

Frontenac Historical Society and Museum

Summer 2022

www.frontenacmuseum.org

frontenac178@gmail.com

178 Cayuga St., Union Springs, NY 13160



The Frontenac Historical Society and Museum presents:

BEGINNINGS of BUSINESS

Plan to join us on **August 21st at 7:00 pm**, when Claire Morehouse will present an informative and fascinating program on the beginnings of early industry and trade in Union Springs.

Between 1800 and 1870, Union Springs was a booming hub of milling, mining, and shipping. The Village was strategically located as a shipping center. The shore was lined with warehouses, piers, boat yards, and coopers' shops. Mills circled the North Pond. Howland Mill was one of the most productive in the area, encouraging farmers to have their grain ground here and then shipped in locally made barrels. Fashionable homes were being constructed. This was a busy place! Please join us to hear more about this important time in our local history. The program will immediately follow our Annual Meeting, which is open to all. (see below)

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Frontenac Historical Society will be held at **6pm on August 21st** at the Museum. The President's report, the 2021 annual account report, and the installation of new and returning members will be the agenda. Following this meeting, Claire Morehouse will present "Union Springs in the 1800's" at **7 pm**. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the Museum's website often for updates and announcements!

September 17, 2022

2:00 pm

Presenter: Oswego Valley Fiddlers

They perform a little bit of everything: square dance, old-time fiddle, jig and reels, waltzes and gospel. French Canadian and Appalachian styles of music are part of their repertoire. Their ensemble will have six to ten performers, and they'll be playing some non-orchestral instruments like a washtub, spoons, and kazoo.

October 16, 2022

7:00 pm

Presenter: Walt Gable *Haunted Tales, Hoaxes & Strange but True Stories of the Finger Lakes.*

Walt Gable, Seneca Falls Historian, will reveal some of the strange reports and yarns hereabouts. You will hear about ghost stories involving the Seneca Falls Historical Museum, Seward House, the village of Aurora and Wells College, the Montezuma cemetery that contains the remains of many Erie Canal builders, the "white lady" of Belhurst Castle, and a curse involving a serial killer in Ithaca. Then there are the stories about the embalmed whale in Waterloo and the sea serpent in Seneca Lake. The beginnings of the Spiritualism Movement will be tied in with the communities of Newark and Moravia. This will be "fun" way to end our season and set you up for Halloween!



Mary Guy, visiting the Museum's "Remember When" program, inspects a display devoted to Rainbow Girls.

Summer Programs are Outstanding!

Three programs have been offered this season including *Remember When?*, *Lake Sturgeon in Cayuga Lake* and *A Taste of New York*. *Remember When?* took us back to the 1950's with toys and items of that decade. Dial telephones, poodle skirts and 78rpm records! *Tom Brook- ing* spoke on the re-introduction of a keystone fish, the sturgeon, to Cayuga Lake. Sturgeons are prehistoric fish and are protected. Chuck D'Imperio highlighted everyday food products we use today and were invented in Upstate New York. He wrote a book entitled *A Taste of New York* to share the history of these products such as pink striped cookies, grape pies, potato chips and more.



Author Chuck D'Imperio holds a copy of his featured book, "A Taste of Upstate New York."



Students Alex Batruch and Kate Besner take their oaths to join the Frontenac Historical Museum as Board Members.

WELCOME TO STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD!

The Board of the Frontenac Museum is pleased to announce that two students have joined the board. The Frontenac Board reached out to the local high school Yorkers Club and asked if any of the middle or high school students were interested in helping to spread the news of our charming local museum. We received two responses almost immediately. Each student was offered and accepted a seat on our board. Both student members completed their freshman year of high school this year.

(continued) As 8th graders, they placed second and third (in the middle school division) in the creative writing contest co-sponsored by the museum last year. We are excited and proud to have these two young women adding youth and perspective to the Frontenac Museum and its programs.

Alex Batruch has played the violin since she was six. She enjoys books and owns many, both new and old. Alex has always been interested in older things and antiques. She indicated that being a board member at the museum seemed like a great opportunity for her, given her interest in everything antique and unique.

Kate Besner enjoys playing the piano and going to summer camp. She is involved in many clubs at school and keeps busy with the activities that they bring with membership. Kate will be attending a leadership program this summer.

The members of the Frontenac Museum are grateful that Kate and Alex have agreed to serve on our board. We know they will both provide the museum with ideas and enthusiasm that will add to our ability to provide the community with meaningful exhibits and programs.



Volunteer Greta Anderson makes use of water from the Museum's dehumidifiers to nurture the lovely Coral Bells and lilies along the building's south side.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP BRINGS OPPORTUNITY

We are very excited to have Greta Anderson, a recent graduate of Union Springs High School and volunteer student intern, working with our Curating Team this summer. Greta, who will be attending SUNY Oswego in the fall, has quickly learned the responsibilities and procedures for de-accessioning items either in poor condition or not relevant to our collection. As we are facing lack of display and storage space, Greta's work will help free up valuable space, while also insuring we are in compliance with our reporting requirements to the NYS Department of Education.

Additionally, Greta has assumed responsibility for watering our side garden, which was recently upgraded by the addition of three robust Coral Bell plantings donated to the museum by McKissick Farm (formerly Bakers Acres) in North Lansing. McKissick Farm, a division of Cayuga Landscape, offers a wide range of beautiful perennials and plantings for your garden. Our thanks to them for this donation and special thanks to Greta for volunteering!

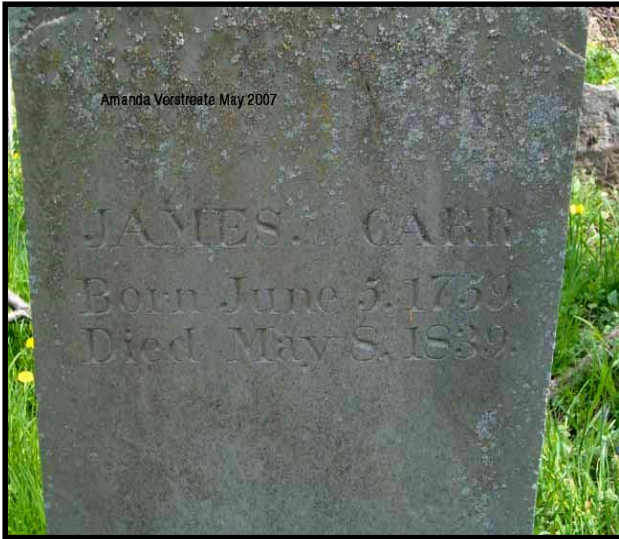
Memories & Stories of Local Residents

Local residents are sharing their memories and stories of Union Springs and the surrounding areas. Check out our website to view the completed videos. You will find a short clip of the interviews on Facebook to alert you to each new interview. Elizabeth Sherman is presently the video documentarian and has begun the interview process. Elizabeth recently graduated from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania with a degree in Theater Arts. While in high school she was a representative on our board for two years. Funding for this project was made possible by a grant from The Cayuga Foundation (McIntosh) Fund.



Claire Morehouse and Elizabeth Sherman discuss local history near a model of the Frontenac, a steamship that once plied the waters of Cayuga Lake.

Patriot Burial Marker Approved!



The Ithaca Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) has received a William T. Pomeroy Foundation Patriot Burial Grant honoring James Carr, Revolutionary War veteran, settler of Carr's Cove and ancestor of the well-known Carr family.

In July 1780 while a resident of Hoosick Falls, NY, Carr enlisted as a substitute for a three month "hitch." Joining a detachment assigned to Ft. Edward, Carr marched to Fort Ann where he joined the company of Capt. Dial Sherwood. In October of 1780, the fort was taken by the British after which Carr, together with the other men of his company, marched on foot to Fort George. From there they continued to march to Ticonderoga and eventually Montreal where they remained prisoners of war until November of 1782 when Carr was released in Castleton, VT to Col. Ira Allen as part of a prisoner exchange. So much for a three month hitch!

The Frontenac is pleased to have initiated the marker application and provided all research, copies of required documentation and photos which enabled the SAR to receive approval for this marker. Through this special series, the Pomeroy Foundation recognizes those who fought in or were involved with the struggle for American independence. The marker will be placed adjacent to the Quaker Cemetery located on Grove St. in Union Springs at a date to be announced.

We are grateful to the Town of Springport, caretakers of the Quaker Cemetery, and to the Ithaca Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for their support of this request. Once the marker is received, a date for its dedication and unveiling will be announced on our Facebook page and website. Stay tuned!



Dale Leone with Betsey Carr's tombstone.

Who Has Been Cleaning the Cemetery Stones in Union Springs?

Dale Leone was caught in the act of performing a public service. Dale is pictured cleaning a stone belonging to Betsy Carr located in the Quaker Cemetery in Union Springs. Dale and his wife Debra have cleaned over 130 stones belonging to family, friends, and strangers that are located in various cemeteries in and around our area. You might want to check out Chestnut Ridge Cemetery and look at the beautiful job that was done cleaning the **Our Soldiers** monument at the entrance to the cemetery, and stones belonging to Dr. Woodford and Bob Sanders.

The secret ingredient that they use to clean the stones is Wet & Forget, some soft brushes and *voila* ...the stone looks like new again. Dale and Debra are very cautious and do not try to clean stones that are in poor condition. They did not try to clean the stone belonging to James Carr in the Quaker Cemetery because of its condition. Extreme care must be taken not to cause any damage. Thank you to our valued Museum members Dale and Debra Leone.



CENTRAL NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Frontenac Museum has been awarded a grant from the Cayuga Community Fund at the Central New York Community Foundation. This grant, in the amount of \$1300, will allow the museum to acquire several archival boxes and a new display case.

As an all-volunteer organization, the Frontenac Museum relies on the generosity of individuals and philanthropic organizations such as the Central New York Community Foundation.

The board of the museum is grateful to the Cayuga Community Fund for their support as we continue to protect our artifacts and further the interest and study of local history in the communities of Cayuga County.

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.

Who Was Harris McIntosh?

by Cindy Scoville

I recently asked this question of a few village residents. From their responses, I decided it was time to write an article about him. Most people recognize the names "Harris" and "McIntosh" as prominent in Cayuga history. The two village parks bear these names. John Harris and Daniel McIntosh were listed among the first white settlers at this end of the lake.

In 1788, Harris settled among the Cayuga Native Americans and started trading with them. Then along with James Bennett, ran a ferry service across Cayuga Lake to Bridgeport (now in Seneca County). Daniel McIntosh settled in Cayuga in 1798 and started a mercantile business in the area now known as West Genesee St. and Center St. Many people are familiar with this information. But did you know that Daniel McIntosh married John Harris' sister, Tabitha?

Daniel and Tabitha had nine children (2 of whom died in infancy). Their second child and first son, John, born in 1809, married Hannah Esterly. John and Hannah's son John Esterly McIntosh became a well-known inventor and businessman who, with James Seymour of Auburn, formed the company McIntosh and Seymour (which later became ALCO).

John Esterly McIntosh married Mary Louella Whitbeck. Harris McIntosh was their son. Harris grew up in Cayuga, went on to attend Yale, and later moved to Ohio where he became the president of Toledo Scale (1946-1968). It was he who (with his siblings) donated the park properties to the Village of Cayuga. The foundation established by the family continues to help fund our parks to this day. Village residents also benefit from the McIntosh Foundation which is available to families with serious medical needs.

The family also owns property south of Union Springs which has been preserved in what is now known as the Great Gully Conservancy, under the watchful eye of Daniel McIntosh, who is the son of Harris McIntosh. Harris McIntosh died in 1982 in Ohio and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Cayuga. The Frontenac Historical Society is also a beneficiary of The Cayuga Foundation, for which we are most grateful.

Frontenac Historical Society
PO Box 338
Union Springs, NY 13160

PLACE
STAMP
HERE