

Onondaga historical association's HISTORY

OHA

highlights

summer 2006

SECOND QUARTER • VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 2

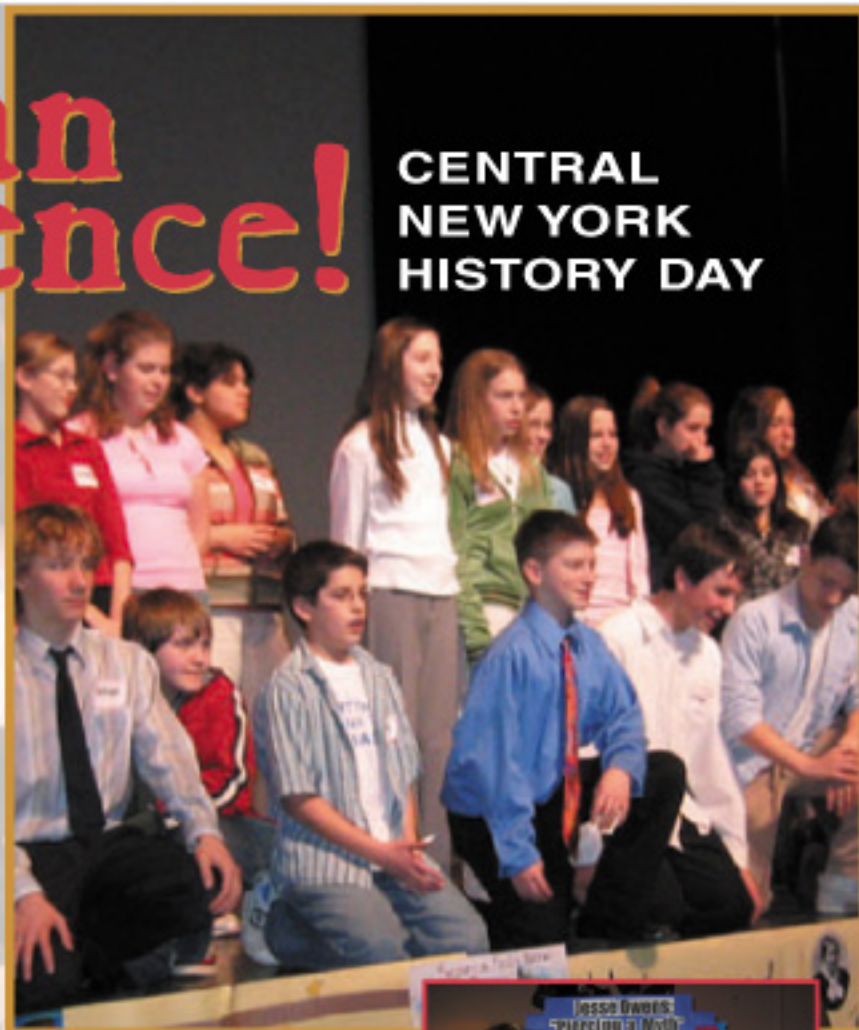
What an experience!

CENTRAL NEW YORK HISTORY DAY

Saturday, March 18, 2006, at 8 a.m. was a crisp, clear and cold day yet the sun was shining! Excited 6-8 graders started arriving at the Schine Student Center on the campus of Syracuse University to take part in an annual event that focuses on what else: History!

OHA is the local coordinator for this incredible student event. Starting as a small contest in Cleveland, Ohio in 1974 to make teaching and learning history a fun and exciting experience, the event is now under the auspices of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington and attracts almost one million students each year in 48 states. Contests begin on the regional level, with some students moving on to the state and finally the national level.

It's a fun and exciting experience because it provides both teacher and student the opportunity to use their creative abilities to produce a historical work around an annual theme. This year's was "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events". Since History Day is based on inquiry and the experiential method of teaching social studies, students can examine a smaller event, person, or idea and relate it to the national story. Through primary and secondary research, they come to their own conclusion about historical significance and gain a greater understanding of why learning history is valuable.



Submissions can be done in the individual or group category. Hopefully, students will feel energized throughout the whole process and come to that "aha" moment in education that we strive to reach.

Central New York National History Day participants tripled this year from a 2005 figure of just under 50 students to a remarkable 127 and from two school districts participating to six. Over 25 judges from the professional, educational and services community volunteered to review submissions in all five categories. Did winners from the regional



-cont'd on back cover-

Your Destination

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Summertime at last and the livin' is easy. OHA has survived the catastrophic water main break of 2005 and has risen — Phoenix-like from not the ashes but what could well have been a watery grave. OHA is alive and well and in many respects better than ever. We have a totally restored basement to put to more creative uses. Look to our website and other press release announcements over the summer announcing donor thank you, membership and public events to show off our new asset.

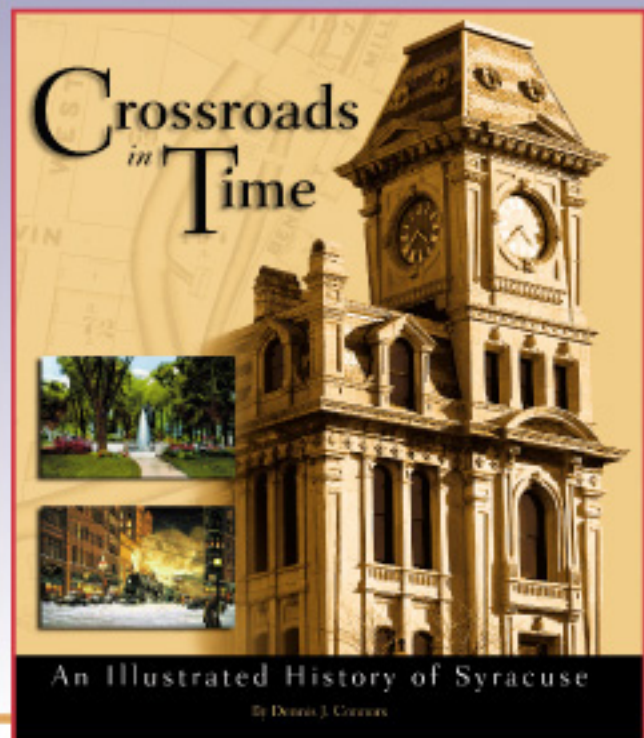
We've had a lot of activity over the past months since October 2005. School field trip visits are up; our Research Center continues to serve patrons at levels equal to or above pre water main break levels despite the lack of a functioning elevator and the necessity of a five-story climb! We have had some

interesting visitors and events including the SUNY-ESF Alumni Awards Dinner and a tour by the American Art Pottery Association of our Syracuse China exhibit during their recent convention in Syracuse.

Summer is a wonderful time to catch up on those many things that have been put off during the long cold CNY winter. Like perhaps a visit to OHA to see what is new. Your children or grandchildren or yourselves will see many new exhibits. For the Fourth of July, what better way to celebrate than to visit our red, white and blue exhibit on the General Association Document, effectively a NYS Declaration of Independence penned a month after Lexington and Concord. Or you may want to catch up on your reading with a good book in the shade with a cool drink on a sunny afternoon. Our gift shop is well stocked with many interesting and entertaining volumes that illuminate local history. Of special interest is the long awaited "Crossroads in Time" book by OHA's own Curator of History, Dennis Connors, debuting in August. This is an absolutely gorgeous book that you will want to have for yourself and perhaps as a gift for people who are particularly special to you. For Labor Day, we offer many exhibits on the history of commerce in CNY all utilizing the local work force. The gem of these is a beautiful exhibit on Marsellus Casket Company and the generations of family workers that made this institution great. We also offer lectures, walking tours, summer camps and a host of other activities culminating in our third annual Haunted History Happening at the end of September.

So, OHA is alive and well and beckoning to you. Come on down!

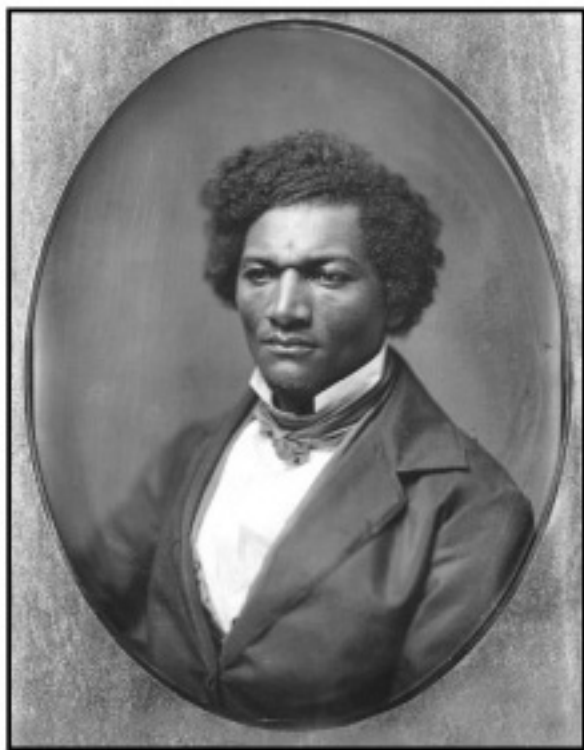

Paul H. Pflanz



CROSSROADS IN TIME: COMING SOON!

OHA is pleased to announce the pending arrival of the most ambitious publication in its nearly 145-year history. *Crossroads in Time: An Illustrated History of Syracuse* is a 208-page, hardcover book featuring over 225 images, many in color. Along with an extensive text, it presents the truly engaging story of our city's growth and development over the last 200 years. *Crossroads in Time* provides our community with a long-needed general history of Syracuse that will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

This energetic book was authored by OHA Curator of History, Dennis Connors, who also spent months combing the collections of OHA for a number of distinctive and unique illustrations, many of which have never been published before. The book has been many years in the making and is being produced in cooperation with Syracuse University Press along with several generous corporate and institutional sponsors. It will retail for \$49.95. Autographed copies are scheduled to be available by mid to late August. Reserve your copy by calling OHA at 315.428.1864.



OHA Holds Rare Daguerreotype

This image of Frederick Douglass was made when he was about 26 years old, circa 1841-1845. It was probably taken before Douglass' anti-slavery trip to England. The original, in the OHAM&RC collection, is a full-plate daguerreotype.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN SYRACUSE

In April OHAM & RC inaugurated a new feature of our website (cny.history.org) called "Object of the Month". Diverse items such as art objects, artifacts and documents from OHA's extensive collections will all be featured. The following article is an adaptation of the first installment of "Object of the Month".

Frederick Douglass appeared in Syracuse on several occasions. Not only did he come to Syracuse to deliver various lectures, but he also came here to recruit volunteers for a new Union Army regiment comprised of African Americans forming in Boston. Frederick Douglass, who came to Syracuse March 11, 1863 to recruit for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, was quoted as saying "The arm of the slaves is the best defense against the arm of the slave holder." The 54th Massachusetts Regiment's story was told in the 1989 movie "Glory."



AROUND TOWN WITH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT SCOTT PEAL

He's here, he's there, he's everywhere! Here's just a sample:

As a Board Trustee alternate, Scott attended the annual spring dinner of the CNY Council for the Social Studies that was held at the Genesee Grande Hotel. Speaker was former Chief of Staff for Colin Powell and SU Maxwell Senior Fellow in National Security, F. William Smullen. Social Studies educators from Onondaga County schools attended this sold out event.

Due to the massive educational accessories lost from the water main break last October, calls have been coming in from the community from Curator Tom Hunter's efforts to rebuild this collection. Scott has been visiting many households in search of hats, furniture, clothing and trunks for outreach programs.

Scott is forming a new adult drama troupe, the OHA Players. This group would perform at special events in the community, at OHA and in schools. If you've ever wanted to be an actor, now's the time. Call Scott if interested at 428-1864 Ext 317.

UPCOMING OHA EVENTS

11th Annual "Under the Eye of Gambrinus" on October 13th
"Under The Eye of Gambrinus" Brew Fest on Friday, October 13, 2006, 5:30-8:30, at the OHA Museum. Brew Fest guests can enjoy great beers and great food. \$30 per person (OHA member), \$35 per-person (general public), \$40 per person (day of event).

10th Annual "Our Glorious Workplaces" on November 4th
The rich history and the people who helped make Syracuse China dinnerware an internationally known brand name will come to life when OHA celebrates the 10th Anniversary of its annual, signature event, "Our Glorious Workplaces", at the headquarters and factory of Syracuse China/Libbey this year. Tickets are \$195 per person.

Call OHA Director of Development Gary Melchiorre at 428-1864, ext. 314 for more details on both of these exciting events!

for
Inspiration!

CENTRAL NEW YORK HISTORY DAY

-cont'd from front cover- contest do well at the state levels? They sure did! Liverpool Middle School students placed 3rd in Junior Individual Performance, 2nd in Junior Group Performance and 2nd in Junior Documentary. They advanced to the national level on June 5. This successful event didn't just happen magically, OHA staff and community sponsors helped make the day a memorable event.

We wish to thank the following sponsors:

*Syracuse University and SU Library Associates • VIP Structures Inc.
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Syracuse Teaching Center • West Genesee/SU Teaching Center*



OHA SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Mark Your Calendars!

Kids aged 9-12 must be registered by July 5th.

For just \$100 per week member's kids can enjoy a week blasting into the past with staff in a friendly, safe environment. Camp dates are July 10-14, 24-28 and August 7-11.

Call 428-1864 ext. 313 to register or for more details.

OHA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 10-14, July 24-28 & August 7-11, 2006 Kids Summer Break Camp: Playing in the Past. Ages 9-12, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$125 per camper/non-member or \$100 per camper/member.

OHA 2006 Program Series: Curator Talks & Walks

July 23, 10:00 a.m. Exploring an Industrial Legacy: Walking Tour of Syracuse's Historic Franklin Square. 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Plum and Solar streets in Syracuse. Pre-registration required by calling 428-1864. Admission is \$10, \$8 for OHA members.

August 20, A Creekwalk Crawl: The Unexplored History of Downtown Syracuse's Forgotten Waterway. 10:00 a.m. in front of OnTrack Station on West Jefferson Street. Pre-registration required by calling 428-1864. Admission is \$10, \$8 for OHA members.

History Highlights

Official quarterly newsletter of the Onondaga Historical Association.

Subscription is available as a benefit of membership

Onondaga Historical Association is chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Its programs are supported, in part, by funds provided by Onondaga County, New York State, the City of Syracuse and our members

J. Warren Young, President

Paul H. Pflanz, Executive Director

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OHA thanks corporate sponsors

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Visit our website at:

www.cnyhistory.org

or email us at:

ohamail2002@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER TODAY

We need volunteers to help plan our 2006 Brew Fest "Under the Eye of Gambrinus". Here are just a few of the exciting tasks you can assist us with:

- Event night attendants
- Individual and corporate ticket sales
- Update our invitation mailing list
- Serve on our Brew Fest Leadership Committee

Call OHA Director of Development Gary Melchiorre at 428.1864, ext. 314.

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HISTORY
OHA highlights

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