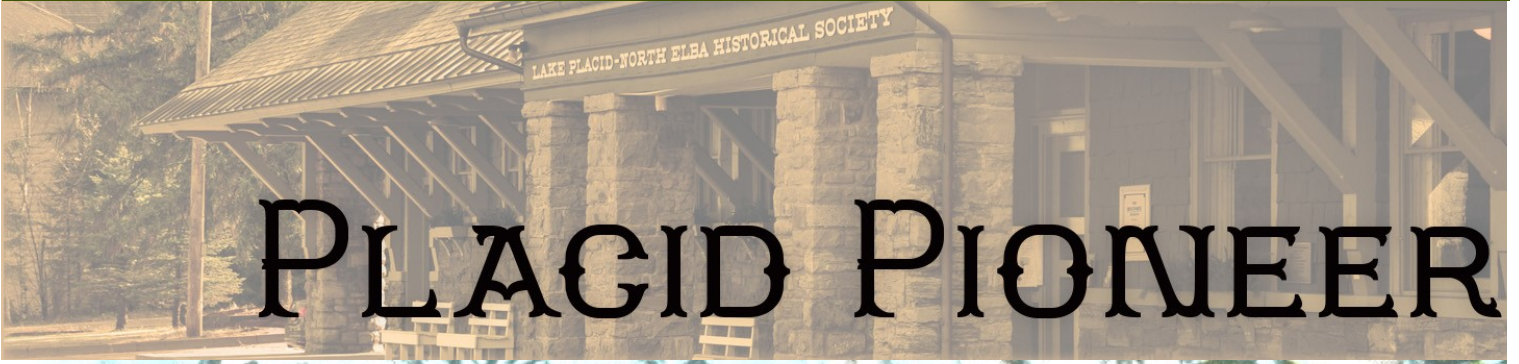




# PLACID PIONEER

## TABLELANDS FARM

Tablelands Farm was built on the Plains of Abraham, the site of the earliest settlement of Lake Placid. The first farmhouse was a log cabin. By 1906, when the Lake Placid Club bought the farm, the main building had grown to 14 rooms with indoor plumbing. The barns were also very modern with concrete floors and running water. At that time Tablelands was home to 80 Ayrshire dairy cows.

Located on part of Tablelands Farm was Artesia the creamery, a two story shingle building with concrete floors. The creamery also had an ice house, a wood shed and 3 rooms on the second floor. Built over a 160 foot deep artesian well the water temperature remained a constant 36 degrees, the coldest in the area. The delivery wagon on display belonged to this era. The farm was one of a string of farms purchased to supply the dining rooms of the Lake Placid Club. The four farms were Ridge, Uplands, Pointed Firs and finally Tablelands stretched out along the present day Bear Cub Road.

Tablelands provided the Lake Placid Club with dairy products, poultry, beef, and fresh produce, including potatoes.

In 1949, Henry and Mildred Uihlein purchased the farm from the Lake Placid Club to add to their Heaven Hill estate. In 1961 they donated the land to Cornell University to establish a research potato seed farm. This research center was well known in New York state, producing seed potatoes on the amazingly fertile fields of Heaven Hill for farmers nationwide. In June of 2020, Cornell University will be closing the farm. There are no known current plans for the property.





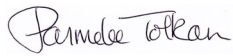
# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

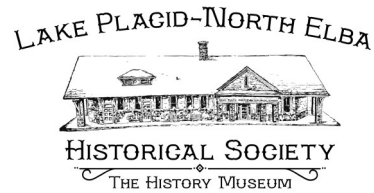
First and foremost, I hope that all of you and your families are safe and healthy. Who could have predicted where we all are today? In my last letter to you I was thinking about our Winter Lecture Series and preparing a new exhibit for this summer. When COVID-19 arrived we canceled the March and April lectures and our Museum opening was postponed a month. Amazingly we managed to install our new exhibit *Sign/Design* while working from home or socially distanced, one at a time, in the train station. The art of sign painting is celebrated through signs and photographs of iconic and not so iconic Lake Placid businesses. I hope that you all will come visit and check it out.

Our Vice President and Buildings & Grounds Chairman, Steve Sama, has diligently worked on lighting improvements at the Museum. If you drive past the Museum in the evening you will notice it is now glowing with outdoor lighting, creating a safer environment for those walking past. New lighting was installed in the Museum corridor leading into the back gallery, creating another exhibit space.

I want to thank all of you who have supported us with funds during this extremely perilous time for small groups like ours. If you haven't sent a donation or rejoined this year there is no time like the present. I hope to see all of you sometime this summer and please stay healthy,



Parmelee Tolkan  
President of the Board of Trustees



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HISTORY IS  
HAPPENING  
NOW

We are all now a part of an historic event. Not one we want to be a part of, but one that has chosen us. Several years ago I received a handwritten note from a woman who remembered the train station well as she was brought there at a set time every day to wave to her parents who were a doctor and nurse working in the Spanish Flu quarantine center at the National Hotel across the street; we see that same image today as health care workers communicate with their children through glass windows and doors. To document this historic period we are collecting items relating to the Lake Placid community and COVID-19 pandemic, and creating a new modern-history collection for future scholars and generations to come. To donate items or to learn more about this project please contact Courtney Bastian at [info@lakeplacidhistory.com](mailto:info@lakeplacidhistory.com) or call 518-523-3830.

## BEV'S BITS— WE LIVE BY SIGNS

A report from the Town Historian, Beverley P. Reid

We live by signs: ON/OFF; RED/STOP; GREEN/GO

Where are we going? To Price Chopper. On the way we stop at United States Post Office, Lake Placid Public Library, Kinney's. We purchase Nabisco, General Mills, Hershey's.

Signs are a history in themselves. Pick a building on Main Street and study the names it has presented in the past. For example, the Masonic Building, known as 103-105 Main Street, now 2511 Main Street was built in 1916 to house the Masonic events on the second floor. The other two floors were occupied over the years by Barber Shop, The Knit Shop, Barry and Wilson Printing, Bowling Alley, Teenage Center, and Antique Store—just to name a few. If we did not have signs, we would not know what to do, where to go, what to buy, etc. Thank you sign makers!

# NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT

View our new exhibit, *Sign/Design*, now on display at The History Museum! Travel back in time and learn about the artistry and evolution of sign making in Lake Placid. This exhibit will be on display through fall 2021. The History Museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Face masks are required to enter, and the capacity will be limited to 15 people at a time. Admission costs \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors, and free for members and children under 12 years old.



Images below taken during the installation of the *Sign/Design* exhibit, left to right: Nicola's on Main and Villa Vespa signs on loan from Michelle Walker and Kim Vespa, (middle) Board member Cindy Smith cleaning the Howard Johnson's sign on loan from the Butler Family, Barry & Wilson Printing and American Legion sign on loan from Michelle Walker.



## THANK YOU

TO OUR SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & FUNDERS

*Lake Placid Education Foundation  
Uihlein Foundation  
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Stewart's Shops and the Dake Family  
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The Victor Herbert Foundation*

## CONTACT US:

-  [www.lakeplacidhistory.com](http://www.lakeplacidhistory.com)
-  [info@lakeplacidhistory.com](mailto:info@lakeplacidhistory.com)
-  The History Museum (518) 523-1608
-  Historical Society office (518) 523-3830

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### ♦ HERITAGE FAIR

The Heritage Fair is postponed this year, please check our website and social media for updates on our silent auction fundraiser! Thank you for understanding.

### ♦ ANNUAL MEETING

August 22, 4:45pm at The History Museum. All members are welcome to attend, face masks are required.

### ♦ HISTORIC FALL TOUR—TBD

Thank you for your patience as we plan the feasibility of our Historic Fall Tour during this time. Updates to come soon!

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HISTORY MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 189, 242 STATION STREET

LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

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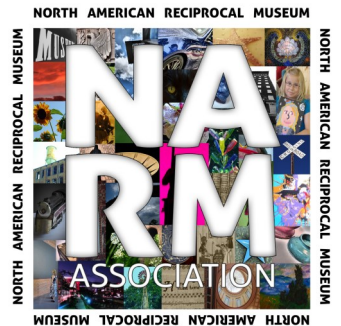
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☐ Curator - \$1,000 ☐ Sustaining - \$100

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**Mail to:**

The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

P.O. Box 189

Lake Placid, NY 12946