



NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2023

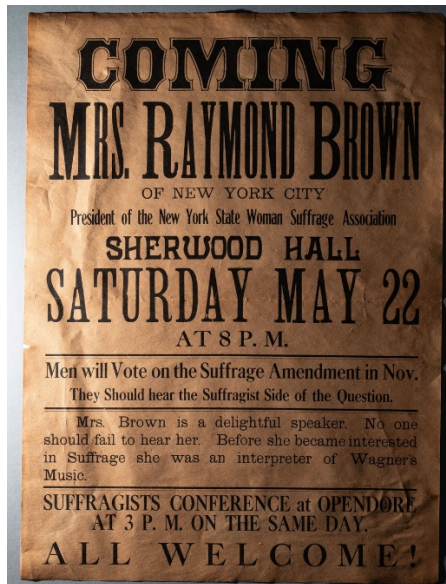
**MUSEUM HOURS**

To date in 2023 we have welcomed over 1,250 visitors to our open hours, programs, and special events, by far our best year for attendance by far!

The Stone Store Museum and Opendore are now closed for the winter for regular hours. However, appointments for visits can also be arranged by calling 315-303-3145 at least three days in advance.

We welcome group tours by organizations. Please contact us at the number above.

**COLLECTIONS**



Before and after pictures of a 1915 broadside poster recently conserved by [West Lake Art Conservation Center](#). The broadside advertises an address by the State president of NYSWA at Sherwood Hall in the Grange building with a suffrage meeting to follow at Opendore. West Lake cleaned the surface grime, mended the tears, and mounted the broadside in a preservation enclosure with UV filtering glass.



Collections committee working on ledger boxes moved from Stone Store to Archive Room.

## **FACILITIES**

Landscaping plantings around the new parking lot at Opendore commenced this fall, thanks to a grant from the Stanley W. Metcalf Foundation. Following the [Cultural Landscape](#) report prepared by Jeanie Gleissner, shrubs and trees have been planted by HSSM volunteers. Following Jeanie's plan, we planted a Japanese maple, a redbud, a birch, and a crabapple along the road to recreate the historic feeling of a shaded country lane, using some of the same exotic species that Isabel and her parents enjoyed. Remembering Isabel's love of cascading shrubbery, volunteers planted lilacs, viburnum, and hydrangeas around the parking lot.

Additionally, a cedar rail fence on both sides of the parking area was installed by Empire Fence to define the parking edges.





The facilities volunteers are also working on renovation of the workroom at the east end of the Stone Store first floor. The cracked and peeling walls and ceilings were patched and painted, the historic bookcase refurbished, and the floor painted. Plans are underway to utilize the space for an educational display of the historic general store office. In yet another improvement recommended by our preservation consultant, the back of the bookcase was insulated to provide protection against drastic temperature and humidity changes.

We are currently evaluating reconstruction of the historic East Porch at Opendore as our next capital project.



## **HISTORIAN**

### **THE CAYUGA FILM FESTIVAL**

The Museum entered two short films and walked away with three prizes! When Emily Howland was inducted into the [National Women’s Hall of Fame](#) last year, Shira Evergreen interviewed Marilyn Post for a short video that was included in the Hall of Fame ceremony. This year, we took leftover film from the cutting room floor to make a short video introducing Emily to our visitors. The result? Shira not only won in the short documentary category, but she also won a special Human Rights Award, given in honor of Auburn’s long history of leadership in human rights. We are thankful to the [Museum Association of NY](#) for providing funding for the film.



Shira Evergreen with award

Peter Carroll’s 2022 film, “Opendore: The story of the Howland family, a movement and preserving historic legacy” won in the long documentary category. And that’s not all. We plan to enter Peter’s 2023 film, “Picturing Freedom” into the Film Festival next year. It is sure to be a big hit. We are once again thankful to the Nelson B. Delavan Foundation for providing funding for the Opendore film.

The films can be viewed at Opendore.

## HISTORIC "X-CHAIR" RETURNS HOME



Donated Chair



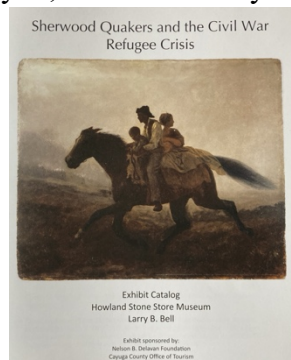
Chair in historic photo Opendore Drawing Room

Karen White is a Letchworth descendant who lives close by. She decided that it was time to do some clearing out, so she sent the X-chair that she had inherited back home to Opendore. We are overjoyed to receive this striking original piece that surely has its own story. Known as a Savonarola or Dante chair in Italy, or a Luther chair in Germany, the design has even been found in ancient Egyptian tombs. Isabel Howland likely found this hand-carved beauty on her travels and arranged to have it shipped to Sherwood. We believe it is a 19<sup>th</sup> century reproduction, perhaps of an Italian Renaissance original. It is the only piece of furniture that has come back to Opendore, and we are grateful to Karen for it.

### Sherwood Quakers and the Civil War Refugee Crisis

A 30-page color catalog to accompany the exhibit is now available.

Members may request a copy for free at [treasurer@howlandstonestore.org](mailto:treasurer@howlandstonestore.org) or by phone at 315-303-3145. We will mail it to you, or deliver it if you are a neighbor.



## PROGRAMS



[Rob Lomascolo](#) demonstrating table top letterpress at a recent program

### **HUMANITIES NY READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP FOR 2024**

“Land, Liberty, and Loss: Echoes of the American Revolution” will be our third annual Reading and Discussion Group. We will consider the history of the Haudenosaunee, New York State, and the colonial enterprise during the period of our nation’s founding.

We plan to read a book every three weeks, then gather and talk about it. The books were chosen by Alan Taylor, a Pulitzer-prize winning scholar of colonial history. We are hoping to have Haudenosaunee guest speakers during the term of the programs to bring other tellings of this history. Programs are scheduled to start Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. For more information, contact Marilyn Post at 315-303-3145, or go to the website at [HumanitiesNY.org](http://HumanitiesNY.org).

### **HAZARD LIBRARY ADDITION at OPENDORE**

The Library and Museum continue close collaboration of the planned addition on the south end of the building. Based on receipt of the NYS Library System grant to the Library, it is hoped that the design can be completed in late spring and bidding will occur in early summer. Construction of Phase I framing/enclosure would be possible in fall of 2024.

### **COMMUNITY USE of OPENDORE**

The Museum welcomes 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our annual appeal was mailed in November, and we look forward to our supporter's renewing membership and making contributions to the museum and/or capital projects.

For 2023 we had 168 renewing or new memberships. Our goal for 2024 is 200. If you wish to join or donate you can use either using the form below or accessing at [www.howlandstonestore.org/memberships](http://www.howlandstonestore.org/memberships)

Benefits of membership include

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

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/>

# MEMBERSHIP FORM – 2024 DUES

Dec 2023

**YES! I/We would like to support the ongoing restoration/preservation and educational programming of the Howland Stone Store Museum.**

*Please print clearly !*

Name: _____	_____ \$15 individual membership
Address: _____	_____ \$25 family membership
City/State: _____	_____ HSSM donation
Phone: _____	_____ Opendore project donation
E-Mail: _____	_____ TOTAL enclosed

**Your contribution is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!**

Make checks payable to **Howland Stone Store Museum, PO Box 124, Aurora, NY 13026**

**Note:** memberships and donations can be made electronically thru **PayPal**

at our website <http://howlandstonestore.org> ... scroll down near bottom

Volunteer Opportunities—want to help?

_____ Assist with programs or displays	_____ Assist with grants/fund-raising
_____ Greet visitors Saturday or Sunday afternoons	_____ Assist with collection care
_____ Work on facilities	
_____ Other _____	

*The Museum Board of Trustees appreciates your continued support!*

- |                             |                               |                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
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| Jackie Dickinson, Treasurer | Marilyn Post                  | Andy Simkin           |
| Lorrie Butcher              | Karen Speck                   | Bill Schmitt          |