

## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### MEMBERSHIP :

***Museum renewal membership for 2020 is \$15 individual and \$25 family. The membership and donation form is on the last page of this newsletter.***

We currently have 87 members for 2020 and would like to surpass our 2019 membership of 140.

### ADMINISTRATION :



In January the Board and Committee members met in a planning session to discuss the options for use of Opendore spaces once occupied. The discussion included planning for rotating exhibits as well as accommodating programs and community events .

Additionally, we have approved our budget for 2020 and identified goals for the year.

### COLLECTIONS :

#### **LOANING OUR POSTERS**

In 1920 the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution was passed, stating that the right to vote could not be abridged on account of sex. This centennial year is focusing on the long process of reaching that point. Such an historic event is recognized in various celebrations, in articles in newspapers and magazines, and – to the point here – in museums.

Our spectacular collection of women's suffrage posters has been a part of suffrage celebrations and exhibits in the past, and we are again loaning posters to museums featuring the suffrage movement.

We have already had experience in a similar earlier public recognition. In 1917 New York State gave women the right to vote as part of the long process of winning the suffrage battle state-by-state. In 2017 there were state-wide celebrations, and our posters were featured in the New York State Museum in Albany and in the Cayuga Museum in Auburn.

Now we are providing posters for two additional major professional museums, the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. These loans, for a minimum of several months, involve legal agreements, arrangements for packing and shipping, and requirements for exhibition. Although these are time-consuming projects, they are a rewarding and learning experience for us. We are proud to be part of exhibits in all of these museums.

Additionally, we are working with the Seward House Museum to loan several posters for their 2020 exhibits.

The posters we loan to these museums are part of the collection originally brought back to Sherwood. We also have reproductions which we will be glad to loan on a less formal basis. These are excellent reproductions and are mounted ready for display. The Owasco Town Office borrowed several for an exhibit there, and we have a request for a few reproductions for a one-day meeting.

Arrangements for loaning our posters are an important part of our winter work, along with preparing our own exhibits for our open season and caring for all our artifacts, not just the posters.

If anyone is interested in borrowing reproductions for exhibit or has any questions, please contact Ann Tobey (315-364-8174) or [atobey1@lve.com](mailto:atobey1@lve.com)).

## MUSEUM ARTIFACTS



Remember when your grandma would stuff sugar packets or soda crackers into her purse at the end of a lunch “out”? Well evidently Emily and Isabel did too on their travels in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among the hundreds (thousands?) of items in the Cabinet of Curiosities of the HSSM are things that could be consumed –at least by “the locals” (meaning the locals in the countries the ladies were visiting)- and implements with which to serve them. Among them: pine nuts (Colorado); sugar cane, dates, peanuts, gourds, garlic, and lentils (Egypt); raisins wrapped in fig leaves (Italy); “bahmyia” (okra) and locusts (“eaten by the Arabs and considered a great delicacy”); and pomegranates (the south of France).



We also have one entire loaf of Arab pita bread that’s in pieces, but measures at least 10” in diameter. Now that must have been difficult to stuff into a pocket in 1907 - let alone having survived mostly intact 113 years later!

## PROGRAMS :

In January the fabled “Bored to Death Gang” visited Opendore and were most impressed with the progress of the work.



Also, in January our first Sunday Program was a discussion of Mildred Myers book “Miss Emily”, led by Marilyn Post. We were treated to the memories of several attendees of living in Opendore years ago.

## Upcoming Programs :

**Sunday February 23** 4:00 PM Opendore : Discussion of the Suffragette Movement in England and United States.

**Tuesday May 5** 7:00 PM Opendore : Why the Right to Vote Remains Precarious. New York recently changed its voting laws; other states have been changing voter ID requirements. We hear claims of voter fraud and voter suppression. Cornell Assistant Professor of Government David Alexander Bateman will help us examine these and other questions about voting in a democracy. Jointly hosted by Indivisible Cayuga and the Howland Stone Store Museum.

**Sunday May 17** 7:30 PM Opendore : Dr. Linda Frank “In-Laws and Outliers:”, the Persistent Determination of the Stanton Women

## EDUCATION :

We seek persons who lived in Opendore or visited at some time and would like to share their oral history.

We also seek volunteers to docent during the year, starting in May. New docents are paired with experienced persons to “learn the ropes”, and a prepared script is available. Docenting is a fun way to learn more about local history and share it with visitors from all areas. Two 3 hour shifts per month would be a great help.

Please contact Karen Speck at 315-730-2528 or heronpdsp@aol.com regarding ether.

## **2020 PUBLIC EVENTS :**

**HSSM Annual Meeting** Sunday May 17 ; 7:00 PM : Annual Report, Election of Trustees and other business

Our spring **OPEN HOUSE** at both the Stone Store and Opendore will be **Saturday May 2**, 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

On Saturday **August 15<sup>th</sup>** we will have a special event to both **dedicate the Opendore Project and celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial.**

Please mark your calendars !!.

## **OPENDORE PROJECT :**

**HISTORIC MANTELS** and other materials sought : We are currently working on the five fireplaces in the building.

Volunteers have painstakingly restored the mantel salvaged from the demolished South Wing and it will be installed in the West Wing Entry Hall creating a wonderful focal point. We are seeking any other mantels or historic trim that was salvaged from the building while it was abandoned. We welcome any materials, no questions asked. Drop off at the building or contact Larry Bell 315-364-8158.



The handicapped accessible lift from the first to second floor has been installed, providing accessibility throughout the museum public spaces.



The historic mantel from south wing being restored.





“Compo” urn casting from arched door frame leading from Vestibule to Entry Hall restored by Lorrie Butcher (note white restoration materials). “Compo” is a mixture of whiting, resin and glue used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for ornamenting trim. It was used extensively in the 1910 addition and is being restored or reproduced where missing by volunteers.



“Compo” trim restored by Bess Simkin and Lorrie Butcher.

Since the October 2016 start of volunteer construction on the West Wing and continuing through exterior refurbishment and interior renovation, over 6,500 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 are available for sale for reduced price of \$15, with member price of \$10 for first copy. They can be purchased on our website [www.howlandstonestore.org](http://www.howlandstonestore.org) or by contacting Karen Speck at 315-730-2528.

**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.

We wish to acknowledge our Opendore donors by our Society categories, both permanently in the building and in HSSM publications. If any donor wishes to be anonymous, please advise by email to [hssmsherwood@gmail.com](mailto:hssmsherwood@gmail.com) or by phone to Linda VanBuskirk 315-364-7463

Room-naming opportunities remain for the Opendore project. The Drawing Room, Tea Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Gallery and Offices are available. 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

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

March 2020

**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)