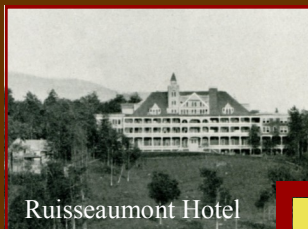


LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE HISTORY MUSEUM

December
2009

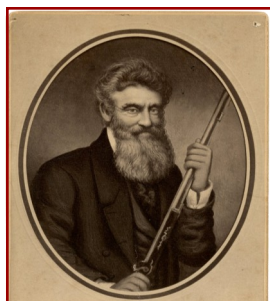


Ruisseau Hotel

PLACID PIONEER

FEATURE ARTICLE—Klara Zierk, Northwood School

JOHN BROWN



John Brown, an abolitionist with local ties to Lake Placid, was actually born in Torrington, Connecticut in 1800. Growing up in Ohio, however, he was urged by his parents to deeply admire the Bible and despise slavery. In his youth, Brown herded cattle for a general in the War of 1812. Just eight short years later he wed a woman named Dianthe Lusk. They had seven children together, before her death in 1831. Just short of a year Brown married a 16-year old girl named Mary Anne Day and then had an impressive 13 children. Over the next 20 years, Brown made a life for himself, building tanneries, selling land and wool. Eventually he made his way up to North Elba, New York, and lived there for two years. Slowly he became a part of the Underground Railroad as an abolitionist. According to Patricia L. Faust, "by the time he was 50, Brown was entranced by visions of slave uprisings, during which racists paid horribly for their sins, and he came to regard himself as commissioned by God to make that vision a reality" (Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War).

He also owned a farm and home near present day Lake Placid. Tourists and locals alike can visit it, along with his gravesite, at 115 John Brown Road, Lake Placid. Sadly, after many years of fighting for slaves and contributing to the efforts of the Underground Railroad, he was found guilty of treason in Virginia and was hung in Charleston, on December 2, 1859. At the time of his death there was a great amount of publicity, and he was even considered a martyr for the north.

FLASH BACK

200 years ago.....Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin, Louis Braille, Edgar Allen Poe and Felix Mendelssohn were born, Napoleon Bonaparte and Josephine were divorced, Robert Fulton patented the steamboat. Not invented yet were the colt revolver, telephone, automobile, elevator, safety pin and aspirin.

100 years ago.....Benny Goodman, Katherine Hepburn and Sen. Joseph McCarthy were born. Stamps were 2 cents, the average weekly salary was \$13, NAACP was founded, President Taft was inaugurated in 10" snowstorm, Shackleton reported finding magnetic South Pole, Peary and Henson reach the North Pole, Wright Brothers delivered the first military plane to the Army, workers started pouring concrete for the Panama Canal, Joan of Arc was declared a saint, and construction began on the Titanic. Not invented yet were penicillin, duct tape, zippers, Velcro or traffic lights.

Lake Placid events.....1859 John Brown hung for treason, 1899 the first Lake Placid Family & Consumer Science Conference, 1909 Hotel Ruisseau Fire, 1909 Seymour Dunn designs LPC lower links, 1919 LP hosts its first major speed skating competition—Eastern Outdoor Championships, 1919 Sentinel Hose Co., Newman Hose Co. & Whiteface Hook & Ladder were combined into one volunteer company, 1929 Stock market crash hits Lake Placid Club hard, 1939 LPC commissions Dr. White's Sinfonietta to replace Boston Symphony Ensemble, 1949 Richard "Dick" Button takes Men's Figure Skating Championship.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Chuck Damp

These are exciting times at the Historic Society. We are well into the Cornerstone Project with the accessioning proceeding along at a great clip. We are indebted to those before us, especially Laura Viscome and Nancy Peacock, who originally started this project and captured information that we are able to build upon. For this to continue and be the project we envisioned we need your help. This project when planned was dependent on volunteers and as the saying goes "we need you"! Please join Paul Otenti, Gail Thayer, Jim Huneycutt, Sandy Danussi, Trisha Metrick, Peter Roland III, Heidi Roland, Nancy Lynch, Anne Damp, Theresa Passantino, Jamie Finley and the Board of Trustees to make this project work. Please give Jenn, Pat or any Trustee a call if you are willing to commit some time and learn something along the way.

If you haven't been by the Museum property in a while, take a look at the improvements that have been made. The Freight house has been refurbished, leveled and painted the same color scheme as the "Train Station". It looks wonderful!

I would also like to formally welcome Pat Kelly our new Administrative Director she has jumped in with both feet. Good things are sure to come.

Thanks to Peter Roland, immediate past president, your tireless dedication is evident. The bar has been set pretty high.



LAKE PLACID - NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE HISTORY MUSEUM

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FROM OUR COLLECTION

FRANCES DOUGLASS SILLECK

PHOTO TAKEN FEBRUARY 1935 BY ODIE MONAHAN
UPPER GOLF COURSE - LAKE PLACID CLUB

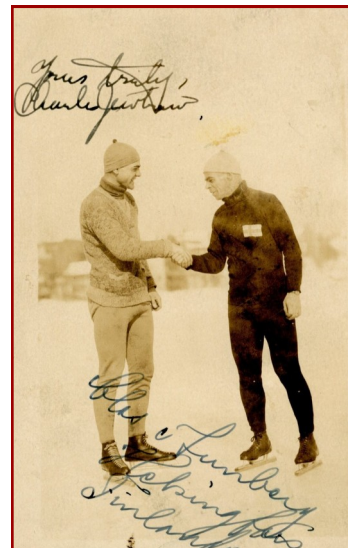


"Remember to keep the tread in your tires."

Fran Silleck was a lifelong Lake Placid resident, 1913–2006, and a graduate of Lake Placid High School and Mildred Elly Business College. She was a volunteer in the 1932 Winter Olympics, managed the Lake Placid Real Estate and Insurance Agency and was an avid sportswoman.

Fran married H. Garrison Silleck in 1948 and together supported many charitable organizations. Fran continued this work after her husband's death in 1984 and was on the boards of the Lake Placid Memorial Hospital and Uihlein Mercy Center.

Mrs. Silleck was a true friend to the Adirondacks. The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society and many other local organizations are indebted to her generosity.



Charles Jewtraw grew up near Lake Placid and made history by being the first gold medalist in the first Winter Olympics in 1924.

WHO, WHERE, WHEN?



Tell us what you know about this photo?
TheHistoryMuseum@verizon.com



Justice Ginsberg
New York Times Interview
July 12, 2009

'Yes, women bring a different life experience to the table. All of our differences make the conference better. That I'm a woman, that's part of it, that I'm Jewish, that's part of it, that I grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and I went to summer camp in the Adirondacks, all these things are part of me.'

SOCIETY SEEKING

SOCIETY'S WISH LIST

- VOLUNTEERS FOR ACCESSIONING!
- Flat storage files for maps & documents
- Lightweight folding chairs

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

SOCIETY UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010 WINTER LECTURE SERIES
 HOWARD JOHNSON'S—7:00 P.M.
 ADMISSION FREE

JANUARY 27—Tony Goodwin
"1932 Olympic Ski Trails"

FEBRUARY 24— Parmelee Wells Tolken
*"Finding Your Way to Lake Placid,
 Early Settlers and the Lake Placid Club"*

MARCH 24—Hadley Kruczek-Aaron
*"The Archaeology of Timbucto:
 Searching for the Pre-Civil War Home of Lyman Epps"*

APRIL 28— Caperton Tissot
*"Oral Histories of Your Community—
 Saving the Past for the Future"*

PAST EVENTS



Trustees Bev Reid and Sue Babcock enjoy Members Day this past July.



Trustees John Lansing and Ed Lynch hard at work at the Freight House. Inside and out got a much needed facelift this year.



Crowd at The History Museum's October Open House to celebrate Cornerstone volunteers, donors and accomplishments.



November lecture by James Bullard and Douglas Brooks at the Northwoods Inn on the history and role of sail ferries on Lake Champlain.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.LAKEPLACIDHISTORY.COM

BEV'S BITS...*A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid*

In February 2009, the Lake Placid Public Library became one hundred and twenty-five years old. Since its first meeting on January 15, 1884, the Library has taken many big steps. The first building was erected on a piece of property leased from the Lake Placid Baptist Church and was 50x75 feet. In 1900 the Main Street was under construction and the building had to be moved back a few feet. The next few years usage was greatly increased, and in 1941 the enclosure of the porch was done to become a reading room.

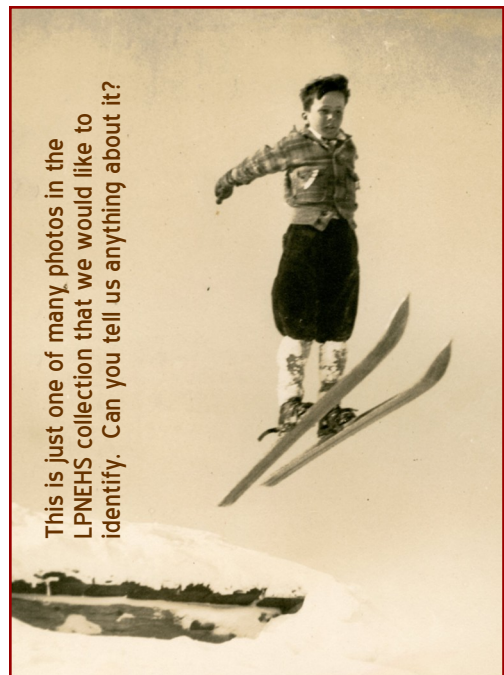


After World War II, more room was needed and the children's and reference rooms were added to the middle floor. A steep and narrow stairway to the children's room was replaced in 1984 and the biography room took over the old office space. This meant that the office had to move to the basement area.

Once again space was needed and in the early 1990's a walkway was erected to the recently purchased house next door providing the addition of a very active computer room, wonderful Art Gallery, biography room, meeting areas and kitchen. At the same time the office was moved to the front of the basement area and the old office became the Archival Room. The total area of the Library is more than eight thousand square feet and is comprised of thirty-one rooms. (These figures were compiled by the custodian).

The first inventory counted two hundred books along with newspapers and magazines. That number of books has been increased today to over two thousand one hundred (all bar coded), as well as many more newspapers and magazines. Inter-Library Loans add the availability of hundreds more books, video tapes, DVD's, and audio books in children as well as adult genre. Our extensive donation of music C.D.'s is utilized by hundreds locally as well as by computer.

This is just one of many photos in the LPNEHS collection that we would like to identify. Can you tell us anything about it?



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