First Story Release Celebration

**Adirondack Community:** Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are

**JUNE 15, 2019**

**FIRST STORY RELEASE CELEBRATION**

1. Jery Y. Huntley, Volunteer Grants Manager
2. Karen Glass, Library Director, Keene Valley Library
3. Bethany Garretson, Story Aide
4. Olivia Dwyer, PR/Marketing/Recruitment
5. Elizabeth Rogers, Archivist, Keene Valley Library

**WHAT IS ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY?**

- *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are* is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from Town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the rich social and cultural history of this community located in New York State’s Adirondack Mountains.

- A “story” is a first-person three-five minutes account by people in their own voice about their own experience and those of their ancestors.

**PROJECT STAFF**

- Jery Y. Huntley, Volunteer Grants Manager
- Karen Glass, Library Director, Keene Valley Library
- Bethany Garretson, Story Aide
- Olivia Dwyer, PR/Marketing/Recruitment
- Elizabeth Rogers, Archivist, Keene Valley Library

**2018: VISION GRANTS SEED FUNDING FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

- KVLA awarded $1,500 in 2018 by Humanities New York (HNY) in support of brainstorming, research, and professional development for organizations working collaboratively to develop new ideas and program strategies.

**2018 FOCUS GROUP PLAN**

Four focus groups required by the grant held summer 2018 to:

- Determine categories of stories and prioritization
- List possible storytellers
- Create enthusiasm for the project
Final report submitted August 2018 after successful focus groups

**CATEGORIES FOR STORIES FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS**

- **Arts & Culture**
  - Performing arts/dance/philosophy/photography/visual arts/arts/sales
- **Work**
  - Guides/chauffeurs/management/keeping/hunter railway/moors/industrial/education/education/hospitals/ladies/hotels/tourism/industry/surveys/distribution/furniture
- **Outdoor Activities**
  - Hiking/Olympics/seasonal fishing/hunting/long-distance/transportation/activities/ice/airports/skiing/activities
- **Community**
  - Cemeteries/hospitals/libraries/shops/religion/industry/maritime/museum/landlord/land use
- **Catastrophes**
  - Disasters/tragedies/war
- **People**
  - Colorful characters/strong women/early settlers
- **Daily Life**
  - Events and traditions/education/age/transportation/health/natural disasters/changes
- **Natural & Man-made Environment**
  - Natural history/rock/lake/dirt/vegetation/structure

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*Not applicable to this document.*
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**GRANTS FOR 2019**
- Humanities New York (HNY) for implementation of this project that they funded in 2018 through a planning Vision Grant
- Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation
- Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) Innovation Grant
- Community and in-kind donations

**MARKETING GOALS**
- Story Collection: Connect with Town of Keene residents and visitors to build awareness of the project and inspire them to prepare and tell their stories
- Story Listening: Inspire Town of Keene residents, visitors, and general public to go to the website and listen to stories

**WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW?**
- Story booth set up downstairs in the library
- Software and hardware ready
- Project manual completed, with method to make all storytellers comfortable
- Staff roles set
- Recruiting storytellers
- Coordinating with Keene Central School, Keene Library, and Keene Historical Society
- Goals set:
  - 30-35 by 6/15/19
  - 100 by 9/1/19
- First stories recorded with release today
- Storytellers say they are happy with the project and process and keep coming back for more!

**WHAT’S NEXT?**
- More and more stories: Tell your friends!
- Looking for future funding
- Booth at the Library Benefit
- Celebration in September when we reach 100 stories
- Email myadirondackstory@gmail.com to tell a story or ask questions...

Go to www.myadirondackstory.org starting today for the first stories and many, many more to come!