

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 47 No. 3 January 2022
www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org

1833 Ad from the local paper

Interlaken Historical Society Monday, January 24, 2022 7:00pm **Beaty & Serrine: Farmerville Coverlet Weavers in the 1830s**

Coverlets are woven bedcovers. In the 19th century they were often woven for special occasions and became prized family heirlooms.

Many small towns in our region and across New York state hosted professional weavers in the first half of the 1800s. Most homes had spinning-wheels and looms and an array of types of cloth was woven by the women of the family for household use. But there were also professional weavers who wove for others and earned their living practicing their trade.

Advertisements in local newspapers from the 1830s often listed several different textile types that could be woven for nearby customers. For example, an 1833 advertisement in the Trumansburg Advertiser for weavers Beaty & Serrine located in Farmerville, Seneca County, listed flowered carpeting, striped carpet, diaper, kerseys, and sattinet. Also promoted was the availability of float, damask and point coverlets, and specifically and prominently featured "Patent Coverlets".

This program by Marty Schlabach and Mary Jean Welser will explore what a coverlet is as well as dig into who Farmerville weavers Beaty & Serrine were. There will be several coverlets on display to demonstrate various types.

WEAVING.

THE subscribers respectfully inform the public, that they still carry on the

Weaving Business

in Farmerville, Seneca County,—and that they have Machinery in readiness for Weaving

PATENT COVERLETS,

*Flowered Carpeting, Striped Carpet,
Float, Damask & Point Coverlets ;
Diaper, Kersey, and Sattinet.*

☞ All kinds of COUNTRY WORK will be done with care, neatness, and at short notice. Every call—attended to with pleasure—and they solicit a liberal share of public patronage.

BEATY & SERRINE.

Farmerville, July 9, 1833.

54w5

If you have a coverlet in your family, you are encouraged to bring it or a photograph to the program.

The meeting will be held in the Masonic Hall, second floor, 8396 Main Street. Interlaken, NY. The room is handicapped accessible. We will also be live streaming the program, or you can view it on our YouTube channel, check the website, [www. https://interlakenhistoricalsociety.org/](https://interlakenhistoricalsociety.org/)

Bright, Safe, and Dependable: Electrifying a Varick Farm, 1920

Jennifer Merkle

John Brewster Lisk was born and raised in Varick, New York. In 1906, he bought his farm on the corner of McGrane Road and VanRiper Road in Varick and married Edith Goodge from Brooklyn, New York. John and Edith were successful poultry and dairy farmers. John's journals from the first 4 weeks of January 1920, details the installation of electricity on their farm.

January 1st 1920 Fixing up stable the horses tore down last night. Continued on page 4

President's Report

Greetings to one and all! As we've closed out 2021 and look forward to what 2022 will bring, there are a lot of unknowns.

This year we trust to have the museum open on Saturdays in July and August and still by appointment. If you would like to be a docent and get to know what resources we have, contact us as we could use some younger blood.

In addition to our four public programs for 2022 (in person and via zoom), we're planning to bring back our biannual Plow Day – Country Fair. If you would like to share ideas for this year's presentation, let us know. For good measure, the plans for a Square Dance Night in Brook Farm Barn will be shaping up too!!

Plans for our own Community Life Museum building continue to move ahead. Right now, a 45 foot by 88 foot building looks like it would meet our needs for a large display/meeting room, office, rest room, kitchenette and a storage/preservation room in the back. We are asking for tax-exempt donations and plan to apply for grants to see our plans come to be!

We trust you all will have a good year, stay healthy, and enjoy learning of our past. We welcome new members to join us.

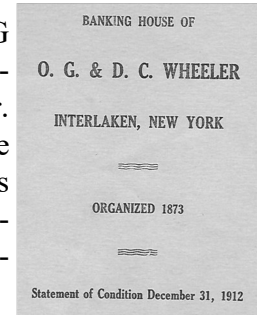
John Hunt, President

New Members

Dottie Traphagen, Ovid
Richard and Judy Chesley, Interlaken

Recent Donations

Banking House of OG and DC Wheeler December 31, 1912 bank folder. Note the Organized date of 1873. For many years this date has been unknown. Thank you Chelsea Hastings



John Hunt and Harold Steward recently talked with Victoria Mott Carey of Northport, NY. She is a great-granddaughter of O.G. Wheeler, an granddaughter of J.K. Wheeler. At 95 years young she enjoys hearing about Interlaken through the newsletters.

Webb Rankin

January 20, 1921 — November 20, 2021

Our thoughts are with the family of Webb Rankin who passed away in November. Webb was a trustee for the Historical Society, a Town of Covert Board member and the 2017 Citizen of the Year.

Why a New Building?

Our Community Life Museum has been housed in the Telephone Building for a number of years. We are thankful to them for this space as it has allowed us to display some of our collections.

We realized, however, that more space is needed: display space, proper conditions for storage and protection of historical items, office space, a place large enough to accommodate our meetings and presentations, space to organize all the historic materials

we have and continue to receive, and a spot to assemble and collate our newsletter are all spaces we need to function now and in the future.

Many of us had been looking for a building with these needs in mind and even toured some places that seemed to be possible options. When Bob Betzler wanted to donate land on South Main Street that he and his wife Phyllis desired to be put to use for the public good, we were interested.

The lot was desirable although it had brush and overgrowth in the back and trees along the road that would need to be removed. It had potential...

We now own the land, with a fairly level building site, and room for off street parking! We contacted an architect and are in the process of planning a building that will meet codes, be efficient, low maintenance and solid. It will contain all the spaces we were hoping for, and even have a place where we can clean and restore artifacts!

Our goal is to have a location and building for future generations to visit and to share our heritage for years to come, after we are gone.

We will keep you posted as plans firm up. We are appreciative of your donations and are getting the wheels turning for grants and other means of funding.

Thank you, *John Hunt*

On behalf of the Trustees, we would like to thank the following who have been generous in their support of our new building:

Gifts

Diane Barlow, Interlaken
Gary and Susan Ganoung, Kirkwood, NY
Roland D Neiss, Jr Ovid

Christopher Wolff, Interlaken

Gifts in Memory of

Frank and Ann Bassette by Peggy Kopsa, Interlaken

Richard Boyes Shirley Boyes, Trumansburg
Nellie Bradley by Nancy Demarte, Sarasota FL
Allan Buddle and David Beckhorn by Roberta Beckhorn, Hector

Phil Butterer by Larry Downey, Interlaken,
Lee Davidson by Chuck Franzese, Watkins Glen

Robert Doane by Yvonne Williams, Interlaken
George Washington and Caroline nee Robinson Eylenberg by John and Linda Stafford, Ft. Wayne, IN

Dr. Stanley B and Maryannis P Folts by Molly Poister, Alpharetta, GA

Barb Gates by Bill Gates, Ovid, Ruth Spory, Henderson, NV, Rachel Johnson, Odessa
Elizabeth and Lewis Morgan by Joyce Ritchie, Interlaken

Pat and Ferne Patterson by Jean and Bruce Currie, Interlaken, Eric Huttenbach Worchester MA, Janet Vavasour, Scotia, NY and Muriel Huttenbach, Marietta GA

Bob Pritchard by Bill and Caroline Pritchard, Interlaken

Wanza Ruh by Victoria Anderson, Vero Beach, FL and Bonnie Ellsworth, Ovid

C.J. Sludden by Charles Sludden, Camp Hill PA

Our parents by D & U Pollmann, Macedon NY
Ruliff Voorhees family by Leila Menzies, Long Beach CA

Gifts in Honor of:

Nancy Uyeno by Lori Coon, Trumansburg
Diane Bassette Nelson by Frank Zwolinski, Santa Rosa, CA and Carl States, Odessa, NY

Total received as of December 31st \$3,325.00!

Continued from page 1

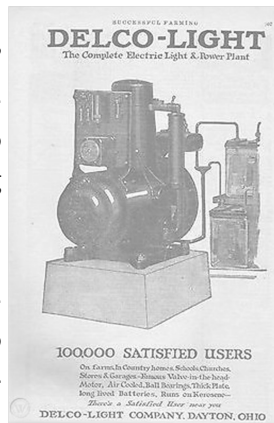
Did some other repair work. Bought a Delco Electric plant from Boylan and Burdids of Geneva \$545 paid \$25

January 2nd 1920 Went to Romulus for sand and crushed stone to build a place for electric plant helping G.Pa fix his pump. cold weather.

January 3rd 1920 Saturday Allen and Alvin went to Kendaia for two bags of cement. Fix the rest of G.Pa's pump and worked till 10:30 p.m. getting the base made

January 4th 1920 Sunday Cold no church here

The "Delco Light" was a line of electric generating plants marketed to rural America beginning in 1916. The product was created by Ohio's Charles F. Kettering, a Dayton area electrical engineer, who founded the Dayton Engineering Laboratories Co. (DELCO) in 1909. By 1920, electric lights were common in cities, but not rural areas like Varick, New York. The first Delco-Light plant was a 750-watt, 32-volt unit (enough to light 37 20-watt bulbs). It was followed by a broad line of light plants with output up to 1,250 watts. In 1918 Delco-Light had a 3,000-watt light plant powered by a single-cylinder, 5 HP engine. By 1925 more than 60,000 Delco-Light plants had been sold.



January 5th Monday Edith went to Geneva with Clarence Hunt. 2 Men came up from Geneva to wire the house. Wilford and I helping them.

January 6th Tuesday The men went away at noon, Wilford here the men work about 7 hours each I fixed cellar door after they went and cut some wood

January 7th Wednesday Cut the last of the chunks went to Romulus for the groceries, from Montgomery Ward, and got some feed around etc

January 8th Thursday Help Bert Covert thrash clover parts of the forenoon. Thrashers began at G.Pa's at noon 7 bags Zachman Albert Thompson and Mont Stark helped

January 9th Snowed all day, did some odd jobs, cleaned out the hen house, put a lot of straw in, etc, snowed all day

January 10th Saturday Edith and I went to Geneva bought something for the lights, sold some butter for \$0.53

January 11th Sunday Went to church

How exciting the prospect of electricity on the farm must have been. This April 1919 advertisement published in the Richmond Dispatch touts "Delco-Light is the complete electric light and power plant. When you install Delco-Light you get bright, clean, safe, electric lights in every room of your house, in every part of your barn and outbuildings. You get electric power at the house, to pump the water, to run the washer, wringer, cream separator

and churn. You get electric power at the barn, to turn the corn sheller, the grindstone and the fanning mill. All of this, bright, safe, electric lights, and dependable electric power, at the touch of a convenient button.”

January 12th Monday Set up a pole on the hen house and wired it for two lights. Wilford helped, cleaning house etc.

January 13th Tuesday Set up the coal stove etc thrashed clover seed this p.m. 3 1/2 bags Zachman and Mont Stark worked about 2 hours

January 14th Wednesday Wilford and I went to Kendaia for the electric plant, cold and stormy cleaned up the cellar etc

January 15th Thursday Met a man from Geneva at McDougall to set up the electric machine he worked less than 5 hours

January 16th Friday Put in a 3 way switch in the hall. Got the wires up to the hen house. Man worked about 4 or 4 1/2 hours took a calf to Ed Manns for 187 1/2 pound \$0.18 Bought another one for \$6 Allen took the Electric Man to Kendaia station, no lights tonight. Man burned out a fuse.

January 17th Saturday The man came again today with heavy wire to connect switch board, batteries, and fuse box put in a power switch. Allen took him to the depot again cold and stormy got the engine running etc. Drew over another small load of hay thrashed from G.Pa's

January 18th Sunday 16 eggs today and most yet, no church today stormy

The Delco Light plant was made to make life easier. Power was supplied by a single-cylinder vertical engine, which was air-cooled and fitted with electric starters. The customer only had to fill the tank, close the switch, and the light plant did the rest. The engine started automatically, charged the lead-acid storage batteries and, when the batteries were charged, shut itself down. The engine was restarted only when needed to bring the batteries back up to charge.



January 19th Monday Husked a little corn, helped Zachman cut a tree, no school, drew a little more hay from G.Pa's

January 20th Tuesday Husked a little corn etc. Washed.

January 21st Wednesday Begin fixing chair bottoms, fixed some hen house windows etc. Got down the wagon box Edith and I went to Romulus had some feed ground bought \$33.22 worth of clothing etc sold each dozen eggs \$0.65

January 22nd Thursday Fixing chair bottoms Mr. Hayes came to stay to dinner

January 23rd Friday Husked some corn. Drew over a sleigh load of hay from G.Pa's

January 24th Saturday. Big snow. Went to Romulus for....who fixed up the electric light batteries we have not been using them for a few nights.

January 25th Sunday Mr. Lee preached here today communion at church

Delco Light plants were designed to light homes and barns. This made life safer for the farmer as he did not have to rely on lanterns in the barn while milking, which lessened the danger of fire. The reliability of electricity must have made life easier for John and Edith while they worked in the barn and home. While they were wealthy enough in 1920 to be able to afford the Delco Light Plant, the ability to be more productive on the farm likely allowed them to continue to improve and increase production on their successful farm.

I found information about the Delco-Light from the article "Let There be Light!" *Gas Engine Magazine*, January 2004, www.gasenginemagazine.com/community/farm-shows/let-there-be-light-january-2004/.

To be continued in the April 2022 issue.

1 Ad for the Delco Electric System

2 The Lisk Farm in Varick

3 What the Delco Light Plant could do around the home and farm.



* * * * *

Are you considering a donation to the Historical Society Building Fund? We've made it easier for you, Scan the code and it will take you directly to our website where you can use PayPal.



**Save the Date and Join in the Celebration
Saturday, February 12, 2022 2:00 pm.**

On February 12, 1944 the community came together to dedicate the WWII Honor Roll on the lawn of the library. The Roll honored the young men and women who were serving in the war effort. By the end of the war 210 names were listed. These names and many others were preserved by Esther Wyckoff in a scrapbook.

As they were preparing to retire their charter, the members of Interlaken Post 462, American Legion Auxiliary had a reproduction of the honor board and list made and installed in front of the Covert Municipal Building, the American Legion Building. While the Honor Board case is still in good condition, the list of names has deteriorated.

Through the efforts of several community members, a grant application was submitted to STEPS for funding to create a new set of boards showing the names in alphabetical order.

An Open House celebration is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 2:00 pm, when people can view the renewed honor board, look through the scrapbooks, and biographies, and share their own memories.

A second project is also ongoing, to honor the over 800 men and women from or with ties to the geographical area of Covert who have served in the US Military. This area was settled by veterans of the Revolutionary War. Since then, men and women have responded to the call to serve, in times of war, and in peacetime as well.

This project is designed to bring the community together to identify the people who have served, and to record biographical information about them, however limited. Please see the *Town of Covert Veteran's Project* Facebook page, the Interlaken Historical Society website, or contact us via email or snail-mail and we can send you a biography sheet. We are reaching out to our veterans, their families and friends in an effort to honor all of our veterans.

Library News

The library holds a personal connection for small town residents. We get to know one another – the librarian knows your name and you get to know theirs. We recognize your partners or your children, and we serve the public in a space that serves as a central hub for information and connection. This has always been the case and it was with a heavy heart that we recently learned of the passing of a former Director, Judy Barkee. Judy served in our library from April 1989 to January 1994, first on the Board of Trustees and then as Director, replacing Norma Harper upon her retirement. Judy oversaw summer reading programs, storytime programs, held open house celebrations and book sales, and facilitated some major building improvements to allow the library to serve patrons better. She assisted with the refurbishment of the Sullivan monument that still sits proudly by our sidewalk, the installation of our fence, and the installation of a new heating and cooling system. She worked very closely with the Historical Society, overseeing the dedication of the Maurice Patterson Reference Room, assisting with the index project of the Interlaken Review, and seeing countless volumes added to the collection we still use today. We all got to know Judy and have fond memories of her behind the library desk, myself included. While Judy moved on to become the Director of the Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg, she is fondly remembered as a steward here in Interlaken and we are proud to follow in her footsteps of service, community and kindness.

Chelsea Hastings, Library Director,

607-532-4341

Interlaken Historical Society
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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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