

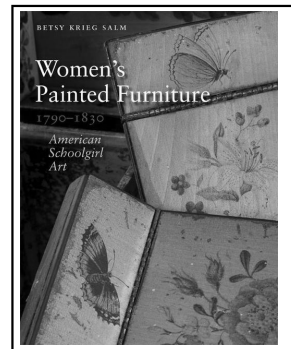
# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 36, No. 3     January 2011

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Please join us for an evening at the Salm's home where Betsy Salm will talk about her book *Women's Painted Furniture*



Interlaken Historical Society January Program

## Besty Salm School Girl Art

Monday, January 31, 2011 7:30 pm  
Town of Covert Municipal Building

A few years ago Betsy and Tom Salm opened their home, the former family home of the Pratts, for the Interlaken Historical Society's Covert tour of homes. Now we are very fortunate once again to have Betsy Salm share with us how her love of art, history and family life helped her bring forth a bit of history few of us know about.

Please join us as Betsy discusses her book, *Women's Painted Furniture: 1790-1830* and her journey to rediscover a style of early American decorative art.

In the book, Betsy tells of the socioeconomic, cultural, and aesthetic history of the form, which includes such items as sewing and work boxes, face screens, and tables.

Treating these objects as documents of women's daily lives, she shows the close relationship between painted furniture motifs and those of needlework and other decorative arts of the period.

*Women's Painted Furniture* presents a comprehensive collection of images, most of which are not available elsewhere. Thanks to her scholarship, this art form may now receive the recognition it deserves in the broader genre of American women's art.

Please join us to share insight into the creation of this wonderful document of early American art.

The program is free and open to the public. The Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street is the former American Legion Building. We welcome visitors to this event, and refreshments will be served. For more information please contact the Society at 607-532-9227.

*Main Street in the Winter, before 1906, the original bank building is to the left of the tree.*



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## President's Message New

As the New Year begins we can look around us and see many NEW items. New donations to the Historical Society, a New Trustee for the Historical Society, a New librarian at the Interlaken Public Library, and a New book being featured at our January program.

At the October meeting we were able to introduce our newest Historical Society Board Trustee, Barb Stewart. Barb has been active with the Historical Society for a number of years, and we are delighted to have her officially on the board. Page 6 of this newsletter has a short biography of Barb.

We are always delighted to receive donations of items relating to the families in the area, be they books, letters, clothing or other memorabilia. A very special new item is a wedding dress received from Mary Lou Raimer Gibson. As often happens, when we get a special donation like this dress we try to feature it in our summer display. Be sure to plan a visit to the Museum this Spring/Summer/Fall and see other new donations also on display.

For more than 15 years Pat Moore has been the face behind the desk at the Interlaken Public Library. Pat and the many volunteers at the library have assisted countless numbers of library patrons over that time, many of the out of area visitors coming in to use the Genealogy Room. Pat officially retired on December 31st.

Now there is a new face at the library. Joan Hendrix began work on January 3<sup>rd</sup> as the Library manager. Get to know Joan through the article she has written on page 4 and stop in and say "Hi," when you are in town.

Last year the Historical Society published *So Good A Time*, and a new coloring book for younger historians. This year we are pleased to begin the year with a program featuring another local author. Please join us Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at Betsy and Tom Salm's home just off Route 96 in Covert as Betsy shares her book *Women's Painted Furniture, 1790 to 1830 with us*. Please note this is the last Monday of the month, a week later than most of our January programs.

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to clean out your closets, and you wonder if we might like your old dress, suit photographs or scrapbook from way back when, please contact any of the trustees or the at [museum@interlakenhistory.org](mailto:museum@interlakenhistory.org); you can also reach us at PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847, or leave a message at 607-532-9988.

As 2010 drew to a close we also bid goodbye to a long time friend of the Historical Society, Herb Usher. He will be missed by many people.

We hope there will be many other new experiences this year: new donations, new displays and above all new opportunities for you to share at the Historical Society. If you have ideas for a program or need help with your research please contact us. We enjoy hearing from you!

*Diane Bassette Nelson*

**Gifts in Memory and Gifts in Honor**

In Memory of Jessie Forbush  
John and Sally Hubbard  
In Memory of Tom Boyce Sr.  
NARFE Chapter 1620, Seneca Falls

In honor of Maurice (Pat) Patterson  
Muriel Huttenbach, Marietta, GA  
Marisa Lee & Charles H. Crawford,  
Atlanta, GA

**Additional Financial Donations**

Achilles and Candy Filios, Trumansburg  
Interlaken Community Action Group  
Yvonne Williams, Interlaken  
Neil Young, Seneca Falls  
Stacy Webster, Camden, DE  
Maureen Callahan Wing, Interlaken,  
Mary Schlabach and Mary Jean Welsler  
Interlaken

***Calling All Photographers***

Save the date: June 11, 2011  
for Olde Home Day 2011.

In addition to all the wonderful vendors  
and musical performer the  
Photography contest sponsored by South  
Seneca Chapter Order of the Eastern Star,  
Farmerville Union Lodge Free & Accepted  
Masons and the Interlaken Community  
Action Group will again be held

The categories are  
***Our Beautiful Community***  
and

***Animals: Farm, Friend, or Free***

see [www.villageofinterlaken.org](http://www.villageofinterlaken.org) for details

**New Members**

Achilles & Candy Filios, Trumansburg, NY  
Shirley & Bill McAneny, Trumansburg, NY  
Peter Zaharis, Interlaken, NY

**New Life Members**

Marsha Brown, Pine City, NY  
Mary & Seymour Diamond, Interlaken, NY  
Doris & Bob Jennings, Interlaken, NY  
John & Delle Mehling, Interlaken, NY  
Linda Stafford, Fort Wayne, IN  
Barbara Bassette, Ithaca, NY

**Donations to the Society**

Wedding dress (1905) given by Mary Lou  
and Gary Gibson  
1967 Seneca County Science Award plaque  
awarded to Interlaken Future Farmers of  
America for a science project donated  
by Harold Stewart  
Covert Baptist church cookbook (1954) by  
Eileen Ehrhart Guy  
Farm equipment manuals and Cooperative  
Extension leaflets by Anne Knight  
Photographs from the 2010 Plowing Day by  
Bob Bullivant and Bruce Radloff, see  
the website to view many of these won-  
derful pictures.  
Picture Postcard of a home on Knight Street,  
January 1907, shown below.



## Library News

Hello Interlaken and Neighbors,

I am Joan Hendrix and I would like to introduce myself as the new Librarian of the Interlaken Public Library. I have lived in the Interlaken area most of my life. I am a graduate of South Seneca Central School, SUNY @ Delhi and Cornell University. My family lives on Bassett Road and I have 2 children, Caitlyn and Christopher, ages 14 & 12 respectively.



Many of you know me as the original owner of the Seneca County Area Shopper. After selling the Shopper, I have continued designing brochures, business cards, advertising and other business forms from my home based business. When the position of Library Manager opened up, I realized how perfect that position would fit into what I wanted to do - give something to our community - and still continue with my other projects.

I am very excited to begin the new year at the Library. I am grateful that Pat Moore has agreed to stay on for a couple weeks to show me the ropes. I know I have big shoes to fill! I also know, that the community joins me in offering a BIG THANK YOU to Pat for the wonderful job she has done as our Librarian. I personally want to thank her for her willingness to be a volunteer in the future.

Speaking of volunteers, the Library is fortunate to have a great staff of volunteers in place, but like any Library we could always use more. If you can give an hour or two a month to the Library, please stop in and let us know.

As a final note, I welcome any ideas, suggestions or program ideas that the community has to offer. The Library is here for you, our patrons, and any input you can give will be welcome!

Joan

## News of Our Neighbors

### Ulysses Historical Society,

January 18, 7:30 p.m, at the museum on South St., Trumansburg. Gloria Paris of Seneca Falls will review her book *A Child of Sanitariums - A Memoir of Tuberculosis Survival and Lifelong Disability*. Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian, will assist her with a power point presentation of 40 photos from the book.

### NEW BOOKS

At The Library

*National Geographic Illustrated Birds of North*

*America* donated in

memory of Grace Saxton.

*Painted Ladies* by Robert Parker

*Death Takes Passage* by Sue Henry

Jessica Fletcher's *Murder*

*She Wrote, Nashville Noir*

## First Eagle Scouts Revive Memories in the Messmer Family

Gerry Messmer

I became a Cub Scout somewhere around 1969 or 1970, I had no idea where life would take me and what the future would hold for me. At that point in my life the world was huge and very simple. Now some 40 years later I am sitting in my living room looking at my Cub Scout hat and my Den 2 flag hanging in my home in Texas.

What makes today special for me? Well today, October 18, 2010 my second son has completed his Eagle Scout joining the ranks of Eagle Scouts before him, including his older brother, now a sophomore at Texas A&M. I did not move past Webelos and into Boy Scouts. I spent my waking moments in the outdoors hunting, fishing and trapping and was earning my own "merit badges," and learning woodsman skills that have lasted a lifetime. But once my kids were old enough, Gerry and Jason joined Cub Scouts (and me again along with them.)

The Scouting movement is a fantastic organization that teaches young boys to become young men and leaders of men. As a leader, I have seen many young boys go through Scouts over the last 13 years and earn their Eagle Scout, seen them get married, graduate from college or from basic training, to go on to serve our Nation with honor. These young men, in a world of confusion and lacking morals could have chosen many paths, some not so good, but they choose Boy Scouts and the rest is history.

Only 2% of Scouts go on to earn Eagle Scout.

So, my boys have started a dynasty, all from a Dad who wore that tiny Cub Scout cap so many years ago in a sleepy little town called Interlaken! I look forward to the day when I can once again, join a Troop as a leader and hold my grandsons' hands as I walk with them to their Cub Scout meetings with my Eagle Scout sons! Not too fast boys...I am not quite ready yet!

*Gerry and Jason Messmer at the Eagle Scout Ceremony.*

### Your Help Is Needed

February is the month when Boy Scouts celebrate their anniversary. This year marks the beginning of their second century in America. There has been a



Troop or a Pack in the Interlaken area for much of that first 100 years. We have one photograph of an early troop but would like to add to the collections. Do you have photographs you would be willing to donate or allow us to copy of Boy Scout or Girl Scout events?

Contact one of the trustees or the Museum at [museum@interlakenhistory.org](mailto:museum@interlakenhistory.org). Your help is appreciated.

**Barbara Stewart  
Historical Society Trustee**

Please join us as we welcome Barb Stewart to the Historical Society Board. Barb is originally from Monticello, NY, and attended Alfred State Tech. Barb worked at Cornell University for 35 years as a laboratory technician in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. Barb is also a member of the Interlaken Village Board where she serves as water commissioner.

Barb and Harold Stewart, also a board member, have 2 sons, Tim (Suzanne and Dakota) in Interlaken, and Chuck (Joanna, Emily, Evan, Shane, and Allison) in Laurel, Maryland.

Barb enjoys travel, quilting, and counted cross stitch work. She often has her quilting with her when she volunteers as a docent.

Barb has also written a number of articles for this newsletter and we look forward to her continued work on the board and on the newsletter.

Welcome Barb!



**A Look Back**

A letter and picture from Bob Dickerson sent the editors looking in our own photograph files to find this June 1935 Children's Day program photo.

Bob wrote of the "Tom Thumb" Wedding held at the Interlaken Baptist Church. The participants included front row kneeling: Barbara Seaman, Doris Rappleye, and Mary Jane Stone

Standing (Left to right) Berta Otsburg, Lois Covert, "Groom" Robert Dickerson, "Bride" Lois Wyckoff (Jennings), Jeanne Blauvelt, Joanne Blauvelt, Shirley Hurlbut (Jay)

Back row: Bill Gee (behind the bride), Harry Rappleye (by tree), and Elmer "Junior" Porter. Elmer served as minister for the wedding.

*Main Street circa 1915 with the old barbershop building, and the Case Block. Note the older homes with the horse and buggy in the background.*

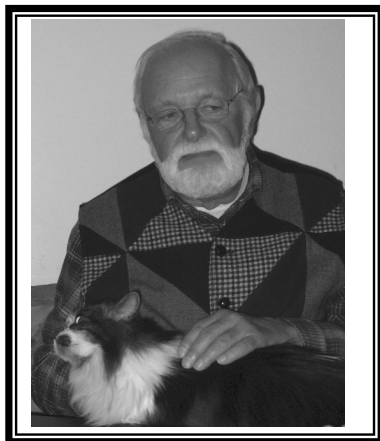
*The buildings shown in the photograph on page 1 were torn down around 1906 and the Case Block was built shortly thereafter.*

## Volunteer Thank You, December 7, 2010



*These two ladies are always ready to help with programs, newsletters, welcoming guests at events, and any other task that is asked of them. Thank you Barb Steward, who is also our newest trustee, and event co-chair Mimi Schaffner.*

Our annual Volunteer Tea is a special event when we can say thank you to all those people who help with so many activities of the Historical Society: Docents, volunteers, committee people, speakers, trustees and many other titles. Thank you for all you do, we would not be an active Historical Society without each of you.





*Just one example from **Women's Painted Furniture** by Betsy Salm. Join us January 31st to learn more.*

## **The Historical Society**

### **Board of Trustees**

Diane Bassette Nelson, President

Bill Schaffner, Vice President

Ann Buddle, Secretary

Karen King, Treasurer

Trustees

John Hunt

Nancy Radloff

Philip Stannard

Barbara Stewart

Harold Stewart

Mary Jean Welser

### **Newsletter Editors & Staff**

Diane Bassette Nelson

Bill Schaffner

Peggy Kopsa

Nancy Radloff

Mimi Schaffner

Barb Stewart

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**Interlaken, NY 14847-0270**

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

### **Mark your calendar**

January 31, 2011 School Girl Art with  
Betsy Salm, 7:30 pm, 9235 Schier  
Road, Hamlet of Covert.

April 25 Quarterly Historical Society  
Program with business meeting.

*This newsletter supported by a grant from the  
Nelson B. Delavan Foundation.*