

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### **MUSEUM OPERATIONS :**

The virus pandemic and need for social distancing have naturally had a big impact on our plans for this spring.

**Neither the Stone Store nor Opendore is open for visitors. All museum programs as well as our Annual Meeting and Open House in May are postponed until further notice.**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial celebrations and Opendore Grand Opening in August are in limbo, to be decided at a later date.

Group work at Opendore as well as in-person committee meetings are suspended. Some individual work at both Opendore and the Stone Store is being done at discretion of each person. Meetings are being conducted by group phone or video.

This has of course caused a major setback in our plans for 2020. Hopefully the current situation will improve and eventually we can resume operations as normal.

In the meantime, please be safe and follow the guidelines being issued!

### **COLLECTIONS :**

We expected 2020 to be one of the biggest years in 100 years for exhibiting our posters. The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women the right to vote in 1920, and for over a year we have had requests from museums and special groups to borrow our posters and reproductions for their upcoming special 2020 exhibits on women's suffrage movement.

Not so simple. The virus-related limitations on travel and other restrictions have changed both arrangements for exhibits and the possibility of visitors to see exhibits.

We cannot guess whether several planned exhibits will even be possible, including both a one-day and a one-week. Time may run out before their planned dates.

However, before the restrictions started, we had completed plans for three of our posters to be part of a PBS television program on the women's suffrage movement. As requested, we provided digital images of the posters to be used on "The American Experience" this fall.

Locally the Seward House Museum in Auburn had made arrangements with the HSSM just before the restrictions. Several of their staff members came to Sherwood to wrap and transport the requested posters and other ephemera.

Plans for two major exhibits are on hold, with our expectation (hope?) that they will be completed. We have been working with the Johnson Art Museum at Cornell University and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for months. These exhibits require extensive detailed paperwork, such as formal Loan Agreements and insurance arrangements. The Johnson Museum staff had chosen the posters they want to borrow, and the paperwork is done up to the last-minute arrangements. If outside circumstances permit the exhibit for second semester, we will be ready to go.

The Philadelphia exhibit is more complicated because it also involves a contract with a company long established for transporting artwork. We were within a few days of our posters being moved by the company to the Center in Philadelphia. And then -- Philadelphia was shut down, with the museum closed, security and maintenance only on site, and the professional staff working from home. We decided we might better postpone moving our posters. Their staff certainly understood, but they asked if we could provide digital images of the requested posters so they could start planning the details of the exhibit. We were glad to be able to do that, so emails and paperwork and digital images have been exchanged. When it is possible for the Center to open to the public, we will return to the original arrangements for transporting our actual posters.

Finally, there are our own exhibits in Sherwood. We have tentative plans for this coming season and certainly hope we can be open for visitors to enjoy them.

### **OPENDORE PROJECT :**

We have received the purchased linoleum flooring for the Archive Room, as well as most of our purchased interior light fixtures.

Work continues on restoring historic trim in several home workshops. This will position us for installation once we can resume group work at the building.



**Shop fabricated picture rail**



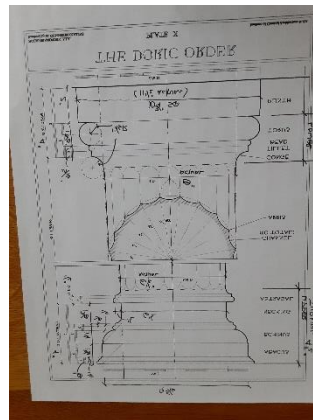
**Restored Drawing Room Wainscot being reinstalled**



**Hallway Arch being restored**



**Volunteers maintaining nature trail**



**Layout for reproduction interior columns**

**FUNDRAISING**

We are actively identifying grant opportunities and making submissions for support. The Pomeroy Foundation recently donated \$1,000 to support attendance at the annual Museum Association of New York (MANY) annual conference in Albany. Unfortunately, the conference has been postponed, but the funding will carry forward.

We have applied to the Preservation League of New York for a grant to fund a cultural landscape report of the ten acre Opendore site. This grant would supply 80% of the \$12,500 cost for research of the historic design as well as planning for parking, drainage and historic re-creation as desired. The design work would take place this year with the actual site development to begin in 2021.

We are also seeking funding for Phase V, the rebuilding of the east porch, porte cochere and spring house. We did raise \$2,500 for the spring house at an online fundraiser a while back, but that will likely not be enough.

On a less grandiose scale, we are currently submitting to the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN) for grants for picture rail supplies at Opendore and a database management consultation. Special thanks to Larry Bell for preparing the detailed applications.

## **MERCHANDISE**

We have several new items available, please visit our website [hssmsherwood.org](http://hssmsherwood.org) or visit our Facebook page.

The 2020 HSSM Woman's Rights Centennial Calendar replicates a historic week-by-week version from our collection and are available for sale for the reduced price of \$15, with member price of \$10 for first copy. They can be purchased on our website [www.howlandstonestore.org](http://www.howlandstonestore.org) or by contacting Karen Speck at 315-730-2528.

### **New Publications Available:**

*Some of the Early History of Scipio, Cayuga County, New York*, by Austin Comstock, 1940 \$10 plus \$2 postage

*Biographical Sketch of Emily Howland, 1827 - 1929*, by Phebe M. King, 1975 \$10 plus \$2 postage

*Letters from Myrtilla Miner's School, 1857 - 1861 and Heathsville, Virginia School*, by Emily Howland, compiled by Phebe M. King \$10 plus \$2 postage

*Journal, Report, Reminiscences and Letters from Contraband Camp*, by Emily Howland, compiled by Phebe M. King \$10 plus \$2 postage

*Speeches about Temperance, Woman's Suffrage and Peace*, by Emily Howland, compiled by Phebe M. King, 1972 \$10 plus \$2 postage

## **MEMBERSHIP :**

***Museum renewal membership for 2020 is \$15 individual and \$25 family. The membership and donation form is on the last page of this newsletter.***

# 2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM - DUES (through Dec. 2020)

April 2020

**YES! I/We would like to support the ongoing restoration/preservation and educational programming of the Howland Stone Store Museum. (Since HSSM's total income is from donations and fundraisers, your tax-deductible contribution is really appreciated.) THANK YOU!**

<b>Name:</b> _____	_____ <b>\$15 individual</b>
<b>Address:</b> _____	_____ <b>\$25 family</b>
<b>City/State</b> _____	_____ <b>Additional donation</b>
<b>Phone:</b> _____	_____ <b>Opendore donation</b>
<b>E-Mail</b> _____	_____ <b>TOTAL enclosed</b>

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

Volunteer Opportunities—want to help?

_____ assist with programs or displays	_____ assist with grants/fundraising
_____ greet visitors Friday or Sat afternoons	_____ assist with collection care
_____ volunteer to help work on Opendore Project as _____	
(carpentry, painting, gardening, etc)	
_____ other _____	