

# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 41 No. 1 July 2015

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Join us on August 1st and Ride the Train



## 9th Annual Society Social Sunday, July 26, 2015 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite the community to join us on Sunday, July 26th for our 9th annual Old Fashioned Social. This dish-to-pass event will be held on the Interlaken Public Library front lawn.

The Historical Society, and other community organizations, will provide the grilled hot dogs with rolls and fixings, lemonade and ice tea and of course ice cream and toppings for dessert. The ice cream comes from Cayuga Lake Creamery so you don't want to miss this opportunity to build your own sundae.

Serving starts at 4 pm and we usually wind down around 6 pm so arrive when you can and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship. The museums will be open. The wining ticket for the Lake View Cemetery quilt, quilt rack and teddy bear afghan will be drawn at 5:30.

In case of rain we will move indoors. For more information, please contact the society at 607-280-2099.

## Trains in the Village Did You Know

**Did you know** that the original railroad line was not the Lehigh Valley Railroad but the Ithaca and Geneva RR?

In May 1870 interested residents met at Ovid to help in organizing the Ithaca and Geneva Railroad. Work was begun from each end of the line and on September 13, 1873 there was a celebration in Romulus to join the two sections.

Even before the lines were joined excursion runs were held for people to experience the road. Wheeler Bassett an early Town of Covert Historian shared his memories of the August 28, 1873 event in an article to the Interlaken Review. It was reprinted in our newsletter a few years ago, and will be on display at the **Trains in the Village** event.

The Ithaca and Geneva RR was sold to the Lehigh Valley line in 1876.

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### **President's Message**

Summer 2015, no drought so far. We had a good spring for outside activities and then the rains have come. Now in mid-June there has been flooding in areas around us.

I joked with a neighbor, "it's like Hawaii, showers in the morning and beautiful afternoons." His reply, "That isn't sand oozing between my toes."

Olde Home Day was an enjoyable day. Showers early, but the rest of the day very pleasant. Now we are looking forward to July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> for more great weather. The 26<sup>th</sup> is our annual social and the 1<sup>st</sup> as that's out Trains in the Village event.

If you have ideas for programs that would interest you and other, please let us know.

I've had a number of people asking about Plowing and Country Fair Days for 2016, so that'll be on the agenda this Fall and Winter.

Trust your summer days have been enjoyable, looking forward to seeing many of you this summer.

John Hunt President

### **Gifts to the Society**

Tricia Braden

In Memory of Mary Willers

Susan Burleigh Mullican

Bell Burleigh

Janet M Matthews

In Memory of Don Betzler

Muriel Patterson Huttenbach

### **Recent Donations**

Ann James, Interlaken

Scrapbooks and family memorabilia

Ruth Thompson

Knife sharpener set in wooden block box, and a Wheeler National Bank Savings Bank

Doris Coon, Tea Cup and Saucer from the Interlaken Baptist Church

The Interlaken Historical Society extends deepest sympathy to the families of Ernie Walden, long time docent and Doris Rappleye Coon, life member both of whom died in recent months.

Do you have an interest in volunteering? We are in need of Docents to greet visitors to the museum, and others who would be interested in cataloging or indexing items in the collections. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to assist.

### **Dues Reminder No More Red Dots**

Yearly dues are due beginning in July of each year. We thank all those who regularly send in their dues. This year we have added a field to the mailing labels which lists when your dues are paid through, ie 6/30/2015 means you owe dues this summer. Others may see 6/30/2016 or later, your dues are paid through June 2016 or as noted. This field will be on the mailing labels for each issue, and replaces the red dots.

**Trains in the Village**, continued from page 1

**Did you know** that the name for the Village of Interlaken was suggested first for the new railroad depot?

The Lehigh Valley Railroad offered to build a new station if a new name could be found. Station names and their locations didn't always match. The Village leaders did select Interlaken for the newly incorporated village, after the Lehigh Valley declared the name the winner of the "name the station" contest. While the new name for the station and village took effect in 1904 it wasn't until 1910 that the new station was build just north of the original station.

**Did you know** that a second railroad was planned through the Village?

In the early 1870s the Pennsylvania and Sodus Bay Railroad purchased lands, graded lines and built stone bridges to cross the many streams and low lands from Waverly, PA north to Sodus Bay in Wayne county. After the preliminary work was done, and over \$500,000 in municipal funding secured, the railroad went bankrupt and the line was never completed. Over the years many of the landmarks have been erased, a few remain and we will have pictures, old maps, and the Town of Covert stock certificate on display. You can even walk a small portion of the old rail line where it passes through the Interlaken firemen's field.

**Did you know** that flood waters can make a secure railroad bridge suddenly unuseable?

The June 2015 flash flood in Tompkins county washed out the supports under this bridge, and made it look similar to one of our local washed-out train bridges from 1935. In both photos the rails themselves are holding the ties above the water.



Join the Historical Society as we share the work of many groups and individuals, as well as artifacts which tell the stories

of the railroads and their history in our area.

The Upstate Model Railroad club will be inside the large pavilion with their "N" scale model railroad, offering over 60 feet of track, moving and switching equipment and scenic backgrounds.

See page 1 for a picture of the train built especially for this event; then plan to have your picture taken "riding the train."

If you are interested in being a part of this event please call 607-280-2099.

*Food is being provided by Route 96 Diner, Cayuga Lake Creamery and Silver Street Road Kettlecorn. Parking is free and on site. Admission is free, funding for this event is provided by the Delavan Foundation.*

## Interlaken Olde Home Day 2015

### Citizen of the Year

The 2015 Citizen of the year has worn many hats over the years, as a community volunteer she has assisted with projects that have made our community a brighter place; a safer place.

The title of community volunteer is only one of her titles, and her community is much larger than the boundaries of a village or even a town.

For over 24 years she dedicated herself to serving on the Village Board, and in that time served on all of the possible committees, taking her commitment beyond the board table, water meetings, fire department meetings, street, sewer and safety meetings. And it very possible, she has her notes from all of them.

A major portion of her time was spent insuring that there was good water where it was needed, and trying to slow the flow of water where it was harmful.

Many of those meetings involved leaders from neighboring communities. One colleague called her a leader among the leaders; a volunteer others looked to for guidance and an example to strive to match.

When invited to put on a new hat several years ago, she was retiring from work so needed something new to occupy her time, she joined and took the lead in a number of activities within the Historical Society.

Not only does her home show her skills in the garden and landscaping, she has

shared those talents within multiple communities through garden club activities.

The Interlaken Community Action Group is pleased to present the 2015 Citizen of the Year to a very dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and community spirited lady,

Thank you Barb Stewart for all you have done and continue to do!



#### Editor's Note:

Not only was Barb Stewart surprised with the Citizen of the Year award, but with a surprise visit from son Chuck, his wife and their four children, who rode with Barb in the parade.

Thank you Barb and Harold, for all you both do for the Historical Society!

## **More Memories of Cayuga Street**

By Phyllis Betzler

The last time I wrote about my childhood memories on Cayuga Street., I wrote about the first six houses on the North side of the street and who lived in them. I ended with the house I lived in until I was almost eight years old.

Now I will write, starting with the seventh house, where the Taylors live today. The Petersons were our next door neighbors, Howard and Edith and their son "Pete" who I always knew as Pete but I think his name was Howard Jr. The Petersons owned Peterson's Department store where Hubbard Heating and Plumbing is today. The Department Store was a true department store. It was there that my parents bought me a twin mattress and box springs. Ernie Petterson worked there when I was young. Mother sent me up to buy a pair of mittens for myself. Ernie tried to talk me into buying another pair that I did not want, but I think I should have listened to him as Mother was upset with the pair that I did buy (a more expensive pair).

Seth and Emily Hubbard lived in the next house. I knew them when they walked by our house on their way to town, (everyone walked in those 1940s days). I saw more of Seth and Emily and their family at Kidders when I visited by grandparents (Jim Quick, and Anna and Bert Haviland) at the lake in the summer. The Hubbards had a cottage just south of my grandparents. My cousins, Ann and Jim Haviland plus the neighborhood kids including Hubbard's

grandchildren, Sandy and Butch Pell would swim, play baseball, catch many a firefly in the evening and with a flashlight pour mustard water down worm holes to bring the worms out so we could fish off the dock the next day. Good times!!

Next to Hubbards on Cayuga Street was Stan and Evelyn Hagerman with their two daughters Catherine and Dorothy. Catherine (Kitty) married Dick Ritter. Stan had a radio repair shop on Main Street, as radios were the in-thing, not TVs. Stan was always there for anyone who needed help to fix anything. He also worked for New York State Gas and Electric.

Clara Starrett Gage was in the next house. She was a retired teacher whom Mother and Dad had as their English teacher when they went to the Old High School, on the East side of Main Street. I don't remember that school as our present school was dedicated in 1935.

Seymour and Thelma Roarke lived in a house where the entrance to Conifer Village is today. I remember walking by on a summer day on my way to the train station with Mother and stopping to visit with Thelma who was on their porch. She was holding their new son, Seymour, Jr.

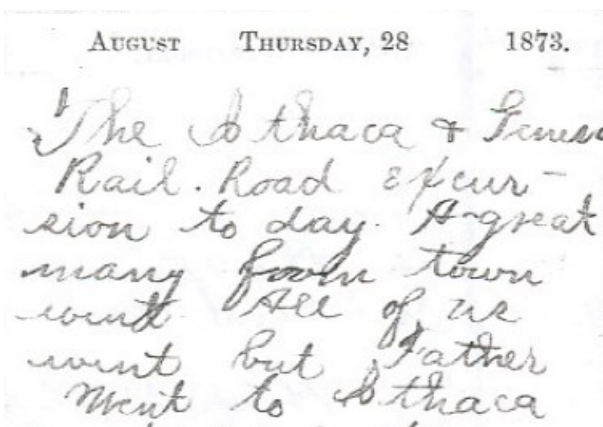
I usually only walked East from our house when Mother would take me to the train station to see the train go by. We would stand on the platform on the south end of the station and wait, usually on a Sunday afternoon. Finally in the distance

we would hear the whistle, maybe when it was approaching the Footes Corners Road. The sound of the train would be louder and louder. It was exciting to me. Mother would say, "don't stand too close to the edge." I thought, "don't worry I won't."

I don't remember that the train stopped and people would get on or off. It just flew by. Marion Slaght was the station agent but when we were there on a Sunday afternoon, we would be the only people there. However, on week days the mail came by train. There was a hook for Interlaken's outgoing mail to be placed on in a mail bag. It was grabbed as the train went by and they threw off a bag of incoming mail. One day I remember Mother coming home from the post office where she worked and said, "the bag of mail they threw off today got under the train so it was in shreds." Clerks, Marian Kellogg, Marjorie Johnson and Mother spent the day trying to piece the letters back together and put into new envelopes so they could be delivered.

I will stop for now until another time when I again remember good days of the past.

The south end of the Interlaken Train Depot; the pole on the left side was used for the outgoing mail bags.



1873 Diary excerpt written by 15 year old Wheeler Bassett; "The Ithaca & Geneva Rail Road excursion to day. A great many from town went. All of us went but Father. Went to Ithaca..."

More excerpts from this diary will be on display at the August 1st Trains in the Village event.

## Olde Home Day 2015

Dunking booth, Library Float, Twirlers, South Seneca Elementary Band Village Police, Vintage Fire Trucks, and Civil War unit were just a few highlights of the day and parade



### **The Gates Farm - 1950s-2006**

In the late 1950s, changes came to this farm, located at 2861 Route 96A west of the village of Interlaken, which had been owned by the Gates family since the late 1800's, and before that, by other family members. Brothers Leone and Jason were getting older and Bill, Leone's son, was away at college. The farm had been known for years for growing cabbage, winter squash, strawberries, pickling cucumbers, flowers which were shipped to New York City by train, apples, veal calves, peas and sweet corn for the Halstead Canning Factory, and small grains.

Bill's mother, Elizabeth, began her fight with cancer in 1958. She died in 1963, and Leone died a week later. In 1960, Lottie Taylor, who had been a hard-working member of the family for over 40 years, was killed when a tractor tipped over.

In 1960, Bill came home to teach school in Ovid. He and Jason started growing small grains on the farm and rented land. Jason died in 1970 but Bill continued teaching and working the farm. Bill and his family spent 1978 in Australia and the farm was rented to others. Bill's wife, Barbara, had become interested in sheep while in Australia, so wool and lambs became a new crop on the Gates farm. Bill started raising pigs in what he called "pig babysitting". Bill would buy a group of "feeder pigs" and then find people who wanted to have their own pig so that they could visit it and know how it was being fed and cared for without

actually having it on their property. Each month, the owners were billed for feed, with the result being that three people would feed Bill's pig in return for the care of theirs. This became so successful that as many as 25 pigs were being raised for local people.

During the 1980s, Bill heard about a pea-shelling machine built by an Amish man in Lancaster County, PA. He bought it and started growing a lot of peas as a u-pick operation. The pea-sheller worked well. Two bushel of peas in the pod could be shelled in five minutes. Peas from the farm were shelled free and custom-shelling of peas from neighbors' gardens were done for a dollar a bushel. The peas worked well with teaching, since they were ready to pick at nearly the last day of school every year. After a bit of experience, peas were planted as many as seven times in the spring so there would be a steady supply of new areas to start picking.

Many high school students were hired to pick and bushels of peas were sold wholesale to road-side stands and sent to the Syracuse regional market. Other vegetable crops were grown and Bill and Barbara and one of the kids would go to the Ithaca Farmers' Market twice a week. About 20 acres were devoted to the vegetables and the rest of the farm was rented to John Swanson who grew corn and soy beans. Bill retired from teaching in 1991 and started driving truck for Max Aman. The whole farm was then rented to John Swanson.



After Barbara died, Bill married Renee Clinton, who had grown up in Trumansburg. She had horses and so a new chapter in the history of the Gates farm began. They had a large horse barn built and started breeding and boarding horses. By 2006, Bill was tired of dealing with ice in the horse water buckets, so the farm was sold to Paul Kehle and Amy Wiemers. Bill and Renee moved the operation to a small farm in southern Virginia.

*Bill Gates May 2015*

*Editor's note: One example of Chris Wolff's work is the Historical Society logo.*



### **Chris Wolff:**

My wife and I moved to this area in 1985. We have friends here and it seemed like a fine place to raise our young daughter. This turned out to be true for both daughters. We were raised in upstate New York but arrived directly from five years in Brooklyn. Mimi was a special education teacher and I was a 31-year-old designer fresh out of art school.

Our first home was the Myer farmhouse on Route 89, where next door is now a distillery. Our good friends, the Myers, were instrumental in helping us relocate from a bustling city to the tranquil country of the Finger Lakes.

The Cayuga Wine Trail was just forming. Hosmer Winery was my first client, designing labels and signage. They were operating out of their garage then. I also designed the Cayuga Wine Trail logo at that time, the concept of which is still used today.

Since then, I have been involved in design, illustration, or signage for a dozen wineries and for many other businesses and individuals. I have always preferred to work with small companies. I am also an adjunct professor at Tompkins Cortland Community College, better known as TC3, teaching both Drawing 1 and Illustration. Recently, I was commissioned to illustrate a children's book and look forward to similar projects in the future.

In 1992, we bought an old farmhouse on Route 89 near Interlaken. It is a plank house that we have been renovating ever since. The original part of the house was built in 1850 and the "new wing" in 1870. I made a studio from a small, old barn on the property. Having long been fascinated by American history and folk art, assignments often involve period design, be it painted or carved. I love this work and we love this community.

*Chris Wolff May 2015*



# Summer Reading Program

at the Interlaken Public Library  
& Lodi Whittier Library

Tuesdays in July • 9:30 Interlaken • 11:30 Lodi

For more info visit the library or call 607-532-4341 or 607-582-6218

Win great prizes for reading including a gift certificate for the Grand Champion Reader  
Enjoy the following 4 great programs:

## Judy Stock

Presents:

**READING, RHYTHM & RHYME**



**Tuesday  
July 7**

Every hero has a story! Using songs, her favorite books and personal stories along with the many folk instruments she plays, Judy will educate and entertain children of all ages as she shares with the audience her personal heroes.

## The MAGIC of Reading!

With Master Magician  
**JAMES WARREN**



Interlaken Public Library  
8590 Main Street  
Interlaken, NY

Tuesday July 14, 2015  
9-10 A.M.  
FREE Admission!



Pinocchio's nose will grow!  
Visit Wonderland through a mirror!  
Merlin and Harry Potter do amazing magic!  
Lots of fun and audience participation!

Lodi Whittier Library -presentation  
will be at the Fire Department

## Dan the Snakeman REPTILE SHOW



**Tuesday, July 21**

Learn about reptiles from around the world at this reptile show. Dan the Snakeman will have several reptiles for you to see!

## Grand Finale Celebration



## GAME TRUCK

Interlaken Reformed Church parking lot and Lodi Fire Dept

**July 28**

**Interlaken at 5:30pm • Lodi at 7:30pm**

Video games and a whole lot more!

**PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
IS REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE.**

**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**Interlaken Historical Society**  
**PO Box 270**  
**Interlaken, NY 14847-0270**

www.InterlakenHistory.org

**Mark your calendar**

**Sunday July 26,** Annual Social on the Library lawn

**Saturday, August 1st** Trains in the Village event, 10am to 4 pm, Firemen's Field, Knight Street at Mechanic

For more information on these events contact 607-280-2099

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