



History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

[Events Calendar](#)

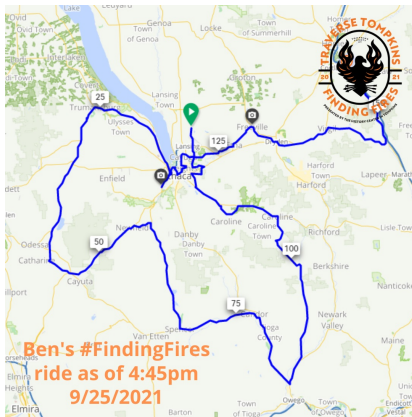
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[Virtual Exhibits](#)

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Last Month at The History Center...

Traversing Tompkins - Finding Fires Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who supported [Traverse Tompkins - Finding Fires](#) this year! Three riders rode a combined total of 349 miles, with Ben Sandberg completing a whopping 202 miles in under 24 hours.

Their rides **raised \$10,891 dollars in support of local history!** Our thanks to our many supporters and everyone who sent words of encouragement and support to the riders this year! We look forward to having you join us next year on Tompkins County roads!

The Finding Fires tours are available for free on PocketSights for everyone to explore in their own time and find their own historic fires across Tompkins County!

Traverse Tompkins Press

- [History Center director bikes 200 miles in 24 hours](#) - Tompkins Weekly
- [Traverse Tompkins: Finding Fires](#) - WENY News
- [Morning News](#) - WHCU Radio

Upcoming Events - thehistorycenter.net/events

LGBTQ+ History Month - October

[LGBTQ+ History Month](#) originated in the United States as Lesbian and Gay History Month, and was first celebrated in October 1994. It was founded by Missouri high-school history teacher

Rodney Wilson. Wilson, the first openly gay public school teacher in Missouri, originated the idea, served as founder on the first coordinating committee, and chose October as the month of celebration. Explore the [LGBTQ+ History & Pride Month](#) page to learn more local LGBTQ+ history.

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month - September 15th-October 15th

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#) first began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage week under President Lyndon Johnson. President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration to a full month in 1988 spanning from September 15th (anniversary of independence for: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) to October 15th. Explore stories and materials related to [Hispanic and Latinx history](#) in Tompkins County on our website. Connect with our archivist (Donna Eschenbrenner - archives@thehistorycenter.net) to contribute to the archival collections documenting Hispanic and Latinx history in Tompkins County.

Wednesday-Saturday - [EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!](#) 10am-5pm

[Hours & Safety Guidelines](#) - Schedule a [private visit!](#)

[Haunted History Walking Tours](#) - Tours begin at 6 or 7:30pm

Although Ithaca might be better known for its gorges, it also holds a macabre past. Join Heritage Ambassador Sherri La Torre and Ben Sandberg for a haunted downtown exploration of murder, jealousy, insanity, and perhaps a visit from the ghosts themselves! Tours cost \$15 per person, and must be reserved in advance. Reserve your space with the orange "Haunted History" button located on our [website](#). **Tour dates:** 10/15, 10/16, 10/21, 10/22, 10/23, 10/28, 10/29 & 10/30

October 9th & 23rd - [HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm

Help be a part of building history! THC's digital history project, HistoryForge, relies on volunteers like you. We hold community transcription sessions twice a month on Saturdays from 11-1. Join us as we get started on the **1880 census** for the City of Ithaca! ! **Learn more about the project [here](#)**. Contact Eve historyforge@thehistorycenter.net to join. *If you'd like to work on one of the HF projects in our partner cities: Elmira, Oberlin, and Auburn please reach out to Eve. She can connect you with the coordinators for each site.*

October 27th - [There's Your Ready Girl Screening](#) - 5:30-6:30pm - Dorothy Cotton was a bold, highly effective and important civil rights leader, the only woman on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Executive Staff. In celebration of Black Women's History Month, The History Center is sponsoring a screening of the award-winning short film THERE'S YOUR READY GIRL, which was produced during the pandemic with footage from the feature-length documentary currently production [MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE](#), about Dorothy's life and legacy. Screening of the 11-minute film will be followed by a recorded panel discussion on the role of women in Civil Rights history, featuring excerpts from a newly recorded interview with Ambassador Andrew Young and appearances by filmmaker Deborah C. Hoard, Dorothy Cotton Institute Fellows Laura Branca and Margo Hittleman and special guests.

UPCOMING: [11/5 The Art of Wampum Exhibit Opening with Rich Hamell](#), 12/11 Print-a-Kitty Archival Prints Workshop (All ages), Exhibit Hall will be closed 1/1/2022- 1/19/2022 for Winter Recess.

[Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#)



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.

FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

There's Your Ready Girl
Screening & Discussion
October 27th, 2021
5:30-6:30pm - In-Person

Dorothy Foreman Cotton was a bold, highly effective and important civil rights leader, the only woman on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Executive Staff. Join us for an encore screening of the award-winning short film **THERE'S YOUR READY GIRL**, an excerpt of PhotoSynthesis Productions' feature film in production **MOVE WHEN THE SPIRIT SAYS MOVE**, about Dorothy's life and legacy. The screening will be followed by a short presentation by the filmmakers and a panel discussion.

at the **Tompkins Center for History & Culture**
on the Ithaca Commons
110 North Tioga St, Ithaca NY
This film screening is **FREE** and open to the public.

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 - 5:30pm
Lecture by Rich Hamell on the Historic Significance of Wampum

Ithaca Council for Equality - Video

Founded in 1959, the Ithaca Council for Equality did their work here until the late 1960s. They were an education and advocacy organization, working to inform the larger public about what life was really like for local African Americans, and, more importantly, to advocate for them. According to

their mission statement, they were a "bi-racial, private, non-profit organization," which was concerned to "study, improve, and change discrimination on whatever level it is found in Ithaca."



[New Photography Collections Available on New York Heritage Digital Collections](#)

[New York Heritage](#) is a collaborative project of eight of the nine Empire State Library Network library councils which supports the digital holding and archiving of materials from other institutions on their online database. The History Center archives include over 100,000 photographs, the following three collections will help researchers and educators explore and access these vital pieces of local history.

[Residence and Business Photographs of Tompkins County](#)

- This collection contains a series of photographs of the residences of Ithaca and Tompkins County, NY, divided by architectural style.

[Southside Community Center Photo Collection](#)

- This collection contains a series of photographs, many of which were taken from 1936-ca. 1945 by Works Progress Administration (WPA) photographers of the

groundbreaking for the Southside Community Center. It includes photographs of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, opera star Marion Anderson, and many local dignitaries. It also contains images of Southside Community Center members in the years after it opened taking part in the many programs available to users.



[David Marcham Photograph Collection](#) - David Marcham's photographs provide first-hand, vintage views of railroading in the Finger Lakes and surrounding areas between 1941 and 1956. They are focused in Tompkins, Cortland and Cayuga counties, with forays into Chemung (Spencer, Van Etten), Madison (DeRuyter, Cazenovia), Schuyler (Burdett), Seneca (Lodi, Geneva), and Tioga (Owego) counties. The collection is focused

on the Lehigh Valley Railroad.



Two of these collections were made possible through a \$3,000 grant from the *South Central Regional Library Council* to The History Center in Tompkins County to digitize historical photographs, maps, and Ithaca City Directories from the History Center's collection in support of *HistoryForge*.

Constitution Week Video Series with Perry Ground

The [Chief Taughannock Chapter](#), National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) teamed up with the Ninian Chamberlain Society, [National Society Children of the American Revolution](#) (NSCAR), The History Center in Tompkins County, NY, and [Perry Ground, Turtle Clan member of the Onondaga Nation](#) to share the Haudenosaunee Influences on American Democracy. The 7-day mini series ran from September 17-24th and features NSCAR members learning and sharing more about the beginnings of America's democracy, particularly as it is captured in the Constitution and as it was influenced by the Haudenosaunee.

All seven episodes are available on The History Center pages on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#).



Excavation begins to uncover more of Ithaca's Underground Railroad history - by David Durrett



"ITHACA, N.Y.—On Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church commenced an archaeological dig to help further detail the church's role helping the Underground Railroad free escaped slaves.

...

Dr. Laurie Khatchadourian, an Associate Professor of Archaeology at Cornell who is directing the excavation, encouraged St. James members and other people in the community to take part in the project, saying she would like as many community participants as can be accommodated, and that it is not too late to get started.

"All are welcome to visit," Khatchadourian said. "Over the course of the next eight weeks, we will be here every Saturday, and we encourage folks to come."

[Read the full Ithaca Voice Article](#)

Learn more about the history of the Southside Neighborhood at thehistorycenter.net/Southside

The History Center Blog

HistoryForge Reaches a New Milestone, Keeps on Going!

It's been a year in the making but the amazing volunteers for The History Center's community digital history project, [HistoryForge](#), have **finished transcribing the 1940 U.S. Census** for the City of Ithaca!



These 19,730 census records mark **the fifth complete census** entered in HistoryForge. HistoryForge now has **all the records for the 1900-1940** Census for the City of Ithaca. All of the information for each census is fully searchable. You can search for individuals, addresses, places of birth, occupations, industries, or any of the attributes in a census.

The [1940 Census](#) provides an important snapshot of our community at a pivotal time. It captured information about how the Great Depression impacted the American public. With many people moving to find employment, it attempted to record that migration by asking where each person had lived five years earlier. Using [HistoryForge](#) to learn more about the population of Ithaca we can see that while most (about 75%) people on the 1940 Census in Ithaca had lived here in 1935, Ithaca also attracted individuals who, five years earlier had been living in almost every state in the nation as well as a wide range of countries.

Employment was, of course, the concern of the day, and the 1940 Census attempted to gather detailed information about employment and unemployment. Exploring industries in the 1940 Census in HistoryForge reveals some of the New Deal programs that bolstered the local economy. Ithacans worked for several local Work Projects Administration (WPA) projects including construction, [soil conservation](#), landscaping, the [State Hospital](#), a park project, a sewer project, and a [sewing project](#). Some also worked for the [National Youth Administration](#) (NYA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

[READ MORE](#)

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:nə' Territory](#)

Web: www.thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

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

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

Follow us on social media

@TompkinsHistory

Follow #TompkinsWomen for posts from the Breaking Barriers exhibit!



[Contact Us!](#)