### Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the **Interlaken Historical Society** 

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Monday morning Storytime at the Library

# Annual Meeting and Program Not Your Grandmother's Library! Monday, April 25, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Please join the Interlaken Historical Society on Monday, April 25th at 7:00 pm for our annual meeting, reports by the officers on membership, finances, and the upcoming plowing day; and our program by Marty Schlabach, Food & Agriculture Librarian, Mann Library, Cornell University.

In the opening paragraph of his article "Not your grandmother's library!" Marty shares: There are many types of libraries. Most of us are quite familiar with our local public libraries, which provide a wide range of services and resources. Examples include casual reading, books on disc, children's story time, help with school assignments, guidance on job applications or career development, family history research and much, much more. Local schools also have one or more libraries. Perhaps not as well-known is a type of library referred to a 'special libraries.' These libraries are associated with hospitals, court systems, and large museums. They are referred to as special libraries in that the collections and services are narrowly focused on the special needs of a specific subject and user community. See page 4 for the

rest of Marty's article and join us for an informative evening.

The meeting will be held in the dining room of the Masonic Hall, 8396 Main Street, second floor at 7:00 pm. The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the society at 607-280-2099.

Do you still need a copy of the *Covert Memories* book? The first order of 300 copies is going fast. Almost 100 copies were purchased and/or delivered at the February launch. Thank you to everyone who wrote an article for book. Locally copies can be found at the library and the Village Office. We will have lots of copies at the museum as well. The book can also be ordered for mail delivery, see the order form on page 11.

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#### President's Message

Legacy—handing down to following generations, that's what we're about at the Interlaken Historical Society. To educate, demonstrate, keep track of, and display so as to show others what has been preserved of our past.

Starting back in 2014 the work was begun to compile a book of the 65 years since I-H S was organized and chartered.

In February of this year we had a book launch of the completed work, *Covert Memories*. A collection of people like you and me, writing down memories along with photographs to preserve our heritage for all to read and enjoy.

I read in my opening remarks how local people saw the need for a historical society. As the results of their work, the society was begun in 1951 and has flourished since.

After I finished Diane Bassette Nelson and Valerie Bassett shared the work that went into taking the writing from people telling personal stories, of churches, organizations, and businesses to compile and produce the book.

For me the most enjoyable time was after the program when many of the sixty-plus people stayed, enjoying refreshments and talking with others.

As we continue into 2016, we're working on many tasks.

Plans for our April meeting, summer displays, fair exhibits, parade floats, summer social and our biannual "Plowing Day and Country Fair" which is set for September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Along with horses, oxen, tractor, steam engines, in our parade, they're also hitting field to demonstrate plowing. Around the Brook Farm Barn will be displays of crafts, trades, an operat-

ing model railroad, our playground train and of course, lots of food and ice cream.

Our focus will be dairy cows and goats with a local veterinarian sharing her vocation of caring for these types of animals.

If you would like to share your memories of the last 65 years of the society please write it down and send it to us as we celebrate our 65<sup>th</sup> year.

Thank you,

John Hunt, President



Detail from the cover of the essays written by the students of the local high school.

#### **Recent Donations to the Society**

Nancy DeMarte, Florida 1871 Journal of Essays, Cora Bassett editor

#### **New Members**

#### **New Life Members**

Wanda Ruh, Micco, FL.

## Miss Cornelia Austin's 1871 Essay entitled Schools

What a difference there is between schools nowadays and those of yore. Now all have the same opportunity to get a good common education. Then only a few that were better off in the world could have this advantage. Now all the common branches of learning and some of the higher are taught in the district schools. Then there were only the common branches taught. If the boys then could work an example in interest in arithmetic, could read, write, spell, and know something about geography it was considered that they had a good common education, and the girls to have a good education must know how to read, write, spell and know some thing about geography and grammar.

Of course there were some that had a better education than this, this was only the common class. I have heard an old lady say that when she went to school it was not considered necessary for girls to study arithmetic or mathematics of any kind. She also said that there were three or four girls attending school where she did who studied arithmetic and the rest of the scholars would sometimes laugh at them and think that they were getting entirely "above their business." How strangely it would seem to see a young women attending school now and know nothing about arithmetic, we would not consider she had a common education.

#### **Celebrating 65 Years of History**

As part of the celebration we will include articles on a number of the people and events that have shaped the Historical Society. The Society presidents have included: John Kellogg elected in 1951, Myron Bassette in 1952, Howard C. Peterson in 1954, Eva Clapp in 1956 Eleanor Tunison in 1957, and Grace Landergren in 1958. Louise Johnston (Petterson) was elected in 1968, Maurice L Patterson in 1973, followed by Mary Willers, Allan Buddle, Diane Bassette Nelson and John Hunt.

In 1961 the volunteers began the accessioning process to record the many items given the Society.

If you visited the Museum when it was above the library you will recall the mahogany desk and book case that sat in the front corner. It is item 1961-1 in the collections; a gift from the estate of Dewitt C. Wheeler, which included many older books as well. It will be on display this summer. Item number two is also well known; the Ithaca Calendar Clock used in the Exchange Hotel on the corner of Main and West Ave. It was rescued from the hotel during the 1880 fire. John Kellogg purchased it from the Truesdell estate and used it in the Post Office in the Case Block. The clock has been on display at the museum, and for many summers it was kept wound. Sometimes, it was found open when volunteers arrived, even though it was closed and latched when they were last there. It is shown on page 12.

Not your grandmother's library! Continued from page 1

Yet another type of library is the 'academic library,' which can be found in a college or university. The primary role of the academic library is to provide the collections and services in the subject areas needed by the students, faculty and researchers at that educational institution. In some cases the academic library also serves a wider audience when the library's collection is very unique and not duplicated by other libraries at similar institutions.

Such is the case at Cornell University in a number of subject areas. One such example is an extensive historic seed and nursery catalog collection. Started by noted botanist and horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey, and curated for decades by his daughter Ethel Zoe Bailey, the collection includes more than 130,000 catalogs dating from the late 1700s to the present.

Seed and nursery catalogs have generally been considered ephemeral in nature and quickly outdated. While important and useful when new, when the next gardening year rolls around and new, brightly colored catalogs arrive in the mail displaying new varieties of seeds and plants and promising a bountiful gardening season, the old catalogs are usually discarded.

While many libraries and museums have a few seed and nursery catalogs in their collections, few large collections exist. In addition to Cornell, large collections can be found at New York Botanical Garden, National Agricultural Library, Smithsonian Institution, Anderson Horticultural Library-

University of Minnesota and a few others. These historic collections are of interest to a wide array of researchers and the general public. Gardeners interested in growing heirloom fruits, flowers and vegetables can find descriptions and document the history of old varieties. Plant breeders can find varieties that were noted for disease resistance or drought tolerance, to consider incorporating into their plant breeding programs. Historians can document the plants likely to have been available during the period of a historic home or farm they are interpreting. Art historians can observe the changes in how plants were visually presented in catalogs over time.

Over the past two years, Cornell, New York Botanical Garden and the National Agricultural Library have worked together to scan selected catalogs from our collections and make them freely available via the Internet. They are available via the Biodiversity Heritage Library http:// biodiversitylibrary.org in a subcollection called Seed and Nursery Catalogs http:// biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/ seedcatalogs. At this point, more than 22,500 catalogs are available in this collection. Because of copyright restrictions, most of them were issued before 1923.

Scanning books, magazines or in this case seed catalogs, results in an image being made of each page. The computer can display them, but the text that is on the page is not searchable by the computer. For the text to be searchable, optical character recognition (OCR) software is used to look for and recognize letters or characters on the page.

That process makes it possible for one to search for the occurrence of a word or name across thousands or even millions of pages.

Sometimes OCR software is very accurate, but particularly with older texts and seed catalogs, the OCR software can be quite inaccurate. That then negatively impacts the success of searching for words or names in scanned works.

To help solve that problem and improve the searchability of the seed catalogs and other works in the Biodiversity Heritage Library, two online games were developed that anyone can play. In the process of playing the game, players help correct errors made by the OCR software. Beanstalk is a game targeting anyone with a computer and an interest and the game can be found at http://beanstalkgame.org/. The second game, Smorball, is targeted toward gamers, people who more competitively play online games <a href="http://smorballgame.org/">http://smorballgame.org/</a>. In both games, players are presented with snippets of text that the computer did not recognize and players then type in the text as they see it. That correct spelling of a word or name then becomes part of the searchable text, improving the discoverability within the book, magazine or catalog. The development of the games was led by the library at the Missouri Botanical Garden, with collaboration by New York Botanical Garden library, Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology library and Cornell University Library.

These digitization and research projects were led by libraries. Libraries today continue to provide collections and assist people in finding information, but they also contribute to the development of new digital collections and services through special projects.

Marty Schlabach, Food & Agriculture Librarian, Mann Library, Cornell University

#### **Coming this Summer**

Even though it may be April on the calendar a number of events are in the planning stages for this summer.

The library has several events noted in their article on page 10, including a Chicken Bar-B-Q April 24th.

Olde Home Day with its craft vendors, food vendors, musicians, parade, and Citizen of the Year is Saturday, June 11th. The day begins at 9:00 in the morning and goes into the evening with the Joe Love Band for your listening enjoyment. The museums will be open as well, with new displays, bringing a few old friends out of storage to add to the display.

August 14th is the Interlaken Fire Department's Car Show at the Firemen's Field, corner of Knight and Mechanic Street. Call Jim Borden at 607-279-1798 for details or to register.

Saturday, September 17th is the Historical Society's Plowing Day and Country Fair. 10 am to 4 pm at the historic Wells Barn. More details in the July newsletter.

Saturday, October 1st will be an all new Voices from the Past tour at Lake View Cemetery. More on that in July too.

#### Recalling Early Society Officers Gramma-Grace Hunt Landergren Life in Historic Interlaken

by Dave Garlington February 28, 2016

My maternal grandmother, Grace Hunt Bray Landergren, worked for many years with the Historical Society in Interlaken, N.Y. My Cousin John Hunt recently called to ask if I can remember anything from my time with Gramma in Interlaken which might be of interest.

Gramma-Grace grew up on the Hunt farm down on "The Boulevard" – Route 89 - where my great grandfather Hunt raised his family. The house and barn are still there on Route 89 just north of Bergen Beach Road on the lake side. Gary Hunt's house is about a mile from there.

Hunts on "The Boulevard

Years ago there was an evergreen tree in front of the white house. The "kids" - Julia, Jenny, Grace and George Hunt could see the lake in the distance from the kitchen out the back door. Cayuga Lake, a nice blue, would suddenly be pale grey as the wind and clouds shifted. If you are Lake People, you know the hours invested and the weather predictive color shifts. The trees may now block some of this.

As young kids growing up on the farm, they were all constantly with at least one of the two or three work horses. They didn't have cars or tractors. The horses had very different personalities and names to suit them. Gramma shared a story about slipping

in the stuff in the horse shed at school, and having to suffer all day with the stuff on her dress. I imagine there was strong effort to not have the stuff on your clothing.

One really early memory I have is of the kitchen with a big wood stove in the back of the boulevard house. During the day it was full of bustling my Great-Gramma - my gramma's mother, cooking delicious smelling foods. It was a warm and fragrant smell. I now associate this with stews and pumpkin pie... I can't recall much more than the moist, fragrant, warm air of the kitchen, but I do remember I really liked being there. I was so small my Gramma gave my sister and me a bath in a wash tub placed on the table in the kitchen. I might have been three, Sandy, very mobile at one and a half, giggling and screaming as we ran through the house in our towels... Great Grampa Hunt, Great Uncle Case, and Aunt Jenny were there, and I think Uncle George and Mary, too. It was a house full of people, but it is too far away to be sure of who...

I recall the barn at the Boulevard from later visits when I was 8 or 10. This was not as grand as the Brook Barn, but then again it was built when the farm was first started, so it was really old. You can imagine the winters were bitter cold, and the small barn would stay relatively warm with the animals' manure and straw.

Great-Grandfather Hunt built a small little workshop – about six foot by six foot

– on the other side of the boulevard across from the house. It is not there anymore. Maybe Howard or John moved it to a different location. There was a little stove in there, and a couple work benches. Gramma-Grace said he would spend his cold winter days making wooden grain cradles which attached to cutting scythes to help harvest grain. He could sell these to the other farmers.

Great-Grandfather Hunt also quarried slate from a stream bed – I think it was north from the house about half a mile. The story Gramma-Grace told is that the City of Interlaken contracted with her father to put paving slates as sidewalks all over Interlaken. I don't know if he did ALL of Interlaken, but when you go for a walk, the village is covered with thick – 1 to 2-inch thick – pieces of slate, 24 to 36 inches wide and 24 to 36 inches long. Some are bigger. Tree roots have moved these around over the years, but they are still there.

The process of quarrying slate used to involve using the very cold winter temperatures at night to split the slate at the depth/layer you intended. Great-Grandfather Hunt had to use a hand drill or a hammer and pointed chisel to drill little holes in the slate, down to the depth where he wanted to split the slate from the base. He would pour water down the little holes, wait for a couple of days for the water to freeze. The action of the expanding ice would split the slate. He probably used wedges and a hammer to separate the pavers from the base, and then slide these up onto a wagon bed. I can imagine the

horse unhitched from the wagon, a rope to the horse who would walk forward when instructed. This way the great slate slabs could be slid up a couple of boards into the wagon. Once a few slabs were loaded, the horse would be hooked up to the wagon, and they would go off to town to slide these off onto a sand base for the sidewalk. It must have taken months and months to do this work. I imagine this happened over several years, unless he quarried in the winter and installed the slate in the summer... I don't know.

Gramma-Grace also said her father couldn't read. He could do numbers, but couldn't read words. She said that at one time he was managing three different farms along the boulevard, so his literary skills were not differentiating in the job market.

I imagine life would have been hard on the farm on the boulevard. Gramma-Grace had a very strong personality, and we might attribute some of this to the siblings and the structure of the community at the time.

Cornell University and Washington DC

Gramma-Grace went off to Ithaca to learn how to run a new food service called a cafeteria. This was a revolutionary restaurant innovation at the time she went through Cornell to learn her trade. After completing the Cornell program, she moved to Washington D.C. with Cousin Grace Bennet. Together they organized, owned and managed the Cornell Cafeteria across the street from the Federal Agriculture Department building in Washington for years.

Gramma was helping to manage the cafeteria. She married William Stephen Bray, a lawyer in the Agriculture Department, had my mom, Betty Bray, and then was divorced. After a few years she remarried to Thomas Landergren. He held a high office in the Masons, and Gramma-Grace became a leader in the Eastern Star. During one year, they travelled across the country by train, stopping in each large city to promote their organizations, officiate at ceremonies, and to be tourists. This was a great time for Gramma, as she really liked being treated like she was rich and special. Eventually Landergren died and Gramma-Grace returned to Interlaken.

Interlaken and the Historical Society

She bought the big white house with the wrap-around-porch on Seneca Street. She remodeled the upstairs to rent out as a separate apartment. This was a great house with big rooms, wonderful wide-board wood floors and a bay window for lots of light in the main room. George and Mary Hunt, Howard and Sarah Hunt, and Jenny Hunt and numerous other cousins were all living in and around Interlaken. Gramma-Grace enjoyed her "retirement" back to Interlaken. Sandy, my sister, and I would visit her each summer for one or two weeks as part of our traveling vacations with dad and mom. When you visit your gramma at age 8, 10, or 12, sometimes the best thing you can do is go for a walk with Olga, our dog. I must have seen each and every street in Interlaken and stepped on each piece of Great-Grandfather's slate twenty-five times.

Olga stayed with Gramma a couple of times during summer vacations, while our family drove to Colorado and back. Olga liked Gramma, but Gramma would at first just tolerate Olga. However, the two of them bonded over the two or three weeks we were gone. On our return, they had a mutual liking for each other and were both strong ladies in their own ways. Gramma was sad to see Olga leave with us, although she was not moved to start a relationship with a dog of her own.

Gramma could walk from her house to the library in three minutes. The library was part of her routine, and she became more and more involved in the literary community of Interlaken. As people started to organize to share their family histories, and to teach their grandchildren about the past ways of farming life, Gramma-Grace found she really enjoyed being a part of what was to become the Historical Society. Helping people see the value of sharing their family history, pictures, stories of their farm lives became an important aspect of her life in Interlaken. It was a good reason to get up in the morning and go to the library. [Mrs. Landergren served as Society President from 1958 to 1968]

Away to Williamstown 1969

As she advanced in years and her health declined, she sold her house in Interlaken and moved to Williamstown, Massachusetts,

to be close to daughter Betty, my mom.

These are great memories. Thank you for the opportunity to recall and share.

#### From the Spring 1982 I H S newsletter

In the last two months, the Society has lost three of its pillars. John V. Kellogg was a charter member of the society and was elected the first president in 1951. He has given many pictures of pioneers and artifacts used by South Seneca County pioneers to the Museum. John was a community leader. His name is mentioned fifteen times in the index of *Between the Lakes, A History of South Seneca County*. John died March 26 [1982] at the age of 88 after a prolonged illness.

Joseph M. Dickerson was an early worker to establish a museum on the second floor of the library building. Not only did he donate pictures and artifacts, but he renovated an attic for a storage area for the museum. Joe died March 4 [1982] at the Lakeside Nursing Home at the age of 90.

Grace Hunt Landergren was a native of Interlaken and worked in Washington, D.C., as manager and owner of a restaurant. She returned to Interlaken upon retirement in the 1950s and affiliated with the Interlaken Hisitorical Society. She was elected president in 1958 and served ten years. Mrs. Landergren and her officers supervised the building of the museum, established a record-keeping accession routine that is still in use, acquired a permanent charter for the Society

and accumulated artifacts for the museum. Mrs. Landergren died at Williamstown, Mass., April 26 [1982]at the age of 91.

#### **Another Early Founder**

Phyllis Wickes Betzler

Meade Beam Rappley lived and died in Rochester, NY, but his heart was always here in Interlaken where his roots were.

Meade was a cousin of my grandmother, Irma Slaght Wickes and came each summer for a week or two and stayed with us, that is with Mother and Dad, Dorothy and Charles Wickes. I was always happy when he came. He made sure that as a teenager, I have a diary as he thought that it was very important to wire down things that happened each day.

Mead though that Interlaken should have a Historical Society so he made sure that one was initiated. He was always in touch with the elder of the town when he was here so he called them together one evening at Mother's and it was formed. "September 28, 1951...Myron Bassette, Dorothy Wickes, Eleanor B. Tunison, Nelle Bradley and John Kellogg met at the home of Dorothy Wickes to discuss the formation of the Interlaken Historical Society."

Mead B. Rappleye was a person that meant so much to me.

Meade Rappleye, Mrs. Irma Wickes and Miss Phyllis Wickes



#### **Library News**

The daffodils are in bloom at the Interlaken Library, a sure sign that spring is here! It is also time to start planning your garden. Stop in at the library and pick up some of the great pamphlets, gardening guides and free seed packets compliments of the NYS Farm Bureau and Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program. We also have several new gardening books that you are sure to find helpful.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Delevan foundation we will be offering many new classes and programs in the coming months. Currently we are hosting a fourweek Genealogy Workshop under the guidance of local historian Diane Bassette Nelson. Be sure to check our library website and Facebook page for future classes and programs as these events finalize.

Plans are also well underway for our popular Summer Reading Program for area youth. Titled "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!" with a focus on health and fitness, 2016 Summer Reading kicks off on Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. as ventriloquist Bruce Weaver and his zany team of athletes present "The Name of the Game is Fitness and Fun." This fun filled hour long program includes ventriloquism, magic, singing and fun as

Bruce and his pals discover ways to have adventures at the library. July 12<sup>th</sup> will feature Professor Klutzo's and his puppet sidekicks with magic and other fun activities. The ever popular Nate and Kate will again join us on July 19<sup>th</sup> for a morning of mu-

sic and juggling. Summer Reading concludes on July 26<sup>th</sup> with area fitness guru Susan Willams teaching kids that hula hoops are not only fun, but also great way to stay fit and healthy!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> for the library's chicken BBQ fundraiser beginning at noon at the Interlaken Fire Department. Plan to take home several delicious chicken dinners and support the library!

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to three departing members of our library Board of Trustees, Joan Hendrix, Kate Hunt and Jayne Thompson and thank them for their many years of dedication to the library. We welcome three new members to our Board of Trustees, Josephine Swanson, Laura Teeter and Valerie Bassett and look forward to seeing where their interest and enthusiasm for the library will strengthen our ability to serve our community

If you haven't visited the library lately plan to stop in soon and check out one of our new books, movies or current magazines. You can also use your library card to download e-books, audio-books and magazines via the library website directly to your e-reader, computer or other electronic de-

We hope to see you soon!

Preschool Storytime Monday mornings 10:30 -11:30 Join Miss Ronata for a fun-filled hour of stories, games, crafts and delicious snacks!



April 2016 10

## INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM

	GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM
Covert Mem	ories 1950-2015, Interlaken Historical Society\$12.50
The Seneca 2	Army Depot, Walter Gable & Carolyn Zogg\$21.95
Seneca Cour	nty in the Civil War Walter Gable (Summer 2014)\$21.95
	Time, Life in the 1870s as Documented in the Diary of Olive
	ns 1873 to 1878, 2010 Nancy Saultz Radloff Softcover \$12.95
	nages of Interlaken a coloring book based on historical photographs
	page drawings of historical buildings with descriptive text\$3.50
	page drawings of instolical buildings with descriptive text\$5.30
v	
	Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers 1822-1994\$55.00*
	Family, 1989 C. W. Fischer, Wm. V. Covert, M. L. Patterson \$35.00*
	Lakes, 1976 Maurice L. Patterson
And Let My	Memory Cherished Be, Remembering the Families of the
Old Co	overt Cemetery, 2006, Diane Bassette Nelson\$18.00
Interlaken O	ral History: Life & Times of the Area 1900-1950
	ing the History of the Halstead Canning Co\$10.00
	of Thomas Horton of Springfield & Descendants of Phineus Pratt,
	7. Fischer
	Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of His Life
•	imes 1743 – 1832, Alta E. Boyer\$15.00
	<i>Herman T. Smith, 1884-1893</i>
	of Seneca County, John W. Wells
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Lanamarks o	of Seneca County, Edith Delavan 2004\$25.00
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www.InterlakenHistory.org



#### Mark your calendar

April 25th Historical Society quarterly meeting; program to be announced.

June 11th Olde Home Day, Museums open and lots of activities all along Main Street.

September 17, 2016 Plowing Day and Country Fair.

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

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