

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

www.frontenacmuseum.org

Fall 2025

frontenac178@gmail.com

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

Designed by Jennifer Soucy

Written and Edited by Pat Kimber and Marilyn Baader

Contributing Writer: Linda Albrecht

SIXTH GRADERS WELCOMED TO THE FRONTENAC MUSEUM

by Pat Kimber



On November 18, fifty Union Springs sixth graders and their teaching staff of eight visited the museum as part of project-based learning led by Social Studies teacher, Janet Murphy. The purpose of the visit was for students to gain knowledge about how a museum mounts exhibits, as well as learn more about themselves and their local history. Their learnings from the visit, as well as their questions and observations, will help them to create their own exhibit of a time in history of interest to them. The exhibits they create will then be displayed at the Frontenac Museum next spring. The student's thank you notes were not only fun to read but helped validate the time, enthusiasm and effort our volunteers give to the museum. Here are a few snippets:

"I really appreciate learning about all of the things that happened in Union Springs over the years. My favorite exhibits were the Genealogy Room because I got to see my Grandpa's file and all of the stuff that he has done and accomplished in his life when he was younger."

"I loved all the rooms, but my favorite was the Union Springs Room. I've never been in a museum, so this was really cool. I went in thinking it wasn't gonna be fun, but I was very wrong. I found all the stuff fascinating. I really appreciate what you guys do."

"Thank you for showing me a bunch of our history. All of the docents inspired me to learn about our history. The new room that you guys are making looks amazing so far."

Continued on Page 2



6th GRADERS' WELCOMED, cont.'

"Thank you so much for teaching me stuff I didn't know. I love that I brought your attention to the baptism fountain. I still wanna know why only the front of the words is red."

"It was cool looking at my parents young pictures from high school. The one room schoolhouse was fun because there was stuff to interact with."

We are grateful to Chris Cummings Shattuck for videotaping the student's visit and posting it on the Happenings in Union Springs Facebook page. Thanks to Dana Ryan for posting on our museum Facebook page, too. If you have not done so already, please check it out, as it will not only warm your heart but also give you an appreciation for the amazing work of Janet Murphy as a teacher and an understanding of your value, as well as the docents', to the Frontenac and its future.



James Schenck was excited to find a photo of the Schenck Road one room school and to see his ancestor's name on the adjacent map.



Social Studies teacher, Janet Murphy, points out some past students and their interests, seen in the museum's collection of Union Springs yearbooks, much to the children's delight!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT!



The Frontenac Museum was pleased to be invited by the American Legion Auxiliary to participate in the annual Trunk-Or-Treat Halloween event. It was held in the parking lot of the American Legion on October 25th from 12:30 to 2pm and was very well attended. While the skies initially threatened to rain on the parade of parents and children, the weather cooperated (with only a few minor sprinkles), and a lot of fun was had. Children and parents visited the Museum's table for some tasty treats and enjoyable conversations. Museum volunteers Jen Soucy, Linda Kabelac and Karen Shockey enjoyed a wide variety of costumes worn by the children that ranged from fairies and witches and pretty princesses to ghastly ghosts and goblins and superheroes. Personally, our favorite was a little boy dressed as a boat—a shout out to you, Wes! We look forward to next year's event!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TOM ELDRED

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Thomas G. Eldred on October 3, 2025. Tom was one of the founding members and impetus to the creation of the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum. Over the years, Tom was a devoted supporter and benefactor not only to the museum but also countless students, educators, fellow historians and military history buffs. His deep knowledge and ever-present jokes, corny as they often were, will be missed in our community.

(Frontenac Historical Society, Board of Trustees)



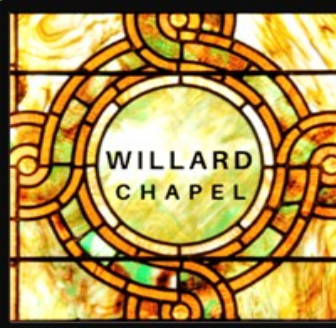
On a regular basis, when I look up something in our collection at the County Historian's Office, Tom Eldred's fingerprints are there—files, writings, collections—he was instrumental in organizing, interpreting, and collecting historical documents for our County. We all owe him a huge debt for the work he left; work upon which we all will need to continue in that quest for history. He left us a huge legacy, for which I am deeply grateful. I will silently think of him all the times I open a file at work, and see his influence, and think "Thanks Tom, that was good work!"

(Ruth Bradley, County Historian)

When the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum changed to local history, Tom came to Port Byron armed with books and materials for all the teachers! I also worked with Tom on the Cayuga County Bicentennial project. He was passionate about our history! He will be missed for sure.

(Nancy Murinka)

PROGRAMS THAT CONCLUDED OUR SEASON

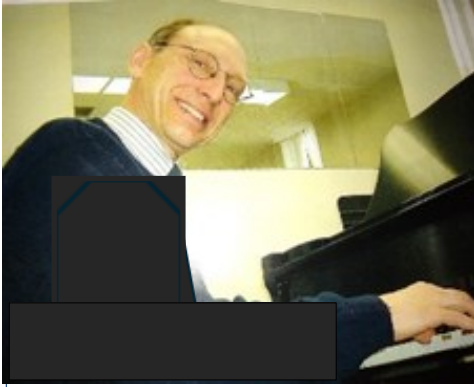


On August 17th, Jane Oakes provided an interesting history of circuses in her talk entitled, "**Ran Away with the Circus!**" She shared why NYS has so many interesting connections with American circus history. We learned about Yankee Robinson, who gave the Ringling Brothers their start to P.T. Barnum's Ossian Giant."

On September 14th, Sydney Fischer took us on a picturesque tour of **Willard Chapel**. This is one of our region's historical treasures with an interesting history. Once part of the Auburn Theological Seminary built in 1892, the Chapel was designed and handcrafted entirely by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co.

On October 19th, Glenn Ivers, who wrote "**Angels of Bastogne**" shared the story of the courageous medical team of American doctor Jack Prior and Belgian nurses Renee Le Maire and Augusta Chiwy. This team saved many lives while under siege and bombardment in Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge in WWII.

More to Come...



Christmas Sing-Along on December 14th at 4pm

will be led by Geoff Clough of G&L Music Studio in Baldwinsville, NY. He will have both traditional and unique arrangements and will share a bit of history and trivia. It's sure to get you in the Christmas spirit! You will be able to sing-along with Christmas carols from the past – so bring your voices and your friends. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

TRADITIONAL WOMEN'S ARTS WORKSHOP AT THE MUSEUM

by Linda Albrecht



The local Girl Scout troop spent another day at the museum this summer. Past Museum President Darlene Graham took charge of planning the event. She and local artist Jennifer Soucy designed the activities and prepared materials for a set of round robin experiences in arts and crafts activities in which girls of long ago might have been engaged. The curating team staffed the activities through which the visiting Scouts rotated.



In the large Forgotten Women's History Room, Jen Soucy instructed the Scouts in watercolor painting using stencils. She was assisted by Linda Kabelac and BJ Bellen (left) who worked to keep up with freshening the stencils. Samples of art produced by the painters are seen at right.



In the Union Springs Room, Darlene Graham, and Karen Shockey (right) taught the Scouts how to use embroidery thread with plastic net fabric and plastic needles to create various designs of their choice. The Scouts could take the products of their efforts home with them. They rotated through the three specialties, each time wishing they could have just a few more minutes.



TRADITIONAL WOMEN'S ARTS WORKSHOP, CONT.'



Patti Myska and local artist Joan Parsnick led this activity.



The third activity was decorating paper dolls with colored pencils and hand-created ruffled paper flowers. The Scouts finished their day by assembling a puzzle depicting the Frontenac Museum.



As stereotypical as these activities may seem, these activities did result in creative and often beautiful works of art often under-appreciated and ignored by the so-called art world. In any case, they are often forgotten arts that the Scouts now know are available to them.

Besides providing a fun and educational day for the Scouts, we hope that they will see this museum and others as a place where they can find interesting things to do and to learn about.

As on their last visit, decades of Union Springs School District yearbooks were also of great interest to those whose parents passed through those sacred hallways. Each yearbook contains pictures of every class that attended the district—often a K-12 experience. Rarely do children get to see such a complete pictorial history of Mom or Dad—in some cases, of both. Oohs, Aahs and giggles burst out of that corner of the Genealogy Room!

WINNER OF THE 2025 RAFFLE ANNOUNCED!



Congratulations to Diane Dautrich, who was the winner of the MacKenzie-Childs rosy check ceramic fluted cake stand, valued at \$500. Glenn Ivers, our program presenter in October, drew Diane's ticket. This was the second raffle of the season, and together both raffles netted the museum's operating fund with \$1,139.

Thanks to the many individuals who supported the museum with their purchase of raffle tickets. Your generosity is appreciated. There will be more raffles in the coming year, and you will be delighted in what is to be offered!

WE'VE FLIPPED OUT!

The Thomas Eldred Military History Room was bursting at the seams. The Norma Bilak Room next door had room to spare; so, we flipped! While they were empty, we painted and carpeted, using much-appreciated DRI donations. The Bilak Room is now refreshed and cozy, maintaining ample space for research, while keeping all the resources we enjoyed. Exhibits in the new Military History Room are now being remounted by preparator Paul Pawlaczyk. Thanks to a generous donation from Ken Pollard, new display cases were purchased to tell the story of Paul Chappell's service during WWII. Many key items which tell the story of the local resident's service in multiple wars will be revisited in a fresh and interesting way.

Contents of these rooms were moved to temporary storage by the combined efforts of our Building and Grounds crew and Curating Team. It was a massive effort that was accomplished with only one mishap. An old display case shattered before our eyes, but in the end, it proved to be a blessing. We are grateful to Expert Clutter Removal for moving the heavy contents of these two rooms, plus much more. They were professional and fun to work with, plus they offered some of their services as a donation to the museum. We could not have accomplished so much without their help.



A TEAM OF TWO



We love our volunteers, especially when they come all the way from Tucson, AZ to help. A special thanks goes out to Jeannie Yawger and Joe Every, a very capable husband and wife team, who gave many hours of their Cayuga Lake vacation to the museum. Jeannie is a direct descendent of Philip Yawger, one of the earliest settlers of Springport. There was not a job which daunted Jeannie, whether it be cleaning or reconciling collections and their storage. Joe cleaned yard waste and lent his artistic eye to the re-assembling of the Genealogy Room by hanging the many portraits and photos on display. This required some major physical effort as the only access required climbing onto the top of cabinets. Thank you, Jeannie and Joe! Same time next year??

TOURISM IN OUR COMMUNITIES



The Cayuga County Office of Tourism asked the museum to host a meeting for the lakeside communities of Aurora, Cayuga and Union Springs. We were delighted, as Frontenac Museum attracts many visitors annually to view exhibits and receive assistance with genealogy searches.

About 50 people met for two hours to talk about tourism in our communities. Suggestions were given to the Tourism Office that could help advance our areas.

The incoming Director, Courtney Kasper, was introduced by the outgoing Director Karen Kuhl. Karen was thanked for her leadership in facilitating the meeting. The Tourism Bureau arranged for the Bait Shop to provide the delicious foods.

MEMBERSHIP 2026

We appreciate our members and donors who help keep "history alive" in our communities of Aurelius, Fleming, Ledyard, Springport and the Village of Union Springs. We hope that you have enjoyed visiting the museum, hearing about our activities in our newsletters, grateful for assistance with genealogy tracking, enjoying the variety of programs planned each year and visiting our webpage for current information.

To continue these various activities, we need your continued support through renewal of your membership and consideration of an increase in your donation.

The Frontenac Museum Board of Trustees is grateful for your support and welcomes you to visit whenever you are in the area during our open months of mid-May through mid-October. We also welcome appointments for tours during our months off by calling the museum at **(315) 889-7273** and leaving a message.

Include the Frontenac in Your Will or Estate



Preserving history

Ensuring the continued enrichment of our community for years to come is as easy as naming the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum in your will or designating it as a beneficiary to your retirement plan, IRA or other financial account.

An easy way to give

There is no minimum for the gift.

You can change your plans at any time.

Help preserve local history.

How to word

I give, devise and bequeath to the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum, a 501©3 non-profit located in Union Springs (enter amount or percentage of the estate or description of property) for (designate the purpose, if desired, or leave blank for gifts to be used to address the greatest need).

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.

WAYS TO GIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE FRONTENAC MUSEUM

As the end of 2025 approaches, it is a good time to plan your charitable gifts. If you have an IRA and are 70 ½ years old or older, you can make a gift directly from your IRA to the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum and pay NO federal income tax on the distribution. This transaction needs to take place between your IRA custodian directly to the museum to qualify for the tax exemption.

Also in 2025, if you are 65 years or older, you can take a \$6,000 deduction, whether you itemize or not. The deduction phases out once your modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$75,000 (single filers) or \$150,000 (joint filers). This may free up additional money for meeting your charitable goals.

Planning for 2026, there will be tax changes as approved by Congressional action. (1) A new deduction for non-itemizers starts in 2026. You will be able to deduct \$1,000 (single filers) or \$2,000 (joint filers) for cash gifts to not-for-profit organizations like the Frontenac Historical Society. (2) Itemizers must give at least 0.5% of their adjusted gross income before claiming a deduction. You may consider making an extra gift this year to take advantage of 2025 rules. (3) If you are in the 37% tax bracket and you itemize, your deductions will be capped at 35%. Maybe a larger gift in 2025 should be considered.

The best planning can be done between you and your financial advisor, but with changes for this year and 2026, the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum wanted you to be informed of upcoming changes. As a not-for-profit, our goal is to “keep history alive” in our community, and your financial help is very significant and important to us in keeping our promise.

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum
178 Cayuga Street, PO Box 338
Union Springs, NY 13160

AFFIX
STAMP
HERE