

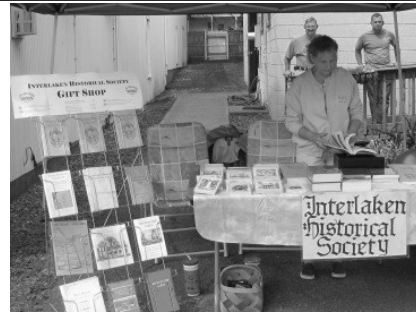
# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 39 No. 4 April 2014

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

Plan to visit the Museums on June 14th for Olde Home Day.



## **The Community is Invited! An Update on the Backbone History Group Monday, January 27, 2014 New Time 7:00 pm**

Gerry Messmer, Secretary of the Backbone Ridge History Group, will speak to the 28 April meeting, providing an update on the Backbone Ridge History Group (BRHG) of Seneca and Schuyler Counties.

This is a grass roots organization formed to collect the history of the land and people between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, especially that area known as the Backbone which lies primarily in and around the Finger Lakes National Forest.

The Group's Mission is to identify and facilitate public access to sources of information documenting the history of the people, communities, and lands in this area and to promote the study of this history.

Its vision is to bring this history to life for current and future generations through its educational programs and collection of artifacts and archives. The various projects and presentations regarding the Group's activities will be covered, with some detailed descriptions of past projects including the

restorations of ancient cemeteries and landmarks.

The Group's projects being planned for 2014 will most assuredly whet the appetites of all those interested in "our history."

There will be a short Annual Meeting of the Interlaken Historical Society to hear the yearly reports and elect board members.

Please note the new time for the meeting, 7:00 p.m. The program will be held in the dining room of the Interlaken Masonic Hall, 8396 Main Street (above Hubbard Heating and Plumbing). With the addition of a new user-friendly stair-chair the area is handicapped accessible.

The program is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For more information contact the society at 607-280-2099.

### **Table of Contents**

President's Message	Page 2
Society News	Page 3
Library News	Page 4
Childhood Memories: Cayuga Street	Page 5-7
Sugarin' Time	Page 8-10
All Class Reunion	Page 10
Gift Shop Form	Page 11

### **President's Message**

This message often written before most of the newsletter is put together. Thankfully it was not this time. And that is good. There is no room left once all the wonderful articles were placed throughout.

We have added pictures and a few notes along the way to complete the space, but what else is there to say, but...

Thank you for your time as you read, enjoy and participate in the activities of the Interlaken Historical Society.

*Diane Bassette Nelson*

### **Financial Donations**

Muriel Huttenback in Memory of Pat Patterson

### **Donations to the Society**

Hitchcock Family Rations books, including one issued to one-day old David Hitchcock now of Oriskany Falls, NY

Local newspapers and other memorabilia from Dorothy Wickes estate

Memorabilia and pictures given by Ruth Thompson

LaTourrette & Miller Business advertising card from Karl Kabelac, Rochester, NY

Does anyone know more about this company? We would love to learn more and be able to share the information.

### **Introducing our Newest Trustee**

**William D Bishop**



At the Annual meeting on April 27th we will be introducing our newest board member candidate and asking the membership to approve his selection to the board. Bill lived in Jacksonville NY and went to Trumansburg Schools, graduating in 1974. Much of his time was also spent at the Hunt Farm in Interlaken. Summer vacations and Saturdays were enjoyed working and learning many skills around the farm.

After graduation from Alfred Collage in 1978 with a degree in heavy truck and diesel repair, he worked for New York State DOT in Ithaca as a mechanic, and soon moved to Interlaken. In 1991 he started working as a Bus Inspector for New York State. Bill purchased land on County Road 142 and started part-time farm, growing and selling hay.

Bill is now retired from New York State. He has been involved with several youth programs and enjoys working with children, including the Tompkins County 4-H Shooting Sports program and the Seneca County horse program. He has also volunteered for the Girl Scouts in Interlaken.

In addition to helping with Historical Society projects he will be spending more time farming and enjoying hobbies, including collecting and repairing old cars and tractors. He can also be found hunting, fishing, horseback riding and camping.

Welcome Bill, we look forward to working with you.

### **Gifts in Memory of Curtis Thompson**

Buster and Judy Chesley

Roger and Nancy Ganoung  
Marilyn Maleshi and Debra Dilollo  
Richard and Elaine Fuller  
Jayne Thompson  
Edwin and Marylou Brown  
Brian and Jean Wolf  
John and Emma Christensen  
Sylvia Cacciotti  
Edward and Mary Callahan  
Barbara and Harold Stewart  
Peter Akiins  
A thank you to all who gave gifts.

#### **Follow-up on Route 96**

*Thank you Bill Gates for sharing more on this topic.*

In looking at the October, 2013 newsletter I noticed that you were asking about when Rt. 96 was relocated. Co. Rd. 139 from Happy Landing to Ovid is the old Rt. 96. I well remember that road, including seeing the Greyhound bus come to a stop facing George Lynd's. I believe the Drug Store which used to be on the corner to the left was the ticket agent. I think it was Depew's back then. Incidentally Wickes was the Greyhound agent in Interlaken. I think still today more houses are located on that part of 139 than on the "new" 96, so the last I knew cable TV was available on 139 and not on that part of 96.

Rt.96 was rerouted in the early 50s. At one point you could get on the new road before it was open, but after the concrete was poured. I remember very well the first time I ever road in a car at over a 100 miles

an hour. Bill Horton, who was our neighbor on the Lodi-Interlaken road, took my uncle Jason and me for a ride in a new or nearly new convertible that he had just gotten. We got on the new pavement at the present blinker light in Ovid and went down to the corner of Co. Rd. 146. From the back seat I could watch the speedometer reach 110. I'm sure somebody would know the exact year that road was open.

Over the years there were several road changes in the area, which I discovered when I was doing research on accidents at railroad crossings. For instance Munson Road used to go straight through to an intersection with Footes Corners Road. You can still see the outline as you go east on Munson Road, approaching Route 96. Back then if you went north on Footes Corners about a 1000-1500 feet, you could turn left to go to Ovid. Therefore there were 2 more railroad crossings that no longer are very visible.

One of the accidents was a time when 2 men in a buggy, late at night, after celebrating in Interlaken, were heading home to Ovid. The north-bound train separated the buggy from the horse and dragged the buggy and the 2 men to the next crossing and dropped it off. As I recall the men were not hurt, but were missing a horse.

#### **New Faces at the Interlaken Public Library**

The Interlaken Public Library welcomes

our new library director, Michelle Simone. Following is Michelle's introduction in her own words.

Hello, my name is Michelle Simone and I am the new librarian at the Interlaken library. I received my BA from SUNY Empire State in 2006 and MLIS from Dominican University in 2008. I was director of a public library in Illinois for three and a half years after that. However, my intent was always to serve in Central New York and I am very happy to be back here with you. I believe strongly in public libraries and their benefits to the local community. My undergraduate studies were mainly in children's literature and nature. At Dominican my focus was on library services and technology. I am also a volunteer reader on [Librivox.org](http://Librivox.org) and working on a master naturalist certification.

Welcome Michelle!

Also Interlaken Public Library recently hired a program coordinator in conjunction with the Lodi Whittier Library. Amy Sabol, a resident of Ovid, but just over the border from Lodi on NYS 414, is working with the two libraries to arrange, coordinate and supervise an array of interesting and exciting programs. By polling patrons of the libraries, discussing possible topics with staff of other Seneca County libraries and chatting with folks in our communities, Amy is gathering many ideas, contacting potential teachers, leaders and presenters to put together a variety of program topics. Among

those programs already held have been presentations from authors, crafts such as constructing Piñatas, embroidery, and knitting, classes in genealogy, gardening, cooking, jewelry making, and painting. Topics planned for the future might include: forestry, cartooning, organic gardening, dog obedience, cheese production, fondue fun and watercolor painting, to name but a few.

Because funding is generously provided by the Delavan Foundation or individual contributions most of the activities are free and open to everyone. Additional ideas are always welcome, so if you have a program, special talent, or class you would like to teach/share, please contact either of the libraries: Lodi 582-6218 or Interlaken 532-4341 or e-mail Amy at [chocolateroseswine@gmail.com](mailto:chocolateroseswine@gmail.com).

### **Mark your Calendars Plowing Day 2014**

Planning is underway for the Saturday, September 28, 2014 Plowing Day event to be held at the Hunt Barn north of the Village of Interlaken. Highlights will include speakers, displays, food, animals, and of course, the parade of tractors and plowing of the field. More details in the July newsletter. Interested in participating, contact John Hunt chairman at 607-592-3224.

## Childhood Memories of Cayuga Street

*Phyllis Betzler continues her memories of people and places from the 1940s.*

After I was born in 1938 and was brought home from the Seneca Falls Hospital, I moved with my parents, Charles and Dorothy Wickes who lived on Interlaken's Cayuga Street. It was a great street because of the wonderful people who lived there. They were a big part of my early childhood until we moved to Main Street in 1946. We were like family living as neighbors, up and down the street.

I will describe the house I lived in when I get down the street to it but I will start with the first house behind H. P. Minor's hardware Store. It is a large Greek revival house, now vacant, owned by the Stout family but in my time I only remember Bert Stout an elderly gentleman living there. Summers he sat on

the small front porch on a straight uncomfortable looking kitchen chair. When I was old enough to walk to town with Mother it was nice to stop and visit.

The next house was a double house owned by the Babcocks who owned Babcock's Meat Market on Main Street. Elsie Babcock and Nellie Purdy, who ran a hat



shop next to the old post office, also on Main Street, lived on the West side of the house. On the other side Mertie Bloomer lived. I called her "Grandma" Bloomer even tho she was not related to me. Summers were a great time of year. People sat on their porches and when one walked by, you would probably be invited up to sit and visit for awhile. I would often stay with "grandma" Bloomer while Mother went on to town to shop. A cookie was always offered which of course I accepted.

The next house was the home of Fred and Merrill Campbell and their daughter, Betty. I recently learned from Naomi Brewer that Fred worked at one time for Babcock's Meat Market and drove their delivery truck filled with groceries and stopped at homes for families to come out and "shop" for many items including bread, cookies, and even spices that were stored in drawers on the truck. When the truck came to Wyers Point, Naomi and her brother Carleton dashed out to see what their Mother could buy for them.

The next house was a brick house, the home of James Grant. He was an elderly gentleman who always wore a suit and dress hat. He would offer a "hello" when we walked by if he was outside tending to his lawn and flowers.

The next house was a double house with Julia Miller living on the west side. I spent a lot of time in the summer on her porch visiting with her. She was another

“grandma” type person. I sat on the porch each time Mother mowed the lawn for 25 cents paid by the owner, Hattie Taylor, who lived on the east side of the house. Hattie, an elderly lady, baby sat for me once in a while and since she never baked, I got to eat



pickled whole yellow wax beans with bread and butter. She made jars and jars of them each summer. They were so good.

Next door to Hattie was our house which Dad rented from her for \$12.00 per month.

We heated the house with two coal stoves. We had a coal kitchen cook stove which heated our only hot water in the reservoir and a coal stove in the living room.

Uncle George Van Dorn, my great grandmother Jennie Van Dorn Quick’s brother, lived with us and paid \$5.00 per week, room and board. That money bought our food. Mother did a lot of canning to supplement our food table. She had a garden out back of the barn and was so disappointed when some animal ate the peas before she got to pick them. But don’t worry—the canning factory was in town and when some farmer went by with his wagon of pea vines going to the factory, just some-

how a big roll of pea vines ended up in the road right in front of our house. Mother gathered them up and we sat on the bench in front of the barn and pulled the pea pods off and then shelled them for supper. Mother gave up one hill of potatoes from her garden just to have peas and new potatoes. We had enough for another meal so she stored them in the “ice” box. We also had a hand pump in the kitchen sink for our water supply. Nothing modern for sure at that house.

Uncle George had a car. My parents did not. He would always drive us to Kidders to my grandparents, another special place for me to be at. Uncle George was so good to me. When I was older he took care of me while my parents worked. When I came home from school on

a cold winter’s day we would dry out some bread in the kitchen coal stove oven, then we would put our feet on the warm open over door and eat that plain dried bread. It was so good,



believe it or not! After our snack, we would play cards and board games until Mother got home to start supper.

Those years on Cayuga Street were good years for me. Many good memories, no bad ones except for the blackouts during the war. There was an observation booth south of town about where the fire house is

now. Many volunteers took their shift each night to look for airplanes. When one was sighted the siren blew and all lights in town had to be turned off so the town was black. I did not like to sit in the dark until the all clear siren sounded. But the good memories included the apricot tree in the back yard, (no apricots today are as good as those were), hollyhocks by the outhouse, the fragrant syringa bush by Hattie's side porch, the neighborhood kids I played with from across the street.

So much, much more that I can write about another time like the houses beyond ours and all the houses and people who lived across the street.

*Pictures: Hattie Taylor and author Phyllis Wickes Betzler, and Uncle George VanDorn with Phyllis and Bruce Redman shelling peas.*



A DELIGHTFUL OCCASION took place Friday when Mrs. Nellie Purdy was honored by the Interlaken Baptist Church at a family dinner. Gifts and a short program sought to express appreciation for her service of nearly 43 years as Treasurer of the Church which she has also faithfully supported through other interests as well. Here she shows scrapbook presented to her, with friends. (WAID)

*News clipping  
Nellie Purdy  
(standing) and  
Mary Ella Babcock Drake.*

*Newspapers  
and other memorabilia  
from  
Dorothy Wickes' estate.*

### **Genealogy and historical Request**

Frank J Zwolinski, formerly of the Ovid area, has sent in a request for information on the Combs School in the Ovid area. Members of his family attended the school and he would like to find out more information on the school, the teachers and if anyone might have any old school records.



If you can assist him, please contact him at Frank J Zwolinski, 416 Denton Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, fzwolinski@santarosa.edu The picture above shows the Combs School.

Thank you Frank for sharing with us.

### **History on the Sidewalk**

We will again have our History on the Sidewalk events this summer.

Children's games, conversations at the Farmers' Museum, vintage cars and vintage tractors, artists, Tea on the Lawn (wear your favorite bonnet or borrow one of ours), and fire trucks are all planned for the Saturdays in July and August. Watch for details.

The museums will be open 10 am to 2 pm each Saturday in July and August and by appointment. Call 607-280-2099.

## Sugarin' Time

by Gerry Messmer

It's the second week of March again – nostalgia sets in every year at this time - the days are warmer while the nights remain cold, just the right combination to start the sap flowing in the newly budded sugar maples. The streamlets are flowing once again and in the sugar bush little pools of crystal clear snow melt water are showing. It's "sugarin' time" once more! The very first time this combination of nature's wondrous events struck home to me was way back in 1944. I was nine years old and we were visiting my Aunt Geraldine Batty's magical home on the Podunk Road in Trumansburg. I say magical because of her loving way of hostessing all who came to her home. Her cooking and baking were more savoring than any "haute cuisine" I've ever encountered. She had that special talent for making all her guests more comfortable than you can imagine. I especially remember sleeping in her huge canon ball bed in her upstairs bedroom where I cuddled in one of her downy soft feather ticks – the closest today's kids can come to one of these is what we call comforters, a far cry from a feather tick. Falling off to sleep I fondly remember that the only night sound came from the gentle breeze soughing through the giant pine trees in the side yard and gently wafting through the partially open bedroom window. I remember awaking to the aroma of home cured bacon and pancakes from the griddle in the kitchen. Breakfast

was a feast set for a king – stacks of home-made griddle cakes and bacon done to just the right crispness. BUT – the pancake syrup was something I had never experienced before. I asked Aunt Geraldine where this delicious nectar had come from. She told me her father-in-law, Uncle Don's father, had a "sugar bush" way up in the woods and he made their own maple syrup from sap gathered from his stand of sugar maple trees. She followed that up with "I think "Dompey" (that's what my cousins called their Grandfather) is going to the "sugar shack" today, would you like to go with him?" No nine-year-old could ever turn down an invitation like that. I could hardly overcome my anxiety to be a part of this wondrous expedition.

Just before mid-morning Dompey appeared in the barnyard with his big team of Blacks, Deck and Kit, and was just hooking the team to the tandem sleighs. On the sleighs was mounted a large shiny bright stock watering tank complete with a special wood cover to keep its contents from spilling as the "gatherin' in" proceeded. As soon as I reached the barnyard I asked this kindly child-loving grandfather why he was not using his Model 10-20 tractor. He explained to me that with the war going on gasoline was in very short supply and our fighting men needed it so badly at the Front.

Joining me with Dompey were my cousins Kay Mary and Jim and my younger



brother Dave. Dompey sent Jim to the henhouse to gather up a basket of eggs. I thought to myself that was a funny thing to do – why do we need eggs when we were headed for the woods. With each of us kids standing on the out-rigged struts alongside the tank and holding on tight we were off to the sugarbush with Dompey driving his team taking us on a new adventure “way up in the woods...”

After we had crossed the little stream by the pasture we were straightaway headed for the woods and our introduction to “sugarin’ time.” Upon our arrival Dompey explained how the procedure was to go. He showed us the sugar shack where smoke was coming from the stack. Once inside we saw the large evaporating pans with the maple sap, gathered earlier, bubbling away and smelling so delicious, the aroma filling the whole area. Below the pans there was a nicely burning fire keeping the sap at just the right temperature. Once our tour of the sugar shack was over we all ventured into the “work area” where we could help with the gatherin’. The trees in the maple stand all had at least one “spile” inserted into predrilled holes, the larger trees usually had two spiles. These small faucet-looking style metal tubes also had hooks on them from which the gatherin’ pails were hanging to collect sap. Our job was to unhook the pails of sap and pour their contents into the big sleigh-mounted tank and then replace the empty pails back onto the spiles. After near-

ly two and a half hours we returned to the sugar shack where Dompey transferred the new sap to a storage tank where he had a drip process feeding the evaporation pans.

As soon as that was done we all gathered in the shack to warm ourselves a bit and relax. It was just after noon when Dompey opened up his pack and brought out two loaves of unsliced freshly baked homemade bread. The next part of our lunch break astonished us all as he began slicing the bread and toasting the slices by the fire and then he followed that up with cracking the eggs and gingerly placing them into one of the evaporation pans with the slowly bubbling sap. He showed us that he was poaching the eggs for us to put on the slices of toasted bread. To our amazement he carefully removed the poached eggs and placed them on “our slices” of toast. Our eyes lighted up in delight as we tasted this special lunch treat: the unforgettable and delectable taste of maple flavored poached eggs on toast prepared for us “way up in the woods.”

Many years have passed since that unforgettable adventure...but several years ago, in more modern times, I had the memorable opportunity to relive that special time once again at sugarin’ time. Our nephew, Karl Dendis, son of my wife’s brother Joe, operated a sugarbush on the Dendis Farm near Interlaken where my wife Millie grew up. He and our four children were as astonished as I was “way back when.” I

took them to Karl's "sugar shack" with its bubbling maple sap and re-enacted that wondrous adventure of 1944 by serving them maple flavored poached eggs on toast to their utter delight. It was sugarin' time once again just as it is each March around the area we call Backbone Ridge in this wondrous place we call home.

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### **THIRD INTERLAKEN CENTRAL SCHOOL ALL CLASS REUNION ...**

...will be taking place during the week-end of June 13-14, 2014 at the Interlaken School Building and the Ovid VFW.

Reunion Chairman Don Betzler announced that these special events are being repeated due to the overwhelming number of requests by so many classmates who enjoyed the nostalgic and successful All Class Reunion of 2008.

Betzler added that the weekend of festivities has been planned so it will also coincide with the Village of Interlaken's Olde Home Day making it a double celebration for the return of so many students who attended the former Interlaken Central School and its predecessors "the old Interlaken District Schools and the former Interlaken High School." This reunion is not just for those who graduated but for any and all students who attended these schools at any time or for any period.

The 2014 Reunion Committee under Betzler's Chairmanship has been busily

putting together a week-end to remember for everyone in attendance beginning with a Friday Night Social being held June 13 at the Ovid Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall at 7068 Seneca Street, Ovid, NY. That get-together will feature a chance for all pre-registered attendees to relax, enjoy some snacks and reminisce beginning at 6 PM.

The following day, Saturday June 14, the Celebration of the Third Interlaken Central School All Class Reunion continues with the Open House Gathering at the "old Interlaken Central School Gym/Auditorium" on Main Street, Interlaken beginning at 11 AM with Registration. Attendees can register by picking up their food tickets and name tags anytime between 11 AM and 3 PM. This daytime gathering will also feature memorabilia, places to "sit and commiserate" and the opportunity to take pictures. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.

In keeping with so many requests regarding the delicious menu featured by the South Seneca Sportsmen's Club at the 2008 All Class Reunion, the Committee has secured a repeat of the Club's menu for celebrating at the 5 PM June 14, 2014 Saturday evening dinner. Following the dinner the Committee will introduce the featured Speaker, Mr. Walter Gable, the Historian of Seneca County, who will present an historical and insightful talk about "Us and Our History."

**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
_____	<i>Town of Covert</i> , 1976 Wayne Morrison	Hardcover \$35.00* Softcover \$25.00*
_____	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>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	\$25.00

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

Postage and Handling: Please add \$10.00 if your order total is over \$50  
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**PO Box 270**  
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www.InterlakenHistory.org

**Mark your calendar**

April 28, 2014 An Update on the Backbone Ridge History Group, and annual meeting of the Society. Second Floor Masonic Hall, 8396 Main Street, 7:00 p.m. (note the new time, and location)

June 14th Interlaken Olde Home Day and All Class Reunion.

Summer Saturdays: More History on the Sidewalk.

Sunday July 27, 2014 Summer Social on Main Street. Details in our newsletter.

August: Transportation on the Lakes, date and time to be announced.

September 27th Plowing Day 2014

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