

FORT EDWARD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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

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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 50th Anniversary Dinner. Our 75th was held at The Oaks at Fort Hudson, which at that time was not fully occupied.

Meanwhile, we are gearing up for our 250th Anniversary Committee. On May 17-18, we will have a Living History Weekend. The 125th 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 17th, 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 250th Anniversary Committee. Our Annual Auction was brought back last year. This year's auction will take place on July 26th 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 13th, 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 100th Anniversary Season!

Sincerely,

R. Paul McCarty
R. Paul McCarty
Executive Director



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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

Volunteer Workshops—May 31st and June 7th

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 31st at 11:00 am

June 7th 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.

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

Name(s) _____ circle if applicable
 Address _____ GIFT: Y / N
 ANONYMOUS: Y / N
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Individual

- \$1,000.00 Life Membership (Single)
- \$ 500.00 Sustaining Member
- \$ 250.00 Supporting Member
- \$ 100.00 Contributing Member
- \$ 50.00 Patron
- \$ 35.00 Family (#___)
- \$ 25.00 Individual Membership
- \$ 20.00 Student/Senior Membership

Corporate

- \$5,000.00 Platinum Sponsor
- \$1,000.00 Gold Pacesetter
- \$ 750.00 Benefactor
- \$ 500.00 Sustaining
- \$ 300.00 Supporting
- \$ 200.00 Contributing
- \$ 100.00 Corporate Patron
- \$ 1-99.00 Friend

\$ _____ ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION

New Member Renewal _____ Date