

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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 is 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 is an opportunity to learn history of Sherwood and the Howlands; and an opportunity to meet folks from near and far. Please contact Barb Taylor at 607-592-5649 to get more information or volunteer.

COLLECTIONS :

Our records of our collections are mostly hand-written or typed in programs like "Word." Because they are not in a professional database, they can't be searched; pages of lists and references must be examined individually by a museum volunteer. This is very slow, subject to error, and extremely frustrating. We have begun a computerization process, and one of our goals is to extend that to all our holdings, starting with an in-house computer and building on what we have done. This is a very large project, but basic to the safety and usefulness of our collections.

Elsie Gutches, a long-time supporter of the HSSM, gave the Museum her large collection of materials on women in America. It includes articles and pictures and artifacts on many aspects of women's life. Much of that collection is being digitized via a grant written and implemented by the Wells College library. Tiffany Raymond, Assistant Director of the Wells Library, is in charge of the project, with Wells students using their large scanner and related technology. Wells has offered to include some of our materials, especially related to Emily Howland and women's suffrage, in the grant proposal for next year. Several of our volunteers met with Tiffany to discuss how this could be implemented; we are looking forward to this project.

Some of our behind-the-scenes work slows in the summer, but Museum volunteers are busy with our collection as we do not want to be closed for our visitors. Some come with special questions, perhaps about family. Others are particularly interested in our poster collection or our Underground Railroad ticket. The Cabinet of Curiosities is always one of the most popular parts of the Museum, along with our piece of Susan B. Anthony's birthday cake.

Email can also bring requests for information or offers to share. A recent example relates to Emily Howland's major contributions in building and supporting schools for freed slaves after the Civil War. We have records of some of her financial contributions and also pictures of her visiting some of those schools. Recently we were contacted by the Bettis Academy in Trenton, South Carolina, looking for information and offering us some material. We have the record that she included the Academy in her will (along with dozens of other schools including Tuskegee Institute) and a note in her handwriting, dated October 23, 1926, in which she refers to having been a trustee in various schools, including the Bettis Academy. We will continue to follow up on this and other requests for information.

PROGRAMS :



This July Larry Bell presented at Genesee Country Museum on Emily Howland and her work during the civil war in the South. This program will also be presented this November at HSSM (see below).



Barb Taylor presented the **first program at Opendore** on July 21st, speaking on the Underground Railroad and its route through Sherwood, NY. The attendees all enjoyed the Drawing Room as space for presentations, as well as the air conditioning on a warm summer evening!!

Maryanne Felter presented on August 25th on our **poster collection** and how suffragettes used the poster as a tool to focus interest in the cause and how they encouraged both established and budding artists to create designs in support of the cause. The Drawing Room at Opendore was at capacity with nearly 50 attendees on a pleasant



September 15 7:00 PM **Anne Mlod** will speak on how **slavery has been represented in children's literature**. She studied at the University of Florida's Mary Baldwin Children's Historical Library and will share the various perspectives on slavery she found based on geography and religion. Anne is a librarian at Genesee Elementary School and is Vice President of the Tubman Boosters.

October 20 4:00 p.m. **Jerome Durr** of Jerome Durr Studios in Syracuse NY will speak on **The Restoration of Historic Lead Windows**. Mr. Durr restored the diamond panel windows from Opendore with donated funds from Westminster Presbyterian Church. He has worked on windows from many area churches including St. Mathews in Moravia and Willard Chapel.

November 10 4:00 p.m. **Larry Bell**, HSSM board member and retired pastor, will present 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** has been rescheduled to Saturday October 19th from 1:00 -4:00 pm at both the Stone Store and Opendore. Please join us to visit both facilities. Opendore interior painting is complete and work is progressing on trim and other finishes. The building is taking on a very “finished” interior appearance!!



Open House attendees May 2019

OPENDORE PROJECT :

Our work this summer has been focused on interior finishes. Pinnacle Builders of Oswego has completed installation of drywall ceiling and walls, a major step forward in the building’s completion. Since then volunteers have painted the surfaces, giving the rooms a very “finished” look. Currently we’re anticipating installation of hardwood floors throughout the building under a contract.

There is a great deal of interior trim to be restored or reproduced to recreate the historic building finishes. If you have carpentry skills, we could use the expertise!

Since the October 2016 start of volunteer construction on the West Wing and continuing thru exterior refurbishment and interior renovation, over 5,200 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).



Drywall finish sanding



Kathie Garnsey and Marilyn Post painting



Volunteers celebrate in May 5,250 hours
since October 2016



Volunteer Tryg Ager installing electrical
light switches

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 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 :

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.

This spring Lenora and Hayden Letchworth honored the Letchworth-Howland connection by naming the front parlor the "Howland- Letchworth Parlor".



Andy Simkin with Hayden and Lenora Letchworth during naming ceremony.

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)