

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 45 No. 4 April 2020

www.interlakenhistory.org

Monday, April 27, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Field Tiles: Draining the Fields

Spring has arrived, and with it wet weather and wet fields. For centuries wet fields have been a problem for farmers, and they have used

Postponed

Please Note:

Due to the current Pandemic we have postponed the April Program and will hope to reschedule it at a latter date.

Scarlet Fever

A look back at another time of quarantine. Reprinted from "Snippet from the Past January 11, 1902." Published January 2017

Scarlet Fever, Quarantined, Fumigation: all words we rarely hear any more. That was not the case in the early 1900s. A look through the old *Farmer Review* newspapers quickly turned up more than 20 reports from 1900 to 1903.

March 1901, "There are two cases of scarlet fever in town and one a mile out, all light, and as a strict quarantine has been made, it is thought that there will be no more cases reported. Ovid has had a number of cases, one fatal, and it is reported the school has been closed as a precaution."

On January 11, 1902, the Covert Town Board was "called together by order of Hiram Bloomer, Supervisor and duly assigned as a Board of Health." A complaint had been sent to Dr. L. A. Gould, health officer

of the town. It was dated January 7, 1902, and signed by C. O Townsend, Geo C. Torbert, J. B. Moore.

"We the undersigned residents of School District #14 in said town respectfully ask that you disinfect or fumigate the school building in district No 14, Farmer, NY in as much as a case of scarlet fever broke out a few days ago in said school building."

"In regards to the fumigating the board thought it well to have it done."

Looking at the newspaper reports, cases would be reported, then an all-clear would be noted. Today we can be thankful that scarlet fever can be treated with antibiotics and quarantine is a historical word.

Town of Covert Board Meeting Minutes Book 3, page 483

Table of Contents

News and Notes about the Society	Page 3
Compton Caboose Update	Page 3
WWII Letters from North Africa	Pages 4-9
Library News	Page 10
Bookshop Order Form	Page 11

www.interlakenhistory.org

President's Report

Greetings!!

In our last newsletter we mentioned our need for more building space to house our collections and artifacts. We looked at one building that would take a lot of work to meet code, our present and future needs and our economic considerations.

Since that time, Bob Betzler came to us with an offer that was very generous. He and his late wife Phyllis own the canning factory land that borders on 96. You longtime residents will remember a plot of land that used to have a large barn on it, two houses down from the town hall. It was Bob and Phyllis' desire to see this land put to public use. After reading the winter newsletter, Bob decided it was time to offer us the land. We THANK HIM for this generous gift.

We now need to see what code requirements we need to meet, draw up a list of ideas to incorporate into a new museum, select an architect, and obtain funds. We do have access to village water and sewer connections. As we gather information and details, we'll be sending out a special letter sharing what will fit on the lot along with code requirements. How great it will be to have a building that will meet our needs in the years ahead.

As spring is upon us, trust that winter has passed, and we will all have a good, enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

John Hunt, President

New Members

Helen & Jim Stewart, Interlaken

New Life Members

Christopher Nelson & Wendi Parisi,
Interlaken

Emma Worrell, Interlaken

Recent Donations

WWII belt with
emergency first
aid cannister, and
photos of the Os-
good family.

Jennifer Merkle

First Aid Packet U.S.

Gov't/Carlisle Model

To open pull tape/ Red color indicates back of dress-
ing Put other side next to wound

Bauer & Black

Div. Of the Kendall Co, Chicago



Family items from the MacPherson family including invitations, announcements, dance cards, Interlaken Highlights and photos, from Kathy and George Helfman.

NOTE: the email address for
the historical society has changed:
interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Caboose Update

Two years ago in this newsletter we featured Ed and Sharon Compton's Norfolk Western caboose. Here is a update on the refurbishing of it.

Ed has replaced the middle roof and has the roofing for the ends which he will put on this spring.

The south side tongue and groove pine siding is on and painted.



The 4 windows that slide up and down (think manual air conditioning) are also in place.

The north side wood and windows are ready to install. South Seneca Vinyl built the eight special order windows.



This caboose was donated to the Elmira psych center and ended up in Ithaca which is where Ed acquired it.

He has also found the sister caboose to his in Geneva, the next street south of the Town and County Plaza on Route 5 & 20. This one was donated to Corning and the Geneva owner bought it and had it placed behind his house to refurbish it. Sadly before he could, he died and it now sits there with brush growing up around it.

Ed also recently picked up a Lehigh Valley Black Diamond Express lantern.



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.

WWII Letters From North Africa

In the January 2020 issue of the Newsletter we started a series to be continued at least through this year, and it may be extended. In that issue I wrote about several Interlaken-related men who were killed in World War II. They were not the only men from Interlaken, nor from the area who died in the war, and as the series continues others will be noted.

This issue looks at men and women who served in North Africa. In October 1942 the Allies landed in North Africa to begin the push against Germany and Italy. By the Spring of 1943 that action was moving forward. On May 13, 1943 the Axis surrendered.

A roll call of the men and women who served in North Africa would include: Lt. Ralph W Adams, Leland F Bassette, Clinton Brown, Lew Egan, Ernest A Howard, Charles E “Bud” Hubbard, Ray Leary, Charles Mickel, Arthur Miller, Rev. Johan Mulder, Kendric Strong, Richard Usher. There may be others, these are the ones noted in the scrapbook of letters with datelines of North Africa.

The letters were transcribed from the original with commas or other punctuation, or the lack thereof as they were printed. Where other information is provided in a later edition, it has been included to help people place the writer.

Lt. Ralph W. Adams In the November 10, 1944 Personal Mention column [page 52 of the scrapbook] it notes: Lt. and Mrs. Ralph Adams of Moravia, were in town Wednesday visiting friends. Lt. Adams, a former projectionist at the Lakes Theatre, has been a P-51 pursuit pilot with the 15th Air Force in Italy and only recently returned to this country after completing 65 missions.

Page 33 January 21, 1944 North Africa: It has been some time since I sent a short note your way. In the meantime I’ve been shoved

around the world a bit. One thing I noticed, the Review stopped following me. I suppose they are all backed up some place but will eventually catch up. However, I thought I would do my part and at least give you an address.

Right now I can be located in North Africa (someplace). The weather is censored and that is OK with me. People who still think of jungles and burning sands when Africa is mentioned can add icy cold and glue-like mud to the list. We also have winter here.

I’m still flying pursuit type aircraft. Different from what I had in the States, but it is a good ship.

I wish I could give you more news and less chatter—but you know how it is. Best regards, Lt. Ralph W. Adams

Leland Bassette Page 23, July 23, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: Well, I guess it is about time that I wrote you a few lines, thanking you for the hometown paper. Of course, being way over here in North Africa, it does not come too regular, but I do get all of the copies in due time. You can be sure that I read them through from front to back.

Letters from home tell me that is pretty hot back there, but I’m afraid we’ve got you beaten over here in Africa. Today was one of the hottest days I’ve seen. Surely the temperature must be around the 100 degree mark. The land is so dry that when the wind blows, which is very frequent, the air is full of sand and dust which stings you from head to foot. We are near enough to the sea so that we can go swimming every day, which is a great relief from the heat.

As space is small on the V-Mail I shall have to close this letter. Give my best regards to all my friends at home, and keep the good old Interlaken Review on its way, Sincerely, Leland Bassette

Clinton Brown Page 18 May 28, 1943 North Africa: Have received a few copies of the Review, but due to different address they have been quite old ones. Nevertheless, I've enjoyed reading them as much as if they were the latest ones.

I want to thank you for the paper and hope that it continues to come. It gives me an idea of what's going on in good old Seneca County and my hometown, Lodi.

I've had the pleasure to meet only one fellow from Seneca County since being overseas, Charlie Mickle of Interlaken, but I know and am slightly acquainted with some of the boys whose letters are published in the Review. Censorship is quite strict, making it impossible to say where I am and what it is like here.

My wife, who is living in Gowanda, N.Y. gives me most of the news from out that way, but for the news from Lodi and Seneca County there is no better way to get it than by the Review. Again many thanks and may your paper long continue to do its part. Sincerely, Clinton Brown

Lew Egan Page 8 February 19, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: I thought it was about time I wrote you and thanked you for The Review. I just received two today, one for December 18 and one for the week following. I now only lack two of having them all up-to-date, and I sure hope they arrive soon. I really find a lot

of interesting news in them and quite a few other fellows here also find them interesting.

I suppose it is really winter at home but it seems also impossible as the sun shine very hot here during the day, but in the evening it gets rather chilly.

I read in the paper that Charlie Mickel and Ernie Howard are here with me somewhere, but as yet I haven't see either of them.

I will close for now, but say hello to everyone in Interlaken for me. Your friend, Sgt. Llewellyn Egan

Page 23 July 3, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: It has been a long time since I've written you and thanked you for the paper. It comes through quite regularly and most of the time it is only about a month old. Even so it is very interesting to read as most of the folks don't write much of the news and the Review makes it possible for me to keep in touch with what is going on.

It is very hot here most of the time now and we have practically no rain. It hardly seems possible but it has been eight months now that I've been out of the states, but I sure hope it isn't that much longer before I'm back.

I'll close now and send my regards to everyone in Interlaken. Thanks again for the Review. As Ever, S-Sgt Llewellyn Egan

Lew would write again in January 1944, although no location is given in the header or in the letter.

Ernest A Howard Page 6 January 29, 1943 Somewhere in Africa: Just a line to let you know on this New Year's day that I am O.K. and hope that everyone at home is the same. My

journey has met with many an exciting moment and happenings I will never forget. From over here it looks if Hitler & Co would call it quits this year and I am hoping for the day when victory come.

Here in Africa the going is not too tough. The army provides for us. We are treated at our meals with cigarettes, candy and toilet articles. The gun crew I am with brought our own smokes, so we do not want. As for my health, it is excellent. The boys are in tip-top shape and illness is a rarity.

The country would surprise those back home. Modern conveniences and American cars can be seen in the cities and also pretty women, who appear to be quite stylish.

Last night the boys were looking over the Interlaken Review which I have received here. It gives them a kick, especially the phrase about home. I am making myself a publicity agent for the home-town here in Africa. It certainly is good to read the paper and I want to thank those who make it possible and also to wish everyone a Happy New Year and Victory during the New Year. Sincerely, "Ernie" Howard.

Page 20 June 11, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: I read in the Review that all the lads from home are in the service. Don't see how the war can last much longer. As for myself, am O.K. Our gun crew from Boston to Chicago, read the town gazette and we all thank those who make it possible.



We are happy and why not, the African campaign is "Fine La Guerre." We participated in the landing on the French Moroccan coast. Have been in a number of engagements in Tunisia: Kasserine Pass, Soffsa, Maknassy, Matuer, Bizerte, and the "rat race" at Sidi Bon Sed, where some of us boys went 30 miles through the German lines. Boy, did we sweat that one out.

Our Battalion has one of the best records for anti-aircraft in the campaign, so we expect a rest on the blue Mediterranean and it is blue. Have seen many a Jerry prisoner and German equipment. He now has a deep respect for us Yanks and seemed glad it was over with.

Well, this is about all, so so-long and hoping this year brings final victory and yours truly back home. Ernie Howard.

Charles E. "Bud" Hubbard Page 9 March 19, 1943 North Africa: Just a few lines to thank you for "the greatest little newspaper in the world." I enjoy it very much and am always looking forward to the next copy. It is the only means I have, outside of letters from home, of keeping up with the news in the hometown.

I understand quite a few of the boys from Interlaken are in Africa but so far haven't seen any of them. Your Friend Charles Hubbard

Two other items were found, Page 24 September 3, 1943 Somewhere in Sicily: Just a few lines to tell



you my APO number has been changed. I am now in Sicily.

Thanks for the paper. It arrives two months late but still is news. Give my best regards to everyone. As ever, Bud Hubbard. Page 87 September 14, 1945 Personal Mention: Sgt. Charles (Bud) Hubbard returned home Wednesday from overseas, having received his discharge from the U.S. Army on Sept 11, 1945.

Ray Leary [Raymond W. Leary attended school at Interlaken during the 1930s and would return to visit friends after the war. Born in 1922 he died in Las Vegas, NV in November 2007 and is buried in the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and should not be confused with longtime resident Ray Leary born 1904, died 1976.]

Page 14 April 23, 1943 North Africa: I suppose you hardly remember me, the fellow who used to live with Mr. and Mrs. Corbett Hayward, on the boulevard.

Well, to get on with the letter, it is a pleasure getting the paper from the place I'll always remember. I don't imagine there are many young fellows left now in Interlaken.

This is really beautiful country over here; reminds me of some of the states I've seen back home.

I haven't said much, but I just wanted you to know that I have appreciated the Review being sent to me and hope that it may continue. Yours truly, Ray Leary

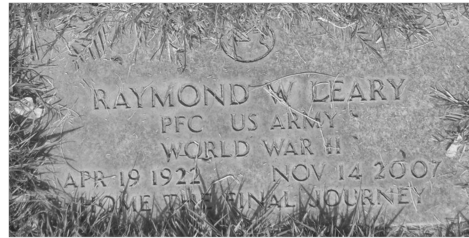
Page 33 January 21, 1944 Sicily Dear Sir

Just thought I'd let you know that I've been receiving the paper quite regularly, and thus keeping up on the news at home.

Well, after three and a half years away from Interlaken, I finally met up with someone who came from there, it was Bud Hubbard.

Keep up the good work at home and keep the paper coming. Yours truly, Ray Leary

He would write again near the end of the war from Germany.



Charles Mickel Page 23 July 30, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: In reading the letters written by the fellows in the service it dawned on me that it was about time that I wrote you a few lines.

I've been fortunate in receiving the paper ever since I left home. Although at times the papers are a bit late, the news is new to me. I cannot express my thanks and appreciation enough.

It does one good to read the news from the home front and believe me when I say it keeps me up on the news from the home town. I look forward to the paper every week, anxious to read the latest developments.

I see from the letters in the paper that there are several of the boys from home now stationed

in the same country as I. So far I've not seen any of them except Clinton Brown and that was quite by accident. As a matter of fact I did not know their addresses until the other day when my sister send them to me. I'm now going to do everything possible to try and contact them.

As you know, the censorship regulations are very strict, making it impossible to write very much, so I'll have to be satisfied by saying that I am well and looking forward to that grand homecoming, whether it be two years or five.

In closing I want to thank you again for sending me The Interlaken Review. Yours truly, S-Sgt Charles Mickel.

Page 55 December 22, 1944 Personal Mention: S-Sgt Charles Mickel arrived in Seneca Falls on Monday to spend a 30-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mickel, after having been overseas for more than two and one-half years. Sgt. Mickel sailed for Ireland in May of 1942. He spent six months there and then took part in the invasion of Africa. He has been in Italy for more than a year, first being at the Anzio Beachhead, and since then has been in the drive through Italy, one of the objectives being the city of Rome. He will return to his outfit in Italy at the completion of his furlough.

Arthur K. Miller page 17 May 14, 1943 Somewhere in Africa: Just a few lines to let you know I received the paper all right. It is a great little hometown paper and I enjoy it very much. I haven't seen a paper for a long time and it sure seems good to read about the news back home. No matter how many letters I get I always find news in the Interlaken paper that I love to read about.

I understand that a lot of the boys from home are in Africa, but as yet I haven't met up with any of them, but hope to before long.

I want to thank you very much for sending the paper to me and also wish to thank the other people who are cooperating in having the paper sent to the boy in service.

Hope this letter finds the folks back home all well and happy. Sincerely, Sgt. Arthur K. Miller

Rev. Johan Mulder Page 6 January 29, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: After a lapse of about three months the Interlaken Review has begun reaching me again. During the past week I received four issues. I cannot tell you how good it seems to catch up on the news. Next to a letter from home the home-town paper is about the best mail a soldier can receive.

I imagine a little snow shoveling is necessary every now and then in Interlaken just now. Here we don't need overcoats but lately we have needed our raincoats a good deal. The nights are cold but we usually spend them indoors.

The War Department was kind enough to promote me to the rank of Captain about two months ago.

Thank you again for the paper and with Best Wishes for the New Year, I am Yours Sincerely, Johan Mulder.

Reverend Mulder had taken a leave of absence from the Interlaken Reform Church to serve in the war.



Page 15 of the scrapbook has a large photo from the April 23, 1943 issue. Capt. Johan Mulder conducting service “Somewhere in Africa” There are also several other letters from Rev. Mulder from later in the war.

Kendric Strong Page 27 October 29, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: Just a short letter to let you know that you have one more subscriber in North Africa. We arrived here a bit late for much excitement but are hoping to see some yet.

Our crossing was very good; no rough weather and no trouble from submarine. We traveled first class. I had a private stateroom. Of course I shared it with about 20 other fellows. Nothing like plenty of companions, I always say. Since I arrived here I have visited Oran, Orieous Ville and Algiers. Algiers is by far the most modern city I have seen over here.

I received my first copy of the local paper since arriving last Sunday. Although it was an August 9th issue I was very glad to get it. Any little touch that brings you near to home is very welcome and I am sure I speak for the rest of the Interlaken boys when I say we can’t thank you enough for sending it to us. Will write again soon. Your friend, Kendric Strong.

He would also write again from other locations.



Richard A. Usher Page 27 November 5, 1943 Somewhere in North Africa: Since you’ve last heard from me I have seen several fields and camps and finally I was sent overseas. The last Review I read was the last issue in August, when I was home on furlough. It’s hard to say just when I’ll receive another one.

I am eagerly looking forward to getting the paper since coming overseas. Being thousands of miles from home changes your attitude and your thinking a great deal.

I want to add my sincere thanks to those of all the other men whose lives in the service are made easier by receiving all the news from home. My best regards to you and your family and my friends in Interlaken. Sincerely, Richard Usher

Richard had written from Boston, Mass in April 1943.

If anyone would like to share more on the history of their family members who served in WWII we would welcome your submissions.

One display at the Museum this Summer will feature items from the collections or loaned by others as they relate to the War. Please contact the museum at either Interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or interlakenhistory@gmail.com. Photos of military personal are especially welcome.

Some of the proceeds from the scrap drives was used to provide the newspaper to the service men and women.

Library News



The sign in front of the library tells the whole story. While we wait out the days please enjoy these happier days at the Library.



<https://interlakenpubliclibrary.org/>

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

Library Director, Chelsea Hastings

607-532-4341

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.

Two speakers are planned, in the morning the History of Cheese making, and in the afternoon, Pamela Raes will speak on drain tiles.

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

**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, 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 the Historical Society events contact President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

Due to the current declarations our April program has been postponed.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who are working on programs and publications during this time. You are appreciated.

The Historical Society
Board of Trustees

John Hunt, President
Diane Bassette Nelson, Vice President
Mary Jean Welser, Secretary
Karen King, Treasurer

Trustees

Bill Bishop	Gary Hunt
Doris Jennings	Cindy Lysiac
Barbara Stewart	Harold Stewart

Newsletter Editors and Staff

Diane Bassette Nelson	Bill Schaffner
Peggy Kopsa	Cindy Lysiac
Mimi Schaffner	Barb Stewart

Like us on *Facebook*

Funding for the Society Newsletter provided by the Delavan Foundation