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Newsletter September 2022



SEPT. 17TH
1-5 PM

The Howland Stone Store Museum
invites you to a community celebration —

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

African American Connections to Sherwood

Program highlights include:

- Maggie Moore-Holley, Harriet Tubman re-enactor, celebrating the bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth
- Kim Sajet, Director of the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery, presenting "Picturing Freedom: Emily Howland and Portrait Photography"

Special Exhibits:

- The Howland Daguerreotypes
- Abolition in Sherwood
- The Unveiling of Ellen Blalock's custom-designed quilt, honoring Emily Howland's induction into the Women's Hall of Fame
- The National Women's Suffrage Quilt, a traveling exhibit.

Additional features: refreshments, children's activities, an outdoor tent, all at **Opendore 2978 State Route 34B**. Programming begins at 1:00 in the tent, followed by the exhibits in Opendore and the Stone Store. The celebration will draw to a close at 5:00.

Funding for this event comes from: Cayuga County Board of Tourism, CNY Arts, Nelson B. Delavan Foundation, Museum Association of NY, and NYS Council of the Arts
Find out more: howlandstonestore.org

Howland
STONE STORE
Museum

More information about the keynote speech at the All Are Welcome event:

"Picturing Freedom: Emily Howland and Portrait Photography"

Emily Howland was born in 1827 the same year that the *camera obscura* was invented in France and part of the first generation to grow up in front of a lens. Starting at an early age she began to sit for her portrait, and over time photography documented her growing sense of self-confidence. Taking pride in oneself—and showing it—was a lesson she passed on to her pupils at the Myrtilla Miner Normal School for Colored Girls in Washington D.C., whose remarkable portraits are now in the collection of the Howland Stone Store Museum.

As photographs became cheaper to produce and share, Emily collected pictures of people she admired and placed them in an album. This album was acquired in 2017 by the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and includes a never-before-seen portrait of her friend Harriet Tubman, a rare likeness of John Willis Menard, the first African American elected to Congress, and students she taught in the 1860s. In many respects the Howland album modelled the kind of inclusive and educated community she desired for America after the Civil War.

Kim Sajet, the director of the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery, will discuss Emily Howland's friendship with other social reformers, and especially African Americans, whom she supported as an ally in the fight for equality and equal representation.

Opendore

A project of primary importance is improving the parking at Opendore. Our road side temporary parking is not safe or historically correct, and we plan to replace it with off-road parking to the north of the building. A bus drop off and handicapped parking will also be provided. After the new parking is available, the building road side frontage will be restored with landscaping, trees and the historic slate sidewalk.



West Elevation with Planned Landscaping

“We Can Do This!”

The unofficial motto of the Howland Stone Store Museum is a chins up reminder of the huge effort and the huge optimism that has brought the HSSM to the proud place it holds today. It is YOUR museum; your interest in it and your membership dollars go a long way towards its growing place in our community.

Visitor numbers are up. Attendance at programs is up. These are great indications that the Museum is doing exactly what Slocum, Emily, and Isabel Howland would have wanted: the Museum is serving the community.

Currently the Museum needs safe, accessible, and appropriate parking that will free up the west front of Opendore for historically designed roadside plantings.

While the Fundraising Committee has been at work on appeals and grants, the window of opportunity to complete needed work in 2022 is growing narrow.

Thus, we ask you to shake your piggy banks, cash in your change, and see just how generous a donation you can make to the Opendore Project this year. Every donation helps, and donations of \$100 or more will be deeply appreciated and promptly recognized. We thank you! Remember, with your help, “We Can Do This!”

Further detailed information is available on our website at www.howlandstonestore.org

Stone Store

Our current focus is attending to much needed work on the 1837 cobblestone Stone Store.

The wood stove ash insulation in the attic has been laboriously removed by volunteers by hand, shoveling nearly two tons into a chute to the exterior. After vacuuming the residual ash from the floorboards, new rock wool batt insulation was installed in two layers.

The exterior wood cornice trim and window frames have been scraped and repainted. In the process significant decay in the return cornice on the south west side was discovered, resulting in complete removal and fabrication of replica moldings by volunteers. The newly refurbished exterior looks fabulous, and will withstand the elements for many years. The historic wood window sashes have been carefully scraped, reglazed as necessary, and repainted.



Scraping Cornice Trim before Repainting





Rotten Cornice Return

Window Sash Repair

Education

Videographer Peter Carroll has completed a 15-minute video of the Opendore Story, telling the evolution of the building from a small house in the early 1800s to Isabel Howland's Opendore and now to the Museum. Interviews with several HSSM members were conducted in late February and melded with historic and current photos to produce a professional "Ken Burns" style account of Opendore's history. The video is available for viewing at Opendore and is well worth seeing. We thank the Delavan Foundation for funding the project.

Community

Community Groups Welcome

The museum welcomes the use of Opendore for community activities. Currently the Hazard Library is holding their Board Meetings and Book Club sessions at Opendore. If your organization would like to discuss usage, please contact us.

Regular visiting hours at The Stone Store Museum and Opendore

Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Appointments for other days can be arranged by calling 315-303-3145 at least three days in advance.

Hazard Library

We continue our collaborative planning initiative with the Hazard Library for the potential addition to Opendore to house new library space. The Library is seeking expansion of their charter from NYS to include the Towns of Scipio and Genoa in their service area. Once approval is received, fundraising and design services can proceed.

Concept plans for the two-story addition on the south side of Opendore in the footprint of the historic foundations are available at both the Library and Opendore for inspection.





Museum volunteers attended the King Ferry Wheat Harvest Festival in August. Kathie Garnsey and Linda Van Buskirk with Centennial fans.

The Collections crew cleans sea shells from the Cabinet of Curiosities. Volunteers are needed in all areas of museum management. Be in touch to find out where you fit in!

Membership

Museum membership is now payable for 2022: \$15.00 individual and \$25.00 family. We currently have 160 members for 2022 and hope to reach 200 by year end. Benefits of membership include:

- Support to museum
- Newsletter mailing hard copy if requested
- Reserved seating at programs if requested
- 10% discount merchandise

[Membership form here](#)
[Link to online membership page](#)

HSSM now is on social media:

- follow HSSM on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HowlandStoneStoreMuseum>
- follow HSSM on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/howlandstonestoremuseum/>

Comments are welcome on our revised newsletter format. Have expertise in newsletters and want to help? Contact treasurer@howlandstonestore.org.

The Museum Board of Trustees appreciate your continued support!
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