

# PLACID PIONEER

## Social distancing and a delayed re-opening offered us time to focus on our artifacts

Collections management is an important and time consuming task for any museum. This year with the History Museum’s delayed reopening due to COVID-19 and many of our events postponed, we focused on collections projects.

This summer we were awarded a Collections Needs Assessment Program: Supply Grant from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts. This grant will fund supplies to properly preserve garments and accessories in our collection; specifically, women’s shoes, parasols, a WWII army uniform, a polo helmet, women’s felt hats, and an Adirondack beaver coat. We thank the GHHN and NYSCA for their generous support!



*The Homestead Collection*

In September we acquired The Homestead Collection donated by the Roland Family. The Homestead was built as a private home in the 1880’s in Lake Placid. By the early 1900’s it had been added on to and was operated as a rooming house. In 1922 it was purchased by Thomas and Margaret Roland. According to a newspaper story reporting that transaction the Homestead had “17 sleeping rooms and 7 baths, besides a dining room which will accommodate 40, a living room and parlor”. It was enlarged a number of times over the years, eventually offering 43 rooms. The Roland family operated The Homestead from 1922 until 1978, when it was razed to make way for the Lake Placid Hilton Resort, built for the 1980 Olympics. The Rolands continued to operate it until 1998 when Lane Hospitality purchased the hotel. It continued as a Hilton until 2008 when Lane disaffiliated and renamed the hotel the High Peaks Resort. The collection will be on display in 2021.



*Freight House shelves*

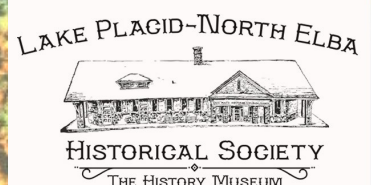
During our fall workday in October the Buildings and Grounds committee built a chair storage unit in the Freight House, which houses the larger artifacts in the collection. We installed shelves, cleaned the chairs, and properly covered them. This project created more storage space for future acquisitions!

Our current collections project is cataloging Louise Williams’ personal photographs and archives. Part of the Mrs. J.B. Williams Collection

(apx. 1850-1920), the Williams Family had relations to the Nash Family—one of the earliest established families in Lake Placid. The Nash House, owned by Joseph Nash, was built in 1850 and was one of the first houses boarding travelers in the community. The Williams house was located on the corner of Main Street and Saranac Ave., next to the Homestead. Mr. Williams was an owner of a garage and sold automobiles in town. This collection contains photo albums, early negatives of Lake Placid, correspondences, and ephemera.



*Images from the Louise Williams’ collection*





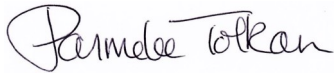
# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

As I write this the United States is still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. When I wrote our Membership and Annual Appeal letters I vainly hoped that would be the last time I would have to mention COVID. Yet here we are with our lives still upended. Thankfully, it finally looks like the scientists and the drug companies are on the verge of approvals and that vaccines will become available. Let us pray that is the case.

Ever the optimist, I hope that by summer we will indeed be able to gather in larger groups and resume some of our normal activities. We would like to plan for the R. J. Potter Photo Exhibit to have a real opening where we can meet and congratulate him on his magnificent collection. I hope that the Heritage Fair will be back in full swing and all our friends will be able to join us at our beautiful Museum.

In the meantime we have not gone dormant. You will find a listing for our Winter Lecture Series here and I hope that you will join us virtually for informative and fun talks.



Parmelee Tolkan  
President of the Board of Trustees

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA



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## COMINGS & GOINGS

We wish our departing trustees well and thank them for their years of service and contributions to the Historical Society! Retiring: Denise Bujold, Sue Cameron, Tracey Coolidge, and John Hopkinson.

In September and December our Board welcomed four new trustees: Perry Babcock, Carla Eilo, Betsy Hlavacek, and Ashleah Mayberry.

**Perry Babcock**—Perry has spent his entire life in the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain Valley. Perry arrived in Lake Placid in the early 1980's where he met his wife Susan, a Lake Placid native. Perry and Susan eventually settled in Lake Placid, built their home and raised their three children here. Perry graduated from Middlebury College (United States History) and has his master's degree from Skidmore College where he studied American History with concentration in Adirondack History. He taught a course on the Adirondacks for ten years while employed at Northwood School. Perry is an Adirondack 46er (as is Susan and all three kids!) and he still enjoys hiking and most outdoor adventures. Perry is excited to join the Historical Society and looks forward to meeting and working with the other volunteers.

**Carla Eilo**—Carla received her Master of Arts in Museum Management in 2015 from Montclair State University. During her studies she interned at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York City and the Thomas Edison National Historical Park located in West Orange, NJ. Between 2015-2017, she served as the Administrative Director/Collections Manager at the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society. 2017-2019, she worked as the Operations Manager at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, New York City. Carla currently works as the Administrator for the Adirondack Film Society. She looks forward to being part of the organization again and continuing learning about Lake Placid history.

**Betsy Hlavacek**— Betsy was first introduced to Lake Placid by her grandparents, who gathered the extended family at the Lake Placid Club every year. She learned to ski at Mt. Whitney and was pretty competitive during the swimming races at the Club Beach. Fast forward 20+ years...Betsy met her husband Rusty on Lake Placid, literally on a windsurfer! After graduating from University of Vermont with a degree in Elementary Education, she married Rusty who was teaching History at The Lawrenceville School and moved to NJ. Betsy taught elementary school, earned a Master's Degree in Counseling, and provided Academic Support to Lawrenceville students. The best parts of teaching, they say, are June, July and August. Betsy and her family headed north to a cabin on Buck Island every summer, only to return to NJ just in time for fall faculty meetings. Deeply rooted with a multi-generational connection to the North Country, Betsy's happy place is in her Hornbeck boat exploring lakes and ponds with friends and family. Now a full-time resident of Lake Placid, she is eager to participate within the community. By joining the board of the Historical Society, she hopes to offer a connection to the past and the chance to share the history of Lake Placid with younger members of the community.

**Ashleah Hoffman Mayberry**—Ashleah is a Lake Placid native and a 1991 graduate of the Lake Placid High School. She works with her father, Doug, at Adirondack Asset Management and helps maintain multiple family properties along with her mother, Carol and brother, Torry. Additionally, she is also the Executive Director of the Lake Placid Institute, board member of the Lake Placid High School Alumni Association, Treasurer for the Lake Placid Cub Scouts, organizer of the Olympic Car Show for the Lake Placid Ski Club and co-organizer of the Wednesday Nite Mixed Bowling League. In her free time she enjoys traveling, decorating, crafts, bowling and watching baseball games with her husband Dan, and her two sons Brooklyn (16) and Jacob (14).

# COMING SPRING 2021 NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT

## *LAKE PLACID STEAMBOATS, FANCY HOTELS, & THE GILDED AGE*

An exhibit of rare historic photos of our extraordinary Lake Placid playground featuring images of the Gilded Age (1879-1929); the early pioneers, stage lines, popular steam and tour boats, the railroads, and magnificent grand hotels. R.J. Potter spent years in the Adirondack Mountains and Champlain Valley researching and collecting historic photographs from repositories including the Adirondack Experience, Adirondack History Museum, Saranac Lake Public Library, Lake Placid Public Library, Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society, the Timothy Mayers Collection, and the Seneca Ray Stoddard Photo Collection. This curated exhibit illustrates the golden age of grand hotels and opulent summer time living in a bygone Lake Placid.

*Photos from the R.J. Potter Photo Collection*



Steamboat Ida, 1888




Ruisseaumont Hotel, 1893

## THANK YOU


TO OUR SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

*Essex County Arts Council  
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## CONTACT US:

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 Historical Society office (518) 523-3830  
*Winter location*

 @lakeplacidhistory

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Visit our website and social media pages for updates/changes*

### 2021 WINTER LECTURE SERIES

This year we are partnering with the Northwood School Innovation Hub to present our Winter Lecture Series. Located at 2495 Main St. Lake Placid, these lectures will be live streamed for accessible viewing. We will update everyone with information on in-person attendance closer to each event. We thank Northwood School and the Innovation Hub for allowing us to use their space, technology, and helping us present quality programming for our community!

*Wednesdays at 7 p.m.*

**January 13-** "Trail Building Then and Now"

Presented by: Tony Goodwin of the Adirondack Trail Improvement Society and Josh Wilson of Barkeater Trails Alliance

**February 10-** "Growing up in the Hotel Business" panel discussion with Peter Roland, Naj Wikoff, Mike Butler (moderator) and more surprise guests!

**March 10-** "7,000 Miles to a Wilderness Ethic"

Presented by: Tyler Socash of the Adirondack Mountain Club

**April 14-** "Fools Rushed In: W.H.H. Murray's Adventures in the Wilderness"

Presented by: Ivy Gocker of the Adirondack Experience, the Museum of Blue Mountain Lake

**LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**THE HISTORY MUSEUM**

P.O. BOX 189, 242 STATION STREET

LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

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*Our mission is to preserve and present our community's history in ways that are educational and enriching for residents and visitors.*

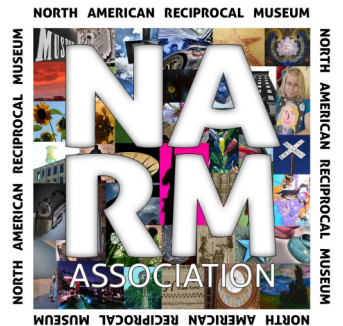
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**Membership Levels**

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society  
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Lake Placid, NY 12946