane Wheeler, Ruth Kenyon, Eleanor Davies, Harlene Yawger, Sally McAndrew, Margaret Bradley, Betty Mekeel, Beatrice VanLiew, Thelma Hornburg, June Gayner, Emma Matthews, Helen Pethybridge, Lorraine Walters, Jean Bowen, Betty Huff and Bertha Allen. While we do not know who won the dolls in this photo from 1933, we can tell how elated the winners were by the smiles on their faces in this photo.

During this era, contributions were left at the drug store each year to help defray the expenses of lighting the Community Christmas Tree as well as costumes for a Christmas pageant. This tradition of a Christmas party being a community affair, with so many helping, has continued, albeit on a COVID break in 2020.



FESTIVAL OF TREES



“HISTORY MARKS THE SPOT”

The theme of this year's Frontenac Museum submission to the Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum's Festival of Trees is "History Marks the Spot." The tree recognizes the breadth and depth of history in our area as it is bedecked with photos of the many historic markers found in the towns of Aurelius, Fleming, Ledyard and Springport. A key to the location of each marker is also available. [Be sure to visit the O'Hara Museum from Nov. 20th to Jan.21st to see many beautiful trees and cast your vote for the Frontenac's tree as your favorite!](#) Museum hours are weekdays 2-8pm and weekends opening at 10am

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 315-889-3541.

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

WILL YOU HELP?

Membership is key to our museum. Without contributions of time, money and historic artifacts, the Frontenac Historical Society would not exist. Membership helps the Society run programs, maintain the museum building and grounds, conduct research, and store and preserve local history, artifacts, and documents.

Your interest and support will continue to enhance the local community. You are encouraged to visit as exhibits change regularly. Bring your friends when they visit you. COVID-19 caused us to close the doors to protect the volunteers and visitors. However, we are now opening slowly by appointment, maintaining safety requirements and limiting entrance to four visitors per visit. Open hours are Tuesday 9:30am—11:30am by appointment. To make an appointment, call 315-889-5875.

You can help us by renewing your membership or becoming a first-time donor. See mailing or PayPal options above.

Help us keep our museum an important part of local history!

Have you signed up for news from the Frontenac?

It is easy and assures that you will receive timely notifications of our upcoming news and events.

Visit the museum website at
www.frontenacmuseum.org

A SUCCESSFUL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to volunteers from the Frontenac Historical Society for assisting at the recent Red Cross blood drive. The drive was successful in collecting 37 units of life-saving blood with our sincere thanks to donors. The volunteers assisted with set-up and break-down of tables and chairs, registering donors and providing refreshments following a volunteer's donation. Many thanks to volunteers, Steve and Patty Hanford, Eric Rosenkrans, Jean Lanning, Marilyn Baader, John Kimber, Tom Parsnick and Deb Lewis. The next blood drive is December 16th. If you are able to donate, it would be a most generous holiday gift!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

WELCOME!

The Board of Trustees welcomes Linda Albrecht and Darlene Graham to the board of the Frontenac Museum. Linda resides in Springport and is a graduate of St. Bonaventure with a BA and Goddard College with an MA in history. She also has a NYS teacher certificate from University of Buffalo in history and remedial reading. Linda has two sons, Tom Owens who teaches at USCS and Sean, a civil engineer in Colorado. Linda is an active worker on the curating team and was instrumental in much of the research and design of the Village of Cayuga history exhibit.

Darlene Graham resides in Union Springs with her husband Tim. She went to SUNY Cortland for graduate and undergraduate studies, double majoring in mathematics and history. Darlene taught math at Southern Cayuga and Union Springs for 34 years retiring from USCS in 2018. Tim and Darlene have two daughters Sara and Kate. Sara works in Rochester with an engineering firm and Kate is a student at Binghamton University studying environmental science. Darlene loves history and is excited to learn more about the collections at the museum knowing the importance of "keeping history alive" in our community.

Thank you for volunteering your talents to enhance the Historical Society!



BILAK FAMILY DONATES TO MUSEUM

Recently the museum received two generous donations from Caryl Bilak Yaw and Mike Bilak. Caryl generously donated the remainder of her mother's (Norma Bilak) extensive genealogical records. During her long tenure as the museum's genealogist, Norma helped many people with their inquiries and always was able to provide new and interesting information in answer to their questions. Over the past year we have received several inquiries from folks who well remember Norma and who expressed their appreciation and gratitude for her work.

In addition to World War II memorabilia owned by his father, Tom Bilak, Mike Bilak delighted us with an enormous box of items which were made by hand or on a Singer sewing machine during the 1920's - 1960's. Mike fondly remembers relatives getting together at his Grandparents Pethybridge home on Connors Rd. for sewing/quilting bees: Norma Bilak, Reva Pethybridge, Pat Kurtz, Maude Anthony and Arlene Young. Examples of quilted, tatted, embroidered, crocheted and knitted items plus old newspaper patterns were just some of the many items donated. Mike recalled that some of the thread used to make these items was actually string left over from bags of grain sewn by Stanleigh Pethybridge when he worked at Beacon Feeds.



Shown in the photo are Linda Albrecht and Pat Kimber who worked with Jen Soucy and BJ Bellen to accession and record each item donated.

Frontenac Historical Society
PO Box 338
Union Springs, NY 13160

PLACE
STAMP
HERE