



The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

Placid Pioneer

June 2009

Preserving History for Future Generations

By James Welsh

Moving forward is something that occurs over time and with the dedication of many. The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society has made a significant institutional step forward over the course of this past year. Historical societies provide communities with a culture bank and a repository of the community's past. These resources are invaluable. Hidden treasures and documents of a region's history are often tucked away in small historical societies. The generous support through gifts, not only monetary, but of artifacts, photographs, and documents is the basis on which the historical society relies.

The historical society's obligation then in turn is to house these artifacts of regional history, exhibit them or make them available to the public to perform research. This obligation forms the bond between community and historical society. This bond is formed by trust developed over time. As institutions grow, so must their ability to perform outreach and service. The Cornerstone Project that has been undertaken by the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society is an example of institutional growth in which the Society hopes to expand its service to the community.

The Cornerstone Project commits the institution to assess, record, and document our entire collection. Museum collections are only as good as what is known about them. The more we know about the objects that we steward, the more we can do with them to tell our stories. This project is meant to create a comprehensive knowledge of our collection, which to this point has not existed. It is the first step in a long process of collections management which will ultimately culminate in the creation of appropriate archival and collections storage.

Through the support of the community, volunteers, and the diligent work of our board and staff this project will be a success. Our duties and our ability to the community will be greatly enhanced at the close of this first step. The ability to protect and enhance community history will be the ultimate goal of the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society. The Cornerstone project is our first stepping stone on the way to increasing our ability to preserve Lake Placid's history for future generations.



LPNEHS Goes Green

Over the course of the last summer the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society's train station has gotten a significant face lift. The building has been restored to one of its original hues of Green. As the project nears completion it really gives our building a new fresh and vibrant look.

Research concerning the building's original color determined that original the building was a single color of dark green, then shortly thereafter the body of the building became a lighter green while the trim remained dark. Come check out the new look.

A Message From the President

By Peter Roland Jr.

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, our BIG news is that, for the first time, we have undertaken a comprehensive program to completely catalog and digitize our collections. An accessible collection will not only make it easier to generate new exhibits but will also make the collection more available to the public for research and education. The Cornerstone Project received generous grants from the Lake Placid Education Foundation and the Uihlein Foundation, and we hope that you will consider making a contribution to support this ambitious undertaking.

For the second year The History Museum is hosting "24 Hours – A Photographic Interpretation of Life in the Adirondacks". The exhibit has been created by the Lake Placid Institute, and displays the winners of a photography competition by high school students from throughout the Adirondacks. We are pleased to again be able to partner with the Lake Placid Institute in hosting the opening of this exhibit until July 14, when it will be moved to another location in the Park.

The Winter Lecture Series was well received again this year, with many members and guests attending a variety of programs each month during the winter season. We would like to extend another thank you to our presenters, who provided an interesting and educational night out every month from January through April.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for the annual Members Reception to be held on Thursday, July 16th from 5-7 p.m. This will include the opportunity to join the Adirondack Scenic Railroad's Thursday evening wine train departing at 5:30 courtesy of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

So there is lots going on this season and we hope you will take advantage of the benefits offered by *your* Historical Society. It is clear that the ability to continue our current operations and expand programming in the future is totally dependent on the support of our membership and other organizations which underwrite our efforts. If you have not renewed your membership this year or would like to make an additional donation, please use the form enclosed to show your support. Your financial contribution, along with a dedicated corps of volunteers, will allow the Historical Society to continue providing service to the Lake Placid-North Elba community.

We thank you for your support and wish you a fine Summer Season!

2009 Events

Lake Placid Institute 24 Hours Show

May 22-Sunday, July 13

Thursday 7/9/09 Essex County Visitors Bureau After Hours Mixer 5:30-7:30 Pm

Thursday 7/16/09 Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Annual Members Reception 5-7 Pm

Both Events Offer the Opportunity to Ride the Adirondack Scenic Railroad's Wine Train



Lake Placid – North Elba Historical Society

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Board of Trustees

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The Cornerstone Project

A Special Insert

Meet Jenn Tufano

Jenn Tufano has been hoping to return to the Adirondacks ever since leaving Lake Placid in 1998. For four years before that, she worked in admissions at Paul Smith's College, eventually becoming Director. She and her soon-to-be-husband left the north-country in 1998 for Seattle, WA where Jenn earned her Master's Degree in Higher Education while working in admissions and academic advising at Seattle University.

After the birth of their first child, the Tufano family moved back to NY and Jenn stayed home for some time raising their first, and then second, daughters. Eventually,

Jenn transitioned back into the workforce by becoming the Operations Director at the Children's Museum at Saratoga in Saratoga Springs. That position allowed her to connect with donors who regularly supported efforts to educate children in a fun, engaging way. She also worked closely with volunteers who recognized the importance of spending time connecting with children of all ages. At the same time, she became the Director of a Saratoga Springs volunteer organization called Grants To You. Grants To You trains volunteers how to write their favorite non-profit organi-

zation. Jenn brings to this position a rich educational background, a love of the Lake Placid area and a commitment to helping preserve the history and heritage of the local community. Having worked with high school and college students for many years, she is especially excited about exploring new ways to expose and involve students in this valuable local resource. Jenn can be reached at the Collections Management Office full-time weekdays at 523-2529.



Jenn Tufano



Sap Bucket: objects like the Sap Bucket are important elements of our collections.

Volunteer Opportunities

The new Collections Management program at the LPNEHS is looking for volunteers to serve as Accessions Program Assistants and Archival Aids in our new accessioning program. 'Accession' means to properly document a collection of objects, photographs and manuscript materials.

Main qualifications for a successful volunteer include a desire to help the Historical Society and its mission, attention to detail, computer literacy (though not essential), enjoyment of learning something new, handling objects with attention and care, and ability to participate consistently at least 3 hour a week.

We invite interested individuals of all ages to come and learn more about this new and integrative initiative at the LPNEHS. We look forward to seeing you! People who are interested in donating items to our collection are also welcome to bring them to the new office weekdays. To learn more about volunteer opportunities please call Jenn Tufano at 523-2529.

**NEW COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Underway June 2009**



Above: loading door, **Below:** photo's of our newly renovated workspace across from the History Museum.



For over forty years the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society has collected and displayed glimpses of our local history in the Lake Placid Train Station. The Society has focused on the preservation of the train station and its establishment as our museum by replacing the slate roof, restoring the exterior's historic color scheme, refurbishing the floors to the original hardwood, painting of the main rooms of the interior and redesigning the display area. We have made real progress addressing the "bones" and now have embarked on an ambitious project to accession our collections.

The current board of the Historical Society has identified the need to properly document its collection of objects, photographs and manuscript materials. This process is known as accession. The lack of object identification is synonymous with a library that has no card catalogue. By accessioning our current collections we will be able to identify, exhibit, access, store and collect items that are germane to our local history.

Once "The Cornerstone Project" (also known as the Collections Management Program) is complete we will be able to assist local schools in their study of the area. It will provide businesses the opportunity to research and promote their history through the use of our holdings. We will also identify those areas that need collection enhancement.

Our collections will serve as the "cornerstone" of the board's vision of developing the LPNEHS as a dynamic museum working in active community partnership and insuring that the future of North Elba/Lake Placid is anchored in its past.

Project Funding

The Cornerstone Project is expected to be a two year process with a cost of \$120,000. The Lake Placid Education Foundation and Uihlein Foundation each provided grants in the amount of \$40,000, with the requirement that the Historical Society raise a match of \$40,000. The Board of Trustees contributed half this amount with 100% participation. The remaining \$20,000 has been contributed by committed Historical Society members and businesses in the community. We are continuing to raise funds for the project and hope you will consider making a contribution to support this giant leap in our institutional capacity.



Above: Corn Planter, this turn of the century object is another example of varied collections, which include print, photographic, and artifacts of all varieties. For the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society, our collections are our most priceless asset, the basis of our mission and the foundation of our future.

From the Director's Desk

By James Welsh

This year has certainly been an exciting one for the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society. We closed our winter lecture series with a fabulous line up of speakers, we have received generous grant support from two local foundations for our Cornerstone Project and are well on our way to raising our match for the project. We have developed a new brochure and the museum has taken on a new hue. With all these changes we are looking forward to opening the museum for another exciting season.

As we open for the season we will again be collaborating with the Lake Placid Institute to host their "24 hours in the Adirondacks," a high school photography competition. Students throughout the Adirondack Park compete and their



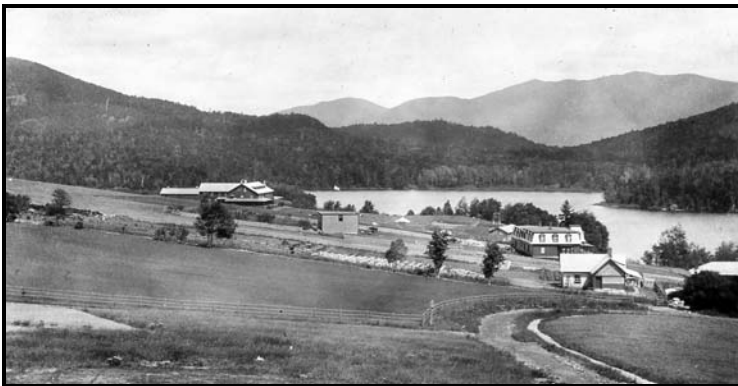
Above: The Doris I, after many years of service the Doris II was retired this year.

works are judged by a panel and the top photos are exhibited. This is an exciting way for us to work with another local cultural organization and to expand our reach in the community. The show will run from Saturday May, 22nd thru

Sunday July, 12th. Last years photos were stunning hopefully you can come see this exciting collaboration.

As much progress has been made at the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society in the past year, it has been a time of exploration and of learning for me. Unfortunately all chapters come to a close and other doors open. I will be leaving at the end of the summer season to pursue other interests.

I have enjoyed working with the able and confident board of the Historical Society and with the community. I hope that the Society continues on the path it turned down last year.



Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society's Wish List

- Flat storage files for maps & documents
- Office chairs
- Desk Lamps
- Folding chairs
- *Lightweight* banquet tables

If you can donate any of these items, please let us know!

Bev's Bits... A report from the Town Historian

by Beverley Pratt Reid

May 4th, 1909: The Bank of Lake Placid began serving the area. In 1916 it moved to the site of the present NBT building. May 9th, 1800: John Brown was born. The statue at his farm was dedicated on May 9th, 1935. May 16th, 1936: The Lake Placid Post Office was dedicated on Main Street after serving in several different locations. May 26th, 1924: Our famous composer resident, Victor Herbert, died in New York City. May 26th, 1926: The Palace Theater was first opened. June 19th, 1927: St. Eustace Episcopal Church was opened at the Main Street property with Reverend Sidney Thomas Ruck as Pastor. June 24th, 1916: The North Elba Town Hall was dedicated during the high school commencement exercises. June 26th, 1923: The Ackerman property was

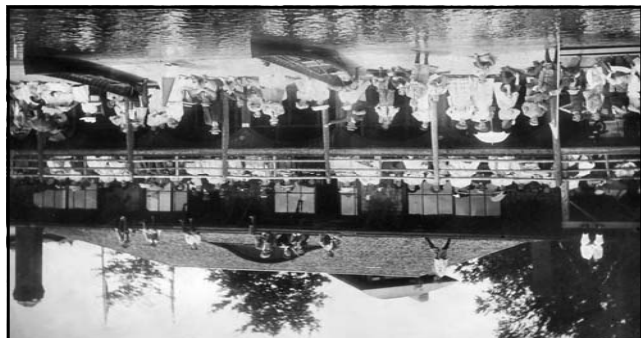
purchased on what is now Parkside Drive and the Village Beach and Park was erected. July 3rd, 1951: The first parking meters were installed on Main Street. July 4th, 1886: The new Stevens House was opened replacing the one destroyed by fire. It was in existence until 1947 when it was demolished. July 4th, 1948: The first Fourth of July Lake Placid Invitational Ski Jump was held. July 17th, 1923: The first operation was performed at the Lake Placid Hospital on Parkside Drive. July 16, 1893: The Shore Owners Association of Lake Placid was incorporated. July 19, 1935: The Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway was opened. July 29th, 1948: The golf course, which opened in 1924, was dedi-

cated to Craig Wood and became the Craig Wood Golf and Country Club.

More "bits" next time...

If you have any questions relating to history of the town or village please do hesitate to contact me:

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LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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