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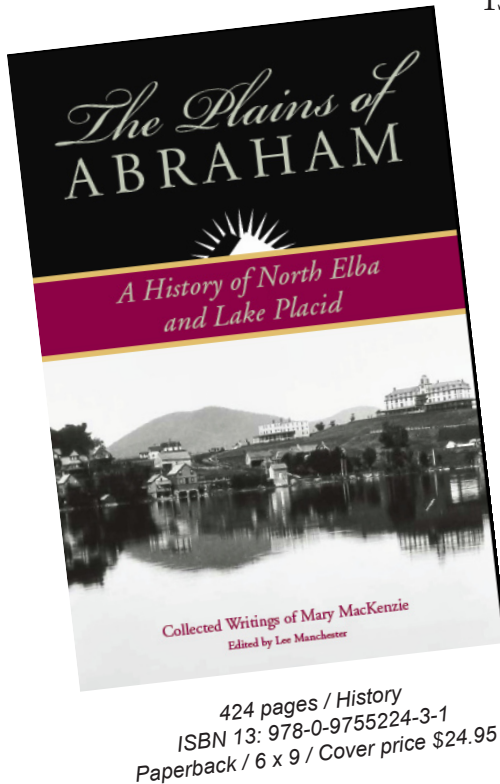
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Mary MacKenzie's sweeping history of the Adirondack town of North Elba and its world famous village of Lake Placid is here!

Nicholas K. Burns announces the most comprehensive history of Lake Placid ever published. *The Plains of Abraham: A History of North Elba and Lake Placid: Collected Writings of Mary MacKenzie* edited by Lee Manchester will be on booksellers' shelves in July 2007.

Mary MacKenzie's book is a tribute to the people drawn to North Elba's majestic peaks and pristine lakes. It begins in 1800 with the story of the first settlers, hardy New Englanders eager to scratch a living off the land. Some became hoteliers to accommodate the tourists who inevitably discovered the enchanting scenery. Free African Americans settled here, too, along with our most famous abolitionist, John Brown, who led four North Elban raiders to their deaths at Harper's Ferry in 1859. These were self-reliant Adirondackers, people of courage and conviction.

But there's much more to MacKenzie's Lake Placid story. Dashing actors and producers from the silent movie studios found the rugged scenery perfect for their rousing epics. Athletes careened down the bob-run and ski slopes where the Lake Placid Club virtually invented winter sports in America, culminating in the hosting of two Winter Olympiads.

Through it all are MacKenzie's local heroes, North Elbans of distinction: Joe Nash and the Stevens brothers, hoteliers; the Pratt family, highway superintendents for over one hundred years; the ladies of the garden club and the directors of the bank. The ministers and their churches, the kids and their schools...all told in Mary MacKenzie's delightful style—precise, confident, and with a touch of Garrison Keillor's sense of small town humor.

The book has seventy-two historical essays divided into three parts, *The Pioneers*, *The Age of Hotels*, and *Lake Placid*, with an appendix containing a historical timeline.

About the Author

Many interested in Adirondack history know of the writings of Mary MacKenzie, historian for the Town of North Elba since 1964. Over the years, they have read her historical essays in *Adirondack Life* magazine, the *Conservationist*, local newspapers and newsletters, and a fortunate few may have caught some of her lectures. Historians wondered if MacKenzie would ever collect all of her work into one place, finally creating a comprehensive history of North Elba and Lake Placid. She never did. After she passed away in 2003, her family asked Lee Manchester to execute her literary estate, resulting in *The Plains of Abraham*.

About the Editor

Lee Manchester is a former staff writer for the *Lake Placid News* and is now on the administrative staff at Wagner College in Staten Island, NY. He lives with his wife on Grymes Hill, Staten Island, and in Jay, NY. He can be reached by phone at 518.637.8363. His email is LMANCHESTER@SI.RR.COM.