

Members and Friends

OPERATIONS :

The pandemic has had significant impact on our museum operations. While we planned to open in May, this has been indefinitely delayed as we await direction from NYS. Our spring Open House, our August 19th Amendment centennial celebration and Opendore grand opening, and our Sunday program schedule have been postponed. Perhaps this fall we can resume activities.

Likewise, our internal Trustee meetings and committee meetings have become virtual with good success. Work at Opendore has continued on a reduced basis following safe guidelines.

Our Annual Membership meeting was held virtually Sunday June 7th. The Museum’s operations and finances for the year were reviewed. Additionally, three Trustee positions were elected. We welcome returning trustees Marilyn Post and Larry Bell, and new trustee Susan Weisend from Sherwood.

The Trustees also reported on activities for the year, as well as work to revise our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

At the June Board meeting the Officers for 2020-21 were elected:

President : Guy Garnsey

Secretary : Larry Bell

Vice President : Andy Simkin

Treasurer : Jackie Dickinson

Other Trustees :

Karen Speck

Jamien Shea

Marilyn Post

Barb Taylor

Susan Weisend

Also Committee Chairs were appointed :

Collections : Marilyn Post

Finance : Andy Simkin

Fundraising : Larry Bell

Facilities : Guy Garnsey

Membership : Karen Speck

Merchandise : Jackie Dickinson

Education : Karen Speck

Programs : Marilyn Post

Historian : Larry Bell

Information Technology : need chair

COLLECTIONS :

LOANING OUR POSTERS

In 1920 the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution was passed, stating that the right to vote could not be abridged on account of sex. This centennial year is focusing on the long process of reaching that point. Such an historic event is recognized in various celebrations, in articles in newspapers and magazines, and – to the point here – in museums.

Our spectacular collection of women's suffrage posters has been a part of suffrage celebrations and exhibits in the past, and we had plans for again loaning posters in 2020 to museums featuring the suffrage movement. The pandemic has affected these plans. Some are either now impossible or, at best, highly unlikely.

However, we continue to plan to loan posters for a major exhibit at the Cornell University Johnson Art Museum in the fall. The exhibit is scheduled to be part of a class at Cornell.

We also continue planning the loan of posters to the National Constitutional Center in Philadelphia for their suffrage exhibit extending over five years. That is on hold too, but the Center requested the use of digital images of the expected posters to assist in their planning for the layout of the exhibit. Planning is extra difficult when the staff are working from home.

PBS AND OUR POSTERS IN DIGITAL FORMAT

AND STILL EXPECTED! The PBS program, "The American Experience," has scheduled a major multi-part series on the women's suffrage movement for this July and September. In March 2019 we received a request to provide digital images of three of our posters for use in the series, which is produced by WGBH in Boston. Permission arrangements with an organization like WGBH are much more complicated than the usual arrangements we are asked to provide, but the details worked out well. Last week we received a request to authorize use of another poster. I doubt there will be a large focus on our posters during the program, but it is very rewarding to have them included in this major production, and we will be included in the acknowledgement of sources.

Publicity is beginning to appear. The dates are July 6 and 7 (Monday and Tuesday) at 9 PM and September 8,15,22, 29, (Tuesdays) at 8 PM. I expect these programs will be very well worth watching (even if you don't know which ones are our posters!).

We have no way of knowing, of course, whether the Cornell and Philadelphia exhibits will even come to pass, or in what format, but we certainly hope so. I expect the COVID-19 virus makes the PBS production more difficult, but at least it should be possible. In the meantime, remember this quote from "The American Experience":

"WOMEN WEREN'T GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE – WE TOOK IT!"

PROGRAMS :

Our summer program schedule has unfortunately been cancelled due to the pandemic. We hope to reschedule in the fall.

Future Programs :

Why the Right to Vote Remains Precarious. New York recently changed its voting laws; other states have been changing voter ID requirements. We hear claims of voter fraud and voter suppression. Cornell Assistant Professor of Government David Alexander Bateman will help us examine these and other questions about voting in a democracy. Jointly hosted by Indivisible Cayuga and the Howland Stone Store Museum.

Dr. Linda Frank "In-Laws and Outliers:", the Persistent Determination of the Stanton Women

EDUCATION :

Prior to the Cover-19 Pandemic we had an increase in interest for student groups to visit the Howland Stone Store and Opendore. Unfortunately, the scheduled visits had to be cancelled. We will continue to plan for groups and find ways to tell the stories of the Howlands through programs and displays.

We continue to seek docents for both the Stone Store and Opendore once we reopen. Please contact us if you can spend a few hours a month on this worthy endeavor. E-mail at hssmsherwood@gmail.com or call 315-303-2145 and leave a message.

OPENDORE PROJECT :

Work continues at Opendore by our dedicated group of volunteers, who have logged over 8,000 hours since Fall 2016.

At the annual meeting special recognition was given to Gus Littlejohn, who was one of the original Opendore volunteers in 2016 when the West Wing construction started and has regularly donated his time and equipment since then. Thanks Gus !!



Our primary focus is interior trim restoration, which involves careful reconstruction of salvage trim and recreation of new components that were not able to be salvaged. The beautiful wainscot and cornice in the 1910 north addition has been restored, including the “compo” molding.



Additionally the lovely arch and columns in the opening between the Foyer and Entry Hall have been restored and are ready for installation.



The salvaged mantel from the demolished south wing has been completely restored and relocated to the Entry Hall.

The second floor Archive Room is complete, with the recent installation of linoleum flooring. We plan to start moving our poster collection and other artifacts to this environmentally controlled space this summer.

We are also installing the interior lighting, consisting of period appropriate ceiling fixtures and modern track lighting for displays.



A significant effort was undertaken to complete clearing the grounds to the south and east, removing debris and junk that had accumulated over many years. The vista to the east from the building now resembles what existed in the early 20th century.

MERCHANDISE

HSSM Calendars

The 2020 HSSM Woman’s Rights Centennial Calendar replicates a historic week-by-week version from our collection and are available for sale for reduced price of \$15, with member price of \$10 for first copy. They can be purchased on our website www.howlandstonestore.org or by contacting Karen Speck at 315-303-2145.

MEMBERSHIP :

Museum renewal membership for 2020 is \$15 individual and \$25 family. The membership and donation form is attached

We currently have 104 members for 2020 and would like to surpass our 2019 membership of 140.

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/>

FUNDRAISING :

We recently applied for one of those blue and gold Pomeroy signs for Opendore. There are three others in Sherwood, for Seth Sherwood, Emily Howland, and Slocum Howland. The Opendore sign, if approved, will be different because it will be a special white and purple “Votes for Women” sign designed to commemorate women’s suffrage. The sign itself is free, but we had to justify it with a short, historical essay utilizing only primary sources. The wording on the sign could change, but here is our proposal, followed by the essay.

“OPENDORE”

HOME OF WILLIAM, HANNAH,

AND ISABEL HOWLAND

POLITICAL EQUALITY LEADERS

SUFFRAGE MEETINGS HELD HERE

1891-1920

William Howland (1823 – 1905) was a Quaker, businessman, two term State assemblyman, and Scipio justice of the peace for forty years. He was a faithful member of the Sherwood Equal Rights Association “who could give the pith and kernel of the lengthy columns of the President’s and Governor’s message...On any vexed or uncertain question his opinion was of worth and weight.”ⁱ

William purchased the Opendore property in 1853, adding various parcels of land in succeeding years.ⁱⁱ He made extensive modifications and additions in 1888. Then, when daughter Isabel inherited the property, she hired noted architect Albert Brockway, undertaking another major remodeling in 1910 in a vernacular Colonial Revival style.

In 1884, as a State legislator, William “secured the passage of a special act, granting women the right to vote at the charter elections of Union Springs, Cayuga County.”ⁱⁱⁱ

He played a pivotal role in the 1894 Scipioville school commissioner election in which 36 local women were refused the vote by an injunction denying them ballots. As it happened, they did not need ballots to cast their vote. Howland convinced the election personnel to circumvent the injunction by having the women’s votes sworn in instead.^{iv}

Hannah Howland, (1829-1902) wife of William, also a Quaker, was founder and first president of the Sherwood Equal Rights Association until 1900 or later.^v The club occasionally met at her home.

Isabel Howland (1859-1942) was one of the first female graduates of Cornell (1881) along with fellow suffragist and long-time friend, Harriet May Mills.^{vi}

From 1889 to 1890, Isabel served as secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Women while Julia Ward Howe was president.^{vii} In 1891, she was a founding member of the Sherwood Equal Rights Association^{viii} and a delegate to the National American Woman’s Suffrage Association convention in 1891, 1894 and 1896.^{ix}

She was corresponding secretary of the New York Woman’s Suffrage Association 1894-95 and 1898-99.^x Prior to the 1894 State constitutional convention, in a massive effort, 5,000 petitions were gathered from around the state. Statistics were collected “showing the amount of property on which taxes were paid by women. ... The drudgery of preparing these tax lists and recounting and labeling all the petitions was done chiefly by Miss Isabel Howland.”^{xi}

As president of the Cayuga County Political Equality Club^{xii} and chair of the Cayuga County Assembly District League,^{xiii} she was the recognized head of the county suffrage movement during the unsuccessful but important 1915 State vote. She was asked to speak for the movement.^{xiv}

During that time, regional open-air suffrage rallies were held at Opendore featuring well-known speakers such as Harriet May Mills. These day-long events attracted large crowds and typically included dinner, music and fireworks in the garden.^{xv}

ⁱ “Memorial Meeting,” *Genoa Tribune*, Genoa, NY, 1905

ⁱⁱ *Deeds*, Cayuga County Clerk, Auburn, New York, 85/448. Various land parcels were added in succeeding years.

ⁱⁱⁱ *The History of Woman Suffrage, vol. III*, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage, ed., 437

^{iv} I.H. [Isabel Howland], “School Commissioner Vote in Cayuga County, N.Y.,” *Woman’s Journal*, February 3, 1894

^v “Minutes” Sherwood Equal Rights Association, February 5, 1891, Howland Papers, Cornell University

^{vi} *Auburn Argus*, January 21, 1907, 5; *Genoa Tribune*, August 29, 1902, 1; *Genoa Tribune*, August 11, 1911, 1

^{vii} “Women’s Work,” *Buffalo Evening News*, October 20, 1890, “The Women’s Congress,” *Albany Morning Express*, October 11, 1889, 1

^{viii} “Minutes,” Sherwood Equal Rights Association, February 17, 1891

^{ix} “Minutes” *ibid.*; *Washington Evening Star*, February 15, 1894, 2; *Washington Evening Star*, January 23, 1896, 11

^x *Newburgh Daily Register*, November 11, 1895, 1; *Columbia Republican*, November 17, 1898, 1

^{xi} *The History of Woman Suffrage, volume IV*, Susan B. Anthony, Ida Husted Harper, ed., 850

^{xii} *Auburn Citizen*, April 30, 1914

^{xiii} *Auburn Citizen*, November 27, 1915, 6

^{xiv} *Auburn Citizen*, October 21, 1915, 1

^{xv} *Auburn Citizen*, May 21, 1914, 5; *Genoa Tribune*, July 3, 1914; *Syracuse Post-Standard*, July 2, 1915, 11; *Auburn Citizen*, July, 1915

MEMBERSHIP FORM - DUES (through Dec. 2020)

June 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 fund- raisers, your contribution is really appreciated.) THANK YOU!

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

check if e-mail Newsletters satisfactory (saves printing & mailing costs)

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 Friday or Sat afternoons _____ assist with collection care
_____ volunteer to help work on Opendore Project as _____
(carpentry, painting, gardening, etc.)
_____ other _____