

# The Depot Dispatch

*Newsletter of the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society*

*Preserving and Presenting the History of Lake Placid*

## In this Issue

**2025 Summer Season in Review—1, 4**

**Presidents' Message—2**

**Road to 2030—3**

**Collections Connection—3**

**It's Monumental—3**

**2025 Membership List—5**

**2024 & 2025 Donor List—6**

**Supporting the 2025 Annual Fund—7**

## Upcoming Events

### **2026 Winter Speaker Series**

**January 15th**

*Greetings From the Great Camps: The History of the Adirondack Vacation*

**February 19th**

*John Brown in New York: The Man, His Family, and the Adirondack Landscape*

**March 19th**

*Horse Drawn to Iron Horse: The Opening of the Adirondacks*

**April 16th**

*Trail Blazing Together: Stewardship, Partnership & the Future of the Adirondack Rail Trail*

**The History Museum is closed for the Season.**

*Arrangements can be made to visit the museum by appointment.*

**The Museum will reopen for the 2026 season on Memorial Day Weekend**



LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE HISTORY MUSEUM

PO Box 189  
242 Station St  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

**Issue 2-2025**

**2025 Summer Season in Review**

A flurry of activity was the theme of the 2025 summer season at the LPNEHS. An array of great events were packed into this summer's schedule at The History Museum and around town. Hundreds of visitors were welcomed to the Museum throughout the summer and community members and visitors enjoyed a number of new events this year. These new events have allowed the Historical Society to expand its presence in the community.

Celebrating the new 2025 exhibit, *Golf Explodes*, the Historical Society hosted its annual museum reception in June. The event was attended by nearly 150 people and included members of the Dunn family who were there to represent their legendary forebearer, Seymour Dunn—the focus of the new golf exhibit. Dunn designed several area golf courses and founded a local business that manufactured custom golf clubs.



Guests at the June Open House gather around the new golf exhibit.

*Golf Explodes* tracks the history of golf in Lake Placid, initially introduced by the Dunn family from Scotland. The exhibit will remain up for the 2026 season so plan to swing by and see the exhibit next summer.



Nick Fitzsimmons, Sarah Galvin, Marc Galvin

In July, the Society hosted its first **One-Club Golf Tournament** at the Lake Placid Club's *Pristine Nine* course. Participants were encouraged to wear vintage clothing. The rules included the use of only one golf club. Use of antique clubs were also required on select holes. Players were treated to a reception and awards ceremony at The History Museum after the event.



Erica Burns & Leo McKenna



Celebrating at the tournament Awards Ceremony (from left to right): Peter Clement, Bob Beier, Rick Young, Betsy Hlavacek, Perry Babcock

*Continued on page 4*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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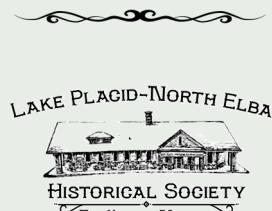
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\*\*\*\*\*

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## Presidents' Message

If we still had a conductor at the train station, this summer they would have called *All Aboard!* The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society at 242 Station Street was bustling. Activities for all ages filled the schedule, both inside the museum and around town. Pictures within this newsletter capture the energy of our events. We aim to carry this enthusiasm forward into 2026!

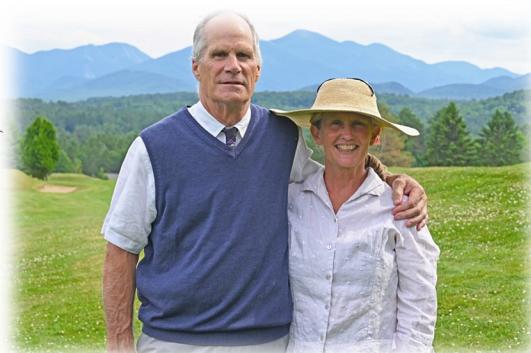
Thanks to a grant provided by the Uihlein Foundation, the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society took a major step in planning for the future. With the incredible gift of her professional guidance, Liz Clarke led the LPNEHS *Strategic Planning Core Group* through the development of an interpretive plan. The ten-month process included multiple work sessions and a four-day workshop with a museum consultant from Maryland. The process involved participation by members of the community, the LPNEHS Board of Trustees and staff. The end result is a document that captures the potential of the LPNEHS Museum, carefully identifying stories to be told, the breadth and depth of the visitor experience and reimagining the capacity of the museum building and property. The plan includes a narrative of the process, a workbook outlining steps required to achieve the goals and clarity regarding the funding needed at each stage. As members and patrons of the Lake Placid North-Elba Historical Society, you can help shape the future and preserve our hometown history in a way which is current and creative.

*Perry Babcock*

Perry Babcock  
Co-President

*Betsy Hlavacek*

Betsy Hlavacek  
Co-President



Perry & Betsy sporting their vintage golf attire at the July 9th One-Club Golf Tournament.

*Photo courtesy of Caleb Mihill*

## Support Our 2025 Business Partner Members



## Road to 2030

The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society is a community resource, starting with our volunteer board, but also our fast-growing membership—including affiliate volunteers, business partners and regional stakeholders. Partnerships and collaborations will help us define our stories. We are excited to work with the many like-minded programs in and around Lake Placid as we interpret the rich history of the region. The *Road to 2030* centers our attention on our newly minted interpretive plan. The well-framed directives found in the plan, coupled with the foundational work done with the *2023 Strategic Plan* will be our blueprint for the balance of this decade.

The *2025 Interpretive Plan* directs us to redefine our museum stories, reinvigorate our educational programs and develop the railyard property. Each of these initiatives will be designed to elevate the visitor experience. The Historical Society will enthusiastically move forward with our newly established plans to expand, while we reaffirm our role as the primary repository of the rich history of Lake Placid. We will, of course, need considerable financial resources in addition to volunteer support and engagement from the community.

There are many ways to help the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society reach its *Road to 2030* goal. Below are just a few ways in which you can support this effort:

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Sponsor an Event:** The menu includes receptions, speaker series, educational programs, summer music gatherings and other on-site events.
- **Sponsor our Summer Museum Season:** This includes support for summer museum staff, exhibits and museum maintenance.
- **Sponsor an Information Kiosk-** As we add more wayfinding stations on the museum property there will be opportunities to underwrite one of our storyboards.

### Collections Connection

During the winter months the collections team will continue to work on organizing collections and updating documentation in our collections management software program, *CatalogIt*.

#### *Can You Identify This Object?*

One of the jobs of those working in collections management is to research and identify objects to determine what they might have been used for in the past. Can you guess what this object was used for?

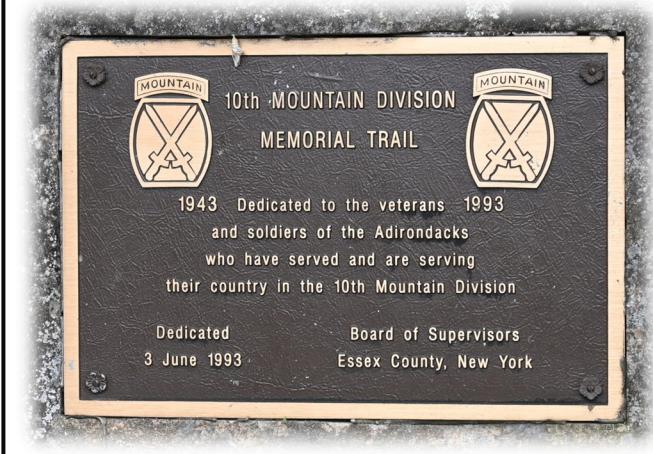


*Object from the collections of the LPNEHS*

You can find the answer to this object's identity at the bottom of page 4.

### It's Monumental

Have you ever stopped to look at the various historical monuments located around Lake Placid? Here's a special tribute to the veterans and soldiers of the Adirondacks who served in the 10th Mountain Division. The 10th Mountain Division was formed by the Army to be an elite mountain warfare unit during WWII and has since been reactivated multiple times as an Army light infantry division. The *monument* is located on River Road in Lake Placid.



# 2025 Summer Season in Review

(continued from page 1)

New to the summer calendar was the *Music at the Museum* series. These concerts were sponsored by local businesses and showcased musicians on three Mondays, all were beautiful summer evenings. Thanks to this year's sponsors: Gordon W. Pratt Agency Inc, Norfolk Beier PLLC and The Reynolds Group as well as entertainers Rusty & Greg, Northwest Passage and Joe Scrimenti & Friends.



Rusty Hlavacek & Greg Reiss



Community members enjoy a summer concert at the Museum

The Society's annual **Festival** was held in early August this year. Community members and other visitors enjoyed a number of festivities, including a silent auction, bake sale, white elephant sale, a variety of crafters and vendors and a heritage furniture sale. There were also games for kids, music by Scott Sileo and a BBQ provided by the Lake Placid Masonic Lodge. LPNEHS is grateful to all those who supported our annual Festival fundraiser this year.



Margie Gallagher & Steve Sama at the Festival



Festival attendees enjoying the many vendors at the Festival



Scavenger Hunt first place winners from left to right:  
Keith Clark, Tricia Preston, Mark Clark, Laura Clark

The annual **Lake Placid Historic Scavenger Hunt** was held at The History Museum and in the Village and surrounding areas of Lake Placid on September 25th. Teams were given a set of clues to take around town in search of secret historic spots. Once teams discovered answers to all their clues they returned to the museum where they were given another set of clues to locate objects in the museum. Participants enjoyed food, drinks and prizes.

**Answer to "Can You Identify This Object" on page 3:** The object is a tobacco cutter (circa late 19th or early 20th century). It was used to cut tobacco leaves or plugs into finer and more usable pieces which could then be put into a pipe or made into a cigar or cigarette. Some even used it to cut tobacco for chewing.

# 2025 Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Members

## Director's Circle

Adele & Tom Connors  
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Robert & Elizabeth McGraw  
Peter & Heidi Roland  
Parmelee Tolkan

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Steve Sama & Bronwen Perkins

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Sandy & Chip Bissell  
Jim Brooks  
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John & Lauren Roth  
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Robin & Bob Brenner  
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Mike Butler  
Laura & Mark Clark  
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Alexander Dashnaw  
Helen Demong & Joe McPhillips  
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Newton & Louise Dunn  
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Edward Finnerty  
Karen Fountain  
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Jini Hood  
John & Patricia Hopkinson  
John & Karen Huttlinger  
Georgia Jones  
Bruce & Deborah Long  
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Ashleah & Daniel Mayberry  
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## Heritage Bronze (continued)

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Val & Jamie Rogers  
Beth & Tim Rowland  
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Ted & Katie Volz  
Mary Welch

*Thank you to our members for  
their continued support of the  
Lake Placid-North Elba  
Historical Society.  
We couldn't do it without you!*

## Friends

Susan & Timothy Albright  
Maggie Bartley  
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Kate Weaver  
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## Business Partner Members

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Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort  
Gordon W Pratt Agency  
High Peaks Cyclery  
Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Deposit  
Norfolk Beier, PLLC  
The Reynolds Group of Lake Placid  
Wilkins Agency

## Not a Member?

*If you're not yet a member of the LPNEHS, please consider joining. Visit [lakeplacidhistory.org](http://lakeplacidhistory.org) to learn more about the levels and benefits of membership.*

# Thank You to Our 2024 & 2025 Donors

Timothy & Susan Albright  
Dr Mary Elizabeth Alexander  
Anonymous  
John Arons & Mary Neary  
Perry & Susan Babcock  
David J. Balestrini, DMD  
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Robin Baxter  
Peter B Biegel & Family  
Arthur & Sandy Bissell  
Linda Blair  
Brian & Janet Bliss  
The Bookstore Plus  
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Briggs Family Law Firm  
Denise Bujold  
Jeffrey Burnham  
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Penny Dieffenbach  
Craig & Cindy Dunn  
Nevton & Louise Dunn  
Barbara S. Dwyer, CPA  
James & Deborah Eisel

*Annual Fund leadership gifts are the most impactful way to support the Historical Society.*

Lori & Chris Evangel  
Edward P. Finnerty  
Karen Fountain  
Margie & Patrick Gallagher  
Reginald & Joan Gignoux  
Lori & Chris Grant  
Stephanie Gubelin  
Gary Haggart  
Stuart & Janis Hempel

Alan & Lisa Hight  
Betsy & Rusty Hlavacek  
Doug & Carol Hoffman  
Peter & Kim Holderied  
Terry & Cynthia Horrocks  
John & Karen Huttlinger  
Georgia Jones  
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Martha Knowles

RJ Potter  
Meredith Prime  
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Claire Thayer  
Gail Thayer  
Thomas Thompson  
Parmelee Tolkan  
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Linda Warner  
Mark Wilson & Mary Thill

*Giving is not just about  
making a donation. It is about  
making a difference.*

Kathy Calvin



*Thank you for your support!*

Joe & Kathy Lamb  
Marilyn Lansing  
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Michael & Tina Newman  
George & Jeanne Nimo  
C. Peter & Madelaine Ordway  
Gregory L. Peacock  
Erin Perkins  
James Poole

*Thank you for your generous  
support. We hope you will continue  
to support us this year. For  
information about our 2025  
Annual Fund drive, see page 7 of  
this newsletter. You can also visit  
the Historical Society website at:  
[lakeplacidhistory.org/annual-fund](http://lakeplacidhistory.org/annual-fund)  
or scan the QR code below.*



# 2025 Annual Fund

Dear Friends of the Lake Placid North Elba Historical Society,

The Annual Fund for the LPNEHS is a pivotal component of our financial stability. We are a modest operation, reliant on grants and general support to keep our programs flourishing. Please refer to the pie chart below to see the distribution of our income sources.

There are many ways to support our efforts. Leadership gifts of \$1000 or more are always the most beneficial. Sponsorship opportunities also abound and we welcome your support. There are samples of sponsorship opportunities listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

We are respectful of the many wonderful organizations in our area who are competing for your philanthropic support. That is why we work so hard to manage our expenses thoughtfully and engage with business partners and like-minded organizations whenever possible.

The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society is teeming with enthusiastic Board members, volunteers and patrons. Our new interpretive plan outlines an aggressive five-year goal for our education programs, the Museum, and the Museum property.

As previously stated, the impact of additional *leadership-level gifts* with respect to our annual budget is significant. Our collective vision for The History Museum and property, along with expanding educational programs can only be realized if the LPNEHS can establish a deeper well of resources to support our goals.

Thank you for keeping the Historical Society in your thoughts; for participating, for cheerleading, and for supporting. We look forward to an even more successful year in 2026!

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

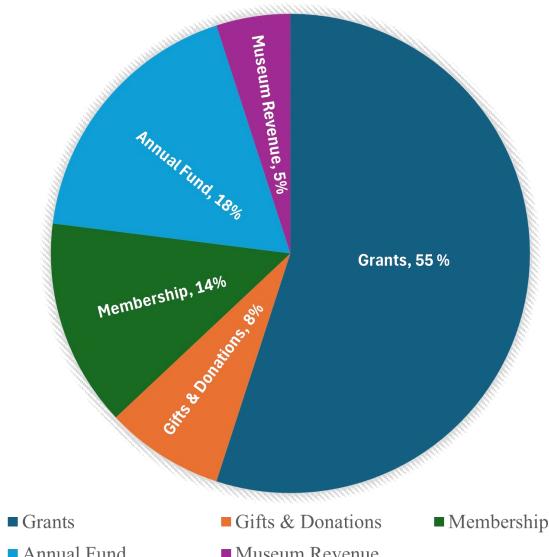
*Perry, Betsy and the LPNEHS Board of Trustees*

*Perry*

*Betsy*

## LPNEHS Percentage of Annual Income by Source

Based on 2025 Data



*Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society Annual Fund*

## Ways to Give



### Traditional Gift

To make a gift to the *Annual Fund* you may write a check payable to the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society or give online: *Scan the QR code below to make your Annual Fund donation.*



[lakeplacidhistory.org/annualfund](http://lakeplacidhistory.org/annualfund)

### Donor Advised Funds

Donor Advised Funds allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend donations to nonprofit organizations like the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society from their fund over time.

### IRA Charitable Distribution

For those over 70 1/2 years of age, a gift of up to \$105,000 may be made from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Using your IRA to fund a contribution directly to the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society avoids potential income tax. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) counts towards your required minimum distribution if you are 73 years or older.

### Gifts of Stock

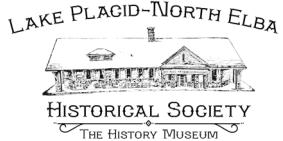
Gifts of appreciated stock benefit the Historical Society and provide you with an opportunity to avoid capital gains and maximize charitable deductions.

### Legacy Giving

Consider including a legacy gift to the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society in your estate plan. Contact your legal or financial advisor to learn more about your giving options which may assist you in maximizing your charitable intentions while minimizing your estate taxes.

***The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.***

***Federal Tax ID # 14-6032009***



242 Station Street, PO Box 189  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

## LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 2026 WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

**JAN 15**

### **Greetings From the Great Camps: The History of the Adirondack Vacation**

Join American historian and Adirondacker, *Connor Williams*, who will discuss the forces, movements, moments and people that led to the nexus of wilderness, exertion, rejuvenation, and comfort that still all define the Adirondack region today. Williams, who also serves as lead historian at Great Camp Sagamore, teaches at Middlebury College and co-authored recently published book: *A Promise Delivered: Ten American Heroes and the Battle to Rename Our Nation's Military Bases*.

**FEB 19**

### **John Brown in New York: The Man, His Family, and the Adirondack Landscape**

Join *Sandra Weber* for a compelling lecture featuring her newest book, *John Brown in New York: The Man, His Family, and the Adirondack Landscape*. Weber offers a fresh and intimate look at the famed abolitionist, focusing on the years of the Brown family's connection with North Elba from 1848–1863. Ms. Weber's latest book will be available for purchase at the event and a book signing will follow her presentation.

**MAR 19**

### **Horse Drawn to Iron Horse: The Opening of the Adirondacks**

Join *Parmelee Tolkan* as she explores the history of early transportation in the United States and the opening up of the Adirondacks to summer residents and tourists with the arrival of the trains. Ms. Tolkan is a long-time resident of Lake Placid and a Historical Society board member.

**APR 16**

### **Trailblazing Together: Stewardship, Partnership & the Future of the Adirondack Rail Trail**

Adirondack Rail Trail Association's Executive Director, *Julia Goren*, will share how ARTA supports partner communities and the DEC through long-term stewardship, promotion, maintenance, and coordination of the trail. She'll share lessons learned, highlight collaborative approaches to stewardship and community engagement, and offer a glimpse into what's next for the ART as it continues to connect people and places across the North Country.

All programs are free and open to the public and will be held on Thursday evenings at 7 pm.  
*Location information is coming soon.*