

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 42 No. 1 July 2016

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Join us for the 10th Annual Summer Social

10th Annual Society Social Sunday, July 31, 2016 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, afghan, and jewelry box 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.

Recollections of My Tenure at the Interlaken Historical Society

By Allan Buddle

Smitten with the agricultural history of the community displayed at the former Nivison Cradle Factory, I became a volunteer there and was later recruited to the Board of Directors by President Mary Willers. I have fond memories of that group of dedicated individuals who in addition to Mary included Maurice (Pat) Patterson, Ruth Lincoln, Louise Aiken, Anne Braden and Douglas Van Benschoten, all pillars of the community. They all had good sound advice to share.

Soon several other community members joined including Sally Gregg Hubbard, Karen King, John Hunt, Marty Schlabach and Mary Jean Welser. I believe they too were attracted by the agricultural aspect of the community's history. In all activities, "community" became all important. As time moved on, thanks to Doug Van Benschoten's encouragement,

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President's Message

Another busy summer is here. As I write Olde Home Day is a few days away. The village is looking great, with lots of plans coming together.

For the Historical Society prepping the museum, displays, docents lined up and ideas for a float come together. The Interlaken Community Action Group have a lot of activities planned.

As we celebrate 65 years of I H S let's have more input from those who knew some of the early members, to hear personal interaction with them, it makes history come alive and real.

Speaking of coming alive, that's what our Plowing/Country Fair event does around the Brook Farm Barn. It's great to see animals, tractors, steam engines, displays of quilts, fruits and crafts on view as people share their talents and abilities for all to see. Please come and enjoy a fabulous family day, free parking and admission for all.

The last item to mention is our annual Summer Social open to the community. A great afternoon to eat, relax, and enjoy talking with others on the library lawn. It's a dish-to-pass meal with drink, hot dogs and Creamery Ice Cream provided. The drawing of a handmade quilt, afghan and jewelry box donated to the Lake View Cemetery Association to help with expenses will be drawn. Raffle tickets will still be sold that day as well.

I trust all will have a great summer, enjoy time with family and friends and enjoy the beauty of nature we're surrounded with.

Thanks to all for interest and involvement in the Interlaken Historical Society.

John H

In Memory of...since our last newsletter the Community and the Historical Society have lost two good long-time friends, Robert Elliott and Bill Larsen. Below is an excerpt from Mr. Elliott's obituary, and on page 9 is one of the tributes read on Olde Home Day in his memory.

Lt. Col. Robert R. Elliott Jr. USMC (Ret.), 91, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 30, 2016, at his home in Interlaken with Therese Driscoll Elliott, his loving wife and companion of 69 years, and his family at his side. Bob was born on January 3, 1925 in Cambridge, MA son of Robert R. and Mildred Carr Elliott. In 1942 he graduated from Winchester High School and entered the University of Maine. Later that year he enlisted in the Marine Corps, and in 1943 was transferred to Cornell University under the US Government V-12 Navy College Training Program. In 1945 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and was stationed on mainland China in preparation for the anticipated US troop invasion of the Japanese Islands. He was discharged from active duty in 1946. Bob received his B.A. from Cornell in 1947 and a year later, his Master's in Education, also from Cornell. In September of 1948, he began his teaching career at Interlaken Central School. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 for the Korean Conflict. In 1952 he was discharged from active duty and became a USMC reservist. He retired from the Marine Corps as

a Lieutenant Colonel in 1965. Bob and Therese married in 1946 and moved to Interlaken in 1948. They have lived in the same house on Prospect Street since then, except during his two-year recall in the early 1950's. Bob's passion was his career as teacher, mentor, and guidance counselor to many decades of high school students at Interlaken Central and then South Seneca. Bob became a fixture at Interlaken Central High School, teaching classes including U.S. history and world history, and the entire mathematics curriculum. He later became the guidance counselor at Interlaken Central and continued in that role at South Seneca Central School. He retired in 1982. He remained in contact and maintained friendships with many, many of his students throughout his lifetime, and never lost his ability to remember them and their graduating class. As many said time and time again "he made a difference".

Recent Donations to the Society

From Jane Egan, Rochester, Grain Cradle and 1944 Christmas Greeting with Main Street Pictures

From Tina Kolberg, Rochester, Ash tray from the Goodman Hotel and souvenir plates A.V. Slaght Grocer

Thank you for these gifts and to all those who have given donations over the years

New Members

Ralph Jones, Ovid

Dan Daly, Shrewsbury, MA

John Daly, Ashburn, VA

Plowing Day and Country Fair 2016

September 17th is fast approaching. Yeah. What is September 17th? It's our Bi-annual Plowing and Country Fair Day! 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Brook Farm Barn, 8228 Route 96, Interlaken.

We started last winter getting re-organized, selecting a theme, a speaker and setting a date.

Our theme is working with dairy animals, our speaker is the renowned Dr. Annie Madison, of Starland Veterinary Services. She will be sharing from her veterinary experience with dairy animals, the high points and the challenges. We are looking to have the five major breeds of dairy cows: Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayshires, Gurnsey and Jerseys.

Looking forward to quilts, spinning of thread, different crafts, and those who have preserved them. Outside there will be our parade of, oxen, horses, steam engines, and vintage tractors of all types.

Along with gift baskets, food to buy, plowing to watch, it's a busy full day. As in the past, there will be a number of items for the children.

Remember, free parking, free admission (donations appreciated).

How can you beat that for a fall day? We're going on rain or shine! See you there!

For more information as a vendor or to bring your vintage plowing equipment please contact John Hunt 607-592-3224.

REMINDER: Dues for 2016-2017 are due.

Allan Buddle Continued from page 1

community took on a larger meaning as partnering with surrounding historical societies became common. More on that later.

Community members attended many, many programs for education and entertainment but also for socialization and to enjoy the goodies. Who can resist Grace Hunt's chocolate chip cookies and Mimi Schaffner's punch. An outcome was a "Social," with ice cream, on the library lawn each summer.

Interlaken Historical Society Programs that bring back the most memories for me include the Barn Tours organized by Sally Hubbard, the Hamlet of Covert Historical Building Tour also organized by Sally and Plowing Days, held bi-annually and organized by the late Don Betzler. My greatest memory of the Barn Tours was talking with visitors while standing under the swing beam in Charles Batty's big hay barn on the day after his milch cows went down the road to an Amish farm in Pennsylvania. The Barn Tours were in part, I believe, a spin off from the Historic Barn Preservation Program during Governor Pataki's time in office. Historic barns owned by the Karen King and John Hunt families among others saw important restoration from that program. Prior to the Covert Tour, I recall "scaling" the bell tower of the Baptist Church and putting the rope back on the wheel so they could ring the bell for the tour and again on Sundays. I also recall the wonderful quilts displayed in the Church by

the Ulysses Historical Society.

Another very memorable activity was hosting the 4th Graders at the Cradle Factory during the last week of school each year. Assisting in that were Sally Hubbard again, swinging, and supervising the swinging of the flail to thresh some oats and Howard Barrows teaching and supervising the students as they made shingles on the shaving bench. There may still be some scattered oats around as the students also learned the function of a fanning mill. Thanks to Kari Milliman and students, Railroad Avenue was seeded with a cyclone seeder. Some of that seed may still be found around town too.

Bobbi Beckhorn's 4th grade class read the book *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Community members brought artifacts from the Cradle Factory to the class room to demonstrate some of the activities that the students read about in the book and to share some related personal history. The lesson plan and a traveling teaching kit created by Jack Katz and Chris Wolff are still available for future use. The Interlaken Masons purchased a copy of *Farmer Boy* for each 4th grade student. These books are still in the elementary school library also available for use.

Returning to the larger community, Doug Van Benschoten introduced me to COMET (Consortium of Museums, Environmental Areas and Trails), a vehicle for collaboration in Seneca County organized by Edith Delavan. Through partnering with

Naomi Brewer of the Ovid Historical Society and Carolyn Zogg of the Lodi Historical Society and others, history programs were sponsored and organized jointly with great support from Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian. These programs which focused on local, regional and some national topics, drew large numbers of visitors. Included were:

Alexander Wilson, famed ornithologist's trek through Seneca County in 1804 presented by Marty Schlabach and David Corson.

The First New York State Agricultural College located at Willard, presentations and historic marker.

The *Geological History of Seneca County* by famed geologist John Wells published jointly by the Interlaken Historical Society and the Paleontological Research Institute, presented by Warren Allmon, Director of the PRI.

Underground Railroad in Seneca County researched and published by Judith Wellman, presented by Walter Gable.

At some point it became apparent that the Village of Interlaken, and the Library Board needed the space above the Library that had served for decades as the Interlaken Historical Society Museum and Archival Storage. The search was on for new space. After researching numerous possibilities an agreement was reached with the Trumansburg Home Telephone Company. The Phone Company provided utilities and rent free space of about 700 square feet in their building on Main Street which was renovat-

ed to include space for exhibits, archival storage and a small office/meeting room.

A generous contribution from the estate of Anne Braden was used for materials, and a huge amount of volunteer effort much of which was provided by Harold Stewart turned the vacant space into a Museum.

Knowing full well that I have left out many individuals and their contributions in this brief report which was requested by Diane Bassette Nelson, I will take the opportunity to thank one and all for all your contributions during my tenure at the Interlaken Historical Society. I am especially grateful to Ann for all her patience and willingness to discuss ever so many ideas over a pretty lengthy period of time. And last and all important is thank you for the support that you have provided through your membership and thank you to the Town of Covert for financial assistance.

Allan Buddle and Ray Langlois putting up the Open sign on June 14, 2008.



**This Date in History, or
What We Found In the Archives**

The 2016 display for the Interlaken Historical Society at the Community Life Museum and the window at Hubbard Heating and Plumbing was planned as “Our Favorite Things” showing off some of the over 2,500 items donated since 1961. While the displays were completed in time for Olde Home Day on June 11th a few other items might be nice. A trip to the in the storage area at the Library produced two perfect pieces.

One was a walking stick, just sitting in the holder along with a number of other walking sticks and canes. What attracted my attention was the gold head and engraved Masonic emblem. Knowing that Farmerville Union Lodge would be meeting one last time on June 21st before going into summer recess, I brought it down to share with them before adding it to the window display.

It was in showing the walking stick to several people and examining the engraving, that we noticed more than just the emblem on the head. The octagon sided head has four engraved panels and four decorative panels. The engraved panels note:

Presented to
R.W. E. B. VanArsdale
By Farmerville Lodge #183
June 21st 1916

The walking stick was given to the Historical Society in 1989 by Rev. Elias B. VanArsdale’s son, Lyle.

Needless to say, that was a bit of WOW, given the 100 years between the original presentation and when it would again be shared at a Lodge meeting.

The “who was Rev. VanArsdale,” and “why was he given the walking stick” became the focus of research, and hence this article.



Rev. VanArsdale was born in 1869 in Highland Falls, NY, son of Rev. N. H VanArsdale. Elias followed in his father’s steps and attended seminary, graduating in 1893. He accepted a call from the Reformed Church at Farmer Village and moved into the Manse at the corner of Main and Orchard Streets.

Here Elias, and his wife Agnes, raised their family until 1916. In addition to his church duties Rev. VanArsdale also helped to found the Farmer Free Library and served as President from 1901 to 1916. In 1905 he was elected President of the Interlaken Union Free School Board of Education and re-elected for the next ten years. He is also credited as sponsor in 1910 of the first Boy Scout Troop in Interlaken, also the first in Seneca County. Pictures of those

early Scout troops are familiar items within the Historical Society collection.

A small plaque in the Lodge dining room gives a brief synopsis of his activities as a Master Mason: He joined Farmerville Lodge in 1903, served as Master in 1907, as Grand Chaplin (New York State) 1908-1909, and as District Deputy Grand Master 1910-1911.

So having a bit of background on who Rev. VanArsdale was, the question still remained, why in June 1916 was he presented with a gold headed walking stick?

Rather than try to decipher the minutes of that evening's meeting, a search at www.fultonhistory.com quickly brought up the answer. At the meeting on June 21, 1916, 79 members of Farmerville Lodge were present, and the visitors from 15 other Lodges brought the total to 130 in attendance. The article lists several of the dignitaries by name and title, including Rev. E. B. VanArsdale. After the regular meeting where the Master Mason degree was conferred on five gentlemen, the assembly adjourned to the dining room where food, a feast as noted, and toasts were offered.

The article continues, "The event of the evening came when Professor E. R. Eastman of Walden, NY, a former principal of Interlaken High School, presented to Rev. E.B. VanArsdale...a handsome gold-handled cane." He included in his remarks, "although the dominie is yet in his youth the 'stick' might assist him in his declining years."

The sentiments expressed by Mr. Eastman echoed the thoughts of the Lodge and

the community as the VanArsdale family prepared to move to New Jersey to be near his parents. The family would return each summer to the cottage on Interlaken Beach Road, where members of the family still come to spend time each year.

Rev. Elias B. VanArsdale died April 15, 1937. When he left Interlaken in July 1916 he moved to North Paterson Reformed Church at Hawthorne, NJ and stayed there until his retirement in July 1936. Rev. and Mrs. VanArsdale are buried in New Jersey.

To round out this article is the picture of Rev. and Mrs. VanArsdale enjoying a few minutes together in a swing at the Manse.

How fitting, that in finding the walking stick, another unique item in the collection was also discovered, a child's doll swing which



matches the one Elias and Agnes are enjoying. The swing and the walking stick are now on display in the ground floor window of the Masonic Hall building on Main Street.

Prepared by Diane Bassette Nelson

Quote from the June 23, 1916 Interlaken Review, additional material from the 1980 A History of the Interlaken Reformed Church; Photos from the Interlaken Historical Society Collection

Olde Home Day June 11, 2016

The 2016 Citizen on the Year has been involved in the community since high school as a band member and football player.

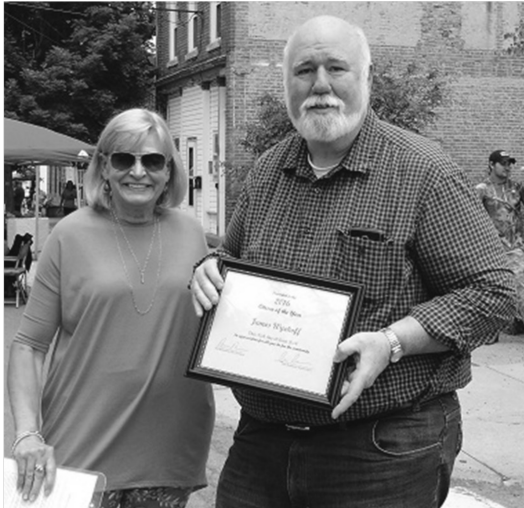
Early on he became an active member of the community by serving on the Village Board in the 1970s and 80s.

For over 44 years he has served with the Fire Department, not just as a member but taking leadership positions; among them, safety officer, assistant chief, board member and president. He has taught fire safety at the elementary schools, encouraged new members to be involved and to get training for their own safety and the safety of all members.

As an administrator for the department he oversees many of the day to day needs, has gotten grants for department equipment and insures that members receive recognition within the department, and in the community.

The Interlaken Community Action Group is pleased to present the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award to a gentleman who has been involved for over 50 years in the community and continues to encourage community involvement.

Jim Wyckoff, thank you for all you have done and continue to do.



...and a preview of the museum displays





Barb Stewart with an 1880s wedding gown

The Green Hulk aka Gary Hunt pulling the library float



At left: One of the paintings on display this summer at the museum and the doll swing on display in the Hubbard window.

Stop in for a visit on Saturdays between 11 and 2 or call for an appointment ..

Do you still need a copy of the *Covert Memories* book? We have them in stock , see the order form on page 11, and remember to pay your yearly dues, or even upgrade to a Life Membership.

Tribute to Bill Larsen 1948 - 2016

The 2016 Citizen on the Year joins a long line of community members who have been recognized over the years. Many of them still serve the community in one way or another.

In 2004 Interlaken celebrated its centennial, and recognized as the Citizen of the Year Mayor Bill Larsen. A month ago we lost this community leader; his leadership, inspiration, encouragement, and feistiness will be missed by many.

Today we want to say thank you to Bill's family for sharing him with us all these years. In designating a recipient for memorial gifts for Bill the family encouraged donation to the Interlaken Community Action Group. In the coming months we will be making decisions on how those gifts should be allocated within the community.

The first allocation was made to purchase a plaque to honor Bill.

Pat, Carrie, and all of Bill's family, we hope you will accept this small remembrance of Bill from all of us.

When you recall Bill's many contributions to Olde Home Day one item quickly comes to mind. The ICAG food tent and Bill's wonderful food. Bill enjoyed interacting with people while cooking and serving potatoes, chicken, strawberry shortcake and of course his Pulled Pork Sandwiches.

In honor of Bill and beginning with the 2017 Olde Home Day ICAG will be hosting a The Bill Larsen Pulled Pork Cook-off We encourage all of you to grab your crockpot, recipes and begin experimenting so you are ready to be involved in this upcoming community event.

Library News

The Interlaken Public Library has been a village landmark since the early 1800s. Gifted to the Village of Interlaken for use as a library in 1925 it has undergone many interior changes thru the years, as well as the addition of our Children's Room in 2009. Plans are underway for yet another change, one that will return the entry to a replica of its original façade. While not many photos exist of the home in the 1800s, the Interlaken Historical Society has provided us with a few that provide a glimpse of the original porch which we plan to replicate.

All of the past changes to the library are the result of the commitment of the people who have served as library trustees. One of the most devoted former trustees was the late Robert Elliott Jr. To honor his memory as well as his devotion to "the little library that meant so much" to him we are dedicating the porch in tribute to him. This gracious porch will also include benches where people can relax and enjoy reading a book. We hope to have this project completed within the next few months.

Old Home Day was a busy one at our annual book sale as local book lovers stuffed a colorful library tote bag with their selection of books to enjoy on lazy summer afternoons. Mimi Schaffner was on hand with several craft projects for the children, a smiley face mask, sticker bookmarks and a Clifford the Big Red Dog windsock.

Several events are planned in the next few months with local artist Norma Luther

presenting two classes, Watercolor Techniques and Painting with Acrylics. Historian Diane Bassette Nelson will return for a four-week Genealogy class.

Our Summer Reading program for area youth "On Your Mark! Get Set! Read!" will be held Tuesday mornings at 9:30 beginning July 5th with Bruce Weaver,



ventriloquist and magician, July 12th Prof. Klutzo and his zany puppets, July 19th Nate & Kate return with music and juggling and July 26th Susan Williams brings Hula Hoop fun. Children of all ages are welcome to attend and earn prizes for their summer book reading.

Call the library (607)532-4341 or visit the library website for more information and how to register for these upcoming events.

The many donations we received in memory of Mr. Elliott will be used in funding the library's porch project.

If you would also like to make a donation please mail it to:

The Interlaken Public Library
P.O. Box 317
Interlaken, NY 14847

**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

<i>Covert Memories 1950-2015</i> , Interlaken Historical Society	\$12.50	_____
<i>The Seneca Army Depot</i> , Walter Gable & Carolyn Zogg	\$21.95	_____
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12 full page drawings of historical buildings with descriptive text.	\$3.50	_____
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Interlaken Historical Society
PO Box 270
Interlaken, NY 14847-0270

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar

Sunday, July 31st, Summer Social on the
Library Lawn 4 to 6 pm

September 17, 2016 Plowing Day and
Country Fair.

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

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Funding for the Society Newsletter provided by the
Delavan Foundation