

HOWLAND STONE STORE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

hssmsherwood@gmail.com

315-303-3145

Members and Friends

OPERATIONS :

This year marks the 30th year of operations for Howland Stone Store Museum. Founded in 1989 by the Friends of Howland Stone Store, the Museum continues to expand its operation and facilities. Now functioning with a strong committee structure, the Board actively manages operations and plans for the future.

A new Strategic Plan has been adopted, and a Sustainability Plan will follow.

COLLECTIONS :

A \$650 Greater Hudson Heritage Network grant for a database consultation to assess the present database and develop a plan for the future is in process.

HSSM is currently working with the Cayuga Museum in Auburn on various endeavors, including possible collaboration on exhibits. Isabel Howland left the Store building to Alice Koons. She ran the Sherwood Library and the Cabinet of Curiosities as long as she was able, but in turn left the Store to the Cayuga Museum. Friends of the Howland Stone Store Museum began the process of establishing an independent museum in 1988. Stabilizing and restoring the Store building, going through materials including the suffrage posters, and opening exhibits and hosting programs, form the foundations of our efforts today.



Andrea Rankin has been organizing the extensive Elsie Gutches collection donated to the Museum. Materials will be available for research. We have a number of duplicate books on remarkable women that are available for a small donation.



The collections Committee has begun the task of moving parts of our collection from the Stone Store to the newly completed Archive Room at Opendore. Vertical storage racks for framed objects were constructed by Guy and Kathie Garnsey and are now in place.



New window blinds have been installed in the Archive Room to protect the collections from UV light. The blinds were purchased by a generous grant from the Metcalf Foundation.



Five of our historic posters have been mounted and framed by WestLake Conservators thanks to a grant from the Delavan Foundation.

PROGRAMS :

We've presented three virtual programs in the past few months. Many are now available on-line :

- December 16th : Opendore Project "Perseverance and Preservation"
Video available : <https://youtu.be/Na9vUT5k7Ds> (slide show, no narrative)
- January 20th : "A Storm Center for Reformers: The Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District "
- February 17th : Opendore virtual tour
Video available at : <https://youtu.be/4-Qzq4COaF0>

Our next program will be Wednesday March 17th at 7:00 PM about **HSSM Collections**. We will look at the origins of the collection as well as newer additions with thoughts on preserving while making materials accessible to the public. Information for ZOOM login will be sent a few days in advance and posted on our website.

On April 21, we will discuss the new book *The Doctors Blackwell: How two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine* via Zoom.

May 23 is the date for the Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM. After the business meeting, we will have a program highlighting Isabel's education at Cornell, and her work in the community, and with state and local Suffrage organizations.



Larry Bell presenting the virtual "Storm Center" program from Opendore via our new highspeed internet connection.

August 21st we are planning our "**Centennial + 1**" celebration of the 19th Amendment passage, and also the Opendore Grand Opening – *mark your calendars for this important event !*

EDUCATION :

Displays are being planned for Opendore including items from the Cayuga County Political Equality Club and the Suffrage movement. We will also be highlighting the work that has been done on Opendore and the lifetime accomplishments of Emily Howland. Updating the exhibits at the Stone Store is also in progress.

Exciting news : Emily Howland has been accepted for induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls this year !! The induction will take place October 2nd, more to follow.

<https://www.womenofthehall.org/nwhfinduction/2021induction/>

WCNY has an excellent short video on Emily Howland : <https://youtu.be/VpF47-bpjpl>



Wells College senior Jacob Schaffer starting internship at HSSM. He is a history major and a museum studies minor, and would like to be exposed to all aspects of the museum as he considers possible career paths.

OPENDORE PROJECT :

Thru a \$10,000 Preserve New York grant HSSM is now developing a Historic Landscape Report through consultant Jean Gleisner. The report will discuss the history of the site and address recommendations for future development.

Work continues on interior finishes at Opendore. The historic archway in the White Entry Hall is completed, along with the beautiful fireplace mantel. Interior fire doors have been installed on the staircase, and doors also installed on the rest rooms. Refurbishing of 1910 veneers doors is nearly complete for reinstallation in the North Wing second floor.

Drawings for the Gutches Room and Howland-Ietchworth Parlor mantels have been prepared by volunteer architect Larry Liberatore, and fabrication by Guy Garnsey in his shop is upcoming. Andy Simkin has installed tile on the fireplace openings and brick on the hearths.



Gutchess Library Mantel Rendering



Howland-Ietchworth Parlor Mantel Rendering



Additionally, Guy is fabricating new cabinets for the Kitchenette, which will be installed in the near future.



Trim installation and painting

Quote from Beth Crawford, Crawford and Stearns Architects for the project : “Wow, the trimmed beams and the crown in the Entry Hall look fabulous. Can't wait to see the baseboard and door trim too! Nice job carpenters and painters!”



Ginny (Bell) the new volunteer dog



WiFi is now installed in the building and Mike Davis of ExtraMile technology has wired the building for wireless service and wired connections to audio-visual equipment. This work is funded by a Pomeroy Technology Grant.



Refurbished historic crown molding in entry Hall.



Historic wood veneer doors from North Wing which were badly damaged by moisture being refurbished.

Further Steps at Opendore : Site Development, Phase V and Beyond :

As you may have seen in the virtual open house, Opendore is looking great. The interior is getting closer to being finished, and we are planning a grand opening in August if the pandemic will allow it. However, there is still much to be done outside of those walls. Though still in the planning stages, here is our present thinking for the remaining steps.

- Parking and access to the building are the most pressing needs. We received a grant from the Preservation League of NYS to hire a landscape architect to write a historical cultural landscape report for the entire property. The report will include a design for parking and foot access to the building, while respecting the historical fabric of the site. With volunteer help, we plan to begin work this summer.
- Further into the future, we plan a park-like setting for the community to enjoy, providing a venue for outdoor activities such as plays and weddings. Inspired by historic pictures, we would like to recreate a vista reminiscent of 1915, when regional suffrage rallies were held here.

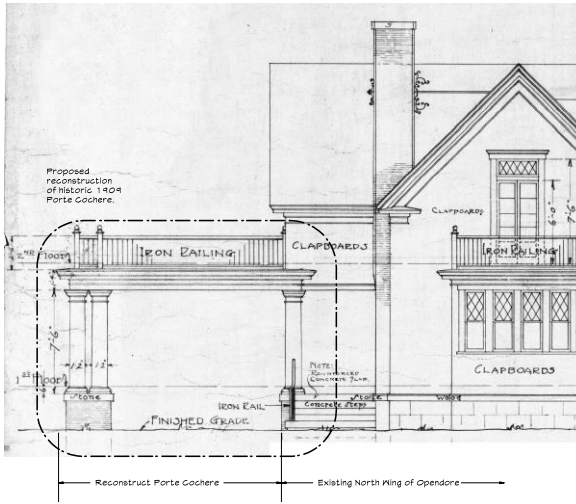
There are two historic structures which are unique and worth saving. Both are threatened structures.

- The 1837 outhouse is located in back of the carriage house. It is the only remaining structure from the original house, outside of the foundations. We believe it was moved to its present location in 1888 when the main house was outfitted with indoor plumbing. We have installed a temporary roof and put it on blocks to prevent further deterioration. Saving it will require a new roof and rebuilding of rotted sections.
- The springhouse is a square brick outbuilding with a hip roof. Presently, it consists of four deteriorating brick walls. Saving it will require repair of the brickwork, and replacement of the roof and rafters. We are searching for a mason who would enjoy a challenge.

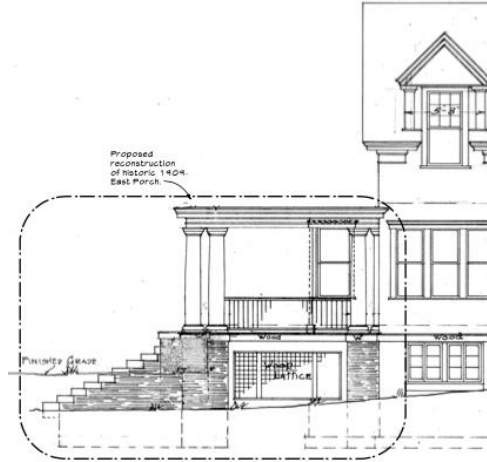
There are two missing pieces to the main building that we are calling Phase V. These are not essential for functionality, but the building does not look complete without them. We are actively seeking funding from New York State, but grant funding has been suspended due to the pandemic. We will apply as soon as possible. These grants will require 25% local matching funds.

- To the east of the drawing room there was a covered porch. All that remains is a set of concrete steps laid on top of a deteriorating brick and concrete foundation. We would like to rebuild the entire east porch to bring back the integrity of the structure and to provide a space for outdoor events.
- The porte cochere (literally, coach door) was a canopy over the driveway next to the north entrance, where one could enter the house from a carriage, utilizing an elevated first step. While functionally unnecessary, the building looks incomplete without it, with second story French doors leading nowhere. It is historically and aesthetically important.

Opendore has been a multi-year labor of love, slowly and steadily restoring the building to its former grandeur. We have come a long way since 2008 when the derelict building was purchased for back taxes. However, we still have some distance to go, and are committed to seeing the project to its completion. We thank you for your support and welcome your contributions.



Porte-Cochere West Elevation



East Porch North Elevation



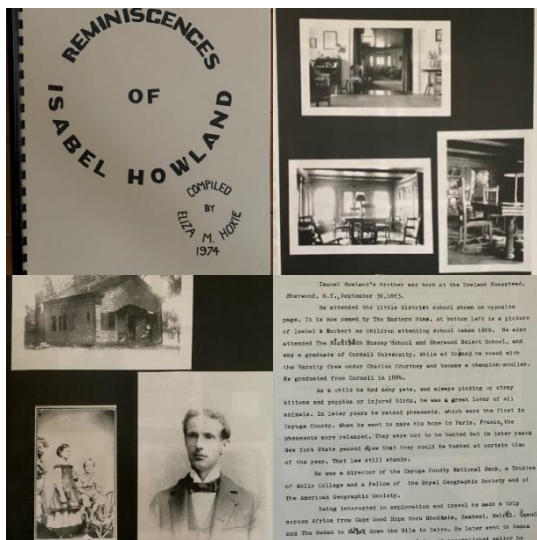
HSSM Members Jackie Dickinson, Kathie & Guy Garnsey and Jodi Baldwin (photographer) enjoy a winter day on the nature trail behind Opendore (in the background)

The trail is always open and a nice ¼ mile loop ! Try it out ...

MERCHANDISE :

Please visit our website for complete list of available publications and ordering information. Postcards, books, calendars and stencil blocks are available at howlandstonestore.org (Pay Pal) or by calling Jackie at 315.364.5591 (check or cash).

New Publication Available : "**Reminiscences of Isabel Howland**" is a re-print of a project compiled by Eliza M. Hoxie in 1974. This 100-page album is a homespun compilation of photos, newspaper clippings, and historical text about Isabel Howland and the Howland family. It is charming and chock full of information with its edited, typewritten text. Now available for \$20 plus shipping at howlandstonestore.org or by contacting a Stone Store volunteer for our local friends.



MEMBERSHIP :

Museum membership is now payable for 2021 , \$15.00 individual and \$25.00 family. The membership and donation form is attached. We currently have 115 members for 2021 and hope to increase as the year goes on.

Benefits of membership include :

- Support to museum
- Newsletter mailing hard copy if requested
- Reserved seating at programs if requested
- 10% discount 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 – 2021 DUES

March 2021

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

(please print email clearly !)

___ 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 _____