



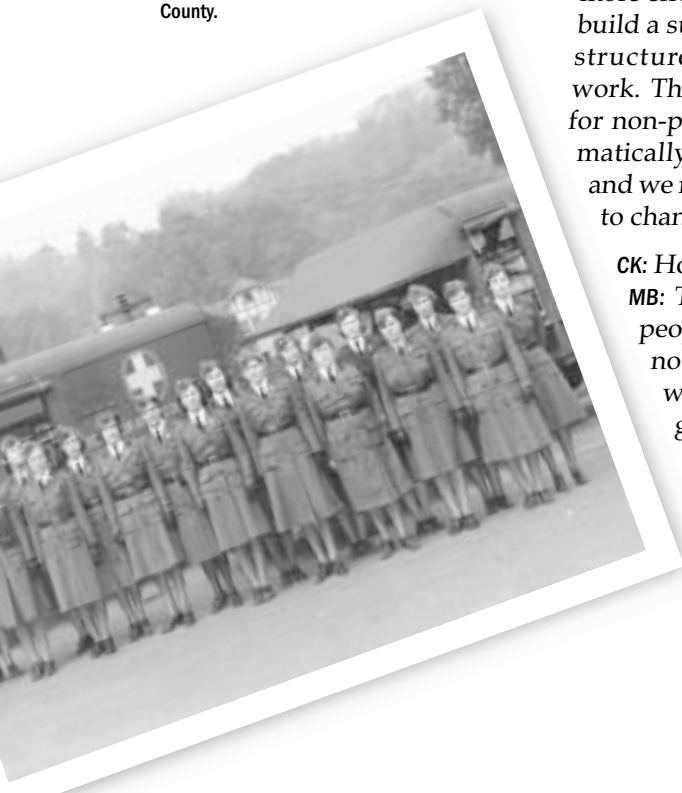
ARTIFACTS

Newsletter of The History Center in Tompkins County



WORLD WAR II SERVICE BANNER
Service banners such as this one belonging to John Smith of Lansing were hung in windows of homes to let passers-by know that someone from that household was serving in the war.

Red Cross graduates, Class #110, 1943. Artifacts and photographs from the collections of The History Center in Tompkins County.



a new spirit a new vision a new name

What's in a name? A lot, according to Executive Director, Matt Braun. In this interview with Tompkins County Historian, Carol Kammen,

Matt describes why changing the organization's name will help to build a stronger base of community involvement with The History Center in Tompkins County.

CAROL KAMMEN: You have been at the The History Center for several years and have seen areas where improvements could be made. Would you note some of them?

MATT BRAUN: From the moment I began working as curator in 1997, I knew we

had the potential to engage a significantly larger audience. I especially wanted to help the organization emerge from the stigma of being "the best kept secret in Tompkins County." I was new to the area in '97, and too many of the early contacts I made had little awareness of the DeWitt Historical Society, its programs, and its location. I wanted to change that. Later, as executive director [beginning in 2000], I became aware of how critical it would be to not only communicate our purpose to the community more effectively, but to also build a sustainable funding structure to support our work. The funding climate for non-profits shifted dramatically in the late '90s, and we needed to prepare to change along with it.

THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

CK: How did this thinking translate into a new identity?

MB: The results of our market research jolted us into action: people told us that the name, "DeWitt Historical Society," did not clearly explain what we did in the community. They wanted a name that is bold and simple and says, "This organization is a vital part of the community," "Dynamic, fun, and creative," "An alive interesting place to visit," and "Accessible to all." This feedback set us in motion and led us to change the name to The History Center in Tompkins County.

continued on next page

Interview with Matt Braun

continued from page 1

CK: Why “in Tompkins County” and not “of” or “for Tompkins County?”

MB: Because we want to promote our intent that The History Center will use the stories of local experience to explore history on a national scale. Our geography certainly defines and enriches us, but it does not limit us. The new name, The History Center in Tompkins County, accurately reflects that spirit.

CK: Will you be changing the way you do exhibitions now that you’ve dropped the reference to “Tompkins County Museum?”

MB: While we’ve stopped using the word “museum” we will continue to use exhibits as a way to bring a rich historical perspective to the issues and challenges our community is facing today. Our current exhibit, “A Campaign of Communication,” offers a perfect platform for this approach. This exhibit uses history as a backdrop to the questions that are meaningful for our society today. For example, how do government and media communications about the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq compare with WWII communications? What are the legitimate uses of propaganda in times of conflict? Who does—or should—control the flow of information, at the community level and even the family level?

CK: How does education fit into your vision for The History Center?

MB: I envision our educational initiatives to be the gateway to developing and preserving collections, designing fun and inspiring exhibitions for people of diverse ages and backgrounds, expanding the use of the Research Library, collaborating with community partners, and stimulating significant financial giving. We will

build on our strengths, and devote our resources to the educational programs that have a measurable impact on people’s lives. I am very proud of how our staff is devoted to this vision. You can see their efforts come to life in our Student Historian program, in our new History Links kits, at the Eight Square Schoolhouse, and in our recently expanded Research Library.

CK: Finally, Matt, describe for me the vision of The History Center in Tompkins County.

MB: Our vision is to connect people from generation to generation using the stories of our lives. I want The History Center to be an open, fun, exciting, center for history. One that represents the community and its interests, led by people from all across the County... an organization supportive of and supported by strong partnerships with individuals, organizations, and the thousands of others who feel they have a stake in history. I want you to feel at home here, to get hooked on history, to cherish and gain the confidence and know-how to do history and use history, in your family, your community, and beyond—with an eye on the future as well as the past.



Photo by Dede Hatch

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT Carl Gortzig
VICE PRESIDENT John Suter
TREASURER Greg Garvan
SECRETARY Joan Barnes

Peter Bardaglio, Sherene Baugher
Robert Baxter, Elizabeth Bixler
Michelle C. Berry, Harold Craft, Jr.
Herbert Finch, Anna Holmberg
Stephen Hoyt, Zenon Wasyliw

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Robert Abrams, Thomas Colbert, Ezra Cornell
Carolyn Corson, Jean Currie, Peter Curtiss
Gary Ferguson, Maralyn Fleming, Joanne Florino
Jean Gortzig, Peggy Haine, Robert Harris
Joycelyn Hart, Howard Hartnett, Margaret Hendricks
Peter Hirtle, Margaret Hobbie, Brigid Hubberman
Carol Kammen, Mary Larkin, Nancy Leeming
Amy Yale Loehr, John Marcham, Jean McPheeters
Barbara Mink, Neil Poppensiek, Rochelle Proujansky
Lynette Scofield, Carol Sisler, Jeff True

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Matthew Braun
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Greg Potter
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION Kelly Calnon Falck
EIGHT SQUARE SCHOOLHOUSE COORDINATOR Carole West
ARCHIVIST Donna Eschenbrenner
COLLECTIONS MANAGER Shannon Lindridge
PHOTOGRAPHER & EXHIBIT TECHNICIAN Carl Koski
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Louise Matosich
VISITOR SERVICES ASSOCIATE Hatice Brenton
ARCHIVES & RESEARCH LIBRARY INTERN Mary White

CONTRIBUTORS
Mo Viele (design)

THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

401 East State Street, Suite 100
Ithaca, NY 14850
T: 607-273-8284
F: 607-273-6107

www.TheHistoryCenter.net

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 11AM to 5PM

©2004 ArtiFACTS is published quarterly by
The History Center in Tompkins County.



explore
ITHACA
.....
on the Discovery Trail



Peter Hirtle from Cornell University Library with John Suter, Trustee of The History Center

THE HISTORY CENTER Celebration

in Tompkins County

a new spirit,
a new vision,
a new name

What began as the Ithaca Historical and Scientific Society in 1863 has steadily evolved into a cherished cultural and educational mainstay in Tompkins County. From the discovery of your family's roots to the Discovery Trail, our mission is to inform, excite and inspire with the stories of our past.

And now we've made history by changing our name to better reflect that purpose. On April 22 we celebrated this milestone by taking a journey—from generation to generation.



Thank you to the individuals and businesses who

CORPORATE GIFTS

- Dryden Mutual Insurance Company
- BorgWarner-Morse TEC
- Wilcox Press, Inc.
- Gateway Plaza Associates, LLC
- Trebloc Development Company
- CFCU Community Credit Union
- Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
- International Planning Associates/
Vally Kovary
- Tompkins Trust Company

- Ciaschi, Dietersha
Mickelson
- M & T Bank
- True Insurance
- Michaleen's Floris
- Communiqué Des
- Security Mutual In
- Richardson Brothe
- Contractors, In
- Money with a Miss
- Hi Speed Checkwo

Thank you to Johnny Russo and Doug Robinson of the East Hill Classic Jazz Duo for an evening filled with fabulous music.



Photos by Sheryl Sinkow

ON EXHIBIT: A Campaign of Communication: World War II Homefront Posters



Drawn from The History Center in Tompkins County's collection of over 100 war related propaganda posters, this new exhibit is designed to examine how the government used poster art to engage average citizens in the war effort on the home front. These visually stunning and emotionally charged posters offer a powerful lens through which we can study how the events of national history impacted Americans on the home front, especially the citizens of Tompkins County. *A Campaign of Communication* provides a glimpse into the world of domestic propaganda and its importance in times of war.





Howard Hartnett, M&T Bank with Joanne Florino, Triad Foundation



Carol and Mack Travis with artist Mariann Loveland



Sydney and Bobbie Green with Board President, Carl Gortzig.

Chuck Broadhead with Peg Hendricks, Community Foundation of Tompkins County Executive Director



Ingrid Kovary, Peg Thomas, Carl Gortzig, Jean Gortzig, Barbara Payne, and Executive Director Matt Braun



Ed Hart with Tompkins County Legislator, Barbara Blanchard

Those gifts have helped launch our new identity:

gen, Little &
t & Garden Center
ign & Marketing, Inc.
nsurance Company
ers Electrical
c.
sion/FAFN, Inc.
eigher Company, Inc.

Mapes Auctioneers & Appraisers
Banfield & Associates
L.A.P. Company
Barradas and Partners Architects

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

John Babcock
Joan M. Barnes
John & Natasha Suter
Robert B. & Sandra M. Baxter
Mary E. Larkin

Mariann Loveland & William Carnie
Claire Conta
Jim & Terry Byrnes
Jean Currie
Jerry & Judy Dietz
Dave & Mary Flinn
Paul Farhi
Richard & Marlaine Darfler
Phyllis L. Allen
Chuck & Phyllis Broadhead
Amie Kennedy & David Jaffe

Laurie Linn & Eric Lindstrom
Zenon & Patricia Wasyliv
Eric Alani & Esther Racoosin
Robert C. Haring
Matthew & Nancy Braun
Mary McGinnis
Harriet & Earl Peters
Kenneth & Betty Evett
Jessie Harper
Thomas H. Mann & Pam Mackesey
Mary P. Adesso & Anne Adesso

Judy & Bob Chabon
Barbara E. Kretzmann
Diana Crawford Nathanielsz
Robert & Greta Young
Ms. Lenore Lewis Cohen
Martha Frommelt & David Feldshuh
Edward Bosworth
Adelaide O. Rice
Michael Trotti
Ms. Lucile P. Macera



From generation to generation guest speakers: Barbara Payne, John Majeroni, and Tim Yang, with Director of Education, Kelly Calnon Falck



Share your WWII Stories

Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the Office of Censorship in 1941 to censor communications between the United States and foreign countries. Were you involved in this or other efforts to guide communication during WWII? If so, we would like to hear your story as we might be able to incorporate it into our planning for summer and early fall programs at The History Center. Simply fill out this form and return it to: Kelly Calnon Falck, The History Center, 401 East State St., Suite 100, Ithaca, NY 14850 or send an e-mail to education@TheHistoryCenter.net.

I have a story to share. Please contact me

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE _____

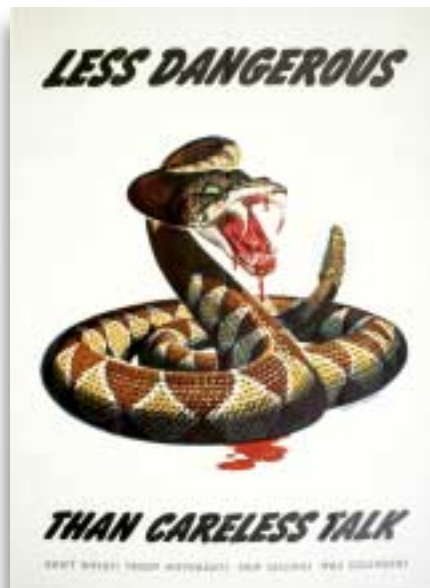
I'd like to get more involved with The History Center. Please let me know how I can volunteer.

Keep up the good work! I would like to make a tax-deductible gift to support the work of The History Center. (Please fill out your contact information above and send to The History Center, 401 East State Street, Suite 100, Ithaca, NY 14850.) Our 2003-2004 campaign ends June 30, 2004.

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$_____

Please contact me for information on how to include The History Center in my will.

Thank you very much!



THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

The History Center, in partnership with the Hangar Theatre, is excited to offer our readers this discount opportunity to



Hangar Theatre

see *The Complete History of America (Abridged)* and receive \$2 off with this coupon.

For information contact the Hangar at 273-8588



Side-splitting comedy!



\$2 off

The Complete History of America (Abridged)

EXPIRES 6/12/04

On Saturday, June 12

All the Trail is a Stage

The History Center, Historic Ithaca, the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative, and the Hangar Theatre are teaming up to benefit Phase 2 of the Waterfront Trail, linking Cass Park to the Farmers Market in 2005. Join Matt Braun, Executive Director of The History Center, Scott Whitham, Executive Director of Historic Ithaca, and Rick Manning, CWTI Coordinator, for an afternoon of history, theater, food and wine.

We begin at 1:30 pm with an interpretive walk on the Waterfront Trail led by Vikki Armstrong, author of "Walk Through History" a self-guided tour of the Waterfront Trail. Learn about the Lehigh Valley Railroad, the "Rhine", Ithaca's first airport, then attend a matinee performance of *The Complete History of America (Abridged)* at the Hangar Theatre. A dinner buffet catered by Farmers Market favorites Sticky Rice and wine at the Star Café will follow the show at 5:15pm.

Contact Amy Fuhr at the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce at 273-7080 for details on the benefit or visit www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com.



BELOW: Chester W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral of the U.S. Navy receives an Ithaca Gun Company repeating shotgun from members of Ithaca's American Legion Post #221 in appreciation of his services to the nation. November 1947. From the collection of The History Center.



401 East State Street, Suite 100

Ithaca, NY 14850

www.TheHistoryCenter.net

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NUMBER 292

ITHACA, NY 14850

