

Field Trip to the History Museum

In October the Lake Placid 8th grade classes visited The History Museum in a first ever organized field trip. The goal of the visit was to learn how museums display and interpret history in preparation for their annual trip to Washington D.C.

On their worksheet students were asked to ‘unravel a mystery,’ and to find an artifact that is familiar to them and tell how it has changed across time. Students explored the “History of Lake Placid” exhibit and gathered facts to share with one another. To help the Historical Society improve exhibits for children, students were asked to think of ways the museum can enhance displays and what they thought was the most interesting section in museum.

We hope to make this an annual trip with the 8th grade classes!



A student learning about the Lake Placid Club

Historic Fall Tour: Past Post Offices

This year the Historic Fall Tour explored four Lake Placid locations that have interesting pasts serving as the Post Office for Lake Placid or the Newman section of North Elba.



Torrance Farmhouse, then and now

The Torrance Farmhouse was our first stop, then the Stagecoach Inn (post office 1861-1889) was the second location. We were treated to a backstage tour of our current post office (built 1936), by Dave Duguay, the postmaster. The final stop was Lisa G’s, one of the many Newman post offices.

Thank you to Bill Borzelleri who once again organized a wonderful event!



Board President Parmelee Tolkan, Vice President Patty Clark, and Bill Borzelleri coordinator of the Fall Tour, at the Torrance Farmhouse

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and Women’s Suffrage

In 1899 Melvil and Annie Dewey invited Professor Ellen Swallows Richards, the first woman chemist and a founder of the modern domestic science movement, to the first Lake Placid Conference on Home Economics. In September, we met with the New York State Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Educators who donated the official china of the American Home Economics Association and Ellen Swallow Richards’ book “Chemistry of Cooking and Cleaning” written in 1882.



The dinner plate features the Lake Placid Club where conferences on Home Economics were held annually from 1899-1907. They examined means to apply scientific principles to the home, such as nutrition and sanitation. In 1908, E.S. Richards was the first president of the American Home Economics Association. These objects are now on display in our “Women’s Place in Society” exhibit!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

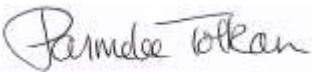
As 2018 winds down, I take great pleasure in surveying where we have been this year and what has been accomplished as we look ahead to 2019.

First and foremost, our new Administrative Director, Courtney Bastian, has been a wonderful hire for us. She brought the idea of the "Suffrage Centennial: Women's' Place in Society" exhibit to the Board, created the working framework, researched and wrote much of the copy, and oversaw the installation; all the while keeping the office and Society going!

I also would like to mention the Buildings and Grounds Committee and its chairman, Steve Sama, who have given much time and effort to the upkeep and preservation of the Museum and Freight House. Hopefully, none of you are ever aware of their work, but this year alone they have built a new access ramp to the Freight House, monitored our continuing basement water problem, patched the roof (a never ending task), helped mount exhibits, and most importantly, installed new toilets in both bathrooms! I think Steve loves our beautiful home more than I do; if that is possible.

Sadly, Janet Bliss and Laura Jean Clark have left the Board. They both have worked hard for the success of the Society. We hope to see them at many future events and thank them for their years of service. Happily, the Board welcomes four wonderful new members: Krista Berger, Denise Bujold, Tracey Coolidge, and Mike Mahoney. I know that they will bring energy and enthusiasm to the Society and I look forward to working with them as we move forward. Our new, and not so new, officers are myself as President, Patty Clark, Vice President, John Huttlinger, Treasurer, and Peter Roland, Secretary.

So, with deep commitment to the Society and its membership, the Board and I look forward to another productive and rewarding year for the Historical Society.



Parmelee Tolkan



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BEV'S BITS~ 100 YEARS AGO

A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid

January 6 1919, was a cold wintery day in Lake Placid when a fatal fire reduced four Main Street buildings to rubble. The buildings contained several occupied apartments as well as four busy retail stores.

It was about four p.m. when two boys living in the lower apartment noticed the fire. They ran up to one of the stores on the Main Street to report it. When the owner opened the hallway door the fire rushed down the hall and up the dumb waiter completely engulfing the building in flames. Escape by all the stairways was cut off by the flames and a rush was made for the back porch of the fourth floor. There were no adequate fire escapes and the only means of escape was from one porch to another where there was only a lattice ladder, which broke when the first occupant tried to climb down it.

One lady wrapped her child in a blanket and dropped it carefully into the arms of her husband. She then proceeded to climb down the side of the building until the second lady behind her lost her grip and they both fell to the ice and snow. Two gentlemen on the ground managed to break their fall and they sustained minor injuries. Another resident climbed out her window and grabbed at some wires on the building, which broke throwing her against the side of the building; she sustained fatal injuries. Others found ways to safety onto the cold ice of Mirror Lake.

Outstanding work by the local fire department, with the help of Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Club Fire Departments, managed to arrest the fire around midnight. The four structures as far down as the Cheeseman Building (in 2018: "INFINITY") were nothing but debris. Reconstruction began immediately and within a couple of years all the buildings were replaced and, with various renovations, remain today.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS ~ By Steve Sama, B&G Chair

We have had the privilege of helping to maintain and preserve the buildings and property at the museum over the just finished season as well as helping with the set up of the Women's' Suffrage Exhibit.

During the past year, we have monitored the ground water issue in the basement with the idea that Atlantic Testing will provide a complete report to us from the two "wells" they drilled giving us the high water marks so that we may (hopefully) fill in and eliminate the need for sump pumps running 24/7.

We have also kept an eye on the roofs over the Train Station and the Freight House. Lake Champlain Roofing will be maintaining the slate on the Train Station. It has been determined that the roof will not have to be replaced any time soon. However, the Freight House roof is another story. It is leaking and we have installed several patches. It has reached the end of its useful life and will have to be replaced, probably next year.

We replaced the four forty-five year old toilets in the Men's and Lady's rooms with new, American Standard low flow water saving efficient models. Also, we rebuilt the ramp and railings leading up to the Freight House entrance.

The flower boxes were replaced with new cedar ones that we made. Thanks to Cherise Bixler and her crew from LP Beautification for the beautiful flowers they installed and maintained throughout the year. Thanks also to Butch Martin and the Parks Department for their help with the installation and removal of the window covers and combining with Chris Ordway and his crew for maintaining the grounds. Chris and his crew's work was especially instrumental in how well the property looked this year.

MUSIC IN THE MUSEUM

This spring the History Museum was awarded a grant from the J.M. McDonald Foundation to install audio in two of our galleries; the Arts and Music Gallery and our rotating gallery that is currently the "Women's Place in Society" exhibit.

Our goal with this auditory history project is to engage visitors and provide a diverse sensory environment. We are curating playlists that connect to themes within the exhibits. In our Arts and Music gallery we are selecting songs by Kate Smith and Victor Herbert, and in the Suffrage exhibit we will have songs and speeches by suffragists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Inez Milholland. We want visitors to critically engage in our exhibit themes and be fully immersed during their museum visit. Guests will be able to visit our website and find the playlists they heard during their visit and access more learning on their own!

A special 'Thank you' to the J.M. McDonald Foundation for funding this project.

Thank you to our recent supporters!

Events and Programs: Adirondack Education
Foundation Generous Acts Fund, Essex County
Cultural Assistance Program, and Stewart's Shops
Exhibition Support: J.M. McDonald Foundation
Operational Support: Adirondack Education
Foundation and the Uihlein Foundation

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2019 SOCIETY EVENTS

January 9— Archeology in the Adirondacks

Presented by: Dr. David Starbuck, author of *Archeology in the Adirondacks*

Location: Mr. Mike's Pizza, 7 pm

February 13—Six Nations Indian Museum

Presented by: Dave Fadden, Six Nations Indian Museum

Location: Wiseguys, 7pm

March 20—What Would a Woodpecker do?

Presented by: Tom Manitta, Adirondack Mountain Club

Location: Hotel North Woods, 7 pm

April 17— Lake Placid Steamboats, Fancy Hotels and the Gilded Age

Presented by: R.J. Potter

Location: Generations, 7pm

May 22— Adirondack Suffragists

Presented by: Margaret Bartley, vice president of the Adirondack History Museum

Location: The Lake Placid History Museum, 7 pm

May 25—Museum opens for the season

June 27—Exhibition Reception

August 17—The Heritage Fair

August 22—Annual Meeting

September 13—Historic Fall Tour

Cemeteries of Lake Placid and North Elba

THE HISTORY MUSEUM
P.O. Box 189, 242 Station Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

THANK YOU RUTHIE'S RUN



Ruthie's Run celebrated their 50th anniversary this year! Thank you to Cathy and Wayne Johnston for their support and donation to the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Tuesday, December 4th, 6-8 pm, The Bookstore Plus will host an evening of special holiday shopping. You're invited to join The Bookstore Plus for light refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, complimentary gift wrapping, and a 20% discount off your purchase. Or, you can donate your 20% savings to a local charity. This year, you can donate to the Historical Society!

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