

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Summer 2026

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TRUE VALOR AT GETTYSBURG MONUMENT DEDICATION

On August 22, the Frontenac Historical Society and Museum was honored to participate in the dedication of the "True Valor at Gettysburg" bronze monument in Lyons, New York organized by the Wayne County Historical Society. The statue, created by well known sculptor Gary Casteel, honors the soldiers of the 111th New York Infantry Regiment, who fought bravely during the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Funding for this monument was provided by the Isaac Mullie Foundation, the same foundation which provided a significant contribution to the re-design of the Thomas Eldred Military History Room. The 111th has particular importance to our area as its soldiers enlisted from Cayuga and Wayne Counties. The visage of Isaac Mullie, portrayed in the statue, wears a cap of Company K, which mustered soldiers from Union Springs, Springport, Ledyard and Aurora. Over 30 guests visited our display, which featured the Soldiers Memorial of Company K, together with several original records of Company K Clerk, Esek Hoff. These records represent just a smattering of his clerical records, also donated to the museum by Ken Harris and housed in our Bilak Genealogy Room.



BON TON ROULET BICYCLISTS VISIT THE FRONTENAC



On July 23, over 20 cyclists participating in the Bon Ton Roulet visited the Frontenac as part of their overnight stop-over in Union Springs. The Roulet is a multi-day cycling tour and festival throughout the Finger Lakes, organized as a fundraiser for the Auburn YMCA-WEIU. Visitors to the museum were welcomed from northern Virginia, Ohio and Boston. Each spent a significant amount of time reviewing our displays and asking many questions. What an engaged group they were!

GIRL SCOUTS FILL THE FRONTENAC MUSEUM WITH CREATIVITY, CURIOSITY, AND COLOR

Each summer, the Frontenac Museum eagerly welcomes the return of our local Girl Scouts—a tradition that brings fresh energy, bright smiles, and a wonderful spirit of discovery into our historic rooms. This year's visit was no exception. A lively group of 22 young Scouts, joined by 15 older Scouts and adult leaders, filled the Women's Forgotten History Room, where they were greeted by our curating team.

Museum volunteer Jen Soucy opened the morning with a warm welcome, encouraging the Scouts to explore local history as a way of uncovering clues to their own family stories. She reminded them that every badge earned represents a new skill—and that these skills help shape the leaders they are becoming.

Before beginning their projects, the Scouts admired the museum's colorful quilt display draped over the balcony and arranged along the walls. Jen explained that quilting is an ancient, practical, and deeply crea-



tive art form—one that teaches mindfulness, patience, and focus. The girls compared the whimsical “crazy quilt” above the piano, stitched from pieces of all shapes and sizes, with more structured patterns such as the classic star and heart-shaped designs.

HANDS-ON CREATIVITY IN EVERY ROOM

The Scouts then divided into groups to begin their activities. Older Scouts remained in the main room, where they traced hands onto music-printed paper, carefully cut out the shapes, decorated the nails with metallic markers, and added lace and a red heart. Each finished piece became a sweet keepsake dedicated to someone they love. One tired camper took a nap in the midst of all of this activity!



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Younger Scouts split between the Genealogy Room and the School Room for two quilting-inspired projects. One group decorated wooden squares already imprinted with quilt patterns, using bright markers to bring each design to life. The other group received plain wooden squares to embellish with trefoil stickers and colorful designs, creating their own “quilt block” from scratch.

As they worked, the curators explained the meaning of the trefoil, the three-leaf symbol of Girl Scouting. “*Trefoil*,” from the French for *three-leafed*, represents the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise: “On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.”



When the girls placed their decorated squares together on the table, they formed a charming, one-of-a-kind quilt—each block different, yet united in purpose.

Between projects, many Scouts enjoyed leafing through the museum’s collection of local yearbooks, searching for familiar faces—parents, teachers, and even neighbors.



A COLORFUL FAREWELL

The troop’s enthusiasm didn’t end at the museum doors. After leaving, the Scouts used sidewalk chalk to decorate the walkways outside the library and the bank, creating bright quilt-like patterns that delighted passersby. Later, they shared their excitement on Facebook, posting about their morning at the historic Frontenac Museum.

Their visit brought creativity, curiosity, and community spirit to every corner of the museum—and we look forward to welcoming them back again next summer.



Day of Caring - August 6, 2026

Day of Caring is a program sponsored by United Way of Cayuga County providing an opportunity for volunteers to sign up and tackle projects at nonprofits serving Cayuga county residents. In total, 220 volunteers signed up to work on 16 different projects. The Frontenac Museum welcomed 9 volunteers from Unity House and 5 volunteers from Frontenac who helped clean up the environment surrounding the museum building. Small trees, branches and twigs were cut and

thrown in a large pile which were later collected and taken to the landfill by the village of Union Springs maintenance staff. The bank of myrtle along the driveway was raked, weeds pulled from the flower beds and lawn mowed. All of this was done under the direction of John Kimber. Following this work-out on a hot humid day, the volunteers were treated to a delicious luncheon from The Bait Shop. The comradery of working and sharing with each other brings our organizations closer together in understanding and supporting each other's missions.



Annual Meeting 2025

The annual membership meeting was held on August 9, 2026. This is an opportunity for the members to hear the President and Treasurer's report for 2025 and ask questions related to these reports or any other questions or suggestions for consideration. At this meeting, changes to the Frontenac Historical Society & Museum's Constitution and Bylaws were approved. The changes in the Constitution related to membership dues and annual meeting month. The 2027 membership dues will increase by \$5 and therefore a single membership will be \$15 and family membership \$20. The annual meeting date will change from August to June to be more in line with the end of prior year activities.

Bylaw changes approved were increasing the officer terms from 1 year to 3 years and defining more clearly the quorum for board and annual meetings.

Welcome to newly elected Trustees for a 3-year term—Laurie Gorjance and Dan Wentworth. Linda Albrecht, Marilyn Baader, John Kimber and Jen Soucy were elected, upon agreeing to another 3-year term.

Laurie Gorjance grew up deeply embedded in Cayuga County; the roots of both her parents, Ken and Beulah (Chappell) Pollard. She received a B.A. from William Smith College and subsequently moved to the San Francisco Bay area where she spent most of the next 40 years. Laurie has 3 children, who currently live in Boston, the Bay Area, and Singapore, and a recent addition to the family, Emmy Violet, born to her son and daughter-in-law in Singapore. Laurie now lives on Cayuga Lake with her father and is happy to be joining the Board and learning more about local and family history.

Dan Wentworth moved to Union Springs in 2018. Dan served as the Director of IT at Wells College for 14 years, until its closing. His education is in Forest Technology, Environmental Science, and Computer Science. Dan has always had an interest in history and has traced his family tree back to the first Wentworth emigrant, William Wentworth, who arrived at the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. Dan lives in the village with his wife Patti, dog Pearl, and cat Jimmy.

Thank You to Tom Parsnick and Dale Katovitch who leave the board after years of service to the museum. Both men plan to stay involved on a volunteer basis. Many thanks go to them for their commitment and continued willingness to assist when asked.

Unexpected, But Welcome Visitors

On Friday, May 15, the curators, grounds guys and others were working at the museum preparing for the upcoming Open House. About 3:00, two young women came to the back door – the “way back” door used as a handicap entrance, asking if they could come in. Of course, we were happy to have visitors at any time, but these were special. They were their grandparents, Larry and Joan Joyce, and the young women’s parents who were walking through the village. Larry and Joan Joyce, now living in North Carolina, had grown up in Union Springs. Larry was turning 80 years old. He and his family were traveling together to places he and his wife once lived and were meaningful to them. Larry attended school here and sang in the choir of this building when it was the Presbyterian Church. They found traces of his family throughout the museum. One of his grandmother’s names was shown in the Ladies Leisure Hour Literary Club exhibit. She was one of its founding members. Another grandmother’s name appeared on one of the 19th century petitions posted on the walls of the Forgotten Women’s History Room. As he shared the location of the house in which he grew up, it turned out to be the house in which past museum board member and genealogy researcher, Patti Myska, now resides. Patti was contacted and a message was left for her to return the call. The entire family were excited to tour and joyously examine each room.

We found his grandparents’ names in the family files with at least one picture they had never seen. Patti Myska, who has done extensive research on the history of her house, called back. She and Larry had a long talk about the house, exchanging contact information for future talks. The family was staying in the area and had dinner reservations in Seneca Falls. They were planning to check out a winery on the west side of the lake first. We told them about Quarry Ridge Winery with its view of Farley’s Point and the lake – aware of its proximity to his ancestor’s farms south of the village. One can envision his ancestors driving to and from home to village in horse-drawn wagons along the very road overseen from the winery. Sure enough, one of our curators ran into them as they were coming to visit the winery. They sat out on the lake-facing porch, savoring the view with a glass of the local product. Granddaughter Alison Joyce Nardiello, posted their visit to Union Springs on Facebook at dinner in Buffalo NY where both her grandparents went to the University of Buffalo.

Larry’s granddaughters, who obviously adored their grandfather, bubbled with excitement as they explored his history through the exhibits and records of the museum. What a gift to him their excitement must have been. The visit and their excitement were most certainly a gift to those of us who work at the museum. For this we exist!

GREATER HUDSON GRANT REQUEST

Following a consultation with nationally recognized Westlake Art Conservation Center, located at 6642 East Lake Road in Owasco, the Frontenac Museum has completed a conservation grant request from the Greater Hudson Heritage Center. Following an assessment by Westlake, the William Henry Yates painting of Frontenac Island, generously donated to our collection by Ken Harris, was deemed worthy of conservation. GHHN, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts, administers this

conservation treatment program. Now in its 25th year, the grant program offers support for conservation treatment procedures by professional conservators as well as preservation supplies & collections assessments. In 1996, the Frontenac was fortunate to receive a grant from GHHN to preserve the Andersonville Prison lithograph, which may be viewed in our newly redesigned Thomas Eldred Military History Room.

Celebration of America250 in 2026 Programs!

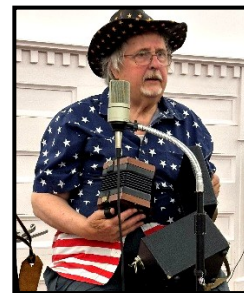
Celebration of our country's beginning provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight history through music, military, environment and local history. A recap of our artists and speakers will give you a flavor of what you heard or what you missed! Two more programs planned, so we hope you will be able to join us.

The season opened on May 16th with an **Open House** to showcase our newly refurbished and designed rooms – the Thomas Eldred Military History Room and the Bilak Genealogy Room. Thanks to the Curating Team, and particularly Paul Pawlaczyk, preparator, for designing the military room.



Spring is coming and so are the summer songbirds! **Dr Stephen Kress** returned in June to tell us about our area songbirds and their behavior, nesting, and fledgling behavior. Beautiful photos highlighted characteristics of each bird and how to identify them. We hope you observed some robins, blue jays, cardinals, nuthatches, chickadees, and a variety of woodpeckers this summer. Migration of some of these birds is in progress right now as they return to warmer climes where food is more available. However, several stay for the winter, so keep looking out your window! They all enjoy black sunflower seeds in the winter for protein and warmth.

In July, **Allen Hopkins**, Folk musician, focused on information of traditional American Roots music during the Revolutionary War. He also shared songs of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He brought a few instruments of the time so we could hear and sing along with songs many of us remembered. This program was supported by a Commemorate250 grant from the City of Auburn Historical and Cultural Sites Commission and the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center.



Our August program was researched and prepared by Union Springs resident, **Diana (Dee) Katovitch** on the Cayuga County Poorhouse. Dee has a PhD from Syracuse University, and her career has been in all levels of education. She addressed what happened to people who were poor, disabled, elderly, or infirm before social safety nets. The Cayuga County Poorhouse in Sennett remained in operation until 1940 and Dee highlighted some of the people who lived there. Fascinating program which made us think about our current safety net programs and how they continue to meet local needs.

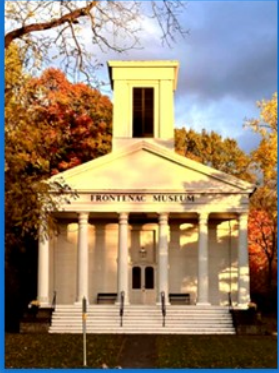
Upcoming Programs – You won't want to miss!

September 13th at 7pm, Joe Sarnicola of Auburn will present a program of songs from the 60's and 70's, sharing the history of these songs. These decades were transformative decades in music featuring rock, pop, soul, folk and disco. Music from this era shaped popular culture and reflected social movements from civil rights to anti-war protests. We hope you will join us!



December will be featuring *Christmas Sing-Along* with **Geoff Clough**. This program will be on **Sunday, December 13th at 4pm**. He will play your favorite songs of the season with unique arrangements while sharing a bit of history and trivia, as well. It's sure to get you in the spirit! Geoff was scheduled last year and had to cancel the day of the program because of a snowstorm in his community of Baldwinsville. He agreed to return this year and share his Christmas spirit!

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**.

Individual Membership **\$15**

Family Membership **\$20**

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.

Will You Help Support the 2026 Raffle?

This year we are offering two donated items for the raffle. The raffle is a way for the museum to support its discretionary funds and projects. Donated by museum member Marilyn Baader is a MacKenzie-Childs Courtly Check Ceramic Teapot. It is a discontinued piece and is valued at \$400. Donated by museum member Pat Kimber are hand-sewn reproduction nesting band boxes. Band boxes were favored by young women who worked in the textile mills of new England villages. They were lightweight, attractive and affordable. They were ideal for mill workers as they could hold clothing and accessories when they traveled home. The boxes were made of pasteboard which were handsewn and covered with wallpaper, as are these.

Tickets are \$2 for one ticket and \$5 for 3 tickets or any multiple of these numbers. The drawing will take place on October 3th. If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Marilyn Baader at 315-406-7921 or the Frontenac Museum at 315-889-7273. Thank you for your consideration!



Frontenac Historical Society and Museum
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