

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 38, No. 1 July 2012

www.InterlakenHistory.org



OLD FASHIONED FAMILY SOCIAL Sunday July 22, 2012 4:00 — 6:30 p.m.

The Community is Invited!

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, July 22nd, between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. for our sixth Old Fashioned Social dish-to-pass get-together on the lawn of the Interlaken Public Library.

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

If you haven't seen the Community Life Museum or visited the Farmers' Museum in awhile both will be open.

Please drop by to eat, relax, and visit. In case of rain we will move indoors nearby.

For more information please contact the Society at 607-532-8899 or 607-532-9227.or museum@interlakenhistory.org.

2012 Plowing Day

Country Fair with Local Fare
Saturday, September 22, 2012

Plan to join us from 10am - 4pm at the Brook Farm barn just north of the Village of Interlaken. Be entertained and educated by speakers, displays, vendors, food, animals and children's games with a theme of Local Fare, food and agricultural items produced in our local community.

The speaker this year will share the story of locally produced grain, locally milled flour and locally baked bread, drawing examples from our community's past and from today.

For many the highlight of the day will be the parade of plowing equipment, with draft animals as well as steam, gas and diesel tractors of many vintages.

This one-day country fair is brought to you by the Interlaken Historical Society with support from the Delavan Foundation.

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President's Message

Sharing the News

How do we share news today versus how the news was shared in past years? Several events have recently brought that question to mind.

This summer the *Interlaken Review* and its predecessor *The Farmer Review* will celebrate 125 years of sharing the news in our area. We have an original copy of the first issue of that paper. Rather than risk damage to the original, a copy is on display in the front window. Also on display is one of the letter trays from the *Farmer Review*.

Over the years the news in the paper has been as current as hours before publication to within a week or so. In one issue you might find a report that someone was sick, and on another page would be "word has been received that Mr. ABC died this morning."

If you are trying to research the news from years past there are microfilm copies of the *Farmer Review*, *Interlaken Review*, *Ovid Gazette* and Trumansburg newspapers available at the Interlaken Library. There is also an index with over 77,000 entries to many of the vital events from the Interlaken and Ovid newspapers. An index compiled by Bernece Weitzel is available for the Trumansburg newspapers from 1827 to 1940.

Another way to share the news of years past is the diaries that many people kept. Often intended as a personal document, they recorded the weather, social events, and the daily happenings for the person or family.

The Society had the opportunity to pur-

chase a collection of 17 diaries written by Mrs. Ada Bennett between 1904 and 1939. She records many of the routine events of the day, and also those items which would affect more people. We are planning to transcribe the diaries so the information can be used in research and displays.

Ada (nee' Rappleye) and her husband Alton Bennett owned the Bennett Drug Store on Main Street. The store was later owned by Delos Bennett, Alton's brother. In the 1960s the Storath family used it as a dry goods store.

Businesses would share their news through advertising pieces. A rather unique advertising item is shown on page 3 with a "What is it" header. If you can help identify a use, other than as advertising, please share the news with us.

Looking ahead to September, we want to be sure to share the news with you about the upcoming 2012 Plowing Day. See page one for all the details.

Today, we have almost instant access to news through cell phones, the internet, Facebook and other online sites. Did you know that the Historical Society has a website, www.interlakenhistory.org or a Facebook page? If you haven't looked at them lately we invite you to stop by for a visit; or "like" us on Facebook.

We also invite you to share your memories of news from the past with us. See the article on page 10 which provides an update on a local item from Shippensburg, PA. Longtime member Elizabeth Thompson was a founding member.

Thank you for being a part of the Historical Society.

Diane Bassette Nelson

New Members

Jane Kellogg, Ithaca

Donations to the Society

Gift from Carolyn Young in memory of Sally Willers

Churches & Pastors of Seneca County NY

by Margaret Fox Sears in memory of her father William Samuel Fox

Agricultural advertising piece from Gloria Barrett.

What is it?

Agricultural advertising piece from the H.S. Johnston Company of Farmer. The two pieces are hinged together. Do you know if it has a specific purpose? Please let us know at PO Box 270, Interlaken or by email museum@interlakenhistory.org.



Barns of New York

A review by Sally Hubbard

Barns of New York, Rural Architecture of the Empire State, by Cynthia G. Falk, is the latest addition to the historical society's agricultural library. With over two hundred pages of text, blueprints and extensive photos of New York State's large main barns, she also includes silos, chicken coops, smoke houses, and even windmills. She has delved into other often overlooked corn cribs, spring and milk houses, sugar shacks, evaporators, potato houses and tobacco sheds.

The chapter, "Places to Visit," lists by county the various historical societies, historic sites and activities available throughout the state that are accessible to visitors with an interest in farm structures.

Although mention is made of the Interlaken Historical Society's museum and Cradle Factory as well as Brooks Farm's laminated arch barn, it was disappointing not to see an in-depth description of the architectural design of the many Wells barns located throughout our area.

Overall, *Barns of New York* covers every aspect of farming related structures as well as interesting descriptions of their use. It's a great addition to our library and an enjoying read.

A Gentle Reminder

The Historical Society fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30th. Therefore, dues are now due. Is this the year you upgrade from a yearly membership (\$10) to a life membership (\$100). Please mail dues to

PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847

Library News

Olde Home Day 2012

Retired Librarian Pat Moore was honored for her years of service with a reception naming the Children's Room in her honor. Later in the day Pat joined Citizen of the Year Dewey Albro and his wife Yvonne for a ride in the parade.

Two multi-week events at the library this summer.

Dinosaur Invasion presented by Museum of the Earth and the Interlaken Public Library, July 10, 17, 24 and 31st; Tuesdays at 4:00 pm. Study dinosaurs and meet their modern day descendants. This hands-on program is for the whole family. Please register by calling the library 607-532-4341.

Dream Big, READ! Is the theme for the summer reading program and the children's programs on Tuesdays. July 24th to August 21st. Special programs and a fun time for all. More details, check the flyers at the library and ads in the local papers.

Joan

*Pat Moore and library Trustee Mimi Schaffber
Library Float in the Olde Home Day Parade*



The Observance of the Establishment of Sampson Naval Training Base in 1942

A joint committee of area Historical Societies and the County Historian, Walter Gable, are planning a program on August 4th to commemorate the establishment of the Sampson Naval Training Station in 1942. The event will cover the evolution of the area from farmsteads to Sampson State Park. This includes a college, granary storage, an Air force Base, a hospital and finally the establishment of a State Park and more recently a Veterans' Cemetery. The program is planned on **Saturday August 4th at 4pm** in the **meeting room of the State Park Office**. This event will follow the day long Salute to the Troops festivities near the Sampson Military Museum. The program is free, but admission to the Park will be charged.

Just as at the Seneca Army Depot, Sampson provided opportunities for employment for our local residents. Enjoy the following stories of two young ladies who were employed at Sampson.



MY SUMMER JOB at SAMPSON AIR FORCE BASE - 1949

By Jean Powell

My mother's next door neighbor, Nelle Bradley, (now Chad Hubbard's home) was living with her 2nd daughter, Eleanor Bradley Booth (later Tunison) and her granddaughter Nancy Booth DeMarte. Eleanor and her sisters Margaret and Jean all went to Cornell and got liberal arts degrees. Eleanor, thinking she was educated enough to get a job, applied at Sampson AFB only to find out that they needed secretaries who could type and take shorthand of which she could do neither. So she enrolled in the Geneva Business Institute, graduated, and then tried Sampson again. She got a killer of a job working for the Adjutant General, a colonel, who reviewed everything that was passed on to the general, and went through the Adjutant to other officers on the Base.

Finding out that I would like to work for the summer, Eleanor said that there was a job opening for a secretary/typist in the Historical Society around the corner from the General's Office (we could eat lunch together). I jumped at the chance and was immediately hired when they knew I could type.

The Base Historian, Mr. Flynn, was a middle aged bachelor gentleman with great editorial skills. There were two other airmen in the office who were also well educated reporters. They would contact the various departments on the Base to see if there was any "news." Then they came back, wrote it up in longhand (sometimes legible), and I would type it, (sometimes

making mistakes). They were a good bunch of guys, who worked well with each other, and when things were slow we'd tell stories. There was an airman downstairs who kept running upstairs and peeking in the door. I sat behind Mr. Flynn in one room and the other two guys were in the adjoining room. The airman from downstairs soon asked me out. I didn't accept the invitation because there was another guy back home I had my eye on named Dave Powell. The guy downstairs asked me to marry him and move back to his home in Bay City, Michigan! BAY CITY, MICHIGAN! Where the heck was that? I wanted to stay home.

All the articles that were written for the Historical Bulletin, which came out periodically, included pictures from the photo lab. These were from the Base Hospital, and different barracks, (the boys didn't sing dirty songs when they paraded past the administration building where I was working, also General's Office). They boys did a good job, with Mr. Flynn being the last word before it went to the printers.

The General's secretary was sick one day and I was asked to take her place. The history boys didn't like that very much but...the General came first. I was scared to death, after all I was only 17. The General's secretary had breast cancer and would be out at least six weeks. I think I had a heart attack. But I found out that there wasn't very much to do as the General's secretary but greet the "brass" and other dignitaries, and if the General wasn't busy, I would show them in and serve coffee. (I didn't spill any, either.) At times when the General

was flying (officers had to put in so many flying hours a month) I really had nothing to do so I helped Eleanor with her typing. She was very busy, and really needed two girls in the office. Besides, it got boring trying to look busy.

Well, it came time to go back to school, but Dave and I decided that we would get married. I worked for two years, got married, pregnant and quit when I was 21. I never did get back to the Historical Society. It seems that Col. Ott, the second in command and commander when the General was away, needed some help.

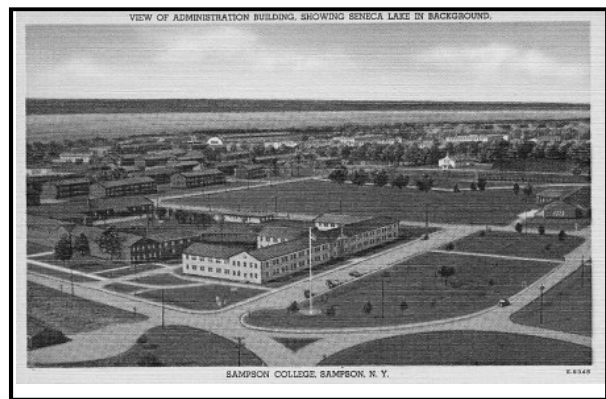
We had cold winters with lots of snow, and most of the trainees came here from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and couldn't take the weather. They didn't know how to drive in snow. When I was going home from work around the curve by Willard, there were often guys in the ditch. The trick was to keep on moving and they didn't know that. I never got stuck.

There were a lot of boys in the sick bay. Every day Col. Ott got a report of the number of boys with upper respiratory infections. There was a round slide rule that I learned to use to calculate (using a formula) the percentage of sick boys. To this day, I don't know why he had to have such a sophisticated method when a finger counting would do the same thing. Col. Ott had to put in flying hours just as General Harbold did.

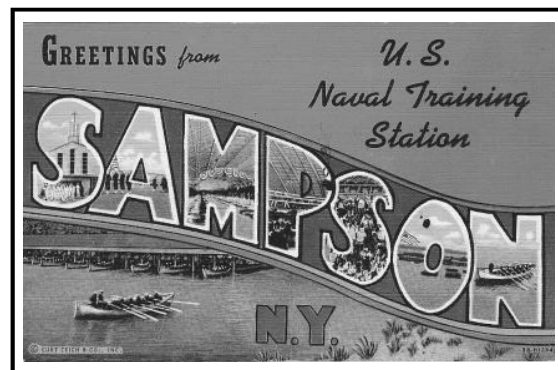
I never was able to get around the base much. I had too much work to do in the Ad-

ministration Building. I was able to go to a church service in the chapel. They changed the settings one way for Catholic Mass and turned it back for Protestant Services. I don't know what happened to the church. Probably torn down. There was so much waste. The drill halls were works of carpenter "art." One was purchased by a farmer far west on the thruway and reconstructed as a BIG cow barn. It is still there.

This is all I remember about my job at Sampson Air Force Base



Two post cards from Sampson



Betty Crane Remembers Her Time at Sampson

A week after graduating from Ovid Central School, in 1943, I started to work at Sampson Naval Training Station. Little did I know I would be working there for fourteen years. I was fortunate enough as one organization vacated the premises to be transferred to the next one.

At Sampson Naval Training Station, Sampson, New York, I worked in the Ship Service Department in the Photography Laboratory. Each of the seven basic training units had a portrait photography studio in their Ship Service and we, in the Lab, processed all of the pictures taken there. In addition, when each Unit finished their training, a group picture was taken of the trainees.

My first exposure to the Lab operation was in the area where the group pictures were processed. After the photos were processed there were several washers and dryers, where the finished product was completed and the orders filled that trainees had requested. Since most of us had no prior experience in photography our learning process began. Soon after, I was transferred into the portrait division, developing film, making individual portraits and finally learning how to make enlargements, i.e. 3x5, 5x7, 8x10, 11x14, etc. There was no color film in those days, only black and white. If the "Boots" as the trainees were called wanted a colored print that was taken care of after the finished portrait was returned to the Studio. The Photo Lab was

phased out in 1946 when the Naval Base was being closed.

After closing the Base, a construction company from Atlantic City was commissioned to move many of the barracks to state educational facilities. I worked for them for a short period of time until The Associated Colleges of Upper New York opened Sampson College. Many servicemen were being discharged, and since several had entered the service from High School there was a need for educational institutions to help with the sudden flood of requests to Colleges and Universities. Sampson College and her sister colleges were formed as two year interim colleges. At the end of the two years, those who qualified were transferred to a four year school of their choice.

Sampson College's curriculum consisted of Pre-Engineering, Liberal Arts and Business Administration. I worked in the Office of the Registrar, and became office manager. We had a trimester routine, which ran concurrently each year. We handled all the registration for all students and kept their personnel records on file. When it was time for transfer all of the paper work was done through our office. Eventually, in 1949, since the need for interim colleges was decreasing, Sampson College closed.

In 1949, State of New York, Housing Division, took over custody of Sampson. The purpose of this was to transfer contents of buildings, being used prior to this, to State institutions that had a use for them. We had a very small staff of men who were employed. I was Senior Clerk, and did all

office work pertaining to the transfer of the property to other State agencies. Upon the completion of this operation New York State, Department of Parks, was planning on taking over the property for a State Park. However, the United States Air Force needed training venues, and it was decided to open Sampson, once again as a military installation.

United States Air Force, Air Training Command renovated the existing buildings to be used for training airmen beginning in 1951. I worked in the Air Installation Division, Engineering Section, after a short tour in the Work Order Section. I worked for the Chief Engineer, as a Senior Clerk. We were always working three years in advance, planning and organizing projects pertinent to the operation of the entire Base, in addition to the current annual projects. I typed all contracts that were being proposed and approved for the current year. Both civilian and military personnel were involved in these projects. It was during this time that the airstrip was proposed and built. A Civilian Club was suggested and upon approval, was appointed coordinator of plans and layout for the Civilian Service Center in 1954.

In 1956, the USAF no longer needed extra training centers and announced that it would be closing Sampson. During the transition I was appointed Real Property Officer. I was transferred from Air Training Command to Air Materiel Command at Rome, NY, until final transfer could be accomplished, thus ending a delightful fourteen years of employment. I was then transferred to Seneca Army Depot.

The Farmer Review, Its First 10 Years

Reprinted from the Farmer Review

Saturday July 24, 1897

Ten years ago today the first copy of THE FARMER REVIEW was placed before the public and submitted on its merits, to flourish or to become a failure. Many predicted that Farmer could not support a newspaper, but we had more faith in the people, and consequently started in a small way in the building opposite the Reformed church, and the growth of the REVIEW from that 23d day of July, 1887 to the present is one for which we are justly proud. In April, 1888, business demanded more room, which was obtained by moving to Mrs. E. A. Bogart's house on Main street, opposite A.V. Minor's store, where the same year a power press and 2 h. p. engine succeeded the old hand press, and additions were rapidly made in all departments until, in 1893, we again found ourselves in need of more room, and therefore bought a lot on Railroad street and erected the building now in use by the REVIEW. At the same time, March 1893, the 2 h.p. engine gave way to a 4 h. p, and later was joined by a 10 h.p. boiler, which has now given out and will be next week succeeded by a more modern power, one much better adapted to a printing office-one of the latest improved gasolene engines. The stock of type and other fixtures has kept pace with the other departments, and the REVIEW has grown

in size from a 7 col. to an 8 column paper. Our advertising patronage as well as the subscription list has had a steady growth and this has not been accomplished by soliciting, as we had no one on the road since the first month or two. These are facts to be proud of, and for their generous support we right here express our thanks to our patrons, for without their support it could not have been accomplished.

During these ten years the village of Farmer has made considerable advancement in all lines. Nearly all those then in business are still with us, viz: J.B. Peterson, A. Crise, W.E. Peterson, Ira C. Hall, C.K. Yates, Stone & Shank, C.S. Holton, Geo. W. Murphy, Jas. A. Clapp, Bennett Bros., G. A. Mosher, A.H. Leet, A.V. Minor, M.E. Stout, Ryno & Longstreet. Since then there have been a number of changes in firm names, as Covert's Saddler Works, The A.C. Peterson Co., C. Foote, VanKirk, McMahan & Boorum, successors to C.Q. Bergen C.F. Case succeeded Frank C. Case.

NEW INDUSTRIES.

Among those who have started since the REVIEW'S first appearance are C.S. Wiggins, P.B. VanDoren, Homer C. Case, Jay Doolittle, Geo. C. Torbert, Thomas Harmon, Hiram Bloomer, all three barbers, Messrs. Murphy, Stout and Sayre, Fry & Ellison blacksmiths, Chas. Grove's saw and grist mill. Chas. Riley's shop was then on Railroad street.

In 1888 Minor's shoe factory was

moved to Springville. The building they occupied is now used by the Porter Mfg. Co. The Seneca Canning Co. was established in 1895 and The Elgin Butter Co's. creamery the year previous. Last year the milk depot was put up and began a successful business. W.W. Dennis opened a carriage shop. The bakery was established and has done a successful business although changing hands seven times during the 10 years. Warren Miller starts his greenhouse. Boorum & Granger start a laundry and are doing a successful business. C.S. Wiggins goes into the jewelry business and Hiram Bloomer opens with a stock of ready made clothing, also doing custom tailoring. John King starts a cigar factory. Dr. F.F. Leonard opens dental parlors, Mrs. McMaster, milliner, was here in 1887 but soon removed to Penn Van, then returned to Farmer; Miss Dewitt has the millinery business then conducted by Mrs. Bennett.

To be continued Fall 2012



Fly Wheel in the Review Building, still in place in 2012.

A Local Artifact Gets National Attention

The Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University is pleased to announce that it has received a \$5,000 grant from the William R. and Esther Richmond Foundation in order to complete the conservation of a rare ca. 1830s man's coat in critical need of stabilization. Through the effort of a team of experts, this sky blue coat of linsey-woolsey will be stabilized with hand-woven reproduction fabric by Barbara Miller, a specialist in early American textiles. Costume historian Martha McCain will take a pattern from the coat, and Dr. Karin J. Bohleke and professional costume conservator Colleen Callahan will stabilize and conserve it for preservation and future exhibit.

Early nineteenth-century clothing of this type is extremely rare. Men generally had fewer garments than women and often wore their clothing until it was worn out, at which point the fabric was reused in other ways, becoming cleaning rags and similar consumable textiles. The coatee in question came from a family farm in the small town of Ovid Center near Interlaken, NY. Thus this coat belongs to an even rarer category - the surviving apparel of an ordinary farmer, in this case his casual and loosely tailored summer coat (that still had old cracker crumbs in one pocket). When early men's clothing survives, it tends to fall into the category of "best" or formal attire, such as wedding suits, and typically belonged to a member of the middle or upper economic classes. Dress of the common man, such as this farmer's coat, represents the rarest category of men's garments. It is made of a utilitarian fabric of which only a few complete examples of clothing are extant. To

provide a sense of the, textile rarity involved in this project, it took Karin nearly a year to find Barbara Miller, who has the necessary expertise and experience to replicate eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century woven utilitarian fabrics, and it took Barbara four months to locate suitable fibers.

While Barbara is preparing swatches for color matching, warping her loom and beginning to weave, clothing historian and professional pattern drafter Martha McCain is currently documenting the coat by performing an in-depth study of its construction and features and drafting a pattern of it for future publication, a painstaking process that can take up to 200 hours. Upon completion of both the pattern and the weaving, Colleen Callahan and Karin Bohleke will spend intensive conservation sessions working on the coat together. The conservation procedures will stabilize the structural integrity of the coat, which is now compromised by many holes and areas of loss, a condition not unusual in a garment of this age and with this provenance.

The very first verb in SUFAM's mission statement is "preserve," and this coatee project will allow the institution the opportunity to preserve and subsequently display one of the rarest and most valuable items in its collection. More importantly, through careful and complex stabilization, this object will survive to educate future generations. SUFAM is committed to instructing and sharing appropriate models for the care and exhibition of historic clothing items with museum professionals, volunteers and students. For an update on this project visit www.facebook.com/fashionarchivesandmuseum.

Reprinted from the Shippensburg Newsletter.

**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 & Times of the Area 1900-1950</i> including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	\$10.00
_____	<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield & 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
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DUES are due beginning July 1, 2012 Still only \$10 a year!

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mailing label here

Mark your calendar

July 1st, Dues are due, please renew your membership today, or consider becoming a life member of the Interlaken Historical Society

July 22th Sixth Annual community social on the library lawn

September 22nd 2012 Plowing Day Country Fair and Local Fare

Like us on *Facebook*

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