

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

Volume 48 No. 4 April 2023
www.interlakenhistoricalsociety.org

N. San Juan, California, in 1866. Glory days. The gravity feed water for the lucrative hydraulic gold mining is rushing overhead. One of the many photos Chris will share in his April Program.



Monday, April 24, 2023

**7:00 p.m. at the
Covert Municipal Building**

In 1878, the world's first long distance phone service opened in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. It ran between gold mining towns, along streams where once smooth nuggets were found. Why there? Come hear the story.

Chris Wolff's grandfather, Jack Wolff, lived in those mountains in the late 1920s. He collected stories and artifacts of the earlier gold mining years from the mid to late 1800s. Along the way, he discovered the remains of this early phone line and Chris will tell the tale with photographs and some of these artifacts.

Chris is a local commercial artist who designs labels, illustrations, signs, etc. He taught Drawing I at TC3 for almost twenty years. He is currently working on an alphabet book for young truck lovers and lives near Interlaken with his wife, Mimi.

The program will be held in the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 Main Street. Interlaken. 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, <https://interlakenhistoricalsociety.org/>

For more information contact John Hunt 607-592-3224

President's Report

Greetings to All,

To start off my report, Cindy Lysiak has decided to retire from our Board of Trustees. She has served well and eagerly for a number of years. She will be missed at our meetings, events, being a docent and a help and encouragement to us all. Thank you Cindy!

Activities are picking up at the society as the days get warmer. Displays and exhibits are being planned for Summer 2023. Watch for details about our Barn Dance on September 16th!

We can always use more docents in the museums on Saturdays in July and August. Contact us if you would like to be trained to give tours in our Community Life Museum and the Farmers' Museum. You will meet some interesting people who want to see what history we have to share, and quite often have history to share with us!

We have a dedicated group of people around us eager to share our wealth of knowledge, my thanks to all of you!

One reminder to mention is our Building Program, we're planning for and looking for a larger more flexible building to meet our needs now and in the future. Your donations are appreciated and provide a tax write-off. Thank you for your support in the past and the future.

Thanks again, John Hunt, President

Robert A. Betzler August 23, 1939 – March 4, 2023

The passing of Bob Betzler on March 4th 2023 has left a huge hole in our community of Interlaken. Bob was very active behind the scenes in our town. Probably his work on maintenance and upkeep at the Reformed Church was the most visible to me, shoveling snow, removing unsafe trees and the food pantry.

Bob taught seventh grade sciences at Interlaken. He once shared with me how he was busy working at Interlaken Equipment and on the Betzler Farm over the summer break.

We at the Interlaken Historical Society are indebted to Bob and his wife Phyllis for donating land on South Main Street for us to build our own Community Life Museum. The gift of land got us planning and thinking on how to preserve and expand our heritage here in the Finger Lakes.

Thank you Bob and Phyllis for giving so much to our town.

John Hunt

New Museum Project Update

Gifts

Gerry Messmer our January Program Speaker, Odessa, NY

In Memory of

Judy Barkee by Doug Barkee, Interlaken
Allan Buddle by Ann Buddle, Trumansburg
Robert Doane by Yvonne Williams, Interlaken
Carol Bradford and Ruth Onalee Brown Ganoung by the Community Foundation of Central NY
Michael Huhn, by John and Sandra Huhn
William Schaffner by Marilyn Crooker, Trumansburg
Her Ancestors by Nancy Uyeno

In Honor of

William Gates by Ruth Spory, Henderson, NV

Genealogy Help Request

Please respond directly to
Linda Eylenberg Stafford
ilmstafford@comcast.net

Beman Robinson born 28 November 1787 Granville, Mass. His parents: Father Samuel Robinson,, mother, Prudence Brockway. Beman married Sarah Brown, unknown where or when. Appeared to be married in the 1810 census. Served in the war of 1812. Sarah's place of birth listed as CT on her son's death record.

They lived in Delhi, Delaware Co NY in 1810 and 1820 (census). Lived in Ovid, Seneca Co. in 1830 (census). They are not listed in the 1840 census. When and where did he die? Where is he buried?

Sarah is listed in the Interlaken Reformed Church records in 1854, maybe as being dismissed? difficult to make out. no further records of her that I can find. When did she die and where is she buried? Who are her parents?

These people are my third great grandparents.

Recent Donations

A special thank you for several gifts to the Museum.

Sandi Bassette, Trumansburg A doll crib made by Willard patients, "Churches and Pastors of Seneca County, NY", 1960 Chamber of Commerce Recognition event honoring members of the Wheeler National Bank staff and board.



Greg Halsey, Rochester his mother, Genevieve Ritchie Halsey's 1931 "The Hit" Interlaken yearbook.

Several years ago Karen King donated a number of the display cabinets her mother, Mabel King had used in Barzillia's Barn. Special thanks to Harold Stewart and Bill Bishop for moving them first to our storage shed, and recently, moving this cabinet to the Community Life Museum. It may be empty now, but will house a number of items and be ready for the opening of the Museums for Old Home Day, June 10th.



The Horning

By Gary Hunt

Horning: a social activity where a newlywed couple are waken at night by the blaring of horns (hence the term horning), banging of buzz saw blades, beating on pots and pans and shaking of jingle bells, to name a few, by a rowdy group of their friends and neighbors. Hornings are usually done before any children are born into the family. These friends and neighbors then expected to be invited in to be fed and entertained.

This tale is about my great aunt, Jennie Gale Hunt, and her horning. Jennie was 95 around 1977. She was the sister of my grandfather, George Wallace Hunt. Aunt Jennie who had never married was a nurse, earning her degree at Rochester General hospital in the early 1900s. She was the caregiver of the family. She lived by herself on Clinton Street in the village of Interlaken well into her 90s. At 90 she was still babysitting one child in her house. When she could no longer live by herself, she was invited to live with my parents, Howard and Sara Hunt.

My brother John and his wife Grace were newlyweds at this time and it was decided that they needed to be horned. They were living in the house where Jack and Jen Persoon now live just north of the village of Interlaken. My girlfriend at the time,

now my wife, Kate and I went and played cards with them to make sure they were going to be home. Meanwhile 200 yards down the road the “rowdy” group was gathering at my parents’ house.

After card playing ended Kate and I went to my parents where we waited an hour for things to settle down at John’s. Then we quietly snuck up the road. With everyone ready we proceeded to make noise and racket.

I had fastened a set of air horns onto a 2 x 4 with a hose running to an air tank. The horn fit nicely by their upstairs bedroom window about 3 feet from their bed. After they grudgingly entertained the rowdies we dispensed and went home.

At the time I was also living with my parents, and about a half hour after retiring to bed the air was rent with a wailing air horn outside my bedroom window. John and wife not being able to go back to sleep had spotted my air horn on their front lawn where I had left it. After refilling the air tank, they hiked down the road and horned my parents’ house.

Dear Aunt Jennie, never married, lay in her bed giggling to think she, after all the years had been horned.

Old Home Day 2023 Friday June 9th and Saturday, June 10th

The Interlaken Community Action Committee is planning the 2023 edition of Old Home Day. It will again begin on Friday evening with entertainment and food at the Fireman’s Field. Saturday will feature all the usual activities, displays, parade, music groups and announcing the 2023 Citizen of the Year. They are always

looking for volunteers and vendors. Please contact Rich Richardson at 607-279-1407 or icag@villageofinterlaken.org.

A couple of memories from 2022 Old Home Day



Women on the Honor Roll

We continue to collect the stories and history of the men and women from our community who are listed on the Interlaken World War II Honor Roll. That list includes women who actively served and several who were in the Cadet Nurse Corp, a training program for those with a medical inclination. In this article we remember five women who served. The dated quotes are taken from the *Interlaken Review* therefore the date shown in the publication date. Not the date when the letter was written. The letters have the camp location while other quotes are from the "Personnel Mention" column of the paper.

Mildred Wheaton Arnold Sanks NC US Naval Reserves was born November 8, 1909, the daughter of Francis and Agnes Ireland Wheaton. She was listed on the Interlaken Honor Roll as Mildred Arnold. She died March 27, 1994, and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery, Equality, Gallatin Co, Illinois. She and her second husband, David Rees Sanks (1906-1989) were married in 1946.

Mildred was the widow of G. Murray Arnold (1910-1937) who was killed in a boating accident on Cayuga Lake, July 2, 1937. She continued to operate their funeral home with assistance from Walter VanSickle and Raymond Hurlbut; selling the funeral home to Raymond in July 1940.

January 12, 1945 Ensign Mildred W. Arnold, who has been ill with pneumonia at Sampson Naval Training Center Hospital, is now greatly improved.

August 17, 1945 Sampson, NY. Dear Fred and Lillian: It has been some time since I have thanked you, and the people responsible for sending me the Review. It has many new names in it, but I am always interested in reading about my friends, and where the boys from Interlaken have scattered to in service. It has been a real pleasure to me, and I look forward to receiving it every week. Thank you so much. Sincerely, Mildred Arnold

January 26, 1946 Lt. Mildred Arnold, NC USNR of Sampson, spent the weekend with Mrs. Florence Creque.

March 15, 1946 Lt. (jg) Mildred Arnold, who has been a patient in the Naval Hospital at Sampson for several months, is now at her home, 217 Fletcher Ave. Syracuse.

April 12, 1946 Mrs. Francis S. Wheaton of 219 Fletcher Ave., Syracuse, announces the marriage of her daughter Lt. (jg) Mildred Wheaton Arnold, US-NRNC to David Rees Sanks of Albion, Ind. The wedding took place Saturday, April 6, 1946 at Buffalo, Mrs. Rexford A. Gardiner of Buffalo, the bride's sister, was honor attendant, and the best man was Gordon H. Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. Sanks will live in Albion, Ind.

June 7, 1946 Lt. (jg) Mildred Arnold Sanks has received her release from the USNR Nurse Corps. Mr. and Mrs. Sanks are making their home in Albion, Ind.



Jean Muriel Dickerson Andrews, US Marine Corps born June 24, 1924 was the daughter of Joseph and Alice Wixom Dickerson. She died July 27, 2000, and is buried at Lake View Cemetery, Interlaken, with her parents. She is listed on the Interlaken Honor Roll as Jean Dickerson.

January 12, 1945 Dear Mr. Blauvelt: It has been quite some time since I have written to tell you how much I appreciate the paper. I have been receiving it now regularly for about nine months and every issue seems to bring me closer to home. I want to take this opportunity to also thank the "Folks Back Home" and the Red Cross for the Christmas remembrances to us in the service. I have been stationed on this Air Depot for about six months and in that time, I have had two different jobs. When I first arrived here, I put in 30 days of mess duty, which always comes after "boot" camp. After that I went to work in the Post office sorting and forwarding mail to boys overseas. Later they found out I had had photo experience so I was placed in the photo-lab.

We made identification cards, dog tags and restricted military photographs. It was very interesting work and I am sure I will benefit by it. I haven't as yet encountered anyone from back home but I read from the paper that there are some service people from there near me. Thank you again for the paper and also the "Folks Back Home" and the Red Cross for the gifts. I hope you all have a prosperous New Year. Sincerely, Pvt. Jean Dickerson US MCWR

April 12, 1946 Corporal Jean M. Dickerson arrived home from San Diego, Calif last Friday evening after visiting in Madison, Wis., and Rochester. Corporal Dickerson enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve at Buffalo, NY, on May 15, 1944. Upon completion of her basic training, she was ordered to the Marine Air Corps Depot, Camp Miramar, San Diego, Calif., where she was stationed all during the war as Photo. Lab. Technician, until her discharge on March 28, 1946.

May 3, 1946 Miss Jean Dickerson has a clerical position with Eastman Kodak at Rochester.



Florence Edna Myers Graham, US Marine Corps was the daughter of George W. and Susan Brewer Myer.

April 21, 1944 Florence Edna Myer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Myer, who reside on the boulevard in the Town of Ovid, was recently enlisted as a private in the United States Marine Corps Woman's Reserve through the Elmira Office, Post Office Building at State and East Church St. Miss Myer, a graduate of the Ovid High School in 1934, has been employed in the Ship's Service Department at Sampson in a secretarial position, and in order to help more in the war effort felt she could be a little more efficient as a "Marine." She will be called to active duty within a month and will be transferred to Camp Lejeune, New River, North Carolina, to re-

ceive her preliminary or "boot" training, after which she will release a Marine for a front-line fox-hole.

July 29, 1944 Dear Mr. Blauvelt: My new address is now Pvt. Florence Myer, MCWR, MAD, NATTC, Barracks 160, Norman, Oklahoma. Next Monday I start to attend the Aviation Machinist Mate School for 21 weeks. We left Camp Lejeune last Monday and just got here today (July 20). We had bad connections with long lay-overs in Birmingham, Ala., and Springfield, Missouri. Thanks for the paper. I'll be glad to see it again. Yours truly, Florence Myer

November 3, 1944 Norman, Okla. Dear Mr. Blauvelt: This is just a line to let you know of a slight change in address. I am now living in Barracks 39. I want to say that I certainly appreciate the paper. I always read the boys' letters first and then the news and the rest of the paper. It is even interesting to me to know what is on at the Lakes Theatre. We have had wonderful weather here since it has cooled off. It is still warm in the daytime but at night we need both our blankets to keep warm. Oklahoma must have ideal conditions for training flyers for there are several training bases near here. There is the North Base, just about a mile north of Norman, where Navy pilots are trained. Then there is the Army at Tinker Field at Oklahoma City. And out of Oklahoma City are two more, Willi Rogers Field and Wiley Post Field. We are now in our fourteenth week of school Last week we were studying carburetors. I didn't know they were so complicated. That week ended in a confusion of jets, valves and levers. This week we are on magnetos. I'm doing OK now. I guess they are a little easier to understand. Thanks for the paper and just keep it coming. Sincerely, Florence Myer, MCWR

March 2, 1945 Santa Ana, Calif. Dear Mr. Blauvelt: I'm writing to thank you again for the paper and to give you my new address. I was home on my furlough the week of Jan. 21, but didn't get around to see all those I intended to because of the snowstorm. It's quite different here though; it's like mid-summer. There are palm trees and cactus and all kinds of flowers. The base

is in sort of a valley with mountains all around. The planes they have here are mostly Corsairs and Helldivers. We haven't started to work yet because they haven't finished the buildings. For the present we are just putting in time at any job they might find for us. Sincerely, Pvt. Florence Myer.

December 14, 1945 MCAS, El Toro, Santa Ana, Calif. Dear Mr. Blauvelt: Thanks a lot for The Review. The local paper is certainly the most efficient way of learning what is going on in your hometown. I have a change of address for you. I have been moved to another barracks and have been attached to the Air Base Group No. 2. I work in the Assembly and Repair Shop. We work mostly on Corsairs and also a few Marauders (twin-engine bombers). I guess they have girls in about every department there is. There are welders and riveters and girls in the machine shop, carpenter shop, paint shop, etc. My job is on the Corsairs. I help replace parts on the wing butts. I expect to be here a few months longer because I haven't enough "points" to get out yet. I will probably be out of the A & R shop soon because they are planning to replace at least 75 per cent of the personnel with civilian employees under civil service. Thanks again for the paper. Yours truly, Florence Myer.

April 26, 1946 Pvt. Florence Myer, MCWR, who has been stationed at Santa Ana, California, for some time, has received her release from the Marine Corps and is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Myer

Thelma Pell WAC was the daughter of Ossian and Mae Pell. Born July 16, 1924 she died August 31, 2006.

March 9, 1945 DesMoines, Iowa Dear Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt: Here it is my third week away from home and it really doesn't seem that long at all. I have meant to write sooner but they have kept me so busy I really haven't had time to write to anyone. The first thing I want to say is that I received my first Review last week and enjoy it very much. I want to thank you and also all the others who make it possible for us to receive it.

[After describing the camp and buildings she continues...] In my barracks there are 175 girls and three staff sergeants. The officers are all very nice, but strict. My basic training is tough but I expected that. I love every part of my Army life and am going to make the most of it. My days are spent in classes and drill, learning Army regulations. I have high hopes of going in the Army Ground Forces. The schooling will be hard but if I expect to make anything of this life I will have to work hard. I must close now to get ready for my next class. Keep the paper coming to let me know how things are in the little town of Interlaken. Hope the snow goes slowly for I hear you have had a lot of rain just lately. I do hope everything is alright there. I miss you all and the snow also. We haven't any here. Give my regards to everyone. As ever, Thelma Pell

August 31, 1945 Pvt. Thelma Pell of the Woman's Army Corps, who is stationed at Presidio, San Francisco, Calif., arrived Tuesday to spend an 18-day furlough with her mother, Mrs. Ossian Pell, after seven months in service

May 10, 1946 Pfc. Thelma Pell, WAC, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ossian Pell of Interlaken, and James B. Anderson of Seattle, Wash., were united in marriage Tuesday, April 2, 1946, at Long Beach, California. Pfc. Anderson expects her discharge from the Women's Army Corps this week after one year and three months in service. They will reside in San Francisco, Calif., where Mr. Anderson has a position in the Veteran's Administration office.



Janet M. Wiggins, WAVE born April 16, 1921 was a daughter of Guernsey and Mildred K. Wiggins. Seaman Second Class married Edward Stickane. She died June 13, 2012. Her obituary noted, "following her discharge from the Navy, Janet worked at the Seneca Army Depot as a guard and a heavy equipment operator."

January 19, 1944 Dahlgren, VA. Dear Folks Back Home: This is just a short note to thank everyone back home for the Christmas card and money. I am in hopes I will be able to see a few of you people in a couple of weeks. I miss everyone and also miss the snow. We had a cold, damp air here and this week end it has been a little icy out, something on the order of our ice storms at home. Must be saying so-long for now, thanks again. Sincerely, Janet Wiggins

January 18, 1946 Dahlgren, VA. Dear Fred and Lillian, It won't be long now before I will be a civilian. I leave here the 10th of January on my way to New York City. Thought I had better let you know, so you won't be sending the Review here anymore. I really have enjoyed receiving the paper, for I have been able to keep up with everything. I want to thank everyone for making it possible for all of us to have the paper. The next time I see you I am in hopes to be a civilian once again. Thank you again, Sincerely, Janet M. Wiggins

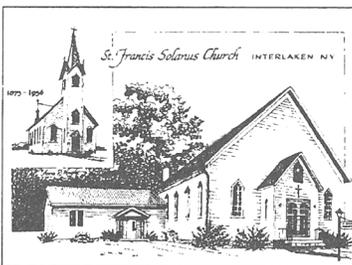
The Town of Covert Veterans' Project would welcome more information on any of our veterans. Please see our Facebook page or contact Diane Bassette Nelson at diane.bassette.nelson@gmail.com



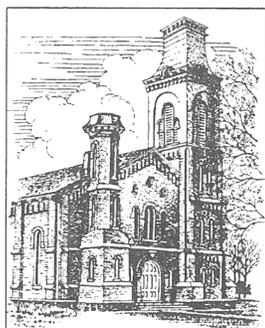
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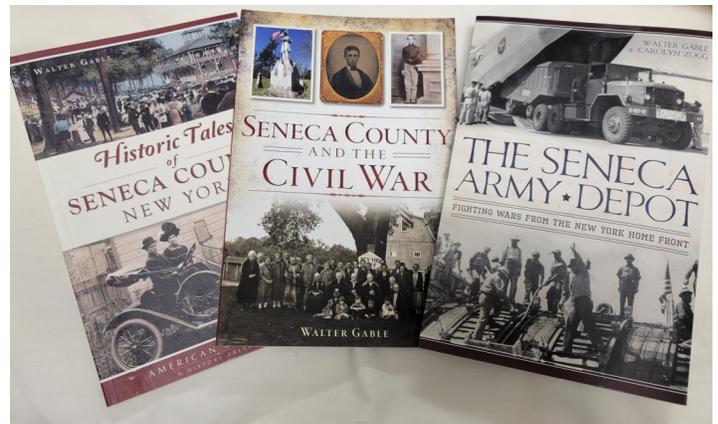
We have a number of books that are not shown on page 9. Some are listed below. Check our website for full details.

- Descendants of Thomas Horton and Phineus Pratt* by C. Fischer Soft Cover \$25, Hardcover \$35.
- Silas Halsey, Pioneer Settler of Lodi* by A. Boyer \$15.
- History of Lodi Point* by Alta Boyer \$15.
- The Diary of Herman T. Smith 1884-1893* \$10.
- The Geology of Seneca County* by John Wells \$10.
- Lands Marks of Seneca County* by E. Delavan \$25.



Also available are County Historian Walt Gable's three volumes.

- Historic Tales of Seneca County* \$21.99
- Seneca County and the Civil War* \$19.99
- The Seneca Army Depot* \$21.99



Be sure to check the book sale table on Old Home Day June 10th for more items and many more note cards.

Questions about any of these, email interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Library News

The winter season is officially over and as we inch closer to warmer weather we're excited for all that's been happening inside the Interlaken Public Library.

February 20th thru 24th saw temporary extended hours for the first time, coinciding with the school winter break. School staff and local residents had requested the library expand hours or programming for the week-long academic break, giving local kids and families a place to go while school was out. Library staff decided to try both and had a record turnout. That week saw nearly 200 visitors to the library and a dozen programs for kids, teens, and adults. Library staff intend to add the winter break extended hours and programming into our annual roster of events, making this a permanent addition moving forward.

While everyone was in for winter break we celebrated Ted the Turtle's birthday. Our resident Reeves turtle has played comfortably in our children's room for over five years now. Children, families and adults all look forward to his fun interactions, and he's always anxious to welcome visitors.

As we enter the spring season the library continues to host our regular adult programs like the chair yoga class, the genealogy meetup, the coverlet study group, and the Easter and Mother's Day floral classes.

Teens can participate in TLAB, our teen library advisory board that provides community service hours to participating teens. This group makes recommendations for programming and materials they would like in the library, while operating as a mini board of trustees.

Children and families can enjoy regular Monday programming with Ted's Troupe Storytime, and summer reading enrollment kicks off April 15th.

Chelsea Hastings, Library Direct

*Lucy Monfiletto, 2 years old,
at our February 23rd pizza program.*

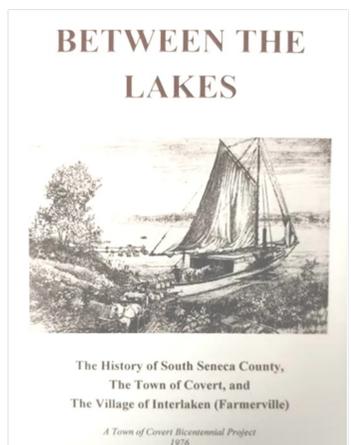
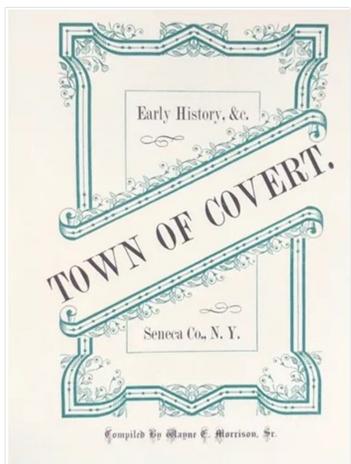
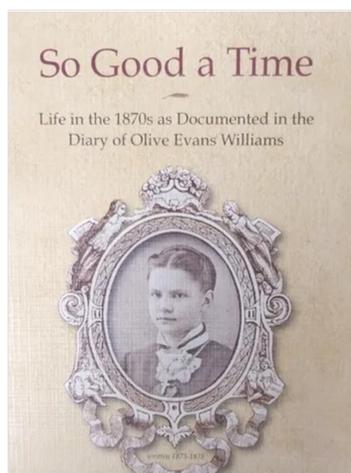
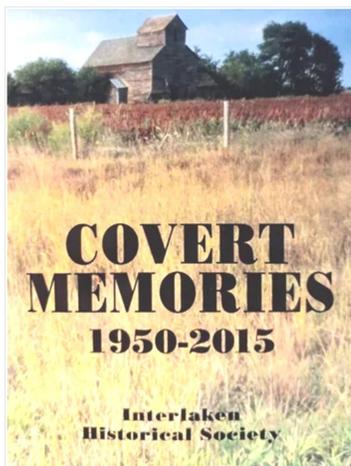


Just a reminder that Interlaken Public Library has partnered with the Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg, to bring you digitized newspapers!

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!*





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, honoring 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
- Town of Covert Early History &c** soft cover \$25.00
Compiled by Wayne Morrison 1983
- Index to the Interlaken and Ovid Newspapers** \$55.00
1822-1994 Requires \$2 extra for postage
- Interlaken Oral History Project** \$10.00
Interviews with residents of the area 1900-1950 including the history Of the Halstead Canning Company. Softcover with photographs
- 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

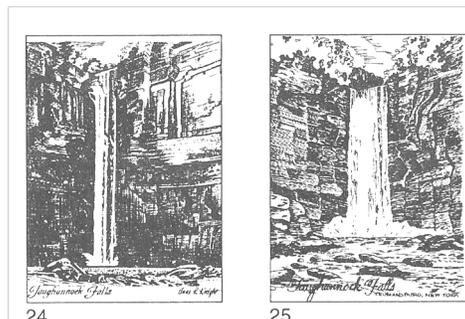
Under \$10 \$3.50 \$10 to \$25 \$6.50
\$25—\$50 \$8.50 Over \$50 \$13
Some items require extra postage.

Mail to: Interlaken Historical Society
PO Box 270, Interlaken, NY 14847-0270

Questions, please email:
interlakenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Finger Lakes Area Landmarks

One package of 12 note cards and envelopes is \$3.00, or two packages for only \$5.00. See the website or our Facebook page for a full listing of which cards are still available.



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

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

This is the headquarters of the 1878 Ridge Telephone Company in N. San Juan, California -in the northern Sierra foothills of California -as it looked in 1928. Join us on April 24th as Chris Wolfe shares more photos and stories about his family's time in the west.



Interlaken Historical Society
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www.InterlakenHistory.org

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Mark Your Calendar for our next program
Monday, April 24, 2023
For more information on the
Historical Society events contact
President, John Hunt, 607-592-3224

The Historical Society

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