

HOWLAND STONE STORE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



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Members and Friends

ADMINISTRATION :

Our Annual Meeting was held May 22nd. A review of the past year's activities along with financial reports and approval of 2020 meeting minutes was conducted. In addition, three open Board seats were elected by members :

Guy Garnsey reelected for his 3rd term

Kirsten Wise of the Cayuga Museum and HSSM Collections Committee elected to first term

Lorrie Butcher HSSM Facilities volunteer elected to first term

We welcome the new and returning Board members, and thank Barb Taylor and Jamien Shea for their service on the Board. Our Board and various Committees are very active throughout the year, and we welcome anyone interested in assisting.

With the pandemic easing, we look forward to returning to more normal activities this summer. While Covid protocol will still be in effect following NYS and CDC guidelines, we will be offering in person as well as virtual events. The Stone Store is now open for visitors on Friday and Saturday from 1-4 through the summer.

We are especially looking forward to our "Centennial + 1" 19th Amendment event on August 21st and the Opendore Dedication on August 22nd. See below for more details.

A new Strategic Plan has been adopted, and a Sustainability Plan will follow.

The Museum has adopted an updated logo for use on our materials and products.



The logo is similar to the prior version, modernized for a cleaner look.

COLLECTIONS :

The Stone Store Museum is open on Friday and Saturday from 12 to 4. Please wear masks if not vaccinated. The Cabinet of Curiosities is also open to visitors! Bring your guests and invite former area residents to stop in.

The collections committee has been working on cleaning the general area as well as individual boxes and artifacts. Boxes are 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 :

We've presented three virtual programs in the past few months. Many are now available on-line from our website :

- March 17th : HSSM Collection
- April 12th : The Doctors Blackwell: How two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine
- May 23rd : Reminiscences of Isabel (not recorded)
- June 16th : Reconstruction After the Civil War by Michael Groth

June 18-19 the museum is participating in NY Path Through History with a display of suffrage posters from our collection. Our 10-minute video on the poster collection will also be shown throughout the museum hours of 1-4 pm.

On **July 18th at 7:00 PM** Linda VanBuskirk will present a program on the **ratification of the 19th Amendment**. She will discuss the challenges of getting two thirds of the states to commit to suffrage as the south remained solidly anti. Linda retired from Cornell a few years ago and serves on the Cayuga Community College Board of Trustees as well as working hard on our Fundraising Committee.

Saturday August 21st we are planning our "Centennial + 1" celebration of the 19th Amendment passage, and on Sunday August 22nd the Opendore Dedication. A full afternoon of events is being planned for both days, mark your calendars for these important events, more information to follow.

EDUCATION :

Displays are being planned for Opendore including items from the Cayuga County Political Equality Club and the Suffrage movement. We will also be highlighting the work that has been done on Opendore and the lifetime accomplishments of Emily Howland. Updating the exhibits at the Stone Store is also in progress.

Exciting news : Emily Howland has been accepted for induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls this year !! The induction will take place October 2nd at 2:00 PM. Tickets will be available soon from the National Women's Hall of Fame website.

<https://www.womenofthehall.org/nwhfinduction/2021induction/>

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

Board member Jackie Dickinson has recently repainted several historic "blue and gold" signs in Sherwood, greatly improving their appearance ... thanks Jackie !



OPENDORE PROJECT :

Through a \$10,000 Preserve New York grant HSSM is now developing a Historic Landscape Report with consultant Jean Gleisner. The report will discuss the history of the site and address recommendations for future development.

Work is nearly complete on interior finishes at Opendore. The second floor Archive Room is now in use for collections storage, and the Gallery for public displays. The North Wing contains the Elsie Gutches Library, volunteer workroom, and office space. The first floor Drawing Room, Parlor, Entry hall. Meeting room and Restrooms are fully functional. We look forward having the building complete in August for our planned events.



Andy Simkin installing floor tile



Larry Bell working on door frames



Volunteers Bess Simkin, "Ginny" the Opendore dog, Lorrie Butches and Kathie Garnsey painting Gallery window trim



Kitchenette cabinet doors in fabrication by Guy Garnsey



Opendore Volunteers celebrate 10,000 hours since October 2016 !!!



Coffee Break at Opendore

Opendore Site Development Planning

Almost a year ago we received funding from the Preservation League of New York State for a historical landscape report. Jeanie Gleisner, researcher and designer, has written an eighty page historical report of the ten acre site, together with recommendations for the future. She is in the final stages of putting together a design based on her findings and the needs of the museum.

The design will provide parking for cars, buses and handicapped visitors as well as pedestrian accessibility, all the while respecting the historic nature of the site. Concessions to motorized transportation are isolated to the north of the building, leaving the west side of the building to recreate the lovely tree lined walkway that once existed there. Visitors and passers-by will see the restored west façade, unimpeded by parked vehicles. Americans with disabilities will have full access to the public areas of the building. Native trees, chosen to fit under power lines, will be planted along the highway, reminiscent of early pictures.

Although it might seem antiquated, the plan calls for reconstruction of the *porte cochere*. It is important aesthetically because the north façade is looks incomplete without it, and practically because it provides a covered unloading area for collections material and visitors.

We will apply for State historic preservation funding for the project. Fortunately, Environmental Protection Fund grants are once again available after being shut down during Covid. Since EPF grants require a 50/50 match, we will also ask for foundation funding and private contributions.

Also included will be a landscape design for the rest of the property, again respecting the history while accommodating modern needs. We anticipate outdoor activities such as plays and other events against a park like setting. We envision the day when the public will once again walk the paths, admire the plantings, and enjoy the scenic vistas, while remembering the historic events that once took place here.

HISTORIAN :



Wells College intern Jacob Schaffer and his class visiting Opendore

New Discoveries from New the Dustbin of History

Larry Bell, historian

As we move the archives, we are making new discoveries all the time. Like any move, we are finding things we did not know we had. In the last page of a loose-leaf notebook marked “Miscellaneous,” I found a treasure— a 1913 postcard from Stella Phillips, the granddaughter of Herman Phillips. Let’s follow this rabbit hole and see where it leads.

Herman was a freedom seeker who came to Sherwood in 1843. Stella’s father was James Phillips, who served in the Colored Regiment during the Civil War. They lived in the Bianconi house just north of Opendore. In the 1910 census, Stella is 24 years old and working as a servant for a private family, presumably one of the Howlands, perhaps Isabel. By 1913, Stella is living in Auburn with her mother. She sent the following postcard to Emily Howland.

Auburn, N.Y., Mar 11, 1913

Dear Miss Howland,

Hoping these few lines may find you well. Mother has not been feeling quite so well for the past few days. Where is Miss Howland. I have not heard from her lately. I thought I would let you know that Aunt Harriet Tubman passed away last night. I am well. With love from us both. From Stella Phillips.

Miss Emily Howland, ~~Sherwood, Cay Co N. Y.~~

c/o Miss Alice L. White, Girls Ind. School, Montgomery, Alabama

As you can see, the Sherwood address was crossed out and the postcard was forwarded to Alabama. In 1913, Emily was touring the South, visiting many of the schools she had helped start and fund over the years.



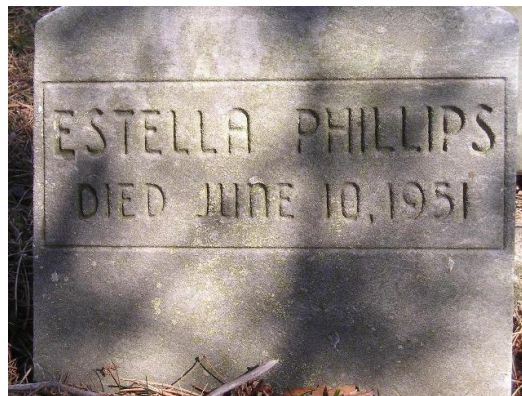
Stella's mother was Rosa Gaskin Phillips, the daughter of Richard Gaskin, an African American who settled in Ledyard in 1864. Richard was part of the North Street Quaker Meeting where Emily grew up.

In the 1915 census, Stella and Rosa were living on Forgette Place in Auburn. Rosa died later that year. Forgette Place no longer exists, but in earlier years it was a small street that ran south from Bailey Street to Chapman Avenue, not far from the Tubman home. From the short message on the postcard, it sounds as if Stella is caring for her mother.

In the 1920 census, Stella is back in Sherwood, working as a servant and living at Opendore with Isabel Howland. Florence Gifford is also there, listed as Isabel's companion. It's a big house for three people.

I have not been able to find Stella in the public record from 1920 until her death in 1951. She was not living at Opendore, or Cayuga County in 1925, 1930 or 1940. Did she marry and move elsewhere? Perhaps one of our readers knows the answer to this mystery.

After she died, Stella came back to Sherwood to be buried at Sherwood Cemetery along with Rosa, James, Herman and several other members of the Phillips family.



MERCHANDISE :

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 130 members for 2021 and hope to increase as the year goes on with a goal of 200.

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

June 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

_____ volunteer to help work on Opendore Project as _____

(carpentry, painting, gardening, etc.)

_____ other _____