



NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2024

MUSEUM HOURS

The Stone Store Museum and Opendore are now closed for the winter for regular hours. However, appointments for visits can also be arranged by calling 315-303-3145 at least three days in advance. Regular open hours on Saturday and Sunday will resume in May.

We welcome group tours by organizations. Please contact us at the number above.

DOCENTS NEEDED !!

We are in need of additional docents for our 2024 season. Docents greet visitors and provide information about our exhibits. Docenting is a great way to interact with guests and learn about the history of Sherwood and its residents.

Volunteer docents work one or more weekend afternoons a month during our open season from May through October. We arrange docents in pairs, and can schedule new folks with our experienced members to help with the “learning curve”. Extensive knowledge is not required, information is typically learned “on the job”. A docent manual is provided with complete information on the duties, as well as the Museum history and collections.



Marilyn Post leading group at Stone Store



Volunteer dinner at Aurora Brewery

A docent refresher training session for our experienced docents is scheduled for Wednesday April 18th, 9:00 to 11:00 AM this year. This is the opportunity to meet our group and learn about the role of docents.

If you are interested please contact Karen Speck at 315-730-2528, or simply come to the April session.

FACILITIES

The facilities volunteers have completed renovation of the Workroom at east end of the Stone Store first floor. The cracked and peeling walls and ceilings were patched and painted, and the floor painted. Additionally the historic bookcase has been repaired including major restoration of components of the glazed sash which were rotten from having been stored for many years in the basement on damp floor. Broken glass was replaced, and the sash reinstalled.



Sash Repair



Larry Bell and Tryg Ager

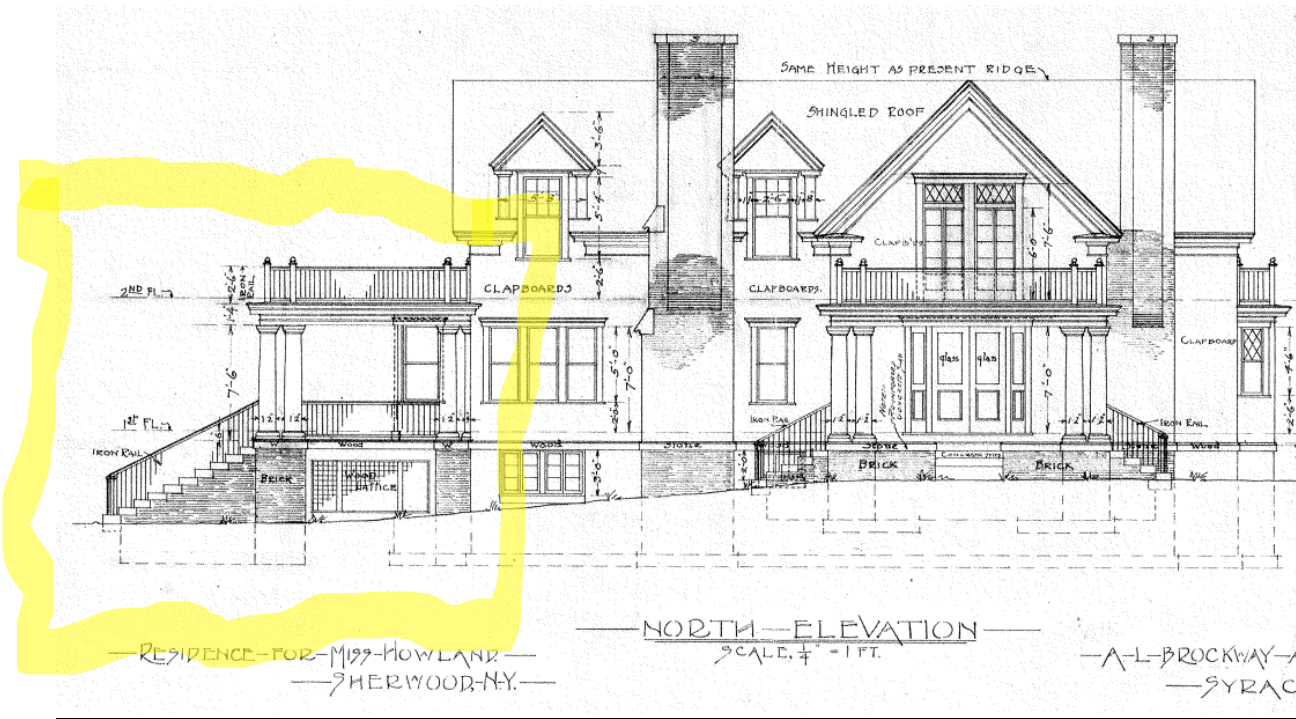
Plans are underway to utilize the space for an educational display of the historic general store office. In yet another improvement recommended by our preservation consultant, the back of the bookcase was insulated to provide protection against drastic temperature and humidity changes.

The facilities volunteers also cleaned up a half dozen large pine trees that toppled during the January windstorm, creating a huge tangle of trunks and boughs.



Downed Trees

A grant submission to New York State Council on the Arts has been made for reconstruction of the historic **East Porch** at Opendore as our next capital project. We are hopeful for funding to cover materials and work to be subcontracted, with another major commitment of volunteer hours for framing of the structure.



EDUCATION

We are using the winter off-season to rethink our exhibits in the Stone Store. The building is much less cluttered now that the move to Opendore has been completed. We are working to make the exhibit arrangement more logical and user-friendly. Here's the plan....

Walk in the door, and to your left will be Slocum Howland and the story of his involvement in the Underground Railroad. Further along that wall will be Jethro Wood and his world-changing invention of the cast iron plow.

The former workroom will be recreated into the Howland and Son store office. You will find a newly restored cabinet full of interesting old books from William Howland's library. Over in the southeast corner will be an 1892 ledger open on a small desk, with our grandfather clock opposite.

Back out in the store on the south wall will be an area recreating Alice Koon's children's story time at the Sherwood Library during the 1950s. Back toward the entrance will be devoted to the story of Emily Howland and the Sherwood Select School.

We recently hosted two school groups who thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits.



Examining the Cabinet of Curiosities



an old fashioned game of checkers

Come see us! The Museum will be open for visitors May 4, with a Gala Exhibit Opening on June 15.

HISTORIAN

Who was JOHN MANN? (The person who signed the Underground Railroad “pass” in our collection that Thomas and James Hart carried to Slocum Howland in 1840.)

Our research has uncovered the following:

- John Mann was born to a Quaker family in Chester, PA in 1816.
- According to Emily Howland, he lived in Friendsville, PA, just south of present-day Endicott, NY. His place was a “stop” on the Underground Railroad, on route to Slocum Howland’s “stop” in Sherwood.
- He was likely the first president of the Susquehanna County Anti-Slavery Society (1837).
- About 1842, he moved 140 miles west to Coudersport, PA, south of Hornell, where he continued to maintain a stop on the Underground Railroad. A secret hiding place was discovered in his house.
- John Mann was proprietor of a general store, a respected lawyer, a postmaster, and District Attorney for Potter County.
- After the War, he was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for several terms between 1866 and 1871, and was editor of the *Potter Journal* (1870 – 1879).
- John Smith Mann died in 1879 and was buried in Eulalia Cemetery in Coudersport.

COLLECTIONS

Work continues on cleaning and recording the vast collection of materials stored in the archive boxes moved from the Stone Store. Each box contains fascinating letters, photos, and other memoirs from the Howland family which tell the story of their remarkable efforts for social justice, abolition and suffrage.

PROGRAMS

“Land, Liberty, and Loss: Echoes of the American Revolution” is our third annual Reading and Discussion Group. We are discussing the history of the Haudenosaunee, New York State, and the colonial enterprise during the period of our nation’s founding.

We plan to read a book every three weeks, then gather and talk about it. The books were chosen by Alan Taylor, a Pulitzer-prize winning scholar of colonial history. We are hoping to have Haudenosaunee guest speakers during the term of the programs to bring other tellings of this history. Programs are scheduled to continue on Sundays March 10, April 7, and April 28, at 4:00 PM. For more information, contact Marilyn Post at 315-303-3145, or go to the website at HumanitiesNY.org

On Sunday April 14th at 4:00 PM, Cornell Historian Corey Ryan Earle will present a program on early female graduates of Cornell including ***Isabel Howland (class of 1881) and Harriet May Mills (class of 1879), and their involvement with woman's suffrage.***

Sunday May 5th at 4:00 PM Tom Griffith from Central New York Community Foundation will present a program on ***Charitable Giving & Legacy Planning program.*** Anyone considering giving to charities from their estate will benefit from Tom’s insight.

COMMUNITY USE of OPENDORE

The Museum welcomes use of Opendore for community activities. Currently the Hazard Library is holding their Board Meetings and Book Club sessions at Opendore. If your organization would like to discuss usage, please contact us.

MEMBERSHIP

Our annual appeal was mailed in November, and have had generous support from members renewing their membership and making contributions to the museum and/or capital projects.

For 2023 we had 168 renewing or new memberships. Our goal for 2024 is 200. If you wish to join or donate you can use either using the form below or accessing at www.howlandstonestore.org/memberships

Benefits of membership include

- Support to museum
- Newsletter mailing hard copy if requested
- Reserved seating at programs if requested
- 10% discount on HSSM 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 – 2024 DUES

March 2024

YES! I/We would like to support the ongoing restoration/preservation and educational programming of the Howland Stone Store Museum.

Please print clearly !

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

Your contribution is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!

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 Saturday or Sunday afternoons	_____ Assist with collection care
_____ Work on facilities	
_____ Other _____	

The Museum Board of Trustees appreciates your continued support!

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