

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual meeting is **Sunday May 19 at 5:30 PM at Stone Store**. The accomplishments of the past year will be reviewed, and election of three Trustee positions held. A program described below will proceed the meeting.

Trustee nominations for 3 three year terms are Jackie Dickinson, Karen Speck and Andy Simkin. Other nominations at the meeting are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP :

Museum membership for 2019 is \$15 individual and \$25 family. If you have not returned the membership / donation remittance envelope from our November mailing, we hope you can now take a moment to renew or become a member for 2019 as well as donate to either the Museum or Opendore Project. The membership and donation form is on last page of newsletter.

MUSEUM HOURS

This year the Stone Store Museum will be open **Fridays and Saturdays** from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, starting in June. Additional hours can be arranged by appointment by contacting Barb Taylor 607-592-5649.

DOCENTS NEEDED : Our museum operation for the public depends on our volunteer docents. This year we have a script that can be followed to make docenting easier. It follows the lives and activities of Slocum, William, Hannah, Emily and Benjamin and Isabel Howland. We train our docents, and a new docent is always paired with someone experienced. Docenting can be fun, and an opportunity to meet folks from near and far. Please contact Barb Taylor at 607-592-5649 to get more information or volunteer.

PROGRAMS :

The Howland Stone Store Museum has prepared the program schedule for the 2019 program season. Please see attached flyer for the full schedule. The "American Creed" program April 28th was well attended with an excellent moderated discussion after the film.

Please note the May 19 program has been changed to 4:00 PM, with Annual Meeting to follow.

OPEN HOUSE :

Our **Spring Open House** is scheduled for Saturday **June 1st from 1:00 -4:00 pm at both the Stone Store and Opendore**. Please join us to visit both facilities.

OPENDORE PROJECT : (Guy Garnsey)

Our work this winter has been insulating the building envelope walls and ceilings. Most recently we're installing new aluminum storm windows over the historic wood windows to assure a draft free enclosure.

We are hopeful to have a contract for drywall in place in the near future, which when complete will ready the interior for trim and final painting/finishes.

Since the October 2016 start of volunteer construction on the West Wing and continuing thru exterior refurbishment and interior renovation, over 4,500 volunteer hours have been donated by a dedicated core of individuals. As always, we need help to accomplish this work. If you can help with this work, please contact Andy Simkin (206-390-4286).



Opendore volunteers Larry Bell, Jamien Shea, Kathie Garnsey
Guy Garnsey, Tom Butcher, Andy Simkin



Storm Window Installation
Larry Bell and Gus Littlejohn

Insulating Opendore (Larry Bell)

Our original insulation plan called for closed cell spray foam. The insulation value of spray foam is R-7 per inch. Since the old section was built with 3¾” studs and 5¾” rafters, we thought closed cell would be perfect. Allowing for expansion, that would give us R-21 in the walls and R-35 in the attic. Even though R-35 is pretty minimal for attic space, we didn’t see any other way to do better. Closed cell insulation also eliminates the need for venting of the insulation space, and greatly reduces air infiltration.

We are getting a 50/50 matching grant from the NYS Office of Historic Preservation. Their standards require compliance with the Secretary of Interior’s standards, which unfortunately do not permit closed cell foam because it adheres to the wood framing and would be “irreversible”. After extensive discussions we were unable to get approval of spray insulation. We had to go to plan B. The best laid plans of mice and men...

We wound up using rock wool insulation. Rock wool is 70% recycled slag. It is denser than fiberglass and does not itch nearly as bad. The density gives it a higher R-value, so a 5½” wall is R-23 instead of R-19. Since it is denser, it does not slump and does not have the voids that you sometimes find with fiberglass. It cuts easily with a bread knife (don’t tell Annette). Since we were able to install it ourselves, we saved quite a bit of money over the spray foam, though the material is a bit more expensive than fiberglass.

We started by carefully sealing cracks and holes with Great Stuff. Any blank 2 x 4 walls were furred out to 6” so we could use R-23.

Because of the story-and-a-half construction, there are cathedral type ceilings on the second floor, all with 2 x 6 framing. It took some head scratching, but we settled on using R-23 rock wool, plus R-6 polyiso foam board. We nailed the foam board with ¾” battens, to which the drywall will be attached. With an R-3 airspace, that brings us to R-32, almost as much as the closed cell.

For the flat attic ceiling, we found a source for blown in mineral wool material and rented a blower, and were able to achieve R-53, counting the polyiso and the airspace created by the battens.

Putting numbers on it, we installed 95 bags of batt insulation, 87 sheets of polyiso foam board, 96 bales of blown in attic insulation, and 2,000 feet of battens. The building now heats nicely!

When I built houses forty years ago, I thought I knew everything there was to know about insulation. It turns out that building science has progressed considerably since then. (Yes, building science is a “thing” nowadays).



Rockwool Installation

Larry Bell and Marilyn Post



Polyiso Boards Installation

Collections Committee : (Ann Tobey)

We are still celebrating the one-hundredth anniversaries of women finally getting the right to vote, first in New York State in 1917 and then in the United States in 1920. Howland Stone Store Museum posters and other memorabilia were prominently displayed in both the Cayuga Museum and the New York State Museum in Albany in 2017-2018.

Future celebrations will commemorate the passage of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920. We have already received a request to provide images of our posters for a four-hour PBS program planned for 2020.

Although our women's suffrage posters may be the best known of our holdings, the Howland family was prominent in the abolition movement and related issues such as education of freedmen after the Civil War. Karen Kuhl, the new Cayuga County Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, visited the Museum recently to bring an author and photographer who are preparing an article on the Underground Railroad for several travel-focused magazines.

A group of Oneonta middle-school Girl Scouts and their chaperones visited the Museum as part of an overnight trip to see women's rights locations in Seneca Falls and the Harriet Tubman National Park in Auburn.

A very large project we are working on is to photograph and catalog our "Cabinet of Curiosities" upstairs at the Museum. "Cabinets" were collections of whatever their collectors were interested in; they were popular in Europe and later in the United States. Emily Howland, her niece Isabel Howland, and her sister-in-law Hannah Letchworth Howland traveled extensively in Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia in the late 19th and early 20th century. They brought or sent a very wide variety of artifacts – "Curiosities" – to Sherwood so that residents who were unlikely to travel might see objects from the much wider world.

In addition to those travel artifacts, the Cabinet includes a variety of other materials, especially local Native American artifacts. Pieces of ancient Roman pottery? Fossils? Rocks? Moccasins? Snakeskin? Jewelry? Indian bread from Santa Fe? Map of the United States done in Arabic? Come visit the Museum and see!

HSSM Calendars : (Carolyn Littlejohn)

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 will be available in June and can also be purchased at our Open House, on our website www.howlandstonestore.org or by contacting Carolyn Littlejohn at 315-364-7694.

FUNDRAISING : (Steve Zabriskie and Linda VanBuskirk)

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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - DUES (through 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)