

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 40 No. 2 October 2014

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Walt McFall
with his F-12
McCormick-
Deering Farmall
tractor.



The Community is Invited! Monday October 27, 2014 7 p.m. Do You Remember...

As the Interlaken Historical Society continues working on our 65th Anniversary publication we are asking the community, near and far, young and old, "Do you Remember...?"

Please join us Monday evening, October 27th at 7:00 pm as we ask the question and share pictures and memorabilia to help recall people, places and events of the last 60 plus years.

We hope the program will help you ask the question, "Do You Remember...?" we need your input on events and people from the past so that they can be recalled and included in the forthcoming book.

Included in the evening will be both a slide presentation of photos and memorabilia, and items from the collections that we hope will get people talking. This is a program for sharing more than listening.

If you have photographs or other items that you would like to share that evening, please bring them with you. We will have scanning equipment to allow for quickly scanning items, and sharing them.

The program will be held in the Masonic Hall Dining Room (8396 Main Street, second floor) and is handicapped accessible.

Refreshments will be served and all are invited to join in a fun evening of sharing memories.

If you can't join us but have a photograph or a story to share, please contact the Interlaken Historical Society at museum@interlakenhistory.org, or PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847 and we will make arrangements to copy photographs or gather your stories.

For more information please contact the Society at museum@interlakenhistory.org or 607-280-2099.

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Thank you Bob Bullivant and Karen Nelson for the many pictures from Plowing Day 2014

President's Message

It seems to many that the Summer of 2014 sped by. Our own family with the birth of Grace's and my first grandchild keeps us looking for new photos, and our daughter's wedding preparations and day kept us jumping.

The museum buildings were open Saturdays as usual in July and August. We again had "History on the Sidewalk" trying to get people to stop in, enjoy and learn. Attendance was down even with events such as "Tea and Fashion," "Coffee and Donuts." Old cars, fire trucks, children's games and animals.

We would like input from our readers on what can be done next year to get people to stop, browse and ask questions.

At our September Trustee's meeting Frank Porter, Jr. was appointed as a Trustee. The full membership will be asked to approve this appointment in April 2015. We still have one position open; any volunteer's or recommendation for us to consider?

2015 Events are being discussed, please feel free to give us your thoughts. Good communication is important for the Interlaken Historical Society to grow and educate us all.

Thank you for your interest.

John Hunt, President

New Life Member

Peter and _____ Case,
Frank and Mary Lou Porter, Interlaken

Gifts In Memory of Mary Willers

Frank Dana

Meet Our New Trustee

Hello, my name is Frank Porter. I have just become a life member of the Interlaken Historical Society. I have recently retired after serving 26 and 1/2 years working at the Tompkins County Mental Health Department in Ithaca. What a privilege it was working with the many people I did helping them to have a higher quality of life. God has blessed me with so much in my life and it was easy to give to others from the excess.

I have also been a member of the First Baptist Church here in Interlaken since I was very young and have served there as an Elder for many years, both teaching many Sunday school classes and preaching as well.

I am the proud father of three sons as well as two grandsons. I have been married to my wife, Mary Lou for 32 years. I hope that God will give me many years of getting more involved in our community and serving the people here. God bless, Frank Porter Jr.

Newspapers On-Line

Have you ever wished you could look something up in the *Interlaken Review* or the *Ovid Gazette* from the comfort of your home computer? Now you can! This summer the Historical Society had the opportunity to have our newspapers scanned and placed online at www.fultonhistory.org. Now you can use the search engine and have a quick response to the question: is Grandmother's obit in the paper? Do you remember the storm in...?

There are excellent instructions for using the search engine, and once you find an item, open the page of the newspaper and save to your computer. Please give credit to the Fultonhistory.com site when you use items as well as source note for title and date of the publication.

Thank you to Thomas M. Tryniski for all his work in creating and maintaining the Fulton History site and for contacting the Historical Society to add our newspapers to the project. Also, thank you to Trustee Dorris Jennings who is also our main contact with the school, for allowing us to borrow and use the almost new set of microfilms rather than our well used set in the library.

A Gentle Reminder

July marked the beginning of our new fiscal year. Please look at the mailing label, if it has **6/30/2014** in red we have not yet received your renewal. We are hoping that the date on the label will help your remember to pay your dues. Still a great bargain at

\$10.00 per year; or become a life member for \$100.

Recent Donations to the Museum

Family Memorabilia from Allen, Rejmer and Gibson Family by Gary Gibson in Memory of Mary Rejmer Gibson

Sign found in an attic by Susan Krafft, Interlaken, NY

Children's wooden building blocks by Carolyn Young, Interlaken, NY



Remembering Interlaken Places

By Bruce Clark

Storaths:

Although it has been over a half a century, I remember the Storath family clearly. I was about 12 years old and I had worked in Rochester at my great Aunt's grocery store, from 4 PM to 10 PM every week night. I even sold beer and cigarettes in that era! (No one was concerned in that era). On Friday night I would take public transportation to the Greyhound bus station in downtown Rochester and travel from Rochester to Interlaken to visit my grandmother. In that era, the Greyhound bus stopped at Wickes pharmacy, and I would walk carrying my suit case to grandma's cottage on Interlaken Beach, where I now reside. I believe Wickes pharmacy was the official bus depot, as they sold tickets for the bus, and had a schedule in the front window.

I have fond memories of the Storath Family. Fred and Luella, and their three boys, Karl, Eric and Richard. Karl was the youngest, and tagged along with the older boys who were sometimes annoyed and tried their best to lose him. Fred was born in Germany and taught us some German words. I especially remember the words: "Ein heiser tag," meaning it is a hot day. We thought that was funny because heis rhymed with ice.

I enjoyed working in my great Aunt's store in Rochester so much, I offered to work a day in the Storath's store on Main

Street in Interlaken. The store was very old and I believe in its day it was a pharmacy. Storath's called it "a Variety Store" with standard items such as tooth paste, school supplies, greeting cards, comic books, soda pop, and other useful things. In addition it contained many patent medicines left over from the former owner that lined the many shelves from floor to ceiling on both sides of the store that had remained there for decades. There were the remains of many pharmacy jars with embossed gold labels with Latin names. We never knew what they contained. My first job was to help clean some of the shelves, and sweep the floor. The front of the store contained a soda fountain, and ice cream. There were small oak top tables with twisted wire legs. (Chairs to match) and a few bar type wire leg stools at the soda fountain counter. (I still have one of those soda bar stools purchased at a sale after the store closed) Soon was washing dishes and sometimes making sundaes and sodas for customers. I had no transportation, and depended upon Luella or Fred for a ride to and from the lake, or I walked. The Storath cottage was located where the Douglas Shaw cottage is presently located. I recall helping Luella make soda fountain syrup in a large kettle on a small stove at the back of the store. The flavoring was added to simple syrup and came in small bottles, of lemon, orange, cherry, lime, etc. Chocolate syrup was made differently, and I recall helping her stir it.

Eric Storath had a paint by numbers set and all of us enjoyed spending many hours painting pictures, often late into the night.

The Storath family was one of the first to have a raft in the lake. We boys spent many hours swimming and diving off the raft.

Life was always enjoyable associating with the Storath's. They loved their children and were happy to play games with us such as hide and seek, Chinese checkers. I recall hiding with Luella in the old barn out back of their cottage. Luella's mother was Mrs. Florence Creque. She also worked in the store part time.

I recall one amusing humorous incident. My grandmother thought it would be a great treat if she made homemade root beer for the neighborhood children. She followed the instructions and added yeast and sugar, along with the root beer flavoring. Rather than fill small bottled she purchased a small wooden keg and allowed it to age for a few weeks. Little did she know, the results! Her mixture fermented and became a fairly potent alcoholic beverage. We boys drank quite a bit and became quite inebriated! I remember Karl fell into the lake, and Eric could not stop laughing. Grandma insisted her root beer could not possibly contain alcohol because she did not add any. Grandma was a pillar of the church and was totally against drinking in any form. She was horrified when she learned what had happened.

H. P. Minor Hardware store on the corner of Cayuga Street and Main. The store was like a museum, the shelves lined with interesting items from a by-gone era. Lamp chimneys, lanterns, Aladdin lamps, Perfection kerosene stoves and parts, and revolving wooden cases containing a wide assortment of screws, bolts and nails.



Gas Stations

There were four. Crumb's where Larry Potts had his place. Wiggins where the convenience store and gas station are today, and Lew Egan's, now a vacant lot, and one across the street, that is now empty. I cannot remember the name. [Ed note: built in 1948 originally Bassette's Sunoco, later sold to Mr. Wilson, now the Village Offices.]

Canning Factory The buildings are still present. I remember Mae Wixom, and her daughter Carrie working there. They sat at a moving belt and sorted peas as they moved along.

Fire Department For some reason Larry and his brother Arthur Thayer took a liking to me. They suggested that I volunteer cooking burgers at the fireman's carnival.

One incident I will never forget is Larry Thayer having me drive the fire truck in the Fireman's parade. I had never driven a fire truck in my life and somehow, Larry left me alone to drive the truck. I remember driving it down the cemetery road, between parked cars and worried I might scrape one of the cars. Fortunately that did not happen. I did not know how to turn the truck around at the end of the parade and drove it to the end of the road, made a right and over to Cayuga Street, and turned right, then up to main and turned left. There was no way I was about to park it inside the fire house and I left the truck in the road in front of the fire house. Larry came out and parked it.

Wickes The first thing I remember is the white marble soda fountain. It also had oak top soda bar stools with wire legs that matched the small tables in the back of the store. It I recall a variety of comic books, and magazines, at the back of the store. I remember Charlie Wickes, and his mother Erma, who sat in the back of the store with her surly cat. We were warned not to touch the cat. "He bites and scratches" We were careful to avoid the cat.

Wickes pharmacy was similar to Storath's variety store but Wickes was a pharmacy and Charles was the pharmacist.

There were two large kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling that were used during power outages which were more frequent in those days.

Hanford's I remember Don Hanford. He always greeted me by saying: "How are you today young man" He was a small man, and always very pleasant. I recall him to be very patient and would explain how the water pumps and stoves (that he sold) worked

I recall a Store called Red and White, on Main Street next to Wickes Pharmacy. Also a small restaurant in the same area. There was Mrs. Darling's restaurant on Main St. also on the east side of the street. I remember having lunch there with my grandmother and her friends: May Wixom and Anna Dickerson. They were talking about someone, and Mrs. Darling was behind some draperies listening. At one point Mrs. Darling came out and joined the conversation.

Also Babcock's grocery store on the east side of Main Street. Jay's shoe store, where my grandmother bought me a pair of sneakers. I think Bill Jay owned the store. And across the street, Peterson's dry goods, and friendly Mr. Peterson.

And who could forget the movie theater? Floyd Dickerson ran the projectors, and his wife Ruth, did the cleaning each morning. I assisted her sweeping the floors of candy wrappers, and helped polish the brass door handles.

That is about all I can remember.
All fond memories. Bruce Clark

Song of the Finger Lakes

In August Gary Gibson brought to the Museum a number of items that had belonged to his wife Mary Rejmer Gibson which were being donated to the historical society.

Along with dresses, postcards, diaries, toys, photo albums and books was a copy of *Song of the Finger Lakes*, music by Marshall V. Allen, words by Marshall Allen and E. P. Hall. The piece was published in 1925 in Interlaken. Research to date has not identified Mr. E. P. Hall.

Using the search engine for the online issues of the Interlaken Review, the following item was found: The Sportsman, The Compass May 27, 1965

"Song of the Finger Lakes", a ballad with five verses, was published by the late Marshall V. Allen of Interlaken about 1925. Allen wrote the tune and made the arrangement. He collaborated with his cousin, Mrs. Elizabeth Purdy Hall of Burdett, in writing the lyrics. The Allens at one time lived in the Burdett area. Later, Allen operated a large farm just outside Interlaken and raised fancy poultry for show. Efforts to promote the song included its presentation at different events by a quartet consisting of the composer, his brother Samuel, the late John Flagg of Interlaken and Ralph Sackett. Sackett, the only surviving member of the four, has since moved from the Bennettsburg area to North Carolina. Allen wrote a great deal of poetry and some of it was published. Although he was not educated in the

musical field, he sang for many years at the old Bennettsburg Baptist Church and at Ovid Center Church. A favorite family past-time was a musical get-together. One of Allen's daughters, Mrs. George Hunt of Interlaken,

has several copies of the song sheet at her home. Specifically mentioned are Cayuga, Owasco, and Canandaigua Lakes, Taughannock Falls and the park at Watkins Glen.

The bright Finger Lakes are wooing in their beauty unsurpassed, and the tourist e'er pursuing, finds a glamour o'er that region set in beauty from the first unto the last of the famous Finger Lakes.

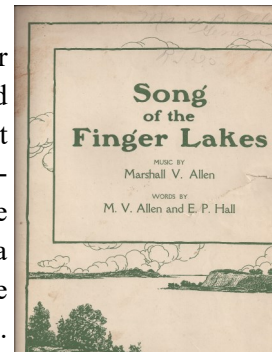
We would praise the fair Cayuga and Owasco Lake as well, and the glorious Canandaigua o'er our spirits cast its spell; and we fain for aye would linger and secure a place to dwell in the region of the Finger Lakes.

The fame Watkins Glen is calling, with attractions all its own, with its purest waters falling o'er its ancient furrowed stone, with its wealth of shade and shadow, and its Rainbow Falls enthroned midst the famous Finger Lakes.

The Taughannock Falls are knelling, tumbling from their lofty height, higher than Niagara swelling, with its all inspiring sight, and its grandeur is impelling, viewed by day or moonlit night, when we tour the Finger Lakes.

We may search thro' all creation for a fairer land to tour; there's no place in any nation, whose bright beauties so allure; and most pleasant recollections in our heart will e'er endure of the region of the Lakes.

Chorus: Oh, the touring of the lakes, their bright beauty ever wakes, in all hearts a song of praise for that fair region of the famous Finger Lakes



Plowing Day and Country Fair 2014





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Interlaken Historical Society
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Interlaken, NY 14847-0270

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar

October 27 Do You Remember...? Quarterly Society Program 7:00 pm 2nd floor
8396 Main Street, above Hubbard Heating & Plumbing

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A Team of Ozen at Plowing Day 2014



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