

The Depot Dispatch

Newsletter of the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

Preserving and Presenting the History of Lake Placid

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Upcoming 2025 Events

- Museum Opens for the Season
May 24th
- Music at the Museum
June 23rd, July 14th, August 18th
- Museum Open House & Reception
June 26th
- Speaker & Book Signing
June 30th
- One-Club Golf Tournament
July 9th
- LPNEHS Festival
August 9th



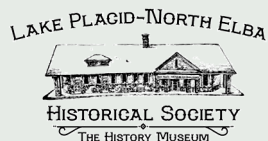
The History Museum

Open Memorial Day Weekend
Through Mid-October

Wednesday-Friday (1-4 pm)

Saturday (10 am-4 pm)

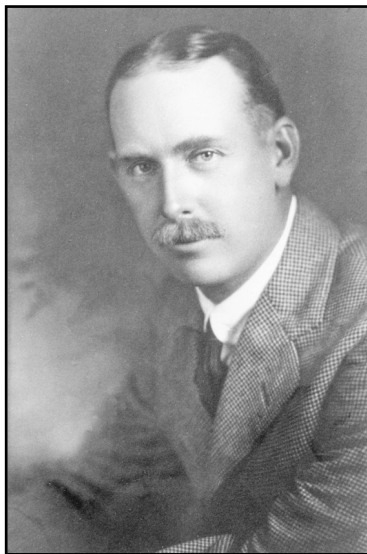
Sunday (10 am-2 pm)



PO Box 189
242 Station St
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Issue 1-2025

New Golf Exhibit To Pay Tribute to Seymour Dunn and Lake Placid's Renowned Golf History



Seymour Dunn (1882-1959)

Many Lake Placid visitors and residents don't know that this region is home to some of the most famous golfers in the sport's history. Seymour Dunn, professional golfer and designer of local golf courses, will be highlighted in the new golf exhibit at *The History Museum* during the 2025 season.

Originally from Scotland and hailing from a family of famous golfers and golf course architects, Seymour came to the United States at the age of 12 to help his older brother, John, who was a golf pro. At the age of 15, he designed his first golf course in Lawrenceville, NJ. In Lake Placid, he designed the Craig Wood Course and the Lake Placid Club Links Course. After graduating from high school, he divided his time between Scotland and Lake Placid, helping his father design golf courses across Europe during the winter and teaching golf in Lake Placid in the summer.

By age 17, Dunn was appointed a pro and continued on his own to design courses, including the Royal Golf Club de Belgique for King Leopold of Belgium. In 1908, he took charge of the Lake Placid Club golf course and made Lake Placid his permanent home. He was known for designing difficult courses. He opened the first manufacturing assembly line for golf clubs in Lake Placid in 1910 with 10 employees. Seymour continued to champion the sport with his writings and in 1929 set up an *Indoor Golf School* in Madison Square Gardens in NYC.



Exterior of Seymour Dunn's golf club maker factory in Lake Placid. LPNEHS Collections

Continued on page 4

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LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA



**Lake Placid-North Elba
Historical Society**

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Presidents' Message

Though *The History Museum* on Station Street is closed during the winter months, the Historical Society does not hibernate. The board committees pivot from producing a variety of summer activities to focusing on infrastructure and planning. Thanks to the Uihlein Foundation we have begun to develop an *Interpretive Plan* for *The History Museum* and railyard property. An extension of a strategic plan for the future, an Interpretive Plan creates a roadmap of specific tasks and choices based upon the needs of the Society as defined in the strategic plan. We are grateful for the professional guidance of planner Liz Clarke, who is challenging us to examine the past and explore impactful questions for the future:

*What are the stories to be told?
In which ways can we collaborate and compliment museums in the area?
How can we enhance the visitor experience?*

The energy and commitment of the Board of Trustees, the active pursuit of applicable grants, and your support as members and donors, confirm the value of the Historical Society as a messenger of the past.



Betsy Hlavacek

Betsy Hlavacek
Co-President

Perry Babcock

Perry Babcock
Co-President

Winter Co-Presidents' Meeting
Photo courtesy of Peter Roland

Support Our 2025 Business Partner Members



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Staying on Track with the Director

I'm sure you've noticed a number of changes to the first newsletter of 2025. We decided it was time for a refresh—beginning with a new name, *The Depot Dispatch*. For years, the LPNEHS newsletter was known as the *Placid Pioneer*. Recently the board and staff submitted some ideas and then had a vote to decide on a new name for the newsletter. *The Depot Dispatch* received the most votes and everyone agreed that the new name was a great way to pay homage to our train depot roots. The runner-up was *The Historic Line* (another nod to our train roots). We decided to use *The Historic Line* for the title of the section with our feature history articles. For 2025 there will be two newsletters—*Issue 1* will cover the first part of the year and focus on the upcoming summer season. *Issue 2* will come out later in the fall and will be both retrospective—reviewing the summer season—and prospective in terms of gearing up for 2026. We hope you will enjoy this edition of *The Depot Dispatch*.

This summer we are excited to bring you an all-new exhibit featuring the history of golf in Lake Placid. The exhibit highlights local golf greats Seymour Dunn and Craig Wood. We are also excited to bring you some new events this summer—including a *one-club golf* tournament in July and a once-a month *Music at the Museum* series. Check out our list of upcoming events on page 7 for more information.

We were able to roll out our 2025 membership drive earlier this year. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded and have joined us again or who have joined us for the first time. If you have not yet become a member and would like to do so, we have enclosed a membership remittance envelope for your convenience. You can also join online at lakeplacidhistory.org. Your membership supports our efforts to open *The History Museum* to the public each summer and to fulfill our mission to *preserve and present* the history of Lake Placid and North Elba. Thank you for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

Let's Make History Together!



Collections team member, Cindy Smith, updates documentation on CatalogIt.

Collections Connection

During the winter months the collections team started working on organizing collections documentation and learning how to use the new collections management software program, CatalogIt. This new software program allows multiple users to access the collections from any device and is much easier to navigate than the older system that was previously used. Updating and organizing collections and documentation will be an on-going project.

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.



During last year's 4th grade History Fair at Lake Placid Elementary School students were asked to identify the object pictured above. Some of their ideas included: *Needles to make clothing, a lamp back in the day, something to tend the fire and porcupine quills with beads on the end so it can be an instrument.* What do you think it is? Find the answer on our Facebook page.

LPNEHS Loans Rustic Furniture to Adirondack Experience




Adirondack Experience's upcoming two-year exhibit will include rustic furniture from the LPNEHS collections. We are thrilled to be loaning five rustic Adirondack furniture pieces for their 2025-2026 exhibit. It's a great way to partner with another museum in the region and will be great PR for LPNEHS. Make sure to visit the Adirondack Experience this summer to view their new exhibit, *Natural Beauty: The Art of Rustic Furniture*.

Seymour Dunn (continued)

His family of 9 children grew up in Lake Placid, and all for at least a while, worked as golf pros or instructors. His grandson, Nev, says that unfortunately the golf skills gene did not get passed onto the grandchildren. Nev's favorite memory is delivering a glass of scotch to his grandfather Seymour every night at his apartment on Colden Avenue—which was downstairs from the Gordon Dunn's. Maybe this was because young Nev took a little sip of the scotch on his journey down the stairs.

This article was contributed by Nevton Dunn, grandson of Seymour Dunn. Nev is a former board member at LPNEHS. He and his wife, Louise, currently reside in Portland, Oregon.



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**Try Dunn's Special Driver
and Brassey, \$3.00 each**

Sure to improve your game. Easiest club
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Image courtesy of Nevton Dunn

**LEARNING GOLF
with
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SEYMOUR DUNN, author of
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DUNN GOLF SCHOOL
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Image courtesy of Nevton Dunn

Select Local Courses Designed by Seymour Dunn



- Ausable Valley Golf Course*
- Craig Wood Golf & Country Club*
- Lake Placid Club-Links Course*
- Lake Placid Club-Pristine Nine*
- Saranac Inn Golf & Country Club*
- Schroon Lake Municipal Golf Course*
- Ticonderoga Country Club*

It's Monumental

Have you ever stopped to look at the various historical *monuments* located around Lake Placid? Here's a special tribute to Seymour Dunn located at the Lake Placid Club Links Course.



Seymour Dunn of Scotland designed our Links Course in 1916. A majestic out and back layout awaits you as it did when Dunn played exhibitions with Major Champions Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Ben Hogan and Lake Placid's own Craig Wood in the 1920's and 30's.

Have a fine golfing day!

Photo Courtesy of Betsy Hlavacek

The Historic Line

Craig Wood Golf Course - The Early Years

Reprint of 2006 LPNEHS newsletter article by former Town and Village Historian Beverly Reid (1933–2024)



Craig Wood Golf and Country Club. LPNEHS Collections

In 1924 the corporation known as “Lake Placid Holding Corporation” (a contingent of twenty-five local men) decided that Lake

Placid needed a public golf course for locals and guests of private inns. Many hotels including Lake Placid Club, Whiteface Inn, The Ruisseaumont, Fawn Club, etc. owned their own courses that were restricted for their members and patrons only.

Mr. Seymour Dunn, internationally known golf architect and the golf pro at the Lake Placid Club, was hired to supervise the plans for a nine hole golf course on the property located four miles out on Cascade Road. By the summer of 1925 the club house was opened with a “tearoom.” The first pro was Scott North. The course proved to be so popular that by 1927 the Corporation began work on the second nine holes. This work continued sporadically over the next few years. During these years a total of over \$100,000 had been expended.

The Holding Corporation offered the property to the Town of North Elba in 1931; this led to the necessity of a taxpayer vote. On July 30th, 1931 a proposition was presented at a special election for the acquisition of the Country Club Golf Course, its improvements and its completion to an eighteen hole course, for a sum of \$122,000. Another proposition at the same special election was to build the Olympic Arena. The Arena proposition was passed but the Golf Course was denied.

A year later the Park District of the Town of North Elba entered into a lease with the Holding Corporation for a sum of \$2,400, which covered a period of fifteen years. The town was given the privilege of purchase within ten years for the sum of \$25,000. Not only did this lease facilitate the completion of the eighteen hole course, but aided in the unemployment problems of the depression years. On April 8th, 1935 the Town contracted for the purchase of the completed eighteen hole course. During the years many pros and famous golfers came and went. Among them was

local hero Craig Wood. On July 19th, 1948 the “Lake Placid Golf and Country Club” name was changed to “Craig Wood Golf and Country Club”. The property is still under the auspices of the Park District of the Town of North Elba and one of the most popular golf courses in the North Country.

Karen’s Korner

Craig Wood (1901-1968)

Contributed by Karen Fountain



Craig Wood, Distinguished Golfer
National Open Championship
(1941-1945). LPNEHS Collections

Craig Wood was born in Lake Placid on November 18, 1901 and turned professional at age 18. Known as *The Blond Bomber*, he was a professional golfer in the 1930s and 1940s. He won twenty one PGA Tour titles, including two major championships. He was also a member of three Ryder Cup Teams. In 1941, he won both the Masters and the U.S. Open. In 2008, Wood was elected into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Wood died of a heart attack at the age of 66 in Palm Beach, Florida. He and his beloved wife Jacqueline are buried in the North Elba Cemetery on the outskirts of Lake Placid.

*Karen serves as the Lake Placid Village &
North Elba Town Historian*

Society Odds & Ends

Donation Changes for the August Festival

This year we are making some changes to the donations we are accepting for our annual August Festival.

No Book Donations: We will *not* be offering a book-sale tent this year so we can no longer take book donations. Please make arrangements to donate your books to other local organizations who accept printed matter.

White Elephant Sale (WES): We are also changing the way we accept donations for the WES. While we are very grateful for the generosity of the community, we don't have the space or personnel to accommodate all the donations that come in. This year we want to carefully select only those items we think will sell rather than have to discard numerous loads of unsold items after the Festival. For that reason, over the summer we will be scheduling specific drop-off times where someone will be on site to determine what items will be accepted for the sale.

Thank you for your willingness to support the Historical Society with your generous donations. We appreciate your working with us as we streamline the donation process and place limitations on what we are able to accept. We would ask that you only bring items during our specified drop-off times. We will provide drop off days and times soon. Please do not drop off items or leave by the door when no one is around to accept donations. Thank you for your cooperation and your support.

Piano Needs A New Home



The Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society has recently deaccessioned (*officially removed from the museum collections*) an old Vough Upright Changeable Pitch Piano (circa early 1900s). This piano, made in Waterloo, NY, is one of 5,000 of its kind. It is a unique piece of history that has been on exhibit at the museum for many years. The piano is being offered for free to a new home (your own transportation required). If interested, please email us or give us a call to make arrangements to see the piano. We will also email additional pictures of the piano upon request.



Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society

Wish List

If you have any of the following items in good to excellent condition that you would like to donate to the Historical Society or you would like to help finance the purchase of any of the following items, please send an email to: director@lakeplacidhistory.org or call 518-523-1608. Thank you!

- Large Trash Can with Cover
- Picnic Tables
- Large Commercial-Grade Tent
- 25-30 Folding Chairs
- Speaker's Podium
- Projector and Large Screen for Computer-based Presentations



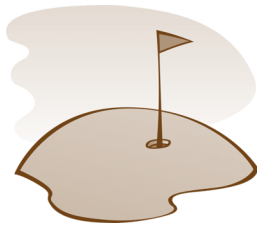
2025 Summer Events

One-Club Golf Tournament



Support the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society while enjoying an afternoon of nostalgic fun at the Lake Placid Golf Course Pristine Nine.

Please join us at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, July 9th at the Lake Placid Club Pristine Nine Course for a one-club golf tournament. This event is being offered in conjunction with *The History Museum's* 2025 golf exhibit honoring the history of golf in Lake Placid. The exhibit highlights local golf greats such as Seymour Dunn and Craig Wood.



Each team, made up of three individuals, will play the *seven par 3* holes on the course. **Participants will need to bring one club and one putter to take part.** Players will also have the opportunity to use vintage clubs on select holes. Some of these clubs were designed by Seymour Dunn in the early 1900s.



We encourage participants to come wearing **vintage golf attire**, showcasing golf fashion in the early 1900s. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Following the tournament participants are invited to *The History Museum* for a reception and award ceremony. The golf exhibit will also be open at that time.

Cost is \$100 per team of 3 and includes the tournament entry fee, reception and prizes. **Register and pay for the event online at lakeplacidhistory.org. You may also pay upon arrival at the tournament, but pre-registration online is required. Please register by July 2nd.**

For more information please contact:

Perry Babcock at 518-637-7945

Upcoming Events

Museum Opens for the Season

May 24th

Music at the Museum

June 23rd, July 14th, August 18th

Join us this summer for three Monday evening acoustic concerts and musical jam sessions at *The History Museum*. Bring your chairs and gather round for a 6-8 pm performance by local artists and an 8-9 pm open jam. All instruments and voices welcome for jam sessions.

Museum Open House & Reception

June 26th

Enjoy appetizers and drinks while viewing our new golf exhibit showcasing the history of golf in Lake Placid. The exhibit highlights local golf greats Seymour Dunn and Craig Wood. This event is free and open to the public. Donations are always welcome.

Speaker and Book Signing

June 30th

Retired attorney and author Edward Pitts will be giving an illustrated lecture of his recently released Syracuse University Press book: *Sketching the Adirondacks: Letters from the Wilderness*. His book tells the true story of two young artists, Jervis McEntee and Joseph Tubby, who trekked across the central Adirondacks in 1851.

One-Club Golf Tournament

July 9th

Support the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society while enjoying an afternoon of nostalgic fun at the Lake Placid Golf Course Pristine Nine.

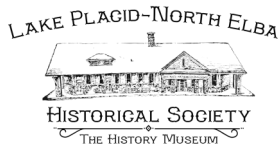
LPNEHS Festival

August 9th

Come for a day of fun and support the Historical Society. There will be food, live music, silent auction, white elephant and heritage antique sale, games and much more.

Join us for one or all of our summer events and don't forget to check out our new golf exhibit at *The History Museum*. We look forward to seeing you this season!





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

LAKE PLACID-NORTH ELBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You are cordially invited to the
2025 Museum Open House & Reception
Thursday, June 26th from 5:00-7:00 pm
at The History Museum

Enjoy appetizers and drinks while viewing our new golf exhibit showcasing the history of golf in Lake Placid. The exhibit highlights local golf greats Seymour Dunn and Craig Wood.



This year's event is free and open to the public.
Donations are always welcome!

The History Museum ♦ 242 Station Street, Lake Placid, NY 12946



Seymour Dunn
1953