

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

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www.InterlakenHistory.org



The Case Block shortly after construction.
Note the barber pole on the old Post Office

HISTORY OF THE SODUS POINT LIGHTHOUSE Monday January 23, 2012 7:30 p.m.

The Old Sodus Lighthouse, which houses the museum, was built in 1870 of dolomite blocks quarried in Kingston, Ontario. Currently there is an operating beacon in a 45 foot tower at the end of a 1200 foot long pier run by the US Coast Guard.

Bill Sitzman has been an active worker at the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum for 17 years as both a historian and in public relations. Bill has also worked with many local families to learn and record much history of the area.

Bill Sitzman's family was originally from Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada. There are still relatives on the Isle of Skye in the Scottish Hebrides. There are several licensed captains in the family. This makes for some real nautical connections. This presentation will be a great way to spend a winter's eve.

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.

What shall we call our museum?

Just as the Lehigh Valley Railroad asked the people of Farmer in 1904 what to name the new railroad depot, the trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society are looking for input for a name for the Museum at 8394 Main Street. Some call it the "Telephone Company Museum" for its location in the phone company building. Others refer to it as the Community Life Museum to reflect the over all nature of our displays. What do you think? Send us your comments to PO Box 270, Interlaken, 14847; museum@interlakenhistory.org, or leave a comment on our Facebook page.

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President's Message
Reflections, Resources, Research

January 2012, another New Year, another opportunity to reflect on history and our role in preserving it.

Reflecting on 2011 the Interlaken Historical Society was able to present three programs of interest to the community, hosted the Community Social in July, had our museums visited by a large variety of guests.

We also assisted a number of researchers. We are able to do this because of the resources we have. Items have been donated by members and friends for over 60 years. One of the perks of assisting with research is finding out something new about an item in the collection. Peter Caldwell has been working on his family history for a number of years and this fall completed the work with assistance from the Historical Society. In finalizing the work, we found that an old military account book was not from an American war, but from Joseph Medlock's service in the 77th Regiment of Infantry (English Service) in the 1840s and 1850s.

For the article on the Butterer's home beginning on page 7 Marie Roloson our the collection as well as a number of photographs. The Society has four sets of Sanford Maps, 1887, 1894, 1898, and 1930. Businesses and homes can be located and the changes in styles and locations noted. It was also interesting to find answers to on-

going questions within the article. William Drake has been working on a Blauvelt history for several years, and the information on Elizabeth VanLiew's home helped with that research.

With over 2,300 photographs one would think we have every aspect of history covered. The answer is we don't. One of the benefits of research is that it fills in some of background on the photographs, or leads to other new thoughts. But we also need more photographs. Many of the items in the collection date from the 1800s through the 1930s and 40s. But what of the history since then. How has Main Street changed? What did the events of the 60s and 70s look like? Do you have resources you can share? Donations of pictures either as loans so we can scan them, or as additions to the collections are always appreciated.

The Historical Society website www.interlakenhistory.org lists some of the resources we have available. Many of these items though are locked away because we don't have the resources, i.e. people, to create access to them. There are farm journals, business account books, personal diaries, scrapbooks and many other items which need to be unlocked. If you would be interested in helping create access to some of these resources please contact the society at 607-532-8899, or by email at

museum@interlakenhistory.org.

As you reflect on years gone by consider writing the stories of your home, or an

event from history that remains with you. We have shared the four part history written by Esther Hunt MacLachlan this past year. Her reflections on the 1920s and 1930s give us one look into the area from that time. If writing an article isn't your idea of a great project, contact the Society and we have several members trained in oral history. We can set a time to meet with you, talk about the events and write the story for you.

Best wishes from all of us for a successful 2012.

Diane Bassette Nelson

New Items for sale from the Historical Society Gift Shop

Families of Townsendville Yesterday and Today by Anne Knight \$20.00
A History of Lodi Point and Its Vicinity by Alta E. Boyer-Blohm \$15.00
Silas Halsey Pioneer Settler of Lodi, NY by Alta E. Boyer \$15.00
A Farm Girl in the Great Depression by Ruth Myer \$ 19.95
Behind the Organ Pipes, Scenes from an Organist's Life by Ruth Myer \$12.00
A Brief History of the Spear Ellis Grace Cannon Medlock Bruggs Fritts Gould Gallagher Caldwell Families of the Finger Lakes Region by Peter Caldwell \$5.00

See page 11 for shipping costs.

New Members

Peter Caldwell, Pine Plains, NY
James Finch, Interlaken, NY
Gift of Nelson Family
Marie and Jim Roloson, Interlaken, NY
Gift of Allan and Ann Buddle
Barbara and Phil Butterer, Interlaken, NY
Gift of Allan and Ann Buddle

New Life Member

Grace and John Hunt, Interlaken, NY
J Ben Guthrie, Interlaken, NY

Donations to the Society

Photograph album from Elizabeth Thompson given by Kity Ritter.
Log roller, coal shuttle, butter churn, fish spears, ice tongs, waffle tree, egg scale, cherry pitter, meat grinder and clothes rack from Susie VanRiper.
Tomato/vegetable duster, corn planter, four-foot one-man crosscut saw from Pat Larsen (Mrs. George) formerly of Interlaken.

Financial Donations:

Margaret Lorenz, Falls Church, VA
Marisa Lee and Charles H. Crawford, Atlanta, GA In honor of Maurice Patterson
Carl Tatlock, Charlotte, VT
Ari Van Tienhoven, Ithaca, NY in honor of Marty Schlabach
Patricia Thompson, Rochester, NY

Library News

As we start the new year at the Interlaken Public Library, we are busy scheduling several new programs and classes. As of yet no exact dates are confirmed but watch for details on our upcoming Saturday Movie Time, Senior Wii Afternoon, Teen Time, Basic Computer Class and others

Over the last year, we have added many new titles to our magazine collection. Some of our newest titles include *Hobby Farms, Farming, Grit, Real Simple, Family Handyman, Money*. Other magazines include *Good Housekeeping, Better Homes & Gardens, Newsweek, Time, Hot Rod, Motor Trend, Consumer Reports, Popular Science, Country, Birds & Blooms, Quilting, Knit N Style* and many others. Magazines can, of course, be checked out just like a book. Many of our magazine subscriptions were made possible through the generosity of several sponsors. When you visit the library, be sure to see our list of sponsors.

Newest book titles include the recent releases by Stephen King, David Baldacci, Danielle Steel, Gabby and Mark Giffords, John Grisham, Nicholas Sparks, Rick Riordan, M.C. Beaton and Christopher Paolini. In our Young Adult corner, we have a large collection of new books courtesy of IESI Seneca Meadows. For our younger readers, we are expecting the arrival of 70+ new books courtesy of a Libri Foundation Grant. As a requirement to receive this grant, the library also had to find sponsors that would pledge \$350 towards the grant.

Thank you to the following for their generous donations to help us reach our goal - Alarmtech, GunBlack, Hubbard Heating and Plumbing, Pine Tree Farms and the Quik Shoppe.

Just a reminder, besides books and magazines, the library has other items that can be checked out for your enjoyment over these winter months. We have a large collection of jigsaw puzzles, books on CD (perfect for traveling) and DVDs. If we don't have the title or movie you been dying to read or watch, remember you can order it from the Finger Lakes Library System and it will be delivered to Interlaken for you. If you need help with this, just ask for assistance. The perfect cure for cabin fever this winter... visit the library!

Joan

Coming to the Library in February

Climbing Your Family Tree

Take this opportunity to get started learning basic genealogy research.

Learn to use materials in the library, online sources and government records. This four week class begins February 8th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm each week.

Beginners are welcome, as are researchers who have hit a brick wall. Instructor Diane Bassette Nelson,

Please call the library at 607-532-4341 to register or with questions.

CHILDHOOD IN THE COUNTRY

Editor's note: Esther Hunt MacLachlan was born in Interlaken and lived here for many years with her parents. She later moved to other locations. These "memories" cover both her growing up years, and an occasional looking forward/looking back comment. This is the final segment. Mrs. MacLachlan died in 2010 and is buried at Lake View Cemetery with other members of the Hunt family. She began the work with this comment: My early memories of growing up in Interlaken, New York, in the 1920s and 30s.

Esther Hunt MacLachlan

WINTER

Stormy weather in the Finger Lakes area of Upstate New York often came before the cold months of December, January and February, and as the daylight hours shortened we knew that winter had arrived.

Our home was large with many windows which were covered with storm sashes. A coal furnace provided steam heat through big radiators. During the Depression, in order to save the cost of coal, a big wood stove would be set up in the parlor. This, along with the kitchen stove, heated the downstairs rooms. Floor registers in the ceilings would allow warm air to take off the chill in bedrooms above.

We would sleep between flannel sheets with a heated soap-stone or water bottle for our feet.

Drinking water had to be carried from a pump out front of the house to supplement soft cistern water.

We might awaken to magic world of crystal where every object and twig was encased in ice. Or perhaps, after a gentle

snow fall, we would find every fence rail and branch edged inch-deep with white. Then, we might ride in a horse-drawn cutter or bob-sled with the sound of sleigh bells as we flew over the snowy roads. As teenagers, we thought it great sport to travel in the pickup looking for stranded motorists who were highly appreciative of help in getting out of a drift.

We would begin the Christmas Season with school programs including Girls Glee Club when I was in High School. A tall evergreen tree would fill one corner of the Baptist Church sanctuary with gifts for all the children. I especially remember the hard ribbon candy.

When we were small we never had a Christmas tree but couldn't wait to see what might be in our long, cotton stockings.

Always an orange in the toe and practical gifts like new mittens or nightgowns. We each always had a fresh grapefruit from Aunt Mary Dickerson - a real treat.

In mid-morning we would all go to the home of our Hunt grand parents. There we had a cedar tree cut from their pasture and decorated with fragile, glass ornaments. One year Lena and I each received a doll; another year doll buggies. Howard had an Erector Set and steam engine to use with it. Gifts for adults had been chosen, after great deliberation, at Woolworths in Ithaca. We probably didn't have more than \$5.00 to cover all in our lists.

Dinner would include roast chickens which, in my opinion, were better than turkey. My brother, sister, and I were the only children present with plenty of adult relatives - Grandma and Grandpa Hunt, Aunt Mary Dickerson, Aunt Emma from Lodi; Uncle Kase and Aunt Minnie Hunt, Uncle Frank and Aunt Julia from Cortland, and

Aunt Jennie who lived at home to care for her parents.

Christmas was fun, but much less commercial than it is today. The New Year was always welcomed with anticipation. Christmas had been spent with my father's side of the family, but New Years Day brought all of them, plus my mother's side, which included cousins closer to our age.

The big sliding doors were opened between rooms where long tables had been set up. This was one occasion when the chore of table-setting was a pleasant one, for mother used her best china, crystal and silverware.

The aunts contributed toward the meal centered around Mother's roast chickens and escalloped oysters, a family favorite. The day before my brother, sister, and I had made an eight quart container of ice cream. We used rock salt and snow which was plentiful just outside the door. There was a special block for holding the heavy tub. Lena and I took turns standing on it as it hardened. Did anything ever taste better than cleaning off the dash?

Guests brought along any new games received for Christmas and there were the old favorites - Chinese Checkers, Flinch, dominoes and carroms played on a board with pockets.

As small children, sliding down hill and playing fox and geese were perfect close to the house where we could warm-up from time to time.

We lived on Route 96, N.Y., maintained by the state. Each fall, work men would put up snow fences in the fields so that drifts would collect there rather than on the road. Winds, sweeping down over the fields, formed really hard drifts on which we played.

Our parents always encouraged our friends to gather at our place. My Dad was known as George to every child around. Hot cocoa, popcorn balls and taffy pulls were welcome when coming in from the cold.

During Jr. and Sr. High School we were into the more thrilled adventures. Snow-boating was probably the best. My brother - 5 years older - would hitch a horse to a stone-boat and ride to a field to make a track. A rope was attached to the stone boat and we rode it on snow like a skier on water. Sometimes we rode three deep on our stomachs as Howard whipped us around the track. I'm sure it was a dangerous sport but I can't remember anyone ever being injured.

*Hunt family photo from the Chadwick Collection:
Jenny, Julia, George
Lena, Minnie, John, Grace*



When Walls Tell the Story

By Marie Roloson

Phil and Barb Butterer and their children, Larry, Paul, and twins Christa and Elizabeth, moved to Interlaken in 1979, and lived on Mechanic Street. In 1981 they purchased a house on Seneca Street from Alton



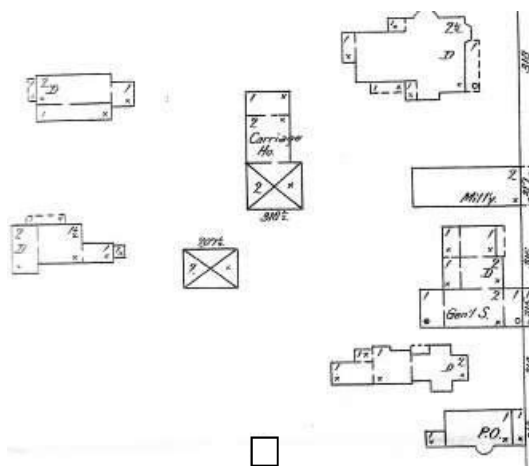
L. Culver and Sons, who owned several rental homes in Interlaken. Mr. and Mrs. Butterer had been renting from

them. The Culvers were willing to sell the house on Seneca Street. Shortly after purchasing their house a woman came to visit a neighbor across the street and seeing Barbara Butterer in the yard, came over to talk to her. The visitor was glad to see Barbara taking such good care of the house because it had been her home as a child. They discovered they had the name Barbara in common. Barbara the visitor also told Barbara Butterer that her father had moved the house from Main Street about 75 years ago. Barbara Butterer recently recalled this visit to me and we started investigating. Here is the story we discovered:

Homer Case was born in June 1868, the son of Chester and Phebe (Jennings) Case of Lodi. Homer married Hattie Burbridge in 1890. They moved to Farmer Village where they ran a grocery store on Main Street, south of the Eagle Hotel. Today, this would

be the north end of GunBlack. It was a wooden structure which had a barber shop attached. Next to the store sitting back a little way was a Boarding House owned and operated by Elisabeth VanLiew. Elisabeth was the daughter of Whiting and Sally J. Squires. After the Boarding House was the post office. The Hinman home was after that.

Homer and Hattie had a daughter, Mabel, in January 1894 and a son, Seward, on September 2, 1896. Homer with his young family lived on Orchard Street. At some point he decided he wanted to expand his business. There were two houses to the north of his grocery (right next door) and Elisabeth's Boarding House on the other side. He must have started wondering how he could make an expansion work with these limitations.



1898 Sanford Map of Main Street. Millinery shop, two homes, Homer Cases general store, E. VanLiew's boarding house and the Post Office. In 1898 the Wintersteen home is not shown.

Elisabeth VanLiew, according to the 1900 census, was a 63 year old widow living with her two grandsons, Arthur and William Blauvelt; sons of her widowed daughter Jennie. The house had been left to her by her father, which included the lot with the barber shop on it. There was a clause in the paperwork that said the barber shop could be moved.

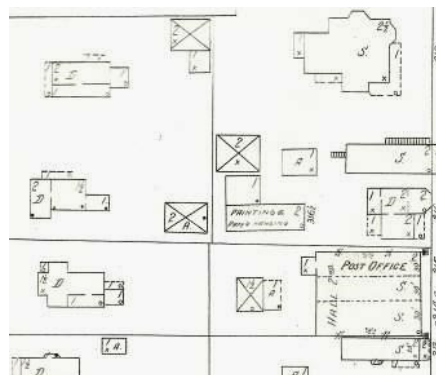
In 1903 Homer purchased a vacant lot on Seneca Street from Daniel and Jane (Vorhees) Wintersteen who lived in what is now Alta Bullivant's house. This lot was located north of the Wintersteen home. Once Homer had a lot he then convinced Mrs. VanLiew to sell the Boarding House to him in 1905.

Homer moved the house from its first location on Main Street to Seneca Street, and turned the house so it faced Seneca Street. This was almost straight back from its first location. The distinctive cross design of the house makes it easy to spot in the maps of the time period.

This gave him the space to build the Case Block Building. It was a large two story brick building with the grocery and other businesses located on the first floor and a meeting hall on the second floor. The Interlaken Grange was one organization which met on the second floor. Homer had reserved the north end of his building for the post office, and the barber shop moved into the old post office building.

1930 Sanborn map showing the Millinery shop, and

houses as before, the Case block and barber shop complete the Main Street group. On Seneca Street the location of the Butterer's home and others are shown.



There is a description of the Post Office property lease by the United States. The lease was renewed every five years: *Fifteen feet 6" by forty nine feet 6" offset of 2' by 18' for front stairway and a connecting room 2'4" by 6'2" and a cellar underneath 8' by 15' inside measurement, on the first floor of a two story and cellar, brick premises, known as "The Case Block" situated on the West Side of Main Street, between Mechanic Street and West Avenue (with use of an alley 8' wide on the side).*

The eight foot alley way that is described in the lease was paved with slate which still surfaces in Phil and Barb's side yard as the alley went right by their side entrance to their house. Cars and/or trucks were backed into the alley for loading and unloading the mail. Neighbors from Mechanic and Seneca Street used the alley to get to Main Street and back. This alleyway

was in use through 1961 when the post office moved to its current location. People continued to cut through the space even after the Butterer's moved in.



1934 Rural Mail Delivery Drivers in front of the Post Office located in the Case Block. They used the Alley-way to load their cars with mail and packages.

After Homer and Hattie moved into the house on Seneca Street they had a daughter, Barbara in May 1909. This was the Barbara who came to visit Barbara Butterer, and see some of the additions that have been made to the house since it was moved.

The house has continued to have a unique list of owners. Harvey and Winifred Royce lived there in the 1960s and Mr. Royce repaired Ithaca calendar clocks as people continued to look for him after the Butterer's

An interesting side note on the relationship between Daniel Wintersteen and the VanLiew/Case/Butterer home: in 1854 Daniel sold Elisabeth Van Liew's father, Whiting Squires, the land that her boarding house was located on.

Do you have an interest in researching your home? Contact the Historical Society to see how we can help you!

The alley way can be seen in this 1960s arial photograph as the lighter gray stripe through the middle of the picture.



moved in. In the early 1970s Joseph and Mary McCarthy may have had patients in the upstairs rooms from Willard. It is also one of the few houses, if not the only one, in Interlaken which has a NYSEG utility pole in the back yard. NYSEG has to have a right of way to do this.

In 1911 another house was moved from Main Street to Seneca Street to make room for the present bank. Maybe Homer gave them the idea of doing this; it is another story for another issue.

Pre 1910 Memorial Day Parade. The building on the left was reportedly moved to Seneca Street to make room for the Wheeler National Bank Building constructed in 1911. The middle building was torn down in the 1960s to expand the bank parking lot.



Volunteer Tea 2011

As we look back at the 2011 Volunteer Tea we would like to say a special "Thank you" to each member of the Historical Society and our guests who contributed so much to the success we have each year. To the docents, the people who put together displays, present programs, keep our museums and grounds looking great, write articles, edit the newsletter and all the 1001 items that happen each year.



As shown in the photographs, a wonderful time of fellowship was the order of the day.

A special thank you to the staff at Americana Winery for hosting the event and providing the great food.

And to Pine Tree Farms who provided door prize items for the Fall program some of which were given to our guests in December as well.



**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

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_____	<i>The Covert Family</i> , 1989 Carl W. Fischer, Wm. V Covert M. L. Patterson	\$35.00*
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_____	<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
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_____	<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00
_____	<i>Landmarks of Seneca County</i> , Edith Delavan 2004	\$27.00

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PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847
DUES are due beginning July 1, 2011 Still only \$10 a year!



Mark your calendar

January 23, 2012 Quarterly Program, on the
Sodus Light House.

Genealogy at the Library in February

April 23 Annual Meeting and Program, to
be announced.

June 9th Olde Home Day and the opening
of the 2012 displays at the museums.

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