

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

FUNDRAISING : (Steve Zabriskie and Linda VanBuskirk)

Fundraising continues to be a priority for Opendore as well as the Museum. To continue our capital project, we estimate \$25,000 will need to be raised for next year. A membership / donation remittance envelope is included with this mailing and we hope you can renew or become a member for 2019 as well as donate to either the Museum or Opendore Project.

PROGRAMS : (Marilyn Post)

Our recent Sunday programs have been :

- September 16 : David Connelly on Thomas Mott Osborne, born in 1859. He was influenced by his mother, Eliza Wright Osborne, grandmother Martha Coffin Wright and great aunt Lucretia Coffin Mott, all suffrage and human rights activists.
- October 21 : Kirsten Wise, Curator at the Cayuga Museum, presented reflections on the exhibit 1918: A Century Later. World War I was raging in Europe and the flu pandemic was beginning. Women's suffrage had not yet passed in all states.
- November 4 : C. J. Koepp, Professor of History at Wells College shared Reflections on a Forgotten Pandemic: Influenza, 1918-19. The influenza epidemic of 1918-19 stands as the most significant epidemic of the twentieth century, yet it disappeared from human memory for decades.

Many thanks to all our presenters who have given so generously of their time in preparing and delivering thoughtful snapshots into history. Thanks also to our attentive audiences with their considered questions and comments. We hope to take some programs prepared by board members and others out into the community during the winter months to help make the museum known to a larger circle.

Planning for our 2019 Programs schedule is in process, and ideas for speakers/ topics are sought. Please contact Marilyn Post (315-478-1800).

Education and Visitation : (Barbara Wiggans Taylor)

FALL OPEN HOUSE : In September we hosted our second open house at the Stone Store and Opendore, attracting over 100 visitors who enjoyed both venues.

TOURS : The Stone Store closed its regular open schedule Thursday and Saturday afternoons at the end of September. We hosted a group from the Skaneateles Antique Club organization in October month to tour Opendore as well as the Store. Their feedback was "best tour of the year"! Additionally, a professor from Cornell University brought a class again this year.

DOCENTS : Please note that all of this depends on our local volunteer docents. This year we have made a script that can be followed to make docenting easier. It follows the lives and activities of Slocum Howland, William, Hannah, Emily and Benjamin Howland, and Isabel Howland. We train our docents, and a new docent is always paired with someone experienced. Docenting can be fun, and an opportunity to meet folks from near and far. We need additional docents to volunteer for next year for a few hours twice a month or so. Please call Barb Taylor (607-592-5649) or Marilyn Post (315-478-1800).

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROJECT : Barb Taylor is working on an underground railroad story to cover the southern Cayuga area. She is looking for any stories that people have heard about that have to do with their homes or the former owners of the homes being involved. Her idea is to do a driving tour from Elmira to Oswego following a possible pathway of a freedom seeker. Send any thoughts or ideas to Barb at barbwataylor@gmail.com or (607-592-5649).

WEBSITE :

HSSM is working on a new website to be rolled out early 2019. The site will have a modern look and improved organization for visitors.

OPENDOR PROJECT : (Guy Garnsey)

The Opendore Project recently receive an Award of Merit from the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY) for the exterior rehabilitation of the historic building. We were honored to be recognized for the efforts.



This fall we continued the site improvements, removing dead trees and excess undergrowth. The view to the east from the house now resembles the historic view from Opendore in the early 1900's. Additionally the Southern Cayuga Garden Club volunteers planted flowers and bushes in the old cistern area in the exposed foundation area, which will be wonderful this spring. We also uncovered the historic slate sidewalk along Route 34B that will connect to the Stone Store.



Garden Club Members



Dead Tree Removal North Side

As the fall/winter sets in, our work has turned to inside projects. We recently purchased insulation materials from Lowes of Auburn, and volunteers will be installing to make our building thermally efficient so we can operate our geothermal heating system which was installed this past summer. Following insulation, we plan to contract for drywall installation, which will mark a major milestone in interior finishes! Flooring, painting and trim restoration will follow by volunteers.

Since the October 2016 start of volunteer construction on the West Wing and continuing thru exterior refurbishment and interior renovation, over 3,600 volunteer hours have been donated by a dedicated core of individuals. Special recognition goes to the following who have over 500 hours logged : Andy Simkin, Gus Littlejohn, Larry Bell and Guy Garnsey. As always, we need help to accomplish this work. If you can help with this work, please contact Andy Simkin (206-390-4286).



Front Stairs and Accessible Ramp



Replaced French Door Header

We have awarded a contract for storm windows, two exterior doors and leaded glass repair. This work is planned for volunteer installation this winter.

Collections Committee : (Ann Tobey)

We are very proud of our collection of over 100 women's suffrage posters from the late 19th and early 20th century. Some have been on display at the Cayuga Museum in Auburn and the NYS Museum in Albany in 2017-18 because the women's suffrage campaign did not succeed in New York State until 1917. The posters come in different sizes and colors and messages and times. Dates urging the public to vote vary on some of our posters (November 2, November 6) because of the several attempts necessary before that final successful vote. (Note that this was only the vote in New York State; the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting all women in the U. S. the right to vote was not passed until 1920.)

An important goal for the Museum has been making reproductions of some of our posters available for programs and exhibits where it would not be possible to loan our originals. With the reproductions we can extend our reach both in space beyond our two buildings and in time beyond our open hours. The Museum now has more than twenty which have been reproduced.

We have a good example of the use of the reproductions right now. Laurel Auchambaugh, Historian of the Town of Owasco, heard me talk briefly about the reproductions and inquired if she could borrow some for an exhibit in the Owasco Town Office for the month of November. When she visited to choose, Ann Mathieson, poster volunteer expert, had spread out the posters for her to make choices. We have portfolios for safe carrying and a Loan Agreement for the protection of the borrowers and the Museum.

Six of our posters are now on exhibit on Tuesday during November in the Owasco Office at 2 Bristol Avenue. Visitors are welcome to see the exhibit.

We will be happy to loan our poster reproductions to interested groups. The reproductions are laminated so they are protected and stiff. We expect reasonable care, but we are loaning reproductions, so they can be used in a variety of places, including classrooms. If you are interested in borrowing some poster reproductions, contact Ann Tobey at 315-364-8174 or atobey1@live.com.