

# Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Spring 2025

[www.frontenacmuseum.org](http://www.frontenacmuseum.org)

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178 Cayuga Street, P.O. Box 338, Union Springs, N.Y. 13160

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## WE DID IT!!

On March 14, 2025, we received the exciting news that the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum, (formerly the First Presbyterian Church of Springport) has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official list of our nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

The application process was long and arduous. We are especially grateful to Sara Evenson, Historic Preservation Program Analyst with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, for her guidance, assistance and perseverance throughout the application process.

For a property to be listed on the Registry, one of four criteria must be met. Our structure qualified under Criteria C, Design/Construction which concerns the distinctive characteristics of a building by its architecture and construction, including having great artistic value or being the work of a master.

As a non-profit, listing on the Registry may qualify us for matching state historic preservation grants. There are no restrictions placed on the Frontenac if we use our own funding to make changes. A review by the State Office of Historic Preservation would be required if we are to use federal or state grants. This review and assistance aims to ensure the long-term protection of our beautiful museum.

## 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

### Training Service Dogs for Children with Autism

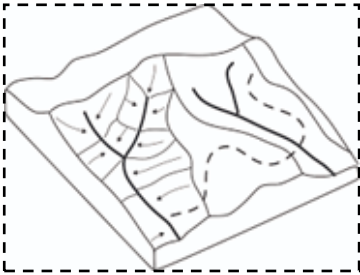
Fred Horning will make another visit to the Frontenac Museum to talk about training service dogs for children with autism. Last year, Fred spoke to us on “**Tales of Lake Salvage.**” Fred is an engaging speaker and will leave you with smiles and tears.

Fred breeds chocolate Labs on his farm in Union Springs every two years and picks two out of every litter to train as service dogs. He works with an organization called *Paws 4 Ability* that chooses the children who receive the service dogs. Fred has his own PTSD service animal who will be with him during this presentation.



June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

### Cayuga Lake Watershed



Liz Kreitinger, President of Cayuga Lake Watershed, will speak about the priceless lake we have at our front doors. What is being done to protect Cayuga Lake from invasive species, protect sites for fishing, manage environmental challenges from run-off, and need for volunteers to monitor lake quality?

June is a perfect month to learn more about how we can help so that fish remain edible, beaches stay open, and boating and swimming can be pleasurable.

July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

### Our World Underwater

Henry “Mac” MacDonald of Finger Lakes Scuba in Auburn, NY invites you to explore “Our World Underwater.” Henry will share the vast species, corals, wrecks and underwater areas of the Caribbean, Indo-Pacific, and right here at home in the Finger Lakes of Central New York.

Plan to be with us to see the indescribable beauty of a world most of us will never see, except through divers who are willing to share this wonderful venture.



August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

### Ran Away with the Circus!



Jane Oakes has been teaching people history for over 40 years. She lives in western NY and gives talks on her areas of interest, among which are Opera Houses, Graham’s Crackers and Circuses. Jane will present **Ran Away with the Circus!** Jane has been described as “one of the area’s most popular historical speakers whose well-illustrated programs are always lively and engaging.”

Oh, the excitement of seeing a poster announcing that a circus was coming to your town! Many a young person dreamed of running away with the circus, and some did. NYS has many interesting connections with American circus history. From “Yankee Robinson, who gave the Ringling Brothers their start, to P.T. Barnum’s “Ossian Giant,” you’ll meet some New Yorkers who followed the lure of the sawdust circle.

## 2025 PROGRAMS, CONT.'

**September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

### Willard Memorial Chapel

Sydney Fischer, Director, will speak on the history of Willard Memorial Chapel, taking us on a picturesque tour. The interior of the Chapel was designed and handcrafted entirely by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. of NYC. It is the only complete and unaltered, totally Tiffany-designed religious interior known to exist in the world.



It is truly a treasure right in our hometown! You can see it many times and always enjoy its beauty.

**October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

### The Gayogohó:nq? People in the Cayuga Lake Region



Kurt A. Jordan, Associate Professor Anthropology and American Indian and Indigenous Studies at Cornell University, will speak on his research which resulted in a book as titled above. A part of the history of the Cayuga Lake region has been romanticized or forgotten altogether. It began at the end of the last ice age 13,000 years ago and traces the Gayogohó:nq? people up to the reoccupation of their traditional territory.

His history relies mainly on the written record, archaeological evidence, and some community based oral histories that Gayogohó:nq? people shared with him.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

### Women Voted Before the Revolution

Sally Roesch Wagner will share how women of the Haudenosaunee people influenced the women's suffrage movement. "What inspired the suffragists to think they could create a world where women could be agents of their own being? Sovereign women of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy of six nations in Upstate NY, who showed their settler neighbors how a society that empowered women worked." (SRW)



**December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

### Christmas Sing-Along



Geoff Clough of G&L Music Studio in Baldwinsville plays your favorite songs of the season with unique arrangements and shares a bit of history and trivia as well. It's sure to get you into the spirit.

The Frontenac Museum wants to remember Christmas and the caroling that once happened in our village. Bring your voices and enjoy Christmas refreshments of hot chocolate and Christmas cookies!



## Echoes of the Past

By Patti Myska

Welcome to the inaugural column of Echoes of the Past! In this edition we discuss the origin and meaning of surnames, and how museum volunteer Linda Kabelac (Linda K.) spent one-and-a-half years of Tuesday mornings organizing 365 of the surname files.

Do you know where your surname came from? A surname, also known as a last name or family name, is typically a hereditary name passed down from one generation to another. Surnames were originally added to an individual's first name to distinguish them from other people who had the same first name locally.

China was one of the earliest cultures to use surnames. People reportedly took on family names over 3,000 years ago to help improve their census. Surnames were originally passed down by mothers, although that practice changed to the father's name after many years.

The use of surnames in Europe became more widespread in the Middle Ages (500-1500 AD). As villages, towns and cities grew, people began to travel and interact with others, creating the need to differentiate individuals with the same first name. The development of surnames began with simple names, but over time became more diverse, especially across cultures. Here are examples of four main groups that identify types of surnames:

1. Patronymic – originated from a father's name, for example, "son of Peter" became "Peterson" or "son of Clyde" became "Clydeson."
2. Occupational/Status – indicating a person's profession, as a blacksmith became "Smith".
3. Location/Place – indicating where a person lived, for example "Hill."
4. Nicknames—usually words that help describe a person in some way, for example, "Stout."

## Echoes of the Past, Part II

By Patti Myska

In the Norma Bilak Genealogy Room at the museum, there is a file cabinet that includes 365 surname files. Over time, any identified local family paper, document, newspaper article or photo was placed in their relevant folder, in no particular order. In 2023, Linda K. met Linda Albrecht (Linda A.), a member of the museum curating team, at a local function. Linda K. decided this would be a good organization to volunteer for and soon became a volunteer! Pat Kimber asked Linda K. what she likes to do. Linda's response was "*to organize*" and the perfect project for Linda became known – organizing the surname files. For the next one-and-a-half years on Tuesday mornings, Linda diligently went through and organized the folders. They are now in alphabetical order, duplicate papers removed, and items trimmed or taped as necessary. Linda created a list of every surname in the file, which can now be found next to the cabinet holding these files.



Linda shared what she found most interesting as she organized the files. Seeing information on people or family members in her community, the beautiful photos of children and how they were photographed, and the ability to find information to complete the women's military history exhibit. She was able to locate information on a military nurse by the last name of Wolfe, giving more information about her service.

There is always a project ahead and Linda plans to organize the Business files, then the Street and Church files. A **HUGE** thank you to Linda and her team members for organizing these folders, making it much easier to research and locate information on our local families.

*In the next column of Echoes*, Pat Kimber will share information on her family tree, including how she is related to Suffrage activist Susan B. Anthony, and how her seven ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

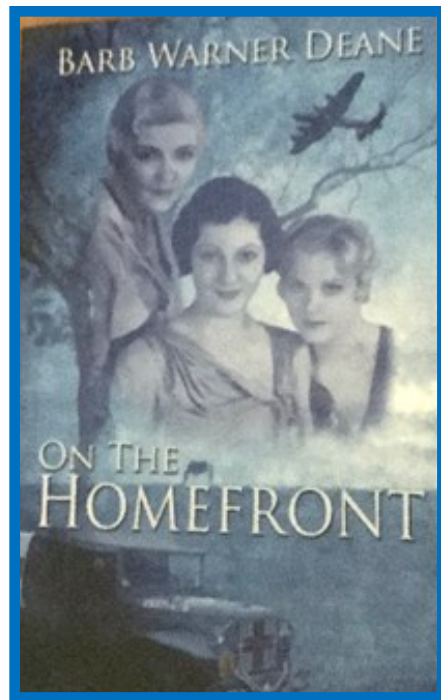
# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED WOMEN IN WWII

by Linda Albrecht

March is Women's History Month as designated by Congress in 1987. This year the Frontenac Museum focused on the roles of women in World War II. The role and activities of women in the military history of the country are generally forgotten—or more accurately, mostly unknown and certainly never celebrated.

Author Barbara Warner Deane, who was our speaker on March 16<sup>th</sup>, has published four novels on this theme and specializes in this subject. She held the attention of the audience of over 60 people as she gave a well-researched and documented history lesson that was consistent with the theme of the room: *Forgotten Women's History*. While it was not necessarily consistent with the emphasis on local women's history, it actually provided the context for the rest of the program, which was to honor and celebrate local women who have served in the military.

Supporting the theme of the program, the museum added profiles and pictures of approximately 25 local women who have served in the military from WWII to the present. The local women's stories are presented in the context of a brief narrative about the roles of women in America's wars. The names of each of the local women, so far identified, were shared in a recognition ceremony at the beginning of the program given on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Some of the veterans were present at the program. In addition to the mounted profiles and pictures located around the exhibit, the room was decorated with seven of the Hometown Heroes Veteran Street Pole Banners that were hung on Cayuga Street last summer and are on loan from the village of Union Springs.



The idea for the exhibit on local women in the military came from museum visitors who noted that there were no women represented in the Tom El-dred Military History Room. In response, the museum curating team began to research local records, beginning with five women from WWII, one from Korea, and one from Viet Nam, whose names were listed in the Town of Springport and Union Springs bicentennial book. An additional seven more names came with the Hometown Banners hung in the village last summer. The remainder came by word of mouth.

There are some women from WWII about whom we have yet to find more than their names, as well as a few more recent names. The plan is to continue the research to add to the exhibit and create an available local database for posterity. Attendees were asked to add to the list of names and share any information they knew about the names without data.

Here are the names of the four women from WWII about whom we have no information: Sylvia Cornish, Doris MacDonald, Lula Osborne and Jean Walker. A few more names came to our knowledge as a result of the program, including one local veteran who attended the program.

The Local Women in the Military exhibit will remain as part of the Forgotten Women's History exhibit and will grow with the list of names that we hope will evolve from the readers of this newsletter. Please contact the museum if you have a name or additional information that would be helpful as we continue to expand this database.





## “MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK”

In the photo shown on the left, curating team members Jen Soucy, Karen Shockey, Linda Kabelac, BJ Bellen, Linda Albrecht (to the far right), Joan Parsnick (to the far left), and Marilyn Baader gathered to apply address labels and stamps to the outgoing folded newsletters. Most of our newsletters are sent by email, greatly reducing our postage costs.



## *Thank You to Members!*

Thank you to all members who have sent in their dues for Year 2025. If it slipped your mind, here is another opportunity to submit your dues by completing the form below and mailing it to PO Box 338 in Union Springs, NY 13160. Although the museum is an all-volunteer organization, dues help keep the lights on, heat the building, pay for insurance, purchase supplies for exhibits and to pay a stipend to our program speakers. Every member's membership is appreciated! Thank You!

## Annual Meeting – August 17th at 6pm

The annual meeting of the Frontenac Historic Society will take place at the museum on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm prior to the program scheduled at 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend and hear a report from the President and Treasurer, as well as elect new Trustees to the Board.

If you would like to recommend a member as Trustee, please contact the museum at 315-889-7273. Leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted for further information. If you have an interest in history, leadership or building maintenance, we need you!

## 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](http://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.

## RENOVATION OF THE THOMAS ELDRED MILITARY HISTORY ROOM

Periodically, every exhibit needs to be refreshed. Paul Pawlaczyk, Preparator, will be reviewing the artifacts currently on display as well as those catalogued from the past. Display cases have been purchased with funds from donors who directed their donations to this project. Paul wrote the following article to express his goal in refreshing this room.

*"More than 55,000 American soldiers killed.  
150,000 American soldiers wounded  
231,000 American soldiers permanently disabled  
Countless American families deeply impacted by trauma*

*1,100,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong fighters killed  
More than 200,000 South Vietnamese soldiers killed  
2,000,000 Vietnamese civilians died*

*Millions of people left without homes, their villages and farms destroyed, leaving the land poisoned."*

These figures are from just one of an endless chain of wars, spanning decades, linking centuries, and growing more vicious as weapons of war have grown more devastating.

Nonetheless, it seems people often forget the horror and grief that war brings to everything it touches.

The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum recognizes that too many times, over too many wars, the persons depicted in photographs become distant, and we feel removed from the moments frozen alongside memorabilia or words on a plaque.

Our aim through our latest efforts in the "war room" is to ensure that those who lived and fought in these wars, that may seem remote to the contemporary mind, are remembered as breathing, feeling people; your neighbors, your friends, sons and daughters.



John Kimber studies the new lit glass showcases assembled by Dale Katoitch, Paul Pawlaczyk and himself.

**NOTE: The Thomas Eldred Military Room will be closed until mid-summer due to renovation.**

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum  
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Union Springs, NY 13160

AFFIX  
STAMP  
HERE