

# Frontenac

*Historical Society and Museum*

Spring 2020



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! We recognize these unsettling times, but want to stay in contact with our supportive members and friends. The newsletter is being sent only via email. We are continuing to gather email addresses so if you know of a member or a friend who might enjoy this newsletter, please send us their email address. Stay safe until we meet again. [frontenac178@gmail.com](mailto:frontenac178@gmail.com)

## SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE

The program committee has been working to provide varied programs of historical significance this year. There is always so much to share! However, we are unable to confirm dates or programs currently due to the covid-19 pandemic. Think back to a program in 2017 when Dr. Koeppe spoke on the Influenza epidemic of 1919-1920. It is hard to believe we are experiencing similarities again. As the phoenix who symbolizes renewal in general, we will rise again and when it is safe to gather, we will keep you informed about our ability to move forward. Information on the 1919-20 flu is located on page 5 of this newsletter. How similar it all seems. Stay tuned!

## RENOVATION OF TWO EXHIBIT ROOMS NEARS COMPLETION




Back in late summer when Kanga Roof finished our lovely roof, they said they would return to do the indoor work, the damaged ceilings in two of our exhibit rooms, when the weather turned cold and they could no longer do their roofing jobs. So we scurried around in November and December moving all the exhibits, including our huge anchor and Pop Courtney's racing shell, into other rooms to make way for the job.



However, with our mild winter, weeks went by and no ceiling work was done. Finally in mid-February the crew showed up and got to work, and two days later we had two beautiful ceilings! John Kimber and Dale Katovitch soon followed by painting the rooms top to bottom, and they were looking grand again.

Except for one thing: the floors. They were not damaged, and so were not covered by insurance, but they sure were awful. Due to kind donations from members within the Society, we scraped together enough to have the rooms carpeted to match the hallway. The carpets were installed in March, so the rooms look truly grand now. We will spring into action moving all the exhibits back in, so when you come to visit us this summer, everything will be back where it belongs.



# MUSEUM DOCENT

meaning, definition, explanation...

SPRING 2020

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Many volunteers have contributed untold hours to make our Frontenac Museum a safe, informative, interesting and attractive place to visit. So that the museum can be open, generally from mid-May to mid-October, weekends from 1-4pm, we have looked to, and relied upon our docents (guides) over the years. They have graciously “stepped up,” so that visitors can “step back” in time. All that is needed are welcoming smiles, and our docents are good at providing lots of them! Any questions that can’t be answered will be replied to within a few days, if written down and left in the office with the contact information.

Thanks go to these docents from the 2019 season: Linda Albrecht, Dave Atkins, Marilyn Baader, BJ Bellen, Glenn and Donna Bundy, Pat Deller, Carol Fearon, Dale Katovitch, Pat Kimber, Jean Lanning, Deb Lewis, Doris Monaco, Tom and Joan Parsnick, Nancy Rancier, Meta Riestler, Eric and Fran Rosenkrans, Dona Ross, Carole Sanders, John and Jean Sevier, Bud Shattuck, Betty Shockey, Jen Soucy and Scott Zippel.

Although the museum’s formal opening is delayed this year (date to be announced), we look forward to a successful 2020 season.

*“To preserve the past is to enrich the future.”*



## VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Did you know that The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum received an Absolute Charter from the Board of Regents on behalf of the New York State Education Department on December 15, 2000? What does this mean? New York State, unlike other US States, views cultural agencies as nonprofit businesses and sees organizations such as libraries and historical societies as educational organizations. Some of the requirements include a statement of purpose, organizational meeting, constitution and bylaws, incorporation and corporate title. How did this occur? A group of volunteers in 1977 saw the importance of local history and desired to protect collections and artifacts that were being received. They initiated a request for a provisional charter, which is a probationary period of 3-5 years which encourages the Society to progress towards Absolute Charter. To reach the Absolute Charter designation, the organization must show a record of financial stability, programmatic accomplishment and a reputation for excellence. Once the Absolute Charter is granted, the historical society is registered and must submit annual reports to provide current information and accomplishments. Volunteers today play an important part in assuring the purpose of the charter continues. Hours of service in 2019 totaled over 2000 hours. The Society hosted over 600 visitors thru tours, summer programs and school visits. Cayuga County, and in particular the Towns of Springport and Aurelius, are steeped in history. Every effort continues to be made to encourage visitation. We are open to new ideas and would welcome scheduling of groups to tour our wonderful museum and all it has to offer.



## New Historic Marker for Union Springs!

2020 marks the centennial of women's suffrage in the United States. To honor this landmark anniversary, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites and [The William G. Pomeroy Foundation](#) have partnered to launch a new historic marker program commemorating historically significant people, places or things instrumental to women in gaining the right to vote in 1920.

Historic markers awarded through the program will become part of the [National Votes for Women Trail](#), which is run through the NCWHS and documents the campaign for women's suffrage that took place over more than seven decades and was conducted in parlors, churches, town halls, parks, union halls, and other community locations.

The Frontenac Museum is thrilled to announce that the 8 Homer St., Union Springs home of [Zobedia Alleman](#), an ardent Union Springs suffragette, has been selected to receive one of these historical markers. Only 250 of these markers will be placed across the United States. Alleman was an activist, advocate, spokesperson and leader in this successful county, state and ultimately national effort. She participated in many of these grass roots efforts tirelessly traveling upstate New York speaking at various WCTU, Political Equality Clubs and Grange meetings and questioning the lack of women's rights in such areas as serving as jurors. Her campaigning resulted in the successful passage of resolutions in support of suffrage by these organizations.

She served as Secretary of the Cayuga County Women's Suffrage Association. Further, as a supporter of state suffrage activities, Alleman was elected to the position of Chairman of the School Suffrage Committee, New York State Woman Suffrage Association in 1903. Following New York's passage of a law in 1910 allowing women the right to vote in school elections if they owned property or had children enrolled in school, she educated women regarding their eligibility to vote and encouraged them to exercise this right.

Newspaper articles confirm her numerous speeches and campaigns on behalf of the state suffrage association. Papers at the Library of Congress confirm her attendance at national conventions. In their seminal tome, "The History of Women's Suffrage" by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joslin Gage, Alleman is mentioned as one of the names which occurs most frequently in convention meeting minutes. She served as a NY convention delegate together with Stanton, Anthony, Gage, and Harriet May Mills.

The Frontenac is grateful to the National Collaborative Women's History Site, the Pomeroy Foundation and homeowner Sarah VanOrman for recognizing the significance of Mrs. Alleman's remarkable efforts and contributions to win women the right to vote. A dedication ceremony for the monument will be held later this year. We are one of only 5 recipients in New York State to be awarded a coveted "purple and white" historical marker. This marker recognizes our local suffragette, [Zobedia Alleman](#). Visit the museum later this year to learn more about her efforts.

Many thanks to Pat Kimber for her work in researching and submitting the authentic information required.



## VOTES FOR WOMEN

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, our new exhibit honors the women who made it possible. Under a huge sign calling for Votes for Women, we have displayed an actual-sized copy of a local proclamation which is maintained in the National Archives. On loan from our friends at the Howland Stone Store Museum are two banners from their special collection for our Open House. Be sure to come and see these, as well as jewelry and other items related to the suffragettes.





## A NEW EXHIBIT



Betty Shockey, BJ Bellen (above), and Linda Albrecht (right) prepare signage for the new exhibit on CLNB—Cayuga Lake National Bank (below).

Our new exhibit is centered on the original furniture and cash register recently donated by the Bank. Over the years, CLNB has supported the museum not only with matching donations but also with low interest bridge loans. We have displayed a copy of a check that greatly helped us achieve a goal in our “Raise the Roof” campaign, as well as a picture of former museum president, Dean Tanner, receiving a generous matching donation from Bank President Bill Ryan. This donation enabled us to replace the ceiling in our main room. Come and see our time line of bank history and biopics of all CLNB presidents through the years. Many thanks to dedicated volunteer, Linda Albrecht, who contributed so much to this exhibit, along with members of our curating team. We have dedicated the exhibit to the memory of a special friend, long-time CLNB President and Board Chairman, Bill Ryan. Bill was always there when we needed him, and through the years, he helped so many local citizens. If you would like to share a fond memory of Bill, we would like you to jot it down on one of the cardboard stars available at the exhibit. Bill was truly a star!





Dec. 19, 1918 Auburn Citizen →

Now we practice social distancing and hand washing but in 1918, one way to combat the spread of the Spanish flu in Auburn was the street flusher who washed down the pavements. This action was believed to “materially help in reducing the liability to germ contagion through germ contagion through dust kicked up in the streets.” Source The Citizen December 19, 1918.

Between 1918 and 1919, there were almost 100 deaths in Cayuga County due to the Spanish flu.

## SCORE MORE FLU CASES; FLUSHER GOES OUT TODAY

Physicians have reported about a score of new cases of influenza during the last 24 hours. Physicians state that many of the cases which they are reporting as influenza differ in no respects from the cases of grip which they have been handling periodically for the last 28 years. As no distinct line has ever been drawn between the old fashioned grip and the Spanish “flu,” all cases are reported as the latter.

An unusual sight was presented today when the street flusher began washing down the pavements in city. This will help materially in reducing the liability to germ contagion through dust kicked up in the streets. “Did you ever see such weather for this time of year?” people are asking each other. It is recalled that such a time occurred in January, 1905, when thermometers on Genesee Street registered 7° in the shade. The warm wather continued for a week, and ice that had formed on the lake a foot thick melted and the lake was cleared.

## WHY SPANISH FLU?

Because WWI was still going on, Germany, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the United States wanted to suppress news of how bad the epidemic had become. Neutral Spain had no reason to suppress the flu news, giving the false impression that the flu had started there. The exact geographic origin of the disease is debated to this day, although it certainly did not originate in Spain.

The estimated total of flu deaths in the United States was 675,000 people. Half of the American soldiers who died in Europe during WWI died of the Spanish Flu, not from combat wounds. Worldwide, the death toll of the 1918 pandemic is estimated at 50 to 100 million people, or 3% to 5% of the world population.

## HOW TO FIGHT SPANISH INFLUENZA

Avoid crowds, coughs and cowers, but fear neither germs nor Germans! Keep the system in good order, take plenty of exercise in the fresh air and practise cleanliness. Remember a clean mouth, a clean skin, and clean bowels are a protecting armor against disease. To keep the liver and bowels regular and to carry away the poisons within, it is best to take a vegetable pill every other day, made up of May-apple, aloes, jalap, and sugar-coated, to be had at most drug stores, known as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. If there is a sudden onset of what appears like a hard cold, one should go to bed, wrap warm, take a hot mustard foot-bath and drink copiously of hot lemonade. If pain develops in head or back, ask the druggist for Anuric (anti-uric) tablets. These will flush the bladder, and kidneys and carry off poisonous matter. To control the pains and aches take one Anuric tablet every two hours, with frequent drinks of lemonade. The pneumonia appears in a most treacherous way, when the influenza victim is apparently recovering and anxious to leave his bed. In recovering from a bad attack of influenza or pneumonia the system should be built up with a herbal tonic, such as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, made without alcohol from the roots and barks of American forest trees, or his “Irontic” (iron tonic) tablets, which can be obtained at most drug stores, or send 10c. to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., for trial package. “Irontic” is just as good as Dr. Pierce's other medicines.





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### **Reduce Your Taxes and Assist the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum**

Certainly, a check or cash payment is always gratefully accepted. However, a tax-smart way to contribute is using your IRA. If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, make a tax-free distribution from your IRA directly to the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum. This will save you taxes, whether you itemize or not. If you are age 72, you must take your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA and thus can satisfy your RMD without increasing your income taxes. Another way is to gift Appreciated Securities. This method gives you two tax breaks by saving on income tax and capital gains tax too! Consult your financial advisor, please.

During these past few months, we appreciate the volatility of the stock market and your hesitancy in moving forward with these ideas but knowing about available options will assist your Historical Society continue to allow maintenance of the facility and its vast collections of local history. If you have questions, please consult your financial advisor or tax consultant. And you may contact the Museum at 315.889.7273, leave a message and you will receive a return call. We are grateful for your consideration.\*

Direct contributions of cash or check may be sent to PO Box 338, Union Springs, NY 13160. Thank you for your support in helping *keeping history alive* !

\* Information provided by New England Historic Genealogical Society.

*Generosity*  
changes everything