

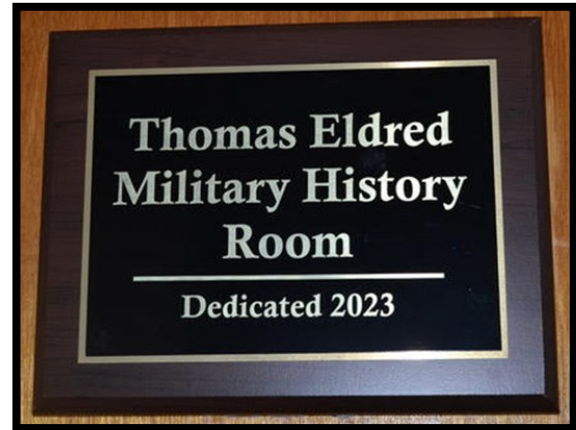
Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Fall 2023

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DEDICATION OF THE THOMAS ELDRED MILITARY HISTORY ROOM

On October 1, the Frontenac recognized the longstanding contributions to area history, particularly that relating to the military, by dedicating our former War Room as the Thomas Eldred Military History Room. For many years Eldred served as Cayuga County Historian and taught history at Union Springs High School. He served on the Cayuga County Bicentennial Committee and is a founding member of the Frontenac Museum. Tom 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.

In his long career as an educator, Tom has written numerous articles for area newspapers on his many world travels. From the knowledge gained during these trips, he shared with his students the ideas, culture and concepts not found in textbooks. He has served as President of the Cayuga County Teachers Association, President of the former Union Springs United Ministry Church Council, Member of the Village Planning Board and many years as an advisor to local Boy Scout troops. Tom was also a founding member of the Union Springs Lions Club and received the DeWitt Clinton Award in 1991. The Dewitt Clinton award is presented to people outside the Masonic world whose activities in community service demonstrate principles and practices held in high esteem by Freemasons. Tom also received the Valley Forge Teacher Award from the Freedom Foundation.

The esteem in which Tom is held by his students and friends was clearly shown as over 60 people attended this event. Numerous Facebook messages to Tom, as well as letters of congratulations from past students, were shared with Tom.

And the Winner Is...

The lucky ticket from the 2023 raffle of a Robert Doremus Painting belonged to Dana Ryan. The museum was the recipient of the painting given by Deb Lewis in honor of her mother Millie Lewis. Over 700 tickets were sold, and the Museum is grateful for the support of the community, museum members, and visitors. As a result of your generosity, the museum netted \$1,225.



Zobedia Alleman Portrait Unveiled



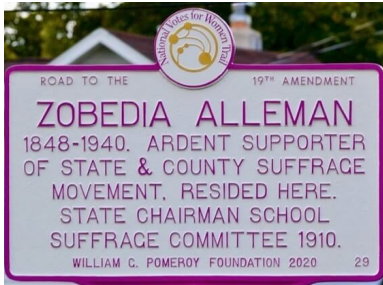
On October 8th, the Frontenac Museum unveiled a portrait of local suffragette, Zobedia Alleman. This unveiling was the culmination of a long-term effort to create a permanent exhibit highlighting the role of local women in the suffrage/equal rights movement, as well as the influence of the area's Quaker founders and the Haudenosaunee or Six Nations. Extensive research revealed the discovery of Alleman's role in actively advocating for women's suffrage at both the local and state levels. In 1895, with eleven other women, Alleman voted in the Union Springs school district elections, forcing the ban barring women from voting to be lifted. Alleman was active at the state level and, in 1917, campaigned to amend the NYS constitution to grant women full voting rights (which was successful!). Alleman resided on Homer Street in the village of Union Springs for over 50 years.

The portrait, painted by local artist, Jennifer Soucy, was made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re grants Program, a regrant program of the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and NYS legislature and administered by Auburn Public Theater.

The unveiling was enthusiastically attended by community members who were also treated to a pictorial history of the Springport community, presented by Bill Hecht. The museum was honored to have our NYS Assemblyman, Jeff Gallahan, and his assistant, Josh Fahey, in attendance for the evening. Assemblyman Gallahan presented the Frontenac with an Assembly Proclamation in recognition of Zobedia Alleman's contribution to the women's rights/suffrage movement.

The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum continues to serve as a focal point to further interest in (and study of) local history, developing a sense of community pride. Located in the center of the historical suffragette movement, there is no better way to accomplish this than to introduce our community to a little-known grassroots suffragette, Zobedia Alleman.

...still searching for Zobedia



As we celebrated the unveiling of Jennifer Soucy's portrait of Zobedia Alleman, funded through a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts and administered by Auburn Public Theater, the search has continued for more details and information about this forgotten local suffragette. Just as we were setting up the event for the unveiling, we received a copy of the Fall NYS Archives magazine that included an article written by Frontenac Curator Pat Kimber called *The Unseen Suffrage Sisterhood*.

Pat Kimber was instrumental in obtaining a National Votes for Women Trail historic marker at Alleman's home on Center Street in Union Springs through the Pomeroy Foundation. Pat was also featured in a video presentation about Zobedia's recognition in the National Votes for Women Trail.

The only known picture of Zobedia was taken well into her 90's and while the Soucy portrait was completed based on that photo, the search for a younger visage as well as more details about her life has continued. It is part of the museum's developing women's history exhibit. That exhibit also includes photographs of several local women among many who signed petitions to Congress and the President protesting the US invasion of Mexico in 1846-1848.

Having exhausted local historical sources about Alleman, it had been suggested by Aurora resident Laurie Roberts, who has worked with the state archives, that we reach out to a wider audience by submitting an article to the publication of the Archives Partnership Trust which publishes the magazine. Pat wrote a letter to the organization about that possibility and got an immediate response with a short deadline to complete and submit the article. She worked diligently to meet the publication deadline.

The submission and publication of the article represents the efforts of the Frontenac Historical Society to explore, preserve, and honor often forgotten and lost local history. Such efforts might also inspire others to engage in their own efforts to serve the community and the country through active participation.

New York Archives, published quarterly by the Archives Partnership Trust, is an educational publication about New York State history as revealed by research in archival records maintained throughout the state.



FRONTENAC MUSEUM: KEEPING AND MAKING HISTORY!



July 22, 1978

July 22, 2023

During regular open hours on July 22nd, the museum had the honor of being part of the 45th wedding anniversary of Lon and Lori Jones Large (pictured left) who were married in the Presbyterian Church that now houses the Frontenac Historical Society---giving a whole new meaning to the museum motto: **Keeping History Alive.** The couple was married on July 22, 1978. Lori happened to have a couple of wedding pictures on her phone.

Both Lon and Lori are graduates of Union Springs High School, he in 1977 and Lori in the class of 1978. Looking through the museum's collection of Union Springs High School Yearbooks, they found not only their senior class pictures, but one of Lori in grade school.

Lon stayed with the military until retirement. Within his military deployment the couple lived at Fort Bragg, in Heidelberg, Germany and at the Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona, before returning to live in Auburn. The Large family has a long history in the Springport-Fleming area, including a family farm that has housed several generations. The Large name appears in the genealogical trees of many local historic families.

The couple was returning from an anniversary trip to Salamanca where they attended the Annual Seneca Nation Pow Wow. Lori is tracking down her own Native heritage via a great-grandmother who was a member of the Mohawk Nation.

Summer/Fall Programs Come to An End

The final two programs of the season were a success! Stephan Kress PhD, Founder of the National Audubon Society's Project Puffin, and a Visiting Fellow of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, gave an informative presentation *on Raptors of Upstate New York*. Those who attended the program were enthusiastic about our backyard neighbors in the sky. From Peregrines to Turkey Vultures to Common Owls, we all learned greater respect for these raptors who play an important ecological role in maintaining the environmental health of their natural habitat.



Long-time resident Bill Hecht concluded the season with a *History of Union Springs and the Town of Springport* on their respective 175th and 200th anniversaries. He shared his wealth of photos, historical documents, maps, newspaper clippings and more with an audience of over 80 people. Attendees were encouraged to share their stories as they become documented history. Bill's presentation was videotaped and will be available on the website soon.

History Still Making History

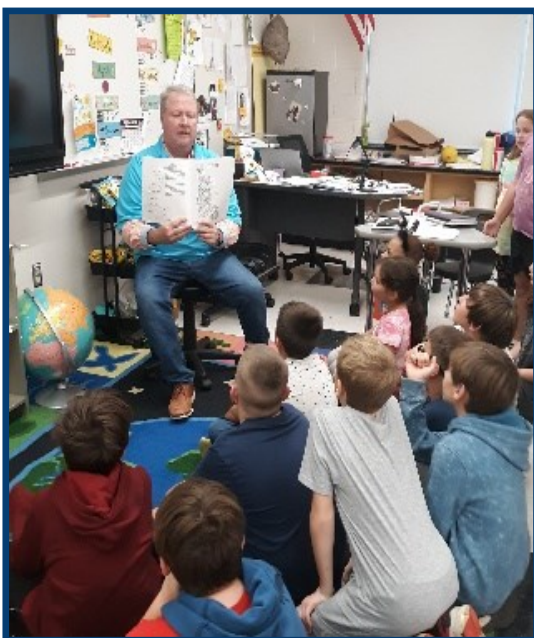
After the October Dedication of the former 'War Room' to the Thomas Eldred Military History Room Event, we realized that the history book he had written about local history in 1987 was no longer available for purchase. It was called East of the Bridge and was written at a 4th grade level and intended for use in elementary schools.

The project was suggested to Tom by a member of the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES and supported by the Union Springs School District which gave him a leave of absence to complete the project. Eldred was assisted by several well-known and well-remembered USSD teachers and staff and approved by two 4th grade students, Theresa Cufari and Luke Eldredge. They told him what they did not understand so he could rewrite it in a way that they could. Final printing involved the Cayuga Onondaga BOCES and the Quartier Printing Company in Syracuse.

We consulted with Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES and found that they have a professional copy/print center that provides a full range of copying/printing services. We met with Mr. James Westburgh to discuss the possibility of reprinting the book. Unfortunately, the straight copying of photos did not produce a good quality; however, Mr. Westburgh went the extra mile and found most of the pictures online, allowing him to work with originals. The final product is exceptional and now has a purple cover (a USCS school color) and a better binding. The original and current cover has a drawing of the bridge across Cayuga Lake connecting the village of Cayuga to the village of Seneca Falls .

The picture below left shows AJ Smith 4th grade teacher Tom Owens with a 4th grade class as he introduces his class to the book and it's content. While he is currently an extended substitute teacher, he retired from that same classroom after 32 years with USSC. He reports having used the Eldred book for many years. Owens also made visits to the museum with his classes on a regular basis. Each time, the students were excited about the things they saw at the museum. The class in the picture were surprised to learn that the "big white building" across from the supermarket was a museum, but showed excitement at the possibility of a visit.

The reprinted book will be available at the museum in the 2024 season.



Teacher Tom Owens's 4th grade class learns about local history.



Local author and historian, Mr. Thomas Eldred, displays his scrapbook of newspaper and magazine articles preserving local, national and world events.



Curating member, Paul Pawlaczyk, (left) ensures that new signage is level. Curating members Karen Shockey, Linda Kabalak, and BJ Bellen (center) add final touches to the museum's Christmas tree decorations. This year's theme is, "If These Walls Could Talk." Jeanne Yawger (right) speaks about her family's donations to the museum.

CURATING TEAM

With the end of the 2023 museum season, the Curating Team reflected on a very busy and exciting period. The team, together with the Building and Grounds Team, all of whom are volunteers, work together to maintain the museum building as well as undertake special projects. They prepare for programs, activities and visits throughout the summer season. Their work sometimes overlaps when there are major adjustments to exhibits. This year, almost every room in the museum has gone through significant changes.

The Union Springs Room has undergone a moderate overall, still maintaining its village theme, but adding a modified exhibit of the historic drug stores and rearrangement of the antique printshop items. The village store was rearranged with a premise that sometimes "less is more." The addition of the posters made for the Union Springs Village anniversary display rounded out the exhibit that, along with the history of Cayuga Lake National Bank, offer an experience of Union Springs in years past.

There have also been some adjustments in the War Room. Thanks to an Adam and Clover Weitsman CNY Giving Tuesday Grant, the Civil War uniforms have been refreshed and rearranged on archival mannequins rather than hung on hangers in their secure glass case. A portrait of local Civil War doctor Benjamin Fordyce was moved from the school room to the War Room to join the rest of the items related to his service. The addition of a Revolutionary War era gun, donated by Jeanne Yawger, Mary Horton and Phil Yawger, the children of Philip Yawger, fill in a historical gap in the room as we had heretofore not had any item relating to that era for display. On October 1, the room was renamed and dedicated as the Thomas Eldred Military History Room to honor Tom, former USCS history teacher and Civil War scholar.

Both the School Room and the Lake Room have been and are still under construction in an effort to more accurately reflect the themes of each of the rooms. We are fortunate to have Paul Pawlaczyk, a retired museum preparator, leading the efforts to redesign these displays to reflect a better flow and to increase interest. The School Room includes an exhibit of Union Springs High School history as well as the one room schoolhouses that dotted area townships. Pictures of many are now on display thanks to the collection of Edgar Smith, now housed in the museum. Material from the Oakwood Academy, the Howland School for Young Ladies, and the Seventh Day Adventist School will be added over the winter. Similarly, the Lake Room is being redeveloped, beginning with a new Frontenac steamboat exhibit and other historic themes.

The big room, the former church sanctuary, which has yet to have acquired a specific name, is moving toward becoming a women's history exhibit. It is being designed to honor the fact that the women's suffrage movement was not just something that happened on the other side of the lake in Seneca Falls but was one Village in which women from our area experienced and played a role. The centerpiece is a portrait of local suffragette, Zobia Alleman, created by Jennifer Soucy, our featured local artist this year. The portrait was funded through a statewide re-grant program developed by the NYS Council on the Arts and administered by the Auburn Public Theatre. The theme is highlighted by three large panels describing the influence of the roles of women in the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) on the suffrage movement. They were gifted to the Frontenac by Syracuse University professor Sally Roesch Wagner, author of *Sisters in Spirit* and *We Want Equal Rights*, and director of the Matilda Gage Foundation and Museum. Those panels are balanced by three still larger panels on loan from Ms. Wagner and the Gage Foundation. An 1848 petition to Congress opposing the war with Mexico, signed by the ladies of Union Springs is also featured together with photos of portraits of several signers.

Throughout the season we received a series of donated collections that required accessioning and storage. Those activities are sometimes the most interesting and fun things the Curating Team does, even if the paperwork and data entry is tedious. Fortunately, team member BJ Bellen does the data entry ensuring that we are able to track items in our collection. Technology, data entry and management are tasks that always need lively hands and computer skills. The Curating Team welcomes new members. Anyone with an interest or curiosity about history, who needs a time and place to explore that interest, is welcome to join our group of fun, kindred spirits on Tuesday mornings throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

As the year 2023 concludes, the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum asks for your support for the 2024 season. The articles in this newsletter share with you the work that goes into keeping the museum vibrant while assuring that history is kept alive!

Memberships and donations provide the backbone of the museum. The board attempts to keep the facility in good working order, but sometimes unanticipated things happen as it did this year with the failure of the heating system. A new furnace was installed in October to maintain a temperature that will protect its artifacts and papers. The cost was \$12,600 and so please consider our need to replenish our financial base as you make your decision to join or renew your membership.

Membership is \$10/individual or \$15/family membership. Receipts for your gift will be sent electronically to those for whom we have email addresses. This will help reduce the need for postage as the rate continues to rise. Thanks go to Rob LoMascolo of *The Press of Robert LoMascolo* for his donation of the web thank you.

JOIN THE FRONTENAC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

THANK YOU – THANK YOU!

In September, with the start of the heating season just around the corner, we attempted to put our ancient furnace to the test. Unfortunately, it was not up to the challenge, and close inspection revealed that even if it was nursed back to functionality, it would be on life support. The decision was made to raid our financial reserves and purchase a new furnace. For those of you who may have wondered what we do with your financial support, here is a good example. \$12,600 later, the Museum will be warm this winter. Our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make this happen.

DO YOU HAVE??

The Buildings and Ground crew have been building a kitchen in the lower level of the museum. Cabinets and countertops were donated, floor was painted, and water was connected by Tim Carmon of Quality Home Care & Maintenance as a gift. Now, to complete the project, we need a **dorm-size refrigerator**. If you have such an item and wish to donate it to the museum, please contact 315-889-7273 and leave a message. The availability of this kitchen will allow preparation of food items for programs, hosting meetings, and special occasions.



Frontenac Historical Society

PO Box 338

Union Springs, NY 13160

PLACE

STAMP