

Historical Society and Museum

Frontenac

Winter 2018



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Saturday, December 1, 2018

- 4:30-5:30 pm: Free hot chocolate and cookies at Karen's Country Confections.
- 5:30-6:00 pm: Tree lighting and caroling at the village Gazebo.
- 6:00 pm: Community Children's Christmas Party at the Frontenac Museum.

FUN HAD BY ALL DURING VILLAGE'S "HALLOWEEN TRAIL" PROGRAM



Curating team members BJ Bellen, Jen Soucy, Joan Parsnick and Faith Heath are seen decorating the former Copperesque shop for Halloween evening. Dozens of ghosts and goblins of all ages stopped by to Trick or Treat safely in several downtown buildings along the Union Springs' "Halloween Trail."

Many thanks to Eric Rosenkrans, who allowed use of his storefront on Cayuga Street for decoration and distribution of treats to the children.

2018 FESTIVAL OF TREES

- **Dates:** November 3rd through December 23rd, 2018
- **Location:** [Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum & Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center](#)
- **Address:** 6880 East Lake Road, Auburn, NY 13021
- **Phone:** [315-252-7644](tel:315-252-7644)
- **Price:** Free parking and admission to the Ag Museum, but donations are appreciated.

The Ag Museum will display over 100 trees for the holidays. Community members, community businesses, Ag Museum staff, and Museum board members have decorated trees with many different and unique themes. There will be lit and old-fashioned trees, real and artificial trees, large trees, small trees, green trees and colored trees. Do not miss it!! Admission and parking are free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Dress warmly, as the actual museum is not heated. Come and enjoy!! Open weekdays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Please stop in and vote for the Frontenac Museum's entry, which highlights the achievements of artists from the Union Springs area.**

CURATING TEAM MEMBER JEN SOUCY HELPS TO DECORATE THE FRONTENAC MUSEUM'S CHRISTMAS TREE ENTRY



~ **UNION SPRINGS COMMUNITY MOURNS PASSING OF MR. BILL RYAN** ~

In Bill Ryan's passing, the Frontenac Museum lost a true friend. Devoted to his community and family, Banker Bill brought integrity and compassion to our midst. When the Museum had the opportunity to receive a Main Street Grant to restore our aging facade, it was Bill who provided a very low interest bridge loan enabling us to complete the project. The result is a beautiful building exterior which represents the pride and caring spirit of Bill and our community. When our ceiling in the main meeting room was in danger of collapse from aging plaster, it was Bill who challenged us to raise \$10,000 which, if successful, would be matched dollar for dollar by Cayuga Lake National Bank. The funds were raised in less than three months and, as a result, the main room continues as a meeting place for programs, community events and our annual children's Christmas Party. We honor and cherish Bill's devotion to preserve our community's past and to better its future.

~ **THE FRONTENAC MUSEUM SADLY LEARNS OF LINDA ZACH'S PASSING** ~

Linda was a strong supporter of the museum and served for many years on the Board of Directors. She held the title of Vice-President and President at a time when it was hard to attract volunteers. She served on the curating team, helping to set up displays and working to acquire new exhibits. One of the most memorable exhibits was her Civil War Hospital Exhibit. She brought in all her medical equipment and supplies from the Civil War era and displayed them proudly. She dressed in an authentic nurse's uniform and answered many questions about each item displayed. Students from A.J. Smith Elementary could not believe their eyes when they saw the display. They came away with a better understanding of

the Civil War and an appreciation for the medical services they had in their lives. They sent thank you letters to Linda. The doll house on display was one of her favorite projects as she enjoyed decorating each room with vintage doll house furniture. She loved setting up the Christmas Display. Linda was an Ordained Minister and opened and closed our annual meeting on several occasions. She did so much for this organization, her church and for the village in general. She will truly be missed.



~ **DEVOTED MUSEUM MEMBER DORA GUERRETTE PASSES AWAY AT AGE 97** ~

Medora ("Dora") Guerrette passed away on August 24th this year at the age of 97. Dora was a past board member and one of our most committed volunteers. In the days when the museum had only recently moved into the old Presbyterian Church building and when we didn't have enough money to heat the building in the winter, Dora would arrive in the morning with her thermos of hot coffee and a sandwich, bundled up against the cold, ready to work all day. We were trying to computerize an inventory of everything in the collection. She would sit at the table endlessly checking the records, and when she couldn't find a listing of the item as a donation she would create a special number for it and put it in the inventory. We call those special numbers "Dora numbers" and still use them today. Dora worked registration at "The Deuce" road race, greeted visitors to the museum as a docent and loved being part of the Christmas party. We were so sorry to see her leave Union Springs but were pleased that Pat Kimber and Pat Deller both stayed in touch with her over the years since she relocated to Florida. She was fortunate to have a large family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were in touch with her often, but we like to think we were her family, too, and we will think of her often and miss hearing from her. She was a loving and delightful lady.

~ **THE INTERESTING STORY OF MOSES WISNER, JR.** ~

While recently completing genealogical research for an inquiry from Iowa, we learned that Moses Wisner Jr. was born in Springport in 1815 to Moses Wisner Sr. and Elizabeth Richardson. Wisner was educated in a one-room school house while working on his family's farm near Oakwood. Two years after moving to Michigan in 1837, he began the study of law in the office of his brother, George.

Although Wisner made his living by practicing law, he retained a love of farming and gardening from his days in Springport. Wisner was active in the anti-slavery movement and was a recognized outspoken critic of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the resulting Missouri Compromise, which allowed slavery in the territories. He was elected Governor of Michigan, serving from 1859-1861. A year after leaving office, Wisner served as a Colonel in the 22nd Michigan Infantry but sadly died of typhoid en route to deployment in the Civil War. How well those early years of education in the Springport schools built the foundation of success for Governor Wisner.

HOWLAND SCHOOL HISTORIC MARKER UNVEILED



The Pomeroy Foundation awarded the Museum \$1100 to erect a historical marker in front of Generations Bank. The Howland School for women, built in 1863, was funded by George Howland for the Moral, Intellectual and Religious Training of Women. Our community has a rich history as the many historical signs around the area demonstrate.

Welcome to new board members Steve and Patty Hanford and Faith Heath! Steve and Patty live in Cayuga, NY, which will allow the Museum to capture history from Cayuga. They came to the Open House in May 2018 and were impressed with the Museum and the breadth of its exhibits. They look forward to being part of "keeping history alive!"

Faith Heath is a senior at USCS and will be the liaison between the school and the museum. Faith's special interest in history has led to her desire to pursue a career in Museum Studies and Library Science upon graduation.

NEW CARPET INSTALLED

The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum was awarded a \$4500 grant from **The Cayuga Foundation** to install carpet in the entry and hall of the exhibit area. The carpet will ensure safe entrance and exit from the building while guests view the exhibits and the works of many local artists.

Dear Members:

The Board of Directors would like to thank our members and volunteers for their support this past year. It allows us to keep history alive in our community. Once again, it is membership time and we would like to share with you the continuing need for dollars to help maintain the building. Currently, there is serious need for a new roof over the exhibit area. The condition of the current roof is poor and porous in spots. A new roof will cost between \$17-18,000 and therefore we are asking our membership to consider increasing their membership gift this year. Designating "Building Fund" for the additional portion of your membership would be a wonderful gift. Thank you for your consideration and continuing support.

JOIN US!

Join the interesting and exciting events that take place at the Frontenac and send in your membership for 2019. If you would like to make a special or memorial gift, contact the Museum at (315) 889-7273.

Membership Levels (please circle one)

- Basic Individual One-Year Membership \$10
- Basic Family One-Year Membership \$15
- Bronze Level Community Activist \$25
- Silver Level Community Leader \$50
- Gold Level Community Angel \$75
- Platinum Level Community Star \$100
- Special Donation in memory of:

Please create my/our membership in the Frontenac Historical Society for 2019.

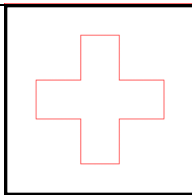
Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email address: _____

Make checks payable to Frontenac Historical Society and Museum and mail to PO Box 338, Union Springs, NY 13160.

The Frontenac is a qualified not-for-profit 501©(3) organization, and contributions may be tax deductible.

NEED A LIFT?

We do! An aerial lift is needed for several days to enable necessary repairs to be made to the bell tower. We have some leaking, which has caused damage to the ceiling in our Main Room. If you have one to loan, know of someone who does or even someone who would rent to us at a reduced rate, please call John Kimber at (315) 889-5875. Thanks.



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
WELCOMES
NEW DONORS**

On October 10th, the Red Cross collected 26 units of blood from 23 donors. The Red Cross was pleased to welcome several new donors.

**FALL CLEANUP DAY AT
THE MUSEUM**

On October 20th, members of the Frontenac Museum gathered to clean the interior and exterior of the building in preparation for the winter months ahead. Leaves were raked, dust flew, and our new carpet was vacuumed. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work."

**LEIGH PARTINGTON AND HER HUSBAND
KEITH GILLIS VISIT THE MUSEUM**



Leigh is the granddaughter of E. Partington, former head of Oakwood School.

CARR FAMILY MEMBERS VISIT FRONTENAC MUSEUM

On July 7, 2018, members of the Carr family came to the Museum to learn more about their family.

The Carr family members who came were:

- Lucinda Carr and Nancy Heim from Colorado
- Carol Merilahti of Ithaca, NY
- Kathy Dobe Call and Mary Ann Dobe of Syracuse, NY

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE