

Members and Friends

You should have received your December newsletter by mail, and you will perhaps appreciate a reminder to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Doing so will keep you on our mailing list for future newsletters, program announcements and other events. At \$10 / \$15 individual / family it's a bargain.

As you renew your membership and consider your plans for 2018, be sure to consider any funds that you can send to the OPENDORE Project of the HSSM. The 2018 Membership form is attached for you to continue your membership or make donations.

As you drive by Opendore, admire the paint job, the windows and doors, and cast your mind back ten years to appreciate what has been accomplished since the HSSM acquired the derelict property in 2008. You can also see a slide presentation of the history of Opendore and current restoration projects at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWHoajVSZ28> . If what you see gives you pleasure, please support the completion of the Project!

The Museum is in process of awarding a contract to Bouley Associates of Auburn for heating, plumbing, and electrical systems. While we have funds on hand for that work, additional funds will be required to complete the interior build-out of the structure. Our hope is to complete the project for occupancy by end of 2018, continuing to use a volunteer workforce where possible.

Since each donation to Opendore is matched by our NYS Grants, your dollars are worth twice as much to the project. More is needed, and gifts in the \$1,000 and up range are especially appreciated. If \$100 is more in line with your budget, consider making your donation an annual gift, as annual gifts will help the museum with future programs and continued maintenance of Opendore.

Those of you who are particularly concerned with sustainability in all its forms will be glad to hear that Opendore will use efficient geothermal heating, requiring no fossil fuel to provide both heat and air conditioning. The extra expenditure now will save money for decades to come.

If you have skills and would like to volunteer labor, contact Andy Simkin at 315-252-4481. Over 2,000 hours have been donated since fall 2016, and many more will be needed this year. Volunteer labor is valued by the State and used for local match.

HSSM Calendars : the very stylish 2018 calendar is available for purchase at reduced price of \$12.00 if picked up or \$15.50 with postage. Contact Pat White at 315-364-5587. The calendar can also be ordered on our website <http://howlandstonestore.org>