

FALL 2025

THE ARCHIVE

Preserving Esperance's history for future generations



REMEMBERING ESPERANCE: A FULL HOUSE OF HISTORY AND LAUGHTER

We're so grateful to our guests, performers, and Willard Martin for helping bring Remembering Esperance to life on Saturday, August 23.

It was a wonderful afternoon; a full house, stories of our village's history, and more than a few good laughs along the way. And if you were there, you'll remember: "We have ____ in our museum." From bottles to farm equipment... if you know, you know!

The play was originally written in 1970 by Dorothy Edwards, the first permanent President of the Historical Society. The story centers on neighbors reminiscing about life in the 1930s, while also recalling tales passed down from the turn of the century. To keep it fresh, Willard Martin added updates that connected the script to 2025. A thoughtful blend of past and present, and if you're trying to keep track, yes, it covered four different time periods!

The cast featured Linda Feuz as Dorothy Edwards, Sarah Grantier as Inez Frisbee, Verelyn Robertson as Flora VanNatta, Matthew Worcester as Kent Frisbee, Jr., Venus Louise as Adah Rockwell and Florence Montanye, Sharon Aikenson as Alice Markle, Sarah Worcester as Lorena Eckart, Rachel Jeffers as Grace Easton, Sarah Goodrich as Ena Fero, Diana Largeteau as Laura Montanye, and Sean Jordan as Amy Clayton.

The program closed with the cast singing, which felt like the perfect ending to a memorable afternoon.

CALENDAR

October 11, 2025

5th Annual Soup and Stroll: guided walking tour of Esperance's street names and their connection to Revolutionary War Veterans. Afterward, enjoy delicious homemade soups at the Methodist Church. Follow our Facebook page for more announcements about this event.

December 6, 2025

Christmas in Esperance: Decorated trees, homemade cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, raffles, carols in the Esperance Presbyterian Church, and much more! Follow our Facebook page for more announcements about this event.

May 25, 2026

Memorial Day: Museum opens for the season.



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

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF VICTORY



We had a great turnout for our Code Talkers presentation on July 19, and as Ken Jones noted, it was encouraging to see so many new faces in attendance.

The program was led by Maxine Christman, who shared the fascinating, and often sobering history of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. She also brought a display that paired English military terms with their Navajo translations along with the literal meanings of those Navajo words offering attendees a glimpse into the language's complexity.

What stood out most was how poorly the Navajo were treated during and long after the war, despite their critical role in securing victory in the Pacific. It was a powerful reminder of the injustices Native communities have endured, even while serving their country with distinction.

The presentation sparked conversations among the audience, including personal recollections of meeting Navajo Code Talkers in years past. One attendee shared a photograph she had taken of a Code Talker enjoying a meal with fellow Code Talkers; a rare and cherished memory.

HISTORY'S HOME RUN: A DAY OF BASEBALL FUN

On Sunday, July 13, Alexandria Milne hosted Family Home Run Day, a hands-on celebration of America's pastime.

Guests explored the museum's collection of baseball-making artifacts, and kids had the chance to stitch their own felt ball to take home. The program was suggested for ages 6–12, but all ages, even kids at heart, joined in on the fun.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BLenheim BRIDGE

On Sunday, August 10, we welcomed Rick Christman, an independent contractor who worked on the concrete pour for the new Blenheim Bridge. Rick shared a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges and teamwork involved in this historic project, giving us a unique perspective on how the bridge was brought back to life.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PATRONS

Dave Burnham Citroen
Don's Automotive Service
Duanesburg Diner
Esperance Auto Electric

Esperance Health & Wellness
Heritage Memorials
Home Magic

Langan Funeral Home
Perillo Insurance Agency
Pick-a-Pumpkin Pumpkin Patch
Young Home Heating Fuels

A RAINY DAY DIDN'T SLOW US DOWN



A little rain couldn't dampen the spirit of our Annual Barn Sale! Thanks to the new rolling displays in the carriage barn, we were able to move things out of the way, set up tables, and host the entire sale indoors. That meant shoppers stayed dry while browsing treasures, and we enjoyed a steady stream of visitors all day.

The barn was filled to the brim with donations — antiques like Japanese Lustreware, Wedgewood, and Depression glass, along with books, kitchenware, office supplies, Christmas decorations, kids' toys, frames, home décor, and even furniture. There was even a great selection of free items, plus bags of fresh apples.

And just when we thought we couldn't fit in another thing, more donations poured in the weekend before the sale! By the time we opened the doors, the barn was truly bursting at the seams.

Of course, no Barn Sale would be complete without food! Shoppers refueled at the gazebo with hot dogs, Marion's famous Michigan sauce, and jumbles.

We're so thankful to everyone who donated and shopped. A special thank-you goes out to our incredible volunteers who sorted, set up, and kept things running smoothly all day. The Barn Sale is one of our biggest fundraisers, and your generosity made it a huge success.

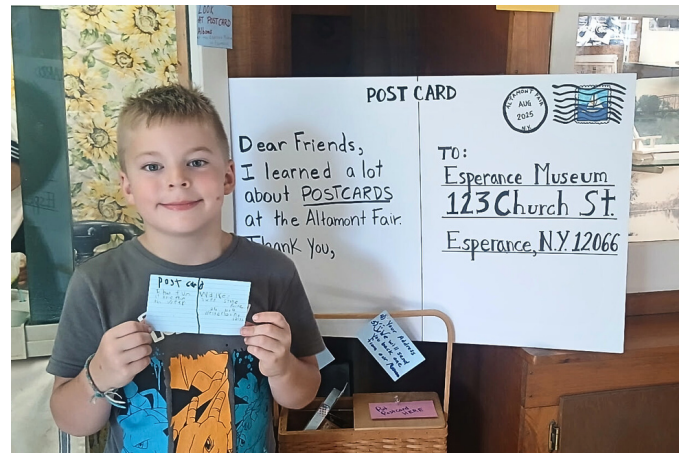


GUESSING GAMES AND GOOD TIMES

Ken Jones and Victoria O'Milne kept audiences engaged throughout 2025 with the Esperance Historical Society's outreach efforts.

Their popular "What is it?" game, where participants guessed artifacts using a clue sheet, was a hit at events like the Jefferson Historical Society's History Day, the Lily Park Festival presented by the Schoharie Promotional Association, and the Fort Fall Festival.

Beyond the game, Victoria and her daughter, Alexandria, added a creative twist to our booth at the Altamont Fair's Farmhouse Museum. They staged a travel theme for the museum and also created a Raggedy Ann and Andy display.



SO MANY MEMORIES

We loved this note Dennis Serafen included with his membership, and we thought you might enjoy it, too!

Thank you for preserving the history of our little town. The longer I live and the more places I visit, the more I appreciate and value growing up in a small town.

I had experiences, developed relationships, and learned things that could only come from a little village like Esperance.

Our family bought Milton Hewitt's house next to Conover's in 1952. If I remember right, Eastman's had a soda fountain.

Have a good day - Dennis Serafen

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Esperance Historical Society is grateful for the many volunteers who give their time and talents throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you!

Museum Docents

Karen Cuccinello, Sandy Farah, Carrie Fonda, Kirt & Linda Feuz, Janet Fritz, Kim Greiner, Rachel Jeffers, Chris Keefer, Willard Martin, Alexandria Milne, Victoria O'Milne, Andrea Oliver, Vicki Stoodley

Baking for Events

Kim Greiner, Pat Eaton, Verlyn Robertson

Raffle & Sale Items

Mary Ann Ford, Vicky Schweizer, Ashly Brousseau, Kirt Feuz, Brent Feuz

Book Buddies

A special thank you to our "Book Buddies," who volunteer several times each month; cataloging artifacts, repairing books, staging displays, balancing the checkbook, and pitching in with everything from vacuuming to dusting. We are especially appreciative of Andrea Oliver, Sandy Farah, Janet Fritz, Karen Bruhn, Ken Jones, and Scott Lavigne.

And thank you to Tom and Gina Slater for hosting our annual Spring Gathering and for treating everyone to a delicious breakfast of eggs, pancakes, and fresh maple syrup!

We've done our best to include everyone, but if we accidentally left your name out, please know how much we appreciate everything you do!

FROM DRAFTS TO A WARMER FUTURE



The days are getting shorter, the nights a little cooler, and we're busy getting everything buttoned up for the season.

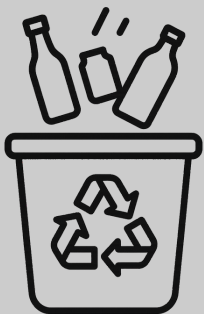
Earlier this year, we sent out an SOS about our heating situation, and we were blown away by your generous donations.

One of the first improvements we made was replacing an interior door (one that had been removed years ago, located between the vestibule and the museum). Our front doors are original and beautiful, but also drafty! The new door will help seal out those drafts and keep things more comfortable inside.

We've also settled on a company to replace our existing heating system and install a ductless system in the library. In addition to providing much-needed heat, the ductless system will also dehumidify the space, helping to protect our book collection.

Along with the donations we received, funding will come from the village and from a generous contribution by Kirt Feuz to cover the remaining balance. We look forward to having the systems installed soon. They will be more efficient, provide better climate control for our books, and should result in significant cost savings for the museum.

RECYCLE FOR HISTORY



Did you know you can support the museum with your bottles and cans? Just bring them to **Duanesburg Redemption Bottle & Can Return** (10105 Western Turnpike, Delanson, NY) and say: "Put this towards the Esperance Historical Society." Every nickel helps preserve our local history!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THANKS TO THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE

We'd like to give a special thank you to Heather Skinner and The Mountain Eagle for the wonderful coverage they've given our museum this year.

Heather wrote four articles highlighting our events and activities, helping to share our history with the community.

We appreciate the support and the spotlight on the work we're doing here at the museum.



HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Esperance came together on September 14 to honor the firefighters and EMS volunteers who keep our community safe. It was a chance to say "thank you" for the many hours they give.

The event also included a tribute to Central Bridge Fire Chief Brian Baker, remembered for his years of dedicated service. Volunteers, neighbors, and local officials joined in to show their appreciation.

We're fortunate to have such a dedicated team watching out for us. To every firefighter and EMT — thank you for all you do.





JOIN US FOR

Christmas in Esperance

Decorated trees
Free cookies & hot cocoa
Raffles & handcrafted gifts

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
10 AM - 3 PM