

# PLACID PIONEER

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Newsletter

June 2016

## NEW EXHIBIT THIS SUMMER

We are pleased to announce that we are in the middle of a 2-year project to install a permanent "Lake Placid History" exhibit at the Museum. The first half of the exhibit titled, "Lake Placid: The Early Years," will document history from the 1800s to 1920. The opening reception will be held on June 16th, 5-7pm (\$20 donation).



*Adirondack Mountains, Lake Placid Inn.*

**Above: Historic post card of the Lake Placid Inn  
Below: Member of the Rotary Club at the History Museum**

## ROTARY CLUB HELPS THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This past May, Rotarians from districts 7190 & 7040 visited Lake Placid for their annual conference. They volunteered their time and service to local organizations in our area with the History Museum being one of them.

Members worked all day painting the middle room of the Museum and hallway. Frames were built to create new panels for exhibits. There were over 18 members who helped assist with the Society's Stedman and Moses Collection of Glass Plate Negatives. During the span of the day, they cleaned 714 negatives! Rotary members enjoyed looking at the images on the light panels and sharing with friends. Their help was so appreciated!

## STUDENT PROJECT

The Northwood School History students have been collaborating with the Historical Society by participating in a special project which engages them with members of the community by conducting oral history interviews.

As the Historical Society prepares a new exhibit, a Lake Placid History, they have identified topics of local history that would be exhibited such as sports, hotels, and industry. Members of the community who have experiences or background in these topics were identified and paired with a student to be interviewed.

The final product of these interviews are planned to be shown as part of next year's edition of the exhibit.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

Dear History Lovers,

As we approach the summer of 2016 and the opening of the History Museum, it feels as if the Society has been a beehive of activity –

In preparation for the installation of our new exhibit, “Lake Placid: The Early Years,” the country store has been dismantled and put in storage. We were happily one of the local organizations that the Districts 7190 & 7040 Rotarians are donating a day of service to. They painted the exhibit room and adjacent corridor and built frames for additional display panels. We also taught interested Rotarians how to clean the Steadman and Moses Collection of Glass Plate Negatives. They cleaned 714 negatives! The Historical Society sincerely thanks the Rotary Club for this generous donation of their time and expertise.

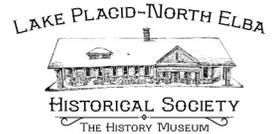
Planning is well underway for the new exhibit, “Lake Placid: The Early Years.” We are covering the years between 1800 to the 1920’s this year and then adding to and expanding the exhibit next summer. Please join us for the opening reception June 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm (\$20 donation).

“The Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Department: 110 Years of Service and Dedication” continues in our waiting room gallery. I hope you will visit if you missed it last summer.

This school year we have partnered with Tom Broderick of the Northwood School and his Honors History students as they explore history first hand. They have worked on the glass plate negative collection, been introduced to the primary sources at the Lake Placid Library, and have interviewed citizens of Lake Placid to create video additions for the new exhibit.

As you can see, we have been very busy, but not too busy to welcome you to a new summer season at the History Museum. Please come and visit us this year.

*Parmelee Tolkan*



## **Board of Trustees**

Parmelee Tolkan, President  
Pat Kelly, Vice President  
Patty Clark, Secretary  
John Huttlinger, Jr., Treasurer  
Janet Bliss  
Laura Jean Clark  
Dean Dietrich  
Chuck Finley  
Karen Fountain  
John Hopkinson  
Georgia Jones  
Doug Lansing  
John Lansing  
Beverley Reid  
Peter Roland, Jr.

♦♦♦

Carla Eilo—Administrative  
Director/Registrar

## BEV'S BITS~

### **A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid**

Mary Landon MacKenzie, 1914-2003 Historian, Town of North Elba, Village of Lake Placid

The story of Lake Placid and North Elba would be lost in the past if it were not for the dedication and love of the area of Mary MacKenzie. Yes, there were Historians before her and will be some after her, but her thirty-seven years of researching and documenting of our history will never be duplicated.

Mary was born in lake Placid in 1914. She graduated from Lake Placid Central School in 1930, then immediately joined the workforce and assisted with the 1932 Olympic Committee. The Olympic experience was the beginning of her long and successful career as a secretary for various local establishments.

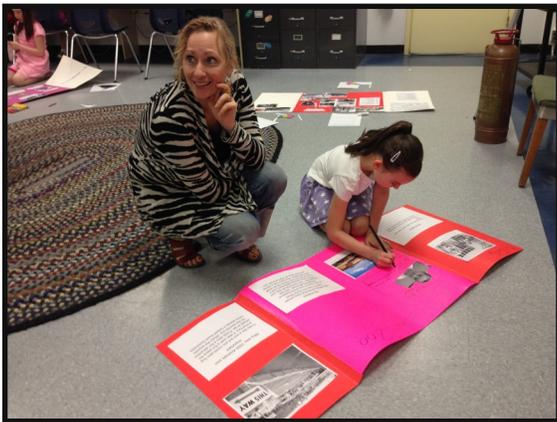
(continued on page 4)

## UPDATES~

- We concluded the 2016 Winter Lecture Series in April with a presentation by Peter Martin about the History of Golf in Lake Placid. We had a great turnout and hope all who attended enjoyed the series.



- 4th Grade History Fair is underway. Students are scheduled to meet for one week in June to learn about their local history. This year Wilmington Historical Society will be joining us to share the history of both



Thank you to our recent supporters...  
Children's Programs: Stewart's Shops, The Black Rock Foundation Fund  
Museum Collections: The Cloudsplitter Foundation  
Exhibits: J.M. McDonald Foundation  
Conference Support: Museum Association of New York

### Contact us:

 [www.lakeplacidhistory.com](http://www.lakeplacidhistory.com)

 [info@lakeplacidhistory.com](mailto:info@lakeplacidhistory.com)

 **The History Museum** (518) 523-1608

 **LPCA office** (518) 523-3830

## SOCIETY EVENTS

### MEMORIAL DAY—COLUMBUS DAY

Museum opens for the season May 28th

Summer Hours: Wednesday—Sunday, 10am-4pm

### June 16—NEW EXHIBIT—OPENING RECEPTION

At The History Museum—5-7pm, \$20 donation

### August 13—HERITAGE DAY

Fundraiser at the History Museum, 10am—2pm

### August 18—ANNUAL MEETING

All members are welcome.

The History Museum—4:45pm, 242 Station Street

On the agenda: Election of new officers

Voting on revised Historical Society By-Laws

Copies of the revised by-laws are available to all members. Please contact the Historical Society to receive one.

### September 2016—HISTORIC FALL TOUR

To be determined.

## HERITAGE DAY~2016

### **Baked Goods, Books, and Vendors Needed for Heritage Day 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 Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm. If you would like to bake and donate something, please contact the museum office.

### **We welcome Ted Comstock back to Heritage Day!**

Ted will be joining us this year to appraise your antiques. The cost is \$8 for one item, \$20 for 3 items.

### **We are looking for Main Street photos and hope you can help us.**

The second installment of the Lake Placid History Exhibit will feature Main Street photos spanning **all** years of Lake Placid history. We will have someone scanning your shared images at the Museum during Heritage Day. Photos will be added to the exhibit for the 2017 season.

**BEV'S BITS...** (continued from page 2)

Mary loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker and “rock hound.” She made the time to support local organizations and held offices on many of the town Boards. She was one of the founders of the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society.

In 1964 Mary was appointed Historian for the Town of North Elba. This is when she began her “journey” into the past. She spent hours on the road between Lake Placid and Elizabethtown visiting the Essex County Clerk’s office. She would delve into the birth, death, and property records of past residents of North Elba.

The information found in Elizabethtown was not enough to satisfy her interest in local history. She wrote hundreds of letters to the Library of Congress and the Veteran’s Administration to continue her searches to create a complete history of the town. She certainly left no stone unturned.

The proof of her dedication can be found in the dozens of files, scrapbooks, and pictures she accumulated over the years. These collections are now available in the archives of the Lake Placid Public Library. As we work on the latest exhibit, “Lake Placid: The Early Years,” we find ourselves returning again and again to Mary’s own research. Our upcoming Lake Placid history exhibit would have many gaps without Mary’s scholarship and writings.

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 189, 242 Station Street

Lake Placid, NY 12946

