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Introduction

The Adirondacks is a region located in the northeastern part of New York State. Within its boundaries, known as the blue line, the Adirondacks includes 12 counties including, Clinton County, Essex County, Franklin County, Fulton County, Hamilton County, Herkimer County, Lewis County, Oneida County, Saratoga County, St. Lawrence County, Warren County, and Washington County. The region was originally occupied by the early Indian tribes and fell within Mohawk Territory during the settling of the North America, prior to the American Revolution. During the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War the Adirondack region was home to some of the most influential battles. Following the Revolution as Indians were expelled from their territories and forced to move north towards Canada, the 18th and 19th century saw the further settlement of the land and the establishment of defining characteristics of the region we recognize today. The region is most well-known for its 6 million acres of forest preserve. The natural area is referred to as Adirondack Park; it is a publicly protected and maintained park and is the largest state-level protected park in the United States. It is considered the largest National Historic Landmark and the parks “blue line” territory is roughly the size of Vermont. The park is home to the Adirondack Mountain Range, more 3000 bodies of water and houses an immense amount of diverse plant and animal life. In addition to its wildlife claims to fame, in the twentieth century the Adirondacks became the only region in the western hemisphere to host two Olympic Games. The history that is present within the 6 million acres is diverse and rich with culture; from Revolutionary wars to industrial and natural development, the history is ever-growing.

The following resource guide is to help students who wish to investigate the diverse history of the Adirondack region. Included in the first section of the guide are Museums, historic homes, and historical societies. For the most part the historic sites and museums represent the range of history present in the Adirondack region. The sites range and museums represent the history of the state park, the revolutionary battles and 18th and 19th century life. The following section of the guide lists the markers and historic monuments located within the region. There is a very large list of historic sites which would help a researching student get a firsthand look into the historic battle grounds, homes and wilderness preserves. Although, the historical cemeteries are limited it makes sense in terms of the Adirondacks more recent history. In addition to the history that can be found purely from immersing yourself in the outdoors of the Adirondacks the historic monuments, museums, sites, and societies serve as other great options. There is a wide selection and representation of different historical areas present. Historical stops include spots which held significance in the Revolutionary war all the way up the Olympic village from the 1980 Olympic Games. The Adirondacks is chalk full of all kinds of history just waiting to be discovered, so let this guide help guide you through Adirondack and NY state history.
II) Museums:

**Adirondack Museum** - 9097 State Route 30, Blue Mountain Lake NY

The purpose of the museum is to give the public a greater understanding of the Adirondack region and the relationship between people and the vast wilderness of the area.

**Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks** - 45 Museum Drive, Tupper Lake, NY 12986

The purpose of this museum is to showcase the natural aspect of the Adirondack region, and the effect humans have had on it.

**Adirondack History Center** - 7590 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

The focus of this museum is to show the history of Essex County, a large county in the Adirondack region, and its importance to the history of both New York and the United States.

Historical Sites:

**Constable Hall**
John Street and Summit Avenue, Constable, NY
(315)397-2323
Restored Georgian limestone mansion from the nineteenth century. Has a museum, formal gardens, 14 rooms, plantation veranda, and original furnishings.

**Crown Point:**

**Crown Point State Historic Site**
Champlain Bridge, Crown Point, NY 12928
(518)597-3666
National Historic Landmark. Site of Fort Saint Frederic (French, circa 1734) and Fort Crown Point (British, circa 1759). Original ruins.

**Lake George Historical Association**
Lake George, NY
(518)668-5044
Courthouse from 1845. Has a local history museum and old jail cells.

**Franklin County Historical Society**
Milwaukee Road, Malone, NY 12953
(518)483-2750
Large house from the Victorian area. Has antique Northern New York maps, period furnishings, library, crafts, and country store.
Old Forge:

Webb Historical Association
Crosby Blvd, Old Forge, NY 13420
(315)369-3838
Artifacts from Adirondack settlements.

Raquette Lake:

Great Camp Sagamore
Raquette Lake, NY 13436
(315)354-5303
Built by William West Durant in 1897. Has 26 fireplaces and 29 buildings.

Saranac Lake:

Robert Lewis Stevenson Cottage
Routes 3 and 86
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
(518)891-1462
Famous author's mountain retreat.

Ticonderoga:

Fort Ticonderoga
Route 74, Ticonderoga, NY 12883
(518)585-2821
Restored 1755 fort. Has a military museum, fife and drum parades, and weapons demonstrations.

Hancock House
Moses Circle on Route 9N, Ticonderoga, NY 12883
(518)585-7868
Museum and research library.

Historical Societies:


This website has the list of all the historical societies in the Adirondack region, their contact information, and links to their respective homepages.
Additional Helpful Sources:

http://www.roundthebend.com/adirondacks/dackhist.html

http://www.nyhistory.com/links/museums.htm

Historic Site Recommendation:

Fort Ticonderoga

One historical site in particular that would be particularly stimulating while completing research on the Adirondack region is Fort Ticonderoga. Fort Ticonderoga is located on the edge of Lake Champlain and in history was known for guarding access between New France settlements in North America and British American colonies. It was said that control of this fort led to control of the continent. In America’s history Fort Ticonderoga served as the location of the colonist’s first major victory in the Revolutionary War. Fort Ticonderoga was witness to two wars and five battles. It is noted as being one of the earliest historic preservation sites dating back to the early 19th century. The fort is well known for its interactive educational activities which include self-guided tours, lesson plans for teachers, and live reenactments. This fort is home to wealth of knowledge and historic facts. It is a great historic site to visit when researching not only the Adirondack region but NY State history in general, or American Revolutionary history as well.
III) Road Markers and Monuments

- **U.S. Arsenal Historic Marker**
  Central Adirondack Trail, State Rt. 46 and State Rt. 69, near Rome in Oneida County
  Historic Marker denotes the site of a United States Arsenal that was maintained during the War of 1812 and subsequently.

- **Train Wreck**
  Rt. 28 between Eagle Bay and Old Forge
  Here, a train derailed and went over the cliff, killing 3 crew members.

- **The Adirondacks**
  Rt. 30, heading north, near Blue Mountain Lake.
  Describes geography information about the mountains. Also explains how the Iroquois came up with the name.

- **Fire Tower.**
  Originally on White Face Mountain, now moved to the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake
  The second forest fire tower in the Adirondacks. Erected 1909. One of 58 now maintained by the State in Adirondacks and Catskills.

- **Wilderness Lady**
  Saranac Lake, at the intersection of River Street and Church Street on River Street
  Martha Reben 1911-1964 Her life here and her books about the Adirondacks inspired many.

- **(Hadley Mountain) Fire Tower**
  Hadley, New York, in Saratoga County. Marker is on Tower Road, on the right when traveling south.

- **Northville Depot**
  Northville, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is at the intersection of Bridge Street and County Route 152
  Northern Terminal Rail Route to Adirondacks.

- **Lake Durant**
  Near Blue Mountain Lake, New York, in Hamilton County. Marker can be reached from New York Route 30.
  Named in Honor Of **William West Durant** (1850 – 1934) who Devoted Much of his life to developing the Adirondacks and making Known their Beauties
- **Adirondack Inn**  
  Village of Northville, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on McKinley Avenue.  
  Considered the Gem Of Sacandaga Park this ornate wood structure burned 1975

- **New York World War Veterans Memorial Highway**  
  Marker is on Whiteface Memorial Highway (New York Route 431), on the right when traveling south.  
  This highway is dedicated to all past and present New York soldiers who served in foreign wars. In 1985 New York State Governor Mario Cuomo rededicated the Whiteface Memorial Highway to veterans of all wars. These plaques are mounted on the north side of the Whiteface Castle.

- **The XIII Winter Olympic Games**  
  Lake Placid, Marker can be reached from Cascade Road (New York Route 73), on the right when traveling north.  
  Site of the 1980 Winter Olympics. This tower was erected to hold that flame and stands as an everlasting monument to the 1282 Olympians from 37 nations who took part in these Olympic Games.

- **Theodore Roosevelt – Family Man, Conservationist**  
  North Creek, Marker can be reached from Railroad Place, on the right when traveling north.  
  Erected in honor of the efforts by Roosevelt to protect and preserve the most important scenic and national treasures of the Adirondacks. He also wrote several books dealing with the wildlife and beauty of the region.

- **Barker’s Store**  
  Edinburg, Marker is at the intersection of Military Road and North Shore Road (County Route 4), on the right when traveling south on Military Road.  
  Built in 1847 by John Barker. Operated Continuously As A Store Until 1945. Believed To Have Been A Stop On The Underground Railroad.

- **Batchellerville Presbyterian Church**  
  Edinburg, New York, in Saratoga County. Marker is on South Shore Road near Degolia Road, on the right when traveling west.  
  One of the first churches erected when settlers from New England began expanding westward into Northern New York. Site of a religious revival movement.

- **Godfrey Shew**  
  Fish House, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on County Road 110 west of Seneca Avenue, on the right when traveling west.
First settler in Fish House under William Johnson in 1762. His sons, John, Stephen, Jacob were captured in Tory & Indian raid June 3, 1778. They were taken to Canada.

- **Shew’s Hill**  
  Marker is in Fish House, New York, in Fulton County. Marker can be reached from the intersection of Fish House Road and County Road 110.  
  Here, Shew stationed his son’s to watch for Indian advancement or threat. Later, the family would be captured during an Indian raid.

- **Locust Grove**  
  Broadalbin, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on Route 30 just from Goodemote Road. **1805.** Home of Col. Tiffany Brockway (War of 1812). This house was used as a stop along the Underground Railroad.

- **Johnson Hall**  
  Broadalbin, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on New York Route 29, on the right when traveling east.  
  Sir William Johnson (1715-1774), Indian trader, statesman, diplomat and colonial empire builder. In 1763 he built Johnson Hall, the center of his estate and the scene of many Indian conferences.

- **1849 Plank Road**  
  Broadalbin, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on South 2nd Ave 0.1 miles south of West Main Street (County Road 155), on the left when traveling south.  
  Route of a toll road from Amsterdam to Fish House. It linked the rural economy of the Sacandaga Valley to rail and canal access to Amsterdam.

- **Mayfield Fort**  
  Mayfield, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on Vandenburgh Point Road, on the right when traveling south.  
  Built and Garrisoned During the Revolution as A Refuge for Settlers Of Vicinity.

- **Rice Homestead**  
  Mayfield, New York, in Fulton County. Marker is on Riceville Road 0.2 miles south of Knoll Rd.  
  Built about 1790 by Oliver Rice, a soldier of the American Revolution, serving under General Washington.

- **McIntyre Mine**  
  Near Calamity Pond and Sanford Lake, near Newcomb  
  David Henderson and an Indian trapper came across a piece of land very rich in iron ore. A mine was created shortly after. However, with the advancement of the mine came the
destruction of the forest, which caused a push for the conservation of the Adirondack. Henderson would be accidently shot and killed by his own gun after setting it on a rock. The monument is placed where Henderson died.

Cemeteries:

- **Historic Old Kingsboro Revolutionary Cemetery**
  Adirondack Trail, Rt. 30A, near Gloversville, Fulton County
  Originally a Native American burial ground. Later became grounds for early New York locals.

- **Riceville Revolutionary War Cemetery**
  - Adirondack Trail, Rt. 30, Mayfield, Fulton County
  - Burial ground for Oliver Rice, who built the Rice Homestead. Also burial spot for local Revolutionary War soldiers.

- **“Old Church Graveyard”**
  - Rt. 15, Mayfield
  - Abandoned burial ground behind a 1792 Dutch Reformed Church
iv) State Parks

**The Adirondack Park**


- This website gives great information on some historical events/figures that have occurred in the Adirondacks. Information on this website include the B-47 crash on Wright Peak, the geological history of the Adirondacks, and the McIntyre Iron Works. This website also includes information about the political history of the Adirondacks, including the Constitutional Convention of the Adirondack Park in 1894 and the reading “Forever Wild.”


- This website gives information on perhaps one of the most historical events that have happened in the Adirondacks, the two Olympic Games that have been held in the Park in Lake Placid, New York. These two worldwide events were held in both 1932 and most famously, the 1980 Winter Olympics with the “Miracle on Ice” by the United States Hockey Team. This website also includes some information on other historic events that happened during the 1980 Winter Olympics and how the Olympic Park is still used today as a training facility and tourist attraction for Upstate New York.


- This site is also a great tool in knowing the history of the establishment of the Adirondack Park. This website created by the Adirondack Park Agency gives information of the establishment of this park in great detail, including when loggers began to use the area, the growing concern of forest preservation, and quotes from Verplanck Colvin about the preservation. The growing concern of preservation, along with the writings of Colvin played vital roles on the establishment of the Adirondack Park in 1892.

This website goes into detail about the history of Lake Placid, one of the most well-known areas in the Adirondack Park. Lake Placid is known for the two Winter Olympic Games that occurred in 1932 and 1980. After these games, the popularity of the Adirondack Park began to grow as it did in the late 1800’s. This site gives information of the shift of purpose of the Adirondacks from industry to tourism. One of the most shocking details that is given by this site is that the Adirondack Park is home to the nation’s first winter vacation destination for tourists in Lake Placid. According to the site, Lake Placid is still known for holding competitive sporting events including horse shows and ironman competitions.

"More About the Adirondack Park." Adirondack Park Agency. 

This site is run by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and gives us a general layout of what features can be found in the Adirondack Park. The information on this site includes, the number of towns, population, lakes, rivers and streams. This site also gives information about what agencies have been created in order to preserve the park and make it livable for both the people and animals of this area.

"Olympic Trail." America’s Byways®: National Scenic Byways Online. 

The Adirondack Park is full of activities to do, including fishing, boating, and hiking. People come to the Adirondack Park to escape their hectic lives and relax by doing activities like these. This website gives information about a hiking trail that really stands out to tourists called the “Olympic Trail.” This trail measures up to 170 miles from Lake Champlain to Lake Ontario. This trail connects adventure seekers through towns, wilderness, rivers, and lakes throughout Northern New York. However, shorter trails can be found almost anywhere in the Adirondack Park for recreational enthusiasts.
This website is extremely helpful to gain a general background of what the Adirondack Mountains are all about. The site gives very basic information about when the park was created in 1892 and why it was established. The Adirondacks were a center for clear cutting in the late 1800’s and preservation of this area was a growing concern for the people who lived there during the time. This website gives a basic outline of how the park was established through the legal system from a real estate lawyer named Verplanck Colvin. Through Colvin’s perseverance, the Adirondacks grew to 6 million acres, making the Adirondack Park bigger than Yosemite, Yellowstone, Glacier, Grand Canyon, and the Great Smokies National Parks put together.
V) Bibliography of Further Sources:

Books and Articles about Adirondack Park:

These sources go into great detail about the history of the Adirondack Park. The diversity in sources makes for a wide range of information. It addresses information on the formation of the national parks, the details of wild life and plant life present in the park, the key contributing characters and their influence on the park and other general facts. All of these sources individually would help student gather information on the Adirondack Park specifically.


Books and Articles on Adirondack History:

A mix of sources that document the settlement and history of the Adirondacks as a region of NY rather than focusing specifically on the National Parks. Sources explore the settlement and origin of people, the work force, the industrial movements and other historical aspects which contributed to the creation of the Adirondacks as we know them today.


This book would be particularly helpful if a student was interested in the history of the work force within the Adirondacks. It chronicles the development of natural park guides as a profession.


This source is written for a general audience. It goes into detail about the expectations and plans for land use, combined with human interactions with nature and their effect on the Adirondacks. This book also presents key characters that influenced the development and maintenance of the Adirondacks over time.


This is a good source which provides a look into many aspects of Adirondack history. It examines stories of hikers and explores the wilderness aspects of the Adirondacks. It also tells the stories of influential women in the history of the Adirondacks as well as other important figures.

**Videos on the Adirondacks:**


A PBS documentary that explores the history and wilderness of the Adirondacks. Reliable and scholarly resource.

**Books, Articles, and Films on Olympic History:**

A list of sources on the history of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics Games. These sources document the journey of the Olympics and the explanation of how they ended up being played in Lake Placid. They explore the controversial aspects of the 1980 Olympics and its historic context. These sources also address the influence of the Olympics on Lake Placid and the Adirondack region.


**Useful Website Sources:**

These websites offer useful links to sites dedicated to the Adirondacks and Adirondacks Park. They offer useful links and historical incite as well, as maps and guides to the region. Although, not all of them are academic or scholarly resources they are goo back up sources to guide you through the research process.

• http://visitadirondacks.com/adirondack-mountains/adirondack-park.html
• http://www.apa.ny.gov/About_Park/more_park.html
• http://adirondackhistory.com
• http://adirondack.net
• http://www.apa.ny.gov/About_Park/history.htm
• http://www.adirondack-park.net/history
• http://www.adkmuseum.org/about_us/adirondack_journal/?id=204
• http://www.lakeplacid.com/do/history
• http://byways.org/explore/byways/2225
vi) Historians:

For additional research information contact town historians located within the region:

- Betty Tabor
  33 West Main St.
  Mayfield, NY 12117
  Phone: 518–661-5085

- Margaret Edwards
  72 Schuyler St.
  Lake George, NY 12845
  Phone: 518-668-3043

- Beverly Reid
  2471 Main Street
  Lake Placid, NY 12946
  Phone: 518-523-3200

- James Greiner
  318 Margaret St.
  Herkimer, NY 13350
  Phone: 315-866-1398