

# POTSDAM PUBLIC MUSEUM

FALL NEWSLETTER 2008 P.O. BOX 5168, POTSDAM, NY

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:

**JANUARY**~ On exhibition, "Ancient Musical Instruments: The Charles Lanphere Collection." Len Mackey offered African drumming class to children and gave an evening performance.

**FEBRUARY** ~ Stan Ransom performed on the hammered dulcimer with a history of the instrument. The Smith family's hammered dulcimer was on display, brought to Potsdam in the 1840s.

**MARCH** ~ The museum hosted a Knit-In and Crochet Day for area knitters. Donations of yarn were collected for the Binky Patrol that makes blankets for needy children in the North Country.

**APRIL** ~ We hosted our annual Spinning and Weaving Program for area 4th graders, sponsored a Knit-In and hosted a presentation on Historic Preservation with Julian Adams, Community Liaison Coordinator of New York State Office of Historic Preservation, Albany

**MAY** ~ Sue Omohundro gave a SOAR program on Potsdam Sandstone and gave a walking tour of the sandstone buildings of downtown Potsdam. Sue and Ellen Burns worked for many years on a comprehensive survey of the sandstone buildings in St. Lawrence County.

**JUNE** ~ Local Cold War Photographer Red Grandy gave a presentation revealing fascinating stories of how he got to be in the right place at the right time for the pictures made famous in the Stars and Stripes Magazine that many of us recognize. Mr. Grandy's original photographs were on display at the museum through the fall and in October he gifted the museum two photographs including one of General Eisenhower and one of Sophia Loren!

**JULY** ~ AH...summer! We participated in the annual Potsdam Summer Festival with an exhibition on the automobile, the Model T was 100 years old, (see story this page.) Later in the month the museum hosted a concert by the group Cantilena with local harpsichordist Clive Henery and his wife Sandra on the viola de gamba and guest artist Oliver Brookes and Arlene Babich. The museum partnered with the St. Lawrence Council on the Arts to offer an adult weaving workshop utilizing the loom gifted to us by Lora Lunt of Potsdam.

**AUGUST**~ We participated in the Power Equipment Museum Harvest Festival in Madrid with a hands on display of weaving. We set up a tent where volunteers and staff spent two days demonstrating to folks the basics of weaving. We had over 500 people stop at our booth!

**SEPTEMBER**~ The museum participated in the Fall Island Festival and displayed a traveling show of the History of Fall Island. Director Mimi Van Deusen attended the annual meeting of the American Association of State and Local History in Rochester with the help of a grant received from the Upstate History Alliance. Local Geologist and retired professor emeritus James Carl from SUNY Potsdam offered a tour of the Red Sandstone Trail in Hanawa Falls. The museum offered a tour of Bayside Cemetery and donated the proceeds to the cemetery association for the preservation of the Lodge and surrounding sandstone walls surrounding the lodge.

**OCTOBER** ~ For National Archives Month the museum offered three programs on utilizing the museum archives for research. The archives research area has been moved from the balcony to the main floor for better accessibility. Local musicians Neil Fitzgerald, Len Mackey and George Ross performed for a packed house! The museum hosted a fall Knit-In and of course there was Fright Night!

**NOVEMBER** ~ Director and Village Historian Mimi Van Deusen attended the Fall Meeting of the Association of Public Historians of New York State in Lake Placid and toured John Brown's house.



Sharon Pickard, Museum Board President, standing, dedicates the garden to Beverly Washburn shown seated here with her husband Robert Washburn.

**HONORARY GARDEN:** In September, a garden was established in honor of Beverly Washburn in the courtyard by the old museum entrance on Elm Street. Mrs. Washburn was a board member, board president, committee member and inspiration for the museum teacher kits serving the museum for 40 years. The Board of Trustees and friends gathered to dedicate the garden and honor Mrs. Washburn with a reception. Special thanks go to the Potsdam Garden Club, Doug and Jean Theobald, Bob Shepherd, Tim O'Brien, Steve Bracy, SUNY Potsdam, the Village of Potsdam DPW, Evans & White Ace Hardware, Agway of Potsdam, and PACES. Crane School of Music students and professor Peter McCoy gave a performance of African drumming and music of Ghana dressed in traditional clothing. Many thanks to Mrs. Washburn, she will be missed!



View of Market Street taken from the roof top on the west side of Market Street in 1925. P # 1908

Local scanning guru and museum volunteer David Martin completed his scanning project of the museum's core photo collection scanning over 5000 images. These images have been saved on disk and will now be sorted and organized. You can view over 600 of these images on our link at the Northern New York Library Network's website by searching [www.nnyln.org](http://www.nnyln.org) - go to **North Country Digital History**, look on "**view collections of**" and scroll down to **Potsdam Public Museum**. On display you'll find images of: Automobiles, Early History of Potsdam, Churches of Potsdam, Horse Drawn Transportation, Potsdam in the 1940's, Potsdam Rail Road 1850-2000, the Potsdam Fire Department, and Benjamin Raymond's Record of Land Sales 1803-1818. If you would like to volunteer to add photos to this website, call the museum at 265-6910.

The museum's summer exhibition titled "Into the Modern Age: 100 Years of the Automobile" opened for the summer festival. On display were images of automobiles on the streets of Potsdam from the museum's photo archives, vintage driving outfits from the museum's textile collection and a collection of local license plates on loan from Red Curtis. Across the street from the museum in front of Old Snell Hall, Jack Kelley's Little Big Band played while a collection of Model T's from the St Lawrence County Antique Car Club parked on the lawn.



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Old Main-Clarkson University's original building shown here in the 1930s. The school was dedicated September 1896 as the Thomas S. Clarkson Memorial School of Technology. P#590