

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 44 No. 1 July 2018

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Charles Wickes, 1945

11th Annual Society Social Sunday, July 29, 2017 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Summer Social is back. Last year we celebrated the Town's Bicentennial with a large party and celebration. For this year, we've scaled back to our smaller summer event.

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite the community to join us on Sunday, July 29th for our 11th 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.

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

President's Report

Greetings from the Interlaken Historical Society. I trust everyone's summer is proceeding smoothly and with a good dose of energy and excitement as those of us in the Finger Lakes enjoy beautiful scenery and weather.

Speaking of beautiful weather, the 2018 Olde Home Days just happened the 9th of June. It was a great day- overcast so no hot sun, but no risk of a storm. I spent the day as a docent at the Farmers' Museum. We had a lot of visitors with interesting questions and comments. From my location it looked like attendance was up and the village was hopping. Our newest exhibit is a coal stove from the Goodman Hotel (which was where our Farmers' Museum is now located). With a fresh coat of paint and clean tiles on the sides, the stove looks great.

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If you can volunteer as a docent for August, contact the Society and we'll train you to help. Hours for July and August are from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Our annual Summer Social at the library is set for Sunday, July 29th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. Plates, silverware, drink, tube steaks (hot dogs), and ice cream will be provided along with a place to sit.

Our plans for 2018 Plow Day/Country Fair are progressing. Our monthly meetings keep us informed and eager for our biennial event. Letters were sent out in May to invite exhibitors and participants from past events to sign up this year and people are responding.

Our main speaker will be Dick Thomas, a well known photographer who has done a lot of work locating and recording John T. Wells barns. Wells' patented arch rafters create a clear span barn making loose hay storage easier. Dick has a sense of humor and an interesting program. In his previous visits he has had awesome photos to show including photos from the dance last year for the bicentennial event. The date is September 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wrapping up, my brother Gary and I are driving the bus for Deer Haven on the Old Depot. With brown and white deer, turkeys, turkey vultures, eagle nesting, ospreys, and beavers, the igloos, Q-area, and a wet land area there's lots to see. There are also foundations from houses and barns that were torn down. It makes you wonder where 160+

farmers moved to as they had only three weeks to vacate. Some families moved to the Interlaken area. Our county historian, Walt Gable, is working to create a map overlay of the farms that were on the land seized by the army.

Thanks for your interest in the Interlaken Historical Society. Please send in any news bits we can use to preserve our heritage.

John Hunt
Chairman

New Members

L. James Stebbins, Dryden, NY

Recent donations to the Society

Nanna, Nellie Bradley from Girl to Independent Women, written by and given to the Historical Society by her granddaughter, Nancy Demarte.

Photographs, clippings, books and business artifacts by Phyllis and Bob Betzler

Dues are due: please check the date on your mailing label. Dues for 2018-2019 are now due. If your label has a date prior to 2019 please consider bringing your membership up to date. If you feel there this an error in the date shown, please contact the society.

2018 Citizen of the Year

The Interlaken Community Action Group is proud to have Howard Barrows as our 2018 Citizen of the Year.

As a village resident he has been active in the community for over 40 years.

When his son was in Little League he was a coach. Howard and Jim MacCheyne coached the Traveling Baseball Team. In 1975 they won the Championship in Waterloo.

When son Glen was active in the Fire Department, Howard served as a member of the Interlaken Fire Police, assisting at fire and accident calls.

For many years in the 1980s, he served on the Interlaken Village Board. He later served as many years as a member of the Covert Town Board.

Howard has enjoyed sharing his interest and knowledge about the vintage wood-working tools. He was part of the Historical Society *Farmer Boy* project at the elementary school. As a Docent at the Farmers' Museum, through demonstrations and after hours he built a wide variety of items. The largest being a harrow. If you visit the museum you can see it on display.

Thank you, Howard for your thirty years with the telephone company when you answered the call for assistance day, night or holiday.

It is these many activities and your always pleasant nature that makes us pleased to name you the 2018 Citizen of the Year.



2018 Citizen of the Year, Howard Barrows with is wife Barbara.

Harrow built by Howard on display at the Farmers' Museum.



A few views from Olde Home Day June 9th *South Seneca Elementary Marching Band*



Fire trucks are always a hit in any parade, the Ovid Fire Department Truck in this years' parade, and a look back to a 1938 parade with the Interlaken Fire Department truck. Notice the old fire house in the background, and the covered sidewalks.

Photo from the Wickes/Betzler collection



A Mecklenburg Business Comes to Interlaken

This Spring we lost a lovely lady who gave so much to our community. Phyllis Wickes Betzler was born, grew up, attended school here, and after college returned to help make our community a better place.

Even though she was still in school, she no doubt attended that first meeting when the idea of the Interlaken Historical Society was presented.

As she sorted through the many artifacts from her mother's home, she gave the Historical Society photos, booklets, clippings, and items too numerous to mention.

As she prepared to move to a new community she continued to sort, and donate items to help preserve the long history of Interlaken, Kidders, and surrounding areas.



The picture postcard is labeled "Bodle Block Mecklenburg, NY." Over the store on the left side the sign reads, "G. V. Wickes." The note on the back fills in a bit more information. "Geo. V. Wickes Drug Store, George moved to Interlaken in 1908 to open drug store there."

The store begun by George Wickes served Interlaken into the 1970s. When George died unexpectedly in January 1930,

his son Charles was still in college to become a druggist. Bert Howell assisted at the store until Charles had his degree. Phyllis tells the history of both the business and her father's remodeling of the store in the *Covert Memories* volume.

"The two-story brick building, located on the northeast corner of Mecklenburg's main intersection," burned on New Year's Day 1951. News articles in both the *Interlaken Review* and *Watkins Express* told the story of the blaze.

A similar photo to this one is on display in the Mecklenburg post office. In 1951 the post office, a grocery store and a restaurant were housed in the building.

Saved from the destruction were "most of the equipment and records [from the post office], although damaged by smoke and water in the roaring fire."

Today the lot is covered in grass and trees, and most, when driving through Mecklenburg on Route 79, would not know a building stood there, a building which has a link to Interlaken.

Among the many photos given to us are ones of school groups and buildings, cottages on Interlaken Beach, parades, and people. Thank you Dorothy, Phyllis, and Bob for all of these memories.

The photo on page 1 is dated August 12, 1945. Homer Steward and Clare Wyckoff are shown below in an undated photo.



Library News

These are the special summer reading events being held at the South Seneca Elementary School Tuesdays at 10:00am.

July 24th Cayuga Nature Center

July 31 It Began with a Song with Katrina Morse

We also have a program running thru July that uses a rewards card for books checked out. Take out 10 books and fill a card. Every card is a chance to win a gift certificate.

Chelsea Hastings
Interlaken Library Director
607-532-4341

Library Hours

Effective April 1, 2017

Monday & Wednesday 9 am to 1 pm

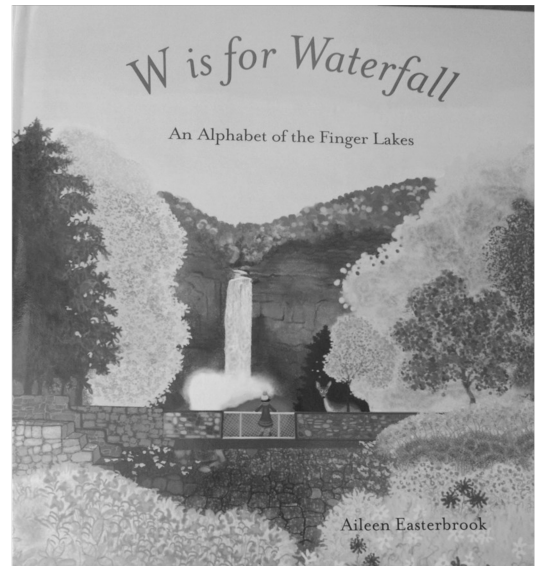
Tuesday & Thursday 1 pm to 7 pm

Saturday 9 am to noon

With the old theater building gone you can now see the whole library building.

If you are looking for something new to read this summer, check out the list of books available on our order form, or stop in the museum.

One new item not on the list is *W is for Waterfall*, by Aileen Easterbrook. The Farmers' Museum is shown on the "F" page. "A delightful tour of the Finger Lakes Region of New York State through captivating illustration and descriptive verse. Each page shares cultural and historical points of interest, appealing to adults and older children, while detailed and colorful illustrations, along with alphabetical verse appeal to younger children."



**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, Remembering the Families of the Old Covert Cemetery</i> , 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, Carl W. Fischer</i>	\$35.00	_____
<i>Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi, N.Y., A Chronology of His Life and Times 1743 – 1832</i> , Alta E. Boyer.....	\$15.00	_____
<i>The Geology of Seneca County</i> , John W. Wells	\$10.00	_____
Order total		_____

Postage and Handling: Please add \$13.00 if your order total is over \$50
Please add \$8.50 if your order total is \$25 to \$50
Please add \$6.50 if your order total is \$10 to \$25
Please add \$3.50 if your order total is less than \$10
* \$3.00 additional postage

Postage _____

Total enclosed _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

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

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

Summer Social Sunday, July 29th 4 to 6
pm on the library lawn

Plowing Day and Country Fair, Saturday,
September 22nd 10 am to 4 pm, contact
John Hunt

Museums are open Saturdays 11 to 2 and
by appointment. Stop in and see the re-
stored stove from the Goodman Hotel. The
photo does not show the bril-
liant colors.

*All events are
free and open to
the public*



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