

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### MEMBERSHIP :

***Museum renewal membership for 2020 is \$15 individual and \$25 family. Any applications received in November and December 2019 will be credited to 2020. The membership and donation form is on the last page of this newsletter.***

### COLLECTIONS :

Eileen Stout, proprietor of Rogues Harbor Inn in Lansing, recently donated 44 pieces of coin silver tableware to the Howland Stone Store Museum in the hamlet of Sherwood. The majority of the forks, serving spoons and teaspoons are engraved with the complete "Howland" name. Other pieces are embellished with a gothic "H" or initials ending with "H". Ms. Stout purchased the silverware with the understanding that they had been purchased earlier at a large estate auction in the Aurora area. Howland was a common name among early Quaker settlers in the Union Springs and Poplar Ridge area and probably all were related in some cousinly fashion. We do not know who owned the flatware or who used it for Sunday dinner, but chances are that a teaspoon may have stirred the tea of Emily or Isabel Howland.

Coin silver was originally made of melted down European coins, supporting the Revolutionary war era effort to avoid the purchase of English goods. It contains about 90% silver. Coin silver flatware continued to be produced until around 1870, when sterling silver and electroplated flatware became the norm. Silver ore was discovered in Nevada in 1859, lowering the price of higher grade silver content, making sterling silver more affordable.

Fancy matched sets of silverware were not common until the later part of the 19th century. Individual pieces of sterling or coin silver might be given as wedding presents and were typically passed down through families. Matching was not a concern. In fact, differences in pattern helped identify when and where a piece or pieces were acquired.

The 15 forks Ms. Stout donated are marked " S.H. Zenner, Syracuse". A trade card in the Winterthur Library collection lists Zenner as a " jeweler and optician, eye glasses" and flatware was often sold in conjunction with these items. Commonly silversmiths followed blacksmiths into colonial communities. Jackie Dickinson has even found references to a silversmith in Poplar Ridge.

The flatware will be displayed with "Howland" linens gifted by Carol Howland Thompson thru Patricia Howland White and will provide a tangible way to look at the social customs of the late 19th and early 20th century. The women working for suffrage did take time out for afternoon tea, conversation and a piece of Susan B. Anthony's birthday cake.

Other recent donations from Lynda Hanrahan include a cast iron "Ansonia " mantle clock dating from around 1900. The Ansonia Clock company, founded in 1850, moved from Connecticut to Brooklyn in 1878, and by 1914 produced 440 models. But novelty clocks faced fierce competition and financial difficulties forced the company to sell assets, though the name is still in use. Lynda also donated two parlor side tables to be used at *Opendore*, a marble topped oval and an Eastlake style table. The original contents of *Opendore* were sold at auction in 1942, after the death of Isabel Howland, so these period appropriate additions are most welcome. *Opendore* will not be fully furnished as it was in 1915, but we will use items that create a sense of the times.

**PROGRAMS :**



On September 15, Anne Mlod spoke on how slavery has been represented in children's literature.



On October 20, Jerome Durr of Jerome Durr Studios in Syracuse NY provided a fascinating presentation and demonstration on the restoration of historic lead windows.



Larry Bell presented on November 17th to a capacity audience on the contributions made by Emily Howland to the education of African Americans before and after the Civil War in addition to her support of local secondary education.

## OPEN HOUSE :

Our Fall Open House Saturday October 19th at both the Stone Store and Opendore was well attended. Visitors enjoyed seeing the progress at Opendore as well as the attractions at the Stone Store!!



Open House guests viewing slide show



Opendore Volunteers

## OPENDORE PROJECT :



Our fall work has been focused on interior finishes.

The hardwood floors throughout the building have been completed by Phoenix Hardwood Flooring of Savannah and greatly add to the interior's "finished appearance".



Work by volunteers is on-going for restoration of interior trim. It's painstaking detail work that gets done "inch by inch", with remarkable results.

Since the October 2016 start of volunteer construction on the West Wing and continuing thru exterior refurbishment and interior renovation, over 6,000 volunteer hours have been donated by a dedicated core of individuals.

## **HSSM Calendars**

The 2020 HSSM Woman's Rights Centennial Calendar replicates a historic week-by-week version from our collection and will be available for sale at the Open House for \$20, with member price of \$15 for first copy. They can also be purchased on our website [www.howlandstonestore.org](http://www.howlandstonestore.org) or by contacting Carolyn Littlejohn at 315-364-7694.

## **FUNDRAISING :**

Fundraising for both our annual operation of the Museum as well as the Opendore Project continues. The support of our members and benefactors is vital to our on-going operations.

Room-naming opportunities remain for the Opendore project. Please contact Steve Zabriskie at 315-246-0413 or Linda VanBuskirk at 315-364-7463.

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS :**

*Letters of Emily Howland, volume 1* (40 pages)

Part 1: Letters written from Miss Miner's school in Washington, D.C. and messages given to the pupils in the school, 1857-1861

Part 2: Letters written from the Heathsville, Virginia school, 1865-1870

*Letters of Emily Howland, volume 2: Journal, Report, Reminiscences and Letters from Contraband Camp, 1863-1866* (38 pages)

Journal 1863-1866

Report to Colonel Eaton 1865

Letter to Anti-Slavery Standard 1865

Reminiscences on Freedmen's Camp

Excerpts from letters to home folks, 1863-1866

Price: \$10 each plus \$2 postage

Contact Karen Speck at 315-730-2528 or [heronpdsp@aol.com](mailto:heronpdsp@aol.com)

# 2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM - DUES (through Dec. 2020)

Dec 2019

**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 fundraisers, your tax-deductible contribution is really appreciated.) THANK YOU!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 individual  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 family  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Opendore donation  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL enclosed

Make checks payable to **Howland Stone Store Museum, PO Box 124, Aurora, NY 13026**

Volunteer Opportunities—want to help?

\_\_\_\_\_ assist with programs or displays \_\_\_\_\_ assist with grants/fundraising  
\_\_\_\_\_ greet visitors Friday or Sat afternoons \_\_\_\_\_ assist with collection care  
\_\_\_\_\_ volunteer to help work on Opendore Project as \_\_\_\_\_  
(carpentry, painting, gardening, etc)