



# History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Last Month at The History Center...

### *Art of Wampum - Native American Heritage Month display draws crowds!*



The [Art of Wampum](#) curated by History Center staff and volunteers drew many visitors throughout November. More than six field trips from New Roots Charter School, staff groups from Cornell Cooperative Extension, community co-ops, and over 60 visitors stopped by during opening night on November 5th which included a [lecture from replica belt weaver Rich Hamell](#).

We are honored to continue to build collaborative and modern programming with Haudenosaunee educators and artists to connect the community of Tompkins County to the [Indigenous history and culture of our region](#).

The physical exhibit is coming down to make way for the annual [CAP-a-Palooza Art Sale](#), but the exhibit content and images will remain available at our website under the [Virtual Exhibits](#) page and at [thehistorycenter.net/wampum](http://thehistorycenter.net/wampum). Brandon Lazore's (*Onondaga*) wampum art prints will also be available for purchase at the Visitors Center next to the History Center Exhibit Hall through the month of December. All proceeds from these sales go to the artist.

Thank you to Ithaca Week reporter Leah Aulio-Sharpe for highlighting the [Art of Wampum exhibit in their November article](#).

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

LOCAL HISTORY PRESENTED BY **chloe capital**

# BREAKING BARRIERS

Women's Lives & Livelihoods

**ONE EXHIBIT**  
#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).

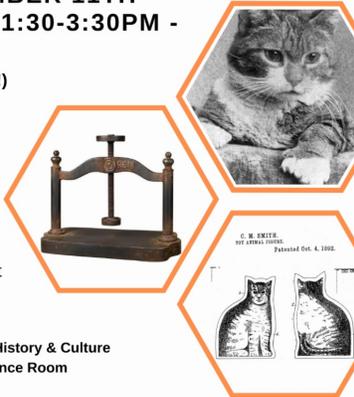
Community Education Programming from  
**THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY**

## 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.



## Film Screening and Talkback

### IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE WOMAN Theatre

a film by Sue Perlgut and Nils Hoover

[www.ItsAllRightToBeWomanTheatre.com](http://www.ItsAllRightToBeWomanTheatre.com)

stories from our lives, dream plays, music, chants & crankies

Documentary about the pioneering feminist theatre troupe from the 1970's

**Sunday, January 22, 1:30 PM**

Tompkins Center for History and Culture on the Commons  
110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY

Free and Open to the public. Masks Required

Talkback led by Dr. Sara Warner, Cornell University



[WWW.ITSAALLRIGHTTOBEWOMANTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.ITSAALLRIGHTTOBEWOMANTHEATRE.COM)

Thank you to Arla Davis of NewsWatch for taking the time to interview our staff and share information about the [Breaking Barriers](#) exhibit.

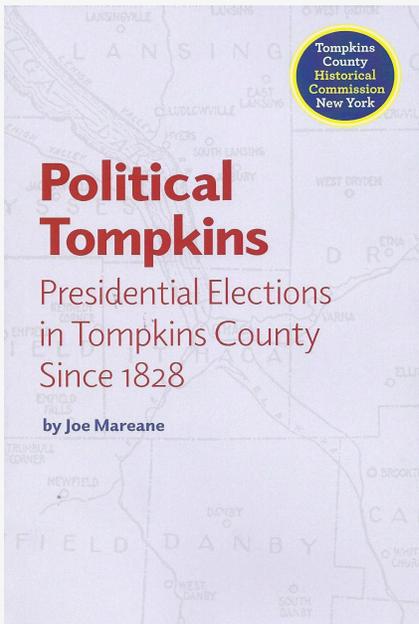


[Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#) will officially close on Saturday March 12th. The Exhibit Hall will be closed to the public March 13th-31st as we install our new exhibit **reCOUNT: Facing Our Census** which will open on Friday, April 1st 2022. Details about the new exhibit will be available in 2022.

## **\*\*NEW\*\* Book Alert!**

### **Political Tompkins: Presidential Elections in Tompkins County Since 1828**

**PURCHASE**



[From the back cover book blurb]

"A Republican Stronghold Flips to Democrats

Within a generation of embracing Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party in 1828, Tompkins County turned to a new Republican Party in 1856. For almost 130 years - even as Republicanism evolved into the party of business and limited government and the

Democrats seized the banner of progressivism - it would be hard to find a County more faithful to the GOP than Tompkins.

The most popular presidential candidates in the County's history haven't been Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton, but Dwight Eisenhower, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover. In a County now defined by its progressive politics, the very architect of the New Deal, Franklin Roosevelt, lost in landslide defeats in all four of his presidential runs.

Only now are Democratic candidates beginning to achieve the levels of popularity historically enjoyed by Republicans.

In nature, a lake responds to seasonal climate changes by "turning over," bringing bottom water to the top. So too did political power rapidly turn over in Tompkins County, lifting long-suffering Democrats into a position of almost unchallenged dominance."

**READ MORE**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**Hours & Safety Guidelines -** Schedule a [private visit!](#) **CLOSED 12/24 & 12/25, and 12/31-1/18/2022**

**December 11th - [Print-A-Kitty Archival Prints Workshop \(All Ages\)](#) 10:30-12:30 or 1:30-3:30pm.** Free program. [Registration required.](#)

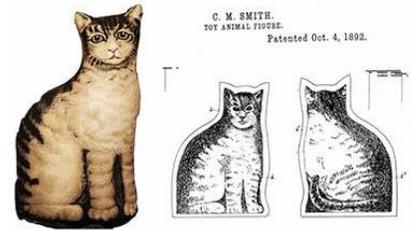
**December 4th & 18th [HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) 11am-1pm** Learn more about the project [here](#). Contact Eve [historyforge@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:historyforge@thehistorycenter.net) to join.

**[December 31st-January 18th - Exhibit Hall is CLOSED for Winter Recess.](#)** Private Appointments available for both museum and [Research Library](#) during January. Please contact [director@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:director@thehistorycenter.net) to arrange.

### **UPCOMING:**

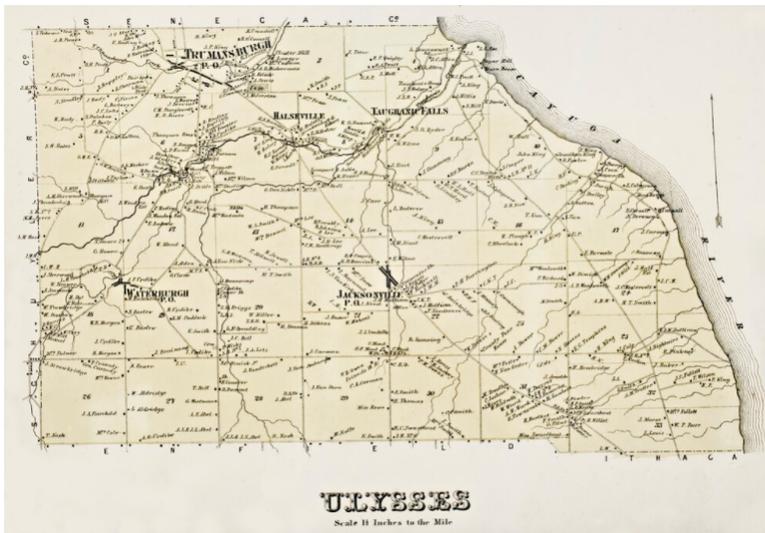
- 1/22 - [It's Alright to Be Woman Theatre - Film Screening w/ Talkback](#) - 1:30-3pm @ the CAP ArtSpace inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture
- 'Women's Wisdom' Documentary Screening & Panel - February TBA
- Ithaca Loves Teachers Week - Events & Programs - February TBA

Support The History Center in Tompkins County with a holiday purchase from our gift store! [Local history books & Ithaca Kitties](#) can be purchased from our [online store](#), and limited edition post cards, map reprints, and [Art of Wampum](#) prints can be purchased in-person at the [Downtown Visitors Center](#) located next to the Exhibit Hall. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm.



## The Tompkins County Rural Black Residents Project

The [Tompkins County Rural Black Residents Project](#) (TCRBR) merges history, genealogy, census records, and maps to spatially contextualize the stories of rural Black residents in Tompkins County between 1820 & 1870.



PhD candidate Ethan Dickerman pursued a unique research project over the fall 2021 term. His work included merging records from [HistoryForge](#), [The History Center in Tompkins County](#), [Tompkins County Historians](#), [United States Census Bureau Publications](#), and [many others](#) to generate interactive Carto. maps recording the addresses of Black Tompkins County residents in the mid to late 1800's. This is the most comprehensive project to date on [BIPOC](#) rural residents of Tompkins County, and offers a powerful visual representation and data sets to understand the changing dynamics of

our region after the abolishment of slavery in New York State in 1827, and the growing use of census records to understand migration and immigration patterns.

Dickerman shares his process for creating the maps and seeking out family records on the [Maps](#) page of the TCRBR website.

*"Locating the approximate locations where black residents lived in Ithaca was particularly challenging between 1850 & 1870. To do this, I needed to use a combination of the 1853 Smith and Fagen county map, the 1866 Topographical Atlas of the county by Stone and Stewart, the 1893 Crandall map of Ithaca with street numbers listed, the associated federal census records, and the 1869-70 and 1875-76 Ithaca City Directories. To locate individuals and families, I needed to*

- 1) identify a family or neighbor on the census record
- 2) search for them in the directories
- 3) use the Crandall maps to identify the historical addresses (Ithaca's addresses #'s changed in the 1890s)
- 4) source their coordinates using Google Maps based on their locations on the Crandall map.

*Note: This process is not perfect but attempts to locate where people lived with the little information available today."*

Dickerman is actively seeking additional information to expand on the project, and to improve on the information recorded about these families in Tompkins County. Please reach out through his ["Seeking Info"](#) web page.

# Newly Completed Finding Aids added to Archival Collections and TheHistoryCenter.net

Thanks to a grant awarded by the [Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation](#) earlier in 2021, our archivist and [Research Library](#) volunteers have been able to complete the cataloging and creation of a number of new [Finding Aids](#) for our archival collections. Our archives hold more than 600 boxed collections, and [Finding Aids](#) are an invaluable tool in supporting the accessibility and understanding of our collections.

Some recently completed and updated [Finding Aids](#) include:

- Town of Caroline Collection
- Community Activism Collection
- World War I
- World War II
- Ithaca Urban Area Plan
- Archibald Davidson
- Public Health Collection
- Public Works Collection

and many more to come! [Explore thehistorycenter.net/Finding-Aids](https://www.thehistorycenter.net/Finding-Aids) to learn more about our collections.

## Guide to the **Community Activism Collection**

*The History Center in Tompkins County*  
110 North Tioga Street, Suite 204A  
Tompkins Center for History and Culture  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-273-8284  
[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)  
[archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

### Collection Number V-58-1-3 (1,2)

#### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Throughout the years, residents of Tompkins County have been affected, inspired, and motivated by the political and social trends and events surrounding them. In response, they have formed coalitions, committees, and organizations, ranging from AIDS awareness to eco-friendly food co-ops, all with the intention of positively impacting their world and the people in it. Tompkins County has long boasted wide-ranging political activity, partially as a result of the influences of two of the educational institutions in the community, Cornell University and Ithaca College. This trend has continued throughout the decades and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when Ithaca, as part of Tompkins County, is known as the second most progressive city in New York State, after New York City.

This collection details the campaigns that Tompkins County activists have undertaken, from 1956 on. For example, an early initiative, the Economic Opportunity Corporation, was introduced in 1966 as a facet of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society reforms, which professed to wage a war on poverty and resulting inequality. The Economic Opportunity Corporation has evolved to encompass the progressive ideas that locals hold dear: equitable housing, youth education, community service, and economic opportunity for marginalized demographics. Twenty-three years later, a case known as *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* was taken to the Supreme Court as a threat to the precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* on the legality of abortion. A group of Cornell students formed an organization called Coalition for Choice and organized a rally to demonstrate their support for abortion rights. A third example of such activist initiative is the Finger



Thank you to [Uncle Marty's Shipping Office](#) in Collegetown for donating their November & December Change for Change proceeds to The History Center!

We did some digging and found their building at [206 Dryden Road](#) on [HistoryForge](#). There's some debate as some addresses on Dryden Road became part of the newly created Dryden Court in 1925-26, but per census records we believe that [Uncle Marty's Shipping Office](#) was home to the Dumonts in 1910, the Beard family in 1920, and the Potter family (Including [Harry E. Potter](#) and [Harry Potter Jr.](#)) in

1930. Uncle Marty's Opened in 2011 and is an independent, locally owned, and inclusive small business.

If you're planning to ship any packages for the holidays head over to Uncle Marty's and support local!

## OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

The Ancestor Project - Creating History One Artifact at a Time

# THE ANCESTOR PROJECT

Creating History- One Artifact at a Time.



Heirlooms & Keepsakes  
fine craft engraving



Explore Your Personal Photography  
preservation, creation, sharing  
*Freeing the image from the artifact*



Making  
Artifacts  
Crafting  
Weaving

Arts & Crafts  
Classes



Photo Restorations

Explore your  
personal history

CREATIVE  
MEMORIES



Small-run Desktop Publishing  
miniature books, biographies,  
cookbooks,



Memorials & Tributes

Scrapbook.com

Ancestors  
Wanted

THE  
ANCESTOR  
PROJECT  
PRESS

The [Ancestor Project](#) evolved out of Gerry's need to reclaim his family photos which were badly damaged. He used his years of experience working as an imaging specialist to painstakingly digitally restore and recreate his family photographs. "For me, photo restoration is as much fun as a jigsaw puzzle" says Gerry.

By participating in Active Ancestry, people can engage in preserving personal history. Our goal is to use programs like Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, to create new artifacts by freeing the images from our original artifacts. We also have lots of work arounds for people who don't have photoshop or a scanner. The goal of the Ancestor Project is to help people in creating artifacts of personal history.

## Possible projects include

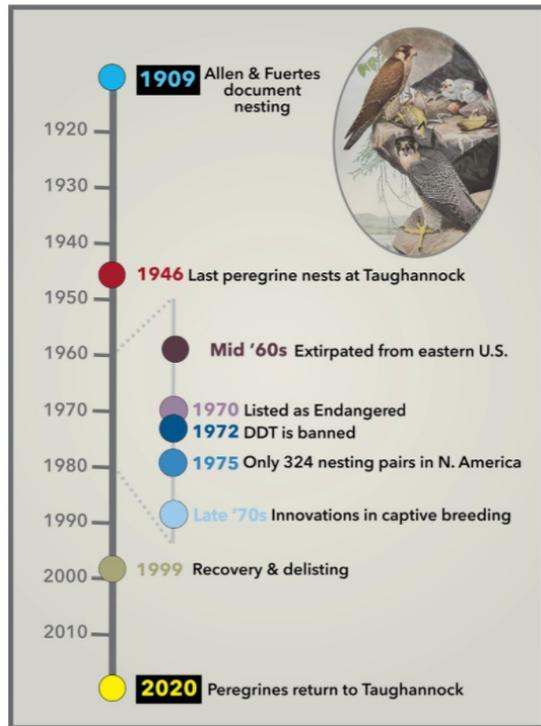
- Digital Photo restoration & photo montage
- Small run desktop publishing of miniature books, biographies, family cookbooks
- Heirloom & keepsakes
- Memorials & tributes
- Creating artifacts through crafting

Contact Gerry at [gmonaghan22@mac.com](mailto:gmonaghan22@mac.com) to get involved.

## A Long-Awaited Homecoming for Peregrine Falcons in the Finger Lakes

Story & Photo's by Andy Johnson - Published October 13th 2021 at [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

... "More than a century ago, in 1913, Arthur Allen penned a detailed account of a nesting pair at the Taughannock gorge for the academic



magazine Bird-Lore, after “a Peregrine Falcon espied this cleft in the earth and chose it for his aerie.”

In the following decades, Allen and his friend and colleague, the eminent ornithological painter Louis Agassiz Fuertes, documented the falcons breeding at Taughannock in evocative writings, paintings, and photographs. Their depictions are definitive renderings of the species, capturing their kinship with the craggy ledges high above Cayuga Lake, and the echoing of their screams between canyon walls.

“One forgets everything in the excitement of that scream, which announces the return of the provider,” Allen wrote. “Every bird in the covert crouches and freezes immovable when he hears it.”

That unbroken line of anatum falcons, captured at their zenith in the family portrait on the park sign, unraveled in mere decades. In the late 1940s, as postwar America was beginning to boom, the nation’s agricultural engine boomed, too—and it began exhaling dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane: the notorious DDT." ...

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

## And They Were Roommates? Flora Rose and Martha Van Rensselaer

*By Eliza Salamon published in The Cornell Daily Sun October 31st 2021*



"...The two women owned homes together, hosted friends at their mountain house and even opened a hotel in Ithaca. They were pioneers in the home economics department, an area of study which sought to turn traditionally lowbrow women’s duties into a scientific and respected craft. Their teachings at Cornell included nutrition, cooking, child-rearing, textile design and management. Rose and Van Rensselaer spoke before the New York state legislature to advocate for the study of

home economics and successfully convinced the male legislators to fund a building for the department. Van Rensselaer found encouragement and support, both personally and politically, in Eleanor Roosevelt (who was also commonly suspected to have had relationships with women)...."

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

**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:nq' 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