

# AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM

Located in the Aurora Town Historian's Office, Southside Municipal Center, 300 Glead Avenue, East Aurora, NY. Open Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m., and by special appointment. Visit [www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian](http://www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian).

*The Aurora Historical Society moved the museum in the fall of 2012 in conjunction with the relocation of the town municipal offices. As a result of the new and improved space, artifacts never publicly seen before are now on exhibition. We invite you to enjoy this self-guided tour of the museum on the right side of the room.*

## Special Exhibitions



### The Toys of Toy Town

For more than 20 years, from 1987 to 2009, the Toy Town U.S.A. Foundation released a commemorative toy that also served as the theme for the annual Toy Fest, a festival that drew thousands to East Aurora during the last weekend of August. Take a walk through the history of these commemorative toys.

Items in this exhibit are from the Toy Town Museum and on loan from the private collection of the Town Historian.

### When Doctors Made House Calls



The town doctor was one of the most important people in a growing community. As the Town of Aurora grew, so did the need for more doctors. In Aurora, both men and women filled the role. In this exhibition, learn the stories of Aurora's earliest "country doctors" and what they carried in their modest medical bags.

### A 'New Age' of Medicine



Before the modern era of so-called new-age medicine, people came to East Aurora from across the globe beginning in the 1920s looking for non-traditional healthcare at the Sun Diet Sanatorium. During this time, East Aurora also became known for producing and marketing a variety of other non-traditional healthcare products.

## Permanent Collections

### Native American Collection

The collection of Andrew Kuster (July 9, 1882-June 26, 1971), a surveyor in this area for nearly 70 years, was donated to the Aurora Historical Society in the 1970s.

### The First Settlers

Among the items in the Aurora Historical Society's collection in two display cases are items owned and used by the community's earliest settlers. Also on permanent display are items from the original land survey by the Holland Land Company. Items in the second display case are from the late 1800s, including women's fashion items. Don't miss the old-time curling iron! Displayed on the one side of the double-sided Roycroft cabinet are unique items from throughout Aurora's history.



### 'Prayer for the Lost at Sea'

"Prayer for the Lost at Sea" was painted on the coast of France near Boulogne-sur-Mer, a small fishing village, and was inspired by the life of fisher-folk. It established Sandor Landeau—who later lived at the Roycroft—among the great religious artists of the time. The painting won the prestigious Gold Medal at the 1907 Paris Salon, and Landeau was presented the award by the president of France. In this exhibition, learn the fascinating story of this massive painting and the artist. The painting was restored in the 1970s, but the Aurora Historical Society is planning a more modern restoration in the near future.

## Photograph Exhibition

### Taking Shape: A History of The Circle

It is officially known as Willink Square, named after the village that once surrounded it, but it has never been "square.". Photographs from the Town Archives—on exhibit in the two-sided Roycroft display case—show the history of one of East Aurora's most interesting local landmarks.

