

June 2021



History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Last Month at The History Center...

History Center Joins Museums for All and Blue Star Museum Initiatives

As part of our ongoing efforts to engage and connect with more members of our community, and attract visitors from out of town to learn about the history of Tompkins County, we're very excited to announce that we've been accepted as members of two ongoing national museum initiatives.

[Museums for All](#) is a national program that offers free or reduced admission to all families and individuals receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) to more than 600 museums across the United States. Admission to The History Center will remain free and open to the general public as well, but as part of our commitment to accessibility through this initiative, we will be offering free and reduced cost access options to our events, and other programs to all EBT card holders. Details on how to sign up for reduced cost programs will be listed in the registration information for each event. Read more about Museums for All in the press release below.



[Blue Star Museums](#) is an annual collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and over 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families each summer. The program begins on Armed Forces Day in mid-May and ends on Labor Day at the beginning of September. We will be highlighting materials and information from our archives about the history of the [Tommy Plane in WWI](#), Tompkins County women and their service and experience during wartimes, local members of the [United States Colored Troops](#) in the Civil War, and [Veterans Memorial sites](#) across the county throughout the summer as part of this program.

Upcoming Events - thehistorycenter.net/events

Wednesday-Saturday - **EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!**

[Hours & Safety Guidelines](#) - Schedule a [private visit](#)! ** Our current exhibits will only be on display for

2 more weeks before we transition to our long awaited *Breaking Barriers* exhibit unveiling in July! Be sure to visit the [Exhibit Hall](#) to see our current displays before they are taken down.**

June 5th & 19th - [Virtual HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) - 11am-1pm

Help be a part of building history! THC's digital history project, HistoryForge, relies on volunteers like you. At our bi-weekly virtual transcription sessions we are currently entering records from the 1940 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.*

June 13th-July 1st - EXHIBIT HALL IS CLOSED -The Exhibit Hall will be closed June 13th-July 1st as we install the new exhibits for [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#). We hope you'll come visit our new exhibits over the summer, schedule in advance on our website to reserve your preferred time (thehistorycenter.net/schedule).

June 23rd - [Giving is Gorges Fundraiser](#) - Giving is Gorges is an annual virtual fundraiser for Tompkins County with dozens of participating organizations. It was established by a collaborative group to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy in Tompkins County and surrounding areas. [Learn more](#) about how to support The History Center in Tompkins County and be sure to [donate on June 23rd](#) to enter to win a [Private VIP Experience](#) with The History Center (the GiveGab profile will be open for donations on June 16th)!

UPCOMING: [Breaking Barriers Exhibit Opening](#) July 2nd, Without a Whisper film screening - July TBD.

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

[July 2021-February 2022](#)



Please help us spread the word about the [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) exhibit opening in July by sharing the materials attached below with your friends, professional circles, and community connections. Thank you for helping us get the word out! Reserve your visit to the new exhibit in advance at thehistorycenter.net/schedule.

DIGITAL PRESS PACKET

PRESS RELEASE

Forest Home Improvement Association Adds New Historic Writings to Website

From the [Forest Home Improvement Association \(FHIA\)](#):

A recent newsletter from the History Center announces a guide for a "[driving tour](#)" to look at historic schools in Tompkins County. It includes the former Forest Home School at 100 Judd Falls Road. The school, which was built in 1921 and closed in 1964, is now the Lewis Building, used by Cornell Botanic Gardens as an administrative building.

See [pocketsights.com/tours/place/Forest-Home-School-\(now-Lewis-Building-Cornell-Botanic-Gardens\)-43985](http://pocketsights.com/tours/place/Forest-Home-School-(now-Lewis-Building-Cornell-Botanic-Gardens)-43985).



Inspired by this resource, some additions have been made to the FHIA website, to make available various short pieces written by Martha Warren Hertel (1915-2004), who was born in Forest Home and lived here most of her life. One piece she wrote is at [School Life as a Fourth Grader about 1925](#). According to Lucy Hertel Staley, Martha's daughter, this was written around 1992 at the request of a girl who was then in 4th grade and a neighbor of Martha's on Crest Lane. Thanks go to Lucy for transcribing Martha's notes and handouts. Find them at fhia.org/martha-warren-hertel-miscellaneous-writings. More will be added over time.

Land originally part of the farm that Martha grew up on was sold off at various times to add houses to the neighborhood. Soon after her parents bought the "white farmhouse at the top of the hill" (now 127 Warren Road) in 1907, land was sold for the first house on Halcyon Hill. Martha's mother (Mary W. Warren) planned the lots for Crest Lane in 1949 and moved there herself when Martha and her husband, John Hertel, bought the white farmhouse. Later, land that was part of the farm became Fairway Drive after Martha and John built 130 Crest Lane and moved there, selling the farm house and land to Lawrence "Larry" Fabbroni Sr. in 1978.

FHIA has added additional writings from Martha Warren Hertel to their site which can be accessed here: <https://fhia.org/martha-warren-hertel-miscellaneous-writings>

Giving is Gorges - June 23rd



YOUR GIFT ENTERS YOU TO WIN A PRIVATE VIP EXPERIENCE

This Giving is Gorges we want to give back to our local history family. When you [support us on Wednesday, June 23rd](#), you are entered to win one of three curated history experiences for you and your guests!

Each winner will get to experience a **curated private VIP tour with Executive Director Ben Sandberg**. They will see The History Center's new exhibit [Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#), a behind the scenes peek at our extensive archival and object collections, and an up close encounter with their choice from one of three of our rare collections.

RARE COLLECTION EXPERIENCE OPTIONS

ghost story lover. Get up close and personal with the face of Ithaca's most notorious serial killer and globally renowned linguist Edward Ruloff.

Bountiful Botanicals - For those who love the nature and wilderness of Tompkins County. Explore the exquisitely preserved herbarium and extensive botanical imagery of famed Groton photographer and naturalist Verne Morton.

Sign Up with the Famous - See first hand archival documents from our collections with signatures from names you know, but handwriting you've never seen in person! See authentic autographs from General George Washington, famed orator and educator Booker T. Washington, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt written in their own hand!

Everyone who [donates to our Giving is Gorges fundraiser](#) on June 23rd is entered to win one of these three Private VIP Experience's as a thank you for your ongoing support in preserving the history of Tompkins County and promoting local history exploration and education.

History Center Joins 'Museums for All' Initiative

Ithaca NY - The History Center in Tompkins County has joined Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits visiting The History Center with free admission. Similar free and reduced admission is available to eligible members of the public at more than 500 museums across the country. Museums for All is part of The History Center in Tompkins County's broad commitment to seek, include, and welcome all audiences.

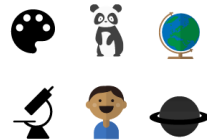
We're
proud to
be part of



A nation-wide initiative that's supported...

More than 3 million visits to date

At 590+ museums of all types, in 49+ states!



The Sciencenter and the Museum of the Earth are also Tompkins County participants in Museums for All. With three museums in Ithaca participating in Museums for All, our community has been named a Hub City in the Museums for All program. We are the 48th such Hub City overall, and the second in New York State after New York City.

Museums for All helps expand access to museums and also raise public awareness about how museums in the U.S. are reaching their entire communities. More than 500 institutions participate in the initiative, including art museums, children's museums, science centers, botanical gardens, zoos, history museums, and more. Participating museums are located nationwide, representing 48 states.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

About Association of Children's Museums (ACM)

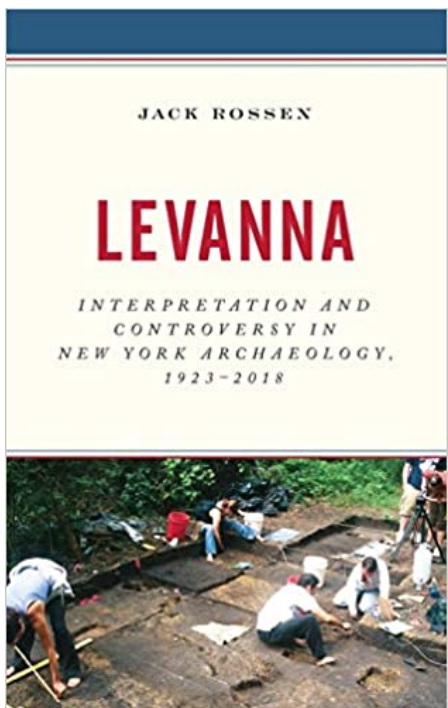
The Association of Children's Museums (ACM) champions children's museums worldwide. With more than 400 members in 48 states and 20 countries, ACM leverages the collective knowledge of children's museums through convening, sharing, and dissemination. Learn more at www.childrensmuseums.org.

About The History Center in Tompkins County

The History Center in Tompkins County (THC) is a generation-to-generation education and research center focused on engaging the public with the history of Tompkins County (located in the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation) and the Finger Lakes region. THC helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future. The History Center is located within the Tompkins Center for History & Culture, a collaborative visitor center and event space on the Ithaca Commons home to twelve independent non-profits and community organizations. To learn more visit us at www.thehistorycenter.net, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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[*NEW BOOK* Levanna: Interpretation and Controversy in New York Archaeology 1923-2018](#)



About the Book

Levanna was a famous and well-visited archaeological site in central New York, along the eastern side of Cayuga Lake, during the Great Depression. It was primarily known for its spectacular animal effigies. But were they real or forgeries? Jack Rossen takes us on a journey through the 1920s and 1930s, the era of an outdoor museum, and professional attempts by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) to suppress it.

The book takes us through the 2007-2009 re- excavation of Levanna and the related 2011-2014 excavations at the Myers Farm site. Along the way, Cayuga history is reinterpreted as more peaceful than previously believed, and the case is made for a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy more than one thousand years old. The work was conducted through the framework of indigenous collaborative archaeology with leaders of the Cayuga and Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The narrative approach includes stories of the contemporary people, both Native and non-Native, who protected the site, supported the research, and provided ideas, wisdom, inspiration, and friendship.

About the Author

Jack Rossen received his PhD from the University of Kentucky. He was Professor of Anthropology and Co-Founder of Native American Studies at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY and taught in the Master's Program in Heritage Management at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. He began work on collaborative archaeology and community projects with the Cayuga and Onondaga Nations in what is now central New York in 1998. He currently works with the non-profit History Flight in Kiribati, supervising excavations of MIA U.S. Servicemen from the Battle of Tarawa.

[Details on How to Order](#)

MASK UPDATE

Masks Still Required at the Tompkins Center for History & Culture



The History Center in Tompkins County will continue to require all visitors to wear masks in accordance with the building policies of the [Tompkins Center for History & Culture](#). Because our museum is in a shared building with 12 other local non-profits, and our visitors include families with young children who do not yet qualify for the vaccine, and visitors who may be medically ineligible for the vaccine, we will continue to require masks inside the building for the continued safety of all our visitors, volunteers, and staff. We will not be checking the vaccination status of visitors and appreciate the continued support of our community and out of town visitors in following our building guidelines by wearing their masks while visiting the museum.

We are grateful that our organization was able to re-open the Exhibit Hall in August of 2020, and has been open to the public for over 10 months with strict safety measures in place to ensure safe and worry free visits for everyone! We are happy to announce that we are now accepting bookings for groups of up to 20 people, which can be reserved at thehistorycenter.net/schedule during any of our open appointment slots. Please review our up to date Health & Safety Protocols and practices at thehistorycenter.net/health. We will continue to monitor both state guidance and local practice and will evaluate and update policies as needed. Any questions may be directed to Ben Sandberg at director@thehistorycenter.net.

Thank you for supporting The History Center and continuing to explore and engage in local history with us!

#TompkinsHistory #MuseumsforMasks #Covid19 #NYtough #IthacaisOpen #IthacaNY #IthacaCommons #DowntownIthaca #TompkinsCounty #NYhistory #NYmuseum

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

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

Web: www.thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

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

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

**Please note our hours have changed due to COVID-19 and may be adjusted on a week to week basis depending on local health recommendations.*

Follow us on social media
@TompkinsHistory



Contact Us!