

HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Historic Saranac Lake at the Saranac Laboratory Museum



EXHIBIT BANNER UNVEILED

This fall, we designed the title image for next year's new John Black Room exhibition. In celebration of the upcoming reopening of the restored Hotel Saranac, the exhibit will explore the cultural history of the 1920s through the context of a grand hotel of the era.

The new exhibit replaces the Medical Marvels exhibit of antique medical devices, many graciously loaned by Ripley's Believe it or Not®. Photos of the exhibit panels and artifacts will soon be shared on our website.

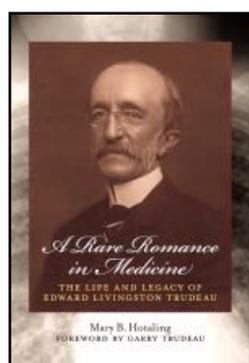
Grants from the NY Council for the Humanities supported consultation with humanities scholars. Molly Berger, Ph. D. has advised on the history of hotels in the United States. Sara Hume, Ph. D. is providing expertise on 1920s fashions. Kent Streed of Pendragon Theatre is consulting on exhibit design.

Artist Maria de Angelo is working with student artists Morgan Paul and Hannah Gochenaur to paint murals that will divide the John Black Room into areas of a grand hotel of the era. Visitors will explore venues such as a guest room, a speakeasy, and a ballroom. Tom Seymour designed and constructed the exhibit partitions. We are seeking 1920s artifacts for the exhibit such as men's and women's clothing, fashion accessories, and hotel-related artifacts. Please contact us if you have something you would be willing to provide on loan!



The exhibit banner was created by Peter Seward and Karen Davidson of Davidson Designs

TRUDEAU BOOK PUBLISHED



In August, we were thrilled to release the new biography of Dr. Trudeau by Mary Hotaling with foreword by Garry Trudeau. We are pleased to offer this important book for sale in our museum store and online gift shop: www.historicsaranaclake.org/store. Initial sales of *A Rare Romance in Medicine* have far exceeded our expectations. Our thanks to the many friends who supported the project, and to Mary Hotaling for the years of hard work she put into creating this fabulous resource.

NEW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

We are growing! Thanks to a generous private donation, we are now hiring an Oral History Coordinator. The staff person will lead a new initiative to capture the personal stories that make up our common identity. The Oral History Coordinator will work with volunteers to conduct interviews, transcribe and archive recordings, and coordinate temporary exhibits to share the growing project. The new Oral History Project kicks off with a collaboration with North Country Public Radio's "North Country at Work" project. (See Page 3 for details.) Pending grant funding, the new staff person will also help to develop the Traveling Cure Porch, our plan for a mobile oral history space. Stay tuned for news!

HISTORY WEBSITE

Visit our growing website of local history: localwiki.org/hsl
Click the edit button and add what you know!

OUR MISSION

Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit architectural preservation organization that captures and presents local history from our center at the Saranac Laboratory Museum.



Made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

RECENT HAPPENINGS



Museum Improvements

The permanent exhibits on science and patient care at the Saranac Laboratory Museum underwent major upgrades this season. Visitors can now view local history films on a large screen in a media room on the main floor. The audio tours are now streamlined and much easier to use. We thank volunteer Andy Kelly for lending his expertise in creating the new audio tour buttons.

School Outreach

We expanded our school outreach program this spring to include walking field trips with Bloomingdale 5th graders. Our annual 7th grade local history project culminated in a poetry reading and art show this spring. Our thanks to writer Liza Frenette and to teachers Amy Jones and Maria de Angelo. The project continues this school year. This fall, we are leading Petrova 5th graders on walking tours through historic downtown and Pine Ridge Cemetery. Students will present research about people buried in the cemetery.

Walk of Fame

New additions to the Saranac Lake Walk of Fame include baseball players Larry Doyle and Christy Mathewson, as well as composer Béla Bartók. HSL sponsored gatherings for both events. We captured some wonderful stories during our "Play Ball" local history gathering, and we hosted a full house for a concert of Bartók's *Slovak Songs* by Ivá Bittová.



Student Interns

We enjoyed working this summer with two wonderful student interns, Mary Reid and Natalie Dewey. They were a big help with staffing the museum, writing articles for the wiki website, scanning photos, and more. The student intern program is made possible by the Ralph Kelly fund supported by Kay and Marvin Best.

Collection Project

We continue to work to grow and care for our museum collection under the leadership of Museum Administrator and trained archivist, Chessie Monks-Kelly. We recently accepted three important donations: the papers of Dr. David Pecora, former Chief of Surgery at Ray Brook State Hospital; a collection of letters and photographs pertaining to Pinehurst Camp; and artifacts from the collection of our friend, Natalie Leduc.

History Matters Speaker Series

This year, visitors have enjoyed a diverse range of topics for our monthly History Matters Speaker Series. Subjects have included the National Register of Historic Places; Saranac Lake's baseball history; TB research presented by Dr. Ian Orme; the Murals of Dr. Norman Bethune presented by Tony Holtzman; and the architecture of Cuba presented by Mary Nell Bockman of AARCH. Stay tuned to our events page to find out about upcoming events and tours.

SPECIAL VISITORS



Joe and Christine Benero. Joe is the son of Manny and Pilar Benero. They presented us with sheet music from Béla Bartók.



The family of Dr. Bertram and Estherlea Eckmann, who met as TB patients at the Trudeau Sanatorium in the 1940s.



Julie and Walker Petroff, the son of artist Gilmer Petroff and grandson of Dr. S.A. Petroff, former Director of the Saranac Laboratory.



Peter and Barbara MacIntyre, grandchildren of Dr. Homer Sampson.



Lynne Trudeau Jonquieres, niece of Frank Trudeau and great-great-granddaughter of Dr. E. L. Trudeau.

CURRENT PROJECTS and UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Meeting: “Hotel Hope”

We will hold our 36th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will include a special presentation of *Hotel Hope: the Story of Will Rogers Hospital*. Filmmaker Jim Griebisch will share a new version of the film that includes recently uncovered history. The evening will also feature the unveiling of a very special artifact donated to HSL by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation. The meeting is open to members of HSL, in the John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

Preserving Historic Main Street

HSL has received a Preserve NY grant from the Preservation League to support the expansion of the boundaries of the downtown National Register historic district. HSL is contracting with AARCH for their services on the project. Extending the historic district will support efforts to revitalize our historic Main Street.

Fall and Winter Tours

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month through December for a tour of the grounds of the former Trudeau Sanatorium. Meet at 10:30 a.m. inside the Park Avenue gates of the AMA. Reservations must be made by noon the day before. Call 518-891-4606. \$5 / person, HSL members and children free. The tour meets rain, snow, or shine! Check the website for other tours and events!

HISTORY SHARING

NCPR's “North Country At Work” project is coming to Saranac Lake! Community photo scanning and oral history recording events will be held on November 3, 1:00–5:00 PM at Saranac Village at Will Rogers; November 4, 10:00–4:00 PM at the Saranac Laboratory Museum; and November 5, 10:00–4:00 PM at the Saranac Lake Free Library. This collaboration is a lead-in to HSL's new Oral History Project.



Bartók Cabin Improvements

HSL recently secured a new right-of-way to the Bartók Cabin and made landscaping improvements to the new entrance. Visitors can now enter the cabin without having to climb the many steep front stairs. We are grateful to the owners of the cabin for their ongoing willingness to allow us to show the property, and we thank Len, Karla, and Bryce Barker for their generosity with granting the new right-of-way. This project was made possible by the Jody Sandhaus Malinverni fund to support the Bartók Cabin and the memory of Bartók in Saranac Lake.

READY FOR ANOTHER 120 YEARS

This summer we invested over \$61,000 in repairs to the Saranac Laboratory and museum exhibit improvements. GS Restoration, Amy Tripp Painting, and Slab Hollow Chimney performed roof, chimney, and window repairs as well as exterior painting. We are grateful for funding secured with the support of Senator Betty Little and the NYS Department of Education. We also thank the Roedel Family Trust, the Dorothy Gould Cook Family Trust, and Roedel Companies, NY Council for the Humanities, Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, Drumcliff Foundation, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Garry Trudeau and Jane Pauley, Beverley and George Kubica, Tom and Nancy Downs, Judith Landes, Nancy and Ed Murphy, Jim and Mary Hotaling, Donna Price Evans, Gerry Waterson, Jane and Charles Carroll, the Carroll Family Fund, Sunita Halasz, the Schwalenstocker Family Fund, Harry Stuart and Claudine Chavanne, Marc Wanner and Judy Rush, Richard and Libby Cohen, Jim and Kathy Clark, Meg Bernstein, Jim and Keela Rogers, Susan and Dennis Dwyer, Tom Seymour, Kirk and Diane Peterson, Julian and Lee Brunner, Christina Fontana, Lilyann Hoyt, David Filsinger, and Susan Nolde.



Join us!

Become a Member of Historic Saranac Lake. Together, let's preserve the past for the future!

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Make your check payable to Historic Saranac Lake or donate by credit card:

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You may also give online at
<http://www.historicsaranaclake.org/donate>

Membership Matters!

Join us and enjoy new and improved membership benefits. Find out more at historicsaranaclake.org/membership.

- Benefactor: \$1,000
- Patron: \$500
- Historian: \$100
- Family: \$65
- Individual: \$35
- Business: \$125
- Organization: \$35



Above: Historic photo courtesy of Jan Dudones

Below: History Day with BOCES New Visions students, fall, 2016.



Historic Saranac Lake is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.

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