

2018 Kent-Delord House Museum Highlights



The Kent-Delord House Museum

The house was a simple one-story frame building when Henry Delord purchased it from Mrs. James Kent in 1810. Delord drew his own plans for the expansion of what is now a rare and stately structure. The home remained with the family for over a century. After the death of Fannie Delord Hall, the house was bequeathed to Physicians Hospital. In 1924, William T. Miner purchased it. After extensive renovations, he set up a Trust to establish it as a museum for the citizens of the area. In 1971, the Kent-Delord House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Kent-Delord House Museum is not limited to the structure alone—that is only one part of the story. The furnishings, outstanding collection of artworks, and carefully chronicled family documents are a truly unique resource reflecting the development of our heritage

Today the Kent-Delord House Museum is open to let visitors observe life styles of various nineteenth century periods in not only the North Country, but in our nation. The stories of the Delord family and the illustrious visitors to their home give us personal glimpses into the events of that time period. Join us to recapture history as it was made at the mouth of the Saranac River on Lake Champlain! *

*The Kent Delord House, *Americana, Next Door*.

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 to the 20th centuries.

Vision

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

2018 Highlights

- 1408 people visited during the 2018 season from May 15 – September 30, 2018
- *Museum Days* – June 16-17 featured a special World War II display with 2 jeeps, 1 truck and a motorcycle from this era along with reenactors.
- The *Summer Tea and Talk Series* by Pat Loughan presented new stories about the Delord Family on three occasions.
- *Battle of Plattsburgh's Military Muster* – September 8 – 9 had a 38% increase in visitation with 596 visitors.
- About 75 visitors enjoyed food and music at the inaugural *Henry's Autumn Festival* held on October 20.
- December 1-2 the Garden Club's annual holiday open house "A Traditional Christmas" surpassed recent attendance with 306 visitors.



Scene from 2018 BOP Military Muster at the Museum.

2018 Kent-Delord House Museum Highlights

2018 Board of Trustees

President	Paula Calkins Lacombe
V. President	Diane Wyand
Secretary	Scarlett McBride
Treasurer	Holly Morrow
Member-at-Large	Domenica Padula (through November 2018)
Director	Don Wickman

Members

Marlee Bickford-Bushey
Marta Clute

Members cont'd

Joshua Wingler
Sandra McNeil
Craig Russell (through October 2018)
Gary Fisher (through October 2018)
Carol Lindberg (through October 2018)
Emily Malpass-Boucher (as of October 2018)
Connie Lalonde (as of October 2018)
Patricia Loughan (as of December 2018)
Sharon Bell (as of December 2019)

Additional Highlights

Governance and Collections

- The Museum earned a gold certificate for the Collections section of the **StEPS*** program. To date, the Committee has completed three of six sections; Mission, Vision, and Governance and Interpretation; these earned bronze and silver certificates.
- Developed comprehensive, updated Collections Plan including disaster plan and environmental guidelines

***StEPS** (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) is a self-assessment program through the association of the AASLH (American Association for State and Local History). StEPS guides the Museum through a self-assessment process that uses national standards for local history organizations.

Education

- Developed Docent Manual with furniture section for reference
- Summer *Tea and Talk Series* with Pat Loughan
- Battle of Plattsburgh *Living History Encampment*

Buildings and Grounds

- Carriage Barn was cleared of accumulated items and debris
- Handicapped ramp was stained and new window well boxes built with help of the Catholic Heart Workcamp group

Garden Club

- Paid for removal of downed trees in the back due to high winds. They then cleared, seeded, and redid the compost area
- Had the historic fence painted in the front
- Held another successful Secret Garden Tour
- Designed, planted and maintained the perennial and annual gardens displaying color and beauty throughout the spring, summer and fall.



*More Living History at the BOP
Military Muster*



*The Garden Club's handiwork ...
just beautiful!*

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Development and Membership

- Updated and revised membership materials including new letters and outreach information
- Ran a “*Friend to Friend*” campaign with the Garden Club’s assistance that recruited some new members and sent membership requests to various community groups
- The End-of-the-Year appeal had an increase of 49.5% from previous years
- **Senator Betty Little grant** for repair of the siding, painting, shutter replacement and paint analysis remains with DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York), the state group assigned to administer this grant. Hopefully, able to complete this work in 2019.



The lucky winner of the Kent-Delord House Museum Woodchuck naming contest was Marcel Dion.

Marketing /Public Relations

- Sponsored “Name the Woodchucks” campaign resulting in our resident family of woodchucks being named, Papa – Woodrow, Mama – Marigold (favorite family delicacy) and Baby – Woody
- Hired new web master resulting in updated web site in July
- Launched Instagram account in August
- Published 4 editions of the Quarterly Membership Newsletter



Our “mascots” named after our resident family of woodchucks! Woodrow, Marigold and Woody!

2018 Dean Wheeler Volunteer of the Year Award

Melanie Waugh became our 24th **Dean Wheeler Volunteer of the Year** recipient. This award recognizes the exceptional volunteer who donates their time and talent to the Museum. Melanie is one of those volunteers; she has shared her time, skill, and talents with the Museum as a Garden Club member, lead for planning the annual planting of the gardens, scout and organizer of the Secret Garden Tour, and “artist and visionary” of the many unique themes for the annual holiday open house. **Thank you and Congratulations Melanie!**



In November, Don Wickman our current Museum Director announced his planned retirement for January 2019.

Scenes from Henry’s Autumn Festival.



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2018 Monthly Museum Activity*			
Month	Visitors		Comments
	Adults	Students	
May	17	17	
June	175	9	
July	60	23	
August	56	4	
September	627		BOP weekend Total 596 = Sat. 367 & Sun. 229
October	88		Nooks & Crannies Tour - 8, Henry's Autumn Festival- 80
November	26		
December	306	53	Garden Club's Open House Total 306 = Sat. 158 & Sun. 148
TOTAL			

January -April - Museum is closed.

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

Yearly Statistics

Visitors	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students
	1506	161	1696	143	1254	102	1355	53

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Business	35	35	15	16
Personal	258	262	255	259
Total	293	297	270	275

KDHM Collections

