
History Happenings | November 2023

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

Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 9:46 AM

November 2023



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Last Month at The History Center...

Over 330 people joined us for a [Haunted History tour](#) in October! Our tour guides shared real histories of pranks gone horribly wrong, stories of jealousy and heartbreak, and even delved in the lore around Tompkins County's most notorious serial killer [Edward Rulloff](#), whose face is preserved in our collections from his plaster cast death mask taken after his hanging in 1871.

For our younger audiences, over 200 tigers, wizards, superheroes, pumpkins, fairies, and Pokemon characters visited the museum for sweet treats 🍬 🍩 and flying lessons from our Old Flight Instructor 🛩️ ✈️ during the annual Downtown Ithaca Trick-or-Treat on Friday the 27th.



We wish everyone a spook-tacular Halloween!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tompkins County is located in the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq? (Cayuga Nation). The [Gayogohó:nq? \(Guy-uh-KO-no\)](#) "People from the Swampy Land", are one of the Six Nations of the [Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#) (sometimes referred to as the [Iroquois Confederacy](#)). Tompkins County was also home to the native nations adopted by the Gayogohó:nq? ; the [Saponi](#) and the [Tutelo](#) (Deyodi:ho:nq?), who fled to this region in the mid 1700's.



Come to one of our [twice-monthly transcription sessions](#) and help preserve history! Explore the work completed so far at tompkins.historyforge.net.

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.

Fri - October 6th- 5-8pm - The History Center Exhibit Hall will not be open for November's Gallery Night. **The CAP Gallery WILL be open!**

[Exhibit Hall will be CLOSED 11/23 & 11/24](#)

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](#)

Corn Husk Dolls

Learn the story behind the Corn Husk doll, and make your own!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH
10:30-12:30PM OR 1:30-3:30PM

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to make their own traditional Corn Husk Dolls with Seneca Nation artist Penny Minner, and to hear the Haudenosaunee story behind why Corn Husk dolls have no face.

TO REGISTER

www.thehistorycenter.net/events

LOCATION

CAP ArtSpace Gallery inside the
Tompkins Center for History & Culture
110 N. Tioga St. Ithaca NY 14850
Gayogohó:ng' Territory
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons

This FREE program is for all ages.

Participants must pre-register. Registration is limited to 15 participants per session.

We will follow current health guidelines from

the Tompkins County Health Department for this program.

Please contact us with accessibility questions and requests.

Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at
community@thehistorycenter.net
with any questions.

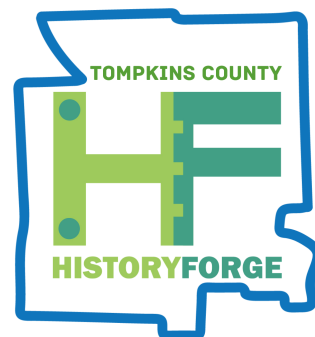


- [2/21 - CHAT on Underground Railroad History w/ Gerard Aching](#)
- 3/9 - Printing Women on the Bill w/ Laura Rowley (Illuminated Press) - Registration will open in January 2024.

Corn Husk Dolls, is **FULLY BOOKED**. Spaces will only become available if current registrants cancel.

Using Tompkins HistoryForge to share diverse local histories

The [Tompkins County HistoryForge](#) project has been digitizing local census, map, and building records since 2016. Our pilot HistoryForge site is an ever-growing, expanding, and improving public platform for visualizing local history; growing monthly with the [contributions of volunteer transcribers](#) and through the [support of the National Archives](#). With data sets that now span over 70 years of local records for the City of Ithaca, the opportunities this database provides for local researchers is huge.



One way our staff have been intentionally using this wealth of digitized content in the last three years is to showcase diverse and historically underrepresented communities and individuals in Tompkins County. Through using search terms like "Foreign Born", "Mother Tongue", "Race", "Place of Birth" and other census categories we are able to search for communities whose records might not be preserved or aren't currently held in our [archives and paper collections](#).



This feature has been most utilized in the development of our [history and heritage month web pages](#) and corresponding social media series. In developing content for these pages our staff and student workers first explore the materials held in our archives and library collections, but for some identities that do not yet have related archives we turn to [HistoryForge](#).

The [1910 census](#) included the category 'Deaf and Dumb*', "dumb" being an outdated and offensive term meaning non-speaking. By searching [HistoryForge](#) using the filter for this question you can [see the census results for six deaf residents](#) who were living in the City of Ithaca. This search gave our Masters-student researcher a starting point for her [Deaf History Month](#) research.

You may know that the [Southside Neighborhood](#) is a historically black community. Through using the "Race" category in different census years we can see that [in 1880 there were 38 households](#) with Black residents in the neighborhood in just the two blocks bordered by [S. Corn St, W. Clinton St, S. Plain St, and W. Green St](#). [In 1930](#) the number of Black residents in the neighborhood had increased to 66, and increased to 106 Black residents in the same two block neighborhood by the [1950](#) census.



In searching for Hispanic and Latino residents for our [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) we used census filters like "[Mother Tongue](#)" and "[Place of Birth](#)" on each census year. Discovering that the 1900 census for the City of Ithaca had only five residents born in North, Central, and South American Latino countries, by 1940 that number had grown to 78 residents.

Claire Deng's [pioneering research in 2021-2022 on the earliest Asian residents of](#)

[Tompkins County](#) first started with [HistoryForge](#). By discovering names on the census of residents born in east-Asian countries, she was then able to cross search specific names through newspaper and historic records and discover multi-generational family stories and Asian-owned businesses dating back to the 1800s. This research resulted in the [Tang Family Collection](#) and the [Tompkins County Asian Diaspora Collection](#) now held in our collections.

The census while a wealth of information, also has faults and historic quirks that make it an incomplete picture of any community. In finding information for [Filipino-American Heritage Month](#), we came up against issues of race classification in different census years. "Filipino" was one of three new racial categories added to the 1920 census. No one on the 1920 census for Ithaca was recorded with the race "Filipino." One enumerator did, however, encounter a man, Zack N. Dapula, who was born in the Philippines, as were his parents. Without specific instructions on what constituted Filipino as a race, the enumerator visually determined that Dapula was "Mulatto." [In 1930 six people were recorded on the census for the City of Ithaca as "Filipino."](#) Highlighting the inconsistencies of racial categorization on the census, all six also appeared on the 1940 census, but there they were recorded as "White."

These are a few select examples that show how we are using our [local HistoryForge](#) platform (there are now [eight HistoryForge sites in four states](#)) to expand the types of stories we are able to find and tell about the history of Ithaca and Tompkins County. Through the [two-year National Archives grant awarded to the project in 2022](#) the project is currently expanding into the rest of Tompkins County. We hope that in the coming years our community will be able to more easily search and discover the stories of historic residents in our rural townships as effectively as we now can for the Town and City of Ithaca.

Explore HistoryForge

[Listen to a local history tour!](#)



If you've been supporting and following The History Center since 2013 we hope you've had the opportunity to learn about and engage with the over 40 [self-guided history tours](#) we've made available on the [free PocketSights app](#). These tours have expanded from the collaborative Ithaca Heritage tourism grant (2013-2019) that created the first 20+ tours, and now include [driving and cycling tours](#) on different history themes across the county.

Since the start of the [PocketSights](#) collaboration, we've gotten feedback from our local history enthusiasts who don't like apps, or have difficulty using the platform.

With accessibility in mind, over the last 9 months our [Senior Community Service Employment](#) worker Lucius has been recording audio versions for these tours, recording segments on the literal hundreds of local stops highlighted through these tours.

Through Lucius's commitment to this project with over 500 hours worked so far, we now have [audio versions for 32 of the self-guided tours](#) developed in collaboration by [The History Center](#), [Historic Ithaca](#), and the [Wharton Studio Museum](#) since 2013. The audio versions of the tours can be listed to for free on [The History Center's SoundCloud](#) profile by selecting the "[Playlists](#)" tab on our page, or accessed as links in each [PocketSights](#) tour stop. We will have a web page dedicated to the audio playlists for these tours available in 2024.

We are continuing with this project in the coming year, and are committed to continuing to make local history content available in multiple formats so more of our community can engage with the rich history of Tompkins County! Learn more at thehistorycenter.net/accessibility.

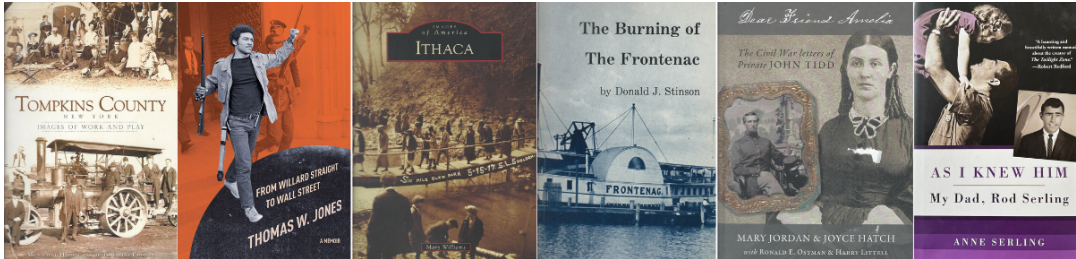
The screenshot shows a SoundCloud player interface. At the top, the title is "The Southside Loop Walking Tour - Audio Guide" by "The History Center in Tompkins County", posted "3 months ago" and marked "# Public". Below the title is a waveform visualization of the audio. To the right is a thumbnail image of a blue house with a porch. Below the player are interaction buttons: Like, Repost, Share, Copy Link, and Add to Next up. A section for "Follow The History Center in Tompkins County and others on SoundCloud" includes a "Sign in" button and a "Create a SoundCloud account" button. Below this is a bio for "The History Ce..." with 552 followers and a "Follow" button. A description states: "This tour was originally developed by the Cornell-Ithaca Partnership in May 2003. These audio clips accompany the Southside Loop Walking Tour available on the free PocketSights app: pocketsights.com/tours/tour/". To the right, a "Playlists from this user" section lists three playlists: "The History Center in Tompkins C... William Henry Miller Downtown Ar...", "The History Center in Tompkins C... Henry St. John Historic District", and "The History Center in Tompkins C... Traverse Tompkins - Facing Floods".

A4TD ASSOCIATES FOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT We are especially grateful to the [Associates for Training & Development](#) (A4TD) program that has funded Lucius' work-training placement with us this year as part of the Older Americans Act, and for supporting workers-over-50 in our community learn new skills to rejoin the workforce.

Prior to this project Lucius had never before done recording work, and only recently moved to Tompkins County. This project has hugely expanded his technical skills and knowledge of the community.

[New local history books available through The History Center online store](#)

Thanks to the fall [Friends of the Tompkins County Library Book Sale](#) we've been able to expand our book inventory on local history! Explore thehistorycenter.net/shop for new titles to add to your winter reading. (Please be aware that for most of our 'Used' titles there is only a single copy available for purchase - Listings will disappear if they are no longer available).



OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

Cornell Latino Alumni Association is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Day Hall Takeover of 1993. A student led protest that led to the establishment of the Latino Studies Program. [Register for Zoom program.](#)

If you missed the historical marker dedication ceremony for Kate Dean in Newfield in October you can watch the full program on their YouTube channel [here](#).

Ithaca College celebrates the [50th anniversary of the founding of the School of Communications](#).

The [Ithacan celebrates over 100 years of local journalism](#).

[New York Genealogical & Biographical Society - NYS Family History Conference](#) to be held November 2nd-4th.

LOCAL HISTORY READS

- [Lou's Street Food Owner to Retire by Late 2024](#) - Cornell Daily Sun - 10/25/2023
- [In this spooky season, a look back at Rulloff-Ithaca's Infamous Rogue](#) - Cornellians - 10/19/2023
- [Brains! Collection is a \(Slightly Spooky artifact of an earlier era](#) - Cornellians 10/28/2023
- [Finger Lakes Film Trail: Wharton Studio a monument to film's silent age](#) - Spectrum Local News - 10/25/2023
- [Historic church celebrates 190th anniversary](#) - IthacaWeek - 10/23/2023
- [Newfield Historical Society reveals historical marker](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 10/18/2023

- [A Century of Hospitality Education on the Hill, in Photos](#) - Cornellians - 10/20/2023
- [Raise a glass to the namesake of Zinck's Night](#) - Cornellians - 9/29/2023
- [Ross Field press box dedicated to 'Voice of Groton' Carl Gambitta](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 10/18/2023
- [Aurora Shoe Co., the little shoe company that could](#) - Auburn Pub - 10/11/2023
- [Decades ago, avid photographer captured campus life on film](#) - Cornellians - 10/11/2023
- [Park Sign recall Freeville's railroad history](#) - Spectrum Local News - 10/10/2023
- [Chuck Feeney, Cornell's 'third founder', dies at 92](#) - Cornell Chronicle - 10/9/2023
- [Hollywood on Cayuga: Ithaca's Cinematic History](#) - Cornell Daily Sun - 10/2/2023

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

Follow @TompkinsHistory on any platform

Update your email preferences or **unsubscribe** from this list.

Web: 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