

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society
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www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org



2024 Summer Social

President's Report

Greetings! Let us enjoy Autumn 2024 as we await the fall colors to appear.

It was a busy beautiful day as we completed the Plowing Day and Country Fair. A good crowd enjoyed seeing llamas, donkeys, oxen, rabbits, sheep and chickens up close. Youngsters enjoyed combing the donkeys and seeing the 2-week old llama. Many enjoyed seeing the beautiful rare Devon oxen. The barn was decorated with beautiful quilts. Different vendors displayed their crafts inside and outside the barn. Local historical societies were present with displays and many local historical books. Thank you to all who planned, participated and attended.

The food vendors did a brisk business selling a variety of delicious food.

Our featured speaker was Erin Peruzzini for Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation who shared what they are doing to preserve and protect our natural resources. Soil and Water co-sponsors farm tours with Cornell Extension to educate the public on how we as landowners and municipalities can slow down runoff into our beautiful Finger Lakes.

Our Interlaken Historical Museums can be visited during the winter. Call or email to set up an appointment.

Enjoy our beautiful Fall and keep watch for our public meetings during the coming year. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you

John Hunt

New Seneca County Historian

Pam Becker was recently appointed Seneca County Historian. She succeeds Walt Gable, who was County Historian for 20 years. Pam was most recently a researcher and archivist for the Waterloo Library & Historical Society. Previously, she taught history at Mynderse Academy in Seneca Falls. In that role, she has occasionally written articles on local history for the *Finger Lakes Times*. We look forward to working with Pam.

Walter J. Gable 1946-2024

The Interlaken Historical Society has benefited significantly during Walt Gable's tenure as Seneca County Historian. County Historian for 20 years, Walt actively engaged with the Interlaken Historical Society community through programs he offered, essays he wrote, books he authored and coauthored and much more.

Walt was born in Seneca Falls, graduated from Romulus High School, and earned college degrees from Syracuse University. He taught social Studies in Seneca Falls for 32 years. With deep roots in Seneca County as a lifelong resident, Walt was strongly committed to digging into the County's history and sharing that in a variety of ways.

I am sure most of us have vivid memories of a presentation Walt gave or an article he wrote, and some of us remember collaborating with him on a special project or turning to him for input on a research topic. He was a pleasure to team up with and our knowledge of local history was enhanced through his generous contributions.

New Life Members

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



Thank you John Hunt for the two trains. Congratulations to John M and Tammy S who took the trains home.

Capital Repairs Anonymous

Building Fund Thank you to all who have supported the Tupperware sales. This gift in memory of Wendy Steezy has a final total of _____. Thank you, Walt and Mary Steezy.

Thank you to donors for our gift baskets, and congratulations to the visitors who won a basket, Bethany C, Roger I, Hazel W, Ruth H, Aren B and Grayson M.

Missing 1 adult name



Recent Donations

From Mark Marinovich, Capitola, CA WWI Prismatic Compass belonged to his grandfather Claude W. Johnson. Newspaper article about the World War I Austrian surrender on November 4, 1917 where Sgt. Johnson was present.



From Jill Weatherby, Interlaken, Dr. SR Folts office sign

From Keith Jay, Interlaken, Brown Silk three piece dress belonged to his great-grandmother Nellie Crans



A very special thank you to STEPS for sponsoring the Facepainting booth. SSCS High School students ::::: and ::::: enlivened the faces of many youth and adults,



People and events at Plowing Day 2024
 Inside the barn Speaker Erin Peruzzini, Pam and Fred Bassette, recipients of the Historic Preservation Award.



Valerie Bassett and Linda Cole dedicating Plowing Day and the tractor parade to Bruce Wright.



Outside, a few new vendors and displays: Cub Pack 24 of Dryden, Maple Syrup, Adam's Corners Café and Crystal's Prints.



2024 Plowing Day and Country Fair

A special thank you to all the Volunteers, vendors, displays, owners of the animals and tractors.



Parade of Tractors



Enamelware in the Home: 1850s to 1950s

By Marty Schlabach, MLS5@cornell.edu

The manufacture and use of enamelware was in its heyday from about the 1880s-1950s, though it had been in use before the 1880s. Before the period of enamelware, cookware, food storage containers and other home use items were mostly made from wood, tin, cast iron, pottery, and glass. The introduction of enamelware added rust-free, easy cleaning as well as color to the household.

Factories for enamelware production were found in many major cities, but were also found in nearby Clifton Springs, Canandaigua and Newark, NY. Reed Manufacturing in Newark, NY manufactured a wide selection of tinware and enamelware. It was later acquired by Lisk Manufacturing of Canandaigua, though the firm began in Clifton Springs.

The list of uses is almost endless. Stovetop saucepans, saucepots, steamers, double boilers and canners were widely found in rural and urban homes. Teakettles and coffeepots in enamelware were used to prepare breakfast. Pie plates, baking pans and roasting pans were and, in some cases, still are the cook's preference. Enamelware lunchpails for the worker and for the student often included a cup of enamelware. Dinner plates of enamelware were quite utilitarian, easy to clean and not likely to break. Many different types and shapes of dishpans, basins and washtubs are still found in the rural farmhouse. The home, the village hotel or barbershop likely had a spittoon of enamelware.

Another advantage of enamelware was the availability of many colors. Kitchens did not have a lot of color before the introduction of enamelware. Various kitchenware items in enamelware can be found in white, cream, red, green, blue and combinations of any two. It may have started the trend of designing a kitchen with specific colors.

In addition to utilitarian pots, pans, kettles, pails and other receptacles, kitchen appliances began appearing with enameled finishes. Not just the kitchen sink, but also used on stoves and later iceboxes and refrigerators.

As noted in the following advertisements in Ovid, Interlaken and Trumansburg newspapers, there was a wide array of enamelware products to choose from in local stores.

Ubiquitous in homes, farms, restaurants, hotels and many other businesses for many decades, enamelware has since been replaced by other materials such as stainless steel and plastic. But, some of us still appreciate the utilitarian functionality and the color of enamelware.

Sources of further information:

Better Quality: An Illustrated History of the Lisk Manufacturing Company, by Lynda McCurdy Hotra, Ontario County Historical Society, 1987.

Historic Newspapers online

<https://interlaken.advantage-preservation.com/home>

Practical GIFTS
FOR EVERY HOME

This is a year when Thrifty People really want Practical Gifts

THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO BUY THEM THAN AT A HARDWARE STORE

We make a specialty of Practical Gifts at prices you can afford.

Pyrex Ware at New Low Prices

Lisk Roasters and Enamel Ware Food Choppers
Any Type Electric Appliance

Speed Queen Washers Westinghouse Refrigerators
Make one payment and deliver for Christmas
Westinghouse Radio at \$19.95

Hamilton Beach Food Mixers Waffle Irons Toasters
Percolators Heating Pads Sad Irons
Clocks Curling Irons Electric Trains

Corn Poppers Flashlights Christmas Tree Light Sets
Boy Scout Pocket Knives Hunting Knives

Hatchets

Skates Skis Sleds Air Rifles .22 Rifles
Shot Guns Hunting Shirts, Socks and Coats
Fishing Rods Reels Lines
Pocket Knives Hunting Knives Shears Scissors
Watches and Alarm Clocks

MINOR'S HARDWARE

Minor's Hardware in Interlaken specifically mentions 'Lisk Roasters & Enamel Ware' in a 1937 advertisement. Lisk began in Clifton Springs NY in 1890, and had plants in Canandaigua and Newark as well. *Interlaken Review*, December 10, 1937

Blue and White enamelware on sale
Ovid Hardware in 1920.
Interlaken Review, May 28, 1920.

Trumansburg's Biggs & Co advertised a Flood Sale, following the 1935 flood. Enamel Ware including preserving kettles, cold pack canners, double boilers, and dish pans. *Trumansburg Free Press* August 2, 1935

SPECIAL SALE
Until June 5th

Blue and White Enamel

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Teakettles | \$1.69 |
| 17 qt. Dish Pans | 1.29 |
| 12 qt. Water Pails | 1.29 |
| 10 qt. Berlin Kettles | 1.69 |
| 2 qt. Coffee Pots | .99 |
| Wash Basins | .29 |

Many other utensils at equal savings.
Four cases of Enamel-ware at
BARGAIN PRICES.

Ovid Hardware Co.
Ovid, N. Y.

Flood Sale

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wire Fencing | ALUMINUM and ENAMEL WARE |
| Barbed Wire | Preserving Kettles |
| Galvanized Corrugated Roofing | Cold Pack Canners |
| Building Paper | Double Boilers |
| Rope | Dish Pans |

The Biggs Co.

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

Looking back at the 2024 Plowing Day and Country Fair. More pictures on pages 2 –5.

Thank you John and Grace Hunt for all you do to preserve the Barn and provide it as a place all can enjoy.



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Table of Contents

News and Notes Page 2
Plowing Day and Country Fair Pages 3-5
Enamel Ware Page 4
Library News Page 7

Mark Your Calendar January 27, 2025
Historical Quarterly Meeting, Speaker to be announced.
For more information on
Historical Society events contact
President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

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

**The Historical Society
Board of Trustees**

- John Hunt, President
- Harold Stewart, Vice President
- Mary Jean Welser, Secretary
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