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**History Happenings | September 2023**

1 message

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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, Aug 30, 2023 at 9:01 AM

**September 2023**[Events Calendar](#)[Schedule a Visit](#)[Archives](#)[Support Us](#)

## Last Month at The History Center...

*During August we were able to tie up some loose ends and finalize some major digitization projects and make them available to the public! Explore and enjoy!*

**[Finger Lakes Book Project](#)** - A public, searchable spreadsheet of over 1,600 history, community, culture, and memoir works published about the Finger Lakes region and its residents dating from 1789-2023 (and getting updated monthly!).


This list was curated over 20 years by Joe Wetmore, former-owner, founder, and long-time book buyer and seller at Autumn Leaves Used Books located on the Ithaca Commons. In 2022 Joe donated a paper copy of his list to The History Center in Tompkins County.

Through tireless transcription our student workers have transcribed his document into a searchable spreadsheet. Find the link always at [thehistorycenter.net/books](http://thehistorycenter.net/books)

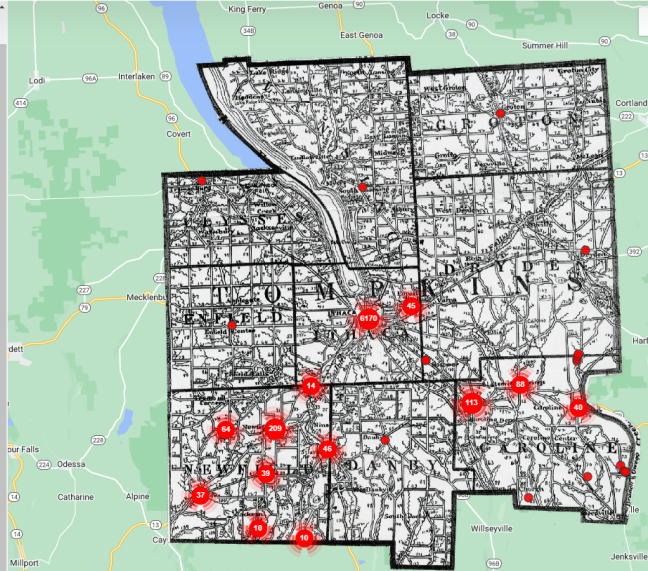
**[Identified Individuals Photograph Collection Finding Aid](#)** - The History Center holds over 100,000 images in our photograph collections. How can you find out if your ancestors, teachers, community members are in the collection? This finding aid of all our identified individuals can now be explored at [thehistorycenter.net/photographs](http://thehistorycenter.net/photographs). You still need to make an in-person appointment to view the images, but we've saved you some leg work!

[Then & Now Columns 2001-2020](#) - Previously hidden behind the Ithaca Journal's archives paywall, you can now explore nearly 20 years of local history writing digitized as easy to download PDFs! Find the link always at [thehistorycenter.net/then-and-now](http://thehistorycenter.net/then-and-now).

[Tompkins HistoryForge adds new maps from 1851, 1866, and 1872, as well as 11 township maps!](#) Explore [tompkins.historyforge.net/forge](http://tompkins.historyforge.net/forge) and click on the map icon in the top left corner to explore our greatly expanded map list for Tompkins County!



- Bevans Map of Ithaca, 1851
- Map of Ithaca, Atlas of Tompkins County, 1866
- A. G. Bardin Map of Ithaca, 1872
- Ithaca Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas, 1888
- F. W. Beers Map of Ithaca, 1889
- Ithaca Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas, 1898
- Crandall City Engineering Map, 1899 (corrected to Jan 1, 1909) new house numbers (as of 1899) in red
- Ithaca Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas, 1910
- American Agriculturist Farm Directory Map of Tompkins County, 1914
- Ithaca Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas, 1919-20
- "Clock System" Rural Index Map Tompkins County Townships, 1919-1920
- Ithaca, First Approved Zoning Map, 1923
- Aerial Photographs of Ithaca, 1933
- "Clock System" Rural Index Map Tompkins County, 1937
- Tompkins County Development Association (TCDA) Map, Town of Caroline, 1938
- Inserts from TCDA Map, Town of Caroline, 1938
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Brooktondale, 1940
- Tompkins County Base Map, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Cayuga Heights W, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Cayuga Heights N, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Forest Home, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Peruville, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Newfield, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, McLean, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Ludlowville, 1940
- Inserts from Tompkins County Base Map, Jacksonville, 1940



## UPCOMING EVENTS



'[Genderqueer Pioneers: The Lavender Hill Legacy](#)' at The Cherry Arts Gallery - is on display through September 17th.

**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 will be on display February-December 2023. The '[Women of Influence - Each Block a Story](#)' quilt on loan from the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum has been returned for an upcoming exhibit, stop by to



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

THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY  
presents

## BOOK TALK



### Unionizing the Ivory Tower

Cornell Workers' Fifteen-Year Fight for Justice and a Living Wage

AL DAVIDOFF

Al Davidoff, the Cornell student leader who became a custodian and the union's first president, tells the extraordinary story of these ordinary workers with passion, sensitivity, and wit.

Following the lecture author will have copies of the book available for sale and signing.

Wednesday September 6th - 5:30-6:30pm



TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture  
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - 1st Floor  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850  
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons

This event is FREE and open to the public. Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions.



see the new 'Rising Dawn' quilt!

### 'Genderqueer Pioneers: The Lavender Hill Legacy'

exhibit on display at The Cherry Artspace August 4th-September 17th

### Women Swimmin' 20th - See How Far We've Swum

- on display in the Tompkins Atrium July - October 2023.

### Fri - September 1st- 5-

8pm - [Gallery Night](#) - Join

us for Gallery Night for the OPENING NIGHT of the

newest quilt joining the

'Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County' exhibit

- on loan from the [40 Beds](#)

[40 Quilts project of the](#)

[Community Quilting Center](#)

and the [Open Access](#)

[Detox & Stabilization](#)

[Center](#).

### Wed - September 6th -

[Book Talk: Unionizing the](#)

[Ivory Tower](#) w/ Al Davidoff -

5:30-6:30pm @Tompkins

Center

### Sat - September 9th -

[Quilting Stories Workshop](#)

[w/ Leanora Mims](#) - 12-3pm

@Tompkins Center. No

registration required.

### Wed - September 13th -

[The History of Boats & Boat](#)

[Building on Cayuga w/ Eve](#)

## Quilting Stories Workshop

*Tell your story in cloth!*

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH  
12-3PM - FREE - ALL AGES**

Stop by during Welcome Weekend to create your own mini-quilt work using cotton African print materials! Workshop will be led by Leanora Mims, a Master Quilt Griot living in Tompkins County.

Participants will create a 8 1/2x 11" quilt strip collage inspired by the Gees Bend Quilters of Louisiana. Bring your sense of play and your sense of fun. Come ready to learn a bit of quilting technique history! All materials will be provided.



*This event is offered in conjunction with the 'Oral History Quilt Griot Program' presented by Leanora Mims on Saturday September 23rd at The History Center. See [thehistorycenter.net/events](http://thehistorycenter.net/events) for details.*

 **TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture**  
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - 1st Floor  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850  
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons



*This event is offered in conjunction with the Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County quilt exhibit currently on display.*

Please contact [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with accessibility requests or questions.

[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)



@TompkinsHistory

September 13th – [The History of Boats and Boat Building on Cayuga with Eve Snyder of The History Center](#) - A sunset cruise on 'The Teal' with Discover Cayuga Lake - **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

*Exploring Haudenosaunee Cycles*

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

## Sweetgrass & Splint Star Workshop

*Learn about the historic and cultural significance of Black Ash and Sweetgrass in Haudenosaunee traditional crafts!*

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH  
10:30-12:30PM OR 1:30-3:30PM**

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to make their own Sweetgrass and Black Ash Splint Star with Seneca artist Penny Minner. Learn about these native plants and their significance in traditional Haudenosaunee crafts. Materials were sustainably harvested in the region.

**TO REGISTER:**  
[www.thehistorycenter.net/events](http://www.thehistorycenter.net/events)

**LOCATION:**  
CAP ArtSpace Gallery inside Tompkins Center for History & Culture  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca  
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.*

Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions.

[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)



@TompkinsHistory

[Snyder](#) - Evening on 'The Teal' w/ Discover Cayuga Lake - Registration Required

**Sat - September 16th -**  
[Sweetgrass & Splint Star Workshop w/ Penny Minner](#) - 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm @Tompkins Center. Registration required.

**Sept 18-20th - [APHNYS Annual Conference "Home Sweet Home" - Ithaca NY](#)** - Registration required - Multiple sessions on Tompkins County history this year from [The History Center](#), [HistoryForge](#), [Historic Ithaca](#), [Wharton Studio Museum](#), and the [Gayogohó:nq? Learning Project!](#)

**Sat - September 23rd -**  
[Oral History Quilt Griot Program w/ Leanora Mims](#) - 2-3pm @Tompkins Center. No registration required.

**Sat & Sun - September 23rd & 24th - [TRAVERSE TOMPKINS - BUILDING BRIDGES FUNDRAISER](#)** - All weekend @Across Tompkins County

### **SAVE THE DATE**

- 10/7 - [Private Quilt Appraisal](#) w/ Cathy Klimaszewski





- [Haunted History Tours of Downtown Ithaca 10/13-10/28](#)- Registration is open!
- [11/11 - Corn Husk Dolls Workshop w/ Penny Minner](#) - Registration is open!
- **Exhibit Hall will be CLOSED 11/23 & 11/24**

9/18-9/20 - [APHNYS 2023 Annual Conference - Ithaca, NY](#) - Multiple sessions highlight Tompkins County history.

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

**Oral History Quilt Griot Program**  
 Words in the Time of Covid w/ Leonora Mims

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD  
 2PM-3PM  
 CAP ARTSPACE

*Leonora Mims is a Master Quilt Griot living in Tompkins County. She has created quilts for members of her family, members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in celebration of the 140th Commencement of Hampton University and quilts honoring the service of USMC NCO's in her family.*

*Ms. Mims will show her most recent oral history quilt created with 33 English Juniors Honors Students from Tompkins County. The students were taught lessons via Zoom about Dave the Potter and Author, Toni Morrison.*

*A research paper written by Ms. Mims regarding the quilt will be made available at the History Center.*



**TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture**  
 CAP ArtSpace Gallery - 1st Floor  
 110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850  
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This event is FREE and open to the public. Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net) with any questions.

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

## Private Quilt Appraisal with Cathy Klimaszewski


Book a private appointment to discover  
the value of your family quilts!

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH**  
**10AM-5:00PM**  
**30 MINUTE APPTS**

Appraisals are completed in private  
with the owner. The quilt is  
examined, measured, and  
photographed. Cathy then conducts  
research to determine the current  
fair market value for the quilt.  
Completed written appraisal is sent  
to the owner within two weeks.

Cathy Rosa Klimaszewski is a professional quilt appraiser, educator, and  
consultant. She has curated numerous quilt exhibitions shown at the Herbert  
F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, including shows that traveled  
to the Brandywine River Museum, New York State Museum, and Palmer  
Museum of Art at Penn State University. Klimaszewski also presents quilt  
lectures and has taught classes related to quilt history, design, and care.



 **TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture**  
Joe Mareane Conference Rm- 2nd Floor  
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca NY 14850  
In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons



*This event is by pre-appointment only. Please contact  
community@thehistorycenter.net with accessibility requests or questions.*

[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)



@TompkinsHistory

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)



**BOOK HAUNTED HISTORY** early! These  
tours fill up fast! Eight dates available.  
Tours begin at 6 or 7:30pm on each date.

### 2023 Tour Dates

October 13th and 14th

October 19th, 20th, and 21st

October 26th, 27th and 28th

**Tickets are \$15/person.** Walking tour  
takes approximately 1-hour.

## [Join us for Traverse Tompkins September 23rd & 24th](#)

**We're already [1/3 of the way to our fundraising goal!](#) Keep spreading the word!  
**Support Ben's ride on 9/23 or do your own!****

The basic premise is simple - how many miles can you bike, run, paddle, or travel in a 24-hour period? Join us for a kick-off breakfast on Saturday, September 23rd, and then set off and [explore the many different bridges across our community.](#) Compete against other travelers for the most miles traveled - or simply explore at your pace and style! Find out more on our campaign site: [charity.pledgeit.org/BuildingBridges](http://charity.pledgeit.org/BuildingBridges)

## Here's How It Works!

There are two ways to participate and join the effort to keep our history alive.

**Option 1:** Sign up for free and commit to asking your community for pledges to support your travels. Fueled by your obvious love for history and Tompkins County, reach out to

your friends, family, and colleagues to pledge their support for your challenge. Their pledge - of any amount - gets calculated after you complete your mileage.

**Option 2:** Buy an entry ticket! Asking for pledges isn't for everyone, but Traverse Tompkins should be. Your ticket price goes directly towards supporting The History Center's mission, and you still get to explore the bridges of Tompkins County!



THE HISTORY CENTER PRESENTS

TRAVERSE TOMPKINS

BUILDING BRIDGES

COME JOIN US!  
RIDE RUN WALK

24 HOURS  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Breakfast kickoff Saturday Morning  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8am.

Think you have what it takes for a 24-hour exploration of Tompkins County?

At *Traverse Tompkins 2023 - Building Bridges*, every participant is an essential storyteller of our past and a catalyst for a better future. Whether you're a seasoned marathoner, a weekend cyclist, or someone stepping into the world of fitness challenges, your involvement matters. Each mile you cover and each pledge you gather saves our community's extraordinary history. Visit us to find out more!

charity.pledgeit.org/buildingbridges

## **History Center welcomes new education staff - Jane Koestler!**

**Jane Koestler**, our new part-time educator at The History Center, transitioned to this position after working two seasons as a schoolmarm at our [Eight Square Schoolhouse](#).

Jane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Cornell University, M.S. from SUNY College at Cortland, and National Board Certification as a Middle Childhood Generalist in 2017. She is also a New York Master Teacher, Emeritus.

She taught 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students during her 33-year tenure as a teacher, primarily working for the Ithaca City School District. She and her husband have two grown children, live in the country near Trumansburg, and recently helped her parents relocate to Ithaca. They have a large garden, and she is chief harvester and processor at "Fat Rabbit Farm". Outside of work, she loves reading, singing, and walking, and participates in two monthly book groups. She is excited to join the staff at The History Center to create and facilitate educational opportunities for children and youth in our community.



Send her a welcome email at [eightsquare@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:eightsquare@thehistorycenter.net)!



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## **Knot Sew Fast - Quilt Exhibit - \*NEW ADDITION\***

The '[Women of Influence: Each Block a Story](#)' quilt has been returned to the Seneca Iroquois National Museum for their upcoming exhibit '[Here, Now, and Always Haudenosaunee Beadwork](#)' opening in Salamanca NY on September 23rd. We hope you'll plan a visit!

For the remaining four months of the '[Knot Sew Fast: Patchwork of Tompkins County](#)' quilt exhibit we will have the quilt 'Here Comes the Sun' on loan from the [40 Quilts for 40 Beds project](#), coordinated by the [Community Quiltmaking Center](#).

The Community Quiltmaking Center and a growing group of individuals and organizations across Tompkins County have come together with free fabric and resources to help make the [Alcohol & Drug Council of Tompkins County's](#) vision for handmade quilts on every bed at their new [Open Access Detox Center](#) a reality. Together, through this collaborative quilt project, they also hope to increase our community's awareness and understanding of addiction, and lessen the stigma attached to this illness that impacts the lives of so many.

This quilt officially joins our exhibit on September's First Friday Gallery Night (9/1 - 5-8pm) along with the quiltmakers story that inspired the design. We are very excited to be able to include this quilt in [Knot Sew Fast](#), and to continue to highlight the many ways quilts, quilters, and quiltmaking have been ongoing point of community connection, skilled work, and a cultural practice of caring and expression across generations in Tompkins County.

The Community Quiltmaking Center is seeking more quilters to get involved with this project. [Reach out to them here](#).





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## Highlights from the Collection

This is the first of an occasional series featuring interesting parts of [The History Center's archival collections](#).

One of the earliest priorities of Tompkins County government when it was first established was to provide services for the most needy members of the population. New York State legislation spurred the establishment of the county's Alms House (sometimes called the [Poor House](#)) to address this need. Beginning in 1829, the County Board of Supervisors oversaw this institution that would serve the community until 1987, when it closed.

Located on [Perry City Road in the Town of Ulysses](#), the Alms House was more than just a home for impoverished residents; it was also a working farm, with 100 acres where able-bodied residents were expected to work. The produce and dairy products grown on the farm were either consumed by the residents or sold. This continued until 1981, when the county legislature voted to end farming operations, and in 1987, after years of declining enrollment and decaying infrastructure, the Alms House formally closed.

The [Tompkins County Alms House Collection](#) contains five boxes and several ledgers documenting admissions, discharges, physicians' records, deaths, and other data on indigent members of the community served. General information like annual reports and financial accounts can be found, along with more personal accounts such as personal correspondence and judges' reports on vulnerable individuals.

To view this collection or for more information email [archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

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## OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

Southworth Library in Dryden to host a [presentation on the history of the Underground Railroad in Central New York](#) by Dr. Gerard Aching on Thursday September 7th at 6pm.

*List of Paupers who have received Assistance in the County Poor House from November 14th 1831 to November 12th 1832*

Year	Name of Pauper	Amount	Remarks
1831	George Rockwell	364	57
"	Jane Campbell	357	10 sent to her friends
"	Joel English	12	364 48
"	James Gibbs	12	364 40
"	George James	12	364 55
"	Margaret James	12	364 32
"	Harriet Pendleton	119	279 57
"	Elizabeth Lane	July 10th	230 10 Discharged
"	Lucretia Parsons	Nov 12	364 5
"	Phineas Ashley	July 25	254 57
"	Margaret Brown	Nov 12	357 29 discharged 15th
"	Charles Black	Nov 12	364 54
"	Elly Bush	Sept 28	314 38 discharged
"	John M. Bush	July 31st	054 8 Out on bail
"	Sarah Ann Bush	May 28	196 12 Bound out
"	Sally Ann Bush	Nov 12	864 7
"	John Smith	May 26	194 50 discharged to
"	Margaret Douglas	April 14	319 8 Bound out
"	Phineas Douglas	Nov 12	364 5
"	John Gray	Nov 12	364 22
"	Robert Gray	1831 Nov 28	44 59
"	Margaret Nelson	1831 Oct 27	165 40 discharged
"	Julianne Nelson	Oct 19	165 13
"	Arthur Greene	Nov 11	182 37 discharged
"	Arthur Greene	Nov 11	182 10
"	Elizabeth Greene	Nov 11	182 9
"	John Haggerty	Nov 11	214 48 discharged
"	John Haggerty	Nov 11	214 25
"	William H. Rockwell	Nov 12	364 7
"	James Walker	April 22	160 25

[Registration requested.](#)

With the [APHNYS conference happening in Ithaca this year](#), there are a lot of great sessions about Tompkins County! Register for access to lectures and presentations by Tompkins County Historian Laura Johnson-Kelly, Diana Riesman of Wharton Studio Museum, Stephen Henhawk of the Gayogohó:nq? Learning Project, Eve Snyder director of the [Tompkins County HistoryForge](#) program, and tours of The History Center in Tompkins County and Carl A. Kroch Library at Cornell University.

WICB's ["Ritmo Latino" celebrates 25 years of DJ Vic](#) hosting the show!

Binghamton University in collaboration with The Vestal Museum welcomes ['Haudenosaunee Festival'](#) September 29th-30th.

## **LOCAL HISTORY READS**

- [The history and future of the Cornell-Ithaca Memorandum of Understanding](#) - Tompkins Weekly - 8/23/2023
- [Local author discusses memoir detailing years of Cornell employee unionization](#) - The Ithaca Voice 8/21/2023
- [Students head across the globe thanks to Summer Experience Grant funding](#) - CALS Blog - 8/16/2023
- [NPS: Finger Lakes meets the criteria to become a National Heritage Site](#) - RochesterFirst.com - 7/31/23
- [Appreciating Ulysses Town Historian John Wertis](#) - Ithaca Times - 8/11/2023
- [Cornellian Crossword: Collegetown Elegy](#)
- [Popular Commons staple Riley the dog passes away](#) - The Ithaca Voice - 8/10/2023
- [End of an Era: Historic Joe's Restaurant building is being demolished today](#) - 14850.com - 8/10/2023
- [Feeding the Community for 40 Years](#) - Ithaca Times - 8/9/2023
- [Congratulations to Sharon K. Yntema on her new release 'Ithaca Area Bookstores'](#) - Swenson Book Development - 8/1/2023
- [A staple of upstate BBQ's, 'Cornell Chicken' is a grilling tradition](#) - Cornelliana - 7/28/2023

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

Follow [@TompkinsHistory](#) on any platform

Update your email preferences or [unsubscribe](#) from this list.

Research Library & Archives:

By appointment Contact