

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society
Volume 49 No. 4 April 2024
www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org



A Tupperware Party Fund Raiser Monday, April 22, 2024

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the

Covert Municipal Building

8469 Main Street

Wendy Steesy, daughter of Walt and Mary Steesy, was a Tupperware dealer among her many other accomplishments. Wendy died last year and Walt and Mary donated her extensive collection of new Tupperware items to the Interlaken Historical Society with the hope that they could be used as a fundraiser for the Building Fund.

The boxes were moved from the Steesy home to the Grange Hall, and then to the Town Hall where they have been unpacked, sorted, and prepared for a Tupperware Party on April 22nd.

To give our guests more time to browse the collection we will be open from 4 pm until 8 pm. We invite you to stop in anytime and look over the many pieces from old favorites to collectors' items. There are individual items and sets. Unlike the classical Tupperware Party, you can take home your Tupperware that day.

All items have a suggested donation and all proceeds will be added to the Building Fund in Memory of Wendy. Cash, check, and PayPal accepted. If you are using PayPal there will be a small convenience fee.

Our newest Trustee Brian Quan, will give a very short program about Tupperware at 7 pm.

The Town of Covert Municipal Building is ADA handicapped accessible.

For more information, please contact John Hunt, Society president at 607-592-3224.

See you Monday, April 22, 2024.



Just a few items available at the Tupperware party

President's Report

Greetings from the Interlaken Historical Society! We are all looking forward to another busy year of displaying our exhibits and sharing our slice of history in the heart of the Finger Lakes.

As I write this in early March, we are having the usual Central New York weather. One day it is beautiful and warm and sunny and the next is rainy or snowy and down right nasty to be outside.

Our next event meeting is April 22, 2024, in the Covert Town Hall. The Steesy family has graciously donated their late daughter's Tupperware. She was a Tupperware dealer and had a very large assortment of new Tupperware, some of which are collector's sets. Our program will be on the history of Tupperware Company and how you can still order replacement parts for what you own. The Tupperware will be displayed for sale and the sale proceeds will be given to the Interlaken Historical Society Building Fund.

Our museums will be open Saturdays in the months of July and August from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy a visit of past history. You can also call and schedule an appointment to visit the museums. If you are interested, we could train you to be a docent.

Our Summer Social is happening on July 28, 2024 from 4 to 6 p.m on the Library Lawn. All are welcome. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a free hot dog grilled by our Master Chef Harold Stewart.

Continued on page 2.

Check out the Historical Society webpage for past issues of the Newsletter and our gift shop for books and other items.

President's Report continued from page 1

A free delicious bowl of ice cream will also be provided. It is always a fun afternoon catching up with friends and neighbors.

Our big event this year is our Plowing Day and Country Fair planned for September 21, 2024 at Brook Barn. This is a free event. Come out and enjoy the good old days, live animal interaction and see who can do the best job of plowing straight furrows after a parade of tractors. Around and in the barn will be crafts, exhibits and our featured speaker will be sharing what is being done to preserve our environment. We will learn how to protect our beautiful Finger Lakes with the proper use of land whether you are a home owner, crop farmer, animal farmer or have a vineyard.

Thank you for your interest in the Interlaken Historical Society. We welcome you to come to our programs and events. Our trustees would love to meet you. We welcome Brian as a new trustee. Be sure to read his biography in this newsletter.

John Hunt, President

New Member

Gary Rodney Eggleston, Springville, AL

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who made recent donations to the Historical Society in response to our 2023-2024 Fund Drive. Gifts since January 1, 2024 \$130.00 for the general fund, \$2,425.00 for capital repairs, and \$1,650.00 for the building fund.

Fund Drive Gifts

General Fund Roy Agnew, Fishers, IN
Walt and Mary Steesy, Interlaken in memory of Wanda Waid

Capital Repairs Anonymous
Judith Boyes, Interlaken
Joyce Ritchie, Interlaken in memory of Lewis and Betty Morgan
Charles and Jacqueline Sludden, Camp Hill, PA

Building Fund

Ann Buddle in memory of Allen Buddle
Major Winfield Scott Chapter DAR, Scottsdale, AZ
Chris Wolff, Interlaken
Charles Dunlap, Interlaken
Barbara Ahouse-Coulter in memory of Morrow and Ahouse Families

Meet our New Trustee, Brian Quan

Brian and his wife Amy moved to this area in July 2017 and live in the historical Pratt Family home in Covert. Brian is Deputy Clerk for the Village of Interlaken and Town of Covert.

For as long as I can remember, widgets have captured my attention, including in both education and vocation. Whether past or contemporary, my fascination led to trying to understand the roles materials and processes play in their creation, especially within the context of era. These considerations can be a time capsule of an era, illuminating their knowledge, capabilities, culture, habits, and values. Along with the stories—myths—about how the past is told, they provide a richness that can stoke the imagination.

I find value in trying to understand the past. I hope to use it as insight to be deliberate in the present. I have not tired from being surrounded by widgets and their stories, but I also feel a growing interest in foodways. For what I can imagine, the season is short.

You can meet Brian in his role as a trustee on Monday, April 22nd at the Tupperware Party where he will give a brief description of Tupperware, its history and process at 7pm.

Thank you Brian and Amy for joining the Historical Society, and please welcome Brian as our newest Trustee.

Recent Donations

Crystal McLaughlin and Michael McLaughling II
Maps collected by their father Michael McLaughlin, given in his memory see page 5 for more about these maps.

Major Winfield Scott Chapter DAR, Scottsdale, AZ
Winfield Scott Day Proclamation, DAR T-shirt and photo and gift to the building fund.

Peggy Kopsa, Interlaken Farmer Baptist Church dish belonged to the Baldrige family



Major Winfield Scott

The Interlaken Historical Society has in its collection a photograph of Captain Winfield Scott from his Civil War career. We received a request from the Major Winfield Scott DAR Chapter in Scottsdale, Arizona to use our photograph in their upcoming materials. Knowing that copies deteriorate over time, we sent them a clean scan. The city of Scottsdale celebrated Major Scott's birthday on February 26, with a Proclamation.

We would like to thank the ladies of the Major Winfield Scott Chapter for the copy of the proclamation, a photograph of their organization, a bright T-shirt, and a donation to the Building Fund for the new museum.

So, who was this man who is much respected and honored not only in the town he founded in Arizona but also in Winfield, Kansas and California.

Winfield Scott was the fourth child and oldest son of James B. and Margeret Covert Scott. He was born in Novi, Michigan on 26 February 1837. The Scott family had moved to Michigan where James was engaged in farming. By 1845 they had returned to Seneca county, settling near Farmer Village. In 1861 Winfield was licensed and ordained a minister within the Seneca Baptist Association. He married Helen Louise Brown on July 11, 1861. Together they moved to his first pastorate at Syracuse.

While Winfield's great grandfather was a veteran of the American Revolution, he should not be confused with General Scott of the Mexican War. With the outbreak of the Civil War Winfield returned to Famer and recruited 34 of his friends and others from the Baptist Church at Farmer and an additional 12 from the Covert Baptist Church. He was commissioned as Captain of Company C 126th New York Volunteers.



He had enrolled to serve three years, and mustered in as captain, Company C, 126th NY Volunteers on August 9,

1862. Patterson, on page 137. notes that Major Scott was wounded and with his men captured at Harper's Ferry in September 1862. Once paroled he was sent home for recovery. He returned to the front on crutches and directed his regiment at Gettysburg. In May 1864 Capt. Scott commanded both the 125th and 126th Regiments. He was severely wounded leading a charge at Spotsylvania Court House.

Another well-known Covert son, John Ryno, recorded in his diary on May 18, 1864, "Another hard battle today. Our Corps went in a charge that carried two lines of breast works. ...Capt. Scott was wounded in the early part of the engagement. I carried him from the field to the hospital, the distance of mile and a half..."

Mrs. Scott secured the needed passes to both see her husband and bring him home where she nursed him back to health.

In the years after the Civil War Pastor Scott decided that he was more interested in missionary work rather than pastoring a single church. Sponsored by the Baptist Church at Farmer he received a call to Leavenworth, Kansas. During his time there, 1865-1870, he built a church and a school and served as the first pastor. In recognition, the town was named Winfield.

He would be called to Denver to establish a church there, and then went to California.

He was appointed Chaplain of the US Army in Arizona in 1882. He served until 1892, in the meantime buying 800 acres of land and sold these as building lots, forming the town Scottsdale, Arizona. He also served in the Arizona Territorial Legislature.

The Scotts, while living in Scottsdale also summered in the cooler area of San Diego, CA. By 1909 they had moved to San Deigo, Calif. He and Mrs. Scott planned to build a church as a gift to the city. Before the project was completed, Major Scott was forced to return to Phoenix, AZ needing medical attention. He died there on October 19, 1910. Returning to San Diego Mrs. Scott saw the building work completed and their gift to the city fulfilled. Scott Memorial Baptist Church has since changed names although the building remains.

Major Scott and his wife are buried in the Grand Army of the republic (G.A.R.) plot in Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego.

A note about the sources for the Winfield Scott article. Mr. Patterson's 1976 book *Between the Lakes* has copies of his letter to researcher Richard Lynch. Additionally there are numerous articles written over the years and printed in the Interlaken Review. The author is working on a genealogy of the James Scott family. Many local families are related: Hiltbrand, Tunison, White and Scott Rappleye. In 1976 the James Scott farm was owned by Edwin Updike, one mile north of Interlaken.



The Daly Twins from Interlaken

As a follow-up to John Daly's article from the last issue he sent two photos. Top photo: Dan and John second photo: Dan, John and brother Michael.



Do you need assistance in filling a gap of your family history? Or finding where someone lived in this area? You are welcome to send your questions to our email address and we will attempt to assist.

interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

A recent request was for information from the Civil War Diaries of John Ryno. While another visitor found information on a former local organization. Ask, you never know what we may be able to assist you with.



Statue of Winfield and Mrs. Scott in Scottsdale, AZ. Photo added to Find-a-Grave by Military History Research.



What's On the Map

Michael McLaughlin (1958-2023) enjoyed collecting maps and several of these were given to the Interlaken Historical Society in his memory by his children Crystal McLaughlin and Michael McLaughlin II.

One was a framed 1938 road map showing the Finger Lakes area. An interesting detail is the highway numbers. Route 96 is 15, with a note that it would become 2; 96A is 15A.

In 1950 the US Geological Survey published a map showing the towns of Lodi, Seneca County and Hector, Schuyler County. Each road is labeled and small dots show where buildings were along those roads.

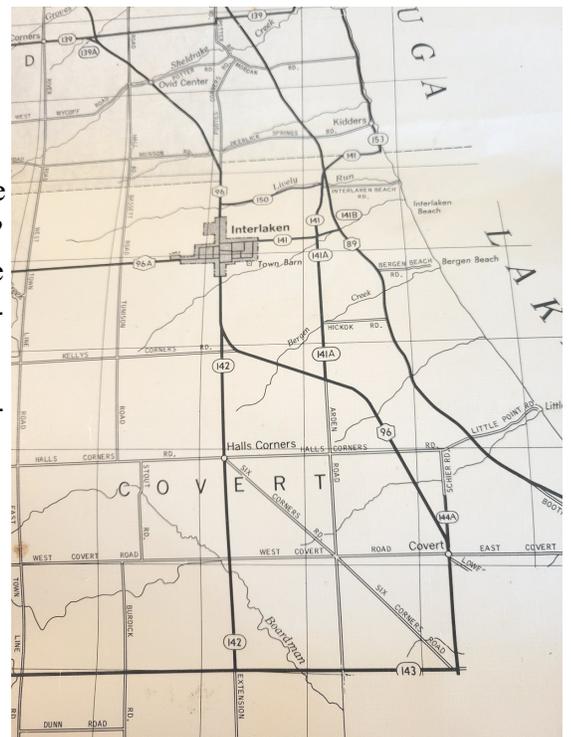


along those roads.

On this detail showing the Townsendville area the Cemetery is labeled with a cross, and the beginning of the Interlaken Trail is the dashed line crossing Butcher Hill. The number 81 just below Townsendville is the lot number used since the late 1790s to designate the military lots throughout our local area.

The third map is a simple road map of Lodi and Covert. While undated, it is probably from the 1970s or after. How can you tell? The Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks are not shown. On this map the state and county roads are thicker black lines with current numbers. The town roads are named and printed in a lighter ink.

Thank you Crystal and Michael for sharing your father's collection with the Historical Society so we can share with others.



2 *Happy Landing Restaurant*
- and -
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
Paul and Helen Smith, Prop.



Broiled Steaks and Chops
*(Located midway between Interlaken and Ovid
on Route 96)*

10 miles from Sampson Air Force Base

R. D. 2 INTERLAKEN **PHONE INTERLAKEN 88J**

What Else is on a map?

On a recently received colorful county map are ads for various businesses in the area. One ad was for the Happy Landing Restaurant on Route 96 at CR 139.

See you at my Tupperware Party!

... just a reminder of IHS Tupperware Party Fund Raiser the day.....
 Monday the date.....
April 22, 2024 the time.....
 4 PM - 8 PM and the place.....
Covert Municipal Building

** Ask your dealer for the Tupperware "Kitchen Tested" recipe illustrated on reverse side of this card.*

TUPPERWARE
 ... sold only on the home party plan

INTERLAKEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 hostess.....

All items have a suggested donation and all proceeds will be added to the Building Fund in Memory of Wendy.
 Cash, check, and PayPal accepted. If you are using PayPal there will be a small convenience fee.



Just a few of the many New Tupperware Items available.



Library News

2023 wrapped up in the usual fashion here at the Interlaken Public Library – with red tape, reports and annual filings. The Interlaken Public Library is controlled by municipal law, the Department of Education, library law, and all of the usual 3-letter acronyms at the federal level. One of our largest reports is to the New York State Department of Education, providing information on many parts of library operations and financial happenings. While cumbersome to complete, it's always nice to see a year neatly packaged into easily-digestible bites of information.

2023 saw significant happenings at the library, including the improvement of the building and our services. An electronic door opener was added to the South door, providing hands-free access to the building. Bookshelves were rearranged to provide more room between shelves, making moving through the library easier for everyone. Our public parking lot was completed and new computers installed for public use.

Library staff worked hard to secure almost \$18,000 in grant funds to support library programming – expanding our already modest \$110,000 budget significantly. Every program happening at the Library is supported by grant funds, and 2023 saw 501 programs on the calendar, taking place both inside the library, outside the library, at the locations of our community partners, and virtually via Zoom. More than 4,000 people attended those programs – an impressive statistic when only 598 people live in our small village.

All of this happened with only three paid staff members and a handful of dedicated volunteers. Last

year those volunteers put in 295 hours of hard work, and this doesn't include the countless hours of work put in by the library board of trustees overseeing the operations team and securing the future of the library in the community. Our sister organization – the Friends of the Interlaken Public Library – also worked tirelessly to help support the library through fundraisers and advocacy.

With 2024 well underway, the new year is looking just as bright. Projects are underway to expand our genealogy room accessibility and discoverability, continue programming for all ages, and improve services to meet always-changing needs. If you have an idea for a program or topic of interest, or an item that you think would be beneficial to add to the library, we encourage you to let us know! The library is more than just books – all topics and recommendations are welcome!

Chelsea Hastings, Library Director,
607-532-4341



Retired teacher Harlan Hastings at a recent eclipse program

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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.

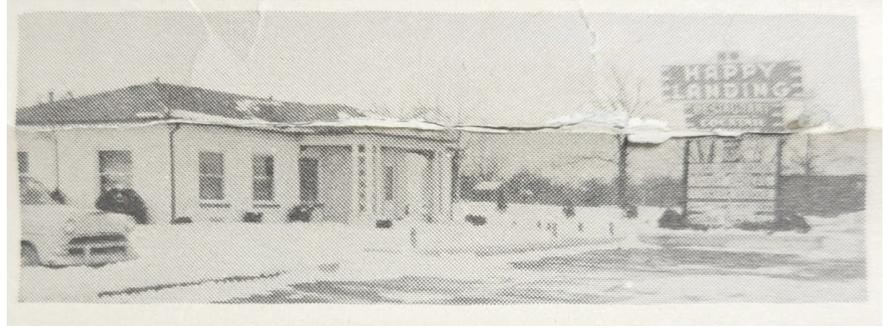
Help support your local library, join the Friends of the Interlaken Public Library!



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

Do you recognize this building? See page 5 for more on Maps and where we found the picture.

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

Interlaken Historical Society
PO Box 270
Interlaken, NY 14847-0270
www.InterlakenHistory.org

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Mark Your Calendar April 22, 2024

For our Tupperware Party Fund Raiser 4 to 8 pm

For more information on

Historical Society events contact

President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

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Funding for the Society Newsletter provided by the Delavan Foundation