

EARLY SUMMER 2025

THE ARCHIVE

Preserving Esperance's history for future generations



REMEMBERING MARY TERPENING

Mary Terpening may have made her home in Arizona, but her heart was never far from Esperance. She's pictured above with her mother, in a photo from the 2005 Esperance-Sloansville Methodist Church Directory.

Mary's connection to the Esperance Historical Society ran deep. Her mother, Dorothy Rockwell Edwards, was the Society's first permanent president. "Mary was a longtime supporter of the museum," said Ken Jones. "She lived in Arizona and would work on cataloging our collection when she was here visiting family. At times, this was the only cataloging help we had."

Andrea Oliver remembered, "She taught me how to catalog and made me type up those cards on a manual portable typewriter! A very unwilling newbie volunteer!" But Mary's guidance left its mark, both on the museum and on those who worked alongside her.

Even brief encounters with Mary were memorable. "I only met her once at a Soup and Stroll," said Scott Lavigne, "but I still remember how kindly she spoke to me like we'd known each other for years."

An avid reader, Linda Feuz recalls Mary's personal library topping more than 3,000 books.

Mary passed away in Tucson, Arizona, on May 8, 2025, at the age of 83.

We are grateful for Mary's companionship and her part in preserving the story of Esperance. We're also honored that her family chose the Historical Society for memorial donations. If you wish to make a gift in Mary's memory, donations may be sent to the Esperance Historical Society, 123 Church Street, Esperance, NY 12066.

CALENDAR

July 17, 2025

Family Home Run Day: Kids can try stitching a felt baseball. 1-4 pm at the Museum.

July 19, 2025

Join Maxine Christman for an engaging presentation on the World War II Code Talkers. 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church.

August 10, 2025

Join Rick Christman for a discussion on building the new Blenheim bridge. 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church.

August 23, 2025

Remembering Esperance: Readers' Theatre Presentation. 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church.

August 24, 2025

Vintage scrapbooks on display at the Museum from 1-4 pm.



The Archive is the official newsletter of the Esperance Historical Society and Museum.

MEMORIAL DAY 2025: HONORING THE PAST, CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



Memorial Day in Esperance was one to remember. From patriotic music to heartfelt tributes, and plenty of red, white, and blue.

Sandy shared that while enjoying lunch at the church hall, she and Willard were interviewed by a reporter from The Mountain Eagle. The journalist spent quite a bit of time chatting with them, snapping photos, and later invited them to join the Gordon's for a group shot, which turned out to be some excellent publicity for the Historical Society.

Meanwhile, the Museum welcomed a steady stream of visitors. Andrea, Sandy and Scott greeted guests throughout the day, including several families. Many visitors commented on the improved accessibility and new floor in the Carriage Barn.

Out on the parade route, Victoria O'Milne and Linda Feuz carried the Esperance Historical Society and Museum banner. Dressed in coordinated red, white, and blue; they were welcomed with waves, applause, and cheers. Just behind them, Alexandria (our newest board member) and her patriotic pup Georgie were crowd favorites, especially among the kids.

Music played a big part in the day, too. Andrea gave a special thanks to Amber Dickson, organist at the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, who pulled together a surprise "pop-up choir." The group delivered stirring renditions of The Battle Hymn of the Republic and The Star-Spangled Banner from the church steps. Andrea said, "It reminds me that it's up to all of us to keep traditions, make new ones, and bring a sense of community to our world."

Rounding out the day, Tom Slater and his band delivered a fantastic performance. "They sounded great," Sandy said. "I wished I could have stayed longer—I really hope they'll be back next year." Ken added that the other gentleman performing with Tom was Brendan, the pastor's husband, who has his own band as well.

Whether it was the parade, the Museum, or the church steps filled with music, Memorial Day 2025 was a perfect example of what makes our village special. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped keep the spirit of the day alive.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 102ND BIRTHDAY, EVIE HEWETT!



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

We're so grateful to Heather Skinner of The Mountain Eagle for the fantastic coverage of our museum in the June 26th issue. Thank you for helping us share our story!



LOOK WHAT'S COOKIN'

We're cooking up something new - a fresh cookbook filled with cozy soups and homemade bread recipes - and we want your help to make it delicious!

Do you have a favorite recipe that warms you up on a chilly day? Maybe it's Grandma's potato leek soup or the no-fail bread you always bake for guests. Whatever it is, we'd love to include it!

Here's what we're looking for:

- New recipes only, please (not ones that you might have shared for our 2018 cookbook)
- Be sure to include the recipe name, a complete list of ingredients, detailed instructions, and your name
- Recipes should be typed; a Word doc, typed email, or even a copy-paste-able PDF is perfect
- Please don't send photos of recipes (like JPGs)—we can't extract the text from them

Email your recipe to:

esperancehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Deadline: Please send your recipe by Friday, August 15th.

This is a fun way to share our favorite comfort foods. We hope you'll be part of it!



JOIN US FOR "REMEMBERING ESPERANCE"

Step back in time with a play written in the 1970s by historian Dorothy Edwards.

Set in an Esperance living room in the early 1930s, the story features nine women reminiscing about village life. Blending details from three eras (*updated with a dash of 2025*), Dorothy's script offers an informative and entertaining glimpse into Esperance's history. Even our board members learned something new!

Performed in Readers' Theatre style, think of it like an old-time radio show, with scripts in hand, and a microphone at center stage.

Location: 2 pm at the Presbyterian Church. Free admission – all are welcome!

We're still looking for a few more performers. If you're interested, contact Willard Martin at willardm1947@yahoo.com.

