

HOWLAND STONE STORE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



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315-303-3145

Members and Friends

OPENDORE IS OPEN!

A Second Location for Howland Stone Store Museum

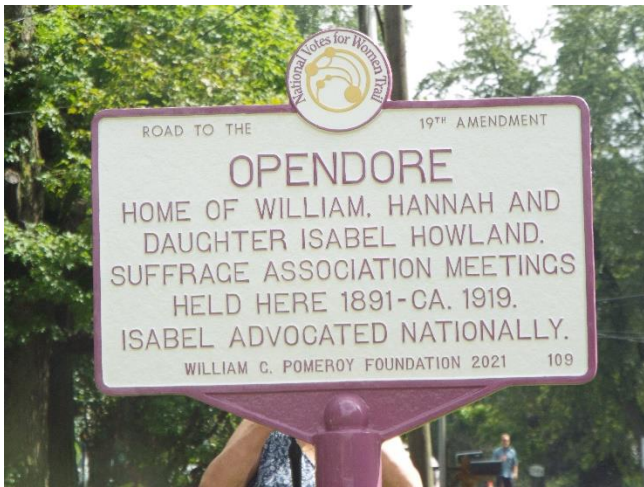
Sherwood: August 21-22, 2021. Opendore is open once again, after decades of being boarded up and closed off. On its grand opening weekend, over two hundred visitors toured Isabel's reconstructed home, witnessing the dramatic transformation from a fallen down ruin to a functioning museum. Isabel Howland would surely be pleased, having named her home Opendore because she wanted it to be open to the community.



Centennial +1

The weekend began with a centennial commemoration of the 19th Amendment, postponed from 2020 because of the pandemic. The crowd gathered outside under a large tent, remembering the large suffrage rallies that took place in Isabel's garden in the 1910s. Torrential rain was taken with good humor and did not stop the show. For this special occasion, Professor Judith Wellman returned to Sherwood and spoke on "The Power of Place as a Bridge Across Time: The World of Isabel Howland." Judy is an acclaimed historian who wrote the National Register application for the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District. The event featured a kids parade that can be seen at <https://youtu.be/vKesv5HDTs4>

When the rain stopped, the crowd moved to the sidewalk along the road to dedicate a new Pomeroy sign, honoring William, Hannah, and Isabel Howland as leaders in the women’s suffrage movement. Judy read a proclamation from the National Votes for Women Trail, co-sponsors of the sign. Instead of the familiar blue and gold, the sign is white and purple, the colors of the women’s suffrage movement.



POMEROY SIGN



CENTENNIAL TENT AND GUESTS

Grand Opening

The next day was the formal dedication and ribbon cutting. Beth Crawford, of Crawford and Stearns Architects, was the featured speaker. She gave an account of her long association with Opendore, from that first scary walk-thru in 2008 when 95% of the building was “at risk” or worse, through four phases of construction up to the present. Guy Garnsey, president of the Museum, spoke about the beginning of the volunteer effort.

“In October of 2016, the Opendore project was at a turning point. The stabilization of the derelict building had been completed in January 2016. The Museum had just received bids for Phase 2, the reconstruction of the southwest corner of the building. The bids were much higher than anticipated—just for the shell. Even with State grants, it looked like the whole project was in jeopardy. The cost of rehabilitating such a ruined building was much higher than anyone imagined. Contemplating the options, a group of volunteers looked at each other and said “We can do this”.

And they did. With those four words, the entire project changed. Key parts were contracted out, but the majority of the work was performed by 41 individuals giving time and expertise for the good of the community. Five years and 11,800 volunteer hours later, Opendore is open once again. The Opendore grand opening was a celebration of the volunteerism that has guided this project from its beginnings. Such generosity follows the example of Isabel Howland, renowned benefactor of the community.

After the presentations, the crowd moved from the tent to the front of the building where current president, Guy Garnsey, and former president, Pat White, cut the yellow ribbon. Pat guided the Museum during the beginning stages of the Opendore Project.



PAT WHITE AND GUY GARNSEY CUT RIBBON WITH VOLUNTEERS LOOKING ON

Was it worth it? As some have said, it certainly would have been easier and perhaps more cost effective to demolish the ruined building and start from scratch. However, the Museum believes in preservation, not only because the old is beautiful and unique, but because Isabel’s home can tell the story much more effectively than a modern building. Isabel can now welcome us into her home and tell the story of Sherwood’s role in the fight for equal rights for all.

THE EXHIBITS

Upon entering the building, visitors are welcomed by a painting of Isabel and a selection of suffrage posters from her collection. Straight ahead in the O’Hara Meeting Room is a timeline of the building from its original construction in 1837, to the glorious 1888 and 1910 renovations, to its abandonment in the 1970s, and the resurrection during the last decade.



OPENDORE TIMELINE



ENTRY HALL

The exhibit in the Howland-Letchworth Parlor highlights the contributions of Isabel’s parents, and her uncle, William Pryor Letchworth. The Crumrine-Howland-White Drawing Room features an expansive exhibit devoted to the life of Emily Howland, who will be inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame this year.



HOWLAND-LETCHWORTH PARLOR



CRUMRINE-HOWLAND-WHITE DRAWING ROOM

Moving upstairs, the Builders Gallery is devoted to a recreation of the Cayuga County Political Equality Club, c. 1917, with some of the very same posters on the walls.

For a virtual tour of the building and site, go to [Opendore Tour Aug 20 2021 - YouTube](#)

The Museum is grateful to Humanities NY, the Delavan Foundation, and Central NY Community Foundation for funding this event.

PHASE V

Visitors on Saturday were greeted by a torrential downpour which turned the temporary parking on the west side of Route 34B into a muddy mess. The need for permanent parking was obvious. Thanks to a Preserve NY grant, and landscape designer Jeanie Gleisner, the Museum already has a plan for that.

The Phase V design eliminates parking at the front of the building, as it is unsafe and blocks the building facade. Instead, a parking lot will be built on the north side of the building, including bus and handicapped parking. Handicapped accessibility will be provided to the ramp on the west side of the building. Phase V also includes historic tree, flower and shrub planting, providing shade trees along the road to frame the west façade, as depicted in early photographs.



SITE PLAN FOR PROPOSED PHASE V

MUSEUM HOURS for FALL :

The Stone Store Museum and now Opendore are open for visitors on Fridays and Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Cabinet of Curiosities is also open to visitors! We currently require all visitors to wear masks. Bring your guests and invite former area residents to stop in.

Appointments for visits can also be arranged by calling 315-303-3145 at least two days in advance.

October 1st and 2nd the museum is participating in NY Path Through History featuring the new exhibits at Opendore. Our 10-minute video on the poster collection will also be shown at the Stone Store.

COLLECTIONS

The collections committee has been working on cleaning the general area as well as individual boxes and artifacts. Boxes are being moved to Opendore following examination and vacuuming. We are working on assessing the best methods of caring for documents and posters as well as preparing items for display.

A database consultation report has been received addressing our method of logging collection items and we are working on implementation of recommendations, including software, hardware and protocols.

PROGRAMS :

Sunday September 26, 4:00 PM Jeanie Gleisner on Opendore Site

Research and evaluation of the Opendore cultural landscape began in September 2020 with on-site field work and archival research conducted by cultural landscape planner and designer, Jeanie Gleisner. The long lost formal gardens and successional woodlands held stories in the historical and physical record that provided the basis for a Cultural Landscape Report and Treatment Plan through grant assistance provided by the Preservation League of New York and sponsored by Howland Stone Store Museum. Ms. Gleisner will discuss some of the highlights of the historical research, and the Treatment Plan for rehabilitation of the Opendore landscape in Sherwood, NY, home of Isabel Howland, woman's rights activist (1859 - 1942).

Members who wish reserved seats please contact us at event@howlandstonestore.org with your name and number of seats desired. The program will also be available on Zoom at :

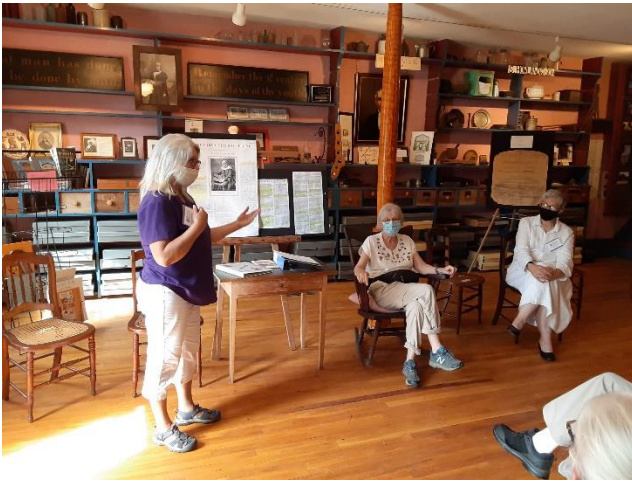
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057269500?pwd=SkxQV3BsYzVqN2lxOWFYVHdrQllzQT09>

EDUCATION :

Unfortunately, the inductions including Emily Howland into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls has been postponed a year.

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

The Museum is in need of docents for both the Stone Store and Opendore. No experience is required, we will provide a mentor to new volunteers. Please contact us at 315-303-3145 and leave a message.



VISITORS AT STONE STORE



ARTIFACT DISPLAY

MERCHANDISE :

We have added HSSM T-shirts to our inventory in various colors.



Additionally, we now have a new postcard featuring Emily. 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). The web store now accepts credit cards as well as Pay Pal.

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 150 members for 2021 and hope reach our goal of 200 by the end of the year.

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

Sept 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 !)

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
_____ help work on facilities work
_____ other _____