

North Creek Railway Depot Museum Newsletter Fall/Winter 2022



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North Creek Railway
Depot Museum
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North Creek, NY 12853

President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of this year, I can't help but to reflect on the 2022 Season of the North Creek Depot Museum. It was great to be able to be open and welcome over 4,000 visitors. In addition to those who came to North Creek to see our exhibits, we hosted groups from the Sierra Club and several groups of Road Scholars who were guests of Garnet Hill Lodge.

We are happy to announce the addition of two new members to our Board of Trustees. Anthony "Tony" Cucchiara and Cindy Morse.

Tony is Professor Emeritus of Brooklyn College, City University of New York. He taught at the college for twenty-five years and was its Director of Archives and Special Collections.

Among his many accomplishments during his tenure, Tony was the founder and director of Archival Studies and Community Documentation minor for undergraduates, the first of its kind in the nation. He raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and donations to process and preserve major collections and construct the first conservation and preservation laboratory within the City University of New York system. Also, Tony designed and mounted numerous exhibitions and developed an archival internship program for both undergraduates and graduate students. To his delight, many of his students have gone on to hold archival positions throughout the country.

In addition to teaching, Tony has served as a consulting archivist to major corporations and was the Green-Wood Cemetery Archivist from 2009 to 2020. At this national historic cemetery, he established their archival records and preservation program. He continues to teach archival management studies at Pratt Institute, School of Information in New York City as a Visiting Professor, a position he has held since 1996.

We are delighted to have Tony join our team and look forward to his guidance and assistance in helping us build and strengthen our museum.

We are also happy to welcome Cindy (Alexander) Morse to our Board. You might recognize her as she recently retired after serving 34 years as the Assistant Manager of our local bank. Cindy served on the original "Save Our Station" (SOS) Committee that is responsible for saving the Depot and acquiring the funds to restore the Depot and surrounding complex to its early historic state, to meet the requirements to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Cindy brings a great deal of historical knowledge of our community, and we are thrilled she has agreed to serve on our Board.

Finally, this is my last "President's Message." After five years I will be stepping down. It is time to let someone else take over and continue to move the Depot Museum forward. In the past five years we have brought the Museum from one of a debt-ridden, not-for-profit whose Board was investigating closure, to a financially stable organization, and feel confident that I am leaving the Depot Museum in good hands. Happy Holidays!

Ellen Schaefer



The Town of Johnsburg had multiple events for History Weekend 2022 through the collaboration of the Johnsburg Historical Society, Town Historian Deana Wood, Gem Radio Theater, The Depot Museum, and the Newcomb Historical Society.

On Friday evening the Johnsburg Historical Society dedicated a bronze plaque on the site of their new home, the Waddell House, on the corner of Route 8 and 28 in Wevertown. There were several short talks on background of the house and plans for its future renovation as the new Johnsburg History Museum.

The Johnsburg Historian organized crafts displays and a black smith demonstration at Riverfront Park on Saturday, and the Depot Museum was open to visitors. Gem Radio Theatre presented another wonderful Graveyard Walk, this time at North River Cemetery. Hosted by Robin Jay and Jane Hartenstein, visitors were taken on a guided walking tour of the cemetery to “meet” noted individuals from Johnsburg’s past as far back as the Revolutionary War, portrayed by local actors.

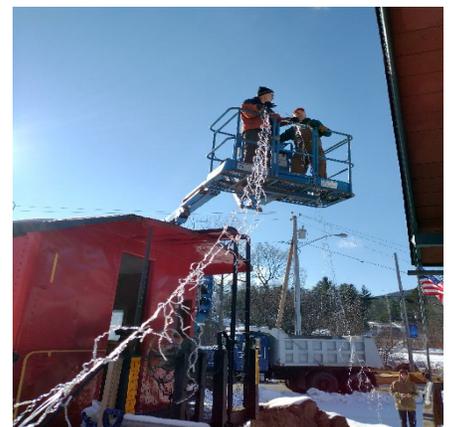
The weekend concluded with a dual commemoration of Teddy Roosevelt’s Night Ride to the Presidency and the 150th Anniversary of the North Creek Railway Station. Sponsored in cooperation with the Newcomb Historical Society, famed Teddy Roosevelt reenactor Joe Wiegand guided a tour from Newcomb to North Creek, retracing TR’s famous “Night Ride to the Presidency.” Locals dressed in period costume, setting the stage for the wonderful celebration and presentation by TR from the Depot Museum’s Red Caboose.



Getting the Holiday in Gear at the North Creek Railway Depot Museum

As the Winter Holiday Season approached, Mrs. Claus and two of her dancing Rein “Dears” came to check on the preparations and holiday decorations on the Caboose and Depot platform. After all, Santa himself was coming to visit. On Dec 2. Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Rein “Dears” greeted guests after the North Creek Christmas Tree “Lights On” opening ceremony.

A cadre of merry volunteers from the Depot Museum put up quite a light display, with animated figures, as well as decorated the interior of the caboose. Mrs. Claus and her dancers did a short performance, and then she and Santa greeted their guests, especially the children who shared their Christmas wishes. This was a perfect family Holiday photo opportunity.



Pomeroy Fund for NYS History Awards \$5000 to North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association

The North Creek Railway Depot Museum was among the 20 history-related organizations awarded funding during the fifth grant round of the Pomeroy Fund for NYS History to bring back or hire museum educators.

The Pomeroy Fund, which is a partnership between the William G. Pomeroy Foundation® and the Museum Association of New York (MANY), has awarded almost \$300,000 to 96 history-related organizations across New York State since spring 2020.

“We are grateful to museum educators across the state who help enhance our understanding of history,” said **Deryn Pomeroy, Trustee and Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Pomeroy Foundation**. “We are proud to provide funding and support to these organizations and their dedicated employees, who play a vital role in preserving and sharing New York’s rich historical heritage.”

We are indeed honored by the Pomeroy Foundation to be selected as a recipient of this prestigious award. The funds provided will enable the museum to hire a museum educator who will help broaden, enhance and deliver more of our educational programs to the North Creek community.

Educators receiving support through the fifth round of the Pomeroy Fund will plan and deliver interpretive programs, including school programs, teen programs, early childhood programs, family days, festivals, programs for older adults, programs for New Americans, and targeted audience-specific programs.

“We are honored to be able to continue this partnership with the Pomeroy Foundation to support the work of museums that tell the story of New York State’s history through their collections and programs,” said **MANY Executive Director Erika Sanger**. “This was an especially competitive grant cycle and awards were made to only the most outstanding applicants. Museum Education staff and the programs they deliver were especially hard hit in the past three years and these grants will make a real difference in twenty different communities.”

The Pomeroy Foundation funding will enable the North Creek Railway Depot Museum to hire a museum educator who will bolster our current education program and community outreach with additional innovated programming to include added school and senior citizen programs and a live stream curatorial event to expand the reach of museum. We are happy to announce that artist and educator Frances Gaffney will serve in this position.

Acquisitions

The Depot Museum has received several new acquisitions this past year that will greatly enhance our collection. This summer, Michael and Suzie Anderson donated a framed First Day Cover of Theodore Roosevelt and a book on philatelic ephemera. An anonymous donor stopped at the Museum this summer and left several TR campaign photos. These photos show him campaigning from trains. Miichael and Mary Brassel donated two large historic prints of North Creek- one of the station and one of a train. These prints hung in the office of Phil Brassel in North Creek. In a significant contribution to our Ski History Room, we were given several folders of articles/letters from William Waddell. The materials also include ski brochures, maps and advertisements from the Ride Up Slide Down era to the 1960s. There are also several train photos with local citizens that we hope to identify.

In addition to new acquisitions, Greg Schaefer has been reviewing materials in the collection that were not catalogued. These include a Platform Talk video of Nan Hudnut Clarkson discussing the history of Foxlair. We also have a collection of glass plate negative prints of old North Creek digitized on DVD, and a collection of ski photos from the 1940s-60s at the Ski Bowl taken by Ernie Johnson. We hope to share many of these items at the Museum in 2023.

If you are downsizing, cleaning out you basement or attic, or hear of someone who is looking for a home for historic items related to Theodore Roosevelt, local ski history, or the railroad, please contact Greg Schaefer at 518-251-5451. Thank you.

A Gem of a History Weekend

Special Thanks to Gregory Tomb Glass Blowing Studio

Our special thanks again go out to Gregory Tomb for naming the North Creek Depot Museum as beneficiary of his 2022 Glass Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser. His generosity will help us to keep the heat on this winter to protect our exhibits and preserve our collections.



Visit Greg's Studio in 2023 and learn about the art of glass blowing. Take a class and create a beautiful art glass piece of your own.

Gregory Tomb Glassblowing Studio

530-318-9413

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Theodore Roosevelt Reprisor to Return

The North Creek Railway Depot Preservation is planning to bring back Joe "TR" Wiegand, Theodore Roosevelt reprisor in the Fall of 2023. Preliminary plans are underway to hold a stage performance and possibly a Gala fundraiser to benefit the Depot Museum in September 2023.

If we are able to secure funding, Joe will also plan to bring President Roosevelt back to Johnsburg Central School and work with Linda Quintavalle on her elementary school program of "People and Trains that Could."

This year Joe brought Roosevelt to life at our 6th Annual History Weekend. In collaboration with the Town of Newcomb's "TR Days", he retraced the route that Roosevelt took on the night of September 13/14, 1901, from the McNaughton Cottage in Tahawus, near Newcomb, NY to the North Creek Train Depot where he learned of President McKinley's death, and his ascension to the Presidency. Please consider being a business sponsor for this event.

Help Us Continue Our Mission

The North Creek Railway Depot Preservation Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, and a New York State Registered Charitable Organization. Your tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted and help us to keep the Museum open and working to fulfill our Mission to "... collect, preserve, and interpret objects related to the history and culture of the Gore Mountain Region ...". Increases in the cost of fuel oil and maintenance of our historic buildings puts a strain on our operating budget. Please consider a membership or additional donation if you are already a member. And, please consider the Depot Museum in your estate planning. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks go out to all of our Museum Volunteers – Actors, Pumpkin Patch workers, and all of you who help out throughout the year, but especially our docents, without whom the Museum could not be open.

Thank you!!!