



KENT-DELORD
HOUSE MUSEUM

2016 Annual Report

ABSTRACT

The Delord Family's story continues when visitors enter the gate and see this home through the eyes of the Delord descendants and hear family stories and challenges that span over 100 years. The Museum's activities and accomplishments for 2016 are summarized in this annual report.

Introduction

The Kent Delord House Museum was home to the Delord Family for more than a century, from 1810-1913. The house overlooks the scenic Lake Champlain and Cumberland Bay where in 1814, the Americans won the Battle of Plattsburgh, a strategic victory instrumental in ending the War of 1812 with the British.

One of the oldest homes in the City of Plattsburgh, it was built in 1797 by William Bailey. His sister, Elizabeth Bailey Kent, wife of James Kent, chief justice and chancellor of the New York Supreme Court later sold it to Henry Delord. The Delord story unfolds from the hundreds of letters, diaries, and artifacts written and kept by the family over a span of 100 years. The historic house contains Delord and Webb heirlooms from the last descendant, Frances Delord Webb Hall.

Fannie Hall died on October 4, 1913. In her will, she left her “historic relics” to a museum. Fannie also left the house to the Physicians Hospital. For the next ten years, her faithful servant Catherine Dowling served as caretaker of the house, protecting and preserving not only the house, but also historic family belongings.

Jeannette Brookings Tuttle, a civic activist and local historian, is one of the key people responsible for the Kent-Delord House Museum. As Regent of the Saranac Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Tuttle launched a campaign in 1914 to raise a maintenance fund and asked William H. Miner, a local millionaire inventor, to buy the house to preserve it as a Museum. It took ten years of convincing, but Miner bought the home in 1924 and immediately started the restoration process.

William H. Miner established a Board of Trustees to administer a trust fund he provided to operate the house as a museum. The Kent-Delord House Corporation obtained a provisional charter in 1928 as an educational institution from the Regents of the University of New York, and was later granted the absolute charter on March 18, 1938. Today the Museum is filled with portraits, furniture, dinnerware, books, letters, and personal items owned by three generations of the Delord family.

Mission and Vision

Mission

The Kent-Delord House Museum, by preserving the grounds, structures, collections, and writings of the Delord family, aims to interpret and display the historical and cultural significance of the Delords during the 18th and 20th centuries.

Vision

To become a nationally accredited historical museum that provides memorable, dynamic, educational experiences based on the legacy of three Delord generations.

2016 Board of Trustees

President	Trevor Laughlin (through September 2016 then remained as board member) Paula Calkins Lacombe (October 2016)
V. President	Paula Calkins Lacombe (through September 2016) Diane Wyand (October 2016)
Secretary	Sharon Bell
Treasurer	Holly Morrow
Member-at-Large	James Clute (October 2016)
Director	Don Wickman
Members	Tom Glasgow Matt Hewson (up until October 2016) Scarlett McBride Craig Russell Gary Fisher Paul Miller Marlee Bickford-Bushey (November 2016)

President and Executive Committee Report

Members and Volunteers - As always, our members and volunteers remain loyal and supportive advocates. As I have become more familiar with the museum's modern day history, I see that members have served in many different capacities at the museum throughout the many decades. They remain steadfast in supporting our beautiful and historic Delord house museum. *Volunteers of the Year* - At the annual meeting, the Board recognized a core group of volunteers, the Garden Club's founding members as *Volunteers of the Year*. In this their 30th anniversary, the founding members were recognized for their leadership, creativity, and many hours they and all the members since have lovingly cared for the museum's gardens. Every year they take a plain, white, historic house and make it a community showcase. Thank you and we welcome new generations of members to step up and continue this strong tradition and legacy.

The Executive Committee and the Board wants to keep the museum a dynamic place to visit and one with a solid organizational and fiscal infrastructure. Through the Governance Committee, the Board continued the StEPS process in 2016. As outlined in the committee's report much was accomplished, revised mission and vision statements, updated bylaws, a conflict of interest policy, revised nominating guidelines, and a 2016 -2020 Long Range Plan was adopted. The Board believes an organization that meets national standards will qualify for competitive grants that will assist the museum in funding essential improvements to museum.

Several board members (James Clute, Holly Morrow, and Diane Wyand) took the initiative and held the first Harmony "Hop" Event at the Harmony Golf Course in Port Kent in September. All agree it has the

potential to grow and be a good fundraiser for the museum. Fundraising is key to our museum so with ongoing membership support and special events it is hoped our finances can grow in 2017.

Thank you to the Board, volunteers, members, and our community for supporting the Kent-Delord House Museum in 2016, good work and may we have an even better and more successful 2017. The following highlights 2016.

Director's Report

Exhibits - During 2016, the Kent-Delord House Museum changed exhibits providing the museum with a *fresh face* and offered a range of activities. The Blue Parlor held the *Key to Liberty* – a multi-paneled exhibit on loan from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. This display showed the importance of the Lake Champlain Valley during the first three years of the American Revolution.

Champlain National Bank donated funds to purchase panel doors that were used for the following exhibits this year:

- *William Swetland* – this display highlighted the contributions Betsy Delord's second husband made to the community including his role in establishing Plattsburgh Academy.
- *William Bailey* – highlighted Henry's Delord business partner in the Red Store and owner of the original 1797 house.
- *Vintage Postcards* – showed postcard views of the Kent-Delord House during the 20th Century.

Another exhibit displayed *commemorative china* illustrating the Kent-Delord House.

Stepping Back in Time was the title given to the Gold Parlor's theme. Staff and volunteers arranged the Gold Parlor to closely resemble the photographic views taken in 1928. This room will continue in this format through the 2017 season.

Prime Link, a local fiber optics and telephone company, provided monetary support for framed panels that described the conversion of the Frances Delord Webb Hall residence into a museum.

Happenings – The *History Happy Hour*, a social/educational activity, occurred in April and October. Featured speakers were Erick Tichonuk, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and John Krueger, Plattsburgh City Historian.

June's *Museum Days* outside exhibits featured a Kent-Delord House Timeline and the outline of the HMS *Confiance* (British flagship at the 1814 Battle of Plattsburgh). These provided the public an opportunity to *step on board* of the vessel.

Veterans Day/ NY History Month was celebrated with interior museum exhibits that featured displays of military clothing on loan from members and a display commemorating the 350th Anniversary of the Carignan-Saliere Regiment which first occupied Fort St. Anne on Isle La Motte in 1666. Outside, re-enactors set up displays recognizing the following conflicts: French & Indian War, the American

Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War and World War II. On the lawn were arranged small American and British flags that represented the men on both sides who died during the 1814 Plattsburgh Campaign.

Once again, the *Battle of Plattsburgh* events continued to be successful. This year staff created a *Self-Guided Tour Pamphlet* for the many visitors who passed through the house. The model will be used again in 2017. The Junior Encampment attracted over 100 participants of all ages and was superbly staffed by adult and teen volunteers who provided expertise at the varied stations teaching 19th Century trades and crafts. Volunteers stepped forward to manage this popular event after the unexpected death of program originator/director Kate Besaw-Vunk in July.

The third annual Delord Christmas proved successful featuring live entertainment in the Gold Parlor.

These activities could not occur without the assistance of volunteers, thank you for all your hard work and support.

Outreach - The Kent-Delord House Museum again was part of the Battle of Plattsburgh *Across the Fence* program featured on WCAX (Channel 3). During the Battle of Plattsburgh (BoP) weekend I was interviewed live by Tom Messner of WPTZ about BoP events at the Kent-Delord House. The museum continues to participate in the Adirondack Cost Cultural Alliance plus North Country Chamber activities like the Business Expo and Business After Hours.

For training, this year's Museum Association of New York (MANY) conference was held in Lake Placid and the Kent-Delord House Museum was represented. Several worthwhile workshops were delivered that could be utilized at the museum.

In the fall, the museum received notification that it was the recipient of a grant through the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP). Working on the theme of *Lake Champlain: Corridor of Commerce*, the grant will emphasize three facets of commerce and its association with the house residents: the transportation of goods to the Bailey & Delord business, transportation methods of people and the creation of the Plattsburgh & Montreal Railroad in 1852. In fitting the criteria set forth in the grant, most of the work will be completed by teenagers associated with the museum.

Other grants were applied for, but rejected. These were with Greater Hudson River Heritage and the New York State Parks. It is planned to re-submit to both of these organizations in 2017.

Committee Reports

Governance

The national StEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) process has been the driving force behind updating and improving the museum's governance. The committee of Don Wickman, Director, and board members, Craig Russell, Sharon Bell, and Paula Calkins Lacombe began the process in October 2015. They chose the Mission, Vision, and Governance section to review first since it established the organizational framework and standards for the museum.

The Board approved revised mission and vision statements in 2016 that reflect recommended national standards and better identify the museum's role. At the annual meeting, the membership approved revised bylaws that now comply with New York State regulations for not-for-profit organizations.

The Governance committee also developed written nomination guidelines that follow recommended best practices. The Board presented to the membership at the annual meeting a complete slate of officers including the member-at-large position on the Executive Committee that had previously not been filled. In November 2016, Marlee Bickford-Bushey filled Matt Hewson's unexpired term.

In early 2017 after eighteen months of work, the Governance committee will measure its work and successes by completing the StEPS certification process for the Mission, Vision, and Governance section. Three levels of attainment are possible, bronze, silver and gold. The Committee anticipates that the museum will attain most areas in the silver and gold level. This certificate represents hours of hard work by the committee and ongoing support from the Board. This certification will officially recognize the museum's progress toward completing the StEPS process and aligns the museum with national museum standards.

Education

Docents – Our seasoned KDHM docents including four new teenage docents remain an essential component of education programming at the museum. From when the “gate” opens in May until it closes for the season in October, the docents provide the background, history and stories that keep the Delord family legacy alive.

Our school program educators provided the Mooers Elementary School with historical activities that left all wanting more. It is often a first visit for many of these students. Their enthusiasm and interest often results in them bringing their parents back for a visit. An ongoing challenge remains increasing the number of schools that visit the museum.

A history camp that allows youth to “live” the life a soldier was canceled due to lack of interest. A similar event is offered at the County Museum and perhaps that meets the need and interest in the community.

Twenty volunteers provided living history experiences for approximately 100 children and their families at the annual *Jr. Encampment*. This event took place during the Battle of Plattsburgh commemoration and remained the museum's largest educational event of the year.

Buildings and Grounds

The last shingle was laid in April which completed the 2015-2016 *roof replacement*. This was an essential project for preserving the house and its contents. Fundraising defrayed the cost and a loan from the endowment allowed it to be completed; a balance of \$17,600 needs to be repaid. Gary Fisher repaired the solarium roof this year; his time and work is greatly appreciated. With completion of these two projects, the museum will hopefully remain *dry* for many years to come.

The gardens are always a beautiful focal point of the museum's landscape, however, the *fence* on the west that bordered the property detracted from the Garden Club's hard work. Seton Catholic high school students removed the dilapidated fence this fall. Don Wickman and Paul Miller temporarily replaced it with a snow fence. Don is working on replacing it this spring and hopes a local Eagle Scout will take it on as his project. Garden Club President, Carol Lindberg along with a few hardy Garden Club members, cut and cleared the overgrown shrubs and roses in the back corner. This pruning should allow the lilac bush and roses to once again return to their full potential.

Don applied for grant funding for approximately \$60,000 from the New York State Parks and Historic Preservation Department. These funds would have covered the cost to paint the house, remove and replace rotting boards and shutters, and replace the handicapped ramp. Unfortunately, we did not receive these funds. Don plans to apply for these funds again in 2017.

KDHM Garden Club

Officers - The KDHM Garden Club celebrated its 30th year in 2016; a great accomplishment. The year began with the installation of new officers, Carol Lindberg - President, Sue Doin - Vice-President, Linda Sabella - Treasurer, and Ruth Mary Ortloff - Secretary.

The Gardens – The Club hired Aquarius, a regional landscape irrigation company to fix and update the present irrigation system for the gardens, it was completed by early summer.

The present *Planning Committee* selected three members to take over the responsibilities of planning the gardens for 2017 and trained them during the 2016 season. The new Planning Committee includes Sue Carter, Gail Santor and Joanne Arvisais.

The Club planted a *new garden* on the east side of the Museum. It had become overcrowded and Club members wanted to showcase more plants that were there when the Delord's lived in the house. Most plants were removed separated and replanted. A special addition to this garden were White Hydrangeas; these were very prevalent in the old pictures of the house.

Club members hired workers to redo the *paths* in the west yard; metal edging was installed and new gravel laid. It is hoped that the refurbished paths will last for many years.

Sally Booth documented the Garden Club's 30 years in a special *30th Anniversary Booklet*. In the booklet, Sally captured the Garden Club's history and accomplishments from the very first meeting of the founding members to current and future plans of the Club. What a treasure for all; it is now sold in the KDHM Store for one dollar. Additionally, she created a *legible framework for the gardens master plan*. Previously, the originals were large "blue prints" and not a user-friendly reference.

As in the past, fund raising remains an important role for the Garden Club. The annual *plant exchange in May* brought in \$225. The *Secret Garden Tour* held in July raised \$3,065 making it one of the Club's best years. Of course this could not be done without the gardeners who graciously open their gardens to the public each year and we thank them all.

In December, the Garden Club once again adorned the museum in original, holiday decor. This year's theme *A House within a House* was a great success. A special thank you goes to Melanie Waugh and her team. A new venture this year turned the Museum Store into a Gift Shop with items donated by Club members. It was a very successful weekend, \$ 923.75 was raised with \$423.75 from store items, \$463 from donations and \$37 from a raffle. In addition, traditional museum items from the store netted \$166. The Club hopes to repeat it all again next year.

Garden maps are under development and should be ready for visitors when the Museum opens in May. These will highlight specimens within the garden making it easier for visitors to identify the beautiful array of plants that are always displayed.

Development/ Membership

This Committee was formed at the end of 2016. Membership data was reviewed for the period 2014 through 2016. Targets were set in the 2016 and will be incorporated into the annual goals for KDHM in 2017. A main objective will be to send out a minimum of 200 letters to individuals and businesses inviting them to join the museum.

The 2016 *End-of-the-Year appeal* raised \$2,380. All donations are greatly appreciated. This committee, in conjunction with other committees, will work on fund raising activities for 2017 an ongoing and essential aspect of the museum's operations.

Collections

2016 was a busy year for collections. Catherine Hernandez, Pat Loughan, and other volunteers cleaned and organized the library. The Museum Director made arrangements for a temporary installment of the *Key to Liberty* exhibit from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. This was met with great interest and added a broader look at Lake Champlain history here in the Museum.

Committee members placed wall placards for more of our paintings and prints; these identified the name of the piece, the artist, and the date the work was created. These efforts were well received by our docents and visitors alike.

The Committee used a new technique that affixes interpretive copy to door panels. This technique, an innovation from the Museum Director, minimizes the damaging impact that glue and tape can have on the walls of the Museum.

In an effort to showcase more of the items in our collection, the committee selected some different paintings and prints for display and rearranged other paintings. In one of the greatest annual efforts, the committee clears out sensitive artifacts to make way for the Garden Club's annual Christmas Open House. In January and February, we reorganize and reinstall artifact exhibits for the coming year. The flexibility of our collections has also been demonstrated by our ability to remove certain artifacts into

temporary storage for our informative and fun History Happy Hour events, smoothly transitioning back into displays as usual after they are over.

In 2017 with help from the Garden Club, board members, and volunteers, will revamp and revitalize the solarium, now referred as the "Green Room" as Betsy Delord called it. This group plans to showcase this underutilized room, highlight the enormous contributions of the Garden Club and interpret museum history. Also, in 2017 we hope to add more artifacts previously held in storage and add some new reproductions to give key rooms in the museum a "lived in" feel in order to give the public a tangible understanding of what living in the house would have looked like 100+ years ago. We also hope to have more reproductions available for the young and the young at heart to interact with in order to make history at the Kent Delord House Museum come alive. Behind the scenes, we will continue efforts to reorganize our stored collections.

Marketing/Public Relations/Special Events

The first *monthly events calendar* for the museum was prepared in 2016. It outlined month by month key museum activities which helps keep all focused not only on the current month but of upcoming events which helps in better planning and organization.

The museum's *Quarterly Newsletter* was published three times last year; the first quarter was missed. The previous editor, Sally Booth, "retired" after many years of producing exemplary issues. This required recruitment and training of new members. Producing four newsletters is essential since it remains the most consistent form of communication to members and it essentially documents "current" history, an important task to ensure that our story continues.

Board members participated in a *volunteer fair* in the spring; over a dozen people completed forms saying they were interested, of those only one followed through and participated in events. Participating in this type event is still important and keeps the museum in the public eye and an active volunteer was recruited; this is success!

Two *History Happy Hours* were held in 2016 one in April and one in October. Attendees enjoyed the topics and enthusiastically indicated they would attend future events.

The *Delord Christmas* generated 115 visitors and was filmed by Jack Laduke from Mountain Lakes PBS for a future broadcast. This was a great publicity opportunity and again a success.

The *Holiday Secret House Tour* returned in 2016. The houses featured more traditional holiday décor along with some very elaborate and over-the-top decorations. A few hosts even supplied some holiday treats in addition to those served at the museum. Names of possible future hosts for this popular event are always welcome.

A new event took place in September at the Harmony Golf Club. The event had a "record hop" theme and DJ Gary Peacock's music trivia game with LP record giveaways ensured all had fun. The inaugural event was successful and plans are to repeat it....stay tuned for the 2017 event.

Statistics

2016 Monthly Museum Activity* and Revenue		
Month	Visitors	
	Adults	Students
January		
February		
March		
April		
May	6	2
June	170	75
July	47	23
August	59	8
September	908	35
October	9	
November	50	
December	447	
TOTAL	1696	143

*Based on sign-in at museum door, "clicker- count" during special house events, and docent reports

Additional Information

June - Museum Days - Sat.79, Sun. 34, Mooers School Group – 15 Adults and 71 students

Sept. – BOP – Sat. 283 Sun. 181, Jr. Encampment approx. 100 children and their families

Dec. – Garden Club open house 272 (Sat. and Sun.), Delord Christmas 115 with donations of \$259, Secret House tour 60 with donations of \$48.50

Annual Numbers 2014-2016						
	2014		2015		2016	
	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students
Visitors	1627	118	1506	161	1696	143
Admissions	\$1966		\$223		\$1943	
Donations	\$6046		\$20,371*		\$6626	
Museum Store	\$421		\$404		\$796	

*Roof project donations

Annual Membership Numbers 2014-2015			
	2014	2015	2016
Business	26	35	35
Personal	254	258	262
Total	280	293	297

FINANCE REPORT
KENT DELORD HOUSE MUSEUM
Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets:		
Cash - Museum	\$ 6,117	\$ 1,598
Cash - Garden Club	12,056	7,087
Investments	286,355	314,971
Prepaid expenses	503	6,635
Museum collections	300	300
Buildings, furniture and equipment, net	<u>119,540</u>	<u>116,558</u>
	<u>\$ 424,871</u>	<u>\$ 447,149</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 669	\$ 630
Grant advance	-	5,000
Payroll taxes payable	<u>1,179</u>	<u>1,349</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,848</u>	<u>6,979</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	384,867	406,983
Temporarily restricted - Garden Club	12,056	7,087
Permanently restricted	<u>26,100</u>	<u>26,100</u>
Total net assets	<u>423,023</u>	<u>440,170</u>
	<u>\$ 424,871</u>	<u>\$ 447,149</u>

KENT DELORD HOUSE MUSEUM

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2016

		Garden Club		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2016 Total
Revenues, gains and other support	\$ <u>59,719</u>	<u>4,969</u>	<u>-</u>	\$ <u>64,688</u>
Museum expenses	57,468	-	-	57,468
Garden Club expenses	2,412	-	-	2,412
Total expenses	<u>59,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,880</u>
Change in net assets	(161)	4,969	-	4,808
Unrealized loss on investments	(21,955)	-	-	(21,955)
Net assets beginning of year	<u>406,983</u>	<u>7,087</u>	<u>26,100</u>	<u>440,170</u>
Net assets end of year	\$ <u><u>384,867</u></u>	<u><u>12,056</u></u>	<u><u>26,100</u></u>	\$ <u><u>423,023</u></u>