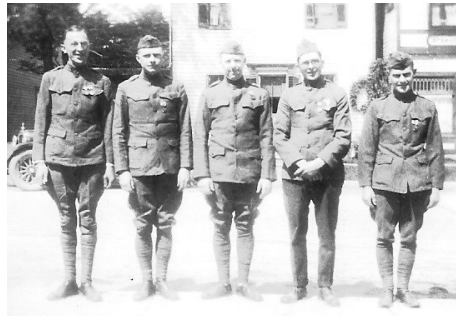


Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 42 No. 4 April 2017

www.InterlakenHistory.org



1927 World War I veterans: John Kellogg; Jim Mahoney; Clyde Stewart; Homer Stewart; Lyle VanArsdale at Ed Ryan's funeral

Settlement of the Area April 24, 2017 7:00 pm, 8396 Main Street, 2nd floor

Seneca County Historian, Walter Gable, will be our guest speaker. He will discuss early settlement in the Interlaken area of the town of Covert. This will include the names of early settlers as well as where they came from, where they settled and the hardships they endured.

The program is part of the Town of Covert's Bicentennial events and is open to the public.

Prior to the meeting, from 5:30 until 6:45, all are invited to view the Town of Covert Bicentennial Art contest entries. You will be able to vote for the People's Choice award. At the end of the meeting the winning entries in the Middle School, High School and Adult divisions, as well as the People's Choice award, will be announced. The winners need not be present to win.

The Art Contest is open to Town of Covert residents. Any medium is welcome, painting, drawing, photography, metal, wood, or textile. Entries need to be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by Friday, April 14th, at 4:30 pm. If you can't make the meeting, the entries will be on display at the other Bicentennial events.

The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 607-280-2099

President's Message

Greetings, welcome to our April newsletter. With an active year coming on fast, I'd like to recap our January meeting on Maps presented by Bob Kibbee.

The earliest maps were done by the native Indians, passed down by folklore or symbols on a parchment, measured by how far you can walk in a day.

When the area was surveyed by white men they used a compass for direction and a survey chain or by a pace count. Errors were made and had to be corrected, (Pre-emption line is one well known*). Now days, surveyors use transits, lasers and set pins to start from.

The Covert Bicentennial plans are progressing. April 24th meeting on the settling of the Town of Covert will be presented by Walt Gable, county histo-

Table of Contents

President's Report	Continued on page 2
World War I Liberty Bonds	3
Two brother in World War I	Page 4-7
Celebrating the Bicentennial	Pages 8-9
Library News	Page 10

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rian at 7:00 p.m. After his presentation, the Art Show winners will be announced. So, come to the Masonic Hall and enjoy the evening. Voting on the Best of Show will take place on Saturday April 22 from 4:30 to 6:00 during the Spaghetti Dinner to support the Lake View Cemetery, and Monday the 24th before the meeting from 5:30 to 6:45 pm.

June 10 is Olde Home Day. The Museums will be open from 10 am until 2 pm. We need volunteers to be docents and welcome people. We are also having two floats in the parade. In addition to the regular Historical Society book sale table, there will be a Bicentennial table with post cards to purchase for the Postal Cancellation at the Summer Social. Four post cards with stamps for \$4.00. Help is appreciated for this as well.

Our second and third Doug's Fish Fry will be held June 30th and July 20th at the Interlaken Baptist church. Donations of baked goods and water bottles are needed along with volunteers to man the booth. If you can help, please call Deb Nottke at 607-387-5259.

Our summer social this year has grown. Saturday, July 29th is the day on the Firemen's Field from 1 pm till the Fireworks are done! Among the activities will be cannon firing, four or five bands with a variety of music, speeches, reenactment of a laying of a corner stone, raffle drawings, Civil War camp life, paint ball, food and drink, popcorn, dunking booth, and much more.

Arrangements have been made with the post office to have a cancellation station us-

ing our Bicentennial Logo. Bring a post card or letter with proper postage and they will hand stamp it and place in the mail for delivery.

Transportation Day on September 9th and a Barn Dance on October 14th. Both will be at the Brook Farm Barn. Details are coming together. More in our next newsletter.

We need people to staff the museums in July and August and help with a busy summer. Please contact me at 607-592-3224. If you can't visit this summer, but would like to donate to support these events, tax deductible donations can be made payable to Interlaken Historical Society, PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847, and mark TOC200 in the memo. Help us celebrate!

Thank you,
John Hunt

* The "Pre-emption line" refers to two different lines or roads in Ontario county originally used to mark the western boundary of NY State land from Massachusetts lands. For those who are not familiar with the area, see Joyce Tice's website for more information. <http://www.joycetice.com/articles/preempti.htm>

Calling all past and present Covert board members, supervisors and clerks. We would welcome your presence on the TOC 200 float on Olde Home Day. Call me at 607-592-3224 to reserve your spot. John Hunt

WWI Liberty Bond Sales Over the Top

Saturday, April 6, 1918, The Third Liberty Loan bond sale began at 9 o'clock, all over the United States. The allotment to the town of Covert was \$27,200. Before 9:30 o'clock 97 subscribers had applied for a total of \$33,300, or more than 20% over our allotment. And applications are still coming in, every day."

So reads the first paragraph of the April 12, 1918 *Interlaken Review* article under the headline Covert 'Over the Top' Went over at 9.30—Now has Honor Flag.

"Up to 4 p.m. yesterday 125 citizens of the town of Covert had made application through the banking house of O.G. & D.C. Wheeler for a total of \$37,100 of Third Liberty Loan bonds, or 36% over our allotment."

Other newspapers noted this accomplishment in the days following the 6th.

Ithaca News, "Interlaken is the first town in this vicinity to go over the top. The *New York Sun* records that Interlaken oversubscribed its quota the first day of the campaign. Congratulation to a patriotic neighbor."

The *Ithaca News* also noted, "The Third Liberty Loan Committee of Interlaken has put its town 'over the top' in the first half hour of the campaign...The chairman, J. K. Wheeler, is to be congratulated on his efficient organization."

"The *New York Sun* mentions the names of 17 places in New York State that are 'tied' in the race for first honors in going

'over the top' in the New York State flag contest. Among the places were Interlaken, Lodi and McGraw."

"The honor flag was received here by first mail on Monday and promptly flung to the breeze in front of the Banking House of O.G. & D.C. Wheeler."

Reprinted from "Snippet from the Past" a blog honoring the 200th anniversary of the Town of Covert. www.snippetfromthepast.blogspot.com

O.G. & D.C. Wheeler bank 1917



Recent Donations to the Society

Gary Hunt: Powder Horn originally belong to Jenny Hunt, and Farm Bureau thermometer, originally belonged to his father, Howard Hunt.

Jayne Thompson: Scrapbooks belonging to Nellie Thompson with marriages, obituaries and other items of interest. Memorabilia from Interlaken High School and the Seneca Army Depot, and farm records.

To think about: as you do Spring cleaning keep the Historical Society in mind for items you feel should be somewhere for others to enjoy.

100 Years Ago, Two Brothers Enlisted in the U.S. Army Ambulance Service

J. Royle and Lyle Van Arsdale grew up in Interlaken just before the turn of the last century. As the children of the pastor of the Reformed Church, the Reverend Elias B. VanArsdale, and Agnes Royle VanArsdale, they enjoyed a comfortable life living at The Parsonage (a.k.a., The Manse) at the northeast corner of Main and Orchard Streets. They balanced their commitments to their parents (like pumping the church organ and tending to their mother's needs for church social activities) with earning spending money (Royle delivered laundry for the Villemonte's), and entertaining themselves by walking to the lake for a swim or a paddle in warmer weather, or skating, coasting, or sleigh rides in the winter months.

Except for having their family chores and Sunday commitments in common, the brothers lived different lives. Royle was focused on his studies and learning and playing the violin, eventually studying under Prof. Grant Egbert of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music (and later founder of Ithaca College). Lyle was more social and athletic — playing on the village's football and baseball teams. In 1915, Royle enrolled at Rutgers College in New Jersey, the *alma mater* of his father and grandfather. The next year, Lyle also left Interlaken when Rev. Van Arsdale, after 23 years in Interlaken, joined his aging father in Paterson,

New Jersey, to help with his editorial responsibilities of the *Christian Intelligencer*.

As young adults, they both enlisted in the U.S. Army Ambulance Service within months of each other. In December 1917, a few weeks before he turned 21, Royle enlisted, and Lyle did so the following June, a few months shy of his 20th birthday. Both were trained at the USAAS's Camp Crane in Allentown (Pa.) before they left for the European fronts. They participated in two of the Army Medical Department's advancements during the war: Lyle in the system of triage and evacuation, and Royle in the administration of the influx of medical personnel, ambulances, and supplies.



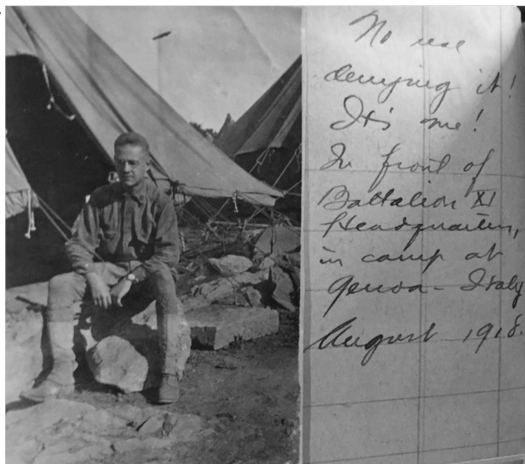
Undated photo of Lyle

Because of the diaries he kept most of his life, we know more of Royle's WWI experience than we know of Lyle's. All we know about Lyle's experience is that he left Hoboken, N.J. aboard the *Leviathan* on July 7, 1918 and arrived in France one week later. He was assigned to Base Hospital No. 68, based in Mars-sur-Allier in central France, many miles from the western front. This was one of several evacuation hospitals located along railroad lines that treated

over 200,000 U.S. casualties; they were first triaged at dressing stations on the battle-front, then transported to field hospitals typically five or so miles from the front, before being returned to battle or evacuated to base hospitals such as Lyle's twenty or more miles from the front.

We do gain an interesting perspective on the Great War from the diary entries of Royle as a young man. (All italicized paragraphs are excerpts from his diaries.)

The distant war was very much a presence in Royle's life years before he enlisted. He wrote about frequent conversations with Rutgers classmates: about how long it would take for the U.S. to join Russia, France, and Great Britain which had been at war with Germany since 1914; about the sinking of the *Lusitania* in May 1915 by a German U-boat. In 1916, he mentions the arrests of Germans trying to break up a meeting of the American Rights Committee at Carnegie Hall at which he was performing with members of Rutgers' Mandolin and Glee Club. And there are frequent diary entries about the military drills on campus:



We drilled and drilled and drilled again today. The battalion assembled right after chapel and it was 5:15 p.m. before we were out of ranks for good... In the company close order drill our company (C) won second place.

After the U.S. declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, he watched classmates enlist "at a great rate." He tried to enlist in May, but was rejected for his poor eyesight. By December, however he had changed from wanting to join the Air Corps (non-flying) to setting his sights on the medical corps.

I am considering enlisting very seriously now and expect to make a grand attempt to get into the service sometime soon. I found today, however, that my ambitions for the aviation corps are quite futile as I can read only two lines on the darned test chart and it is necessary to read three. The medical corps for me, I guess!

On December 20, 1917 he "joined the colors" by reporting to the U.S. Army Ambulance Service's Camp Crane, hoping to make it to France before long. After measles quarantines and classes in French, physiology, auto mechanics, and Army administration, he packed up from Camp on June 12, 1918. The next day they boarded a converted Italian liner, *Giuseppe Verdi*, and arrived in Genoa, Italy two weeks later.

Royle VanArsdale outside his tent.

On Wednesday, June 26, we met the Italian torpedo boats, which were added to our convoy. So we were practically surrounded by a wall of destroyers. Thursday was the great day. We landed in Genoa early in the morning but remained aboard until early evening when we debarked and paraded... through the city to our temporary quarters.

Sunday & Monday we spent fixing up our grounds; digging trenches around the tent and beautifying the "front lawn"... In our front lawn on the right side we have printed the name of our tent — "Dew Fall Inn."

Tuesday nearly everyone in camp was detailed to the Auto Park to get the work of setting up cars: G.M.C. ambulances, Pierce-Arrow trucks, Dodge towing cars and trucks. I had a job in the detail tent doing clerical work.

Genoa was full of marvels for this first-time overseas traveler. His violin playing initially meant good-will trips into town, escaping the sodden tent camp.

Monday, July 8, I spent downtown at the theatre — Politeama Genovese. We rehearsed parts of the old "Good Bye Bill" show which had provided us with so many good times back in New York & Philly and Atlantic City as well as several other cities in Pa., and in the evening we rendered a program, consisting chiefly of excerpts from the show, for the approval of delegations of Italian & English troops, the Genovese society & our own men.

As much as he seemed to enjoy touring the churches and cathedrals in his time off, he longed to get to the French front to be closer to the action. Much to his disappointment, he remained in Italy because of the entertainment value his violin playing provided.

Big rumors today! We go to France at the soonest possible moment.

We were going to the real front — the front that matters and into the country where so many of my old friends are and my brother is.

But woe of woes. Yesterday afternoon... the Lieut. [delivered] the demoralizing news that Headquarters had seen fit to hold back all men connected with the orchestra. My name was on the list.

Royle busied himself with his new assignment as the chief clerk at the Headquarters Repair Shop Detachment, and was glad to soon be mobilized to various cities in northern Italy from September – November 1918. While his assignments never took him to his longed-for battlefronts, he did his part in the necessary administration of a Medical Corp that expanded from 1,000 enlistees at the beginning of the war to over 350,000 in Europe by its end. Specifically in Italy, his unit was responsible for evacuating close to 30,000 U.S. and Italian army casualties.

Despite his promotion from Private First Class to Corporal in January 1919 and being awarded the "Croce al Merito di

Guerra” by the Italian Army in February, Royle was sorry his military service had not included a more active role in the war.

Truly, what I saw of the war was little indeed. The ambulances worked hard the first four days in November and, incidentally the last four days of actual fighting in Italy but, I being the acting corporal and attending the clerical end of the business nary made a trip and so I have come through over a year of army life and never yet seen a dead man...

*Still, I’ve listened to great tales and followed closely enough in the wake of the battles to see with my own eyes the depre-
dation, the cruelties and the hardships of war and although I haven’t the Fate that consigned me to so “cushy” a part, I have much to be thankful for and earnestly beseech the al-
mighty that the day is not far distant that shall see the end of this sort of horror — forever!*

*Lyle VanArsdale,
photo provided to the
author by Bev Close.*



Article by Doug Shaw, Grandson of John Royle Van Arsdale
Thank you Doug for sharing this with us!

Take me out to the ball game...

Back row L to R: George Rappleye, Seward Case, Richard VanDussen, Lyle VanArsdale; Middle Row: Orin Severn, Royle VanArsdale, John R Chadwick, Front Row: Basil Melville



1897
Farmer
Team



1906 Interlaken Team at Ithaca Top row: Floyd Johnson, Ted Weager, J. Bloomfield Usher, Jay B. Bradley, Bot Conlin, Kid Welch, Hy Powers.



Front row: Herbert Caster, Arthur Cottrell, Wirt S. Leonard, Charles F. Usher, Mascot John Quinn

April 7, 1817 Town of Covert Created

One could ask, "Which came first the Town of Covert or Tompkins County?" Actually they arrived at the same time.

As the New York State Legislature was working to create Tompkins County, they removed 50 military lots from the Town of Ovid in Seneca County and added it to the lands from other counties being used to create Tompkins county.

April 7, 1817, Chapter CLXXXIX, an act to divide the counties of Seneca and Cayuga and erect the Town of Covert was passed. The original Town of Covert occupied the military lots between Cayuga and Seneca Lake, with the boundary being approximately equal to the current Route 96A from Interlaken to Lodi, and extending along the lot lines to the lakes.

And be it further enacted, ... shall be a separate town by the name of Covert, and the first town meeting shall be held on the 15th day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, at the house of Chauncey Pratt, in said town...

They also made provision for the supervisors and overseers of the poor to meet in May to divide the funds to support those in need.

The proposal was not without opposition. At the Annual Meeting of the Town of Ovid held the week previous, it was "voted there be *no* division of the Town of Ovid." [Town of Ovid Minutes].

Fast forward to April 13, 1819, when the Town of Covert was returned to Seneca

County. Chapter CXC of the Laws of 1819, passed by the State Legislature on April 13, 1819, viz: "*Be it enacted by the people of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That the town of Covert, now in the county of Tompkins, shall be and the same is hereby annexed to and made a part of the county of Seneca.*"

The next change came in 1826, when the western half of Covert was used to create the Town of Lodi.

Of course, if your relatives lived between Route 96A and the current northern border of the Town of Covert, it wasn't until 1843 that they changed residency.

At the Annual Meeting of the Town of Ovid held in Farmer Village on April 5, 1842, the matter of division was presented and read at the meeting, for the purpose of annexing Lot No's. 34, 40, 41 and 42 in the Town of Ovid to the Town of Covert. Dated: Ovid, March 18, 1842. SIGNED: Lockwood Hinman, Ira Almy, Abram Rappleeye, John Kennedy and Selah Squires." The request of the petitioners was granted and the lots annexed, MARCH 30, 1843. *The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows -* 1. The Military Lots...shall be annexed to and form a part of the Town of Covert in said county, and 2. This act shall take effect immediately."

Ovid did try in 1849 for the lots to be returned. That petition failed, and the current boundary of the Town of Covert was set.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Bicentennial Summer Social July 29th

The day begins at 1:00 pm at the Interlake Firemen's Field. Free admission as well as free food, live music, Civil War cannon firings and living history, a recreation of the 1900 Corner Stone laying for the new school, paint ball demonstrations and fireworks to end the evening.

We are looking for participants/teams for a Corn Hole Tournament. There will also be raffles, a dunking booth, postal cancellation and much more. Watch for the July newsletter with full details.



Volunteers needed for the dunking booth and other events.



Your chance to try paintball, all ages with parental supervision



Daytime and a night fire by Reynolds' Battery Civil War unit

Plan now to attend **200 Years of Transportation** September 9, 2017 10 am to 3 pm

A number of special presentations are planned for the whole family at this free event.

"Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal" by author Dorothy Stacy will be one highlight of the afternoon. This program about life on the Erie Canal in the 1840s is especially geared to Middle School students and will be enjoyed by all members of the family. Mrs. Stacy will also have her books about the Erie Canal Cousins available for purchase and signing.

The Finger Lakes Boating Museum will be on hand to talk about and display boats made by Vince Campbell, local boat builder.

Returning this year, Upstate Model Railroad Group. This group joined us for the "Trains in the Village" event two years ago, and are returning with an all new layout and lots of trains. They will also talk about the role of railroads throughout history.

The kids' favorite wooden train will be on display for everyone's enjoyment as well.

Food, animals, music and fellowship are a guarantee for this fall event at the Brook Farm Barn, just north of the Village. More details, additional displays, and schedule in the July newsletter.

Library News

Big changes are coming to our little library! We have a new library manager, Chelsea Stirlen, who grew up here in Interlaken and has recently moved back with her family. If you have a request, a question, or are considering volunteering at the library, stop in during our new open hours.

Our capital projects continue with furniture coming to our new front porch, as well as a new circulation desk. The small librarian's desk has been a main fixture in our library for decades, but our new circulation desk will better serve our patrons and our staff. Stop in during the month of May to see all the changes and read a book on our front deck!

Many new programs are starting up for all age ranges. Family author nights, a youth robotics program for kids ages 10 to 12, a lego literacy program for kids ages 5 to 10, a comic book club for kids ages 8 to 14, as well as programs for our youngest patrons

including a stuffy sleepover and our continued Monday storytime program. Our website is in the process of being renovated, but please visit often for updates and information regarding all the scheduled events taking place at the library.

Did you know Interlaken Public Library is part of the Finger Lakes Library System? This means you can take out and return materials at any of the 33 member libraries! It also means that libraries now share their resources. If there is a book at a member library that we don't have on our shelves, we can bring it in for you within just a couple of days.

New Library Hours

Effective April 1, 2017

Monday & Wednesday 9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 1 pm to 7 pm

Saturday 9 am to noon

Olde Home Day 2017

Mark your calendars now for the 2017 Olde Home Day, Saturday, June 10th. Vendors will be set up on Main Street. The Museums will be open with new displays.

There are a number of changes in this year's schedule. **Parade at 11:00 am**, followed by the Chicken Bar-B-Q.

There will be several raffles rather than an auction.

Another change, the evening band will begin in the late afternoon with the day wrapping up around 8:00 pm.

Vendors are still needed, see the Villageofinterlaken.org website for details on vendors.

Contact 607-280-2221 to register for the parade; line up begins at 9 at the school.

Check www.villageofinterlaken.org, or Facebook for up-to-date information.

**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	_____
<i>Seneca County in the Civil War</i> Walter Gable (Summer 2014)	\$21.95	_____
<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	_____
<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	_____
<i>Town of Covert</i> , 1976 Wayne Morrison	Softcover \$25.00*	_____
.....	Hardcover \$35.00*	_____
<i>Index to the Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers 1822-1994</i>	\$55.00*	_____
<i>The Covert Family</i> , 1989 C W. Fischer, Wm. V Covert, M. L. Patterson...	\$35.00*	_____
<i>Between the Lakes</i> , 1976 Maurice L. Patterson	Hardcover \$25.00	_____
.....	Softcover \$15.00	_____
<i>And Let My Memory Cherished Be</i> , Remembering the Families of the Old Covert Cemetery, 2006, Diane Bassette Nelson.....	\$18.00	_____
<i>Interlaken Oral History: Life & Times of the Area 1900-1950</i> including the History of the Halstead Canning Co	\$10.00	_____
<i>The Diary of Herman T. Smith, 1884-1893</i>	\$10.00	_____
<i>Descendants of Thomas Horton of Springfield & Descendants of Phineus Pratt,</i> Carl W. Fischer	\$35.00	_____
<i>Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of His Life</i> <i>and Times 1743 – 1832</i> , Alta E. Boyer.....	\$15.00	_____
<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00	_____
Order total		_____

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Please Mail Order Form or DUES to: INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847

DUES are due beginning July 1, Still only \$10 a year!

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

Mark your calendar

Monday, April 24th, Settlement of the Area,
a program celebrating the bicentennial of
the Town of Covert. Announcing the win-
ners of the Art contest

More events all year long.

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

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Funding for the Society Newsletter provided by the
Delavan Foundation