



# History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Last Month at The History Center...

### *Haunted History Tours of Downtown Ithaca*



askunclemarty

Our annual Haunted History tours were a resounding success throughout October. Over three weeks Ben Sandberg and Heritage Ambassador Sherri LaTorre led fourteen tours for over 200 people!

Visitors were spooked, scared, and entertained with historic tales of murder, mayhem, and despair from Ithaca's past.

Due to a few rainy evenings we're excited to announce that we have **TWO ADDITIONAL Haunted History Tours on November 6th!** If anyone is still in the Halloween spirit you can book spaces on these evening tours at [thehistorycenter.net/october](http://thehistorycenter.net/october). Tickets are \$15/person.

## Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods Events & Programs



LOCAL HISTORY  
PRESENTED BY **chloe capital**

# BREAKING Women's Lives & Livelihoods BARRIERS

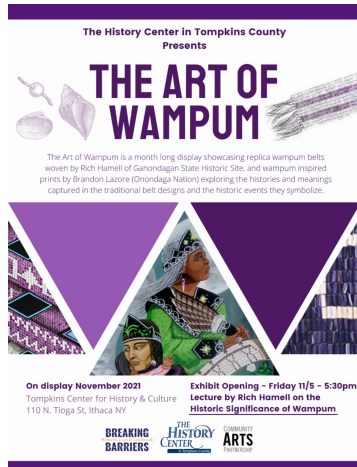
**ONEXHIBIT**  
#TOMPKINSWOMEN

JUL. 2, 2021 - FEB. 26, 2022

COMMUNITY PARTNERS MAKE HISTORY POSSIBLE



Please help us spread the word about the upcoming events as part of the [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) exhibit by sharing the materials below with your friends, professional circles, and community connections. Thank you for helping us get the word out! Learn more at [thehistorycenter.net/events](http://thehistorycenter.net/events).



[The Art of Wampum](#) is a month long display in the [CAP ArtSpace](#) of the Tompkins Center for History & Culture, showcasing replica wampum belts woven by Rich Hamell of the [Seneca Art & Culture Center at Ganondagan](#), and wampum inspired prints by Brandon Lazore (Onondaga Nation) and Bruce King (Oneida

Nation) exploring the histories and meanings captured in the traditional belt designs and the historic events they symbolize.

Ithaca locals may recognize Brandon Lazore's artwork from the [Two Row Anniversary Mural](#) on Seneca St, and the recently demolished [Women's Nomination Belt Mural](#) formerly located on the Green St. Parking Garage. Prints of his work will be available for sale at the Downtown Visitors Center located in the same building as The History Center Exhibit Hall.

On display through November 2021 in tandem with The History Center's [Native American Heritage Month](#) programs.

Community Education Programming from  
**THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY**

## Print-A-Kitty

Create block prints of Ithaca Kitty images from our archives with Laura Rowley!

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH  
10:30-12:30PM OR 1:30-3:30PM - FREE**

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to learn about the famous Ithaca Kitty and the different artistic interpretations the toy has inspired for over a century! Laura Rowley of Illuminated Press will help children create their own prints and greeting cards with laser cut blocks using images from the Ithaca Kitty archives!



**Tompkins Center for History & Culture  
Second Floor Conference Room  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca  
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons**

*Participants must pre-register. Registration is limited to 15 per session and all participants must wear masks for the entire program. All materials will be sanitized between sessions.*

Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions.



## EXHIBIT: The Asais: Breaking Ground in the Town of Ithaca



We're very excited to announce that "The Asais: Breaking Ground in the Town of Ithaca" is now on display in the [City of Ithaca Town Hall](#). This exhibit is the first part of a Town Hall

installation featuring local Asian Americans in farming, and comes in part from an undergraduate student research summer fellowship in partnership with the [Ithaca Asian American Association](#) in 2021. Using historic maps, newspaper clippings, and rare photos, this exhibit explores the history of Monroe Asai and his family, Japanese Americans who lived in Ithaca from 1920 to 1935.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Native American Heritage Month - November**

Explore Indigenous history and related learning materials on our website: [The History Center in Tompkins County - Native American Heritage Month](#)

**Wednesday-Saturday - EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!  
10am-5pm**

**Hours & Safety Guidelines - Schedule a [private visit!](#)**  
CLOSED 11/25 for Thanksgiving holiday. We will have normal hours

Monroe Asai earned a name for himself as the only Japanese farmer in Tompkins County at the time, winning dozens of prizes at County and State Fairs. The Asais established their home and farm in the Town of Ithaca at 221 Kline Road (now Warren Road) and sold their produce downtown, at one point running three grocery stores at [209 N. Aurora St.](#), [212 N. Aurora St.](#), and [320 W. State St.](#)

Visit [City of Ithaca Town Hall](#) (215 N. Tioga St) to learn more about this groundbreaking Ithaca family. This exhibit will be on display in Town Hall through the end of 2021.

## [History Center receives \\$56,000 in Grant Funds to Support Reviewing and Diversifying Collections](#)

The History Center is THRILLED to announce that we have received \$20,000 through the [SHARP \(Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan\) monitored by Humanities New York](#), and \$36,000 from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services American Rescue Plan](#) grant funding.

These funds were received to support specific collaborations with the [Southside Community Center](#), [Latino Civic Association](#), and [Ithaca Asian American Association](#) to make our collections more representative of the full histories of Tompkins County. These funds will sponsor a collaborative effort to assess the representation of Black, Latinx/e/o/a, and Asian communities within our paper and photograph archives and three dimensional object and textile collections. Additionally we will collaborate with each partner organization in creating public outreach strategies to address significant gaps in its historical record of Tompkins County.

We are grateful to our community collaborators for supporting us in the writing of these grants; and look forward to working with them in the coming months and years to expand The History Center's collections.



Friday 11/26 and Saturday 11/27.

**November 5th - [Art of Wampum - Exhibit Opening](#) - "Historic Significance of Wampum" lecture with Rich Hamell - 5:30-6:30pm - Gallery open until 8pm**

**November 6th - [Haunted History Walking Tours \(Rain Dates\)](#) - 6pm or 7:30pm Tickets \$15/person**

**November 6th & 20th [HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) 11am-1pm**  
Learn more about the project [here](#). Contact Eve [historyforge@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:historyforge@thehistorycenter.net) to join.

**November 20th - [An Introduction to the Ancestor Project - Intergenerational Artifact Crafting w/ Gerry Monaghan](#) - 1-3pm - This FREE program does not require advance registration. Drop-ins welcome.**

**[Exhibit Hall CLOSED - 11/24 & 11/25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday](#) - Come visit us with your friends & family on Friday 11/26 and Saturday 11/27!**

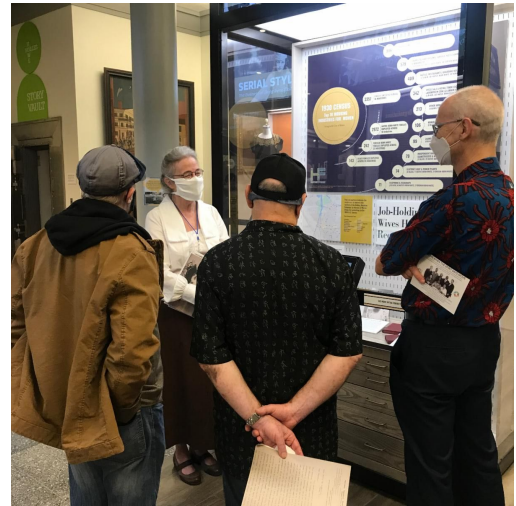
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### UPCOMING:

- [12/11 Print-a-Kitty Archival Prints Workshop \(All ages\)](#)
- Exhibit Hall will be closed 1/1/2022-1/18/2022 for Winter Recess - Exhibit Hall and Research Library still accessible by appointment.
- 'Women's Wisdom'

## Martha Van Rensselaer LIVE at The History Center

On Saturday afternoon's visitors get to meet and learn with a historic character from Ithaca's past! Following over a year of intensive research into the life of Martha Van Rensselaer, long-time docent Ruth Groff brings this iconic character to life, complete in period costume. In first-person narrative, "Martha" shares with visitors her work in establishing the Home Economics program at Cornell University. She also shares her trailblazing path as the first female School Commissioner in Cattaraugus County, the first full-time female professor at Cornell, the Director of the Home Conservation Division in Washington during WWI, the Director of the White House Conference for Child Health and Protection, and honorary Doctor of Pedagogy from New York City College of Teachers.



Please stop by any Saturday afternoon and learn from one of our regions most iconic educators!

Educators or groups interested in scheduling a field trip with one of our living history educators can explore the [field trip options](#) on our website.

## HAUDENOSAUNEE HISTORY & CULTURE LEARNING RESOURCES



### Art of Wampum Exhibit & Learning Materials

Explore [thehistorycenter.net/Wampum](https://thehistorycenter.net/Wampum) for learning materials and exhibits about select wampum belts and their historic and political significance in the history of the United States and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy..

### Constitution Week Videos w/ Perry Ground

Seven videos exploring the Haudenosaunee influence on American democracy with Onondaga educator Perry Ground. All seven episodes are available on The History Center pages on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#).

### Haudenosaunee Guide for Educators

24 page booklet with brief introductions for Haudenosaunee history and culture, and activities.

PDF is free online. Limited availability of printed copies available at The History Center for local teachers and

The [Art of Wampum](#) will be on display in the CAP ArtSpace through the end of November.

The History Center in Tompkins County Presents

## THE ART OF WAMPUM


The Art of Wampum is a month long display showcasing replica wampum belts woven by Rich Hamell of Ganondagan State Historic Site, and wampum inspired prints by Brandon Lazore (Onondaga Nation) exploring the histories and meanings captured in the traditional belt designs and the historic events they symbolize.



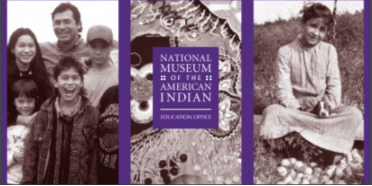
On display November 2021  
Tompkins Center for History & Culture  
110 N. Tioga St. Ithaca NY

Exhibit Opening - Friday 11/5 - 6:30pm  
Lecture by Rich Hamell on the Historic Significance of Wampum

BREAKING BARRIERS THE HISTORY CENTER ARTS

HAUDENOSAUNEE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



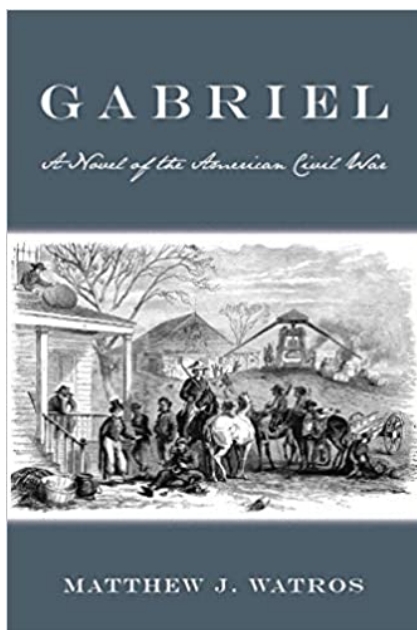
## Indigenous Experience in Tompkins County Oral History Collection

The [Indigenous Experience in Tompkins County Oral History Collection](#) was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our audio archives that explore the experiences of Indigenous and Native peoples in Tompkins County. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, culture, and stories guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for.



As of 2021 this collection includes four interviews recorded between 2018 and 2020. This collection will continue to expand as our [Oral History](#) archives continue to grow. The creation of this collection was made possible through the ['Building Capacity'](#) grant coordinated by the [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#) and the [Museum Association of New York](#).

## **\*\*NEW\*\* Book Alert! - Gabriel: A Novel of the American Civil War**



[Gabriel: A Novel of the American Civil War](#) by Matthew J. Watros is a piece of historical fiction that follows the story of the author's ancestor, Gabriel Ballard, and his experiences in the Union Army.

Ballard, who lived in Dryden, New York with his family, enlisted in the army at the age of 19 in 1862. From there, he travelled south with his infantry to Georgia where he participated in the Atlanta Campaign in the spring of 1864, but not without making many stops along the way.

Watros, basing his book off family letters, Gabriel's personal diary entries, and other primary sources, creates a narrative that details everything from family life, love, war, trauma, death, and social issues during the Civil War. He forms topics of slavery and the true causes of the war into personal stories, never shying away from the

uncomfortable sides of history. Being a veteran himself, Watros creates a layer of intensity and emotion surrounding the war that can only be explained by those with personal experience. He also includes visualizations to help the reader create a better picture of Ballard's experiences - with maps and charts to clarify where Ballard travelled.

*Gabriel* is sure to captivate any reader who is interested in seeing the Civil War from a more personal viewpoint, and it is a great reminder that both sides of the war had moral downfalls through today's lens.

BUY GABRIEL

## OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

### Cornell Public History Initiative Launches New Website

Congratulations to the [Cornell Public History Initiative](#) (CPHI) on their new website!

Since 2019 under the co-guidance of Professor Stephen Vider and History Center staff, CPHI fellows in the last four academic terms have pursued oral history interviews with Tompkins County residents to accession into The History Center's [oral history collections](#). From 2020-2021 students recorded and transcribed over 20 interviews with community members about our local responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**PHI** Public  
History  
Initiative

This term the theme is Food & Foodways and interviews are taking place in just a few weeks!

Learn more about our Oral History collections at [thehistorycenter.net/oral-history](http://thehistorycenter.net/oral-history).

### Dryden Historical Society Comes Full Circle *from Tompkins Weekly - pub. 10/13/2021*



Earlier this month, the Dryden Town Historical Society (DTHS) hosted its last tour of the 2021 season at the Southworth Homestead, which celebrated the Historical Society's benefactress, Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson. Simpson was born Oct. 6, 1918, right in the midst of the 1918 influenza pandemic, and now, the Historical Society she helped to form is facing its own crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic.

When DTHS was founded in 1981, it had no headquarters. Within a year, it managed to secure a small building that was scheduled for demolition. But it wasn't until 2012 that it finally made its home at 14 North St., better known as the Southworth Homestead, where generations of Southworths lived and where Simpson spent most of her life.

"She [loved] the house," said Gina Prentiss, DTHS volunteer and founding member. "Upon her death, she was predeceased by two sons, so she gave this whole house and all its contents to the Dryden Historical Society. ... So, all of a sudden, we were faced with 'Wow, now what?' This house was costing about \$17,000 a year to just keep it going, to heat it and insure it and snowplow it. So, that's what the budget was of our Historical Society for a whole year."

## Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection: 'Engaging Communities, Empowering Students: Fostering Cross-Cultural Connections Through Dress, 1936-1958

### VIRTUAL EXHIBIT



[Engaging Communities, Empowering Students: Fostering Cross-Cultural Connections through Dress, 1936-1958](#) explores the different ways international students helped to foster cross-cultural understandings of dress on Cornell's campus in the mid-twentieth century.

Leading up to the onset of World War II, home economists at U.S. institutions and colleges began to rethink their course offerings in order to cultivate “international friendships” between their students and international communities. At Cornell, Professor Beulah Blackmore took this approach by educating students about the fashions of diverse peoples, places, and cultures. In 1936, she traveled abroad in search of dress- and textile-related artifacts that she could then use in her lectures on fashion history and design. After returning from this trip to Cornell's campus, Blackmore continued the work of internationalizing fashion curricula through collaboration with students. She relied upon the knowledge and expertise of several

international students, and with them, shared the collection through live fashion showcases and museum exhibitions. While Blackmore's efforts to build what would become the Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection (CF+TC) are well-documented, the contributions of students with whom she worked are buried within archival files. This exhibition dives deep into the CF+TC and archival records held by the Division of Rare and Manuscripts Collection in Cornell University Library to tell the stories of international students who contributed to the development, dissemination, and animation of Cornell's Fashion + Textile Collection, formally known as the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection, from 1936 to 1958.

### The History Center in Tompkins County

Exhibit Hall, Research Library, Archives, and staff offices are located at 110 North Tioga St. (Inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture) Ithaca, N.Y. 14850  
[Gayogohó:nǫ' Territory](#)

Web: [www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)

Phone: 607-273-8284

Email: Staff emails can be found [here](#)

Museum Hours: *Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm*

Research Library & Archives: By appointment. [Contact](#)

Follow us on social media

@TompkinsHistory

Follow #TompkinsWomen for posts from the Breaking Barriers exhibit!



SUPPORT