

It was a dark and stormy night in 1956, and you were there at The History Center's fundraising gala, where the sensational new acquisition to the collections would be unveiled. You try your hand at blackjack, you throw the dice at the craps table, you dance the night away, while all around you intrigue unfolds...

Saturday, February 26th, 2011

At La Tourelle Resort & Spa

6:30-7pm: arrival and cocktails  
7pm: mystery game begins  
9pm: game over, dancing and more casino fun

Think Mad Men, or come dressed as your favorite 1950s film or tv character

Tickets:  
\$50 per person  
\$75 per couple

Ticket price includes wine and beer, hors d'oeuvres, cocktail-party mystery game, games of chance and dancing.

Prizes awarded to Master sleuth, person who has acquired the most clues, best costume

Make it into a weekend to remember!  
Special History Center rate for an overnight stay at La Tourelle the weekend of the 25th of February:

\$100 for a Queen Room  
\$125 for a King Room  
(plus 13% tax)

Mystery Game based upon Tompkins County history, created by Mystery & Adventure Agency

To purchase your ticket or for more information, contact 273.8284 or e-mail community@thehistorycenter.net

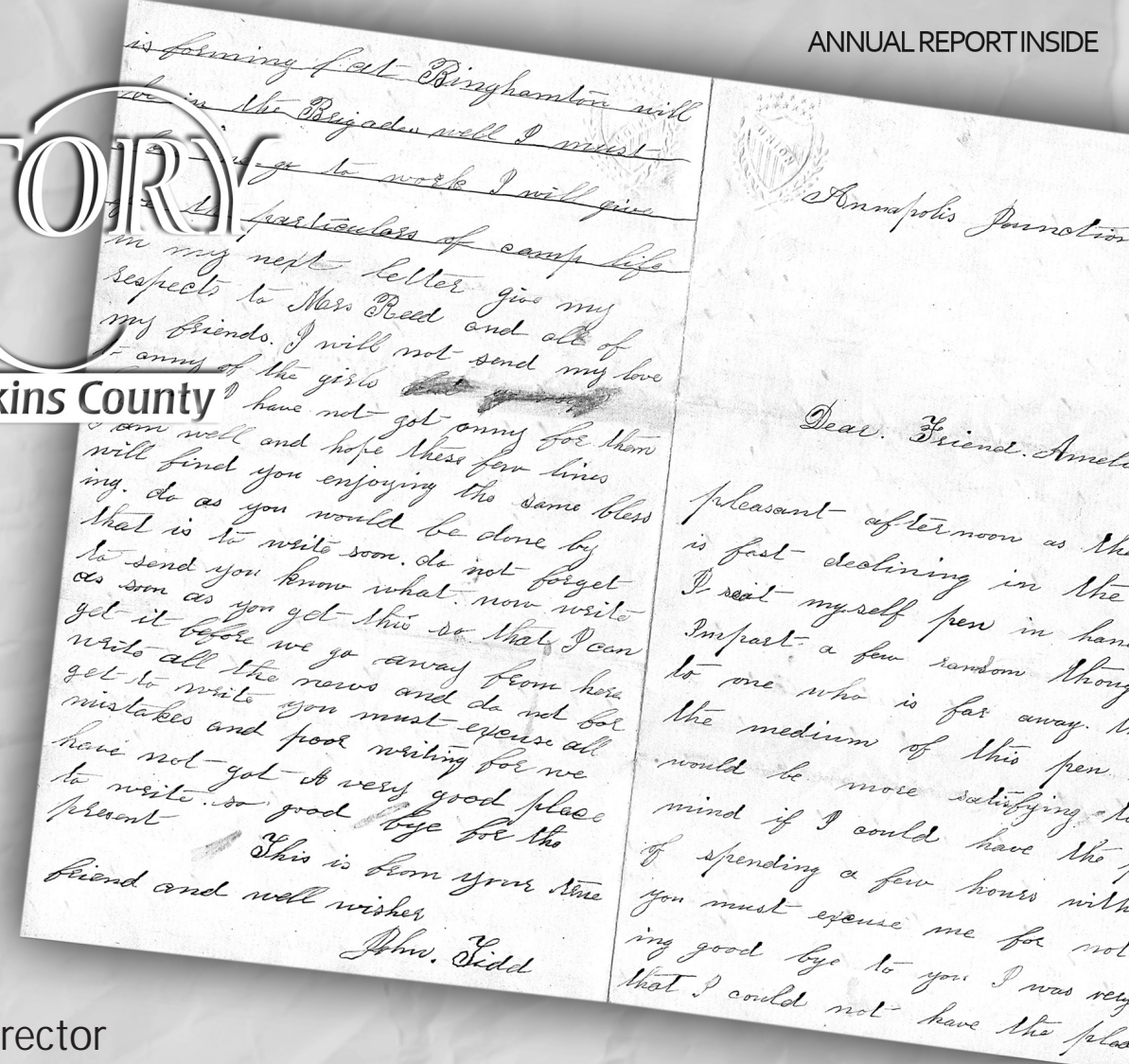


in Tompkins County  
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# THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County



## Message from the Director

I remember my excitement as an eleven year-old on being handed Civil War bullets found in the field outside my grandmother's house in Petersburg, Virginia. What a treasure, I thought, as I imagined the scores of soldiers both grey and blue who crossed those fields dozens of times during the course of the war. Like many at that age, the image of soldiers on battlefields lent itself well to a first-person reenactment, and my mind's stage was abuzz with those bullets in hand. Of course, those fields that today turn up the occasional bullet only hint at the destruction waged in the battles for Petersburg, Gettysburg, Antietam, Vicksburg, and so on. As an adult, the thrill of discovery is no less, but it is one tempered by the historical grounding that comes with reading commentary like Union General William Tecumseh Sherman, who pointedly remarked that, "War is all hell."

As I write this, we are just a handful of weeks away from commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, and The History Center will play a significant role in our community's commemoration of the war. Our upcoming exhibit examining correspondence from local soldiers will provide a glimpse into their experiences during the war, with artifacts from our collection on display to

help tell the story of Tompkins County in the early 1860s. In planning for the exhibit, we are guided by a responsibility for remaining historically grounded while deeply hoping that we can, in some small way, help inspire the sense of discovery and connection in others that I felt as a boy with those bullets in hand.

One of the things that most attracted me to The History Center has been its long-standing commitment to using the tools of history to teach and inspire. The past year has been a great example of that commitment in action. From programs like "Historic Paintings Unwrapped" to exhibits exploring rural photography at the turn of the twentieth century, and with our series focusing on recent immigration to Tompkins County, we are engaging more people now than ever before. The living-history program at the Eight Square Schoolhouse provides a unique experience for students of all ages, and will continue to be a major part of our educational programming going forward. The popular West End Waterfront Rhiner Festival - attracting well over 2,000 people in only its second year - is a strong reminder that engaging historical programming can (and does!) attract a crowd. At our foundation sits the collections, archives, and research library, ably managed by a committed

staff and group of enthusiastic volunteers. In terms of longevity, our longest-serving staff member, Carl Koski, is celebrating his fortieth year of service. By all measures, we are an organization confidently moving forward.

Thanks to a dedicated staff, Board, and group of volunteers, and to Jean Currie's exemplary leadership as Interim Director, The History Center is poised for great things ahead, fulfilling its mission as a place for education, inspiration, reflection, and, above all, history in its finest sense.

Scott Callan  
Executive Director

## DON'T TROULETTE OUT

A 1950s-themed night to remember  
To benefit The History Center in Tompkins County

**Yes! I'd like to provide the resources to serve the future by making a tax deductible gift to The History Center.**

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\$500+ Historians  
\$250 + Researchers  
\$100+ Friends

Name(s) under which gift should be listed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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This gift is in honor of or in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement of gift to \_\_\_\_\_

At (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Or, donate on-line at:  
[www.thehistorycenter.net/gift.html](http://www.thehistorycenter.net/gift.html)

The following methods of payment accepted:

Check enclosed      Mastercard      Visa

Credit card installment payments  
monthly installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My company will match gift  
Contact me about making a planned gift

\*All contributions will be acknowledged in our annual report unless you indicate otherwise. All contributions to The History Center are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.





