



History Happenings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Giving is Gorges Success!

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Tompkins County [Giving is Gorges](#) Day on May 20th. If you contributed, you were part of the most successful Giving is Gorges campaign The History Center has ever had!

Our whole team is simply overwhelmed with your support and generosity this year. We don't know what the future holds, but the outpouring of support ensures we will be a part of yours. Our future depends on the past, and you created a brighter future for our organization and programs.

We received over \$7,000 in online donations on May 20th; and dozens of people participated in our [Home History Scavenger Hunt](#) and [Moog Music Hour](#) virtual programs.

We raised the 5th most money out of 85 participating non-profits in Tompkins County, and were in the top 10 for the most individual donors. We also earned the 1st Donor and the Final Stretch prize's of the day which came with additional financial donations from GiveGab to our campaign.

If you missed out on May 20th, your donation can still count! You can donate to us directly at www.thehistorycenter.net/donate. Thank you for your continued support!

Make sure to like and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!



Upcoming Events

All in-person events for are postponed until further notice. We have not set a date for when the Exhibit Hall & Research Library will reopen to the public.

- **June 13th & 27th-** Virtual **HistoryForge** Transcription Sessions of the 1920 Ithaca census over Zoom - Email historyforge@thehistorycenter.net for details. Explore www.historyforge.net

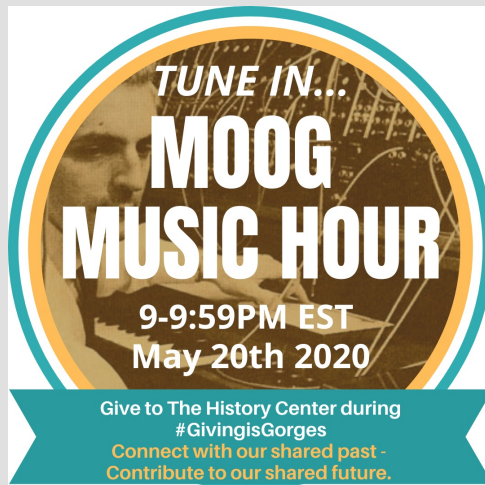
Youth Education

In addition to creating learning videos for ICSD educators to use in lieu of in-person field trips to the Eight Square Schoolhouse this spring, Julia led a 4th grade class from Caroline on a virtual tour of our Exhibit Hall, Library, and Archives last week!

to see the database so far.

- June 15th-July 4th - Path Through History Weekends (Virtual events across New York State) - Local events TBA

Last Month at The History Center...



Over 150 people watched our [Moog Music Hour](#) program with Cornell Professor Bob Reed demonstrating how to play a Moog synthesizer and exploring the history of how RA Moog Co. moved to Trumansburg in 1963. The former site of the company is now Little Venice Ristorante on East main Street.

The synthesizers and other electronic music equipment developed in this space were used by The Beach Boys, The Beatles, The Monkees, The Byrds, Donna Summer, Heart, and many more.

Afro-futurist jazz musician Sun Ra even [visited Trumansburg](#) in the late 1960's with 14-15 members of his "Arkestra" ensemble. They left with a Minimoog months before the device's commercial debut.

Explore our [Moog Music Hour Playlist](#) and enjoy the many musical styles that have used Moog over the decades.



We're excited to continue to grow our capacity and options for distance learning programs. You can find all our History at Home activities at the link below, and we encourage everyone to take some time for our Home History Scavenger Hunt!

History At Home Activities

The History Center in Tompkins County Presents:

HOME HISTORY SCAVENGER HUNT

HOW TO PLAY

Write down descriptions and/or take pictures or screenshots of each item in the list below and **send to community@thehistorycenter.net**. You can also post your pictures on social media and tag us at **@TompkinsHistory**

Everyone who completes the Home History Scavenger Hunt will win a local history book of their choice from our published collection!

1. Find an item in your home older than you. This item is a piece of your history!
2. Find an item that was passed down or gifted to you from another family member.
3. Find an item that was made/grown/or built in Tompkins County.
4. Find a picture of you or a family member in a public space in Tompkins County. Do you remember when and where it was taken?
5. Start your family tree, list at least 5 names (Parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins etc.). This kind of research is called genealogy!
6. Write down the name of a public figure from Tompkins County (living or dead) that you would want to see an exhibition about, or have interviewed for our oral history collection.
7. Find a pamphlet, poster, letter, bumper sticker, or business card from a Tompkins County business. These kinds of items are in our archives representing local businesses from over 100 years ago!
8. Take a picture of the front of your house or apartment. We use architectural pictures to build our building database in HistoryForge!
9. Go to www.HistoryForge.net and find the name of one person from the 1910 census whose first name starts with the same letter as your first name.
10. Go to www.IthacaHeritage.squarespace.com/tours and write down the address of one historic tour stop in Tompkins County. If you were going to make your own tour where would it go?

VISIT US

www.thehistorycenter.net/donate
Visit Us: 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca NY 14850

Cornell University Oral History Fellows 2020

This spring, The History Center, in partnership with Professor Stephen Vider and the Cornell



Public History Initiative, and supported by Engaged Cornell, launched the Oral History Undergraduate Fellowship. In this semester-long collaboration, four Cornell undergraduate students explored the field of oral history, and designed oral history projects. While we were not able to conduct oral history interviews this spring due to COVID-19 closures of campus, all four fellows designed and researched projects that they will continue once Cornell resumes in-person courses. The oral history interviews completed as part of this fellowship will be added to The History Center's growing oral history archives.

We are humbled to be working alongside these four young people, and excited to share snip-its of their projects with you now:

Trinity Stewart (Sociology & Religious Studies Major, '22) is exploring the history of anti-racist activism in Ithaca, and intends to conduct interviews with young community activists, exploring the stories of those not already in the public eye.

Tilda Wilson (History, '21) is researching the field of reentry services in Ithaca, and will be conducting interviews with people who are formerly incarcerated who participate in the programs in the community, exploring what it means to belong in the community.

Eunnuri Yi (Biological Sciences & Comparative Literature '20) is examining the intersections of immigration, land, food. She will be conducting interviews with small farmers, particularly those of Asian descent, and how they are being impacted by and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, through which she will explore larger questions of essential work, labor, and the food system in crisis.

Cassandra Zhen (American Studies, '22) will be conducting interviews with people who have immigrated here from Southeast Asia who work in the food-service industry, to explore relationships to food, work, and community in Ithaca.

COVID-19 Archival Collection Grows



Photo Caption: This whimsical look at COVID on the Cornell campus in March was taken by Ithaca photographer Cynthia Massicci and generously donated to our collection.

The History Center in Tompkins County began an archival initiative in March this year that was unprecedented in our recent institutional history. For the first time we were given the opportunity to document history in the making.

We embarked on a joint program with Cornell University Archives to capture the history of COVID-19 in our community, with The History Center focusing on Tompkins County, and Cornell gathering materials from the Cornell community and the nation at large. We have reached out to community members to send us their stories of this unusual time and the response has been more generous than we could have hoped for.

Our Director of Youth Education Julia Taylor has been supervising The History Center Youth Ambassadors in a multi-media project they are calling "[Stories from Inside](#)" documenting the experiences of Tompkins County during the pandemic. You can learn more about this project and submit your experiences [here](#). This project is seeking additional submissions from the public, before the Youth Ambassadors combine the various narratives into a a multi-media piece that will be added to our COVID-19 Archival Collection.

Donations so far include diaries, photographs, podcasts, short videos, stories, and more. Our donors range from second graders from a local school to senior citizens who have turned their wise perspectives on these troubling times, and we are more grateful than we can say. Photography Professor Henry Littel at Tompkins Cortland Community College and his photography students have donated copies of their recently completed books [#Lifeinthetimeofcovid-19](#) and [Feeling that Merriment](#); both of which document the changed lives and landscapes in Tompkins County under quarantine.

We will continue to accept contributions to this collection so if you want to reach out with your personal stories of life in the time of COVID, please email archives@thehistorycenter.net.

[Urge Congress to Support Museum Community in Phase 4 Economic Relief](#)

We're reaching out to our e-newsletter subscribers for your help! As the economic impacts from COVID-19 continue to roil the nation, the future of museums remains precarious. In New York State, museums have been forbidden to re-open, even with modified attendance, until our county reaches Phase 4 of the four-part re-opening plan issued by the Governors office. If you have a free moment, we could use your help to reach out to our political representatives to advocate for Museum support. The following link from the American Alliance of Museums will let your voice be heard, and ensure the future of our museums. It's easy to submit to the right representative, and the only cost is 5 minutes of your time.

We hope you'll join The History Center in Tompkins County to make sure our voices are heard. America's museums – whether in our 10 square miles or the surrounding reality – are vital to our future.

Learn more about how museums have been impacted by COVID-19 [here](#).

[Sign the Petition](#)

Here is a list of actions you can take to support The History Center in Tompkins County:

- Support The History Center with a small monthly recurring [donation](#)
- Have you visited us recently? Post a review of your experience with us on [Google Reviews](#), [Facebook](#), [TripAdvisor](#), and [Yelp](#)! ***Our last Facebook review is from 2017! We could use an updated experience!*
- Follow The History Center in Tompkins County on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) at @tompkinshistory
- Share The History Center's digital resources with those who need them - thehistorycenter.net/youth-education
- Download the [PocketSights](#) app to access over 40 self-guided walking and driving tours of Tompkins County! Practice responsible social distancing and share pictures from your experience with us!
- Help us build our COVID-19 Impacts in Tompkins County Archival Collection. Send pictures, video, written reflections and more to Donna Eschenbrenner at archives@thehistorycenter.net
- Help us enter Ithaca census records from the 20th century for our [HistoryForge](#) database project. Contact Eve Snyder at historyforge@thehistorycenter.net to learn more.
- Help us fill our "Breaking Barriers: The Lives & Livelihoods of Women" exhibits for later this year by sending us your pictures of "Women Working" in Tompkins County and complete our "Why Vote?" [digital ballot](#). These exhibits will be on display to the public later this year. Send

Your support – in its many shapes and sizes – will ensure our ability to successfully navigate the challenges ahead of all of us. We are privileged to have so many caring people in The History Center’s family.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MAKING YOU A LITTLE STIR CRAZY?

Take a self-guided PocketSights Tour of Tompkins County!

DOWNLOAD THE **POCKETSIGHS APP** FOR OVER 40 FREE SELF-GUIDED WALKING AND DRIVING TOURS OF PUBLIC ART AND LOCAL HISTORY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY.

PLEASE PRACTICE RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY.



Then & Now - Ithaca Journal Column - May 15th 2020

What the Ithaca City Directory Can Tell Us

By Gene Endres

McCLUNES'
PIONEER
CYCLE
HOUSE.
Headquarters for
BICYCLES,
SUNDRIES,
AND REPAIRS.
.....
Wheels rented
by Hour, Day
Week or Month.
.....
*Largest and Best
Equipped Repair
Shop in Central
New York.*

F. A. McClune, 206 S. Cayuga St.
TELEPHONE 31 F.

Read 1850. * \$13,000,000. The Manhattan Life has won by prompt payment the name "The Old Reliable" F. O. WOODFORD, GEN. AGT., GREENWICH, N. Y.

...It's easy to remain distracted by the ads for the familiar and the historically departed. Where are the steam laundries of yesteryear? What plumbers now offer "sewers put in cheap"?

The Directory offers much more. People are listed by name, often with their occupation, business address and home address. Telephone directories never offered occupation listings, except in the heavily advertised "yellow pages."

Perhaps one of the more unusual sets of listings in this directory are the ones by street. For nearly every street in the city, you can look up by name who lived at each house. Find out who your next-door neighbor was in 1899, or even who lived in your very house.

[READ MORE](#)

Web: www.thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

Email: Staff emails can be found [here](#)

Hours: *Currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic*



Contact Us!