

# FORT EDWARD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 106, 29 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

oldfort@albany.twcbc.com

www.oldforthousemuseum.com

Serving Fort Edward, Hudson Falls, Kingsbury & Surrounding Communities

Since 1925

Dear Members & Friends:

Spring 2025

This year is bound to be a pivotal year for the Fort Edward Historical Association. Our founding took place in 1925, as a group of people first met in the St. James Church parish house, followed by another meeting held in the Village of Fort Edward rooms located upstairs over the Engine House (Fire House). From the third meeting (in 1926) we have a list of original members, which we have published in this letter. Many of the Founders have generational membership, as their descendants continue to support our organization. For our One Hundred Year Anniversary, we are planning a celebratory dinner in November. The Anvil Inn, as it was called in 1975, was the scene of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Our 75<sup>th</sup> was held at The Oaks at Fort Hudson, which at that time was not fully occupied.

Meanwhile, we are gearing up for our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. On May 17-18, we will have a Living History Weekend. The 125<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Civil War Reenactors from Troy will be encamped on the North lawn, along with a British and American Patriot group who will be camped on the property. There will be Historical Displays, Exhibits and Demonstrations on the museum grounds each day and refreshments will be available. On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>, Adirondack A Cappella (a division of Adirondack Voices) will perform on the lawn at 1:00 pm and Debbie Bailey will portray the Baroness Frederika Von Riedesel (telling her tale from her visit here in 1777) at 3pm.

In July we will do a cemetery walk in Union Cemetery to benefit the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Our Annual Auction was brought back last year. This year's auction will take place on July 26<sup>th</sup> with Martin Seelye as our auctioneer. We will be participating at the Washington County Fair, August 18-24. You can stop by and visit our booth in the Community Living & Grange building.

In December, we will have two events. First, after many years, we will celebrate Christmas as in the past years with our Customs of Christmas Past exhibit. The Fort House, Law Office, Gift Shop and Dutch House will be decorated with Christmas displays and exhibits. We will also host some evening Candlelight Tours. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, a parade will take place from Fort Edward School to the Museum to commemorate the Knox Trail led by General Henry Knox in December of 1775.

I look forward to seeing you all during this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season!

Sincerely,

R. Paul McCarty  
Executive Director



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The Fort Edward Historical Association was founded 100 years ago in 1925. At that time, the President of the Association was Dr. Silas J. Banker, who would also later succeed the late A.H. Bunnell as local historian. Other members of the original board include Willard Robinson (1st V. Pres.), A.R. Wing (2nd V. Pres.), Jay Vaughn (3rd V. Pres.), William H. Hill (4th V. Pres.), Sue E. Wade (Secretary), and Robert Savage (Treasurer). At this time annual membership dues were \$1.00 per year.

State Historian of the time, Dr. Alexander Flick, was quoted:

“No part of the State was richer in historical events than this locality and the enactment of the Jane McCrea episode each year would make Fort Edward famous as a historical Village. He urged the people of Fort Edward to support the newly formed organization.”

### **The Founding Members of the Fort Edward Historical Association**

Banker, Dr. Silas J. Banker, Mrs. S. Barber, Mr. Franklin Bascom, Mr. Wyman Blackall, Mr. E. Blackall, Mrs. E.J. Bowtell, Mr. Chas. Carswell, Mr. Chas. Carswell, Mrs. Chas. Case, Mr. A. Champlin, Mrs. Grace Contryman, Mr. O. Corkran, Dr. Corkran, Mrs. D.H. Davis, Mr. F.A. Davis, Mrs. F.A. Deforest, Mrs. Lucy Donnell, Mr. W. Dunn, Mrs. James Githens, Dr. W.L. Goodfellow, Mrs. Joseph Harrington, Mr. W.W. Harris, Mrs. C.C. Hilfinger, Mr. Alex Hill, Mr. William H. Hill, Mrs. A.P. Hill, Mrs. W.H. Howland, Mrs. L.M. Hoysradt, Mr. F. Loughlin, Mr. Frank Loughlin, Mr. T. Loughlin, Mrs. Frank Lustig, Mr. H. Lustig, Mrs. H. Martin, Mrs. Nellie H. McChesney, Mrs. J.	McMurray, Mr. John McMurray, Mrs. John Milliman, Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mrs. O. Montgomery, Mr. Howard Montgomery, Mrs. L Moran, Miss M. Newell, Mr. Fay Newell, Mrs. Fay. North, Mr. E.C. Oppenheim, Mr. Monroe Oppenheim, Mrs. M. Oppenheim, Mrs. Rachel Ottman, Miss A. Potter, Mrs. E.L. Robinson, Miss A. Robinson, Mr. Willard Savage, Mr. Robert Shannon, Miss E. Simpson, Mrs. Frank Snyder, Mrs. John Stowell, Mr. Tasker, Mrs. E.V. Tillotson, Dr. B. Tillotson, Mrs. B.C. Tinkey, Mr. Alex Turney, Mrs. F. Vaughn, Mr. Jay Viele, Mr. Jay Viele, Mrs. Jay Wade, Miss Sue Wing, Miss D. Wing, Mr. Asa R. Wetherbee, Mr. L Wetherbee, Mrs. L
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## Lafayette's Farewell Tour

The Marquis de Lafayette was invited by U.S. president James Monroe and Congress to visit the United States for what would become his Farewell Tour from August 1824 to September 1825. Accompanied by his secretary Auguste Levasseur, General Lafayette visited all 24 states of the Union, and his itinerary has been mapped by various organization such as The American Friends of Lafayette available at <https://lafayette200.org/>. As 2024/2025 represents the bicentennial of Lafayette's visit and his stops at various localities in New York State are cited in Levasseur's diary, as well as other contemporary accounts of the trip, the question is to substantiate the date and extent of his visit to Sandy Hill, a visit that has been the subject of local historical lore.

A newspaper article "The Visit of Lafayette" in the June 18, 1925, Hudson Falls Herald has an extensive account of a program celebrating the centennial of General Lafayette's visit to Sandy Hill in June 1825. The program included: the unveiling of the tablet in the park honoring Lafayette's service to our country; a parade to the Whitehall bridge to meet "General Lafayette;" welcome speeches including one by "Captain Elijah Murphey," along with a host of distinguished guests. "General Lafayette" then responded to this welcome by providing a few remarks. Mrs. Preston Paris, regent of the Jane McCrea Chapter, presented to the assembled audience the gloves worn by Delight Lamb, when she shook hands with LaFayette in 1825. *(We have made arrangements with the Folk Life Center at Crandall Library to display the gloves as part of a small LaFayette exhibit that we will have at the Fort House this summer)*

Questions remain regarding the extent of General Lafayette's visit to Sandy Hill. A partial newspaper clipping dated July 5, 1825, regarding the arrival of Lafayette in Sandy Hill states "On Thursday afternoon last, the arrival of GEN. LAFAYETTE and son in this village (accompanied by Gov. Van Ness of Vt.) was announced by the discharge of cannon. We regret that in consequence of the short notice had of his intention to pass [end of text]."

Another newspaper clipping with the heading "Lafayette Here 117 Years Ago" states that an article on Lafayette's visit on Thursday, June 30, 1825, was in a weekly newspaper dated July 5, 1825 "now in the possession of Ralph C. Baily, Preston St, who cherishes it as a priceless possession." It continues that in the afternoon of that day General Lafayette accompanied by Governor Van Ness of Vermont arrived in Sandy Hill with horse drawn vehicles. His coming, the article states, was announced by the discharge of a cannon. During his brief visit, Lafayette met with a Mr. Laraway of Sandy Hill, an old soldier present at the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown. The article continues that a short address was delivered by R. Weston and that Lafayette replied to this welcome. Then, following dinner, General Lafayette continued south on his journey.

According to the June/July 1825 itinerary, General Lafayette's entourage was in Burlington, VT on June 29, in Whitehall and Schuylerville on June 30 and in Troy on July 1. His secretary Auguste Levasseur documented that "Towards the middle of the night, General Lafayette left the City of Burlington [June 29, 1825]...where there awaited him two steamships...he boarded...We arrived at Whitehall the next day, June 30 toward midday...We were able to stay for only a moment with the inhabitants of Whitehall who, having furnished us with good carriages and excellent horses, enabled us to traverse rapidly the 80 miles that separated us from Albany...after sunset we crossed Fish Creek, and we stopped for a few moments at the home of Mr. Schuyler...After some time spent with Mr. Schuyler's family, we left to sleep at a nearby town and on the following day we continued our trip by a route that meandered along the Hudson...."

(Continued on page 4)

## Lafayette's Farewell Tour Cont'd

Additional contemporary accounts by Frederick Butler and Amos Andrew Parker highlight visits to only larger urban areas and express regret that the limits of their work do not allow for descriptions of all the events that awaited Lafayette throughout the tour.

Based on Lavasseur's account, it can be assumed that General Lafayette's group traveled from Whitehall to Troy following the old military road which would have passed through Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. This information plus the newspaper accounts does corroborate that General Lafayette traveled through this area on June 30, 1825. What needs further investigation is the extent of his visit, who he met, and how long he stayed given the distance between Whitehall and Schuylerville and the rigorous overland travel conditions of that day.

Maureen (Culligan) Zajkowski

February 25, 2025

### Citations Used:

"General Lafayette impersonated by Frederick B. Richards of Glens Falls.

Captain Elijah Murphey represented by County Judge Erskine C. Rogers.

While the Sandy Hill Herald began publication in 1825, accessible local holdings begin in 1827.

This clipping has no source or date associated with it. However, there is an article (though difficult to read) on page 6 of the Glens Falls Times, 30 June 1942 with the title "General Lafayette Here 117 Years Ago" listed in NYS Historic Newspapers at <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=lgf19420630-01.1.6>

Auguste Levasseur. Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, Journal of a Voyage to the United States. Manchester, NH : Lafayette Press, Inc. Original in French 1829. Translated by Alan R. Hoffman, 2006. p.519-520

Frederick Butler. Memoirs of the Marquis De La Fayette, Major-General in the Revolutionary Army of the United States of America, Together with His Tour Through the United States (1825)

Amos Andrew Parker. Recollections of General Lafayette on His Visit to the United States in 1824 and 1825 (1879)

Additional Source:

American Battlefield Trust The Lafayette Trail: Mapping General Lafayette's Farewell Tour in the United States (1824-1825) <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/lafayette-trail-mapping-general-lafayettes-farewell-tour-united-states-1824-1825#:~:text=Marquis%20de%20Lafayette%20in%201825,the%20United%20States%20of%20America.>

### Note from the Director: SPECIAL EXHIBIT

A special exhibit about LaFayette, who passed through here in 1825, will be displayed in the Dutch House in the Alfred Z. Solomon Gallery this year. We will also showcase some recent acquisitions to our collection. Most of the display will be in place before our Living History Weekend (May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) and the final touches will be finished in time for our season opening on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope to see you Here!

## **2025 Season Information**

**June 1 - August 31:** Old Fort House Museum Campus & Gift Shop for tours 1:00 pm daily.  
**Closed National Holidays** 29 Broadway (Rte 4), Fort Edward **Last tour begins at 4:00 pm.**

**September 1 - October 12:** Old Fort House Museum & Gift Shop  
**Open Tuesday - Sunday 1:00 pm, Closed National Holidays & Mondays** (in the Fall)  
29 Broadway (Rte 4), Fort Edward. **Last tour begins at 4:00 pm.**

**The John P. Burke Research Center, 22 Broadway (Rte 4), Fort Edward**  
Open to the public (**by appointment**) for research on a wide variety of local historical topics. **Appointments are available.** Call 518-747-9600 for details.

### **Museum Admission**

Adults: \$10.00

Children ages 13-18: \$3.00 (*Children under 13 accompanied by an adult are FREE*)

Family Rate (Includes 2 adults & children): \$22.00;

Senior (65+): \$8.00 / Military (*with ID*): \$8.00

**Members: FREE**

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## **Volunteer Workshops—May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Every year we depend on Volunteers for help with many different areas of Museum needs. Our collections need constant work, we need guides for fieldtrips, docents (guides) for in-season tours of the Museum Campus, volunteers for fundraising events and hall sitters for Museum security. We will train, you can work in any position!

We will be holding our 2025 Volunteer Workshop for these positions on:

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**

**Workshops will be held at the Old Fort House Museum** for anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer. If these dates and times don't work for your schedule, don't worry! We can fit you in based on your schedule. For further information, please call **518-747-9600** or email us at **oldfort@albany.twcbc.com**.

## ENDOWMENT MEMORIALS

### **Karen McCarty Baxter**

Mary and James Doty  
R. Paul and Kathleen McCarty  
Ann Sullivan

### **Anne Gallup**

Claire Suminski

### **Herbert Hanson**

R. Paul and Kathleen McCarty  
Mary R. Smith

### **Joan LaSarso**

Nicholas LaSarso

### **Doris "Dee" Ann Morrison**

R. Paul and Kathleen McCarty

### **Russell Spicer**

Diana Spicer Kelley

### **Horst "Fred" Wehner**

Mary Ellen Russo  
Norman & Lisa Wehner

In Fondest Memory of our members & friends  
who have passed away since our Spring 2024  
Newsletter, and who have not received  
previously acknowledgement.

**Charles Bailey**

**Helen Fountaine**

**Karen McCarty Baxter**

**Herbert Hanson**

**Doris 'Dee' Ann Morrison**

*Endowment Memorials or Honorariums may be made to the Fort Edward Historical Association at any time! The donors are acknowledged and the family of the deceased is provided a list of donor names and addresses.*

## 2025 Officers, Trustees, and Staff

### **2025 Officers:**

**President**  
Elizabeth O'Leary

**Vice President**  
Tina Ovitt

**Secretary Pro-Tem**  
Kathleen McCarty

**Treasurer**  
Lawrence Konopka

**Executive Director**  
R. Paul McCarty

### **Trustees:**

Susan Brennan [on leave]

Edmund Brooks

Peggy Currie

Robert Dickinson

James Doty

Clinton Roods

Mary R. Smith

John Weber

### **Archives:**

Maureen Culligan Zajkowski

Mary Smith

Janet Hanson

### **Trustee Emeritus**

Joyce Clary

JoAnn Taylor

### **Education Director**

Susanne Dumas

## 2025 Fundraising Auction

We are happy to accept good, clean merchandise for our various fundraising activities throughout the season. For the Annual Auction, please donate collectibles, small furniture (nothing overstuffed), glassware, Christmas (mugs especially), planters, antique hardware and tools, artwork, local pottery, local history books, etc. No electronics. For more information or to donate to our fundraisers, contact us at:

Phone: 518-747-9600.

Email: [oldfort@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:oldfort@albany.twcbc.com)

## 2024 - 2025 ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

WE GRATEFULLY THANK ALL THOSE LISTED BELOW FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION

Janet and Richard Aradine	Mary Enhorning	Donna Leonard	Morgan & Diane Snyder
Mary Ellen Barlow	Mark Frost & Sandra Hutchinson	Tupper Clark Limbert	Ann Sullivan
Sally Brillon	Griffin Engineering & Supply Co.	R. Paul & Kathleen McCarty	Phillip Sullivan
Ed and Anne Carpenter	Sarah Hall	Carol Mullen	John & Chris Strough
Bob Dickinson	Christine Pickett Hardin	Elizabeth & Terrence O'Leary	Charles and Candace Wait
James & Mary Doty	Angela Harris	Carolyn & Bob Rudolph	Robert & Maureen Zajkowski
Deborah Eberhart	Lynda Karig Hohmann	David & Priscilla Sanderspre	Washington County Historical Soc.
Joan Ells	Lawrence Konopka	Mary R. Smith	David S. & Janet R. Sheridan Foundation

FEHA membership is based on the calendar year, which means 2025 dues are now payable. Members receive free admission for tours of the museum campus, as well as all association mailings and invitations to all special programs and events. Additionally, members are given a 10% discount in our gift shop. Please bring your membership card to ensure you are eligible for the discounts.

## 2025 FEHA BUDGET

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2025</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2024</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2025</u>
<b>Endowment</b>	\$46,800.00	\$47,600.00	<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	\$12,900.00	\$16,200.00
<b>Fundraising</b>	\$17,000.00	\$22,984.00	<b>Insurance &amp; Taxes</b>	\$16,600.00	\$18,840.00
<b>Municipal Funding</b>	\$14,500.00	\$16,000.00	<b>Utilities</b>	\$8,375.00	\$8,890.00
<b>Dues</b>	\$11,000.00	\$12,600.00	<b>Education</b>	\$650.00	\$500.00
<b>Museum</b>	\$12,957.00	\$12,400.00	<b>Museum Collection</b>	\$3,430.00	\$3,430.00
<b>Art Center Awards</b>	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	<b>Art Center Awards</b>	\$3,100.00	\$3,200.00
<b>Education</b>	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	<b>Office</b>	\$11,700.00	\$11,550.00
<b>Administrative</b>	\$500.00	\$26.00	<b>Personnel</b>	\$52,502.00	\$53,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,257.00</b>	<b>\$115,610.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,257.00</b>	<b>\$115,610.00</b>

### BUDGET NOTES

Our Annual Appeal Fund Drive occurs at the end of each year. Funds generated from this appeal are held over until the next fiscal year for the various projects covered. Our budget has increased over the years, however, expenses have increased especially with utilities. Since we are considered a business, we pay a commercial rate for our utilities. Additionally, we have several of our furnaces which are aging out. Fortunately, we are able to replace them with a more energy efficient model which should save us money in the future. Our utility provider compensates us with a rebate. We will continue to maintain our buildings in a prudent manner, probably for the foreseeable future as we demonstrate our Scottish Heritage of frugality. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Sandy Hill Foundation this year to replace our aging furnace (from the 1990's) in the Old Fort House Museum, which is one of two heating furnaces in the building.

## 2025 FEHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 10, 7:00 pm, Sr. Art Show and Scholarship Competition at the Sandy Hill Art Center.** Presentation of Scholarship Awards at the Sandy Hill Art Center. Reception opens at 6:30 pm, awards begin at 7pm.

**April 23, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, SUNY ACC - Rogers Island Walking Tour.**

Join us for a walking tour of the site of the island barracks, monuments and graveyard, and tour the Visitors Center exhibits and collection. For reservations and more information, please contact the Department of Continuing Education at ACC. Reservations are required.

**May 2-4, Antique Fair/Flea Market**

Come find our Booth in Building 21 (Antiques, collectibles, glass, china, small furniture (all sales to benefit FEHA) at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Early Buyer (May 2) Admission \$10, Weekend Admission \$5 (each day). Friday 7am-4pm, Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm.

**May 14, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, SUNY ACC Fort Edward**

**Walking Tour.** Walk the roadway from Bridge St to Mill and Liberty St and reflect on the evolution of a typical N.E. town to a canyon of buildings housing all manners of businesses and services for a bustling community. The village's Central Business District was a perfect 1950's community which is gradually disappearing. Meet in front of the Wing-Northup House at 167 Broadway across from St Joseph's Church. For reservations and more info, please contact the Department of Continuing Education at ACC.

**Reservations Required.**

**May 17-18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Living History Weekend and Spring Garage Sale , 25 & 29 Broadway, Fort Edward.** Demonstrations by artisans, reenactments, original and replica tools and innovations, interactive learning exhibits related to Colonial Life. ADK A Cappella will be performing at 1:00pm along with a portrayal of the **Baroness Von Riedesel** by **Debbie Bailey** at 3:00pm. We will also be hosting the **125<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Infantry Regimental Association** for an encampment on the property. Refreshments will be available. **Garage Sale will be on 5/17 : 9-3.**

**June 5, Thursday Afternoon Riverside School Bell Awards Ceremony & Reception**

Recognition of Outstanding Retired Area Educators, 29 Broadway, Fort Edward. Reception begins at 4:00pm, Awards at 5:00pm. Public Welcome-Admission \$10.00. Call 518-747-9600 for Reservations.

**July 8, 7:00-8:00pm Walking Tour of Union Cemetery.**

Please join Executive Director, Paul McCarty, and Historical Association President, Elizabeth O'Leary, for a walking tour of Union Cemetery, covering the founding of the cemetery through the Civil War with special highlights on the early families of Fort Edward & Sandy Hill. Goodwill donations to benefit the Washington County 250th Committee will be accepted.

**July 26, Annual Auction,**

**29 Broadway, US Rte 4 Arts & crafts, antiques & collectibles, vendors, books, plants, garage sale, 9:00 am-3:00 pm.** The museum Gift Shop will be open. Refreshments available, as well as tours of the museum campus. **Auction begins at 10:00 am.** (preview 9:00 am) with **MARTIN SEELYE - Auctioneer.** The Auction will be around 1.5 hours in length. Bring a chair. Call 518.747.9600 or visit our website for more information.

**August 18-24, Visit us at the Washington County Fair in the Community Living & Grange Building.** Watch for our display of books and other items for sale.

**September 13, Fort Edward Founders Day Festival**

Parade 1-3 pm. Old Fort House will be open: 3-5 pm. Special Admission.

**October 10—12, Antique Fair and Flea Market.**

Join us at the Washington County Fairgrounds for the Antique Fair and Flea Market. Early Buyer Admission \$10, Weekend Admission \$5 (each day). Friday 7am-4pm, Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm.

**November TBD, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Dinner meeting celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association's Founding.

**Reservations Required:  
518-747-9600.**

**Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm-4 pm, ACC Wreath Making Classes & Centerpiece Making Classes**

Join us at the Fort Edward Art Center for a lesson on making balsam wreaths and centerpieces. For reservations and more information, please contact the Department of Continuing Education at ACC. **Reservations Required.**

**December 6, Christmas at the Old Fort House Museum.**

Historical Christmas decorations and displays in the Old Fort House Museum. Open Thursdays-Sundays throughout December. Visit our website for more information.

**December 13, Knox Trail Trek.**

In celebration of our country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Cannons Parade from Fort Edward School to the Old Fort House Museum on the Knox Trail. Wreaths will be laid at the Monuments: in front of the Hudson Falls Library, Fort Edward School, and Fort Miller Canal Lock Road. The Fort House will be open extended hours for the celebration, 10 am-4 pm.



We are especially grateful for the support of our volunteers, who are not just members, some are local familiar faces. Without the support of our community, we wouldn't be able to do the things we do or have such a lovely campus.

These people include, but are not limited to:

Charlene Bell	Wayne & Debbie Durkee	Kathleen McCarty	Martin Seelye
Joe Brable	Margy M. Foote	JoAnn Mercurio	Caroline Sgorraro
Kathy & John Brown	Lynn Gorham	Mary Joy Mosher	Gayle Smith
Jane Burns	Cheryl Roods Hall	Caroline Mullen	Mary T. & Mary R. Smith
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Kathy Cornell	Larry Konopka	Shirley Restau	Tim Watkins
Peggie Currie	Donna Lacque	Clint Roods	John Weber
Bob Dickinson	Peter Leonard & Bobbi McAleese	Joe Rosch	Mary Ellen Williams
Jim Doty	Brian McCarty	Elaine Saltsman	Maureen Zajkowski

### **Note from the President**

I am still enjoying my retirement, being here at my “happy place”! I am still scanning negatives—I am maybe halfway through the alphabet. We are gearing up for school programs and field trips, both of which I loved when I worked here and am thrilled to be doing again. We have lots of things coming up on our calendar of events that you will enjoy seeing and participating in. Also we are in dire need of volunteers. We need everything from building sitters, to volunteers for events to help with food/plants sales and parking, and helpers for accessioning items into the collection. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with field trips during the Spring or as museum guides during the season (We will train you!). Those with a green thumb are encouraged to volunteer in our gardens. We will take as little or as much free time as you have to give! I will make sure that you will have fun here, no matter what you do. Please come and support us. I guarantee you will love it!

Elizabeth O’Leary, President

# 2024 MEMBERSHIP

SPRING 2025

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Mr. & Mrs. Rik Alexanderson  
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Elaine Altizio  
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Elizabeth Barett  
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## The Legacy of Mary Jane Ellis

Mary Jane Ellis was 94 years old when she passed away on February 15th, 2023 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her parents were Roscoe C. and Barbara (Hall) Ellis. She graduated from Argyle High, received a Bachelors of Science degree from Pratt Institute in 1949, and a Masters degree from Cornell University.

Mary Jane belonged to many historical organizations, including the Fort Edward Historical Association. She retired from Saratoga County Cooperative Extension in 1988 and then began leading a team of people to work in our archive one day a week (Wednesday) from 9:00 am -3:00 pm, with a lunch hour. She and her group processed several historical collections, beginning with the Stone Photography Collection and the James R. Cronkhite Collection. As these two collections were organized, the Wednesday Research Group grew to include Barb Shivka, Kate Crotty, Shirley Dolphin, Jo Betsy Wade, Mary T. Smith, Dorothy "Duff" Joiner, and Sharon O'Toole.

Prior to Mary Jane's arrival, Janet Hanson started out with a small group working on Mondays in the Fall of 1985. Her Monday Research Group consisted of Marguerite DuFore, Mamie Varney, and Lois Kirk. Janet was a retired librarian from the Hudson Falls Middle School. Mary Jane and Janet often collaborated and as the Research Center got too full, it was decided to split off the photograph collection and place it in the Gilmore House at 25 Broadway. This lasted several years before we moved most of the Stone Collection up to the Fort Edward Art Center (83 Broadway). Mary Jane still oversaw the flat files, while Janet supervised the photo collection and our newspaper files.

Mary Jane left us part of her estate, along with several books, binders and miscellaneous papers. The Ellis addition to our Endowment, will enable us to expand our staffing.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fort Edward Historical Association Membership Application

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circle if applicable

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