

HISTORY

Highlights

WINTER 2003 VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4

CENTRAL NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEWEST OHA EXHIBITION



L TO R: GLORIA HOOPER-RASBERRY CNY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CNYCF) BOARD MEMBER JOINS KIM SCOTT, CNYCF V.P. FOR PROGRAM AND DONOR SERVICES, AS SHE PRESENTS A \$50,000 CHECK TO PAUL H. PFLANZ, ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IN SUPPORT OF THE UPCOMING OHA EXHIBITION ON CNY UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORY. OHA WAS ALSO REPRESENTED BY CHRISTINE B. LOZNER, OHA BOARD PRESIDENT, AND JOYCE JONES, OHA BOARD MEMBER.

The Central New York Community Foundation recently awarded OHA a grant of \$50,000. The grant, from the John F. Marsellus Fund, will be used for partial funding of installation of a new permanent exhibit on the history of antislavery and Underground Railroad activity in central New York.

Such awards are made following lengthy deliberations by CNYCF staff and their determination that the potential project will meet the Foundation's goal that "...effective use of its endowment, enhances the quality of life for those who live and work within the community." The staff and board of OHA are indeed very grateful to the Central New York Community Foundation for showing such leadership in its support of this important examination of our local history. We are hopeful that such leadership will be replicated by others ensuring that this exhibition is one in which the entire community can take great pride and ownership. **HH**



FOLLOWING THE CHECK PRESENTATION, THE OHA HISTORY DRAMA TROUPE (ABOVE), STAGED A PRESENTATION OF THE DRAMATIC PRODUCTION, *DREAMING NORTH*.

This issue is supported by these OHA corporate supporters:


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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

What is it that makes OHA special?

Since becoming Executive Director, I have been focused on mastering the details of what OHA is and how it operates. As the result of this and as an outgrowth of a number of grant applications, I have developed a much clearer understanding of the things that make OHA unique. I thought that you might like my perspective on what makes OHA so special.

Certainly it is our archives in the Research Center. This is the core of our existence. From letters by George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, to the Asa Danforth papers, to a letter from John Brown awaiting his execution, to a Ford's theater program of April 14, 1865, to a letter from Booker T. Washington to a Syracuse colleague urging "let each... build up his brother regardless of race..." to autographs of women's suffrage heroines Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, Matilda Joslyn Gage, to the Lavinia Vivian Beckman Crane papers depicting the life of an Onondaga Nation Territory family from the 1890's to the 1970's; we possess primary documents of the great and famous as well as the humble and ordinary that have made both our country and our region what it is today. This collection of primary documents and photographs is a tremendous asset that is being made a usable resource by the ambitious cataloguing project we have undertaken.

Our collection of 3-dimensional items is a remarkable assemblage of the historical residue of 300 years of life in this region. We have an excellent textile collection containing clothing from many eras that tell the stories of their long past owners, a civil war drum collection with the stories of the young boys that carried some of them, many collections of past commercial and industrial entities such as the Dietz lantern collection, which tell both the story of the enterprise and the people of the region who made their living here, and momentos and memorabilia of many long gone but memorable institutions such as an image of the Iron Pier resort on Onondaga lake donated by the Heid family. These treasured keepsakes were donated to OHA by families who felt that we were the special place to be given custody of the region's heritage.

But OHA is much more. Our education program reaches out to children in schools, scout groups and community organizations with the message that history can make a difference in your life. Our history department conducts tours, walks and lectures throughout the community, educating audiences and demonstrating the value of history.

Probably the most important aspect of OHA that makes us special is people. We have some very special people. We are very fortunate to have a versatile, creative and dedicated staff, many of whom are well recognized in the community. Our Board is strong, effective, committed and exercises responsible governance. We have wonderful volunteers who help us in everyday operations and at all our special events. Finally, we have you, our loyal membership that support us, sustain us and inspire us. And don't forget the Lions that watch over us. OHA is truly special. **HH**

Paul H. Pilanz
Executive Director

FRAME SOME HISTORY!

Searching for unique office or home decor? Stop by and browse through thousands of intriguing images of Syracuse and Onondaga County architecture, street scenes, parks, railroads, people, Erie

Canal scenes, and other historic views. Images may be viewed on a computer at the OHA Research Center and reproductions may be purchased. In the future, images will also be available via the OHA website. **HH**

RESEARCH CENTER NOW CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

The Research Center reading room now has a computer for our patrons to consult an up-to-the-minute listing of what is available from the OHA Archives, and to check records of archival repositories all over New York State and the U.S.

This database can also be consulted remotely from anywhere in the world. Bibliographic Internet access is available on the New York State Archives catalog *Excelsior* via the following address:

- Step 1: www.mysl.mysed.gov
- Step 2: click on "search"
- Step 3: click on "online catalog"
- Step 4: click on "• HDI" click on "login"
- Step 5: enter "onondaga historical association (852)" click on "search everything"

This will list all OHA's archival holdings. So far only a small selection of OHA's holdings are included here, but an immense amount of materials from the Archives will be catalogued over the next year. **HH**

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CLARIFICATION: IN THE FALL ISSUE OF HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS, THE STORY, OHA DRAMA TROUPE BREATHES LIFE INTO HISTORY! (P. 4), STATED THAT THE SONG, OH, SWEET AFRICA, WAS WRITTEN BY LYNN PANNELL. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT THE MUSICAL SCORE FOR THE SONG WAS COMPOSED BY BRIAN MOORE, PROGRAM OFFICER FOR THE CENTRAL NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

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1936 FORMER NYCRR STATION
ERIE BOULEVARD EAST
NOW HOME OF TIME WARNER CABLE
NEWS CHANNEL 10



ART DECO GEM IS SITE OF
2002 OUR GLORIOUS WORKPLACES GALA

The enormity of the task of renovating and reopening a grand Syracuse landmark, the former New York Central Railroad passenger station on Erie Blvd., was certainly evident at the latest edition of the Our Glorious Workplaces gala.

With a backdrop of recently uncovered Art Deco architectural details and the imposing space once used by thousands of rail passengers, the new owner of the 1936 structure, Time Warner Cable, welcomed Onondaga Historical Association and its guests to the 2002 festivities. Guests were given a rare inside look at the renovation of an historic landmark *in progress!*

Welcoming remarks by Patricia Edwards, event chairperson, were followed by greetings from OHA Board President Chris Lozner and her presentation of a limited-edition commemorative plate, designed and made by Syracuse China, to Mary Cotter, President, Time Warner Cable—Syracuse Division.

Throughout the evening's program a large screen video presentation provided guests with vivid historical scenes (many from the OHA collection) of the former railroad station. The evening's theme was again evident in a wonderful musical presentation of "Train Songs" from the glory days of American railroading by former OHA Board member Carrie Berse and Time Warner Cable Vice President for Public Affairs Jeff Unaitis.

Onondaga Historical Association is especially grateful to Time Warner Cable for its financial support and for possessing

the vision and creativity required to transform a formal gala into a memorable glimpse at the resurrection of an historic landmark.

The generous support of the following underwriters is also gratefully acknowledged: M&T Bank, The Post-Standard, Tigor Title Insurance Company/Chicago Title Insurance Company, Bond, Schoenack & King, PLLC, Community Bank, N. A., Hueber-Breuer Construction Co., Key Bank, King & King Architects, and Niagara Mohawk / A National Grid Company.

Donations of goods and services were received from: Syracuse China Company, Time Warner Cable, Barbara S. Rivette, Albert Kalliez, President, CNY Chapter of National Railway Historical Society Railroad Museum, Martisico, NY, Robert Townsend, Curator, Central Square Station Museum, and Godiva Chocolatiers. Additional support was also provided by CABLExpress Technologies, Hofmann Sausage Co., Inc. and SBU Bank.



L TO R: JEFF UNAITIS, TIME WARNER CABLE V.P. FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHRISTINE LOZNER, OHA BOARD PRESIDENT, PAT EDWARDS, EVENT CHAIRPERSON, MARY COTTER, PRES. TIME WARNER CABLE—SYRACUSE DIVISION



ABOVE, L TO R: MARTHA MULROY, OHA BOARD MEMBER, DAVID MANFREDI, NEAL PASCALE

L TO R: BILL EDWARDS, PAT EDWARDS, EVENT CHAIRPERSON, DENNIS CONNORS, OHA CURATOR OF HISTORY, JOHN VENSEL, FRAN VENSEL, DONNA NEAL, RONALD STAHL, BARBARA STAHL, RICHARD NEAL



NICHOLAS PIRRO, ONONDAGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE (L) AND BRUCE KENAN, OHA BOARD MEMBER

The success of the event, which raised over \$54,000 for OHA, was the result of the tireless efforts of the event committee. Thanks and appreciation are extended to: Patricia Edwards, Chairperson; Nancy A. Bottar; Donna Flook; Michele Johnson; Christine B. Lozner; Barbara Miller-Stah; Donna Neal; Patricia Paddock and Christine Sykes. **HH**



MEMORIES OF FAR-AWAY BATTLEFIELDS FROM A FAR-AWAY TIME

ANOTHER NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN LIFE EXPERIENCE
FROM THE RESEARCH CENTER ARCHIVES

The lives of many persons can be recreated as you explore the vast amount of original manuscripts and documents in OHA's Research Center and Archives. One such life is that of Hazele E. Fox, someone who

Onondaga County. She came to Syracuse in 1910 at the age of 22 from her hometown of Scriba in nearby Oswego County, and made her living as a stenographer at the *Post-Standard* until 1919.

In March of that year she made what must have been one of the greatest decisions of her life, giving up her livelihood at the newspaper, and becoming a "canteen girl" for the YMCA. In this new role she headed for the recent battlefields of WWI in France, to help care for soldiers wounded in the bloody battles of the Great War.

OHA has a letter that describes her life during this tumultuous time, and a simple photo album—rather than the diary she promised a friend she would write of her

life in post-war Paris and Belgium.

She writes of her all-too-brief training at the YMCA in New York City in French, and in singing and dancing. She recalls that during most of her ocean voyage to Europe she was seasick like most of her new friends. She describes how the soldiers "cheered when they saw that the 'Y' girls had arrived," and that the soldiers "shake hands just as if they had known you all of their lives." The excitement that comes from being far away from everything that had seemed normal only recently is apparent. "I was never so popular before," she writes to her friend back home in Syracuse. Most of all Hazele's compassion and dedication are evident. "I want to do canteen work because you feel as if you were doing more for the boys."

The Hazele E. Fox Collection is just one of many in the OHA Research Center and Archives. These letters, photographs, and documents help us to have a more complete view of the variety of people who were part of the history of Onondaga County. We hope that your additions to the archives, through our Neighborhood Collecting Project, will help us record the lives of people who might otherwise have been forgotten, such as Hazele E. Fox.

HH



OHA collection

HAZELE E. FOX (THIRD FROM LEFT) AMONG HER NEW FRIENDS...
...AMONG THE LIVING, IN POSTWAR PARIS, FRANCE

never held political office, brought industry to the area, or was a famous pioneer of

Extended hours!

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OHA
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Highlights

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