

# CHAPMAN MUSEUM



GLENS FALLS • QUEENSBURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION • FALL 2019

## WATER | WAYS

*A traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program*



ABOVE: *Fishing on the Chattahoochee River, GA*  
Photo by Steve Harwood

**November 23, 2019 - January 5, 2020**

MEMBER OPENING:

Saturday, November 23, 1 to 3 pm

From above, Earth appears as a water planet with more than 71 percent of its surface covered with this vital resource for life. Water impacts climate, agriculture, transportation, industry and more. It inspires art and music. "Water/Ways," a traveling exhibition that will visit six sites in New York in 2019-2020, examines water as an



*Embarkation of Abercrombie's Expedition, Lake George, July 5, 1758* by Frederick C. Yohn. Chapman Museum, Glens Falls Insurance Company Collection

environmental necessity and an important cultural element.

The exhibit explores the endless motion of the water cycle, water's effect on landscape, settlement and migration, and its impact on culture and spirituality. It looks at how political and economic planning have long been affected by access to water and control of water resources. Human creativity and resourcefulness provide new ways of protecting water resources and renewing respect for the natural environment.

Designed for small-town museums, libraries and cultural organizations, "Water/Ways" serves as a community meeting place to convene conversations about water's impact on American culture. The Chapman Museum is collaborating with Crandall Library's Center for Folklife, History and Cultural Programs; Lakes to Locks Passage; the World Awareness Children's Museum and other organizations to present local exhibits and public programs to complement the Smithsonian exhibition."

This region's history is closely tied to water – the Hudson River, Lake George and

Lake Champlain, and the Champlain Canal, in particular. Local exhibits will include video shorts from the 2019 Folklife Center's *Lake George On the Water* video project, Mark Wilson's political cartoons about the Hudson River Dredging Project, and The Champlain Waterway, a display developed by Lakes to Locks Passage.

"Water/Ways" was inspired by an exhibition organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, in collaboration with Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland; The Field Museum, Chicago; Instituto Sangari, Sao Paulo, Brazil; National Museum of Australia, Canberra; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; San Diego Natural History Museum; and Science Centre Singapore with PUB Singapore.

The New York tour of the Water/Ways exhibition was organized by the Museum Association of New York. The exhibition and programming was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Hadley Exhibits, Inc., the New York State Canal Corporation, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Folk Art

programming is sponsored by New York Folklore, and supported by the New York State Regional Economic Development Initiative, a program of Governor Andrew M Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The project is funded locally by grants from the Charles R. Wood Foundation, the Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation, the Waldo T. & Ruth S. Ross Charitable Trust, the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury.



## Water/Ways Programs

**Saturday, Nov. 30, 2 pm • Chapman Museum**

John Strough - *Waterways & Warfare: The Role of Water in the Colonial Wars*

**Thursday, Dec. 5, 7 pm • Crandall Library**

Jesse & Joseph Bruchac - *Two Canoes: Water in Abenaki Stories*

**Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 pm • Crandall Library**

Lili Loveday - *Water Inspired modern dance*

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 pm • Chapman Museum**

Timothy Weidner - *From the Mountains to the Sea: S. R. Stoddard's Photos of the Hudson River*

**Thursday, Dec. 20, 7 pm • Crandall Library**

Dan Berggren - *Adirondack Songs*

**Thursday, Dec. 26, 7 pm • Crandall Library**

Hannah DeGarmo - *Lake George On the Water video project*

**Saturday, Dec. 28, 1 pm • Chapman Museum**

June Waters, Director, World Awareness Children's Museum - *Water Winterscapes: Painting with Ice*. Fun for ALL ages and abilities.

**Thursday, Jan. 2, 7 pm • Crandall Library**

James D. Parillo, Executive Director, The Saratoga Springs History Museum

*All programs are free and open to the public. For more info go to [chapmanmuseum.org](http://chapmanmuseum.org).*

## Fall Luncheon

On September 16th at the Chapman Fall Luncheon, Greenfield resident Lauren Gomes Atwood spoke about her immigration experience to more than 50 attendees at The Queensbury Hotel. Prompted by questions from June Waters, Director of the World Awareness Children's Museum, Lauren shared her family's story of escape from war torn Kuwait, return to their native Bangladesh, and eventual settlement in the United States. Retired New York Supreme Court Justice and Chapman Trustee, David Krogmann also spoke at the event. He told of his personal history of being a second-generation immigrant, and shared the thrill he experienced each time he participated in a naturalization ceremony.

## New Stoddard Acquisitions



LEFT: *Black Mountain from 14 Mile Island House, Lake George.* Chapman Museum, S.R. Stoddard Collection.  
RIGHT: *The Fountain, Fort William Henry Hotel, Lake George.* Chapman Museum, S.R. Stoddard Collection.



Through a grant from the Waldo T. & Ruth S. Ross Charitable Trust, this year the museum was able to build its Seneca Ray Stoddard Collection by purchasing 50 works from private collections. Included are images of Lake George, Fort Ticonderoga, Lake Champlain, Glens Falls and a few select photos of the central Adirondacks. These "new to us" images add to our collection of

3000 Stoddard photographs, particularly expanding the number of his stereopticon cards.

In keeping with a water theme, the mini-exhibit features a selection of these photos that depict water settings – lakes, rivers and even an early image of the Fort William Henry Hotel's fountain, taken prior to the hotel's remodeling and expansion in the late 1860s.

## New Acquisitions

Going to see the latest film at the movie theater has long been a beloved American past-time. Over the last hundred years, Glens Falls has had several motion picture venues: the Empire; Paramount; Rialto; Park; and State theaters. The Paramount Theater, in particular, was a premier movie house. Ushers wore smartly styled uniforms; a painted mural with cherubs adorned the ceiling; and an organist played music while you were waiting to be seated. These details have been recounted and recorded, but now there is a visual archive as well.

The museum recently received a donation of approximately forty 4x5" negatives relating to the Paramount Theater from Daniel Dorrer of Salem, NY. The images include storefront displays advertising the latest films; the theater exterior with its brightly lit marquee; interior scenes of elaborate promotional props; and even the snack bar. Perhaps most fascinating however, are pictures taken from inside the projection room. The donor's grandfather, Neil Creedon, was not only the photographer, but also



*Paramount Theater, 1956.* Chapman Museum, Neil Creedon Collection.

the projectionist at the Paramount from the late 1940's to the early 1960's. This absolutely wonderful bit of local theater history provides us with a rare, "behind the scenes" glimpse into this ever-popular form of entertainment.

In addition, the collection also contains artifacts and materials that document Mr. Creedon's passion for invention. Among these items are a patented refrigerator shelf, images and letters promoting the shelf, and design plans for a camera tripod device.

# Cemetery Tour



Dr. Cadwell Peck (played by Tom Baker) entertains attendees with magic tricks at the 2019 Cemetery Tour. Jillian Mulder photo

Held on September 28th in Bay Street Cemetery, the 2019 tour featured seven stories.

- A lawyer by training, **Louis Aldrich** had a passion for bicycles and a wanderlust for adventure. He and his wife Sarah faced life's challenges together in Glens Falls.
- **Elizabeth Cowbeck**, with a baby boy in tow, followed her husband to America from England in 1884. Here they raised four children on his bookkeeper's salary.
- **George Culver**, a policeman and ultimately Chief of Police in Glens Falls, was trained by the FBI. He and his wife Mary discussed his long career in law enforcement.
- As a young athlete, **George Mead** was recruited to play baseball for an insurance company in CT. He steadily rose in the ranks of the industry, and by the 1930s he was an executive at the Glens Falls Insurance Co.
- A dentist by day, **Dr. Cadwell Peck** practiced magic at other times. Fascinated by magic from an early age, he went on to develop numerous illusions and tricks that he performed for local organizations.
- A lumberman who became quite wealthy harvesting the timber of the Adirondacks, **Jones Ordway** also had a second family in the mountains, which must have raised a few eyebrows in the 19th C.
- By the 1880s, **DeForest West**, who was acclaimed as "The Great Male Soprano," presented burlesque acts in minstrel shows as far away as San Francisco. In his 40s, he returned to the Glens Falls area, where he performed and directed shows before an unfortunate end.

Many thanks to Glens Falls Theatre Company coordinator Sandi Rhodes and the writers, directors and actors who brought the characters to life: Tom Baker, Sue D'Angelico, Janet Davies, Dan Donahue, Wes & Stephanie Ecker, Donna Gelder, Catherine Gericke, Mark Griffin, Katie Hawksby, Phil Jessen, Lee & David Moretz, John Muller, Bea Roman, Doris Siepel, Kayla Toney, and Garrett West. Thanks also researchers Bob Bayle and Kim Harvish, and to the many volunteers who helped pull off the tour.

# A Finer Experience

Thursday, November 14, 6 to 8 pm (Doors open at 5:30)

At Seasoned, SUNY Adirondack Culinary Center, 14 Hudson Ave., Glens Falls

Attendees will sample a variety of wines selected by Adirondack Wine Merchants and paired with food prepared by SUNY Adirondack Culinary Arts students.

TICKET: \$125/person by Nov. 8; \$150/person after Nov. 8. Limited Seating. Paid reservations only. Call (518) 793-2826 or stop by the museum.

Sponsored by Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes, P.C.

# 14th Annual Wine & Chocolate Tasting

Friday, November 15, 5:30 - 8 pm

Queensbury Hotel, 88 Ridge St, Glens Falls

New this year will be four artisanal spirits tables and music provided by King's English. Attendees will sample domestic and imported wines provided by Adirondack Wine Merchants. Returning food vendors include Barkeater Chocolates, Dancing Ewe Farm, Rock Hill Bakehouse, Saratoga Chocolate Co., Sugarloaf Farm, and Worldling's Pleasure. New this year are The Chocolate Spoon, Sundae's Best, and Rachel's Café & Spice Co.



The event includes a silent auction of wine themed baskets and raffle prizes. One highlight will be a refrigerated wine cabinet custom built by Martin Seelye. The "Classic Photobooth" is sponsored by Hudson River Community Credit Union.

TICKETS: \$45/person by Nov. 8; \$50/person after Nov 8. (They may be purchased online or by phone until noon, November 15. Call the museum at (518) 793-2826.

Sponsors include: Adirondack Trust Company, Adirondack Wine Merchants, Barkeater Chocolates, Cool Insuring Agency, DeMattos Insurance Agency, D'Ella Auto Group, Dick Saunders State Farm Insurance, Glens Falls National Bank, Glens Falls Printing, Hilltop Construction Company, Home Buyers Marketing, Mannix Marketing, North Country Subaru, Northeastern Fine Jewelry, Regional Radio Group, Saratoga Photobooth Company, Schutze family Dentistry, The Chronicle, Thermal Associates, and the O'Brien Family. Additional support is provided by Fenimore Asset Management.

# Staff News

This summer, after eight years, our Museum Educator Kim Harvish decided to step down. During her time at the museum she developed many new programs, spearheaded a women's work oral history project and more recently played a key role in organizing women's suffrage centennial events that will culminate in a regional celebration in August 2020. We wish her well in her new pursuits.

# Thank You *Many thanks to the following individuals and businesses that have supported the Chapman Museum.*

Received March 14 - October 8

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# Grants Received

- \$1000 from the Sandy Hill Foundation (unrestricted support)
- \$1200 from the Adirondack Foundation, Margaret A Prime Memorial Fund (unrestricted support)
- \$12,000 from the Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation in support of exhibit projects in 2019-2020
- \$42,500 from the Waldo T. Ross & Ruth S. Ross Charitable Trust Foundation in support of purchase of a new humidifier for archives storage, acquisition of Stoddard photos and general operating expenses
- \$4000 from the City of Glens Falls and \$9500 from the Town of Queensbury in Warren County Occupancy Tax funding to support promotion of the museum's exhibits and programs

## Museum Shop

### New for the 2019 Holiday Season

S.R. Stoddard Cards  
 "Kids in the Adirondacks"  
 Sold individually or in sets



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