

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Summer 2023



(L to R) Josh Fahey, Assistant to NY Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan
Darlene Graham, President Frontenac Museum
NY Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan, 131st District

Visit from NY Assemblyman, Jeff Gallahan

On July 11th, we were pleased to welcome Jeff Gallahan, NY Assemblyman for the 131st District, and his Constituent Liaison, Josh Fahey, to the museum. Jeff has a deep interest in the history of our area and was eager to learn more. We appreciate the support he committed to the museum in providing a letter of support when submitting future grant requests.

FALL CRAWL THRU TIME AND WINE OCTOBER 7-8, 2023

The history of Central New York plays a significant role in American History. From the Iroquois Confederacy, through the American Revolution, and founding Quaker settlers, there are direct connections to the abolitionist, suffrage, and civil rights movements. There are also connections to less familiar themes of transportation, education and agriculture. Local museums present the stories of ordinary local people leading ordinary lives in ordinary neighborhoods in the context of the larger themes. In Central New York, the names of both the ordinary and extraordinary people are often still present in those same towns and neighborhoods. Folks, especially younger ones may be unaware of that history and their own connections to it. Local histories hold the records and evidence of those connections.

Early this year, Frontenac Historical Society Museum curators began a series of informal meetings with their counterparts from Sherwood's Opendore and Stone Store Museum to discuss issues facing small rural museums. in the post COVID and current eras. While members of both groups participate in county wide meetings of the Historical Coalition of Cayuga County, they realized that there are some issues unique to the small rural museums 'off the beaten path' and run solely by volunteers. Among those issues were grant opportunities, program publicity, and collection preservation. The initial meetings included each team's introduction to the other's site and general discussions about foot traffic. Both museums have regular programs with relatively good community attendance, but increasing routine visitation is a shared goal. Both museums are familiar with the phrase, "We had no idea of all the stuff you have here."

The May meeting included the Town of Genoa Historian who operates the Rural Life and Schoolhouse Museums in King Ferry, sharing similar issues and concerns. Increasing community awareness of their collections and interest in the rich history they represent led to a plan for a shared publicity initiative in the fall season called **FALL CRAWL THRU TIME AND WINE**. On Columbus Day weekend October 7 & 8, the participating museums are collaborating with each other and with local wineries, inviting the area public and others to be **local tourists**, experiencing the richness of a beautiful fall weekend in their own backyards by visiting these wonderful small museums and local wineries. In addition to the experience itself, a raffle will offer visitors who make it to all three museums, the opportunity to win a special gift relevant to local history. and to other unique products of Finger Lakes (the raffle itself does not include wine!)

~Stay tuned and watch for further announcements~



A visitor admires Artist Barbara Sherman's note cards.



Artist Kari Ruiz paints outside museum.



Artist Dana Ryan displays her hand painted creations.



Artist Jen Soucy discusses art with local botanist, George Fearon.

Art Show and Sale a Success!!

Frontenac Museum's May Art Show and Sale/Open House was attended by almost 100 people. Promoting the many talented artists in the area by providing a venue that allowed the artists to show and sell their work without a fee was one of the museum's goals. Fifteen local artists and artisans displayed their artwork throughout the museum, discussed their art, and gave contact information.

Nationally known guests Kari and Diego Ruiz (owners of Copperesque) displayed a variety of art pieces. Kari demonstrated by doing a plein air painting of the museum. Jen Soucy was the museum's highlighted artist offering samples of the breadth of her work in several mediums.

Artists as well as visitors expressed a desire for another show.

Summer Programs Continue – Don't Miss the Remaining Ones!

The program on July 16th was given by Ruth Bradley, Cayuga County Historian telling us "*How Farming Folk Made Contact with the World*". We sometimes forget that not too many years ago, the only way to communicate from farm to farm or with family was to write and post a letter. To assist the isolated communities, Ruth outlined how Rural Free Delivery and Rural Radio Network were windows to the wider world. Eventually telegrams, telephones, and newspapers – on up to the internet and email were made available over the last 100 years.



Trustee Marilyn Baader welcomes Cayuga County Historian, Ruth Bradley.



Jeanne Shenandoah is a well known expert on medicinal plants.

On **August 20th at 2pm**, Jeanne Shenandoah of the Onondaga Nation will speak on *Haudenosaunee women & their Teachings*. Learn about Native American wisdom and teaching about plants and medicine. The presentation is open to the public and refreshments will be provided.

Following the presentation at 3:30PM, the Frontenac Historical Society will hold their **2022 annual membership meeting**. We hope that members will stay and listen to reports by President Darlene Graham and Treasurer Marilyn Baader.

We are grateful for the support of our members, and we would like to share our successes over the past year!

On **September 17th at 7pm**, we welcome Steve Kress from the Ornithology Department of Cornell University who will speak and show magnificent photographs of *Raptors of Upstate New York*. You won't want to miss this, and it will help you identify common hawks, ospreys, eagles, and vultures.

The final program is scheduled for **October 8th at 7pm** when Bill Hecht will be sharing his wealth of photos, historical documents, maps, newspaper clippings and more in a *Historical Presentation in Celebration of the Anniversaries of the Village of Union Springs and Town of Springport*. Bill will encourage attendees to share their stories, as your story may become part of documented history.

James Carr Patriot Marker Dedicated

On June 11, the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, in conjunction with the Frontenac, dedicated a William Pomeroy Foundation Revolutionary War Patriot Burial Marker recognizing James Carr. This is the first marker of this program to be placed in the Finger Lakes area and is located at the Old Quaker Burying Ground, Grove St., Union Springs.

Following receipt of a land grant for his service in the war, Carr settled on Cayuga Lake at what is known today as Carr's Cove just south of the village of Union Springs.

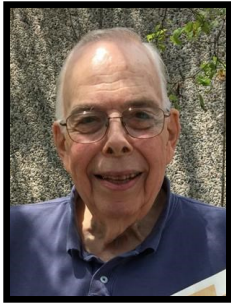
The dedication, attended by over 50 guests, was hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution with Jean Lanning, Village Historian, providing the fascinating story of Carr's capture and captivity. To hear Jean relate Carr's story, visit *Happenings in the Village of Union Springs Facebook page*. Thanks go out to Chris Cummings-Shattuck who live streamed the event for the enjoyment of Carr family members who live out of the area. On the museum website under News section, read the full story as read by Jean Lanning.

Post 1107 of the American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion presented the colors and provided a three volley rifle salute. Bruce Boardman, Director of the Community Band, played Taps. Union Springs Mayor Rob Thurston, Owasco Chapter Regent Sylvia Moravia, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Frontenac Museum President Darlene Graham provided words of recognition and welcome. William "Slim" Walter and his team from the Town of Springport erected the marker and completed a major cemetery cleanup for the event.

The William Pomeroy Foundation funds this special historic marker program to recognize those who fought in or were involved with the struggle for American independence. The Frontenac Museum was pleased to have provided the research and documentation which enabled the Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR, to receive this grant.



Dedication Ceremony designating the Thomas Eldred Military History Room



The dedication of the Thomas Eldred Military History Room (the former War Room) will be held on October 1, 2023 at 2PM at the Frontenac Museum

For many years Tom served as Cayuga County Historian and taught history at Union Springs High School. He served on the Bicentennial Committee and is a founding member of the museum. He generously shares his deep knowledge of military history with students and researchers. He has provided scholarships for students to attend Civil War Seminars and is known as the "go to" person with all questions on military history.

Please join us to honor Tom Eldred as we dedicate the Military History Room to him.

FIRST FRIDAY EVENT

The Frontenac is honored to have been invited by the Cayuga Museum in Auburn to participate in their First Friday event held on August 4th. Pat Kimber and Darlene Graham were available to answer questions about the uniform of Dr. Benjamin Fordyce and highlight the story it tells about the community of Union Springs.

Fordyce served as a First Lieutenant, 160th New York Infantry, from July 1863 to January 1865. His uniform, saddle, kit bag and other belongings from his time of service were found in the attic of his Union Springs home. Also found were letters he wrote to his family which Lydia Hecht, who resided in his home, edited into her book "Echoes: From the Letters of a Civil War Surgeon."

On the First Friday of each month, March-December the Cayuga Museum offers free admission from 5-7:30 PM. It is an opportunity to explore regularly changing exhibits. We are also grateful for the grant we received from Giving Tuesday (Adam and Clover Weitsman) which enabled us to purchase an appropriate dress form for the uniform insuring an attractive display.



Caywasco Girl Scout Day Camp Visits the Museum

On June 27th, the Frontenac welcomed 22 Caywasco Girl Scout Day Camp campers from kindergarten to grade 5. The camp, directed by Chrissy Akins, is staffed by Girl Scout leaders who volunteer their time as camp counselors and activity leaders. Older Girl Scouts also volunteer their time at the camp, as CIT's (counselors in training).

The Frontenac Museum was thrilled to have a total of 40 campers, leaders, and CITs visit. Led by Frontenac volunteers, campers toured the museum, observing a variety of items for a "then and now" presentation of household items and toys from long ago. In our Native American room, the campers were able to touch artifacts such as arrowheads and fossils. In our genealogy room, campers were presented with a variety of antique Girl Scout memorabilia.

To help campers gain knowledge for STEM badges that they were working on, the girls had a brief lesson on mirrors, reflections, and kaleidoscopes. Following this, each camper was able to design and make their own kaleidoscope with materials provided by Frontenac volunteers. A FUN time was had by all! Thanks to Chrissy Akins, her staff and day campers for spending an afternoon at the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum.

The Frontenac is pleased to arrange a group tour of the museum or use of the meeting room for a particular activity from May thru November. Call the museum at 315-889-7378 and leave a message. Someone will return your call.



CURATING TEAM ON FIRE!



We welcome new volunteer Paul Pawlaczyk to our Curating Team. Paul and his wife, artist Lisa Muller, relocated to Springport last winter. Paul has worked extensively as a museum preparator at well-known museums in the greater Philadelphia area. A preparator is responsible for the installation of exhibits as well as maintaining professional museum standards for the care and movement of collections. Paul's generosity with both his time and talent has greatly enhanced the experience and appearance of our exhibits. Plan a visit soon to check out the theories of "flow" and "less is more" as seen in our new exhibit on schools. Over time we are working to apply these theories to all of our exhibits and excited about the potential outcome.

We also welcomed the return of SUNY Oswego student intern, Greta Anderson, who will be assisting us this summer. Greta displays a great deal of initiative and is a joy to have working with us.

What is new? The Union Springs Room has transitioned to focusing on the early businesses and industry of the village. The pharmacy exhibit, previously housed in the School Room, has moved to the Union Springs Room to join a new exhibit on the North Mill. Gone from the School Room are the fishing exhibit (now found appropriately in the Lake Room) and a display of household items. New to the School Room are both a display of early school items as well as photos and locations of one room school houses in the five townships which we are chartered to serve. A children's table offers the opportunity to play with early games and toys. Work on additional new exhibits in this room continues and will be completed over time by our team of volunteers

We continue to accept items directly related to local history and most recently received the earliest known issue to exist of the Union Springs Advertiser. Volume 1, Issue 7, printed in 1866, traveled to us from Arizona under the care of donor Mary Yawger Horton. Mary, together with her sister Jeannie, found a trove of genealogical information relating to their ancestors both in our Yawger family file and the many extensive records contained in the Norma Bilak Collection.

Recently Sidney Wolff generously donated a charming c. 1925 water color of the North Pond painted by Frances Eliot Gifford, wife of award winning artist, Robert Swain Gifford (1840-1905). The painting is now featured in the new exhibit on the North Pond. And still coming to us are wonderful donations from the family of Don Waldron, including textbooks from the Waldron Road one room school house, a record of school meetings from 1815 to the late 1800's and the 1895 Union Springs High School diploma of Don's grandmother, Addie Myers (Pethybridge).

Our March program speaker, Sally Roesch Wagner, presented the Frontenac with exceptional banners relating the little known connection between Haudenosaunee women and the suffrage movement. Joining these shortly will be three panels which share the story of suffragette Matilda Joslyn Gage, who worked closely with our most active local suffragette, Zobia Alleman.

If you have not visited the museum recently, we hope you will do so soon to enjoy these changes. We are open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 (excluding the weekend of the Route 90 Sale) until mid-October or by appointment at 315-889-7273.

2022 Annual Member Meeting on August 20th at 3:30pm

This will be an opportunity to hear from the Frontenac Historical Society's President, Darlene Graham, who will outline and answer questions on activities during 2022. The Treasurer will review the 2022 financial information, and members will vote on new and current directors willing to continue for a three-year term 2023-2026.

We are grateful for the support of our members and we would like to share our successes over the past year. Plan to stay for the meeting after Jeanne Shenandoah's presentation.

More Thank-Yous Are Due!

Tim Carmon Rocks! We are indebted to Life Member Tim Carmon who has installed plumbing in our soon-to-be kitchenette in the museum lower level. Tim donated his time and expertise for which we are most grateful. Thank You, Tim!

The Hilton Inn in Auburn donated 60 conference chairs for our Community Room. They are beautiful and comfortable! These chairs can be stacked when the community room is needed for other displays. When you come to one of our programs noted in an earlier section, you will see and enjoy the comfort.

Many thanks to Tim Carmon and The Hilton Inn for their generosity!

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.

RAFFLE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!



The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum has been gifted a beautiful work of art painted by Bob Doremus. The painting will be raffled this October 8th following the presentation by Bill Hecht.

~From the Genealogy Corner~

An online data base now available through the Seymour Library consists of more than 250,000 pages from 45 newspapers, including *Citizen* (1916-2018), *Advertiser Journal* (1913-1931), *The Citizen* (2019-2022), *Seneca Citizen* (1997-1998), *The Port Byron Chronicle and Cayuga County News* (1924-1958), *The Auburn Citizen* (1922-1924), *The Port Byron Chronicle* (1872-1923), *Cayuga Patriot* (1833-1846), and *Auburn Morning Dispatch* (1888). You can search by keyword across all titles within a single newspaper and limit your search by date range. Individual newspapers can also be browsed. Check it out at <http://auburn.advantage-preservation.com/> For genealogy inquiries, contact Steve Hanford at 530-320-1808.

Frontenac Historical Society
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