



# LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## THE HISTORY MUSEUM

July  
2014

# PLACID PIONEER

## NEW ANNEX EXHIBIT NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Since the Historical Society moved into our office space in the LPCA Annex, progress has been made on a small, year-round exhibit next to the office. We are pleased to report it is now complete and available for public viewing. While small in size, the exhibit features objects and photographs of very prominent people, places, and things from Lake Placid's storied history.

The exhibit evolved out of our need and desire to create an eye-catching display with objects that can tell stories all on their own. In addition, as we have received such an outpouring of financial support for our glass plate negative preservation project, it was essential that more images from this collection accompany the objects. This was achieved by purchasing several simple light boxes on which the glass plates rest illuminated from below. Next to each glass plate sits a matted "positive" print so the viewer can see both the original photographic medium and the crisp positive from which it was created.

To this end, on exhibit is the wooden steering wheel from the first Doris tour boat on Lake Placid which launched in 1898 and operated for 52 years. Next to the wheel is a glass plate negative and corresponding positive image.

To the left of the Doris wheel is exhibited a lovely woman's dress and two handmade quilts. One of the quilts was found in our collection. The other was recently donated by associates of Margaret Dewey, granddaughter of Melvil Dewey and daughter of Godfrey Dewey. Margaret, now in her early 90s, wished for many personal items be donated to a proper repository and this spring those items were donated to the Historical Society.

In the back corner of the room is a small exhibit on Victor Herbert, American composer and conductor, who spent the last 20 years of his life writing his final compositions while a Lake Placid summer resident. Displayed is his conductor's stand, two album covers for "Sweethearts" and "The Red Mill" and a bronze bust of Victor himself. The Lake Placid Center for the Arts loaned us some personal Herbert items including intricate silver trophies, presentation medals, cufflinks, glasses, and the simple, gold wedding rings for himself and his wife, Therese.

The other displays are of the Lake Placid Club and Henry Uihlein. The Historical Society wishes to thank the Lake Placid Education and the Henry and Mildred Uihlein Foundations for their donations which made possible the beautiful office and exhibit space the Historical Society now enjoys in the LPCA Annex building.

Victor Herbert



Exhibit windows and Doris wheel



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Peter Roland, Jr.

### Summer is here and there is lots going on at The History Museum!

Summer is always busy and this year will be no exception. In the Stedman and Moses exhibit of historic photographs, pictures identified last year have been replaced with more pictures that need identification. Most of these photographs from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century have never been seen by the public; please stop in to assist in identifying the people and places in the photographs. A true history project, it is a work in progress!

The History in Progress (H.I.P.) Camp for elementary school children will be held July 21-24 and includes four days of research on a topic of their choice concluding with presentations for friends and family at The History Museum. Last summer's presentations were impressive and we hope you will encourage your children or grandchildren to participate in the H.I.P. camp this summer.

The Heritage Day event will be on Saturday, August 16 and includes a flea market, live music, used book sale, bake sale, silent auction, and children's activities.

The first ever Lake Placid Historic Pub Tour last September was a roaring success and we will be doing it again! On Thursday September 11 we will be touring four Historic Lake Placid Inns with short presentations at each on the history of that establishment and its place in our community. Watch the local papers for details. Last year's event sold out!

With so much going on this season 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 could 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 Society to preserve the history of the Lake Placid-North Elba community.

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



**LAKE PLACID – NORTH ELBA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**THE HISTORY MUSEUM  
P.O. Box 189**

**Lake Placid, NY 12946**

**518.523.1608 (museum)**

**518.523.3830 (LPCA office)**

**[TheHistoryMuseum@verizon.net](mailto:TheHistoryMuseum@verizon.net)**

**[www.LakePlacidHistory.com](http://www.LakePlacidHistory.com)**

#### Board of Trustees

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### SUCCESSFUL WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Once again we had a solid turnout for our winter lecture series. Topics included ghosts, agriculture, maple sugaring, family histories and, of course, hockey! At right Steve Reed, Denny Allen and Butch Martin answer hockey questions from the audience. Our thanks to HoJo's and the Olympic Center for hosting these public events.



Lex Dashnaw  
during his  
presentation at  
the 2014  
winter lecture  
series

## WHO, WHERE, WHEN?



**Do you know anything about this picture?**  
From the Stedman and Moses Collection of glass  
plate negatives

**Thehistorymuseum@verizon.net**



### **H.I.P. (History in Progress) Summer program for kids**

- **July 21-24, 2014**
- 9am-12pm M-TH, 5pm Thursday  
night presentations and reception
- Open to kids entering 4th—7th grades
- \$25 camp fee
- Full scholarships available

Kids will interpret historical objects, buildings, people, or events artistically or technologically then produce a project which will be installed in a temporary exhibit at The History Museum!

The last evening will include a reception for family and friends. Call, email, or visit the museum website for more information.

## SOCIETY SEEKING

### **OUR WISH LIST**

- We need a HEPA filter vacuum cleaner for the museum building—one with a long attachment for cleaning tall windows.
- **Tax deductible!**

## SOCIETY UPDATES

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JULY 21-24 HISTORY CAMP FOR  
ENTERING 4TH THROUGH 7TH  
GRADERS!**

**AUGUST 16 HERITAGE DAY  
FUNDRAISER AT THE HISTORY  
MUSEUM 10-2PM**

**AUGUST 28 ANNUAL MEETING  
AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM.  
ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS. ALL  
ARE WELCOME.**

**4:30PM, 242 STATION STREET**

**SEPTEMBER 11 HISTORIC INN  
TOUR. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

### **BAKED GOODS, BOOKS AND VENDORS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISER**

Our annual Heritage Day fundraiser needs your homemade baked goods and newer used books (no text books, encyclopedias, or poor condition items). Books can be dropped off during museum hours. If you would like to bake and donate something yummy, please contact the museum office. Do you make or sell items? Tables are available to for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals wishing to sell items Flea Market style. \$25/table.

**All proceeds benefit the Historical Society!**

### **WE DID IT!**

In the fall of 2013, we were issued a matching challenge grant by the Sybil Pickett Fund (Pickett Charitable Trust) to raise \$5000 to be used toward the preservation and presentation of the Stedman and Moses Collection of glass plate negatives. Using the new crowd funding website [www.adirondackgives.org](http://www.adirondackgives.org) hosted by the Adirondack Foundation, we raised \$3325! An additional, private campaign raised a further \$3000+ so this spring we met our match. Thank you to every person who contributed to this campaign and to Cynthia Charles and Sybil Veeder of the Pickett Charitable Trust for their generous and ongoing support.

## **B**EV'S BITS...*A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid*

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Ski Jump**

In 1946 the Junior Chamber of Commerce decided to hold a 4<sup>th</sup> of July ski jump on the ski jump behind the Lake Placid Central School. The idea was to cover the out run with slippery pine needles. This proved to be too dangerous to the jumpers. Plans were then made to hold the jump at the Intervale complex on "snow".

During the following winter, 200 pound ice blocks were cut from the Cascade Lakes and stored in a well insulated ice house midway up the slope of the 40 meter ski jump. Ice crushers were brought to Intervale and placed on location. On the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1948, the ice blocks were manhandled into the crushers, then the "snow" was sent down a metal chute onto the hill. A crew of thirty hardy young men then proceeded to pack the snow by sidestepping up the hill on their skis. This usually took up to eight hours depending on weather conditions. The run was then protected by an application of ammonium chloride, or "snow cement" which inhibited the melting.

The first year on snow was a big success drawing a crowd of over 3000. As the years progressed, the crowds continued to increase. It was the only summer event of its kind in the country. Since then many have tried to duplicate it but none have been successful.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July ski jump continues to be held annually and is a famous summer attraction. In 1983, the "snow" was replaced with a permanent, plastic surface. This installation allows skiers to use the slope in any weather condition without the hours of preparation.

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**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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