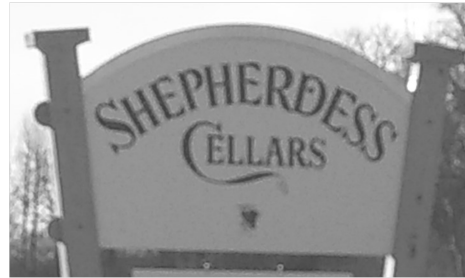


Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 45 No. 3 January 2020

www.InterlakenHistory.org



Join the Historical Society on Monday, January 27th to learn more about this local winery!

Monday, January 27, 2020 7:00 p.m. Starting a Winery in the Finger Lakes

Bruce Radloff, owner of Shepherdess Cellars, will discuss briefly what makes our area special for making wine and what it takes to start a winery in the Finger Lakes.

All businesses have challenges and the wine industry is no exception. Bruce will discuss some of the issues facing our wineries and how they were overcome.

Please join the Interlaken Historical Society on January 27th for an informative discussion about a fun industry in our community.

The meeting will be held in the meeting room, second floor 8396 Main Street, above Hubbard Heating and Plumbing. The area is handicapped accessible and refreshments will be served.

In the event that school activities are cancelled for that evening we will also postpone this program.

For more information please call 607-592-3224

Remembering Rod Serling

By Jonathan Monfiletto

What was Rod Serling really like?

Anne Serling – one of the famed television writer’s two daughters – said she got that question often enough that she decided to write a book based on it. In 2013, she published “As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling,” and in November, she turned the book into a presentation on her father and his work for an audience that nearly filled the auditorium at South Seneca Elementary School.

Anne’s visit to Interlaken – where her family spent their summers during her father’s writing career and still maintains a residence – coincided with a celebration of Rod Serling’s life and career, known largely for “The Twilight Zone” television series. Mayor Rich Richardson, Deputy Mayor Tony Del Plato, and the Interlaken Village Board of Trustees presented a proclamation honoring Rod Serling to Anne and her family, and then Anne spoke about her father and her relationship with him. Notably, Rod Serling spoke about his 12-hour workdays during a 1959 interview with Mike Wallace, yet during Anne’s presentation she noted her father was “always accessible, always available” to her and her sister Jodi.

Continued on page 3

President's Report

Greetings! As we wrap up another year, I trust things are well with you.

It's been a busy Fall with Farmers working to harvest the last of their crops and prepare for winter. Things slowed down quickly after Thanksgiving with an ice storm the next Sunday, followed later that day and Monday with over a foot of snow. Churches cancelled their services and schools closed on Monday. Also, there were power outages in some locations due to the ice.

At our recent Board of Director's meetings, we've discussed the need for more space for displays, storage in a climate friendly atmosphere, office space, and a meeting room in which to present programs. It made me think back to when the Historical Society was organized. The committee met in homes until space over the library was obtained. In later years, the Goodman Hotel lot was developed with the Nivison Cradle Factory building moved there to make our Farmers' Museum. Funds and donations brought this about and it has served us well. When I came on board, the directors met in the public meeting room in the library with our public meetings and programs in the Town Hall and Masonic Hall.

Since that time, the Trumansburg Telephone Company has made arrangements for us to use part of their building, which has been great. It is handicapped accessible, has a small display area, and wall space on which to hang photographs, and we have some of-

office space; we still hold our public meetings in the Masonic Hall.

Time has flown by, and guess what... we have been blessed with many donations. We have much in storage at the library, and we need more space to display our amazing collections. So, as the trustees have been meeting, we all agree that we have outgrown the Telephone Building.

We need your help in several ways. Where is there a building or site that will meet our needs now and in the future? How do we pay for this expansion – grants, loans, donations, bequests? We would need volunteers to help with fund drives, help to build or remodel to meet our needs, ideas for displaying and storing all that we have as well as what will be donated in the years to come.

We are very thankful for how we have been provided for in the past. We want to continue to be a part of our community; to remember the past, and help future generations enjoy our heritage and become involved with our village, town, state, and nation

We all thank you for the opportunity to serve through the society. We are always looking for volunteers to docent at our museums and also to serve as trustees as the need arises. And, don't forget, 2020 is our year for Plow Days/Country Fair in September! Send us ideas for programs and exhibits!

Thanks, *John Hunt, President*

New Life Members

Robin Updike, Interlaken
Carl States, Odessa

Dues are due: please check the date on your mailing label. Dues for 2019-2020 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.

Mark Your Calendar

Plowing Day 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020. We are looking for volunteers to assist with planning and help the day of the event.

We are also looking for vendors related to agriculture who would be willing to be present that day. Finally, we need tractors, equipment, animals.

If you are interested in helping, being a vendor or bringing equipment etc, please contact John Hunt at 607-592-3224



Continued from page 1

He would play basketball with them when they got home from school and always took time to have fun with them. As evidence, Anne showed a photograph of her father pretending to play a guitar while wearing a lampshade on his head.

Rod Serling was “fiercely proud,” Anne said, of both his Jewish heritage and his status as a World War II veteran – both greatly shaped his perspective and his work. He was passionate about civil rights and the human condition. He was quick to praise his daughters’ writing but also quick to criticize his own. He was a teacher – notably as a professor at Ithaca College – who influenced many of his students to become writers themselves. He also had a great singing voice, Anne said.

“You could tell when he was writing in his head because he would just pause and stare at you,” she said.

Rod Serling left behind many friends when he died in June 1975 at just 50 years old, and Anne said no one would be more surprised than her father that his legacy has survived as long as it has. The presentation included a showing of two episodes of “The Twilight Zone” – the first, “The Brain Center of Whipple’s” and the second, “Walking Distance.”

Continued on page 4

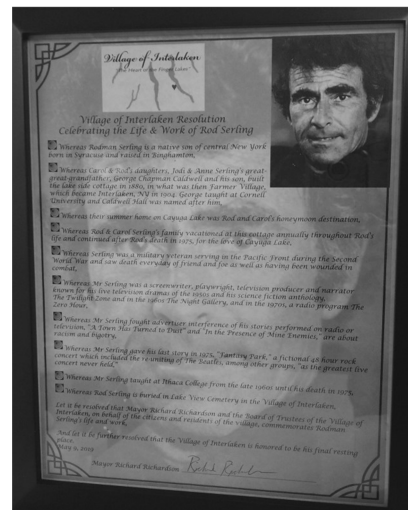
*Serling’s headstone at
Lake View Cemetery*

In “Walking Distance,” the main character visits his hometown and realizes he has been transported to the past when he encounters his younger self and his father. When the father understands the strange man in town is the future version of his son, he tells the man to focus on what is ahead of him instead of what is behind him. Anne said this episode is the most autobiographical of all the episodes her father wrote, especially this scene. Rod Serling experienced the death of his father while Rod was serving overseas during the war, and Anne said the father’s words in the episode are what her father would have wanted to hear from his father.

In “The Brain Center of Whipple’s,” a factory owner replaces all of his employees with machines in the name of profit and efficiency, while his workers urge him to put compassion and goodwill first instead. At the end, in a twist, the factory owner himself is replaced by a robot. Tony Del Plato said he personally chose that episode for the presentation because of the relevance that it still holds to the human condition today and a message that still rings true in today’s world.

During a question and comment period at the end of the presentation, the audience offered more comments than questions. People took the time to share with Anne their memories of her father – seeing him around Interlaken and the area in the summertime, having him as a professor at Ithaca

College, and watching “The Twilight Zone” on TV. With each story shared, Anne offered an expression of thanks.



Beginning on page 5 of this issue we begin a new series of articles about the men and women who served in World War II.

We would like to invite family members and those who served to share the stories of those who served, not only in World War II but for any time period.

There are resources at the museum and the library which can assist in the writing or memories. The article discusses one of many items available.

If its is easier, please contact the historical society for additional help with research or writing. Each person’s story is special and should be preserved for future generations.

Remembering WWII Service Personnel

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. As part of that remembrance the Interlaken Historical Society is looking to remember and honor those men and women who served during the war.

Who were those military personnel who called Interlaken home during the war, and in the years after? There are 209 names on the Interlaken Roll of Honor, and many others moved to this area after the war.

In 1992 this newsletter had articles from six veterans telling their stories. These were O. D. Jenkins, G. Douglas VanBenschoten, Bill Holman, Marjorie Wilcox Horton, Annette Bassette, and Richard Worrell. Copies of those newsletters are in the library in the bound volumes of the newsletters.

There are many more stories, bios and remembrances that need to be recorded. For that reason, we are asking family members and friends to help us record the life and times of those who served.

During the war Esther Wyckoff kept a scrapbook of news clippings and the "Letters from Camp" feature in the *Interlaken Review*. The first few pages of the book detail the names on the Honor Roll. The next group of pages are a partial index to the individual people; for most there is a picture, usually in uniform, and a list of pages in the scrapbook for their individual items. A column on the right side also gives

information on their discharge. There are 86 people shown in these pages, but as you read through the pages many more men and women are included.

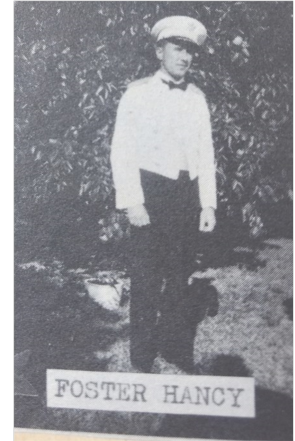
This scrapbook gives us a firsthand view of where they served, and what they were doing. It is an excellent stepping-stone for anyone needing help in writing about their family member.

The names of those listed in the index include:

Arcangeli, Joseph F
Babcock, Owen Babcock
Bassett, Leland Francis
Bassette, Franklin Jared
Bassette, James Wheeler
Boyes, Thomas L
Boyes, William
Brinkerhoff, W. B.
Buck, Arthur
Bullivant, James E.
Caward, Richard
Chambers, Richard
Covert, Bert
Covert, Floyd
Covert, Lawrence
Dana, Frank
Dawson, George
Dibble, Gilbert
Dickerson, Jean
Dickerson, Robert
Donnelly, William W., Jr.
Donnelly, Robert
Doolittle, Frederick
Egan, Arthur

Fowler, Manley
 Freeland, Norman
 Frost, Clyde E.
 Hancy, Foster
 Hayward, Eugene
 Hewlett, Calvin H.
 Hiltbrand, Ernest
 Holman, William Ditmars
 Howard, Ernest Allen
 Hubbard, Charles E.
 Jones, Howard Jones
 Kellogg, Charles T.
 Kellogg, William D.
 King, John A., Jr.
 Knight, John Neal
 Lindner, Mershon
 Macomber, Leslie
 MacPherson, Claude Darwin
 Matteson, Joel S.
 McArthur, Stanley
 Morehouse, Melvin Wilson
 Mount, Victor
 Murray, Jack
 Northrup, Carlton E.
 Northrup, Floyd Clinton
 Norton, Roger
 O'Malley, Michael
 Pashley, Jack
 Pashley, James
 Patrick, Edwin
 Pell, Thelma
 Peterson, Howard C., Jr
 Rappleye, Ditmars [W.D.]
 Rappleye, Harry S.
 Ritchie, Robert

Slaght, Rodney
 Slaght, Virginia C.
 Spencer, John
 Stewart, J. Paul
 Stewart, Robert W.
 Strong, Kedric
 Sutton, Richard
 Thayer, Arthur J
 Tulla, Albert B
 Usher, Herbert
 Usher, John B. Jr.
 Usher, Richard A.
 Usher, William
 Ward, Kenneth
 Whelply, Grant
 Whelply, Robert
 White, Noyes B.
 Wiggins, Janet
 Wiggins, John C.
 Wiggins, Walter E.
 Wilcox, Stephen
 Wilkins, Herbert
 Willson, Curtiss
 Wilson, David
 Wilson, John R.



Two of the men listed in the scrapbook did not make it home, and in this issue, we are sharing their stories.

Foster Hancy, born in Newark, NY moved to Interlaken at a young age and attended school here, graduating in 1925. Shortly after graduation he moved to Clearwater, Florida with his parents, attended college and taught in the Pinellas County, Florida school system.

Interlaken Review, June 11, 1943
Word was received on Monday that Lt. Col. S. Foster Hancy, 36, had been killed in action in North Africa while serving with the Army Air Forces. Details as to how he met his death were lacking.

Col. Hancy, or “Steve,” as he was better known ... enlisted in the Army Air Forces about three years ago. His death naturally came as a great shock to his family and many friends... one particularly tragic aspect being that he was the father of a seven-month old baby son he had never seen. Besides his widow, infant son and parents, he is survived by a sister, Miss Harriett Hancy, and an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rappleve of Interlaken.

In attempting to find more information a search on the Find-A-Grave website notes his death date as 13 May 1943, with burial in the North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial, Carthage, Tunis, Tunisia. No photo is shown with the listing.

Interlaken Review, July 14, 1944—It is now definitely known that at least five Interlaken boys, including Lt. Joel Matteston, Mershon Lindner, Jack King and Bus Lincoln are now somewhere in France. Cpl. Alfred McEvoy, a paratrooper, who took part in the initial phase of the “D-Day” landing, is now convalescing at a hospital in

England having been wounded as reported two weeks ago.

Interlaken Review, December 22, 1944

T-Cpl. Mershon Lindner
Listed Killed in Action

Word was received Monday morning that T-Cpl. Russell M.

Lindner, 27, was killed in action Dec. 4, 1944, somewhere in France. “Mersh,” as he was known here, had resided in Interlaken for about five years prior to his entering the service in 1942. After completing his basic training at Fort Eustis, Va., he was home on furlough in August, but was ordered back to camp before his leave expired, being sent to Iceland in October, 1942. Nearly a year later, in September, 1943, he was transferred to England, and in June of this year went to France with his outfit. Letters received from time to time revealed that he was working at his old trade (sign painter) and was “in his glory.”

The sympathy of the entire community is extended to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lindner, and sister Henrietta, who are residing in **Alhambra**, Calif.

The August 7, 1942 *Interlaken Review* noted “Pvt. Mershon Lindner of Fort Ma-



con, North Carolina, has returned to camp after spending a short furlough with his parents and sister at Kidders.”

The plain white cross on the Find-A-Grave website notes he was a Tec 5 633rd



AAA AW BN [Anti-Aircraft Arty Automatic Weapons Battalion]. He enlisted in March 1942, and like many of the other local service men was at Fort Niagara. A biographical note includes that he received the Purple Heart medal.

Burial is at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial, Saint-Avold, Departement de la Moselle, Lorraine, France; Section G, Row 13, Grave 31. Photo by Michael V. Drachman

A third soldier with ties to Interlaken was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944. Sgt. William D. Rappleye, of New Jersey, is buried at Lake View Cemetery with his parents Daisy & Snyder C. Rappleye and other Rappleye family members. Not to be confused, [William] Ditmars Rappleye son of Herbert H and Maude D Rappleye is listed on the Roll of Honor and included in the Scrapbook. He is buried at Lake View with Rappleye and Ditmars family members.

Other soldiers from around the area are included, one with close ties to Interlaken, Lt Wallace C. Forbush, originally reported as Missing-in-Action, died February 4, 1944, in Italy. The April 26, 1945 news article noted he was buried in an American Cemetery in Central Italy. In 1948 Lt. Forbush, along with other soldiers was noted as “returned from Italy.” Find-A-Grave shows his military headstone at the Rutland Rural Cemetery in Rutland, Mass. Lt. Forbush was awarded a Purple Heart for his actions in the war. Prior to his departure overseas he had married Jessie Rankin of Interlaken.



On a happier note, the January 13, 1945 issue of the *Interlaken Review* had ten letters from a variety of places. The main focus of the letters was to say, “Thank you to the ‘Folks Back Home’ for the Christmas card and remembrance, and also *The Review*.”

This sentiment came from [Rev.] Johan Mulder in France. Rev. Mulder was on leave from the Interlaken Reformed Church to serve as a Chaplain. In his letter he also noted, “Interlaken, I’m sure is represented on nearly all our fighting fronts.”

Virginia Hungerford wrote “it was indeed thoughtful and kind of you when I am not exactly in the service. I am just one of Uncle Sam’s prospects. She noted, “it truly

was an original idea and I realized all the more what a grand lot of people make up the 'Folks Back Home.'"

Herbert Usher wrote from Fort Benning, GA, "I don't know how many of the folks back home comprise your group, but I wish to thank each of them..."

From Italy, Arthur Miller noted, "...also those who donated to the Soldiers' Subscription Fund, which has made it possible for us to receive the hometown paper."

Lawrence Covert, "Somewhere in England" sent along "his new address, because now that I am this far...I will appreciate *The Review* even more..."

Similar comments came from Gordon Blew, "somewhere in France," who sent a copy of "General Orders given to us some time back." From the Island of Corsica from Eldred McCoy, noting, I hear from Leland Bassette and Harry Rappleye quite often."



Ernie Hiltbrand wrote in from Fort Lewis, Washington. "I have been assigned to another hospital unit and if nothing happens I expect to stay with it for awhile." He ended with "tell everyone to keep praying for us and that this awful war might be brought to a speedy end."

The last letter of the group came from Jean Dickerson in San Diego, Calif.

She notes, "it has been quite some time since I have written to tell you how much I appreciate the paper." She noted for some of her time she worked "in the Post Office sorting and forwarding mail to boys overseas. Later they found out I had photo experience, so I was placed in the photolab. We made identification cards, dog tags and restricted military photographs."



The scrapbook will be on display this summer, and we wish to again thank the Interlaken American Legion for entrusting this Scrapbook to the Historical Society.



*1944 photograph
World War II Roll of Honor
The board was in front of
the library.*

Library News

Chelsea Hastings

The Interlaken Public Library recently wrapped up a 6-month strategic planning process that heard from community leaders, organizations, businesses and individuals. Half a dozen workshops that prompted the community to answer questions like “what kind of community do you want to live in” and “what kinds of services would you like to see” will culminate in a new 5-year plan of service for the 117-year-old public library.

As a direct result of these workshops, some immediate changes can be expected to kick off in 2020. New expanded hours are only the first change, with the library opening its doors Friday mornings. New library hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am to 1pm, Tuesday and Thursdays 1pm to 7pm, and Saturdays 9am to noon.

New programs, such as the Reading is Snow Much Fun winter reading program, are kicking off as well. Patrons can earn tickets to a Luau at the Library taking place in March of 2020 by visiting the library during winter months. Grant organizations provide 100% of the program funding for the Interlaken Public Library. This particular program, which is funded by the Delavan Foundation, will culminate in a tropical-themed social gathering for local residents to enjoy.

The Interlaken Public Library proudly resides in the heart of the Interlaken community, offering much more than an assortment of books. Any residents who would like to offer suggestions for programs or services are urged to contact the Library Director, Chelsea Hastings 607-532-4341

Library Hours

Effective January 1, 2020

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday & Thursday

1 pm to 7 pm

Saturday 9 am to noon



Entrance, Shepherdess Winery, Route 89

**INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GIFT SHOP ORDER FORM**

<i>Snippet From the Past, Covert Bi-Centennial Blog</i> Diane Bassette Nelson	\$35.00	_____
<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,</i> Carl W. Fischer	\$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 _____
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PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847

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

January 2020 11

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

www.InterlakenHistory.org

For more information on the Historical Society events contact President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

Monday, January 27, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Bruce Radloff, **Starting a Winery in the Finger Lakes** 8396 Main Street, 2nd floor, entrance on the south side of the building. Handi-capped accessible.
Museums open by appointment, 607-592-3224 or 607-280-2099

Table of Contents	
News and Notes about the Society	Page 3
Rod Serling	Page 1 & 3-4
Honoring our WW II Soldiers	Page 5-9
Library News	Page 10
Bookshop Order Form	Page 11

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