

# PLACID PIONEER

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Newsletter

June 2017

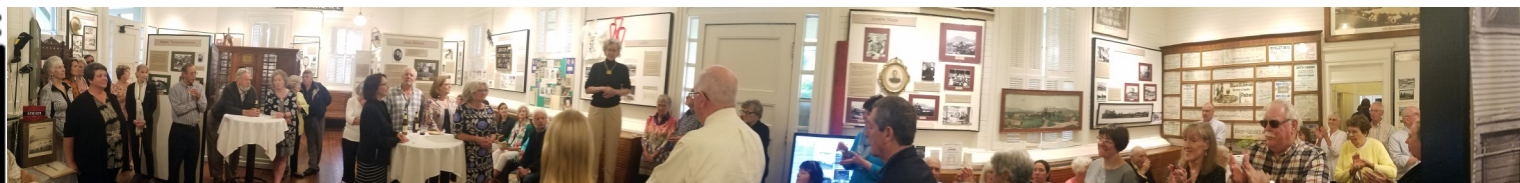


Exhibit opening and the dedication of the Mary MacKenzie Gallery.

## WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE ~

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the donation of the train station to the Historical Society by Frances and Louise Brewster in honor of their parents, Martin and Margaret Brewster. In June we celebrated by hosting a cocktail fundraiser which was a lively event with food and music. It was also the opening of the new exhibit, "Our History, Lake Placid: Then and Now." During the celebration the main gallery was dedicated and named after Mary MacKenzie, the former town historian.

## LAKE PLACID ELEMENTARY 4TH GRADE HISTORY FAIR



The Lake Placid Elementary School 4th graders spent one week in June studying an artifact from historic collections. For the second year in a row, the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society teamed up with the Wilmington Historical Society and guided students with their research of the collective history.

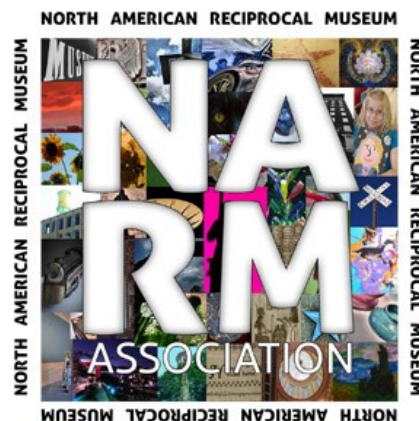
This project has been such a hit with the classes, this year we are bringing the 4th grade exhibit to the History Museum to share with the students' families, Historical Society members and Museum visitors! During our annual Heritage Fair, September 23, you will have a chance to view the artifacts the students have chosen to learn about and their research.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL OF MUSEUMS

Starting this year, members of the Historical Society will be offered free admission to the History Museum. Also, a 10% discount will be honored in our museum shop and for any Historical Society items sold at the LPCA's Gallery 46 on Main Street.

We are pleased to announce our participation in the North American Reciprocal of Museums (NARM). Members who donate \$100+ will also receive benefits that extend to over 924 other museums in North America. Offers include free admission to museums, shop discounts, and discounts on tickets and lectures.

Please visit our website to learn more about membership or join today! <http://www.lakeplacidhistory.com/join-and-support/>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

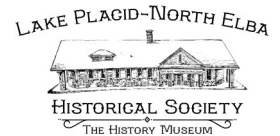
Dear Friends,

Our 2017 summer season is underway. It brings change to the Historical Society. Our Director, Carla Eilo has relocated to New York City. We are very sorry to see her go and wish her all the best!

Courtney Bastian will be joining us as the new Director. She comes from the Oneida Community Mansion House and the Herkimer Home State Historic Site in Little Falls, NY. She will begin on July 31st. Stop by the History Museum during weekday hours to welcome her. The Society looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

The History Museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am—4pm. If you have visited recently, you will be thrilled to see our new museum lighting. A generous grant from the Uihlein Foundation has allowed us to put state of the art lighting in the main gallery illuminating our new exhibit, “Our History—Lake Placid: Then and Now.” Come visit us and enjoy the new exhibit.

On a very sad note, we lost two of our longtime Board members this winter—John Lansing and Chuck Finley were two of our greatest supporters and fans. They both pitched in with all their talents to make the Historical Society a viable institution, open to all, scholar and average citizen. We will surely miss them.



### **Board of Trustees**

Parmelee Tolkan  
*President*

Patty Clark  
*Vice-President / Secretary*

John Huttlinger, Jr.  
*Treasurer*

Janet Bliss

Laura Jean Clark

Dean Dietrich

Karen Fountain

John Hopkinson

Georgia Jones

Doug Lansing

Kathryn McKillip

Steven Preston

Beverley Reid

Peter Roland, Jr.

Sage Ruttan

Steve Sama

.....

Carla Eilo  
*Director/Registrar*

## BEV'S BITS~

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

MARY LANDON MACKENZIE

Mary Landon was born on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1914 in Lake Placid, New York. Her parents were Melzer and Lotta Landon. She had three sisters and one brother. Mary attended Lake Placid Central School and graduated with the Class of 1930.

Immediately upon graduation Mary began working for the III Olympic Committee as a personal secretary. This experience lead to an outstanding secretarial career, including village clerk, legal secretary for the law offices of Harold R. Soden and personal secretary and office manager for Henry J. Uihlein at Heaven Hill Farm for more than twenty years.

In 1961, Mary was appointed Historian for the Village of Lake Placid and later for the Town of North Elba. This was a position she held for the next thirty-seven years. During her appointment she travelled all over the county and state researching Lake Placid History. These travels also included hundreds of lectures and dozens of printed articles. When she retired, she left copies of these as well as boxes of maps and hundreds of pictures telling the history of the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid. Her extensive files are located in the archival room of the Lake Placid Public Library, according to her wishes.

In December 1944, Mary married her good friend, Seymour MacKenzie. They were great outdoors people and spent hours fishing, hiking and rock-hounding. Their quaint little cottage was located on a quiet street and was surrounded by a garden of Adirondack flora, a place of beauty never to be duplicated.

(continued on page 3)

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

Mary joined every civic and political organization in the area and managed to hold an office in every one of them. One of her greatest accomplishments was the organizing of a restoration committee to rebuild the Mill Pond Dam after the devastating storm of April 1970.

During her tenure, Mary had published hundreds of articles in local newspapers and organization's newsletters, however, it was not until her last few years that she published her own book, "Lake Placid-North Elba, A History, 1800-2000."

After a long illness, Mary was put to rest in the North Elba Cemetery on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003. However, she had one more surprise. Hidden away in an old desk was found a package of 151 poems written by Mary in her youth (1930-1937), now published by the Lake Placid Public Library.

Of all the honors Mary received, including the Lake Placid Hall of Fame, Who Who's of American Women, etc. she was the most proud of receiving the "Edward J. Winslow Award of Excellence" presented by the office of the New York State Historian after the publication of her book.

Mary will always be remembered by her famous quote: "I HAVE TRAVELLED A GREAT DEAL—IN THE TOWN OF NORTH ELBA."



Photo by Nancie Battaglia

Thank you to our recent supporters...

Children's Programs: Stewart's Shops

Programming: Adirondack Foundation

Conference Support: New York State Council  
on the Arts

General Support: Corning Chisholm Fund

Exhibit Support: Essex County Arts Council

## 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

## HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Our annual Heritage Festival 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.

**All proceeds benefit the Historical Society.**



Photo from the Stedman and Moses Collection of Glass Plate Negatives

## SOCIETY EVENTS

### June 3—COLUMBUS DAY

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

**New Exhibit**—Our History, Lake Placid: Then and Now

### September 23—HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Join us for our annual family event that features our famous bake sale, used book sale, and live music. In the Museum we will be celebrating the Lake Placid Elementary 4th grade exhibit. History projects and artifacts will be on view. There will be activities for all ages. 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

### October 13—HISTORIC FALL TOUR

This year the Historical Society will offer a tour of the Haunted history of Lake Placid. The tour will stop at historic locations throughout town where there have been reports of ghostly activities. The Society has teamed up with the Adirondack Park Paranormal Society (APPS) to conduct an investigation at Heaven Hill Farm. The APPS will give a short presentation and reveal their findings! Stay tuned for registration of this fun event.

## Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed payable to The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

☐ Please charge my credit card

Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

☐ Curator - \$1,000 ☐ Sustaining - \$100

☐ Conservator - \$500 ☐ Friends & Family - \$50

☐ Collector - \$250 ☐ Other Amount - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

P.O. Box 189

Lake Placid, NY 12946

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE