

**The Warsaw Historical Society
Presents
The Gates House Museum**



The Warsaw Historical Society

In 1938, the **WHS** organized in the former home of Congressman Seth M. Gates.



**15 Perry Ave
Warsaw NY**

The Society's mission . . .

To accept, preserve and exhibit historical materials related to the past, present and future of the Town and Village of Warsaw, to conduct historical programs and exhibits, and promote the study, sharing and dissemination of local history.

Collections

- Showcase aspects of life in Warsaw from the 1830's
- Rare artifacts complement Warsaw's manufacturing, business, and agricultural legacy.



More Collections

Special exhibits highlight the Underground Railroad, the Civil War and Suffrage movement.



A comprehensive research library of rare maps, newspapers, thousands of photos and documents . . .



Gulf Road - Rte 20a



Immanuel United Methodist



Main & Court Street



Milton Barber Home, S. Main



N. Side of Buffalo Street



Wyoming Co. National Bank



COTTAGE & WINDMILL



L. E. WALKER & SON
BOOKS and WALL PAPER



How It Began . . .

*The **WHS** was first shaped during the 1880's in the ca. 1850 home of Congressman Augustus Frank on North Main.*



ca. 1850

**Congressman
Frank's home**

**Civil War
Monument**



The Gates House

In 1938, the **WHS** found a home in the former home of Seth M. Gates.



The house had been built in 1824 in the Federal-style by a manufacturer of sleighs.



**Seth bought the house
around 1843 and enlarged
it on the north side..**



Congressman Seth M. Gates

(1800-1877)

Seth and his family moved from LeRoy NY to Warsaw around 1844.

He had been a radical anti-slavery Congressman.



Election to Congress

In 1838, Seth, an anti-slavery Whig, won election to Congress.

He was then one of only four abolitionists in Congress.



US Capitol - 1846

Seth twice braved anti-abolitionist mobs . . .

Congressman Gates deliberately sparked controversy by promoting an immediate end to slavery.



~ A radical anti-slavery Whig ~

To protest the expansion of slavery, Seth prominently authored and helped secure the “right to petition”.

Before this, no one could raise the slavery issue in Congress.

NO ANNEXATION OF TEXAS

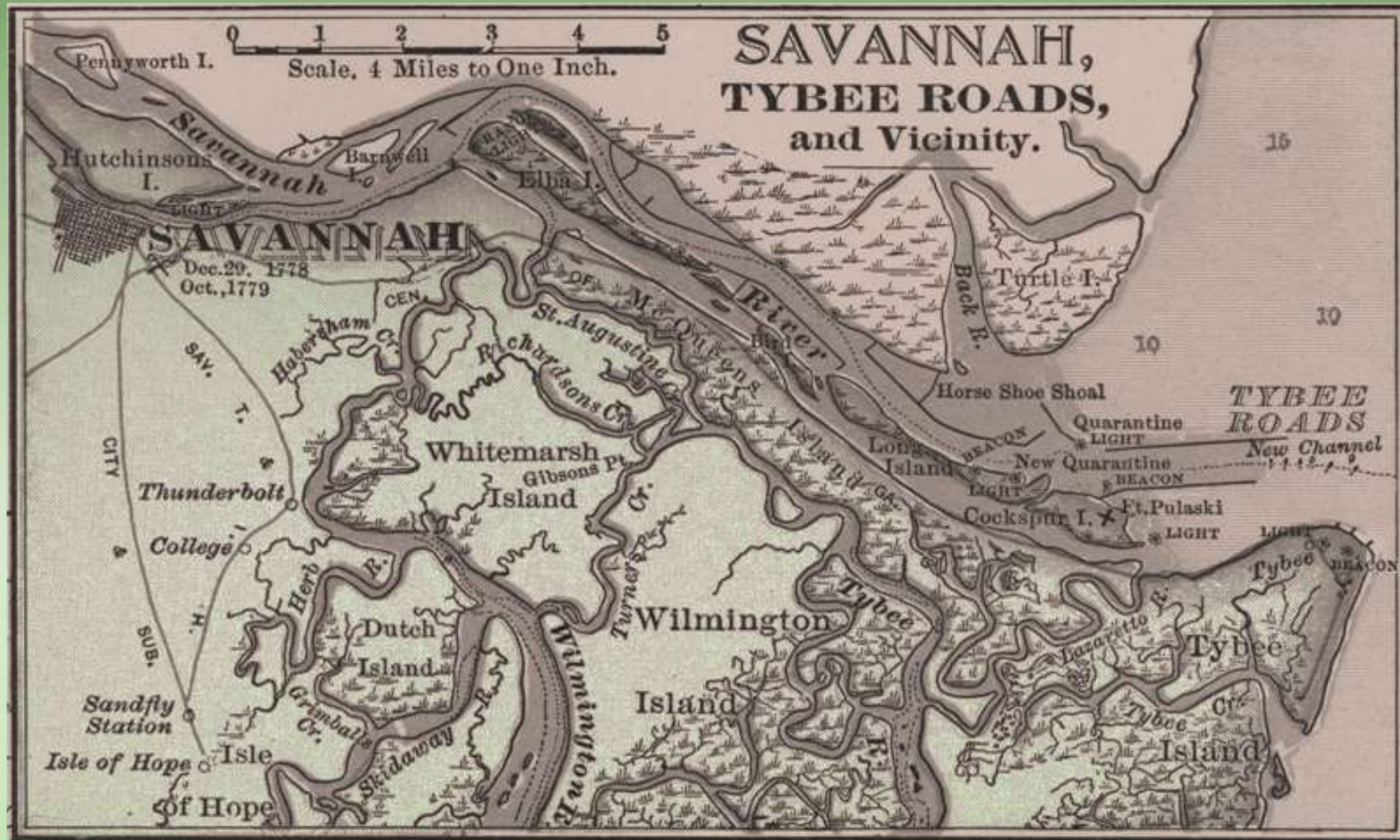
It having been announced by the Government organ that a Treaty for the Annexation of Texas has been negotiated and signed, and will soon be presented to the Senate, the undersigned call upon the citizens of New York, without distinction of Party, who are opposed to the Ratification of said Treaty, to meet at the Tabernacle, on Monday evening, the 22d of April last., to express their opposition to the same.

Dated, New York, April 18th, 1844.

Albert Gallatin
Alfred R. Thompson
Matthew Tompkins *Shipman & Co.*
W. C. Bryant *Saml. J. Mott*
D. D. Field *Paul B. Ruyler*
H. Niwle *Green*
Richard D. Smith *Thos. Cook*
Thos. W. Tucker *J. W. Edmondson*
Mr. D. Watson

A bounty offered \$500 for his body!

Seth mailed the proceedings of the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention to his southern colleagues. A Georgia plantation owner put a reward of \$500 on his body dead or alive.



Seth made an unsuccessful run for a second Congressional term.

His LeRoy home had also been destroyed by an anti-abolitionist mob.

He and his family moved to Perry Avenue (then Water Street) in Warsaw.

Seth received great praise for his actions against slavery.

John Calhoun wrote:

“with his iron pen, invincible zeal & indomitable courage, un-retiring faith & indefatigable labors,” [he is] “the safest & strongest Liberty party man in America.”

Seth entered business in Warsaw . . .

He engaged in
several enterprises
such as stove and
lumber manufacturing.



Conductor of the Underground Railroad

Seth also became a conductor of the Underground Railroad.

Warsaw was then a hotbed of abolitionism.

His home was known to be a station of the Underground Railroad.



Seth and his wife departed their old home at this death in 1877 and hers in 1892.

William Lloyd Garrison wrote:

Seth M. Gates held for the truth, uncompromising for the right, faithful to a sensitive and enlightened conscience, devoid of all fear of the advocacy and his machinations strong in the conflict of freedom with oppression, serene and confident in the midst of fiery trials and deadly perils . . .

*The **Society of the Village Work***
purchased the old home with green
shutters in ~~1893~~.

Members helped
Warsaw's poor families
for the next 40 years
while also operating an
industrial school for many
of those years.



The Society was organized by Protestant women.

Hannah Humphrey
served as President
for 30 years.

Classrooms were
made on the first and
second floors.



Hannah Humphrey

“Useful Skills” were taught. Girls learned sewing and boys carpentry.



Basket weaving and accounting were also taught.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
WARSAW, N. Y.

SEWING



The Needle and Thimble.
Are Industry's Symbol.

ILLUSTRATED.

NINTH THOUSAND

Basket Weaving



Carpenter's Desk



Wyoming County's first public kindergarten opened in the Gates House in 1894.



Warsaw Historical Society

Wyoming County's first kindergarten
at the Gates House ca. 1894
Teacher Lillian Pritchard

**Grade school classes
were taught here too!**



~ Other Groups ~

The ***GAR***, the ***DAR*** and the Red Cross were also headquartered here.



G A R

GAR – Fraternal organization of Civil War Veterans

DAR – Daughters of the American Revolution

~ A Nurses' Dormitory ~

Nurses in training at the Wyoming County Hospital also lived in the House.



West Buffalo Street

Space was also made for a public health office.

Wyoming County Community Hospital

Next door to the Gates House



West Buffalo Street

The House also hosted meetings of the **Political Equality Club**. The minute books of the club are in our archives.

Ella Hawley Crossett became President before she served as President of the NY State Suffrage Association.



The DAR and The WHS become owners . . .

The Society of the Village Work
gifted the old home to the **DAR** and
The Warsaw Historical Society
during the 1930's.

**Plans to restore Warsaw's
oldest meeting house began.**

The Gates House was slated for demolition.



Civil Conservation Corps Saved the Gates House . . .

Much needed repairs were made as part of a work relief project directed by Warsaw resident Henry Ten Hagen, Sr.



Civil Conservation Corps

The Warsaw Historical Society officially Formed in 1938.

- Officers included Henry Ten Hagen, President and Lewis Humphrey Bishop, Curator.
- Artifacts and stories began to fill the Gates House.



**Curator Bishop
44 years**

The Gates House Today

The Gates House is one of the most important historical buildings in Warsaw. It has been the birthplace of more than a dozen civic and charitable organizations.

It appears today much as it did in 1843 when Seth Gates enlarged the 1824-built home on the north end.

**The DAR gifted title to
the Gates House in 1978.**



The Gates House is listed on the
National Register of Historic Places
and
The Heritage NY Underground
Railroad Trail





SETH M. GATES HOUSE
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES IN 1992
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2020 330

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The Gates House Museum is chartered by The NYS Board of Regents.

The University of the State of New York
Education Department

THE WARSAW HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AMENDMENT OF CHARTER

This Instrument Witnesseth That the Board of Regents for and on behalf of the Education Department of the State of New York at their meeting of June 4, 2019.

An application having been made by and on behalf of the trustees of The Warsaw Historical Society, for an amendment of its charter, it was

Voted, that the absolute charter in the first instance of The Warsaw Historical Society located in Warsaw, county of Wyoming, and state of New York, which was granted by action of the Board of Regents on December 20, 1946; amended on July 26, 1991 be, and the same hereby is, amended to change the corporate name to "The Warsaw Historical Society and Gates House Museum" and to expand the purposes to operate and maintain a museum in the Seth M. Gates House; to accept, preserve and exhibit materials, manuscripts and papers; to conduct historical meetings and exhibits; and to promote the study of local history.



Betsy M. Clark

Chancellor

Granted, June 4, 2019 by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, for and on behalf of the State Education Department, and executed under the seal of said University and recorded as Number 27,012.

Margaret Elin

President of the University and
Commissioner of Education

T O D A Y . . .

**The Society is
going strong . . .**

**Please join our
dynamic group of
history buffs!**



**By joining, you too can
help preserve Warsaw's
rich history!**

**~ And you'll have
fun!**



Check out our website!



www.warsawnyhistory.org

Facebook



[https://www.facebook.com/
GatesHouseMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/GatesHouseMuseum/)

Idea meetings are on the 4th
Thursday during the months
of March through November.

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Thank you!

Visit us at the Gates House!

15 Perry Avenue
Warsaw, NY 14569

Or call us! 585 786 5240

email: gateshouse1@frontier.com