

# THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

**History Happenings** Late May 2019  
The History Center's Electronic Newsletter

## The Corner

### Research Library Opens to the Public

68 volunteers, more than 1,600 boxes, rolls and rolls of archival wrapping materials, miles of packing tape and bubble wrap, thousands of pages of crumpled newspaper, 24 months of planning, countless hours working with the fine arts movers, bag after bag of packing peanuts.

These are just some of the bare statistics that describe The History Center's move of our large and diverse collections to our new space at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture. And now, the archival collections are finally unpacked and the Research Library is open. It has been named the Cornell Local History Research Library to honor Ezra Cornell and the great university he founded.



Leadership Tompkins visited the research library.

Our greatest debt is to the generous and hard working volunteers who donated time and effort as well as tons of packing materials to this tremendous undertaking. Some of them were members of the community, some were very young (our youngest volunteer was 11 when he helped us crumple newspaper), and some, not so young. Students from many local schools happily helped us, including Ithaca High School, Boynton Middle School, Ithaca College, Cornell University, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and Binghamton University. Some people came just for a day or two, some came for longer, and several stuck with us all these many months first packing, and then unpacking the collections.

Many of our three-dimensional objects will get unpacked gradually over the next several months as we settle in to our new home. Some things will be moved to off-site storage. But the archival collections - the library books and photographs, the manuscript collections, scrapbooks, maps, newspapers, ledgers and periodicals, all those paper-based treasures that we preserve for the community - those are unpacked, sorted, organized, shelved, and ready for researchers. The library opened this Tuesday, so they are now available to the public. Our regular research library hours beginning are Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Thursdays in the summer until 7:00 PM.

Thank you to our public for your patience as we prepared for this exciting re-opening.

*Donna Eschenbrenner, Director of Archives and Research Services*

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**Coming Soon...**

Interested in the history of your home? Got a question on an architectural topic? Good news for researchers interested in the built environment!

In addition to our own architectural historian Mary Tomlan helping researchers every Thursday afternoon, we are now happy to announce that Historic Ithaca's Preservation Services Coordinator, Christine O'Malley will be available in our research library on the following Tuesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM:

Tuesday, May 28th  
Tuesday, June 11th  
Tuesday, June 25th  
Tuesday, July 2nd  
Tuesday, July 23rd

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## Upcoming Events



### **Generation to Generation 2019: Oral Histories of Food & Immigration**

*Wednesday, June 5, 5:00 to 6:30 PM*

**Tompkins Center for History & Culture, Ithaca College Gallery, 1st Floor, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Join us to celebrate the stories of ten local business owners and their families who immigrated to this country. Listen to their oral histories and celebrate their addition to our growing Oral History Collection. The ten

young people who conducted these Oral History interviews will also be recognized.



### **From Seeds to Wisdom: Exploring Haudenosaunee Cycles** **Celebrating Strawberries**

*Sunday, June 9, 12:30 to 2:00 PM*

**Tompkins Center for History & Culture, Ithaca College Gallery, 1st Floor, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Join us to learn about the importance of the strawberry plant in Haudenosaunee culture. This free, fun event will include storytelling, art making, and celebrating the

strawberry! For families with children ages 6 to 12. From Seeds to Wisdom is a new monthly program in collaboration with local indigenous persons.



### **Cornerstone Time Capsule Opening**

*Saturday, June 22, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM*

**Tompkins Center for History & Culture, Ithaca College Gallery, 1st Floor, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850**

The time capsule from April 22, 1968 will be opened in a community celebration with the library and other collaborators. More details will be announced soon.



**Saturday, June 22, 2:00 to 3:30 PM**  
**Tompkins Center for History & Culture, Ithaca**  
**College Gallery, 1st Floor, 110 North Tioga Street,**  
**Ithaca, NY 14850**

Freida Jacques of the Onondaga Nation will present fundamental information about the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, drawn from and enhanced by her own life experience and understanding of her culture, and invites the audience to ask questions and engage with her first-hand accounts.



### **Fly Through the Finger Lakes**

**Saturday, July 13, 9:00 to 5:00 PM**

**Multiple locations throughout central New York**

The History Center is excited to join with Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Horseheads, the National Soaring Museum in Elmira, the Glenn H. Curtiss Aviation Museum in Hammondsport, and Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation to offer this first-of-its-kind regional aviation bus tour through the beautiful Finger Lakes region... Jump onboard in "America's Coolest Small Town" Hammondsport or "Gorges" Ithaca. Take in the countryside and small towns of central New York as local historians share stories. Visit these four museums

without thinking about driving or parking. Enjoy lunch at Wings Cafe from locally- and woman-owned Sweet-N-Saucy Catering... Come fly through the Finger Lakes this summer! Pricing for this all-inclusive adventure ranges from \$30 to \$75 per child or adult. Register [here](#) to start in Hammondsport or [here](#) to start in Ithaca, by June 29 if possible.

## **Sign Up Now for Summer Camp 2019**

**THE HISTORY CENTER**  
in Tompkins County

The History Center in Tompkins County & Lilypad Puppet Theatre present...

**CRANKIE CAMP**

LOCAL HISTORY THROUGH STORYTELLING

**AUG. 12-16**  
**12-3:30 pm**

ALL YOUTH AGES  
9-13 WELCOME

The Eight Square Schoolhouse  
1748 Hanshaw Road



**Explore local history through the art of the crankie!**  
**Join us on the final day of camp for a Crankie performance!**

The crankie is an old form of storytelling, sometimes called a "moving panorama." In this week-long camp, kids will create their own crankies, which will include theatre, storytelling, puppetry, and visual art, all about local history.

Lunch and snacks will be provided each day. Cost: \$100/camper.  
 Limited scholarships are available. Register at: <http://bit.ly/thccamp>

For more information, contact Julia Taylor, Youth Educator at 607-273-8284 x229 or [eightsquare@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:eightsquare@thehistorycenter.net)

## CONTACT US

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@TompkinsHistory



Event announcements, historical throwbacks, behind-the-scenes perspectives, and more...  
We like to be followed!