

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 35, No. 3 January 2010

www.InterlakenHistory.org



One of the pianos restored by Ed Swenson in his Interlaken studio. He will discuss this and other restored instruments on Monday January 25th. Please join us..

IHS January Program The History and Restoration of Early Pianos Monday January 25, 2010 7:30 p.m. Town of Covert Municipal Building

Please join the Interlaken Historical Society for an evening of The History and Restoration of Early Pianos with Photographs and Musical Examples of Pianos Restored by Edward Swenson on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Piano restorer Edward Swenson graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a performance degree and a certificate in piano technology. After four years of study in Austria and Italy, he received an M.A. from the Mozarteum Academy in Salzburg. Completing his education in musicology at Cornell University, Swenson received a Ph.D. in 1974. Since 1970 Mr. Swenson has taught music history at the Ithaca College School of Music, where he teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate music history courses.

He also continues to be active as a performer. Recently he presented a voice recital at Ithaca College entitled: Three Pianos and one Tenor, which featured 19th-century songs accompanied by three period pianos restored in his workshop.

Historical pianos restored by Mr. Swenson can be found in many places worldwide including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Nippon Cultural

Center in Tokyo, the Schubert Club museum in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Beethoven Center at San José State University, the Granger Homestead in nearby Canandaigua, and the Hyde Hall Historic Site near Cooperstown, NY.

Swenson's presentation will discuss the evolution, restoration, and technical development of the pianoforte using instruments restored in his shop as examples. In addition to photographs, there will also be music from the numerous CDs that have been made using Swenson's restored instruments.

The program will be held at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 Main Street, and is free and open to the public.

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

Table of Contents

January Program	Page 1
President's Message	Page 2
Cousin Hunting	Page 3
Society News	Page 4
Library News	Page 5
All Aboard, Olive's Big Adventure	Page 6-9
Volunteer Tea	Pages 10
Changes in the Village	Page 11

President's Message

Welcome, Windows and Winter

Winter has arrived with its cold weather, snow and for some, a time to stay inside with projects and tasks set aside while we enjoyed the outdoor activities of warmer weather. Winter has not slowed several activities here in Interlaken; many of which are "History in the Making."

On behalf of the Historical Society we want to welcome "Conifer Village at Interlaken." This 28-unit senior housing project is in the construction stage on property behind Cayuga Street. Its five-year history leading up to ground breaking and construction has been recorded in many places and its construction is being recorded on the Village of Interlaken website at www.villageofinterlaken.org/seniorhousing.html, or use the link from our own www.interlakenhistory.org website. A couple of pictures from the project are shown on page 11 and many more can be viewed on the website. Occupancy is expected in August 2010.

A second group to say welcome to is the Main Street Revitalization group. This ad-hoc group has been meeting for several months. They are looking at assisting businesses, building owners and the community in sprucing up Main Street and helping to bring grant funding to make improvements to the area. One sign of their success is a new sign. GunBlack has been located in the old Case Block for over 22 years, but many people didn't know who they were. The Main Street Revitalization group brought together the Interlaken Community Action Group, local artist Chris Wolff, and owner Frank Kempf with the result that a building sign was commissioned and hung in November.

By the time that you read this newsletter most of us will have taken down the window decorations and displays that were put in for the holidays. Each time we change the display in the Museum window the question comes to me "where are pictures of window displays from years past?" Do you remember the days when Main Street windows were painted by High School students in honor of school activities? Or when merchandise or an organization's display was shown off in shop windows? Do you have pictures from those events? Are you willing to share them with the historical society? We would be happy to have copies made for our collection.

An Adirondack Christmas on display at Hubbard Heating & Plumbing this season

Once in a while we also get to look through the "window of time" to an earlier



event in our community's history. Such a window has been opened for us by the work of Nancy Radloff who is writing a new work sponsored by the Historical Society. Nancy is using Olive Williams' 1873 to 1878 diary to explore many topics from that era. We get to peek through the train windows as Nancy provides a look at 13-year old Olive's train trip to Owego in 1875. Given Olive's age when she wrote the diary Nancy is writing for the middle school age

group, but I am sure we will all enjoy reading the book. We would especially like to thank the Delavan Foundation for their support of this project. A book signing and program by Nancy are anticipated for the July 2010 society meeting.

Diane Bassette Nelson

On behalf of the Interlaken Historical Society we extend our heartfelt sympathies to Ray Ferrand, Cathy Bullock and Ellen Whitley on the passing of Betty Ferrand on December 25th. Betty has been an active member of the Interlaken Historical Society for many years. In the past she was typist for the Historical Society Newsletter, assisted with the committees for Pat Patterson's Bi-Centennial volume *Between the Lakes* A History of South Seneca County, Town of Covert and Village of Interlaken; and the History of the Interlaken Reformed Church. Betty and Ray also served as docents at the museums. This lovely and gracious lady will be missed by many.

We also extend our sympathy to Anne Knight on the passing of her husband John. John has been an active community member and sheep farmer for many years. He has contributed articles for the newsletter, served as a resource for young people visiting the Farmers' Museum to learn about raising sheep, generously donated artifacts to the museum and been a docent at the Farmers' Museum. His kind, gentle presence will be missed..

Cousin Hunting

My name is Nathaniel (Nat) Emens and I have been researching the Emens, Emans, Emons, and Emmons Family since 1994. I have a problem that I hope you could help me with. It seems that there are too many Emens or Emmons who have people with the given name of Garret or Garrett. There is a Garret Emmons who lived in Covert and is buried in the Lake View Cemetery in Interlaken. One source tells me that he is the son of John Emans who is also buried in Interlaken. Another source says that Garret Emens or Emmons is the son of Peter or Petrus Emens of Freehold, N.J. Thus, I would like to clear up this discrepancy. I would be interested in this Garret Emens or Emmons and any of the Emmons in your area. Thank you for any help that you are able to provide.

Nat Emens (nemens@comcast.net)
16 Mitchell St., Middleboro, MA 02346

*A square grand piano restored by
Edward Swenson. www.mozartpiano.com*



New Members

Sandy and Jack Huhn, Interlaken, NY
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Messmer III,
 Adkins, TX

New Life Members:

Beverly and Jim Close, Interlaken, NY
 Winfield J. Scott, Wauwatosa, WI
 Lee and Sharon Braden, Interlaken, NY
 Lucas Vineyards, Interlaken, NY
 Nellie and Susan Hay, Lodi, NY

Donations to the Society

Mary Day Diamond: personal and political memorabilia of Ted Day
 Dr. William Drake and family: shaving equipment originally used by William Blauvelt a barber in Interlaken in the early 1900s. See the picture of William Blauvelt and Main Street in 1905 on page 11.

Financial gifts from:

Fred and Carol Moore, Turkey
 Tom and Betsy Salm, Interlaken,
 Maureen Callahan-Wing, Interlaken,
 Charlotte and John Swanson, Interlaken,
 Muriel Huttenbach, Marietta, GA, in honor of her dad, Maurice Patterson
 Marisa Crawford, in honor of her grandfather, Maurice Patterson
 Ari Van Tienhoven, as a Christmas present to Marty Schlabach and Mary Jean Welser
 Holly and John Bailey, in honor of Bill and Mimi Schaffner's 50th wedding Anniversary

It's interesting to scan the mailing list for the newsletter and see so many states, and even Canada, included. Recently the Society received a generous donation from Fred and Carol Moore living in that faraway country called Turkey. Fred, son of Pat Moore, remarked on how much they enjoy receiving the newsletter. The editors were curious about what a home town boy is doing in Turkey. Here's Fred's reply.

Newsletter Appreciated in Turkey

I'm employed with the government doing contract administration work on a multi-million (\$357M) dollar cost-plus award-fee contract. All of the government logistical support here across Turkey is provided by a US Contractor and has been since 1955. Our current contractor has been providing the support for more than 20 years.

This is our third assignment in Turkey; we're on the south coast near Adana about forty minutes from the Mediterranean. We've been here just over six years this time and will be returning stateside next year.

We travel extensively throughout the country and I write articles about the sights and cultural fabric of Turkey. The seven churches of revelation are here as are civilizations dating back some 10,000 years!!!

Turkey is a wealth of historical knowledge --- the people are wonderful and the food is fantastic!

We would highly encourage anyone who can to visit and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of these beautiful people.

Warmest regards

Fred Moore - DAF - CIV - x3993

PS: here's a WEB SITE I write for:

<http://www.merhabaturkey.com/1MOOREIndex.html>

Library News

by Pat Moore

2009 was a very good year for our library. We now have a great children's room. While it isn't completely put together, we are getting there. The last of the shelves need to be stained. The children and their parents are enjoying the room. The Pre K classes have more room to spread out. It is much easier for Mimi Schaffner, our story reader, to do the songs and little plays with the children.

For the children's group in December the stories were all about mice. The craft project was to make The Christmas Mouse. Mrs. Moore has the project cut out and ready for the children to make: a felt mouse with a candy cane tail. The candy cane will go back to class and we will use a pipe cleaner for the tail for here. The mice are very cute and the children enjoy seeing what they have made displayed on the table. The children enjoy both the stories and the crafts.

We want to thank Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Stasierowski for walking the children to the library once a month. Tina VandeSlunt brings the literacy youngsters once a month also. They are 2 and 3 years old and very good listeners. They are learning to do some sign language and always tell us something using it; in November it was Happy Thanksgiving.

We are grateful to Mr. Steesy who has given us two nice chairs. This allows the patrons to have more places to sit while looking at the books or magazines.

Our collection of Books on CD is very popular right now. While we still have

Books on Tape, they will be phased out in 2010. Please stop in to find something you would like to check out.

Thank you to Kate and Gary Hunt who provided our Christmas tree. It was decorated with homemade ornaments from years past.

The library has been very busy this fall. I think everyone is enjoying the expansion of our facilities. We look forward to seeing you in 2010. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and have a very happy and safe New Year.

Librarian Pat Moore and volunteers helping the Pre-K students with their December craft projects.

Are you needing a book to beat the winter blues? Check out the selections on the insert or look at the Society website:



www.InterlakenHistory.org/gifts.html



All Aboard! Olive's Big Adventure
By Nancy Radloff

Pleasant, but some cloudy. I am going to take the 6 ½ train for Owego this evening. Going alone. I have to change cars at Ithaca. I am going to stop at Aunt Lucy's.¹ I don't know whether there is any one going to meet me. I suppose I shall get very much excited and flustered, but I will try not to. I am going to take my white dress and wear my grey plaid one. Now old diary I will give you a good long account of my visit when I get back. I will return some time next week.²

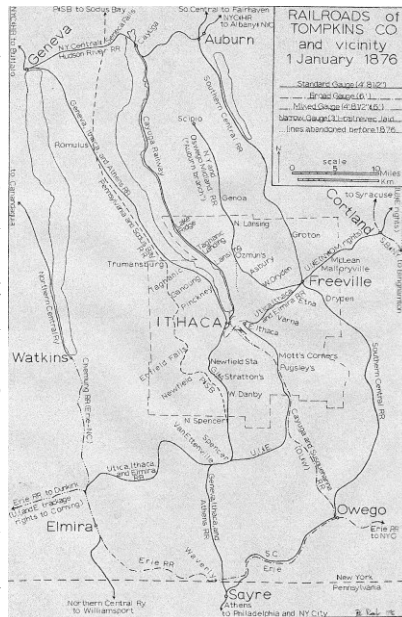
Olive Evans Williams was thirteen years old when she wrote this entry in the journal she kept from 1873 to September, 1878. Olive, her parents John and Susan (Goodrich), and her half-siblings Ransom, Stella, and David, were all born in Tioga County, New York. The family moved to a farm in Covert when Olive was a toddler, but they remained in close contact with their Owego relatives, exchanging letters, gifts, and visits. Susan's brothers owned a store in Owego, and they often sent packages to Susan's family in Covert. The most common mode of travel between Covert and Owego was by train. While this was not Olive's first trip to Owego by train, it was apparently the first time she traveled alone, and she was justifiably nervous.

In 1800, people generally lived their lives within a small geographic area, and they produced what they needed within their communities; they travelled by foot, by wagon, or by sailboat. That changed during the course of the

next one hundred years. The Industrial Revolution mechanized labor and moved production into factories within, or close to, the established communities. Westward expansion and its lure of greater opportunities drew people into remote lands west of Buffalo. The invention of the steamboat, and the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, was the first step to improved trade. Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River connected Ithaca to Buffalo and, through the Great Lakes, to the western frontier. But how could factories move their merchandise beyond the waterways and established roads?

The town of Owego sits on the Susquehanna River. The Erie railroad was chartered in Owego in 1831 and incorporated as the "New York and Erie Railroad" in 1832.³ The creation of this railroad allowed the transport of goods from New York City by rail or boat through Owego and west to

Lake Erie. The businessmen of Ithaca wanted part of this deal. The Ithaca and Owego Railroad – the second railroad chartered in New York State and the fourth to be open to the public – was created to provide access to Owego.⁴ During the early days of this line, there were no signals and no timetables, which created confusion on the tracks. When two trains met on the single line of track, freight trains had the right of way, and horses and passengers were called upon



to lift one train off the track so that the other could pass.⁵

In 1843, the Ithaca and Owego Railroad defaulted on their loan and was auctioned off. It became known as the Cayuga and Susquehanna on April 18, 1843, named for the two bodies of water which it connected.⁶ In 1855 this line became part of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad.⁷

Once the track to Owego was established, merchandise was moved from Owego to Ithaca by train, moved onto ferries and carried to the north end of Cayuga Lake, and put onto train cars that ran along the northern end of the lake and on to Buffalo.⁸ The completion of the Geneva and Ithaca Railroad in 1873 eliminated the need for the ferry and simplified the shipping of goods. It also made it easier for people to travel.

Olive was a young girl when her parents put her on the train to Owego. She was independent within the safe boundaries of her family's farm and the small world in which she lived, but she was not accustomed to traveling so far by herself. It is understandable that she was both excited and flustered by the prospect. The "6 1/2 train" was part of the Geneva, Ithaca & Athens Railroad line. The evening train left Geneva at 5:30 and traveled through West Fayette, Romulus, Hayt's Corners, and Ovid Centre before arriving in Farmer at 6:28. Once Olive and her fellow passengers boarded, the train travelled south to Ithaca, passing through Covert, "Trumansburgh," "Taghanic" and Willow Creek along the way. If it ran on time, it arrived at the Ithaca station about 7:12 PM.⁹

Olive had to change trains in Ithaca. Rail service to Owego had

vastly improved since the days of horse-drawn trains with no set schedules or signals. The Ithaca and Owego Railroad, now part of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, stopped in Willseyville, Candor, and Catatonk before arriving in Owego's station. This station, the first in Tioga County, was located on Front Street near Center Street.

While rail travel was rapidly expanding and improving, it still had quirks and delays. Olive's diary entry of August 21st recounts the problems she encountered on her return trip to Farmer. It also provides a glimpse of Olive's personality, an intriguing combination of resourcefulness, intelligence, precocious maturity, and delightful joie de vivre:

August 21st, Saturday Pleasant. I got home from Owego Thursday afternoon. I got up at 4 o'clock and Mr. Chatfield took me to the depot at 4 1/2.¹⁰ The train came at 5:15. I got on and Mr. C went away. The train waited a while and then some one came in and said that the passengers who wished to go home and get their breakfast could do so as the train would probably not go before 7 or 8 o'clock. I thought I would go back to Aunt G's and wait for the evening train but a man there said the evening

train would probably be late, too, so I waited in the car until after 9 o'clock when the train at last started.¹¹ It did not get over to Ithaca until nearly 12. Mr. Billings got me a hack and I told the

Lines of Travel.					
Geneva, Ithaca & Athens R. R.					
PASSENGER AND MAIL TRAINS.					
Going North.		STATIONS	Going South.		
P. M.	A. M.		P. M.	A. M.	
7:35	3:05	Ithaca.	7:12	7:00	11:58
7:47	3:18	Willow Creek.	6:50	6:43	11:43
7:53	3:24	Taghanic.	6:50	6:38	11:38
8:00	3:30	Trumansburgh.	6:45	6:32	11:32
8:10	3:38	Covert.	6:30	6:23	11:23
8:18	3:46	Farmer.	6:28	6:14	11:14
8:25	3:56	Ovid Centre.	6:20	6:05	11:05
8:34	4:05	Hayt's Corners.	6:10	5:57	10:57
8:45	4:15	Romulus.	5:58	5:45	10:45
9:00	4:30	West Fayette.	5:46	5:33	10:33
9:20	4:50	Arr. Geneva. Dep.	5:30	5:15	10:15

Read the first three columns of figures down, and the last three up.

hackman to take me to E.M. Hall's.¹² I got there and a woman came around the house and said Mr. and Mrs. Hall had gone away for 3 weeks and the girl had gone to a picnic. So the hackman took me to the Clinton House and I was there until 2½ o'clock when I took the Omnibus to the G I and A depot.¹³ They had a very nice dinner at the hotel. The train did not get to the depot until 3 ½ (it was due just 3). I got one satchel checked for Farmer and took the other in my hand. When we got to Covert station I happened to look out of my window and saw Bill and the carriage there.¹⁴ I tell you! I got off of that train pretty quick and the Conductor was kind enough to put my other satchel off there, by request. Father was there. He had been to Trumansburg and stopped there on his way home and was going through the car to see if I did not come on that train but I got off before he had a chance to. He thought the Owego train hadn't connected with this and I would come on the one I did come on, but Mother thought I had waited until the evening train and she and Emily were over to Mrs. Nivison's when I came. The reason the Owego train had to wait so long was because a bridge was washed away on the Erie and the train on that road was behind.

Olive was the "apple" of her father's eye, and this passage indicates that he was anxious to have his daughter home safe and sound. The reader can almost see John traveling from station to station, searching the train cars for his daughter. Imagine the trip back to the farm in the wagon, Olive recounting every detail of her time away, and

John listening and smiling, glad to have Olive home again.

While I was in Owego Jim and Lottie took me up past our old home and back again.¹⁵ We crossed on the steam ferry. It is a lovely ride up there and the roads were very nice indeed. And Tuesday afternoon we (Aunt L, Aunt Sarah, Sid, Uncle G and Tommy) went up to the Big Island on the Steamboat.¹⁶ It was a very pleasant ride indeed. The river was very beautiful that afternoon. Georgie Truman is Captain of the Steamboat.¹⁷

I bought a couple of little photograph frames while I was in Owego, \$.50 per pair, and I have David's and Ransom's pictures and am going to hang them up in my room. I also purchased a little pocket Microscope for \$.85. It isn't of much good though, it doesn't magnify much. I brought home some slips of double red and double pink geraniums.

This is the only solo adventure documented in Olive's journal. Her entry for August 5, 1878, reads:

I meant to have written in here long ago but have had so many things to do. School was out, my birthday, had gone to Berkshire to Uncle G then to Owego and staid [sic] three weeks to a day and had a splendid time.¹⁸

Olive was sad when she wrote this entry. Her father had sold the family farm, her brothers were living in Kansas, and Olive and her parents were living in a rented home in Trumansburg. She was homesick for the farm and, while she looked forward to taking the train to Farmer for school, she knew that things would be different for her, now that

she no longer lived in that community. Her entries from 1878 were all short and rather subdued, except for one: the last entry reveals exciting news for Olive and her family, and her natural joie de vivre has returned.

References:

¹ If she meant she was stopping along the way, this referred to John's sister-in-law Lucy, who lived in Berkshire. If, however, she meant she would stay with Aunt Lucy, this would have been Susan's sister Lucy, who lived in Owego.

² Olive E. Williams' diary, 12 August 1875.

³ Donald Allen Hostetter, *Train and Trolley Stations serving Tioga County, N.Y.*, Owego, NY, Tioga County Historical Society, 2004, 7.

⁴ Hardy Campbell Lee, *A History of Railroads in Tompkins County*, Revised and enlarged by Winton Rossiter. Ithaca, NY, Dewitt Historical Society of Tompkins County, 1977, 11.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁷ Hostetter, *Train and Trolley Stations*, 4.

⁸ Lee, *A History of Railroads*, 10.

⁹ *The Ovid Independent*, Vol. 3 No. 23, August 4, 1875.

¹⁰ Thomas Chatfield was her maternal Aunt Lucy's husband; this could indicate that Olive did, indeed, stay with her mother's sister Lucy.

¹¹ Olive had no Aunt G, but she sometimes referred to her Aunt Sarah Goodrich, wife of Susan's brother George, as 'Aunt G'.

¹² The Halls were visitors to Farmer, regularly visiting Olive's sister Stella.

¹³ This refers to the Geneva, Ithaca, and Athens train station.

¹⁴ Bill was probably the hired man who helped John and Ransom with the farm chores.

¹⁵ Lottie Ellis was the daughter of Olive's cousin Sarah Goodrich and the granddaughter of Susan's brother George.

¹⁶ This refers to Aunt Lucy Chatfield and her son Tommy, Aunt Sarah and her husband George Goodrich.

¹⁷ Georgie was the son of George Truman and Susan's sister Eunice.

¹⁸ Uncle George Williams, her father's brother, lived in Berkshire on the family farm.

To read more of Olive's story, and to discover the exciting news she revealed in her last entry, look for the historical society's publication of her diary and its place in American history, to be printed in 2010. This article was adapted from a chapter in that book.

Volunteer Tea 2009



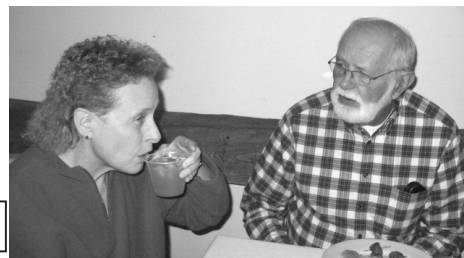
1

2



1) A successful event needs coordinators. The volunteer tea had a number of dedicated people, including Joe Gober, owner of Americana Vineyards our hosts for the afternoon, and Mimi Schaffner who worked with Joe and his staff to plan and bring about the event.

- 2) The food was excellent, and conversations were enjoyed around the room
- 3) Karen King and event co-chair Bill Schaffner
- 4) Anne Knight and Kitty Ritter
- 5) Michelle Barr, one of our newest docents, visits with Barb Stewart and Ray Langois.



3

Thank you

...to each of you who give...

Time for all of the projects of the society
 Help with the museums or
 Attending meetings or to the
 Newsletter, or just
 Keeping track of the reports and accounts, each

Year you give so much to this
 Organization and we wanted you to know it
 doesn't go
 Un-noticed.

Which is really a long version of Thank you!!

4



5



Conifer Village at Interlaken



The central elevator tower was in place by mid-November; and as 2009 ended on a snowy day, the wooden framing for the first floor was going up. Window framing is visible in many of the rooms. The expectation is for the building to be finished and residents moving into the 28 new units in late Summer 2010. For more information on Conifer Village at Interlaken contact Conifer at 1-888-213-4958 and see more of the construction progress at www.villageofinterlaken.org



Changing the look of Main Street Then and Now

Circa 1905 Main Street, with the old post office in the background. The gentleman in the white coat is barber William Blauvelt. His shaving tools were recently donated by his grandsons to the Historical Society.

The building in the right foreground would be replaced by the brick Case Block within a few years.



November 2009 Chris and Steve Kempf place a new sign on the front of the GunBlack building, formerly the Case Block which was built between 1906 and 1907.



*The 1822 Grand Piano restored by Edward Swenson and on display at the Granger Homestead in Canandaigua. To see more of Mr. Swenson's restorations visit:
www.mozartpiano.com*

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www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar

January 25, 2010 7:30 p.m. Town of Covert
Municipal Building: Edward Swenson "The
History and Restoration of Early Pianos"

March 15, 2010 Your items for the April news-
letter area due

April 26, 2010 Spring Program