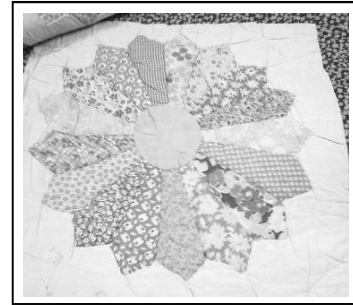


# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 36, No. 4 April 2011

www.InterlakenHistory.org



*Early 1900s  
Dresden Plate  
quilt made  
in Interlaken.*

Interlaken Historical Society April Program

## **Heirloom Vegetables: Past, Present and the Future Glenn Bucien**

Monday, April 25, 2011 7:30 pm  
Town of Covert Municipal Building

Saving seeds is as old as agriculture. Seeds from the best plants were saved, thus making improvements to the plants grown.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, improved production through hybrid seeds resulted in a significant reduction in open pollinated varieties. Larger seed companies bought out the small companies, further reducing the diversity.

In recent years, the loss of varieties and of seed diversity, have motivated many gardeners to return to saving seeds of varieties of merit.

Glenn Bucien will elaborate on the changes in gardening and agriculture and share ideas for all of us to participate in the saving of seeds. Glenn is gardener at Cornell Plantations, caretaker of the Pounder Heritage Garden, garlic grower for more than 30 years, beermaker since 1997, and 30 year Interlaken resident.

Join us to learn about our horticultural history and how you can participate in bringing that history to life. Attendees are encouraged to bring samples of seeds they save and/or to share the names of old varieties of garden vegetables they remember.

The annual meeting of the membership of the Interlaken Historical Society will begin at 7:00 pm. Joan Hendrix, new library manager for the Interlaken Public library will also be joining us. The Heritage Vegetable program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The program is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For additional information please contact the Historical Society at 607-532-8899 or 607-532-9227.



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## **President's Message**

### **35, 70, 150, 500 Years Ago**

By now the "Winter of 2011" snow storms should be past. Was it as bad as 1993, 1958, 1945, or 1940? Depending on your memory, or the photographs you have, some of those past winters can be recalled. Pages 3 and 6 each have a photograph from the winter of 1940. Photographs like these are critical to preserving the history of our community. Not only can we see the snow, but looking further we can see what buildings looked like in a former time.

Every year there are anniversaries that we can reminisce about and sometimes reflect on how they changed lives. This year we have a number of those anniversaries.

Thirty-five years ago, 1976, the Bicentennial Celebrations took place. One of the projects commemorating that occasion was *The History of South Seneca County* by Mr. Patterson, with the history of our community and its organizations. In the 35 years since that volume was written more history has happened. Over the coming months we hope to update the history of some of those organizations. If you are interested in updating your organization's history, or have photographs to share, we would like to help you share them with the community.

Moving back in time to 1941, the development of Seneca Army Depot. produced major changes in the area. See pages 13 and 14 for articles on the Depot and the programs which will highlight its history and its future.

Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg...2011 marks the beginning of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events recalling the battles, and the people who lived and died in that era of history. No battles occurred here, but what of

the men and their families? Who were they, what did they do prior to the war, and what became of them after the war? We will be looking at some of those men over the next few years. A few men from Covert did not return, but their legacy remains. Company C, 126<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Band were from this area. The Veterans, those who served and returned here to live, moved here to make a home, or moved on from here. We know many of their names and stories; we hope to learn more about them, the organizations they belonged to, and the legacies they left.

One of the most exciting pieces of news is a recent gift from the History Center of Tompkins County. In the 1940s a group of archeological students excavated a part of the Klinko site in the town of Covert. Hundreds of artifacts, dating back 500 years, were given to the forerunner of the History Center. This year, those artifacts, ranging from small pieces of pottery to reconstructed pots were deaccessioned from the History Center and given to the Interlaken Historical Society. These items will be shown in one of our new display cases, and in time, interpretations of the life of those earlier peoples will also be available for all to see and learn from.

Looking back allows us to see where we have been; but we also need to look forward. Several events are helping the Board to look at current and future needs. One item on that agenda is the updating of the By-Laws which give the Board guidance on what we do, when we do it, and how it should be done. The middle pages of this newsletter include the revised By-Laws, approved by the board at its March meeting. They need to be approved by the general membership at our Annual Meeting on

April 25th.

Also at that meeting, the membership will be asked to confirm the appointment of Barbara Stewart as a Trustee until 2013, and re-elect Ann Buddle, William Schaffner and John Hunt to the Board for three year terms.

As a Board we are looking forward with developing plans for our future. Several new committees have been formed, chaired by a Board member, and we are looking for interested community members to be a part of the work. The committees include developing a five-year plan, a capital campaign, and looking at the current and future facilities needs.

Thank you for being a part of our history, and equally important, for being a part of our future. Let the board members know your thoughts, volunteer to be a docent, or share your history with us.

*Diane Bassette Nelson*

*1940 Snow Storm*



### **New Life Members**

Yvonne Ashcraft, Trumansburg, NY  
Maureen Callahan Wing & Braman Wing,  
Interlaken, NY

### **Donations to the Society**

Framed certificate honoring the Green Thumb Garden Club as Persons of Year, 2003, Interlaken, NY

Collection of prehistoric Cayuga Indian artifacts from village in Town of Covert given by The History Center of Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY

Photographs of Main Street, Interlaken in the 1940s donated by Beverly Close, Interlaken, NY

Early 1900s quilts donated by Nancy Uyeno

### **Gifts in Memory and Gifts in Honor**

NARFE, Chapter 1620, Seneca Falls, NY in memory of Thomas Boyes

Ari Van Tienhoven, Ithaca, NY in honor of Marty Schlabach

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### ***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: Free, Friend, & Farm***

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

## Library News

The Interlaken Public Library has seen many new changes and activities in the last few months. Seneca Shares, the new program that allows one library card to be used in all the libraries in Seneca County started on February 14. A Seneca Share celebration, hosted by all the Seneca County libraries, was held on March 19 at the Edith B. Ford Library in Ovid.

The first meeting of the Library's Book Club took place on February 15 with 5 members. The first book chosen to read was *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult. New members are welcome. The next meeting is posted at the Library.

A new club for knitters and crocheters has formed. Knitters and crocheters, as well as those who do other needle crafts, are invited to join fellow enthusiasts at the library. Enjoy a cup of tea and join in the conversation as you work on your current project. This casual, fun gathering is under the direction of volunteer Aneta Glover.

By the time you read this, our *Artist Showcase Series* should be underway! Each month we will exhibit the works of local artists and photographers in the library and feature a "Meet the Artist" reception during the month. Our first exhibit will present local artist Dan Alsheimer.

Volunteers needed! Do you have a few hours to donate once a month or more to the library? We are looking for volunteers in many capacities. At our circulation desk, not only do we need volunteers for our Saturday hours of 9 to noon but we would also like to add hours on Friday afternoon from 3-6 or 2:30-5:30. Our goal is to get enough volunteers for these shifts to rotate so each person works 1 time per month.

If you would like to volunteer, but ra-

ther not work on our circulation desk, there are other opportunities available. We will be working on inventory, organizing the books on the shelves etc. If you would like to work with children, storytime positions are available.

Teen volunteers are welcome! If you are interested, please stop in during the library hours and sign up.

Volunteers are also needed as we add more programs. If you have a special talent to share or an idea for a program, please stop in the library to discuss it with us. Also if you have experience writing grants and would like to help us research and apply please stop in or call the library at 607-532-4341.

## Joan

*Library Volunteer Thank You, held in February, Corrine Coe, Carol Holland, Diane Tunison, volunteers and Kate Hunt and Mimi Schaffner Library trustees.*



## CHILDHOOD IN THE COUNTRY

*Editor's note: Ester Hunt MacLachlan was born in Interlaken and lived here for many years with her parents. She would later move to other locations. These "memories" cover both her growing up years, and an occasional looking forward/looking back comment. There are four sections, one for each season, watch for the summer memories in the July issue. Mrs. MacLachlan died last fall and is buried at Lake View Cemetery with other members of the Hunt family.*

*My early memories of growing up in Interlaken, New York, in the 1920s and 30s.*

*Esther Hunt MacLachlan*

### SPRING

Some years during the transition between winter and spring my father chose to produce maple syrup. We had two woodlots on our farm. The lower one had mostly old maple trees which could be tapped for the sap which ran freely when the nights were still freezing but the days were warm and sunny. The pails were emptied into milk cans taken to the shack in the woods where the sap boiled over fires until it reached the right consistency to be finished, clarified and canned in Mother's Kitchen. A world of difference between commercial pancake syrup and the real thing!

I can still visualize the "green lace" which turned the woods into a fairyland each Spring. With my dog Teddy, I would follow the long lane to the larger woods, thick with all kinds of trees and saplings. Underfoot were carpets of wild flowers.

Delicate, pastel hepaticas (we called them May flowers), Dutchman's breeches, jack-in-the-pulpits, adder tongues, trillium, and most showy of all, purple and yellow woods violets with 6" stems.

Spring vacation from school would find us damming the racing creek in the lower woods. Why do water and mud hold such a fascination for children?

I vividly remember a hidden play house created along another brook, then pleading with my mother to leave her work so she could come and see it. That time she did respond. Perhaps that explains what happened 35 years later when we first moved to Niles, Michigan from Detroit. We lived in a rented house for a few months while waiting for the manse to be ready. The house backed up to a steep ravine with a wide brook where Becky and I made more bridges and dams. She, too, remembers that Spring when Mother was not too busy to simply play.

An old apple orchard behind the house provided ideal nesting for Eastern blue birds with their heavenly blue and their red breasts. Then, for years, they became very scarce but now you see lots of special bird-houses nailed to fence posts in an effort to bring them back to that Finger Lakes area.

Remember that these were depression years and few purchased lilies were available for Easter services. Our C.E group would go from home to home collecting house plants cyclamens, gloxinia, geraniums and ferns. The effect was equal to any

professional show.

There was no big emphasis on Easter clothes but that changed by the 50s when my three daughters, along with the hundreds of other children in the Niles Church (early baby boomers) came to expect new outfits from little straw hats to black Mary Jane shoes.

Memorial Day marked the transition from Spring to Summer. Even tho Interlaken had less than a thousand residents, there was always a parade with the school band, village and township officials, horses, decorated bicycles etc. The parade marched the mile from Main Street to the Lakeview Cemetery, where we would listen to a patriotic speaker. American flags decorated the graves of veterans from the Civil War to the present. There was nothing morbid about checking to see where generations of family members were buried and where sites had been reserved for us as well.

My grandfather, Allen, spent winters with us He grew a special bed of Darwin Tulips to take to his wife's grave. It was an unwritten rule that no one else ever touched them.

Memorial Day also marked the planting of a big garden, supervised by my Dad. All but peas which he grew commercially for a canning factory in town. More about them when we come to Summer

**To be continued July 2011**

## **Historical Society Wish List**

Listed below are a number of items that the board has identified as being needs of the Historical Society. Some of them are new items to support the mission of the society, some of them are ideas to stir up your thoughts on things you might have in a closet or photo album that we could scan to create a copy for the collections. .

Photographs of homes and street scenes  
from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Scrapbooks

Financial Donations to be used for display  
upgrades

Financial Donations to assist with the publi-  
cation of the Historical Society Newsletter

### *1940 Aftermath of a snow storm*

At the March 8th Interlaken Historical Society Board of Trustees Meeting, the board approved a motion to present the following revised Constitution and By-Laws to the membership at the April 25th Annual Meeting. The proposed changes were made to clarify meetings and trustee responsibilities.. If you have questions or comments please contact a board member, this list appears on the back cover.

#### **Proposed Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

##### **Revisions February 2011**

1. This Society shall be called the  
"Interlaken Historical Society," organized



pursuant to Sections 207 and 216 of the New York State Education Law and Section 3.27 of the Rules of the Board of Regents as amended in 2005.

2. The purposes for which the Corporation is formed are: to establish, maintain, and operate museums and a genealogical library for research and the preservation of history, in connection therewith to collect and possess objects of historical, literary, and/or artistic interest and/or value; to publish or republish articles, pamphlets, and proceedings and works of historic or literary significance and in general to carry on the activities usually associated with a historical society.

3. The Society shall adopt and adhere to policies and procedures relating to mission, governance, finance, facilities, collections, education, interpretation and presentation.

#### **Membership in the Society**

4. Membership in the Society is open to all persons.

5. Annual membership dues shall be established by the Trustees.

6. A meeting of the membership will be held annually in April at which time the membership will be asked to act on By-law revisions if proposed, elect Trustees, and other actions as may become necessary.

7. There shall be at least four public programs each year.

#### **Trustees of the Society**

8. There shall be a ten member Board of Trustees. Trustees may be elected to a one or two year term if necessary to achieve a balance of Trustee positions expiring in any one year. Otherwise all newly elected Trustees

shall be elected for a three-year term. The Board of Trustees may appoint a Trustee to complete the unfinished term of any Trustee position that becomes vacant before the scheduled expiration or may leave the position temporarily vacant. Appointed Trustees will be subject to election by the membership at the next annual meeting of the membership.

9. The Board of Trustees shall direct the activities of the Society. The Trustees meet on the second Wednesday of the month to conduct the business of the Society, or at special meetings as called. Trustees are expected to attend 70% of all regularly scheduled and/or special meetings of the board. Attendance of 50% or less of the meetings may be considered resignation from the board and the seat may be filled by the board until the next general meeting as specified in item 8.

10. A quorum of 60% of the board is necessary to conduct business; if a member is unable to attend in person they may be regarded as in attendance if a speaker telephone connection is established for all or part of the meeting.

11. The officers of the Society shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers will be elected annually by the Trustees at the first business meeting after the annual meeting and shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

12. The President shall conduct the meetings by the following order of business

Provide appropriate introductions

Call to order and review agenda

Read and approve minutes of previous meeting  
Review and approve the Treasurer's Report  
Communications  
Committee Reports  
Old Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

13. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Chairman shall constitute the Finance Committee and shall have charge of the finances of the Society.

a The Fiscal Year of the Society shall be from July 1 through June 30.

b The Finance Committee shall prepare an annual budget to be approved by the Board of Trustees at the June meeting.

c The President will annually create a three-member Ad-hoc Committee to audit the finances of the Society and report to the Trustees at the first business meeting of the Trustees following the end of the Fiscal Year. The Ad-hoc Committee will include no more than one member of the Finance Committee and will be chaired by someone other than an officer of the Society.

14. The President shall appoint such committees as the needs and interests of the Society deem necessary including a committee to nominate individuals for the position of Trustee. The standing committees of the Society shall include: Collections, Education, Facilities, Finance, and Program

15. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President or Secretary, at any time, and it shall be the DUTY of the President or Secretary to call a special meeting upon request, in writing, signed by three or

more active members of the Society.

16. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Trustees, and shall perform the duties usually assigned to the office of President.

17. The Vice-President shall discharge all the duties of the President in case of the absence or incapacity of the President. The Vice President shall act as archivist for the society, or see that such activities are carried out as regards to insuring a record of all public programs is maintained.

18. The Secretary shall maintain the records of the Society, including but not limited to the Minute Book, incoming correspondence, outgoing correspondence, financial reports provided by the Treasurer, committee reports and other records normally kept by the Secretary. As necessary, the Secretary shall prepare communications in the name of the Society.

19. The Treasurer shall perform all the duties usually assigned to that office; shall deposit the funds of the Society in such bank as the Trustees shall designate; shall pay current bills as approved in the budget; or as the Trustees shall direct; and shall keep an account of all funds and render an annual statement to the Society and also whenever required by the Trustees.

20. The Trustees shall adopt and review annually at the first business meeting of the fiscal year a Code of Ethics addressing issues of public trust and conflict of interest.

21. The Constitution & By-Laws may be amended by the majority vote of the Members present at any annual meeting of the Society, provided that notice of the pro-



posed amendment is given in the April Newsletter and that the same shall have been approved by the Board of Trustees prior to such vote.

22. Any Trustee who, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, has made exceptional contributions to the Society may be granted the title of Trustee Emeritus. Honorary Membership shall be granted to those who, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, are worthy of such recognition.

23. In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the Corporation shall after necessary expenses Thereof be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, or, to another organization to be used in such manner as in the judgment of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York will best accomplish the general purposes for which this Corporation was formed.

24. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by Internal Revenue Code section 501(h), or participating in, or intervening in including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

25. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literacy, or educational purposes, or to foster national or international amateur sports competition (but

only if no part of its activities involve the provision of athletic facilities or equipment), or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, as specified in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by the Corporation exempt form Federal income tax under section 501(c) (h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

_____	<i>So Good A Time: Life in the 1870s as Documented in the Diary of Olive Williams 1873 to 1878</i> , 2010 Nancy Saultz Radloff Softcover	\$12.95
_____	<i>Historical Images of Interlaken</i> a coloring book based on historical photographs 12 full page drawings of historical buildings with descriptive text.	\$3.50
_____	Index to the Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers 1822-1994	\$55.00*
_____	<i>The Covert Family</i> , 1989 Carl W. Fischer, Wm. V Covert M. L. Patterson	\$35.00*
_____	<i>Between the Lakes</i> , 1976 Maurice L. Patterson	Hardcover \$25.00 Softcover \$15.00
_____	<i>Town of Covert History</i> , Compiled by Wayne Morrison 1983 Softcover	\$25.00
_____	<i>And Let My Memory Cherished Be</i> , Remembering the Families of the Old Covert Cemetery, Diane Bassette Nelson	\$18.00
_____	<i>Hamlet of Covert Historic Tour</i> Special Edition Newsletter	\$3.00
_____	<i>Interlaken Oral History: Life &amp; Times of the Area 1900-1950</i> including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	\$10.00
_____	<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield &amp; Descendants of Phineus Pratt</i> , Carl W. Fischer	\$35.00
_____	<i>Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of His Life and Times 1743 – 1832</i> , Alta E. Boyer	\$15.00
_____	<i>The Diary of Herman T. Smith, 1884-1893</i>	\$10.00
_____	<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00
_____	<i>Landmarks of Seneca County</i> , Edith Delavan 2004	\$27.00

Order total \_\_\_\_\_

Postage and Handling: Please add \$10.00 if your order total is over \$50  
Please add \$5.00 if your order total is \$25 to \$49  
Please add \$4.00 if your order total is \$10 to \$24  
Please add \$2.50 if your order total is less than \$10  
\* \$2.00 additional postage

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail Order Form or DUES to: INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847  
DUES are due beginning July 1, 2011 Still only \$10 a year!

## A STITCH IN TIME

Barbara Stewart

I believe I have used the phrase “what’s old is new again” in a past article, well, it applies once again! It’s all about waiting long enough and the cycle of life will repeat itself.

If you are “of an age” you might remember visiting a grandmother or aunt and found her and some friends gathered around a quilting frame. There was lots of creativity and much skill being demonstrated. Not only the art of quilting was going on, but the art of language was in high gear. Stories old and new were told and retold, news of family near and far, new arrivals and the loss of loved ones. All stitched into the fabric of life with love and care.

That was then, now to the present. I don’t know if quilting ever really went into retirement or out of vogue. As more women entered the work force there was less time and energy, for the so called home arts. But as with all good things, it never really went away, it just lived in the shadows, waiting for inspiration!! Ladies, once again, found time to gather and share news, good and sad. Placing needle and thread to fabric, was the natural thing to do once again.

*Flying Geese early 1900s quilt*

The first project might not have been a quilt, but a smaller item such as a pot holder, table runner or



even a tote or hand bag. The quilt is at the heart of this article, so lots explore that a bit more.

The quilt first served a very practical role, one of warmth and comfort. It didn’t hurt that it was attractive and brightened many a day, comforting a sick child, welcoming newlyweds, wrapping the elderly in the arms of friends, loved ones and neighbors.

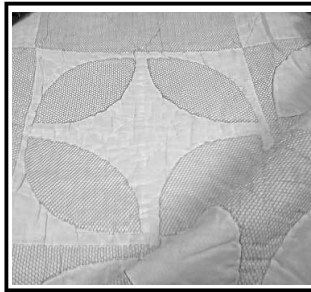
Today’s quilts are often shown as fabric art, wall hangings and such. They still depict a family story or event, even more so with the aid of computer generated photos and designs. Some quilt makers like to tell a story in fabric, with photos, pieces of odds and ends, buttons, old jewelry and memorabilia of all sorts.

As with all hand work, many ingenious ways have been found to save time cutting fabric and making the design and the piecing of the quilt go much faster, allowing the end result to be enjoyed in less time than in grandmothers day!!

To the non or novice quilter, some terms may seem strange or unfamiliar. So let’s step back a bit to grandma and her circle of friends. Many decisions go into the creation of a quilt. Grandma had far fewer fabric choices than we have today. She often recycled fabric from old quilts, scrapes of cloth, dresses and other garments and blankets. The receiver of the quilt had to be taken into account. Was it to be a gift for the home, or a special event or occasion? All

entered into the fabric choices and pattern. The more intricate the pattern, the more work cutting, piecing and sewing the fabric. The key to success in all quilting designs is the careful cutting and sewing of the fabric. Early on this was all done by hand. Once the top was completed, it was layered with a filler and a backer cloth, making three layers, a sandwich of sorts all basted together.

This loose stitching held the layers together as it was placed on the wooden quilting frame. The frame locked the layers, and the quilters could start



the process of quilting. The small stitches followed the seams or “ditches,” creating patterns as wished, all to hold the layers and add body to the cloth. In today’s world there are computer driven sewing machines that can “quilt” your project with straight stitches or decorative curves and designs.

If a full sized quilt seems too big an undertaking, consider starting with a pot holder, table runner or small art project. The good news is that there are several quilt fabric stores in our area that offer classes for all levels of sewers from novice to advanced. And yes, ladies still gather in a circle and share news and stories, some things never change, and aren’t we glad of it?!!

In a future article we could discuss patterns and if there might be a meaning in them, where these came from and patterns

that were used at different periods of time and locations. If you can, try to catch a local show or visit a shop for inspiration!

The Historical Society will be show casing several locally made quilts this summer. Please stop by and see these labors of love and say hi to me, I’ll be sitting on the porch behind a quilt rack, with five grand kids, I need to keep quilting!

*Left: Early 1900s red and white quilt, Interlaken.*

*Below: Gift quilt, made by members of the Interlaken Reformed Church.*



### **July 1941 Seneca Army Depot**

Seventy years ago this spring, the world was in turmoil. Adolf Hitler and the specter of Nazism had spread over Western Europe. England stood alone facing the German threat. The Battle of Britain began on August 13th, 1940. According to the book *Franklin and Winston* by Jon Meacham, Winston Churchill sought assistance from America through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The mood in America was decidedly anti-war. Roosevelt grasped the nature of the crisis but was unwilling to overtly join the European war. According to Meacham, a week before the 1940 election, Roosevelt promised one more time...” Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” Perhaps election rhetoric, for Roosevelt fully grasped the critical nature of the situation.

In July 1940 Roosevelt promised to send Britain old destroyers. In February of 1941 the Lend Lease deal was put into effect. America itself was not prepared for a major war. Meacham mentions that Germany had outspent the United States six times over in combat munitions between 1935 and 1940. Whether isolationist sentiments were strong or not, preparations had to be made. Full speed ahead!

This was the world in July 1941, when America’s preparations for the inevitable conflict touched Seneca County – so far from the horrors of war in Europe. A series of three programs is being planned by the various historical societies and the Seneca

County Historian, Walter Gable, to commemorate the opening of the Seneca Army Depot, the Ordnance in 1941. This has touched so many lives – those displaced, those who came to build, those who worked there during its years of operation and those planning the future of the land now that the “Ordnance” has been closed.

Mark your calendar to join us. Come to learn. Come to share memories and stories. The first program is scheduled at the Ulysses Historical Society on South Street in Trumansburg on Tuesday evening April 12th at 7:30. Please see the poster in the newsletter for more details.

Just think. The Ordnance construction began only five months before December 7th, 1941, the day that lives in infamy.

Meacham, Jon. *Franklin and Winston*. New York: Random House, 2004.

### **Olde Home Day 2011**

June 11th

All day on Main Street

Both Museums will be open. Stop in and get a first look at the new displays for this summer,. More Chadwick photographs, new quilts, the new wedding dress, and lots more for you to see and hear.

**Many Families Have Been Rooted  
in Area for Over 150 Years**  
From an article in the **Geneva Daily Times**  
July 17, 1941 saved in a scrapbook  
by Esther Wyckoff

Kendaia. July 17 [1941]

Land which a grateful government granted soldiers of Sullivan's expedition of 1779 is reverting back to the nation again as the United States repairs its defenses and makes itself strong against all comers. After 162 years of private ownership, payments are being made to descendants of pioneers for lands needed for the Seneca Ordnance Depot.

At least a part of the area in which the federal government is now acquiring land for the \$8,000,000 munitions storage plant, is peopled by men and women whose roots go deep into the soil won for them by the blood and tears of pioneers, Grants of land to Sullivan's soldiers are still being held by the same families in some instances, and in others; 'newcomers' point to 150 years and more of continuous residence of their families on the same soil.

How do these people feel about being uprooted and set adrift from the firm anchors which have held them to the Seneca County land of their forebears? Do they begrudge their land in the cause of defense of their country? Where are they going to go? These and many other questions are being asked by sympathetic and curious people in this neighborhood.

As yet most of the older settlers do not know where they are going to go. Only an odd one or two have made any definite plans. They seem bewildered, particularly the oldsters, over this shock of dislocation.

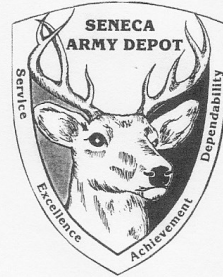
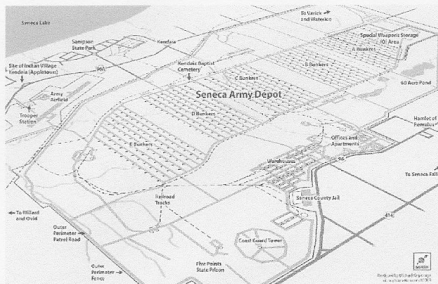
Their children grown and on their own, most of them away from home, the older people with farms owned free and clear, had believed they had comfortable homes, in which to spend the rest of their lives. Now they do not know just what to do. They have sold their farms, the land which has nurtured them and their children, most of them at a fair price, and they are just drifting, waiting for the orders which will force them to move.

"This is not 'new' country," one of them told this reporter. "It was settled by pioneers, and the great grandsons and grandsons of the men who cleared the land are still here in many cases. Perhaps we are among the first in this section to be called upon to sacrifice something for our country. Well, we are ready, just as my grandfather was always ready to pick up his gun and take the trail when duty called."

It is hard—harder on my wife. She hardly realized yet that some of the heirloom must be taken down from familiar places and taken away to new and strange surrounding. The people we have known all our lives are to be scattered and our community broken up. No, we don't know yet just what we are going to do, but—"and here there was a flash of the spirit of the pioneers still burning in the breasts of these people—"we are ready. If there is anything I can do to help my country, and help at the same time to defeat Hitler, I'm only too glad to do it."

*As the War Clouds Were Gathering in 1941, Seneca County Became the Chosen Site for an Army Depot, and then in 1942 for a Naval Training Station...*

## **In 2011, Help Celebrate 70 Years of Memories of Seneca Army Depot!**



**Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Ulysses Historical Society**

**39 South Street**

**Trumansburg, NY 14886**

- ***“Stories of Dispossessed Families of the Former Seneca County Army Depot”***-- Sally VanRiper Eller, member of a dispossessed family, and president of Ovid Library Association
- ***“Why was this site chosen? How was the rushed construction accomplished?”***-- Seneca County Historian Walt Gable
- A ***“Sharing Session”*** – People are encouraged to bring their photos and artifacts and/or simply tell others about their personal memories of the establishment of and/or the construction of and/or the families dispossessed to make way for the Seneca Ordnance (Army) Depot.

**This program will be the first in a three-part series in 2011 that will deal with the 70 years of the history of the Seneca Army Depot up to the present. In 2012, a similar series is being planned regarding the 70 years of the history of Sampson.**

**For further information, contact Seneca County Historian Walter Gable  
phone: 315-539-1785 e-mail: [wgable@co.seneca.ny.us](mailto:wgable@co.seneca.ny.us)**



*Heirloom Vegetables Join us on April 25th to learn more about collecting and sharing heirloom vegetable seeds.*

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

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

**Mark your calendar**

April 25 Quarterly Historical Society Program with business meeting.

June 11 Olde Home Day 2011 the museums will be open and Main Street filled with music, vendors and friends, See you there.

July 1 Dues are only \$10 per year, or become a life member for \$100.

July date to be announced, Summer Social.

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

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