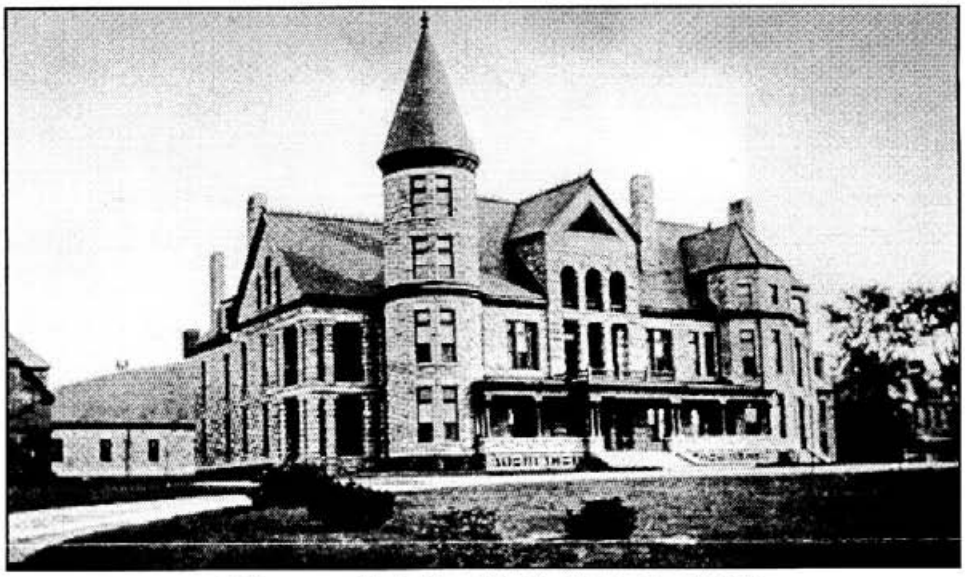
Volume 9, Number 1
Summer 2000

Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

Isaac Perry, Craftsman-Architect



Wesley Haynes

St. Lawrence State Hospital Administration Building

ISAAC GALE PERRY (1822-1904), the architect-builder who completed the monumental New York State Capitol in Albany, began and ended his lengthy career in and around the Adirondacks. Born in Vermont, he was raised in Keeseville. His career spanned nearly seven decades, starting as a carpenter and culminating in his appointment as the first *de facto* State Architect in New York. After an absence of some 35 years, Perry returned to the region to build substantial institutional buildings on behalf of the State of New York.

Perry began his career with a practical footing in the building trades and went on to serve as both designer and contractor in his projects. His buildings, including residential, commercial, ecclesiastical and institutional commissions, were well constructed, sensibly planned, and more imitative than innovative with regard to architectural fashion.

The first years of Perry's career (1832-1854) were spent in Keeseville learning and practicing carpentry and trying his hand as a designer. Leaving the village school at age ten, he began his apprenticeship with his father, Seneca Perry (1796-1860), a carpenter and joiner. Keeseville in the 1830s was then establishing itself as the center of the iron and lumber industries in the Ausable Valley and was a quickly growing village.

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From the President

We live in an age when we often expect instant results and gratification. Yet I am reminded nearly every day that the really important things in life - building a healthy family, creating vital communities, preserving our environment and protecting our past - all take time and persistence. Like the moral of *the tortoise and the hare*, the most valuable and precious things in our lives are built on many small steps.

Over the years, AARCH has contributed significantly to efforts to save the region's historic fire towers. It all began in 1993, when several AARCH board members began serving on the Blue Mountain Fire Tower Steering Committee, the work of which eventually led to the restoration of the first publicly-owned fire tower in the Adirondacks. This effort inspired a similar project on Hadley Mountain in Saratoga County and, with AARCH's assistance, two "friends" groups took up the cause of preserving and restoring the Poke-O-Moonshine and Mt. Arab fire towers. Restoration work on these towers should be substantially completed this summer and, for the first time, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has provided money for these projects. A great deal of advocacy and "hand-holding" by AARCH staff was necessary to get to this point and our combined successes are likely to fuel other fire tower preservation projects elsewhere. We've also sponsored a multiple property National Register nomination for all the fire towers in the New York State Forest Preserve, which is expected to be approved this year. National Register listing will not only provide important recognition for these structures but will also give New York State and its partners access to additional sources of restoration funds. Seven years later, the future of Adirondack fire towers is much brighter, in part, because of our work.

The integration of historic preservation into efforts to revitalize the former mining communities of Moriah and Port Henry is another example of a successful long-term effort that has had many small, incremental steps. Economically devastated in the early 1970s by the loss of its economic engine, the iron mining industry, the town and village initially focused on the basics - rebuilding water and sewer systems and rehabilitating housing. Yet cognizant of the rich architectural legacy of public and private buildings, the town and village supported efforts in the 1980s to inventory these resources and to seek National Register designation for many of them. Today, the Lee House has been restored as senior housing, the Witherbee Memorial Hall has been substantially restored, and the Iron Center, in the former Witherbee, Sherman & Co. carriage house, is a focus of renewed community pride and is a centerpiece of an emerging heritage tourism program there.

With bated breath, AARCH awaits what it hopes will be the successful culmination of another long term undertaking - the preservation of Camp Santanoni through a State Land Master Plan reclassification and the adoption of a Unit Management Plan. In fact, Santanoni's precarious fate was a major catalyst for AARCH's establishment ten years ago. AARCH has worked long and hard to assure a future for Santanoni. Building support took time. Gaining trust took time. The Santanoni Citizen's Advisory Committee took four years to help develop the UMP. Our new book, *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp*, took more than two years to write. Santanoni's National Historic Landmark designation, just announced in May, took two years. Yet, if all goes well, the payoff in the form of greater preservation gains, greater public enjoyment, and adequate funding, will follow.

Truly, patience and perseverance are qualities that pay off.

BILL JOHNSTON

Meet Our Camp Santanoni Summer Staff

We are pleased to have three talented and energetic people at Camp Santanoni this summer. **Kerry Davis** has a B.A. in Art History from The College of William & Mary and is currently in the graduate historic preservation program at the University of Vermont. She has also worked as a museum technician at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, and as an interpreter at the Fort Davis (Texas) National Historic Site. Kerry will be our interpreter at the Main Camp and will assist Michael Frenette with the ongoing porch restoration, as time allows.

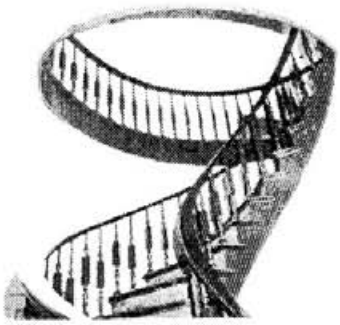
Beth Wheeler recently graduated from Mary Washington College with a B.A. in Historic Preservation. She has also worked as an interpreter for the National Park Service at the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania Military Park. Beth will manage the Gatelodge, provide interpretation at the farm, and help us to develop some new exhibits and a guide for seasonal staff.

Michael Frenette will return to Santanoni this summer to continue his excellent porch restoration work at the Main Camp. He will also be teaching a one-day workshop, *Fundamentals of Restoring Wooden Structures*, at Santanoni on August 19th. See our calendar of events for more information.

Isaac Perry, Craftsman-Architect ... *continued*

Although written documentation on their work is scant, it is likely that the Perrys added to the Greek Revival building stock built during this prosperous period. By 1847, Seneca Perry and Son advertised as carpenter-joiners who also undertook masonry work. The James Mills House (1836), a frame Greek Revival residence still standing at the corner of Vine and Clinton Streets, and the Baptist Church (c1850) that previously stood on the site of the Grand Union parking lot are documented as their work. They are best remembered, however, through oral tradition for their spiral staircases, a specialty that required exceptional skill in layout and execution. Keeseville had an unusually large collection of spiral staircases in buildings from this period. Perhaps the tallest was the three-story staircase of the Greek Revival AuSable House (1847), the village's principal hotel, which stood on the site of the present 1759 Main Street until it burned to the ground in the third quarter of the19th century. Among the extant buildings with spiral staircases attributed to the Perrys are the Silas Arnold House, 33 Main Street (c1840 addition) and the Evans House on Front Street (c1840). About 1850 the Perrys built a house for Nelson Kingsland at 1765 Main Street. Another house at 37-41 Liberty Street built the same year may very well have been the Perrys' work, as it also contains a spiral staircase. Several of these projects are noted in the walking guide to Keeseville's historic district, "A Thoroughly Wide Awake Little Village."

About 1848 Isaac married Lucretia L. Gibson, stepdaughter of his father's associate carpenter James Mills and literally "the girl next door." Before leaving Keeseville around 1852, the younger Perry was most likely the architect and builder of a picturesque cottage called "Rembrandt Hall," still standing on Clinton Street. The client, Emma Peale Barton, was the daughter of the noted American portraitist Rembrandt Peale. Planned around a graceful, free-standing spiral staircase with Greek revival console newels, her Gothic revival cottage departed markedly from the predominant character of the pre-existing building stock, closely resembling the new "villa" type of resort cottage that was appearing in the Hudson valley below Albany. Rembrandt Hall is among the earliest examples of picturesque cottages in the Adirondack region.



Staircase at Rembrandt Hall

Between 1852 and 1883, Isaac Perry established a successful practice as an architect based in New York and Binghamton, NY. He first relocated to New York to begin his second apprenticeship, this time in the field of architecture and in the office of Thomas R. Jackson (1826-1901), a former head draftsman in the office of Richard Upjohn (1802-1872). Perry rose to the position of a junior partner in the firm by 1856, and the following year won for himself the commission for the design of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, the first institution established for the treatment of alcoholism in the world. He later recalled that due to his limited drafting abilities he penciled the plans with the assistance of his wife, Lucretia. The large project marked the turning point in Perry's career, and supervising its construction occupied most of his time until 1866. Perry moved his practice to Binghamton in 1872, and was a leading architectural force who designed and built many prominent ecclesiastical, commercial and residential structures there and in the Southern Tier and adjacent Pennsylvania through the latter half of the 19th century. In general, Perry applied many of the principles of institutional architecture in these projects, such as interior plans with large volumes, monumental-scaled circulation spaces, and generous use of natural daylight. His portfolio included his own, unusual cast-iron Perry Block (1876) in Binghamton, which housed rental retail space on the first and second floors, his office on the third floor, and his family residence on the fourth. The Perry Block is featured on Binghamton's downtown walking tour.

His successful experience in public buildings was a decisive factor in his appointment in 1883 to become the Commissioner of the New Capitol in Albany, responsible for completing the building, by the newly elected reform-minded Governor Grover Cleveland. His diminished financial position, resulting from the risks assumed by an architect-builder in the volatile economy of the 1870s, as well as his advancing age, prompted him to accept the position and move to Albany. The appointment placed him in charge of one of the largest and most controversial public works projects in the 19th century United States. The Capitol, begun in 1867, was then years behind schedule and greatly exceeding its original projected budget. The building's first architect, Thomas Fuller, had been fired, and his replacements, a partnership of Leopold Eidlitz, Henry Hobson Richardson and Frederick Law Olmsted, were in the process of being dismissed. Perry was initially charged with completing his predecessors' unfinished projects. During the next 16 years, he supervised construction of the Capitol's Senate Staircase according to Eidlitz's plans, extensively reworked Richardson's schematic studies for the New York State Library and Great Western Staircase, and supplanted his predecessors' studies for an exterior entrance to the building from the east with his own design for the Eastern

Isaac Perry, Craftsman-Architect ... *continued*

Approach, a monumental exterior granite staircase, succeeding where they had failed because of his hands-on approach and meticulous attention to supervision. In the process, Perry became a leading practitioner of the kind of Romanesque-inspired architecture popularized by Richardson before his death in 1884.

Because work on the Capitol was frequently interrupted for want of legislative appropriations between 1886-1899, Perry, as the first architect on the state's payroll, was called upon to design other public buildings. Among his major state projects were the Executive Mansion remodeling in Albany (1886-87), the plans for the Matteawan Asylum for Insane Criminals outside Fishkill (1887-92), the St. Lawrence Asylum for the Insane in Ogdensburg (1887-97), and more than forty armories throughout the state. The mature Perry planned institutional buildings of a monumental scale and permanency previously unknown in northeastern New York.

The St. Lawrence Asylum (now called St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center) in Ogdensburg was part of a long-standing commitment by the State to care for the mentally ill. New York had led the nation in this field since 1842 when it opened its first asylum in Utica. Between 1841 and 1887, the asylum evolved from a large building housing patients under permanent care segregated from society to a dispersed plan of smaller "cottages" where supervised rehabilitation would allow certain classes of patients diagnosed with acute mental illnesses to return to society. Although several prototypical large asylums containing separate pavilions had been built in New York, "cottage planning" was a relatively new idea in 1887, though it had already been introduced into existing asylums. Breaking up the program of a larger building into smaller units which were capable of greater responsiveness to natural site features were characteristics shared in the coincidental developments of hospitals and Adirondack camps in the late 19th century.

The St. Lawrence Asylum was remarkable as the first fully developed cottage plan asylum in the State's system, and is a well-preserved example of careful site integration and Perry's distinctive Richardsonian Romanesque architectural detailing. The architect successfully realized the vision of the asylum's founding Superintendent, Dr. P. M. Wise, MD., who praised his "faithful, honest and painstaking service," and "determined perseverance."

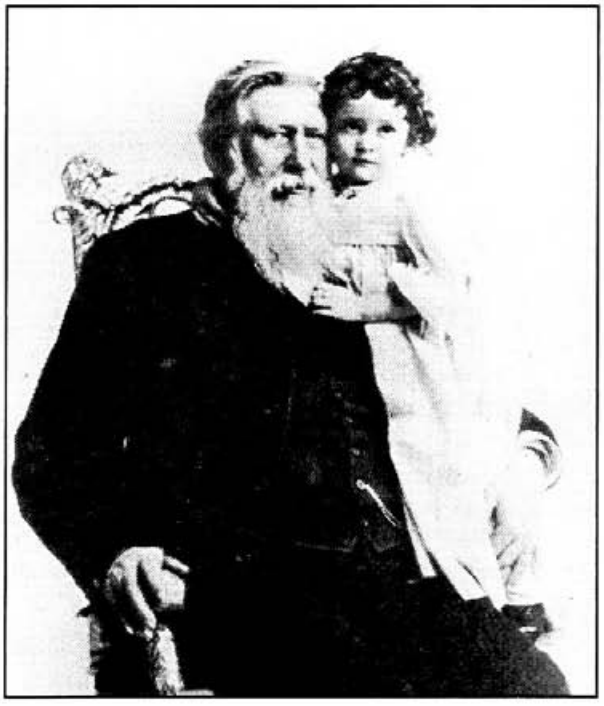
The armories in Saratoga Springs (1886-92), Malone (for the Twenty-Seventh Separate Company Regiment, 1890-1893), and Glens Falls (for the Eighteenth Separate Company, 1893-95) at the perimeter of the Adirondacks were among the forty-odd examples of the building type designed by Perry's office, resulting from a building campaign commencing in the 1880s to standardize and strengthen the State militia. These imposing, fortress-like Richardsonian Romanesque buildings projected a benign image of security and invincibility, and are among the major public buildings in their communities.

Technically the Commissioner of the New Capitol, Perry's responsibilities had grown to include other State projects. In 1895 an amendment to the Public Buildings Law established his position as the *de facto* State Architect, perhaps with the partisan political motive of overburdening the aging Perry and forcing his retirement. When the Capitol was declared complete on January 1, 1899, he did retire and returned to Binghamton. Isaac Perry remained active as a consulting architect in several major public projects until he died in his sleep on March 17, 1904, at age 82.

WESLEY HAYNES

A frequent consultant to AARCH, Wesley Haynes is also a program officer with the New Jersey Historic Trust in Trenton and an adjunct professor in R.P.I.'s new Building Conservation program in Troy. Having completed a Master's thesis on Isaac Perry, Haynes is currently writing a book about him and welcomes any comments, insights or new information on Perry's work, or his clients, such as Emma Peale in Keeseville.

See also "Isaac Perry's Lost Project" on page 11



Isaac Perry & granddaughter

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000

AARCH's tours, led by knowledgeable volunteer guides, are enjoyable learning experiences and raise funds to support our activities. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the variable weather conditions of the Adirondacks. Bring your own lunch and beverages, unless otherwise noted. **Attendance is limited on all tours and all tours require preregistration and prepayment.** To register, send full fee to AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 312, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 or call 518-834-9328 for more information. Refunds will be given to those not able to attend a tour if we are notified in advance of the cancellation. **NOTE: Tours will fill up very quickly, so register early!**

Saturday, June 10
HISTORIC VALCOUR ISLAND

The waters around Valcour Island in Lake Champlain were the scene of the Battle of Valcour, an important naval battle during the Revolutionary War. Here, in October 1776, a small American colonial fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold engaged the British fleet. Although most of the American fleet was sunk or scuttled, the effort succeeded in holding off the British southern advance until the following year; importantly, though, a substantial lighthouse was built there in 1871 to guide the steamboat and sailing ship traffic up and down the lake. Valcour Island is now part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve and its lighthouse, one of the few remaining buildings on the island, has been restored by the Clinton County Historical Association. This tour will include a boat ride around Valcour Island and nearby Crab Island, on which are buried American and British casualties from the Battle of Plattsburgh (1814), about a 4 mile walk around parts of Valcour and a visit to the Valcour Island lighthouse, which will be opened for our visit. Dr. Ken Adams from SUNY Plattsburgh will help us to explore and understand the island's natural history. Cosponsored by the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. Tour will depart from the Olde Valcour Marina at 10 a.m. and will return about 3:30 p.m. Tour fee is $35. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, June 17
AARCH ANNUAL MEETING AT SILVER BAY

AARCH's 2000 Annual Meeting will be held at the historic Silver Bay Association complex on Lake George. Silver Bay is one of the most beautiful and fascinating places in the region and includes a grand turn-of-the-century hotel, auditorium, chapel, boathouse, and dozens of other interesting buildings, all in a spectacular setting on the lake. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature an address by Howie Kirschenbaum, Paul Malo and Rob Engel on their new book, *Santanoni: From Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp*. We will also present our **2000 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards**. The meeting itself will end around 3 p.m. and be followed by a guided tour of the Silver Bay complex. The meeting is a benefit of AARCH membership, guest fee is $10. Advance registration is required. You are welcome to bring your own lunch and picnic on the grounds, arriving at noon.

Sunday, June 25
CAMP SANTANONI

Explore one of the most magnificent Great Camps in the Adirondacks with Rob Engel, our first AARCH interpreter at Camp Santanoni and co-author of *Santanoni: From Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp*. Santanoni was originally built for Robert C. Pruyn of Albany beginning in 1892 and included 12,900 acres of land, known as the Santanoni Preserve. This tour will include stops at the camp's Gate Lodge, the remains of its 200-acre gentleman's farm and Main Camp on Newcomb Lake. Participants will see restoration work in progress and be able to view some of the camp's interiors. The round-trip walk is 9.8 miles on a gently sloping dirt road. Meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot of the Santanoni Preserve, off Route 28N in the hamlet of Newcomb. We'll return about 4 p.m. Suggested optional donation is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon, for an additional $15, by advance reservation.

Monday, June 26
LITCHFIELD PARK

This special outing takes us to visit Litchfield Park, one of the largest and grandest private estates in the region. The preserve and its buildings were created by Edward Litchfield, a New York City lawyer and land developer who first came to the Adirondacks in 1866. Donn Barber designed the fanciful chateau, which was completed around 1913. The estate also included miles of carriage roads, a working farm and many other buildings. The tour begins at 11 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000 ... *continued*

Thursday, July 6
TWO GREAT CAMPS ON OSGOOD POND

Howard Kirschenbaum, AARCH founder and director of White Pine Camp, will lead this tour of two impressive turn-of-the-century camps near Paul Smiths. White Pine Camp is an incredible group of early 20th century buildings in a very beautiful setting. It was also the "summer White House" of Calvin Coolidge in 1926. Northbrook Lodge was originally built for a Canadian member of Parliament as a private estate and is now an inn. Both were built by Ben Muncil, who also built Topridge for Marjorie Merriweather Post on nearby Upper St. Regis Lake. This is an in-depth look at two of the finest camps in the northern Adirondacks. 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fee is $30 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 8
HISTORIC MORIAH

This is a fascinating tour of an Adirondack town with a long and rich iron mining history and a remarkable architectural legacy that embodies that history. The tour will start with a brief slide presentation by Jack Brennan, who worked in the iron mines of Moriah for 35 years. We will then take a close look at the iron company buildings, worker's housing, church, memorial hall, jail and #7 Mill in the mining communities of Witherbee and Mineville. In Port Henry we'll take a walking tour which will include the grand French Second Empire style Town Hall, the railroad depot, Sherman Free Library, bank, churches, Lee House and other interesting architecture. We'll also visit the newly opened Iron Center museum, which explores the town's rich industrial heritage. Tour begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. The tour is cosponsored by the Moriah Historical Society and the Port Henry/Moriah Economic Development Zone. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and MHS members). Advance registration is required.

Sunday, July 9
CAMP PINE KNOT, ECHO CAMP AND ST. WILLIAM'S ON RAQUETTE LAKE'S LONG POINT

AARCH will offer a very special tour this year of Camp Pine Knot, Echo Camp and St. William's on Long Point in Raquette Lake. Pine Knot was built, beginning in late 1870s, under the supervision of William West Durant, who also later built Sagamore, Uncas and Kamp Kill Kare. Widely recognized as the pioneer of Adirondack rustic architecture and the camps we now call Great Camps, it was at Pine Knot that Durant first developed the features and details we now associate with this genre. In his *History of the Adirondacks*, Alfred L. Donaldson wrote about Pine Knot that "Before it was built there was nothing like it; since then, despite infinite variations, there has been nothing essentially different from it." Pine Knot is now owned by the State University of New York at Cortland and operated as the Collis P. Huntington Outdoor Education Center. Nearby Echo Camp was also built by Durant, in 1883, for Connecticut Governor Phineas Lounsbury and features an unusual twin log tower design. We will also visit St. William's, the Catholic Church built by Durant in 1890. All three places are on Long Point, but about 1 mile of walking is involved. The tour will begin at 1 p.m. at the Raquette Lake town dock, where we'll be picked up by boat, and will finish around 4:30 p.m. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Steven Engelhart

Elaborate rustic facade of Camp Pine Knot

Wednesday, July 12
WHITEFACE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HIGHWAY & ENVIRONS

The Whiteface Veteran's Memorial Highway was built between 1929 and 1934 to honor those who had died during World War I. It was also built to draw the burgeoning new generation of "auto tourists" to the Adirondack region by offering easy access to a mountaintop view. The 8.5 mile highway is a marvelous work of civil engineering, as are the 426-foot tunnel and 276-foot elevator that brings visitors to the summit. The chalet-style tollhouse and massive stone castle and summit building are also fascinating works of architecture. The mountain itself is of great ecological interest with its distinctive "fir waves" and rare alpine environment. This tour will be led by Doug Wolfe, from the SUNY Atmospheric Science Research Center and the Whiteface Preservation and Resource Association, and will explore many aspects of the highway's man-made and natural environment. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the tollhouse and end around 3:30 p.m. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 15
NORTH CREEK AND RIPARIUS BY TRAIN

This outing will feature walking tours of both North Creek, with its distinctive Main Street and historic railroad depot, and the hamlet of Riparius, including the Epworth Institute, a 19th century summer religious colony. Best of all, we'll travel between these two Hudson River villages on the new Upper Hudson River Railroad train! The tour will be led by Rosemary Pelkey of the Johnsburg Historical Society. Tour begins at 10 a.m. at the North Creek Railroad Depot and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH and JHS members). Advance registration is required.

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000 ... *continued*

Tuesday, July 18
THE KING'S GARDENS & ENVIRONS AT FORT TICONDEROGA

Long before Fort Ticonderoga was built, the fertile peninsula on which it was built was used by Native Americans for agriculture and hunting and it was here, in 1609, that Samuel de Champlain and his party of Huron and Algonquin Indians battled the Iroquois. Since that time, this landscape was shaped for defense and cultivated to provide sustenance for French, British and American soldiers. In the 19th century, the site was purchased by William Ferris Pell, who then built the Pavilion, a Greek Revival style summer home in front of the picturesque ruins of the fort. In 1908 the restoration of the fort began and the Pells built a walled garden adjoining the Pavilion. The landscape architect of the gardens was Marian Cruger Coffin, who was one of the first women to hold a degree in landscape architecture in America. This tour will explore the extensive Pell family gardens, now under restoration, the Pavilion, and other military, Native American and early 18th and 19th century sites around the fort. The tour will be led by Fort Ticonderoga staff. Tour will begin at 10 a.m. and end around 4 p.m. Fee is $30 per person. Advance registration is required.

Friday, July 21
THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM BY BOAT

This tour will bring us to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, Vermont, a fascinating museum devoted to exploring the lake's important maritime history through twelve exhibit buildings, demonstrations at the blacksmith shop, conservation lab and by the model maker, and at the *Philadelphia II*, a replica of Benedict Arnold's Revolutionary War gunboat. We'll get to the museum by boarding the *Philomena D* in Westport and by traveling along a portion of the Lake Champlain shoreline while on route. Tour begins at 10 a.m. and will conclude around 3:30 p.m. Fee is $40 ($35 for AARCH members) per person. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 22
THE FORTS AT CROWN POINT AND MUCH MORE

Ruins of one of two forts at Crown Point

Crown Point is a broad, flat peninsula of land that juts out into Lake Champlain. During the 18th century, the Champlain Valley played a major role in the hostilities between France and Britain (French and Indian Wars) and Britain and American Colonials (Revolutionary War). The French were the first to recognize the strategic importance of Crown Point and they built Fort St. Frederick there in 1734. Later, the British built His Majesty's Fort at Crown Point. Today the ruins of both forts are part of the Crown Point State Historic Site. This tour will explore many aspects of this site, including several areas not generally accessible to the public. We'll be guided around the site by staff interpreters and will see the fort ruins, brick kiln and stone quarry, and several redoubts. We'll also see the elegant 1929 Champlain Bridge and visit the Champlain Memorial Lighthouse. The lighthouse was originally built in 1858 but was substantially altered in 1912 to create a monument in honor of the tercentenary of Samuel de Champlain's "discovery" of the lake in 1609. Tour begins at 10 a.m. at the Crown Point State Historic Site and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

The Samuel de Champlain Memorial Lighthouse incorporates an original Rodin sculpture.

Tuesday, July 25
THE ST. REGIS LAKES BY "WAR" CANOE

For the second time, we are offering a very special tour of the St. Regis Lakes. Initially drawn to this part of the Adirondacks by the recreational opportunities and amenities at Paul Smith's hotel, many summer visitors eventually built camps along the shores of Upper and Lower St. Regis and Spitfire Lakes beginning in the late 1870s. Many of these camps are among the finest anywhere in the region. During the day, we will visit both Camp Wild Air and the Penfold Camp and visit a guideboat builder's shop. Wild Air was one of the earliest "artistic" camps on the lake, built beginning in 1882 for Whitelaw Reid, the publisher of the New York *Herald-Tribune*. Some later buildings were designed by architects McKim, Mead and White. We will get around the lakes on this tour in two huge "war canoes" under the guidance of Joe Hackett. Some canoeing experience is preferred and those attending should be able to sit for long periods in a canoe. Tour begins at 10 a.m. and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $40 ($35 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required and space is limited to 24 people.

Saturday, July 29
CAMP SANTANONI

Led by our summer staff, Beth Wheeler and Kerry Davis. See the June 25th tour for details. Advance registration is required.

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000 ... *continued*

Friday, August 4
FOUR RUSTIC CAMPS OF WILLIAM COULTER

AARCH's Mary Hotaling will again lead one of our most popular tours of four turn-of-the-century "Great Camps" on Upper Saranac Lake, all designed by the prominent Saranac Lake architect William Coulter. These include Eagle Island (Vice-Pres. Levi Morton), Moss Ledge (Isabel Ballantine), the Wawbeek (Moritz Walter) and Prospect Point (Adolph Lewisohn). A rare opportunity to see some of the best rustic architecture in the region. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members) and includes a boat ride to Eagle Island. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 5
HISTORIC TAHAWUS AND ADIRONDAC

Town of Newcomb Supervisor, George Canon, will lead this tour which looks at over a century of mining in the Town of Newcomb. We will see the McIntyre Furnace, the remains of the village of Adirondac, other remains of the Adirondack Iron and Steel Company operations and the 20th century mining operation at Tahawus. The McIntyre Furnace, in particular, is a very important early American industrial site, one that has been documented by the Historic American Engineering Record. Meet at the Newcomb Town Hall at 10 a.m. and we'll car pool to Tahawus. The tour will end about 1:30 p.m. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 12
SARANAC LAKE: PIONEER HEALTH RESORT

Cosponsored by Historic Saranac Lake, this walking and car pool tour will be led by Mary Hotaling, Executive Director of HSL. It will include many of the buildings, historic districts and sites which made Saranac Lake America's "Pioneer Health Resort." The village's late 19th and early 20th century history is closely tied to a treatment for tuberculosis developed by Edward L. Trudeau and the creation of the Trudeau Sanatorium. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the Trudeau Institute, where participants will see the first cure cottage, "Little Red." From there we'll car pool to see the former Trudeau Sanatorium, the Saranac Laboratory, Union Depot, the Robert Louis Stevenson cottage and other historic districts in the village. The tour will end around 3 p.m. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and HSL members). Advance registration is required.

Sunday, August 13
CAMP SANTANONI

Led by our summer staff. See June 26th tour for details.

Friday, August 18
RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE OF BIG MOOSE

This tour will look at a variety of distinctive rustic architecture in Big Moose, including the work of Henry Covey, Earl Covey and the Martin family. The tour will be led by John Barrows, who has written about the Coveys in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine. The tour will include visits to the Big Moose Chapel, Covewood Lodge, The Waldheim and to several other camps on Crag Point. The tour begins at 10 a.m. and will end about 4 p.m. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 19
FUNDAMENTALS OF RESTORING WOODEN STRUCTURES

Led by Michael Frenette, an accomplished builder and our "builder-in-residence" at Camp Santanoni this summer, this day-long workshop will provide hands-on instruction at Camp Santanoni in a variety of important areas, including hand tool use, tool sharpening, basic timber framing and log work. Participants will help do actual restoration work on the porches at the Main Camp. This is a great opportunity to learn some new skills and help with some important restoration work. Some skills and experience required. Workshop begins at 9 a.m. by meeting in the parking area for the Santanoni Preserve, and will end around 5 p.m. Fee is an optional donation of $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Transportation into Santanoni is included.

Saturday, August 26
TANNERIES AND TANNERY TOWNS

This tour will focus on the importance of the tanning industry, which spawned the settlement and development of dozens of southern Adirondack communities and will explore the architectural and archeological legacy of that industry. The tour will be led by Barbara McMartin, the well known author of *Hides, Hemlocks and Adirondack History* and other books on the Adirondacks. It will include a slide show at the Caroga museum, a tour of the village and tannery remains at Wheelerville and the tannery remains at Pinnacle in the Town of Bleecker. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Caroga Museum in Caroga Lake. The tour will end about 3 p.m. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and CHS members).

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000 ... *continued*

Monday, August 28
CLINTON PRISON AT DANNEMORA

The Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, originally built in 1845, is the third oldest prison in New York State and is the state's largest. This unique opportunity will take us inside the maximum security prison where we will visit a cell block, modeled on the "Auburn System," the Church of the Good Thief, a chapel built entirely by inmates, the North Yard and the former Dannemora State Hospital. The history of the prison is fascinating and its architecture is most dramatic. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Suggested optional donation is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, September 9
CAMP SANTANONI

Led by Steven Engelhart. See June 26th tour for details. This tour of Camp Santanoni will take place during Newcomb's annual *Teddy Roosevelt Days* weekend and there will be lots of other activities to take part in.

Monday, September 11
HISTORIC BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE

AARCH has again organized a wonderful tour of some very interesting historic architecture and places in Blue Mountain Lake. We'll spend the morning at The Adirondack Museum, taking a close look at some of the fine buildings there, including: the 1876 Log Hotel, the cottage and studio of landscape painter Gustave Wiegard, Sunset Cottage from Frederick Durant's Camp Cedars on Forked Lake, the Ned Buntline Cabin, Rising Schoolhouse and the Virkler hunting camp. After lunch on the grounds of the museum, we'll visit several other historic places, including the steamboat *Tuscarora*, now a summer camp, Camp Minnowbrook, the Church of the Transfiguration and The Hedges. Tour begins at 10 a.m. and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, September 16
HISTORIC KEESEVILLE AND AUSABLE CHASM

During the 19th century, both Keeseville and AuSable Chasm grew and prospered as important industrial villages, which used water power from the AuSable River, abundant natural resources from the surrounding area, and local ingenuity to make iron products, textiles, finished wood products, and other manufactured items. In Keeseville, we'll see evidence of this industrial prosperity in the village's many fine homes, sandstone buildings, mills and historic bridges. After lunch, we'll walk around the hamlet of AuSable Chasm, visit two hydroelectric sites and take the walk and raft ride (optional) through the "Grand Canyon of the East." Tour begins at 10 a.m. at Keeseville's Riverside Park and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members) per person. Advance registration is required.

Friday, September 22
NORTH CREEK AND RIPARIUS BY TRAIN

We think this is such a great outing that we're offering it twice this year. See July 15th tour for details.

Saturday, September 23
BOLTON LANDING & ENVIRONS

AARCH has again put together a most special tour in and around Bolton Landing on Lake George. Led by Ted Caldwell, the tour will begin at 12 noon when we'll board the *de Champlain* to see the magnificent Lake George landscape, hear about Lake George's fascinating history and visit a very special Lake George island camp. Have your lunch on board. Then we'll disembark and go on to visit Mohican Point, the W.H. Bixby home, the Sembrich Opera Museum and museum of the Historical Society of the Town of Bolton. The tour will end around 4:30 p.m. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Monday, September 25
HISTORIC LAKE PLACID

Led by Mary Hotaling, this very special tour of Lake Placid will visit several of the lake's finest lakeside camps, including Camp Carolina and Gull Rock Camp, both designed by the Saranac Lake architect, Max Westhoff, and explore the beautiful lakeshore aboard the *Lady of the Lake*. Tour starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Lake Placid Marina and ends around 3:30 p.m. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required and space will be limited to 32 people.

Saturday, September 30
A HIKE TO THE POKE-O-MOONSHINE FIRE TOWER

On this outing we will hike to the top of the Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain, near Keeseville. The mountain is well known for its steep cliffs, a favorite destination for rock climbers, nesting peregrine falcons, and panoramic views of the Champlain Valley. At the top we'll see the newly restored fire observation tower, a joint project of AARCH, the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine and several Adirondack Mountain Club chapters. The 4 mile roundtrip hike will be led by Jack Freeman, Assistant Conservation Director of the Adirondack Mountain Club and author of a forthcoming book on hiking the region's fire tower mountains. The hike will begin at 10 a.m. and end around 3 p.m. Fee is a suggested donation of $10 ($5 for AARCH members) per person. Advance registration is required.

TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2000 ...

continued

Friday, October 6
TICONDEROGA: WHAT STYLE IS IT?

This unique workshop/tour will use the historic village of Ticonderoga as an open classroom for learning about architectural styles and the language of architecture. Beginning at 10 a.m., the morning will be spent in the classroom setting of the Hancock House, a replica of John Hancock's Boston mansion and now home of the Ticonderoga Historical Society, where the group will learn about identifying architectural styles from Steven Engelhart, AARCH's Executive Director. Following lunch, the group will walk around the village and look at several dozen historic buildings which exemplify a whole range of architectural styles from the 19th and 20th centuries. Ticonderoga has several large groups of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The walking tour will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and THS members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, October 7
HISTORIC BRIDGES OF THE AUSABLE RIVER

This bus tour will explore more than a dozen historic bridges which cross the AuSable River and its tributaries. The eminent bridge historian, Richard Sanders Allen, once said "there are few watercourses in America, comparable in length to the AuSable, over which so many early bridge types remain." Among these are an 1843 stone arch bridge, the 1857 Jay Covered Bridge, and 1888 pedestrian suspension bridge, a variety of metal truss bridges, including the oldest Pratt truss bridge (1878) in New York and a rare parabolic truss bridge, several stone-faced, reinforced concrete bridges and the 222' steel arch bridge which leaps across AuSable Chasm. All of these bridges were placed on the National Register in 1999. The tour will be led by AARCH's Steven Engelhart, author of *Crossing the River: Historic Bridges of the AuSable River*. The tour begins at 10 a.m. and will end around 4 p.m. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

AARCH Slide Presentations

AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart will resume his series of public slide presentations this summer, including the ever-popular "There's More to Adirondack Architecture Than Great Camps," "Camp Santanoni: Past, Present, and Future," and "Historic Preservation: What's It All About?" New this year is a program entitled "Historic Bridges of the Adirondacks," which explores the many historic stone, metal, wood, and concrete bridges that are found throughout the region. For more information or to schedule additional programs, call AARCH at (518) 834-9328.

There's More to Adirondack Architecture Than Great Camps

Thursday, June 22nd at 7 p.m.
North Creek Library, North Creek

Wednesday, August 16th at 10:30 a.m.
Silver Bay Association, Silver Bay

Monday, August 21st at 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake

Friday, August 25th at 7:30 p.m.
Woodgate Free Library, Woodgate

Friday, September 15th at 7 p.m.
Paine Memorial Free Library, Willsboro

Camp Santanoni: Past, Present and Future

Tuesday, July 18th at 7:30 p.m.
Lake George Association, Lake George

Friday, July 28th at 7 p.m.
North Creek Railroad Museum, North Creek

Historic Bridges of the Adirondacks

Tuesday, August 15th at 7:30 p.m.
Edinburg Historical Society, Edinburg Town Hall

Monday, November 20th at 8 p.m.
Remsen Historical Society, Remsen

Isaac Perry's "Lost" Project

In addition to the body of work documented by Wes Haynes, Isaac Perry built at least one substantial project in the Adirondacks that does not appear in the official record, perhaps because he volunteered his services and left no paper trail. In her manuscript *"Go Ye Forth, O Sion's Daughters": A History of the Sisters of Mercy in the Ogdensburg Diocese of New York State*, 1959, Sister Mary Agnes Harding, R.S.M., credits Perry with the design of the three original buildings and a kitchen addition at the former Sanatorium Gabriels — now a unit of the New York State prison system — in the Town of Brighton, Franklin County. This attribution is confirmed in the town history, *The Brighton Story*, by Geraldine Collins:

The Sisters were prescient in building only the second sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis in the area, nearly ten years before New York State built its first sanatorium at nearby Ray Brook. Not only that, the Sisters built their institution on the "cottage plan," separate patient cottages grouped around an administration building, a plan in vogue for hospitals at the time, but first used for tuberculosis by Dr. Trudeau in Saranac Lake in 1884. Wrote Town Historian Geraldine Collins,

"This was more expensive to build and maintain, but [the Sisters] felt that this plan would contribute more to patient comfort and health. They spared neither pains nor money to achieve this. The heating, ventilation, plumbing, drainage and water supply were the best that science could provide at that time. Later a Paris Exposition awarded a medal to the San for this arrangement."

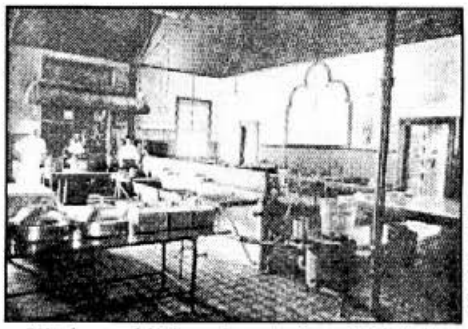
Mother Mary of Perpetual Help Kieran, foundress of Sanatorium Gabriels, attempted to change the name of a small lake at the edge of the sanatorium property from Jones Pond to Lake Lucretia. "I named it after Mr. Perry's wife . . . Mr. Perry is the kind architect who has drawn up the plans for the buildings and is donating his services," quoted Harding. Two factors made this project convenient for Perry: first, the work at Gabriels took place from 1895-1897, while Perry was also overseeing construction at the St. Lawrence Asylum at Ogdensburg. Second, according to local historian Phil Gallos, Perry "was a summer resident at nearby Jones Pond." Since Paul Smith's Station (later Gabriels) on the New York Central Railroad was just a stone's throw from the site, travel from Ogdensburg was probably quite convenient.

Willis/Brighton

First Administration Building at Sanatorium Gabriels, burned in 1916 and later rebuilt

The first three buildings were the two largest, the Administration Building and Rest-A-While, and Kerin Cottage. Collins writes that "work on the cellars was begun the last part of April by B. B. Lantry and the contract for the administration building was given to Branch & Callanan of Saranac Lake on August 15, 1895. The contractor had agreed to build the main building, exclusive of the marble, for $10,985.00, and one cottage for $2,955." The Administration Building contained business offices and the original Chapel, while the large dining room and kitchen were in Rest-A-While. Both buildings housed patients on the upper floors. Perry's Administration Building burned in 1916, and a smaller building later called the Priest's Bungalow was erected on its foundation.

When the water supply became a problem, Perry sent the State geologist, a Mr. McCormack, to analyze the site.


Willis/Brighton

Kitchen addition, Sanatorium Gabriels

"The result," wrote Harding, " was an unlimited supply of water, discovered at a depth of eight feet."

Harding describes the architect's on-going involvement with the workings of the sanatorium:

"In 1897, the large kitchen was erected between Rest-A-While and the Administration Building. It was scientifically built, with Mr. Perry again as architect. . . . This kitchen was a marvel and talked about throughout the whole north country and an object of frequent inspection. Yet it had one defect. When a northeast wind came there could be no cooking done on the big range, as the wind would blow out the flame. One day Mr. Perry was visiting Gabriels. He was truly as interested in the place as were the nuns, and came frequently to make a friendly call. On this occasion he stood in the kitchen with some of the Sisters and smiled in a satisfied way as he looked about. Suddenly a red flame shot out from the stove. The Perry smile disappeared and a look of consternation followed. The man noticed that the Sisters exhibited no surprise. They were used to it. Mr. Perry realized that the already towering chimney would have to be higher. He immediately put his men to work, and there has been no trouble since."

The cornerstone for a separate chapel, planned from the beginning, was laid in 1904, the year Perry died. Though nothing is said in the Harding manuscript about who designed it, it may also have been the work of Isaac G. Perry.

MARY B. HOTALING

News & Notes

Brighton: Brighton History Day will be held July 23, from 1-5 PM at Asplin Tree Farms on Rte. 86 in Gabriels, Franklin County. Featured this year are a time line of town history; the Brighton Year 2000 project, documenting life and activities in the town; and a fund-raising cookout hosted by the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Fire Department. All are welcome free of charge to the exhibits and tour.

Correction: The photo of AARCH award winners on page 4 of the Winter 1999 issue ought to have been credited to photographer Barbara Parnass of Saranac Lake, one of AARCH's founding Board members. Our apologies to Barbara, who frequently volunteers her professional services.

Hadley: The "Bow Bridge," a rare lenticular truss span, has been granted a reprieve while supporters search for funds to restore it. AARCH's new Program Director, Paula Dennis, was instrumental in organizing supporters and persuading Saratoga County to delay demolition.

Jay: In February this year, Essex County Supervisors decided on a location for the new bridge 400 feet downstream from the old Covered Bridge crossing. This location is felt to preserve the historical ambiance of the town center and the views above the rapids near the old bridge site.

Lake Placid: In November, 1999, the North Elba Planning Board approved the application of Placid Gold LLC, owners of the former Lake Placid Club property, to subdivide 80 existing residential lots into approximately 120 housing units. This may involve rehabilitation or demolition of former club cottages.

Lyon Mountain: Saturday, July 15, is the first Railroad Heritage Day at the firehouse in Lyon Mountain, Town of Dannemora, Clinton County, with activities scheduled from 12 noon on through the evening. An exhibition of model railroads and historic photos will take place from 12 to 4 PM, and railroad historian Michael Kudish will speak at 2 PM on the Chateaugay Branch of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. Sponsored by the Chateaugay Lake Arts Association as a special project. For information, call Jane Kelting 518 425-3314, or Lloyd Bailey, 518 735-4427.

New York State: Photographer and writer David Plowden is looking for architecturally significant barns still in use in New York State to include in an up-coming book. He is requesting help in locating outstanding barns and their current owners so that he may contact them. Call him at 847 446-2793; Fax 847 446-2795; or email to dplowden@enteract.com.

North Creek: The North Creek Ski Hut, built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and first opened for the winter of 1941-42, was completely destroyed in a fire on December 6, 1999. All that remained were the stone foundation and chimney. The fire was considered suspicious.

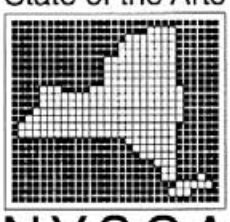
North Creek: The Grand Opening of the North Creek Railway Depot Museum will take place on July 1. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 2 PM.

North Elba: The bicentennial of John Brown's birth was celebrated on May 9 and 10 this year. In Elizabethtown, the actor Ossie Davis read on Friday evening. At Trinity Chapel (the Old White Church) in North Elba on Saturday morning Dr. Katherine Butler Jones spoke, bidding all "Welcome to Timbucto." Participants then walked a mile or so to John Brown's farm and grave, a NYS-owned historic site and National Historic Landmark, where, among others, Amy Godine introduced her research, which will result in an exhibit titled "Dreaming of Timbucto."

Syracuse: Craig Gilborn's encyclopedic new book, *Adirondack Camps: Homes Away from Home*, 1850-1950, was published in May by the Adirondack Museum and Syracuse University Press. Priced at $49.95 (hardcover), the book contains over 300 photographs, most either from the museum's files or taken by the author (some possibly on AARCH tours).

Washington, D.C.: The Santanoni Preserve in the Town of Newcomb and Sagamore Lodge in the Town of Long Lake were officially designated as National Historic Landmarks by the National Park Service in late May. NHL is the highest level of recognition that a property can achieve. Both were already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

State of the Arts



NYSCA

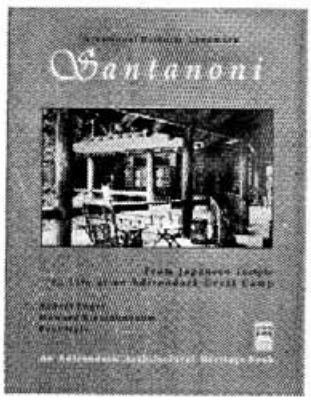
This publication is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Meet Our New Program Director

Paula Dennis, our new Program Director

We are delighted to welcome Paula Dennis as our new Program Director. Paula is a recent graduate of Skidmore College with a B.S. in Cultural Resource Management and has broad experience working in the preservation field. As a private consultant, she has done documentation work, fund-raising, house histories, organized seminars, prepared National Register nominations, helped to develop exhibits, and done archeology with Middle School students. We got to know her talents and strengths in working together to save the historic "Bow Bridge" in Hadley, where Paula helped to organize concerned organizations and individuals and to successfully persuade Saratoga County to explore the rehabilitation of the bridge. She is skilled and organized, passionate about preservation, loves the Adirondack region, and will be a great asset to AARCH. She will be primarily responsible for developing and running our educational programs, including our fantastic tours and workshops, our slide programs, and our "architecture-in-education" program in the region's public schools.

Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp



Adirondack Architectural Heritage is pleased to announce the publication of *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp* by Rob Engel, Howie Kirschenbaum and Paul Malo. Almost three years in the making, this 248 page, profusely illustrated book is the first thorough exploration of any of the region's premier Great Camps. Richly documented by historic photographs, fishing records, letters, and guestbooks that recall the visits and antics of notable guests such as Theodore Roosevelt, this thoroughly researched book provides an intimate view of an extraordinary way of life, as well as the staff and facilities that supported it. The book will help to promote even greater public understanding and appreciation of Santanoni.

Publication of *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp* is made possible, in part, through generous funding from Furthermore, the publication program of The J.M. Kaplan Fund and is available for $24.95 (soft cover) or $39.95 (hardcover) from AARCH.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the regional, non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. Our educational mission is to promote better public understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the built environment of the Adirondack Park. We fulfill this mission in a variety of ways, including by sponsoring tours and workshops, by giving public slide presentations, by offering technical assistance and by supporting local governments, organizations and individuals in their historic preservation activities. AARCH is a membership organization with over 900 members. AARCH members receive a biannual *Newsletter*, get discounts on AARCH-sponsored events and publications and may attend our annual meeting.

Join AARCH

I want to help preserve the Adirondack Park's historical and architectural legacy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution.

(Check one)

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 312, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.

Discover ...

The Sembrich Opera Museum

Steven Engelhart

The Sembrich Opera Museum hugs the Lake George shoreline.

Nestled in the tall pines along the shores of Lake George is a pink stucco cottage that was once the teaching studio of Marcella Sembrich, who was one of the leading opera sopranos of her day. She was born in Poland in 1858, made her operatic debut in Athens in 1877, and quickly became a star both in Europe and America. Franz Liszt said she had "the voice of an angel." She sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company from 1898 to 1909. Mme. Sembrich also founded the vocal departments of the Juilliard School, in New York, and the Curtis Institute, in Philadelphia, and she worked with her own gifted students in her studio in Bolton Landing between 1921 and 1935.

The Marcella Sembrich Opera Museum is filled with treasures from her remarkable career, including vintage photographs; lavish costumes; tributes and correspondence from Mahler, Brahms, Schumann, presidents and other admirers; opera posters; her piano, scrapbooks, paintings and prints. Also of great interest are the well landscaped grounds of the museum, with its mature trees, thoughtful plantings, serpentine paths and vistas out onto the lake. For opera lovers, this is heaven. For all others, the museum's rich collection will amaze, educate and entertain.

The Museum is located just south of the village of Bolton Landing on Lake Shore Drive (Route 9N) and is open daily between June 15-September 15, 10 am-5:30 pm. Admission is $5 for adults. For more information, call (518) 644-9839 or visit at www.operamuseum.com.

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