

# Oneida Community JOURNAL

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ONEIDA, NY



Before



After



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# The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE

## *A National Historic Landmark*

The ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE (OCMH) was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as a non-profit museum in 1987. It is the only site to preserve and interpret the history of the Oneida Community, one of the most radical and successful of the 19th century social experiments. OCMH publishes the *Oneida Community Journal* to inform the public of the cultural and educational activities at the Mansion House and to present articles about social and historical topics of interest within the context of its mission.

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### COVER ILLUSTRATION

Showing the progression of work being done and the extensive use of scaffolding needed to reach all the places that need repair.

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Christine Hall O'Neil*

**T**hanks to you—OCMH's generous donors and funders—the Mansion House is celebrating a milestone: the \$1.8M South Wing Phase 1 Preservation project is nearly complete!

The Mansion House is working to button up the building's envelope and address needed but deferred maintenance on the National Historic Landmark. The Phase 1 Preservation project corrects the Mansion House's most urgent issues: repairing leaks and protecting the South Wing roof, mansard, cornices, and upper brick facade. This work reverses decades of damage from water and ice while managing water. The project repaired the multiple leaks to the historic Big Hall and will allow the safe use of the Court entrance to the Quadrangle—re-opening doors that have been closed since 2018.

Specifically, the project includes South Wing flat roofs, mansard slate and trim, dormers, cornices, brick walls, and adds new gutters. The leaky tin flashing on the South Wing Mansard cornice that allowed water to seep into the building and deteriorate the wood substructure was replaced with Freedom Gray copper—a stronger, longer lasting material. This flashing was installed with expansion joints to allow for temperature fluctuations. Fifty four dormers on the South Wing have new protective copper flashing as well as carefully designed copper covering the wood sills and decorative window brackets. Crumbling facades were restored: over 12,000 bricks, often three to four wythes deep, were replaced or repointed on the upper facade around the South Wing. Cornices and corbels were reconstructed with mahogany replicas—carpentry that required careful study and skilled craftsmanship.

*Well constructed buildings that have stood the test of time for 160 years, such as the Oneida Community Mansion House, can last for decades with proper materials and repairs.*

**Lessons learned on the Phase 1 Preservation project:** projects take longer and cost more than anticipated. Anyone with an older home likely understands that repairs can become more involved than anticipated. Project planning began in spring 2018 with loose and falling bricks in the Quadrangle. NYS funded the grant request on the second try in late 2019. Project administration, planning, and pandemic delays resulted in a fall 2021 construction start date. The contractors discovered additional damage from water and ice. Labor and materials delays resulted in longer timelines. But the resulting craftsmanship is stunning and the work maintains the historic integrity of the building while protecting the structure for decades to come.

OCMH has had several opportunities to showcase the preservation work with state advocates. The partners congratulate OCMH—the members and donors—on the excellent exterior work and on the hospitality plans. Last fall, the Preservation League of New York State (PLNYS) visited to check the progress. PLNYS staff stayed overnight in the guest rooms and examined the work, featuring the Mansion House on their website and social media.

**The Museum Association of New York (MANY)** visited the Mansion House in March. MANY's Executive Director, Erika Sanger, and staff enjoyed an overnight stay in the guest rooms while holding a museum workshop on site. Like most who stay overnight, the MANY staff were thrilled with their overnight stay and praised the guest experience—they could feel how the design of the building shaped communal life at the Mansion House. Whatever our guests' motivation, visitation this winter has been strong and interest is growing.

While on site, MANY held a discussion: *Preparing for the Post-Pandemic Museum*. Some takeaways: museum attendance is down compared to pre-pandemic levels, staffing levels have not returned, pandemic funding is exhausted, and the NYS Museum Education Act is dead. In these uncertain times, support for cultural heritage is fragile.

As Erika Sanger states: *"It is no longer enough to think outside the box to fund museums—the box is gone."* Sites must be bold and reinvent themselves in order to survive and thrive.

Fortunately, OCMH is a multi-faceted site with the ability to raise revenue within the building. **In fact, a business has always supported the Mansion House.** Oneida Ltd. took on the responsibility after the Community dissolved and then passed the torch to the nonprofit OCMH in 1988. *This year marks the 35th anniversary of OCMH stewarding the Mansion House.*

Since that time, OCMH's understanding of the building's needs has grown considerably, along with our appreciation for the design and construction of the Mansion House. With 35 years of institutional knowledge of the building and its needs, the path is even more clear: the Mansion House needs varied support to save this treasure. Gifts, grants, memberships, hospitality, and apartment revenue are all needed to protect and preserve this National Historic Landmark treasure. *Thank you all for stepping up and making Phase 1 a reality!*



## PRESERVING THE MANSION HOUSE: PHASE 2

*Christine Hall O'Neil*

### *Restoring the Public Face—Roof Repairs and Public Access*

The Phase 1 project represents just a portion of the work needed to protect the building—most of the South Wing (see roof plan below). More work is required. Why? *The 93,000 square foot Mansion House is equivalent to the square footage of 45 average-sized homes.*

Other roof surfaces have critical leaks that need repair: the Mansion House front entrance porch, the Tontine, and New House. The only wheelchair accessible entrance to the Mansion House—in the back of the building at the south entrance to the Lounge—is unsafe during winter months due to falling snow and ice. Therefore, a new ramp to the south Lounge entrance is needed in addition to brick repair on the north facade of the library corridor.

#### **What's next?**

With the support of a \$500,000 NYS Regional Economic Development Council preservation grant, OCMH is in the process of planning a \$1.2M *Phase 2 Preservation Project: Saving the Mansion House—Public Access & Roof Repairs*. The grant is a matching reimbursable grant—OCMH will have to spend money in order to access the grant funds. Look for more information during Preservation Month and the **May Preservation Campaign**. During the campaign, folks can contribute to the preservation of the Mansion House and unlock the NYS matching grant funds. See the website for more info: [OneidaCommunity.org/Preservation](http://OneidaCommunity.org/Preservation).

**How long will it take to repair the most critical needs of the Mansion House?** A 10 year, \$10M plan to Preserve the Mansion House is outlined to the left.

### Preserving the Mansion House Campaign 2021-2031 - \$10 Million | 5 Phases



#### Preservation Campaign Phases

**Phase 1, 2021-23: Addressing Urgent Needs - Roof Repairs & Water Mitigation - \$1.8M**  
South Wing Roof, Mansard, Cornice, Bricks, Gutters: Repairs & Replacement

**Phase 2, 2023-24: Restoring the Mansion House Envelope - Roof Repairs & Public Access - \$1.2M**  
Front Porch, New House & Tontine Roof & Cornice, Brick Repairs, Gutters, Lounge ADA Entrance

**Phase 3, 2024-25: Revitalizing Porches & Continued Public Access - \$1.5M**  
North Tower Porch, Library & Lounge Roofs, ADA Entrance

**Phase 4, 2027-28: Critical Foundation Work & Window Restoration - \$2.7M**  
Porches, Entrances, Foundations, Site Drainage & Landscaping

**Phase 5, 2029-31: Exterior Facade & Remaining Critical Items - \$2.8M**  
Brick Facade Repairs, Sun Porch, Windows

*Preserving the Mansion House & Sharing the Oneida Community Story*  
Learn more at [www.oneidacommunity.org/preservation](http://www.oneidacommunity.org/preservation)



*The damage took decades to create. It will take years to properly repair. But with the success of Phase 1, the future of the Mansion House looks bright and DRY!*



## PHASE 1: ALMOST IN THE BOOKS

Mike Colmey

South Wing lower flat roof replacements, extensive brick facade and ornate wooden cornice restoration work, Freedom Gray copper shelf pans, flashings, and gutters, complete slate replacement on the entire south wing mansards, and newly milled mahogany trim to match existing profiles where needed. These are the scopes of work which were all compiled in our Phase 1 Preservation project. As the crew dismantles the

scaffolding, we will be one step closer to our May Phase 1 completion date. We are so excited to share all that has been accomplished thus far and are exceptionally appreciative and grateful for all the support we have received. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Given the fact that this edition of the OC Journal is being produced in color, I will let the following timeline of pictures explain much of the story of Phase 1.

### *\$1.8M Phase 1 Preservation Project*

Over the last 160 years, the Mansion House has retained its “good bones,” but there has been wear and tear, roof leaks, falling masonry, damaged trim work, and missing and damaged slate tile. To remedy these issues the Phase 1 project addressed:

#### *Mansard Roof Repair*

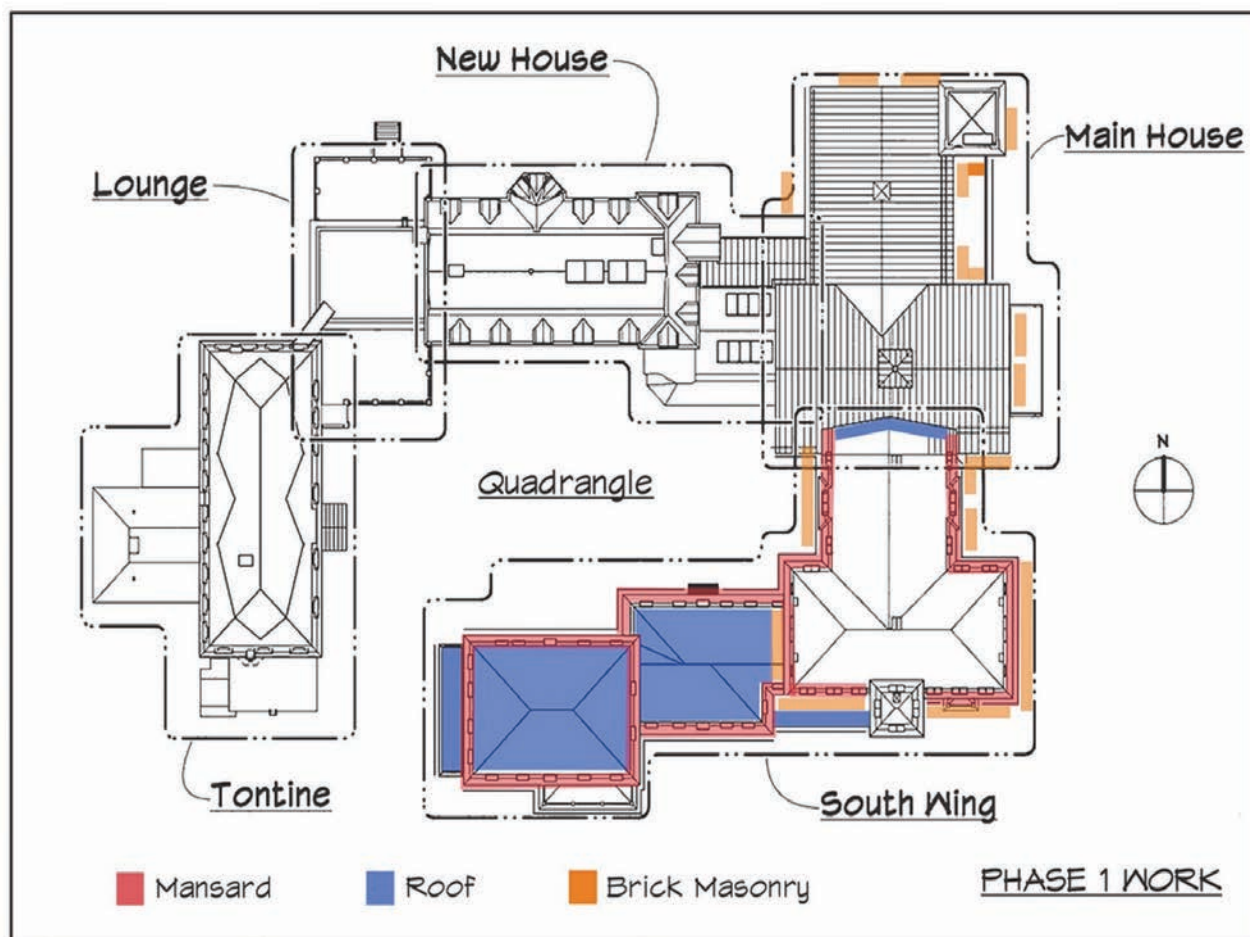
- ✓ Slate removals, replacement
- ✓ Cornice shelf repaired, replaced
- ✓ Cornice corbels rebuilt
- ✓ Cornice deck and frame rebuilt
- ✓ 54 dormers repaired
- ✓ Flashing replaced with Freedom Gray copper
- ✓ Moldings and brackets repaired, replaced
- ✓ Gutter installation around the South Wing

#### *Roof Replacement and Repair*

- ✓ Flat roof removal/replacement
- ✓ Flashing/replaced

#### *Brick Masonry Rebuilt*

- ✓ 12,000 bricks rebuilt and repointed



Cont'd. next page



*West wall South Wing Quad – 9/21*



*Slate removal, South Wing Quad – 9/21*



*South Wing Masonry repointing – 4/22*



*Brick facade rehabilitation, South Wing and East elevations – 6/22-8/22*



*New slate, rehabilitated cornice and brick facade, West wall of the South Wing – 3/22-3/23*



*Before: Water damaged the bricks and mortar, deteriorated the wood framing and cornice; Cornice was repaired and replaced with mahogany*



*After: Cornice trim, corbels, and brick facade, West wall South Wing Quad – 3/22*



*Before: Patched and leaking tin flashing, deteriorated wood cornice shelf & windowsill*



*After: New Freedom Gray copper covered dormer tops. Shown is arched top & pedimented style – 6/22-3/23  
New copper covered decorative bracket and mansard flashing*

So, as we near the completion of our Phase 1 Preservation project, not only do we reflect on everything it took to get us to this point, but also what we've learned along the way. Probably the biggest thing we've learned is that we never stop learning. The building is constantly talking to us, and simply put, we need to be good listeners. Keep up to date with our progress by visiting the Oneida Community Mansion House Preservation page: [OneidaCommunity.org/Preservation](http://OneidaCommunity.org/Preservation)



## THE ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE: ALWAYS IN MOTION

*Tom Guiler*

If you come to the Mansion House today one of the first things you will notice is the massive amount of construction going on inside and outside of this National Historic Landmark. The exterior is a maze of scaffolding, lifts are continually going up and down, and dozens of workers are fixing masonry, repairing roofs, and installing gutters. Inside, work continues on renovating guest rooms, preparing new apartments, and readying museum spaces for new exhibits and storage.

When I think about all the activity going on at the Mansion House and all the changes that are happening, I think of it as just another chapter in the story of this incredible building. Indeed, throughout the history of the Mansion House there has always been construction work going on inside and outside: new wings added, rooms repurposed, whole buildings moved, and the functions of spaces changed to meet the needs of the people who are living and working in the building. The Mansion House, just like the people who have lived here throughout its existence, has constantly changed and evolved. Today is no different!

Here are some examples of how some spaces evolved from the period when the Perfectionists called the Mansion House home to the present-day museum. (See Fig. 1)

One of the first spaces you see when you enter the front door of the Mansion House is our bookstore where people check in for tours, overnight stays, and do a little shopping to learn more about the Community and its legacy. However, it actually started life in a way not dissimilar to its function now. (See Fig. 2) In 1862 it was known as the "Visitor's Office." During this period, it was actually subdivided into two rooms, both with entrances into the main hallway. This where people who were doing business with the Community—perhaps for traps, silk, and canned fruits and vegetables—could meet with a representative. It was also a place where people could check in for tours and possibly even buy some Community souvenirs, like photographs. After the Community broke up, this space was renovated as one big room and one small bathroom and used as an overnight guest room, known as Room 111. As the museum developed and expanded, this room returned to essentially its original use as a place of business for visitors.

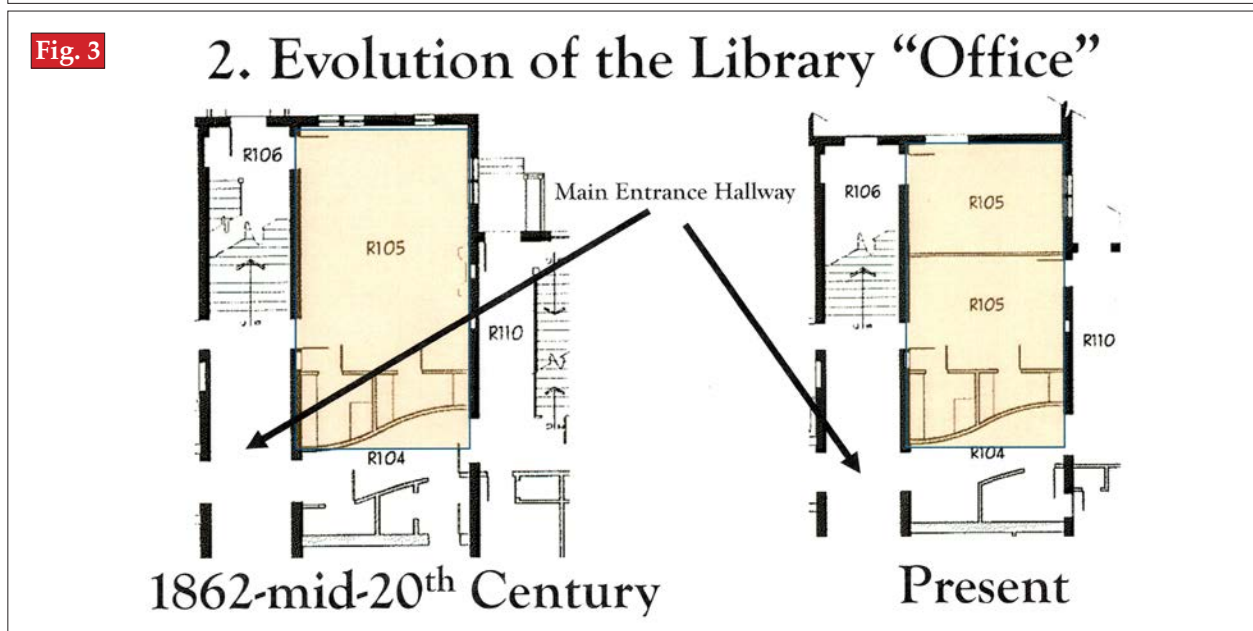
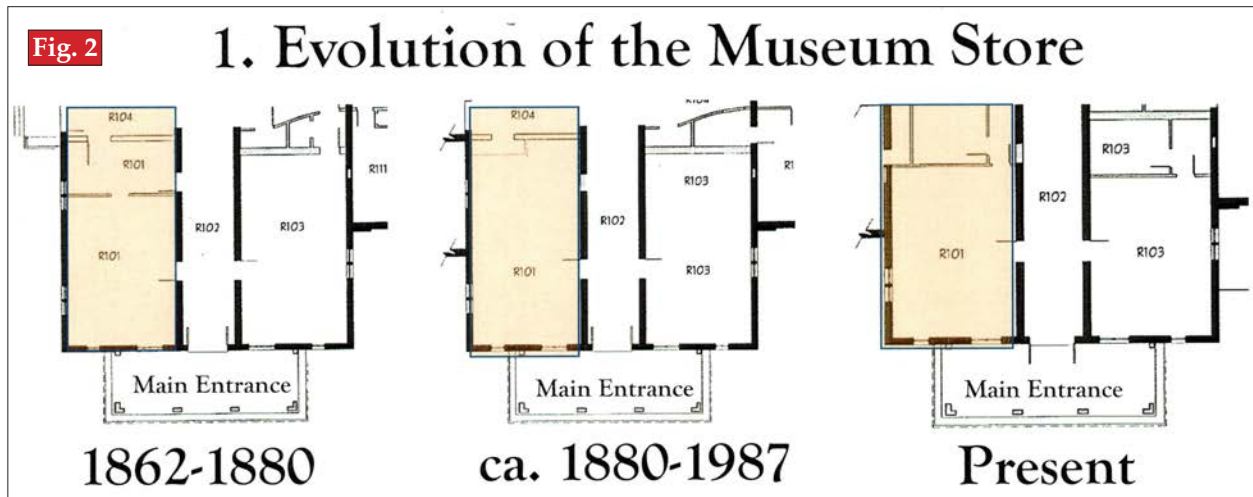
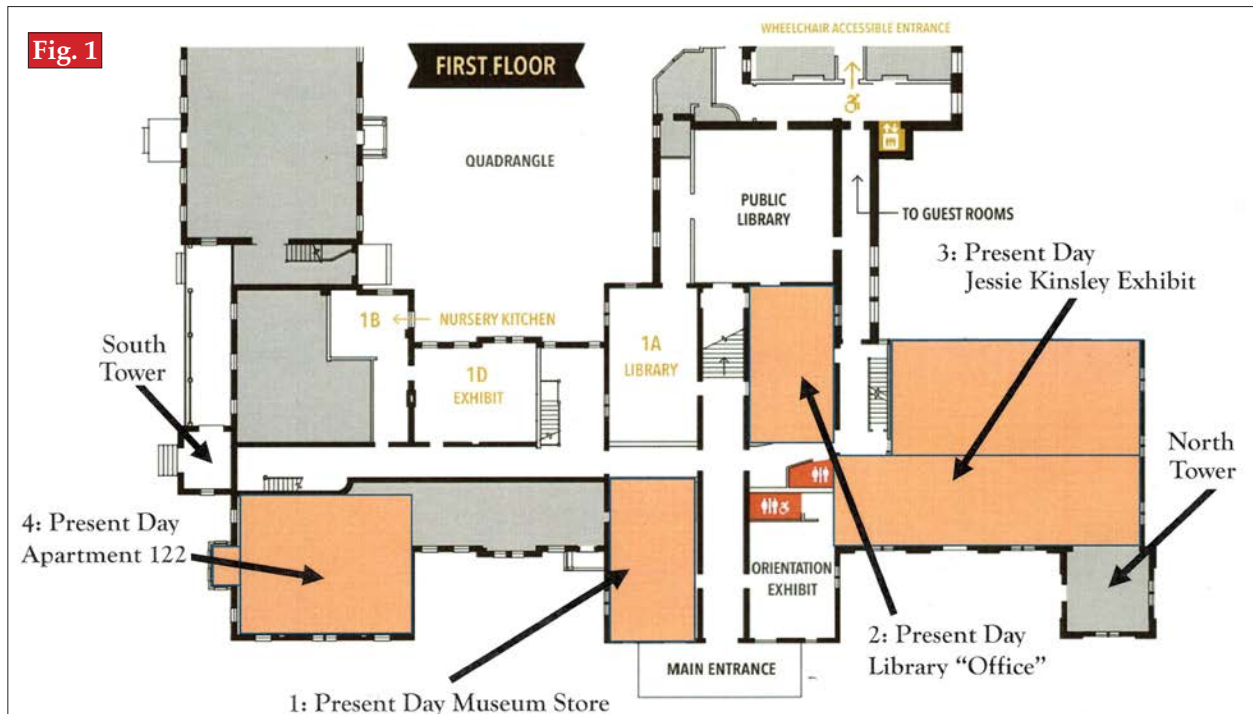
The space that comprises the main office, my office, and the former library office was originally designed as the "Back Parlor." (See Fig. 3) This was used by the Community as a space to welcome guests. It was finely furnished with pieces of marble-topped furniture and was also used as

a bedroom for overnight visitors. The New House addition in the late 1870s, which included the Resident's Library, enclosed the Back Parlor within the structure. This space underwent a series of changes after the Breakup, including use as an extension of the library. By the middle of the 20th century, it was used as a library storage room, janitor room, and a space to store linens for overnight guests. Most recently the space was used as a library office and housed the first Mansion House bookstore. Today it is a convenient space for the Director of Museum Affairs to interact with visitors and staff, and with easy access to many museum spaces.

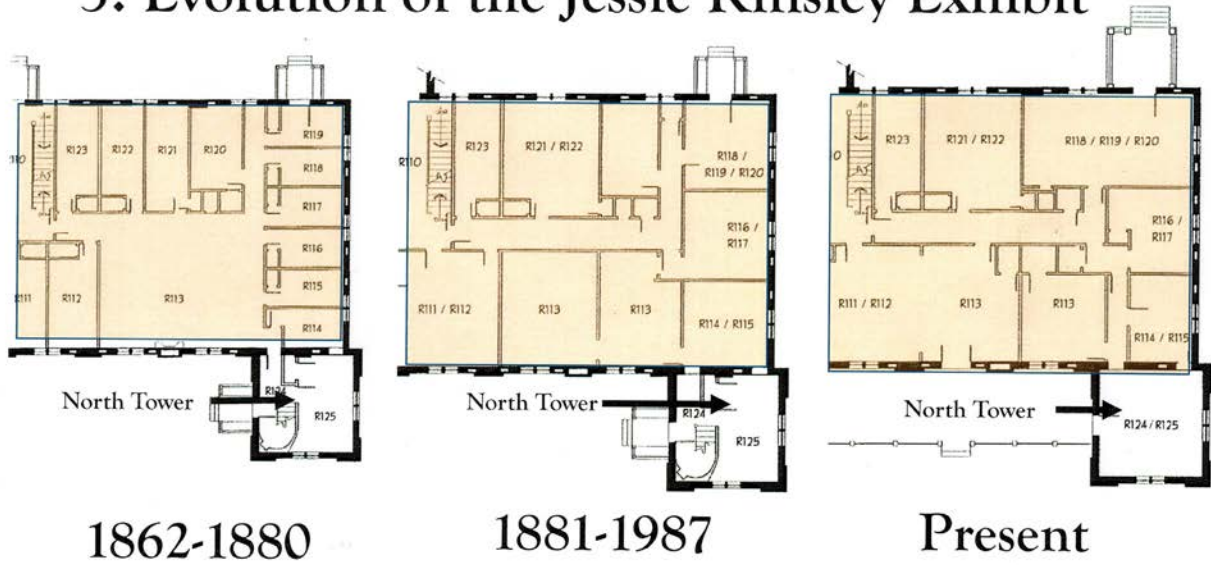
We have all heard about the "Upper Sitting Room," but did you know there was once a "Lower Sitting Room?" (See Fig. 4 on page 8) Indeed, below the Upper Sitting Room, where the Jessie Kinsley Exhibit now resides, was another version of a large communal sitting room with small individual sleeping rooms spread around it. It was essentially a less grand version of its upstairs neighbor and largely served the same function: enticing people to congregate in the common areas while acting as a tool to monitor members who might be tempted to form exclusive romantic attachments. Its first floor location made it a place where older or infirm members could congregate without going up the stairs. After 1881 the large room was subdivided into rooms for apartments. When the museum was founded in the 1980s, it became an exhibit space to interpret Community history. Today, it is the home to our exhibit on Jessie Catherine Kinsley.

In the South Wing, what is today Apartment 122, right off of the South Tower was actually a vital space for raising the Community's children. (See Figs. 5 & 6 on page 8) When the building was constructed, this area was known as "The East Room" or the "Children's/Home Parlor." This was a space set aside for children 6-10 years of age. It was sparsely furnished according to Corinna Ackley Noyes, who recalled: "There was a sensible austerity in the furnishing. The floor was uncarpeted... There was a large oak extension table between two of the front windows and a black leather settee stood against the north wall. Hard wooden chairs... tall bookcase with books..." This room was mainly used as a playroom and a place where children would have meetings. In 1914, this space was combined with two other adjacent rooms and a partition installed to become an apartment—which has been lived in ever since!

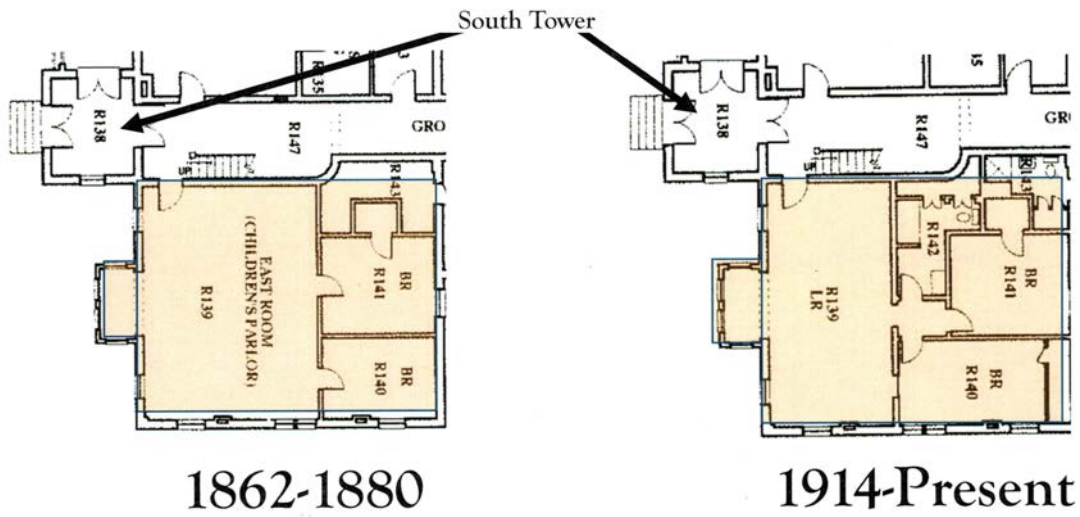




**Fig. 4** 3. Evolution of the Jessie Kinsley Exhibit



**Fig. 5** 4. Evolution of Apartment 122



**Fig. 6**



Artist's depiction of the "East Room" in Community days

## EVENTS

Tom Guiler

We will have a busy spring and summer at the Oneida Community Mansion House.

■ On April 23, the Mansion House closed out the 2022–2023 Music Series with national recording artist Susan Werner! Over the course of her twenty-five-year touring career, Susan has built a reputation as one of the country’s most compelling live performers. She did not disappoint us. The crowd enjoyed a lively performance.



*Susan Werner*

■ May is National Historic Preservation Month and the Mansion House will be celebrating all month long! Tom Guiler and Mike Colmey will host special tours focusing on architecture and historic preservation that will go in depth into the work being done on this National Historic Landmark. You do not want to miss seeing the work up close while learning about the amazing historic architecture around the Mansion House.

■ June 3 will bring the Second Annual Sherrill Kenwood Classic Car Club Car Show back to the Mansion House grounds. We will be adding live music, new food trucks, and other surprises this year.

■ This Summer, thanks to funding from CNY Arts, the Mansion House will once again host four “Art and History” workshops. We will be holding two “slate painting” workshops (one for children and one for adults). At these events participants learn about the historic preservation efforts at the Mansion House before taking a piece of the discarded slate from the roof to make their own artwork. Decoupage, or the art of decorating objects with scraps of paper and images, was a favorite pastime of children and adults in the Oneida Community. At each workshop, participants will learn about this historic art form and get inspiration from objects in the Mansion House collection before making their own decoupage objects to take home.



*Last year’s Classic Car Show was gifted with a perfect summer day*



*Oneida Chamber of Commerce members gathered in the Lounge*

#### *Museum Association of NY Visits the Mansion House*

OCMH was pleased to welcome the Museum Association of NY (MANY) to OCMH in March. MANY came to OCMH to host a regional Meet-Up and Roundtable Discussion: *Preparing for the Post-Pandemic Museum*. Museum professionals from Central New York partook in the discussion and enjoyed networking during a post workshop reception. Docent-led tours were offered. The MANY staff stayed in Mansion House guest rooms and shared their pleasure at “Experiencing Community” in the unique space.

## NEWS FROM THE COLLECTION

Emily Stegner

Last fall, I started as Collections Fellow at the Mansion House working on moving a portion of OCMH's Oneida Ltd. collection to a new home. Now, as Collections Manager, I have dipped my hands in many more projects.

After six months of sorting through over 1,000 objects, the Oneida Ltd. collection move is complete. Nearly all the objects involved in the move, which were salvaged from the Sales Office across the street back in 2014, had never been formally added into the OCMH collection. The majority of my time was spent updating documentation, which included numbering and marking, cataloging, and photographing every object.

Another significant portion of the project was to set up a new collections space following collections management best practices. This included not just planning out a location system and ensuring space is used efficiently, but also introducing practices like environmental monitoring and pest management. The best kind of conservation is preventative conservation, and creating a stable environment is one of the best

ways to preserve collections for as long as possible. For this reason, the new collections area is outfitted with an AC/humidifier unit to control temperature and humidity, both factors that can lead to deterioration. The windows are also covered in UV blocking film because light is another significant threat to objects (just think of how your furniture or curtains have been bleached by the sun!). Finally, we are implementing a regular house-keeping and pest monitoring schedule to prevent any

unwanted guests from sneaking into our collections.

Beyond the collections move, I've also had the opportunity to help with several other ongoing collections projects at the Mansion House. Tom Guiler, Director of Museum Affairs, and I have been busy drafting a new Collections Management Policy to provide updated guidance on collections activities like donations. Several of the objects from the Oneida Ltd. collections move will also be on display as part of a new exhibit "More than a Silverware Company," showcasing Oneida Ltd.'s legacy. See Tom's article about the new exhibit on page 20.

One of my favorite aspects of working in museum collections is sharing a behind-the-scenes perspective with the public. Since I work with mostly the same kinds of objects everyday, it can be easy to become desensitized to the amazing

collection held in the Mansion House. Whenever possible, we try to provide collections demonstrations for tours and visitors by bringing objects out of storage to tell different aspects of the Oneida Community story. For some

groups, this means bringing out examples of Oneida Ltd. dies and silverware patterns, and others it might be a sample of the many quilts made by Community women.

All the work we do to preserve our unique collections ultimately is for the benefit of our visitors. With the completion of the Oneida Ltd. collection move, it is exciting to move onto new projects and share even more stories about the Oneida Community's legacy.



*Collections demo showing off John Humphrey Noyes's hair to visiting college students*



*Oneida Ltd. collection being moved to the new storage area*

## STORIES FROM THE STACKS: NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS FINDS

Emily Stegner

Perhaps the best part of working in museum collections is re-discovering objects that you never expected to find. Working on a major collections move and sharing the collection regularly on social media provides ample opportunity to stumble upon some really interesting objects. These are some of the best collections finds from the past several months.



*Locks of John Humphrey Noyes's Hair*

The most unusual object in the Mansion House collection was sitting discreetly in an archival box in one of our collection storage areas. Opening the box revealed a small milk glass ointment jar with a taped-on label reading "Lock of JHN's hair. also lock of his sister, Harriet Skinners hair" [sic]. Sure enough, opening the jar revealed a bright red lock of hair, along with a folded piece of paper containing a smaller, browner lock of Harriet's hair.

Since we have been working on a major collection move of mostly Oneida Community, Ltd. and Oneida Ltd. objects, we have made a lot of



*Madison County centennial souvenir spoons*

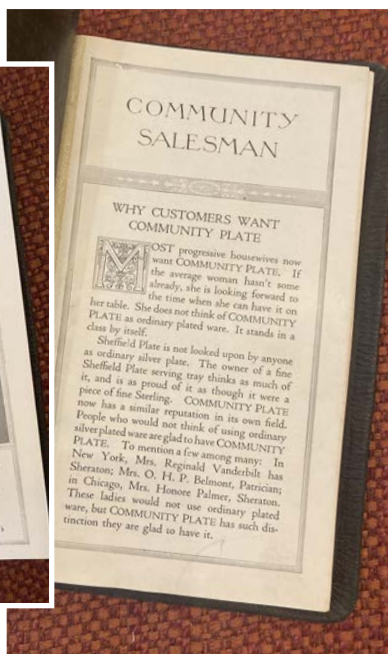
discoveries related to the company's history. One of the most interesting pieces we came across were two pocket-sized salesmen's manuals, both monogrammed. The one pictured here would have belonged to Grosvenor Allen, who was head of the Design Department and responsible for most of the early successful silverware patterns. In addition to providing a miniature sales catalog at the back, the manual provides talking points on the best features of Community Plate.

Since the Oneida Ltd. collection contains hundreds (if not thousands) of pieces of silverware, it's hard to pick just one set that stands out. But this set produced by Oneida Ltd. in 1906 for the 100th anniversary of Madison County depicts local sites and faces that are close to home. The bowls of each spoon depict a different place or person from Madison County's history: Oneida City's founder Sands Higinbotham (1790–1868), Peterboro's famous abolitionist Gerritt Smith (1797–1874), the Morrisville Court House, Colgate College's Library, Canastota Seminary, and Canastota Carnegie Library.

If you want to keep up-to-date on our collections finds, don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and subscribe to our e-newsletter!



*Early Oneida Community, Ltd. Salesman's Manuals*



## THE VAULT: THE LAST UNEXPLORED SPACE IN THE MANSION HOUSE

Geoff Noyes

Examine the first photo below. Familiar to us is the southface of the Children's wing of the house. Note that the now-existing big west end porch to H.V.'s apartment is not yet there. This photo was taken in probably the late 1870s.

But unfamiliar to most of us, especially guides, is the large structure that extends southward from the Children's wing, looking like it is half-buried, which it is. It juts out onto the South Lawn, with a big door there, with two gentlemen standing in front of it.

This structure is the "Vault." Dimensions were 50' by 30' square and 6' or 7' deep, with about 4' showing above ground and 3' below ground. The 50' is the exact same length of the Children's wing parallel to this structure.

First, some background: in the basement under the Children's wing, lying in the southwest corner



of the wing (up against the South Wing wall you see there) was the original boiler room for the Manch, erected and plumbed probably in the late 1860s or early 70s. As an aside, this boiler room, producing hot water and steam, was exceeding noisy, loud clanging all day long. Stirps writing about the Manch later in life often commented on how annoying it was.

Anyways, the boiler room needed fuel; thus the Vault. And collected night waste needed removal from the area; thus the Vault. So it was built in about 1874-75 with its back (North) wall about 12' just south of the Children's wing south face (a sidewalk extends laterally across this 12' today). To get from the boiler room to the newly erected Vault, an approx. 13' tunnel, all underground, was dug, from the south wall of the boiler room (aside...the boiler room is today the old Rumpus room and golfers' showers and Spa) out to the Vault.

The purpose of the Vault: a) Storage of the wood fuel for the boiler room, and later the coal for

it (it was dropped from hatches on top of the Vault, down onto the Vault floor) b) storage of the ashes resulting from the furnace burning, and c) the placement (daily?) of the collected night waste / garbage. The ashes were mixed with the night waste to ?? (I don't find any description of why) I guess, render it less smelly and maybe easier to 'handle'.

The key here was that a 2-horse team and wagon would come off (present) Kenwood Avenue, proceed westward along the bottom of the South Lawn hill, and park in front of the Vault double doors. Night waste into the wagon and then, I believe it would be transported by the team down to where the O & W crosses the Middle Road and dumped on OC land there.

The Vault was de-constructed in about 1910, when modern toilets came into use in the Mansion House. Interestingly, and today, a bit shocking, H.V. in his history of the OCL speaks proudly about how the OCL Board of Directors congratulated the installation of 5 inch diameter underground piping to "flush all the toilet waste directly into the creek"... Oneida Creek.

The filling of the Vault must have been a huge task. The roof and above-ground sides of it probably were just shoved over into the Vault hole, becoming fill. But at least a 50' by 30' by 3' cavity was still to be filled, to bring the "hole" up to the level of the whole South Lawn hill (there's still a bit of a depression there today). That's about 166 cubic yards to fill. A modern 10-wheel dump truck can carry about 15 cu. yd. so 11 or so dump trucks in order to fill the remaining hole. Imagine how many 2-horse teams it would have taken to fetch and haul that much sand.

I have carried curiosity about the Vault since it was vaguely mentioned to me by grandparents and other stirps. So, with permission from Mike and Tom, I used hand chisels and hammers to dig into the tunnel—you see the result in the second picture below—about 30 inches into the tunnel... and all sand. It is pretty sure that the Vault itself is

fully filled, no exploration there. Also note the "stately" arch in the wall of the entry to the tunnel...very OC.

There are two reasons for writing about, and knowing about, the Vault. First, guides may occasionally get a question about the OC's toilet arrangements, fecal management, etc. Second, basement tours could include it (a flashlight would be needed to look into the dig).

Note: Anthony Wonderley's book, "The

Look of Utopia," shows vintage photos of the vault on pages 68 and 69.



## SUPPORTING ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE

*Susan Belasco*

My husband Linck Johnson and I are often asked why we support the Oneida Community Mansion House. Neither Linck nor I are descendants of the original community. Until recently, we did not know anyone who ever worked for Oneida Limited. And we are not from central New York state—I was born in Pittsburgh and Linck grew up in Chicago.

In fact, our only longtime connection to the Oneida Community is Community Stainless flatware—the Paul Revere pattern I chose in 1975, well before I met Linck or knew much about utopian communities, the manufacturing of silverware, or the true costs of maintaining a historical building with a mansard roof. This handsome flatware—the only set I have ever owned—is a cherished part of my belongings that I have been moving around the country ever since—from college and university towns in Texas, Pennsylvania, California, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and finally to New York.

*As it happens, that flatware was a sign.*

Because this year marks an important anniversary. I have now been directly and personally involved with the Oneida Community Mansion House for five years. In February 2018, Linck forwarded an email message that he had received, inviting interested people in the area to attend an introductory meeting about docent training at the Mansion House. Linck thought I might be interested in participating. As a newly retired professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and now a full-time resident of Central New York, I was eager for the chance to combine my academic interests in nineteenth century American literature and culture with meaningful volunteer work at an historic house museum. Perhaps I even thought I might learn something about that now well-used flatware that I had chosen so long ago.

From my first reading of that docent training announcement, the Mansion House felt like a perfect fit. The history of utopian communities in the 19th century was a familiar one to me. During my long academic career, I have studied and written about Margaret Fuller and Ralph Waldo Emerson who both had close connections with the

Brook Farm experimental community in Massachusetts. As a graduate student, I studied not only Brook Farm but also the Oneida Community as well as also other utopian communities in the U.S.: New Harmony, the Shakers, Fruitlands, and even the Amana Colonies in Iowa. I was always curious about these communities, especially those that provided educational opportunities for women beyond the mainstream of 19th century society.

While most of these utopian communities remained merely subjects of historical interest to me, the Oneida Community became quite real in the fall of 1987 when I joined the faculty of Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. As the director of the college writing program, I was charged with developing a new program for first-year students.

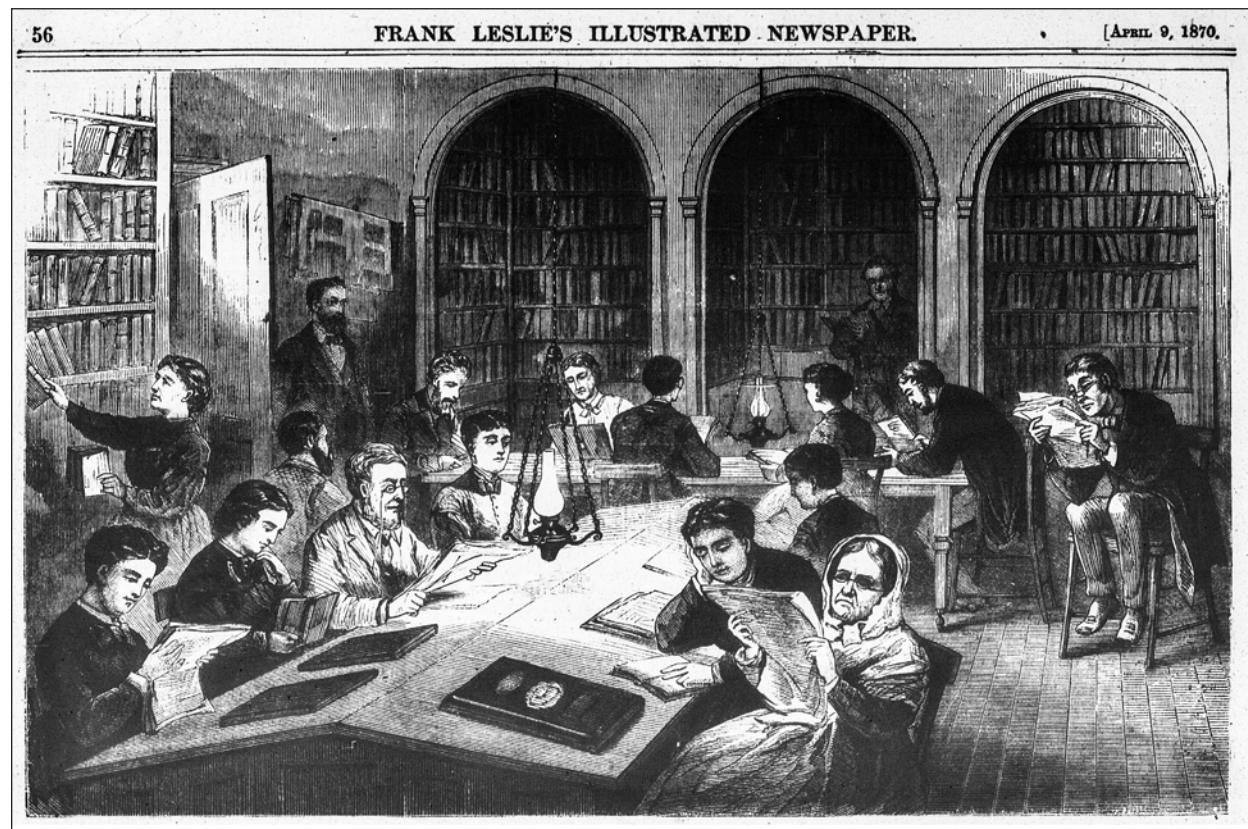
I formed an advisory committee of faculty members from disciplines across the college to provide advice and counsel. The representative from the Political Science Department was Professor Giles Wayland-Smith, a longtime Allegheny faculty member, highly respected by his colleagues and students alike. I was delighted for the opportunity to get to know him. Giles and his much-admired wife Kate were a social force in Meadville; invitations to their home were highly prized. Giles was a generous colleague to me and instrumental in reimagining a writing program that better served both students and faculty members. In the process of our association, I learned about Giles's background as a descendant of the Oneida Community and a good bit of what the future might hold for the Mansion House. Years later, after I had left for new positions, I learned that he had retired from Allegheny. I was impressed—but not surprised—to learn that he had returned to the Mansion House, where he adeptly served in a variety of capacities until his death in 2016.

Consequently, the chance to undertake the docent training at the Mansion House was a wonderful new opportunity for me. I could learn about the Oneida Community, give tours, and meet new people—all at the same time. And certainly, that is exactly what the docent training provided. Through a series of sessions, the former Education Director,



*Our Community Stainless flatware—Paul Revere*

*Cont'd. next page*



*Oneida Community Library, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper, April 9, 1870*

Molly Jessup, assigned illuminating readings and led challenging discussions about the Community. We learned about the origins of the Community in Vermont, the building of the Mansion House, the life of the community members, the importance of the Great Hall, the rationale behind complex marriage, the position of women within the community, the lives of children and their cozy kitchen, and the Community's political and religious beliefs. Molly impressed upon all of us the importance of recruiting new members, and all of us in the new docent group took the hint and joined the Mansion House. Then as now, having a solid membership base is key to the ongoing health and stability of the entire operation.

During the training, I was especially taken with the library at the Mansion House, which remains much as it was in the 1860s and is certainly my favorite room. Outside the library door is a framed print taken from an article in a popular 19th century American magazine, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper*, published on April 9, 1870. The illustration shows men and women reading in the library together, enjoying an equality that was very different to the reality of men's and women's lives outside the Oneida Community. In fact, women were largely barred from entering private libraries and public libraries were in their infancy. The library at the Mansion House has been beautifully preserved, including the center, slanted

table designed for reading newspapers and books easily. By 1871, the Community's eclectic library contained more than 3,500 books and more than 140 periodicals, a very large collection in the 19th century. The books and periodicals cover a wide range of topics including history, literature, religion, science, philosophy, and classical works. The collection includes early editions, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1853), Frederick Douglass's *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855), Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (1875) and Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1868). Periodical subscriptions included the influential *North American Review*, the *Dial* (edited by Margaret Fuller and later Ralph Waldo Emerson), and the popular *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. Members of the original Community read books together and encouraged lifelong learning and self-improvement, believing it important to maintain an intellectual relationship with the outside world. In my experience as a tour guide, visitors are fascinated with the library and impressed by the degree of preservation. I never tire of going in there and sitting at the table, enjoying the quiet and thinking of the generations of people influenced by the accessibility of that library.

As a docent, I have had the great pleasure of leading dozens of groups of visitors around the Mansion House, giving talks to civic and community groups about the Oneida Community, and



working with college and university classes for whom the Oneida Community is a part of the syllabus of courses. During the pandemic when the Mansion House was closed for the only time in its history, the docents and I provided online training for a new docent class. We couldn't replicate the in-person experience that Molly provided



*Oneida Community Library, June 2022*

for us, but we engaged in careful readings of articles from the early Community publications, Tony Wonderley's *Oneida Utopia: A Community Searching for Human Happiness and Prosperity*, as well as other books such as Ellen Wayland-Smith's *Oneida: From Free-Love Utopia to the Well-Set Table*. Our many Zoom sessions provided us with an ongoing connection with the Mansion House which got us through those long months of the shutdown. Even though the Mansion House had to be closed, our work and commitment continued.

Within the past five years, I have also become a member of the Board of Trustees. As a Board member, I have the honor of working closely with a group of people committed to the preservation of the Mansion House. Working with the dedicated staff, we have embarked on a program to preserve and sustain the Mansion House, mindful of the important history of the 19th and 20th centuries, but also fitting it for survival in the 21st century.

Finally, and apart from my roles as a docent and Board member, I am also committed to the Mansion House for the sheer beauty of the building, its lovely location, and for the significance it now holds in my own family history. My stepson and his wife chose the Mansion House as the venue for their wedding reception in June 2019. We and

some seventy family members and friends from all over the country enjoyed a very happy evening and a marvelous celebration in a building and place I have come to love.

For all these reasons—from our flatware to my association with Giles and Kate Wayland-Smith, to giving tours, to my recent work as a Board member, and to a joyful family occasion—Linck and I enthusiastically support the Mansion House. While neither one of us has traditional connections with the Oneida Community, we are part of a generation of people who have forged an entirely new relationship with the Mansion House. We are privileged to contribute through our yearly membership and our annual contribution to the Operating/Annual Fund. In so doing, we help sustain an important historic treasure in our area, ensuring that the Mansion House will be an integral part of our lives and our larger community for decades to come.



*Susan Belasco and Linck Johnson at the wedding reception for Max Johnson and Whitney Greenberg, June 29, 2019*

## BE OUR GUEST

*Chelsea Scheurman*

### *Immersive Experience at OCMH: Overnight Stays*

It has been another great season at the Mansion House. We have hosted a variety of events like concerts, special tours, a quilting retreat, and holiday celebrations. We have also hosted many museum tours and overnight guests. Sometimes we are asked why would a guest want to stay at The Inn at the Mansion House over a mainstream hotel? Guests travel to the Inn to experience the historic building and to retreat from their everyday hustle and bustle. Many guests report that they “had no idea!” about the extensive history of the Oneida Community and say that they need to come back to learn more. Guests are also impressed with the cleanliness and quality of the guest rooms. Unlike mainstream hotels, The Inn is more than just a place to sleep—it is a destination to learn, explore, and enjoy a break from everyday life.

We continue to serve guests from across the country and even around the world. This spring and summer, we are excited to share the Mansion House with travelers in our six additional newly renovated guest rooms. Visit our website for more pictures of the new rooms!

### *Family Reunion at The Inn*

The Inn was fortunate to host a holiday get-together for the Fischer family. For the third time, this family rented out all of the guest rooms at The Inn and used the Lounge as gathering space for a gift exchange. This family started this tradition out of the convenience of location, and continue their Christmas tradition because they enjoy the family atmosphere of the Mansion House and Inn. We are excited for their return next year and hope to host more family traditions like this!



*Three guests enjoying a family reunion in the Lounge around the holiday season*

### *Quilt Retreat & Textile Tour*

The Mansion House put on a two-day quilting retreat in February that was a success by all accounts. Attendees were able to work on their projects in the historic Big Hall and took a special tour with access to rarely-seen textile pieces from the collection. The women also ate lunch together, and finished the retreat off by showcasing their work in a show-and-tell while enjoying treats from a local baker! We look forward to hosting another retreat in the future.



*Resident Cindy Gyorgy enjoying the Quilting Retreat in February*



*Quilt retreat attendees showing their skilled work during show-and-tell*

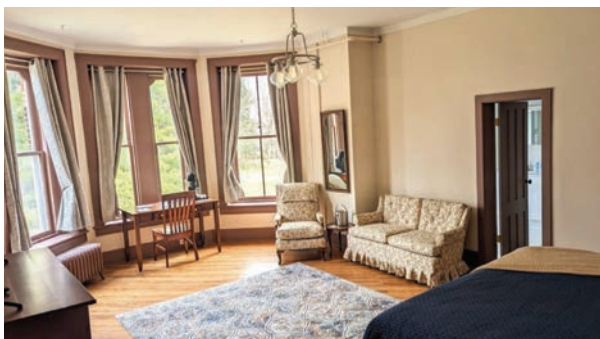


*Tom Guiler and Emily Stegner showing off textile pieces from the collection*

**Oneida Ltd. Themed Guest Rooms**

The six guest rooms on the 2nd floor of the New House are open! The 2nd floor rooms sport an Oneida Ltd. theme with Oneida Ltd. Coles Phillips ads adorning the hallway. The rooms have stunning views of the North Lawn and Quadrangle and are accessible by elevator or stairs.

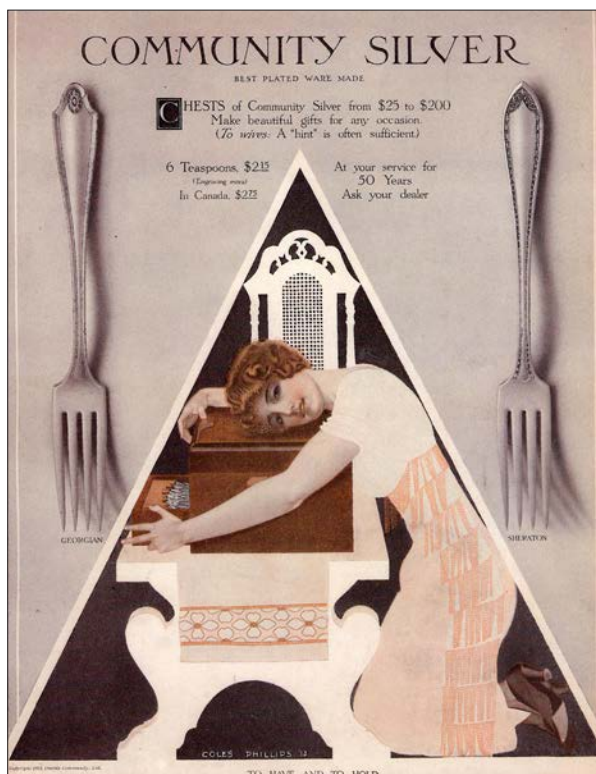
The rooms have been freshly painted and updated with modern bathrooms and “upcycled” Harden furniture and amenities. The OCMH Guest Services and Building & Grounds teams have been resourceful and efficient in making the rooms welcoming and comfortable for guests.



*Newly renovated guest rooms on the second floor of the New House*



All 14 overnight rooms are already being booked for the spring and summer months. Please let us know if you would like an overnight stay or a tour of the rooms!



*A Community Silver ad featuring a Coles Phillips illustration displayed in our newest guest room hallway*

**An Evening of Community, Trivia, & Holiday Cheer**

Over the holidays we were delighted to host the annual Resident Holiday Dinner for the first time since the pandemic. The event is a traditional dinner offered to Mansion House residents and their guests and was revived after a two year hiatus. The dinner celebrates the Mansion House as a home and is supported by the late Richard & Rita Noyes.



*Residents, staff, friends, and family gathering for the annual Resident Holiday Dinner*

The dinner was accompanied by the traditional tree decorating. This year Director of Museum Affairs, Tom Guiler, added a Mansion House Trivia game to the mix. The game tested the knowledge of descendants and “joiners” and was fun for all.

## SHARING THEIR STORIES: ONEIDA LTD. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

*David Hill*

The Oneida Limited Oral History project, begun in the fall of 2021, has continued to collect stories about working for Oneida Limited (OL) from former OL employees who volunteer for the project. So far 28 interviews have been edited and transcribed. A few volunteers started working for OL in the late 1940's; others work for the present iteration of the company—Sherrill Manufacturing. The project is intended to provide personal narratives that inform our understanding of what it was like to work for OL and how the organizational culture of OL reflected the values of the original Oneida Community (OC).

Most of the former employees we've interviewed had very positive things to say about the company. Many indicated that it felt like one big family: most everyone got along, though there were a few spats. One person who is now in his 70s went so far as to say he liked working there so much that if OL hadn't closed, he would probably still be working. All but a few of the people we've interviewed lived in Sherrill or Kenwood. The health and insurance benefits, as well as the profit-sharing plan (with frequent bonuses), and the option to purchase company stock at a discounted rate were mentioned as very positive aspects. Pride in the quality of the product was also mentioned. As one put it, "I think there was certainly an awareness that Oneida Limited products were very well known. Oneida Flatware (was) a market leader with a long, rich history."

Reading the transcripts gives me a sense that, at least for those who have agreed to be interviewed, the overall career, social, and family experiences were very positive. When we asked what each former employee thought was unique about OL and what others should know about the company, the listing included those benefits mentioned above as well as the presence of a strong sense of community.

More than one former employee indicated that there was a value put on continuing education—the company often sent employees to classes to expand their skills. One said, "They sent me to college when I was in the Safety Department. Well, picture this. A guy who never took algebra, never took geometry. And go take college chemistry and I got a B."

Promoting from within was a tradition from the early days of the company and the practice continued to the end. Many of the volunteers we interviewed indicated that they started on silver buff or a similar entry level manufacturing position. Supervisors would watch new employees to assess their strengths and interests, then recommend the worker apply for a position that would be better suited to their skills, usually at a higher level.

Promotions did not always mean higher pay but often did mean more job security during layoffs. One interviewee told of working on the floor for a few years and then being recommended for a supervisor job, which he took. He said in the interview that he went home to his wife with good news and bad news: the good news was that he got a promotion and would be salaried rather than being paid on piece work. The bad news was that he would be receiving less in each paycheck. It was typical that hourly wages were high relative to other employers in the area and that managers often made less when promoted from piece work. New hires were often told that they wouldn't get rich working for OL, but they would want for nothing.

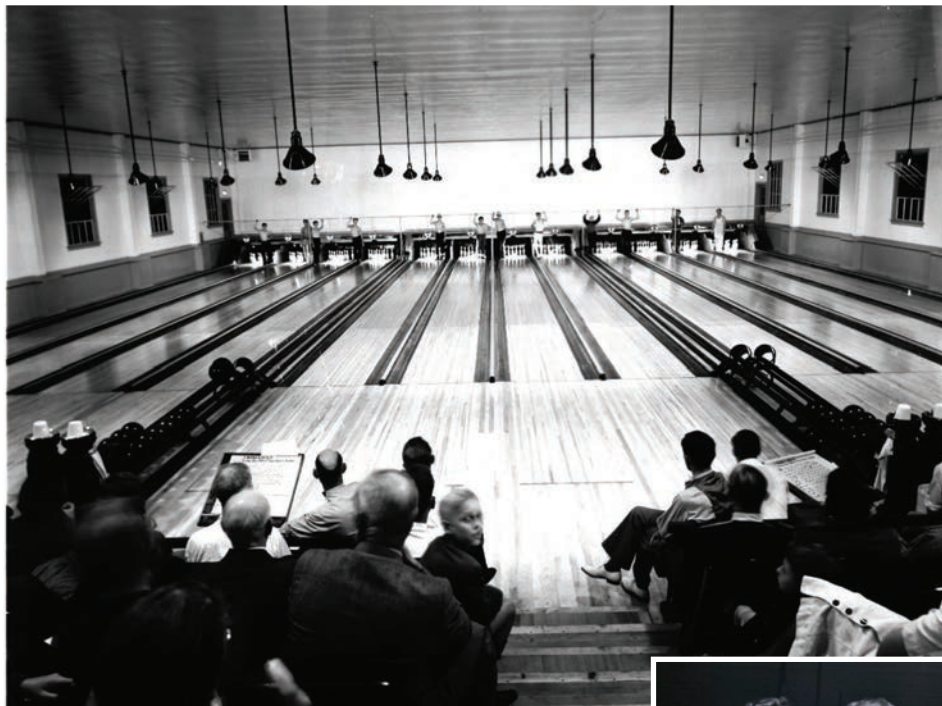
One question which asks what interviewees thought was unique about OL reminds me of a bumper sticker I saw several years ago that read: "You're unique, just like everybody else." Aspects that were talked about weren't all that unique in US industries. For example, both George Pullman and Milton Her-

shey had established successful companies that included planned communities providing workers with housing. Recreational facilities were and are today often provided by companies for employees as are health benefits and retirement plans.

It wasn't that the benefits of employment at OL were so unique; it was the company context. OL (and now Sherrill Manufacturing) had roots in the utopian experiment that was the Oneida Community. In the Community, all members contributed what they had to



*Press room 7B Holloware Division, Oneida Ltd., May 21, 1957*



*Men's and women's bowling leagues were available for all OL employees at the CAC*

the good of the whole, following Perfectionism and the vision of a charismatic leader. OL was an extension of that utopian experiment in that the company fostered among its workers a sense of the significance of each person's contribution to the whole. Further, the company fostered the attitude that employees were the most important resource: this was a foundational value in personnel policy and interactions. One person interviewed quoted Miles (Dunc) Robertson as explaining the OL approach this way: "Under today's (OL) practice, the managers and executives of a business are all employees. They are hired to satisfy two large groups, first their fellow employees, and second, the stockholders."

The feeling that they were all one big family was a common comment in the narratives. Many of the employees were descendants of the original communal family and in many cases employee's fathers, brothers, and grandfathers worked for OL. (In my own case, both my grandfathers and my father worked for OL.) Another narrator compared working for another company and noted that at that company you put in your hours and went home. But at OL, "We not only worked together, (we) played together. I mean...there was an association out of work with many of them." Most lived in Sherrill, Kenwood, Oneida, or one of the other nearby towns and participated in one or more of the many recreational activities underwritten by the company through the Community Associated Clubs (CAC). Bowling and golf at CAC-run facilities were mentioned by several.

For many, OL was a great place to work. Until it wasn't. Looking back in time, those we interviewed see that the end came gradually, with work slowdowns and layoffs becoming more frequent. We invited many to participate in the project, but some were unwilling to talk about the end. They were still processing what had happened to their work and personal lives that revolved around OL. Those we interviewed, who were still with the company at the end said



the closing was devastating. Everything, including health insurance, was lost. Retirement accounts were reduced since many included OL stock, now worthless. A security guard reported walking through offices after everyone was told that the plant was closed and seeing computers still humming, file drawers open, and half full coffee cups on desks. The company was lively one day and shuttered the next.

Happily, the tradition of making high quality silverware in Sherrill is continuing in the form of Sherrill Manufacturing. The business model of the company has been updated to compete in today's tech driven economy. Gone are the Blue Room displays and chain of factory stores, replaced by online marketing and sales. The tradition of management knowing each worker's abilities and contributions to the whole enterprise has continued, as has the personal touch, walking around and maintaining a sense of community. The values of the old Community endure.



## COMING SOON!

Tom Guiler

After a nearly decade-long run, “Mothers and Children in the Oneida Community” has come down at the Mansion House. In its place will be an expanded version of our Summer 2022 exhibit at the Madison County Courthouse, “Oneida Ltd.: More than a Silverware Company.” The exhibit will use Mansion House collections and findings from the Oneida Ltd. Oral History project to explore life at Oneida Ltd. from the mid-1960s to the 2000s. It will highlight how the company evolved from the original Oneida Community, the ways in which Oneida Ltd. built its own community, innovative advertising and technology, the incredible quality of their products, the reasons behind the company’s downfall, and its legacy in Central New York and beyond. It will be a fantastic complement to the upstairs “Oneida Industries” exhibit in extending the timeline to include a more complete history of the company.

While the exhibit will display some treasures from the Mansion House collection, it will also have two exciting interactive elements. The first is a “dining table” where visitors can use many different patterns of silverware in the Program Collection to set their table the way they wish for a special occasion. The second interactive will be a “listening station” where guests can use an iPad to listen to clips from the Oral History Project to hear the voices of people who made Oneida Ltd. so successful and so special.


**ONEIDA, LTD.**  
MORE THAN A SILVERWARE COMPANY

The Oneida Community Mansion House’s Oneida Limited Oral History Project aims to interview former employees of Oneida Limited (OL) who worked everywhere from the factory floor to the boardroom to find out what it was like to work for this storied company. It ultimately seeks to understand what drove OL to become one of the largest silverware manufacturers in the world, as well as the factors that led to its demise.

By listening to dozens of interviews, many important themes emerged from employees at all levels, including **Innovation, Tradition, Community, and Oneida Community Quality**, which are highlighted in this exhibit. Mining its amazing collection of OL artifacts, Oneida Community Mansion House staff has paired the voices of the people interviewed with objects that evoke daily life at Oneida Limited and the company’s impact on Central New York and the World.

*What is your story of working at Oneida Limited?  
The Oneida Community Mansion House wants to hear it!*

To learn more about the project and get involved,  
scan this QR code:



Visit the Oneida Community Mansion House today to learn more about the history of the Oneida Community and Oneida Limited!

Oneida Community  
**MANSION HOUSE**

LIBERTY TRUST

Curated by Oneida Community Mansion House Staff

**INNOVATION**

Throughout the 20th century, Oneida Limited was known across the country and around the world for the quality and beauty of its silverware and its bold, eye-catching advertisements. As a leader in the industry, Oneida’s silverware patterns and ads both embodied and influenced the styles of the times from art deco and colonial revival to sleek, modern styles. Many of the most iconic ads and patterns have made lasting impressions in customers’ memories, some of which are displayed in this exhibit. Can you spot an advertisement that you remember?

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS AND DONORS

September 15, 2022 – March 23, 2023

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Georgia Frank  
Cynthia Hartwig Gyorgy  
Dean Gyorgy  
Mark Gyorgy  
Geraldine Haskell  
Wanda Herrick  
Suzanne LaLonde  
Jennifer Rose  
Jessica Rose-Malm  
William Vartorella  
Leanna Wolfe

## GIFTS TO OPERATING/ANNUAL FUND

*September 15, 2022 – March 23, 2023*

### \$30,000 to \$400,000

Kenwood Benevolent Society  
NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic  
Preservation  
Oneida Savings Bank Charitable  
Foundation

### \$10,000 to \$20,000

John Pierrepont Langford &  
Cornelia Hatcher Family Fund

### \$6,000 to \$9,999

### \$1,000 to \$5,000

Humanities New York  
Hugh and Kim Bradford  
Sally Fischbeck *In memory of*  
*William "Buzz" Boomer*  
Katherine A. Garner  
Thomas C. Hatch and Laura  
Wayland-Smith Hatch *In memory of*  
*Dard & Carol Wayland-Smith*  
Susan Belasco and Linck Johnson  
Ann Matthews  
Rhoda Molin  
Jeannette Noyes  
Jeffrey and Michele Parker, Barry  
and Patty Parker *In memory of Alva*  
*and Fannie Barron who joined OC in*  
*1852 w/their children*  
Neal and Kelly Rose  
Robert and Linda Wayland-Smith

### \$500 to \$999

Anonymous  
Nigel and Ellen Bolland *In memory*  
*of Francie Wyland, Giles Wayland-*  
*Smith, Jody Wayland-Smith and Nini*  
*Hatcher*  
S. John and Sue Campanie  
Jane Burnham Noyes and Andy  
Ingalls  
Cleve and Mary MacKenzie  
Paul V. and Judy Noyes  
Noelle Noyes and Darren Reavme  
*In memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
Jon Rosbrook  
Pody Vanderwall *In honor of Christ-*  
*mas remembrances*  
Claudia Wiley

### \$250 to \$499

Wilber and Judy Allen  
Monique La Londe Alig  
Anne and Paul Anderson *In memory*  
*of Theodore, Ed and Christopher Kelley*  
Robert and Mary Burdick *In honor of*  
*Pody Vanderwall*  
Peter Cooke and Barbara Fretwell-  
Cooke  
Don and Cathy Cornue *In memory of*  
*Giles Wayland-Smith*  
Polly Darnell *In memory of Francie B.*  
*Wyland*  
Jim Dean  
Paul and Amy Gebhardt  
Cynthia Hartwig Gyorgy *In honor of*  
*the staff*  
Ellen Percy and Scott Kraly  
OCMH Staff *In memory of Thomas*  
*Hall*  
Gary and Becky Onyan  
Mary E. Payne *In honor of Carol*  
*Gibson Wayland-Smith and in thanks*  
*for her fabric stash*  
Greyson Ross  
Betty Sutton *In memory of Jack*  
*Sutton, Jr.*  
Anthony and Jennifer Troilo *In*  
*memory of Jeanne and Eugene Garner*  
*and Tim and Sue Garner*  
Eric Conklin and Trine Vanderwall  
*Holiday gift In honor of Pody Vander-*  
*wall for M.H. exhibitions*

### \$100 to \$249

Howard and Mary Jo Astrachan  
Deborah Austin  
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Barnard  
David and Karin Beickert  
Mary Blair  
Robert and Linda Cochran *In*  
*memory of Jane Rich*  
Timothy Cumings  
Althea L. Davis  
Mary Ellen DeBarr *In memory of*  
*Melinda Noyes Cross*  
Anne Herrick Dienel and Nick  
Dienel  
Barbara Downs *In memory of Joann*  
*Sanderson Ladds*  
Wayne and Robin Edkin  
Kevin and Laura Noyes Engel  
Linda Evans *In memory of Dwight L.*  
*Evans*

Geoffrey and Lois Ezell  
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Kenneth and Mary Gilkes  
Kurt and Kimberly Gormley  
Annabel Smith Haley  
Dave and Mary Hannum *In honor of*  
*Camilla Life (Bolles)*  
Wanda Herrick *In memory of*  
*Crawford M. Herrick, Jr.*  
John R. and Susan J. Vanderwall  
Kuterka Merry Christmas wishes for  
Pody Vanderwall, Robin Vanderwall  
& Family, Dirk Vanderwall & Family,  
Trine Vanderwall & Family, and the  
Mansion House Staff  
John and Jacquelyn La Raia *In*  
*memory of Allan C. Jones Family*  
Donald and Patricia Lake  
Bruce and Barbara Lanz *In memory of*  
*Melinda Noyes Cross*  
Glenn Kimball Laura L. Herrick  
Kimball *In memory of Crawford M.*  
*Herrick, Jr.*  
Daryk and Sarah Macrina  
Sandra Markham  
Jonathan and Audra Marks *In*  
*memory of Beal Marks*  
Roberta Mayer *In memory of Jessie*  
*Mayer*  
James and Beverly Messenger-Harris  
William B. Meyer  
Kenneth and Donna Moulton *In*  
*honor of Cindy Gyorgy*  
Gerold Noyes *In memory of David*  
*Noyes*  
Oneida Indian Nation  
Sara Orton *In memory of Eliot (Cot)*  
*Orton*  
Thomas & Bonnie Panara  
Meredith Leonard and Edward Pitts  
John and Kim Raynsford  
Neal and Kelly Rose *In memory of*  
*Melinda Noyes Cross*  
M. E. I. D., LLC Construction  
John Swift and Ann Raynsford *In*  
*memory of Francie Wyland*  
Deirdre Stam  
Betty Ann Stewart  
Kevin Stilwell  
Jeffrey and Eileen Stone *In memory of*  
*David B. Stone*  
Edward and Ann Thoma  
Alessandra Urist



Giovanna Urist and Tom Guiler  
 Joseph and Carole Valesky  
 Eric Conklin and Trine Vanderwall  
*In memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Pody Vanderwall *Recognizing Tom  
 Guiler's contributions and enthusiasm*  
 Pody Vanderwall *In memory of  
 Les Mitchell, Scott Austin, Francie  
 Wyland, and William Boomer*  
 Pody Vanderwall *In appreciation of  
 Don & Cathy Cornue & Joan Nickerson*  
 Kate Wayland-Smith *For the OC  
 Cemetery*  
 Patricia Wayland-Smith  
 Paul and Judy Wayland-Smith  
 John and Karen Wellman  
 Herb Wilkinson *In honor of Michael  
 F. Bedford*

#### up to \$99

Theresa Batty  
 Patricia Bielicki  
 Darryl and Christina Booth  
*In memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Don and Cathy Cornue *In memory of  
 Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Cheryl Coulthard  
 Shirley Drummond  
 Jeffrey Durbin  
 Matthew Enright  
 Linda Evans *In memory of Melinda  
 Noyes Cross*  
 Linda Evans *In memory of Thomas  
 Hall*  
 David Fel Evans *In memory of Harry  
 S. Jones*  
 Richard Fenner *In memory of Bill and  
 Mary Raynsford*  
 Dawn Franits *In memory of Sean  
 Johnson*

Katherine A. Garner *In memory of  
 Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Cynthia and Allen Glover  
 Christian Goodwillie  
 N. Gordon Gray  
 Ronald J. and Karen Gregory *In  
 memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Thomas C. Hatch and Laura  
 Wayland-Smith *Hatch In memory of  
 Dard & Carol Wayland-Smith*  
 Gregory and Paula Iannello  
 Suzanne A. Irland *In memory of Gale  
 E. Irland*  
 John and Elizabeth Kelly  
 Nairn Kucharik *In memory of Beal  
 Marks*  
 Suzanne LaLonde  
 Daniel Lang  
 John Loosmann  
 Dale Major  
 J. Breck and Theresa Martyn *In  
 memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Charlotte Mayer-Florian  
 Bruce Moseley *In memory of  
 Francie Wyland*  
 Shirley Nasci  
 Judith Parker  
 Alan Parkhurst *In memory of Great  
 Grandpa Karl Hatch*  
 Joe Raynsford  
 John and Kim Raynsford  
 Zachary Raynsford  
 Neal and Kelly Rose *In memory of  
 Thomas Hall*  
 Eileen Kinsella and Dennis Sands  
 Robert and Sharie Sblendorio  
 Kathleen Sheffield *In memory of  
 Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Carol Smith  
 Kevin Stilwell

Carolyn Jane Strobel-Larsen  
 Cynthia Swain  
 Judith Talbot *In memory of Stuart  
 Talbot*  
 Heather and Joe Tallman  
 George Tofte  
 Joseph and Carole Valesky *In  
 memory of Thomas Hall*  
 Pody Vanderwall *In memory of  
 Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Robert and Claudia Visalli  
 Kathryn Warner *In memory of the  
 Garners*  
 Ellen Rosenberg Wayland-Smith *In  
 memory of Melinda Noyes Cross*  
 Kate Wayland-Smith *In memory of  
 David H. Stam*  
 Kate Wayland-Smith *In memory of  
 Thomas Hall*  
 Frankie Nicole Weaver  
 Claudia Wiley  
 Elaine Wojciechowski  
 Sharon Woolsey *In memory of Stanley  
 Sprague*  
 Terry Yardley  
 Carol Zaleski

#### In Kind Items / Services

Crawford & Stearns *Donation of time  
 for Phase 2 planning*  
 Justin Grimm *Generous donation of a  
 20' x 40' tent*  
 Susan Haynes *Donation of hand  
 sewn ornaments to the Mansion House  
 bookstore*  
 George Ransom *Three framed paint-  
 ings of the Mansion House*  
 Don Cornue *New South Garden arbor  
 and new display cases*



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**Check out OCMH on Social Media!** Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to hear about special events, learn more about the Community, receive updates on the historic preservation project, and more!

**Have you seen OCTV yet?** OCTV (Oneida Community TV) is the Mansion House's video blog series available on YouTube. Each episode dives into a different aspect of the past and present of the Mansion House and the people that called it home. Topics include highlights from the Mansion House collections, the evolution of the grounds, the fascinating role of women in the Community, and more!

The image shows a screenshot of the YouTube channel page for 'Oneida Community Mansion House'. The channel name is 'Oneida Community Mansion House' with the handle '@oneidacommunitymansionhouse4102', 131 subscribers, and 34 videos. The channel description states it is the official YouTube channel of the Oneida Community Mansion House. The page features a navigation menu on the left with options like Home, Shorts, Subscriptions, YouTube Music, Library, History, Watch later, and Liked videos. Below the channel header, there are tabs for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. A 'Videos' section is visible, showing a list of recent uploads with their titles, view counts, and upload dates. The videos include 'OCTV - Women's History Month' (48 views, 5 days ago), 'Remembering Oneida Ltd at the Kenwood Sherrill Library' (37 views, 1 month ago), 'OCTV - Mansard Roof Rehabilitation' (164 views, 1 month ago), 'OCTV - 2022 Year in Review' (70 views, 3 months ago), 'OCTV - Oneida Limited' (481 views, 3 months ago), and 'OCMH 2022 - Growing Community' (41 views, 4 months ago). The background of the channel header shows an interior view of a grand, wood-paneled hall with a large arched doorway.

Oneida Community  
**MANSION**  
**HOUSE**

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Oneida, NY 13421

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