

# First Story Release Celebration

**ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY**  
 Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating  
 the Stories of Who We Are

JUNE 15, 2019  
 FIRST STORY RELEASE CELEBRATION

1

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.

2

- Jerry 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

PROJECT  
 STAFF

3

2018: VISION  
 GRANTS  
 SEED FUNDING  
 FOR PROJECT  
 DEVELOPMENT

- KVLV 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.

4

2018 FOCUS GROUP  
 PLAN

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

- Determine categories of stories and prioritize them
- List possible storytellers
- Create enthusiasm for the project

Final report submitted August 2018 after successful focus groups

5

CATEGORIES FOR STORIES  
 FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

- **Arts & Culture**
  - Music/art/theatre/literature/philosophy/photography/religion/folk tales
- **Work**
  - Guides/caretaking/hunting/logging/lumber mills/construction/industry/ tourism and hospitality/doctors/business/surveying/farming/fishing/trapping/clubs/law enforcement/merchants/prisons/ bootlegging/furniture
- **Outdoor Activities**
  - Hiking/Olympics/birding/fishing/hunting/hiking/skiing/sports/lake activities/guide boats
- **Community**
  - Cemeteries/hospitals/schools/churches/fire departments/libraries/bars/ restaurants/hotels/road houses
- **Catastrophes**
  - Disasters/tragedies/war
- **People**
  - Colorful characters/strong women/early settlers
- **Daily Life**
  - Events and traditions/volunteerism/activism/philanthropy/demographic changes
- **Natural & Man-made Environment**
  - Natural history/architecture/Great Camps/mountains/nature

6

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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

7

**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

8

**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!

9

**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](mailto:myadirondackstory@gmail.com) to tell a story or ask questions...

10

My Adirondack Story

Home About Us Hear The Stories Share Your Story Sign Up

## Adirondack Community

Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are. Tell Us Your Story!

Go to [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) starting today for the first stories and many, many more to come!

11