

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 47 No. 1 July 2021

interlakenhistoricalsociety.org



Barb and Harold Stewart hold the newly finished quilt that will be raffled off this summer. See below.

It's Back, The Summer Social Sunday July 25th 4 to 6 pm 8433 Main Street, Our new building lot

The community is invited to the 2021 Summer Social. This year we are treating you, with the help of Trimmer's Ice Cream.

There will be a short business meeting preceding the social and recognition of recent events.

In early 2020, in response to our need for more space, Bob Betzler offered the Historical Society a piece of property on South Main Street as a building lot. We will be recognizing Bob, and remembering Phyllis. Look for displays of our past homes and have an opportunity to give input about a new building.

We will be honoring Diane Bassette Nelson, now Emeritus Trustee for her twenty plus years of involvement.

Bring your favorite lawn chair and plan to visit with your friends. For your comfort we will have a tent for shade, bottled water and a handicapped restroom.

Parking will be on Main Street, or one of the nearby parking areas, Baptist Church, Catholic Church or Town Hall. Please do

2021 Quilt Raffle

Thank you Barb Stewart for the beautiful handmade full bed quilt. The log fence design is worked in pinks, cream, and green fabrics with blue sashing and a dark brown border print that incorporates all the other colors.

Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.00.

The quilt will be on display at the Summer Social and Community Life Museum. The winning ticket will be drawn September 18th at the Barn Dance.

If you live out of town and would like tickets please send a check to Interlaken Historical Society, PO Box 270, Interlaken NY 14847 and note how many tickets you would like on the Memo line. You can see the full quilt on our webpage.

We are prohibited from selling raffle tickets via Paypal.

not park at Dollar General. We will have a few handicapped parking spaces on site, look for the entrance signs.

President's Report

Greetings!

We had a chilly, damp spring, a prediction of a hot, dry summer. But summer is here with heat and humidity, although some breaks have been forecast.

This all reminds me of the end of a school year with finals and graduation upon us and hot days galore.

We are getting some relief from Covid-19 – restrictions are being scaled back and there is enough vaccine to treat people.

We are hoping to open our museums somewhat and are planning an Ice Cream Social for July. There will be a short business meeting preceding the social since we had to forfeit last year's meeting.

In early 2020, in response to our need for more space, Bob Betzler offered the Historical Society a piece of property on South Main Street as a building lot. At the Summer Social we will be recognizing Bob, as well as Phyllis, for this gift. We will also have displays of our past homes, and places for you to give input on thoughts about a new building.

Also on the agenda we will be honoring Diane Bassette Nelson for her many years of service. She was honored at our June meeting by receiving Emeritus Trustee status from the Board. Diane is still actively working on newsletters and grant applications. Thanks, Diane, for your leadership and involvement.

As noted in our last issue, Jennifer Merkle, another local lady, has taken Diane's seat

on the Board, while Harold Stewart was elected to Diane's position as Vice President. Otherwise, our slate of officers is the same. Thank you, Harold, for adding one more thing you and Barb do for the Society!

A Square Dance in September is being planned – stay tuned and get your dancing shoes ready!!

Thank You

John Hunt, President

On display this summer

Stop at the museum this summer to see what Dr. Stanley Folts carried in his black bag, the uniform a student nurse wore, and other items relating to the men and women who served our community.

Do you recall Dr. Hill, Dr. Gould, Jennie Hunt, Millie Messmer, Virginia Baldwin, Ann Bassette, Mabel King, Martha Risley? These are a few of the doctors and nurses from the area who helped so many others.

Dues are due, still only \$10 per year!

Please check the date on your mailing label. Dues for 2021-2022 are now due. If your label has a date prior to 2021 please consider bringing your membership up to date. If you feel there this an error in the date shown, please contact the society.

Missing, Borrowed and Not Returned

Have you ever loaned your favorite book to a friend and then forgotten who you loaned the book to?

Unfortunately that has happened at the museum, but the book in question was a book from the late 1890s!

When a researcher asked to look at the book, which was shown in our accession records and database it could not be found. Even worse, there was no record of the book having been loaned out.

Several months later, the item turned up on E-bay. The seller had purchased it at an auction, in another county even. There is a happy ending, the book has come back and will be at the museum in the near future.

The problem is, how many other items were borrowed in the past, set aside to be returned, the family died or moved and the item was set out in an auction or sale decades afterwards.

When items are given to the Historical Society we record them in a number of places and give the items a unique number, i.e. 2021-45. The year we received or accessioned the item and its number within the year. This number is written on the book, photo, mug or group of papers so that we can easily find it. Many items also have "Property of Interlaken Historical Society" stamped on them. Photos and post cards may not have a year number but will have a 2, 3 or 4 digit number on the back.

If you are sorting items and happen to come across something that looks like it may have been borrowed, please contact us so we can determine if it belongs here, or to another Historical Society.

We are happy to assist with research, we just need items to come home.

The Museums Are Opening

We are delighted to announce that the Community Life Museum and the Farmers' Museum will be open this summer. Starting Saturday, July 10th through August 28th the Museums will be open on Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm.

The Community Life Museum will feature displays about the Doctors and Nurses who served within our communities over the years. We have a nurses uniform with her distinctive navy wool cape, nurse's cap, photos and other memorabilia. Dr. Folts' medical bag will be on display with its contents open to view. Do you recall the signs on the stairs as you went up to the medical office. Of course the telephone operators usually knew where to find the doctor when he was needed.

Also on display will be signs, tools of the trade for the local barbers, and shaving the mugs.

These mugs were kept at Dowdle's Barber shop later at Tim Mahoney's. Gentlemen had their own mug which was used when he stopped in for a shave.



Looking for A New Home, Again

In 1960 the Interlaken Historical Society began raising funds for their new museum. Between August 24, 1960 and March 24, 1961 72 individuals donated \$2,833, the Interlaken Bank made a "Temporary Loan" of \$360, and the Library gave \$1,000 from the Wm. D. Wheeler Fund for a total of \$4,193. The \$1,000 was paid directly to vendors by the Library. "The total audited bills paid by us to March 24, 1961 \$3,067.65." This left a balance on hand of \$125.35 and the loan to the bank for \$360. (3/24/1961 Report by M.W. Bassette, Building Fund Treasurer)

The *Interlaken Review* on April 27, 1961 reported, "HISTORICAL ROOM USED FOR FIRST MEETING MONDAY." In reporting on the meeting, the article noted, "Despite Monday evening's storm, a goodly number gathered in the new Museum quarters over the library for the first meeting there of the Historical Society. ...Soon it is hoped a beginning will be made in filing and placing of articles to be displayed to the best advantage."

The rooms were dedicated on September 19, 1963 in a program at the Interlaken Central School. The program copy listed the participants for the evening:

Maurice Patterson, Chairman
Rev. Edward Black, Invocation
Mrs. Grace Landergren, Welcome
Mrs. Nellie Bradley, History
Mr. Theodore Day, Remarks

Miss Ruth Donnelly accompanied by Mrs. Clara Wilson, Vocal Selection
Dr. Albert B. Corey, State Historian Address

Dr. Corey presented the Charter to Mayor D. P. Norton.

Following the school program there was an open house at the Museum.

The officers of the Society included Mrs. Grace Landergren, Mr. Lewis Bell, Mrs. H. D. Smith, Miss Marie Mallory, Mrs. Edith Peterson, The remaining Trustees were Mr. John V. Kellogg, Miss Nancy Hause, Mr. George Hunt, Miss Helen Marsh, Mrs. Eva Clapp, Mrs. Jane Dowdle and Mr. John B. Usher.

Collections grew, displays were created, and the Museum needed more space. In the May 1982 *Between the Lakes Newsletter* is a report on the renovations and expansion of both the Library and Historical Society spaces. A reference and reading room were added as the West wing of the library. This space would later be dedicated to M.L. "Pat" Patterson. "On the second floor, the former attic has been renovated to provide for needed storage space and display area."

By the Fall of 1982 the rooms were ready for an Open House. Alta Boyer-Blohn reported on the event in the November 3, 1982 issue of the *Interlaken Review* in an article entitled "A combined effort improves library and museum space."

The guest book at Open House at the Hinman Memorial Library in Interlaken

on Oct. 23 showed a good representation of local townspeople and area library patrons. Several Boy Scouts in uniform were participating and earning credit for community service. Trustees showed visitors around and pointed out the improved efficiency since the recent renovation.

During the past year over \$10,000 was raised by the library and the Interlaken Historical Society. The funds were used to create a renovated reference and local history room at the rear of the library building and, on the second floor, an added room for the Historical Society. In addition, storage space has been created for records, supplies, and accessions. The Museum has concentrated on accumulating and cataloging a valuable picture file. A most interesting collection of old farm tools and carpenter tools has been given display space.

The Hinman Library, for many years a landmark in the community, continues in the tradition of serving the library patrons in a uniquely handsome building, while the Museum preserves and presents in a meaningful way the local heritage.

As we entered the new century the space issue was again on the table. Meetings were being held in larger locations, storage and display space was limited. Most of the agricultural collection had been moved to the

Farmers' Museum when that opened in 1989.

Trumansburg Telephone Company offered space in the 1950s phone company building. Volunteers again rolled up their sleeves, tore out walls, put up new wall board, added lights, outlets and flooring while others created exhibits. Even with the new room and display areas not all of the collections have yet been moved from the second floor of the library.

Enter Bob Betzler, once again offering to help as he had many times in the past. He approached President John Hunt and offered a piece of property on Main Street. The property, now labeled 8433 Main Street, and its donor are being celebrated at our Summer Social on Sunday July 25th from 4 to 6 p.m.

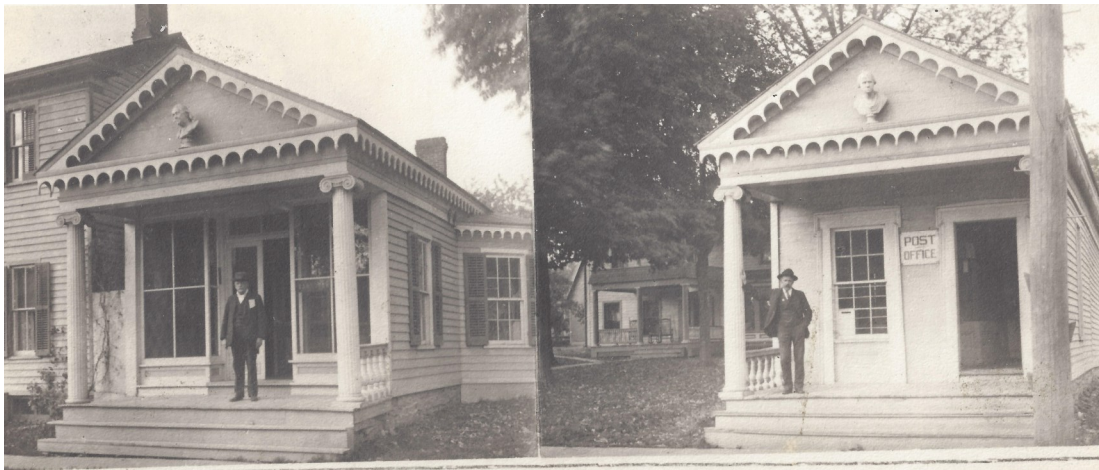
Please plan to join us as we celebrate and look for input and ideas for a new museum building.

Save the Date

The Historical Society is hosting a Square Dance on Saturday evening, September 18th.

Watch for additional details on the website and our Facebook page.

Originally there were two buildings, the one on the left was the Banking House of O.G. and D.C. Wheeler. It was moved to Knight Street and replaced with the Theater building which was torn down a few years ago.



The Post Office, shown above with Post Mater Frank Johnson was on the north side of the Hinman residence, now the Public Library.

Below is a detail from a few years later. The iconic barber pole now clearly visible beside James Dowdle. Many will recall Tim Mahoney's and Hark Green's barber shops at that location. As shown in the 1960s era photo, a second floor was added along with the porch overlooking main street. Visit the Community Life Museum or the website to learn more about the buildings, the barbers and hairdressers that served our community.



Library News

With the lifting of Governor Cuomo's social distancing and mask restrictions, the Interlaken Public Library has once again resumed full services and hours. We will soon begin in-person programming, and we're excited to see all the friendly faces we have missed during these long 15 months.

Summer movies on the lawn will again take place in the park beside the Interlaken Public Library, there are art programs for kids and adults, and patrons can enjoy a variety of program offerings all summer long. Details are on the Interlaken Public Library website, as well as inside the library itself.



A recent program, the stuffie sleep over, saw lots of sweet, soft stuffies coming to the library for a fun night with friends! Stuffie's were dropped off by children and enjoyed a night in the library, doing a variety of activities with library staff & volunteers. A talent show, story time with Miss Jill, a fun kids movie, plenty of junk food and crafts were enjoyed by all. Stuffie parents received a fun memory book of activities, complete with images of their stuffie playing and having fun during the event.



If you haven't done so already, consider joining the Friends of the Interlaken Public Library! The Friend's group was created at the end of 2020 by a small group of dedicated community volunteers. Friends can join in on fun events thru the summer months, including a Doug's Fish Fry at South Seneca Elementary School on August 26th and a county-wide Book Sale Trail happening at all five Seneca County Libraries on September 18th from 10am to 4pm.

Follow the website at www.interlakenpubliclibrary.org/friends for information and all the ways you can join in the fun!



Chelsea Hastings, Library Director,
607-532-4341

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

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

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Looking for the book order form please see the website
www.interlakenhistory.org
www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org

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Funding for the Society Newsletter provided by the Delavan Foundation