

# Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the  
**Interlaken Historical Society**  
Volume 50 No. 1 July 2024  
www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org

**2024 Citizen of the Year:  
Edwin R. Compton**



**Sunday, July 28, 2024  
4:00 — 6 p.m.**

## **Summer Social on the Library Lawn**

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite the community to join us on Sunday, July 28th for our 16th annual Old Fashioned Social. This dish-to-pass event will be held on the Interlaken Public Library front lawn.

The Historical Society will provide the grilled hot dogs with rolls and fixings, lemonade and iced tea and of course ice cream and toppings for dessert. The ice cream comes from Trimmers, so you don't want to miss this opportunity to build your own sundae.

Please bring your own table service and a dish to share.

Serving starts at 4 pm and we usually wind down around 6 pm so arrive when you can and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship. The museums will be open.

A special thank you to STEPS for funding this community event.

For more information contact John Hunt 607-592-3224

## **Train Fund Raiser Raffle**

Two six-car wooden trains made by John Hunt.  
The winners will be drawn at the Plowing Day  
and Country Fair on September 21.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5  
Available at the museums, the Summer Social  
or at Plowing Day.

Thank you John!



He is a lifelong member of the Community except for the few years he spent in Florida working at the Kennedy Space Center. He worked at Cronks selling ice cream, also at Willard for a while. He worked at the Depot for years until he retired and moved to Florida. Upon his return he started Route 89 Auto where he sold cars, fixed cars, and started his towing business. He has many irons in the fire.

He was a successful Drag Race Car Driver and raced a Big Rig up Pikes Peak with his brother.

He has built or re-built four different houses on Route 89, with the last one as his current residence. Very skilled in all he does, he also has a passion for trains and railroad memorabilia, including a genuine caboose which sets across from Route 89 Auto.

He was a big Nascar fan, with Dake Earnhardt at the top of his list. They share the same birthday except for the year.

He is also a Mason with the Interlaken Lodge.

Let's not forget his love of cats, of which he has had a few. You may see him with his cat in his truck. Otherwise, they run the shop.

His latest passion is rebuilding engines for older Pontiac cars. He is a jack of all trades, and master of most.

He is on-call 24/7 for 911 cases, making himself available at all hours, day and night. If the fire department needs help on a fire truck, he's only a cell away, always donating his time as needed.

Though a very busy man, he managed to be here for the Olde Home Day parade, and for that, we are very glad.

Our Citizen of the Year, 2024, Ed Compton.

## President's Report

Good day!

Here we are again in the full swing into summer. It's enjoyable being outside and doing activities in our beautiful area.

In this issue I would like to focus on an opportunity Grace and I saw on the historical J.T. Wells barns. We were invited to the premier showing of the documentary: *Still Standing: the Barns of J.T. Wells and Sons*. The documentary was informative and entertaining. It gave some history to how John T. Wells and his five sons designed and built the Wells barns from 1888 to 1942.

Katie Andres and her friend Jill were the push to gather, organize and get recorded the history and life of J.T. and how he designed various structures. One of the first arches he designed was an arch over the street in Wheatland for a festival.

Several of the barn owners were recorded sharing their experiences. One couple got married in their barn while others told how they were able to repair, tear down, move and reconstruct the barn. Another woman told how she acquired the barn and made it into her awesome home that leaves guests speechless. A few have turned their barns into wedding venues.

What really got my interest is how these old barns have a sense of feeling, of belonging, of having a personal effect on you rather than a modern pole barn. When we get people in our Brook Barn, it seems to come alive. At first glance, guests always marvel at the tall arches.

Some of the owners mentioned that some states have programs to help preserve old barns by various means. As I believe the number of Wells barns still standing number around fifty. It would be good to save them all!

Save the date: September 21, 2024 is the Interlaken Historical Society Biannual Plowing Day and Country Fair held at our 1907 Wells Barn. There will be exhibits, animals, tractors, displays, a speaker and of course food for sale. Entrance is free with door prizes for youth and adults! It would be great to see lots of you at 8228 Rte. 96 Interlaken, NY this fall.

Have a great summer!

John Hunt, President

## New Life Members

Craig William Dayton, Palmyra, PA

Cindy Woodard, Ovid, NY

### Thank you!

Thank you to all those who made donations to the Historical Society in response to our 2023-2024 Fund Drive. Your donations have allowed us to have the roof of the Famers' Museum repaired.

## Fund Drive Gifts

### General Fund

Sally Jo and Dare Daniels, Trumansburg

### Capital Repairs Anonymous

Nancy Uyeno, Interlaken

David & Kathleen Whitlock, Webster, IMO Grandmother Mae Covert.

**Building Fund** Thank you to all who have supported the Tupperware sales. This gift in memory of Wendy Steezy has a total to date of \$2,897. Thank you, Walt and Mary Steezy.

## Recent Donations

From Anne James, Interlaken over 90 diaries of George W Brokaw (1868-1907) and Minor C. Brokaw (1875-1940), plus letters and photographs. The earliest diary was written by Minor at age 12. The collection has a variety of volume sizes.



From Ellen DiCerbo scanned photographs from a family album 1800s of Smith, Ganoung, Dawson, Mason and Miller family members.

From John S. Huff, Mayville, NY Covert Family Reunion programs 1880s.

From Karen King, Trumansburg brass picture frame, cabbage cutter, National Board of Fire underwriters book, and a cast iron biscuit pan.

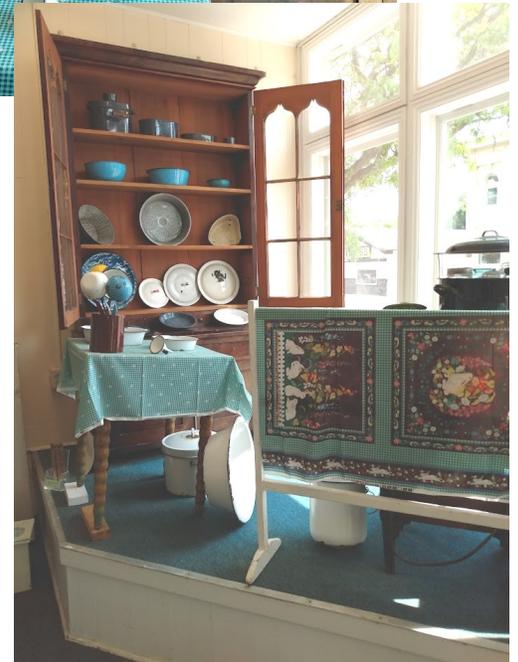


The Museums will be open Saturdays from 11 to 2 in July and August and Sunday July 28 as part of the Summer Social. You can also contact the museum and schedule an appointment.

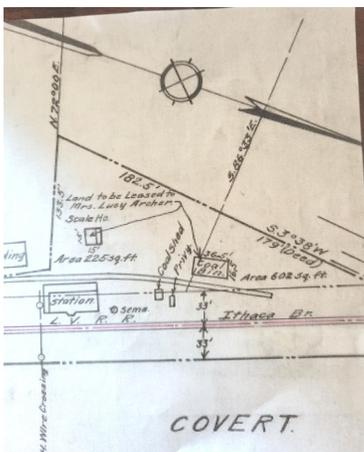
In addition there is a display of Enamel Ware in the window of Hubbard Heating and Plumbing, which can be viewed anytime.

Here are a few sneak previews, or reminders for those who visited the museum on Olde Home Day.

One display offers a look at a few of the dinner plates and souvenir plates from the collections.



The Lehigh Valley Railroad served not only Interlaken but all of Seneca County and the surrounding areas. One way to remember those days is through model railroads. Thank you to those who have loaned us examples of the Lehigh Valley RR. We have tried to place examples with collection photographs.



Also in the display are photographs from the Interlaken Station and a drawing concerning the Covert Station and a proposed lease of land to Mrs. Lucy Archer.

# Olde Home Day for the Kids



Bunch of Bubbles



Four Town Community Center



Balloons

Basketball provided by STEPS



Girl Scouts

Of course it wouldn't be Old Home Day without the Cake Wheel and great food, thank you Blowing Smoke Bar-B-Q!



**Looking for a great deal, flowers, plants, books, Tupperware and lots of crafts!**



The Parade brings out units and spectators alike.  
Check out the Interlaken Community Action Facebook Page for more pictures.



## Library News

Summer has arrived and the Interlaken Public Library has a calendar full of activities and options for everyone. While the classic options of books and DVDs to take home will always be a staple, there are several other options for library patrons to enjoy. Museum and park passes can keep your whole family entertained and learning during the summer months, portable DVD players for kids on long car rides, and Chromebooks if you need a quick visit to the internet. The library offers free 24/7 wifi with no password, making it easily accessible both inside and outside the building.

For more than a decade the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County has generously supported the summer reading program at the Interlaken Public Library. This grant provides funding for educational summer activities for local children and caregivers, and the library has something planned every week of the summer until August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Live programs such as the Amigo Search and Rescue Dogs will be on site demonstrating their impressive skills, or visit the library during open hours and grab one of our varied take-and-make activities. This year take-and-makes have been expanded to include our youngest library patrons, so we now have activities for preschool aged children to enjoy with a trusted guardian, activities for children ages 6 to 11, and activities for teens. Friday nights in July will have a Let's Glow Tween Night at the Library, and August will welcome Kid's Yoga and "I AM" Meditations to help keep kid's moving and boost self-esteem before the school year begins.

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Just a reminder that the Interlaken Public Library has partnered with the Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg, to bring you digitized newspapers!

We are now able to offer Interlaken and Trumansburg newspapers from 1829 to 1999, searchable from the comfort of any device with an internet connection or from your local library.

Regularly scheduled programs like adult chair yoga, family movie night, Ted's Troupe storytime, genealogy meetup, teen library advisory board, and the coverlet study group will all continue to take place at their regularly scheduled times.

Regardless of your age or interests, the library community calendar is your key to finding something fun for everyone. Details of all library program offerings, many of which are not mentioned here, are available on the website or on a printed calendar inside the library.

Chelsea Hastings, Library Director,  
607-532-4341

*Judy Zeigler (handler) and Cindy Massicci (handler in training) with Cider and Enzo at the Amigo Search and Rescue Dogs event.*



*From the Friends of the Interlaken Public Library!  
Thank you to all who supported the Friends at our  
Doug's Fish Fry event.*

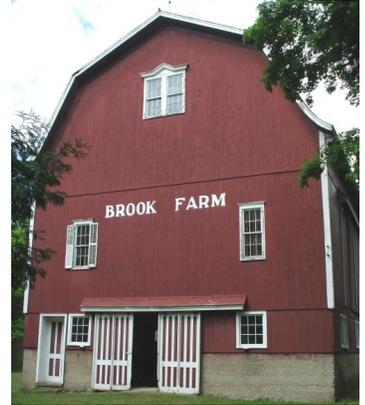
*See you again at the Interlaken Car Show, August  
11th.*

**Planning to Move**, please send a change of address as we drop people after two returned no forwarding address notices.

Gifts for the Building Fund are welcome anytime. Send your check or use the QR code on our website. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Interlaken Historical Society

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

*Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2024 Plowing Day and Country Fair. Saturday, September 21st,*



**Interlaken Historical Society**  
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For more information on

Historical Society events contact

President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

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DUES are Due. Its time to renew your membership for the 2024-2025 year, or maybe, become a Life Member!