
History Happenings - March 2024

1 message

The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
Reply-To: The History Center in Tompkins County <community@thehistorycenter.net>
To: community@thehistorycenter.net

Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 8:15 AM

March 2024



[Events Calendar](#)

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Last Month at The History Center

'[A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field](#)', opened Friday February 2nd at the [Tompkins Center for History and Culture](#). We had a phenomenal crowd turn out during Gallery Night, with [wonderful performances from the Vociferous Cruciferous Chorus](#), a ceremonial rutabaga curl by Mayor Rob Cantelmo following a heartening cheer performance from the Rutabaga Curl Girls.

Our thanks to local news [WBNG-12](#), [The Ithaca Voice](#), [Ithaca Times](#), [ICTV](#), [What's Hot NY](#), and [WICB](#) for helping spread the word about the new exhibit! You can find their coverage and insights on the displays at [thehistorycenter.net/press](#).

Our director Ben Sandberg spent the weekend in [#WashingtonDC](#) with over 300 other [#museumprofessionals](#) for [#MuseumAdvocacyDay](#) 2024 📣🏛️. Museum Advocacy Day is an annual event coordinated by [@aamersofficial](#) for



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ask directly with legislators to communicate the value of museums and support their continued funding on the federal level.

The History Center has received major funding in recent years from federal legislation supporting the arts including major funds from

[National Endowment for the Humanities](#), [American Historical Association](#), and [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#). Learn about the [#tompkinshistory](#) projects and programming these funds supported at thehistorycenter.net/grants

In our fourth year of the annual [Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon](#) our 13 History Center volunteers contributed to digitizing over 100 pages from [Frederick Douglass' General Correspondence Records](#) held by the Library of Congress. At the start of the day there were 8,763 records to transcribe, over 7,800 of those now have transcriptions thanks to the work of volunteers (including ours!) across the country.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Library OPEN HOURS Saturdays 10-3!

TONIGHT

MARCH IS [WOMENS HISTORY MONTH](#) and



Join us for a special Leap Day drink and dinner!
[Thursday February 29th from 5-7pm Monks on the Commons will donate 50% of all food and drink purchases](#) to The History Center!

Dine in or order takeout (see monksonthecommons.com for a menu). Enjoy the mixology skills of our guest bartenders from The History Center staff Ben Sandberg & Zoe Van Nostrand.

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!

Wednesday-Saturday - [EXHIBIT HALL IS OPEN!](#)

10am-6pm **PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR DAILY HOURS UNTIL 6PM**- [Hours & Safety Guidelines](#)

ON DISPLAY - [A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field](#) - On display through December 2024 in The History Center [Exhibit Hall](#); See How Far We've Swum! Women Swimmin' for Hospicare 20th Anniversary - On display in the Tompkins Center atrium through March 2024.

Thurs - February 29th - [Monks on the Commons Gives Back to The History Center](#) - 5-7pm @ Monks

Fri - March 1st - [Gallery Night](#) - 5-8pm -@ Tompkins Center

Saturdays March 2nd & 16th [HistoryForge Volunteer Transcription Sessions](#) 11-1pm @ Tompkins Center

Sat - March 16th - [Printing](#)

Printing Women on the Bill

Create block prints of historic #TompkinsWomen from our archives with Laura Rowley!


SATURDAY MARCH 16TH
10:30-12:30PM - FREE

All ages (yes kids AND adults!) are invited to learn about historic women from Tompkins County and make prints putting #TompkinsWomen on on stylized dollar bills pages!

Laura Rowley of Illuminated Press will assist with creating prints and postcards with laser cut blocks using images from the The History Center in Tompkins County archives.

This program is brought to you as part of our Women's History Month programming. Learn more #TompkinsWomen history at thehistorycenter.net/womens-history-month



 **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 FREE program is for all ages.

Participants must pre-register at thehistorycenter.net/events

Registration is limited to 15 participants.

The History Center in Tompkins County's exhibit and programs are 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.

www.thehistorycenter.net
@TompkinsHistory



www.illuminatedpress.org
@IlluminatedPress



[Women on the Bill - Workshop w/ Laura Rowley](#)
10:30am-12:30pm
@Tompkins Center. All ages. [FREE but must preregister!](#)

Thurs - March 21st -
[CHAT Irish Immigration to the US](#) - 5:15-6pm
@Tompkins Center - FREE

Thurs - March 28th -
[Indigenous Women: Hearts of the Nation w/ Yvonne Wakim Dennis](#) - 5:15-6:15pm @ Tompkins Center - FREE

Saturdays [Open Hours @ The History Center's Research Library](#) - 10am-3pm each week. Some materials not available without appointment.

March is [WOMENS HISTORY MONTH](#) and [IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!](#) [DEAF HISTORY MONTH](#) begins March 13th! Explore the pages below for Tompkins County histories!

Join us for a **CHAT!**

IRISH IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

History Center student worker Ian Donahue will be sharing information on Irish immigration to New York State, and introducing new research on how to use the Tompkins HistoryForge platform to understand local Irish histories.

**Thursday March 21st
5:15-6pm**

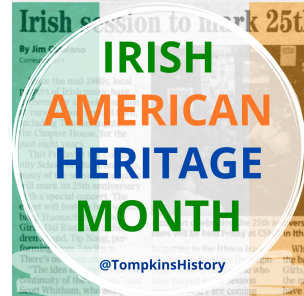
**Tompkins Center for History & Culture
CAP ArtSpace Gallery - First Floor
110 N. Tioga St., Ithaca
Entrance on "Bank Alley" on the
Ithaca Commons**

Details at thehistorycenter.net/CHAT



Learn more at THEHISTORYCENTER.NET/IRISH-HISTORY

Contact Zoë Van Nostrand at community@thehistorycenter.net with any questions or accessibility requests.



SAVE THE DATE!

- 3/29 - Local Baseball Lecture w/ Charles DeMotte
- 4/20 - Center of It All: Baseball on the Erie Canal w/ Derrick Pratt

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Indigenous Women Hearts of the Nation

*Workshop presentation with local author
Yvonne Wakim Dennis!*

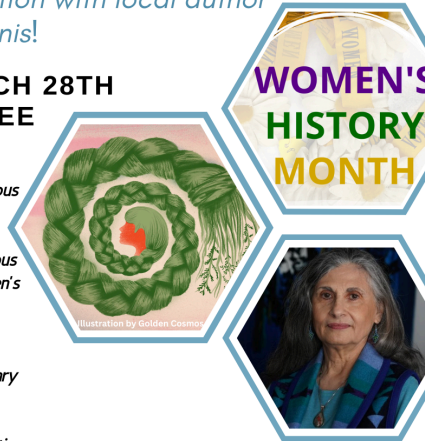
**THURSDAY MARCH 28TH
5:15-6:15PM - FREE**


*To celebrate the cultures,
achievements and lives of Indigenous
women*

*To recognize the clash of Indigenous
and European values around women's
standing in the community*

*To appreciate Native women as
culture bearers in both contemporary
and historic times*

*To learn about current issues affecting
Indigenous women*



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

Our thanks to OJI:SDA' for making
this program possible.



*This is a FREE event open to the public. Please contact
community@thehistorycenter.net with accessibility requests or questions.*

The History Center in Tompkins County's exhibit and programs are 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.

thehistorycenter.net
[@TompkinsHistory](https://www.instagram.com/TompkinsHistory)



Council on
the Arts

Spotlight on the Exhibit

Throughout the year we will include highlights from our current exhibit '[A Sporting Chance: On and Off the Field](#)' to connect those readers who haven't gotten to visit in person yet! This [Women's History Month](#) we want to highlight the history of women and girls hockey in Tompkins County.

[We Broke the Ice: Girls & Women's Ice Hockey - A collaboration with Mary Grainger and the Tompkins Girls Hockey Association](#)

With the passing of Title IX in 1972, the [Tompkins Girls Hockey Association](#) became the first all-girls hockey program in New York State, and the third in the country.

Ithaca High School sophomores Linda Dominick and Margaret Stanton got

things started recruiting other girls for a June 1972 camp with Cornell Men's Hockey Coach Dick Bertrand. Parents (including Ithaca Youth Bureau President Bruce Wilkins) worked to prepare for the first TGHA season with 60 participants. In 1973, the Ithaca Shooting Stars travel team was also offered but all participants practiced and played in the house league, too.



A school sponsored team was not available for girls hockey in Tompkins until the state-wide GREAT campaign was launched during the 1998 Olympics. "Girls Really Expect A Team" founder Mitzi Witchger educated and inspired Ithaca decision-makers as well as those she met during her tour of NYS. Ithaca, Oswego, Canton and Saranac Lake school boards approved the first four teams. IHS proceeded to win the

first three state titles in 2001, 2002 and 2003, and again in 2011.

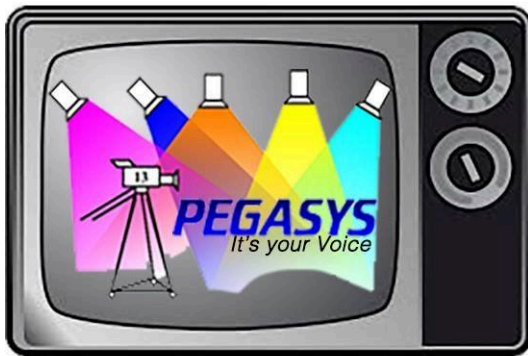
Visit '[A Sporting Chance](#)' now through December 2024 to learn more about [TGHA](#) and explore memorabilia from their first 50 years.

[Head over to The History Center Blog!](#)
(Click on each image for the full story!)



PETER WEBB
Slave-Freeman-Citizen
of Tompkins County
New York

By Sydney Gallwey



Highlights from the Collection

We are always delighted to see the utility [our collections](#) have for researchers from around the country, and sometimes, from around the world. A scholar from Valencia, Spain recently emailed asking for detailed information about a typhoid epidemic in Ithaca in 1903, and the city's response to it.

Typhoid is a highly infectious, often deadly disease transmitted through contaminated food or water. It is caused by the salmonella bacteria and thanks to extensive water treatment, it is now rare in the United States. But in the early 20th century it was still a dangerous threat here, and [in 1903, Ithaca suffered one of the worst outbreaks of typhoid that had ever struck New York State](#). In a period of only three months more than 1,400 cases were reported, in a population of just over 13,000. Eighty-two people died, a disproportionate number of them Cornell students. The epidemic attracted national attention, provoking editorials in newspapers and magazines throughout the country, including *McClure's Magazine* and the *New York Times*.

THE EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID FEVER AT ITHACA, N. Y.

BY GEORGE A. SOPER, PH.D., CONSULTING ENGINEER AND
SANITARY EXPERT, NEW YORK CITY.

[Presented September 16, 1904.]

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the New England Water Works Association, — The epidemic of typhoid fever which broke out at Ithaca in the winter of 1903 deserves to be regarded as one of the greatest outbreaks of this preventable disease which ever occurred in New York State. In the typhoid history of the whole country there have been few epidemics which have exhibited a larger number of cases.

Sanitary experts who visited Ithaca at the time of the epidemic were unanimous in their opinion as to its cause. Many who are familiar with the epidemiology of typhoid have said that seldom, if ever, has the danger of an epidemic been so unmistakably in evidence beforehand. Speaking now, more than a year after the outbreak, and with an intimate knowledge of the situation, it is difficult to understand why the city was not alive to the necessity of taking steps which would have rendered life and health secure. Apparently the people of this university town neither knew nor cared any more about the teachings of sanitary science than do the inhabitants of the scores of other cities in which epidemics occur. They were blinded to the dangers of the situation by the seeming healthfulness of the city's site, and so failed to establish those sanitary safeguards which are indispensable to every growing community.

STATISTICS OF THE EPIDEMIC.

The consequence of this mistake was terrible. With a population given by the last United States census as 13 156, it is estimated that 1 350 cases of typhoid occurred, with 82 deaths, in little more than three months. No less than 522 homes were visited by the disease; in over 150 of these there were two or more persons attacked.

The source of the epidemic was determined to be Ithaca's water supply, where drainage from farms and outhouses along our many creeks contaminated the water.

The New York State Department of Health sent its sanitary expert [Dr. George Soper](#) to Ithaca. (He was later instrumental in tracking down "Typhoid Mary" Mallon in New York City,) Dr. Soper's examination of the drainage area of Six Mile Creek and Buttermilk Creek showed numerous outhouses as well as "quantities of refuse of all descriptions accumulated on the banks of the creeks and their tributaries, to be scoured down into the water supply by the next rain or thaw." He also discovered

in the months preceding the outbreak at Ithaca there were six cases of typhoid in the villages on Six Mile Creek. These could easily have been the catalyst for Ithaca's firestorm of infection. Deplorable sanitary conditions did the rest. This tragedy was the impetus for long-needed improvements in Ithaca's water system and the installation of the city's first proper sewer system.

This grim history is documented in two of our archival collections, the [Public Health Collection](#) and the [Cayuga Lake Levels and Typhoid Fever Report, 1903 Collection](#). This latter contains a copy of the final report presented by Dr. George Soper in September 1903, describing his detailed examination of the environmental conditions in Tompkins County and his subsequent recommendations.

These collections can be examined in our research library. Please email archives@thehistorycenter.net or call 607-273-8284, x224 for an appointment.

Our manuscript collections include [Finding Aids](#), which are detailed box lists describing each collection's contents. They are critical introductions to the

collections, and some of the many Finding Aids in The History Center's archives can be reviewed at thehistorycenter.net/finding-aids.

OTHER LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & UPDATES

[Temple Beth-El's 100th Anniversary](#) - is celebrating with the sale of a centennial commemorative t-shirt or hoodie designed by Marjorie Hoffman. [Support the fundraiser here](#).

The Dryden Groton Human Dignity Coalition is collaborating with community partners on efforts to highlight the history of the Underground Railroad in Dryden. To get involved with this effort [please reach out here](#) or email drydengrotonplus-humandignity@googlegroups.com.

[Tompkins County Quilters Guild is celebrating their 50th anniversary](#) throughout 2024.

X Ambassadors new song and music video '[Your Town](#)' pays homage to late Ithacan Todd Peterson.

Looking for family in New York? [FamilySearch](#) recently reported that they added indexing for over 12 million [#NewYork](#) [#Land](#) Records, 1630-1975

PRI & Museum of the Earth open their online exhibit '[NY Rocks! Ancient Life of the Empire State](#)'.

Hangar Theatre begins [celebrations and reflections on its upcoming 50th season!](#)

LOCAL HISTORY READS

- [Remembering the Cornellian Who Broke Racial Barriers in Math](#) - Cornellians - 2/14/2024
- [How Much Do You Know about Afrianca Studies on the Hill?](#) - Cornellians -



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
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Update your email preferences or **unsubscribe** from this list.

Web: thehistorycenter.net

Phone: 607-273-8284

Email: Staff emails can be found here

Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-6pm

Research Library & Archives:

By appointment Contact