



History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

[Events Calendar](#)

[Schedule A Visit](#)

[Virtual Exhibits](#)

[Donate](#)

Last Month at The History Center...

Wheelchairs, Activities, & Winter Access to The History Center

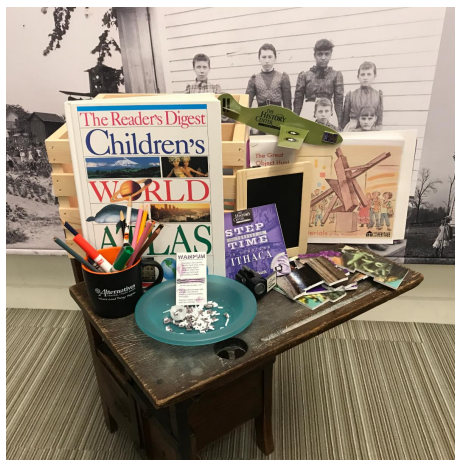


Brrrrrr it was a chilly and snowy start to 2022! We'd love for you to come visit us at The History Center on one of your "stay warm" winter excursions!

We know it can be a little daunting to drive into town on snowy roads and find parking downtown, but we'd love a visit from you! The Seneca St. Parking Garage is located just across the intersection from the museum, but if that's too far a walk in the winter winds, [contact us](#) before your visit and we can reserve the parking space just behind our building for you!

We're also very excited to announce that we've purchased two wheelchairs from [Wonderful Wheelchairs](#) for use in the museum. These are available during any visit so you can enjoy as much time with our exhibits as you'd like! Learn more about our Accessibility initiatives [here](#).

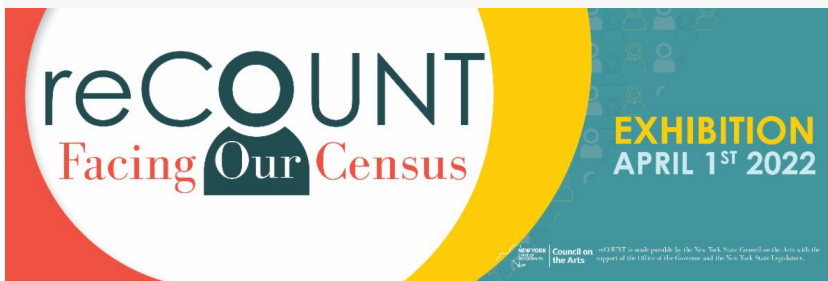
For kids and adults young-at-heart we have [coloring sheets, puzzles, scavenger hunts, and local history activities for all ages](#) available at our front desk and in the Children's Education Area at the back of the Exhibit Hall.





[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.

[New Exhibit by The History Center will open April 1st 2022](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 2/1/2022

ITHACA NY – The History Center in Tompkins County announces their next major exhibit, [reCOUNT: Facing Our Census](#), to open on April 1st, 2022. The U.S. Census impacts everything from political representation to school funding. Tompkins County, and every other community across the nation, has been fundamentally shaped by the regular count of Americans. The census is also a valuable historical resource. Since 1790, the census has provided a broad snapshot of the nation and its communities. A critical examination of these records reveals biases and shortcomings baked into this American system. [reCOUNT](#) uses the census as a lens to explore the history of Tompkins County and its people, recognizing the value of the census, as well as its limitations.

[reCOUNT](#) draws on the extensive work done by The History Center's [HistoryForge \(historyforge.net\)](#) project and its many volunteers. Over the last six years, The History Center has developed an open-source digital web environment, [HistoryForge](#), that integrates historic maps, building records, and local census data. The platform has been implemented in Ithaca and Tompkins County, with partner sites in [Auburn \(NY\)](#), [Elmira \(NY\)](#), and [Oberlin \(OH\)](#). [HistoryForge](#) allows users to connect more deeply to their neighborhoods, and understand the historical legacies present in our everyday lives. Using themes such as education, family origins, employment, race, and census taking, [reCOUNT](#) expands

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday-Saturday - **EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!**
10am-5pm
[Hours & Safety Guidelines](#)

February is BLACK HISTORY MONTH! Explore local Black, African-American, and African diaspora history and materials at thehistorycenter.net

Sat - February 12th - [It's All Right to Be Woman Theatre - Film Screening w/ Talkback](#)
- 1:30-3pm @ the CAP ArtSpace inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture

Wednesdays February 16th & 23rd - [Ancestor Project Crafting w/ Gerry Monaghan](#)
- 1-3pm - @ the CAP ArtSpace inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture. **FREE** drop-in program. ****Ithaca Loves Teachers Event****

Sat - February 19th - [Print-A-Kitty Archival Prints Workshop \(All Ages\)](#) 1-4:30pm @ the CAP ArtSpace inside the Tompkins Center for History & Culture. **FREE** drop-in program. ****Ithaca Loves**

Tompkins County history through six interactive exhibits. Beginning with the first U.S. Census in 1790, the exhibits will trace the development of the county and the census across 23 decades. **reCOUNT** will inform our understanding of Tompkins County, and position audiences to think critically about local history's impact on our lives.

Additional information about the exhibit will be available at thehistorycenter.net/reCOUNT in February 2022.

reCOUNT is made possible by the [New York State Council on the Arts](#) with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The development of [HistoryForge](#) was supported through funding provided by the [National Historical Publications & Records Commission](#).

READ MORE

[Teachers Event](#)**

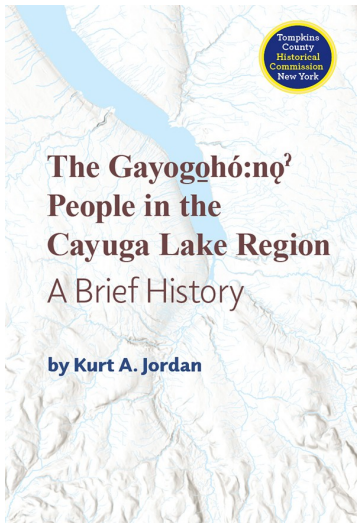
February 5th & 19th
[HistoryForge Transcription Sessions](#) 11am-1pm

Learn more about the project [here](#). Contact Eve historyforge@thehistorycenter.net to join.

UPCOMING:

- [3/5 Time to Tune Up Tommy](#) - 3-4:30pm @ Exhibit Hall with the Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation
- [3/12 - FINAL day of 'Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods' exhibit](#)

[*NEW* Book Alert! - The Gayogohó:nq? People in the Cayuga Lake Region](#)



We are very excited to announce the release of the 5th book from the Tompkins County Historical Commission - '[The Gayogohó:nq? People in the Cayuga Lake Region](#)' by Kurt A. Jordan, Associate Professor of Anthropology and [American Indian and Indigenous Studies at Cornell University](#). This book can be purchased in-person at the Downtown Visitors Center located next to The History Center Exhibit Hall, or online at thehistorycenter.net/books.

Professor Kurt Jordan's history of the [Gayogohó:nq?](#) (anglicized as Cayuga) brings forward a part of the history of the Cayuga Lake region that had been formerly romanticized or forgotten altogether. It begins at the end of the last ice age 13,000 years ago, and traces the Gayogohó:nq? people up to the reoccupation of their traditional territory in 2003, to current events from 2021. Jordan's short (80-page) book is constructed as a Western-style history that relies mainly on the written record, archaeological evidence, and some community-based oral histories that Gayogohó:nq? people shared with him. Readers will

think differently about ancient history, recent events, and the landscape of the region after reading this book.

PURCHASE

Cornell Chronical Article

[ITHACA LOVES TEACHERS and so does The History Center! - February 11th-28th](#)

*All Ithaca Loves Teachers participants and Tompkins County educators are invited to claim **TWO FREE local history books** when they visit The History Center Exhibit Hall between February 11th-28th!*



Ancestor Project Crafting w/ Gerry Monaghan

DATES: Wednesday February 16th & 23rd
TIME: 1-3pm
LOCATION: CAP ArtSpace/Gallery at Tompkins Center for History & Culture
 No registration necessary - Drop-ins welcome

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.

Community Education Programming from
THE HISTORY CENTER IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Print-A-Kitty

RESCHEDULED!

Create block prints of Ithaca Kitty images from our archives with Laura Rowley!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19TH
1-4:30PM - 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
 CAP ArtSpace/Gallery - First Floor
 110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca
 In "Bank Alley" on the Ithaca Commons



All participants must wear masks for the entire program.

This is a drop-in event as part of Ithaca Loves Teachers, we will not permit more than 15 people to participate at a time. Printing takes a minimum of 45 minutes to make and dry.

Contact Zoe Van Nostrand at 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
 stories from our lives, dream plays, music, chants & crankies

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

Saturday, February 12, 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

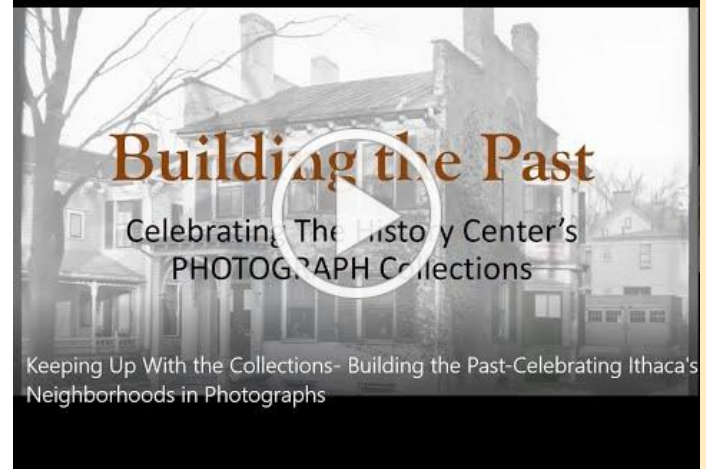
www.ItsAllRightToBeWomanTheatre.com

'Keeping Up With the Collections - Building the Past - Celebrating Ithaca's Neighborhoods in Photographs' - A Presentation to the South Central Regional Library Council

Donna Eschenbrenner and Eve Snyder of The History Center in Tompkins County presented to the [South Central Regional Library Council](#) on The History Center's unique photo collections and their use in

the innovative program [HistoryForge](#), where images, maps, and census data merge to tell the story of Ithaca's built environment and the people who lived there.

Photograph Collections



OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

Caroline Historian Chronicles Changing Times

By David Durrett published in Tompkins Weekly on January 12th 2022



"Kone first became interested in history as a teenager in 1957, when she did a school project about local history. Her aunt took her down to the courthouse to review census records, and she found information about her fourth great-grandmother in what was the DeWitt Historical Society* at the time. From there, Kone said she "fell into" becoming a historian.

"I knew the history of the town — most of it was family history — and I had helped my mother at the end, and I just knew people, so I just took over and did it," Kone said. "After I was appointed, that's what I did."

**The DeWitt Historical Society formed in 1935 and changed its name to The History Center in Tompkins County in 2004.*

FULL ARTICLE

A Newfield Author Tells Story of Gabriel Ballard

By Cathy Shipos published in Tompkins Weekly on January 5th 2022

"Based on historical records and personal artifacts, Watros' book jacket describes "Gabriel" as "a fictitious interpretation" of Ballard's experiences, from his days as a teenager on the family farm in upstate New York to his participation in General William T. Sherman's infamous March to the Sea.

"I relied heavily on primary sources — Gabriel's



journals, dozens of letters written by other members of his company, his military record,” Watros said. “I was writing a novel, but I wanted it to be as close to the facts as possible. I took what I’d learned and fashioned a story around it.”

Far from a dry accounting of facts, “Gabriel” is a very readable book full of interesting characters, including some whose names may be familiar to longtime local residents or history buffs.”

Purchase your own copy of Gabriel: A Novel of the American Civil War from The History Center's online bookstore! thehistorycenter.net/books

FULL ARTICLE

PURCHASE BOOK

First Black Fraternity, Founded at Cornell, Celebrates 115 Years

By Tanner Harding published in the Ithaca Times December 15th 2021



"ITHACA, NY -- Hiding within the walls of the gray, condemned house at 421 N. Albany St. is an important piece of history. The house was the original home of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first-ever Black fraternity, founded on Dec. 4, 1906 at Cornell University. The seven founders, now known as the “Jewels” of the fraternity, are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle and Vertner Woodson Tandy. What began as a literary and

social club on N Albany Street evolved into a fraternity shortly after.

Now, 115 years later, there are 730 active chapters across the Americas, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia. Some of its most famous alumni include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, W. E. B. Dubois, Duke Ellington and Jesse Owens.”

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

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