

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 34, No. 4 April 2009

www.InterlakenHistory.org

*Ithaca Clock
Detail of the
decorative work
on the clock.*



IHS April Program
Monday, April 27, 2009 7:30 p.m.
Covert Grange Building
West Covert Road
History of Ithaca Calendar Clocks
Presented by
Joel Warren

Joel Warren will present a video documentary that gives faces, places and ephemera to the historical record of Ithaca Calendar Clocks and will engage the audience in a lively discussion. Some of the narratioe in the video is by Harry Dean, the last surviving employee of the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company, just before he passed away in 1978.

Come and discover the name of the founder of the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company who spent his formative years in the Hamlet of Covert.

Joel Warren is Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Ithaca Clock Museum, and a 33-year member of the 29,000 member National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. As a clock maker, he has won several association sponsored National Craft Competition first place honors. He has been guest lecturer and exhibitor at more than 30 Association Trade Shows around

the country, and is a nationally recognized authority on the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company. He provides parts and services worldwide by way of his website <http://www.ithacacalendarclocks.com>.

The program is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Covert Grange Hall is on West Covert Road, beside the Covert Baptist Church For more information contact Allan Buddle at orchardland@zoom-dsl.com or 532-4213.

Table of Contents

April Program	Page 1
President's Message	Page 2
Society News	Page 3
New Trustee: Heather Coonradt Mott	page 3
Library News	Page 4
News of Our Neighbors	Page 5
Legion Color Guard	Page 5
Follow-up file: Lottie Taylor	Page 6
View from the Canning Factory	Page 6
Remembering Preston Kellogg	Page 7
Class of 1934 History	Page 8-9
Training Horses	Page 9
Recalling the SSCS Merger	Page 10-11
Financial Committee Report	Page 11

President's Message

Greetings! By the time you read this spring will have sprung in our little corner of the world full of new life and hope for a great season ahead. In the last newsletter I invited others to join me in keeping a journal to record interesting seasonal changes and family happenings. There were two takers, plus one person who steered me in the direction of an electronic journal. Others mentioned "blogs". If you are interested in the electronic journal you can explore it at <http://www.davidrm.com/thejournal/> Several individuals commented on existing family journals. Some of them will be highlighted in future newsletters.

It is my pleasure to welcome Heather Coonradt Mott as our newest and by far our youngest trustee. Heather grew up in Interlaken, and is now teaching history in the South Seneca High School. She is already working with us on a couple of programs. Please join me in welcoming Heather.

For each of us, there comes a time to move on. When I became a trustee ten years ago, I was very taken with the Farmers' Museum which had just been expanded thanks to the efforts of Douglas Van Benschoten, and offers many opportunities to engage in the agricultural and rural life history of our community. However, I soon found myself involved in many other aspects of the business of the Society, and had little time for the Farmers' Museum. I have enjoyed those activities, and have gotten a great deal of satisfaction from the accomplishments that all of us working together have made in the past few years, not just in our own community, but throughout the area by working with other historical organizations in our area. I want to especially thank Walter Gable, the Seneca County

Historian, for his support.

Each of our small communities has a proud history of its own but none of them should be studied in isolation. There have always been economical, political and social linkages, locally, regionally, nationally and beyond. I hope the multi-community programming will continue along with the study and celebration of the history of the Town of Covert, the Village of Interlaken and the Hamlet of Covert.

I have decided to return to my original interest in agricultural and rural life history, and focus my available time and energy on the Farmers' Museum. It has been a pleasure for me to share my thoughts with you in these newsletters and I want to thank each of you who have contributed articles. Your efforts make it your newsletter. I hope that you will continue to share your interesting stories which become an important piece of the historical record.

Thank you all so much for all the support. I look forward to seeing you at the Farmers' Museum this summer!

Allan Buddle

*Editor's Note: A special thank you to Allan and Ann Buddle and Barb Withiam for their work on the **Between the Lakes** newsletters over the years. As they retire, Barb Stewart, Mimi and Bill Schaffner and Nancy Radloff join the committee to oversee and develop the newsletter. If you have any thoughts or questions please contact one of them.*

New Members

Erika & Jeremy Crytzer, Interlaken, NY
Ernest & Abbye Walden, Interlaken, NY

Donations to the Society

English Exercise Book and Interlaken High School Yearbooks, 1925 to 1927 given by Charles & Anna Batty
Loose-leaf book with text and photos of the Bethel Cemetery, Town of Covert, Seneca County donated by Georgiana Stevenson & Lynn S. Fisher
Collection of Minstrel show programs and photos from the 1950s from the Interlaken American Legion, Post 462
Reproduction milk stool for educational use crafted by Harold Barrows
Glass Sun Catcher of the Bee Hive from the Interlaken Community Action group
New Home Tredle Sewing Machine given by Anne James & Phyllis Packer Jaquasiak
Collection of Future Farmer of America trophies and certificates from Interlaken High School, 1930s to 1960s, from John Hunt

Monetary donations

Carol White in honor of her mother,
Mary Willers
Ari VanTienhoven in honor of
Marty Schlabach
The Interlaken American Legion Post 462 on the event of the retirement of their charter.
The Society is exceedingly grateful.

Heather Coonrad Mott New Trustee

Please welcome our newest Trustee. Heather grew up in Interlaken, the daughter of Roger and Linda Coonrad, graduating from South Seneca in 1997. She then traveled to Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT with a Division I full scholarship for women's basketball. She received a bachelors degree in history and a master's degree in education.

After teaching 7th and 11th grade history at Marcellus Central School, and middle school social studies and 7th grade gifted and honors social studies in New Canaan CT, Heather has returned to her alma mater to teach high school history, which includes Global history Honors, 11th grange American History and Advanced Placement American History. She plays an active role in the school community and you will also find Heather coaching softball this spring.

Heather and her husband Robert Mott reside in Ovid. Heather is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education at the University of Rochester and in her free time enjoys culinary arts, traveling, spending time onenjoying Cayuga Lake and staying physically fit.

We are all looking forward to Heather's participation on the Board of Trustees.

Library News by Pat Moore

Hello, everyone. We are all so excited: our room is done, although not completely set up. Andy Wengerd brought our new bookcase so now we have a matching pair for the new room, and are trying to decide on placement for the best traffic flow and use of space. The library is now protected by a new security system.



The new room was recently used for the children's literacy group; they were thrilled to be the first ones to use it. They were studying colors so we made a stop light for our craft project. They also sang songs and played games. This is a wonderful way to introduce youngsters to the library and start what could be a life-long love of going to the library. It would be interesting to know how many of our regular patrons have been using their public libraries, and particularly ours, since they were children. One of our patrons got her first library card when she was six, and still remembers the books laid out flat on the white shelves in the children's section. She later read Nancy Drew



mysteries and the Cherry Bolton series. She also worked in the library, was a volunteer and now, decades later, after returning to the area, comes in frequently for adult mysteries.

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Andy Herrala's mother; we send our condolences to the family.

We have a new volunteer, Kate Hunt; please welcome her when you see her. We always need volunteers, please call me or stop in to see me if you are interested.

Some of our new books are: *Blood Money*, Margaret Coel; *Cold Case*, Kate Wilhelm; *Lie Down with the Devil* (Charlotte Carlyle Mystery), Linda Barnes; *Silent Thunder*, Iris Johansen and Roy Johansen; *Into the Storm*, Suzanne Brockman; *The Blue Religion: New Stories About Cops, Criminals and the Chase*, Mystery Writers of America and Michael Connelly. An older book that is always good to bring a smile or to make you laugh is *What My Cat Has Taught Me About Life*, Niki Anderson.

Happy spring – we have books on gardening if you are looking for tips and ideas now that the season is just around the corner.

Above left: the children's table under one of the front windows in the new room. Left: Librarian Pat Moore with the colorful banner donated for use in the new room.

News of Our Neighbors

Action was taken at the February 2009 Interlaken Village Board meeting to purchase a domain name, and have a Village of Interlaken website.

The website is up and you are invited to visit, browse the various pages, and even send an email to village officials. Visit www.villageofinterlaken.org and see what's new. You can also reach the website from the Interlaken Historical Society website, www.interlakenhistory.org, then click on links, and Village of Interlaken.

On a lighter note, as this issue is being created, we are also in the election season for villages. Did you know that in New York State Village elections can not be held on St. Patrick's Day? If the holiday falls on the third Tuesday, the normal village election day, a 1998 law requires the village

Olde Home Day 2009

Plan to join family and friends for Olde Home Day 2009 along Main Street in the Village, where you will find vendors, food, entertainment and the parade. Join us as we thank and honor a long-time volunteer within the community also. For more information see the village website: www.villageofinterlaken.org

Both Museums will be open during the day. Stop in and say hello and view new pictures and other items from the collections.

Ovid's Antique Road Show

April 20th at 7 PM. at the Museum, 7203 S. Main St. Ovid, N.Y. (next to Covert Funeral Home) Bring up to 3 items to be appraised for \$5.00 by 2 appraisers. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments.



In the collection of materials recently donated by the Interlaken American Legion was this undated newspaper clipping of Olde Home Day. Pictured left to right are John Jager (WWI), Carlton Craft (Korean War), William Peabody (WWII carrying the American Flag), Tom Boyes (WWII), John Dawson (Vietnam) and Legion Commander and Vietnam Veteran George Denmark, who had stopped to greet a few spectators. If anyone can date this item it would be appreciated.

Bill Gates read the Lottie Taylor diary in the January, 2009 newsletter and called to share some family history.

Lottie Taylor

Lottie came around World War I to work for Bill Gates' grandparents William and Lizzie Gates on the farm that Bill recently sold before he and Rene moved to Virginia. She picked fruit and worked mostly outdoors.

After Bill's grandparents died Lottie stayed on as a housekeeper for Uncle Jason and Bill's father Leone. Bill says that his father was very insistent that the "e" not be left off his name, and that it should be pronounced properly. Uncle Jason never married and Bill's father Leone didn't marry until he was 50. Lottie was the housekeeper through the 20s and 30s. After Bill's father married, Lottie stayed on as a housekeeper for Uncle Jason.

Lottie was described by Bill as the "best hired man" that the farm ever had. He said she would work with the men in the field threshing until a half hour before meal time and then go inside and when the men came in for their noon meal, she would have a complete hot dinner all prepared. Bill remembers the canned beef she used to heat up. It was beef butchered on their own farm and canned to preserve it. She also was known throughout the farming circles for the huge sugar cookies that she made. She gave out the recipe to anyone who asked, but nobody could make the sugar cookies taste like hers.

Unfortunately, Lottie was killed on the farm in 1960 when a tractor tipped over on her.

Bill also mentioned that the very last word in the transcription of the Lottie Taylor diary should read "Louva" instead of "Laura." She was the third child of Bill's grandparents.

View from the Canning Factory

Earlier this year longtime resident and Interlaken Historical Society member, Preston Kellogg died. The article on page 7 relates just one memory of Preston and his work on tall structures.

When we contacted his daughter Sandra Piccolo for a picture to accompany the article she also sent several of George, Preston's brother. Shown below is one picture, taken of George in 1938 when he was perched on one of the smoke stacks at the Canning Factory. One has to wonder who was taking the photo?



You will be able to see this photograph and others of "People At Work" this summer as our photo exhibit.

A Memory of Preston Kellogg

by Bill Gates

During the 1960s I worked weekends and summers at Sampson State Park. One event that I have often thought of involved the Park's water tower and Preston. The water tower was about a half mile south of the main entrance to the Park near the highway, but to get to it you had to take a circuitous route through the Park. One or more of the lights on top of the tower burned out and this was considered quite serious because of its proximity to the air field across the highway.

The Park called a man who was supposed to be a lineman for the electric company. I was on duty when he arrived, so I was asked to show him the way to the tower. When we got to the base of the tower, this man strapped on a huge tool belt with so many items, that I thought perhaps he had misunderstood what he was called to do, and was going to disassemble the water tower. He finally got most of his tools strapped fast and started up the ladder which was attached to one of the legs of the tower.

After he got about 10 feet high, he stopped, looked up and back down to the ground, shook the ladder and said, "I don't like this." He went on up another 5 to 8 feet, stopped, did the looking procedure again and said, "This is not safe." He came back down and left.

The next day Preston showed up. I got to accompany him to the base of the water tower. He put a couple screwdrivers and

pairs of pliers in his pockets, some light bulbs in a cloth bag which he carried over one shoulder, went over and walked up the ladder, never pausing. "Walking" probably seems like the wrong verb, but it seems appropriate. He went up so effortlessly and so quickly, it didn't appear that he was climbing. It looked more as though he was walking down the street!

The first man had however, apparently convinced the State Park authorities that the ladder was not safe, because the Park later hired Preston and his crew to stabilize the ladder and weld a cage around it.

Preston Kellogg and his truck



Do you have photographs of people at work?
The Historical Society is always looking for new
photographs for its collection or to feature in our
newsletters.

Pauline Metzgar Fitchpatrick recently donated this Class History to the Historical Society, we print it here for all to enjoy this first person report from 75 years ago.

The Class History 1934

In June 1933, due to the general break-up of the party then in power, the class of 1934 came into a state of exaltation in I. H. S. Because of the uncommon distinction with which we have administered high school affairs this year, we now wish to pause a while and look back over the never-to-be forgotten years, leading to our present glory.

In the autumn of 1930, 41 boys and girls enrolled in the Freshman class of Interlaken H. S. Of course, we were all very timid, daring scarcely to say our souls were our own. We survived the year's ordeal however under the capable guidance of Donald Sager, our class president and Mr. Gould, our class advisor. By the end of the year we realized that we actually did belong in High School and we felt equal, or perhaps a little more than equal to any of our upper classmen.

The following fall when the Sophomore [sic] class was organized, we had lost 16 members, bringing the class enrollment down to 25. Most of these 16 had left school but some of them just had not made the grade. That year our president was P. M. [*sic this may be Pauline referring to herself*] and our class advisor Mr. Merrell. Mr. Norton was not too careful when he made out the seating list for that session. There were many conflicts on the floor due to unruly

neighbors. Nevertheless by the end of the year we were sure that we had conquered all and that we needed to worry no more.

When we returned the next fall, we somehow were not quite so sure. When the Junior class was organized there were 18 still in the ranks, including Jack Usher, who had come to us from Syracuse. The class chose the same president, with Mrs. Bassett as class advisor. Toward the end of the year Bill Peterson came to us from Marion High School. We all labored hard last year, so that this year we might come to be properly recognized as the honorable Seniors that we are. Last June the entire class was promoted. We all left school confident that the battle was almost won, although we knew that the steepest climb was still ahead of us.

When we organized last fall we were 17 qualified Seniors, Jack having left us to play football in the South. We chose Wm. Peterson to guide us through our last noble enterprise to be aided by the excellent advice of Mr. Norton and Mrs. Currier and the friendly council of the rest of the faculty. Shortly after school began our wandering boy returned from Florida to graduate with us. In the middle of the year one of our classmates was forced by illness to leave the ranks, much to the regret of the entire class.

Continued on page 9

Class History continued from page 8

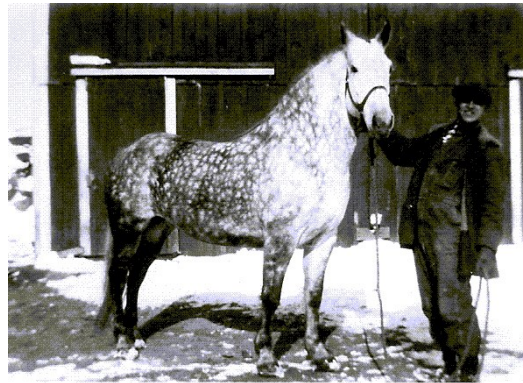
Our triumphs of the present year have been grand sport as well as profitable. We have had 4 suppers and every one knows how much work that is, but we tried to give them without thinking of the work. We all

had a good time giving the Minstrel Show. We found the production of Goldsmith's, "She Stoops to Conquer," a much harder task, yet just as much fun.

During the four years, we as a class have always given our share of attention to athletics. There are 5 girls who have played an important part in making our excellent B.B. record. The soccer, baseball and basketball teams have been strengthened by the boys in the class. Both the boys and girls have taken a significant part in Track Meets. The class has always been well represented in the Girls' Glee Club. One of our girls has been a member of both the band and the orchestra all four years.

Although this year has been strenuous in its demands on our strength and courage, we have pulled together steadily and surely – seeking eagerly, expectantly, to know what the future may have in store for us.

Pauline turned 90 in April 2008, youngest in her class, and was pleased to share this memory with the Historical Society, to be published in time for the 75th anniversary of their graduation. Pauline died in March 2009.



Training Horses

This picture, dated 1928 shows horse-trainer Ralph Sackett relaxing from his regular duties by displaying Arthur Knight's stallions for the camera.

After training a Knight team, Ralph brought other customers' horses to the Knight barn's large basement where wagons and sleighs could be used in a warmer atmosphere. Ralph owned and operated a farm near Bennettsburg, NY, and trained horses during the winter months when farm work slowed. Sackett did not break horses, but helped perfect the skills they needed to do farm work satisfactorily. One of the more difficult routines was for a team to back a heavy-loaded wagon up a steel bridge-way approach onto the barn floor where the contents could be unloaded.

The star of the picture is that massive stallion. According to Ed Covert, our long-time neighbor, my grandfather Arch Knight always had a stallion in the barn, and may have bequeathed this dappled-gray to Arthur, my father, next owner of the farm.

John Knight 2009

Memories of the School Merger

by Bob Dickerson

This is the story of the Interlaken/Ovid school merger, as I remember it, being a part of it. I'm a little short on memory of some things at that time, due to my age at this time.

I was a member of the Interlaken Central School board of Education leading up to the merger. I believe I was a member for nine years, and president the year it was first put to us by the State to discuss.

We called a meeting of the three schools involved at that time, Romulus, Ovid and Interlaken. The State Education department wanted Romulus to be a part of the merger also. During the meeting held in the Interlaken school cafeteria and after a lengthy discussion, the Romulus school board walked out and never was a part of it again. At that time I questioned if the merger was a good idea and agreed with some of the Romulus board's concerns.

The majority of the Interlaken and Ovid board members, with pressure from the State agreed to bring it to a vote. The vote was held and it passed to merge by four votes. Those of us who weren't all in favor found twelve people who voted that weren't eligible. We got together as a group and raised some money, hired a lawyer (Bud Golder of Trumansburg) and decided to fight the results. After going through the courts, we arranged for a hearing before the Commissioner of Education in Albany.

I drove to the hearing taking our lawyer, Jack VanNostrand of Ovid and Tom Boyce of Interlaken, with me. After parking in the

Education Building parking lot, we went upstairs to the hearing room where the commissioner was waiting for us. His first words were "only your lawyer may speak and answer questions at this hearing." This did not go over well with us, as we had come so far to speak our piece.

This is a comical part of that day. After the hearing we were waiting in the underground parking lot for our lawyer. At that time the commissioner came down to his private parking spot, to head out for the day. Jack, who was a very large man, walked over to him as he passed us. Jack raised him off the floor a bit and said we came to talk to you, and now we will. I thought at that time there must be security around, but saw none. We did talk for a few minutes about the way the hearing went, and then he went on his way. Through all this, and after many dollars were spent, we were turned down and the merger became a fact. There was a vote to form the new board, and I was elected to a three year term on the new board. Others that I remember were Charles Wickes, Darwin Munson, Stanley VanVleet, Marion Schneider, Bob Akins, and Fred Swick. After we organized we hired Pat Patterson of Interlaken as the new District Superintendent.

Continued on page 11
School Merger Continued from page 10

There were still a lot of hard feelings in both villages and it was very hard to settle down and get things done. I got up at a meeting and stated that now the merger was a fact, let's all get together and make the

most of it for our children. This did not go over too well with some of the community, but I believed it was the thing to do and my little speech got written up on the editorial page of the Ithaca paper.

One memory of that time was when my daughter Jan was the Valedictorian of her senior class and I was given the honor of presenting her with her diploma, and also sitting there on stage as a board member and father as she gave her speech. (I still remember her speech to her classmates that began, "This is the first day of the rest of your lives").

My only thought today of the effects of that merger, is Interlaken losing its High School. I believe that brought the Village down some and affected business and our beautiful Main Street.

I also served on the Interlaken Village board and was proud to be a part of that. I must also mention that my Dad, Joe Dickerson, served on the Interlaken Village board for several years and did a lot for the Village during his life.

I have many wonderful memories of Interlaken while growing up and into my later years before moving from the area. I was a member of the Baptist and Reformed Churches, the American Legion and the Masonic Lodge and many other things in the community. I worked in several different places in the village, but that's another story to be told.

Financial Committee Report

Harold Stewart, Chairman

Being part of the global world, the Interlaken Historical Society has also felt the down turn in their investment portfolio. The Board of Trustees has planned and implemented budget enhancements and policy statements that they follow to continue to make ~~this Not-For-Profit organization~~ financially successful.

You the members help in this success by paying your memberships yearly, or by taking advantage of the Life Membership package. Cash donations also help in the organization's success.

There is another important way you can contribute. You can become an endowment donor – living or willed gifts.

I know this is a private family consideration and we can effectively demonstrate stewardship of these donated resources. If you have questions, you can contact me for a private meeting at 607-279-1965. Thank you all for your support of the Interlaken Historical Society.



Plan to join us Monday, April 27th for Joel Warren and his presentation on Ithaca Clocks.

See page 1 for details on the program and a close-up of the top of this clock.

The Historical Society Board of Trustees

Allan Buddle, President
Diane Bassette Nelson, Vice President
Ann Buddle, Secretary
Karen King, Treasurer
Trustees

John Hunt
Heather Coonradt Mott
Bill Schaffner
Philip Stannard
Harold Stewart
Mary Jean Welser

Newsletter Editors & Staff

Diane Bassette Nelson Bill Schaffner
Peggy Kopsa Nancy Radloff
Mimi Schaffner Barb Stewart

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar:

April 27: Ithaca Calendar Clocks 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: Meeting will be at the Interlaken
Grange Hall on West Covert Road

June 13, 2009 Olde Home Day 2009

Visit the Museums and see the new displays
Check out the Village of Interlaken website
for details

July 19, 2009 Historical Society Old Fashion
Social on the Library lawn, museums
will be open.