

# ***OurStoryBridge:***

## ***Connecting the Past and the Present***

Jery Y. Huntley, MLS  
OurStoryBridge Founder, Keene Valley Library

Debby Carter, MLS  
Assistant Librarian, Tremonton City Library

AJ Gooden  
Supervisor, Igiugig Tribal Library

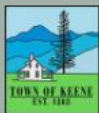
WebJunction  
August 17, 2021



# Presentation Objectives

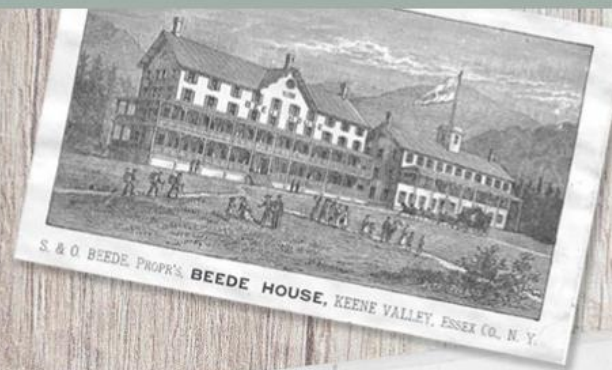
- Understand what's on these websites and how you can use them
  - *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are* ([www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org))
  - *OurStoryBridge: Connecting the Past and the Present* ([www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org))
- Be inspired to explore the *Teacher's Guide* contained on both websites so that you have a resource to use and share with students and teachers
- Recognize how you can help communicate and improve the projects

*Be Our Voice!*



# 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)

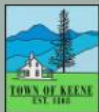


# *Town of Keene*

EST. 1808

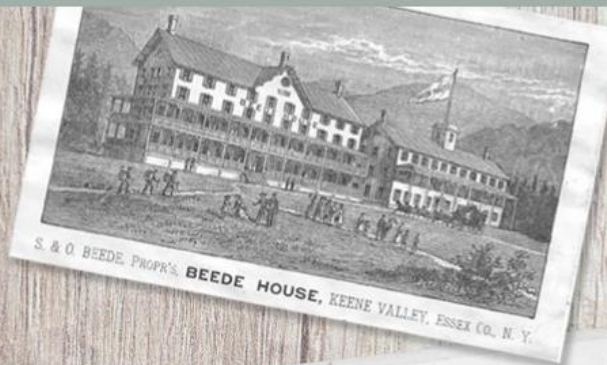


- Marked on maps as uninhabitable before the late 1800s when America's industrialists built their "Great Camps" and then railroads to provide access
- Part of the six million-acre Adirondack Park declared "forever wild" by the NYS Constitution in 1894
- Near Lake Placid, host of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics; 46 "High Peaks" over 4,000'
- Town population 1,100 with one central school of 160 students
  - Year-round population struggles financially, usually with multiple jobs; 38% of students are labeled disadvantaged; similar issues as other poor, rural communities
  - Descendants of original summer folk still come, plus a year-round retired population
  - Population skews old
- Educated and culturally rich community with a unique history
- Keene Valley Library hosts the story projects and "creates community"



# Adirondack Community

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



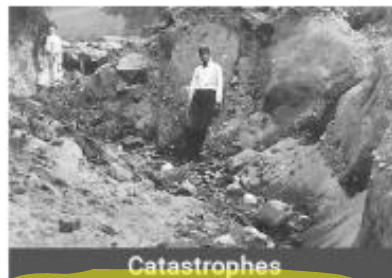
Go to [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)



[www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)

## Hear the Stories Now!

Click the categories below to hear some exciting stories. More are continually added. We would love for you to share your story too.



WHO WAS THAT???



My Adirondack Story

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Hear The Stories](#) [Podcasts](#) [Teacher's Guide](#) [Share Your Story](#) ... [Search](#)

[www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)

## Who Was That???

### PEOPLE



Paul Morris  
Who Was That???

00:00 00:00



Vivian McClelland  
The McClelland's Mountaineer Adventure in  
Keene Valley

00:00 00:00



Alice Lowenthal  
Starting with My 1948 Honeymoon, Part 1

00:00 00:00



Jay Huxley  
Thank you, Phoebe Thorne!

00:00 00:00



Alice Lowenthal  
Starting with My 1948 Honeymoon, Part 3

00:00 00:00



Alice Lowenthal  
Starting with My 1948 Honeymoon, Part 4

00:00 00:00



- Social Justice & Social Change
- Catastrophes & Community  
Reaction: Part I, Water
- Catastrophes & Community  
Reaction: Part II, Fire & Mountains
- Tropical Storm Irene Parts 1 & 2
- Famous People Here in the Town  
of Keene, Parts 1 & 2



- Unique Outdoor Experiences
- Adirondack 46ers
- Black Lives Matter
- COVID-19
- KCS 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Work, Part 1
- Legacy
- Hiking Stories

<https://www.myadirondackstory.org/podcasts>



## THE NUMBERS TODAY

In chat:

Guess how many stories have we collected since June 2019!?

# 200+ Stories!!!!



Four 2018 focus groups with 31 participants created the categories, 150 names of storytellers in initial worksheet



4,500+ Unique Users, 450 follow the Facebook page, 300+ in storyteller worksheet, 1,300+ have listened to podcasts



200+ stories in the eight categories posted once, twice, or three times



Change to more computers than mobile devices in the pandemic, maybe because more librarians are aware



At first, almost all came directly to [myadirondackstory.org](http://myadirondackstory.org), but after beginning a Facebook page, boosting it regionally, and starting *OurStoryBridge*, new users grew from it



Most viewed categories are People, Outdoor Activities, and Catastrophes (inspired by the pandemic)

# MARKETING

Press Releases &  
Public Relations

**Marketing  
Plan and  
Boilerplate**

Posters & Banner



SCAN ME

QR Code

Placement of  
Articles

Business Cards

Posted on e-  
Newsletters and  
Listservs

Emails to  
Storytellers and  
Potential  
Storytellers

Community Events



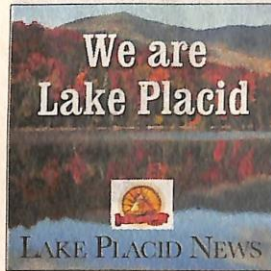
Find us on:  
**facebook®**

Adirondack Community  
Story Project



# Share your story

Keene Valley Library launches history project, looks for more people to tell their stories



## PODCAST

*Listen to this interview.*

Available now on  
Apple Podcasts,  
Stitcher and  
Soundcloud

By **ANDY FLYNN**  
Editor

**KEENE VALLEY** —  
“We won’t forget you.” That’s part of the message the Keene Valley Library is sending with its new history project, “Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are.”

There’s only one catch. In order to be remembered, you have to do one thing.

Tell a story.

Don’t worry, they say. It’s painless. They’ll even give you pointers. And it’s quick — only 3 to 5 minutes. It will be over in no time. And the best thing? You’ll be remembered ... forever.

Adirondack Community organizers launched the history project on Saturday, June 15 at the Keene Valley Library. Those involved in the project are Jerry Huntley, volunteer grants manager; Karen Glass, Keene Valley

Library director; Bethany Garretson, story aide; Olivia Dwyer, public relations, marketing and recruitment; and Elizabeth Rogers, archivist at the Keene Valley Library.

The project’s roots began with an oral history project Keene Central School students did more than 20 years ago. They interviewed residents about their lives. Several years ago, library staff had those interviews digitized — about 350 hours of stories. This was local history told by the people who lived it.

“A lot of those people have passed away,” Glass aid. “And when we digitized them, it was from cassette tapes, and we realized that we were losing stories. If people passed away and hadn’t told a story, it was lost.”

So they wanted to start a way to begin collecting stories from the community again. That’s when Huntley showed up. She successfully wrote two grants, one from Humanities New York and one from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation. Glass secured an Innovation Grant from the Northern New York Library Network. They bought equipment. A focus group decided on story categories. They recorded some stories and launched a new website: [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org).

“I didn’t know whether we cared about it or the community cared about it,” Huntley said. “And once we got going with the first couple of stories in March, and the stories really starting three



Jerry Huntley explains the Adirondack Community history project to a crowd on Saturday, June 15 during an open house at the Keene Valley Library.

NEWS PHOTO — ANDY FLYNN

weeks ago, the community has been so involved and so excited.”

Adirondack Community is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes audio stories and related photographs from the town of Keene community members through an online platform to share the social and cultural history of this community. Stories are first-person accounts — 3 to 5

minutes long — by people in their own voice about their own experience and those of their ancestors.

The eight categories are Arts & Culture, People, Outdoor Activities, Catastrophes, Community, Daily Life, Work and Natural and Man-made Environment.

As of June 15, organizers had collected 34 stories, and they want to have 100 stories by Sept. 1.

“But that’s an interim goal,” Huntley said. “We hope that this will go on and on and on and hopefully be replicated by other communities.”

With a goal of 100 stories in less than three months, that means they’ll be busy recording, but they need the public to set up times for their interviews. People can email the group at [myadirondackstory@gmail.com](mailto:myadirondackstory@gmail.com) to set up an appointment to tell a story or to ask questions.

“There’s potentially no end to this project and no end to the stories,” Huntley said. “We want this project to reflect not just the history we would lose if we weren’t telling it, but everyday life in the town of Keene as well.”

Huntley is also working with the Keene Central

See **STORY** Page A14



# Keene Valley Library reveals 'Stories of Who We Are'

Oral history series features voices, photos, memories of local life, lore

By Kim Dedam  
STAFF WRITER

**KEENE VALLEY** | The new collection of stories at the Keene Valley Library is illuminated by voices.

These stories aren't bound in cloth, cardboard or leather. They aren't set in silent prose to rise from a page at a reader's pace.

They are resonant, lilting at times, words framed

in local voices illustrated with photographs, some dating back decades.

On June 15, Keene Valley Library officially revealed its oral history project — "Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are."

Library spokeswoman Olivia Dwyer said the first 34 entries are uploaded and available for the public to peruse from their computer or other digital device.

"Now, anyone with an internet connection can access the project's collection of audio stories and related photographs."

Accounts, she said, capture a sense of the rich social and cultural history of this valley in the Adirondack Mountains.

» *Stories* Cont. on pg. 7



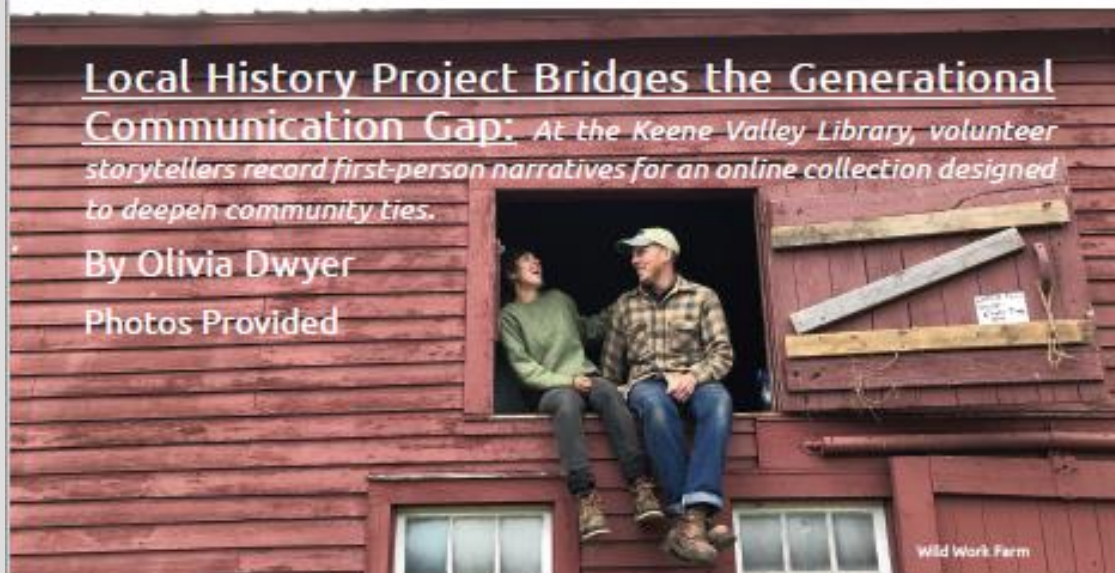
Keene Valley Library Association Director Karen Glass (in front) revealed the first 34 stories in the library's oral history project — "Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are." With Glass (in the center) is Project Grants Manager Jerry Huntley, who helped design and develop funding for the online oral history collection.

Photo provided

## Local History Project Bridges the Generational Communication Gap: *At the Keene Valley Library, volunteer storytellers record first-person narratives for an online collection designed to deepen community ties.*

By Olivia Dwyer

Photos Provided



Wild Work Farm

I learned to love hard walks in the Adirondacks well before fifth grade, trekking to High Peaks summit views every summer. But as a bookish 10-year-old, the stroll from Keene Central School down Market Street to Lu Brown's house scared me more than the face-first dive down a granite slab on Haystack that left me with eight stitches.

I was there on assignment, dispatched to interview a local elder for a social studies lesson. Mrs. Brown patiently answered my mumbled questions, a nonagenarian guiding me through her 43 years as a music teacher in the valley. No scratchy tape or crumpled essay survives to help me summon details. I'm left with a memory of the simple awe at how one person's story, told in her own voice, placed her existence within a vibrant community decades in the making.

That feeling comes back when I tune in to Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are. A project of the Keene Valley Library, Adirondack Community collects and organizes three- to five-minute audio stories, plus related photographs, from Town of Keene residents and visitors through an online platform in order to share our rich social and cultural history. Launched in June 2019, the project has collected 147 stories from 117 storytellers, all available to hear at [myadirondackstory.org](http://myadirondackstory.org).

Just don't call it an archive. That's a physical place where public records, manuscripts, letters, reports, and news clippings are stored. The Keene Valley Library's archives were

established in 1921; nearly a century later, this cache of historical evidence numbers 6,000 photographs, 600 rare and limited edition volumes in a dedicated "Adirondack bibliography," plus newspaper clippings, original artwork, maps, and every single Keene Central School yearbook. However, it's only open to the public 14 hours a week this winter. There are also hours of audio tapes—but outdated technology and lengthy interviews means they remain mostly unstudied. And because materials are rare and delicate, they cannot leave the secure room where they are stored. If I want to get my hands on history, I have to get myself to the archives during

open hours. That was easy when I was a KCS student and teachers scheduled class visits. As an adult I've managed two visits in 15 years.

Then how to engage people with local history? Put it on the internet, accessible no matter where you are or what time it is. That's the vision behind Adirondack Community, brought into focus over two years by Library Director Karen Glass and Volunteer Grants Manager Jerry Huntley.



Photo of Jim Goodwin

Interested citizens attended focus groups in 2018 to discuss potential categories and suggest storytellers. Then Huntley, a semi-retired seasonal resident and full-time dynamo, secured multi-year funding through grants from Humanities New York, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Foundation; the Northern New York Library Network; and private donations. In 2020, Huntley will deliver a project manual and train-



# Keene Valley Library oral history project reaches 100th story mark

'Stories of Who We Are' continues to draw unique stories about life and times in Keene

By Kim Dedam  
STAFF WRITER

**KEENE VALLEY** | Oratory and tradition in Keene and Keene Valley topped the 100th story mark in September.

The online audio story collection, "Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are," launched last spring in an effort to chronicle experience, life and times.

The stories project is a multi-year local history project that uses an online platform at Memria.org to capture memories and first-person accounts of events from people who experienced them.

See KV LIBRARY - pg. 5



Storyteller Hilary Papineau (center) attended the Keene Valley Library event with her mother, Barbara Papineau, and her son, Evren Vanderbles. Papineau grew up in Keene, and recorded a story about the 13 years she spent as a student at Keene Central School.

Photo/Olivia Dwyer

From KV LIBRARY - pg. 1

The project will eventually reach high school history class time at Keene Central School.

"Since the project launch, more than 100 volunteer storytellers have recorded 125 three- to five-minute stories," library spokeswoman Olivia Dwyer told the Sun.

A gathering at the library in mid-September marked the milestone.

"We are preserving individual and community stories before they are lost," Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass said of their effort.

"This project can bring us closer and help us stick together through tough times."

Stories will continue to be recorded and added to the oral history database, Dwyer said.

"The entire collection is available to hear at myadironackstory.org, where stories are sorted into eight categories -- the most popular of which are Outdoor Activities, People, and Catastrophes. This website also hosts the 'My Adirondack Story' podcast archive."

Project lead Jerry Huntley, who coordinated funding outreach and program coordination, said the project's success is centered in community voices and the stories they share.

"The enthusiasm and generosity has created a valuable community resource," Huntley said.

Photographs accompany individual recollections, providing added resources for the library's collection of historical images. Events in the collection range from recent

Huntley and Bethany Garretson via email: myadironackstory@gmail.com.

The project, "Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating



Jerry Huntley, at left, and story collection assistant Bethany Garretson at Keene Valley Library celebrated the 100th story mark in the library's oral history collection: Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Sharing the Stories of Who We Are.

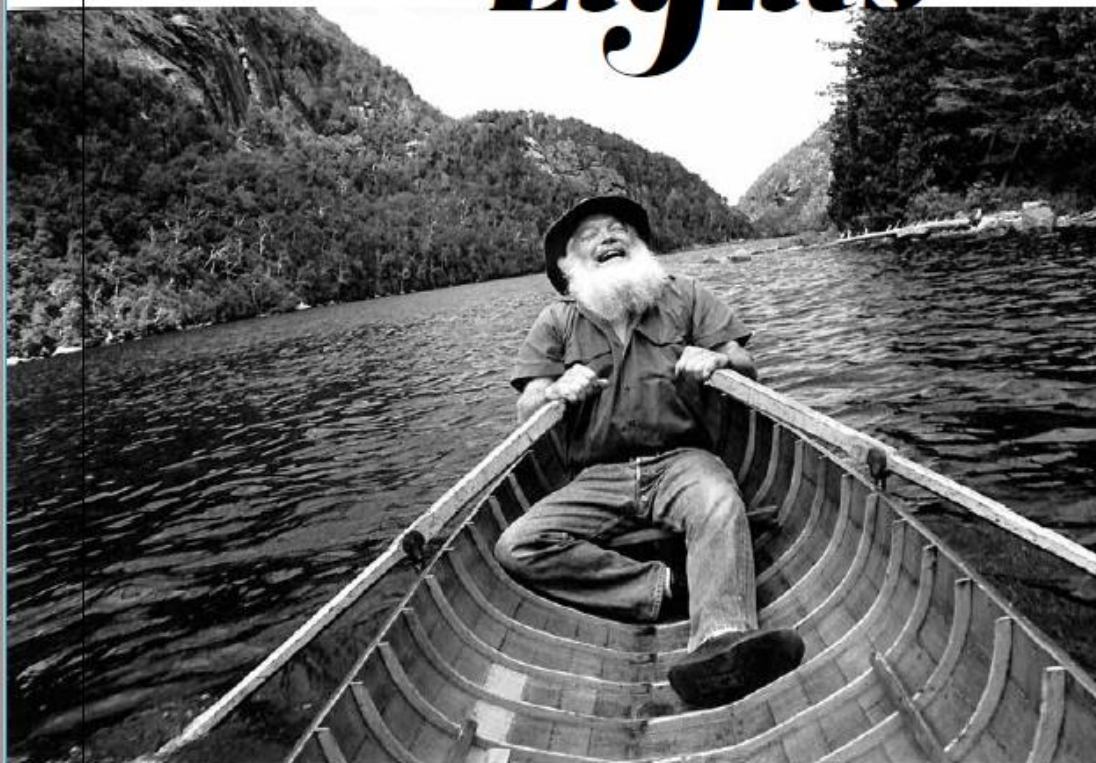
Photo/Olivia Dwyer

events, such as the Keene Valley landslide and the history of the famed Red Barn, to stories of life and work in Keene.

Keene residents and visitors to these hamlets interested in sharing memories about their life's experience, travels and memories here can reach program leaders Jerry

the Stories of Who We Are," was founded with grant funds from Humanities New York and support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation, the Northern New York Library Network and community supporters using Memria.org. ■

# Northern Lights



## On the Record

**St. Huberts guide  
Brett Lawrence on  
Lower Ausable Lake,  
circa 2000.**

**P**re-hunt breakfasts of condensed split-pea soup slathered on bread. Practical jokes involving wrestling a rubber snake in the Cascade Lakes. A gruff mountain-man exterior with an inside "as soft as a sneaker full of puppy poop." These are a few of the memories of legendary Adirondack Mountain Reserve guide Brett Lawrence recorded by William Curtis for "My Adirondack Story," an oral history project sponsored by Keene Valley Library. Among the dozens of other audio stories available for listening are the recollections of artist Harold Weston's daughter, Nina Weston Foster; Olympic skier Tommy Biesemeyer; and Bald Mountain Rustics artisan Steve Bowers. Listen or contribute at [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org).

Photograph by Rebecca Soderholm,  
courtesy of the Keene Valley Library

## WHAT'S EXCITING ABOUT *ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY?*

- We have surpassed the 200-story milestone!
- Storytellers hard to recruit at first; telling a story starts with nervousness, then leads to joy, and more stories from the storytellers, then sharing that enthusiasm with neighbors so they tell their stories.
- The whole town is talking (as is the media): school, family dinner tables, on the street, events, etc.
- In the pandemic, listeners have doubled, hopefully finding comfort in the continued resilience of the community; we have also created a record of life during this crisis
- Themes like social justice and social change, the community working together in crisis, aging here (especially women), the legacies that have been left, and the uniqueness of the area keep reappearing. Black Lives Matter stories, in a very white population, have been especially popular.

**It's clear that young and old don't know who lives here, have lived here, and have been here!**



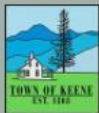
# MEASUREMENT AGAINST GOALS



[Goals](#) by Nick Youngson is licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

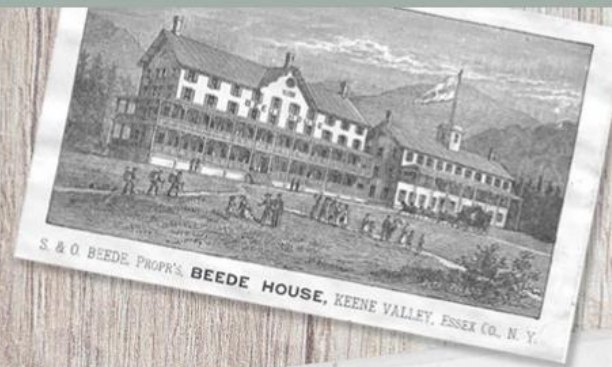
Posted on a website that appeals to  
young and old!

- **Goal #1: Capture stories before the storytellers are gone**
  - About 2/3 of storytellers are over 65
  - The most elderly living here now and those who have come back to tell stories are involved, with plans for others we have identified
- **Goal #2: Get students involved and proud of their community, helping to prepare them whether they move away or come back**
  - Grades 8-12 have had school lessons on the project, check the website, and are genuinely surprised about what they are hearing, the first step!
  - The pandemic has reduced ability to get stories from students, but the Teacher's Guide is increasing classroom use and stories from students



# 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) to listen!



# *OurStoryBridge:*

## *Connecting the Past and the Present*

*OurStoryBridge* is your resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community story project emphasizing audio history collecting and sharing.

**Get Your Tool Kit Here!**



Zoom Testimonial Video #1



Watch later



Share

What Has the Story Project  
Meant to Our Community?



**OURSTORYBRIDGE**  
Connecting the Past and the Present





# What Is *OurStoryBridge*?

- Free resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community, online story project emphasizing audio history collecting and sharing
  - Based on the Keene Valley Library's *Adirondack Community* model, [www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org), adaptable for any community or topics
  - With a commitment to help each community one-on-one!
  - Especially during this pandemic, free online resources of interest to all generations take on unique importance



# The \$ Question...

## *Adirondack Community*

- Initially funded by grants
- Community members stepped up to assure the future
- Part-time jobs created in the community

## *OurStoryBridge*

- Initially funded by seed grants (Cloudsplitter and Adirondack Foundations)
- Currently seeking larger grants to hire staff
- Costs of your *OurStoryBridge* projects are outlined in the *User Guide*



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 US](#)

Leadership of both is supplied on a volunteer basis



# The Tool Kit

Plus, free  
technical  
assistance as  
you begin!

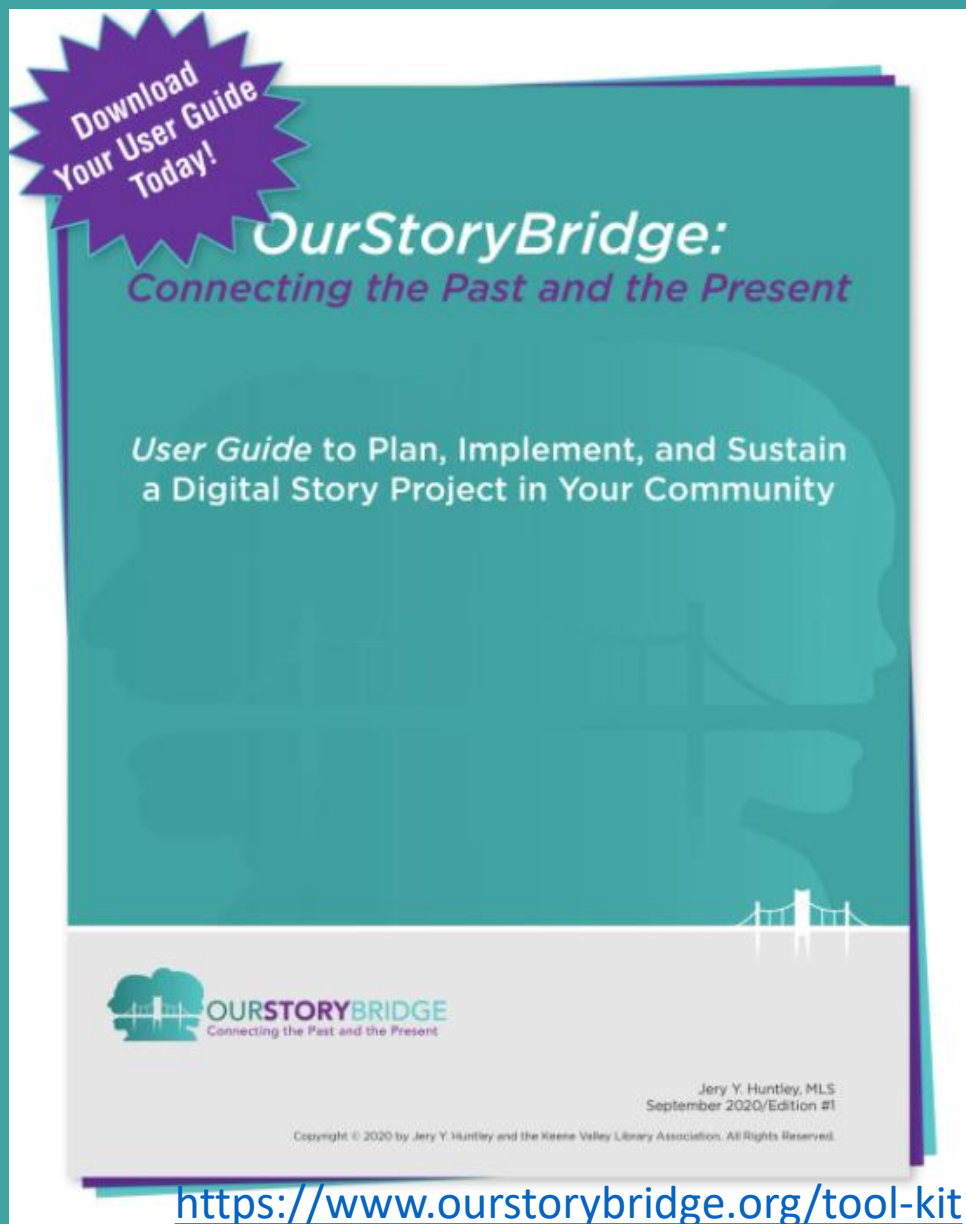
1. User Guide

2. How-To Videos

3. Sample Documents

4. Teacher's Guide (*new*)





## OurStoryBridge: Connecting the Past and the Present

### User Guide to Plan, Implement, and Sustain a Digital Story Project in Your Community

This *User Guide*, which can be printed, is intended to serve as an instructional reference as you consider launching and realizing an *OurStoryBridge* project for your community. Its copious detail will help you to capture, retain, communicate and publicize the unique stories that make your community *yours*—in a manner fitting the 21st century.

Be sure to visit [www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org) for this *User Guide* and supplementary training materials, such as Sample Documents and How-To Videos. Together, these will help you to facilitate the creation of your own *OurStoryBridge* project.

### Table of Contents

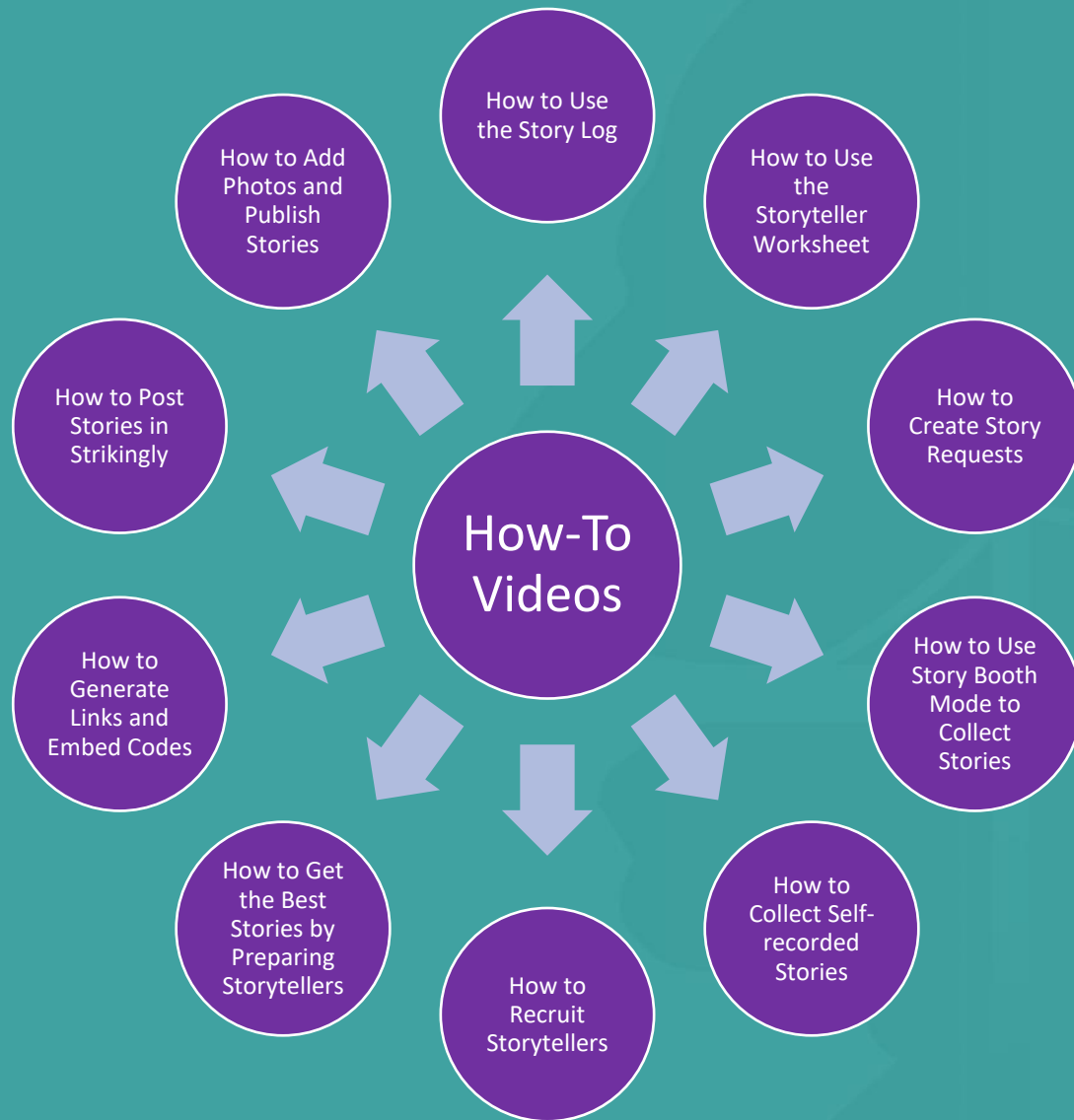
Foreword	4
Acknowledgements	5
I. Introduction to <i>OurStoryBridge: Connecting the Past and the Present</i>	7
II. Why You Should Consider <i>OurStoryBridge</i> for Your Community	9
III. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	11
IV. Suggested Timetable for Planning and Implementation	17
V. Personnel	21
VI. Budgeting, Grants, and Fundraising	23
VII. Partnerships	27
VIII. Technology Recommendations	31
IX. Using the Recommended Software	35
X. Recruitment of Storytellers	39
XI. Collecting, Processing, and Posting Stories	41
XII. Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations (CMP)	49

### Disclaimer:

The information in this *User Guide* is offered in good faith and believed to be reliable. It is provided for informational purposes only and not intended to provide specific advice.

*OurStoryBridge User Guide to Plan, Implement, and Sustain a Digital Story Project in Your Community*





<https://youtu.be/lc3xrGQCE54>

The *OurStoryBridge User Guide* links to How-To Videos that provide examples and templates to design your story project and are also posted on the website

# Sample Documents

- The *OurStoryBridge User Guide* links to Sample Documents that provide examples and templates to design your story project
- They are also posted on the website

## Sample Documents

These downloadable documents are linked to the User Guide to provide examples of tools you can use.



### Communications

- Sample Focus Group Agenda
- Sample Focus Group PPT
- Sample Focus Group Email
- Sample Focus Group Summary
- Sample Story Categories
- Sample Roles/Info and Gender Information
- Sample Logos
- Sample Planning Group PPT
- Sample 1st Story Release Celebration PPT
- Sample 100 Story Celebration PPT



### Marketing

- Sample Marketing Plan
- Sample Social Media and Digital Community Platforms
- OurStoryBridge Logo
- Sample Posters including Banners
- Sample Business/Appointment Card
- Sample Banner
- Sample Adirondack Community/Volunteer
- Sample Feedback Marketing Plan
- Sample Feedback Page



### Public Relations

- Sample Media Report
- Sample Press Release



### Collecting, Processing, and Posting Stories

#### Sample Transcripts



### Partnerships

- Sample School Introduction for Administration PPT
- Sample School Introduction for Students PPT
- Sample School Assignment
- Sample Library/Volunteer

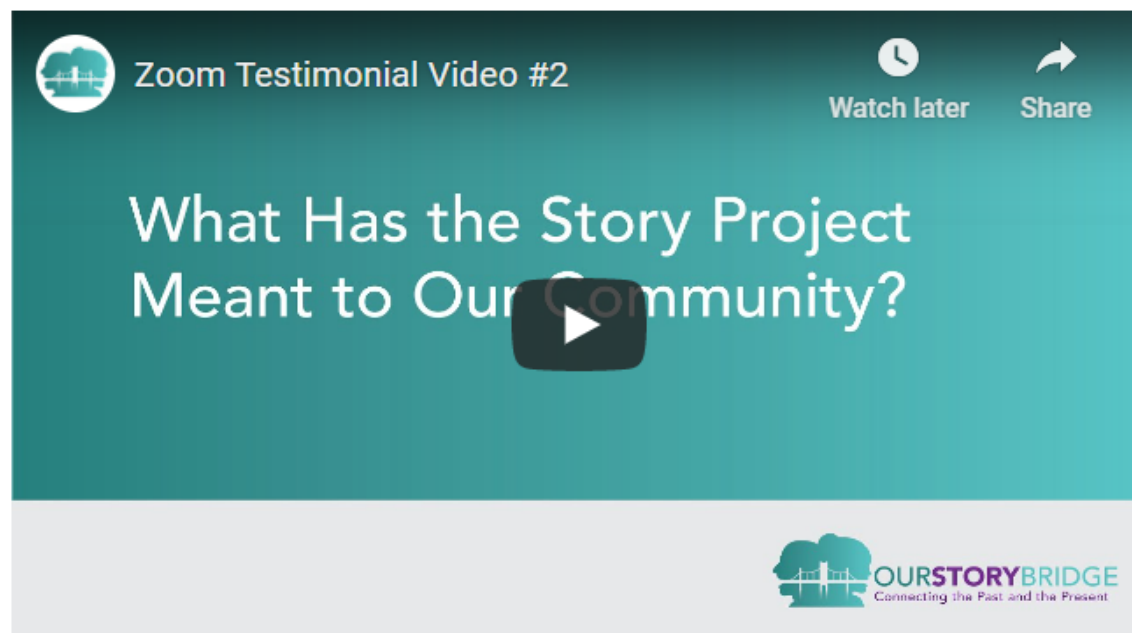


## Why Start an *OurStoryBridge* Project?

We all have a story to tell, many stories. Life is a narrative, woven out of experience and emotion. Think of *OurStoryBridge* as the loom on which the fabric of your community's narrative comes together. Each thread, each story binds the fabric tighter and tighter, creating intricate linkages between individuals, groups, organizations, events, environments, locales, and more.

In other words, *OurStoryBridge* offers a user-friendly framework on which to mount your community's story project; but the shape this project takes and the content it captures and communicates remain yours to construct. We want to help. *OurStoryBridge* will guide you through how to collect the nuanced histories of your community, to preserve its stories and pass their characteristic wisdom from mouth to ear by going digital.

<https://youtu.be/sMT-9MoWkeU>



# OurStoryBridge: Why?

- Appreciate the history that shaped your community, that helps make it what it is today and what it can become tomorrow.
- Create closer bonds between residents and promote connections that lead to neighborly acts of kindness, assistance and support in times of need.
- Preserve stories that may be lost if not recorded soon and honor the legacies of your older generations by capturing their stories in their own words.
- Engage the younger generations and encourage them to remain in or return to their home community after high school, college, trade school, or any number of life's adventures.
- Educate residents and visitors of all ages and inspire them to become contributing members of your community.
- Celebrate what makes your community unique, perhaps even famous.

*"I love this project and think of it as a balm and a community builder for our times, an amazing educational resource, carrying rich historical value."*

— Janelle





# OurStoryBridge: Why?

- Attract new residents and visitors.
- Reveal pockets of rich histories and connections heretofore unknown or not widely known.
- Acknowledge the catastrophes, tragedies, or difficult challenges that shape your community.
- Appreciate how the geography and the economics of your area impact how your community members live.
- Unravel the puzzle of how and why street or place names, stores, clubs, and other institutions came to be.
- Re-ignite a passion for your community archives and/or previously recorded oral histories by translating some onto this new digital platform.
- Meet your audience where they are: online!

*"The story project keeps the history of our small town alive and accessible. The older residents of the town have recorded eyewitness accounts of important events that happened 60, 70 years ago, and memories of the people who were born in the 1800s. The younger ones have memorialized more recent ones, knowing themselves to be links in the chain of generations that bind this community together." — Henrietta*

# Marketing

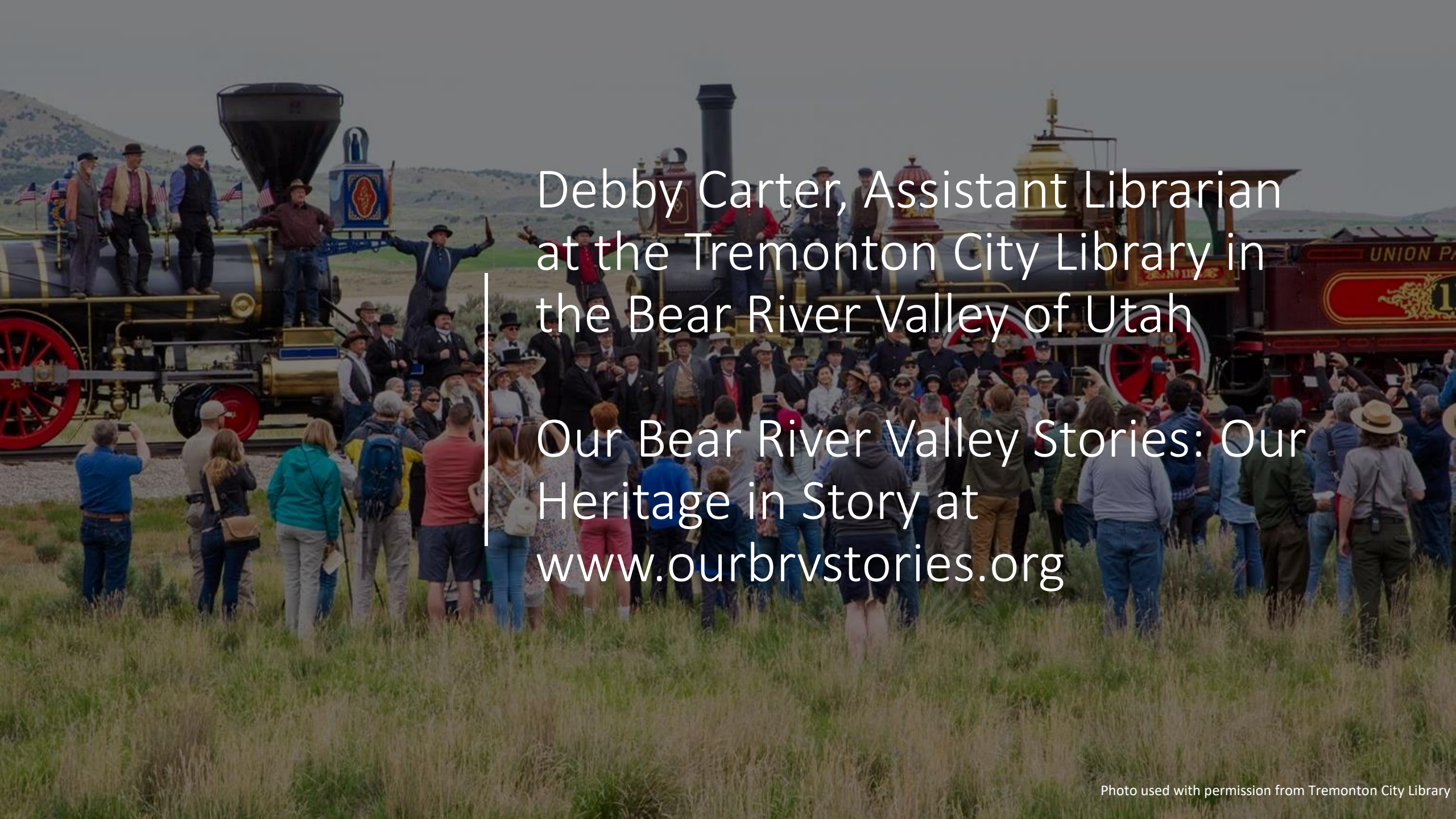
- Presentations to librarians and to teachers
- *OurStoryBridge* Facebook page
- Press releases
- e-Newsletter
- Networking
- Logo use by new story projects
- Blog posts and articles for e-newsletters



[This Photo](#) by Wasi ahmed02 is licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)







Debby Carter, Assistant Librarian  
at the Tremonton City Library in  
the Bear River Valley of Utah

Our Bear River Valley Stories: Our  
Heritage in Story at  
[www.ourbrvstories.org](http://www.ourbrvstories.org)



# Tremonton City Public Library's *OurStoryBridge* Journey

- We saw the ad for the *OurStoryBridge* release presentation at the virtual annual meeting of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries on September 29, 2020 and “knew in our hearts” that this was for us
- Checked the website and contacted *OurStoryBridge* afterwards
- Applied for a grant
- The Tool Kit made it accessible and easy; no need to reinvent the wheel, just used the Tool Kit



Tremonton City Library in the Bear River Valley of Utah  
is the 1<sup>st</sup> library to use the *OurStoryBridge* model!



# Today: The Bear River Valley *OurStoryBridge*

- Website released on January 27, 2021
- Currently 32 stories
- COVID was a challenge, but we knew that everyone has a story and it's important --- that focus kept us on track
- The impact on our future generations drives us further
- If I can follow your directions, anyone can; it was easy!
- Remember that all of you have stories to tell!!!!







# Across the miles, connecting our stories, past, present, and future...



Bear River Valley Community

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Our Stories](#) [Share Your Story](#)



Debby Carter

Tremonton Library introduces Bear River

## Bear River Valley Community

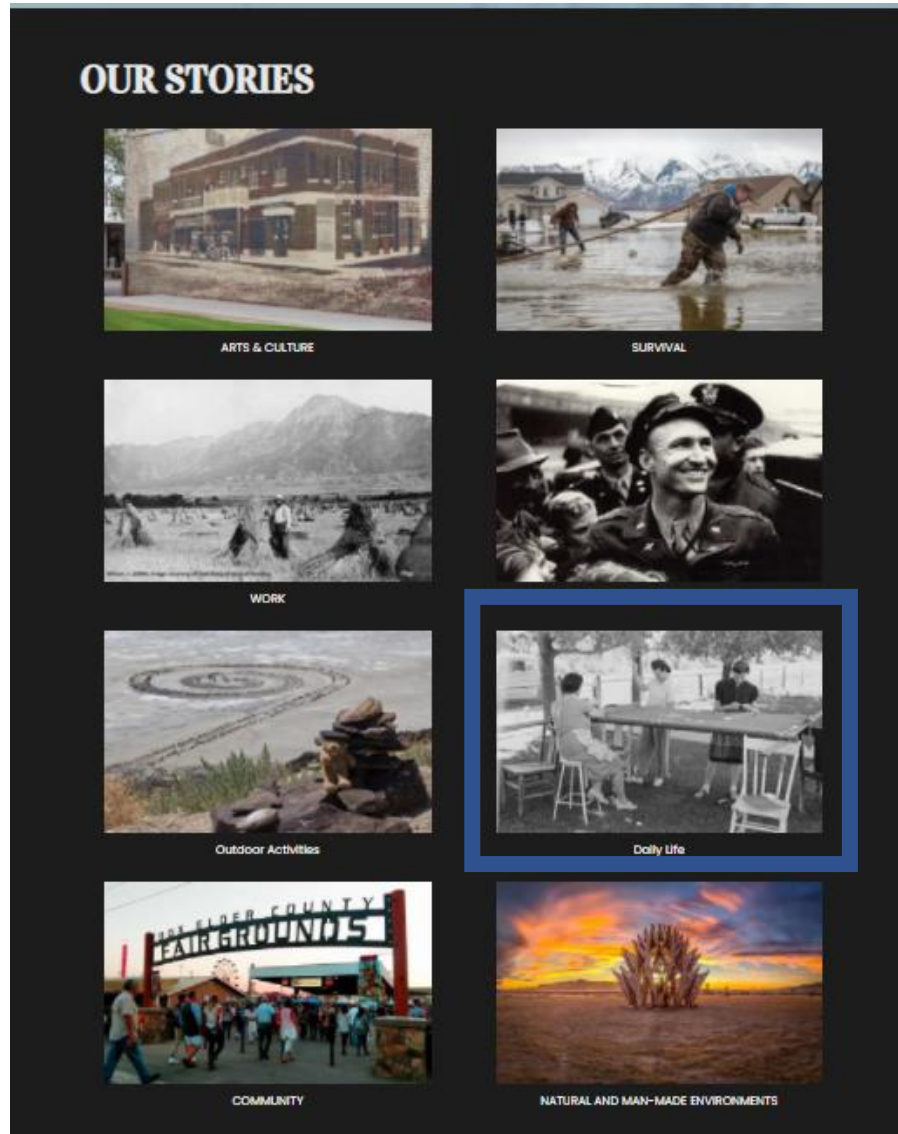
Sponsored by the Tremonton City Library, The Bear River Valley Community is a multi-year local history project for collecting local audio stories with associated pictures. The Bear River Valley is rich in local history and we feel these stories deserve to be told. Come and listen as we bridge the old and new, past and present.

[Share Your Story](#)

<https://www.ourbrvstories.org/>



# Listen to a Story from the Bear River Valley



<https://app.memria.org/stories/public-story-view/d7ab4ce098184f7c816310b2aa8b40cf/>



# Stories Projects Connect Us!

---

- Did you notice? **Hunsaker** in both story projects? A coincidence?
- We noticed that the **Adirondack Community** Charles Lindbergh story took place at the **Jerome C. Hunsaker** home in the Town of Keene, New York
- Then ten of the first **Bear River Valley**, Utah stories were told by **Hunsakers**
- Further research in Keene with Hunsaker descendants and in the Bear River Valley revealed that Jerome C. Hunsaker's ancestor **Abraham Hunsaker (1812- 1889) and his wife Eliza** left NY with Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Latter Day Saints, then continued with Brigham Young after Smith was killed for his beliefs, and together they traveled West in covered wagons to start the church's settlement in Utah
- The Bear River Valley storytellers are Abraham's descendants and related to the Keene Hunsakers!



Hunsaker?





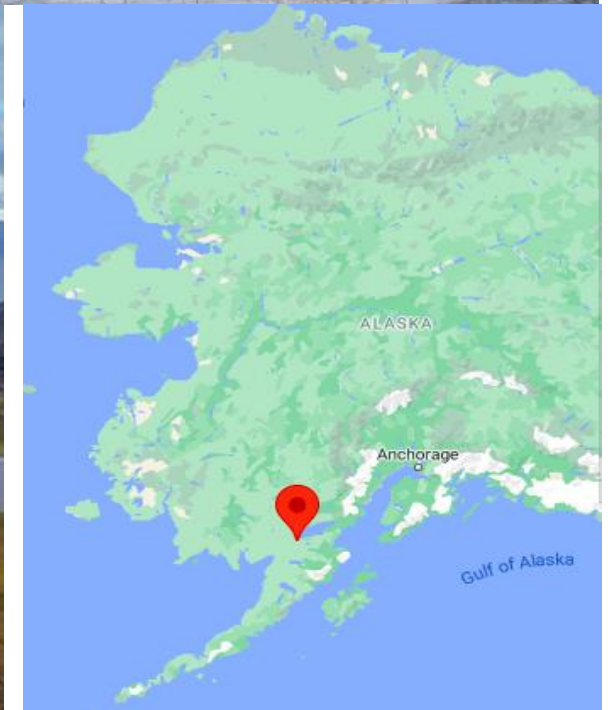
# Village of Igiugig

Lake Iliamna ~ Kvichak River

AJ Gooden  
Supervisor, Igiugig Tribal Library, Alaska



# Igiugig Tribal Library



# Why *OurStoryBridge*?



Photo used with permission from the [Igiugig Village Council](#)

**“We grow stronger when we share our stories.”**

*-AlexAnna Salmon, Igiugig Village Tribal Council President*

- Preserve local knowledge and stories
- Strengthen community as it connects residents of all ages
- Highlight the value of small and rural places
- Create opportunity for increased understanding across cultures and communities



# Niraqutaq Qallemcinek Website In Progress!

## “Bridge of Stories”

People



Daily Life & Subsistence



Traditions & Changing Times



Adventure & Local Legends



Photos used with permission from the [Igiugig Village Council](#) and AJ Gooden

- Story Aide trained and collection began in July 2021
- Goal: story/week
- Translation into local language will take additional time



# How Can You Get Started?

- Contact *OurStoryBridge* for outstanding, free support!!!
- Read the User Guide on [www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org)
- Approach your Village Council, library, or governing body for support
- Apply for grants



Photo used with permission by AJ Gooden

# What We've Learned So Far from the Community

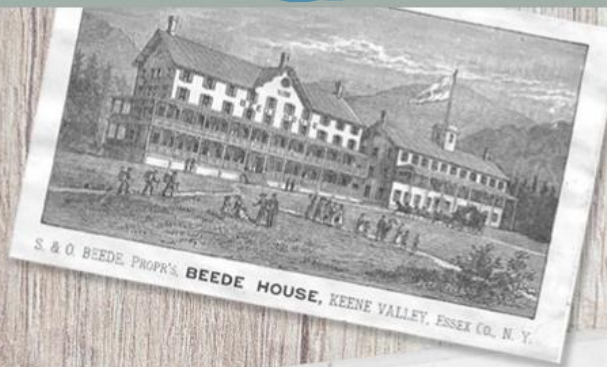


- There is so much good in the world (generosity of spirit)!
- Storytelling makes the world a better place!



# Adirondack Community

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



Go to [myadirondackstory.org](https://myadirondackstory.org)





# OurStoryBridge:

## *Connecting the Past and the Present*

OurStoryBridge is your resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community story project emphasizing audio history collecting and sharing.

**Get Your Tool Kit Here!**



Zoom Testimonial Video #1

 Watch later



Share

## What Has the Story Project Meant to Our Community?



**OURSTORYBRIDGE**  
Connecting the Past and the Present

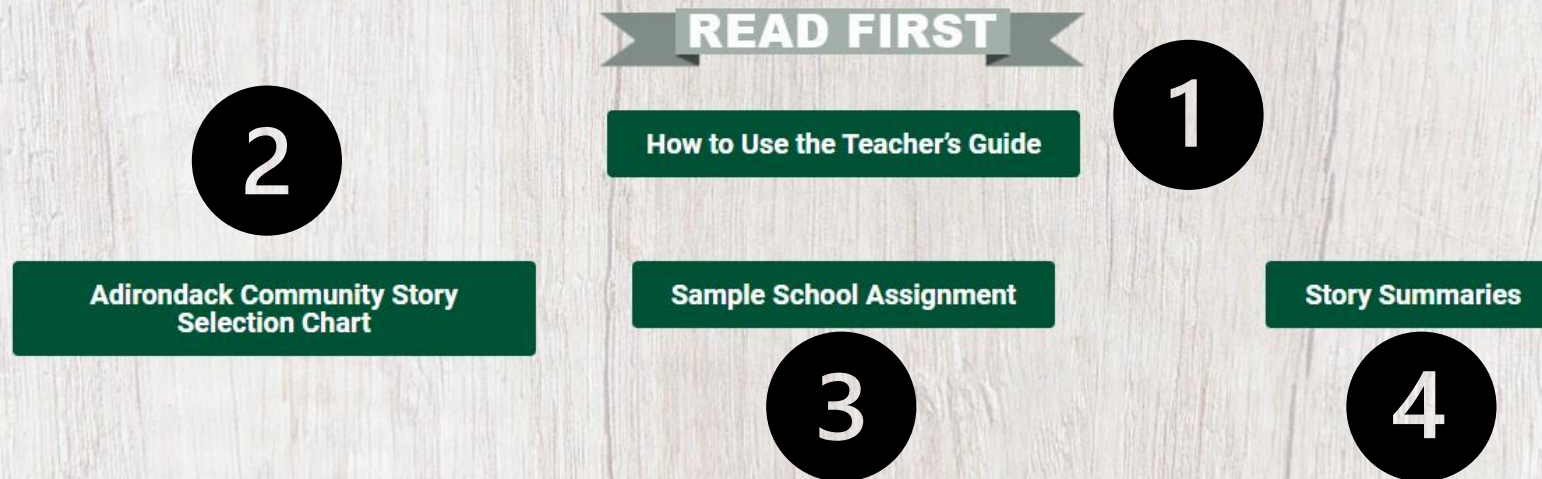




# Teacher's Guide

This *Teacher's Guide* can help you use stories from *Adirondack Community* in your classrooms. These downloadable documents, *How to Use the Teacher's Guide*, *Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart*, *Sample School Assignment*, and *Story Summaries* will get you started.

The *Adirondack Community* stories hold lessons beyond the categories on this website and course selections in the *Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart*. Among them are catastrophes and community reactions, family legacies, the grandeur of our mountains, social justice and societal change, quite a few stories about the Keene Central School, and many surprises.





- What is the *Teacher's Guide*?
- How can I use *Adirondack Community* stories and podcasts in my classroom?
- Why should I use these stories in my classroom? What do they add to current resources?
- What is *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are*
- Who told these stories?

## How to Use the Teacher's Guide

### Why should I use these stories in my classroom? What do they add to current resources?

Meet your students in the media that compels them. Use these continually updated stories and podcasts from *Adirondack Community: Capturing, Retaining, and Communicating the Stories of Who We Are* at [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) by assigning stories relevant to a lesson as homework, playing them in the classroom, or suggesting them for activities or projects. Use them to introduce a topic, make a concept memorable, or stimulate discussion, making your classes appealing and memorable. Bring your lessons to life. As primary sources with audio and visual content, lessons come alive. Students connect what they are learning in the classroom to the real world, past, and present.

### What is Adirondack Community?

*Adirondack Community* is a multi-year local history project that collects and organizes three to five-minute 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. The collected stories and podcasts have relevance beyond the community's borders, in any classroom.

### How can I use Adirondack Community stories and podcasts in my classroom?

1. For middle and high school, click on the *Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart* [here](#). On the *Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart*, review categories like Social Studies, STEM, or English. Under those categories find courses closest to what you are teaching.
2. For elementary school or college, go directly to the *Story Summaries* to make your story selections.
3. Then, go to the Public Stories Page for *Adirondack Community* found [here](#). Use the search box (enter the story title, a keyword, or story number with # before it) to find a story from the *Story Selection Chart*.
4. Click the photo and the story will play. Choose stories to use in your classes.
5. You can review the *Story Summaries* document to read about each story, identified by story number from the *Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart*.
6. In addition to building the stories into your lessons, you can give students instructions to find and listen to specific stories themselves or construct assignments for them like in this [Sample School Assignment](#).
7. You and the students can also go directly to [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) to listen to stories and podcasts by category.

### Who told these stories?

Although the storytellers are based in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State, their stories teach universal lessons. The challenges residents have faced, historical relevance of residents and visitors, cultural and outdoor activities, and surprises have meaning beyond their location. The stories come from a small, rural community that has experienced world-wide interest since the 1800s, including Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980 in nearby Lake Placid. While the wealthiest have been summer residents, the year-round community faces great economic challenges in a harsh climate. Storytellers are young, old, and in-between, with stories of the past and present.

### What is the Teacher's Guide?

The Teacher's Guide is a resource of *Adirondack Community* ([www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)) and *OurStoryBridge* ([www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org)), sponsored by the Keene Valley Library. It consists of this document, the *Story Selection Chart*, the *Story Summaries*, the *Sample School Assignment*, and other resources that will be added and updated.

For more information email [myadirondackstory@gmail.com](mailto:myadirondackstory@gmail.com).



# Story Summaries

- Brief synopsis of each *Adirondack Community* story with the story number, title, and storyteller, plus soon, direct links
- All stories are relevant for middle and high school classes
- Codes for elementary school, college classes, and additional categories are included
- As other *OurStoryBridge* projects come online, their stories will be added

## Story Summaries

To find the stories, go to the Public Stories Page for Adirondack Community found at [Adirondack Community](#). Use the search box to find a story you want to listen to.

ALL stories are appropriate for middle and high schools, but teachers at these levels should click on the [Adirondack Community Story Selection Chart](#) which specifies stories for 28 subjects taught. Use this key to help you find stories for elementary school and higher education, plus additional topics of interest beyond [Adirondack Community's](#) eight categories.

<b>EL</b>	Elementary School	<b>O</b>	Olympics
<b>A</b>	Animals	<b>RS</b>	Religious and Spiritual
<b>CO</b>	Community Organization and Outreach	<b>SO</b>	Social Justice and Social Change
<b>HCR</b>	Human and Community Resilience	<b>WO</b>	Women Empowerment
<b>HP</b>	High Peaks	<b>WW</b>	World War History

Story #	Summary	Categories
1	<i>Winning the Olympic Gold Medal (#1)</i> by Charity Marlatt is the story of her father, Alan Washbond, who won a Gold Medal in bobsled in the 1936 Olympics and was part of the American team who would not honor Adolph Hitler, right before WWII.	O, WW
2	<i>From Brooklyn Girl to Adk Outdoorswoman (#2)</i> by Ellen DuBois is the story of a woman who wanted to live in a place where she could hike every weekend and found Keene.	HP, WO
3	<i>The Morning Routine at 9N Bus Stop (#3)</i> by Olivia Dwyer is the recollection of a woman of when she was a young girl waiting for the school bus with her siblings.	EL
4	<i>Why Advocacy is Important for the Adirondack Park (#4)</i> by Diane Fish is about being an advocate for protected area that is a blend of people and wilderness.	CO
5	<i>Falling in Love with the 46 and Finding New Loves (#5)</i> by Pete Biesemeyer is the story of a local man who was inspired by a few of the first 46ers to become one himself.	HP
6	<i>From the Old World to the New World (#6)</i> by Pete Biesemeyer is the story of a man's family and how they arrived in the United States before the start of WWII.	WW

For more information email [myadirondackstory@gmail.com](mailto:myadirondackstory@gmail.com).

4/20/21 Page | 1



# Story Selection Chart

Story #	Story Title	English		Social Studies							Government			Science					Phys. Ed.		Music & Art		STEM			Other			
		Literature	Journalism	World History	US History	Local History	Geography	Psychology	Philosophy	Sociology	Religion	Economics	Law	Business	Biology	Env Sci	Agriculture	Env. Ed.	Medical	Sports	Health	Art	Music	Comp. Sci & Tech.	Engineering	Architecture	Career Planning	Shop	Home Ec./FACS
1	Winning the Olympic Gold Medal			1	1														1										
2	From Brooklyn Girl to Adk Outdoorswoman						1			1							1												
3	The Morning Routine at Route 9N Bus Stop					1																							
4	Why Advocacy is Important in the Adirondack Park										1	1	1		1														
5	Falling in Love with the 46 and Finding New Loves						1										1												
6	From the Old World to the New			1		1				1							1												
7	The River House																								1	1			
8	Nourished by the Arts				1			1													1								
9	75 Years of History on the Little Porter Trail					1	1				1				1														
10	The Largest Landslide in NYS						1								1										1				
11	Adrian Edmonds & the Storytelling Culture	1				1				1																	1		
12	Adrian Goes to College				1	1				1		1																	
13	Glenmore School of Cultural Sciences					1				1	1																		
14	A Tax Collector, "Sworn In and Then Sworn At"										1	1																	
15	Sunday Nights Sings					1																	1						
16	Family Homes on Beede Road					1										1										1			
17	Music As a Thread in My Life								1													1							
18	Brother Bud Goes to War	1	1	1	1														1										
19	Who is the Newcomer?	1				1											1									1			
20	Our 21st Century Library									1		1														1			

Chart focuses on middle and high school courses, but other levels can be found in the *Story Summaries*.



# Why Use the Stories?

- **Meet** students in the media that compels them
- **Create** closer bonds and community connections
- **Introduce** a topic, demonstrate a concept, or stimulate discussion, making your classes appealing and memorable
- **Engage** the younger generations with their community's rich history
- **Increase** civic engagement of all community members
- **Celebrate** what makes your community special
- **Reveal** people, stories, and unique anecdotes not widely known

Use these continually updated stories and podcasts from [www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org) by assigning stories relevant to a lesson as homework, playing them in the classroom, or suggesting them for activities or projects





# *OurStoryBridge: What's Next?*

- Presenting to librarians, teachers, museums, historical societies, archivists, and other organizations
  - Create awareness of the free resources
  - Generate interest in starting *OurStoryBridge* projects and using the stories with students
- Creating a focused ten-year growth plan
- Promoting and expanding the *Teacher's Guide*
- Building partnerships to help us grow
- Continuing the public relations and marketing program
- Staying connected with an e-newsletter and Facebook pages
- Providing free one-on-one assistance to interested communities
- Generating funding for *OurStoryBridge* to help communities as they begin their story projects
- Testing and improving the tools and resources



# If You or Someone You Know is Interested in a Local Story Project...



**Check out**

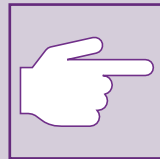
[www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)  
[www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org)



**Listen** to a few stories found on either



**Review** the Tool Kit and other resources



**Fill out** the form on the *OurStoryBridge* website or email [createyourstoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:createyourstoryproject@gmail.com)



# Be Our Voice!

- **Guide** others to *OurStoryBridge* if you think they are interested in starting a story project
- **Show** patrons, especially students, *Adirondack Community* and the other websites so they can hear the stories and podcasts
- **Introduce** local teachers to the *Adirondack Community and other* stories to use in their classrooms, using the *Teacher's Guide*
- **Put** links on library/school library/other resource pages
- **Volunteer** to review the resources or help us grow *OurStoryBridge*

- **Follow** and **Like** the Adirondack Community Story Project and OurStoryBridge Facebook pages
- **Send** names and email addresses for the e-newsletter
- **Suggest** grant and other funding sources

***How can  
you use the  
stories?***



**OURSTORYBRIDGE**  
Connecting the Past and the Present





# Questions?



OUR**STORY**BRIDGE

Connecting the Past and the Present

Contact us:

[createyourstoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:createyourstoryproject@gmail.com)

[www.myadirondackstory.org](http://www.myadirondackstory.org)   [www.ourstorybridge.org](http://www.ourstorybridge.org)

And now: [www.ourbrvstories.org](http://www.ourbrvstories.org) (Tremonton, UT) too!



OUR**STORY**BRIDGE  
Connecting the Past and the Present

