

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Spring 2022

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WELCOME TO THE SUMMER PROGRAM SERIES FOR 2022!

A variety of summer programs has been designed to whet your palate while learning more about the history of the area in past and present times. A brief description follows, but reminders will be sent through the website and posted throughout the community.

May 15th (2-4pm) Remember When? Plan to join us as we kick off our reopening with a very special experience – Remember When? If you grew up in the 1950's or 60's, life was simpler. If you lived in the city and you were bored, your mom sent you outside to play with the neighborhood kids. You might remember the milkman, kick the can and the ice cream truck. When the streetlights came on, you knew it was time to go home. Your whole family gathered in front of the twelve inch (or smaller) black and white TV on Sunday night to catch the Ed Sullivan Show. The station would sign off for the night by playing the Star-Spangled Banner. Candy cigarettes, fireballs and sock hops are a part of your memories too. We hope you can join us to share these memories with your children, grandchildren, and maybe even great grandchildren. Items from our collection which date to this era will be on display together with many reminders of how you had fun and lived in times before technology changed childhood. We hope this will provide a great inter-generational opportunity to share stories and memories with your family. Or you can bring a friend and have the fun of remembering when together!

June 12th (7pm) Lake Sturgeon in Cayuga Lake Tom Brooking from the group New York Sturgeon

For Tomorrow, will join us to give a slideshow on Lake Sturgeon in Cayuga Lake. These amazing prehistoric fish have been reintroduced to Cayuga Lake and across NY State. Tom will give us an update on their status, along with a history of sturgeon in NY. Sturgeon can grow over 7-feet long and weigh over 200 lbs. when fully grown. They can live for over 100 years! Don't miss this chance to learn about sturgeon right here in our own backyard!

July 17th (6pm) A Taste of Upstate New York Chuck D'Imperio, the recipient of the NYS DAR award for "his multiplicity of accomplishments: an eminent Upstate New York Historian, an award-winning broadcaster, a celebrated book author and popular newspaper columnist" will join us for a fun evening. One of his books, *A Taste of Upstate New York*, will be featured in this fun, enthusiastic event. The people, and stories behind many iconic foods developed in Upstate New York include potato chips, shredded wheat, Jell-O, hamburgers and many more. Foodies, history buffs and travel fans will enjoy this delicious all-you-can eat buffet of stories from the Hudson Valley to the High Peaks to the Finger Lakes and beyond.

August 21st (7pm) Beginnings—Trade and Industry Between 1800 and 1870, Union Springs was a booming hub of milling, mining, and shipping. Only a few miles from both the Erie Canal and the Cayuga Bridge, the village was strategically located as a shipping center. The shore, one of the busiest on the lake, was lined with warehouses, piers, boat yards, and cooper's shops. Mills circled the

North Pond. Building materials as well as farm produce were shipped. The Howland Mill was one of the most productive in the area which encouraged farmers to have their grain ground here and then shipped in locally made barrels which were returned full of oil to market. Fashionable homes were being constructed. This was a busy place!

September 18th (7pm) – This program is not scheduled yet. You will receive notice thru the website when details are complete.

October 16th (7pm) Haunted Tales, Hoaxes & Strange but True Stories of the Finger Lakes Welcome back to Walt Gable, Seneca Falls Historian, who will reveal some of the strange reports and yarns hereabouts. You will hear about ghost stories involving the : Seneca Falls Historical Museum, Seward House, village of Aurora and Wells College, Montezuma cemetery which contains the remains of many Erie Canal builders, "white lady" of Belhurst Castle and a curse involving a serial killer in Ithaca. Then there are the stories about the embalmed whale in Waterloo and the sea serpent in Seneca Lake. Also, the beginnings of the Spiritualism Movement will be tied in with the communities of Newark and Moravia. This will be "fun" way to end our season and set you up for Halloween! PS: Some of these stories are hoaxes, but some of them are true.



From the Genealogy Corner

Get ready! On April 1, 2022, the 1950 census was released by the National Archives. This is the most exciting event to happen for genealogists since the 1940 census was released 10 years ago. By this summer, all states will have been indexed and available through organizations such as *ancestry.com*. If you are not a member, this site is available to you for free at the Frontenac via appointment.

What's new in the census?

Expats were counted for the first time

Baby boomers appear for the first time (did you?)

Students attending college were reported at their college

Infant cards were completed for each born after January 1, 1950

The census data was processed by a UNIVAC computer – the first time a computer was used outside of military use

People were asked if they owned a TV

Here is a flashback to 1950:

A gallon of gas cost 39 cents

A loaf of bread cost 14 cents

A new car cost \$1,300

Notes from History

What was life-like 125 years ago? Here are some highlights from an 1897 issue of the Union Springs Advertiser:

Wives could be bought and sold in China at an average price of \$250.

As a rule, man's hair turned gray five years sooner than a woman's

1897 will do down in history as one of the best berry crop years in history

Rev. Casey of Grace Episcopal church in Union Springs gave the baccalaureate address at Hobart College

The Schenck sisters, Helen, Delphi, and Augusta, were erecting a fine house on the Homestead Farm one mile and a half southeast of Union Springs

Lard oil for farm machinery was available at 75 cents a gallon

The pain, agony and frightful disfigurement of a burn could be quickly overcome without leaving a scar by using DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve available at Rogers Drug Store

The empire Hand Laundry, James Murphy, Proprietor, will be opening downtown

T.J. & D.P. Mersereau's store advertised that their dress goods stock was full and complete offering Henriettas, Serges, as well as Mohairs and that their ladies new shirt dress at 50 cents is a beauty.

Finally, showing that some things never change:

"Notice is hereby given to the taxable inhabitants of the Village of Union Springs, that I, the undersigned, collector of taxes in and for said village, have received the warrant for the collection of taxes for the present year, and that I will attend from nine o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon for 6teen days from the date hereof, for the purpose of receiving payment of taxes at the following place in said village, viz: at my store in said village."

Dated June 10, 1897

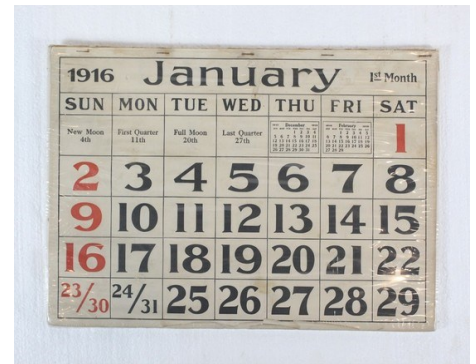
John Coles, Collector
Union Springs, NY

Grant Received!

In a joint request with the Village of Union Springs, the Village recently received approval for an initiative by New York Heritage to digitize the records of Chestnut Hill Cemetery. The cemetery is owned by the village of Union Springs, and these records, a valuable resource to those researching genealogy, are housed in the village office. A trained intern from Seymour Library in Auburn will provide the person power and resources to complete this project.

Once finalized, the records will be available online through New York Heritage Digital Collections, a research portal for students, educators, historians, genealogists, and anyone else interested in the Empire State's history. According to their website, this source brings together digital collections from more than 260 libraries, museums, and archives. It also currently provides a gateway to more than 670 distinct digital collections that reflect New York State's long history. These collections represent a broad range of historical, scholarly, and cultural materials, including photographs, letters, diaries, oral histories, city directories, maps, newspapers, books, and more.

A link to this resource will be available on the museum's website once the work is completed. We are grateful to Union Springs Mayor Shattuck and Seymour Library's Dori Gottschalk-Fielding for their support of this project.



Mark Your Calendar!

Museum Opening—May 14,
2022 from 1-4pm

Doug's Fish Fry—July 1, 2022

Chicken BBQ—July 16, 2022

Doug's Fish Fry—September 3,
2022

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.



THE INTREPID ATTIC EXPLORERS

The Great Burst Pipe Caper

Water is unusual in many ways, one being that it expands when it turns from a liquid to a solid (freezes), rather than contracting like most substances. Even though the expansion is only 9% that is enough so ice floats, and it stays on the surface of our lakes instead of sinking to the bottom. It is also enough to burst a pipe if the water in that pipe freezes. At the Museum, we were made painfully aware of this last month.

One of the rooms was not getting heat, so we called Mason & Grant to come have a look. It was late on a Friday, however, and it was not forecasting extreme cold, so we arranged to have them come out on Monday. As it turned out, one of the circulating pumps had quit, and even though it wasn't deep cold on the weekend,, the cold crept into the space between the first floor and the attic—and a pipe burst. When the plumbers and **John Kimber** (above, left) arrived Monday, it was starting to leak and set off the alarm system, and soon Kevin and Joe from the Fire Department arrived. **Dale Katovitch** (above right) arrived soon after to find them all scratching their heads in confusion as they discussed the dripping and the growing puddles of water in the Union Springs Room and the basement.

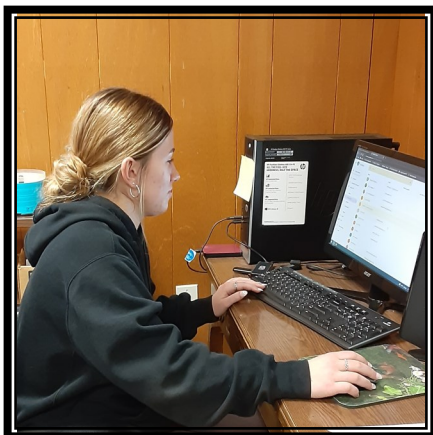
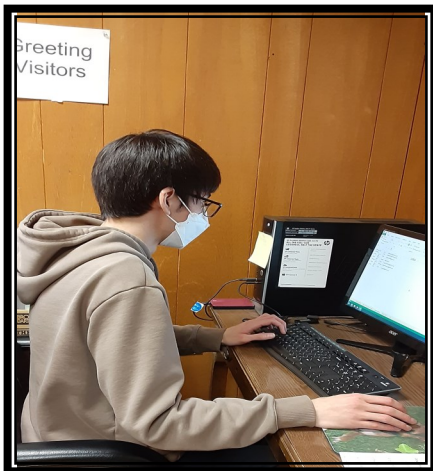
Soon the problem was identified, the pipe repaired and the water mopped up, and none of the Museum's collections were damaged. The next day a new pump was installed and we were back in business. John and Dale donned knee pads and protective headgear (the space was tight and bristling with nails from our beautiful new roof) and hauled out the soggy insulation, replacing it with fresh and dry insulation.

We are thankful that no major damage was sustained, and we will open fresh and dry for our visitors. **Opening Day at the Frontenac Museum is Sunday, May 15th.**



MODELS SOUGHT

We are looking for those who posed for an illustration in Bob Doremus's books. If you were one of those lucky kids, please contact the Frontenac Museum at 315-889-7273 or Kimber's at 315-889-5875.



Hard Working Teens from USCS Help with Data Entry!

Union Springs Central School District National Honor Students Natalie Wright and Matt Schenck recently helped us solve several data entry issues. Natalie diligently re-entered over 90 email addresses, which had been lost from our membership group distribution list, with great speed and accuracy. She caught on to our problem quickly and was able to do the tedious work required – all with a huge smile! Following the completion of Natalie's work, we realized that an issue still existed, and it was one that was beyond our technical capability. Matt quickly diagnosed the issue, found several work arounds, and re-created the data we had lost. He thrived on the challenge and has even offered to continue to support us as needed. And boy, do we need his support!

Data entry is certainly not the most glamorous or exciting job for a volunteer, especially a teenager. We are so grateful that both Natalie and Matt would consider taking this job on. They are outstanding representatives of the USCSD.

**Frontenac Historical Society
PO Box 338
Union Springs, NY 13160**

PLACE
STAMP
HERE