

Historical Association awards OHA Medals

The Onondaga Historical Association will award its OHA Medal to King + King Architects, Robert W. Bitz and Pompey Historical Society. The medals will be presented at a June 21 ceremony at Genesee Grande Hotel.

"The Medal of Onondaga Historical Association is the highest honor given to an individual or organization for contributions made to the cause of preserving and interpreting the heritage of Onondaga County," the OHA said in a release.

King + King Architects, founded in 1868 by Archimedes Russell, is the oldest architectural firm in the state. The firm, known as K2, designed such local landmarks as the National Grid building, Onondaga County Courthouse and Syracuse University's Crouse College and Bird Library. King + King recently relocated to a former factory building on the city's Near West Side.

Bitz is the fifth generation to operate the family farm that became Plainville Turkey

Farm in the 1950s. A Cornell graduate, Bitz also has written books on the state's agriculture history, including "Four Hundred Years of Agricultural Change in the Empire State" and "A History of Agriculture in Onondaga County." In the 1990s, he built The Pioneer Experience museum to house vintage farm implements to educate the public about earlier agricultural methods and ways of life.

Pompey Historical Society, established in 1976, converted a one-room schoolhouse into a museum, the Oran One Room Schoolhouse. The historical society also oversees the William G. Pomeroy Research Center and Museum and the Pomeroy Coe Heritage Center.

The OHA Medal ceremony will be 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Genesee Grande Hotel, 1060 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. Breakfast will be served. Tickets are \$50 each. For more information and reservations, call Lynne Pascale at 428-1864, ext. 314.

— Staff report