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## History Happenings | December 2023

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The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>  
Reply-To: The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>  
To: community@thehistorycenter.net

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 11:29 AM

*December 2023*



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## Last Month at The History Center...

HistoryForge Project Director Eve Snyder traveled to Washington DC in mid-November for the [Social Science History Association's](#) annual conference. The Social Science History Association is composed of social science scholars from across the world who study history. Eve presented 'Data to the People: A Community Historical Data Project' as part of session 68 "[New Historical Data Infrastructure](#)" and was on a panel with a member of the Census Bureau's History Branch for a book about the 1940 census "[Democracy's Data: The Hidden Stories in the U.S. Census and How to Read Them](#), by Dan Bouk" Eve also got to visit the Library of Congress' map room as part of the conference!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

# It is the FINAL MONTH of Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County.



Visit us **Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm** through **December 30th** to see these stunning textile works before they return to the archives!



**Museum will be CLOSED January 1st-31st** as we take down the [Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County](#) displays, and install our new exhibits for '[A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field](#).' Archives are still open by appointment. Contact [archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net).

When we [re-open in February](#) we have exciting news! We are extending our open hours and will now be open Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6:00PM every week starting February 3rd. We hope this encourages more post-work locals to stop by!



Come to one of our [twice-monthly transcription sessions](#) and help preserve history! Explore the

**Wednesday-Saturday -**  
**[EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!](#)**  
**10am-5pm - [Hours & Safety Guidelines](#)**

**ON DISPLAY - [Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County](#)** at The History Center Exhibit Hall. Exhibit closes December 30th 2023.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

- [Exhibit Hall will be CLOSED](#) 1/3-1/31/2024.
- 2/1 - First Glimpse of 'A Sporting Chance: On & Off the Field'
- 2/2 - Join us for the **Exhibit Opening of '[A Sporting Chance: On & Off the Field](#)'** on Friday February 2nd as part of First Friday Gallery Night.
- [2/14 - Douglass Day](#) - Volunteer Transcription Party - Details TBD
- [2/16-2/19 - Ithaca Loves Teachers Celebration](#)
- [2/21 - CHAT on Underground Railroad History w/ Gerard Aching](#)
- 3/9 - Printing Women on the Bill w/ Laura Rowley (Illuminated Press) - Registration will open in January 2024.

work completed so far at  
[tompkins.historyforge.net](http://tompkins.historyforge.net).

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## **From Treman's Desk: A note from our director Ben Sandberg**



I've never been one for year end retrospectives. At The History Center, we deal in decades and centuries, which can overshadow the change or transition that occurs in a single year. But as we approach the beginning of the new year, I'm looking forward to building on all of our team's work over the past year for an exciting 2024. Whether or not you enjoy the look back each December, what

holds true is that both last year and next year would not be possible without the generous support of our local history family. Your support of our shared history is vital for the next generations to call Tompkins County home. On their behalf, I want to express my profound gratitude for your willingness to join me and hundreds of others in this important mission.

The core of our work isn't particularly flashy; it's the routine and careful storage, care, use, and interpretation of everything from [family quilts](#) to atomic toilets, from [19th century maps](#) to jpegs. Each item - capturing a moment or a practice or a person - demands a unique and specific type of care. And that care needs to be repeated, once again not on a yearly basis but over decades and centuries. The total sum of work involved in this preservation is hard to quantify, but it is demonstrably more than any one group or organization could accomplish on their own. This is why we are so lucky to count you part of our local history team. Every day, I can see how blessed we are to have such a passionate and invested community as partners in preservation, in learning, and in exploration.

We're always looking for more partners in local history! I hope you [will join us](#) throughout the coming year to explore a wide range of history through our [next exhibit](#), new and favorite programs, and more preservation initiatives. Even better, if you join us for a [CHAT](#), a vintage baseball game, [a walking tour](#), or a [new exhibit](#), I hope you will invite a friend to join our local history family. Their lives will be richer for it, and so will ours. Together, we can share the charge to steward our local history into the

future. Thank you for joining us this past year, and I'm thrilled to have you along for the ride next year.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Ben Sandberg

Executive Director

Support us with a Year End Gift

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## New and Noteworthy

[Family and Children's Service of Ithaca](#) is the oldest human service agency in Tompkins County. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Family Society of Ithaca and the Ithaca Children's Home. Initially a residence for orphaned or destitute children, the Ithaca Children's Home was founded in 1885, while the Family Society began life as the Associated Charities



of Ithaca in 1912. The combination of the two has served the community for decades, *"dedicated to supporting, promoting, and strengthening the well-being of individuals and families by providing high-quality, accessible mental health care and related social services, with a particular sensitivity toward the needs of children."*

In 2010 we received a generous donation of materials celebrating the history of this noteworthy organization, including scrapbooks, business and financial records, trustee meeting minutes, brochures, and historical materials. We were delighted that this important collection was enhanced a few weeks ago with a donation of photographs of children and activities from the 1940s. These images, some taken by [noted Ithaca photographer Curt Forester](#), are a welcome addition, offering engaging glimpses of the children who were served in generations past.

To explore this collection or schedule a research appointment contact [archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net) - 607-273-8284 ext 224.

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## **OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES**

Newfield Historical Society [completes digitization of historic Newfield Scrapbooks](#) on New York Heritage Digital Collections. Select "explore the collection" to explore the images and stories of Newfield!

Spectrum New 1 interviews the [Wharton Studio Museum on the history of silent film in Ithaca](#) as part of their 3-part series on the Finger Lakes Film Trail.

Mama Goose celebrates 20 years in business.

[The Frame Shop celebrates 35 years](#) in business

[Gail Williams, Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre & Dance class of 1973 receives Lifetime Achievement Award.](#)

### **LOCAL HISTORY READS**

- [The 1993 Latino Cornellians' Day Hall Takeover, 30 years on](#) - Cornell Daily Sun - 11/15/2023
- [The Frame Shop Celebrates 35th Anniversary of Current Ownership](#) - Cornell Daily Sun - 11/16/2023
- [Downtown Ithaca Church restored to original glory](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 11/29/2023
- [Remembering a fellow grad student who went on to be a literary icon](#) - Cornellians - 11/7/2023
- [For the Lynah Faithful, Ice Hockey is a matter of tradition](#) - Cornellians - 2/28/2023
- [Cornell's Military Veterans share their histories](#) - Cornell Chronicle - 11/8/2023
- [Cornell Cinema still lights up the silver screen](#) - Cornellians - 10/30/2023
- [A 50-year teaching career in Groton: Carl Gambitta, part two](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 10/25/2023

The History Center in Tompkins County  
Exhibit Hall, Research Library & Archives  
110 North Tioga St. (Inside Tompkins Center for History & Culture)  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850  
Gayogohó:nq? Territory

**Web:** [thehistorycenter.net](http://thehistorycenter.net)  
**Phone:** 607-273-8284  
**Email:** Staff emails can be found here  
**Museum Hours:** Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

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Research Library & Archives:

By appointment Contact