

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 35, No. 1 July 2009

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Plan to join the Historical Society for the third annual Old Fashion Family Social on July 19th

**IHS July Program
OLD FASHIONED FAMILY SOCIAL
Sunday July 19, 2009
4:00 — 6:30 p.m.
The Community is Invited!**

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, July 19th, between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. for our third old fashioned social dish-to-pass get-together on the lawn of the Interlaken Public Library.

We, and other community organizations, will supply grilled hot dogs with rolls and fixings, lemonade and ice tea, as well as ice cream for dessert. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

If you haven't seen the new museum or visited the Farmers' Museum in a while both will be open, so plan to stop by.

Please drop by to eat, relax, and visit. In case of rain we will gather at the Interlaken Baptist Church.

For more information please contact the Society at museum@interlakenhistory.org or Diane Bassette Nelson at 607-532-9227.

News of our Neighbors

On September 26th the Ovid Historical Society will be hosting their Shel Drake and Kidders House tour. Tickets are \$12 in advance, or \$15 the day of the tour. Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tour starts at the Shel Drake Point Winery on County Road 153 at Shel Drake. You will have the opportunity to visit churches, Bed & Breakfasts, and several lovely homes along the lake. The tour concludes at the Winery with refreshments, and a tour of the winery. For more information contact Naomi Brewer 607-532-8800 or Sharon Morehouse at 607-532-8925.

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President's Message
July, Journals and Journeys

July 1st marks a change at the Interlaken Historical Society. We say thank you to Allan Buddle for his many hours, days, weeks and years of service as Society Board President. How do we thank you for all you have done in these ten years — our new museum, the changes at the Farmers' Museum, the hours you have spent coordinating with other organizations in and near Seneca County, and above all your dedication to all things at the Society. Allan, you came on board as a member when invited, you took a role that is always difficult and you followed in the footsteps of others, making the way your own and bringing all of us with you. You listened when suggestions were made and helped us to see your vision along the way. Thank you, from the board members who have served with you these many years, thank you from the membership which has benefited from your leadership, and thank you from the students and teachers who have gained a greater understanding of life before TV, iPods, and texting.

Olde Home Day 2009 will be history when you are reading this newsletter, but it marked the beginning of our 2009 summer display. If you didn't have the opportunity to visit the museums on Olde Home Day please plan to stop in one Saturday in July or August between 10 and 2 to see what's new. Working with several journals and diaries in the collection, as well as ideas that surfaced as we looked at pictures and artifacts, the display at the new museum came together. The photo collection yielded

a number of pictures for our Wall of Photos using the theme of "People At Work." Following that theme we arrived at "Modern Machines through the Ages" for the artifact displays. The journals gave us many entries for our laundry display, where you will see how long and tiring the task was to get clothing cleaned and ready for the next wearing. You will also see a few of the changes in the equipment used in cooking, cleaning and communicating.

Thank you to all the volunteers who read journals, created the exhibits, hung photographs, planted trees, bushes, and flowers, and gave up Saturdays to make sure all systems in the two buildings were working properly. Thank you also to the Stannard family for our new flag pole and flag which graces the front of the museum. And a final thank you to all those people who wrote the articles for this issue of the newsletter. Looking back, learning something new, and sharing what is currently happening, are all topics that are included.

As we change officers on the Society's board we invite the membership to participate in the journey with us. Your thoughts, ideas, comments and questions are always appreciated. If we are doing something right, or you have a suggestion for changes please let us know. Do you have an idea for an article? Call, email or catch a board member or newsletter committee person and say so. Would you like to be a part of a committee, help shape an exhibit, or volunteer at the museums? These are all roles that need to be filled. We would welcome hearing from you on any of these topics.

We will have a number of special Satur-

day events this summer, wheat, quilts, construction and music will all add to your visits. If your summer journeys do not allow you to visit the museum during normal open hours, please call 607-532-8899 or 607-532-9227, or email museum@interlakenhistory.org and we would be happy to schedule a time for your visit.

As we continue our journey into the future, let us also preserve, celebrate and appreciate the past.

Diane Bassette Nelson

Follow up file

In the January 2007 issue of the newsletter we carried an article about three fires within the village. One of those fires was the Weager Mill fire in April 1916. The Mill was located on the Southeast corner of Main and Orchard Streets. This spring we received an original letter from Mrs. Agnes VanArsdale to her son Lyle who was at school in New Jersey. The letter was written on April 19th, 1916 and details the family's view of the fire. The VanArsdale family lived in the large house at the corner of Orchard and Main Street, next door to the current post office. If you would like to revisit the original article please see the society website at <http://www.interlakenhistory.org/villagefires.html>.

Well, my boy you missed some excitement this morning. Mrs. U[sher] came up to stay all night, and we were very nicely sleeping when I heard the worst noise, I wakened and the mill was all one mass of fire.

We got up, dressed and before we dressed it was so hot in our room we couldn't stand it, the wind was southwest and

coming right on us, but fortunately for us it soon changed to northwest. The windows in the play room are all cracked. My plants on the shelf are scorched to the roots, setting room and bedroom windows cracked and the house badly blistered. They hung wet carpets up, to save us. I had my bedding, silver ware and clothes all tied up in sheets. You know Papa and Mr. Villemonte started for Classis yesterday on the two. The factory is down to the ground, the barn with VanKirks auto and Charlie Rice autos are gone. The Stewarts furniture is about gone, some things in our barn but not good for much. The Churchs' lost part of their bedroom furniture. The house is completely ruined.

On the whole it was a lucky fire, for the wind was very bad, Trumansburg came and Ithaca and they helped wonderfully. Hancy's house was afire, and the canning factory barn (Bradley) a number of times. We served hot coffee and ham sandwiches at five. It is still smoking some, but I guess no danger now. No electric lights tonight, although they worked all day trying to get wired straight. Well, I am glad the old thing has gone, but it was a bad experience. And I don't care to go through it again.

Donations to the Society

Photograph of Minerva Wilmot Home from Janet Elder

Postcards, photographs and letter on the Weager Mill Fire 1916 from Steve Mount

Electric heater made of copper from Larry Swank

Knight Family papers, ledgers and account books and photographs from John & Ann Knight

Milk Bottle from the Sheffield Farms Co from Richard Sheffield

Papers from the Sheldrake Methodist Church from Diane Schmidt Barlow

Trumansburg Home Telephone Co photograph of the operators on the night of the switch over to automatic dialing from Marge Wyckoff (*shown below*)

Financial gift from Roger F. Eslinger in



honor of Caroline & Bill Pritchard.

New Members

Phyllis Packer Jagusiak, Berkeley, CA

Stephen Huber, Trumansburg

Cheryl Westervelt, Interlaken

New Life Members:

Joan Hendrix & Scott C. Smith, Interlaken

News of Our Neighbors

Ulysses Historical Society

August 8, 2009 the Society will host a self-guided tour of six historical barns in the Trumansburg area. Registration will be at the Ulysses Historical Society's building on South Street starting at 9 a.m., ending at 11. Barns may be viewed until noon. For additional information please call 607-532-3423.

Ovid Historical Society

Folk Arts Festival on July 11 at the Museum, 7203 Main Street Ovid hours 10 to 3. We will have many artists demonstrating their skills with yarn, caning, making baskets, weaving, making yarn from wool, and sheep staked outside. There will be lots for children to see and do, plus sales and more.

October 19 at 7 pm will be a presentation of Olde Postcards by Walt Gable, county Historian. These will be postcards that were not shown at the program in May.

RED DOT ALERT

July 1st begins the new fiscal year for the Society. Dues for 2009-2010 should be paid at this time. If a RED DOT is on your address label, that means you owe dues. Please see the insert to the newsletter for specifics. Thank you!

New American Flag and New York State Flag on our Library Lawn

by Gerry Messmer

Before the Interlaken American Legion Post 462 retired its charter a few months ago, it made a donation of \$100 to the Interlaken Historical Society to be used for public service projects in the community. In April, Society president Allan Buddle authorized a \$50 gift to the Hinman Public Library, and asked me to contact the library to ask how the money might best be used. Since the funds originally came from the American Legion it was decided that the money should be used to replace the old and worn American and New York State flags that were in front of the library.

I sent a copy of Allan's letter to the library, and arrangements were made to purchase the new flags, with the able assistance of Librarian Pat Moore. Pat also accepted our offer to retire the old flags properly once the new flags were installed. The flags were ordered and received, and on the behalf of the Society, I presented them to the library with an additional surprise gift.

The bonus gift was a Teachers Training Guide for the American flag along with a DVD entitled "For Which It Stands." This program should be a great help to teachers and other members of the community concerned with the history, meaning and significance of the American flag. It also serves as a guide for respecting and caring for our flag. Allan has notified our local schools regarding this program.

While we are on the subject of the American Legion and the American flag it should be noted that since the Interlaken American Legion Post 462 has passed into history the responsibility for placing flags on the graves of our veterans needed to be assumed by some other organization. As Past Commander of the Post, it was both my wish and duty to find some way to carry on this respectful and time-honored tradition. I asked for suggestions, and it was recommended that we approach the Interlaken Grange #160.

In the meantime, my wife Millie and I had joined the Interlaken Grange, and with encouragement, I presented the idea to the Grange that they take over the responsibly of continuing the tradition of decorating the veterans' graves each year with American flags. My wish came true! Interlaken can proudly see how the Grange has "adopted" our veterans with "flags-a-flying for 2009" at the Lake View Cemetery. The flags will remain in place from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, and then be retired. Congratulations to the Interlaken Grange for a job well done.

New Flags at the Library.



Finger Lakes National Forest and Backbone Ridge History Group Clean-up Abandoned Cemeteries

by Allan Buddle

Three beautiful spring days found a group of volunteers and National Forest Employees clearing brush and dead trees from two abandoned cemeteries, one in the Town of Lodi and the other in the Town of Covert. Six stones had been previously recorded in the cemetery on Crisfield Road in Lodi. The cleanup crew located several more. The Covert Methodist Smith Plot on County Road 143 in Covert contains about sixty stones, although it is likely that more will be found.

In both cemeteries many of the stones had fallen over many decades ago as the pine board boxes in which people were buried, rotted and the ground fell in around them taking the stones with them. The fallen stones with the names, birth dates, date of death and touching inscriptions were buried under six to eight inches of soil and a thick blanket of periwinkle.

As the digging proceeded someone would call out enthusiastically, "I found Pete," or "Here is Ellen." The stones were cleaned, washed, the inscriptions noted and where feasible, they were righted and anchored.

Among the descendants of families buried in the Covert Methodist Smith Plot on hand to help with the cleanup were Georgianna and Jim Stevenson of Trumansburg and Rick and Carol Skinner of Waterloo.

National Forest Archaeologist Dave Lacy led the project replicating a very popular program in the Green Mountain and White Mountain National Forests in Vermont and New Hampshire. Dave commented that gravestone restoration work is not

rocket science but does require some common sense respecting the age and condition of the stones. He encouraged a continuation of the preservation activities of the many old abandoned cemeteries in and around the Finger Lakes National Forest and hopes to be back next spring for another cleanup session.

More Memories of Lottie Taylor

A recent note from Jean Ellis Grace provides another look at Lottie Taylor, that lady whose diary we quoted from in the January issue.

The April newsletter brought back some long lost memories to me.

When I was a little girl, perhaps around 1932, my mother Alice Austin Ellis, and my aunt, Lara Austin Close, packed asters that were raised on the Gates farm. I believe they were carefully packed in boxes and then shipped by train that night to New York City. My cousin, Bob Close and I were brought along and played outdoors while our mothers were busy. No baby sitters back then.

One day as we were running around the building, a bee stung me on the eyelid, which almost immediately swelled shut. My mother took me to Dr. Gould's office in Interlaken. It seems as if we went upstairs on the outside of the building, perhaps the bank.

Someone had suggested he might have to lance my eyelid, so I was very scared, but he just told my mother to put warm witch hazel compresses on it.

I remember Lottie Taylor and Jason Gates from the experience. I wonder if anyone else remembers when they raised asters?

Editor's note: included in items given by the Gates family were a number of journals which detail the raising of Asters.

A Look Back

by Bob Dickerson

Back in the 1930s, when I was about 5 or 6 years old, we lived on Prospect Street in the village of Interlaken. When not in school, I liked to ride my tricycle all around town, something you could do safely in those days.

I had some favorite places that I liked to visit on my rides. One was a mechanic who had a small shop a few doors north of the firehouse on Main Street. I would visit with him, and watch him work, and if my bike needed fixing he would take care of it for me.

Duane Hiltbrandt had a large barn out in back of his home on Orchard Street. On good days he would sit out there caning chairs. I would stop for a visit and watch him work. After I retired I learned how to cane chairs. It was a good hobby, and I did many chairs for family and friends (no charge).

Another favorite spot was the railroad station where there was a nice waiting room and a friendly station agent. I would go in and pretend that I was waiting for a train, and if he was not too busy, the station agent would help me to pretend. I liked to be there when the Black Diamond train came through. An arm would come out and grab the mail bag that was on a post on the east side of the tracks. My dad and John Kellogg went to Geneva, and rode on this train during its last run, but I don't remember the year.

I also liked to stop at Wickes Drug Store where I believe, you could get an ice cream cone at the soda fountain for a nickel. I also learned an important lesson in that store. As you walked in there was a candy rack by the door, and one day, seeing nobody around, I helped myself to a candy bar. Little did I know, Mr. Wickes the druggist, had a peep-hole in the back where he filled prescriptions, and there he was, saying "Bob you better put that back." Later, as a teenager, I worked at the soda fountain with Donald VanWagenen who's father was the minister of the Reformed Church.

Another place I loved to visit was the local newspaper, *The Interlaken Review*, which was run, at that time, by Mr. Blauvelt, and later owned by my uncle Adrian Dickerson. I would stand in the large doorway and watch the pressman set up the press to print the paper. A few times they let me go in and watch.

The Goodman Hotel was on the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets and at that time there was an older lady who lived in a nice apartment on the second floor next to the large balcony. I can't remember her name, but I called her Auntie. If she happened to see me going by she would hail me from the balcony, saying "Bob, come up and play some cards." I spent hours playing rummy with her. When she died, she left me \$500 in her will (a good chunk of money in those days), but her family contested it, and I never received the money.

EVERYTHING THAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

by Barbara B. Stewart

Do you remember going out in to the family garden and picking a sun warmed tomato, right off the vine? Perhaps you ate it out of hand or if you could wait, took it into the kitchen, slicing it and placing on fresh baked bread, maybe with some butter or Mayo? What was the best part? The tomato tasted like a tomato!! When has that happened recently?!!

Yes, it's true you can purchase tomatoes year round. It's "summer somewhere." Many are rock hard, barely pink and are often tasteless, sort of a mystery veggie. Many of these tomatoes have been bred for disease resistance, shelf life, travel ability and consistency. After all, you want those tomatoes to fit "just so" into those Styrofoam containers.

Some 50 years or so ago, many people saved their own seeds and passed them down to future generations, truly heirlooms. In some areas of the world this is still done. As seed companies grew larger, it became more profitable to breed hybrids that gave higher yields. They were further helped by chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The hybrids do grow well in a wide range of climates, but if these seeds are saved, the replanted seeds don't breed true. Yielding questionable results.

These days you can "go home again" and grow a truly tasty tomato. There are over 500 varieties of tomatoes to choose from. They maybe called Heritage or Heirloom and many are named after the first per-

son to grow them hundreds of years ago. To be a true Heirloom, the variety must be at least 50 years old and openly pollinated.

If you chose to grow some of these tasty treats, be prepared for a less than picture perfect fruit. Different colors and shapes are unique to Heirloom veggies. Some of the fruits will be green, purple or orange. They maybe as small as peas or the size of melons.

Some examples are the Amish Paste Tomato. It is red, heart shaped and matures in 85 days. The Aranyalma, Hungarian for "Golden Apple," are yellow cherry tomatoes. Cherokee Purple is over 100 years old and was grown by the Cherokee Indians. Often our growing season can be cool, cold some years. The Glacier Tomato could be a real winner. It starts flowering at 4 inches and does well in the cold weather.

There are many upsides to growing these "oldies but goodies." They grow well without artificial chemicals and fertilizers, and they often crop over a longer period of time, providing more fruit to enjoy longer!! Many can overcome diseases and pests.

Perhaps the best reason of all to grow them is the TASTE!! I think that says it all. When you are planning for next seasons plantings, why not give the Heirlooms a chance? Nothing to lose and so much to gain.

The author wishes to thank "The Vegan News" Pauline Lloyd and "The Helpful Gardner" for their input for this article.

Summers at *The Hemlocks*

by Nancy Radloff

What could be better on a warm summer day than relaxing with family or friends along the shores of the cool waters of Cayuga Lake? Swimming, boating, fishing, or simply relaxing – when different generations of a large extended family share these activities, the sense of family and tradition are strengthened. This is the story of a lake, a cottage, and a family who has loved them for 95 years.

The Rev. Elias B. Van Arsdale was the son of the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Hixon Van Arsdale, and both men were Reformed pastors. Elias came to Farmer in 1893 as pastor of the Reformed Church. He married Agnes Royle a year later in New Jersey and brought her back to set up housekeeping in the church parsonage, a large house that still stands at the corner of Main and Orchard Streets. They were an exceptional young couple. Elias was beloved by his congregation and active in the Masonic lodge, serving as Grand Chaplain of the State of New York in 1908. He founded the local Boy Scout troop and a history club, helped develop the local library, served as president of the school board, and introduced musical and lecture programs to the town. He also was quite a gardener, growing corn, beets, cabbage, potatoes, radishes, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, and pumpkins. Whatever surplus he had was traded to neighbors for whatever they grew that he didn't.¹



Elias
and
Agnes



Agnes was the “pampered” daughter of John Royle, Jr., the proprietor of the manufacturing facility “John Royle and Sons of Paterson.”² She was reserved and, by her own admission, could scarcely boil water when she married Elias. However, she learned quickly and was very active in her husband’s church, working with Ladies’ Aid and the Sunday school, leading the singing and actively participating in foreign and domestic missionary societies. She was also active in the Women’s Christian Temperance Union. Elias and Agnes had two sons, John Royle born in 1896, and Lyle born in 1898.³ She had “a will of iron, an inflexible sense of right and wrong and a steady purpose to defend her beliefs against any challenges.”⁴

Cayuga Lake was already a popular destination for town residents by the time Elias and Agnes were married. Local diaries mention outings to the lake. “Mary and I went to the lake in the afternoon. The lake was just like glass.”⁵ “In the afternoon Mary and I went down to the lake.

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Took our supper with us. Rather cool.”⁶ Young people often walked to the lake, and adults either walked or took their buggies or wagons. Churches held social gatherings by the lake, and families took picnics to the lake. The Van Arsdales also enjoyed outings to the lake. John Royle, Elias’ older son, wrote:

“During the summer when we had company, usually some visiting member of the family from New Jersey, my father would hire a horse and wagon from one of the town’s two livery stables, pack us all in and drive to Sheldrake Point for a beach picnic. Those were always gala occasions – much preparation, much packing of lunches, much making sure we had everything we’d need. There were only two cottages on the point in those days, many trees, and untrampled lucky stone gravel.”⁷

Elias and his father loved spending time together and talking, and they particularly loved fishing. John Royle gave this account:

“Our grandparents managed to visit us in Interlaken almost every year. Grandpa Van Arsdale came up for fishing. He and Father would take the “Busy Bee” Ferry from Kidders’ across the lake, catch the morning train down [sic] to Union Springs where the fishing was supposed to be the best, rent a boat, and give their luck a thorough try...”⁸

With such a steady stream of people flowing to the lake for fun and recreation, and given the changeable weather along the water, it was just a matter of time before



*John Kellogg’s shack on Shanty Town Beach,
circa 1906.*

some of the residents began putting together temporary shacks to provide shelter as needed. Above is a picture of one of these areas; “Shanty Town Beach” was located just south of Interlaken Beach.⁹ Apparently, though, those who built and used these shacks didn’t mind sharing their part of the beach. Former Boy Scout John Royle wrote, “All of us [in the Scout troop] like to tramp over the fields and through the woods to the lake and occasionally pitch an overnight tent on the Shanty Town Beach where some of the older men of the town had built shacks.”¹⁰

Having rustic shelter on the beach led some of the townspeople to buy lake lots and build permanent summer cottages that would always be available to them. The De-los Bennetts, the Abraham Minors, Rev. Palmer, the J. B. Petersons, and the Grants all bought or built cottages on Interlaken Beach. Mr. J. B. Peterson died in 1914, and his widow decided to sell their cottage, “*The Hemlocks*.” Family records indicate that

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Mr. Royle paid \$1000 for the cottage, which was built in the mid-1890s, and presented it to Agnes as a gift.¹¹

This was an incredibly generous gift to a family that was used to more frugal living. Lyle, Agnes and Elias' younger son, stated that, in spite of consuming 12 to 15 tons of coal each winter, the parsonage was always cold.¹² Elias was still using a horse and buggy or a bicycle to make semi-annual visits to everyone in his congregation. In that same year, an auto dealer in Ovid tried to sell Elias a new Model T. He took the pastor for a test drive, and Elias was very tempted. However, the winter's coal bill was looming, and his annual salary of \$1000 precluded the purchase of a \$500 car.¹³



The Hemlocks as seen from a raft in the lake.

When the Van Arsdales took over *The Hemlocks*, what is now Interlaken Beach Road stopped at Morehouse Landing, just above where the public part of the road ends today.¹⁴ However, there were buggy paths then that led directly to specific cottages. One of these paths ran from about the end of

Cayuga Street straight to the back of the Van Arsdale cottage. Elias kept a buggy at the lake and presumably traveled back to the village as needed for work or supplies.¹⁵ Agnes and the boys could travel back and forth, too, but it seems likely that most of their time during the summer was spent in their lake cottage.

In 1916, Elias accepted a church in New Jersey and left Interlaken, making it more difficult to spend the summer at *The Hemlocks*.

While there is no documentation to support this, it seems likely that the cottage would have been occupied by at least some of the family for at least part of the summer. Elias' family had friends in town, and both sets of grandparents (as well as aunts and uncles) apparently enjoyed spending time on Interlaken Beach. And, this was the pattern followed later by his son John Royle's family.

Time passed, and Elias and Agnes' sons grew up. John Royle went to college in 1915, served in World War I, married, had children, and built a career in advertising; he worked in Manhattan, commuting in from the family's home in New Jersey. Interlaken would never again be his permanent residence. Lyle, however, chose a different path. He never married, and he lived his entire life in Interlaken. As an adult, he spent the winters on his "gentleman's" farm just north of Interlaken; Janet Van Arsdale Shaw remembers playing with Lyle's pet pig

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Winston when she visited Interlaken during the summers of her childhood.¹⁶ Lyle later moved to a house in town. An article in the *Geneva Times* in 1967 described Lyle as an “unusual man” who was “always ready with a helping hand, a card or gift when needed.”¹⁷ The same article mentions Lyle’s love of and care for dogs. Steve Van Arsdale remembers that Lyle often drove slowly through Interlaken, tossing dog biscuits out of the window; the town dogs watched for Lyle’s car and followed it in groups, waiting for the next biscuit toss.¹⁸ He spent his entire adult life in Interlaken, keeping busy with odd jobs. He built his own summer cottage, *Hi-Vu*, on the Van Arsdale property in the mid-1930s, just south of *The Hemlocks*. People in town still speak fondly of Lyle.

By the 1930s there was a third generation of Van Arsdales coming to Interlaken Beach. Since Lyle never married and had his own house on the lake, *The Hemlocks* became the summer cottage of his brother John Royle Van Arsdale’s family. Every summer he brought his wife Dorothy and their children, Janet, Royle, and Sally, up during the week of the 4th of July. After setting off the fireworks and celebrating the holiday with his family, John Royle returned to New Jersey; his wife and children remained in residence at *The Hemlocks*. He returned on Labor Day weekend to take his family home for the school year.¹⁹ However, Dorothy and the children had plenty of company, including Elias and Agnes Van Arsdale.

John Royle and Dorothy’s son Royle has many fond memories spending time with his grandparents on the lake. He doesn’t remember ever seeing Elias swim, but he does remember that his grandfather loved coming to *The Hemlocks* and fishing and sitting on the beach. In fact, Royle states that it was his grandfather Elias who taught him how to fish from the dock of *The Hemlocks*.²⁰ He recalls that his father was often away, working. However, his father’s book offers another explanation for the fact that he didn’t teach his son to fish:

“Father inadvertently taught me not to be a fisherman. Nothing delighted him more than to sit out there on the lake in a little rowboat and wait for some stupid fish to pull the bobber under. He took me along a time or two, but such non-activity seemed unprofitable to me, even when we ended up with the makings of a tasty meal or two. (I know nothing more tasty than a well cooked Cayuga Lake perch fresh out of the water.) I simply had not yet developed the art of contemplation to a degree that preferred a state of tranquility to an opportunity for activity.”²¹

Royle recalls that his grandparents Elias and Agnes were proper in dress and behavior, even at the lake during the summer. Agnes loved to knit, and the family remembers her sitting either in her rocking chair on the porch or in a chair swing on the beach, knitting and watching the grandchildren play. She was very generous, but she also had very strict rules that governed the beach

The Hemlocks continued from page 12 throughout her life and became part of the family lore after her death. There was no cursing in her presence – not even a ‘darn’ was uttered. There was no consumption of alcohol, and Sunday was a quiet day. There was no playing or frolicking, and the children were not allowed to read “the funnies.”²² No one was to go near the water for one hour after eating. Meals were served on a schedule. Royle doesn’t remember what time breakfast was, but lunch was served at noon. The children were usually out playing in the morning, but they knew when it was lunch time: a boat with a diesel engine stopped across the lake at noon, and that let the children know it was time to run home for lunch. Dinner was at 6 in the evening. All meals were served inside *The Hemlocks*. And Agnes sat in the living room every evening before bed.

Agnes had help in the household, even during Royle’s childhood. Like some of the other early residents, she brought a maid with her to help with the housework and do the cooking.²³ The children had chores, too. The well for *The Hemlocks* was next door, where the Shaw cottage is today. Royle remembers going to the well for a pail of water for every meal.²⁴

To be continued October 2009

1 John Royle Van Arsdale, *A Boy’s Life in Interlaken*. Based on the 1911 to 1915 Diaries of J.R.V.A., n.p., written and revised 1974, 15.
2 Ibid., 4.

3 John Royle apparently went by ‘Royle.’ In an effort to differentiate him from his son and his grandfather, I will call him John Royle throughout.
4 *A Boy’s Life*, 4.
5 Olive E. Williams Diary, Interlaken Historical Society, May 25, 1873.
6 Ibid. August 24, 1873.
7 *A Boy’s Life*, 20-21.
8 Ibid., 36.
9 Bruce Clark, interview by the author, May 2009.
10 *A Boy’s Life*, 41.
11 Ibid.
12 Lyle Van Arsdale, interview by Helen Burr, transcript, Interlaken Historical Society, 2.
13 *A Boy’s Life*, 17.
14 The road ended in a loop that went down just south of the large brick house, through the area where Nancy Greweling and Joe Scaglione’s house now stands, and back up the hill to the north of the brick house, where the current road lies. [Bruce Clark.]
15 J. Royle Van Arsdale, Jr., interview by the author, April 2009.
16 Douglas Shaw’s email to the author, 2 June 2009.
17 Judy Dickerson, “Man is Dog’s Best Friend,” *Geneva Times*, 3/25/1967, 7.
18 Steven Van Arsdale’s email to the author, 3 June 2009.
19 Royle Van Arsdale interview.
20 *A Boy’s Life*, 37.
21 Douglas Shaw, email to the author, 2 June 2009.
22 Bruce Clark, current owner of Rev. Palmer’s cottage, points out that his property has two outhouses: one for the family and their friends, and the other for their black servants. (Bruce Clark interview, May 2009)
24 This was not uncommon. Bruce Clark tells of the cottage his grandparents bought in 1938 sharing a well with the neighbors, the Bassetts. (Bruce Clark interview, May 2009.)

Nancy Radloff and her family live on the Interlaken Beach Road, moving there in 2000.

Of course, summertime at the lake was also a time of freedom and fun, particularly for the children. Royle remembers going hiking

Olde Home Day 2009



Inside the museum:
The laundry corner with its wringer and clothes basket and
The wall of pictures features "People At Work"

Outside
Community Action Group president visits
with Citizen of the Year Charlotte Huyler.

The Green Thumb Garden Club with their
yearly plant sale.





Freedom Village of Lakemont, NY brought their award winning float with its tribute to Iwo Jima, and their Sounds of Freedom singers.

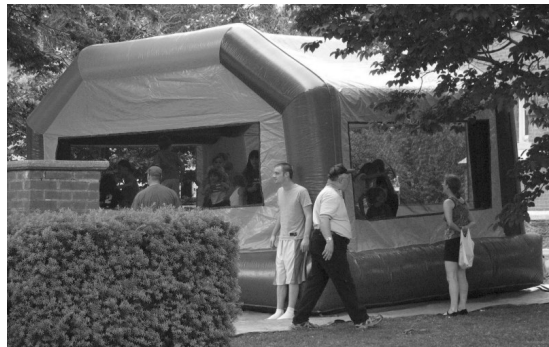


The new flag pole in front of the museum.



Greyhounds on the library lawn.

A fun house on the Baptist Church lawn, especially for the younger visitors to Olde Home Day.





On Olde Home Day visitors got their first look at the new displays for this summer. The museums are open Saturdays in July and August 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, or by appointment, call 607-532-8899 or 532-9227

Special one day events each Saturday

July 18th Bee culture with Duane Waid
July 25th Cradle and shock spring wheat
August 1st Sheep, spinning, and weaving with Kari Lusk
August 15th Flail and clean spring wheat
August 29th Quilting
Check the website for updates

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Is there a Red Dot on your address label?

See page 4 for details.

Mark your calendar

July 19th Community Social 4:00 pm on the Library lawn, sponsored by the Interlaken Historical Society, ICAG and others. Rain location, First Baptist Church.

September 1st Items for the Newsletter are due
October 26th Tim Martinson "History of Grape Growing in the Finger Lakes"

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