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Richardson-Bates House Museum: Keeping Oswego History Alive

By Tessa Uline, Creative Writing and Theater Double Major

If you have explored the backroads of Oswego, many buildings look similar: standard-looking homes, varying storefronts and cozy-looking cafés, the occasional place of worship. There are smatterings of trees and an overall comfortable energy to the city. Going a bit deeper into your exploration, however, may lead you to the historic Richardson-Bates House Museum (RBHM).

Mary Kay Stone, supervisor of Richardson-Bates House Museum, welcomes visitors to the museum. She is passionate about the museum and all the history it has to offer to the city of Oswego. Mary Kay enjoys being able to share how the museum only recently opened and how many of the artifacts collected at RBHM were donated by community members. Keeping history alive is important to her.

Leondra Morgan, an intern at RBHM and a graduating senior at SUNY Oswego, found the position through an event held by the school. Although she had been an intern at a different museum prior, her roles were different. At Richardson-Bates House, Leondra has been more involved with archival work. She has developed skills in “digitizing, archiving, scanning,” and has figured out more of what she would like to do post-graduation. Coming from Brooklyn, NY, Leondra finds the community of Oswego to be close-knit. Being here has given her the opportunity to get out and explore nature more than was offered while in the city. She finds joy in doing fun things with those she cares about, no matter how simple.

Touring the museum, Leondra emphasizes the preservation of history as seen in every room. High ceilings, gorgeous paintings, and Victorian-style light fixtures were only some of artifacts that indicated just how important this museum is to the community and its history. There is a sense of calm throughout the house and a sense of nostalgia: houses simply aren't built like this anymore.

Richardson-Bates House Museum is a beautiful example of living history. Their archival collection is constantly growing and every individual there is passionate about preserving artifacts and educating the community about history in a place that can be found right around the corner.



Richardson-Bates House and SUNY Oswego

Leondra Morgan, Anthropology Major
Mary Kay Stone, Richardson-Bates House

