

# 2019 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 aims to interpret and display the historical and cultural significance of the Delord family during the 18th to the 20th centuries by preserving the grounds, structures, collections, and writings of the Delords.

## **Vision**

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

## **2019 Highlights**

- 1777 people visited during the 2019 season from May 15 – September 30, 2019.
- *Museum Days* – June 15-16 featured blacksmithing demonstrations by KDHM's Director, Samantha Williams and her husband, Tom Larsen.
- Nine gardeners shared their creative spaces at the Garden Club's annual *Secret Garden Tour* raising over \$3800 for the Club.
- The inaugural *Taste of the Past* series for members featured tasting 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century food and drink.
- *Battle of Plattsburgh's Military Muster* held on September 14 & 15 at KDHM again featured the military encampment. Attendance unfortunately was down from 2018.
- About 80 visitors enjoyed food and music at the second annual *Henry's Autumn Festival* held on October 19.
- 125 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Stafford Middle School toured the museum in May.
- The Veterans' Day program featured Board Member, Bruce Wheeler's private collection of WWI uniforms and gear.
- 170 Plattsburgh City School District 2<sup>nd</sup> graders toured KDHM with Garden Club members reading classic holiday books.
- 275 visitors enjoyed the Garden Club's annual holiday open house on December 7 & 8.

# 2019 Kent-Delord House Museum Highlights

## 2019 Board of Trustees

<b>President</b>	Paula Calkins Lacombe	Marlee Bickford-Bushey
<b>V. President</b>	Diane Wyand (01 - 09/2019) Connie Lalonde (10/2019)	Joshua Wingle
<b>Secretary</b>	Scarlett McBride (01- 09/2019) Marta Clute (10/2019)	Emily Malpass-Boucher (through June 2019) Bruce Wheeler (as of June 2019)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Holly Morrow	Patricia Loughan
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Patricia Loughan (01-09/2019) Bruce Wheeler (10/2019)	Sharon Bell
<b>Director</b>	Samantha Williams (Began Feb. 2019)	Anna Nardelli (January 2019 – Sept. 2019) Diane Wyand Scarlett McBride

## Additional Highlights

### Governance

- To date, the Museum has earned five of six **StEPS\*** certificates; Mission, Vision, and Governance (bronze), Interpretation (silver), and Collections (gold). This year, bronze certificates for the Management and Audience sections of the program (March and June) were earned. In October, the StEPS Committee, along with Garden Club members, completed the Historic Structure and Landscape section. However, a strategic plan is required for a bronze certificate. The Board will be working on a plan n 2020; upon completion, a certificate will be pursued.

\***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. Certificates can be earned at the bronze, silver and gold levels.

### Collections

- The Director and Board members began the process of reevaluating our collections storage and adapting to more modern storage standards. This required us to close the Apothecary for tours in 2019; the collections shuffle will be completed by the opening of our 2020 season.

### Education

- Samantha Williams, Museum Director, presented three *Taste of the Past* members' events during the summer, events that satisfied anyone who loves food and history.
- Select Garden Club and Board members, along with the Museum Director, welcomed 170 second graders to the Garden Club's *Storybook Holidays* - a learning experience as part of the Club's Annual Holiday Open House.



In February, the Museum Board welcomed **Samantha Williams** as our **Museum Director**, a history enthusiast, reenactor, and blacksmith with extensive experience in management and museum educational programming operations. We are very happy to have Sam join the Museum and share her leadership, creativity and enthusiasm with us and the community.



*Taste of the Past goodies...*

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## Buildings and Grounds

- The **Senator Betty Little grant contract** for the repair of the siding, painting, shutter replacement and paint analysis was approved by DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York), the state group assigned to administer this grant. The process took longer than anticipated delaying any work in 2019. Completion is anticipated in 2020.
- In 2019, we discovered powder post beetles in the carriage barn and have reached out to an exterminator; treatment will be done in the Spring of 2020.

## Garden Club

- Members participated on StEPS Historic Structures and Landscapes Committee.
- Procured a viticulturist to mentor Garden Club members in the care of pruning the KDHM grapevine and secured an arborist to aid in the maintenance of the 200-year-old lilac bush.
- Held another successful *Secret Garden Tour*.
- Sponsored the annual *Holiday Open House* at the Museum with a new addition of students touring on Friday.
- Designed, planted and maintained the perennial and annual gardens.

## Development and Membership

- Membership increased in 2019.
- Visitation increased from 1408 in 2018 to 1777 in 2019. Even more significantly, student visitation increased over seven-fold from 53 (2018) to 385 in 2019.

## Marketing /Public Relations

- Published 4 editions of the Quarterly Membership Newsletter.
- Introduced the inaugural *Downtown Restaurant Tour* featuring 8 restaurants' food selections with some KDHM and local history added.



### 2019 Dean Wheeler Volunteer of the Year Award

Marta Clute became our 25<sup>th</sup> **Dean Wheeler Volunteer of the Year** recipient. This award recognizes the exceptional volunteer who donates their time and talent to the Museum. Marta has shared her time and talents with the Kent-Delord House Museum as a docent for many years, organizer of the Battle of Plattsburgh volunteer dinner, board member and officer. In addition, we are grateful for her recent willingness to help with this year's challenges of cleaning and reorganization of the collections from the safe. Her donation of many extra hours to help in this endeavor and with other events this year is greatly appreciated. Congratulations Marta!

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Reenactors during the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration

2019 Monthly Museum Activity*			
Month	Visitors		Comments
	Adults	Students	
May	36	125	Stafford 7 <sup>th</sup> graders tour
June	245	14	Museum Days 170 - (Sat. 89-Sun. 81)
July	72	22	
August	88	20	
September	246	2	BOP - (Sat. 110 -Sun.118)
October	85	2	Henry's Autumn Festival- 80
November	60		Veterans' Day program 30
December	560	200	Friday of Garden Club Open House - 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade program-152 children & 20 adults Garden Club Open House Weekend - 300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>385</b>	

January -April – the 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		2019	
	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students	Adults	Students
	1506	161	1696	143	1254	102	1355	53	1392	385

Membership	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Business	35	35	15	16	15
Personal	258	262	255	259	262
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>277</b>



Henry's Autumn Festival – from SUNY Plattsburgh  
Minor Adjustments – A Capella Group and Cardinal Pickers performing

One of the Secret Gardens