

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 40 No. 1 July 2014

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Tancock Whaler
"Whisper" being
restored.

Join us August 18th
at Camp Barton to
learn more about
Cayuga Lake
Transportation



**8th Annual Society Social
Sunday, July 27, 2014
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 27th, between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. for our eighth 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 iced 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 History 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 museum@interlakenhistory.org or 607-280-2099.

History on the Sidewalk 2014

See page 8 for the schedule of events on the sidewalk this summer.

**Boat Building and Cayuga Lake Travel
Monday August 18th 7:00 PM
Camp Barton Boy Scout Camp**

Join us at Frontenac Point for an evening of Lake Travel then and now.

David Schaffner and Phil Walker of Ithaca are in the process of restoring a 30 foot Tancock Whaler built in the 1970s in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. It is oak framed with northern white cedar planking. Dave and Phil purchased the boat in Geneva, N.Y. from Doug Hazlitt. The boat had recently come from Chesapeake Harbor. Phil is planning to use it as a charter boat for the Ithaca Schooner Company.

We will be on the site of the former Frontenac Hotel. For information please contact the Society at 607-280-2099.

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President's Message

This issue of the *Between the Lakes* newsletter begins our 40th year of publication. A look back through those issues (all 160 of them) certainly reflects the changes over the years. Names, events and mode of publication are the first difference. Yet, in many ways there have not been major content changes. We still feature our upcoming programs, highlights of the displays, and other society information.

One name that has been on our newsletters for much of that 40 years was that of Mary Willers. Mary died May 18th, 2014. She has served on the board, as chair of the endowment committee and president of the Society for a number of years. Mary will be missed by her many friends. Please see page 3 for a list of donors in Mary's memory.

In June of each year the board of the Interlaken Historical Society elects new officers. Some years there are no changes; this year there were. Bill Schaffner has served on the board for many years, the last several as Vice President. In May Bill was able to join us again following his winter confinement and rehab. Unfortunately at that time he also asked to be relieved of duties from the board. The Board wishes to thank Bill for his service and we look forward to still having Bill and Mimi help with the newsletter and as docents in the Community Life Historical Museum.

While this issue marks forty years of publishing the newsletter, 2016 will mark the 65th Anniversary year of the Interlaken

Historical Society. In honor of that occasion the Board has begun working on a history of Interlaken, Covert and the surrounding area which will highlight the life and times since 1950.

Many times in answering a research question, the first source referred to is Pat Patterson's 1976 *Between the Lakes* volume which gives the history of our community from its earliest days through the celebration of the nation's bi-centennial. The new work will both build on that volume and expand its coverage.

In 1976 the 50s and 60s certainly didn't feel like they were history! Today they are, and we need to preserve the stories, photographs and legacy of these past 65 years. The goal of this project is to bring together the history of the events that have made our community what it is today, and consider how those events will help to shape our tomorrow.

The Vision statement for the historical society reads: "The Interlaken Historical Society wishes to preserve, celebrate and appreciate the past and present of our community in order to embrace the future." One point in the Mission Statement is to publish articles, pamphlets, periodicals and works of historic or literary significance to our area.

At the recent All Class reunion we invited alumni to be involved in this project and we are inviting all members of the Society and Community to be a part. On page ___ you will find a starting list of events and ideas for this new volume. We are looking

for photographs (they will be returned), articles and stories about the events of the past 65 years, or other memorabilia that we can use to highlight events.

While there will be a small committee to organize and edit the volume, we want it to be a community wide.

With this project in the development stages, and a goal to have it published in the Fall of 2015, I asked the Board to elect a new Board president at the June 2014 meeting. I am pleased to report that John Hunt will be taking on those duties in August.

As I close this my last President's column I would like to thank the board and the membership for the privilege of serving for the past several years and I look forward to working with all of you on this exciting project.

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

Diane Bassette Nelson

New Life Member

Bill Bishop, Interlaken

Gifts In Memory of Mary Willers

Patricia Moore

John and Shelia Scates

Janet Patterson

Virginia Boyes

William and Marianne Schaffner

Patricia and David Brust
Paul and Marjorie Wycoff
Mary Pell
Allan and Ann Buddle
James and Judy Closs
Marilyn Smith
Fredrick and Gail Stephans
Harold and Barbara Stewart

A Gentle Reminder

July marks the beginning of our new fiscal year. If you have not yet paid your 2014-2015 dues please renew your membership at this time. Still a great bargain at \$10.00 per year; or become a life member for \$100.

Plowing Day 2014
Saturday September 27th, 10 am to 4 pm

The Interlaken Historical Society will again host a Plowing Day and Country Fair at the Brook Farm, located at 8228 N. Main Street, at the edge of the village of Interlaken.

This year's theme at the Country Fair is: Apples and Cider processing. Mary Jean Welser will provide highlights on apples; Carl States will speak on the history of cider making and recount the history of his family's States Cider Mill in Odessa from 1939 to 1986.

Included in this highly attended event will be the usual historic time-line of plowing with draft animals, as well as steam and gasoline powered tractors in the field.

Country fair exhibits of historic relevance will be located in and around the Brook Farm barn. Be sure to bring the children to see the range of animals which will be on hand as well.

This year we will include local vendors who grow, produce or process goods sourced locally. The intent is to promote local agriculture in particular and local buying in general. You are invited to apply to display and sell products appropriate to this year's theme.

Vendors of interest include those growing or producing food as well as non-food

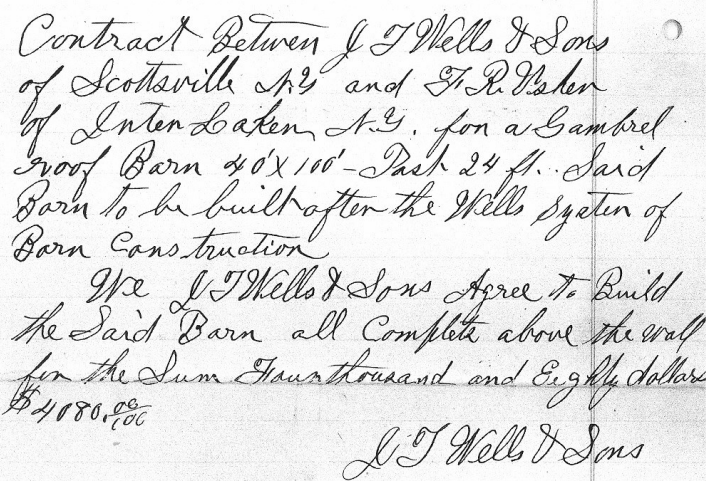
items. We also request that you use this opportunity to educate the attendees about your products and business, in addition to the sale of your products.

New this year is a invitation to local artists to display works relating to the Apple theme.

For more information on the 2014 Plowing Day and Country Fair contact John Hunt at hunt.four@gmail.com, or by phone at 607-592-3224.

Plowing Day 2014 will be held rain or shine, with local food vendors in attendance, so bring your appetite as well. A number of gift baskets with local specialty items will be given out; be sure to register for these when you arrive.

Page one of the contract between J T Wells and Frederick Usher for the building of the barn, price \$4,080.00!



*Contract Between J T Wells & Sons
of Scottsville N.Y. and F. R. Usher
of Interlaken N.Y. for a Gambrel
Roof Barn 40' x 100' - Pitch 24 ft. Said
Barn to be built after the Wells system of
Barn Construction*

*We J T Wells & Sons Agree to Build
the Said Barn all Complete above the wall
for the Sum Four thousand and Eighty Dollars
\$4,080.00*

J T Wells & Sons

65 Years of Community History

September 28, 1951 a small group meeting was held to discuss the formation of the Interlaken Historical Society; October 30, 1951 the organizational meeting of the Interlaken Historical Society was held.

So much has happened in our community since those fall days of 1951. As we approach the 65th anniversary of the Interlaken Historical Society we are looking for community writers to share their memories of events that have taken place in our schools, organizations, village, town and the immediate surrounding areas since then.

The Historical Society will be assembling the pieces into a book which we hope to publish in the Fall of 2015 as we kick-off the year of celebration.

We are looking for articles, photographs, memorabilia or even a few lines about an event which we can compile into a longer article.

Listed below are just a few events and thoughts to begin the process, and we want to hear from anyone and everyone so that this book shows what life was about in our community for the past 65 years.

Weather events:

Hazel (late 1950s) Agnes (June 1972)
Snow storms in the 1960s and the thaw
Blizzard of 1993

National Issues

Korean War Viet Nam War
Cold War JFK's assassination

Holidays and Parades

Memorial Day Parade and Services
Halloween Parade and School events

Art Club Painting windows
Marching Band/Summer parades
Firemen's Carnival

Agriculture in our community

De-tasseling corn Fruit stands
Wineries Beekeeping
CSAs Organic farms

Local Businesses

Wickes Storaths
Hanford Hardware Gas Stations
Canning Factory Goodman Hotel
Restaurants Bed & Breakfasts
And the newer businesses that have started since the 1950s.

Organizations

American Legion Auxiliary
Girl Scouts Boy Scouts
4-H FFA
Fire Department
O'Malley's Fire 1972 Barn Fires

Transportation and communication

Trains Greyhound Bus
Newspapers
Life before cell phones
Operators Party lines

Your thoughts and ideas are welcomed and appreciated. Do you need resources? We have a newspapers and some photographs, let us know what so we can help you.

Send items to the Historical Society at PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847, or contact us at museum@interlakenhistory.org

To jog memories the next two pages have weather articles from August 1982 and February 1960, reprinted from the *Interlaken Review*

1982 Tornado damages lakeside property

By ROBERTA SPERLING reprinted

"The weatherman said it wasn't a twister, but I wished he'd been sitting right here at the time," said Lewis Moore of Deer Lick Springs Road. Moore saw the whole thing from the vantage point of a grade-all.

"We were working-ditching on the road," he explained. "I happened to face this way (towards his own home on Deer Lick Springs Road) and I saw a huge black whirlwind cloud with limbs and leaves in it. It was a sight to be seen. I just stared at it."

That was on August 25 [1982]. The twister followed a path of 300 to 400 feet along a gully on Moore's land and down to Cayuga Lake. In its path it uprooted trees, bent a metal flagpole in a 45 degree angle, picked up a garage, tore off a porch and destroyed several small outbuildings. Damage was done at the Moore home, the Larry Potts home and at Julia MacDonald's home by the lake.

Webb Rankin, who works for Mrs. MacDonald, also saw what happened.

"I was standing outside the back door of the garage," Rankin said. "I looked west and 150 feet in the air you could see leaves and limbs blowing around. We (Rankin and Bruce King) ducked inside-and just as we closed the doors, it hit."

Both Rankin and Moore say it was a twister, though some weather reports on television described it as "high winds."

"Trees were down in all different direc-

tions-north, south, east," said Rankin. "you can't prove to me it wasn't a tornado. A small one-but still a tornado."

Rankin said that after the twister hit Mrs. MacDonald's property, he could see it blowing across the lake. The surface of the water was violently stirred up-it looked as though it were foaming.

Rankin estimated that the damage was concentrated within 400 feet. Mrs. MacDonald's property is 600 feet wide and hardly any serious damage was done at its edges or beyond.

Damage done to the MacDonald property included many trees uprooted or broken off. Two windows of the house were broken when tree limbs flew into them. A corner of the house was damaged by a large tree limb and eave troughs and downspouts were knocked off. Some shingles on the roof were ripped off by the wind.

A car, owned by Mrs. Frusty of Shel-drake, parked near the MacDonald home, was crushed by a falling tree. Many apple trees were uprooted in the orchard and limbs and branches from fallen trees were strewn all over the property.

At the Potts home the porch was torn off the house.

And at the Moore home a garage was lifted from its foundation.

"You could see beneath it (the garage)," said Moore. "It was up 20 feet in the air then it just dropped back."

A pig pen and a chicken coop were de-

stroyed and a decorative well house was “smashed all to pieces!” Moore's wife, Pat, was in the house when the twister hit.

“I was in the house trying to shut the windows and heard a big roar,” she said. “I didn't realize the extent of it till I looked outside ... Bark was ripped right off the trees.”

The Moore's flagpole, a metal one, was bent in a 45 degree angle. Both Moores said that nothing hit the pole, that it was the force of the twister alone that pushed it over.

Clean-up operations were underway as soon as the twister passed. The electricity was restored at the MacDonald home when a new pole was installed shortly afterwards. The county highway crew cleared a huge willow that was lying across County Road 153. The men even removed the stump, Rankin said approvingly.

He and King and another man were pulling limbs away from the MacDonald house all day Thursday. When contacted Monday afternoon, Rankin said that the work was going quickly; most of the brush was already gone.

However, it'll be a long time before everything is back in order. “It'll take 60 years to replace those big trees,” Rankin said.

Fortunately, though, no one was hurt in the storm. Ninety-three year

old Mrs. MacDonald was in her home at the time and was reportedly frightened by the storm, but soon calmed down.

February 1960 Winter Storm

A storm, termed as the worst blizzard since 1944-45, struck the area late Thursday night and lasted until Sunday morning dropping over 15" of snow on the area and piling it up with a 30 m.p.h. gale.

By Friday evening most highways were closed. Highway crews worked sleepless hours, many until Sunday morning, in an attempt to keep Route 96 open.

Also hit hard by the storm were the Switchboard operators at the local telephone office. According to Jane Dowdle, chief operator, about 1500 calls were handled on both Friday and Saturday. 700 to 800 is considered normal. Mrs. Dowdle commented on the fine cooperation she had received from both the public and the girls at the switchboard, many who worked double shifts because others could not make it to work. Some of those who did make it could not get home and spent the night with Mrs. Dowdle.

The local milk plant of Fiorlat Dairy Products Corp. kept open all night Saturday to receive milk as fast as farmers were plowed out. There were over 100 cans delivered after midnight until 5 a.m. Sunday with no producer losing his milk because he could not deliver it.

Village workers are still busy carrying off the accumulation of snow in the village. Power failures on Route 89 north of here, and at Lodi presented its share of problems.

Many cars and trucks were stranded in Interlaken and occupants spent the night at Cronk's, Goodman and Lakecrest hotels, fire hall and private homes. As an example, Mr. and Mrs. George Slingerland entertained 24 over the two night period. Some were brought to town after being rescued from stranded cars by the highway crews.

At Romulus, the school was opened Friday night to care for occupants of three Greyhound busses

which were stranded near Sampson and occupants of cars stranded in or near that community. Many of the bus passengers were young people from Rochester enroute to Binghamton to attend a Christian Youth conference Sat. & Sun.

One bus left Saturday morning, but got stuck and proceeded only to Waterloo. The other 2 remained until Sunday morning.

Seneca Ordnance Depot furnished the group with cots, blankets and food and army and school personnel and students cared for the “guests.” About 130 spent Friday night at the school and 90 Saturday night. Romulus hotel also did a land office business, nearly running out of food. The temporary residents passed the time playing cards or basketball, dancing, baking cakes, listening to the radio and even putting on a talent show.

Local people stranded in Romulus were Mary Daily, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. John Murray and Mr and Mrs. Duane Waid.

Several rescues were made including an unidentified woman who was rushed from Fayette to the Waterloo hospital by Seneca Co. Highway Dept. men to have a baby. This experience was not a new one for the expectant mother, however as another child was born to her under similar circumstances during the 1958 storm.

The 12 ton wrecker from the Seneca Ordnance Depot, which delivered the cots to the school took from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday to make the trip. A 9 ton wrecker was stuck near the base.

At Ovid, another bus was stranded with passengers spending the nights on the bus or in the new Ovid Municipal Bldg. Other stran-

July 19th Community Coffee Time with fellowship and food at the Farmers' Museum. Coffee and baked goods will be available as friends and visitors have a time to recall our agrarian roots. Bring a chair and stay for a long chat.

July 26th Fun Without Batteries, enjoy a day of kids games, no batteries required. Games from the 19th and early 20th century will be available to try out. Get up in the air on a pair of stilts, try rolling a hoop down the sidewalk or catching a ball with a cup. And when you get thirsty, cookies and lemonade, in a glass not a plastic box.

August 2nd Animals at the Museum

Stop at the museums, and especially the lawn at the Farmers's Museum to see the animal visitors.

August 9th Tea and Fashions

We will have tea or lemonade at the Community Life History Museum. Bring or wear your favorite hat and join us for an enjoyable look at fashions.

August 16th Tractors on the Sidewalk: In anticipation of Plowing Day 2014 we invite people to bring their tractors to Main Street, and for everyone to stop by for a visit.

August 24th History of Fighting Fires, Then and Now. Members of the Interlaken Volunteer Fire Department will be on hand with the 1860s Hand Pumper, and the current 502 brush truck. Do you recall the color of the marching uniform from the 1960s? One will be on display, along with other

highlights from the collections.

Both the Farmers' Museum and the Community Life History Museum will be open Saturdays in July and August from 11 am to 2 pm. Other times by appointment.

For more information on any of these special events, or to schedule a time to visit, please contact the museum at 607-532-8899 or 607-280-2099, by email: museum@interlakenhistory.org



Other local events this summer

Walking Tours

of Lake View Cemetery Saturday August 2nd at 3:00 pm or Sunday August 24th at 3:00 pm. 607-280-2099

29th Annual Car Show and Flea Market by the Interlaken Fire Department. Gates open at 8:00 am; Chicken Bar-B-Q at noon and awards at 3:00 pm. For additional information Jim Borden at jeborden89@yahoo.com, or Matt Barkee at mbarkee@fltg.net

**New Items at the
Interlaken Public Library**

Atkins, Ace: Robert R. Parker's Cheap Shot
Robert R. Parker's Lullaby
Baldacci, David: The Target
Berry, Steve The Columbus affair
Biskup, Agnieszka: Batman Science : the real-
world science behind Batman's gear
Butcher, Jim: Changes; Skin Game
Carnarvon, Fiona: Lady Almina and the real
Downton Abbey
Carson, Ben: Countess of America the beautiful:
rediscovering what made this nation great
Clark, Mary Higgins: I've got you under my
skin
Cooper, Jeanne: Not young, still restless : a
memoir
Doerr, Anthony: All the light we cannot see
Donaldson, Stephen R: A man rides through;
The mirror of her dreams
Doyle, Arthur Conan: Professor Challenger ad-
ventures
Evanovich, Janet: Explosive eighteen
Evans, Richard Paul: Walking on water
Galbraith, Robert: The silkworm
Goodkind, Terry: Wizard's first rule
Grabenstein, Chris: Escape From Mr. Lemon-
cello's Library
Green, John: The fault in our stars
Hale, Shannon: Fire and ice
Hayden, Torey L: Ghost girl: the story of a child
in peril and the teacher who saved her
Iles, Greg: Natchez burning
Johnson, Craig: Serpent's Tooth
Kidd, Sue Monk: Invention Of Wings
King, James: Bill Warrington's last chance
King, Stephen Mr. Mercedes: A Novel
Lewis, Mitchell Scott: Evil in the 1st house
Macomber, Debbie: North to Alaska
Martin, George RR: A clash of kings; A dance
with dragons; A feast for crows; A game of
thrones; A storm of swords
Moore, Christopher: Serpent Of Venice
Moriarty, Liane: The Husband's Secret
Morrisey, Dean: The moon robber
Myers, Walter Dean: Somewhere in the Dark-

ness
Nasaw, David: The patriarch: life and turbulent
times of Joseph P. Kennedy
The Oxford Book of Children's Verse in Amer-
ica
Patterson, James: Invisible; Unlucky 13
Peet, Mal: Keeper
Pinkwater, Daniel Manus: The Neddiad
Pratchett, Terry: Raising Steam
Preston, Douglas J: White Fire
Rana, Indi: The Roller Birds of Rampur
Reichs, Kathy: Death du Jour
Rivers, Francine: Bridge to Haven
Roberts, Nora: The Collector
Roth, Veronica: Allegiant; Divergent; Insur-
gent
See, Lisa: China Dolls: A Novel
Tartt, Donna: The Goldfinch
Turner, Tracey: 100 Inventions That Made
History
Wiggs, Susan: The Drifter
Winspear, Jacqueline: The Care and Manage-
ment of Lies
Zusak, Markus: The Book Thief
CD - Audiobooks
Grisham, John: Confession
Kellerman, Jonathan: Compulsion
DVDs and BluRay
Coach Carter
Conan the barbarian
Godzilla vs. Biollante
Navy SEALs
The Perfect Storm
Rio
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Skyfall
Superman Unbound
Untraceable

Olde Home Day 2014

Citizen of the year



Most years the Interlaken Community Action Group honors a person or couple for their efforts for our community. This year, for only the second time, they selected a group to honor.

For over forty years these community orientated volunteers have helped others. What started as a project of a small group has grown to be a vital ecumenical service.

Without fail, every Friday afternoon they gather to organize the many donations, set-out the supplies and assist families as they arrive for the weekly Food Pantry.

Trying to put names to all the volunteers over the years would without a doubt leave out people, and most likely read as a roll-call of the community.

To those who first saw the vision of assisting others in need, to those who donate goods and funds to the Food Pantry and to those who dedicate their time on Fridays the Interlaken Community Action Group wishes to say Thank you, and names the Interlaken Food Pantry organization as the 2014 Citizens of the Year.

**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

<hr/>	<i>The Seneca Army Depot</i> , Walter Gable & Carolyn Zogg	\$21.95
<hr/>	<i>Seneca County in the Civil War</i> Walter Gable (Summer 2014).....	\$21.95
<hr/>	<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
<hr/>	<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
<hr/>	<i>Town of Covert</i> , 1976 Wayne Morrison	Hardcover \$35.00*
<hr/>		Softcover \$25.00*
<hr/>	Index to the Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers 1822-1994	\$55.00*
<hr/>	<i>The Covert Family</i> , 1989 Carl W. Fischer, Wm. V Covert	\$35.00*
<hr/>	M. L. Patterson	
<hr/>	<i>Between the Lakes</i> , 1976 Maurice L. Patterson	Hardcover \$25.00
<hr/>		Softcover \$15.00
<hr/>	<i>And Let My Memory Cherished Be</i> , Remembering the	\$18.00
<hr/>	Families of the Old Covert Cemetery, Diane Bassette Nelson	
<hr/>	<i>Interlaken Oral History: Life & Times of the Area</i>	\$10.00
<hr/>	1900-1950 including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	
<hr/>	<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield</i>	\$35.00
<hr/>	<i>& Descendants of Phineus Pratt</i> , Carl W. Fischer	
<hr/>	<i>Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of</i>	\$15.00
<hr/>	<i>His Life and Times 1743 – 1832</i> , Alta E. Boyer	
<hr/>	<i>The Diary of Herman T. Smith, 1884-1893</i>	\$10.00
<hr/>	<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00
<hr/>	<i>Landmarks of Seneca County</i> , Edith Delavan 2004	\$25.00

Order total _____

Postage and Handling: Please add \$12.00 if your order total is over \$50
Please add \$7.00 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
* \$3.00 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, 2012 Still only \$10 a year!

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar

July 27 Summer Social on the Library
Lawn

History on the Sidewalk Saturdays in July
and August

August 18th Cayuga
Lake Transportation;
Camp Barton, 9664
Frontenac Road.

You are welcome to
bring your own
lawn chair

Like us on *Facebook*



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