



PLACID PIONEER

NEW YEAR-ROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICE LOCATED IN THE LPCA ANNEX

For decades, after Columbus Day weekend, the LP-NEHS would close our beloved History Museum on Station Street and conduct off-season business either from a home office or other borrowed space. As off-season programs, activities, and donations have grown in recent years, securing a year-round office space became essential. We are pleased to share that this fall the need became a reality.

Back in May, the boards of the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and the LP-NEHS held discussions about renovating and renting a portion of the Annex building for Historical Society business. James Lemons, LPCA Executive Director, was supportive of the project from the beginning and helped move the work along.

Thanks to support from the Lake Placid Education Foundation and Uihlein Foundation, the Historical Society now enjoys a functional and efficient space to conduct business with a five-year lease.

Complete with a 1970s vibe, the rented space holds both a large office space facing Saranac Avenue and a second room which will hold an exhibit with collections still to be determined. What is truly ideal about the space and location is its proximity to the glass plate negatives that are still in storage in the LPCA crawl space. Because of some exciting new grant funding (see below) getting to these glass plates easily will help expedite our preservation work on this historic collection.

It is important to note that The History Museum on Station Street will not be going away! It will reopen next Memorial Day weekend and be staffed by docents during the regular Wednesday-Sunday hours. If you were unable to see *The Stedman and Moses Collection of Historic Photographs* exhibit, it will continue through the 2014 season. Director Jennifer Tufano will be at the LPCA office during regular hours and can be reached at 523.3830 or thehistorymuseum@verizon.net



Volunteer Cindy Smith at the new
LPCA office in October



Boxes of unprotected glass
plate negatives

G rants news

This year the LP-NEHS became the recipient of two grants to help us clean, protect, organize, and digitize our collection of glass plate negatives. The Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) awarded funds to purchase archival supplies (acid free envelopes and storage boxes) and digitize each glass plate negative in the collection. The NYS Archives Documentary Heritage Program Arrangement and Description project award also allows for the purchase of archival supplies (we need lots) but the end result will be a physical and digital finding aid which will help researchers and the public find where an individual glass plate is located in storage (which shelving unit, shelf, and box). We are grateful these funding partners recognized the value of this collection and chose to support this important preservation work.

**2013 was an eventful year for your Historical Society and
The History Museum!**

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, due to generous grants from the Lake Placid Education Foundation and Uihlein Foundation we have moved into year round office space with adjacent exhibit area in the Annex at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts. Having a highly visible location throughout the year is a big step for us and will allow Administrative Director and Registrar Jenn Tufano to maximize her efforts in moving the Historical Society forward. Please stop in to say hello to Jenn and see this beautiful new space.

As a result of completing the Cornerstone Project, the three year effort to accession and digitize our entire collection, we now have opportunities for research and public access we have never before been able to offer. We are also more properly storing the collections than ever before and have run out of space in The History Museum and Freight House. Our long term goal is to create more space for collections care, along with year round office and community space, on our "campus" at The History Museum. To that end we have created a group that is currently looking at alternatives and we plan to engage you, our members, in creating a master plan for our needs.

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 support our efforts. If you have not renewed your membership this year, or would like to make an additional end of year 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 Holiday Season!



**LAKE PLACID – NORTH ELBA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



THE HISTORY MUSEUM

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Jennifer Tufano

www.lakeplacidhistory.com
518.523.1608 (museum)
518.523.3830 (LPCA office)

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**DIRONDACK GIVES—MATCHING CHALLENGE GRANT FOR GLASS PLATE
NEGATIVE PRESERVATION**

In September, we received a most welcome phone call from Cynthia Charles who manages the trust of her mother Sybil Pickett. Intrigued by our acquisition of the glass plate negative collection and having already committed money to our preservation effort, she challenged us to a matching grant opportunity in the amount of \$5000. We were thrilled! Once we match this grant, we will have plenty of funds to preserve the remainder of the glass plates.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Adirondack Gives, a crowd funding website at Adirondack Foundation (formerly Adirondack Community Trust), is a new site aimed at helping non-profit organizations achieve their fundraising goals. You can visit the site at www.adirondackgives.org and donate \$10, \$100 or \$1000! A tremendous thanks to Cynthia and her sister Sybil Veeder for their generosity of spirit and support of this project and the historical society through the years. We look forward to updating you on our progress!



This is one of the glass plates from the Stedman and Moses Collection.

Do you know anything about the kids in this picture? Let us know!

2014 'ODDS AND ENDS' WINTER LECTURE SERIES

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00PM AT
HOWARD JOHNSON'S, LAKE PLACID
ADMISSION IS FREE

JANUARY 29 Gordie Little
"The Ghosts of Clinton County"

FEBRUARY 26 Joe Orefice, Professor and owner of North Branch Farm and Mike Farrell, Director of the Uihlein Forest
"Adirondack Living"

MARCH 26 Hockey Panel TBD
"The History of Hockey in Lake Placid"
(special program at the Olympic Center)

APRIL 30 Lex Dashnaw
"North Country History"

SOCIETY SEEKING

OUR WISH LIST

- The History Museum is in great need of a HEPA vacuum cleaner with long arm attachments to reach those high windows. To make this tax deductible donation to the museum, please contact Jenn at thehistorymuseum@verizon.net.



H.I.P. (History in Progress) camp for kids

For the second year in collaboration with the Lake Placid Elementary School, we hosted 9 kids grades 4-6 for a week-long exploration of local history. Alternating between the museum and the LPES, Tom Dodd, LPES teacher and program coordinator

along with trustee Dean Dietrich and Director Jenn Tufano helped kids explore museum artifacts, develop a project idea, conduct research and give a presentation at The History Museum the last day of camp. Projects ranged from early skiing and luge to the history of automobiles and military artifacts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in this event!

Historic Pub Tour

Thanks to the keen wit and creativity of historical society supporter Bill Borzilleri, we hosted our first (and hopefully annual) Historic Pub tour! 25 of us had a fun and rowdy time touring local, historic establishments such as Liquids & Solids, Lisa G's, Lake Placid Pub & Brewery, Northwoods Inn, and the Mirror Lake Inn. There was such enthusiasm and interest for this event we hope to hold another next year exploring even more great, local establishments. Our thanks go out to all the participating business owners, Ginger Huber for driving the trolley, and of course BILL!



Left: Bill Borzilleri and Peter Roland at Mirror Lake Inn

Top right: Gary Smith at Northwoods Inn

Bottom right: From the trolley to Northwoods inn



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

Another winter is now upon us and reminded me of a story that Mary MacKenzie, Historian, wrote for the LAKE PLACID NEWS in September 1975 entitled: "Kings of the Road: A 144-Year Pratt Tradition". In the article she wrote how William E. Pratt was elected Superintendent of Highways for the Town of North Elba in 1887 and continued in that position for many years. In 1909, his son, William D. Pratt, held the position until his death in 1923. At that time William E.'s grandson, Gordon L., took over the reins and was re-elected until his retirement in 1972.

During these years Gordon's brothers, Horace Sr., Raymond, William and Cecil were also employed as drivers, mechanics, night watchmen, etc. Many harrowing stories have been related from them regarding the blinding snow storms, snow banks as high as the telephone lines, broken down machinery etc.

However, the Pratt story didn't end with Gordon's retirement. At the time of Gordon's retirement, his nephew, Kent, had already notched twenty years with the town and had decided to run in the next election for Superintendent, which he handily won. Kent continued until his retirement in December 1997 just a few years short of Mary's prediction.

One can only imagine the changes made in the roads from 1898 until 2013. First from serving a population of a couple of hundred to thousands; from horse and buggy to cars and eighteen wheelers; from rutty dirt to brick to macadam; from simple one lane (with necessary turn offs along the way) to two lanes; and through areas that once were never meant for roads to go. Machinery improved from simple wooden rollers pulled behind horses to huge tandem plows. I am sure more than William E. could ever have imagined what changes the future held back in 1887.

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