



Howland Stone Store Museum

2956 St. Rt. 34B in Sherwood

P.O. Box 124, Aurora, New York 13026

www.howlandstonestore.org

Newsletter—December 2017



photo: Jacci Farlow

OPENDORE UPDATE

Hamilton (Guy) Garnsey, facilities committee chair

Summer was a very active period for a group of dedicated volunteers. Over 1,800 hours of free labor have been donated, with tremendous impact on the Opendore building. In addition, each of these hours has also earned HSSM credit as a matching contribution on our EPF grant.

The West Wing framing was completed last fall, and work in 2017 focused on the completion and restoration of the entire building exterior. The old cedar siding and trimwork has been painstakingly scraped, repaired and repainted to the original colors. The old wood window sashes have been repaired and re-glazed.

On the West Wing we have installed new wood windows and an entry door along with new cedar siding and extensive trim. Over the summer, a contractor was employed to install an asphalt shingle and EPDM roof, and the chimney was extended to its original height.

We are currently deliberating awarding a contract for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing work to be completed over the winter months.

There is a walking nature trail that loops around the 9-acre Opendore site and is open to the public. Access is behind the building to the north. Assistance in maintaining the trail as well as the grounds is sought. Anyone willing to help with our ongoing volunteer work to develop the grounds or do carpentry/finish work on the interior, please contact Andy Simkin (206-390 -4286) for information or to express an interest.

FINALLY... THE VOTE!

Ann Tobey, collections committee chair

One hundred years ago this month women in New York State were granted the right to vote after a long and difficult struggle. Activists like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Emily Howland fought from the days of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 to the final victory in November 1917. Those were days before radio and television, so the battle had to be fought with posters and banners and parades and petitions and face-to-face persuasion. Not until three years later was the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed giving all women the right to vote.

The victory is being celebrated all across New York State. The Howland Stone Store Museum has one of the largest collections of suffrage posters anywhere in New York State, plus other suffrage items such as fans. Each year we have posters on display, and this year we also had a "Sunday Social" program about them. The importance of our collection was demonstrated by exhibits displaying our posters and other items at both the Cayuga Museum in Auburn and the New York State Museum in Albany. Each of those museums borrowed at least ten of our posters for their special exhibits on women's suffrage.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT REVIEWS

Larry B. Bell, secretary of HSSM

The Cayuga Museum has an interesting take: their exhibit examines both sides of the issue in "Woman's Protest: Two Sides of the Fight for Suffrage in New York." We may not have realized there was an "anti" side to such a basic right, but it was hotly debated here and around the country. Be sure to see this enlightening exhibit before it ends December 30.

"Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial," is at the New York State Museum, a wonderful place for an exhibit geek such as myself. "Votes for Women" tells the story of the long struggle for equality, seventy years from the Seneca Falls Declaration in 1848 to the successful vote in 1917. Emily Howland played an important role in this story and is featured prominently along with posters and artifacts from HSSM. Yet the story did not end in 1917. The struggle for equal rights continues to the present day, and the exhibit tells that story as well. "Votes for Women" will continue through May 13. Accompanying the exhibit is a detailed book of the same title written by the curators of the exhibit.

2018 WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR

The 2018 Women's Suffrage Calendar is now available! A different suffrage poster from the HSSM collection is presented for each month. Important dates in the struggle for women's right to vote are included. A special feature of this year's calendar is the inclusion of biographical information about several prominent suffrage poster artists.

Calendars sell for \$16 each or **\$19.50 if they need to be mailed** to you. Calendars may be purchased by contacting members of the HSSM Board, or by contacting Patricia White at 315-364-5587 or pwhite2299@aol.com For further information, visit HowlandStoneStore.org.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Larry Buffam, president of HSSM

Board of Trustees: Three board trustees retired in May 2017. Meghan Mason served as board secretary. Donna Riester put a lot of energy into organizing the Sunday evening socials during her years on the board. Andrew Simkin was treasurer of the board during his time on the board. We are grateful to each of them for their specific contributions and their dedication to the work of the Museum. We sincerely hope they remain part of our community at HSSM! Larry Bell, Tom Butcher and Marilyn Post joined the Board of Trustees in May 2017.

Recent Grants Received In June 2017, HSSM was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Cayuga Community Fund to assist with the purchase and installation of a lift for the future museum space at the Opendore building. We are very grateful to the Fund for their support of an inclusive environment. We are grateful also to the Fundraising Committee for targeting this grant and Linda Van Buskirk for writing the successful grant application. Recently we received another grant from the Delavan Foundation for use in reproducing some of our poster collection for use in education outside the museum, we are most grateful to the Delavan Foundation for this third grant in support of our poster collection. Thank you..

Volunteer Activity. . .SO many helpers. It has been amazing to me to see how many **dedicated volunteers** support the Howland Stone Store Museum. Many hours are spent each month by the members of the committees. There are knowledgeable docents at the museum each time we are open or have a special tour visit. Records of the collection are being entered into a database. Fundraising outreach and special events are ongoing. Building maintenance is dealt with as necessary. Several people are actively involved in researching aspects of the collection and/or the history of the Howlands in ways that will enhance the museum. Many, many hours have been spent in 2017 working to bring the Opendore house back from it's previous decrepit state. We are all very deeply grateful for all the efforts of so many people. Thank you all!!

Fundraising It is the time of year when many people think about charitable donations. Please consider making us a recipient of your giving this year. We believe we have an important story to tell at the Howland Stone Store Museum. We see evidence daily that many people still struggle with inequality and injustice, discrimination and prejudice. Inspired by the lives of Slocum, Emily and Isabel Howland, we hope that by keeping alive their stories, we can encourage others to carry on the work that they did so long and so well, working for a more just world for all. Any contributions that you can make to help us keep their stories alive will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance!

As with most institutions, we have a regular annual budget. For the last several years, we have also had a capital budget for the historic restoration of Opendore, Isabel Howland's home. Opendore, when complete will increase room to exhibit our collections, augment programming, and appropriately store many of our items in climate controlled archival space. Much progress has been made on this project in the past year--we can truly see completion in sight. Your donation specifically to Opendore would help us finish! Thanks again.

Current board of trustees: Larry Buffam,president; Pat White, vice-president; Larry Bell, secretary; Guy Garnsey, treasurer; Carolyn Littlejohn, Barbara Taylor, Hannah Richter, Tom Butcher and Marilyn Post.