



PLACID PIONEER

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This past winter, the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society was selected to receive funding from the North Elba Local Enhancement and Advancement Fund, known as LEAF. The LEAF grant project is in its first year with a mission of providing “funds and programs, activities, and facilities that will have direct benefits to our communities and improve the quality of place for both residents and visitors.” Funding awarded to the Historical Society will support the “North Elba Narratives: Telling Tales Oral History Project.”

The collection and recording of oral history at the Historical Society started in 2017 in partnership with Northwood School and educator Thomas Broderick. His students chose a community member from a list compiled by the Historical Society. They researched the related history and created questions to ask them in front of a camera and recorder. Interviews were edited with the help of Kenneth Knowles, and video clips were exhibited in the History Museum.

“North Elba Narratives” is a revival of the 2017 project; however, it will follow a new format developed by Jerry Y. Huntley called “Our Story Bridge.” Huntley started this project in collaboration with the Keene Valley Library Association, naming their project, “My Adirondack Story Project,” and has shared her vision with other organizations across the country.

The format utilizes a digital platform and will help to modernize historical resources, allowing the remarkable stories and histories of Lake Placid citizens to reach a global audience during this new era of increased virtual information. Audio stories will be curated with photographs, making engagement immediate, captivating, and shareable.

This summer we will be reaching out to all of you and our local community to find those who would like to share a 3-5 minute story for, “North Elba Narratives.” You are welcome to reach out to Carla Eilo at NorthElbaNarratives@lakeplacidhistory.com to set up a time to stop by the History Museum and share your story about Lake Placid.

We look forward to hearing from you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

We reopened the History Museum with a bang. Around 100 guests gathered on a perfect June evening to celebrate the lifting of Covid restrictions and to see the new displays at the museum. The R. J. Potter photo collection was featured, celebrating his research of the Gilded Age, and his donation to the Historical Society of over 100 photographs documenting the grand hotels, steamships and travel of the era.

The Administrative Director, Courtney Bastian, and our docent and oral historian, Carla Eilo, worked really hard to make sure that the museum was the star of the show. It looked lovely, the exhibits were informative and many had new additions. The Board contributed all sorts of individually wrapped hors d'oeuvres and served as hosts to our many guests. We were all so happy to see each other and to meet and greet in a relaxed atmosphere.

In conjunction with five other museums, the Historical Society introduced its "History s'Peaks" challenge. A visitor gets a card with six local museums listed and are challenged to visit them all. History s'Peaks patches are available for purchase at select museum gift shops! The Historical Society hopes that this will increase visitors to local cultural heritage sites.

I invite all of you to visit this summer and to enjoy a glimpse into Lake Placid's past.

Parmelee Tolkan
President of the Board of Trustees

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA



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The Lake Placid Public Library is offering patrons who have ordered books through interlibrary loan, have books on hold, and have books to return, the option of picking them up and dropping them off at the History Museum to avoid the construction and traffic on Main Street.

Let the librarian know when they call you to tell you your materials are available that you would prefer to pick them up at the Museum. This convenience will be available through mid October!

HISTORY S'PEAKS: A NEW MUSEUM CHALLENGE

Inspired by the many Adirondack hiking challenges, this summer we are launching a new museum challenge, History s'Peaks! Visit six local cultural heritage sites in the High Peaks region, get your card stamped, and learn about Adirondack history to complete the challenge!

In partnership with the Adirondack History Museum, Historic Saranac Lake, John Brown Farm State Historic Site, the Lake Placid Olympic Museum and the Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center, we hope this new challenge encourages residents and visitors to explore local history.

Patches for sale at select gift shops! All proceeds support the organizations' missions in education and preserving history.



THE LAKE PLACID SKI CLUB CELEBRATES THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Lake Placid Ski Club is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide programs that teach children the sport of skiing, a sport they can enjoy all their lives and pass on to their children. The programs offered by the Ski Club have taken some children from beginners to Olympic level skiers.

Founded in 1921, the Lake Placid Ski Club was created for the locals of Lake Placid as an off-shoot of the Lake Placid Club Sno Birds. In 1959 the Ski Club became a membership corporation. Today, the Ski Club is funded by membership, fundraising events and the Town of North Elba. Until the late 1980's, the Ski Club offered many programs, Alpine Racing, Alpine Recreational Ski and Snowboard Program, the Bill Koch Cross Country Program, Competitive Cross Country, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined. The competitive programs moved to the New York Ski Educational Foundation. The Ski Club now administers a children's Recreational Ski and Snowboard Program at Whiteface which meets twice a week after school for two and half months each winter. The competitive skiers who are members of the ski club are supported monetarily through reimbursement of entry fees plus funds to help them reach their goals.

Since 1983, Carol Torrance Hoffman has served as president of the Ski Club. At age 6, Carol joined the youth commission program at Scotts Cobble where she was instructed by Laura Viscome for many years. With what she learned through the Lake Placid Ski Club, Carol skied competitively from age 8 through college. Carol sees the position of president as a way to give back to an organization that helped find her passion for skiing.

Many changes have come about since 1983; Carol is most proud of the Ski Club members who qualified for the Olympics with some winning medals. She is indebted to past and present ski club officers and board members. Their dedication to the ski club is why the club has prevailed. With the help of her husband, Doug, the ski club became a not-for-profit organization in the 1990's. The Olympic Car Show organized by the Hoffman Family and the Ski Club is in its 39th year. All funds from past years were donated to the Ski Club's childrens programs. The Ski Club is planning to celebrate its 100th Year twice this summer. Watch for more info coming out soon!



The Lake Placid Ski Club logo on display at the History Museum

ADIRONDACK RAIL TRAIL UPDATE







After more than 5 years of planning and delays the 34 mile Adirondack Rail Trail from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake is becoming a reality! Rail and tie removal commenced in late fall and is expected to be completed by the end of July. As of mid-June the work is nearly complete on the Historical Society property, leaving one section of rails for historical interpretation in the future. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) expects the entire project will require three years, with completion anticipated for 2024.

Historical Society property is at the northern terminus of the Rail Trail and removal of the rails opens up a range of possibilities for development of a campus plan for our property. The Historical Society is in talks with the DEC regarding creation of a parking area, public rest rooms and interpretive signage at the west end of the property where the tracks crossed Station Street and the Rail Trail begins. This multi-use trail is anticipated to generate a substantial amount of use by residents and visitors and will be an opportunity for us to share local history with an expanded audience.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

ADK Quad-County Decentralization Grant
Cloudsplitter Foundation
Essex County Arts Council CAP Grant
Lake Placid Education Foundation
North Elba Local Enhancement & Advancement Fund
Stewart's Shops Holiday Match Grant
The Reynolds Group
Town of North Elba
Uihlein Foundation

CONTACT US:

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 info@lakeplacidhistory.com
 The History Museum (518) 523-1608
 Historical Society office (518) 523-3830

UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ HERITAGE FAIR FUNDRAISER

Join us August 14, 10am-2pm at the History Museum for our annual Heritage Fair fundraiser. Silent auction, used book sale, thrifted goods, and more!

Books may be dropped off during open hours at the Museum. Please no text books, encyclopedias, year books, or magazines. Thank you!

◆ ANNUAL MEETING

August 19, 4:45pm at the History Museum. All members are welcome to attend.

◆ HISTORIC FALL TOUR

Historic Golf Courses, date TBD 5-7pm. \$30 donation includes a commemorative wine glass.

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORY MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 189, 242 STATION STREET

LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

PLACE
STAMP
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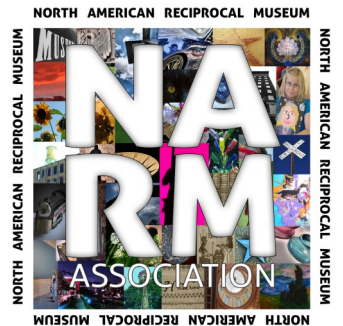
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Membership Levels

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

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

Collector - \$250 Other Amount - \$ _____

Signature _____

Mail to:
The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society
P.O. Box 189
Lake Placid, NY 12946