

The Warsaw Historical Society and Gates House Museum Application for Pomeroy Foundation Grant

Our all-volunteer Society requests \$1,350.00 to purchase the following:

- **\$678.99 Dell Optiplex 3070 Desktop PC**
- **\$168. 49 27" LED Monitor**
- **\$149.00 Audio-Tehnica USB Microphone**
- **\$309.00 Frigidaire High Efficient – 70 pint Dehumidifier**
- **\$44.52 - Shipping costs**

The Gates House Museum is NYS Regents chartered and located at the crossroads of Western New York, in Warsaw, the Seat of Wyoming County.

Impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Governor Cuomo's March 20, 2020, order our doors closed and most activities ceased immediately. The Gates House had been the only Museum open weekdays and by appointment in the tri-county area.

Constraints. We are no longer able to provide tours, complete genealogy, house/building and event history research, two planned programs; sponsor college interns; high school students; Community Action trainees and complete other important work.

- No income has or will likely be generated from those activities. Additionally, our primary fundraiser, a craft fair, was cancelled.
- More than half of the yearly membership dues remain unpaid.
- A major project ceased—reproduction, accessioning and safeguarding 550 rare glass plate negatives of Warsaw and Letchworth State Park.
- Redesign of our website slowed.

Your funding will greatly enhance our commitment to share Warsaw's distinctive history once the lock-down is lifted.

Computer & Monitor. This new high-speed graphics processing computer and 27-inch LED monitor will replace our Windows 2007 machine which is no longer supported by Dell and a 2008, 17-inch LED monitor.

High Quality Voice Recorder. We will record voice-over narratives for planned videos and upload to our Facebook page and website.

De-humidifier. The 70-pint, energy efficient de-humidifier will replace a 2010 model which removes little moisture from the cellar and impacts negatively the upper two floors of the Museum.

Sustaining Operations by Improved Technology

We aim to increase the sharing of our archives with the public by three strategies.

- Completing a new responsive, mobile-friendly web presence
- Putting new content, high-resolution images and voice-over narratives on the Web and Facebook.
- Reducing moisture conditions

The Web. Approximately 300 vintage images are shared on the Society's website "A Walking Tour of Warsaw". Designed in 2003, our website highlights five tours, including Warsaw's leadership in the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and the Suffrage movement and many historical events. Narratives also discuss Warsaw's once flourishing businesses and industries and two National Register historic districts.

The Work. As the new responsive website is being completed, high resolution images along with voice-over narratives will make more meaningful our website and Facebook stories.

Facebook. Results of research whether it be genealogy-related, house, building histories or significant events are frequently posted and well-received. Adding voice will also create much greater interest.

Long-term Plan.

Constructed in 1824, the Gates House Museum is the former home of Congressman Seth M. Gates, a strident anti-slavery Whig and conductor of the Underground Railroad. It has been the Society's home for the past 82 years. Listed on the National Register, museum collections include 18,000-plus photographs, glass photographic negatives, documents and objects. We aim to make our archives easily accessible to the public over a period of ten years. As important is protecting the Museum from excessive moisture.

Digitization and greater sharing will directly serve the Society's mission to connect the past, present, and future of Warsaw and surrounding areas. Creating high resolution photographic exhibits and on-line content is a vital way for the Gates House Museum to enhance collections stewardship, expand audiences and core services. The equipment would also introduce digitalization to our members, visitors, high school and college students performing public service as well as college interns. We anticipate many will use the equipment to produce voice-over narratives.

The 2019 Budget and 2018 Form 990 are uploaded separately.



**New website under
Construction**

warsawnyhistory.org