

Robert Louis Stevenson had always dreamed of life in the South Seas. The prosperity which came to him in Saranac Lake gave him the means to finally go there.

Stevenson died at his home on December 3, 1894, in the Samoan Islands. He was 44 at the time of his death from a cerebral hemorrhage. Tribal chiefs attended his funeral on the top of Mt. Vaea.



"REQUIEM"

*Under the wide and starry sky,  
Dig the grave and let me lie,  
Glad did I live and gladly die,*

*And I laid me down with a will.*

*This be the verse you grave for me:  
Here he lies where he longed to be,  
Home is the sailor, home from sea,*

*And the hunter home from the hill.*

--Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94)



### Museum Visiting Hours:

July 1 to Columbus Day

9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Mondays

Open all year by appointment

(518) 891-1462

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

email: [pennypiper@verizon.net](mailto:pennypiper@verizon.net)

### Directions from Train Station and Harrietstown Town Hall:



# Historic Robert Louis Stevenson Cottage and Museum

Saranac Lake, New York  
Est. 1916



The World's Finest Collection  
of Stevenson Lore

Welcome to ...

## ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON COTTAGE IN SARANAC LAKE

Here in this quaint old farmhouse you are taken back to the year 1887 when the immortal author of *TREASURE ISLAND* came from Bournemouth, England to live in Saranac Lake.

Still preserved in its original state, you will see the largest collection of personal mementos in America, such as Stevenson's smoking jacket with a sprig of heather in the breast pocket which was sent from Scotland by a member of the Robert Louis Stevenson Society of America, the ice skates Stevenson wore to cut a fancy figure on nearby Moody Pond, his yachting cap, childhood photographs, a lock of his hair, original letters, and literally hundreds of articles of Stevenson lore. In the mantle piece over the fireplace are burns in the wood where Stevenson left cigarettes. The furniture in the room is that which he and his family used.

Everyone who visits the memorial feels the nearness of this immortal writer, especially when viewing these artifacts and a plaque by the great sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, who contributed his services as a personal tribute to Stevenson whom he called "the great sculptor of words."

In this very house in the mountain village that Stevenson called "The Little Switzerland in the Adirondacks," he composed the 12 essays published as the Charles Scribner series, "THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE," and "THE WRONG BOX".



Bas-relief by Gutzon Borglum



The Stevenson Cottage as it appeared in 1898

## Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson to a friend describing their life at Saranac Lake...

"We are high up in the Adirondack Mountains living in a guide's cottage in the most primitive fashion. The maid does the cooking (we have little beyond venison and bread to cook) and the boy comes every morning to carry water from a distant spring for drinking purposes. It is already very cold, but we have calked the doors and windows as one calks a boat, and have laid in a store of extraordinary garments made by the Canadian Indians. I went to Montreal to buy these and came back laden with buffalo skins, snow shoes and fur caps. Louis wants to have his photograph taken in his, hoping to pass for a mighty hunter or sly trapper. He is now more like the hardy mountaineers, taking long walks on hill tops in all seasons and weather. It is something like Davos here. Every afternoon a vehicle called a 'buckboard' is brought to our door, sometimes with one large horse attached, sometimes we have a pair of lovely spirited ponies. The buckboard is so light that when we meet a stagecoach on the narrow road we simply drive our horse up the hillside and lift the buckboard out of the way. Very soon, however, we shall exchange it for a sleigh."



Before this fireplace Stevenson made plans for his voyage to the South Seas