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**125 EAST COURT STREET**

**ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850**

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August 2021

**For Immediate Release**

## **DEADLINE EXTENDED on CALL for ESSAYS REFLECTING UPON 2020**

Pandemic, with lockdown, school closures, social distancing, isolation. A tense presidential campaign and election, leading to controversy, discord, information wars, insurrection. Social protest and intense self-examination on a national scale. Hurricanes, wildfires, natural disasters. Public and personal drama.

In many ways, the year 2020 was like no other. Worldwide, most people have shared in the confrontation with a dangerous, invisible illness that took millions of lives, upending plans and prosperity in every corner. Even now, we find that it is not done with us. What have the vicissitudes of this year meant for children, schools, families, communities—for YOU? In its midst, babies have been born; weddings have been celebrated, albeit online; meals have been made; friendships have been nurtured. Consider these circumstances on a personal level and share your thoughts.

In the spring, the Tompkins County Historical Commission invited the public to submit essays on 2020 and what the year meant, brought, or took away. **The deadline for this call has been extended until September 30, 2021.** The Commission has received numbers of thoughtful submissions. But the editors would be particularly interested to receive some more thoughts on the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement; to hear ideas related to the 2020 presidential campaign, the election and its aftermath; to read additional thoughts on matters beyond the coronavirus.

Essays of up to 1,500 words (or up to five pages) will be welcomed, in handwriting or typing, and can be mailed to the County Historian at 125 East Court Street, Ithaca New York 14850. They can be sent via e-mail to <historian@tompkins-co.org>. Those essays sent online will be acknowledged.

All essays *must* be headed with the following sentence:

**I give the Tompkins County Historical Commission the right to place this essay in an archive or include for one-time use in a publication or public format.**

*Sign your name and give the date.*

For more information, contact Carol Kammen, County Historian, <historian@tompkins-co.org>

— or —

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION) S.K. List, Trumansburg Village Historian, <skl@lightlink.com>