

# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 32, No. 4      April 2007

www.InterlakenHistory.org



*Field Crops  
or Dairy?*

*Wheat  
or  
Butter?*



## IHS April Program

Monday, April 23, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.  
Interlaken Reformed Church

### “Lest He Should Kill the Goose That Lays His Golden Eggs”

#### The Farming Systems in Nineteenth Century New York State

New York State held an important position in nineteenth century agriculture in the United States. Using agricultural census records and 19th century agricultural journals, historian Anne Derousie will examine the impact of disease, climate and soil fertility in the establishment of different agricultural practices within the state. Field crops or butter?

See how the damaging effects of a small flying insect created very different farming systems that persisted through the end of the twentieth century. Listen to the vigorous debate among farmers in western and central New York as they worked out different strategies to overcome the failing, wasteful agricultural practices that threatened their livelihood.

Anne Derousie is currently a PhD candidate in history concentrating on women’s history, rural history and early 19th century history. Her master’s thesis is “The Johnstons of Viewfield: Farm and Family in Transition, 1820-1880.” The program is free, open to everyone, and refreshments will be served.

## Upcoming Event

### Dance at the Interlaken Grange Hall

By Nicole Nelson

On April 21<sup>st</sup> the Interlaken Grange in Covert will again be alive with the sounds of music, dancing, and with luck, laughter. The Interlaken Grange and Interlaken Historical Society will be co-hosting an evening of contra and square dancing, with live music and a caller.

Contra dancing is a wonderful opportunity to get out and do something fun. If you know your left from your right and can count, you’re already half-way to having an enjoyable evening. The dances are called for you, with a walk through before the music is added, so you don’t have to know the steps beforehand.

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## President's Message

When walking on the street in Interlaken, I am asked "When are you moving into the Telephone Building?" I have to respond that I don't know yet. In order to accommodate the needs of both organizations, the Historical Society has presented a proposal to the Telephone Company to purchase the building and lease part of it back to the Phone Company for as much as five years. We are waiting for a response. In the meantime the Trustees are making plans for raising funds for the building. When a formal agreement is reached with the Telephone Company, we will let everyone know.

On another matter, you may have observed that the Society is moving in the direction of increasing collaborative efforts with other organizations in the area. We have been co-sponsoring programs for several years with the Ovid and Lodi Historical Societies. That has expanded to include the newly formed Romulus Historical Society, and the Schuyler County and Ulysses Historical Societies, the Backbone Ridge History Group, the Interlaken Grange, the Interlaken Sportsmen's Club, and most recently the Lodi, Ovid and



Interlaken Libraries through the Lodi Expo. In communities as small as ours, there have historically been interconnections whether it be for family, business, education, religion or socialization. We should never lose sight of the missions of our individual organizations. However, I believe that strengthening these interconnections can be a benefit for everyone. It would be great to hear or read some of your thoughts on this matter.

That last paragraph reminded me of a little gem by Ralph Waldo Emerson—"Go oft to the house of thy friend, for weeds choke the unused path."

Take care!

### Donations to the Society

Special thanks for these recent acquisitions:

Bruce Clark: Photos, postcards and business advertisements

Robert Donnelly: Papers from School District #6, Covert, Assorted receipts and statements, 1896-1914

Joe Baldwin, *The Morse Chain Company, A History of the Early years in Trumansburg, New York.*

The Gates Family: Clothing and family photographs including this picture of Lizzie Miller Gates wearing one of the garments.

Bill Gates: Farmer High School Catalogue 1903-1904.

Walter Gable: Report on the Seneca County Underground Railroad Project

### New Members

Mike & Becky Potts, Interlaken, NY  
Stanley & Irene Augustine, Interlaken, NY  
gift of Mary Willers  
Leah Burrows, Janesville, WI  
Robert Donnelly, Dryden, NY  
Melinda & Wayne Henningfield,  
Medford, OR

### New Life Members

Yvonne Williams, Interlaken, NY  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Carroll, Cary, NC  
gift of Chris & Eugene Carroll  
Bonnie McCauley, Warba, MN

## The Seneca County Underground Railroad Project Report

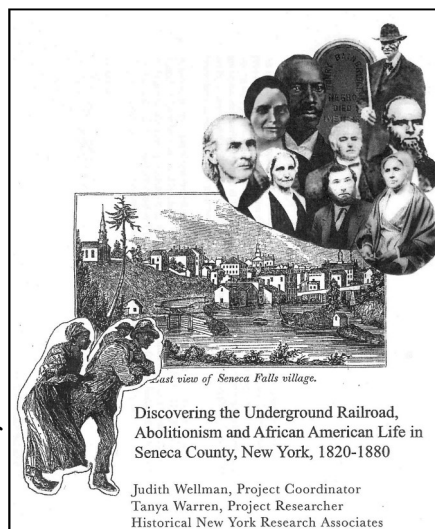
The volume and accompanying CD, *Discovering the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism and African American Life in Seneca County, New York, 1820-1880*, is now available for your perusal at the Interlaken Historical Society and the Interlaken Public Library. Although the book is formidable in size, the brief section on historical context is a fascinating read. It traces all three themes mentioned in the title using stories of real people, copies of original documents and beautiful illustrations. Seneca County had people of conscience and courage who made a difference.

A significant portion of the book details specific sites by town. Have you ever wondered about a particular home rumored to be part of the Underground Railroad? Look it up. See if it's listed.

Is this volume the definitive answer? No, it's a fine, thoroughly researched beginning. The section on methodology of the project as well as the included appendices will provide help for amateur researchers wishing to explore other possibilities. We in

Seneca County are fortunate to have the fruits of this year-long project available for us to enjoy and build upon.

The volume is a Cultural Resources Survey sponsored by the Seneca County Historian's Office, Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian and funded by Preserve New York, 2005-2006, Judith Wellman, Project Coordinator, Tanya Warren, Project Researcher, Historical New York Research Associates.



### Library News

National Library Week is April 15-20, 2007. The Theme is: Readers Are Leaders! There are many ways to enjoy reading: books, newspapers, signs, magazines, menus, etc. Come into the library and see how many items you can find to read! Another way is to listen to books on tape or CDs. Keep a log of what you read. You'll be surprised at how it will grow and how enjoyable it was for you. Reading is a priceless treasure!!

As always, we have added new books to the collection: *The Audacity of Hope* by Obama; *Winter's Child* by Margaret Maron; *The Roosevelt Cousins* by B. Donn; *The Good German* by Joe Kanon; *Murder at the Opera* by Margaret Truman; *Crisis* by Robin Cook; *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks; *For One More Day* by Albom; *Long Night of Winchell Dear* by Robert Waller to name a few.

*Eye Contact* by McGovern is about two children missing from a school playground. The boy is autistic and helps with finding the killers.

The Interlaken Library was proud to promote the first "Teen Tech Week" in March. This new celebration aimed at getting teens to use the library for different technologies such as computers, DVDs, audiobooks etc. Teens need to know that the library isn't just for books anymore! The Interlaken library will help them develop skills they need to use electronic resources effectively. We are looking forward to using this yearly event to get more teens to come to the library.



### Backbone Ridge History Group On Saturday February 24th members

and friends of the Backbone Ridge History Group met at the Hector Presbyterian Church to hear Carol Kamen and others speak about doing local history.



## News of our Neighbors

### Lodi Historical Society

May 28, Monday at 11 am Memorial Day Observance with guest speaker and Color Guard.

June 3, Sunday at 4 pm Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble. Featuring Bach's Keyboard Concerto in F Minor, Schumann's Fairy Tales for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, and Elgar's Piano Quintet. Full ensemble. \$15 adult, \$12 senior, \$6 student.

June 30, Saturday at noon Gala Museum Opening in downtown Lodi. Speakers, music, exhibits, street food, entertainment. All invited.

July 7, Saturday, 7-9 pm 13th Annual Invitational Art Show and Opening Reception. Works for sale by the artists. Contribution suggested.

July 8, Sunday, noon to 4 Chicken BBQ, quilt showing, book sale by the Lodi Library, vendors.

### Ovid Historical Society

May 5, 2007 The Ovid Historical Society will hold their 2nd Annual Antiques & Collectible Show & Sale (no crafts). It will be held from 9 AM. to 3 PM. at the New Ovid Fire House on Brown St in the Village of Ovid. Vendors wanted. Contact Naomi Brewer at 607-532-8800 or [nbrewer@fltg.net](mailto:nbrewer@fltg.net)

July & August the Society Museum will have displays of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, the Black Diamond, the Peanut train, the Sodus Bay Railroad and much more. Open Thursdays & Saturdays 10 to 2. Museum is at 7203 Main St. - next to Covert Funeral Home.

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### Library Expo at the Lodi Fire House

March 6, 2007

Allan and friends,

I write on behalf of the Lodi Whittier Library's board to thank you for participating in the first Library Expo. Your set-up was so professional and appealing, it was clear at a glance you all knew what you were doing. Your presence helped to give the whole event a special air of authenticity from a visitor's first entrance. We look forward to our next joint endeavor.

With appreciation, Amy J. Wiemers



Visitors were invited to do headstone rubbings, browse historical books and note cards as well as explore an old fashioned fanning mill.

## Follow up Files

**An omission from the Lakes Theater  
Article in the January issue of the  
Between the Lakes Newsletter**

January 20, 2007

Dear Historical Society,

My friend sent me your newsletter with my father's theater as a feature. You listed all the owners except my dad. We lived in Interlaken until I was in fifth grade, then we moved to Albany. I am Eileen Dittrick and dad was Bob Dittrick. He and my mother Pat ran the Lakes Theater from 1948 – 1955. Mom ran the concession stand and Willard Georgia was the projection operator. Don Wycoff was the maintenance man. Dad's popcorn was a huge drawing card.

During the years we were in Interlaken we made great friends. Chick and Webb Rankin were my parents' best friends and Webb still is. My brothers Gary and Todd, were very close to Patty, Joan and Linda, as I was. Both families vacationed together for years. My best friend was Patty Lincoln and I also played with Janet Crumb. My school friends were Molly Folts and Wendy Hanford.

We lived on Main Street next door to the Crumbs. Our neighbors were Gayle and Gloria Hand, the Lincolns, the Brocks and the Crumbs.

My memories of Interlaken are wonderful. I hated moving away but TV came in and the theater went under. I've been back a few times over the last few years to visit my dear friends Carol and Jim Doolittle who own Frontenac Vineyards near Trumansburg. I plan to return again this May

for a weekend and once again spend time in my hometown.

I really enjoy these newsletters and all the names of people we knew and cared about.

Sincerely,

Eileen Dittrick Cramer

*Anyone wishing to correspond with Eileen can reach her at PO Box 807, Schroon Lake, New York 12870*

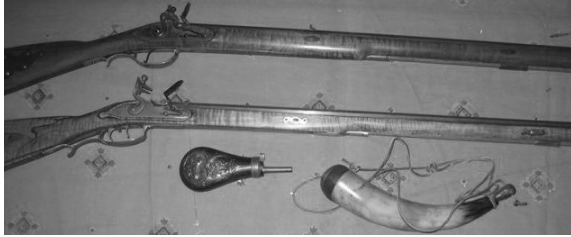
## Olde Home Day 2007

On June 9th come to Main Street, Interlaken and explore all of the activities planned for this year's Olde Home Day. In addition to the usual vendors, we are looking forward to displays by the Greyhound Recovery Group, the Science Center, and others. The Interlaken Memorial Garden will be dedicated, and the parade will proceed up Main Street at 2:00. As the day winds down it's your opportunity to bid on goods and services at the auction. The evening concludes with a 1950s style sock-hop. Bring your spats or sneakers and enjoy the music and company of friends.

Pictures from the past Olde Home Day events can be found at [www.interlakenhistory.org](http://www.interlakenhistory.org) under the Calendar of Events link.

### Cousin Hunting

*This message was received from Jim Tunison in Michigan after he learned of the muzzleloader program presented by Alec Wolcott in January.*



I made these Pennsylvania rifles to commemorate Bernardus Tunison (from New Jersey) and the Kuneys (from Pennsylvania), journey to Seneca County in 1800.

*In a followup message responding to a question about the Tunison and Kuney families, Jim provided some information and requested assistance.*

Bernardus, my g-g-g-grandfather, moved from Raritan, NJ about 1797 after he purchased part of Military Tract 69 in Ovid Township from John Smack. His and my ancestors originally came to Manhattan in 1638 from Amsterdam. He was too young to serve in the Revolutionary War but two of his brothers did and his father supplied horses to the American forces. His wife was Lydia Teeple Tunison of whom we know very little. I believe he was a cabinet maker by trade. He died 2/14/1845 and

Lydia 2/19/1826. Both are buried with children at McNeal Cemetery.

Kuney Town (in the Town of Fayette, Seneca County) is named after the ancestors of Melchoir Kuney who came to Pennsylvania before the Revolution. He had several sons of whom John, Henry and Christian were three. Christian changed the spelling to Cooney. It is his daughter Catharine that is my great grandmother. Blake Willey has written a 1,000 page book *The Origins Of The Kuney Family* that takes us back to Switzerland in the 1500s. Melchoir would have been in the heart of Pennsylvania Rifle country. Mine are flintlocks which were more appropriate in 1800. The beautiful rifle from the Covert family (being percussion) came later or was converted from flintlock.

If anyone knows anything about Eliza Ann Miller Tunison born July 10, 1808, died June 18, 1849, married to James Tunison, I would sure appreciate hearing from them.

Jim Tunison [Tuna2@firststep.net](mailto:Tuna2@firststep.net)  
3353 St. Clair Shores Blvd.  
East China, Michigan 48054  
810-329-7969 or 800-873-0456

Contra & Square Dance continued from page 1

While looking up and learning about some of the dances, I found some fun and interesting tidbits about contra and square dancing. Some of the best advice comes from Al Muller in *All American Square Dance* from 1941. He recommends that you “Relax and enjoy. If you get mixed up, what of it? That’s where the fun comes in. Fall back into place and wait for the rest of the call.” And “It’s just the same in square dancing as it is in life: There isn’t any use – or time – to worry over a mistake.”



Social dancing has enjoyed a long and glorious life that has adapted itself to the current trends and fashions. Like any other organized events there are rules and regulations. There are even some laws that are quite amazing – but true. Here are a few that were extracted from the April 1987 *American Square Dance Magazine*.

Constantia, NY – Young women may not drink coffee at a public dance after 6 pm.

Forestdale, RI – It is prohibited to ask anyone to square dance within four hours of having eaten garlic.

Ballantine, SC – Every woman must be found to be wearing a corset when going dancing. A physician is required to inspect each female at a dance to ascertain that she complies.

Lugert, OK – Under no circumstances may a man with hair growing over his upper lip ask a female to dance.

Palisades, OH – It is illegal to make silly or insulting faces at someone who is trying to learn how to square dance.

But the most important thing is just to have fun and meet some new people. And if nothing else learn two new vocabulary words. *Partner*: that person who is looking for you while other couples are promenading. And *Corner*: that person who will soon be your partner, but by the time you realize it is already your opposite.

We hope you will come out and join us for an evening of dancing and fun. Musicians for the evening are Kathy Selby and Tom Quigley from the Ithaca area, with caller, Nicole Nelson. Admission for the evening is \$5.00. Dancing begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Phil Stannard at 532-4627. Proceeds from the evening will benefit preservation of the Grange Hall.

Though cited from other locations all information was taken from *The Square and Contra Dance Handbook* by Margot Gunzenhouser.

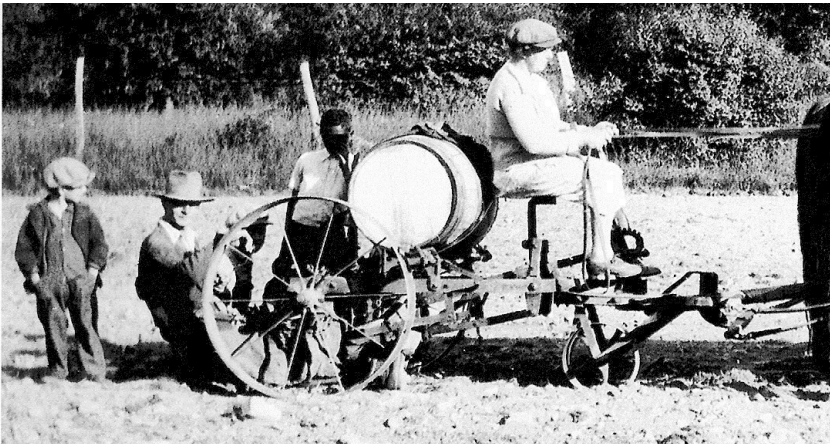
Shown above is a scene from the 100th Anniversary of the Interlaken Grange, April 1974.



## GROWING CABBAGE

By Dave Powell

Most readers of this column have memories of long ago days, but not all of you go back that far. Whatever your age is, share with me some of my memories of long ago days, specifically my early years associated with the growing and harvesting of cabbage. My father, Ed Powell, grew peas, corn and beans for the Halstead Canning Company in Interlaken, as did several others in the area, but he was the only one in Interlaken to grow cabbage, which was processed in Trumansburg. He had grown it in Trumansburg and continued to grow it when he moved to Interlaken. The rest of the growers were around Trumansburg and from Dryden and Cortland.



*Planting Cabbage*

In the spring, seeds were planted with a small planter in a patch. Cultivation was

done by hand. When the plants reached a height of perhaps eight to twelve inches, it was time to dig them, sort them and plant them. Digging was done with a spading fork, sorting was done by hand, discarding weeds, spindly and weak plants, and placing the healthy ones onto burlap sacks soaked with water. They were bundled and wrapped in the burlap and wet down again until they could be planted.

Planting was done with a one-row cabbage setter, which had a water tank on it. Pulled by horses, it carried the driver and the two people who planted. Each of the two planters sat on flat platforms close to the ground with their legs out straight and a box over their laps that held the plants. One person would plant with his right hand, the other with his left hand. My father drove the

team and my mother, Helene, and I, did the planting. Later, when the tractor could be used, my brother, Gordon, would drive and my father or mother and I would plant. When the planting shoe was lowered it would make a trough in the soil; the water was added at this point and each person would

alternate putting one plant at a time into the furrow. Immediately two small rolling

wheels would press the soil around the plant. Sometimes our fingers got pinched by the press wheels or a small stone. As you can imagine this was a slow process. The field size was probably six to eight acres and it took several days to plant it. It was always best to plant on cool days with no sun as the plants wilted for a while. I should mention here that after I got married, my wife, Jean, planted with me many times.

Once planting was finished and weeds began to grow, cultivation was needed, which was done with one horse and a one-row cultivator that did not get the weeds directly in the row. Weed pulling was done by my father, brother and me. With one foot on each side, straddling the row, it was a back breaking job to pull those weeds by hand. Many days were required to finish the field.

By fall and after frosts, harvesting could begin. Again, everything continued to be done by hand. A cabbage spud or cutter was used to cut the head from the plant. It had a short handle with a D for your hand. On the end was a wide blade, which was thrust under the head to cut it off. Twelve rows were cut to make one road for the truck to pick them up. The old '29 Chevy was driven across the field, while a person on each side pitched heads on with a three tined fork. We always rounded the load high above the rack. In wet years the truck would have to be pulled through the field by the tractor, making a very muddy mess. Eventually, in 1948, my Dad bought a new Chevy truck

and we could really haul cabbage with that.

Next, the truck had to be driven to the kraut plant on Seneca Road in Trumansburg, down by the railroad. Two or three of us would go because when we arrived there, weighed the load, and pulled up beside the cabbage bins, the load had to be pitched with a fork up and into the huge bins, where the cabbage would roll on a slatted floor down to a conveyor where men would pitch it onto a chain that carried it up to the high part of the building where the coring and trimming took place. Usually the bins were full and we would have to slam our forks against the wood sides to get the heads off the fork tines. In the coring and trimming room many women would prepare the heads for the slicer, which dumped the shredded cabbage into large wooden carts and was taken to huge vats where two men leveled, tramped, and salted it. Now it finally was on the way to becoming kraut and would wait in the vats until it was ready for canning. After unloading we would pitch cabbage leaves onto the truck to bring home for cattle feed, and sometimes we would bring a tub of kraut home for supper that night.

The plant was owned by William Lang & Sons of New York City, and most of the cabbage was grown under contract with them. One year there was too much cabbage and my father had to sell some as market cabbage. This meant not using the forks to handle it. It had to be put on a wagon by hand, brought to trimming tables set up in

the field, and bagged by hand into burlap bags, which were taken to Interlaken and put into freight cars, all for the price of five dollars per ton.

Some of the local women I remember working at the kraut plant were my mother, Helene, Evelyn Georgia, and Elizabeth Warner. Other names are not coming to mind right now but I'm sure there were other local women.

We stopped growing cabbage when the plant closed. Even though growing it involved so much labor, I look back fondly on those days because I liked doing it and at that time didn't think of it as hard work.

### **Old Barns**

Elizabeth Herralla Dunha-Koski

Old barns,  
usually black with some  
gray boards, like gray haired men  
Window panes are lost,  
long ago  
There's some hay, nearly  
Dust  
A barn swallow's nest of mud, lined with  
feathers,  
The cattle are gone, milk house remains.  
This barn beaten by all kinds  
of weather, rains,  
- wind, blowing snow  
Rough hewn beams  
Composed a skeleton strong  
Can you last? for long?  
Will you stone foundation  
Become a gravestone  
Without a name?  
Barn, can you remain?

*I read each issue of the Newsletter with great interest. You do a wonderful job with this organization. After reading Gerry Messmer's article about the 1970s I realized that my experiences in the 1950s are also a bit of history. Attached is a written version of the stories I have told our children and their families. They are most amused by them. I still have to remind them when they visit us they are not in the big city anymore.*

### **WATER COMES IN, SEWAGE GOES OUT**

Chris Carroll

It's such a simple concept. As a child, teenager and young adult I never gave water or sewage a second thought. Water came out of the faucet when I turned it on and sewage disappeared when the toilet was flushed.

Then I married my husband and moved to Willard. Again there was no problem because the hospital as it was called at the time, provided services to the village. The apartment we had was one that had been converted in a private home during the Sampson days. The bathroom consisted of a toilet and a tub lined in a row. The width of the room was the same width as the tub. I think in a former life it was a closet. There was no sink. To clean the tub I had to sit on the toilet for one end and then open the door at the other end to do the rest. To get into the tub we had to step down from the toilet.

But I digress; this really doesn't have anything to do with my encounter with water and sewage.

When our children started arriving we felt it was time to purchase a house. We chose one in the country. It had been built in the 1800s and adapted to indoor plumbing. The bathroom was located at the back of the house in what might have been a shed at one time. The basement didn't extend under it.

My first realization that water doesn't always come in happened the first winter we lived there. The well was behind the barn a good distance from the house. While preparing a bath for the children, I turned on the faucet and no water arrived. I couldn't figure out what had happened. I tried the kitchen faucet, no water there either. My husband finally told me that in the winter pipes can freeze and that was why we didn't have any water. He and a friend were able to get the water running that time by sending an electric current through the pipes. Several times after that my husband had to climb into the crawl space under the bathroom and use a torch to unthaw the pipes. Finally after a number of these episodes he got disgusted with the procedure and my constant fussing about the fire potential, so he changed the route of the pipes and brought them through at ceiling level from the bathroom to the washing machine etc. I still remember the PVC hot water pipe sagging when I ran the washing machine. We also had to leave the water running at a

trickle to keep the bathroom pipes from freezing in the worst weather.

My second encounter with water coming in was in the summer time when I turned on the faucet and there wasn't any water. I learned then that it is possible to run out of water. I had never heard of such a thing and watched with fascination as water was delivered by truck and put in the well. I was cautioned to use water judiciously and told I'd have to use the Laundromat for any laundry I needed to do, a task I detested as I had three children under the age of four and used cloth diapers for the baby.

I learned about sewage while living in this house as well. Surprise, surprise it doesn't always go out as easily as it did in my childhood.

It began when my husband was remodeling the house. He had taken the walls down to the studs in the living room and was putting up new sheetrock. After he did the seams with plaster I thought I would be helpful and I took the remaining plaster, added water and poured it down the drain. I'm sure you can imagine what happened. It hardened and my husband ended up replacing a whole section of drain pipe both inside and outside the house. He never said an unkind word, just went about the task and told me not to do that again.

My next encounter with sewage happened when it became apparent that the septic tank needed to be cleaned. I never had given any thought to where the sewage went. I did know we had a great stand of lilacs near where the septic tank was placed. We

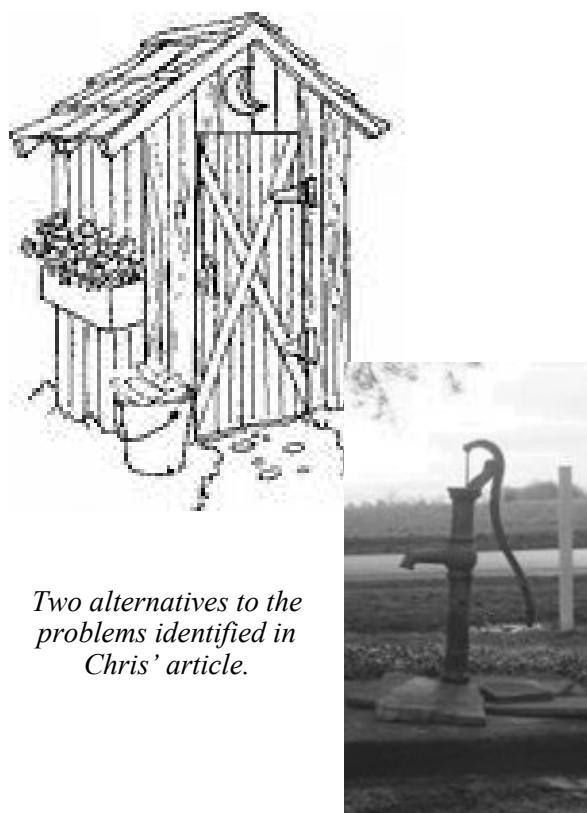
called a man my husband worked with at Willard who also had a “honey” bucket and he came right away. Apparently we didn’t have a regulation septic tank as after Jack dug the hole and was standing in it, there was a cracking sound and the next thing we knew he was in the tank covered with sewage. Luckily it was warm and we did have a garden hose so he got hosed down and continued on with his task. A large piece of slate had served as the lid to the septic tank. It just couldn’t hold his weight and gave way.

Our country house finally did succumb to a fire started by critters chewing insulation on wiring in a room that was not yet redone. I wouldn’t return to that house as I feared it could happen again and might be a real disaster if we couldn’t reach the children.

We moved to Interlaken. I had hoped for water and sewer services. My husband was not in the mood for redoing another old house and the only new one we found was just outside the village. We’ve had a few incidents with water and sewer during our early years in this house. Lightning traveled the underground water and destroyed our submersible pump once and when the ground around the leach beds settled, the pipes broke off from the septic tank and had to be redone.

Now it is over thirty years later and our water comes in and our sewage goes out. I have great respect for the system and treat it kindly. We have never run out of water but during the dry summer months I use it with caution. I am a fanatic about having the septic tank emptied at regular intervals.

Rural living is wonderful for raising children and being able to enjoy real scenery. It is especially nice when the water comes in and the sewage goes out.



*Two alternatives to the problems identified in Chris’ article.*

As the Historical Society works toward our new home, it is interesting to look back at the early years of the Society as the founders tried to find our first home. The following was written by Nelle D. Bradley, first secretary of the Interlaken Historical Society. While undated the article was probably written in the Fall/Winter of 1961 or Spring 1962.

### **Interlaken Historical Society The Early History**

Present at the preliminary meeting September 28, 1951: Mead B. Rappleye, Myron W. Bassette, John V. Kellogg, Dorothy Haviland Wickes, Nelle D. Bradley and Eleanor B. Tunison

Although the need for and the desirability of having an Historical Society to collect and preserve the records and memorabilia with which this section is so richly endowed was felt by many, we owe the existence of this society most directly to Mead B. Rappleye a descendent of one of the very first families to come into this section. By his invitation six persons met on September 28, 1951, at the home of Dorothy Wickes Four of us are still living. Mr. Rappleye stated the object of the meeting and the following resolution was offered: "That the formation of an Historical Society in Interlaken is desirable." All voting in favor, John Kellogg moved that a committee be appointed to report upon the organization of such a society. Fifteen persons were appointed.

At the next meeting an article was read from the Rochester Historical Society, showing the value and aims of such a society. Their constitution and by-laws were read

to suggest a pattern for the Interlaken unit. Mr. H. P. Minor moved that we organize as Interlaken Historical Society. Also motion was made and supported that John Kellogg be appointed first president. Other officers were named as were four trustees. Dues were stated as \$1.00 per year. Motion also was made and carried that Mead B. Rappleye be made first honorary member.

Interesting meetings followed and membership increased. The meetings were held in various places - in the homes of members, in the church basement, in the Legion Home for which we paid a small rental. But as we began to receive books, photos, legal documents, antiques, the need for a safe repository became imperative. We wished for a home of our own.

Vice-president Myron Bassette stated that our first necessity was to become incorporated. After many months this was accomplished and we applied to the Regents Board in Albany for a provisional charter. This charter was granted to us in 1958.

Now we began to talk seriously about the construction of a historical building, its size and probable cost and the location for same. Optimistic views were voiced by John Kellogg and Myron Bassett and some others, but many lacked that vision. Then it occurred to someone to write to Mrs. Leeb, a daughter of Mr. Hinman who had given the library building to the village, and ask consent to use the land back of the library building for this worthwhile project. This was done and both Mrs. Leeb and her sister, Mrs. Yeaw, graciously consented and also

contributed toward the building. Plans for a fireproof building were drawn by Mr. Van-Benschoten. An estimate of the probable cost of a whole new fireproof building proved to be too frightening. However, after many weeks, hope revived with the suggestion of using the upper floor of the library building for our Historical rooms, if consent could be obtained from the Town Board of Covert and the daughters of Mr. Himnan. These consents graciously granted, public spirited citizens began to make contributions of money and services and the work of building was commenced.

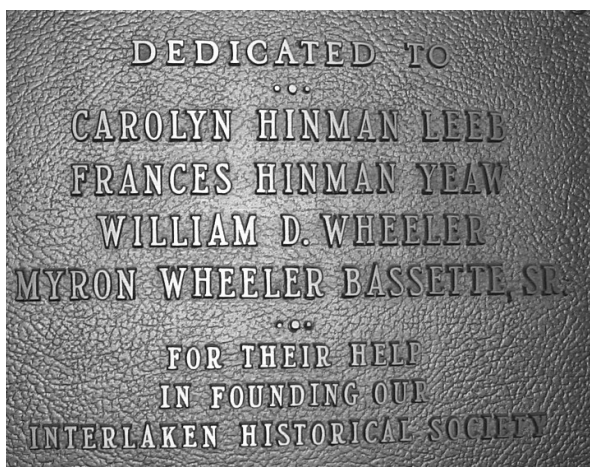
Myron Bassett worked with untiring enthusiasm at the task of informing the public as to the importance of the project and won their support in the needed dollars. Transforming the upper floor of the library building was not a simple operation, but in the hands of a skilled craftsman and supervision by the president, Grace Landergren, and those who aided her, it was finally completed and the Society had a home, a repository

for its treasures and the responsibility of maintaining it for the good and pleasure of the community. The work of cataloging was begun and meetings could now be held in the new home.

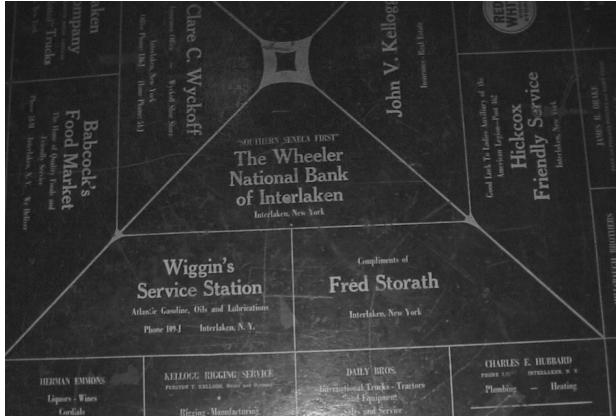
To enumerate all the services of John Kellogg from his term as first president would be impossible. His interest was constant and his advice sound.

Although a number of names could be mentioned in a list of the planners and executors, one name stands out above all the others. Since she returned from Washington to this, her native village, and in 1957 was elected to be president of this society, Grace Landergren has worked with mind and heart and hands toward the culmination of this project. The Society and the village owe her a debt of gratitude and a responsibility to preserve and continue what has been accomplished.

*Plaque in the Historical Society for early founders and benefactors.*



## Summer 2007 Museum Displays



*Plan to visit the Museums this summer as we look at the professionals who cared for the animals and people of our community over the years. Also planned is a display on the businesses in the community in the 1950s. Card tables like this one in the society collection were a feature of many homes. It will be our starting point for pictures, articles and other memorabilia of these and other local businesses.*

**Interlaken Historical Society  
PO Box 270  
Interlaken, NY 14847-0270**

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

## Mark Your Calendar

- April 21, 2007 Contra & Square Dance at the Grange Hall, Covert, NY
- April 23, 2007 Interlaken Historical Society Program at the Interlaken Reformed Church 7:30 pm.
- June 9, 2007 Olde Home Day 2007 "Come Grow Something New" Main Street Interlaken 9 am to 10 pm.
- July & August: Museum(s) open Saturday 9 to noon and Sundays 1 to 3 pm.

## The Historical Society

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