

MEDIA RELEASE

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Historical Society Reprints Popular Book

Ithaca - Industry and enterprise have played an important role in the history of Ithaca and Tompkins County from the earliest days of settlement. The DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County has announced the reprinting of a book that documents the lives of some of some of the illustrious entrepreneurs responsible for that history. "Enterprising Families: Their Houses and Businesses," by local author and historian Carol U. Sisler, is a rich and detailed look at some of the most important players in the development of Tompkins County. Families represented in the profusely illustrated book include Treman, Cornell, and Morse, among others.

Originally published by the Society in 1986, the book has been a perennial best seller, and it was continuing requests for it after it had gone out of print that moved DHS to begin planning a second edition late last year. "This book obviously struck a chord in the community when it first came out," said Executive Director Matthew Braun. "Ithaca and Tompkins County have a proud history of industrial and business development, and of the progressivism and philanthropy that have gone along with it. This book profiles a significant part of that history in a way that is entertaining and interesting."

The author, Carol U. Sisler, has been active in historic preservation in Tompkins County for some time and has been at various times an active volunteer, trustee, and advisor to DHS.

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She also contributes a bi-weekly column to *The Ithaca Journal*, "Then & Now," which looks at people and places in Tompkins County History. Ms. Sisler has graciously given ownership of the book's copyright to DHS.

"Enterprising Families" is available at the Tompkins County Museum Shop, 401 East State Street, in Ithaca, and will soon be available at local bookstores. For more information, call the Tompkins County Museum at 607-273-8284, or email dhs@lakenet.org.

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