

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

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www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org



Among the hands-on experiences, learning to use a cross buck saw.

President's Report

Greetings!

We had a very successful Plowing Day and Country Fair on September 17, 2022. We estimated attendance at approximately 400. We have many people to thank. Our gratitude goes to our speakers, those who brought exhibits and those who participated in the tractor parade and plowing demonstrations.

Pam Raes and Ruth Lucas were our speakers and shared their experiences from over the years. Pam talked about her work with grapes and testing at the Cornell Research Tech Farm in Geneva. Ruth shared how she and her family moved to the area and converted a small dairy farm into the first Farm Winery here in our area. Thanks Ladies!

My thanks also to the trustees and Plowing Day-Country Fair committees for all their work. Special thanks to my wife Grace for getting and keeping the barn clean, and to Harold Stewart for all the prep work – advertising, organizing, contacting the exhibitors, and being the “go to” guy.

Thank you to all who attended and enjoyed a beautiful day!!!

As we wind up 2022 and make plans for 2023, let us know of any educational pro-

grams or those of interest that we might schedule for the coming year. We had a good number of folks visit our museums this year and look forward to welcoming more as the new year unfolds.

Our building program will get more attention as we come out of Covid-19 restrictions and we work on fund raising and grants. Remember – Your donations are tax deductible!

Thanks again,

John Hunt, President

No Meeting in October

We hope you will enjoy

Looking Back at
Plowing Day 2022

Four lucky people took home one of the Made in Covert Baskets: Robbin K, Valparaiso, IN; Cindy S, Geneva; Bethany C, Interlaken and Linda C, Trumansburg.

Thank you to all the businesses that donated items for these baskets. Americana Vineyards & Winery, Bellwether Hard Cider, Finger Lakes Cider House, Lively Run Goat Dairy, Lucas Vineyards, Pine Tree Farms, Shepherdess Cellars, Sheldrake Point Winery



New Members

New Life Members

Cindy Austin, Interlaken

Dale Freier, Jr. Seneca Falls

Looking for a gift that gives all year long for someone on your Holiday List? Membership in the Interlaken Historical Society is only \$10 for a year. See page 11 for more great book ideas.

Recent Donations

Grape Basket Handle Machine, Don Warne, Romulus

Gates Farm Ledgers, Bank Bag, Cast Iron Tractor, brass cannon and several books, by Rachel Gates Johnson, Odessa.

Akins family papers including farm ledgers, deeds, wills and assorted letters, given by Constance Ged.

Porcelain doll with bed, quilts, clothing and document letter; school slate and geography book by Nancy Uyeno, Interlaken.

The letter, from Nancy's great-grandmother to her granddaughter Phyllis, contains details on the doll and bed.

My dearest Phyllis This doll's bed was made by my Grandpa (Wm) Johnston. Your great great grandfather, in 1878 or 79. The most of the work was done with his jack knife and the trimming on head and foot board are cut from cigar box pieces.

"Dolly Rose" was dressed and given to me about 1876



or 77 by" Grandma Johnston" who really was not my grandma at all, being Grandpa's second wife, but I loved her although at first she rather took "my grandpa" away from me on our walks about the farm and neighborhood. The little buff and purple quilt is my first and only attempt at "piecing." Mammy cut the blocks and helped me put them together; and many tears were shed when I had to "take out" and "do over" some carelessly done piece. The blocks are pieces of Grandmother Ellison's (Mammy's mother), and your great great grandmother's dresses. This, Phyllis, is the story of my old dolly and bed which I am handing on to you of the fourth no fifth generation and the only girl in the direct line. May I hope that you will keep and care for Dolly Rose and her belongings, not because they are valuable but because they were mine and I have kept them so long. And maybe they will go on down to your little girl. I hope so any way so keeping alive the touch of the old with the young. I give this to you Phyllis, with much love, Bama Christmas 1933.

Grandpa is William Johnston, Grandma is Marie Rappleye Johnston, and their granddaughter Ella Johnston Stevenson

There are three Civil War letters included in the Akins papers. They were written by Richard N. G. Akins to family in Tioga County. Richard enlisted, August 9, 1862, at Berkshire, [Tioga County] to serve three years; and was mustered in as private, Co. B 109th NY Infantry, on August 11, 1862. He was promoted to corporal and then sergeant. He died, September 15, 1864, at Finley Hospital, Washington, DC. He is buried

at Arlington Cemetery #1498 as Aikens. Richard was the son of Robert Henry and Olive Leonard Ball Akins. A memorial to him was added to his mother's headstone at Brown's Settlement Cemetery, Berkshire, Tioga County, NY.

Savage Switch June 12th 1863

Brother Geo.

As I am at leisure just now I thought that I would write to you, for it is some time since I have heard from you, although I believe I have answered all the letters that I have received from home. My health is very good and has been for some months past.

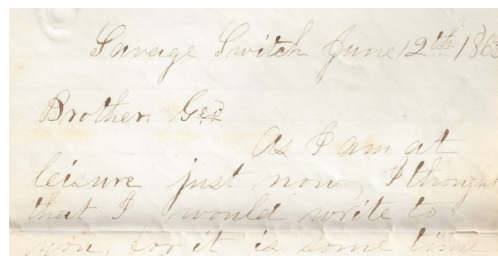
We had quite an excitement yesterday, Col. Tracy got a telegraph dispatch in the morning from Washington that the Rebels had crossed the Potomac into Maryland. The news came while the Rgt was upon Battalion drill at the Junction; our Company was immediately sent back here to the Switch to await further orders. A little after noon four of the five Co's stationed at the Junction came marching down the Rail Road in command of Lient Col. I. S. Catlin; they stopped here and were immediately joined by Col Tracy. Our Co was ordered to pack knapsack and be ready to fall in at a moments warning. A large brass field piece was drawn down from the Junction and planted at the R. R. bridge near here. Pickets were sent out in almost every direction.

But about 4 oclock Col. Tracy got another dispatch stating that the Rebels had recrossed the river, the pickets were called

in, and the Cos marched back to the Junction and all is again quiet as before.

I sent Father an allotment of \$20.00 a few days since, please to let me know if he receives it. We are having quite a hard drouth here which is impairing the crops very much.

But there is but little more that I can think of to write. The Berkshire boys are all well I believe; but I am tired of writing so I will close. Yours, Richard M G Akins.



New Museum project update!

The projected estimate as of: November 2021 was \$800,000.00. Our 2022 building fund drive kicked off in December 2021.

Thank you again to all who responded. As of June 2022, the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022, we have over \$79,000 in the Building Fund.

Watch for your invitation to be part of the 2023 Building Fund Drive in December 2022.

In August 2022 New York State sent out invitations to Communities to apply for funding for the "Downtown Revitalization Initiative." The Village of Interlaken has submitted a multi-project application for this grant. The new museum project is included in the application. We all hope to hear soon.

Harold Stewart
VP & Finance Com. Chair

In the Barn, Displays, Speakers, and Lots of Visiting



Thank you to these individuals and groups for their displays in the barn:

Left: Pam Raes; Ruth Lucas and Ruthie Crawford
Ann Buddle and John Hunt dedication of the event to
Allan Buddle.

Below: Quilting by Pins & Needles Club
Spinning by Jean Currie

Left: Linda Cole's Lamps
Judy Chesley and her quilting
Ovid Historical Society



Thank you to the following for the photos

Grace Hunt

Bob Bullivant

Jennifer Merkle

Check our Facebook page and
website for more great photos



For the Young and the Young At Heart



*Top Row: Kids Tractor Pull, Alpacas, Churning Butter, Ox
Bottom row: Meeting the Sheep, Wagon Rides for all, Walk*



*Oxen on Parade, Face Painting
Walking Tacos and Fresh Food*

Tractors and More Tractors





Left
Richard Compton
Ed Bonicave Jr.
Plowing in the Field
From Bruce Wright's Collection
Richard Ross 1955 Chev Belair
David Wright



This page
Bob Jennings
Kevin Morris
David Wright and Elliot Taylor
Cindy Lysiak, Valerie Bassett and
William Mehoenbacker



Library News

Summer has come to an end and the autumn season has officially arrived. Library summer reading activities were extensive this year, with more than 200 programs taking place June 1st thru August 31st with nearly 1,000 participants. Planning for next year has already begun in earnest and we hope to repeat this year's smashing success.

Several exciting programs are due to arrive this season, including a recent visit from local author, Jillian Barnet. She read from her recently published chapbook, *Falling Bodies*, and some of her other works.

We have after school activities beginning this month, with various autumn-inspired crafts and refreshments for kids every Tuesday until 5 pm. Teens can race the clock and solve the puzzles to escape catastrophe in an escape room every Thursday in October until 5pm as well. This year's Halloween bash is expected to be our largest and most exciting yet, with activities, refreshments, prizes and candy for all ages. Thanks to the generous support of the Pumpkin Patch in Ovid, NY, we'll have a pumpkin-painting activity on Friday, October 21st (which is also a day the kids are off from school).

One particularly noteworthy mention is the completion of the digitization of the local newspaper collection housed at the library. This collection is the single-most referenced part of our genealogy collection.

Digitizing it allows access from any location at any time, day or night, by anyone with a device that has an internet connection. Gone are the days you need to come into the library during open hours with the hope that the microfilm machine was free. The newly-digitized papers are available on the library website at www.interlakenpubliclibrary.org/research, and the easy interface makes it much easier to find articles and images relevant to your search. If you don't happen to have internet or a device at home, the library has you covered with laptops that can be checked out using your library card and 24/7 wifi access from the building and park, no password required.

Chelsea Hastings, Library Director,
607-532-4341

The Summer Reading program was more than just books. Painting was also part of the program.



A Few more Photos from Plowing Day
 Food by Lisa's Dawg House, Greg Zoller
 Blacksmith and Ferrier, Cabin View Alpacas



From the Book Store

A few items that you can order from the Historical Society Book Store. Check the website for more books related to the area:
interlakenhistoricalsociety.org/book-sale

- Covert Memories 1950-2015*** \$12.50
 Over 80 articles by community members celebrating our communal history, in honor of the Historical Society's 65th anniversary. 2016
- Snippet From the Past*** \$35.00
 Blogs celebrating the Covert Bicentennial, Diane Bassette Nelson
- So Good A Time*** \$12.95
 Life in the 1870s as documented in the Diary of Olive Evans Williams, soft cover, 2010, Nancy Saultz Radloff
- The Covert Family*** \$35.00
 By Fischer, Covert, and Patterson 1989. Hardcover, 680 pages. Requires \$2 extra for postage
- Between the Lakes*** softcover \$15.00
 M.L. Patterson hardcover \$25.00
 History of South Seneca County, Town of Covert and Village of Interlaken 1978
- And Let My Memory Cherished Be*** \$18.00
 Remembering the Families of the Old Covert Cemetery 2006 Diane Bassette Nelson
- Historic Images of Interlaken*** \$3.50
 A Coloring Book based on historical photographs, with descriptive text.

Postage and Handling

Under \$10 \$3.50 \$10 to \$25 \$6.50
 \$25—\$50 \$8.50 Over \$50 \$13
 Some items require extra postage.

Mail to: Interlaken Historical Society
 PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847-0270
 Questions, please email:
interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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Mark Your Calendar for our next program
Monday, January 23, 2023

Dues for 2022-2023 are now due. If your label has a date prior to 2022 please consider bringing your membership up to date.

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

Table of Contents	
News, Notes and Recent Donations	Page 2-3
Plowing Day 2022 Photos and More	Pgs 1, 4-9, 11
Library News	Page 10
Book Order Form	Page 11

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